

Senior Tennis TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE SENIOR TENNIS PLAYERS CLUB, INC.

DECEMBER 1996



Your Renewal Notice is in the Mail!

The hamsters that power the trusty STPC computer have done their job! They ran in their little exercise wheels until the computer coughed up the new-style renewal notices. They were put in the mail (the notices, not the hamsters) the first week of December. You might already have gotten yours!

So show the hamsters their hard work was not in vain—look over the form to verify if we have your membership information right, write that check, and send them both back to Renewal Central, also known as your editor's house. And be sure to sign the Membership Conditions!

We hope you like the new renewal procedure. If you have any comments, let us know. ■

Another First

Last month is the first time I published my e-mail address in the *Times*. Art Heuer has the distinction of being the first STPC member to use this handy means of communication to let me know about his vacation address.

If you're on the Internet, feel free to contact the *Times* by writing to me at nancykam@minn.net.

Coming soon: the STPC home page! Discussions are underway about giving Senior Tennis a presence on the World Wide Web. There are lots of seniors who surf the net. This will be another valuable tool to promote the club and encourage new members to join.

So stay tuned—soon you'll see those familiar letters <http://>, followed by STPC's very own URL (web "address") Kew!!! ■



Ad In

by Sue Larson, STPC President

To all of you nearly 1700 members of STPC, a special holiday greeting and our wishes to you for a 1997 filled with all good things for you.

I continue to get advice on tennis rules. Bill Storie called to inform me that service practice is part of the warm-up time and never, never do we say "first serve in." And secondly, never catch the ball by hand before it bounces, even if you are past the baseline. If you would like a column written by a tennis pro on rules, let me know.

What's Going On

- Senior Singles Plus is off to a roaring start with Rosemary Dineen and Dick Lidstone as our leaders and committee members full of innovative ideas. Join us if you are single and want to socialize with us each month. I am looking forward to bowling on January 12—and it's forty years since I last went bowling!
- Bob Tischbein is working on a discussion series lead by Bob Passi on finding out more about the expectations our members have of STPC.
- Grayce Aberle is our new membership chair. We will miss Mary Earl McKinsey!

- Court captain Lloyd Layton is adding one or two new courts at Oakdale so we can immediately place new members. A good example for other captains!
- If you notice a tennis couple with mile-wide smiles, that will be Irma Bong and David Brink, married in October. Tennis can mean "love." Just ask them!

My tennis continues to be analyzed. Chuck Slocum stopped me to state that there were only four areas in need of change! Okay, Percy, I will see you on Thursday at Nicollet!

Thanks for your calls and for giving me this opportunity to be your president. ■

Senior Singles Plus!

Single STPC'ers: Come to the premier Senior Singles Plus event of 1997—an afternoon of bowling at Bryant Bowl, 810 West Lake Street, on January 11 from 2–5 p.m. Cost: \$2.75 per lane (shoes included). Supper afterwards, ordering off the regular menu.

For more information, call coordinator Carol Brown Robertson, 935-9370.
Senior Singles Plus Committee: Dick Lidstone and Rosemary Dineen, co chairs.

Sign Me Up! Send this form to Carol Brown Robertson,
3720 Independence Ave #12, Saint Louis Park, MN 55426

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Future Events!
February: Bridge and potluck
March: Theatre and potluck
April: Art Institute and lunch
May: Golf outing

*Start the New Year
Swinging... Your Racquet!*
Normandale Racquet, Swim & Health Club
6701 West 78th Street, Bloomington
Saturday, January 18



- Play 6–8 p.m. or 8–10 p.m. Players matched by skill for first round. Rotation every half hour, based on win/loss. Registration with partners is not necessary.
- Bridge and cribbage available.
- Cost: \$10 for players, \$5 for nonplayers.
- Light meal follows play.
- Registration deadline: January 13.

Directions: From Highway 100, exit on West 77th Street. (77th becomes Edina Industrial Boulevard.)

Go west to West 78th Street and turn right. Continue west to Normandale Club, on your left.

The club is 1½ miles west of Highway 100.

