

9th Westcon Report

- story on page 3 -

THE SCIENCE FICTION NEWSPAPER

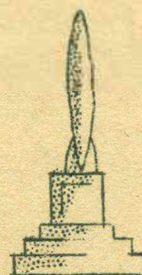
Fantasy-Times

(Fifteenth Year Of Publication)

Vol. 11 - No. 253

Second August 1956 Issue

10 Cents



"HUGO"
1955

ANOTHER NEW S-F
MAG COMING; To Be
Edited By LARRY SHAW

New York, 25 July, (GNS) - Still another new science-fiction magazine will be on the stands this Fall. Larry Shaw announced today that his detective magazine Suspect has folded with the current October 1956 (\$5) issue, and that a companion science-fiction magazine to Infinity Science Fiction will take its place. The new magazine, as yet untitled, will be 128 pages, digest-size, bi-monthly and 35¢. The first issue will be dated December 1956 and be on the stands about October 1st. Both it and Infinity will appear at the same time, instead as is usually the practice of issuing companion mags alternately. The new mag will feature three short novels in each issue, with short - shorts to fill it up. It will be more of an action-adventure type than Infinity.

14th World
S-F Con To
Be On T-V!

(Story on Page 2)

NOTICE!

You can pick up your copy of our super 15th Anniversary issue at the 14th World S-F Con in New York! Look for our display table!

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

NBC To Cover 14th Con!

by David A. Kyle

New York, 25 July, (CNS) - Seems like NBC is going to concentrate on the 14th World Science Fiction Convention for the Labor Day weekend! These are the tentative commitments: NBC Monitor is going to visit the convention regularly during the weekend! Arthur C. Clarke is going to be placed on several TV shows, e. g.: "Youth Wants To Know" is suggested! "The Costume Ball" is going to be filmed for presentation on Sunday programs, and perhaps used in other ways, e. g. News shows. Some of the more prominent speakers will get spots on Monitor or specific TV shows. All producers will be informed of our itinerary, NBC mimeographing our program for distribution to them. Steve Allen will be contacted and informed. He's sympathetic to science-fiction, as well as: Dave Carroway, Gene Rayburn, Ernie Kovacs, Guy Lombardo, Bill Cullen, Al Jazbo Collins, etc. The Science Fiction Ballet which is now being produced by Ruth Ramsey and Olga Ley will be considered for TV! If we can get a Fashion Show of the Future together, which seems doubtful since Hattie Carnegie died, that will be used on TV! Our Achievement Awards will get a special mention on one of the shows! With the trophy, too! A special program will be considered for "Outlook" on Sunday afternoon at 5:30!

Mr. Davidson Taylot, Vice-President for Public Affairs for the National Broadcasting Company is a real science-fiction enthusiast. But not a magazine reader. He reads books--and particularly is interested in the more literary ones of the past. I had a very interesting chat with him about science-fiction and its evolution. I mentioned how NBC seems to be a nesting ground for s-f fans and named some names. And he added "Pat Weaver", who of course, is President of NBC! And he thinks that there is a good likelihood of Weaver giving a speech at the Con!

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Weaver, he says, "has an exceptional imagination."

SLICK SCIENCE FICTION

by Donald E. Ford

Saturday Evening Post, July 21, '56:

"The Coming Of The Space Ship" by Milton Lehman. An article, with 5 or 6 photos illustrating, about the American Rocket Society. This was originally formed as the American Interplanetary Society in 1930 by Wonder Stories. Photos of Goddard, G. Edward Pendray (Gwein Edwards) & Rocket tests. Interesting article. Reads somewhat like a fan article.

(Don has moved into his own home and for those interested his new address is Donald E. Ford, Box 19-T, RR #2, Wards Corner Rd., Loveland, Ohio. -eds)

BIG SUPER ISSUE COMING NEXT

FANTASY FORECASTS

Coming Up Next In The Pros

GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION * November 1956:

(Novelet) "The Man Who Ate The World" by Frederik Pohl, (Short Stories) "Dead Ringer" by Lester del Rey, "Vigil" by E. C. Tubb, "Double Dare" by Robert Silverberg, (Book-Length Serial - Installment 2) "The Stars My Destination" by Alfred Bester, (Science Department) "For Your Information" by Wally Ley, (Features) "Editor's Page" by H. L. Gold, "Galaxy's Five Star Shelf" by Floyd C. Gale, Cover is by Bush, showing "Strange Nestlings",

FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION - Oct. '56:

