

# WOODEN NICKEL

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WOODEN NICKEL Volume 1 Number 2 Whole Number 2 is written, produced and directed by Arnie Katz, 59 Livingston St., Apt. 6B, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201, for the occasional amusement of his select mailing list of 50 and, for this issue, whoever staggers through the door at the Fanoclast meeting. If you find that you would like to continue to receive WOODEN NICKEL, my advice is that you do something liable to make me smile with pleasant recollection when I think of your name while typing mailing labels. If all else fails, you could slop on the ole egoboo with a trowel. Today is July 20, 1973. What day is it where you are?

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## A STIRRING DEFENSE OF WATERCON I

While I am loath to enter the arena of big time fan convention politics, where fortunes are lost and won on the sway of a block of votes, I feel that the erroneous and subversive charges leveled against the Watercon I demand the kind of strenuous rebuttal that only a truly patriotic fan such as myself could concoct.

I am appalled by the personal invective directed at our valiant convention chairman and his loyal committee. Some bleeding heart fannish fans say it is unethical for our valiant convention chairman and his loyal committee to deduct their bidding expenses from the modest but ample profit which their heroic efforts earned for the Watercon I. To these people, these venomous vindictive voldesfans, I say, if our valiant convention chairman had not published seven issues of his genzine in 1956, how could he have risen to the heights of BNFdom which allowed him to bid for and win the worldcon hardly more than a decade later? Further, I ask you, if Pat T. Fogel had not attended Harvard Business School, could he have been an efficient Watercon I secretary? The answer, to any right-thinking fan, must be a resounding "No!"

The Watercon I's generous decision to pay convention speakers in selected hardship cases has also called down the wrath of these so-called fans. The idea of remunerating speakers has long been supported by such noteworthy groups as the Science Fiction Writers of America and Harlan Ellison. I fail to see the impropriety in reimbursing our valiant convention chairman for the valuable time and considerable effort he expended introducing the notables. If anything, the \$100 honorium is insufficient to repay him for performing this difficult, though crucial, convention chore.

I also think it is high time that the clamorous critics stopped bandying around terms like "kick back" and "double-dealing" and "mail fraud" in reference to the Watercon I. These are highly charged words cunningly calculated to undermine confidence in our valiant convention chairman and his loyal committee. Despite the raucous ravings of the insufferable insurgent clique, I am sure that the great silent majority of fans enjoyed the banquet and felt it justified the \$11.50 pricetag. Science Fiction fans should be ever-ready to embrace the miracles of the future, yet here we see the disgraceful spectacle of a few hidebound, hedonistic anti-hucksterites dividing our great fandom, because they are unable to accept the novel notion of getting their banquet meals from an automatic sandwich dispenser.

As for the pay toilets in the hotel rooms, I think the fannish fault-finders are waving a red herring in the face of decency when they sniggeringly suggest that



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there was some impropriety in the decision to turn over control and administration of the conveniences to a subsidiary corporation. The money spent by fans who patronized this service did not wind up in the hands of nefarious non-fan outsiders as has been alleged. All stock in this corporation is held by honest and upstanding fans well known for their good works and fine reputations, including seventeen members of the Watercon I committee. If some madman had dropped dynamite down the toilet in his room, it would have been this corporation, not Watercon I, which would have made good the damage. Besides, when the quarter drops into the box and the toilet is safely flushed, who really cares where it goes? A valuable service was provided to con goers, and the Friends of Watercon Company reaped the deserved \$1,632.47 reward, if such there was.

In conclusion, I say that if these hot-headed, stf-scoring fannish fans don't desist in their dastardly destructive diatribes against our valiant convention chairman and his loyal committee, they should be invited to join some other hobby.

-- Arnie Katz