



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
HOT SPRINGS COUNCIL 6419

Knight Watch



VOLUME 26, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2014

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"There was a time when we accepted donations without much consideration for their condition. That is changed."

Grand Knight's Article

...but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." *Matthew 19:14*

Hot Springs Knights of Columbus, in cooperation with the Supreme Council in New Haven, donated a sonogram machine to Change Point Pregnancy Center two years ago as part of a nationwide program to curb abortions. For a period it sat unused because there was no one to operate the machine. Last year, we donated over \$5,000 to Change Point from our Baby Bottle Campaign (in addition to \$150 each month from Charity Rummage Sale proceeds), hoping the donation would help pay for a technician to operate the machine and to deter pregnant women from having abortions once they had seen sonogram images of their unborn babies. Since March of last year more than 40 babies have been saved in our area. On January 18 and 19 we began our Baby Bottle Campaign once again by passing

out bottles to parishioners at St. Mary of The Springs and St. John the Baptist Church after each Mass. At each Mass Council members **Cooper White** and **Dr. Joe Cenac** explained the program, while **Sister Martha** did the same at the Spanish Mass. Knights and Squires worked together urging people to take bottles, fill them with loose change, bills, and checks and return them to enable us to continue our work toward ending abortion. **David Myers** has organized, arranged for, and chaired this growing campaign for two years. **Deputy Grand Knight Andy Anderson** delivered a box of bottles to All Saints Church in Mt. Ida and returned with almost \$500! (Great work, Andy!) **Knight Larry Linteau** also took bottles to St. John's Church in Malvern for the same purpose. We will collect the returned bottles until the end of this month, then make another donation to Change Point. Every penny counts!

A related note is that on Right to Life Sunday, January 19, **Father James West** led a procession from St. John's Church to Calvary Cemetery following the 11 a.m. Mass. Carrying both the

American and Vatican flags, Knights provided an Honor Guard as marchers carried a large rosary and prayed the rosary enroute to the cemetery.

Two of our Columbian Squires, **Richard Pellegrino** and **Peter Rick**, have recently become council members. Both were exemplified on January 12 at Hot Springs Village. They can maintain dual membership while they are 18 until the end of the fraternal year in June. This is only one reason we need to continue our support of our Columbian Squires. These young men can and should grow into becoming our next generation of Knights. Every Knight is invited to attend the Squires' meeting and to fellowship with these outstanding young men.

On February 8 we will have our annual local Free Throw competition with **Zack Nehus** as the chairman. Registration will begin at 11 a.m. and competition will begin around 11:30. The location will be St. John's gymnasium. Zack will need volunteer help.

Also on February 8 St. Mary of
continued, p. 5

Rummage Sale Donations: Quality Matters

With the spring Charity Rummage Sale two months away—April 4-5, 11-12—we of course need a lot of donations. That said, in recent years we've been blessed with not only a large quantity of merchandise but also quality mer-

chandise. There was a time when we accepted donations without much consideration for their condition. That is changed. We have been fortunate to be more selective and, on occasion, to politely refuse an offered donation. If you

are called and offered a specific donation, such as a sofa or other piece of furniture, do not hesitate to ask up front if it is in reasonably good condition, keeping in mind that frayed and torn fabrics will not likely sell. Neither
continued, p. 2

Rummage Sale Matters, concluded

“Don’t hesitate to decline [a donation] when your judgment tells you that we likely cannot sell it.”

“Bob [Koch] began making phone calls to get some help in cleaning up the water and assessing what damage was done.”

“If he [Bob] had not shown up till the net morning, the place would have been flooded throughout and a lot of merchandise would have been ruined.”

will items that are soiled beyond of time, we should not accept it. with those for our fall sale, which our ability to clean. Presently Don’t hesitate to decline when was our best ever. It’s hard to assess that. We know that we do not there is a large off-white sofa your judgment tells you that we at this point have the high-ticket facing the front door in *Reiter Hall* likely cannot sell it. Please use items of the previous sale (the pool that is more than off-white. It’s discretion in accepting offered table for example), though our filthy as well as damaged. One donations. It’s true that some- Grand Knight, with his usual generosity, is giving us an equipped bass way or another, we’ll have to times we receive an assortment of boat [Thank you, Newton!]. discard this donation before our things in boxes and we cannot see what the condition is. Those things will be accepted or discarded when they are sorted at the sale building. But if, for example, you’re told that a box contains dishes, it’s in reason to ask if the dishes are in good condition. Cracked and chipped glassware rarely sells.

