



Communication

#194

New Series

Volume 3 Issue

July/August 1999

Well summertime is officially here, and this year along with the usual heat, we're enjoying thunder and lightning, tornadoes and we're in the middle of hurricane season. What more excitement could we ask for? I'll tell you what - Diogenes times two!

In July we had a lovely Diogenes at Heritage Park in Largo. Seventeen people showed up and we had a great time visiting the old homes and with each other.

This September we'll be having a public meeting at Palm Harbor Library (see ad) and hopefully we'll add some new blood to the fold. In the meantime, have fun!

The Papers on the Sundial

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☆ Don't miss our next exciting Diogenes! ☆

☆ Come to the Palm Harbor Library on ☆

☆ September 18 to view and compare two ☆

☆ different versions of The Red-Headed ☆

☆ League, see how they relate to the Canon ☆

☆ and try your skill at one of those puzzling ☆

☆ trivia contests by David McCallister. This ☆

☆ meeting will be open to the public. Plans ☆

☆ are being hatched for members to meet ☆

☆ earlier for lunch at a nearby restaurant. ☆

☆ Contact Carl Heifetz for details. The ☆

☆ scheduled time is 12:30pm to 4:00pm. ☆

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HERITAGE PARK DIOGENES LARK

Seventeen steps? Seventeen gathered to luncheon on the grounds of Pinellas County's historical village on July 10. This 21-acre, living history village holds 22 structures, some dating back to the mid-19th century. The buildings include a school, church, railroad depot and store, as well as a variety of houses. The homes range from the oldest existing structure in the county, a loghouse belonging to the McMullen clan, to the magnificent Victorian-era Seven Gables House.

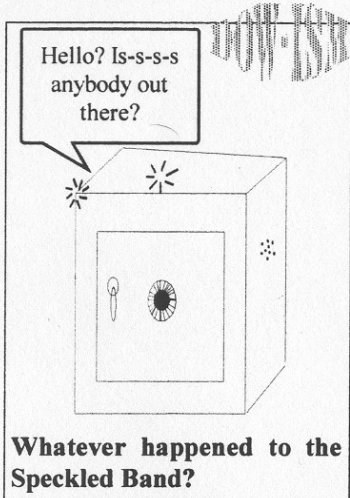
After gathering at the air-conditioned Pinellas Room, we decided to tour the Walsingham House before lunch, and proceeded to hike through the Florida woodlands to that area of the Park. This home was built in 1915, and although interpreted as a physician's home and office from the 1920s, it contained many older items which would have been used by our favorite Doctor, John H. Watson. In the (cont. to page 6)

In this Issue...

Books	page 2
Dowism Cartoon	page 2
Agony Column	page 3
Jokes	page 4
Photographs of March Diogenes	page 6
Secret Messages	page 7

APOLOGY

In the Father's Day Issue, we inadvertently left a word out of the movie poster for *The Three Randalls*. It should have read "A story of crime and mayhem stretching across two continents." Since the Randalls were thieves, perhaps they stole the "continents." - Eds.



Books

The Blue Carbuncle from Calabash Press is the fourth in a series. Christopher Roden gives a survey for the literature to date, and the 16 essays included cover such topics as the location of the Alpha Inn to Victorian Christmas cards.

On Stage Sherlock Holmes: A Guide to Sherlock Holmes Theatre Production and Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in Edinburgh by Charles Hall and Peter Blythe are being offered by Mr. Hall,

U.K.

The Vital Essence by David L Hammer is a collection of new Sherlock Holmes stories. Gasogene Books.

The Holmes Report: The Siam Question, the first in a series recounting the doings of Holmes during the Great Hiatus by Timothy Francis Sheil has been picked up by Aladdin Press Ltd.

Embassy Row, Quinn Fawcett's second Mycroft Holmes mystery was published in March.

Last October Perseus Books released *The Einstein Paradox: And Other Science Mysteries Solved by Sherlock Holmes* by Colin Bruce.

