

The Reminder



Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, Michigan

January 1999

JANUARY 1999

JANUARY CHAIRMAN: BILL ENGLISH

- 8** Speaker: Frank Mautte, 1936 Fordham Football Captain
Subject: "The Seven Blocks of Granite"
Applicants invited A - E
-
- 15** Speaker: Charles Tice, Chief Operations Officer, Franklin-Bingham Fire Department
Subject: "Motivating Volunteers"
Applicants invited F - L
-
- 22** Speaker: Mrs. Joyce Lower, State Historian of the Mayflower Society
Subject: "Cultivating your Family's Genealogy Orchard"
Applicants invited M - R
-
- 29** Speaker: Jim "The Hammer" David, Former Lions Defensive Back
Subject: "When the Lions Roared"
Applicants invited S - Z
-

FEBRUARY 1999

- 5** Speaker: Deanna McGraw, Executive Director of Detroit Executive Service Corps
Subject: "Challenges for the Non-Profits"
Applicants invited A - E
-

Discussion Groups

JANUARY CHAIRMAN: PAUL FITZPATRICK

- Jan. 8** Speaker: Ed Conley, Senior Men's Club
Topic: "Year 1998 in Review"
- Jan. 15** Speaker: Paul Fitzpatrick
Topic: "Civil Rights"
- Jan. 22** Speaker: Ben Ewing
Topic: "Capital Punishment"
- Jan. 29** Speaker: Charles Windsor
Topic: "Conquest of Outer Space in the Next 1000 Years"
-

FEBRUARY 1999

- Feb. 5** Speaker: Marlys Vickers, Director of Economic Development and Planning, Oakland County.
Topic: "Economic Vitality for Oakland County"
-

Survey Calls for Changes in Meeting Format and Lunch

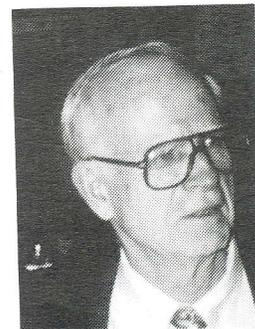
Preliminary results of the survey of Senior Men's Club members gave high marks to the Friday Club meetings. But a sizable number would like to see significant changes made in the times devoted to various segments of the meeting and in the quality of lunches.

180 STUDY PARTICIPANTS

These were among the highlights of comments from more than 180 Senior Men's regular and applicant members who responded to the questionnaire survey.

This represents about 22% of total Club membership; A 30% return from regular, associate and on-leave members; an 11% return from applicants.

Dick Harper, survey chairman, expressed thanks to those participating in this call for suggestions about how the Club could be improved.



King Ruhly, **Harper** Club president for last year said "While it is obvious from the survey that members strongly approve of the successful format of our meetings, it also sent clear signals that there are areas which members believe can be improved. And I am sure Club leadership will be responsive."

In addition to Harper, the Survey Committee included Don Clark,
(See SURVEY on page 3)

The Reminder

A monthly publication of the Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, which meets weekly at the Community House, 390 Bates, Birmingham, MI 48009.

Officers for 1999 are: John R. Caldwell, president; William T. Reilly, first vice president; Carver Wood, second vice president, Ray Latovick, treasurer; Ernie Bergan, secretary. Officers-at-large: Stewart Keeney, Sherwin Vine.

Staff of *THE REMINDER* includes: Alvie Smith, editor; Dick Davis, Dick Harper and Paul Pentecost, associate editors; Kathy Wolf, layout; Joe Kern, mailing.

Lunch-Bridge Event Scheduled for Feb. 3

A special luncheon-bridge event is being planned for Feb. 3. This is a couples' event for active and applicant members, wives and guests, says Harry Cyphers.

Both contract and duplicate bridge will be played and partners will remain unchanged throughout, with change of opponents after each four-hand rubber. Prizes will be awarded.

Ticket prices and other details will be available when tickets go on sale in January.

Dues Deadline Jan. 31

The deadline of January 31 for 1999 dues is fast approaching.

As of Dec. 11, a total of 120 active members (28%) are delinquent in paying their 1999 dues and 158 applicants (53%) had not paid their dues.

For active members, dues are \$30; Applicants, \$15; Associates and On-Leave Members, \$10. Checks should be made out to Senior Men's Club of Birmingham.

Applicant checks should go to Joe Kern, members in other categories should send their checks to Walt Meyers.

Discussion Groups Seek Speakers And Debaters for 1999 Sessions

In a double-barreled effort, the Discussion Groups leaders are moving quickly to respond to member suggestions to use more SMC members to lead the discussion sessions on Fridays after lunch.

DISCUSSION LEADERS

"We know there is a wealth of experience and expertise among our group, including some interesting, unusual, humorous or nostalgic adventures that would be of special interest to our membership," says Discussions Group Chairman Harold Stanton.

"We're looking for volunteers who are willing to be discussion leaders on a variety of subjects."

If you're interested in sharing your experiences at these sessions, call Harold Stanton at 646-8199 or sign up on the Club bulletin board in the Ruth Shain Room.

NEED DEBATERS TOO!

