

F A N E W S L E T T E R F I F T Y

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SON OF SON OF LOCAL LAD MAKES GOOD: Lee Harding has sold
a novel to Laser
Books. The title - at the moment - is SANCTURY, and the sale
was negotiated by Virginia Kidd, Lee's new agent in the US. The
book is currently being proof read in the U.S. and will appear
within a few months. Apparently the publishers were so pleased
with Lee's efforts that they have asked him to write another,
which he is currently working on. Lee is also finishing off
his first full-length juvenile sf novel for Cassell, and it will
be one of three novels leading off that publisher's new hardcover
juvenile list, probably about July. Despite this modest
success, Lee admits to a sneaking ambition: one day he would like
to be listed among 'Australia's leading sf writers' (*our Harding
is a bitter and twisted man*) in the editorial pages of VOID. But
apart from that, he has enough work to keep him going well into
1977... and has even been seen walking around with a starry look
in his eyes and muttering something about being in Kansas City.
(*Lee Harding*)

CHERRY WILDER REPORTS that Virginia Kidd (*that name is
beginning to sound familiar*) was
very pleased with the story which Cherry sold to "Millennial
Women" (*reported last issue*). The story concerns a Medical
Officer on a space ship and it titled "DOC GALEN AND THE
LAST OF THE URBAN GUERRILLAS". For the record "Millennial
Women" is primarily a paperback anthology for Dell, Delacorte
and Laurel Leaf.... (of those three Dell insignia Delacorte is
probably the hard cover.

Cherry also writes... "Don't know if my
two previous sales got written up but anyway they were 'DOUBLE
SUMMER TIME', a rather jolly thing about aliens in the English

woods and fields which I honestly considered calling 'Vaster than Empires'... only caught up with Another Story of the Same Name sometime later. This went to Ken Bulmer for New Writings. Also there was a short hilarious affair called 'HIDDEN TALENT' which I flogged on the spot at Aussiecon to Forry Ackerman for the back of a Perry Rhodan. This provoked a gem from Harding which I am entering for the funniest bitchy remark of the Con (*I'm afraid, Cherry, that you'll find there is some very stiff competition*) but the genuine \$\$\$ were very useful for overseas subscriptions and return postage." (Cherry Wilder)

THE OMEGA CON: (*Or the real facts disclosed by your rattish reporter.*)

A varied group of expectant fans joined together on Thursday, 1st January 1976 near the Adelaide University and the banks of the cruddy Torrens in order to scrounge a free ride to the site of the Adelaide New Year SF Convention - OMEGA CON I.

(You want to read more?)

Okay, like us you made your virst mistake...)

The convoy departed on

the arrival of Jeff Harris who presumably had been having first thoughts about going...

OFFICIAL OPENING AND CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH... Jeff Harris

"I declare this convention officially opened."

After arriving all

persons staying chose a bunk in one of the huts and proceeded to the hall where the chairman opened the con and members of the committee showed fans how to assemble and staple programme books. (From here on panels and films and other events will follow under headings.)

COMIC PANEL VERSUS THE STRANGE BODILY FUNCTIONS OF SPIDERMAN...

Well, why did spiderman walk up the sides of skyscrapers? An interesting summary of stf in comics by Jon Herbert and others.

GOH SPEECH... KILGORE TROUT...

After a few sentences on stf, Kilgore read three excerpts from "Venus on the Half Shell" and "A Scarlet in Study". Questions followed including a dandy from Robin Johnson, "Where does Mr. Trout get his creative ideas from?"

Silence... obviously Trout in deep thoughts... His answer, "It's very hard to explain the creative act." After this Kilgore offered to autograph any copies of "Venus on the Half Shell". Expectant hush... No copies??? Luckily one of the trainee writers had one and triumphantly bore this forward to be

autographed. As Bruce M Barnes returned to his seat an Autograph book was forced on the aged man... he left in disgust.
FILMS...

Walt Disney and Captain America.

