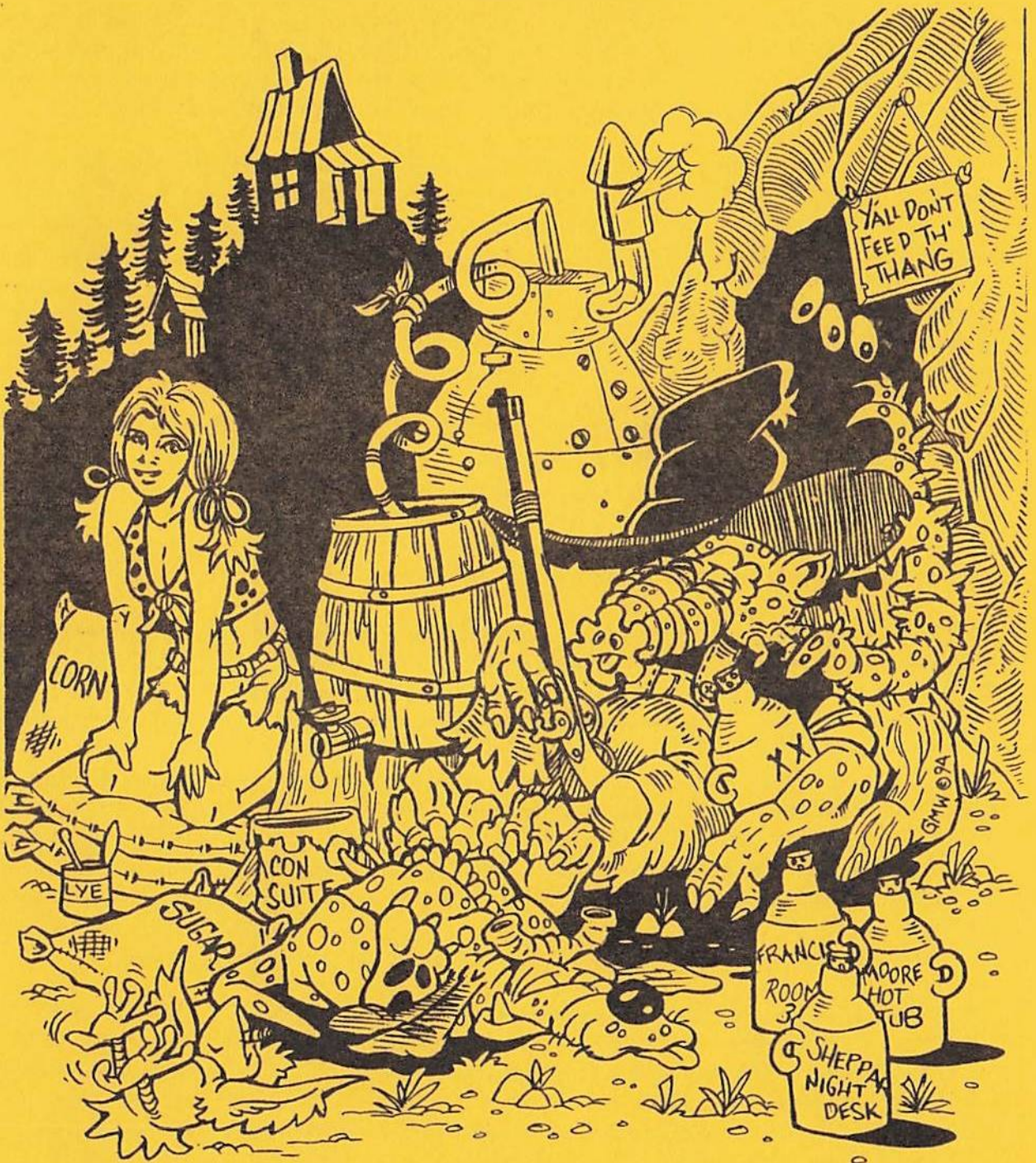


CONCAVE 15

UPPERSOUTHCLAVE XXIV



FEBRUARY 25-28, 1994
PARK CITY, KENTUCKY

GRUMBLES FROM THE CAVE

Once again Concave has snuck up on me, and I'm sitting here two weeks out doing the program book. Being the father of two and holding down a job requiring 40,000 miles of travel a year has not made running Concave any easier. I hope my distractions do not detract from your enjoyment. We must be doing things right, because the hotel was sold out by Feb. 1. That's a first. I know some people have not gotten rooms in the PMR. All I can say is that the hotel will take reservations next year starting on Sunday. Although we've reached the limits of this facility, I can't imagine Concave without the Park Mammoth Resort.

