TARZAN INTERVIEWED

The following correspondence was received by the Editor some weeks ago.

Cornell University
Ithaca, N. Y.

r. Vernell Coriell
Box 78
Manito, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I noticed a copy of "The Burroughs Bulletin" at the home of a friend. Reading it I discovered that you apparently believed that Mr. Edgar Rice Burroughs had, out of his own mind, created the character of Tarzan of the Apes.

I can assure you that you are entirely mistaken as are thousands of readers of the Tarzan books. Ever since I first started reading the series I held the same belief, but I was later led to change my mind.

If you are interested in publishing the enclosed article your readers will learn that I have met and talked to "Tarzan of the Apes"--in person.

Yours truly,

Arthur Maxon M. Sc.

INTERVIEW WITH AN APE MAN
by Professor Arthur Maxon

I was gathering material for a book about the herbs used by the African witch doctors for the cure of some of the tropical diseases common to the Dark Continent. It was an almost impossible task as the witch doctors were jealous of their powers and were unwilling to share them with strangers. Incidentally, I was never able to finish that book, but that's not part of this story. The reason I'm writing this article is to tell of my meeting with that almost legendary character of the African jungle, Tarzan of the Apes.

One morning, after an unsuccessful attempt to gain the confidence of a local healer, I was returning to my hut. Just leaving the chief's hut I noticed a man that I first took to be a native. A second glance showed me that although he was only a few shades lighter than the natives and dressed in a loin cloth of doeskin, he was a white man. He was about six feet two, had black hair and gray eyes and had an air of confidence about him that suggested he would be a dangerous man to arouse. This suggestion was further enhanced by the glimpse of powerful muscles rolling beneath his bronzed skin. With all the strength that must have lain in those muscles he was a match for any man, even without the weapons with which he was accoutered.

These weapons consisted of a long hunting knife in a scabbard at his right hip, a rope apparently made from the long grasses found in the vicinity over one shoulder, a bow and a quiver of arrows across his back and also at his back a short light spear.

As I approached him I stopped and said, "If I didn't know better, I'd say you were Tarzan of the Apes."

He smiled slightly and replied, "I am Tarzan."

"Tarzan! I thought you were only a legend. When I was younger I used to read the Tarzan books and thought they were the product of the author's imagination. Then since I've been in Africa I've heard all the natives tell stories about you. I figured then, that the author must have heard of the legends in some way and based his stories on them."

Tarzan shook his head slowly, "No, they are true. In fact, I'm a friend of the author, Edgar Rice Burroughs. He visits me at my estate quite often and while he's there he takes notes on the stories I tell him. He also goes over the impressions which I usually write out on some of the lost cities and strange customs I run across on my travels."

"Is it true," I asked, "that you can speak a dozen or more languages fluently?"

"Well, I speak a few languages, but I don't know just how fluently I speak them. Of course, I consider myself good at the language of the great apes, having used no other for the first twenty years of my life. I've had plenty of practice with English,
French, German and Arabic and some of the native dialects, but some of the languages I had to learn in a few days. I'm not so sure of having mastered. In such cases I usually needed know only enough to understand what was going on and to make known my wants. I suppose in the books I can speak perfectly after only a few lessons.

"You suppose --" I broke in. "Don't you read the books about yourself?"

"No! Well! I did read one of the earlier ones. It kind of embarrassed me, reading about myself. It made such a hero of me!"

"What do you think of the actors that portray you on the screen?"

"I've never seen any of the movies." He smiled slightly again as he remarked, "One time when I was in Hollywood I was interviewed by a casting director who was looking for a 'Tarzan'!"

"Yes?" I asked as he paused.

"He told me that I wasn't the type."

That seemed to be that. Casting around in my mind for some other subject to discuss I glanced at his weapons. I asked about them.

"This knife," he replied, taking it from its scabbard and showing me the long shiny blade, "belonged to my father. I found it in the cabin where I was born. It was with the help of this knife that I became the master of beasts more powerful than myself."

Removing the grass rope from his shoulder and passing it to me, he said, "Try to break it."

It seemed like a frail sort of a line, being made of grass, but it resisted my strength. Of course, I'm an old man, but I'm stronger than many men younger than myself.

