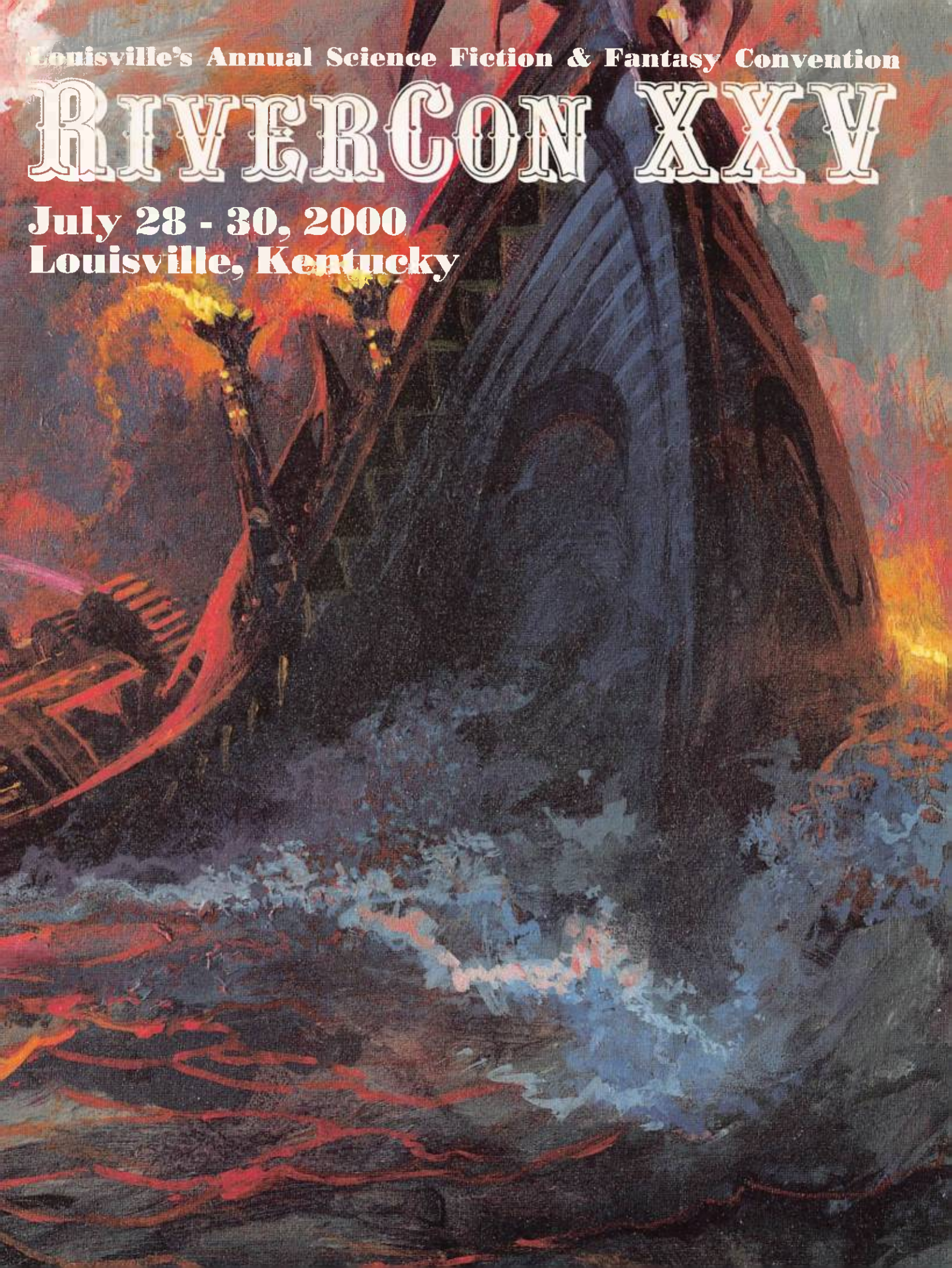


Louisville's Annual Science Fiction & Fantasy Convention

RIVERCON XXV

July 28 - 30, 2000
Louisville, Kentucky



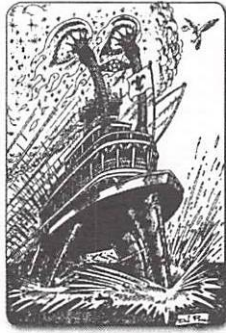
RIVERCON

July 28 - 30, 2000
Executive West Hotel ♣ Louisville, Kentucky

Being a last assemblage
to say goodbye
to all our cherished and loyal
friends and guests
who have made
RiverCon such a joy
for a quarter-century.

XXV

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WELCOME ABOARD...

FOR THE VERY LAST TIME, we welcome you to RiverCon, Louisville's annual science fiction and fantasy convention. Enjoy yourselves, relax, revel in our shared interest—even passion—for all things science-fictional. We promise a weekend filled with wonder and excitement as we embark on our last voyage.

Here we are in the future, the 21st Century (and the chronopurists among you can just sit down and shut up). Even though we science fiction fans have lived in the future all our lives, we're sure that few of us at that first RiverCon ever thought we'd still be here a quarter-century later. But indeed here we are, and now we are saying goodbye. It is of course said with a certain amount of sadness, but at the same time we are confident that this is the right thing to do. Many of the reasons for retiring RiverCon were explained in our announcement three years ago; that letter is reprinted on page 27.

Perhaps there will be some tears this weekend, but we want there to be just as much laughter. This is meant to be a joyful, happy occasion, and not a sorrowful one, so go out and have some fun!

And now, on to the future! (But we'd still like to know, just where *are* the flying cars?)

Badges

Everyone: **PLEASE WEAR YOUR RIVERCON MEMBERSHIP BADGE!** Any time you are in a convention area of the hotel, please wear your badge in a conspicuous place. Not only does this have the obvious benefit of identifying you to other convention members, but you will be refused admission to certain areas and activities if you are not wearing your badge. Plus, the easier it is to see your badge the less likely the convention staff is to stop and ask if you're a RiverCon member. Try not to lose your badge, either; the cost for a replacement is \$25.00. Membership badges remain the property of RiverCon during the course of the convention. RiverCon reserves the right to refuse memberships to, or revoke from, persons who engage in disorderly, disruptive, or unlawful behavior at the convention.

Hospitality Suites

The RiverCon Hospitality Suites are located in Rooms 272 (non-smoking) and 475 (smoking). They are open throughout the convention for your enjoyment. An assortment of munchies is usually available, but please remember we do not provide meals. Don't forget that RiverCon serves only non-alcoholic drinks in the hospitality suites. (*A reminder to party hosts: Kentucky's legal drinking age is 21, and you are responsible for your guests' behavior.*)

Convention Newsletter

To keep you informed of any last-minute news, not to mention party reports and idle gossip, we'll be publishing daily issues of *The Riverboat Packet*. If you have any news you'd like included in the newsletter, leave it in the container marked for it at the volunteers and information desk, which is located at the west end of the hallway opposite the Mary Room. Deadline for each morning's issue is 9:00 p.m. the previous evening.

Information Tables

Representatives of some upcoming Worldcons and future convention bidders are expected to be at tables along the hallway near the registration area. They will be happy to provide you with all the information you need in order to make an informed choice in site selection voting. We urge you to take advantage of their expertise.

The Southern Fandom Confederation will be there, too, to offer information and take memberships (see their ad on page 26 of this program book).

Babysitting

RiverCon's babysitting is staffed by licensed, professional sitters. The hours of operation are listed in your pocket program schedule. This service is free of charge for all children holding RiverCon memberships. Children left at the service must be picked up by closing time (no exceptions) and will be turned

over only to a parent or legal guardian or to persons designated in writing by the parent (again, *no exceptions*).

Children Members

As a reminder to parents, we'd like to ask you that you carefully monitor your children's behavior. If a committee member observes a child seriously misbehaving to the extent that the child is endangering him- or herself or others, or is damaging hotel property, then that child's membership badge will be taken and must then be claimed by the parent at the volunteer desk. If this happens a third time, the child's membership will be revoked and he or she must be removed from the convention area of the hotel.

Weapons

Weapons, either real or realistically simulated, may not be worn or carried in the convention areas of the hotel (and we strongly discourage wearing them outside the hotel, too). Dealers may sell weapons in the Huckster's Room provided that they are wrapped securely for removal from the room. Absolutely no demonstrations of weapons in the Huckster Room aisles are allowed.

Weapons may be worn or carried during the hours of the masquerade Saturday night (approximately 9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.) if part of a stage costume or bona fide hall costume. This exception applies only to the masquerade time period and *only* to those in full costume. However, please exercise extreme caution at all times when navigating crowded hallways, stairways, and elevators. We ask you to refrain from wearing weapons in the main lobby area at all times.

Thank You

Just take a look at the list on the right and you'll see that it takes a *lot* of people to put on a convention like RiverCon. The committee would like to offer its sincerest appreciation to everyone whose name is listed, as well as the dozens of others who volunteered later. We couldn't have done it without each and every one of you.

About the Artwork

The cover painting is a preliminary sketch that the late Paul Lehr made as one possibility for his 1994 RiverCon program book cover. He ultimately decided on a radically different design, and so this one was never published. We are grateful to Paula Lehr for permission to present this version as a memorial to her husband, one of the finest artists ever to work in the SF field.

The title page and department headings incorporate the original RiverCon '75 program book cover as drawn by Don Rosa.

RiverCon Committee & Staff

Co-Chairs

Steve Francis
Sue Francis

Vice-Chair

Bob Roehm

Art Show

Lynn Harris
Kyle Thomas
Archie Harper
Ian Harris
Tim Luke
Danny McDole
Shae Morris
Connie Price
Ed Reck
Dave Shockley
Gail Walker
Kevin Ward

Filksinging

Murray Porath
Kathy Porath

Gaming

Sean Reck
Tony Byrd
Wolf Holleman
Chris Howard
Jake Lovell
Stuart Posante
Evan Roberts
Joe Swanson
Tony Thompson
Bob Waters

Hospitality Suite

Judi Lundy
Debbie Allen
Geoff Allen
Kathy Allen
Annette Carrico
Drake
Ian Harris
Mike Lalor
Alex Luker
Jann Melton
Deborah Oakes
Donna Rembowski
Amanda Stevens
Christi Strattan
John Stepp
Jim Woosley

Huckster Room

David Francis
Steve Francis
Jeff Lockridge

Masquerade

Linda Wyatt
Lois Wellinghurst
Richard Wellinghurst
B.J. Willinger (M.C.)
Carla Adkins
Jennifer Adkins
Janie Broughton
Wayne Brumfield
Cindi Edwards
Leah Gadzikowski
Jeff Lockridge
Danny McDole
Chris Stuber
Chris Tate
Daisy Ward
Mike Ward

Programming

Joel D. Zakem
Lynn Harris (art)
Janie Broughton (kids)
Jessica Bratcher
Wolf Holleman
Marie Miesel

Publications & Webmaster

Bob Roehm

Photographer

Jennifer Wilson

Registration

Laura Gill
Teddy Laun
Melissa Dick
David Francis
Holly Francis
Sue Francis
Paul Gill
Rick Laun
Gloria Nugent-Edwards

Special Awards

Christa Sinclair, HOKC
Mike Sinclair, HOKC (ret.)