January Tennis Party

Send this reservation form with your check for \$10 per player, \$5 per nonplayer, made out to STPC, to:

Kent Dickerman
955 Fairmount Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55105

For more information, call Irma Brink, 288-9752 or Shirlee Waltz, 938-1130.

Player #1: Name _____

Phone _____ Rating _____ Time (6 or 8) _____

Player #2: Name _____

Phone _____ Rating _____ Time (6 or 8) _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____

Captains' Profiles

by George Erickson

Henry Flesh

Ah, December. Time to wax the shovel so the snow won't stick to it when my dear wife clears the walks. (I don't want to expose her to the hazards of power equipment.) Time to check the antifreeze, the battery and toss the jumper cables in the trunk. Time to slip into the winter underwear, which brings us to Henry Flesh, the inventor of the original bun-warmers—waffle-weave thermal underwear.

Henry, who's been captaining two 2-court mixed doubles teams at Williston for four or five years, started life in the little town of Pisqua, Ohio, near Dayton. Following high school and one year of college, Henry, having enlisted in the Air Force immediately after Pearl Harbor, was whisked off to Africa and then to southern Italy, where he served as a navigator in the 15th Air Force's B-24 Liberators, striking at the heavily-defended Ploesti oil fields and other targets.

As Henry tells it, "On Friday the thirteenth, on my thirteenth mission, I was shot down. Luckily, I managed to escape into Yugoslavia. After working with the Yugoslav partisans, I was flown back to Italy by the Russians, who'd been supplying the partisans. All in all, I flew sixty-one missions before the war ended."

Returning home, Henry went to work for Tennessee's Big Jack Overalls as an engineer, then moved to Ohio, where he came up with the waffle weave that made comfortable

cotton underwear as warm as itchy wool.

On moving to the Twin Cities in 1969, Henry took a hard look at the cost of playing golf and took up tennis, eventually joining Senior Tennis and winning his category in USTA tennis the last five years. Henry, who's been married three times, has nine children, who are scattered in England, France, Seattle, Florida, New York and the Twin Cities. I'd like to have his frequent flyer miles.

Henry, who'd just come in from goose hunting at Lac Qui Parle when I called, is an outdoor person. In the 60's he kayaked the Yukon river. When he's not hunting, golfing or fishing, he's riding horses, and still guides folks on trail rides in Wyoming's Big Horn Mountains.

As for captaining, Henry's only problems occur when someone (rarely) forgets to get a sub, or if they get one, forget to tell him who's coming. When he's not captaining or playing tennis with his wife, Anice, Henry's active in the community, having helped with Relate, a program for troubled youths with and without drug problems, as a volunteer at Abbott Northwestern Hospital and at a program called New Beginnings.

Without folks like Henry Flesh to captain our teams, to work with the kids and to dream up the waffle-weave, just imagine what we'd be: a rudderless bunch of seniors showing up to play the wrong people at the wrong place and the wrong time, whose grandchildren are going without guidance while we get crabbiest and crabbiest, plagued from Thanksgiving to ice-out by those scratchy, woolen long johns. ■

STPC WEDDING BELLS

Senior Tennis can claim credit for bringing together two recent newlyweds—Irma Lorentz Brink, (formerly Irma Bong) and David Brink.

Dave was a last-minute teammate in Irma's foursome in their first partnership more than six years ago. (Dave reports that Irma scowled at him at this meeting and ordered, "I play the ad court. You play the deuce court—and don't screw up.")

Occasional meetings followed on the tennis courts and in the law courts, finally leading to real courtship. Eventually partnership was established and this fall, marriage. This new partnership has now been celebrated in Greece, Turkey, Hawaii, and back in Hennepin County.

Irma and Dave are busy putting together two families, condos, ways of life and tons of possessions valuable only to their respective owners. Home will be at Loring Green East near downtown Minneapolis.

"Maybe we'll even find time to play some serious tennis," Dave happily told your editor. Seems to the editor like a love match where no one loses. ■

Free Christmas Dance

The Percy Hughes Quartet is playing a free Christmas dance at Edinborough Park, 76th and York, Edina, on Friday, December 20, from 1-3 p.m.