"It's a very strong grass," explained Tarzan. "If you were to soak a blade of it in water until it rotted, you would find several tough fibers inside, similar to those of flax or hemp. I first discovered the principle of rope making when I was a boy. You know how it is, the way you will pick up something and play with it when you have nothing else to do? Well! I was laying at the foot of a tree with a few blades of grass in my hands. I was just braiding them around and accidentally added a few simple knots. To my surprise I found that they held together. After several weeks of experimenting I finally found myself the proud possessor of a long rope. I think you've probably read how I made life miserable for some of the tribe. The first ropes were very crude and not too strong. I soon found out that the thicker the rope the stronger. Later I found how to braid the grass blades into an even stronger rope. I still make my own ropes."

Next he let me examine his bow and arrow. The bow was very short and when I tried to bend it I was amazed at its strength. I could barely move the string a motion of an inch. Tarzan took it and bent it easily. "It has to be powerful," he said, "because sometimes in the open its hard to approach very close to you dinner. Then you have to shoot from long range or go hungry."

"It seems short compared to the ones I've seen the natives carrying."

"Well, when you try swinging through the trees a longer bow is a handicap. I found that out when I first started carrying one, but I had to depend on the supplies I could steal from the natives so I had to put up with it. Later, when I learned to make my own, I shortened it. The arrows are made for me by the Waziri. I use so many of them that I don't take time to make my own. Usually I try to retrieve them, but sometimes I'm in too much of a hurry."

Handing me the short, light spear, he remarked, "This is another product of the Waziri. You'll notice how short and light it is. It's made like that for the same reason that I carry a short bow. Ease in traveling through the jungle."

At this point we were interrupted by the arrival of the chief with a handful of men. They stopped a short distance away and waited. Tarzan stepped over and began converging with the chief. Returning to where I was standing he held out his hand, "It's been pleasant meeting you," he said as I gripped his hand, "but I must take these porters and have them escort an expedition back to civilization. They're own porters deserted them about a week ago and I ran across them just a few days later. After getting them started I'll have to look for the deserters."

"Another adventure?"

"Not necessarily. Just a routine job most likely."

After saying good bye he turned and strode off followed by the natives. As I watched him disappear into the jungle, I turned to the chief. "There goes a great man."

The chief nodded, "A great man! A bad enemy, but a good friend. A very good friend."

The Editor forwarded Arthur Moxon's article to Mr. Burroughs. To which, he replied, "The Professor has a remarkable sense of humor."

SHADES OF DAVID INNIS

Will war someday be fought under the ground as well as in the air, on land and sea?

Dr. Fritz Zwicky, a scientist whose job is developing strange new engines for planes, missiles and torpedoes, says it is a definite possibility.

In fact, he told a conference of aviation people that the (continued on page 49)
He's Tarzan The Tenth
By MYRTLE GEBHART

The Cry of the Bull Ape Has a Princeton Accent—Lex Barker Is 6-Feet-4, Former Football Star at Phillips-Exeter and Fresh Air Fiend

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LEX BARKER, the new and 10th Tarzan, has been described as "an Errol Flynn with a block." The new Barker thinks unfair, because Errol is a close friend of his. They play tennis together, Barker almost always winning.

The comparison is understandable, though, for Lex does possess a great deal of the Flynn type of charm. That, with his Princeton accent giving the Tarzan yell a more refined note, brings to the screen an entirely new jungle lord in the series which has been running for 30 years. And which, by a new contract recently signed by Producer Sol Lesser, assures fans their Edgar Rice Burroughs hero for another 20 years.

At first they hoped to low-pedal the Princeton angle, and moaned we would please forget his real name, Alexander Crichlow Barker, derived from Sir William Henry Crichlow, one-time governor general of the Barbadoes. Realizing the impossibility of keeping both items secret, now the fact that the tree-swinger and pal of apes is an educated man, and well-born, may prove assets in creating the new streamlined Tarzan, though with the same old muscular agility.

Now 29, Lex is 6-feet-4 of sinew and brawn, who weighs in at 197. Starting off the new series are "Tarzan's Magic Fountain," and "Tarzan At the Olympic Games." For several weeks before filming began, Lex went barefoot around his home grounds to toughen his feet, dropped 3 inches from his waist, adding some to expand his already noticeable chest, by a rigorous training schedule at Terry Hunt's gym.

Jungle style note, to amuse the ladies: Tarzan gets a "new look," too. Lex's loincloth is briefer than those worn by previous players doing the part, and is made of dyed suede.

"I like doing Tarzan," Lex enthused. "I'm a fresh air fiend. Furthermore, I think Tarzan pictures are pure movie. They include fantasy and action, and avoid the problem plots too prevalent now. They're just entertainment.

"Tarzan is progressing," he pointed out. "I have more dialogue than my predecessors. Two-syllable words, too. No more 'You Jane, me happy' stuff. Evidently Tarzan can read now, because they have me picking up some articles and reading the inscriptions."

