



35c

Spacemen

OCTOBER No. 5

SUPER ISSUE

ON
YESTERDAY'S
SPACEMEN

THE FIRST
BUCK
ROGERS
ON FILM

**RADAR
MEN**
from the
MOON


JUN 21



**FLYING DISC
MAN** from **MARS**

**YOU ASKED FOR IT!
ORBITARY
DEPARTMENT**





SPACE FANS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

UNITE in Chicago, over the Labor Day Holiday end of Aug. and beginning of Sep.—at the **WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION** where you can meet **SPACEMEN'S** Editor in person . . . plus **SPACEMEN'S** publisher James Warren, as well as Theodore Sturgeon (author of "Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea"), Robert Bloch, Robert Silverberg, Donald Wolheim, John W. Campbell (author of **THE THING**) and a host of other prominent sci-fi personalities with whom you are familiar thru the pages of **SPACEMEN** and **FAMOUS MONSTERS**. The legendary Space Expert Willy Ley frequently attends such occasions. And Robot Master Asimov. You owe it to yourself to get details at once from **20th WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION**, P.O.B. 4864, Chicago 80, Illinois, and plan to be in Chicago at the Pick-Congress Hotel 31 Aug. thru 3 Sep.

THIS is YOUR Special Invitation to attend this Special Event!
FJA



THIS SPACE FOR HIRE: Price 4c. Unless the cost of a First Class Stamp has gone up to a nickel, as there has been some talk. In other words, all it takes to buy a space here to see yourself in print is the price of a postage stamp. Just be sure, of course, the envelope you stick it on contains a letter worth publishing. So—let the Space Mail mount higher & higher!

TREASURES FROM THE TIME-VAULT

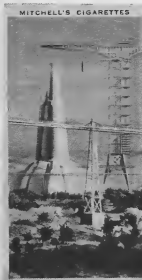
While sorting thru a number of sci-fi maps in a friend's garage recently I came across a partial set of a series of 50 small cards which I should judge were issued in about 1935 in England. Called *The World of Tomorrow*, they were apparently included with packs of cigarettes such as today pictures of monsters are to be found packed with bubble gum. I thought your readers might like a look at the *Space-Gun* from *THINGS TO COME* and a couple

of imaginative drawings of the future featured in the set.

WM. YAKEY JR.
HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

● We are indeed grateful to you, Bill, for sharing these fascinating cards "out of the Ark" with us. We recognize the *Anti-Gas Ray* drawing as being by Frank R. Paul, the *Grand Old Man of Science Fiction Art*, and the story it originally illustrated "The World At Bay" in a 1928 issue of *Amazing Stories*. The

continued on page 6



SPACE-GUN



ANTI-GAS RAY



GYRO-MOTOR RACE

Spacemen

OCTOBER, 1962
Vol. 2, No. 1

FORREST J ACKERMAN
editor-in-orbit and
writer to the stars

**CHESELY
BONESTELL**
honorary
showaway
flight #5

SAMUEL M. SHERMAN
Contributing Editor

**HARRY
CHESTER**
production
pilot

MAURICE COOPER
Space Traffic Manager

LEE IRGANG
Circulation

BEN TAUBMAN
Advertising

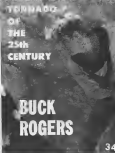
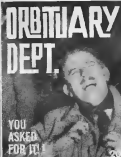
**JAMES
WARREN**
interstellar
publisher

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continued from page 4

gym-motor racers were drawn in 1932 by Leo Morey for a story called "Salcido Drake's Last Ride" in Amazing Stories.

READERS—LIKE TO BE INSULTED?

I have been rather amused by the quality of your "fan" mail. More than 99.98% of the "fans" are nothing more than kiddies who have deluded themselves into thinking that Trash (no—strike Trash—TRASH like 12 TO THE MOON and ANGRY RED PLANET are Science Fiction. Mr. (?) Lane of Calif. names Wells, Verne & Clarke as classic writers. He probably read Classic Comics version of THE TIME MACHINE and WAR OF THE WORLDS. What about Simak, Pohl, Kornbluth, Boucher, Paul Anderson, Judith Merrill, Robt. Shekley, Alfred Bester, Isaac Asimov and all the others? As for this Clod Moye, he hasn't grown out of Space Opera yet! Just in case, I might mention Edgar Rice Burroughs' classic Wars novels and ask if he's heard of them. They haven't much plot and aren't very sophisticated but they supply the color & gore that his type of mentality requires. The basic problem is that the number of good Imaginative Fiction films made is in the figures on your hand. Not even the technically superb FORBIDDEN PLANET was very good plotwise. For your kiddie readers' information, the Jan. 1953 Astounding has an excellent listing of a basic science fiction library.

A. LOOER
ALBANY, NY

SATISFIED SPACEMEN



Mike Kapesky of New Chicago, Nars

"12" TO THE MOON

Fm 12 and forever mooring about space. The space suit I'm wearing in my picture is the

one that I ordered from your magazines. They are the greatest. So is SM. I have every issue to date and each one is better than the other. The one thing I want to see most is some exciting scenes from the discontinued Tom Corbett TV series. I think the best write-up on a movie was Collision Course (WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE) in No. 1.

MICHAEL KOPESKY
CHICAGO, ILL.

HOBBY HINT

I have a little hobby which I would like to pass on to every Spaceman & Spacewoman reading these pages. I collect articles & anything dealing with a movie or U.S. space development and staple them in the book in which they appear! At a Rocket Exposition in Detroit, I got a little piece of actual solid fuel used by S-13 (tank-destroying missile) and put it on the inside cover of SM No. 1. And on p. 42 of the same issue I stapled an article on Battle in Outer Space. In SM No. 2, I stapled a 4-pg. article on WAR OF THE WORLDS from Popular Science magazine. It had a picture of the drawings that went into the making of the Devil Steps. I made the "full-sized miniature" on paper and put it in a folder and glued it to the inside back cover.

JOHN FARION
CEARSBORN, MICH.

