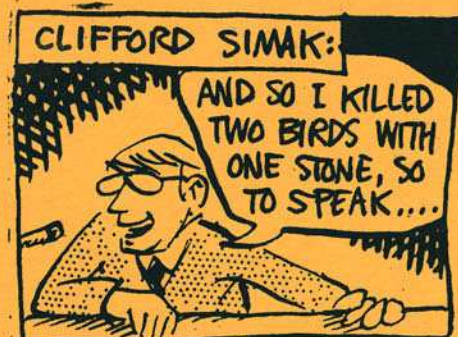
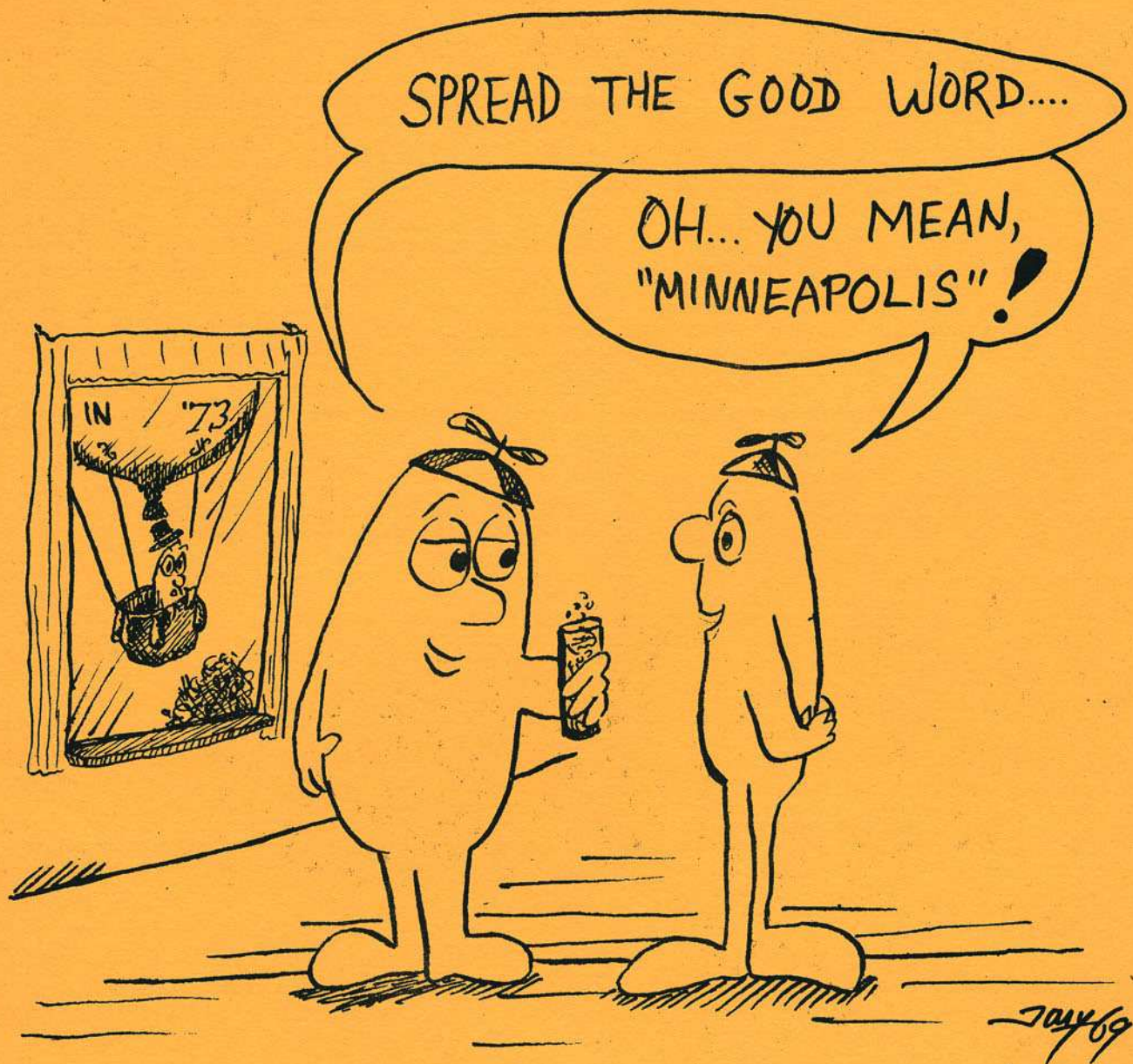


Third and final progress report



Minicon 2





Minicon 2

The second annual Minnesota Science Fiction Convention, Minicon Two, third and final Progress Report is published by Minn-Stf, the Minnesota Science Fiction Society. Copies of this report are available free from the chairman (as long as the supply remains). Write to: Jim Young, 1948 Ulysses St. N.E., Minneapolis, Minn., 55418. Minneapolis in '73!