Don Hobbs, a PPOfer, finally finished his 214-page bibliography, *The Crowded Box-Room: A Checklist of Sherlockian Publications and Their Publishers*. (Contact him at

USA)

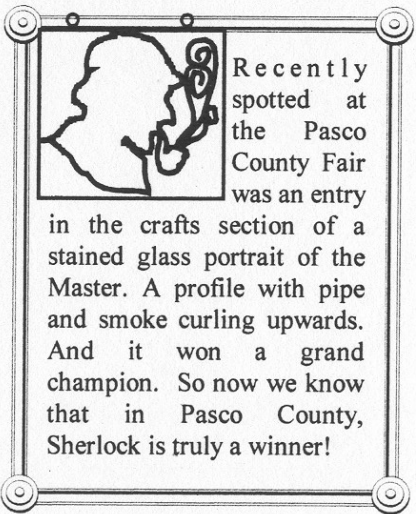
APOLOGIES

to all (the few) who wrote in and volunteered for the next round robin, *The Glorious Scot*. Be advised, we are still going to do it. Unfortunately after the fist installment was received, the ball was dropped - by me! Part two is finished and on to the next author. By the way, we could still use at least one more volunteer.

Wanda

PUBLISHED PPOfers

Member David McCallister has been busy. We've heard that he had an article in *The Serpentine Mews*, Vol.15, No.3, Summer 1999. Title: "Adventuress Spirit"; he won second place in a contest of writing about "the most adventuress Mary." He had an exhibit of Sherlockiana at the North County Hillsborough Library; he was recently published in the *Holmes & Watson Report*; and the *Lower Northwood Gazette and Observer*, a Swedish fanzine, has requested permission to reprint his article, "The Adventure of the Carbuncle Blues." Well done, David!



SHERLOCK HOLMES FILM FESTIVAL ... SEPTEMBER 18 ... PALM HARBOR LIBRARY ... SEE TWO RED-HEADED LEAGUES AND COMPARE! 12:30 - 4:00PM



Agony Column



Robert Redford has bought the rights to *The Napoleon of Crime: The Life and Times of Adam Worth, the Real Moriarty* by Ben Macintyre. Rumors are that Paul Newman is being tapped to portray William Pinkerton.

Ever hear of a *Playstation* game called **GEX**? He's a crazy little gecko who travels around making wise-cracks about just about any and all subjects. Well in the latest version, **GEX 3: DEEPCOVER GECKO**, in one of the worlds our hero is found dressed in deerstalker and inverness.

A Weekend at Baskerville Hall is sponsored by five scions of Missouri and Illinois on September 10-12, 1999. For info contact Holmes Under the Arch,

or email

Sherlockian Equinoctial Experience is replacing the *Canonical*

Convocation and Caper in Door County, Wisconsin, on September 24-26, 1999. Contact Jane Richardson,

If you plan to be anywhere near Tyron, NC on November 6, 1999, **Sherlock Holmes** (the play) will be performed by the Tyron Little Theatre at the Tyron Fine Arts Center. This is to be in conjunction with the **Second Annual Sherlock Holmes/William Gillette Festival** on the 7th of November. in Tyron. Contact Jerry Soderquist,

about the play. Call

about the festival.

Volunteers, Sherlockian dealers and presenters are being recruited for the **Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium II** in June, 2000. Volunteers and dealers contact Carl Heifetz. Presenters contact David McCallister. (addresses on backpage.)

Autumn in Baker Street is October 10 & 11 this year in Tarrytown, NY at the Hilton. Cost for the weekend is \$170 per person double occupancy & \$225 per person single occupancy. This includes overnight accommodations, 3 meals, the conference, refreshments & all hotel facilities. Call M-F between 9am and 5pm 914-631-5700, or write the Tarrytown Hilton at 455 South Broadway, Tarrytown, NY 10591.

SUBWAY sandwich shops are giving away various *Nickelodeon* toys with their kids meals, one of which is the character of Little Bear, wearing a deerstalker and carrying a magnifying glass.

Dairy Queen is currently carrying *Wishbone* toys with its kids meals, and yes, there is a Sherlock Holmes one.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS TO START YOUR ENGINES!! FALL GATHERING TO BE HELD IN SARASOTA AT THE CLASSIC CAR MUSEUM! NOVEMBER 6 ! 11:00AM TOUR WITH MEETING TO FOLLOW. CASE: THE FINAL PROBLEM.

"I am sure, sir, it was only my practical joke."

Thus sayeth Jonas Oldacre, and herewith are those told at the 24th Annual Spring Gathering:

George Edwards regaled us with a trip down memory lane of past jokes passed on by Recorder Emeritus, Ben Wood in past Communications.

"Would you believe it, Watson, that our local donut maker is in the British Open?"

"Indeed, Holmes, and did you note that he made a 'hole-in-one'?"

What did the taxman say to Holmes? These are amazing deductions, Mr. Holmes.

Dr. Watson visited the home of Josiah Amberley, the retired colourman. He was ushered into a rather bleak parlor.

