

The Benevolent Order of Scurrilious Monks

Abbot's Report

Winter Solstice, 2003

Brother Clevenstein Returns to Georgia

After a fourteen year absence, Brother Clevenstein will be returning to the Georgia Renaissance Festival this Spring. The last time he was there, in 1989, he was the Georgia Renaissance Festival's Site Manager. He distinguished himself and achieved monkhood by opening up the site crew's shop to the general populace thereby providing a flush toilet, a bathtub and a kitchen sink for dozens of impoverished tent dwellers. This year, he'll be returning as a Sturdy Beggar, a



far more lucrative position. He'll also be performing with the Sturdy Beggars at the North Carolina Renaissance Festival in the fall. He is currently in Texas, working for a building contractor. When he finishes there, he'll be off to the Arizona Renaissance Festival where he'll be working on expanding the wax glove business. He'll also be expanding the wax glove business in North Carolina later this year. Both of those wax glove booths are owned by his business associate, Jamie. The wax glove shop at the Bristol Renaissance Festival in Wisconsin is Brother Clevenstein's very own and he'll be adding a "make your own candle" feature there. Brother Clevenstein has earned the Benevolent Order's undying gratitude for being the driving force behind Weenie Roasts in Arizona and Wisconsin for as long as anyone can remember.

Abbot's Report on the WWW

For the first time in our 25 year history, this *Abbot's Report* will be published for world wide distribution. Our website, boosm.org is so easy to navigate that you don't even need to type the <http://www> to get there. One has only to type boosm.org into one's browser and one is immediately blasted out into cyberspace and directly through the portal which leads to our virtual monastery. Brother Geek (Joni Massengale) has recently added a couple of other new features. The Internal Revenue Service asked us to post our approved application for tax exempt status and we are also offering everyone and anyone an opportunity to donate money to our treasury without having to risk the hazards of handling

flu infested paper money. We would also like to include links to the sites of all Scurrilious Monks who have their own web sites. This serves one of our stated corporate services namely, that of promoting the arts. Scurrilious Monks who would like to have a link to their site posted at boosm.org should send an E mail to brothergeek@boosm.org. More importantly, if you have a website that you *don't* want us to link to, you should send an E mail to the same aforementioned address.

Kristy King Klimbs Kilimanjaro!!!

The alliteration was too tempting to pass up. Brother Sister Frances climbed Africa's highest mountain this year. That in itself was a major accomplishment. More importantly, as the



picture shows, once she got to the top, she claimed Mount Kilimanjaro for the Benevolent Order of Scurrilious Monks. She may also be the most sought after and prolific sign painter in Renaissance Festival history.

Jim Peterson Dodges Bullets!!

It looked as if Jim Peterson was going to have a bad year. His corporation, Mid America Festivals, operates Renaissance Faires in Florida, Minnesota, Michigan and Kansas. Not long ago, they lost their lease in Sarasota at the Ringling Brothers Museum of Art. That festival had been going on for more than 25 years. This year it looked as if they were going to lose their leases in Kansas, Minnesota and Largo, Florida. Apparently, they managed to renew the lease in Minnesota. They also managed to extend the lease in Bonner Springs, Kansas for five years on the condition that they build a million dollar restaurant on the property owned by the Wyandotte County Parks Department. The City of Largo, Florida was not as forgiving. The City Council decided that they wanted to expand their library and parking lot onto the property which has been home to the Bay Area Renaissance Festival for the past twenty five years. According to an article from the Tampa Tribune, *The Bay Area Renaissance Festival (BARF) is expected to relocate from Largo to a wooded area on the*

property of the Museum of Science & Industry in spring 2004..... Hillsborough County Deputy Administrator Pat Bean, who serves on the MOSI board, said the land is county-owned and MOSI sought the county's approval of the use. The county was not involved in recruiting Peterson and his company. In a letter to the county, Ostrenko states: "The festival attracts 90,000 visitors to the Largo location and should do equally as well. ... The attendance and the \$14 million economic impact to Pinellas [County] can be far exceeded at the MOSI location." It turns out that Jim Peterson wasn't having such a bad year after all. We'll be interested to see if he can build a new festival in Tampa and a new million dollar restaurant in Kansas.

Abbot Still Sober!!

