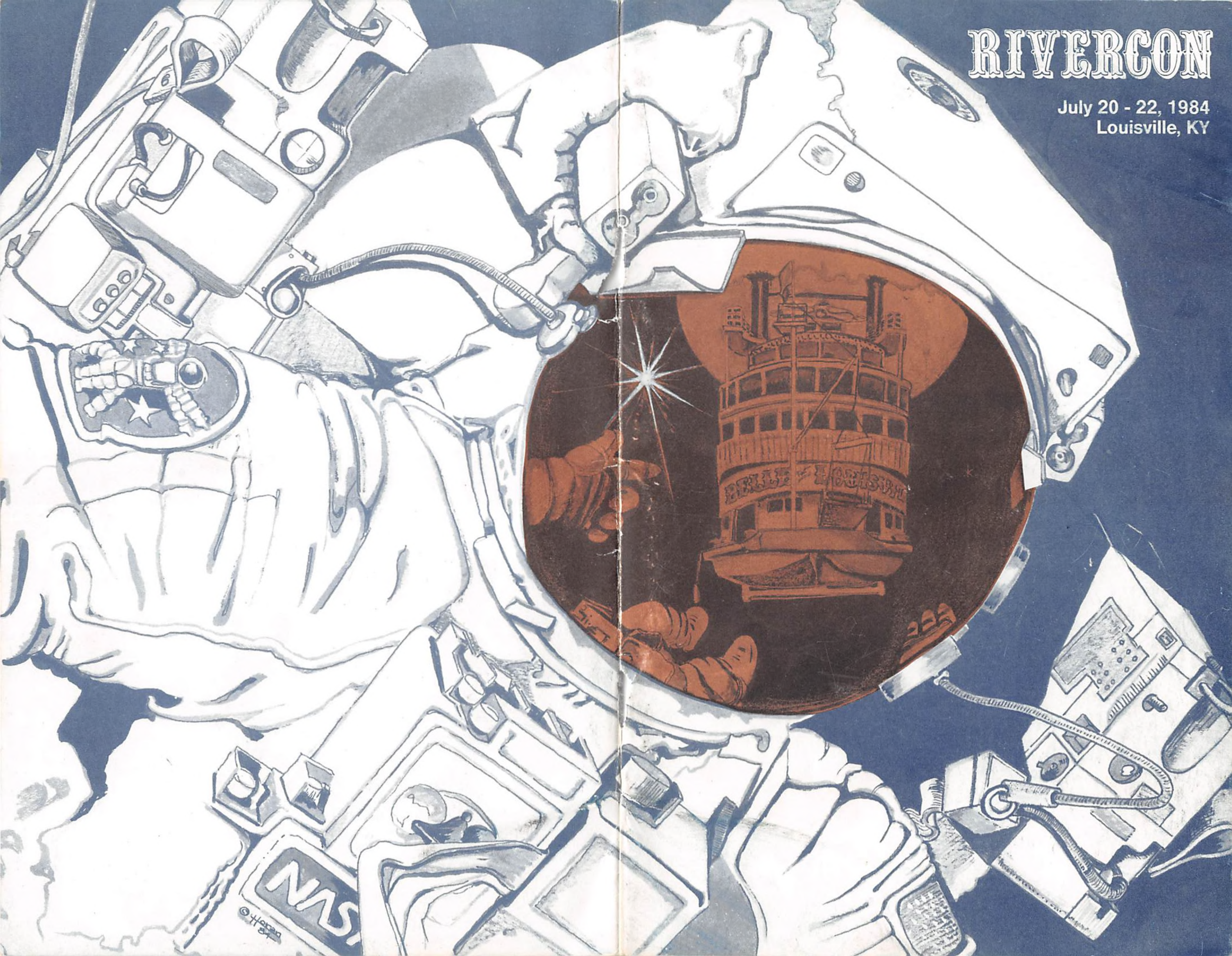


RIVERCON

July 20 - 22, 1984
Louisville, KY



RIVERCON IX

July 20 - 22, 1984 Louisville, Kentucky

Andrew J. Offutt	Guest of Honor
Fan Guests of Honor	Don & Jill Eastlake
Charles L. Grant	Toastmaster

