



PROBUS News.....

PROBUS Club of Bradford

Volume 142, Published April 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear PROBUS Members:

*"Spring has sprung, the grass has ris,
I wonder where the birdie is?
There he is up in the sky,
He dropped some whitewash in my eye!
I'm alright, I won't cry,
I'm just glad that cows can't fly!"*

Is there anything more rejuvenating than the first warm day of spring? It's not just the outdoors that comes to life. We tend to move faster and lighter, smile and laugh more, and once again connect with our neighbours. No wonder it's the favourite season for so many people.

We also tend to become more active. There's pleasure to be found in raking the lawn in preparation for the first green shoots, preparing the gardens for the new growth of perennials and the planting of annuals, trimming the trees and bushes.

How many of us still take note of the first robin or watch the nests for the first babies? On country drives, do you notice the changing colours in the fields and the new livestock?

Speaking of country drives, the social committee are excited to no longer worry about snowstorms cancelling the activities they have planned. You will notice that they are taking advantage of not only the weather, but also our tendency to be more active in the spring (did someone say axe throwing?). You have the opportunity to see Tulipfest in Ottawa and attend Starry, Starry Night in Bond Head. You can test your mental acuity and learn how to play bid euchre. For those who prefer physical exercise, raising a glass at the Appy Party or Wine Tasting might be just up your alley.

Just as spring has us reconnecting with nature, the Executive are looking forward to seeing our members participating more and reconnecting with old and new friends. Please reach out to me or any of the Executives if you have any questions regarding an executive position for 2023/24.

"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'."

Until next month... Bunny



Spring is in the air.



PROBUS meeting
May 9 at 10:00 am
At St. John's Presbyterian Church

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2023/4 Executive Committee:

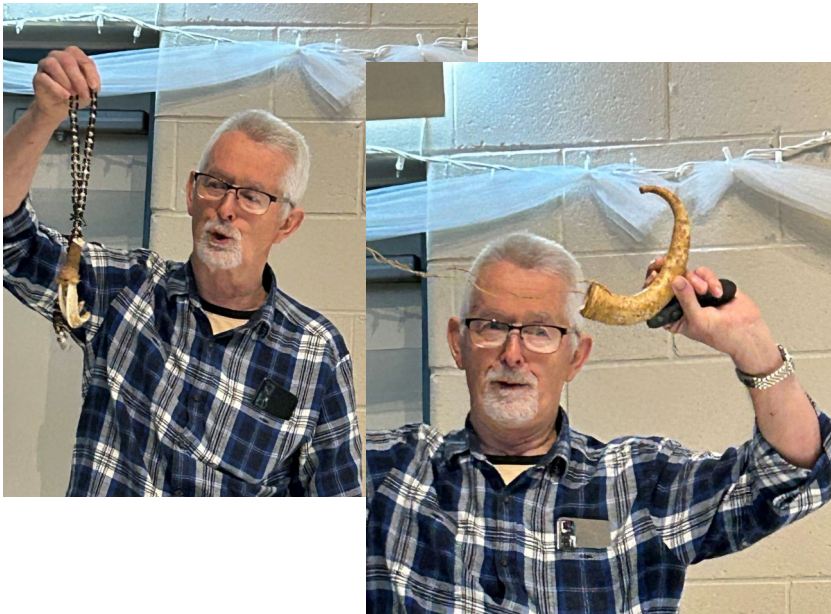
President:	Bunny Kaufman
Vice President:	Dale Tasker
Secretary:	Pat Mohren
Treasurer:	Cheryl Blair
Social Chair:	Wendy Van Straten
Communication Chair:	Deborah Liukaitis
Technical Chair:	Pete Liukaitis
Speakers' Chair:	Bob Evans
Members Chair:	Patricia Dion
Major Events:	Brenda Andrews and Peggy Michaud
Members at Large:	Ann Evans and Chris Van Straten
Past President:	Dave McMillan

APRIL MEETING

Spring is in the air and the PROBUS crowd has assembled for the April meeting.

I don't see one Easter hat or Earl in a bunny costume but there was a rather frightening moment when an axe throwing demonstration got a little out of hand.

Dale needs more practice and Wendy could use a drink!



The guest speaker, Albert Wierenga, gave an engaging talk about his experiences in New Guinea and even brought some interesting items that he acquired during his time there.

Not sure...is he holding that penis cover the right way?

