



**N**EXT time you flop on one of our monthly Science Quiz tests, don't feel too badly. For even the biggest scientific minds in the country can be stumped when it comes to answering certain technical posers!

It happened when several prominent experts were brought together at a recent banquet sponsored by General Motors at the World's Fair. Among the celebrated scientists present were Dr. Karl T. Compton, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Ernest M. Hopkins, president of Dartmouth College, and Charles F. Kettering, famous scientist and vice-president of General Motors.

"There are twenty-five things I would like to know," Mr. Kettering told the assembly. "What is friction? How do catalyzers work? What is energy? What are enzymes? What is electricity? What can be done with chemiluminescence? What is the nature of light and other electro-magnetic waves? . . ."

Yes, the experts were stumped indeed as Mr. Kettering went on with his list. Science is wonderful, but it doesn't tell us all the answers. Only the future can do that!

### TRIBUTE TO GENIUS

A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country. Thus speaks an old adage. But the descendants of Leonardo da Vinci are finally refuting that statement. (Readers of M. W. Wellman's "Twice in Time," note!)

More than 400 years ago Leonardo da Vinci constructed models of an airplane, steam cannon, high explosive shells, a hydrometer and portable bridges, amid the ridicule of Milanese neighbors.

At last the citizens of Milan have done something about it. A set of 175 such models have been collected and the whole collection has been sent to New York, for exhibition purposes.

Drop into the Museum of Science and Industry one of these afternoons and marvel at the wonders Leonardo da Vinci foreshadowed four centuries ago!

### THE FAIR OF THE FUTURE

Next month's feature novel by Manly Wade Wellman, "The Worlds of Tomorrow" could have been called "The Fair of the Worlds."

For Wellman's novel is a graphic account of the first interplanetary fair, held on the asteroid Ceres. To this playground in space flock the inhabitants of the nine different planets. And, among them, a rich man . . . a poor man . . . a beggar man . . . and a thief.

Don't be impressed by the Futurama at the World's Fair until you see what science

can do a thousand years from now at the Fair of Tomorrow!

### WAS IT IMPOSSIBLE?

Great oaks from little acorns grow. And an innocent joke can produce an important scientific discovery.

A current scientific magazine carries an interesting story on how the process of frosting electric light bulbs was discovered. The problem was a "gag" piece of research assigned new apprentices in one big electrical equipment company. The assignment was an "impossible" one, given to all new recruits as a sort of hazing routine.

One researcher failed to realize he was being kidded, that no one really expected him to achieve any results. He went to work and turned up a process which not only did the trick but added materially to the finished bulb's strength.

Our science fiction writers ought to tell the big science industries that nothing is impossible!

### "SERENDIPITY"

Did you know that a great many scientific discoveries are really the results of an accident? Men with keen powers of observation are continually finding something important other than for which they were seeking.

The discovery of the X-ray, the vulcanization of rubber, the stethoscope, the first aniline dyes, and even the pendulum, are all the results of such accidents. And there are hundreds of others on record.

The word "accident" is not the appropriate one to use in such instances, and science has just adopted a new term to describe such discoveries. That word is—"serendipity," and it was coined by Horace Walpole who says that he formed it upon the title of a fairy tale, "The Three Princes of Serendip," the heroes of which "were always making discoveries, by accidents and sagacity, of things they were not in quest of."

Accident is the mother of invention!

## MERCURY-BOUND!

Follow the startling chronicle of the men who map the skies!

Next month's issue of **THRILLING WONDER STORIES** brings you "Via Mercury," the first in the new series by Gordon A. Giles featuring the exploits of Mercury Expedition Number 1.

Ten men rocket off from Earth on this hazardous journey. Captain Atwell's main hope is to keep his heroic band intact—to return to Earth without a single fatality. Which of the ten men will have to sacrifice their lives in the venture? Five men found graves on Mars, four on Venus. How many of these men on Mercury will have to make the supreme sacrifice? Perhaps the answer will surprise you.

Incidentally, you had better reserve your next three issues of T.W.S. right now. For so great is the suspense in Giles' latest series that we have determined to schedule his trio of yarns in consecutive order.

As a special feature in connection with this popular series, Artist Wesso has prepared a series of ten portraits depicting each of the characters in the crew of Mercury Expedition No. 1. *They'll be seeing you next month!*

### THIS MONTH'S COVER

That's a fine, eye-arresting cover we have gracing this month's issue of T.W.S. The lad responsible for the visual feast is E. K. Bergey—and we're proud of him!