Video Program

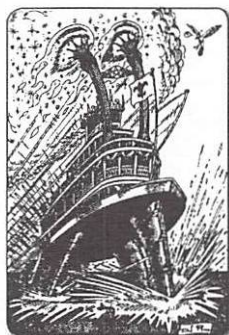
Mike Townsend
John LaRue
Joe Leitsch

Volunteers

Thomas Samples
Krista Biggs
Ken Harper
Fonda Wilson

Writers Workshops

Susan Baugh



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

This schedule is complete as of program book press time, but please check your pocket program, the daily newszine, and the registration area for posted changes and/or additions throughout the convention. (Schedule times are rounded to the next hour, but program items will generally end about five minutes before the next program is scheduled to begin.)

The RiverCon Hospitality Suites are Rooms 272 (non-smoking) and 475 (smoking). They open Friday about 12:00 noon and remain open for the duration of the convention. Please remember that only non-alcoholic beverages are available.

The Information and Volunteers Desk is located next to the **Registration Desk** at the west end of the hallway leading to the Mary Room. This desk will be staffed during most of the convention. Members wanting to volunteer to work should check in here. Also, the T-shirt exchange and a box for items for the daily newszine is here.

Friday, July 28

12:00 noon - 12:00 mid. *Registration and information.* (Convention Office)

1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. *Art Show and Print Shop.* (Artists may begin checking in their work at 10:00 a.m.) (King/William/Lion Rooms—Second Floor)

1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. *Huckster Room*

open. (Room opens at 9:00 a.m. for dealer set-up.) (Queen/Scots Room)

1:00 p.m. - *Games Program.* Check game room for specific games and starting times. The number of participants is limited and some require sign up in advance. (Loch/Heather Rooms—Second Floor)

4:00 p.m. - *Video Program.* Check the pocket program grid in the pocket program for specific titles and starting times. (Tay Room & In-house Ch.13)

5:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. *Japanese Animation Festival.* A video program by Joe Leitsch and John LaRue. Check schedule posted at room for titles and times. (Ruskin Room)

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. *Obligatory Friday Afternoon Panel.* Everyone is invited to tell their favorite RiverCon stories. Jack Heazlitt (a 25-year RiverCon veteran) moderates. (Aberdeen Room)

7:00 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. *Babysitting available.* Children must be picked up by closing time by authorized adult only. (Room 773)

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. *Old-Fashioned Game Night (suggested ages 4-13).* Games include (time allowing) Drop the Handkerchief, Mother May I, Red Light/Green Light, Blind Man's Bluff, and Simon Says. Parents may arrange to have their children escorted to the Ice Cream Social by the program co-

ordinator and meet them there, or pick them up at the Bagpipe Room at 8:30. (Bagpipe Room)

8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. *RiverCon XXV Opening Ceremonies.* Ringmaster, er, Toastmaster Mike Resnick makes a bold attempt to introduce our multitude of guests. Plus, presentations, announcements, and other important stuff! (Mary Room)

9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. *The RiverCon Ice Cream Social and Autograph Party.* (Mary Room/Chapel)

10:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. *True Hollywood Stories.* George R.R. Martin, Mike Resnick, and S.P. Somtow spill the beans about working in Tinseltown. (Edinburgh Room)

10:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. *Imagination Fully Dilated.* Alan M. Clark presents a slide show from the books *Imagination Fully Dilated*, Vol. I & II, containing illustrated stories by various authors based on Alan's paintings. Alan also talks about how the books originated. (Shannon Room)

10:00 p.m. - *The RiverCon Dance.* Live DJ! (Mary Room)

11:00 p.m. - 12:00 mid. *The Art Show After Dark: A Tongue-in-Cheek Tour of the RiverCon Art Show.* Kevin Ward is your tour guide. (King/William/Lion Rooms—Second Floor)

Beginning Writers' Workshops

All programs are in the **Drinkwater Room**, near the front entrance of the hotel.

Friday

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. *The World Beyond the Hill: Creating Alternate Worlds*. David Creek.

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. *Character Development*. Michael Williams.

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. *Once It Is Written: Finding Places to Sell Your Work*. Susan Baugh.

Saturday

12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. *Contests for Writers: Should Writers Beware?* Ryck Neube, Carolyn Clowes.

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. *What E-Zines Can Do for You*. Jean Goldstrom, Chuck Goldstrom, Steve Tully.

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. *How to Write Creatively for Internet Magazines*. Jean Goldstrom.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. *My Home Town*. Does where one lives or grew up influence the SF/F/H writer? Michael Williams, Gary Raisor, Ryck Neube, Carolyn Clowes, David Creek, and other Kentucky writers.

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. *Why Be A Webmaster?* Steve Tully.



10:00 p.m. - *Filking*. (Aberdeen Room)

11:00 p.m. - *Alternative Music* (Shannon Room)

Saturday, July 29

12:00 a.m. - *Video program* continues. Check pocket program grid for specific titles and starting times. (Tay Room & In-house Ch.13)

12:00 a.m. - *Games program* continues. Check game room for specific games and starting times. (Loch/Heather Rooms—second floor)

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. *Babysitting* available. (Room 773)

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. *Registration and information*. (Convention Office)

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. *Huckster Room* open. (Hucksters are allowed in room 15 minutes early for set-up.) (Queen/Scots)

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. *Art Show and Print Shop* open. Several artists' programs and other activities will take place in the King Room throughout the day. Check posted announcements for specifics. (King/William/Lion—second floor)

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. *Win Chris Barkley's Money*. Preliminary Round. Nine challengers vie to unseat Chris Barkley, RiverCon's SF Jeopardy champ, who takes the Ben Stein role in this quiz. Julee Johnson-Tate and Chris Tate provide the questions. Contestants can sign up in advance at the Information Desk. (Final match on Sunday.) (The Chapel)

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. *SFWA Meeting*. Linda Dunn chairs a meeting of the South-Central Region of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America. Members only. (Drinkwater Room)

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. *SF Fandom: The Early Days*. Forrest J Ackerman, Hal Clement, Dave Kyle, Julius Schwartz, and Rusty Hevelin (moderator) discuss the good old days and how things have changed. (Shannon Room)

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. *Making Dragon Puppets (ages 4-13)*. Janie Broughton. (Bagpipe Room)

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. *The Changing SF Convention Art Show*. Debbie Hughes (moderator), Lynn Harris, Nancy Lockyear, Kevin Ward. (Aberdeen Room)

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon *Keeping Fan-*

tasy Fresh. Or, there's more to good fantasy than just elves and dragons! David B. Coe, Jocelin Foxe, Ron Sarti, and Michael Williams. (Edinburgh Room)

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. *The Very Best of the Candid Stuff*. Dr. Bill Breuer presents his annual humorous show looking at the space program and other scientific advancements, and brings back favorite comedy pieces from the past 25 years. (Mary Room)

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon *Does Science Fiction Have Its Own Language?* Will this affect the future of the field? Steven Burgauer, Ron Collins, Dave Creek, Jack Nimersheim. (Aberdeen Room)

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon *Creative Writing for Young Authors (ages 8-13)*. Janie Broughton. (Bagpipe Room)

12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. *Collaborations Between Artists and Writers*. Can't we all just get along? Alan Clark, Darryl Elliott, Paula Robinson, S.P. Somtow, Kevin Ward. (Shannon Room)

12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. *The Writers Explain It All*. Linda Dunn, Esther Friesner, Stephen Leigh, and Lisa Silverthorne provide a "true" guide to becoming a very successful writer. (Edinburgh Room)

12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. *How SF Conventions Have Changed*. Juanita Coulson, Jan Howard Finder, Richard Lynch, Bruce Pelz, Leslie Turek. Trust these folks; they have been to a lot of cons. **(Aberdeen Room)**

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. *SF and Fantasy: The Next 25 Years*. Algis Budrys, Jack L. Chalker, George R.R. Martin, Steven H Silver, and Toni Weiskopf take a look at where the field may be going. **(Edinburgh Room)**

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. *Computer and Internet Security*. Mike Banks, Donald E. Eastlake, and Jack Nimersheim present advice on protecting yourself on and off line. **(Aberdeen Room)**

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. *The Last Exquisite Corpse*. Based on the Victorian parlor game, participants are given a subject and told to draw a section of it. The next artist adds to the drawing without seeing the previous work. Darryl Elliott MC's, and many attending artists will participate. **(King Room—Second Floor)**

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. *Trapped in the Solar System*. Is there still room for stories set in our own cosmic backyard? Arlan Andrews, Steven Burgauer, Hal Clement, Allen Steele. **(Shannon Room)**

2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. *Author Reading: David B. Coe*. **(Gaelic Room)**

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. *My SF Life*. Julius Schwartz talks about his life in science fiction and comics and the SF celebrities he has known—from Asimov to Zelazny. With Brian Thomsen. **(Aberdeen Room)**

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. *Science Fiction and Mysteries*. How are they alike? How are they different? Joe L. Hensley, Nick DiChario, Mary Stanton (Claudia Bishop) compare and contrast **(Shannon Room)**

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. *Masquerade Practice*. The stage is open for Masquerade

participants only. **(Mary Room)**

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. *Constructing Your Own Alien (ages 5-12)*. Gary M. Williams. **(Bagpipe Room)**

2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. *Babysitting available* **(Room 773)**

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. *Obscure Authors and Overlooked Books*. Mike Resnick, Algis Budrys, Jack Chalker, and Steven H Silver (moderator) present our annual review of authors and stories you might not have heard about. **(Edinburgh Room)**

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. *Myths and Legends of Southern Fandom*. Ned Brooks, Samantha b Jude, Nicki Lynch, Richard Lynch, and Toni Weiskopf (moderator) know the real stories. **(Aberdeen Room)**

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. *History in Science Fiction and Fantasy*. How character and environmental history are significant in literature. George R.R. Martin, Stephen Leigh, Jack Nimersheim, Lisa Silverthorne. Paul "Wolf" Holleman moderates. **(Shannon Room)**

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. *Making a Tabard (ages 4-13)*. Kit Matulich show how to make a medieval-style tunic. Materials provided. **(Bagpipe Room)**

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. *The Rise of the BIG Book*. Why are fat volumes taking over the sf/fantasy field? David B. Coe, Linda Dunn, Esther M. Friesner, Lawrence Watt-Evans. **(Edinburgh Room)**

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. *Fannish Trends*. Is there anything new in fandom, or are we just repeating the past? Jill Eastlake, Laurie Mann, Roger Sims, Dick Spelman. **(Aberdeen Room)**

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. *The Andy and Allen Show*. Anything goes, with Andrew J. Offutt and Allen Steele. **(Shannon Road)**

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. *Mask-Making for Kids (ages 4-13)*. Josef Matulich. **(Bagpipe Room)**