"The Door Into Summer" (first of three parts) by Robert A. Heinlein, "I Don't Mind" by Ron Smith, "The Monster Show" (Concluded on page 4, column 2)

9th Westercon Report

Oakland, Calif, 2 July (GNS) — The 9th Annual WESTERCON, California-wide conference of fans & pros, drew twice the attendance of the first World SF Con, with an estimated 250 in actual attendance out of 450 registrars. Held 30th June and 1 July at the Hotel Leanington, by the Friday nite prior to the con approx'ly 50 fans were already congregated at the hotel. Richard Matheson was Guest of Honor, and pros present included Jack Vance (a first public appearance), Poul Anderson, Idris Seabright (Margaret St Clair), Forrest J Ackerman, Winona McClintic, Miriam Allen deFord, Rog Phillips, Charles Beaumont, Chas Fritch, Wm Nolan, Steve Benedict, Frank Riley, Thelma Haman, Garen and Kirk Drussai, EEEvans, Reg Bretner, Jerome Bixby, Robert Barbour Johnson, and (out of the Ark), Charles D. Hornig, founder of the Science Fiction League. Needless to say, the ubiquitous Tony Boucher, who was toastmaster.

Poul Anderson moderated the opening discussion on "Nobody Knows the Troubles I've seen", panelers consisting of Bixby, St. Clair, deFord and Ackerman. "I don't know what I'm doing on a panel with this name," quipped Ackerman, "'cuz everybody knows the troubles I've seen — they're regularly reported every issue in Fantasy-Times!" Current niggardly rates in the s.f. field were knifed, feeling running somewhat high that sci-fi writers were having to work too hard for their bread and butter while brother scribes in less exacting fields of fiction were extracting more money from the lucre lodes. On the other side of the coin, the question was raised: "Does easy money ruin quality? Was boom money the doom of the authors because it was so easy to sell just junk?" From the floor Robert (Far Below) Johnson pointed out that HPLovecraft managed to die of malnutrition, and opined that "You can't create literature in an atmosphere of money-making", while Tony Boucher predicted the 50¢ s.f. mag (briefly tested, abandoned by Fantastic U) as "an absolute necessity."

At the banquet, Margaret St Clair gave an appropriate after dinner speech on "The Future of Drinking" and Tony Boucher called on Forrest Ackerman for a few extemporaneous remarks. Forry informed the crowd that it was perfectly all right to laugh out loud in case he said anything funny, and that, in fact, applause was to be encouraged, as there were talent scouts present from New York, keeping an eye on him in case of last minute lack of a master of ceremonies at the Newyorkon. "It could happen," he envisioned, "that Robert Bloch might misplace the cuff that he talks off of, and substitute Tony Boucher might be too deep in his cups (or has the cup been invented yet that's that deep?), or Isaac Asimov might develop stage fright (!) or Sam Moskowitz might lose his voice—lose his voice?—no, I guess that's in the realm of fantasy instead of science-fiction..."

Richard Matheson gave a serious speech which was well received.

Charlie Beaumont & Bill Nolan made a great team of auctioneers, with a kind of vodvil approach a la Bing Crosby & Bob Hope, and fetched their best price for an original Morris Scott Dollens. Ray Palmer and Paul Fairman had cooperated in sending in cover paintings.

THINGS TO COME and The Cabinet of Dr Caligari were revived, and there was a showing of a special Dollens astronomical short and, by popular demand, two showings of Alan Nourse's filmization of Matheson's classic, "Born of Man and Woman".

MAG-net, a skit-spoof of Doc Smith and Shaver, was arranged by Karen (Mrs Poul) Anderson and starred in by Boucher, Phillips and Johnson, with Mrs (fanctte) Phillips, Jack Vance, Jerry Bixby and Forry Ackerman in supporting roles.

Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Marilyn Tulley, virtual unknowns in the field prior to the Westercon, did a bangup job of organizing the conference and, enthused by their success, immediately after decided to bid for the '57 World Con for neighboring city Berkeley, Calif.

15th Anniversary Issue is next - - -

by James Blish

MANKIND ON THE RUN, by Gordon R. Dickson, 151 pp.; and THE CROSSROADS OF TIME, by Andre Norton, 169 pp. Ace Double Novels, 1956. 35¢.

ASF's preoccupation with psi seems to be producing many fictional casualties, of which the Dickson novel evidently is one. It's highly interesting in many respects; it includes a complex vanVogtian plot of intrigue, and rather less out-and-out nonsense than is usual in such stories; a sophisticated command of details; tight dialogue; and an interesting one - cylinder extrapolated-society. The psi element upon which all this turns, however, is utterly unbelievable. Despite Dickson's best efforts at making it seem dramatic and crucial, it reads as though it were forced upon the story by somebody else against Dickson's will.

