

RIVERCON STORIES

Issue No. 1



Friday, July 29, 1994

The Eternal Schwartz

by Frederik Pohl

(Editor's Note: This article arrived too late for the program book, but we wanted to share it with you anyway. Our thanks to Fred Pohl, whose original copy of this is floating around somewhere in U.S. mail limbo.)

In the Beginning --- and when I say the Beginning I'm talking about a time that is way back in the dim primordial past, say somewhere around that ancient year of 1939 --- in the Beginning, as I say, was the Word, and when an editor of a science-fiction magazine of those pre-historic days wanted to buy some choice words to fill up his pages, the man he had to go to was a youngster named Julie Schwartz.

What young Julie was in those days was a literary agent.

More than that, he was one of the very few ten-percenters around who specialized in representing science-fiction writers. That's how I came to know him, for in those days I was the even younger editor of a couple of not-very-successful science-fiction magazines, *Astonishing Stories* and *Super Science Stories* and I des-perately-coveted stories by some of the people in Julie's stable. I don't now remember who they all were--- Robert A. Heinlein was one of Julie's clients, I know, and a little later he took Ray Bradbury on --- but they included a fair fraction of the writers I most admired. of course, Julie wasn't crazy enough to give me first look at any of his top writers. The stories they produced all went immediately to John Campbell for *Astounding*, where Julie could easily get a penny a word for them, sometimes even a bit more --- several times what I could offer on my pitiful half-a-cent-a-word budget.

But John didn't buy everything, so every now and then Julie would have a kind of garage sale, and that was my chance to pick up a few top writers whose names I could flash on the covers of my magazines.

There's a novel called *Rocket to the Morgue* which gives a picture of what Julie was like in those days. It was written by the science-fiction writer Anthony Boucher, but it's actually a mystery so Tony published it under his crime-story pen-name of H. H. Holmes. It's about science-fiction writers, and all of the characters are actual sf people of the time --- Heinlein, and Jack Williamson, and Julie himself. When we meet Julie he is lying on a couch, dreamily listening to the sound of the Heinlein character industriously typing away on a new story. Heinlein asks him what he's doing, and Julie says: "I'm listening to your typewriter bell. Every time it klings it means you've written another line; I know there are about ten words in every line you write, and so each time the bell rings I've earned a penny just by lying here."

Well, it wasn't long after that that Heinlein and the others were getting quite a lot more than a penny a word, and if Julie had hung on as their agent he would be a multi-millionaire by now. But he got sidetracked into a quite different career; he was offered a job as a comics editor; he decided he liked it, and the rest is history: for more than thirty years he was the genius who guided the adventures of that Superman fellow for D. C. comics.

Now, of course, he's retired --- well,

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People Notes

We'd like to welcome Gary Raisor, who joined our program schedule too late to be included in the program book. Gary, a local resident, is the author of *Less Than Human*, a horror novel published by Ace in 1992. It has also been issued in a hardcover edition by the Overlook Connection Press, and the limited state is drop-dead gorgeous. Gary also edited *Obsessions* (Dark Harvest, 1992).

We received word a few days ago that First Fandom member Conrad Ruppert will not be able to attend after all, due to the state of his health.

Also on the ailing list is Dick Spelman, who underwent emergency quintuple bypass surgery a couple days ago. Dick is reportedly doing well and hopes to be back on the convention circuit soon. Bob Tucker, under doctor's orders to take it easy for a while, is also among the missing this year. We wish both of them the best and hope both are with us at RiverCon's 20th anniversary next year.

THE WATER'S FINE!

Hotel pool hours have been extended from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. with a lifeguard continuously on duty.

FREE ICE!

RiverCon will provide 40 lb. bags of ice to anyone holding an open party at the convention. See Judi Lundy in the con suite to make arrangements.

Card Sharks

The Paisley and Tweed Rooms have been designated official card-players rooms, one for smokers and one for non-smokers.

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semi-retired --- for now he has the best job of all. His new career is devoted to attending sf cons, and RiverCon is one of the ones lucky enough to have him. If you haven't met him before, don't hesitate to step right up and start a conversation. He's easy enough to recognize. He's the one who never appears in public without a ravishingly beautiful young girl on each arm.

A word of caution, though. Don't try to take one of those girls away from him.

In the first place, you can't; most of Julie's girls have been training and working from early childhood for the moment when they could follow in the steps of their mothers and grandmothers, who were Julie's girls before them. More important, you might get Julie mad. You don't want to do that unless you have a good-sized chunk of kryptonite where you can get at it in a hurry . . . for, remember, this is the man who taught Superman everything he knows.

