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SEE PAGE 16 **ALL ABOUT THE NEW KONG**



Once they were Bi-Planes, now tomorrow's Die Planes are intent on killing KING KONG.

KING KONG 1977

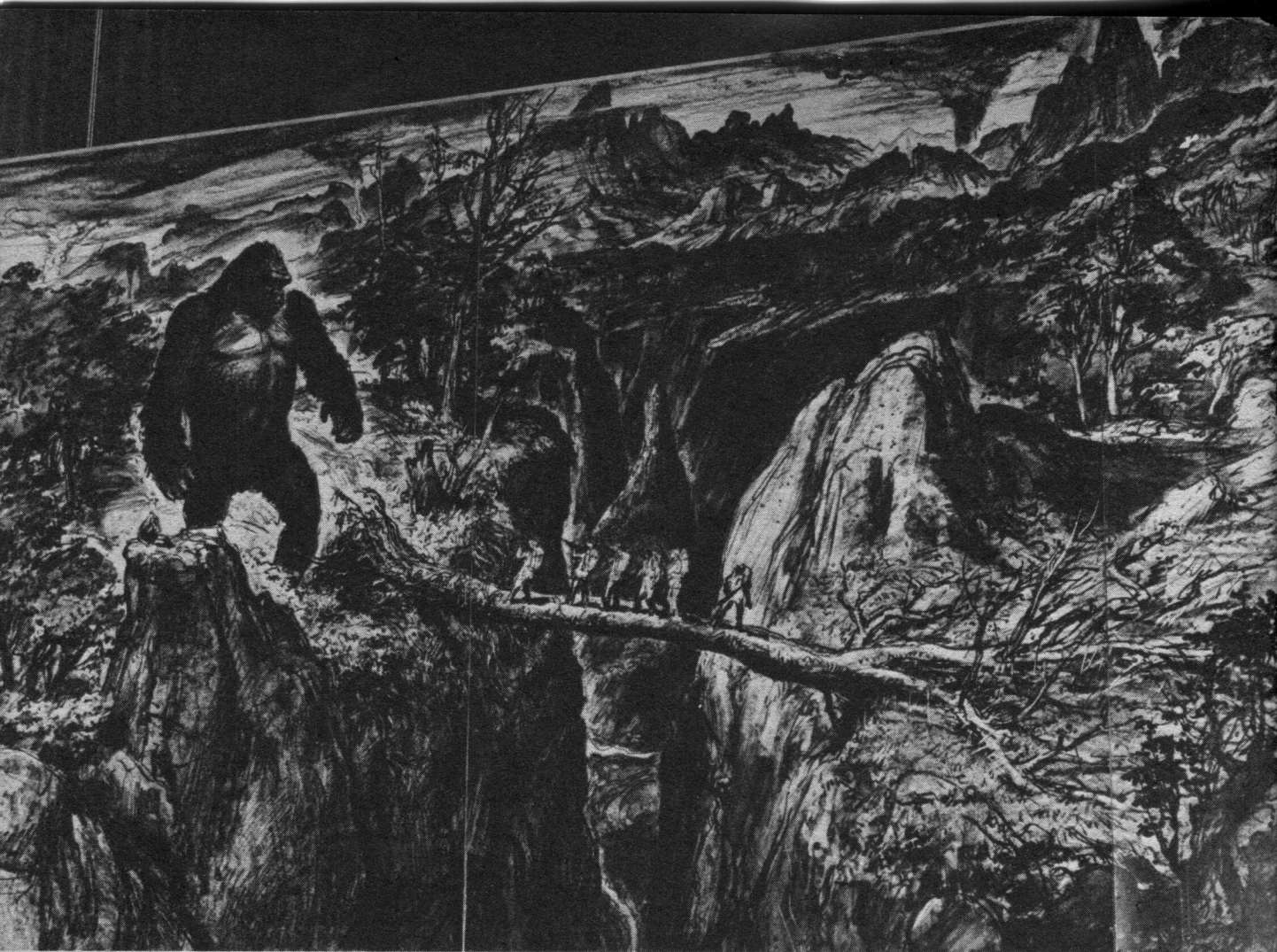
Paramount Pictures and Dino DeLaurentiis
are bringing back the 8th wonder of the world!

