

The Reminder

April
2001



Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, Michigan

86 is Just a Number

When you haven't seen George Smith is a while, he'll likely ask you, "What have you been doing lately?"

Your answer may pale by comparison to what this 86 year old SMC member has done with his life. George has flown over the North Pole in a small plane, helped create the first automatic transmission, created the first fleet of cars with airbags in them, beat Jesse Owens in a race, and has been a member of the ski patrol for over 30 years. He and his wife, Ann, had to postpone the interview that led to this article because they were going skiing and snowshoeing. 86 remember?!

George was steered by his father to an interest in things mechanical at an early age. As a teenager, he disassembled and reassembled an old Buick, and that led to his being hired by Buick and enrolled in General Motors Institute. At GM, he helped develop the first automatic transmission. He also helped develop the transmission used in U.S. tanks in World War II. Later assignments including using humans in airbag testing and building the first fleet of vehicles with airbags. He learned to fly, and with two other engineers bought a small 2-engine plane in which they flew over the North Pole.

In 1936, at the Olympic tryouts, George ran a race against Jesse Owens—and won. George modestly says that Jesse claimed to be a bit ill at the time. So?

George has been an SMC member since '93 and is vice chairman of the Audio Committee. He and Ann have been married for 60 years, have four children and several grandchildren.

-Dick Davis

If you have a special experience to share with us, The Reminder will be pleased to carry the story. Let us know, and we'll assign someone like Dick Davis to help put the story together.



APRIL PROGRAMS

APRIL CHAIRMAN: CARL F. SCHORN

6	Performer: Seaholm Entertainment Group Kathy Parker & Debi Green, Directors Broadway Reviews
13	Performer: Marian Balderi Pianist Piano Artistry
20	Speaker: Father Dan Homan Prior, St. Benedictine Monastery Subject: "Things that steal our joy"
27	Performer: Robert Meyer & Kathy Parker Music Director & Key Choir Soloist Musical Potpourri

APRIL DISCUSSIONS

APRIL CHAIRMAN: MAURICE ALLEN

6	Speaker: Jim Nordlie SMC Member Topic: "What's wrong with the Americas"
13	Speaker: Granville Sharpe and Edwin Cox SMC Members Topic: "Tree climbing"
20	Speaker: E. Robert "Skip" Irwin, DMA Director Music Ministries, St. James Church Topic: "Let's sing a new song"
27	Speaker: Glen Michaels Internationally acclaimed artist Topic: "Drawing the line"

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Special Birthday Greetings:

April 5 Richard Jeffries, Life Member, will be 87
April 6 Lee Busch, Life Member, will be 89
April 9 Virgil Smith, Life Member, will be 89
April 11 George W. Clark will be 85
April 14 Nemo Warr will be 85
April 16 Robert McKenny, Life Member, will be 86
April 17 Joseph Rattner, Life Member, will be 88
April 24 James Cameron, Jr., Life Member, will be 87
April 28 Julius Falke, Life Member, will be 88

Birthdays of Members on Leave of Absence:

April 5 Roy Buehler
April 19 George Kurche

Deaths:

Clare Charron, Life Member who joined in February 1986

Leave of Absence:

George A. Ball
Nemo Warr

New Address:

Scott Purvis, 6257 Telegraph Rd., #120, Bloomfield Hills, 48301

New Applicants:

Frank M. Cleary, (LaVerne), 31330 Cline Dr., Beverly Hills, 48025	644-7327
Sponsor: Al McManus	
Robert W. Pinder, (Joan), 647 Windsor Run, Bloomfield Hills, 48304	332-8028
Sponsor: John Rosso	
Peter D. Gough, (Patricia), 399 Baldwin Ave., Birmingham, 48009	642-2671
Sponsor: Harold Stanton	
Robert H. Janover, (Elizabeth), 685 Ardmoor Dr., Bloomfield Hills, 48301	646-0426
Sponsor: John O'Brien	
Stanley S. Ernst, (Helga), 3577 Halla Lane, Bloomfield Hills, 48301	644-2814
Sponsor: Carver Wood	
James M. Ryan, (Donna), 3553 Lahser, Bloomfield Hills, 48304	647-5347
Sponsor: Jack Corey	
Robert W. Noce, (Pauline), 2850 Orchard Trail, Troy, 48098	540-1606
Sponsor: Carver Wood	

New Life Member:

Ray E. Hughes, who joined in January 1988

New Members:

Leo G. Steini, (Susan), 1030 Rivenoak, Birmingham, 48009	646-6353
Sponsor: Jack Corey	

New Telephone Numbers:

Melvin Pillon	334-3576
Gene Hess	646-3804

-Bob Babcock and Jim D'Allemand

A Formula that Works

Once each year, Carl Schorn takes on the role of program chairman for a month. We can count on the programs to be entertaining and stimulating. It's not only a tribute to Carl's taste, but to his wisdom. He confesses that what he does is simple—use the same people each year, give similar programs over and over again, and get predictably good results. In effect, it's a formula that works. Like Coca Cola, why change? Want proof? How many other program speakers and performers—good as they may be—get standing ovations?

