

Volume Sixteen, Number Two

& Eleventh Westercon

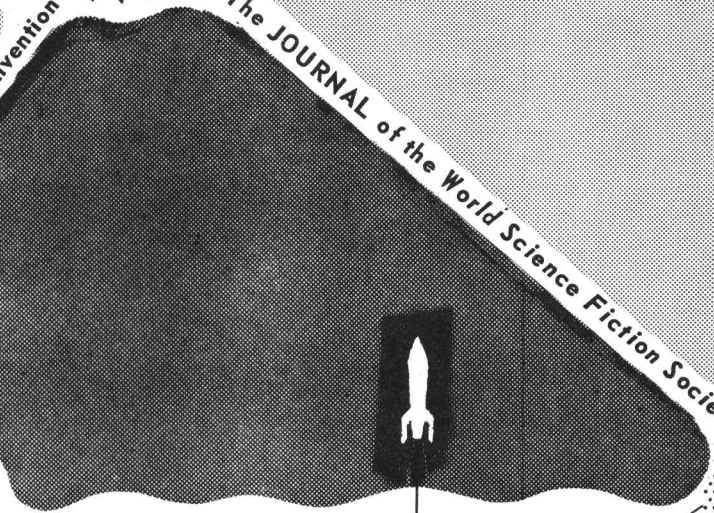
South Gate in '58

PROGRESS REPORT

SECOND

Eleventh World Science Fiction Convention

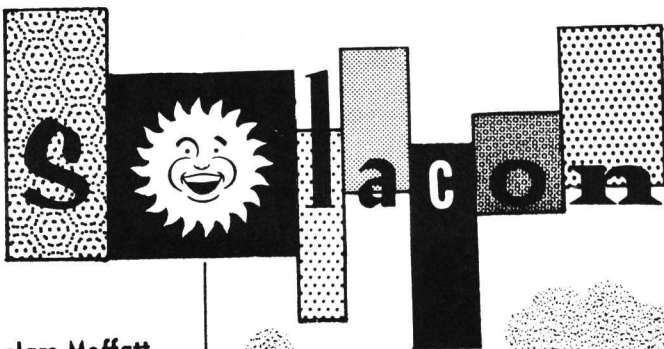
The JOURNAL of the World Science Fiction Society



Salacoon



Sixteenth  
World  
Science  
Fiction  
Convention



combined  
with  
Eleventh  
Annual  
Westercon

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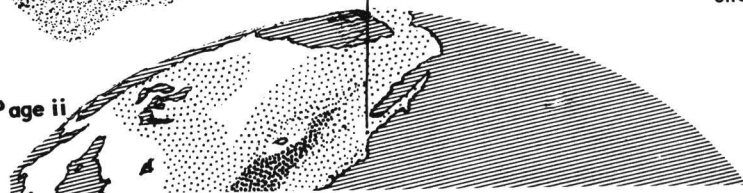
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THE JOURNAL OF THE WORLD SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY, in the Year of South Gate in '58, Vol. XVI, No.2, published by the World Science Fiction Society, Inc., from 10202 Belcher, Downey, Calif., for its members. Subscription price included in annual dues of one dollar, payable to the SOLACON Treasurer.  
Editor: Jim Wilson

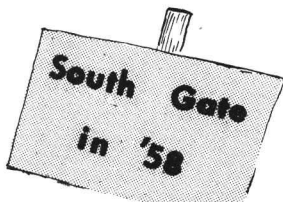


Rick Sneary



# Historical Note

ON



IT ALL started, I guess, in 1947. I was still pretty much of a neofan, excited over my first Convention—the 1946 Pacificon. I wanted to attend others, but didn't see much chance of going very far East...things looked grim...until a correspondent mentioned the possibility of the "Golden Gate in '48"; I took it up. Through Spring and Summer I ended my letters with that stirring slogan, until at Philcon I Toronto's bid was accepted; at this point, I reluctantly began forgetting the whole thing.