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. *As He Sees It*. Frank Kelly Freas, with Laura Freas, present an overview of their work. **(Edinburgh Room)**

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. *Author Reading: George R.R. Martin*. **(Gaelic Room)**

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. *Is This Really the 21st Century?* But what happened to the lunar cities and flying cars? Arlan Andrews (moderator), Ron Collins, R. Neube, Paula Robinson, and Ron Sarti. **(Shannon Room)**

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. *The Oldywed's Game*. Several SF couples discover how much they really know about each other. Joel Zakem is your host. **(Edinburgh Room)**

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. *The Glen Cook Hour*. Glen escapes from the hucksters' room one last time to talk about his work and answer questions. **(Aberdeen Room)**

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. *The Baen Books Traveling Slide Show*. With Baen Executive Editor Toni Weiskoff (and door prizes!). **(Shannon Room)**

7:00 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. *Babysitting available*. **(Room 773)**

8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. *Art Auction*. Auctioneers: Rusty Hevelin, Richard Smith, Gary Robe. **(King Room)**

9:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. *Masquerade Prejudging*. Masquerade participants, judges, and staff only. **(The Chapel)**

10:00 p.m. - *Filking*. **(Aberdeen Room)**

11:00 p.m. - *Alternative Music*. **(Shannon Room)**

11:00 p.m. - *The Last RiverCon Masquerade*. B.J. Willinger takes a final bow

as Master of Ceremonies for the last Ming Awards. Roberta Simpson Brown, "Queen of the Scary Stories," performs at intermission. (Mary Room)

Sunday, July 30

12:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. *Video program.* Check pocket program grid for specific titles and starting times. (Tay Room and In-house Ch. 13)

12:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. *Games program* continues. Check game room for specific games and times. (Loch/Heather Rooms—second floor)

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. *Japanese Animation Festival.* Videos programed by Joe Leitsch and John LaRue. Check schedule posted at room for titles and times. (Ruskin Room)

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon *Art Show.* Open only for pick-up of purchased art. (King/William/Lion—second floor)

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. *Huckster Room* open. (Dealers must clear the room by 5:00 p.m.) (Queen/Scots)

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. *Decorating (and Eating!) UFO Cookies (ages 4-13).* Janie Broughton. (Bagpipe Room)

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon *Spirituality and SF/Fantasy.* Ron Sarti, Steven H Silver, S.P. Somtow, Michael Williams.

(Shannon Room)

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon *Writers and Illustrators of the Future.* Algis Budrys, Kelly Freas, Laura Freas, and Ron Collins discuss the long-running contest sponsored by Author Services, Inc. (Edinburgh Room)

12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. *Win Chris Barkley's Money.* Final Round. Chris takes on the three winners from Saturday's preliminaries. With Julee Johnson-Tate and Chris Tate as MCs. (Edinburgh Room)

12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m. *DUFF Auction.* Bid on unusual and unique items to aid the Down Under Fan Fund. DUFF delegate Janice Gelb is in charge. (Mary Room)

12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. *Keeping Series Books Independent.* Must you always go from Point A to Point B? David B. Coe, Jocelin Foxe, Stephen Leigh, and Lawrence Watt-Evans. (Shannon Room)

2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. *Closing Ceremonies.* RiverCon says goodbye. Tissues optional. (Mary Room)

2:30 p.m. - *FOSEA Open Meeting.* The Falls of the Ohio Science Fiction Association invites everyone to attend its special annual open meeting. (Shannon Room)

Other Guests and Program Participants

We regret that space limitations this year do not permit the usual biographical notes about our other guests and program participants. Many of them have been loyal regulars for several years; for others, this is their first time. We thank each and every one of them for their efforts over the years to make RiverCon a more interesting, informative, and just plain fun convention. As of press time, here are the names of those attending:

Dr. Bill Breuer
Roberta Simpson Brown
Algis J. Budrys
Steven Burgauer
Carolyn Clowes
David B. Coe
Ron Collins
Glen Cook
David Creek
Nick DiChario
Linda Dunn
Jocelin Foxe
Laura Freas
Jean & Chuck Goldstrom
Stephen Leigh
Kit & Josef Matulich
Ryck Neube
Jack Nimersheim
Gary Raisor
Paula Robinson
Ron Sarti
Steven H Silver
Lisa Silverthorne
Mary Stanton
Brian Thomsen
Steve Tully
Toni Weisskopf
Michael Williams

Coming in 2001. A New Convention.

Conglomeration

August 10 - 12, 2001

Holiday Inn Lakeview Clarksville, Indiana

Membership Rates:

\$20.00 RiverCon Special

\$25 until July 25, 2001; \$35 at the door.

Send memberships & inquiries to: 302 Country Acres Dr., #1,
Louisville, KY 40218. E-mail: Shadowr@iglou.com

✿ A HISTORY OF RIVERCON ✿

This is a list of all past RiverCons, their guests, locations, and final attendance.

Returning guests who are expected to be at RiverCon XXV are indicated in *bold italics*.

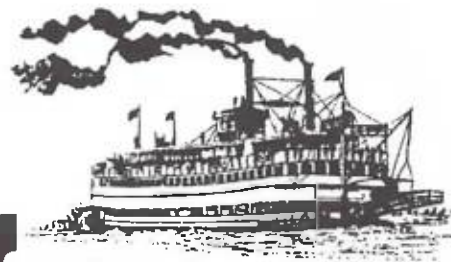
| Year | Name | Guests | Hotel | Attendance |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1975 | RiverCon 75/ DeepSouthCon XIII | GoH: Philip José Farmer FGoH: Robert & <i>Juanita Coulson</i> TM: <i>andrew j offutt</i> | Stouffer's Louisville Inn | 545 |
| 1976 | RiverCon II | GoH: Poul Anderson FGoH: <i>Jodie Offutt</i> TM: <i>Kelly Freas</i> | Stouffer's Louisville Inn | 374 |
| 1977 | RiverCon III | GoH: Larry Niven* FGoH: Sandra Miesel TM: <i>Joe L. Hensley</i> | Stouffer's Louisville Inn | 621 |
| 1978 | RiverCon IV | GoH: Robert Bloch FGoH: <i>Ned Brooks</i> TM: Bob Tucker | Executive West Hotel | 592 |
| 1980 | RiverCon V | GoH: Roger Zelazny FGoH: Lou Tabakow TM: Vincent Di Fate | The Galt House | 747 |
| 1981 | RiverCon VI | GoH: Jack Williamson FGoH: <i>Mike & Carol Resnick</i> TM: Frank M. Robinson | The Galt House | 783 |
| 1982 | RiverCon VII | GoH: Gordon R. Dickson FGoH: <i>Dave Kyle</i> TM: <i>jan howard finder</i> | The Galt House | 836 |
| 1983 | RiverCon VIII | GoH: L. Sprague & Catherine de Camp FGoH: <i>Rusty Hevelin</i> TM: Bob Tucker | The Galt House | 747 |
| 1984 | RiverCon IX | GoH: <i>andrew j. offutt</i> FGoH: <i>Don & Jill Eastlake</i> TM: Charles L. Grant | The Galt House | 874 |
| 1985 | RiverCon X | GoH: <i>George R.R. Martin</i> FGoH: John Millard TM: <i>Mike Glicksohn</i> | The Galt House | 970 |
| 1986 | RiverCon XI | GoH: C.J. Cherryh FGoH: <i>Dick & Nikki Lynch</i> TM: <i>Sharon Webb</i> | The Galt House | 834 |
| 1987 | RiverCon XII | GoH: Bob Shaw FGoH: <i>Ken Moore</i> TM: <i>Michael Banks</i> | The Galt House | 881 |
| 1988 | RiverCon XIII | GoH: <i>Kelly Freas</i> FGoH: <i>Samanda b Jeudé</i> TM: <i>Somtow Sucharitkul (S.P. Somtow)</i> | Holiday Inn Downtown** | 770 |

| | | | | |
|------|----------------|--|------------------------|-----|
| 1989 | RiverCon XIV | GoH: <i>Jack L. Chalker</i> FGoH: <i>Dick Spelman</i> TM: <i>Arlan Andrews</i> | Holiday Inn Downtown** | 744 |
| 1990 | RiverCon XV | GoH: <i>Mike Resnick</i> FGoH: George "Lan" Laskowski TM: George Alec Effinger | Hyatt Regency | 847 |
| 1991 | RiverCon XVI | GoH: Lois McMaster Bujold FGoH: <i>Leslie Turek</i> Artist: <i>Debbie Hughes</i> TM: Emma Bull | Hyatt Regency | 769 |
| 1992 | RiverCon XVII | GoH: Mercedes Lackey FGoH: <i>Laurie Mann</i> Artist: <i>Doug Chaffee</i> TM: <i>Bruce Pelz</i> | Hyatt Regency | 853 |
| 1993 | RiverCon XVIII | GoH: Joe Haldeman FGoH: <i>Jane & Scott Dennis</i> Artist: Vincent Di Fate TM: Bob Tucker | Hurstbourne Hotel | 824 |
| 1994 | RiverCon XIX | GoH: <i>Forrest J Ackerman</i> FGoH: Verna Smith Trestrail Artist: Paul Lehr TM: <i>Julius Schwartz</i> | Executive West Hotel | 768 |
| 1995 | RiverCon XX | GoH: Philip José Farmer FGoH: Robert & <i>Juanita Coulson</i> Artists: <i>Alan Clark, Debbie Hughes, Mark Maxwell, Kevin Ward</i> TM: <i>Andrew J. Offutt</i> | Executive West Hotel | 900 |
| 1996 | RiverCon XXI | GoH: Nancy Kress FGoH: <i>Annette Carrico</i> Artist: <i>Darryl Elliott</i> TM: <i>Allen Steele</i> | Executive West Hotel | 903 |
| 1997 | RiverCon XXII | GoH: Terry Bisson FGoH: Barry & Sally Childs-Helton Artist: Larry Elmore TM: David G. Hartwell | Executive West Hotel | 787 |
| 1998 | RiverCon XXIII | GoH: Harry Turtledove FGoH: <i>Julee Johnson-Tate & Chris Tate</i> Artist: <i>Kevin Ward</i> TM: <i>Hal Clement</i> | Executive West Hotel | 843 |
| 1999 | RiverCon XXIV | GoH: <i>Esther Friesner</i> FGoH: <i>Pat & Roger Sims</i> Artist: <i>Gary Williams</i> TM: <i>Lawrence Watt-Evans</i> | Executive West Hotel | 800 |
| 2000 | RiverCon XXV | GoH: All former guests | Executive West Hotel | |

* *Larry Niven was unable to attend due to illness, and Gordon Dickson substituted. Mr. Niven attended the following RiverCon.*

** *Formerly Stouffer's Louisville Inn. Cliff Amos chaired RiverCon I - VII; Steve and Sue Francis have co-chaired RiverCon since VIII.*

So Long, and Thanks . . .



