



The Pleasant Places of Florida

(Suggested in The Five Orange Pips)

A Corresponding Scion Society of The Baker Street Irregulars

+++++

12th Night Reflections **DICK LESH WINNER!**

We have a winner of the Dancing Men Decoding Contest - Dick Lesh. His answer was a bit graphic ("The Elder Mormon sayest, screw thee.") but you must remember that the winters are long & cold in Ft. Collins. Runner-up prizes were awarded to Alan Olding ("Someone has stolen my trousers") and Brad Keefauver (whose answer was so cryptic I couldn't figure it out - so it must be right.). I was disappointed that no PPoffers entered - too much sun, I fear. John Hubbard from Lynchburg, VA, paid a visit to HQ (HOLMES Beach) recently... Heard from Mike Kaylor of the Sussex Apiarist Society

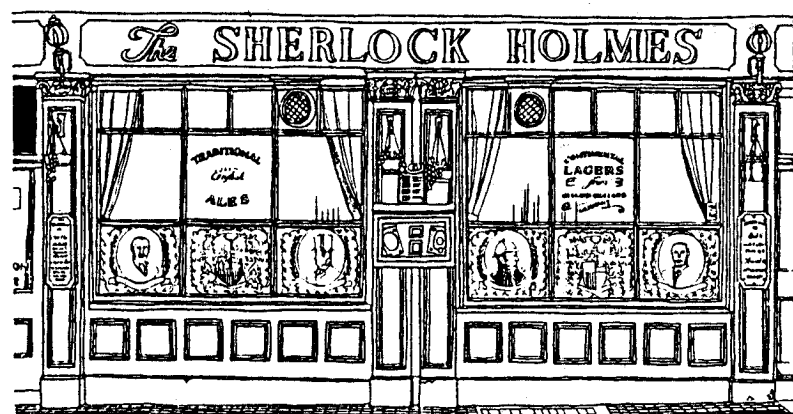
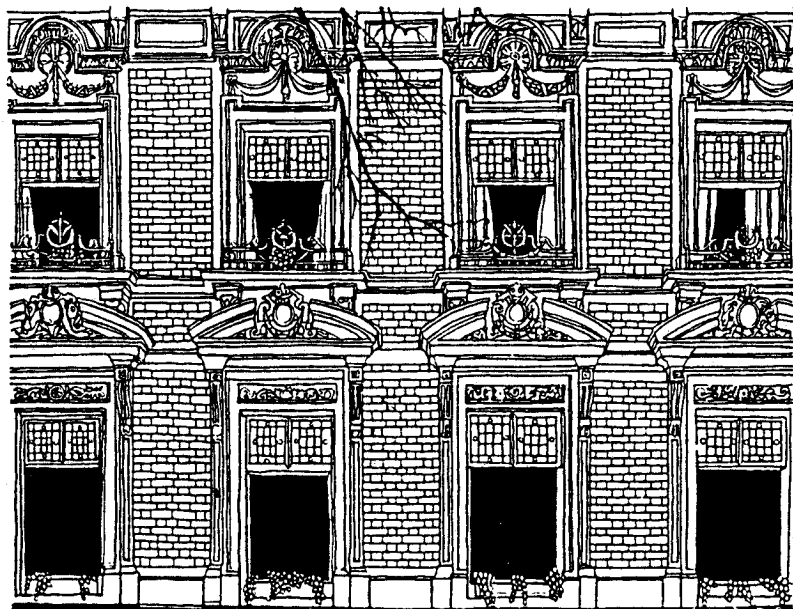


of Chestertown, Maryland. He reports that their Scion puts up a special Holmesian honey labeled "221-Bee". Mike promises to send this Recorder a jar. I'll let you know "how sweet it is" anon. He is also about to publish "The Pollen Press". Send inquiries to:

.... Bill Rabe (

is publishing "The Agony Column" (\$5 per annum). Bill will send, I'm sure, a sample issue upon request. Bill is the S'ian who puts on those fabulous breakfasts at the Algonquin during BSI week in NYC. ... As always, my thanks to all have corresponded since #75, especially John Kalajian, Peter Blau, Gerry Syone, Nann Pollock, Mike Carroll, Jim Suszyski, Irv Jaffee, Al Rosenblatt, Moris Goldberg, Stanley Mackenzie, of England, Svend Petersen, Mark Alberstadt, of Halifax, Pat Herst, and Bjarne Nielsen, of Copenhagen. Sorry if I missed anyone. Received this fantastic sketch of the Sherlock Holmes pub off Trafalgar Square, from Kiyoshi Tanaka

He's a most talented artist - his detail incredible. He's also a wonderful Holmesian correspondent, and makes a fine S'ian pen-pal. Plans for the Fall Gathering (at Mike Carroll's in St. Pete), probably in late October or early November will be forthcoming in due course. I understand that Peter Blau will be in Fla. in the fall.



