



CONVENTION ANNUAL NO. 3

DISCON EDITION 1963

21st World Science Fiction Convention
Aug. 31 - Sept. 2, 1963 Wash. D.C.

EDITOR
Jay Kay Klein

BUSINESS MGR.
Frank R. Prieto, Jr.

PHOTOGRAPHS by JAY KAY KLEIN



PAGE 1

A couple of scenes from the Special Awards session, Sunday evening. Traditionally presented at the Awards Banquet, the non-Hugo presentations were squeezed out of the afternoon banquet by press of time.

1

1. Edward Wood 2. Robert Favlat 3. Howard DeVore 4. Donald Ford
5. Robert A. Madle 6. Sam Moskowitz 7. Forest J. Ackerman
8. George Scithers

These eight characters in search of a convention are principals in the dramatic presentation of special awards. Bob Favlat is hiding behind the cover painting for "Glory Road." This Emsh cover from Fantasy & Science Fiction was auctioned off for \$101. Additional pictures of this session are on an interior page.

2

1. Forry Ackerman 2. Don Ford 3. Sam Moskowitz 4. E.E. Smith, Ph.D.

Doc Smith receives the First Fandom Science Fiction Hall of Fame Award. Sam gladhands Doc, who is nearly in tears. Flashbulbs are sizzling in all directions. There is a standing ovation with thunderous applause. Sam has just completed a chronicle of Doc's accomplishments. As nearly as Sam's hours-long oration can be summed up, Doc is the George Washington of American science fiction. John Campbell added that Doc made the last big breakthrough in science fiction and that we're still waiting for someone else to make the next.

The award in Sam's hands is a combination clock and penholder with attached moebius strip. Klono, was that strip named moebius ever had to make! It kinked and kicked and squirmed just like any proper fourth dimensional object should. Fortunately, Doc knows how to tame extra-dimensional mechanisms, having invented thousands of them himself. Doc's favorite topological form, of course, is the torus. For many years, Doc was prominent as the designer of the finest doughnuts in the United States.

In illustration of Doc's great impact on a whole generation of science fiction fans, I'd like to present a little anecdote. With Philcon I some months away, I was at Chairman Milton Rothman's house helping address Philcon I material. Stapling and stamping, I was working my way through the pile when Milt noticed I had a stamp upside down. He looked at the name -- and was furious: the E.E. Smith, Ph.D. was going to receive a piece of mail with an upside-down stamp! I'm not sure if Milt has ever wholly forgiven me....

Sam presented a somewhat toned-down profile on Doc in the April 1964 Amazing Stories. Even if Sam doesn't come right out and say all those nice things in the article that he did in his oration, you can still read them big and bold in the listing of Doc's accomplishments.

CONVENTION ANNUAL NO. 3

Discon Edition 1963

21st World Science Fiction Convention
Washington, D.C. Aug. 31 - Sept. 2

EDITOR

Jay Kay Klein
219 Sabine St.
Syracuse, N.Y.
13204

NOTE: Address all orders
and correspondence to the
Editor, Jay Kay Klein.

BUSINESS MANAGER

Frank R. Prieto, Jr.
R.D. #1, Box 255
Warners, N.Y.
13164

PREVIOUS ISSUES

Convention Annual No. 1 - Pittcon Edition 1960
18th Worldcon at Pittsburgh

Convention Annual No. 2 - Chicon III Edition 1962
20th Worldcon at Chicago

CONCLAVE

The third Convention Annual makes its appearance later than expected. Frank Prieto and I hope that its sheer size will make further explanations unnecessary.

The 285 pictures in the "Discon Edition" represent almost exactly half of the 575 photographs taken at the Discon. If the issue were any larger, it would be impossible for just the two of us to bring it out prior to the following convention. The number and size of photographs printed represent a compromise. If the pictures were any larger, coverage of the convention would be less complete. And if the pictures were any smaller, details would be lost. We would like to print fewer and larger pictures per page and still retain the same number, but that would require a higher price for the issue, unless more copies are bought than seems likely.

As it is, we base the size of the issue on expected sales. The special pre-publication price has permitted gaging possible response and sizing the issue accordingly (hopefully!). Copies sold at the regular publication price are expected to help meet costs and enable us to break even, eventually. Like other publications of fandom, the Convention Annual is a non-profitable venture.

Response to the first two Convention Annuals has been very kind and as nearly devoid of criticism as any fan publication could possibly hope for. In fact, I'm beginning to lose my lack of faith in fankind! Frank Dietz did make threatening motions with a rolled-up copy of Luna, and insisted I leave lots of margin space henceforth so that he could bind the issues without cutting into the pictures. At that back-hand compliment, I decided to oblige all those anxious to bind the "Discon Edition." That action satisfies one subscriber, anyway. For all others, I have thoughtfully provided a full-page picture of Jon and Joni Stopa at the costume ball.

The many requests for individual pictures have had to remain unfilled, since the time needed to prepare such photographs would have delayed the issue a couple of months. I would have liked to comply, and I have disliked saying no. But time simply did not permit. Also, I will admit that spending additional time in the

darkroom was just too awful to face, after the hundreds of hours (more or less) spent in there printing up the 285 pictures for the "Discon Edition." The issue itself is my way of making convention photographs available to fans all over the world and elsewhere.

The front cover photograph featuring Doc Smith was also the front cover of First Fandom Magazine, December 1963. The back cover photograph featuring Jon and Joni Stopa was also the front cover of Science-Fiction Times, November 1963. Both of these pictures commend themselves to the wider audience of the Convention Annual. Anyone can subscribe to the Times, of course, but to get into First Fandom, you have to have known Don Ford when he was a boy.

Speaking of Don, his report on the First Fandom meeting at the Discon is included for the edification and delight of those too young to attend. Dave Kyle has furnished a name-dropping con report to end all name-dropping con reports. Bob Madle has come up with a fact-filled discussion of the rotation plan for selecting convention sites.

At the Discon it became apparent that the rotation plan, requiring that worldcons be held in yearly rotation across the North American continent (with time out for England), was causing loss of initiative and lack of competition. With a single bidder for the 1964 convention, the Discon reached the nadir of enthusiasm over site selection. No campaigning, no pre-selection parties, no nothing. At the Pacifican II this year it is practically assured that there will be a single bidder again.

The 1964 worldcon at San Francisco and the 1965 worldcon at London will most likely be very fine conventions. But in years following, the continued lack of competition, of enthusiasm, of choice -- all these threaten the viability of future conventions.

Bob Madle, Dave Kyle, and a good many others at the Discon discussed this problem. It seems to us that alternate choices for conventions are highly desirable. Under the rotation plan, a group of fans who become fired with convention fever is often required to wait two to three years before placing a bid. In that time, fans leave the area, go off to war, marry non-fans, or pass on to the great collection in the sky yonder. And there goes a possible choice for a convention.

Worse, in years past a group could make all the preparations for a convention bid, lose that year, and still be in a position to make a winning bid the following year. As it is now, an additional two to three years must intervene before another bid can be made. The goodwill, planning, publicity, and enthusiasm generated in a year's campaign cannot be put to use for a second try. Nothing could be more stiffling to the development of possible convention sites. The development of the single-bidder, no risk system is the outcome.

Designed originally in 1956 to prevent possible monopoly of worldcons by one section of the country (the Eastern), the rotation plan has continually whittled down the possible sites. With the severe requirements of having a large, well entrenched fan population at the convention site to weather years of attrition, only the largest, best organized groups can possibly hope to bid. Thus, while preventing possible area monopoly, an unexpected monopoly of particular cities threatens to emerge. Thus, we have had the Chicon III and the Pacificon II. There is some talk even now of the Philcon III, for 1967. For 1966 two groups were planning bids for a Clevention II and a Detention II, though now only Cleveland is in the running.

Nowadays, having two different groups bidding seems like a real contest. There were two groups expected to bid for the 1964 convention, but only one group actually made a bid. For the 1966 convention Dave Kyle and I are considering entering Syracuse in competition. With the almost certain selection of London for 1965, the rotation plan would require 1966 to be a Central Division year. However, there seemed at the Discon sufficient dissatisfaction with the rotation plan for us to ^{go} ahead with Syracuse for '66 and place a bid at the London convention.

That is, in accordance with the rotation plan rules we may place a bid if at London three-fourths of those voting on the location of the next convention give us permission to do so. The rotation plan is not sacred by any means and its rules permit any area willing to fight harder than usual to make a bid.

Since 1956, the shift of population to the West in the United States, rise of mass air transportation, and development of express roads weakens the original arguments for the rotation plan. And it has shown itself restrictive beyond the intent of its originators. So without meaning to step on anyone's toes or provoke bitter controversy, plans are being made for a worldcon at Syracuse in 1966. There seems room for two or three bidders for a worldcon. If we win the bid, the Syracon will be an A-1 convention. If we lose in a fair and square fight, we'll support the winner and be on hand to enjoy ourselves while others struggle with the outsize task of putting on the year's biggest show.

Worldcons are too valuable to have deteriorate. They are the focal point of interest in fandom. With friends scattered the length and breadth of a continent, and across an ocean, the yearly convention is a three-day wonder of fellowship. For hundreds of dedicated fans, science fiction is more than just a goddam hobby -- it's a way of life. Science fiction writing is at an all-time high. The professional magazines are each publishing excellent stories regularly and as a matter of course. Fred Pohl has a three-pronged attack with three sense-of-wonder magazines. Cele Goldsmith has literally re-created Amazing and Fantastic. Avram Davidson presents each month a magazine sparkling with literary talent and editorial wit. John Campbell's magazine has metamorphosed into an outsize space-age publication ready to blast off for parts unknown. The only dark spot seemed the loss of the British magazines, which for several years now have matched anything printed in the United States. I felt an unfillable void looming when John Carnell wrote me the advance bad news. But now with much relief I hear the British magazines will still be with us through 1964.

And so, nobody has killed science fiction. Nor has it lost its sense of wonder. We are all still here, as alive and kicking as ever. Anyone doubting this need only attend a science fiction convention. May it be so as long as the flow of the mighty time stream itself.

Jay Kay Klein

SOME NOTES ON CONVENTIONS AND WHERE THEY ARE HELD

or

A BLOW FOR FREEDOM

by Robert A. Madle
Rockville, Maryland

History records that the first science fiction convention took place in Philadelphia on October 22, 1936. On this date a group of New York fans, representing the International Scientific Association (ISA), met with members of the Philadelphia Science Fiction League (SFL). Although only fifteen were present, Donald A. Wollheim's suggestion "officially" designated this meeting as the First Convention. Furthermore, before the meeting was over, it had been decided to hold a "World Convention" in conjunction with the 1939 World's Fair, and a preliminary convention was planned for February, 1937. This, in a few words, is how it all started.

During the next two and one-half years some of the greatest events in the history of fandom occurred. Briefly, factions and feuds developed among the sponsoring groups, and fandom was rocked to its very foundations on many occasions. (These years are covered in incredible detail by Sam Moskowitz in his The Immortal Storm, in my opinion the most important fan document ever written.) But the First World Science Fiction Convention did materialize, despite everything.

It was such a success that an annual affair was the only logical outgrowth. Chicago fans, led by Mark Reinsberg, offered their metropolis to the contingent for 1940. The idea was to spread the conventions throughout the large fan centers so that all eager, enthusiastic groups would have the opportunity to sponsor an s-f convention if they desired, and if they were ready and capable. And Denver was the host in 1941, with Los Angeles voted the honors for 1942. Of course, the 1942 World Convention did not occur until 1946 because World War II intervened. But here it was: four conventions had been held -- one in the East, one Midwest (or Central), and two in the West. This, I might add, occurred without any semblance of an official set of rules saying that such-and-such an area must have the convention in such-and-such a year. It occurred because the philosophy of science fiction conventions was to have different fan groups sponsor them. It occurred because the fan groups in New York, Chicago, Denver, and Los Angeles wanted to put on the convention, and so convinced the fan world.

At Denver one of the bids made was for Philadelphia. It was not a completely serious bid because it was obvious that Los Angeles was ripe -- 1942 was LA's year. However, the bid was made to display to the assembled multitude that Philadelphia wanted the world convention soon. I know this to be true because I made the bid. Philadelphia was the overwhelming choice at LA for the 1947 convention. And then something unusual occurred. An active group developed in Toronto, and this group was awarded the 1948 affair. This was the sixth convention, and it had gone outside the USA -- with everyone's blessing.

Toronto was, in general, a very quiet convention. This, despite the fact that Robert Bloch was guest of honor. Philadelphia, the previous year, had broken away from the inexpensive, austere conven-

tions, and had gone way out with a large, professional con. The convention hall was in the hotel, and it was the first real "party-con." Eight years had elapsed since the first worldcon. Fandom had grown up. Toronto, however, switched back to the austere presentation, with the convention hall separate from any of the recommended hotels. And the hotel managements were not too lenient with the card playing and drinking fans. It was almost a "Lights Out at Midnight" affair. But Toronto was first in one respect: it was the first "smoke-filled room" affair.

William S. Sykora had come to Toronto determined to take the 1949 convention with him back to New York. There were many fans who did not want William S. Sykora (or any other New Yorker for that matter) to take the convention back to New York. Fandom in the Empire City was divided into many factions; there were memories of the bitter fan feuds of the past years; Sykora had split away from his stalwart buddy of many years, Sam Moskowitz; some felt that to let the con to to NYC might very well end them forevermore; and there were some who felt the convention should not go to NYC because an East Coast city had had the convention in 1947, and it wasn't the East's turn.

Smoke-filled rooms materialized instantly. Discussions were held with Sykora. Argument was met with argument. Suggestion was met with counter-suggestion. It became evident to all that Sykora was determined to put on the con, and he wasn't interested in any compromises, postponements, or cancellations. Although the rooms were hazy with non-filtered smoke (Viceroy was the only filtered cigarette at the time -- with few takers) it became evident to even the non-smokers who listened from the hallways that Sykora had the upper hand. But they were not reckoning with Jim Williams (known as "Boss Tweed" among the Philly fans). Jim quickly called some meetings which admitted only certain selected smokers. Some of those admitted belonged to the Cincinnati group, like Don Ford and Dr. C. L. Barrett. The Cincinnati group made some fast telephone calls to the home office and agreed to take the con if they could get it. Well, with some fancy footwork and a lot of Jim Williams' wheeling and dealing, Cincinnati got it. A Midwest or Central city, I might add.

At the Convention in 1949 the award went to Portland, Oregon -- and Portland's superactive fan leader, Don Day. Then the marbles were picked up by Harry Moore and his New Orleans boys. Following this, Erle Korshak and his Chicago cohorts proved to the fan world that 1952 should be Chicago's year -- and so it was.

At this point permit me to recapitulate somewhat. Up until the award to Chicago for 1952 there had been nothing going which guaranteed or insured any city of any section a convention in any year. I must repeat that conventions were awarded to groups on the basis of whether it was felt that the requesting group could organize a worldcon. Of course, the desire and enthusiasm had to be there. So, not counting the 1939 affair which, of course, was planned and organized entirely by East Coast fans, and specifically planned to be held in conjunction with the 1939 NYC World's Fair, the conventions were rotated as follows: 1940 -- Central (Chicago); 1941 -- West (Denver); 1946 -- West (Los Angeles); 1947 -- East (Philadelphia); 1948 -- Central (Toronto); 1949 -- Central (Cincinnati); 1950 -- West (Portland); 1951 -- Central (New Orleans); 1952 -- Central (Chicago). A total of five Centrals, three Wests, and one East!

As the time for the 1952 convention approached only one fan group was beating the drums for the 1953 affair: San Francisco and its Little Men. The Philadelphia S-F Society, although the largest s-f club in the nation, had been inactive in fan affairs since it sponsored the very successful 1947 clambake. Even so, there were a few who thought the 1953 con should come East, and there were even a few who thought Philly should be the recipient.

The FSFS sent about fifteen of its members to Chicon II, some of whom began to talk up the idea of an East Coast con. Often they were informed: "Haven't you heard that the Little Men have it sewed up?" Ignorance is bliss -- they hadn't! Soon the word was spreading throughout the convention that maybe this was the time for a big East Coast con. The world was definitely s-f conscious and, perhaps, this should be the time to make the big push -- the really big, b - i - g, BIG, B*I*G con. Smoke-filled rooms popped up all over the place. (Of course, these smoke-filled rooms had a lot of competition because the Sfran Little Men were sponsoring a continuous party open to all.)

Agnew, Madle and a few others had been talking up NYC as the likely spot, with Dave Kyle and Sam Moskowitz as likely sponsors. However, as the idea caught on, the same arguments against NYC as were used at Toronto were resurrected. And before anyone was thoroughly aware of all of the implications, Boss Tweed Williams and Dave Kyle had made an agreement to attempt to send the con to Philadelphia, as the most acceptable East Coast city. This was political king-making incarnate. Meetings were quickly held, support was gathered from all areas of the country. One of the bidders, Pittsburgh, agreed to make its bid, and then switch all of its support to Philadelphia. At any rate, there was a great deal of intrigue and political hassling (as well as political wizardry). Philadelphia took the con on the second ballot against a group that was considered unbeatable.

About this time fandom decided it was too large and needed a World Science Fiction Society. Dave Kyle was the ramrod behind the idea and, I must add, it was a good one. Much of the initial work was accomplished during the period preceding the Philadelphia convention (Philcon II). One of the important ideas of the convention society was the development of a rotation plan to make sure that the convention site would be rotated from East to Central to West. No one saw anything wrong in that and, as time went on, the idea developed to incorporate the society. This, incidentally, was not Dave Kyle's idea, but George Nims Raybin's, a legal eagle from way back. On the surface, this wasn't a bad idea either because it eliminated the possibility of sponsoring convention members being sued in case they went into debt. (With an attendance of 1200 at Chicago it became evident to everyone that such a thing could happen.) So the society materialized, was voted in -- with some objections. Soon the inevitable factions developed, law suits were thrown about, and conventions soon were back to unincorporation, unless the sponsoring group wanted to incorporate itself. Fandom, in reality, became unenthusiastic about a large, centralized society which, allegedly, ruled it. In reality, it didn't. But the charter said it did. So, fandom soon drifted away from the World S-F Society, Inc., but continued to retain many of its ideas as the almost unofficial World S-F Society, Uninc. The two important portions of the WSFS retained have been the Hugo awards and the rotation plan.

It has to be noted here that the Hugos were not the idea of the WSFS, but of the Philadelphia S-F Society. They were first awarded at Philcon II. And despite Isaac Asimov's introduction to The Hugo Winners, the 11th World S-F Convention in Philadelphia created the idea, gave the name "Hugo" to the awards, and was the originator of this fannish tradition. The San Francisco group ignored the idea, perhaps out of bitterness. But Cleveland picked it up and it has continued ever since.

The rotation plan was officially started at Nycon II which also officially started the World Science Fiction Society, Inc. Much preplanning had occurred during and between the Philadelphia, San Francisco, Cleveland, and New York conventions. Beginning in 1956 with the inauguration of the rotation plan conventions have been awarded as follows: 1957 -- Foreign (London); 1958 -- West (Los Angeles); 1959 -- Central (Detroit); 1960 -- East (Pittsburgh); 1961 -- West (Seattle); 1962 -- Central (Chicago); 1963 -- East (Washington, D.C.).

Conventions, since the inception of the World Science Fiction Society, have been planned and planned and planned. Some groups are bidding three years before the con. Like a well-planned socialistic state, everyone knows which section of the country will get the con in which year. In fact, it is usually known years in advance which city will get the con. Even when the rotation plan is interrupted by a foreign city getting the nod, this is known years in advance (like London in 1965). And the rotation plan covers this unusual happening by stating most emphatically that, "If the Convention location is outside the North American continent, the rotation shall resume the following year, with the locations in the Division replaced then eligible to bid." All preplanned, neat and orderly. Not that I have anything against preplanning, being neat or orderly, but it is so restrictive and unnecessary so far as s-f conventions are concerned! I, for one, don't like (and never did like) being told that a convention has to be held in a specific area in a specific year.

What reason has been given for this area control? Almost invariably the supporters of this concept will say, "It's to make sure that all sections of the country are treated fairly and to make sure that the East Coast, with its large fan and pro population does not monopolize the conventions." Let's summarize again. Up to, and including, 1952 (excepting the 1939 affair), with no concept of rotation plan at all, conventions broke out as follows: Central (5); West (3); East (1). This obviously was monopolization by the East! The next four conventions were held during the discussion stages of the World Science Fiction Society and were patterned as follows: Central (1); West (1); East (2). Since the inception of the absolute rule of rotation, conventions were held as follows: Central (2); West (2); East (2); Foreign (1). Now, adding together the conventions awarded during the discussion stages of the rotation plan and during the absolute control of the rotation plan, we get the following: Central (3); West (4); East (4); Foreign (1). It is amusing to note that the big, bad East Coast picked up only one of the first nine conventions following the introductory one, but four of the next eleven held under the philosophy and/or the absolute control of the rotation plan.

I submit that the rotation plan does nothing for science fiction conventions but destroy incentive. Fan groups have their great

years. A group may be ready to put on a con one year; two years later it may have gone the way of all clubs -- into inactivity or dissolution. A potentially great convention is destroyed because, according to the rotation plan, this club cannot bid.

I submit that the rotation plan destroys interest in convention business meetings. Some of the voting is so preplanned and so cut and dried that it is a waste of time attending. We can't look forward to the smoke-filled room, the Boss Tweedism, the wheeling and dealing, the intrigue, the spectacle of 1000 or more people jammed into the convention hall to vote for their favorite for the next convention!

I submit that fans, being almost invariably rugged individualists when it comes to science fiction, do not want to be told who will get what convention and when. In fact, from my experience, organizations established to control fandom never last.

I submit that the rotation plan is a useless, anachronistic, anomaly to the science fiction field, and is abhorrent to the freedom of ideas and thoughts which is inherent in s-f fandom.

I submit that steps should be taken to eliminate this last vestige of control over fandom and to revive the freedom of choice which is the natural prerogative of science fiction fandom.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

by Jay Kay Klein

The rotation plan has been in existence some eight years. During that time, interest in competing for worldcons has dwindled and the capacity of localities to compete has dwindled. With so many years of waiting required before a bid can be made and with all the effort expended in a single year on a bid thrown completely down the drain if the bid should fail, would-be convention committees face formidable obstacles. In fact, to most groups they are insuperable. Under a free-to-all situation, a group of fans may enter a serious bid with no more than a year's planning. A whole year for an amateur, non-profit collection of hobbyists can see an awful lot of planning with enthusiasm at a high pitch. And even if the bid fails that year, the publicity and work already put into the project can be utilized again the following year with genuine hope for success.

The rotation plan does not absolutely ban out-of-turn bids, but the plan has had that effect. And the plan places such serious obstacles in the way of presenting such bids that they have never, to my knowledge, been made.

From the constitution and bylaws presented at the Discon business meeting:

"3.03 Convention sites shall be rotated among these divisions in the order: West, Central, East. The bids of locations to hold a convention shall only be considered and voted on if they lie within the geographical division whose turn it is; except that the rule of rotation may be set aside by a vote of three-fourths voting on the location of the next convention. In the event of such setting aside, rotation shall be resumed the following year. For example, if the order of rotation is A, B, C; and if it is A's turn, but the convention is given to a location in C, then B, the division

(Continued on page 52)

FIRST FANDOM AT D.C.

by Don Ford - Loveland, Ohio

At the 1963 Midwestcon, the First Fandom members voted that the First Fandom Hall of Fame Award trophy be made ready for presentation at the 21st World Science Fiction Convention, August 31 - Sept. 1, 2, 1963, at Washington, D.C. It was further voted that Doc Smith be awarded the first trophy in what was planned to be a series of such awards. In order to give Doc a surprise, this information was not given in the last issue of FFM. We were successful in that Doc was completely unaware until the last moment.

We were given the opportunity to present this award during the Business Session, which normally draws a good attendance. This meeting was programmed for 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

At 7:30, Forry Ackerman led off the annual presentation of the Big Heart Award, an award given in memory of E. Everett Evans. The 1963 recipient was James V. Taurasi. Next came Bob Madle, who as President of First Fandom briefly outlined what First Fandom is and then turned the chair over to Sam Moskowitz who then told what the First Fandom Hall of Fame Award is and what it means.

Sam was in great form that night. He went on to say that in time he felt that the First Fandom Hall of Fame Awards would overshadow the Hugos in importance and that it was the intention of First Fandom to honor the great authors, editors, artists and fans for their contribution to the field of Science Fiction.

Next, Sam went into the early writings of Doc Smith, but unless you knew in advance who the recipient was, you couldn't be quite sure just yet. Finally, as suspense mounted, it became clear that it WAS Doc Smith. Sam continued with his powerful voice filling all portions of the hall and built things up to a tumultuous climax when he unveiled the trophy and called for Doc Smith to step forward.

Applause and cheers were deafening and such was the emotional impact of Sam's eulogy there was not a dry eye in the room. The audience rose to its feet in a standing ovation that was minutes before the noise subsided. Doc was simply too overcome with emotion to speak and after saying, "I just can't say anything," he returned to his seat amid more applause.

As the room calmed down, Sam leaned over towards Madle and myself and said, "I think the award was a success."

The rest of the meeting was an anti-climax. I had to stay for the vote for the 1964 convention site and this required listening to Steve Schultheis bring up a question of amending convention rules and adopting a number of changes. I could see possibilities of a long session. Fortunately, everyone seemed to be of a mind to get it over fast. George Raybin scared everyone by making a long-winded talk. However, he quickly ended it on the statement of saying he thought we ought to accept this motion. The stunned audience barely got this when Dave Kyle announced that he agreed with George. This was almost too much to accept in one day. Finally it all got voted upon and passed and then the next order of business was the selection of the 1964 Convention site.

I made the bid for San Francisco and called upon Ben Stark to outline briefly who was going to put on the Con, where, etc. Then, the seconds came up and each gave a short pitch. They were: Ron Ellik, Howard Devore, Earl Kemp. So, with no other city making a bid, it was San Francisco unanimously.

By now it was about 8:45 and we were trying to get a short break for eating before getting the room ready for the First Fandom meeting scheduled at 9:30. Just as I was leaving the hall, I checked the number called in a raffle drawing and discovered I had won a Lawrence cover painting! First time I ever won anything in a raffle.

Madle and I were late in arriving at the California room. We had to announce that we weren't ready yet and for them to bring some bottles while we rounded up the ice and set ups.

The next morning I checked at the desk for mail and found a telegram plus a money order for \$10.00 from Dr. Miller and wife expressing regrets that they were unable to attend and that they were sending a donation for the First Fandom party. This covered the cost of our setups and ice, and I thought it was an extremely nice gesture on their part.

At 10:30 p.m. we got started. Fifty-five people were present in the room at this time and others came and went during the meeting. Doc Smith started things off by saying that he was completely floored by receiving the trophy. Since it came from those who have been reading science fiction for so many years, he felt that this award meant more to him than anything else he'd ever received in his life. Thanks to everyone. Someone asked if he'd known in advance about the award and Doc's reply was, "If I had, do you think I would've made such a fool of myself on the stage this afternoon?"

Don Ford made a financial report and a short recess was called for the members to pay current dues, potential members to apply, and for others to refill their glasses. Nineteen people are being processed for new memberships.

The meeting was re-opened with Madle discussing the Science Wonder project. Frank Prieto told about Taurasi getting in touch with Ned Pines. It seems as though Standard Publishing Co. has room for one more pulp on their press runs and if the current one-shot sells, there is a possibility that Wonder may be revived. This led off to a side discussion on perhaps we ought to see if Wonder would like First Fandom's idea and produce a special issue as a 35th anniversary issue. Another suggestion was for First Fandom to come out with a second Amazing Annual with a Burroughs story in it, Lloyd Eshback, Sam Moskowitz and Vernell Coriell being active participants in this discussion.

During this session Vernell Coriell was active in recruiting members of First Fandom for membership in the Burroughs Bibliophiles. He took a lot of ribbing over this. After the meeting we got to talking that maybe we needed a sub-section of First Fandom for those who carried dual membership in FF and BB. Stan Skirvin suggested calling them the "Grey Apes."