RiverCon Committee

Steve Francis Sue Francis

Lynn Harris, Bob Roehm, Mike Sinclair, B.J. Willinger

Art Show & Auction

*Lynn Harris
Courtenay Bray
Dan Caldwell
Jack L. Chalker
Danny McDole
Rembert Parker
Gloria Stout
Gail Walker

Steven Steele
Jeff Tucker
Jack Young

Games Room

*David Daring

Hospitality Suite

*Susan Young
Frank Bynum
Keith Chike
Bruce Gardner
Barbara Harmon
Mike Lalor
Rebecca Lambert
Tim Lane
Bill Levy
Judy Lundy
Rick Lundy
Paula Robinson
Brenda Schalk
Rickey Sheppard
Tom Stevens
Beth Willinger
Jim Woosley
Jack Young

Huckster Room

*Steve Francis
David Francis
Stew Friedley
Bob Gaines
Grant McCormick
Danny McDole
Bruce Schweinhart
Mike Veach

Masquerade

*B.J. Willinger
John Harris
Ray Jones
Danny McDole
Nashville Six-Pack
Sue Phillips
Pete Robertson
Beth Willinger

Registration

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Rosa Banks
Marian Brown
Doug Lampert
Rebecca Lampert
Marie Miesel
Debbie Mudd
Gloria Nugent-Edwards
Jann Tidwell
Trubie Turner II
Paul Watson

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Gene Miller

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Folk Coordinator

*Murry Porath, DI

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Sean Cantrell
David Francis
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Jeffery Lockridge
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Rick Nugent

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*Bob Roehm
Grant McCormick

Publications

*Bob Roehm

Video Room

*Bob Tidwell
Mike Townsend

WELCOME ABOARD...

Welcome to RiverCon's ninth voyage! As every year, we want to welcome back the many RiverCon regulars and to say hello to you first-timers. We hope everyone – from SMOFs to BNFs to neos – has a great time.

Badges

Please wear your name badge at all times when you are in the convention areas of the hotel. Your badge is, in effect, your ticket and you may not be admitted to certain events without it. If you've already registered, you'll have been asked for some form of identification to prove your age and your badge has been marked accordingly. This is to make things easier for those running the hospitality suite and the Friday night cash bar. Remember that the minimum drinking age in Kentucky is 21.

You'll probably notice that some badges also have colored stickers on them, too. These are for further identification. Our guests and other VIP members have blue dots; hucksters have green ones on their badges; a yellow dot denotes a children's or other special membership; and finally, RiverCon staff have red dots on their badges. In addition, department heads have red ribbons. Please come to them if you have any problems.

Riverboat Cruise

If you are planning on going on the Belle of Louisville cruise on Sunday afternoon, please purchase your ticket at the registration desk. If you don't have a RiverCon Belle ticket when you get to the wharf, you will be charged the full admission price. If you do buy a ticket and later change your mind, just return the ticket to us for a full refund at any time. Although the Belle will be leaving at 2:00 p.m., it's best to show up early (boarding begins at 1:00 p.m.), since space is not guaranteed. There's a snack bar on board, but you're free to take anything with you, except coolers. And unless the weather is very hot, you might want to take a sweater along with you, too.

Programming

The schedule in the program is accurate as we go to press, but check your pocket program for final times and places. Also, watch the registration area for announcements of further additions and/or changes. Like last year, the Corn Island Room has been set up with a number of video games and the Anchor Room has space available for non-electronic type games. Both rooms will be open almost around the clock (they may close during the very early morning hours).

Weapons

We want to remind you once again that weapons of any kind may not be worn in the convention areas (and we would discourage wearing them outside the hotel, too). Weapons can,

of course, be worn during the masquerade if part of your costume on stage, but must be removed afterward. Weapons sold in the huckster room must be securely wrapped and taken immediately to the buyer's room. In the interest of safety and security, we ask everyone to **please** follow these rules. Failure to do so may result in revocation of your convention membership.

Acknowledgements

The RiverCon Committee would like to express its sincere thanks and appreciation to: Skip Bawell and Hugh Wittenbraker and the Ohio Valley Film Society for opening up their classic collection of films to us.

Rik Newman of Pre-Impressions, Inc., for providing pre-release screenings of films for audience previews.

