Benevolent Order of Scurrilious Monks

Abbot's Report

Summer Solstice 2024

TRF on HBO

George Coulam has some eccentricities and unusual sexual proclivities but our Abbot respects him as an artist who created two of the largest and most successful renaissance festivals in the world. There's a story about him in the latest ***New Yorker*** Magazine. The story tells about a new Home Box Office series that portrays King

George as a crotchety old sadistic pervert. The three part "docu-series" started on June 2 and concluded on June 9. All three episodes are currently streaming on HBO max. Our Abbot doesn't subscribe to HBO max and, in fact, doesn't own a television so he has not seen the reality based show. He has read that the series focuses on the story of the 86 year old owner of the Texas Renaissance Festival as he considers retirement. At least three of his employees are vying for his crown. Viewers hoping to see scenes of the actual arts, entertainment and scenery at the Texas Renaissance Festival may be disappointed. Managers of other renaissance faires have been quick to distance themselves from the raucous, raunchy and rowdy festival in Todd Mission. They say that drunkenness, debauchery and semi nudity will never be seen at their family oriented renaissance faires. They don't mention that they will also never see 50,000 people coming through their front gates in a single day. The HBO docu-series has been highly rated and it is popular and entertaining. Judging by comments on social media, several rennies hate it for various reasons. Those interested in reading a more sympathetic and accurate story of the life and achievements of King George can find it in ***The History of the American Renaissance Festival*** by Al Olson, available here: https://smeebuchs.square.site/

Eclipse in Makanda

Our Abbot traveled to Makanda, Illinois to view the solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. The event had been promoted on the CBS evening news and people showed up from all over. As expected, Brother DayVO (Dave Dardis) threw an excellent party. He says that nearly everyone who lives in Makanda has worked at one renaissance faire or another. Three bands played music all day long and there were plenty of clean porta potties. Our Abbot enjoyed some time sitting on a bench on the Makanda boardwalk with Brother It's Hot (Jerry Leaders). Jerry had been in Makanda for the first half of the Eclipse

Crossroad back in 2017 and he came back for the second half in 2024. Our Abbot could not recall having seen Jerry since way before the turn of the century. Then he

disappeared as mysteriously as he had appeared. He lives in North Carolina now, near the Carolina Renaissance Faire where he blows glass as ***Leaders in Glass***. Our Abbot viewed the total eclipse from the balcony over the boardwalk. Then ***The Snowbird Street Band*** played Auld Lang Syne. He spent a second night sleeping in his Odyssey on Rocky Top Lane with his new abandoned stray dog, Sally. They drove back across the Mississippi to the safety of the Ozarks the day after the eclipse. The musicians had had to re tune their instruments after the eclipse. The frequencies of the vibrations had changed.

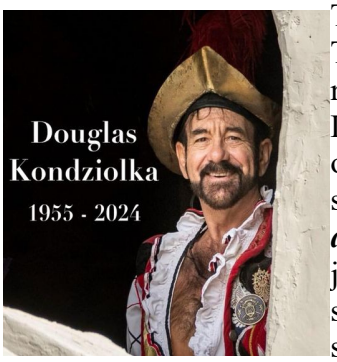
Rhonnie Rules

Brother Lemonade (Rhonni DuBose) and her husband Tall Phil were our Abbot's next door neighbors in the

campground at the New York Renaissance Faire for several years. Rhonni is one of those Type A geniuses who works all the time. Her hair braiding, Lemonade and Building Coordinating businesses were all successful but she has, by now, progressed to a higher level. Her seven figure renaissance festival income qualifies hes as a Festival Expert. Three years ago, she created a Facebook group called “Mavens and Moguls Guild”. It's a discussion group for renaissance festival owners and managers. We know that the group has 79 members but since the group is private, we can only imagine who those members are or what they might be discussing. In addition to organizing the elite ruling class, she is also sharing her expertise with the peasantry. She is offering one on one renaissance faire business consultations with options ranging from a ten minute free consultation up to a full year of working together. She is also offering a class to guide festival merchants and another class that will teach people how to manage their personal credit cards and build capital for their businesses. And she's ready to offer advice to help builders and designers as they create beautiful Renaissance Fair structures. Her consultation services can be accessed here: **https://rhonni.com/link-in-bio/** Rhonni has also been producing lots of vlogs lately. They offer loads of free advice for renaissance professionals and wannabes and they can be found on her Rhonni Rocks page: **https://www.facebook.com/RhonniRocks**. Her Queen's Pantry bakery business at the Texas Renaissance Festival expanded to include an upstairs Tea Room. High Tea is served every afternoon from 3 o'clock until 5 o'clock. The Tea Room has been so successful that many of the teas served there are now available for purchase online. They can be found here along with a plethora of tea related information: https://trftea.com/shop/ She also makes an appearance in the aforementioned ***Ren Faire*** HBO docu-series. Our Abbot would not be surprised to see her become the real inheritor of King George's crown. It's hard to say what Brother Lemonade might be up to next. Even Tall Phil says he can't keep up with her.

Obituaries

Our Abbot told stories at King Richard's Faire in Wisconsin in the early 1980s. Every day, a large group of sword fighters would come running past ***Story Time*** with our future friend Ed Buck lumbering along behind.



They were ***The Ring of Steel***. Two members of that band of ruffians, Jose Granados and Doug Kondziolka, soon went on to become the comedy sword fighting duo ***Don Juan and Miguel***. Doug was a jongleur, a poet, a writer, a sword fighter, an indefatigable street performer and a friend to nearly everyone. We wrote about Brother Shakey Jake's

(Mark Reed's) wife in the last ***Abbot's Report***. She died the next month, in January. Our Abbot met Jeff Bennyhof

(Jeffrey Pennywhistle) at the ill fated Silver Leaf Renaissance Faire. He died on February 23. Pray for Peace.