The Senior Forum **September 2009**

IT'S ALL ABOUT FELLOWSHIP

Ridgefield Men's Club *News*

Mike Powers
'Wanabee Poet Laureate'
RMC

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The Men's Club is a Ridgefield attraction,
It runs well to the members' satisfaction.

The interest in the club is always strong:
It keeps the waiting list a mile long.

There are many activities from which to choose,
They are guaranteed to chase away the blues.

The phone tree keeps everyone on the ball,
You're in trouble if you don't make your call.

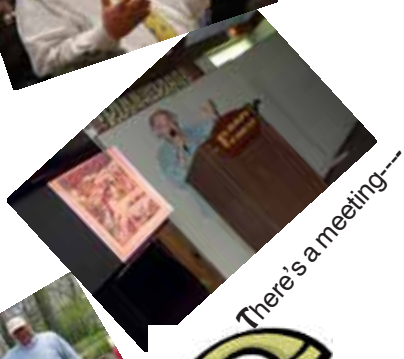
Speakers entertain us with a variety of tales:
Everything from outer space to humpback whales,

There's pinochle and bridge games at Founder's Hall:
Picnics in Richardson's Park in the Summer and Fall!

The New York fans wish Jim Connelly a pox,
When he starts raving about the Red Sox!!

Charlie Creamer leads the fishing expeditions,
But beware the Hellcat in rough sea conditions.

Jack Daniels is the expert on booze;
The editorial staff cranks out the



A few of the members are computer geeks,
They'll show you how to give pictures rosy cheeks.

The wine group lines up the bottles to taste,
Rumor has it not a drop goes to waste.

The chizzlers keep talking and whittling away,
They may even finish a carving some day.

When it snows we slide into the Hall by the fountain:
While Dick Godbout leads the skiers to the mountain.

The hikers love to head down a new trail,
But if it's a long one they may turn a little pale.

Dick Paul lectures on the market ups and downs,
With today's mess, it's time to send in the clowns!

There's an occasional update by John Frey,
The Hartford report usually makes you want to cry.

Ted McCormick likes to play his trivia game,
Some questions are great and some are lame!

The events keep the members happy and busy,
Though sometimes they put the chairmen into a tizzy!

While the members all love to socialize,
They pay their respects when someone dies.

In tribute let's raise our glasses tall,
And toast our past members one and all !!!

And close this poem with a rousing cheer:
As we celebrate the Men's Club 25th year!!!

The Ridgefield Men's Club Newsletter is published ten times a year by the Ridgefield Men's Club.

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Ridgefield Men's Club
54 Danbury Rd. , #216 Ridgefield, CT 06877
(A Non-Profit Social Recreation Club)
(IRS #06-131978)

Officers
(July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010)

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2011: Jack Alexander, Tom McKee, Ed Van Den Ameele
2010: Jim Kelly, John Morris, Bob Payne

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The Prez Sez

One of the most important jobs of your president is to stay out of the way!
This is not as easy as it might seem. Consider, as an example, the task of moderating the semimonthly Business Meetings. These meetings are limited to our members, not because we have secret "rituals" to protect, but rather because they are a forum for fellowship amongst the members, continuing from the initial arrival coffee socializing.
Our Constitutional limit of 150 members is specific in its concern that we become too big to be fraternal at this hour, letting members sit in isolation, rather than being embraced.
The parade of topics on the agenda also contributes to the collegiality of those present; it is not meant to merely repeat the info readily available in the monthly bulletin, but rather to generate the good-natured repartee that adds life to our get-togethers.
On the other hand, our Constitution specifically encourages wait-list candidates to attend the semimonthly 11:00 am Speaker Programs, and the coffee preceding these events. This enables our Members and prospects to get to know each other, and to build strong future participation in Club activities.
The confluence of the above challenges The Prez to keep the Business Meetings to about 30 minutes in length, while not stepping on anyone's toes.(and while trying to stay out of the way).
This is more "art" than "science", but together, we will do our best.

Stork Drops...

