

THRILLING
WONDER
STORIES



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THE MOON

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Lunar Conquest

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KLINE

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FROM THE PAST

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Time Capsule

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IF THE MOON FELL!

BY JACK BINDER



REINMUTH-1937-UB, HERMES, THE ASTEROID THAT PASSED WITHIN 362,000 MILES OF EARTH, MIGHT ON ONE OF ITS RETURN TRIPS PULL THE MOON FROM ITS ORBIT. THE MOON FALLS, LIKE A WORLD-SIZED BOMB! LOOMING GIGANTICALLY IN EARTH'S SKIES, ITS CRATERS AND RADIAL LINES ARE PLAINLY VISIBLE. ENORMOUSLY INCREASED LUNAR TIDES SWAMP ALL COASTS!

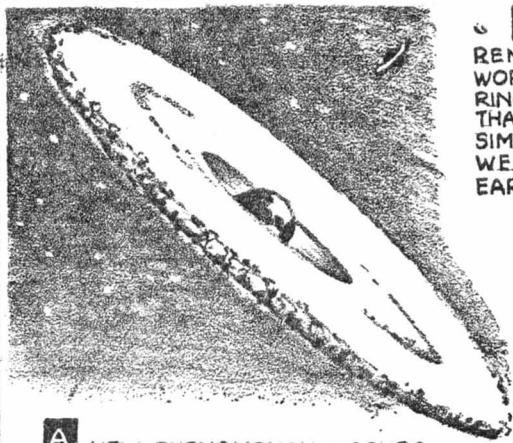


BUT THE MOON DOES NOT STRIKE EARTH'S SURFACE. WHEN IT IS $2\frac{1}{2}$ RADII (ABOUT 10,000 MILES) AWAY, EARTH'S SUPERIOR GRAVITATIONAL FORCE SPLITS THE MOON. IT BECOMES A WHIRLING BALL OF JAGGED MASSES THAT GRIND EACH OTHER TO PIECES!