The cover, of course, is based on Oscar J. Friend's story, "The Stolen Spectrum," and illustrates a phenomenon in atomic transmutation. When Mr. Bergey read the story he was all for the invention described by Friend. Being a resident of Philadelphia, Bergey thought it would be fun to step on a platform in his home and broadcast himself to our offices in New York, all in the twinkling of an eyewink.

Yes, it certainly would be convenient. But then, he'd rather spend the time consumed commuting by reading the latest issue of T.W.S., his favorite magazine!

### AMATEUR STORY CONTEST

Everyone's been participating in our amateur story contest! Have you sent us your first scientification story yet? Write up that pet interplanetary or time-traveling theme you've been hoarding all these years before some other author scoops your idea. Type it up, double-spaced, and send it to **AMATEUR WRITERS' EDITOR, THRILLING WONDER STORIES, 22 W. 48th St., New York City.** Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for the return of your manuscript if unavailable.

If your story is a fairly good one, we will be glad to publish it in T.W.S. Prize stories are purchased at the same rates paid our regular staff contributors.

### JOIN THE LEAGUE

Have you joined our **SCIENCE FICTION LEAGUE**? It's an active national organization composed of the world's most enthusiastic followers of science fiction—and it fosters that intangible bond between

all scientification readers. Just fill out the blank provided on this page.

To obtain a **FREE** certificate of membership, tear off the namestrip of the cover of this magazine, so that the date and the title of the magazine show, and send it to **SCIENCE FICTION LEAGUE, 22 W. 48th St., New York City, N.Y.,** enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

And readers — write the editor of **THRILLING WONDER STORIES** a regular monthly letter. Tell us which stories you liked best, which are your favorite features and artists. Your suggestions and criticisms have made T.W.S.' scientification's leading magazine. Help us maintain that leadership.—**THE EDITOR.**

### OHIO FANTASY ASSOCIATION

Joseph M. Lewandowski, Jr., of 17 River-view Road, Brecksville, Ohio, informs us that he is interested in organizing a Chapter in his community. All readers of **THRILLING WONDER STORIES, STARTLING STORIES,** and **CAPTAIN FUTURE,** are urged to communicate with Mr. Lewandowski, if they are interested in joining.

### BROOKLYN CHAPTER

All Brooklyn, N. Y. fantasy followers are urged to contact Mr. John J. Ricci, 2095 Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y., regarding formation of a SFL Chapter in his borough. Plans for an early meeting are under way.

### HARTFORD, CONN., CHAPTER

Paul H. Spencer, Director of the Hartford Science Fiction League, asks that all fantasy followers residing in or near Hartford, Conn., contact him regarding membership in this chapter. Mr. Spencer may be reached at his home, 88 Ardmore Road, West Hartford, Conn. Phone—32-0055. Other members include Harold Hurwitz, Everett Fink, and Howard Miller.

### BOSTON CHAPTER

All scientification fans residing in and around Boston, Mass., interested in forming a Chapter of the SFL are urged to get in touch with Mr. Philip W. Faden, 303 Fairmount Ave., Hyde Park, Mass.

### More Club News—and a List of New Members—Next Month!

**SCIENCE FICTION LEAGUE,**  
22 W. 48th St., New York, N. Y.

I wish to apply for membership in the **SCIENCE FICTION LEAGUE.** I pledge myself to abide by all rules and regulations.

Name .....

(Print Legibly)

Address ..... Age.....

City ..... State.....

I am enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope and the name-strip from the cover of this magazine (tear off name-strip so that the name **THRILLING WONDER STORIES** and the date can be seen). You will send me my membership certificate and a list of rules promptly.

9-40

Use Small Denomination U. S. Stamps Only.

# The Reader Speaks



## A TRIPLE SALUTE

By N. Willmorth

The cover scene of the July T.W.S. was well chosen. It depicts the climax of H. L. Gold's story in true form. In fact, it even agrees with what the author said of the moment—something rarely found and hardly to be expected from the artists. Give Brown a medal from me.

The "Voyage to Nowhere" was a rather nice story of poetic justice. More, please, of this above-average type. "Romance Across the Ages" had a new twist to the futureman-snatches-people idea. I like the lightly, humorous type of story well. The rest of the shorts were just short stories, though interesting. The novel was good. The duplicate idea is old, but here it is handled very well. Binder's novel in **STARTLING STORIES** is good; much better than the other one he wrote two years ago. Binder is one of my favorite authors, though his style disagrees with me at times. Wesso's illustration should have been on the cover.

