



Ineffable Twaddle

"It is my business to know what other people don't know."

The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

A monthly publication of
The Sound of the Baskervilles

A Scion Society of The Baker Street Irregulars • Since March 31, 1980

Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington



RIP Ignacio "Nacho" Ospina, Mar. 5, 1929—May 23, 2008

He was a fine man and a good friend to us all.

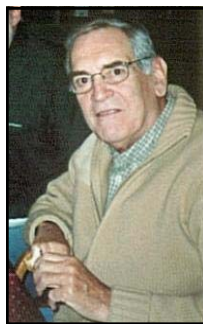
– Bill Seil

He was a lovely and friendly man and will obviously be missed by a horde of people from each part of his life.

– Stu Shiffman

We both really liked him. He was very friendly and open.

– Lisa Miller



Our dear friend Nacho Ospina succumbed to complications of cancer on May 23rd.

Born in a small town outside Bogotá, Colombia, he met and married his wife-of-53-years Ligia and 4 of their 5 children were born there. That he was crazy about his 8 grandkids was apparent, when he brought grandson John Francis to several of our events over the years. Nacho himself was the baby amongst his 9 siblings, and only three of them survive him.

With training as a geologist, a position with a mining firm in Utah brought the family to America in 1962. And, their last daughter came soon after. With many of their kids already in the Pacific Northwest, Nacho and Lee relocated to Renton, WA where he joined Weyerhaeuser in 1989 as a draftsman and from which he retired in 2004.

Along with his fervent interest in Sherlock Holmes, Nacho was an accomplished water colorist and amateur cellist. His priest told us at the funeral mass on May 28 at St. Steven the Martyr Church that Nacho was as strong in his faith as he was in his caring for his family.

We SOBs first met Nacho in late 1994. Al Nelson had just joined us following a joint meeting of the SOBs and the Practical, But Limited Geologists during the annual Geologists Society of America conference in Seattle. Nacho and Al discovered their common

interest over coffee at work, and Nacho quickly became a loyal SOB and attendee at our monthly Meetings and functions. He was also a prolific contributor to our *Beaten's Christmas Annual*, usually writing as his alter ego Toby.

Nacho's daughter Pat tells us that he had been busy at work on a new *Beaten's* submission, and we are anxious to make it the cornerstone of our 2008 issue in December. 🍷

RIP Gerrie Kasper, Nov. 14, 1927—May 26, 2008

On May 26th, our dear friend and long-time Sherlockian Gerrie Kasper passed away at the age of 80 from cancer. She's survived by her husband-of-53-years Bill, 4 of her 5 children and 10 grandchildren. A funeral mass was held at Holy Rosary Catholic Church on May 31, where her plain pine casket—handcrafted by her son James—was decorated with bright images drawn by her grandchildren. Two separate Sherlockian images were *naturally* present.

Those who eulogized Gerrie told how she was raised a lonely, only child in North Dakota; how—having been raised with no religion—she joined the Catholic faith in her 20s and became a stalwart supporter of Holy Rosary parish, which she and Bill joined 43 years ago; how she kept going year after year, suffering over 250 chemo treatments to battle her various cancers; how she loved opera, New York City, Sherlock Holmes and all things British; and how she lived life fully, packing 100 years into her 80-year-life.

Most SOBs will remember Gerrie as the gracious host of 12 of our 23 annual Master's Dinners, not to mention one Jollification, two Watson Picnics... **Continued on Page 2**



**Volume 27,
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July 2008

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Gotta try it: The Secret Garden Tea Room

On a chilly Sunday in March, Marge & Al Nelson hosted an afternoon tea for the Haugens and Avis Jobrack and her husband Lare Mischo at the **Secret Garden Tea Room & Gift Shop** in Sumner, WA.



The décor is quaint, the gift shop abundant, the prices competitive, and the scones scrumptious! *More: 253-826-4479 or www.sgtea.com*

Brush-Up on Mazarin Stone for July Meeting

The July 14 Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at 6:00 p.m. at T.S. McHugh's Public House, 21 Mercer Street, Seattle, (206) 282-1910. *Come early to order dinner and catch up with other SOBs!* Many arrive as early as 5:00.