On Jan. 12, 1948 I received a letter from El Segundo, Calif., friend Rex Ward, with a cryptic scrawl on the envelope: La puerta del sur en mil novenientos cincuenta y ocho. Spanish, I thought, and began translating: "The gate of the south in one thousand nine hundred fifty and eight," or "South Gate in 1958!" I laughed at Rex for his crazy idea... why, we'd both be middle-aged by then; he'd be a pro writer, and I the South Gate dog-catcher or something. And the amount of work involved—even for the small-size Con of those days—would be tremendous. Rex replied, on Jan. 20:

Why don't we plan a world convention for '58? If we let everyone know we want it... it will be known far ahead of time that South Gate must be elected at the '57 con. We could get a lot of money and by that time get a hotel. For the con I mean. I don't like work, but I certainly wouldn't mind... on such a big thing

as that. Gaw no! I'd do anything... I'm **SERIOUS!** Let's start advertising now! Mention it in your letters to pros. **ADVERTISE...** It'll go over. **I'M SERIOUS. WHY NOT? COME ON. Let's get busy!**

Thus, it started. I became fired with the idea. I started talking about it to other fans. All my letters were signed with the new slogan: **SOUTH GATE IN '58!**

In Fall '48, to Westercon I, the first Annual West Coast SF Conference, held in Los Angeles, I carried for the first time a sign reading, on one side, "South Gate in '58!", and on the other, "The Outlander Society". This marked the beginning of this group of friends living just outside LA, one of whose aims was the fulfilment of the now-famous slogan.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



## Historical Note

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In the next three years they became extremely active and popular, locally and in fandom at large; they issued fanzines, acted with growing leadership in the affairs of LASFS, and held monthly meetings which were prominent social events. The Message was sent to the Torcon and the Cinvention, and I led a delegation of Outlanders to 1950's Norwescon; earlier the same year the third Westercon had demonstrated Outlander ability to produce a Conference, at least, successfully.

In 1951, when The Message went as usual to the Nolacon, the ties binding the Outlanders were weakening; some drifted away, and by mid-'52, a Dark Age had settled upon the old group, while a recession grew in local fandom. We few servants of the Big Dream began to wonder.

We had sowed well, though. With 1953 came 7th Fandom, whose greatest leaders, Lee Hoffman and Walt Willis, had come into fandom at the white heat of the "South Gate in '58" flame; they remained loyal, as did a few others, and the slogan survived in interlineations and cartoons.

In 1954 we old planners momentarily spun in our gafia-graves with the news from the Friscocon that the happy-go-lucky fan convention had become organized, and the country had been divided into three zones. Simple count-to-three fan math could figure it out... Midwest (Cleveland) in '55, East in '56, back to the West in '57, and on again...making South Gate in '58 out of the question. Could this be ... the end of civilization as we knew it? Should we fight? Write letters? Care?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



## NOTES

**R**ICHARD MATHESON will be SOLAICON's Guest of Honor. Best-known for his excursions into the grim and grisly of present and future, Mr. Matheson has finished the screenplay of I Am Legend, his novel of worldwide vampirism, for a British studio. His first motion picture, The Incredible Shrinking Man, also was a novel. Matheson also has to his credit a sizable list of short tales, starting with 1950's "Born of Man and Woman", collected in a volume of that title and in Third from the Sun. His work appeared first, and a good deal since, in F&SF.

**S**IX awards will be made at SOLAICON for achievement in S-F publishing and fandom. There are three "bests", the best novel/novelette, the best short story, and the best magazine; and three "outstandings", in the fields of art, motion pictures, and acti-fandom. These "Hugos" will be voted on by the membership, and ballots will be mailed out with the next Progress Report, in June.

**B**ANQUET prices and menus have been fixed, and very reasonable they are, too. Prime rib is 4.50, lobster newberg 3.50, and broiled half chicken 3.25. Reservations are being taken now at 10202 Belcher, Downey, Calif.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Historical Note

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

From the Old World came a miracle of FooFoo. By early '56, the British and Continental fans had reached an unheard-of peak of activity. in view of this, London announced plans to bid for the '57 Con, amid general acclaim... many London supporters frankly tying a reminder of South Gate in '58 to their plugs. Fandom picked up the torch for '58.

The Outlander Society was scattered beyond repair, but the Moffatts and I grew more active again. They issued a new fanzine, Science Fiction Parade, to plug the old slogan, and to report the plans and activities of the SouthGate supporters. We talked to people, we wrote letters, and the shadow of an organization grew.

The news from NYCon that London had won her bid for '57 was celebrated almost as wildly out here as it was in England. Offers of help poured in from the LASFS, Pacific Rocket Society, and the Little Men, from fans from New Zealand to Old Britain, from people who had their hands full with London-in-'57. A new group in the Bay Area which had planned to bid for '58 withdrew in favor of our ancient claim. We formed our Committee and sent off our delegation, and the strong hand of Fate placed us firmly in the role we had so lightly assumed, ten years before.

