

WONDER

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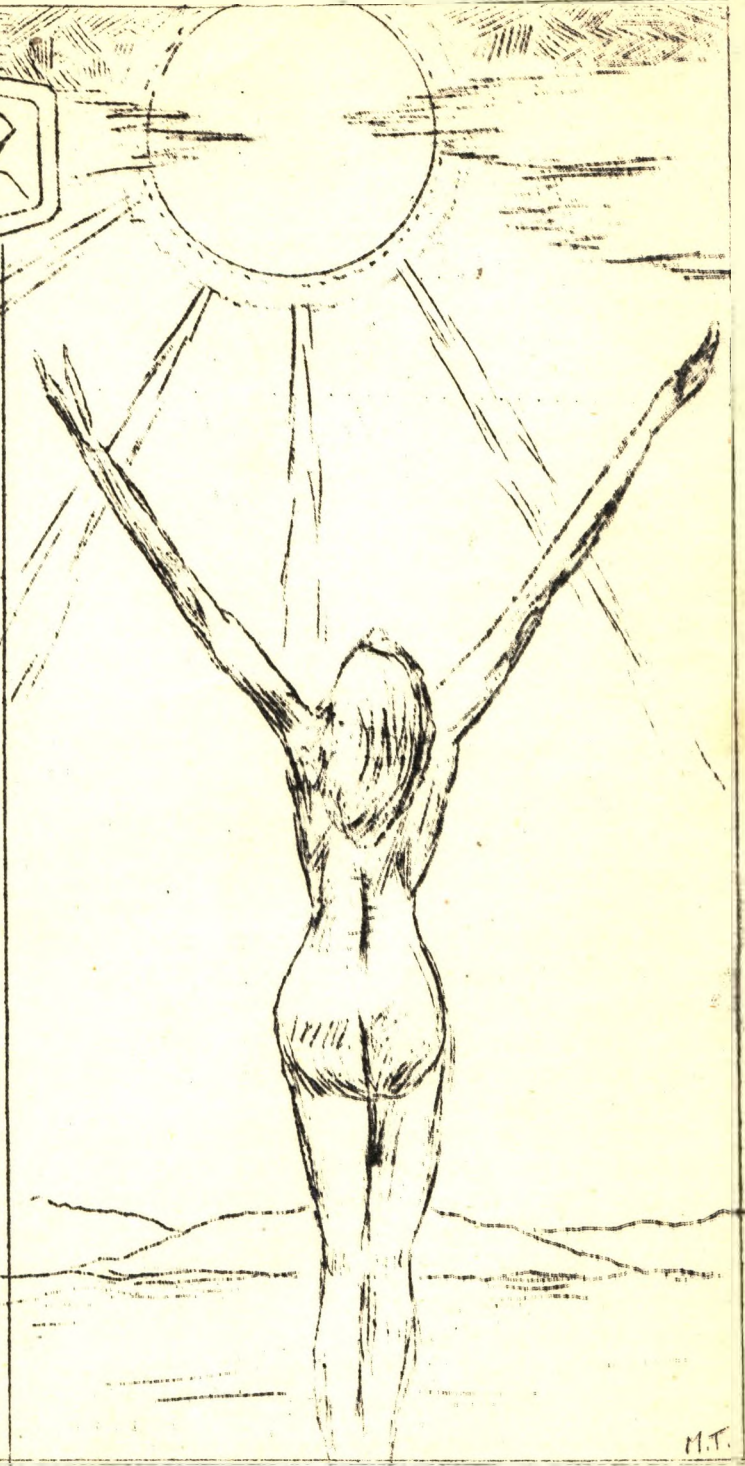
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M.T.

The response to the first issue was very gratifying. I expected to receive quite a bit of comment and was not disappointed! Thanks, everyone for your interest, suggestions, and your response to the Fantasy Poll-The results of this are on page 9.

I'm afraid this issue is light on the fiction side, owing to the longer Discussion Forum and the Poll results. However, WONDER'S policy will begin to materialise with the next issue in which Cedric Walker takes the feature spot with a story of the distant future of mankind. Titled FUTILITY - I can guarantee you will find it enjoyable.

