



The Charge!

Volume 1997/98

Voice of the Peoria Jaycees'

December 1997

Santa Claus To Visit Peoria Children

Twas days before Christmas and throughout the town, little children in the hospital were sick with a frown; my oh my what can we do said one Jaycee, let's get Santa to make this day fun and happy; so off in his sleigh the Jaycees rode, visiting hospitals as best as they could; and with them were candy and toys, for all the little girls and boys!

The Santa Visits the Kids project is now under way with **Clayton Hoffman**, a new member, chairing this annual and seasonal event. The Santa Visits the Kids is a project the Peoria Jaycees sponsor, where several toys and gifts are collected or purchased to give to underprivileged kids and sick children in hospitals. Thanks to a referral incentive from **Mark Monge** and this year's Haunted House, the Jaycees were able purchase over \$600 in toys and gifts for these kids. And most normally, **Stan Munton** plays the part of Santa Claus. However, Stan is trying to schedule his time to where he can perform this duty, but if not, the Jaycees will need a stand in. Community Development vice-president **Cindy Schwerer** will be playing the roll of Santa's elf. Cindy also has extra elf hats if desired.

A wrapping party will be held at Cindy's apartment on Sunday, December 14th at 3:00pm to wrap all the gifts for the kids. If attending the wrapping party, please bring your own drinks, snacks and/or video if you would like. Then on Saturday, December 20th, **Santa** and his helpers are assembling at Cindy's apartment at 8:30am. There they will ride to Proctor Hospital, Methodist Hospital, St. Francis Hospital, Guardian Angel Home/St. Anne's/Cabrini and then to Children's Home to distribute gifts.

Vice President Schwerer and Santa are estimating that the group will pass out toys to approximately 100 kids. The hospitals are requesting that Santa have no more than 10 helpers at any one time. Also, the entire trip should last to about 4:00pm. If you would like to help Santa and the Peoria Jaycees in this outing, please call Clayton at 243-1769 or Cindy at 685-4906.

'Governor' Owens Issues Pardon

On the night of Saturday, December 6th, Peoria Jaycees '**Governor** **Dennis Owens** issued a pardon of sorts. It was him and **First Lady Shari Quin** who were on their way to a Christmas party. Dennis parked his 3/4 ton turbo diesel truck in the parking lot of the Mark Twain Hotel in downtown Peoria. After extinguishing his cigarette and putting away his Budweiser, Dennis reached into is pants pocket to retrieve a small object. It was a small velvet covered black box which he was about to open. Dennis started to say "Shari, I got this from Goodwill for the Haunted House, but I think you'll like it. Will you.." He was then rudely interrupted by his citizen's band radio which was left on throughout the ride to the Christmas Party.

"Breaker 1-9 for the Governor," came across the airwaves. "Just a minute" Dennis said to the former membership woman. He picked up the microphone and transmitted, "Come on good buddy!" The fellow CBER wanted to chat, but Dennis told him he was in the middle of something. "I'll get back to you later. Governor Out." he said.

Dennis turned back to Shari and then pulled a ring out of the little black box. "Wanna get married?" he then asked. Shari gave him a puzzled look and responded, "What are you talking about?" Dennis asked again and this time Shari figured out what he was trying to do. Shari answered yes and the both of them became happily engaged.

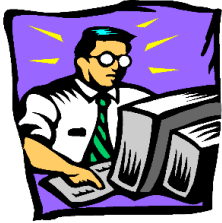
Practical Joke Backfires on Perpetrator

Peoria Jaycee associate member **Jeffrey V. Webber** thought he could pull a fast one on several other members of the volunteer organization. Since being affiliated with the Bloomington-Normal Jaycees Dates for Dimes project, Webber signed up a number of Peoria Jaycee members in the March of Dimes Jail & Bail project. The Jail & Bail project solicits volunteers to be 'jailed' until they can arrive and a set 'bail' or pledges. Unbeknownst to them, Webber signed up **Beth Barr**, **Jeff Bilsland**, **Rick Owens** and others to volunteer for this event.

At the Jail & Bail, which took place last week, Rick Owens stated that Webber pledged \$500 to bail him out of the pseudo-prison. "I failed to tell Jeff that he pledged this money," Owens stated, "but then again, he didn't tell me I volunteered for this." Jeff Bilsland reported that Webber pledged \$1,000 to get him out of jail. "He's a hell of a guy!" Bilsland commented.

