



# Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South

(GUMS)

January 3, 2020 – Vol. 44, Issue 14

## Optimist Club of Monaco South



**OPTIMIST**  
INTERNATIONAL

Founded in 1976 at Denver, Colorado  
Serving Youth and the Community for 43 Years  
National Philanthropy Day Colorado, Outstanding Service Organization, 2012  
[www.monacosouth.org](http://www.monacosouth.org)

Editor for this Issue—George Buzick



**OPTIMIST**  
INTERNATIONAL

### WELCOME 2020

### Good Morning Optimists

On this bright, but brisk morning of the first meeting of the last year of the current decade (*not the first meeting of the current decade, as some would have you believe*), members of the Monaco South Optimist Club were greeted by the dynamic duo of **Harry Fegley** and **Don Roth**.



Harry Fegley & Don Roth  
Photos Noel Hasselgren



Unofficial greeters were **Frank Middleton** and his grandson **Camden**, who were wandering about the room—with Chuck E. Cheese in tow.

Left, Frank & Camden make the rounds talking with Tom Hoch.

Editor, “*This year, most probably will be a great year for Ophthalmologists and Optometrists, as everyone will be seeing 2020!*”

### First Bell

After the morning Invocation and Pledge Allegiance to the flag, President **Bob Meyer** took advantage of the fact that he had the gavel to share with us the historical events and the birthdays of “famous” people for the month of January. Here are some of them: 1496, Leonardo da Vinci decided to test out his famous Flying Machine; 1870, construction begins on Brooklyn Bridge; 1954, Alaska admitted as the 49<sup>th</sup> State; 1962, Pope John XXIII excommunicated Fidel Castro; 1977, Apple Computer is incorporated by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, and Ronald Wayne; 1985, Mitchell McConnell becomes Senator of Kentucky; and 2019, Nancy Pelosi, elected speaker of the House for the second time.

Birthdays: 106BC, Cicero; 1909, Victor Borge; 1939, Bobby Hall; and 1981, Eli Manning. To add to that list,

**Prez Bob** shared the names of the Club’s January birthday boys: **Bill Blunden**, 2; **Bill McGroarthy**, 4; **John Stoffel**, 7; **Kevin Koalenz**, 10; **Ken Duffy**, 12; **Allen Pierce**, 14; **Bill Litchfield**, 21; **Jon Wachter**, 25; **Joe Marci**, 28; **John Walsh**, 28; and **Tracy Sorensen**, 31.

**Prez Bob** also made a plea for fund raising for the upcoming Optimist International Junior Golf Championship. Colorado-Wyoming District, by virtue of past performance, has been awarded a total of 70 slots for this year’s tournament, which will require an additional \$8,000 to offset some of the costs of the student golfers representing our district.

### Announcements

**Dime-a-Day Program:** **Perry Allen**, our Club OI Foundation rep, apologized for having missed a few meetings, and made his pitch for the various contribution levels to the foundation, including the Dime-a-Day program, offering a special deal this year. Because 2020 is a leap year, you get one free day, since the donation to become a member of the Dime-a-Day club will still be only \$36.50 (not \$36.60).

Perry also noted that MSOC was second of all clubs in Optimist International in both Dime-a-Day memberships and total dollar contributions to the Foundation. As a closing reminder, Perry shared that **Ron Benson**, the Colorado/Wyoming Representative for the OI Foundation, will be our speaker next week.

**Christmas Basket Delivery:** **Michael Chavez** thanked those who made the delivery of Christmas baskets such a great success. This year, Christmas wreathes, and toys were included with 53-baskets delivered to some families identified by social workers within the numerous schools we serve. Special thanks to **Tom Glazier** and **Oscar Sorensen** for collecting the toys! They were well received by the children.

Continued next page

**Meeting Place**  
**American Legion Hall Post 1**  
**5400 East Yale Avenue (Yale & I-25), Denver, Colorado**  
**Every Friday Morning, 7:00 – 8:00 am**  
**\*\*\*\*INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN\*\*\*\***

## Announcements Continued

**Tree Lot Signage for Next Year:** Tom Overton said that he has lined up electronic signage for the Christmas tree lot for next year and that it would be free of charge. Thanks for the extra effort Tom, and thanks to **Steve Kady** for all the work he did in arranging for various forms of assistance for the tree lot this year. Steve was unable to attend this morning, since he is undergoing rehab on a knee replacement. Editor, It was recently learned that his surgery has been rescheduled.

Oh, and unrelated, Tom let us know that the University of Colorado Buffaloes beat fourth ranked Oregon in last night's basketball game in Boulder. Go Buffs!