May Guest Speaker...Howard Staats—"Path to Reconciliation"

Howard is the first Indigenous lawyer to be called to the Bar of Ontario. He graduated from the University of Toronto in 1961 and from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1964. He was called to the Bar in 1966.

Howard grew up in the Brantford area and attended the residential school in the Six Nations Reserve.

He is the head of a three generation law firm which includes his son and his granddaughter. He has had a very distinguished career and is now in the 58th year of his practice.

He is a classmate of Bob Evans.



EVENTS

ROMEO Breakfast

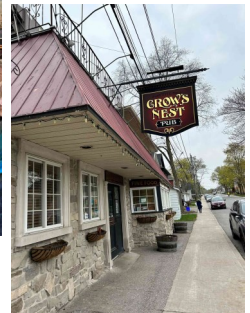
On April 18 at Daybreak, Bradford

These gentlemen are always up for good coffee and a solid carb load.



RODEO LUNCH

The RODEO ladies March 30
at Pur & Simple



April 28 at The
Crow's Nest,
Newmarket.

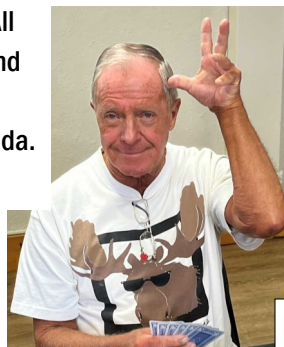


Bid Euchre Afternoon

On April 26 PROBUS members showed up to teach other PROBUS members bid euchre and enjoy an afternoon of cards.



Moose! All
tanned and
returned
from Florida.



Trish, the
new card
shark.



Listen to me
Ann...we'll clean
house!



Peggy...you
got a good
hand?



E-transfer payments to bradfordprobus.treasurer@gmail.com. In the message field include: name of the event and names of the members included in the payment.

EVENTS



Come for a fun afternoon of testing your woodsman skills (or working out your aggressions) axe throwing.

Thursday, May 11 at 2:00 pm at Bullseye Axe Throwing, 17705 Leslie St., Newmarket \$45 per person—Spaces available

Includes throwing instructions and practice time leading up to a round robin tournament. Cash bar available (bring your own snacks). This video should put you in the mood. [Jimmy Fallon and Jennifer Lawrence axe throwing.](#)

Wanna play? What could go wrong?

Contact Dale Tasker at dale.tasker@rogers.com



Amy Wright is hosting an APPY PARTY!

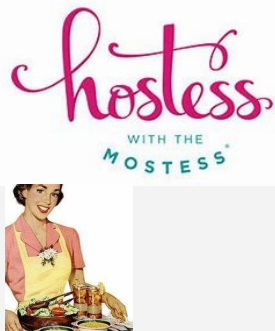
Date: Wednesday, May 31 Starts 4:00 pm

Location: Amy's home, 127 Nelson St., Bradford

Bring an appetizer and your favourite beverage for a couple of hours of socializing. 15 member maximum.

Contact Wendy Van Straten at vcvanstraten@yahoo.ca

This event is FULL



Would you like to host an "appy party" at your home?

You can set the date, time and number of members you would like to host. What ever your place can accommodate.

Keep it simple...everyone brings an appetizer and their own beverage. The fun and conversation just takes care of itself.

If you want to be "A Hostess with the Mostess" contact Wendy Van Straten at vcvanstraten@yahoo.ca.

Join Brenda Andrews **WINE TASTING!**

Wednesday, June 28 at 4:00 pm

Brenda is hosting a wine tasting event at her home.

Cost is \$20 per person. 20 member maximum.

Contact Brenda at dbandrews2004@gmail.com

This event is FULL



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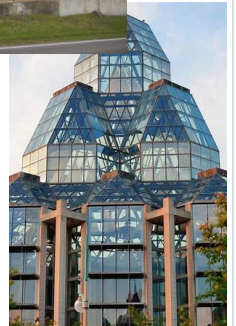
OTTAWA TRIP IS A GO! See you on the bus!

Space is still available. Anyone interested in joining
Contact Dale Tasker, dale.tasker@rogers.com

The Itinerary...

DAY 1, May 23rd

- Depart Hamilton Tours Office at 7:30 am (overnight parking is available)
- Travel through Algonquin Park
- Stop for lunch at historic Wilno Tavern Restaurant (a Polish pub in Wilno, between Barry's Bay and Killaloe)
- Tour of the National Art Gallery
- Check in to 5 star Hilton Hotel
- Vouchers for dinner and play at Casino Lac Leamy



DAY 2, May 24th

- Guided tour of Ottawa
- Free time in the Byward Market
- Amphibious boat tour of the Rideau
- Dinner show of "Oh Canada Eh!"



