

29th World SF Convention BOSTON - 1971



PROGRESS REPORT 0

GUEST OF HONOR

Clifford D. Simak

For almost forty years Cliff Simak has enriched science fiction with a stream of good stories, seminal stories, and great stories. He has received a wider variety of awards than any other writer I know - two Hugos, the International Fantasy Award, and (by a landslide) the first prize in a recent *Galaxy* contest.

His influence on the field has been tremendous, as I know by his effect on my own writing. I first noticed his name when *Marvel Tales* published 'The Creator' in 1935 - fifteen years before others began treating the deity in our field.

Cliff still leads in the fight to give us characters with dignity and decency, whether human, robot, or alien. He's probably the only writer who can build suspense over a gentle mood; a Simak story is always dramatic but almost never melodramatic. That takes talent.

In too-brief personal meetings and in correspondence, I've found the man not unlike the stronger characters in his stories. He's a gentle man with strong convictions, a man whose pride in craftsmanship is never marred by arrogance. He takes criticism in good humor, but he deeply resents anything he feels to be unfair against other writers.

In his profession as a newspaperman, he has spent most of his 65 years in Wisconsin and Minnesota. His stories sometimes show the rural scenes there, just as I remember them from my own youth there. Every man needs a chance to sense such scenes sometimes and I'm delighted that Cliff has always fought to conserve what is best of our past and vanishing present, as well as to make us ready for the best of the future he has helped to foresee.

I've honored Cliff Simak in my heart for a third of a century. And now that he is to be officially Guest of Honor at a World Convention, I can not honor him more. I can only express my complete delight. He's the perfect man for the role! — Lester del Rey



FAN GUEST OF HONOR

Harry Warner, Jr.

Harry Warner first found an interest in science fiction in 1933, perhaps in a stack of yellowed pulps stashed away in that ubiquitous closet or secondhand shop; many an unsuspecting youth was subverted and led down the primrose path in the same manner, with neither politician nor reformer to recognize the danger and pass laws to protect him from himself. Harry was hooked...

He was and is a creature latterly known as 'a publishing giant' although that fact does not seem obvious at first glance: in these many years he has not produced the scores of titles or numerous one-shots or engaged in any other frenzied mimeograph cranking that might earn him such a label. But he *has* succeeded in publishing one fanzine continuously for three decades...

Harry Warner, Jr. was born six days before Christmas in 1922. When I saw him last year, he was still the tall, gangling, quiet man of earlier years, but now given to longer, almost taciturn silences; he did not utter aloud enough words to fill one page of *Horizons* although he fills each twenty-four pages with written word quite handily.

He has held several offices in the Fantasy Amateur Press Association - probably every office except that of Editor, which is passing strange - and has served as Director of the National Fantasy Fan Federation.

It isn't too much of an exaggeration to claim that Harry has appeared at least once - and at least in the letter columns - of every fan magazine ever published from 1936 to date. He is an indefatigable writer of letters of comment, and the young fan editor who publishes two or three issues without receiving such a letter is apt to fold his presses and steal away in shame. Harry's output of fannish writings is simply incredible...

A...fan...who has helped make fan history since 1936...

— Wilson Tucker



NOREASCON

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2	1 Jun 1970	1 Jul 1970	\$7.50 / $\frac{1}{2}$ page
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