

Progress
REPORT

Number two



THE WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

11th WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

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March 1, 1953 Issue

Guest for '53: WILLY LEY!

By now the news is around throughout the science fiction world that the 11th World Science Fiction Convention is to be honored by Willy Ley's presence over Labor Day weekend as Guest of Honor. There are very few fans who are not acquainted with Willy's work in the fields of science fiction (and non-fiction), not only through the many leading S-F magazines in which he has published, but also through recent feature articles in COLLIER'S, and in hard cover books. Indeed, many fans have met him in person at conferences and conventions. We would like to take this opportunity to present a few details in the fascinating career of the coming Convention's Guest of Honor.

Willy Ley was born in Berlin, about 1906. His early studies in zoology and paleontology were begun in the Universities of Berlin and Koenigsberg in the 1920's, and his literary career began with a letter of correction to a German newspaper, which was not only printed, but paid for as well! at that time he went to work for an industrial concern, and spent his spare time writing several books, and helping to organize the German Rocket Society. For some years he was vice-president of that group, and was intimately involved with its experiments with rocketry. It was toward the end of his office that Count Werner von Braun became the youngest (for a time) member of the Society.

With the accession of Hitler in 1933, the Nazis seized control of the German Rocket Soc-



iety. Willy, who was not in sympathy with the Nazis, may have seen handwriting on the wall; at any rate, he succeeded in leaving Germany by the use of a small ruse, and emigrated to the United States in 1934. Still a student and scientist, one of his first acts in this country was to go to Jones Beach to see a live horseshoe crab in its native setting.

At first he lived a precarious existence writing, lecturing, and translating. Gradually he became established, contributing not only to ASTOUNDING (see the March, 1937 issue) and other SF magazines, but to such general circulation magazines as ESQUIRE, CORONET, NATURAL HISTORY, and others. What may not be so well known is that he

contributed a small number of science fiction stories to ASF and other magazines under the name of "Robert Willey."



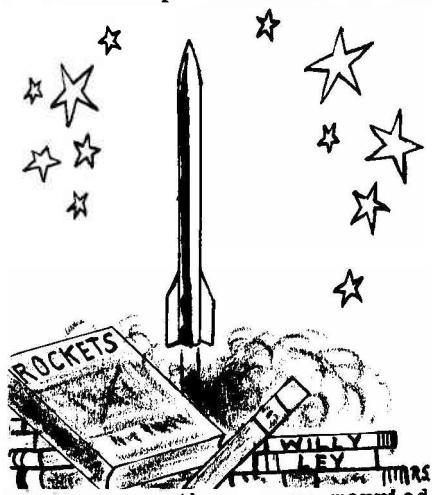
In 1941 Willy's first American book was published: THE LUNGFISH AND THE UNICORN, a compilation of monster-lore, Willy's second love from the left after rockets. This was followed by THE DAYS OF CREATION (1941). These works were closely followed by BOMBS AND BOMBING (1941) and SHELLS AND SHOOTING (1942), both published by Modern Age.

During the war Willy was under consideration for an ordnance officer's commission in the U. S. Army, until it occurred to them that as an enemy alien he wasn't eligible. He had filed his application for citizenship some time before, but its grant was delayed until about 1943. After the war he returned to New York City and free-lancing. Viking Press brought out enlarged versions of former books as ROCKETS, MISSILES, AND SPACE TRAVEL, and THE LUNGFISH, THE DODO, AND THE UNICORN. His most successful book has been his collaboration with the artist Chesley Bonestell, THE CONQUEST OF SPACE, in 1949. Since then he has also published DRAGONS IN AMBER, and in collaboration with L. Sprague de Camp, LANDS BEYOND. All were published by Viking except the last, which was brought out by

Rinehart.

Willy's other activities include a technical advisorship on the TV science fiction program "Space Cadet" and the science editorship of GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION. He also has a radio show, "Looking into Space." Recently he was a contributor to the COLLIER'S and hard-cover publication, ACROSS THE SPACE FRONTIER.

