



**THE PROFESSIONAL LOCKSMITH**  
 Official Publication of the  
 Greater Philadelphia Locksmith Association

**Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled  
 for January 18, 2021**

**WWW.GPLA.ORG**

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**Presidents Address – December 2020**

Hello Members,

Well 2020 is almost over it will surely go down in history as one of the more difficult and trying time for so many people, myself included. Although my thoughts always go to those who have it worse off and I pray for them and their loved ones.

Now that there is light at the end of the tunnel, so to say, with the upcoming available vaccine and the hope of a good New Year, with the joy of the upcoming Christmas season and the Holidays. Let us all put are collective positive thoughts together and make 2021 the best year yet. I look forward to collaborating with you all on this positivity project.

**May faith and joy of the Holidays bring peace and happiness to you, your family and friends. Merry Christmas to all and to all a good Life.**

I hope to see you all at the next membership meeting, I am planning on holding one in January, providing that the conditions make it possible. Please check your Newsletter and website for more information.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Your President  
**Sven K. Hellwig Sr., CRL**

# Membership Notes

**We just have been informed that Life Member #50 Fred Pfeil Sr. passed away earlier this year.** When Fred Jr stopped by at Ron Marcinkowski’s shop, Ron asked him how his Dad was doing and Fred told him that his Dad passed away last March. The Pfeil Family never send any obituary notices out . **R.I.P Fred**

Our Sergeant at Arms Orvis Kline condition has declined and is now under Hospice Care. His Son Paul and Paul’s wife Audry are taking good care of him at their home. We wish them the STRENGTH to carry on.

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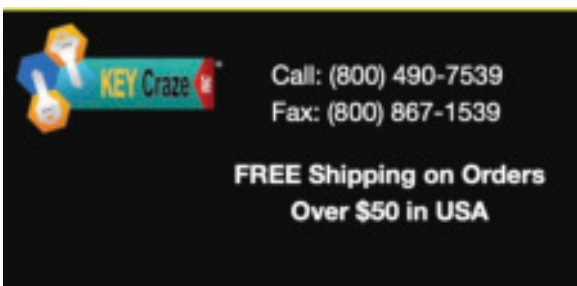
Member Arnie Rabinowitz has a lot of tools and supplies he is interested in selling. It includes a practically new DL/Ilco Exacta key punch set up for SFIC. He also has also pin-kits, lots of tools and much more. Call Arnie at 516-766-2863 for details.

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Life Member Bob Schuetrumph has a HPC1200 machine with 100 cards, 5 different cutters and 4 jaws. He also has a Ilco 025 manual machine. They are all in good shape. Call or text @ 908-421-6213, or email Bob at [boblocks2011@gmail.com](mailto:boblocks2011@gmail.com)

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**Key Craze donated 100 masks to GPLA to be distributed to all our members  
The membership THANK YOU!**



## GPLA OUTSTANDING MEMBER SPOTLIGHT DECEMBER 2020

### December Member of the Month

Story telling was one of the very first ways of passing on wisdom, knowledge, heritage, pride and experience from one to another. It's become somewhat of a lost art form in this day of instant everything... TV, Internet, etc. When someone tells you a good story you can become engaged and feel like part of it. Well this member of the month does just that and has been known to tell a few stories or two or three or four or five. If there is one thing that Orvis Kline has done for me, it's to make me a better listener. As a fellow member and a friend, he has done so much more. He really has GPLA in his heart, no matter what he may say.

Orvis currently serves as our Sargent at Arms, Parliamentarian, By-Law Committee Chairman, E-Commerce Chairman, Nomination Chairman, Convention Committee E-Commerce and Board of Director. Obviously Orvis wears a lot of different hats, but mostly to cover up the bald spot. I can say that because I'm his friend and he knows I love to screw around with him, but mostly because it's true. Orvis has held so many positions in GPLA through the many years of his membership and has done so much to benefit the association that if I tried to list them all, I'm sure I'd miss a few. I will say it again, his heart is definitely in it for you the members and for GPLA.

So a master story teller, a great volunteer, an awesome wrestling coach, a loyal friend and somewhat of a procrastinator, but making sure it always gets done right. So for this and so much more you deserve this month's member spotlight.