For this last RiverCon, we thought we'd turn the tables a bit and ask our past guests, whether attending or not, to offer their reminiscences of RiverCon. The responses was, to say the least, gratifying. We can't thank you enough for sharing so many happy memories. Here are some of the responses:

Andrew J. Offutt **Toastmaster. 1975. 1995** **Guest of Honor. 1984**

It hasn't really been 24—now 25—has it?

Let's see...maybe so. I remember one night at a long-ago Kubla Khan (it was about the time the President was murdered; they got that S.O.B. John Wilkes Booth, didn't they?) Cliff Amos asked to meet me for breakfast. Naturally I had to tell him that breakfast is not something I do at cons, since every night I try to do my duty to reduce this nation's shocking beer surplus, & that takes hours & hours.

We agreed that we would meet at c. 11:30 in the hotel restaurant for brunch.

With Cliff when Jodie & I arrived was Donna Neslund from Tennessee, and well, I hain't fer certain but Bob Roehm thinks he was there too. Since I was only 25 or so at the time, he must have been about 10. Jodie and I as usual were a cheap date, & in time we came to the purpose for this meeting.

In non-direct quotes Cliff said, We're going to put on a sf con in Louisville. We are calling it RiverCon, since Louisville exists because of the river, & we'll be honoring Philip José Farmer, author of the wonderful *Riverworld* novels (my adjective). "Uncle Andy," Cliff went on, and this is DQ for direct quotes, "what would it take to get you to be our toastmaster?"

(He might have said "Master of Ceremonies" or even "MC". Did you know that I'm the guy responsible for use of the word "toastmaster" in sf/fantasy con fandom?)

Poster boy for complete seriousness as always, I shrugged. "The usual, Cliff—seventy-five hundred dollars and hot & cold running blondes in my room."

Nobody took that seriously; I don't charge money to my fellow fans, and I'm not a bigot about hair-color, either. What I really wanted was to be put up and fed now and again and maybe find a bottle of Maker's Mark in my room. Those were easy requests, and we were off and running, and the ultra-deserving Phil Farmer got the best dam' introduction he's ever had in his life.

Years passed before Cliff quietly asked me one night at some con or other, "What the heck did you want with *cold* running blondes?"

"Oh, they were for the con committee," I told him airily, as if I had any idea other than that it had been a spur-of-the-moment cute phrase that I just *couldn't* pass up...

The next year Jodie was Fan GoH here, and on another occasion I was Toastmaster again, and along the way I was Guest of Honor. That time was less than a month after my mother died here in Louisville, & my GoH "entertainment" was reading letters from her to me and me to her, and crying.

I hope no one weeps at this RiverCon, except maybe because it's the last one.

Juanita Coulson **Fan Guest of Honor. 1975. 1995**

RiverCon I was marvelous. No previous regional con

1975: Jimmy Hoffa disappears • *Jaws* • Vietnam War ends • Mood rings • *Rocky Horror Picture Show* opens • Patricia Hearst captured • **1976:** The Bicentennial • *Rocky, Carrie, Taxi Driver* • Jimmy Carter elected president • **1977:** *Star Wars, Close*

— let alone a *first* con — was ever so beautifully organized. Months of hard advance work by the committee created a pageant of fun and brain food for attendees — a harbinger of 20+ RiverCons to follow. Throughout the years, despite twists of fate and all manner of other obstacles, RiverCon's dedicated concom continued to prevail and triumph.

Looking back over those 25 years, I have only two regrets. 1) Due to circumstances beyond control, Buck and I were forced to miss a couple RiverCons; but friends assured us those, too, were up the usual wonderful standards. 2) This is going to be the last RiverCon. But...what a magnificent finale!

Like grand old troupers say, if ya gotta quit, leave at the top of your form — which is exactly what RiverCon is doing.

Thanks for all the terrific memories. It's been a real blast.

Poul Anderson

Guest of Honor. 1976

Karen and I do indeed regret not being able to make the last RiverCon. In fact, every year we've been sorry that, for one reason or another, we couldn't be there.

Our memories of the two we did attend are so very pleasant. The first [RiverCon '75] was a kind of after-thought on our part, at the end of another trip. We arrived unannounced and were in line for at-the-gate registration when we were recognized and immediately treated like royalty. It was a great weekend, meeting old friends and making new ones, climaxed of course by the riverboat ride. Afterward Cliff Amos very kindly spent a day showing us around the area. It meant especially much to Karen, since she had lived thereabouts in her girlhood.

Next year we came as invited guests, and again enjoyed every minute. Again there was a day on the riverboat. We don't now recall on which of these rides Filthy Pierre took over the steam calliope. The captain had been playing old-time Southern tunes, but now suddenly we heard Bach—the only time we've ever heard his music on that instrument! I'm sure he himself would have been delighted.

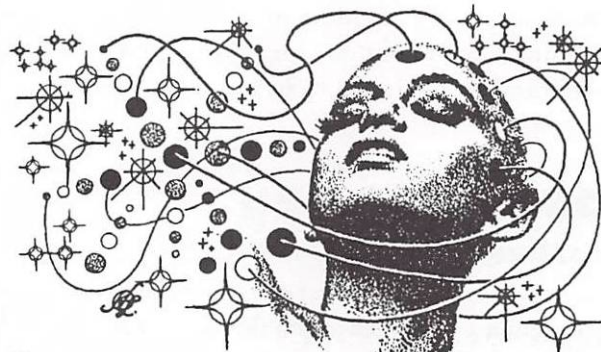
Have a good one this year, and please give everybody our very best.

Frank Kelly Freas

Toastmaster. 1976

Guest of Honor. 1988

Congratulations on 25 years!



Kelly & Laura Freas

Jodie Offutt

Fan Guest of Honor. 1976

We went to our first convention in 1969, the St. Louis WorldCon. At that time no conventions were held in Kentucky. In fact, Kentucky had few active fans. During the next few years, our state became home to several conventions. RubiCon in Lexington and the unique ConCave, to name a couple. And, of course, RiverCon.

Everything about RiverCon has been so perfectly Louisville and Kentucky. The gaudy Galt House, its location on the Ohio River, the Sunday afternoon filksing and the boat ride up the river on the Belle of Louisville. RiverCon was also Kentucky's first DeepSouthCon and NASFiC. The move to the Executive West out near the Watterson Expressway made the con no less "Louisville." RiverCon has always been a popular convention, attracting fans from all over the country. We all have special RiverCon memories. Mine all revolve around people, the friends I've made and friendships that have grown and solidified at RiverCons.

What makes RiverCon so special are the people who have kept it consistently top-notch over the years. It began with Cliff Amos, who was followed by Steve and Sue Francis and their tireless committee. Bob Roehm, Lynn Harris, B.J. Willinger, Jack and Susan Young, Joel Zakem, and of course the continuing generations of

Encounters of the Third Kind, Saturday Night Fever • Gary Gilmore executed • Elvis and Groucho die • "You Light Up My Life" • New York City blackout • Space shuttle Enterprise makes inaugural flight • **1978: Mork & Mindy** and *Battlestar*

Francis offspring. RiverCon has class. The program books, the art shows, the masquerades, all class operations that anyone contemplating putting on a con would do well to emulate.

Thank you, Steve, Sue and Company for bringing class to Kentucky and to fandom in the form of RiverCon, for contributing to our good memories, and for closing down this class operation in an equally classy manner. I love you all.

Joe L. Hensley

Toastmaster. 1977

The year I was Toastmaster for RiverCon I did it just after spending one week teaching at a university writer's conference. The women at the writer's conference either wore too much lipstick or none, too many clothes or too few. The men writers-to-be wore beards and smoked bulldog pipes. When I got to Louisville I was surprised at our faaaan normalacy

Ned Brooks

Fan Guest of Honor. 1978

I remember Louisville and the Galt House, but can no longer distinguish one RiverCon from another, or whether the Louisville NASFiC in 1979 was also a RiverCon. [It wasn't officially.] You can imagine the greater problem with DeepSouthCon — I've been to those for 34 years, and it all runs together except for the last two or three.

I can say that I remember the riverboat rides — there was the girl with the pet rat [Sally Kobee]; and Erwin "Filthy Pierre" Strauss trying to play the steam calliope on the boat (and not doing very well at it, because of the long delay between asking for a note and getting it). I have forgotten the name of the fan with the laser rifle, who fired it past my head as the boat docked, but I could see the red beam in the escaping steam mist.

I have always regreted missing the chance to be one of NASFiC's "Degenerate Scum" — just not in the right place at the right time!

I will miss Bob Tucker not being at the con this time.

He was Toastmaster the same year that I was Fan GoH, which I see was 1978 — the plaque is on the side of a bookcase in the living-room. I no longer remember what inanity I mumbled — I am totally inept at public speaking — as I presented him with a bottle of Beam's Choice.

Bob Tucker

Toastmaster. 1978. 1983. 1993

One of the tiptop happy memories of RiverCons Past was the year that Sue and Steve Francis took me on a tour of Churchill Downs after the con. They led me everywhere about the track and its buildings and we saw everything, including the famous Derby museum. By their design the museum was saved for last (the rascals!)

That museum houses a photograph of every horse that won the Derby since Year One, or so it seemed. The photos were mounted in chronological order and I looked forward eagerly to the winner of 1914, the year of my birth. I realized later that Sue and Steve were looking forward, too, but they were watching me, not the horses. At last we arrived at the winner of 1914.

His name was Old Rosebud.

I still bask in his glory. That was a good year and a good RiverCon.

Vincent Di fate

Toastmaster. 1980

I regret that I'll be unable to make it to this last, glorious RiverCon to say a farewell to some valued friends. RiverCon has become one of the most important and viable of fan institutions over the past quarter of a century and it will be a sad thing to see it end. It has come to mean so much to so many of us. Those of us who have grown up in fandom know the impossibility of trying to explain to others without similar roots the meaning and value of the convention scene and how certain regionals flourish over time to become the pillars of the fan network.

I never thought RiverCon's ship would sail. Gone perhaps, but certainly not forgotten, it will live on in our hearts. Have one helluva con!

Galactica premiere • Jonestown • Harvey Milk assassinated • **1979:** NorthAmeriCon • Gas rationing • Three Mile Island • Shah of Iran deposed • **1980:** Rubik's Cube • Sony Walkman • "Who shot JR?" • Mt. St. Helens erupts • Ronald Reagan

A Message from the Co-Chairs

AS WE VENTURE OFF ON THE LAST VOYAGE of RiverCon, we are glad we have so many of our past guests with us for our final trip down the river. In addition, there are 27 people in attendance who have made every one of the voyages with us. We hope that they have enjoyed RiverCon over the past quarter-century as much as we have.

The first RiverCon, which was also DeepSouthCon 13, was founded and chaired by Cliff Amos. Cliff was at the helm for the first seven RiverCons and then handed the ship's wheel over to us. Bob Roehm has been vice-chair of all 25 RiverCons and has also produced all of the publications. He has done an outstanding job over the years, and we have enjoyed watching the way the publications have evolved and improved. Thanks, Bob!