Percy says, "Please come and dance—and remember, no foot faults!" ■

Captains' Corner

by **Chuck Slocum**,
Facilities/Programs Director

For those playing on the fall, winter and spring schedules, the winter session will begin November 25 and end February 7.

The facility coordinators should notify Dick Lidstone of any changes in the schedule as soon as possible.

Further, we still need each captain to sign up one new member. The best quick source may be your playing partners. Check the roster to be sure they are all paid-up members. If not, sign them up! We need their support, and we must do it because of potential liability problems. To date, only one verification statement has reached the Director of Facilities. We must do better, and I'm sure you will. Thanks for your assistance and efforts. ■

TENNIS NOTES

Tuesday Early Birds Need Men Players!

Male players, skill level 3.0-3.5, are needed at Decathlon for the 7:30-9:30 a.m. session on Tuesdays from January 7 through April 29, 1997. If you're interested, call Kent Dickerman at 292-1933.

Players Wanted at Flagship and Oakdale

There are openings for players weekdays at Flagship and Oakdale in

the early bird timeslot, 7-9 a.m. Consult your schedule and contact the appropriate captain if interested.

Roger Boyer's Christmas Drills

Roger Boyer's annual Christmas Drills will be held at Nicollet Tennis Center on Thursday, December 19 at 8:30 a.m. All members are welcome to attend!

Court Etiquette

A few etiquette reminders for STPC members:

1. Never walk across another court when someone is playing on it.
2. Return the ball to the server by throwing it directly to her or him—not by kicking it or hitting it wildly.
3. It should be self-evident, but do not spit or blow your nose on the court itself, or change shorts on the court. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Alroy Claseman by Matthew Little

Alroy Claseman, a member and a solid advocate of STPC, passed away November 8.

Al had a varied and successful life in business and community involvement. He was a long-time Northwest Airlines executive, heading its credit department. He subsequently started his own airline, Capital Airlines, which he later sold and initiated an

accounting firm called SES. He also started a management consulting firm.

Al was well-known in Saint Paul circles for his civic activities. Among his involvements were president of the Saint Paul Winter Carnival, chairman of the Saint Paul Chamber of Commerce. He was a champion of small business development. I met him when we were both delegates to the White House Conference on Small Business.

As an influential member of HealthPartners, Al was instrumental in persuading the company to become a principal sponsor of our Jack Dow Tournament. We have every expectation that this partnership will be a lasting one.

Most of all, Al Claseman was an engaging personality. His love of STPC and senior tennis was duplicated in all his involvements. The Will Rogers quote of "I never met a man I didn't like" could apply to him.

His passing is a loss to STPC and to Minnesota.

Jack Lidstone

STPC members Dick Lidstone and James Lidstone's brother, Jack, passed away in November at the age of 70. A retired salesman, Jack was a volunteer at the VA Hospital for 20 years; he logged 25,000 volunteer hours there. Our sympathies are extended to Dick, James and their families.

Dean Carlson

STPC member Elaine Carlson's husband, Dean, of Edina, died November 9 of cancer. Our sympathies are extended to Elaine and her family. ■

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Two-Liner Want Ads

These free two-liner want ads are available to all STPC members. If you would like to place a free ad, call or write the editor, Nancy Kaminski. Your ad can only be about 100 spaces long, so be brief!

Puerto Vallarta: Ocean-front estate, 5-bedrooms/private baths. Tennis, pool, cook, maid. \$3200/wk. 935-4578.

Tennis Vacation: Naples Bath & Tennis Club. Feb 1-Mar 1. Call Karen, 888-9450.

Fort Lauderdale, FL: 3-br/2-bth, prvt home nr beach, Imperial Point. \$2K/mo, avail Feb, Apr & May Bill Edwards. 698-2878.

Wanted: 3-speed woman's bike in good condition, to fit 5'10" body. Call 872-7455.

For Sale: 2 ball hoppers, almost new. \$12 each. Call Jerry, 924-0651.

For Sale: 1-story colonial home, 2400 sq. ft., 1 level, 3 br, 3 bath, Chaska. Call Roberta or Bill, 448-7989.

