

# RIVERCON IV



B.W. '78

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JOHN HARRIS, Blood Drive Co-ordinator

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BERNARD WILLINGER, Masquerade Director

JACK YOUNG, Film Program

SUSAN YOUNG, Hospitality Suite Hostess





# RIVERCON

## IV

**July 28-30, 1978 - Louisville, Kentucky**

Guest of Honor

**ROBERT BLOCH**

Toastmaster

**BOB TUCKER**

Fan Guest of Honor

**NED BROOKS**

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# WELCOME ABOARD...

As RiverCon IV gets underway, the captain and the crew would like to extend their heartiest wishes for an enjoyable excursion into the realm of wonder. Please feel free to call on us for any assistance we may render in making your cruise with us more comfortable.

Most of the activities are concentrated in the convention wing of the hotel. The two exceptions are the hospitality salon, located just to the right of the elevators on an upper floor of the hotel (exact room number not available at press time; please check posted announcements in the meeting room area or your pocket program), and the Sunday riverboat cruise, which will of course take place on a six-mile stretch of the Ohio River (information on boat tickets and boarding procedures is available at the registration desk).

Please wear your name badge at all times, since it not only identifies you to fellow conventioners but also acts as your admission ticket to the activity areas. Regular RiverCon members will have ivory-colored badges; a blue badge denotes a VIP member, usually a pro writer or artist; committee members will have gold badges. In addition, committee members will be wearing scarlet *OYata* sashes to make them even more identifiable.

The hospitality salon will remain open around the clock as a place to relax, talk, smof, cheat

at cards, and consume mass quantities of fermented or carbonated liquids.

Once again, RiverCon is proud to sponsor a blood drive in keeping with the tradition started by Robert A. Heinlein. On Saturday the Red Cross will be operating a blood donation unit in the Chapel (just off the far side of the Mary Room) from 10:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. For those fans who give blood during RiverCon, and for those who present proof of volunteering during the last 60 days, there will be all sorts of goodies: distinctive badge emblems, door prizes, a special reception in the hospitality suite at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, and some surprises. To be eligible for all this, present evidence of donation (or volunteering) at the RiverCon registration desk.

As a convenience to parents of small children, this year RiverCon is offering a baby-sitting service during the three hours of the banquet on Saturday night (7:00-10:00). The cost is \$1.50 per child. Please check at the registration desk for more information.

The schedule printed here contains only events planned in advance. Please consult your pocket program for later developments and watch for announcements of spontaneous activities as they happen.

Remember, the committee's most important job is to make sure you are free to enjoy the con. Don't hesitate to bring any problem, complaint, or other nastiness to our attention. We'll do our best to correct it.

RiverCon IV promises to be a memorable experience. We're glad you're a part of it.

The RiverCon Committee



# SCHEDULE

All functions, unless otherwise noted, occur in the Mary Room. Please refer to hotel floor plan on page 7 of the program book for room locations.



## FRIDAY

- 4:00 P. M. Registration opens in the convention office.
- 5:00 P. M. Huckster Room opens, Scots Room. Art Show opens, Queen Room.
- 8:00 P. M. RiverCon IV officially opens with introduction of guests and other notables, and announcements of interest to RiverCon members.
- 8:30 P. M. Slide show: "The Fight Science Fiction Fandom Association: The Sorrow and the Pity." Created by Mary Hagan and narrated by Geneva Spencer. Say no more!
- 9:00 P. M. Movies begin. Schedule and titles are still uncertain as of press time, so check the posted announcements for the correct information. Movies



## SATURDAY

- 10:00 A. M. Registration re-opens in the convention office.  
Huckster Room opens.  
Art Show opens.  
Star Academy exhibit opens, Shannon Room

- 10:00 - 1:00 Red Cross blood donation unit in Chapel. Give early and often.
- 11:00 A. M. "Your Role in the 21st Century: Making the O'Neill Dream a Reality" Richard K. Preston of Star Academy explores the opportunities for careers in space.
- 12:00 Noon Lest We Forget... Great legends of science fiction fandom as told by some of the guilty bystanders. You may want to bring your lawyer to this one.
- 1:00 P. M. Private reception for blood donor volunteers in hospitality salon. Lots of incredible edibles and your best opportunity to obtain autographs from the writers in attendance. If you're eligible to attend, please  
P  
Please sign up in advance at the registration desk.
- 2:00 P. M. Authors' Dialogue. Larry Niven and Andrew J. Offutt in a freewheeling discussion of their work and their ideas.
- 3:00 P. M. Robert Bloch's Guest of Honor speech. A question-and-answer period follows.
- 4:00 P. M. Art Auction, Session I
- 7:00 P. M. Banquet seating begins. Dinner is prepared! The all-you-can-eat buffet includes chicken a la king and baked haddock, plus relish tray, salads, vegetables, and millionaire pie. Wine is available at an additional charge.
- 8:30 P. M. Post-banquet festivities. Toastmaster Bob Tucker reveals little-known "facts" about guests of honor Robert Bloch and Ned Brooks, who will then be given equal time for rebuttal. Also: miscellaneous announcements, presentations, and other interesting things.