Adventuring With The Unknown which got squeezed out of this issue owing to space not being available will start either in the next issue or the issue following.

Kenneth Slater starts off a new discussion series, but that does not mean you can't go on discussing the pressure article - WONDER's letter column is open to anyone who may wish to carry it on. You are also welcome to start any discussion of your own in the letter column.

Starting next issue WONDER is going on a subscription basis. Some of you have written in suggesting it, and it will be a big help in improving the magazine. I hope in the future, to be able to enlarge the magazine, and may be offer some form of small award or prize for contributions. This would all go to encourage amateur authors. For the subscription rate please see page 4.

MSS for WONDER is welcomed, fiction particularly being required. Contributions are also wanted for the 'adventuring In The Unknown' in which I hope to feature strange experiences of readers. If you fell you cannot write an article, just send the details in and I'll write it out. Anything strange ever happened to you? If so, let's be hearing from you!

BOUQUETS & BRICKBATS DEPT. Bouquet of the season to (a) Rog Phillips for writing it and (b) Editor Palmer for publishing it.. The story? UNTHINKABLE in the April Amazing. Dare we hope for a sequel Mr. Phillips? Bouquet 2 goes to TWS and SS for their steady improvement. How good can these mags get? Bouquet 3 to Norman Asfield who's ALEMbic gets better with each issue. and Bouquet 4 to Ken for good ol' regular OPERATION WASTAST. Looking forward to the printed edition! (Continued on page four.)

By Gilda Haversham

The square might once have been a fashionable rendezvous but had long since ceased to echo the music and laughter of youth, and joy, and beauty. Although it was barely half-past six in the morning, quite a crowd of people were standing about the thoroughfare. Old and young, but equally tired looking men and women--who pushed their way through the crowd as though to be first on the scene. Occasionally a child would raise it's voice...perhaps in pain...only to be sternly reproved. The faces of the crowd all had one thing in common....a worn, haggard look; the young prematurely aged.

In the middle of the square on a wooden stand below twin loudspeakers stood a geiger counter. Click....click. click it registered ...sometimes quickening for a moment... causing fear to appear on the faces of the crowd..then slowing again.

A vehicle appearing on the crater-pitted roadway leading into the square caused the crowd to edge forward, but they relaxed again as the vehicle drew near. It was a tank. It clattered slowly past the staring faces and stopped before a large, partly ruined building in the square. Two bedraggled soldiers emerged and disappeared into the building.

The speakers above the crowd hummed, and suddenly a voice blared out: "ATTENTION! ATTENTION! Radioactive dust is reported eight miles distant, and is drifting towards town. Stand by for further announcements." The geiger below kept up it's slow clicking. The faces of the crowd took on a more drawn look.

"It's forty miles southwest, Sir." Reported the tallest of the two soldiers seated in a small room...bare except for a table and three wooden chairs. The third chair, behind the table was occupied by a thin, wiry, grey-haired man with an insignia of three rings on his right arm.

"It's a radiation-free community ringed with mountains so it may have a good chance of staying that way! They've started to rebuild the town...it was bombed by H.B.....and they have partly got the power station working. They have a good armed force too...and they welcome radiation-free people. If there is any hope for this country..." the speaker

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gave a tired glance round the bare walls. "...if there is any future..that community is it."

"You've done a good job, boys." Said the officer behind the table. "We'll get moving today."

The crowd was getting restless. A baby had started crying - to be followed by another, and another. A single ray of wintry sunlight lit up the tops of ruined buildings. Then, suddenly, a murmur went up - passing through the crowd like a gust of wind over grass....The crowd came to life and began to press forward. The cause of this was a couple of trucks which had just entered the throughfare. The crowd surged forward....

"ATTENTION...ATTENTION!" The speakers blared. "A radiation free community has been contacted by our patrol in a valley forty miles away. Please be prepared to leave within the hour....."

The sides of the trucks had been let down, and the restless crowd engulfed them. Now and again, as the crowd surged around the trucks the placards on them could be seen. They said simply:

FOOD CONTROL

TWO DAYS RATIONS ONLY TO EACH PERSON

The faces of the crowd had lightened.

