

Les Dame d'Escoffier, Ann Arbor Chapter and Meridian MS satellite.

001: ZOOM MEETING FULL—report of Sandy Arlinghaus

EVENT: BUDWIESER CLYDESDALE VISITS BRICKHAUS BREWTIQUE COURTYARD IN MERIDIAN MS.

LOCALE: Sunday, May 15, 2022. Zoom call scheduled for 2:30 pm It was a beautiful, sunny day in Meridian. The Courtyard was dry and footing was good. The temperature was 90 degrees, actual, and probably over 100 degrees, 'feels like' in the mid-afternoon sun.

ZOOM: The meeting was scheduled from 2:30 to 3:15 pm. The Start was slow and did not get off the ground until about 2:40. Throughout the meeting, there were occasional freeze-ups in transmission. The connection was through the LTE network from Meridian back to the Zoom server in Ann Arbor and then fanning out elsewhere. I would rate the Zoom performance as barely adequate and certainly not good.

INVITED PARTICIPANTS: The full Ann Arbor Chapter, including affiliate members (affiliates are members of LDEAA only; not LDEI—they do not qualify for LDEI membership for one reason or another but yet wish to belong and respect our mission), and LDEI members from elsewhere: Chicago, New York City, New Orleans. In all 23 invitations were issued.

PRESENT PARTICIPANTS:

- Sandy Arlinghaus, Ph.D., Co-founder, Member, Acting VP, and Director of Outreach, LDEAA, and Dual Member, Chicago Chapter. LDEI.
- Donna Tope, J.D., M.S., Co-founder, Member, Sec/Treas, LDEAA. LDEI.
- Bill E. Arlinghaus, A.B., Cicerone, Affiliate Member, LDEAA. Owner, Briickhaus.
- Deborah Mintcheff, New York City Chapter, President, LDEI. Mentor to our chapter, at various times, from its first year forward.
- Toria Emas, Chicago Chapter, Past-President LDEI. Ongoing mentor to our AA chapter from before its formal establishment. Long-time family friend.

It was a small, but enthusiastic and thoughtful group that got together from across the country in East Central Mississippi that Sunday afternoon. An annotated photo essay of the event appears below. Next Zoom meeting, we hope, will include many other fascinating AA participants, motivated, at least in part, to build on the shoulders of this impressive initial group..

PHOTO ESSAY

- Friday, May 13. Team of horses, wagon, costumed folks, dalmatian, all in full regalia, parade through downtown Meridian, including a stop at the Brickhaus to drop off a ceremonial case of beer to owner, Bill Arlinghaus. Two of these photos were sent out as a sneak preview to the set of 23 invitees as an enticement to join us.



Brickhaus Courtyard, panorama (curvature is inserted by camera). The Brickhaus Brewtique is through the green door in the Brick building on the left. That building is a registered historic landmark, over 100 years old. The Courtyard occupies two parcels of land (that once had a building on them). There is a patio adjacent to the Brickhaus door and an outdoor stage with a dance floor in front of it. The landscaping is professionally maintained on a frequent, regular schedule (related to local weather conditions). Tables (of various sorts) and chairs are scattered throughout to encourage outdoor eating and drinking during live concerts and at any other time the indoor kitchen/craft beer bar is open. This location is a corner lot, situated at the corners of Front Street and 22nd Avenue in the heart of downtown Meridian. The fence on the right side of the lot is adjacent to 22nd Avenue (parallel to it). The Arlinghaus family owns the Courtyard.



Banner mounted on the exterior of the Courtyard fence, along 22nd Avenue.



Corner of Front Street and 22nd Avenue, looking East along Front Street. The parade is advancing in the distance, just past the tower of the Union Station (AMTRAK) on the right.



Parade is turning north onto 22nd Avenue, from Front Street. Soon, it will be adjacent to the Courtyard fence along 22nd Avenue.



The large modern building is a new State of Mississippi Museum, Mississippi Art and Entertainment Experience, devoted to the artistic achievements of Mississippians. It includes a culinary section and features, among others, Craig Claibourn and Cat Cora. Numerous others have been inducted, for example, William Faulker, Tennessee Williams, Oprah Winfrey, Leontyne Price, Elvis Presley, etc.



Now they are right next to the Courtyard. Keep your eye on the lead horse, closest to the camera...you may see him again later!







Manny Mitchell, Mitchell Distributing,, on left; Mayor of Meridian, Jimmie Smith on right.



