

Beyond -30-

Volume 36 • Number 8 • September 2007

September Noon Forum: Peter Sarpy



Darrel Draper as Peter Sarpy

Who was Peter Sarpy? Before there was Omaha and Council Bluffs, there was Peter Sarpy of Bellevue, for whom Sarpy County is named. A fur trader, he operated a ferryboat to various trailheads serving people on their way to the western frontier. He helped publish the area's first newspaper, created the first bank and laid out the streets of Bellevue.

Darrel Draper will portray Peter Sarpy in costume at the Omaha Press Club Noon Forum on Thursday, Sept. 20. Draper is the most-requested performer of the 200 scholars, authors and historians of the Nebraska Humanities Council's Speakers Bureau.

His portrayal of Lewis-and-Clark-era George Drouillard at the Club in July 2004 was very well received.

The program will begin promptly at noon and end at 1 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person and includes lunch.

Guests and nonmembers are welcome to attend. Validated parking is available in the DoubleTree Hotel garage. Call the club at 345-8008 for reservations.

Joslyn Castle Will Be Interim Home Of Press Club During Renovation



The "Faces" will fit right in. From left, OPC board members Gary Willis, Susan Eustice, Club President Steve Kline, Executive Director Steve Villamonte and OPC Manager Christine Jones pose with Warren Buffett and Mary Maxwell's "Face on the Barroom Floor" portraits at the Joslyn Castle.

By Jim Fogarty

To the ramparts:

Our Omaha Press Club is making an exciting, temporary move to Joslyn Castle at 39th and Davenport Streets (one block north of Dodge) — from April 1 through July 31 of 2008.

It's necessary because our First National Bank landlord (peace and blessings on them) needs to finish renovation work that began several years ago. Because the new work involves complete asbestos abatement, ductwork and infrastructure above the ceiling,

the 22nd floor will be unavailable to the club from April 1 through Aug. 31 of next year.

President Steve Kline said that an agreement between OPC and the Friends of Joslyn Castle has made the magnificent mansion available to OPC for lunch service on weekdays, plus board and committee meetings, educational forums and some special private events. The Friends will be using the Castle, too, so close coordination of calendars already is under way.

continued on page 10

William Kizer is Honored as Press Club's 112th 'Face' — Pages 4-5 —

'Larry the Cable Guy' Becomes Press Club's 113th 'Face' — Pages 6-7 —

Friends and Colleagues Remember WOWT's John Clark — Pages 8-9 —

Calendar of Events for the Omaha Press Club — Back Page —

Omaha Press Club Foundation Presents Narrative Writing Workshop on Nov. 3

By Howard K. Marcus

Narrative writing is the focus of a Nov. 3 professional development workshop sponsored by the Omaha Press Club Foundation Inc.

The workshop will feature Ben Montgomery, a reporter with the *St. Petersburg Times*. Montgomery has taught narrative writing for the National Writers Workshop and the Poynter Institute. He also founded Gangrey.com, a blog devoted to narrative writing.

Montgomery grew up in Oklahoma and attended Arkansas Tech University. He worked for the (Russellville) *Courier* in Arkansas, the *San Angelo Standard-Times* in West Texas, the *Times Herald-Record* in New York and the *Tampa Tribune* before joining the *St. Petersburg Times* in 2006.

"We're very excited to be bringing in Ben as we restart our professional development series this fall," said Henry Cordes, president of the OPC Foundation. "With his skill and experience teaching narrative writing, his visit should appeal to writers of all stripes — everyone from pro-



Ben Montgomery

fessional journalists to all those aspiring writers who are sure they have that first novel in them."

The workshop will be held at the Creighton University Hixson-Lied Science Center, on Burt Street between 24th and 25th Streets.

Admission is free to Omaha Press Club members, \$35 for nonmembers and \$10 for full-time students

with ID.

Registration will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., and the morning session will follow, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Lunch (on your own) is from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. The afternoon session begins at 1:30 p.m. and concludes at 3 p.m.

Preregistration is required. Send a message with your name, phone number and affiliation (OPC member, student, etc.) to journalismprodev@yahoo.com or call 444-1397. The deadline is Nov. 1.

Free parking will be available in the Creighton garage near 24th and Burt Streets and in visitor lots on campus.



