

SOULE NEWSLETTER

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: No.C371, S717, VOL. XXVI,NO.2,SPRING 1992 PG.49

Published by Soule Kindred, Inc., 53 New Shaker Rd.,Albany,NY.,12205

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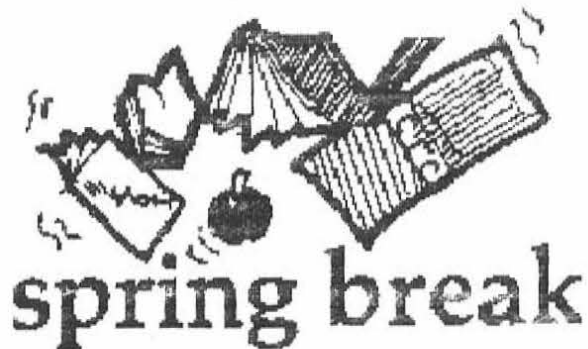
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Subscriptions with checks made payable to SOULE KINDRED should be sent to the Treasurer, 53 New Shaker Road, Albany, N.Y., 12205.

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53 New Shaker Road
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Life Membership.....\$200.00
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Students(to age 22)....\$ 7.50

ISSN #0584 - 164x

IRS Tax I.D. # 23 7253936

EDITOR'S THOUGHTS

It sure looks like the Reno Reunion will be a milestone in our yearly get-togethers. Reservations, maps, and touring information isng included in this newsletter. Reservations should be mailed as soon as possible. It seems a lot of people go to Reno in the summertime.

I made a few "goofs" in the winter issue of Soule Newsletter, that I would like to correct.

1. in V.25, p. 104 (Fall 1991) David Martin's address should be 4709 Blagden Terr..... not 4309 as listed.

I certainly hope no one was inconvined

2. in V.26, No.1,pg.28 (Winter 1992) from Norma Pugh: The correct spelling of the family name is Barksdale. Thomas J. Sowls is the grandfather. Albert Larson was the father of Norman, Genevieve, and Marie.

Please accept my apologies.

I've received so many letters and newspaper clippings from "cousins". It will take me awhile to answer each and everyone, but I will answer.....

Right now, as I look out my window, (April 11th), it's snowing. Hard to believe that Spring is here and summer is on the way.

News for the next newsletter is due: JUNE 19, 1992

SEE YOU ALL IN RENO...

Your Editor

PRESIDENT'S PEN

Dear Kindred Cousins,

In looking over past issues of the Newsletter (seeking inspiration for the "President' Pen"), I was not too surprised to find that past presidents of the Kindred all (in one way or another) focused on the issue of increasing membership. Growth is a measure of health, and new members have a way of pumping interest, ideas and viability into any organization. So, remember our slogan for 1992. . . "EVERY MEMBER GET A MEMBER!"

I'm beginning to REALLY appreciate the efforts of our Cousins who have hosted past reunions, and especially Jim Soule who hosted three of them! No small amount of effort goes into one of these things and little things I hadn't thought about keep popping up. One good thing about getting so much of it finalized now, is that I will have the next five months to fine-tune our get-together.

Our reunion occurs at the height of the Reno tourist season, with major activities all around our reunion date. Weekends are the busiest, and all hotels utilize a higher rate schedule for the weekends (which run Thursday through Saturday nights). The Sands has agreed to a much lower weekend rate (\$52. + tax) for our group, and has thrown in a \$32 per night rate for Sunday through Wednesday night..... an enticement for visitors to extend their stay in the "Biggest Little City". The Sands will hold our block of rooms at our special rates through JULY 22. Check the reunion and reservation information in this newsletter and get you reservations in now!!!

Our banquet speaker is Philip I. Earl, M.A., Curator of History, Nevada Historical Society. He is an authority on the history of Nevada, has published a number of books and articles on historical subjects with a primary focus on Nevada, and writes a weekly column for Nevada newspapers. He will speak on Nevada Ghost Towns and Mining Camps.

I look forward to seeing each of you in August.

Sincerely,

Ron

THE SANDS REGENCY HOTEL/CASINO

345 N. Arlington Avenue
at Third Street in downtown Reno

FACT SHEET

10 Minutes from Reno Cannon International Airport

1000 deluxe oversized rooms and 29 luxury suites

Complete Casino featuring Slots, Roulette, Craps, Blackjack and Keno

24 hour Palm Court Restaurant

Tony Roma's, A Place For Ribs

Antonia's Dinner House

Arby's Roast Beef Restaurant

Snack Bar and Breakfast Room Service

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Winchell's Donut House

Complete Penthouse Health Club featuring Jacuzzi, Steam,
Sauna, Exercise Equipment, Men's and Women's Showers and
Locker Rooms. Massage services available.