"What do you think of our place?" asked Amberlee.

"Well, as I've always said, If it ain't baroque, don't fix it," replied Watson.

I see here, Holmes, that our local bookstore is having a sale on Verne's *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.

Yes, Watson, I understand it is a novel of great depth.

I say, Watson, did you see this? The Yard has arrested a dishonest dressmaker!

I have no doubts, Holmes, that she was not what she seemed to

be.

I see here, Holmes, an item telling of an inmate at Dartmoor, who wrote a novel soon to be published.

Yes, Watson, but undoubtedly he will use a *PEN* name.

I read here, Holmes, that geneticists theorize that twins are most likely to be born on the same day of the week.

I deduce, my friend, that it's usually on a two's day. Elementary, heh, Watson?"

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Also passed around were a set of xeroxed *Funky Winkerbean* comic strips, each titled *Sherlock Holmes' Secret Cases*. As the strips are too many to include but they do well without the visual, they are presented here literally:

Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Bloated Baroness.

I still don't know how the Baroness was killed, Holmes!

The fiends forced her to gorge herself to death!

Good heavens! You mean ...?

Yes! It was alimentary, my dear Watson.!

Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Commode.

Have you found any clue as to who stole your commode, Holmes?

No, Watson! So far I have absolutely nothing to go on!

Sherlock Holmes and the

Downing Street Disaster.

You mean the villain responsible for the murders of the retired high British Government officials was their own security guard?

Correct, Watson, I'm afraid so! It was the checker of the ex-chancellors!

Sherlock Holmes and the Chinese Cookie Caper.

Have you any idea who the culprit is, Holmes?

Yes, Watson! It's the Chinese restaurant owner Shang Hoo!

You mean ...?

Yes! Hoo done it!

The Case of the Fatal Physician.

Are you telling me, Holmes, that this man's physician prescribed a poison which over the years gradually killed him?

Precisely, old friend! It's a classic case of premeditated murder!

The Yeast of Eden Caper.

So you think you know who murdered the foreman at the brewery plant, Holmes?

More than that, Watson, I'm sure of it! The bottler did it!

The Case of the Deadly Diploma.

You mean, Holmes, that the murderer placed a poison spider in the first diploma so that Mr. Acton, who was the first in line, would be bitten and killed?

Precisely! It was quite fiendish

really ... a clear-cut case of first degree murder!

The Case of Who Stole Sam's Spade.

It appears that the scoundrels who took Sam's spade were using it to rob graves, Watson!

By jove, Holmes, are you saying ...?

Yes, they were involved in skullduggery!

The case of the Musical Murders.

By a careful examination of the clues, Watson, I've been able to conclude that Mrs. Farintosh was killed with these two blunt instruments! (He holds up two violins)

You mean ...?

Yes, my friend, it was a crime of violins!

Professor Moriarty certainly looked petrified when you caught up with him, Holmes!

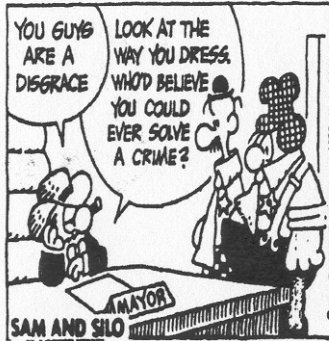
As well he should, Watson. After all ... he's a hardened criminal!

The case of the Mastodon Murder.

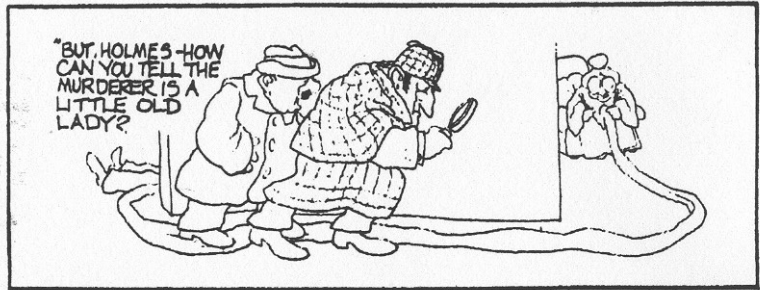
You deduced that Mr. Barclay was stomped to death by an elephant because of the peanut shells you found lying next to the body? Why that's brilliant, Holmes!

Elephantry, my dear Watson!

The Case of the Tainted Title.