'85 Kiyoshi Tanaka



Holmes Beach

COMMUNICATION #76.

June 18, 1985*

Published Irregularly by the Pleasant Places of Florida

A Corresponding Scion Society of

THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS

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+++++
(* - On this very day in 1889, Watson goes to an opium den run by a "rascally lascar" and meets Holmes in disguise. TWIS)

Philatelic Philandering

.... or "Stamping Around" with SHERLOCK HOLMES.



The new 22¢ embossed envelope issued by the USPS brings to mind several canonical references. Holmes referred to "a herd of buffaloes" in

STUD and BOSC, and, of course, John McMurdo lived in Buffalo (VALL), and Holmes, as Altamont joined an Irish secret society in Buffalo (LAST).

Holmes a Necessity

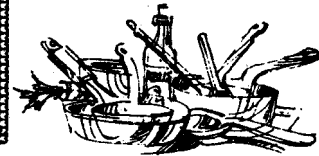
Holmes Isn't About to Stop

Tampa Bay Picks Holmes



From

Mrs. Hudson's Kitchen



OATCAKES

(Inspector MacDonald, of Aberdeen, passed on this tasty recipe to Mrs. Hudson. Still a favourite in Scotland, oatcakes are quite versatile and can be served with cheese, pâté, potted beef*, or, best of all, still hot from the oven spread w/butter & honey. (*- Next issue we'll pass on the recipe for this unique hors d'oeuvre.)

2 cups + 2 tablespoons oatmeal Salt
½ teaspoon baking soda 1 oz. butter, melted
Approximately 6 tablespoons water

Preheat oven to 350°. Combine 2 cups of the oatmeal with the baking soda & a pinch of salt. Add the melted butter and the water, a tablespoon at a time, until you have a stiff by pliable dough.

Spread the remaining 2 tablespoons of oatmeal on a pastry board & roll out the dough to approximately 1/8th inch thickness. Using a wine glass, cut the dough into 3" rounds.

Bake the rounds on a greased baking sheet for 15 minutes, or until they begin to turn a golden brown colour. Turn off the heat & leave them in the oven with the door open for 5 more minutes.

Allow to cool & store in an airtight container. Makes approximately a dozen.



Agony Column

(Readers may avail themselves of this column by submitting items for sale, etc.)

Sherlock Holmes: Science and Literature

Workshop Sponsored by the

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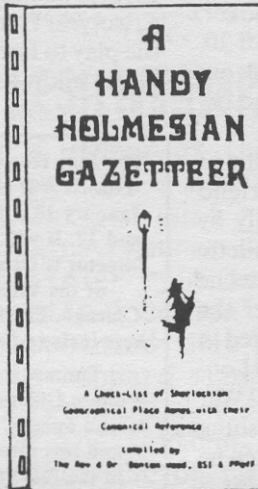
20-21 July, 1985

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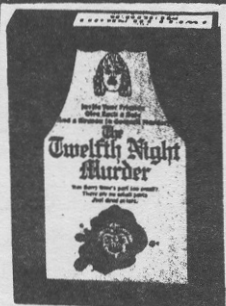
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Illustrations by S. Paget



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LEISURE & ARTS

The Real Mystery of Sherlock Holmes

By GEORGE V. HIGGINS

Ninety-eight years ago Arthur Conan Doyle, M.D., published his first work of fiction, "A Study in Scarlet," simultaneously introducing readers to Sherlock Holmes and seriously complicating his own career as a physician. After that from Conan Doyle's pen came 55 more stories and four full-length novels describing the challenges confronted by the great detective, all of which in later years served as grist or inspiration for more than 100 movies and television programs depicting his adventures. Radio also made good use of Holmes and his faithful companion, John Watson, M.D., Sir Ralph Richardson and Sir John Gielgud contributing a remarkably satisfying series to the adolescent years of those now middle-aged.

