

CONCAVE 14

UPPERSOUTHCLAVE XXIII



FEBRUARY 26-28, 1993
PARK CITY, KENTUCKY

GRUMBLES FROM THE CAVE

Here we are again at another edition of Concave. Our convention has now outlasted three US presidents, two economic recessions, one war, and New World Order (whatever that is). On thing that we hope hasn't changed much is Concave. Our philosophy in running this convention is to look back at the beginnings of science fiction fandom, providing a free and unstructured weekend of relaxation and meeting between friends who share an interest in SF. Do not expect planned activities beyond those included in the printed schedule. The Concave staff will provide the playground, you must decide how to use it. While our limitations of space and equipment may not allow us to accommodate everyone, the recurring success of Concave, and its continuing growth seems to indicate that we are on the right track.

One thing about Concave will change this year. In response to numerous complaints, we will be designation the Barn Room as a NO SMOKING area. Since we often experience gridlock in the consuite, we have expended it into the Patio Room across the hall. Smoking will be permitted in the Patio Room. Since adequate room for the Art Auction has been a severe problem in the last couple of years, we will be setting up the auction in the Barn Room. While this will interrupt the festivities for a couple of hours, it will allow for a larger audience. We ask your indulgence while we rearrange the the auction.

At Concave we don't have many rules and a horde wearing radios to enforce them. There are, however, a few we insist on following. The first isn't really ours, it belongs tot he Commonwealth of Kentucky. The legal drinking age here is 21. You will be asked for ID at registration and wherever alcohol is being served. To avoid problems, wear your convention badge in public areas of the hotel. All drinks removed from the consuite, will be poured into cups. The volunteers serving you ARE THE BOSS. If you are refused service you are doing something wrong. If you have a problem with that, come to me. Do not wear weapons or imitations at Concave. If you have weapons or toys, please confine them to your room. Please heed all posted rules of the hotel--the watchman is an Edmonson County deputy sheriff. Unruly behavior can be rewarded with a visit to the county jail. Also, there is the continuing question of noise. Just because we are all fans here doesn't mean that your neighbor isn't trying to sleep. As a last resort, we reserve the right to eject disruptive elements from Concave. Finally, when you leave do it sober or designate a driver. We will help anyone who requests it.

There are some perennial activities which may be of interest. First, the annual tour of Wigwam Village and the Cave Aren backroads will once again be led by Rickey Sheppard. The tour leaves from the hotel lobby around 11:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. This may be your only chance to see such wonders as the Jolly Hotel & Funeral Parlor and the Cave City Convention Center & Cow Pasture, and it's a great way to work up an appetite for the afternoon banquet. What's this about a banquet, you ask? Once again the hedonistic Concave banquet will begin at 1:00 p.m. Saturday. At only \$10.00 for all you can eat, tickets for this exceptional value are selling fast. Seating is limited, so buy early and often. The pool will again be open for the duration except for maintenance periods in the morning. Just remember that the pool is a public area, and refrain from doing anything you wouldn't want to show up on the video program.

Gary R. Robe

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- 12:00 NOON Registration opens--Hotel Lobby
- Consuite Opens--Barn Room, Patio Room¹
- Huxter Room setup-- Blue Room
- Art Show setup--Room 134, 136
- 5:00 p.m. Huxter Room, Art Show, and Gaming Rooms (234-236),
 and Video Room (266) open²
- 7:00 p.m. Opening Ceremonies--Patio Room

1 The Barn Room is a NON SMOKING area. The Patio Room is for SMOKING

2 The Huxter, Art, and Gaming Rooms have no set closing times. They will close when those in charge get tired of running them.

****NOTE**** There will be room parties! Look for announcements.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- 10:00 a.m. Registration, Art, Huxter, and Gaming Rooms reopen.
- 11:00 a.m. The Wigwam Village tour forms in the hotel lobby.
- 12:30 p.m. Registration desk closes.
- 1:00 p.m. Buffet--Hotel dining room. \$10.00 per person
- 7:00 p.m. Art Show closes for bidding.
- 8:00 p.m. Art Auction--Barn Room

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 10:00 a.m. Art show checkout: No sales after 11:00.
 Huxter Room opens
 Kentucky Fried Fandom Meetings--Room 266
- 10:30 a.m. UpperSouthClave Business and Site Selection Meeting--Room 266
- 12:00 NOON Hotel checkout. Gaming Rooms close
- ??:?? p.m. Huxter Room closes. Dead Dog Party for the survivors.