On the social side, Willy is a member of the Hydra Club, and the Trap Door Spiders, a gourmet society. He also belongs to several learned and professional societies. In the early '40s he met Olga Feldman; after a courtship conducted in four



languages, they were married, and now have two small daughters. Olga has illustrated several of Willy's books.

As a man who has done much for science fiction and non-fiction, we are delighted to welcome Willy Ley as our Guest of Honor in '53.



Convention Committee Members

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 87. Sam Bowne | 138. Venita Touzinsky | 189. Hydra Club |
| 88. Hillel Handloff | 139. M. Bailey | 190. Hydra Club |
| 89. Vincent Celli | 140. Ray Van Houten | 191. Hydra Club |
| 90. Bob Johnson | 141. Robert Wheeler | 192. Hydra Club |
| 91. S. J. Deretchin | 142. David McGhee | 193. Hydra Club |
| 92. Joe Kinne | 143. Mrs. D. McGhee | 194. Hydra Club |
| 93. W. J. McQuaid | 144. James Cooper Jr | 195. Hydra Club |
| 94. Dorothy Lowndes | 145. Anthony Noble | 196. Jack Gatto |
| 95. J. V. Baltadonis | 146. Eva Firestone | 197. Ralph Shouts |
| 96. Bob Tucker | 147. Frank Walker | 198. Edward McNulty |
| 97. Irene Baron | 148. Bob Silverberg | 199. Lewis E. Forbes |
| 98. Robert Briggs | 149. Sandy Cutrell | 200. Kelvin Kennedy |
| 99. R. W. Lowndes | 150. Dave Hammond | 201. John Walston |
| 100. Joe Mitchell | 151. Peggy Gordon | 202. Charles Smith |
| 101. Irvin C. Heyne | 152. Elfriede Kerr | 203. James Younge |
| 102. Stella I. Heyne | 153. Howard Kerr | 204. Grace Younge |
| 103. Leo Rodgers | 154. Edward Wood | 205. Roy Lent |
| 104. S.F. Circle | 155. Noreen Falasco | 206. Daniel Zoll |
| 105. S.F. Circle | 156. J. W. Banta | 207. Richard Fugett |
| 106. S.F. Circle | 157. Carlos Clarke | 208. Groff Conklin |
| 107. S.F. Circle | 158. Charles Riddle | 209. Raleigh Multog |
| 108. Henry Ebel | 159. K. M. Carlson | 210. Richard Seltman |
| 109. Ray Capella | 160. Robert Bloch | 211. Roger Margason |
| 110. Bat Scholz | 161. Marion Bloch | 212. Jim Bennett |
| 111. G. N. Raybin | 162. Doc Montgomery | 213. Mary Corby |
| 112. Ethel Ginsburg | 163. John L. Magnus | 214. Marvin Edwards |
| 113. David Seligman | 164. F. B. Christoff | 215. E. E. Smith |
| 114. Al Collins | 165. Columbia Pub. | 216. Jean M. Smith |
| 115. W. L. Donaho | 166. Ron Smith | 217. Lewis Young Jr. |
| 116. D. A. Wollheim | 167. W. S. Houston | 218. J.B. Blumenthal |
| 117. Jean Carroll | 168. Jim Webbert | 219. Evan Appelman |
| 118. Lee Quinn | 169. Manny Staub | 220. Jim Morrison |
| 119. Owen Loveless | 170. Geri Staub | 221. Karen Kruse |
| 120. Kay Brickman | 171. Dean L. Natkin | 222. R. G. Meyering |
| 121. H. S. Schofield | 172. Dr. O.C. Brauner | 223. A. Huddleston |
| 122. A. J. Budrys | 173. Donald E. Ford | 224. H. Moellendick |
| 123. J. R. Phillips | 174. Margaret Ford | 225. Jerry Hopkins |
| 124. Breck Tilden | 175. Louis Tabakow | 226. Norris Hoyt Jr. |
| 125. Phyllis M. King | 176. Carrie Tabakow | 227. Denis Moreen |
| 126. Robert B. Drum | 177. Walter Pratt | 228. Tom Piper |
| 127. John Morrison | 178. Larry DeLeon | 229. Juanita Wellons |
| 128. Charles Watson | 179. George C. Mayer | 230. George Dennis |
| 129. D. D. Bagelman | 180. Ted Sturgeon | 231. Agnes B. Dennis |
| 130. D. E. MacMurray | 181. J. R. Lippaner | 232. Fred Larmay Jr. |
| 131. A. M. Phillips | 182. W. H. Mullarkey | 233. Stan Woolston |
| 132. Larry Maggitti | 183. Malcolm Willits | 234. Charley Fox |
| 133. Bob Pavlat | 184. Walter Guthrie | 235. Barbara Healy |
| 134. Bill Scholtes | 185. D. Scarborough | 236. Sam Woolsey Jr. |
| 135. Russ McKinney | 186. Hydra Club | 237. W. Metz |
| 136. Will Alexander | 187. Hydra Club | 238. Allan Newton |
| 137. Larry Tousinsky | 188. Hydra Club | |