We have been very fortunate to have had a strong, willing and competent con committee and staff who have contributed greatly to make RiverCon what it is today. The committee and staff have our most heartfelt thanks for all of their dedication and hard work. If we started to mention names, it would take up more space than the editor will allow us to use, so let's just say a special thanks to everyone who has ever attended RiverCon over the years. We hope we have lived up to your expectations.

RiverCon has been held at several hotels since 1975, including its original home, Stouffer's Louisville Inn (now the Holiday Inn Downtown), the Galt House, the Hyatt Regency, the Hurstbourne Hotel and finally the Executive West Hotel. The Executive West and our

sales manager, Bob Wells, have made us feel most welcome since 1994.

We are presenting a small commemorative gift to our past RiverCon guests who are here this year, as well as to our 25-year members who have attended every RiverCon. These can be picked up at the Registration Desk beginning Saturday at noon. We hope you enjoy them and will think of RiverCon in the years to come.

The committee as a whole decided that we would do away with one programming event this year. The Sunday afternoon gripe session ("Bricks and Bouquets") has been canceled due to lack of interest on the part of the committee.

There are tentative plans for a new science fiction and fantasy convention to be held in the Louisville area in 2001. Information about it will be available this weekend. We sincerely hope that you will give your support to this new group, and we wish them well in their efforts to continue SF conventions in Kentuckiana.

A table has been set up across from the freebie tables to distribute the last remaining copies of the program books of many RiverCons past. For the completists among you, a full set of program books will be auctioned off at some point during the convention.

Welcome aboard for this, our last journey down the river. Enjoy!

—Sue and Steve Francis
RiverCon Co-Chairs

Jack Williamson

Guest of Honor. 1981

Special Guest. 1997

RiverCon's quarter-century has been a unique bright spot in the history of science fiction. I cherish fond recollections of all the good friends I found there, the fine programs, even my commission as a Kentucky colonel and the great grits for breakfast at the old Galt House. I wish I could have been there more often, and I'm truly sorry that New Mexico is so far that I had to miss this final meeting. Steve Francis has earned a monument in recognition for fostering the con so long, and I hope he lives forever!

Carol Resnick

Fan Guest of Honor. 1981

RiverCon has always been my favorite regional. All of our Midwestern friends are there, many of our distant friends come in for it, Steve and Sue pick interesting guests, first Bob Roehm and now Joel Zakem schedule interesting panels, and the parties are just wonderful.

There is nothing more relaxing than gathering around the con suite or the CFG suite or one of Naomi's cook-a-thons and just visiting with my friends—and my friends are the kind of people who attend RiverCon.

elected president • Col. Sanders dies • 1981: Luke & Laura marry on *General Hospital* • *Raiders of the Lost Ark* • First cases of AIDS reported • 1982: *ET: The Extra-Terrestrial*, *Bladerunner* • ERA fails ratification • *Cats* opens • First episode of

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Frank M. Robinson

Toastmaster. 1981

As to what I remember fondly about RiverCon... Geez, in a hundred words? Impossible... First of all, the people. And last of all, the people... Inbetween, the revolving restaurant at the top of the hotel (the Galt House, wasn't it?), and yes, yes, the Sunday cruise up the Ohio with the damned screaming callipoe (as I remember it). And most of all, the flattering attentions of young fans who wanted someday to be writers who wanted to know what were the secrets of the trade? Somebody had once upon a time told me the secrets (such as they were) and I cheerfully passed them on, never realizing that I would be contributing to the competition. But who would complain when the competition turned out to be Allen Steele? Little did I suspect! But never was a brain more cheerfully picked...

Dave Kyle

Fan Guest of Honor. 1982

Goodbye, RiverCon! You were among the best! Over seventy decades I've been to a lot of conventions. RiverCon, you were one of the shining ones. As a genuine and original First Fandom dinosaur, I'm qualified to judge. I cherish two wonderful memories—Ruth and I were celebrating our wedding anniversary in the skyhigh restaurant of the Galt House when a friendly couple across the room sent over a bottle of champagne—they were Lester and Judy Lynn del Rey. And then there was the very heart of RiverCon, a boat trip along the river where the flood marks on buildings were so incredibly high, alongside wonderful Blanche and Jack Williamson. Three of them are gone (God bless you, Jack). And now it's RiverCon's turn into eternity. Goodbye, Sweet Memories. It was fun!

Jan Howard FINDER

Toastmaster. 1982

In 1976 I had just returned from spending five years in Europe. I also went to my first real SF con over there in the UK. So I'm a British fan with an extremely far west midlands accent.

RiverCon was my FIRST US SF convention. When one travels in Europe, and elsewhere, one is reminded to

Cheers • 1983: "Just say no" • Final episode of *M*A*S*H* • U.S. invades Granada • Michael Jackson's *Thriller* • 1984: "Where's the beef?" • *This Is Spinal Tap*, *The Terminator* • *The Cosby Show* • Reagan re-elected • 1985: *Rambo* • Live

RiverCon XXV

In Memoriam

Robert Bloch
Guest of Honor, 1978

Buck Coulson
Fan Guest of Honor, 1975, 1995

Catherine de Camp
Guest of Honor, 1983

George "Lan" Laskowski
Fan Guest of Honor, 1990

Paul Lehr
Artist Guest, 1994

John Millard
Fan Guest of Honor, 1985

Bob Shaw
Guest of Honor, 1987

Lou Tabakow
Fan Guest of Honor, 1980

Verna Smith Trestrail
Fan Guest of Honor, 1994

Roger Zelazny
Guest of Honor, 1980

keep their passport with them. The flyers for RiverCon II said I would need to present some ID. Heck, I was flying somewhere so I needed to take my passport with me. Right? It was also pretty good ID. For some reason the woman at the registration desk was stunned when I handed her my passport. Then there was the interview with the reporter who was astounded to learn that there was SF outside of the US, and that it was possible to relate SF to the 200th anniversary of our country. I think I got more column inches than the conchair. :-)

Needless to say I had a marvelous time. RiverCon has always had a very warm spot in my heart. The times I've made it back have all be GREAT! I thank you very much. —*The Wombat* (I wasn't called that in '76, but soon afterward... Oh well, that's another story.)

Page 15

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Skeptical Investigator Joe Nickell
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SpaceDev Entrepreneur Jim Benson

L. Sprague & Catherine de Camp

Guests of Honor, 1983

We are saddened to learn that next year will be not only the 25th-year celebration of RiverCon, but also the last Louisville Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention. Since we were your Guests of Honor in 1983, Sprague and I especially regret that we shall be unable to participate and to be a part of the final reunion and farewell. We dinosaurs of the "Golden Age" of Science Fiction find traveling far from our lair a bit trying in our "mature youth." But we do try to keep up with friends and fans via correspondence and e-mail. And we now have a web site at www.lspraguedecamp.com. We find this a splendid way to keep in touch and hear from our fans.

Sprague and I wish every one of our friends at RiverCon a huge success in 2000. May the memories last forever!
[from a letter from Catherine de Camp, August 24, 1999]

Jill & Don Eastlake

Fan Guests of Honor, 1984

We were Fan Guests of Honor for RiverCon IX. We were very happy to be invited and had a lot of fun at the convention, and with our friends Steve and Sue Francis. The problem was that Guests of Honor aren't supposed to "work" on a convention, and we had never attended a SF convention without working on it. So, we had a challenge. We practised earlier that spring at Disclave in not working on the convention. It's tough, because we kept kinda wanting to sit down to help in some way. So, we saw more program than ever that spring...

So, we got to RiverCon and had two jobs — be friendly and see as many people at the convention as possible, and speak a speech. We hadn't ever written a speech together before, so that was an interesting experience. We spoke, I think, amusingly, for a few minutes and were infinitely grateful that was over.

So, here we are. It's the last day of the convention. We've almost made it without "work"ing... We were in the Dealer's Room with Steve and a couple of other fans from Boston. The Dealers had cleared out, and so it was down to the tables and things. Steve went out of the room to call the hotel people to come and clear the tables into the storage area. We all looked at each other, smirked, nodded... and went to work. By the time Steve returned (probably 10 minutes later), we had folded all the tables up and stacked them at the entrance to the storage area.

And we felt better, too.

We had done our job - we're friendly anyway, we made our speech, we helped out by moving tables, and we learned how to say "Lou-a-vull" like a native. What a great weekend!

George R.R. Martin

Guest of Honor, 1985

RiverCon has always been one of the most aptly named of conventions, and my memories are flavored by the river as well as the con. RiverCon for me will always evoke the Ohio, and the Belle of Louisville. Moonlight

Aid • Miami Vice, Moonlighting, Growing Pains • New Coke • CDs • Rock Hudson dies of AIDS • 1986: Space shuttle Challenger explodes • Top Gun • ALF • The Meese Commission • Hands Across America • 1987: Iran-Contra hearings •

on the river, calliope music, paddlewheels, and a steamboat full of fans heading upriver...what could be sweeter? The year I was GoH, I even managed to get up to the pilot house and lay hands on her wheel. There's more than a bit of my Belle memories in my novel *Fevre Dream*, and every RiverCon brings them back to me.

Mike Glicksohn

Toastmaster. 1985

If memory serves — and it usually doesn't — I've attended four RiverCons. (My awe and admiration for the people who have run twenty-five of them is unbounded!) Because of who I am and how I attend cons, I have few specific memories of my times there, just a general sense of the fact that you guys Give Good Con. But I certainly *do* have a very specific memory of my good friend George RR Martin sliding out of his seat at the head table at the banquet at RiverCon X and disappearing under the cloth-draped table as I read out his "gosh-oh-wow-oh-boy" letter to an ancient Marvel comic book as part of my introduction. And I have a very specific memory of the beautiful glass pegasus you gave me for that gig because it remains one of my most prized fannish trophies. For a quarter century of truly fabulous weekends, Thank You All!!

Richard & Nicki Lynch

Fan Guests of Honor. 1986

Before Nicki and I moved from Tennessee to Maryland in 1988, attending RiverCon was one of the year's priorities. We've got many pleasant memories from those convention trips over the years, some of them true science fictional sense-of wonder — during the RiverCon weekend in 1976, for instance, there was the news from NASA (which later proved to be unfounded, alas) that the Viking Mars lander may have detected life there.

Some of our most fun conventions were RiverCons. The 1978 convention, when Bob Bloch and Bob Tucker were guests, resulted in one of the most entertaining interview/discussions we have ever witnessed, with the two of them talking about events from fan eras long past while each tried to one-up the other, as old friends (like they were to each other) often do. But our most enduring memory will probably be a room party hosted

SOMETIMES I STILL FEEL LIKE THE NEW KID on the block. Not that my time in fandom is short. I attended my first MidWestCon in 1968 and my first RiverCon in 1980 (also having attended the 1979 "non-rivercon" NASFiC). But it was not until I moved to Louisville in 1983 that I became involved with the RiverCon committee. Even though 17 years might seem like a long time, it pales when compared to Sue, Steve, Bob, Lynn, and the others who have been here since the beginning.

