

The Benevolent Order of Scurrilious Monks

Abbot's Report

Summer Solstice, 2014

BOOSM 50

The filename of this *Abbot's Report* is BOOSM50. It is the 50th *Abbot's Report*. *Abbot's Reports* are published and distributed two times a year, on the Winter and Summer Solstices. Welcome to the 25th anniversary issue of The *Abbot's Report*.

Roxi is a Rock Star!

Brother Mutha (Al Olson) published three books in 2013 and is currently working on two more. The major work in progress is the long awaited history of American renaissance faires. Our Abbot had the pleasure of chatting with Al at The Norman Medieval Faire in April. After years of diligent research, Al has made some important new contacts and he has unearthed several hitherto unheard of stories from the early years of the renaissance faire industry. No matter how much you think you know about renaissance faires, you are guaranteed to learn much more once the book finally becomes available. Sunday evening after the Medieval Faire, Al visited with our Abbot for a couple of hours at The Golden Corral and in a motel room across the street. Our Abbot had the chance to read all three of the recently published Roxi books. All three



books are beautifully written and designed photo essays depicting adventures that Smee and his granddaughter, Roxi, have experienced at different renaissance faires. The first is entitled *Roxi and her Favorite Executioner Visit*



Scarborough. The second, which takes place at The Colorado Renaissance Festival, is *Roxi Spends a Day with the Knights*. The third book is called, *Roxi and Smee Visit The Minnesota Renaissance Festival*. A fourth Roxi book, set at The Florida Renaissance Festival, is in the works. The photographs have been taken and the story that goes with them has been created. It will be available soon on Amazon.com along with the other three:

[http://www.amazon.com/Al-](http://www.amazon.com/Al-Olson/e/B00JG7IBLI/ref=ntt_athr_dp_pel_1#)

[Olson/e/B00JG7IBLI/ref=ntt_athr_dp_pel_1#](http://www.amazon.com/Al-Olson/e/B00JG7IBLI/ref=ntt_athr_dp_pel_1#) The first three books can be purchased for only \$9.40 a piece. All renaissance faire enthusiasts will enjoy these books and they will be especially fascinating for little girls. If they are ever picked up and promoted by a major publisher, they will instantly become best selling children's classics.

Brother Sister Hosts KC Burlesque Festival!

Brother Sister (Gale Tallis) is the Executive Director of the Folly Theater in Kansas City, MO. The historic theater first opened more than a hundred years ago in 1900. The theater was restored and reopened in 1981. This year, in

the merry month of May, The Folly hosted the 4th annual Kansas City Burlesque Festival. Burlesque Legend Tempest Storm, now 86 years old, returned as a Judge for the 2014 Queen of Kansas City Burlesque competition.



She had danced with Walter Cronkite at the 1981 grand reopening of the theater. At this year's festival, Gale presented her with a photograph to commemorate that event. You can find out what else is going on at the Folly by visiting their impressive website, www.follytheater.org.

Jim Peterson Snags Another Faire!

The Greater St. Louis Renaissance Faire opened in 1999 in Wentzville, Missouri. Renaissance St. Louis was a non profit educational organization dedicated to the history of the 14th to the 16th century of Europe. Most of the participants, including the staff, were volunteers. This year, the faire was taken over by Jim Peterson and Mid America Festivals. Initial reports have been positive. Management's emphasis shifted from education to entertainment. For the first time in the faire's 16 year history, substantial amounts of money were spent on advertising. Attendance records were broken. If the growth continues, as is anticipated, the show may soon need a new location. Mid America Festivals also operates renaissance faires in Florida, Michigan, Kansas and Minnesota. The Minnesota Renaissance Festival may also be needing a new location. The property where the festival has operated since 1974 is also home to a company that quarries limestone, gravel and silica sand. Silica sand has

recently increased in value. Parts of The Minnesota Renaissance Festival's parking lot have become sand and



gravel pits. The front gate is no longer accessible from the main parking lot. Craftspeople have been assured, in writing, that the festival will continue to operate in its current location until at least 2016 but sooner or later, relocation seems unavoidable.

Tempest in a Teapot?

There has been plenty of conversation and speculation going on amongst the participants of the New York Renaissance Faire in Tuxedo, New York. New York State officials have grown weary of seeing money flowing out of New York and into casinos in Atlantic City, New Jersey. They have decided that New York should have some casinos of its own. The State has made licenses available for four casinos. 22 applications with the required \$1 million application fees were submitted to a state gambling panel in April. About 12 are for the Catskills and Hudson Valley region. A Malaysian corporation, Genting Group, wants to build their casino on the land currently occupied by the New York Renaissance Faire and the Tuxedo Ridge Ski Center. They want to continue to operate the renaissance faire and the ski center but they have plans to build some enhancements. They want to add two hotels, a casino, some restaurants, a botanical garden, and three new festivals in the spring, summer and fall to supplement the summertime renaissance faire. They also plan to build a tram to bring visitors to the top of Tuxedo Ridge, some zip lines, hiking, biking and motorcycle trails, and a world-class spa. They plan to spend 25 million dollars to build a new highway interchange on the New York State Thruway and a new

road directly from the Thruway to the site. The total cost of the project is expected to be somewhere around 750 million dollars. Genting Group says that their Sterling Forest Resort would create 2,000 new jobs averaging \$50,000 a year and it would more than double the tax base of the Town of Tuxedo. The Town of Tuxedo has already written a letter of support for the project in spite of many objections from local residents. Now the decision is up to the State of New York. It would seem that the Tuxedo site has less than a 20% chance of being chosen but people in the gambling business often find ways to improve their odds. Renaissance Entertainment Productions, the company that currently runs the fair along with two other fairs in California and Wisconsin, has issued the following statement on their website in response to the news: "The New York Renaissance Faire is in the midst of making numerous improvements — including the addition of a new stage and dozens more performers — as we look ahead to a crowd-pleasing 2014 season. We look forward to spending many years entertaining our loyal customers and to continuing our longtime outstanding relationship with the local community." The State of New York will be announcing their choices for the sites of their new casinos sometime this fall.

Snowden Leaks Reveal a Surprise for Abbot!

Four Star General Keith Alexander became head of the National Security Agency in 2005. He retired on March 28, 2014. During his time at the NSA, he presided over a massive build up of cyber data collection capabilities. Under his leadership, the NSA began intercepting and collecting all of the Emails, all of the Facebook posts, all of the internet traffic all of the phone calls and much, much more from all over the world. After whistle blower Edward Snowden revealed the extent of American spying capabilities, Alexander was interviewed on the TV news program *60 Minutes*. Our Abbot knew a kid named Keith Alexander when he was a wee lad. He had wondered if the Keith Alexander he had known as a child might have been the same guy who grew up to become America's top spy. A little research on Wikipedia revealed that General Alexander had been born on December 2, 1951 in Syracuse, New York. Exactly two months later, on February 2, 1952, our Abbot was also born in Syracuse, New York, probably in the same hospital. A few years later, an Alexander family built a house at the end of an uninhabited gravel road near Manlius, New York. That house was a two minute walk from the house where our Abbot grew up. Donnie Heller and Keithy Alexander

played together as children. After the interview aired on *60 Minutes*, our Abbot dug up his first grade class photo from 1958. Much to his surprise, he found his six year old self sitting cross legged on the floor with his hands folded in his lap next to Keithy Alexander. Here is a picture of General Alexander from his appearance on *60*



Minutes. Below it is a crop from the first grade class photo with Keith Alexander on the left. A close inspection of the ears and the eyes seems to confirm that recently retired Four Star General Keith Alexander is indeed the same guy who used to bully our Abbot as a child.

Brother Goddess Has a New Home!

Back in September of 2011, wildfires devastated much of Bastrop County in Texas. Among those whose homes were destroyed were Brother Dollface (Kandra Niagra) and Brother Goddess (Keridwyn Hershberger). Brother Dollface managed to rebuild bigger and better fairly quickly. It took Brother Goddess a little bit longer. Keridwyn applied for and won a government grant to help her with the reconstruction. There were delays caused by bureaucratic boondoggles and government red tape but once the construction finally started, the new house went up quickly. By Valentines Day last February, all of the papers had been signed and Keridwyn and her son, Evan, moved into their new home. An interesting photo album depicting the burnt out ruins and the construction of the



new house can be found here:

https://www.facebook.com/keridwynh/media_set?set=a.10200701281362764.1073741825.1483272562&type=1

