



THE PROFESSIONAL LOCKSMITH
 Official Publication of the
 Greater Philadelphia Locksmith Association

WWW.GPLA.ORG

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<martysr1@mac.com>

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The January meeting is cancelled.

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 15, 2021

Presidents Address – January 2021

Hello Members,

Let me start by saying how thankful I am that a few of our members who contracted the Corona Virus are on their way to a successful recovery. It must have been a very scary experience to you. My thoughts and prayers are with them.

So Happy New Year to everyone, the New Year is upon us with hopefully many good things on the horizon. With a year like 2020, bringing a lot of us down, the only way to go in 2021 is up.

Which brings me to the positivity project, which I suggest in the last Presidents Report, that we all work on together. Well I think it has been working, for one good reason the for mentioned recoveries. I felt some of the positive thoughts that you were sending myself. Speaking for myself, the first couple of weeks of 2021 have seemed to be smooth sailing, with just the expected small ripples on calm waters. Stay positive and we will all sail smoothly through 2021 and beyond. If you do run into that big wave, then know that your GPLA family is here as crew members to help you navigate those rough waters.

We have been way on the side of caution to protect our members, by not conducting regular membership meetings or Board meetings for many months now. While separating might be good for the physical health right now, it is equally as bad for the mental health. Isolation from people, places and routines can be devastating to mental wellbeing. Therefore thinking positive, we are definitely going to get back to business by holding a membership meeting on Presidents' Day, 2-15-21.

Please note that we will be social distancing, therefore a limit of 18 members will be permitted in Headquarters. All seated 6 feet apart, masks will be required. Hand sanitizing stations will be available and those attending will be asked to sign a waiver stating that they have not traveled or felt flu like symptoms in the past 14 days and that you attend this meeting under your own accord and take full responsibility absolving GPLA of any liability..

I would like you as dedicated members to feel obligated to attend regular GPLA meetings, but if you have any reservation in attending for your health or safety, please consider yourself excused (pardoned so to say), by the President himself. I very much look forward to safely seeing you all in the upcoming months, as we get back to some normality.

Respectfully Submitted,

Your President

Sven K. Hellwig Sr., CRL



GOOD RIDDANCE

Important Notice

2021 Dues are waived because of Covid 19

Membership Notes

Our Sargeant at Arms Orvis Kline Member # 134 passed away on December 23. Orvis has served as President, Chairman of the Board and many other positions in GPLA. He was always ready wherever he was needed to lend a hand. Orvis has been an active member of GPLA since 1987. He will be sorely missed. May he rest in Peace.

GPLA lost six of its members in 2020. In March: **Fred Pfeil, # 50**, in April: **Marvin Weinstein, #137** in June: **Steve Berger, # 77**, in September: **Bill Howard, # 49**, in October: **Bob Thomas, # 239** and in December: **Orvis Kline, # 134**. May they all rest in peace.

Active member Jim Sundstrond's Mother passed away the weekend after Christmas. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Jim and his family. May She Rest In Peace.

1972 Philadelphia Award recipient Constant Maffey past away in the first week of 2021 R.I.P Connie

Our Vice President Maurice Onraet and his wife Ruth both have been infected with the Covid 19 virus. They went through some difficult time but are on the way to a full recovery. We wish them well.

Shop member Harry McCleery, one of Ed Fitzgerald employees at Arnold's Safe & Lock tested positive with Covid 19 and forced Ed to close up his shop for at least the last 4 days of the year 2020.

Member Mike Nimmo and his Daughter also fought a battle with the virus and a re feeling a lot better now. We also wish them well.

Some of our members may not be aware we are accepting donation to our library. The last donation I have on record was from Arnie Rabinowitz. Arnie donated a Keil #1 automatic key machine, 2 HPC Code books and a lot of other stuff he did not need anymore.

