

More Pieces of the OTR Puzzle *by Joel Jacobs*

The Shanty Irish; traditional Irish musicians at Cooters and the audience who applauds and cheers them on. ; OTR auctioneer in a white tux with a red bow tie. ; Old Timers in costumes like rabbits and ballerinas. ; The volunteers who coordinate and run the contests. ; The Red Shirts of Security.

OTR thrives because good people work together to complete the puzzle.

. . . *More pieces next year.*

Work Weekends for the New Sauna

According to Ben Mirable, TRA operations vice-president, “There will be trade specific work weekends for concrete layers, electricians and plumbers.” If you want to help, you will be able to find when work weekends will occur sometime in the future on the OTR email site. He also said that the money (donations accepted any time, Ed.) seems to have come together and that after this weekend only Mother Nature can stop the saunas from being completed on time for the 2020 Old Timers Reunion.

The Bat *by Joel Jacobs*

Chapter 4 – Get Out

They took a compass reading at the location Melissa pointed to, laid out the topographical map on a picnic table and drew a line in the direction the drone flew.

“Mostly roadless, but there are farm lanes,” said Art. “We shouldn’t have to do too much walking, but let’s get our hiking gear on and drive to . . .” He dragged it out circling his fingers on the chart . . . “Here.”

“Let’s take our walking sticks,” said Melissa. “We may need them for protection from that bat thing.”

“You think it’ll attack us?” asked Art.

“Couldn’t even guess, but it left a hole in that guys neck. I’m not going to let that happen to me.”

They drove out of the OTR encampment, turned left onto 219, crossed the bridge over the Tygart and a bit later took another left into the countryside trying to get to the point that Art had delineated on the map. The further from OTR the wider the search, like a pie shape originating at Melissa’s sighting.

After a bunch of stops and turns, she asked “What is it that we’re looking for?”

“I think we just found it,” said Art. “Did you ever see a barn with a window like that?”

“Nope,” she answered, looking at an opening about six feet wide and two feet high on the second level of a ramshackle barn. “And look, there’s a security camera centered above it.”

They got out of their Pilot and started walking toward a house with a dilapidated exterior near the barn. “Let’s knock on the front door,” said Art.

At that moment, the drone burst out of its nest and dove toward them. An electronic voice boomed from a speaker hidden within one of the structures, “You are on private property. Retreat immediately.”

The mechanical bat swooped over them, rose above them and floated in the air aiming its needle-like appendage at them. “Now, that’s what I was talking about,” said Melissa.

“Let’s throw our sticks,” prompted Art. “You aim for that red eye and I’ll go for the weapon. Ready? Two, three, now.”

Art’s missed, but Melissa’s stuck in the left wing between the two fan-shaped propellers. The drone attempted to climb, but the added weight on one side caused it to swirl in a descending motion. It took a header into the ground at their feet.

An amplified order sounded, “Get out of here. Now!” and barking and growling began from the barn.

“Dogs,” they shouted together.

“Run,” commanded Art as Melissa stepped on the drone and withdrew her stick. Art retrieved his as they ran for their vehicle and two black Alsations erupted from the barn.

In the car, with the dogs snarling and baying around them, they started to laugh and giggling so hard that she almost couldn’t get it out, Mellissa asked, “Will we ever have a normal OTR weekend?”

“Hey,” said Art, “For us, this is normal.”

The End

The Dale Ibberson OTR Museum received a wonderful donation of a document from 1946 that is an invitation to an event that is a precursor to OTR. This piece was donated by Paul Johnson of Bill and Paul’s Lamps on Vendors row. This paper is very delicate and will require stabilization and conservation to preserve it for future generations so we are asking for donations to help us with this work, any amount will be gratefully received and you can drop off donations to the museum or to Pat Cuttier or Mike Oatney. Thank you. (Editors note: Donations may also be made online at <https://www.otr.org/tra-and-otr-donations/>)

Incident of Concern - Recently there was an incident regarding ownership of certain Sauna properties.

During the May work weekend, a meeting was held with the current Sauna leadership, TRA leadership and the interested party present. All parties agreed to meet during the July work weekend to resolve all concerns.

Without prior notification to TRA or the current Sauna leadership, the member in question removed these sauna items during the June work weekend.

This action violated the aforementioned agreement. The present situation is difficult for all parties involved, but TRA and the current Sauna leadership will continue to work on the resolution of this incident which is a concern to all.

What's up? by Joel Jacobs

Vega is the alpha star in the constellation Lyra. It is the 5th brightest star in the sky and is the brightest of the three stars that make up the dramatic, summer triangle of Vega, Deneb and Altair. Because of its prominence, it has been the subject of numerous legends and stories throughout the ancient world. Many observers saw a harp, others saw an eagle, a vulture or a falcon. It is approximately 27 light years from Earth and projects a bluish radiance. It was the pole star 12,000 years ago and will be again 12,000 years from now. It is close to the region in space where the entire solar system speeds at 12 miles per second.

