

THE WIRE

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Mensa Dates

- January 22nd - Meeting at Ming's Garden in Montgomery w/ elections
- February 26th - Tentative Meeting date
- March 26th - Tentative Meeting date
- Be thinking about a picnic gathering for April or May. More dates after our January meeting.

ADVENTURES ABROAD BY BOB AND LAUREL AKIN

Many of us have read, and been thrilled by, Patricia Schultz's, *1,000 Places To See Before You Die*. For most of us, the majority of things she lists are places that are attainable only in our imagination. One of our members, Laurel Akin, recently had the opportunity to put a "been there, done that" checkmark by one of them. As part of her Kenyan Safari she had a Hot Air Balloon flight over the Masai Mara, nature's stage for wildlife pageants.

Breathtaking, captivating, unforgettable – words that are not usually used to describe a college classroom – only hint at the learning experiences she had with Kenya as her classroom on a photographic safari, one of the study abroad programs led by members of the Troy University faculty. Safari leader Bob Joslin, director of photography in the Art & Design Department at Troy, explained to her that the trip could be used as part of Troy's class in travel photography. He also warned her that once she had been, she would want to go



back! A few of her journal entries give us an idea of the adventure in learning that the safari offered.

"May 9: We flew from Nairobi to Tsavo West National Park and Severin Safari Camp. From the air we saw our first animals – pink elephants! The pilot told us they look pink

because they cover themselves with the red dirt in the area.

When we landed we met our guides, David and Henry, who will be our teachers and protectors for the next two weeks. We went on our first game drive in the afternoon and saw giraffes, zebras, dikdiks and a kudu.

See "Abroad" on page 2

WORDS FROM THE LOCAL SECRETARY

I am sorry to have let the group down. As I have said recently I feel that I am probably too old to lead effectively. However we are planning another restaurant meeting this month and will be discussing some changes to who does what. Our meeting will be at

Ming's Garden on East Blvd in Montgomery across from the Books-A-Million book store. It will be Saturday night on 22 Jan at 7 pm (sorry for the short notice).

Also, we have a new Newsletter Editor, Dr. Rodger Morrison, from Prattville. You can

read more about him in this issue. We have tentative dates for meetings on the 26th of both February and March. We will plan to meet at the same place, but are also looking into a location that may be a little closer for our folks down south.

ABROAD (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

I learned to like warthogs today.

While we were eating dinner a pregnant hippopotamus walked past the open dining area, about 30 feet away!

May 10: Early morning game drive with a picnic breakfast, which we ate while enjoying a beautiful view of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

I learned to like warthogs today. Henry told us that a warthog has a bad memory -- he'll see a lion, start running away, and then suddenly stop, as if he's forgotten why he is running! I think they have a cute wiggle when they run.

May 18: We flew to the Masai Mara National Reserve and are staying at Mara Intrepid's Camp. Mr. Joslin saved the best for last! Our tents are amazing -- it seems odd to call them tents when they have beautiful hardwood floors and furniture and huge tiled showers.

On our afternoon game drive, we were so close to an old female in a large herd of ele-

phants that we could almost touch her! It was exciting and a little scary, but I was confident that David would not let us get into trouble.

We also saw a pride of lions, about 12 adult females and cubs, and observed a mother lion nursing and grooming her cubs!

May 19: Cheetahs!

May 20: Up early this morning for a hot-air balloon trip over the Mara plains -- an amazing experience! After landing we were served breakfast in the bush, with omelets cooked to order and champagne.

May 21: Our last day began with a visit to a Maasai village, where the warriors danced, showing us their traditional jumping competition. At one point I found myself surrounded by warriors, and was a little startled until I realized they were inviting me to dance with them. I accepted the invitation!

We were also encouraged to join in when the village women danced and sang, some with babies on their backs. The visit was a wonderfully unique experience.

These few observations cannot fully convey the richness of my experience. The beauty of the landscape, the graciousness of the people, and the thrill of seeing animals in their natural surroundings all contributed to make it a life-changing trip.

Mr. Joslin was right, of course -- I want go back! He plans to lead safaris for the next few years, so maybe I'll ask for another trip as a graduation present. As a Troy alumna, I know I would be welcome."

Such a report on what many of us might consider unconventional, or maybe even unattainable, as a way of expanding a college curriculum opens a door for each of us to expand our horizons.