From The Desk of the Most Dangerous Writer in America

by Rick Owens



John 'Caesar' Cima and myself have returned from another successful Illinois Jaycees G.A. And again, I have never been so flattered. Not only was I called "the immortal," at the latest G.A., but four women from the Northwest Region Jaycees judged and included me in

their "Nicest Butt Contest." Unfortunately, John and I left the next morning, so I don't know if I won. But it was an honor just being nominated. I'm also glad that they just looked and no pinching was involved. Anyway, my thanks go out to them and all those at the G.A. who enjoy this newsletter.

Right now I would like to take this time make a few announcements and provide some information regarding *The Charge!* Last month, the newsletter mailing reached over 260 individuals, businesses and organizations. This is an all time high, at least in my term as your newsletter editor. I briefly reviewed the mailing list and there are a number of prospective members and other people not directly affiliated with the Peoria Jaycees. Also, I'm sure there are a lot of outdated addresses. It's been some time since I've really reviewed our mailing list, so in the next few weeks, I am going to try to purge our database.

Sending more copies of the newsletter requires more expense, time and effort. These prospective members have been receiving *The Charge!* for a considerable amount of time and have not shown any interest in joining the chapter. Unless I hear to the contrary, I am going to cut them from the mailing list after this month's issue. I am also going to review other businesses and organizations to see if they are "Charge! worthy."

Also, just a reminder, if you are going to change your address, please let me know so that I can update our mailing list. The newsletter is sent via bulk mail and bulk mail does NOT get sent to forwarding address.

Have a great Christmas/Hanukka and a happy New Year!

The Charge!
An Official Publication of the Peoria Jaycees

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Published monthly, in mailboxes by the 2nd Thursday of the month. News articles due by the 1st Thursday of the month.

Disclaimer: Portions of this newsletter are merely for entertainment and should not be taken seriously.

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Mark Your Calendars

December

Business After Hours; Thursday, December 11, held at Ravina on the Lakes, co-sponsored with WTAZ Radio - call Heather Zech @ 274-4035

Jaycees Christmas Party; Friday, December 12, 6:30 - 8:00pm at Millennium, 8:00 - 10:30pm at Joann Ziegler's residence, find out who your Secret Santa is - call Heather Zech @ 274-4035

Miss HOI Committee Meeting; Sunday, December 14, 1:30pm, Cindy Schwerer's place, mandatory for those involved with this project - call Amiee Fuller @ 698-1950 or Heather Zech @ 274-4035

Wrapping Party; Sunday, December 14, 3:00pm, Cindy Schwerer's place, after Ms. HOI meeting, to wrap gifts for Santa Visits Kids - call Clayton Hoffman @ 243-1769 or Cindy @ 685-4906

Membership Meeting; Thursday, December 18, 7:00pm, Amvets, downtown Peoria - call the 'Governor' @ 693-8771

Santa Visits The Kids; Saturday, December 20, 8:30am, meet at Cindy Schwerer's apartment - call Cindy @ 685-4906

International Beer Fest Committee Meeting; Monday, December 22, 7:00pm, meeting location TBA - call Mike Rhodes @ 681-9747

January

Board Meeting; Thursday, January 1, 7:00pm, RLO World H.Q. (tentative), newsletter articles due - call Dennis Owens @ 693-8771

Casino Bus Trip; Saturday, January 3, Bus leaves KMart parking lot at 7:30am, brunch & buffet, 2 cruises, only \$18 - call 'Dubby' @ 691-6608

DSA Committee Meeting; Sunday, January 4, 1:00pm, Emily Duncan's house - call Emily @ 692-4512

Business After Hours; Thursday, January 8, 5-7:00pm, sponsored by Hult Health Education Center - call Heather Zech @ 274-4035

Peoria Jaycees Ski Weekend; Friday, January 9 - 11, Devil's Head Ski Resort, Baraboo, WI - call 'Governor' Dennis Owens @ 693-8771

Membership Meeting; Thursday, January 15, 7:00pm, Amvets, downtown Peoria - call the 'Governor' @ 693-8771

Miss Heart of Illinois Scholarship Pageant; Saturday, January 24 - call Amiee Fuller @ 693-8377 or Heather Zech @ 274-4035

Congratulations

The Peoria Jaycees wish to offer congratulations to the following people...