Howard Devore reported on the project of collecting old fanzines and said that he has plenty, with space being the real need, now. Anyone wishing to contribute more old fanzines contact Howard.

Will Sykora said that he has a lot of 8mm movies from the early days. George Raybin offered to pay for having restoration copies made provided nobody objected to him keeping a copy for himself, all costs to be borne by George. This offer was accepted along with the statement of "Let George do it." Other people having old movies of historical significance should contact Dave Kyle.

Lloyd Eshbach told of a project he'd started many years ago: writing about a particular author and then listing all his works. Will Jenkins said he knew a few facts about some of the early authors and some of these he could even tell.

Stanleigh Vinson passed around the room a sample display he'd made on Jules Verne. This was mounted in a frame and has Verne's autograph, photo and listing of his stories, etc. Stan said if the membership desired he'd go ahead with the project using sheets of acetate. These would be used to hang in a display booth for First Fandom at World Conventions and regional conferences like the Midwestcon and Westercon if they desired them. He added that he needed help and requested that all members assist in gathering material as well as nominating future authors to be displayed. He said he didn't want to get his neck wrung for nominating Burroughs. After the laughter died out, everyone said put Burroughs in, anyway. Send your nominations and material to Stan.

Ben Stark came in briefly from the San Francisco pre-registration table to give a report on the Westercon First Fandom meeting. Time will be made available for a First Fandom meeting at the San Francisco con in 1964.

Ken Krueger showed a sample T-shirt which has some of his own advertising print on it, and said that we could have some First Fandom T-shirts made up in a similar fashion. Nothing concrete developed from this concept except that the men thought it would be a good idea for the women members to wear these.

Dave Kyle felt that First Fandom needed a club symbol and that a lapel pin might prove to be more popular than T-shirts. Dave added that a good symbol might be the cover design from the September 1928 issue of Amazing Stories. This was the rounded triangular design with geared cog wheels, "Fact" and "Theory," moving a pen which was writing "Scientifiction." He volunteered to draw up a tentative design. This design offered possibilities for lapel pins, shoulder patches, T-shirts, etc.

Bill Evans is busy annotating complete Munsey publications and when finished offered to distribute this to all First Fandom members. He plans to do Weird Tales next and requested help with the first couple of years of that magazine. Ben Jason volunteered to assist with this.

Sam Moskowitz requested help in locating copies of Pioneer Tales to complete his project of annotating that publication. Both Bill and Sam were told to write Roy Tackett what their particular wants are and have him publish this in FFM.

The gavel was finally wrested from Madle's hands at 12:10 a.m. in order for the meeting to be adjourned. It was quite a long meeting, but everyone was full of enthusiasm and there was the feeling that much had been accomplished. With the awarding of the first trophy for the First Fandom Hall of Fame Award, it was felt that the club was on its way to becoming more successful. For the club itself, 1963 marked a successful year.

The Chicon III was a disappointment...the Discon was just about right for a con. There was interesting programming; but not too much of it. The things that were wrong at Chicago were right at Washington. The Masquerade was run off well, the Banquet was not bad at all...banquet prices are always high and the food lousy. This one had good food, good service and reduction in price.

We had time for sightseeing, going out to various restaurants and as time goes by I look back with fond memories of the Discon. As a chairman, George Scithers performed well and seemed to adhere to a tight schedule. If there were slip-ups and mishaps behind the

(Continued on page 29)

CON REPORT

by David A. Kyle
Potsdam, New York

Friday Evening, August 30th. For Ruth and me the 1963 SF Convention really began, appropriately, with our wedding anniversary dinner. A party of six went to "La Salle du Bois," an extra healthy walk from the Statler Hilton. At our table were Playboy A.J. Budrys and Edna Budrys and Bob "I write for money what's wrong with that" Silverberg and Barbara Silverberg. At the next table, by pleasant coincidence, were the quite-newly-weds Charlie and Marsha Brown, along with Ben Kieffer and H. Beam Piper. Noteworthy about the meal was the It-was-bound-to-happen-someday event: the wine steward actually was told the wine was not good to which he agreed, after testing, and then supplied another bottle.

Just before leaving for the restaurant we spotted Frederik Pohl at the hotel desk straightening out his reservation. And then a moment later we saw Lester del Rey. They had just arrived by car from northern New Jersey and we soon found Carole Pohl and Evelyn del Rey waiting out front in the car for the A-OK signal, bubbling over with expectations for an exciting weekend.

Back from dinner we dropped in the South America Room where there was great activity. Fans were busily unpacking artwork for the Fan Art Show. Bruce Pelz and Buck and Juanita Coulson were in the thick of it, as well as Dian Girard and Paul Williams. (Does anyone know if James N. Hall Jr. of Crystal City, Missouri, is any relation to the James Norman Hall?) We met Lee Thoren of Brooklyn for the first time and she told us of another, non-fannish, Dave Kyle whose father is also a non-fannish Dave Kyle! Standing next to us looking at some of the posted paintings was Paul M. Dellinger of Woodstock, Va. It gave us a chuckle to introduce him as an Amazing Stories author (which he is) to the Amazing Stories editor Cele Goldsmith. Such situations are, of course, normal at cons, although rarely at such a high level. Around Cele were Ben "See you in 1964" Stark and Herb Schofield.

In the foyer leading to convention hall we saw Isaac Asimov -- for the first time since he had been presented with an Owl Award, for distinguished service, at a Columbia University School of General Studies Alumnae Banquet that Spring. Around him were all the pretty women in the vicinity, naturally, including Mary Dziechowski, Doc Smith's daughter Verna and Chris Moskowitz. A short distance away John W. Campbell Jr. was surrounded by all the intellectuals in the vicinity.

Down the hall we talked with Ellis Mills and he informed us that U.S. Senator Tower of Texas had issued a blanket invitation to all "Texans" at the con to visit him while in Washington. At this point we also heard that Walter Breen had just arrived. We said hello to Sam Moskowitz and Hans Stefan Santesson, greeted our old-time pal from Denver Chuck Hansen, and, farther down the hall, walked smack into the middle of youthful fannish plotting: seems that some sort of a March to the Top of the Washington Monument was being organized. Three fellows nearby were asked about their con experience -- Bill Gibson of Wytheville, Va. said this was his third, Mike Domina of Oak Lawn, Ill. said it was his second and Edward Reicher of New York said it was his first. Observer Bonnie Bertman of New York would not incriminate herself. Meanwhile the Marching-

to-the-Top party was getting more boisterous. The prime movers of this great fan project were Phyllis Brodsky of Brooklyn and Jerald Jacks of Baltimore. Fellow conspirators were Bill Schreffler and Dave Easlick of Birmingham, Michigan, Arnold Katz of New Hyde Park, N.Y., Paul Galvin of Massachusetts, Larry Finsker of Chicago, Len Bu?? of Commash, N.Y., Carl Frederick and Andy Silverberg of N.Y., Mark Owings of Baltimore, Barry Green, and Harry C. Stubbs of Connecticut. This very Harry Stubbs was really The Hal Clement, but none of the neo-fen knew any different -- or, when they were told, cared! Zero hour was set for nine-thirty the following morning -- and some actually made it. Harry, a true fan at heart, was going to make it too, but we talked him out of it, what with a night of partying ahead. An interested onlooker who would not commit himself was Thomas Jensen of Dasset, Minnesota, who was an active N3effler at his first con.... Along came Mr. and Mrs. Jim Lavell (she looked very much like Lee Ann Tremper).

The scene is now room 920. A pleasant group of old friends, Washingtonians, and other decorous types are relaxing with quiet talk. Some of those present are: George Wheel Scithers, Bill Evans, Chuck Derry, Steve and Virginia Schultheis, Ron Ellick, Phil Bridges, Riva Smiley, Steve Tolliver, Lou Ann Frice, Nick Falasca, Peggy McKnight and Ron Hicks. Roger Sims is sound asleep on the floor, snoring enthusiastically. Suddenly the door opens and young fans come milling in. Bob Pavlat insists that there is no party going on. The young fans, however, are looking for action and will not be denied. They keep mumbling about "A Protest March to the White House." Finally Dick Lupoff says loudly, "How about a Protest March to the Door!" and Ron more bluntly puts it, "Get the Hell Out!" which gets the required result. Peace returns. On the floor Ron Ellick is having his feet tickled by June Underwood from Southampton and Chester, England, ably assisted by her American friend Sally Aylsworth, who turns out to be Steve Tolliver's cousin. Also around the room are Sid Coleman and Pat Oswalt of Chicago, Russ Martin, Jon Stopa and Joni Cornell Stopa.... Shortly afterward we were with Earl Kemp, Robert E. Briney, John Jackson, Frank Andrasovsky and Don Ford. Bill Mallardi of Akron, Ohio, attempted to take a picture, but the flash bulb wouldn't fire, and sympathy was received from David Trotter of Birmingham, Alabama, and Bill Bowers of Barberton, Ohio. We overheard an interesting conversation between James Hollander of Glencoe, Illinois, who told of having just bought an excellent 8mm print of the famous sf film "Metropolis" for \$55, and our favorite Monster, Forry Ackerman. (Anyone interested should write for a catalog from John Griggs, 139 Maple St., Englewood, N.J.).... Just arrived at the hotel were Allen Kragalik of Des Moines, Ill, and Bill Obbagy of Cleveland.

On the way to the N3F Hospitality Room we passed Frank Dietz and Walt Cole in the hall and then into the path of a perspiring Randy Garrett. Randy said he had had the choice of not finishing a 15,000 worder or not going to the convention -- so he finished the 15,000 worder and came to the convention -- further proof of Randy's virility.

In the N3F room, the first guy we saw was one of Phyllis' cohorts, Larry Finsker, together with Warren Broocker of Drexel Hill, Penna. George Nims Raybin was sitting there in walking shorts, showing his pink knees. He felt good because he was in clean clothes at last -- he'd been on the Freedom March for three days in

the same clothing until Big Sam arrived with a fresh change. Playing chess were Mark Zibelman of Drexel Hill and Stephen Franklin also of the Philly area. Mark was finally winning after five tries. At a larger chess board were Jon Peterson of Regina, Sask., Canada and Mark Irwin of Highland Park, Ill. Jon didn't make it to Seattle in 1962 even though he was at Olympia. Also lounging around the room were Bob Greenberg of Chicago, Carl Lundgren of Detroit and Lenny Kaye of North Brunswick, N.J., with Larry Pinsker still up, heedless of his fast-approaching and exhausting rendezvous with the Washington Monument.

In the adjoining room we saw Kenneth Moore of Nashville, Tenn. and Paul Galvin of Cambridge, Mass. At a Ouija Board, trying to locate room numbers of wild parties, were Walt Breen and Robert Feeler, also of Nashville, with Harvey Foreman of Philadelphia and Marc Christopher of Beverly Shores, Ind. as fascinated witnesses. Marc confided to us that his problem is that people are "preconditioned" to write his name as "Mark." Wally Weber, observing Breen's efforts, says, "So that's where you get your news for FANAC?" and Jean Bogert of Philly laughed. We tried to buy something from Janie Lamb of Heiskell, Tenn., who was seated near Bill Flott of Opelika, Alabama and Peter Maurer of Hastings, Mich., but she gave it to us with the gracious comment that she couldn't be a huckster in the Hospitality Room.

Out in the hall again we looked at our watch; it was 1:45 a.m. Boyd Raeburn, John Boning and Ted White were coming down the hall. Ron Ellik and friend Sally were ending the festivities for the evening -- she having been up since 4:30 Friday morning. Down in the lobby Ben Stark was hanging around expecting the first pages of Don Day's new checklist. On the registration floor we discovered a serious game of Contract Bridge in progress among the Incurable Four: Ruth Kyle, Roger Sims, Fred Trophet and Jim Broderick, with Mary Dz keeping tally. At that point there was locust-like invasion of the Sigma Alpha Rho and we retreated hastily to the elevators. At the ninth floor we came upon Ted White once more, with Carol Carr and Terry. Les Gerber was there, along with Peter Graham of NYC. A few paces away Forry Ackerman and his publisher, Jim Warren, were huddled in conference. We got back into the elevator, tucked our notebook back into our pocket and ended our reportorial duties for the night.

We took out our notebook the next time on Saturday morning, August 31, at breakfast. There was Ellis Mills sitting across from us, startled to hear Mary Dziechowski say, "Ruth! are you actually buttering those French fries for Roger (Sims)?" It seemed as though another Bridge game was about to begin because the Incurable Four were there, as well as Chuck Hansen. And then a bit later, Jock Root, Art Saha, Lloyd Eshbach and Lee Riddle. Wandering down the aisle was Damon Knight. We got several reports, one from Don Studebaker who described how he had just fought his way into the hotel; he had been stopped by the hotel manager (between 8 and 9 a.m.) and forced to register in order to enter the hotel. Another report concerned the raiding of the N3F Hospitality Room by the hotel management to break up the wild Ouija Board Party.... And then it was time for the convention to begin. On the way, passing the bar, by the glass wall window, we spouted Randy Garrett, Judy Merrill and Katherine MacLean.

The Convention Hall was an excellent room, with great acoustics, and the Chairman, George Scithers, banged the gavel at 12:45. After

Dick Eney and Joe Sarno came James Blish with his provocative talk on sf and critics. He said that although American reviewers are better now, the British reviewers are superior, and used Orville Prescott as an example of "following the band wagon at a distance in fear that it might break down." P. Schuyler Miller and Tony Boucher were named as the really only good remaining critics of the field. At that point Jim was unable to continue, so Bob Silverberg took over with anecdotes on Randy Garrett and his Enshaw Drive on Vacuum Tube, Judy Merrill and her picture on the wall, Larry Shaw and his dream and Bob's own test tube symbolism. (Fritz Leiber and, later, Ed Emsh were with him on the panel.) Bob told how one of his stories had the cover painting on one magazine but appeared in another magazine -- space limitations had squeezed the story out of that issue for another one of those weird publishing quirks. (Flash! George Nims Raybin reports to us that Will and Fran Sykora are in the audience!) Next came Katherine MacLean and Lester del Rey who stated that there's very little creative thinking today in sf; there are "people and parrots." The trend in the 1930's was described as "mechanized," in the 40's "decentralized," leading up to the current ideas of Utopia. The remark that "Barbarians are gaining ground among the fans" brought thunderous applause. (Behind us were sitting George R. Heap and Cindy Cramer of Rochester who commented about that city that "there's a sf club of sorts there.") Lester commented that the "barbarians are on Madison Avenue" and then defended Tarzan as "not a barbarian; he is a thinker." Next came Ted Cogswell as MC for some poetry reading; reading their own were Gordon Dickson, Fritz Leiber, L. Sprague de Camp -- and James Blish, who then finished his interrupted speech. Jim said that the reviewer's function is not "to review nothing but good books." English reviewers are thoughtful, thorough and knowledgeable, but in America it is up to "you" -- which is why letter columns are needed.

The half-hearted attempt at Introduction of Celebrities took everyone by surprise -- it started, then all of a sudden it was over with Steve Tolliver announcing Arthur C. Clarke's recent award and the project to obtain signatures among convention goers for two letters of congratulations, one to the recipient and one to the giver. Ed Wood appeared at the microphone, for him a superfluous piece of equipment, and awed everyone with his full black beard. During Larry Ivie's introduction Steve Tolliver and Dick Eney were carrying out a body in a trunk. At the conclusion of Dick Lupoff's lecture he declaimed against "comic book fans" and the final question from the audience ended with Dick's vehement reply, "I may have to come down there and have a fist fight with you!" Finally at 4:30 Willy Ley reported on some late developments in space: Is the greenhouse effect melting ice on Jupiter?...There will be a new 1964 satellite with telescope to reveal certain astronomical details for the first time....A hovering sun satellite is suggested....There are new big solid fuel boosters....Moon surface vehicles designers are anticipating innumerable problems....Ingenious devices will attempt to trap and report life after unmanned flights to Mars; the pessimists think we'll contact Mars by space vehicles in 1985; and the optimists think 1975

Later in the Ballroom there were discussions on Conan, swordsmanship, Greek armies, man weight, talent, beheading, Roman armies, Roman paperwork, ancient technicians, and other exotic subjects. In the fore were Sprague de Camp, Richard Brisson of New Bedford, Mass.,

Larry Breed and Stephen Russell of East Palo Alto, Cal., and Paul Dellinger. Later we saw Dan Metnick of NYC and Tom Rutherford of Hyattsville, Md. talking with Kay MacLean (who, incidentally, now hails from Andover, NY) about narcotics and hallucinogens.... Upstairs in our room we found a big party going on of PRO'S! Among them we noticed, and put down for the first time in our little book, Ben Bova, Theodore L. Thomas, Edna Budrys, Kate Wilhelm Knight, Virginia F. Thomas, Carol Emshwiller, Jay Kay Klein, Phillip N. Bridges, Debi Crawford, Donald A. Wollheim, Carole Pohl and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ulf.... Much much later that night we came across an exasperated Alderson Fry of Morgantown, Va., alone and mellow -- and in sotto voce conversation his iconoclasm became a reasonable contemplation....

Sunday, September the first, came with the somewhat revolting realization that it was Banquet time -- and virtually breakfast! There was just enough activity before the meal, at the Burroughs Bibliophiles to work up an appetite. Dum de Dum Dum. And we noticed Stanley Vincent, Frank Prieto, Sam (and Chris taking pictures) Moskowitz, Verne Coriell, Camille Cazedussus, Geo Nims R, Dick Lupoff, Will Sykora, Ed Wood, Ossie Train, Rev. Haimes, Steve Tolliver, Ben Stark and Ben Jason. Clarence "Bob" Hyde was at the mike and showing us special notices to be used to remind members of past due dues. This prompted Ed Wood to say, "D'you mean we have to be delinquents to get these nice items!?" We also saw William Thailing of Cleveland, as well as Bob Briney and Allan Howard.... In the hall we sat down for a moment and a couple of laughs with Will "The Other One" Jenkins.

Then the Banquet. The food tasted surprisingly good for the time of day it was. The Guest of Honor, Will "Not the Other One" Jenkins, said that "science fiction is really the hope of the nation -- what with today's disheartening mild cigarettes, pale beer and blond women." He repeated the anecdote of Cleve Cartmill, his story "Deadline" and the FBI. And then another anecdote about Arthur C. Clarke in a hospital in Australia reading a Russian sf story which made a reference to something he had written ("Heart of the Snake")! He mused on the many old scientific books which contain forgotten answers. He mentioned Ike Asimov's characteristic word for the con: "dignity!", Sprague de Camp's autograph hunting, Judy Merrill's place in sf as "doyenne" or "Grand Ma," and Ted Cogswell who never signs up for a hotel room. The Achievement Awards wound up the Banquet, with Ike Asimov MCing the presentations with constant mock complaints about how he never received them, just handed them out. And then the startling, happy, embarrassing moment when he got a special one!

Out wandering around again, we got into a discussion with Bill Conner of Columbus, Ohio, who was upset over the light treatment our convention received in the long newspaper story in the local paper. We assured him that we've received far worst in the past. In fact, despite the misquotations and distortions -- which includes even what we said -- the story pretty well reflected the excitement and inconsistencies of the 21st Con.

We were thrilled to see and hear Seabury Quinn, old-time Weird Tales writer. The elderly gentleman compared science fiction with fantasy, saying that sf places greater restraint on the author than fantasy, that the sf writer must be constantly a student of science and that sf can be antedated when fantasy, which is more flexible, is

not.... We signed the letter to Arthur Clarke, a get-well wish, and the letter of approval to the Franklin Institute for the Stuart Ballantine Gold Medal which has already gone to the inventors of the transistor, the maser, and the laser, given to A.C.C. for his invention of the idea of communications satellites.

The Business Meeting opened at 7:45. Forry presented the "Big Heart Award" (in memorial to E. Everett Evans) to James V. Taurasi who unfortunately couldn't be present. Robert A. Madle then presented the First Fandom Award to Edward Elmer "Doc" Smith, Ph.D. for his "singularly important and lasting contribution" to sf. Janie Lamb presented a check of twenty dollars from the N3F for TAFF, and Ron Ellik discussed 1963-4 TAFF. Committee Reports were then read and Howard Devore explained why Ben Jason cannot continue manufacturing the Achievement Awards; extra ones on hand, however, are being donated to future conventions by the Michigan SF Society. Steve Schultheis then read the WSFS rules clarification recommendation which, after being moved as a motion and seconded by Raybin and by Kyle, was passed unanimously. After which there was a big, audible sigh and then some laughter. Don Ford introduced Ben Stark and Al Begley who were bidding for Oakland, saying that the bid was "almost a joint effort with the Los Angeles area." And thus the 1964 site was chosen. (Thanks to Dirce Archer and the luck of the draw, Don Ford got a Lawrence original.)

Now came the Editor's panel: Fred Fohl was moderator, with A.J. Budrys, Cele Goldsmith, John W. Campbell, Jr. (Don Wollheim had to leave directly following the Banquet with the sad news of the death of his father). In commenting upon his role as moderator, Fred said, "the concept of a moderated John Campbell staggers the imagination." JWC said that "Miss Tarrant runs the magazine. All I do is sit around and read stories. She deserves a Hugo herself." He also said, "I need a new approach in stories" and praised Ted Thomas' "Weatherman." Jim Blish said that the last breakthrough in sf writing was in "treatment" which JWC was responsible for -- before that it was Doc Smith's breakthrough in ideas. Of interest to everyone was the inside information of the number of sf manuscripts the editors receive: Fohl -- 4,000 a year; Cele G -- 10-15 daily; JWC -- 4,000 yearly; and A.J. says Playboy has 100-150 circulating in the office daily, but of a general nature, not necessarily sf.... Don Simpson was the winner of Project Fantasy.... George W. Early is employed with Project Apollo Space Suit Prime Contractor of Hamilton Standard, Division of United Aircraft.... After the panel of mimeo experts, we drifted into the First Fandom Meeting where we learned: those greybeard boys may be wearing First Fandom sweatshirts next year(!), Lloyd Eshbach is working on a bibliography, Sam Moskowitz described Bill Evans as an "in-defatigue-able" worker, and one of the most fascinating combinations of fans were chosen to form an 8mm Fan Film Project (there's a shot from 1939 of Ray Bradbury at the fan ball game jumping up and down in boyish glee) -- the committee being Will Sykora, George Nims Raybin, Chris Moskowitz and Dave Kyle.... Up in Ellis Mill's room there was Hal Lynch, Chuck Hansen and, of course, Ellis' popular mother. Wally Weber at one point was helplessly on the floor, convulsed with laughter. We also saw Steve Schultheis' memory book of the 1957 KLM (Kyle-Landis Marriage) Fan Flight to London, a comprehensive fannish exploration of British-European fandom which is well-worth pleading to see....

It was five minutes to four early Monday morning in Jim Warren's suite when we wrote down the following names: Jim Warren, Ed and Carol Emshwiller, Fred Pohl, Art Saha, Robert Madle, Frank Andrasovsky, Charlie Brown, Forry Ackerman, Taimi Saha, Harriet Kolchak, Joni Stopa, Marsha Brown, Lester del Rey, Cele Goldsmith, Bob Silverberg, Gregg Trend, Bill Mallardi, John Jackson, Evelyn del Rey, Kate Wilhelm Knight, Damon Knight, Jon Stopa, Jock Root, Lee Thorin, Carole Pohl, Jay Kay Klein, Barbara Silverberg, A.J. Budrys, Edna Budrys and Jim Bliss (we imagine that name's Blish, but who knows why we wrote what we did?).

Shortly before noon on Monday, September 2, we were ostensibly standing and listening to Dan Metnick of NYC, but in reality we were eavesdropping on two of the hotel police who were flirting with the cashier. They said that "this" was the "worst convention of the weekend." We naturally assumed that, once again, the sf crowd had demonstrated its fierce energies. And then we realized that they were referring to the "fraternity group!" It seems that the fraternity boys would be scurrying around at one or two in the morning and they would be told to "break it up." It wasn't the noise so much as the worst possible time to be disturbing the atmosphere of a hotel -- eight or nine fraternity parties last night had been broken up by the hotel guards. The Moral: Keep your parties in your rooms, and the doors closed and chances are you'll never be bothered.... Hans Stefan Santesson also reported to us at that time (while we were now chatting with Dirk Nelson of Toronto) that the "company-cops" say that by far the worst group at the hotel that weekend was the insurance crowd.

Then at twelve noon the Burroughs Panel assembled with Allan Howard as moderator. L. Sprague de Camp was the principal speaker and started off by saying that Edgar Rice Burroughs had two faults: style and science. ERB, he said, like many writers, push the readers' glamour buttons, meaning "antiquity" and "the future." Sprague pointed out that the "bubble of illusion" is different for sf and fantasy. "One of the great sociological changes of this century," he continued, "is the authors' more realistic and mature point of view on ethnic prejudice. ERB shows a certain sophistication, with mild contemporary racial prejudice and specific liberalism. Modern writers put sermons in their stories with care, so that the reader swallows the bait without seeing the hook." Dick Lupoff reported on the recent "find" of unpublished Burroughs' manuscripts. There are short stories which were obviously experiments. There are four or five novelettes, with Venus and Pellucidar as backgrounds, and two novels, "Tarzan and the Madman," and "I am a Barbarian." The latter novel, really a fictionized version of Caligula, is in a "slick" style in great contrast to the usual "pulp" quality. (During all this, we were sitting next to the winner of the Children's Fantasy Art Show (Barbi Johnson?) and about halfway through there was a building-shaking roar behind the rostrum. It was from the Banquet Hall now infested by the Sigma Alpha Rho crowd and was easily identifiable as fraternity or school cheers. George Scithers, shaken by the racket, leaned over to the microphone and said, "I'm not going to apologize for that -- that's not my fault!")

After a break for an abbreviated auction (George Heap wielding the hammer knocked down Ed Emsh's "Glory Road" for \$100 and a three-copy set of the Tolkien trilogy "Lord of the Rings" for \$36.), a panel of authors' wives took over and sounded like SF CONFIDENTIAL.

Barbara Silverberg confessed that Bob "uses writing as an excuse to avoid social commitments." Carole Fohl described Frederik as "messy" -- around the house, that is. Edna Budrys revealed that she could tell if A.J. was working "by the blank look on his face." His room was "fantastically messy" and "if I move anything he says he can't find it." Carol Emshwiller insisted that artists -- and, of course, Ed Emsh -- are messier. All agreed that books overflow their living quarters. Carole Fohl added that one floor of their house was completely Fred's with several beds available to permit him to shift from one to the other as whimsy moved him. It was a "ghastly experience," she sighed, to show someone where a writer works. At the conclusion, evidently touched by their give-our-all-to-the-convention spirit, Chairman Scithers kissed all the wives.

Hal Clement Stubbs, half of the next panel, described science fiction as a game between the writer and the reader, better than run-of-the-mill detective work. Sf authors can no longer take second-effects into account, so the "game" is harder to win. Therefore, "sf is a form of intellectual exercise." Schuy Miller, the other half of the panel, claimed agreement, but stated that Hal's point is only one approach, call it "classic," perhaps, and that it is also perhaps a "vanishing" form. Hal then said that the detective Who-Dunnit suggests sf as the What-If. They couldn't agree whether or not the reader and the writer are in competition.... Then came the "Fourth Convention," a gathering of past convention chairmen and big-wigs. George Heap (Philadelphia) made the provocative observation that once upon a time the auction and the program book were essential to the financial operation of a convention, but now they could be eliminated, what with a \$3 registration and the assistance of business-minded hotels. George Price (Chicago) stressed the tax problems. George Raybin (New York) opined that Progress Reports are necessary to help non-attendees feel like participants. Sprague de Camp (Philadelphia) said that (1) everything takes place in the way it's planned, (2) unions must not be overlooked, such as music for the ball, and (3) a chairman should be picked who is in good health (1953 Chairman James A. Williams of Philadelphia died in office). George Scithers (Washington, D.C.) disclosed the 1963 program was roughed out in a rainy afternoon and that last minute fill-ins are always available, if not even better. Ben Stark (Oakland 1964) maintained that it's going to be easy because of pre-planning and organization. We (Newyorcon) also spoke. But the most croggling comments came from William S. Sykora (New York 1939 Nycon) who, after astutely pointing out that the meeting of-and-with pros is any con's principal program, apologized to the 1963 convention members for the 1939 Exclusion Act which barred a group of BNF's. Said Will Sykora: "It was done because we were scared."