Click.....click..clickclick. click tapped the geiger.

RAN-FARE Continued from page 2.

Last bouquet this trip goes to the SFNews for it's information on new books. Only one brickbat..and that a well padded one as otherwise the mags are good. The brickbat in this case goes to the TWS twins for the illustrations. I have noticed in more than one case, the picture ruins an otherwise excellent story by giving away the whole plot at a glance. For an instance of this see Arthur C Clarke's History Lesson in the May Startling. The picture took all the kick out of the story by giving away the ending. Grrrr!

See you in October!

COMING NEXT ISSUE.....

FUTILITY... a story of the far future. By Cedric Walker.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES STARTING WITH THE NEXT ISSUE:

U.K. 3 issues 1/- : U.S.A. 3 issues 25¢ INCLUDING POSTAGE

There! He almost had it. Twisting the wires clumsily in his gloved hands, Ransom put the finishing touches on the time bomb and, br athing hard, set the timer to go off in about two hours. And by that time he would be well away from Luna.

This would show them! The fools couldn't take him away from everything he had ever known and stick him out here on the moon and call it compulsory militraining! Yeah just because he was a top flight solar physicist, they had taken him out here on purpose. But Ransom wouldn't stand for it. Oh, he knew about the scheme they had to take him away from his home. But it wouldn't work! When the bomb went off, it would destroy this institution that had caused him so much misery and he would be on his way to Callisto hidden in the supply ship. On that frontier world no law could touch him and there wouldn't be that awful curse on his name.

He stood up, cast a last glimmer over the bomb from his torch, and started back through the long tunnel that the ancients had constructed eons ago. By his calculations, the bomb was right under the main part of the Solar Observation Bureau, and when it went off, there would only be a hole in Luna's bright soil.

He turned up his intercom to catch any noise of pursuit, but caught none. As he made his way back through the spaceblack tunnel, lighted only by his torch, his mind wandered more and more from thoughts of persui t.

So when the guards fell on him, the surprise held him shocked until it was too late. They hustled him off to the Chief's office and held him outside until the Chief said that he would see the fugitive. Ransom was shoved in to the sparton office and sat roughly in a chair while his superior questioned him.

"Why the hatred for the Bureau, Ransom?" asked the portly man at the desk. "You have no reason to be so against it. Compulse is taking everyone; I should think you'd like a soft job here instead of marching all over three planets. We just want to know so we can get the psych to straighten you out. Now, what were you doing in the tunnel?" He looked like a grandfather who'd just caught his

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favourite grandson in the janjar.

Ransom was wild. "I hate the whole place! you can't make me work here! Lemme go, I gotta get out of here!" He struggled madly. The Chief nodded gravely to the assistant

"Get me his psych record."

Scanning it quickly, he murmured, "Umm...Faint per-secution complex...hyper sensitive to insult...brought here a week ago...and has been rebellious ever since...tender home ties...Well," he said, looking at the desheveled Ransom

"We don't ask for his kind, but when we get them, we have got to take them."

A gleam came into his eye. "Say, the reason you hate it here so...wouldn't have anything to do with the name of the Bureau, would it?"

"It does," admitted Ransom.

"-how..then you mean the reason you hate it is that..."

"That's right" Gritted Ransom. "Do you like the letters, SOB after your name?" He was screaming as the bomb went off.

C A V E R N M Y S T E R Y

There was a very interesting article in the "Weekly Telegraph" for July 31 1948 on a discovery of mystery caves in the Nevada Desert..Caves which may throw some light on the age-old mystery of Atlantis.

These caverns were discovered in 1931 and recently an expedition went out to try and tie-up these caves with the theory of Atlantis. The discovery was made by two amature archaeologists who stumbled across the entrance to a tunnel when seeking burial mounds. The tunnel led to a number of caverns hewn out of solid rock, More than thirty of these were found, each fitted with bunks for a hundred persons...AND EACH BUNK CONTAINED A SKELETON!

