



Ineffable Twaddle

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

The 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, USA



Have You Seen Our New Website?!

It's completely new, updated and great-looking!

If you haven't seen it yet, get on over to www.soundofthebaskervilles.com to see the great new layout, which you can navigate easily.

There's many years worth of back issues of this monthly rag, info on our reference / lending library, a "contact" page where you can drop us a line, a "meetings & events" page laid-out like a calendar for easy reference, and upcoming events listed on the far right-hand side of every page.

Just click on an event on the right-hand side or posted on the calendar, and you'll get all the info you need—date, time, ↗

Important SOB Dates into the New Year

⇒ **December 3:** Whip up a your favourite "finger food" (sweet or savory tidbits, deserts, snacks), cuz our Annual Will Crakes Memorial Jollification is Saturday, **December 3!!** The fun begins at **1:00 p.m.** at SOB Carrol Clemens's home in Federal Way.

⇒ **December 18:** We'll have our annual study of **"The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" and a cookie exchange** at 1:30 p.m. at the Queen Anne branch of The Seattle Public Library; *details on Page 2.*

⇒ **December 31: Deadline for 2017 Beaten's Christmas Annual submissions!!**

⇒ **January 1:** Check your local PBS channel listing, then watch the **premiere episode in the 4th series of the BBC's "Sherlock"**, titled "The Six Thatchers".

⇒ **January 2:** Attend a **reshowing and discussion of the new season's first episode of BBC's "Sherlock"**, titled "The Six Thatchers", **at PFL David & Terri Haugen's** in University Place at **1:00 p.m.** Please bring some munchies to share, if you can!

⇒ **January 15: SOB Vivika Sundqvist** will entertain us with her... *Continued on Page 2*

Volume 35 Issue 12
December, 2016

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Meet Our New Members!!

Joining us in October was:

◆ **Melanie Briganti** of Burien, who found us on the web!

At the *Sherlock* Seattle Convention / Watson Washington in October, we met and recruited:

◆ **Francis Bond** from Australia, here doing research!

◆ **Sondra "Sunny" Even**, new to Bainbridge Island, a recent transplant from Maryland!

◆ **Marlene Lahaise** of Seattle, who was a volunteer at the Con!

◆ **Alexander Snow** of Seattle, who was also a volunteer at the Con!

Joining us in November were:

◆ **Nancy Holder & Mark Mandell** who are new to Port Townsend, whom some of us met at the International Sherlockian Exhibition!

◆ **Terrence Kroeten** of Fremont, NE, whom Haugens met at the Minnesota Conference this past June and who's a pal of long-time SOB Carl Wirth of Omaha!

Warm SOB welcomes to you all!!



location, even mapping info—for the event. Further down on the right-hand side too are direct links to our Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr and Instagram pages!!

Now you can stay completely connected to The Sound of the Baskervilles—any time, any day, any way!



The Seattle Public Library on Queen Anne Hill is at 400 West Garfield



Library opens at 1:00, closes at 5:00. Come early, and catch up with your fellow SOB's!

Getting there:

From north- or southbound I-5, exit at Mercer Street and head west. Turn right on Queen Anne Avenue and head up the hill. At the 3-way stop sign at the top, turn left onto West Galer Street. At 4th Avenue, turn right. The library is one (1) block north on the north-west corner, at the cross with Garfield Street.

Happy Holidays! It's Carbuncle Time!!

The **December 18, 2016** Regular Monthly Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at **1:30 p.m.** at The Seattle Public Library (Queen Anne Branch) at 400 West Garfield, Seattle (*driving directions at left*).

We'll have **our annual study of "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" and a cookie exchange at 1:30 p.m.** at The Seattle Public Library (Queen Anne Branch) at 400 West Garfield, Seattle (*driving directions at left*). Says program-runner **SOB Margie Deck**: "Once again December is upon us and the SOB's will review our much-loved *The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle*. For this annual look at the only Sherlock Holmes Christmas story, we will be watching the Granada Television adaptation of the tale (42 minutes) starring Jeremy Brett and David Burke, followed by a discussion of the quality of the program. One critic has noted this adaptation is "...tightly woven and cleverly adapted from the page...a worthy telling of a classic tale." Do we agree?

