

Argonotes

The Readers' Viewpoint



WELL, here we are back from a bit of vacation with a few remaining sun-blisters and the feeling that this is, in many ways, a nice summer. The things we've been hearing about ARGOSY!

For instance, this young lady we got to talking to: a lady of considerable charm, intelligence, and wit, as was at once apparent. Said she:

"ARGOSY? Of course—you're always ahead of the procession with such things as those stories by Forester. *Everybody* knows— Well, wait. There's one stuffy fellow I know who read Captain Horatio Hornblower in book form, raved about it, and asked me where it was first published. When I told him, he looked baffled; said, 'ARGOSY? ARGOSY? Impossible!'

"But that only shows," concluded this young lady of charm, intelligence, and wit, "how little this fellow gets around in the best current fiction." We beamed agreement and bought her a soda (which, most unfortunately, we can't do for all our enthusiastic readers.)

Very cheering, too, was an article in the *New York Times* magazine section a few weeks ago. It appears that life in the New York City subways is not all dankness and darkness and nerve-strain; for did not one change-maker confess that in one week (when not busy making change) he had read through "Gone With the Wind" and a copy of ARGOSY?

We would not think of making comparisons. We would merely point out that this man obviously knows a best seller (and a good yarn) when he sees it. And that, ARGOSY, unlike GWTW, comes around fresh and new every week.

NOW here is more encouragement from one of our long-standing friends. We're particularly happy about the reference to the Cochran story; for we thought it was a dandy ourselves, and have been anxious to get some reader reaction. In fact we think this correspondent has picked a list of winners (though the final judgment, in all cases, *has* to be yours). So here is

MRS. W. T. McCLURE

I've read your magazine for years—since I was a kid of twelve—as Dad was an avid fan even before I came on the scene. Your magazine is really good.

Especially did I like C. M. Warren's two stories. "Then I'll Remember" was excellent, as was "Bugles Are for Soldiers." This last Argosy (June 8) has a fine story by Robert W. Cochran, "One Less To Feed." Stories like these are what make yours my favorite magazine.

It seems unfair, after all these years of enjoyable reading, not to throw bouquets which are so richly deserved. So here is my bouquet (not poison ivy, either) and keep up the good work.

I also liked the last Smooth Kyle story, "The Sun Sets at Five." I like everything Jim Kjelgaard writes, too. I'm very much interested in the old pre-Druid rites described in "Maker of Shadows" by Jack Mann. I have studied a bit of old Druid law but this seems even more interesting. Could you give me the names of some reference books on this subject?

CHATHAM, N. J.

Unfortunately we haven't a bibliography on pre-Druidical rites close at hand as this is written; and Mr. Mann is (we believe) in England, hard to reach. We'd be glad to have suggestions from other readers who are students in this field.

LOOKING AHEAD!



MINIONS OF MERCURY

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FORGOTTEN ISLAND

The cast included The Constable, The Native Girl, The Murderer—and *Birgus-latro*, the crab who should be named Death That Walks Sideways. By

ALLAN VAUGHAN ELSTON

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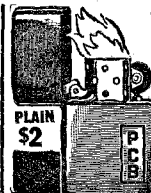
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