



# The Pleasant Places of Florida



# 31.

(Vide "The Five Orange Pips")

A Corresponding Scion Society of the BAKER STREET IRREGULARS

## 12th Night Reflections

..... Word was received from Ron De Waal telling of the 3rd Annual Meeting & Banquet of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients, along with a Directory of "Sherlock Holmes Business Establishments" - a fascinating list including realators, a motel, pubs & restaurants(14!), a tobacconist, and a Pet Detective Agency! .....

..... Thanks to our faithful corresponding non-resident member, Margaret Petit, we received a full-page spread on the Master that appeared in the Jan. 15th issue of the Ft. Worth Star-Telegram, along with a snap-shot of a unique piece of Sherlockian needlepoint done by Irregular Petit.....

..... Dave Maxfield, of the Arcadia Mixture (Ann Arbor, MI) sent us a copy of a quiz on "The Adv. of the Empty House" - a real corker!...

.....The Feb. '77 Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine contained a fine short mystery entitled, "The Theft of the Sherlockian Slipper", by Edward Hoch.....

..... Jerry Courney, of Marina Del Rey, Calif., has produced an entertaining film, "The Adventure of Chimplock Hulmes & Doctor Watsup" - Dr. Freud had no idea of what he started! .....

..... Bill Ward, of our P.P. of F., has a fantastic listing of tapes of the Master's adventues - most complete I've seen. For more info write to him at: 5606 Gulf Blvd., St. Petersburg Beach, Florida, 33706.....

(continued on Page 2.)

You are cordially invited to the

2nd ANNUAL SPRING GATHERING

of the

PLEASANT PLACES of FLORIDA

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Gathering at High Noon, SATURDAY, APRIL 23rd

4408 Gulf Drive, HOLMES Beach, Fla.

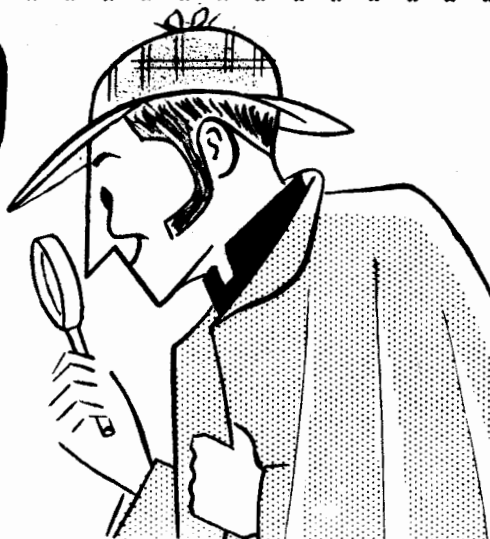
Noon - Luncheon

1 to 2pm - Meeting & Program

Joan & Ben Wood, Hosts

QUICK, WATSON -  
to HOLMES Beach -  
There's not a moment  
to lose! ....

PLEASE  
RETURN  
ENCLOSED  
CARD





Communication # 31.  
March, 1977

Published irregularly by  
PLEASANT PLACES of FLORIDA

A Corresponding Scion Society  
of the BAKER ST. IRREGULARS

Direct correspondence to:  
Dr. Benton Wood, Recorder

From St. Petersburg Times

(continued from p.1)

..... Luther Norris continues to list a wide variety of Sherlockania. I am especially indebted to Luther for providing P.P.off. with autographed copies of Eve Titus' "Basil of Baker Street series. ....

.... Paul Lee McClatchy called our attention to an item of singular interest. On a recent TV program(Animal World), "Russel's Viper" was shown - that heinous asp better known as "The Speckled Band".....

..... Mike Carroll submitted an article reviewing "Dining With Sherlock Holmes" from the Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union.....

.... Caroline Everett reported that Univ. of South Fla., Tampa, included several of Holmes' films as a part of their Film Art Series. She also tells of a new book, "Sherlock Holmes on the Screen" soon to appear. Tab: \$19.95(Ugh!)