The Louisville Convention Bureau for providing clerical assistance.

Keith Murphy and Randy Sparkman for "The Magic of Sparkman and Murphy" during the masquerade intermission.

And last, but never least, to the management and staff of the Galt House for five years of excellent service to us folks who like "that crazy Buck Rogers stuff!"

In addition to our honored guests, RiverCon also welcomes the following:

Michael Banks is an editor with **Writer's Digest** in Cincinnati. He is the author of **Understanding Science Fiction**, a textbook for teaching SF.

Dr. Bill Breuer is best known for his association with the Louisville Museum of History and Science space science exhibits and programs.

Jack L. Chalker has emerged in the last few years as one of SF's most popular and prolific authors. His most recent books are **Demons of the Dancing Gods** (Del Rey) and **Soul Rider, Book 2** (Tor).

Nancy Dibble is better known under her pseudonym of Ansen Dibell, author of **Summerfair**, **Pursuit of the Screamer**, and **Circle, Crescent, Star** (all from DAW). She is currently an editor at **Writer's Digest**.

Harry Harrison's Deathworld and Stainless Steel Rat novels have long been SF favorites, as well as the classic **Make Room, Make Room!** His newest book is **West of Eden**, published in July as a Bantam hardcover. He lives in Ireland.

Robert Don Hughes is the author of **Prophet of Lamath** and **Wizard in Waiting**, a sequel to which will be published soon by Del Rey. He teaches at the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Mike Resnick is the author of the **Tales of the Galactic Midway** series, as well as the single novels **The Branch** and **Birthright**. The first two volumes in the Tales of the Velvet Comet series have been published in hardcover by Phantasia Press. He and his wife Carol live in Cincinnati.

Frank M. Robinson is best known as co-author (with Thomas Scortia) of **The Glass Inferno**, **The Gold Grew**, and **The Prometheus Crisis**. He now lives in San Francisco.

Lawrence Watt-Evans' four-book Lords of Dus series began with **Lure of the Basilisk** and ended with **The Book of Silence** (Del Rey). His most recent book is **The Chromosomal Code** (Avon). Lawrence and his wife Julie are Lexington, Kentucky residents.

Sharon Webb is the author of **Earthchild**, **Earth Song**, and the concluding volume, **Ram Song**, which will be published by Atheneum this fall. She is currently the South/Central regional director of the Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA).

Andrew J. Offutt

Guest of Honor (Finally)

Ten years ago (how time flies) when we were planning the first RiverCon, only one person was ever considered for the position of toastmaster. We wanted someone who was well known and liked in fandom, who spoke well in front of crowds, and whose presence somehow would set the tone for the type of convention we wanted. That person was Andrew J. Offutt, and not to keep those of you who were not at RiverCon I in suspense, Andy did all of the above and much more besides.

Andy continued to contribute to RiverCon every year – appearing on panels, doing readings, giving speeches, **being there** – to the extent that we have felt for several years that further recognition was necessary. However, we had a self-imposed rule that no individual should appear more than once as a RiverCon guest.

Well, we made the rule, and so, for perhaps the first and last time, we're breaking it in order to have Andrew J. Offutt as RiverCon's official Guest of Honor.

Coincidentally, this year also marks another significant anniversary in Andy's career. It was in 1954 that he won a story contest on **Worlds of If**, and his first SF story, ". . . And Gone Tomorrow," was published in the December issue. Andy was then a student at the University of Louisville (becoming one of U of L's youngest graduates).

In the thirty years between then and now, a lot has happened. Andy met a pretty Irish lass named Jodie and married her. (Jodie was RiverCon's Fan Guest of Honor in 1976.) They have four Offutt-spring named Chris, Jeff, Missy and Scotty, now all grown up. Andy became an independent insurance agent for a time ("the most independent insurance man you've ever seen," he once described himself). He wrote dozens of pseudonymous novels but very little SF or fantasy until **Evil is Live Spelled Backwards** in 1970. This was followed by the semi-autobiographical **The Castle Keeps** in 1972, which many still consider their favorite of Andy's science fiction work. From the mid-seventies, Andy has devoted most of his writing time to SF and fantasy. He expanded and developed stories and novels from Robert E. Howard characters, and he edited a series of five volumes of heroic fantasy called **Swords Against Darkness**, discovering or encouraging several authors who later became well known. His novels **My Lord Barbarian**, **Ardor on Aron**, **Chieftain of Andor**, and **King Dragon** acknowledge Andy's love affair with Howardian and **Argosy**-type adventure fiction. During this period Andy also served as Secretary and later President of the Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA).

