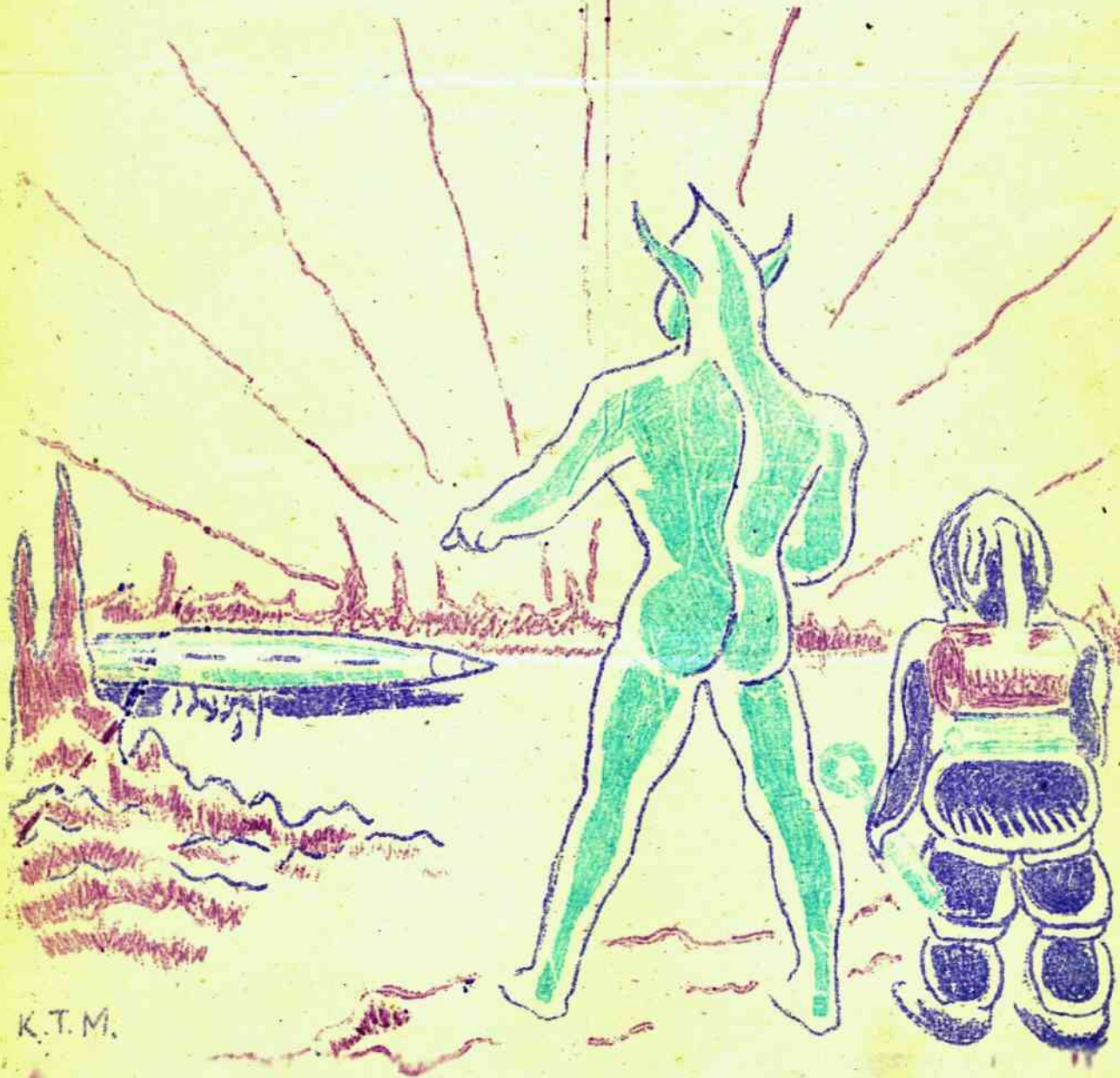


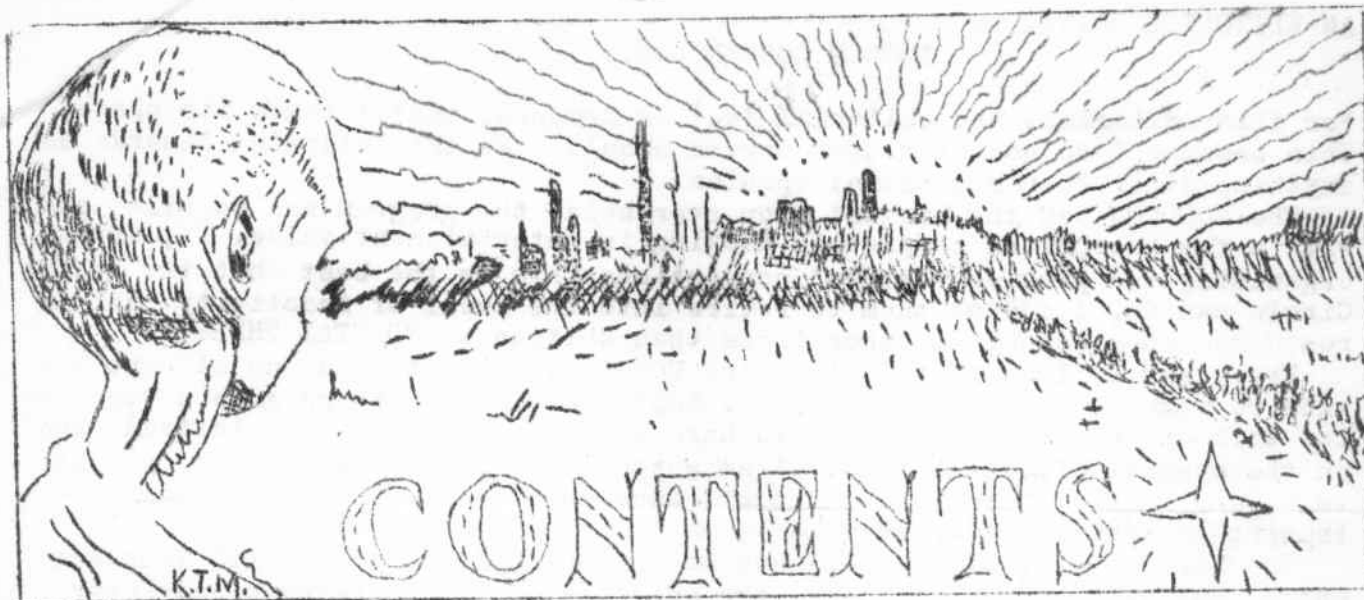
# SPACE - TIMES

MAY 1953

VOL. 2. No. 5.