September,2009

Jim Fagan	**4**
Gary Henderson	**4**
Al Guido	**6**
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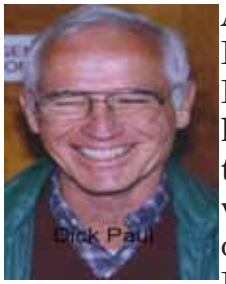
Bob Payne	**11**
Fred Whipple	**13**
Steve Antkiw	**27**
Bob Perry	**28**
Jim Robertson(H)	**30**

Bulls & Bears

by Dick Paul



At the Ladies Luncheon last December I had the opportunity to talk with the widow of one of our RMC members

As you might expect our conversation eventually migrated to financial matters.Thinking about my own wife, I was curious about what kind of finance-related problems she might be facing with the recent loss of her husband. He, as with many marriages had been primarily responsible for their investing activities. She indicated that she was experiencing some difficulties with the present situation. When I heard this I suggested that it might be helpful for her to participate in our monthly sessions of the financial group. I told her that the aim of the sessions is to provide the participants with the knowledge and confidence to be able to manage their own investment portfolios. At the very least we hoped to at least put the individual in charge rather than solely relying on the advice of a financial advisor. She reacted positively and plans to be at our first financial session in September.

In the August 2009 version of the American Association Of Individual Investors (AAII) Journal on page five there is an excellent article entitled "Surviving a Loss: Smart Steps For Coping With Widowhood". It is directed toward the many women who have lost their spouse and are now confronted with many changes in their daily life and need financial support and advice.

The article is accessible at AAII.com and can be received by email from me if you send your email address to me along with your request. (My email address is richardpaul0327@yahoo.com.). If you join AAII which I recommend highly you can access the article on the AAII web site. The article breaks down the steps a widow should take into six steps. Step 1: Be aware of the varied emotions you may experience. Step 2: Deal with certain issues relatively quickly. Step3: Make all accounts your own. Step 4: Don't be afraid to lean on friends and relatives. Step 5: Deal with other issues at your own pace. Step 6: Revise your portfolio to fit you. Also included is a list of documents needed upon the death of a spouse. Make sure you know where they are when you need

them. Husbands who take primary responsibility for the investment portfolio have a responsibility to write down before the fact all the information their wives will need in widowhood.

My wife made sure I included this last reminder.

If there are any other RMC widows that wish to join the RMC monthly group sessions please feel free to do so. What we try to accomplish in these sessions is set forth in more detail at the RMC web site. To make sure we know how many we need to accommodate in these sessions (we provide handouts) I suggest you contact Al Ryff so he can get you on our phone list of attendees. If you feel uncomfortable being in with a group of males you can optionally join a mixed group that meets in the Mark Twain Library in Redding on the third Monday of each month. However I do seek a voluntary contribution to the Mark Twain Library from this group for the library's help and support for this program.

At this point I have done all that I can do to provide assistance. It is now up to you!

Bridgeport Bluefish

Reported by Ted McCormick

Todd Martin, General Manager, and Willie Upshaw, Field Manager, of the Bridgeport Bluefish enlightened us as to the possibility of viewing attractive baseball at very reasonable prices nearby in CT. The Bluefish are aptly named as they play in the Harbor Yard Ballpark adjoining Long Island Sound where a great many Bluefish abide and are caught regularly by our own esteemed RMC fishing group. Willie dominated the presentation with his personal history, a detailed description of the style and quality of the baseball played by the Bluefish, and his hopes for their future. His illustrious uncle was the recently departed Gene Upshaw, Hall of Fame guard and head of the NFL Players Union.

Willie, a Fairfield County native, was drafted by the New York Yankees in 1975. He was chosen by the Toronto Blue Jays in the 1977 expansion draft greatly angering George Steinbrenner who lost a valued minor leaguer. He played 10 years in the Majors at times leading the Blue Jays in HRs and RBIs. He had a distinguished career as a hitting instructor for the Blue Jays, Texas Rangers (with Pudge Rodriquez, Juan Gonzalez, Raphael Palmero, and Sammy Sosa), and the San Francisco Giants with Barry Bonds as a pupil.

The Bluefish play in the Atlantic League which is an independent league with no ties to a major league franchise. They must continually search for players who run the gamut of older former major leaguers who hope to get back to "the bigs", very young talent who are "free agents" and those who have been released from a minor league team. Willie currently has his team in first place and hoping for a title. They have several attractive promotion nights, i.e. "kids eat free", $2.50 beers, etc. Their website is bridgeportbluefish .com for complete details, directions, prices etc.