Bring your hot chocolate, your cookies, your compliments of the season, and your opinions for some afternoon winter fun!



Two British TV Series on Life in Victorian England

By: **SOB Margaret Nelson**

A current BBC TV living history series is called "The Victorian Slum". The Sunday Times (London) Culture Section of October 9, 2016, reads: "This living history series is less Benefits Street and more a warning about the road to ruin. A group move into a grim recreation of a slum tenement in London's East End to spend three weeks experiencing Victorian poverty. They must earn money to pay for basic needs—becoming odd ghosts in modern London streets as they sell watercress to passers-by—and if they fail, the rent collector will send them to the dosshouse, or worse. Raising issues of job security, medical care and disability, the show illuminates past miseries while acting as a sober reminder of how far society has come and what there is to lose." It is not yet viewable on the internet from the USA, but web notes indicate it has one episode each for the 1860s, 1870s and 1880s.

Another series of Victorian life in the 1840s was made by BBC One in 2015 and all four of its episodes are now viewable on the internet.

You can see a preview at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-32480552>, and by Googling "24 hours in the past" and then scrolling down the selections to "24 Hours in the Past-Video Results", where you can find and watch each of the four episodes

There are several living museums in England and each episode is set in a different one so that the characters are authentically dressed, have real jobs and inhabit actual Victorian buildings. The episodes are set in a dust yard, inn, pottery and workhouse, and the enactors are worked hard. "Common people" had hard lives in Victorian times and you will be fascinated to see what they had to do to survive, without our modern conveniences. Though the series is set in the 1840s, Sherlockians should enjoy getting an insight into life in early Victorian England.



Please Note:

Standard distribution of our monthly newsletter is now **by email!**

Those with **NO** email and those who "opted out" of receiving *Ineffable Twaddle* by email will continue to receive it by snail-mail!!!

If you need to make a change, please contact Editor Terri:

Call: (253) 460-2753

Email: terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com

More...Important SOB Dates into the New Year Continued from Page 1

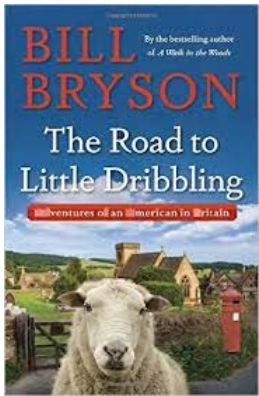
...talk entitled "A Shanksnag of a Maroon-Party". We have no clue if the subject is Sherlockian, Victorian or even Anglican, but it should be fun!!

⇒ **February 19:** As promised, we will again begin **another new cycle in our study of the original Doyle Canon!!** This meeting's agenda will be open discussion on what direction our new study will take. In addition, **SOB Lauran Stevens** will have a new quiz for us: *Identify the story from which her famous Holmes quotes come!!*

The Road to Little Dribbling

From SOB Ann Milam: *I found the following excerpt from The Road to Little Dribbling—which provides a summary of Doyle’s history—particularly well-written and wanted to share it with The SOBs. The full title of this national bestselling tale is The Road to Little Dribbling: Adventures of an American in Britain (Anchor Books, 2015). The author is Bill Bryson, who’s from Des Moines, IA but settled in the U.K. in the late 1970s, and whose other works include A Walk in the Woods, Walk About, A Really Short History of Nearly Everything, and many more! I hope you enjoy this excerpt!*

CHAPTER 7: “INTO THE FOREST”, PAGE 99:



Our destination for the day was Minstead, a village in a glade in the northern part of the forest. Andrew had read that it was a good walk—which it indubitably was, through long stretches of undisturbed forest—and that Minstead had a lovely church. As a bonus, the churchyard contained the grave of Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes.

