



The Crystal CHRONICLE.



December 1990

President's Column

Season's Greetings!

Our first Christmas party was held on the 1st of this month. Twenty three very beautiful ladies enjoyed a fun evening. The hotel was very cooperative, as was the banquet staff. We enjoyed a cash bar in our banquet room, complete with two very nice ladies that had as much fun as we did. We ate a very tasty meal, banquet style. Music played in the background as we ate and surrounded us as we talked and danced later on. After dinner, we had a drawing for several door prizes.

Overall, we socialized, ate and drank heartily, and danced the night away. Some thank you's are due for the special ladies that made the party such a success. Thank you Lana and your wife Jennifer, for the great decorations and the door prizes. Thank you Rochelle, for the coordination of the banquet, changing rooms, and doing the name tags. Thank you Mary Ann, for the stereo, for the music, and for handling of the members reservations. Thank you Lynda, for the dance music. And last but not least, thank you Susan and Adrienne for handling the finances and hanging the decorations.

The cash bar, the decorations, and the door prizes were funded mainly by the 50/50 drawings we've had at several meetings. As we have more of them in the future, think of the enjoyment they provided us with this Christmas.

We have two meetings during January. Our next meeting will be on the 5th of January and the other on will be on the 26th. We hope that you don't wear yourselves out over Christmas and New Years!

'Tis the time for elections, in the merry month of February. We've been very lucky with our choice of officers this election year. Many have demonstrated their desire to see the club become more successful and more enjoyable, to all that come. However, it's coming time for new members to join the ranks and lead the club into another successful year. Quite frankly, it's up to you, the membership, to get involved and donate your time.

The next board meeting will be on the 16th of January at my apartment. Please contact me at the meeting on the 5th or call the club phone at (614) 777-0648 for directions. It would

be nice to have more members involved in helping with the decisions and the making of policies for the club.

Again, thank all of you that helped with and attended the Christmas party. Please, have an enjoyable but safe holiday!

Jennifer
Acting President

Crystal Club the Family

I'd like to relay my feelings on what the Crystal Club means to me and at the same time say thanks to a few very special people. I hope that this will help everyone come to know us a little better. Newcomers, I hope this helps you take that first step to coming to your first meeting. I know that I have always talked about how great the last meeting was and how good the next one will be. This time I'd like to tell a personal story that shows a side of the Crystal Club that's not at regular meetings.

This story starts on November 1st. I found out that I had to have surgery on my back and the doctor had set the surgery for the 16th of November.

I don't know how many of you have ever been through any kind of surgery that you have to be put to sleep for. This was to be my first and believe me I wasn't in favor of it. First of all I don't have any close family here to be there with me. I was looking at having to face this on my own. I'll say that the thought of being put out really scared me. I like to know what's going on around me at all times.

Well after several people from the club found out they offered to take off work to see that I got to the hospital on time. I can't thank these people enough for their help. But a little after 9:00 the morning of the 16th Mary Ann was at my place where she put my bag and me into her car and off we went. Arriving at the hospital around 10:00 I signed in. Mary Ann stayed and waited along side me till I was called. At this time I was taken upstairs to be prepared for surgery, Mary Ann still by my side. She stayed till about 11:30 and I went into the operating room about fifteen minutes later.

The next thing I remember parts of was being taken to my room afterwards and seeing Beth waiting for me in the

waiting room as we went by. She'll never know just how grateful I was to see someone that I knew as I was waking up. I don't remember too much about that Friday, but I do remember seeing Beth and the lovely Hibiscus that she brought. I still enjoy its blossoms today.

I'd like to say thank you to Lana & Jennifer for the lovely get well card. The two of you are very special in my heart. Jennifer stopped by Monday and Tuesday afternoon on her way to work to see how I was doing and to chat for a few minutes. Lana and Lynda both stopped by Monday evening and sat with me for awhile. I also talked to Lynda for awhile that Sunday morning.

Tuesday the doctor came by and told me that I was going home that day. That was a surprise and I wasn't ready. I had no ride home at that time. With luck I caught Mary Ann before she left for work and told her what the doctor said. She talked things over with Beth and that afternoon Beth was there to take me home. They were great on such short notice. The story doesn't end here.

After getting me home Beth asked if I had any plans for Thanksgiving and if I'd like to come and spend it with them. I wasn't sure at that time what I wanted to do so I asked if I could let her know later. She said sure and that I was more than welcome to come over. That very next day Gina calls and asks me if I'd like to come to her house for Thanksgiving. She didn't want me spending Thanksgiving at home alone. That evening Lynda brought a few things over so that I'd have something to eat the next day. Cindy and everybody calls to see how I'm doing and if I need anything. Lynda and Susan make sure that I'm not stuck in my apartment all the time by coming by and taking me places since I'm not allowed to drive at this time.

These are very special friends to which I can only say thank you and hope that they know that it comes from the bottom of my heart. A person couldn't ask for a better family than this. May we remain sisters for life.

This is what I mean when I say that the Crystal Club is more than just a club. We are a family that cares for one another. Sisters that help each other not only through the rough times but also share the fun times as well. I don't want people to think it's that way the first time you walk in the door but that's the first step to getting there. May our family grow and get stronger each and every day.

Rochelle Richards

[Awwww, Rochelle, cut it out! You get me crying and all that eye makeup runs all over the place. - MAH]

Christmas Party A Success!

I'd like to thank everybody who was able to attend the Crystal Club Christmas Party & Dance! Our first party outside our regular meeting site was a success. It was exciting to see everyone in their beautiful Christmas attire. The hotel staff was polite and treated us all wonderfully, not to mention the food, which was absolutely delicious. After dinner, we raffled off the door prizes, danced, and socialized.

