

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

May 6, 2016

Column #82



(From left): Joan Savage, Kathy McOmber, Mickey Scornaienchi, Jeanne Marie Olin, LaVerne Ridpath, Letty Valdez, Norma Buller, Mary Hickey. (Missing Pat Davis)

MEET THE STRINGFELLOWS

Will homelessness be solved before the Grim Reaper strikes?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

WRITING this column is a privilege, and I've now published one column for every year of my life.

If--as my Ozarks-born dad used to say--"the Grim Reaper don't get me first," this week's column, number 82, will be dedicated to Marge Ann Jameson, *Cedar Street Times'* visionary editor/publisher, by introducing a few "stringers" whose contributions make homelessness so interesting this column now has worldwide readership.

In media parlance, a "stringer" is a freelancer who writes for a news source but is not an employee. The term "fellow" means colleague, whether one is male, female, or in-between.

So, my combined nickname for my extended journalistic family is "Stringfellow." Meet a few Stringfellows.

Stringfellows: PG's Strawberry Wine Club

Jeanne Olin, editor of "The Strawberry Wine Club's Dessert & Cookie Recipes," reports all 50 books sold at the April 17 book sale, raising \$500 for the Fund for Homeless Women at which Kathy Whilden, co-founder of the fund, was guest speaker.

Joan Savage shares her sample recipe for "Dunkin' Platters" from the book:

Ingredients: 1 Cup corn oil; 1 Cup oatmeal; 1 Cup brown sugar; 1 Cup Grapenuts; 2 Cups flour; 2 eggs; 1 teaspoon baking soda; 1 teaspoon vanilla; 1 teaspoon baking powder; 1 teaspoon cinnamon.

Directions: Blend oil, sugar, eggs, vanilla, and cinnamon. Mix in oats and Grapenuts. Add flour, soda, and baking powder. Mix well. Drop by teaspoon onto ungreased cooking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes.

Will the book be reprinted? Stay tuned!

Stringfellow: Sid Pass

Speaking of food, Sid Pass, of Germany, advises a popular restaurant in India put a refrigerator on the street so homeless persons could open the fridge and help themselves. This free access to leftovers and beverages was a huge success.

Would it work here? Maybe, if a “Consume at Your Own Risk” sign was posted and upheld whenever a lawsuit or wrongful death claims were filed.



Stringfellow: Val Gottesman

(Val Gottesman of Pacific Grove sees homelessness from a non-human perspective and shares her essay “The Chair.”)

THE CHAIR

What a wonderful life I have had. I was made by the most passionate people, made by hand with the best wood possible. And the detail!! A ROCKING, ROCKING CHAIR with spirit and soul.

Just think of how many people have sat and rocked on me. Could be a teacher, nurse, priest, chef, etc.

BUT there I was on the street!!! Abandoned, cold, rain falling on me. . . left alone. WHY? Am I getting too old and creaky?? Waiting, and then. . .

A wonderful woman came along, picked me up, and took me to her home. . . finally, love and peace! Years went by and I was so happy. . . I got new cushions, a place in the sun!

But AGAIN, I LOST MY HOME BECAUSE SHE HAD TO MOVE. Fortunately, she found a friend to take me in and I was happy again for many years. . . Time passed, happy times, but. . .

One day a new chair came into the house. . . beautiful, leather, comfortable. . . not enough room for me!

Really feeling my age. . . cracks in my seat, back. . . I knew my days were numbered.

And again, I was put out on the street corner, free for anyone to pick up.

Wow, the next morning I was gone. . . but not too far! To my neighbors next door! And every day I see her looking at me as I sit next to the recycle bin, waiting. . .

Death Row!! Still here!!!

Stringfellows: Bon Tindle And Ray Childress

This April 29, 2016, post on Facebook from Hearts For The Homeless (Springfield, MO) praises Ozarker Bon Tindle, whose essay on how to approach the homeless ran here on April 15.

“For the last several months I have watched a woman by the name of Bon Tindle as she has listened to the advocates and rather than taking sides on any issue she has researched and found truth for herself...

“Bon will be running for Springfield City Council next year and I will be her number 1 supporter. . . It is important for people to be in office that understand what it's like to be in the ‘real’ world and... able to understand the bigger picture.

“We all know that actions speak louder than words.”

Which leads me to wonder: Is the last line true here as well as in the Ozarks?

I can hear Daddy reply, “Yer darn tootin’ it is.”

“Dad, will homelessness be solved before the Grim Reaper strikes?”

“Only if it kicks the bucket first.”

Happy Birthday, Marge Ann, and many thanks for producing “Homeless in Paradise” as a public service.

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