- ◆ Shari Quin & Dennis Owens on their engagement
- ◆ Karen Matheny & Joe Burkitt on their wedding
- ◆ Cara Freehill & John Cima on their engagement
- ◆ Beth Barr & Rick Owens on their engagement
- ◆ Jennifer & Mark Monge on their expected baby

Some of these congratulations are belated, but the real question is... what is in the beer that those Jaycees are drinking?

Jaycees Ski Weekend

The Peoria Jaycees annual ski weekend is coming up on January 9th - 11th. This year it will take place at Devil's Head Resort in Baraboo, WI, just south of the Wisconsin Dells! Four rooms have been reserved at this time, but if there is enough interest, an attempt to reserve more can be made. Everyone going will be responsible for their own expenses, i.e. lodging, meals, drinks, lift tickets, etc.

The actual cost of going on this excursion varies, depending upon your spending preferences. If interested in going or for more information, please call **'Governor' Dennis Owens** at 693-8771 or e-mail at dennis@flink.com.

For those who remember last year, it was a great time. Several stops were made on the way home to places such as Circus World Museum, the Snow Sculptures and authentic Wisconsin Cheese shops. Who knows what's in store for this year!

Is Your Newsletter Subscription Secure?

As reported on the previous page, the Peoria Jaycees are going to review their current mailing list and membership rosters. There are 5 basic categories in the entire mailing list. They are membership, prospective members, Keyman, past presidents and general mailing.

The prospective members and general mailing will be reviewed to see who can be cut from the list. If you are currently on this list and wish to keep receiving *The Charge!*, or if you know of someone or a business/organization that you would like to include on the mailing list, please call **Rick Owens** at 243-7319 or e-mail at clark_kent@flink.com.

The membership, Keyman and past president rosters will be reviewed for valid addresses.

Casino Bus Trip

Saturday, January 3rd
Only \$18



Trip Includes:

- Round Trip Bus via Peoria Charter Deluxe Coach
- Games, Drawings, Door Prizes, Videos to and from Casinos
- Brunch from 10:00 - ?
- 2 Cruises
- Buffet

Bus Departs K Mart @ 7:30am

For More Information:
call 'Dubby' @ 691-6608 or the
Jaycees Hotline @ 676-5292

Make Checks Payable to the Peoria Jaycees

I Went To A Fight And A Hockey Game Broke Out!

The Peoria Jaycees are having an M-Night at the Civic Center for a Peoria Rivermen game. The Rivermen's most popular fan, **Dubby**, is chairing this outing. The game will take place on Saturday, January 17th. Game time starts at 7:05pm. Come to the membership meetings or look for next month's issue of *The Charge!* for more details. If you can't wait that long, call Dubby at 691-6608.

Prospective members, take note: this would also be a great opportunity to meet Jaycee members and become acquainted with the chapter.

The Peoria Jaycees would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season! Remember, Santa says "Know When to Say When!"



Attention! All meetings are open to all Jaycee members and the public!



Board Meetings: Held the 1st Thursday of the month, 7:00pm at RLO, Inc.

Membership Meetings: Held the 3rd Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm at the Amvets in downtown Peoria, on the corner of Monroe & Fayette

Community Development

by Emily Duncan & Cindy Schwerer



Hi! Hope everyone is in the Christmas spirit. Christmas is almost here! Yeah!!!

Santa Visits the Kids

Our next project will be Santa Visits the Kids. It will be held Saturday, December 20th at 8:30am. We will be meeting at my apartment at that time. I live behind Kroger's on Sterling. **Clayton Hoffman** has volunteered to chair this project. This will be his first project and he just joined last month!

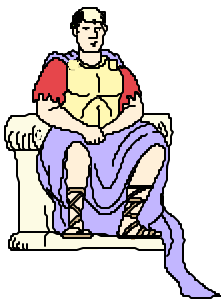
The hospitals are requesting to keep the group down to 10 people or less, so if you are interested in helping, or if you need more directions to my place, please call Cindy at 685-4906.

More details of this project can be found on page one of the newsletter.

DSA Banquet

Our annual Distinguished Service Awards Banquet is being held this year on Tuesday, February 3rd at Mt. Hawley Country Club. This is a prestigious event in which we give out awards to young leaders in the community who have been nominated by their peers. There are 6 categories of awards we are presenting. The next committee meeting for this project is Sunday, January 4th at Emily Duncan's house at 1:00pm. At this time, we are still looking for a keynote speaker. If anyone has any suggestions, please call Cindy at 685-4906 or Emily at 692-4512.