The final activity for us was really a sort of farewell banquet at Vick's Restaurant. There were four tables and twenty-eight people and we jammed the place. (Among those who have already been previously mentioned on other occasions were Sylvia Tzinberg of E. St. Louis, Ed and Delia Mills, Ed Bielfeldt, Wally Gonser, Buddie McKnight and Bob Pavlat.) And a crazy thing happened which many thought was hilarious: Lloyd Eshbach came in with another party of con-leftovers, took a look at the mob scene and left in bewilderment -- Seems what had happened was that Ellis Mills had told Lloyd

(Continued on page 29)

DISCON FANDANGO

by Jay Kay Klein
Syracuse, New York

Well, it was different! The first worldcon held in Washington, D.C. had a unique atmosphere never previously encountered. Isaac Asimov, Banquet toastmaster, said, "This convention has dignity!" It was certainly a lot more subdued than any previous convention, with fans less rip-roaring and parties less riotous. Nobody fell out the window. And the program....

The program was a 180° reversal from the 1962 worldcon in Chicago. At the Chicon III there was ten days' worth of program crammed into three days. At the Chicon III I had observed Scithers, Pavlat & Co. carefully taking note of what not to do. And at the Discon they sure didn't do it! Between the Chicon III and the Discon there was a well balanced convention program, on the average....

This year I had decided to arrive at the convention early and rested. Leaving Syracuse (the heart of Central New York fandom) Thursday evening, I boarded a four-engine plane loaded down with 40 pounds of camera equipment and two stewardesses. Frank Irieto was driving via New York with some of my non-essentials, such as clothing and toothbrush. Not driving with Frank this year was quite enjoyable -- I didn't have to do anything but sit back and relax. I was so relaxed I was scared stiff!

At the Statler-Hilton Thursday evening there was already quite a crowd of fans in the lobby. The rest were in the bar. A few were leftovers from the "freedom march," such as George Raybin. A few had arrived earlier for sightseeing purposes. The remainder were just anxious to get the convention under weigh. As I walked into the lobby I was greeted by dozens of fans. "Where the devil's my Convention Annual?" Such popularity!

If I'd known the "Chicon III Edition" hadn't reached the shaking hands of con addicts, I might not have gone to the Discon! Fortunately, everyone was so happy at being at another convention, I was permitted to escape the firing squad just on the off chance I might put out this year's Annual before next year's convention.

The convention hotel this year was well nigh perfect except for one item. The elevator service was good, the employees extremely courteous, and the entire hotel air conditioned. The important exception lay in the size of the rooms. Compared to older hotels, naturally enough, the rooms were tiny. They were comfortable for normal hotel living, but complete washouts as places to hold parties. Unless a suite was available, a party just didn't stand a chance -- unless it was very small. The general run of fans do not secure suites for financial reasons. I still say, though, that several fans could pool resources and have a suite for about the same amount it would cost for separated singles. It wouldn't be too hard to pool refreshments, either. At the First Fandom meeting, a suggestion was voiced that the members supply refreshments. A mad stampede for the exit ensued, and some fifteen minutes later, the conventioners returned with a bottle a piece. The back table looked like a bottlefield!

A couple of other areas of convention life could have been improved on, too. The room doors were constructed almost soundproof, without transoms. How, unless you're Avram Davidson, can you tell

where the parties are? And on top of that, there were three other conventions going on simultaneously, which made it hard to tell in advance whose party you were trying to crash. As a result, partying was much subdued. And it is this factor which may have provided the "dignity" like Asimov was speaking of -- most everyone this year was practically sober!

The main convention hall was a bit cramped, but that just succeeded in giving it the intimate atmosphere formerly only associated with the Slovak Sokol Hall. Curiously enough, I was suddenly reminded of this when Sam Moskowitz stepped to the platform and addressed the audience. Just like the good old days, Sam spoke directly to the audience without any intervening microphone. A few nearby listeners were stunned by the shock wave. I first heard Sam at the First Postwar Eastern Science Fiction Convention at Newark in 1946. And even though the halls of the Slovak Sokol have been dark for many years now, I imagine Sam's voice still echoes there. My ears still ring!

The N3F Hospitality Room looked for a while as if it were going to meet the same fate it had at the Chicon III. Assigned a ridiculously small room, it announced a different location hourly until eventually it settled in a fairly spacious suite. And many were the good works performed in the name of the trinity, Fantasy Fan Federation. Hot drinks and snacks, a place to sit and talk, a gathering place for fans squeezed out of closet-sized parties, and a special home-away-from-home for younger fans. Janie Lamb was den mother. One minor social event was the dispensing of bagels in the Hospitality Room. This did, of course, lack the Davidson touch, with Avram and Grania in Mexico.

In fact, there were a great many of fandom's most brilliant lights who were missing in action since the last worldcon. Last year's guest of honor, Ted Sturgeon, was not present. But then, the Pittcon's guest of honor, James Blish, was in attendance. Also on hand this year were John Campbell and Lester del Rey. So I suppose if one year some people are unable to attend, others missing previous times will be on hand. Oh, yes -- Randy Garrett was so obviously present this year! To continue a quick roll of the missing: F.M. and Elinor Busby, Betty Kujawa, Jimmie Taurasi -- all potential worldcon reporters for the Convention Annual. Dirce Archer was on hand, and Ossie Train, Frank Dietz, and Jon and Joni Stopa. All in all, about 600 conventioners gathered at the Discon. If permitted to make a prediction, I'd say that on the basis of who-goes-to-what-conventions-when, the next worldcon held after London will be the largest, best-attended convention since the 1956 worldcon in New York City.

The 1964 convention, of course, will be in San Francisco, with London the most likely candidate for 1965. As is getting to be usual, the selection this year of a convention site was cut-and-dried, with only Ben Stark on hand to put in a bid. In fact, I think if Ben had somehow changed his mind at the last minute (un-thinkable!), the convention members would probably have voted for San Francisco anyway, out of sheer momentum. This year, for the first time, there were no parties put on by hopeful convention-site bidders. A Tacificon II victory party was held after the fact. This was an excellent party, terrifically well attended. Just the same -- a half-dozen bidder's parties held prior to the business session would have helped put the Discon on the social map.

Just think about the good old days -- for a year prior to the convention, huddled groups of fans all over the United States and Toronto would be plotting convention-getting strategy: "14 cases of bourbon -- no, let's make it gin, they can get just as drunk on the cheap stuff -- \$25 worth of ice cubes should do it -- hand out convention stickers to everyone -- let's try two suites of parties simultaneously -- maybe we should throw in with the Oshkosh group..." Yes, indeed -- you could never know in advance where the worldcon would be. And it was lots of fun. Even those who didn't make it this year knew they had sown the seeds for a succeeding year.

Oh, well -- as Ike Asimov says, we are quite dignified these days.

In contrast to Chicon III's memorable Introduction of Notables, the Discon let this part of the program pass away quietly with the introduction of just a handful of professionals and a couple of fans. And it was very disappointing. Possibly half the attendees at any convention have not been to previous conventions. These conventioners have read stories written by authors present at the convention, have subscribed to fan magazines published by active fans, and may have heard tales of the old-time fans. Yet the faces of these science fiction personalities are frequently unknown and unrecognized. For that matter, even fans who have attended previous conventions often do not know more than a percentage of the personalities. And that's where the Introduction of Notables really serves a purpose. In a forty-minute Introduction of Notables, more people can get to know more people by sight than in a whole convention. Afterwards, those who have been introduced can be approached and talked to.

Of course -- as Ike Asimov says, we are quite dignified these days. You can always find out who's who by looking in the Convention Annual.

Another unusual aspect of the Discon was the very smooth and firm running of things by the chairman. George Scithers handled the audiences like a fifth form master at Eton. As George said at the panel of former convention committeemen, "A chairman has a very important power. No one wants to be denounced from the platform." In truth, George did run the convention at a madly calm pace. He kept the aisles cleared, the audience in its seats, flashbulbs out of the celebrities' eyes, and the program right on schedule. It's possible that George's courteous determination to run the convention in an orderly, efficient, dignified manner may have irked some people from time to time.

The one thing that proved onerous to me, along with other photographers, was George's interdiction of flash photography during program proceedings. He felt this was desirable since flashbulbs disturb a speaker. And I will admit George may very well be right. However, it certainly made it difficult to secure photographs for the Convention Annual -- considering I didn't want to be denounced from the platform! As requested, I took pictures only prior to and after an address and during wild applause. If similar rules should be adopted for future conventions, I'd like to point out a few things from a photographic viewpoint. If available light, non-flash pictures are encouraged, the platform should be better lighted. Also -- and this is a very important technical point -- there is a big difference between flashbulbs and electronic flash. Bulbs burn for physiologically long times -- about 1/10th of a second. On the other hand, electronic flash units have exceedingly short times -- about

1/1000th of a second. Thus flash bulbs burn 100 times as long as electronic units, and can cause painful contraction of the iris and form retinal afterimages. Electronic units are on so briefly that they cause little if any eye reaction.

So if similar photoflash restrictions are considered in the future, the committee might make a distinction between long-burning bulbs and quicker-than-a-wink electronic flash. That would permit covering the program for the Convention Annual, give other electronic flash users a break, and still attain the goal of not distracting those on the platform.

One of the best handled parts of the convention -- of any convention -- was the Masquerade Ball. The ballroom was ample in size and had an elevated platform which made it simple to parade costumes across for display. The committee had an excellent system set up to corral masqueraders and send them across the platform one at a time, with an announcement of what the costumes represented. The Discon costumes were exceptionally attractive, with masqueraders displaying mental and artistic ingenuity. Particularly above and beyond the call of duty were the costumes worn by Jon and Joni Stopa. Just prior to the Ball I had had dinner with Jon and Joni. Forty minutes later I would hardly have recognized them except for Jon's beard. They took the Most Beautiful costume award. Carole Pohl was Natal Primal winner. Most Authentic, William Caughran. Authentic Fantasy, Jock Root and Adrienne Martine. Best Group: Bruce Felz, Diane Girard, and Ted Johnstone. Authentic Science Fiction, Judith Ann Lawrence. Best BEM, Bill Bowman. Judges Choice, Larry Kafka. The judges, located right on the platform, were Ben Stark, Dick Lupoff, Pat Lupoff, Jim Warren, Bob Leman, and Fritz Leiber. I secured a shot of this group by ascending the platform in disguise, then turning my lens on the judges and annihilating them with my super ray gun. The audience seemed appreciative of this bit of table turning.

The Banquet this year was held in the afternoon. This was quite a break with tradition and not wholly successful because the group had to be out in time for another banquet which followed. In fact, because of this time limitation, George Scithers once again had to be firm in keeping to a time schedule and in not permitting the award of anything but Hugos. As banquets are quite expensive in relation to the quality of food served, the conventioners go mostly to see and hear the celebrities and witness the awards. The food was about average for banquets, but the program was unusually short. Two awards in particular that would have been appropriate at the Banquet were the Big Heart Award and the Hall of Fame Award. However, everyone did enjoy the Banquet, with Isaac Asimov toastmastering. He was his usual uninhibited self, cutting Sprague de Camp, in the audience, to ribbons -- saying he chases and corners fans to force autographs on them. Theodore Cogswell also came in for the sharp edge of Ike's razor wit, with the toastmaster alleging Ted never signs up for a room at the convention.

Guest-of-honor Will F. Jenkins spoke of his interest in new inventions and how they have been anticipated by science fiction stories -- or how such stories have been anticipated by remarkable new inventions. In particular, he went over his wartime experiences in helping bring new devices to the front lines. A classic story is his tale about a ripple-free submarine periscope, a bathtub, and a skeptical admiral. Even Murray Leinster had to toe the mark, and was allotted a maximum of 40 minutes for his address.

It was Ike's unpleasant task to hand out the Hugos. Since he had never been awarded a Hugo, he all but raised the Golem in a mock-serious attack on all Hugo winners. Between presentations, Ike made desperate pleas for a Hugo. Finally, when there was one Hugo left, he went to hand it out and was almost, but not quite (since after all he is Isaac Asimov) speechless -- it was to himself as a special award for adding science to science fiction. So Ike finally received a Hugo, even though it wasn't for one of his superb Foundation stories. The Best Professional Magazine award went to Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction, accepted by Isaac Asimov. The Best Amateur Magazine award went to Zero, with Richard Lupoff accepting. Best Pro Artist, Roy Jean Kringle. Best Short Fiction, Jack Vance with "Dragon Masters," accepted by Frederick Fohl. Best Novel, Phillip K. Dick for the "Man in the High Castle," accepted by James Blish. Special Award to F. Schuyler Miller for the "Reference Library."

Prior to the Business Meeting, held very sensibly in the afternoon, other awards were made. James V. Taurasi won the Big Heart Award, accepted by Sam Moskowitz. Jimmie is one of those relatively few fans who have devoted themselves to science fiction, not for a decade or a few years here and there, but right from the beginning of fandom to this very day. Foremost among his accomplishments has been the continuance of Science-Fiction Times for a grand total of 23 years. This publication has been the outstanding carrier of science fiction and fantasy news happenings for over two decades. While other excellent news magazines have appeared and been published for a few years, only the Times has continued year after year to hold fandom together with news across the length and breadth of the science fiction world. This remarkable service has been due mainly to Jimmie Taurasi.

Another superbly apt award was the new one introduced at the Discon by First Fandom, the Hall of Fame Award. The very first such award went most fittingly to E.E. Smith, Ph.D. Sam Moskowitz presented the award and accompanied it with one of the most remarkable encomiums it has ever been my pleasure to hear. Sam traced Doc's contributions to science fiction and enlarged on his status as the most beloved of writers. Doc Smith is to authors as Frank Paul was to artists. Sam met with thunderous applause every time he paused for breath, and continued on with renewed vigor. A lesser voice than Sam would have been hoarse before the first 30 minutes. At length, Doc came to the platform -- he was completely speechless and just short of tears. What an ordeal! But he deserved every agonizing minute of it! Doc's daughter Verna said to me, "I could have listened forever." The award itself is an ornate pen and pencil desk set, complete with clock and moebius strip, without which no author should be.

The Business Meeting itself was brief beyond words. And orderly. And dignified. And dead. It might just as well have been held in the morning. Don Ford introduced Ben Stark, who bid (?) for the 1964 worldcon, Pacificon II at San Francisco. There were a couple of brief platform endorsements and everyone voted "aye." It was either that or no convention next year! A new proposed convention society constitution was passed around, and was accepted with little debate. The precise status of the convention society remained unclear -- is it still incorporated under the state of New York, and if so, why? Apparently no one has got around to telling

New York to forget the whole thing. Incorporating proved undesirable as profits are taxed. The New York worldcon of 1956 didn't have to worry about this problem, though. As usual, George Raybin hastened to move that the Business Meeting be adjourned. It was.

As the penultimate item on the program Monday, George Scithers called to the platform all former convention committee members. These ranged from those on the very first convention board of strategy through to those running last year's worldcon. Among those present were Wally Weber, Forry Ackerman, Chuck Hansen, Schuy Miller, Will Sykora, Joy and Sandy Sanderson, Fred Irophet, George Price, Ruth and Dave Kyle, Sprague de Camp, Steve Schultheis, George Raybin, Dirce Archer, and Bill Evans. This gathering was one of the best episodes of the Discon. (A real brainstorm, George!) George Scithers invited these members of past committees to speak of their experiences, with a view to helping out future committees. George made the statement that the \$3.00 registration has been a godsend to convention committees, enabling them to put on a worldcon without fear of financial chaos. He pointed out, too, that the various traditional features of conventions may be set aside or modified by committees at their discretion, such as not preparing a printed program booklet or deleting usual program material, or cutting down on the auction -- all of which saves wear and tear on convention committees.

George Raybin made the point, in rebuttal, that progress reports and the program booklet are all that members not able to attend receive, and that these publications help hold fans' interest in convention affairs. Will Sykora made a point, well appreciated by the audience as evidenced from applause, that all a convention really needs is celebrities. Will said that the real heart of a convention is the presence of those who make science fiction a living reality. The fans want to meet them, to talk to them, even just to look at them! Will made a further statement that brought a gasp from the audience -- he spoke of the first convention in New York, 1939, and said, "We made a mistake!" He was talking about the Exclusion Act, in which six fans were barred from attendance. "We were scared stiff!" said Will. Since then, from these barred six have come some of the science fiction world's most notable authors and editors.

Will himself in the interim has come in conflict with convention authorities. Almost always in the midst of the most famous fan feuds, Will eventually found himself squarely on one side and without allies. So it was with especial surprise and gladness that I saw him again at the Discon. I recall the many times that I attended the old Queens Science Fiction League. Will always managed to make a miniature convention of each meeting. Almost always there would be a guest of honor -- I recall meeting Willy Ley, Will F. Jenkins, Frank Belknap Long, Oscar J. Friend, and Raymond Z. Gallun, among many other celebrities. So -- welcome back, Will!

The Discon was a highly relaxed affair, with lots of time for mixing with old friends and making new ones. The parties were generally subdued, and except for Randy Garrett's blow-out, just about devoid of off-key singing. Off-color singing, though, was provided a capella by Sandy Cutrell, who could singlehandedly bring to bay the Blatant Beast (genus de Camp). Most grievously, there was a complete shortage of guitars -- or surely someone would have asked me for a few choruses of "Blow the Candles Out," or "Let her Lay under the Bar, She's in Good Company There." I learned these

little jingles back in nursery school. As it was, the best I could do was chant a bit of Chaucer for a very select group. Even Gordie Dickson was stripped of his battered and out-of-tune guitar. And they make a matched pair, too. Continuing his Chicon III pledge, Horizontal Ted Cogswell remained practically vertical during much of the Discon. Although Ike Asimov doesn't drink, he spent most of his time at Randy Garrett's party, so you really couldn't tell. Ike doesn't have to drink!

After the last round of parties Monday evening, I crammed camera after camera into suitcases and prepared for departure. Tuesday morning a group of us had a farewell breakfast in the hotel coffee shop that had mysteriously been closed all weekend. Then I left with Dave and Ruth Kyle and Harry Stubbs. On the car trip Harry kept accusing me of resembling Isaac Asimov. To correct this fault I don't know whether to go on a strict diet or drink more! Something will have to be done, though. On the other hand, I could fairly well accuse Harry Stubbs of resembling Hal Clement! Harry livened up the trip with anecdotes from a long and checkered career. He even claims to have flown a B-17 mission below sea level over enemy occupied territory. Like Hal Clement, Harry Stubbs is a great one for inventing impossible worlds.

Harry went as far as Atlantic City, where he joined his family. Ruth bought some salt water taffy and ice cream cones for Dave and me. Heading toward New York City, Ruth, Dave, and I discussed the good old days and the present state of fandom. I stayed a day in New York, then flew back to Syracuse. By now a seasoned air traveller, I wasn't scared a bit -- I was so worn out by all that fun I had been having that I fell unconscious and slept all the way!

Yes, the Discon was different, as all worldcons are. And it was a whirl and twirl and swirl of glittering gladness and madness. May worldcons go on forever!

PHOTO IDENTIFICATIONS

Identification for each photograph has been provided in the text on the page opposite. Where possible, commentary on fans and events have been included. Some conventioners have not as yet been provided with their rightful share of immortality -- space has been left for writing in their names. With many dedicated blood-and-ichor hounds on the trail of all missing identifications, eventually an additional list will be compiled and made available to subscribers. Send in your additions -- no name is too small or list too few.

All identification is in strict left-to-right order except as otherwise noted. Very strict: the first head on the left comes before any other head. If someone is missing a head, then an eye or ear or tentacle serves the purpose. In most fanoramic shots hope of making sense out of tangled fans has generally been abandoned. Short of providing intricate diagrams, the method of identification adopted here seems the most practical.

(Continued from page 21)

there was a huge dinner party forming to go out together and told him the wrong address. Lloyd confided that he was looking for a quiet spot and said he'd go some other place. And as luck would have it, it turned out to be the very spot he had been seeking to avoid. Later we learned from Lloyd that he didn't recognize anyone; just a mass of blurred faces in a cloud of cigarette smoke just inside the door by the bar.

Mention should be made of H. Beam Piper, his pipe and infectious laugh -- of Bob Greenberg and Alex Eisenstein, both of Chicago who were attending their second convention -- of Sandy Cutrell, vigorously waving long legs, long arms and long hair -- of the HARRISON OUR HERO mementos -- of James MacCreigh looking like no one knew him -- of Leslie F. Stone, whose hand we shook in heroine-worship -- of George Zebrowski and Franklin F. Spellman of NYC who expressed their pleasure at meeting the cartographer of the Hyborean map -- of Phil Harrell, who says you can't write here -- of Paul Herkart of Princeton, N.J. and his niece Sandra Bussing of So. Orange, N.J. -- of John Flory who would love to get to know the PSFS -- of T. B. Haughey of Londover Hills, Md. who has the imagination and audacity of contemplating publishing a regional prozine -- of Ben Stark (again) who thinks it's important to have the Art Project Show Awards presented during the Banquet session -- of the great laughter which followed the remark to Leigh Brackett by a serious, very young man: "I hate to shoot your theories full of holes, but...."

The Discon had 820 registered, 580 attending and 442 at the Banquet. We were, praise be, represented in every category.

If ever the Discon should be remembered like others before it, such as the TASFIC 1952 for its Great Elevator Blockage, the Nolacon 1951 for its wastepaper basket fire, the Nycon 1939 for the yellow pamphlets behind the radiator, the SFCon 1954 for the Vigilante Committee and the Iron Curtain, and so forth and so on, then the Discon 1963 ought to be remembered as the convention of the W rooms and the non-W rooms and the poor bewildered fans who never found out!

England in 1965!

Dave Kyle

(Continued from page 13)

scenes it was not apparent to the attendees. He deserves credit for doing a difficult job. I liked Eney's guide book for getting about D.C. and the rest of the committee did their tasks in an efficient manner. The entire Convention Committee can take a bow for a well executed convention.

On the way to D.C. we stopped off in Hagerstown, Maryland overnight. While there, looked up Harry Warner and got to meet him in person after writing to him for 26 years. At the convention one meets old friends and gets to hear all the latest news. It's just something that gets into your blood and once you're hooked, you have to go back each year. My chances of attending the '64 and '65 Conventions are extremely slight... I'm saving up for 1966. Let's hope it'll be a blast.

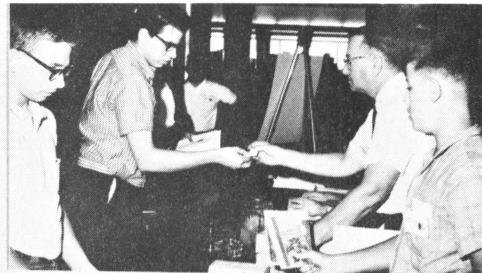
Don Ford



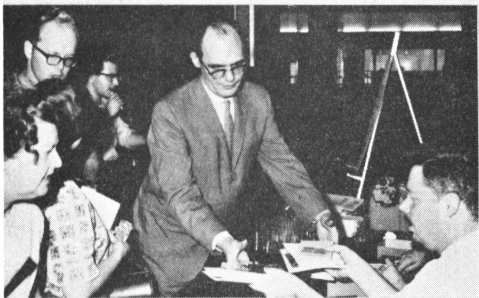
3



4



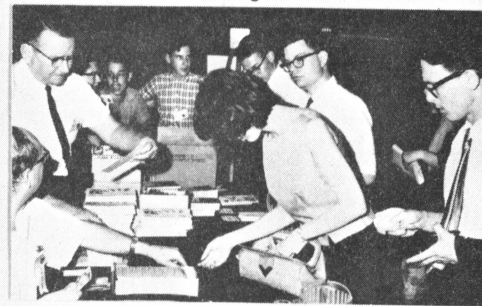
5



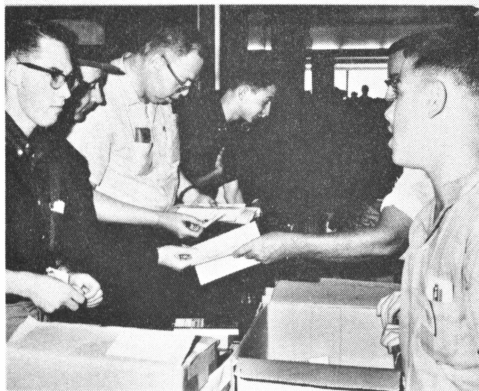
6



7



8



9



10



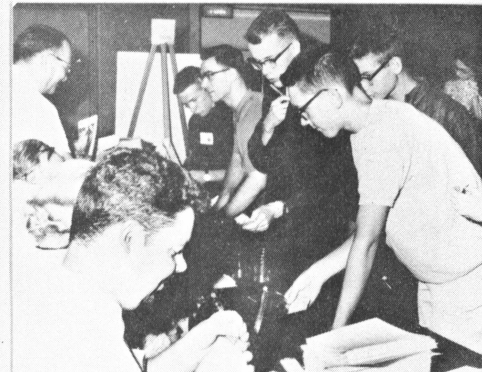
11



12



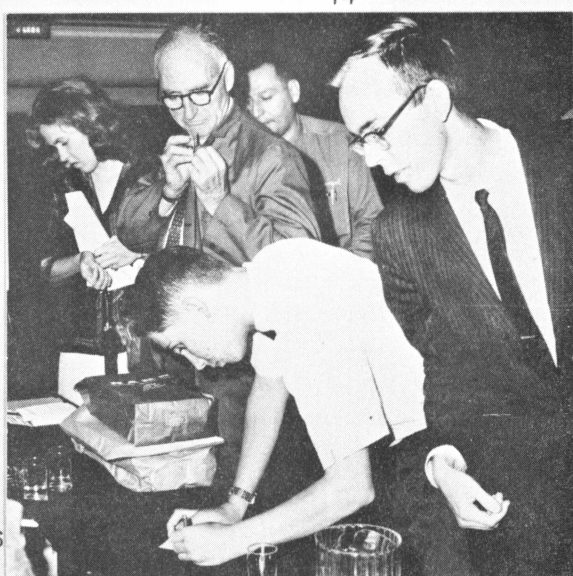
13



14



15



16

Registration, Saturday morning. The con committee is right in there fighting a gallant action against the maddened horde of fans frothing at the mouth to get at a real, genuine convention. The total registration fee of \$3.00 is a mighty small price for admittance to the regal splendors of the Discon.

- 3
- | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|----|--------------|
| 1. | 2. Judith Merril | 3. | 4. | 8. Jock Root |
| 5. | 6. Hans Stefan Santesson | 7. | | |

Judy is still as con conscious as back in the days when she was a wide-eyed fan known as little Judy Zissman. Hans, too, despite heavy participation in the editing and writing end of science fiction remains dedicated partisan of the worldcon get-together. And Jock is as firm a fan conventioneer as you can get.

- 4
- | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|----|----|----|
| 1. Bob Pavlat | 2. Richard Eney | 3. | 4. | 5. |
| 6. | 7. | 8. | | |

Now here's a sight that old-time con committeemen would have welcomed with their sore eyes: fans anxious, almost pleading, to give away their money to the worldcon treasury. Deficits were once considered a normal part of worldcon sponsorship. The last big minus financial arrangement was at the 1956 worldcon in New York, the last one prior to the adoption of the higher membership fee. At the second worldcon (Chicon I) in 1940 the committee planned to split up the profits -- but I doubt that any profits ever showed up for splitting.

- 5
- | | | | |
|----|----|------------------|----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. Warren de Bra | 4. |
|----|----|------------------|----|
- The committee works like a well oiled machine -- grease its palm and away you go.

- 6
- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|----|------------------|
| 1. | 2. Ron Ellick | 3. | 4. Leslie Gerber |
| 5. Frederik Fohl | 6. Dick Eney | | |

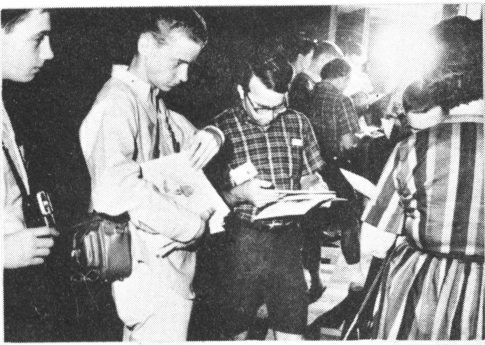
Fred is gripped by registration fever, a chronic complaint of his since the very first worldcon.

- 7
- | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |
|----|----|----|----|----|
- Registration stretched over many hours until some 500 fans had poured their accumulated life savings into the treasury.

- 8
- | | | | |
|---------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. | 2. Warren de Bra | 3. Tom Rutherford | 4. George Mullin |
| 5. Alan | 6. | 7. | 8. |
| | | | 9. |
- More of the faithful five hundred.

- 9
- | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. | 6. |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
- A lot of paper is handed out these days at registration, including paperback science fiction books. I found these useful at 4 a.m. when I felt like reading a while before going to sleep.

(Continued on page 50)



17



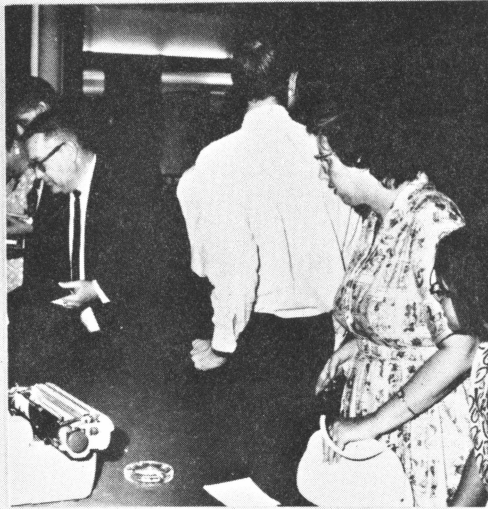
18



19



20



21



22



23



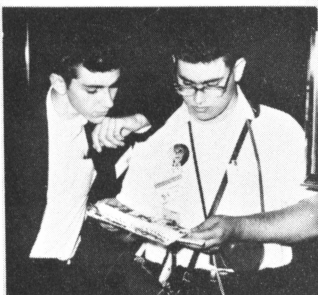
24



25



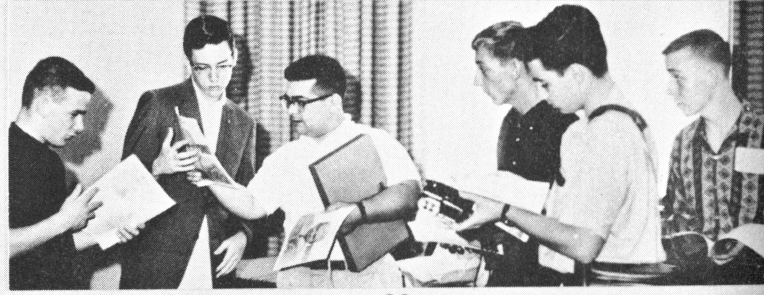
26



27



28



29



30



31

More registration, mostly.

17

1. 2. 3. David Trotter 4. 5.
- Dave has travelled all the way north to Washington from Birmingham, Alabama. In the mirror behind this group you can see the photographer -- that big, bright light is me.

18

1. 2.
- A soldier checks in.

19

1. 2. 3. Jerald Jacks
- Jerry is another local fan, from Baltimore. However, no one held it against him and he was treated as if he had travelled all the way from, say, Birmingham, Alabama.

20

1. Ron Ellik 2. 3. 4. William Clark
- Bill is from Arlington, Virginia. Ron comes from Los Angeles, where he edits one of the best personal newszines ever. Yessir, Starspinkle is a real, down-to-Mars hometown newspaper for fans all over the country. And the best part of it is that Ron severely limits circulation -- sort of. If you're a bona fide fan with a couple of worldcons under your belt, find out what's happening to your friends between Labor Days -- send 50¢ for six bi-weekly issues to Ron Ellik, 1825 Greenfield Ave., Los Angeles, California, 90025. Starspinkle is up for a Hugo at the Pacificon II....

21

1. 2. 3. Stanley Skirvin 4. 5.
- Anyway -- I think that's the back of Stan's head....

22

1. Robert Greenberg 2. H. Beam Piper 3. 4. 5. Marc Christopher
- Bob is a Chicago fan of great enthusiasm. Beam is one of the obligingest authors at the Discon. Gosh -- he actually likes fans! Marc is undoubtedly one of the prominent fans of the future. True, the Discon is his first convention -- but then he's just fifteen. With a start like that, there's no telling what may happen. I made my first convention at age fifteen, too -- and Marc and I can tell all you old people that being fifteen, away from home, and at a science fiction convention is the greatest fun in the world.

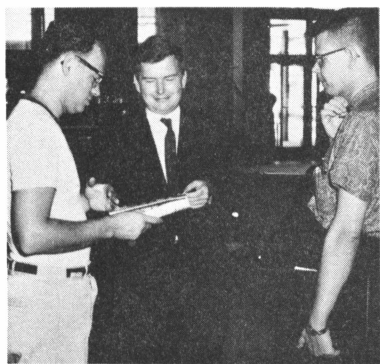
23

1. 2.
- A bit of after-registration relaxation. These dedicated fans are reading all that stuff handed out at the registration desk.

24

1. Riva Smilay 2. Mary Dziechowski 3. Mrs. Mills
- Riva really gets around -- she is famous for flying from group

(Continued on page 51)



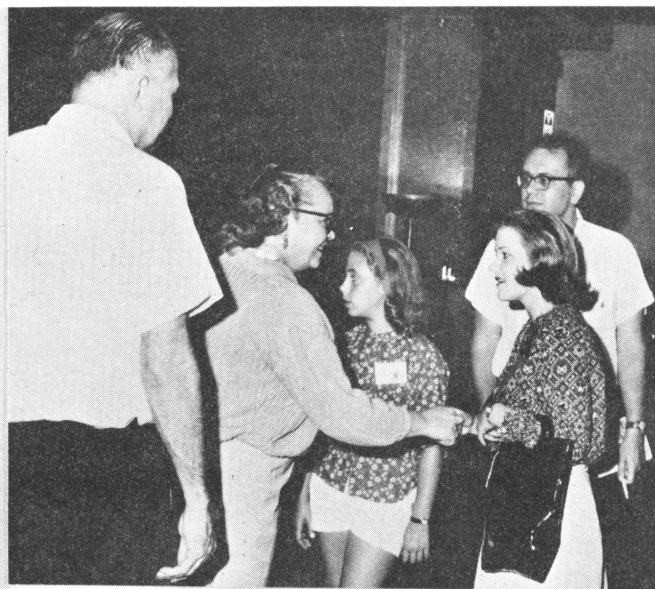
32



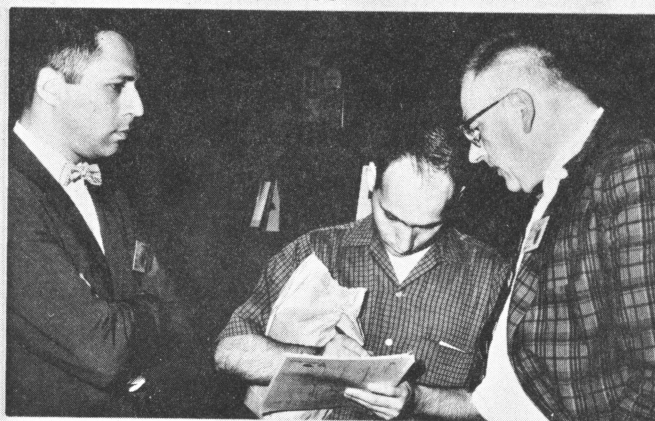
35



38



33



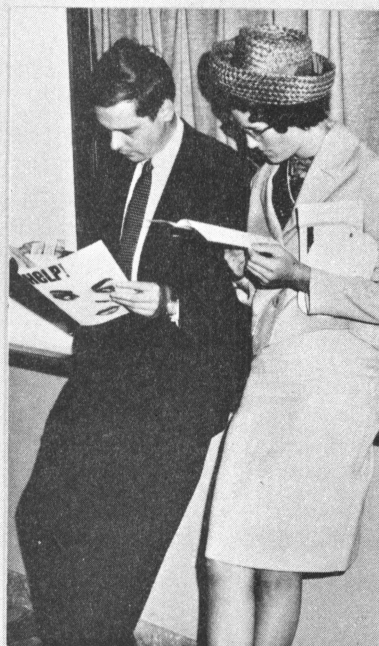
36



39



34



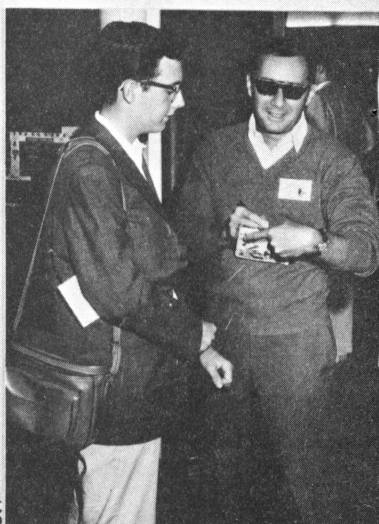
37



40



42



43

Convention floor corridors. For lack of any better place (NFFF Hospitality Room notwithstanding), fans congregate in the convention floor corridors to carry on unfinished business from last year's convention, meet new people, and generally get together. One of the secrets of the 1961 Seacon's great success was a physical setting that permitted conventioners to step out of their rooms and into a central courtyard perfect for informal tete-a-tetes.

32

1. 2. 3. Ed Meskys
- Three fans gather for a sub-convention. Ed is a particularly well known California fan and a fanzine writer of particular prominence. His columns in the Science-Fiction Times are always rewarding.

33

1. Ted Engel 2. Jean Engel 3. Betsy Wollheim 4. Taimi Saha 5. Art Saha
- Jean has been active in New York City fandom for many years; husband Ted is a First Fandomite. Art was on the 1956 convention committee. Betsy is of royal fan blood, tracing her lineage right back to founding father Don Wollheim himself.

34

1. 2. Chris Moskowitz 3. Will F. Jenkins
- As guest of honor, Will feels compelled to sign all autographs personally.

35

1. 2. Jeannie Smith
- "Has anyone seen Ken Krueger?" One of Ken's loyal customers visited the Discon briefly to meet the Buffalo bookman in person. Unfortunately, he was not on the convention floor. An old hand at conventions, Jeannie fills the visitor in on details of convention life.

36

1. Ben Bova 2. Joe Sarno 3. John W. Campbell, Jr.
- Fan meets editor. Joe doesn't want to forget a single word John Campbell says. Science writer Ben Bova waits patiently. As John said to me, "This is work! Fans want to talk to me, and that's what I'm here for." Just the same, I think he likes this kind of work!

37

1. 2.
- Forry Ackerman's magazine sure gets around.

38

1. 2. 3.

39

1. 2. Robert A. Madle, Sr. 3. Robert A. Madle, Jr.
- Once known as Little Bob and Big Bob, this pair of Madles now has to be known as Young Bob and Old Bob. Ol' Bob is one of the founders of fandom, and his trail-blazing efforts may still be seen

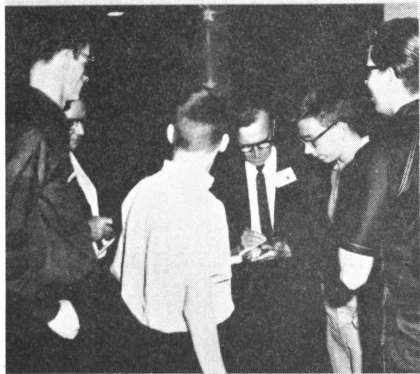
(Continued on page 52)



44



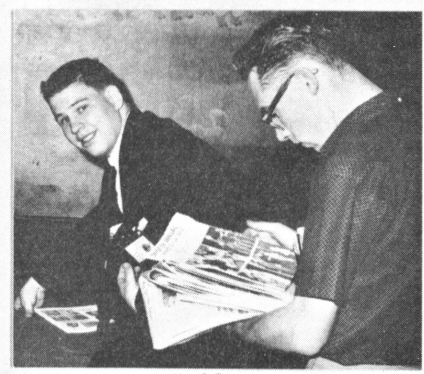
45



46



47



48



49



50



51



52



More corridor goings on, and on, and on.... In fact, so much of the convention takes place this way, it ought to be listed in the program book.

44

1. Ben Bova
2. Will F. Jenkins
3. Mrs. Jenkins
4. Theodore L. Thomas
- 5.
- 6.

When Murray Leinster is happy, everyone is happy! Will's career began when he noticed that the clock on the Metropolitan Tower was running backwards.... Forty-four years later he still is one of the outstanding contemporary writers. Anything else I could possibly say here would fall short of describing the esteem in which Will is held by fandom. For further details on the strange case of Murray Leinster, see Sam Moskowitz' profile in the December 1961 Amazing Stories.

Happy Ted Thomas nearby doesn't need any writing lessons, either. And Will's right-hand man Ben Bova is a prozine regular, too, even though he's more likely to write about runaway nuclear reactors than runaway skyscrapers.

45

1. Will Sykora
2. Will Jenkins

Will S. has been reading 'em nearly as long as Will J. has been writing 'em. Sykora is one of the greats of the early fan era, though in recent years he has been largely inactivated. As director of the Queens Science Fiction League, he devoted a good-sized portion of his home to a meeting hall. This feat so impressed teenager little Ricky Slavin that she referred to Will as our a-fflu'-ent director. Rich only in fan spirit, though. He was also a founding member of the Eastern Science Fiction Association. As with other founders of fandom -- Jimmie Taurasi, Sam Moskowitz, Bob Tucker, Bob Madle, Don Ford, Forry Ackerman, Don Wollheim, Dave Kyle, and others too old to mention -- fandom was more than a hobby or passion: it was a holy cause.

At the right of the picture a young fan looks on with awe -- clutching a treasure-trove of magazines from the golden age of science fiction. On top is the June 1941 (20¢!) issue of Astounding Science Fiction, a magazine still with us in spirit if not in name.

46

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
4. Will Jenkins
- 5.
- 6.

The Old Master is not forgotten by the young fans -- he never left! The Murray Leinster autograph will be a hot item on the used autograph market for many years to come.

47

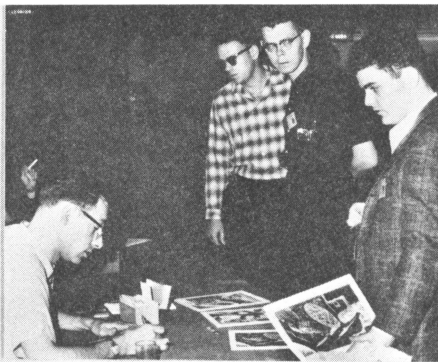
1. Lou Tabakow
2. Ruth Kyle
3. Dave Kyle
4. Jean Smith
5. Ed Bielfeldt
6. Mary Dziechowski

Ruth was Dave's right-hand man at the 1956 New York worldcon and on the 1957 London worldcon special flight -- and now has taken permanent possession of the remains. Lou is a First Fandomite of the first water from Cincinnati, and has written for the prozines. Ed is another First Fandomite.

(Continued on page 53)



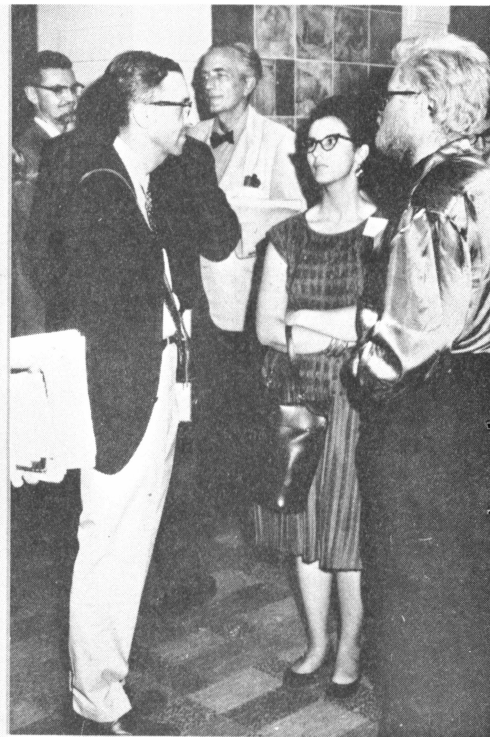
54



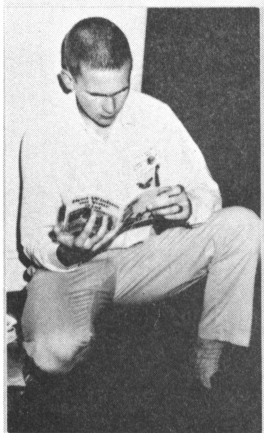
55



56



57



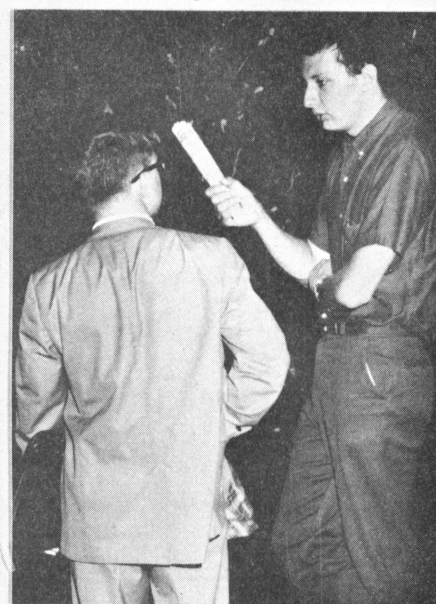
58



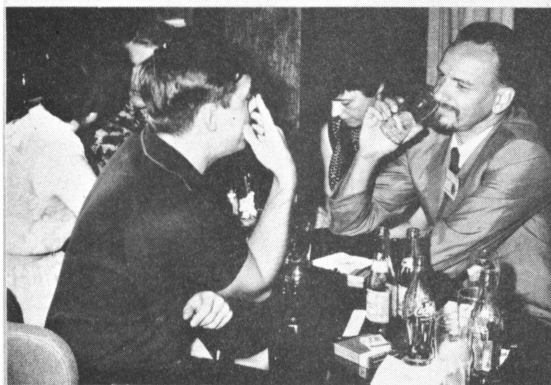
59



60



61



62



63



64

More corridor scenes, mostly.

54

1.L. Sprague de Camp 2. Leigh Brackett Hamilton 3. Ben Stark 4.

Just outside the convention hall this lively group of conventioners holds a semi-private panel discussion. Sprague is quite a humorist in print, of course, and a razor-sharp wit in person.

55

1. Frank Dietz 2. 3. Ed Meskys 4.

The desperate fan on the left is clutching a copy of Luna, whilst Frank signs him up for possible future issues. Frank's fanzine is a great idea -- transcribed panel discussions and other highlights of worldcons. In fact, Frank's magazine is so popular, all issues have been sold out since the Discon.

56

1. John Jackson 2. Theodore Cogswell 3. Walter Breen

Motorcycle-mad Ted dresses midway between a Hollywood director and Jim Warren. Walt is a California fan who is becoming very widely known in fandom and has also achieved civic note in his local community.

57

1. Sprague de Camp 2. John Campbell 3. Harry Warner 4. Fritz Leiber
5. Dian Girard 6. Bruce Pelz

Harry Warner is a local fan of great distinction -- an old-time personality of fanzine fame. Bruce and Dian have recently married one another and now form a hard-hitting fan family. Examples of such ideal matings are growing unbelievably in number. It is expected that such inbreeding will result in a race of superfans.

58

1. Richard Brisson

Dick is from New Bedford, Mass. As we see him here, he is memorizing the program book.

59

1.

In the past ten or fifteen years a new phenomenon has come into fandom -- the girl fan. Once upon a worldcon all you had to look at was Don Ford, Doc Barrett, or Forry Ackerman....

60

1. Frank Prieto 2.

Now that's more like it, Frank. In his private office, rented from the phone company at great expense, the Convention Annual business manager handles a large financial transaction.

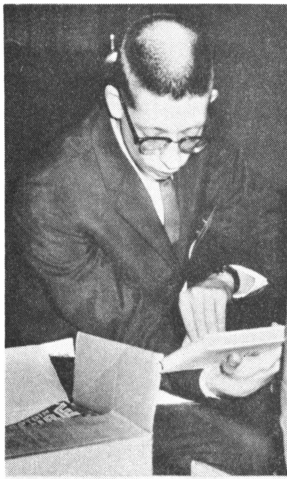
61

1.

2.

There are some fans you just naturally look up to.

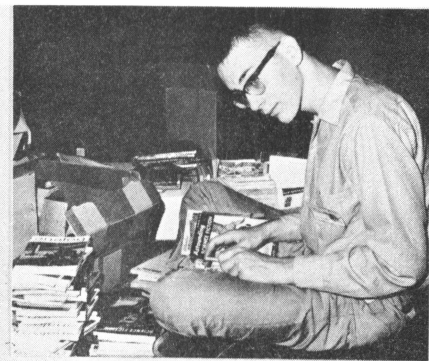
(Continued on page 54)



65



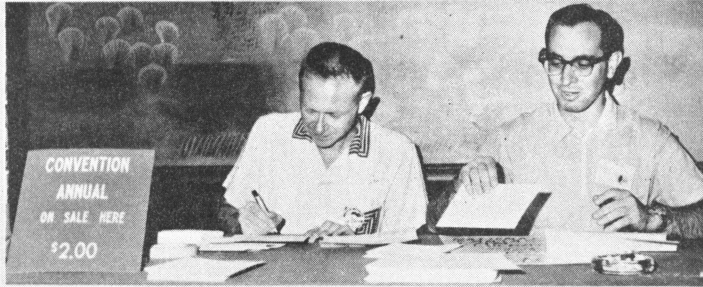
66



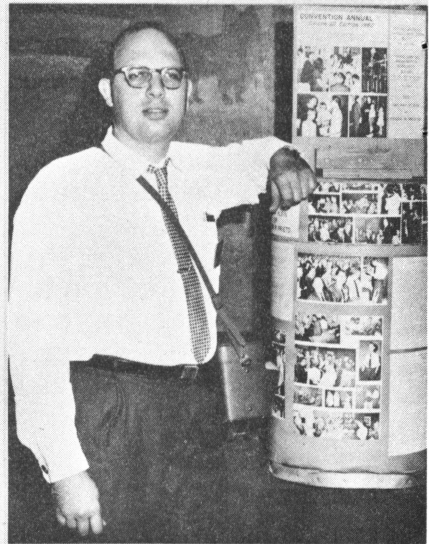
67



69



68



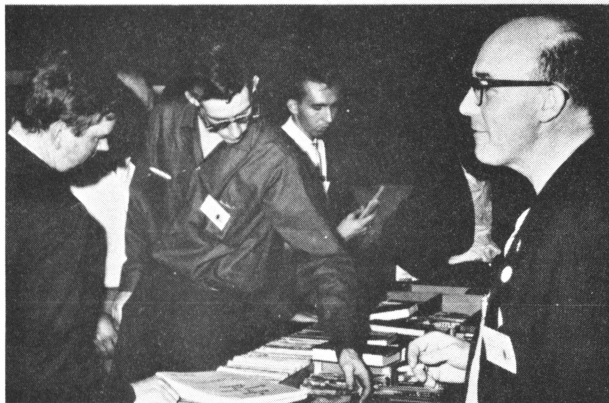
71



70



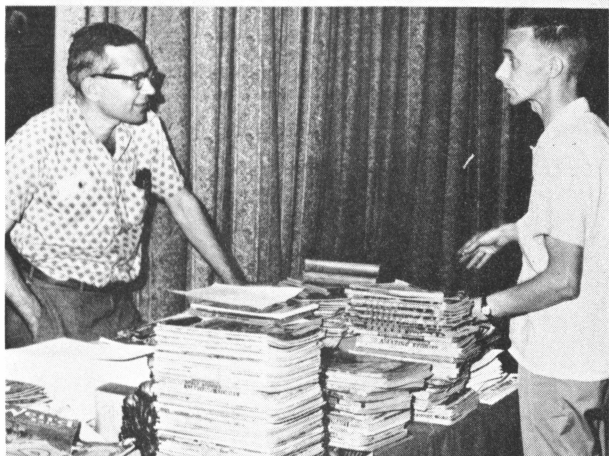
74



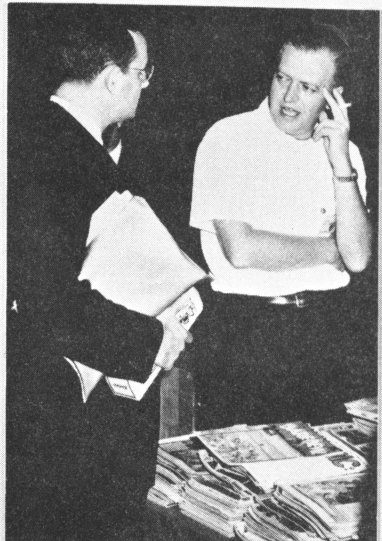
72



73



75



76



77

The Retail Exhibits. A few professional bookdealers are found here and a horde of fanzine publishers. It's possible to subscribe to Yandro or pick up a set of 1940 Astoundings.

65

1.

A prospective purchaser looks over the merchandise.

66

1.

2. Fred Patten 3.

4. Verne Coriell

5. Marge Coriell 6.

The Coriells are the guiding lights of the Burroughs Bibliophiles. Subscriptions to the Burroughs Bulletin are swamping the Coriells' abacus.

67

1. Fred Gottschalk

Happiness is a set of Astounding.

68

1. George Raybin 2. Norman Dodner

Brooklyn fan Norm is either subscribing to Science-Fiction Times, signing up for the Convention Annual, or making arrangements about a will. George is a Times officer, an Annual helper-outer, and a lawyer. He legal-eagled the 1956 worldcon.

69

1.

2. Sylvia Tzinberg

Sylvia picked up a copy of the "Chicon III Edition" at the Convention Annual display and said most deprecatingly that she absolutely knew her picture couldn't possibly be included. She opened up her copy and spotted herself in the very first picture she looked at. Despite all appearances to the contrary, I take pictures of conventioners other than Avram Davidson, Forry Ackerman, and Bob Madle. The only requirement for appearance is that you be at the convention and stay still long enough for me to cock the shutter, advance the film, focus the lens, note the distance, set the diaphragm aperture, wait for the electronic flash to charge up, compose the picture, get everybody out of the way, re-compose the picture, and press the release button. See how easy it is?

70

1. Frank Prieto 2.

3.

4.

5. Ed Meskys

At the Convention Annual display, Frank's tireless efforts assure the "Discon Edition" of being the Annual with the smallest deficit in history. Of course, that was before we decided to enlarge the issue....

71

1. Jay Kay Klein

This photograph represents one of the great milestones in science fiction history: E.E. Smith, Ph.D. is the picture taker. Kind-hearted Doc thought I ought to appear in the Annual, too, and put a Delameter on me to quiet such feeble resistance as modesty required.