.... "Crime Scene Sketches" at \$4 is available from Daniel King, 5125 N.Cumberland Blvd. Whitefish Bay,WI, says Bagatelle Card Club..

.....This Recorder thanks all those who submitted items - would appreciate more of same.

# To local minister, Sherlock simply could do no wrong

I don't know where Rev. Leslie F. Marshall is right now. But chances are that he is seated comfortably by a blazing coal fire in the cozy living room at 221-B Baker Street, London. Chatting with hawk-nosed Sherlock Holmes and the bumbling Dr. Watson about how best to trap the notorious Professor Moriarity.

You see, Marshall died Saturday, Feb. 12, 1977. But since I don't read The St. Petersburg Times obituary column (a habit which tends to destroy perpetual youth), I didn't know it until last Wednesday, when his fellow Baker Street Irregulars notified me.

The news came as something of a shock. For this gentle, bird-like little man with the dry sense of humor and a trace of Old England still in his soft voice was one of St. Peters-

**MARSHALL WAS** what used to be known as a man of parts. He had numerous interests. A retired pastor of the Swedenborgian Church of New Jerusalem here, he managed the Missions Stamp Outlet office, an idea he developed back in Paterson, N.J.

The idea was simple but effective: Have missions and church members donate stamps, then advertise and sell them and turn the net profit back into mission funds. His little office in the church annex at 419 Fifth St. S was crammed with bales of stamps from all over the world.

It also was crammed with Sherlock Holmes artifacts. Youngsters today tend to think that the name refers to a housing project. But the fact is that Conan Doyle's great detective may well be the world's best-known character of fiction. (Four books on Holmes appeared in 1974 alone.)

To Leslie Marshall, Holmes was a very real being. And so was Dr. Watson, who (he said) actually wrote the stories with Doyle acting merely as literary agent.

**THIS WAS** understandable. Born and raised in London, Marshall had started reading about the Great Detective when Strand magazine first published the Sacred Writings.

At 17, ambitious Leslie Marshall came to the United States on a cattle ship. He did a lot of things. Worked as salesman for a Chicago packing house, edited Firestone Co.'s house organ, was a newspaper correspondent, worked for Dr. William Scholl, the foot-comfort king.

But his interest in Holmes grew and grew. And in 1941, he learned that Christopher Morley, noted writer, had established the Baker Street Irregulars to perpetuate the memory of the great sleuth. Members included other big literary names such as Robert Benchley and Alexander Wolcott.

Marshall was quickly accepted due to his detailed knowledge of Holmes lore and was given his irregular name. As a minister, naturally he became the Simple-Minded Clergyman, a disguise the master detective assumed in "A Scandal in Bohemia."

O.A.T. - OF ALL THINGS

**DICK  
BOTHWELL**



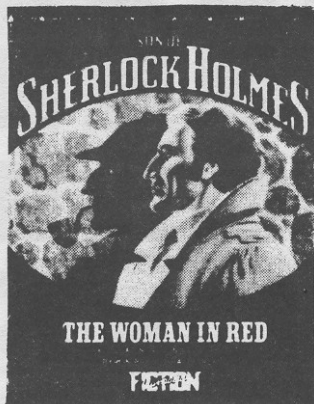
burg's authentic personalities. For years, Times writers have done occasional pieces about Marshall. For years he has commented regularly on various topics in our Letters column. And sent news tips to reporters.

(Continued on page 4.)

# Agony Column



Readers are  
asked to  
submit items  
for this  
column.



SON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES  
by Byron Preiss and Ralph Reese

This fascinating addition to the Holmes legend pits England's finest deductive minds against what may be Moriarty's most insidious puzzle—an epic mystery which spans sixty-eight years,

three countries and the careers of two famed detectives! Stunning, full-color art.

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**SHERLOCK HOLMES' HAT**  
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Recently discovered  
in the  
Comic pages.  
Rip Kirby



All SAGACIOUS and  
PERSPICACIOUS  
RATIOCINATIONISTS  
will be at  
HOLMES Beach  
SAT., APRIL 23rd!