With all the time we had during this epidemic a lot of shops had cleanups. Do you have anything of interest to donate, please let me know at <martyr1@mac.com>

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

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MARTY'S MEMORIES

**It is hard to believe as it is more than 50 years ago
but I will never forget my very first serve call.**

Let me start from the beginning. I started my own business after working for M.Taylor at 11th and Filbert in Philadelphia as a cutlery grinder, a trade I had learned in Holland before I came to this Country in 1957.

M.Taylor was a retail and service shop doing sharpening, locksmithing and door closer repairs. During the 6 years I was employed there I picked up a lot of locksmithing knowledge by taking old locks out of the junk barrel and cutting them open to see how they worked. I also took a Locksmithing correspondence course. Dick Mitchel, who was the locksmith in charge refuse to giving any information or show anything related to locksmithing, like it was a trade secret. But I learned more there than he ever expected.

In 1964 I quit my job and opened a Locksmith and Sharpening shop. Because I loved playing with combination locks I enrolled and graduated a Safe Manipulation course. The walk-in business was limited, so to include outside service I bought a step van. I had ordered an ad in the Lock and Safe section of the yellow pages and also put one in the local paper. Arnold's Safe & Lock Co was in business. Yes, I was ready to roll.

Now to the heart of the story

The very first call for service was from the Simplex time clock company in Moorestown. Arriving there I was shown a time clock with a small lever lock that they needed keys made for. I was shocked out of my shoes, how the heck am I going to do this. My impression practice was with pin tumbler cylinders and wafer locks.

The Locksmith course I had taken did taught me something on locker and lever locks. I cut down a blank to size and remembered to smoke it and wiggle it in the lock. Two gentlemen where watching every move I made. I removed the key from the lock and saw two shiny marks. I filed them away just a few thousands deep with the side of my 4 inch flat file, inserted the key again and BINGO the lock opened.

***But this was not the only reason I remember my first job. When the lock opened the one gentlemen said to the other. See John, I told you, I told you to call this guy
He is one of the best locksmiths in the State!***

After this experience, I do not put much value in personal recommendations.





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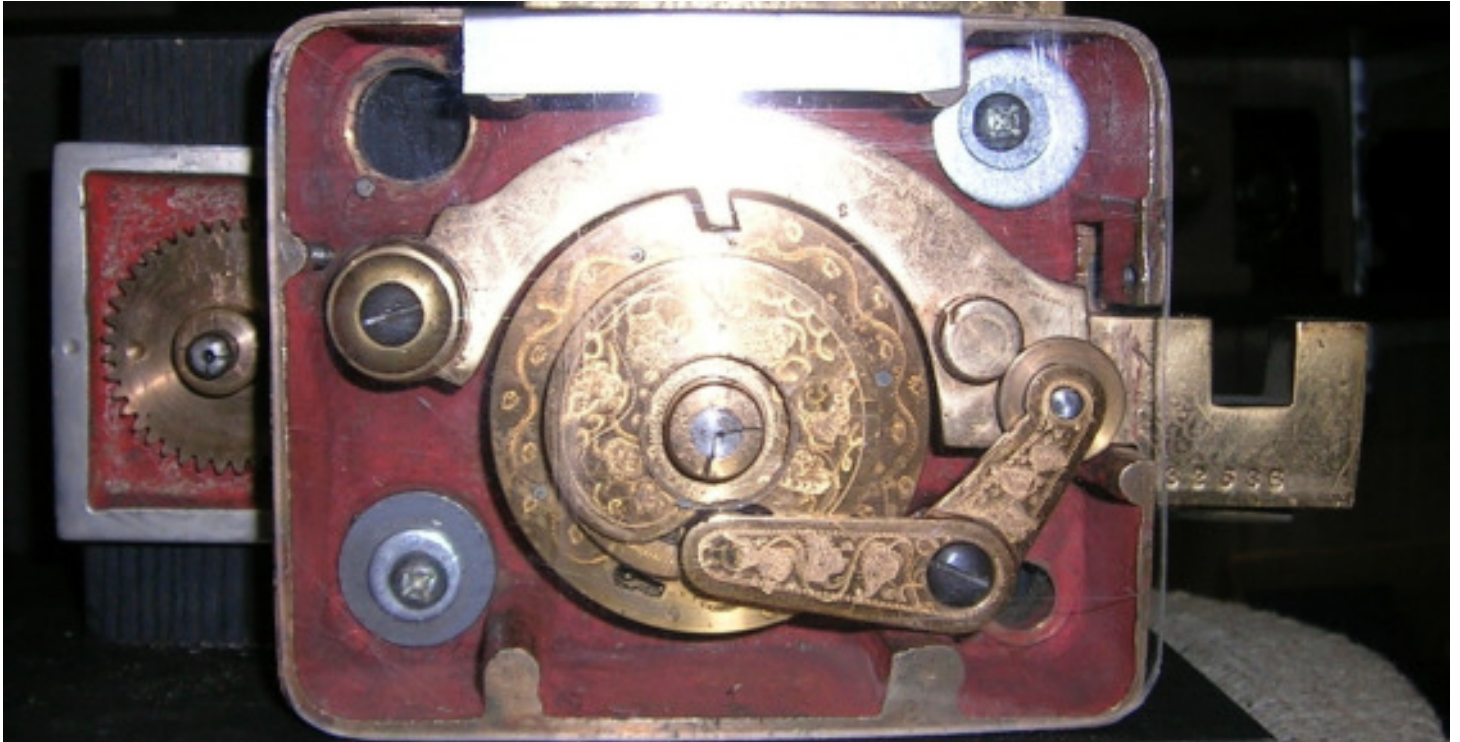
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From Marty's Collection My Herring Vault Lock



