

Grant

1951

LIGHT #48



7



FINGERS ON AND CO-CRIMINALS : Robert W. Gibson, Samuel Wilberforce McCoy, Norman  
Virtuous Lamb.

[illegible]

Robert W. Gibson, of Calgary, informs me that his model says, "Time travellers are always welcome-- most decidedly yes!" I wonder if he has had his breakfast. . .

# LIGHT FLASHES

SEPTEMBER 12 & 13, our local theatre exhibited "THE THING" (from another world, yet.) As an overall consensus of personal opinion, the film, judged against the story, is a decided flop; but judged against a background of Hollywoodian plotting, acting, and general ineptitude, I'd say the film is well worth seeing. To those who have not yet seen "THE THING", and have read "Who Goes There", the only way to enjoy the picture is to forget you already know the original plot, and settle back in your seats and view the film as something completely new. Then I feel sure you will give Hollywood some credit for treating a science-fiction theme honestly. By "honestly", I mean nobody woke up to find he had been having a nightmare; no lap-dissolve informed us some kids have been having a bedtime story told to them; it is a strict treatment just as straight faced as any

detective or love pictures get. BUT, if you are going to compare it with Campbell's fantasy, then you are bound to be disappointed for it is as full of holes as a Swiss Cheese and bears such slight resemblance to the story as to make you wonder why they bought it at all.

"KING SOLOMON'S MINES" received a far better treatment in that it follows the story a trifle more faithfully. But it still is a mark below the book, for all its beauty of technicolor and Miss Kerr. Yet, in itself, it is a fine film and well worth seeing.

Who, I wonder, has been following  
"DIMENSION X"? Try for it at 8:00 PM on  
Saturday evening, over WTEAM, Cleveland,  
or WBEW, Buffalo. Those are the two  
stations best received here at that time.  
I find it very ASTOUNDING SCIENCE-FICTION-  
ISH-- short on action and long on words.  
In fact, I believe "AFTER 2000 AD" has been  
doing a much better job! During the summer  
I have also been following off and on  
"GHOST STORIES" at 9:00 PM, Sundays, over  
CHL, Toronto. Some of the stuff has stunk,  
but some has been rather decent. Nothing  
that could be judged really strong meat,  
however, in my opinion.

No "DESTINATION MOON" here yet, but coming up is "PREHISTORIC WOMEN"! Botcha whatever you like it's the same old guff!



# Letters

HAROLD WAKEFIELD, TORONTO, ONTARIO

It (LIGHT) seemed very much more like the earliest uninhibited ones you did than many of the later issues. That Croutch-Tusker affair, SAMMY'S USED GIRL MART, was quite in the old LIGHT style. Cover quite good, a welcome relief from the rockets, robots, etc., which cluster up so many fan mags covers. Your piece on the tax inspector is too damn near the truth to be really funny, I imagine.

My interest in fantasy is at a new low. This is due to no lack of enthusiasm on my part, but to the crap the pulps are producing. Even a loyal old sentimentalist finally had to quit WEIRD. FAMOUS FANTASTIC has gone to the devil and I now take only MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION and it is far from satisfactory.

The two things in the field that have pleased me most of late are the paper-back, THE WORLD BELOW by Fowler Wright, and the hard-cover THE BISHOP OF HELL by Marjorie Bowen.

I haven't read Weird Tales for years, Hal. Just couldn't stomach the bilge it insisted was "weird". Remember the old days when authors didn't insist on being subtle but tried their damndest to scare the pants off of us by laying on their horror in great big beautiful gobs? How I'd enjoy reading a yarn like that today. After all, you DO get tired of milk and honey Sunday-school pap ALL the time!

--ED/

SAM W. MCCOY, NIAGARA FALLS, ONT.

Best part of the whole mag was the "Sammy's Used Girl Mart" ad, which was terrific. I must admit my electric chair job was improved somewhat. If the LIGHT staffer referred to in the comments on the mag NUDITY was myself, you were dead right. [Actually I had Norm Lamb in mind, but I guess it'd fit you just as well.--ED/ What happened to the LECHERS' CORNER? Next issue? Never? Happened to show my file of LIGHTS to my brother and sister-in-law, and they appropriated it to read all the past issues; they were especially in-

trigued at the hornets' nest stirred up by my Torcon report. Those were the good old days-- now LIGHT is merely an annual, commenting on other Fapazines. Gah. Whatever became of the fans' bedroom companion, the poor man's esquire? Where are the humorous articles, (Midgely & Wiffenpoof), the soundings off against reprints, the book reviews (McCoy and Lamb)? Pfu!

