**REMEMBER**

by Bucky and Juanita Coulson

The star drive was discovered on a planet of Centaurus

By a race that built their cities when Earth was flaming gas.

They swept across the starlanes in the dawning of creation

And a million years of empire came to pass.

Their successors were a swarm of mighty Insects from Orion.

They did not have the star drive, but they did not ever die.

They smashed a dying empire and then settled down to rule it

And another million years or so when by.

The Insects were supplanted when the drive was re-discovered.

They could not stop rebellion, when they could not catch their foes

And the Tzen became the rulers. They were reptiles from Arcturus

And they worshiped the black swamps from which they rose.

But the Tzen were few in number and the universe is mighty

And they felt their domination slip away between their claws.

Others fought for domination and the universe was chaos

And on Earth a creature shaped flint with its paws.

Now the First Ones are forgotten and the Insects but a memory

And the creature called Man stands upon the threshold of his fame,

But remember puny Earthlings, there were others here before you

And still other who will follow in your flame.