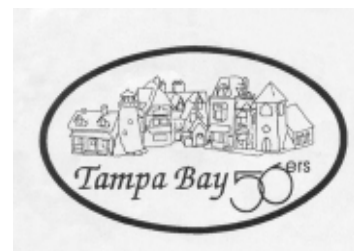


August 2008

TAMPA BAY 56ers BEACON



**Membership Meeting
Sunday, August 10, 2008
Clearwater Countryside Library
1:30 PM**

Come join us for our next meeting. We will have pictures and stories from the Minnesota gathering Coming Home to Dept 56.



**Join us for games and fun.
Try this one and look for others
in this newsletter.**

What was the first novel
written on a typewriter?

If you would like to bring a snack or dessert, please contact Marlyn King at 727-692-6562 or 727-367-4226. Marlyn is planning ham salad, chicken salad and/or tuna salad. Remember the club no long provides soft drinks.

Be sure to wear your club shirt or your SSRG shirt for an extra prize drawing.

Palm





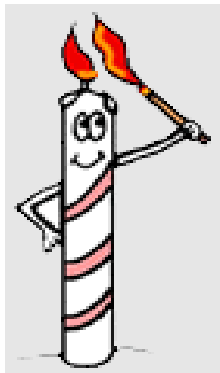
President's Message

By *Vern Schwieterman*

We had a good time at the Minnesota gathering and now we are trying to get back into every day life. Judy and I went to Ron's Miniatures and spent Saturday night with one of Judy's friend at their time share in Orlando. On Sunday, we checked out All Things Fine in The Villages shopping center. All Things Fine is small, but a nice store; it's too bad that it is located so far away. Ken, the Department 56 representative, was present to demonstrate some Styrofoam cutting and give tips on the lighting that he used in village displays. Only a few other members attended: Richard, Wayne, Don & Lorraine, Cindy & Francis.

With the display contest coming up Oct. 5th and our buss trip to Orlando at the end of October, we have a lot to discuss this coming meeting. Hope to see you there.

Marlyn and I went to the Levy Restaurants dinner and seminar on Wednesday. The seminar included a tour of One Buc Place. What a wonderful setup the players have! As a result of the seminar, we have a lot of information to pass on to the people working the games this year. With the Super Bowl playing in Tampa this upcoming season, Levy will be making sure that all the rules are being enforced.



Happy Belated Birthday!

| | | |
|------|---------|-----------|
| 7/9 | Renee | Ayers |
| 7/14 | Barbara | Everett |
| 7/17 | Alice | Burak |
| 7/18 | Kathy | Dorsey |
| 8/1 | Marlyn | King |
| 8/6 | Daniel | Colangelo |

Happy Birthday!

| | | |
|------|--------|-----------|
| 8/8 | Dick | Johnson |
| 8/11 | Dalton | Smith |
| 8/12 | Cheryl | Everett |
| 8/18 | Marion | Hernandez |
| 8/21 | Eileen | Mullen |
| 8/26 | Terry | Rhodes |
| 9/5 | Edna | Biehl |





DEPARTMENT 56
Holidays. Special Days. Every Day.™

LENOX
Life That Celebrates Life.

Struggling Lenox in talks to sell Department 56

The parent company is looking for a buyer for its collectibles subsidiary after it was unable to sell its entire enterprise.

By [DAVID PHELPS](#), Star Tribune

Last update: July 28, 2008 - 9:51 PM

Department 56, the venerable retailer known for collectible giftware and limited-edition Christmas decorations, was put on the selling block by its parent firm, Lenox Group. Struggling Lenox said Monday that it is in “advanced discussions” regarding the sale of Department 56 after it was unable to find a buyer for all of Lenox, which includes Lenox and Dansk tableware and Gorham silver settings.

Lenox has been looking for financial suitors since January when its board hired Berenson & Co. to review strategic options “including a sale of the [entire] company, a sale of a portion of the company, and raising additional equity capital.”

“While market conditions have hampered this process, Lenox is continuing to explore its strategic options,” Lenox said in a statement.

The sale of Department 56 would take the retailer full circle from shopper to shopped three years after it bought Lenox for \$205 million. The merged company, which took the Lenox name, has been the victim of lean economic times, particularly for higher-end items like fine china and crystal stem ware.

