

The Joshua Tree

December 14, 2021

THE EVERLEIGH SISTERS, A GENEALOGY MYSTERY PART 1

For our final meeting of 2021, **Margaret Cooker** presented something very close to her heart. As a member of the International Fellowship of Rotarian Genealogists, she showed the first part of a video a past Rotary Scholar, **Karen Stanbary**, who tells the tale of using genealogy to find out the true identity of **Minnie and**



Ada and Minna Everleigh

Ada Everleigh, Chicago's most famous pair of sisters, who fabricated many details of their lives in order to run their shady business.

Karen Stanbary, MA, LCSW, CG®, BCG Trustee, is an author and national lecturer focusing on topics related to using genetic evidence correlated with documentary evidence to solve genealogical brick walls. A Chicago local, she holds a Master's Degree in Clinical Social Work from the University of Chicago and has completed advanced graduate study in Social Anthropology at the Colegio de Michoacán, Mexico as a Rotary Foundation Scholar. Her genealogical practice specializes in Midwestern U.S., Chicago, and Mexican research as well as complex problem-solving, unknown parentage, and DNA analysis.

Minnie and Ada Everleigh ran the most famous and luxurious brothel in Chicago during the turn of the Century with their "girls", the Everleigh Butterflies. Wealthy patrons from around the world came to this brothel that came equipped with two entrances, at 2131 and 2133 Dearborn Street. But who were they

really? That is what Karen wanted to find out.

In 1910, Chicago Mayor **Carter Harrison** ordered the closing of The Everleigh Club. From there the sisters moved to New York and the Chicago operations were run by the Chicago mob in cabarets and nightclubs instead of



houses of "Ill Repute" and were have said to have died, Minna in 1948 and Ada in 1960, but the information given was suspect as writer **Charles Washburn** was also a close friend and protector of the sisters and rumor has it, that much of their information was fabricated, as to protect their real identities.

Some of the information that was "suspect" included that they moved to New York in 1936, Everleigh was an assumed name,

This Week's Functionaries

- Invocation:** Chris Ackerman
- Flag Salute:** Dr. Ron Williams
- 4-Way Test:** Margaret Cooker
- Fine Master:** David North

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HOVE'S HELLO'S



Well, we have finally made almost made it through 2021! Thank you Margaret Cooker for all your work with the Rotary International Genealogy Fellowship and finding

this fascinating story to share with the group.

We are looking forward to part 2 on January 4th!

As mentioned last week, we are in serious need of Rotary Programs to fill in the first quarter of 2022. Please think of ideas that yourself or someone you know could provide for an exciting Rotary luncheon program. Please see Mike Page for more details.

Even though we won't have anymore Rotary meetings for the remainder of December, we will have our annual year end issue, that will be sent out the last week of the month so watch your inbox!

Finally on behalf of myself and Linda we want to take a moment and wish you all a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Jon Hove



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The Everleigh Sisters

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originally from Texas with their father residing in Mexico. Other information from Washburn was changed to say that the sisters were born in Kentucky, but came from Illinois, their father was a prosperous lawyer, met with famous madams across the country and finally arrived in Chicago in 1899 and began operations shortly thereafter in 1900.

The first step Karen used to find out the truth of the Everleigh Sisters was to look at the actual 1910 Census records. She wanted to find out who their parents were, where the sisters were born and what other names they may have used. Karen used the actual Census record, not the transcripts as they are many times incorrect as proven in this case. The transcripts list Minna as a resort keeper in the field of ice repairs and Ada was an English Inmate in the railroad industry! When looking at the actual record, it shows that Minna did work as a Resort Keeper but in the field of Ill Repute, not Ice Repairs and Ada was a "Partner" not in "Railroad".

The census also help discover that 25 women lived in the homes, and all were single with no children, ranging in ages from 20 - 34. She then went backwards to the 1900 census where it showed the sisters having 19 women in the homes, but showing their birthplace as Kentucky, not in Illinois or New York as was previously written, to parents from Virginia. In the 1900 Census they even show having different jobs!

Next it was time to look at when they died, to test to see if their birth years could be accurate. The Chicago Tribune reported that Minna Everleigh died September 16, 1948 in New York and Ada died January 3, 1960 at the age of 93, but that would not coincide with the 1900 Census. Also, her Obituary claimed that their last names were fictitious, but the obit was written by their close friend Charles Washburn, so who knows if even that was not true as a still further way to lead people off the trail of who the Everleigh Sisters really were.

The mystery continues on January 4th, 2022. Stay tuned.

Rotary

Club of Victorville, CA



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Big Blue Dice



Steve Orr had the chance this week to pick the Blue Dice, but picked White and saved the money for another Rotarian. We continue in 3 weeks with 11 dice and \$275 for the lucky Rotarian who can grab the Blue Dice from the bag.

