

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 21

January 24, 2013

By John Hoffmann

GANS OUT...CUNNINGHAM AND MCNARY IN FIRE DISTRICT RACE: The race for the Monarch Fire Protection District is now set. Running against fire district president Kim Evans will be former State senator from Chesterfield Jane Cunningham, former State Representative Cole McNary and Russell Lake.

Rick Gans told us he believes that McNary has support of some firefighters. He also said he thought Lake may have been asked to file to pull votes away from Cunningham. However, Evans has always been accused by outsiders as being a firefighter union plant, which makes any support to McNary curious.



Jane Cunningham



Cole McNary

While Jane's nickname with fellow legislators and the press often was Calamity Jane, McNary simply kept quiet as a state rep and then took tickets to sporting events and green fees to golf courses from lobbyists.

I'll say this Cunningham she would use lobbyist money for constituents instead solely for herself, even though it would help her get re-elected. Cunningham's free bus ride to Jefferson City for the Governor's Inauguration was paid by lobbyists. So was her taking school kids to Central Dairy for free ice cream after visiting her office.

McNary claimed he was against lobbyists' gifts while running for statewide office, after taking them extensively for two years as a representative.

Cunningham made headlines with goofy proposals such as ending Missouri Child labor laws, which got her into a Jay Leno monologue on the Tonight Show over a bill that would ban teachers from lobbying elected officials in Jefferson City. If a cause was to the very far right, Cunningham was probably for it.

However that maybe is what the Monarch Fire Protection needs on the Board of Directors. Hopefully a far right wing conservative might have 90% of the meetings open to the public instead of the 50% they now have. I would hope that a far right wing conservative would be able to stop the District Board of Directors from going into close session claiming it was a personal matter then voting to spend \$25,000 for an employee party without the public knowing about.

While I have written how I didn't care for Cunningham taking a Christmas ham from Smithfield Farms of Virginia and contributions and then help pass a bill that would specifically help two Smithfield Farm Missouri hog operations reduce pollution lawsuit from neighboring landowners, I still think she might be the best for the Fire District.

McNary also voted for Smithfield Farms of Virginia and against Missouri landowners, while receiving contributions.

LATE ON Taxes: Russell Lake was 15 days late in paying his personal property taxes this year and was three months late in paying his car taxes in 2005.

SUED: Lake was also sued by the Missouri Department of Revenue in 2011 forcing him to pay \$5,709 in back taxes. He was also sued in small Claims court in 1997 for non-payment with the plaintiff being awarded \$120.

CITY COUNCIL RACES...THREE THREE-WAY RACES: Only Derek Grier will not have to form a campaign committee or spend over \$1,500 to mail a campaign flier...the youngest member of the City Council had no one from Ward-2 file against him in the April election. That cannot be said for the other four races.

MAYOR:

Ward 1 Councilman Matt Segal has been on the City Council since 2009. His background is commercial real estate, including five years working for THF one the bigger retail developers in Chesterfield. DO you think there could be multi-layers of conflicts of interest having a person with ties to retail real estate in general and one largest Chesterfield commercial development companies specifically.

While some might think this gives Segal more insight and makes him a better candidate, I think it makes him ethically suspect, especially when he lectures residents who come to Council meetings to complain about giving special tax advantages to the outlet mall developers that create an unfair advantage over long time existing retail operations.

Segal is not overly found of the First Amendment as he took great exception to patch.com news articles by editor Jean Whitney and opinion columns by me in 2012.



Mayor Bruce Geiger, a 70-year-old retired Monsanto executive, has already said he was endorsing Segal over the other candidate Bob Nation to replace him.

Councilman Bob Nation, representing Ward-4 out in 63005-Land, is a retired airline pilot, having flown jetliners for Ozark, TWA and American. After retirement he sold residential real estate and in 2011 he started his own realty company. The difference between Nation and Segal is that Nation sells residential homes and does not develop commercial property. Also I have never seen Nation talk down to residents or a fellow councilperson, which is a hallmark for Segal.



I give Nation extra points for being trusted with the lives of tens of thousands of Americans as an airline pilot over 27 years.

WARD 1: Former Mayor Nancy Greenwood was a late filer for race. Greenwood won me over when she sent a letter to the councilpersons including Matt Segal and Randy Logan who were intent on lecturing residents who were against handing over special taxes to developers to pay for the construction of two outlet malls.