Fellowship • Scholarship
Education
And the Best View in Town

2007-08 OPC Officers

- Steve Kline President
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- Gary Willis President-Elect
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- Ashley Hassebroek 444-1076
- Judy Horan, co-chair 397-6155
- Daisy Hutzell-Rodman 444-1328
- Kay Kriss 689-7108
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Omaha Press Club Catering Services

Parties • Weddings • Catered Lunches

Call Christine at 345-8008 for details
or visit www.omahapressclub.com for menus

**PRESS CLUB GIFT
CERTIFICATES...
THE PERFECT
GIFT!**

OPC Gift Certificates make the perfect gift — even if the recipient is not a Press Club member. OPC Gift Certificates are available in any denomination. Members with accounts in good standing may call the OPC Office and charge gift certificates to their OPC account.

Call 345-8587 for more information!

FREE WiFi AT THE PRESS CLUB

Getting Married?
 Congratulations.

**Looking for a
 place to have your
 wedding reception?**

Look no further.

The Omaha Press Club offers expert assistance with food and beverage selections, table settings, flowers and decorations, rentals, music and more.

OPC members enjoy free room/club rental with a food or beverage order (up to a \$1,200 value).

China, glassware and flatware are available for up to 220 guests.

Call Christine at 345-8008

INQUIRE ABOUT PRENUPTIAL DINNERS, TOO...

**Please make reservations
 24 hours in advance, if possible.**

Press Club Committees

Communications Committee

Co-Chairs: Susan Eustice and Judy Horan

Education Committee:

Chair: Gary Kerr

Excellence in Journalism Awards Committee

Chair: Daisy Hutzell-Rodman

Executive Committee

Steve Kline, Jim Fogarty, Kay Kriss, Mark McMillan and Gary Willis

"Face on the Barroom Floor" Committee

Chair: Tom O'Connor

Marketing/Membership Committee

Chair: Wendy Townley

Media Relations Committee

Chair: Steve Kline

Professional Development Committee

Chair: Howard K. Marcus

Restaurant Committee

Chair: Cindy Jones

OPC Foundation Representative to the Board: Dave Ogden

A Note from the Executive Director

By Steve Villamonte BS, CEC

The summer vacation months are winding down, and we are preparing for our usual busy holiday season. Most of our summer staff has returned to college, and we are starting to fill our holiday calendar. If you have not planned your holiday function at the club, call Christine and get your date reserved.

Upcoming events include a wine tasting dinner on Sept. 19 (details below), the 114th "Face on the Barroom Floor," on Oct. 11, our usual Thursday evening Two-For-One Prime Rib special (member privilege)

and our annual Ron Sailors Gourmet Extravaganza on Nov. 2. Mark your calendars and call your reservations in now.

If you missed "Larry the Cable Guy," you missed an evening to be remembered. Those who attended were rewarded with autographs in an intimate environment that one will rarely, if ever, have a chance to experience, with one of the most prolific entertainers of our time. Larry's roasters were all hilarious, but all had to take a bow to Larry's responses.

Our next "Face," honoring Rev. John Schlegel of Creighton University, will be another packed house and, I'm sure, a memorable event, so make your reservations early to get the best available seat.

I hope you had a great summer and I look forward to seeing you at the club!

- Steve Villamonte
villa@opc.omhcoxmail.com
- Jeanie Campbell
jeaniec@opc.omhcoxmail.com
- Christine Jones
christine1@opc.omhcoxmail.com

**PRIME RIB
 THURSDAYS**

Enjoy a two-for-one prime rib dinner on Thursday nights for just \$24.95.

Member privilege only; no parties.

TO RSVP, CALL 345-8008.

CONTINENTAL CUISINE WINEMAKER'S DINNER

Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2007 • 6 p.m.

Members \$40 • Nonmembers \$50

**ALL OF THE WINE SAMPLINGS AND PAIRINGS WILL BE DONE BY
 A GUEST REPRESENTATIVE FROM TRINCHERO VINEYARDS**

Hors d'oeuvres

Manchego, Caprinelle and Comte Cheeses

Amuse

Grilled Red Grouper Mediterranean

Salad

OPC's Famous Thunderbird with Sautéed Portabella Mushrooms

Entrée

Beef Tenderloin Roast Chateaubriand

Dessert Reflection

Tableside Cherries Jubilee With A Grand Marnier French Vanilla
 OPC Belgium Chocolate Truffle

FOR RESERVATIONS, CALL 345-8008

William Kizer Honored as Press Club's 112th 'Face'



Omaha Press Club President Steve Kline welcomed the crowd. From left: rosters John Kizer, Fred Schott and Howie Halperin, and honoree William Kizer.