WOODS TO FORREST

I am a fan of both Horror & Sci-Fi movies, having no preference. I do appreciate an adult level of writing. In SM No. 1, RIDERS TO THE STARS and 12 TO THE MOON had fair write-ups; best were WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE and BATTLE IN OUTER SPACE. No. 2: Tremendous article on WAR OF THE WORLDS—in my opinion the best article either SM or FM has ever published. Tremendous synopsis of THINGS TO COME but "How to Say Hello to a Martian" was a complete waste of space. No. 3: Fair cover. I wish you would feature famous science fiction characters on your covers like Robur the Conqueror, Capt. Nemo, Robby the Robot, Ymir from 20 MILLION MILES TO EARTH, saucer man from EARTH VS. THE FLYING SAUCERS, Michael Rennie from DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL, Commando Cody and other such characters. You could also feature famous vehicles such as the submarines from 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA and VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA, the flying ship from MASTER OF THE WORLD, the Time Machine, and many different types of rocketships & space stations used in films. "Training for Space" another waste of space; this mag is supposed to be about science fiction not science-fact. THE LOST PLANET synopsis was very complete—I would like to see more of this type of thing. I love to see the old serials brought back to life and am very glad to see a magazine like SCREEN THRILLS ILLUSTRATED has been created for this purpose. Truly a great synopsis of GIRL IN THE MOON. No. 4: Terrific cover—I wish you would always have covers of this type. The advertising poster shows with "Return of the Saucers" was very good—I wish you would put at least one poster like this in every issue of SM & FM. I like your Super Space page and especially enjoyed the scene from MASK OF FU MANCHU. "They Came from Other Space" was interesting in the respect that the covers were true classics. "The Ace of Space" was very good and all photos accompanying it were collec-

tors' items, especially the old advertising poster. Both publications are getting better & better. Keep up the good work.

ROBERT WOODS
GARDEN CITY, MICH.

THIS SPACE RESERVED



● Anyone knowing whereabouts of head of STEFFI BORTIMER (half-seen above) of Ramona, Calif., please return to owner.

THE "KITCHEN SINK" CREATURE; OR, CONFIDENTIALLY—IT SINKS!

Who are you trying to kid? Nowhere in all the lurid episodes of FLASH GORDON or FLASH GORDON'S TRIP TO MARS, in no weird land of Mongo nor in any obscure country of the Red Planet did Buster Crabbe ever meet up with any crazy mixed-up creature like you pictured on the cover of No. 4. What gives?

MORT BLACK
CHAUDAIR, NY

● Actually the cover on our July issue was a collectors' item—the first collaboration between Basil Gogos and . . . Jim Warren! Upon completion of the left-hand portion of the painting Gogos was suddenly stricken with Venous Virus and ordered to bed by his physician with a 103° temperature. Originally Emperor Ming was to be fighting with Flash but suddenly the choice was either a half-blank cover or—? So, borrowing a popping eye from Peter Lerre, a bell from the Frankenstein Monster, a swelled head from the Metastin Mutant, a horn from a triceratops and the metallic arms from a robot, your resourceful publisher himself rushed out and got a Drew It Yourself Kit and, with the printer panting down his neck, painted the "Immortal Kitchen Sink Creature" which so many of you hailed as a Monsterpiece!

... WANT TO
WRITE US?

SPECIAL DELIVERY letters (which cannot be answered personally) may be addressed for consideration for publication to Astrid Notte, 915 South Sherbourne Dr., Los Angeles 35, Calif.



**In the Space of the Next Few Months
you will be Thrilling to New
Special Effect Films Forecast Here!**



THE MAN FROM PLANET X puts the hex on Earth Girl.

One of 3 Spacemen who heads far Mars in West Germany's **MISSION INTERPLAN.**



stars over Seattle

Better hop a rocket to the 21st Century Worlds Fair! There, in Seattle, Washington, you'll find the 8th Wonder of the World, the motion picture miracle known as—

COSMO-VISION!

This million dollar celluloid marvel, a year in the making, is the feature of the **SPACEARIUM**, the circular theater where, on the largest screen the world has ever known, you'll view the planet Mars, the sun close up, Saturn's glorious rings, even a super nova, as you whiz 160 million miles an hour on—

A JOURNEY TO THE STARS!

Animation . . . stop motion . . . optical effects . . . stereo music . . . all combine to make this the most amazing movie experience of a lifetime.

750 people at a time grasp handrails as they hear the countdown, feel the simulated blastoff, hold their breaths during a zip trip to the Moon. And—positively no one seated during *any* portion of the picture. Standing Room Only, because—no seats!

warning to Mars

Beings of Barsoom, head for the stars—the 3 Stooges are coming! Yes, Larry, Moe & Curly Joe are scheduled to take Planet 4 apart in a space farce whose title has been announced in some places as **THE 3 STOOGES MEET THE MARTIANS** and in others as **THE 3 STOOGES IN ORBIT.**

trees of terror

Roots that writhe like striking serpents . . . plants of peril that pounce on people . . . trees that are both carnivores & cannibals—these are the new horrors lurking in the Antarctic nite, creeping upon the unwary. These scary things are **THE NIGHT CRAWLERS.** You can read all about these delirium tree-mens in the Gold Medal pocketbook version known as "The Monster from Earth's End", wherein a plane crazily circles a little island, its cargo-bay open, its



"One of the best science fiction films ever produced" say European critics of SPACESHIP VENUS DOES NOT REPLY, the East German-Polish picture of the 1970 flight to the "Planet of the Dead."



Quartet of Daring Explorers prepares to Discover What made **THE ANGRY RED PLANET** mad.

radio dead. "It seemed to hang in the air for a moment and then it dived downward, levelled and dipped again. It made a belly landing on the stone runway with its wheels still retracted. There was a singular, dead silence and then a shot rang out. The crew of 2 and the 7 passengers had vanished, the cargo was strewn about and the fuel tanks had been emptied. And the pilot, after landing, had blown his brains out." Later, the body of the dead pilot is—stolen? But by whom—or what—and for what purpose? Inside the eerie warehouse, where the corpse should be, "Drake could hear something topple and fall. He strained to listen and heard another noise. It was a peculiar, slithering noise. It was not footsteps, it was not a padding made by paws. It was a sustained, sliding, grating sound." The sound of the **NIGHT CRAWLERS**, creeping closer & closer to your screen!

Coming, too, are the Triffids, the 10' tall prowling beast-plants that attack a blinded, panic-stricken humanity in the book and have people all shook up on the screen in **THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS**. John Wyndham, of **VILLAGE OF THE DAMNED** fame, wrote the terrific original novel.

the birds & the beasts

If **THE BIRDS** of Alfred Hitchcock don't swoop down from the sky in concert and attack our heads & eyes, we may live to see **SPACE DEMON**, the first production of Arcadia-International, conceived & executed by Mark McGee, the teenage Bert Gordon. This stop-action color short (in which the action rarely stops) features the unlikely combination of a spaceship & a brontosaurus!