Beth, Mary Ann, and Lynda did a really good job with the music and everyone had a great time. We were happy to see our sisters from "IXE" in Indianapolis and from "Cross Port" in Cincinnati, who all came a long way to celebrate with us.

Although most of the preparations went well, we did have a problem with the decorations. Susan, Adrienne, Jennifer and myself all showed up at the hotel at 1:00 in the afternoon to decorate. Unfortunately, half of our banquet room was occupied by a group of people holding a Hummel Auction, and we were unable to put up all of our decorations. A special thanks goes to Susan and Adrienne who put up some of the decorations after the party had begun. Adrienne had to stand on a chair (not easy wearing heels) and reach to the ceiling!

While I personally don't believe that this location would be the ideal place to hold our regular meetings, I do think this is an excellent place for us to hold special events.

Again, thanks to everyone who helped make our first "outside event" a success. I wish you all a joyful and safe holiday season and I look forward to seeing you all soon at the New Years Eve party on January 5th.

Lana Morris
Acting Vice President

The Christmas Gown

The fabric was woven,
before my conscious memory.
The pattern was cut,
at my high school prom.
The dress was sewn,
for our Christmas party.

Over 20 years ago I was standing in a hotel ballroom, in a drab monochrome rental tux, watching enviously and wondering how nice it must be, to be dancing in satin – taffeta

- silk - lace. Fabric flowing around me as I move, hair brushing my shoulders, heels under my feet and whatever color feels right! A long gown or a fancy party dress, I never believed it would happen, but it has!

In the parallel universe of my second self, I always knew that first fancy dress had to be satin and no color would do, other than red. I can not count how many times I tried that dress on, since buying it two months ago. The anticipation of wearing it to a party was so wonderful, I was dancing five feet in the air! Finally our Christmas party, over 20 years wondering and imagining brought the reality. It was a lovely evening for me, the staff who served us were courteous, a fine meal and of course the companionship which I have grown to treasure the last six months. Not everything went perfectly, but for our initial try, the party was a success, a heartfelt thanks to those who worked so hard on the arrangements. With the experience gained next year it will be even better.

This Christmas season will outshine all the rest in my memory, it will never blur into an indistinguishable event. My family asks what I would like for Christmas, they don't know that since late June it has been Christmas. I certainly have bought myself a lot of presents, and certainly am not done yet. I am bubbling over with Christmas cheer, feeling the joys of the season not felt since a child, so much of this I owe to the Crystal Club members.

The Merriest of Christmas and Season's Greetings to all!

Adrienne

November Board Meeting Minutes

These are the minutes of the November 14th Crystal Club business meeting.

Whoever is elected newsletter editor in February will need a good deal of help. A lot of the work is getting material written and typed into the computer. Remember, Mary Ann, our current newsletter editor, is not running for reelection.

The Crystal Club has accumulated some money in the bank. [We have since used some of this money for the Christmas party. - MAH] We feel better planning would be advantageous for using these funds for future Crystal Club events, such as a picnic next summer.

Jennifer is the acting President of the Crystal Club until Rochelle can recover from back surgery. Lana is temporarily Vice President until Jennifer returns to that position.

It is now Crystal Club policy to not print information about its members activities unrelated to crossdressing in the Crystal Chronicle without their permission. This is for the

confidentiality of individuals who might inadvertently become known as a crossdresser against their wishes.

Some of the Crystal Club officers are still hunting for another meeting place that is larger, affordable, and private. We looked at two places in November, both of them left something to be desired. We're still looking!

We have decided to put together a Welcome Packet for the Crystal Club. We think this will make new people feel welcome and will help acquaint them with the club. We still need regulars to reach out to these people. We would like each officer to write up a paragraph about herself as an introduction to be included in the Welcome Packet.

Elections are in February. Jennifer is heading up the Nominating Committee.

The Crystal Club will meet at the regular place January 5th and 26th.

Susan

Treasurer's Report November 1990

Starting Balance	809.90
Christmas Party Fees	514.00
Membership Dues	15.00
Total	529.00
Christmas Party Meals, Tax, Gratuity	-513.37
Christmas Party Decorations	-57.84
Christmas Party Door Prizes	-62.82
Christmas Party Dressing Room	-55.74
Christmas Party Setup	-25.00
Christmas Party Bar	-65.00
January Meeting Rooms	-275.72
Printing	-33.71
Phone	-54.63
Supplies	-4.62
Total Expenses	-1219.73
Ending Balance	119.17

Susan

[Editor's note: we have paid in advance for both January meeting rooms, so it's not quite as serious as it seems. - MAH]

January Meetings

There will be no business meeting in December. The January business meeting will be held on January 16th at 8:30 at Jennifer's residence. Any interested member is welcome to attend - phone 777-0648 for directions.

The December meeting won't be held in December, since the 22nd is part of the Christmas holiday. Instead, we will have an informal New Year's party on January 5. There will not be a speaker at this party. The location will be the same one we have been using for nearly two years. The doors will be open at 6:00 as usual.

The regular January meeting will be held on January 26 in the same old location. As usual, the doors will be open by 6:00 PM for early comers and those needing to dress; most people will arrive between 7:00 and 8:00 and leave by midnight. We are working on lining up a speaker for this meeting.

Mary Ann

Meeting Locations

In late November, several of the officers visited some potential new meeting locations. None is perfect, but each has its own advantages and disadvantages. Unfortunately, I can't name the specific sites in the newsletter, so I'll have to make up names for them. Any member in good standing can phone or ask at a meeting and we'll tell you where the sites are.