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ANNOUNCING

4th ANNUAL MIDWEST CONFERENCE

MAY 16 AND 17, 1953

INDIAN LAKE, OHIO

NO SCHEDULED PROGRAM, STRICTLY INFORMAL, THE
ENTIRE HOTEL IS RESERVED FOR FANS.

NO DUES, NO DOLLAR TO SEND IN ----- JUST
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ROY LAVENDER
LOUIS TABAKOW
STAN SKIRVIN
DON FORD

CONVENTION NOTE

By James A. Williams

From all indications more first-time visitors will attend the 11th World Science Fiction Convention than any previous convention. Many letters being received state in essence "this will be my first SF Con and I'm looking forward to it." This can, I believe, be attributed to some extent to the overall growth of SF. I'm sure also that the fine job done in Chicago in '52 and its enthusiastic write-ups contributed no little to this new interest. Another and very important factor is the support and help of the pro mags and above all the fan mag editors and just plain fans who write letters plugging "Philly in '53."

Which brings me to a point that is not too often made nor too well understood. Let me go back quite a few years. At its inception all fandom, as we know it today, was on a National basis. There were the "International Scientific Association," "Scienceers," "The Science Fiction League," to name only the three pioneer groups. These functioned for a while, though under great handicaps of time and space. All "meetings" were by courtesy of the Postal Service. Members were of all ages and personalities; some were ambitious and capable and others not. There could be no real solidarity or united planning, for it was (and is) virtually impossible to carry out a club plan when that club is widely scattered and can't sit down together and really talk things over.

Gradually, as these National

groups began to die on the vine individual groups in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Queens, Newark, and elsewhere began to hold informal meetings. They were kindred spirits and knew it through meeting each other. Out of these beginnings fan clubs came into being, and as is the way of nature, began to mature and finally evolved into the efficient and nationally known groups that many now are.

Today the well-organized club like the PSFS (I use my own club as an example because it's the one I know best) combine the social features of the Elks picnic with the learning of the classroom. We have our own regular club room, maintain a library of books and magazines, hold regular meetings, conduct club business, collect dues, and hold open floor discussions on every conceivable subject that could interest a group of approximately forty persons of both sexes.

This group includes several well-known authors, a physics PhD, a graduate chemist, an advertising man, a public school teacher, two college instructors in English, a bookseller, and two partners of a SF publishing house. I should mention also a professional photographer, a master mechanic, a n associate editor of a national slick magazine, two serious artists, and just plain readers. We all are bound together by our real enjoyment of imaginative literature.

