


# CLUB TATTLER



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**St. Patrick's Day is around the corner**

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**Notable Quote**

True friendship comes when silence between two people is comfortable.

*Dave Tyson Gentry*

*COVER STORY*

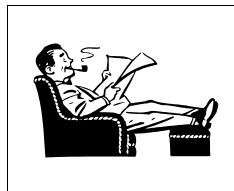
## ***Buddy, can you spare a \$ dollar?***

***Bob Cole***

*In the Spring of 1997, a coin collector paid a small fortune for an 1804 American silver dollar.*

When I heard this I had a fit of turning out every pocket in the closets. I might have an 1805 or 1806 hanging around someplace. Heck, I'd even settle for a 2004. And, by the way, why didn't I save all those silver halves and quarters that passed through my hands during a misspent youth? And what about those silver dollars elderly relatives handed out on significant occasions? Alas, they were put to work on baseballs, Yo-yos, comics, Sky Bars, and Saturday John Wayne movies.

"Dollar" is a strange word, and I've usually had too few of them to impress either my friends or my creditors. To prove the point, I couldn't tell you whose picture is on the \$500 bill [William McKinley] or the \$1,000 [Grover Cleveland] or \$5,000 [James Madison]. And I can't even tell you why I became curious as to the dollar's origins. I do know who's on the \$10,000 bill, though. It's Salmon P. Chase. Not Harry Truman or John Adams or James Monroe. Salmon P. Chase (Kids in the schoolyard played a game called Chase the Fish, just to annoy him).



In spite of the hilarity of sober people naming their son after a Flounder or a Sockeye, if you want to get rid of a couple of "Salmons," I'd not be put out to give them a good home. In the meantime, would you mind paying a little visit to long ago Austria? That's where we begin the hunt for the first dollars.

The Empress Maria Theresa was only 23 when she came to the Imperial throne in the middle of the 18th Century. She ruled the Austrian Empire for 40 years and had 16 children, one of them being the unfortunate Marie Antoinette. Another of the brood was the boy who became Emperor Joseph II. He's the sport who told Mozart that one of his operas had "too many notes." He said that to Mozart, and he was the head guy? In any case, among his mother's many achievements was the introduction of what

might be the most beautiful silver coin ever minted: the Maria Theresa thaler. The word itself goes back to a 16th Century silver strike at Saint Joachimsthal (Joachim's Dale in English) in Bohemia, the Czech part of the Empire. In 1519, the first coins minted from these deposits were called Joachimsthalers,

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## ***Dates For the Club Calendar***

| <i>Day</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Function</i>  | <i>Menu</i>    | <i>Time</i> |
|------------|-------------|------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Fri.       | Feb 27      | Social Evening   | Pork           | 5:30 PM     |
| Fri.       | Mar 5       | Business Meeting | Roast Beef     | 5:30 PM     |
| Fri.       | Mar 12      | Social Meeting   | Fish / Seafood | 5:30 PM     |
| Fri.       | Mar 19      | Social Meeting   | Corned Beef    | 5:30 PM     |
| Fri.       | Mar 26      | Social Meeting   | Pot Roast      | 5:30 PM     |

*On red meat nights there will be chicken or fish alternatives and sugar free desserts are generally available. The kitchen will be happy to honor these or any special requests with proper notice.*



### **Short Facts for the Dinner Table**

>The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV were Fred and Wilma Flintstone.

>**Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the US Treasury.**

>Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear better.

>**Coca-Cola was originally green.**

>It is impossible to lick your elbow.

>**The State with the highest percentage of people who walk to work: Alaska**

>The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28%

>The percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%

>**The cost of raising a medium-size dog to the age of eleven: \$6,400**

>The average number of people airborne over the US any given hour: 61,000

>**Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.**

>The first novel ever written on a typewriter: Tom Sawyer.