K.T.M.



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On Page 17 are various items reproduced on the Roneoprinter -jest exPERiment.

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 Space-Times is off schedule at the moment, but is published by Eric Jones for the Norwest Science-Fantasy Club. Editors. Eric Bentcliffe & Eric Jones. Editorial address: 47, Alldis street, Gt.Moor, Stockport, Cheshire. Art Ed. Terry Jeeves, 58, Sharrard Grove, Intake, Sheffield 12. (To whom all artwork should be submitted.) Ass.Eds. H.P.Sanderson & G.R.Lewis. Printed at the SPACE-TIMES PRESS, 44, Barbridge Road, Arle, Cheltenham, Glos, by Eric Jones. All material for publication send to Editorial Address. Sub's to the N.S.F.C. of 7/6 per year will bring you space-times regularly, write E.B. This periodical is registered with the G.P.O. as scrap paper....

AN EDITORIAL ON.....

LONDON CONVENTIONS.

For this editorial, the editorial 'we' is dropped, and 'I' takes its place. This because I do not wish that anyone should take the following remarks as anything other than a personal opinion.

The COROCON was the biggest flop ever held, the program was puerile and with a few exceptions completely lacking in entertainment value. If, after organising two previous 'major' conventions this is the best that the London Circle can do, I advise them to retire into the shell of inactivity which residence they occupy at other times than Whitsun...AND STAY THERE.

There was no lack of talent at the COROCON, but little or no attempt was made to take advantage of this fact. Instance. L.Ron Hubbard gave a very brief talk on S-F ...surely he could have been persuaded to give instead one on the subject of...DIANETICS!! I am not a student of this subject, yet it is a very controversial one and could have provided a very interesting and thought-provoking half-hour.

The COROCON did, of course, have occasional bright spots. Bill Temple's short, but very humorous, talk, the speeches of Nic Costerbaan and Peter Hamilton in 'Guest Editor's Address'. The paper read out by the ex-UNESCO Science Editor, Maurice Goldsmith in the same feature, and, of course, ... "WHISKERS".

These however were but small oases in a vast desert of dismal and long drawn-out features. One wonders if the many scripts so carelessly 'Lost' by the members of the Committee were even worse than the ones which were (unfortunately) found.

To finish on a brighter note, although the convention failed as an Entertainment, it still provided a handy bar in which one could drown ones sorrows, and a hotel with a roof admirably suited for a bottle party.....And now let's find out what Eric Jones has to say about the GOROCON.....

Eric Bentcliffe.....

Looking through the various articles, columns etc, before printing, it seems that it would be both a waste of paper and space for me to expound my views of the COROCON, for they are, in the main, sympathetic to Eric's Editorial and the other COROCON comments.

That the Con was a flop is without doubt my view too. Surely the Committee could see the way things were going on the Saturday, and why they did not try to make a better show on Sunday completely baffles me. But the fact is that they didn't, and it is too late now to 'save face' by pushing the blame over onto the "audience". If the London Circle want to monopolise the Main Convention of the year, then they should give ample proof that they are able to do so and this year they did anything but that. Furthermore, why is it that they object to the Con being held elsewhere? Is it because they are afraid of losing the 'limelight' --their little bit of 'fanac' ? Or are they so badly off that they cannot afford the rail fare to other parts of the Country? It would appear from the attendance at the MANCON this was just the case.

Personally, I fail to see what is wrong with the methods adopted in the U.S. regarding conventions. A different con site each year and no 'if's or but's! As the majority of people attending the Convention in London are resident in or near London, this would entail a postal vote to all fandom each year.....Expensive?..You can't tell me that Conventions run at a loss...

Eric Jones.....

# Convention Claptrap

By

Dorothy Rattigan  
(London Con' Secretary)

".....give us your impressions as a femme-fan of the 1953 Convention", was the request. Almost impossible to give without a certain amount of prejudice however, I shall remain loyal to the Committee and the London Circle and, at the same time, give a fairly accurate picture of the proceedings. Here and now I implore the mercy of my friends and the tender judgement of visitors and fans for any discrepancies, derisions or diabolical denunciations I may perpetrate. Having thus acknowledged my future indiscretions I can now expose, expostulate and expound my impressions of the 1953 Convention!

The overall picture of the Convention is an exceedingly controversial one, controversial because there were occasions when the audience were alive and occasions when they were dead! It seemed they only came alive to laugh and, having laughed, returned to their shells until the next comic appeared. The convention was never intended to be all of one thing and nothing of the other; a variety must be presented and the fact that certain items didn't appeal to everyone is to be expected but, it would appear from the audience's attitude that all they required was a comic and no more.

I believe it was expressed last year that the audience felt they were not part of the Convention, that there was nothing in the programme which directly included them. This year, therefore, part of the programme was given over to the audience with just that view in mind; not only did they have quiz Questions, with money prizes and a very impromptu effort during the Auction from Ted Tubb to make "...you do something...and take a book" but even the programme contained several competitions. Having given them the opportunity to participate (instead of sitting dummy-like throughout the entire weekend) what did they do? With utter fickleness so typical of the human race, they swung right over to the other extreme and just sat and took whatever the programme offered and then, with complete *savoir faire*, raised merry hell because they considered certain sessions lacking in sparkle. The results of the audience's so-called participation amounted to just this:- Crossword puzzle - four entries; Caption for Cartoon - 7 entries, (incidentally this was won by a very young male fan); Puzzle Pictures - five entries; this out of 130 odd people each day at the Convention is indicative of their co-operation!!!

Let's get out of our heads once and for all that a Convention is organised for the benefit of any one section of the community. A convention is a gathering of people whose main purpose it is to meet, join in discussions and generally become Convention minded. A set programme is obviously arranged but only to guide the delegates and visitors into a variety of channels best suited to give them the maximum enjoyment. The 'success of any programme' depends to a large extent upon the audience and if they are 'not with you' it is the most galling thing to experience the half-heartedness of a disinterested audience and, more especially, when a section of the audience begin to show despicable bad manners with slow hand-clapping. This Convention proved more than anything else that, not only were they incapable

of becoming Convention minded and helpin to entertain themselves but of appreciating the programme presented to them!!!