If this is your first Concave, we are proud of our continued effort to run a convention like they did in the good old days. This means an unstructured weekend of relaxation and meeting between SF fans. There are no planned activities beyond what's in the schedule, or any guest SF pros. The Concave staff will provide the playground, you must decide how to use it. Our space, equipment, and staff is limited, so we won't be able to accommodate everyone. Let us know, however, if there's something we could be going better. If you have problems with the Concave staff or the Park Mammoth Resort, let us know immediately. A problem is much easier to fix while it's happening than after the weekend is over.

Due to the overwhelming positive response to our changes in the consuite last year, the **Barn Room** will remain a **No Smoking** area. The **Patio Room** will serve as the overflow consuite and **Smoking Area**. We will be having the art auction in the Barn Room on Saturday night. Please indulge us while we rearrange the furniture. Of course, if you want to help us set up, you won't be turned away. For those thirsty folks exiled during the auction, we will continue service through the side door of the Barn Room kitchen.

Concave has few rules, and no horde of radio bearing enforcers. There are, however, a few we insist on following. The minimum legal drinking age in Kentucky is 21. You will be asked for ID at registration and wherever alcohol is served. Wear your badge so it can be seen while you're here. All drinks taken outside the consuite should 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 Co deputy sheriff. Unruly behavior can land you in the county jail. There is no soundproofing on the guest room doors. Take note of Do Not Disturb signs, and make an effort to reduce noise where people ask for quiet. 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 is incapable of driving.

There are some perennial activities at Concave which may be of interest. First is the tour of Wigwam Village and the Cave Area backroads led by Rickey Sheppard. The tour leaves from the hotel lobby at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. This may be your only chance to see such wonders as the Jolly Motel & Funeral Parlor, and the Cave City Convention Center and Cow Pasture. It's also a great way to work up an appetite for the banquet. Did someone mention a banquet? Funny you should ask. Once again the act of gluttony known as the Concave Banquet will begin Saturday at 1:00 p.m. At only \$10.00 per head tickets for this great value are selling fast. Seating is limited, so buy early and often. The pool will again be open for the duration except for early morning maintenance periods. Remember that the pool is a public area, and anything you do there could show up on the video program! Go and enjoy!

Gary R. Robb

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 25

NOON Registration opens—Hotel lobby
Consuite opens—Barn Room, Patio Room¹
Huxter Room setup--Blue Room
Art Show setup-- Room 134, 136

4:00 PM Video Program begins, room 266

5:00 PM Huxter Room, Art Show, and Gaming Rooms (234-236) open.²

7:00 PM Opening Ceremonies—Patio Room

¹ The Barn Room is a NO SMOKING area, and Patio Room is for SMOKING.

² The opening times for these functions are approximate, and depend on the speed of the setup. Volunteers are always welcome. These functions also have no set closing time. They close when those in charge of them get tired of running them.

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

10:00 AM Registration, Art, Huxter, and Gaming Rooms reopen.

11:00 AM The Wigwam Village Tour forms in the hotel lobby.

12:30 PM Registration desk closes. Late registration in the Barn Room.

1:00 PM Buffet--Hotel dining room. \$10.00 per person

7:00 PM Art Show closes for bidding

8:00 PM Art Auction--Barn Room

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

10:00 AM Art Show checkout: No sales after 11:00 AM.

Huxter Room reopens

Kentucky Fried Fandom meeting--Room 266

10:30 AM UpperSouthClave Business and Site Selection Meeting--Room 266.

NOON Hotel checkout. Gaming room closes

??:?? PM Huxter room closes. Dead dog party for the survivors. Volunteers working on teardown will be rewarded with a Pizza supper on Concave's tab.

AN ODE TO BEN JASON

by Roger Sims and Howard Devore

I do not remember when I met Ben. It may be that he was always there. After all he's 12 years older than I am. I do know that he is a full member of First Fandom whereas I am only an associate member. Well, we all can't be as perfect as Ben.