For nearly the past three years Andy has been producing, under his old John Cleve byline, the Spaceways series ("High Adventure for Adults!"), with the 19th (and final – for now) volume to appear this fall.

If you've never met Andrew Offutt, an almost inconceivable concept at an SF convention, don't be shy about speaking to him or asking him to sign a book, for Andy is a most accessible person. This is one of the qualities that makes it a joy to welcome (finally) him as RiverCon's Guest of Honor.





Prologomena to Any Future Study of Donald E. Eastlake IV

by Tony Lewis, FN

Donald E. Eastlake IV (hereinafter designated as Donnie) is part of the fannish output of Donald E. Eastlake III (Don) and Jill Trugman Eastlake (Jill). Since he will clearly be a force in future fandom it is appropriate that we look at his antecedents here.

Don and Jill come from two of the New England Science Fiction Association's (NESFA) early recruiting pools – MIT for Don and Newton High School SFC for Jill. (Much of the information following comes from back issues of **Instant Message** and thus must be taken as the absolute truth.) Don and Jill are primarily convention and club fans although they have both been contributors to APA: NESFA which is (surprise) the NESFA club APA.

Jill first appears as attending the 12 October 1969 meeting; she joined NESFA a bit later on 11 January 1970 as an Associate member. She worked on Boskones and other NESFA activities and transferred to Regular Membership on 7 March 1971. Sometime during the murky era of 1970-71 she met Don at a NESFA meeting; they married in August 1971 and ran the Noreascon HQ room for their honeymoon. Then Jill had happy years of service on the Membership committee, NESFA Treasurer, Boskone X Treasurer, two terms as Clerk. Together with Don she chaired Boskone XI. In 1975 Jill was elected a Fellow of NESFA (this is a permanent honor, based upon academic fellowships, for people who have made significant contributions to NESFA's stated goals of enhancing SF, SF scholarship, conventions, etc.). Having tired of co-chairing, Jill was chairman of Boskone XV. In the year following she and Don produced, on 3 June 1979, Donald E. Eastlake IV. This necessitated a minor slowdown in fanac and Jill served as Treasurer of Noreascon II - the 1980 World SF convention. The next year she was elected President of NESFA, stepped down in 1982, but ran again and was re-elected in 1983 and 1984.

But what was Don doing during this time? Well, he showed up on 10 May 1970, joined as an Associate member 28 June 1970 and transferred to Regular membership on 19 September 1971. Although records are unclear on this point, we assume he married Jill at the same time Jill married him. Don co-chaired Boskone XI, was elected President of NESFA for three years 1974 to 1977; for his sins he was sentenced to serve as Clerk the year following. He took a rest and chaired Boskone XVI and was elected a Fellow of NESFA in 1978. Along with Jill he contributed genetic material to the creation of Donnie (certain obvious traits such as an interest in railroads shows up as a dominant). Don headed up the Operations Division and the WSFS Business Division at Noreascon II. Since then he has been active in NESFA on Membership and Rules committees.

It should not be thought that both are active only at Boskones; they have worked at almost every convention they have attended (it is an addiction). Don has been active in the Operations side and WSFS, often serving as the presiding officers of the business meetings (remember, if he didn't do it someone might draft you). He is currently involved in getting WSFS trademarks and servicemarks registered to protect them (such things as "Hugos", "Worldcon", etc. are all being registered for WSFS). Jill has been active in Treasury, costume shows,

(cont. on p. 16)

SCHEDULE

The following schedule is correct and complete as of program book press time. Please consult your pocket program schedule grid for any changes and/or additions. Unless otherwise noted, all rooms are on the third floor of the Galt House.

Continuous Functions

RiverCon Hospitality Suite. Exact room not available at press time. Open continuously beginning Thursday evening through Monday morning.

Video Game Room. Corn Island Room. Open from 12:00 noon Friday through 4:00 p.m. Sunday.

