

The Reminder

May 2007

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, Michigan



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June 2007 Special Event

Discovering Windsor

Want to go South for a day? We're going to Windsor, Canada for a trifecta type of day on Wednesday, June 13. The trip includes:



First – WILLISTEAD MANOR – This manor home sits on a 15 acre site east of the city and was designed by noted Detroit architect Albert Kahn for E. Chandler Walker, the second son of Hiram Walker. Completed in 1906, the Old English style (Tudor-Jacobean) appearance is a combination of lavish expenditures and architectural skill both in the original design and the restoration of the home that occurred in the late 1970's. The exterior limestone was quarried in nearby Amherstburg and hand cut on site by Scottish stonemasons. The interior combines marble, rich wood paneling and carved oak staircases and cabinets supervised by the noted Detroit craftsman, Joachim Jungwirth. The manor, gardens and grounds are now operated by the Windsor Parks and Recreation Department for tours, weddings and other gatherings.

Second – CANADIAN CLUB HERITAGE CENTER – This turn of the century Italian architectural building anchors the Hiram Walker Distillery. The tour will include an information session and tasting. A film will be presented on whisky making and will conclude with a visit to the gallery and gift shop.

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MAY PROGRAMS

MAY CHAIRMAN: Dick Harper

- 4 Jerry Heller, SMC Member..... *Our 50th Anniversary*
- 11 David Cole, Chairman, Center for Automotive Research.....*Future of the Auto World: Round or Flat?*
- 18 Jack Lousma, Astronaut.....*Flight of the Space Ship Columbia*
- 25 Dennis W. Archer, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce.....*One "D": A Regional Plan for a Prosperous Future*

JUNE PROGRAMS

JUNE CHAIRMAN: Jim Judge

- 1 Al Eicher, SMC Member.....*The Early Days of Radio in Michigan*

MAY DISCUSSIONS

MAY CHAIRMAN: Ken Brooker

- 4 Augie Perrotta, SMC Member.....*Humor as Medicine*
- 11 Lee Case, SMC Member.....*Don't Mess with Mother Nature II*
- 18 Don Clark and Ed Hoagland, SMC Members..... *What's New in Golf and Comments on the Old Days*
- 25 Jaap Delevie, SMC Member.....*Crossing the Atlantic to Europe and Back in a 32 ft. Cutter-type Sailboat*

JUNE DISCUSSIONS

JUNE CHAIRMAN: George Herrera

- 1 Michael Stafford, Ph.D., Director, Cranbrook Institute of Science..... *The Cranbrook Institute of Science*

Membership News

New Members:



Ernest W. Upton, (Constance)
3565 Walbri Drive
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-2467
248-646-7130
Sponsor: Charles Amann



John F. Sullivan, (Mary Lou)
3627 Middlebury Lane
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301-3362
248-645-5219
E-mail: SullivanSupply@sbcglobal.net
Sponsor: Donald McNair



Richard E. Shirley, (Sara)
2644 Comfort Street
West Bloomfield, MI 48323-3704
248-626-0778
E-mail: REShirley@aol.com
Sponsor: David H. Dinger

Dropped:

Jerrold R. Banninger

Robert N. Derderian

Donald J. Grant

Richard D. Lindow

Thomas L. Mitchell

Thomas H. Mitzelfeld

Deaths:

Robert A. Hermann (Life),
joined April 1985

Robert L. Boynton (Life),
joined January 1985

Applicant Antonino Scalia

New Applicants:

Wynn V. Bussmann, (Linnoah)
1422 Westboro Drive, Birmingham, 48009-5861
248-646-8533
E-mail: LinBus@sbcglobal.net
Sponsor: Richard N. Harper

Roger W. Gettel, (Midge)
2617 Pamela Court, Bloomfield Hills, 48302-1037
248-338-1196
E-mail: Gettel33@comcast.net
Sponsor: Charles K. Callam