Minicon 2

Science Fiction Convention

April 4-6, 1969:: Andrews Hotel :: Minneapolis, Minnesota

CHARLES V. DE VET :: GORDON R. DICKSON :: CARL JACOBI :: CLIFFORD D. SIMAK
Guests of Honor

Jim Young, Chairman :: Marge Lessinger, Treasurer :: Ken Fletcher, Advertising
Karen Johnson, Registration :: Frank Stodolka, Art-show and Book Room

Al Bencker :: Lorie Berndt :: Nate Bucklin :: Louis Fallert :: Fred Haskell :: Rein Konen :: Joel Lessinger :: Dan Musick :: Carol Stodolka ::
Members of the Committee

-- And supported by Minn-Stf, the Minnesota Science Fiction Society --

The Minicolumn

The second Minicon was held in Minneapolis April 4, 5, and 6, 1969 at the Andrews Hotel. About 115 people registered, with a total attendance -- including those who didn't register -- of about 150. And beyond these facts it was, in Gordy Dickson's words: "The best con I've been to -- bar none!"

What made Minicon so special? For one thing, it was the first true convention ever to be held in Minneapolis. Minneapolis fandom has one of the most important traditions for fannish goings-on in the Midwest, yet a regional was never considered by the members of the Minneapolis Fantasy Society or local fans during the times neither the MFS nor the Minn-Stf existed. You'd think that such a convention would be so severely troubled that it wouldn't be the great convention it turned out to be. What made it so successful? The answer is simply, the people; the people who attended, the people who worked for the committee, and my fellow members of the con-committee made the con. To paraphrase Dickson once more, things in this area seem to have a certain fannish quality to them that's to be found nowhere else in the world. Minicon was a wonderful, fun and fannish convention that certainly lived up to the traditions of the MFS and the Minn-Stf.

As chairman, I suppose I'm expected to report all the details of working for months in advance of the convention, all the troubles we had, and the time spent after the convention analyzing and deciding what should be done next time. All this is sort of an integral part of this report; what I'd actually like to do with my section of this fanzine is to give you a little of the pure joy of being at the con...to try to bring you the flavor of attending Minicon Two.

So, without further ado, we present a Jim-Young's-eye-view of the Minicon:

Things began rolling Friday (April 4) in the late afternoon. About four o'clock, the registration desk and the various meeting rooms were all open. Fans began to roll in. (By ten o'clock that evening, when the desk closed down, we had eighty people registered.) I was happy to find people attending from all parts of the country; members of St. Louis fandom, Boston fandom, fans from Madison, Wis., and Peoria and Chicago, Ill. showed up. Members of the MFS appeared. The attendees of the Minicon all seemed to be overjoyed about the sort of things that happened and were happening at the convention; the movies, the panels, the art-display...

all of them seemed to turn out just right.

Programming at the con was all on the relaxed, informal side. Friday we showed the Fritz Lang silent film, "Metropolis" (a movie that I accompanied in all its silence on the piano...for near three hours), and afterwards adjourned to the convention's pent-house suite for a good party. Saturday, of course, was the most active day on the program, and it included a comment-provoking and very interesting discussion with Charles De Vet, Gordon Dickson, and Cliff Simak. The topic was "How I Discovered Science Fiction", a topic that eventually wandered off into a discussion on the development of SF, what the Guests of Honor foresaw for science fiction, and -- at the adjournment of the panel -- a congregation of fans coming up to the stage and asking the speakers for autographs and generalized chatting. After this, there was a dinner break. After the break, a local fan-artist Dick Tatge hosted a slide-show...something of a light-show, replete with a discussion of how to achieve the various lighting effects with slides Dick had demonstrated. Also after the break (and contiguous with the slide-show) the con party began. Tony and Sue Lewis of Boston aided the party by contributing to the supply of beverages and generally adding to the zest of the occasion. This particular party lasted all through the night, and was judged by many people to be better than parties they'd attended at many worldcons. The party featured Gordie Dickson, and Fred Haskell playing guitar and singing filk-songs, Manse Brackney and Ken Gray and family...active members of the MFS, Cliff Simak telling folks that he had written about Minneapolis (the city in They Walked Like Men being the City of Lakes), and at least 40 people still standing (or in various states of consciousness) at sun-rise. (It so happened that I also bought a copy of the first issue of Amazing Stories Quarterly for \$3.50 at the party.)

