



# The Pink 'Un



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## I Find It Recorded in My Notebook . . .

We had a good turnout of twenty-eight people for the 2018 Hansom Wheels Christmas Party at the Palmetto Club on December 6—to wit: **Al and Pat McNeely**, **Ashby** and **Joann Morton**, **Jamie McCulloch**, **Ed Salkind**, **Richard** and **Marty Blenko**, **Peter** and **Mary Hostetler Hoyt**, **Jean Hein**, **Kevin** and **Becky Lewis**, **Nancy Washington**, **Wayne Scott**, **Myrtle** and **Tim Robinson**, **Hannah Timmons**, **Manuel Mesa**, **Carol Cranford**, **Vickie Eisenman**, **Sandy Knight**, **Barbara Bugner**, **Carl** and **Elaine Johnson**, **Julie Smoak**, **Mary Snead Dematteis** (**Mrs. Tantalus**), and **Yours Truly**.

After dinner, I tooted the Blue Kazoo and declared the game afoot. We toasted *the* woman, Irene Adler; and **Carol Cranford** led us in the Musgrave Ritual.

Next, as per usual at the Christmas Party, was the drawing for door prizes. For the second year in a row **Richard Blenko** volunteered to administer the drawing (as always, **Myrtle Robinson** had made up the slips, each of which had some reference to the Canon) and to supply the prizes, which included books about England, a horse brass from Loch Ness (according to Wikipedia, a horse brass is “a brass plaque used for the decoration of horse harness gear, especially for shire and parade horses. They became especially popular in England from the mid-19th century until their general decline alongside the use of the draft horse, and remain a collector’s item today”), and a hand-blown Blenko vase valued at \$65.00. I didn’t make notes of who won what, but my wife got a ruby-colored 1920s Blenko liqueur glass made with gold, the sort of thing that Sherlock Holmes might have used to sip port or brandy in his later years (because he would have been sixty-six in 1920).

Authentic early English Christmas music was provided by two performers from the Columbia Baroque Society: **Jean Hein** on the recorder and **Mary Hostetler Hoyt** on the violin. They certainly added a lot of class to the proceedings, and I hope we can get them to come back and play for us in future years.



Baroque music performers **Mary Hostetler Hoyt** (violin) and **Jean Hein** (recorder)

We always have a play at Christmas, but it’s getting harder to get people together to put them on. So last year we heard a CD of a “radio” drama that some of our members had performed at the John Bennett Shaw Sherlock Holmes Workshop at Berry College in Rome, Georgia, in 1983. This time I showed a video of excerpts from several plays from Christmas parties in years past (when we used to videotape them), all of which were adapted by our late program chairman, **Bob Robinson**, from accounts by Dr. Watson: *The Musgrave Ritual* from 1993; *The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax* from 1999; *The Napoleon of Crime*, combining “The Final Problem” and “The Empty House,” from 1988; and *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, from 1990. In putting together the DVD, I selected scenes that were deliberately or unintentionally funny. My favorite was one from *The Hound of the Baskervilles* in which Holmes (played by **John Wrisley**) and Watson (the late, great **Bill Brown**) come upon the dead body of the escaped convict, Selden (**your Editor**). When they roll me over, my lifeless arm flops up and knocks the script out of **Wrisley’s** hand, and the pages go all over the floor. **Wrisley** and **Brown** then ad lib for several minutes while **Wrisley** gathers up the pages and tries to find his place.

**Elaine Johnson** ended the evening by reading the Sacred Sonnet, Vincent Starrett’s “221B,” and, like the little pig in the GEICO commercial, we went “Wee, wee, wee!” all the way home.

## For February: Radio Play, Return of the Welches, and Special Guest Stars!

The Hansom Wheels will meet at **7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 28**, at **The Palmetto Club, 1231 Sumter Street**. The price will be **\$27.00 per person**. There will be a live performance of a “radio” play, *The Musgrave Ritual*, adapted by **Cellel Welch** from Dr. Watson’s account of an anecdote by Sherlock Holmes. **Cellel** will direct and provide musical transitions between scenes; **Jim Welch** will serve as the announcer and perform the sound effects. We haven’t seen the **Welches** since they deserted us for North Carolina three years ago. And we will have two local celebrities as guest stars (see

page 2)! The Assigned Story will be “The Musgrave Ritual” (duh!). Please make **reservations** with **your Editor** at **(803) 787-2219**; by email at [hansomwheels@aol.com](mailto:hansomwheels@aol.com); or click “**Reply**” on the email to which this newsletter is attached **as soon as possible** but **no later than Monday, February 25**. See you there!