Here's the letter:

Mayor Geiger and Members of the City Council:

Most of you have made up your mind regarding granting a Community Improvement District (CID) for the discount mall. But, have you sought input from your constituents regarding their paying an additional 1% sales tax to "help" the developer? That IS the bottom line.

The term **develop** is defined by *Webster's Dictionary* as "to make more available and usable." Each of you was elected by the taxpayers of Chesterfield to represent them. At what point did it become "OKAY" to pass development costs on to taxpayers, rather than the developer pay? If a property does not have streets and sewers available—seek property that does have those improvements. Do NOT ask the shoppers to share the developer's cost. Development of land is considered the cost of doing business.

Chesterfield is providing a market that developers want. The arguments that have been made to support Chesterfield granting a CID are:

- The development will provide construction jobs—those only last as long as the land is being developed.
- Second, the discount mall will provide jobs—are these professional jobs that will be long lasting positions for your constituents as well as the region? Or are these jobs mostly part-time, hourly jobs?
- Third, the residual effect—are you taking shoppers from one area of Chesterfield and offering another venue—that is not creating new business—that is a shift and you are taking away from an area of Chesterfield that is just as vital and provides jobs as well.
- Fourth, it is estimated only 10% of the shoppers at the Discount Mall will be Chesterfield residents. Those are your constituents.

This discount mall will generate sales taxes with the present rate. Yes, you are a pool city and have to share. Please put your energy in generating your fair share of the current sales tax, rather than adding 1% for this development. To say, "if you don't like the tax, don't shop there" is absolute arrogance.

Voters are sick and tired of paying taxes. It is time for the City to say, ENOUGH. We will not burden our residents with helping to pay the cost of developing land in Chesterfield. Remember there isn't that much open space remaining. Be prudent.

Sincerely,
Nancy Greenwood, Former Mayor of Chesterfield

Melissa Maria Heberle, who grew up in Columbia, Missouri and now lives on Brixham Drive was the last person to file for the Ward-1 council seat. Heberle is a tweeter, so I'm immediately suspect of her having too much time on her hands and believing that people really care what her random thoughts are. According to her tweets, she is supporting Matt Segal. It is the same for her Facebook page. Here is Segal's response to her endorsement:



● [Matt Segal](#) Kudos to [Melissa Heberle](#)! Stay focused, work hard, and everything will take care of itself!
[January 16 at 9:03am · 1](#)

Heberle is also the registered agent of Citizens for Responsible Progress, LLC. We are not sure that this LLC does, as there is not a website available.

Herberle fails the PC car ownership test. She owns a 2011 BWM.

The first person to file in Ward-1 was Adelaida Peterson, a beauty queen and current contestant in Mrs. Missouri International Contest.



Come on how cool is this, a beauty queen on the city council? In an article from last fall Peterson spoke of losing weight and then deciding to "promote her platform" by entering a beauty contest and becoming Mrs. Chesterfield then Mrs. Missouri in the Mrs. International Contest, which will be held in Chicago later this year.

In a patch.com article from September she said she and her husband Mark own Essence Photography. I found a phone number for Essence Photography in St. Louis that has a cell phone number with an area code for Macon, Georgia. As we reported earlier she and her husband own two sensible automobiles, a Toyota and a Dodge mini-van. Her home on Wellesley Place Drive is still on the tax rolls under the name of Yi Hu.

In Ward-2 Derek Grier is unopposed unless someone files as a write-in candidate within 10 days of the election.

I was chatting with Derek the other day and he seems to be a sincere public servant, but I think perhaps he is missing one point. I complained to him the way residents were treated who spoke against giving the outlet malls special sales taxes that paid for the development on the back of the customers.

Grier said the people didn't understand all the issues and he wished they could have had some of the background that he had. He then reminded me that sales taxes in Chesterfield go to the County Sales tax pool and Chesterfield gets less than it collects.

I then had to ask Grier if Chesterfield doesn't have a Park Sales Tax and a Capital Improvement Sales and the Parks Sales Tax has paid for one of the best park systems in the County and that the Cap Improvement Tax helps offset the general fund budget. He had to admit that this was true...so the city does have a special interest in the outlet malls collecting sales taxes, a position he had been denying a minute earlier.

In Ward 3 it is another three-way race. **Former councilman Dan Hurt**, who served for 20-years filed in December. He was later joined by David Sodemann of Lochcrest Drive and finally incumbent councilman Randy Logan.