Over 12,000 square feet of meeting space to accommodate groups of ten to 1000.

Four Cocktail Lounges

Acres of free self parking and RV parking

Gift Shop and Liquor Store

Grayline Tour Desk and National Rental Car Agency on premises

Styling Salon

Children's Arcade

Outdoor Swimming Pool

Sands Regency Day and Night Fun Books are provided daily to each
guest. An \$11.55 value in drinks, gaming coupons, free nickels,
souvenirs and discounts.

SOULE KINDRED IN AMERICA

Reunion Activities

DATE	ACTIVITY	NBR OF COUSINS	COST	TOTAL
	Reunion Registration Fee	<input type="text"/>	X \$15.00	<input type="text"/>
Aug 13	Bus/van tour Hidden Cave and NAS Fallon w/lunch at Officer's Club	<input type="text"/>	X \$20.00*	<input type="text"/>
Aug 14	Bus tour Comstock/Lake Tahoe Lunch at Soule Domain Restaurant "on your own".	<input type="text"/>	X \$15.00	<input type="text"/>
Aug 15	Bus to Historical Society/Wilbur May Museum	<input type="text"/>	X \$ 6.00	<input type="text"/>
	Banquet at Sands** Salmon Wellington Filet & Chicken Combo	<input type="text"/>	X \$20.00	<input type="text"/>

* Depends on number of participants. If only a few opt for this tour, we may go via rental vans at less cost.

** SALMON WELLINGTON - An 8 oz. portion of King Salmon, seasoned with fine herbs, wrapped in a delicate pastry shell and baked to a golden brown.
FILET & CHICKEN COMBO - Generous portions of Choice Tenderloin and Boneless Breast of Chicken broiled to perfection.

TOTAL AMOUNT REMITTED:

Please make checks payable to
"Soule Kindred Reunion"
and mail to:

Ronald J. Soule
430 Heron Lane
Fallon, NV 89406



Creative Dinners

*Charlie Soule
Chef/Owner*

*Box 1645
Kings Beach, Ca.
95719*

*Stateline Road
Across from the
Tahoe Biltmore/
Crystal Bay
North Lake Tahoe
(916) 546-7529*

REUNION RENO

AUGUST 13 - 14 - 15 - 16

REUNION HEADQUARTERS: The Sands Regency, 345 N. Arlington,
Reno, Nevada 89501
Reservations: 800-648-3553

AGENDA: **August 13** Arrivals and checkin.

9AM - 4PM For those who arrive early, a mini-bus trip into the high desert with a visit to the Hidden Cave archeological site and a tour of the Fallon Naval Air Station.

August 14 Friday

8:30 AM Tour bus loading at the Sands.
9:30 - 1 PM Visit to Virginia City, State Capitol at Carson City, and tour along Lake Tahoe's north shore.

1PM Lunch at The Soule Domain Restaraunt. This is a gourmet restaurant, and Chef Charlie Soule wants to offer his cousins an open menu so that you may sample any one of his many excellent dishes. Lunch cost is on your own.

2:30 PM Depart Tahoe's north shore and return to Reno via the senic Mt. Rose highway.

4 PM until ? On your own. Many unusual and excellent restaurants and floor shows. Hotel will assist in show reservations.

August 15 Saturday

9:30 AM Tour bus to visit the Nevada Historical Society Museum. Conducted 1 hour tour.
11:00 AM Bus to the Wilbur May Museum. This museum replicates a typical Western-style ranch home, as well as displaying some items from the collections of Wilbur D. May, collector, businessman, rancher, adventurer, big-game hunter, world traveler, pilot, composer and philanthropist.

1:00 PM Return to Hotel. Lunch on your own.
3:00 PM Board Meeting, Sands Regency.
6:30 PM Banquet Reception, Sands Regency.
7:30 PM Annual Grand Banquet, Sands Regency. Speaker, Philip I. Earl, Curator of History, Nevada Historical Society.

August 16 Sunday

XXXX AM Church service to be announced.
XXXX AM Brunch to be arranged.



Please reserve the following rooms for my attendance

at the AUGUST 12-16, 1992 meetings of SOULE KINDRED IN AMERICA
(Dates)

NAME STREET

CITY STATE ZIP PHONE

PER NIGHT ROOM RATES: \$ 32.00 WED; \$52.00 THU, FRI, SAT Single or Double Occupancy (Triple Add \$7.00)

Single (1 person 1 bed) Double (2 people 1 bed) Double Double (2 people 2 beds)

Credit Card No. Expiration Date

Additional persons in same room: \$7.00 per night each. RATES SUBJECT TO 9% ROOM TAX.