-Bob and Laurel Akin

DR. RODGER MORRISON NEWSLETTER EDITOR



Greetings fellow Mensans! My name is Rodger and I will be assuming the duties of newsletter editor from Lester. Let me tell you a little about myself. I grew up in Prattville and entered the Air Force right out of high school as an E-3 (AWACS) technician. I did my fair share of traveling overseas, which I won't bore you with. I left the Air Force in '92 and took a position as Computer Manager for Gurney Industries in Prattville but left after a couple of years for what eventually became the Haldex Corporation. They paid for my BS degree (Troy University), but the downturn

in the market after 9/11 left me looking for work. I started working for Troy University shortly thereafter and used their tuition assistance to pay for my MBA. As I was completing my MBA in 2004, I was transferred to the full-time faculty ranks where I am now.

In 2005, I started my Ph.D. program at Auburn and received my Ph.D. in Management in 2008. As a normal part of a faculty member's duties, I have written several books, numerous journal articles, and contributed to newspapers and the like.

I have a wonderful wife,

Vicki, my best friend and companion. Between us, we have five grown sons, two granddaughters, and a large orange cat. Vicki and I are both active in our church and enjoy boating, camping, singing, and more. She is a certified professional legal secretary, a paralegal, and an English major at Troy. She has also been involved with the publishing process and has written numerous articles. Hopefully, between the two of us, we will be able to put together a fairly good newsletter. I am definitely open to suggestions and contributions!

-Rodger

ADVENTURES NEARBY -LESTER HOLMES

On Wednesday through Monday of the Thanksgiving weekend I spent my first visit to a Bed and Breakfast. I'm going to use some of the B&B web site text (without attribution but with permission) to help tell about it.

I grew up in Summerdale, a town about ten miles from Magnolia Springs. And I spent many Sunday afternoons with friends who lived there. My sister and brother-in-law live there today. I usually stay with them during the Thanksgiving holidays but this year I chose to stay at the B&B just west of them on Oak Street because I had never tried a B&B.

Now about the town -- Magnolia Springs, at the headwaters of the Magnolia River, is located in the southwest quadrant of Baldwin County, Alabama. From the earliest times, the small community has been accessible by small craft and steam packets. Originally, the Magnolia River was known as River de Lin, or River del Salto.

In 1800, the Spanish granted the tract of land, including what would become Magnolia Springs to Joseph Collins. Collins operated several turpentine stills in the area, and a small settlement surrounded them. During this time, a plantation home was built at the head of the Magnolia River.

When Union soldiers, now 20,000 strong, moved from Navy Cove to Spanish Fort in 1865, they passed near the mills. To prevent its capture, the owners burned the stills. The plantation home was spared. Six years after the war, in 1881, Mrs. Lizzie Breed purchased the land for 50 cents an acre. She and her son opened an Inn in the home named the Breed Hotel. In 1894, a large parcel of land along and back from the river

was subdivided into the Lymans Addition of Magnolia Springs creating 52 lots, and several streets.

On July 31st, 1897, Christopher McLennan purchased lot 5 in the new subdivision, and began construction on a frame house. At this same time, several other lots were sold, and several large hotels were built. Two years after the homes completion, McLennan deeded this property to Edwin A. Bemis (the postmaster), but owned it again from 1902 until February 5th, 1909 when he sold it to Winnifred Corrigan. Mrs. Corrigan passed away in the last half of 1909. Her heir, Edward Corrigan sold the property to J.M. Gorman for \$3,000 on December 12th, 1910.

Mr. Gorman, who was unable to pay the Corrigan's led to a repossession of the property. The Corrigan's then resold the property to William Henry Whittington Harding, and his wife Eliza on November 13th, 1913.

After Mrs. Harding's death, the property was inherited by Mrs. Harding's sister, and her husband, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Cowen. The two ceased to run it as a hotel as they were very private people. It did however, still serve as the communities major meeting place and Sunday dining place until the late 1940's, or early '50's.

The house remained a private residence and passed through several hands until 1980. Rita and Don McNair purchased the home and restored the structure that had been divided into a duplex. Mrs. McNair was a member of the Hadley family and her roots in the area reach back some four or five generations. She was raised in Magnolia Springs and introduced her husband to it. Because of the McNair's efforts in authentically restoring the house, on

May 11, 1983, it was designated an Alabama State Landmark.