Wanted: Singles tennis partner, evenings or weekends, 2.5-4.0, male or female, any location. Call John, 926-3916.

Tennis Vacation: Palm Island Resort, Florida, Mar 3-19. Call Marilyn, 471-9813.

Wanted: Camp registrar for River Falls Tennis Camp. Computer desired. Join the staff! Call Chuck, 888-0551.

Lost: Blue and white tennis jacket at Decathlon on Friday, Nov. 22. Call Stan Furber at 830-9702.



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Paid Advertisements

Love Stories

by Norm Diamond

Bringing Home The Baken

Many of those bright-eyed and bushy-tailed women and children now populating our universe could well be the creative labors (pun not intended) of Dr. Mel Baken (pronounced "bayken"), 73, prominent obstetrician/gynecologist. Although not involved in surgical stints today, Baken still performs daily administrative duties. And tennis five or six times weekly!

A South High graduate, Baken completed two years of undergraduate work at St. Olaf College, later transferring for the next two years to the University of Minnesota. When World War II broke out, it was Lt. Baken of the US Navy. Just for the exercise while in the service, he won the Pacific Northwest AAU wrestling championship at a solid



Mel Baken

191 lbs. On the U of M's wrestling team he garnered third and fourth place finishes in Big Ten competition.

Admitted to the U of M's Dental School, he brushed through the course until completion, later transferring to the U's Medical School and a subsequent career as an obstetrician/gynecologist. Baken obviously reasoned that extracting babies was more rewarding than teeth. He interned at Minneapolis General and did his residency at the U of M. After practicing at St. Louis Park Medical Center until 1973, he joined OBGYN West in the Meadowbrook Bldg. until the present.

Baken retired from hospital practice in 1991 to devote his energies to administration. "If I had it to do all over again, I think I would have been an orthopedic surgeon," he reveals. He bristles at a riposte offered by George Bernard Shaw about the medical profession: "We have not lost faith but have transferred it from God to the medical profession."

A Decathlon Club player initially, he was urged by friends to join the STPC. Now a trim 175 lbs., steely gray-haired, 5'11" and kind blue eyes, Baken's opponents refer to him as "fast on his feet." His philosophy of life is blunt: "Whatever success I have achieved in life was probably due to persistence. I never thought I was especially talented but I determined to solve problems with a desire to press on!" His is a counter to famed philosopher, Albert Camus, who said: "Those who lack the courage will always find a philosophy to justify it."

If he were the last man on earth and could be with one historical figure, I asked, who would it be?

Baken's initial and humorous answer: Sophia Loren so we could repopulate the earth! He chose Benjamin Franklin for his intelligence, creativity and statesmanship. When he chose Franklin, he probably didn't remember what the great man had said: "God heals, and the doctor takes the fee!"

Baken's father was a doctor as is one of his daughters currently. He has served as Chief of Staff at Methodist Hospital and is active with the State Board of Health to study ways to reduce the maternal death rate.

Although not a health faddist, Baken plays tennis five or six times weekly and watches his weight and diet with relaxed care. He's warm and friendly, has a great sense of humor and suffers fools and "cliques" gladly. Married in 1946 to Dorothy, now deceased, they had four children. In 1981 he remarried Dona whose previous spouse had passed away and she brought three children to the marriage. They now have a blended family of seven children and seven grandchildren.

Because of space considerations, I can only enumerate Baken's career highlights- He holds four degrees, three postgraduate positions including Diplomate of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, belongs to six medical societies, a string of social organizations including the "M" Club and is a member of the Northwest Racquet Club. In the field of medicine, he has held leadership positions in four major areas.