If we are told that a particular item is “good but needs a new part,” it’s probable that the cost of the part would make it an unacceptable item. Also if the expertise needed to make the repair would be beyond our ability or if the job would require a lot

Someone asked last week how our present donations compare

As always, we need living room, bedroom, and dining room furniture. We also need bedding, including good-condition mattress/boxspring sets, refrigerator/freezers, washer/dryers, sets of dishes and other glassware, tools, lawn care machinery, art, jewelry, linens, and decorator items. **Jim Lockwood, Chairman**

Spirit Hall: Disaster Averted

On one of coldest January days, **Bob Koch** made a most timely trip to *Spirit Hall* to leave some rummage sale donations. He was startled to discover the floor in approximately the back third of the building covered in a growing pool of water. The immediate thought was a frozen water pipe in the restroom. There alone, Bob began a search for the water turn-off valve, found it, and turned off the water flow.

Bob began making phone calls to get some help in cleaning up the water and assessing what damage was done. **Don Sass, Stan DeGruccio, Andy Anderson, Ed King, and Jim Lockwood** responded to the

call, as did **John Steinhaus**, council member who just happens to own Service Master, the commercial cleaning company. We are fortunate that John joined in with some of his cleaning equipment to facilitate the removal of the water and the mopping up. Thanks to all of these men who answered the call.

As for the damage assessment, we were very, very fortunate. First, enormous gratitude goes to Bob, who just happened by at the right time. There are times when no one is on the property for as much as days. The belief is that when Bob showed up, the water had been running for no more than a couple of hours. If he—or someone—had not showed up until, say, the next morning, the place would have been flooded throughout and a lot of merchan-

dise would have been ruined. As it happened, the damage was minimal, limited we think to a lot of vintage vinyl records, 33 1/3, that were on the floor in cardboard boxes. It’s also fortunate that most of the on-the-floor containers in the flooded area were in heavy plastic containers. So the contents of those were dry. Even the Christmas decorations appeared to be good.

Finally, there was no frozen pipe after all. The next day, **Don Sass and Joe Giompoletti** discovered the problem came from a defective pressure relief valve on the small water heater in the restroom. It is now repaired, but the water remains turned off until the winter weather is behind us.

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From Father George Sanders: "Heavenly Harmony"



If you've lived long at all, you have some favorite memories; you know that from time to time they slip into your consciousness and, if you let the thought linger, you can once again savor the magic of the moment. Several trips to the Buffalo River hold that kind of special place in my memory. Several years ago, when Gregg and Eric were small, Brenda and I would go with another couple to float the river in the early spring. At the time of the year, life is popping out all over. The trees that have been naked and bare for the winter months have donned new foliage. The air is crisp, especially early in the morning as the sun peers between the mountains, and mist forms over the rushing water, kissed by it warm, radiant heat. Birds sing as the river laughs over the timeless stones, gathered here and there to produce a symphony of sounds echoing through the can-

jons.

I remember one morning in particular. The day before we had had a very pleasant ride down to our takeout point. We had stationed a camper there on the shore and had spent the night enjoying some modern pleasures not normally available so far back in the wilderness. That morning the coffee was bubbling on the gas stove, the fire was cracking as smoke gently wafted around our camp, and breakfast was being prepared over the fire. I can still smell the coffee and the sausage sizzling in the black skillet. Something about that moment was, well, perfect. It wasn't any one thing in particular, but the divine harmony of the scene etched itself into my mind and heart. It's at those times that everything seems to make sense, life is in equilibrium, and every beat of your heart is synchronized with the divine harmony of the moment. These moments are special.

