

SFCON

JUNE 1954

PROGRESS REPORT #3



On The SFC on

By Poul Anderson

Some kind friends have told me that the last Progress Report was outrageously padded. To such allegations, I can only reply while standing on my honor (and my feet too) that I am not now nor have I ever been...

Well, it was. Padded, that is. We had to fill out those pages with something, and at that stage there wasn't much to tell. Since then, Les Cole has returned from Salt Lake City, and after the initial shock of no longer being on an expense account, has gotten so much done that this time we may have trouble finding space. Equal credit, of course, goes to the other committee members, of whom more later. Leave us now get down to business.

Room reservations at the Drake are filling up quickly, so if you want one it would be best to make it soon. As said last time, these reservations should be made through the committee, but please do not send them money. You've nothing to lose by making a reservation, since if you find you can't attend after all it can be cancelled on short notice; and it will be a big help to the committee if this can be taken care of as fast as possible.

In answer to one or two requests,

the committee regrets that it cannot arrange for female roommates. Bring your own.

Banquet reservations may also be made now by mail. Again, do not send money, especially since the cost is still undetermined. It will not be over \$4, but we're hoping to get a price of \$3.50.

Tables and booths are available for fan clubs, publishers, etc. who want to have exhibits and sell some books and generally brighten up the hall. Tables are \$7.50 a day for pros, \$3.50 for fans; booths \$20 a day for both classes. If interested, please contact the committee.

The convention will, of course, have a program booklet, listing events and providing space which authors can autograph after they have run down a fan. It will have a color cover--the first such, as far as I know. Advertising is now being accepted for this booklet. Magazines and agents looking for publicity, fan clubs plugging for Rawlings, Wyoming, in 1955, individuals who wish to insert greetings, and all others are welcome. The printing method (photo offset) permits any kind of copy, including photographs, drawings, signatures, and whatever

else the law allows. Rates are as follows: professional organizations (magazines, book publishers, agents, etc.): \$35 a full page, \$20 a half page. Fans and fan organizations: \$18 a full page, \$10 a half page, \$2.50 for spots. All copy must be in by the 1st of August.

Some pros may consider it infamous that they should be charged more. They may point out that the legend that they sleep on mattresses stuffed with ten-dollar bills is not at all true--actually, of course, they keep their money in canvas bags. Great big ones. However, it is traditional to give the fan a break, and the pro can take it off his income tax.

The program has been developing apace. We can divide it up into five categories: music, art, cinema, auction, and speakers.

Music: as mentioned before, Turk Murphy's band will play for the masquerade. For part of the formal program, we're trying to arrange for Charles Hamm's thirty minute science fiction chamber opera based on Bradbury's "A Scent of Sarsaparilla." This will be, as far as we know, the first performance of a science fiction opera in this country. Hamm is a rising young American composer who has done operatic treatments of Jacobs' "The Monkey's Paw" and Thurber's "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," as well as symphonies and other forms. If we can line up a cast--and there is a good chance we can--this should be excellent and unusual entertainment.

Art: We are trying, with hopes of success, to get a special exhibition

during the week of the convention at the San Francisco Museum of Art, which will be of interest to fans; if this works out, there will be a special showing for convention people only. Transportation to and from the museum will be arranged.

Richfield Gasoline has lately been running some ads and billboards which are first-rate science fiction art: space stations, rocket ships, and so forth, carefully and plausibly done. They have kindly promised us the original paintings as exhibits.

Mel Hunter, cover artist for Fantasy and Science Fiction, has promised us some originals.

We have been writing to other artists, including Bonestell, Orban, and Kelly Freas, but nothing definite has been learned yet. We have hopes.

Cinema: George Pal has promised us The Conquest of Space if it is ready in time. It may very possibly be the original, uncut version, with sneak preview reaction cards passed out, which should make it an especially interesting show. To anyone who has seen Destination Moon (is there anyone who hasn't? If so, speak now or forever hold your peace), Pal's name is recommendation enough.

A-Man Productions (Carlson, Siodmak, Tora) is trying to get us a couple of films.

We're waiting to hear what our chances are for Arch Oboler's version of The Twonky, which has already been filmed but not yet released. We've also contacted Disney about 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, as well as other studios, but nothing is yet

certain.

It looks very much as if the convention will be up to its ears in science fiction films. (In fact, we are thinking of retitling it The 12th World Science Fiction Film Festival. --Editor)

Auction: The usual auction of original artwork and other items of interest will take place, but rather than use program time for it, we're thinking of having the pieces on exhibit with nearby sheets of paper on which bids may be written. This should be a welcome change.