Knighted for his accomplishments in fiction, Sir Arthur in his later years made no secret of his impatience with his character, who so seized the imagination of readers around the world. But Conan Doyle died in 1930 and his petulance is therefore by now a matter of indifference. So, too, are his lapsed copyrights, as far as that goes, which to the suspicious mind of this writer at least account in some part for the popularity of his stories among contemporary dramatists short of plots themselves, and the liberties they take with Conan Doyle's. If PBS's programmers find

Television

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
MONDAY, APRIL 29, 1985

their entries to the Elysian Fields delayed by service of process issued by a higher court and alleging a class action for royalties due to Virginia Woolf, Rudyard Kipling and Conan Doyle, et al., I think it will serve them right.

But that's another matter. PBS stations are now engaged in broadcasting what to my knowledge at least is the newest remake of the Holmes stories. It was produced in the U.K. by Granada Productions.

Jeremy Brett as the peerless detective is unsettlingly good, presenting Holmes as a fellow in his late 30s or early 40s, I would guess, and a very complex one at that. Mr. Brett's costume and makeup invoke memories of both Basil Rathbone, who played Holmes to great effect in film, and Raymond Massey, who didn't (but played Lincoln, as I recall, in the same sort of black suit, white shirt and black tie).

This character in the suit, though, is quite different from Rathbone's. Rathbone was melancholy and sepulchral voiced. Mr. Brett's Holmes is plainly neurasthenic, now and then a little weird. His voice is high-pitched and he's hyper, as though speeding some.

Now let us be clear here: Conan Doyle had no compunction about describing Holmes's hypodermic, and there is at least some argument that he used cocaine. Laudanum was popular when Sherlock gained his fame. Many people used it and enjoyed it thoroughly. But claiming no expert knowledge as Baker Street Irregular or member of the Speckled Band, my recollection of the stories is that Holmes indulged himself only when he was bored. That is: not when he was on a case. He did not work wired up. This new series suggests the contrary: Holmes is hooked on stuff. He acts like he's on something.

This suggestion would account not only for Holmes's jittery behavior but also for his reluctance in this series to embark on out-of-town excursions without Watson and his prescription pad. Keep in mind here the dramatic problems of translating Watson's memoirs of his adventures with Sherlock to the screen: If Watson is going to tell it, as sacred tradition requires, and we are going to see it, as television requires, then Watson has to be present when the big events occur. What better explanation for Watson's unquestioning obedience to Holmes's importunate demands than the physician's reasonable apprehension that his patient is about to go off the deep end (if not over Reichenbach Falls)? Doctor must be present, in case patient needs a fix.


What better explanation also for the Granada mutation of "The Crooked Man," shown last week in the series? As published in *The Strand*, in 1893, the story had Holmes recruiting Watson late at night in Watson's flat to return with Holmes to Aldershot the next day, in order to witness a statement by the title character, Henry Wood. Holmes had already deduced that the crippled veteran of the Raj had been in the Barclay home the night that Col. John Barclay of the Royal Mallows (117th Foot) had died in a locked room with his wife, who had swooned into brain fever after the event. The issue was whether Wood had bopped him with his cane or Barclay had keeled over; Wood proved innocent, his disclosures to Holmes and Watson merely verifying the coroner's report that Barclay, stricken with guilt at the sight of Wood, had died of apoplexy. In the Granada version, Watson, made into a veteran of the 117th Foot, dragged Holmes down to Aldershot. There Holmes initially suspected Barclay's subaltern of fooling

around with Mrs. Barclay and really behaved very badly indeed, snapping at nearly everyone he addressed and nearly nipping the major on the neck. It was only after Holmes gathered that a mongoose had climbed the curtain in the Barclay morning room that he began to show good deportment.

I have some reservations about such alterations, dramatically desirable as they may be. Watching Sherlock Holmes bound around like Jimi Hendrix in a frock coat doesn't delight me. This Holmes should be detoxed.



