

S.F. WEEKLY

11 SEPTEMBER 1967

Published weekly by Andrew Porter, 24E82 St, NY 10028, Available for news, 3/25¢, 14/
\$1; in the UK 10/8s from Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Ave, Surbiton, Surrey;
in Australia 8/¢1 (airmail) from John Bangsund, 19 Gladstone Ave, Northcote 3070, Vic-
toria. Doompublishing #279. Steve Stiles for TAPP!!! ST. LOUIS IN 1969!!!

1450 Attend NYCCN: Total Registration over 1700

Awards For Heinlein, Niven, IF, Gaughan, Vance, NIEKAS, Fanshin,
Menagerie (Star Trek).

600 At Banquet Hear del Rey, Tucker, Harlan Ellison speak.

Baycon Wins Out Over Los Angeles 341-202 For 1968 WorldCon.

The 25th World Science Fiction Convention, held at the Statler-Hilton Hotel in New York August 31st - September 4th, had the largest attendance in the history of S.F. Conventions, topping the 1952 Chicon by about 400. Total registration for the convention was approximately 1700, although the exact figures, both attending and registration, will not be known for several weeks to come.

The Grand Ballroom, used for the General Sessions of the Convention, was generally uncrowded as people spent a great deal of time in the Luckster Room and the Art Show. The facilities, the best ever for a WorldCon, were nearly three times as large as those used by the TRiCon in 1966. While this caused a good deal of walking between N3F Room, Powers Art Show, and General Program Area, it greatly reduced what might have otherwise become too much of a Crowd Scene.

For a report on the Program and general feeling of the convention, you are advised to seek elsewhere: this reporter, being Secretary of the NYCon missed most of the program, although I did hit a few of the choicer parties. Judith Merrill and Fred Pohl, both with suites and nearly unlimited liquor, did a rousing job of supplying parties away from the Maddening Crowd. Other parties abounded, and were, save for trouble (as usual) from the hotel, well attended and supplied.

Science Fiction Achievement Awards were presented to Robert Heinlein for The Moon Is A Harsh Mistress; Larry Niven's Neutron Star; Jack Vance's The Last Castle; The Menagerie, written by Gene Roddenberry of Star Trek (best dramatic); Jack Gaughan, best artist; and Worlds of If, as best magazine. Fan Achievement Awards were presented to Ed Maskys, editor of Niekas; Alex Fanshin, best fan writer; and Jack Gaughan, best fan artist.

The awards were presented by Harlan Ellison, at a banquet attended by 600 diners and about 250 observers in the balcony. Bob Tucker, fan guest of honor, and Lester del Rey, guest of honor, each spoke. Their words have been recorded elsewhere; suffice it to say that Lester gave one of the finest GOH speeches I have ever heard.

In an action-filled business session, several hundred people attending, the rules of the World SF Society, Uninc., were amended to provide for a foreign worldcon

every Rotation, that is, every 4 years. This could mean WorldCons in such places as Germany, England, or Canada, as long as such a site is outside the boundaries of the United States.

In another decision, the fan achievement award was voted down, but the proviso that, starting in 1968, the WorldCon committee be permitted to award two additional science fiction achievement awards was voted on and passed. This means that, while the fanzine award is to be a Hugo, the Convention Committee is left with the choice of awarding additional awards, including a fan writer and artist category. According to our information, the Baycon intends to award the 3 fan categories next year, a move which, in the face of other closed doors, this fan editor voted for.

That the Baycon won the 1968 WorldCon was perhaps one of the biggest surprises of the convention. The Los Angeles bidders had been in the race actively since as early as 1964, and the amount of time, energy and publicity they spent wooing fandom to their cause was enormous. That they suffered defeat from a bid not officially organized, as far as I can see, for over a year is all the more surprising. However, the aid of Roger Zelazny and Harlan Ellison as seconders did much to sway the attendees from the, perhaps, better backed Los Angeles bid to their cause. As Seattle had dropped out of the race earlier, the vote was won with a single ballot, 341 to 202. Tokyo, Japan received one vote. The Guest of Honor for the Baycon will be Philip Jose Farmer, fan God! Walt Daugherty. To join, send \$3 to Baycon, Box 261, Fairmont Station, El Cerrito, California 94530.

The Costume Ball, for which many attendees begin to prepare months in advance, had the largest amount of costumes of any convention ever. George Scithers, hectic Master of Ceremonies of the Costume Ball, reported that 98 costumes were entered. In addition, many people came in greater or lesser degree costumed, from ornamental capes to complex Clever Plastic Disguises.

The winners of the categories at the costume ball were: Most Humorous: Bill Ostan, as the Satyr; Most Authentic: John & Sherry Jackson as Dian the Beautiful and Shak The Hairy One from EHU's Pallididar stories; Most Beautiful: The Silver Apples of The Moon/The Golden Apples Of The Sun (Sandra & Olga Ley), Yeats & Bradbury; Most BEMish: Mike Gould as Warlord of Thorne; Most Exciting: Adrienne Hicks as "The White Lady" - The White Goddess She Who Is Birth, Life, and Death, from Greek Mythology; Best Craftsmanship: Frank Dietz, in an original costume designed and executed by Harnae Bok; Best Presentation: "Star Trek" crew: Dana L. Friese, Alyse Pines, Gale Burnick, Liza Blaney, Bill & Sara Anderson, & Haris; Most Popular: Lin Carter as the Royal Necromancer of Aquilonia (from RUnoward).