In these frank observations I cannot fail to acknowledge the several dull patches that arose during several sessions, sometimes caused by delays (unavoidable when dealing with the human element) or the non-appearance of specific people at certain times in the programme (tight or tired are synonymous in this instance). Nevertheless, surely we are adults, at least adult enough at any rate to overlook petty criticisms at times when it was a question of fan helping fan to prevent a bad moment from becoming grossly exaggerated and lost in distortions. However, when the occasion arose, no time was lost in declaring the inefficiency of the London Circle, the lack of organising ability, the stupid blunders of missing or half-lit members of the Committee. Quite frankly I DON'T BLAME THEM ONE LITTLE BIT FOR BEING SLIGHTLY 'HIGH', and if it had been my sole task to create an atmosphere of "Entente Cordiale" with a bunch of more-dead-than-alive morons I would have done exactly the same thing, if not more so. With this attitude of "We're going to do better than this when we have a Convention", the better parts of the programme, of which there were many, were completely disregarded and/or overlooked. Let the morons check through their programme and ascertain the number of items that didn't materialise, those that flopped dismally and those that brought a roar of approval! I think they will agree with me that (in fact they will not be able to do otherwise) on the whole the Convention gave them a 'bit of everything' ...Bill Temple's speech and other authors at 2.00 p.m. on Saturday; the diverse opinion on "Why I read SF"; "Whiskers" by Walt Willis; Games with money prizes; Auctions; Bert Campbell and Ted Carnell's "Address" on Sunday; "Lecture from the B.I.S."; "The Ballet"; interludes for "drinking and getting together", one or two improptu 'turns' from members of the audience are just several items arranged for their enjoyment. I think destructive criticisms are rather unjustified.

If a few of the "Fans" came along with the idea of being entertained and to get something for nothing, then they must have had a miserable time now and again, for we did not present a "Continuous Review" and neither were we prepared to part with Auction material for the ridiculous bids offered when the true value was very obvious even to the more "non compos mentis" section of morons; I am more than sorry I cannot reimburse them out of my own pocket for the Railway Fare and other expenses incurred(?) on a fruitless journey to the London Convention; to those who came or became(!) convention minded and subsequently thoroughly enjoyed themselves (whether they saw or heard anything of the programme is immaterial, at least they attended with the idea of enjoying themselves in their own particular fashion) this consoles the Committee members and makes eight months solid hard work from the Chairman downwards very worth while.....

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ERIC BENTCLIFFE comments on "Convention Claptrap".

Dorothy starts her report by apologising for the statements she is going to make. Does this mean that she doesn't mean them? The people of the North have a reputation of saying what they think and not being ashamed of it afterwards -or beforehand. That quite a few Fans had a good time IN SPITE of the program is true. In the main this was because they organised "after session" parties. The convention program itself was too poor in concept, and weak in

execution to get people convention-minded. It will always be up to who-ever holds the convention to first, by means of a lively program, to GET people convention minded. Numerous delays, late starts and cancellations do not contribut towards getting people in this frame of mind. That on the Sunday only one member of the convention committee turned up before 2.30 p.m. is a fact. Very few convention attendees were sozzled during the day-time ! They held their debaucheries AFTER the day's programme had ended, surely the committee could have done the same!

From letters recieved since the London Convention, we gather that British Fandom has now got over its feeling of awe at the venerable antiquity of the London Cirale, and intends this time not to gloss over their apparent lack of any organisation.

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# DALE'S DIARY

By  
Dale.R.Smith

We have completed our moving and are fairly well settled - the garden is in, the flower beds are well-groomed((More than mine are DaleE.J.)) and above all my den is finished. Three walls I have painted a soft red and the other wall is finished with aluminium paint. The ceiling is black - dead black like outer space. Eventually I hope to paint some stars and possibly a rocket-ship or space station on the black. My great joy is the bookshelves that have just been completed. They go from floor to ceiling and are completely adjustable. Approximately 175 running feet of shelves partially line three of my red walls. Now if A.C.Clarke will write some more books on space flight I have room for them. Or if Space-Times wants to go weekly I can handle that also.

And still they come. VORTEX SCIENCE-FICTION, Vol.1. No.1., is on the stands. It is digest size with very mediocre illustrations but has 20 complete stories -no reprints. Published by Specific Fiction Corp, and edited by Chester Whitehorn. The price, as you would expect, is 35 ¢. It is not dated other than for the copyright notice (1953) and gives no indication of when to expect another issue. And Chester has certainly alienated many a true fan by refraining from editorialising.

Arthur C. Clarke's ISLANDS IN THE SKY is featured, in quite condensed version, in the June issue of POPULAR SCIENCE. This is the first time in 81 years that a novel has appeared in this magazine. I feel they made a wise choice.

Issue No.1. of the much heralded BEYOND FANTASY FICTION is out and dated July, 1953. It is, of course, digest size. All stories carry a reproduction of the author's signature at the end. The interior artwork doesn't impress me although the cover is attractive. Prediction. Beyond will not equal UNKNOWN in quality or longevity (39 issues) and it will fall far short of the latter by at least 50%.

FANTASTIC UNIVERSE, Vol.1., No.1., June-July 1953, has appeared with no warning. It is to be published bi-monthly by King-Size Publications with Sam Merwin, Jr as editor. All stories in this issue are new but there are no interior illustrations. A.C.Clarke, Frank Belknap Long, August Derleth, Ray Bradbury and Fletcher Pratt are some of the authors. The price on this one is... 50¢, the highest of any regular publication. (I sincerely hope this doesn't

(continued on Page 11)

## ANIMAL VEGETABLE OR ALIEN

By Eric Bentcliffe.