It did not take long for me to be "volunteered" to help. During a June 1983 trip to look for my first apartment in Louisville, Bob Roehm asked if I could write a short piece on Bob Tucker for the RiverCon VIII program book. I complied and continued to hang around the committee for the next several years and help where needed, such as making off-the-wall program suggestions (like *The Oldyweds Game*) and even serving as an elevator cop at the Hyatt one year, but I was not listed in the program book as an "official" committee member until RiverCon XVI in 1991.

There are probably several reasons for this. I have never been much of a joiner, and I was "trained" by the Cincinnati Fantasy Group, where things tend to (eventually) get done without any type of formal committee structure. Besides, I still do not know how I ended up running programming.

And while I have been known to get a bit frustrated with RiverCon, especially during June and July when the schedule is coming together at the last moment, I know I am going to miss the people who put on this thing, as well as the "regulars" who agree to participate in whatever crazy program ideas that I concoct. It was a good run, and it is nice to go out on top.

—Joel Zakem
RiverCon Program Director

by your 1987 guest, Bob Shaw. Not long before the convention, we'd found quite a few books by him at a second-hand bookstore in Chattanooga; many of these had been owned by one Vernon J. Schryver of Boulder, Colorado, who had thoughtfully printed his name on the title page of some of the books.

During the course of the party, I was able to get Bob to sign the books for me and Nicki. But when got to the copy of *The Two Timers*, there, staring back at him, were

Black Monday on Wall Street • *Dirty Dancing*, *Fatal Attraction* • The Beastie Boys • *Married...with Children*, *Thirtysomething* • 1988: Robert A. Heinlein dies • Last Playboy Club closes • *Roseanne* • Tetris • "Don't Worry, Be Happy" • Bush/Quayle

WHAT A LONG STRANGE TRIP IT'S BEEN! I've worn so many hats at RiverCon that I could change my name to Bartholomew Cubbins, but the main one has been serving as RiverCon's vice-chair since the beginning. As in real life, this is an impressive title without much actual responsibility, but I've also been program director, publications editor, and I even ran the art show for a couple of years way back when.

There are many, many people who deserve mention and thanks, and I'm sure to miss a few, but here goes. First, Joel Zakem, Kira Tash and Jack Heazlitt, who as my successors have skillfully programmed RiverCon for many years. What a great job you have done. It's not easy juggling conflicting schedules, impossibly-sized rooms, and an occasional ego all at the same time, and all three of you in your turn performed admirably.

I'm sure I can speak for the entire staff when I say what a great bunch of guests we have had over the past 25 years. It may not be polite to single anyone out, but I'll mention a few who aren't here this weekend who made it all worthwhile: Philip José Farmer (twice!), Jack Williamson, Lou Tabakow, the de Camps, Robert Bloch—you were and are class acts who made hosting you a real privilege.

Our flyers and program books have come a long way from typewriters and transfer lettering. I can't believe how much *work* it used to be. This is one area where technology has really paid off! I'd like to mention Pat Martin at Beechmont Press, who has been with us since practically the beginning, helping my work look its best. She retired last month, so we're doing this last one without her. We all wish her well in the future.

Others not to be forgotten include Lynn Harris (she of the many shoes and household appliances), her patience-of-a-saint husband John Harris, Jack Young (whose natural affinity with movie projectors worked wonders for us in the early days), and Susan Young (who valiantly tried to run the consuite for the entire weekend without a break). Not to mention the entire current committee and staff.

But there are three people without whom there would not have been a RiverCon to celebrate today: Cliff Amos, whose vision RiverCon was, and Steve & Sue Francis, who carried on that vision. Thank you all.

—Bob Roehm
RiverCon Vice-Chair

the words 'Vernon J. Schryver.' "Schryver?" said Bob, "Who is Vernon J. Schryver?" Bob was a good sport; after I explained the book's ownership history, he bemusedly signed the book: "With best wishes from" above and "& Bob Shaw" below Schryver's name. Everybody in the room got a laugh when they saw, and the story made the rounds of the convention after that. It was the first time Nicki and I had actually met Bob Shaw, and he was a friend to us after that. We have missed him since his passing a few years ago, just as we'll miss RiverCon after its passing.

Like with Bob, we regret we weren't able to cross paths with you as often as we wanted to. We're left with these memories, and we'll treasure them. Thank you for a fine quarter of a century.

Samanda b Jeudé

Fan Guest of Honor, 1988

When I think of RiverCon, I think of so many happy memories. But the main ones fall into the categories of Friends, and Masquerades ... probably because they tend to meld together.

My very first convention was the first RiverCon in 1975, and I approached it with trepidation. Would I be liked? Would people even *notice* me? But Special Guest Mr. Thomas Burnett Swann laid that fear to rest: he did more than just smile at me, he stopped to chat, to share *his* precious time with *me*, and he left me glowing. Just how precious that time was, I did not know—Mr. Swann was dying even as we met—but he still took time and effort to welcome me into Fandom. It was, and still is, a memory I hold precious to me: that *every* one who goes to Cons is worth knowing, even if it's for a fleeting moment of time.

That was the convention where Ruth (then Dorr, later Woodring) did her classic "Bodé Nun", and I left with the memory that a masquerade was more than just a place to show off what you could do: it was a place to celebrate ideas, concepts, artwork that was appreciated. Ruth, like Tom Swann, is gone now, but the lesson she taught will live in me until the day *I'm* gone.

Although there are many other memories I'd love to share—getting my caricature done by Frank Kelly Freas,

beat Dukakis/Bentsen • 1989: Time-Warner merge • The Exxon Valdez runs aground • Jerry Falwell disbands the Moral Majority • Battleship *Iowa* explodes • Lucille Ball and Mel Blanc die • *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure* • 1990:

meeting Murray Porath under silly circumstances, hearing (and seeing) the “buddy bear” song with Margaret Middleton and Eric Webb, being awe-struck by B.J. Willinger’s haunting song “Bonsai” — there is one special memory that’s not *quite* mine. There’s a gentleman who saw me dressed in a g-string, boots, and a strategically-placed belt—I was part of the Ming Award-winning “Bodé’s (er...come to think of it, this *is* a family publication, so let’s just drop the descriptive phrase) Troops”—who thought I might be someone worth knowing. On 31 July, we’ll have been married 18 years.

Who says SF Cons can’t be worthwhile?

Dick Spelman **Fan Guest of Honor. 1989**

Memories of past RiverCons are blends of the good and the less good. Sunday brunches at the Galt House — parking at the Holiday Inn — selling books to fans who became good friends — playing card game and attending bid parties. After a rocky start at NorthAmeriCon (which Steve insists was not a RiverCon), Steve and Sue have become close friends — a friendship which survived the Louisville Worldcon bid!

Arlan Andrews, Sr. **Toastmaster. 1989**

Some of the most fun I’ve ever had in my life was at RiverCon. It was finally about 1977 when we first made it to The Galt House, Joyce and I. One of the greatest impressions was Cliff Amos, dressed as a priest, dancing with somebody dressed as a nun — and all the aliens, et al, disco-ing away. Ken Moore was there, whom I’d met in Nashville three years before, and the Khan-tourage with him. And Andy Offutt, and Ghod knows who else.

That year or later, we saw B. J. Willinger’s “Stringworld” play and loved it and wanted to do something like it. The result, eventually, was an unbroken 20-year string of mostly like-minded, mostly-musical fan plays at Inconjunction, of which I wrote the first five and several more later. This Indy tradition continues, along with the (fan?) dances, both inspired by RiverCon.

We will never forget the good times and the good people of RiverCon, particularly when in 1989 I was very honored to be the Toastmaster. Thanks to all, especially Steve and Sue Francis and everyone else who made it so much fun and exciting.

Live longer and prosper more!

Mike Resnick **Guest of Honor. 1990** **Fan Guest of Honor. 1981** **Toastmaster. 2000**

It was love at first sight.

There was something about RiverCon’s ambience that just clicked with us. Maybe it was the Galt House, which we still love. Maybe it was the fact that every year we would eat at the late lamented Casa Grisante, or that this year will mark the 24th year in a row I’ve pigged out on Rebecca sauce during Sunday brunch.

But mostly it was the people, and the *feel* of the con. Because after it changed locations and moved to the (ugh) Holiday Inn, we still loved it; and when it moved to the very nice but somewhat inconvenient Hyatt we kept coming; and now that it’s been ensconced for years at the Executive West it has remained our favorite regional con through thick and thin. It has a great huckster room. The panels are always entertaining (and what other con has an Oldly-Wed Game?) The masquerade is far superior to the typical regional convention, whatever shindig we have Friday nights is always enjoyable and usually calorie-laden, and I love wandering the halls of RiverCon, going from party to party, from the CFG suite to the con suite to Naomi’s 5-star cookery to whatever.

It’s only two hours from home, which means almost all of Cincinnati fandom shows up for it, and it’s run by some of our favorite people, and I don’t know about anyone else, but I don’t want it to die, because if we moved to Africa or Mars or anywhere in between, this is the one con I know we would fly back for every year.

So, to paraphrase the immortal line: Say it ain’t so, Sue and Steve!

Mapplethorpe exhibit in Cincinnati • Milli Vanilli wins (and returns) Grammy • *The Simpsons* and *Twin Peaks* premiere • The Lambda • America Online goes online • **1991:** Desert Storm • Rodney King • Jeffrey Dahmer • *The Silence of the*

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Leslie Turek

Fan Guest of Honor, 1991

I've been to Louisville four times before this year, and each visit has had an impact on my life.

In the mid-60's, I spent the summer after my freshman year in college working as a carhop at a Jerry's Big Boy on the Shelbyville Pike. I'd had a hard year at school and wasn't sure if I wanted to go back, but car-hopping was hot and sticky and made my feet hurt. What I learned: Finishing college is a good idea!

In the late 70's, I went to the NASFiC as chair of the upcoming Worldcon, Noreascon II. Before then, I'd been a rather shy and introverted person, but it's impossible to be shy when you're chairing a Worldcon. At the NASFiC, I was SMOF Central - everyone wanted to talk to me, make suggestions, and ask for favors. What I learned: Power can be fun!

In the mid-80's, I attended my first RiverCon. I'd had a lot of years of intense fannish activity, and by now I was burnt out. I relaxed and enjoyed myself, spending much of my time floating on Ken Moore's inner tube in the middle of the Galt House pool. What I learned: Being mellow is cool!

In the early 90's, I was invited to RiverCon XVI as Fan GoH. I was smothered with hospitality, interviewed alongside Lois McMaster Bujold, made a Kentucky Colonel, and taken on a riverboat cruise to the sounds of a steam calliope. What I learned: Having friends is great!

And now I'm coming back for the last RiverCon in the year 2000. Who knows what changes this visit will bring?

Thanks for the good times!

Emma Bull

Toaster, 1991

I'm sorry I won't be able to make it, after all (bummer...). Have a great last hurrah, though, and tell everyone I'm thinking of them!