Today [Letter was dated Sept. 5--ED/ I donated a pint of blood (after some pressure from the Brass at Burgoss) to the Red Cross, and immediately passed out cold. After a fifteen minute sojourn under a blanket, I attempted to sit up, felt woozy, and had to lie down again, only to hear a nurse trumpet to the world at large, "He's down again!" I wonder if it was worth their while-- they had to work awfully hard for that pint. And I had coffee and biscuits after-- but it's a damn hard way to earn food. My first time, it was, but not the last, I'm afraid.

The thing that struck me most forcefully and distastefully about the August [1951] GALAXY was that impressionistic cover. It could have been a doozer, illustrating the crossover into a different spaceplane of what you, with the guys' bodies and the ship optically disparate but actually intact. Ooh, wool. [I thought that issue of GALAXY a real stinker from the cover, through the stories to the illos. Gold did a lot of shooting the bull about how hard the author worked on "Beyond Bedlam". For my money he should have kept on working it over. I liked the idea-- but the treatment was lousy. And the illos for that issue-- I've soon better art in public watering places!--ED/

Love and kisses, Herman Flognob.

THE EDITOR (SEPTEMBER 25, 1951)

These letters are the only two that came in mentioning LIGHT, and that had anything to say worth printing. A little more action next time would be appreciated.



Time is the  
only  
flight  
that isn't  
grounded  
by the  
weather.



HIS is a better way  
to fill up a page  
than with verse and  
other screwy bits of  
odds and ends. Most  
of this has been  
hanging around in  
my files for years.  
Nanek's, for in-  
stance, is about  
8 years old! The  
nude is by a Toronto  
fan; T. Van, by the  
way, is NOT his  
correct name. I  
did the demon, in  
case you don't be-  
lieve the signature.