Arrival Date: Approx. Time Departure Date

MAKE RESERVATIONS PROMPTLY . . . ROOMS FOR YOUR GROUP WILL BE RELEASED AFTER 7/22/92
(Date)

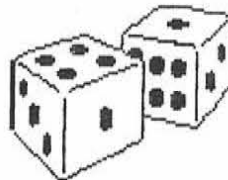
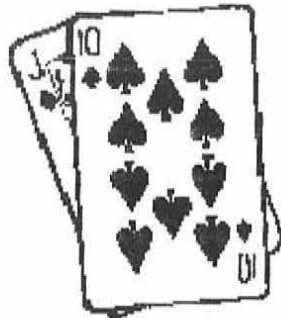
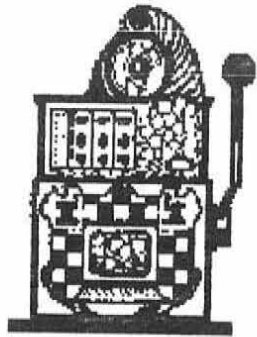
Complete and mail with one night's room cost to:

Reservations Dept. THE SANDS REGENCY HOTEL CASINO * 345 North Arlington Avenue * Reno, Nevada 89501

Checks or money orders suitable for deposit. Credit card guarantees accepted, first night's room and tax will be charged upon receipt. Deposits refunded only if cancellation received 48 hours in advance. Failure to cancel will result in billing for all nights reserved.

SA-105 (Rev. 7/91)

(Signed)



FAMILY HISTORIAN'S REPORT

by Geraldine Sowle Schlosser

By the time you receive this report, spring should be "busting out all over" and it will be time to make your plans for attending our reunion in Reno in August. I will be there to try to help you with any problems you may have with your lineage-- but I will not have the microfilmed records with me. Since we plan to fly, there is a limit to what source materials I can bring, and the microfilm reader is one of them.

* * * * *

Two of our members, Joe Cox of San Marcos, TX and his daughter Deborah Werner of San Antonio, are applying for membership in the Mayflower Society. They are descended from William/Bildad Soules who lived in Vigo County, IN. Although a good number of individuals went in on this line in the 1970's, the Historian General now tells us that we need to prove that Bildad⁶ is the same person who appears in Indiana as William. It is claimed that may papers were filed on this line in the 1970's and contain no documents at all! I find this hard to believe and suspect the documents may have been lost. So I am asking those of you who went in on this line to check your applications for what was used as documentation for the 6th generation, and send to me. This really involves a lot of our members who descend from Bildad/William, and you should know that if Joe Cox is turned down, your children and grandchildren will not be eligible, either, even though you may have been accepted earlier.

* * * * *

About indexes-- they are never really complete, and often not completely error-free. I'm referring to our own Soule Kindred Index, which is an ancestral index, leading one back to George Soule. In working with the files, and in response to queries and information from our members, I have found several corrections and additions. Some of these were published in the Newsletter in V. 24 #3, July 1990. I am now working on an update which I hope will be completed by the time of our reunion. There will also be a separate index of Soule descendants with other surnames.

* * * * *

One of my Christmas presents was a membership in the Prodigy Service via my computer modem. It has been exciting making contact with other SOULE researchers-- even some of our members. I think Soule Kindred has gained some new members. I have received new information through this source. I want to thank members, too, who have added to our extensive files. It is fun being able to add generations after the 5th, especially when there have been many surname changes. So keep sending in those family sheets, and I'll keep filing the information away. I look forward to meeting some of you from the Southwest and West Coast at our Reno Reunion.

RECORDING OF FAMILY DATA

By Geraldine Sowle Schlosser, Soule Kindred Historian

One of the objectives of Soule Kindred is the gathering of information pertaining to the descendants of Pilgrim George Soule. Mayflower Families 3 covers the first 5 generations, to about 1800. Our families did a lot of moving around in the 19th century, and you can help locate migration patterns for family groups. That is why the Family Data Chart is printed in each issue of the Newsletter. Our historian may be able to help you with that "missing link". So please keep the information coming.

We would like to suggest that you begin with your sixth generation ancestor from George Soule (or your earliest Soule ancestor, if you haven't made the connection to George¹). Fill out a form for that ancestor, and then submit forms for each of your ancestors down to yourself. This is especially important if you descend through a female line; Soule women who marry tend to become lost Soules.

We'll give a short explanation of how to fill out the form. Samples were printed in V. 20, #2 and #3-- April and July, if you'd like to refer to those.