It's been a mere 6 days since the strange goings-on of 3GAB, as we undertake Holmes' and Watson's 57th tale on a summer day in 1903. According to Jack Tracy, it's actually based on a one-act play by ACD entitled *The Crown Diamond: An Evening with Sherlock Holmes* performed in London during 2 weeks in 1921.

Says PFL David: Our case concerns the "large and ugly" Sam Merton and his associate, "man-about-town" Count Negretto Sylvius. Along for the Adventure, too, is the "young but very wise and tactful" page at Baker Street, Billy.

Sylvius has already stolen the Stone, so his gall and efforts to convince Holmes not to pursue the investigation any further only spurs on our hero!

Learn, too, why the Prime Minister himself arrives at 221B in The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone!



"I'm going into that bedroom," said Holmes. "Pray make yourselves quite at home in my absence. In five minutes I shall return for your final answer."

The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone

Interesting Facts From MAZA:

- ☞ This is the 3rd Adventure in which we encounter an air-gun or the threat of one. The others are FINA and EMPT.
- ☞ The Stone takes its name from Cardinal Jules Mazarin, an Italian-born French diplomat whose original name was Giulio Marzarini.
- ☞ While Mme. Tussaud resided in Baker Street in 1835, her famed museum of both historical and contemporary personages, relocated to its present site in Marylebone Road in 1884.

RIP Gerrie A. Kasper...

Continued from Page 1

and our 25th Anniversary Tea. Her home in Edmonds was large enough to, on occasion, host as many as 40 of us at a sit-down dinner, made all the more remarkable by the fact that she had enough bone china to serve everyone. And, at several of these Dinners, she even recruited her kids and their spouses to act as wait staff to make *our* experience that much more elegant.

While Gerrie may not have been a founding member of the SOBs, she was a long-time and devoted member of more than 25 years. Teapots and miniatures dotted the décor in her home; she had a miniature replica of 221B prominently displayed, and a life-size, stuffed Sherlock Holmes (*made by former SOB Shirley Cooper*) sat quietly in her den.

Sadly we hadn't seen much of Gerrie since our 25th Anniversary Tea in 2005.

Caring for husband Bill as Alzheimer's darkened his memory and her own failing health kept Gerrie away from our events and circumvented her ability to host any more Sherlockian functions—but that wasn't for lack of desire. A July 2006 letter to PFL David said how anxious she was to host our first *combined* Anniversary Tea & Auction in 2007, but she later had to withdraw that kind offer.

Her family memorialized Gerrie in the funeral program this way, "She loved to read, travel, collect miniatures, was a great hostess and always dressed well."

SOB Jean Macdonald said it simply and well, "*She was such a beautiful and super lady.*" Not unlike another "certain gracious lady" (BRUC) we know and love!



Okay, National Library Week was back in April (13 to 19), but we couldn't resist teasing your brains a bit!! Did you know, on a per-capita basis, we may have more librarians in The SOBs than any other job category?

We've got one or two employees (*or former employees*) of Boeing, Safeco, Weyerhaeuser, Blue Cross and Microsoft. But when it comes to *job category*, "librarian" has them all beat!! We've got four ...count 'em...four among us, in fact!

Three of the four are professional librarians; the 4th is a bit less formal in that capacity. Can you name them?? Give it a try! *Sssshhh*...the answers are on Page 3.

The Stranger in the Library

by Thomas Porter
Gerrie Kasper's grandson

*I walked into the dark library,
And saw something quite scary.
A man sat quietly in the chair
Which was really quite hairy.
I looked into his eyes.
He seemed to be so wise.
But he also looked quite vandalous,
And maybe a little scandalous.
"The President lives in the
Whitehouse, right?
I filled with fright
And my face turned white.
But then I turned on the light.
And my laughing shook my tummy.
For there in the chair,
Sat a big stuffed dummy.
He really was no dummy,
But a good friend of grandmummy.
The subject of this silly poem,
The man whom they call
Sherlock Holmes.*

Thomas - November 2000

Wreath Throw , 2008

Jean Macdonald told me about how much she enjoyed the Wreath Throw on Saturday, May 3rd, and I feel the same.