At the present time, we have four real alternatives. While we have committed to remain in our old location ("Site A") for the month of January, we may move at some later date. Your feedback is strongly invited.

Site A is our current site. It has the advantages of two attached dressing rooms, a good deal of privacy, and that we are familiar and comfortable with it. The primary disadvantage is that it is small. We have been growing lately, and it is awfully crowded to fit 30 people in this location. Inexplicably, however, our last few meetings have drawn about 20-25 people. It's still a bit crowded. We spend about \$130 each month here, plus the cost of food and beverages.

Site B is where we held the Christmas party. This site has plenty of room, and allows us to have dinner or snacks catered. There is a bar close by to supply drinks. We had a successful Christmas party there, and the banquet manager has been very kind. She has worked with crossdressers before and understands us well. The disadvantages to this site are the cost (we cannot bring our own food or drink, but must buy theirs),

the location of the dressing room (a bit of a walk away) and the presence of a bar that draws other local residents. Some members have expressed concern that someone at the bar may recognize them. The bar draws older people with oldies bands on weekends. A police officer is on duty every Saturday to prevent trouble, and as a result there hasn't been any trouble. In addition to the \$50 dressing room charge, the banquet room alone costs \$150, but if we have dinner or snacks there the price is reduced to a \$25 setup charge. Food costs anywhere from \$6 to \$18 per person, and beverages run from \$1.25 for a soft drink to \$3.50 for a mixed drink.

Site C is a private lodge in a public park. The lodge is very nice and quite roomy. We can bring our own food - it has a large kitchen. The location is well shielded from the rest of the park, although an occasional hiker might wander by during daylight in the summer. A park ranger will be around to ensure safety and security. The cost is quite reasonable, ranging from \$65 to \$115 depending on the season and how late we stay. The disadvantages are that no alcohol is allowed *under any circumstances*. We must be gone by midnight (with a big discount if we are gone by 10:00; the difference pays for overtime for the ranger). There is no dressing room, although the bathrooms are both roomy and private, as is the kitchen.

Site D is a rental hall owned by the Lions Club. It costs \$115. It is large but has a bare concrete floor and gravel parking lot. Food and alcohol are allowed. We have to allow any Lions Club member admission at any time. When we set up an appointment for 4:00 to see the site, we arrived at 4:04 and found nobody there. A phone call to the renters determined that they were unwilling to come back to show it to us.

It is also possible that additional sites will turn up. We have thought of renting a hospitality suite in a hotel. If a rich relative would die and leave one of us a large check, that person could buy a secluded house in the country and allow us to meet there. Please be on the lookout for better meeting locations.

Until our membership grows or tells us that we are too crowded in Site A, we will probably stay put. However, if we do grow, we may have to move quickly. If you have a preference, let us know now. It's only a matter of time before we burst our current site at the seams.

Mary Ann

Editor's Edict

Ladies, this is your newsletter. It's beginning to take on a life of its own, so it's important for you to tell us what you want it to be.

Most importantly, this is a forum for you to say what you think, or what you feel. Tell us what's going on in your life! Tell us what you like or don't like about the club, the meetings, or the newsletters. Tell us what you want and what you don't want. If you put it in writing, your views will be taken more seriously than if you just tell one person, because everybody will hear you.

I'd like to say a big *thank you* to Adrienne, Jennifer, Lana, Rochelle, and Susan for this month's contributions. Beautiful stuff, ladies!

The newsletter also has a lot of other material. We cover the news, try to stir up interest in political issues, work for good community relations with other gender groups and local individuals and groups who have been supportive. Advertising helps you find a place to shop or buy that special product or service that you can't find at K-Mart. Listings for neighboring groups help us make friends in nearby cities, and refer new inquiries to the closest possible groups. Articles shamelessly stolen from other newsletters and publications let a wider audience read the excellent writings of others. (I'm sure some of you can write some amusing prose, too!) Fiction makes entertaining reading.

All of this comes at a cost. Your \$15 annual membership dues is intended to cover the cost of the newsletter. Once upon a time, when the newsletter was 4 pages long, it did. Now that we're getting into thicker newsletters (anything over 10 pages takes two stamps) our copying and postage costs per newsletter are more.

We also exchange newsletters with many sister organizations (which, besides helping us make friends, allows us to reprint their articles.) We build good community relations by including our local friends on our courtesy mailing list; people like Nancy, Sylvia, Gloria, Michelle, Dr. Crane, have been wonderful, and local groups like Stonewall Union, GLBS, and NOW have helped a great deal to bridge the gap to the general community. Advertisers also receive a subscription to the Chronicle. Our current monthly mailing includes 28 courtesy copies of the newsletter, in addition to our 37 members, and about 5 sample newsletters to prospective new members.

Our cost to print and mail a 10 page newsletter is about \$10.80/copy/year, or \$750 at our current size. Our 37 members' dues add up to \$555. If the newsletter is 16 pages, the annual cost is about \$17.50, or \$1225 total. These prices work out to \$20.00 per paying member for 10 pages, or \$33 or 16 pages. These costs assume the newsletter editor puts in untold hours of volunteer work - we couldn't even begin to afford to pay someone to do this!

The newsletter has grown by leaps and bounds since it was started. The number of pages in the 1989 newsletters were 4, 5, 4, 4, 8, 8, 6, and 20 pages in the December issue that included the entire Renaissance newsletter. The 1990 newsletters have been 8, 8, 8, 12, 10, 10, 10, 10, 12, 15 and 12 pages long. It is clear that our newsletter has outgrown our

\$15/year membership dues.

We would like to offer more member services than just the newsletter. Rather than having stick-on name tags, we are considering nice pin-on name tags with members' names and possibly our logo printed on them, at prices ranging from \$1 to \$9 each, depending on how nice they are. The telephone line is important, too, and incurs a monthly charge.