A second magazine is projected by the publishers of NEBULA, this will be a mag slanted to appeal to the casual reader of science-fiction and for this reason will not appeal to the majority of fans. The general theme of the mag will be adventure SF, and amongst the authors to be used will be Richard Shaver, represented by some of his 'better' Shaver mystery yarns. Recently published by Hutchinsons are two of the "Winston SF Series", semi juveniles which will be appreciated by most adults as well. The two titles released are del Rey's "Marooned on Mars", and "Son of the Stars", by Raymond F. Jones. Also due from this publisher in the near future is a sequel to the "Angry Planet", titled "S.O.S. From Mars", this of course, by John Keir Cross ..... Grayson and Grayson, are to publish the "Astounding Anthology" in two sections and also Groff Conklin's "Omnibus of Science-Fiction", PLUS, a short story collection by John Christopher.... We can recommend OURANOS, to any of you who are interested in the Flying Saucer Mystery, this is a bi-lingual (French - English) publication edited by Marc Thirouin in France and Eric Biddle in England. Enquiries to Eric at, 1513 High Rd., London N.20..... SEX & SADISM in current SF Society. This item follows on from the recent article of John Christopher's in Authentic, We gather that the contributors are all in favour of sex, but that one type, (We leave you to guess who) likes it better in reverse. .... FANTASTIC UNIVERSE is the latest new U.S.A. mag to reach us, this is a king sized publication edited by Sam Merwin. It contains 192 pages and is priced at 50 cents. The first issue, we think, is well worth the price. Authors present include, Ray Bradbury, Eric Frank Russell, Fletcher Pratt and of course, Arthur C Clarke. Best story in this issue though is by an unknown Jacques Jean Ferrat, "Nightmare Tower", is its title. A second 50 cent mag is projected, this by Lester del Rey, the title is not yet announced, but the mag will contain 256 pages and also a complete novel in each (bi-monthly) issue. The trend towards bigger magazines is a good thing, we think, but we hope that the editors will use the increased wordage at their disposal to bring us longer stories rather than collections of shorts.... UNIVERSE SCIENCE-FICTION, is another new American mag, and with only 128 pages (digest) at 35 cents, probably gives the poorest value for money in the field to-day. As regards style, it is simply a copy of the new AMAZING. One story in the first issue that we can recommend is "The World Well Lost", by Ted Sturgeon, a story that breaks taboos that even STARTLING has not yet got around to. .... The new NEW WORLDS, has a very nice appearance and is by far the most attractive British magazine. We have one suggestion, magnifying glasses should be distributed with each copy..... Fourth title in the Nova pocket book novels will be Clifford D Simak's yarn "Cosmic Engineers"..... The International Fantasy Award for 1952 goes to the same author's "City", the book version of his famous "webster" series. Runners up for this fiction award were Kornbluth's "Takeoff", and Kurt Vonnegut's "Player Piano"..... The non-fiction award was won by "Lands Beyond", second and third places being taken by "Across the Space Frontier", and "In The Name Of Science"..... Jerome Bixby, the former editor of Planet and assistant editor of Better Publications is now Galaxy's associate editor... Watch this page for details of the .....

..... SUPERMANCON.....

FANTASY ARCHIVES

Curator... Jack Doggett

THE EMPTY WORLD, D.L. Stevenson, (Herbert Jenkins 1936)

There are two methods of depopulating a world - the one acting directly on the natives and the other indirectly as a corollary to some sort of seismic disturbance. The first is better, since the removal of the human race by, for example an epidemic leaves the planet undamaged; the second entails wrecking it to some extent.

In this story the first method is used, the actual instrument being the tail of a comet which brushes the earth and causes a giant electrical discharge. This vapourises the liquid components of the human body and leaves the remainder as a dust which disperses on the breeze, quite painlessly.

Twenty-two people have the good fortune to be in a high flying stratoplane which rides out the storm but, of course, until they land at Glasgow they cannot understand the absence of lights and radio signals. The party almost immediately splits up into two factions - those who want to choose the women and those who want the women to choose. Whatever your sympathies, the authors are with the latter but it is soon obvious that, with animal, bird and insect life extinct, survival for everyone is going to be difficult. They do have at their disposal however, an intact world with, for the time being at least, an unlimited supply of canned food and plenty of transport.

The group with the authors backing, pulls through eventually, but not without some unexpected assistance - and I completely missed the hint that was dropped at the end of part one. The characters in this tale are very acceptable, a not-so-young female historian having the lead. Glamour in the shape of a Hollywood actress named Bright is introduced just to show that, away from her usual surroundings, she becomes just Fanny Brown - her real name. Stevenson, happily, disposes of his villainous elements without any improbable last minute rescues and, since he does not concern himself with the problems of the more distant future, the reader is left with a feeling of slight envy at the end of this entertaining story.

DELUGE, S Fowler Wright, (Harrap 1926)

Fowler Wright uses the second method of depopulating a world to get his characters together. As he says in his preamble - "To an observer from a distant planet the whole movement would have appeared trivial", - but all that remains of this country is a strip of land in the North Midlands. The author considers that we are much too dependent on artificial and mechanical aids to living and his purpose is to show how helpless most of us would be if deprived of those aids. In this story therefore, the survivors have only one factor in their favour - the summer is before them. The storm and an earthquake have put an end to all services and considerably damaged the remaining houses.

As the chapter headings show, we are following the fortunes of three people. Martin, a lawyer, who is separated from his family and believes them drowned. Helen, his wife, who saves herself and their two children, and Claire, who swims probably thirty miles to dry



land and Martin. Claire and Martin have begun to live together when they discover that Helen still lives but the two women surprisingly enough, solve the problem to the satisfaction of all three.

They are not alone of course, and once again the scarcity of women splits the survivors into two factions. There are ugly, but I am afraid incredible, scenes between those who live for the present and the more intelligent who realise that some organised effort is necessary. The latter, incidentally, decide to allow every woman a free choice of husband but only twenty four hours to make that choice, after which it's every man for himself. I should be interested to hear a woman's opinion of these 'marriage laws'. Fowler Wright Takes opportunity to criticise our laws, our method of government, our way of living and our apathy toward road deaths - amongst other things - but he is too capable a writer to allow this criticism to become irksome. Indeed, so capable are his arguments that, after reading this story, this island of ours will never seem quite so solidly rooted. Although this book is complete, the conclusion allows for a sequel and it was in fact followed by "Dawn", but more of that anon. There are still some copies of "DELUGE", to be obtained there's a Cherry Tree paper back edition and the public library may have it, but "THE EMPTY WORLD", will be hard to find.....

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THE EGO SPOT

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In this issue we depart from previous practice by featuring here, a person who is not a member of the N.S.F.C., Bert Campbell. As we have to date read at least three highly divergent life stories of this character (all written by Bert) we are at a loss as regards giving you the true facts, instead let us deal with opinions. H.J.Campbell or as we prefer to call him, the hirsute appendix, has only two rivals for the title of 'Most disliked British Fan'. If you attended the Coroncon, the names of his rivals will come easily to mind. Probably the kindest thing we have heard said of him, is that he should have edited Amazing. In the 'BIS Lecture' sketch he proved to be really funny but this was more because of his appearance than for any other reason. Certainly his ability to stir up trouble is immense, his statement that "certain older fans were resenting the influx of newer and more active fans, and were writing nasty letters", and later "This refers to London fans", put frowns on the faces of several of his most stalwart supporters. Impossible it is in less than a 30,000 word novel to sum up the many facets of Campbell, and that much effort isn't worth it for a mere subscription, suffice it to say that he just isn't AUTHENTIC. ....eb

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But the SUPERMANCON is authentic, don't miss it !