Other than tennis, hobbies include ballroom dancing, bridge, personal competition (admits to a fighting

Continued on page 8

NEW MEMBER LESSONS AND MEMBER DRILLS

Day	Time	Who?	Cost	Skill rating	Instructor	Phone
Nicollet Tennis Center						
4005 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis. 825-6844. Starts 9/9/96						
Mon	4:30-6 pm	MW	\$2.00	all ratings	Ernie Greene	488-6359
					Jason Sowder	966-5133
Thurs	8:30-10 am	MW	\$2.00	all ratings	Percy Hughes	545-7696
					Paul Stormo	944-6286
Williston Fitness & Sports						
14509 Minnetonka Dr, Minnetonka. 935-8638						
Tues	5:30-7 pm	MW	\$2.00	all ratings	Connie Custodio	824-2569
Wooddale Recreation Center						
2122 Wooddale Dr, Woodbury. 735-6214						
Mon	8-9:30 pm		\$2.00		Lois Nordman	735-6214

Private Club Drills Open to STPC Members

Decathlon Athletic Club						
7800 Cedar Ave S, Bloomington						
Wed	9:30-10:30 am	MW	\$6.00	3.0	Brian Christensen	854-0322
Fri	11:30-12:30 pm	MW	\$6.00	3.0	Brian Christensen	854-0322
Nicollet Tennis Center						
4005 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis. Note: Phone 825-6844 no later than the day before to sign up.						
Tues	9-10 am	MW	\$5.00	3.0 and up	Rod Vaught	825-6844
Thurs	12-1 pm	MW	\$5.00	2.5-3.0	Rod Vaught	825-6844
Wooddale Recreation Center						
2122 Wooddale Dr, Woodbury. Note: Space is limited. You must sign up.						
Wed	12-1 pm	MW	\$7.00	All levels	Lois Nordman	735-6214

There is a \$2/session court rental fee for indoor lessons and drills. New members are welcome to take 12 (or more) lessons. After 12 lessons you will receive a free can of balls, a certificate of accomplishment and congratulations from the STPC president. You must notify the instructor when you have completed 12 lessons! The lessons are offered free, as part of your membership. Members are encouraged to attend lessons and drills at any time. Skill rating: If you need to know your skill rating, attend one of the lessons/drills and ask the instructor to rate you. If you have any questions, call the instructor.

Continued from page 7

attitude) and his family. The Bakens spend winters in Florida but Dr. Mel returns to Minneapolis frequently to attend to business. Baken runs the gamut in tennis: singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

It's a rare tournament he misses and even rarer when he's not in the winner's circle.

Let it not be said I at least gave you a "slice of Baken!" ■

Time is getting short! However, we still have openings for all sessions of our annual tennis vacation. The place to be 2/1-3/15/97. Pick the time that's right for you!

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Name #1 _____
 Name #2 _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____

Session	Cost	Date	No. of Days	Deposit /Person	No. of Persons	Total \$\$
A	\$535	2/1-2/15	14	\$200		
B	\$535	2/15-3/1	14	\$200		
C	\$535	3/1-3/15	14	\$200		
A/B	\$895	2/1-3/1	28	\$200		
B/C	\$895	2/15-3/15	28	\$200		
A/B/C	\$1390	2/1-3/15	42	\$200		
All prices are per person and based on 4 persons/condo, plus 9% tax due with the final payment.						Total enclosed



Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

A nonprofit corporation. P.O. Box 16163, Minneapolis, MN 55416. Voice mailbox at 612-659-6398

Senior Tennis Times

The *Senior Tennis Times* is published monthly by and for the members of the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc

Editor

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E-mail: nancykam@minn.net

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Advertising

Send camera-ready art and payment to the editor by the 20th of the month for publication the following month. We can create an ad for you for a \$10 fee. Ad rates are:

full page (7 x 9 in)	\$100
half page (7 x 4½ in)	\$75
quarter page (3½ x 4½ in)	\$50
eighth page (3½ x 2¼ in)	\$30
classified ad (members only, max. 4 lines)	\$15
2-line ad (members only, 50 spaces/line)	free

Publication Deadline

Submit articles to the editor by the 20th of the month for publication the following month. All material submitted for publication is subject to editing.

Address Corrections

Please notify the Editor with any address corrections.

STPC Membership

As of November 1996, STPC membership totaled 1,674. December 1996. Volume 9, Number 12

Senior Tennis Times
3300 East Gate Rd.
St. Anthony, MN 55418-2545

*Published monthly by the
Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.*

Address Correction Requested

December 1996

Nonprofit Organization US Postage PAID Minneapolis, MN Permit No. 3270