We need your feedback. Should we cut back the newsletter to last year's size and stop exchanging newsletters with our neighbors and friends? Should we raise membership dues to cover the costs? Should we invest \$1000 in a copier, which would pay for itself in about 2 years, but require higher dues for those two years? Should we reduce our mailing costs by sending a folded and stapled newsletter at bulk rate instead of a sealed envelope at first class rates? (There are privacy issues here, and it would take longer to arrive.) Should we raise our meeting fee about \$3/month to cover the extra cost? Should we reduce the newsletter to half-size with little teeny print to reduce the number of pages? [Pages 7-10 of this newsletter have been reduced to illustrate what I mean. Imagine all 12 reduced and folded down the middle like a booklet. While the laser printed pages look pretty legible, I printed page 8 on a dot matrix printer so you can see what it looks like reduced.]

Tell us what you want. Send in an article to air your views. If you can't do that, at least corner me at a meeting and let me know. Our new newsletter editor (effective in March) will have to make a lot of decisions about the newsletter, and will probably use a different process from the current newsletter. We don't know if the use of a laser printer will be possible. Please help her provide the newsletter *you* want, at a cost you are willing to pay for.

Mary Ann

Skirting the Issue

Should a man who stays home to take care of a child while his wife works be allowed to join a mothers-infants group?

This is not as difficult a question on child-rearing as the one Solomon once had to settle, but intriguing nonetheless.

Fairness in an age moving toward unisex would seem to dictate that Joel Chaiken could join the Riverdale NY Neighborhood House support group. But Chaiken found a closed door. So he has filed what may be a precedent-setting discrimination suit, which one might expect in a nation where even the tiniest, silliest misunderstanding winds up being litigated.

The New York State Division on Human Rights recently

decided Chaiken's case has merit and has ordered a public hearing.

Some in Riverdale's upper-middle-class neighborhood, about 11 miles north of midtown Manhattan, say they wouldn't be comfortable with a man in the group.

"There are mothers and there are dads and he's not a mother," said Caryl Malka, 33, boiling the argument down to basics.

Isn't that the kind of thinking that feminists are trying to do away with?

Chaiken is a parent staying home to take care of a child while the other parent works. The group was formed to be a forum for just such people. To rule otherwise would be sexist, wouldn't it?

Just because Chaiken doesn't wear a skirt is no reason to exclude him. Just as there is no reason to keep a woman from formerly male bastions just because she wears a skirt.

[I'll bet if Chaiken wore a skirt to the group meetings he'd be the only one doing so. But maybe he just doesn't have the legs for it.]

[Courtesy Columbus Dispatch.]

Police Force Woman to Drop Pants

Two female bodybuilders have filed a \$1 million police misconduct claim against the city of Costa Mesa, saying officers forced one of them to drop her pants to prove her sex.

Lorie Sencer, 28, and Bridget Morton, 20, were stopped by police about 9 p.m. Oct. 27 as they were coming out of the women's restroom at the Pacific Amphitheatre, their attorney, John Duran, said Monday. The two were attending a Billy Idol concert, Duran said.

Sencer, of Los Alamitos, said four officers blocked the restroom exit as she and Morton tried to leave. "The one officer said that we would have to go to jail unless Bridget showed him some kind of proof that she was a woman," Sencer said. "He told her, 'Let's go around the building there and see.'"

When the women protested, the officers ordered the amphitheater's first-aid and security officials to examine Morton, Sencer said.

"They took her in the first-aid tent and made her drop her pants," Sencer said. "Then the first-aid lady yelled out, 'She's a woman.' The police officers just took off."

Rick Graves, the head of medical and safety operations at the Pacific Amphitheatre, confirmed that police ordered his staff to inspect Morton's genitals.

[Courtesy Orange County Register, Columbus Dispatch, and Michelle.]

Pioneering Woman had Columbus Ties

Mary Edwards Walker was the first woman to win the Medal of Honor. She was a tireless worker for women's rights and a battleground surgeon during the Civil War. She led the fight for women's right to wear pants.

Born in Oswego, NY in 1832, Walker received a physician's certificate from Syracuse Medical College in 1855. She began her practice in Columbus and then moved it to Rome, NY.

During the Civil War, she served as a nurse in the Union Army until 1864, when she was commissioned and made a surgeon, the *Encyclopedia Americana* says.

That year she was captured and held for four months in a Confederate prison. She was finally exchanged for a confederate officer.

In 1917, a federal review board revoked her Medal of Honor, claiming she had never actually served in the Army. She continued to wear the medal, in spite of the revocation, until her death on Feb. 21, 1919. The Army restored the medal in 1977.

After the war, Walker was a leader in the movement to end restrictions on the way women dressed, *The World Book Encyclopedia* says.

She believed women should be able to wear whatever they want, and she took to wearing men's clothes such as pants, coats, bow ties and top hats to make her point. In the army she had worn a uniform like other officers.

She wore men's clothing during the daytime but sometimes changed into evening dresses when she was lecturing on social reforms.

The book *Notable American Women* said Walker was small and slender and attractive. She married Albert Miller, a medical student, but never adopted his name. They divorced in 1869.

Walker also campaigned for women's right to vote, but in her later years she became so eccentric even other suffragists distanced themselves from her and her unpredictable behavior.

A commemorative stamp was issued in 1982 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of her birth.

[Courtesy John Switzer and the Columbus Dispatch.]