OUR GUEST OF HONOR

MARGARET A. KEIFER

Margaret admits that she is what Bbob Tucker calls a fake fan. She reads very little Science Fiction and doesn't collect it. Ironically, she does have two large collections of Science Fiction and Fantasy, but she came by these very honestly. During the Second World War Margaret married Donald B. Ford, who was then in the Army, but it wasn't until after the war was over and Don returned home that she discovered his two passions. Science Fiction and Science Fiction Fandom, and all that entailed: reading, collecting, corresponding, joining clubs, conventions, etc. You name it, and Don was into it. His other passion was photography, mostly colored slides, but later he got into 3-D or stereo photography. Of these two passions Margaret selected photography, colored photos, not slides. No matter where she goes, be it a Con, family, church, or school functions, her trusty camera is loaded and ready to go.

Just before the end of World War II Margaret gave birth to a daughter, Terri-Ann. Later she had two sons, James and John. Terri is now a nurse and married to Michael with two children, Jason and Heather. James served a hitch in Viet Nam with the SEABEES and is now a builder of quality homes in the northeastern Cincinnati area. He and his wife Cindy have a son, Jay. John is single and is a registered geologist living and working in California. If you ask her politely, she will be most willing to show you the latest photos of her grand-kids.

I first met Don and Margaret in July 1948 when they attended TORCON, the 6th World Science Fiction Convention in Toronto. This was their first convention and Don entered into the proceedings whole heartedly. While Margaret spent some time at the convention, she spent most of her time amusing and entertaining their young daughter.

As no one entered a bid for the 1949 Worldcon, there was much discussion in smoke filled rooms to find a site for the convention. Finally after a long distance call to Cincinnati, it was decided that the Cincinnati Fantasy Group would host the 1949 Worldcon, which was soon dubbed the CINVENTION. Charlie Tanner, an early science fiction author was chairman, and Don Ford became Secretary. The 1949 Worldcon was a huge success, due mostly to the hard work put into it by Don and those that helped him. I have very fond memories of the CINVENTION as one of the most enjoyable conventions that I have ever attended, be it Science Fiction or otherwise.

The success of the CINVENTION was something of a catalyst for the Cincinnati Fantasy Group, and they decided to organize a regional convention. In the spring of 1950 the first of a long line of Relaxacons, called MIDWESTCON, was held in the offices of Dr. Charles Barrett's[®] medical practice in Bellfontaine Ohio. The 1951 and 1952 cons were held at a summer resort just outside of Bellfontaine, at Indian Lake called "Beatty's on the Lake": to the fannish types it became "Beatty's on the Bayou". The next two years it was held in Bellfontaine using local hotels and motels. In 1955 Midwestcon was moved to Cincinnati and for the next few years it was held at the North Plaza Motel in Reading. All of these early cons were organized and put together by Don, with the help of many others. They were quite successful and immensely enjoyable. It was one of the few cons about in those early days. Today, of course, they are common across North America and beyond.

She often wondered about the time and effort that went into MIDWESTCON, but in retrospect she probably fondly remembers the wonderful time that most of them were. As of 1992 there have been 43 MIDWESTCONS, and only Margaret and Howard Devore** of Detroit have attended all of them.

Sometime late in the 1950's some of the older C. F. G. members and attendees of MIDWESTCON decided to organize a Science Fiction Old Timers Group, which has evolved into First Fandom. I'm not sure whose idea it was, but I suspect that Doc Barrett and Don Ford were in the thick of it. Anyhow, as Margaret was right in the middle of the nucleus she, of course, became a charter member of First Fandom.

In late 1959 Don Ford was selected as the TAFF delegate to the 1960 EASTERCON in England. It was a howling success which he enjoyed greatly and made many lasting friendships. He wrote a report on his trip and at the PITTTCON, the 1960 Worldcon in Pittsburgh, he gave slide show of his trip which was most enjoyable.

Don Ford died of cancer in 1965 and Margaret was a widow until late 1969 or early 1970 when she decided to remarry. She, of course, married another fan, Benjamin F. Keifer, of Columbus, Ohio. Ben was a keen collector of books of all types, especially science fiction and fantasy. He was also very much interested in chamber music and had a very large collection of long playing records. He was a member of 3 or 4 recording societies, specializing in chamber music. He was also a very accomplished cook who loved to prepare food and entertain. Ben died of a heart condition the mid-seventies.