Phil Werner also has issued a

clarion call for debaters for March discussion group meetings.

He says the old adage that "No man is a prophet in his own village" doesn't apply at SMC.

"We expect to use 'in house' talent for this series. What subjects are close to your heart? Assisted suicide? Lousy roads? National security? Politicians? Global conglomerates?"

Call Phil Werner at 626-4989 so, as he puts it: "We can prepare debates that will embarrass the Lincoln/Douglas debates."

Community House Drive

The 1999 Community House fund drive is running well ahead of last year at this time, but still short of the \$325,000 goal. Gifts as of Dec. 16 were about \$265,000.

Men's Club contributions were \$41,231, up about \$6,000 over the same period in 1997.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Special Birthday Greetings:

John Spomer will be 91 on Jan. 13.

Jack Carr will be 92 on Jan. 14.

Art Conat 91 on Jan. 14.

Associate Member Birthdays: Jack Finley, Jan. 6.

Became Life Member:

Milton Henderson, who joined in May, 1987.

Gordon Poor, who joined in Jan. 1983.

Deaths: John Clemons, who joined in March 1981.

Change of Address: Harry Deem, 15191 Ford Rd., #401, Dearborn, MI 48126.

New Applicants:

Davis, Richard F., (Suzanne), 5311 Hickory Bend, Bloomfield Hills, 48304, 642-9187.

Sponsor: Harold C.L. Jackson, Jr.

Ethington, Paul J., (Donna), 3628 Halla Lane, Bloomfield Hills, 48301, 646-9550.

Sponsor: Carver Wood.

Green, James A., (Jere Ann), 32312 Arlington, Beverly Hills, 48025, 646-6147.

Sponsor: Phil Werner.

Scala, Eugene L. (Kay), 30570 Leemoor St., Beverly Hills, 48025, 642-0265.

Sponsor: Ed Jones.

Travis, Charles W., (Barbara), 1886 Brookview Circle, Bloomfield Hills, 48304, 852-6848. Sponsor: Nick Oancea.

— Walt Meyers & Bob Babcock

Dr. Deer Remembers the "Good Old Days" When Birmingham Was Young

By Dick Davis

When silver-tongued Art Burgott recently welcomed Dr. Edwin Deer as a new Life Member of the Senior Men's Club, he opened up a chest of nostalgia about the Club's hometown that begged for greater exploration.

Known as "Eddie" when he was young, Deer was born in 1913 and spent his early years in a house built by his father at Hazel and Elm Streets. At that time, Birmingham's boundaries were Adams, Oak, Cranbrook and Lincoln Streets.

Rode the Inter-Urban Trains

Dr. Deer, who joined SMC in 1983, has fond memories about riding the inter-urban and steam-driven trains which went up Woodward Avenue north of 11 Mile Road.

In a trip that now takes 10 minutes, Eddie would spend half a day in the 1920s riding the inter-urban to his grandfather's farm at Crooks and Wattles. He would catch the IU in Royal Oak, transfer to a "Flint car" which went up Rochester Road, picking up milk cans on the way, and stop near enough for Eddie to hoof it to his grandfather's farm.

The IU rails were taken up in the 1940s and salvaged for the war effort.

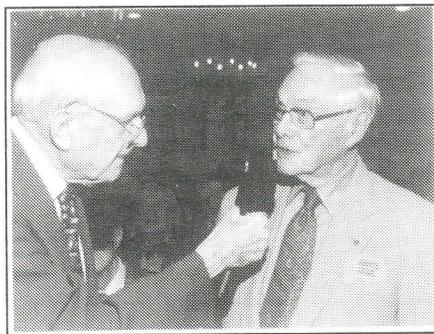
Deer attended the Universities of Michigan and Pittsburgh, receiving his degree in dentistry in 1936 at Ann Arbor. His oral surgery residency was completed at Henry Ford Hospital from 1936 to 1940.

Different Medical Conditions

To understand how much different the conditions were during those years, Dr. Deer noted that neither antibiotics nor sulfa drugs had been developed.

"There was no air conditioning, even in the operating rooms," he said. "Physicians and nurses, feeling lightheaded from odors of ether, alcohol, blood and infections, frequently had to go outside for air and change their gowns."

Dr. Deer set up private practice in



Burgott and Deer

Birmingham in 1940. His career was interrupted by the war, during which he became Commander Deer of the U. S. Navy. After retiring from service in 1946, he again set up private practice, this time in the Theatre Building, one of only three buildings in town that had running water on the second floor.

"Only five dentists operated in Birmingham," he said, "but patients were still sparse."

Dr. Deer was always interested in athletics, having played basketball and football in the Birmingham school system. He formed the "Sidelines Quarterback Club," to raise funds for athletic equipment for Baldwin High. He also helped establish Birmingham in the 1950s as the first Michigan franchise for the Babe Ruth Baseball League.

Dr. Deer served as a trustee of the Michigan State Dental Assoc. for 12 years and as president of the Oakland County Dental Assoc. He also was president of the Birmingham Rotary.

He and his late wife of 36 years, Jean, were often involved in fund-raisers for the Community House. Dr. Deer is a member of St. James Episcopal Church in Birmingham.

