

# NEW The<sup>^</sup> Medical Bulletin

An Irregular Publication of Doctor Watson's Neglected Patients  
A Scion Society of The Baker Street Irregulars

Series 2, Number 5  
Lab Technician - Terry Teis

Winter, 1993  
Editor - Larry Feldman



## THE MEDICAL BULLETIN BOARD

Our Annual Sherlock Holmes Birthday Dinner once again demonstrated why it is the event that many members join to attend. Staff Surgeon Steve Robinson was our official evenings host and master of ceremonies, with, Yours Truly, Ye Editor introducing a sequence of memorable toasts (for more details, see TOASTS elsewhere in this issue). Sherrie Belnap provided an elegant and inspiring quiz in the form of physical props provided at each table as clues to different Canonical stories. This unusual three dimensional contest was so successful that Sherrie has promised to devise a similar one for next year.

Special plaques were given out to honor the contributions of John Stephenson, our outgoing Chief Surgeon, Ye Editor for his work on THE NEW MEDICAL BULLETIN, and The Denver Press Club for hosting our annual dinner event so long and so well. The Traveling Brick Question was devised by last year's winner Bill Dern, and consisted of clues to a person in the Canon. Bill was not present due to an invitation to attend the New  
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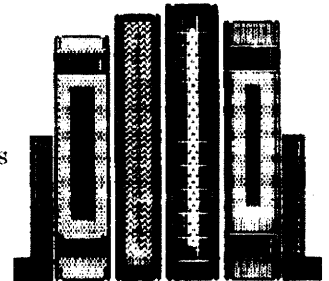
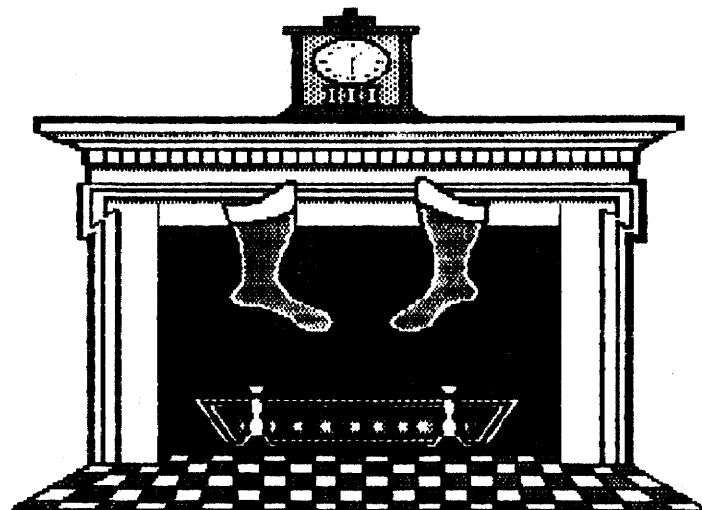
## FROM THE CHIEF SURGEON by Steve Robinson

The thought occurred to me recently that if the President of the United States is called upon to deliver to his constituency a "State of the Union" address, and the Governor likewise delivers to the citizens of Colorado a "State of the State" address, it seems only fair that as your newly elected Chief Surgeon, I should present a "State of the Patient" address to the membership of "Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients".

It happens that 1987, the year I first joined DWNP, was the calm before a storm of controversy that descended upon the Denver Sherlockian community. I heard predictions being made at that time that DWNP was a dying scion; membership and enthusiasm had both been on the decline. Rejecting the idea, I held out hope that this "neglected patient" would somehow make it through the tough times, and find the way back to robust health.

Membership records for the year of 1988 show a total Denver area membership of 34. By the end of 1990, paid membership was 31 members. That was the "state of the patient" when John Stephenson and I decided to run for the Chief Surgeon/Staff Surgeon positions for the 1991-1992 term. Our primary goal was to look into ways that we might increase

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York BSI dinner, but Bursar Stan Moskal stood in for him and read the list of clues ably. The first to come up with the correct answer, which was "Professor Moriarty", was attorney Dennis Hogarth. As this year's winner, Dennis gets symbolic possession of the 221B Brick, and is charged with the responsibility of devising next year's Brick Question. Incidentally, Dennis was so thrilled by this honor that he later agreed to run for one of the open Intern positions, and will now serve the club on our board of directors for the next two years!