Goodbye & Happy Holidays!
Love, Cindy & Emily



State Director's Report

by John 'Caesar' Cima

Visitations

We need to go back to the Lincoln chapter to pick up our creed that was stolen by them a few months ago. We will need to do this sometime this month or in January so we may have it for the upcoming DSA Banquet. The

'Governor' and I tried to retrieve it, but they did not have it at their meeting... the slackers! We also need to start planning visitations to promote and solicit volunteers for the International Beer Fest in March. Peoria Heights, E. Peoria, Princeville and Bloomington-Normal are for sure visits.

Macomb Jaycees Beer Fest

And speaking of beer fests, the Macomb Jaycees are holding their own beer fest in February. Stay tuned to *The Charge!* or come to the membership meetings for more details. They just may need beer pourers and you can't find anyone better at pouring beer other than the Peoria Jaycees!

A Stay of Execution

from 'Governor' Dennis Owens



Have you heard about the news yet? Well let me enlighten you. The beautiful **Shari Quin** has accepted my invitation to get married. I still do not know why she said yes, but it may have something to do with the mental illness that runs in her family. Can you imagine a sane

woman saying yes to a man that calls himself the 'Governor,' when in fact he is not the Governor of anything. I am also the one who voluntarily became president of the Jaycees, **Good Lord** Well if Shari doesn't have any mental illness in her family, she's going to have some very soon.

If you would like to see her engagement ring it will be on display at the Jaycees Christmas Party on Dec. 12, so come on out and look at it. Shari will be proud to know that I choose from only the finest glass and only the highest quality of fools gold. This ring would make **Steve West** proud. If you don't know Steve, he is notoriously cheap. Well just kidding, it really is a gold ring with a real diamond, but the other ring I described is a perfect Steve West ring.

Well on to business, DSA IBF. What the hell are all of these silly identifiers. You know I am sick of three and four letter identifiers, I say we start reversing the way we use these identifiers from now on. DSA will now be known as Distinguished Service Award, and the Haunted House will be HH. IBF will now be known as International Beer Fest and the Firecracker 5000 will be called FC5. Anybody using these terms incorrectly will be **SKINNED!** Well anyway, the chairman of the projects need your help badly, check out the schedule of events and try and attend some of the meetings. Hey the worst thing that can happen is that you might have a good time. Also there is the HOI Pageant, another damn three letter identifier. This project needs help too. Now here it is... the goals...

G1: Law and Order in Meetings

Well the last meeting was over again and it interfered with our Adopt-a-School speaker. You people should be ashamed of yourselves. I tried to hurry things up but I guess I am just going to have to use the hammer and a stopwatch.

(continued on page 5)

FYI

As many of you probably know, I'm now a ho(mo)owner. My new address is 2521 W. Nottingham Place in lovely Sherwood Forest. Look for a party in the near future, once I acquire some furniture! (*Editor's Note: Have the party... just tell everyone to bring lawn furniture!*)

Caesar - signing off!

Membership Report

by Dan 'the Friar' Schmidt

Who's Up For Renewal

The following members are due this month:
Michelle Feger Alan Pennington

The following members are due in January:

Greg Boyd Greg Myroth
Joe Burkitt Mark Rosenberg
Kevin Leach Matt Schellenberg
* Stanley Munton

* - indicates Associate Member

If wanting to renew ---> Renewal fees are due on the third Thursday of the month (by the membership meeting). Remember, renewal dues are \$35 and for your convenience, you can send a check made payable to the Peoria Jaycees, PO Box 2, Peoria, IL, 61650. If you have any questions, please call me, **Dan 'the Friar' Schmidt** at 674-5290.

New Members

Ahoy, this is Santa's helper '**the Friar**', wishing you the gift of Leadership Development and Community Involvement. This gift is free to new, and current members of the Peoria Jaycees, so join today! **Clayton Hoffman**, our newest member, has now been fully initiated into the Jaycees, upon his fireside contribution to the Haunted House Appreciation party. Also joining us at the last minute in November is **Steve Weers**, successfully recruited by our slick and benevolent '**Governor Owens**'.