Sunday seemed quiet in comparison to the wonder of the convention on the two previous days. Still, that quiet Sunday was tremendously enjoyable. It featured a "Star Trek" slide-show par excellence, hosted by Ruth Berman. (Ruth had worked for the show too, to add to her interest and background in the program.) Jim Odbert was awarded the ten dollar prize in the art-show popular award for his drawing, "Falling Flower." The auction, which hauled in over \$100, was one of the most fan-nish events I've attended. Joel Lessinger, husband of our convention's treasurer Marge, is one of the best auctioneers in fandom. He happened to find three cans of Hamm's beer left (somehow) from the party, and auctioned them off for a Chilean 50 Peso note (worth about 18 cents.) He then turned around and auctioned off the Chilean dinero for 76 cents!

Along with these events, we had the art-show, some huckstering, a welcome room occasionally inhabited by droves of chess-players, and a wonderful hotel. The previous items seem typical for a convention; unfortunately for most cons, the latter aspect of the Minicon is atypical. The Andrews Hotel has to be one of the friendliest hotels ever used for any SF convention (and it seems that all the Minneapolis hotels are as friendly as the Andrews!) As Ray Fisher commented, "This is the first hotel I've ever been in where the elevator operators smile! And at three o'clock in the morning, too!" Along with this, we had convention rates that brought a single with bath down to five dollars per night. It was a wonderful, inexpensive hotel, and we're glad to report that we'll be in the Andrews again next year with the third Minicon.

Of course, the convention had been planned as well as it could have been; I extend my congratulations and thanks to every member of the committee and every Minn-stiffer who helped out. There were some problems, though, with the con: yet, due to the people involved in the convention, all the problems were minor...and the problems were eliminated so soon no one noticed them (save members of the committee.) After the convention came the inevitable parties centering around what would be done to top the second Minicon; parties that succeeded in achieving their goal of planning the third Minicon.

All in all, we put on a wonderful convention; to top this, we members of the committee had a wonderful time doing it, too! We've learned a lot, and we'll learn more...so that we can put on the best possible conventions, and have the experience to handle the 31st World Science Fiction Convention should we receive the support of fandom to hold the 1973 worldcon in Minneapolis.

And now let me remind you to come to Minneapolis in 1970 for the third Minicon, and to vote Minneapolis in '73 when the time comes. Thanks, and I hope you enjoy this thing....

-- Jim Young, convention chairman

THINKING THE UNIMAGINABLE

-- The Aftermath of Minicon Two --

by Frank Stodolka, President of the Minn-Stf

Well, Minicon II has blazed its way into the annals of fannish history. And fandom will never be the same. The more erudite fannish historians (Kaymar Carlson take note) will have to notice that, after this most glorious eruption of pure fan-ac in the Midwest, even the fabric of time and space resounds with ever-expanding shock waves emanating from the Andrews Hotel.

Of course, it is only natural that such a phenomenal release of energy should have its side effects -- some of which are quite dangerous. For instance, it is only at great risk that one even whispers the name "Minicon" at a Minn-Stf meeting. For, in the space of a few milliseconds, every fannish eye assumes a glazed expression as visions of "Metropolis" and Dick Tatge's mind-boggling light-show pass before them. In a second adrenalin is pumping full speed through their bulging veins and the room temperature rises a few hundred degrees as vigorous fannish debates about whether the party in room 809 or that in 811 was the greatest blast. (Personally, I tend to liken it to two pieces of fissionable material exceeding critical mass on contact.)

Of course the Andrews will never be the same. Every so often as I pass ground zero, I pause and think, "God! How open minded fans must be to have created that awesome crater of emptiness!" And Minicon II was just a test! What if Minn-Stf brought ALL its resources to bear and really produced a convention? The vastness of it is inconceivable. The mere concept of unleashing such a force upon fandom is unthinkable! I mean, this nation has already in its short history fought two of them. Surely no fan in his right mind would ever launch Minicon III-- would he?