- Includes breakfast, dinner and \$15.00 meal voucher plus slot voucher



DAY 3, May 25th

- RCMP stables
- War Museum
- Return home
- Arrive in Bradford at approximately 8:30 pm (at Hamilton Tours office)
- **Breakfast at hotel is included that morning

TOUR INCLUDES: Motor coach transportation and tour guide. Two night hotel, taxes and baggage handling. All guided tours, admission and visits. One dinner, one lunch, two breakfast vouchers and two \$15. food vouchers. \$30. dollars in casino slot play vouchers. HST

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EVENTS

Dinner & Theatre

Fiddler on the Loose

July 19 at 2:00 pm Cost \$51.00 (for play only)

Kings Wharf Theatre, 97 Jury Drive, Penetanguishene

Fiddler on the Loose is an entertaining musical variety show.

Dancing, comedy, songs and music from multiple genres.

Dinner after at Captain Roberts (extra cost)

40 seats reserved. Contact Ann Evans at annesleyevans1945@gamil.com



Starry, Starry Night

PROBUS Club of Bradford's 10 Years Plus Anniversary Celebration

June 5th at 4:00 pm Location: Bond Head Golf Club

Cost \$60.00 per person Guests \$75.00 (payment due May 9th)

Appetizers at 4 pm followed by dinner and entertainment.

Contact Brenda Andrews, bdandrews2004@gmail.com

Or Peggy Michaud, pviae7942@rogers.com

Mark Your Calendar for Events to Come!

June 20—Little Canada

August TBA—Stems Flower Farm, Cookstown and picnic lunch

August 30—Drive-in Movie at Bond Head Church

September 6—Car Rally

September 21—Oktoberfest

October 11-13—Collingwood Getaway



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BRADFORD PROBUS CLUBS CONTACTS

Art Fun—Ann Evans

annlesleyevans1945@gmail.com

Bid Euchre—Deborah Liukaitis

dliukait@sympatico.ca

Book Club—Cheryl Blair

cheryl_blair@rogers.com

Dinner Club—Dale Tasker

dale.tasker@rogers.com

Knitting—Linda Alsop

lindacvano@gmail.com

Walking/Hikes—Amy Wright

amywright0@hotmail.com

Bridge—Bob Evans

bob20evans@gmail.com

Discussion—Peter Ellis

peterellis1000@gmail.com

Movie—Dave McMillan

dmcmillan2000@rogers.com

RODEO—Gwen Green

gweng9@rogers.com

ROMEO—TBA volunteer

BOOK CLUB (Cheryl Blair)

April's book is *"The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig*



When Nora Seed finds herself in the Midnight Library, she has a chance to make things right. Up until now, her life has been full of misery and regret. She feels she has let everyone down, including herself. But things are about to change.

The books in the Midnight Library enable Nora to live as if she had done things differently. With the help of an old friend, she can now undo every one of her regrets as she tries to work out her perfect life. But things aren't always what she imagined they'd be, and soon her choices place the library and herself in extreme danger.

Before time runs out, she must answer the ultimate question: what is the best way to live?

May's read is "Klara And The Sun" by Kazuo Ishiguro

This link is access to all books the club has read: [Book Club - The PROBUS Club of Bradford](#)

KNITTING- The SSK Ladies met April 26 at Cheryl's.

Projects started or on the go and ideas exchanged. Maybe solved a few of the world's problems over tea and snacks. Thank you Cheryl for hosting.

If you are interested in joining the group, contact Linda at lindacvano@gmail.com. Love to see new faces!



MY WIFE MADE ME COFFEE
THIS MORNING AND WINKED
AT ME WHEN SHE HANDED
ME THE CUP.

I'VE NEVER BEEN MORE
SCARED OF A DRINK IN ALL
OF MY LIFE!

SIGNS, SIGNS, EVERYWHERE A SIGN!



Well, good luck with that...



Takes all the fun out of Easter.



NO, THANK YOU.



Don't care. As long as she cooks as good as Mom.



The ants go marching one by one, hurrah, hurrah!



Fair enough!



I HIGHLY DOUBT IT!



NOPE!



Oh Honey.....



Well, that makes the game more challenging!