Membership Outings

In January, we have some really fun and exciting events and outings planned for the chapter. To begin with, **Dubby** has coordinated a casino bus trip on Saturday, January 3rd. Bus leaves K-Mart parking lot at 7:00am. This excursion includes 2 cruises, a brunch and buffet and round trip transportation, all for only \$18.00. For more info, call Dubby at 691-6608.

The annual Peoria Jaycees ski weekend is scheduled for January 9 -11th at Devil's Head Lodge in Baraboo, Wisconsin. For this trip, everyone is responsible for their own lodging, meals, lift tickets, rentals and of course, beer. The 'Governor' has reserved 4 rooms for us at the lodge, but we can try to get more rooms if needed. If interested in going on this trip or for more details, please call '**Governor Dennis Owens**' at 693-8771 or myself at 674-5290. This is a great time and I encourage all members to try to go; even if you're new to the organization.

Also, don't forget, **Dubby** the sporting membership god is having a JC night at the Peoria Riverman game on January 17th. Game time is 7:05pm. For more info or tickets, call Dubby at 691-6608 ASAP!

Once again I encourage everyone to bring a friend to the next exciting membership meeting at 7:00pm December the 18th at the Amvets, 237 NE Monroe.

Merry Christmas!!
Santa's Elf... Out!

A Stay of Execution (continued)

G2: Train and Involve More Members

ID rotation was very good last month and we were suppose to have Cooking with **Becky**, but it got canceled. I am sure glad I was told so I didn't have to drive around West Peoria looking for Becky's house. Ha Ha. I did get to see **Joe** try and set the city on fire.

G3: Give More Donations

HH is going to be the big one of the year, the final CPG (whoops Chairman's Planning Guide) was passed at the board meeting and after the Membership meeting, hopefully \$7,000 will be given to charity and community development events. Now that's more like it!

G4: 100 Members

We grew by 2 in November, thanks to **Clifford Adam**, our Regional Director. He called me and told me the region needed one more member to be plus one for the month. I remembered I promised **Steve Weers** he could join for 30 dollars back in September. This prompted me to get off my sorry ass and call him. Don't worry tight wads, I am going to make up the difference, since the 30 dollar deal is over.

Miss Heart of Illinois Scholarship Pageant

with the theme...
"That Old Time Movie Magic"

- **Saturday, January 24, 1998, 7:30pm**
- **East Peoria High School**
- **Tickets Available at:
Ducky's Formal Wear
Stage Department Stores**
- **Sponsored by:**



**For More Information, call the
Jaycees Hotline @ 676-JAYC**

Chapter Management

by Heather Zech



Hello everyone!!!! Happy Holidays!!!!

Jaycees Christmas Party

The Peoria Jaycees Christmas party is just around the corner. The event is to be held on Friday, December 12th. Things will begin at The Millennium restaurant on Main St. in downtown

Peoria, with cocktails at 6:00 and dinner at 6:30pm. Please call me if you are planning on coming to dinner if you haven't already. This way I can make the proper reservations with Millennium. After dinner, we are adjourning to **Joann Ziegler's** house for dessert, drinks and the Secret Santa gift exchange. If you can't make it to Joann's house, make damn sure your gift does! For directions, please call Joann at 689-0051 or myself at 274-4035. Dress for this affair is semi-casual (definition: dockers, slacks, nice collared shirt; real formal dress optional).

International Beer Fest

The committee meetings have started and plans are under way for the 6th Annual International Beer Fest. You don't want to miss being a part of this project. Committee positions are still open and need to be filled. This is your chance to become involved in a great organization and a great project!



The International Beer Fest is a project conceived by the Peoria Jaycees where people can taste test over 150 different micro-brewed beer. There is a cover charge at the door and samples are 50 cents a beer. A souvenir glass is given out with the cover charge and is used to taste test the beer of choice.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 22nd at 7:00pm. Location of the meeting is TBA at the time of this writing. If you can't make it to the meeting but still want to get involved, or if you need more information, please call IBF chairman **Mike Rhodes** at 681-9747 or myself at 274-4035.

Super Bowl Help Wanted

Time is running out! Super Bowl Sunday is coming up next month and we need a chairman for the Annual Super Bowl/Chili-Cookoff party. This is an easy project to plan and run; ideal for any new member. In addition, there is a vast assortment of seasoned Jaycee members and veterans that would be more than happy to pass on their experience in helping any member with this project. If interested, please call me at 274-4035, or simply volunteer at the next membership meeting.



