

# THE MEGAPHONE

An Organ of the Rascals, Rogues, and Rascallions

October 15, 1995

Number 5

## First Annual Rascal Picnic Held at Highest PA Point High Altitude Sedan Chair Racing Causes Brain Damage to Several Rascals

The First Annual Rascal Family Picnic took place on August 19, 1995 atop Mount Davis, the highest point in Pennsylvania. Located in southern Somerset County, Mount Davis rises to 3,721 feet and is covered in covered in conifers.

The all-day affair, which was organized by Jeff Campbell, featured food, drink, cigars, games, and sedan-chair races. The weather, cool and dry, and location, quiet and wooded, were perfect for picnicking.

The highlight of the day was the when the reigning Rascal o' the Year, Maestro Greg Scheer was carried in a canopied sedan-chair by sweating, grunting Rascals from the picnic area to the highpoint, a distance of about 1 mile, along a rugged and narrow trail. Preceding the sedan-chair was the Rascal o' the Year trophy, borne by a variety of Rascals pleased to no longer be lugging Maestro Bricks-in-the-Butt. Leading and trailing the pack of Rascals were the two Rascal flags, mounted on crossbars and carried aloft

by those too weak to carry even the trophy. Children walked along with a variety of noise makers, drawing further attention to our ridiculous pageant. A Seventh-Day Adventist group which was picnicking



RR&R Flag and Rascals at the highest point of Pennsylvania. Left to right, front: Ron DiOrio, Wyatt Aasen, Jack Brice, Greg Scheer, Dan Morrison; rear: Dwight Fox, Jeff Campbell, Yuval Cohen.

Morrison, Karl Williams Dwight Fox, Yuval Cohen, Jake Horner and Ron DiOrio. Significant others and a pack of children joined the fun.

Games for the children were organized by Kathy Fisher and Eva Morrison. All went well until the water-balloon toss turned into a water-balloon fight.

With two identical sedan-chairs present at the picnic, both having been designed and constructed by Jake Horner and Jeff Campbell, they were put to good use and raced against each other. With a variety of teams and jockeys, several races were run, the main effect being the complete exhaustion of the weekend-warrlors who were manning the poles.

Racing, of course, is the means by which machines are refined, and several design flaws were detected along the way. The poles proved to be a bit too light, and the center of gravity a bit too high.

In terms of racing technique, (see Picnic, 2,a.)

in an adjoining area contributed a number of stragglers to the procession.

The men present were Greg Scheer, Jeff Campbell, John McGeoy, Bill Baierl, David Dunn, Jack Brice, Don Pickerine, Wyatt Aasen, Dan

**Picnic — from Page 1**

became evident that the way to win the race was to take no heed of the safety of the jockey. The team willing to cut off the other in the turn was the team which won. It seems prudent to keep the canopy drawn during races so that the jockeys will not become too agitated.

Children, by the way, wore bicycle helmets during their rides aboard the sedan chairs.

## “My Last Cigar” Composer’s Life Reviewed

On September 9, Bill Baierl made a Rascal’s Challenge presentation on James M. Hubbard, the composer of “My Last Cigar.” His slide-show lecture was punctuated by three songs and was well-received by all.

Bill’s research took him and his obviously pregnant wife, Lisa, to New Haven, Connecticut, where in the Yale Library he uncovered three early editions of Hubbard sheet music: “My Last Cigar, or ‘Twas off the Blue Canaries,” “Grey’s Grand March,” and “Those Evening Bells.”

The cover of “My Last Cigar,” says that it was “written by a student of Harvard University. Composed and dedicated to the Students of Yale College, by J.M. Hubbard.”

The biggest discovery in Bill’s research was that the tune to which My Last Cigar has been traditionally sung at Rascal meetings — a tune taken from an anthologized version of the song — is, in fact, not the same tune as was original written by Hubbard. Additionally, the original version of “My Last Cigar” had four verses, two more than the version the Rascals had been singing.

