



PROGRESS REPORT

As we promised in our advance publicity, the Westercon XVI Committee has lined up a MOTEL with exceptional features for the biggest and best Westercon ever. Westercon XVI, which will be a FOUR day affair--July 4-5-6-7, will be held at the fabulous HYATT HOUSE in Burlingame on the outskirts of the San Francisco Airport

The HYATT HOUSE is a motel by definition only. Actually, it is a multi-unit hotel covering several acres of ground, each unit composed of a large number of luxurious rooms on two levels (those of you who have evil memories of elevators from previous cons will be gratified at the fact that there are NO elevators to contend with here), and connected to each other by covered walkways. The central unit encompasses the business and recreational facilities of the hotel. In this building are the dining room; the large, comfortable, Coffee Shop which is open TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY; the Bar, large and dimly lit, comfortable, and served by shapely waitresses clad in the barest minimum of clothing allowed by the law; and the convention rooms and banquet room, and the con registration desk located on the mezzanine.

PRO— Guest of Honor

He is not, as one might infer from a current magazine byline, a descendent of Herman Melville. His historical literary coincidence is that he was born in Hannibal, Missouri, somewhere around 37 or 38 years ago. He is an outspoken liberal in the best uncategorized sense of that belabored word. He thinks the world is a hell of a funny place but spoiled by a lot of human meanness; candid one moment, unaccountably shy the next, he drinks and swears in the heroic manner, sings "Sam Hall" with a fervor that is frightening, eachesw pretense, and stands for the inviolable dignity of man. When he writes, it is about people caught in the trap of life (most literally in "Fresh Air Fiend," most famously in "Bettyann") and with a sweetness that he does not quite manage to conceal with his brash personal projection.

When I first knew him he was a knockabout bachelor, being himself because he wanted to be, writing because he wanted to write. His brief spell at applied writing--as a technical writer--was a meteoric success; he made 'em sign those damned reports the way he wrote 'em, by God! Because as a craftsman he did it with invariable rightness.

FAN— Guests of Honor

Our Fan Guests of Honor hardly need introductions---they've been well-known, active fans for a long time. Buz is the guy with the short-sleeved sport shirt and the devilish gleam in his eye. Combined with his short, pointed beard, this makes him look suspiciously satanic. No tail is apparent, but Buz's barbed wit can be taken as a substitute; he is always ready to stick pins into any evidence of shoddy thinking or pomposity. He has a quick intelligence and a thorough grounding in many subjects. He's a good man at a party and a good man for more serious projects as he is steady, reliable, and a worker.

Elinor is the cute one with the pony-tail. She has one of those marvelous "English" complexions and is one of the most attractive women around. To complete the picture, she is low-voiced gentle, and considerate. But she is no doormat. Elinor sticks up firmly for what she believes to be right and makes her own views and criticisms plain whenever she believes it to be necessary. She reads a lot and is always ready for a wide-open discussion, in person or in print. She can talk or write on almost any subject with knowledge and discrimination.

Kris Neville

His marriage to his lovely and charming wife ~~Ell~~ was coincidental with but not related to an abrupt hiatus in fiction writing. The hiatus turned out to be a hibernation; the marriage formally civilized him a little bit but did not spoil him in the process. To us chocked onlookers, he suddenly and with all his innate aplomb became a kind of homebody. He could still sing "Sam Hall." But he could also whip up the damnest best cheese-cake you ever ate. Along the way he wrote the first textbook on the epoxy resins, a rattling success, and in so doing became one of the country's experts on the subject.

Now, the fiction hibernation over, he's back, and it's like old times again to see the name Kris Neville simultaneously in two or three magazines on the newsstands. His return is surely a hopeful sign that there may be life yet in what some believe to be the carcass of science fiction. His first love, I think, has always been science fiction; for where else could he say such a touching and emotionally confrontational thing as he said in "Old Man Henderson," which I urge that you recall, or reread, or better, both; or, for God's sake, if you haven't yet, read for what will be only the first time. --Ed M. Clinton

FM & Elinor Busby

Together and individually Buz and Elinor have cut a wide swath through fandom.