(Continued on page 55)



78



79



80



81



82



83



84



85



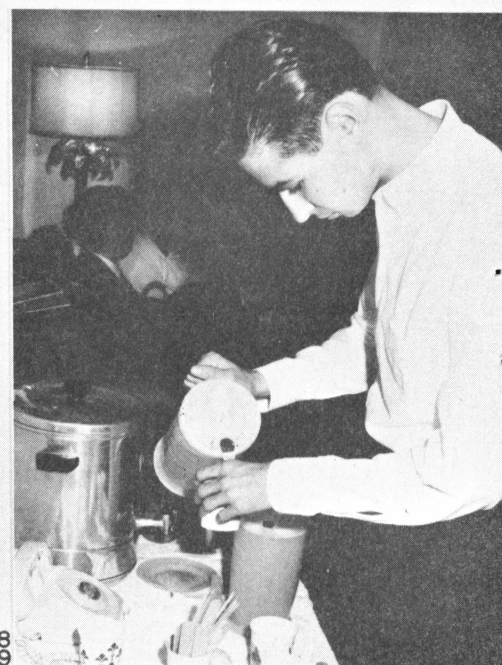
86



87



88



89

Forry Ackerman -- professional fan. No person epitomizes the fan spirit more than Forry, who has been chosen as the fan guest of honor for the 1964 Pacificon II. It is the privilege of the Annual to show Forry in some of the many ways in which he serves fandom at conventions.

78

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. Forry Ackerman 7. 8. 9. 10.

Forry is waist-deep in young monster fans. He made a grand tour of the United States, with the Discon as one stopping spot, in order to meet his loyal readers.

79

1. 2. Forry Ackerman

I'm not quite sure just what Forry is doing here -- offhand I'd say he had just become engaged....

80

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. Forry Ackerman 6. 7. Mark Frank 8.

Forry holds his audience spellbound while he spins yarns of the fabulous Hollywood monsters he has met personally.

81

1. 2. Bob Greenberg 3. 4. Alan

Older fans also find Forry a source of inspiration. One fan points an accusing finger while Bob Greenberg writes down the Master's reply.

82

1. Forry Ackerman 2. Frederick W. Jackson

Forry autographs a book, which now forms the keystone of Fred's most treasured possessions.

83

1. Mark Irwin 2. 3. 4. 5. Forry Ackerman 6.

Forry never refuses a request for an autograph -- he's just about the most obligingest person in fandom.

84

1. Jim Warren 2. Forry Ackerman 3. Robert Silverberg 4. Bob Greenberg

Jim is Forry's publisher and a figure in his own right in the monster movement. After hosting a party until 4 a.m., he attended a monster rally at 8 a.m. That's dedication! Forry takes time out from autographing and yarn-spinning to greet Bob I-Write-for-a-Living Silverberg.

85

1. Reporter 2. Forry Ackerman

Forry is so exalted a subject that the newspaperman has taken off his hat, a gesture normally reserved only for Heads of States and Princes of the Church.

(Continued on page 55)



90



91



92



93



94



95



96



97



98



99

More NFFF Hospitality Room, and the First Fandom brawl. The old-timers' scuffle took place Sunday evening, after the special awards program. A larger selection of photos appeared in First Fandom Magazine. The pictures here are presented so that fans whose brains are as yet smooth and unwrinkled may assuage their fervid curiosity about what happens back of the high walls of antiquity.

Most of the members are still pretty spry since it really wasn't too many years ago that they were teenagers. Just the same, it would be unfortunate if the organization turned into a last-man survivor's club -- as present immigration rules would inevitably lead to. To perpetuate the ancient and honorable spirit of long-term service to fankind, it might be advisable to admit small quantities of gray-haired and bald fans with, say, 20 years of active fandom. You see, Don, I first started stepping on other fans' toes back in the fall of '45....

90

1. 2. Harry Stubbs 3. Claudia Galik

N3F room. Harry spent better than an hour in the stronghold of youthful fandom. Of all authors, he is the most qualified for this task. Claudia clung to every syllable of discourse, since she is by far and away the number one Hal Clement fan, with the possible exception of Mary Patterson.

91

1. 2. George Raybin 3. 4. 5.
6. 7.

N3F room. George's presence is only partly accounted for by his great interest in NFFF affairs. He simply likes to mix with fans of all ages. To considerable extent, a great deal of stratification along age lines has taken place in the last fifteen years. There was a time when a knee-breeches-clad 12-year-old named Robert G. Thompson could attend a convention and mix on equal terms with the 20-year-olds named Isaac Asimov, Forry Ackerman, Fred Pohl, and Jim Blish. But there isn't too much of this going on anymore. At the Chicon III, Ted Sturgeon elaborated on the theme that three conventions were going on simultaneously: fan, professional, and reader.

92

1. Ted Engel 2. Lou Tabakow 3. Ossie Train 4. Dave Kyle 5. Gus Willmorth 6. Margaret Ford

First Fandom party. When a First Fandomite does something, he does it not by halves. It took the undivided attention of six people for Dave to eat his sandwich. Ossie offers all sorts of good advice while others join in from time to time with suggestions and messages of good will.

Not having seen Gus in some time, I hardly recognized him minus his beard. Director of LASFS, he founded Fantasy Advertiser some 17 years ago as a little mimeo zine, which grew into one of the great publications of all time -- with beautiful artwork and serious articles. Eventually the task of keeping such high standards became overwhelming and Gus turned over the reins to other hands. That's the paradox of fanzine publishing -- a really good magazine chews up more time to produce than most fans can afford.

(Continued on page 56)



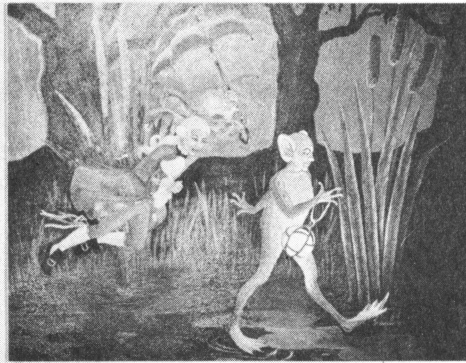
100



101



102



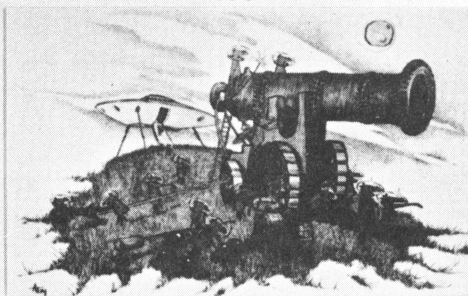
103



104



105



106



107



108



109

100

1. Bob Madle 2. Don Ford

As Secretary-Treasurer, Don records every precious word spoken by President Bob. Somehow, the First Fandom combined marathon business meeting and drinking party managed to stagger on to a conclusion of sorts. Essentially, everything was tabled until next year -- or referred to committee. A memorable committee-to-end-all-committees was appointed by Bob Madle, First Fandom's ace diplomat: Dave Kyle, George Raybin, Will Sykora, and Chris Moskowitz. This well assorted group is in charge of securing and preserving motion picture film taken at past conventions, the longer ago the better. Will announced that he has truly ancient films and generously is prepared to make them available.

Hey -- all you ancient and honorable fans reading this: if you have some films of past conventions of First Fandom vintage, let Dave Kyle know. Such films would be duplicated and the originals returned. That way, an historical repository could be built up. Write: Dave Kyle, Station WPDM, Potsdam, New York.

101

1. Juanita Couldon

Juanita heads the Project Art show at the Discon. Founder and Director Bjo Trimble had to be a stay-at-home in California. Juanita has good credentials for pinch-hitting: talent in art, music, and literature. She also is wife to Buck Coulson, no mean task in itself. Juanita and the Sage of Wabash publish Yandro, a remarkable compendium of wit, satire, humor, news, critiques, letters of the highest character, and (oh, well, every Achilles has his tendon) fan fiction. Published 12 times a year for nigh onto 12 years, Yandro is overwhelmingly endorsed herewith. Rates: \$2.50 for 12 issues with renewal rights for \$2.00 a year. Juanita Coulson, Route #3, Wabash, Indiana. Yandro is up for a Hugo at the Pacificon II....

At the moment, Juanita is guarding the Montezuma treasure, consisting of enough awards for art prowess to sink the Guggenheim museum. Another source of stimulus for pigment daubers is the prospect of sales. Each painting on display may be tagged with a price tag or minimum acceptable sum for bidding. Juanita displayed an abstract/surrealist painting "Here Come the Birds" that I thought magnificent.

The art show this convention was the best ever, and I have a couple of pages devoted to it. Wish I had more space...and could print in color.

Art show judges: Bob Silverberg, Pat Lupoff, Ed Emsh, Harry Stubbs, and Sid Coleman.

Who won what:

Fantasy Art (sponsored by Dick Eney): First, Don Simpson
Second, Judith Lawrence Honorable Mention, Ted White

Science Fiction Illustration (sponsored by Forry Ackerman):
First, Larry Ivie Second, Don Simpson Third, John Wilson
Honorable Mention, Phil Normand

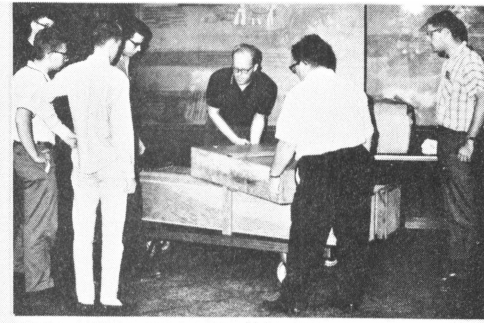
Outre Art (Famous Monsters of Filmland): First, Judith
Lawrence Second, Don Simpson

Children's Fantasy (anonymous): First, Barbi Johnson
Second, Joni Stopa

(Continued on page 57)



110



111



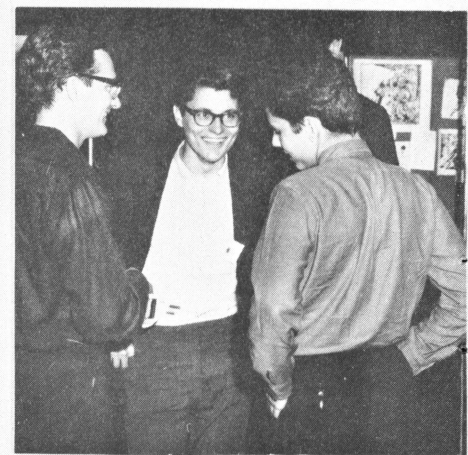
112



113



114



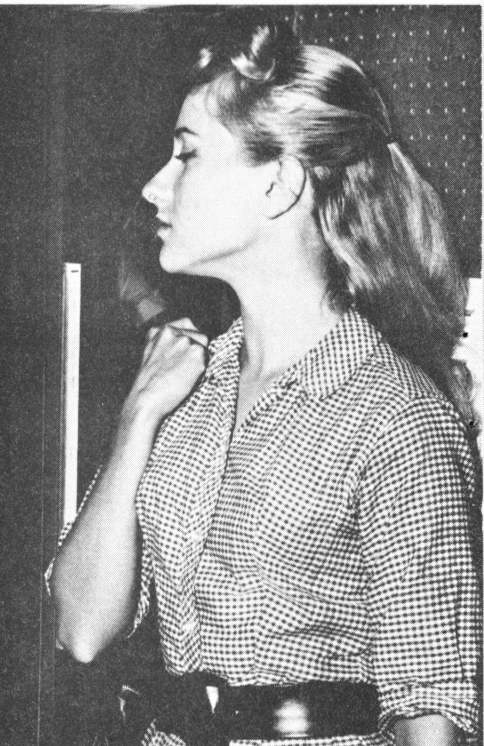
115



116



117



More Art Show -- or, the Show Gets Better 'n Better.

110

1. Joni Stopa

Joni puts on a real show -- such artistic ability! The picture at the lower left has characters with the features of Joni and Jon.

111

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. Ron Ellick
6. 7. Fred Fatten

From California, Ron takes charge of readying the art show for exhibition. He and his cohorts wheeled in monstrous crates resembling the Dracula bedstead. Let me tell you, that is some dedication. But then, Ron is a fan so energetic in the service of fankind that if he were twenty years older he would be in First Fandom today.

112

1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
6.

Work first, drink later is the motto of this group of do-gooders. Because of such sober devotion to duty, the art show was able to delight the rest of the conventioners.

113

Fanzine art.

114

1. The lists of bidders are seen here, with a genuine red-blooded fan on hand to write down a bid.

115

1. 2. 3.
Even at the art show three fans in one spot forms a party.

116

1. 2.
Yes, the art show delighted the convention membership. Bjo, Juanita, Ron, and the others can be proud of the Discon display.

117

1. Sylvia Dees

Portrait -- Sylvia Dees. First Prize -- Judges Choice. Sylvia stands by a couple of her creations. A natural rival, you might say, of Joni, Sylvia puts on a real show, too -- such artistic ability!

(Continued from page 31)

10

1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
6. Calvin W. Demmon 7. Les Nirenberg 8.

Cal him Demmon! Cal has already begun partying prior to the beginning of the convention -- that's enthusiasm for you! These demon writers....

11

1. 2. Herbert Edelstein
Herb is a local fan, from Baltimore.

12

1. Bob Leman 2. 3. Roger Sims 4. Dirce Archer 5. Nick Falasca 6. Marion Mallinger 7. George Nims Raybin 8. Marc Christopher
Dirce once went through the registration procedure from the opposite side of the fence, serving as Chairman of the Pittcon in 1960. Marion is also from Pittsburgh and a worldcon addict.

13

1. Chuck Hansen 2. 3. Bruce Edward Melz 4. Harry C. Stubbs
M.A. Bruce, as he likes to be known these days, turned up at the Discon with the eighteenth wonder of the world stuck to his chin. Why so, I wondered? Was it a mad desire to emulate Avram Davidson or Demon Calvin? Barber itch? The true secret of Bruce's death-defying struggle with the razor blade wasn't revealed until Saturday night for which revelation, read on, gentle reader.

14

1. Warren de Bra 2. 3. 4. Dick Eney 5. John Jackson
6. 7. 8. 9. 10.
M.A. Dick (another one!) is using his hard-won knowledge to fill out name tags. Such are the advantages of education!

15

- Background: 1. George Price 2. 3. James Warren 4.
5. Milton Spahn 6. 7. 8. John Jackson
Foreground: 9. Bill Evans 10. 11. 12.

16

1. 2. 3. Dave Kyle 4. 5.
Good ol' Dave is one of fandom's bottle-scarred veterans of many hard-fought conventions. He was in the thick of the in-fighting from the very beginning at New York in 1939. He continued the tradition as co-chairman with Sam Moskowitz at the New York Metrocon in 1954 and went on to mastermind the truly gigantic New York worldcon Nycon II in 1956.

(Continued from page 33)

to group. Mary has been a fan for a long time, is famous for her how-do-you-spell-it name. Mrs. Mills is famous as mother of Ellis.

25

1. More after-registrants.
2. George is a Cleveland fan.
3. George Fergus

26

1. Hand a fan a good science fiction/fantasy book and sure enough, he'll actually sit down and read it. This may sound silly at a convention -- but I re-read my way right through the Incomplete Enchanter, handed out in the registration packet.

27

1. William Obbagy
 2. Bob Greenberg
- Bill is from Cleveland and one of the real younger-group mixers. Bill 'n Bob are running through the "Pittcon Edition" of the Convention Annual.

28

1. Here the program book is the subject of avid attention.
- 2.

29

1. John Jackson
2. Frank R. Prieto, Jr.
3. Frank is not only a Convention Annual publisher, but also one of the partners in the Science-Fiction Times empire. He is distributing one of the special issues that has brought the Times two Hugos and editor Jimmie Taurasi a Big Heart Award. In Frank's hand is the Frank R. Paul memorial issue. The Times is an invaluable news publication: a year's subscription of 12 issues from Frank Prieto is just \$1.80.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

30

- Right: 1. Dian Girard 2. Peggy McKnight 3. Steve Tolliver 4. Mark Irwin Middle: 5. 6. 7.
8. Bruce Pelz 9. 10. Ed Meskys 11. Ruth Kyle 12. Riva Smilay Left top: 13. 14. Forry Ackerman 15. 16. Wendayne Ackerman 17. Right bottom: 18. 19. Marsha Brown 20. Charlie Brown 21. Milton Spahn
- A Convention Annual fanoramic view of the Statler-Hilton lobby early Saturday morning.

31

1. Saberhagen
2. Fred
- 3.
- 4.
5. Fred
- 6.

Goodlife Fred has begun writing in a modest way, with warships the size of New Jersey. It is expected that he will eventually work his way up to E.E. Smith stature with stories of armored dirigible planets and anti-matter sunbombs. After jawing away most of the morning, Fred and I went to lunch at a nearby restaurant where he handled his beer like a real professional.

(Continued from page 35)

in a string of empty beer bottles stretching from one convention site to another.

40

1. 2.Janie Lamb 3.Hans Santesson

Janie is one of the wheels that make the NFFF go round. I think she writes a letter of greeting to every new member; I received one upon reinstatement after a seventeen-year lapse in membership. Honest, Janie, I kept meaning to renew, but I kept putting it off....

41

1.Cele Goldsmith 2.Jim Warren

Cele certainly isn't taking Jim very seriously. But then she's not a monster fan. As editor of Amazing Stories, Cele has managed to raise a magazine once written off by fandom as a total loss right back to its original luster. In fact, Amazing today probably has the best fiction ever presented in that publication.

42

1.Lee Thorin 2. 3.Jim Warren 4.

Lee's nametag reads "Leslie Gerber." But we know better! (Okay, Les, come out from under those skirts and fight like a man!) Lee/Les is fascinated by Jim's head, which she finds delightful. Generally speaking, Forry Ackerman deals with the younger monster fans and Jim handles the older readers.

43

1. 2.Jim Warren

Jim is providing directions on how to contact him. As I recall, all you have to do is get on the phone and yell HELP! very loudly in a foreign language.

(Continued from page 10)

which was neither set aside nor awarded the convention, shall be eligible next."

Thus, with a requirement of a three-quarters favorable vote, and the undoubted opposition of the next division, which would stand to lose its turn, it is no easy task to submit a bid out of strict rotation.

Meanwhile, the business meetings become duller and less meaningful. The free-to-all bidders' parties become less frequent, even disappearing at the Discon. And something has gone out of the world science fiction conventions. To quote Wally Webber from the October 1963 Cry: "The next convention, by the way, was given to the San Francisco-Berkeley-Oakland-Burlingame-with-help-from-Los-Angeles-and-other-areas crew, with no struggle at all. Fandom is just a goddam Co-op these days."

48

1. Herb Edelstein 2.

I think that's Frank Dietz holding a copy of the Convention Annual -- but usually at this angle Frank appears only as a thin line....

49

1. Doc Smith 2. John Campbell

Writer greets Editor. There was a time when John, too, was an epic writer. For this story, see SaM's profile in the August 1963 Amazing Stories. John changed direction, though, and became an epic editor. For over a quarter of a century now he has been the Cecil B. DeMille and Louis B. Mayer of the science fiction magazine world. Short of the once sacred trimmed edges, John has been the innovator of just about everything modern in science fiction magazines. "Yes, yes," many fans say nowadays, "but what has he done recently?"

HE'S DONE NOTHING LESS THAN INVENTED FINANCIAL SOLVENCY FOR A SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINE! This is a feat more Astounding than gathering and training a staff of writers beyond parallel; more Storied than setting a whole trend for pocket-sized magazines; and more Science Fictional than retaining for over 25 years the largest readership of any magazine. For the first time, a science fiction magazine is getting ads -- real, bread-winning ads of stature suitable for serious, scientific journals. John shrugged off the dead hand of the past, changed title and format. No more psoriasis ads or creepy cult come-ons. Now there's an ever increasing amount of the Sylvania and Univac type of advertising. Just think -- no BEM on the front cover and no athlete's foot on the back: you can carry around your copy of Analog without a plain brown wrapper.

Now that's an achievement!

50

1. Mark Frank 2.

3.

4.

5.

Mark is probably the youngest serious fan at the Discon. He induced his parents to bring him from Brooklyn; parents went sight-seeing, Mark went conventioning. Just 13 now, Mark will be going to worldcons on his own just as soon as he reaches the legal age of 15 -- like Marc Christopher this year.

51

1. Frank Prieto 2.

Frank is business manager of the Convention Annual. And when it comes to managing the Annual, he is all business. Complete with order forms and a pocketful of change, Frank is one of the typhoons of the fan publishing world.

52

1.

2.

3. Cele Goldsmith 4. Jay Kay Klein

Cele is poring over the "Chicon III Edition" while the editor is nearby on bended knee to ask for publicity. Yes, that's one of the boys from Syracuse responsible for the Convention Annual. This picture was taken by Ben Jason under coercion -- I stuck my pre-set camera in his hand and snarled, "Take a picture of me with someone

who doesn't look like Frank Prieto." That's Ben's camera outfit I'm holding hostage for a good picture.

53

Left: 1. Ron Ellick 2. J. Ben Stark Right: 3. 4.
5. 6. 7. 8. 9

Taken after San Francisco won the bid for the 1964 worldcon, this picture shows co-chairman Ben set up for extracting membership money from eager fans. He secured a fabulous number of such memberships. Advance funds are extremely welcome to all convention committees, who otherwise have to advance large sums themselves in order to pay for convention preparations.

In the background, the Convention Annual display receives a going-over. (Hey, Frank -- why aren't you over there attending to business like J. Ben?)

(Continued from page 39)

62

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. Ed Emshwiller
Just off the convention hall is a little bar so hidden away it is called the Hideaway. Here are a few of the conventioners that were able to find the place. Ed has come a long way since the cover of the first issue of Rocket Stories back in 1953. A cover by Emsh these days is a real treasure, and he has a stack of Hugos to prove it. His presentation at the Chicon III in 1962 of motion picture films he produced would have been one of the highlights of any usual worldcon. The Ford Foundation has recently granted Ed some \$10,000 for continuation of his experimental films.

63

1. Ben Keiffer 2. Mick Falasca 3. Perdita Boardman 4. Roger Sims
5. Marion Mallinger

Another hidden-away party. Ben is a First Fandomite and a famous party-giver. Perdita is wife to John Boardman.

64

1. 2. 3. Bob Greenberg 4. Robert E. Briney
5. James O'Meara 6. Earl Kemp 7.

In the retail exhibit room, Earl offers Advent publications to a wide circle of eager purchasers. As chairman of the 1962 worldcon, Earl still walks with a limp but his major wounds are healing nicely. And one of these days I am going to get to show Earl every last photo I took at his convention. The 1964 Midwestcon will see Earl showered with hundreds of Chicon III photos.

(Continued from page 41)

Hmmm, maybe if Doc wrote out an affidavit testifying to my sterling qualities, I could mail it to Milt Rothman and be forgiven for that damned upside-down stamp....

(Continued from page 41)

72

1. Big Hearted Howard presides over a stand of science Fiction and fantasy bargains. It is B.H. Howard's noble philosophy to spread the Word over the World, postpaid.
- 2.
3. Jim O'Meara
4. Howard DeVore

73

1. Fred Gottschalk
 - 2.
 3. Warren de Bra
 4. Marjorie Johnson
- Florida fan Warren explains the intricacies of the program book to Massachusetts fan Marge.

74

1. Tom Rutherford
 2. George McMullin
 3. Alan
- Washington area fans dig deep for rare treasures.

75

1. Bill Thailing
 - 2.
- Bill is a First Fandomite from Cleveland and an enthusiastic get-yourself-a-convention-eer.

76

1. Sam Moskowitz
 2. Claude Held
- A couple of First Fandomites.

77

1. Forry Ackerman
 2. Dave Kyle
- More First Fandomites. Strictly speaking, this picture belongs on the next page of pictures.

(Continued from page 43)

86

1. George Raybin
 2. Marc Christopher
- The NFFF Hospitality Room offers haven to all, especially appreciated by the younger fans, such as George and Marc. I notice that Marc's nametag reads "Mark" -- a misspelling that befalls this Indiana fan like the chestnut blight.

87

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- A late snack at the NFFF Hospitality Room.

88

- 1.
 - 2.
- Intellectual fare is also offered at the NFFF retreat. At the Pittcon, Fred Lohl wondered in searching for coffee and we had a quick four-game match, winner take all. For real thrills, though, nothing can beat Jetan and Perky Pat.

89

- 1.
- The refreshment stand at the NFFF room.

93

- 1.Dave Kyle 2.Gus Willmorth

Dave puts the bite on his sandwich, aided and abetted by Gus. Dave chewed on that monster (the sandwich, not Gus) throughout the entire meeting.

94

- 1.Hans Santesson 2.Deborah Crawford 3. 4.Willy Ley
5.Frances Sykora

Frances passes around photos taken years ago at various meetings of the Queens Science Fiction League. She even came up with one photo having me in it, seated at the dinner table next to Willy. Willy, of course, is a great populizer of science and has been famous long before recent comers in the field such as Ike Asimov. Willy won Hugos for science-fact writing in 1953 and 1956. Debbie is Willy's official indexer and has worn her index finger down to a nub.

Hans is well known as a writer and editor, especially of mystery stories. In that field, he is arbiter elegantiae, and as a Mystery Writer of America, responsible for the Edgar, similar to the Hugo. An Edgar winner himself, Hans bulks large in both the science fiction field and the mystery genre.

95

- 1.I. Schuyler Miller 2.Doc Smith 3.Ben Jason 4.Mrs. Jenkins 5.Don Ford 6.Will Jenkins 7.Lloyd Arther Eshbach 8.Stanleigh Vinson

The Murray Leinsters admire Doc's trophy. For Will, I respectfully suggest considering a Klein bottle (double Moebius strip) with everything (pen, pencil, time machine) inside.

96

1. 2.William Clark 3. 4. 5.Jule Simmons 6.

These fans are waiting for something exciting to happen. First Fandom is a highly disorganized organization.

97

1. 2.Chris Moskowitz 3.Marge Coriell 4.Dale Tarr
5. 6.Bob Madle 7.Don Ford 8.Sam Moskowitz

Bob is First Fandom's champion hog caller. With hypnotism a thing of the past, Bob hopes to stun everyone with sound waves. In the foreground, Mrs. Coriell is letting Sam know something in no uncertain terms. The look on Sam's face of infinite patience could only have been achieved by someone who has had a great deal of experience in listening. Doubtless, Chris, in the background, has had considerable to do with getting Sam in shape for serious, attentive listening.

98

- 1.Will Sykora 2.Ken Krueger 3.Alderson Fry 4.Art Saha
5.Claude Held 5.Fran Krueger

Will briefs Ken on details only the highlights of which have ever appeared in published form. Art is one of the young visitors permitted at the meeting.

First row: 1. Jean Engel 2. Ted Engel 3. George Raybin 4. Milt Spahn 5. Stan Vinson Second row: 6. 7. Ben Keifer 8. Lou Tabakow 9. Mary Patterson Third row: 10. 11. Allan Howard 12. Herb Schofield 13. Ossie Train 14. Gus Willmorth

This group is only a small portion of those attending. Later on, the California Room was crowded to the gunnels. Way in the background, next to Jean Bogert, is Frank Prieto, covering the meeting for Science-Fiction Times.

(Continued from page 47)

Cartooning (F.M. and Elinor Busby): First, ATom Second, Ryotaro Mizuno Honorable Mention, Kantaro Hamada
 Heroic Fantasy (Hyborian Legion): First, Jim Cawrhorn
 Astronomical Art (LASFS): First, Bob Martinez
 Judges Choice (Dave and Ruth Kyle); First, Sylvia Dees
 Open Award (Walter Breen): First, Don Simpson
 Photo Salon: Color, Bruce Pelz B&W, Chris Moskowitz

102

Tarzan, from Tarzan and the Golden Lion -- Dave Prosser. Paste medium. Minimum bid: \$40.

103

The Encourager's Recalcitrant Guide (The Enchanted Forest Group) -- Barbi Johnson. Gouache medium. Minimum bid: \$40. First Prize -- Children's Fantasy.

104

Ruffled Feathers (The Enchanted Forest) -- Barbi Johnson. Minimum bid: \$30.

105

Frog Chorus -- Joni Stopa. Tempera medium. Minimum bid: \$15. Second Prize -- Children's Fantasy.

106

Martian Invasion (Cartoon) -- Arthur Thomson. Colored inks. Minimum bid: \$10.

107

The Revolt of the Machines -- John Wilson. Colored inks. Minimum bid: \$5; \$20 takes it. Third Prize -- Science Fiction Illustration.

108

1.

A lot of conventioners passed through the art show -- probably everyone at the convention.

