

Vol. 17 - No. 10

SECOND MAY 1962 ISSUE

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GUINN PICKS SOL COHEN AS PUBLISHER OF OF "GALAXY" AND "IF"

NEW YORK, 14 June, (CNS) - Robert Guinn, owner of Galaxy Magazine and If, has appointed Sol Cohen as publisher of his two magazines. Sol started work as publisher on Monday, June 11. Plans are now in the works to expand the company both in science-fiction and other fields. This was something that Guinn could not do, as he has many interests other than the publishing of two science-fiction magazines. With the appointment of Sol Cohen as publisher, this leaves Guinn free to attend his other business.

In the works are possible monthly publication for either Galaxy or If, or both.

As many of you will remember, Sol is no stranger with science-fiction. He was editor of Avon's Science-Fiction And Fantasy in the early 50's, and also did some work on the science/fantasy paperbacks published by Avon. He started at Avon in 1949 and left them when Hearst

bought Avon in 1959. At that time he was Vice President and Circulation Director of Avon. From Avon he went to Hillman Books of which he was Publisher, and at the same time was Vice-President of their Hillman Periodicals, Inc.. He left Hillman in '61 when it was sold to MacFadden. From Hillman he went to Ace where he was Assistant to the Publisher, where he was until now.

We congratulate Bob Guinn in picking what we think is the right man as Publisher. The combination of two men, Sol Cohen as Publisher, and Fred Pohl as editor should bring Galaxy and If to the highest possible degree. Both men complement each other as far as science-fiction and magazine publishing go. It is an ideal combination.

We do not rule out the expansion of this company back into the paperback field, from which they resigned from a few years ago with Galaxy Novel. Sol, of course, knows this field real well.

STATE OF FANDOM

THE MARCH 1962 ESFA "OPEN MEETING" by Edmund Meskys

The March 1962 11th ESFA (Eastern Science Fiction Association) "Open Meeting" was a disappointment both to the committee and the audience. Much work had been done by the Director, Milt Spahn, to get a varied and entertaining roster of speakers and a few weeks before the meeting it looked like there would be such a surplus that all of them couldn't possibly be fitted into the time allotted. However, a few weeks before the Convention many of them begged off saying something else had come up and they could not make it, and many others simply failed to show up.

The audience was considerably smaller than at the previous annual "Open Meeting" for a number of reasons. First of all, ESFA didn't have the plug in the professional magazines that it had had the previous year, and it had considerably less publicity in the fan press. Then, the theme ("The Immortal Storm Revisited", or what happened to the earliest fans) had an appeal which was considerably less widespread than that of the year before --- Amazing's 35th Anniversary. Approximately about 75 attended.

Because of the late, or non-arrival of speakers, the meeting started extremely late. But eventually Milt Spahn called things to order about 2:30 P.M. said a few words, and introduced Sam Moskowitz.

Moskowitz gave a long and interesting talk (illustrated with slides) about the many accomplishments of the early fans, both when they were active and since then. Willis Conover spoke on the psychological reasons for becoming active in Fandom, Dr. Thomas S. Gardner spoke of the accomplishments of many fans in the world of science, and Leo Margulies reminisced about his early days as a professional and how he made the jump from Fandom to Prodom. He also spoke of his hopes to revive Weird Tales sometime in the future.

A few more old-time fans were introduced from the audience, and the meeting adjourned at about 4:30. P.M.

THE 6th ANNUAL LUNACON by Edmund Meskys

OUR THANKS to Ed Meskys for these 2 reports on recent local conventions of the N.Y.-N.J. areas. The Lunacon report, somewhat different, will also appear in a NAPA magazine, Free Radical, edited by Judi Beatty.

The 6th Annual Lunacon was held on Sunday, 29 April, 1962, at Adelphi Hall in Manhattan, New York. About a hundred persons attended.