The evening's speaker, Lab Criminologist Tom Griffin (that's "Griff" to his friends), gave an excellent talk relating how his interest in *The Master Detective* has influenced his investigative work, and how Holmes' techniques compare to modern forensics. Griff's informative and witty lecture, supported by slides as well as many of the Sherlockian artifacts in his collection, made for a very quick 50 minutes. He must have enjoyed himself too, since I just saw his name on our latest membership roster. Welcome to *The Patients*, Griff.

Board elections resulted in three new Interns as well as a new Chief Surgeon and Staff Surgeon. For details on this see our special box located on page 3.

Many bottles of the DWNP commemorative wine was

sold or reserved at the Birthday Dinner. The good news is that there are still bottles left from this first edition. For those who wish to get in on this very collectable item, will need to contact Staff Surgeon Steve Robinson and make arrangements. I understand that there is some frustration among east coast members and collectors because, due to federal laws regarding the shipping of alcoholic beverages out of state, these wine bottles cannot be sent through the mail. Those wishing to obtain these items will need to come up with creative solutions to solve this problem. In other words, does anyone know anyone who happens to be going to New York in the near future, and wouldn't mind taking a few bottles (or cases) of wine with them on the plane?

1994 will be DOCTOR WATSON'S NEGLECTED PATIENTS 20th anniversary year. As such, the new board of directors have decided to take a fresh look at our organization and at carefully review our goals and traditions, as well as what we can do next year to celebrate the continued existence of the Denver area's oldest and most successful scion of the Baker Street Irregulars. While we wish to honor our past by keeping alive the traditions that have made our club so renowned, we also wish to look towards the future and make sure we are meeting the needs of our ever growing and changing membership. To support this noble effort, this newsletter will attempt to keep you, our membership, more informed than ever about discussions

leading to board policy decisions. We will also be giving you more opportunities than ever to communicate with your board members and let them know how you feel about possible changes and revisions in the way we do things. Towards this end, this and every foreseeable future issue of THE NEW

MEDICAL BULLETIN will contain a special box listing the names and phone numbers of our board of directors whom you are invited to call to ask questions and give your opinions for due consideration at our next board meeting, where all board members will be honor bound to report any member communication or viewpoint whether they agree with it or not. We hope that both long time members, as well as those relatively new to us, will take advantage and participate in this time of reexamination. Remember, if your board makes a decision that you don't like and you don't let us know how you feel about it, you get the scion you deserve.

On Saturday, January 30th, the board met at the home of Ye Editor to discuss issues pursuant to the new year. One of the matters for discussion was the location of next year's Birthday Dinner. It had been suggested at a previous meeting that, as this is our premier event, we should consider relocating to a larger and more upscale establishment. It was the consensus of those present that the membership seemed to enjoy the Press Club with its quiet historical dignity, and that we would plan to have next year's dinner there  
*Continued on the following page*

as of now. Also, one of the reason against moving the dinner is that it might result in an increase in cost, and therefore price. The board felt it important to keep prices down at this, our most expensive event. The possibility was discussed of raising dues to supplement the cost of dinner tickets. This would be a departure from policy since all events up until now have been entirely self supporting, which results in all events being paid for by those who attend them. It was decided that this is eminently fair and that we would hold to this policy as long as it is practical to do so. The question of whether the dinner should be moved and all related issues will be reviewed again in July, so if anyone feels strongly on this matter one way or the other, please contact one of our board members and let them know how you feel.

Also, the question arose as to how actively we should pursue new membership in the coming year. Some members felt it important that the club should continue to grow and seek out those who would share our interest in things Sherlockian. Others feared that too much emphasis might be placed on acquiring new members rather than serving the interest of our current and long time members, and, after all, bigger is not necessarily better. It was decided that two of our annual events, the Movie Night and the Dr Watson Birthday Picnic, would focus on seeking out and inviting new people, while the Sherlock Holmes Birthday Dinner and the English Tea, while not being exclusive to members, would be more of a members event. Again, members are invited to give input.

For more info on the issues raised at the board meeting and some plans being formulated for our anniversary year, see EDITOR'S NOTES.

