



A Publication of the Pleasant Places of Florida

# Communication

#197

New Series

November/December 1999

Volume 3 Issue 9

Greetings to cooler weather! The 24th Annual Fall Gathering was a great success with 19 members showing up to view the car museum in Sarasota, with host and tour guide Charles Amick. While there was a Ford model car there similar to Watson's, it was deduced that it was, alas, not his since there was no back seat in which to stuff Von Bork. Read within for more info.

*The Papers on the Sundial*

## INCREASE IN DUES IS IMMINENT!

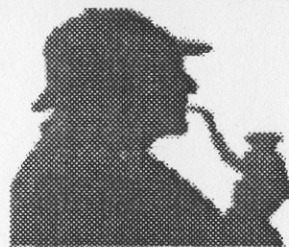
In order to better serve you by sending out reminders of club activities and renewals, there will be an increase of club dues by \$2 beginning 1/1/2000.

## Oops!

We had a double "oops!" last time with our double issue. In trying to get it out, there were a couple of errors overlooked. In issue #195, the last line of the cover story, *Slain wife found in casket with other body*, should have read "Was the victim's maiden name Carfax?" Somehow it disappeared when the issue was printed. In issue #196, our logic puzzle was illogical. The French newsstand owner failed to tell Holmes the name of one of his customers. It was Mr. Carter. Holmes, of course, figured this out anyway, but it was unfair not to provide you, the reader, with that fact. Thanks to Peter Blau for the corrections.

## In this Issue...

Mystery In The Mountains .....	2
Agony Column .....	3
A Study in Bronze .....	5
Deduced to Laughter .....	6
Fall Gathering Report .....	7
SSSSSII, Birthday Bash & Wessex X Sign-ups .....	Inserts



## GET A CLUE

Silhouette spotted in a loan ad in  
the *Personals.St. Petersburg  
Times*

## PROPOSED SCHEDULE 2000

**January 29**

*Sherlock's Sunshine Celebration III:*

*Birthday Bash*

*Leverock's Restaurant*

*St. Petersburg*

**February 15**

*Florida Wessex Cup X*

*Tampa Bay Downs*

*Oldsmar*

**June 9, 10, 11**

*Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion*

*Symposium II*

*Dolphin Beach Resort*

*St. Pete Beach*

*25th Annual Spring Gathering (inclusive)*

**November 4**

*25th Annual Fall Gathering*

*Palm Harbor*

*Hosts: Carl & Sandie Heifetz*

*Case: Undecided As Yet*



Having completed his first novel, John Watson decided he might try short stories for a while.

## BSJ USHERS IN 2K WITH NEW EDITOR

Editor Donald Pollock of the *Baker Street Journal* has informed us that he is stepping down. The duties will be falling on the capable shoulders of Steve Rothman as of the March, 2000, issue. We give thanks to Donald for his devotion to the cause and wish Steven well in his new venue.

## PUBLISHED PPoFers

David McCallister published two articles in the September issue of *The Holmes & Watson Report*: "On the Dating of Manuscripts" and "Once Upon a Time in Baker Street."

Carl Heifetz published "Sherlock Holmes Crosses a Thor Bridge to Scientific Inspiration" in the September issue of *The Holmes & Watson Report*.

Wanda Dow published a "Dow-ism" cartoon in the October issue of *The Holmes Front*.

George Schenk published "Shoscome Old Place: A Retrospection" in the September *Baker Street Dispatch*.

## MYSTERY IN THE MOUNTAINS

*Sherlock Holmes festival tempts visitors with fun and fall foliage.*  
(A Reprint of an article by Lon Anderson in *AAA World*)

You've always wanted to be there in the fall: the Blue Ridge Mountains in southwestern North Carolina. For natural beauty, it doesn't get any better than this scenic setting.

And now is the time to visit - especially if you're a mystery buff or Sherlockian, as the Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts are known. Tucked away in the foothills, just a few minutes from Asheville and Lake Lure, is the small town of Tryon, NC. There, on November 6 and 7, the third annual Sherlock Holmes Festival will commemorate the 100th anniversary of William Gillette's first portrayal of Sherlock Holmes on stage.

To Sherlockians, this a big deal. William Gillette, formerly of Tryon, was the actor who first gave flesh and bones on stage to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's stories about the legendary detective.

