



# Pink 'Un



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Follow us on **Tom Elmore's** Hansom Wheels Facebook Page

**The Hansom Wheels Website** (which includes *The Pink 'Un*): <http://www.hansomwheels.com>

“When you see a man with whiskers of that cut and the ‘Pink 'Un’ protruding out of his pocket, you can always draw him by a bet”—  
Sherlock Holmes, “The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”

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Volume 48, No. 4, October 2024

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

The Hansom Wheels met at The Palmetto Club on August 15. We had kind of a light turnout: one couple who usually attend were spending the summer at their vacation home in Maine, and another couple were on a European river cruise. Seventeen people had made reservations, but then one couple remembered that they had a previous commitment, and another person came down with a fever. That left us with fourteen: **Richard Blenko, Joyce Crout, Mary Dematteis, Susan Edwards, Tom and Krys Elmore, George and Sarah Linder, Pat McNeely, Wayne Scott, Michelle Taylor, Patti Wilkes, Barbara Yongue, and Phil Dematteis** (aka **The Tantalus** aka **Your Editor**). So what we lacked in quantity, we more than made up for in quality.

After dinner, I announced that the game was afoot; we toasted *the* woman, Irene Adler; and **Pat McNeely** led us in the responsive reading of *The Musgrave Ritual*.

Next came the Happy Hour Posers, in which the titles of stories from the Canon are transformed into puns: 1. My mother's brother was sad because his diet consisted entirely of sugars, starches, and fiber = the blue carb uncle = “The Blue Carbuncle.” 2. I called my regular guy to come and repaint my house, but I found out that he had won the Powerball and didn't need to work anymore = “The Retired Colourman.” 3. The lawyer took the case of a man from Chicago who had been exposed to radiation that made him glow in the dark = the Ill. [abbreviation for “Illinois”] lustrous client = “The Illustrious Client.” 4. I put a dollar bill into a change machine but only got two bits back = the missing three quarters = “The Missing Three-Quarter” (the Assigned Story for the meeting).

The Featured Presentation was **Tom Elmore's** illustrated discussion of the greatest portrayer of Sherlock Holmes of them all: *me* in our Christmas plays! No, actually, it was the *second*-best portrayer (after me): Basil Rathbone! Now, you may be girding up your loins to claim Jeremy Brett as the greatest, but in response, I say, Shut up! No, he was really good, too. So were Jonny Lee Miller in *Elementary* and Benedict Cumberbatch in *Sherlock*, but those don't count because they were updated

from the Victorian period. (Come to think of it, so were all of Rathbone's movies, except for the first two.)

**Tom** told the story of Rathbone's life from his birth in South Africa in 1892 to his death in 1967, with a wealth of information in between—including his service as a British intelligence officer in World War I (during which he disguised himself as a tree to spy on the Germans); his early stage career in New York; his movie career in Hollywood, where, before Holmes, he played S. S. Van Dine's detective Philo Vance in *The Bishop Murder Case* (1929), crossed swords (literally) with Errol Flynn in *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938), and brought Boris Karloff back to life in *The Son of Frankenstein* (1939). Also in 1939 he starred in both *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, both produced by 20th Century-Fox. Then the Doyle estate sold the rights to Universal, which produced the twelve updated movies, in the first couple of which Holmes took on the Nazis and sported a wacky hairdo. And much, much more, including the *New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* radio show (1939–46) with Rathbone's movie sidekick, Nigel Bruce, playing it straight as a nonbumbling Watson. **Tom** threw in interesting sidebars on Bruce, Mary Gordon (Mrs. Hudson), Dennis Hoey (Lestrade), Rondo Hatton (the “Creeper”), and Henry Daniell (Moriarty). In 1953, Rathbone starred in Boston in the play *Sherlock Holmes*, written by his second wife, Ouida, which closed after three performances and did *not* go on to the Broadway opening and world tour advertised on the poster. In the 1960s he was in a series of horror movies for American International Pictures with Vincent Price, Boris Karloff, and Peter Lorre. In 1967 he capped his career by appearing in *Hillbillies in a Haunted House* with John Carradine (who had played the butler, Barryman, in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*) and Lon Chaney and starring the country singer Ferlin Husky (“On the Wings of a Dove”).