To popularize the new series, Lex will make a personal appearance tour of South American countries and here, too. Starting him off, Lesser had 5000 records of the new Tarzan yell, which is several notes lower than the Weismuller bellow, sent to fan clubs over the United States.

Already his publicity has begun to build. The first Hollywood actor so honored, the Jn Police and Citizens Corps of Washington, D.C., appointed him a major. And other youth organizations are calling attention to the new kid's hero.

Brenda Joyce, of course, is back in her briefs as Jane. Lex's year-and-a-half-old son, Alexander Crichlow Barker, III, may be put in the pictures. Lesser thinks perhaps the father-son team would be a good idea, Johnny Sheffield used to play the jungle lord's adopted son, but outgrew the part.

Lex doesn't think so much of letting his 5-year-old daughter, Lynne, come on the set, though. Not since he heard her boasting to neighborhood kids, "My daddy's going to be a monkey."

"My mother was rather upset at first," Lex said, with a broad grin. "But it's all now. She didn't think Tarzan refined, until she read some of the books and discovered that he's really Lord Greystoke. Me? Oh, sure, I've read all the Tarzan stories, ever since I was a kid."

Of English-Spanish descent, Lex is directly a descendant of Roger Williams, founder of Providence, R.I. Born in Rye, N.Y., he is the son of Alexander C. Barker, civil engineer, who hoped that his boy would join the firm but became reconciled to the stage ambitions of the youth.

For after Phillips-Exeter and Princeton, where he was a football and track star, Lex tackled acting, via the summer stock route at Westport, Bridgesfield and other straw-hat spots. He made Broadway in "Window Shopping" and "The Merry Wives of Windsor."

On a train to Westport he was spotted by a 20th Century-Fox talent scout and made a film test, but rejected the offer, as the salary wasn't big enough to suit him. Then, for a year, to please his father, he worked in a blast furnace, the idea being to learn the business of civil engineering from the ground up.

In January, 1941, he enlisted in the army, emerging from the war a major. Recuperating from battle wounds, he approached 20th, and was signed, but during his months of inactivity there had only a small part in "Doll Face."

Another contract, at Warners, was a repetition. He had small roles in "Two Guys From Milwaukee" there and in "Return of the Badmen" at RKO. His first break came when he tested for and got the part of Loretta Young's brother in "The Farmer's Daughter," which led to his choice as Tarzan.

Sol Lesser boasts that the sun never sets on Tarzan, for this amazing movie hero is being seen at some spot on the globe at every moment. He swings through trees on screens everywhere from Calcutta to Arkansas hamlets.

The reason for Tarzan's popularity is that he's escapist entertainment. He fights villains, human or beast; he rules his domain mostly in silence, his theme is action.
rather than words.

Lex's contract bristles with taboos. He can't drink or be seen in a night club, is forbidden his favorite sport of skiing, is grounded from planes. He can do nothing that might mess up the body beautiful. Target of the photoops, the new muscle man poses constantly for male "cheese cake art," which goes big with the hobby boxers. A little shy about the amount of his frame displayed, Lex says that, for the money they're paying him, he can probably get used to the exposure.

His wife is a nonprofessional, whom he married in January, 1942. She's the first Tarzan ever to live in Tarzana, Calif., a townlet in the San Fernando Valley which was founded by the author, Burroughs.

Lex speaks fluent French, understands Italian and Spanish. Gifted as an artist, he works in oil and charcoal. He smokes a pipe, likes shrimps and enjoys cooking, particularly baking apple pies and cookies. To keep fit he swims, plays tennis, golf and aquatics. His indoor games are backgammon and gin rummy.

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THE NEW TARZAN by Maurice Gardner

Today, March 10th, I traveled by rail to Boston, Mass., to attend the first showing of "Tarzan's Magic Fountain" with Brenda Joyce as Jane, and Lex Barker, the new Tarzan, supplanting Johnny Weissmuller, as the jungle lord. To make the trip a doubly joyful one, the R.K.O. Boston theatre also presented Mr. Barker in person on the stage show, which accompanied the picture.

My first impression of the new silver screen Tarzan dressed in a fine grey suit, displaying his broad shoulders admirably, was almost beyond words to describe. Six feet four in height and weighing 203 pounds (that was what the placard stated in the lobby), what a man--what a handsome man, I thought. Just the type, unquestionably, to portray the ape-man on the screen.