Hurt lost to Bruce Geiger in the race for mayor to fill the two years remaining on John Nations four-year term. (Nations abandoned his job to take over the Metro Transit, despite having no experience in the transit industry.) Hurt lost to Geiger 3,711 to 3,075.



In the last 12 years Hurt was a month late in paying his real estate taxes once, in 2003 (paid 27 days late). Hurt normally pays his personal property taxes on the

last day of the year. He gets an “A” for PC of automobiles owned. He has two 17-year-old models, a Buick and a Mazda, a 15-year-old Jeep and a four-year-old Ford.

David Sodemann for the last 10 years has been a human resources director for companies in Little Rock, Chicago and now St. Louis.

He was late in paying his personal property taxes this year and in 2010. However, the penalties were small because his cars are so old. He is driving a 16-year-old Mercury and a 12-year-old Nisan. He definitely gets an “A” grade for practical and politically correct automobiles.

Incumbent William Randy Logan is a partner in a high-end scrap precious metal business. For a while all of his automobiles were owned by the company. They were politically incorrect high performance German automobiles. However he now has one declared in his name. It is a Porsche 911. This of course gives Logan an “F” as a watchdog of tax money if he is this extravagant in the car he drives and of course in Political Correctness.



Logan on the phone during a recent meeting.

He was late in paying his 2003 real estate taxes by 54 days.

Logan joined Segal in lecturing residents upset with the council creating sale tax schemes for developers to pay for the new outlet malls.

The final 3-Way race in is in Ward-4. The first two candidates we mentioned in a December newsletter. They are both lawyers:

Bruce DeGroot who has served on the city's planning commission. In a 2008 civil case **DeGroot** had a \$30,000 judgment against him, which he appealed and lost. In 2011 Degroot was six months late in paying his personal property tax bill of \$474.97.



He gets an "A" on PC for autos owned, with a 12-year-old Toyota van, a 10-year-old GMC Yukon and a six-year-old Jeep.

Pari Sheth, whose full first name is Paritosh, is a lawyer and has had a problem on paying his personal property taxes on time. He was almost a year late in 2011 on paying \$851 in personal property taxes. In 2006 he was 6 ½ months late in paying \$679 in personal property taxes. He



was 1 ½ years late in paying his 2005 taxes. He was six weeks overdue in paying his 2003 taxes. As bad as Sheth has been at paying his personal property taxes, his real estate taxes have always been paid on time.

He gets a C+ for PC correctness in cars. He has a Lexus and Infiniti (overpriced Toyota and Nissan) and a 2005 Dodge minivan.

The latest candidate to file is **Rich Kastel**, an engineer. Kastel lives at 16031 Clarkson Woods Drive. His taxes have always been paid on time. He owns a 10-year-old Honda CRV and a 9-year-old Lexus RX330, which gets him a "B" grade on the car political correctness scale.

MAYOR AND CONCILMAN TAKE SOME HEAT OVER NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING SNUB: At the end of the agenda meeting, held in a conference room behind the council chambers, Mayor Bruce Geiger completed going over the agenda for the meeting and then asked if there was anything else.

Bob Nation, one of the two candidates running to replace Geiger, spoke up and said he had something. Then the muted fireworks started.

Nation accused Mayor Geiger of attending the Shenandoah neighborhood meeting and inviting mayoral candidate Matt Segal and not him. Nation explained that someone with the neighborhood group did tip him off and invited him to speak also. Geiger is openly endorsing Segal over Nation.

Geiger immediately denied inviting Segal and stated he was simply invited to attend and accepted. Segal also spoke up and said he was also invited independently of the mayor.

Nation then asked what the procedure was to notify councilperson of neighborhood subdivision meetings. He was told by City Administrator Mike Herring that if the meetings are held at city hall all the councilperson are notified, but often if the meeting is away from the city hall staff does not know about it.

“If the mayor knows about it (subdivision meetings) it is only fair to notify me as the ‘other candidate,’” said Nation.

City Administrator herring then spoke up and said, “This is not city business,” trying to end the discussion.

Barry Flachsbart, the most senior councilperson, who has served since the city was incorporated, kept the topic alive a little longer by saying, “We should all be notified from now on about subdivision meetings.”

DON'T BUY THE LINE HOW UNFAIR THE SALES TAX POOL IS TO CHESTERFIELD QUITE YET...CITY GIVES \$200,000 TO ART GROUPS: At Wednesday's City Council meeting the council unanimously voted to give \$200,000 to three local arts group.