The Peritran—a ray machine that can destroy aircraft, in **THE GREAT ALASKAN MYSTERY**.

quatermass 3 on tv

Our British correspondent, HWDouthwaite, reports to us on the television of **QUATERMASS AND THE PIT**. "Before readers see the forthcoming film version," he says, "I'm sure they would like some more information on the original telecast." Certain you will agree, we present Douthwaite's review:

THE PIT was the most lavish & costly fantasy production yet screened by the British Broadcasting Co. The ancient Martian rocketship, a superbly weird design, was constructed of fibreglas and cost a considerable sum.

Top BBC visual effects men Jack Kine & Bernard Wilkie worked overtime on the epic, producing a multitude of varied & startling effects. "Prehistoric" Martians,

truly fantastic in conception, were animated in a most lifelike way for a film sequence depicting Martian racial suicide, acted out millions of years ago on the Red Planet.

In one scene the evil influences radiating from the alien ship galvanize a host of pipes & power-lines into violent, ghostly action. To achieve this effect, many tiny apertures were drilled in the rubber tubings and compressed air forced thru, causing them to gyrate wildly as tho suddenly possessed with life.

Another impressive effect was accomplished when a gravel pathway was made to ripple as tho a pack of rats was running beneath it; additional impact was added to this chilling sequence by the skillful use of small, squeaking sounds.

The film version, if anything like the original tele-serial, will be a classic all fantasy fans will clutch to their hearts.



On their Way to Mors, Abbott & Costello experience one of the Free Fall Wonders of Up-Side-Down-ness.



Fiendish creatures meets fiery finish in **QUEEN OF OUTER SPACE.**

sparks from the space-o-graph

When the eagle flies in **BURN, WITCH, BURN**, you will scream. I just saw the preview and I guarantee it. In the audience was Chas. Nuetzel, co-author of "Count-down to Doom", who declared—"Really great!" Another author present, Wm. Stroup, echoed: "Excellent!" Gray Daniels phoned my office the next day to confirm that the climax had him sitting on the edge of his seat. Chas. Beaumont, who co-wrote the screenplay with Richard Matheson, took his preteen son to see the preview, and when the lights went up remarked, "Well, I think Fritz Leiber should be pleased with this version." Leiber is the

author of the novel "Conjure Wife" on which **BURN, WITCH, BURN** is based and from which a previous picture, **WEIRD WOMAN**, was (too) loosely adapted.

Watch for: **BATTLE BEYOND THE SUN . . . ROBINSON CRUSOE ON MARS . . . MASCISTE AT THE CENTER OF THE EARTH . . . OFF ON A FLYING CARPET . . . MASCISTE, KING OF SCIENCE FICTION . . . THE SECRET OF THE TELEGRAM . . . BARAN . . . WHEN THE SLEEPER WAKES . . . FOOD OF THE GODS . . . MICROSCOPIA . . . THE HUMAN VAPOR . . . THE COSMONAUTS . . . A MARTIAN IN PARIS . . . THE PLANET OF EXTINGUISHED MEN . . . and RETURN TO THE PHANTOM PLANET.**

END

RADAR MEN

FROM THE
MOON



Blasting out of space and into atomic action, Republic's great serial of Death Ray Destruction!



A couple of the Goodies make off with the Baddies' roygun.

meet the cast

First there's Commando Cody (Geo. Wallace), young scientist of the near future known as the Sky Marshal of the Universe.

Next, his assistants Joan Gilbert (Aline Towne) and Ted Richards (Wm. Bakewell).

Then there's Retik (Roy Barcroft), the Ruler of the Moon itself!

And such assorted cohorts & villains as Graber, Krog, Zerg, Alon, Ilank, Robal, Nator, Bream and—Jones?

chapter #1

As the serial opens ("Moon Rocket") America's military defenses are being sabotaged by a series of mysterious blasts. The Government contacts Cody for help.

Commando Cody, who is in the midst of perfecting a Buck Rogers-type flying suit and a personal rocketship for lunar flight, goes right to work and discovers 2 men are about to blast a troop train with an atomic gun.


The villains escape but Cody discovers they are using an unknown element in the atomic weapon. By scientific deduction Cody concludes that the substance must have emanated from the Moon. To verify his calculations he prepares to rocket to our satellite.

ensuing episodes

In "Molten Terror" . . . "Bridge of Death" . . . "Flight to Destruction" . . . "Murder Car" & "Hills of Death", Cody and his companions have many hazardous adventures & narrow escapes, both on the



Men in the DESTINATION MOON-type spacesuits are lunar villains.



Mad Moon Man proudly displays super-destructive death-ray mechanism with which his kind plans subjugation of the world.

Earth and on the Moon.

On the Moon itself he first discovers an unknown, hidden city—huge, wall-surrounded—ruled over by Retik, whose mad ambition is to conquer the world.

Also on the Moon—proving his theory & justifying his flight there—he finds the secret element of destruction used in the ray-gun. It is named *lunarium*.

But in discovering lunarium, Commando Cody is himself discovered—in Retik's great laboratory—and is made a prisoner.

return to earth?

Thru a combination of resourcefulness &

quick wits, Cody manages to escape Retik's trap and, together with Joan & Ted, attempts to return to Earth in order to warn the world of the threat to its future if the mad Moon dictator and his minions are not overcome.

Can Cody elude Retik and his henchmen?

Can he get back to Earth alive and in time?

For the (illustrated) answers to these thrilling questions, don't fail to get the next issue of *SPACEMEN* and read about & see about the rest of the **RADAR MEN FROM THE MOON!**

END

This is our Tell-a-Vision section: YOU tell us what you want to see, we provide the visions! Can't get enough of Gort? Want more of the Midwich Cuckoos? Crazy about

Rotwang, the Mad Scientist of the 21st Century city METROPOLIS? Address your requests to Dept. 45J, SPACEMEN, 915 So. Sherbourne Dr., Los Angeles 35, Calif.



THE DEVIL COMMANDS, Korloff obeys! For DAN DeROMAINE this "man in the iron mask" scene from the 1941 thriller based on the book "The Edge of Running Water."

ORBITUARY DEPARTMENT



THE DEVIL GIRL FROM MARS (1955) poses again for **ART JOUELLE** of NYC and **FRAN SEAN** of Hollywood, Calif.