I think it is at these moments that we find ourselves on holy

ground, when God opens our hearts to listen to his divine harmony, which has been there all the time, but whose timeless melody we had failed to recognize until that amazing moment. These moments are divine foretastes of what heaven will really be like. Sacred Scripture tells us that "what eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered into the human heart...what God has prepared for those who love him." (NAB, *1 Corinthians* 2:9)

Think of your happiest time. Remember it, feel it, enjoy it. That's not even close to the joy that God has planned for you in heaven! Our favorite memories, our greatest moments are just a taste of the good things that await us in the presence of God, when we will savor not the Divine
continued, p. 8



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Fourth Degree—Footnotes



Our January Assembly meeting was conducted at *Giampoletti Hall* on January 16. The evening began at 6:30 p.m. with a lasagna dinner with salad and cake prepared by **Elizabeth Sass and Joe Kanopsic**. It certainly appeared that our larger-than-ordinary group (approximately 20) enjoyed the food, and I don't think anyone left hungry. Our meeting was brief. Our February dinner meeting will be a social at Vita Maria Restaurant and Wine

Bar at 610 Central Avenue. The restaurant owned and operated by council member **Antonio Gonzalez** and his wife. Vita Maria's reputation for fine cuisine. As always, our wives and other guests are invited.

Thanks for the presence of **Vicki Stanley** before our last meeting. Vicki, in the absence of **Comptroller Robert Rowe**, was present to collect dues and to provide a list of Assembly members with their e-mail addresses and phone numbers. There

were a few discrepancies, but I'll have time to correct those before the next business meeting at which we will have a duck dinner with ducks provided and prepared by **Bob Koch and Bob Kortenber**.

Finally, thanks to **Newton White**, who lends his secretary Vicki, who does so much of the Assembly and Council work./ **Don Sass, Faithful Navigator**

Spotlight on Hans Purkott: Blood, 100 % German; Heart and Soul, 110 % American



Hans Purkott, relatively speaking, has not been a member of Council 6419 very long, only since October of 2008 when he participated in a First Degree Exemplification. The following year he completed Second and Third Degrees.

Since coming into the council, he has been front and center not only as a participant in Council activities but also as the chairman of important events. Most notable among those is his chairmanship of our annual Golf Tournament, a fund raiser for the benefit of St. John's School. This coming August he will chair this event for the sixth time. Hans reports, "At a meeting in 2009 I commented that we should have a golf tourney fund raiser, and the

next thing I knew, I was the chairman of the inaugural fund raiser. Open your mouth to your own peril!" A year ago this month he put together a Dinner Theater at *Giampoletti Hall*. He and ilse prepared a fine German dinner to accompany the magic show from Hot Springs' well-known magician Maxwell Blade. The profits from that fund raiser were in support of our diocesan seminarians. For the last four years Hans has also served as our council Warden.

Our council members probably are all American by birth—all, that is, except **Hans Purkott**, who chose this country for his home following a lengthy struggle to get here when he was a young man. The Americanization of Hans—and how it came about—and his present involvement with Hot Springs Council 6419 are the reasons that he is our featured council member this month. His is quite a story. Read on.

Hans was born March 2, 1940, about 19 months before the United States became embroiled with Germany in World War II, just a few days after the U.S. declared war on Japan. He was

born in the German hamlet Hohentannen, which translates to "high pines" and which was near Frankfurt on the Oder River, the boundary between the former East Germany and Poland. He says his recollection of the War is essentially limited to his memory of having to join the "Hitler Youth at age 3. There he recalls learning how to salute a uniform, click his heels together, and holler, "Heil, Hitler!" All the youth were taught that Hitler was their supreme leader and that from him came only good. By then my father was somewhere on the Eastern Front, having become a POW of the Russian Army.