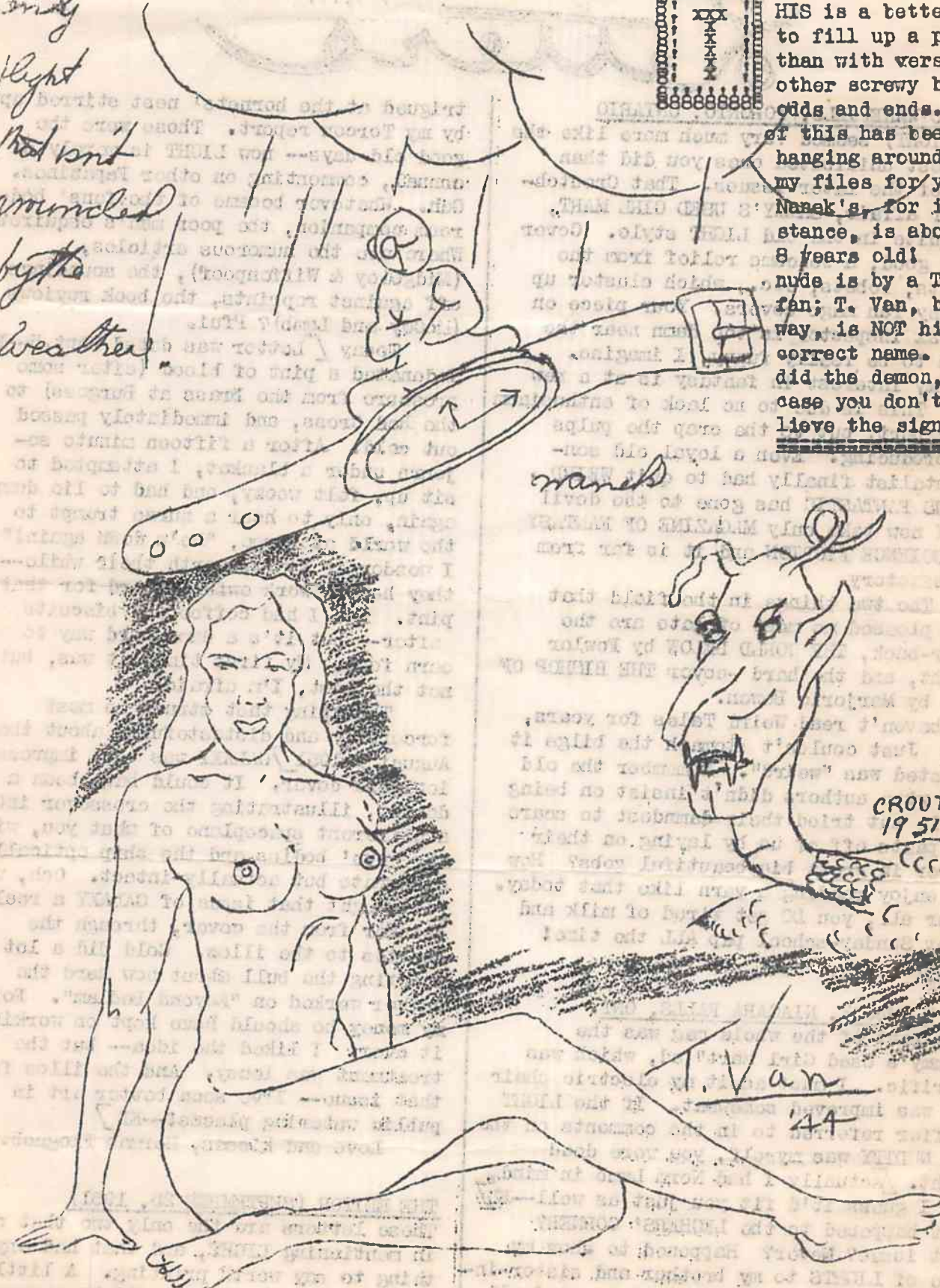
*nanek*



CROUTEN  
1951

*T. Van*

'44





# LOOKING OVER THE 56TH.

Back in 44-45 we had another run in with threatened censorship and a desire to show our mailings to the postal inspector. Langley Searles drew down on his head a regular deluge as a result. LIGHT even threw in its own share. Searles departed from the scene and since then we have been free of any serious Censorship Threat. My immediate reaction to Laney's remarks about MZB's actions was, "What a time to tell this! If Laney was trying to hurt her chances of election as president, he couldn't have timed his remarks any better." I think most of us hate the word and all that it implies, especially when it is tied in with a threat to bring in an outsider. I think that possibly some of us did not vote for Mrs. Bradley for no other reason-- that we didn't like to take a chance on a person in the presidential chair who had threatened to call in said third party instead of trying to make us clean house-- If our house needed cleaned!

If Marion's correspondence was so bad I think we should know about it so we can judge her for ourselves. Otherwise we are accepting Laney's decision. Perhaps her remarks only look that bad to FTL. Maybe to others they will be more innocently appearing. If Marion loses the election this action of Laney's may have been the deciding factor. If she has shown a strong censorship leaning I think Laney has done us a service in letting us know-- but if things are not as bad as Laney would say then he has done neither her and us a disservice. In other words-- I think Laney would have been well advised to state his case, let us see the evidence, and render our own verdict, than to merely plant seeds of suspicion and then let the matter drop.

I'll know better how things went when the election results are in. But I do not think, under the circumstances, that MZB

would make an altogether fit president as she might clamp down on us too much and make the Organization a rather dry, sterile affair.

However, regardless of how the election goes I'll abide by it. If Marriion wins, my then congratulations, and let her actions speak for themselves.

## AL LA BABOOM

Now I know what Rotaler and some of the others look like. MARS IS HELL should have been thrown away. Why didn't you just run a strip tease page and to heck with tacking a story to it? Mimeographing good.

## WOMEN AND ROSES

Nuts!

## THE BIG O

The only thing I complained about was the former name. Why do you have to deheat the contents? I haven't seen "The Thing" yet for the simple reason it hasn't come to Parry Sound yet. Neither, for that matter, has "Destination Moon". But I am not a bit surprised that Hollywood hashed hell out of the story. Ever seen a story that Hollywood didn't do that to? If we had wanted a literal treatment of the story with great attention to detail I think only one of the English studios could have done it. Now, I'm not a 100% English-lover as I think in some things they are regular twerps, but for my money the English have forgotten as much about movie making as Hollywood suspects exists!

## CELEPHAIS

Say, Bill, have you forgotten you have a credit of AT LEAST \$1.65 in swap on my books?