After our open sessions, our featured speaker of the evening takes over. At our last January meeting a professor, who lectures on Semantics at Temple University, presented an hour short well integrated introduction to the subject. Often the members furnish the talent, and

we have much to draw upon.

I describe in some detail these things because I want to point out what seems to me to be the real reason for a yearly national convention. It is on a larger scale a club meeting. A meeting scheduled annually of a national organization. It holds its discussions, conducts its business, listens to its speakers, and has its special moments. It is no different in form, only in size and length of meeting, than your own club. Moreover, it furnishes the only opportunity for the unattached fan to enjoy and become a part of such proceedings. Other benefits are obvious -- such as learning to know your fellow fans from everywhere, and, of course, meeting many of your favorite authors, artists, and editors.

Capable and earnest young men and women created the fanmag phenoma. Some of these were excellent and did much for all fans; others were crude, bombastic, egotistical, or what was

worse, tried to "preach a gospel." There were feuds, petty quarrels, violent personality clashes; but also there was the other side of the picture. Serious, intelligent, and well-balanced mags began to find themselves solidly established. They grew and prospered.

Earlier I spoke of national groups which were, in the main, unsuccessful. Several pen clubs exist and serve a very useful purpose -- The Fan-Vets, NFFF, Armed Services SF, and for all I know, many others. However, nothing takes the place of personal meetings and discussion. So I say this is your annual meeting. We welcome your help and support and thank you for the fine cooperation already manifested.

But this note is not to sell the convention; it is to thank the many outside of our local group who by their interest consider this also their convention. It most certainly is! It is the 11th Annual Meeting of the National Fan Club.

GOOD NEWS

A NEW WIDE-CIRCULATION ADVERTISING MEDIUM

FOR SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY ADVERTISERS

THIS PROGRESS REPORT WILL REACH OVER 2000 READERS AND FANS

ADVERTISING RATES

Full page.....\$15
 Half page.....\$8
 Quarter page.....\$5

We will arrange your advertising matter in any way that you wish. We suggest you write to the editor for further information.

News and advertising of regional conferences, etc. accepted at a special rate.

DEADLINE FOR
 NEXT ISSUE:
 May 1, 1953

J O I N

NOW

11th WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION



SEND ONE DOLLAR TO THE

11th World Science Fiction Convention

Box 2019

Philadelphia 3, Pa.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

The publicity committee is happy to report that the initial stages in the campaign to make the 11th World Science Fiction Convention the greatest and best publicized science fiction holiday that has ever taken place, is well under way. The first job of the committee, these days, is to make dead sure that every S-F fan from here to Pluto knows that there is a convention brewing. The work on that phase of activity is bearing fruit: witness the membership list on an earlier page, with more coming in every day, to Box 2019. We have many individuals and publishers to thank more specifically elsewhere in this Progress Report for their splendid cooperation; but we also have to thank the fanzine editors and the prolific letter-writers for their help. Anyone who misses the word now is blind and deaf.

The second phase of publicity can't go into operation until the Convention is closer upon us; but this committee is planning the publicity of the Convention itself on all planes and is waiting for the time to ripen. More detail on this in the next PR.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The program committee is going to be a great tease this time. It is going to hint about all sorts of delightful items that are going to be on the program, but in the best traditions of high-powered publicity purveyors it is going to let all of you lie awake in a torment of suspense until the psy-

chological moment is ripe for revealing these awesome secrets.

The program committee is going to hint about a welcoming address by a very prominent citizen of Philadelphia, whose identity will be a great surprise to all. The committee is going to hint about a brand new original full-length play of professional calibre presented by a professionally trained group. It is going to hint about a very unusual scientific exhibit that will be of great interest to everybody.