- 10:00 P.M. Art Auction, Session II
- 12:00 M. Midnight Masquerade. Those planning to compete for the Ming Awards should pick up entrance forms at the registration desk. Spectators are also encouraged to come in costume.

1:30 A.M. M\*O\*V\*I\*E P\*R\*E\*M\*I\*E\*R\*E!

John Carradine in "Vampire Hookers"

RiverCon is proud to present the world premiere of John Carradine's latest movie, his 435th film in a remarkable career that has spanned 50 years.

Rated R... definitely not recommended for children (and what are they doing up at this hour anyway?)

"Vampire Hookers" courtesy of Robert E. Waters, Producer; and Jerry Zanitsch, General Sales Manager, Caprican Three, Inc., Northridge, CA.

3:00 A.M. More movies. Check posted announcements for titles and times.



# SUNDAY

- 10:00 A.M. Registration opens (for the benefit of very late arrivals).  
Huckster Room opens.
- 12:30 P.M. Boarding of buses for trip to riverboat wharf. Please read details of Belle cruise on page 18, and obtain your tickets in advance from the RiverCon registration desk.
- 2:00 P.M. Hotel check-out time.





# Executive

EST

Huckster's  
Unloading

Blood Donation  
Chapel  
Masquerade Assembly

Mary Room  
Main Program  
& Films

Convention  
Office

Registration

Men

Women

Queen Room  
Art Show

Scots Room

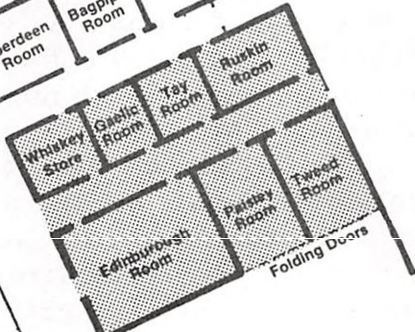
Huckster Room

Aberdeen Room

Bagpipe Room

Shannon Room

Special functions  
in Bagpipe, Aberdeen  
and Shannon Rooms.



Skinny Dip  
Pool

Derbyshire  
Dining Room

Boozeller  
Cocktail Lounge

Coal  
Room

Lobby

No RiverCon functions  
will be held in the  
shaded area.

# Guest of Honor

# ROBERT BLOCH

It's hard to believe, but Robert Bloch's first professionally-published story appeared over forty years ago, when the author was the ripe old age of seventeen ("The Feast in the Abbey," Weird Tales, January, 1935). Since then, Bloch has written in almost every genre of the fantastic and for almost every medium.

Starting out in the pulp magazines, he was a regular --and popular--contributor to Weird Tales, Amazing, and Fantastic throughout the late thirties and forties. Through the catalytic influence of one of Bloch's most famous stories, "Yours Truly, Jack the Ripper," he made the transition to radio and, later, television writing, scripting episodes for such shows as Stay Tuned for Terror, Thriller, and Alfred Hitchcock Presents. Speaking of Hitchcock, we hardly need to mention Psycho, Bloch's famous novel which Hitchcock very successfully filmed in 1960, making the author forevermore "Robert Bloch Author of Psycho."

Since 1960, when Bloch moved permanently to the Los Angeles area, SF and fantasy stories have been regrettably few and far between while he has been concentrating primarily on film and television work, but we can still look forward to an occasional new short story or novel that re-confirms Bloch's reputation as "the master of psychological terror."

But Robert Bloch is a split personality in a number of ways. Although best known for his terror and mystery work, Bloch is equally at home writing whimsical humor (the Lefty Feep stories, for example). And he has established himself as a ghod among fans for the thousands and thousands of words he has contributed to SF fanzines of the past four decades.

