

FILM FANFARE

BOOKS OF THE WEEK

Cocktails with Stewart

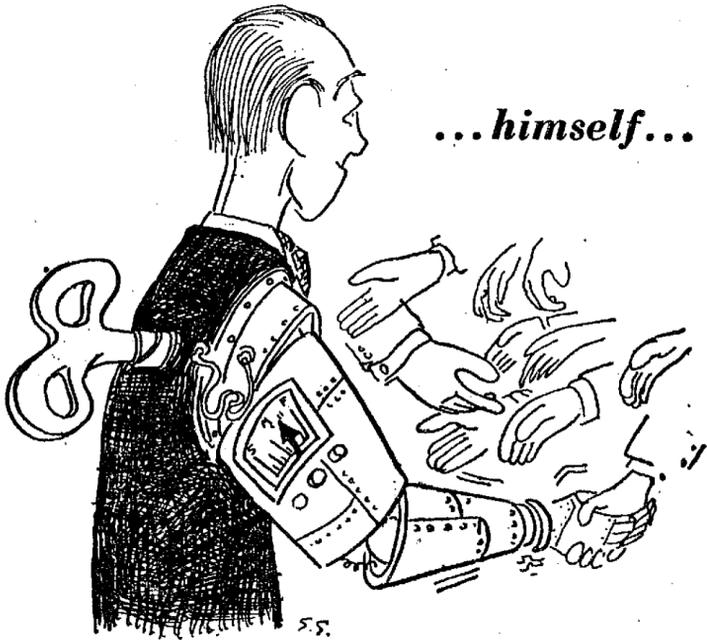
By PFC Sheldon Silverstein
Pacific Stars & Stripes Staff

A FEW WEEKS AGO we attended a cocktail party for Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Stewart at Tokyo's Imperial Hotel. There, surrounded by reporters, photographers, hors d'oeuvres, "meeters" and Japanese starlets, the tall, soft spoken star of "Rear Window" had his picture taken and taken and his hand shaken and shaken and shaken. Through it all Stewart smiled and nodded and talked with the people. He appeared to us to be a comfortable guy. Here's how he probably looked to....

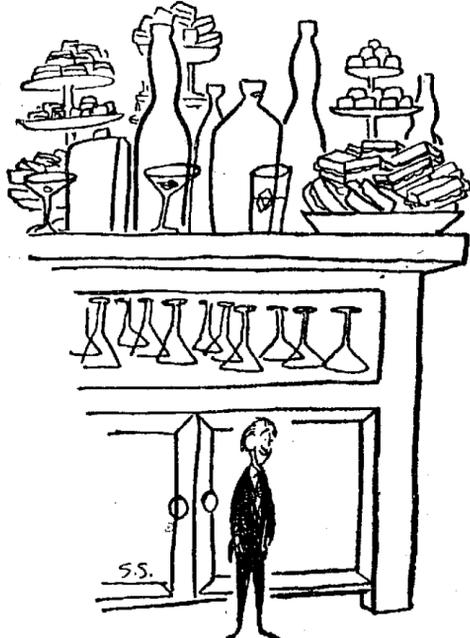
...the Japanese...



...himself...



...his fans...



...the press...

in soft covers

THE NATURE OF THE UNIVERSE

Fred Hoyle

A Mentor Book

THIS NEW REPRINT of a book originally published in 1950 is described as "brilliant, informative" in the blurb and carries highly laudatory quotes from the Saturday Review of Literature, Time and the N.Y. Herald Tribune.

All that its boosters say about it is doubtless true—however it certainly does NOT give "an unforgettable picture of the cosmos and its development as seen by modern astronomy," as Julian Huxley says.

The book is a collection of lectures which the author, an instructor at Cambridge University, delivered. In many cases his "exploding of long-held theories" is just a matter of opinion, but the author puts them forward as if they were truths. For example he decides the interior of the earth can be no hotter than a wood fire and his flat statements about the creation of the moon craters certainly will not stand up. He is a devotee of the theory that the pock-marked surface was caused by meteoric bombardment and quotes an argument that the flat plains where no craters appear are covered with drifted moon dust. Drift in the airless satellite is far fetched, but Hoyle says, "I think this brand new idea is most certainly correct." He does not mention the idea that the craters were caused by giant air bubbles within the molten mass of the moon, which in spite of some basic objections, still remains the most logical theory.

Besides, only recently another lunar authority claimed that radar research proved that moondust couldn't be more than an inch thick.

And so it goes. Books on cosmology and cosmogony only prove that nobody really knows what he is talking about. Still it is necessary to have theories upon which to work toward fact. This book is packed with new ideas. The only thing wrong with it is the irritating way in which the author assumes that the ideas he presents are the gospel truth. (I.G.E.)

A TOWN OF MASKS

Dorothy Sallsbury Davis

Dell Books

PLOT IS SECONDARY in this story of small-town life, with overtones of Freud. The main concern is with the motives behind the murder, and the character study of the woman who committed it. The reader gets in on the actual killing, and, through analyzation of the "lead" and of the incidents leading to the crime, can understand the compulsion behind the act.

Hannah Blake, a big, unattractive, middle-aged spinster who has inherited the town's largest fortune, having nothing else to fall back on, tries to buy her way to friendships, to offset a terrible loneliness. Making all the wrong moves, and misunderstood at every turn, she watches, with a rage of frustration, the popularity and success of her rival for the community's leadership. When a handsome, young, six-foot male with an addiction to writing poetry drifts into town, the stage is set for murder.

This is a different kind of mystery story. The psychological angles, giving a close look at what's beneath the masks of people in every-day life, are well-handled. Hannah's town, Campbell's Cove, could be anywhere—name your state! (E. B.)

...Mrs. Stewart.

