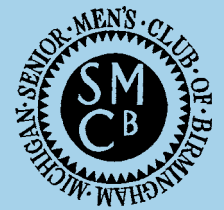


# The Reminder

March 2010

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, Michigan



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## Double Header

In February, two past presidents, Philip L. Werner and Benjamin E. Ewing were inducted into Life Membership, the most prestigious segment of the Senior Men's Club. These two new life members will add to the wealth of talent that already exists in the Golden Oldies.



Phil Werner

Ben Ewing

Past President Phil Werner joined the SMC in 1986, served on various committees and became president of the SMC in 1997. Phil was a highly organized and motivated leader and the club achieved great success during his reign.

He was born in 1925 in Battle Creek, was in the US Army 1943-1945, 95th Infantry Division. Graduated from Michigan State in 1948 and joined Michigan Bell Telephone Company in 1948. He retired in 1982 as District Manager. Phil married his college sweetheart in 1948 and has two sons and one daughter.

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## MARCH PROGRAMS

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- 19 Shawn Burr, President, Red Wings Alumni Association ..... *Detroit Red Wings*
- 26 Brigadier General Michael Peplinski, USAF ..... *Selfridge Field Air National Guard-Its Past and Present Service*

## APRIL PROGRAMS

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- 2 NO MEETING

## MARCH DISCUSSIONS

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- 26 Rackeline Hoff, Mayor of Birmingham ..... *Birmingham Today*

## APRIL DISCUSSIONS

APRIL CHAIRMAN: Charles D. Basch

- 2 NO MEETING

## New Members:



**Clifford Worthy**  
5655 S. Adams Way, Bloomfield Hills,  
48302-4004  
248-642-2953  
E-mail: CliffWor@comcast.net  
Sponsor: Bill Sprague



**Jacinto M. Anaya**  
4520 Fairway Ridge, West Bloomfield  
48323-3306  
248-851-5591  
E-mail: AnayaJK@comcast.net  
Sponsor: Marvin Malik



**Edward Sharples**  
541 W. Drayton Street Ferndale  
48220-2746  
248-398-8223  
E-mail: EdwardSharples@ymail.com  
Sponsor: Elson Spangler



**Bruce A. Rowbottom**  
1384 Villa Rd, Birmingham  
48009-6963  
248-644-6963  
E-mail: b.rowbottom@yahoo.com  
Sponsor: Robert F. Smith



**David G. Ladd**  
5555 Crabtree Rd, Bloomfield Hills  
48301-1203  
248-932-3282  
E-mail: turtle77777@aol.com  
Sponsor: Bob Pullar

## Life Members:

Robert F. Erben  
Philip L. Werner  
Benjamin E. Ewing

## Resigned:

Seymour Berman  
Carlton A. Stewart  
Richard F. Davis  
Associate Allen F. Rubin  
Associate Ernie Hodas

## Change of Addresses:

**Fred Shaw**---6257 Telegraph Rd., #17, Bloomfield,  
48301-1623

## Phone Number Changes:

**Fred Shaw**---248-885-8200

## New Associates:

**Larry G. Cronin** (Lynn)  
130 Telford Drive, Troy, 48085-1583  
248-828-7835, E-mail: Larrycro@yahoo.com  
Sponsor: Anthony J. DiMarco

**John M. Rady, Jr.**  
1584 Witherbee Drive, Troy, 48084-2632  
248-258-9515, E-mail: john.rady@hotmail.com  
Sponsor: Pete Kass

**Richard P. Sharpe** (Evelyn)  
1287 Greenglen Ct., Bloomfield Hills,  
48304-1232, 248-852-2321  
Sponsor: Robert C. Beach

**Edward J. Burke** (Nanette)  
930 S. Shady Hollow, Bloomfield Hills,  
48304-3773  
248-540-7434, E-mail: edburke@comcast.net  
Sponsor: Clarke F. Thornton

**James G. King** (Nan)  
1344 Westboro, Birmingham, 48009-5887  
248-645-9388  
E-mail: jamesk8752@comcast.net  
Sponsor: Pete Kass

**Edwin F. Harris**  
2441 Brenthaven Dr., Bloomfield Hills,  
48304-1439  
248-338-8283  
Sponsor: Elson Spangler

## Deaths:

**Murphy D. Shell** (Life), joined February 1988  
**Edward Yatsko** (Life), joined June 1987  
**Lawrence H. DeYoung** (Life), joined  
September 1996