Sizing Up

Maria Striz, who plays Deanna Troi on the syndicated *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, reveals her new look has sparked a flood of letters from viewers asking if she's had breast enlargements. "They always wore that size," says Striz. "This green dress they have me wearing now is acceptably clinging and requires a corset underneath. The corset gives me the bigger appearance." She adds that women (or men) who care to learn the brand of corset can write her c/o Star Trek Paramount Studios, 5555 Melrose Avenue, L.A., CA 90038.

[Courtesy TV Guide and the *Yuck's* mailing list.]

That's no Lady - It's my ex-wife

When Bridegroom Ian Franklin slipped the wedding ring on his beloved's finger, the registrar smiled and congratulated a couple whose marriage seemed made in heaven. But all was not what it seemed with the blonde bride at the ceremony five years ago.

The attractive young woman who gave her name as Nina Hall, receptionist, was in fact born Robert Duxbury. She had been through a sex change operation four years earlier.

It was only yesterday in the London Divorce Courts that her secret was revealed and legal history made, when the marriage was annulled on the grounds that bride and groom were both made in the eyes of the law.

The bride, whose name was given yesterday as Harley Jones, was elegant in dark jacket and checked trousers for the hearing. As she sat on the opposite side of the court from slim dark haired Mr. Franklin, a clockmaker, she drew admiring glances.

Before granting the decree, which was not contested by Harley Jones, Judge Dobby called for the text books in check the legal position. Told that Jones was in court he looked in that direction and said: "There's a lady in court". Miss Judith Hughes, for Mr Franklin, told the judge: "For the purposes of law, she biologically remains male."

She said a financial arrangement had been reached between the couple, both 29. It was also formally confirmed in court that they had no children.

The couple, who were 'married' at Brent register office in North West London, left the Divorce Court without comment. But last night a black wreath was hanging from the door of Mr Franklin's home in Barnes. A telephone answering

machine said: "This is Ian and Charlotte's answering phone." Brent's Superintendent Registrar, Mr Mark Rimmer, said a birth certificate was always requested before a marriage but was not compulsory. "We all wish that the law would change so that we can demand identification before we marry couples. But so far there have been no changes, and a certain amount of deception continues."

[Courtesy Jane of CD-Funn and London Daily Mail.]

Phone Hotline

Stonewall Union Reports this month carries an ad for the Crossdressers Hotline, among the ads aimed at allowing men to meet each other. The ad says it is "for transvestites, transsexuals, and anybody into crossdressing... plus those who want to meet them." It offers a new selection of 15 "voice-ads" daily. The number is 1-900-990-4328, then you touch 1199 for the first minute and \$ 99 for each additional minute will be added to your phone bill.

To save multiple people from calling and being disappointed, I called it and recorded the call. (I'll bring the tape on who would like to date other gay men in person or by phone. I didn't hear anybody who is just looking for a phonic girlfriend or support group, although it's possible a few people really did intend that and just didn't say so. There were no ads from GG's.

There are ads from crossdressers looking for others, from non-crossdressing gay men looking for variety, and from pre-op transsexuals looking for men. (The two TS's had very passable voices.) One caller wants to exchange "drag records". There is an opportunity to leave your own message at the end of the call.

The total call lasted just under 10 minutes and would cost about \$11. The sound quality is pretty poor, with some callers hard to understand. Most of the callers leave a phone number, a few leave a mailing address.

If you want to spend \$11 to meet people, I think you're a lot better off to buy an issue of *Tapstry* for \$10. In addition to its high quality articles and worldwide listing of support groups, *Tapstry* carries a large section of support groups, many with photos. The current issue has 48 pages of listings, with about 10 listings per page. There are 18 listings from Ohio alone. *Tapstry* is published by FROE at 617-899-2212.

Mary Ann

Calendar of Events

12/20	Cross Port	Meeting	Cincinnati
12/21	Trans-W	Meeting	Huntington
1/3	IEE	Meeting	Indianapolis
1/5	Crystal Club	Meeting	Big Location
1/10	Transgill	Meeting	Pittsburg
1/12	Transgill	Social	Pittsburg
1/12	Alta Omega	Meeting	Lakewood, OH
1/16	Crystal Club	Business Meeting	Jennifer
1/17	Cross-Port	Meeting	Cincinnati
1/18	Trans-W	Meeting	Huntington
1/19	Paradise	Social	Lakewood, OH
1/26	Crystal Club	Meeting	Big Location
2/7	IEE	Meeting	Indianapolis
2/9	Transgill	Meeting	Pittsburg
2/9	Alta Omega	Meeting	Lakewood, OH
2/14	Crystal Club	Business Meeting	Colletts
2/14	Transgill	Social	Pittsburg
2/15	Trans-W	Meeting	Huntington
2/16	Paradise	Meeting	Lakewood, OH
2/21	Cross-Port	Meeting	Cincinnati
2/22-24	Koulton & Park	Trans Party	Sam Houston
2/24	Crystal Club	Meeting-Elections	Colletts
4/8-14	IEE	Meeting	Denver
6/5-9	Paradise	Meeting	Cleveland
10/3-6	Kay's Beta	Meeting	Albina

Related Organizations

- Legal Services for Gays
- Crystal Club
P.O. Box 387
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
(614) 777-0648
- Natal Line, Ltd
Central Ohio Gender Dysphoria
P.O. Box 02008
Columbus, OH 43202
- Manly Guys
Cross-Port
P.O. Box 12701
Cincinnati, OH 45212
(513) 851-6174
- Alta Omega
Northern Ohio Tri-Ess Chapter
P.O. Box 854
Elyria, OH 44036
- Transgill
P.O. Box 3214
Pittsburg, PA 15230
- Paradise Club
P.O. Box 29584
Farm, OH 44129
- IEE
Box 20710
Indianapolis, IN 46220
- Crossroads
Box 1245
Royal Oak, MI 48068-1245
- Transgill
P.O. Box 337
Wayland, MA 01778
(617) 894-2212
- National Organizations
IEE
P.O. Box 1263
King of Prussia, PA 19006
(215) 640-9449
- Transgill
P.O. Box 11754
Lincoln Station
Arlington, VA 22212
- Transgill
P.O. Box 194
Tulane, CA 93275

Story Heard at a Holiday Party

The nurses at Mt. Carmel East Hospital tell of a woman who arrives in the hospital every day in the morning, goes into a restroom, and comes out later as a man. Then he goes to work at AT&T Network Systems across the street.