By Don Summerside

Who says fitness can't be funny? Good health may be serious business, but when the man whose name is synonymous with wellness in the workplace becomes a "Face on the Barroom Floor," laughter once again is the best medicine.

The installation of Bill Kizer as the Omaha Press Club's 112th "Face" drew an overflow crowd to the Omaha Press Club on Tuesday, July 10.

Kizer, the chairman emeritus of Central States Indemnity Co. of Omaha, pioneered the concept of workplace fitness programs.

In 1982, Kizer led several Omaha business leaders in the formation of the Wellness Council of the Midlands (WELCOM), the nation's first such organization.

Four years later, Kizer founded the Wellness Councils of America (WELCOA).

As emcee of the Face on the Floor festivities, humorist Mary Maxwell set a lively pace for the other roasters to match. Announcing that the evening was "a tribute to Bunnie" (Bill's wife), Maxwell added: "Of course, Bill has friends here, too. Lucky for him, both of them were able to come."

Maxwell later called Kizer "the Luis Palau of indemnity insurance — which means that until about a month ago, most Omahans had never heard of him."



Humorist Mary Maxwell emceed the event.

Kizer's other roasters were Fred Schott, Howie Halperin and Kizer's son John.

Schott, the president and CEO of Boys and Girls Clubs of Omaha, had plenty of material to draw on — or as he summed

up, "crappy assignments" — from his 22 years with Central States.



Schott worked for Kizer at Central States.

Said Schott: "Bill's a published author, you know — 'The Healthy Workplace: a Blueprint for Corporate Action.' Impressive, huh? About four of us took a year to write Bill's book."

And, Schott added: "If you think Bill Kizer got where he is today because he was fortunate enough to be T.L. Kizer's son...and if you think Bill, Dick, Joe, John and Ed got where they are because they are T.L.'s grandsons...you're right. It's all a matter of fortunate sperm. You think I'm crazy? Ask any of the four daughters!"

continued on page 5



Halperin stood on a box while he spoke.

Kizer is Honored by Press Club for His Work in Wellness



Bill's son, John, roasts his father.



Bill Kizer and his roasters. From left: Mary Maxwell, Kizer, Fred Schott, John Kizer and Howie Halpern.

continued from page 4

Halperin, executive director of the Wellness Council of the Midlands, crafted his thoughts into poetry, discovered, he said, in "a 1982 message in a bottle."

Halperin's "real story" of the origin of workplace wellness began with "There once was an unhealthy guy named Bill, who swallowed a wellness pill. He ran to his wife, and said: "This has changed my life! I'm going to let everyone know, even Dr. Phil."

And the result: "Twenty-five years later, wizard (of wellness) Bill reached his goal. Corporate Omaha is healthier, because of one man's soul."

Son John Kizer, the president of Central States Indemnity, said his father has another obsession in addition to wellness: "He convinced Bunnie to tear down his home of 45 years so they could build a new house just to Bunnie's liking. But the honest-to-good truth: Dad wanted a new house with high ceilings so that he could install an indoor simulated golf program called Full-Swing Golf. He is just as passionate about his golf simulator as he is about wellness. And believe me, it drives Bunnie crazy."

John also quoted his father's requests when he retired: "I'd like to relinquish my responsibilities but keep my office and my secretary. I'd like to have a title, and I'd like to stay on the board. I'd like to keep my pay package, too."

Turning to Bill, John said: "You've taught me so much about business and

life. But most important, Dad, you taught me how to retire in style. You are awesome!"

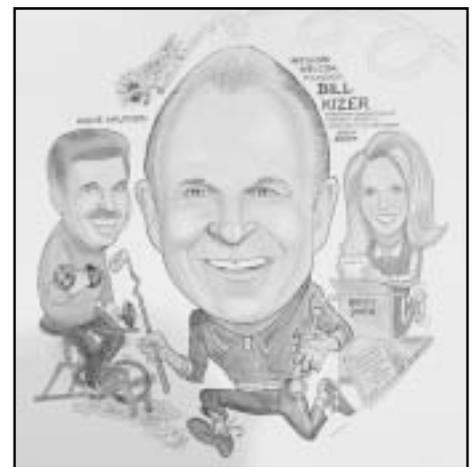


Kizer rebuts his roasters.