Funding for the arts is what I call a secondary role of city government...it the city can afford it. Primary roles are police protection (fire and EMS are provided by a separate political subdivision in Chesterfield), well built and maintained streets, control of residential and commercial zoning and parks.

Routinely you hear elected Chesterfield officials bemoan the fact that the standard sales tax goes directly to the County Pool that is shared by a number of cities that either decided to be in the pool or annexed land or incorporated as a city after 1983. The fact is that Chesterfield's basic sales tax generates more revenue than the city actually sees. However the city has sales taxes specifically for parks and capital improvements that generate lots of money that goes directly to the city.

While it is nice to be able to support the arts and it is something that most cities either cannot do or cannot do at the level of Chesterfield, it is not an essential city service.

When a city can afford to give:

\$100,000 to the Chesterfield Arts, Inc., \$75,000 to STAGES St Louis and \$25,000 to the St. Louis Civic Orchestra all from the General Fund, they are hard pressed to be crying poor about the County Tax Pool.

MADE ME LAUGH: I mentioned this to Councilman Barry Flachsbart and added he shouldn't be crying about the small North County cities like Bel-Nor and Bel Ridge getting some of the Chesterfield basic sales tax money since they get more than they generate.

Without missing a beat, Barry said, "I have no problem with Bel-Nor or Bel Ridge getting some of our money, I have a problem with Wildwood getting some of it," inferring Wildwood made up of wealthy residents in expensive houses is taking more from the pool than it is generating.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS: It was nice to see that Town and Country and Chesterfield State Representative and Republican floor leader John Diehl was not forgotten at Christmas time.

Diehl got the usual Christmas ham from Smithfield Farms. Diehl, who also receives large campaign contributions to run unopposed from Smithfield Farms of Virginia and the Missouri Pork Association PAC, voted for legislation in 2011 that favored the Smithfield Farms Missouri hog farms in pollution lawsuits.

Diehl also got a Christmas gift of a tie from John Britton, who lobbies for Anheuser-Busch, Express Scripts, Burlington-Southern Railroad, several utilities, and motion picture industry among others. He also got free meals from lobbyists for the Isle of Capri Casino, the Pawn Brokers Association and Ameren UE. It is nice to know that while you and I are buying our lunch and dinner, some guy who lives in Town and Country is getting his for free.

Diehl ended the year collecting \$4,950 in free stuff from lobbyists.

State Senator John Lamping who always reimburses any lobbyist for gifts also got a Christmas tie from Britton and a ham from Smithfield Farms. While Lamping likes to tell

voters he does not accept gifts from lobbyist, he sure will accept campaign contributions from their clients.

On October 12 he accepted \$500 from Smithfield Farms as a campaign donation. A week earlier he accepted \$1,000 from the Pinnacle Entertainment in Las Vegas.

CHESTERFIELD SERIAL DRUNK DRIVER: Move over Dan McLaughlin there is a new repeat drunk driver in town. On Thursday January 3, 2013 at about 7pm Town and Country Police Corporal Berry pulled over Gregory Orrick of 16302 Champion Dr (off Wilson Road west of Clarkson Road) on westbound I-64.



If you see this person driving a tan 2004 Ford Explorer...get out of his way!

The 49-year-old Orrick has served 90-day jail sentences in the past for repeat DWI offenses. In 2007 he served 90-days in the St. Charles County Jail for a Repeat DWI conviction resulting from a December 2006 arrest.

A 2003 DWI conviction from a 2002 DWI arrest resulted in a 100 day jail term when Orrick had his probation revoked in 2005 for another violation.

He also did 10 days in jail in 2005 after the St. Peters Police arrested him for Driving on a Revoked License that resulted from a DWI incident.

Orrick was in and out of jail in 2006 and 2007 for probation violations connected to drug charges.

In 2007 a St. Louis County judge sentenced Orrick to jail for 30 days after he pled guilty to causing an accident investigated by the Highway Patrol and having no insurance.

For a repeat DWI customer Orrick doesn't know how to play the game. He failed the police "attitude test." The brief report and press release from the T&C Police (the full report is not normally released until after a conviction) showed Orrick was using profane and insulting language.

He was refused to submit to a breath test and the police obtained a warrant to draw blood. The lab results are not back yet. However, Cpl. Berry listed Orrick as having a strong odor of alcoholic beverage on his breath, bloodshot and glassy eyes, problems keeping his balance and slurred speech.