We were all entertained and given information about a great place for family events, in particular our grandkids as Yankee Stadium, Fenway Park and Citifield are beyond reasonable with their extravagant prices.

Trivia Question:

Where is the "World's Longest Candy Counter"??

Last Month's question:

What were the four (4) firsts as President by Teddy Roosevelt??

Answer: First to ride in a car, fly in a plane, dive in a submarine and travel outside the U.S. (during the building of the Panama Canal).

Also: The Teddy Bear was named after him because he spared a baby bear cub on a hunting trip. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and the Congressional Medal of Honor.

LADIES HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Do it now ! .... mark your calendar Wednesday December 2nd for the Ladies Holiday Luncheon. This fun event will be held at the Amber Room Colonnade in Danbury. We will kick it off at 11:30 AM with a fellowship hour and reception followed by a great luncheon along with some of our usual fun festivities.

The lunch entrée choices are prime rib of beef, salmon with dill sauce, and stuffed chicken sunburst. All the details will be presented at each of our forthcoming regular RMC meetings. The sign-up dates are October 7th & 21st, and November 4th. The important thing for you to do right now is to mark your calendar so you won't miss out on this holiday celebration.

RMC HISTORY

VOL II Number 10 November 1985 Submitted by Dick Godbout

President Jack back and the RMC met as a small but select group. It seems that a lot of our members received Thanksgiving invite from off springs, or were off visiting.

The club unanimously elected to give a donation to the "Y" of $500.00 with which they will buy a TV and VCR for the general use of the organization. We too will be able to use the equipment when we have a program that needs VCR tapes. The "Y" has been most helpful and supportive of our activities and we owe our formation as a club to their assistance.

RMC HOLIDAY LUNCHEON: Ed Pierce, Chairman passed around a sign up sheet for those planning to attend, the date is Wed. Dec 11. The meeting will start at the "Y" at 10.15 w/ wives also invited. The speaker will be Dr Martin who will talk about the "Joy of the open road in a RV" We think all the ladies will be interested in this—When the Doc gets through they'll either want to rush out and buy one or be resolved never to step foot in one, either way you will know were you stand...After the meeting we'll reconvene at the Red Lion for Lunch. We will sit in the main room, order off the Menu and eat as little or as much as you please, individual checks, of course.

INTEREST GROUPS
Bridge.....they have new members to this group and had 2 table. good show.. looking for for the 3rd table..contact Ernie Hewitt if interested..
Antiques..... Group meet at Stan Petersons on Dec 4th at 10.00am to do some restoring work join them to work or just to observe.
All other groups are dormant, dead, or dying, it seems.
Snow Days ..... If schools are closed or delayed the "Y" will be closed so the RMC will not meet check WREF 8.50am dial for info.
Our speakers, yes 3 of them, from Prudential Bache spoke knowingly on new form of tax shelter called Taxation II. A combination of a single payment endowment/life with annual income tax free options.If interested contact P.D. in Danbury for more info.Many of the men were checking out two pretty girls and not speakers. In fact when the speaker mentioned endowments, Tom Somma was heard to say, " Yes, indeed they are well endowed."
There will be no meeting Dec 25th for obvious reasons next on Jan 8, 1986

With mixed feelings this will be my last News Letter. Dick McKirahan has agreed to take over..I am leaving for the Florida Keys. See you in the spring.. Ed Gilchrist—EDITOR

What's Up???

Speakers:

September 2, Bill Wyman, Theresa Santoro RVNA, Quality Living in Ridgefield

September 16, Rep. John Frey, State of the State

October 7, Darla Shaw, The Value of Humanity Travel-India

Gourmets:

No dining event is planned for the month of September. We urge all members to sign up and go to the RMC OCTOBERFEST, scheduled for Friday, September 25th at Richardson Park.

The Gourmets will hold a luncheon at Hopkins Inn on THURSDAY, October 22nd. The social hour begins at 11:30 am. Hors D'oeuvres will be served and a cash bar available for beverages. The luncheon service will start at 12:30 pm. The luncheon will include a house salad, followed by a choice of one of six entrees, then a choice of one of six desserts with coffee/tea. The menu choices will be made at the time of seating at the tables. The cost of the luncheon is $30 per person. Check should be made out in the name of BILL LUTZIUS. For more information or to signup for the dinner call Bill at 431-6276, Al Ryff at 438-5737 or via e-mail at whlfudgie@sbcglobal.net for Bill, a.ryff@att.net for Al or at the September membership meetings.