Speakers: A sudden avalanche of outstanding figures has descended upon us. Some of them have never appeared at a convention before, others are well known as interesting personalities with a lot to say. John W. Campbell, Jr., and Jack Williamson will of course lead off as guests of honor. We also have arrangements for Forrest J. (4sj) Ackerman, Robert (Cloak) Bloch, Anthony (St. Aquin) Boucher, R. (Gnurrs) Bretnor, Mark (Witch) Clifton, Miriam Allen (Morgan's Grave) deFord, Dave (Man) Dryfoos, Martin (Gnome) Greenberg, Chad (Of Course) Oliver, E. E. (Lensman) Smith, Margaret (Jick and Oona) St. Clair, Theodore (More Than Human) Sturgeon, and A.E. (Slan) van Vogt.

They all had twistable arms. Also promising to attend but probably not to speak are, as of now, Philip K. (Defenders) Dick, Gordon R. (Black Charlie) Dickson, Kris (Worship Night) Neville, Oliver (Sitting Duck) Saari, and Clifford D. (City) Simak. Oh, yes, me too.

Besides these, there will be more notables than you can shake a stick

at (though why anyone should wish to shake a stick at an unoffending notable is more than I can imagine), some of whom will doubtless also be on the program; but we can't give any definite word on this yet.

With such abundance, we expect to be able to follow a suggestion of John W. Campbell's and, at times, have more than one program going on simultaneously; the sideshows will, we believe, include some specially organized bull sessions, where a moderator simply gets the ball rolling and lets you take it from there. In general, our aim is to provide something for everybody who attends.

It should be added that if anyone has pictures or other items for sale or exhibit, wishes to offer his talents for the program, or has any suggestions at all, the committee would very much appreciate hearing from him.

Maybe it's about time you got acquainted with this mysterious committee. So far they may have seemed rather faceless. This is a mistaken impression. They all have faces.

The Official Brains: Les Cole, a large cheerful chemist, ex-chairman of the Elves', Gnomes', and Little Men's Science Fiction, Chowder and Marching Society, Leads off, having so far raised the prize crop of gray hairs. Es Cole, his wife, makes the best cheese cake in Contra Costa County (and without which Committee Meetings could never have taken place) and doubles as Secretary-Treasurer of the convention. Gary Nelson, an ex-vice chairman of the Little Men, operates on a twenty-five hour day between his studies

and his post as editor and cover artist of this bulletin. He's the guy who slashes out all my best lines. George Finigan, ex-secretary and ex-chairman of the Little Men (which seems to have an undue representation of former officials), has long been active in fan circles.

Masquerade: Tom Quinn, sometime editor of the late and much lamented Rhodogmagnetic Digest, arranges for the comfort of all bug-eyed monsters and Bergey Girls. Especially Bergey girls.

Advertisements and general publicity: Dave Koblish, past editor of The California Engineer, a campus publication with nation-wide circulation, handles this. Incidentally, we expect to get a lot of it--favorable, for a change.

Fan Publicity: Karen Anderson, a wife whom I picked up somewhere along the way, gets out news releases to fan publishers. If she hasn't got you on her list, please let us know, because you will be missed.

World Book Display: Ben Stark, present chairman of the Little Men, is handling this. You will see sam-

ples of books and magazines from all over the world. Read Dutch? We have a copy of "1984" just for you. Or would you prefer "The Four Sided Triangle" in Spanish?

General Idea Men: Anthony Boucher, well-known writer of mysteries, fantasy, and science-fiction, book reviewer, active in politics, and co-editor of The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction, is a valuable asset even if he does have to get H. H. Holmes to help out now and then. R. Bretnor, whose talents were once used extensively in psychological warfare, is now a free-lance writer whose fine stories range in content from slapstick humor to serious and important (though who could deny importance to Papa Schimmelhorn--least of all Papa himself?); he appears in every type of magazine from slicks to literary quarterlies. I come around whenever possible....Les usually has beer on hand. Others contribute occasionally.

Privileged Nuisances: Dana and Lance Cole.

You have now met us. We hope to meet you.

SPECIAL PRE-PRESS ITEMS

We are informed that in San Francisco the hotels have their own system for room designation; for instance, a double means a room with twin beds. So when you make your reservations with us, please be sure to specify twin, single, or double beds.

Special thanks here are expressed to Universal-International Studios for their cooperation with respect to this Convention. UI nearly had ready the Raymond F. Jones story, "This Island Earth." They've rearranged their cutting schedule in order to get the picture to us on time.

