



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter

FORT LAUDERDALE CHAPTER ORGANIZED NOVEMBER 26, 1966

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Philosophical Humorist Art Collier

BY RICK AIKEN, PRESIDENT

Live, on our stage at the May 9th luncheon, SAR will welcome nightclub comedian and philosophical humorist Art Collier. Known on stage as Artie Sax, he currently appears nightly at Ireland's Inn on Ft. Lauderdale beach.

and 2 singles to his credit and has been on numerous radio and TV shows over the years.

Don't miss Art Collier, AKA Artie Sax. He's worth it... and the price is right. No drink minimum.

His topic will be entitled "Enjoy Where You Are While You're On Your Way To Where You Want To Be!" Art says you may not like where you end up so enjoy yourself while you get there. Have fun in life. Don't take things so seriously. That'll give you ulcers, or more. Relax, keep a clear head.

If you take a moment and listen to what he's saying you'll realize some of it is tongue in cheek but a lot of it makes good sense. He's a witty, down to earth guy with an upbeat personality. Guaranteed to get you laughing and thinking and leaving with a smile on your face.

A 35 year resident of Ft. Lauderdale, Art has appeared in about 20 places around town and in clubs all over the world. He also performed in Las Vegas for about 4 years and in New York. He has 7 albums



REMINDER:

WE MUST GUARANTEE OUR RESERVATIONS 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE.

You could be billed for the cost of the lunch if you reserve and fail to attend. If you don't reserve, you can attend -- come anyway -- we can't promise that you can be fed, but no one has gone away hungry yet!

NEXT MEETING - MAY 9

TOWER CLUB !!!

\$15.00 INCL. TAX AND TIP

11:30 SOCIAL 12:00 LUNCH

28TH FLOOR NATIONS BANK

1 FINANCIAL TOWER

SE 3RD AVE & BROWARD BLVD

FORT LAUDERDALE

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:

RICHARD AIKEN 568-0143

APRIL GENERAL MEETING

April 11, 1996 - Tower Club; Minutes by Oscar Kraehenbuehl

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Aiken and the invocation given by Chaplain Fred Topper. Twenty-two members and guests were present, including former Chapter President Jeffery Cooke. Robert (Bob) Finch also was welcomed warmly, his SAR reinstatement officially having been established.

It was with sadness that Harry Young announced that Mary Ann Hoyt, wife of Compatriot Ed Hoyt, had been struck by a car and killed. They lived in Longboat Key and were active participants in Florida and National SAR activities for years. Ed was one of those FL officers who conducted our Chapter's induction ceremony in the past. A note of sympathy was sent in behalf of our chapter and their friends.

Rich Jones, Chairman of the national SAR essay contest, announced that Kristina Bain, from Ely High School, had been selected as the local winner. She was given a certificate of appreciation and a \$30 check. Her essay was forwarded to the Florida Chairman for subsequent competitions.

President Aiken appointed Bob Finch as chairman of the ROTC Award Committee. Medals and certificates will be presented to selected Jr. ROTC cadets in participating local high schools. It is hoped that chapter members will assist in these presentations, if asked.

Oscar Kraehenbuehl made a few comments about the need for more member involvement in local and state activities and committee, particularly by the newer members. There is more to SAR than attending a monthly luncheon meeting and paying dues!! It was noted that the only chapter members who are on Florida or national committees are Harry Young, Stu Browne and himself. Although there usually is a good chapter representation at BOM (Board of Management) meetings, it is the same 'old guard'. The reason they continue to go is they see/meet nice people, have a good time and invigorated by the SAR activities of others. This involvement feeds on itself, and results in an interest to become more involved. It was urged that those present let President Aiken know if they or others might be interested in serving on a local or state committee and consider attending the BOMs. The one in Naples on May 10-11 should be outstanding.

The guest speaker was William Crawford, a Ft. Lauderdale attorney and Vice Chairman of the Broward Historical commission. His history on the life of Vincent Giblin, judge in two counties and successful attorney for Al Capone, was interesting and unusual to say the least.

High School R.O.T.C. Awards in May

Throughout this month newly activated member Bob Finch is jumping right in and will head up our annual participation in awarding deserving local high school students with the bronze SAR medal. Each Junior ROTC cadet will also receive an SAR certificate. Some high school programs also accompany our medal with a cash award.

This is one of the most worthwhile community projects that our chapter participates in. To show our support for the surprising number of high school kids who are involved in Junior ROTC, in this day and age with all the other distractions, brings us good, warm feelings. To see how proud these kids are (both girls and boys) at receiving their awards, is just a great experience for us.

Bob will be going out to the participating high schools to make our presentation at their Awards Ceremonies. He will be ably assisted by 1st VP Joe Motes. It's an annual event for these kids at the end of the school year. Lots of pomp and circumstance, guests, parents and teachers. Though it's not a commitment to a military career, Junior ROTC provides a jump-start for high school kids in life.

If they choose to go college and become involved in the formal ROTC program which leads to a commission as an officer they will already be well versed in military terminology and procedures. This gives them a distinct advantage over other incoming Freshmen in college ROTC programs. Regardless of all this, Junior ROTC instills in high school kids a sense of discipline and responsibility as to how they will lead their lives, that is not easily obtained elsewhere.