In response, Bill Kizer thanked his roasters and recalled that he started working for his father at Central States Health and Life in 1948, a company that T.L. had founded in 1932. "In later years I worked for my son John at Central States Indemnity. I can remember a time in between when I thought I was boss!"



Kizer honored Becky Dorn, assistant executive director of WELCOM, in his remarks.



Caricature by Jim Horan

Face Facts

As portrayed by "Face on the Barroom Floor" artist Jim Horan, Bill Kizer is wearing a workout suit — "by Armani, of course." In one hand is his beloved trumpet. In the other is a bent golf club, symbolizing Kizer's passion for that sport. Above Kizer in the caricature is a Navy Stearman training plane. (Bill was a naval aviator during World War II.)

At Kizer's request, he shares his Face space with the leaders of WELCOM. Howie Halperin, executive director, is pictured pumping iron and riding an exercycle. Becky Dorn, assistant executive director, is running on a treadmill while delivering a speech.

Photos by
Bridget Brooks

'Larry the Cable Guy' Packs the House for 113th 'Face'

By Douglas N. Roeseemann

Native Nebraskan, Dan Whitney, aka "Larry the Cable Guy," was roasted and toasted as the Omaha Press Club's 113th "Face on the Barroom Floor" in a fun-filled evening at the club on Aug. 17.

A message on Larry's Web site states: "If you're uptight, humorless and P.C. in any way, please exit the site!"

As a sold-out crowd of more than 270 people can attest, the night was one of those sessions that would have been a solid hit on the Blue Collar Comedy circuit.

Daniel Lawrence Whitney was born and grew up in Pawnee City, Neb. He moved to Florida with his family during his teen years, but still maintains strong ties to this area, living on a farm near Lincoln during Nebraska football season. He is a loyal Husker fan and has his own skybox at the football games, which he fills every game day with family and friends.

A feature story about Larry on the "60 Minutes" television program recently referred to him as "one of the leading comedians in the nation."

Forbes magazine reported he made \$19 million in one year with his touring comedy show and movies. He has starred in two movies — "Larry the Cable Guy: Health Inspector" and "Delta Farce." He also provided the voice of Mater in the animated film "Cars" and its subsequent video game and short film sequel, "Mater and the Ghostlight."



Whitney reacts to his roasters' comments.



Roasters Colleen Quinn and Chris Baker enjoy Whitney's comments.

He is well known for his plaid, sleeveless shirts, and the phrases: "Git-R-Done!" and "Lord, I apologize."

The evening got underway when Steve Kline, Omaha Press Club board president, arrived at the lectern to open the program. He said he somehow didn't get the memo about casual dress for the evening and, as such, was wearing a suit and tie. He then surprised the crowd of fans and friends by removing his suit coat and showing off his white dress shirt, which didn't have sleeves. It was homage to Larry's signature sleeveless plaid shirt.

When Larry saw Kline's sleeveless shirt he commented: "You look as out of place as Rosie O'Donnell at the Playboy mansion."

Kline said the Press Club prided itself on being "fair and balanced," as he presented Larry with a Creighton Bluejay hat and shirt to counter his strong Husker leanings.

Todd Brandt and Mike Tyler (Todd-n-Tyler of Z-92 Radio) served as emcees for the roast. They were recognized in 2006 as the 106th "Face on the Barroom Floor." The roasters for the event were: Chris Baker, formerly of Omaha and now with KTRH radio in Houston; Colleen Quinn, the manager of the Funny Bone Comedy Club; and Tom Ryan, a national touring comedian.

Quinn made fun of Larry being homophobic by saying, "He won't even eat rainbow sherbet." She continued by say-

ing Pawnee City has named a street after Larry, but she was very surprised when she discovered it "veered left."

She then addressed UNL Athletic Director Steve Pederson, a friend of Larry who attended the event, asking him about his skybox, which is next to Larry's. "Don't you feel like the Beverly Hillbil-

lies moved in?" she asked.

She ended her comments by saying, "Dan is truly a nice guy, who still honors his family and his Nebraska roots. I'm happy to say fame has not gone to his head, only to his waistline."

Larry expressed his appreciation for being honored by the Omaha Press Club and said he was thrilled to be on the same floor as Johnny Carson, his hero who was inducted in 2005.

