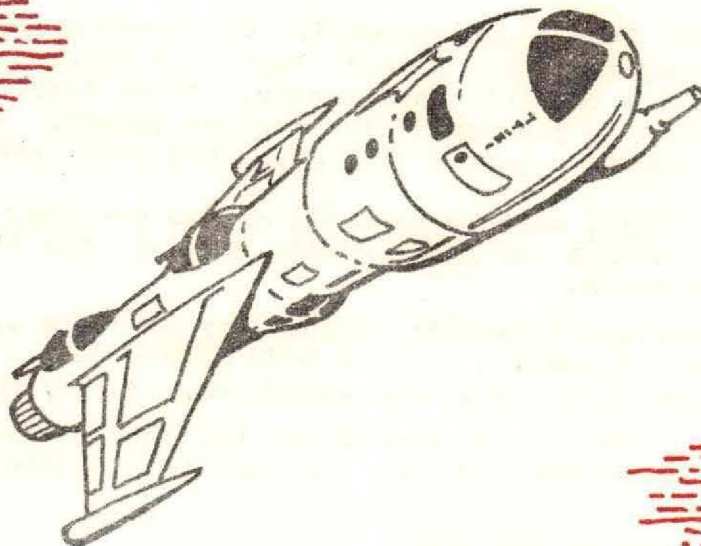


ERG 91

JULY
1985

NOW IN ITS 27th YEAR



JEVES

ERG

B. T. Jeeves,
230 Bannerdale Rd.,
Sheffield S11. 9FE.

This is ERG QUARTERLY No. 91 for July 1985

(Now in its 27th. year!

If you want to get the next issue, take your pick from these choices:-

1. Write a LOC on this issue and enclose two 13p stamps. (Overseas readers may omit the stamps..unless you happen to have any space Commemoratives)
2. By trade..not for fnz, I have all I can handle..but if you have any of the back issue SF mags I'm after..or recent issues of any SF mag other than Analog...we can do a deal.
3. If you must...cash subs are acceptable... 2 issues for £1.00 (and pro-rata), or five issues for £4.00 (send bills, NOT cheques)

Mailing ERG into a non-responding alternate universe isn't my idea of fun, so if you haven't responded recently, an x will appear in the top left hand corner. If it does, then please do SOMETHING if you would like further issues. If a query ? appears...it is a gentle hint along the same lines.

Now what else? Well, another page (3) of the on-going ERG Index appears in this issue. Also a new style Puzzle Page..if you like it, maybe I'll repeat the experiment.

On the sale side...if I haven't enclosed my sale list...send S.A.E. for the complete set of same. Ads for DOWN MEMORY BANK LANE, ERG in THE USA, and ERGtapes 1, 2 & 3 appear elsewhere...so buy NOW.

Readers of Space VOYAGER may wonder who the 'Barry' Jeeves is who wrote the article on Model Photography. Relax, it's me, they goofed on the Christian name.

WANT LIST (see No.2 on sub data)

ASTOUNDING..Certain issues for 1930-34 GAMMA (USA) Jan 1963
SATELLITE SF (USA) 1957..Apr,Jun,Aug,Oct 1958/59..all issues
SPACE SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINE (USA)..Aug.1957
SPACE SCIENCE FICTION USA any 1953 issues
SPACEWAY (USA) any 1954 or 55 issues UK edition.. Feb 1956
ORBIT SF Vols 1. Nos 2,3, & 4 for 1953/54
COSMOS (USA) digest 1953/54 Vols. 1/2 1/3 and 1/4
WORLDS OF TOMORROW (USA) Vols 4/3 to 5/3 inclusive (1967/71)
SF YEARBOOK No. 4 (USA) VORTEX (UK) Nos. 3,4 & 5
SF DIGEST (UK) May.1954 ORIGINAL SF (UK) Nos.1,2,7,8,9,10,11 & 12
Doc Savage paperbacks after 22.

Will also trade from my Sales lists.
So, if you want to trade any of the above for hardcovers or pbs., let me know.

Bestest, Terry

Artistic

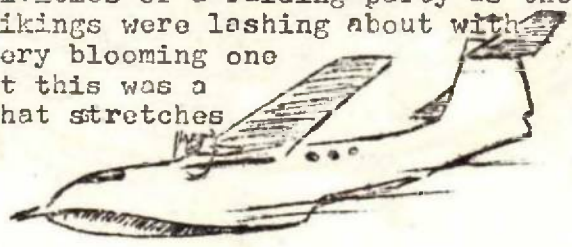


Clangers

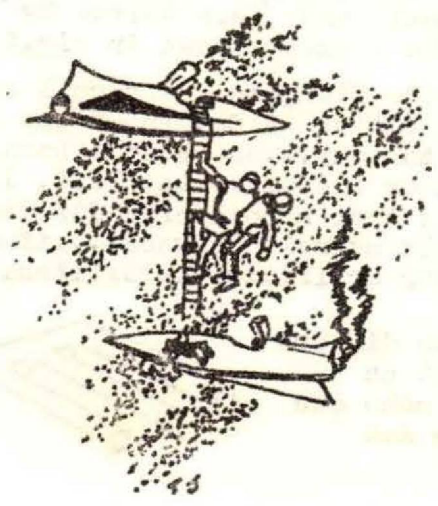
allowed one (or perhaps two) 'wild cards'...thus his characters may use telepathy..and ride on lizards. Fair enough, but the rest of the story must conform to current knowledge of the Universe. He loses points if he includes a Venusian swamp, or allows Jupiter only three moons, and so on. When you come across such clangers, you can chalk up a point in your own favour. Naturally, authors are not allowed points, so they can't win, and there's another advantage of 'The Game'.

However, error-spotting is usually confined to written material. Artists seldom seem to get involved in this point-losing caper. Not that they are blameless, but usually because if they depict a Venusian swamp, it is because they are illustrating the author's boo boo. Even so, it is possible to catch out the artist...for instance....

Last month, I visited the Jorvik Viking Museum in York. One of the exhibits was a poster depicting the activities of a raiding party as they carved up a peacefull village. Might Vikings were lashing about with hammers, swords and bill hooks...and every blooming one of 'em was LEFT-HANDED (I always thought this was a typical fan-artist's hang up). To me that stretches coincidence to twanging point. That of course is a quibble point..but I recall the first time I realised that artists were not infallible when drooling over a flying boat painting in one of those pre-war Boy's Annuals. It suddenly dawned on me that the painter had given the thing an asymetric tail-plane with one side higher on the fin than the other! Oh, I know the Nazis experimented during the War, with various asymetric aircraft..but this one LOOKED wrong to my juvenile taste.

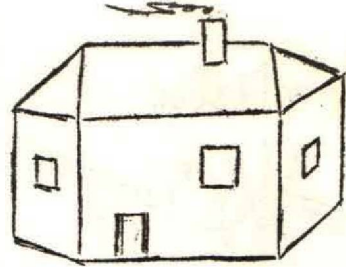


Another 'clanger' in one of those Annuals concerned that rarity of the era, a space story. Heroine was in a jam, her spacecraft having been hit by a meteorite. Hero was rescuing her by climbing down a rope ladder. The ladder hung tautly down under their combined 'weight', and exhaust smoke drifted gently up from the rocket tubes. I claim two points for that one.



Having realised that artists don't always Get It Right, I was ready for an ASTOUNDING cover depicting a scene from 'The Golden Horseshoe'. Wesso had done

an excellent job in showing (a) the surface of Yellowstone Park, and (b) The hidden city beneath it,...except that not only did his painting show the surface of the land, but also the roof of the city beneath. Rather akin to those children's drawings which show the front of a house..and also both ends.



Another illustration which fell firmly on its face appeared on a paperback edition of RINGWORLD..I'm sure if Larry Niven had seen the proof he would have picked up the slip. The yarn concerns a Dyson ring. An artificial world in the shape of a flat band encircling its parent Sun. Gravity is obtained by spinning the band, and day/night variations come from huge screens also orbiting the Sun. The artists showed it as in Fig.1

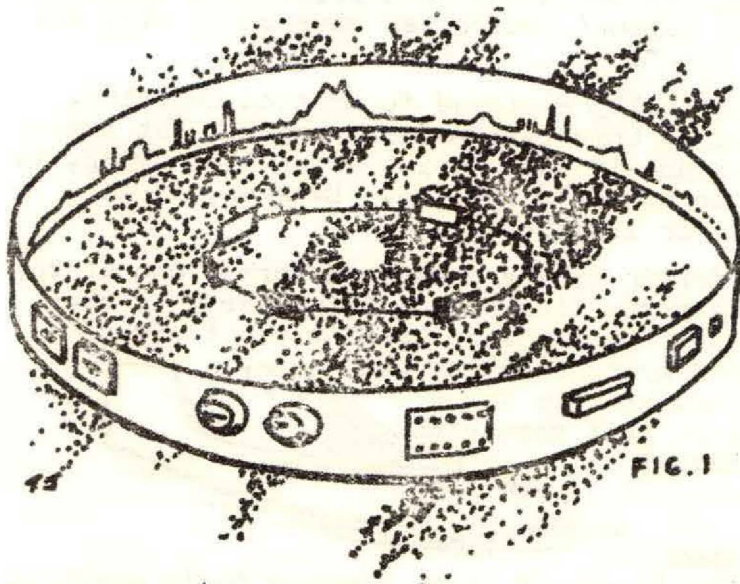


FIG.1

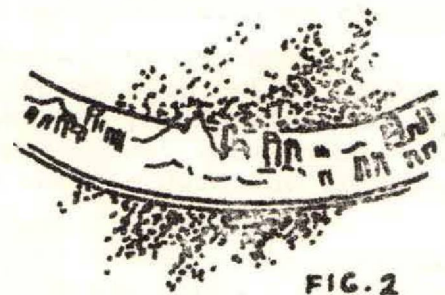
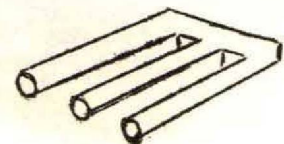


FIG.2

Can you spot the error? Well, the artist had painted mountains, trees buildings etc as rising upwards along the axis of the ring...as if a strip of photographs had been formed into a loop. However, since gravity is by virtue of centrifugal force, his UP and DOWN should have been directed at right angles to the axis and on a line through the central Sun. It is much harder to paint it this way, but the problem could have been solved by tilting the ring to a more acute angle as in the segment shown in Fig.2

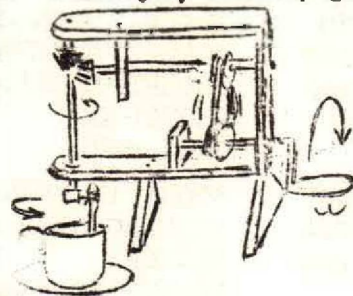
Space and astronomical scenes seem to invite clangers. I recall one drawing in a pulpmag supposed to show a scene, either on Saturn or one of its moons. The rings arced gracefully across the sky...and cast a band of shadow about a yard wide. Whatever the distances and sizes involved, I'm sure the rings are thicker than three feet, and that atmospheric diffraction would minimise any possible shadow into a slight overall darkness...if not, we could expect to see passing shadows from our artificial satellites.

Sometimes of course, an artist sets out to distort reality..as evidenced by the oft-printed widget on the right. It looks as if you could actually make one ..until you look more closely. If you want to see



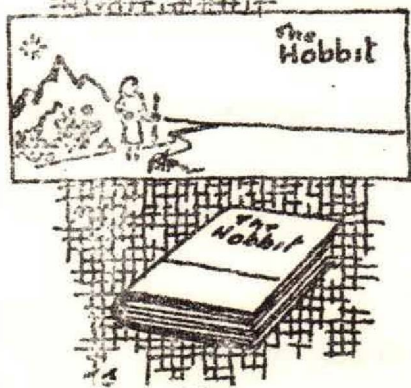
some really superb creations in this field, nip down to your friendly local downtown library and get out a book on the work of Dutch artist M.C.Escher.