(1) The "Generation" space in the upper left corner shows the generation from the immigrant ancestor. Please leave it blank unless you are certain.

(2) In the far upper space on the right for "FAMILY", leave it blank if the surname of "Soule Descendant" is SOULE, SOWLE, or variants, because we'll assign a code number for closely related family groups. If the "Soule Descendant" has a different surname, insert the name in the right upper space.

(3) The next two lines show the ancestors of the "Soule Descendant" back to George Soule¹. Unless you have an approved Mayflower Lineage or other positive proof, we suggest this be left blank.

(4) When writing dates, follow the genealogical style-- first the day in numbers, then the month in letters, and the full year, such as 6 Feb 1833.

(5) When listing children on the reverse side, put in as much information as you can-- such as spouse's parents, if known.

(6) List your name and address as compiler unless someone else gathers the information. We may need to contact the compiler.

(7) It is VERY important to list sources of data; if the information comes from a family Bible or other record, a photocopy of the information should be included. Other sources, such as Vital Records from towns or states, and census should be indicated.

(8) Leave "Verification" blank for our purposes.

(9) Please give as many clues as possible to facilitate further research. If you are uncertain about a date, enter it, but add "circa" or "ca". For questionable place names, add "possibly" or "probably".

Send completed forms to;

SOULE KINDRED IN AMERICA
Geraldine Sowle Schlosser, Historian
801 E. Brownell St.
Tomah, WI 54660-2201
608/372-7018

Soule Kindred

Generation _____

Family _____

Soule
Descendant

Ancestral
Line

(_____)

Parentage

son/dau of _____ and _____ (_____) _____

Birth or
baptism

was b _____ at _____

Death

died _____ at _____

Burial

buried at _____ Cemetery

Residences
and
removals

Resided _____

Occupation

Military
service

Other
biograph-
ical data

He/She married _____

on _____ at _____

Parentage

son/dau of _____ and _____ (_____) _____

Birth or
Baptism

He/She was b _____ at _____

Death

and died _____ at _____

Burial

buried at _____ Cemetery

Biographical

Other
marriages

LETTERS.....WE GET LETTERS

From: Virginia Reeder Christensen of Pensacola, Florida:

I have just joined the Mayflower Colony newly organized in Pensacola. I am also a new member of the Mayflower Society through Noah Chase and Thankful Cleveland Page 215, book 3, "Mayflower Families".

I've been doing research in England for the past ten years and even found a Soule name on the wall of a church in Normandy -- where William the Conqueror left to conquer England. --- pretty exciting...

You can write Virginia at:

4715 Casenave Road
Pensacola, Fl., 32504

from: Kate Soule* of Waukegan, Illinois:

"Last spring I graduated from the University of Mass. in Amherst with an MBA. I am now working at Shimer College in Waukegan as Assistant Fiscal Officer. Shimer has only 80 students. I feel very comfortable in the small college community. Give my best to everyone."

*Kate was one of our Scholarship Winners a few year ago. Her father George Alan Soule of Northfield, Minn. was the Senior Jeopardy Champion.

from: Joseph Bachman of Pennsylvania:

"Thanks to the past encouragement of Colonel John Soule, our line was proven from George Soule to his descendants of extreme southern Ohio (Scioto County). Membership in Pittsburgh's Mayflower Society now includes the following:

MYSELF: Joseph Bachman

MY MOTHER: Mrs. Mae Dever Bachman

MY DAUGHTERS: Anne Ferris Bachman
Sarah Stewart Bachman - Bram

MY SONS: Frederich Huff Bachman
Nathaniel Sikes Bachman

There has been a large increase in Soules of the Pennsylvania Society."

M I L E S T O N E S

BIRTHS:

Reported by Ellen Frazier Picinich of Scarborough, Maine

1. To daughter Nannie and her husband Daniel Johnson, a son Peter Gordon Johnson on May 9, 1990
The family lives on Long Island, NY. on August 11, 1991
2. To son, John and his wife Laurie, a son Sean Frazier Picinich on June 8, 1990. They live in Albany, NY.

Reported by Anita Stong of Honolulu, Hawaii

Born to Stanley Ross Stong, Jr. and his wife Sheila Gail (Thomas) Stong, a daughter, Britney Anne Stong on September 18, 1991 in Cherokee County Georgia.

Reported by Eloise Soule Nielsen of Peoria, Illinois

Born to our son Paul Nielsen and his wife Lulu Iwanske, a son Thomas, on August 18, 1991. They live in Niskayuan, NY

Reported by Beverly A. Aaroen of Madison, Wisconsin

Born to Guy and Laurry Aaroen, a son Matthew Martin Aaroen, on April 3, 1990. in Oakland, California. Sean is a 12th

Reported by Jeanette Taylor (your editor)

Born to Robert Glenn McCrostie and his wife Susan, their third child, Gina Mari, on March 16, 1992. They live in Tabor, New Jersey.



From:
Ellsworth American

"Pilgrim" Relates Mayflower Trip

By John R. Wiggins

Mistress Joan Tillie, who explained Pilgrim life to visitors aboard the *Mayflower* reproduction at Plimoth Plantation for seven years, recited her saga of crossing the Atlantic in 1620 to members of the Brooklin/Sedgwick Historical Society at the Sargentville Chapel on Feb. 18.

Mary Badger Jessup of Blue Hill became so immersed in the role of Mistress Tillie at Plimoth that today she has no trouble flipping in and out of the 17th Century English midlands accent acquired for the part.

Tillie and her husband, John, and daughter, Elizabeth, left Henlow, Bedfordshire, because as Separatists they had to worship in secret or face treason charges. In the language and spirit of the times, Jessup told of underground meetings to worship, the 53-day crossing between decks of the *Mayflower*, and the sickness that almost wiped out the colony during its first winter at Plymouth.

Among those who succumbed were John and Joan Tillie, but their daughter survived to marry a Howland, and her descendants are among the estimated 50 million people in the United States today who can claim ancestors aboard the *Mayflower*. Jessup happens to be a descendant of John Alden.

When Jessup started working at Plimoth Plantation, she said, it was a casual summertime operation where people in costume simply herded the public through a mock Pilgrim settlement. Today it boasts specialists and historians on its staff all year long, and guides have to live, speak, and dress like the historic characters they represent.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN R. WIGGINS

"Mistress Joan Tillie," known locally as Mary Badger Jessup of Blue Hill, tells of crossing the Atlantic aboard the *Mayflower*.

A Minnesota History of St. Patrick's Day

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is reprinted from the Courier-Sentinel, serving the towns of Bricelyn, Kiester, Walters, and Frost.)

We celebrate March 17 in commemoration of St. Patrick's great and noble deed in driving the Norwegians out of Ireland.

It seems that centuries ago many Norwegians came to Ireland to escape the bitterness of the Norwegian winter. Ireland was having a famine at the time and food was quite scarce.

The Norwegians were eating almost all the fish caught in the area, leaving the Irish with nothing but potatoes.

St. Patrick, taking matters into his own hands like most Irishmen do, decided the Norwegians had to go. Secretly he organized the IRATRION (Irish Republic Army to rid Ireland of Norwegians). Irish members of IRATRION sabotaged all power plants in hopes the fish in Norwegians' refrigerators would spoil, forcing the Norwegians to a colder climate where their fish would keep.

The fish spoiled all right, but the Norwegians, as everyone knows to this day, thrive on spoiled fish.

Faced with failure, the Irishmen sneaked into the Norwegians' fish storage caves in the dead of the night and

sprinkled the rotten fish with lye, hoping to poison the Norwegian intruders. But, as everyone knows, this is how lutefisk was introduced to the Norwegians and they thrived on this lye-soaked smelly fish.

Matters became even worse for the fishermen when the Norwegians started taking over the three thousand eight hundred and five Irish potato crops and making lefse. Poor St. Pat was at his wits end, and finally on March 17th he blew his top and told all the Norwegians to go to HELL, and it worked. All the Norwegians left Ireland and went to Minnesota.

A friend for the dying

If there's no cure, faith is best treatment

By Martha Sawyer Allen
Staff Writer

Jim Soule accepted the inevitability of his death when he saw the CAT scan results in January.

"The tumors were just growing like wildfire in my liver. I could see the change, and I knew my body was telling me the truth."

The 61-year-old retired banker sits in an armchair in his south Minneapolis home, his arm held carefully across his abdomen, as if to tamp down the discomfort and pain. His eyes are clear, his mind is sharp as he contemplates the ending of his life on Earth.

"I tell people that if they come to my funeral and look down at me there, they should know that I'm OK and now I know all the mysteries."

Jim Soule has passed through the anger, the bargaining, the denial. He's dying and he believes it. And it's OK. Sure, he'd like to have had more years. His 62nd birthday is Feb. 26.

"Faith is a belief in things yet unseen. I'm not a theologian, but there's just a sense that we're not alone, that somebody cares."

Because he had helped his wife, Nan Soule, through her death in 1987, he knew what he would need. He would need a friend.

So he asked his minister, the Rev. Jim Gaughan, to do for him what he had done for Nan.

The two men have been good friends since Gaughan came to Excelsior United Methodist Church five years ago and helped Jim and Nan Soule through Nan's death. Jim Soule is a life-long Methodist, a denomination he said suits him well.

Soule wanted his minister-friend to go to Kodiak, Alaska, with him, one last time. It was the place where Soule spent each summer, and the place he had hoped to spend many years when he retired, in a passionate relationship with the land.

In early December, the two made



Jim Soule has spent much pondering life and the end of

their last pilgrimage to the land of salmon runs and breathtaking mountains. Soule returned for n

received From Ben George Soule and Ralph P. Soule, Jr.

chemotherapy and the CAT scan in January.

Gaughan said his friend is teaching him, again, how important it is to be authentic, to be honest, to strip away those things in life that truly don't matter and experience completely those things that do.

Gaughan insisted that he hasn't done much for his friend, but Soule smiled, a slow, gentle smile, and said: "Don't let him tell you otherwise. He did a huge favor for me in going to Alaska. I needed him at that time. I was having to work out a lot of things in my heart and mind, and I didn't have anyone to talk to. My spouse is gone.

"When Nan was ill we'd sit hour by hour at the edge of the bed with our feet dangling down like two kids on the end of a dock. She was in pain, so we rocked and it helped. For hours we'd rock like that and talk these things through."

Nan Soule thought she was in fine health, probably just had a little bit of a cold, when, in 1986, the doctor told her she had inoperable lung cancer. She and Jim Soule had 16 months left. He thinks of them now as some of the best times of his life.

"Sure, I miss my mate of 29 years," he said. "I've lost her, but I also had her during the most magnificent times of her life — her marriage, the birth of her children and her death. What more could I ask for?"

On the day his wife died, Soule gently stroked her hair and held her hand, kissed her and told her it was time to let go. "I felt the presence of God at that moment. I'm not sure I know what it means, the presence of God, but I've always had a sense of it as a relationship with God. [Her death] was a sublime moment. I knew this life was over and now it was a new beginning."

He turned to his minister-friend and said, "Now he'll do that for me." Gaughan agrees quickly. He'll be honored to help his friend. He'll be there.

In Kodiak, in a restaurant one night, Soule took out a napkin and drew a line on it. Gaughan remembers it well:

"Jim wondered out loud how much longer he would have to live. I asked him how he viewed death and he said he sees it not as an ending, but as a beginning, a point on a continuum."

For the pastor, traveling with his dying friend was a humbling experience, because, "Jim was teaching me the meaning of living in between the 'already' of Christ's birth and 'not yet' of his second coming, the meaning of living life as a pilgrim, as one who is not fully at home here."

For Soule, the talks are a chance to sort out what he feels about his own death and his faith. God is closer to him now, he said. It's not an intellectual exercise anymore.

He spends his days talking with friends and loved ones, and reading. He's re-reading some favorites of American history, including Alexis de Tocqueville's "Democracy in America" and a biography of Thomas Jefferson.

As he talked, a light snow skiffed through the air. "I'm just enjoying the snow. I'm not thinking maybe there will be a snow day from school tomorrow or we'll have to move the car. I'm just watching the snow. That's what counts."

He grinned. "I also don't think I can eat too much chocolate."

It's easy for him to let go of each day because of the pain. "The first days of retirement I was up at 6 a.m. The day held so much for me. Now, I sleep later, until 9 or 9:30. I'm not trying to fill each day with a grand new experience. I just take each day as it comes. I made a blueberry pie the other day. I make a very good pie crust."

It's easy to sleep. And when he sleeps he dreams, often of Nan. "When I dream of Nan, it's kind of nice because she and I are healthy."

He paused. "You know, my death isn't anything special, or set apart from anybody else's. I'm not the only one who has died. My passing will be OK."

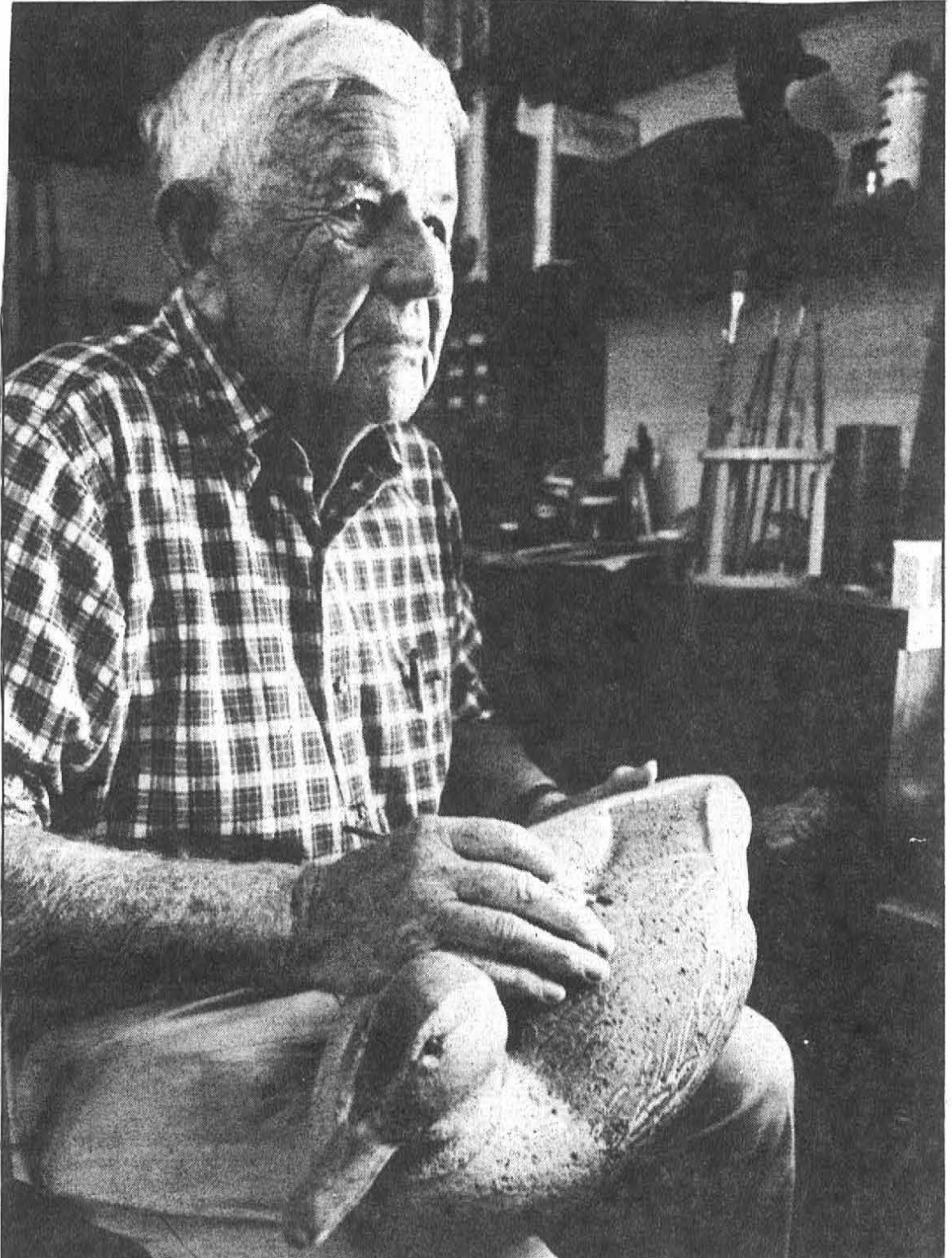
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02/18/92
Mpls. Star Tribune

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Maine Sunday Telegram, September 22, 1991

Maine's master



Staff photo by Doug Jones

George Soule applies the finishing touches to one of his handmade duck decoys.

Soule wonders now, sometimes, how he got so lucky. He was the youngest of five children and his father died when Soule was a baby. It was 1930, the Depression. He grew up on the shores of Lake Minnetonka, in Mound. His mother taught him independence. "Her favorite saying

was, 'It's a poor cookie that doesn't grease its own sheet.'"

And childhood always included church.

"We were poor in the Depression, like everyone else, and church was always clean and warm and smelled nice. I liked that. I liked Sunday school, not that I learned so much. I'm no church mouse."

As an adult, his life was filled with community, charity and church involvements. He loved his work at the bank. His family was healthy. He was hoping to retire at 59 and enjoy long years of summers in Alaska and time with Nan and his children.

But things didn't work out that way. He does spend all the time he can with his little granddaughter, Sarah, and her mother, Julia Holden, his daughter. His son, Rob Soule, and a companion, Randall Toenges, live with him.

In 1989, when he first learned he, too, had inoperable cancer, he didn't believe it.

"It was like I was standing next to the person who was being told. It was the same oncologist Nan had. Then I started saying, 'Why me?' Damn, I'm just getting to the age of retirement and now all the things I wanted to do I would be prevented from doing. I got angry.

"I'm hitting this with experience, so last March I asked the doctor if I was going to be here six months from now. The doctor quickly said yes. That gave me some relief, but then I said am I going to be here a year from now? He hesitated."

One by one, his friends from work are taking him out to lunch. They want to tell him how much he has meant to them. He finds it amazing that he has touched so many lives.