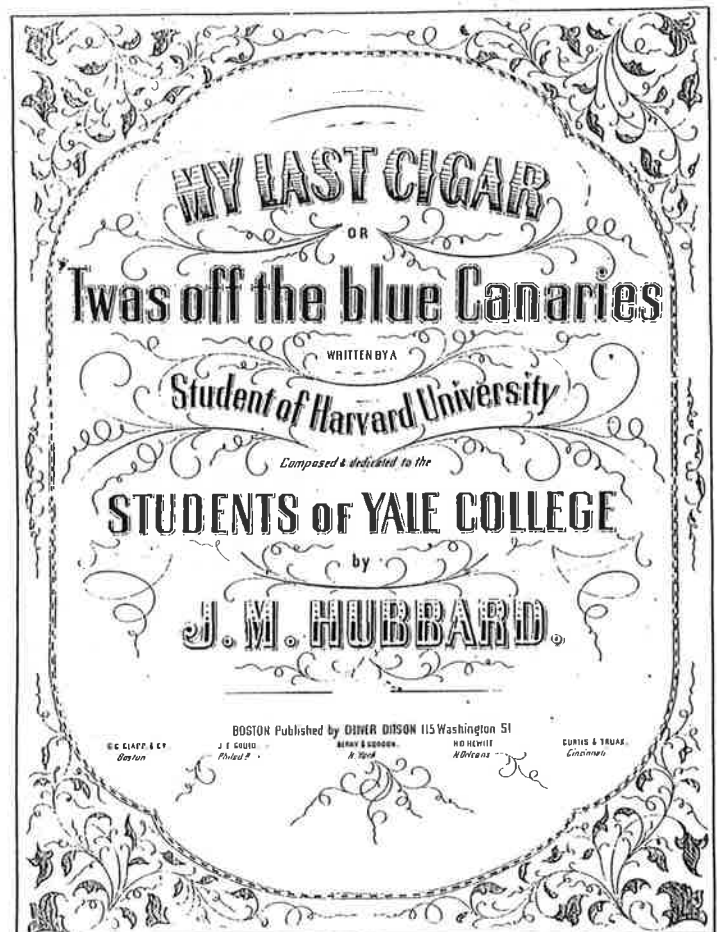
Bill traced, in a rough-and-ready fashion, the ancestry of Hubbard to Hubba the Philanderer. The exact lineage between the Hubba and our hero, James M. Hubbard, is not so clear.

Bill managed to find documents locating Hubbard in New Haven in the 1850’s. Unfortunately, the houses Hubbard lived in have all be demolished.

What became of Hubbard remains a mystery — Bill hypothesizes that he went west, spending time in Kentucky, Missouri and Texas.

Greg Scheer sang “My Last Cigar” and Jeff Campbell sang “Those Evening Bells.” Greg’s computer played “Grey’s Grand March.”

Ron DiOrio, Rascal friend and professional genealogist, has recently undertaken additional research at Harvard University and at libraries in New Hampshire. He is of the opinion that Hubbard never attended Harvard University and that,



perhaps, James M. Hubbard is not connected with the prominent and extended Hubbard family of Connecticut, being rather a recent immigrant.

## Constitutional Convention Set

Jeff Campbell has been busy organizing the first RR&R Constitutional Convention. It will take place some place within the city of Pittsburgh on Saturday, November 11. Jeff is still receiving proposals regarding articles of the constitution and for a venue of the convention.

## Newest Rascal has a Psycho-History

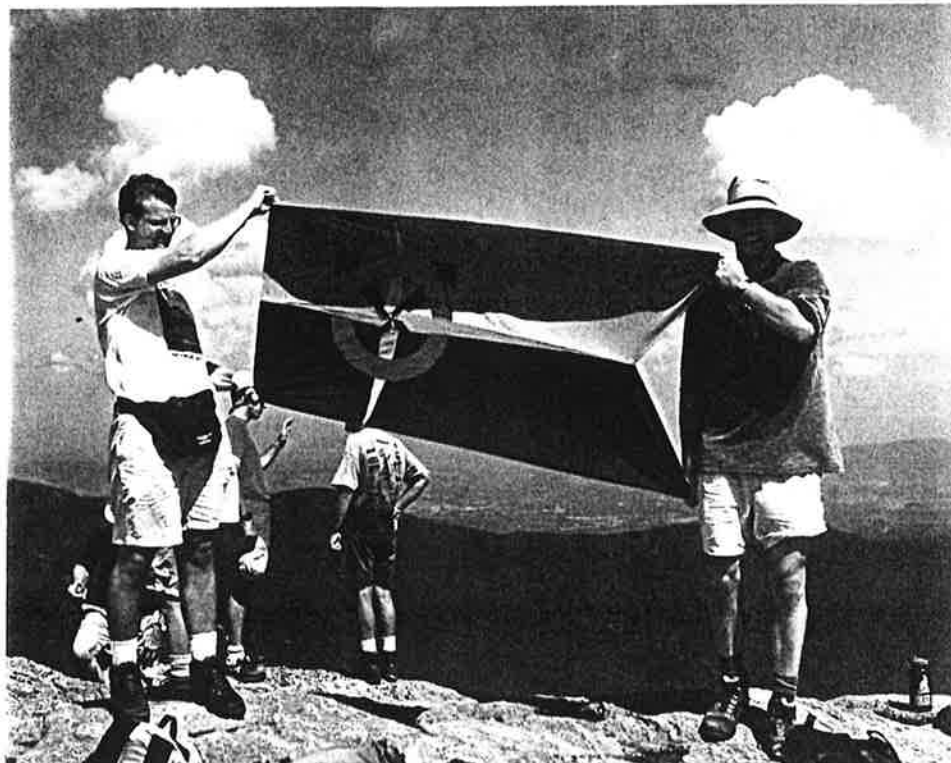
Mark Miller, MD, was welcomed into membership at the September 9, 1995 quarterly meeting.

