

The Benevolent Order of Scurrilious Monks

Abbot's Report

Summer Solstice, 2006

Brother Ronald is Deader Than a Doornail!

On February 1, 2006, Brother Ronald joined Brother Al, Brother Hobart and Brother Turd on the other side. What a merry band they must be. What a bunch of characters.

People often ask us, what does "Scurrilious" mean? When we look "Scurrilious" up in the unabridged dictionary, we will find a picture of Brother Ronald next to the definition. Brother Ronald claimed to have been an Air Force fighter pilot and a prisoner of war during the Korean conflict. Most of us believe that this was probably true although none who knew him well would ever bet money on anything that he told us. Brother Ronald had a Storyteller's License. It was always more important for the story to be interesting than it was for the story to be truthful. When we first met Brother Ronald, he was a willow furniture maker who lived in a camper on the back of a pick up truck. (Here he is sharing his furniture with some of his peeps in Houston.) Although he was a pretty good

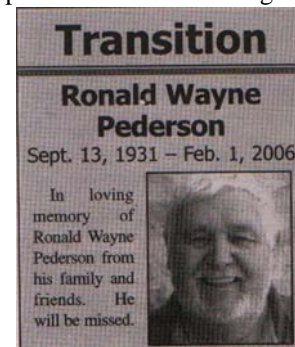


furniture maker, he was better known as a rounder, a rogue, a roustabout and a womanizer. Many of us were mystified by his ability to continually seduce beautiful women. It resulted from a combination of dogged determination, unflinching good humor and blustering self confidence. So when he finally managed to marry his soon to be long suffering wife Nancy, who subsequently bought him a beautiful big house near Eureka Springs, Arkansas, none of us



were too surprised. Not long after, Brother Ronald became one of the major promoters of the Camelot fiasco. The picture shows Brother Donald, Brother Ozark, Brother Clevenstein and Brother Ronald on the site of the never to be built Camelot Brewery. Entertainers were lured in with the promise of year round employment and artists and craftspeople were enticed with promises of flushing toilets in every shop. People quit their jobs and sold their houses to move to Camelot. On opening day, Brother Ronald told Brother Donald, "Nobody thought that I could ever have my own Renaissance Faire but I've proved them all wrong. Here it is!" Three weeks later, when Camelot went belly up, Brother Ronald was singing a different tune. "I was never one of the major stockholders, I just had a very small piece of the pie. It was the guys with the money who screwed everything up!"

Ron's most recent brush with fame came in the Summer of '04 when the Eureka Springs newspaper published a story about one of his boating adventures. Ron had convinced his friend David Caudill to take a fishing trip with him on the King's River in his flat bottomed boat. The water level being low, they soon broke the propeller off of their trolling motor. While



attempting to pull the boat over dozens of shoals, they fell on sharp rocks and into deep pools. They were rescued at sometime around 2AM by members of the Arkansas Fish and Game Department and others from the Madison County Search and Rescue Team. In a thank you note written to the Search and Rescue Team, Mr. Caudill wrote, "Mr. Pederson & I somehow remain close friends." Many of us felt the same way. Brother Ronald had use for neither guilt nor remorse and we like to believe that he remained thoroughly unrepentant up until the very end. God Bless Brother Ronald.

Brother Swallow, (Johnny Fox) brought another recent death to our attention. Will Jones died sometime last winter. According to Johnny, Will visited Brother Billious' (Bill Jezzard's) wife Debby

on his way out. Mrs. Jezzard, who was unaware of the death, reports that she was asleep in her bed somewhere in Bali when Will Jones kissed her on the cheek, waved goodbye and flew off into a bright light.

Brother Scribe Set to Graduate!!

Having successfully completed an intensive 10-month program at Massage Therapy Training Institute, Ellen (Brother SCRIBE) Westfield will be graduating with a LMT and NCMT in later August of this year.

She has not decided where she will be practicing but is considering travel (like most rennies).



M. Ellen Westfield (Brother SCRIBE) is at brandy2rising@yahoo.com and still available by calling 972-935-9961.

BOOSM Web Site News

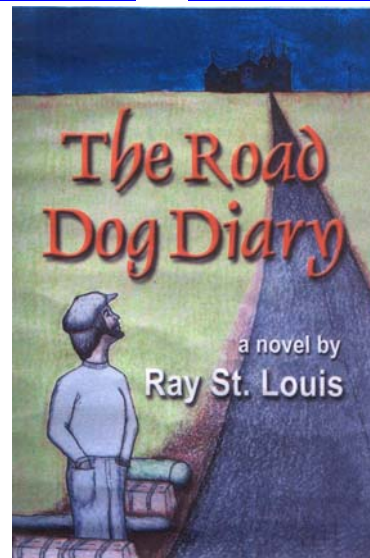
The Benevolent Order's web site, (boosm.org) now includes a very rudimentary on line store. So far, there is only one item available for purchase. If you have a paypal account, you can buy a six inch diameter magnetic peace sign to put on your vehicle or refrigerator. Eventually, we hope to make other merchandise available through our Monastery Gift Shoppe. For the time being, our primary shop keeper has left home to tell stories at Renaissance Faires in Missouri, Michigan, New York and Connecticut. Although everyone is encouraged to help us test the functionality of our new store, please be advised that service may be somewhat slow until late October. Our web site also includes a bulletin board. To find it, go to boosm.org and click on the "Monks Only" link. Feel free to post anything you like on our Monastery Bulletin Board.

Brother Grandma to Wed!!!