He returned some of the jabs made earlier in the evening by his roasters, commenting that "Todd and Tyler had accomplished almost everything they have ever wanted in their lives, except escaping out of 1977."

He said they are so annoying, "the national Medicare association has put out a drug available only in Omaha called Excedrin FM."

About Quinn, Larry said, "She was as beautiful today as when they signed the Declaration of Independence."

The portrait will have a place of honor on the Press Club's barroom floor until the next Face event and then it will be moved to the wall.

The next "Face on the Barroom Floor" at the Omaha Press Club — honoree number 114 — will be the Rev. John Schlegel, S.J., president of Creighton University. The event will be held Oct. 11. See page 12 of this newsletter for details.

For reservations, call 345-8008.

Laughter Fills the Press Club on Aug. 17 as Dan Whitney Is Honored



"Larry" and his roasters (from left): Chris Baker, Dan Whitney (aka "Larry the Cable Guy"), Colleen Quinn, Tom Ryan, Mike Tyler and Todd Brandt (Todd-n-Tyler).



Dan Whitney, aka "Larry the Cable Guy"

The portrait features Whitney wearing his plaid sleeveless shirt, with a Nebraska "N" on a chain around his neck.

He is wearing his desert camouflage pants, boots and is holding a pop-gun rifle, all from the movie "Delta Farce."

He's holding up his "Health Inspector" badge, and is topped off with a hunting cap featuring the saying "Git-R-Done."

Photos by Howard K. Marcus
"Face" Caricature by Jim Horan



Whitney got in a few jabs at his roasters during his rebuttal.



Right: Whitney examines the details on his "Face" caricature.

Want to see more of this event?

Visit the Omaha Press Club Web site at www.omahapressclub.org and view the YouTube video of the event.

(WARNING: VIDEO IS "NOT SAFE FOR WORK" VIEWING)

Happy Hours

Tuesdays Through Fridays
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The OPC bar is open Tuesday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. to close.
(Please call before you come.)

Special Functions/Parties Not Included (Member Privilege Only)

PRICE DISCOUNTS

- TAP BEER: \$1.50
- DOMESTIC BOTTLED BEERS: \$2.00
- IMPORTS: \$3.00
- MIXED DRINKS: \$3.25
- WELL & HOUSE WINES: \$3.25
- All other drinks reduced by \$1.00

Remembering WOWT News Director John Clark

John Clark, long-time news director for WOWT, died June 30 at the age of 58. He left behind his wife, Joyce, two sons and five grandsons. The much-respected journalist also left behind many friends and co-workers. Several have shared their memories of Clark:



John Clark
news director and assignment editor in 1984.

In 1991, upon the retirement of Steve Murphy, John became news director. John Clark was a journalist and a professional — he expected no less from the rest of us.

If he said it once, he said it a thousand times — he'd rather be last and accurate, than first and wrong.

While always a professional broadcaster, John was also a family man. He was husband to Joyce, father to Justin and Jeff and proud grandfather to five energetic grandsons. Our industry and our community will always remember John, a strong, honest leader.

Photo and obituary courtesy of WOWT-TV

'His Final Gift Was to Reconnect Us'

By Ann Pedersen, Director of Public Relations, Lovgren Marketing Group

When John Clark joined WOWT, I was Assignment Editor. I thought how lucky we were to have a reporter who already knew his way around town. He could just pick up where the last guy left off.

I soon discovered that John's contribution to WOWT would be so much more than that. His calm demeanor, matter-of-fact writing style, solid news reporting and leadership in the newsroom were a gift to us all.

His final gift was to reconnect many of us who had lost touch with one another over the years...many colleagues as well as competitors were brought together once again.

Thank you, John.

'His Instincts Never Failed Him'

By Chuck Roberts, CNN Headline News Anchor and Former KMTV Colleague

John's instincts never failed him. I was fresh in town when he took a half-day to have me shake the hands of Omahans I'd need to know.

First stop: Cascio's and the Southside lunch crowd. He casually collected story ideas as we worked our way to a table.

John never wanted to be famous and that's part of the reason he was. From local kingpin to shaken crime victim — they all seemed to respond to John.

He landed coveted angles at news conferences, sidebar hallway interviews and breaking news scenes. Anchors rarely — I mean rarely — get people to trust them as he did.

"Clarko" was one of about five people in the world I never wanted to disappoint.

'He Was a Trusted Friend...'