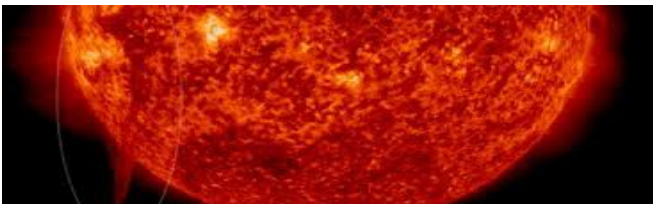
Bro RoMo is in the Wind

After many years, Bro RoMo (Ron Moses) is moving out of Texas. He'll be taking his autistic son, Lukario, and his dog, Wolfen, along with him. Lukario was 14 when he moved in with Bro RoMo. The two were practically unacquainted. Lukario is now 20 years old. His father will be turning 69 in July. Lately, Moses has been up on a ladder painting a house in the Texas sunshine. Upon completion of that job, he'll be receiving a Town and Country mini van as part of his payment for the work. His first stop will be Atlanta, Georgia where he'll be visiting a friend who has leukemia. From there, he plans to head north to escape the summer heat. He may end up in upstate New York.

From Brother Francis (David Doyle):

MUTANT ASTROLOGER SURVIVES HUGE SOLAR FILAMENT COLLAPSE

Ignores warnings about an old fart close to sources of ignition. <http://thewatchers.adorraeli.com/2014/06/05/huge-solar-filament-collapses-hyder-flare-june-4-2014/>



QUAOAR ALIGNS WITH GALACTIC CENTER

Planet Quaoar differs from other Kuiper Belt (trans-Neptunian) objects which have extremely elliptical orbits.

Its orbit is the most circular of all known orbiting bodies.

See <http://www.boosm.org/francis/quaoar.html>

Quaoar is now within 1.5 degrees of alignment between the Sun and Galactic Center.

On June 16-17, 2014, the Earth passes between the Sun and Quaoar in alignment with Galactic Center.

December 18-19, 2014, the Earth aligns on the far side of the Sun with Quaoar and Galactic Center

In June of 2015, Quaoar will be exactly in alignment from the Sun to Galactic Center.

On June 18, 2015, the Earth passes between the Sun and Quaoar in exact alignment with Galactic Center.

Brother Run a Monk Survives a Vicious Attack!

Brother Run a Monk (Ranger Ric) is currently quite ill and feverish after having been bitten by a black widow spider. He is being nursed back to health by his wife, Jaclyn, and is expected to make a full recovery.

Obituaries

Last January, our Abbot rode on commercial airliners for the first time



since he was discharged from the army forty years ago. Brother Lee's (Ashley Nichols') father, Jerry Nichols, died in Daytona Beach, Florida on January 14 at the age of 64. Jerry had built and operated mazes and games at renaissance faires for more than thirty years. Jerry had been suffering from ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) for several years. Brother Lee piloted his boat

out into the Atlantic Ocean with a crew comprised of 7 of Jerry's friends and family members. Jerry had been cremated and his ashes were in an urn made of Himalayan salt. Our Abbot spoke some words as a whale surfaced nearby and Ashley dropped the ocean soluble urn into the briny deeps. A pelican flew alongside the boat on its way back to shore. In spite of the somber occasion, Our Abbot enjoyed meeting and eating with members of the Nichols family during his unexpected trip to Florida.

During a European vacation, Sharon Tysseling suffered multiple aneurysms and she died on Sunday, May 18, at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota. She was 62 years old at the time of her death. Sharon and her husband Mark had operated food booths at renaissance fairs for more than thirty years.



Edward B. Hutto died from COPD some time around his 72nd birthday on Friday the 13th of June, 2014.

Renaissance Pleasure Faire creator Phyllis Patterson, of Novato, California, died on May 18th, 2014, at the age of 82. It was the closing day of this year's southern California show. Phyllis opened the very first Renaissance Faire in America on May 11th-12th, 1963 in North Hollywood, California. Little did she know that she was birthing an industry which would provide careers for thousands of soon to be rennies. Her influence on American history has been greater than most people can imagine.