Miss HOI Pageant

Planning and preparations for the Miss Heart of Illinois Scholarship Pageant is moving right along. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 14th at 1:30pm at **Cindy Schwerer's** apartment, 3525 N. Kingston Dr., #2 (behind Kroger's on Sterling Ave.) Anyone who is currently serving on this committee or who is going to volunteer to help the week of the event should attend this meeting.

"That Old Time Movie Magic" is the theme for this year's scholarship pageant. The show will feature songs paying tribute to classic movies, stars, and characters.

The Miss Heart of Illinois Pageant will take place on Saturday, January 24th at the East Peoria High School at 7:30pm. If anyone is interested in helping or have any questions, please call **Amiee Fuller** at 698-1950 or call me at 274-4035.

Individual Development...

...Served Hot and Fresh

from your Hostess, Becky Lemont



Mock Stock

Our 6 month stint with the mock stock project will be coming to an end in the month of December. At this month's membership meeting, we will know who made money and who didn't. Remember there are prizes for the winners, and of course a booby prize for the poor person who lost the most money.

This has turned out to be a great project and I would like to thank those who participated in it. It was a real learning experience! I also want to thank **Jeff Ulrich** for taking over this project and for doing a great job!

ID Rotation

The ID Rotation we held at the November membership meeting saw a great turnout. I think we probably had about 20 people take part in this event and it was a lot of fun!

An ID Rotation is where we would have several different individual development sessions all at once, and chapter members would "rotate" to different topics. Last month, we had "How to Buy/Sell a House" with **Mark Monge**, "Positive Bodies" with **Monica Rhodes**, New Member Orientation with **Dan Schmidt** and **Joann Ziegler** and "Eating for \$25 a Week" with yours truly.

I would like to thank these people for giving these presentations and I want to also thank all the members who participated in the ID Rotation.

Your Hostess,
Becky Lemont

Top Ten Theories Why Everyone Is Getting Engaged

10. It's an evil conspiracy from the Bloomington chapter to get the "Big One" gavel.
9. Someone slipped a mickey into the beer at last year's beer fest.
8. K-Mart had a blue light special on diamonds.
7. Everyone's preparing for one of the rooms in next year's Haunted House; the Chapel from Hell.
6. It's a fresh new excuse to drink.
5. Someone triple dog dared someone else and now it turned into all of this.
4. Everyone ran out of pick-up lines.
3. It's a new Individual Development project; marriage dynamics.
2. The beer parties got boring; gonna start wife swapping next.
1. Let's face it; the Peoria Jaycees women are hot!

German Frauline Defects to Canada

'**Frauline**' **Kathy Pulfer**, renown for her strong German heritage and her outspoken brother, made the decision to defect to Canada at the most recent Illinois Jaycees General Assembly. On Friday, November 14th, the fair 'Frauline' and **Rick Owens** stumbled into the Senate Room at the Springfield, IL Holiday Inn where the event was being held. Among the Jaycee senators were **Ed** and **Mark**. Senator Ed was from Toronto, Canada and pleaded with Kathy to become an honorary Canadian citizen.

"What do I need to do?" Kathy gleefully asked. The process was simple. With the assistance of Senator Mark, each senator would simply stick their arm up Kathy's shirt sleeve. Once both men reached Kathy's chest, they proceeded to snap a Canada pin on her shirt. Meanwhile, Kathy was becoming a little nervous and embarrassed with the two strangers hands up her shirt. "Hey, what are you guys doing?!" Kathy cheerfully shouted. She feared that Rick would feature this incident in the Peoria Jaycees newsletter. The two senators shook hands while underneath Kathy's blouse and the deed was then done. Kathy Pulfer became an honorary Canadian citizen, with all the rights and privileges thereof.

Reaction from the German government was swift. In a press statement later that week, German Chancellor **Helmet Kohl** stated that he was terribly disappointed in Kathy's defection. "The German people have seen a great loss," Kohl stated, "nothing of the likes since the erection of the Berlin Wall." Germany suffered another loss earlier this year when **Herr Jeff Pulfer** defected to the Cuban nation of Miami, Florida.

It's A Little Known Fact... Christmas

Christmas, in the Christian church, is an annual festival held on December 25 to celebrate the Nativity, or birth of Christ. The origin of the festival is unknown however scholars believe that it is derived in part from rites held by pre-Christian Germanic and Celtic peoples to celebrate the winter solstice. Christmas festivals, generally observed by Christians since the 4th century, incorporate pagan customs, such as the use of holly, mistletoe, Yule logs, and wassail bowls.