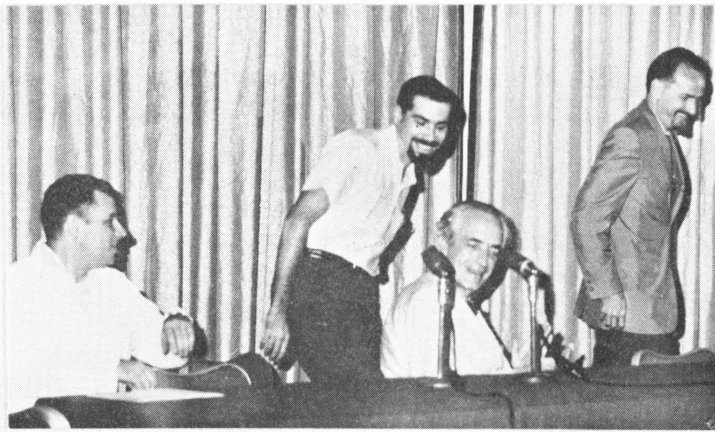
109

1. Jay Kay Klein

Don Ford is the guilty party this time. As everyone knows, he is very weak-willed and I was able to talk him into taking this picture. As you can see, I am a great art lover....



118



119



120



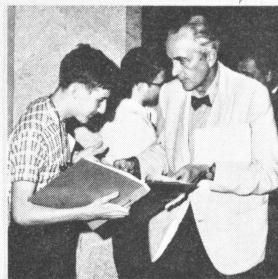
121



124



122



123



127

128



125



126



The Program. About this part of a worldcon, fans divide into two equal majorities: pro and con. One majority insists that the program is so much deadweight, with the real convention activity held after the end of the program each day. The other majority holds with equal firmness that the program is the real heart of the convention, with after-hours' parties merely a delicious cake frosting. I firmly agree with both sides. (So much for controversy.)

Never has a program been conducted with greater serenity, firmness, and dignity. Chairman George Scithers completely eschewed teleportation this convention. Anchored to fifty miles of crustal rock, he brooked no earthquakes. Wielding a mighty stop watch, George kept the program to schedule like a military convoy. You just knew that if anyone created a breach of discipline, he would be courtmartialed on the spot.

118

1. Dick Eney 2. James Blish

Jim started the affair off with a Blishtering attack on American science fiction critics. These include not only the relatively few currently appearing in science fiction periodicals, but also those in general publications, such as the New York Times. Of the whole lot, Jim thinks highly only of P. Schuyler Miller. Jim's contention is that the bulk of critics are not familiar with science fiction and are baffled by it. The British critics are better, with Brian Aldiss (Hurrah!) taking highest honors for the Daily Mail and Kingsley Amis (Boo!) bringing up the rear for the London Times.

Editor's Note: Curiously enough, in the August 1954 New Worlds, John Carnell wrote an editorial titled "Carping Critics...." He concluded, "When can we expect to see prominent British critics giving rational summaries of this specialized field similar to those given by Basil Davenport of the New York Times, H.H. Holmes for the New York Herald-Tribune and August Derleth for the Chicago Sun?"

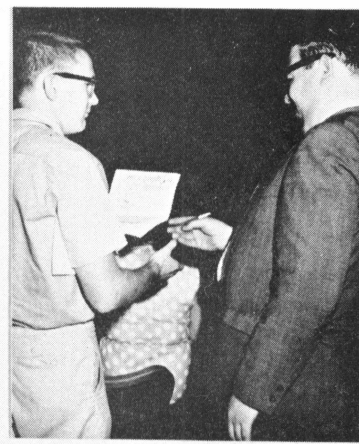
An intermission was taken by Jim, whose talent overshadows his ego. To appear in front of an audience is an act of genuine determination on Jim's part. He always makes a wonderful address and is warmly received, but the built-in butterflies are always there. Reported ill in Science-Fiction Times, he wrote in and said that frankly he was just plain scared.

At any rate, Jim eventually returned and finished with a mighty flourish of rhetoric. He said that writers are vitally interested in the reactions of readers and need the letters of comment that used to be published so freely in letter columns. Most editors today feel letter columns are a thing of the dead past, too juvenile, too fannish, or too uninteresting to the casual newsstand readers. Jim made a plea for the rebirth of the letter column. And in one of the great comments of any convention, he said that John Campbell should have a letter column discussing the stories and not the editorials. Wild applause ensued. If Jim hadn't already been guest of honor at the Pittcon, he would have received a half-dozen worldcon offers on the spot.

(Continued on page 76)



129



130



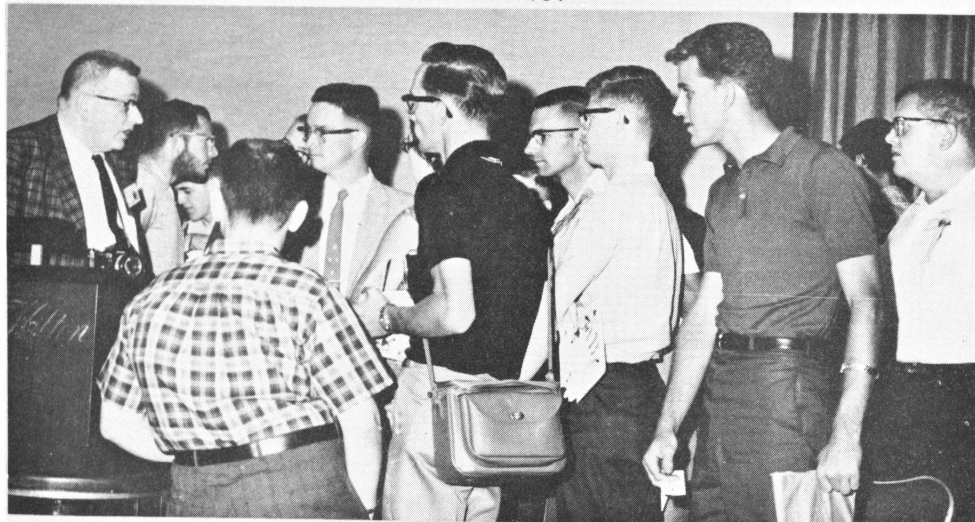
131



132



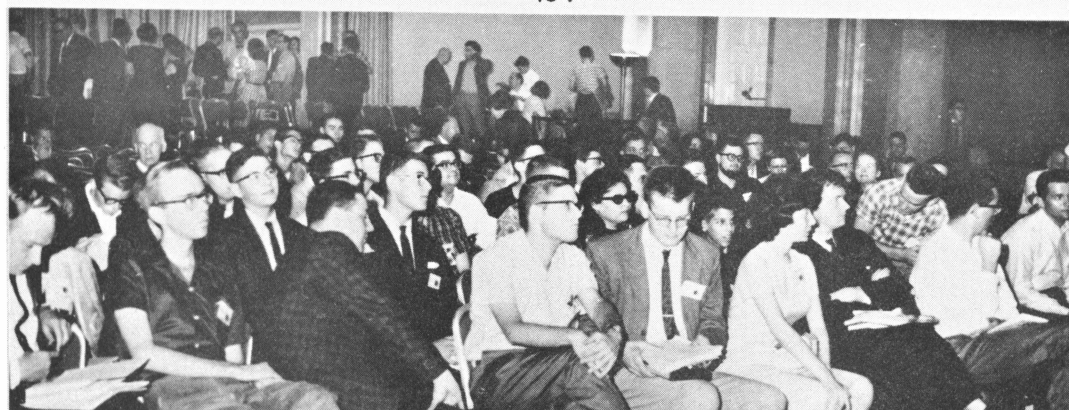
133



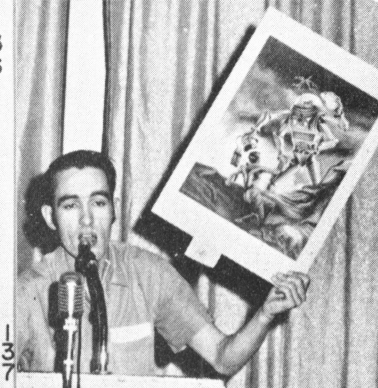
134



135



136



137

129

1. 2. 3. 4.(Standing)
5. 6. 7.Mrs. Jenkins 8.
- 9.(Standing) 10. 11.Isaac Asimov
12. 13.Ed Emsch 14.Chris Moskowitz

Introduction of Notables. Who could be more notable than the insidious Dr. Isaac Asimov? One of the few to be introduced, Ike needs no introduction. For the conventioners Ike has been unable to buttonhole to tell the story of his life, Sam Moskowitz has prepared a profile in the April 1962 Amazing Stories. Chris is nearby in case the limelight should cause Ike to faint with modesty and require medical attention. Chris is a celebrity in her own right, a ferocious collector, and the official SaM photographer.

130

1. 2.Randall Garrett

Randy is known as one of the biggest figures in science fictiondom, sharing honors with such tremendous writers as Ike Asimov and Manly Wade Wellman.

131

- Left bottom: 1. 2. 3. 4.Will J.
- Jenkins 5. 6.Dave Kyle

George Scithers inquired if Will Jenkins was in the Audience. So Will Jenkins stood up to be Introduced. Fair's fair.

132

1. 2.Mrs. Schwartz 3.Ted Thomas 4.
- 5.Julius Schwartz 6.Ossie Train

Julie is not just a fan -- he's a downright proto-fan, one of the handful of foresighted people who were practicing fandom before fandom came into existence.

133

1. 2.Alan 3. 4.Julie Schwartz
- 5.Forry Ackerman

You probably can't see it in the printed picture, but Alan's autograph book exhibits the giant scrawled signatures of Randall Garrett and Theodore Cogswell.

134

- 1.John Campbell 2.Phil Harrell 3. 4. 5.
6. 7. 8. 9. 10.
- 11.Beresford Smith

John is used to being mobbed by fans -- they've been doing it ever since the '39 worldcon. For a generation young fans have been dazed by the realization that they can go right up to the great JWC and talk to him. I had somewhat the reverse experience. John walked into a Philcon I party, sat down next to me on the bed, and started a conversation.

Quote from Yandro: "Happiness is having John W. Campbell, Jr., ask you for advice."

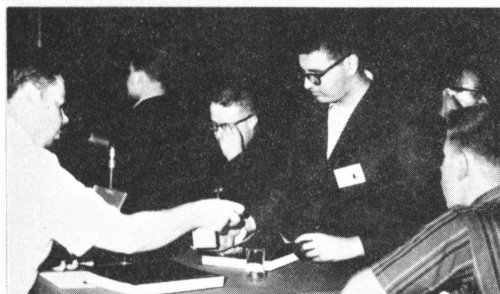
(Continued on page 77)



138



139



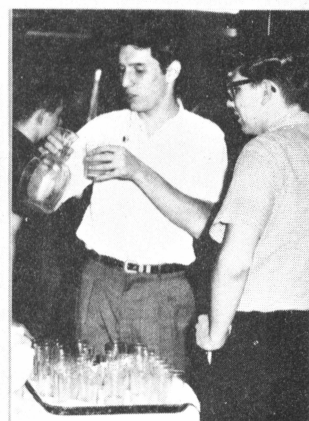
140



141



142



143



144



145



146



147

148



138

1.Joy Sanderson 2.Frank Frieto 3.Sandy Sanderson

Like other British subjects, Joy and Sandy had always considered Americans a crude frontier lot -- until the 1957 convention in London. At that time they learned that fans at least were exceptions. At any rate, the guiding lights of the London convention arrived in the United States just in time for the Littcon -- and have been here ever since. I believe they form part of what is currently known in Britain as the "Brain Drain."

139

First row: 1. 2. 3.Mark 4.
5. 6.Marc Christopher Second row: 7.
8. 9.(Standing)

More audience. No panel ever lacked a goodly audience, though some events drew capacity crowds.

140

1.Dick Eney 2. 3. 4. 5.
6.

Dick accepts monies due from successful auction bidders. He also prepared A Fan's Short Guide to Washington, distributed to all members.

141

1. 2. 3. 4.
Listening to all that talk upfront is mighty hot, thirsty work.

142

1.
Mighty hot.

143

1. 2. 3.
Mighty thirsty.

144

1.John Boardman First row: 2. 3. 4.
5. 6. 7. Second row: 8.
9. 10. 11.

This touching scene is the initial program drama, prior to the official opening of the Discon. John is reading an incantation calling upon so many assorted gods and spirits that nervous chuckles arose from the audience and turned into giggles every time he continued after pausing for breath. In private life, John publishes Knowable and Pointing Vector, well flavored with the Boardman bar sinister outlook

145

First row: 1.Lee Lavell 2.Jim Lavell 3.Jon Jackson 4.
5.Hans Santesson 6.Sprague de Camp 7. 8.Fritz Leiber
9.Jean Bogert Second row right: 10.Bill Mallardi 11.
12.

(Continued on page 77)



149



150



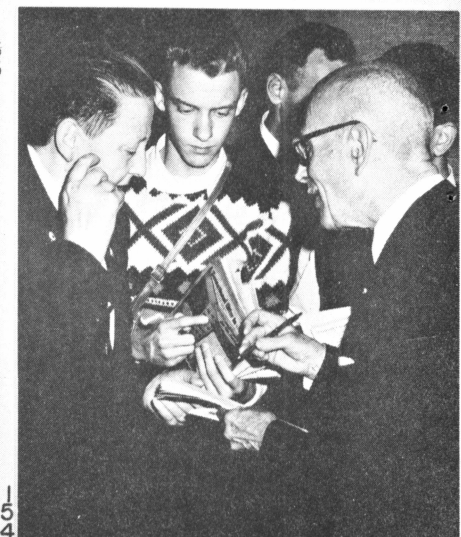
151



152



153



154

149

1.Fritz Leiber 2. Ed Emsh 3.Willy Ley 4.George Scithers 5.Leigh Brackett Hamilton 6.Ike Asimov 7.Sprague de Camp

What Should a BEM Look Like? Masters of BEMology, five dedicated monster creators and one monster exploder prepare to inform an aroused citizenry about the philosophical details of monster craftsmanship. George gives Willy a last-minute warning.

150

1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
6. 7. 8.

The BEM panel fills the auditorium to capacity.

151

Standing: 1.Kate MacLean 2.Sprague de Camp First row: 3.Lee Lavell 4.Jim Lavell 5. 6. 7.
8. 9.Chuck Hansen Second row: 10.
11. 12.

BEM panel. An expert from the audience has a few words to add to the discussion.

152

1.George Scithers 2.Seabury Quinn

Science Fiction Versus Fantasy. Seeing Seabury Quinn was a rare treat. One of Weird Tales' best authors, he is one of the all-time greats of fantasy writing.

153

First row: 1. 2.Sylvia Tzinberg 3. 4.
5.Mark Frank Second row: 6. 7. 8.
9. 10. 11. 12. Third row:
13. 14. 15. 16. 17.

BEM audience.

154

1.Chuck Hansen 2. 3.Allan Howard 4.Seabury Quinn
5.

The creator of Jules le Grandon is besieged by admirers.



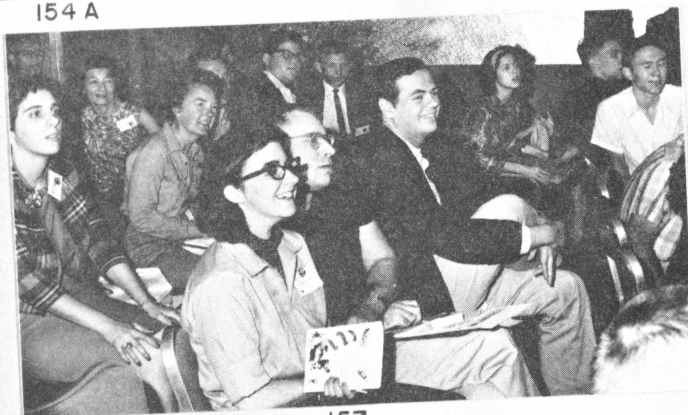
154 A



155



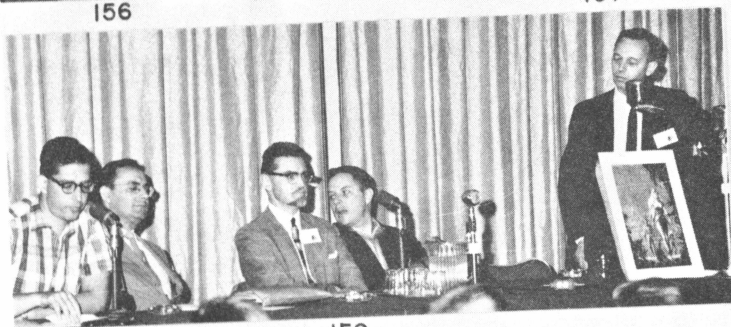
156



157



158



159



160

161



154A

1. Forry Ackerman 2. Sam Moskowitz

The Business Meeting. Forry has just presented the E.E. Evans Memorial Award (Big Heart Award). Sam holds the award in trust for James V. Taurasi, the big-chested recipient. He was selected for a truly remarkable achievement in keeping a fan publication going for over two decades. In Jimmie's Science-Fiction Times can be found issue by issue the history of science fiction. With two Hugo awards for best fanzine, Jimmie now has everything he could possibly want for Science-Fiction Times except, of course, a dictionary.

155

1. George Scithers 2. Forry Ackerman 3. Ben Stark 4. Don Ford

Ben makes his solitary bid for the 1964 convention -- the Pacificon II. Some excitement! San Francisco is a lovely place for a worldcon and Ben Stark and Al Halevy are well-nigh perfect for co-chairmen, y'unnerstan' -- but the recent craze for one-city bids is undermining convention excitement. At this rate, the membership might just as well authorize the committee to appoint next year's convention site.

156

1. E.E. Smith, Ph.D.

As shown on the cover, Doc received the first First Fandom Hall of Fame Award. Beyond all possible imagining, thirty years after he finally and irrevocably disposed of science fiction's arch fiend, Doc has completed Skylark Duquesne. Now, if Doc would just get on the ball and wind up the Lensman series with, say, Grandchildren of the Lens....

157

First row left: 1. Cindy Cramer 2. George R. Heap 3.
Other rows left: 4. Margaret Gemignani 5. 6. Mary
Dziechowski 7. Joy Sanderson 8. Sandy Sanderson 9.
10. 11. Right: 12. 13.
14.

George and Cindy combined collections recently. George is a former ISFS member, now residing in Rochester (that's near Syracuse). Marge Gemignani is also from Rochester, where she publishes Mask & Cape.

158

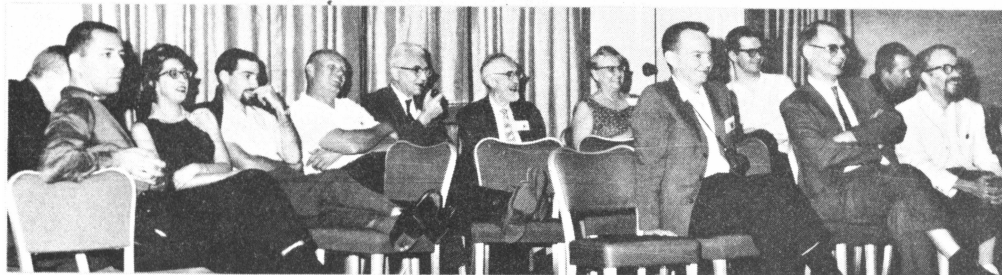
1. 2. Sam Moskowitz

Sam is autographing one of his books. If you haven't secured a copy of the Immortal Storm as yet, you may face exposure as a fake fan. This history of the founding of fandom and its early struggles (open warfare, really) is a classic. Published originally as a million-part serial in Fantasy Commentator, Sam's history took nine years to tell -- longer than the events took to happen. Just after World War II, the PSFS held a meeting in Milt Rothman's house (I think there were seven members at that time) and the main program was the reading of part 14 or so. Quite a discussion of the early days of fan warfare ensued, a chronicle of horrors that has left me

(Continued on page 78)



162



163



164



165



166



167

168



162

First row left: 1. 2. 3. 4.
 5. 6. 7. Schuy Miller Second row left:
 8. First row right: 9. 10.
 Second row right: 11. 12. 13.

As you can see, the Merry Wives panel is productive of fan merriment.

163

1. Algis Budrys 2. Ben Bova 3. Ev del Rey 4. Bob Silverberg 5. Ted Thomas 6. 7. Richard Buck 8. 9. Fred Saberhagen
 10. 11. Fred Pohl 12. Lee Jacobs 13. Lester del Rey

And the Merry Husbands are vastly amused, too. On the extreme left, A.J. is doubled up with laughter -- that was before Edna's turn came around.

164

1. Dick Eney 2. Schuy Miller 3. Hal Clement 4. George Scithers

Is the SF Story a Mental Exercise? (Monday). The unanimous conclusion to this compelling question: yes and no. The reason why this panel, and many of the other panels, is not presented in more lively poses is George's injunction against flash photography during panelists' addresses.

165

1. 2. Edna Budrys 3. Barb Silverberg

After the Marital Panel, Edna is cross-examined by the audience.

166

1. Fritz Leiber 2. Don Studebaker 3. Beam Piper 4. Judy Merrill
 5. Randy Garrett 6. Gordie Dickson

Skit (Monday). The stars prepare the stage for all sorts of horrible eventualities. Half the writing talent was in the cast -- and none of the acting talent. Except for Fritz, of course, whose Shakespearean background on this black day was kept well in the background. The stage was well propped with scores of dead soldiers, thoughtfully killed by Randy, I believe. At one point all lights were doused and Judy made like Starr La Flame for a minute. All writers and no actors meant minute by minute script changes. All in all, the skit was absolutely awful -- the audience loved it!

167

1. George Scithers 2. Randy Garrett

At the conclusion of the convention, George presents the Split Gear award (Mercurian Club, Philadelphia). I don't know what the Split Gear is for, but whatever it is, I'm sure George is worthy of it. In putting out Amra (the sword & sorcery fanzine par excellence), he has stripped many a gear. Amra is up for a Hugo at the Pacificon II....

(Continued on page 79)



169



170



172



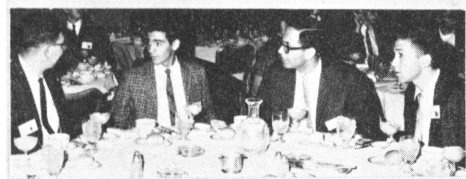
171



173



175



174



176



177

Banquet Luncheon (Sunday afternoon). The awards banquet, always a convention highlight, was shorter than usual at the Discon. But it was no less fun. The first banquet in 1939 had 32 people -- the fabulous price of \$1.00 permitting only a third of the conventioners to attend.

I sat between Bob Leman -- who discoursed on vinegar worms, and Bob Madle -- who discoursed on ancient fan history. Others at the table were Dale Tarr, Jean and Ted Engel, Jean and Doc Smith, Verna Smith Trestrail, and Lloyd Eshbach. We waded through the potatoes and mashed gravy together. With the start of the Hugo festivities, I dug my camera out of the dessert and mooched over to the head table to record the incredible invasion by Murray Leinster.

169

1.Chick Derry 2. 3.Bob Pavlat 4.Mrs. Jenkins
5.Will F. Jenkins
A portion of the head table.

170

1.Mrs. Jenkins 2.Will Jenkins 3.Ike Asimov
Toastmaster greets guest of honor.

171

First table: 1. 2. 3. 4.
5. 6. 7. 8.
Banqueteers at work.

172

First table: 1.Ed Meskys 2. 3.Feg Campbell 4.John
Campbell 5. 6. 7. 8.
More banqueteers. JWC has been guest of honor at two worldcons.

173

1.Manuel Canal 2.Eleanor Walker 3.F.O. Adler 4.Anne McCaffney
Banqueteers from the Washington area.

174

1.Albert Gechter 2. 3. 4.
I think these fans are also from the Washington area.

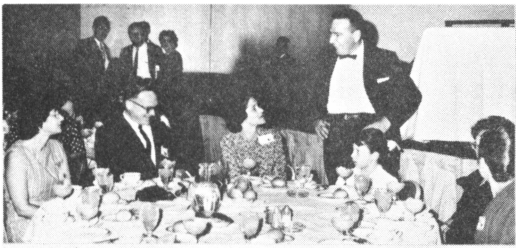
175

First table: 1. 2. 3. 4.
5. 6. 7. 8. 9.
10. Second table left: 11.Lloyd Eshbach 12.Jean Smith
13.Doc Smith 14.Verna Trestrail
By those grinning faces shall you know the presence of Isaac Asimov, toastmaster.

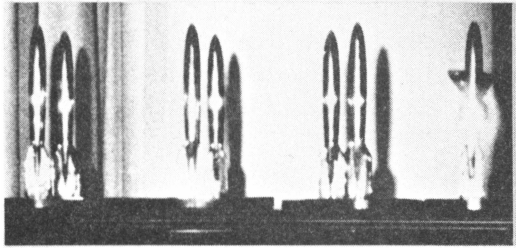
176

1.Ike Asimov 2.Will Jenkins
And here's Ike, introducing with a pat on the back one very famous Murray Leinster. The toastmaster is known for a wild sensa-humor and has even gone so far as residing in a certain Massachusetts locality so he can style himself Sir Isaac of Newton. In all fairness, it must be pointed out that Ike feels himself antici-

(Continued on page 79)



178



179



180



181



182



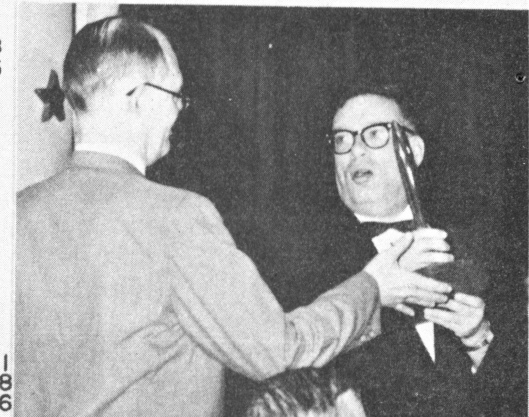
183



184



185



186

178
Front: 1. 2. 3. 4.
5. 6. 7.
More banqueteers.

179
These are genuine Ben Jason Hugos, probably the last batch in existence. They are finely machined and of heavy metal. But they are expensive and difficult to make. Hugo winners from now on will have to make do with lightweight castings. According to the Science-Fiction Times, they will be "of aluminum and be gold analdizing (gold sprickle paint)." Jim Blish translates this to "aluminum, anodized yellow," which may be more precise, but certainly is a lot less poetic.

180
Left: 1. Will Jenkins 2. George Scithers 3. Ike Asimov 4. Bill Evans 5. Dick Eney 6. 7. Right: 8. Beam Piper 9.

Will has just finished and is reaping a harvest of applause, more for many years of fine writing than for his brief address. Even Ike joins in, albeit with grim visage and heavy heart.

181
1. George Scithers 2. Ike Asimov 3. 4. 5.
Ike holds a glittering Hugo. He informs all present that he himself is the most worthy recipient of any Hugo award. However, he accepted this one on behalf of Avram Davidson's Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction, voted best professional magazine.

182
Panoramic view of audience saluting Will Jenkins.

183
1. Don Wollheim 2. Ike Asimov
Acceptance by Don Wollheim of Roy Krenkel's Hugo for best professional artist. Ike will admit to being only a passable artist, barely in the Van Dyck class.

184
More panoramic view of audience saluting Will Jenkins.

185
Lower left: 1. 2. 3. Standing:
4. Fred Pohl Right: 5. Nancy Kemp 6. Earl Kemp 7.
8. 9. Sid Coleman 10. Lee Riddle 11. Janie Lamb
Fred heads toward the platform to accept a Hugo for Jack Vance, writer of best short fiction "The Dragon Masters."

186
1. Fred Pohl 2. Ike Asimov
"No, you can't have it!" Ike is convinced this award is going to the wrong writer. Fred finally out-wrestled him for the Hugo, leaving behind a much shaken toastmaster.