It was spiritualism that brought Doyle to the New Forest just about a hundred years ago. Spiritualism became curiously popular at that time. Its adherents included not just Arthur Conan Doyle but also the future prime minister Arthur Balfour, the naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace, the philosopher William James, and the renowned chemist Sir William Crookes. By about 1910, Britain contained so many devoted spiritualists that they seriously considered forming a political party. But nobody outdid Doyle for devotion. He wrote some twenty books on spiritualism, became president of the International Spiritualist Congress, and opened a psychic bookshop and museum near Westminster Abbey in London. (The building was destroyed by a bomb in the Second World War. You would think he’d have seen that coming.)

The problem was that even by the elastic and forgiving standards of spiritualism and the paranormal, Doyle’s beliefs grew increasingly loopy. He became convinced that fairies and other woodland sprites were real and wrote a book, The Coming of Fairies, insisting on their existence. Through séances he developed a friendship with an ancient Mesopotamian named Pheneas, who gave him lifestyle guidance and warned him of a coming apocalypse. In the book Pheneas Speaks, Doyle revealed that in 1927 the world would be rocked by floods and earthquakes, and that one of the continents would sink be-

neath the seas. When these events failed to pass, Doyle conceded that Pheneas had got the year wrong (he’d been using a Mesopotamian calendar evidently), but that they would most assuredly happen sometime.

On the advice of Pheneas, Doyle bought a house in Minstead and there passed his days sitting quietly in the woods with a camera waiting hopefully for fairies to emerge (they never did) and his evenings holding séances at which he communicated with Britain’s most eminent dead. Charles Dickens and Joseph Conrad both asked him to finish the novels they had left uncompleted at death, and the recently deceased Jerome K. Jerome, who had mocked Doyle in life, now sent a message through a third party saying: “Tell Arthur I was wrong.” All this Doyle took as incontrovertible vindication of his beliefs. Remarkably, throughout all this Doyle continued to produce his celebrated Sherlock Holmes stories, all based on fastidiously rational thinking, and resisted the temptation, which must have been great, to have the detective call on spiritualism to solve his cases.

In 1930, Doyle died (though in fact spiritualists don’t die; they just get very still apparently) and was buried in the garden of his main home in Crowborough in Sussex. His wife was tipped in beside him when her time came, but in 1955 the house was sold and the new owners weren’t keen on having skeletons cluttering up the garden, so Arthur and his wife were dug up and reinterred in the churchyard of All Saints, Minstead—a move that was not without controversy since spiritualists are not really Christian on account of their dogged refusal to die. Still, it must be said that the Doyles have been in Minstead churchyard for more than half a century and not caused any fuss.



Doyle’s grave at Minstead



**The SOB’s
Electronic Stops**

We’re on the web at:

www.soundofthebaskervilles.com

Like us on

Facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/soundofthebaskervilles)

[soundofthebaskervilles](https://www.facebook.com/soundofthebaskervilles)



Follow us on Twitter at:

twitter.com/SeattleSherlock



Follow us on Tumblr at:

<http://thesoundofthebaskervilles.tumblr.com/>



“Oh, Watson — The Needle!” *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1939)

Source: “Crime Scene” magazine, Issue 1 (2015), an essay by Emma Morgan
—from the column titled “Famous Last Words: The Pithy Sign-offs that Stay with Us, from Screen and Page”

Robert Downey Jr’s Holmes was subtly addicted (Jude Law’s Watson: “You do know what you’re drinking is meant for eye surgery?”) and Benedict Cumberbatch’s Sherlock’s toughest cases are not the “three-pipe problems” of old rather “three-patch problems” (“Impossible to sustain a smoking habit in London these days...”) but Basil Rathbone was never quite so coy.