The WorldCon was fun; it was exciting to those who had never been to one, it was challenging to those who had just heard of fandom, and it was a hell of a lot of work to those of us who put it on. For the committee, the NYCon 3 began in November of 1963; in my case, it began in July 1964. I enjoyed it, cursed it, loved every minute of it, hated the endless detail and drudgery, drank in the egoboo, cursed the detractors, ~~was~~ praised the helpers. I missed the program, hit a lot of the parties, didn't get enough sleep, worried about everything, missed a lot of meals, and had a hell of a time. Thank god it's over, and I'll see you at the Baycon next summer. This has been a hasty, overwritten, purple-prose conreport.

VOTE ST. LOUIS in 1969!

On your list of nominations for Best Fanzine 1966 you will find something called AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW. Never heard of it? I wouldn't be surprised. Never seen a copy? I'd be even less surprised.

My name's John Bangsund. I live (if that's the right word) in Melbourne, Australia, and I publish this thing. Started it in June 1966, under pressure from a bunch of enthusiasts at the 7th Australian SF Convention. (And I hope you have as good a time at yours as we had at ours.) Since then we've seen 11 issues, and the 12th is coming up in October.

ASFR is a serious fanzine, but not what you would call deadly serious. We love sf, we do it the honour of regarding it as a special but nonetheless worthy branch of literature in general; but we also believe that sf is fun, and a certain light-heartedness is often detectable about some of the stuff we publish.

Who do we publish? Well some of the people who have made appearances in ASFR are Brian Aldiss, James Blish, A. Bertram Chandler, John Brunner, E. J. Carnell, Michael Moorcock, Lin Carter, Judith Merril, Keith Roberts, William F. Temple, John Baxter, Jack Wodhams, Ted White, Harry Warner Jr., Robert Coulson, Walt Willis, Chris Priest, Graham Hall, Sten Dahlskog, Rick Sneary, Don Tuck, Andy Porter, Ugo Malaguti, Ron Bennett - oh, and many others, including a host of Australians whose names might mean little to you just now.

Our tenth issue ran to 94 pages. Future issues will be around 60, and will appear every second month. No. 11 included 2 very thoughtful articles about Cordwainer Smith, as man and writer; a provocative (what else?) piece by William Atheling, Jr., a number of other articles, and reviews and letters.

My American Agent is Andrew Porter. Being Secretary of your Convention, he is probably awfully busy right now, but there's a chance he might show, lend, give, or sell you a copy of ASFR if you ask him nicely. If you catch him at the right moment he might even accept a subscription from you.

Back issues of ASFR are readily available, except No. 1, which we are seriously thinking about reprinting. Nos. 2 to 10 are available from Dick Witter at the F&SF Book Company (P.O. Box 415, Staten Island, NY, 10302), if you prefer not to wait a month to see them.

Now, back to the NYCon. Enjoy yourself!

SUBSCRIPTION FORM: Mail to Andrew Porter, ASFR, 24 East 82nd Street, NY, NY, 10028.

Please arrange a subscription to ASFR for me, commencing with issue no. 11. I enclose 40¢ per copy. (Please make all checks & money orders payable to A. Porter.) I would also like the following back issues: 1 (60¢) 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 (all 40¢)

NAME AND ADDRESS: name.....
(please include street..... Apt.....
ZIP code) city..... state..... Zip.....

A FEW REMARKS ABOUT AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW:

E. J. CARNELL: ASFR 2 thudded in this morning. I found No.1 very pleasant and interesting, but No.2...! This is one of the freshest and most entertaining magazine issues I have read for several years. Somehow, down under, you have managed to produce a different feeling and insight into what must, of necessity, be a prosaic subject to anyone who has been connected with it as long as I have.

RON BENNETT: With issues 3 and 4, ASFR consolidates itself as the leading international sf fan magazine. Terrific stuff, with John Foyster taking a lengthy and analytical look at recent editorials in ANALOG.

WILLIAM F. TEMPLE: ASFR has a very special freshness and vitality, and - that quality rare in this tired, disillusioned, heard-it-all-before corner of the world - enthusiasm. Withal, intelligent enthusiasm - the only worthwhile kind.

BUCK COULSON: ASFR is presenting some of the best commentary on sf now being written in the fanzines. John Brunner's article (ASFR 9) is the best single item I have seen in a fanzine this year - from the standpoint of either entertainment or information.

HARRY WARNER, Jr.: It's such a relief to see an Australian fanzine that can write cheerfully about sf just like those in the U.S. and Great Britain. For so many years, during the chronic sf famine down there, I felt guilty every time I read an Australian publication - like a surfeited glutton in the midst of starvation.

ANSON McTAGGART: After two issues of relative vacuity I note with pleasure that ASFR has entered the field of political and social pontification. Where you tell those lousy beatniks to get lost is real good. I mean that part where you say that sf is indiscriminately classed with "long hair, modern music, non-representational art, anti-war demonstrations and other deplorable idiocies." I certainly agree with you about long hair. I hate the sight of all those ugly women with their long hair.

ROGER ZELAZNY: I think you've got a very good thing going there is ASFR. I do want to write something for you, and I will.

URSULA K. LeGUIN: Seeing what donkeys offended authors make of themselves, I promised myself long ago never to react at all to any reviews of my own stuff. Now I am breaking my promise. Your reviews were so kind, and so discerning (I trust), and gave me so much pleasure, that it would be merely mean not to thank you. You have an awfully good magazine going.

BRIAN ALDISS: You may not realize it, but you have established ASFR already as the sort of magazine in which one likes to say something.

JOHN BANGSUND: If it's so bloody good, why am I steadily going bankrupt for lack of subscriptions? No, it's not quite as bad as that really, but I do need a lot more people paying hard cash for ASFR if it's to keep going. And if you think I've deliberately picked out nice quotes about the magazine - you're quite right. You'll have to subscribe to see the others. There is plenty of adverse criticism: ASFR has something for everyone - something to like and something to disapprove. Join the club!