Lyle O. Hoppie, (Marlene)
6465 Alden Rd., West Bloomfield, 48324-2003
248-360-0333
E-mail: Dr_Hop@msn.com
Sponsor: Ulrich Fahrur

Ronald W. Lech, Sr., (Wanda L. Quinn)
4243 Sawgrass Drive, Bloomfield Hills, 48302-1765
248-851-3006
E-mail: RSLWR@aol.com
Sponsor: John R. Gnau

To Life Member:

James H. Herbst (LOA), joined March 1991

David E. Sayler (LOA), joined November 1985

To Leave of Absence:

Richard M. Irwin

Resigned:

Applicant Richard H. Dills

Applicant Ralph G. Tennant

Pete Kass, Membership Chairman
Bill Peschel, Membership Vice Chairman
Bill Shaffmaster, Photography



Thursday Golf

The 2007 Thursday Golf League opened on April 5 with a bright and partly cloudy day, temperatures in the high 60s, a wafting wind from the southeast and humidity in the mid 40s. Forty seven players teed off with an average score of 39. Low score of the day was a tie with Ted Chapekis and Ed Hoagland both shooting 26! Closest to the pin was Cliff Dean at 2 inches. Too bad he missed the putt. However, the big hit of the day was when the Irish Leprechaun, Bill Reilly, hit a hole in one on the 4th hole.

But alas, the alarm clock went off and this great dream ended. The course was closed and the start date postponed!

The league officially started on April 12 when four stalwart golfers paid their green fees and finished 9 holes. They were Jim Leese, Ted Chapekis, Bob Bannon, and Cliff Dean.

Bill Reilly, League meteorologist, has promised us fair skies and warm temperatures for the remaining Thursdays this spring.

Hit them high, hit them long, and hit them straight.
-Chuck Travers

Monday Golf

The Applicant Golf League (Monday Golf) started April 23 at 7:30 AM.

Members and applicants are invited to play as walk-ons. The 9 hole fee is \$13 and riding carts are extra.

Thirty-one players have signed up as regulars this season and walk-ons will be added to complete foursomes. When the regular players have teed off, more walk-ons will be allowed to play. Sign-up with our starter, Tom Waffan.

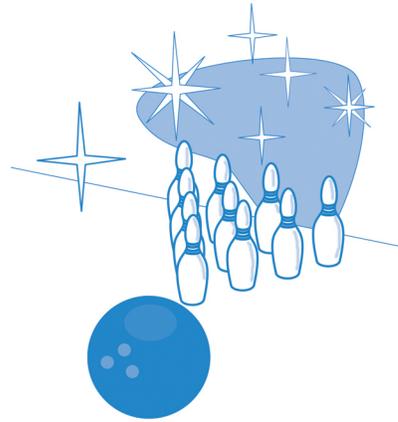
Quoting last month's writer, Bill Spreitzer, "We look forward to your participation, great performances, outstanding friendliness, energetic competition and excellent weather."

Hope to see you at Lincoln Hills.

-Jerry Heller



Bowling Report



The bowling season ended on April 16 with congratulations going to the Hoosiers made up of Frank Garland, Bruce Smiley, Don Doty and Tony DiMarco for defeating the Illini made up of Bill Minard, Riggs Miller, George Moore III and Tom Schrif.

The Ray Swartz bowling trophy will be presented to the champions at the Bowling Banquet to be held on May 2. Tickets are \$25 and are still available for bowlers, members and applicants.

The Doubles Tournament held on April 16 produced the following winners:

1st Place: Tony Smyk & Nick Marinelli—997 pins

2nd Place: Bob Erben & Bob Jordan—939 pins

3rd Place: Bill Peschel & Tony DiMarco—897 pins

Final year stats are as follows:

Individual

High Average: P. Buccini—169

High Game: B. Jordan—247

High Series: G. Moore III—622

Team

High Game: Illini—704

High Series: Wildcats—1874

Next year's bowling season will begin on September 10 at the Thunderbird Lanes in Troy. All members and applicants are welcome to join us. A sign-up sheet will appear on the bulletin board.