Telephone Tree/ Membership lists

The latest version of the Club's Telephone Tree assignments and the membership list will be mailed to all members in September. Check the Telephone Tree assignments sheet for your calling assignment, if any, since many changes have been made over the recent months. For inquires about the tel. tree, call Al Ryff (438-5737).

Financial Group News.

Make sure you take a close look at Dick Paul's column on page 3. He is inviting the widows of our members to the Financial Group meetings or if they prefer a mixed group to the meetings he conducts in Redding on the third Monday of the month.

If you have contact with any of these ladies you might want to remind them if they have any interest. It looks like a great idea.

Who Is That Guy?

reported by Jim Callahan

At the recent RMC editorial board meeting, we discussed the importance of publishing member biographies. We are dedicated to "Fellowship" and therefore we need to know something about each other, especially the newest members of our club.

In the newsletter archives, we have more than 130 biographies going back to 1992. Lee Dunn was instrumental in pushing this effort, sometimes publishing four per newsletter. We would like to build on this and, starting in October, publish several short bios per month. They can be short, less than a column and factual. In the television drama, DRAGNET, Jack Webb would say, "Just the facts, sir. Just the facts." Well, we can publish more than just the facts if a member wishes. At a minimum our goal is to publish the biography with a picture and include some information on geographic background, education, family, personal interests, etc. e-mail JAMESCALLAHAN@SBCGLOBAL.NET

In Vino Veritas

by Col. Jack Daniels

Wine drinkers very often give Rose' wines a bum rap ! Dismissively spoken of as "O.K. for accompanying summer snacks", or "good for sipping around the pool or patio", like Rodney Dangerfield, has said of himself, they "don't get no respect." Alexis Bespaloff in the revised Frank Schoonmaker Encyclopedia of Wine" states that Rose's are often, "simple, semi-sweet, and undistinguished." Hugh Johnson, the world's most widely read wine writer does not even mention Rose's in the list of wines in his "Pocket Wine Book". He does, however, give them a mention, albeit condescendingly, in his listing of Wine and Food Matches, where he recommends a Rose' to accompany Moussaka and Paella.

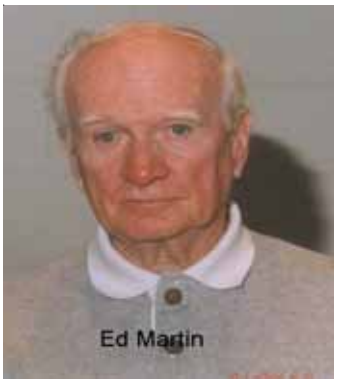
RMC Wizards sampled eight Rose's last month and determined that these wines may certainly be viewed as more than just lightweight, luncheon sippers. Further, our fearless stalwart experimenters added plaudits for the remarkable variety of colors, body and styles that these wines come in. Most of us were introduced to Rose's via Mateus or Lancers.They were "college" wines, just a small step ahead of soda pop. In our youth, we felt grown up drinking them. In romantic mood, we made table lamps, putting a candle in the empty bottle to impress our current girl friend. You may review the eight wines tasted by the Wizards by logging onto the RMC website. You won't find Lancers or Mateus but you will find a useful and worthy introduction to these underrated wines. The wine gods, sadly, did not consider our pocketbooks ! Taking top honors and most points at both tastings, were the most expensive wines.

How can we explain the reasons for such descriptors as "enjoyable, pleasant" that have haunted these wines for a hundred years? In my view, one reason is the vast number of grapes which are used to make it. Rose's are not made by mixing red wine and white wine, a practice which is forbidden in France and many other countries. They are made by using black grapes but instead of leaving the fermented juice on the skins until the juice is red, the juice is left in contact with the skins just long enough to extract a desired amount of color. Almost all juice from black grapes is clear. The color red of red wine is extracted from the skins during fermentation. This means that any black grape can be used to make a true 'vin rose' and that leads to a dizzying number of flavors and styles. Without a unifying character, Rose's became non-descript, almost anonymous ! A second reason for Rose's being considered lightweights, is the lack of fame, a lack of publicity regarding their suitability as a match for fine foods. When have you ever seen a Rose' mentioned on a menu or a wine list as going very well with a certain entrée or appetizer.