#### **KNOW YOUR BOARD MEMBERS**

Chief Surgeon Steve Robinson 794-9709	Staff Surgeon Terry Teis 733-0654
Bursar Stan Moskal 377-2125	Transcriber Erica Reum 399-7362
Editor Larry Feldman 333-3859	Intern Sherrie Belnap 646-4316
Intern Marty Ernsteen 758-5656	Intern Dennis Hogarth 466-4017
Intern Sam Neumeyer 840-9628	Intern Charlie Schlaufman 423-5141

Please feel free to call any Board Member with questions, comments, or suggestions. You should also note the following:

Official Club correspondence or inquiries should be sent to:  
Steve Robinson  
4271 W Ponds Circle  
Littleton CO 80123

Payment of dues (\$7.50) or for club event fees should be made out to "Dr Watson's Neglected Patients" and sent to:  
Stan Moskal  
1453 Milwaukee St  
Denver CO 80206

Comments on the Newsletter, submissions, or any questions or comments that might be considered for publication should be sent to:  
The Medical Bulletin  
c/o Larry Feldman  
533 Jackson St  
Denver CO 80206

## TOASTS

by Larry Feldman



In "The Doctor's Orders", our short but succinct bylaws loosely adapted from those of our parent organization, the BSI, paragraph six reads as follows: "The Annual Meeting shall be held in January of each year, at which time suitable toasts shall be drunk and prescribed dietary considerations attended to the Neglected Patients." The tradition of toasting people, real or imagined, that are somehow connected to the master detective at Sherlockian gatherings is one of the oldest and most universally followed throughout the international Holmesian community. Is there any wonder why this, of all our traditions and practices, is the only one that is so delineated in our bylaws? It is for this reason that, while alcoholic beverages are not necessarily required to participate in our toasting tradition, our annual budget for our Sherlock Holmes Birthday Dinner always includes money allocated to buy each member a glass of wine.

As promised last issue, the format for the toasts was a bit different this year. Without going into details, Ye Editor received only favorable comments as to the changes, so, unless I hear differently from the membership (that's you)

we will plan to repeat the procedures for next year.

As editor, I always look forward to the toasts because it's a chance to hear from members whose creativity and feelings about The Sacred Writings seldom get expressed in a manner suitable for publication. And, I always attempt to publish as many as possible of the Birthday Dinner toasts so that we may always look back at the fond memories we have of members and meetings past.

Our first toast was by new member Dame Beryl Sykes-Windsor who fittingly chose as her subject Queen Victoria. What is not duplicated here was a wonderful three minute talk that Dame Beryl gave on the Queen that so defined the Master Detective's era. The actual toast is duplicated below.

*To the Most High, Most Mighty, and Most Excellent Monarch, Victoria, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the seas, Queen, Defender of the Faith, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Supreme Governor of the Church of England, Lord High Admiral and Empress of India, Queen Victoria.*

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### *From The Chief Surgeon - Continued from page 1*

membership of the club and, through an infusion of "new blood", realize our secondary goal of increased enthusiasm and involvement in our society.

I am pleased to report that this patient seems to be moving rapidly toward robust health once again. Membership is up from the 31 members of two years ago, to 60 paid members at the end of 1992. We are once again publishing our own Medical Bulletin and, thanks to the efforts of the editor, we have a nice publication indeed. Aside from the four annual functions that we normally hold, Sally Kurtzman and Bernard Kelly put on a fine Sherlockian Research and Writing Seminar for members last February. Thanks to the efforts of Ed and Mary Ann Rochette, DWNP took part in sponsoring The Lady Francis Carfax Memorial Walk in Colorado Springs last July.

Diagnosing a single cause to this return to good health might be difficult. Our decision to print and distribute informational DWNP posters certainly generated many calls and several new members. In addition, I received a dramatic number of calls for membership information from people that have been referred by current members (a sign of health if I ever saw one.) Along with the infusion of new members came new ideas and enthusiasm for the Denver Sherlockian community. Many people have had a part in contributing to the renewed life in DWNP over the past two years, and I want to say THANK YOU to all who have worked so hard. It has been both exciting and gratifying to see our work pay off and our initial goals realized.

As I start my term as your Chief Surgeon, I solicit your ideas and your involvement. Let's make 1993 the best year ever for DOCTOR WATSON'S NEGLECTED PATIENTS.

After The Queen herself, we went to "the birthday boy" himself with board member Erica Reum doing the honors.