Johnny Weissmuller was a mighty Tarzan; but somehow I feel that Lex Barker is going to be a mighty fine Tarzan, and a smart one, too. The acting in the picture reveals that, as did the little act Mr. Barker took part in on the stage.

Well, Tarzan fans, we can't deprive Johnny Weissmuller of the prestige he attained in portraying the role; but since age has exacted its toll upon his heavy frame, we must be content to remember him kindly and with no regret.

The new screen Tarzan is a worthy successor to Johnny Weissmuller, and the previous Tarzans. Let's all give him a big hand. He deserves it. Long live the new silver screen Tarzan--Lex Barker!

With the new Tarzan is Brenda Joyce as the very lovely Jane. Other characters are played by Evelyn Ankers as Gloria James, who was lost in the jungle some twenty years before and, with a tribe of natives who had found the Fountain of Youth, remains young. Alan Napier plays the part of Douglass Jessup, and Albert Dekker the part of Trask, a trader.

Cheta brings a cigarette case of Gloria's to Tarzan and Jane, and when its examined, the latter remembers of the girl flyer lost in the jungle. From the plane's wreckage Cheta brings a diary, Tarzan delivers it to Nyagi over which Trask and Dodd preside--two men who prove to be rascals.

Tarzan goes to the Blue Valley where dwell the Uthomians, who have found the Magic Fountain, the waters of which keep them eternally young. He tells Gloria James of a man in England in prison, and who can be released only by her appearance and testimony. She promises to return to England and have him freed, if the leader will allow her to leave. She is permitted her freedom on the condition she will not reveal the Blue Valley to the outside world. Tarzan returns with her to his jungle home and Jane is amazed at her youfulness. Trask and Dodd are very much interested in the matter, too. The former sends an expedition into the wilderness to find the Blue Valley, but they meet with death at the hands of the sentinels.

One day Tarzan and Jane are swimming, and Jane pursues her mate, her curiosity regarding the Blue Valley not yet satisfied, for Tarzan refuses to tell her of its location. Presently a plane drops mail for the jungle couple, and a letter from Gloria is read. She writes that the imprisoned man has been freed and that she has married him. She concluded that she and her husband, Jessup, are returning to Africa.

Jane again questions her mate as to their reason for returning to Africa, but he refuses to answer.

Meanwhile Trask and Dodd are aware of the return of the couple and their curiosity is more roused. They bring the couple to the jungle home. Jane is amazed at the change in the woman's age. Trask and Dodd linger on with the pretext that their plane needs to be repaired. When Tarzan returns from a hunt he is angered to see Trask and Jessup. Jane tries to reason with him to lead Gloria and her husband to the Blue Valley, but to no avail. She states she will lead them.

Tarzan follows to their rear. Cheta alternates her time between the two parties. Jane's party camp in a ravine. A torrential downpour almost results in their death, but Tarzan rescues them. The next morning Tarzan, Gloria and her husband are missing. The jungle lord returns them to the Blue Valley, where they are accepted and promise to never venture to the outside world again.

Siko, a malcontent, with several henchmen, abduct Tarzan and are to blind him, but the mighty jungle lord breaks loose and with Cheta, who has stolen a vase of the eternal youth potion, escape from the Blue Valley. Tarzan rescues Jane, after Trask
ANNOUNCING

THE WINNERS OF "HELP THE LIBRARIAN" CONTEST

Alan Howard, Newark, New Jersey
Michael Wigodsky, Houston, Texas
Tom Alioto, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Maurice Gardner, Portland, Mass.
P. J. McCarty, Portland, Oregon
R. H. Schlutter, Baltimore, Md.
Gordon Stoeckler, Washington, D.C.

THE CORRECT ANSWERS

1. TARZAN, LORD OF THE JUNGLE.
The girl is Princess Guinalda. The man is Tarzan. The lion is Jad-bal-ja. See p 355, 362 et seq.

2. THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT.
See discussion of evolution on 349.

3. THE OUTLAW OF TORN.
For first mention of Norman of Torn as the outlaw see p 62.

4. ESCAPE ON VENUS.
a. babies growing on trees - these are the Brokols see p 161.
b. fish evolving into people - these are the Myposans see p. 70.
c. people increasing, or reproducing, by division like amoebae - these are the Vooyorgans - see p 206.

5. GODS OF MARS.
the belief concerning death is first discussed on p 40 et seq.

Almost 100 B. B. readers sent in their answers to the quiz, and it was amazing how few were correct. Most of the mistakes were made on questions 1, 3 and 5. They were answered, incorrectly, as:- 1. TARZAN AND THE GOLDEN LION, 3. THE BANDIT OF HELL'S HEAD, 5. AT THE EARTH'S CORE. Want another????