Our abbot served the Duke of Budweiser faithfully and enthusiastically for more than twenty five years. During that



time, he estimates that he spent more than fifty thousand dollars on beer and beer related accessories and activities. This coming New Year's Eve, our abbot will be celebrating five years of freedom from the oppressive slavery of alcoholism. The battle is ongoing. The demon continues to whisper seductively into our abbot's ear.

Anticipating a Monastic Renaissance

Historically, a problem that has always plagued monks is that once they have achieved a state of cosmic consciousness, they no longer want to bother with anything else. The inner dimensions tend to become more interesting and compelling than worldly, pragmatic concerns. Eventually, they become so powerful that governments are forced to do away with them. Even religious orders that practice strict self defense disciplines are unable to defend themselves once the spears and arrows and bullets start flying. The notion of shooting back has already become too repulsive.

Modern engineers and quantum physicists are fooling around with wires that are 1/1000th the size of a human hair. They can manipulate particles on a sub atomic level. Amputees can already control prosthetic devices using the power of thought. It is only a matter of time before people can connect their brains to super computers and to other people's brains. Once this technology becomes widely available, sudden enlightenment might be achieved almost immediately, especially if they throw a few shamans, mullahs and gurus into the mix. It would be best if we could have some monasteries up and running before this transformation takes place. Later on, it might not seem that urgent. During the 1940's fifties and sixties, the Chinese Communist Party executed millions of monks who had very strong opinions on the subject of reincarnation. If we build the monasteries, they will come.

Only a jock would surmise that the voices were referring to baseball stadiums.

"That which was hidden shall be revealed." On November 3, 2003, ABC TV aired a documentary entitled, "Jesus, Mary and Leonardo." The secrets that our abbot has been talking about for years have finally been disseminated to the masses. Sometime around 325 AD, the leaders of the early Christian church got together in Constantinople to decide which books to include in the Christian Bible. Not only did they edit out the Gospels according to Philip and Mary Magdalene, they did their best to see to it that all existing copies were burned. It looked as if they had been fairly successful in their efforts until 16 centuries later, when a shepherd boy found copies of 12 ancient texts buried in a clay jar in a cave. Perhaps the most startling revelation comes from the Gospel according to Philip. . . . *the companion of the [Savior is] Mary Magdalene. [But Christ loved] her more than [all] the disciples, and used to kiss her [often] on her [mouth]. The rest of [the disciples were offended] . . . They said to him, "Why do you love her more than all of us?" The Savior answered and said to them, "Why do I not love you as (I love) her?"* Quite suddenly, the tenets of celibacy and abstinence have come into question. One of the greatest impediments to the renaissance of monasticism has been removed. Celibacy can no longer be considered a Christ like virtue. Brother Donald calls upon another famous religious leader, Pope John Paul, to send a few Cardinals or Bishops down into the catacombs to find a complete copy of the Gospel According to Mary Magdalene and to release it to the public.

At the last meeting of our Board of Trustees, we agreed to begin visualizing the acquisition of property adjacent to Renaissance Festivals. The possibility exists that the reason why so many of us have been drawn into a 16th century environment is that we want to become aware of where our modern society first started to go wrong. King Henry VIII destroyed hundreds of monasteries and killed thousands of monks all over England. When the monasteries disappeared, educational and military institutions became the main alternatives for young men entering adulthood. The results are now manifested. Highly educated business leaders now use military weapons of destruction to achieve their corporate goals. The remaining religious institutions are not powerful enough to maintain a compassionate moral balance. Now that the Benevolent Order has been granted tax exempt status, we can start thinking about owning some real estate. We can start riding the impending wave of the monastic renaissance by building one monastery adjacent to one renaissance festival. If that turns out well, we can think about building another one

Request for News Nets the Following:

On December 15, our abbot sent an E mail request to cyber enhanced monks for bits of news to include in this *Abbot's Report*. As expected, the vast majority of recipients ignored the request but our abbot was delighted to find that there are still a certain percentage of monks who will compulsively reply to every E mail that they receive. Here's what we got:

Brother Geek Clicks!

A photo by Brother Geek (Joni Massengale) will be published in the April issue of *Photographic Magazine* as part of their

"Point and Shoot Self-Assignment" feature. The photo was



taken as she left a racing-related press conference at the North Carolina Air National Guard this past January. "I was really in the right place at the right time for this one!"