My earliest recollection of Ben Jason was at an Octocon. Not the one now sponsored by the Cincinnati Fan Group. This one was put on by Nick Falasca and Ben at Nick's home in Parma, Ohio. Their Octocon was a short lived one lasting from 1956 to 1959. It made up in quality for what it lacked in quantity because Ben was always able to convince quality fans to attend from as far away as Chicago, Cincinnati, and Detroit. It was a great con with much talking and good pasta from Noreen. The reason for the con was to keep the spirit of Clevention, the 1955 Worldcon in Cleveland alive.

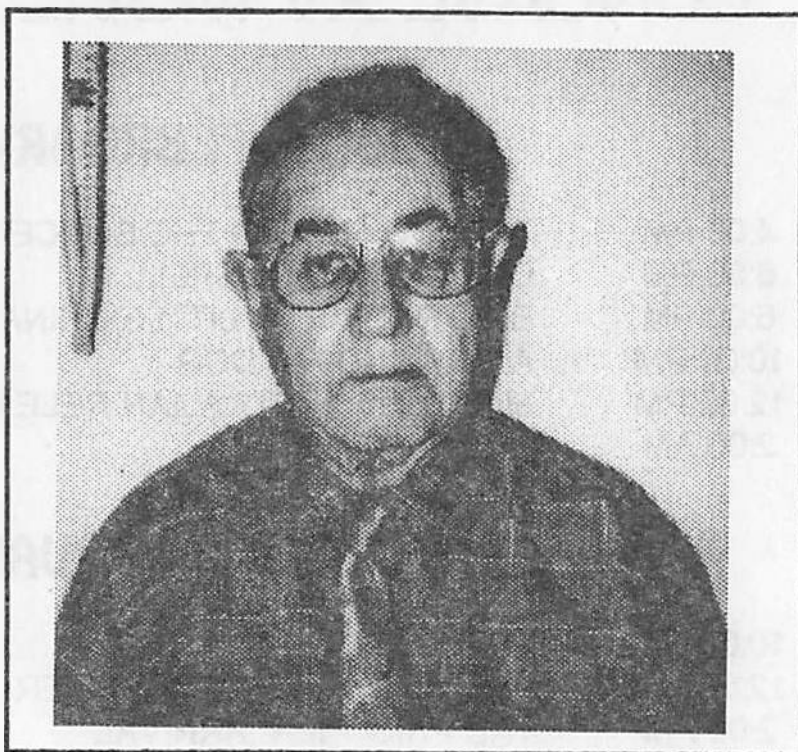
Ben was the treasurer of the Clevention. A reliable source claims that during his attendance at one of the panels, Ben removed his suit coat and laid it on the back of his chair. When he removed it he did not notice that all the collected receipts from the con were no longer in his pocket. Several hours later he realized the receipts were missing. Agonizing over what to do while walking back to the room, he remembered that he had \$20 in his wallet to buy a bus ticket out of town if the receipts were no longer on the floor. Fortunately they were, so the bus ticket was not purchased.

This meant he was still in Cleveland in the sixties. This is significant because around 1960 several voices in Detroit fandom, one of them being the always reliable Howard Devore were making noises about bidding for the 1966 Worldcon. Ben was also thinking of doing the same. When Ben heard about the Detroit bid, he called Howard DeVore and out of this conversation TRICON was born to be held in Cleveland. The tri of TRICON became Ben Jason, Howard DeVore, and Don Ford. At Don's untimely death Lou Tabakow was added to keep the leadership at three.

Up to this point I've told the reader about Ben's hands on connection with two Worldcons. For his other great accomplishments I refer to Harry Warner's *A Wealth of Fable*. Harry states that beginning with Clevention and continuing through 1959 that most of the physical trophies presented to the Hugo winners were the creation of Ben Jason. He did everything from pattern-making through casting, plating, engraving, and shipping. Harry also tells of someone from the Cleveland Science Fantasy League finding a young man inspecting science fiction books in a downtown Cleveland bookshop. Fannish history does not record that the bookseller was Ben, but it does record that the customer was Harlan Ellison. This was Harlan's first recorded appearance in science fiction fandom.

