

FUTURIAN OBSERVER

NO. 23.

17th November, 1940.

CHICONEWS

(Reprinted from "Spaceways" with special permission of Editor HWJr.)

Readers note:- We have not printed a complete story of the Chicon as nearly every fan mag existent will have done that. Instead we chose a few choice pieces from SPACEWAYS, which we considered best to reprint!

From Tucker's "Memories of a Chiconeer: "Highlight of the first day was the movie swept up off a cutting room floor and stuck together by Roberds and me. Even Ackerman didn't recognise the picture when we were finished with it because of certain "Pongish touches". A title that read: "The earthmen find they are not the first to conquer space" is followed by a strip showing a band of cowboys galloping across the plains, shooting irons smoking - - this was borrowed from a western epic. In another scene earthmen and Martians are staring into a huge round television mounted on the wall, and what pops into the scene of vision but a girl doing a strip-tease."

"In my opinion, and I have found reason to think many others think likewise, that Banquet proved to be the most popular "session" of the entire Convention. There were nearly sixty present, grouped around a U-shaped table with Doc Smith, his wife, and daughter at the "head", flanked by Meyer, Korshak, Reinsberg and myself. After dinner the usual speeches and talks were in order and many were the stale jokes dragged out and re-polished. Wilson worked in a plug for his fan-mag ESCAPE, Walt Liebscher was mistakenly introduced as "Leapyear", Philip Morris Cigarettes sent up a hundred small packages with their compliments, someone ordered Reinsberg a glass of milk and a bottle of red pop but the latter never arrived, silent respect was paid to authors and fans who have now passed on, Doc Smith was introduced as the creator of "Adam Link", and one of those phony newspapers - - the "print your own headline" type - - was introduced; screaming black type announced: SMITH SUPPER STINKING SUCCESS!!!!!!!!!!

Everyone present autographed this paper and it was presented to Smith with our very best wishes. In conclusion everybody rose, joined hands, and sang Auld Lang Syne."

From " Stardust": " Doc Smith is one of the most likeable persons I've ever met. I spoke with him several times for periods ranging from a half to two hours and it would be difficult to imagine a more pleasant way of passing time. On the second day the IFF was being dissolved as a national organisation and as non-members Earl Singleton, Bill Hamling, Don Brazier and I were ousted, so we decided to retire for refreshments. In the lobby we met Doc, who promptly offered to treat us all so we left for - - ah sorry, Tucker. Returning, we found seats in the lobby and discussed stuff. We spoke at length of Weinbaum and Doc mentioned how Palmer angered him by writing a sequel ("Black World") to "The Red Peri", which he thinks is one of SGW's worst yarns. He then went on "and published his worst story 'The New Adam'".

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ITEMS: F. Orlin Tremaine, one-time editor of ASTOUNDING is to edit a new science fiction pro tentatively titled Comet Stories - - OP.

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