Events—arranged and hosted by James Romnes—included the wreath throw (with the wreath hand-crafted by *Ginie Romnes*), a violin concert (our first!!), and luncheon, where Barbara Nelson proposed a toast to the Haugens' good trip abroad. Violinist Steven Levenger was nearly as sublime as the falls itself, playing for us for a lovely half hour.

Attending these first three activities were Jean Macdonald, Linda Waring and Bill Seil, Clan Romnes (James, Ginie, Brian and Emily), Walter Choy and Michael Phillips, John and Barbara Nelson, Sam Fry (Louise Fry missed the lunch to prepare the after-lunch dessert buffet at their

By roving reporter, Margaret "Marge" Nelson

place), Stu Shiffman, and me.

Walter and Michael and the Romnes headed off after lunch (*Romneses heading to Victorian Days in Port Townsend*), but the rest of us drove over to Sam and Louise's lovely house on a hill above Puget Sound. There, John and Barbara, Linda and Bill, Stu, Jean, Louise and Sam, and I ate delicious cakes, tarts, cookies and candies while drinking pots of coffee, staring out over the wonderful view from their living room, playing with the cats, and discussing London and all sorts of Sherlockian topics.

We were also able to view Sam's copy of *"The Bedside Sherlock Holmes"*, 2005 edition, which has one of Stu's drawings and refers to Bill's book. What a great finish to a great day!



At left, standing left to right: Stu, James, Linda, Sam, violinist Steven Levenger, Ginie, Emily, Jean, Marge, and John; in foreground Michael and Walter.

Photos provided by James Romnes



Left: James, as Constable John Rance, chats up Stu.



Right: Our roving reporter makes a pretty picture in front of the falls!

News From Down Under

☛ A letter came in April from Mrs. Joan Dick of Pahrnan, Victoria, Australia. She'd seen our December, January and February issues of *Twaddle* and was intrigued that our Barbara Nelson was lucky enough to abandon her eyeglasses. Following cataract surgery, Joan too was able to give up her glasses at the tender age of 79! In regards to our "How to Study the Canon" dilemma, it appears their Club studies whatever story the meeting host decides. She closed with news of their autumnal weather and water shortages! ☛ In June, Steve Duke, President of the SH Society of Victoria in Melbourne, sent their most recent quiz on SUSS, which was crafted by their former Secretary and President Michael Chisholm. Noting our recent anniversary, Steve says that the Sydney Passengers celebrate theirs on May 9, the SH Society of Victoria on August 5. Steve also noted that BRUC and NAVA were not figments of Doyle's imagination—having seen an English commentator on TV, who mentioned Holmes as part of a story about the loss of British government files on a train the prior week. Oh, and Steve says he's sick of winter there already, and gas is up to \$6.60 a gallon. Yikes!!

From our Resident Horticulturist, Marge Nelson



On Saturday, August 16th, Wright Park in

Tacoma is having a Centennial Celebration with a Victorian theme, and they've asked my "antique rose" club—Heritage Roses Northwest—to hold an **old rose display** from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Come see it!!

December 6th is Wright Park's **Victorian Holiday Celebration** from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., when staff and volunteers dress in beautiful Victorian costumes, answer questions, serve refreshments and take donations for the Tacoma Rescue Mission Family Shelter. Santa will also be on hand to hear holiday wishes.

Surprise, Surprise!!

Says WFL Lloyd Hedberg, "Apparently at some point in the ethereal past I sent my *"Musings upon The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle"* to Joe Coppola of the Mycroft Holmes Society for consideration. It's been years and, frankly, I'd completely forgotten about it. Turns out my "Musings" has been published as part of MHS's "Voices from the Stranger's Room" now on sale through Classic Specialties. Contact Joel Senter at sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com for copies.