Other artists such as Emmett and Heath Robinson have stretched both logic..and engineering principles, to produce weird machinery which looks as though it ought to work (In Emmett's case, it actually does), even if it takes a queer sort of mind to construct the thing. Pulleys, belts, gear wheels and assorted woodwork were the hallmarks of Robinson, who might well have designed the teatime aid....a remote tea stirring device as seen on the right.



These are not really artistic clangers, just deliberate distortions...but often, artists just don't bother to read the story. For instance, I think it was Edmund Cooper's (?) 'THE WIND' (another ?) which revolved around hot-air balloons. The artist for perfectly good reasons of his own (such as not having read the story, and not using reference books) had done gas-filled dirigibles floating around the place.

Then there's the incompetent character who knows what he (or she) wants to illustrate..and goes ahead to do it without any thought of the eventual purpose of the illustration. I have in mind, one fem-fan artist who had displayed her skill by designing her idea of a book jacket for one of the Hobbit stories. The resulting, long, narrow illo was perfectly OK on its own..or in an art show. It showed a few hills, bushes and a creaked character gazing along a path which wound away into the distance.



"So what?" you may ask. Well, and this is admittedly an arguable point, it isn't suitable for a book-jacket. Wrap that painting around a book, and all you have left for a front cover is a chunk of sky above a featureless plain. It may be what a publisher yearns for...after all, it does leave plenty of room for the title...but even

so I doubt whether such a design would be greeted by rousing cheers. Pity, when a simple reversal of the scene would have made it perfectly suitable.

On another occasion, I remember the late Jack Wilson exhibiting a pen drawing over which he had slaved for several hours to depict a train and carriages as they left a station. Superbly detailed work, streaming smoke and blurred with speed. Poor old Jack nearly cried when I pointed out his carriages were blurring in one direction, and the loco was steaming off the other way!

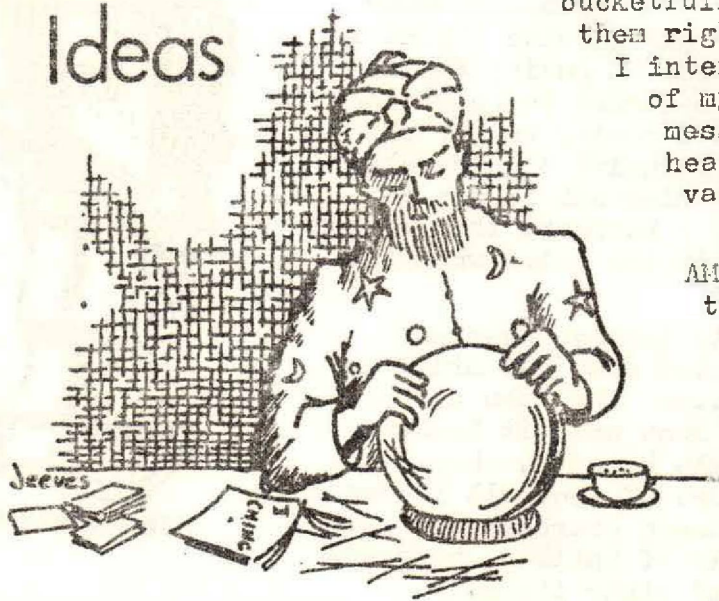
It's easily done.... carefully shade a lovely space ship and pick out the background...only to find you have the shadows going in conflicting directions...or maybe another of those statistically unlikely left-handed swordsmen...or car tyres which don't flatten under the weight of several tons of vehicle. A shame, but at least it gives one a new field on which to play 'The Game'

Bestest, Terry.

- ERG 18 Cover. Robot & Slurp plugging LONCON and TAFF T.J.
Dec 1963 WORTHY OF NOTE School notes I have received
8 pages ERGITORIAL Sundry netterings
 OMPAVIEWS Mailing comments
- ERG 19 Cover. Rotation pattern T.J.
Apr 1964 JOURNEY OF THE VACUUM BEETLE Humour/Satire short story
12 pages DESERT ISLAND DISCARDS Favourite TV hates etc.
 PHOTOPAGE Showing sundry fen in their habitats
 CROSSWORD OMPAVIEWS
- ERG 20 SOGGY IN SPACE (1) How the Soggies won the planets
Jly 1964 PETERBOROUGH CON REP. Syd Birchby
16 pages BLAZON Humour in heraldry by Ken Mc'Intyre
 SCATTERED VERSE
 FREE COPPER MEDAL OFFER OMPAVIEWS
- ERG 21 Cover. Crashed Moon Lander.....'First Contact' T.J.
Oct 1964 'SI' Majorca travel report Alan Burns
13 pages SOGGY IN SPACE (2) The saga continues
 OMPAVIEWS
- ERG 22 Cover. Hovercar & Futuristic city T.J.
Dec 1964 ONE HELL OF A NOTE More school notes handed to me
12 pages SOGGY IN SPACE (3) The adventure is completed
 OMPAVIEWS
- ERG 23 Cover. Rocket on Moon
12 pages THIS SCEPTIC ISLE Spoof guide to UK for visiting Americans
Jly 1963 THE B.A.C. 'CANCELLATION' an unusual aircraft
 UN-PROPHETABLE REMARKS snippets from old prozines
 IT PAYS TO DECREASE YOUR WORD POWER (3) Strange new words
 OMPAVIEWS
- ERG 24 Cover 1 Northrop Lifting body vehicle T.J.
Oct 1965 Cover 2 Biplane in flight
18 pages MEMBERS LIST for the 'Darned Patrol' Group UK/USA
 AIRCRAFT DESIGN by Joe Gibson
 MEMOIRS OF AN AIRCRAFT SPOTTER by John Berry
 THE McCANDLESS AUTOGYRO
 CARRY ON JEEVES (1) My RAF Saga begins.
 LETTERS
- ERG 25 Cover. Spacemen fighting on Moon T.J.
Apr 1966 CARRY ON JEEVES (2) R.A.F autobiog
16 pages VENGEANCE Tales From The Wye Tart. No.1 T.J.
 FALACIOUS FABLES
 BINARY NUMBERS Factual article.. T.J.
 OMPAVIEWS

ALL uncredited itens are by the editor ... T.J.

Ideas



Anyone can make prophecies by the bucketfull, the tricky part is getting them right. In this section of DMEL I intend to shore up the bulwarks of my memory (whilst mixing up a mess of metaphors) and lean heavily on my back files of various magazines.

In a February.1935 issue of AMAZING, no less a character than Arthur C. Clarke put pen to paper thus:-

"Several of your writers have been using the term, 'The square of the velocity of light'. I would like to point out that such a term is meaningless."

Shades of $E=Mc^2$, I can hear the CND wallahs beating their bosoms.

Less pitfall-fraught, but showing a touching faith in the British Empire is British SF writer, Maurice K. Hanson's comment in the Autumn 1938 issue of TOMORROW..."No one dare dispute that the first man on the moon will be other than British." On e we have all stood up and saluted, let's see how John W. Campbell Jr. made out in the July 1945 ASTOUNDING..where he said,

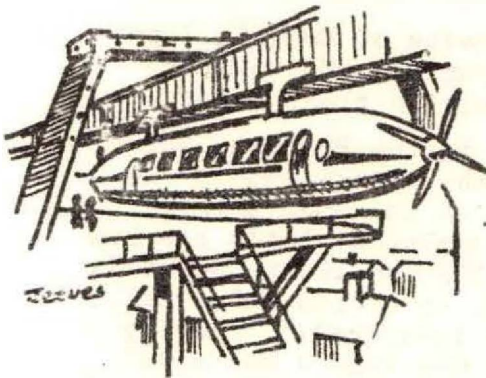
"TV - The widget that has never been able to live up to its sales talk. I've a hunch it won't, ONLY in theatres, shops and Industry". Shortly after that, in December 1945, in reply to a reader who said a man would reach the moon by 1960, JWC said..."You're over-conservative, I'd say we'd reach the moon by 1950"..and to another letter, "First sale of Astounding on the moon by 1955 I'm betting". The mind boggles at the thought of some dead keen news dealer shipping up a stall and stock, then sitting in a pressure suit to wait for Messrs Armstrong and Aldrin!

SF has long been touted (by those who don't understand it) as the literature which foretells the future...the previous examples were 'off the cuff' Now let's look at what I.O. Evans predicted for us in a set of cigarette cards he compiled for Mitchell's Cigarettes in 1950.

Among the delights in store were huge tidal and wind-power stations. The former used huge floats which rose and fell on the tide, thus cranking long levers coupled via ratchets and gearing to the generator shafts. In the case of the wind-power plans..these incorporated the whole power plant being mounted at the top of each 1500 foot high pylon. Evans also made provision for doldrums. During low demand periods, power was used to split water into hydrogen and oxygen...when wind (or tides) slackened off, the gases were then burnt together to operate internal combustion engines and thus keep up supplies. To be fair, he also postulated giant, Van Der Graaf generators splitting atoms for power as another possibility!

Business offices of the future were to increase their efficiency by installing huge card-index systems with numerous machines to sort, file and process the cards...and inter-office items were to be conveyed via those pneumatic machines one used to see in bigger stores...which took five minutes to bring you your change and effectively discouraged impulse buying as that meant a further five minutes of gazing at the assistant. At night, such places were to be guarded by powerful robots...which isn't really so far off the mark, as I gather more inoffensive ones capable of giving a warning are being tried out in the USA. I can just imagine one chasing a burglar, then having to ask him to put another 50c in the meter when the power runs out!

Transport was to involve overhead monorail trains of the kind tried out (and still in use, I believe), in Wuppertal...see the film of Fahrenheit 451 if you want to know what it looks like). I rather pity the people beneath, when a load of football yobbos passed overhead and got rid of bottles, beer cans and other items.

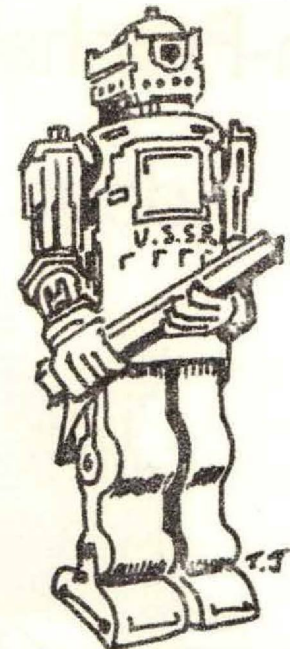


erected on the tops of city buildings..thus eliminating that tedious and drawn-out transit from airport to town. The platforms would also...protect the vital areas of the city from attack in wartime'.

Trains, coaches, cars...and even churches were to be streamlined, the former for speed, the latter for functional beauty. Among the new recreations of this streamlined public were to be gyro-motor cars (the means of propulsion was not explained) which could safely travel at hundreds of miles an hour.

More grandiose was a scheme to empolder the North Sea and thus reclaim a huge new land area linking Britain to Europe. A dam was to be built across the Straits of Gibraltar and new land saved from the sea bed in all shallow areas.

Most of these marvels were illustrated by copious stills from 'Things To Come', 'Just Imagine' and occasionally from real life..but two instances..A weather Control Tower and men in space suits, were lifted without credit from the SF magazines. The weather towers were from a Paul illustration (Electropolis, in Wonder, I fancy), and the space suits came from a Wesso sketch in Astounding. Many misses, but one or two hits..not too bad for a 35 year span...let's go back a bit earlier .

