



December 21, 2007

Vol. 32, Issue 12



# Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South (GUMS)

Optimists Bring Out the  
Best in Children



## The Optimist Club of Monaco South

Founded in 1976

Denver, Colorado

[www.monacosouth.org](http://www.monacosouth.org)

Editor for this Issue—Bill Walters

### MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE

#### Christmas in the Trenches

Story written by John McCutcheon, 1914

My name is Francis Tolliver, I came from  
Liverpool.  
Two years ago the war was waiting for me after  
school.  
To Belgium and to Flanders, to German to here  
I fought for King and country I love dear.  
'Twas Christmas in the trenches, where the frost so  
bitter hung,  
The frozen fields of France were still, no  
Christmas song was sung.  
Our families back in England were toasting us that  
day  
Their brave and glorious lads so far away.  
I was lying with my messmates on the cold and  
rocky ground  
When across the lines of battle came a most  
peculiar sound  
Says I, "Now listen up, me boys!" each soldier  
strained to hear  
As one young German voice sang out so clear.  
"He's singing bloody well, you know!" my partner  
says to me

Soon, one by one, each German voice joined in  
harmony  
The cannons rested silent, the gas clouds rolled  
no more  
As Christmas brought us respite from the war  
As soon as they finished and a reverent pause  
was spent  
"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" struck up some  
lads from Kent  
The next they sang was "Stille Nacht." "Tis 'Silent  
Night,' says I  
And in two tongues one song filled up the sky  
"There's someone coming toward us!" the front  
line sentry cried  
All sights were fixed on one long figure trudging  
from their side.  
His truce flag, like a Christmas star, shown on that  
plain so bright  
As he, bravely, strode unarmed into the night  
Soon one by one on either side walked into No  
Man's Land  
With neither gun nor bayonet we met there hand  
to hand  
We shared some secret brandy and we wished  
each other well

Trenches, page 3

#### Meeting Place

American Legion Hall Post 1

5400 East Yale Avenue (Yale & I-25), Denver, Colorado

Every Friday Morning, 7 - 8 a.m.

## Good Morning Optimist!

BOB AVERY and RICH WAGNER greeted us this morning then RON CARLSON read the beautiful story of ***Christmas in the Trenches***, by John McCutcheon in 1914.

### Guests this Morning

PHIL PERINGTON introduced his guest, John Wren. Jon brought news of "An Evening with Ben Franklin," which is sponsored by Optimists of Colorado. The program will be Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm at North High School, 2960 N. Speer Boulevard. Tickets can be obtained at: [www.blacktie-colorado.com](http://www.blacktie-colorado.com). Or call 303-861-1447 for further information.

### Kids to Breakfast

GARY LAMAN announced that a great meeting is set for next Friday, the 28<sup>th</sup>. Bring your kids and/or grandkids. Everyone's kids are the best looking/smarter on the planet and this is a good way to show them what we do every Friday morning.

### Cy's Report

CY REGAN announced that we are in the Christmas spirit and purchased \$1,350 in gift cards.

### Tree Lot Report

JOE MARCI said we are on our way to have a record year as far as member involvement is concerned. As of December 20<sup>th</sup> we have had 93 different members help the club sell many trees, wreaths, garland and boughs. In 2006 we had 93 members involved in the tree lot so now we are tied for the best year ever. Our goal of 100 different members has not been reached but can be met if seven more guys help this weekend or help when we move all of our materials to the warehouse on Friday, Dec 28<sup>th</sup>, after the club meeting. The final report on the number of trees sold will be available in the near future. There are some sales records that may be exceeded, if the last few days are great. Let's be "Optimistic" and make that happen.

Did you know MIKE MILLER'S hobby is black powder shooting? Did you also know that Mike is an avid Scuba diver? Yup, to both. Mike joined Monaco South in 1983.

TERRY SHROYER was recognized for not only being a great new member but working lots of hours at the tree lot. Thanks Terry!

TOM MAURO is back from his bout with a ladder and fireplace and looking pretty good. LEW LERNER was also here this morning. Good to see you both!

## Brain Bowl

CARL GEIL told us about the upcoming Brain Bowl. Great Event! Helpers needed!

WHEN, WHERE, and WHAT TIME:

North Region Optimist Brain Bowl on Jan 12<sup>th</sup>

Fairview H.S. (FV) in BOULDER

1515 Greenbrier Blvd (carpooling OK!)

Volunteers be there at 7:00am

Central Region Optimist Brain Bowl on Feb 2nd

George Washington H.S. (GW) in DENVER

655 S. Monaco Parkway.

Volunteers be there at 7:00am

Training: Readers training for this year's BB is optional, if you have read before. Signing up is not optional. Training times and locations are:

- Jan 5 - 9:00am to 11:00am at FV in BOULDER
- Jan 10 - 6:30pm to 8:30pm at GW in DENVER
- Jan 26 - 9:00am to 11:00am at GW in DENVER

## Chili Cook-Off

Great turnout by chili-chefs and chili-eaters! Here are some comments by one of our judges:

GRED YOUNG'S: "What the hell is this stuff? You could remove dried paint from your driveway. Took me 2 beers to put out the flames."

PHIL PERINGTON'S: "Call the EPA. My nose feels like I have been snorting Drano. Get me another beer before I ignite. You Optimists are crazy!"

ROBERT WARDLAW'S: "My ears are ringing, sweat is pouring off my forehead and I can no longer focus my eyes. I needed to have beer poured right out of the pitcher onto my tongue and lips so they would stop burning."