In March of 1940 Hans' hometown was taken by the Russians. It was five years later—a Sunday in July 1945—that as my mother, my baby sister, and I were leaving church that Russian soldiers herded us into the town square and from there marched us out of town with nothing but the clothes on our backs. Fortunately, my 10-month-old sister was in a baby carriage. We marched till dark, then slept on the ground, having had nothing to eat except a few berries and mushrooms that my mother had collected along the way.

Grand Knight's Article, continued

of the Springs Church will have its Confirmation Retreat at *Giampoletti Hall*. We must set up round tables for approximately 25 people. **Deacon Lee Lechner** and **Deacon Joe Harrison** will both be present. The retreat will run from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Following all Masses, the council will host a Pancake Breakfast on February 9. This breakfast will have one interesting change. **Chairman Randy Schnobelen** has arranged a special deal for families with one or more students at St. John's School. These families can purchase a family ticket for \$10. Tickets will be sold through the school office, and all the proceeds from family ticket sales will stay with St. John's School. Ten dollars for an entire family—what a deal! We will need a lot of volunteers to help cook, serve, and clean up!

Make plans to attend the Annual Rib Tickler dinner on February 14. Master

of ceremonies will be our own **Dick Antoine!** Tickets are now on sale for a low, LOW price of \$10 each. Social hour will begin at 5:30 with dinner to follow at 6:30. **Chuckwagon Joe** will serve up lip-smacking ribs, bens, slaw, and dessert. **Tell a g-rated joke and have \$1 of your ticket cost returned to you.** So grab your best girl and come on out to *Giampoletti Hall* to get your ribs tickled for Valentine's Day.

Our Corporate Communion this month will be February 16 at the 10 a.m. Mass at St. John's Church. Wear your name tags, bring your family members, and let's all sit together in unity.

Immediately following the Corporate Communion, we will need to get to *Giampoletti Hall* to begin registering applicants for the Second and Third Degree Exemplification. Doors will open at 11 a.m. Council member **Antonio Gonzalez** will cater lunch from his restaurant and wine bar *Vina Morita*. If you are a First

Degree member, you should plan to attend and take this net step. Please call **Vicki Stanley at 321-5558** if you can attend so that we can get an accurate head count. We need volunteers to help set up for the Exemplification and to help with the ceremony.

On February 22 we will host two events at St. John's gymnasium. First, the District 10 Knights of Columbus meeting will begin at 9 a.m., and following that will be the District Free-Throw competition. Registration for the competition will begin at 11 a.m. and the competition will follow for the winners of the February 8 local competitions.

Finally, it is always good to show off our beautiful hall and grounds. On January 17 the Diamond Lakes District of the Boy Scouts of America held its annual Awards Dinner at *Giampoletti Hall*.

The chairmen of all our council events are almost always in need of volunteer help. February is to be a busy month. Spring into

From Our Insurance Agent: "Through-Work" Insurance Alone Doesn't Always Do the Job

Do you know anyone whose life has been drastically changed by the recent recession and economic downturn? With unemployment numbers rising (the jobless rate was 7-plus percent in 2013, the highest since ???), it's very likely that someone in your immediate or extended family or group of friends is facing financial uncertainty now. With this uncertainty, there is a real possibility that a job is lost, or a change in employers is in the near future.

Too many people have often relied on group term life insurance as their only safety net. Often, this insurance is an employee benefit provided at low or no cost. The existence of this coverage might convince someone that a personally owned life insurance policy is not necessary.

Having only "Through-Work" insurance doesn't work. This way of thinking should be a thing of the past for many reasons. Most forms of group life insurance are limited in amount, which may be tied to salary or some other benchmark. These numbers are often capped, and this cap may be dangerously low for your family's actual needs. In fact, without a detailed needs analysis, any employer-provided coverage may be completely unrelated to needs at death.

In addition the amount of group insurance offered is almost always reduced, sometimes dramatically, when you retire.

With the possibility of these changes on the horizon, you could one day find yourself without cover-

age, and if your health has changed (which it has and will as you age) you might also find yourself unable to secure individual protection. While group life insurance can help, it does not replace the need for **continued, p. 7**

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Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you." Psalm 122:6



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Lost Earring Found!