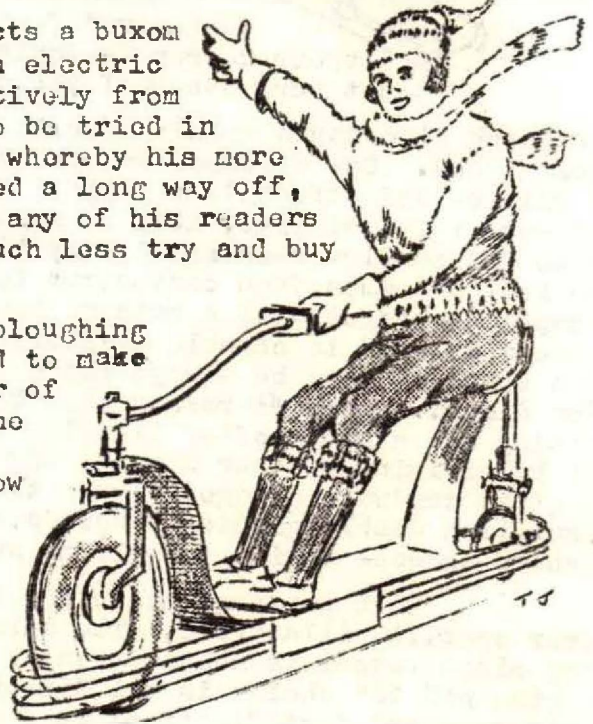


ROBOT WATCHMAN

Evans also foresaw that old stand-by, A Transatlantic Tunnel (Hoorah!) and high-speed, streamlined passenger liners..with fog dispersing rays clearing a way ahead. For the convenience of airliners, which in those days couldn't cross the 'Pond' in one flight, he postulated floating platforms stationed in mid-ocean. As mentioned earlier in DMBL, we even got the film F.P.I Doesn't Answer, from this idea. To further speed the transit time for aircraft, runways were to be built on platforms

Zooming back some 61 years to the January 1924 issue of Gernsback's 'SCIENCE AND INVENTION', let's see what he listed as 'Things To Come'. A quick glance at the cover indicates that we're a bit too late to qualify for any of the \$12,000 in gold, offered as prizes!.. not so great a loss really, as page 856 tells how this is broken down over a year into \$1000 a month, which is then subdivided into a first prize of \$100, two of \$50 and lots of smaller handouts..... for ideas, photographs and articles. All of which meant that even if old H go didn't chisel a bit with his own pseudonyms, he could fill the magazine far more cheaply than if he actually PAID 2¢ a word.

The cover illustration depicts a buxom young woman tootling merrily along on an electric bicycle which picked up its power inductively from an underground cable. This was 'soon to be tried in France' - a typically Gernsbackian ploy whereby his more way out ideas were always being developed a long way off, usually in darkest Europe, where few if any of his readers were ever likely to go for a weekend..much less try and buy the wonders publicised.



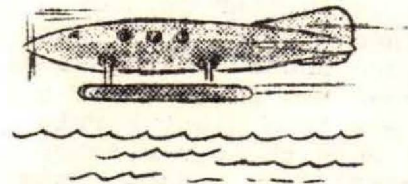
Inside the magazine, after ploughing through numerous advertisements designed to make one an electrical expert overnight .. or of growing a new head of hair and so on, one comes to a plug for a new book on Radio co-authored by S.Gernsback -- anyone know who he/she might have been?

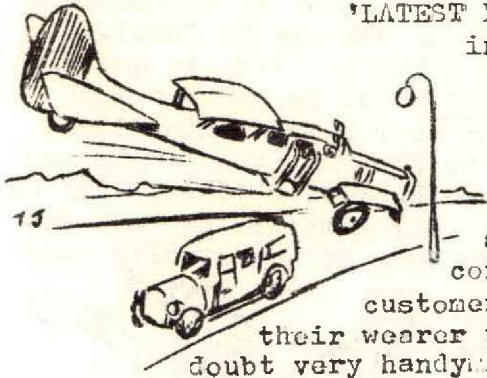
First prediction is a full-page illustration depicting a glass enclosed and self-contained city with under surface bus terminal. Not a bad start..it might almost be Newcastle's gigantic shopping complex. Following this we encounter that perennial chestnut, tidal power. This time, 'soon to be installed in Germany'.

Hugo (or some prizewinner) had noted how aircraft kept getting faster..and their wings smaller, so what more logical than to predict that aircraft of the future would be wingless (no mention of what would keep 'em up) and move at 500mph. Naturally, this would indicate a need for a long landing run...so instead of wheels they were to be fitted with retractable pontoons allowing them to land on any large body of water.

Meanwhile, over in Germany, trials would soon be taking place of a steam-powered aircraft driven by contra-rotating pusher airscrews.

Then there is a grand toy-designing competition displaying the prizewinners. Believe it or not, but the genius who collected a \$5 hand out, got it for a toy roundabout which was powered by cockroaches hidden inside the base! Elsewhere was a scheme to install the family vacuum cleaner in the basement, then lay piping throughout the house. One set the thing going in the cellar, then wandered around the building, plugging the collector hose into any of the sockets, conveniently placed (and suitably capped) in each room.



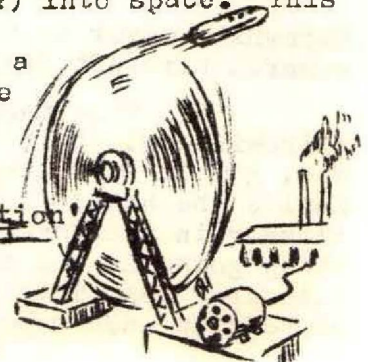


'LATEST PATENTS' gave us an idea of what inventors had in store...including a 'winged (and ruddered) car. This would not only reduce weight and wear on the tyres, but allow it to take rapid evasive action if the need arose.. no doubt with licence endorsement for careless low flying. Another thoughtful idea was a shoe salesman's foot-stool ..with a built in air conditioner to waft away noxious pongs from customers' feet. Collapsible 'shoe floats' allowed their wearer to emulate Jesus and go walking on water. No doubt very handy if you missed the last ferry to Hoboken.

Gernsback also ran a column wherein he gave aspiring inventors advice on their ideas. One of these was for interchangeable heads of varying styles to clip on and off one's tie pin. Considering the cost of jewelled tops and zero value of pins, it's no wonder he panned that one the thumbs down, as he did for lever-operated lazy tongs which shot turning indicators some two feet sideways from cars about to turn. He also poured cold water on a cup-like gadget with a ratchet handle and cog wheels. The idea was that those who liked to crumble crackers into their soup could carry this around with them and thus be always ready to cracker-crumble at the drop of a soup dish...a process rather akin to carrying a pair of bellows for putting out a match after lighting a cigarette. However, he also missed out by advising another hopeful NOT to proceed with an idea to market panes of glass sandwiched together and the trapped air evacuated to produce high insulation double-glazing. Nowadays, every second ring of the doorbell heralds someone trying to sell me such a system.

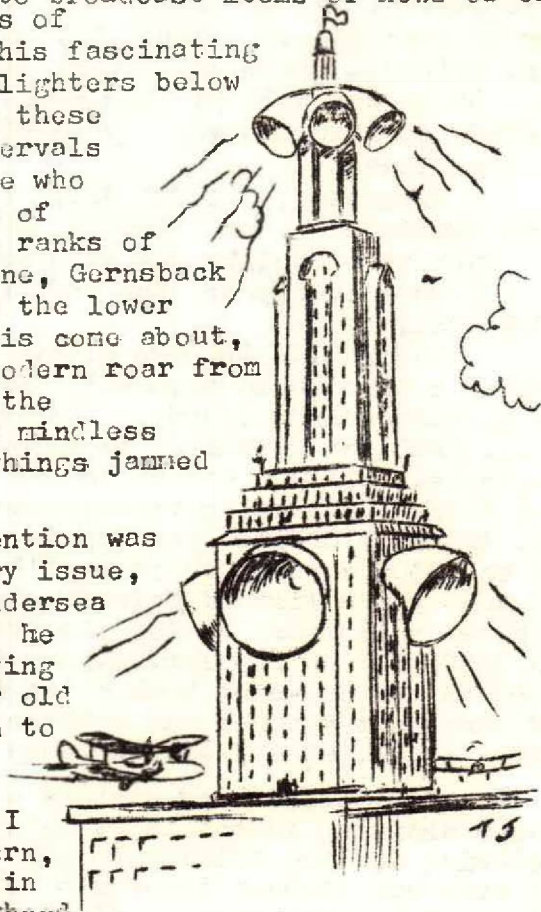
With the next issue for February 1924, Howard V Brown had the cover spot..to illustrate, 'The Submarine Land Deadnought'. This Queen Mary sized vessel is shown crushing buildings as it creeps ashore whilst pooping off 16" shells in all directions. Designed to assault 'land fortresses and fortification' it could not only sail on the surface or underneath, but had an aircraft landing field built along the top as well as a stack of miniature attack submarines carried below.

Once inside, a writer called Don H. me tackled that hoary old pre-Armstrong chestnut..'Can We Reach The Planets?'. ..with four methods being offered. 1. A 'space gun' firing passengers into the void. It was pointed out that this sort of acceleration could injure one's health, so (2) hydraulic recoil springs were included and these spread the force 'over a period of an hour'. Mode 3 suggested attaching the car to a giant Ferris wheel which whizzed it round faster and faster until when the car reached escape velocity, it was released to shoot off (forever?) into space. This idea was later used by Neil R. Jones for one of his Professor Jameson/Zorome stories (Between Planets?) as a means to commerce between a world and its moon. Scheme 4 used the force of light (from giant searchlights) to propel the 'spacecar'...'provided some meand of overcoming gravitation can be found' Dead easy, really. The writer added.."it has been noted that 'electrification' of a lead ball lessens its weight". H'm! Further on it is proposed to mount a Baird-type TV camera with Nipkow scanning disc into a space-shell and thus look back at the Earth to see what it looks like. Ah, fun.



More down-to-earth, in more ways than one, was Hugo's proposal for giant 'loud-talkers' to be mounted on the summits of skyscrapers. Called, 'The Municipal Announcer', the idea was to broadcast items of news of civic or national importance along with details of robbery, murder or car theft etc. All this fascinating information could be heard by the poor blighters below for a distance of 'up to five miles'..so these abominations were to be scattered at intervals throughout a city. Presumably the people who had to live and work in the upper floors of these towers would be recruited from the ranks of the stone deaf. When thinking up this one, Gernsback also added aircraft landing platforms on the lower stages to add to the racket. Had all this come about, it might have managed to drown out the modern roar from canned music and adverts on buses...and the rattle from the transistor radios of the mindless morons who must wander around with the things jammed against their ears.

A regular series in Science & Invention was 'Dr. Hackensaw's Secrets. In the January issue, the Doctor had taken a visitor to his undersea city (which then flooded). By February, he was safely back on dry land, and was trying out his rejuvenation serum on an 86 year old woman. It worked wonderfully..she began to regress back through middle age, youth, childhood, infancy and back to a ztgote before he was able to halt the process. I wonder if that was the idea of an ASF yarn, titled, I think, 'The Emperor's Heart', in which the Emperor also regresses to babyhood after medical treatment. Just shows how dangerous all these doctors and scientists are, doesn't it?



As one might expect, tidal and wind power schemes abounded, but on occasion, the mag also included diagrams and explanations of several Perpetual Motion machines...each of which was guaranteed by its inventor to produce umpteen megawatts of electricity once the bugs had been ironed out.