LES LARSON'S: "You could put a grenade in my mouth, pull the pin and I would not feel a thing. My shirt is covered with chili which slid unnoticed out of my mouth. If I need air, I will just suck it through the 4" hole in my stomach."

## White Elephant Christmas Party

"Santa" Oscar and his elves were present at our much-attended Christmas party today. Freddie noted how "grumpy" Santa was this morning. Santa is under a lot of pressure this time of year, getting this party in—in under 50 minutes. Talk about pressure! However, either Santa did not really track Freddie's life in 2007 or maybe Freddie was a good boy because Santa gave Freddie a video of "The history of the Denver Broncos." Freddie was really excited about this gift. Little EDDIE COLINS got a picture book and BOBBY AVERY got a miniature golf course.

You know when the meeting is a good one because everyone hangs around a long time after. Lots of guys were still there at 8:30am—including the editor.

## President's Corner

A few weeks ago, we had a speaker, Jay Pollak, who told us about a wonderful place called the Alta Vista Center for Autism. This center is treating children to reach their potential and become contributing members of the community despite their affliction. Last Tuesday, the Board of Directors voted to donate \$300 from MSOC to support the needs of this worthy children's cause. This will only make a small dent in the many other needs they have. We will circulate a list of needed items at the center, should any member like to donate his time or money to support this organization.

## Monaco South Member Stuff

JERRY DAVIS went to South High and DU. During WWII, while in the Navy, Jerry decoded Russian and Japanese Morse Code transmissions.

KENT GLOOR is a native of Springfield, IL and attended high school with GREG HURD. Kent built his house in Breckenridge pretty much by himself and with his family over a period of 13 years. He has more tools and toys than anyone I know.

Speaking of GREG HURD, he was born in Iowa City before he moved to Springfield. After graduating from Bradley University, he worked for Leeds Northrop and Honeywell. Greg's entire basement is filled with train tracks and his worldwide collection of trains and equipment are a wondrous sight to see.

BILL TURMAN was president of Mile High Optimist Club before he became a member of Monaco South. He was also Colorado-Wyoming Secretary Treasurer three times. Bill was born in Cynthiana, Indiana. Bill worked for Public Service for 36 years.

BOB FINKELMEIER graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a doctorate containing two majors. Industrial Education and Human Resource Management/Personnel Counseling. After some

years at the University of Colorado Medical Center, AMAX, and Ideal Basic Industries, Bob was a Professor of Management in the Graduate Programs, School of Professional Studies, at Regis University. He now is the Business Program Coordinator for Western Governors University.

## Trenches, continued

And in a flare-lit soccer game we gave 'em hell  
We traded chocolates, cigarettes, and photographs  
from home  
These sons and fathers far away from families of  
their own  
Young Sanders played his squeezebox and they  
had a violin  
This curious and unlikely band of men  
Soon daylight stole upon us and France was  
France once more  
With sad farewells we each prepared to settle back  
to war  
But the question haunted every heart that lived that  
wonderous night  
"Whose family have I fixed within my sight?"  
'Twas Christmas in the trenches where the frost, so  
bitter hung  
The frozen fields of France were warmed as songs  
of peace were sung  
For the walls they'd kept between us to exact the  
work of war  
Had been crumbled and were gone forevermore  
My name is Francis Tolliver, in Liverpool I dwell  
Each Christmas come since World War I, I've  
learned its lessons well  
That the ones who call the shots won't be among  
the dead and lame  
And on each end of the rifle we're the same

*DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE DISLECTIC  
AGNOSTIC WHO SPENDS HIS DAYS  
CONTEPLATING IF THERE REALLY IS A DOG!*

## Monaco South Calendar

<b>Dec 24</b>	Mon	9:00 am	Last Day at Tree Lot
<b>Dec 25</b>	<b>Tues</b>		<b>Christmas Day</b>
<b>Dec 28</b>	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall—Kids & Grandkids to Breakfast
<b>Dec 31</b>	<b>Mon</b>		<b>New Year's Eve</b>
<b>Jan 1</b>	<b>Tues</b>		<b>Start of 2008</b>
<b>Jan 12</b>	Sat	7:00 am	North Region Brain Bowl, Fairview HS in Boulder
<b>Jan 10 &amp; 26</b>			Brain Bowl Training in Denver
<b>Feb 2</b>	Sat	7:00 am	Central Region Brain Bowl, George Washington HS

**Past Presidents of the  
Optimist Club of Monaco South**

Bob Rhue	1976-77	Kent Gloor	1992-93
Jerry Whitlow	1977-78	Gary Strowbridge	1993-94
Bill Kosena	1978-79	Mark Metevia	1994-95
Duane Wehrer	1979-80	Bob Safe	1995-96
Curt Jefferies	1980-81	Tom Overton	1996-97
Frank Middleton	1981-82	Peter Dimond	1997-98
John Young	1982-83	Ralph Symalla	1998-99
Pat Bush	1983-84	Cy Regan	1999-00
Bob Hugo	1984-85	Stan Cohen	2000-01
Tom Mauro	1985-86	Don St. John	2001-02
Curt Lorenzen	1986-87	Jack Rife	2002-03
Oscar Sorensen	1987-88	Karl Geil	2003-04
Lupe Salinas	1988-89	Bryce Slaby	2004-05
Bob Avery	1989-90	Donlie Smith	2005-06
Bill Litchfield.	1990-91	Paul Bernard	2006-07
Bill Walters	1991-92		

**2007 - 2008 Officers**

President	Greg Young	303-759-3921
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Vice President	Al Gapuzan	303-770-0499
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**THE OPTIMIST CREED — Promise Yourself . . .**

- To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
- To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.
- To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
- To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
- To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
- To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
- To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

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