*By John Prescott
Strategic Command Media Consultant
Former KMTV & WOWT Colleague*

John's rock-solid news reporting was well known and respected, but I will most cherish "Clarko's" contributions to the irreverent, behind-the-scenes newsroom productions titled, "So, You Want To Be A Newsman?" We built seven volumes dur-

ing the 20 years we worked together at KMTV and WOWT.

Viewers occasionally caught glimpses of John's creativity in his feature work, but his most brilliant efforts were as quick and clever as anything you'll see on *The Daily Show*.

He was a trusted friend and I will miss his humor.

'Truly a Legend'

*By Tom O'Connor
UNMC Public Affairs*

My friendship with John spans more than 30 years. Our paths crossed frequently — he as a reporter and me as a media relations representative for Mutual of Omaha and now the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

I will always remember John for being a genuine person. Even though he was news director at WOWT for the past 16 years, he never let the title go to his head. He was exactly the same person as he was when he was a young reporter just starting out at KMTV.

The past few years, John and I and a mutual friend, Scott Darling (a past president of the Omaha Press Club), used to meet regularly for lunch at the

Marylebone Tavern. Even though John was battling his lymphoma, it rarely was the focus of our conversation. We covered the waterfront, and it was always tough to break away and head back to work.

Everyone who worked with John says he demanded perfection — it's probably a key reason WOWT has done so well in the TV ratings under John's leadership.

All I know is he was one great guy who will be sorely missed by his legion of friends.

Like Steve Murphy before him, I think history will show that John Clark was truly a legendary figure in Omaha media.

I'm honored to call him my friend.

Friends and Colleagues Remember John Clark: 'He Taught Us How to Live...'

By RoseAnn Shannon
KETV News Director

When John Prescott called to tell me John Clark had died, I recalled Walter Mondale's eulogy for Hubert Humphrey: "He taught us all how to hope and how to live, how to win and how to lose. He taught us how to live, and finally, he taught us how to die."

That could have been written for John Clark.

John taught us how to hope as he battled cancer for 12 years. We all hoped

— believed — he could beat the monster. John taught us how to live — that you can have both ratings and ethics. That you can be dedicated to both career and family. That you can compete without being mean-spirited. Finally, John taught us how to die — facing death with courage, dignity and acceptance.

John was our colleague, our teacher, our competitor, but most of all, our friend. The Omaha journalism community is stronger because he was a part of it. We are poorer because he is gone.

OPC Foundation Tribute Cards

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY OR TYPE

Your name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

I wish to remain anonymous

This contribution is (please mark one):

in honor of (specify occasion) _____

in memory of (specify name) _____

Please direct my contribution to the (mark one):

- Robert McMorris Scholarship Fund
- Panko-Roberts/Presidents Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Paul N. Williams Scholarship Fund
- Joseph Kasmir Award Fund
- Terry Mason Scholarship Fund
- OPC Foundation General Scholarship Fund

Please send acknowledgment of my tribute to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Mail your contribution and this form to:

OPC Foundation Tribute Card Program • 1705 S. 133 St. • Omaha, NE 68144-1228

Make checks payable to the OPC Foundation.

09/07

Honor News Legends With a Donation to the Omaha Press Club Foundation

The Press Club annually awards 12 scholarships to journalism students at Creighton University, the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In addition, the Foundation offers special honorariums through the Savage Fellowship and the Gautier, Kalber and Zorinsky Awards.

Pay tribute to journalism and broadcasting colleagues through a contribution to the Omaha Press Club Foundation to help create the next generation of news legends.

Gifts are now being accepted to establish future awards in memory of Stan Bond, Joe Kasmir, Terry Mason and Robert McMorris.

Send contributions to: OPC Foundation, PO Box 4842, Omaha NE 68104-0842. Please indicate which award you wish to support.

Recent donations include:

- In memory of John Clark, WQWT news director, by Judy and Jim Horan.
- In honor of Bill Kizer, the 112th "Face on the Barroom Floor," by an anonymous donor.

The Omaha Press Club Foundation has also instituted a Tribute Card Program designed to help you recognize friends and family at milestones in their lives (birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, etc.), even as you contribute to scholarships for college communications students.

When you contribute to the OPC Foundation, a special card will be mailed to the honoree or to others as you direct. The names of contributors and honorees (but not the amounts) will appear in future issues of this newsletter. All contributions are tax-deductible.

