



Majolica Matters!

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE MAJOLICA INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
www.majolicasociety.com

June 2006

Dallas gives a Big Howdy to MIS

By Wanda Matthes



On Thursday, May 4, 2006, MIS members began to arrive at the gorgeous and historic Adolphus Hotel in downtown Dallas.

The early afternoon meeting of the MIS officers was briefly interrupted by the arrival of film star, Andy Garcia. Even Andy knows a great hotel! After wrapping up last minute details, we mingled about the grand lobby and greeted MIS convention attendees arriving from across the world and across the country. A large group of local members and Texans from across the state were also in attendance, some for the very first time.



Speakers - Laurie Wirth-Mellian and Susan Terral

At 7:00 p.m., members gathered for Majolica Cake and Coffee. Members Laurie Wirth-Mellian of Falls Church, Virginia and Susan Terral of Aspen, Colorado, presented Magical Majolica-From Mundane to Magnificent. This was a delightful presentation on creative and tasteful ways to make the most of your collection as a design element. Their full presentation can be found on the MIS web site for those who were unable to attend their presentation or, like me, need a review!

MIS Web Master, Duane Matthes, followed with a presentation on using the Internet to enjoy and enhance your majolica collection and knowledge. He gave members tips on how to make the most of the enormous resources at ones fingertips on the www.

Friday morning our two buses left the hotel and headed for Highland Park where we were served a gourmet, Texas-sized breakfast at the home of Ann Dyer, a Dallas antiques dealer and dear friend of member Sue John. Back in September of 2005 when Gabrielle Ehrenthal, Joan Stake and I were setting up the home visits, Sue had offered to give a breakfast for MIS attendees in her glorious garden. But alas.....Sue discovered that her Dallas Garden Club trip to Holland would be occurring at the time of the MIS convention.



Breakfast & majolica at the Dyer home

Rather than withdraw her generous offer, she called on friends to assist. Now, rather than Sue's husband Phil, hosting the breakfast in their breathtaking garden, her dear friend, Ann Dyer, offered to host the breakfast in her spacious and entertaining-friendly home. Members of the Dallas Glass Club stepped in to help host the breakfast. MIS members received a bonus of getting to see Ann's home which is brimming with collections of wonderful antiques and yes, majolica. We could then visit Sue John's divine home and garden with no threat of May showers!



Hostess Ann Dyer greets president LeRoy Davis



Friday in Sue and Phil John's magnificent garden



Palissy inspired pieces in Sue and Phil John's collection

At Sue's home, we found Dallas MIS member Mary Lynn Ryder and other friends and neighbors of Sue, there to attend of our ever need. Sue's husband, Phil

was a perfect and gracious host. Sue's collections of Palissy and other fabulous majolica were placed in a cozy setting with her other antique collections looking out onto that grand garden.

Next, we boarded the buses for a short ride to the home of MIS members, Brian and Sue Loncar. Brian, a Dallas attorney, was out of town on a case, but again stood by his commitment to host the MIS members.



Breakfast room of Sue and Brian Loncar's home



A hall table in the Loncar home held a fabulous sample of their collection

We arrived just after noon and once again along with a feast of majolica, were served with a lunch-time feast of heavy hors-d'oeuvres and a heavy dose of Texas hospitality. We roamed freely about their spacious

home and discussed the Loncar's vast majolica collection. Sue Loncar held court with tales of how her, then Brian's collecting began. Brian and Sue have many other collections of interest which include many religious pieces and architectural antiques.



The Brown-Westhead Moore Lion with Cubs adorns a sofa table in Sis Miller's home

Again we boarded the buses for the short ride to the home of Lois (Sis) Dillard Miller and her husband, Tom. Again, a promise made in September of 2005 was kept even though Sis discovered that Tom had scheduled a cruise for the two of them which would conflict with the convention.



More wild game majolica at Sis Miller's

Daughter, Nancy Miller stepped in to host our visit and gave members a splendid tour of "Mom's" house. This English inspired home was designed in the 20's or 30's by well-know architect, Anton Korn. As was

the case in all the homes, there were collections of many wonderful things...Staffordshire, imari, black forest pieces and great pieces of majolica which were nestled in a near perfect setting.



Corner cabinet at Barbara Hunt Crow's home



A tiny miniature Welsh dresser filled with butter pats hangs on the wall in the Crow dining room.