The festival offers something for anyone with any curiosity about Sherlock Holmes. Events include mystery (cont. page 4)



## They're Here!



The Pleasant Places of Florida finally has it's very own pin design! These 1/2 inch enamel pins feature our club logo in black and gold silhouette, with the Sunshine State reflecting the orange glow of the sunset. The outer circle is done in blue, matching the waves behind Sherlock, with the club name printed in gold. Order now from Wanda Dow,

US\$12.00 postage paid (US & Can); US\$13.00 overseas.

In a recent homework assignment, member Culver Dow had to match synonyms on a word list, then use one of the words in a sentence. The last word listed was:

... a shrewd detective

sharp

careless

clever

plain

alert

observant

He could figure out any case because he was so observant.





## Agony Column



The **Sherlock Holmes Calendar 2000** is still available from The Sherlock Store, William S. Dorn, Proprietor, 2045 S. Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210-3734 for \$11.95 postpaid. This year it is 11"x17". It contains a time-line for the dates of the adventures for each month and follows the Zeisler chronology whenever possible. It also includes info on Doyle, Paget, Steele and Gillette as well as the names & founding dates of more than 80 Sherlockian societies. Visit the website at [www.TheSherlockStore.com](http://www.TheSherlockStore.com)

Janis Frame informs us that a new limited edition of **The Hound of the Baskervilles** was recently released by Micawber Fine Editions, with 10 full-page color illustrations by Denver artist, Jason Powers (see pg.4). Please contact the bookseller at 1307 Bannock Street, Denver, CO 80204 or [jframe6383@aol.com](mailto:jframe6383@aol.com). Prices range from \$95 to \$395,

depending on the type of copy you desire.

Writer Stephen Kendrick of the newly published **Holy Clues** has written us to ensure that Sherlockians get the word that his book is for those who most love the Holmes tales. He hopes that his love and affection for the stories comes through. If you get a copy, you can let him know what you think by writing to him at

or email to

The Sherlock Holmes Society is now selling their 1999 Christmas card. Douglas West did the watercolor cover illustration of Holmes & Watson inspecting the statue of Holmes in Baker Street. Holmes states, "It really is rather like me, is it not?" Cost is \$13.50 USA. Make checks out to the Society and mail to Cdr. G. S. Stavert,

England.

**COSI**, the hands-on science museum in Toledo, OH has a special exhibit, *Sherlock Holmes and the Clockflower Mystery* that will be running through 1/6/2000. Participants solve the mystery through deductive reasoning encountered in interactive displays in a maze of rooms. At the end of the "tour" an actor takes the participants into the last room to discuss solutions to the mystery. Call 1-800-334-COSI.

Artist Eduardo Kac stunned several hundred colleagues recently when he proposed using genetic engineering to create a dog with fluorescent fur. His plan was to extract a harmless protein from a jellyfish and insert it into a dog so as to make its fur glow with a green light. And we thought you used butterflies...

### ROSTER UPDATE

**New:** Boguslawski, Melissa,

Cotterman, Billie J., College Student, Nom: *Mr. Binks, Consulting Detective*,  
e-mail:

**Changes:** Brooks, David, Area code change to

Buddle, Judy, e-mail:

Singleton, Paul,

e-mail:

Whelan, Michael F.,

Please check the address on your mailing label to make sure the correct information is being held by the club.

(cont. from page 2) writing contests, readings, exhibits of Holmes and Gillette memorabilia and more.

Saturday morning, don't miss "Mrs. Hudson's Breakfast." Mrs. Hudson, Holmes landlady, who once served exquisite Victorian breakfasts for Sherlock Holmes, now serves enough for three seatings of festival attendees.

Following breakfast, go out into the mountains and soak up the spectacular beauty of the Blue Ridge. And there is no better place from which to gaze than Chimney Rock, which just happens to be next to Lake Lure. Visitors are encouraged to ride the elevator carved through six stories of stone to the top of Chimney Rock. There, they will find a bird's-eye view of the lake's 27 miles of shoreline, and everything else for as far away as 50 miles.

But even "spectacular" doesn't do this vista justice: mountains, water, hardwood forests and color - lots of autumn color. Bring binoculars, camera, plenty of film, and be prepared to swoon. It is beautiful. And bring along your hiking shoes - there's 404-foot Hickory Nut Falls just next door. Other nearby attractions include the world-famous Biltmore mansion in Asheville and the "Saluda Grade," the steepest mainline railway grade in the U.S. - so steep that it requires two engines to climb this monster hill.