The second refers to a history of the U.S. atomic bomb. To the first, UGH!
THREE LEGGED RACES...

Organised and demonstrated by Roman Orskanski... censored.
MISCELLANEOUS AND OTHER RELEVANT DETAILS...

Other events at Omega Con included the Writers Workshop, (attendees) Jeff Harris, Bruce Gillespie, James Styles, Roger Weddall and Bruce Barnes) a Sun Ritual participated in by members of a one-shot OmegaConCrudzine, Stellar Conquest games organised by Robin Johnson, panels and auctions.

All considered a great con, enjoyed by most any way. This report was taken from a more detailed account soon to appear in "CruX".

(James Styles)

Q-CON III: The third Brisbane sf convention will be held over the New Year weekend 76/77, venue is the Metropolitan Motel situated near the city centre. This motel was used for Q-Con II and gave excellent service. Details of accomodation will be supplied at a later date for those who wish to 'live-in'. Membership will be \$6 attending and \$2 supporting. These figures will increase to \$8 and \$3 respectively later in the year (November 1st). Items on the programme include Leigh Edmonds with Synthia (KS), a mystery GOH, a very heavy item, the White Dwarf Award... to be presented to the inventor (and we use the term extremely loosely) of the device most acclaimed by the audience. Contact Dennis Stocks, P.O. Box 235, Albion, Brisbane, Queensland 4010.
(Dennis Stocks)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS: Dear ol' Ken Ford doesn't seem to be able to stay in the same place for long and his new new address is, 47 Napier Street, Fitzroy, Vict 3065.

A new address for John Bangsund is PO Box 434, Norwood, South Australia 5067. That's one to commit to memory.

LOCAL GAL MAKES GOOD: Irene Pagram's illustrations for David Grigg's forthcoming children's fantasy book so pleased the publisher that he immediately asked her to illustrate the sequel, currently being written by David; both titles to be published simultaneously. Irene will also be

doing the illustrations for Lee Harding's upcoming juvenile from the same publisher. All three books will be published in mid-76 '.

(Lee Harding)

BRAVE NEW WORLD BOOKSHOP: Eric Fried's bookshop is really humming (despite a robbery in December). Great scads of new sf paperbacks bulge from the shelves which are too small to hold the current stock. Early in January a vast shipment of paperbacks arrived and Eric was frantic trying to put them on the shelves.

The robbery consisted of apparently one person distracting the woman who was in charge of the shop at the time towards the back of the shop with questions about children's books, while his partner emptied the till... at the front.

This has delayed publication of the Brave New World Review, the off-set magazine edited by Dennis Stocks that Eric is funding. BNWR features reviews of books, comments and author profiles. The first issue contains profiles on Cherry Wilder and Wynne Whiteford.

Howard Brown in Brisbane is a Moorcock fan and has written a critique on Moorcock's cosmology. Howard presented this at the December meeting of the BFSFA and the text was immediately lept upon by Dennis who will be printing it in BNMR issue 2.

(Dennis Stocks)

PARTY FUN: The Magic Puddin' Club help yet another of the Medieval Parties on Sunday the 11th of January and, as usual, it was quite enjoyable. The more they do this sort of thing the more people tend to go along with the mood of the evening and come along in costume so that among those who arrived early there was only one dressed in a more modern mode (your humble reporter). Money had been little object in catering for the event so there was plenty to go around and I expect that the Puddin's are still living off the remains. To drink there was something called "mulled wine" and it was enough to send a small group out onto the streets on a Coca-Cola buying trip. Don Ashby did most of the cooking and it was said that he didn't do a bad job, he certainly seemed to enjoy himself one way and another though some of the things he came up with looked very... interesting.

Irene Pagram took the notice to come dressed in "period costume" to heart but the prize winner (if there had been a prize) was Catherine Circosta in a costume which would have made Ladies at a true Melieval Court terribly jealous. Paul Stevens came as a heritic but we didn't have time to burn him.