Winner of the Hugo Award in 1959 for "That Hell-Bound Train," Bloch was also recognized at the First



World Fantasy Convention as both Guest of Honor and recipient of the first Howard Award for Life Achievement in Fantasy, an appropriate accolade for this early correspondent of HPL, whom Bloch credits for encouraging him to pursue his writing career.

Despite all his tales about ghouls, murderers, and things that go bump in the night, Bloch claims he actually has the heart of a small boy---he keeps it in a jar on his desk.



# Fan Guest of Honor **NED BROOKS**

Ned Brooks is not one of the great movers and shakers of fandom. And it's not for lack of talent, wit, or dedication--he has those qualities in abundance--it's just that he has a severe allergy to ego-boo. He shuns praise and honors as if they were loathsome corrupting influences (in fact, he believes they are). So how did we persuade him to come to RiverCon IV as Fan Guest of Honor? Let's just say that the fine arts of extortion and blackmail are not unknown to the con committee.

Ned has not found it easy to avoid the admiration of his fellow fans. In a fannish career spanning eighteen years, he has attended most of the last sixteen worldcons (he even made it to Australia in '75) and has become a regular at Southern and East Coast regionals. You'll usually find him behind a table in the huckster room, selling a strange assortment of rare fantasy books (mostly duplicates from his own collection), quality fan publications, and buttons with elvish inscriptions inspired by Tolkien.

His passion for collecting works of fantasy, especially illustrated fantasy, has resulted in a vast private collection and a well-deserved reputation as an expert in the field. He has compiled and published an index to the artwork of Hannes Bok and collaborated with George Beahm to produce The Vaughn Bode Index.

For the past seven years, Ned has published a remarkable, yet unpretentious fanzine called It Comes in the Mail, actually an informal log of all the interesting mail he receives. If that sounds like dull reading, you don't know just how much fascinating



material finds its way into Ned's mailbox.

In the mundane world, Mr. Brooks works for NASA as a programmer and wind-tunnel engineer. He enjoys a carefree bachelor life at his home in Newport News, Virginia--a home he shares with a mimeograph, twelve typewriters, and several thousand books.

# Toastmaster BOB TUCKER

If Robert Bloch is almost a split personality, then our toastmaster is definitely one (or two or three...). As Bob Tucker, he is revered for being one of the earliest and most popular Big Name Fans, a status he retains to this day. Under the pseudonym Wilson Tucker, he is the respected author of such memorable SF works as Wild Talent, The Lincoln Hunters, Ice and Iron, The Long Loud Silence, and The Year of the Quiet Sun, as well as a number of highly-regarded mystery novels. His fan writing under his real name of Hoy Ping Pong established his reputation as one of the great fan humorists. He has several other identities, but the less said about them, the better.

How did all of this get started? The distinguished historian Harry Warner, Jr. records that Tucker discovered science fiction in 1929 at the tender age of fourteen (Tucker was fourteen, that is; SF as a genre was considerably younger). It wasn't much later that he discovered science fiction fandom, which was of course also in its infancy. Shortly thereafter came the most important discovery of all--fandom discovered Bob Tucker. He had to confine himself to fan writing and publishing at first, because science fiction conventions hadn't been invented yet. His fanzine activity, remarkable for both its volume and its quality, quickly made him one of the most celebrated fans in the country and would have won him several Hugo Awards, but they hadn't been invented yet either. (Tucker finally did win a Hugo as Best Fan Writer in 1970, after nearly four decades of prolific creativity.)

The advent of conventions opened new worlds for Tucker to conquer. He was instrumental in organizing the second worldcon (Chicon I in 1940) and has been a prominent participant in these affairs ever since. Not only was he the first to be Fan Guest of Honor at a worldcon (Torcon I, 1948), but he is the only one to





receive that distinction a second time (almost twenty years later, at the '67 Nycon 3). Between worldcons, Tucker is to be found at regional cons large and small, contributing his wit and wisdom to the daytime programming and carousing all night at the parties.

The unabashed fannish exuberance of Bob Tucker makes it hard to believe that he is also Wilson Tucker, the serious professional writer. But there are clues which link the two together. Most apparent is the naming of Wilson's fictional characters after Bob's fannish acquaintances, not always with flattering results. He has become so notorious for this practice that using a friend's name in a story has come to be known as a "Tuckerism."

So beware of getting too familiar with this man--you could be the next victim of Tuckerization.

# *The Sons of the Sand*

**PRESENT**

**DEEPSOUTHCON**

**'79**

JULY 20 - 22, 1979

Le Pavillion Hotel  
New Orleans, La.