They're club fans: they're active in Seattle's Nameless Ones.

They're convention fans: they attend most of the Worldcons and Westercons and even an occasional Midwestcon. And when Seattle put on the 1959 Westercon and the 1961 Worldcon they were in there pitching.

They're fanzine fans: their Cry is one of the most popular fanzines; it's nearly always in the top ten. It's received several Hugo nominations, and won the Hugo for the year 1959.

They're apa fans: they've belonged to most of fandom's apas and are still active in FAPA, OMPA, and SAPS, where they hit every mailing.

And Buz and Elinor's fannish activity is notable not only for its quantity, but also its quality. Fandom would be poorer without them.

So they richly deserve to be Fan Guests of Honor. And, as always, they'll be fun to have around.

THE COMMITTEE

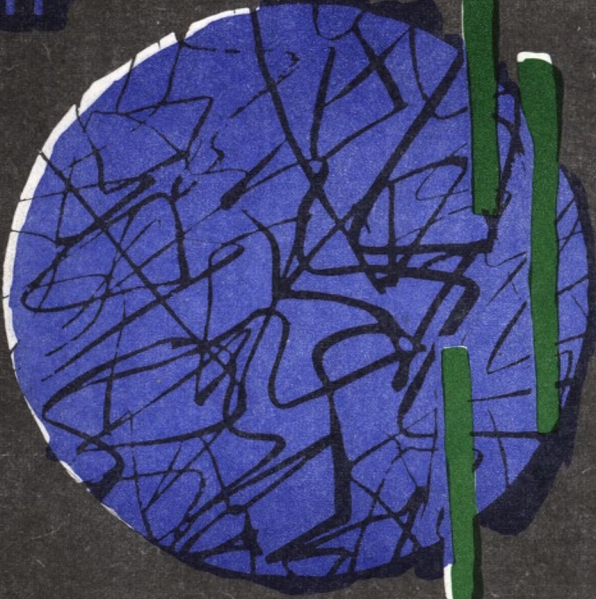
AL HALEVY, the chairman of the 1963 Westercon Committee, entered fandom about 1958 when he joined The Little Men. Soon after he became secretary-treasurer of the Society, and then enjoyed three years as its chairman. Early in 1962 he succeeded in getting enough interest generated to start once more publishing the legendary Rhodomagnetic Digest. Later he agreed to head a group of Little Men in their bid for the Westercon. A scientist with broad interests in the basic biological and psychological sciences, his chief hobby is the collection of books relating to fantasy, folklore, and medieval literature.

J. BEN STARK has been a science fiction and fantasy reader since the tender age of eight starting with the Oz and Tarzan books. He discovered Amazing in 1927 and has been an avid reader and collector since that time. His collection now contains several thousand magazines and books. He came to the Bay Area after graduating from college with a Ph.D., and was one of the early members of The Little Men. He has assisted in several conventions and has been a committee member on the 1954 Worldcon and 1961 Westercon. After the near demise of The Little Men in 1954 he revived the Society and held the chairmanship for three years.

ALVA ROGERS has been a reader and collector of science fiction since the early thirties, and an active fan since the early forties when he became active in LASFS; at one time he was secretary and then director of that club. After a fannish hiatus of a few years during which time he attended college, married, and fathered three children, he resumed his fanac in the Bay Area. Since that time he has become the director of the Golden Gate Futurians and secretary-treasurer of The Little Men; an associate editor of The Rhodomagnetic Digest; art editor of Bill Donaho's Viper; and publisher of his fanzine, Bixel, which is distributed through OMPA; and in a reckless moment he also became a member of this committee. In 1962 Alva was honored by being named Fan Guest of Honor for Westercon XV in Los Angeles.