Orvis Kline member #134, joined GPLA on May 1<sup>st</sup> 1987, thank you for your support to your association and your friends.

I hope that when you look back on the bumpy road of life that it turns out that it was a pretty smooth ride after all.

Respectfully Submitted,

You're President

**Sven K. Hellwig Sr., CRL**

## WORDS TO LIVE BY

What is the difference between try & triumph?

**A little bit of umph!**

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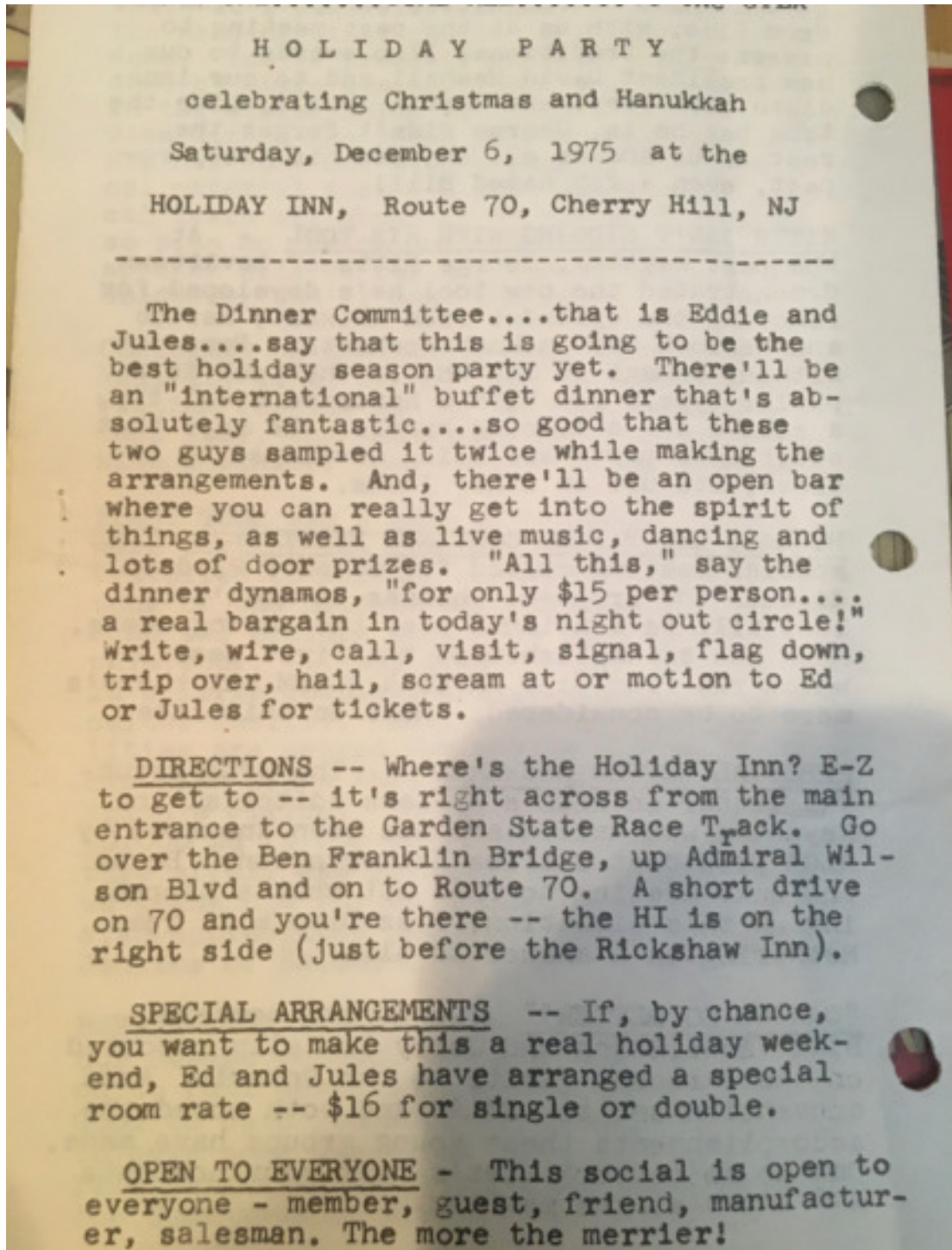
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## GPLA HISTORY

Looking through my GPLA old newsletters, I saw this Holiday Party Invitation. In 1975 I worked with Eddie Pfeil and Jules DeLuca to organize socials. It included dinner, open bar and live music for just \$15.00 per person. But that was not all, for another \$15.00 you could get a double room at the Holiday in for the night.