Today's 'spy in the cab', the Tachyograph which records the movements of a lorry, was foretold in the announcement of a gadget, 'of German manufacture' which could be fastened in a car and used to catch out one's chauffeur if he used your trolley for his own pleasure.

Salvaging sunken ships was not beyond the limits of Gernsback's inventiveness. This could easily be done by constructing a giant floating refrigerator, move it into position above the wreck, then sink it into place around the thing. Turn on the juice, freeze the ship inside a giant block of ice, and LO! Since ice floats in water..up would come the block bringing the salvaged ship with it!

No doubt about it, the future was going to be a wonderful place with such marvellous things around...and of course, the adverts reflected this optimism by offering just about all things to all men...and women too!

I've already mentioned how you could become an electrical engineer at the drop of a screwdriver..or discover an amazing way to grow hair (on top of the head). 'The treatment may be taken in any home in which there is electricity'. Electricity of course, was THE wonder of the age...you could buy battery-powered combs to tone up your noggin, although their stiff wire 'bristles' tended to rip one's scalp to bits. Radio was also big business, and you could learn this at home and earn \$2500 to \$15000 a year by simply sending for a free book. What better value than that?

Elsewhere, 'PIMPLY SKIN' could be made well, 'DEAFNESS' cured, rapture corrected by the 'BROOKS APPLIANCE'. Stooped shoulders could be brazed back to normality and by strapping an assembly of metal cups and leather straps over your dial each night, you could rapidly acquire A PERFECT NOSE.

COMMERCIAL ART was within your grasp by ordering the free books (which of course would then sell you on the merits of paying out huge sums for a correspondence course. Alternatively, an advertiser offered a BIG CAMERA...FREE! and promised to show you how to make Big Money by selling photographs...all you had to do was to enrol for the correspondence course. If you think all these correspondence lessons were good business, you were right. The Post Office benefited! WANTED.! Railway Postal Clerks at \$1600 to \$2300 a year. No it wasn't actually a job offer...but the firm would send you a list of Government style jobs available. In your spare time between learning radio, electricity, drawing and photography, you could DANCE and Be Popular!...yes, another correspondence scheme...much easier was the one-shot book which taught you wrestling. Another volume would cure your stammer and a whole raft of them would give you all the details of how, where, why and when to gwt a patent on your inventions.

Public speaking mastery came with 10 easy lessons...as did a thorough training in chemistry together with mastery of aeronautical engineering and the ability to play saxophone and ukelele. Heck, you could even buy trouser inserts to correct your looks if you suffered from bow-legs or knock-knees. \$1.00 would see delivery of the VIOLET RAY and a book explaining how Nikola Tesla discovered Violet Rays which conquer pain, disease and nervous troubles.

What a marvellous future all these offers held out. Simply by investing a stamp and mortgaging your income for the next few years you could learn how to make massive fortunes. Gullible era? Maybe, but scan today's magazines and you'll find virtually the same ads updated to suit current trends. To my mind, the real message behind all this search for better things, is a healthy desire to FIND OUT..to learn more about the world around and the abilities within. Once you stop trying to learn...you're dead. So viva Gurnsback and his forecasts. Right or wrong, they encouraged one to THINK.



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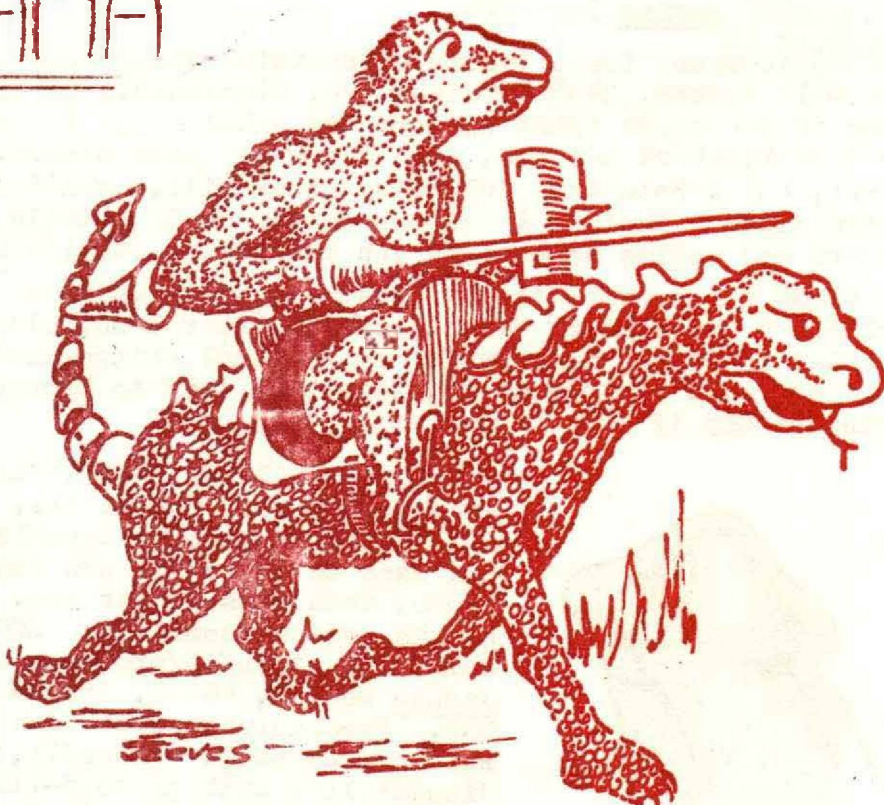
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FANORAMA

Wherein I natter about whatever comes to mind..such as the odd..or very odd, fanzine. This time opening with...

MICROWAVE 8..which used to come from Terry Hill, but now emanates from Margaret Hill and Elda Wheeler (is there a Yunga one?) 41 Western Rd. Maidstone, Kent. Lots of lovely Atomillos, 36pp mimeo and you get a Chuck Harris piece, oodles of snippets, a dither on Dundee, some verse, Lee Hoffman, Skel, Sid Birchby, LOCs and lots, lots more.



By bunging in bit of everything in every odd-corner, this new version of Microwave is more interesting and readable than 90% of other fanzines. WALLBANGERS 8 & 9 arrived both together for a total of 42pp A4/mimeo..and lots of obligatory Atom illos..locs, comment on Taff, Novacon, Seacon, food, fanzines and Part 8 of Langford's TAFF Trip. Get it from John & Eve Harvey at 43 Harrow Rd., Carshalton, Surrey SM5 3QH WALDO 8..32pp/A4/impeccably mimeod..and illoed by you-know-who, comes from Eric Dentcliffe, 17 Riverside Cresc. Holmes Chapel, Ches. CW4 7NR and is crammed with goodies..Chuck Harris, Mal and Hazel Ashworth, Eric himself, Ving Clarke..and a slew of letters. Light-hearted and highly readable. STICKY QUARTERS 9 from Brian Earl Brown, 20101 W.Chicago, No.201, Detroit, MI 48228. U.S.A. is the biggest fanzine I've ever received... the size of a tabloid newspaper! and running to 18 pages jammed with much more material than I can list here...letters, comment, reviews, opinion, argument, etc. and crammed together like an up-tipped workbasket. A real collector's item. All the above can be obtained for cash money I suppose..but the general cry is..trade, LOC, contributions of (LOC, Art, Article) or sheer out and out grovelling.

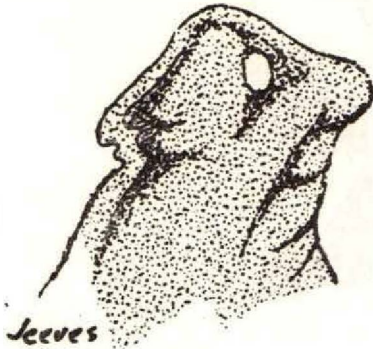
Remember me saying I.C.I. and British Nuclear Fuels had asked for reprints of certain cartoons of mine which they had seen? Well, IC.I. got 'em and never replied....B.N.F returned 'em as not being suitable..so why did they ask for COPIES in the first place??? Meanwhile, yesterday brought a further enquiry from MOTOROLA Semiconductors....I'll wait and see.

Later still...had yet another enquiry about the cartoons, this time from a 'Chief Nurse' wanting to use them on her staff. Trouble with all these people (none of whom seem to show any further interest), they hate the idea of actually paying for work.

OUTWORLDS 43

15th Anniversary issue (quite a promising youngster) of about 40/qto/mim/pp. from Bill Bowers, 2468 Harrison Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45211, USA. \$2.50 an issue if you can't twist his arm any other way. Items by George R.R. Martin, Bob Tucker, Robert Lowndes, Dave Locke and many others. Excellent art, good layout, but I hate that dull blue paper Bill...can't you get white to cheer up the zine? Benford & Coleman natter on SF & Media, there are limericks, letters and oodles more. Now you know about it...do summat!

NEW BLOOD is a superlatively produced and illustrated 40/A5 pager from The Carlisle & District SF Group...C/O 42 Green Lane, Belle Vue Carlisle, Cumbria. Material is rather in-groupish on personal doings/news, con goings and the like, but with a wider range, this bids fair to become a top fanzine. Try asking nicely if they have a spare copy.



FANZINE FANATIQUE. 4pp/A4/mim, from Keith and Rosemary Walker, 6 Vine St., Greaves, Lancaster. a slimzine devoted to capsule fmz reviews..so if you want to try a few new fanzines and want some ideas, then this is for you. Back after a long hiatus, and welcomly so. LOC/stamp/grovel for it. WHIMSEY.3 12pp/A4/mim from Jean Gomoll (Oops, Jeanne Gomoll, 409 S. Brooks St., Madison, WI 53715, USA. Personalzine with nice art, plenty of LOCs and good comment. Friendly, outgoing and doesn't dissect life with an acid-filled scalpel. Jeanne supports the 'spelling is how it happens' brigade, so be warned/warnd or Wornd.

CARTOON UPDATE...Request from I.C.I. for six industrial cartoons...sent 8 roughs, now awaiting word from 'em.

LAN'S LANTERN 15 & 15 (50 & 78pp respectively) Superb mimeo, good art and \$1.50 a copy (or the usual) from George Laskowski, 55 Valley Way, Bloomfield Hills, M.I. 48013. USA Jam-packed with ALL SORTS of goodies too numerous to detail here. If you don't find something here to suit you, then you're only a fake fan. Highly recommended.

RATAPLAN 30. 28pp/mim/A4 from Leigh Edmonds, PO Box 433, Civic Sq., ACT 2608, AUSTRALIA NATTERS ABOUT Cons, fandom, teaching SF, pop records, LOCs and so on. Get it for the usual..but beware, Blue paper can ruin your eyes.

Also from AUSTRALIA..but carelessly misplaced in my 'filing' system came two excellent fanzines from Eric Lindsay and Jean Weber. My humble apologies for losing Iem, but if anyone wants to take a flyer...faunch copies from Eric Lindsay..address on page 3 of the letters.

DROUGHT THREATENS..or trouble in the water department. Or, to put it yet another way...your editor has got a hospital appointment to seek alleviation of a prestate problem which homed in about a month ago and shows no sign of responding to strange mixtures or other nostrums. Wish me luck!

SAD NEWS just reported via Lynn Hickman & Ray Beam, is the death during open heart surgery of Tom Sherred..long time fan and writer. Ray was to have come a-visiting in Jly with Tom, now this may be off or postponed.

