

# Fantasy-Times

First  
September  
1953

No. 185

10¢

PHILCON II DUBBED "A DULL SUCCESS";  
750 SIGN IN — AVERAGE SESSION DRAWS  
3-400; WILLY LEY, ACKERMAN, FINLAY, ESMH,  
BOK, FARMER, "GALAXY", "ASTOUNDING", AND  
"DEMOLISHED MAN" TAKE AWARDS; CLEVELAND,  
FRISCO AND LONDON BATTLE FOR '54 CON;  
BANQUET \$5.75: \$1 FOOD, ASIMOV COST \$4.75!

by James V. Taurasi

(Incorporating the notes taken by Les  
Ilyer, William Blackbeard, Bob Adler,  
and Frank R. Prieto, Jr.)

Philadelphia, Pa., 7 September, (CNS) —  
Like cold water dashed upon the face of  
a person that's been living too high,  
the 11th World Science Fiction Conven-  
tion was a sharp comedown after the  
super excitement of the Chicon II last  
year. Not that the program was bad, not  
that the boys didn't work like beavers  
to make it good, but a lot of annoying  
small items that made it a somewhat  
dull affair. As one put it, "It wasn't  
the biggest nor the best".

Added to this was the fact that  
service at the Hotel was bad, plus the  
heat wave that blanked the city during  
the first part of the weekend. All in  
all it didn't stack-up to the gala  
Philcon I held by the same boys in '47.

Approximately 750 persons checked

in, but only approx. 300 to 400 attend-  
ed any one session. A p p r o c. '1,200  
joined the Convention Committee. San  
Francisco won the 1954 site in an ord-  
erly voting conducted firmly, but demo-  
cratically by L. Sprague de Camp. It was  
the first time that the bidding and  
voting had been executed without  
crackpot bids or persons placing bids  
with non-existing clubs backing them.  
It was the first time that only 3 cit-  
ies, instead of a mad dozen placed the-  
ir bids. In this respect, Fandom has, at  
last, grown out of its diapers.

It was on Friday night of Septem-  
ber 4th that the fans, pros and readers  
began to arrive. The Ackermans, del  
Rey, Rog Phillips, Mrs. Gold, Asimov,  
Philip Farmer, Frank Robinson, de Camp,  
Eshbach, Bixby and others arrived then.  
Last minute touches were put on the  
many exhibits and things were gotten in  
order for the big day. (cont. on page 3)

12th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



# STARTLING Delayed; Next Issue Dated January 1954

New York, N.Y., 28 August, (CNS) - Hard on the announcement that the "Oct" Thrilling Wonder Stories had been delayed one month and be dated November 1953 (now on the stands), comes the news that the next Startling Stories will also be delayed one month and be dated January 1954 instead of December 1953. It too will be on the stands one month late (November instead of October). Though there is a 3 month wait between these issues, both magazines will still be listed as bi-monthlies.

The next issue of Fantastic Story Magazine, Winter (Dec '53), the first of the new quarterly schedule, will be on the stands in October. It will feature a beautiful Emsh cover.

## LES MAYER FETED AT FANVET DINNER

Paterson, N.J., 7 August 1953, (CNS) - A testimonial dinner for Les Mayer, editor of "FANTASY-TIMES" and recently Far East Representative of THE FANTASY VETERANS ASSN, was given here this evening at the "Tree Tavern".

Les, who arrived home a few weeks ago from a tour of duty with the US Army in Korea, was presented with a beautiful original cover painting done by Frank R. Paul for an old issue of "WONDER STORIES", donated for the occasion by Sam Mines of Standard Publications, and a FAN-VET uniform cap, donated by the officers of FAN-VETS.

In attendance, besides the guest of honor, were Frank R. Paul, who autographed the gift cover to Les Mayer, James V. Taurasi, Ray Van Houten, Thos. S. Gardner, George Raybin, Robt. Adolor, Bob Sheridan, Michael Fogaris and William Blackbeard.

IN order to maintain our present format, schedule and wordage, as well as our 10¢ price, we have been forced to reduce our paper stock costs by changing to this 20 lb. manila paper.