I never forget this social: As Board Chairman I visited some lock shops in Phillie to sell tickets for this social and was asked what was in it for me for selling those tickets. I do this for my Association I replied, and he said BULL, nobody does this without a cut. Glad he was not a member, and I did not ask him to join either.



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## LIFE MEMBER MYRON BIRD'S MEMORIES

### BEATING THE BIG COMPANY

I was the locksmith for the infamous Three Mile Island Nuclear facility in Middletown, PA, before, during, and after their accident in 1979. TMI was owned and operated by Metropolitan Edison out of Reading, PA, and Parsippany, NJ. Before the accident great relationship: I did work for them, submitted my bills at TMI and was promptly paid.

Then the accident. I was called out to do emergency work for during the height of the incident and immediately thereafter. All payment came to a screeching halt. I submitted my bills as I did normally, but when I inquired about the past due invoices was told "They are being processed at Reading". Reading's response, "They are being processed in NJ or TMI never sent them". TMI's response: "We sent them to Reading. NJ's response: "They never sent them."

Then TMI asked if I would go through hi-rad training and be willing to install lock-out locks in the Aux 2 building where the major spill had occurred—highly radioactive. I agreed if I got paid all their back bills within the next ten days.

They needed the work done immediately and promised immediate payment of all invoices. No payment!

The special work they wanted done required installing locks on lock-out gates to extremely hi-rad areas. They required that the locks not be padlocks and had to keyed alike. There were 11 gates. I had special brackets made for the Adams Rite locks I was using so that I'd be able to install the lock on the gate in less than the 90 seconds allowed to be in the high rad area wearing all the hi-rad gear, including 6 pairs of gloves. Job preparation was what took time. A full body scan was required each time entering and exiting. Suiting up required multiple layers, some areas as many as 12 layers, head to toe. This preparation and then the decontamination afterwards consumed up to six hours for less than 90 seconds of actual lock work. The clock started when leaving home and stopped when returned. We would only get two locks installed in one day, if all went well.

As we were decontaminating at the end of the second day on a Friday, I overheard one of the techs saying that we had to step things up get the rest of the locks installed before the end of the following week because the NRC was coming in to inspect and confirm if the locks were in place, or there would be hefty fines levied if not. Here's my chance! I played dumb and told the techs that I had a couple of big jobs for other customers and wouldn't be back for a week (not true) and since TMI hadn't paid me, I needed the money. They knew I had them over a barrel. I had the additional locks and their special mounts in my possession and I was the only locksmith who had the hi-rad training. They were stuck!

Saturday morning, I got a person-to-person call from a VP in Parsippany who demanded to know what was going on.

After explaining that TMI was more than 90 days in arrears and that I could no longer afford to work for them without prompt payment and since TMI didn't pay, I had to take care of promptly paying customers that kept me in business. His response was, "What will it take to get back ASAP?" My reply was to receive high rad area wearing all the hi-rad gear, including 6 pairs of gloves. Job preparation was what took time. A full body scan was required each time entering and exiting. Suiting up required multiple layers, some areas as many as 12 layers, head to toe. This preparation and then the decontamination afterwards consumed up to six hours for less than 90 seconds of actual lock work. The clock started when leaving home and stopped when returned. We would only get two locks installed in one day, if all went well.

His response was, "What will it take to get back ASAP?" My reply was to receive immediate payment of all back bills in full plus interest on any past 20 days. Furthermore, all future invoices will be paid within ten days. No negotiation.

Monday morning 8AM, FEDEX is in my driveway delivering a very thick envelope with copies of all the "lost" invoices, a full accounting sheet and a huge check for the full amount. I was glad the NRC had the bigger hammer! I fulfilled my end of the deal, completed the job and paid for it in 5 days!