These were of a now non-existent race of GIANTS.....The average length of the skeletons being nearly eight feet and it was evident that...though highly civilised.....they had LIVED UNDERGROUND FOR A CONSIDERABLE TIME!

The caverns were furnished for comfort and there was a huge ceremonial chamber.....fitted out for some strange ritual. It seems the occupants kept domestic animals in some of the caves, and the bones show that these were a species which do not exist today!

How was this civilised community wiped out?

The explorere found that the caves had subject

(Cont-d on page 12)

- READERS' COMMENT ON KEN'S 'BODIES IN SPACE'**
- Ken's article seems to have caused quite a bit of stir and without further ado we kick off with the views of
- NORMAN ASHFIELD** Who says: With reference to Ken's statement of the effect of a vacuum on human bodies--Does he remember the old cure for a boil? You put a bottle in very hot water and then immediately apply it to the boil. As the air gets cooler, the contents of the boil are sucked into the bottle--and your flesh as well if you are not quick enough to pull the bottle away in time. This is only the effect of a partial vacuum--what would a real one do? Further--Ken's statement about divers has no bearing on the matter. He's discussing vacuum effects, not compression: unless he's trying to draw a red herring across the trail. I think it would do Ken good to study Muller's theory, so that he don't get himself mixed. I suspect that the effects of compression and vacuum are allied like the start and end of a sine curve of 0-90 degrees!
- RAY BAILEY** Fires the next shot with the following: Re Ken's article, I have read somewhere that if divers come across bodies (reasonably new ones that haven't been eaten away too much) at any great depth, they have to put them in a bag before they are hauled aloft, otherwise they burst on reaching the surface.
- JOHN WISEMAN** Continues the broadside: Now Ken's little piece I can't follow: The bodies would burst if the blood was under a pressure which the skin or rather veins could not withstand in a vacuum. At least they'd be somewhat of a mess with the veins and arteries all burst open. Since the blood is in a closed circuit (the circulatory system) I expect that it would burst out briefly through the lungs which I believe are the weakest part of the circuit.
- P.J. RIDLEY** Weighs in with: I agree with Ken that the gory mess is somewhat exaggerated but it is a fact that when a deep sea fish is brought to the surface it bursts, it seems quite likely that the lungs and stomach of the person ejected from a space ship would do likewise.
- NORM STORER** Writes from the other side of the 'Herring Pond':-- Ken's bit about the pressure is right but a little too obvious to be presented in such a sense.

nal style. Sure people have swallowed water at 30lbsPSI, but water is so cussed incompressible that it wouldn't be changed enough in volume so as to make any difference. I don't know about bodies actually bursting in empty space, but Ken admits that the lungs would burst, which would do a good job of tearing ones chest open...and wouldn't that constitute a body's bursting? However, that's a moot point because nobody's tried it. Whether you would blow up or not, I'm not the guy to try it out!

Wham! Well, what have you gotta say to all that, Ken? Over to you.....

REPLY FROM KEN

A short and snappy answer to the points raised is all that Mike can spare me room for, so here goes:

In general, everyone has failed to comment on the undisputable fact that airmen - and also Professor Haldane, have lived quite comfortably in pressures well below 15lb per sq inch. Quite as low as your 'vacuum' in the bottle, Norman, which is so very soft. The vacuum, I mean. I would point out that in that case the 'vacuum' is actually a confined area of decreased pressure, while the rest of the skin surface is still subject to normal pressure - you can also burst a balloon by the same method. Also, Norman, you specify a difference between compression, and vacuums --and Null # -you should clarify your thinking, and then you would realize they are only varying stages of the same thing, scaled from zero upwards. The fact that we have a normal environment in the lower reaches of the scale does not affect the issue really. Ray, your exploding bodies, emersed at some depth for a length of time, are a different case - they have absorbed much water, which does not have the elasticity of either air or flesh - so when brought to a lower pressure, the water absorbed burst out - same like squeezing a sponge follow?

In fact, in experiments, it has been found that some lesions occur in the main arteries, when sudden decrease of pressure is permitted, but nothing like the gory mess that some suppose would occur. Someone who cares to find out what slow lowering of pressure is like, is recommended to apply to Messrs. Siebe Gorman, Ltd. of London who have a chamber in which several can stand, which may be used either to rarify or compress the air.