A BLOODY PROVINCIAL AT THE CORONCON  
=====

By Brian Varley

SHAMBOLIC.....A word especially devised to describe the 1953, London Convention, and it was indeed an utter shambles, the disinterested attitude of various individuals within the London Circle typified the whole proceedings. What our overseas visitors thought of British Fandom as illustrated by this monumental airge remains to be seen, but the reports, soft pedalled though they be, should deflate the egos of certain Londoners. I noticed in particular that Jesse Floyd, one of the U.S. fans present, was unseen throughout the main proceedings. Intuition ???.

A few congratulations are due however. Thank you to, William Temple for a dryly humorous speech, which unfortunately set too high a standard for the following speakers in 'Authors Give You A Piece Of Their Minds! Thanks also, to Wait Willis for 'Whiskers', a witty item about Campbell's beard. The rest of Saturday's programme was a flop and the least said the better.

Sunday. A scheduled 11 o'clock start was delayed until 2-30 (no reason given for this delay, or apologies tendered) at which time Ted Carnell, with the assistance of Bert Campbell started the ball rolling with a goonish five minutes. After this we were cheered by the appearance of Ted Tubb, but all in vain, letters between editors Carnell and Campbell were made incoherent, but whether this was the fault of the material or of Ted, I should hate to hazard a guess. This, apart from the International Fantasy Award, was the sum total of the morning and afternoon programme. So, we went to tea whilst Fred Brown struggled valiantly to produce an evening programme.

At five o'clock the Medway Group got under way in the small hall and we were amused for half an hour by their concoctions. Now came the climax, three bright spots in a row. First, the guest editor's session, at which Ron Hubbard put in an appearance and a few words. This was followed by a bit of lunacy "Lecture From The B.I.S.", then finally a ballet "First Man on Mars", which was exceedingly funny, but alas, too short. Dorothy Rattigan must be given credit for a very natural piece of acting (I wonder if it was acting?). This to all intents and purposes ended the convention, there was an auction, (conducted by anyone who felt like it), in which reprint edition fans could build up a good collection cheaply, but this was of slight interest to most. Surely that stack of reprint mags could have been traded in for a few decent mags. Why did Messrs, Carnell, Tubb and Campbell have such a preponderance of program space ???, after all, they are pro. authors and editors, not actors.

Finally, a personal note to Bert Campbell. While Bea Mahaffey was chatting to a group of Northern Fans in the 'White Horse', you were heard to say... "For god's sake, rescue her from those bloody provincials"... Manners, not ignorance maketh man, Mr. Campbell, perhaps this remark comes from the same generous heart which offers a sub to your reprint mag in exchange for a 5,000 word story??. Nevertheless, should you be prepared to 'honour' the Supermancon next year with your presence, I can guarantee we are civilised enough to overlook your babblings and accord you at least, a polite welcome.

NEW MEMBERS .....&.....SUBSCRIBERS TO S.T.

Jesse Floyd,  
410a, Garden Homes,  
Savannah, Georgia  
U.S.A.

Bill Morse,  
10, Sunnyside,  
Eden Bridge,  
Kent.

Ted Carnell,  
17, Burwash Rd,  
Plumstead,  
London, S.E.18.

Peter Hamilton,  
159, Crownpoint Rd,  
Glasgow, S.E.

Dorothy Pattigan,  
27a, Wyncoll Rd,  
Forest Hill,  
London S.E.23.

William Thailing,  
5111, Guy Ave,  
Cleveland 27,  
Ohio, U.S.A.

Fay Bright,  
4, Jersey Rd,  
Tooting,  
London S.E.18.

Bea Mahaffey,  
806, Dempster,  
Evanston,  
Illinois U.S.A.

Mike Tealby,  
8, Burfield Ave,  
Loughborough,  
Leics.

Tommy Hindley,  
63, Surrey Rd,  
Blackley,  
Manchester 9.

J. Stuart Mackenzie,  
40, Cranley Gardens,  
Kensington,  
London S.W.7.

Change of address:- 22363554, Sgt. H.P. Sanders, APO (OAB) M.E. M.E.L.F. 17.
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Comments on the Corocon (1).....Dave Cohen.

Considering that we were informed that the Corocon was going to be the "greatest ever", we were not disappointed, it was the greatest ever...flop. Though Fred Brown worked hard to keep things going, there just wasn't the previous enthusiasm by the Committee and far too much was dependent on one, Bert (Bloody Provincial) Campbell, who somehow was never there when wanted. Continuity was sadly lacking, fortunately there was a place on the premises that helped to see us through the more boring efforts, namely, the bar. Gaps in the program were frequent, during which some of our American visitors discovered that game of cards (Russian Roulette? E.B.) was more entertaining. What our overseas visitors must have thought of the whole proceedings, I hate to conjecture, but maybe the word "Stinking" passed through their minds. Of the few periods that I enjoyed, the Ballet was the most outstanding, this at least helped one to forget for a few brief moments the paucity of the rest of the programme. I will end this brief survey with the following advice. If you want to enjoy yourselves.....COME TO THE SUPERMANCON IN '54... '54. '54 .....

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Comments on the Corocon (2)....Frances Evans.

I only spent one day at the much vaunted Corocon but after it I did not regret missing the other. In my opinion not only did the London Circle let themselves down but Fandom in general, all those people who had scraped together the wherewithal to attend, who for weeks had been looking forward to what should have been the high spot of the year, I hope the people responsible for their disappointment are feeling proud of themselves.....To the N.S.F.C I say

either put all you have into the SUPERMANCON, or don't have it. Only the best is good enough, so let's all put our backs into it and make up our minds to make every visitor feel that every penny it costs him is worthwhile.

THE SUPERMANCON... ( Second Manchester Science-Fiction Convention) WILL BE HELD OVER WHITSUN WEEKEND.....1954!!!!

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Dale's Diary...(Continued from Page 5)

point the way for a new prize trend). A lone ad, back cover, indicates a few of the reasons why the U.S. Public should buy an Austin A40 "Coupe de Ville" Convertible. (I will continue to drive the Ford supplied by my boss).

A very fine fan mag has ceased publication after its fourth issue - THE JOURNAL OF SCIENCE-FICTION. This last issue was probably the best, containing 30 pictures of the Tenth Anniversary World Science-Fiction Convention, an article on British Fantasy Pocket Books by Capt. Slater and the 1952 Magazine Index - and more. The price of this last issue is 50¢ but well worth it. Copies may still be available from Charles Freudenthal, 1331, West Newport Ave., Chicago 13, Illinois. Copies of issues No. 1, 2 and 3 are available at 25¢ ea. I recommend that each serious student and collector of SF try to obtain a copy of each issue.....