One of our guests at our December Christmas Dinner/Dance lost the earring pictured here. It's Christmas tree-shaped. **Elizabeth Sass** found it during the clean-up at the end of the evening. If you know the owner of this

earring, she can retrieve it by calling Liz at **767-2780**.



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Flag Raising on Presidents' Day



Council members are encouraged to be present at Calvary Cemetery at 7 a.m. to raise flags on February 17, Presidents' Day. Coffee and donuts will be served before the flags go up. Members will also be needed at 4 p.m. to take down the flags.



Knights of Columbus 6419

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February Calendar

- 8 Free-Throw Contest, District Level, St. John's Gym, 11 a.m.
- 8 St. Mary's Confirmation Class Retreat, Giompoletti Hall, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 9 Pancake Breakfast, St. John's Parish Hall, following all morning Masses
- 13 Council Meeting, Giompoletti Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Valentine's Day Rib-Tickler Dinner, Giompoletti Hall, 5:30 p.m. social
- 16 Corporate Communion, St. John's Church, 10 a.m.
- 16 Second and Third Degree Exemplification, Giompoletti Hall, 11 a.m. registration
- 22 District 10 K. C. Meeting, St. John's Gym, 9 a.m.
- 22 Free-Throw Contest, District Level, St. John's Gym, 11 a.m.

Pray for Our Sick

Please pray for the following council members, wives/relatives, and council friends who struggle with health problems: Elizabeth Sass, Dick Smith, Larry Heisserer, George Schwass, Tom and Barbara Gilleran, Ilse Purkott, Beverly Priest, John Andrews, Lee Myers, Frankie De-George, Hayley Gloria, Stephen Stoddard, Matthew Stoddard, Valerie Poe, Deacon Dave Briselden, Rick Sands, Conrad Stein, Sue Marshall, Laura Mazzia, Deacon John Connell, Shirley Dvorak (mother of Jody Dvorak), Jeanette Mace, Barbara Meggers, Fr. Raymond Rossi, and Gust Turek (former council member now in Minnesota).

Insurance Agent, concluded

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I'm at 501-204-9486 or randyschnoebelen@kofc.org. Call me. Let's talk.

Randy Schnoebelen
 Knights of Columbus Field Agent

February Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1 John Davis | 15 Conrad Stein |
| 2 Kevin Coakley | 16 Ronald King |
| 6 Robert Long | 16 Rick Sands |
| 9 Edward Daven | 16 Paul Sturman |
| 9 Joe Palmere | 19 Tony Hoenig |
| 12 Tony Torres | 20 Kenny Scott |
| 13 Robert Hazera | 20 Charles Smith |
| 15 Steven Dunn | 22 Bob Fiedler |
| 15 Tony Pollock | |

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Know and Defend Your Faith: The Eucharist

Deacon Robert Wanless, council member, is leading several of us through his Friday morning class of apologetics. Since we Catholics are notoriously quiet and woefully unprepared when it comes to explaining and defending our Faith against hostile questions and comments from non-Catholics, this class is both interesting and informative, its purpose being to arm us with the ability to give strong defense of Church teachings and practices. Though the class meets early—6:30 to 7:30 a.m., it is certainly worth your effort to get there. The Friday just ahead is a good day to begin! Come on out! It is our obligation to learn not only what the Church teaches but WHY. In this class we are using *Apologetics I* by Father Frank Chacon and Jim Burn-

Father George, concluded

Harmony of the moment, but Divine Harmony itself. One of these days, when God calls me home, I will not be surprised to awake to the smell of the coffee percolating as the sausage sizzles over a warm, hickory scented fire. The River of Life will be flowing free from the Throne of God as I am bathed in the light of the eternal day coming over the mountains. The winter will be long past, and the eternal hope of spring will once again revive my soul. But the difference this time will be that that moment, that day, will never end. And I'll recognize it because God has been whispering about it to me many times as I traveled through this life on my way to my heavenly home. What I have only felt and sensed will then be clearly seen; what I have only intuited, will be fully known, as then face to face I greet Joy himself (NAB, *1 Corinthians* 13:12).