The Christmas tree is an evergreen trimmed with lights and other decorations. It is derived from the so-called paradise tree symbolizing Eden of German mystery plays. The use of a Christmas tree began early in the 17th century in Strasbourg, France, spreading from there through Germany and then into northern Europe. In 1841 Albert, prince consort of Queen Victoria, introduced the Christmas tree custom to Great Britain. From there it accompanied immigrants to the United States.

Dutch settlers had brought to the New World the custom of celebrating St. Nicholas' Day on December 6, and especially St. Nicholas' Eve, when gifts were given to children of whom the saint was patron. British settlers took over the tradition as part of their Christmas eve celebration. The English name of the legendary jolly, red-garbed man who delivers presents to good children at Christmas, Santa Claus, is derived from the Dutch Sinterklaas, a modification of Sint Nikolaas.

The common mistletoe figured significantly in the folklore and religions of pre-Christian Europe. Reputedly endowed with magical powers, it was used as a cure for sterility and as an antidote for poisons. It is used as a Christmas and New Year's decoration, and kissing under a branch of mistletoe is still customary.

The Jaycee Creed:

We Believe:

***That Faith In God
Gives Meaning And Purpose To Human Life;
That The Brotherhood Of Man
Transcends The Sovereignty Of Nations;
That Economic Justice
Can Best Be Won By Free Men
Through Free Enterprise;
That Governments Should Be Of Laws
Rather Than Of Men;
That Earth's Great Treasure
Lies In Human Personality;
And That Service To Humanity
Is The Best Work Of Life.***

The 1997-98 Peoria Jaycees Board of Directors

John 'Caesar' Cima Chairman
'Governor' Dennis Owens President
Heather Zech V.P. Chapter Management
Emily Duncan/Cindy Schwerer V.P. Community Development
Dan 'the Friar' Schmidt V.P. Membership
Becky Lemont V.P. Individual Development
John 'Caesar' Cima State Director
Monica Rhodes Treasurer
Eric Gengler Secretary
Joe Burkitt Local Director
Cara Freehill Local Director
Sandy Pearce Local Director
Shari Quin Local Director
Mike Rhodes Local Director



**Peoria Jaycees
PO Box #2
Peoria, Illinois 61650
<http://www.jaycees.com>**

**Bulk Rate
US Postage
PAID**

**Peoria, IL
Permit No. 700**

Address Correction Requested

This Issue:

- Santa Visits the Kids - Dec. 20th
- Jaycees Ski Weekend - Jan. 9th
- Story: 'Governor' Issues Pardon
- Miss HOI Update

Previously Unpublished:

Home Improvement Competition Turns Ugly

There's nothing like a little friendly competition to get your home improvement project completed. Or so thinks two Peoria Jaycee members. **'Governor' Dennis Owens** and **Jeff 'Mad Dog' Bilsland** initiated a contest two weeks ago to see who can get their home improvement project finished first.

The 'Governor' has been working on a project to completely refinish his entire basement. This included some new electrical work, walls, carpet, ceramic tile and ceiling. He started this task last April. Meanwhile, the 'Mad Dog' began refinishing his bathroom last August. Starting off as a simple repair job on some plumbing, it festered into a major home improvement project for him. Both projects have sat unfinished for the past several months during the Haunted House. Recently, the 'Mad Dog' said to the 'Governor' that his project would be completed before his, despite a 4 month head start. The competition had begun.

Since then, they have not only worked feverishly on their projects, but started to disrupt the each other's efforts. 'Mad Dog' desperately entered the Governor's Mansion and hid certain building materials that were needed. In return, Dennis devised a computer program that would call Jeff's house every ten minutes to sell him something, thus hindering his efforts. As the home improvement competition moved forward, it has slowly been turning into a war effort, with reports of vandalism and foul play on the rise.

Who will win this fierce competition? What will be the final cost? How much destruction will there be until peace? What will be the final death toll? These and other questions will be answered... someday, if these guys can ever get their act together and finish these projects! Stay tuned to *The Charge!* to learn the latest! (For more info on this story, refer to *The Fued Between the Bilslands' and the Owens'* on the Internet at <http://www.rlo.com/photo.html>).