END

# GUESS

# WHO!

By  
G.R. Lewis..

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1) I am the common man,<br/>You know me well.<br/>Your entertainment -<br/>My private Hell.</p> <p>2) My time and energies<br/>Freely given,<br/>Boosting your hobby;<br/>Peace rudely riven.</p> <p>3) What of description?<br/>Height, weight, hat-size?<br/>Fair, dark, or neither?<br/>Preference in ties?</p> <p>4) Hear then, ye lubbers,<br/>This thought pursue,<br/>Nomenclature in;<br/>"The first of the few".</p> | <p>5) A science I study<br/>In serious vein,<br/>'Tis fact, not a fiction,<br/>And vanity's vain.</p> <p>6) Tall? Well, not too much,<br/>And, (Just a lark,<br/>you may not think so)<br/>Handsome and dark.</p> <p>7) Sesquipedalian,<br/>But ever sincere,<br/>As true ingenue<br/>As e'er you came near.</p> <p>8) It is a sad and awesome thing,<br/>That in this 'tale' there be<br/>A sting.<br/>Excuse I make for being rude<br/>The muse would simply not<br/>Be wooed.</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

SEND IN YOUR SOLUTIONS PLEASE! //

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Footnotes. By Beattie Jay.  
Spaceship --An empty boat. Fission --Piscatorial art.  
Overdrive --A Woman driver. Pile --A small heap.

More Footnotes appearing in each issue of Stimes.....E.J.

Letter From Lillian

Amongst the letters received commenting upon "A BADGE FOR FANDOM", was one from Lillian Chalmers (Australia), we found it very entertaining and as we believe you will too, we reproduce it here....Ed.

Dear Eric Bentcliffe,

It seems that you are canvassing for ideas and opinions on THE BADGE. Why ????. Would you like my views on the subject ?, You would ?. Okay brudder, sit tight.

The idea fills me with horror, palsy grips me. Controlling my trembling hand, I state my case.

What are we ????. Are we a literary society finding aid and stimulation in an exchange of ideas and information ? Or are we a semi-religious sect worshipping at the shrine of the new God. Futurus ?. Or are we a mob of adolescents (mentally if not in years). We have the beginnings of a special language of SF, now we are going to have a badge. Will we also have a special haircut and drape ????. Or a special war-cry or greeting ?.

Do we want a badge to aid recognition between fellow addicts ??? Or are we filled with a burning and fervent urge ?. Something like an Aimee Semple Macpherson mission presenting a united front (Of badges) to the world, as a token of our faith ?

Or are we to have a badge as a token of our martyrdom ?. As a moral shield against the tolerant pity of the masses (this concept born from personal experience - ie, the sad fondness in the eyes of friends and relatives who know that I read science-fiction).

Re-reading this, I really don't blame you if, you too, think of me with sad fondness.

So dear friend and co-efficient, regard this letter if you wish as abstract meditation upon a psychological (or just plain psycho) problem.

Adieu,  
Lillian Chalmers

Here we reproduce Lillian's Badge suggestion.

Specifications:-

Sides 1".

Magnifying Lens attached on Gold Chain.

Price £2.

(Lens on platinum chain £5)



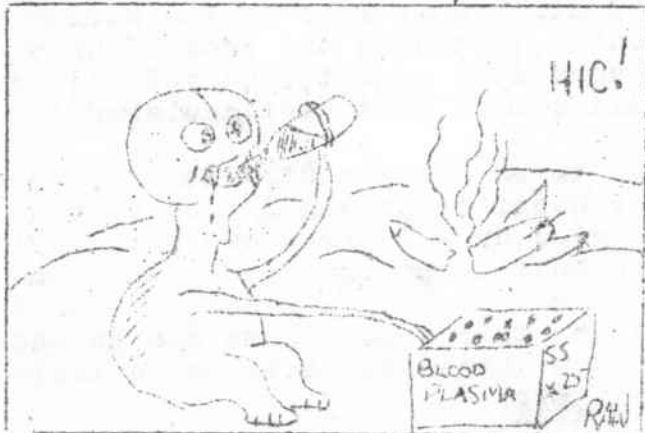
# 21st Century Box

By  
G.M.Carr

(Courtesy of N3F Manuscript Bureau)

DAY OF WRATH. (Danish speaking), A Carl Dreyer Film, is also a "cos-tume picture" laid in Denmark. It is a psychological story of the effects of witchcraft (with overtones of incest, pederasty, and sad-ism) on a 17th century Family. Its slow-paced action contains a sole-mn dignity and respect for the torments of men with guilt on their conscience who know they must face God. The plot is simple: The vill-iage pastor marries a girl younger than his son by his first wife . The mother-in-law dislikes the marriage and blames the girl. When the son returns, he falls in love with his father's wife and she with him. When one of the usual witch-hunts of the period occurs, it discloses a friend of the young wife's mother, who--in an effort to save herse-lf the horrible death from being thrown alive into a blazing bonfire (which, incidentally, was shown in all its hideousness right on the screen, with retching realism)-- taunts the man of God that he had spared his wife's mother from a similar fate in order that he might possess the daughter. This taunt does not save the accused witch, but it does acquaint the girl with her heredity...The picture is unusual in that it does not affirm nor deny witchcraft, it merely shows the reasons why the people involved believed it, and the actions -- base or noble--that stemmed from their belief. It is not especially a beau-tiful picture, nor a pleasant one, but it carries a feeling of auth-enticity both as to period details and character development. Most of all it conveys a sort of tortured understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the human souls caught in this trap of propinquity. One minor point might serve to show the thoroughness of the realism in the directing of this picture: When the grey-haired old witch was brought before the church elders for the 'question', she was tortured in the presence of these unflinching men who had known her all their lives, and her pain and fear and terrible humiliation was expressed in the fact that she was stripped to the waist and her bulging, old-womans body was exposed. The acting was uniformly good throughout , which was especially notable since it consisted of expressing the emotional reactions of an emotionally repressed people--a difficult thing to do!!!!!!

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ROMPING THROUGH FANDOM WITH THE LITTLE WOMAN..

By

Henry Ernst

The Varley analysis of Fan Types is not complete without full info on Type 9 - the Femme. Your original contributor is less than fair to this rare phenomenon when he regelates it to a single type. From my own, admittedly slight, experience I should be inclined to say that femmes fall into one or other of three categories and in deference to the original researcher I have labelled these Varley Types 9A, 9B & 9C.

