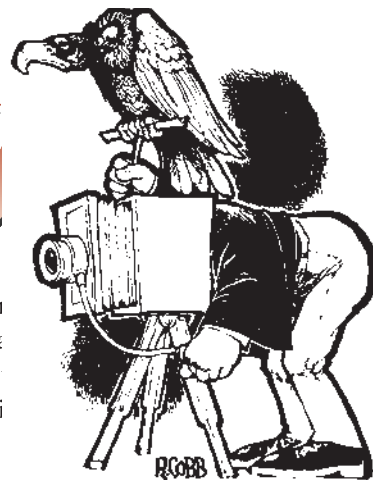


Westercon Founding Father

Walt Daugherty

1916-2007



Forry, Verne Langdon and Don Post torment the photographer

So it's been said Burbee and Laney belabor the young Walt for his grandiose fannish pluck that never came to fruition. And yet, here we are celebrating Westercon 62, the brainchild of Fi Fandomite, Walter J. "Doc" Daugherty.

Since September of 1948, Westercon has been a fannish tradition that sees no sign of slowing down.

I met Walt in 1963 by way of Dr. Donald A. Reed's "Count Dracula Society" where we both held some office or another and it was easy to see he was by anyone's measure, a renaissance man. We spent many afternoons at the L.A. Photo Center, Milt Larsen's Magic Castle and conventions where he would display his collection of genre photographs in his "Watch the Vulture" photo exhibit.

Being, of course, a charter member of LASFS ([Los Angeles, Science Fantasy Society](#)), Guest of Honor at many conventions, received many awards and with the help of Forry Ackerman, created the "Evans-Freehafer Big Heart Award" award.

Having an interest in things of antiquity, he was an endless source of knowledge of Egyptology, particularly dealing with King Tut. He also took several trips into jungles of South America exploring the pyramids of ancient civilizations.

His interests spanned tropical fish (where he was presented several "Article of the Year" Awards, and in 2002 was honored to receive the prestigious Gene Lucas Award in recognition of his years of service to IBC.), stamp collecting, parakeets, aquariums, auto racing, gardening, model building, to a lightning Quick Draw (22/100ths of a second),

As a professional ballroom dancer, he won well over 600 awards, including the world championship in New York's "Harvest Moon" competition (film of him dancing appears in four different M*A*S*H episodes). He won his first dance contest at age 9 and his last at 71.

While not hoofing, he also dabbled as a private detective, photography instructor, motion picture stand-in and stuntman (among others for Red Skelton, Robert Hutton, even Cary Grant). When he retired from the City of Los Angeles, he still held two positions, Curator of the Hollywood Museum (which was never opened to the public) and Photography Instructor at the Los Angeles Photo Center.



Pic: Alan White

Robert Bloch chats with Walt at Worldcon 1968



"Heads I win" says Walt to Fritz Leiber, hamming it up.

"I think Walt has kind of a world record for being a hobbyist; he has something like 52 major hobbies. He retired, I think in 1946 as the dance champion of America, in waltz I believe, and he's very knowledgeable about Egypt. He did fanzines in his day, and in 1941, at the world convention, he was the first person to record speeches, in particular Heinlein's "Discovery of the Future" talk, as it was called."

— Forry Ackerman

HEADING THE EXCAVATION WAS AN AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGIST, **PROF. WALTER DAUGHERTY**, WHOM I HAD KNOWN WHEN HE WAS CURATOR OF EGYPTOLOGY AT THE MARSHAL NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM IN THE UNITED STATES...

Don Glut's tribute to Walt in an early issue of "Occult Files of Dr. Spektor" from Gold Key comics.



Pic: Alan White

Walt, "Watching the Vulture" at Westercon 22, 1969



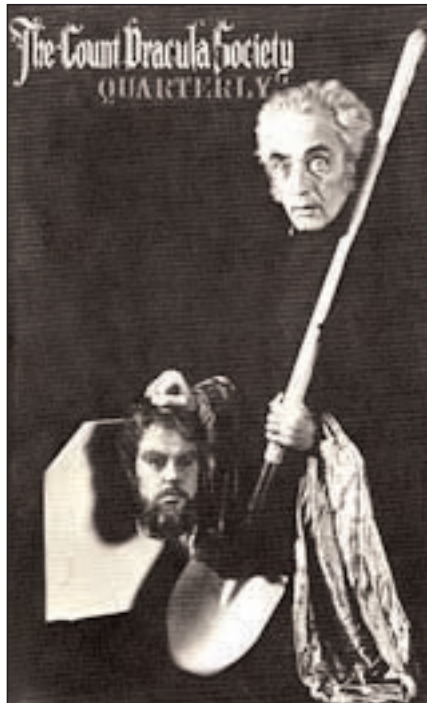
Pic: Richard Harmatz, L.A. Times

Myself, Forry, Walt and Karl Freund, Universal Studios, 1968



Pic: Alan White

Walt, Dr. Donald A. Reed and Ray Harryhausen at the Bela Lugosi Estate



Walt Captures Gordon R. Guy dealt a nasty blow by shovelman, Fritz Leiber.



Junior Space Ranger



Pic: J. Edward Field

Walt and Sir Alvin Garmeshausen at Eighth Count Dracula Awards Ceremony, 1970



Pic: J. Edward Field

Receiving honorary doctorate from St. Andrews University by Bishop King. 1970