But don't swoon for too long. The festival will offer evening events that are mandatory fare for any aspiring Sherlockian. The Tryon Little Theatre, now in its 51st season of live productions, will present the play *Sherlock Holmes* by Conan Doyle and rewritten by Gillette.

Author, historian and humorist Henry Zecher will present a history of William H. Gillette, drawn from the pages of his soon-to-be-published book of the actor. It is Zecher's exhaustively researched presentation that makes the entire festival whole, tying all of the elements together: Gillette, Sherlock and Tryon. Zecher also reminds everyone of Gillette's enormous contributions beyond his role as Holmes.

The importance of Gillette to the American stage cannot be overstated: Ethel Barrymore, Charlie Chaplin and Helen Hayes enjoyed their first major acting successes playing roles opposite him. But with no surviving movie film images of Gillette's performances, he has been largely forgotten. Except in Tryon, where the faithful will gather to celebrate the Gillette-Holmes stage marriage that lasted 33 years.

So, as you begin this year to think about vistas of fall foliage, let your mind wander south and west into the Blue Ridge of North Carolina. There, in early November, the colors are vibrant, the temperatures mild and mystery is afoot in the mountains.

For more information about the Sherlock Holmes Festival and places to see, contact the Polk County Dept. of Travel and Tourism, 425 Trade Street, Tryon, NC 28782 or call 800-440-7848.

Article submitted by Count Sylvius, PPoF



One of Jason Power's HOUND illustrations.

Puzzle sent in by Recorder Emeritus, Dr. Benton Wood, B.S.I.

### SHERLOCK HOLMES

Example: Watson

R V V G N M Q A C V G

T Q C V G N M G V V M

V A V W V Y M Q G O

R V M V J M Z F V

W O N M V G O

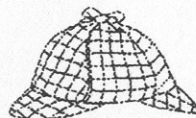
A L Y R L Y

F Z L A Z Y

N L A F V

J A B V

D Z D V



ANSWERS  
ELSEWHERE IN  
ISSUE.





Jim, Moran, a Sherlockian from New York, studies the newly installed statue of Arthur Conan Doyle's legendary fictional detective in London.

## FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES, A STUDY IN BRONZE

By T. R. Reid

In the bustling neighborhood that was home to the World's Greatest Detective, who pondered the mystery of the dog that didn't bark, London today finally resolved the riddle of the statue that wasn't there.

Just around the corner from their hero's famous flat - at 221B Baker Street - a boisterous cluster of fans from around the world doffed their deerstalkers and waved their magnifying glasses in the air at the unveiling of London's first statue honoring Sherlock Holmes.

It has been 112 years since the studious Holmes entered the roster of literary detectives with the publication of "A Study in Scarlet." It was in that novel that the detective met his sidekick, Dr. Watson, and demonstrated his dazzling detective talents with the first words he ever

spoke to Watson: "You have been in Afghanistan, I perceive." "How on earth did you know that?" Watson wondered.

That story was so popular that Holmes's creator, Arthur Conan Doyle, added 59 more Sherlock mysteries over the next 40 years. Conan Doyle actually got fed up with the whole thing and killed off Holmes in 1893 ("The Final Problem"). But public pressure was so strong that he resurrected the hero 10 years later ("The Empty House").

Perhaps his most famous solution ("Silver Blaze") came when Holmes wondered why a guard dog had failed to bark on the night of a murder - and deduced that the intruder must have been the dog's master.

These tales of Victorian London have spawned a global industry of books, plays, movies and computer games. The London-based Sherlock Holmes Society lists dozens of affiliated fan clubs around the world, including the American Baker Street Irregulars and Japan's Sha-roku Ho-muzu Kyokai.

Sherlockians have erected plaques and statues honoring Holmes all over the world. But until today, there has never been a Sherlock Holmes statue here in his hometown.

Why? The solution seems to reflect Holmes's shifting popularity in his home country.

The detective actually was more popular overseas than in Britain

for much of this century. But in the 1950s, as a struggling, post-colonial Britain began looking back with nostalgia on the salad days of the Victorian era, there was a boom in Sherlockiana. The current Holmes Society was founded in 1951, and almost immediately began clamoring for a statue in London.