The next little point on which we will air our views will be 'ESCAPE VELOCITY' -So get your brains decompressed in time for WONDER'S next issue!

Just about one third of the forms were returned and Vincent Clarke also helped with the returns by rounding up more fan. Thanks, Vincent, for your help, and thanks everyone who showed interest by returning their form. Now on to the results.....

1. PROZINE SECTION.

Best Magazine

First - Astounding SCIENCE-FICTION with 19 votes.

Second- THRILLING WONDER STORIES " 4 "

Third - Tie between AMAZING STORIES
and STARTLING STORIES with 3 votes each.

Others: FFM 2 votes ; F.N. and WEIRD TALES 1 vote.

-SF certainly ran away with first place..but at least three fan who voted for other mags said they used to think aSF top, but no longer thought so. AMAZING, I think, could have got more votes..as I didn't hear from the Amazing 'Fame' J.W. Colthard for instance. Norman Ashfield voted for Startling! TWS, however deserves second place at least for it's steady improvement..in fact I think aSF will have to catch out.

Best Artist 1st. Finlay, 2nd. Cartier, 3rd, Bonestell
with 6 votes. with 5 votes. with 4 votes.

Paul, Robert Gibson Jones and BOB each had 2 votes
Rogers and Davis each had 1 vote.

What about Lawrence, you guys?

Best Author 1st place - Campbell/ Stuart with 6
2nd. Tie { Van Vogt " 4
{ Kuttner/Padgett " 4
3rd. Ray Bradbury " 3

2 votes: George O. Smith, Sturgeon, Simak and Williamson.
1 vote: Tain, Haggard, Keller, Chester Geier,
Richard S. Shaver, Coblenz and E.W. Smith.

Best Story. 1st place: ...AND SEARCHING MIND 6 votes.
2nd " THAT ONLY A MOTHER 3
3rd. a four way tie between-
With Folded Hands (Williamson)
So Shall Ye Reap (Rog Phillips)
In Hiding/(Gharis)

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and " And The Moon Be Still As Bright by Bradbury
each with 2 votes.

1 vote: Children of the Lens, Ship of Ishtar, Star Kings,
The End Is No Yet, Devil's Spoon, Unthinkable, The
Equalizer, Hobbyist, Purple Sapphire, Mr. Zytzyz Goes to
Mars (!) and 1 vote for Darker Than You Think which is in
book form..so doesn't count in this little lot!

Now on to the Fanzine section.....

Best fanzine: 1..Fantasy Review with 18 votes.
2..Operation Fantast 6 "
3..Spacewarp, Science, Fantasy
Science Fiction, Slant,
S.F.News, all with 1 vote.

Fan Writer: Walter Gillings 1st with 3 votes
Ken Slater) 2nd. with 2 votes.
John Felman)
E.C. Tubb, Pete Russell, Don Day,
Charles Barbee all with 1 vote.

Fanzine Makeup: ARTICLES 18
LETTERS 16
FICTION 9
VERSE 6

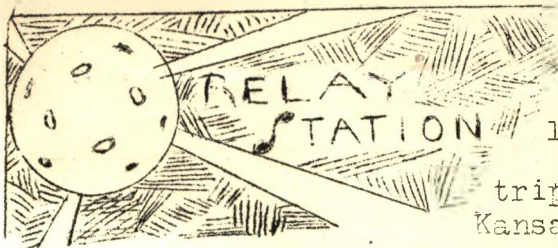
For more fiction in fanzines 6
Against 9. (Quite a few fen said more

if better.