We ended with a group reading of Vincent Starrett's Sacred Sonnet, “221B,” and went home to reminisce about my portrayal of Holmes in the Christmas plays.

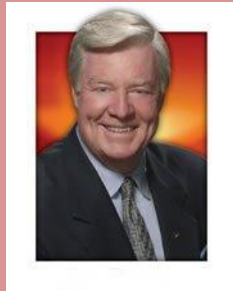
## For October: The Great Detective and the Great War!

The Hansom Wheels will meet at **7:00 p.m.** on **Thursday, October 17**, at **The Palmetto Club**, 1231 Sumter Street. The Featured Presentation will be **Jerred Metz's** “Why and How I Made Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes Characters in My World War I *Angel of Mons* Novels.” The Assigned Reading, obviously, is “His Last Bow.” The price for dinner will be **\$40.00** per person; adult beverages will be available. If you have not already made your reservation(s), please

email me at [hansomwheels@aol.com](mailto:hansomwheels@aol.com) by **12:00 noon on Monday, October 14**. If you want to add anyone after you reserve, please email that same address. If you have made a reservation, **the deadline to cancel is also noon on the 14th**. We will be charged for all the meals we have ordered by that time, whether they are eaten or not; so if you cancel after the deadline or just don't show up, we will regretfully be forced to ask you for \$40.00 (\$80.00 for a couple) anyway. See you there!

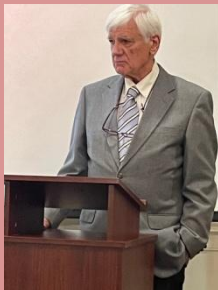
## Happy Hour Posers (Name the Adventures):

1. My tree service guy has one more dead branch to cut off of my tree.
2. Theodor Geisel wrote a book about Max Schreck, who never repeated his most famous film role.
3. I once played against Roger Federer, and he hit the ball back so hard that it scared the hell out of me.
4. They're doing a reboot of the old detective series, with Idris Elba instead of Craig Stevens in the title role.



We were sorry to learn of the death on September 22, at age eighty-nine, of **Joe Pinner**, longtime weatherman and host of the *Mr. Knozit* children's show on WIS-TV. He acted in our Sherlock Holmes "radio" plays at the Richland County Library on October 18, 2009, and at the February 2019 meeting at The Palmetto Club. Our condolences to his family.

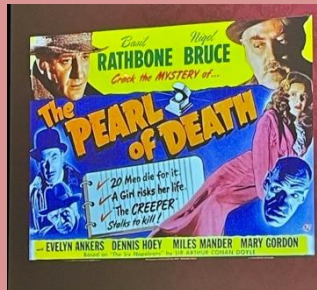
### Photos from the Meeting Courtesy of Richard Blenko



**The Tantalus**  
looking stern



**Tom Elmore** giving his presentation



One of **Tom's** slides



**Krys Elmore**



**Wayne Scott**



**George Linder**



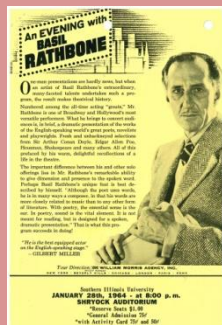
**Sarah Linder**



**Mary Dematteis,**  
aka **Mrs. Tantalus**



Here he goes again: ladies' man **Richard Blenko** with **Barbara Yongue**, **Michelle Taylor** and **Patti Wilkes**, **PatMcNeely**, and **Joyce Crout**. (Didn't get a photo of **Susan Edwards**. Sorry.) Hey ... if he *took* the pictures, how can he be *in* so many of them?



This slide from **Tom's** presentation shows an advertisement for a personal appearance by Basil Rathbone at Shryock (not Sherlock) Auditorium at Southern Illinois University on January 28, 1964, with reserved seats at \$1.00 and general admission at 75¢ (cheap!). SIU is my alma mater, and *I, The Tantalus*, was *there* and saw him in person! So now all of you are related to Basil, and therefore to Sherlock Holmes, through me via the six degrees of separation!