Being something of a journalist m'self, I've never been surprised to see a news item messed-up by a reporter, or -- horror of horrors -- by the printer. And with this in mind, I read the following clipping in the Minneapolis Tribune early in the morning of Monday, April 7, 1969. Did you know you're a science fiction fandom? Well, if you didn't, just read the following piece, laugh a bit, and pity the poor reporter called in to interview us. Ah, poor fellow!

THEY FANCY FANZINES

Science Fiction Fandoms Convene

By GERALD VIZENOR
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

Anthony Tollin, a 17-year-old fringe fandom attending the second annual convention of the Minnesota Science Fiction Society unloaded dozens of science fiction comic books onto a table in the basement of the Andrews Hotel.

As he did, half a dozen other fringe fandoms began sorting through the collection with the intensity of rare-book collectors.

Fandoms, according to fandoms, are people who like reading fantasies about unicorns, assassin demons zapping with zorch guns, and the more serious futuristic fictions of science.

One hundred fandoms from seven states attended the weekend convention to share a common interest, swap fanzines (amateur science fiction magazines) and hear three science fiction writers talk about their craft.

Fred Haskell, 19, a fanzine fandom and journalism major at the University of Minnesota, explained that fandoms like to get together to meet each other and have fun.

"Most of us are introverts and have been defensive about our peculiar interest in science fiction," Haskell said. "We are more open when we get together.



Karen Johnson



Jim Young



Fred Haskell

Conventioneers seek blessings of St. Fantony

"We have fun and even seek the blessings of St. Fantony, the patron saint of fandom."

Haskell has the conventional title of "Happy Deadwood," he said, "because I'm sort of a nonfunction." He publishes a fanzine called "Cheap Thrills," named after what pulp magazines of 30 years ago were supposed to give you.

Fandoms have a name for just about everything.

"The most active fandoms, the hybrids, find fandom a way of life, a whole world kind of thing," Haskell said, looking over at Tollin, who had just sold several comic books.

"Tollin's a fringe fandom . . . hung up on comics."

Tollin, a Robbinsdale High School student who wears a gold question mark in his lapel, replied, "To comic fans, the straight science fiction

fandoms are the fringe."

From his collection of about 3,000 comics, Tollin brought only the duplicate issues to sell at the convention.

Membership in science fiction fandom clubs has grown in the past few years, according to the chairman of the convention.

Jim Young, 18, a Marshall University High School student, explained that there is more interest in science fiction now because so many things that were considered fiction have become fact.

He mentioned the atomic bomb, flying saucers and space exploration.

When asked about the interest in flying saucers, Young said, "We're not associated with those flying saucer freaks right now . . . but who knows?"

"We don't need people

who need science fiction for a religion," he added, but anybody who likes to read fantasies and science fiction is welcome."

Karen Johnson, 17, a Marshall-University High School student who attended her first convention last weekend, was "discovered" by a fandom, she said, while she was reading a fantasy about a lost unicorn.

Miss Johnson was dressed in a white robe and had bare feet. Her name tag read: "Unicorns Tamed."

Fandoms are open-minded about witchcraft and magic, Miss Johnson said, and are bothered most by those who think of science fiction in terms of bug-eyed monsters of fantasy and films.

Three published science fiction writers — Charles V. De Vet, Gordon R. Dickson and Clifford D. Simak — told the convention how they discovered science fiction. They answered questions about the techniques of writing science fiction.

The convention was adjourned yesterday with plans for those present to meet again Labor Day weekend at the 27th World Science Fiction Convention in St. Louis, Mo.

Meanwhile, local fandoms will be trying to attract the 1973 world convention to Minneapolis.

MEMBERSHIP OF MINICOON TWO

01 Jim Young, Minneapolis
 02 Marge Lessinger, Minneapolis
 03 Ken Fletcher, St. Paul
 04 Karen Johnson, Minneapolis
 05 Frank Stodolka, Minneapolis
 06 Carol Stodolka, Minneapolis

001 Charles V. De Vet, St. Paul
 002 Gordon R. Dickson, Minneapolis
 003 Barry Dickson, Minneapolis
 004 Dennis Dickson, Minneapolis
 005 Carl Jacobi, Minneapolis
 006 Clifford D. Simak, Minnetonka
 007 Maude Dickson, Minneapolis