And Rex Ward, the Inventor of South Gate in '58, you ask? My file shows that the last letter I received from him was scarcely six months after The Message. I have not heard from him in nine years. Sic transit gloria mundi.

—Rick Sneary



◊ DAMON KNIGHT ◊ ANTHONY BOUCHER ◊ BASIL DAVENPORT ◊ ROBERT BLOCH ◊

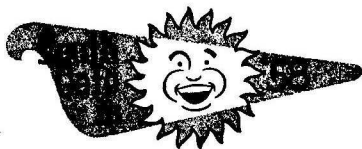
◊ ROBERT A. HEINLIEN ◊ C. M. KORNBUTH ◊ ALFRED BESTER ◊ FRANK KELLY ◊ FREAS ◊

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MANAGING DIRECTOR

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World Science Fiction Society  
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Downey, Calif.

Dear Membership of the SOLACON:

We are extremely pleased to learn that Los Angeles, California, has been chosen as the site of your 1958 International Convention and that the Alexandria Hotel will be the headquarters for your convention.

The Alexandria Hotel has much to offer you. Our Coffee Shop is known throughout the country for its friendly service, excellent food and moderate prices. The "Landmark" Lounge has every comfort of a modern bar and welcomes you with warm hospitality and a friendly atmosphere. We have a Drive-In garage right in the premises that will be available for your use. A one day Laundry and Valet service, a Drug Store and a Barber Shop completes the services of the Alexandria.

The Alexandria is located in the heart of downtown Los Angeles, in the center of the financial, theatrical and shopping district, which includes many fine restaurants. We are just a short walk from the main bus terminals, a few blocks away from Union Station and the airline limousine stops right at our door.

If reservations are received ninety days before your convention, we will do our utmost to place hometown groups and clubs on the same floor. We shall be happy to provide small committee rooms for club or group meetings.

The entire staff of the Alexandria Hotel eagerly awaits the opportunity of being host to the membership of the World Science Fiction Society on August 29th through September 1st, 1958. We will do everything within our means to make this convention the finest and most memorable you have ever attended.

Cordially yours,

George H. Karlin  
Managing Director  
Alexandria Hotel

GHK/aj

**vote**

**DETROIT!**



**the**

**MISFITS**

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Patty Paccassi  
Ben Singer  
Eleanor Singer  
Elliot Broderick  
Marlene Broderick  
Dean McLaughlin  
Erwin Stirnweis

Fred Prophet  
George Young  
Mary Young  
Roger Sims  
Jack Koppen  
Mona Rhines  
Ed Kuss  
Bruce Davis  
Agnus Harook

Jim Broderick  
Arnim Sielstad  
Orma McCormick  
Howard DeVore  
Sybil DeVore  
Martin Alger  
Gordon Black  
Fred Reich  
Burt Beerman

HONORARY: Art Rapp Doc & Jean Smith



## Travel Together to South Gate Committee

Frank and Belle Dietz, George Nims Raybin  
1721 Grand Ave., Apt. 2N, Bronx 53, N. Y.

Dear Fans:

Travelling to the SOLACON? Most fans are travelling by air on either Saturday, Aug. 23 (one week before the Con), or Thursday night, Aug. 28 (the night before the Con). One aircoach flight on each of these days will be selected as the fan flight, as soon as summer airline schedules are set. If you live on the East Coast, or in or near Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Cincinnati, Milwaukee, or St. Louis, please write to the Committee now to secure information and details as to these flights.

Driving to the Con? Write to us if you want riders to share expenses; Riders—we can put you in touch with the drivers; Midwest Road Rally to LA—write to George H. Young, 11630 Washburn St., Detroit 4, Michigan; Southwest Chartered Bus Information—write to Jim Hitt, 2432 Hillglenn, Dallas 28, Texas.

Information on trains and busses will be forthcoming. If you're interested in receiving a bulletin containing this information, please write us.

*Belle, Frank & George*

### more NOTES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

**I**T is told with a sigh and a tear in the eye, for it tells of a plan gone wrong-o, it's the song of a merryman moping mum, who hoped and prayed and planned to come, but could find no fate but to stay and wait far from South Gate in '58-o. Walt Willis, well-known Earthman, and focus of the WAW-to-the-Gate Fund, has announced with regret that he will be unable to make it to SOLACON. WAW expressed gratitude for the efforts that had been made to bring him to the Gate, which we pass on to all WAW fund contributors. The fund is being split between TAFF and SOLACON.