BILL DONAHO started reading science fiction at an early age when he discovered Burroughs and Tom Swift. He still reads most of the s-f prozines and books and has an extensive collection of both. Chicon II made him a convention fan and he has attended most Worldcons since. He helped put on the 1954 Metrocon, the 1956 Worldcon, and the 1958 Fanarcon. Bill was one of the first members of the N.Y. Science Fiction Circle and of the Lunarians, and an organizer of the revived Futurian Society of New York. In the Bay Area he has been busy in both the GGFS and The Little Men. He started writing for fanzines in 1958 and brought out Habakkuk in 1960. He now publishes Viper. He is a member of OMPA, the Cult, IPSO, and FAPA.

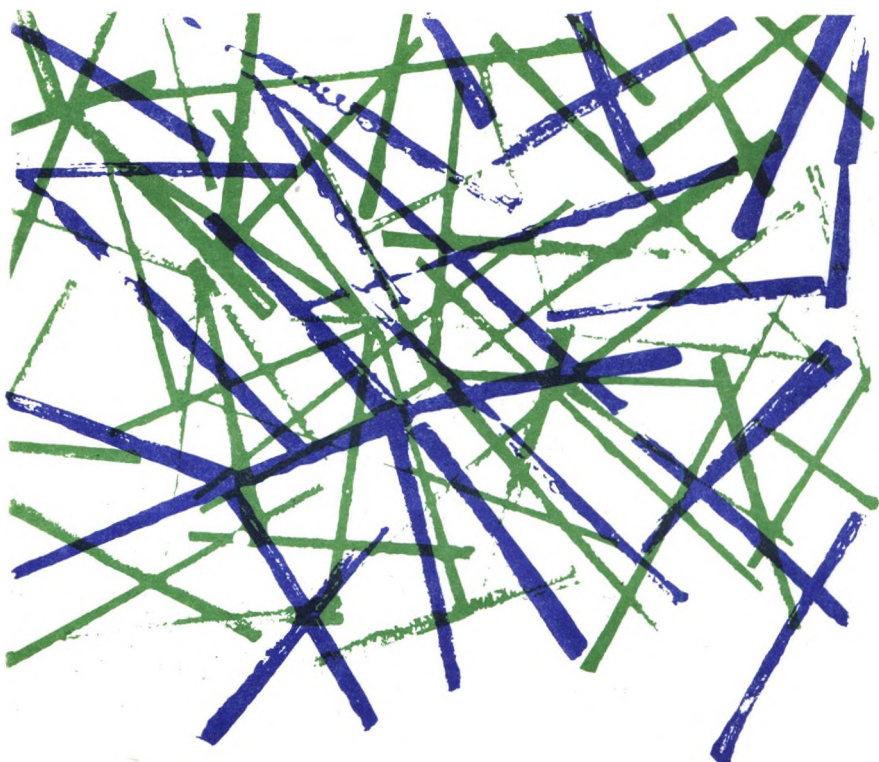
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SUPPORT INVITED
1964 Worldcon

AL haLEVY
J. BEN STARK
Co-chairman
ALVA ROGERS
BILL DONAHO

June 1962



AL LEWIS, chairman of the 1962 Westercon, has played a dynamic role in regional and national conventions since 1958. Beginning with the Boise Westercon he has brought new life to auctioneering --he has turned manuscripts and artwork to US currency for Westercos and Worldcons across the continent, adding entertainment for good measure. Under his direction the Westercon broke tradition last year and made money--it made lots of money. As Directorate Chairman of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, editor of Shangri-L'Affaires, and a leading light in the movie-making of Unicorn Productions, Al has established himself in all facets of fandom.

STEVE TOLLIVER, co-editor of Gaul, has stepped into a wide-open field in conventioneering by heading a committee to study the masked ball with a personal view towards its betterment. Steve was a major participant and assistant in the fashion shows at the 1958 Solacon and 1962 Westercon, and has a strong interest in costumes and showmanship. You saw him as Strider at the Solacon and Caradoc at the 1961 Seacon; he expects to improve the state of the art of masquerade balls, for one reason, to allow himself more latitude in spectacular costume design.

With an executive committee chaired by Al Lewis and a sturdy crew of volunteers such as Steve Tolliver to bring an unequalled combined record of activity and experience in convention attendance and direction, the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society invites you to help bring the World Science Fiction Convention back to

LA Once More in '64!!