## FANTASY JACKASS

I truly hope with all my soul that Tucker is with us for many long years. His ribald outie sense of humor has always tickled my funny bone no end-- as the Bishop said to the Actress. I enjoyed your account of your visit to Parry Sound, BUT-- when you arrived I was NOT twiddling in my radio shop. I was out on the lawn, sitting on the back seat of my brother's car, with the door open, shooting the bull with my brother and some of his friends, when this long lanky drink of water ambles up and says, "Do you sell vacuum in cans?" Now, I'm telling you, getting asked such a damned fool question as that for the



nonco throw me. But we soon go squared about and acquainted. We DID go into the radio shop but mostly we talked on the veranda (after supper) and in the kitchen. If I recall correctly, Tucker ALSO isn't a man to omit an off-color story, and SOME of the GOSSIP he knows— boy, it was juicy and interesting! When Bob left he made a remark as what the weather would be like in the Maritimes. On the radio it had been reported as being fair and warm. But after he had left, the forecast said cooler weather was in progress, and about the time I suspect that he got there I bet it was chilly enough to put icicles on his radiator hose! Did that heavy shirt come in handy, Bob? It's a well known fact that when you leave Ontario for Duplessis-land you pass from sunshine to poverty and a Canadian form of dictatorship. I am happy to see no roads collapsed under you the way a certain bridge did! From newspaper stories I believe New Brunswick is becoming more French-Canadian than Canadian, which is insult enough without going further. Gasoline in Parry Sound is now 43¢ for Grade 2 and 45¢ for Grade 1. You haven't seen the best of Canada, Bob, for you didn't mention British Columbia. When I have made my millions that is where I wish to retire, out on the Pacific coast in B.C. I have fond memories of the Rocky Mountain province— perhaps because that is where, at the age of 7, I learned all about a dirty little game children play, usually a boy and a girl!!!

#### GEM TONES

Perhaps Lanoy's preoccupation with his Anus is due to worms— in other words, Fran suffers from the itch! What he should do is take up Ginetica, a new Science of the Bowels as arrived at after considerable thought by Bob Tucker and myself (about half an hour in the kitchen of my home last spring!). For further details see a forthcoming advertisement. I think I like Marion Bradley's idea of marriage a little better than I do yours.

#### GEMINI

And yet, you know, you meet Ackerman and he's a damned nice guy. Of course he might be a schizophrenic— has one personality

when writing and another one when there in person. I wish I could have been there the night you went swimming at camp— what a movie it would have made! But wouldn't you look funny— clad only in a diaper?

#### GEMINI JR

Noted.

#### HORIZONS

Why don't you try a Chrysler product, Harry? Those chair-high seats would please you, I am sure. In my '47 Dodge I note on thing I never recall noting on any other car I have owned: when there is a passenger in the front seat, his head always seems to be in the way when you want clear visibility out of the right front window, such as at a stop street or intersection. This other person's head always seems to be bobbing about hiding things. Otherwise visibility is very good. What I do find wrong though is that after driving a Pontiac the Lockwood hydraulic brakes appear too soft, and needing too much pressure for stopping, especially if you have been driving fairly fast. In damp weather Chrysler brakes have a tendency to grab, so when you start out first thing in the morning in inclement weather I find it a good thing to test your brakes to find how they are working, otherwise you may jam them on suddenly and find yourself in a skid, or jamming up against the steering wheel. The General Motors brake is the type they call "self-energizing". When they are in good condition they need hardly any pressure at all to stop the car.

#### IRUSAHEN

Silverberg is getting better and better with his mimeographing. Item I liked best was the cartoon on page 5.

#### IT IS WRITTEN

Interesting. . .

#### LAZILIE

I wonder if there would be any customs trouble in sending wire back and forth across the border or between any two countries? Be a heckuva note if some dopey customs inspector tried to snoop and pruned all the contents! Personally I found your paper made for very clear and legible printing. I think you should stick to it.

#### SCI-FAN REPORT CARD #6



The thing that impressed me most here was the sharpness of the micrographing. And on this slick paper, no smudges. . .

#### SLOTHFUL THING

If there are so-called obscene items in the FAPA, and an outsider has to be called in to clean it up, I think that would be an insult to the membership. Surely we are strong enough to keep our own house in order. I have noticed in the past that when one of us gets out of hand and the others don't like it, they soon tell him off in no uncertain terms and the guilty party quickly amends his ways. To the independent, free-thinking person, a threat of censorship only makes him more so-- it is his way of refusing to be bossed by anyone showing dictator qualities.

#### SPEARHEAD

I don't like avant-garde, experimental poetry. I like the garden variety kind that rhymes and is easily remembered. This, therefore, left no colder than a corpse in an igloo on Saturn.

#### THE TALISMAN

Interesting. . .