Too bad, for the story is fascinating until you find out what it purports to be about. I suggest that it is not a good idea to use psi as the climax to a story of power politics on the vV model; the frame makes the psi element seem feeble and mystical by contrast.

The Norton yarn is an attempt to marry the parallel-time-tracks idea with a psi thesis. The emphasis is on the parallelism, ala H. Beam Piper. The English is crude, bony, and inflexible; the characterizations, nil. I cannot report on the plot, since I was unable to get past p. 71.

The Dickson is worth reading, all the same. Try it.

THE MAN WHO LIVED FOREVER, by R. DeWitt Miller and Anna Hunger, 157 pp.; and THE MARS MONOPOLY, by Jerry Sohl, 183 pp. Ace Double Novel, 1956. 35¢

The Miller-Hunger collaboration is an expansion of a short story, "The Master Shall Not Die", which appeared in ASF in 1938 signed by Miller alone. The new material in the Ace version appears to be mostly Miss Hunger's, since it is jarringly modern in tone; no attempt has been made to smooth it in to

the hortatory, Victorian style of the original. The narrative standards of 1938 were pretty crude, too, and Miss Hunger hasn't bothered to improve upon them. The plot has a fair amount of raw pulp suspense, and that's all. The science content of the story consists of the assumption that blood transfusion -- person to person -- is the key to immortality, a notion that was known to be nonsense centuries ago. I am afraid that this item has nothing to recommend it but nostalgia.

The Jerry Sohl novel is a Western pure and simple, though it takes place on a planet called Mars. I think Sohl ought to translate it back into terms of hosses and Injuns; he might easily get another cent a word for the straight version.

Save your money.

BOOK PUBLISHERS PLEASE NOTE:

Book and pocket-book publishers who care to have their books reviewed in this column, should send their books direct to James Blish, 135 West 84th Street, New York 24, New York. This will speed getting the review in Fantasy-Times.
-The Editors

FANTASY FORECASTS

(concluded from page 2, column 2)

by Charles Beaumont, "Anthing' Box" by Zenna Henderson, "The Decline and Fall of the Bug-eyed Monster" (article) by John Christopher, "Try This For Psis" by Robert Bloch, "Mr. Guthrie's Cold War" by Jay Williams, "Recommended-Reading" (department) by Anthony Boucher, "Tea From Chirop Terra" by Winona McClintic, "King's Evil" by Avram Davidson, "Sonnets in a Moonship" (verse) by Starr Nelson. Cover painting by Kelly Freas illustrating "The Door Into Summer".

SF & THE \$64,000 ???

by C. L. Barrett, M.D.

Bellefontaine, Ohio, 20 June, (CNS) - Dave Kyle, Chairman of the World Science Fiction Committee, and Jean Car-

(concluded on page 6, column 1)

Ernsting Out, Then Back

by Julian Parr

Dusseldorf, Germany, 27 June, (CNS) - The German science-fiction world underwent a startling upheaval this spring, unnoticed by all but a few initiates. Walter Ernsting, editor of the Utopia series of paper-backed SF novels, broke with his publisher Erich Pabel at Easter 1956. He had long complained to acquaintances about his lack of editorial freedom, and a particularly sharp rap over the knuckles caused him to give notice to Pabel and start preparing a new pulp series with the Munich publisher Heyne Moewig, while agreeing to carry on the Utopia series until September 1956. Moewig had spent some time in the USA after the war, knew SF, and had long planned his own series. However, as he became aware of the current cost of the translated American and British SF Ernsting was hoping to use, Moewig backed down, for he hadn't Pabel's financial resources. For his part, Pabel had displayed unmistakable regret at losing Ernsting, so that a rapprochement between the two was soon achieved. However, in the meantime Pabel had taken on Walt Spiegl (first translator of Bradbury into German, and SFCD Librarian) as "Technical Advisor" in SF matters. On the return of the prodigal Ernsting, the three went into a huddle and I now learn that Walter Ernsting is once again Editor of the "Utopia" Grossband series, with Walt Spiegl as his assistant.