Those of you who read Space Voyager may have been slightly puzzled by the latest issue containing a three page article with photographs of how to take pictures of your models. The puzzle? Well, I wrote it, but the editors managed, Ghu knows how, to get my name as 'Barry' instead of Terry. When you consider that 'TERRY' is writ large on my letterheads...and not even my initials (B.T.) are on it, one wonders how they do this...oh well, as long as the lolly rolls in. Which leads to the latest ICI note. Seven cartoons accepted, and two more requested. Ah, success!

I just realised another interesting (to me) item. The next issue of ERG...No.92 will coincide with my 63rd birthday (October 1st..me and Don Wollheim)...so eight issues later, along comes ERG 100 and my 65th. Quite a neat coincidence if I live that long.



NIEKAS 33 has card covers, 66 qto.pp and must be one of the best looking zines around, litho printed, crammed with excellent art and many 'names'. Andruschak on current space missions, M skowitz writes on Heinlein, oodles of LOCs, articles, verse and what have you, in a nicely balanced zine which deals with SF and avoids waving any of the banners currently lofted by the idiots' brigade. Pub. by Messrs Frazier, Meskys & Bastraw from RFD No.1, Box 63, Center Harbor, NH 03246 at \$2.50 in the USA and \$3.00 a copy in the UK, from Roger Waddington, 4 Commercial St., Norton, Malton, YORKS YO17 9ES. This is one zine that every fan ought to read.

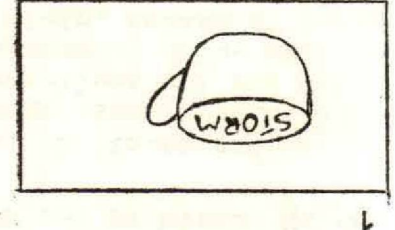
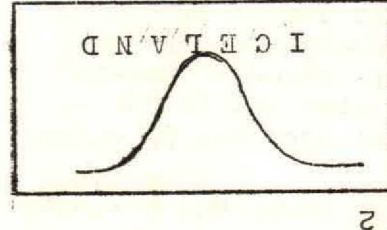
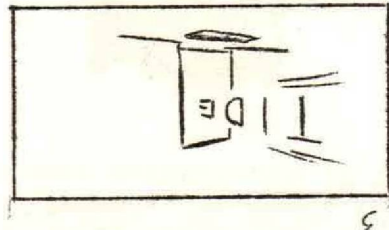
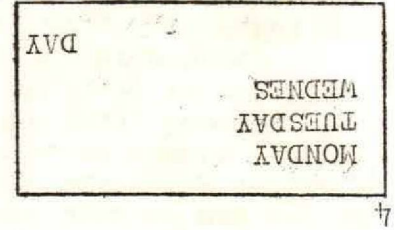
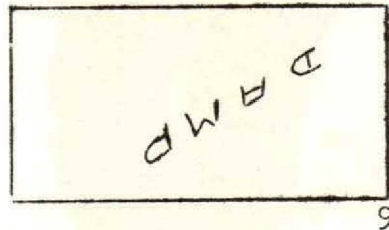
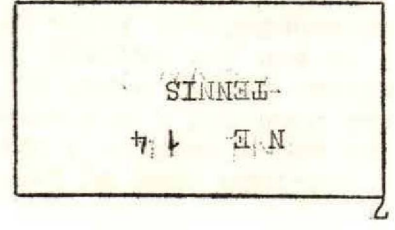
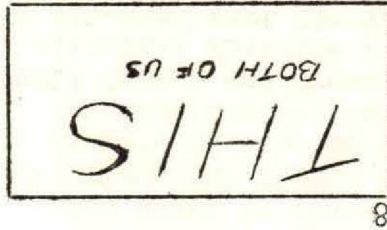
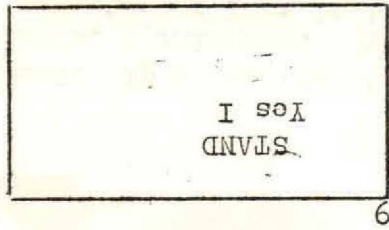
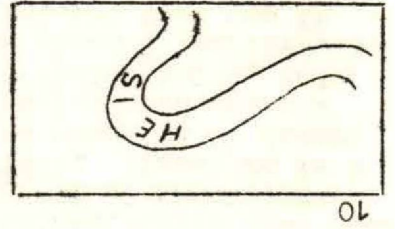
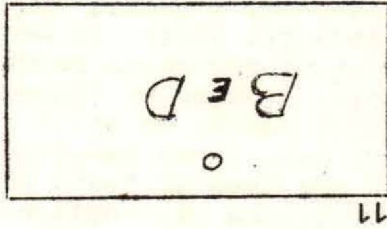
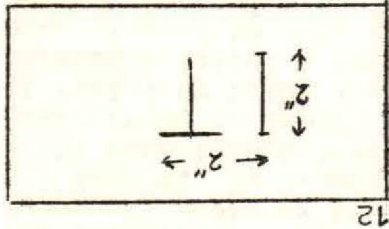
SOUNDING THE RITUAL ECHO has 50 A4pp mim..and as it's on blue paper, and the mimeo needs an ink transfusion, some pages are a bit hard to read. It comes (for the usual) from Steve Green, 11 Fox Green Cresc. Acocks Green, Birmingham. Steve's editorial includes a blast against the use of 'more troops than it took to liberate Port Stanley' to evict the Molesworth law breakers. Seems a sensible thing to do...had they brought in a token force all sorts of banshee wailing and retaliatory violence would have been the upshot. By swamping the site, it made for a peaceful clearout..one would have though Peace protesters would have liked that. Elsewhere is a Mexiconrep, an inexplicable piece on onions (if it was meant to be funny, it failed by being too serious), an article (old) on Molesworth where a Christmas Island A bomb witness reference includes..("Incidentally, he's been plagued by skin diseases and other ailments ever since") .Hogwash..A pal of mine suffered from such troubles for many years..but that was in 1930/40..can we blame that on an A bomb to come? Statistically, in any large sample group, one can expect a goodly cross section of various diseases...what would be significant would be that the A-test group had an abnormally high number of radiation associated disease..Not just one. Plenty of Locs, and article on rape/censorhip/Media violence.

NEW CANADIAN FANDOM.7 has 36 qto, well mimeod pp, excellent art and a much more upbeat approach. Constellation Conrep, Fmz Reviews, Local history, films and part 2 of a fanart review by Taral. Locs and other goodies make it a really pleasant read. \$2.00 or the usual, from BeFlatte Pubs. 14534-37th St. Edmonton, AB, Canada T5Y 2K2

..and that's your lot.

ANSWERS..No peeking. 1. Storm in a teacup 2. A deep depression over Iceland
 3. The tide is going out 4. A day off 5. He was on the horns of a dilemma
 6. Rising damp 7. Anyone for tennis 8. This is bigger than both of us
 9. Yes I understand 10. He is round the bend 11. A little darkie (Dark e)
 in bed with nothin over him 12. IT is as broad as IT is long

ANSWERS.....No cheating



Now how many can you get right?



T 42

Can you work out the words and phrases in the boxes? To give you an idea, the two on the right are... "Tea for two" and "The pound is falling against the dollar."

PUZZLE CORNER

((ERGitorial interjections are enclosed tastefully within these pretty little triple parentheses..so here goes))



ERIC MAYER
1771 Ridge Rd.E.
Rochester
N.Y. 14622

"I found the article on measures most enlightening. It recalled my last visit to the Post Office to mail GROGGY. I'd stupidly forgotten to put in seven years of college study on postal rates before daring to try and mail anything. The clerk looked over the envelopes dubiously. After much explanation I think he assigned them to Class 3.5..small to intermediate packet, printed (boldface). (Maybe I didn't explain too well), now this was going to cost me 62¢ an ounce on a package more than a gill but less than a peck..unless it weighed 7 oz. in which case it would be 63¢ an ounce if the packet was more than 1.5 palms in length or less than a pound in weight..or occupied more than 12 cubic inches - provided it wasn't going to Paraguay, in which case it had to be tied with orange ribbon, one millimetre in width. He showed me the regulation. I pointed out something seemed amiss, wasn't something mentioned twice? He agreed, he'd forgotten to include the increase in mass caused by the ship's acceleration to a bit less (quite a bit less) than the speed of light. Next time I go to the P.O. I shall take the article along with me to keep things straight. ((Pity you have to go to such lengths...me, I just pop things in the box when nobody is looking))

JUDITH BUFFERY

16 Southam Rd
Hall Green
Birmingham B28 8DG

I'm glad the LOCs were longer this time, I look forward to this bit. It seems though, there is still some jargon I've not yet come across.. could you explain what GOH, TAFF and DUFF mean? ((Guest Of Honour, Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund, and Down Under Fan Fund. Not to worry, FIJAGH you know*)) There have been a couple of developments in my career...this September I received a letter from the Producer of the BBC Schools Programme ENGLISH FILE. Apparently this young lady had been asked to do one programme in the series on Science Fiction. She came across my GRINGOL WEED in the Library, wrote asking if we could meet for a chat and the upshot was I had lunch at Pebble Mill and spent a happy two hours nattering away about SF. I also sent her some fanzines, including ERG and CRYSTAL SHIP, so you could get a mention there! A few days after this, I had a letter from my agent who had been approached by two different publishers wanting books which she thought I might provide. Accordingly, I spent a very busy fortnight getting together some outlines and sample chapters. I am presently awaiting results. ((The best of luck, J-dy, and may all your mail be full of nice hefty cheques))

PAMELA BOAL

4 Westfield Way
Charlton H' ghts
Wantage
OXON OX12 7EW

I didn't care for the Guide To The Solar System, the humour was a bit juvenile, but then 23 years ago I might well have found it smileworthy. Nice chat among friends lettercol this time. Come on now R.J.Faulder, surely Mork & Mindy wss not presented as SF (or even S i Fi) even though it used beings from outer space as a vehicle for examining and laughing at, aspects of American life...more a situation comedy? ((I'd call it a situation tragedy!))

* Fandom Is Just A Goddamn Hobby

ETHEL LINDSAY 69 Barry Rd., Carnoustie,
Angus DD7 7QQ



Odd that Eric Mayer should mention types chosen for GOH at Cons, I'd thought idly lately that it does seem as if I keep seeing the names chosen. (((Haven't you heard of an Old Boys Network?...fandom has one too)))

I guess you got inundated by a lot of TAFF discussion by your remarks about it. I agree with what you say - that fortunately, TAFF can survive even a delegate who promptly gaffates...remember Mario Bosnyak? (((Yes, and I had never even heard of him before Europe combined to shoo him in))) I enjoy ERG and feel I've learned something (((What to avoid??)))

and it's nice that it does not change. It's like a good deed in a naughty world! ((Chucks))

ALAN BURNS, 19 The Crescent, Kings Rd Sth. Wallsend,
North Tyneside NE28 7RE

Many thanks for Memory Bank

Lane, though I have my usual complaint that you missed out what I consider the most excellent mag of the lot..Modern Boy.

(((My memory doesn't include it, I only read about two issues))) It was always the highlight of my week. It always had a serial of Captain Justice..Gentleman Adventurer (it always added) and his cohorts, Midge - a small youth always into mischief but invaluable for getting separated from his boss; Professor Flanznagel, genius extraordinary and a mine of wonderful inventions to the great discomfort of the Captain's enemies; Dr. O'Malley who could perform a brain operation armed with a penknife, and last but not least, Len O'Connor, who given two bottles and a coil of wire could construct a transmitter of which the BBC could be envious. There were of course, the thousands of staff of Justice Island and the Captain's spare base..Titanic Tower ..both set in the South Atlantic. The mag also contained The Adventures of Len Lox, schoolboy detective, and Snarty Piecan otherwise Prince Beikan of Borneo, who owned a helicopter...sorry, an autogyro which did things no helicopter could accomplish even today. The mag was rounded off by the usual editorial dealing with the latest scientific achievements and a humour column by someone called 'The Old Boy'

But this magazine was a follow-on from an even earlier one called 'CHUMS' which I think was done by the same staff...but which had, not one, but two SF stories, one on Mars and one with a very British Scientist whose only ambition was to conquer the world using the Steadfast ray..he was done down by two schoolboys of course. A happy days beyond recall!