*I was asked to give the toast to Sherlock Holmes this year. I have never given a formal toast before, and as I pondered, I found myself asking "Why are we here?" The answer to that question was obvious, and so too became my toast. My toast will be accompanied by what is traditionally present at a birthday party - a birthday cake. [Here Erica presented a small but respectable birthday cup cake.] To no avail, I tried to fit 139 candles on this thing. The remainder of this will actually be a group toast. While I may think I can carry a tune, my husband assures me I cannot... so please join me in singing Happy Birthday to Sherlock Holmes. [Here Erica lead us in a rousing chorus of "The Birthday Song"] Here's to "The Master".*

I'll confess, at this point, I'm a bit unsure of the exact order of the following toasts. I believe next was our new Chief Surgeon Steve Robinson. Every year Steve likes to surprise us with a toast to, what he refers to as, an obscure Canonical character. This year he chose Ms. Cecil Forrester from "The Sign Of The Four".

*Any student of the sixty published adventures of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson is aware of the special significance to Watson of the outcome of the Adventure known to us as The Sign of the Four. In many ways it was a story of losses:*

*Johnathan Small lost his freedom,  
Tonga lost his life,  
Miss Morstan lost her treasure,  
And Inspector Jones was simply lost...  
Our Friend Watson came out a winner though,  
For he won the hand in marriage... of Miss  
Mary Morstan.*

*Certainly Miss Morstan's meeting with Holmes and Watson  
was an event of enormous significance (at least to Watson)  
Yet at the beginning of this adventure  
only a few sentences mention the heroine  
of this historical event.  
The unknown and unknowing matchmaker,  
Mrs. Cecil Forrester.*

*In a previous undocumented case, Holmes had assisted Mrs. Forrester  
in a little domestic complication which Holmes helped her unravel.  
While Holmes had considered her case a simple one  
Mrs. Forrester had been deeply impressed by his kindness to her.  
And it was she who recommended that her employee, Mary Morstan  
consult Holmes about those anonymous pearls she was receiving...*

*A treasure in jewels  
may lie in the muck and mire at the bottom of the Thames,  
but Watson and Miss Morstan found a greater treasure in one another.  
For that we have to thank this obscure woman  
whose name is mentioned once, and never heard again.*

*Ladies and gentlemen...  
A toast to the greatest matchmaker since Young Stamford...  
Mrs Cecil Forrester.*

It may interest Steve and all others to learn that he is not the first Sherlockian to attempt to rescue Mrs. Forrester from oblivion. Not only has her "little domestic complication" achieved the status of one of Holmes' unrecorded cases sitting in Watson's old tin box waiting to be discovered (along with "The Giant Rat of Sumatra" and others), but scholars have come forward to suggest that the widow may have been one of Watson's unrecorded wives.

Our next toast was to Wiggins by our youngest official member, Jason Robinson.

*What is it you think of  
When I say "BSI"?  
Is it Wolff or Stuart  
In your head to arrive?  
Or do you think of Morely  
Or Edgar Smith--  
Well, soon you'll think different-  
After you've heard this.*

*You see, I'm writing this toast  
To a special young man  
Though maybe not so much liked  
By Watson, but, man!  
He could gather the info  
Or track a man down*

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For he and his friends  
Traversed the whole town.  
They went everywhere,  
Saw everything  
Overheard all,  
And they all blended in.  
The sight of an official  
Or a man who looks to be so  
Will seal one's lips  
But not the Irregulars-oh, no!  
Holmes' "Baker Street Division  
Of the Detective Police Force"  
Could get all that was needed  
Without question, of course.

But the Street Arabs of London  
Couldn't get off on their own-  
They needed a leader  
To guide them along  
In their quest for the answers  
(And a few extra shillin's)  
But that, don't you see  
Is where this poem comes in.

So, next time "BSI" is heard  
By others or you  
Stop for a moment  
And think about who  
The original Arabs were  
And maybe, you, too  
Will once again wander  
The joggly streets of Holmes' City  
Along with the urchins,  
Though maybe not pretty,  
Who helped in many a case  
Of our favorite sleuth  
And helped him to recover  
The all too timely truth.

I think we should raise to the leader  
Of these unsightly waifs  
For he most certainly  
Deserves a place  
In our hearts and minds  
After all, what would we do  
Without the Baker Street Irregulars  
And their leader, too.

