

# The BURROUGHS BULLETIN

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## LA of OPAR MURDERED!

La of Opar, the beautiful High Priestess of the Flaming God, has been murdered! Yes, it is true, in the latest issue of the Tarzan magazine (Sept-Oct. No. 5) the writer has killed off one of Mr. Burroughs' most famous characters. The script-writer for the magazine has really been pulling the boners in the past few issues. It started in issue NO. 2, when Tarzan (of all things) held a conversation with Dango, the hyena. Issue #3 brings Jane into the picture as a brunette. She has always been a blonde in ERB's stories. Also Boy and the tree house are introduced in this issue. Both are creations of movie producers and have no place in a genuine Tarzan plot. In issue #4 Om-at and his mate, Pan-at-lee, turn up far from their home in Pal-ul-don looking more like cat-people than tailed, black-skin and hairy-bodied pithecanthropus'. We all admit Tarzan is a mighty man, but never before in all his history has the apeman brushed aside, and stepped through, solid gold bars as though it were cardboard. He does this in "Tarzan and the Men of Greed". All these are forgivable mistakes of an unenlightened artist and script-writer....but when they destroy Opar with an earthquake.... then kill off Queen La and all the inhabitants of Opar... that is the last straw as far as this reader is concerned. However, M-G-M studios tried to do away with Jane by having her killed by a spear in "Tarzan Finds A Son". When Mr. Burroughs found this out he saw to it that a new ending was made for the film..but quick. So I am looking forward to a quick resurrection of La, the High Priestess of the Flaming God of Opar. No, they can not kill La. La, the beautiful; for to many are in love with her to ever let her die. And has the apeman not called her, in his own words, "La, the Immutable!"

### ALEX BARKER IS NEW SCREEN TARZAN

Alexander Chrichlow Barker, "Lex" for short, is the eleventh actor to portray the famous apeman on the screen. He's a former Princeton athlete who stands six four, weighs 200 pounds, and his first Tarzan film will be TARZAN AND THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH.

Lex plays Ros Russell's boy friend in "The Velvet Touch". It is probably the last time he'll be seen on the screen with his clothes on.

He recently acquired several acres of land in Tarzana which, he says, he will farm.

The new Tarzan will be introduced to moviegoers via a special

biographical trailer which Sol Lesser will produce.

Elmo Lincoln, who was the original star of the series, is a bit-player in the new picture. Elmo preserved a collection of Tarzania for 20 years, including spears, coyote skins, bows and arrows. Then he lost the whole thing when his garage—which he had turned into a museum—burned down while he was at work.

Sol Lesser's production for RKO release, "Tarzan and the Fountain of Youth," is the 26th film based on Tarzan's exploits. The Chinese Tarzan movie counted.

# PELLUCIDARIAN PROBLEMS

by J. N. Williamson

I am not here to discuss the probability of pluasibility in the stories taking place at the Earth's core. (How conceited and self-possessing is the mind of man, that he decorates with popular abandon a general term, "earth", with a capital letter.)

No, I am here to comment and examine the fabulous world.

Like every volume by Edgar Rice Burroughs I have had the fortune to consume, "At the Earth's Core" starts off with the proverbial bang.

Can you not imagine how it would be to step into the outdoors, gaze in the distance, and see no horizon? No straight, east and west line separating with finality the sky from the ground. It is finesse in itself that Innes' creator can help him realize—that he is actually looking up!

The dyryth, the colossal bear, and the jabbering, jibbering monkey-men mingled with the hyaenodon, or jalok. The terms so picturesque that a singular atmosphere belonging to the words solely is granted. Sagoths, thipdars—it was Sherlock Holmes, another famous member in the Valhalla of literature, who defined grotesque. The French modeled that word for many of the characters belonging to Edgar Rice Burroughs.