RIVERCON IS THE KIND OF CONVENTION I enjoy relaxing at, visiting with friends, attending programs and parties...except now I won't and RiverCon will be sorely missed. Conventions are only as good as the folks who run them and RiverCon is one of the best. Since RiverCon II, it has been fun to work on conventions, although there were times when I had second thoughts. When Lou Tabakow and Sid Altus sat beside me in the con suite, pelted me with personal questions and regaled me with tales and jokes for hours, however, I never looked back. Making friends at this convention is an utmost privilege.

The old joke about sf cons is you never talk about science fiction. Many times, with dawn streaking the sky, I have been part of astounding discussions on philosophy, death, religion, love, books, movies, music and art. These have been life-affirming contacts. Partying well is also something I have done at RiverCons, bringing my own craziness with me. Such as: multiple pairs of shoes; fending off the zany "Cincinnati Mafia" of Bob, Tom, Wayne and Jay; helping Sue and Donna in registration; and once on my way from Columbus to Louisville in 1985, stopping to pick up George R. R. Martin in Cincinnati, telling him how I was always in the art show and didn't even know who that year's guest was. George kindly never did inform me that *he* was that year's guest of honor.

Steve, Sue, Bob, Ken, Donna, Cliff, B.J., Jack, Susan, Shelby, Joel, Gail and all the rest, you are wonderful, thanks and love. I extend profound appreciation for many tireless volunteers in other departments and the art show, some of whom went on to run their own art shows. Rusty and others, thanks for exciting auctions. To the many friends who are talented artists, you have made RiverCon art shows great. My gratitude to Kevin, Alan, Darryl, Nancy and all others. In my memory and heart always, Dixie, Suzie and Paul.

"Still round the corner there may wait
a new road or a secret gate."

—Lynn Harris
RiverCon Art Show Director

Laurie Mann

Fan Guest of Honor, 1992

In 1979, we drove through the deep Ohio fog in our brand new Dodge Aspen to attend NorthAmeriCon.

Lambs • Clarence Thomas confirmed • 1992: *Malcolm X, Wayne's World, The Bodyguard* • Hurricane Andrew • "Achy Breaky Heart" • Bill Clinton elected president • 1993: John Wayne Bobbitt • "Don't ask, don't tell" • World Trade Center

IT HAS BEEN 21 YEARS since I began attending RiverCon, 20 since I began working on the Masquerade staff, and 10 since I began directing it. They have been wonderful years. I've learned much, but I'm still in awe of the people who can create a costume and get up on that stage.

RiverCon is the convention by which I judge all other conventions, and its shoes will be hard to fill. Through it, I have made many friends and learned much. Even though the friendships won't end with closing ceremonies, RiverCon will be missed.

Thanks to all who have attended this convention and the masquerade. You are the reason we do this. Thanks to the costumers who have entertained us with their creations and the staff that has worked so diligently to make sure that the show goes on. Thanks to Steve and Sue Francis for keeping RiverCon alive for 25 years and making sure it gets better each year. Your trust and support I treasure. A special thank you to Richard and Lois Wellinghurst. Without your help for these last 10 years, I would be residing at Our Lady of Peace.

—Linda G. Wyatt

RiverCon Masquerade Director/Dictator/Goddess



The Ming Awards for Excellence in Costuming were first awarded at RiverCon in 1977. Designed and created by Shelby Bush, they have been hand-blown in glass by Steve Scherer since 1980. (Photo by Richard Wellinghurst)

Now, this was not a "real" RiverCon, but it was our first trip to Louisville. It was a very memorable con in many ways, so I'd like to think of it as a "virtual RiverCon." It was in downtown, at the Galt House, not far from the Ohio River. There was an ethnic festival going on all weekend in the plaza adjacent to the hotel, and a number of us visited the mundane event for cheap food. And this was also known as "Caftcan-con," when a store near the hotel that was selling "world clothing" was going out of business, encouraging many male fans to buy the African outfits.

The highlight of the con was the evening riverboat ride. Hundreds of congoers walked down the gangplank to the biggest paddlewheel boat most of us had ever been on. We cruised up and down the Ohio to the music of a pipe organ. I got a picture of Fred Pohl talking to Jack Williamson (and, nearly twenty years later, got them both to sign it at Bucky).

As much as we enjoyed Louisville, we didn't get back to a RiverCon until 1992. That one was particularly memorable one for me as I was Fan GoH. Sue and Steve Francis were wonderful to the guests and to everyone else. We played fannish Jeopardy, took another riverboat ride, and went to a German restaurant for a great meal.

We got back to RiverCon just two years later. This time, we threw a party, relaxed by the pool and just took it easy. We wound up driving Dave Kyle back to Pittsburgh, so he could have a shorter bus ride home.

I have pleasant memories of RiverCon and NorthAmeriCon. While I'm sad to hear that the classic RiverCons are coming to an end, I'm glad to have the chance to stop back one last time.

Bruce Pelz **Toastmaster, 1992**

RiverCon has always been, for me, a Relaxacon — even moreso than Midwestcon, most years. I go to talk with people, on the committee and off, to see Chis Barkley beat up on the other Trivialists, to play poker almost as weird as LASFS Poker for half the night so someone can go home with someone else's rolls of dimes and nickels, or to watch whazzthernames make semi-public spectacles of themselves to a mostly appreciative audience.

bombing • X-Files • Jurassic Park • Brady Bill, NAFTA • 1994: O.J. Simpson • Friends, ER • Ken Starr begins investigation • Forrest Gump • 1995: O.J. acquitted • Oklahoma City bombing • Unabomber manifesto published • Jerry Garcia dies

So thanks, Sue and Steve! — and the rest of the Perennial Rivercon Committee! (But now what will you do between Midwestcon (or Westercon) and Worldcon?)

Forrest J Ackerman

Guest of Honor. 1994

I'm ready for the RiverCon,
The one to be the final one.
I was a GoH once in the past,
I'm sure the last will be a blast.

Julius Schwartz

Toastmaster. 1994

Whenever I attended an S-F con, I was always glad to see my friends Jack Williamson and L. Sprague de Camp—that made them the *oldest* members!

At RiverCon this year, I suspect *I* am the senior member.

There have been many storytellers in my life: Ray Bradbury, Robert Bloch, Alfred Bester, Leigh Brackett, Otto Binders—and those are only the B's—but for the “L” of it, there was H.P. Lovecraft! Now it's my turn to tell stories about the storytellers in *Man of Two Worlds: My Life in Science Fiction and Comics*, just published on my 85th birthday by Harper Entertainment!

[We thought Julie was right about being the oldest attending member, but checking Clute and Nicholls' Science Fiction Encyclopedia tells us that while Julie was born in 1915, his good friend Dave Kyle was born in 1912! Forrest Ackerman is a comparative spring chicken with a 1916 birth date.]

Kevin Ward

Artist Guest. 1995. 1998

I'm really not allowed to tell you my fondest RiverCon memory, but it involves a carnivorous fawn and some balloons.

There was a time before the 80's SF boom when fans were fewer and farther between, when you almost had to hide your Asimov books behind a magazine so as not to draw much attention. A huge get-together of fans back then was something really special. Now there's an SF movie on most of the cable channels around the clock and you can find SF “fans” by just walking out your front door. RiverCon has always maintained that

special flavor of conventions from those pre-*Star Wars* days when fandom was the most magical thing. Thank you, Steve and Sue, for taking us all to the stars.

Darryl Elliott

Artist Guest. 1996

The one thing that really stands out in my mind about RiverCon is it is the only convention that I tried to take my entire family to. Most cons do not cater to families and I am extremely grateful for the concern Steve and Sue have shown over the years to families and their needs. It is a 9-hour drive from our home, but we happily overlook it because we enjoy RiverCon so much.

In 1996, at RiverCon XXI, I was the Artist Guest of Honor and can truly say I was treated with honor and like I was someone important (which I am not; I just happen to be able to draw a little bit). Steve and Sue really know how to treat their guests, and I for one am truly grateful. I haven't been able to attend the past few RiverCons due to scheduling problems, so I consider myself very lucky and privileged to be able to attend this, the last RiverCon....Kind of sad, isn't it?

Allen Steele

Toastmaster. 1996

I'm almost positive that I attended the first RiverCon; twenty-five years tend to creep up on you, though, and I haven't found my membership badge, so I may be mistaken about this. Yet I'm dead-certain that I was at Rivercon II, because I recall the FBI agents in blue suits wandering around the dealer's room, trying to pass as fans while making discrete inquiries about pirate copies of current movies alleged to being traded there. Perhaps the less said about this, the better; just one more reason why RiverCon always seemed to have a certain outlaw edge.

During my years as a teenage fan, RiverCon was a regular stop on my annual summer tour of SF conventions, because going up to Louisville meant another adventure. Wild rides across the Kentucky state line with Ken Moore in his beat-to-shit Volkswagen. The run-down pool hall about five blocks from the Galt House where I went for barbecue and a quick round of

• Starr investigation continues • *Xena: Warrior Princess* • 1996: *Third Rock from the Sun* • Alanis Morissette's *Jagged Little Pill* • Bill Clinton re-elected • 1997: *Ellen* (and *Ellen*) comes out • *Ally McBeal* • *Heaven's Gate* • Starr investigation

eight-ball with the local hustlers. Drinking mint juleps with Frank M. Robinson on starboard promenade of the Belle of Louisville, watching the river roll by while Frank told me everything I needed to know about becoming a working writer. Chatting about books with Rusty Hevelin at his dealer's table, and him introducing me to genre masterpieces I had neglected to read. Taking a college girlfriend to the convention, observing her reactions to my friends, and by late Sunday afternoon coming to the awful but true realization that she wasn't the girl I wanted to marry after all. Some cons, you go to just for fun; for some reason, though, every RiverCon was a learning experience, because I always went home a little sharper, a little wiser.

I'm going to miss RiverCon like I miss being 18. Another generation of hell-raising young Southern men will have to find another place to come of age.

AS WE CELEBRATE THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY of RiverCon, memories must flood our minds of the good times enjoyed by all. Many people have built lifetime relationships by being a volunteer. To be a volunteer today is certainly a commitment to a club or organization, one that takes dedication and sacrifice. Being a volunteer certainly has guided many movements within the United States throughout our history. Without this support system, many services could and would not exist. RiverCon volunteers have achieved success!

On behalf of the management and staff of the Executive West Hotel, thank you for your dedication to RiverCon! Many of you have become very good friends over the years. You will agree that building relationships is a very positive force in our lives. I certainly enjoyed my relationship with the RiverCon volunteer staff. May I express my special "thank you" to Sue and Steve Francis. Their friendship, dedication, and organizational skills have guided RiverCon to a very successful level. I do look forward to working with you folks again in the future. We welcome RiverCon attendees to our property and trust that your accommodations are most comfortable. Welcome also to the many VIP guests who have attended RiverCon throughout the years. Please enjoy RiverCon XXV and your weekend!!