#### UNASKED OPINION

When I saw this sheet the first thing that popped into my mind was: "Oh, God, don't tell me they let Degler into the FAPA!" . . . I am happy to say the contents did not bear that out, and that I rather enjoyed them. When publishing men mention the implements they have on hand for stonewall working, no one seems to have what I consider a necessity-- a toothbrush. I find it excellent for keeping the type clean. You show us unartistic ones how to always have a cover and I'll bow down and say Salami ten tons each morning in your direction, Gortruedo. But most of us couldn't whip up a decent cover to save our souls. Thus we have to issue coverless magazines. Personally, I like a cover, but have to do without one now and then for that reason.

#### WILD HAIR ?

And WHAT, prithee, is the reason for that cover, if cover it is? Anyone can find filth if they hunt for it. Even the so-called puritanical can find obscenity where the average Joe wouldn't find anything off-color. I have always suggested

that the Bible could be censored and barred from the mails for obscenity. Yet no one so much as suggests that such an action should or could take place. Yet, all this aside, the thing that I take umbrage at is the idea that anyone could even think of informing without forewarning publicly. At least Langley Searles came right out and SAID what he had in mind. An airing might be the best for all here.

#### OFFICIAL ORGAN

20¢ this time to mail the Bundle to me. Postage rates are going UP. Incidentally, I have to correct a statement made in LIGHT #46. It now takes 2¢ to mail individual copies of LIGHT.

#### CAMPAIGN FLYER

Marion Z. Bradley may be draft proof, but how does she stand on other things? I think perhaps her chances have been hurt by Lancy's article.

~~~~~  
I'm happy to say that paper  
more LIGHT for LIGHT is still at a  
FLASHES somewhat decent price--  
\$2.95 a ream for this  
white stuff.

Congratulations to all the new officers, even if I don't know just who our new proxy is. Why not let Rapp and Bradley sit in the chair together-- or would it be too crowded? Even if one does bow out in favor of the other it will stand as the closest run race I've seen-- too close for comfort. I like clean-cut decisions, then I know where I stand.

Just how particular do you have to be to receive FM beyond the horizon, anyway? Either a lot of the stuff we read is a lot of malarkey or else I live in a truly freak location.

During the past year or so, whenever I got a radio in for repairs that had a F.M. band as part of the set's features, I have aligned this band and listened in. I have no F.M. antenna nor any other type of high frequency antenna on the shop. I have just the regular L-type, about 50 to 60 feet long, roughly 20 feet high,

(IF THERE ARE MORE LIGHT FLASHES, SEE 8)





POCKET BOOKS

CLOTHBOUND BOOKS

Dracula- Brom Stoker  
(good).....60  
Man from Up Thero- Maur-  
ice Lincoln (good) 1.25  
20,000 Leagues Under The  
Sea- Jules Verne (authors  
ed., gold-embossed  
cover, wall-illus.  
fair condition).....90  
Vanishing Liner- George  
Morse (excellent).... .39  
Tarzan and the Lost Em-  
pire- Burroughs (ok) .39  
Tarzan the Untamed- Burr-  
oughs (fair)..... .39

## MAGAZINES

no new listings; see LIGHT  
#47.

knocked out! This rock wall is perhaps 100 feet high at its nearest. Between me and the stations received is this rock wall plus another hill perhaps two to three times higher beyond that!

Weather when reception was heard has been of almost every variety from hot and clear to cool and rainy. It apparently makes little difference. My aerial is in no direct line with any large body that might be acting as a reflector.

T.V? I don't know, but I am beginning to believe it would be possible.

And to top it all, Parry Sound is in a low-level AM area for signal strength. You explain it— I can't.

I CALL THIS BARGAIN. YOU PROBABLY c b  
 WON'T! 1 8  
 "VANISHING LINER" by George Morse . o n  
 excellent condish; only 39¢ t d  
 1 1

## LIGHT FLASHES

and a good ground. To listen in on the P.M. to see if by any chance anything could be heard, and not expecting even static, I have, on a total to date (September 25) of six sets, always heard stations!

Fading has usually been bad, ranging from rapid bursts of signal in which whole words dropped out, to slow fades in which perhaps a word or so dropped slightly only now and then. Stations heard have never been Canadian ones. They have, so far, been WJR-IM, the Cleveland Station, Fort Erie— in other words, stations in Michigan and Ohio, never anywhere else.

Conditions have ranged from periods of reception ranging from a few minutes to a few hours in length! WJRM is always the best, when whole programs ( $\frac{1}{2}$ -hour) have been heard with more than comfortable room volume and absolutely no noise!

Location here: my shop sits in what is practically the bottom of a cup with stone walls, the side of the cup facing roughly WEST