On December 13, 1996 David Worthington obtained the home, and turned it into a Bed & Breakfast. On March 14th, 1997 the house once again opened its doors to the public. From December of '96 until March of '97, all of the floors were refinished upstairs and downstairs. Central heat and air, as well as four bathrooms were installed upstairs. About 700' of quarter round was stained and installed to tie in the newly constructed walls with the old. The home was also wired throughout for telecommunications equipment.

I stayed in the only downstairs guest room; here is their web site description:

"A beautifully presented room, on the downstairs floor of our Alabama Coastal Bed and Breakfast, offering 12ft ceilings, an iron canopy King bed, and sitting area. This bedroom and bath are restored to a magnificent level and includes a historical bath complete with original "soak worthy" claw foot tub and elephant trunk toilet that is over 200 years old and works like the day it was made! Overlooking the front porch and our beautiful canopy oak trees, the King bed faces the south window. Your rate also includes the best Three-Course Breakfasts you will ever have. The bedroom is beautifully appointed with a Private Bath, Iron & Ironing Board, Hairdryer, Lighted Magnifying Mirror, Bedding of Luxury High Thread Count Linens, Flat Screen Cable TV/ DVD combo, High-Speed Wireless Internet. A well stocked Guest Refrigerator and hot teas are available in the dining room as well as evening

See "Adventures Nearby" p4

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For the thinker...



Adventures Nearby (cont from p3)

Desserts such as Cookies or Brownies fresh from the oven. Return from dinner to a turn-down service including chocolates on your pillows!"

I can say that they did not exaggerate anything. For example, the breakfast started with a plate covered with sliced fruit, followed by plate with a quiche with either cheese grits or a hash brown cake, and finished with an apple dumpling or a pear dumpling. Their recipes can be found with other useful information on their web site www.magnoliasprings.com.

As we were checking out one of the upstairs guests and I stopped at the study near the exit to look at one of the history books. She was carrying her purse and a small case. When we turned around her suitcase was sitting next to the door. She remarked, "How did that get there?" Eric had brought it down to help load her car. In one of the few moments when I thought of an apt reply I said, "Hotels have staff, we have Hosts."

I recommend the Magnolia Springs Bed and Breakfast for any stay from special occasions to casual shopping trips to the discount mall in Foley (only six miles east). -Lester Holmes

ELECTION NOTICE: An election of officers will be held at our January meeting on January 22nd at Ming's Garden in Montgomery. As Lester Holmes has announced his resignation as Local Secretary, and has mentioned that Bob Akin would like to also turn over the Treasurer's duties, those two offices will be on the ballot. We also plan to discuss ideas for revitalizing the local group, so please attend.

The Group Needs new Officers

(From Lester Holmes) I am announcing my pending resignation as Local Secretary. Bob Akin has been Treasurer and I am sure would be willing to turn the responsibility over to a new member. Bob is also our only Proctor, but since he lives in Enterprise, it would be best to have another Proctor living near Montgomery to administer the qualifying tests here without the travel time.

(An observation from the Editor) As many of you know, our local group is not technically very active at the moment. Lester and I had lunch this week to discuss some of the needs of the local group. There seems to be several reasons for the inactivity, but I think the biggest reason is because our group is spread out over a large area. I cannot speak for anyone else, but I would personally like to see us become more active (think picnics, game nights, etc.). For this to happen, however, we need folks to step up and lend a hand with some basic stuff. We are already aware of a few needs and are asking fellow Mensans to consider contributing to the cause. I have volunteered to throw my name in the hat for Local Secretary and/or Treasurer, but also see an immediate need for a webmaster, newsletter contributors, a Montgomery area proctor, folks to help plan local events, etc.

We can discuss more at dinner Saturday the 22nd, so bring your ideas. -Rodger

CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED

What do you want your newsletter to contain? Do you like the travel stories in this issue? Would you prefer puzzles or other works that stimulate your thinking? How about a poetry column or a recipe column? Think about what you think you would like to see in the next issue and send us an email. Or, if you are REALLY brave, contribute something for others to read. As we have several members that are still in grade school, this would be a wonderful outlet for them to try their hand at writing to publish.

-Editor

Think about it...

