

Heinlein & S-F Get Newsfeature Plus
 The Features Page of the Los Angeles
 Daily News, 10 Feb 47, in the column
 by Matt Weinstock, plugs: "Recognition
 Science fiction writers and addicts
 are mighty proud this week. One of
 their best boys, Robert A. Heinlein,
 hits the Post with a thoughtful, post-
 straitlaced story of interplanetary jet
 ships, 'The Green Hills of Earth'. It's
 the Post's first venture into this type
 of fantasy and may indicate a trend.
 Previously the science fictioners
 pecked the 'spaceways' in the pulps,
 though Heinlein's stories have been
 printed in the anthology, 'Adventures
 in Time and Space' by Raymond J. Healy
 and J. Francis McComas.

"This same issue of the Post, incident-
 ally, is a bit of old home week. It has
 a story by Vida Jameson which she wrote,
 oddly enough, while stopping at Hei-
 nlein's Laurel Canyon home." Vida is
 Malcolm's daughter; story is Unknownish
 fantasy called 'The 13th Trunk' - FJA

In this same issue of the Post on the
 Post Scripts page has an excellent fan-
 tasy-humor short by Dick Ashbaugh, "It
 Had to Start Somewhere", says Emberreader
 Arthur Levine.

Note: 1) It will be interesting to
 observe reader reaction to these two
 stories. 2) Ember urged you to write
 Science Illustrated in its formative
 period, and though many of you did, the
 editors have overlooked the advice; it
 is urged that you now write the Sateve-
 Post enthusiastic letters of appreci-
 ation in the hope that we may help a-
 long a trend in doubletime.

Beowulf Poll -- 1947 Now Running

Gerry de la Ree's latest poll now
 in progress is off-trail. He will
 supply you with a sheet, listing space
 for you to enter 10 best stories of
 the 10 best authors: Merritt, HPL, Smith,
 JWC, Weinbaum, Heinlein, Vogt, de Camp,
 Lather, and Wells. Gerry has asked
 Ember to announce that anyone not re-
 ceiving his ballot blank should write
 him, 9 Bogert Place, Westwood, N.J.

Prof. Herrick's UCLA Interplanetary
 Travel Course Is Given Slick Plug
 In the 'Interesting People' section
 of the current, March, American
 Prof. Samuel Herrick, astronomy prof
 at University of California, gazes
 wistfully across the cogs and chains
 of a clockwork, poorman's planetarium.
 Text says indirectly that we'll go
 to Venus. His class consists of 5 men
 and 2 girls. ((How about some Ember-
 eadres in Calif. checking up on this
 class for a special Emberreport?))

Prof. Herrick, 35, native of Virginia,
 graduate of Williams College, mar-
 ried to a Colombian, three children,
 lives on top 1300-ft. mt., "which is as
 close to Venus as Dr. Herrick cares
 to be."

Atomic Bomb Film Scheduled Soon

(Tigrina) MGM will be first to offer
 a serious full-length motion picture
 about the Atomic Bomb. According to
 the version of "The Beginning or the
 End" in Movie Story Magazine (Feb 47)
 the scientific aspect will predominate,
 with a subdued romantic interest
 throughout the story.

The story concerns two young scient-
 ists, key men in atomic experiments,
 and the constant strain under which
 they live during wartime and of the
 final great sacrifice one of them makes
 in order to save his buddies from ato-
 mic annihilation. No Flash Gordon
 super-science tactics here, only grim
 realities.

One criticism of the film, however,
 is its 'sweetness and light' conclu-
 sion, which is apt to lull spectators
 into a false security. I quote from a
 letter written by one of the charac-
 ters: "...men will learn to use this
 knowledge well. They won't fail. They
 cannot fail! For this is the moment
 that gives all of us a chance to prove
 that human beings are indeed made in
 the image and likeness of God."

Those appearing in this film are:
 Brian Donlevy, Robert Walker, Tom
 Drake, Beverly Tyler and Audrey Hepburn

Book Review: "Puzzle Box", by Anthony More - Trover Hall, Raven Court, 225 Grove St., San Francisco 17, Cal. ---Tigrina

Trover Hall's first book contains 111 pages of grisly entertainment for the devotees of serie and off-trail literatures. The six brief tales are by Anthony More, a pseudonym, it is rumored, for a well-known author, and "Puzzle Box" is his first attempt at a series of stories of this type. He has chosen an appropriate non-de-plume, for judging from his writings you are apt to be clamoring for "More". Half a dozen narratives, each with a fantastic situation, are set forth in this small neat volume with realistic black and white cover jacket design by St. Crispin.