—Bob Wells
Senior Sales Manager, Executive West Hotel

Harry Turtledove

Guest of Honor, 1998

My chief memory of RiverCon XXIII is of being introduced by Hal Clement, who was Toastmaster while I was GoH. Amazing how strange that felt, and how much it felt as if it should have been the other way around. I started reading his stuff in the early 1960s. I trashed a copy of *Needle* (then titled *From Outer Space*, and with a ghastly chrome-yellow cover) by dropping it in a puddle on a rainy day while hurrying from one class to another at my high school, lo these many years ago. And now *he* was introducing *me*? What's wrong with that picture?

The other thing I remember, and that I'll always cherish, is how friendly everyone was and what a good time I had. I do appreciate the chance to have been at one of the really fine cons in the country. Louisville won't be the same without it.

Chris Tate and Julee Johnson-Tate

Fan Guests of Honor, 1998

Steve and Sue Francis asked us to be RiverCon Fan Guests of Honor for 1998 at the 1997 ConCave. The funny thing was, it was during the power outage at the hotel. Everyone was running around with flashlights, so when Steve and Sue asked us to step out in the hall (from our room party), we thought it was kind of interesting. Needless to say, we were thrilled, but Chris still says it proves that Steve and Sue were in the dark when they asked us!

Chris reminisced running around at the first RiverCon, when he was in his early twenties, looking for the alleged orgy. Julee didn't start her fannish experiences until 1986 when she met Sue at the Atlanta WorldCon, where Sue was Gopher Mom, so she just missed "the Golden Days of Fandom."

Thanks again for having us as Fan Guests. It's truly been a thrill and what a great time we've had at RiverCon!

continues • *Titanic* • Princess Diana killed • *Mars Pathfinder* lands on Mars • **1998:** Monica Lewinsky • *Dawson's Creek* • *Seinfeld* ends • Starr investigation continues • *The Truman Show* • Impeachment hearings • Frank Sinatra dies • **1999:**

Esther Friesner

Guest of Honor, 1999

My first RiverCon was also the next-to-last one, which left me with the unnerving feeling that it was a fine, healthy convention until I killed it. But then I was reassured that I was not to blame, and thus I settled down to the gruelling task of being treated royally on all counts. I could get used to this, I thought. Alas, it was not to be, for RiverCon was making a gracious exit. I know it will be missed and I'm pleased to be part of the teary-eyed throng waving farewell with our lace hankies as it slowly pulls away from the dock and sails off into the sunset, heading for the happy land where all good conventions go when they pass into fannish history and legend. (I would now break into a chorus of "Aloha O'e" but I hear the Overdone Metaphor Police pounding at my door, so let's leave it at that.)

Pat & Roger Sims

Fan Guests of Honor, 1999

Ever since we attended our first RiverCon, about 15 years ago, it became one of our favorites. Congratulations on 25 years of great cons!

We will especially remember the Con Committee's many kindnesses shown us last year so that we were able to be Fan Guests as scheduled despite Roger's triple bypass surgery three weeks earlier!

There are many memories of the Rivercons we attended, but one of our favorites is of the unbelievably incompetent restaurant at the Holiday Inn. It was there, while trying to have breakfast with the Resnicks, that Mike announced to Roger, "This part of the napkin is mine."

We will need to place a black ring around RiverCon's traditional weekend on our con calendar for years to come!

Lawrence Watt-Evans

Toastmaster, 1999

My parents were fans who gafiated in the 1950s, before I was born, over the Dianetics mess, so despite growing up in a house full of SF and reading vast quantities of it I deliberately had no contact with fandom until 1980, when my first novel was published. At that point it occurred to me that fandom might be commercially useful, so when I

25 Years

The following have been members of ever RiverCon since the first one in 1975. In appreciation for their loyalty, we are presenting each one with a small token of remembrance, which can be picked up at the Registration Desk after 12:00 noon on Saturday. Thank you to:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Bill Cavin</i> | <i>Teddy Laun</i> |
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| <i>Jack Heazlitt</i> | <i>B.J. Willinger</i> |
| <i>John A.R. Hollis</i> | <i>Jack Young</i> |
| <i>Samanda b Jeudé</i> | <i>Susan Young</i> |
| <i>Mark Kunitsky</i> | |

got a call from Dori Isaacs, asking if I'd like to come to a meeting of what later became LexFA, I agreed. (She'd seen a feature article about me, a "local boy makes good" piece, in the *Lexington Herald-Leader*.)

I then discovered that I *liked* fans.

I heard about conventions from those folks, in particular the upcoming RiverCon V, and decided that would be fun — I was still as much interested in the idea of selling more books as the fannish aspect, to be honest. So I wrote and asked to be on the program, without any very clear idea what that involved.

Not knowing any better, we skipped Friday night and arrived Saturday around noon. As I was walking up the stairway in the Galt House, on my way to registration and unsure what I'd gotten myself into, someone I knew passed me going the other way — I don't remember who — and said, "Oh, hi, Lawrence! You're on a panel in five minutes, aren't you?"

"I am? What's a panel?"

I registered, mentioned this to the folks at the desk, and was told yes indeed, I was on the new writers' panel in

Y2K • MP3 • *Harry Potter* • Stanley Kubrick dies • Starr investigation continues • 2000: The 21st Century (or not) • Human Genome Project • Cincinnati Reds land Ken Griffey, Jr. • Darva Conger • Starr investigation continues • RiverCon ends

about two minutes.

In fact, I was the moderator.

I got a quick explanation of what this involved, dashed to the appropriate room, and astonishingly enough managed to get through the panel without panicking or seriously screwing anything up. Phyllis Ann Karr, who was also on the panel, carried us whenever I got confused.

After that, conventions held no more terrors for me. And after that, the rest of it was fun, often in ways I hadn't expected.

I heard Roger Zelazny read "Unicorn Variation." I discovered the art show and the huckster room. And finally, I found myself sitting on a couch in the con suite next to Roger Zelazny on Sunday morning, and spent half an hour trying to think of something to say a little less stupidly obvious than, "Wow, you're Roger Zelazny! I love your work!"

I finally gave up and said that, and he was gracious about it, despite having surely heard it a zillion times.

That was my first RiverCon, and my first convention of any kind, and I eagerly attended the next five and had a great time at all of them. It was RiverCon that convinced me it would be worth attending other conventions farther away, such as Worldcons, and I had fun at a lot of them, but RiverCon was always the most reliably enjoyable weekend of the year. I attended good cons and bad cons and everything in between, and RiverCon remained the standard by which I judged them.

In 1986 we had a new baby, we were preparing to move out of state, my sister had just died, and life was generally being far too busy and complex, so we broke our streak and didn't attend RiverCon XI — but I got listed on the flyer anyway, which was irksome. I complained, got an apology, and RiverCon and I parted on friendly but less than ideal terms. After moving to Maryland I could never quite justify spending the time and money to come back.

That made it especially nice to be invited back for RiverCon XXIV. It was like a trip back in time. It was once again the most enjoyable weekend of the year. I'd missed you guys.

And now I'm going to miss you all the more, knowing RiverCon's gone for good.

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Lots of Southern Fans!

The Southern Fandom Confederation



Membership in the Southern Fandom Confederation puts you in touch with the clubs, the conventions, the fanzines, the news, and the people that make up the diverse population of Southern Fandom. Dues are only \$15 a year, running from DSC to DSC, and gets you four fact-filled issues of *The Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin*.



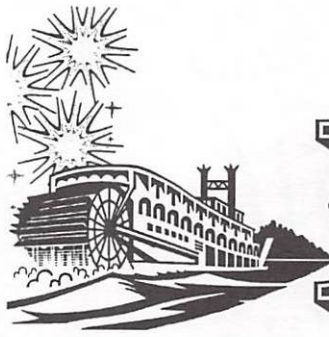
YES! I want to keep in touch with Southern Fandom! Please enroll me as a member of the Southern Fandom Confederation—and send me the next four issues of *The Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin*. I have enclosed my check or money order for \$15. (No cash, please; make checks payable to Southern Fandom Confederation.)

Southern Fandom Confederation
c/o Julie Wall, SFC President
470 Ridge Road
Birmingham, AL 35206-0202

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____



RIVERCON

A Statement About the Future of RiverCon

AS THE END OF THE MILLENNIUM APPROACHES, we have decided to retire RiverCon, Louisville's annual science fiction and fantasy convention, after the 25th convention in the year 2000.

After much consideration, we based this decision on two main factors. The first, and foremost, was that we do not wish to continue running RiverCon beyond that time when we can do it with enthusiasm and fresh ideas. We want RiverCon to end on a high note as a successful and enjoyable convention, not only for the members who attend each year but also for those running it as well.

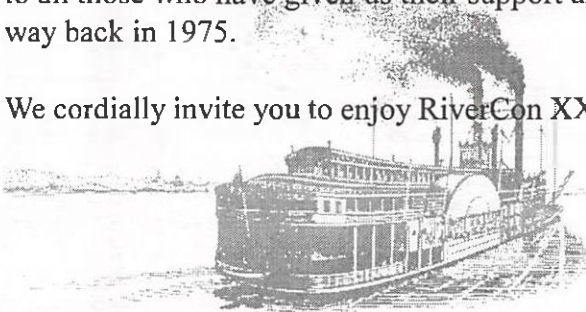
The second factor relates to our committee members. We have enjoyed an association with a fine group of talented and dedicated people who have been working on and supporting RiverCon for many years. However, it is obvious that this same group of people cannot continue to run RiverCon indefinitely. Replacing retiring committee members, department heads, and even staff has become increasingly difficult. By establishing an ending date, we have hopefully provided that "light at the end of the tunnel" that will give all our committee members (and ourselves!) the incentive to stay with RiverCon through the very last one.

The RiverCon name and distinctive logo will be retired with the convention. The names "RiverCon" and "NorthAmeriCon" are service marks of the Louisville Science Fiction Association, Inc., and cannot be used without the express written permission of the Association's Board of Directors.

Any group that wishes to begin a new SF convention in Louisville does so with our best wishes. If asked, we will be happy to offer any advice, wisdom, and guidance our cumulative decades have given us. We want to make it clear, however, that any new Louisville SF convention will be completely independent of RiverCon and its present committee, even if there is an overlap of individual members.

We sincerely hope that the many people who have attended and enjoyed RiverCon over the years will continue to do so through the year 2000. We and the RiverCon committee offer our thanks and appreciation to all those who have given us their support and enriched our lives since RiverCon began its long voyage way back in 1975.

We cordially invite you to enjoy RiverCon XXV, July 28 - 30, 2000. A splendid time is guaranteed for all.



*Steve and Sue Francis,
RiverCon Co-Chairs
July 31, 1998*

City of Louisville
Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

*Greetings to whom all these presents shall come,
know ye that*

July 28-30, 2000

is hereby proclaimed in Louisville to be

RIVERCON Days

and I urge all citizens to observe this special recognition.



*Done in the City of Louisville,
Commonwealth of Kentucky, this
the 28th day of July
2000.*

David L. Armstrong
Mayor, David L. Armstrong