Chairwoman Chris Moskowitz opened the convention at 1:30 P.M. and announced the lead program item: A panel on "What present day fan mags are contributing to science fiction". Moderated by Sam Moskowitz, the panel consisted of Terry Carr, publisher of Lighthouse; Jack Chalker, publisher of Mirage and the new Lovecraft checklist; James V. Taurasi, Sr., editor of Science-Fiction Times, and George Willick, publisher of Persection.

James V. Taurasi, Sr. was the first to speak and he pointed out that Science Fiction Times acted as the field's only "trade journal" and kept the field informed of what was going on. He deviated from the subject at hand and pointed out that today many of the "s-f" fan mags were not s-f fan mags at all and should not be classified as such. He pointed out that besides science-fiction he edits such amateur magazines as Tinplate which deals with "Ready-To-Run" toy trains, and Monster-Times which deals with the monster magazines, but which actually contains more science fantasy than some so-called "s-f" fan mags. Neither of these does he consider science-fiction, and while Monster-Times is somewhat allied to the field and advertised to science-fiction fans, Tinplate is not. Terry Carr said that fan mags provided the subrionic author with a receptive audience for almost any type of thing that he would write, and just writing is the best possible training an author can have. Thus fan mags make

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THE SCIENCE - FICTION PAPERBACK REPORT

by Frank R. Prieto, Jr.

SCIENCE/FANTASY PAPERBACKS OUT IN THE UNITED STATES DURING APRIL 1962:

TITLE AND AUTHOR	NUMBER	PRICE	PAGES	PUBLISHED BY
"Scavengers In Space" by Alan E. Nourse	D-541	35¢	158	Ace Single
"Un-Man And Other Novellas" by Poul Anderson, plus:			158	
"The Makeshift Rocket" by Poul Anderson	F-139	40¢	97	Ace Double
"The Castle Of Iron" by L. Sprague de Camp and Fletcher Pratt	F-722	40¢	159	Pyramid
"The Incomplete Enchanter" by L. Sprague de Camp & Fletcher Pratt	F-723	40¢	192	Pyramid (2nd printing)
"The Menace From Earth" by Robert A. Heinlein	D2105	50¢	189	Signet
"The Walker Through Walls" by Marcel Agne	F634	50¢	191	Berkley Medallion
"The Day The Earth Caught Fire" by Barry Wells	F602	50¢	154	Ballantine
"Hospital Station" by James White	F595	50¢	191	Ballantine
"The Super Barbarians" by John Brunner	D-547	35¢	160	Ace
"The Darkness Before Tomorrow" by Robert Moore Williams, and			118	
"The Ladder In The Sky" by Keith Woodcott	F-141	40¢	137	Ace Double
"Great Science Fiction By Scientists" Edited by Groff Conklin	AS218	95¢	313	Collier
"Three Martian Novels" by Edgar Rice Burroughs	T39	\$1.75	499	Dover

During the month of April 1962, 12 paperbacks came out, containing 2,716 pages and costing \$7.00

MOTION PICTURES, STAGE & TV

by Ken Beale

Review In Brief: The British stfilm The Day The Earth Caught Fire is the best of its type in a long while. Tense, exciting and witty, it tells its not-too-new tale of atomic catastrophe in a cleverly matter-of-fact manner. The setting, a large newspaper office, is just fresh enough to take the curse off the plot's familiarity.

Wolf Nankowitz script (reminiscent of John Wyndham) fairly crackles with clever dialog and neatly avoids cliches. Val Guest's direction moves the film along at express-train speed. An able cast, headed by Janet Munro (seen in several Disney films) is another asset.

This is an exceptionally mature and

well-done s-f movie, and one to keep firmly in mind when HUGO time comes around.