But how to ERG...nice bit of perspective on the cover, and on to robots, for which I refer you to your Astounding Index for an article by JWC wherein he discussed robots and their failing at great length..(((I fancy you're thinking of that robot-illustrated article on crystal growing))) For the most practical robots, I refer you to Asimov's usuform robot stories. (((Sorry, the usuform robots were created by H.H.Holmes who is really Anthony Boucher...Remember 'Q.U.R', 'Quinby's Usuform Robots' ?)))

ERIC LINDSAY
P.O. Box 42
Lynham
ACT 2602
AUSTRALIA

"Another splendid cover on ERG 90 (((Thankee, sir))). I must admit I am getting a tiny bit suspicious of your anniversary issues..you always seem to be celebrating one. (((Well, ERG 1 came out in April.1959, and so it seems appropriate to have an annish every time April rolls around..next is the 27th Annish in April 1986))). I loved the old Superheroes. Maybe not the ones you mention most frequently, as I missed G-8 and The Shadow. However, I was young enough to enjoy the reprints of Doc Savage, and one day I will manage to see the movie. (((Don't..you'll be heartbroken))). I also found a book length reprint of the Prof Jameson and The Zoromes series while I was still young enough to enjoy them...and I still love all the Doc Smith stories in the Skylark and Lensman series. (((Good on yer mate...me too!)))

ERIC MAYDER
1771 Ridge Rd. E.
Rochester
NY 14622
USA

ERG 90, fine cover. I like the use of perspective, something which isn't used too much, probably because it's difficult. (I never touch the stuff myself). Your article on the Solar System..I loved it! Now own up, in 1962, you were reading Robert Benchley...either that, or you re-invented the wheel yourself. (((Have a wheel, I don't think I ever read any of Benchley. Solar System was my own, but the style was inspired by an idol of mine..Canadian Stephen Leacock.))) Your review of SF heroes was interesting. I've never gone in much for them, with the exception of Tom Swift Junior - sadly, that series only amounted to 17 books when I was of an age to read it. I think you're right that SF writer's are running out of ideas. Sure, new discoveries are being made, but most are pretty esoteric. Once you've dealt with the vastness of the universe, it makes little difference exactly how unimaginably vast it is from a dramatic view point. Many discoveries as they increase our awareness of reality cut down the scope for speculation. (((Ah, but look at the vast field authors have found in being kind to talking dolphins, black equality, feminine superiority, the nastiness of Commies and atomic thingys (power plants as well as bombs) and so on. BUT..what about the results of that recent Paris experiment which showed that light quanta (photons) though separated in space, are able to interact instantaneously to each other...FASTER THAN LIGHT. So what carries such a signal ??? Authors, get cracking))).

HARRY J.N.ANDRUSCHAK
P.O. Box 606
La Canada-Flintridge
California. USA
New Orleans Conbid for the Worldcon...

This is another good looking issue. I was mildly surprised to see you state that you had never been a Fan GOH (((Sob, it's true))) Well, I am a pre-supporter of the 1983 perhaps I can suggest your name. (((That sounds right purty...but run for cover when you do it.))). The mock guide to the Solar System certainly brings home how much our knowledge of the place has been changed by JPL (modest cough). We turn on Voyager 2 cameras for Uranus Far Encounter in November..closest approach being Jan.24 1986. (((Keep up the good work, but unless you can have a disaster I doubt whether the media will even notice...all they want can be filed under UNHAPPY ENCOUNTERS OF ANY KIND)))

WHY-MEN-GET-BALD

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Full particulars of an amazing new discovery that enables people who have dandruff, scalp itch, falling hair or baldness to harmlessly remove the thin outer layer of scalp skin, have fresh new scalp skin and activate the dormant roots to grow new hair. **WILL BE SENT ABSOLUTELY FREE**, to any reader of this magazine who will write to Dermolar Lab., Desk 727, No. 1700 Broadway, New York, N. Y. This FREE treatise explains anatomy of your hair and tells what to do. It is positively amazing. If pleased, tell friends.



ROGER WADDINGTON

4 Commercial St.

Norton, Malton,

N.Yorkshire

YO17 9ES

I suspect that the mechanical problems of a humanoid robot will be solved soon enough, given enough money and time; even its original cranial capacity, with chips and computers becoming smaller and smaller, while cramming in more and more info. But what about public acceptance of such a creation? I can imagine the latter-day Luddites having a field day, religious bigots such as Jerry Falwell, The Ayatollah Khomeini and Ian Paisley thundering forth that when Man is made in the image of God, to create a human-looking robot is an act of blasphemy. Somehow, I don't think public acceptance will be simple. With the increasing level of violence, massacres in the name of politics, of religion, even with people prepared to kill in the cause of animal rights (((Or fight like maniacal harpies in the name of 'Peace'))), what chance will poor robots have? (((Knowing the mentality of those lunatic fringes you mention, I'd suspect that such robots would be used by them to stamp out any opposition...that's on a par with their usual 'double think'))).

While not going so far back as Operator 5 or The Shadow, I must admit I wish we had some of their like today. ((Me too, bring back Kimball Kinnison and Doc Savage))) The current diet is beginning to pall; it seems as if I'm reading nothing but stories of blitzed human lives set against similarly blitzed landscapes, both in SF and out of it. (((Don't forget the hard-done-to dolphins, the sword toting warriors and the battles against evil magic...in umpteen parts))) Apparently it's all in the name of modernity, of bringing reality back to fiction. Surely, if we want to learn about reality we need only open our doors and step outside...there is enough of the real world, without reading about it as well. (((I heartily agree...one of my pet hates used to be those tedious Mack Reynolds yarns thinly disguised political view articles...where one after another, each character tells the others just HOW the rotten world got the way it is...me, I read fiction for PLEASURE and when I want to learn something, I turn to FACTUAL works and textbooks)))

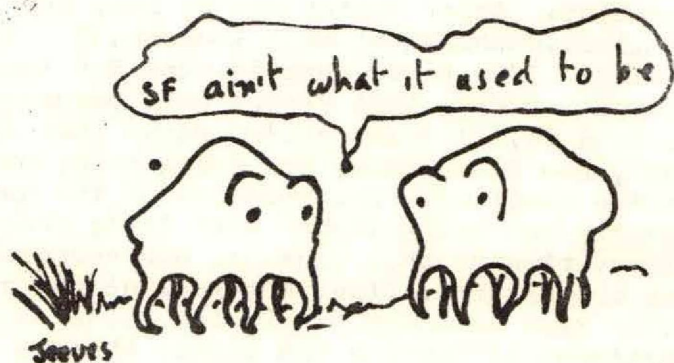
COLIN GRUBB

38 Spa Mill Terrace.

Slaithwaite,

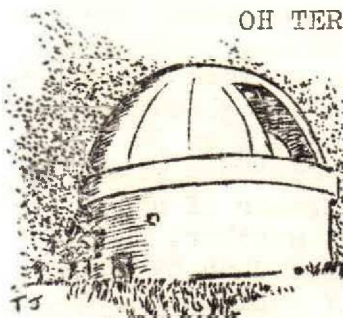
W.Yorks HD7 5BD

Guide to the Solar System taught me a thing or two. However, Mars Bars have nothing to do with drinking, but are in fact small bar-shaped pieces of the planet which have broken off and fallen to Earth...where they are wrapped in paper and sold. Thus, while the moon may not be made of green cheese (what a stupid idea anyway! (((I agree...anyone can see it's yellow, so it must be Cheddar))) the planet Mars is certainly edible and for that reason we should start mining it as soon as possible in order to solve the food shortage. (((I'm afraid the dentists got together and voted the scheme out of Parliament))).



(((Now next time, all you members of the silent majority will write
Won't you?)))

OH TERRA, WHAT

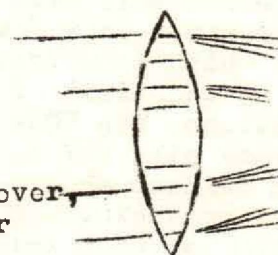


BIG EYES

YOU'RE GETTING

As a youngster, I enjoyed the popular science magazines of the day in which they would often eulogise on the progress and power of the 200" reflector being constructed for the Hale Telescope on Mount Palomar. In the early days of telescopes, the refractor had ruled the roost...but apart from the fact that a large lens meant a large lump of edge supported glass, the big snag was chromatic aberration. Just as a triangular prism will split white light into a multi-hued spectrum, so will a lens as it refracts the light...in cross section, a lens is effectively a stack of prisms.

However, with a front silvered mirror, the light doesn't go through the glass, doesn't get refracted, and you don't get colour fringes round the image. Moreover, you can bung as much supporting gear behind a mirror as you like.



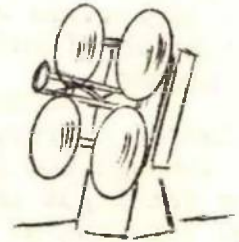
All of which meant the giant 200-incher would be the ultimate in telescopes with a light-gathering power able to shrink the universe and bring the Moon's surface to within 24 miles of the observer. To minimise the sheer weight of a 16 foot diameter block of glass, the back was to be honeycombed during casting, and the Corning works came up with Pyrex for the blank, as that had a lower coefficient of expansion and so night/day temperature changes would affect it less. Casting began, and catastrophe struck. Some of the mould cores designed to give the hexagonal holes in the mirror's rear broke free. The job had to be done again..and then the disc was ten months in the cooling to prevent internal strains making it into a giant Prince Rupert's drop. That was in 1934 just before I moved to 'Grammar' school. Then began to long, long job of grinding and polishing the mirror. A process interfered with by the war, so that it was 1948 before the Colossus was finally commissioned. By that time, I was a career schoolmaster with 5½ years RAF service behind me.

During those years, I had read unpteen cubic yards of SF, some of it involving telescopes. 'Horror In The Telescope' concerned an even bigger telescope which showed a planetary surface where humans were kept as pets! Another yarn showed such horrors that it drove viewers mad, and it had to be dismantled with averted eye. One I particularly remeber proposed a reflector made from bowl of mercury spinning rapidly so that centrifugal force shaped it to a parabola. H'm thought I, why not do it with glass during the casting and let it set in that shape. Idle thought? Perhaps, but read on...

For ages, that 200" seemed the ultimate. Larger ones were mooted but the problems seemed insurmountable. I believe a 300" was built in Russia only to be plagued by its own weight causing distortion problems.

Photon multipliers have vastly improved light-gathering techniques, but astronomers still want bigger telescopes...which not only bring great problems in supporting and steering, but also cost a GNP or so. Happily, new techniques look like coming to the rescue. A proposed ne Keck telescope is to be a 390 incher! Not a monolithic (should that be 'monoglassic'?) hunk of glass scooped out to a depth of 8" or so, but no less than 36 smaller mirrors, each 6ft in diameter and coming to a common focus with the aid of computers. This supereye is to be erected in the crater of an extinct volcano in Hawaii...well away (as of now) from bad weather, smog, and the deadly effects of city sky glow. Cost will be kept down by using mirrors of shorter focal length..thus reducong the cost of a high dome to contain them...and they can be moved independantly, thus avoiding the cost of a giantsupport/control system.