SINCE the great majority of our subscribers are interested solely in the news each issue contains, and since the readability of the reproduction is as good, if not better, we feel that F-T's value has not been lessened by the change.

## THE ACKERMAN REPORT

by Mr. Science Fiction

It had to happen. Everyone so far who's seen the sort of "sample" drawings Mel Hunter submits to editors marvels that "they look just like the completed paintings of other artists." So for the first issue of GEO PAUL'S TALES OF SPACE CONQUEST, a sample by Hunter was picked over several available Bonestells to be the backcover! Twice the price was paid for this color comp that Hunter was getting as a freelance not so long ago when he first began drawing for the magazines. To cap the climax, the front cover will also be by Hunter: a masterpiece showing the Moon in the process of revivification.

EDITOR'S CHOICE OF SCIENCE FICTION, masterminded by Donald A. Wollheim, will be a future hard cover anthology: Selected by Howard Browne to represent Aurizing, "If This be Utopia—" by Kris Norville; picked from the new Orbit, "Geymedo House" by David Grinnell. Both Ackerman clients.

John Campbell has bought Chad Oliver's "Rite of Passage", weighing in at 16,000 words. Spaceway #2 shapes up entertainingly with "A Look at the Stars"

(continued on page 6, column 1)



# Fantasy-Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

13TH YEAR - #185

First September 1953 Issue

Vol. 8 - No. 17 - 10¢

## It's FRISCO For 1954!

(continued from page 1, column 2)

SUNDAY, September 6th:

### THE FIRST DAY - September 5th Saturday:

THE PROGRAM opened on time at 2 PM. At this time 987 persons had become members of the Convention Committee. Irvin C. Heyne, Chairman of the Arrangement Committee called the Convention to order and introduced the Convention Chairman, Milton A. Rothman, who gave his welcome address. L. Sprague de Camp gave a report of the rules committee, which were accepted as read with the exception of one amendment. Bob Madle at this point introduced the celebrities present, with a baby-spot light pointing them out.

After a small recess the guest of honor talk was given by Willy Ley, who spoke on "Energy". Tho a hard subject for a s-f audience, the master speaker that Ley is, put the subject over with interest for all present.

Sam Moskowitz followed with his foghorned voice and took over with another annual session at the auction. Bidding at this auction was unusually high, with such results as \$23 for a Bergoy cover; \$13.25 for a finlay interior; and the best buy of the convention; a complete set of bound Unknowns for \$50.00.

The auction was stopped at 9 PM to allow the meeting of the NFFF to be held.

THE SUNDAY morning session started a little late, with very few people in attendance. Two international speakers made their appearance: Bert Campbell, editor of Britain's Authentic Science Fiction and Tetsu Yama, a young Japanese s-f translator from Japan.

Irvin C. Heyne spoke on "The Future of Love", working out love to a mathematical formula--very humorous and well received.

Philip Jose Farmer concluded the morning's activities with a talk on "SF and the Kinsey Report". He proved to be a very sincere and dynamic speaker.

The afternoon session started off with the resumption of the auction.

George O Smith's "The Seven Stages of the SF Writer" should be published so that all can read it. It was one of the high points of the day.

The Winners of the Awards were:

#1 Fan Personality: Forrest J Ackerman, who turned it down and gave it to Ron Slater of England. Bert Campbell will bring it back to England with him and present it to Slater.

Interior illustrator: Virgil Finlay.

Cover artist: A tie between Ed Bush and Hannes Bok.

Excellence in fact articles: Willy Ley.

New SF author or artist: Phillip Jose Farmer.

Best Pro Magazine: a tie between Galaxy and Astounding.

WORLD'S OLDEST SCIENCE-FICTION NEWSPAPER



Best novel: "The Demolished Man".

There were no awards for short stories, novelettes or fan magazines, as there was no clear cut vote on these; too many named with too little vote for each.

After the awards there was a 10 second period of silence in memory of James A. Williams.