Margaret is a very active lady. She holds a full time position as a secretary at the Loveland Elementary School, and is a member and executive of the Loveland Historical Society. She is also a volunteer with the well known Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, and finds time to help at the gift tables for the Cincinnati Ballet Company, especially at Christmas time when the Ballet puts on its annual production of The Nutcracker. The 1991-92 seasons have been particularly poignant as Margaret's granddaughter, Heather, has been a member of the Company. Margaret can always find time to look after her grandkids and also entertain other children as well. While science fiction is not a big interest, she does enjoy reading, acquiring inexpensive paperbacks at garage sales, and using the library. She also makes use of books on audio cassette, particularly on long drives in her car. Like I said in the beginning, Margaret is not a big fan of science fiction, but I think you could say she is a big fan of science fiction fandom.

—JOHN MILLARD

* Doc Barrett was GoH at Conclave 8 in 1985.

** Howard Devore was GoH at Conclave 11 in 1990



GROWING PAINS

As Concave grows, we have begun to feel the limitations of the Park Mammoth Resort. This year the hotel sold out on February 3, and there is a waiting list of people looking for rooms. If you can do anything to free hotel space, we appreciate it. While this growth is gratifying to those of us trying to put on a good show, there are some problems the increased attendance brings. First, with the large number of attendees expected, we will be needing extra help in the consuite, art show, art auction, and game rooms. Please don't be shy about volunteering to help. You might even find out that it's fun. Second, with all of the people here, it is especially important to remember courtesy. While all of the rooms in the hotel will be occupied by fans, please remember that a DO NOT DISTURB sign is probably not an invitation to make noise in the hallways. If you have a noise complaint, please call the Barn Room, and our staff will try to deal with the problem. We certainly hope that you enjoy Concave enough to return. If something could be improved, please bring it to my attention. I will be somewhere in the hotel or in room 257 if needed.

CHARITY ART AUCTION

For the past three years, the artists attending Concave have generously donated "doodles" which have both enlivened the art auction, and have helped some worthy causes. Concave matches the funds raised by the charity auction. Last year the charity auction raised \$150, so it was my pleasure to give George Alec Effinger a check for \$300 at Magicon. It made his day, and George asked me to thank all of you who helped. This year the proceeds will be donated to the J. J. Johnson Memorial Scholarship fund. With bids starting at 5 cents, nobody needs to go home without some art in their pocket!

ABOUT THE COVER

This year's Concave program book cover was done by Kingsport artist Gary M. Williams. I asked Gary to incorporate elements from Terry Bisson's Hugo Award winning short story *Bears Discover Fire*. To my knowledge this is the first Hugo winning story set in this area, so it seemed appropriate that Concave recognize our inclusion of the SF map. Once the bears went in, it seemed right to include Wigwam Village, and for the Concave cave girl to appear as an indian princess. I'd like to thank Gary for one of the best covers we've had.

A Fan's Guide to the Cave Area

FOOD: The Park Mammoth Resort (PMR) restaurant is one of the features that keeps us returning year after year. The restaurant offers excellent home style cooking and their justly famous fresh cinnamon rolls. If you want to explore, turn left on 31-W, drive 6 miles to KY 90 in Cave City, and turn left. You are now in fast food heaven. If you are looking for something fancier, Bowling Green offers many fine restaurants with a 30 minute drive. Ask the con staff for recommendations and directions.