Venus Fly Trap Cave by Raphael The Root Part 3

They heard a rumbling sound, and the rocks parted, showing the cave entrance! Everyone was shocked, never seen that before. Tom hollered up, "get us out of this hell hole before it closes up." Fortunately they had a rope and cable ladder, which they quickly rigged, sending down food and water. However, as soon as the supplies hit bottom, the cave slammed shut, neatly slicing the rope and ladder. Well, they don't call him Dynamite Dick for nothing! "I just happen to have some rock removal encouragement in my truck, never know when it might come in handy". Dick placed a few charges around the now closed rocks. Maggi, texted Tom to retreat in a passage, explaining about the dynamite. Boom, went the charge and a new opening appeared, another cable ladder was dropped, and Tom and Jerry quickly ascended, also bringing up the other cavers gear and journal.

The Venus fly trap cave will close no more, or will it? They left the remains of the cable and rope as a reminder and warning.



The End

The York Grotto will be celebrating its 60th anniversary by sponsoring the Fall MAR in Newville, PA September 20-22.

See yorkgrotto.org for more info.

Selected Shorts

The Robertson Association (TRA) business meeting will be in the Event Tent at 9:30 this morning. All TRA members are welcome to attend.

Place drink cans, bottles, and similar containers in the trash, rather than on the ground. Following these guide lines will keep our cleaning teams from getting the "bends."

Two short term HC parking spots have been made available at registration. Users must have appropriate car tag or plate to use these spots. If further assistance is needed, please let security know. They are here to help.

No matter what the outcome my gift was better because you read it here in the Coot & Holler Gazette.

Larry... Fossil hunting tomorrow get in the van.

Vote for Sarah Richards! Sarah will make a fabulous TRA Trustee!

Drop off your filled-out daily Grotto Volunteer Participation Contest forms at Cooter's by noon today This contest ended yesterday, but forms turned in by noon today.

For proper ventilation of Porta-Potties please be sure to close

Stephen "Doc" Mosberg is running for TRA Trustee this year. His years of active participation in TRA, includes development of 2 important directives already! He supports fun & freedom at OTR with safety for all. Please vote for Doc! (He approves this message!) SEM

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OTR Virgins – pick up your gift at On Rope1. Ask Wm or Carolina about the history on this item.

People partying in the pavilion and at the fire are asked to throw empty bottles cans and cups into the trash cans provided.

In the deep dark matter of the early dawn, we can still hear the thunderous refrains "Take me home, country roads ... Take me home to OTR".

Happy Birthday, Bob, you old Toot.

The TRA Grotto - Did you know that The Robertson Association is an Internal Organization of the National Speleological Society? That's right. There is a TRA Grotto and you can become a member on line at the NSS site (caves.org). Most of us are members of a grotto and many of us belong to more than one. If you want to really support OTR you can designate the TRA Grotto as your primary grotto. This would help swell the numbers of what is probably the second most populous grotto behind #1, the Cave Diving Section.

OTR Merch tent hours: Today, 12-2 pm. Location is in front of the Chairman's trailer across the road from the ice cream stand.

Ten years ago you brought me to my first OTR and now we've been married 3 years. Here's to many more decades of chugging together. XOXOXO Jane

Help Wanted

Want to be a Camp Master? Come talk with John in BATS! Dutch Star RV is our base for the week.

Newsletter Editor Wanted. It has been a great 20 years. Now it is time to retire so I can do something different. See Shack, Sharon, or Carol for more information as to how you can help keep the masses informed at OTR.

Looking for electrician & plumbing apprentices – OJT & licensed personnel needed to step up & volunteer services during OTR & future work weekends – ask for Bill Bradwell, Tim Brown, or John Vitela.

Help Wanted: Radio Custodian for NSS radio cache. Responsible for maintenance, storage, and transportation of NSS radios and accessories to NSS convention and OTR. Contact Bill at Coot & Holler newsroom for details.

Coots and Roots

It's a
DISCO party?
Oh Pancho



Kudos

CGD grotto is the best!!

Thank you to all who participated in making the 4th annual Bubbles Fun Run the biggest and best yet. See You next year!

Stacy Mock

Chairman Shack, Vice Chairman Ben, Noel and the rest- what a heck of a 70th anniversary Disco event. WOW - what's in store for next year?

OMG - Auctioneer Extraordinary - still has all the pazazzz. Thanks to everyone involved in the Auction this year. Staff, display team, Dave, bin and bidders, as well as the smoothest voice in town wielding the mic. Your adoring fans

The Great Family Fued is the OTR 2020 theme, Thursday, September 3 through Monday, September. Until then, be safe and keep on cavin'.

The Coot & Holler Gazette is published four times annually, on consecutive days, and occasional special editions, during the annual gathering of the Robertson Association members. This gathering is known as The Old Timers Reunion. The views and opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editor. Circulation is limited to 350 copies each issue, so hang on to these priceless limited edition copies, and watch their value increase. Editor, Carol S. Jackson, photographer Bill Jackson. Reporters A. James Kramer and Joel Jacobs. Published by Carol's Carriage, North Field. Contributions are welcome, and may be submitted at collection boxes located at the Carol's Carriage office, in the registration building, or at "COOTers, located on Vendors row. Deadline for submissions is 7pm each evening.