In May, Lenox was delisted from the New York Stock Exchange when its market capitalization fell below the \$25 million minimum. Lenox stock, which now trades in the over-the-counter market, closed Monday at 25 cents a share, a penny above its recent low of 24 cents a share reached last week.

Department 56, which replaced former CEO Susan Engel with turnaround specialist Marc Pfefferle 19 months ago, faces a daunting economic environment as both a retailer and a retailer with a for-sale sign on its door.

“The climate for getting capital to acquire a company, especially one that is not performing well, is getting very, very challenging,” said Stan Pohmer, a Twin Cities retail consultant. “Lenders are getting pretty gun-shy unless it’s a sure thing.” Pohmer also noted that much of Department 56’s sales are driven by holiday purchases. “Everyone’s predicting a tough fourth quarter and the luxury market is feeling some of the burn, too,” Pohmer said.

In addition to potentially selling Department 56, Lenox said it’s discussing debt restructuring with its lenders. The company said it was in compliance with its financial covenants as of June 28, the end of its second fiscal quarter.



The next few pages contain pictures from 2008 NCC National D56 Convention. The two pictures above are from Tiny Town.



The bottom two pictures were taken at the Department 56 Headquarters in their new Halloween display area. Notice how the display actually hangs over the outside edge of the shelf and the skeleton waterfall extends two shelves.



Does anyone collect the Christmas Story series sold at Sears? This was a great “small” display.

The Snow Village display was huge. It included every Snow Village piece ever manufactured and was grouped by year of introduction. The photo to the right shows 1998 introduction, while the photo below is 2001.



What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers have in common?



Judy organized us all for the NCC Parade of Clubs on the first evening. The Tampa Bay 56ers won for the most participants. We would have also won for our "float", but the NCC did not want to give us both prizes.

Our hospitality room was a big hit. We gave away the CDs of pictures from the SSRG, tried to sell t-shirts and pins, met new members and visited with friends from past gatherings. Thanks Judy!





Final Banquet

Come to the next meeting to see more pictures from the Minnesota gathering.



Which day are there more collect calls than any other day of the year?



**Minutes of Tampa Bay 56ers Meeting
June 22, 2008**

Submitted by Wayne Ingalis, Secretary

Meeting was called to order by Second VP, Marlyn King. Our President and First VP were on their way to Minneapolis for the NCC Gathering. Several of our members will be following them later in the week.

Treasurers report as reported in the newsletter approved on motion by Carol Williams and second Sol Gully. The same for Secretaries report on motion by Nadine Carey and second by Ida Johnson.

Bill Foelker made the report for the NCC. He mentioned the house that would be available at the convention and spoke in general about the gathering saying that it was heavily booked and there was a great need for volunteers.

There will be no meeting in July. The August meeting was changed from the 17th to the 10th on motion by Carol Williams and second by Ellen Wilcox.

Ellen Wilcox suggested that we have our own display contest and moved that it be held at our September meeting. To have the contest was seconded by Carol Williams and the September 21st meeting date was moved by Sol Gully and seconded by Carol Williams. Rules for the contest will be simple. Size 24 X 36 maximum with any number of houses and accessories. Judging will be by popular vote and by a Judge or judges. 2 gift certificates will be awarded, one for each winner, in the amount of \$50.00. These certificates will be from Skips. This was moved by Nadine Carey and seconded by Bill Foelker.

Our October meeting will be at the Sleuth Dinner Theatre. The plans are still in the works. Cost will be between \$42/45 plus bus. All decisions will be made at the August meeting.

Don Crowley brought information about a new store in The Villages called All Things Fine. It will have D56 and informal open house will be held on July 27th from 2 to 5PM .

Door prizes were won by: Marlyn King - Cranberry Bog; Marion Hernandez - Sailors Knot; Sharon Smith - Another Mans Treasure; Don Crowley - Stone Wall and Ida Johnson - Town Blacksmith. Raffle was won by Roger Grieves - Mighty Fine BBQ - Snow Village. 50/50 won by Carol Williams \$30.00

Meeting closed,

Program followed by Carol Williams on making trees.

Who was the first couple shown
in bed together on Prime Time TV?