Bridge Report

Contract averaged eight players. High scorers were Joe Kern, 2573; Carl Schorn, 2500; Al Wagner, 2307; Jack Frailey, 1977; Henry Dawkins, 1900. There were no slams.

Duplicate averaged 37 players. High scorers were Dan Dahl, .69%; Warren Spatz, .64%; Art Miltner, .63%. There were two small slams.

-Zack Endress and Don McNair

21 Year Old Becomes Life Member

Ray E. Hughes who was born February 29, 1916 became the latest member to become a Life Member, the most prestigious segment of the Senior Men's Club of Birmingham at the March 2 meeting. In reality, Ray is 85 years old but in leap year math, Ray is really only 21 years old.

To become a Life Member you must be 85 years old, a Club member for 10 years and a Walt Meyers ??? (dues must be paid). As Ray fulfilled all the requirements, President Carver Wood presented him with his "Golden Oldie Card" at the March 2 Friday meeting. Golden signifies the color of nametag and oldie relates to the 85 years of age requirement.

Ray was interviewed by Past President Bill Reilly and stated that he enjoyed working with the Special Events Committee in '94-'95 and the Table Setting Committee, which he has worked with since 1993, is the greatest committee of all committees.

-Bill Reilly

Show me a man who is a good loser, and I'll show you a man who is playing golf with his boss.

Nebraska Smoke-Eater

It takes less time to do a thing right than to explain why you did it wrong.

It takes both rain and sunshine to make a rainbow.

Bowling Report

With the bowling season 75% completed, it appears that team #4 (DeGrande, Dean, Neppach, Kozak) has a good chance to win the second half and become this year's champions. But as Yogi Berra once said, "It's not over 'til it's over." I have been asked how were we able to win as many games as we have. I honestly think it is the result of a combination of things. But, the major ingredient is good luck. Other ingredients were:

Ham and Egging It—one member frequently stepped up his game when the other three were just average.

Winning the Close Ones—Sometimes being able to be victorious with higher scores of 10 pins or less.

Attendance—Over a 95% attendance record, (thanks to God from providing us with good health) helped a lot.

Practice Bowling—Wednesday mornings of "Poker Bowling."

Kindness—Last but not least, our opponents often being "so kind" to allow us to win.

-Dennis Kozak

Group Meetings

Camera Group

Don't miss the April meeting of the Camera Group especially if you are planning a trip out West this summer. On Tuesday, April 10 at 2 PM at The Community House, the program will highlight eight lesser known national parks in the Western United States. Unlike the popular Grand Canyon, Yosemite and Yellowstone parks, these lesser known parks are not nearly as crowded. Slides and narrative descriptions will provide the unique features and location of each of the lesser known parks.

-Bill Gridley

Investment Group

The next meeting of the Investment Group should be a real winner. The speaker will be Rick Bloom, well-known financial advisor and Detroit News columnist. His topic will be "Investing in Retirement." The meeting will be held at 2:45 PM on April 11, 2001. The last time Mr. Bloom spoke, there was a record level attendance, get there early!

-Dick Harper

A Time to Remember

The Wednesday, April 25 special event for the Senior Men's Club is a tour of the Holocaust Memorial Center located on Maple Road just west of Drake Road in West Bloomfield. The tour will take about two hours (1:30-3:30 PM) including a meeting with a Holocaust survivor. Our group needs to arrive by 1:15 PM. We will be met by our docent in the lobby of the Jewish Community Center which adjoins the HMC.

The cost is \$5.00 per person which will be donated to the Holocaust Memorial Center. Larry Smith (644-2914) and Al Beswick (641-3056) are handling ticket sales. Please make arrangements for your own transportation. There is ample parking at the Center.

THE REMINDER

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

Officers for 2001 are: J. Carver Wood, Jr., president; Ernest Bergan, first vice president; Benjamin E. Ewing, second vice president; Richard N. Harper, Jr., recording secretary; John H. McLaughlin, corresponding secretary; Raymond Latovick, treasurer; William F. Minard, assistant treasurer; Russell B. Frye and John Horiszny, officers at large.

THE REMINDER includes: George Lumsden, editor; Dick Harper, Paul Pentecost and Alvie Smith, associate editors; Bob Hadley and John Dudash, photography; Lee Trumbull, computer layout; Bill English, mailing.

Traditions Tend to Survive

It takes a long time to develop a tradition, and even longer to change one. The Senior Men's Club has a few that are admired by visitors who happen by one of our meetings. We are known as distinguished, proper and a bit on the formal side. We take that as a compliment, thank you.

We dress that way. The shirt and tie formality is striking in a day when informality seems to be the way of life. Someone once observed that in most restaurants these days, the waitstaff are often dressed better than the patrons. Not so with SMC.

We observe symbols of national pride—salute the flag, sing a patriotic song, and bow our heads in prayer. Old fashioned, sure, and we like it that way.