"We had a beast of time with this project," said Anthony Howlett, the society's president. "We spent, heavens, a decade or two debating whether we should put a statue smack in the middle of Baker Street, and the traffic be damned. But that simply wasn't acceptable."

Finally Holmes fans agreed on a spot in front of the Baker Street subway station. This is actually on Marylebone Street, but it is just two blocks from where the fictional Baker Street flat would have been.

The next quandry was where to raise the money.

That's elementary: You get money from a bank. Cleverly, the society cashed in on an unusual marriage between literature and finance.

In 1932, the Abbey national Bank - now Britain's fifth-largest - built a striking art deco headquarters. The location was the 200 block of Baker Street. Fairly quickly, bankers started noticing a steady stream of letters coming in addressed to the detective at 221B. Abbey appointed a (cont. to page 6)

(cont. from page 5) staffer to serve as "the Secretary to Sherlock Holmes," and has maintained the position every since.

Accordingly, Abbey National was happy to comply when the Holmes Society asked it to fund, at long last, a London statue of Sherlock Holmes. And today Abbey National's chairman, Lord Tugendhat, unveiled the nine-foot bronze statue.

The bank chairman is a collector of Sherlock Holmes first editions, but even he seemed unprepared for the fervor of the Sherlockians who had traveled from all over to be present for the great moment.

When Tugendhat announced that his bank was "proud to be associated with world's greatest fictional detective," the assembled fans booed. The banker looked stunned, but afterward a Baker Street Irregular from Los Angeles, June Kinnee, explained what he had done wrong.

"We didn't like that business about 'fictional,'" she smiled. "To some of us, Sherlock's not fictional."

Submitted by Dr. Benton Wood, BSI, from an article in the *Washington Post* 9/24/99

### Not Exactly A Blue Carbuncle, But ....

Recently Frank Kufel, a resident of Kenai, Alaska, butchered a goose for dinner and discovered glittering flakes of gold. Although the find itself was not a rich one (they would only amount to \$10-\$12), he hopes to figure out next spring where the goose ate the gold flakes.



Inspector Lestrade (George Miller) comforts the flirtatious American Gwen Mellors (Melinda Simmons) Times photo - Scott Keeler

### Deduced to Laughter

*The Avenue Players stage a Sherlock Holmes mystery that will tickle your funny bone.*

**by Barbara Fredricksen**

(excerpts from 11/5/99 *St. Petersburg Times*)

The Avenue Players' current production of the Sherlock Holmes mystery, *The Mask of Moriarty*, is more Mel Brooks than Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The outrageous farce doesn't have a serious bone in its graveyard.

Playwright Hugh Leonard's two hour comedy has the usual cast of characters: Dr. Watson (Rick

Stutzel), Mr. Holmes (Fred Butler), a beautiful victim and an elusive villain.

Then there are the unusual characters, including a lunatic plastic surgeon, Lord Melmoth (John Hughes) who says he once turned Queen Victoria into Prince Albert, and the result was Jack the Ripper.

"There's no doubt that the playwright had a lot of fun with this," said Diana Forgiione, director of the Avenue Players.

The play starts out seriously enough, with Holmes demonstrating his phenomenal powers of deductions. Then he keeps deducing and deducing and deducing until the audience begins to wonder what the deduce is going on.

With a mere whiff of the air, Holmes deduces that Dr. Watson not only has been treating a patient with a peculiar ailment, he has also been quarreling with his wife, fooling around with an exotic foreign female and varying from his usual - and very proper - English diet.

"It's alimentary," Holmes deadpans.

This Holmes is so preoccupied with analyzing irrelevant minutiae that he not only fails to see the obvious, he also trips over it.

In addition to the sight gags, one-liners and pratfalls, the play is filled with sly digs at customs and manners of society, a few of them obscure, but most of them recognizable.

There's also a murder, a mystery and a logical resolution.