187



188



189



190



191



192



193

187

Lower left: 1.Jean Smith 2.Lloyd Eshbach 3.Verna Trestrail 4.Doc Smith 5. Middle left: 6. 7. 8.
9.George Price 10.Robert Margroff Standing: 11.Jim Blish
Middle right: 12.Joni Stopa 13.Jon Stopa 14.
15.Dirce Archer 16. 17. 18. 19.
Lower right: 20. 21. 22.Frank Dietz
23. 24.Harriet Kolchak 25. 26.Walt Cole
27. 28. 29. 30.

Jim heads toward the award counter, where he will have to face a very infuriated Ike Asimov, indeed. Ike muttered something about award winners tripping and breaking their necks on the way up.

188

1.Jim Blish 2.Ike Asimov

Jim accepts a Hugo for Philip K. Dick, writer of best novel "The Man in the High Castle." In a furious hand-to-hand encounter, Jim applies a judo hold to extract the Hugo. Ike complained that years of devotion to science fiction have gone unrecognized and unrewarded, a fact that he could only attribute to "anti-Semitism in high places."

189

1.Schuy Miller 2.Ike Asimov

Schuy receives Special Award No. 1 for the "Reference Library" in Analog. There is no doubt that he is the outstanding critic today in science fiction, having conducted the "Reference Library" since October 1951 and contributed reviews to Astounding for many years prior to that. Ike treats Schuy with great solicitude, pointing out that he is taking no chances on alienating a critic.

190

1.Will Jenkins 2.George Scithers 3.Mrs. Jenkins 4.Ike Asimov
5.Dick Lney

Ike said, "They should at least give me a Hugo on general principles." So they did! Ike complained, "It's a put-up job! They let me go on talking about how I deserved a Hugo...." For once, Ike was almost speechless, and close to being embarrassed. Special Award No. 2 to a flabber-gasted Isaac Asimov for adding science to science fiction.

191

1.Jim Blish

Jim says a few, characteristically generous, words about Philip K. Dick.

192

1. 2.Dick Brisson 3.Julius Schwartz 4.Schuy Miller
5.Ben Stark 6.Mortimer Weisinger

After the banquet, Schuy is surrounded by well wishers and autograph seekers. Mort Weisinger, like Julie Schwartz, is a member of prehistoric fandom. And anyone who has ever read Startling

(Continued on page 79)

(Continued from page 59)

119

1.George Scithers 2.Bob Silverberg 3.Fritz Leiber 4.Ed Emsch
Ring Around an Illustration. Two writers gang up on Ed Emsch,
the enemy. Bob and Fritz discuss the perils of writing a story to
fit a cover illustration. Ed maintains that the writers have it
easy, only working with black and white while he has to make sense
out of a rainbow. Upshot: Mexican standoff.

120

First row: 1.Algis Budrys 2. 3.
Second row: 4.Gary Buck 5.Will Sykora 6.Fran Sykora 7.
8. 9. 10. Third row: 11.Bob Leman
12. 13.
The audience.

121

1. 2.Beresford Smith 3.Frank Dietz
Each precious syllable of the program is canned for playback
in the future.

122

1.Sprague de Camp 2.Fritz Leiber 3.Gordon R. Dickson 4.Jim Blish
5.Ted Cogswell
Hippocrene and Hyperspace. Jim has just elicited applause not
only from the audience, but also from fellow panelists. Highlight
of the session was a reading by each panelist of some favorite bit
of personal writing.

123

1.Alan 2. 3.Fritz Leiber
That's probably the biggest autograph book at any convention.
But as you can see, some pretty big authors are asked to sign.

124

1.Lester del Rey 2.Katherine MacLean
A non-scheduled panel -- drafted into the front lines by
George Scithers after Jim Blish went west temporarily. Les reaches
for a gat in self-protection while Kate emotes into the microphone.
When you are a lady author you can't hardly get any sincerer about
science fiction than Katherine MacLean, unless, of course, you happen
to be Judy Merril. Kate described the changing concepts of utopias,
with the implication that what we now think is an ideal civilization
is merely a passing fancy induced by local ethnocentrism.
Les put in a few words about dystopias and went on to the somber
thought that science fiction is losing its identity and is merging
into mainstream literature. He would like to see us with more
splinters in our hide -- a splinter group going in its own direction.

125

More audience.

126

1. 2. 3.Ted Cogswell
More autographs.

127

1. 2.Ed Emsch 3.Phil Harrell

At the breakup of a panel, the participants are mobbed by the faithful.

128

First row: 1. 2. Second row: 3. Third row: 4. 5. 6. 7. 12. 8. 9. 10. 11. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17.Stephen Schultheis Fourth row: 18. 19.Harry Stubbs 20. 21. 22. 23. 24.George Price Next row up: 25. 26. 27. 28. 29.Milt Spahn 30.Fred Saberhagen 31.Claudia Galik 32. 33. Lower right: 34. 35. 36. 37. 38.

This here fanoramic photo is dedicated to Buck Coulson and his Yandro Mountain Boys. Good luck!

(Continued from page 61)

135

1.Ed Wood

Straight from Oriente Province, Eduardo auctions off the manuscript of Murray Leinster's The Mutant Weapon for the good, round sum of \$10 American. Ed is a noted bibliophile, critic, and general all-round fan.

136

First row: 1.Fred Patten 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. Second row: 10. 11. 12. 13. Auction audience.

137

1.Steve Tolliver

Steve spells Ed as auctioneer. The auction was considerably abbreviated at the Discon, with only choice material offered. George Scithers explained that conventions no longer have to depend on auction proceeds.

(Continued from page 63)

As soon as John Boardman finishes his opening incantation, Sprague and Fritz will grasp the swords held by the man-at-arms in the center and engage in mortal combat. Both combatants are super-whiz swordsmen, Fritz studying directly with the Grey Mouser and Sprague a veteran of the Stromberg-Carlson fracas. For further biographical information, refer to SaM's profiles in the December 1963 (Fritz Leiber) and February 1964 (Sprague de Camp) Amazing Stories.

1. Dick Lupoff

SF Illustration & Art in the Comic Books. Dick Lupoff and Larry Ivie (not illustrated) provide a soul-searching illustrated inquiry into the comics.

1. George Scithers 2. Willy Ley

Mysteries of Astronomy. Will Synchronizes watches with George. At the Discon, a speaker is allotted just so many minutes. Step over by 30 seconds and up steps George Scithers and it's POW! right in the kisser! Fast talking Willy managed to avoid instant annihilation by compressing thirty years of scholarship into 30 minutes. Willy's mind-shattering expose of extra-terrestrial terrains terminated Saturday's program. The audience adjourned for dinner, followed by the Masquerade Ball.

(Continued from page 67)

prematurely aged. Later, Sam appeared when the PSFS had its club-rooms and a membership of perhaps fifty. Sam obliged with a reading of a current chapter of the Immortal Storm. Now, if Sam would only get on the ball and tell us what's been happening since 1939....

1. Dick Lupoff 2. Sam Moskowitz 3. Sprague de Camp 4. George Scithers 5. Allan Howard.

Swords Against Edgar Rice Burroughs (Monday). Former director of the ESFA, Allan is moderator of this immoderate panel.

1. John Campbell 2. Fred Pohl 3. Algis Budrys 4. Cele Goldsmith 5. George Scithers

The Editors Speak (Sunday). These here editors are telling (as soon as George quits chewing up all that valuable time) all us potential writers what kind of stories are most eagerly sought for publication. General concensus: they had to be good and different and polished and well characterized and so forth. I don't think rates were mentioned except possibly by A.J. -- who is the panel Playboy.

1. Carol Emshwiller 2. Edna Budrys 3. Barbara Silverberg 3. Carole Pohl 4. George Scithers

Life with a STF Writer (Sunday). These winsome lassies (George excepted) are on the verge of TELLING ALL. Gales of laughter accompanied wifely innuendo and frank disclosures of distaff displeasures. Certainly one of the most popular panels at the Discon, this presentation should make an early appearance in Luna, if Frank Dietz ever gets it out of total eclipse.

(Continued from page 69)

168

1. Forry Ackerman 2. Chuck Hansen 3. Schuy Miller 4. Will Sykora
5. Joy Sanderson 6. Fred Prophet 7. Sandy Sanderson 8. George Price
9. 10. Ruth Kyle 11. Dave Kyle 12. George Scithers
13. Sprague de Camp 14. Steve Schultheis

The Fourth Convention. At 2:30 p.m. of a certain Monday afternoon, called called to the stage all those who have served with conspicuous gallantry in the forefront of fandom's mass attack on the dullness of the rest of the world. Committee members of conventions past rose creaking from the confines of old memories and made one last foray to the front lines.

Not shown in this gallant band are Wally Weber, George Raybin, and Dirce Archer. And I think there were others, too. This panel-reunion-horrible-example was one of the great events of the Discon and a remarkable thought of genius. The members addressed the audience and gave pointers on the preparation and conduct of conventions. Will Sykora stood up, spoke about the very first convention, and discussed the barring of six fans. "We made a mistake. But we were scared stiff!" He made the memorable statement, too, that for a good convention, you don't have to have elaborate facilities. "You just need celebrities and a place where fans can talk to them and to each other."

(Continued from page 71)

pated unfairly by the English Sir Isaac. Ike has had to content himself with discovering the basic laws of robotics.

177

1. Mrs. Jenkins 2. Will Jenkins

Will makes his banquet address. Even the guest of honor was rigidly held to a time schedule of 30-40 minutes. It was pleasant to hear Will's wartime experiences again after fifteen years, the first time having been at (I think) the March 1947 meeting of ESFA. The story of Will's indetectable periscope, the bathtub, and the admiral was all new, though.

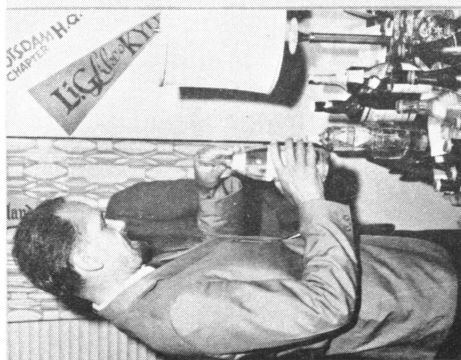
(Continued from page 75)

Stories and Thrilling Wonder Stories will recall Mort as a writer and editor. SaM profiles Mort in the August 1964 Amazing.

193

1. Heidi Saha 2. Thimi Saha 3. Hans Stefan Santesson

Hans is a gentleman and a scholar. We see him gallantly replying to a request for an autograph. Younger readers sometimes attribute to Hans the authorship of such classic mystery stories as "The Return of the Little Match Girl, The Case of the Emperor's Clothes, and The Ugly Duckling Strikes Again."



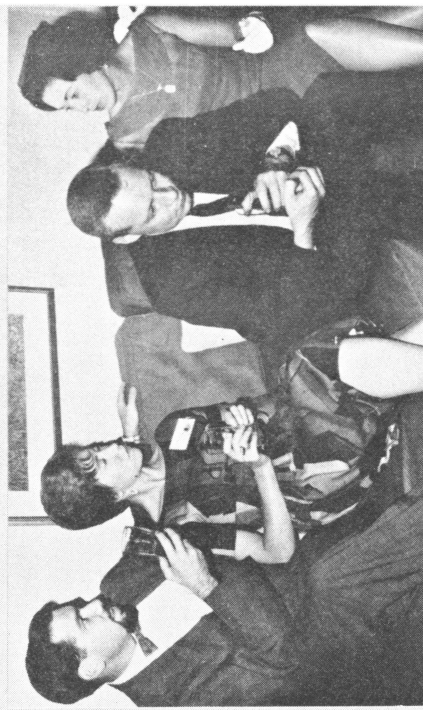
194



195

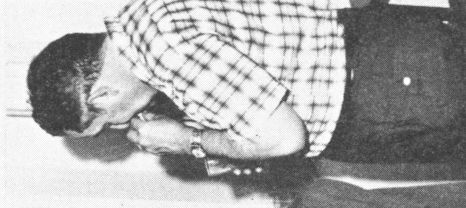


196





NON



NO -



200

661



661

161

The Farties! Those wonderful, all-night parties! The events chronicled on this page took place mostly in the Kyle suite, Friday evening.

194

1. Ed Emsch

A veteran of many fiercely waged convention parties, Ed suffers from bottle fatigue.

195

1. Don Wollheim 2. Ed Emsch 3. Ted Thomas

Don is an Ace editor.

196

1. Carole Pohl 2. 3. Carol Emsch 4. Debbie Crawford

This party is off to a very good start, indeed.

197

1. Damon Knight

Damon is a man of many interests.

198

1. Bob Silverberg 2. Barb Silverberg 3. Algis Budrys 4. Edna Budrys

Bob and A.J. watch out for their interests.

199

Top: 1. Fred Prophet 2. Bill Evans 3. Ed Wood Bottom: 4. Margaret Ford 5. Mary Patterson 6. 7. Jim Broderick

Ford Suite. The Ford Party is getting crowded -- but nobody fell out the window (to my knowledge).

200

1. Barb Silverberg 2. Dave Kyle 3. Edna Budrys 4. Carole Pohl

In the course of a half hour, fans have a complete Mad Hatter's party -- switching places: from chair to bed to settee to floor to window ledge to just-plain-out-the-door and off to another party. When you only see your friends once a year, you want to be sure to see them all.

201

1. Joan Skirvin 2. Stan Skirvin 3. Lou Tabakow

A dramatic moment at the Ford Party -- Lou is in there fighting all the way.

202

1. Ben Jason 2. Frank Andrasovsky 3. Stan Vinson

With convention-practiced aplomb, Stan can drink, eat, and carry on a three-way conversation all at once. (Hurrah for our side!)

203

1. Dave Kyle

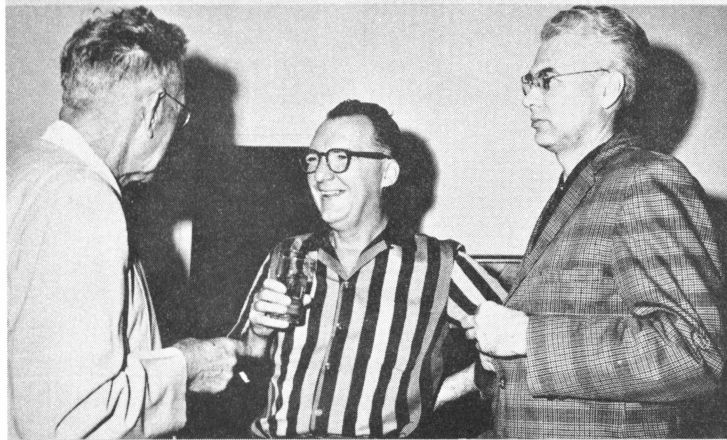
The party is really getting crowded. Host Dave and old side-kick Fred occupy the floor of the tiny entrance-way to the room. I stumbled over these live-and-quivering bodies, and turned for a farewell shot before leaving for the Don Ford party.



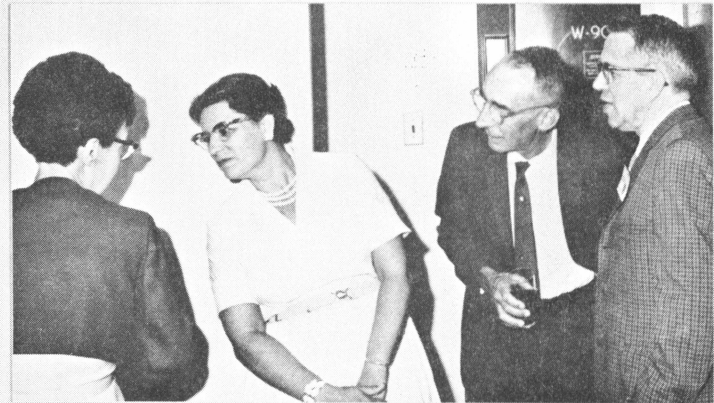
204



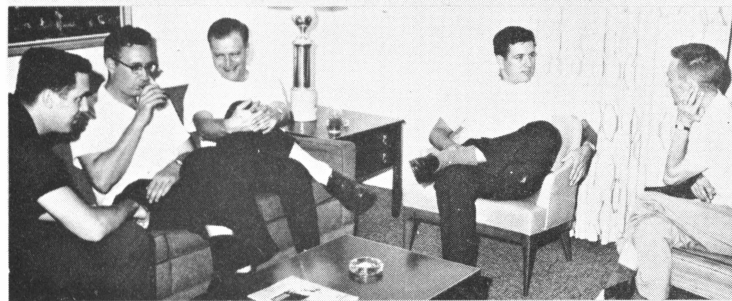
205



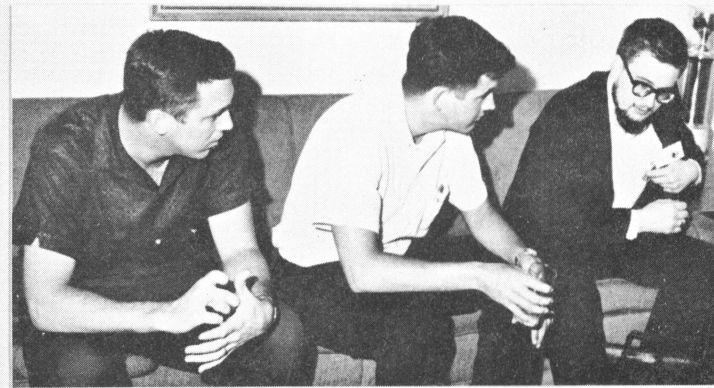
206



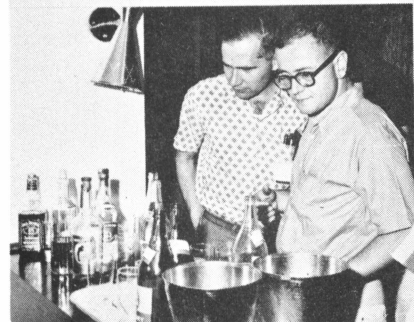
207



208



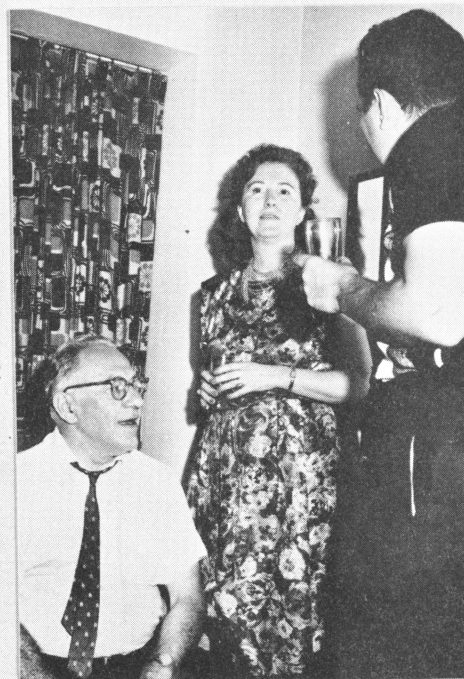
209



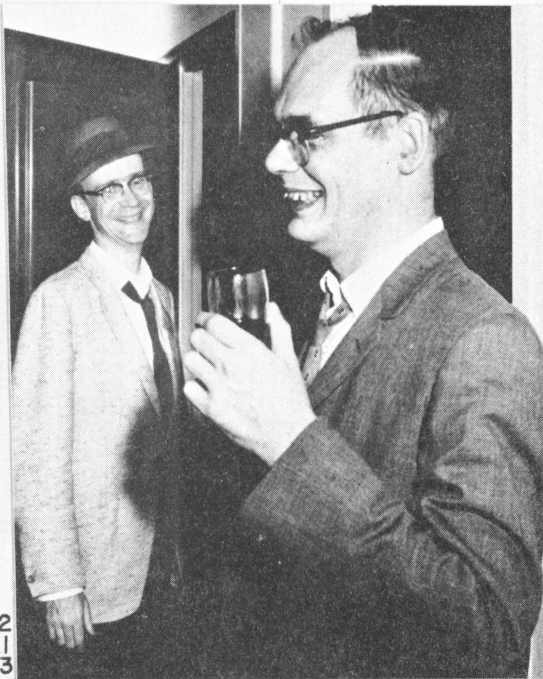
210



211



212



213

204

- 1.Alderson Fry 2.Marion Mallinger
Ford suite. Alderson likes a good listener.

205

- 1.Lloyd Eshbach 2.Jean Engel 3.Doc Smith 4.Leigh Hamilton
5.Ed Hamilton
Ford suite. Leigh looks over photos taken at last year's convention and passed around by Jean.

206

- 1.Doc Smith 2.Bob Madle 3.
Ford suite. Bob confined his active conventioning at the Discon to party going.

207

- 1.Dirce Archer 2.Bea Taylor 3.Ed Hamilton 4.Lloyd Eshbach
Ford suite. Dirce is selling chances on a cover painting for some worthy cause -- TAFF, I think. Just about everyone bought some. Don Ford eventually won the painting.

208

1. 2. 3.Claude Held 4. 5.
I think this is the convention suite.

209

1. 2. 3.
Same location as in photo 208.

210

- 1.Bill Thailing 2.
This party (photos 210 through 216 and 220) is held in Lester del Rey's room -- I think. My lens is getting a bit woozy from all the liquor it's been drinking and it doesn't remember too well. It's just possible that I am really at the Charlie Brown reception, or the Bill Mallardi party....

211

- 1.Charlie Brown 2.Carole Fohl 3.Marsha Brown
Good old Charlie Brown, who always throws an all-out party the first night.

212

- 1.Willy Ley 2.Debbie Crawford 3.John Boardman
Willy is a real fighting party fan. First thing he does when entering the front lines of a battleground is head for the bottles. He's also liable to join in the singing; when Willy says, "Take me to your lieder," he's not looking for the host.

213

- 1.Damon Knight 2.Fred Fohl
Demon Damon looks so angelic I just had to print this photo. I know Fred will forgive me for his remarkably rakish-looking portrait.

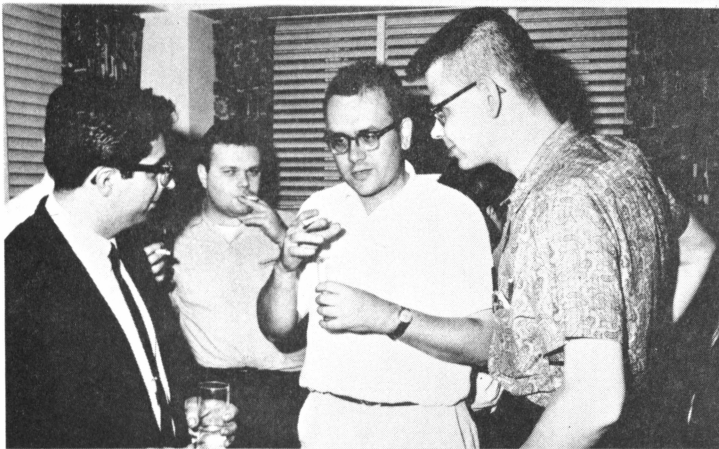
(Continued on page 91)



214



215



216



217



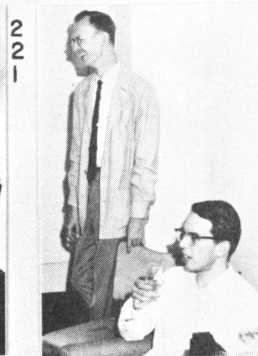
218



219



220



214

1. Bob Silverberg 2. Lester del Rey 3. Barb Silverberg 4. Art Saha
Not long after the convention, Les suffered a terrible accident. His beard had to be amputated -- something about getting his head caught in a furnace. Still, here we see Les in the full prime of his beardhood.

215

1. Jim Blish 2. Art Saha

Jim started life behind the crank of a hectograph machine. Come to think of it, I'm not sure if the hectograph in those days even had a crank. Anyway, with the Planeteer Jim launched a career that has thankfully led away from publishing and into writing. On the basis of the great popularity of the "Okie" stories in the Hobo News, Jim was selected guest of honor at the Pittcon, the 18th World Science Fiction Convention. That's about as far as you can get from the sticky end of a hectograph crank.

216

1. Nick Falasca 2. Charlie Brown 3. Art Saha 4. Ed Meskys

When Art gestures, everyone pays attention. I got while the getting was good -- never know but what Yug-Suggoth itself might appear in Art's whisky glass.

217

1. Bill Berg 2. 3. Phyllis Berg

The convention suite -- a way station in the wilderness.

218

1. Dave Kyle

Monday evening at the Kyle suite. Also present were Ruth Kyle, Steve and Virginia Schultheis, Mary Dziechowski, Harry Stubbs, and Claudia Galik. It was a quiet group, which gathered for a rest prior to entering the lists of the last round of parties before the big breakup. Dave holds a holy relic, entrusted to him by British fandom that he might return someday to London Town.

The inscription: "Knights of St. Fantomy. Presented to Liverpool S.F. Society by Cheltenham S.F. Circle at Kettering, Easter 1957, in recognition of their battle for provincial fandom. 1951-2051"

219

1. Ruth Kyle 2. Ruth Kyle

By this time, those rum cokes of Dave's have really been getting through to my lens -- I'm seeing double through the viewfinder. Ruth comes up with a double portion of tuck.

220

1. 2.

A case for the stalwart sleuths of the Yandro combine. Fan #1 above is the same as fan #5 in photo 178 of the "Pittcon Edition." At the next convention, I hope we will be formally introduced.

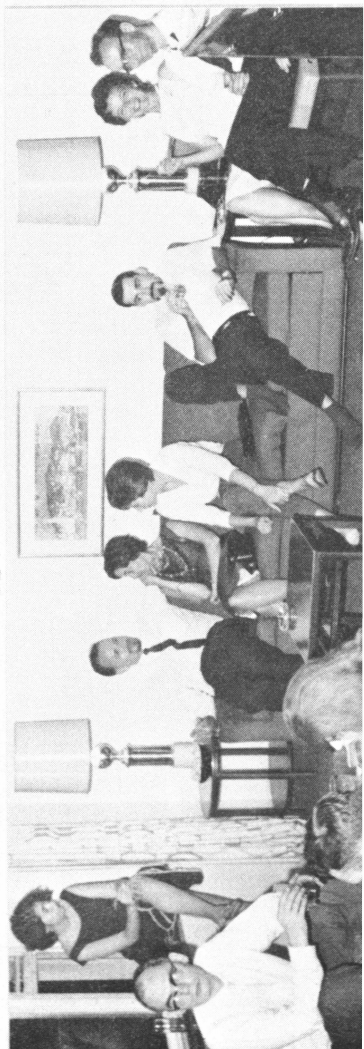
(Continued on page 102)



224



225





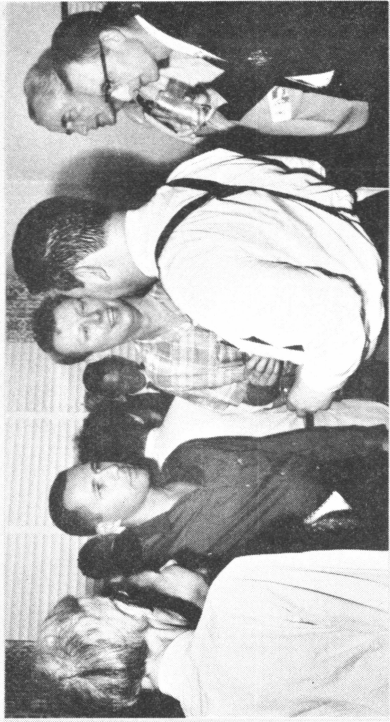
226



227



228



229



230

231

224

1.Algis Budrys 2.Les del Rey 3.Carol Emsch 4.Fred Pohl 5.Lee Thorin Top right: 6.Ed Emsch 7.Edna Budrys 8.Barb Silverberg Lower right: 9.Marsha Brown 10.Charlie Brown

Jim Warren's suite -- any night. Jim ran a sort of animal shelter for the professional group and a number of fans. A high spot of Jim's hospitality came Saturday at 2:15 a.m. when the perfect host came in, after an hour's absence, with armloads of tuna and cheese-steak sandwiches. After a day of rough-and-tumble conventioning and an evening of dedicated partying, no one stood on ceremony, but delved into the Warren cornucopia.