**Guest of Honor**

**R. A. Lafferty**

Memberships \$7.50 until November, 1978 (\$10 thereafter)

For memberships and information about the con  
contact

Faruk von Turk, Chairman  
1903 Dante Street  
New Orleans, La. 70118



# Southern Fandom Confederation



P O Box 9032 · Birmingham · Alabama · 35213

Founded in 1969, the Southern Fandom Confederation is a service organization for science fiction and fantasy fans in eleven Southern states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North & South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

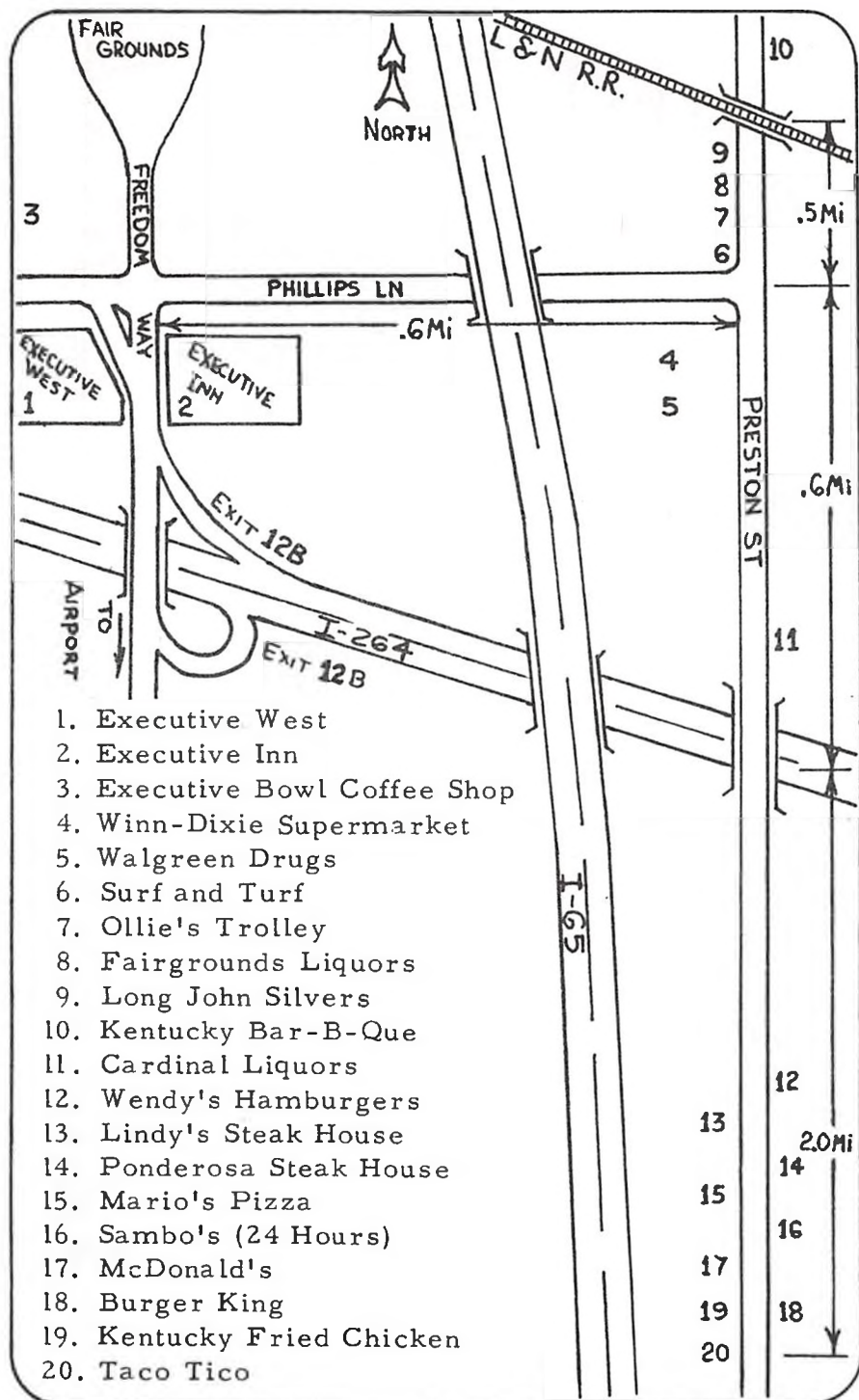
The SFC Handbook provides information on fans, clubs, publications, artists, writers, conventions, and other fan activities in the South. This is supplemented by regular bulletins and a continuously updated roster of about 1000 names and addresses. Indefatigable president Meade Frierson also acts as a personal clearing house for Southern fannish news.