All non-designated contributions will go into the Foundation's **General Fund**.

Press Club Will Move to Joslyn Castle (Temporarily) in 2008

continued from page 1

"We will cater in a delicious lunch service on weekdays with two hot entrees and a variety of soups, salads and desserts," said Executive Director Steve Villamonte. "Reservations will be necessary each day — no later than 10 a.m. — so we'll know how much food to prepare."

Each day's menu will be posted on our Web site, www.omahapressclub.org.

"We will be in the building every weekday from about 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We'll

clean up and move out," said Villamonte. "Our agreement with Joslyn does not include August of 2008 — that will simply become our annual closing."

Special events, such as OPC committee meetings, noon forums, private events and Faces on the Barroom Floor, must be carefully coordinated — hopefully long in advance — with OPC Manager Christine Jones, who will work directly with Joslyn Castle.

An OPC special committee headed by OPC President-Elect Gary Willis spent a year

reviewing all options — including closing. The board and membership said that a continuum of memberships, services, forums and events is important and an exciting, temporary space makes good sense.

The first-ever move since the 1971 OPC restaurant opening has caused some concern among long-time members who are asking: "Why this crazy move?" "Isn't the castle too far away?" "Who dreamed up this dang thing?" "What's this costing us?"

Answers in order of importance:

- "The absence of alternatives clears the mind marvelously," said Henry Kissinger. OPC's First National space will be torn down to the studs for four months — and asbestos tends to float in coffee.
- Joslyn Castle is a *four-minute drive* from 16th & Dodge (I drove it — eastbound — the hard way.) It's walkable from Mutual of Omaha and WOWT, about a 2-iron from the Med Center, where we have a couple of hundred members and a nice bike ride from KETV, KFAB and Kay Kriss's studios.
- Two words: free parking. Three words: oodles of it.
- The Friends of Joslyn Castle board made this magnificent, historic, four-story mansion available to us. No, we're not taking it over. We're working closely with them so as not to intrude on each other's events. It's big enough to accommodate several small meetings, a general dining space and a couple of larger events at the same time — on three spectacular above-ground floors.
- Joslyn Castle itself is a national draw. It's breathtaking. In addition to OPC events, members can tour the castle, gardens and grounds. My guess is you'll say "Wow" to what George and Sarah Joslyn did for us.
- OPC is paying the Joslyn Friends for use of the facility, of course. The club likely won't turn a profit during those months — but those traditionally are our nonprofit months anyway.

A big part of the move plan involves a gala being planned at the First National Center space in September 2008 when the Club re-opens there. "Nothing's firm yet, but we are putting together a great event to welcome people back," said Kline.

Joslyn Castle is a popular spot for special events — and the OPC is fortunate to be able to use it as our temporary clubhouse.

The History of Joslyn Castle



Photo and story by Jim Fogarty

From left: Steve Villamonte, Christine Jones, Susan Eustice, Gary Willis, Steve Kline.

Completed in 1903, Joslyn Castle was the private home of George and Sarah Joslyn. The home continues to be one of Nebraska's most remarkable buildings. It was designed by Omaha architect John McDonald, who labeled the four-story, 35-room castle's style as "Scottish Baronial." It was built in 11 months at a cost of \$250,000.

From 1944 through 1989, "the Castle" served as the headquarters of the Omaha Public Schools. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 and was designated an Omaha Landmark Historic Structure in 1979.

The castle and grounds sustained serious damage in the Omaha tornado of 1913 with the loss of its greenhouse.

Yet even today, its interior combines grandeur with livability. The main entry is via a wrought iron door weighing 1,800 pounds. Inside features — too numerous to cover here fully — include Spanish mahogany woodwork, a dramatic curved stairway and a large marble fireplace. Curved stained glass windows look out into the conservatory, designed by Jens Jensen of Chicago after the original conservatory was destroyed in the tornado.

Popular among its many offerings is the sunken music room, added in 1907, featuring a high ceiling, satinwood woodwork and hard maple floors and a small stage. A third-floor ballroom is being refurbished this year, as are the castle grounds and gardens. The high turrets of the castle are visible from throughout the Destination Midtown neighborhood.