## 24th Annual Fall Gathering

There was a nice turn-out for this year's Fall Gathering. Nineteen members toured the Sarasota Classic Car Museum in search of Watson's Ford or Von Herling's Benz. We were led by host, Charles Amick, who donates his time to the museum as a tour guide. After the tour, we lunched in the open air atrium, which was quite pleasant due to the cooler weather. Announcements were made by Wanda Dow concerning *The Mask of Moriarty*, a play being performed at the Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center, the sale of the newly acquired club pins, and the completion of the latest round robin pastiche, *The Glorious Scot*. David McCallister presented his *Periodic Table of the Sherlock Holmes Adventures* and announced the date for the next Wessex Cup is February 15, and The Dow Family Players presented a brief "commercial" of the newly uncovered anti-Manilow recordings, *Look's Like We've Made It* (We've got the Kaiser on the run), *Oh Watson* (tune of Mandy), *Von Bork's I Can't Spy Without You* (tune of I Can't Live Without You), *Watson's I Write The Stories* (tune of I Write the Songs), and *His Name Was Von Bork* (tune of Copacabana).

Winners of the trivia contests were Judy Buddle (Watson Level) and Charles Amick (Mycroft Level). Winners of door prizes were Art Walker, Charles Amick and Helen Wesson. Recorder Ben Wood sent his regards but was unable to attend as he was in Evanston representing Northwestern University at a "conferring of an honorary degree."

### **Don't Miss The Latest in the Round Robin Pastiches *The Adventure of the Glorious Scot!!!***

Writers were Charles Michael Carroll, Wanda & Culver Dow, Neil C. Harvey, Caroline Everett and Jeffery Dow. Cost is \$6.00 postage paid. Mail to Carl Heifetz, 3693

**Order Now!!! Limited Supply!!!**

## COMING UP ON THE HOLMES FRONT

1999

**November 20** - The 20th annual presentaion by the Six Napoleons, The Carlton Club and the Watson's Tin Box will be *A Saturday with Sherlock Holmes* at the Enock Pratt Free Library in Baltimore from 10am to 1:30pm. Contact Wm. Hyder,

2000

**January 29** - The Pleasant Places of Florida will be celebrating Sherlock's birthday a little late this year to allow some fellow Floridian Sherlockian's from the *Tropical Deerstalkers* to join in the fun. Dinner will be at *Leverock's Restaurant* in St. Petersburg. For more information, contact club Representative Carl Heifetz at

or email:

**February 15** - The Florida Wessex Cup X at Tampa Bay Downs in Oldsmar. For luncheon reservations, contact David McCallister,

**May 5-7** - Simon Brett will be the guest of honor with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as the Ghost of Honor at the *Malice Domestic XII* at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. Contact Malice Domestic, ]

or email

**June 9-11** -The Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium II will be taking place at the Dolphin Beach Resort in St. Pete Beach, Florida. Among other events taking place, the evening of June 10 will be the 25th Anniversary of the First Spring Gathering of The Pleasant Places of Florida, which hosts the SSSSSII. Contact Carl Heifetz,

or email

for more

information.

**November 4** -The 25th Annual Fall Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida will take place in Palm Harbor, FL. Contact Carl Heifetz,

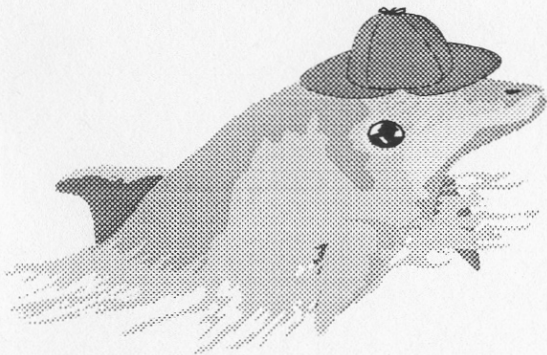
or email

for more information.

Answers to SHERLOCK HOLMES, page 4: Deerstalker, Baker Street, Elementary, Detective, Mystery, London, Violin, Solve, Clue, Pipe.



# Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium II



Yes, it's back by popular demand! *The Pleasant Places of Florida*, a corresponding Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars, will be having a repeat performance of its highly acclaimed weekend symposium in St. Pete Beach. This time, we are honoring the 25th Anniversary of our first Spring Gathering. This long-anticipated event will take place on June 9-11, 2000, on the shores of St. Pete Beach, Florida, at the beautiful Dolphin Beach Resort.

June 9, 2000, Friday night . . .

