



From the President

There's an old Irish proverb that says "There is light at the end of the tunnel". Well this past week, I finally saw some. After a year of planning, months of shopping and a week of packing, shredding and praying, we have moved into our new office. As you have all heard, this has kept me very busy over the past couple of months, but I am happy to say that we are settling in nicely and I can see some light at the end of the tunnel. During this process, we really took the time to clean out the 30 years of stuff we had at Pentagon Park. Now that I am in the cleaning mode I think this would be a great opportunity to sort through our club stuff that is growing out of my closet into my exercise room at an alarming rate. (Okay, maybe not so frightening, but a good excuse to cover the treadmill!)

We will have a Club Garage Sale at our next meeting where everything will be priced at 5, 10 and 25 cents. I will sort through the little odds and ends that will make some great display odds and ends. Proceeds will go to help the club treasury so be sure to bring in a couple of bucks to spend!

Until then, I leave you with an Irish blessing:

*"May God grant you always...
A sunbeam to warm you,
A moonbeam to charm you,
A sheltering Angel so nothing can harm you.
Laughter to cheer you.
Faithful friends near you.
And whenever you pray,
Heaven to hear you."*

~shirl

In This Issue:

March's Meeting	p2
April's Meeting	p2
"And the Answer is:"	p2
February's Meeting	p3
Christmas Brunch.....	p4
Treasurer's Report.....	p4

Michigan Gathering	p5
Note From Editor	p5
Birthdays.....	p5

Dates to Remember:

March 4th: next regular club meeting

Club Garage Sale & Collectors "Show and Tell" - March 4th!

Along with the Garage Sale, the March meeting will also feature a collector's show and tell.

Come to the meeting prepared to show us a bit of your collections. This can be a special D-56 piece or you can show us the other unusual things you collect! Maybe we have someone who has inherited an unusual collection or you may have a collection of things you have kept from your youth. Bring in pictures to share if your collection if you can't bring it in. (Doris, we would like to see some of those Hummels!) Maybe you have a special story attached to a piece of your collection.

Do your storytelling anyway you like! This will be a great way to get to know each other better.



Spring Display Contest - April 1st!

This is no April Fools prank!

Start planning your Spring display for our April meeting. You can create any type of display you like as long as it reflects Spring or Summer. We have had terrific Easter displays and creative St. Patrick's Day displays. Pull out some Fourth of July if you like! Put your display in a basket or design an Easter centerpiece for your table. Use some green moss to hide that snow on your buildings! There will be prizes and treats!

And the Answer is:

Well, the answers to the Presidential Trivia questions will be available at the March meeting—an extra incentive to go. Shirley's just a wee bit busy lately!

In the meanwhile, let's go ahead and check out just one question, shall we?

Question 9 is: "Which president was once a male model?" Off hand, it's probably not Taft, unless we're talking "Big & Tall". That gentleman weighed in from 300-340 pounds.

I believe the correct answer is Gerald Ford. I remember seeing an old print ad featuring him in skiing clothes. (Hopefully any actual skiing on his part took place before his mid-life battle with clumsyitus.)



February's Meeting: *Presidents' Day Vignettes*

February's meeting featured a live-time display event with group members dividing into two teams to create vignettes based on presidential themes. With components brought in by various club members and buildings supplied by Tom, the groups' creations were just exceptional. Plus, working together is a great way to get to know each other!

Two of our new members—Plyllis and Paul—joined right in.

It was a fun, fun meeting. Thanks to all who participated. And a special thanks to Jan for sending a disc with her images!



CHRISTMAS BRUNCH, submitted by Kathy Benson

Put in bottom of greased 9 x 13 pan:
 2 ½ cups seasoned croutons
 1 lb breakfast sausage browned (bulk, not link)
 2 cups cheddar cheese, grated

Mix together:
 Beat 4 eggs
 2 cups milk
 1 tsp mustard

Pour this mixture over croutons, sausage and cheese.
 Put in refrigerator overnight

Mix together:
 1 can cream of celery soup
 ½ cup milk

Put this on the top and bake at 325° for 1 hour.

Kathy served this dish at her Scandia home for the club's House Hop.

I loved it so much I asked her for the recipe so I could run it in the newsletter.
 -Editor

Northern Lights Treasury Report – March 2010 By Tom Iacoviello

Balance	1/1/2010		\$1,821.90
Revenue:			
<u>Received From</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
Phyllis Fahey	Membership Fee	15.00	
Total Revenue			\$15.00
Expenses:			
<u>Paid To</u>	<u>Ck No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Diane Nelson	3150	Club embroidery	\$ 42.00
NCC	3151	2 Traders' Pin Shops	\$ 100.00
NCC	3152	2010 Members Club Dues	\$ 36.00
Total Expenses			\$178.00
Balance	1/31/2009		\$1,658.90

Just a Note From the Editor:

Of Leprechauns and Elves

North Pole elves never caught a break in this house, let me tell you. Every Spring display contest that B.J. could bring St. Patrick's Day into, of course, required Leprechauns. So the elves got roused out of their off-season hibernation and forced to impersonate the "wee people," possibly with some grumbling on their part! B.J. was prepared with a stock answer for anyone who noticed that some "leprechauns" were wearing red: "Oh, they're Protestants!"

Mel and I are planning our vignette for April 1st's club display contest. There won't be any leprechauns (or elves), but it'll have a charm and humor all its own. We're both looking forward to gathering up all the elements and working in sight gags. We're having a lot of fun with this already.

Face it, gang, being able to show one another our village displays is a wonderful part of being in this club. The April meeting is your chance to show off your talents and a tremendous way for us to get to know each other better. *Join in!!*

Michigan Gathering

Due to technical difficulties at the time this issue went out, I'm unable to relay Tom's article about the one—and only—gathering of 2010.

We'll make sure we get the information out as soon as possible. It'd be wonderful to get lots of us heading to that gathering. The sketchy details I have sound like it's not only fairly close, overall, but it's reasonably inexpensive as well.

Happy Birthday in March to:

Ron Howard, March 1st

Queen Latifah, March 18th

William Shatner, March 22

Payton Manning, March 24th

& Kathy Benson, March 25th

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D56 Collector Web Sites

Minnesota Clubs

<http://www.minnesota56clubs.com>

Get up-to-date information about the activities of various Minnesota D56 Clubs

Department 56

<http://www.department56.com>

Official Department 56 site with the latest D56 product information.

Department 56 Webring

<http://i.webring.com/hub?ring=dept56>

Links to web sites of collectors, retailers, and anything else related to Department 56 collecting.

National Council of 56 Clubs

<http://www.ncc56.com/>

News and information from the NCC.