Mob Stories and Vegas Showgirls

By Kay Kriss

Omaha author Steve Fischer entertained his audience at the Omaha Press Club's Noon Forum on Aug. 23. Fischer is the author of the book, *"When the Mob Ran Vegas"* and is finishing work on a new book, *"Showgirls."*

Fischer put an ad in a Las Vegas newspaper, seeking showgirls over 60. He said over 100 women responded. One of those showgirls, Lisa Maloof Medford, joined Fischer at the club for the Forum.

The two delighted the crowd with stories of Vegas. Medford was the first nude showgirl and she gave details of her experiences. Medford described their costumes, which included steel collars to support headdresses and wigs that weighed 25 pounds. She told of her experiences with stars including Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra and more.

Fischer told the audience that many of the original showgirls from the 1950s and '60s remained in the Vegas area and one actually went on to live the "Showgirl Dream." She married an 81-year-old fan who died several months after they married. She now has homes in Honolulu and London and a horse ranch in Northern California.



Fischer, with a cardboard cutout of Medford as a Vegas Showgirl.

Photos by Jon Brooks

Her story, Medford's experiences and other women's tales are interwoven in Fischer's new book, which is slated for publication in late November.

"When the Mob Ran Vegas" is now also available as an audio book. More information on the books is available at Fischer's Web site, www.whenthemobranvegas.com.



Former showgirl Lisa Maloof Medford and Omaha author Steve Fischer

OPC Member Perk:

Club members may now purchase any wine available to us at 20 percent above wholesale cost (carryout only). Most retailers have mark-ups starting at 40 percent, so this is an excellent value.



NO SMOKING AT THE PRESS CLUB



In compliance with the city smoking ban, no smoking is allowed in the Omaha Press Club.

SEPTEMBER 30

Reminder:
The current minimum quarter ends Sunday, Sept. 30!

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Beyond-30-

The Newsletter of the Omaha Press Club

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EVENTS LISTING

THURSDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

Two-For-One Prime Rib Special

MONDAY, SEPT. 3

OPC Closed for Labor Day

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 19

Continental Cuisine Winemaker's Dinner

THURSDAY, SEPT. 20 • NOON

OPC Noon Forum: *Darrel Draper as Peter Sarpy*

SUNDAY, SEPT. 30

End of Current Minimum Quarter

THURSDAY, OCT. 11 • Cocktails: 5:30 p.m.

114th "Face on the Barroom Floor":
Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J.

FRIDAY, NOV. 2

Ron Sailors Gourmet Extravaganza

APRIL 1 – JULY 31, 2008

Press Club Temporary Relocation to
Joslyn Castle

AUG. 1-31, 2008

OPC 2008 Summer Club Closing

Rev. John P. Schlegel Will Be Next 'Face'

The Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., will be honored as the Omaha Press Club's 114th "Face on the Barroom Floor" on Thursday, Oct. 11.

Fr. Schlegel became Creighton University's 23rd president in August 2000, following nine years as president of the University of San Francisco.

Under Fr. Schlegel's watch, the university is embarking on its most ambitious campus expansion in its 129-year history. In 2005, Fr. Schlegel announced "Willing to Lead: The Campaign for Creighton University," a \$350 million capital campaign.

Since he arrived, the university has added more than 20 acres to its campus and invested more than \$190 million in new construction, renovation and campus improvement.

Fr. Schlegel isn't new to Creighton University. He served as the university's assistant academic vice president from 1978-82 before becoming academic dean of Rockhurst College from 1982-84. He was dean of arts and sciences at Marquette University from 1984-88 and executive and

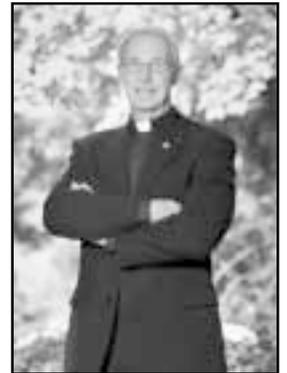
academic vice president at John Carroll University from 1988-91.

A native of Dubuque, Iowa, Fr. Schlegel entered the Society of Jesus in 1963 and was ordained in 1973. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Saint Louis University, a B.D. honors degree in theology from the University of London and a doctorate in international relations from Oxford University.

He is involved in numerous local organizations and serves on multiple boards.

A reception for Fr. Schlegel will begin at 5:30 p.m. The roast and toast starts at 6:30 p.m., followed by an optional dinner. Dinner prices are \$40 for members and \$50 for nonmembers.

For reservations, call 345-8008.



Rev. John P. Schlegel