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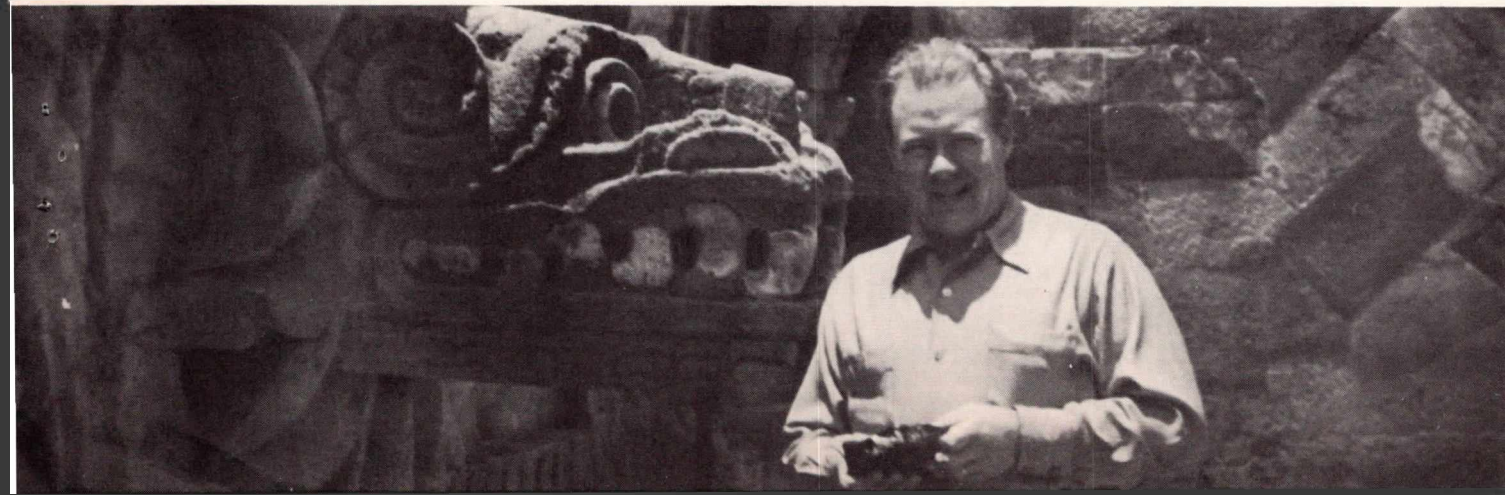
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STF = STUFF

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THE TRAMP - L. Ron Hubbard, ASF - SEP, OCT, NOV, 1938

This might loosely be classified as a mutant story or a fantasy, either one. It is STF, more or less in the same vein as 'Dark-er than you think' although of not nearly such high quality. It is the story of a tramp, who in the process of escaping from some railroad men (he'd been riding the rods) is thrown into a brake and gets his head and his brain smashed up badly. After living by a miracle he cures (every other person in the hospital by his 'wild talent'. In the investigation that ensues he is found to have a type of evil eye where he can kill those he hates and cure those he likes. Naturally this gets him in trouble with everyone, including the government. I can see a similarity between this story and 'Cue for Quiet' that ran in Space Stories last year. The latter is not a copy or anything and seemed to me to be a better story. The tramp was written in too much of a half joking way to appeal as serious STF yet was too serious to be funny. Fair rating, B-.

VALLEY OF THE FLAME - Keith Hammond (pseud. Henry Kuttner)
Startling stories, March 1946. Around half a dozen years ago an argument was raging in the readers page of SS as to who was the greater or better writer, Kuttner or Merritt. It seems neither escaped unscathed by the vitriolic feud that followed up this type which tells about a scientist in the Amazon valley who wanders onto a valley complete with a beautiful woman and a flame of life a la SHE. The hero is caught up in a web of intrigue and the story finishes with a battle in an alien garden of life. The tale is colorful and while it has defects, is one that bears reading easily. I found some of the descriptions superior to many of A. Merritt's and while I have no wish to start a feud, will rate this equal to the Merrittales. Rating A.

THE TOMB OF TIME - by Richard Tooker - Amazing stories, Mar, 1933
As far as I know this story is utterly forgotten today, and is gathering dust in the files of the fans who do have a copy of the mag. In fact I doubt if many neo-fans have ever heard of Richard Tooker. (I'm a rather new fan myself but my collection is a big one). Well, he wrote the 'Day of the Brown Horde' and in my opinion this is a far better tale than the former. It is the story of a descent to a world of dinosaurs under the ground. A group of people are investigating some strange footprints in a large western cave when an avalanche seals them in. In trying to get out they merely wander deeper under the earth until they find a huge cavern filled with prehistoric life under the earth and naturally get up to their necks in a gun battle with the local lads. The alien buddies let loose with a volcanic plug in their eagerness to dispose of the surfacers and send themselves to kingdom come.

The hero and company get out by riding out on an underground river. This story reminded me all the way through of the Verne's 'Journey to the Centre of the Earth'. It is far more readable and is actually gripping. I won't say compare it to modern writing, but it was, as they say, good clean fun.

Rating B.

Have a little space here so I'll fill it up with idle remarks. These old Amazines sported some dandy covers by A. Sigmund. They were symbolic and I for one could stand some like 'em today....

---Roy Dixon.