Ladies and gentlemen, I propose a toast to  
Wiggins.

Of all the amusing toasts of the evening, none  
resulted in as deep a laughter as the gracious  
Joan Hale's toast to Watson's neglected patients.  
While her delivery definitely accounted for some  
of this, her words are reproduced below.

I chose the neglected patients to toast because I  
happen to work for Kaiser Permanente. As you  
no doubt know, Kaiser is one of the largest  
HMOs in the country. HMO stands for "Health  
Maintenance Organization" and I think most of  
you know what that is. I don't think we have any  
neglected patients at Kaiser, but we occasionally  
do have an irate one.

In any event, this has got me to thinking about  
what it would have been like in Dr Watson's time  
if there had been an HMO. You see, there would  
have been no neglected patients because there  
would have been plenty of doctors to cover while  
Watson went gallivanting with Holmes.  
Elementary, isn't it?

So here's to the neglected patients of Dr Watson  
who could have benefitted so much from an  
HMO!

The next toast was from Board Member Marty  
Ernsteen. Marty, of all people involved in our  
organization, has worked the most tirelessly  
towards expanding our membership. With the  
support of the Board, he created our annual  
picnic to be the best attended in many years.  
Because this issue is so important to him, he  
chose to toast the new membership. Before you  
read on, be warned that Marty is also a master  
punster.

This is a toast to each new member,  
Not to our guest speaker, a forensic  
criminologist, whom will deal with dis-member.  
Instead of this dinner we might have done a  
cruise...but that would have required a member-  
ship.

I wrote them all down because I new I couldn't re-  
-member.

Here's to our new members: Wesley Ashley,  
Raymond Brewer, Mona Charney, Peter Crupe,  
Sean Forest, Sydney Goldberg, Harry & Phyllis  
Kirk, Bob Levi, Sam Neumever, Ernest Simpson,  
Beryl Sykes-Windsor, Cynthia Voight-Collier,  
Jack Yates, Cailin Stuart, Brenda Owen, Steven  
Adams, John Anderson, Tom Griffin, Jack  
Swanberg, Meredith Harrigan, Robert Burke,  
Jocelyn Martell, and Lynette Kerr.

Next, Ye Editor made a toast to Professor James  
Moriarty. The thing you have to keep in mind to  
get the jokes is that Moriarty had two brothers,  
one a Station Master and the other an army

Colonel. And, both of these brothers were named James!

*Here's to Moriarty,  
Though he may rot in Hell,  
Though never jailed,  
He never failed.  
Except once - when he fell!*

*I do not talk of James Moriarty,  
The Master of his Station;  
Nor do I talk of James Moriarty,  
A Colonel for his nation.*

*NO!  
I speak of JAMES Moriarty,  
The Napoleon of crime,  
Who met his true found Waterloo,  
In Reichenbach's frothy brine.*

*And so, to Moriarty,  
Who did those deeds most dastard,  
So now let's toast,  
The Devil's host,  
Here's to you - you bastard!*

The next toast was made by our new Staff Surgeon Terry Teis to *The Woman*.

*To the woman who taught Sherlock Holmes  
everything he knows about love, and a lot of  
what he knows about honor. To Irene Adler.*

Sherrie Belnap honored Dr. Watson by reading the following poetic piece which was published years ago in Edgar Smith's classic Profile by Gaslight back in 1944. It is reproduced here.

*Sonnet: Mary Morstan to J.H. Watson  
by Helene Yuhasova*

*Dear John, or James, I count my seventh pearl,  
And dearest of them all, that heart of oak  
You lost before me when, your head awhiri  
With Beaune and other things, we sat and spoke  
Of Agra's treasure and the land of Ind  
That day in Baker Street, I'll hold you, John,  
Or James, as close and fondly disciplined  
As ever woman held a man upon  
Whose faith her hopes are fixed. And yet  
You'll not be faithful to me, John or James-  
You'll put aside without the least regret,  
The mem'ry of your long remembered flames;  
You'll shun the courses and the pleasure-domes:  
But still you'll stray, alas--with Sherlock Holmes.*

The last official toast of the evening was by Bob Peterson to he whom we have traditionally referred to as "The Agent".