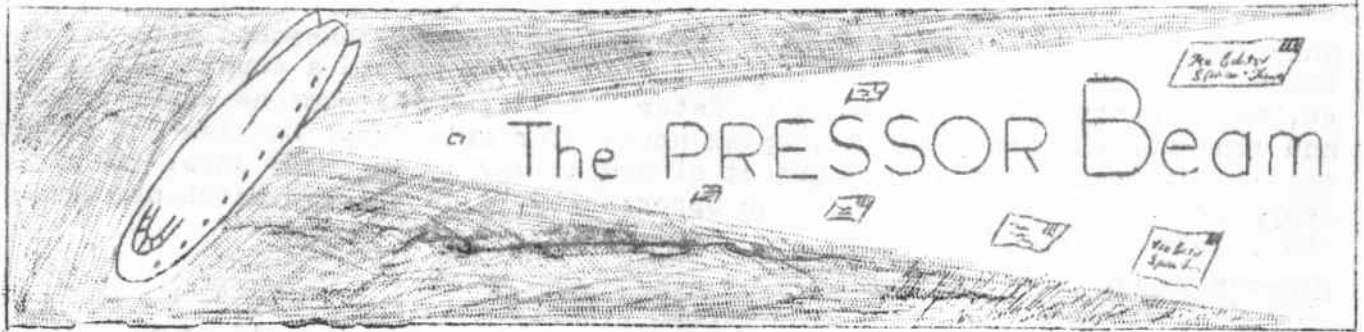
Varley Type 9A - the "quiet-type" or QT: The QT is usually a single gal who feels "left out" at normal gatherings of humanity. When she discovers fandom and fans, instinct tells her that these poor goofs, lost in their fantastic imaginings, are easy meat. Fans who are kind to their mothers and gentle to animals (the Varley Type 2-Earner Fans) tend to respond immediately to her air of wide-eyed innocence, and are soon singled out for attention. With cautiously simulated interest she encourages some inexperienced fan to expound on his favourite theme. In his surprise and pleasure at having found a receptive and understanding audience, the poor guy talks himself into believing that the gal shares all his opinions and judgments on fandom and science-fiction, and gets around to the idea that she is destined to be his life-partner. Once encouraged along this track, the fan is as good as lost... Having got her man, the QT usually loses interest in fandom and nags her husband about the late nights spent boozing at the fanclub. There are, however, instances on record where the QT has changed to a type 9B or 9C femme.

Varley Type 9B - the "centre-of-attraction-type" or COAT: The COAT is a gay wench, and may be married or still unattached. Her arrival means the rapid disorganisation of any meetings convened to discuss weighty programmes and plans. The gregarious types (male) immediately flock to her side to find solace in mild flirtation - new members are weighed up as potential admirers while the frowns of a disproving chairman are cheerfully ignored. Conversation with the COAT, whatever its original impulse, contrives indirectly and with a certain archness to get around to more interesting subjects such as "sex". The COAT revels in the unorthodoxy of fandom and consequently is more fun and not so dangerous as the QT.

Varley Type 9C - the "dragged-in-against-my-will-type" or DIAMWT: The DIAMWT is usually married, and turns up to meetings merely to keep an eye on her husband and the COAT. She contrives to keep in the background and make herself generally agreeable, watching the proceedings with amused tolerance. Catch her in an unguarded moment, and you will recognise that distinct air of superciliousness that distinguishes the cat tribe.

These descriptions are not intended to be sharp portraits of persons likely to be met in fandom, but are of basic types. All femmes combine characteristics of some or all categories, or pass from one category to another. While I have heard rumours that there are femmes who are interested in fan-activities as an end rather than a means, I cannot claim to have met them in person. Unless other researchers can produce direct evidence there seems no reason to extend the categories listed.

/XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX/



BRIAN LEWIS. Congratulations on the neatest issue of ST yet produced!! Cover by Alan nice, and in style with the mag itself, headings by stencil guide and in red, look very neat and a nice touch. Wat! No interior illo's? The contents illo is awful -what's happened to Jeeves (Don't think I like his work- I'm just curious!!) Material up to standard with an extra star for "Collector's Item", "Paper Clips" is a novel idea - keep it....

(( Your printer, trying to get ST back on schedule, has given up reading the papers as well as sleeping...More "P.C's" in a month or so...E.J.))

"SANDY" SANDERSON.

Cover, very good but rather inappropriate considering the date above it. "Ego Spot", I won't say anything about this except that the Pay Corps is entitled to the word 'Royal' in front of it.((Sorry Sarge)) Badge, personally I'm not really interested but I will go along with the majority, whatever the decision. If anything I would rather lean against having a Badge. Lunatic Fringe, I bet I know even less about American Politics than Ken, I had even forgotten that the Republicans had got in. As for Bradbury, he would be better off writing stories -even bad ones. Paper-Clips, surely Eric can find something funnier than the two quotes he did use. Seems to me that the papers are full of them -or have I got a peculiar sense of humour?\*\*\* Outline - of course this was the 'piece de resistance' of the whole issue, and I will do all and sundry who try to tell you differently. ..((Sandy is now on his way to the Middle East, we hope that like the proverbial ostrich he will not bury his head in the sand but continue to write to us...give our regards to 'Groppi' chum. Eds)) \*\*\* Re'paper clips', if you see something in the daily news why not send it to E.J,???

MARC THIROUIN (France)

Many thanks for ST. Please accept my congratulations. Format is good, printing and number of pages also. This is approx the OURANOS-ACTUALITE's formula with the contents devoted to all science-fiction instead of 'Flying Saucers'. ST appears to be a very good review of all that relates to SF and Fantasy. I had much pleasure in your editorial...I also agree with Ken Slater's piece 'Lunatic Fringe'.((Marc is the editor of OURANOS, a magazine dealing with the Flying Saucer mystery, see AVorA))

BOB SWARTZ (U.S.A.)

I've been getting ST pretty regularly with the exception of the DEC-Jan issue which I recieved last week, and the only comment I will make is, that for a fanzine in its infancy, ST is more adult and much more readable than many of the U.S. fanzines that are put out nowadays.((Eric, we've committed adultery!!!E.B.))

HARRY TURNER.

I see you publish Sandy's query about my "Egypt" complex. I can



only recall two sketches that have appeared in fanmags connected with Egyptian motifs - the cover of the first "ZENITH" which showed a couple of sphinxes, and a story illustration in a later issue. Maybe someone ought to try and find out why Sandy has a complex about "Terror's Egypt Complex", I suggest that Sandy investigates the subject of archeology at an early date. ((The Army have now provided him with an opportunity to do this....Watch out for.. HIC IN STRANGE PLACES..Eds))

FRANCES EVANS.