We need volunteers to work Buc Games starting with the pre-season game against New England on Sunday, August 17. Here's the remaining schedule:

| DATE/DAY | TIME OF GAME | TIME TO BE THERE | EVENT |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 8/17/08/SUNDAY | 8:00PM | 2:00PM | Bucs vs. New England |
| 8/23/08/SATURDAY | 7:30PM | 1:30PM | Bucs vs. Jacksonville |
| 8/30/08/SATURDAY | TBA | | USF vs. Tennessee-Martin |
| 9/12/08/FRIDAY | 3:00 PM | | USF vs. Kansas |
| 9/14/08/SUNDAY | 4:05PM | 10:00AM | Bucs vs. Atlanta |
| 9/28/08/SUNDAY | 1:00PM | 7:00AM | Bucs vs. Green Bay |
| 10/2/08/THURSDAY | TBA | | USF vs. Pittsburgh |
| 10/12/08/SUNDAY | 1:00PM | 7:00AM | Bucs vs. Carolina |
| 10/18/08/SATURDAY | TBA | | USF vs. Tennessee-Martin |
| 10/19/08/SUNDAY | 8:15PM | 2:15PM | Bucs vs. Seattle |
| 11/15/08/SATURDAY | TBA | | USF vs. Rutgers |
| 11/16/08/SUNDAY | 1:00PM | 7:00AM | Bucs vs. Minnesota |
| 11/23/08/SUNDAY | TBA | | USF vs. UConn |
| 11/30/08/SUNDAY | 1:00PM | 7:00AM | Bucs vs. New Orleans |
| 12/6/08/SATURDAY | 1:00 PM | | ACC Championship Game |
| 12/7/08/SUNDAY | 9:00 AM | | Game Day of Champions |
| 12/21/08/SUNDAY | 8:15PM | 2:15PM | Bucs vs. San Diego |
| 12/28/08/SUNDAY | 1:00PM | 7:00AM | Bucs vs. Oakland |
| 1/1/2009/THURSDAY | 11:00 AM | | Outback Bowl |
| 2/1/09/SUNDAY | 6:00 PM | | Super Bowl |

Please call Marlyn King @ 727-367-4226 to volunteer to work any of these games.



At the Minnesota gathering, we gave away a CD of pictures from the SSRG 2007. The CDs were also handed out at the June meeting. If you did not get one or if you know anyone that would like one, please contact Ellen Wilcox at 727-547-5345 or via e-mail eswdlh@earthlink.net



Display Contest

We voted to have a display contest, but the date had to be changed due to the Bucs Games. The display contest will be on **October 5, 2008.**

There will be just one category, but two prizes will be awarded. One prize will be awarded by an independent judge. The second prize will be voted on by the club. The display can be as small as you wish, but cannot be exceed 24 X 36. The display can contain as many houses as you like.



Here's the display the Vern and Judy entered into the display contest in Minnesota. They won second place in their category - Twin Cities.



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941.488.7551
Fax 941.488.2502 
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Sleuth S
Mystery Dinner Shows
 Step Into a World of Comedy and
 Intrigue Where You Become the Detective!
 Orlando, Florida

Saturday, October 25, 2008, we will provide a bus trip to Orlando to the Sleuth Mystery Dinner theater if we get close to 36 people to sign up. The bus will leave at 5:00 pm and should return around midnight. The bus will be able to make a stop in Tampa to pickup and drop off. The club will cover the \$700.00 for the bus. The price per person will be somewhere between \$41.00 to \$45.00. Sign up at the August meeting.



We have two couples that would like to join our club if we can ever find club membership applications (if you have any club membership applications, please bring them to the next meeting). Please welcome:



Shelley McGarry & John Gancar
 smcgarry@usa2net.net

Bill and Allyn Austan
 Georgia
 litacres@comcast.net



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- Aug 10 - Membership Meeting
Sunday Clearwater Countryside Library
1:30 PM
- Oct 5 - Membership Meeting
Sunday Clearwater Countryside Library
1:30 PM
Display Contest
- Oct 25 Mystery Dinner Theater
Saturday Orlando, FL
- Nov 9 Membership Meeting
Sunday Clearwater Countryside Library
1:30 PM

Tampa Bay 56ers 2006 Officers

President: Vern Schwieterman
727-531-3112

1st Vice-President: Cindy Swinehart
941-922-7419

2nd Vice President: Marlyn King
727-367-4226

Secretary: Wayne Ingalls
813-989-8007

Treasurer: Conrad Krause
727-796-7606

NCC Rep: Bill Foelker
813-657-8949

Director: Roger Fournier
727-515-8008

Director: Roger Grieves
727-581-8199

Past President: Joyce Gillen
727-796-7606



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