--- Frederik Pohl

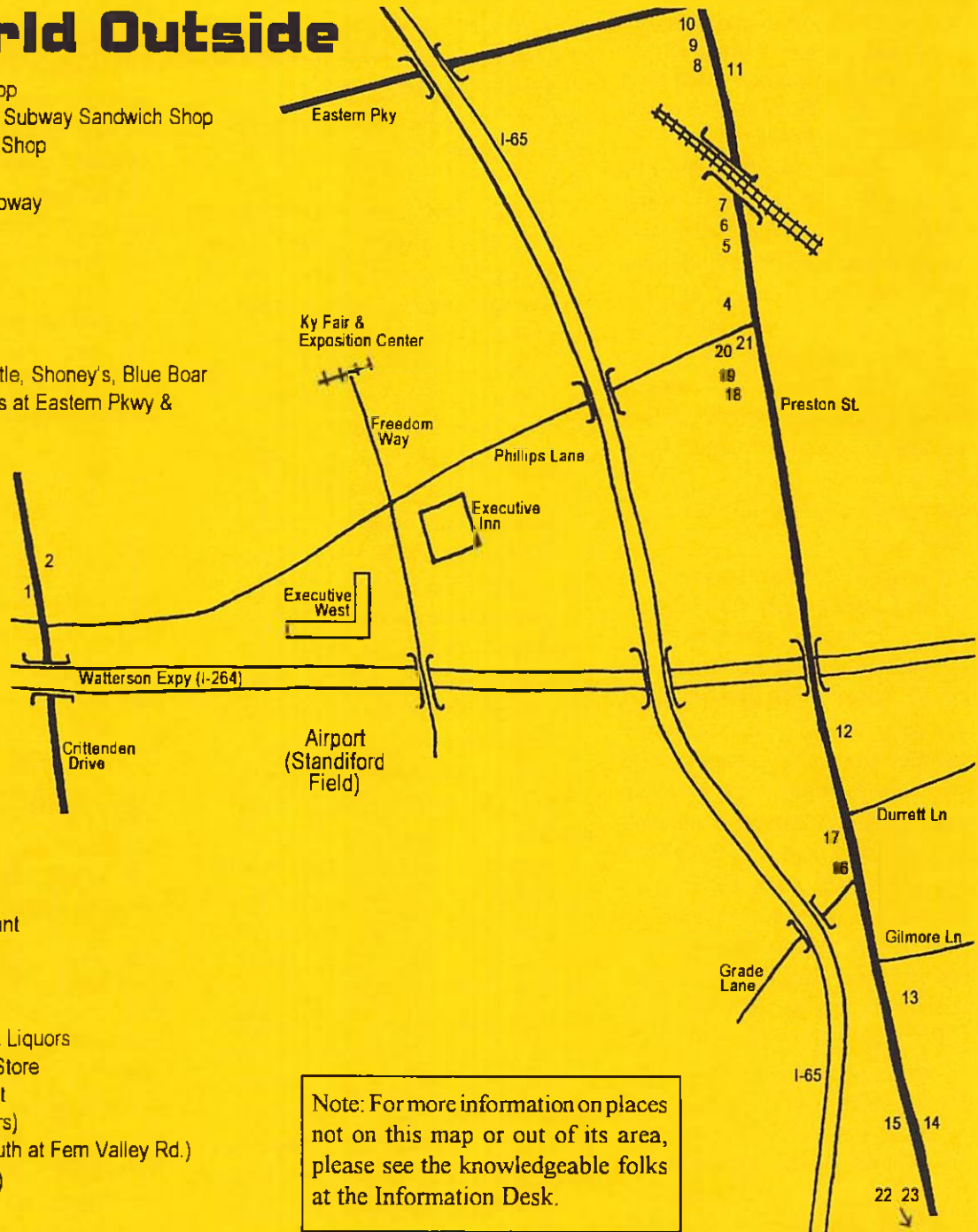
RiverCon Wants You!

If you'd like to volunteer to work at RiverCon, check in at the Volunteers & Information Desk in the Coat Room (in the hallway opposite the Mary Room). If you work for a minimum of six hours, you'll receive an exclusive RiverCon T-shirt, designed by Gary Williams. By the way, volunteer workers from previous RiverCons can buy addition or replacement T-shirts from earlier RiverCons for \$10.00 each. Only a limited number are available.