May I say that the person described in the Ego-Spot in the April issue of ST is, in my opinion, one of the nicest members of the club..... In spite of the fact that you make me out to be a 'Gin Soaking Mama', with a strong predilection for the society of other drunks. Another thing that is completely beyond me is why, in a lifetime of being a cad, you should choose that particular moment not to be. I do not mind ST readers knowing that I am twenty-one ((This is the lowest common denominator..Eds))My real grouse tho' is that since reading this Ego-Spot, my better half(?) has cut down my house-keeping allowance by 25%, saying that he needed the extra in order to attain the status achieved by Sandy, and whisky is such a price these days. He also said that tho' he did not mind being half-starved to enable me to buy SF books and mags, he strongly objected to my spending the 'grub fund' on gin....

IamgoingtothesupermanconareyougoingtothesupermanconIamgoingtothesupermancon.

"WAR of the WORLDS"  
A film review  
By  
Terry Jeeves

Once again, another good SF film is making the rounds. War of the Worlds bids fair to outshine even Destination Moon. Although George Pal has transposed the setting to America, and changed events to suit, the story remains very much the same as Wells wrote it. The "Triopods", or striding machines have had their legs replaced by magnetic repulsor beams, and their main method of defence is a realistically portrayed force shield. The battle scenes are terrific in their realism, as are the scenes showing the destruction of Los Angeles. Suspense is created and sustained at a high level, almost to the end when the original Wellsian ending wipes out the Martians. This part was a trifle too timely and undeveloped, but not sufficiently so to detract from a really excellent film. The technicolor camera has faithfully and realistically portrayed the Martian ships, the Martians, and their equipment. Definitely a film worth seeing .....

.WOTWWOTWWOTWWOTWWOTWWOTW.

The next issue of Space-Times is the Anniversary issue. It will be late in publication but I know that you will not regret the delay. It will be a Bumper Issue - I don't know yet how many pages, but it will be more than 20 and will contain more interior illo's of a good quality than have ever before appeared in Space-Times...Have you renewed that outstanding sub? If not then I advise you to do it NOW...You will regret missing this one.....

Eric Jones.

NOW 3-D PICTURES IN A COMIC!

THE Lone Star Rider Magazine, a recently launched strip cartoon monthly for boys, published by Die Casting Machine Tools Ltd., manufacturers of "Lone Star Rider" revolvers, rifles, lariats, and other toys, has introduced in its second issue what it claims to be the world's first space - travel story told in three-dimensional pictures.

It is an extremely interesting development as far as magazine publishing is concerned.

Printed in colour in this issue are ten pairs of specially produced pictures, each measuring an inch square, featuring "Space Ace Hart, the Squadron Commander," and readers are asked to paste the

smoothly on a sheet of thin cardboard and cut out each pair round a dotted line.

These are then fitted into a small plastic stereo-viewer, costing 1/6d and when looked at through the two lenses, give a three-dimensional effect, and children are able literally "to see into space."

By collecting the pictures each month the children can build up a library of three-dimensional picture stories.

The Lone Star Magazine carries 24 pages and sells through the trade at 6d. It is printed by H. Clarke & Co. (London) Ltd.

This article is reprinted from .. "THE NEWSPAPER WORLD", MARCH 5. '63

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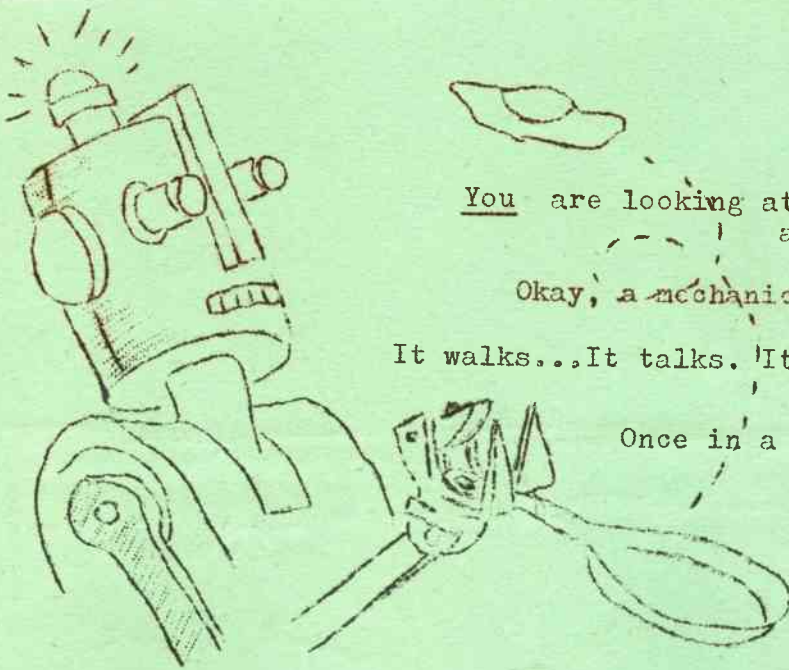
LATE NEWS.....

DAVE COHEN, due to ill-health, has resigned his post as Secretary of the N.S.F.C. BRIAN VARLEY has taken over the duties as SEC/TREASURER.

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CREDITS FOR THIS ISSUE GO TO....

KEN McINTYRE who drew the cover and Contents illos... TERRY JEEVES who helped me to cut the stencils ..MY WIFE, who assisted in production... THANKS... E.J.



You are looking at a cybernetic  
automaton....

Okay, a ~~mechanical~~ man.

It walks...It talks. It does maths and  
cooks.

Once in a while it reads  
a book.

Right now

it's waiting

for

# astroneer

And so are countless fans. But patience, patience; the pages are almost printed, the end is in sight. Soon the last staple will be stapled, and the cooperative fans who send in their subs will be eagerly thumbing through the first 20 page quarto-size issue.

ASTRONEER is, of course, another publication of the Nor'West Science-Fantasy Club. It leaves the newsy and topical items to SPACE-TIMES and brings you more leisurely reading, starts you argufying and writing letters..

A S T R O N E E R will appear about four times a year. The subscription to four issues is 3 shillings for NSFC members and 4 shillings for non-members. If you're hard-up, or merely anxious to see what you get for your hard cash then rush your bob right now for the first issue to the Editor:

Harry Turner, 9, Willow Bank, Church Lane Moston

MANCHESTER . 9.....