44 years later

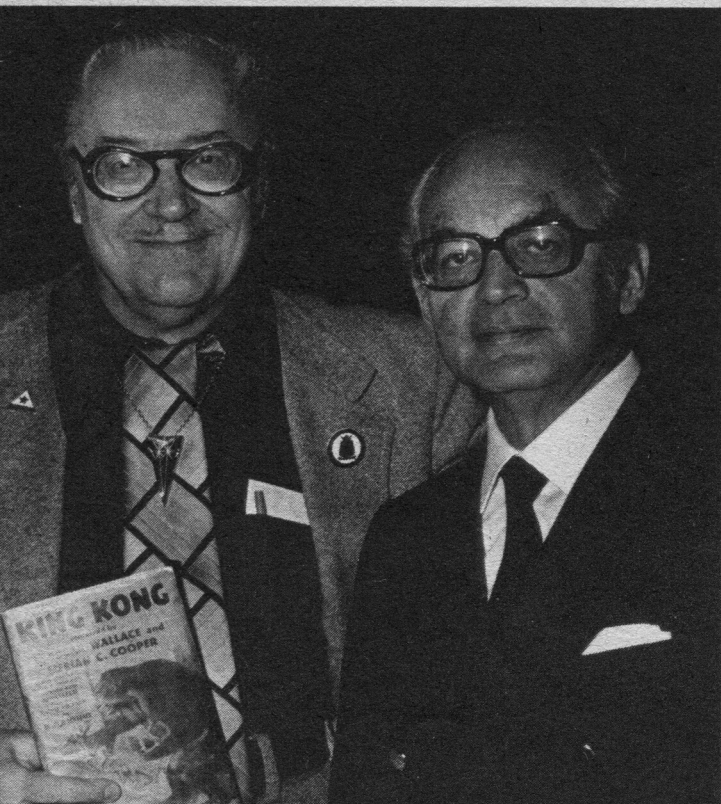
T'WAS Beauty killed the beast." T'is a movie producer who was only 12 years old when Kong died who is bringing the King back to life.

Production on Dino De Laurentiis' modern version of the venerable classic began principal shooting on Jan. 15. If all goes according to schedule, you will see the result on the screen in November.

Your Editor & FM's Photographer were at Paramount Studios middle of January when 200 members of the Los Angeles Press were treated to a \$5000 introduction to the new KING KONG.



The Famous Log Scene recreated for the 1977 Version. (The \$64 Question: Spider, spider, in the pit—will at last we be seeing it???)



The Ackermonger meets the "Father" (Dino De Laurentiis) of the New Kong.

The first thing that struck the eye when one walked into the huge sound stage was 3 gigantic black-&-white blow-ups of scenes from the new KING KONG. Done in a style reminiscent of the drawings by Mario Larrinaga, Willis O'Brien & Byron Crabbe, they depicted 3 overwhelming sequences:

KONG bursting on the screen for probably the first time...

KONG confronting a monstrous snake...

KONG and the doomed men trapped on the log. (When they fall into the pit, will we see a Super Spider attack them at last?)

the voice of kong

Speaking for Kong, producer De Laurentiis answered numerous questions from the audience. Among those of most interest to FM readers were:

Q: How tall will King Kong be this time?

A: 45 feet.

Q: Will there be animation? Will Harryhausen be involved in the project?

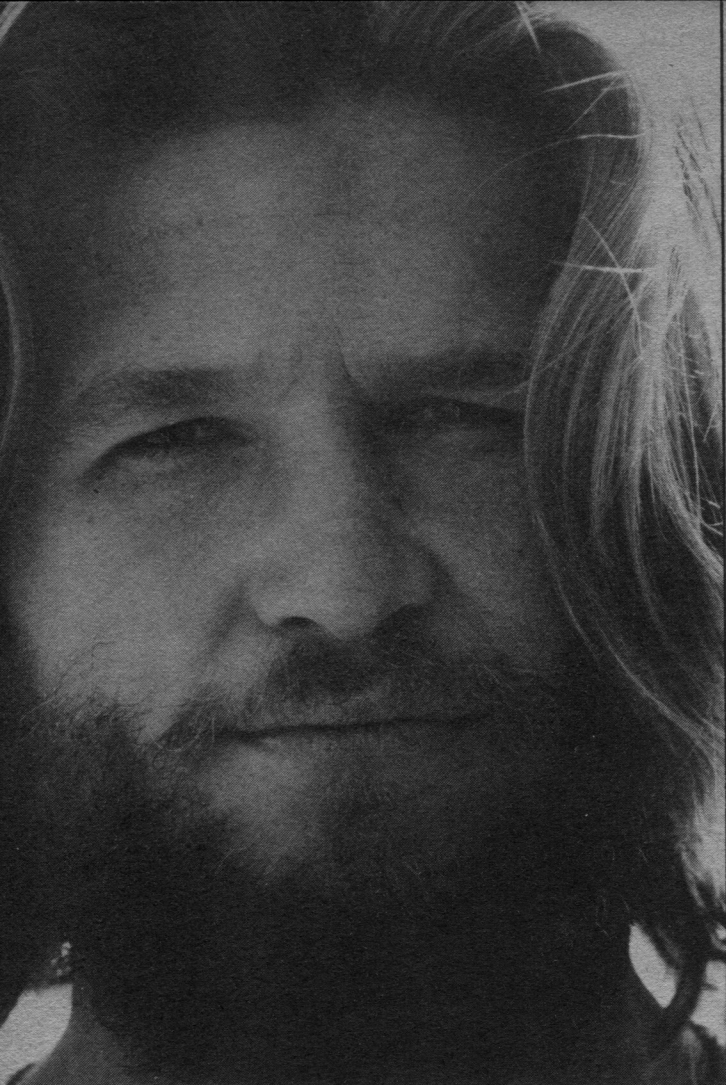
A: No, Mr. Harryhausen will not be involved. There will be some stop motion photography, some man in a suit, but mainly we are building a 45' tall model which will be electronically controlled.