## From Sherlock to Sherwood all in one day

By GUY SLAUGHTER  
Knight News Service

CROWN POINT, Ind. — Sherlock Holmes has been living at my house.

The famous figment of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's imagination is the latest in a long line of characters, real and fictional, my wife and I have been required to quarter.

Like all the others, of course, Holmes actually is my 14-year-old son playing a role. But like a lot of kids his age, the boy really lives the parts he assumes.

"How's the architect business?" I asked, when he had done so.

"I wouldn't know, Watson," he said, staring suspiciously at his soup.

"Buildings bore me."

"Watson?" I echoed.

"Who, Watson? Outfielder for the Mets? Alexander Graham Telephone's assistant? Who?"

"My biographer Watson," he said. "I see you've been to the store."

"Amazing," I said. "However did you know, other than by the grocery bags on the kitchen table and the supermarket sirloin on the platter?"

"Elementary, my dear Watson," he said. "You know my methods. Work it out for yourself. You have cash register tape ink on your right thumb, and there is change jingling in your pocket."

"Come on, guys," my wife said. "Could we eat our dinner and save the deducing until later?"

"As you wish, madame," the kid said graciously, and began spooning his soup, with his little finger extended in unaccustomed elegance.

The other evening I caught him going through the wastepaper basket in the den, smoothing out and studying the junk-mail form letters and advertisements crumpled inside it.

"Have you located the missing plans?" I asked him.

"I have returned them to the prime minister," he said, without batting an eye. "But the crown jewels have been stolen and I am on their trail."

"Professor Moriarty is the culprit, of course?" I suggested.

"Of course," he said. "I'd recognize his work anywhere."

"By the way, Holmes," I said. "When you have sifted those clues, would you haul out the trash, please? It's garbage night."

The kid looked offended, but nodded his head grudgingly.

Finally, yesterday, Holmes' stay began to grow intolerable.

From a mail order house came a double-beaked English deerstalker hat the likes of which I had seen before only in artists' illustrations of Conan Doyle stories and worn by Basil Rathbone in "B" movies. It carried a price tag of \$11.

From my closet disappeared my London Fog all-weather coat, to reappear as a cape, its sleeves pinned back, draped from the shoulders of the resident detective.

The kid looked like a character in a low-budget amateur play in his \$11 hat and my \$100 converted cloak, as he crawled around outside the house measuring the mailman's footprints in the snow.

But it was the telephone call rather than the queer costume and the increasingly irksome mannerisms that led to Sherlock Holmes' banishment from our lives.

The caller said he had been driving around for hours looking for our house to deliver carpeting.

He said he thought he had found us once, but a sign on the front door covering the address threw him off.

The sign, he said, read "221-B Baker St. S. Holmes, investigator."

That was when I called the kid before me and told him Conan Doyle and friends were no longer welcome.

He had shed the funny hat and my coat, and was brandishing a strung bow and a handful of arrows.

That's the way it goes at my house. From Sherlock to Sherwood in one easy move....