Known best as a monster editor and publisher, Jim is also a Class A fan. We had quite a little get-together discussing old times -- schoolmates in high school. We were joined by Ben Bova, who went to school on the other side of the tracks. Yessir, when fans get together, they discuss everything but science fiction.

225

1.Joni Stopa 2.Hans Santesson

Up in Judy's room (photos 225, 227-229, 232). Hans is obviously discussing some great issue of parliamentary importance.

226

1.Fred Pohl 2.Lee Thorin 3.Charlie Brown 4.Marsha Brown 5.Ed Emsch 6.Edna Budrys 7.Barb Silverberg 8.Bob Silverberg 9.Kate Wilhelm Knight 10.Damon Knight

Another view of the Jim Warren party.

227

1.Kate MacLean 2.Sprague de Camp

I took this one while hanging from the chandelier. Kate is making mystic passes over Sprague, which he is obviously enjoying beyond all bounds of scholarly decency.

228

1. 2.Judy Merrill 3. 4.Don Studebaker 5.Randy Garrett 6.Ben Bova 7.Sam Moskowitz 8.Fritz Leiber 9.Steve Schultheis 10.

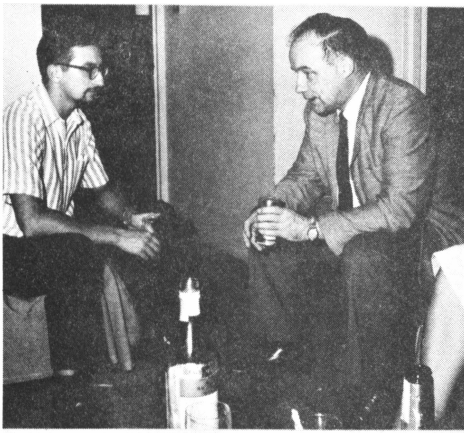
Here's hostess Judy.

229

1.Richard Buck 2. 3.Ben Bova 4.Gordie Dickson 5.Randy Garrett 6.Fritz Leiber 7.Steve Schultheis

This is the best afternoon convention party I've ever seen. It actually didn't last much over an hour, but before all hands left for dinner en masse, the equivalent of a whole evening's conventioning was accomplished. At one point everyone was jabbering away to someone else -- except for Ben and me: we looked at one another, shrugged, and assaulted each other's pinnae. Information gleaned therefrom: when Cele Goldsmith needed a good man for the Amazing science articles, Ike Asimov recommended Ben. That's a pretty good recommendation in science fiction circles.

(Continued on page 97)



232



234



235



237



233



236



238

232

1. Jon Stopa 2. Schuy Miller

Jon keeps one eye on Schuy and one on Joni (see photo 225). Schuy is keeping one eye on Jon and one eye on the bottle. I am keeping one eye on Jon, one eye on Schuy, one eye on the bottle, one eye on Hans, and two eyes on Joni.

233

1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
6. Bob 7.

Pacificon II victory party. Unlike previous get-us-a-convention parties, this brawl is a we-got-us-a-convention party. Exceedingly well attended and one of the liveliest at the Discon.

234

Standing: 1. Ron Ellick 2. Ken Krueger 3. Fran Krueger 4. Leigh Hamilton
Sitting: 5. 6. Ed Hamilton 7. Harriet Kolchak

Leigh and Ed are guests of honor Sunday at the Pacificon II party, as they will be at the worldcon itself. They were also guests of honor at the 1954 New York Metrocon. The most famous husband-wife writing team extant, they work together like some finely oiled watch. At conventions, they are always found in the midst of a swarm of fans. A disconcertingly brief profile appeared in the October 1963 Amazing. Well, maybe SaM's article merely seemed short because Ed has done so much.

235

1. Mile McInnerny 2. 3. Ted Johnstone/Dave McDaniel
4.

This is probably a back-bedroom scene from the Pacificon II party. Ted/Dave is a well known twin fan from the West Coast.

236

1. 2. 3. Ben Stark 4. Beam Piper 5.
6. 7. 8. 9. John Flory

Ben autographs Pacificon II membership cards at the Pacificon party. John is one of a large contingent of Rochester fans only an hour's drive away from the Convention Annual homebase of Syracuse.

237

1. Joni Stopa 2. Jon Stopa 3. 4. John Jackson 5. Nick Falasca 6. Bill Mallardi

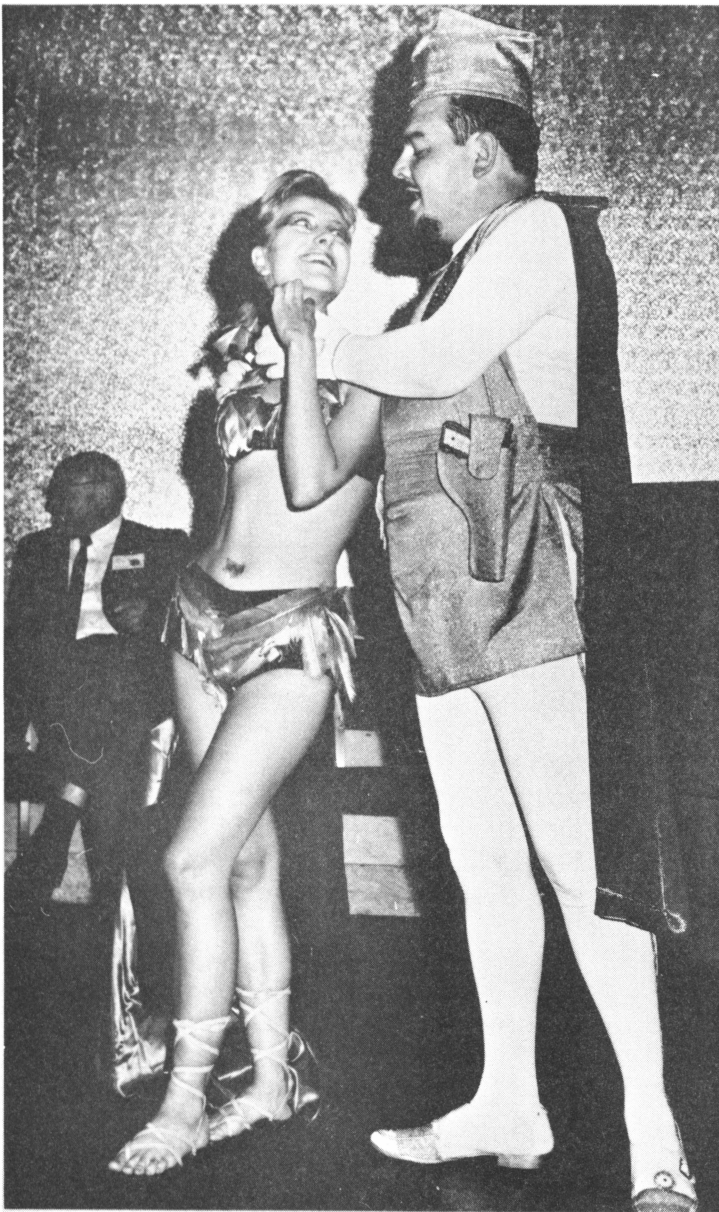
More back-bedroom scenes from the Pacificon II party, I think. Joni relaxes while Jon exercises watchful vigilance.

238

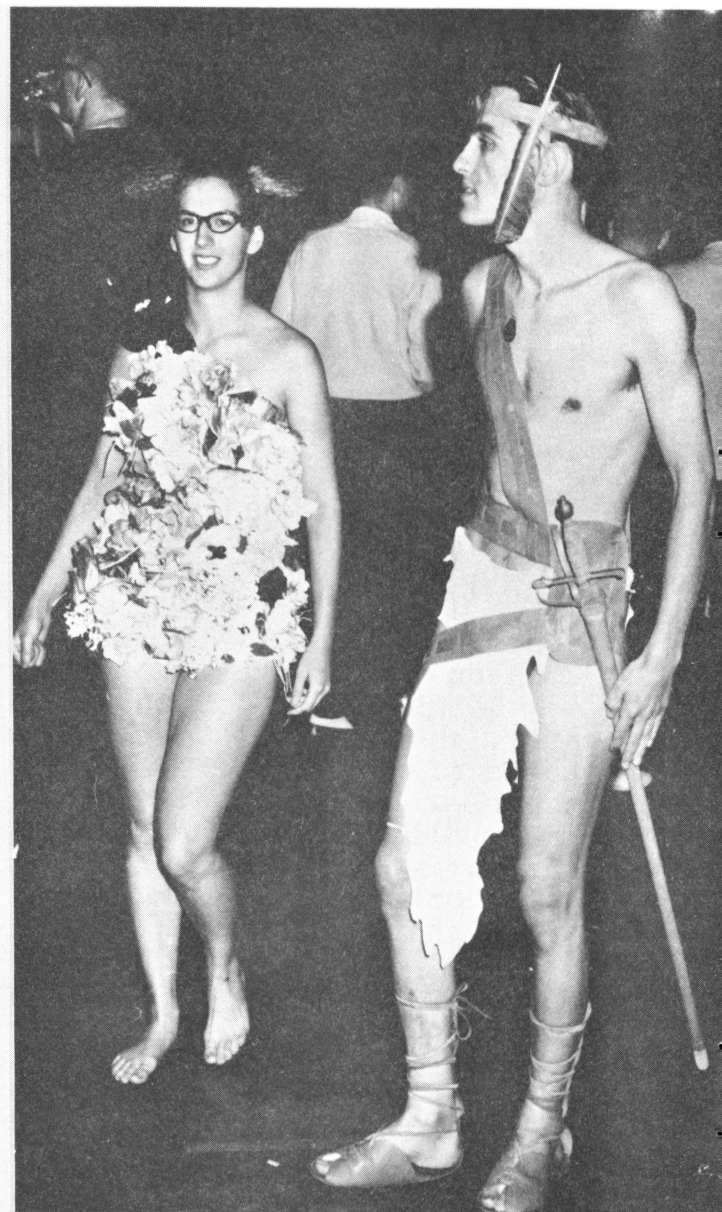
1. Beresford Smith 2. 3. 4. Frank Dietz

Al Schuster party (Sunday). Al's palatial suite may have been the largest at the Discon. In such surroundings, it seemed strange to find a gathering of young fans.

(Continued on page 99)



240



241



242



243



244



245

The Costume Ball, Saturday. The Discon ball was exceptionally good, with a very large number of costumed fans and a spacious ballroom. The committee arranged a very orderly display of costumes onstage.

240

1. 2.Sylvia Dees 3.Randy Garrett
Randy would most appropriately be costumed as the Grandall Monster, of Benedict Breadfruit infamy. However, he also has the appropriate form to fill the Nicholas van Rijn costume to overflow. As the Dutch conquistadore (loves-to-be-kissed), Randy tries board and storm tactics, but is repulsed with heavy casualties.

241

- 1.Peggy McKnight 2.Steve Tolliver
Steve's costume is especially authentic.

242

- 1.Ike Asimov 2.Dirce Archer
Ike is recognizable by his profile and Dirce by her unmistakable shoulder blades.

243

1.
Priest of Mota, from "Sixth Column".

244

1. 2.Marc Christopher
Marc makes a perfect Grey Mouser.

245

1. 2.
Two colorful costumes -- black and white, I think.

(Continued from page 83)

In sober truth, although the Convention Annual almost always manages to catch Fred cracking a bottle or emptying a barrel or somesuch, he is much more likely to be drinking coffee whilst assaulting the steeply banked keyboard of a typewriter. Such classics as "Gravy Planet" and "Gladiator-at-Law" probably were floated in on a Sea of Java. Editor of Galaxy, If, and Worlds of Tomorrow, Fred is still a prolific, terrific writer. The inevitable SaM profile is scheduled for a future issue of Amazing.



246



247



248



249



250



251



252



252

246

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. Janie Lamb
6. Fran Sykora 7. Will Sykora 8. Lee Riddle 9. Lazaar Kleit

As usual, the ballroom floor has a ring of tables with uncostumed fans. Generally, those in costumes mingle on the floor and have a livelier time.

247

1. Chris Moskowitz 2. Jean Bogert 3. Belle Dietz

The cosmic washline enchants Jean. This is Chris' first public appearance as a clothes pole.

248

- Front: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
6. 7. Back: 8. 9. 10.

A wide variety of costumes.

249

- Left: 1. Les Nirenberg Front: 2. 3. 4. Bill
Berg 5. Phyllis Berg 6. Top: 7.
8. 9. Ed Wood 10.

A wide variety of table sitters.

250

- Front: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
6. 7. Back: 8. 9.
10. John Boardman 11.

John makes his costume do double duty.

251

1. 2. 3. John Campbell 4. Peg Campbell

Peg is an authority on American crewelwork and serves as a museum consultant. Her other area of authority is John, who helps out with photography to illustrate Peg's writing.

252

- Left seated: 1. 2. Ed Wood 3. Ben Stark 4.
Left standing: 5. 6. 7. Steve Schultheis
8. Right seated: 9. 10.
11. 12. 13. 14. Fred Saberhagen
15. Right standing: 16.

Of all people not to be in costume, Fred might have come dressed as the state of New Jersey, with dents.

253

- Front: 1. Kate MacLean 2. 3. 4.

The big show is now onstage, with all attention directed there.



254



255



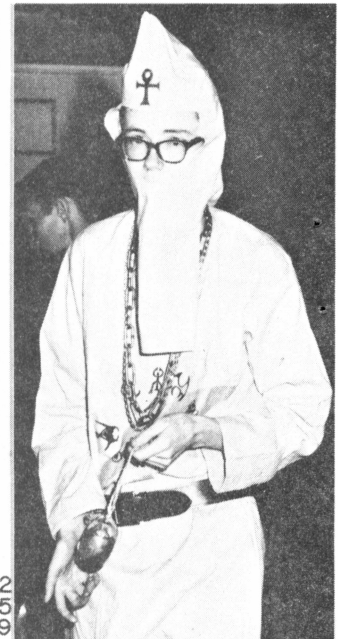
256



257



258



259

254

A fanoramic view of the audience around the stage.

255

1.Phil Harrell 2.Ed Wood 3. 4.Ed Meskys

Ed Wood makes a conspicuous display of his convention membership cards. Tsk, tsk, but you must be getting on in years! Ed Meskys is pondering his next stereo pictures. Phil thinks that if he stands next to very famous fans he will appear in the Convention Annual.

256

1.Mary Patterson 2.Harry Stubbs 3.Eleanor Walker

Mary has been using the new Polaroid color film and achieved some spectacular results, especially of Joni and Jon Stopa. Harry is admiring the not-yet-dry prints, detailed right down to the gold flecks on Joni's face.

257

1.Lee Thorin 2.Cal Demmon 3. 4. 5.
Lee's costume has its admirers, too.

258

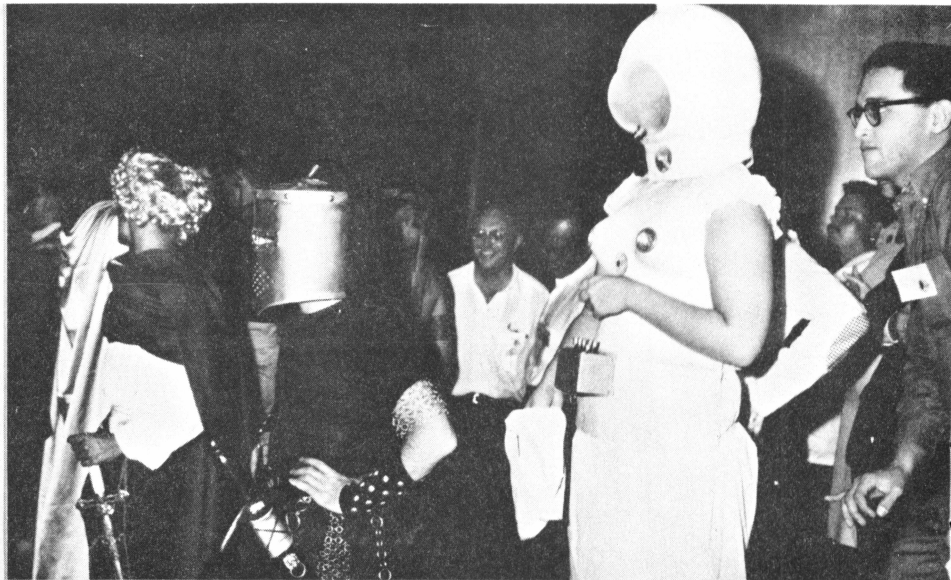
1.
A crisp uniform.

259

1. 2.
An uncrisp uniform.



260



261



262



263



264



265



266

260
1.Lee Jacobs 2.Richard Roberts 3.Boyd Raeburn

261
Front: 1. 2. 3. 4.

262
1.Carole Pohl 2.Ike Asimov 3.Ben Stark 4.Phil Harrell
Carole is the unblemished image of Donna Creery, the super-feminine heroine of the "Reefs of Space". Take another look at page 69 of the September 1963 If.

263
1. 2. 3.Kennard Fickle 4.Ron Hicks

264
1.Harvey Foreman
Harvey is a Philadelphia fan of great maturity.

265
1. 2.

266
1.Jack 2. 3. 4.Ann Potter
Ann is attired as a very militant member of the 1984 Anti-Sex League. Looking at Ann wearing her Anti-Sex League button, I felt that George Orwell had gone entirely too far....

(Continued from page 87)

230
First table: 1.Schuy Miller 2.Gordie Dickson 3.
4.Wally Gonser 5.Schuy Miller 6.Ed Bielfeldt 7.
8.George Scithers Rear table: 9.Chris Moskowitz 10.Sam Moskowitz
11.Sprague de Camp

After Judy's party, at a restaurant. Dinner table talk is a highly valued convention commodity.

231
1.Chris Moskowitz 2.Sam Moskowitz 3.Sprague de Camp 4.Jay Kay Klein (behind the camera)

After this picture, I put away the camera and joined the table talk. Well, anyway, I talked to Chris. Sam was talking to Sprague, gathering information for the Amazing de Camp profile. Sprague has led a very dull life -- nothing but one damn success after another.

Hmmm -- maybe Chris should do a profile on Sam. He is frozen foods conscious beyond belief. For dinner he ordered frozen crab cakes, and that's exactly what he got -- a meal that he will remember for many years to come. The frozen foods business is seriously cutting into Sam's fan activities. Volume Two of the Immortal Storm has been put on ice indefinitely.



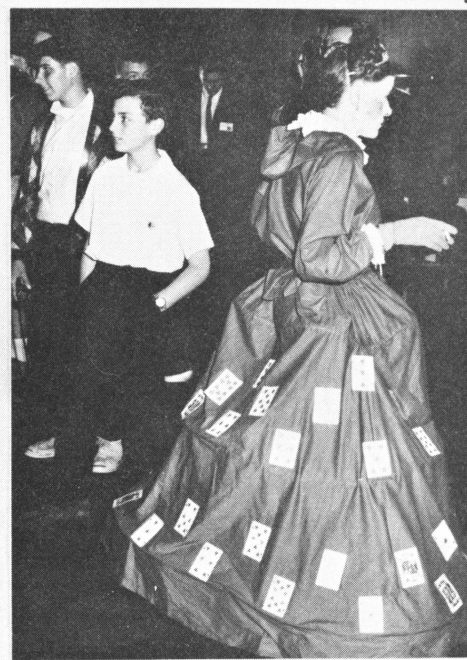
267



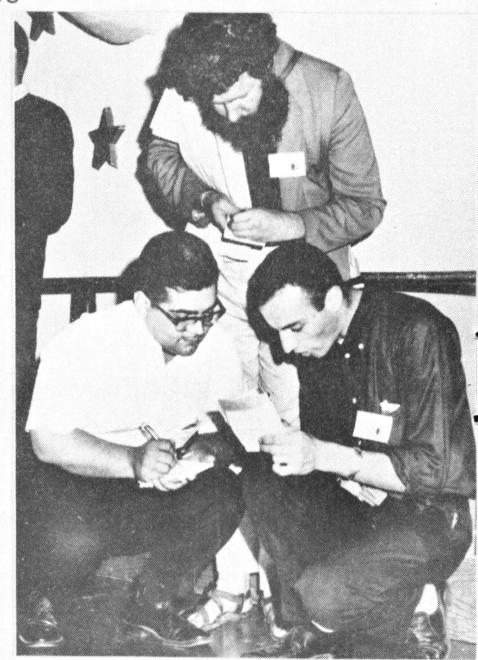
268



269



270



271



272



273

267
Front: 1.Margaret Gemignani 2.

268
Front: 1. 2. 3. 4.
5. 6. 7.
Masqueraders in line to go onstage and display their costumes.

269
1.Jean Bogert 2.Wally Gonser
Jean is always in costume at a convention masquerade.

270
1. 2.Mark Frank 3.Harriet Kolchak
The queen of Hearts.

271
1.Frank Prieto 2.Walt Breen 3.Bill Mallardi
After the costume judging, three reporters rally round the official list of awards. Frank is the star crime reporter for Science-Fiction Times. Walt is in charge of church suppers and bridge club news for Fanac. Bill is one half of Double Bill.

272
1.Steve Tolliver 2.Marc Christopher 3.Bruce Pelz 4.
5. 6.George Scithers
George briefs stage-bound masqueraders for their special mission into unoccupied territory.

273
1.Jock Root 2.Sylvia Dees 3.Mike McInnerney 4.John Sapienza
That's some fabulous show onstage.

(Continued from page 89)

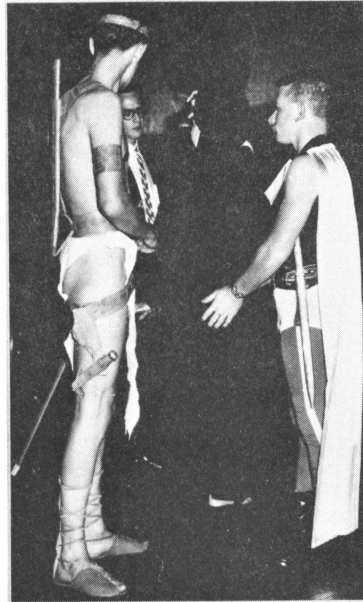
239
1. 2. 3. 4. 5.Sandy
Cutrell 6. 7. 8.
Schuster party. Guitars are scarce at the Discon and Sandy is forced to recipe a capella. As I left the party, Sandy lay flat on his back chanting a purple ballad of great length.



274



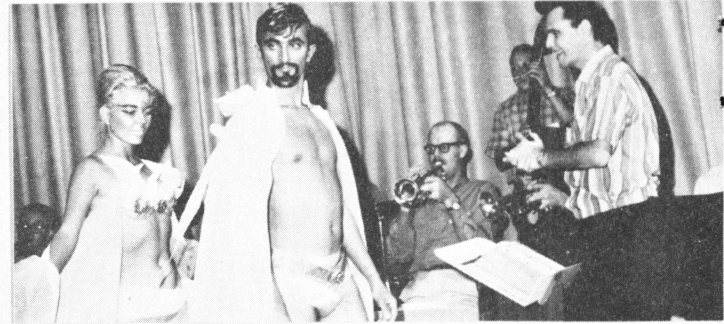
275



277



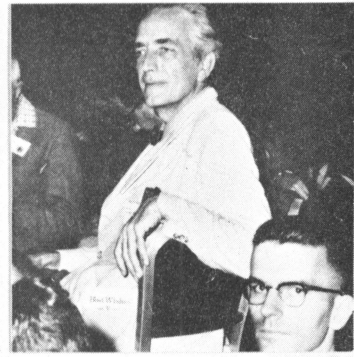
278



276



279



280



281



282



283

274

1. 2. 3. Marsha Brown 4. Willy Ley
5. Debbie Crawford

The stage display of costumes entrances Willy.

275

1. Ben Stark 2. Dick Lupoff 3. Fat Lupoff 4. Jim Warren 5. Bob Lemar 6. Fritz Leiber

This group of intrepid judges is right smack in the middle of the stage. To snap the intimate scene, I had to make a sortie onstage. Fortunately I was in costume and approached quite close before being detected for what I was -- a sneaky photographer. When my air of innocent nonchalance disappeared and my camera loomed inexorably into view and my flash went off -- the audience broke into laughter.

The judges are admirably suited to their job. Ben has the courage of his convention. Dick is the Canaveral Press expert on off-trail characters. Pat is an expert on Dick. Jim has known many monsters intimately. Bob is an expert on practically anything that might loom into sight. And Fritz is ready to stab it with pen or sword as necessity dictates.

276

1. Joni Stopa 2. Jon Stopa Far left: Band Leader

Jon and Joni parade onstage to fanfare, as they are awarded the Most Beautiful Costume prize.

277

1. Steve Tolliver 2. 3. 4.

278

1. Bagpiper skirls onstage to announce opening of competition.

279

1. Walt Cole
- Walt is on hand to take motion picture nature studies.

280

1. Ben Stark 2. Fritz Leiber 3.

281

1. Sylvia Dees 2. Randy Garrett

At last I can get a full view of Sylvia's costume, as Randy turns away momentarily to his other interest in life, at the bar.

282

1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
6. Chuck Hansen

283

1. Bruce Pelz

Saturday night reveals the secret hidden behind Bruce's beard. With FANatical perseverance he individually grew each hair one by

one to form the finest specimen of masculine strength and beauty at the Discon. This meticulous attention to detail brought Bruce fame and fortune as Fafhrd in the prize-winning Grey Mouser group (Ted Johnstone as Grey Mouser and Dian Girard as Ingauble). Then in the twinkling of half a dozen of Sheelba's eyes, this magnificent edifice was cut off at the roots by one stroke of the broadsword. And on the morrow, Bruce appeared in public shorn of his lordly mane.

(Continued from page 85)

221

1.Chuck Hansen 2.Bob Leman 3. Harry Stubbs

After our restup at the Kyle suite, we joined the last big party of the convention. Chuck is keeping Bob occupied, which is no mean feat. Bob is well known in fan circles for his opinions on world geography (flat vs. round), archaeopteryx breeding (pro and con), organ grinding (rough finish or smooth), and hundreds of other fascinating subjects. Bob's counterbalance at the Discon was John Boardman, who is equally versed in these topics, and diametrically opposed. It's great fun being nearby when these two immovable forces come together.

222

1.Wally Weber 2.

Wally is a current TAFF rep, lend-leased to British fandom for the duration of the 1964 Britcon. As chairman of the 1961 Seacon, he ran a mighty fine convention. As co-everything (with the Busbys) of Cry (of the Nameless), he put out a mighty fine fanzine for 174 issues. Through some malfunctioning of a component in a personnel computer, Wally has been exiled from Seattle to Huntsville, Alabama, severing the Cry lifeline.

223

1. 2. 3. 4.Alderson Fry 5.Frank
Prieto 6.Thomas Jensen

The fans are making a big night of it. Comes the morrow -- back home to civilian life.

1.Jon Stopa 2.Joni Stopa

Incubus and Succubus, the Most Beautiful award-winning, no-holds-barred costume. Just prior to the ball, Jon, Joni, and I had an excellent, very leisturely dinner together. We had a lively conversation going and at the time I thought I was seeing quite a bit of the Stopas. But forty minutes later, I realized that there is more to Jon and Joni than generally meets the eye. At the ball, Joni told me of the many, many hours it took to make the costumes. I may have looked a bit surprised because she hastened to assure me that each stitch was handmade, and that Jon had gone supperless many evenings while the great work went forward. At the Discon ball, though, every stitch was in place (a lucky thing, I might add) and every detail just so -- right down to the gold sprinkle paint on their faces. Jon and Joni both admitted that the costumes were very uncomfortable, from various causes, but they bravely made the sacrifice for the good of fankind. Joni's only concession was a pack of cigarettes well tucked away.

EFILOGUE

With the spirit of fandom vibrantly alive in young fans and still undimmed in its originators, with the professionals exhibiting the same interest today as they did twenty-five years ago, and with the magazines actually better than ever....

Nobody has killed science fiction! And it's just as full of wonder as it ever was!

So, see you all soon -- at the next convention!

CONVENTION ANNUAL NO. 3

DISCON EDITION 1963