**T**HERE'S a nice story behind membership # 126: Mr. W. P. Millet's a hotel manager who hosted the '53 and '55 Westercons. Learning of South Gate in '58, he approached the Committee and offered his Hotel Commodore for SOLACON. Told "Sorry, we've chosen the Alexandria," he asked how else he could help. Well, if he'd like to join the Society... and he did. Right neighborly, says we, and welcome!

**A**FUTURE fashion show has been planned as a part of SOLACON's program. The LASFS is producing the event; Westercon X revealed a sort of preview of what it might be like.



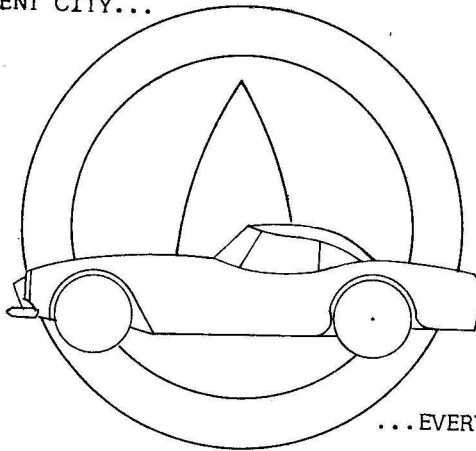
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TO THE

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A DIFFERENT CITY...



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August 24, 1958 -- September 7, 1958

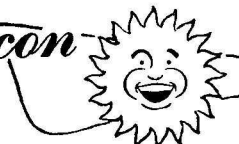
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...if interested,  
please contact

...George Young  
11620 Washburn St.  
Detroit 4, Michigan

or...Nick Falasca  
5612 Warwick Dr.  
Parma 29, Ohio

# Solacon MEMBERS



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| 111. Landell Bartlett     | 136. Nick Falasca         | 160. Larry T. Shaw         |
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| 133. Brandshaft           |                           | 182. William Sokol         |
| 183. Rev. C. M. Moorehead |                           | 195. Ed Emshwiller         |
| 184. Paul Harold Rehorst  |                           | 196. Carol Emshwiller      |
| 185. Bruce Pelz           |                           | 197. Harriett Kolchak      |
| 186. Joseph A. Sarno      |                           | 198. Anthony Boucher       |
| 187. Brian Caden          |                           | 199. Phyllis Boucher       |
| 188. Ralph Watts          |                           | 200. Larry Boucher         |
| 189. John Berry           |                           | 201. James Boucher         |
| 190. Martin Helgesen      |                           | 202. Stuart Wheeler        |
| 191. Jean Carrol          |                           | 203. Michael W. Waite      |
| 192. Melvin B. Hipwell    |                           | 204. Robert E. Briney      |
| 193. John M. Pelikan      |                           | 205. Richard Matheson      |
| 194. Nina Pelikan         |                           | 206. John R. E. Metras     |

...hello out there...

Fan . . . Family . . . Fanclub . . . Fanation

From where you're sitting right now, you can arrange your Con attendance. You can work out--or join--group-travel plans through the Dietz-Raybin Travel Committee (see p. 6). You can reserve room, suite, or floor, at the Alexandria (see p.4). Now you can even reserve your place and plate at the banquet (see p. 2).

Why not do it now?