The two Walters also act as co-editors of the "Utopia" Sonderband, Germany's first SF magazine bringing a selection of short stories. The first Sonderband had appeared late in 1955, and was in the nature of an experiment. Now a second number appeared in June, and bi-monthly publication is planned. The current issue contains shorts by Heinlein, Gallun, van Vogt, Rocklynne and other American authors, and also by the Germans Darlton, von Puttkamer and Wolf Detlef Rohr. Articles on SF films (concluded on page 6, column 1)

Australian State of Fandom

OLYMPIC CON TO BE HELD IN AUSTRALIA

by Ian J. Crozier

Caulfield, Australia, 13 July, (CNS) - On the last day of the Olympic Games in Melbourne, Australia, on December 8th, there will commence what has been planned as the biggest Convention yet held Down Under. Occupying two days, a well balanced program, including an original play by Aussie author Norma Hemming, film screenings (some surprises, I'm told), talks, auctions and, of course, the inevitable gab-fest...

Guest of honor will be Aussie author Frank Btyning, who has recently been making Fantastic Universe with monotonous regularity. Fans are expected from most states of the Commonwealth with the possibility of attendees from the U.K. and USA.

The idea was first formed in 1954, when it was suggested that a Convention be held in conjunction with the Olympic Games. After surmounting considerable difficulties, a committee was gathered together, and a program formulated.

Now, nearly two years later, they are seeing their idea rapidly approaching, and are determined to make a success of it. A plea has been sent out to all the promags, for any material they may have, to be displayed, and if not wanted returned, later auctioned. But except for the British mag New Worlds, who have given 5 covers and dozens of interior illos, the response has been poor. Some original manuscripts, however, have been received.

Many American SF notables have become members, including Forry Ackerman, Tony Boucher, Jack Williamson, Ben Stark, and more are expected. Membership fees are \$1.00, payable to: R. J. McCubbin, 90 Lilydale Grove, Hawthorn-

East, Vic. Aust., and this entitles one to all literature, including the Souvenir Booklet and the Convention Report, plus an attractive Membership badge.

GERMAN SF NEWS (cont. from page 5)

by Ackerman, on Hugo Gernsback by Ernsting (including the former's address to the 1952 World SF Con at Chicago), and so on. The issue is profusely illustrated and also contains many reproductions of film stills and an autographed portrait of Gernsback as frontispiece. Plans are afoot to bring a translation of Ralph 124041 Plus in a future "Utopia". One article is by Otto Willi Gail, well known to SF veterans as author of stories in Wonder Quarterlies for Fall 1929 and March 1930. Gail died recently in a Munich hospital after a lingering illness.

Finally, Germany's first SF pocket book series has arrived. Three titles from the Weiss "World of Tomorrow" hard cover novels are now being re-issued in pb format, priced at DM 1.90 (almost 50¢). They are translations of novels by Jean-Gaston Vandél, Oscar J. Friend and Edmond Hamilton. The Gebrüder Weiss Verlag, Germany's leading SF publishers, plan to borrow further titles from the hard-cover series, which now totals 54 titles, including seven from the Scribners juvenile Heinleins. This firm also issues a house newsheet devoted to SF themes, the latest issue included the report of an interview with Vandél.

SF & THE \$64,000 ? (cont. from page 4)

rol, a member of the Committee, are attempting to have a Science Fiction category on the \$64,000 Question. The Company in charge of this went so far as to call in Steve Takacs for an interview, but would not put him on because he was a professional book dealer.

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Publishers of Fantasy-Times

P. O. Box #2331

Paterson 25, New Jersey

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FANTASY - TIMES - #253
(established 1941)

Published twice-a-month by FANDOM HOUSE

U. S. & Canada: 10¢ a copy, 12 issues \$1.00, or \$2.00 per year (24 issues). Permanent subscription \$10.00, from FANDOM HOUSE, P. O. Box #2331, Paterson 23, New Jersey.

British: 9d per copy, 15s0d per year, from MILCROSS BOOK SERVICE, 68 Victoria Street, LIVERPOOL 1, ENGLAND.

Australia: One Shilling per copy, 10 Shillings for 12 issues, One Pound for 24 issues, from ROGER DARD, Box S1387, G.P.O. PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

James V. Taurasi, Sr., & Ray Van Houten
Editors and Publishers.

A FANDOM HOUSE PUBLICATION!

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

er. When I was in New York I talked to the agency in charge of the \$64,000 Question and found that the public has to evidence an interest in some particular category by writing in about it before they will put that category on the air. We need about 300 people to write in asking for this category to have it put on the air.

Write in to the \$64,000 Question asking that there be a contest in the s-f category. I suggest that you give them the name of some person that you think should be on the program, remembering that any book dealer or professional person who makes his living out of the field is not acceptable. They definitely prefer a person whom you would never suspect of being interested in the field in which they are a specialist.

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