The **HALL OF FAME** story was well chosen. May I urge you to use soon "The City of the Singing Flame" and its sequel, both by Clark Ashton Smith? These stories have been suggested many times and they live in my memory as being of the best.

**CAPTAIN FUTURE** is good! I didn't think Hamilton had it in him.

I enclose two-bits in stamps for you know what or if you don't it's for those eight little booklets.—Chelan, Washington.

## GOES FOR GLAMOUR-GIRL GERRY

By T. K. Rogers

I am a very casual reader of magazines, and rarely become enough aroused to bother about writing an editor. I take my reading as it comes. If it is good—O.K. If it is not so good, well, I didn't expect too much anyhow. Generally, I am glad to say, I get good value for my money from Thrilling Publications.

But your editorial in **THRILLING WONDER STORIES**, asking for readers to root for their favorite authors, has roused me from my lethargy. I am definitely a Gerry Carlyle fan. She is one of the very few characters that stand out in my memory after much reading of science fiction.

By all means, more of Miss Carlyle. I worked for pictures myself some years ago and can appreciate anyone who wants to feud with them! (I assisted in set design.)

That man Manx is O.K., too. Likewise Anton York. But I will wager in the future **THRILLING WONDER STORIES** will be remembered more as the originator of that "glamma gal" and her unique feud.

I hope this letter has influence commensur-

In this department we shall publish your opinions every month. After all, this is YOUR magazine, and it is edited for YOU. If a story in **THRILLING WONDER STORIES** fails to click with you, it is up to you to let us know about it. We welcome your letters whether they are complimentary or critical—or contain good old-fashioned brickbats! Write regularly! As many of your letters as possible will be printed herein. We cannot undertake to enter into private correspondence.

ate with the great effort expended in writing it. Only another great crisis will ever cause me to take up my pen again.—Montrose, Calif.

(Miss Gerry Carlyle sends word via the Ark that Tommy Strike is readying a new expedition. A full account of the female Frank Buck's new cargo of planetary monsters for the London Interplanetary Zoo is scheduled for an early issue of T.W.S. Her new adventure will be ready quicker than a Nine Planets Film, can flop, she reports.—Ed.)

## TIME ON HIS MIND

By Alan Saun

I will be as brief as I possibly can in discussing the June, 1940, issue of **THRILLING WONDER STORIES** and a few other important matters, as I have some grave news to tell you of at the end of this letter.

Without a doubt, "The Sun Maker," by Jack Williamson, was the best story. No little, trifling idea was involved in that novel. It was excellent. "Dr. Cyclops," by Henry Kuttner, was a close second. I was utterly enthralled and in terrific suspense while reading that great yarn. I always get that way when reading sub-atomic stories, my favorite type of science fiction story. Surprisingly, Orban's illustration for it was unusually good, as was Artist Brown's front cover depicting a scene from the outstanding novel. Rest assured that I will make a point of seeing the movie.

Edmond Hamilton's "The Isle of Changing Life," and Nelson S. Bond's "Parallel in Time," both exceptionally fine stories excellently written, contained plots, I had never before come across. I was immensely intrigued and fascinated by the stories. I will always be grateful to you, Mr. Editor, for having published stories by the latter author. That Earthling is going places—fast!

"Red Moon," by Frank Belknap Long, Jr., was another swell yarn, as were "The Lunar Pit," by Myer Krulfeld and "Knight Must Fall," by Kelvin Kent.

I was glad to see Marchioni represented in the latest issue of T.W.S. I always liked his drawings.

At someone else's suggestion, I, too, would like to read the autobiographies and see the fotos of some of science fiction's well known and active fans. We know all about most of the authors, so now inform us of essential particulars concerning some of the more prominent fans. You know, ones like Forrest J. Ackerman, Jack Darrow and so on. How's about it?

And now to discuss the grave news I mentioned in the first paragraph. Your April, 1939 issue contained a letter of mine—it was the first one—which told of my super-invention—a time-machine! This, you may recall, was borrowed by a colleague of mine, Professor M. T. Head, who, for some unexplainable reason, never returned.

Because of that I almost had a nervous breakdown, for I had planned to go years into the future to gather up copies of T.W.S. which haven't as yet been printed.

Well, you may be interested to learn that the professor did return several weeks ago. When I asked—perhaps I should use the word begged—him kindly to relate some of his adventures, he looked at me rather queerly, stuck out his tongue quite rudely, and, with head held high, stamped disgustedly out of my house, slamming the door heavily behind.

About a month ago he again disappeared, but this time without my beloved time-machine. Well, a few days ago when I went to