Mark is a psychiatrist and works at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, which is part of the University of Pittsburgh, directing their late life depression program.

Mark comes to the Rascals by way of Lee Wolfson, who works with Mark at WPIC. It should also be noted that Charlei George once worked with both these fellows.

## Rascal Flag Tops Two Highpoints

A new Rascal's Challenge has been made — this one to the group as a whole: to raise the RR&R flag over the highpoints of each of the 50 states. By one accounting, 1/25 of this project has been completed to date.



Jeff Campbell and Dan Morrison fly the RR&R flag atop Mt. Mansfield, Vermont

On July 29, 1995, Jeff Campbell and Dan Morrison held aloft the RR&R flag atop Mt. Mansfield, Vermont, elevation 4,393, the highest point in that state. This was the first time the RR&R flag had flown over a state's highpoint.

The climb to the top of Mt. Mansfield by Jeff Campbell and Dan Morrison corresponded with the annual convention of the Highpointers Club — a society dedicated, as the name suggests, to topping each of the 50 state highpoints. The 1995 Highpointers convention was held at Mt. Mansfield and thus our two Rascal hikers encountered many Highpointers on the trail, learning along the way that the next highpoint in sight is

Campbell Hill, Ohio, elevation 1550 feet. The Ohio highpoint is located at the flagpole of a local high school.

The First Annual Rascal's Picnic was the occasion of the second highpointing of the RR&R flag. On August 19, 1995, Greg Scheer, Karl Williams, Jeff Campbell, John McGeoy, Don Pickerine, Wyatt Aasen, Jack Brice, Dan Morrison, along with a host of Rascal friends and family, were present at the raising of the RR&R flag atop Mt. Davis, elevation 3,213, the highest point in Pennsylvania.

Rascals interested in future highpointing events, should make yourself known to the Secretary, who is always eager for an excuse to get out of the city.

## Rascals Set for Roanoke Roadtrip

On January 6, 1996, Prof. Dr. Carl Plantinga of Hollis College in Roanoke, Virginia, and brother of Arch-Rascal, **Harry Plantinga**, will host a Rascals' dinner. Though Carl Plantinga has not attended any Rascal meetings, he has heard about them from his brother and is interested in recreating Rascal madness amongst men in Southwestern Virginia — a noble cause, if ever there was one.

If all goes well, Carl Plantinga's dinner will lead to the establishment of the second RR&R lair. The Rascal Charter makes provision for the forming of new RR&R lairs, taking the spread of the special sort of Rascal fun and nonsense to be one of the groups' goals.

A delegation of Rascals from the Pittsburgh lair will travel to Roanoke for this historic dinner.

An initial partial polling of Rascals conducted by e-mail has revealed a remarkable level of interest. An informal count reveals five Rascals intending to go, out of the ten on the e-mailing list.

All Rascal's and Rascal friends interested in attending this event should contact **Dan Morrison**, who will, no doubt be contacting you if you don't contact him.

## Ball Committee Members Needed

The 2nd Annual Rascal's Ball will happen on February 3, 1996. Planning for this gala event needs to begin as soon as possible.

All those who are willing to put a bit of effort into the process, which produced such a delightful evening at last year's ball, should contact the Secretary.

The Ball will feature, in addition to the usual Rascal fun, the naming of the 1996 Rascal o' the Year and the awarding of the Jonathan Z. Landgraf Prize by our guests of honor, Mr. & Mrs. Gerry Landgraf of Yorktown, Virginia.

## J.Z. Landgraf Prize Nears Completion

The Jonathan Z. Landgraf Prize has moved one step closer to reality. Created in memory of Jon Landgraf, a Rascal charter member, the annual prize will be awarded to the winner of the Mass Challenge.

The first recipient of the prize will be **Jeff Campbell**, who won the 1995 Mass Challenge with his presentation on a freshwater mite, and aided in no small measure by his brute strength.