## The Brain Bowl is Coming

Our speaker this morning was **Karl Geil**. Although



Karl has passed on many of the leadership duties for the Brain Bowl, Karl is definitely a cheerleader of sorts for the CO-WY District event. The Brain Bowl is a multi-club District event. Karl, stepped down this year as

Master Trainer for the contest, is still greatly involved and shared the following information regarding this year's regional and championship tournaments. Karl walked us through a series of talking points that can be found by [Clicking Here https://files.constantcontact.com/790e615f001/da834533-53c8-47af-933e-1c371afe5cf1.pdf](https://files.constantcontact.com/790e615f001/da834533-53c8-47af-933e-1c371afe5cf1.pdf).

- ♦ The first Brain Bowl was started by the Buckingham Square Optimist Club in 1982
- ♦ It was a winner of Optimist International Community Projects Award Multi-club Project in 2007
- ♦ The tournament is very similar to the old "GE College Bowl," or Jeopardy with teams
- ♦ Four one-day events or tournaments for grades 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> students who are invited to form teams and participate.
- ♦ Every public or private school in Wyoming and Colorado is welcome to compete with up to 9 teams per school
- ♦ Prior to the regional and championship tournaments volunteers are trained. A typical competition of 90 teams requires approximately 130 volunteers to run efficiently and smoothly. For information on the dates of these training sessions see the 2020 Optimist Brain Bowl webpage @ <https://www.optimistbrainbowl.org/> NOTE: All Tournament Readers must attend a current training, even if they have been trained previously. Others, scorekeepers, timekeepers, etc., will be trained on the day of event. It is best to at each tournament by 7:00 a.m. Lunch is provided and many are done by 1:30 p.m.
- ♦ This year the Regional Tournaments are:
  - ♦ January 11, 2020, Central Region at Heritage High School, Littleton
  - ♦ January 25, 2020, North Regional at Standley Lake High School, Westminster
  - ♦ February 22, 2020, South Regional at Chal-

lenger Middle School, Colorado Springs

- ♦ The Championship Tournament will be held on March 7, 2020, at Hamilton Middle School, Denver
- ♦ Last year there was a total of 192 teams (960 Students) that from across the region
- ♦ Individual clubs can assist monetarily with contributions or by paying entry fee of \$60 per team

If you would like to see a typical Brain Bowl tournament, please see **Tom Hoch's "Optimist Brain Bowl Championship 2016"** video at [Click Here](#).



Karl Geil providing bullet-points on the activities of the District Brain Bowl.  
Photo Noel Hasselgren



## Last Week's Speaker

Last week our guest speaker was



Bob Sweeney  
Photo Noel Hasselgren

**Bob Sweeney**, publisher of *The Villager*, see <https://villagerpublishing.com/>.

*The Villager* is a family owned and operated newspaper, since 1982, that is in partnership with *South Metro Denver, Englewood, Greenwood Village and Lone Tree Chambers of Commerce*.

After his visit and presentation regarding his years in the publishing business, Bob went back and wrote a very nice editorial regarding his visit to our Club, see "*Barbwire Bob: Ramblin' around the Corral with Bob Sweeney*," [Click Here](#).

### BARBWIRE BOB Ramblin' around the corral with Bob Sweeney

I watched LSU obliterate Oklahoma in the Saturday bowl game followed by a really close contest between defending national champion Clemson vs. Ohio State. The game came down to the last minute with Ohio State having to score a touchdown, but having the pass intercepted in the end zone by a Clemson back. Now it will be Clemson vs. LSU at the Superdome in New Orleans on January 14.

I wish CSU had hired coach Ed McCaffrey who had such a stellar career coaching at Valparaiso and Stanford with the Broncos. He is returning to Greeley where he played college ball to coach the Bears at UNC, but the Rams could have used his talents. Maybe Dave Logan should move to the University level after winning eight state football large division titles. (A great coach featured this week.)

Reading the oldest newspaper in Colorado the Central City Register Call, I learned that 151 years ago on December 31, 1869 that a silver shipment from Georgetown weighing 683 pounds and worth \$12,700 broke through the sidewalk in Georgetown. The single silver mass was too heavy for the stage and had to be shipped to Denver separately.

Last fall at a Diane Bartlett exquisite backyard party I was

visiting with longtime friend Mark Mesoria, a local businessman. Mark is a member of the Monaca South Optimist Club and a subscriber to *The Villager* newspaper. During the conversation he invited me to speak to his club that meets at the American Legion Hall Post 1 where I am a member.