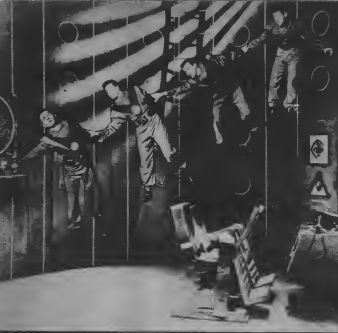


For **ABBIE HERRICK** of Riviera Beach, Fla. and **STEPHEN GOLDBERG** of NYC, this space-mon from **THE MYSTERIANS**.

ORBITUARY DEPT.

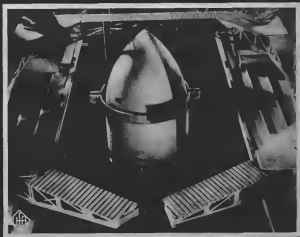
Four floaters in free fall, and all for PAUL LEIFFER—and thousands like him! This great scene from *SPACE CADET* took place aboard the cosmic cruiser "Polaris," and there is Tom Carbett, Astro, Roger Manning and Capt. Strang—up in the air as usual

When Martin Stephens (insert) gets "that look," things happen in *VILLAGE OF THE DAMNED*. Here, one of the space-children's enemies is set on fire. Photo requested by HARRY BEYNON & WYNNE DOMME.





Remember thrilling episodes like "Hydrogen Hurricane," "Atomic Peril" & "Destroyers of the Sun?" NEAL DALEVIT does, from Republic's **COMMANDO CODY**, and here's a scene to fulfill his request.



Spaceship "Friede" is lowered into her liquid bath preparatory to being launched to Luno. From Fritz Long's immortal **WOMAN IN THE MOON** for OSCAR ESTES, PATRO VILCHJO, LILLY LoTAYE, GERTRUDE SURUAM & ALAN GLASSER.

ORBITUARY DEPARTMENT



TERROR FROM THE TWILIGHT ZONE

He come from on alien planet, this giant with a giant's appetite. Fried or foe? The world did not know until too late, until the title of his text was translated and shook humonity up with the realization that *TO SERVE MAN* was a cook book—! **BILL YAKEY, ANTHONY BOWKER & R. DAMONITE** wanted to get another look of the extra-terrestrial giant and if they now have frightmares it will serve them right!

SPACEMEN OF DISTINCTION #2

*Old Spacemen never die.
Watch this space for
Your Favorite Guy!
YOUR Favorite Guy!*

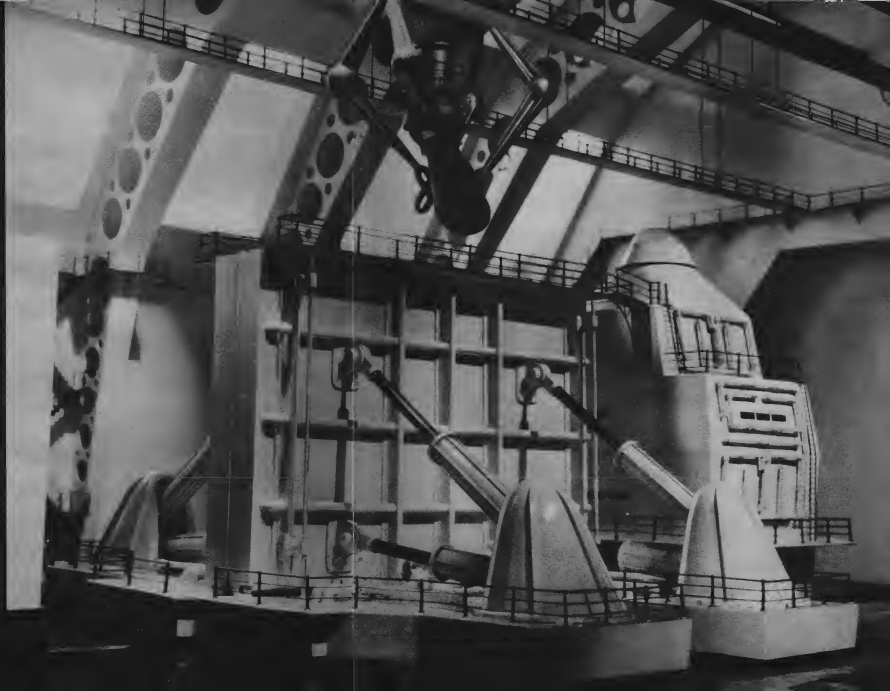


Exeter!—a spaceman to remember. Jeff Marrow as the Mighty Mental Manarch of Metoluno, world far from THIS ISLAND EARTH. Exeter: Master of the Mutants, Mastermind behind the unrelenting Space War against the Alien Enemies of Zahgon, Exeter: Spocemon Extraordinary.

This is the Place!—the space reserved each issue for a Two Page Spread of the kind of special picture you like to cut out and pin up in your bedroom or booknook to give it that Up-to-Tomorrow Look!

THE SUPER SPACE

The Shapers of Things to Come—some of the Mighty Machines of the Wellston World of 2036 AD, Amazing Mechanisms to build the Wonders of the Space Age. This Classic Miniature created by Ned Moss in 1935 for THINGS TO COME.



SPACIAL COVERAGE

We've covered the world to uncover another out-of-this-world collection of unusual magazine & book jacket drawings relating to Space & Time and filmic adventures. A Sequel to the Feature you liked so much last issue—"They Came from Other Space."



LIRE 130

N. 56 - 25 SETTEMBRE 1955

Spedizione in abbonam.
postale (2)

DA QUESTO ROMANZO
È STATO TRATTO
UN GRANDIOSO
TECHNICOLOR DELLA
"UNIVERSAL
INTERNATIONAL"

Metaluna Mutant menaces Hera & Heraine in this cover concept from Italy for THIS ISLAND EARTH.

I ROMANZI di URANIA

Arnoldo Mondadori Editore Milano
PERIODICO SETTIMANALE

DESERTO DEI MOSTRI

di ERIC NORTH



LIRE 130

Look familiar? Like something out of THE GIANT MANTIS, maybe?

HÄPNA!

Arg. 2
Nr 7-8
1955

SCIENCE FICTION — TEKNISKA ÄVENTYR

SOMMARNUMMER
Juli — Augusti

★

*Nordens
enda
stora
science
fiction
tidskrift*

PRIS 1:50



Mystery Man Exefer, Super Scientist of Metaluna, feels the pinch as the Mad Mutant attacks on cover of Swedish magazine illustrating Universal-International's 1955 hit, THIS ISLAND EARTH.

