

RATATOSK

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AUGUST 27, 1966

A biweekly (in theory) news and commentzine from Bruce Pelz, Box 100, 308 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, Calif. 90024. A vailable for news or 3/25¢ (1M). NY in 1967!

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CON-BID TIME approaches rapidly, and while I am biased in favor of one of the bidders for the worldcon next year, the election itself still appears to be a horserace, as all bidders -- Baltimore, Boston, NEW YORK, and Syracuse -- have been picking up support (some of it from surprising places). In the meantime, plans for 1968 bids are being firmed up. Los Angeles plans for the Pan-Pacificcon (including simultaneous opening with cons in Australia and Japan) are going ahead in spite of Committee Chairman John Trimble's projected move to Santa Cruz. A second bidder for 1968 will probably be Seattle. Comments from F.M. Busby and Jim W ebbert ("Now that Wally Weber's back to do the work...") indicate that Seattle fandom would like to put on another con at the Hyatt House (site of the 1961 Seacon), which is eager for a return of the con, too. (Los Angeles hasn't had a worldcon since 1958.) Stay tuned to this fanzine... .

CORDWAINER SMITH died in Washington D.C. on 6 August, of a heart attack. Smith, whose real name was Dr. Paul Linebarger (an expert on Asiatic affairs who helped the U.S. Army develop its psychological warfare dept. in WW II), wrote many excellent SF stories since his classic "Scanners Live in Vain" appeared in Fantasy Book in 1932. His most recent book is Quest of the Three Worlds, from Ace. He was 53 at the time of his death, and he is survived by a wife and two daughters. The science fiction field will be poorer for his loss.

AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING of the Puddleby-on-the-Marsh Irregulars on 3 August, power was seized in a reasonably bloodless coup by John Boardman. He assumed the title of Honorable Cat's-Meats-Man, indicating that members opposing his benevolent rule will henceforth resemble cat's meat. (And he won't print anything by them in his fanzines...) There was a minimum resistance to the coup -- the only other officer present was Fred Lerner, who is 50 pounds lighter and two inches shorter than Boardman. All inquiries and business matters regarding this Dr. Doolittle fan club should be sent to Boardman at 592 - 16th St, Brooklyn, NY 11218.

TRICON NEWS: John Brunner, hitting his third worldcon in a row, will speak on "Interference on my wavelength." // 401 Hugo ballots were received -- the best turnout ever! Close voting in all categories, too.// TV coverage may be obtained for various parts of the convention.

GRAINS OF SALT DEPT.: The Boston Statler was not told that Boston had the 1967 con assured. The error was committed in communications between the Boston and NY branches. // The issue of FOCAL POINT dated 25 June and numbered 23 is a hoax perpetrated by persons unknown, not by the FP editors as it purports. The real FP 23 should be out around Tricon; 22 just came out in mid-August.

MATCHED: On 20 August, Roger Zelazny and Judy Callahan. // Clay Hamlin in early June. // And, according to report, Dan Brannon in July.

Your subscription expires with issue 38.

IncuNebulous Publication 509?

ACE RELEASES FOR SEPTEMBER include Zelazny's The Dream Master (an expansion of "He Who Shapes" from Amazing); Thomas Burnett Swann's Day of the Minotaur ("The Blue Monkeys," from Science Fantasy); Cummings's Tama, Princess of Mercury; and the doublebacked A Planet Of Your Own (Brunner - "The Long Way From Earth," from If)/The Beasts of Kohl (John Rackham). //The first two volumes of the Lancer series of Conan books are now in print. Conan the Adventurer will be released on 22 November, and Conan the Warrior on 27 December. Covers are by Frank Frazetta. // Just out from Chilton is The Witches of Kayres, by James Schmitz. This is not just an expansion of the novelet, but a novel to which the original story is a 2-chapter introduction. About time!

CHANGES OF ADDRESS: Davidson, Avram - 764 Ashbury, San Francisco, Calif
Goulart, Ron - 403 Laurel, San Francisco, Calif 94118
Graham, Pete - 601 West 115th St, New York, N.Y. 10025
Hart, Dale - Green Oak Ranch Business Office, 1237 S. Sycamore Ave, Vista, Cal 92083
Hayes, Art - P.O. Box 757, Timmins, Ontario, Canada
Heap, Cindy - Box 244, Old Chelsea Station P.O., New York, N.Y. 10011
Königsberg, June - 6215 Ajax, Bell Gardens, Calif 90201
Main, Andy - Box 4602, Santa Barbara, Calif 93101

Nelson, Derek-- 18 Grannard Blvd., Scarborough, Ontario, Canada
Rogers, Alva - 5967 Greenridge Rd, Castro Valley, Calif 94546
Sanders, Jim - 601 W. 110th St, Rm. 6K4, New York, New York 10025
Pete Singleton - Ward 6A, Whittingham Hospital, Nr. Preston, Lancs., England.
Zelazny, Roger - 4920 Westhills Rd, Baltimore, Maryland 21229

THE OZARKON 1, held in St. Louis over the weekend of July 29-31, had 80 members (60 attending, and about 40 at the banquet). Ted White was the Guest of Honor, and the con was quite enjoyable from all report. A second Ozarkon is planned for next year, and the Ozarkon crew are even planning to bid for the 1969 Worldcon. I was wondering whether we'd get any new groups of con-bidders -- and whether any group was interested in bidding for a con after 1968, too. Nice to hear that someone is interested, and that they are getting in practice with regionals.

C. G. SALIS reports that Fred Pohl will edit a new magazine for Galaxy Publications. It will be made up entirely of foreign SF stories. There is no word as to their being recent stories or a selection of the entire history of foreign stories. // C.G. also reports that there will be at least one other new SF magazine before the end of 1966... .

AUCTION MATERIALS AT TRICON will include the DOUBLE:BILL SYMPOSIUM original manuscripts in one-bound volume. The Symposium, conducted by Lloyd Biggle and published in the Bowers-Mallardi fanzine DOUBLE:BILL in 3 segments, had as participants the majority of the prominent SF writers, and the 3 issues of the fanzine are themselves collector's items already. Minimum bid on the manuscripts is \$30.00, and all proceeds will go to TAFF. Copies of D:B 7-9, the Symposium issues, will be included. (A full set of D:B will also be sold separately, but the profits from that will go to the editors.)

TRAVEL NEWS: Your editor has now been on vacation for two weeks, and, having visited fans in the BArea, Seattle, Regina, Alexandria (Minn.), Minneapolis, South Bend and New York (with parties in Castro Valley and New York and much-needed days of relaxation in Seattle and Minneapolis), is now ensconced in the Bronx, from where he thanks his many hosts and hostesses, as well as the printer for this issue.....QWERTYUIOPress. ...REP.