*I raise a toast to Conan Doyle, the literary agent,  
without whom we would not have the Canon. It is  
to our benefit that he turned out to be a poor  
doctor (from a monetary standpoint at least) and  
became a standout literary agent. He would now  
be amazed at the pastiches and essays that have  
come out since his death. To Conan Doyle.*

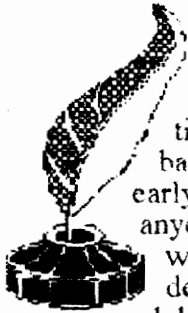
Several toasts were also given to friends whom, due to either death or tragedy, could not be with us that evening. My notes are incomplete on this so I know I'm leaving people out, but among those whose absences were noted were Roy Hunt, Irv Hale, and Debbie Butler. I apologize for those I've left out and for any other impromptu toasts that were made that I did not take notes on. I can only promise to try to do better next year.

All in all, a great number, as well as a variety of styles and manner of toasts, were made. Congratulations to all those who participated and thanks for contributing to our evening, our newsletter, and our club history.



## EDITOR'S NOTES

by Larry Feldman



Our twentieth anniversary year approaches, and certain long time members have been looking back at our glorious past. In the early years of this organization, did anyone envision a time when people would look back at almost two decades of dinners and events to celebrate the work of a detective whose very existence is actually doubted by many historians, just as some scholars feel that William Shakespeare may have been just a pen name. Because such a time as now could not have been foreseen by our founding membership, records and memories of our early days are spurious at best.

At least three different members have approached me with the idea of putting together a history or a series of reminiscences of the clubs early, and even later, days. How did we get started, really? Who were the people chiefly responsible? What were the early meetings like? We've had almost twenty years of guest speakers at our dinners, but who were they? How has the club changed over the years? What traditions have we maintained, and what others have fallen to the wayside?

What's interesting about this project for me, is that this is one time that I cannot do it on my own. This is only my fourth year as a member of this august organization, so the information will be as new to me as it will to anyone. We need here to call upon our senior members. Tax your memories. Write about the good times, the people you remember, our colorful characters of the past. Can anyone actually produce a list of every guest speaker that we've ever had at a dinner? Can anyone actually remember something about what each of them were like? There is so much to write about. I'd like to see it happen and publish as much of your memories as possible in this newsletter, but it is up to you to make it happen. I hope to hear from you soon.

At the last board meeting I requested that the board reconsider the policy on Honorary Membership. Honorary Members are those who pay no dues to our club, but receive issues of **THE MEDICAL BULLETIN** as a courtesy. Due to abuses by past editors and board members, there has been much sentiment expressed against this practice resulting in the board having,

currently, no honorary members at all. It is the opinion of Ye Editor that it is important (to me, at least) to let the national Sherlockian community know that we are out here and doing some outstanding work to keep the memory of the master green. For this reason I have proposed Honorary Membership for the following: Tom Stix (head of the BSD), Bill Cochran (Editor of the Baker Street Journal), Peter Blau (world renowned Sherlockian collector), Richard Wein (sort of the town crier of the BSD), and Ron De Waal (World Sherlockian Bibliographer). The board has tentatively agreed to this in principle, and will vote on each of these names at the next board meeting.

This week the dinner and related organizational news has squeezed out most of our scholarly articles. The one exception to this is our closing installment of Ye Editor's **THE 3 CANONS**. For those of you for whom this may be your first issue, in **THE 3 CANONS** we have taken a look at the differences between the the English, American, and original Strand versions of *The Sacred Writings*. In chapter 4, we look at one of the most interesting and infamous changes; the mystery of the "mind-reading sequence" that occurs at the outset of two separate cases in most of the American editions.

Also, we give a detailed account of the annual birthday dinner in **THE MEDICAL BULLETIN BOARD**, in addition to a look at the many issues that lie ahead for our little club. I'm afraid that John Stephenson missed his deadline, so you will have to wait until next time for the next **FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE BAG** column. Likewise, lack of room has forced us to delay the second part of Thom Utecht's article on Holmes' smoking habits until next issue. We *have* included a blow by blow account of the toasts given at the dinner and a special word from our new Chief Surgeon. I hope these humble offering will do for this time around.

As always, submissions and letters of comment are welcome. Check out our new "**KNOW YOUR BOARD MEMBERS**" box (Page 3) for details on where to send them.