Every Wednesday morning during the summer we will continue informal practice sessions at the same lanes. Take the dust off the old bowling bag and show up any Wednesday at the lanes. The price of \$5 for three games can't be beat!

-Dennis Kozak

A History of The Senior Men's Club of Birmingham

In 1956 R. S. Gregory visited The Community House having just moved to Birmingham from Plainfield, New Jersey, where he had been a member of a club called "The Old Guard." He described the club and inquired if there was a similar club in Birmingham. His information was interesting to The Community House people who related it to the Birmingham Department of Recreation. The Community House and the Department of Recreation became co-sponsors of The Senior Men's Club of Birmingham.

Its first meeting occurred on January 11, 1957. Elected officers included: president, Leo A. Stiers; vice president, Edward S. Clark; secretary, Trescot A. Henshaw.

The need for money soon became evident and dues of one dollar were levied. The Secretary took on the added office of Treasurer. The club met on Tuesdays and Fridays throughout the year in the Ranch Room in The Community House basement. Sandwiches were made by a group of ladies – later called hostesses – in a small kitchen in the south end of the Ranch Room until membership reach 100 when they moved upstairs.



The recreation department built a Shuffleboard court on Community House property for the Senior Men's Club, and it remained until The Community House expanded its building.

The Discussion Group began on August 7, 1958 meeting on Fridays at 1 p.m. It was for the "intelligentsia". Others played various card games or after lunch would go home. In 1970 the Camera Group began followed by other interest groups such as Investment, Bridge, Computer, Database, and, in 2005, the Reading Group. The club has bowling and golf as games. Applicant golf is played at Lincoln Hills and senior golf members play at Springdale Park.

The Reminder, the official publication, had its inception in 1957. Between 1957 and 1969 our source of history for the club must rely on publicity materials, because *The Reminders* and regular minutes and executive board minutes were sent by the secretary to the Department of Recreation and were lost.

For the first three years the Senior Men's Club members were invited to Mrs. Gould's home for their Christmas party. Thereafter they met at The Community House until 2006 when the Christmas party was moved to the San Marino Club in Troy. The club's Christmas party with 325 members and wives had outgrown The Community House.

The club has two honorary members: hostesses Carol Hollingshead and Elaine Dobson.

In 2004, the club published "The Wars of Our Generation," WWII and Korea, accompanied by a photo album of the men and women (two of our hostesses were in WWII).

The Club's special events committee has been active arranging trips to baseball games, theater parties, auto shows, museums, boat trips and other destinations. The club's one charity is The Children's Village of Oakland County. The club contributes substantially to the annual Community House fund drive. The Senior Men's Club has a manual called the Procedure Manual, which supplements our Constitution and by-laws and details the duties of the standing committees.

The membership is divided into categories: Active, Leave of Absence, Associates, Life Members and Applicants. The membership has grown from unlimited to 325 in 1973 to a limit of 400 in 1993 to 425 in 1995 to 450 in 1999. The geographic boundaries were the Birmingham School District, but February 11, 2005 we dropped our geographic boundaries.

Our applicants-in-waiting have organized themselves into an active organization and have their own golf league. For everything else, the Applicant can join any activity but cannot be chairman of a standing committee. An Active member may become a Life member if he has been a member for ten years and has reached the age of 85.

In August, the club holds a picnic, which started in Springdale Park. For the next 46 years, the picnic was held at the Pontiac Yacht Club, but in 2005 and 2006 it was at Beverly Hills Park.

-Frank Garland

Small World Department

Bill Denyes, who winters in Stuart, Florida, was having dinner in a Tarpon Springs restaurant when across the crowded room he spotted fellow Senior Men's Club



member Eldon Crawfis and joined him for coffee. It was like being at The Community House on Friday morning – a familiar face in an unexpected setting.

-Bill Denyes

50th Anniversary

Congratulations to us! The Senior Men's Club is celebrating the club's 50th anniversary in May 2007. We are proud to mark a half-century of fellowship and contributions to the community with an outstanding series of special May programs.