Reception and casual get together at 6:00pm in The Stranger's Room, featuring hor d'oeuvres and a cash bar, to meet and greet, play a meeting game, register, get handouts, sing along, and toast Sherlock Holmes. Attendees will receive an assignment to be handed in Saturday.

June 10, 2000, Saturday . . .

From 7:30am to 9:00am a continental breakfast will be supplied free of charge in Mrs. Hudson's Kitchen.

From 9:00am to 5:00pm there will be displays of commercial vendors, member and club sales, handouts, and a silent auction.

From 9:00am to Noon there will be Symposia and individual presentations.

Lunch will be on your own from Noon to 2:00pm. Many will gather across the street at the Three Lions Pub.

From 2:00pm to 5:00pm, there will be Sherlockian presentations, games, videos and music.

From 6:00pm to 7:00pm there will be a Cocktail Gathering (cash bar) at Simpson's, with the silent auction still open for last bids, and a wandering photographer.

From 7:00pm to 11:00pm, there will be the Banquet, held this year to honor the 25th Anniversary of the First Spring Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida. Black tie and Victorian garb are optional, but encouraged for this sit down dinner with toasts, quizzes, entertainment, including an original radio play performed live, a sing along, silent auction, favors and reminiscences of the club.

June 11, 2000, Sunday . . .



From 9:00am to Noon, there will be a Dutch treat breakfast gathering at pool side for door prizes, presentation of awards and trophies, light talks and farewells.

Each attendee of the Symposium will receive a souvenir t-shirt upon registration Friday evening or Saturday morning. A souvenir program containing presentations, quizzes, histories of the Pleasant Places of Florida and other Florida scions, and photos will be sent out when completed.

As expected of the more low key West Coast of Florida, there will be more fun and frolic and less, but still plentiful, scholarly discourse. The hotel (only \$62 to \$82 per night) is right on the water, and it will already be warm but not yet really hot. Can you think of a better way to start your summer a few weeks earlier, than by surrounding yourself with both the "Charming climate of Florida" and Sherlockian fellowship?

Already confirmed are:

Presentations by Robert Zuczek, Bob Ennis, Brad Keefauver, Rosemary Michaud and Dr. Charles M. Carroll. The Dow Family Players will be performing A Prairie Holmes Companion, and various short skits. A Sherlockian Jeopardy game designed by David Scott will be played during the day. An original radio play by Mike Bryan will be performed at the banquet.

Attention Dealers! For information on charges for table space in our vendor area, advertisements in our programs, and your logo on our t-shirts, please contact Carl Heifetz,

..... or E-mail ..... or FAX or phone



## THE PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA

Registration for the Sunshine State Sherlockian  
Scion Symposium II

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for:

\_\_\_\_\_ Symposium (\$30.00 per person)

\_\_\_\_\_ Banquet (\$25.00 per person)

(Make checks payable to The Pleasant Places of Florida and  
mail to Carl Heifetz,  
USA.)

My banquet menu choices are \_\_\_\_\_ Prime Rib of Beef, Au Jus  
and/or \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Marsala.

Call 800-237-8916 for reservations at the Dolphin Beach Resort at St. Pete Beach, FL. Weekend rates are \$62.00 (Standard Blvd.), \$72.00 (Superior Poolview) and \$82.00 (Deluxe Gulfview). Efficiencies are \$9.00 extra per night. All rooms have two double beds for up to four adults. Tax is 11% and cancellation policy is 72 hours. All reservations must be made and confirmed by May 9, 2000 and you must mention Pleasant Places of Florida, or give the code # G-PLEA.

**The Pleasant Places of Florida**

*Founded: 1972  
by Leslie Marshall (dec.)*

**Recorder Emeritus: Dr. Benton Wood**

For the record:

**THE LAST COURT OF APPEALS**

**David McCallister**, Master of the House,

**Jeff & Wanda Dow**, The Papers on the Sundial,

**Carl L. Heifetz**, Representative both with the Servants and with the Tradespeople,

IF YOU SEE A RED CHECK HERE: . THIS IS YOUR LAST COMMUNICATION! USE  
THE RENEWAL FORM INSIDE TO CONTINUE YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

**PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THE DATE AFTER YOUR NAME ON THE MAILING LABEL.  
THIS IS THE EXPIRATION DATE OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERSHIP.**

PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA  
THE PAPERS ON THE SUNDIAL