NEWS NOTES: Ray Bradbury and Francois Truffaut, the French "new wave" director, are planning a joint film venture. Truffaut, whose 400 Blows won an Academy Award, had been considering a film based on "Fahrenheit 451", but now seems interested in a multi-episode affair, taken from Bradbury's short stories..... Japan's Toho Productions has completed a massive saga of future atomic destruction, entitled The Final War.....Twilight Zone will not continue next fall as a weekly series; there are prospects instead for several hour-long "specials" by Rod Serling.....Mothra is a new Japanese film, in widescreen and color. It concerns a gigantic moth, and was directed by Ishiro Honda, who has done

several similar pictures. Columbia Pictures is releasing it here.....The Day of the Triffids, filmed in Spain by a British firm, is completed and awaiting release. Howard Keel and Nicole Maurey head the cast.....A shoestring outfit has made Grimm's Fairy Tales, not to be confused with the George Pal film of similar title.

THE 6th ANNUAL LUNACON

- continued from page 2, column 2 -

it easier for the would-be author to get in his practice writing for he knows that he is writing for someone other than himself, and the reader response is an approximate index of how successful he is in pleasing his audience. Jack Chalker spoke of fan mag fiction calling new talent to the attention of the pro mag editors and said that a conscientious fan editor who had exceptional material in a particular issue should make certain that copies did go to the professionals. Finally, George Willick said that fan mags served no useful purpose whatsoever as far as professional s-f was concerned, and took particular exception with what Chalker had said. Willick said that all new authors came out of the editor's "slush pile" and never did an editor go and seek one out on the basis of something he had seen in a fan mag. The panel had an opportunity to reply to the remarks of each other, but it never really got going on this phase. Each seemed satisfied to let his remarks stand pat and let it go at that. Sam then asked the professionals in the audience, Fred Pohl, Lester del Rey and Don Wollheim for any comments they had to make. Pohl declined, saying that he'd do so as part of his talk later in the program, del Rey said editing fan mags contributed nothing to editing pro mags because the fan editor gets his stuff free and is obligated to the writer while the pro pays for his stuff and is free to reject it or demand changes. To which Wollheim added that while this is true fan editors still get some experience editing fan mags.

Sam then summed up and brought the panel session to a close.

After a short intermission, Chris

Moskowitz presented a plaque to Fred Pohl, this year's Guest of Honor. Fred then spoke for about a half hour and touched on fan mags obeying Sturgeon's law so that some are quite good and worthwhile, of things coming up in Galaxy and If, and the fact that he is running for Coroner in Monmouth County, New Jersey.

Following this, another intermission was held at which time the Lunacon Free coffee and muffins were served and a small auction held.

After the intermission Sam Moskowitz gave a talk on the artwork of Virgil Finlay while Chris Moskowitz showed slides of representative samples. Much of this was unpublished artwork.

Finally, the program wound up with what was announced as a debate between Lester del Rey and Randall Garrett on "dowsing", but developed into one on the use of "magic" and of cliché gimmicks in s-f stories. Lester continuously pressed Randy on the matter of using "psi" as a crutch in writing stories and made the point that as a general rule limitations enhanced the literary quality of the thing written. Thus, in general, traditional poetry is superior to blank verse, which in turn is superior to free verse. He said that this applies to s-f also, and that in most superior examples of s-f were stories wherein the author set strict limits for himself on what is and is not possible. Garrett on the other hand defended the use of standardized clichés or gimmicks like "spacewarp" wherein the gimmick is just mentioned and not explained. "How many times should the reader have to go thru an explanation of bending thru the 4th dimension", he asked? Both agreed that E.E. Smith's "Inertialess Drive" was a superb way to get around the speed-of-light limit, and cursed the fact that it was regarded as his personal property which they couldn't touch.

While discussing PSI and other gimmicks they got onto the topic of the "laws of magic" (such as those recounted in the Harold Shea stories) and Randy said that one of the strongest and most universal was a prohibition of the use of eggs in any spells. Then he got considerable argument on this point from

Lester and the audience, he asked them if they hadn't ever heard the admonition "Never conjure chickens before they're hatched."