— S. R. S. F. C. C. —

What do the above letters mean to you? Nothing, you say? If you read Star Rockets they will but you say you don't? You never heard of it? Then it is about time to find out. STAR ROCKETS was founded a year ago by its Editor, Raleigh Evans Multog. It is published at 7 GREENWOOD ROAD, PIKESVILLE 8, MD. Persons who subscribe to Star Rockets automatically become members of the Star Rocket Science Fiction Correspondence Club.

If you want to be active in Science Fiction Fandom, then this club is the one for you. It is already a year old and still growing. It now has membership cards and officers of the club are being formed. If you subscribe now you still may have a chance to be an officer. So hurry! hurry! and hurry!!

New subscription rates beginning the first of next year will be 20¢ each or 12 issues for \$2.25. (That is, the new rates will start on Jan. 1st. 1954. Right now they are 10¢ each, 12 issues for 1.00 or 3 for 25¢.

There are still a few issues of Star Rockets #7 left, but if they are out when your sub arrives, you'll get the next one then. There were 40 pages in the #7 issue and about 14 people contributed the material for the zine.

Also in the 7th issue there is as complete as possible a convention report of the last convention, by its editor, Jerry Anthony, George J. Viksnins, and Bill Gerken Jr.

Some of the contributors were Jerry Anthony, Nigell Cadell; PFC C.R. Hall, Edith L. Hellweil, Orma McCormick, Stuart K. Nock, Henry Oden, and V. Paul Nowell. The cover was drawn by Richard Geis of Portland, Oregon, Editor of Psychotic. In the verse Dept there was an excellent verse titled "The Wampee Land or the Star Wanderer".

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#12

M. McNEIL
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TREASURES OF TANTALUS pt.2. The head of the crime trust is elected and the triumvirate pãan revenge; Priestly is for denouncing him. immediately, while the others think that such a denunciation following so close upon the heels of the election would smell of a hoax. Besides, the machinery of law is so thoroughly riddled by agents of the trust that charges would be sidetracked quickly; so the triumvirate resolves to watch and wait, accumulating evidence against the gang. They observe the transmission of a criminal trust payroll, but do not intercept it. It becomes evident that the trust intends to take over the United States, through Congress. They watch their machine's screen as two million dollars are transferred to the secret treasure-trove of the gang, but then Miss Simpson, Fleckner's secretary, goes into hysterics and throws the device out of kilter, allowing the crooks to escape without being tailed by telephonscope. They discover that a member of the gang is to be executed, and Priestley resolves to prevent it; he however, only succeeds in getting captured.

TREASURES OF TANTALUS pt.3. Miss Simpson, Fleckner's secretary devises a plan for rescuing Priestley, by impersonating the head of the organization, banking on the fact that the chief was never more than a telephone voice. There, however, is trouble and a x terrific chase, but Priestley and Simpson escape by using an auto whose appearance can be altered easily. The trust, however, strikes back by siezing several persons who have seen the telephonscope in action, hoping to learn more; The trust also gets out a story that Priestley got the fortune by fraud. Fleckner, meanwhile, plans to smash the syndicate completely and thoroughly; however he begins to develop psychotic tendencies. However he successfully siezes control of the organization, only to learn that there is yet a higher power in the criminal hierarchy.

TREASURES OF TANTALUS pt.4 Their telephonscope goes wild, and picks up the treasure-hoard itself; however, their only clue to its location is a strange song which comes over the machine. After much tracking, they discover it to be in a huge cave beneath their feet, peopled with strange races.

TREASURES OF TANTALUS. pt. 5. They watch further the activities in the land they had supposed to be a cave, only to find that it was on a distant star, long ago. Priestley replaces Fleckner as head of the crime trust, and converts it from a crime trust to an anti-crime trust - a secret organization dedicated to stamping out crime. Further research shows that the treasure is buried in the Mindanao deep, irrecoverable; Fleckner continues experimenting with his machine, and Priestley and Simpson marry winding up the story(though I suspect Smith planned another sequel). The scenes on the star Tantalus are the best part of the novel, though the rest ~~xxxxxx~~ is a well-thought out and entertaining detective adventure story.

THE HARBOUR OF LIVING DEAD.-Tyson. ALLSTORY Aug. 1905. Vantyne, sailor on a Pacific steamer, offers some strange medicine given him by an uncle, to a seasick passenger. Crossing the Atlantic for the first time, they are on their way to Liverpool; they land, however, at the island of Ilvernia, which he has never heard of. It develops that Ilvernia is an isle of dead ships, of men given up for dead but living on, and no one who leaves it ever remembers having been there. (continued next time).

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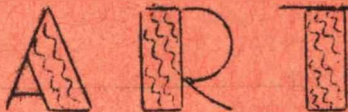
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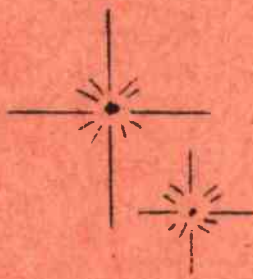
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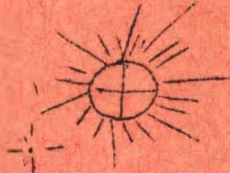
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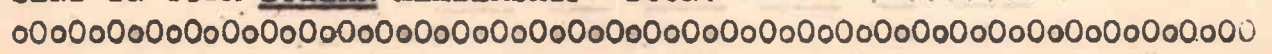
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