Now it was time to proceed to the final home of the day. This time we took a short walk to the home of Barbara Hunt Crow. Barbara's home brought many oohs and ahs for its dramatic and vast collection of blue and white transfer ware, mounted along the grand stairway. The dining room was brimming with majolica and in other rooms we found huge collections

of stick spatter ware plates (most of which contained scenes of rabbits), Staffordshire, imari and various other collections. Barbara too was in Holland with the Dallas Garden Club viewing the tulips but was willing, at the urging of MIS member Heidi Holloman, to allow us to tour her home.

The weary but blissfully happy MIS members boarded our buses once again for the short ride back downtown to the Adolphus. Now members had the liberty of a little relaxation and evening free of planned activities. Some members chose to go to a concert and hear Copland performed by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra while others chose to dine at one of Dallas's many fine restaurants or to experience the West End. Then there were those who were lucky enough to snag a reservation to dine at the world class French Room at the Adolphus Hotel...



Lover's Lane Antiques was a shopping destination

Saturday morning began our shopping day though many members had arrived early in the week and had already been busy "contributing" to the robust Dallas economy! After a Continental breakfast at the Adolphus, we again boarded our buses and headed out for a day of antiquing. Our first stop was Lovers Lane Antique Market, home of member Frances Cordell and our new friend Ann Dyer, host of Friday's breakfast. The shop is full of wonderful antiques and lots of majolica! From there, members dispersed on foot to a number of shops, among them, Antique Row, London Market and Innessa Stewart.

Shortly after noon, we again boarded buses and drove further East down Lovers Lane to Snider Plaza. There we found Snider Plaza Antique Shops, home of my antique business, Trilogy Antiques and our lunch destination, Amore's Restaurant which is next door. Amore's served up a tasty Italian buffet to the first group of MIS members while others shopped at the antique shop. When the shoppers got their fill of

antiques, they went to Amore's and allowed the first group time and space to shop for antiques. Eventually, everyone got their fill of food and shopping!



Trilogy Antiques was the afternoon shopping stop

By now it was mid afternoon and cocktails and the Majolica Heaven preview awaited us at 5:00 p.m. back at the hotel. The bus drivers took us on a breathtaking and interesting tour though University Park, onto the Southern Methodist University campus (alums Phil and Deb English reminisced), Highland Park and near by areas of interest as we wound our way back to the hotel. We were like groups of children on a field trip, enjoying the luxury of having a driver in a strange city and enjoying the fellowship of the members on our buses.

Five o'clock rolled around very quickly and members began to appear at the Century Ballroom for the preview of Majolica Heaven. During a thirty minute, refreshments only period, members socialized and chatted with nervous anticipation. Promptly at 5:30 p.m., the doors of the ballroom opened and Majolica Heaven was in full view. Yes, there is a reason we call it Majolica Heaven! Every year, the Majolica Heaven dealers seem to tantalize us to the fullest degree. This year was no exception!



Majolica Heaven was thrilling



Heaven at last!

Soon it was time for dinner, followed by the presentation of keynote speaker Nicolas Dawes.



Nicolas speaks on majolica's historical continuum

Nic entitled his talk, **From Charles Dickens to Charles Washburne: A Brief History of Majolica Culture**. As always, Nic was a wonderful speaker and delivered this most enjoyable talk with such poise and skill. His accompanying slides were magnificent! I wish the entire society could have been there to enjoy his talk. After dinner and Nic's talk, members socialized throughout the hotel, while others went out to experience Dallas's downtown night life.

Here's what they're saying about Convention 2006:

"An unbelievable job as far as we are concerned. Everything went off so smoothly and Dallas was a wonderful host city."

"Everyone I spoke to said they loved the convention."

"fabulous majolica, great speakers, and fantastic collections"

"Thank You". What a wonderful job MIS did!

DON'T MISS CONVENTION 2007!



The ancient game of Ur entertains Nic and Peter

Sunday morning I awoke to mixed feelings.....excited about the events to come but sad that the convention was ending and that soon members would be checking out of the hotel and heading to their homes across the country. Some headed back to England while others headed home to France.

Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. seemed a bit early after a night of socializing with friends but it was fabulous and a great way to start another very busy day! The business meeting was very well attended. It was relaxed and informative and at 10:00 sharp, we returned to the small ballroom which housed Majolica Heaven. Again, members began their pursuit of majolica treasures. Having previewed Majolica Heaven on Saturday evening, members were now ready to "seal some deals" and acquire new pieces for their collections. Buying was brisk and quick. If one paused too long, the opportunity to purchase that special piece may have slipped into the hands of the next MIS member eager, to acquire that same piece.

New Dallas members, Martha and Allan Woodcock from Park Cities Postal were kept very busy packing purchases to be shipped to homes of members throughout the country.

The afternoon wore down and finally it was time to pack up and head north to our home in Plano. Now, as I write, I savor the memories of the fun and friendship we shared for those few days in early May 2006, and to look forward, as hopefully you also do, to being together at the MIS Convention again next year.....

I know that you join me in thanking Gabrielle Ehrental for all of her planning for this years convention and Ed Flowers for seeing that we had wonderful presentations and an outstanding keynote speaker for Saturday night. You two are the best!

Editor's note: The following is Bertrand Cocq's transcript of his presentation to the British Collectibles Museum, Evanston, Illinois, 2005

Hello, my name is Bertrand Cocq

I am French, and I live in a small city in northern France. When I say small city, I will make some of you laugh because my small city has a population of 6500 inhabitants. Here one would say "a pleasant village," but in France, it is a small city. We have always had "delusions of grandeur." I work as a school psychologist, and I am 54 years old. I have collected majolica jugs for over 20 years. So how did I become a collector of these jugs?

My surname can be translated as "Rooster" in English. When I met my wife Edith 33 years ago, his maternal grandmother had a jug in the shape of a rooster on a piece of furniture in her humble house.

This elderly woman promised her small granddaughter that upon her death, the granddaughter would inherit the jug. However, when the grandmother died, the family found a letter she had written in which she bequeathed the "rooster jug" to another small girl.

I never knew what had justified this change of mind, but Edith was very sad. To make her smile, I promised to find her an identical jug. This I accomplished very quickly. Then I must buy some for the house, so I brought some home. Then I bought hundreds of others... and now I have filled the racks... and Edith has lost her smile!

If you will allow it, I will give you a French lesson. Maybe it will be the first French lesson for some of you. Perhaps you will benefit from the chance to have a professor coming especially for you from so far away!

We French call the ceramics that these jugs are made of "Barbotine," which one pronounces "BARBOTINE."

There... it was your first French lesson. I hope that you are satisfied with your professor!

However, I must tell you that this word will not be useful to you because we French are the only ones in the world who say barbotine. All other countries of the world say "Majolica." But rest assured these are lots of other things that we French do... although we are the only ones in the world to do them!

The production of these jugs stopped in the Thirties with the appearance of the porcelain, less expensive

and more appreciated by rich people in Europe. These jugs were used for water (in the country of the wine, it is an irony!!) and appeared about 1870. They became very popular in the north and east of France as well as in Belgium where there were many manufacturers.

One can say that the golden age of these objects ranges between 1890 and 1920 when one can count no less than 30 manufactures making different models in these two countries alone. The Belgian and French productions are very similar, because it was not unusual that during the course of selling companies and buying them back, the two countries would sell to each other. Consequently, both centers of productions are directed successively by these two countries.

Very quickly, the production of these factories was centered on three types of jugs. The jugs with floral decoration, the jugs in the shape of animals, and the jugs in the shape of humans (which, I think, are what you call "figural pitchers"). These objects were, in the beginning, utilitarian. i.e. one used them in the kitchens to serve water. But quickly, the forms became more refined and fragile and these objects were used more just for decoration. Very richly colored, the jugs were designed by creators who began with a drawing. Then when the form was accepted, one manufactured a mold in which was poured a very liquid mixture of clay and soil to be fired. This mixture is called "Barbotine"... the word gradually came to indicate all the objects created with this method.

It was then ready for drying and subsequently re-firing. Finally, the objects were decorated by hand, then enameled by hand, and ultimately returned to the kiln yet again to be fired and harden the enamel. Hand decorating explains the differences in colors, because the decorators could vary their work according to the order or according to their sense of artistry.

It should be noted that the manufacture of these objects was intended for common people, and often majolica jugs were given away at trade shows and fairs for loyal customers. Steve should have started his collection at that time, because the jugs were far from expensive!