AMAZING STORIES

SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL

20 MILLION MILES TO EARTH

35¢

BY HENRY SLESAR—

Based on

Columbia Pictures'

Shock-Thriller



This Outerspace Monster Levelled Cities — Ravaged Earth

Harryhausen's famous Venusian ymir pictured by Amazing Artist.

STARTLING STORIES SEPT.

15¢



THE BRIDGE TO EARTH

A Book-Length
Novel of
Men Who Vanish

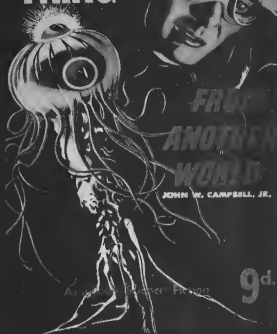
By **ROBERT
MOORE WILLIAMS**

A THRILLING
PUBLICATION

**CASH PRIZES GIVEN
FOR BEST STORIES OF THIS COVER**

These GRAVE-ROBBERS FROM OUTER SPACE appeared on this cover in 1939, nearly 20 years before the film of the same name (title later changed to PLAN 9 FROM OUTER SPACE) was made.

THE THING



FROM
ANOTHER
WORLD

JOHN W. CAMPBELL, JR.

Asiatic Science Fiction

9d.

by JOHN W. CAMPBELL, Jr.

WHO GOES THERE?



SHASTA

IF YOU'VE SEEN THE MOTION PICTURE,
YOU'LL WANT TO READ ABOUT



WHO
GOES
THERE?

by JOHN W. CAMPBELL, Jr.

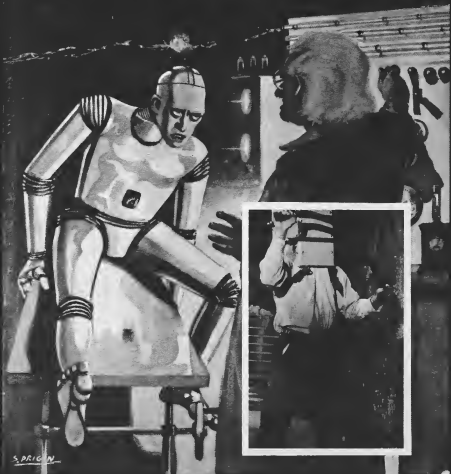
Editor: ASTOUNDING SCIENCE-FICTION

The shape of THE THING as seen thru the Austrolian eyes of artist Safone Jois (left) ond on the right by Malcolm Smith an American book jacket.

FANTASY

THRILLING SCIENCE FICTION

1/4



Strange Pair! On the cover of this 1938 British magazine, artist Drigin drew a metallic man with a human head; in Mexico, last year, they produced a thriller called ORLAK where the Frankenstein creation had a human body and a radio-controlled metal head!

BUCK ROGERS

When filmic fighters of the planetary beyond are discussed, it's FLASH GORDON in the person of Buster Crabbe, who usually gets all the applause. To-

morrow's great wonder, BUCK ROGERS, is somehow overlooked. Let's turn the spotlight on this great hero again as we zoom forth to the 25th century.



all photographs in this article copyright Universal Pictures Co. Inc.



**EXCLUSIVE
SPACEMEN
INTERVIEW**
by SAM
SHERMAN





radio activates Rogers

Strange as it may seem, the 25th century began for Buck with the creation of his era in the 1920's. The *New Yorker* magazine took a deep look at this space age wonder when it reviewed his radio program on December 22, 1934:

Buck Rogers began as a cartoon strip about five years ago. Buck was an American soldier who was put to sleep by some mysterious gas after the World War (the first one) and woke up in the year 2400. He spends his time in the daily cartoon strip (and on the radio four times a week) flying around the brave new universe from planet to planet accompanied by one Wilma Deering, a pal (not a sweetheart). With them is Dr. Huer who invents all kinds of mechanical and chemical and psychic devices to foil and if possible destroy, Killer Kane and his pal, Ardala Valmar, who is a wretch. Some of the contraptions are rocket pistols, rocket ships, de-gravity belts, paralysis rays, lightning guns, space suits (which make it possible to step off into space without getting hurt) and an electro-hypno mentalaphone for reading the minds of villains and learning their dastardly plots. Columbia Broadcasting studios use 25 different motors to imitate the various mechanical devices of Dr. Huer. The sound of the psychic restriction ray, however, is made by a Schick razor. Mr. John F. Dille, who has his own syndicate, thought up Buck. The cartoon strip is drawn by Dick Calkins and written by Phil Nowlan.

"Zap!" you're disintegrated

The original radio program featured Matthew Crowley as Buck, Adele Ronson as Wilma Deering and Edgar Stehli as Dr. Huer. Yes, before the great movie serial, Buck was pictured in newspaper strips and heard on the radio. The kids went wild over him! Buck's products of all sorts dominated the American scene. Sorry indeed was the youngster who did not have his own Buck Rogers "Rocket Pistol". In one de-

Dove Shorpe (left) as Buddy and Eddie Porker as Buck leap into a fight with Killer Kone's crowd. This shot shows the two stunt oces who performed the action the studio would not allow Buster to do.



Buck's in a fix as Captain Lasca, played by Henry Brandon (right), turns Prince Tallen and the people of Saturn against him.



Scott (Carleton Young) and his ray pistol mean sure disintegration for Buck Rogers if Buster loses this fight.

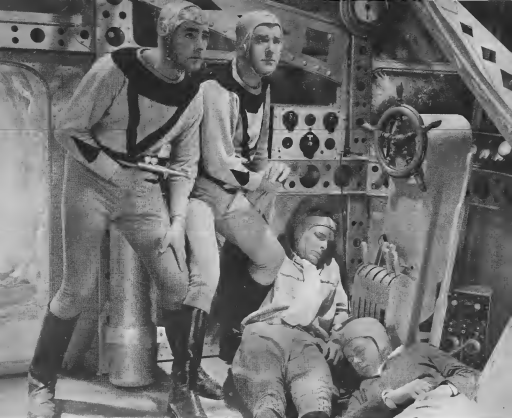
partment store alone, 1500 were set loose upon the world, the first day on sale. The weapon was made of heavy metal in a super-futuristic design. When the trigger was pulled a snapping sound described as "Zap" was heard.

the cameras roll

Working with a favorite like this, Universal Studios saw a natural hit for the movies. If they could obtain the world's foremost spaceman, Buster Crabbe, they were set. So, after 30 episodes of **FLASH GORDON** (in 2 serials), Buster became **BUCK ROGERS** in a 12 chapter space panorama.