There were plenty of memorable moments at that 1966 Worldcon. It is somewhat

fondly looked back upon as the last of the little Worldcon. The next year, the face of fandom changed. Of course, Ben had a hand in ~~starting~~ beginning this change. It seems that this unknown TV producer called Ben several times and begged to have the pilot episodes of his new SF TV series shown at TRICON. Ben found room in the schedule to put a screening of this pig-in-a-poke. Of course the TV producer was Gene Roddenberry, and the show was Star Trek. The premiere was so popular with the fans that it was re-run twice by overwhelming demand. All Roddenberry wanted in exchange for the preview of the show was a plaque from the convention



acknowledging his contribution. After casting the Hugos and other sundry awards for TRICON, Ben was just about plaqued out, so the tribute to Roddenberry got put in the Real Soon Now pile of things to do after the convention. After Roddenberry sent Ben two bouquets of flowers along with notes reminding Ben that he owed Gene a plaque, he finally made something to send to California.

About 15 years ago Ben decided to run a comic book store. Since he was the sole employee it forced Ben's extended GAFIATION from fandom. The store was a reasonable success for many years. By the end of Ben's involvement with it the total profit was only \$15 for a whole year. In the month before he sold it the store lost money for the first time. He got out from under the store by talking one of his regular customers into buying it for one dollar. This misfortune is our windfall since it brought Ben back into active fandom.

This ode has grown from the couple hundred words I thought it would be to the 700+ words it now is. Instead of a long paragraph on the next item, I suggest you ask Ben how he got the Hugos into the fridge.

I'm going to ask him if he knew John Chapman Miskee. You could too if you want. But talk to our Guest of Honor as that's his favorite thing to do. And he does it quite well, maybe too well. His stories tend to carry on into the next con, however, they are well told and worth the listening.

Ben, we're glad you came back.

CONCAVE XV MOVIE PROGRAM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

4:00 PM	THE SWORD AND THE SORCEROR	LEE HORSLEY
6:00 PM	CAST A DEADLY SPELL	FRED WARD
8:00 PM	BIG TROUBLE IN LITTLE CHINA	KURT RUSSELL
10:00 PM	A BOY AND HIS DOG	DON JOHNSON
12:00 PM	MAD MAX (AUSTRALIAN RELEASE)	MEL GIBSON
2:00 AM	HEAVY METAL	ANIMATED

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

10:00 AM	THE HOBBIT	ANIMATED
12:00 NOON	MYSTERY SCIENCE THEATER	CROW T. ROBOT
2:00 PM	THE PRISONER: ARRIVAL	PATRICK McGOHAN
3:00 PM	MAX HEADROOM: ORIGINS	MATT FREWER
4:00 PM	OVERDRAWN AT THE MEMORY BANK	RAUL JULIA
6:00 PM	AUDIENCE CHOICE	
CHOOSE FROM:	HIGHLANDER	TIME BANDITS
	EXCALABUR	ROLLERBALL
	BUCAROO BANZAI	ESCAPE FROM N. Y.
8:00 PM	TERMINATOR 2 (DIRECTOR RECUT)	ARNOLD
10:30 PM	KNIGHTRIDERS	ED HARRIS
12:30 AM	THE LOST BOYS	KEIFER SUTHERLAND
2:30 AM	FOREVER KNIGHT	GERANT WYNN DAVIES

INTERMISSIONS:

MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS
BATMAN: THE ANIMATED SERIES
ASSORTED CLASSIC CARTOONS

REMEMBER TO VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE FOR AUDIENCE CHOICE

A FAN'S GUIDE TO THE CAVE AREA

FOOD: The Park Mammoth Resort (PMR) restaurant is one of the features that keeps us returning here. The restaurant offers excellent home-style cooking and their justly famous fresh cinnamon rolls. If you want to explore, turn left on US-31W, drive 8 miles east to KY 90 in Cave City. To the left you are in fast food heaven, to the right is a popular barbecue house. If you are looking for something fancier, Bowling Green offers many fine restaurants within a 30 minute drive. Ask the con staff for recommendations and directions