Garrett also complained that fans were beginning to get the "Kuttner Syndrome" as far as he was concerned and accusing every author of being one of his pseudonyms. He cited the just published Index to 1961 S-F Magazines, and the list of pseudonyms therein and vehemently denied being (among others) Darrel T. Langert, Joseph Tinker and Donald Westlake. He admitted that he wrote some crud himself (this admission was a minor miracle in itself) but denied writing anything nearly as bad as some of the stories attributed to him.

So ended what was perhaps the best Lunacon to date.

SCIENCE FICTION FORECASTS

Coming Up Next In The Pros

GALAXY MAGAZINE - October 1962

Serial (First of Two Parts): PLAGUE OF PYTHONS by Frederik Pohl. Novella: THE EARTHMAN'S BURDEN by Donal E. Westlake. Novelettes: THE BALLAD OF LOST C'MELL by Cordwainer Smith, and WHO DARES A BULBUR-EAT? by Gordon R. Dickson. Short Stories: COME TO MY CELLAR by Ray Bradbury, A CITY NEAR CENTAURUS by Bill Doede, HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS by Jim Harmon, ROBERTA by Margaret St. Clair, and BIMMIE SAYS by Sydney Van Scyoc. Science Feature: FOR YOUR INFORMATION by Willy Ley. Departments: THE BUSINESS OF BEING BAD by the Editor, and GALAXY'S FIVE STAR SHELF by Floyd C. Gale. Cover by VIRGIL FINLAY from "The Ballad of Lost C'Mell."

AMAZING STORIES -- August 1962

Novelets: GATEWAY TO STRANGENESS by Jack Vance, and ROGUE PSI by James H. Schmitz. Short Stories: PASSION PLAY by Roger Zealazny, and DEAR NAN GLANDERS by Beta McGavin. Serial (Part Two of Three Parts) A TRACE OF MEMORY by Keith Laumer. SF Profile: C.L. Moore: "Chatharine the Great" by Sam Moskowitz. Features: EDITORIAL, THROUGH TIME AND SPACE WITH BENEDICT BREADFRUIT: VI by Grandall Bar-

retton, THE SPECTROSCOPE, and ...OR SO YOU SAY. Cover by Alex Schomburg, illustrating "Gateway To Strangeness".

FANTASTIC -- August 1962

Novelet: THE TITAN (Fantasy Classic) by P. Schuyler Miller. Short Stories: SWORD OF FLOWERS by Larry M. Harris, BEHIND THE DOOR by Jack Sharkey, THE MYNAH MATTER by Lawrence Eisenberg, AND A TOOTH by Rosel George Brown, A DEVIL OF A DAY by Arthur Porges, CONTINUITY by Albert Teichner, and VICTIM OF THE YEAR by Robert F. Young. Short Short: HORSEMAN! by Roger Zeazny. Features: ACCORDING TO YOU, and EDITORIAL. Cover by Vernon Kramer illustrating "Sword of Flowers".

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WORLD CONVENTION

\$2 makes you a member, \$1 more if you attend. Convention to be held at PICK-CONGRESS HOTEL, Chicago, August 31, thru September 3, 1962. Send your membership to 20TH WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION P. O. Box 4864, Chicago 80, Ill., Make all checks, etc., out to George W. Price.

FAN MAGS

THE ORIGINAL SCIENCE FICTION STORIES has been taken over by Science-Fiction Times, Inc., and the first issue is now in production. WE NEED SCIENCE-FICTION STORIES on any theme of any length to publish this mag. No payments except issue it appeared in. Send all material to James V. Taurasi, Sr., 18-36 129th St., College Point 56, N.Y. 1st issue: 50¢.

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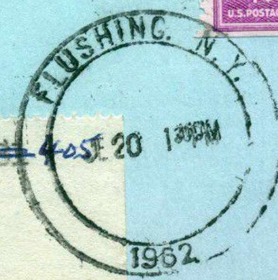
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