Games Room. Anchor Room. Open from 2:00 p.m. Friday through 4:00 p.m. Sunday.

Friday, July 20

- 1:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. Registration & Information. **Third floor lobby.**
- 2:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. Huckster Room. **Cochran Ballroom.**
- 3:00 p.m.- 3:00 a.m. Video Movie Room. Check pocket program and posted announcements for titles and schedule. **Queen Room.**
- 4:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. Art Show. **Water Poet Room.**
- 7:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. RiverCon IX Opening Ceremonies. Announcements and introductions. **Archibald Ballroom.**
- 8:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. **Heavy Metal.** A benefit screening of this animated film for the Ohio Valley Film Society. There is a \$1.00 admission charge for this showing. (Parents, please note that this movie carries an R rating.) **Archibald Ballroom.**
- 8:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. The Mike Resnick/Jack Chalker Hour. Jack and Mike debate. **Old River Room.**
- 9:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Costumers and Masquerade Panel, organized by the Greater Columbia Fantasy Costumers Guild. **Old River Room.**
- 10:00 p.m.- 2:00 a.m. Movies. Check posted schedule for titles and times. **King's Head Room.**
- 10:00 p.m.-? Filksinging. **Old River Room.**
- 10:00 p.m.- 1:00 a.m. Music and dancing, featuring a cash bar with half-price drinks! **Archibald Ballroom.**

Saturday, July 21

- 10:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. Registration and Information. **Third floor lobby.**
- 10:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. Huckster Room. **Cochran Ballroom.**
- 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Art Show. **Water Poet Room.**

- 10:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. Movies. Check posted schedule for titles and times. **King's Head Room.**
- 9:30 a.m.-11:00 p.m. Video movies. Check posted schedule. **Queen Room.**
- 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA) South/Central Regional Meeting. Sharon Webb, Regional Director. **Old River Room.**
- 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The Candid Stuff IV, with Dr. Bill Breuer. Featuring actual NASA space gear, comedy, slides, and demonstrations. **Archibald Ballroom.**
- 12 noon- 1:00 p.m. Writer's Workshop. The how-to of becoming a selling writer. Michael Banks and Nancy Dibble preside. **Old River Room.**
- 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. RiverCon IX Banquet, featuring fan Guests of Honor Don & Jill Eastlake and Toastmaster Charles L. Grant. Plus announcements and presentations. (Advance tickets required) **Archibald Ballroom.**
- 3:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. Guest of Honor Andrew J. Offutt reading his newest "Shadowspawn" story. **Old River Room.**
- 4:30 p.m.- 5:30 p.m. Religion & Science Fiction: How Well Do They Mix? Robert Don Hughes moderates a discussion. **Archibald Ballroom.**
- 5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. Harry Harrison talks about his new novel **West of Eden.**
- 7:00 p.m.- 8:15 p.m. Guest of Honor Speech. Toastmaster Charles L. Grant introduces Andrew J. Offutt. **Archibald Ballroom.**
- 8:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Art Auction. Jack L. Chalker, auctioneer. **Archibald Ballroom.**
- 10:30 p.m.-11:30 p.m. Masquerade pre-judging. Participants and judges only. **Archibald Ballroom.**
- 11:30 p.m.- 1:00 a.m. Masquerade. Intermission entertainment will be "The Magic of Sparkman & Murphy." **Archibald Ballroom.**
- 1:00 a.m.-? Filksinging. (Filksingers may assemble earlier if desired) **Old River Room.**

Sunday, July 22

- 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. Registration and Information. **Third floor lobby.**
- 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Huckster Room. **Cochran Ballroom.**
- 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. Art Show. **Water Poet Room.**
- 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. Video movies. Check posted schedules. **Queen Room.**
- 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Movies. Check, etc. **King's Head Room.**
- 1:00 p.m. Boarding begins for Belle of Louisville cruise.
- 2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. Belle of Louisville Cruise.

See you next year at

RIVERCON X

July 26 - 28, 1985

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Film Notes

by Jack Young

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (Paramount, 1920): Our first offering is the silent classic starring John Barrymore (legendary grandfather of **Firestarter's** Drew. Barrymore distorted his regular features into those of the barbaric Hyde, largely without the use of makeup – as did Spencer Tracy in the 1941 version. Here is a rare opportunity to see a screen immortal in a screen classic.