The beauty about numerous "ladies" and "gentlemen" in Pellucidar is that each person, reading the stories, is impressed with something no other person would think of, such as individual descriptions. When perusing chapters concerning mahars, I thought of them, shudderingly so, as a huge lizard-like reptile, gifted with wings length or more of the body, armed with tentacles and Numa-sharp teeth. In reality, a mahar is crocodile-resembling, inarticulate and dumb, and capable of inducing soporific hypnotism.

Two men, one young and the other old, in earthern time, thrown against an entire world. The gradual change of the men, and the world, is tantalizing to observe. Tantalizing because of your helplessness to be with them.

"Land of Terror" offers further proof of this point. Abner Perry, it will be perceived, has decreased in age by nearly ten years, while in that recent story thirty-six years have passed since Perry's subterranean prospector dug through to Pellucidar.

There are few references to anything approaching longevity, but Perry was admittedly elderly when originally venturing downwards, and David Innes states his birth certificate age as being in the fifties. The atmosphere is evidently that that lends itself to youth. That should present to Mr. Burroughs an idea for a future tale featuring a tribe of ancient men possessed of strength the times of dozens of normal people. David mistakes them for prospectually aged men, offers assistance, and is tricked into a nefarious plot I will leave to Burroughs own devising.

A primitive cave-girl of better-than-average beauty and wisdom, in the interesting form of Dian, was sure to endear herself to David. A book of adventure—and there could be no others—minus heroines is unthinkable. A Jane, Duare, or Dejah Thoris must be present for the added touch of romance.

I prophesy more books taking place in Pellucidar, that pyrogenic-reacting world of beasts and men on an admitted equal, for it is a place where we all would like to spend a Pellucidarian day.

#### CORRESPONDENCE QUOTES

There is one anachronism that is not brought out in the article, HOW OLD IS TARZAN. In TARZAN OF THE APES, in the rescue from the forest fire a rather fast automobile is used. If the date is 1893 according to the revised time-table, I doubt the development of the auto in question.

—Thomas S. Gardner

In regard to the article about the age of Tarzan I guess I overlooked the fact about the automobile. However, in the list of Great Inventions in the World Almanac the first American gasoline automobile was invented in 1892 by C.E. Duryea. In Europe the two-stroke automobile engine was invented in 1879 by Benz. In 1890 Fernand Forest created the first 4-cylinder automobile at Montrouge, France. The car used by Tarzan may have been one of the automobiles invented the year before or it may have been an imported model. Perhaps it might even have been one of the earlier type of automobile which was run by steam. Anyway I don't believe that they had taxicabs in those days.

—John Harwood

Richard Shavers "Gods of Venus" was stolen from Burroughs' "Gods of Mars".

—Bill Searles

You are not the only reader with that opinion, Bill. I have received many comments about the similarity of Shavers story to ERB's yarn. —Ed.

#### 80 DEGREES COOLER INSIDE!

Perhaps the most remote movie theater in existence is in Ivalo, Lapland, 300 miles north of the Arctic Circle. The project is a fairly new one, but the Laplanders are flocking to it via snowshoe and reindeer sleigh. Most popular picture to date is a tropical item called "Tarzan Finds a Son".

#### HE'S HAPPY IN THE JUNGLE

Mission, Texas March 21.—The wild man of the Rio Grande who sleeps in trees and hunts wild game with a six-foot bow and arrow wants no part of civilization.

That became clear after he disappeared following a night spent in the Mission city hall.

The unidentified man, dressed only in buckskin trousers and shirt, has been frightening Latin Americans in the La Joya area. Officers captured him and brought him to Mission, but he was released after an appearance before a justice of peace.

Deaf and dumb, the man appeared to be about 20. He was clean shaven and fairly tidy. He wrote, in a legible hand, that he had been living in the jungle on wild game killed by arrows.

"Rabbits are mighty scarce," he wrote. "They're hard to find." He wrote he slept in trees and asked only to return to the cactus and brush country north of Mission.

"Nothing I could do," said Justice of the Peace T.H. Spillman, "except tell him to get on out of here."



To receive a wireless  
with a Blue Bird  
the first of 1943