YOUR OFFICERS IN PROFILE

Fred F. Topper was born October 25, 1907 in Southwest Greensburg, PA., which is located 50 miles east of Pittsburgh, along the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad and 5 miles north of the New Stanton Interchange of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Having completed elementary school in southwest Greensburg, I attended high school in Greensburg where I dropped out in my senior year in 1924.

At the age of 12 years, I started to work in a drug store where I cleaned up the soda fountain area each morning, carried 5-gallon metal cans of ice cream from ice packed wooden tubs that had been delivered to the sidewalk by the local manufacturer, then packed them in ice in the soda fountain storage area. Then came the cleaning and polishing of the metal and china areas of the fountain. During school months, I received \$5.00 per week and during the summer months I received \$7.00 per week. This went on for six years.

In 1926, I went to work for the Westmoreland County Engineer on a surveying team. I carried the stakes, axe, frost pin, sledge hammer, etc. Later, I became a chainman. This employment was interrupted in 1927 when I and another young man decided to go to Paris to attend an American Legion Convention. We tried to get employment on a ship to work our way to Paris. We were unable to get those jobs but did get work on a tramp steamship on which we traveled through the Panama Canal and on to California. After six weeks in Los Angeles, we hitchhiked our way back to PA.

In 1928, my older brother and I spent the summer prospecting for silver in the Rocky Mountains, out from Aspen near Independence Pass. From there we went to California where I was employed by the Wilshire Oil Company at Santa Fe Springs where they were drilling 28 oil wells at one time. Some were existing wells that were being deepened.

From 1929 to 1933, I went back to work with the Westmoreland County Engineer and served as chairman, instrumentman, party chief, draftsman and construction inspector.

From 1933 to 1940, I worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Highways as a party chief, construction foreman, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent, Right of Way Engineer.

On April 8, 1939, I became married to the most wonderful girl in the world and we enjoyed life together for 50 years, 4 months and 20 days until she died.

From 1940 to 1942, I worked as a Right of Way Agent for West Penn Power Co. In 1942, the company was unable to get enough copper wire for projects other than defense contracts and so I was no longer needed.

In 1942, I was selected to become a Captain in the Air Force to build airports in North Africa. I was unable to pass the physical examination because of my vision. The examining doctor recommended a waiver of vision but I was turned down in Washington.

On September 28, 1943, I was drafted into the U.S. Navy Seabees and later transferred into the regular Navy. I served in Williamsburg, VA., Key West, FL., Monterey, CA., and finally the last 9 months on Okinawa. I was honorably discharged on January 14, 1946 at Camp Shoemaker, CA. Immediately after returning home to Greensburg, PA., I enrolled at Greensburg High School where I had dropped out in my Senior year in 1924. In one semester, I achieved the necessary credits and graduated in June, 1946.

In 1946, I became a Registered Professional Engineer in the Commonwealth of PA. This was possible because of my background experience plus my design work for the Department Of Highways.

From 1948 to 1950 I served as City Engineer for the City of Greensburg, PA.

From 1950 to 1956, I worked as the Superintendent of Public Works for the Township of Mount Lebanon, PA.

From 1956 to 1957, I was in Engineering Classes at Ohio University in Athens, OH. I was suffering from Malaria and phlebitis that struck me in 1946. It was so severe that I had to give up my classes.

From 1957 to 1960, I worked as a Right of Way Agent for Everglades Pipeline CO., in Florida where we constructed a 10" underground pipeline from Port Everglades to Miami International Airport. This pipeline carries aviation gasoline, jet fuel and other petroleum products. In my capacity, I contacted individuals, corporations, municipalities, counties, trustees and you name it.

From 1960 to 1962, I served once more as City Engineer for the City of Greensburg, PA.

From 1962 to 1970, I worked for the District of Columbia where I was a Project Engineer for the Department of Highways and Traffic, Bridge Construction Division. While there I worked on the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge which spans the Potomac River and 2 bridges at the Washington Navy Yard at S.E. 11th street where they span the Anacostia River. I also worked on the Mall tunnel in downtown Washington.

In August, 1970 I retired and moved to Pompano Beach, FL>

Some Interesting Sidelights:

Since 1971, I have been a member of the Fort Lauderdale Council, Navy League of the United States and served as President in 1978-1979. From 1978 to 1994, I served as a Lieutenant Commander with the Conolly Division, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

After 2 years of intensive research regarding my great, great grandfather and his record of active service in the Revolutionary War, I was approved for membership in the Sons of the American Revolution. His name was JOHN TOPPER and I was approved on January 23, 1993 for which I am grateful.

In 1977, I landed on the USS Lexington with an arrested landing in the Gulf of Mexico. Several hours later, I was airborne back to Pensacola. I have had control of the Goodyear Blimp for some 10 minutes over the ocean. I have steered a U.S. Submarine while underway, submerged at 700 feet. On January 1st, 1946 at midnight, the USS OKANOGAN crossed the International Date Line from west to east, giving us an extra 24 hours New Years Day.

**Fort Lauderdale Chapter of the
Sons of the American Revolution**
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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
TIME DATED MATERIAL**

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