Our Wizards were lucky ! They had six delicious appetizers prepared by the indefatigable Ted McCormick. Succulent morsels which allowed us to assay just what matches were possible and how well the Rose's complimented a gamut of flavors.

Ed Martin

Requiescat
In Pace



The RMC lost another of our loyal members, Ed Martin died on August 21, 2009. Ed was 83 years old and up until a few months ago was a an active member of our Men's Club. He had requested to become an honorary member when it became difficult for him to attend meetings.

Ed and Gloria, his late wife, had been residents of Ridgefield since 1963. He spent a great deal of his working life in the retail mercantile business. Shortly after moving to Ridgefield he opened a women's fashion shop in new Canaan.

Activity was the name of the game for Ed. He was a golfer as was Gloria, a member of the Wolfpit Running Club. He and Dennis Duggan could be seen on numerous occasions running around town in their running shorts or drinking coffee at the Hayday Market. Ed was a Navy veteran and a member of our local American Legion Post. He was also a volunteer at the VNA and the Dorothy Day Hospitality House along with being an active member of St. Mary's parish. Mr. Martin was the energizer bunny par excellence, in addition to be great guy to be around.. His friends, of which he had many, will miss his sly smile, gentle wit and straight from the shoulder talk.

He is survived by two sons , Michael and David, two grandchildren, two nephews and a large extended family. Our club extends it's sympathies to his family members A suitable donation will be made in his memory to a charity of the family's choice.

Bio:
Jim Connelly

A Boston Irishman through and through. Born in Brookline Massachusetts, the ancestral home of the Kennedys, raised in Jamaica Plain, in the neighborhood of James Michael Curley, former Mayor of Boston, (many times), who succeeded John F. Fitzgerald, Honey Fitz to his friends; father of Rose Kennedy, mother of the Kennedy clan.

I was educated in the Boston Public School System and graduated from English High School in 1943. I then spent a semester at Boston College before joining the Navy in July of '43. I was discharged as a Hospital Corpsman in May of 1946 went back to BC in the fall after working at Fenway Park for the Boston Red Sox all summer. What a joy!

I received my degree from BC in January of 1950 and began my career in the Health Care Industry with Liggett Drug, McKesson and Robbins and finally Eli Lilly and Company where I spent the next nearly forty years.

I married my college sweetheart, Anne Marie Dawson,and together we moved around the country with our five children in tow, in various sales and management po-

(BIO con't on page 9)

The State Of Nuclear Power

with Tom Falciano reported by Jim Connelly

The production of electrical energy from nuclear power has been a discussion taking place in our country for a number of years now. On July 1st we had an expert Pat Falciano join us and bring us some information regarding nuclear power and the advantages it might have in the production of electrical energy.

Pat had worked at Indian Point in New York State for 39 years and up until recently was with Entergy Nuclear Services, the company that currently operates the Indian Point Nuclear facility. He retired in 2007 and now operates his own consulting company, Nuclear Renaissance. He is currently under contract with Entergy to continue their outreach program at Indian point.

Pat's power point presentation brought us through how Nuclear power is generated using Uranium, and the specially constructed plants and equipment that are necessary to safely and economically produce the electric power that runs our homes and factories.

Nuclear power, he told us generates just 20% of the electricity that we use in the United States, in France for example its 77% world wide it's about 11%.

There are groups through out the world that feel that generating electricity via nuclear power is madness even though it is cost effective and is probably environmentally friendly. Tom emphasized that it is also tremendously efficient in that it produces huge amounts of energy from small amounts of fuel. Detractors point out the nuclear waste problem; it's difficult to store, it's radioactivity and heat generation doesn't diminish for thousand of years.

The terrible accident at Chernobyl is constantly referred to.

Tom pointed out to his audience that, nuclear plants in the U.S. are specially constructed to avoid these kinds of accidents. It is very unlikely that the same thing could ever happen again. The fact remains that nuclear power is not expensive to make, it's friendly to our environment, large amounts of energy are produced from small amounts of fuel, the waste is toxic but there are only small amounts of it and it's reliable.