There were approx. 500 at the Costume Ball, sponsored by the New York Science Fiction Circle, with 47 in costume. The judges were Frank Kelly, Freas, Ric Blinkly and Ed Dash. The winners were:

For S-F Theme: Faye and Richard Nickel, brother and sister from Detroit—Space Pirates.

Most Beautiful Costume: Mrs. Richard Wilson.

Most Unusual Costume: Dave MacInnes --- Neptune.

The banquet cost each person \$5.75 and as Issac Asimov pointed out, since we only received a dollar's worth of food apiece, we were expecting \$4.75 worth of Asimov. All agreed that they received their money's worth of Toastmaster Asimov.

#### MONDAY, September 7th:

The Convention Forum, with David A. Kyle as chairman was presented starting at about 10:30AM to a very small crowd. Actually after long hours of discussion a few amendments passed and the whole question passed on to the next convention. Many felt that Fandom had not developed enough for a Central Committee to handle all future Conventions, etc. But, the amendments passed showed a steady buildup of the idea, which in years to come, when Fandom is more matured and better organized, these advanced plans by Dave Kyle and the plan presented by Don Ford for a system of Convention site rotation will be the natural thing for World Conventions.

At the afternoon session, Fletcher Pratt started things off with a brilliant lecture on "Robots and Computing Machines". His dry natural humor made his speech one to be remembered.

The panel discussion "Is Science Catching Up with Science Fiction" was moderated by Dr. E.E. Smith instead of Thos. S. Gardner, and the panel itself

consisted of Dr. Oscar Brauner, Dr. Alastair Cameron, Dr. Milton Danguo and Dr. John D. Clark. The no decision was reached, it proved an entertaining and instructive session.

The Fantasy Veterans Association had Secretary James V. Taurasi and Special Service Officer Bob Adeler plea for more copies of current s-f maps and books, plus hard cash to send to the boys in the US Armed Forces Overseas which today more than ever need their favorite reading material.

The big session of the afternoon was the selection of the 1954 Convention site. About 350 persons were there to vote.

There were only 3 bids:

1. Cleveland Ohio, with Eugene J. Burdun making the bid, and Morcom Palasco seconding it,
2. London England, with H. J. Campbell, bidding and Miss Krone seconding,
3. San Francisco Calif., with Don Ford bidding and Fletcher Pratt 2nding.

While Cleveland was the better prepared with buttons being passed out, letters from the Mayor etc read; while the slick humor of Campbell charmed the fans, Don Ford in his sincere down to earth bid told the story:

The first vote: Cleveland: 120

London: 61

Frisco: 160

total: 341

Second and Final vote: Cleveland: 157

Frisco: 187

total: 344

The 1954 World Science Fiction Convention will be held in San Francisco, California.

The rest of the day's program was the presentation of light entertainment but a large part of the audience left for home after the 1954 convention site voting---and another World Convention slid into history leaving behind it no bangup memories or great accomplishments. It was termed by most in the sentence of one fan: "A dull success".

#### HIGH AND LOW LIGHTS OF PHILCON II

Telegrams of congratulations were received from Ireland and "Down Under Con" being held same time as 11th World (concluded on page 8, column 1)



## FILMS, RADIO & TV

by Lester Mayer, Jr.

Hello, everybody. It's almost two years—since I wrote my last full-time column, and I can honestly say it's a great pleasure to be doing it once again. I only hope I remain at it for the next twenty years.

I notice that this column climbed to the number two spot in popularity in Fantasy-Times during my absence. This was due mostly to the splendid contributions of Forry Ackerman, Arthur Jean Cox and about half a dozen others. Now that I'm back I do not intend to monopolize this column; when somebody sends in a newsworthy item it will appear here with due credit given. Forry and Jean will always be more than welcome because they specialize in "scoop" news which, unfortunately, I cannot give you. But I faithfully promise to review every picture of a s-f or fantasy nature which appears in the New York area. I can also promise that 90% of all s-f movie news which appears in a national magazine or newspaper will see print here, too, simply because I have ready access to most mags and papers. Anyway I'll do my best.