# SKILL-O-GRAM

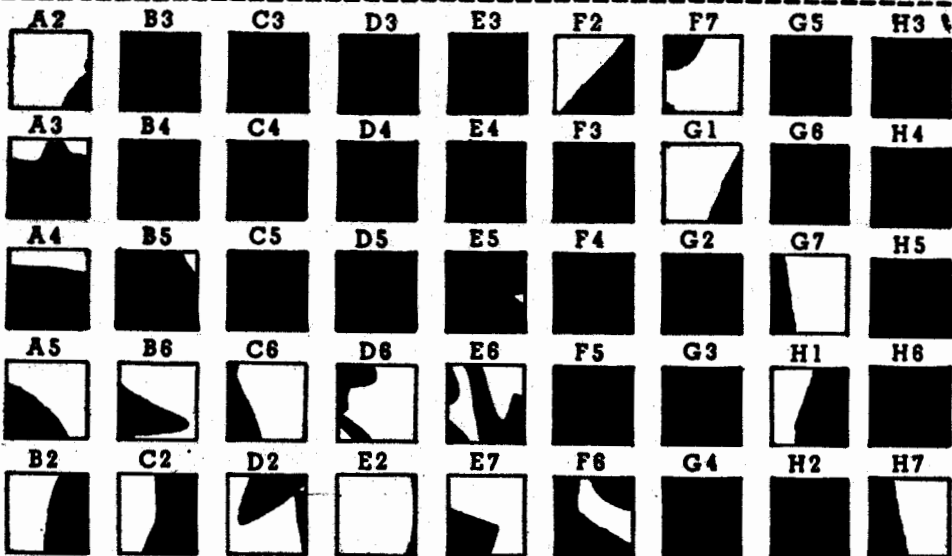
Copyright 1976 by Dell Publishing Co., Inc.

**Directions:** Each square to the right contains one part of a complete picture. Copy each section in the diagram below exactly as it appears. The result will be a complete picture. In the words of the Master:

"Be precise as to details."

&

"There is a strong family resemblance..."



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A							
B							
C							
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H							

(continued from p.2)

MARSHALL CAME to St. Petersburg in 1954 and later organized "The Pleasant Places of Florida," a group of Holmes fans.

Last time I interviewed Marshall, it was most enjoyable. "If Sherlock was so great," I said, "how come he never caught Jack the Ripper?"

"Some of us consider that he did," Marshall said calmly. "It was just kept quiet."

"He was always shooting himself full of cocaine," I said. "How about THAT?"

"He was no addict," denied Marshall. "He just used a little cocaine when he couldn't sleep well. And he never said, 'Quick, Watson, the needle!'"

SO IT WENT. No matter what you mentioned — Holmes' keeping the other lodgers awake at night with his violin playing, his distaste for the opposite sex, the fact that he never went to church and smoked a foul-smelling pipe, his put-downs of poor Dr. Watson (who could not figure out even elementary clues) — the Simple-Minded Clergyman had a ready defense.

To him, Sherlock simply could do no wrong. And now Leslie Marshall is somewhere else. To Sherlockians and to me, St. Petersburg won't be quite the same without him. Yet I am convinced that this quiet, kindly philosopher is most happy wherever he may be. Perhaps busy solving the only mystery that the Great Detective himself couldn't unravel.

A number of duplicates of Holmesian interest are at the Florida BSI Headquarters at HOLMES Beach. Receipts from the sale of the items below will go to the exchequer of the Pleasant Places of Florida.

DeWaal, The World Bibliography of Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson, 526p, 9x12 in handsome dust cover. New..... \$20.00

Baring-Gould, The Annotated Sherlock Holmes, Vol.II Used..... 5.00

Gardner, The Revenge of Moriarty... 3.00

Meyer, The West End Horror..... 2.50

Dakin, A Sherlock Holmes Commentary. 5.00

Rosenberg, Naked is Best Disguise.. 2.50

Baring-Gould, Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street..... 3.00

Return of Moriarty & Sherlock Holmes in New York (paperbacks)..both only 1.00

Hall, Sherlock Holmes (paperback) New= 3.95 & this is new..... 1.50

Menendez, Sherlock Holmes Quizbook New= 7.95 Best of its kind... 4.00

3 for 1 Bargain: The Earthquake Machine Adv. of the Peerless Peer, & The Giant Rat of Sumatra (paperbacks)..... 1.00

122nd Anniversary "Sherlock Holmes" Magazine. Collectors Series No.3... 1.00

Fall 1976 Liberty Magazine - contains illustrated "Lion's Mane"..... 1.00

Carr, Life of Sir A.C.Doyle(pback). .75

7 issues of The Baker Street Journal, 1975 & 1976. For pstg. only..... 1.00

**The Game's Afoot... at HOLMES Beach SATURDAY, APRIL 23rd.**