An annual business meeting is held at each DeepSouth-Con. Your contribution of \$1.00 or more (in U.S. or Confederate currency) entitles you to a vote in this meeting and makes you a dues-paid member of the SFC for the year between one DeepSouthCon and the next. Non-Southerners are also welcome to join.

Send your name, address, and dues, along with any information or news pertinent to Southern fandom to Meade Frierson III at the above address. Colorful cloth patches of the SFC emblem (illustrated at right) are available from Meade for \$2.00, profits going to the SFC treasury.







# In Louisville Fandom is FOSFA



**Falls of the Ohio  
Science Fiction-Fantasy Association**

**P. O. Box 8251, Louisville, KY 40208**

# BELLE OF LOUISVILLE



For over a century, the riverfront of every city on the inland waterways of this country was crowded with elegant steam-powered, paddle wheel riverboats. They have been replaced by squat little diesel towboats pushing long lines of featureless barges.

A number of river cities have tried to preserve the memory of those graceful old monarchs of the river with cute little modern imitations offering half-hour "rides" which fail to recapture the charm of the old steamers. Not so Louisville.

The Belle of Louisville is one of the precious few authentic survivors of the steamboat era. Built at Pittsburgh in 1914 for the West Memphis Packet Co., she has served as a packet, excursion boat, and ferry. Since 1962, she has been owned and operated by Jefferson County, Kentucky, for the pleasure of visitors and local citizens alike.

Her leisurely two-hour cruise allows you plenty of time to wander her various decks, observe the action of boilers and paddle wheel, then to find a seat on the hurricane roof and enjoy the music of her steam calliope while watching the passing scenery on the riverbank.

Due to our greater distance from the riverfront this year, the RiverCon committee has chartered two buses which will take convention members directly from the hotel to the wharf. Please be ready to board the bus in front of the hotel at 12:30 sharp on Sunday. The buses will return to the hotel immediately following the cruise, arriving back at the Executive West at approximately 4:45. Or, if you prefer to drive, there is a parking garage at the riverfront. Check at the RiverCon registration for details.





COMING

NEXT

YEAR!

KUBLA KHANCEPTION

GUEST OF HONOR

FRANK ROBINSON

*the "Man with the Power"*

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

*Andrew J. Offutt.*

FAN GUEST OF HONOR

*Bob Tucker*

Membership: \$7.50 advance, \$10.00 at the door

MORE INFORMATION:

Ken Moore  
647 Devon Drive  
Nashville, TN 37220  
(615) 832-8402

PLUS:

*Banquet and Awards  
Art Show and Auction  
Maskeraid, Films, Panels,  
Slide Shows, and our 24 hour  
Khan Suite...and Moore, Moore,  
Moore...*

April 27, 28 & 29, 1979

# And what about

# RIVERCON V

# ?

As is evident from the facing page, Louisville is hosting the North American Continental Science Fiction Convention next year. Much as we'd like to have two full-scale conventions here in one summer, we simply do not have the time and energy to do justice to both. Thus, no RiverCon in 1979.

However, there will be a RiverCon V; it will just be postponed a year--to July, 1980. Watch for announcements of guests and other details. Members of RiverCon IV will be sent full information in the Spring of 1980.

**RiverCon, P.O. Box 8251, Louisville, KY 40200**

*The 1979 North American  
Science Fiction Convention*

# NORTHAMERICON '79

*August 30 - September 3, 1979  
Louisville, Kentucky*

*Guest of Honor*

# Frederik Pohl

*Fan Guest of Honor*

# George Scithers

*Toastmaster*

# Lester del Rey

Next year's official continental convention will take place over Labor Day weekend (one week after the worldcon in Britain) in Louisville's elegant riverfront showplace, the Galt House. Our experienced and dedicated committee is hard at work preparing a memorable program of events to satisfy every fannish taste. Join now to insure receiving all progress reports and avoid future membership rate increases.

Cliff Amos, Chairman  
Bob Roehm, Publications

Bob Hillis, Vice-Chairman  
Steve Francis, Treasurer

Attending  
Membership:  
\$10.00 to 9/30/78

NorthAmerican  
P.O. Box 58009  
Louisville, Ky. 40258