At the end of the day, he returns to Mt. Carmel, goes into the restroom, and a woman emerges later and goes home.

Comment by an AT&T employee at the party: "He could just change in an AT&T restroom, nobody would mind!"

Mary Ann

How Long Is your Tie?

Who says men's clothes have to be boring? After all, you get about 6 square inches to make a statement about our personality on that piece of cloth hanging around your neck, right? Here is one person's approach to expressing himself.

First person: Due to a recent disagreement at my office, I was wondering what the general consensus was regarding tie length.

Second person: Well in the book "Clothes and the Man" by Alan Flusser, (page 85): "After being tied, the tips of the necktie should be long enough to reach the waistband of the trousers."

Third person: This really depends on the tie. A bowtie would look really strange if it reached the waistband of the trousers. Also, if you are wearing a kilt and not trousers, it can get confusing.

Here are my rules about ties:

1. Bowties. The lights on the ties must be either green or red or a combination thereof. The red must be on the left if you have both colors. If there are two colors, they must not flash at the same time. If both are one color, they should flash at the same time.
2. Remove your mylar tie before going into the computer room. This is especially true if you are going to remove a circuit board. Contact between a mylar tie and a live board will cause a static discharge.
3. Ties made of meat are right out. No, sausages are not acceptable either.
4. Flamingo ties must be pink and be long enough such that the entire bird is visible.

5. Leather ties are very fetching, especially at marketing planning sessions. Don't wear red leather ties, because the other guys will think you are a sissy. Black leather with studs is OK if you work at Harley Davidson or another motorcycle manufacturer. Soft brown leather is best.

6. If you work at a shop where the other guys pressure you into not wearing a tie and threaten the ritual castration gesture of cutting your tie off, get a chain mail tie. A wood tie is OK, but make sure it's hardwood and not softwood, which can dissolve in your soup.

7. Only lawyers wear yellow silk ties with little white dots on them. If you wear them, people will aim firearms at you.

8. Only investment bankers and money nerds wear red ties with little white dots on them. If you wear them, psychologists will make pointed statements about phallic imagery and feelings of male inadequacy.

9. You can't go wrong with navy blue, especially when it has a hula girl handpainted on it.

10. Don't blow your nose in your tie at art auctions or you might suddenly owe Sotheby's 42 million dollars for Vincent Van Gogh's shopping list.

[Courtesy E. Richards and yucks mailing list.]

Arkansas or Bust

APT - Little Rock AR -- In a wave of radical conservatism the Arkansas legislature has passed a law which will make sex change mandatory for men convicted of cross dressing. The new law, which was attached to the end of a bill dealing with intoxicated drivers, will place first offenders on probation. After a second offense the individual will be sentenced to a mandatory sex change in a state hospital. Special interest groups are getting ready to battle each other over the passing of this new law.

[Courtesy IXE.]

Guilt Ridden Words

Deuteronomy 22:5 (-man shall not put on a woman's garment...) instills more hurt and guilt in CDers than any other Bible passage. Kim in the ETVC Newsletter offers a different translation. "Deuteronomy was written in the 7th century B.C. for the tribes of Israel. The original words translate

approximately to: 'A woman shall not wear men's clothes to impersonate holy men and men shall not dress in women's garb to go into ladies tents to rape and pillage - to do so is an abomination to God.' She says that 'The words and meaning changed several times in 23 centuries, but a homophobic, authoritarian despot completely changed their meaning.'

[Courtesy IXE.]

Pam's Christmas Wish List

The following is a list of things I would like for Christmas.

- 1) A copy of the "Don't Let Me Crossover" Christmas Album by the Moran Tabernacle Choir.
- 2) Lee's Press on Christmas Wreaths.
- 3) Breast Pads that don't convert to shoulder pads before an hour's up.
- 4) Either a pair of High Heel Shoes that aren't pointed, or enough duct tape to mold my feet to fit pointed shoes.
- 5) A 'treasure chest' [Michael Salem breast form product - MAH] that doesn't make you look like the front end of a '57 Buick.
- 6) A more feminine walk so I don't look like I just finished a three month trail drive with Gil Favor.
- 7) A more feminine voice so I don't sound like Ethel Merman's impression of a Nuclear Warning Device.
- 8) Smaller fingers to keep from having to order rings from Ringling Brothers.
- 9) Shorter height so I don't have to continuously lie that I play for the East German Women's Basketball Team.
- 10) Tall Girl Pantyhose which actually reach above mid thigh.
- 11) Smaller Ears to avoid buying earrings from Hub Cap City.
- 12) Natural Eyebrows that don't make you look like the ugliest Klingon Alive or Dead.
- 13) Hips that are full instead of appearing that they were pressed between two city buses.
- 14) Skins that hang instead of droop.
- 15) Skin that is soft and smooth - So that I can cease getting monthly inquiries from the Tony Lama Boot Company regarding the status of my health.
- 16) A baby doll gown that comes below the navel, and doesn't make you appear to be a folded up patio umbrella.