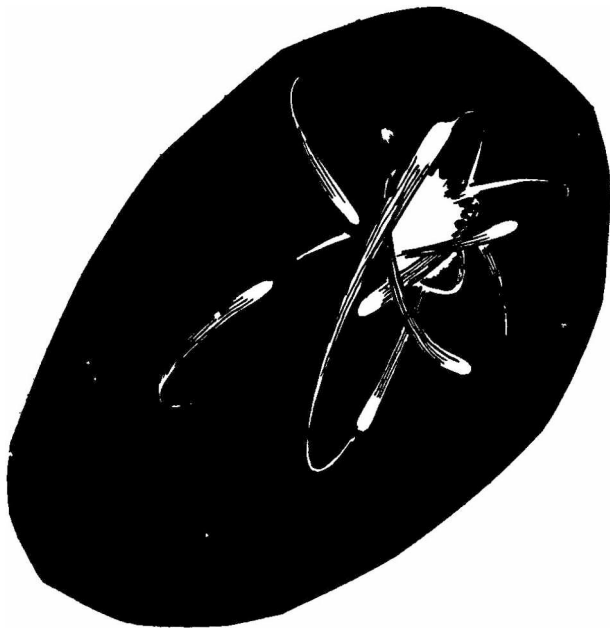
One thing we are not going to hint about is a return to the procedure of conducting convention business before the full membership of the convention. There will be a complete session devoted to the presenting of resolutions and conduction of fan affairs, in addition to the choosing of the next convention site. This will enable the man in the audience greater opportunity to express his opinions. This, after all, is one of the main purposes of the convention.

ART COMMITTEE

The art committee would like any future volunteers of artistic inclinations, to please submit any future art to this committee in black ink upon a stiff grade of white paper. It would also be appreciated if the art work be such that it will fit within a 3 inch boundary. This will make reproduction and pasteup much easier for the PR editors. A number of artists have already sent us work which we hope to use; any more will be appreciated.



Get into the swing
of things!



SUPPORT AND ADVERTISE

11th WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

IN YOUR FAN MAGAZINES!
AT YOUR MEETINGS!
AMONG YOUR FRIENDS!

Help make '53 the Year to Remember!



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To Participate In

The 8th Annual

Philadelphia Regional Writer's Conference

Bellevue - Stratford Hotel

June 17-18-19 1953

Write for information to:

Olga MacFarland, Registrar
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Collingdale, Penna.

Of Special Interest!

A WORKSHOP ON SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY

Will Be Led By

L. Sprague de Camp

One of our own Science Fiction group

members — cont.

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 239. James J. Garvin | 263. Marjorie Diamond | 286. Bess Benjamin |
| 240. Ralph M. Farley | 264. David Barcroft | 287. Donald Cantin |
| 241. Elva S. Farley | 265. Ed. R. Walker | 288. Philip Nichols |
| 242. Alan C. Rievman | 266. Paul Odle | 289. Fred C. Blacker |
| 243. Zoe Ferguson | 267. Tom Reamy | 290. Joe Love |
| 244. R. Peatrowski | 268. Brian McKinney | 291. Paul Powlesland |
| 245. Lee Tremper | 269. Louis Cohlend | 292. Marie Uney |
| 246. Bill Fisher Jr. | 270. James Mackaill | 293. Bob Keyes |
| 247. Dick Barry III | 271. George L. Burke | 294. Rinehart Potts |
| 248. W.O. Rutherford | 272. Roy Pinkerton | 295. Marion M. Mallinger |
| 249. William Munro | 273. E. A. Wheatlay | 296. Reta Grossman |
| 250. Henry E. Muldo | 274. Peter Graham | 297. Fran Lipton |
| 251. George W. Price | 275. Anthony Cerrato | 298. Kent Corey |
| 252. Ted Pederson | 276. William Keithley | 299. J. H. Newberry |
| 253. Donald Sawicki | 277. M. G. Southworth | 300. Jean Williams |
| 254. Nelson W. Moll | 278. John M. Reiver | 301. Jack Williamson |
| 255. Bartley Stein | 279. W. S. Hofford | 302. Poul Anderson |
| 256. Tom S. Gardner | 280. J. Chancellor | |
| 257. Julius Schwartz | 281. Jim Goldfrank | |
| 258. E.J. Mackintosh | 282. Roy C. Seiler | |
| 259. Harland Johnson | 283. William Poley | |
| 260. Margaret Morris | 284. Gerald Stewart | |
| 261. Earl P. Farris | 285. E. E. Bielfeldt | |
| 262. S. J. Takacs | | |

Continued in

The
Next Report

COMINGS AND GOINGS...