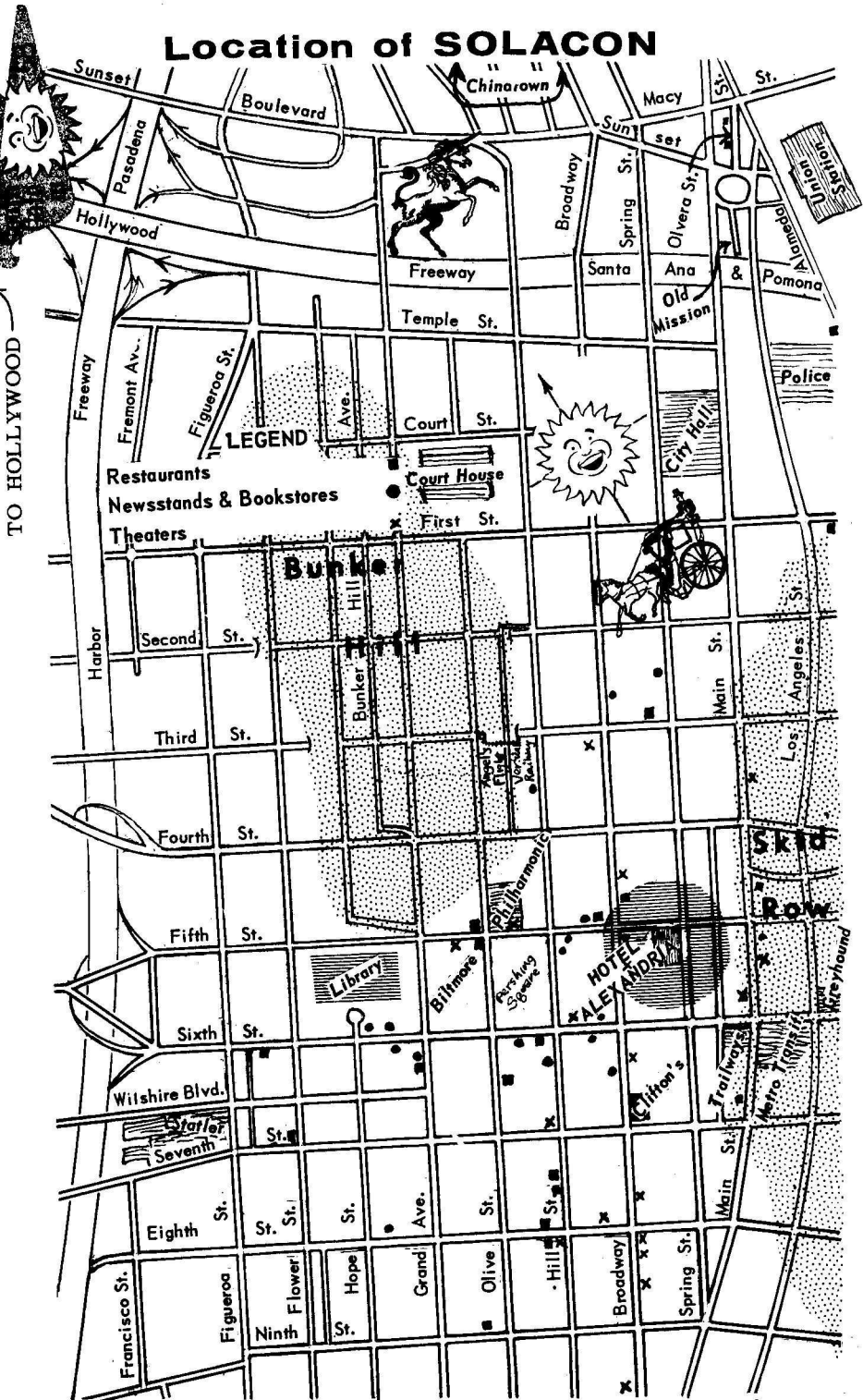
DALLAFANDOM IS WAITING FOR YOU

We're also having a regional con (South-  
westercon 6) on July 4,5 and 6, 1958.  
You can get information on either from:  
Tom Reamy or Richard Koogle, 4243 Buena  
Vista, Dallas 4, Texas.

• BIG 'D' IN '59 •

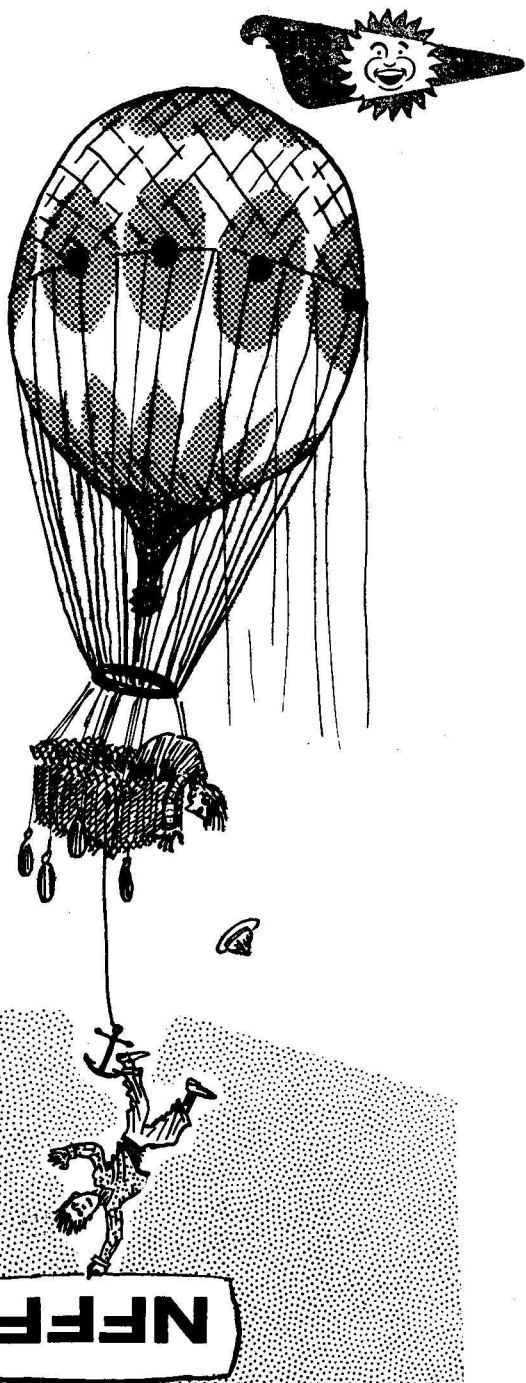
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# Location of SOLACON