Twentieth Century Fox’s 1939 adaptation of “*The Hound of the Baskervilles*”—the first in a series of 14 Sherlock Holmes films to co-star Rathbone and Nigel Bruce—ends with a line that sounds as shocking to modern ears

as it surely did 76 years ago. After unmasking the killer (who takes fate into their own hands by attempting an escape across the Grimpen Mire), Sherlock accepts adulation, says goodnight and casually leaves with the words “Oh, Watson—the needle!” (Bruce’s Watson dutifully picks up his kit and follows him, then an enabler.)

Reportedly added to Ernest Pascal’s screenplay by tyrannical Fox studios founder Darryl F. Zanuck—who hand-picked Rathbone for the part and insisted the big-budget film be set in the Victorian period, where the earlier Sherlock features had all been contemporary—it was the first allusion to Holmes’ cocaine habit in any screen adaptation to date. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s detective was first filmed in the 30-second short “*Sherlock Holmes Baffled*” in

1903 then seen in almost 200 movies (albeit mostly short “two-reelers”), none of which had previously broached the topic of his seven-percent-solution use between cases, to stave off boredom. (He dabbled with morphine but, like Sigmund Freud, cocaine was his drug of choice—at least until, as Watson warily reports in the 1904 story “*The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter*”, “I had gradually weaned him from that drug mania which had threatened once to check his remarkable career...but I was well aware that the fiend was not dead, but sleeping”.)



Rathbone’s last line was inevitably censored, having fallen foul of clause 23 of the Hays Code, the set of moral guidelines to which all the studios voluntarily signed up. It wasn’t until 1975 the unexpurgated version of “*The Hound of the Baskervilles*” was seen again, in a fully restored reissue and that Sherlock’s special way of unwinding (“Now if you don’t mind, I’ve had rather a strenuous day, I think I’ll turn in...”) was made plain once more.



Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

⇒ From the Horse’s Mouth, the full scoop on Series 4 of “*Sherlock*” and a Contest!! Hello, Arthur Conan Doyle fans!

By way of a speedy introduction, I do educational outreach for “*Masterpiece*” on PBS and so am alerting you to items of interest:

❶ The Emmy Award-winning drama, “*Sherlock*”, starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman premieres its fourth season Sunday, January 1, 2017 at 9 p.m. ET on “*Masterpiece*” with the first of three 90-minute episodes. The first episode is entitled, “the Six Thatchers”.

❷ Fans of the show may enter the “*Masterpiece*” 2017 Sweepstakes daily from December 15, 2016 through January 31, 2017, for a chance at winning the Emmy-Award winning script for last year’s special, “*The Abominable Bride*”. The script is signed by Benedict Cumberbatch (Holmes), Martin

Freeman (Watson), Andrew Scott (Moriarty), and Mark Gatiss (Mycroft Holmes and “*Sherlock*” co-creator). It comes along with “*Masterpiece*” merchandise including seasons 1 through 3 of “*Sherlock*” on DVD.

❸ Enter daily beginning December 15, 2016 at [pbs.org/sweepstakes](https://www.pbs.org/sweepstakes).

❹ See cast interviews, trailers, and behind the scenes video for the upcoming season of “*Sherlock*” at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/sherlock>

❺ Any questions, please reach out! —Gay Mohrbacher, Senior Project Manager | WGBH Educational Outreach One Guest Street | Boston MA 02135 | (617) 300-5308 | gay_mohrbacher@wgbh.org

Continued on Page 5

Things to See, Buy, Do & Know

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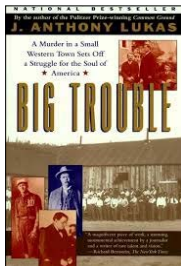
⇒ From SOB VP Kashena Konecki: **Sherlock Seattle Needs our Help!** It's been a cornerstone of good Sherlockian times in Seattle for the last four years! Donate \$1 for every friend you've made, piece of art you've purchased, laugh you've shared, debate you've had, fanfiction author you've met, cosplayer you've marveled at...you get the idea! Go to our website, click on the link to our Facebook page, then check out the posting for November 20 for this worthy fundraising effort! That will take you to *Sherlock Seattle's* fundraising site, or go directly to GoFundMe's site, which is: <https://www.gofundme.com/help-sherlock-seattle>.