He was charged in State Court with DWI Persistent Offender, Lane Weaving and Revoked Driver's License.

ED MARTIN...YOU HAVE TO BE KIDDING ME: The Missouri Republicans successfully drove more former Republican voters to the ranks of "independents" in November with a roster of awful candidates starting with Todd Akin, but certainly including Ed Martin.

I will never be able to support Martin since as chief of staff for former Boy-Governor Matt Blount he kept public records (emails) from being released, tried to destroy public records, fired a staff attorney who told him not to do it as the emails were public records and then slandered the fired attorney. This alone cost taxpayers at least \$2,000,000 in court judgments and legal fees.



Now Martin has been named the head of the Missouri GOP. I don't think the Missouri Democratic Party could have made a better pick of someone to head the GOP that would drive middle of the road moderates away from the Republican Party.

THIS JUST IN: OMG...John Diehl is now the chair of the House Ethics Commission. Diehl is the guy who accepted \$1,000 campaign contributions from Smithfield Farms before his yes vote that made it impossible for neighbors of

Smithfield's Missouri Hog farms to sue for pollution more than once. He then accepted another large donation from the Missouri PORK PAC after he voted Smithfield's way to take away Missouri landowners' property rights. He is the guy who rarely accepts money from inside his district, but has \$1,000-plus contributions from liquor, cigarettes, railroads and even the payday loan industry. Diehl is the guy who has taken \$1,078,000 in campaign contributions to run unopposed for the last the four years and has paid \$60,000 to "consultants" and has made \$25,000 payments from his campaign account to pay off credit card debt.

ANDRE HEPKINS NEEDS A TIME MACHINE: When we last wrote about Andre Hepkins he was doing the touchy-feely promos for KMOV's morning show with Claire Kellet and we wondered when a camera crew would catch them leaving a downtown hotel room after a "nooner."



Now Hepkins is doing a promo for the morning show where he mentions, "Those of you who grew up in St. Louis all know Kent Ehrhardt." What? This should not come as a surprise coming from the mouth of someone who grew up in New York City and came to St. Louis from Miami.

Now I have to give KMOV credit for hiring St. Louisians Kellet (Webster Groves) and Ehrhardt (Maryland Heights), but Hepkins needs a time machine to see who his viewers remember doing the weather while "growing up in St. Louis."

Viewers of local news are most likely to be older than 40. Ehrhardt arrived in St. Louis a mere 14 years ago.

Here is a list of weathercasters people who grew up in St. Louis remember:



“That’s All from Here...**Howard Demere** at KSD.

Former fashion model **Diane White** at KSD, who was the first African-American on a local TV newscast in St. Louis.



Pat Fontaine at KMOX-TV who left St. Louis for a job on the Today Show



“Hey Kids!” It was Corky the Clown in the afternoon and **Cliff St. James** at 6 and 10 doing the weather at KSD.



Another kids’ show host doing the weather was **Jim Bolen** at KMOV. Bolen, a great jazz vibe player, was the co-host of the kids’ show on Channel 4, Cookie and the Captain. He was at KMOX-KMOV from 1957 until his death in 1994.



Jim Bolen (left) as Cookie, Dave Allen (right) as the Captain.



Jim Bolen as Ch4 weathercaster



Jim on the vibes and if I'm not mistaken that is Tex Beneke on the sax. Jim and Tex (Glenn Miller Band) would often sit in with the Herb Drury Trio

Ollie Raymand, one of the first Hispanic regulars did the weather on KMOX-TV and KMOV from 1970-1987.

For those who used Captain Kangaroo, Mr. Green jeans and Mr. Moose as an early educational outlet, **Curt Ray** would read the news and weather forecast on KMOX-TV before the 8am start of Captain Kangaroo.



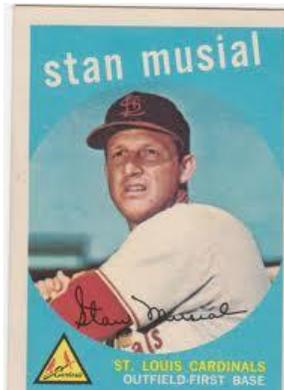
30-years ago **Christine Buck** was the weathercaster on the KPLR (Ch 11) 9:0'clock news. You would have to be an odd kid to be watching the news at 9pm instead of a regular TV show.



Nobody watched Christine Buck on the old Ch 11 9pm news, but she kept winning local Emmys as best weathercaster.