After breaking the script down into episodic form, the production of the serial took

six weeks. Action dominated the film as 3 top stuntmen (famed for later Republic serials) strutted their stuff. Dave Sharpe, Eddie Parker and Tom Steele received the jolts as they were joined by Roy Barcroft and Kenne Duncan (later Republic villains) this time as defenders of right. The players in support of Buster as Buck Rogers were Constance Ford as Wilma Deering, C. Montague Shaw as Dr. Huer, Jackie Moran as Buddy and Anthony Warde as Killer Kane. In the stunt department, Eddie Parker doubled for Buster while Dave Sharpe filled in for Jackie Moran. This sounds quite amazing, as who has ever been in better physical shape than Buster Crabbe? However, even if he *wanted* to do all his own stunting, the studio would not permit it. They had quite a bit of money



Captain Rankin (Jack Mulhall) and Lieutenant Lacy (Kenne Duncan) discover the 20th century Buck in a state of suspended animation in the 25th century.

invested in him (as the central figure in this production) so they had no plans of jeopardizing their investment.

Buster's views on Buck

Recently, I discussed stuntwork and other cinematic situations with Buster Crabbe, who commented as follows:

SPACEMEN—"How did they determine what action was to be doubled?"

BUSTER—"The further you got in the picture, the more of a chance they were taking of getting the star cracked up. The result being, holding up production at a good deal of added expense (production-wise), or not being able to complete the picture at all."

SPACEMEN—"Thinking about today's

space achievements, did people at the time BUCK ROGERS was made, think these films were the wildest, craziest things in the world?"

BUSTER—"Yeah, (with a chuckle) a little bit. But the films went over *pretty well*."

SPACEMEN—"I notice Phillip Ahn was cast as Prince Tallen, ruler of Saturn. Was there a specific reason for choosing an Oriental actor for the role?"

BUSTER—"He's Korean and you see him a lot today. He's turned out to be quite a good actor. As far as the casting goes, who knew just what a Saturnian should look like anyway?"

SPACEMEN—"I wonder if you remember how they did any of the special effects?"

BUSTER—"Oh sure. In some shots the spaceships didn't move, the background



Buddy Wade (Jackie Moran) and Buck Rogers find out that their dirigible is about to crash on an icy Arctic mountain.

There is no escape for Wilma Deering from these weird creatures. Who are they?



moved as it was on a rotary drum. The special effects men blew smoke around the ship and once in a great while they'd swoop one down. But the ships were hard to control because they were operated on a pendulum rig. If the spaceships weren't handled just right, they looked phonier than they actually were. Some of the attacks were rigged using strings and with the smoke covering up the faults, it didn't look too bad."

SPACEMEN—"How big were the actual miniature ships that were filmed?"

BUSTER—"On the average, about 10 inches."

SPACEMEN—"Do you remember anything about the ray guns?"

BUSTER—"You might be interested to know that the ray effect was done by scratching lines on the actual film frames. The prop department at Universal dreamed up the space gun design by trying to follow the original comic strip drawings."

one can defy gravity

SPACEMEN—"Who directed Buck Rogers?"

BUSTER—"The directors were Ford Beebe and Saul Goodkind, a former film editor. He was actually a cutter directing, and he planned the editing as the film was being shot."

SPACEMEN—"How were the de-gravity belt effects obtained?"

BUSTER—"Piano wire. We wore harnesses the same as Mary Martin used as PETER PAN. The only dangers being kinks, if one formed, the wire would break. But there were no broken necks, bones or anything like that."

SPACEMEN—"Where were the outdoor scenes, that were supposed to take place on other planets, shot?"

BUSTER—"Mostly at Chatsworth, Red Rock Canyon and the Mojave Desert, all of them not too far from the studios in California."

SPACEMEN—"Was there much promotion and touring with films like BUCK ROGERS?"

BUSTER—"Oh sure, just because it was a serial is no reason why they shouldn't publicize it. The serials made more money for the studios than a lot of their big pictures. A three-quarter million dollars production budget was spent on the first FLASH GORDON, but it paid off in big dividends."

SPACEMEN—"When a serial was made,



Buster Crabbe as Buck Rogers, the hero of tomorrow who climbed to popularity heights never before achieved.



Buster demonstrates the "25th century slow" as he downs one of Killer Kane's men.

Dr. Muer and his assistants prepare their ray machine for immediate action.



were *Cliffhanger* scenes shot two or three ways to get the hero out of peril for the next chapter?"

BUSTER—"Yes, serials were always shot that way. For example: a man is shown actually falling off a cliff—cut—that's the end of one episode. Then for the next chapter, they pick up showing him *roll* down and then grab something to save himself. They *cheat* a little so that he never actually fell off. You know, I was a serial fan even before I got into pictures and I'll never forget the trickery they used *then* to save the hero."

SPACEMEN—"Do you enjoy watching your own features & serials today?"

BUSTER—"I'm critical of them. Some of the ones I enjoyed working in, I enjoy watching. I often wonder though, why I did the scene the way I did. But sometimes, after not seeing a picture for a long time and thinking it's very poor, I'm pleasantly surprised."

SPACEMEN—"Back in 1952, you had an ABC-TV show on which BUCK ROGERS and some of your other films were run. Was there much of a fan club connected with the films and this show?"

BUSTER—"You bet! We had BUSTER'S BUDDIES clubs and there were 35,000 members in the New York area alone. The kids loved the serials and these films are still the type of entertainment they'd like a lot today."

They certainly are the type of entertainment that everybody enjoys, if Buster Crabbe is the star. He's the man who brought a new dimension to the chapter play—*acting!* We believed in Buck and the other characters Buster played, because his acting convinced us that a situation was *really desperate*. Even in the fantastic-futuristic settings, the conflicts became real. These were the only films of their kind; they can never be recreated!

In next issue's concluding installment, we'll return with the movie story of BUCK ROGERS. What happens when Buck is made a helpless robot slave of the filament ray helmet? Can Killer Kane destroy Buck's hidden city and thus rule the Earth? Is Saturn the planet where enemies or friends dwell? Who are the horrible Zugg men? And what is the story behind the failure of a 1950 BUCK ROGERS TV series *without* Buster Crabbe? You'll find out the answers to these questions, and much more, as we return with the 25th century and adventure in the future.