Well what's new? Since I've been home I've seen about three s-f pictures. But they've been playing so long now that it's senseless to review them here. If you notice a picture playing around called "Lost Women" turn around and walk the other way. The hour you'd waste here might better be spent at a burlesque show. Plot revolves around a "mad scientist" and his evil schemes for creating a race of spider people. Need I say more?

"War of the Worlds" opened around here and this I definitely intend to see. Reviews range from fair to excellent.... "Tarzan and the She-Devil" making the rounds. I'll try to review it in my next column.... Another forthcoming pic will be "Space Station, USA" all about rockets and such.... Universal International really climbed on the s-f fantasy-horror bandwagon. "Abbott and Costello Meet Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" will hit the screens before the end of

## SCIENTI - BOOKS

by Stephen J. Takacs

### Science-Fantasy books recently received

"The Other One" by Catherine Turney, Dell pocket-books, N. Y., 25¢, black magic.

"Ahead o f Time" by Henry Kuttner, Ballantine Books, N. Y., cloth bound \$2.00, paper bound 35¢.

"The Secret Masters" by Gerald Kersh Ballantine Books, N. Y., cloth bound \$2.00, paper bound 35¢.

"The Black Star Passes" by John Campbell, Jr., Fantasy Press, Reading, Pa., \$3.00.

"Shadow o f Tomorrow", edited by Frederick Pohl, (Anthology), Perm Books, N. Y., 35¢.

"Childhood's End" by Arthur C. Clarke, Ballantine Books, N. Y., 35¢ paper bound; Houghton Mifflin Co., \$2.00 cloth bound.

"Science Fiction Handbook" by L. Sprague de Camp, (non-fiction), Heritage House, N. Y., \$3.50.

"Tomorrow: The Stars", edited by Robert A. Heinlein, Signet Books, N. Y., 25¢.

"Star Rangers" by Andre Norton, Harcourt, Brace & Co., \$2.95.

"Bring The Jubilee" by Ward Moore, paper bound from Ballantine Books, 35¢; Cloth bound from Farrar, Strauss & Young, \$2.00.

Four original science-fiction cloth bound novels from Hamilton & Co., London England, at 6/- each; "Another Space, Another Time" by H. J. Campbell; "House of Entropy" by Roy Sholden; "Resurgent Dust" by Rolf Garner; and "Galactic Intrigue" by H. K. Bulmer.

the year. U-I also preparing to take a 3-D journey up the Amazon for "Black Lagoon". Concerns an eight-foot giant who lives underwater part of the time, otherwise he's normal.... Jack London's classic "The Star Rover" will be filmed both here and in Europe. It will never be as good as the book.

That's all for this time. I'll be back next issue with more and better news -- I hope.



## THE ACKERMAN REPORT

(concluded from page 2, column 2)

by Gene Hunter; "Power of a Woman" by Lou Tabakow; "Going Home", Kris Neville; "Battle of Wizards", L. Ron Hubbard; the Burks serial, "The Osilans"; "Time to Retire", Evans; "The Smuggler", Jim Harmon; "Rose of Venus", Atlantis Hallam; "Space Academy", science article by H.J. Campbell; "Midgets of Monoton"; and a new feature for future issues, SCIENTIFILM PARADE (with fotos) by Forrest J Ackerman. Cover by Mel Hunter... Sales for newcomer David S. Gardner include "Cold Storage" and "The Day Draws Near" to Nebula, "Staying Guests" to New Worlds.

"Time is the Traitor", the best of Dester, has been snapped up by PRIZE SF for a '54 Jules Verne Award. Richard Matheson will also be honored in the same collection. Matheson has just collaborated with previous JVA winner, Charles Beaumont, on an unusual story-as yet untitled... Collaborationists Kris Neville & Mel Sturgis are considering naming their first conjunctive effort "The Tri-Lovers".... Derleth has signed the Neville-Bretner collection, "Gratitude Guaranteed", for THE BEST - FANTASTICS.... Jean Cox's "The Blight", an original, goes into a collection of new tales to be published by Farrar, Straus & Young. To the same book, Beaumont contributes "Keeper of the Dream".