Defend Your Faith, Concluded

ham. *Apologetics* consists of nine books, the first book containing subjects such as the Eucharist, the Canon of the Bible, The Bible Alone? Apostolic Authority: Peter and the Papacy, Questions about Mary, Confession, Church Scandals, Prayer to the Saints, and Purgatory. The first chapter for our discussion focuses on the Eucharist.

We have learned that justification for our belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist begins with *John: 6*. In this chapter Jesus refers to himself repeatedly as “the bread of life (verses 35, 48, 50, 51, 58). Further, he emphasizes that “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life....” (Verses 54, 56, 57). Most Protestants, of course, insist that Jesus was speaking only symbolically; he was not speaking literally. We might wonder, however, if they’ve read verse 60 in which some of Jesus’ own disciples, clearly taking Jesus’ words to be literal, said, “This saying is hard; who can accept it?” And then a few verses later (verse 66) we learn that “As a result of [what Jesus had said], many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him.” Perhaps most convincing that Jesus was indeed speaking literally is that he did not call these disciples back to explain that he was not speaking literally but symbolically. He let them go because he meant what he had said.

The first chapter of *Apologetics I* also offers persuasive comments on the Real Presence from early Church fathers such as St. Ignatius (110 A.D.), St. Justin Martyr (150 A.D.), St. Irenaeus (195 A.D.), and St. Cyril of Jerusalem (350 A.D.). One of the most interesting affirmations of the Real Presence comes from none other than the father of the Protestant movement, Martin Luther himself. He leaves no doubt that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. Equip yourself with this

Hans Purkott, 110 % American, continued

“A few days later a train rolled in, and we were pushed into cattle cars where we would ride for a day and a half before arriving in Berlin.”

“As I stood there watching, no doubt looking pitifully skinny in my ragged clothes, a soldier suddenly lifted me onto his shoulder. From my child’s eyes he looked to be 7-foot tall.”

“A country that is so generous to its enemies—that’s where I wanted to be,” I told myself.”

I remember some Russian soldiers, milking a cow,” Hans writes. “I asked them for some milk for my sister, who had not eaten in days. ‘Let Hitler feed her’ one of them said, laughing.” Finally, the captives reached Frankfurt/Oder and were put in a bombed out railroad station and there given some kind of soup once a day. A few days later a train rolled in, and we were pushed into cattle cars where we would ride for a day and a half before arriving in Berlin.

There, strangely it seemed, our circumstances began to improve. At the station there were soldiers—from where I did not know. But there was a big kitchen with food! And we had our first good meal in two weeks. All of us from the cattle cars were divided among three sectors: the French, the English, and the American. It seems providential that my mother, sister, and I were placed in the American sector. We were housed with an elderly couple. They were friendly and shared with us the little food they had. Every day soldiers marched by our building. (I was told they were Americans under the command of General George S. Patton.

It was at this point that a truly providential thing happened. As I stood there watching, no doubt looking pitifully skinny in my ragged clothes, a soldier suddenly lifted me onto his shoulder. From my child’s eyes he looked to be 7-foot tall. I think he was black or possibly a dark-skinned Hispanic. When my mother saw him taking me away, she became very upset, but he said to her in broken German, “Don’t worry. I’ll bring him back.” And then he marched, with me on his shoulder, about a mile to the American barracks. There he fed me hot choco-

late—I had never had such a thing!—along with bread, butter, and cheese. Then he took me to the bathhouse, where he gave me a bath and cut my hair. When I went to dress, my dirty, shabby clothes were replaced with new clothes, including pants, shirts, socks, and a jacket. “They are yours,” he said. It seemed hours before he returned me to my mom with a bag for her, a bag filled with bread, butter, chocolate, coffee, and dry milk. From that day he came about twice a week bringing food for us and for other families. I looked forward to frequent trips to the barracks to play with him. I learned that his name was “John,” but I never knew his last name. Imagine my sorrow upon learning one day when I went to see him that he had been shipped out. And I would never see him again or even thank him for his kindnesses to me and my family. “When you do it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you do it also to me.”