>**111,111,111 x 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**DON BROWN**

*Greetings. I needed to take a break from my studying and knowing that Jim will be sending out the newsletter soon, I figured I had better do some Club work.*

*At our last Executive Board meeting I was asked to revisit the proposal of waiving the Friday Evening fee for the individual who was working the "snug" for that evening. This is an issue that has been reviewed and discussed by the Board several times. The main objection to the issue is that it goes against the traditions of the Club. This in turn generated a healthy discussion regarding the fact that traditions are not being passed on to our new members by their sponsors.*

*When I accepted the office of Club President last December, I stated that I enjoyed tradi-*



*tions and hoped to see them continued and in some cases restored. I would like to take this opportunity to share my understanding of some of these traditions as they have been explained to me. The House Committee is where I will start. The House Committee has the responsibility to **supervise** the preparation and serving of the Friday night meals, refreshments at any time, and any other function as it may agree to coordinate. The key word here is to supervise. The House Committee Chairman will usually have three or four Club members who will assist him on the Friday setups. This should be done on a rotating schedule in order to spread out the work so that each member is only responsible for a month or so.*

*Continued page 3*

## **Wampanoug Natives**

**Contributed by Larry Walsh.**

*The accepted theory of why the Wampanoag natives were not living in their houses in Plimoth at the time of the Pilgrim arrival in 1620, is that the Wampanoag had permanently moved inland (Middleboro area) in order to avoid the illnesses of the White man—and, to avoid captivity by the English (as when Captain Hunt captured Squanto and took him to England as a slave).*

*After a good deal of thought, another possibility as to why the Wampanoag were in Middleboro and not in Plimoth: The intense cold and wind off of Plimoth Bay during the winter months. Although the native houses were warmer than the English houses, still, hunting and gathering during winter time presented a challenge.*

*Hence, the Wampanoag would "winter" over in Middleboro and return to Plimoth in the Spring. Up until the 1960's and 70's, only fishermen and poor people had year-round houses on the ocean front. Today, of course, fishermen and poor people cannot afford to have a house on the New England water front. Or, to quote a famous tour guide: "Only rich people and idiots live year-round on the shores of the North Atlantic Ocean."*

*Larry has been an active Club Member and a guide at Plimouth Plantation. He is versed on the history of the Wampanoag natives and the early Pilgrims. We appreciate these facts that are not typically found in history books.*

## **Club Connection**

The following 2004 Executive Board Members are listed for your convenience. If you need information about the Club, one of the upcoming events, Club Membership List or if you've lost your Key, call or E-Mail us.

|           |                 |              |                        |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------|------------------------|
| President | Don Brown       | 508-830-9420 | debrown@adelphia.net   |
| 1st VP    | Bill Rudolph    | 508-747-4271 | wrudolph41@verizon.net |
| 2nd VP    | Kevin McKenna   | 508-746-7326 | meggy1234@aol.com      |
| Secretary | Bernie Sampson  | 508-746-9589 | bsampson@110.net       |
| Treasurer | Dennis Stinnett | 508-746-4297 | gstinnett@msn.com      |

**Building Committee**

*Bill Rudolph*



The 2004 Building Committee consists of the following members:

- Bill Rudolph, Chairman**
- Jim Bennett**
- Paul Blanchard**
- Don Brown**
- James Kiefer**
- Skip Lougee**
- Kuno Ritval**

The Committee will be meeting in the next few weeks to discuss and prioritize projects. If anyone sees an urgent need, please let us know.

**For the Good of the Club**

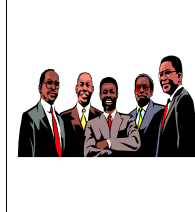
**Neal Merry** is doing OK but the medication really effects him. He is not taking visits or calls at this time but does appreciate cards.

**John Talcott** is still undergoing rehab in Sandwich because of a broken hip caused by a recent fall. He welcomes visitors.

**Jaan Roht** recently had to undergo emergency angioplasty he has been coming for the Social for the past few weeks. He still has to have surgery for another stint.

**Dexter Olsson** recently had surgery. But was able to attend the Club Friday evening Feb 20th but he could only stay for the social.

**Ed David** is at home and is improving. He should be able to get out soon.



**President's Message**

*Continued from page 2*

*The members of the House Committee can enlist the services of any member on any Friday. This is a crucial post for new members to get them involved in the Club activities and more importantly for the new members to get to know the names of the old members of the Club by signing them in each Friday night. Most clubs see to it that new members are similarly assimilated so that they can see they are needed and appreciated, and to make use of their initial enthusiasm in a meaningful manner. It is expected of new members that they either serve on the House Committee or make themselves available whenever possible, to assist on Friday evenings.*

*Continued page 3*

**TREASURER'S COMMENTS**

**C. DENNIS STINNETT**

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\* **Fiscal Year 2003 Taxes** have been filed (on time) and paid, a big thanks to Club Member Rip Bloodgood.