Gahan Wilson



Look here, Watson! This land title was deliberately soiled in order to obscure the true date of the transaction! All that remains is for us to find out who did this dirty deed!

Sherlock Holmes' Most Famous Case: The Sound of the Basketballs.

Tell me, Holmes. Why in heavens name would a basketball player want to steal a chicken?

Elementary, my dear Watson. He obviously wanted to practice some fowl shooting!

+++

From Tom Takach:

Holmes: Admit it, Oldacre. You are the Mr. Cornelius who cashed all of those large checks.

Oldacre: Wrong! Those long-gone pounds were used to stake my greedy cousin, the famous silver and gold prospector, Yukon Cornelius.

Holmes: And the charred remains in the woodpile?

Oldacre: He never paid the loan back.

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From Wanda Dow:

How many Scotland Yard Inspectors does it take to solve a case? Nobody knows. It's never been done.

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From Culver Dow:

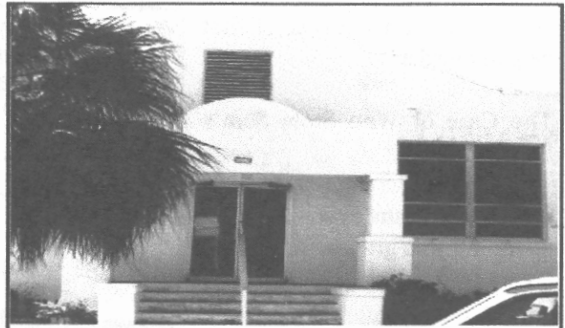
Knock. Knock.

Who's there?

Obviously you're not Sherlock Holmes.



The garage apartment of Leslie Marshall, Founder of the Pleasant Places of Florida. It was located behind the Swedenborgian Church of the New Jerusalem, now the Bible Holiness Church of God in Christ.

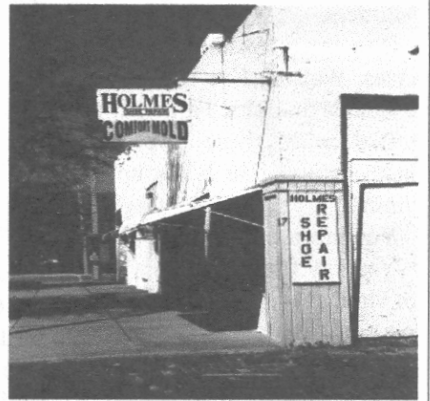


The church building where the first meeting of the Pleasant Places of Florida was held, 419 5th St. S., St. Petersburg, Florida.



Post Office Box 386 was used as the mailing address for the Pleasant Places of Florida.

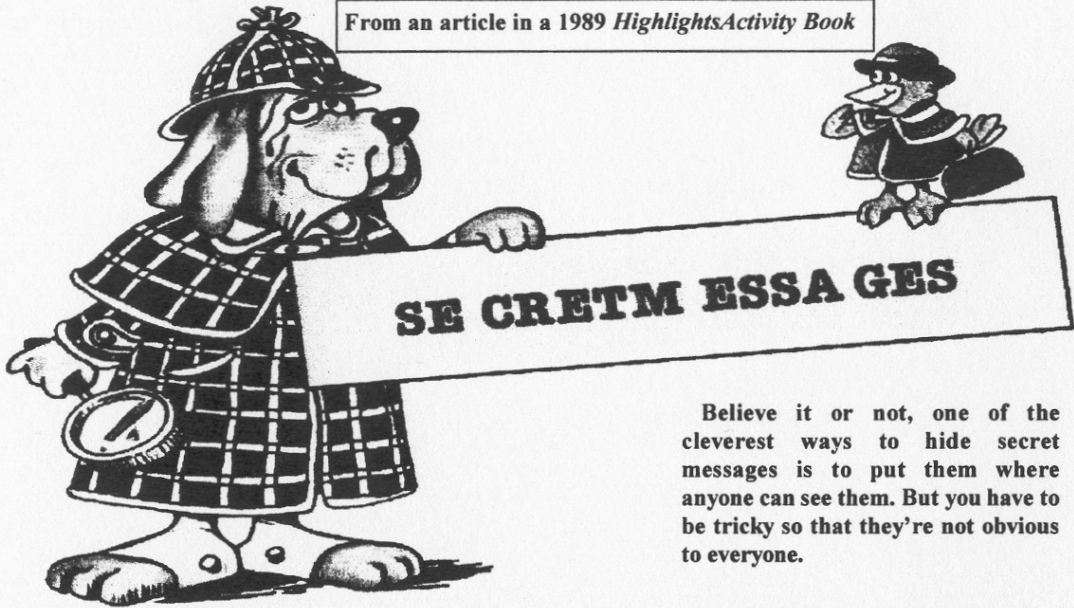
This shoe repair shop was downtown when the club began, and is still holding its own!