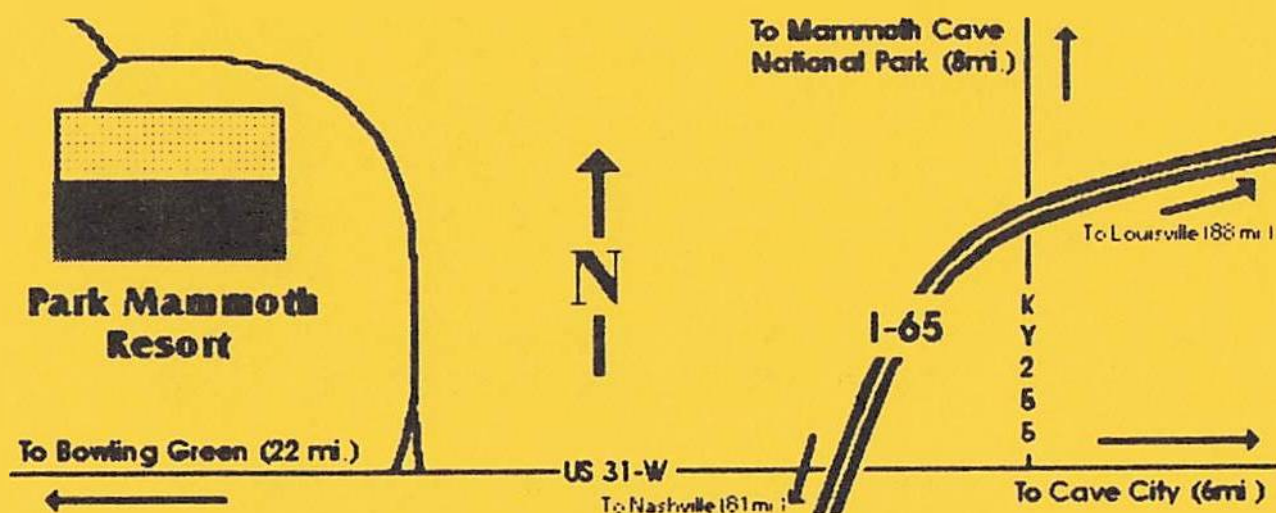
DHRINK: If you need something that's not in the Consuits you'll soon discover you are in a desert, and the nearest oasis is Bowling Green. To find relief, turn left on US-31W and drive until you find civilization, i.e. liquor stores. A suspicious soul might conclude such strategically located stores exist only to serve the outlying dry areas.

CASH: The nearest cash dispensers are also located in Bowling Green. Get on I-65 southbound and take exit 22. Turn left and look for Greenwood Mall. There are several banks and several flavors of case dispenser machines near the mall.

GASOLINE: There are two gas stations on KY 255 in Park City. There are other flavors, including a 24 hour Super America inn Cave City.

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 PMR front 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 two hours before tour departure to improve your chances of getting a ticket.

THE RESORT: PMR has many unusual features for a SF con hotel. The front desk can equip you for the saunas or miniature golf. Pool cues can be checked out in the consuits. The riding stables may be open if weather permits. Follow your nose to find them. The mini-train is not running, but walking the 1.5 mile track is a Concave traction in good weather. Other favorite outdoor activities are the Lookout Point and Tilt House. Any similarity between the Tilt House and Ken Moore's living room may be coincidental.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE CONCAVE 15 COMMITTEE:

ANNETTE CARRICO—*Consuite Coordinator*
STEVE FRANCIS—*Huxter Room Handler*
CORLIS ROBE—*Registration Regulator*
GARY ROBE—*Extremely Tired*
RICKEY SHEPPARD—*Wigwam Village Voyager*

THANKS THERE FRIENDS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS:

SUE FRANCIS—*Consuire 1st Officer*
JOHN HANS—*Game Room*
JOHN YOUNG—*Game Room*
PAT MOLLOY—*Art Show*
ROGER SIMS—*GoH Biography*
PATTY TEAGUE—*Game Room*
JOHN NUNN—*Video Room*
NAOMI FISHER—*Art Show*
And the perential elevator committee: Our most uplifting members.

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

Jeff Lockridge	Kim Lockridge	Alan Clark	Sue Daugherty
Dick Spelman	John Hollis	Ken Moore	Rick Daugherty
Jane Dennis	Scott Dennis	Tim Young	Kenny Reasoner
Jim Woosley	Jann Melton	Vance Martin	Mark Linneman
Mary Baker	Betsy Hirst	Bryan Porter	Rocky Halleron
Bill Cavin	Mike Lalor	Roger Sims	Pat Sims

**AND THIRTEEN YEARS OF INDULGENCE AND GLUTTONY FOR
FUNDIMENT FROM THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF**

PARK MAMMOTH RESORT