223. Irene D. Osborne
224. Richard Frey, Jr.
225. Ian T. Macauley
226. Gray Barker
227. Paul Akin
228. Robert Boldt
229. Margaret S. Brown
230. Jerome Lyon
231. Frank Evets
232. George McLain
233. W. L. Ross, M.D.
234. Wm. L. Hamling
235. Frances Hamling
236. Ralph Rayburn Phillips
237. Marvin Usevich
238. Reg Bretnor
239. Ens. Bruce W. Hapke
240. Ford G. Kelley
241. Wanita Norris
242. W. H. Hardy
243. Krehe Ritter
244. Emma Johnson
245. G. M. Feigen, M.D.
246. Sheila Feigen
247. W. R. Cole
248. Stanley E. Cahn
249. Donald B. Day
250. Dave Van Arnam
251. Hazel B. Hammett
252. Bette Schirmer
253. Marjorie Gonzales
254. J. Ben Stark
255. John W. Campbell, Jr.
256. Jack Williamson
257. Clifford "O" Coffman
258. Clifton Ansbury
259. Todd Stewart
260. Robert A. Madle
261. Martin Klein
262. John Borchert
263. Wilkie Conner
264. Ernest Haynes
265. Ned Reece
266. Robert Schroder
267. Ismael House
268. Alastair Cameron
269. Merkin Beige
270. Bill Bumgardner
271. Jean Murlin
272. John C. Trimble
273. Lester Anderson
274. James M. Harper
275. R. S. Brown
276. J. A. Smith
277. Edward E. Bielfeldt
278. Felicia Allen
279. Martin Greenberg
280. Thomas Quinn
281. William White
282. Bill Courval, Jr.
283. Jay Johnson
284. A. M. Shaffer
285. Homer A. Page, Jr.
286. Irving Teitelbaum
287. Anita Shelasky
288. Lee Wilkinson
289. And Friend
290. Rick Sneary
291. Hans Stefan Santesson
292. Don Stovall
293. Joe Christopher
294. Muriel Simpson
295. Charles Lear
296. Edward L. Zimmerman
297. G. H. Stephens
298. James Blish
299. David McFeely
300. Maurice Powell
301. Robert Durden
302. Mrs. S. T. Hersh
303. George L. Hersh
304. Rosalie Anderson
305. H. C. Stubbs
306. Jim Sanford
307. Emil Petaja
308. Sydney Rawson
309. Louise Palmer
310. Vincent Marshall
311. Joe Gally
312. Dave Ossman
313. Bill Mosleigh
314. Clara A. Rasmusson
315. J. Holtel
316. Frances Cloud
317. Suzanne R. Young
318. James A. Young
319. Philip K. Dick
320. Mrs. Philip K. Dick
321. Virginia Gibson
322. Mrs. John H. Madison

Con-Notes

Through the courtesy and kindness of Mr. George Herish and his mother, Mrs. S. T. Herish, we can make a special offer for a couple of lucky fans--lucky, because this offer makes it possible for them to attend the SFCon.

Here is the information: Mr. Herish lives in Oakland, just across the Bay from San Francisco. He will provide quarters for two people during the time of the con, will provide transportation to and from, and will provide breakfast, all gratis.

So if your attendance at the convention was perhaps questionable because of money problems while in San Francisco, here's a solution for two of you. We're asking you to play fair on this deal. We'd like to hear only from those of you who won't be able to come because you couldn't otherwise afford it. The Herish home will be open to anyone: fellas, gals, married couples, dogs, and Martians in units of two and preferably of the same sex and please don't anyone point that out about married couples because the sentence was hard enough to construct as it was.

Write to us and let us know what the circumstances are. We'll pass your letters on to Mr. Herish; the two chosen will be notified on or before July 15.

What about car pools? Those of you who are driving across country and

want riders, notify us. Those of you who are hoping to get rides, notify us. We'll put the information together and perhaps come up with transportation for you or someone to share your expenses.

Feeling altruistic today? Want to help? For those of you who are arriving early, there will be details that you can help with. Again, please inform us so that we can set up a file.

You'll not want to miss the masquerade; even more, you'll want to appear in costume. We have a reason for making such a dogmatic statement, and the reason can be summed up in one word: Faraco. Faraco happens to be the name of a local artist. He's sold to some of the magazines, is known to friends as "the poor man's Bonestell," and does magnificent work in oils. (Those of you who attended Chicago in 1952 and saw his work there need not be reminded of how good it actually is!) In any event, the three best costumes at the masquerade will take home one of Faraco's oils--and they have to be seen to be appreciated. Anyone is eligible to grab one of these prizes except--blast--members of the Convention Committee.

In summary then: get your hotel reservations in; get your banquet reservations in; if you want time, tell us; if you're driving or want a ride, tell us. We can't work without you!

FAN ·



TIMES

CLEVE-CON BY TERRANS "THE BEST" REPORT FANS

[The body of the newspaper contains several columns of horizontal lines representing text.]

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CLEVELAND #55