Rotary Guests

This week we welcomed the Hove family! Attending with President **Jon Hove**, we welcomed wife **Linda Hove** and son **Harrison Hove**.

Raffle



Dr. Ron Williams was the big winner this week taking home a box of European Cookies from **Steve Orr** and a copy of "Men of Integrity" that was donated by **Dwight Johnson**. President **Jon Hove** also won a copy of the book.

Fine Session

David North was our Fine Master this week and fined everyone in attendance! Going around the room David began handing out penalties of \$25 or more to everyone.

First we share those who received \$25 fines. **Michael Krause** was hit in celebration of his Rotary anniversary, while President **Jon Hove** was fined for changing the Board of Directors meeting to a Tuesday. **Chris Ackerman** was fined for posting a photo on social media wearing a "Christmas Cat" suit when announcing a motorcycle race, but the fine was lowered by \$5 since his daughter was wearing the same outfit in the photo and looked "awesome".



Even though **Harrison Hove** was technically a "guest", David felt he has been here enough times, and left with his wallet a little lighter for his phone going off. **Steve Orr** earned a fine for retiring and **Kevin Kane** got the same since his Maintenance Director (and sometimes Rotary guest) **Ron Zirges** is also retiring at year's end. The final fine in the amount of \$25 went to **Dr. Ron Williams** in celebration of his birthday.

Those earning more severe penalties included **Mike Page** in the amount of \$30 for all of the complications with the new hospital, **Dwight Johnson** for \$34 for his 34th Wedding Anniversary (although he cried about his wife being on a fixed income and got it lowered to \$33) and **Margaret Cooker** in the whopping amount of \$65 for bringing in a Rotary program about brothels and mafia types.

REMINDER

We Will be Dark for Two Weeks:

December 21 & 28, 2021

*For the Christmas
and New Year's Holidays.*

We Will Return on January 4, 2022

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$9.00

Polio Pig: \$4.00 + Steve Orr (Dice): \$5.00= \$9.00

Collected to Date: \$18,512.20

Total equals: 98,138 Doses!

*One dollar equals 2 doses of vaccine!
\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!*

Rotary Club of Victorville, CA



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If you are not receiving your newsletter, please contact Editor Chris Ackerman at
chris@signifydesigns.com or 760-559-1686 to be added to the e-mail or mailing list.

VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2021-2022	Jon Hove
President 2022-2023	Arsalee Morales
President 2023-2025	Need Candidates
President 2025-2026	Bill Edwards
Immediate Past President	Steve Orr
Treasurer	Donna Wells
Executive Secretary	Margaret Cooker
Foundation.....	Margaret Cooker
Publicity/Public Relations	Stephen Quintero
Club Service	Arsalee Morales
Community Service	Michael Krause
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/RYLEA & TLC	Ryan McEachron
Vocational Service	Need Volunteer
Grants.....	Margaret Cooker
Speech Contests	Ryan McEachron
Scholarships.....	Esther Mears and Arsalee Morales
George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest	Ron Boyd
Membership.....	Dwight Johnson
Billing Officer	Esther Mears
Members-at-Large: David North, Esther Mears, Rob Kilpatrick & Ron Boyd	

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD Secretary	Need Volunteer
Programs	Mike Page
Public Service.....	Rick Bessinger, Teresa DeAtley, John Wickum & Jeff Armstrong
Sergeant At Arms.....	Arsalee Morales
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Need Volunteer
S.T.A.R. Students	Maureen Mills and Michal Krause
Fundraising.....	Arsalee Morales
Flowers and Gifts	KayMarie Gregory
Joshua Tree Editor	Chris Ackerman

The Victorville Rotary Club meets every Tuesday for fellowship at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at 12:00 noon at the Spring Valley Lake Country Club, 13229 Spring Valley Parkway, Victorville

Make-up Days and Locations

MONDAY:	San Bernardino East, Imperial Palace, noon
TUESDAY:	Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, 7:15 a.m. Empire Lakes Golf Course Rancho Cucamonga, 12:00 p.m., Etiwanda Gardens
WEDNESDAY:	High Desert/Hesperia Club meets 7:00 a.m., Denny's, 13165 Main St., Hesperia San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, Rositas, 540 Main St, 12:00 p.m.
THURSDAY:	Apple Valley, ZOOM Meetings, 1st, 2nd and 4th Thurs Ontario, 12:15 p.m., Doubletree Hotel San Bernardino, Denny's at I-15, 7 a.m. Redlands, Masonic Temple, noon
FRIDAY:	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

Calendar Dates

Jan 10: Board of Directors Meeting
5:30 pm Meeting
ARMAC Insurance Board Room
Rear Building on Yuma

Upcoming Programs

Dec 21: DARK - MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Dec 28: DARK - HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Jan 4: The Everleigh Sisters **Topic: "2 Ladies with NO History - a Detective Story from the Rotarian Fellowship of Genealogists" PART 2** (Cooker)

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