Casting on THIS ISLAND EARTH, the duo book club selection originally placed by my Science Fiction Agency with Shasta, has top names Richard Widmark and Glenn Ford with Ruth Roman the femme interest.... At Warner's the new scientific film is THE MEN FROM EARTH, an original.... THE PHANTOM APPE will be a remake of Edgar Allen Poe's "Murders in the Rue Morgue", this time in technicolor trimension.

"Father's Vampire", WT humorcabre yarn by Len Moffatt & Alvin Taylor, is being considered for Bela Lugosi telefilm series about sinister Dracula....

(continued from right hand column)  
short accompanying article.

A complete short novel by Murray Leinster is scheduled for a forthcoming issue.

-Sam Moskowitz

## FANTASY FORECASTS

Coming Up Next In The Pro Mag

### SCIENCE-FICTION PLUS, December 1953

Harry Bates, author of "Death of a Sensitive" returns to the pages of Science-Fiction Plus with a complete short novel in the December, 1953 issue entitled "The Triggered Dimension". It is a very human and off-trail work and has been illustrated with five outstanding illustrations by Virgil Finlay.

James H. Schmitz has a feature novelette "The Vampirato" illustrated by Charles Hornstein.

Short stories include "Bitter Land" by Eric Frank Russell, "Planted" by Frank H. Robinson and "Space Salesman" by J. P. Phillips, all illustrated by Lawrence. Murray Leinster has a long short story "The Trans-Humans", with two full page illos by Virgil Finlay.

There are three \$100.00 short-stories in this issue. "Intelligence Factor" by Corvin F. Stickney; "Operation Switch" by Norman Arkavy and Charles Henig and "Misfit" by Michael Fischer. Lawrence illustrates the first, Peter-Poulson the other two. "Misfit" is the cover story; Frank R. Paul has done a very unusual type of robot cover to illustrate it and this cover will be the first full-bleed cover Science-Fiction Plus has had, the picture taking up the entire cover with all lettering dropped out.

Leslie R. Shepherd, Ph. D. has a long and fascinating article "Extra-Terrestrial Communication", presenting the mathematical fashion in which we would cold signal alien intelligences so that they would be able to understand us. Paul illustrates the article in his most imaginative form and also has drawn the back-cover which is based on the article.

The inside back-cover has a pictorial feature entitled "Science-Fiction around The World", which shows the covers of science-fiction magazines published in Italy, Holland, Scotland, England, Mexico and Australia with a

(continued in left hand column)



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"THE PHILCON I I" REPORT  
(concluded from page 4, column 2)

Science Fiction Convention.

Two art exhibits were held in side rooms. One by Mel Hunter contained about 50 original paintings. This was the same exhibit that was held at the First Flying Saucer Convention a short while back in Hollywood. Two: a S-F art exhibit by Russell Swanson, some of the paintings here were for sale at fantastically high prices.

Sam Mines donated a prepublication copy of his anthology "The Best From Startling Stories" and offered to autograph the copy, and, if the best price came from a female, he would add a kiss. Both were collected by Phyllis Scott of New York when he \$8.50 bid took the book.

The New York Science Fiction Circle had 26 members present at the Con.

We asked our Mr. Science Fiction for a statement on the convention. His reply: "Asimov's Emceeing a Hi-Lite - of the Con."

COSMIC REPORTER

by Arthur Jean Cox

I'm told that the recent convention of Flying Saucers International in Hollywood was the biggest collection of crackpots to ever be assembled under one roof. My informant didn't say what he was doing there. He did say, however, that there were very few science-fiction fans in attendance; and added that they, by contrast with the rest of the assemblage, seemed the very expression of anity and bourgeois respectability. All the flying saucer maniacs had other interests on the side which they were promoting at the convention: They were food faddists, pyramidolo-

"FANTASY-TIMES"

% James V. Taurasi  
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gists, Atlanteans, dowzers, and astrologers, as well as metaphysicians and spiritualists of various kinds. One fellow got up and did bird imitations for half an hour.

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