The World Outside

1. SuperAmerica--Quick Shop
2. Thornton's Quick Shop & Subway Sandwich Shop
3. Executive Bowl & Coffee Shop
4. McDonald's
5. Thornton's Food Mart/Subway
6. Fairgrounds Liquors
7. Long John Silver's
8. Pizza Hut
9. Chopsticks King
10. Rally's Hamburgers
(Mr. Gatti's, White Castle, Shoney's, Blue Boar Cafeteria, & Walgreen's at Eastern Pkwy & Preston St)
11. Kentucky Fried Chicken

12. Dupre Liquors
13. Wendy's Hamburgers
14. Ponderosa Steakhouse
15. Lindy's Family Restaurant
16. Waffle House
17. Bob Evans
18. Aldi Foodstore
19. Walgreen's Drugstore & Liquors
Value City Department Store
20. Winn-Dixie Supermarket
21. Taco Bell (open 24 hours)
22. Sam's Club (3 miles south at Fern Valley Rd.)
23. Liquor Outlet (as above)



RIVERCON STORIES

Issue No.2

Saturday,
July 30, 1994

RiverCon XIX Opens

RiverCon XIX began its first year in its new home yesterday. Several hundred SF fans from all over the country converged for a weekend of activities devoted to science fiction, fantasy, and all sorts of other things. And let's not forget the parties, either.

Highlights of Friday's program included the opening ceremonies, at which toastmaster Julius Schwartz introduced the guests, members of First Fandom, and other notables in attendance. A large color poster of the First Fandom emblem was presented by Steve Francis to the group and accepted by Dave Kyle. This was followed by a reception in the Chapel, which proved to be surprisingly extravagant, featuring barbecued ribs, chicken strips, and lots more.

Earlier in the evening, Guest of Honor Forrest Ackerman narrated a slide show of numerous unique items from his fabulous collection. Later, Darrell C. Richardson also spoke to an appreciative overflow audience about the work of artist J. Allen St. John and other favorite pulp artists.

Parties and filking continued into the wee hours.

As of 10:30 p.m., the registration staff reported that RiverCon attendance had reached 721.

Masquerade News

The masquerade staff requests that costumers please report to the Mary Room at 6:00 p.m. Saturday. They will be able to try out the stage and talk to the crew at this time. Participants are urged to take advantage of this opportunity to really help their stage presentations.

Masquerade helpers should also report to the Mary Room at 6:00 p.m. in order to get their station assignments.

TOMORROW: Masquerade and Art Show winners

Breakfast buffet served

The Executive West is offering a breakfast buffet in the Golden Targe Tearoom on Saturday and Sunday from 6:30 to 11:00 a.m. The price is only \$7.30, including tax and gratuity. To get this special price, however, you must have your RiverCon badge; otherwise, you will be charged the regular price.

A Sunday brunch will be served in the Derbyshire Room from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for \$10.95 (\$9.95 for those 55 and older). This price does *not* include tax or gratuity.

AIDS Auction

Items for the AIDS Benefit Auction are on display in the Art Show in the Lion Room until the auction begins at 1:00 p.m. in the Mary Room. Lots of interesting and unusual collectibles have been generously donated this year. Among them are signed books by C.J. Cherryh, Andre Norton, Gordon Dickson, Connie Willis, Vincent Di Fate, Lisa Goldstein; Poul Anderson's signed AAAS name badge; models from Allen Steele; a signed Michael Whelan print; an Alpha set from Wizards of the Coast; and much, much more. Come and bid generously.

Hotel Reminders

Sunday hotel check-out time is 2:00 p.m. An extension to this time *may* be possible on an individual basis, but you must arrange this in advance.

Also, regular limosine service to the airport is available. See the bell captain for schedule information.

PROGRAM UPDATE:

First Fandom member Don Dailey will show slides of covers from the Golden Ages of Science Fiction on Sunday at 11:00 a.m. in the Bagpipe Room. This directly precedes the pulp-collecting panel at noon in the same room. Rusty Hevelin, scheduled to be on this panel, will not be able to attend the convention.

Allen Steele will join the "Real Characters" panel at 3:00 p.m. Saturday in the Ruskin Room.

Julius Schwartz' presentation, "Memoirs of a Time Traveler," will actually be in The Chapel instead of the Mary Room.

The Ekstrom Library Rare Book Department at the University of Louisville is having an open house today from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. for anyone wishing the opportunity to view their extensive Edgar Rice Burroughs and pulp magazine collections. See the program book for directions.

Party Time

Numerous groups are throwing open parties tonight. Check the bulletin boards in the registration area and in the con suites for information on room numbers and times.

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