Very quickly, these objects became enormously successful and consequently the artists had to compete with their imagination. Some people quickly realized that they could use these objects for advertising and even as a means of conveying ideas or opinions.



Jug: "Urgent Reform", by Onnaing

Certain creators, in the style of newspapermen, reacted very quickly to current events. They sometimes created models honoring famous people or made fun of those same people. Sometimes they used these jugs to complain about certain unpopular decisions.

I, if you will allow me, will present some of these objects to you to illustrate what I mean and to let you discover the extent of their imagination.

This jug was created in 1907 in France by the manufacturer Onnaing. It represents a character holding in his left hand a purse full of gold coins

which are marked with the sum of 15,000 F. This is about a French deputy. It was made to poke fun of the representatives of the French National Assembly who had just voted unanimously to pass a law increasing their salary from 5,000F to 15,000F per month in one blow. In France, we have a proverb which says, "one has never served himself so well." Rest assured, such a thing is not possible now. One can't imagine that a political personality could vote on a decision which would favor himself ... neither in my country ... nor in yours!

This jug was a great success, as you can suspect.



Gallic Cock, by Onnaing

The second model that I would like to present to you is called the French Cockerel. It is, in fact, an identical model which was on the dresser of my wife's grandmother. This model is a creation of Onnaing, like the last piece. It was present on many French hearths before the First World War. It represents the COCK, which is the emblem of France, and the legend reads "Sings clearly for France."

This jug was used after the war, in 1918, by a number of children who collected money to help the disabled war veterans. They knocked on the doors and held this pitcher to receive cash donations from the inhabitants. That explains why it is very difficult to find jugs of this type with an intact beak.

Do you know why the cock is the emblem of France? Mean-spirited people say that it is because the rooster is the only animal able to sing even with the two feet in mud!!

Ladies, Parisian elegance is of course known to each of you. This model of Onnaing sought to immortalize a revolution regarding style. For the first time, about 1910, the woman was going to be able to wear a half skirt, half trousers which would enable her to practice,

with decency, the new sports of bicycling and horsemanship. This model, called "the Divided Skirt," is one of most elegant of this manufacturer.



Divided Skirt (Culottes), by Onnaing

I will not insult you by presenting this model made by Sarreguemines. It belongs to a series which paid homage to the allied Nations that became renown during the First World War. It was made to be marketed only in the USA, because the factory of Sarreguemines which created the jug, had sales agencies in several American cities.

Here is the model "I know all" which represents universal knowledge. "Je sais tout" means "I know all." It represents an individual with the globe as his head being pressed on a pile of books. It was the title of an encyclopedia sold about 1900 (the ancestor of Google). The purchaser of this encyclopedia received this jug in gift.

Let us present now, if you will allow it, another model.



"Uncle Sam" by Sarreguemines.



"I know all" by Fives Lille



Baby coming out of the cabbage, by Orchies.



Korean Bear, by Orchies.

will reveal something to you: I believed for a long time that the babies were born in cabbages. Look at this jug by Orchies. I learned recently that it was not true. Only the boys are born in cabbages; the girls are born in roses.

Here is a model much more markedly political. One finds this model by Orchies always in the North of France. It represents an episode of the war between Russia and Japan in 1904/1905. One sees a Russian bear here knocking down a Korean soldier.

In conclusion, I would like to present a jug by Saint Clement (in the East of France) to you which is rather unusual. This jug is very in special because of the subject it represents. It dates from the Twenties and was drawn by the master of the molten glass, Emile GALLET. It is one of my favorite jugs.



Hatching Duck, by Saint Clement.

Before finishing my small speech, I would like to tell you that I met Steve Mullins a few years ago. He came to Europe and wanted to see my collection. I became acquainted with a charming and passionate man who has a tremendous knowledge of the productions of barbotine jugs. The collection of this museum is without any doubt the most significant existing to date and the variety of pieces that one finds here is incredible. Many European pieces are found only here and exist in no other collection. Some are unknown even by French collectors and museums. Steve is curious about everything. He is an eternally young man whose enthusiasm is communicative. I have benefited from the hospitality of Steve, his wife Carol, and their children for several years now and these memories remain very special for my wife and me.