119 Years Ago, Toronto Burned

On April 19, 1904, it was a miserably cold night, with bitter gusts of wind and a light snow. And it was about to get much worse. It was a little after 8 o'clock that the flames were first spotted — a constable walking his beat noticed them on Wellington Street near Bay.

No one's sure how it started. Maybe faulty wiring or a stove. Whatever it was, the flames spread quickly. Soon, every firefighter in the city was desperately trying to contain the blaze. [This link will take you to old film to watch.](#)

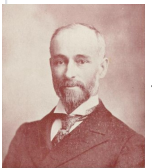


They were losing the battle.

Toronto's core was crowded with textile factories, booksellers, paper suppliers & chemical manufacturers — the perfect fuel. Violent gusts of wind blew the water away from the firefighters' hoses. Their spray froze, coating everything in ice.

Thick tangles of telegraph & telephone wires made it impossible for ladders to reach the flames. The falling snow was joined by a hail of burning wood, broken glass & ash. Firefighters were blinded by smoke — the chief fell from a ladder & broke his leg.

The flames tore through the heart of the city, spreading south and east. You could see the glow of the flames for miles in every direction. Twenty acres of downtown Toronto — more than 100 buildings — were on fire.



Mayor Urquhart sent urgent telegrams asking for help. And all through the night they came: firefighters from Hamilton, London, Peterborough, Niagara Falls & Buffalo joined the fight. Within hours, there were 250 of them pouring millions of litres of water on the flames.

At the Evening Telegram offices on Bay Street, employees sprayed water out the windows, working tirelessly for hours on end to save their building.

At the Queen's Hotel — where the Royal York stands now — guests & employees organized bucket brigades, hung water-soaked blankets out the windows & beat off the flames. They saved the hotel & helped stop the fire's advance.

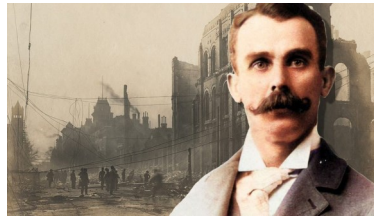
Finally, just before sunrise, nearly nine hours after the flames were first spotted, the fire was out. 125 busi-



nesses destroyed. 5,000 people out of work. More than \$10 million in damage — a staggering number back then. But somehow, no one had died. **Yet.**

The ruins smouldered for two weeks, with smaller fires popping up & reigniting from time to time.

The charred husks of the damaged buildings were dynamited, rubble cleared out of the way. That's when the Great Fire claimed its only life.



John Croft was an experienced dynamiter — he worked in mines back home in England before moving to Canada. He and his team set to work in the ruins of Toronto, lighting

long fuses and then running for cover.

More than two dozen blasts went off without a hitch. Explosions brought buildings crashing to the ground, great clouds of dust billowing into the air.

But when a fuse seemed to fail, Croft went in to investigate.



The delayed explosion tore through an arm, broke a rib, sliced through his scalp & blinded one eye. He didn't last long after that. He was buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery. A laneway is named in his honour.

Toronto rose again. New brick buildings filled the skyline, taking the place of those ruins — with many of the bricks supplied by the booming Don Valley Brick Works. Those new buildings were built to a new fire code, protected by more hydrants & a new high-pressure water system — all designed to make sure the biggest fire in the history of Toronto would stay that way forever.

By Adam Bunch, Toronto Dreams Project

Hangover Cure

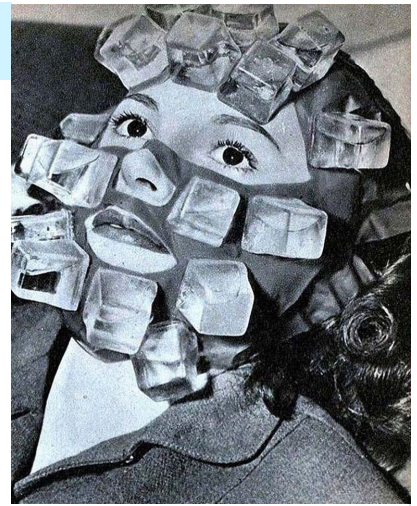
Ice cube mask designed to cure hangovers, 1947.

The mask was invented by Max Factor, a makeup company that was founded in 1909 by a Polish beautician named Maksymilian Faktorowicz who emigrated to the United States in 1904. Max Factor specialized in movie make-up and demonstrated the importance of custom, technical make-up application based on several factors such as facial structure, contours and creative characterization.