- 17) A 550 pound pigeon that is trained to "SPOT" people that stare at you when you are out in public.
- 18) Mail order clothes which resemble those in the catalog.
- 19) Cars that are built high enough so you don't have to crawl into them to avoid wig decapitation.
- 20) A table at Oleen's that is large enough to comfortably seat at least four grunts and their purses.

[Courtesy The Pink Slip, Charlotte NC.]

Pam's Puns

Crossdressers are great management people, they can skirt almost any issue.

Is a crossroad a road that is half dirt and half asphalt?

Does a crossdressing lawyer often carry a case of briefs? Life insurance policies for crossdressers should all carry double indemnity clauses.

In the "Old West", did an Indian Crossdresser send smoke signals using a "powder puff"?

[Courtesy The Pink Slip, Charlotte NC.]

Policies

The Crystal Club is an open support group for cross dressers. We welcome TV, TS, TG, FI, and others who assume a complete trans-gendered identity. Both Male-to-Female and Female-to-Male individuals are welcome. We welcome their spouses and significant others (SO's.) We welcome guests from related organizations, when cleared through an officer.

Meetings are the fourth Saturday evening of each month. Meetings are open only to cross dressers who have been screened or approved by an officer, and to cross dresser's spouses/SO's, helping professionals, and approved guests. The location of the hotel is given out after interview.

There is a monthly meeting fee (see schedule below) to cover the cost of the room, food, soft drinks and coffee, and general operating expenses of the group. This fee is above and in addition to annual membership dues. If you wish beer or wine, BYOB (many people do.)

Nonmembers may attend as many as three meetings before joining. Usually a new member will join at their first meeting, paying a total of \$30 (\$35 for couples) at that meet-

We do not care about the sexual orientation of the members and attendees. We do, however, require that all attendees behave like ladies or gentlemen at all times. Everyone has the right to feel secure, knowing they will not be ridiculed for their dressing or their appearance, and knowing they will not be "hit on" by anyone present.

We require that all attendees come completely dressed as the gender they are presenting, i.e. entirely as a woman or entirely as a man. Members will usually dress, but this is not required. Persons are *not* permitted to arrive partially dressed, for example, a dress and male hair, or a dress and an unshaven face, as this may draw unwanted attention to the rest of the group. Ladies' pants and casual wear are fine. An adjacent changing room is available if you prefer to come in male clothing and dress at the meeting site.

Membership is \$15 per year in advance. After the first complementary copy of the newsletter, additional newsletters are sent only to members who have paid their dues. First year membership will run for 12 months from the date of payment. Second year membership will be pro-rated to run out at the end of the Crystal Club fiscal year, June 30, rounded to the nearest \$5 (4 months.) Additional years will be from July 1 to June 30.

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Meeting Reservations

The monthly meeting fee is \$15 for an individual (crossdresser, transsexual, etc) or \$20 for a couple (CD/TS plus Significant Other.) A \$3 discount will apply for those making reservations at least 2 days in advance.

For the January 5 meeting, reservations must be received by telephone at 777-0648, by January 3, to qualify for the \$3 "early bird" discount. You can also pay at the previous meeting if you wish.

EVEN IF YOU DON'T MAKE A RESERVATION BY THURSDAY, PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AT 777-0648 TO LET US KNOW IF YOU'RE COMING TO THE MEETING. A message as late as noon Saturday can still help us make sure we have enough food.

The Magic Tunnel

By Terri Davis

There wasn't time to be amazed, for just then there was the distant sound of a girl's voice calling from the distance. Perhaps from the staircase? Not really knowing what to do, Billy, or whomever Billy was now, quickly brushed out her skirts and she pushed shut the little door and recovered it with the pegboard and mirror before she propped the pegboard just as Billy found it with the dusty mops and dirty broom. Walking down the narrow hall she dusted her hands again hoping that she hadn't gotten all icky and dirty. Brushing her skirts once again to be certain all was neat she felt in her skirt pocket the pretty rock that she had found on the way to school.

Suddenly, at the end of the little hall to her right on the way back towards the stairs was Mr. Jakubauskas' closet!

The little girl (or was it Billy?) decided that the thing to do was to finish what she had set out to do. She stopped to open the closet door to discover that the walk in closet contained supplies neatly arranged on shelves to the left with some women's clothes and things hanging on a closet bar to her right. Dismissing the clothes from her wondering mind she took an eraser while Billy thought about the janitor wearing dresses?

Just as she turned and closed the closet door she heard footsteps nearby and she saw that it was Billy's classmate Bobby, only Bobby was a girl too!

"Hey, Beth," her girl friend whispered, "where have you been? Did you get lost in this awful dark and dirty basement or something? Mr. Wilkins sent me down here to get you. I wish he had sent one of the boys. But it is the girls' side of the school."

"I...had trouble finding the closet in the dark," Beth (Billy) confessed, "but, I just found it."

The two girls half ran up the stairs to the first floor and Billy realized that 'Bobby' was right, they were on the girls' side of the basement. As they walked up the next flights Billy's mind tried to figure out how he had gotten lost. Deep in thought he suddenly realized that they had reached the classroom.

When he opened the door he found that all of his boy friends had somehow turned into girls like him, and the girls were boys. And just as 'Bobby' had said their teacher was not Mrs. Wilkins, it was Mr. Wilkins!

"Did you get lost Miss. Beth," Mr. Wilkins asked with an edge to his voice as he considered how much time had been wasted while the silly girl wandered about the basement.

"Yes... um... Mr. Wilkins," Beth answered sweetly, "But, I did find the erasers after all."



The Crystal CHRONICLE.