I was called by a contractor who was in the process of demolishing a bank building, and he asked me if I was interested in some of the safes on the property. After inspecting the premises late that day, I told him I was interested in the vault locks and a 3 movement Sargent & Greenleaf time lock. I offered him \$500.00 and my offer was accepted, and told him I would come in the next day remove the locks. To my horror, that beautifully engraved time lock was destroyed by vandals when I got there, and I renegotiated the price down to \$200.00

Removing the 6 Herring vault locks was really a puzzle, as no screws were visible to remove the back cover and when I forced the first cover off, I noticed it was held with a spring loaded retainer that could be depressed through a small hole on the bolt side of the lock. The other side has a small stud locking it in place. To save time we put all parts of the six locks in a big box then, found out later they were hand fitted. Each part of a lock had the same number as the lock case so I had a big job later in my shop to match each piece to a lock.

I donated a lock like the one above on a nice display mount to the SAVTA's auction and was bought by Ken Foo for \$2000,00

I sold the others to members of SAVTA.

I can't understand why my Grand Daughter does not like the I-Pad
I bought her for Christmas. It was on top of want list



**Our Association is planning its 2021 Convention during September 22-25
at the Airport Double Tree Hotel**

Classes will be held Wednesday - Thursday and Friday.

**Do not forget about scholarship opportunities through the
Connelly-Singer Scholarship of GPLA. An application is
included in this newsletter. Apply Now, its Free!!!**

The Connelly - Singer Scholarship of GPLA



Gerald J. Connelly, Jr.



Founded In 1949



M. Leonard Singer

GPLA MEMBER APPLICATION FOR A SCHOLARSHIP

Name: _____ GPLA Member #: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

DOB: _____ Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Employer: _____ Supervisor's Name: _____

Work Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Number: _____ Position: _____

Type of classes desired: _____

Length of time in Locksmithing: _____ Previous Recipient? No ___ Yes ___ If yes when? _____

Please write a few sentences telling us why you would like to be considered as a recipient for this Scholarship:

Please return completed application to:

Cliff Shafer, c/o CLC Locksmiths, 2103 Branch Pike, Cinnaminson, NJ, 08077-3044

OR — FAX to 856-829-4088

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Do not write below this line



The Greater Philadelphia Locksmith Association
Martin Arnold CML, Editor
7229 Park Ave. Pennsauken, NJ 08109-3009
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