The first story, from which the book derives its name, introduces a new idea -- a young man imprisoned in his rooms by an invisible barrier prevents him also from appealing for aid over the telephone. The victim himself gets a cat in a "puzzle box", which at first fights in vain for freedom and then discovers the latch. The story works up to a fascinating cliffhanger, but ends unexpectedly in a Thorpe Call style which certainly found a lot of fans, but which no doubt will cause the boys about town to yaw as they burp over their beer and pretzels.

The next, "Footsteps", will probably appeal more to the horror fan. A writer of weird fiction is followed home through dark San Francisco streets by noisy clicking footsteps which exactly match his own. No visible person -- just footsteps. The writer's attempt at rationalization is foisted upon him as he inspects his own feet, only to remember that he wears rubber-soled shoes. The unexplained conclusion to the story is effective, if not as convincing as I guess it couldn't be little weights in the heel as once used in a similar case by, I think, Paul Ernst?--ed.)

The third tale, "Seven Sapphires", has its setting in the wild Yukon country of Canada, and concerns discovery of Indians who have been under the influence of an unspeakable alien creature, whom they worship with violent fanaticism. There is the usual battle between good (two white men) and evil (the natives and the cavern). I have encountered a few stories of similar type in the past.

The last three stories I considered the best. "The Last Moments" is a story of a tragic accident -- or murder -- during an excavation project. The investigating safety engineer could not make up his mind: death by accident or murder? Neither will you after you read this story.

"Five Strands of Yellow Hair" is a poignant tale of a sensitive young man whose life is ruthlessly planned by his wealthy parents, even to the choice of a wife whom he does not love. Torn between reality and his own dream of a childhood, flame-haired girl, he finally breaks down when he meets a girl during one of his strange interludes with the dream-maiden.

The last story, "Nightmare", is the most suspenseful. A young student dreams that he has murdered a man while under the influence of liquor, and hid his body in the cellar. But is it a dream? There is the usual attempt to explain away, for instance. Unable to verify his actions by asking his friends, the lad's extremity of terror keeps the reader on pins and needles.

"Puzzle Box" is not the best book of its kind that I have read, but it is far from being the worst. I felt that the conclusions to the stories were indefinite at times, but perhaps this will enhance the element of the mystery for some of the other readers. The book is a worthy effort for a new writer's house, however, and I would suggest you give it a trial.

Tommy Lottner received from Walt Dunkelberger tells of new 1947 model "Tato" girl" released on 30 January. Model has two lung power, free sneezing, lined belly, economical feed, changeable seat covers, water cooling system, fully equipped with all necessary conveniences and outlets.

Norm Stanley continues with another joker in his rocketmotor discussion: He hasn't considered the 'inner' or thermal efficiency of the rocket motor. We have assumed that all the energy of the uranium fission goes into moving the rocket and the outward-streaming exhaust of fission fragments. This is not the case. The particles from the exploding nuclei are flying off in every direction. We assume that fission takes place substantially on or near the surface of the concave face of the uranium cylinder in our proposed setup. Then about half the fission fragments would fly outward from that face and pass through the hole in the toroid to constitute an exhaust stream. The other half would be driven back into the block of uranium where they would collide with other nuclei and so expend their energy in heating up the metal. Some, of course, would be reflected back out into the exhaust path due to elastic collisions within the metal, but they would emerge with lower energy, the difference being imparted to the nuclei with which they collided. But an enormous amount of heat would be generated and this would have to be taken care of in some way to keep the uranium from melting. Perhaps instead of a uranium cylinder the metal could be applied as a plating to the concave face of a massive block of some heavy metal--tungsten would be good-- which would increase the number of reflections back into the exhaust and would permit the installation of high capacity cooling apparatus within and around the block.