December 1990

President's Column

Season's Greetings!

Our first Christmas party was held on the 1st of this month. Twenty three very beautiful ladies enjoyed a fun evening. The hotel was very cooperative, as was the banquet staff. We enjoyed a cash bar in our banquet room, complete with two very nice ladies that had as much fun as we did. We ate a very tasty meal, banquet style. Music played in the background as we ate and surrounded us as we talked and danced later on. After dinner, we had a drawing for several door prizes.

Overall, we socialized, ate and drank heartily, and danced the night away. Some thank you's are due for the special ladies that made the party such a success. Thank you Lana and your wife Jennifer, for the great decorations and the door prizes. Thank you Rochelle, for the coordination of the banquet, changing rooms, and doing the name tags. Thank you Mary Ann, for the stereo, for the music, and for handling of the members reservations. Thank you Lynda, for the dance music. And last but not least, thank you Susan and Adrienne for handling the finances and hanging the decorations.

The cash bar, the decorations, and the door prizes were funded mainly by the 50/50 drawings we've had at several meetings. As we have more of them in the future, think of the enjoyment they provided us with this Christmas.

We have two meetings during January. Our next meeting will be on the 5th of January and the other on will be on the 26th. We hope that you don't wear yourselves out over Christmas and New Years!

'Tis the time for elections, in the merry month of February. We've been very lucky with our choice of officers this election year. Many have demonstrated their desire to see the club become more successful and more enjoyable, to all that come. However, it's coming time for new members to join the ranks and lead the club into another successful year. Quite frankly, it's up to you, the membership, to get involved and donate your time.

The next board meeting will be on the 16th of January at my apartment. Please contact me at the meeting on the 5th or call the club phone at (614) 777-0648 for directions. It would

be nice to have more members involved in helping with the decisions and the making of policies for the club.

Again, thank all of you that helped with and attended the Christmas party. Please, have an enjoyable but safe holiday!

Jennifer
Acting President

Crystal Club the Family

I'd like to relay my feelings on what the Crystal Club means to me and at the same time say thanks to a few very special people. I hope that this will help everyone come to know us a little better. Newcomers, I hope this helps you take that first step to coming to your first meeting. I know that I have always talked about how great the last meeting was and how good the next one will be. This time I'd like to tell a personal story that shows a side of the Crystal Club that's not at regular meetings.

This story starts on November 1st. I found out that I had to have surgery on my back and the doctor had set the surgery for the 16th of November.

I don't know how many of you have ever been through any kind of surgery that you have to be put to sleep for. This was to be my first and believe me I wasn't in favor of it. First of all I don't have any close family here to be there with me. I was looking at having to face this on my own. I'll say that the thought of being put out really scared me. I like to know what's going on around me at all times.

Well after several people from the club found out they offered to take off work to see that I got to the hospital on time. I can't thank these people enough for their help. But a little after 9:00 the morning of the 16th Mary Ann was at my place where she put my bag and me into her car and off we went. Arriving at the hospital around 10:00 I signed in. Mary Ann stayed and waited along side me till I was called. At this time I was taken upstairs to be prepared for surgery, Mary Ann still by my side. She stayed till about 11:30 and I went into the operating room about fifteen minutes later.

The next thing I remember parts of was being taken to my room afterwards and seeing Beth waiting for me in the

"Good girl," Mr. Wilkins responded in turn causing some of the kids to giggle, "and thank you, Robin, for finding our little lost girl. Maybe we all can now get back to our math lesson."

Mr. Wilkins continued to write numbers on the freshly wiped black board, but Beth could hardly pay attention. Everybody was so different, yet she was the only one who knew!

Pretty soon it was time for recess, and all the kids went outside into the schoolyard with Beth joining her classmates at jump rope. While Susan and Lynda held the ends of the long rope to get the beat of each swing started; Laura chose the order in which the other girls jumped into the swing, at first turn, one by one to the rhyming chant. Beth found herself surprisingly good at it as she moved into doubles with Laura skip for skip.

After she tripped out of her turn Beth played a hand clapping game with Mary: "Abla Blueble, Abla Blueble," she recited while they clapped each other's hands and their own. Soon Mary saw her turn at the jump rope and she left Beth alone.

Beth went over to the side of the schoolyard where she could see the boys playing touch football. She sort of wished that she were playing touch football too; but, then she thought about how much fun she was having playing with the other girls. She giggled at the strange thought that maybe she was thinking like a tomboy, or was it Billy who preferred to play with the girls?

When the class bell rang they all went back inside where Mr. Wilkins gave them a sheet with words on it. They had to write down other words that sounded the same but were spelled differently.

Beth finished her sheet quickly. She would have been finished much sooner if it had not been for Jeff, who sat behind her and amused himself by pulling on her braids and whispering, "Ding, dong, bell, pussy's in the well..." She turned around angrily to warn, "Stop it!", but it didn't do much good until Mr. Wilkin's stern glance caught Jeff's eye.

At lunch time Beth (Billy) had a little problem - she couldn't find the right lunch box on the shelf at the back of the class room with the other lunch boxes. Her mind seemed to shift back and forth with Billy's until he decided to wait until the rest of the class had picked up their own lunches. Billy's lunch box had been green with pictures of trains on it, but the one left was pink with flowers upon it. When Beth opened the box she found her name written on a plastic tape inside the lid, "Beth Harrison". Fortunately, it was the same lunch that his mother had packed for him that morning. (Or would his father be Beth's mother here?)

[To be continued.]

[Courtesy *Our Sorority*. Subscriptions are \$10 for 3 or more issues per year, to Our Sorority, Lincolnia Station, POB 11254, Alexandria VA 22312.]



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