## Email Changes:

**Art Byington**---abyington2@comcast.net  
**Eugene Hartwig**---EugeneHartwig@  
sbcglobal.net  
**Robert Mattutat**---Robeneas@yahoo.com  
**Donald T. MacKinnon**---nw8w@att.net

—Pete Kass, Membership Chairman  
—John M. Steele, Database Chairman  
—Bill Shaffmaster and Tom Booth, Photography



## Winter Golf

Teaching pro Brian Cairns was literally exhausted after he spent a Thursday morning working with our “senior swingers” at the Dome. He helped most of the students but, alas, there were a few who drove him up a tree. Brian now knows how Hank Haney feels after trying to help Charles Barkley improve his swing. Brian was last seen muttering to himself and heading for the local saloon.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 18. The committee, for obvious reasons, has selected the day after St. Patrick’s Day to hold our annual Chipping Contest at the Dome. Here are the rules:

Each player gets 10 shots.

Score 10 for each shot in the bucket on the fly. (Can bounce out).

Score 5 points for each shot that hits the side of the bucket on the fly.

Score 5 points for each shot that goes in the bucket on the first bounce.

Score 4 points for each shot that rolls to the side of the bucket. (Noise required).

Score 3 points for each shot that lands within 3 feet of the bucket.

Score 1 point for each shot that lands within 10 feet of the bucket.

The committee chair or his designates will be the judges and their decisions are final.

Prizes: First place—two free rounds at Springdale. Second place—one free round at Springdale. Third place—1/2 free round at Springdale.

—Chuck Travers

## OGDEN NASH ODE



*Amid the mastodonic wassail  
I caught the eye of one small fossil  
“Cheer up, sad world” he said and winked  
“It’s kind of fun to be extinct”*

*(Read aloud for full impact of rhyme and meter)*

## Bowling

After 8 weeks of bowling in the 2nd half of the season, no one team appears to be making it a run-away. There are only 2 points separating the first 2 teams and 6 points between 1st & 3rd place. The leading team is the Jets with 44 (Clark, Maichen, Venier & Kass). Second place is held by the Giants with 42 (Tabor, Dinger, Judge & Moore III). Third place is owned by the Rams at 36 points (Doty, Mangiapane, Kozak & Klein).

As for the Hi Average category, there’s been a flip between Nick Marinelli and Phil Buccini-Phil now is at 167 while Nick is at 166. These averages are prior to the 15th bowling with each of these men bowling below their averages. Tony Smyk missed a “Triplicate” by 1 pin on the 15th while Art Byington had two 167 games. Let’s see what the month of March produces.

—Less Lessenthien

## SMC Officers at Large

Each year, the Senior Men’s Club elects two members to an important club position - Officers at Large. Our by-laws indicate that



these officers “serve as advocates for the general membership, and present to the Executive Board any requests for audience, action, petition, or ideas.” In simpler terms, they are the communication bridge between members and the Board. They attend Board meetings and report any member issues, questions, ideas (or even complaints) to the Board for appropriate action or resolution.

The members serving as Officers at Large for 2010 are Bob Jordan and Roger Struck pictured here (with great smiles). Both are well known and active members and have served our club in many capacities. They attend most Friday meetings and are available for any member comments or inputs.

## Attendance Regulations

Dale Parker, Chairman of the Attendance Committee, suggests the need to restate club rules regarding meeting attendance requirements and dress code, as well as check-in procedures at Friday meetings. President Irv Poston has been reminding us about our rules, since some have recently been revised, which now are:

- active members are required to attend a minimum of 10 meetings annually as detailed in SMC by-laws
- associate members are required to attend a minimum of 3 meetings annually as noted in the revised Membership Application Form available from the SMC website, at the front desk of TCH or from Membership Chairman Pete Kass
- the dress code for Friday meetings includes wearing a tie, as noted in the Application Form
- meeting attendees should check-in at the appropriate station to ensure receiving attendance credit and to enable the committee to report accurate attendance statistics
- members with guests should provide guest names to the Returnees, Guests, and Associates Committee for presidential announcement purposes. Note that individual guests are limited to two meetings per year. Female guests, who normally accompany a speaker, should be seated at a head table
- members returning from time off due to travel or health circumstances should check-in with this committee so their return can be recognized

—Dick Harper

## No Hard Copy

We continue to progress in convincing members with email addresses to discontinue receiving the "hard copy" of *The Reminder*. Recently making this decision were Art Held, Ed Jarchow, Merrill Miller, Ted McKinnon, Jack Corey, Ben Mangiapane, Joseph Samyn, Ed Burke (associate) and Bernard Arca.

