



...wear your mask, wash your hands, keep your distance, behave...

AHS Class of 63 October 2020 Newsletter

Onward through the Pettifoggery Edition

Dateline: The Corner of Morton & Federal Streets, aka The Official Salty Political Observation Post, 27 September. We are aware that our location is a mystery to most of you, but think three-acre wood with the threat of moose. We haven't seen a moose yet. But we remain alert. Most days the threat is two chipmunks and a grey squirrel. And this morning it is indeed foggy, which is so befitting the times. We considered titling this edition *When Clowns Go Bad*. Not one of us is unaffected by the looming political circus ... in the middle of a pandemic, yet. And we hesitate to bring up the elephant in the room (you could see that coming), or the jackass (depending), but ya know what? We're too old to pussyfoot around, what with the different clowns opening the cages and lions and tigers running rampant through the big tent. It's getting downright dangerous when it's not a laugh a minute. And once every four years isn't too often to address the greasepaint—the clowns.

Isn't it rich? Everybody thinks the other guy is full of hot air. We can cut to the chase—the part about "don't bother, they're here" is absolutely true if we believe everything we hear. The brilliant generation—the Class of 63 in particular—wasn't raised to be dummies. Remember that we gave you the evidence on the SAT scores at the 55th? ... no one scored higher than we did for a span of almost 20 years. Then they changed the test—to some extent, they might have made it easier. We'll never know. But if there was ever a time to cut through the fog and look at what's going on, it's now. Not that we haven't been here before, because history shows we have. During another pandemic, no less, *and a war*. Upheaval isn't new. Only this time it's hard to discern what's true and what's not if you ain't careful. There's poop all over the place. "There must be a pony in here somewhere" is a hopeful take on the situation. Ya just gotta watch where

you put your feet while you're havin' a look around.

But the clowns are real when it comes to the ballot box. See here. It's one thing to have differences. It's quite another to feel you don't have a voice in the matter, or to despair that your voice wouldn't be heard. It's still a democracy in this little kingdom between the seas. It's messy, but it is, by God, the People's Mess, and we can clean it up when we want to.

Do not fail to vote.
And that's a decree.
Defy it at your own peril, Pearl.



Love, Queenie

Speaking of clowning around ...

...those weeny verses y'all wrote are coming out for "Columbus Day" to honor the Italian sausage who failed to honor the American Natives in the new land. So here's what you do: fix in your mind that Oscar Meyer Weiner song got it? Hold onto it. Now let these lyrics just roll over the notes in your mind...a one-of-a-kind experience. Almost ... inspirational.

I.

Dearest Queenie and Highly Exalted Cohorts:

Your humble thane hereby submits a Jingle Fest Contest entry for your esteemed consideration. Reading between the lines, one may ferret out inspiration to act more nobly toward others.

With Sincerest Regards,
Richard (Bill) Engle, Jr.

**If I were a presidential winner,
Here is what I'd really like to do.
I'd raise the flag of love and understanding,
So the words of freedom ring out loud and true.**

Bill Engle, for those perfect thoughts, and most gracious note, you are hereby elevated to the

Order of the Knights of the Silver Tongued Drum Majors ...

Rise, Sir Bill!

II.

And this little jewel from ... Rich Adams

I'm proud to be a loyal-servant-native
Of a nation, sea to shining sea
'Cause if I were a loyal-servant-native
Everyone would be in love with me!

Thank you, Sir Rich, Knight of the West Point Realm!

III.

From the Queen's Most Irrepressible & Irreverent Commander of the Knights Errant, Sir Jimmy Raup

Oh, I wish I were a pandemic soap bar
That is what I'd truly like to be.
'Cause if I were a pandemic soap bar
The COVID Virus wouldn't f**k with me.

We are pleased to be quite ... speechless.

IV.

And look at this beauty from Kathy Shive Matthews ...



... not just your ordinary micro-bio professor and former dean at Rice, eh?



Kudos and a Crown for The Lady Kathy, Duchess of the Land of No Glass Ceilings!



- 02 Alan M. Smith (45) - Happiest 75th Birthday, Dr. Smith!
- 02 Kathy Carr Hobbs (45) - Most wonderful 75th birthday ever, Kathy!
- 02 Will Berezovytch (45) - Have a Special 1st Chair kind of 75th Birthday, Will!
- 03 Carol James Plassmann (44) - Happiest Frabjous 75th Birthday, Carol!
- 04 Harvey Fox (45) - Harvey, always the best to you, Happy Wonderful 75th!
- 05 Phil Ricketts (45) - Have an amazing 75th, Phil!
- 06 Ann Varnado Page (45) - Sweet Ann, Happiest 75th Birthday!
- 06 Emily Eichelberger Harrell (44) - Wonderful Emily, thanks always and Happy 75th!
- 06 Bill Driscoll (44) - Bill, hope your **76th** is fabulous!
- 06 Virgil Johnson (44) - Happiest **76th** birthday to you, Virgil!
- 06 Gary Swenson (45) - Happy 75th, Gary, and make it memorable!
- 08 Kay Isbell Alvis (44) - Beautiful Kay, hope your **76th** year is even better than the 75th!!
- 10 Ada Fay Cook Peters (44) - Lovely Fay, happiest **76th** birthday and hope it's the best!
- 11 Ann Monkhouse Martel (44) - Wonderful wishes for a wonderful **76th**, Ann!
- 11 Olivia Hollaway Mauney (45) - Happy 75th Birthday, Olivia, hope it's perfect!
- 12 Joe Dale Morris (44) - Joe Dale, make that train whistle blow **76** times! Happy Birthday!
- 13 Robert Fletcher (44) - Robert, best wishes of all on your **76th** birthday!
- 13 Scott McGuire (45) - Happy 75th, Scott, make it your best ever!
- 14 Sheila Stallings (45) - Happy 75th birthday, Sheila, hope it's special as you!
- 14 Jeanne Weaver Reusch (45) - Sweet Jeanne, Happiest 75th Birthday!
- 15 Jane Lucksinger Francis (45) - Happy Everything on your 75th, Jane!
- 15 Bill Barnhouse (45) - Have a perfectly memorable 75th Birthday, Bill!
- 16 Alice Embree (45) - Alice! Happy 75th, Maplewood friend!

17 Patricia Morrison (44) - Patricia! missed your 75th, but **76** is even better! Happiest Ever!
17 Richard "Rich" Adams (45) - A 75th Birthday Salute, Sir Rich!
18 Claudia Middleton (44) - Happy **76th**, girlfriend, Lord knows you're not a day over 30!
18 Kaye Dyer Dunbar (45) - Happy 75th, Kaye, and make it memorable, girl!
21 Ray Andrade (44) - Ray, have a wonderful and happy **76th** birthday!
26 Bill Bennett (44) - I missed your 75th, but I didn't miss your **76th**! Happiest Birthday, Bill!
26 Bobby Dollar (44) - Bobby, happy **76th**, and hope it's the best ever!
27 Karen Erwin Springer (45) - Karen, happiest birthday ever on your 75th!
27 Larry Tasby (44) - Happy **76th**, Larry, and hope it's even better than your 75th!
27 David Hart (45) - Wonderful David, happy everything on your 75th birthday!
29 Ronny Rowley (45) - It's your 75th, Ronny! Happiest birthday ever!



We are soooooo Loyal Forever, Y'all!