The mask was targeted towards actors and actresses in Hollywood, helping them look as if they weren't drinking the night before. The invention probably helped with redness, swelling and alcohol bloating in the face but probably did very little to cure the internal pains that come with a hangover.

In 1991, the company was purchased by Proctor and Gamble for \$1.14 billion.

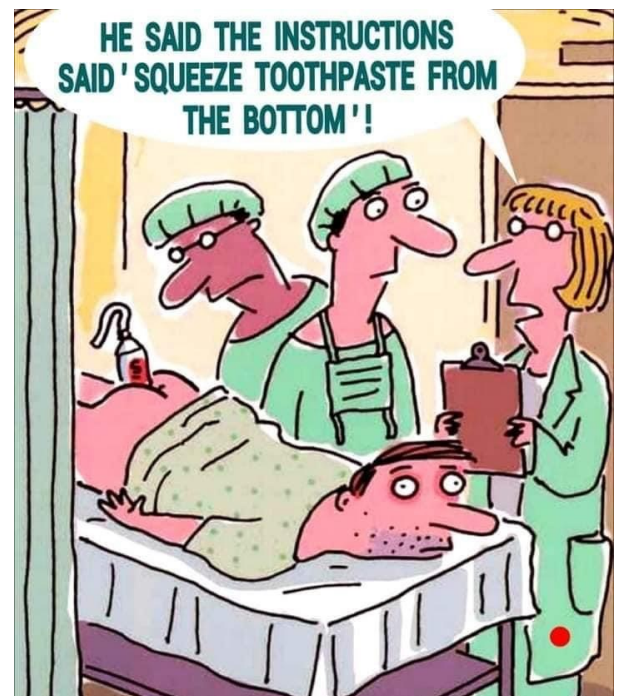
I can feel the bags under my eyes disappearing already! Another martini please!



Starbucks is planning on selling beer and wine.

Apparently, its getting difficult to sell sober people a \$12 cup of coffee.

When I see lover's names carved on trees, I think its strange how many people bring knives on a date.



The Devil sat at the gates of hell...

An old man suddenly arrived in a burst of flames, looking confused and lost. The Devil looked at his paperwork and frowned. He was unable to find this old man's data file.

"This can't be right," the old man grumbled, looking at the Devil, "I've been a good man my whole life."

The Devil nodded apologetically, most people said this when they arrived at Hell. "Why don't you start with how you died, and we'll figure it out."

The old man sighed and said: "Well, I was out with my grandchildren, enjoying a fun day. I don't have my grandchildren often because my eyesight is starting to fade. But we were having the most wonderful time. And that's when everything went crazy! Out of nowhere, I spotted the largest most grotesque mouse I've ever seen. It was enormous! It moved straight towards the grandchildren first, limbs outstretched. You don't know where mice have been, what if it had bitten one of them? Can you imagine if they got rabies on my watch?"

"So what did you do?" The Devil whispered, entranced by the story.

The old man continued, "You don't get how big this mouse was! Must have been exposed to radiation. Too many iPhones these days, that's what causes it.

I did the only thing I could!

I grabbed my walking-stick, and I cracked it over the head. Now my eyesight isn't that good anymore, but I whacked it good! The kids started screaming at this point. You know how they get when you have to kill an animal. But I needed to keep going. You see with mice; you need to see their guts to know they're dead. Otherwise, they'll be back with others."

"So you killed it?" The Devil asked. Some of his demigods had come to listen to the story.

The old man nodded, "By golly I did! Guts were splattered for all to see. The kids had lost their minds at this point. Tears everywhere. A crowd had gathered as well, all screaming at the sight.

It was at this point though, that the exertion caught up with me. I felt my heart give way. I must have suffered a heart attack. Next thing I know, I'm here."

"Well," the Devil said, concerned, "This doesn't seem to add up. Let me just give Heaven a call and we'll try and see what's going on here.

The Devil pulled up a phone from thin air and dialed a number.