They have agreed that the email version, which arrives so much sooner and is in glorious color, works for them. Any more out there? We still have about 290 members receiving *The Reminder* both ways. Why not tell John Steele you don't need a mailed copy anymore, saving your club significant postage expense?

## Life Member Dues

The ranks of our Life Member group keep expanding as we live longer and better. As of mid-February, this prestigious segment of our club includes 148 members. One of the time-honored benefits of life membership is that payment of dues is no longer required. However, a new tradition has been emerging and growing - voluntary payments of dues by Life Members as a donation to the club treasury, at least in part to fund the development and mailing expenses of *The Reminder*.

Our Treasurer staff reports that to date, a total of 37 Life Members have paid 2010 dues, with some actually paying more than \$35. Congratulations to the following for their generosity, with their contributions totaling more than \$1300.

Frank Auld	Robert R. Mandy
Robert Bentz	John F. McDonnell
Kenneth E. Brooker	Richard R. Melcher
Edward J. Bush	James O. Nordlie
John B. Costello	Robert U. Obringer
William H. Crabtree	George C. Peters
Harry W. Cyphers	James F. Peters
David H. Dobson	Robert A. Pullar
Charles R. Gates	John E. Schafer
Larry J. Halloran	Luel Simmons
Dick Hameister	Sidney W. Smith
Thomas L. Harrison	Andrew W. Spencer
Richard E. Henne	Richard O. Straight
Eugene E. Hess	Ray A. Swartz
Robert T. Kelly	Frederick N. Talmers
Robert S. Kenning	Donald W. Upward
John Lavrakas	Kenneth L. Urwiller
Robert F. Lyle	John J. Villa
Donald A. McDonald	

Any more out there? Our financial staff would be more than happy to accept additional voluntary donations. Thanks for your consideration.

### COINCIDENCE?

*The oldest living member of the Senior Men's Club is*

*Fletcher Street who is now 101.*

*The address of the University of Michigan Alumni Association is 200 Fletcher Street.*

*Go Fletcher, Go Blue!*

(Thanks to John Flintosh for this gem)

*Our intrepid and dedicated photographers found all kinds of models at the recent Detroit Auto Show. Here's a sampling of some that caught their interest:*



Photo by Roger Struck



Photo by Tom Booth



Photo by Roger Struck



Photo by Al Roberts



Photo by John Wargelin



## Opening Song on Friday



For many years, we have opened Friday meetings by singing one of four patriotic songs, right after the Pledge of Allegiance - and we sing with great gusto!

Jim Leese of the Master of Ceremonies Committee has suggested we consider expanding our song list, and has a specific recommendation. Jim notes that the great and prolific songwriter George M. Cohan composed a number of patriot songs among the more than 1500 he wrote. One of the best known and most loved is from a Cohan musical in which a Civil War veteran proudly showed him an American flag which had flown at Gettysburg which he referred to as "My grand old rag." Cohan was inspired from this to write "You're a Grand Old Flag," which has such a familiar and stirring chorus.

Chairman Dick Hameister of the committee presented this proposal to the Executive Board and received unanimous

and enthusiastic support to add this song to our Friday list.

We are confident that meeting attendees will be proud to sing these familiar lyrics with great energy. Song sheets will be provided, most likely at the meeting of April 9 to start.

Tune up your pipes!

You're a Grand Old Flag

*You're a grand old flag, you're a high flying flag*

*And forever in peace may you wave*

*You're the emblem of the land I love*

*The home of the free and the brave*

*Ev'ry heart beats true for the red white and blue*

*Where there's never a boast or brag*

*But should auld acquaintance be forgot*

*Keep your eye on the grand old flag.*

—Dick Harper

# Groups



## Classic Movie Group

Rio Bravo was chosen by SMC



Member Dick Lindgren to be presented on Monday, March 8, at 1:00PM in the Hackett Room. John Wayne stars as the sheriff of a small western town who arrests a murderer and must contend with the efforts of the killer's brother to free him before the State Marshal arrives. He is aided by a drunk, Dean Martin; an old crippled veteran, Walter Brennan; and a singing teenager, Ricky Nelson. It is generally regarded as Director and Producer Howard Hawks best. He creates a setting, mood and pace introducing genuine, three-dimensional characters that have colorful flaws but human virtues coupled with tough redemption. The film has all the elements of a great traditional western but is good humored and exciting, especially the ending.

—Augie Perrotta



## Camera Group

The Camera Group will meet on Tuesday, March 9 at 2:00PM. The speaker will be John Stunz, SMC Member, who will display and discuss photo images of the scenic areas of Normandy and Brittany in France. He will discuss the colorful history of both of these regions. All are invited. Bring a guest!

—Jaap B. Delevie



## Computer Group

John Steele, Chairman of the SMC Database Committee will bring us up to date on the features of our website at our next meeting, Wednesday, March 17 at 3:00PM. There will be time for questions and answers.

—Bob Chandler



## Investment Group

On Wednesday, March 10 at 2:45PM, Richard Agree, Founder and Chairman of Agree Realty Corp., will present "New Trends/Developments in Retail Real Estate."

Agree became a public company in 1994 and now has 70 properties in 16 states. The secure and attractive dividend has increased and now yields 10%. All properties have long term leases.

Ted Chapekis continues to lead the Stock Game with a 53% gain. Joe Samyn moved into 2nd place with a 30% gain. Mike Clement, Frank Zernhelt and Pete Mehra follow. Thirty three of 68 players have gains. Tough month, but spring is coming!

—George Miller



## Book Reading Groups

On Wednesday, March 3 at 10:30AM, we will be discussing the second 500 pages of "Atlas Shrugged" by Ayn Rand. This book was published fifty years ago and is one of the most influential books in American history. It is the story of how government harassed and persecuted the industrialists and businessmen of America in the name of equality and justice. As the weight of government grew, the businessmen began producing less and less. Finally, the businessmen, under the leadership of John Galt, Atlas's lead character, revolt and overthrow the government's shackles, bringing forth a new era of economic freedom and prosperity.

On Monday, March 15 at 3:00 PM we will be discussing "The White Tiger" by A. Adiga. This book is a brutal view of India's class struggles cunningly presented in Adiga's first book about a racist, homicidal chauffeur, Balram Halwai. Balram manages to escape his village and move to Delhi after being hired as a driver for a rich landlord. Telling his story in retrospect, the novel is a piecemeal correspondence from Balram to the premier of China, whom Balram believes could learn a lesson or two about India's entrepreneurial underbelly. His personal fortunes and luck improve dramatically after he kills his boss and moves to Bangalore.

—Ted Chapekis

# Special Events Survey

The Special Events Committee recently conducted a member survey on attitudes and opinions on committee events and activities. Results are as follows:

A total of 41% of the respondents attend 2-3 events each year, with others attending 0-1 times (16%), 4-5 times (21%) and 6 or more (22%). Half the respondents said that most of the events appeal to them and most of the rest (46%) said that some of the events appeal to them. Only 4% said that few events appeal to them.

Events with the most appeal are entertainment (84%), social (67%), and cultural (62%). Next are sports (49%) and overnight trips (27%). Members provided suggestions for different kinds of events including: plant tours, professional/college sports events, opera, train trips and a mixed doubles golf match.

Existing annual events such as the Auto Show, Picnic and Christmas Party were heavily supported. Members like a meal included (89%) and consider prices affordable (97%).

Most respondents (81%) think the current mix of events for spouses and guests is OK.

The committee thanks the members for completing the survey and providing many good ideas. We also thank Dick Harper who provided assistance with the survey questions.

—Survey Team: John Zabriskie, Jim Judge, Bob Gualdoni, Tom Clapp, Mike Clement

...continued from page 1

## Double Header

Past President Ben Ewing joined the SMC in 1994, served as chairman or member of various committees, and became president in 2003. Ben was a forceful and energetic leader and a very popular president.

He was born in Florida, graduated from Hobart College in Geneva, New York and served in the US Army during WWII. Ben worked 36 years for Rockwell International, retiring as Director of Sales and Marketing. Ben and his wife Judy live in Bloomfield Hills and have two children and two grandchildren.

