



The Pink 'Un



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The Hansom Wheels Website (which includes *The Pink 'Un*) is at www.hansomwheels.com

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I Find It Recorded in My Notebook . . .

The Hansom Wheels 2017 Christmas Party was held at the Palmetto Club on December 7—Pearl Harbor Day. But it was *not* a “date that will live in infamy”; it was actually a pretty good time. We only had eighteen attendees, which was a little disappointing; the year before we had thirty-eight, and thirty-one in 2015. Where *are* you people, anyway?

After dinner, I blew the Blue Kazoo to get everybody's attention and pointed out that 2017 was the 130th anniversary of the publication of *A Study in Scarlet* in *Beeton's Christmas Annual*—the story that got the whole thing started. A full-color picture of the cover of that historic periodical was reproduced on the front of the program.

Having sent shivers up and down everybody's spine, I then announced that the game was afoot, which I should have done right after blowing the kazoo, but I had forgotten. We toasted *the* woman, Irene Adler, and **Kathy Newman** led us in the Musgrave Ritual.

The next order of business was the drawing for and handing out of the door prizes. That ritual is usually conducted by **Myrtle Robinson**, often with the assistance of one or more of her grandchildren; but this time it was handled by **Richard Blenko**, who had volunteered to do it and supplied his own prizes, which he had brought all the way from his home in West Virginia. They included three new Sherlock Holmes books, a small Winston Churchill vase made in England, an antique English ceramic tea pitcher, a large ceramic serving dish, a hand-blown Blenko Victorian liquor bottle, four Victorian champagne glasses, two Victorian glasses, a Victorian crystal dish, and—the pièce de résistance—a garnet Blenko hand-blown pitcher/vase valued at \$200.00! (In case you're wondering about those Blenko references, **Richard** is a scion of the family that owns the Blenko Glass Company, which was founded in Milton, West Virginia, in 1921 by William J. Blenko, an immigrant from London, and is known for its artistic hand-blown glass. You would think that with all those prizes and so few people, **your Editor** would have won *something*. But no.

Next, **Alida Rawl** led the assembled multitude in singing “Silent Night,” “Joy to the World,” “Jingle Bells,” and “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.” And a fine job she did of it, too. And so did we.



Alida leads the group in Christmas songs

The Christmas Play this time was a CD of a “radio” drama that had been recorded before a live audience at the John Bennett Shaw Sherlock Holmes Workshop at Berry College in Rome, Georgia, on August 6, 1983. I played it on a combination radio/phonograph/CD player/audio cassette player that looks a lot like an old-time radio console. It was *The Red-Headed League*, by the late **Bob Robinson**. The cast, in order of appearance, consisted of **Kathy Trice** as the Announcer, **your Editor** as Duncan Ross/Archie, the late **Bill Brown** as Edward Hargrove, the late **Jo Bradford** as Vincent Spaulding/John Clay, **Al McNeely** as Jabez Wilson, **John Wrisley** as Sherlock Holmes, **Bob Robinson** as Inspector Peter Athelney-Jones, and **Bill Brown** as Dr. John H. Watson. Music and sound effects were supplied by **John Wrisley**. As you can see, several of the folks on that recording are no longer with us; it was good to hear their voices again.

Spokesman Emeritus (you know, it never occurred to me until recently that he chose that title to refer to the “spokes” of a hansom wheel—but that's because I'm stupid) **Cap'n Billy Rawl** concluded the meeting by reading the Sacred Sonnet, “221B,” and we all went out to shop 'til we dropped. Because it was, after all, almost Christmas.

For February: Murder at Fort Jackson!

No, there won't be a murder at Fort Jackson in February—at least, I hope not. The Hansom Wheels will meet at 7:00 P.M. **Thursday, February 15**, at **The Palmetto Club, 1231 Sumter Street**. The price for dinner will be **\$27.00** per person. The Featured Presentation will be a talk by **Dr. Fritz Hamer**, curator of history at the South Carolina State Museum, on a little-known murder that took place at the fort in 1945. The Assigned Story, appropriately enough, will be “The Crooked Man,” which con-

cerns a murder on an army base in England. Please make **reservations** with **your Editor** by phone at (803) 787-2219; by email at hansomwheels@aol.com; or just **click “Reply”** on the email to which this newsletter is attached **as soon as possible**, but **no later than Thursday, February 8**, so we can give the Palmetto Club an accurate count by the 9th (that's a little sooner than we used to ask for reservations, but the Palmetto Club has changed its policy). See you there!

Happy Hour Posers (Name the Adventures—All Published Ones This Time)!

1. Evel Knievel
2. Martin Shkreli
3. Mr. Scratch's 30.48 centimeters
4. Groucho, Harpo, Chico, and Zeppo say "Good night!" and go off the air

Believe It or Not!

On January 23 the Final Jeopardy category on *Jeopardy!* was "Literary Brothers," and the clue was:

"This character first appeared in 'The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter,' an 1893 story in London's *Strand Magazine*"

The contestants were:



Rachel Lindgren, a fire lookout from Bend, Oregon (*two-day total: \$42,201*)



Alex Schindele, an investment analyst from Jersey City, New Jersey



Katie Champagne, a graduate student from Reno, Nevada

... and none of them got it!

Katie answered "Who is Sherlock Holmes?" She had \$7,600, bet \$4,400, and wound up with \$3,200 for third place.

Alex answered "Who is Karamoz?" He had \$4,000, bet \$0, and wound up with \$4,000 for second place.

Rachel answered "Who is Luigi?" She had \$13,600, bet \$1,601, wound up with \$11,999, and remained champion with a three-day total of \$54,200.

Of course, we all know the real answer:

