



The REEDER

Visit us on the Internet at
www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org

NEWS & VIEWS by Mary Ann Love

GATEWAY HARMONICA CLUB BANQUET

On Saturday, March 11, 2006, there was a good turnout at Garavelli's Restaurant on Chippewa and a happy time was enjoyed by family and friends. The show-stopper of the evening was Sandy and Jerry Bonfiglio. Sandy strummed guitar and belted out the words of St. Louis Blues while Jerry wailed his blues harp. Wally DeShon won the 50-50 drawing.

Many thanks to those who stepped out to help make things run smoothly: Guy Vaccaro for making reservations and coordinating the dinner with 'Sam'; Frank Davis for his excellent job as Master of Ceremony; Joe Fey and the Davis Brothers for loading and setting up sound equipment; Henry Gerfen for running the sound board; Buddy and Jessie Hirsch for keeping tickets and reservations straight; Ernie Roberts for his usual great photography; and all the participants who helped create Fun, fun, fun!! Some said it was the best banquet yet!

If anyone is interested in obtaining a video of the banquet, contact Ernie Roberts.

UNIFORM CHANGE

The uniform at performances will change as of **May 1**

FROM the red vests and long sleeve white shirts
TO the short sleeve summer polo shirt with GHC logo

If anyone would like to order a new polo shirt with the GHC logo, see Jessie Hirsch. The latest supply is slightly different; but will not be noticeable. The prices are as follows:

<u>Short Sleeve Shirts:</u>	Small, Medium, Large	24.00
	X-Large, XX	29.00
	XXXL	34.00
<u>Vests:</u>	S-M-L	31.50
	X-XX	34.50
	XXXL	39.00

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sal(vadore) T. Miano
 23268 Tuetken Rd.
 Jerseyville, IL 62052
 618-729-4414

Marlin E. Woodring
 Box 52
 503 Cherry St.
 Fidelity, IL 62030
 618-729-3791

VISITORS

On March 28 we had an especially good meeting with visitors from all across the country. Dave Anderson from Concord Village; Scott Campbell from East Alton, IL; Mike Runyan from Bethalto, IL; Helen Pollmiller from Rock Hill and her guests Lawrence and Jo Pollmiller from Phoenix, AZ; Marlin Woodring and Sal Mineo from Fidelity, IL; Eugene Novell from Jerseyville, IL; and Scott Paulding from Denver, CO. Many of these visitors participated in the open mic session and it is so interesting how everyone displays their own version of the harp playing.

Scott Paulding had visited two years ago and he is a very accomplished diatonic player. He was a delight to hear. The songs he played (one was Mozart) were very lively and fast paced.

GET WELL

Bill and Rosemary Nessler are both battling health conditions (sciatica for him, bronchitis for her), which hang on. . . Geza Dombi had some more replacements parts. . . Wally DeShon took a fall and suffered many bruises. Marie Roberts had back surgery. Ernst Hackmann tried to slice off his finger. Joe Fey is suffering from lower back problems. Well wishes to all!

CONGRATULATIONS

. . . to Elva and John Bottchen on their 65th wedding anniversary

. . . To Louise and Jack Cook on their 50th wedding anniversary.

. . . to Greg Hommert on his graduation from Kirkwood High School.

. . . to Rich Krueger for receiving his 10-gallon Blood Donor pin from the American Red Cross! Lillian Krueger continues to require our prayers for successful recovery from surgery.

CONDOLENCES

Our sympathies to Frank and Bill Davis on the loss of Alice Leasher, their sister-in-law from Little Rock, Arkansas. She filled a foster mother/big sister role in their young lives and remained dear and close all through the years.

BIG RIVER

Fort Zumwalt North High School of O'Fallon, MO sent out requests for a good blues harmonica player to enhance their production of *Big River*, a play featuring Huckleberry Finn

THE GHC REEDER is a bimonthly publication of the Gateway Harmonica Club, Inc. of St. Louis, Missouri, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of the harmonica. The club meets weekly on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM at the Rock Hill Baptist Church, 9125 Manchester, Brentwood, MO.

Inquiries about membership should be directed to:

Buddy Hirsch, Treasurer
47 Orchard Lane
Kirkwood, MO 63122
(314) 821-8651
e-mail: BuddyHarmonica@aol.com

For information about club activities, contact:

Mary Ann Love, President
1162 Villa Flora Dr.
O'Fallon, MO 63366-4443
(636)-379-7707
e-mail: maryannlove@charter.net

To schedule a club performance, contact:

Charlie Pratte
1547 Azalea Drive
Webster Groves, MO 63119
(314) 961-7764
email: CAPJR68@aol.com

All other correspondence should be directed to:

Chris Pondo
Recording & Corresponding Secretary
1166 Waldorf Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63137
(314) 868-9557

Information about the club's activities is also available on the World Wide Web at:

www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org

and other Mark Twain and Tom Sawyer characters. Frank Davis filled the category of Jew's Harp (aka Jaw Harp or Juice Harp) which gives a twangy sound, plus bass harmonica and tambourine. To fill the position of lively blues harmonica playing in various keys, nobody does it better than Greg Hommert, who traveled from the Kirkwood area for practice and play dates. Greg is a very busy individual with high school senior events, exams, and graduation and we applaud his ambition and interest in the harmonica world. A feather in the cap for both these fine gents!

GERMAN HARMONICA AND ACCORDION MUSEUM EXHIBIT

GHC has been invited to play a concert on July 14 at the opening of a three-week exhibit by the German Harmonica and Accordion Museum. Mr Martin Haffner, who is in charge of the exhibit, is Director of the museum, located in Trossingen, Germany. Mr. Larry Marsh, Coordinator of the German Culture Center of St. Louis, will serve as host of the exhibit. Our thanks to Harland Crain for recommending GHC to Larry.

Exact details are not final but we are tentatively scheduled to play a 45-minute program at 8:00 PM in Studio 210 on the UMSL Campus. More details will follow.

PICNIC

Plan to attend GHC picnic on **June 17, 2006** at Shady Springs Park in St. Peters. We have had several picnics

Happy Birthday!!!

Birthday greetings are extended to the following members of the GHC family who are celebrating birthdays in May and June.

May

Sarah Muriel 5/1
Michael LaRue 5/3
Robert Scurlock 5/8
Sharon Davis 5/11
Bob Pangilinan 5/13
Doris Rassman 5/27
Louise Cook 5/28

June

Carole Hackmann 6/1
Joyce Barber 6/4
Jean Gerfen 6/6
Guy Vaccaro 6/7
Myrna Bricker 6/9
Theon (T.S.)Heisserer 6/9
Waunetta Perry 6/17
Doreen Scurlock 6/25
Mary Pangilinan 6/25
Mike Maschek 6/26
Doris Michelin 6/26
Bill Nesselin 6/27
Bill Davis 6/29
Rose Schmidt 6/29

there and it is a lovely private setting with great accommodations including pavilion and barbeque pits. Free. Bring your own picnic lunch and drinks along with family and friends. Everyone is welcome. We always have a good time and play our harmonicas to our hearts content. Anyone who wants to play additional instruments – this is your opportunity. Starts at 12 noon. Come for awhile or all day.

Directions: Take Hwy. 70 West to Cave Springs Exit 225, continue west on I-70 No. Outer Service Road until you pass Baue Funeral Home and turn right after U-Haul on Shady Springs Rd. Continue several blocks until you reach the park. See you there!! **Remember to bring your harmonica!!**

CHINESE CHROMATICS

Jim Melchers has once again been lured by the **Golden Butterfly** harps. Jim has placed another order for these very popular instruments but has learned that (like all things!) the price has gone UP. This latest order is expected to arrive in a month or so and your cost will be about \$25. Still a great buy – sells on the internet for over \$50. If you would like to purchase one, contact Jim. We would like to keep a few on hand for new members who want to learn to play, but to avoid tying up treasury funds, may offer any excess amounts to other clubs. Thanks, Jim, for your time and trouble in ordering, making the money transfer, coordinating shipment and customs procedures and keeping it all straight.

Jim truly believes in Promoting and Advancing the Harmonica!

LIBRARY

Frank Muriel invites club members to check out from the GHC library any one of his six CD recordings. Mike LaRue has also added several videos and DVD's featuring harmonica music, especially "Pot O' Gold" starring Jimmy Stewart and Paulette Goddard. Thanks to both of these gents for sharing these with the club members.

RETURN TO SENDER

Tip: Quite a few of our players have pasted return address labels on their harmonicas. This avoids much confusion and (like a lost puppy) finds its way back to the rightful owner. Might be a good idea for any harmonica, but especially the Golden Butterfly model since there are so many in use. This also works for music stands. Several have been left or forgotten here or there. *Not that any of US are getting forgetful!*

GIG SCHEDULES

The gig schedules will now be distributed monthly at the club meetings and will not be included in the bimonthly newsletter as in the past. We hope that this change will keep members more current on additions and changes. Thanks to Charlie Pratte for an excellent job of keeping the calendar and notifying members of new gigs via e-mail, but since everyone does not yet have that service, an up-to-date paper copy will also be handed out. However, they will not be mailed. Thanks, Joe Fey, for the extra monthly publication.

FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE

When the GHC club performed at the Friendship Village of South County last month, we were highly commended by the attendees and especially the social directors. At the end of the program Ms. Pauline Green came to the microphone to say "I just want you to remember two words – Moments and Difference." She said we captured moments to remember and also that we made a difference for that day in all the lives we touched. She then said we deserved some kisses, but in a hygienic form, so she passed a basket with Hershey's kisses tied in little net bundles with a colored ribbon. We were then invited to share ice cream treats. It was a sweet and lovely outing. Thanks to all the band members who made a difference!

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

Joe and Sue Fey request that you change their email addresses in your address book to:

joefey@charter.net

suefey@charter.net

DONATED HARMONICAS

Father Dominic of the St. Louis Abbey donated a huge supply of harmonicas (mostly diatonic and mostly used) that belonged to one of his dearly departed brothers. **All of these items will be auctioned off at our June 6 meeting.**

Our thanks to Bill Dulin for his appraisals, Ralph Barber for bringing home the merchandise, Frank Davis for cleaning, repairing and categorizing these items, and Joe Fey for his role in the coordination of obtaining them. The following letter of appreciation was sent to Father Dominic:

* * * * *

Dear Father Dominic:

On behalf of the Gateway Harmonica Club, we would like to express our appreciation of your donation of the harmonica collection left by your dear departed Brother Ed. We are in the process of cleaning, repairing, and dispersing these instruments among our members.

In gratitude, we feel you should know something about our organization. It was formed to preserve the harmonica as a musical instrument. The club is incorporated in the State of Missouri as a non-profit corporation. The Gateway Harmonica club recently hosted the International Harmonica Convention at a local hotel. We provide learning and enjoyment as well as a source of entertainment and cheer for audiences both young and old. Our website gives detailed information, as well as copies of recent newsletters.

Each Tuesday evening our group meets to practice, using sheet music in harmony parts. Our programs are built around a variety of styles, such as Golden Oldies, Holiday Tunes, Ethnic Music, Novelty Tunes, Patriotic Selections, Show Tunes, Big Band favorites, and Hymns. We answer many calls from churches, nursing and retirement homes, 50+ clubs, and other social and civic organizations. Without boasting, we have played as guests with the Pops Symphony at Queeny Park, and even played the National Anthem at the ball park. Individual players furnish their own equipment, time,

talent, and travel and are not compensated for their endeavors. Most of the people in our group are in retirement, but some are still in the work force.

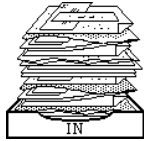
Income from membership dues, performance fees, tapes and CD sales is used to meet operating expenses and to support St. Louis area benevolent and charitable causes. Minimal fees are charged and we sometimes perform without charge for humanitarian organizations. At the close of each year we dispense any monies left in the treasury to charitable causes. This past year the charitable donations amounted to \$4,500.

We are available to give lessons, using basic sheet music for beginners of the harmonica at just the cost of the workbooks, to those interested. Any and all are welcome and invited to sit in while we meet and practice. In fact, we would like to invite you and some of your brothers to visit. We are always looking for new members and perhaps you could consider incorporating harmonica music into your services. Many of our members do play at church functions, including Sunday devotions, and even funerals. We would even be willing to have our group, or a partial group, visit your abbey and play a tribute to Brother Ed. Perhaps you could give this some consideration. Thank you again for the donation of the harmonica collection.

Sincerely

*Gateway Harmonica Club
Mary Ann Love, President*

WE GET LETTERS . .



Mary Ann Love offers these comments about our March 15 at the Ballwin Country Club. She was concerned that the client would be dissatisfied.

“We were set up in a corner off the entrance where people entered. There were hundreds of people gathering and greeting, eating and alcohol drinks were going around. I didn’t have to talk because I couldn’t be heard. I had to walk up and down telling the players what was next on the agenda. We had 15 GHC turn out. It would have sounded pretty good only the conversation and party atmosphere noise drowned out our harmonica band. The man-in-charge asked us to turn up the volume as high as possible, which we did and then he cut us off after 30 minutes. This was also the evening we were supposed to start at 8:00 (after the meeting session) but was changed to 6:45. It would have worked much better having us perform at 8:00 when everyone was settled down in their chairs. I walked away thinking the whole thing was a complete disaster (and my ears hurt) but Charlie said not to worry that they were having a good time and paid for the complete show. I thought the organization would be displeased but what a surprise follows:”

David Szukalski of the Claymont Association forwarded this regarding our performance: He reported receiving several comments like this one, and thanked us for a great evening.

* * * * *

Hi David,

I wanted to get back to your email. My husband and I loved the idea three years ago that you would go to the

Ballwin Center to have a more social annual meeting. And we think it certainly has brought out more people!! **But I did want to comment on the Harmonica group. They were just delightful! And, although most people didn't just stand and listen to them, we heard many voice our sentiments that it was delightful background music enjoyed by all. Particularly because the entertainment was "live" it added such a party dimension to the gathering.**

The annual meeting in its present format as well as the pool party are vital to maintaining a close and supportive community in the Claymont subdivision! My husband and I moved here six years ago from Manchester. We already had our own circle of friends. But when we moved into our present home, we wanted to widen our friendships to include to include people in Claymont. The only way to meet people is through these events. It is also a way to feel connected to a wide group of people who love their subdivision just by seeing them and conversing with them for a short time at these social events. Great job and keep it up!!

Thanks also for all the speakers. We found it a very successful and worthwhile evening!

Sincerely,

Linda & Stuart Hines (Devon Ct.)

* * * * *

From the St. Louis County Library
Weber Road Branch;

The Gateway Harmonica Club was a great success! We squeezed 75 people (not counting the musicians) in to enjoy an hour of great harmonica music. The crowd loved it. We certainly want the club to return next year!

Sincerely,

Joy Rucker

SIMPLE RECIPE FOR THE GOOD LIFE

If you’re the type of person who likes things short and sweet, here’s one definition of a good life you may appreciate from Edward Creagan, M.D., Mayo Clinic. A good life is having:

Someone to love. People generally are healthier and happier when they have someone to love or care for, whether that’s a spouse, children, grandchildren or a pet. Spending time with family and friends helps ward off depression and reinforces healthy behaviors.

Something to do. When you’re actively engaged in the world, you feel challenged and productive, which is key to satisfaction. Being involved – seeking opportunities to learn, build and love – gives you a sense of purpose and identity.

Something to look forward to. For many people, later life is a time to explore new ventures, give back to others in the community, or share wisdom with family and friends. People like to know that they’ve challenged themselves or that they’ve made a difference.

“A good laugh and a long sleep are the best cures in the doctor’s book.” - Anonymous

HARMONICA BIOGRAPHY

by *Ralph Barber*

As I approach the end of my first year's membership in the GHC, I have some thoughts and impressions I wish to share with the club. But first, allow me to relate the unusual concurrence of events that brought me here.

My musical background is quite thin. I was a bass voice in an excellent all-male high school glee club and double quartet, wherein I learned to appreciate the beauty of close, four-part harmony, and the discipline of rhythm and tempo required for musical presentation. In the latter '60s, I began studying classical guitar, was mostly self-taught, but had to discontinue in '71 due to priorities of family and career.

Then, after 30 years, I returned to the guitar in 2001, playing in an ensemble in a class offered by the local chapter of OASIS. And here begins my odyssey to the harmonica and club through a series of almost concurrent events.

In June of 2004, I broke my left wrist in a home accident, and I realized that recovery and rehab would end guitar playing for, at least, the remainder of the year. I wanted to stay in touch with music, however, but just didn't know how. Then one day, I read a newspaper report about the SPAH convention here in St. Louis, and the participation of the GHC and its warm hospitality to visitors and guests. And within just days after the article, I watched a "Living St. Louis" segment on KETC Channel 9, which featured most favorably the GHC. My interest was definitely tweaked, but I still didn't know if harmonica would be "right" for me, or how to get started, knowing absolutely nothing about the instrument. Then, as if predestined, the fall OASIS catalog was published and, lo and behold, two three-session courses in harmonica were being offered, to be taught by a member of GHC. I registered for both courses immediately. Joe Fey was the teacher of the sessions, and the more I learned, the more I wanted to become involved. Joe invited the class participants to visit the club meetings, and I did. One in October, two in November, and, I believe, one in the following January. I knew then, that I wanted to be part of the club.

But I also needed to make a guitar "best effort" to assess my playing ability with diminished left-hand wrist extension and hand spread, the results of the accident. So, with

harmonica in the back of my mind, I focused on classical guitar playing during the spring trimester at OASIS. I realized by April that serious guitar playing was over for me. Too much discomfort for the long hours of practice required, and limited ability due to the physical impairments.

I attended a GHC meeting in April and told Charlie Pratte that I wanted to join the club, and could I please have some club music to try and learn. I was accepted into the club at the May meeting, and my seemingly "meant to be" journey to the GHC, thus comes to an end.

The club has been a totally positive experience for me these past 12 months. I am as impressed today with the high performance level of the ensemble playing as I was on my first visit. And, the virtuosity of the solo players is truly an inspiration and incentive for those of us of lesser talents. My one disappointment, and it is entirely within myself, is that my sight-reading ability has not improved in the past year to a level that permits me to make a significant contribution to the gig activity of the club, which I recognize as the club's core activity, and that I would thoroughly enjoy. But hope springs eternal; I shall continue to work at it. Perhaps, one day, some neurons and synapses will find a way to connect, and the situation will improve.

Lastly, I would like to set forth my goals with the club. First and foremost, I want to be a positive contributor, in some way, to the success and fine reputation of the club. Additionally, I want to vanquish those performance "demons" that lessen our abilities when playing to an audience. And finally, I wish to improve my sight-reading skill so as to become a full participant in the club's activities.

In closing, I find it difficult to believe that such a small, pocketable instrument can bring together, and hold together, so many genuine 24-karat people. Simply amazing!

Editors Note: Thanks, Ralph, for your story and your determination and perseverance to master that little pocketful of music. We appreciate your interest and participation in the club and open mic sessions and are proud of how far you have progressed in so short a time. Congratulations!

MUSICAL SHORT TAKES

What happens if you sing country music backward?
You get your job and your wife and your dog and your truck back.

What do you get if Bach falls off a horse but has the courage to get on again and ride?
Bach in the saddle again.

What's musical and handy in a supermarket?
A Chopin Liszt.

Why don't they know where Franz Joseph is buried?
Because he's Haydn.

“ RULE BRITANIA ”

Ron and Judy Beer had the good fortune and opportunity to travel to England March 14 through April 4, 2006. Lydia Suckow was their travel companion, and they traded a time-share for a canal boat trip. So many folks asked Ron about his trip that he was willing to share their adventures by way of Judy's journal. This documentary will be related in three episodes over the next few REEDER issues. Thanks to the Beers for this Travelogue!

Beer Vacation Episode #1



The enchantment of this small but vigorous land is compelling for a number of reasons. From the rear deck of our Narrowboat, the “Falstaff”, the views of farm acreage were invigorating. Fresh young green shoots, rich brown recently ploughed fields and pastureland with sheep or cattle provided a view of what surely would have been seen hundreds of years ago. Hedgerows of gorse or furze maintain order in the varied patchwork of English farms. Pooh bear must have been somewhere near. Traveling on the 18th century canals at two – three miles per hour offers a unique perspective of constantly changing vistas. Truly reflection time, although the navigation of the boat, about forty feet long, required a constant vigil. In the beginning, so to speak, these watercraft were towed by horses; hence tow paths were to be found along the banks. English walkers and their dogs abound along these paths, even though villages were unseen over much of the route. For seven days we wandered the Trent/Mersey canal traveling from Barton Turn to Shirleywich and back. Total distance 48 miles, elevation difference 81 feet achieved through 14 locks. The canal width varies from single boat to three or four boats, requiring patience and skilful adjusting, passing moored craft as well as traffic on the go. Often the appearance of a church steeple announced the approach of a village or town.

FUN FIRSTS IN SPACE

During their December 1965 space flight, the Gemini 6 astronauts radioed that they'd spotted what “looks like a satellite going from north to south, probably in polar orbit.” Next came the sound of “Jingle Bells.” Was it Santa on his sleigh? No! The astronauts were playing a tiny harmonica and jingle bells!

Reprinted from Boys' Life, February 2006 and submitted by Arpad deKallos

The galley had a stove and cooler so we carried food for breakfast, snacks and dinner but often lunched or dined in pubs. Great food and pleasant surroundings, the English pub should be copied elsewhere for quality and atmosphere. Lamb or chicken pasties were delicious, while other sandwiches or full meals were available. Great cheese and a variety of beverages rounded out the essentials, while afternoon tea was a treat.

While Ron played the role of captain, the crew, Judy and Lydia, handled the lock mechanism. Paddles on the lock doors were raised and lowered with crank handles and when the desired water level was achieved, the large doors were opened or closed (happened both ways on each transition up or down) and we progressed once more at a snail-like pace. The recognition of the inestimable value of muscle power was fully demonstrated.



Our intent was to travel to Stoke on Trent via boat and to visit the potteries. Alas, time was short so we returned to the Marina ½ day early, moored, and took the car to Stoke where we were treated to a splendid tour of the Wedgwood facility. Potters do have fun, and we were able to ask questions of a team engaged in several of the processes employed. Great craftsmen.

(To be continued in the next issue)

GHC Events Calendar

WEEKLY EVENTS

Tuesday evening meetings at Rock Hill Baptist Church, 9125 Manchester, St. Louis, MO 63144:

6:30 PM - Blues Group, led by Louise Cook — Everyone welcome

7:00 PM - First Tuesday of month: Business Meeting — Everyone welcome

All other Tuesdays: Band Rehearsal — Everyone welcome

8:15 PM - Open Mic — Everyone welcome

PERFORMANCES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

A schedule of upcoming Gateway Harmonica Club performances and special events is distributed monthly at our business meeting on the first Tuesday of each month.

A WISH FOR ALL SEASONS

Singer Andy Williams ends his video with these very meaningful words:

May each day of the week be a good day.
 May the Lord always watch over you.
 And may all of your hopes turn to wishes.
 And may all of your wishes come true.
 May each day in the month be a good day.
 May you make friends with each one you meet.
 And may all of your daydreams be memories.
 Any may all of your memories be sweet.
 Weeks turn to months and months into years.
 There will be sadness and joy, laughter and tears,
 But I pray to heaven above. . .
 May all your days be filled with Love.
 May each day of the year be a good day.
 May each dawn find you happy and gay.
 And may all of your days be as lovely,
 As the one we shared today.
 May each day of your life be a good day
 And good night.
Submitted by Chris Pondo

* * * * *

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

A fool and his money are soon parted.
 The rest of us wait until income tax time.

New World Harmonica Jazz Trio

Join Sandy Weltman, Carolbeth True, and Glen Smith at Crossings Tavern & Grille, 35 N. Gore Ave. in Webster Groves, March 24th, 8:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m.

RIDDLES (FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART)

1. What's the biggest ant?
2. What asks no questions, but always demands an answer?
3. What gets wetter the more it dries?
4. What grows larger the more you take away?
5. What can you hold without touching it?
6. What bow can never be tied?
7. What kind of coat has no buttons, sleeves or pockets, and can't keep you warm?
8. What has three feet and is unable to walk?
9. What always enters a home through the keyhole?
10. What kind of cap can't you take off?
11. What is the beginning of eternity and the end of life?

Answers: 1. An Elephant; 2. A Doorbell; 3. A Towel; 4. A Hole; 5. A Conversation; 6. A Rainbow;
7. A Coat of Paint; 8. A Yardstick; 9. A Key; 10. A Knee Cap; 11. The letter "E"