Tom's talk was very thought provoking and gave one an opportunity to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of producing electricity from nuclear power instead of from fossil fuels.It's probably a decision our society will have to be making for the future.

Make up your own mind!

Bio, Con't from page 8

sitions. We wound up in Connecticut in 1969.

In 1988 I lost my wife of 37 years to cancer and retired from Lilly as manager of our Hospital Division in New York City.

I began a new life in 1990 when I met and married Nurse Josephine, a kind and caring woman. We merged our families, her four and my five and began a new life as an extended family.

In 1993 I was called back to work by Lilly to put together a sales force to call on Doctors in Eastern Europe, specifically Bulgaria. We spent a year living in Bulgaria working, traveling and having the time of our lives. Josi is a nurse and she spent a great deal of her free time working with nurses in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Romania. Her profession blended in beautifully with what I was trying to accomplish for Lilly.

We returned to the states in 1994, now ready to really retire. We have been living happily ever since in our wonderful Ridgefield, active in local school, church and community activities. Life is wonderful!

Vietnam - A Visit with Don Daughters

reported by Jim Connelly

One of our own was the principle speaker on July 15.
During the war Don was a reservist and although he didn't get to Vietnam he developed a strong interest and curiosity about the country.
Last November Don and Kam traveled to Vietnam, had a magnificent visit, took lots of photos, had a great time in the two weeks they were there and came back with lots of memories of a country that really impressed and surprised them.
After his presentation I'm sure most of the audience felt the same way. He didn't expect what he saw and I'll bet most of us didn't expect what we saw.
We have heard much negativity in regard to this country, some I'm sure well deserved. Don's photos and his remarks shed a different light on a place and its people that most of us are not to familiar with.
Don commented on how well they had been treated as visiting Americans, the food was great and what they saw was different, unusual and beautiful.

Motorcycles in Saigon

They were able to travel and see Saigon, now Ho Chi Minh City, its largest city and former capitol. The influence of the French was evident all over the city as was the lack of autos; travel is mostly by motorcycles, thousands of them. He had photos of the Presidential Palace in Saigon which is not formally used and has been left exactly as it was in 1975.They also had an opportunity to travel into the country side making a visit to Cu Chi the city of tunnels. These are an elaborate octopus of tunnels 125 miles of them under the city where much of the population was able to escape too during the war and continue their lives.
There were other cities, other places, other shrines and palaces and I understand thousands of photos. He could have kept us there all day.
His slide presentation was great and his descriptions of the cities they visited matched the beauty of his slide presentation.
It was so obvious from his photographs how different and unusual this country is, from its architectural wonders to it's history and the progress it is making after so many political and war time struggles.
This was a travelogue par excellence!

Friday, September 25

Richardson Park-
10:00am

Cost: $ 8.00

Prize's

'The Best Deal In Town'

For Complete menu go to web site.

ridgefieldmensclub.org

Good Girl Art- with Ron Goulart

reported by Jim Connelly

On August 19 we were brought back, to the days of our errant youth and the comic books we used to read under our bed covers in the dark of night. Ron Goulart an artist and author was the presenter. He took us through his latest book entitled "Good Girl Art."

Described by the publisher as an "all new history recounting how the comic book medium made use of the American good girl in funny books."

Ron describes the title of his book "referring not to magazines that contain drawings of virtuous girls but rather to those featuring good drawings of attractive women. These pretty girls are most often scantily, sparsely or provocatively clad." Indeed they were!

Ron then proceeded to regale the audience with the covers of many of the popular comic books of our youth right up to the present day. It was a fun presentation and for many probably brought back old memories. He had much information regarding many of the artists and publishers of these magazines and many in the audience, as I was, were remembering their wayward youth, as they thumbed through the various comic books depicting these voluptuous heroines.

This was our entertainment! We had no TV, no computers no electronic devices. Those were the good old days and we were getting away with murder reading and ogling these pulchritudinous women, such as The Phantom Lady, Madam Satan, Sheena Queen of the Jungle, Wonder Woman, and yes many others, what fun!

His book is also great fun and if you are in to stuff like this you might find it enjoyable to read and bring back old memories, as you view the many drawings.

But don't get too excited it's bad for your heart.

I've tried to capture a small bit of Ron's presentation with some copies of comic book covers taken from his book" Good Girl Art" with his permission.