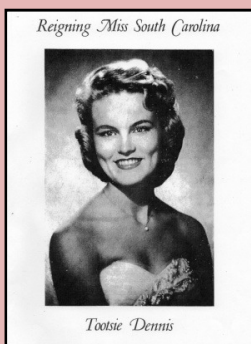
**Important:** If you make a reservation and can’t attend, *please* call or email and **cancel** as soon as you can. The Palmetto Club will charge us for uncanceled reservations!

## Happy Hour Posers (Name the Adventures)!

1. Jack Horner grew up to drive locomotives, but he still got fruit out of pies the same way he had as a kid.
2. Scarlett's kids said they wanted corn flakes for breakfast. She shook her finger at them and said, "Oh, no! Good Southerners \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_."
3. The blueprints for Basil Rathbone's sidekick's new home in a Manchester suburb.
4. Nero Wolfe enjoying a seven-course meal.

## Guest Stars Who Will Appear in the "Radio" Play at the February Meeting!

### Tootsie Dennis



Tootsie Dennis in 1960



Tootsie Dennis Kline in 2001

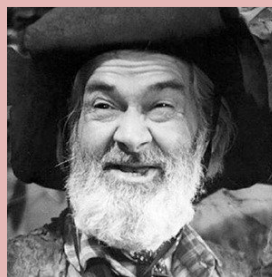
Representing her hometown, Moncks Corner (where she went to high school with future Hansom Wheeler **Ceille Baird**, who later married future Hansom Wheeler **Jim Welch**), **Adelaide "Tootsie" Dennis** was chosen Miss South Carolina 1960 for the Miss America Pageant. Her \$1,000 Miss America scholarship paid for her sophomore year at Columbia College, from which she graduated with a B.A. in English and Speech in 1962. In 1965 she became the first female television news broadcaster in South Carolina: in the mid 1960s, women were not allowed to do anything but the weather, but she was hired by Bob Hickman, the news director at WIS-TV, to do light news and interviews on an experimental basis. The experiment was a success. She became assistant press secretary to Hickman when he was named Governor Robert McNair's press secretary. In late 1968 she resigned to become a full-time mom; her son, Dennis Brantley, was born in February 1969. She received a master's degree in journalism from USC in 1983 and a Juris Doctor degree from the USC Law School in 1994. She is the mother of two children and stepmother of three, from her marriage to Sol Kline in 1987; she has nine grandchildren. Sol Kline died in January 2018 after a three-year struggle with cancer.

Today, **Tootsie** practices construction-defects law "very part time" at Dougall & Collins and volunteers to record books and magazines by South Carolinians or about South Carolina for the blind at the SC State Library as part of the Talking Books Program. One of the books she recorded last year is now in the catalogue of the Talking Books Program at the Library of Congress. She especially enjoys recording articles from *Garden and Gun* magazine, which is published in Charleston. She recently recorded portions of *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine. These recordings are available to the 7,000 patrons in South Carolina who receive these services at no cost to them. She is also very active in St. David's Episcopal Church, where she serves as a lay reader and chalice bearer and has served on the Vestry.

### Joe Pinner



Joe Pinner in 1975



Joe Pinner today

**Joe Pinner** started in broadcasting at age fifteen, working at radio stations in New Bern and Morehead City, N.C. While attending the University of North Carolina he worked at WCHL radio in Chapel Hill. In 1955 he moved to WMBR-TV/Radio in Jacksonville, Florida, where he lived with an aunt. Drafted into the army in 1958, he managed Armed Forces Radio station WFJX at Fort Jackson. After his two-year hitch was up, he returned to Jacksonville. In 1963 future Hansom Wheeler **John Wrisley** called to offer him a job at WIS-TV; **Pinner** told *The State* in 2016, "**Wrisley** wanted me to do TV, and I said, 'But, **John**, I've always loved radio.' **John** said, 'Well, Joe, there's an opening in TV, and if you get it, we'll work you into radio.'" **Pinner** soon began hosting the kids' program *The Knozit Show* and became Mr. Knozit, Columbia's answer to Mr. Wizard, Captain Kangaroo, and Mr. Rogers. **Pinner** and the station received a Peabody Award for children's programming in 1967. *The Knozit Show* became the *Mr. Knozit Show* and ran for thirty-seven years. For grownups, **Pinner** was anchor of *The 7:00 Report*, weatherman for *WIS Live at 5*, and cohost of *WIS News Midday*. He semiretired in 2000 and retired in 2018.

**Pinner** has been a spokesperson for various companies and organizations and a master of ceremonies for all sorts of events in Columbia and across South Carolina. In addition to the Peabody, he has won an enormous number of other awards, including *three* (count 'em!) Orders of the Palmetto: from Governors Dick Riley in 1982, Carroll Campbell in 1993, and Jim Hodges in 2000. In fact, I think he has won every honor there is in this state except Miss South Carolina.

**Pinner** and his wife, Peggy, live in Longcreek Plantation in Blythewood. They have two sons and four grandchildren.