—Bill Reilly

# Glenn Miller Orchestra



Tickets will go on sale at 9:30AM on Friday, March 12 at The Community House for 56 prime seat tickets to see

the Glenn Miller Orchestra in concert at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts on Sunday, March 28 at 4:00PM. Maps from Birmingham to the MCC will be available at the ticket counter.

As an added attraction, there is a delectable buffet luncheon planned before the concert (1:00PM) at the Oakland Hills Country Club. We will be seated in our own private dining room (the Ross Room). The buffet will include soup, two salad choices, a variety of deli meats, cheeses, breads and dessert. Soft drinks, coffee and tea are included in the luncheon. For any Easter shopping, the pro shop will be open and SMC members and guests will receive the 20% club member discount on all merchandise.

The price for a concert ticket is only \$30 per person. The price for the concert ticket and buffet lunch is \$55 per person.

Since we are not having a bus, the committee will have a "share the ride" sign up sheet at the ticket table. For those of you who don't want to drive or would prefer to ride with others, we will assist in a car pooling program, where practical, from both The Community House and Oakland Hills.

Don't miss this great big band concert by the Glenn Miller Orchestra under the direction of trombonist Larry O'Brien.

—Jim Judge

## Visitation and Health Committee

Visitation and Health Committee Chairman (and snowbird) Tony Smyk will be out of town from February 24 to April 2. During that period, any information on member or associate health should be directed to Vice Chairmen Jaap Delevie.

# Mystery Lyrics

Our February musical challenges proved to be somewhat easier than the norm - several responders told us that. No fewer than 13 readers recognized that these mystery lyrics:

*Although he may not be the man  
some girls think of as handsome*

are from the Ella Fitzgerald hit "Someone To Watch Over Me."

Even more readers - a total of 16 - remembered that Kay Kyser was the big band leader who had a "Kollege of Musical Knowledge" as a weekly radio quiz test. We will recognize those who got both answers. Congratulations to Bill Sprague, Al Gladner, Dave and Mary Schwartz, Jack Howell, Chuck and Isabel Himelhoch, Paul Pentecost (great to hear from Paul), Tony Smyk, Tom McNally, the Goodwins - Henry and Dorothy and Clay Gordon.

For this month, the Special Events Committee has suggested we present challenges associated with the Glenn Miller Band as a tie-in with the upcoming concert described elsewhere in this issue. So here goes. The mystery lyrics are:

*Satin and lace  
I used to call Funny Face*

Can you name that Miller tune? Also, can you remember the male vocalist on this and other hits by the great Miller Band?

Lastly, we would like to restate our guidelines for these challenges - no googling for answers, please. As President Irv Poston noted recently "We are on the honor system."

—Dick Harper



## CLUB DATES TO REMEMBER

**Executive Board Meeting:** Tuesday, March 9, 9:30AM

**Reminder Deadline:** Friday, March 19

### Games

**Bowling:** Monday, 9:00AM at Thunderbird Lanes  
Wednesday, 9:30AM at Thunderbird Lanes (practice)

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

**Golf:** Thursday, 9:30AM Oakland Yard Athletics

### Special Events

**Glenn Miller Orchestra & Luncheon,** Sunday, March 28, 1:00PM

### Group Meetings

**Book Reading Groups:** Group A: Wednesday, March 3, 10:30AM

Group B: Monday, March 15, 3:00PM

**Classic Movie Group:** Monday, March 8, 1:00PM

**Camera Group:** Tuesday, March 9, 2:00PM

**Investment Group:** Wednesday, March 10, 2:45PM

**Computer Group:** Wednesday, March 17, 3:00PM

*All events at The Community House unless otherwise stated.*

### SMC on the Web:

<http://www.communityhouse.com/getInvolved/interestGroups/SeniorMensClub.html>

Google Group: <http://groups.google.com/group/SMCBirmingham>

## 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 2010 are: Irvin E. Poston, president; John S. Flintosh, first vice president; Charles B. Kirkpatrick, second vice president; David A. Schwartz, recording secretary; Dennis J. Kozak, corresponding secretary; William L. Sprague, treasurer; Richard E. Shirley, assistant treasurer; Robert W. Jordan and Roger T. Struck, officers at large; Bill Crabtree, parliamentarian.

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

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham  
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