(cont. from page 1) pharmacy area, we noticed bottles of strichnine, arsenic and other poisons mentioned in the Canon which were used at the time as medications.

From the doctor's home, we went to the Daniel McMullen Home, which was built in 1868. The McMullen family is well-known in the area of Pinellas County, with a large clan still resident in the area. This home is currently being used to house Fiber Arts. We were shown examples of weaving, spinning, needlepoint, hook rugs, quilting and the use of a loom. On the way back to our luncheon area, we stopped in at the Heritage Mercantile Store (1915) which replicated an early neighborhood store complete with service garage, barbershop and post office. Since there were no messages for Holmes and Mrs. Hudson had already settled her account at the store (her name was not posted on the credit board), we headed back for lunch and the genial conversations of old friends. After lunch, some members chose to wander the grounds by themselves while some of us took a tour of the House of Seven Gables (1907). While giving us a tour of the 13-room Victorian home, the guide was delighted to learn that we were a Sherlockian club and confessed that she, too, was a fan of the Master. For those of you who did not make it this time, you should try to go to Heritage Village in the future. It is a truly a treasure!

From an article in a 1989 *HighlightsActivity Book*



Believe it or not, one of the cleverest ways to hide secret messages is to put them where anyone can see them. But you have to be tricky so that they're not obvious to everyone.

One way of concealing a message is called a **space code** or **letter group code**. All you have to do is to break up the words in your message in a way that makes them look like meaningless groups of letters.

Let's say I want to send this message:
**COME TO CLUBHOUSE AFTER
GAME ON SUNDAY.**

Using the space code, I might write:
**CO METOC LUBH OUS EAF TERG
AMEONS UNDA Y.**

Or I could write:
**COMET OCLU BHOU SEAFTE
RGAM EONSU NDAY.**

There is no constant way of breaking up the words, so your partner may have to work a little to find out what you have to say.

The **puncture cipher** or **pinprick cipher** is an interesting way to send secret messages. First get a newspaper or a magazine and find an article to use. Simple use a pin to put a small puncture above every letter in your message. Puncture the letters in the

order they appear in your message. After you have delivered your newspaper or magazine, your partner will copy down all the letters with punctures above them. All that's left is to separate the letters into the correct words.

Try to figure out the secret message concealed in the following article:

The **null cipher** uses the last letter of each word in a string of words that make no sense to form a message. Can you find the message in this group of words?

If a cat sneezes, some superstitious folks believe it means rain. Another weird cat superstition says that cats born in May can't catch mice or rats. Some people actually do believe that if you butter a cat's paws, it will stay home instead of roaming.

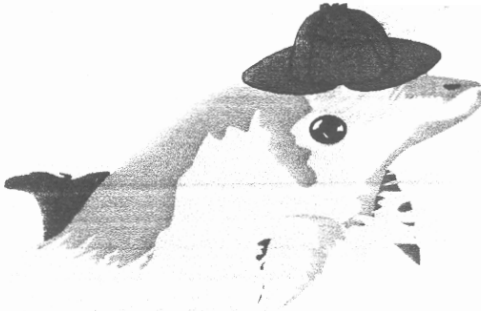
**BLACK KITE SILLY WITH
MINI SAD DAD BIKE RUN MAXI
WIN MOM LAVA I RAIL CLUB
SOLO BOX**

Another form of the null cipher uses whole words. In this method you agree with your partner that, for instance, every third word in a fake message is part of the real message. You can again hide your real message in a meaningless string of words as you did in the null cipher. So, you could write,

**WEATHER BOOK CALL TWO
HALLS ME PAPER AUTO AT
SUN PYRAMID SEVEN,**
to conceal the real message,
CALL ME AT SEVEN.

Now that you've learned a few ways to hide a secret message, why not experiment with some ideas of your own? If you use your imagination, I'm sure you'll see that hiding your message is half the fun.

Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium II



Yes, it's back by popular demand! *The Pleasant Places of Florida*, a corresponding Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars, will be having a repeat performance of its highly acclaimed weekend symposium in St. Pete Beach. This time, we are honoring the 25th Anniversary of our first Spring Gathering. This long-anticipated event will take place on June 9-11, 2000, on the shores of St. Pete Beach, Florida, at the beautiful Dolphin Beach Resort.