The prize takes the form of a medal to be suspended from a ribbon and worn on one's jacket. A final design was approved by the membership at the

September 9, 1995 quarterly meeting, and will be executed as a casting in bronze by Lisa Kotchey, a friend of **John McGeoy** who is a metalsmith working in Sharpsburg, Pennsylvania.

Initial costs of the model and mold were covered by the sale of bonds, which will be redeemed in the next two or three years. Individual medals will be paid for out of the regular budget.



Rascal o' the Year, Greg Scheer, in his finery at the 1995 Rascal Picnic

## Rascal Humor

Greg Scheer offered these two seasonal jokes for our consumption and titillation:  
Q. Why is Halloween better than sex?

A. The uglier you are, the more you get.

A. If you don't get any at home, you can always go next door.

## We've Heard . . .

Wyatt Aasen reports that he will be attending a masquerade party in Washington DC in the near future. Guests have been instructed to come as the embodiment of their suppressed desires. Wyatt will be going as Albert Einstein, while his wife, Sherry, intends to go as a black gospel singer. Don Pickerine's wife, Carol is fairly pregnant these days. They are expecting a boy, whose name has yet to be determined [Henry and Charlie are the candidates], December 4th being the due date. Lee Wolfson passed his state licensing exam. This means he can now be properly paid for his counseling services. Jeff Campbell recently returned from California where he had spent nine days, and rode Laverne, a female mule, with no apparent ill effects. Dennis Looney reports that he would have voted for Orélie-Antoine, whose face he saw plastered on the wall of the men's room on the 14th floor of the Cathedral of Learning, for homecoming king were he a University of Pittsburgh undergraduate. We have reports that Harry Plantinga, through the agency of his wife, Pam, recently had a baby boy. Harry was unable to celebrate the birth of his son with a wholesome cigar because he has taken Wheaton College's vow not

to smoke nor chew, nor go with girls who do. Jeff Sivek, who has taken no such vow, has been seen on several occasions sitting on



Harry Plantinga celebrating the birth of his son with a bowl of soap suds

back porches in South Oakland smoking cigars. Sam Wood recently spent couple of weeks in Portugal and dumped his girlfriend of two years. He is presently looking for a marriageable, fertile woman with a healthy dowry. Please forward suggestions directly to Sam. Charlei George has gotten a new office — even more beautiful and light-filled than his previous palace. Jack Brice has been busy studying for the last three months and trying to coordinate his women trouble. Bill Baierl is involved in yet another project. It seems that he is working with a program in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania which trains retarded adults to sell Chevrolet trucks to pregnant ladies while whitewater rafting with West Virginia Patriots. Or

something like that. He was unavailable for comment at press time. Dan Morrison recently launched the North American Araucanian Royalist Society. The society, which will work for the restoration of the Kingdom of Araucania, has enjoyed initial success, though its numbers have yet to swell to the mighty proportions of the RR&R.

## Rascal Proposes Roadside Cleanup

Don Pickerine has suggested that the Rascals, Rogues, and RapsCALLIONS could volunteer to adopt a section of local highway.

As any traveller has noticed, there are signs along highways indicating that a particular section of road has been adopted by some group or individual.

These groups and individuals enter into a contractual agreement with the Department of Transportation to clean the roadside on a regular basis.

In exchange for providing this community service at no charge, the Department of Transportation erects a sign bearing that group's or individual's name.

Rascals interested in such a worthy and noble effort, and in thereby making the good name of the Rascals, Rogues, and RapsCALLIONS more well-known, should contact Don Pickerine or the Secretary.

## The Rascal Women's [Half] Page

Had all gone as anticipated, on this sheet would have appeared the much-anticipated Rascal Women's Page, offering news and views of those women who are so important to the lives and happiness of so many, but not all, Rascal men. Alas, Rascaldom will have to wait yet another quarter for such a scintillating page to appear, as the promised page, though under development, was not ready at press time. The presses wait for no [wo]man.

Tammy Dunn, wife of David Dunn and mother of his three sons, has agreed to undertake the task of editing the Rascal's Women's Page, and for her efforts David should be thanked, as, no doubt, his dinner has been late more than once these past few week<sup>s</sup> while his wife performed the thankless task of newsletter editing.

Rascals are hereby called upon the aid Tammy Dunn, prompting their significant female others to cooperate with her in the creation of this page. Now doubt you are wondering what place recipe exchanges, sewing tips, and advice for the loveless have in The Megaphone, official newsletter of the Rascals, Rogues, and RapsCALLIONS. I'm wondering that too. But don't mention that to She Who Must Be Obeyed, or you will be wondering what place you have in the master bedroom.

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