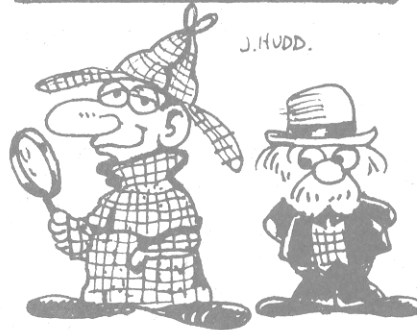
Holmes and Watson



VERMONT STATE LOTTERY

Mar. 1985		Daily
Fri	1st	507
Sat	2nd	283
Sun	3rd	
Mon	4th	221
Tue	5th	598
Wed	6th	323
Thr	7th	809
Fri	8th	396
Sat	9th	007

Yet another winner!



J. HUDD.

It's time for
Holmes 'to
pack it in'

Will Aging Holmes Find Out 'Truth' Tonight?

Letters to the Editor, The Wall Street Journal,

Mr. Holmes Was Most Irregular

George Higgins would seem to have missed the forest for the trees in "The Real Mystery of Sherlock Holmes" (Leisure & Arts, April 29). Why does Mr. Higgins think Conan Doyle's creation lives so long after his petulant creator? Is it because Holmes was a staid and sedate Victorian gentleman? No, Holmes lives today (and forever) for the simple reason that he was very weird indeed.

Did Sherlock Holmes use cocaine? Half of Mr. Higgins's review tells us that he did. Was the detective's habit a creation of the series' producers? Let us turn to the highest possible authority on these matters, the detective's Boswell, Dr. Watson, M.D.: "For years I had gradually weaned him from that drug mania . . . I was well aware that the fiend was not dead, but sleeping." ("The Missing Three-quarter") Holmes was indeed melancholic when not on some professional inquiry and did resort to drugs in his lethargy. But when the game was afoot, he was like a hound on a scent (Watson's description). He was, in short, quite "wired."

So what of the series? Of, course, no visual depiction can match that world of imagination where Holmes and Watson live so vividly. No actor, be he Jeremy Brett, Basil Rathbone or even Raymond Massey can possibly be a perfect Holmes. Reading Doyle's stories alongside these episodes do show they really are quite faithful to their source (recall that Rathbone's Holmes pursued Nazis in the 1940s). As a matter of point, the detective's voice should not be sepulchral, but rather "high, somewhat strident," very much like Mr. Brett's Holmes.

Mr. Higgins perhaps should have refreshed his memory with a few readings from the Holmes canon before writing off this marvelously entertaining new presentation of the adventures of Mr. Sherlock Holmes, 221B Baker Street, London.

DANIEL SHERMAN

Ithaca, N.Y.

* * *

Some points cry out for correction in Mr. Higgins's otherwise enjoyable review of the Holmes series.

"A Study in Scarlet" was not Doyle's first work of fiction—it was "The Mystery of Sassassa Valley," published in the October 1879 issue of Chamber's Journal. Doyle wrote and sold several other short stories and completed two novels before starting work on "A Study in Scarlet," in March of 1886.

"Study" was not followed by "55 more stories and four full-length novels." It is itself one of the four cases which, with the 56 short narratives, form what Sherlockians call "the Canon" or "Sacred Writings."

NORMAN M. DAVIS

Member, Baker Street Irregulars

Chicago

Guest Poet

Sherlock Holmes Victorious

(After watching a BBC presentation of "A Scandal in Bohemia" on Channel 28 a few weeks ago.)

Holmes determined to 'retire'



"Why do I still hear her mocking laughter
After all these years?
Did I not attend her wedding as an invited guest —
I am a master of makeup and disguise —
And give the bride away, or at least become a witness?
It was the supreme jest when I saw her married
To Godfrey Norton, the barrister Once again
I bested her in this battle of wits or matching of intellects.
Some say that I was in love with her — the woman.
Rubbish! I, Sherlock Holmes, the superb reasoner,
The great detective; love is alien to my nature!
No sentimentalist am I though I asked the King
Of Bohemia for her portrait as my final fee.
She had a superb singing voice and was beautiful beyond
belief. But I am a logician and in the
Little game we were playing surely I was triumphant.
I often see myself as the drunken groom
Who gave the bride away in St. Monica's Church
one morning, and smile.
I pick up my violin, my consolation, with some
satisfaction.
And yet — why do I still hear her mocking laughter
After all these years?"