1 John Kusske, Okinawa
 2 Joanne Swenski, Iron River, Mich.
 3 Pauline F. Jadick, Omaha, Neb.
 4 Laurie Berndt, Osseo
 5 Rein Konen, Minneapolis
 6 Dan Kennisten, Brooklyn Center
 7 Doug Kirks, Brooklyn Center
 8 Al Bencker, Osseo
 9 Leif Andersson, Bloomington, Ind.
 10 K. Martin Carlson, Moorhead
 11 Louis Fallert, St. Paul
 12 Fred Haskell, Edina
 13 Glenn T. McDavid, Northfield
 14 Jon Dummermuth, West Union, Iowa
 15 Walt Schwartz, Minneapolis
 16 Don Nelson, Minneapolis
 17 Doug Kellogg, Minneapolis
 18 Chuck Holst, Minneapolis
 19 Dick Tatge, Minneapolis
 20 Anthony Tollin, Minneapolis
 21 Don Roberts, Farmington
 22 Jim Stokes, Minneapolis
 23 Carelton Carroll, Madison, Wis.
 24 Paulette Carroll, Madison, Wis.
 25 William F. Orr, Madison, Wis.
 26 Jim Plasman, Northfield
 27 Richard West, Madison, Wis.
 28 John Bulliss, Madison, Wis.
 29 Anthony Lewis, Belmont, Mass.
 30 Jerry Misner, Minneapolis
 31 Mentor C. Addicks, St. Paul
 32 Bev Addicks, St. Paul
 33 Steve Popper, St. Louis Park
 34 Al Kuhfeld, Minneapolis
 35 Ivor A. Rogers, Green Bay, Wis.
 36 Ken Gray, Savage
 37 Steve Gray, Savage
 38 Susan Erickson, Minneapolis
 39 Folly Malm, Minneapolis
 40 Anna Bonn, Minneapolis
 41 Dan'l Musick, St. Paul
 42 Joel Lessinger, Minneapolis
 43 Art Roberts, Minneapolis
 44 Pamela Janisch, St. Louis, Mo.

45 Ray Fisher, St. Louis, Mo.
 46 Joyce Fisher, St. Louis, Mo.
 47 R. Schoenfeld, St. Louis, Mo.
 48 Ron Whittington, St. Louis, Mo.
 49 J. L. Johnson, Minneapolis
 50 Dana Anderson, Minneapolis
 51 Ronald Manguson, Minneapolis
 52 James Harkin, Minneapolis
 53 Robert Halfhill, Minneapolis
 54 Chuck Donahue, Minneapolis
 55 Michael Trangle, Minneapolis
 56 Robert A. Busch, Minneapolis
 57 Clark Cloukey, Minneapolis
 58 Warren Moneiro, St. Paul
 59 David E. Miller, San Francisco, Cal.
 60 Tom Vest, Minneapolis
 61 Richard Kleinen, Roseville
 62 Lesleigh Couch, Arnold, Mo.
 63 Chris Couch, Arnold, Mo.
 64 Robert MacLery, Tenafly, N.J.
 65 Dwight R. Decker, Westerville, Ohio
 66 James R. Odbert, Minneapolis
 67 Mark E. Riley, Minneapolis
 68 Brian Bjorgen, Minneapolis
 69 Greg Kishel, Virginia
 70 Dave Ellwood, Minneapolis
 71 David Thornley, Minneapolis
 72 John Niemeyer, St. Paul
 73 Roger Ball, St. Paul
 74 Virginia Robbins, Circle Pines
 75 Robert C. Robbins, Circle Pines
 76 Nancy Trener, Minneapolis
 77 John Short, Minneapolis
 78 Jeffrey L. Russell, Minneapolis
 79 Janice Broadway, South Holland, Ill.
 80 Derek Treuer, Minneapolis
 81 Ted Willoughby, Minnetonka
 82 Ted Sweetser, Edina
 83 James H. Kavaney, Chestnut Hill, Mass.
 84 John Kavaney, Drake, N.D.
 85 Roland F. Trenary, Minneapolis
 86 Susan Lewis, Belmont, Mass.
 87 Don Blyly, Peoria, Ill.
 88 Pat Rear, Robbinsdale
 89 Robin Root, Robbinsdale
 90 Mark Ter Steeg, Granite Falls
 91 Ruth Berman, Minneapolis
 92 Patrick Worthington, Minneapolis
 93 Marvel Schoppert, Minneapolis
 94 David Fant, St. Paul
 95 J. Chris Dunphy, Fridley
 96 Denise Howes, Brooklyn Center
 97 Gayle M. Bock, Minneapolis
 98 Marjory Manson, Minneapolis
 99 Kathryn Sherwick, Minnetonka
 100 Steve Sherwick, Minnetonka
 101 Tom Harris, Minnetonka
 102 Dr. E. Manson Brackney, Minneapolis
 Registration as of April 6, 1969

...and coming up...

