

He said s-f and fantasy were as old as recorded history & religion.
A recording of a Dimension X program was played. "The Barnhouse Effect".

Boucher spoke several times during the con and at the fanquet that evening. (Sunday was evidently spent in informal fangabbing, motating, recuperating, etc.) George Pal was presented with an "Invisible Little Man" award for his fine work in producing adult stf films. Pal said he was being typed a science fiction movie producer and was proud of it. He gave much credit to writers like Heinlein, Balmer and Wylie and showered a great deal of praise on artist Bonestell. He said Bonestell was already at work on the sets for his next production which will be H.G. Wells' "War of the Worlds"!

Boucher apologized for the dollar admission fee but said it was necessary because of the last minute organizing of the con. (No time to save up money for it, we guess.) However the fans were treated to a free theatre party where they saw the superb French fantasy film (English titles) Orpheus. So--despite the pre-con difficulties--Westercon IV was apparently a good show. And now it's Westercon V in San Diego in '52, Nolasco in '51, Detroit in '52?, Frisco in '53?, and...South Gate in '53!

THE OUTLANDER

MAGAZINE

Published three or four times a year by The Outlander Society.

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Stop Press Book Review:

THE SPIRIT WAS WILLING, by Milton Luban, Greenberg, Publisher* Publication date: July 2, 1951. \$2.50. 188 pp.

Here is a lightly written novel which carries a heavy subject. At times the lightness of the writing seems too weak to bear the weight of the truly serious topics but it is a good try.

We have people who are afflicted with race prejudices and who are aware that many books have been written pointing up the stupidity of bigotry. Consequently, because of the very strength of their prejudices they will not read these books. However these same people might be tempted to read...say, a book written in "the Thorne Smith tradition". Well written ribald, humorous fantasy is enjoyed by all sorts of people, even bigots. That seems to be the purpose of The Spirit Was Willing. That is, get the prejudiced reader interested and then hit him in the face with it!

Unfortunately this book is not the well written ribaldry in the Smith manner, although the author's spirit was obviously willing. The characters are apparently deliberately stereotyped, including the ghosts involved. But they do consume a lot of likker. There is some s-e-x in the story but it is almost spiritless. Some of the dialogue is ancient chapeau; some of it is funny. The face slapping given those crackpot sects and cults which stir up race hates and take money from the suckers is fairly well done. However the writer seems to take a very broadminded view of astrology. Either he believes in it himself or feels that astrology is a harmless superstition which demands a certain amount of respect.

Psychologists who practice dianetics are also given the haw-haw treatment. All in all it is an amusing item and I hope this review doesn't help to defeat the above mentioned purpose of the book.

-Len J. Moffatt

*Greenberg, Publisher 201 E. 57th St. New York 22, N.Y.

NEWS NOTES FROM HERE AND ABROAD

JULY 3, 1951 (OSNS)

Evidently Forry and Wendy Ackerman find the city of Paris quite an Eiffel. A picpostal of the Eiffel Tower from our temporary fan-continental says they are "Having a High Time here!" The Ackermans should be back in LA sometime in August, after a tour of England, Scotland and various parts of the Continent.

Con Pederson, our wayfaring Outlander, who has spent the last couple of years in Minnesota and Pennsylvania, is expected here (LA & environs) anytime now. We are about to meet a legend....