TWO HEROS DIE ON THE SAME DAY: Let's face it there have been a million words written and read about Stan Musial recently, what else can be said. Let me try and keep it short. As a kid who as a second and third grader would stay up at night listening to the games on the radio keeping score instead of watching TV, Stan Musial was as big of a hero as you could have. Lucky for me my birthday fell in early February, before the start of spring training.

For my birthday I would pester my parents to take me to Stan and Biggie's restaurant on Oakland Avenue just east of the Arena. When we arrived they would have to drag me out of the lobby where many of Stan's awards, trophies and several silver bats for winning batting titles were in display cases. Once at our table it was like waiting for Santa Claus at Christmas time, because I knew that Stan the Man would make the rounds and talk to all the customers. When he would stop at our table it was like being in the presence of the president or the Pope. I would choke up, but Stan would ask if I played ball and get me talking. In less than five minutes he would be gone, but 50 years later I remember it like it was yesterday.



My birthday wish as a kid was the same every year...to go to Stan and Biggie's so I could talk to Stan Musial.

I was later in the day sad to learn that a friend and a hero to me later in life and also died on Saturday January 19. That friend was Duck Lee, a 77-year-old Korean-American who I featured in the last two Memorial Day columns I wrote for Patch.com.



Duck was born inside a Korean colony in Manchuria China in 1935. By 1937 Manchuria had been invaded and controlled by the Japanese army, which would not let the Koreans return home. At the end of the war the communist Chinese were in charge and also refused to allow the Koreans to leave. Duck and his family escaped in the winter. Part of the escape involved walking down a frozen river.

Duck's father became a civil servant in Seoul and just as Duck was dreaming of entering high school and playing baseball, the armies from China and North Korea invaded and the Korean War began. Over the length of the war Duck used two years of grammar school English lessons to be an unofficial translator to a Marine rifle company when they were back in camp from the front. Duck developed ties with the grunt Marines he met. Those ties lasted most of his life.

He never did play baseball in Korea, but came to the United States and went to college at Shippensburg State University, where in his senior year he finally made the baseball team as a relief pitcher.

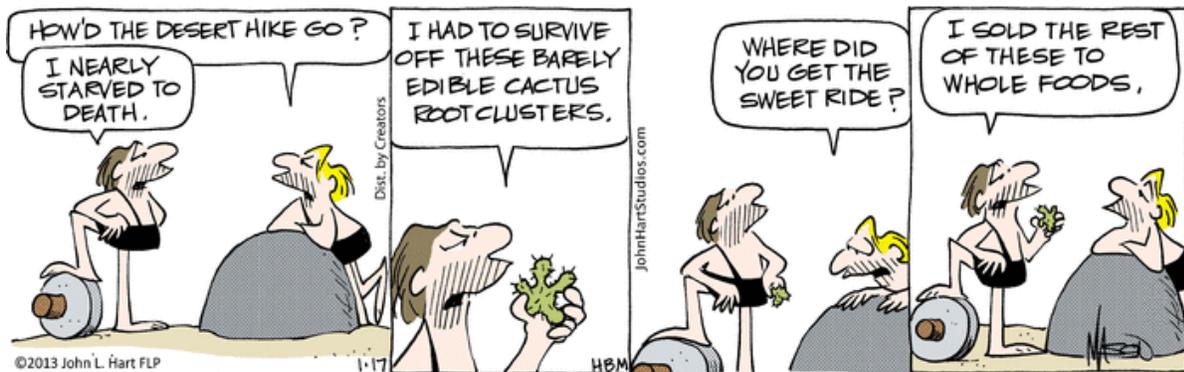
He became a U.S. citizen, got a job with Bell Atlantic and retired in 1995. He then began a 17-year trek of being a volunteer coach for three different local college baseball teams. Also for a few years he would travel to Korea and scout baseball players first the Red Sox and then the Dodgers. The high number on his the back of his uniform jersey was always his age.

When I was a sportswriter I asked Duck about the high number on his jersey when I learned it was his age.

"I vowed I would not allow the Communists to steal baseball from me and I thank American soldiers and Marines who eventually allowed me to play and coach," said Lee.

Duck pitched batting practice to college ballplayers in a gym batting cage 8-days before his death. Duck's funeral was on Wednesday January 23 in Olney, Maryland.

CARTOONS :



Charlotte Peters' kid in Dayton wasted no time...48 hours:



Rock On!



Dan sports his new remote vest.



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