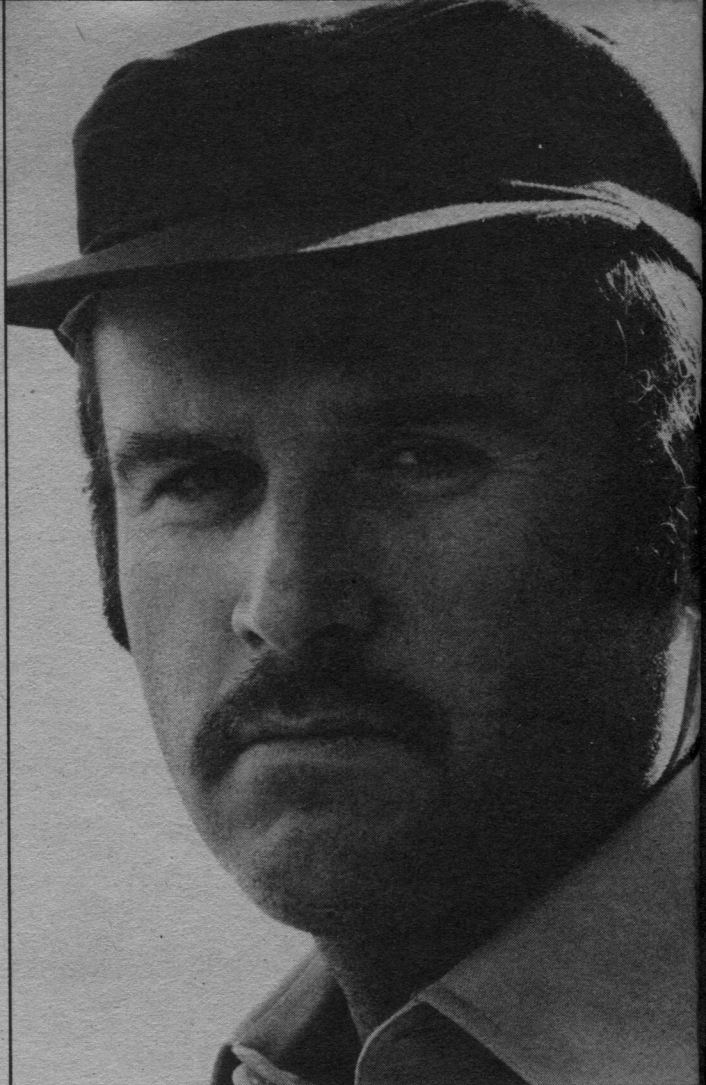
Artist's concept of how it will look in 1977 when "Dino" Kong breaks down the Great Gate on Skull Island and pursues the Terrified Natives.



"I thought I told you to stay out of my garden!" Big Kong roars at Ole Devil Snake Eyes while guardin' the blond of whom he's fond.



The New Hero of KING KONG, Jeff Bridges.



The Actor who more or less takes over the role the late Robert Armstrong: Charles Grodin.

Q: What is the cost of the electronic model?

A: Our new Kong cost \$2 million to build... and his contract calls for him to get 10% of the profits.

Comment: That's a lot of bananas! In other words, you're really going ape.

Q: Will this be an actual remake of the original?

A: No, my version takes place in 1977 and is an entirely new story, a romantic adventure with some humor but no details similar to the original.

Q: Then Kong won't be climbing the Empire State again?

A: No, this time it will be the Trade Center building.

Q: And he'll be fighting jets rather than biplanes?

A: That is correct.

Q: Will Fay Wray have a part in the picture?

A: No.

Q: Was she asked?

A: No.

(Comment by FM: It is our understanding that Fay Wray will have a small part in the *Universal* version of KING KONG, a period piece rather than an update.)

Q: Ray Bradbury has said if KING KONG is remade it will be a catastrophe. What is your reaction to that?

A: (Mr. De Laurentiis turned the question over to a spokesman to respond to, who said he believed Mr. Bradbury had also spoken badly of JAWS but that it had done well at the boxoffice. Thereby completely missing the point of the criticism, as it is obviously possible for a picture to make millions and still be artistically unacceptable. Few true blue KONG fans expect to be satisfied with *either* new version, even if their producers strike oil on Skull Island. Few Kongophiles expect either KK77 or the Universal version to be considered classics in 2020 AD, at the same time believing that the original KK will still be shown & revered in the 21st Century.)

the girl in fay wray's raiment

And what of the "new Fay Wray"? She's Jessica Lange, who has modeled in Paris & New York but never acted before on the screen. Asked to scream for the press, she seemed somewhat taken offguard and declined. Instead she climbed into King Kong's hand and posed. She said she hoped 44 years from now Hollywood would be looking for a replacement for herself in a remake of KING KONG.

How about it? Shall we all stick around and find out? I will if you will.



Fay Wray 1977: Jessica Lange. Background: DINO KONG. (We hope the appellation doesn't make Dino sore.)