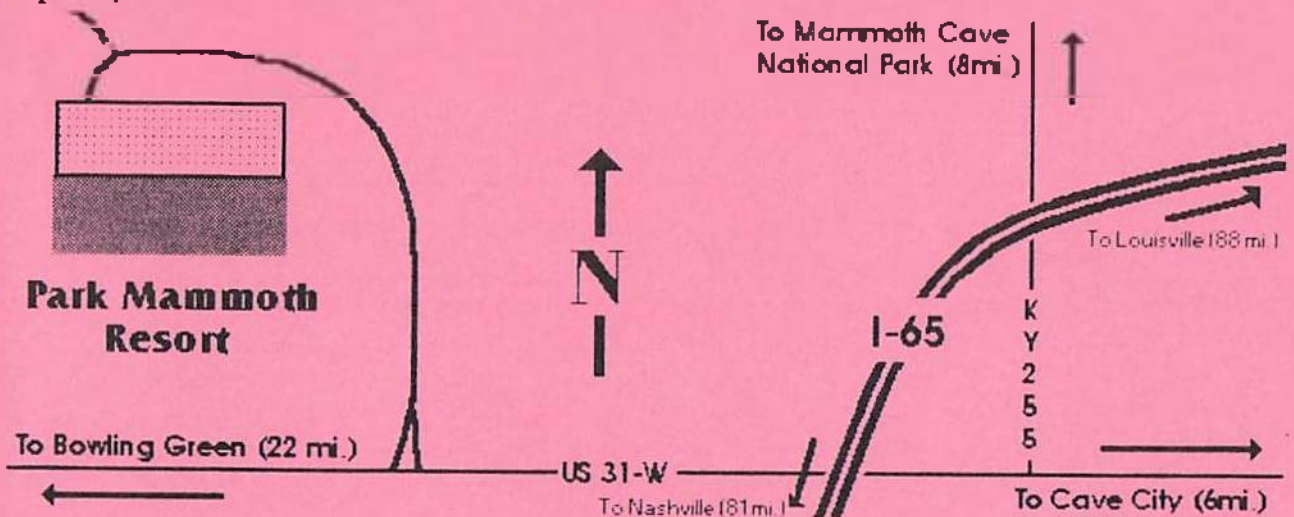
DHRINK: If you need something that's not in the Consuite, you will discover that you are in a dry desert, and the nearest oasis is in Bowling Green. To find relief, turn right in 31-W at the PMR entrance. Go until you find civilization i.e. liquor stores. A suspicious soul might say such strategically located stores exist only to serve the outlying dry areas.

CASH: There is a QUEST machine at the South Central Bank in Park City. Turn left at the PMR entrance and drive about 1 mile. For other bank cards, try the Greenwood Mall area at Exit 22 in Bowling Green.

GASOLINE: There are two gas stations at on KY 255 in Park City. For other flavors, go to Cave City as described in the food section above.

CAVE TOURS: Mammoth Cave National Park is located about 8 miles from PMR on KY 255. The way is well marked. The registration table, or the hotel from desk will have a tour schedule available. The cave is a major tourist attraction, and the tours sell out often. Plan to get to the Visitor's Center at least two hours before your tour departs.

THE RESORT: PMR has many unusual features for a SF con hotel. The front desk can equip you for the saunas, billiard tables, or miniature golf. The riding stables are open. Follow your nose to find them. The mini-train is not running, but walking the 1.5 mile track is a favorite Concave tradition in good weather. Along the track you will pass two cave entrances. Other favorite outdoor activities are the Lookout Point and the Tilt House. Any feeling that Ken Moore swiped this design for his kitchen is purely coincidental.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE CONCAVE 14 COMMITTEE:

ANNETTE CARRICO-- *Consulte Commander*
STEVE FRANCIS-- *Huxter Room Honcho*
CORLIS ROBE-- *Registration Regent*
DOMINIC ROBE-- *Distraction General*
GARY ROBE-- *Scapegoat Supreme*
RICKEY SHEPPARD-- *Night Navigator*

THANKS THESE FRIENDS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS:

SUE FRANCIS-- *Consulte 1st Officer*
JOHN HANS-- *Game Room*
JOHN YOUNG-- *Game Room*
GARY WILLIAMS-- *Art Show*

MARY MARTIN-- *Grandmother GoH*
PATTY TEAGUE-- *Game Room*
JOHN MILLARD-- *GoH Blo*
LIZ WILLIAMS-- *Art Show*

And the perrenial elevator committee: You know who you are.

AND SOME OF THE FEN WHO ~~WERE DRAFTED~~ VOLUNTEERED

Pat Molloy	Naomi Fisher	Jeff Lockridge	Kim Lockrigde
Rick Daugherty	Sue Daugherty	Alan Clark	Bill Cavin
Dick Spelman	Kenny Reasoner	John Hollis	Ken Moore
Bob Embler	Jim Woosley	Jann Melton	Mark Linneman
Tim Young	Bart Spikeberg	Mike Lalor	Tony Ubelhor
Vance Martin	Jane Dennis	Scott Dennis	Mary Baker

AND TWELVE YEARS OF INDULGENCE AND GLUTTONY FOR
PUNISHMENT FROM THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF

PARK MAMMOTH RESORT