— Irving L. Jaffee

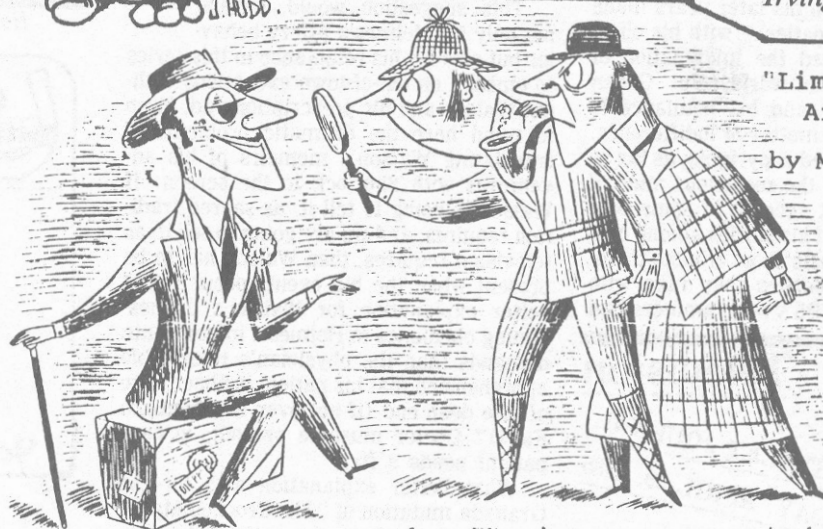
"Limericks Long After Lear,"

by Morris Bishop,

illustrated
by Richard
Taylor,

New Yorker,

Nov. 20, 1937.



* * *

The review of the Sherlock Holmes series contained an error of fact. Mr. Higgins wrote that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was knighted "for his accomplishments in fiction," but Encyclopaedia Britannica and other references state that Doyle received his knighthood in 1902 for service in a field hospital during the Boer War.

On a less historical note, Mr. Higgins's argument that the Holmes portrayed by Jeremy Brett "needs a fix," shows that Mr. Higgins has failed to note the many references in the Doyle canon about Holmes's high-strung and nervous disposition—even without cocaine. Mr. Brett's performance is perfectly in keeping with the stories. Holmes almost certainly was, as Mr. Higgins says, "now and then a little weird."

MASON SMITH

Richmond, Ky.

There's a prosperous tourist from Whippany
Who robbed Scotland Yard of a thrippenny
Bit. He confessed,
"It was largely a test
To see if I'm losing my grip any."



OHIO STATE LOTTERY ANOTHER WINNER!

Mar. 1985	The No.	Pick 4	Lotto
Thr 7th	173	4702	
Fri 8th	300	4417	
Sat 9th	284		14-16-27-28-29-30
Sun 10th			
Mon 11th	572	7984	
Tue 12th	724	9142	
Wed 13th	008		05-18-25-36-37-38
Thr 14th	403	7813	
Fri 15th	221	1744	
Sat 16th	879		01-09-14-27-31-39

by Kenneth Ludwig

Actor Thomas S. Oleniacz as actor William Gillette in *Dramatic License*, a play about the actor famous for his portrayal of Sherlock Holmes—

Gillette & Holmes— —an Actor and a Character

William Hooker Gillette, author and star of the play *Sherlock Holmes*, was the descendant of a prominent Connecticut family. His father was a social reformer and a U.S. Senator. On his mother's side, he was descended from the Rev. Thomas Hooker, a founder of Hartford. At the age of 20, to his parents' chagrin, Gillette struck out confidently in his own direction and became an actor.

An apprenticeship of bit parts (one of which was provided by family friend Mark Twain), was followed quickly by leading roles. Characteristically, Gillette craved even greater independence, and he soon turned to writing plays. Over the next twenty years he wrote and starred in a string of successes in New York and London, including *Secret Service*, a Civil War melodrama in which he played a dashing Union spy. By 1899, the year in which he wrote *Sherlock Holmes*, Gillette was a matinee idol on both sides of the Atlantic.