As you can see, there have been some changes in the committee members of the convention -- Alan E. Nourse has taken over the editorship of the Progress Report in place of Dave Hammond. Alan is also temporary head of the publicity committee in place of Tom Clareson. Irv Heyne has the interim appointment of Vice-Chairman, also replacing Tom Clareson. Here are the reasons for these changes:

Dave Hammond is now serving with the Air Force. Being eligible for the draft, instead of waiting, he enlisted for four years. He is now stationed at Sampson Air Force Base, Geneva, New York.

As editors of Progress Report Number Two, we hope to continue the fine work which was started by Dave Hammond. We wish our

ex-secretary of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society the best of luck in his new life in the Air Force.

Tom Clareson, who was an instructor of English Literature at the University of Pennsylvania, has acquired a teaching job with the U.S. Government. He has been sent to Labrador; but he intends to return in June to continue his duties for the convention. We also wish Tom the best of luck in his new teaching assignment and eagerly await his return, when he hopes to get his doctor's degree.

* * * *

CREDITS FOR PROGRESS REPORT #2

Interior artwork: Swanson
Cover: Hammond
Makeup: Nourse, Jenkins,
Kessler, Agnew
* * * *

THE PROGRESS REPORTER

With the inimitable HAMMOND gone the way of all rugged American Boys, we are at last free to comment all over the place without fear of being hacked up. We would have it understood that the only things this column will have in common with the last will be its disorganization and ramblingness. That's the only way it's fun to write a column, anyway.

CONVENTIONALLY speaking, Philadelphia is buzzing sporadically; to think that all these nice Philly people don't know what is to be perpetrated upon them next Labor Day Weekend! That a convention is on the way we know full well; every day JIM WILLIAMS drifts into the Post Office to scoop up the convention mail from BOX 2019, shuffles through it, and begins the split-up: "This one goes to Membership, this one to Publicity, this for Arrangements---". As the mail comes in, the time for an Executive Board meeting rolls around, and we get a call from Jim exhorting us to kindly get downtown early, because there's lots to do. So we find that no matter how early we come, half the PSFS is already there, and we haven't scooped anyone at all. On the way down we meet RUSSELL SWANSON coming from his science fiction art show at William Blood's Gallery on 17th Street. He tells us about the brainstorm he's had, we approve with glee (more on that below) and cast the idea in the laps of the Board. MILT ROTHMAN will be there when we arrive; maybe DAVE KYLE will be down from New York; once I thought I saw a thin, wraith-like figure resembling GIBSON

skulking near the bookshelves. A little later SPRAGUE DE CAMP drifts in, lights his pipe, and glowers at us as the planned business gets underway. JACK AGNEW is beaming with additions to membership; BOB MADLE categorically disapproves of all expenses, no matter what they are; and we, in odd moments when things quiet down to fortissimo, continue to badger people for Committee Reports for the PROGRESS REPORT. All of which gets us down to an amazing personal revelation: that working on a convention can be fun---no fooling. And we're enjoying it up to the lid.