National Library Week Quiz From Page 2

If you got all 4 answers right, you're a real genius!! The 4 SOBs who are librarians are:

Ann Deussenberry, Benicia, CA
Avis Jobrak, Sumner, WA
Ann McElvaney, Orting, WA
and Verne Johnson, Vashon Island, WA



The Sound of the Baskervilles
By appointment of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria

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The Sound of the Baskervilles is a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars, serving the greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, U.S.A., and has met monthly since March 31, 1980.

\$20 per year brings Members the monthly newsletter "Ineffable Twaddle", a copy of Beaten's Christmas Annual, and the incalculable benefits of association with a group of certifiable Holmes aficionados.

Meetings are held at 6:00 p.m., the 2nd Monday of each month. Location of the meetings may vary. Regularly scheduled additional events throughout the year include: "The Master's Dinner" celebrating Holmes' birthday (January), "The Annual Wreath Throw" commemorating Holmes' loss at Reichenbach Falls (May), "The Dr. John H. Watson Picnic" (July), and "The Will Crakes Memorial Jollification" (December). Other activities—book crawls, teas, plays and gaming events—are as announced.

To join, send your check for dues—\$20 for individuals, \$30 for families (U.S. funds only)—to the address shown at left.



Dates of Interest

- **July 14**
Regular Monthly Meeting,
T.S. McHugh's
- **August 2**
Annual Dr. John H. Watson Picnic
Seahurst Park,
Burien, 12:00 p.m.
Paul Williams says we will be in the **North Shelter** (near the bathrooms), as the South Shelter is **not** yet ready for our use.
- **August 11**
Regular Monthly Meeting,
T.S. McHugh's
- **September 8**
Regular Monthly Meeting,

Member News & Updates

Presided over by **Margie Deck**, attending the **May SOB Meeting**, were:

Stephen Adkins	Al Nelson	Hank Deck
Nacho Ospina	Joyce Funk	John Geis
Margaret Nelson	Ed Funk	Herb Leake
Jean Macdonald		

...and the **June SOB Meeting** were:

Thom Walls	Barbara Nelson	John Nelson
Joyce Funk	Ed Funk	Al Nelson
Margaret Nelson	Hank Deck	Herb Leake
Peter Chelemedos	Manson Polley	Nancy Polley

News & Notes:

- PFL David first wants to thank **Margie Deck** for her hard work and efforts in chairing both the May and June Meetings!! She went above and beyond, having already chaired two other meetings earlier in the year.

And, as many now know, Haugens got no further than New York City on their 7-week adventure abroad before David was taken ill again. We thank everyone for their well-wishes!!!

- **John Geis'** minutes of the May Meeting report that the group that night emphasized quality over quantity. **Marge N.** related events from the Annual Wreath Throw on May 3, and **Al** told of his trip to England where he saw a Sidney Paget exhibit and visited the London Library—where he was shocked to learn they don't use the Dewey Decimal System! And, **Ed** took 1st place

in the story quiz on BLAN—gaining extra points for his leprosy 101 presentation—with **Herb** the close 2nd.

- At the June Meeting, **Treasurer Al** presented a toast to both Nacho Ospina and Gerrie Kasper, who'd passed away in May (See Page 1); **Margie** reported that we'll be in the **North Shelter (not the South) at Seahurst Park** on August 2 and that the dinner jacket Nigel Bruce wore in the movie HOUN was recently sold at auction; and a 3-way tie was won by **Al, John** and **Ed** on the story quiz on 3GAB. Also, Margie distributed a "Secret Clue Find-a-Word" puzzle on 3GAB. (Your Editor had great fun with it!!)

- If you haven't already, be sure to send feedback to Margie Deck on the **three crossword puzzles** she mailed out in early June!! Your input will help her craft additional ones for us!!

- **Marge N.** went out to Sumner Library to see the dolls on display there in March, which were made by a 15-year-old clothing crafter from Edgewood, WA. The young woman uses Barbie dolls to create famous characters from literature. Here's a picture of her terrific-looking Holmes doll!!



- Finally, hats off to **Manson** for catching the typo in our masthead (above), that had our anniversary as "Mary" 31, 1980! Good catch, Pal!!!