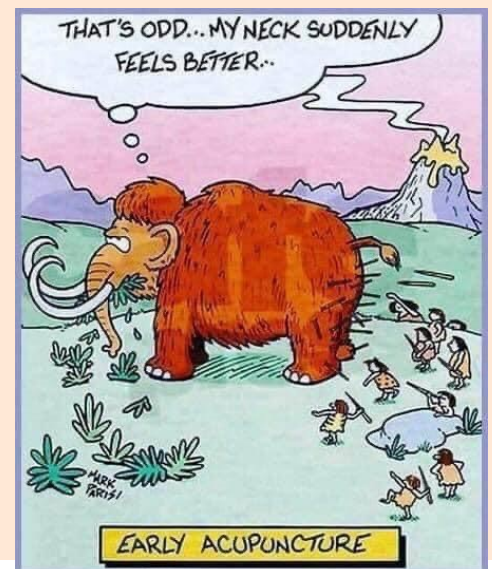
"Hey Jesus bro," the Devil said, "I think I've got one of yours here. His story checks out. Must have been a mix up."

The Devil nodded as a voice on the phone spoke back to him. He gave the old man a silent celebratory thumbs up as the voice continued.

The Devil covered the phone speaker with his hand, turned to the old man and said, "You're all good, they just want to know where you were when you died."

The old man nodded,

"Oh that's easy, I was at Disneyland."



The Biltmore Estate in North Carolina

As mentioned in the March newsletter...on our way home from Florida, Dale and I took a little detour to the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina. Biltmore estate is 80,000 acres of beautifully forested land including a winery. The grand dame of the estate, Biltmore house, is a Châteauesque-style mansion built for George Vanderbilt between 1889 and 1895 and is the largest privately owned house in the United States, at 178,926 sq ft of floor space (250 rooms). The property and house are still owned by George Vanderbilt's descendants. The house remains one of the most prominent examples of Gilded Age mansions.

A 2-hour self-guided tour of the Biltmore house was a showcase of wealth and modern ingenuity. The house was built for entertaining guests in comfort and grand fashion. Amenities featured an indoor bowling alley, gym and pool (including private change rooms), private entrance to the library for guests to access from their bedrooms. Games room, smoking room and many private niches for guests who wish quiet time. Besides the bowling alley and pool Biltmore was the first house of its time to have multiple bathrooms (43), refrigeration for food (four room size units), laundry room and its own greenhouse for fresh flowers which were displayed throughout the house daily.

In 1894 Biltmore had a staff of 435 estate employees and 30-35 domestic servants. All local from the area. Now the property is still managed by Vanderbilt descendants and employs 2400 people who maintain the property including a hotel, winery, restaurants and shops (all housed on the estate for tourists).

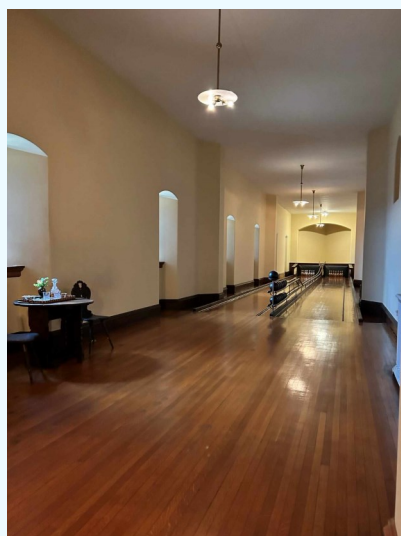
All in all Asheville is a great place to visit and spend time. Biltmore Estate is only one of many local attractions offered in the area.



The green house and some of the gardens.



The house is a gallery of art .
Priceless paintings and lithographs, family portraits, ceiling frescos and Ming dynasty pottery.



The bowling alley (left) and pool (rt). The ropes on the side were for when you got tired.



The formal dining room. Included 3 fireplaces.



During my check-up I asked the Doctor, "Do you think I'll live a long and healthy life then?"
He replied, "I doubt it somehow. Mercury is in Uranus right now."
I said, "I don't go in for any of that astrology nonsense."
He replied, "Neither do I. My thermometer just broke."

A man takes his sick Chihuahua to the veterinarian. They're immediately taken back to a room. Soon, a Labrador walks in, sniffs the Chihuahua for 10 minutes and leaves. Then a cat comes in, stares at the Chihuahua for 10 minutes and leaves. Finally, the doctor comes in, prescribes some medicine and hands the man a \$250 bill. "This must be a mistake," the man says. "I've been here only 20 minutes!"
"No mistake," the doctor says. "It's \$100 for the lab test, \$100 for the cat scan and \$50 for the medicine."

Susanne Artichuk's Easter table
with her Pysanki eggs. Thank you
for the Easter picture Susanne.



Everyday we have something
to be thankful for.



Today... we are thankful that the
photographer was not standing
on the other side!

**See you at the PROBUS meeting
May 9th—10:00 am
At St. John's Presbyterian Church**