A word is due about those letters that come in. We've gotten dozens and dozens, asking about dozens and dozens of things. No one person in the city has the information to answer them all. But some we'll try to answer in this column, and others are shunted to the committee where they belong. Many of the questions refer to problems of travel; many are worried about living arrangements and identification. For the first, we will publish in a later PROGRESS REPORT information as to train, bus, plane, and pogo-stick transportation to and from the large cities. We'll give times of departure and fares, too. And you'll have the REPORT in your hands before you board the trains, too. As for identification and location of people, IRV HEYNE, in charge of arrangements, is planning to organize a CENTRAL INFORMATION BOOTH, which will be open at all times when convention doings are in progress. There'll be a card-file kept of all registra-

tions, so anybody who wants to locate somebody just has to ask. We think it'll solve a lot of problems.

We've also gotten many useful suggestions: for instance, many pleas to cut down the time for introductions at the opening session. The Board has agreed it was a good idea, and plans are being made to keep introductions down to about fifteen minutes. We can hope, at any rate. Other suggestions are under consideration; we'll keep you posted.

Credits: We'd like to thank BIL HAMLING and JUDY MAY for their cooperation in forwarding us the Chicago mailing list. Second, we think a big vote of appreciation should go to the many PRO MAGAZINES which have given the Convention full, half, quarter, or eighth page ads, FREE OF CHARGE. This is the kind of publicity that will bring our Convention to everyone who might be remotely interested in Science Fiction. As of this date (Feb. 13th, 1953, the date of this writing) these free ads have appeared in DYNAMIC SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY MAGAZINE, FUTURE SCIENCE FICTION, IMAGINATION, SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES, SCIENCE FICTION QUARTERLY, and SPACE SCIENCE FICTION. And in addition, LESTER DEL REY, BILL HAMLING, and ROG PHILLIPS have given us editorial plugs of considerable magnitude. (The list above is compiled by the PR editor, and is complete as of this date, subject to the vicissitudes of magazine distribution in this fair city, and his own bad eyesight.) The generosity of these magazines is paying dividends in memberships; our deepest thanks to you all!

Some of the comments we think you'd enjoy: ROBERT BLOCH calls

the Convention Committee "Mars-ochists all" (though I can't imagine why); GEORGE BURKE says "--always in the past extenuating circumstances have arisen to foul up my getting to the convention. I will not let it happen this year. I would cancel my own funeral to be there." Now there's devotion for you---

Ah, yes--we remember what it was. RUSS SWANSON'S bright idea. Man, man. STAMPS, he says. Haven't you seen the new Mars-post series? Or the Luna-post? If you haven't seen them yet, wait until you do---you haven't seen anything like them!

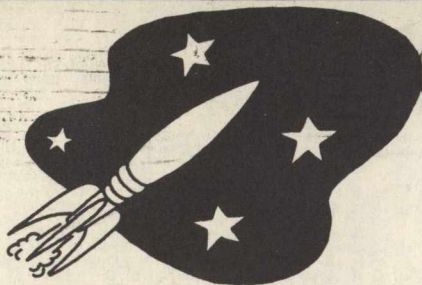
Enough, enough, I say. Back next time.....aen

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS -Program Booklet & Membership--

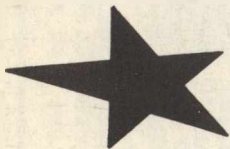
In accordance with a resolution passed and approved by the 10th World Science Fiction Convention at the business meeting the Convention Committee wishes to announce that we would appreciate all thoughts and ideas, pro and con, concerning the formation of a permanent Convention Committee to aid, in some extent, the staging of future Conventions. All inquiries and suggestions should be sent to David Kyle, 300 W. 6th St. New York 23, N.Y.

In addition to the chairman, the Membership Committee is as follows: Henry Burwell and Lee Hoffman from the South; on the West Coast, E. E. Evans; from the Mid-West, Doc Barrett; from Canada, John Millard; and in the East, Dave Kyle...We would like to thank James Mackall and Dr. Oscar C. Brauner for their donations to the Convention. More news next time.

PROGRESS REPORT



Published by the 11th World Science Fiction Convention.



Box 2019, Philadelphia 3, Penna.

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Malcolm Willits (183)
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