Of course a 5-ton rocket isn't going to have much space for refrigeration equipment. While the same problem also exists for chemical rockets, such as J-2, it is solved by the application of regenerative cooling-- the fuel (also liquid) itself is circulated around the combustion chamber and serves as a cooling jacket before passing to the burning cups, so that in effect it takes the waste heat and puts it back into the jet. Since the rate of fuel flow is very rapid this works exceedingly efficiently to take care of waste heat at the rate of probably many thousands of horsepower. In our atomic rocket it might be a question of absorbing heat at a rate of maybe a million horsepower! And here we have no large amount of fuel which could serve as a coolant. No ordinary type of refrigeration could possibly handle such a flood of energy. This seems then, to render the atomic rocket impractical.

(To be continued...Norm writes that one of the formulas is in error in his discussion...can anyone spot it?)

Art Jequel writes that he attended a meeting of the Reaction Research Society (3262 Castero Ave., Glendale, Cal) where color movies of 2 rocket tests were shown. One of the test rockets ascended more than 1000 feet in a parachute test, but the parachute failed to open. Rocket was of about 1 1/2" tubing, and about 8' long, though some thrust tests of larger rocket motors were shown. "Think maybe these boys have something. They are planning another test in March, which I may attend." (If you do, Art, I think Embereaders would like an eye-witness description of the test-ed.)

Big Bond Fund now \$31

CRIST

Stephens #79 warns against selling gifted originals as it may lead to stopping pro give-away.

2B or not 2B, V2N3 gives details on the proposed Fan Fictorial; names of fans, etc, are solicited; may be returned to you, of course, afterwar in Ron Maddox, 20 King St., New York City.

Bloomington News Letter #5 should be inserted in Bob Tucker's 1946 Fan Index which also just arrived. If you want a complete listing of fans for 1946, drop him a line at Box 260, Bloomington, Ill. for a free copy.

Space Flight, Feb 47, 104 features the (continued next page)

results of the 1947 Escholf Poll man-
aged by Garry de la Ree. Some of the
data was previously given in Ember #27.

Embassy Times #37 tells of the great
talk that Dr. David Keller made in an
hour and a half talk about his writing
career. This speech was delivered to
the NEFA which boasted 4 other doctors
in attendance besides Keller. Also
present was the principal of a Newark
High School who went away very favor-
ably impressed with the potentialities
of a few interesting young men and
women in scientific and literary car-

Fantasy Review, 1946-47 from Joe Ken-
nedy, 84 Baker Ave., Dover, New Jersey.
This you just have to get; Joe has not
only covered the past year, taking 76
pages to do it, but he's done a fine
piece of mimeographing and organization
of contents. It'll cost you 50¢, and
if you're not too slow you can still
get one -- maybe. He only ran off 175
copies.

NEFA Bulletin #6 Local Philadelphia
Issue #1 and only issue. Of chief in-
terest to Haber was the superb Ditto
job on this newsie from Van Splan.

The Star Kover #6 from Van Splan is
a near bi-monthly at 10¢. It is some-
what like Bronson's fine Fantasite--
good mimeo work, art & headings, and var-
ied contents. Recommended.

Haber
1329 N. 33rd St.
Milwaukee 8, Wisc.

(printed matter)

Ember is a weekly journal of news,
views, and muse put out by Doug He-
ler who will be put out if you don't
contribute once in awhile. Address
1329 N. 33rd St, Milwaukee 8, Wisc.
This is one newsie that is more in-
terested in opinion and comment than
in straight fact; now that Vox is
dead, why not speak through Ember?

Ember race

1. Tigrine 11 points
- 2. Stein 8 1/2 points
3. Deags 8 points
4. Stanley 7 1/2 points
- Joquel 7 1/2 points
6. Speer 5 points
7. Ruthless 4 1/2 points

In a letter to Stein, Fritz Leiber
says: "The characters Fethard and
Mouser were originated some 11 years
ago by a friend of mine, Thayer, a
writer of Louisville, and developed
in a series of letters. I wrote the
first complete story of them in a
novel called Agents Gambit -- Nov. 1934.
It will see print for the first
time in my forthcoming Archen 2nd
collection Night's Black agents

I wonder what the Fortean School
thru Thayer's mouth, is saying of
the "discoveries" of the Burd
ition



Norman Stanley 43
43 A Broad St
Rockland, Maine