

Oct 21, 1931

407 East 183 Street,
New York, New York.

Dear Dick,

Please excuse me for not answering sooner, but I was very busy during the last week. You know "school daze" are here, and I have a lot of work.

Yes, I've got to admit that Glasser's Wonder hoax went over big. But it might get him in trouble. Gernsie has found out and says that if he finds out who pulled it off he's going to bring a law-suit against him. And something tells me that Gernsie suspects Allen. Allen recently pulled off another hoax, but it seems that it didn't work. He had a friend of his make a projectile that strongly represented a form of a meteor. Inside this "meteor" he placed a message which said that he was so and so, and that he is a citizen of the earth. But at the age of 12 while standing in front of his house in San Francisco two tall strangers kidnapped him and brought him into a ship. By means of hand-talk the kidnappers made it clear that they were in an interplanetary ship and that they were going to Mars. The one who was kidnapped figures he's about 25 years old now. With the help of a Martian friend he has sent this message to Earth in the hope that it will reach his mother. Glasser and a friend then took the meteor into the woods and planted it into the ground. He then took a chemical and ignited it. This chemical when ignited gives off a terrific amount of heat and light -- this was to refer to the ~~xx~~ entering of the meteor into the Earth's atmosphere. The chemical began with a "T" -- therium or something like that. Well, as soon as this chemical was ignited Allen ran to the nearest policeman and told him that he saw something come out of the sky and land in the earth not far from where he was. The policeman followed him and was led to the meteor. It was still hot -- the use of another chemical made it so. The cop took Allen and his friend's names and after a while took the "meteor" to the police-station -- and that's all that ever came of it. Can you imagine the sensation it would cause if it worked!!

Boy, I must agree with you that the new Wonder paper is certainly the cat's! The stories were 'nt, however, so very good. It might interest you to know that Universal Pictures (who are making Frankenstein) have just secured the rights from H.G. Wells to make the Invisible Man into a talkie! What a picture that's going to be! And while I'm on the subject of science-fiction news, here's some more:-

Henrik Dahl Juve -- up in the mountains of Oregon -- is turning out another Dana Gleason story.

Francis Flagg is working on The Moon Tunnel.

Jack Williamson (he's going strong these days) is working on a novel -- Red Storm.

Schachner & Zagat have crashed Argosy again with the Great Dome of Mercury.

Lowell Howard Morrow's next are The Banner of Blood and Omega--the Man. The latter is a tale of the last man on earth--the dried shrivelled up old earth of milleniums to come--and the fight between last man and a primeval monster for the last few

drops of the precious liquid water, that now lies in the deep recess of a hole at the very bottom of the Pacific....

Anthony Gillmore, author of Hawk Carse, etc. is or should I say -- "are" two different men. And I am told I would be very much surprised to find out who. If I ever do, you may be sure I'll tip you off.

Amazing

The Quarterly is two days late already. The Amazing Monthly was five days late. What's the matter anyhow? Are these all signs to the fact that Amazing is going to quit right away? I wonder when MacFadden's millions are going to start work with Amazing? I did enjoy the latest issue however as to content. Automaton was far and away the best story in the issue. The nest was Keller's The Rat Racket. Williamson's The Stone from the Green Star looks all right, but I haven't read it as yet. The cover was the worst one I ever saw on an Amazing Stories. It was putrid. They ought to get Wesso back. Which reminds me of some more stunts Allen and I pulled off. We called up Wesso and asked him to tell us something about himself. He said he didn't want to do it over the phone, but invited us over to his house for an interview last Tuesday, at which date the editor of Astounding was also present, Harry Bates. When he asked who was calling we said Otis Adelbert Kline! Of course we didn't call for that interview. Wesso speaks with a Russo-Jewish accent. We then called up good old Gernsie and told him that the title The Lord of Thunder which is to appear in the next issue of Wonder was copyrighted, and that he couldn't use the title without permission. We gave him the name of our lawyer -- a fake one of course. If Gernsie doesn't investigate the affair and takes our word that the title is copyrighted it'll necessitate in his destroying all the next issue of Wonder (which is undoubtedly printed by now) and have to put out a new issue. I wonder if he'll bite?

I hope that you'll find out some more particulars in regarding to Smiths' forthcoming stories. Try and get the names and the magazine where they are to be published.

It's too bad that you didn't come through to win the presidency of your class. Meanwhile I have been selected Humor Editor of my high-school paper. I have to write about 1000 words a week. Oy! Maybe you can help me out. Do you know any jokes, gags, or anything humorous? Of course I don't want them if they're not original. But perhaps you or some of your friends have made up some that I'll be able to print. I'll appreciate your co-operation. I'll change the above statement. Even if it isn't original but it's very humorous I'll be glad to read it. But, please specify which are original and which are not.

The only stories that I bind are the ones from Argosy. The rest I "let be." I don't feel like ruining the magazine all for one serial. I waste too many good stories that way.

Well, I guess I'm near the end of the paper and I better stop.

So long....

Scientifictionally yours,
Julius Schwartz.