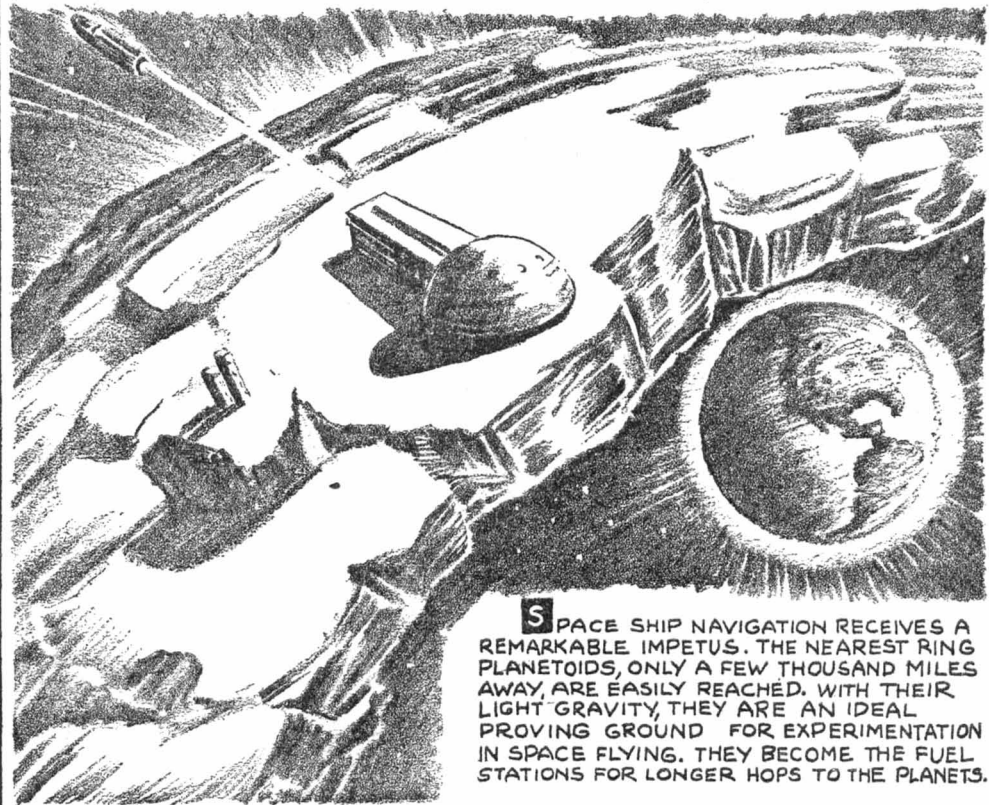
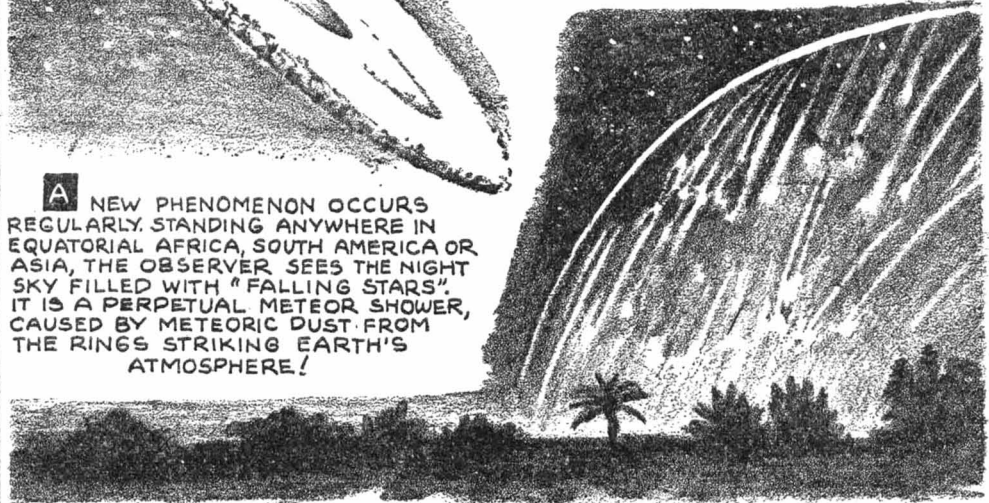
THE REGIONS OF EARTH BELOW THIS COSMIC CATASTROPHE ARE BOMBARDED WITH FALLING METEORITES. ENTIRE CITIES ARE DEMOLISHED, MORE THOROUGHLY THAN THEY WOULD BE BY ANY BOMBING FLEET!

Next Issue: IF INSECTS



EVENTUALLY, THE SHATTERED LUNAR REMNANTS STRING OUT AND ENCIRCLE THE WORLD, AROUND THE EQUATOR. EARTH HAS A RING SYSTEM LIKE SATURN'S! BUT ONE THAT IS FAR MORE MAGNIFICENT, FOR THE SIMILARLY DISRUPTED SATURNIAN SATELLITE WEIGHED ONLY ONE-FOURTH OF OUR MOON. EARTH'S RINGS ARE TWICE AS BROAD!

A NEW PHENOMENON OCCURS REGULARLY. STANDING ANYWHERE IN EQUATORIAL AFRICA, SOUTH AMERICA OR ASIA, THE OBSERVER SEES THE NIGHT SKY FILLED WITH "FALLING STARS". IT IS A PERPETUAL METEOR SHOWER, CAUSED BY METEORIC DUST FROM THE RINGS STRIKING EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE!



SPACE SHIP NAVIGATION RECEIVES A REMARKABLE IMPETUS. THE NEAREST RING PLANETIDS, ONLY A FEW THOUSAND MILES AWAY, ARE EASILY REACHED. WITH THEIR LIGHT GRAVITY, THEY ARE AN IDEAL PROVING GROUND FOR EXPERIMENTATION IN SPACE FLYING. THEY BECOME THE FUEL STATIONS FOR LONGER HOPS TO THE PLANETS.