June 9, 2000, Friday night . . .

Reception and casual get together at 6:00pm in The Stranger's Room, featuring hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, to meet and greet, play a meeting game, register, get handouts, sing along, and toast Sherlock Holmes. Attendees will receive an assignment to be handed in Saturday.

June 10, 2000, Saturday . . .

From 7:30am to 9:00am a continental breakfast will be supplied free of charge in Mrs. Hudson's Kitchen.

From 9:00am to 5:00pm there will be displays of commercial vendors, member and club sales, handouts, and a silent auction.

From 9:00am to Noon there will be Symposia and individual presentations.

Lunch will be on your own from Noon to 2:00pm. Many will gather across the street at the Three Lions Pub.

From 2:00pm to 5:00pm, there will be Sherlockian presentations, games, videos and music.

From 6:00pm to 7:00pm there will be a Cocktail Gathering (cash bar) at Simpson's, with the silent auction still open for last bids, and a wandering photographer.

From 7:00pm to 11:00pm, there will be the Banquet, held this year to honor the 25th Anniversary of the First Spring Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida. Black tie and Victorian garb are optional, but encouraged for this sit down dinner with toasts, quizzes, entertainment, including an original radio play performed live, a sing along, silent auction, favors and reminiscences of the club.

June 11, 2000, Sunday . . .

From 9:00am to Noon, there will be a Dutch treat breakfast gathering at pool side for final presentations, door prizes, awards, light talks and farewells.

Each attendee of the Symposium will receive a souvenir t-shirt upon registration Friday evening or Saturday morning. A souvenir program containing presentations, quizzes, histories of the Pleasant Places of Florida and other Florida scions, and photos will be sent out when completed.

As expected of the more low key West Coast of Florida, there will be more fun and frolic and less, but still plentiful, scholarly discourse. The hotel (only \$62 to \$82 per night) is right on the water, and it will already be warm but not yet really hot. Can you think of a better way to start your summer a few weeks earlier, than by surrounding yourself with both the "Charming climate of Florida" and Sherlockian fellowship?

Already confirmed are:

Presentations by Robert Zuczek, Bob Ennis, Brad Keefauver, Rosemary Michaud and Dr. Charles M. Carroll. The Dow Family Players will be performing *A Prairie Holmes Companion*, and various short skits. A Sherlockian Jeopardy game designed by David Scott will be played during the day. An original radio play by Mike Bryan will be performed at the banquet.

Attention Dealers! For information on charges for table space in our vendor area, advertisements in our programs, and your logo on our t-shirts, please contact Carl Heifetz,

_____ or email _____ or FAX or phone _____



THE PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA

Registration for the Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium II

Name _____

Address _____

Phone/Email _____

I am enclosing \$ _____ for:

___ Symposium (\$30.00 per person)

___ Banquet (\$25.00 per person)

(Make checks payable to The Pleasant Places of Florida and mail to Carl Heifetz, USA.)

My banquet menu choices are ___ Prime Rib of Beef, Au Jus and/or ___ Chicken Marsala.

Call 800-237-8916 for reservations at the Dolphin Beach Resort at St. Pete Beach, FL. Weekend rates are \$62.00 (Standard Blvd.), \$72.00 (Superior Poolview) and \$82.00 (Deluxe Gulfview). Efficiencies are \$9.00 extra per night. All rooms have two double beds for up to four adults. Tax is 11% and cancellation policy is 72 hours. All reservations must be made and confirmed by May 9, 2000 and you must mention Pleasant Places of Florida, or give the code # G-PLEA.

The Pleasant Places of Florida

*Founded: 1972
by Leslie Marshall (dec.)*

Recorder Emeritus: Dr. Benton Wood

For the record:

THE LAST COURT OF APPEALS

David McCallister, Master of the House,

Jeff & Wanda Dow, The Papers on the Sundial,

Carl L. Heifetz, Representative both with the Servants and with the Tradespeople,

IF YOU SEE A RED CHECK HERE: . THIS IS YOUR LAST COMMUNICATION! USE
THE RENEWAL FORM INSIDE TO CONTINUE YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

**PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THE DATE AFTER YOUR NAME ON THE MAILING LABEL.
THIS IS THE EXPIRATION DATE OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERSHIP.**

PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA
THE PAPERS ON THE SUNDIAL