I must say in truth that without the invaluable assistance of my very dear friend Helen Cunningham, I would have been obliged to make this presentation in English which would have made you regret having intervened twice to save my country from barbarian invasions. I owe her a debt of gratitude. I met Helen during one of her trips to Europe, when she was

working on her book on majolica. Our friendship goes back to this time and I have on several occasions the opportunity to visit her and her husband Ben, in their nice city of Nashville and I will tell you all that in a few years we will return for the extension of this museum. I am proud and honored to be with you today and I thank you for your patience and the effort you have made to include and understand me.

Editors Note: Those of you who own a copy of the book, Majolica Figures by Helen Cunningham, will find numerous photos of French figural pieces Courtesy of Bertrand Cocq.

“Minton” Peacock - Found in Dallas

Member Scott Campbell had fun with the 2006 conventioners. He was one of the early arrivers at the London Market Antique Shop and put this Minton Mark on a stuffed peacock. We all enjoyed his humor.



Great Things Come in Small Packages

After very active and competitive bidding in a June 2006 internet auction, this rare aqua Bamboo Handled Fan, by George Jones, butter pat brought \$1,225 USD. That could make it very expensive to server butter to a dinner party of eight.



Varina and Jefferson Davis

By Linda Feld

Through a member of the Majolica Society the existence of a majolica table piece came to my attention. Knowing I have a collection of Lonitz pieces, some outstanding and some not so outstanding, she thought this would interest me and it did. Connecting the majolica or any other antique of interest, to its time and place in history is of a special interest.

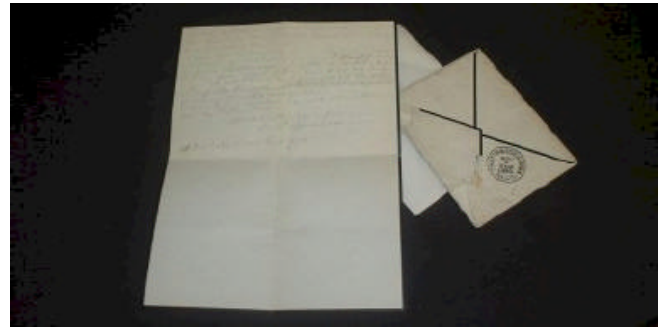
Varina Jefferson Davis, the widow of Jefferson Davis, the last confederate president, made her way through life writing memoirs and history of the times for various magazines and publications. She eventually moved to New York City in order to better fulfill these obligations.

Varina was known as a great story teller, and a gifted hostess... traits that saw her through the ups and downs of her life. She gave birth to six children, supported her husband and his endeavors for the confederacy, and after the war lived in total poverty with him. Eventually they were able to move to a Mississippi estate by the name of Beauvoir. This was later given to the state of Mississippi as a retirement home for use by Confederate veterans.

Varina wrote from New York City in 1890 to a good friend in Tennessee regarding a wedding that was occurring in the family. The Lonitz centerpiece was sent to the family as a gift and it was from their estate that I purchased the piece, along with a letter from Varina Jefferson Davis.... the contents of the letter follows as best I could read since the letter is slightly faded after 115 years so there are a few inconsistencies I am not sure of....



Davis' jardinière



Varina Jefferson Davis letter documents

**1st Sun. 1890
My Dear Friend**

I send today to Earnest and his bride a centerpiece for their table which I hope they will like. If not it will do for a jardinière nicely - The middle - and I send the bottom. They say here they use them a great deal for fruit pieces on ice. I am sorry we are behind in sending it but there could not anything be found very nice in New Orleans. I am told that _____ has broken off her engagement and I am very happy to know it. The reason assigned is her health which is a quite sufficient one for she has been having birth fevers now every day for some time. (I am not sure what engagement...)

I am here reading my proof sheets and as soon as possible I shall go home. I thought I was to pass Chattanooga but the conductor laughed in my face when I told him and let me know when he got there... I said you are at the other end of the triangle and my cherished expectation of seeing you has relinquished.

I hope your children are well and send them and you my tender love.