Minicon 3

As promised, the third Minicon will be held in Minneapolis April 2-4, 1970 at the Andrews Hotel. We can promise all the interesting program items you can think of (panels, speeches, banquets, auctions, luckstering...and of course the parties) with that added special touch that makes the Minicons very special in their own right. At Cliff Simak's suggestion, one of the major themes of the convention will be one of a homecoming for members of the Minneapolis Fantasy Society who no longer live in the area; and the highlight of this theme will come following the banquet: we plan an MFS panel with all the MFSers swapping stories about that wonderful club. The MFS in Harry Warner's words, gave birth to more SF writers and fans than nearly any other club in the nation, and we hope to have as many of the older members of the club as possible. And just because we're inviting the MFSers into town for the convention doesn't mean that we aren't inviting you! Come on in and enjoy meeting your friends, making new friends, and meeting the Minneapolis crew!

We have the special use of the Andrews Hotel, and with it convention rates and (due to close connections with the hotel) a low rate on the banquet. With the convention rates, a single with a bath begins at six dollars per night, a double with bath at eight dollars a night, and suites at various ranges up to 35 dollars per night. Rooms with running-water only are available at a lower rate. The hotel includes a cafe, a newsstand, a bar, a liquor store, and thanks to convention-use of the hotel lower tipping than normal for the city. To top this off, you'll be right downtown across the street from the Minneapolis Public Library, Planetarium and Science Museum complex, and within walking distance of all sorts of interesting things: book stores, movie theaters, fine restaurants and the Nicollet Mall. You'll like your stay at the Andrews, a warm and friendly hotel already the home of one of the Midwest's largest science fiction regionals.

We'll be publishing two Progress Reports and a Program Book for Minicon Three. The first Progress Report will be out December 1, 1969; it will give complete details on the convention, including room-prices, a restatement of advertising rates, and a little elaboration on the con itself. The second Progress Report will be out February 15, 1970 and will include advertising (unlike the previous Report.) The Program Book will be ready at the time of the convention of course.

Advertising rates: Full page, \$3.00 (all full-page ads will be off-set printed;) Half-page, \$5.00; Quarter-page, \$3.00. Advertising dimensions: Full-page, $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ inches; half-page, $4\frac{1}{4} \times 11$ inches or (for columnar ads) $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; quarter-page, $4\frac{1}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Advertising deadlines: Second Progress Report: January 15, 1970. Program Book: March 10, 1970. Remember, there is no price distinction between ads for professionals and ads for fans — so both fans and pros can take advantage of reaching more Midwestern fans than through any other medium save the St. Louiscon!

If you wish to register (and you can pre-register or register at the door) you should send \$2.00 to the chairman, Jim Young at 1948 Ulysses St. N.E.; Minneapolis, Minn.; 55418. The price for registration at the door and that for pre-registration is the same. Please make all checks or money-orders payable to the Treasurer, Mrs. Margaret Lessinger. See you at the Minicon — and in Minneapolis in '73!

Minicon shots



Photos by Chuck Holst



The Guests of Honor



Charles V. De Vet

"Up to Uranus in mud...."



Cliff Simak and Gordy Dickson
during the panel



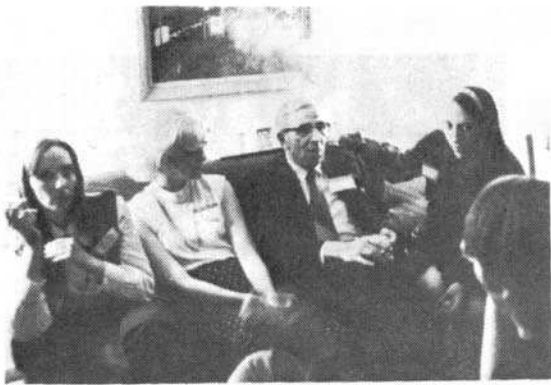
The registration desk;
Marge Lessinger and Karen
Johnson in command



Joyce Fisher:
"A double parry, a lunge...
and touche!"



The Art Show room



During the party, a bevvvy of
femmegans surrounds Cliff Simak



Gordon R. Dickson



Clifford D. Simak



Gordy Dickson and Fred Haskell



"What? No Corflu?"



"That's all folks!"