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High  
Old  
Time  
With*



The National Fantasy Fan Federation + Annual Dues 1.60  
+ Secretary-Treasurer + Janie Lamb + Route 1, Heiskell, Tennessee

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# WSFS



# Page

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 James V. Taurasi, Paterson, N. J.    E. Everett Evans, Los Angeles, Cal.

Recorder-Historian, Franklin M. Dietz, Jr.

Legal Officer, George Nims Raybin

ADVISORY COUNCIL: E. J. Carnell, Nick and Noreen Falasca,  
 Sam Moskowitz, George Nims Raybin, Roger Sims

Formal Notices of Intent to Bid for the 1959 WorldCon (as required by the WSFS Constitution for all prospective bidders) have been received from The Misfits, of Detroit, led by George Young, and from a Dallas group, led by Dale Hart. Chicago's interests are being advertised by Earl Kemp, although formal notice has not been received as of this writing. Both Detroit and Dallas have announced group-travel-to-South-Gate plans, described on the Travel page.

Commenting on this, SOLACON Secretary Len Moffatt looks forward to "...a lively business meeting at SOLACON with three groups to date competing... Cons with several groups vying for the next year's bid can be very exciting... smoke-filled rooms and all ...a very healthy sort of thing... in the great fan-convention tradition."

Other matters to be taken up at the business session will be the election of two new directors and approval of a new by-law.

### CORRECTION

We apologize to Dave Newman for misspelling his name last issue, and to the Alexandria for misquoting a price: it should be: Twin: 8.00, 9.00, 10.50

## FOO ON THE CAT CULT

### Ad

### Rates

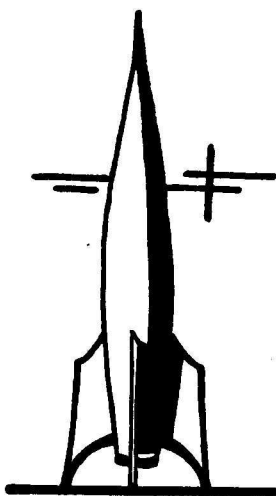
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1/6	2½x2¼	2.00	1.40
1/6	1 7/8 x 1¼	-----	.60

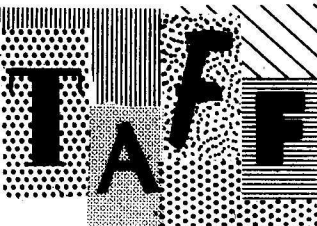
### Note

Examples of the full, 1/2, 1/3, & 1/6 page ads are in this issue. Best size for copy is full size or 1/3 larger (10x6 page). The Program will be sideways, the page 7½ wide, 4½ high. Deadlines: Next Progress Report, May 15; Program, Aug. 6, 1958.

# CHICAGO:

# 1959





# Presents

The 1958 slate of candidates...

John Berry  
31 Campbell Park Ave.  
Belmont, Belfast  
Northern Ireland

Ron Bennett  
7 Southway  
Arthurs Avenue  
Harrogate, Yorkshire  
England  
*Editor, PLOY*  
*Member, Leeds SF Group*

Dave Newman  
No. 6 Maurie Park  
West Kirby  
Wirral, Cheshire  
England  
*Director, WSFS*  
*Liverpool SF Group*

Roberta Wild  
204 Wellmeadow Road  
Catford, London SE 6  
England  
*Secretary, LONCON*  
*Member, OMPA*

Write: Bob Madle, 7720 Oxman Rd., Hyattsville, Md.

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