**Affectionately your friend
V. Jeffersonian**



**Majolica Heaven 2006!
It was a special party for all of us.**

The Magic of Collecting Majolica

By Roberta McDonnell

Just when the arrangements on my shelves look stale and eBay has gone "repro" mad, and my books are not offering me the variety I crave, somewhere..... often out of nowhere, will come an email, offering something new and exciting. Sometimes it is an offer to buy, a question on value or a friend, of a friend, of a friend excited to show me a new find. I don't know of anything, outside of paintings and the flowers God made, that offers more variety than does collecting majolica! In twenty-six years of collecting, just when I think I have seen it all, a new and exciting piece pops up to thrill me! Sometimes I can purchase it. Sometimes I can only envy the owner. But just the same, the excitement of the novelty cannot be matched. Gun dog tureens are wonderful and Minton naiads are heavenly. Jones monkeys on teapots are thrilling. But what about the pieces no one has identified, catalogued, or seen for that matter??

A few months ago, just such a piece appeared on eBay and sorry to say, I lost the bidding to another MIS member and collecting demon. There I sat at my computer.... my mouth dry and parched, my eyes smoking with determination, my hand quivering as I hit "confirm bid" more times than my budget could afford only to finally lose. Now, there was the horror of losing, mixed with the relief of not paying ... oh but was it ever gorgeous!!! Maybe you saw it?



It was a tall statuesque Jones vase in browns and greens and... I believe a touch of cobalt. The vase was flanked by tall delicate birds, with the top rim of the vase equidistant points of pottery with a lovely aqua interior! Mourning its loss, I still have the picture in my files and will publish it for those who did not have the opportunity of seeing it! It was a beauty to behold.....makes me wonder what other piece rare

or not often or never seen will materialize next?????

I am hoping MIS members and others collectors alike will read this article and want to contribute a photo of a piece from their collection which has not often, nearly never, or not ever been seen before to our magazine for all of us to enjoy. It's easy!! Just take a digital photo, to email or a 35 mm photo to send by US mail to Wanda Matthes to be published in an

upcoming issue of Majolica Matters. If you would like, I will go first just to show you how exciting it can be....remember our mothers taught us to share! Maybe we can make this a contest of sorts? After a few issues we can vote on the rarest form presented???

My first entry is a piece which is positively Jones in style, motif and quality. Does anyone out there have this piece, know this piece or know what it was used for? I will let you examine the butterflies and odd crescent shape and eagerly await your feedback.



You can either email me directly at rmm1@comcast.net or send your input to wanda@eMajolica.com.

My second entry is a most exciting compote or cake stand of sorts. Notice the delicacy of the top plate decorated with ribbons and delicate flowers and the underneath of the top plate is mottling just like Jones. The base is decorated with three animals...a hound's head, a rabbit's head, and a fox's head. The underneath of the base is yellow not mottled. I happened to have two plates which I had always thought were Jones which match the cake stand top.



Well those are my two entries this issue ...can you top these? Do you have these? Do you have any parts that look like they belong to either one of my two pieces presented???

We'll look forward to hearing from you guys ... come on now don't be shy!!!!!!

Roberta

Wedgwood – in Oil

Many of us have met Dimitrios Bastas at auctions, shows and of course at Charlie Washburne's booth at Majolica Heaven. Little did we know about all his talents. Charlie appreciated Dimitrios' work and thought that we as members would be interested in this oil painting done by Dimitrios. The artist can be contacted at: dnbastas@graficartist.com



Please send your comments and material for the newsletter to:

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MajolicaMAIL Communications

By Duane Matthes

We sent a “MajolicaMAIL” eMail out on **June 3rd** to all members that have eMail addresses. If you didn't get that email, then MIS doesn't have your email address recorded correctly or the mail got trapped in your SPAM filter. The message enters your mail process with the name of **Duane@majolicasociety.com** so please open that email address in your SPAM filter.

Please eMail **Duane@eMajolica.com** with issues or your corrected email so we can correct our records and communicate with you. Thanks for your help!

Visit www.majolicasociety.com/majolicamail.htm to catch up on past majolica mails.

2006 Society Dues Process

Please check your address label on our mailing envelope. The red date such as “**2006-May**” indicates when you owe 2006 annual dues. Some members have paid ahead and won't receive any 2006 dues invoice. **Please use the enclosed “2006 Dues Invoice” to send in your 2006 dues.**

More Photos from Convention 2006



Ann & Wray Williams enjoy the MIS Banquet



**ANNUAL CONVENTION 2007 will be May 4-6
Put it on your 2007 calendar – NOW!**