390" seems an immense leap from 200, but if funds can be gouged out of some immortality-seeking industrialist, the National New Technology Telescope (NNTT) makes the mind boggle. It will use the same multi-mirror technique but only FOUR mirrors will be worked together to act as one. Only four? Well, they are to be 295" each !! Which immediately raises the question...If the 200" is at the limit of practicality for weight and movement...how can FOUR 295" beat the problem? Well, the mirrors will NOT be made from solid blocks of glass, but from thinner sheets spun in the molten state to give them that parabola..and then cooled whilst still spinning! The system has been tried for smaller mirrors..and it works. Now all that is needed is the cash to build a spinning furnace large enough to handle the job. At this point I feel a bit the way Arthur C. Clarke must feel over not patenting his satellite Com-links. If only I had patented my centrifugal casting idea, I might have been a millionaire!



Other telescopes are projected hither and yon around the world. The University of Texas hopes to have one of them. The Japanese have plans for a 295 incher...which they hope to locate in Hawaii. Chile has some big ideas...and Russia is chuntering abbut a 25 metre job..which converts to 1000" if it ever gets beyond the pipe dream stage. Maybe they hope to mount it on a tower high enough to let 'em keep the US A under scrutiny.

No doubt about it, at the rate things are going, we don't need to keep asking.."Are other worlds watching us?"...it is we who will be watching them. Maybe the Galactic Federation will pounce on us as a race of Peeping Toms!

===== Terry Jeeves ==

Got your copy of The Complete DOWN MEMORY BANK LANE, yet? Still a few left of the 80+ page compendium holding all 12 parts..and the covers which appeared with the articles. £2.00 or \$3.00 (in bills) will get you a copy, so shoot your order in NOW while stocks last.

ERTAPES 1, 2 and 3 can still be obtained at £2.00 each...janned with items from earlier ERGs and also assorted new material.

HARDCOVERS, PAPERBACKS, MAGAZINES and oddments. Send S.A.E for computer printout of what I have on offer.

All the above from:- Terry Jeeves, 230 Bannerdale Rd.,
SHEFFIELD S11 9FE Ph.(0742) 553791

DESTINATION: VOID

Frank Herbert Penguin £1.95

A re-issue of an excellent yarn which saw its first form in a '65 Galaxy. The Starship 'Earthling' is heading for Tau Ceti when its 3 controlling organic brains go mad and have to be destroyed. Four crew members set about creating an artificial consciousness and thus carry out the true purpose of the mission. The interplay of personalities, motives and the technical double talk make this far from an easy 'read'...but a richly rewarding one, with an unexpected..but logical, stinger in the tail. Herbert has a knack of getting inside his characters and situations which brings them into total realism.

MILLENNIUM John Varley Sphere £1.99

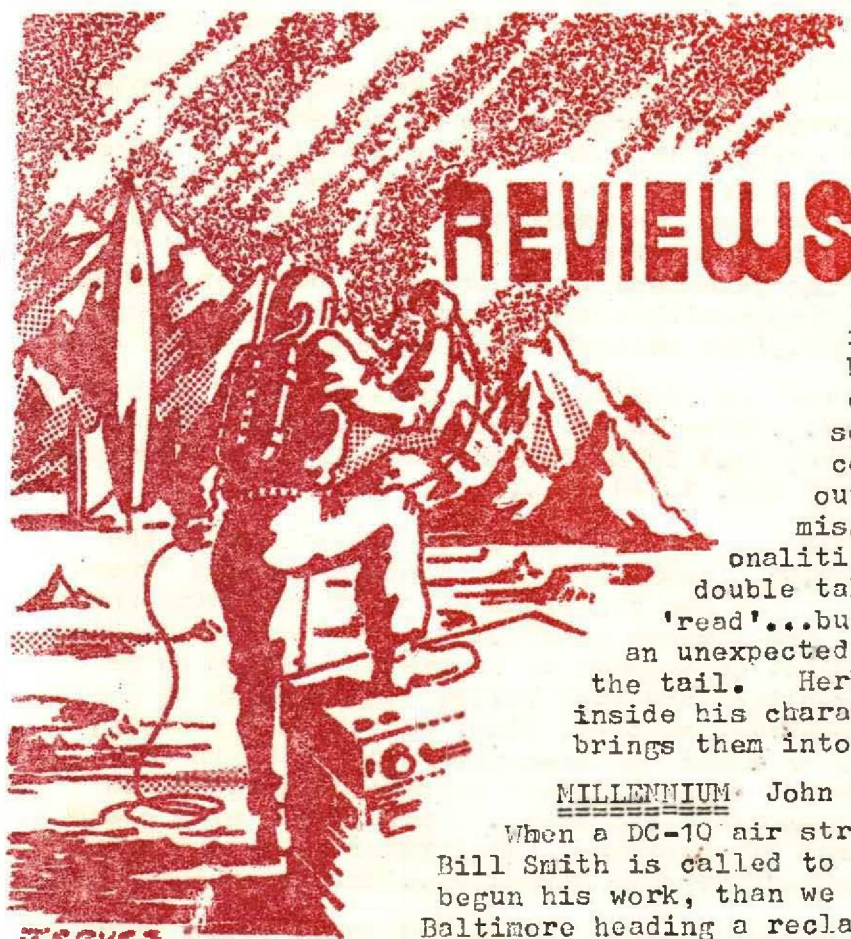
When a DC-10 air strikes with a 747, Investigator Bill Smith is called to the scene. Barely has he begun his work, than we meet time traveller Louise Baltimore heading a reclamation team from the future to snatch passengers from the disaster and substitute mindless 'clones'. One agent leaves a 'stunner' in

one aircraft, and Louise must recover this before Smith finds it and causes a temporal paradox. Her actions are proscribed by the robot Sherman, as well as messages from 'Big Computer' relayed from her future.

Varley has taken his short story, 'Air Raid' (IASFM Spring '77) and done the normally impossible task of expanding it into a stunning novel complete with credible people (and robots)...and again, a neat stinger in the end which whilst being partly similar to the one used in 'Destination: Void', is also quite different. Quibbles?...well if a mislaid stunner can cause the end of the world...Louise's theft of a swish sports car ought to have made quite a stir as well. Otherwise...darned good hardcore.

DAMIANOR.A. MacAvoy
Bantam £1.95

Young Damiano, a musically-inclined sorcerer, takes lessons ...from the angel Raphael! Then, on finding his townspeople have fled before an oncoming brigand band, he sets off to warn them their hiding place has been betrayed. Accompanied by his talking dog, Machiata (a lovely character, whose passing leaves you a shade bleary-eyed), Damiano helps save the people, takes the power of a Finnish witch, bests her jealous lover, makes a pact with Satan and finally defeats the brigands. Much, much better than the run-of-the-mill tales of witch-barbarian-sword-saga-quest rubbish abounding these days. Damiano is someone to take to your heart, his motives credible and the whole thing a joy to read. Want more good news? This is only part 1 of a trilogy, so sit back and enjoy.



TREVES

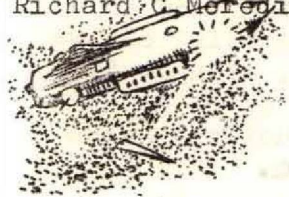
GHASTLY BEYOND BELIEFN. Gaiman & K. Newman
Arrow £2.50

If Deadly Killer Tomatoes tickle you pink, and you love lines such as... "Bullets don't hurt it. The only thing I've got to stop it is a traffic light", then you'll have a whale of a time with this 343 page compendium of quotes, jacket blurbs, film plugs, misprints and purple prose which have been committed in the holy cause of selling SF...or in writing about it. "There's a herd of killer rabbits heading this way" rubs shoulders with.. "Senator, I'm sure my son has a very good reason for paralysing the country". No area of the genre is spared the mining of its motherlode of mirth, and for extra measure, the cover painting is a send up of its ilk, Harrison writes the introduction and the work closes with a test-your-memory quiz. Needs only a GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING..(Not suitable for s&c bigots) Great fun!

VENTURE SF is a new imprint series from Hamlyn Paperbacks..designed to supply action adventure and no fantasy. To be issued monthly, No.3 will feature HAMMER'S SLAMMERS by David Drake, No.4 INTERSTELLAR EMPIRE by John Brunner. Meanwhile...here come details of Nos. 1 and 2.....

WE ALL DIED AT BREAKAWAY STATION

Richard C. Meredith Venture £1.95



Resurrected after a battle with the alien Jillies, Captain Absalom Bracer and the crews of the three ships under his command, are largely prosthetic. The two battleships and one hospital ship pause at Breakaway Station to take on other casualties and fuel before limping back to Earth. However, suspecting another, final attack on Breakaway, Bracer stays to fight the on-coming Jilly. Depth and background are aided by 'cutaways' to other minor characters to show how the war is going..and the alien-ness of the Jilly. Space opera on a grand scale in what could be the first of a series. To further whet your appetite, Bracer is mind-linked to his ship's Organic Computer...itself a resurrectee.

COME, HUNT AN EARTHMANPhilip E. High
Venture £1.75

Told mainly from the viewpoint of an alien 'Hunt Master' in charge of parties which descend on Earth to hunt men! However, he is not quite what he seems. As Earth's forces rally, we discover, not only the Hunt Master's purpose, but that of humanity and all other races.

Fast moving space opera with touches of 'Battlefield Earth', E.E.Smith and even vanVogt. Despite a certain naivete of style, I found this totally enthralling. It may not be 'cerebral SF', but it presents a virtually new idea in SF in an utterly gripping fashion. I lapped it up!

Two more Dumarest sagas (21 & 22) as the wanderer continues his endless search for the planet Earth.

IDUNA'S UNIVERSEE.C.Tubb
Arrow £1.75

Sees Dumarest taken by slavers then passed to a Matriarch who has him attempt to rescue her daughter trapped in the mental universe created by an alien artifact. Beset by multifarious perils, this is the classic tale of 'Who Can Rescue The Princess?' with death to the failures. Plenty of fast action



and blood spilling, but the cover(s) disappoint, as Dumarest is depicted as a pop-star look-alike and his girls are all young dollys.

THE TERRA DATA

E.C.Tubb
Arrow \$1.75

Dumarest is offered a deal by a 'mind' reader..guidance to a place where Earth's co-ordinates may be found in exchange for a share in the riches obtainable from the secret Earl knows about the half-human Cyborg 'Cyclans'. Travelling to Elysium, they find that obtaining it will require much effort..of a dangerous kind. As you might expect, after many adventures, Dumarest is still no nearer that which he seeks..indeed, I doubt whether Ted will ever let his hero reach that goal..if he did, the disappointment would kill him. However, if you like mighty battles against near insurmountable odds..which you know the hero is bound to win, then these two yarns are for you.

THE SURVIVORS

Marion Zimmer Bradley
& Paul Edwin Zimmer
Arrow \$1.95

Dane,(wielder of a Samurai sword..cover-depicted as a two-handed broadsword), Rianna, together with the saurians, Aratak and Dravash are the characters...nicely rounded, especially the proverb-quoting Aratak. Their mission is to investigate the disappearance from within a forcefield, of the personnel from a protected base on 'Closed World', Belsar IV. Attacked by strange animals, hunted by suspicious natives plus the menace of alien slavers, they trek across the planet. Just when all seems wrapped up..bar their original purpose, a deus ex machina pops up to sort everything out. Lightweight, but enjoyably entertaining and it's nice to have no magic talismans, evil sorcerers or luscious heroines around.