While we are senior men, we demonstrate clearly through our club activities that we are very much a contemporary organization. We prove that men can extend the enjoyment of life through friendships,

extensive volunteering contributions to society and by stimulating and challenging ourselves to stay abreast of changing times in hearing from outstanding speakers.

The May Friday programs have been planned in this

vein. The special anniversary program on May 4 will be a retrospective look at our history and our accomplishments with invited guests, notable club members, messages of congratulations and a unique "memories" look back including video highlights and member comments about our history.

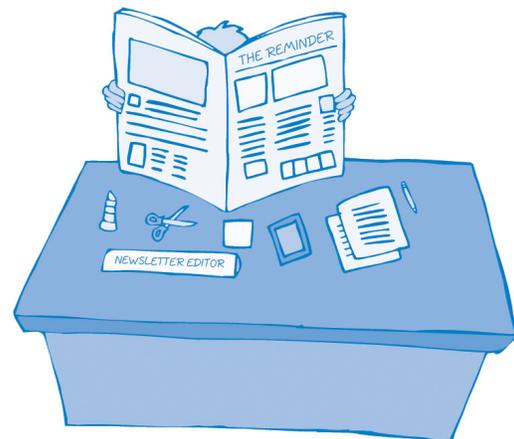
Other Friday programs in May will feature high-profile speakers with significant and meaningful messages. An informative publicity release describing these May events will be made available to media. Community TV coverage has been arranged.

This should truly be a month to remember. We expect strong attendance and recommend early arrival at these meetings.

-Dick Harper

To the Editor

I have just completed my usual reading (cover to cover) of my April 2007 issue of *The Reminder*. I commend the various authors/contributors for the varied and newsy items. I especially appreciate the little witticisms and comments inserted that make me laugh. For example:



... under Thursday Golf ... "To show our sensitivity the committee will turn off all the video cameras so as not to record for posterity all the moans, groans, creaks and swear words that normally accompany opening day at Springdale." (Chuck Travers)

... under Bridge... "keeping those cranial synapses connected." (Dick Suminski)

Also, the quality and variety of the April programs, speakers, and groups are outstanding! Such excellent offerings make me nostalgic and regretful that I cannot attend. Of course, it is my choice to live in Florida for half the year, so I acknowledge it is my own fault for missing out.

Please convey to the many dedicated contributors responsible for *The Reminder* this one member's appreciation. Thanks.

-Roger H. Hammer

One-Liners

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember Moses started out as a basket case.

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.

People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.

Discussion Group

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the SMC, the May Anniversary Discussion Group Chairman, Ken Brooker, has selected presentations given by SMC members that have been popular in the past. He has assured me that it was not easy to make these selections from so many good ones through the years.

Leading off on May 4 is Augie Perrotta who will add cartoons to his "Humor as Medicine" along with medical humor.

May 11, Lee Case will present "Don't Mess with Mother Nature II," the fascinating, surprising and ironic experiences which the Whirlpool Corp. encountered while developing the market for prolonged storage of perishable commodities.

May 18, "The Hoag", Ed Hoagland, and Don Clark will cover the rudiments of the game of golf for seniors, technical improvements in equipment, and historical anecdotes. This annual event has always filled the room.

May 25 we will hear about the trials and tribulations of Jaap Delevie's daring and dangerous crossing of the Atlantic to Europe and back during the 1980's on a 32 foot cutter-type sailboat.

-Augie Perrotta

Classic Movie Group



We are attempting to determine whether there is sufficient interest by our members in forming a Classic Movie Group. There will be a showing of the newly colorized version of the 1936 production of "San Francisco" starring Clark Gable and Jeannette MacDonald on Monday, May 14 from 1:00-3:00PM at The Community House.

The "Golden Age of Hollywood" from 1930 to 1948 will be featured. Please vote with your presence and think about your favorite classic that you would like to share with your fellow members on a monthly rotating basis similar to the way the Discussion Group is structured. Any format can be accommodated such as Super 8, 16mm, 35mm and DVDs. For viewing pleasure, a VCR should be converted to DVD so that it can be seen on the large screen rather than on TV. A prelude with a cartoon classic would be welcome.