Soule retired in August from the National City Bank trust department. He had spent most of his career as a trust banker with the First Bank System.

These days, he sometimes likes to put on his "suit, shirt, tie, overcoat and shoes and just go downtown. I might have a little banking to do, or maybe just say hello to people.

"For a few minutes, I'm just Jim again. Not Jim who's dying. Just Jim."

Hillsborough Author Documents

Virginia City's Tale

By Sherry Posnick

"The city's turgid surface breathed of contamination. Steam whistles and stamp mills roared with a deafening din while ashes, soot dust and vile gases hazed the sky. Stench from garbage fouled the air and dreaded 'Washoe Zephyrs' hurled about anything that was not nailed down, including men and beasts. Menacing rodents and snakes scurried for their lives. Every known vice forged on the surface in this bizarre ore. Yet it was not all bad; good has a way of outweighing evil. Wives and children rose on the Comstock to compensate for the wickedness."

Ruth Herman in
Virginia City Nevada Revisited

Ever since her grandmother fed her tales of how her ancestors crossed the plains, Ruth Herman has maintained a voracious interest in American history. Her fourth book, *Virginia City Nevada Revisited*, published this month, paints a colorful and insightful view of the fascinating boom town world—an American phenomenon.

Herman, a Hillsborough resident for 30 years, is an unlikely historian of the wild west. She is a soft-spoken, tiny blond woman that might seem more at home at a garden party than at a library digging through old yellow newspaper clippings.

"Western man is what I love," explains Herman. "I love the old west. I want to do authentic stories, not make-believe."

In *Virginia City Nevada Revisited*, the strive for authenticity shows a side to the bawdy town that frequently is overlooked by others. It wasn't all brothels and "wind" saloons, she points out. "There was a more sedate side. People found silver overnight and had to find a way to spend it."

Thus, much attention is given to the wealthy investors of the metal, who became leaders in business, industry and politics.

The book will be distributed in Nevada City, Reno and Carson City,** said Herman, as a handbook for tourists and history buffs.

Herman's interest in the west has not overlooked the American Indian. Her second book, *The Paiutes of Pyramid Lake*, translated many of the Paiute legends into writing for the first time that had been kept alive through the generations from word of mouth.

Legend of the Stone Mother communicates the Paiute belief that the lake was created from a flood of tears, one that Herman found especially moving. It was this Indian love of the land (located 30 miles from Reno) that prompted Herman to help the Paiutes win a federal suit over water rights by including a story about it in her book.

Some stores wouldn't sell the book because of the political aspects, said Herman, but the book, printed in 1972, went to a second edition within three months.

Herman said that while Indians considered the white man to be an intruder, she never felt like one. "We had become friends," she explained.

Work for her books took much time and traveling, said Herman, and often had to be "tucked in" between raising her son and spending time with her husband of 46 years, Victor. "It has to be that way for a woman with a family," she believes.

Still, she managed to find time to travel and research her subjects so that history would be remembered and man might learn from his past.

"My husband has been a big help," says Herman. "He's always willing to take me someplace, although I do a lot of research on my own. He doesn't mind because I'm doing something important."

Herman, who attended San Jose State University and received a masters degree from the University of Southern California, warns others not to attempt her

writing style. She writes everything in longhand and writes late into the night.

"It's not the thing to do," she said with a chuckle. "The next morning the world's awake and you're not."

She began her historical writings when vacationing in Nevada City, California, after her son had left home. Every week her column appeared in the *Nevada City Grass Valley Union*, the local newspaper.

She concentrated on the Williams family, who came during the Gold Rush and wanted to build a four story brick house for 15 orphaned children "more than gold." Each time they had enough money, however, disaster struck in the form of flooding, fire and earthquake.

She was convinced to publish the stories together in book form, and her first book, *More Than Gold*, was born.

Although Herman won't reveal the person her next book will be about, she located her data from "being in the right place at the right time."

"I wanted to locate 250 letters of a famous person. I talked to her daughter in London, and she said she didn't know where the letters were. I then wrote to a friend in Italy who talked to her friend, who happened to have them in her trunk."

Although she "loves people" and is a member of many clubs including the Daughters of the American Revolution and Mayflower Descendants, Herman's primary devotion is to her family and her writing.

"I don't have time to have fun with all my friends," she explains. "If I did then I couldn't write."

** distributed in Virginia City Reno and Carson City, and Calif all over

REPRINT FROM
SOULE NEWSLETTER,
VOLUME XV, NO. 3, JULY 1981

*This sentence should read, "Every known vice forged to the surface in this bazaarre melting pot of humanity which was wresting old Sun Mountain of its deep ore."

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