Brother Emeritus Does Dickens!

Dear Abbott,

I am pleased to report I put together a cd for my Dickens fest this year. It is a real Holiday treat! A Scarlett Rat Entertainment production of a James R Greene adaptation of Charles Dickens' immortal redemption tale. *A Christmas Carol The Radio Play* is available now from me. It is a fund raiser so it costs \$15.00. Free shipping for monks. It will air Christmas Eve and Day on Y94 FM from Syracuse NY. Other than that, things are pretty good...



Love, Brother Emeritus

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"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

--*A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens

Jim Greene

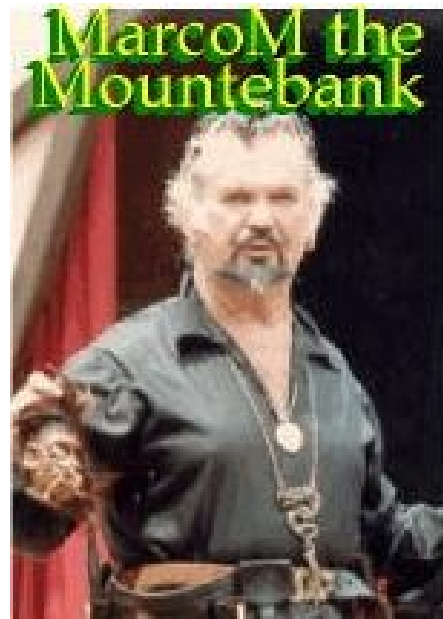
Scarlett Rat Entertainment

<http://www.ScarlettRat.com>

Brother Reverend Doctor Merlin Gets A Gold Star!!!

There are a couple of things that might be worth posting. I have started my own publishing company. I'm publishing magic books. The first one is one by Ralph MarcoM, called Lord of Legerdemain, the Renaissance Magick of MarcoM the

Mountebank. It is the first book that is devoted entirely to how



to be a Renaissance Festival magician. I have also published a book called Sheherazade. It is a translation of a book by the German magician Ulf Bolling -Borodin. The German version of the book won the author of the year award from the Magic Circle of Germany in the year 2000. My publishing company is called Adesso Verlag. The web site is www.adessooverlag.com.

In June of this year, the Magic Circle of London promoted me to Member of the Inner Magic Circle with Gold Star. This is their highest rank. Their charter permits them to have a maximum of 300 MIMC's at any one time. That's about it from down here.

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Bill Palmer, M.I.M.C.

AAFOUF# 000084

Brother Hermes Doesn't Have Much News!!!

Happy Holidays Donald. Not much new here - I've decided to experience "winter" by spending a few weeks in NY and PA. So far I've been in two blizzards - great fun!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Ran into Ray St. Louis, Gordy and Jim Green (among others) at the



Skaeneatles (sp?) Dickens Fest. Hanging out with Gary Izzo and the Nuns. Not really postable news. But I thought you might like the fact that I've turned my back on clement weather for the inclement type. Be well. Brother Hermes

Nicolo and Whimsey Returning to Scarborough Faire???

No new news for the Abbotts report, but we miss you and want you to come visit Oakey Dokey! Life is good; we're doing a lot of Christmas shows and keeping busy. We will



actually be visiting Scarborough at the end of March/beginning April [off season] for a couple of days since we are getting a one month Amtrak pass to go to my cousin's wedding in CO. We haven't been there in over 10 years! We went to a Simon and Garfunkel concert tonight in DC and they sang *Scarborough Faire*, and I held Joanne's hand and thought about how we were sweethearts there. We had some good times there, boy howdy! How you doin? Glad to hear from you. Peace and granola, Nick

Brother Francis Chills in the Desert!!!

Stayed in ToonTown after the Texas festival doing electrical installations and one property line survey. Dec 12th, went to Austin. Spent the evening at the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar, socializing. Afterwards, got back on the road westbound.



Arrived in Tucson, evening of 15th. I plan to spend time in the desert before the campground opens in mid-January at Arizona Renaissance Festival. Br.Francis

Brother Mutha (Al Olson) gave us some pretty posters last winter while we were in Ft. Lauderdale.



SAY IT! ONE NATION *UNDER GOD!*
SAY YOU LOVE JESUS! *SAY IT!*

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTRY OF HOMELAND SECURITY