The Lost World (First National - Watterson Rothacker, 1925): Willis O'Brien shot his first animated film (featuring dinosaurs and cavemen, of course) on the roof of a bank building in San Francisco! A producer saw it and advanced him \$5,000. Several films later, O'Brien brought A. Conan Doyle's novel to the screen using rubber models built over wooden frames. The movie was a hit in its original release and remains a fascinating forerunner to the "eighth wonder of the world." (More about **him** later.)

Metropolis (UFA, 1926): German film maker Fritz Lang and his then-wife Thea von Harbou produced a story in which industrial wealth is built upon the backs of "subhuman" workers. A young woman (played by Brigitte Helm) attempts to remind the workers of their humanity, earning the enmity of the city's master (Alfred Abel). If the plot seems out of date or corny, remember what happened when the Nazis took over in 1934. The conflict between human greed and the human heart is still unresolved.

Frau im Mond (Woman in the Moon/G.M.B. - UFA, 1928): Fritz Lang's last silent film. Lang approached **Frau** with Hermann Oberth and Willy Ley as technical advisers, resulting in a surprisingly accurate 1928 view of astronomical theory and rocket ship construction. The story degenerates into melodrama, but the technical authenticity which eventually caused the Gestapo to seize the rocket models and all prints, makes this a remarkable SF effort.

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (Paramount, 1932): Once again, we confront the dark side of human nature, this time with Frederic March as the unlucky Henry Jekyll. Director Rouben Mamoulian produced a startling facial transformation for March by a process which he deliberately kept secret. March won an Academy Award for his portrayal - a rare recognition for a fantasy film by the Hollywood industry.

King Kong (RKO Radio, 1933): What can we say? There may be someone who hasn't seen this Willis O'Brien classic but the odds are so overwhelmingly against it that I won't speculate. **Kong** represents virtually the finest moment for everyone involved. Watch carefully and you'll see directors Merian C. Cooper and Ernest B. Schoedsack disguised as pilots zooming in to destroy their majestic superstar.

The Invisible Ray (Universal, 1936): Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi in a standard Universal melodrama. Karloff isolates a ray from the spectrum of a fallen meteorite, hoping to use it to heal. Instead it poisons him, turning him into a glowing psychopath who kills by touch. Note the view of Earth in Karloff's "time viewer." You see it again.

(cont. on p. 16)

Charles L. Grant: An Appreciation

by Kathryn Ptacek Grant

We are, of course, talking about a man of distinct and unusual tastes.

V-8 with oreos, chocolate milk and cheez-its. EmmyLou Harris and Glen Miller. Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee. **Halloween** and **I Walked With a Zombie**. Victorian clapboard houses, long book and short story titles, and little towns in rural northwestern New Jersey.

His dislikes are equally memorable: the collected works of John Saul, anything to do with H. P. Lovecraft (Charlie is not the reincarnation of Lovecraft, as has been popularly rumored up and down the Eastern seaboard), bell pepper on pizzas and wasps in his office.

Likes and dislikes that are strong – as strong as his own work, and background.

Charlie was born during the War Years somewhere in New Jersey (the location seems to change with the telling and retelling of the birth epic) and has lived in lots of towns that he says he's now glad he moved away from. He attended Trinity College in Hartford, intending to become an Episcopalian minister like his father, but somewhere along the way (luckily for the field of dark fantasy), he changed his mind.