-Augie Perrotta

Groups



Investment Group

"The Future of the American Car Industry" is the subject on Wednesday, May 9 at 2:45 PM. Leon LaBrecque, private financial expert, has spoken several times to the Senior Men's Club, his presentations have been outstanding. Bring a friend or spouse to this timely meeting. You will find this meeting to be informative and enjoyable even if you have little interest in investments and finance.

Roger Struck's lead in the Stock Game (a 50.9% gain) has narrowed. Dr. Patterson is now second with a 32% gain. Hal Twietmeyer is third with a 31.7% gain. Roger Vogel is now fourth with a 31.4% gain. The game ends May 31.

-George Miller



Computer Group

Our speaker for the May 16 meeting of the Computer Group will be John Wigman of Birmingham Computers. Mr. Wigman will discuss "What's New in the Computer World" followed by a Q & A session. Bring your hardware and software questions to the meeting. The starting time on Wednesday, May 16 is 3:00 PM at The Community House.

-George Nordenholt



Camera Group

The next meeting of the Camera Group will be Tuesday, May 8 beginning at 2:00 PM. The speaker will be Stewart McMillin who is a highly regarded Detroit historian. He regularly conducts tours of Detroit highlighting noteworthy names and places such as the Greystone Jazz Museum, the underground railroad station markers, the Frederick Douglass / John Brown meeting place, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Motown Museum, Dr. Ossian Sweet, 102nd Colored Troops, Paradise Valley, the Black Bottom and more. All members and spouses are cordially invited.

-Roger Garvelink

Anniversary Banquet



The Senior Men's Club will hold a special banquet celebrating our 50th anniversary. This festive and gala event will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2007 at the San Marino Club in Troy – the site of our very successful Christmas banquet.

This once-in-a-lifetime event is co-sponsored by the Anniversary and Special Events Committees.

The evening will include an outstanding menu, sparkling entertainment by the Arizona Son Musical Ensemble, featuring Devin Scillian, as well as the traditional camaraderie of SMC gatherings.

The Arizona Son will play a broad selection of musical favorites from the 50's, 60's and 70's for our listening pleasure. This of course was an era when the Senior Men's Club originated, expanded and flourished. It also was a time when our personal musical memories developed. We will hear songs we remember and love.

The San Marino Club proved to be an excellent site for our Christmas banquet. It has substantial seating capacity, great cuisine and easy parking in an upscale banquet environment. Tickets will be available starting Friday, April 20 at 9:15 AM, priced at \$35 per person. The evening will start with a social hour at 6:00 PM, including cash bar. Dinner at 7:00 PM will offer beef tenderloin or chicken, with our entertainment at 8:00 PM. Seating will be eight to a table. Please have your check made out to SMCB in advance and be prepared to select entrees. All members, applicants and significant others are cordially invited. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us for this once-in-a-lifetime event.

-Dick Harper

June Special Event

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Third – KOOLINI'S – This is one of the famous Italian restaurants of Windsor. Your choice of entrees for lunch will be individually served chicken, veal or egg plant with an Italian flare and will include side dishes and dessert. You will not leave Koolini's hungry.

The cost per person is \$35.00 U.S. funds. This includes the motorcoach transportation, border crossing fees, two tours and lunch. A PASSPORT IS NOT NECESSARY, BUT IS DESIRABLE. The bus will depart Birmingham at 9:30 AM and return before 3:00 PM. Tickets will go on sale May 18th and space is limited to 56 people. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit our neighbors in Canada.