Cox Talks to Applicants

The Applicant Activity will meet on Jan. 19 at 2 p.m..

Speaker will be SMC member Don Cox, chairman of the Computer Group, whose topic will be, "A Computer In Your Future."

(SURVEY, from page 1)

Joe Maertens, Bill Reilly, Alvie Smith and Phil Werner.

64% Overall OK for Meetings

Here are specific findings:

- Sixty-four percent of the respondents were "very interested" in the overall meeting.

A total of 85% were "very interested" in the speaker/Q&A portions but only 24% in the business part. More time for speakers was suggested by 51% and more time for Q&A by 35%.

- In the business section, highest interest was for new member and life member inductions (about two-thirds) and introductory remarks, pledge and anthem (55%).

Lowest interest was for reading of minutes and birthday greetings (both 29%); and acknowledgment of returnees/guests (25%).

Mixed Response on Lunches

- While 42% believed lunches were "good," 44% felt they were only "fair" and 14% called the meals "poor." With respect to "fancier" luncheons, with implications for increased prices, 60% voted "no," but 40% said either "yes" (16%) or "maybe" (24%).

- On the subject of discussion groups, 60 percent said the meetings were "interesting," 35 percent thought some were "good" and five percent "not interesting."

Final study results will be presented to the Executive Board at its Jan. 12, 1999 meeting.

Committee Recommendations

Here are recommendations made by the Survey Committee:

- **Business Meetings and Speakers.** Increase time for speakers and Q&A from current 30 minutes to 40-45 minutes, with a corresponding decrease in time devoted to business matters.

- **Luncheons.** Study alternatives for improving quality of lunches and what this might cost, perhaps testing improved lunches to secure membership reactions.

- **Discussion Groups.** The Discussion Group Committee will be given the research findings for evaluation and possible changes.

Group Meetings

Investment Study

The Investment Study Group will launch the 1999 program year with one of its most popular speakers. Bill Halbert, Birmingham Paine Webber office, will make his 12th appearance at 2:45 p.m. Jan. 13.

Halbert will give his views on the highly volatile stock market and the outlook for 1999. He has titled his presentation "The Wall Street Waltz—A New Millennium," says Dick Harper, group chairman, who promises "an outstanding meeting."

Camera Group

The Camera Group will meet at 2 p.m. on Jan. 12, when Bill Gridley presents a colorful slide presentation which is entitled: "Wales and England Revisited."

Bill first saw these areas when he was in the Navy in WWII. He always wanted to see them in normal times, which he did in 1980, and he will share with us the pictorial results when his long-time wish came true.

Other Club Dates To Remember

Jan. 12: Executive Board, 9:30 a.m.

Jan. 15: *Reminder* Deadline

Golf: Mondays and Thursdays at Golf Dome on John R north of 12 Mile Road.

Bridge: Tuesdays at 9 a.m. and Fridays after lunch.

Bowling: Thunderbird Lanes Mondays at 9:15 a.m.

All events at the Community House unless otherwise specified.

Forgetting Things?

Roy Menninger, founder of the Menninger Clinic, Minneapolis, says: "You're not getting Alzheimer's if you can't remember where your car keys are; but you're in trouble if you can't remember what the keys are for."

Computer Group

Ms. Becky Seiwert, vice president of Comerica, Inc., and manager of the bank's Communications Program for the Year 2000, will speak to the SMC Computer Group on Jan. 20.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 2:30 p.m.

Some informed answers to the Y2K dilemma will be included in her presentation which is entitled: "What Does the Year 2000 Mean to Business and Individuals?"

Byington Hits 597 Series in Bowling

After 12 more weeks of bowling, Art Byington leads individual scorers with an average of 176 and a series high of 597, according to Dennis Kozak.

Jim Salrin had the high single game score of 231.

The leading team included Frank Barnes, Ken Brooker, Bob Hadley, Bruce Smiley.

High team game (711): Bob Babcock, Bill Beck, Bob Boynton, Steve Kadar.

High team series (1993): Vince Caputo, Bob Jordan, Harry Mitchell, Ed Neill.

Detroit Auto Show Trip Set for Jan. 14

Forget driving and parking worries and join us on Jan. 14 for a bus trip to the Detroit International Auto Show.

The Special Events Committee has chartered a 55-passenger bus for the trip. All members, applicants and spouses are welcome.

The bus will leave from the back end of the First Presbyterian Church parking lot, 1669 West Maple Avenue at 9:45 a.m. and return at approximately 4 p.m.

Bus tickets are \$8. Show tickets are an additional \$4 for seniors.

"Your last chance to buy tickets is at the Jan. 8 meeting. Don't miss one of Detroit's most famous attractions!" says Roger Struck.

Kern, Perkins Are Best Bridge Players

Joe Kern and Tom Perkins topped bridge play in the period ending Dec. 4, according to Zac Endress and Al Wagner.

	CONTRACT	
Joe Kern		3420
Al Wagner		2990
Chris Davenport		2840
	DUPLICATE	
Tom Perkins		62%
Ed Chambliss		61%
George Hilfinger		59%

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