Next month, June, will be the thirty-fifth anniversary of Tarzan's debut in book form. Will a new Tarzan novel be released to celebrate the occasion? The Dell Tarzan magazine is still appearing bi-monthly. Sparkler comics has discontinued the Tarzan strip. Whitman Pub. Co. has issued a new Better-Little book; TARZAN IN THE LAND OF THE GIANT APES. It is illustrated by Jesse Marsh. Willis Cooper's "Quiet Please" program on American Broadcasting System, mentioned Tar Zarkas and Edgar Rice Burroughs on the May 8th program. Incidentally, "Quiet Please" is an excellent fantasy program that can be heard on Sunday afternoons. The February issue of Screen Guide had a 3 page pictorial layout on Tarzan's of the screen.

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The BB has moved! Address communications for the Burroughs Bulletin to:- V. Corrill T1100 Western Avenue, Peoria, Illinois
TARZAN OF THE APES
BY EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS

Tarzan is the orphaned son of a British nobleman, adopted while a baby by a tribe of anthropoid apes and cared for during his childhood and youth by a fierce animal foster-mother. He learns all the secrets of the wilds, he acquires the strength and agility of his associates, and in time his human intelligence aids him in becoming the leader of the tribe.

His fearless encounters with the jungle terrors, his slowly dawning realization that he is a man, his pathetic efforts to add to his knowledge, are experiences such as have been nowhere else described with so absorbing an interest.

When he meets with others of his kind and is able to note the strange differences when he sees the woman who should be his mate but is separated from him by insurmountable obstacles, even greater trials are before him.

CORRESPONDENCE QUOTES

The verse quoted by Allan Howard reminds me of the poetry Talbot Mundy inserts at the beginning of each chapter in his novels. In one of the BB's Harwood locates Tarzan's cabin somewhere in French Equatorial Africa. He discards Angola, as being a Portuguese territory. He suggests however a point in Angola on the basis of Jane's letter. I favour this location since later on in TARZAN OF THE APES reference is made to Tarzan and D'Arnot leaving the cabin and arriving "at the mouth of a wide river" after about a month. That together with the reference to Cape Town as fifteen hundred miles to the south (p.175 in my edition) would warrant locating the cabin in Angola, which is Harwood's second choice. I should locate the cabin on the coast in the vicinity of Lobito or Benguela in Angola. In fact, so near that I don't see how the Clayton's spent a year there without seeing somebody. Maybe these towns were only villages at that time.

—Jordan Stockler

This is true, but I still maintain that a French cruiser wouldn't be patrolling the waters of a foreign territory. What do the fans think?

—John Harwood

Our Palm Beach s-f club is building a jet ski. We're only in the planning stage yet but I'm looking forward to our 1st game.

—Bill Barnes

I'd like to see the BB campaign for a new edition of TARZAN OF THE APES. With colored illustrations by J. Allen St. John. I believe a good sale could be expected for a properly publicized new edition - a good, clean book for all ages.

—Dr. Charles A. Call

Do you know about the automobile accident BBE was in? He pulled out of an intersection, and a couple of other cars got tangled with him. Coincidence - all 3 cars are of same make, year and color.

—R. Manning

I was glad to see your rap against the Tarzan magazine. My sentiments exactly. This publication got off to a wonderful start with "The White Savages of Vair" and continued with issue #2 but then all that is getting to the same old dog and bone. Whose is the editor's most loyal fan?

—Allan Howard

I, too, am sorry that La is gone. It would seem that I am responsible for that deed. But before judgement is passed consider these points: the comic book is currently the most maligned and severely censored of all publications. This is due to an exaggerated notion of the comic book's effect on a child's character. Crime, sex and violence are severely excluded from the writer's equipment and rightly so. However, as an example of the length to which this editing is carried, you must believe me when I tell you that the intrusion of a young and appealing female character in a comic book is regarded as an intrusion of something evil and sinister. To assume, as the censors do, that the child has the Biblical attitude toward woman is, to me, a rather far-fetched assumption. Until he is taught to do so, I doubt that a child sees evil in female beauty. This explains what happens to La. I doubt if she will be resurrected from her tomb in the hills of hypocrisy. BBE himself assumes an aloof attitude toward the Tarzan of the comics and movies and I ask of all Tarzanophiles that they emulate the master and look up to us with disinterested amusement.

—Jesse Marsh