-Committee: John J. O'Brien, Jim Judge, Larry Smith

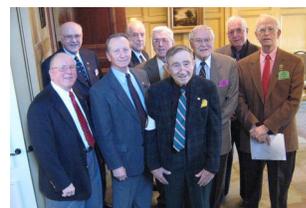
Applicant Committee News

The Applicant Committee held a productive Applicant Orientation on March 30. Seventeen applicants participated and all viewed the experience as time well spent. Applicant John L. Ryan volunteered to man the Applicant Registration Desk for the month of May. We still need volunteers for this opportunity for the coming months and we need a volunteer who will send out get-well cards. These are great ways to get active in the Club.

-Dave Dinger

Anniversary Committee

For nearly 18 months, the committee pictured here has been hard at work to plan and execute the multi-faceted activities supporting the celebration of



the 50th Anniversary of the Senior Men's Club- our Golden Anniversary.

The benefit performance of *Gypsy*, the unique video documentary of Club history and all the special May programs including the Anniversary Banquet, were developed by dedicated men.

-Dick Harper

The Joys of Getting Old

I've sure gotten old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends. But, thank God, I still have my driver's license.

A Classic for the Ages

A few weeks ago, Dick Henne recalled for us some memorable Burma Shave signs from the past.

Our favorite Dick didn't read for us was this seasonal classic:

*Spring is sprung
The grass is ris
Where last year's
crazy drivers is!*

-Dick Harper

Mystery Lyrics

The April mystery lyric challenge produced mixed results – seven correct answers and eight incorrect answers (a new record!)

Readers who recognized that these lyrics:

*I'm as restless as a willow
In a windstorm
I'm as jumpy as a puppet
On a string*

were from "It Might as Well Be Spring" – The Academy Award song from the 1945 movie "State Fair" were Bob Bazzell, Jim Leese, Jerry Heller, Jack McLaughlin, Phil Werner, Bob Klein and Tom Scott.

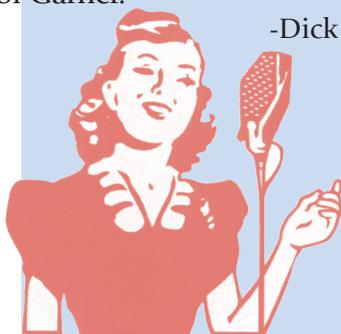
Eight readers knew the word spring was in the title, but didn't have it right. Three or four thought it was "It Isn't Even Spring" - close, but no cigar.

We have another ballad to challenge your memory this month. It starts:

*Look at me, I'm as helpless
as a kitten up a tree*

Can you name that tune? Hint: this song was written by a great pianist – Errol Garner.

-Dick Harper



The Reminder

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham
380 S. Bates St. Birmingham, MI 48009



Address Service Requested

CLUB DATES TO REMEMBER

Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 8, 2007, 9:30 AM

Reminder Deadline: Friday, May 18, 2007

Games

Bowling: Wednesday, 8:45 AM at Thunderbird Lanes

Bridge: Tuesday, 9:00 AM and Friday after lunch

Golf: Monday, 7:30 AM at Lincoln Hills

Thursday, 9:00 AM at Springdale

Special Events

Discovering Windsor, Wednesday, June 13, 9:30 AM

Group Meetings

Camera: Tuesday, May 8, 2007, 2:00 PM

Computer: Wednesday, May 16, 2007, 3:00 PM

Investment Study: Wednesday, May 9, 2007, 2:45 PM

All events at The Community House unless otherwise stated.

THE REMINDER

A monthly publication of the Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, which meets on Fridays at 10:30 AM at The Community House, 380 South Bates Street, Birmingham, Michigan 48009.

Officers for 2007 are: Bill Johnson, president; Ken Urwiller, first vice president; Bob Pullar, second vice president; Irv Poston, recording secretary; John Flintosh, corresponding secretary; Bill Sprague, treasurer; Bill Minard, assistant treasurer; Bill English and Tom Clapp, officers at large; Bill Crabtree, parliamentarian.

THE REMINDER includes: Chuck Kirkpatrick, editor; Dick Harper, Paul Pentecost, Bill Reilly, Dick Davis, associate editors; David Schneider and Bill Shaffmaster photography; Lee Trumbull, computer layout; Bob Jordan, mailing.