After living in sin for nearly twenty years, Mike Swarc is about to make an honest woman out of Brother Grandma (Cindy Merideth.) Ostensibly, the blessed union is being formed for tax purposes. They plan to wed in the office of the Justice of the Peace in Lavaca County, Texas. As of this printing, no date has yet been set. Cindy sends out a monthly newsletter. To get onto her mailing list, visit her web site www.theherbcottage.com.

Brother-Can-You-Spare-a-Dime's Book Available Next Month!!

Brother-Can-You-Spare-A-Dime (Ray St. Louis) announces that his new book, *The Road Dog Diary* (formerly *Road Dogs and Elizabethans*) is coming out sometime around mid-July, published by Book Locker. It will be available online at www.booklocker.com as well as the usual places: www.amazon.com and www.BarnesandNoble.com.



The price will be right around twenty bucks. He also plans to keep a supply of physical copies for signing purposes. People will be able to order a signed copy at this email address: roaddogdiary@yahoo.com Ray is also planning a book coming out party during The Sterling Renaissance Faire at his and Jennifer's place in Wolcott, NY. Here's the blurb that appears on the back cover of the book:

"It's the new vaudeville, man!"

With these few words, Jack Horner—juggler, clown, social misfit—sums up the allure of the fledgling Renaissance festival circuit of the early 1980s. It is a world set apart from the mainstream, a niche culture complete with its own rules, vocabulary, morality, and cast of offbeat characters: Little Jack Horner, Johnny Magic Hands, the Happy

Henchmen, King John Brussard, Bonnie Prince Charlie, Slimy Limey.

And, of course, Gulliver Finn, the narrator of the Road Dog Diary.

Gulliver leads his troupe of plucky stilt dancers and spirited musicians, the Stone Soup Performing Company, on a cross country odyssey that encompasses one full season of Renaissance festivals. Along the way, they encounter a curious alternate universe full of surprises including a fair owner who bulldozes the booths of festival merchants with whom he disagrees; a delivery driver who trades cigarettes for a sneak peek at skinny-dipping Renaissance hippie chicks; a stoned star-maker of an entertainment director who lands, for one of his performing acts, a spot on the Merv Griffin Show; and unofficial after-hours pub that encourages rude behavior; a certifiably eccentric waltzing craftsman who dances with invisible partners and hosts notorious pagan parties; and a slew of invented "Rennie" holidays such as Mushroom Monday, the Funky Formal, and the midnight group streaking event known as the Wolf Run.

Add to the mix a healthy portion of the usual hazards of life on the road—the breakdowns, the rain, mud, chiggers, fire ants, the skirmishes with festival management and the law—and you have the makings of a rollicking epic adventure down a seldom visited back road of the American experience.

Brother Costello's Whirled Wide Tour Continues!

<http://www.royalrounders.com/> is often a good place to find some juicy tidbits. If you scroll down past the impressive list of 2006 performance dates, you'll find a very interesting report on the conditions in New Orleans. Broadband guys might enjoy seeing a recent New Orleans slide show. We also found a link to www.snapfish.com where it is possible to view 468 photos of the Yoo Hoo Crew's 2006 Mardi Gras adventures. Although we can't say for sure, it



looks as if David and Laura might be back on speaking terms.

Here are excerpts from the latest Email from Brother Costello: I am shutting down all email except davidroe@royalrounders.com Chandler and I have a busy Summer. Hope to see you out on the road. Meanwhile, back at OkeeDokee the squash, peas, radishes and greens are good eating. Everything else is growing like mad. We have a new DVD available only at shows! It features the new videos - many of which we are projecting as we perform. Something's in the Air, St Augustine, Cracker Jack Cure, and many others - very cool! The New CD is doing great! by Far the best record I have ever made. TO GET THE NEW 2 VOLUME ENHANCED CD SET "American Storyteller:"

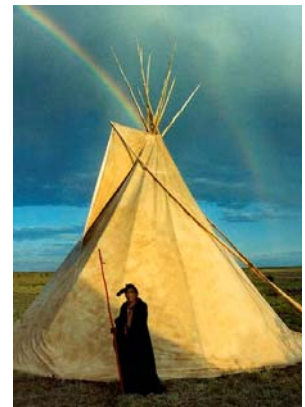
<http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/cchandler3>

Please check out our three videos at

<http://www.chrisvids.org/>

Brother Reluctant Opens a Gallery in Cyber Space!!

Over the years, Brother Reluctant (Richard Tacker) has dressed thousands of people in Renaissance



costumes and snapped their photos. His artistic



photos are even more impressive. Prints of these enhanced photos and more are available at his new web site RTTArt.com.

Pittsburgh Goes Belly Up!

Here are excerpts from a letter from the Greater Pittsburgh Renaissance Festival: It is with great sadness that we write this letter to all of you who have worked so hard to help us make the Greater Pittsburgh Renaissance Festival Village. After many months of trying to find financing and funding for the 2006 Festival season, we ran out of options and money on June 1, 2006. As a consequence, we are unable to open the Festival this year, nor will it be operated by us in the future. The Festival is for sale and if purchased by someone interested in this type of venue, there may be opportunities in the future, but that will be up to whomever purchases it.

Sincerely,

David M. Pearson

Mary N. Mann

Jim Paradise

Greater Pittsburgh Renaissance Festival

Bro RoMo Still a Free Man!!

Bro RoMo (Ron Moses) is back in Austin after spending time with his daughter and going to view the Marfa Lights. His daughter, Chelsea, recently graduated Magna Cum Laude. He sent us some pictures, too. The first two show a movie set that he built this year somewhere in West Texas.