By that same year, the stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle featuring Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson and their evil nemesis, Professor Moriarty, were an international phenomenon. Gillette, at the urging of his manager, Charles Frohman, secured from Conan Doyle the title "Sherlock Holmes" on a royalty basis for dramatic use. Surprisingly, Gillette was not at first enthusiastic about the project. Frohman pleaded, however, and Gillette gave in. He began by trying to rewrite a dramatic rendering by Conan Doyle himself; but the creator of Holmes was simply not much of a dramatist. Gillette needed a free hand, and Conan Doyle gave it to him. "MAY I MARRY HOLMES?" Gillette cabled. Conan Doyle cabled back: "MARRY HIM OR MURDER HIM OR DO WHAT YOU LIKE WITH HIM."

Gillette wrote the play in four weeks, then set off for England to secure Conan Doyle's approval. Gillette apparently felt that their first meeting should be memorable. Accordingly, he turned up on Conan Doyle's doorstep in the costume he'd devised for Holmes, complete with deerstalker cap and meerschaum pipe—symbols of Holmes which Gillette made popular and appear nowhere in the famous stories. Before the startled author could utter a word, Gillette pulled out a magnifying glass and inspected Conan Doyle's face. "Unquestionably an author," Gillette

intoned. Conan Doyle approved of both the man and his manuscript without hesitation.

Sherlock Holmes opened in New York at the Garrick Theatre on November 6, 1899. It was an instant success. Following a two-year run in America, Gillette took the play to London, where it ran for over a year and was attended by Edward VII

The Play House production of *Dramatic License* will open in the Drury Theatre January 18 with previews on January 16 and 17. It will run through February 24. Director is Dennis Zacek, artistic director of the Victory Garden Theatre in Chicago. Previous directing assignments here include *Betrayal* and *Key Exchange*.

Thomas S. Oleniacz will portray William Gillette. Oleniacz appeared in the season opener, *The Archbishop's Ceiling*, and just directed *Angels Fall*. Others in the cast are Carol Bates, Wayne S. Turney, Catherine Long, Cassandra Wolf, John Buck, Jr., Providence Hollander and Sharon Bicknell.

and Queen Alexandra. When Gillette returned to America, he moved on to other plays; but the public clamor to see Gillette as Holmes was unstoppable. Over the next 30 years, Gillette revived the play at frequent intervals in New York and on exhausting nationwide tours. In all, he played his most famous role over 1300 times.

Physically, Gillette was the ideal man to play Sherlock Holmes. He was tall and handsome, with craggy features, a hawk-like nose and deep, penetrating eyes. Of equal importance, Gillette and Holmes were remarkably alike in temperament. Despite his enormous success, Gillette was by nature taciturn, brooding, at times reclusive, and coldly logical. Also like Holmes, he was highly eccentric. Frequently, after a performance, he would wander through the city all night, returning home at dawn to the ministrations of his confidante and friend, a Japanese valet named Osaki.

Equally eccentric was the home Gillette built for himself on a hill above the Connecticut River. Literally a castle, it was patterned after a medieval Rhennish fortress, with granite walls and crenellated battlements. Inside, it contained his own inventions, including hidden mirrors which allowed him to remain in his bedroom and observe his guests in the living room a floor below. It was here, to "the



Cleveland Play House Drury Theatre

Castle," that Gillette not infrequently brought the cast of his latest New York revival of *Sherlock Holmes* for a weekend of leisure and elegance.

There can be no doubt that Gillette, as he continued to play Holmes, year after year, increasingly identified himself with the Victorian sleuth. All of the similarities are in evidence: the brooding nature, the mounting eccentricities, the unwillingness to become romantically involved, despite his fatal attraction for the scores of eligible women who crossed his path. Indeed, the more one reads about William Gillette, and the more one studies the photographs of the man in his brocaded dressing gown, a pipe in one hand, a gun in the other, the more one becomes convinced that Gillette conceived of himself as Holmes incarnate. That Gillette and Holmes were one in spirit was the springboard for *Dramatic License*.

Kenneth Ludwig is the author of the play, "Dramatic License."

EGADS! A WINNER!

NEW JERSEY STATE LOTTERY

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Tue 16th	551	0801
Wed 17th	165	4582
Thr 18th	597	8008
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Sat 20th	732	9320
Sun 21st		
Mon 22nd	712	0325
Tue 23rd	221	3330
Wed 24th	777	2043
Thr 25th	820	2195