- 26 L of the A
- 7 D of the W
- 7 W of the W
- 12 S of the Z
- 66 B of the B
- 52 C in a D (W J)
- 13 S in the U S F
- 18 H on a G C
- 39 B of the O T
- 5 T on a F
- 90 D in a R A
- 3 B M (S H T R)
- 15 P in a R T
- 3 W on a T
- 100 C in a D
- 11 P in a F (S) T
- 12 M in a Y
- 13 is U F S
- 8 T on an O
- 29 D in F in a L Y

- 27 B in the N T
- 365 D in a Y
- 13 L in a B D
- 52 W in a Y
- 9 L of a C
- 60 M in an H
- 23 P of C in the H B
- 64 S on a C B
- 9 P in S A
- 6 B to an O in C
- 1000 Y in a M
- 15 M on a D M C

A passenger train leaves New York for Boston traveling at the speed of 80 km/hr. In half an hour a freight train leaves Boston for New York traveling at the speed of 60 km/hr. Which train will be further from New York when they meet?
(answers in next issue)

How can you throw a ball as hard as you can and have it come back to you, even if it doesn't bounce off anything? There is nothing attached to it, and no one else catches or throws it back to you.

A square medieval castle on a square island is under siege. All around the castle there is a square moat 10 meters wide. Due to a regrettable miscalculation the raiders have brought footbridges, which are only 9.5 meters long. The invaders cannot abandon their campaign and return empty-handed. How can the assailants resolve their predicament?

A Petri dish hosts a healthy colony of bacteria. Once a minute every bacterium divides into two. The colony was founded by a single cell at noon. At exactly 12:43 (43 minutes later) the Petri dish was half full. At what time will the dish be full?

Three Masters of Logic wanted to find out who was the wisest amongst them. So they turned to their Grand Master, asking to resolve their dispute. "Easy," the old sage said. "I will blindfold you and paint either red, or blue dot on each man's forehead. When I take your blindfolds off, if you see at least one red dot, raise your hand. The one, who guesses the color of the dot on his forehead first, wins." And so it was said, and so it was done. The Grand Master blindfolded the three contestants and painted red dots on every one. When he took their blindfolds off, all three men raised their hands as the rules required, and sat in silence pondering. Finally, one of them said: "I have a red dot on my forehead." How did he guess?

A young man walks through the forest. He came to a bridge. In front of the bridge is a large man carrying an axe. The man says, "If you want to cross this bridge, you must tell me a statement. If I think the statement is true, you will be strangled to death. If I say the statement is false, your head will be chopped off." A few minutes later, the young man walked over the bridge, while the larger man stood pondering. What was the statement the young man had given?

What comes once in a month, once in a million years, but not in a billion?

There are 3 switches downstairs, each corresponding to one of the light bulbs upstairs. How can you figure out which light switch goes to which light bulb by only making 1 trip upstairs?

You're in a mansion and the power's out. You see a green door and a red door. Pick one (it doesn't matter which.) Now you see a purple door and an orange door. Pick one (again, it doesn't matter which you pick). Now you see a door with a golden handle and a door with a silver handle. Pick one. You finally come to some signs on three doors. One says "Death from drowning," another says "Death from machine guns," and the last one says "Death from electric chair." Then you see a big sign off to the side that says "Or stay in the mansion and starve to death." What do you choose and still live?

Four members of a band are walking to a night concert. They decide to take a shortcut, but must cross a bridge. Luckily they have one flashlight. Because of the varying size of their instruments, it takes each member a different amount of time to cross the bridge - it takes the first person one minute, the second person two minutes, the third person five minutes and the fourth person ten minutes. They must cross the bridge in pairs, traveling at the slower speed so if the one minute person went with the ten minute person, it would take a total of ten minutes. Since there is only one flashlight, one person must come back across the bridge, then another pair can cross. They only have 17 minutes to cross the bridge and still get to the concert on time. What order should they cross to get everyone across and get to the concert?

A fruit was growing inside the ground and the farmer immediately threw the fruit away. Why did the farmer throw the fruit away?

The 22nd and 24th presidents of the United States of America had the same parents, but were not brothers. How can this be possible?

Announcements from American Mensa: Email the editor for a photocopy of the announcement and more details.

Mensa Foundation's Intellectual Benefits Award - Call for nominations: <http://www.mensafoundation.org/intellectualbenefits>

American Mensa National Awards Program - Call for nominations for awards.

Mensa Education and Research Foundation - Call for nominations for Mensa Distinguished Teacher Award and Candidates sought for Copper Black Award.

National Mensa gathering - June 30-July 4, 2011 in Portland Oregon

Colloquium 2011: Electronic gaming and its impact on society. February 18-20, 2011 in Austin, Tx.

Dr. Rodger Morrison (Editor)

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