A Pictorial History Of
SCIENCE FICTION FILMS

David Shipman
Hamlyn \$8.95

172 pages (12"x8½") crammed with numerous 'stills' many of which I had never seen before. Textual matter is divided into six chapters, although the reasons for this seemed a bit obscure. 'MAN IN SPACE' has comment on Children/Village Of The Damned and 'Day Of The Triffids'. I particularly liked the opening section on early European 'silents' (though deplored the use of 'Sci-Fi'). Sentence structure tends to get involved and several times I had to backtrack to find which film was under discussion. Sadly, there are errors..Mr. Shipman says of 'Things To Come' that an engineer aids Cabal's escape and they depose and kill the Boss. Not so! The planes of 'Wings Over The World' drop peace gas, the Boss falls and breaks his neck, and then Cabal walks free, having been saved from the gas by his flying helmet/oxygen mask. The gigantic multi-engined peace bombers are referred to as 'little planes with propellers' and the shot fired from the space gun is said to be a 'rocket' which 'blasts off'.

Elsewhere, 'James' Heinlein is credited with the story idea for 'Destination Moon'...and what does one make of captions such as..'Hal the malign computer' or of 'impersonal worlds' and the use of 'confiding' instead of 'consigning'?

Quibbles maybe, but they rather shadow the rest of the material. A pity, as it is wide-ranging, entertaining and full of interesting side-lights on the films mentioned. Not a reference book, but it gives a good overall idea of ideas and attitudes in the SF film field.



THE LONG NIGHT

Poul Anderson
Sphere £2.50

Five ex-magazine yarns loosely linked to a theme of Mankind's slow recovery from a future 'Dark Age'. They cover:- A slaves' revolt on an alien spaceship, take over and eventual attack on the slavers' home world. Settlers who use insects in their battle for freedom. A warlord and his wives seek aid to repair a damaged spacecraft. A wife who demands vengeance on the cannibal who slew her man, and finally, the problem of finding a world hidden in a globular cluster. Good, steady stories, but over wordy and inclined to the pedestrian. As a bonus, you get a 'Future History' setting out a time scale, characters and events in Anderson's writings.

SWAMP!

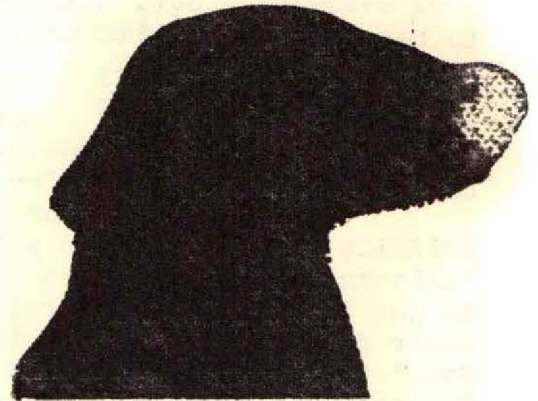
Peter Tremayne
Sphere £1.95

Hunting in the Everglades, two men kill a seven-foot tall creature and in turn are killed by an even larger one, a relic from the Triassic. From here on, various others get involved...two escaped convicts, their kidnapped girl hostage, local Rangers, tourists and their guide, even a native tribe which plans a voodoo sacrifice. Ignore the unexplained monster and go along for the fast-moving 'movie-script' type action which pulls out all the horror stops and grips your attention until the monster finally gets done in. I balked a bit at people tearing around on foot in the 'Glades..and the way lightning kept picking on the creature...but otherwise, a good read.

STORM SEASON

Ed. Robert Asprin
Penguin £1.95

Another 6 author/story collection involving characters and scenes in the thieves' town of Sanctuary.. Jubal triumphs over wounds and pain; A painter depicts men's souls.. A mercenary plans to use a new steel..an informer meets death.. Gods clash with wizards..and Hanse must fight a God. Individually, the yarns are colourful but rather lightweight. The strength of the collection lies in the interplay of the characters against the background of a vice-ridden town. If you enjoyed the earlier books, you'll like this one...and Asprin's linking material indicates more to come.

THE ARTIFICIAL KID

Bruce Sterling
Penguin £2.50

The Kid is a combat Artist, 'created' by Professor Crossbow, and one of the top fighters in the Decriminalised Zone where anything goes. He arouses the anger of one of the secret ruling Cabal and is attacked, mugged and hunted. He encounters the supposedly dead Corporation Founder, Moses Moses and along with Saint Anne Twiceborn, flees the Zone...surviving only by a couple of rather hefty coincidences before reaching an ending with a gentle sting in its last line. Not unlike the style of the late P.K.Dick (but better) I found this exciting, different and enjoyable with a central character you'll first detest, then come to like. The plot is thin, but the idea and situations are lively enough to take care of that, so if you seek fast, light, escapist SF, then try this for size.

Have you got your copy of DOWN MEMORY BANK LANE yet? 80+ pages. Still a few copies left at £2.00 a time. When they have gone, that's it!

Peter Dobson

Ten years ago I discarded my 1940-vintage Corgi £2.95 'Sun' lightweight..and have regretted it ever since. But now, when Val and I are considering buying two new models, this book couldn't have come at a better time. The author has a light, humorous but ever-lucid style as he covers the various types of machines (plus tandems and trikes) prices and pitfalls. Chapters explain how to 'Build Your Own', the ins and outs of accessories, insurance, clubs, clothing, diet, maintenance, tools, lighting and much, much more. There are chapters on the history and social impact of cycling, a list of useful addresses and two photo' sections...one on assorted machines, the second on repair close-ups. Excellent stuff, highly recommended to all wheelers, with only one minor quibble... a few line illustrations would have perked up and helped the text considerably...I'm still hazy over 'lugs' and 'sloping front fork crown' If anyone in your family cycles (or plans to), get 'em this book.



DAUGHTER OF REGALS

Setting the 'Chronicles' aside, Mr. Donaldson gives us Stephen Donaldson seven short stories, wide ranging in scope and any one of which could have graced the pages of 'UNKNOWN'.
£1.95 Fontana

The title story concerns a Princess struggling with rivals and magic to claim her throne. Then, in an antiseptic city, a man begins to change into a unicorn. A blacksmith meets an enchantress; a cyborg agent tackles a genetic engineer; a strange being saves a sculptor and his sister. In a horror vein is a chiller about a quarrel and a centipede, and finally, a man falls foul of an Inquisition and a witch. Don't be put off by the rather drab cover..it conceals an excellent collection of scintillating variety and all the rich colour of the author's longer works. This must be one of the best buys of the month and deserves its own private Hugo.

A SPLENDID DEFIANCE

Stella Riley Set in the 17th Century against a background of the Civil War, this (non-SF) tale is love romance in the classic cliff-hanging vein. Royalist Officer Justin
Fontana £1.95

fights against the army laying siege to Banbury Castle, but encounters young Abigail, sister of the religion-ridden Jonas. Many rifts appear in the lutes before the happy ending and the squalor of the age is deftly ignored, as is the gory part of the fighting. Not my cup of tea, but no doubt there are people around who will consider it the best thing since sliced bread.

THE SABLE MOON

Nancy Springer Irked by Geyr, unusual guest in Castle Lueroc, young Prince Trevn rides out and encounters peasant girl Meg.
Corgi £1.95 After an encounter with a strange wolf pack, Trevyn begins to follow his destiny..through shipwreck, slavery, a bout with the High Priest of the Wolf Clan and on to Elwesland and a final meeting with his real enemy menacing him and his homeland. This is third in the Book Of Isle trilogy...but nevertheless, complete in itself so don't worry if you missed the earlier parts. The style is episodic, thus avoiding much tedious plodding to a single denouement as so ften mars this type of yarn. Violence is mainly 'off stage' and it makes for a pleasant, ever interesting yarn. One little quibble...I didn't like the cover painting (uncredited)

THE EPSON FX / KAGA Printer Commands Revealed

David Smith

Watford Electronics

When I bought my Epson FX80, I was only a Tyro Mk.1 at computing, (I'm now a Tyro Mk.2) and it took me a full month to decypher the Epson Manual (in non-BBC compatible Microsoft Basic) and get the machine to co-operate with my Beeb. If only I had possessed a copy of this little volume (116pp Appx A5, in loose leaf format) at least 90% of my problems would never have arisen. Its 8 chapters cover:- Print Mode, Bit Image, Line spacing, paper feed, format control, Download Chrs., Input Data Control and 'Miscellaneous...all in a totally comprehensible fashion. Each page gives you the Epson Command, its BBC and Kaga equivalents (plus Wordwise). The relevant pages in the manuals are given, a description of what the code does and then a programmed example complete with a printout. All clear as crystal, and for good measure, an index summarises everything for quick reference. Unless you're an utter whiz kid, you MUST get this one if you have a Beeb/Epson combo. £5.95 (+£1 p & p) from Watford Electronics, 250 High St. Watford. You will mention ERG won't you..then they might send further titles for review.

FUTURA NEWS tells of two new titles:- THE WISHSONG OF SHANNARA by Terry Brooks is the last of the Shannara trilogy... 'Horror stalks the Four Lands. The Ildatch, immortal book of evil spells, has stirred once more to eldritch life sending its ghastly Mord Wraiths to wreak final destruction on mankind' Price £4.95, Pub. July 11th. Horseclans.11. CHAMPION OF THE LAST BATTLE..by Robert Adams is the latest in the series. 'Bili and Prince Byruhn rally their troops for the final defence of New Kuhmbuhlun. But even as the people flock to their great stone city and Bili's warriors take up their posts on the walls, the Skohshuns are building new weapons of destruction to storm the fortress.... within the grounds stalks a creature of nightmare...' £1.95 Pub. July 11th.

THE STEPS OF THE SUN

Walter Tevis

Corgi £2.95

Earth is into a chronic power shortage and against Government orders, millionaire Belson ploughs money into a starship and sets off to find 'safe' uranium. Neurotic and sexually impotent, he not only finds his power metal, but also a pain-killing drug..and a very understated (and underused) plant with semi-sentient vegetation. However, rivals have moved against him back on Earth and drastic measures have to be taken before he regains his power (and virility)..along the way, he becomes Chinese, is employed as a prize stud and also a more likeable human being. A rattling good story, but not an award winning one..for my taste, there were too many introspective flash-backs hampering the main narrative. Even so, you'll not be able to put it down once you get right into it.

SUNDIVER

David Brin

Bantam £1.95

The fairly near future; Citizens who register as potentially violent are given implants to restrict their movements, Contact has been made with a Galactic Council and aliens have reservations on Earth. One E.T. lures Jacob Demwa, man of many strange abilities on a 'Sundiver' expedition to check out the 'gjosts' inhabiting the photosphere. However, the ghosts seem hostile, a ship is destroyed and another sabotaged before Demwa unravels the mystery. This is superbly inventive, near-detective fiction, SF with the aliens own powers fitting neatly into the pattern. The jacket says this is a first book,(but another is listed before it on the credits)..either way, it's a great yarn, and Brin is an author to watch.

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THE GOLDEN ROAD Ed. Jason Knight Gollancz. 1974 342pp 18 stories £5.00
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IMPERIAL EARTH A.C. Clarke Harcourt Brace BC. Edn. USA. 1976 £4.00

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- OUTER REACHES Ed. August Derleth Pellegrini & Cudahy. USA. 1971
Good, no jacket. Sellotape marks on boards. Bkplate on fly 17 stories £4.00
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Banco Press. USA. 1958 VG. with dj, 255pp Bkplate on fly
11 stories 7 articles £6.00
TRIANGLE I. Asizov Doubleday BC Edn. USA. G/VG Bkplate on fly
Contains- Currents of Space, Pebble In The Sky, The Stars Like Dust £6.00
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