Our meetings are run by Robert's Rules of Order. Not stilted, but proper. Still room for a little fun, but polite and orderly. If you saw it on TV, you'd think it was a rerun of the days of black and white, not today's sloppy and irreverent fare.

We're likely to preserve these traditions. Are they popular? One look at the waiting list of applicants tells us that those who follow are in favor of those who have set the pattern. And, essentially, that's what traditions are all about.

Applicant Activity

If you did not receive the new applicant directory for 2001, please call Bob Gardner to obtain one.

A folder will be available during our Friday lunch meetings at the sign-in desk starting April 6. The folder will contain a history of the Senior Men's Club, a description of committees and group activities and a schedule of upcoming special trips. Applicants will find this information useful.

Let's make an effort to support these special event trips this year.

-Bob Gardner

Spring is in the Air

The special event on Monday, May 21 will be a deluxe motorcoach trip to beautiful Grand Rapids, with visits to two of Michigan's great cultural attractions.

Following a \$5 million renovation, the Gerald R. Ford Museum has become the nation's most entertaining presidential museum and puts you in the middle of history. The museum currently has an exclusive and special exhibit entitled "Style and Substance: America's First Ladies."

Our next stop will be the Frederik Meijer Gardens, where we will have a deli box lunch at 1:00 PM, and then tour the gardens that are enclosed within a huge all-glass building. Finally, we will take a tram ride through the outside sculpture gardens. In addition to over 100 bronze sculptures, scattered throughout the acreage, there is the awesome three story Leonardo da Vinci's house.

We leave the First Methodist Church at 7:45 AM and will return at approximately 6:30 PM. There will be a rest stop enroute as well as light snacks on our return trip. Tickets cost \$40 and includes bus transportation, museum and tram fares, lunch and gratuities including our driver. Ticket sales begin Friday, April 27. All members, applicants, and wives are welcome.

-John Wenstrand

Uncle Sam Wants You!

On April 16, 2001, Uncle Sam will love you even more if you pay your taxes. The Reminder wants to remind you to do so!



Other Club Dates to Remember

Executive Board Meeting: 9:30 a.m. April 10, 2001.

Bowling: Practice every Wednesday at 9:15 a.m. and League Play every Monday at 9:30 a.m. both at Thunderbird Lanes in Troy.

Reminder Deadline: April 13, 2001.

Bridge: Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m. and Fridays after lunch.

All events at The Community House unless otherwise stated.

The Reminder

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

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PERMIT NO. 142

Mr Frank W. Garland
1427 Villa Road
Birmingham, MI 48009-6558

SENIOR MEN'S CLUB OF BIRMINGHAM
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

OPERATING ACCOUNT
TWELVE MONTHS ENDING 12/31/00

INCOME

DUES EARNED		\$18,675
LUNCHES – SALES/COSTS	(\$33,005)	
INTEREST EARNED		1,239
SPECIAL EVENTS		<u>757</u>
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>		<u>\$20,671</u>

EXPENSE

COMMUNITY HOUSE SERVICES		\$ 3,261
COMMUNITY HOUSE DONATION		6,000
“REMINDER”		6,173
SUNDRY EXPENSES		1,701
GAIN OR LOSS ON LUNCH SALES		202
HOSTESSES' X-MAS LUNCH & GIFTS		1,707
DONATIONS – OTHER		<u>800</u>
<u>TOTAL EXPENSE</u>		<u>\$19,844</u>

INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSE \$ 827

BALANCE SHEET

BANK BALANCE AND C/D'S	(\$19,890)	\$ 29,296
PREPAID AND ADVANCES		668
EQUIPMENT – PROJECTOR, ETC. (AT NOMINAL VALUE)		<u>100</u>
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>		<u>\$ 30,064</u>

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – COMMUNITY HOUSE		\$ 3,313
DEFERRED DUES INCOME		12,335
PREPAID MEAL TICKETS		<u>245</u>
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>		<u>15,893</u>
<u>MEMBERS EQUITY</u>		<u>14,171</u>

MEMBERS EQUITY

Beginning Balance 01/01/2000		\$ 18,442
Adjustment of Equipment to Nominal Value		(5,098)
Income/ (Loss) to date		<u>827</u>
BALANCE AT 12/31/2000		<u>\$ 14,171</u>

SENIOR MEN'S CLUB OF BIRMINGHAM
TREASURER'S REPORT
MEMORIAL ACCOUNT

TWELVE MONTHS ENDING 12/31/00

	RESTRICTED	UNRESTRICTED
Balance, January 1, 2000	\$ 18,000	\$ 1,047
Income:		
Gifts	105	
Investment Income, Year to Date		918
<u>Balance 12/31/00</u>	<u>\$ 18,105</u>	<u>\$ 1,965</u>
<u>Assets:</u>		
Savings Account (% Interest)		\$ 1,796
Certificate of Deposit (% Interest)		<u>18,274</u>
Total Assets		<u>\$ 20,070</u>