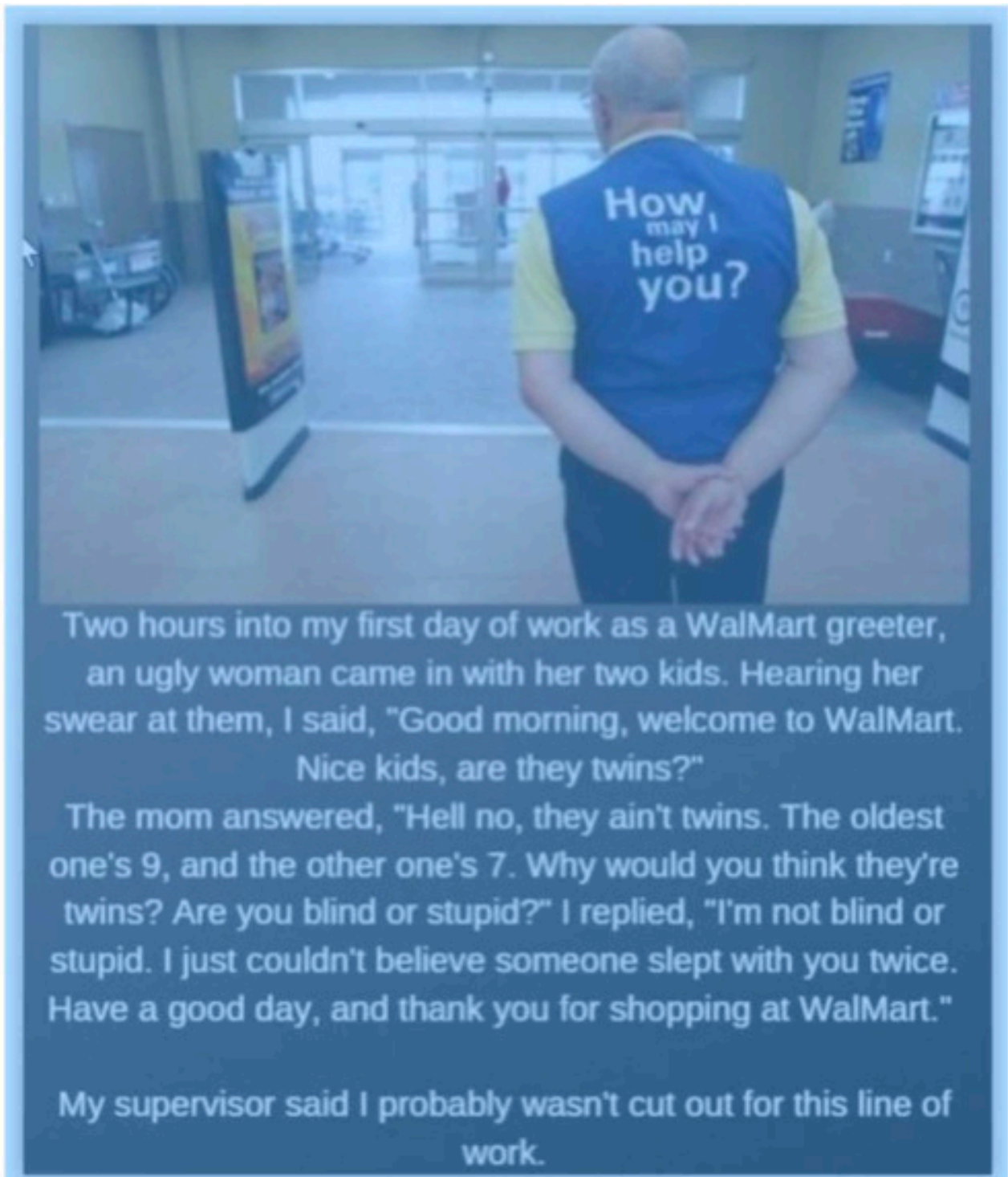
One note: going locksmith rate in my area in 1979 was about \$15/ hr. Mine was \$50/hr.



The editor wishes Happy Holidays and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2021 to all who read my newsletter.

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During these difficult times we all need a laugh.





The Greater Philadelphia Locksmith Association  
Martin Arnold CML, Editor  
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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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