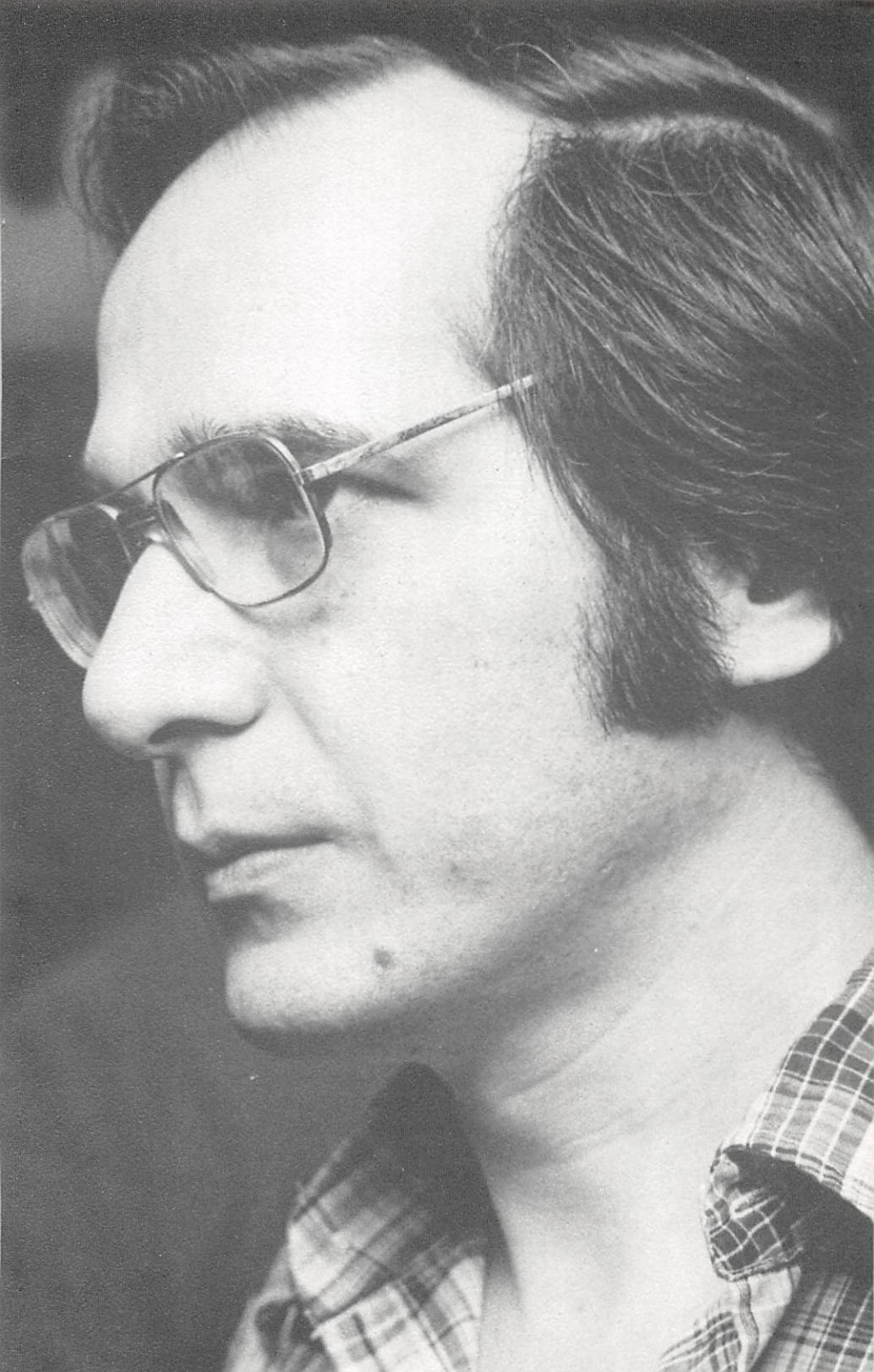
Charlie became a teacher of persons of the teen-age persuasion, and after many years of rising each morning at six, had the luck to be fired, whereupon he turned to writing. He wrote his first short story, sold it to **F & SF** and was promptly inducted into the army and served two years in Viet Nam. He returned, took up writing again, went through assorted wives (we won't mention them) and meaningful life experiences, and then was directed by the hand of Fate to Denvention II, where we met for the second time, and the rest, as they say, is history.