He followed up this fall with two dates available to speak to the club at 7 a.m. I chose Dec. 27. So, following Christmas dinners and a day of rest I arose at 5 a.m., showered, shaved, waking up my wife, and headed to the Post on Yale Ave. arriving at 6:30. Members were already gathering, and the bacon and egg buffet was prepared. It was good to see subscriber Frank Middleton of Centennial at the event.

Frankly, I did not know much about the Optimist organization having been a Lions Club member for over 50 years and also knowing many Rotary friends in the area. This was a new experience for me that I welcomed. This Metro South Optimist International Club was founded in 1976 as a "Friend of Youth."

Mark introduced me as the speaker after some brief club business that included a report about the club members selling over 1375 Christmas trees. They then donate this hard-earned money to youth service projects. Selling that many trees is a huge project. I spoke for 30 minutes

about newspaper trials and tribulations and my long career from lead movable type to the digital age of newspaper production.

I'm an eternal optimist so I really enjoyed meeting a room full of real Optimists. They meet every Friday morning at 7 a.m. and if you want to meet a fine group of happy men join them for breakfast. They have a separate auxiliary group for their wives, so it is one of the last male clubs in the area. I know that my Denver Lions Club has really benefited having female members and the same with Rotary. But this is a super successful club and they are very active in the area.

They recite their creed at the end of their meetings, and it is imprinted on a gift cup they presented me as the morning speaker. I'm repeating it here because it is a priceless message for all.

**PROMISE YOURSELF:**

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something to them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Readers of this week's *Villager* will find a reprint of Erma Bombeck's famous column that we reprint every year. I had the pleasure of meeting her and have a letter on file from her accepting a speaking engagement with the Colorado Press Association convention decades ago at the Brown Palace. She was not so famous at the time and gave a memorable talk to a Sunday morning gathering with Brown Palace "milk punch" being served. Her message is now eternal.

We enter the New Year "optimistic" having the best past year in a decade as readers return to print and local news maybe tiring somewhat from the endless social media world. We're thankful to our advertisers and subscribers who have kept our doors open for the past 38 years. We welcome 2020 it should be a Happy New Year!

bwsweeney@aol.com



## New Year's Resolutions

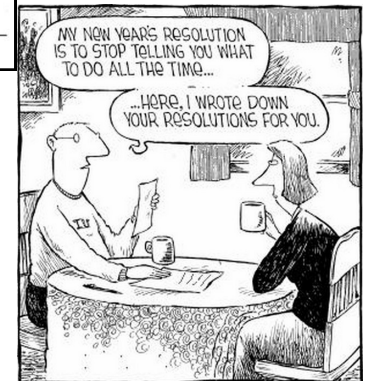
According to Sarah Pruitt on the website [www.history.com](http://www.history.com), the ancient Babylonians are said to have been the first people to make New Year's resolutions, some 4,000 years ago. They were also the first to hold recorded celebrations in honor of the new year—though for them the year began not in January but in mid-March, when the crops were planted. During a massive 12-day religious festival known as Akitu, the Babylonians crowned a new king or reaffirmed their loyalty to the reigning king. They also made promises to the gods to pay their debts and return any objects they had borrowed. These promises could be considered the forerunners of our New Year's resolutions. If the Babylonians kept to their word, their (pagan) gods would bestow favor on them for the coming year. If not, they would fall out of the gods' favor—a place no one wanted to be.

A similar practice occurred in ancient Rome, after the reform-minded emperor Julius Caesar tinkered with the calendar and established January 1 as the beginning of the new year circa 46 B.C. Named for Janus, the two-faced god whose spirit inhabited doorways and arches, January had special significance for the Romans. Believing that Janus symbolically looked backwards into the previous year and ahead into the future, the Romans offered sacrifices to the deity and made promises of good conduct for the coming year.

For early Christians, the first day of the new year became the traditional occasion for thinking about one's past mistakes and resolving to do and be better in the future. In 1740, the English clergyman John Wesley, founder of Methodism, created the Covenant Renewal Service, most commonly held on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day. Also known as watch night services, they included readings from Scriptures and hymn singing, and served as a spiritual alternative to the raucous celebrations normally held to celebrate the coming of the new year. Now popular within evangelical Protestant churches, especially African-American denominations and congregations, watch night services held on New Year's Eve are often spent praying and making resolutions for the coming year.

Despite the tradition's religious roots, New Year's resolutions today are a mostly secular practice. Instead of making promises to the gods, most people make resolutions only to themselves, and focus purely on self-improvement (which may explain why such resolutions seem so hard to follow through on). According to recent research, while as many as 45 percent of Americans say they usually make New Year's resolutions, only 8 percent are successful in achieving their goals. But that dismal record probably won't stop people from making resolutions anytime soon—after all, we've had about 4,000 years of practice.