END

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THE MONSTER MAKER

By Leonard Spaulding

In this exciting 2-part thriller about a future rocket-roving photographer for Cosmic Films, the young author - only 24 - to our mind writes like a man who might one day chronicle Martian adventures, create works as hot as Fahrenheit 451, even script a whale of a movie. See if you don't agree.

Unusual, unexpected things happen thick and fast in the concluding installment of this startling story. Well worth waiting for! Don't miss the unpre-

dictable conclusion, next issue...

O'HENRY'S
COMET
tales with a twist in their tail

hanging to his camera and gritting to keep holding it. When a sweet shot that had been of the meteor! A sweeter one still of Marnagan feasting the controls and keeping his words to himself until just now.

It got quiet. It got so quiet you could almost hear the asteroids rushing up, cold blue and hard. You could hear your heart kicking a tom-tom between your sick stomach and your empty lungs.

Stars, asteroids revolved. Click grabbed Marnagan because he was the next-est thing, and held on. You came bumping for a space-raider and you ended up cradled in a slab-sized Irishman's arms, diving at a hunk of metal death. What a fall-out!

"Fish!" he heard himself say. "Is this IT?"

"Is this what?" yelled Marnagan inside his helmet.

"Is this where the Big Producer yells CUT!"

Marnagan fumed. "I'll die when I'm good and ready. And when I'm ready I'll inform you and you can picture me profre for Cosmic Films!"

They both waited, thrust against the shipside and held by a hand of gravity; listening to each other's breathing hard in the earphones.

The ship struck, once. Bouncing, it struck again. It turned end over and stopped. Hathaway felt himself grabbed; he and Marnagan rattled around—human dice in a croupier's cup. The shell of the ship burst, air and energy flung out.

Hathaway screamed the air out of his lungs, but his brain was thinking quick crazy, unimportant things. The best scenes in life never occur each day, or at a audience. Like this one, blast it! Like this one! His brain spun, racketing like the instantaneous, flicking motions of his camera.

SILENCE came and engulfed all the noise, ate it up and swallowed it. Hathaway shook his head, instinctively grabbed at the camera locked to his mid-belt. There was nothing but stars, twisted wreckage, cold at the camera locked to his mid-belt, and silence. He wriggled out of the wreckage into that silence.

He didn't know what he was doing until he found the camera in his fingers as if it had grown there when he was born. He stood there, thinking "Well, I'll at least have a few good scenes on film. Fil—"

A hunk of metal tattered, fell with a crash. Marnagan leaped seven feet of bellowing manhood from the wreck.

"Hold it!" cracked Hathaway's high voice. Marnagan froze. The camera whirred. "Low angle shot, teleplanetary. Patrolman emerges unscathed from asteroid crackup. Sweet still. I'll get a raise for this!"

"From the toe of me boot!" snarled Marnagan brusquely. Oxen shoulders flexed inside his vac-suit. "I might've died in there, and you surin' that film-contrasty fell funny inside, suddenly. I never thought of that. Marnagan die? I just look it for granted you'd come through. You always have. Funny, but you don't think about dying. You try not to." Hathaway stared at all his good hand, but the glowing was so thick and heavy he couldn't tell if it was shaking. Muscles in his bony face went down, pale.

"Where are we?"

"A million miles from nobody."

They stood in the middle of a pocked, time-eroded meteor plain that stretched off, dipping down into silent indigo and a rash of stars. Overhead, the sun poked, black and stars all around it, making it look otherworldly.

"If we walk in opposite directions, Click Hathaway, we'd be shaking hands the other side of this rock in two hours." Marnagan took his map of dusty and scuffed hair. "And I promised the boys at Luna Base this time I'd capture that Gamber lad!"

His voice stopped and the silence spoke.

Hathaway felt his heart pumping slow, hot pumps of blood. "I checked my oxygen, Irish. Sixty minutes of breathing left."

The silence punctuated that sentence, too. Upon the sharp meteoric rocks Hathaway saw the tangled insides of the radio, the foot of a mangled and scattered. They were lucky to have escaped. Or was suffocation a better death. . . . Sixty minutes.

They stood and looked at one another.

"Blat that meteor!" said Marnagan, hoity.

Hathaway got hold of an idea; remembering something. He said it out: "Somebody tossed that meteor, Irish. I took a picture of it, looked it right in the eye when it rolled at us, and it was polarized. Space-meteor, not never and glowing. If it's proof you want, I've got it here, on film."

Marnagan winced his freckled square of face. "It's not proof we need now, Click. Oxygen and then food. And then some way back to Earth."

Hathaway went on saying his

thoughts: "This is Gumber's work. He's here somewhere, probably laughing his guts out at the job he did us. Oh, God, this would make great news-release stuff if we ever get back to Earth. I.P.'s Irish Marnagan, temporarily indisposed by a pirate whose dirty face has never been seen, Gumber by name, finally wins through to a triumphant finish. Photographed on the spot, in color, by yours truly, Click Hathaway. Cosmic Films, please notice."

THE MONSTER MAKERS THE MONSTER MAKERS THE MONSTER MAKERS THE MONSTER MAKERS

THEY started walking fast, over the pocked, rubble-planned toward a bony structure of metal. They kept their eyes wide and awake. There wasn't much to see, but it was better than standing still, waiting.

Marnagan said, "We're working on oxygen, and we got nothin' to sweat with except your suspicions about this not being an accident. We got 50 minutes to prove you're right. After that—right or wrong—you'll be Cosmic Films pretentious amateurish genius. But talk all you like, Click. It's times like this when we all need words, any words, on our tongues. You got your camera and your scenery. Talk about it for me—"

He twisted his glossy red face. "Keeping alive is me hobby. And this sort of two-bit death I did not order." Click nodded. "Gumber knows how you'd hate dying this way, Irish. It's ironical enough. That's probably why he planned the meteor and the crash this way."

Marnagan said nothing, but his thick lips went down at the corners, far down, and the green eyes blazed.

"They stopped, together."

"Oops!" Click said.

"Hey!" Marnagan blundered. "Did you feel that?"

Hathaway's body felt feathered, light as a whisper, boneless and limber, suddenly. "Irish! We lost weight, coming over that ridge!"

They ran back. "Let's try it again."

They tried it. They scooped at each other. The same thing happened. "Gravity should not act this way, Click."

"Are you talking me? It's mass-made. Matter you that—Gumber and me. We wonder they fell so fast—we were dragged down by a super-gravity set-up! Gumber'd do anything to—did I say anything?"

