



The S O C - K E T

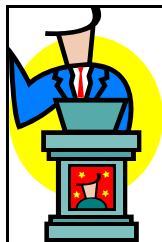


The weekly publication of the Optimist Club of Salem
 Volume 58 Issue 36 June 21, 2007
 Ye Olde Editor — Wes Alderson

The Club meets every Thursday noon at the Great Wall Buffet
 (check out our website at www.optimistclubofsalemor.org)

2006-07 Club Officers

President:	Bruce Gilbertson
President-Elect:	(position open)
Immediate Past-President	Maur Horton
Vice-Presidents:	Frank Milton & Dave Sevall
Secretary/Treasurer:	Arlen Hollinshead
Directors: (3 positions open)	Vern Tabery
	Bob MacArthur Frank Masser



SPEAKERS WANTED!!

Should there be someone whom you believe has a topic of interest to club members, let Frank know so he can make the contact. E-mail might be the easiest way to get in touch with him, especially if it is during the business hours.



United Methodist Retirement Center

Red faces seemed to be the order of the day as FOUR (yes, four!) tried and true Optimists were present to greet our guest speaker, Sue Hunter, Executive Director of the United Methodist Retirement Center. Let us just say that President Bruce, Past-President Maur, Sec'y-Treasurer Arlen, & the bull editor, did their level best to keep the Optimist Creed foremost in their minds as they tried to explain away the embarrassing lack of attendance. Instead of addressing us from the podium, as is generally the practice, we all sat at one table and heard some very informative and entertaining facts about the Retirement Center and the Methodist Church.

The United Methodist Church has an interesting history all its own. In its infancy (circa 1780) it was called the Methodist Episcopal Church, or M.E. Church. In 1844 the church split over the issue of slavery, and those congregations in the south referred to themselves as the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. In 1939 the churches united once again to become the Methodist Church. They then combined with the Evangelical United Brethren in 1968 to form the present-day United Methodist Church.

The local United Methodist Retirement Center had its humble beginnings around 1909-10, and was located near the intersection of 12th & Ferry Streets. Its primary purpose, at that time, was to provide housing for retired ministers, but it has expanded its role considerably since then. The early inhabitants of the retirement center adhered to a strict code of decorum; no one was permitted to make any detrimental remarks concerning the type of assistance received or malign the help in any way. Over the years the center has taken on a much different approach to those they serve. There are three classes of clientele these days; those who are described as "low-income", and two other classifications described as poorer and poorest.

Sue described one incident involving a gentleman who was dirt poor, and became so despondent that he tried to take his own life by downing a fifth of whiskey at one sitting. While the attempt failed, the man found sufficient caring people at the Center to renew his will to live. No mention was made of what possessions he may have had, but he was sufficiently grateful that he willed his belongings to the Center.

There is a small waiting list for those who wish to be housed at the Center, but federal restrictions are imposed as far prioritizing the tenants. Housing is provided on a first-come, first-served basis, yet the Center is required to maintain a 40% occupancy from an extremely low income level.

In 1979-80 it was decided that there was a need for a newer, more up-to-date facility. While the destruction of the old site had its dissenters, plans proceeded accordingly and the present building is located just a stone's throw from Jason Lee Manor, 1551 Center St. NE. From West to East, there is Jason Lee



While this may not look the same as our cookie cart, you still get the idea. The dates of July 20—22 will see the Salem Art Fair once again. Sign-ups are now being taken for those willing to spend a few hours sniffing, sampling, and selling chocolate-chip cookies to those people who have had to without during the past twelve months. Be sure your name is on the list.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

June 28 Terry Kester
 Glass Artwork



You might as well get accustomed to seeing this picture for a while. Bruce said he has been contacted by Cal Wade once again, so this means that the Optimist Club, et al, is going to be called upon to fulfill the role of tasting all the goodies at the fair. No one should have to endure this type of gastronomical torture.

JUST FOR THE PUN OF IT!

Bob Hope quotes:
 (About his early boxing days) Some fighters are carried back to their dressing rooms. I'm the only who had to be carried both ways.

I do benefits for all religions — I'd hate to blow the hereafter on a technicality.

I grew up with six brothers. That's how I learned to dance — waiting for the bathroom.

I have a wonderful makeup crew. They're the same people restoring the Statue of Liberty.



It won't be long before this club will be voting for a new President and, for some reason, we don't seem able to find someone who will step up and take on this responsibility

Starting with the new Optimist year, there are a couple more spots that will need filling; that of Program Chair and Bulletin Editor. Got any fruitful ideas?

Manor, Wilson House (a HUD facility), and the Wilson House Child Development Center. The address of United Methodist Retirement Center is 1625 Center St. NE.

Also of interest is the fact that those that serve the Retirement Center are involved with youth as well. In fact, not too long ago it was decided that there ought to be activities involving both young and old which would be mutually beneficial, and that has proven itself to be the case.

Not all the particulars were explained, but not too long ago there was a "Teddy Bear Picnic" at which time the festivities consisted of pizza, people, and macaroni.