Time passed. While my mother, sister, and I were undergoing our problems, my father was suffering his own difficulties. A corporal with the German Army, fighting in Stalingrad, Russia, he was wounded and then transported to Warsaw for treatment. In early 1945 when Russia took control of Warsaw, my father became a POW somewhere in Hungary. In June, 1945, he escaped and then walked, sleeping during the day, all the way to my hometown in Germany in search of his family. In the meantime the American governor in Berlin had sent my mother, sister, and me to the small town of Emden, Germany, on the North Sea. No one could tell my father where we were. But once again Providence intervened. My father had taken a job cleaning a

theater. A bonus was that he could watch one movie each week along with the newsreel that preceded the movie. In one of those newsreels he saw the three of us, my sister in her baby carriage, being helped onto a train by American soldiers. He went to the Governor, who was able to learn the location of his family. Around Christmas of 1945 they were reunited.

During all this time, the impression left on me by John, the American soldier, was indelibly in my mind. Can you understand why the desire to be an American was planted deep into my heart? “A country that is so generous to its enemies—that’s where I wanted to be,” I told myself. That’s why I am so proud to be an American today. That’s why I have a such a great respect, almost reverence, for the American veterans who have made all this possible. That’s why I have no respect for Americans who take all our freedoms for granted and especially for those who have nothing to offer but criticism of our country.

But how did my dream to be American come to fulfillment? Actually, I would have left Europe for North America long before I did except, once again, for God’s intervention. My future wife Ilse came into my life! A friend and I had applied for immigration to Kitchener, Ontario, to work as machinists. Though at 18 years of age and three years short of the legal age to immigrate, we had passports showing us to be 21. We were to board a ship on a Monday in October of 1958. But on the Saturday night before, when my date didn’t show up, I went alone to a dance and met the most beautiful girl I had ever seen. When

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Hans Purkott, Heart and Soul, I 10% American, concluded

I walked her home that evening after we had danced for hours, I knew that she was the person I wanted to marry. My planned immigration just two days off would be postponed—for a long time! First, I would marry this lovely girl, and that I did three years later, December, 1961. Our marriage would bring two children—Ute and Angi.

The aborted 1958 immigration to Canada would never happen, but after a 10-year

wait, my dream of moving to America did happen. On February 24, 1968, I flew alone to Milwaukee to take a machinist's job. Three months later Ilse and the children followed me. There we stayed until 1972 when we enjoyed our first vacation—a three-day trip to Hot Springs. Immediately we fell in love with this town, we bought the Bellaire Motel on Park Avenue, where we were staying, and we have been Hot Springs residents ever since. We operated the mo-

tel until 1980, but in 1974 I also began Arkansas Precision Hydraulics in Little Rock, a company which I eventually moved to Hot Springs. I sold it in 1990 and then became semi-retired.

Ilse and my life in this country and in Hot Springs have been the fulfillment of a childhood dream that took shape following the extraordinary kindness of an American soldier. My gratitude to all veterans is enormous. I'm so proud to be an American.



Dennis Bosch presents championship trophy to Hans Purkott on behalf of his team, winners of Hans' friendly Intercouncil Golf Challenge.



On behalf of Council 6419 Hans accepts gift of appreciation for his ongoing St. John's fund-raising efforts from Angela Isaacs, St. John's School principal. Looking on is Mary Ann Layne, in charge of school publicity an development.

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Ladies to Offer Baby-Sitting Service During the Valentine's Day Rib-Tickler Dinner

Denise Steinhaus, wife of council member **John Steinhaus**, with other ladies and older teens have volunteered to babysit children of parents who would like to attend the February 14 Rib-Tickler Dinner [See **Grand Knight's article**]. If interested, **RSVP to Denise (262-1818) by February 10 with the name and age of each child** so that she will be sure to have enough help. Charge for the service will be one dollar for each child. The provided service will be from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.