Who would you like to crash on a planet with:

"My Wife" was the most popular but some fen were per-
haps more honest???? Cedric Walker's mate:Yvonne de Carlo
Ye Ed: Maria Montez / Henk Sprenger : Sheherazade
Norman Ashfield: The Pergey Girl on the Dec TWS!
Rob Tucker: Any Naked woman (ahem!) D.W.Evans:either
Rita Hayworth or Ken Slater! John Thurlbourne:Shaver's
robot woman of 'Gods of Venus'/ E.C. Tubb: Just a woman.
Pete Pennington: Anyone who is a chess player, philosopher
lover of SF and a woman. Cor! F.V.A. Scales asks: If I
give age, dimensions and general disposition, will you
find them for me? Other answers: Vincent Clarke: Mentor
Ray Bailey: 'The author of 'How to Build a Space Ship in
your Spare time' J.A. Wiseman: Prof. A.M. Low or A. Einst-
ein. P.J. Ridley: Anybody but an SF fan. (Hey, what gives?
C.F.K. Caulder thought it a silly question.

Missed out from the Prozine Section is the letter sec-
tion results: TWS and aSF tie for first place with 6 votes
FFM:2 votes/ F.W. and P.S. 1 vote.



This is WONDER'S letter column, gang. Get 'on the beam' with your news, views, likes and dislikes!

First on the beam this trip is NORM STORER of Lawrence, Kansas. Who says: The cover is a

little...er...shall we say...apparent, but not bad, not bad. I love those low, sexy (O stop blushing, Mike!) hips. Russell's story was darn good zine fiction but maybe I am prejudiced because I like descriptions of this future music. Very well done, though the ending was a little trite. For the next issue I suggest that you do not use such a long feature, and far more shorter things, but the amount of space this used was permissible because it was good enough to deserve it. The poem wasn't really very good as far as metre and rhyming go...but, oh! That ending..that was excellent. Caught me completely off guard. ((About his short in this issue Norm comments:)) Better dunk all the packages you get in a bucket of water before opening them.

JOHN WISEMAN gives his views on fanzine fiction:-
The main use of fiction in fanzines is to enable fans to read the stuff that the prozines have turned down (for political or religious reasons perhaps) It's a waste of a good idea to write it up badly and then publishing it in a fanzine when it would have made such a better story properly written in a prozine don't you think? All in all, I liked the poem, strange news report, and, of course, the editorial best.

YE ED Well, this may start something! What's your views gang? Agree with John, or not?

TERRY TROLLOPE Thanks very much for WONDER, I liked the lot! Especially the short story by Peter Russell and the article by Ken. I liked the 'oman on the cover, though I shouldn't say such things. ((Terry has just been married!))

P.J. RIDLEY You asked for it, and here it is! Please keep WONDER going, but preferably without the poetry. Verse, in my opinion, is out of place in a fanzine. I can understand Peter Russell's hero wanting to celebrate, I should be out myself by the time this reaches you. The excuse used to explain a 'time travelling show' was, I thought rather weak, and the love interest was somewhat hackneyed but all the same I liked 'Girl of the Green

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Crystal'.

WORME-WASHEFIELD I liked Russell's story, and realise that the cover girl is illustrating the story, but the title of the fanzine made me wonder whether the WONDER was as to what the lady had on underneath. (if anything!); Arthur C. Clarke says he thought that Bergey couldn't find a Fox-Beauty Queen cover for 'gainst the Fall Of Night, but I fear Bergey beat him to it!

YE ED Thanks for the above, Worm by the way now is as good a time as any to give my effort in the 'war' between ALEMbic and WONDER to find the shortest ghost story.

Your last was 11 words, so here's a ten worder;-

I TOOK OFF MY HAT - JONES TOOK OFF HIS HEAD!.....

Can you beat it? And that's the end of the transmission from our Relay Station for this trip..send those letters in, gang!

CAVERN MYSTERY. Continued from page 6.

to intense heat. The walls and roofs had been partly melted and on the floors were highly polished stones-many fused together.

Only recently has the significance of this been realised. The effect is EXACTLY THE ONE CAUSED BY THE ATOM BOMB EXPERIMENTS! The fusing of the stones are very similar to the results noted of the tests in New Mexico.

Was this the reason for this race living underground... fear of atomic attack? Maybe Atlantis, itself was destroyed by atomic power which got out of control!

.....
If anyone has more information on the above...any news clippings etc.. I would be very grateful, either for clippings or details. Any new reports coming to hand will be printed in future issues.

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WONDER NEXT ISSUE!