\* **New line item** on the Balance Sheet, "O. C. Club Endowment Holding Fund Account" has been established to hold funds pending decisions by the Investment Committee, this separates them from our checking account.

\* **False Alarm Fines** at the Club now total \$450.00!!!

\* I recently filled out a credit application for the Club, and the supplier was a little taken aback at a couple of the responses:

**Years at present location** — 110 years  
**Years in business** — 234 years

..... guess they don't see this too often.

C.D.S.

**Cooking with Jack.....Jack Brenner**

**Escarole Soup with Garbanzo Beans and Pasta**

Serve with a green salad and crusty bread

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 2 14 1/2 ounce cans vegetable broth
- 3 cups water, divided
- 1 14 1/2 ounce can diced tomatoes in juice with Italian herbs
- 1/2 cup farfallini or other small pasta
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh marjoram
- 1 15 ounce can garbanzo beans (chickpeas), drained
- 5 cups thinly sliced escarole (about 1 medium head)

Freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Heat oil in pot over medium-high heat. Add garlic; saute 1 minute. Add broth, 1 cup water and tomatoes with juice; bring to boil. Add pasta; cover and boil until pasta is tender but still firm to bite, stirring occasionally, about 7 minutes.

Add marjoram, beans, then escarole.

Simmer until escarole is tender, about 5 minutes, adding up to 1 cup water if pasta absorbs the broth.

Season with salt and pepper. Ladle soup into bowls and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Makes 8 servings.

This is an excellent dish. To give it more body I added an additional 1/2 cup of pasta and 1 more can of Swanson vegetable broth with the 2nd cup of water. Use black ground pepper instead of salt for flavor.

Enjoy.....Jack

## Old Colony Club

PO Box 1774  
Plymouth, MA 02362

Phone: 508-746-0110



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Established 1769*

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[www.oldcolonyclub.org](http://www.oldcolonyclub.org)

### President's Message Continued from page 3

*When you Sponsor a new member you should be informing them of this expectation when they are visiting as your guest. You should also be informing them of the dress code of jacket and tie unless the President waives them over the summer months. Once they are elected to membership, you should be encouraging them to come to attend the Friday social and or dinner. You should follow up with them to make sure they have a key and a copy of the By-laws. My Sponsor presented me with a Club tie on my first evening as a new member and I was informed that this was a tradition of the Club. I have carried on this tradition with those whom I have sponsored.*

*To be continued.....DB*

Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5

## *Buddy, can you spare a \$ dollar?*

*Continued from page 1*

eventually shortened to thalers. Before the end of the next century, the Dutch borrowed the term when they began minting their silver daalder.

There are a number of words in American English to remind one of the Dutch colonial presence in New Netherlands, of course. In today's New York, for example, one eats a "cookie" on the front "stoop," while the English cousins eat biscuits on the stairs. As for the rest of us, it is this Dutch influence that has Americans reaching into their wallets to extract, not a Pound but a "dollar." Even the Spanish peso, the famous "piece of 8," was known as a dollar in the English colonies. (That's why we call a quarter "two bits.") This particular coin has two columns engraved on it with a narrow banner wrapped loosely around them; and thus it was the Spanish design that eventually inspired our dollar sign.

The next time you take a bill out of the musty confines of your wallet, showing it the light of day, try not to think of its Austro-Spanish-Dutch past. You won't be able to. And, as I indicated earlier, it wouldn't be contrary to the Eternal Plan for this world if you wanted to donate a few

of them, perhaps to (ahem) one of my favorite charities. A Cleveland or a McKinley would really help this year's vacation fund, but I wouldn't be mortified to receive a few Franklins, either.

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*Bob Cole is a frequent contributor, OCC Member and retired History Professor. He has traveled the world and enjoys adding a bit of humor to history.*

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### **Things Children say.....**

*One summer evening during a violent thunderstorm a mother was tucking her son into bed. She was about to turn off the lights when he asked with a tremor in his voice, "Mommy, will you sleep with me tonight?"*

*The mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't dear," she said. "I have to sleep in Daddy's room."*

*A long silence was broken at last by his shaky little voice: "The big sissy!"*

# 12th NIGHT CELEBRATION 2004