⇒ From SOB Ginie Romnes: An unfortunate event occurred in summer of 2014, when the **Seattle Gilbert & Sullivan Society** produced "The Mikado". It was their 10th time doing it; this time there was a huge outcry about it being racist. Anyway the Society is now in financial trouble, and they are asking for donations. So if anyone in our dear club has ever appreciated the Victorian musical plays by Gilbert & Sullivan, it would be great if you could attend a show or join the Society. They will be doing "HMS Pinafore" this season. Please go to their website and check it out: www.patter.org. James and I have taken our kids for many years and really enjoy it. Bryan could sing all the words to "A Modern Major General" when he was 10 or 11. Look up the words; very funny.

⇒ From SOB Stu Nelan, our former Webmaster: The **SOBs new website** looks very nice! Well laid-out, logical (as Holmes would require), and easy to follow. **Nice job, Shannon!!!**

⇒ From SOB Paul Naher: I just love the email format for receiving my copy of *Ineffable Twaddle* each month—it just gets better and better! • BTW, if anyone is interested in reading about **James McParland and the "Big Bill Haywood" trial** mentioned in last month's issue of IT (*see November 2016, Vol. 35, Issue 11, Page 4, "Celebrity Sleuth"*), the book referred to is **Big Trouble** by J. Anthony Lukas (Simon & Schuster). I just bought a copy through Amazon...my "winter" reading! Hope all is well with the SOBs!



⇒ **Seen in Entertainment Weekly (EW):** EW had "**Dr. Strange**" with Benedict Cumberbatch at #10 on their Must List for November 11, saying "It's the trippiest Marvel story yet." In the "Now Playing" column for November 18 they rate it B+ and said, "...what makes it unique is that it's also heady in a way most Marvel movies don't dare to be. It's eye candy and brain candy." **Ed. Note:** Do NOT miss "**Dr. Strange**"—you know Strange will show up in future Marvel iterations!! **SOB Jodi Holm** said it was thrilling the first day in IMAX, **Haugens** saw it too and say it's fun and humorous!

⇒ From SOB Jim Nagle: Tonight (November 11) at 9 on PBS is "Gypsy" with Imelda Staunton, but in the title role is **Lara Pulver—Irene Adler of BBC's Sherlock.**

Happy SOB Pictures



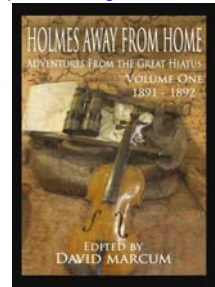
SOB Cameron Brandon explains the rules of his newly developed, *Scrabble-type board game, "Twaddle"*, to **PFL David** and **SOB Ginie Romnes** on Thanksgiving Day.

From SOB Ginie Romnes: *Fake Florida, real dolphins at the Mirage in Vegas*



⇒ **More on Pacific Science Center's "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes":** You already know that the "Exhibition" continues through January 8, right?! But did you know that the Science Center will be **celebrating Holmes' birthday**—his 163rd, natch—on **Friday, January 6 from 6 to 9 p.m.** Says their flyer, "Experience the science of deduction with a drink in hand at the Master Detective's birthday bash. Get exclusive after-hours access to The Exhibition before it closes on January 8!" Get more at: [pacsci.org!](http://pacsci.org)

⇒ From SOB Sonia Featherston, BSI: We all wonder exactly what Sherlock Holmes was up to during the Hiatus years; the Canon gives only a few, tantalizing hints. Now, there's a new two-volume set of books that reveals where Holmes went...the people he met up with...and some new cases he solved between the incident at the Reichenbach Falls and the Master's triumphant return in "The Empty House". **Holmes Away From Home: Adventures from The Great Hiatus** (edited by David Marcum) is a project of Belanger Books backed by Kickstarter. It's coming to mailboxes in time for Christmas. (My short story, "Over the Mountains in the Darkness", was chosen to be the first tale in Vol. 1!) To learn more or to place an order—and to see the amazing cover art—check out this Kickstarter link: <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1306925656/holmes-away-from-home-adventures-from-the-great-hi>. Or, go to www.belangerbooks.com for info about this and other Sherlockian titles.