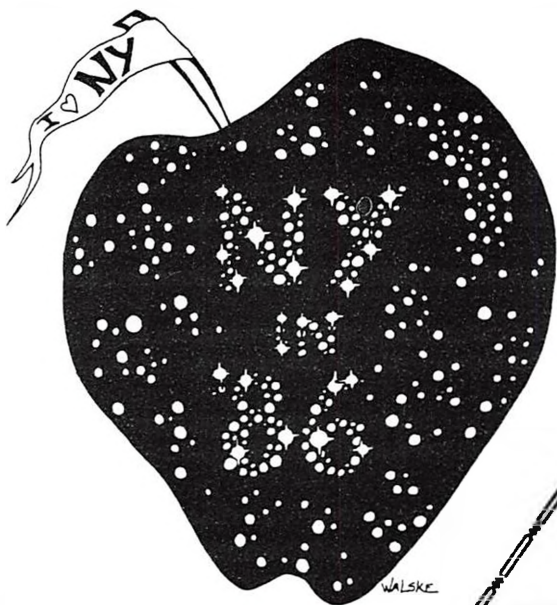
His writing is some of the best in the field, and he has the awards to prove it – two Nebulas (for the novelet "A Glow of Candles, A Unicorn's Eye" and for the short story "A Crowd of Shadows"), and three World Fantasy Awards (one for editing the well-known anthology **Shadows**, the second for his novella, "Confess the Seasons," and the third for his collection, **Nightmare Seasons**. And he's had many more nominations, which just goes to show it isn't his agent and I alone who appreciate him.

He's the creator of the popular Oxrun Station, one of my all-time favorite places, in the novels **The Hour of Oxrun Dead**, **The Sound of Midnight**, **The Last Call of Mourning**, **The Bloodwind**, and **The Grave**. He has edited eight volumes of **Shadows**, anthologies entitled **Fears**, **Terrors**, **Nightmares**, **Midnights**, and there are more to come. As for short stories, at last count he has sold nearly one hundred.

The Nestling, a tale of horror in Wyoming, has recently been reprinted in conjunction with the publication of his latest novel, **Night Songs**, and his next novel from Pocket will be **The Tea Party**. He's hard at work on another dark fantasy novel, as well as getting ready to go to England, where he's been invited to be the Guest of Honor at the Birmingham Fantasy Convention.

(cont. on page 16)





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The Cooper-Hewitt
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The Museum of Broadcasting
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EASTLAKE

operations, book production, and sales. Both of them will be working on the Art Show at the 1985 NASFiC in Austin.

What about them as people? Well, Donnie likes them and that should count for lots because he is a very intelligent child. Most people like them. Don pretends to be stuffy but he isn't; Jill doesn't pretend to be stuffy; she isn't stuffy either. (Jill works for Digital Equipment Corporation; Don doesn't - this maintains the general NESFA ratio.) As Presidents of NESFA they have managed to coordinate and motivate a large, very heterogenous group of people of divers ages, interests, and loudness. Go up and talk to them but beware - you may find later that you have volunteered to work on a Worldcon or a Boskone or some other fannish activity. Be warned but be ready to talk to them; you will enjoy it and be enriched by it.

FILM NOTES

Flash Gordon (Universal, 1936): The most expensive movie serial ever made and the year's second biggest money maker for Universal. Several things combined to raise this offering above the level of most kiddie pacifiers: a witty script, good special effects (for its time, including the view of Earth from **Ray**) and the performance of stars Buster Crabbe and veteran character actor Charles Middleton as the only true Ming. Crude and even silly by today's standards, it was the **Star Wars** of its day and none of the principles, Crabbe in particular, ever forgot it. We are privileged to show the entire 13 chapter serial at RiverCon.

The Day the Earth Stood Still (Fox, 1951): One of the finest SF films ever made. Director Robert Wise tells an enthralling story of trust and fear, bigotry and wonder. Special Kudos go to Michael Rennie as the compassionate Klaatu and to Patricia Neal and Billy Gray as the humans whose trust he earns. Based on Harry Bates' impressive "Farewell to the Master" this film was one of the earliest to teach us that the strange was not synonymous with the terrible.

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GRANT

Charlie isn't strictly a one-genre writer, either. There are Those Other Books. You Know. The Felicia Andrews Novels. But you'll have to ask him about those.

There's much more that I could say about this man, but I've promised upon my honor as a Ward of the DooDah Indians that I wouldn't say anything about his long hours playing Wizardry, or his arranging and rearranging of his dBase II film and book files, nor even his predilection for brussel sprouts. And God forbid that I should mention the long hours at night he spends writing, a single light burning in the window of his second-story office, or the diabolic laughter that comes drifting through the stillness of the nightair.

No, sirree. You'll just have to find out about that first-hand.