Hathaway leaped backward in reaction. His eyes widened and his hand came up, jabbing. Over a hill-ridge swarmed a brew of unbelievable horrors. Progeny from Frankenstein's Ark. Immense crimson beasts with numerous legs and gnashing mandibles, brown-black, creative, ooze tubular and others like this white poisonous whips slithering along in the air. Fangs caught straight white on them.

Hathaway yelled and ran. Marnagan at his heels, yammering. Sweet broke cold on his body. The immense things roiled, slithered and squirmed after him.

A blast of light. Marnagan, firing his proton-gun. Then, in Click's ears, the Irishman's incredulous bellow. The gun didn't hurt the creatures at all.

"Irish!" Hathaway flung himself over the ridge, slid down an incline toward the mouth of a small cave. "This way, fellah!"

Hathaway made it first, Marnagan following just behind him. "They're too big; they can't get us in here!" Click's voice gasped it out, as Marnagan squeezed his 250 pounds beside him. Instinctively, Hathaway added, "Asteroid monsters! My camera! What a scene!"

"Forget your camera!" yelled Marnagan. "They might come in!"

"Use your gun."

"They got impervious hides. No use. Gahh! And that was a pretty chase, eh, Click?"

"Yeah. Sure. You enjoyed it, every moment of it."

"I did that." Irish grinned, showing white uneven teeth. "Now, what will we be doing with these unwitted guests at our door?"

"Let me think—"

"Lots of time, little man. Forty more minutes of air, to be exact."

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faster than his camera as he spun a picture of Marnagan standing there with a useless gun pointed at the animals.

Montage. Marnagan sitting, chatting at the monsters. Marnagan smiling for the camera. Marnagan in profile. Marnagan looking grim, without much effort, for the camera. And then, a close-up of the thrashing death wall that boled them in. Click took them all, those shots, not saying anything. Nobody fooled nobody with this act. Death was near and they had sweaty faces, dry mouths and frozen guts.

When Click finished filming, Irish sat down to save oxygen, and used it up arguing about Gunther. Click came back at him:

"Gunther drew us down here, sure as Cates! That gravity change we felt back on that ridge, Irish; that proves it, Gunther's short on men. So, what's he do; he builds an asteroid-base, and drags ships down. Space war isn't perfect yet, guns don't prime true in space, trajectory is lousy over long distances. So what's the best weapon, which dispenses with losing valuable, rare ships and a small bunch of men? Super-gravity and a couple of well-tossed meteors. Saves all around. It's a good front, this iron pebble. From it, Gunther strikes unseen; ships simply crash, that's all. A subtle hand, with all aces."

Marnagan rumbled. "Where is the dirty rat, then?"

"He didn't have to appear, Irish. He sent—them." Hathaway nodded at the beasts. "People crashing here die from air-lack, no food, or from wounds caused at the crackup. If they survive all that—the animals tend to them. It all looks like Nature was responsible. See how subtle his attack is? Looks like accidental death instead of murder, if the Patrol happens to land and finds us. No reason for undue investigation, then."

"I don't see no Base around."

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Hathaway grabbed the camera, gasped, squinted, and gasped again: Pictures in montage; Marnagan sitting down, chatting conversationally with nothing; Marnagan shooting his gun at nothing; Marnagan pretending to be happy in front of nothing.

Then, close-up—of—NOTHING! The monsters had failed to imagine the film. Marnagan was there, his hair like a red banner, his freckled face with the blue eyes bright in it. Maybe—

Hathaway said it, loud: "Irish! Irish! I think I see a way out of this mess! Here—"

He elucidated it over and over again to the Patrolmen. About the film, the beasts, and how the film couldn't be wrong. If the film said the monsters weren't there, they weren't there.

"Yeah," said Marnagan. "But step outside this cave—"

"If my theory is correct I'll do it, unfriid," said Click.

Marnagan scowled. "You sure them beasts don't radiate ultra-violet or infrared or something that won't come out on film?"

"Nust! Any color we see, the camera sees. We've been fooled."

"Hey, where you going?" Marnagan blocked Hathaway as the smaller man tried pushing past him.

"Get out of the way," said Hathaway.

Marnagan put his big fists on his hips. "If anyone is going anywhere, it'll be me doer the going."

"I can't let you do that, Irish."

"Why not?"

"You'd be going on my say-so."

"Ain't your say-so good enough for me?"

"Yes. Sure. Of course. I guess—"

"If you say them animals ain't there, that's all I need. Now, mind aside, you film developing fien, and let an Irishman settle their bones." He took an unnecessary hitch in trousers that didn't exist except under an inch of porous metal plate. "Your express purpose on this voyage, Hathaway, is taking films to be used by the Patrol later for teaching Junior Patrolmen how to act in tough spots. First hand education. Poike another spool of film in that contraption and give me profile a scan. This is lesson number seven: Daniel Walks Into The Lion's Den."

"Irish, I—"

"Sbat up and load up."

Hathaway nervously loaded the film-slot, raised it.

"Ready, Click?"

"I—I guess so," said Hathaway. "And remember, think it hard, Irish. Think it hard. There aren't any animals—"

"Keep me in focus, lad."

"All the way, Irish."

"What do they say . . . ? Oh, yeah. Action. Lights. Camera!"

Marnagan held his gun out in front of him and still smiling took one, two, three, four steps out into the outside world. The monsters were waiting for him at the fifth step. Marnagan kept walking.

Right out into the middle of them. . . .

—TO BE CONTINUED—

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Walter Reed as Kent Fowler (left) and Lois Callier as Helen, his secretary, are puzzled as to purpose of mysterious projectile. Below, the Aerial Torpedo rackets from its launch on a Mission of Menace!





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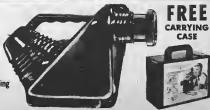
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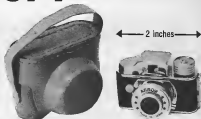
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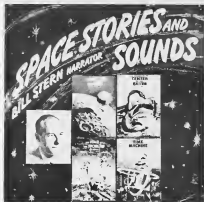
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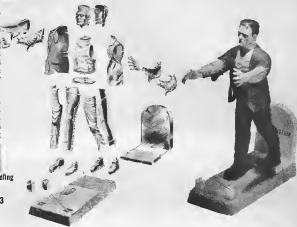
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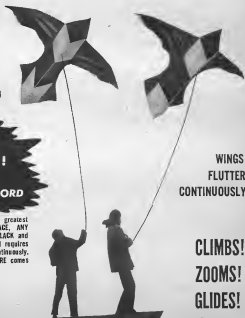
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