⇒ **Picked this up at Sherlock Seattle Con's "Watson Washington" meeting:** They call themselves the **NorCal Sherlockians** and we met some of them at Watson Washington in October. We alerted **Bay Area SOB Ann Deussenberry** about their meet-up on November 27, and now we see they've got a holiday meet-up planned for December 11. If you'll be in San Francisco, get details at: <http://norcalsherlockians.tumblr.com/>



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By appointment of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria

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A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since March 31, 1980
Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, USA

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Will Crakes Memorial Jollification, Saturday, December 3, 1:00, the home of Carrol Clemens in Federal Way

Regular Monthly Meeting, Sunday, December 18, 1:30 p.m. at Queen Anne Library, Seattle
See details on Page 2!

Deadline for 2017 Beaten's Christmas Annual submissions!!

Saturday, December 31!
Questions? Email Editor Terri (see above)!

Premiere episode of series 4 of BBC's "Sherlock"!!
Sunday, January 1!
Check local PBS listings.

Reshowing & discussion of new season's first ep of "Sherlock", Monday, January 2, 1:00 at Haugens' in University Place
Driving directions will be in the January issue.

Member News & Notes

SOBs attending our November 20, 2016 Meeting, presided over by **SOB VP Kashena Konecki**, were:

Margaret Nelson	Marcia Marcy
Shannon Wallace	Margie Deck
Sheila Holtgrieve	Francis Bond
Jean Macdonald	Al Nelson
Lauran Stevens	Hank Deck
Melinda Michaelson	Sunny Evens
Chris "Bear" Berwald	John Bagby
Sonia Featherston, BSI	Donna Bagby

- Reports **Kashena**: The meeting went really well—lots to report, lots of fun! Several new members came—**Sunny, Francis, Melanie**—and the games were great, if a bit disorganized. **Sonia** was there with hubby **Ben**; she said we made it into the *Sydney Passengers'* newsletter. It was a pretty full meeting, and we had to add an extra table. Every one seemed to enjoy the spiced cider I brought. 'Tis the season! ☆ Absent were **PFL David & Editor Terri**, as David had complications from surgery the prior week!

- Meeting-runner **Margie** had a quiz wherein horses were advanced on a simulated race track for this "study" of SHOS, by correctly answering a question about this tale of death, old bones, financial straits, dogs, ruses, and horses. Check out the photo posted on our Instagram page at: <https://www.instagram.com/soundofthebaskervilles/>

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 the 3rd Sunday of each month. Location of the meetings may vary.

Regularly scheduled additional events throughout the year include: "The Masters' Dinner" celebrating the meeting of Holmes and Watson (March), "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 or to renew your membership, send your check for dues—\$20 for individuals, \$30 for families (U.S. funds only)—to the address shown at left.

- **Lauran** then had everyone attending suggest their gift-giving ideas in answer to her question: *What Christmas present would you give to a Sherlockian character?* Lauran's own gift to Holmes: an air purifier—to get rid of those nasty chemical and tobacco smells! Shannon happily logged everyone's suggestions, which we will feature in the 2017 issue of our Beaten's Christmas Annual, coming out in March!!



Don't miss our Annual Will Crakes Memorial Jollification Saturday, December 3 at 1:00 p.m. at SOB Carrol Clemens home in Federal Way!

Driving Directions to Carrol's Home:

From I-5 north- or southbound, exit in Federal Way at S.W. 320th Street and head west. After passing through intersections at 21st Ave. S.W. and 26th Ave. S.W., turn left on S.W. 323rd Street. Then take the first left on 33rd Avenue S.W. Clemens' home will be on your right at 32148—33rd Avenue S.W. If you need further, call Carrol at (253) 838-1790.