### A Bit of Humor



### Drawing



The Drawing this was worth \$150 if you got to take the Big Pot. Even though our guest, **Frank Middleton's** grandson, Camden had a lot of tickets—he must have talked to **Jack Kleinheksel** for his drawing strategy—won a cup of money and was able to draw his number again for another cup, no one else had much luck at winning the big prize, so the pot continues to grow. You cannot win without a ticket, be sure to visit Dr. Bob next week.

Remember, "every ticket is a winner, until it is not."



Weekly Greeters	
1/10/20	Al Gapuzan & Jim VanderKamp
1/17/20	Pat Bush & Joe Marci
1/24/20	Curt Boell & Dick Nickoloff

**Optimist Club of Monaco South 2019-2020 43<sup>rd</sup> Year — Chartered in 1976**

**See the Online Calendar @ <http://www.monacosouth.org/Events/Calendar>**

Jan 10	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Ron Benson, OI Foundation
Jan 11	Sat	7:00 am	Brail Bowl Central, Heritage High School, 1401 W. Geddes Ave., Littleton
Jan 16	Thur	6:00 pm	OCMS Board Meeting, Schlessman YMCA, 3901 E. Yale, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Jan 17	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: Camaraderie Day
Jan 17	Fri	8:10 am	Super Citizen, Holm Elementary
Jan 21	Tue	2:30 pm	Super Citizen, Most Precious Blood Elementary
Jan 24	Fri	7:00 am	Meeting, Legion Hall: TBA
Jan 25	Sat	7:00 am	Brail Bowl North, Standley Lake High School, 9300 W. 104th Ave., Westminster

**2019 - 2020 Officers**

President	Bob Meyer	303-919-4532
Vice President	Steve Kady	303-931-1470
Vice President	Dan Rodriguez	303-521-5120
Secretary	Tracy Sorensen	303-886-1743
Treasurer	Greg Young	303-759-3921

**2019 - 2020 Board of Directors**

Perry Allen	303-521-3453
Noel Hasselgren	303-475-7125
Jack Kleinheksel	720-938-1760
Tom Kramis	303-917-5299
Allen Malask	303-726-3700
Bill Morgan	303-868-4384
Mark Smith	303-691-9766
John Stoffel	720-837-3013
Everett Gardner (Past Pres.)	949-246-0984

**Past Presidents**

Bob Rhue	1976-77	Lupe Salinas	1988-89	Stan Cohen	2000-01	Paul Simon	2012-13
Jerry Whitlow	1977-78	Bob Avery	1989-90	Don St. John	2001-02	Jon Wachter	2013-14
Bill Kosena	1978-79	Bill Litchfield	1990-91	Jack Rife	2002-03	John Oss	2014-15
Duane Wehrer	1979-80	Bill Walters	1991-92	Karl Geil	2003-04	Michael Chavez	2015-16
Curt Jefferies	1980-81	Kent Gloor	1992-93	Bryce Slaby	2004-05	Craig Eley	2016-17
Frank Middleton	1981-82	Gary Strowbridge	1993-94	Donlie Smith	2005-06	Jim Easton	2017-18
John Young	1982-83	Mark Metevia	1994-95	Paul Bernard	2006-07	Everett Gardner	2018-19
Pat Bush	1983-84	Bob Safe	1995-96	Greg Young	2007-08		
Bob Hugo	1984-85	Tom Overton	1996-97	Phil Perington	2008-09		
Tom Mauro	1985-86	Peter Dimond	1997-98	Ron Cisco	2009-10		
Curt Lorenzen	1986-87	Ralph Symalla	1998-99	Ed Collins	2010-11		
Oscar Sorensen	1987-88	Cy Regan	1999-00	Randy Marcove	2011-12		

**Newsletter Committee**

Robert Finkelmeier	303-756-5829	Paul Stratton	303-366-6375
George Buzick	303-803-2268	Pat Bush	720-254-3741
Robert Wardlaw	303-525-2532	Craig Eley	303-758-9499
Phil Perington	303-832-4578	Greg Young	303-759-3921

**NEWSLETTER EDITORS:** January **George Buzick**, February **Pat Bush**, March **Paul Stratton**, April **Phil Perington**

**THE OPTIMIST CREED — Promise Yourself . . .**

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.  
To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.  
To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.  
To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.  
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To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.  
To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.  
To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.  
To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.  
To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.