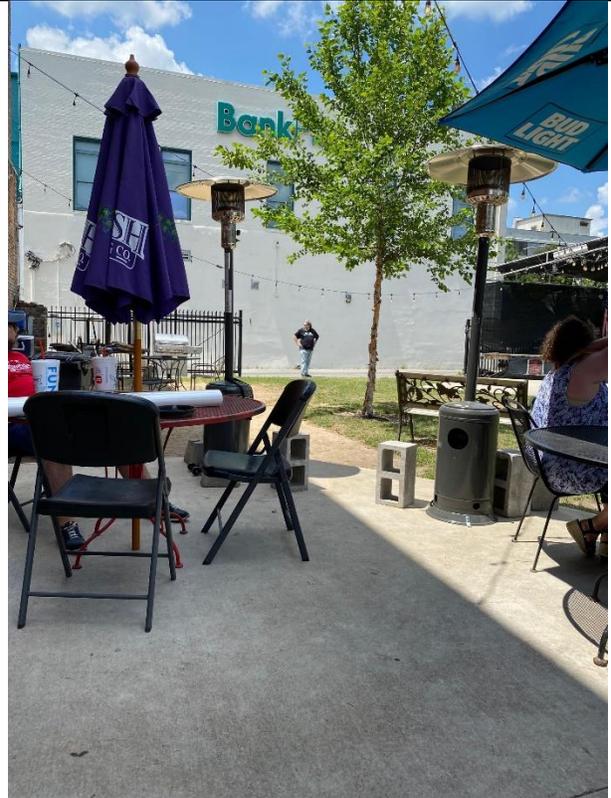
Bill Arlinghaus, Owner of Brickhaus Brewtique, receives a ceremonial case of Budweiser directly from the wagon....as a horse looks on (below)...overseen by folks on Weidmann's balcony (Mississippi's oldest restaurant). Is the horse smiling for the camera?



- Sunday, May 15, 2022. The one-horse-show begins as the horse arrives at the Brickhaus Courtyard about 2:00 pm.



Budweiser Clydesdale truck heading east on Front Street, about to turn the corner to head north on 22nd Avenue. View to the south taken from within the Brickhaus Courtyard.



View 180 degrees from the one to the left, looking to the north, taken within the Brickhaus Courtyard. The gate at the rear, under the Bank sign has been opened up to the alley off of 22nd Avenue (parallel to Front Street) to allow access for the large truck.



The truck has now turned the corner and is on 22nd Avenue heading north, just next to Weidmann's balcony. Next step is for the truck to negotiate entering the alley.



















Success! Truck has negotiated the tight alley squeeze and the horse is safely unloaded from his stall on wheels



And, the horse heads straight for a snack on Brickhaus grass....something for all guests...beer, grass, whatever pleases the palate!



He gets his fill prior to going to work, as others watch him and photograph him eating! An effective, but expensive lawn mowing service.

- Sunday, May 15, 2022. 2:10 pm. Horse gets situated in the shade and petting begins. We learn that his name is 'CASH'.





Brady (on the left) and Lauren (on the right) travelled from St. Louis, with the team and whole crew to make the event happen.



Sandy Arlinghaus is the first in line to pet CASH.





"Hey, Man, watch out for my nice clean feet," Cash tells his friend who is demonstrating foot size (man's size 12 shoe).







The line forms to pet CASH (not 'petty cash')...a very patient horse loaded with personality!

- Sunday, May 15, 2022, 2:20pm. Things were now up and rolling right along in the Courtyard, as planned. Now it was time to go inside and begin the process of hooking up the Zoom call. That process appeared to go well. I signed in as host, signed off in agreement to have it recorded, and waited for others to arrive and admit them to the meeting. Because I was a few minutes early, I began discussing what I could see around me, and such. The link to the following video (below) shows that activity, which as it turns out took about 15 minutes. After a while, however, no one showed up for the meeting. Fortunately participants were able to get in touch and we worked it out. Apparently, the meeting got bifurcated somehow. The result was that we have only the first segment recorded; the full event did not get recorded; maybe that's ok...those who actually came to the Zoom event should get to see more than others?
 - First 15 minutes of recorded meeting; the recording stops abruptly when the bifurcation apparently occurred: [Link to mp4 file](#).
 - Notes from the rest of the event, which was Zoomed both audio and video, just not recorded. Participants got to see and hear all. What appears below is a summary.
 - Sandy spent more time with Cash. He became quite interested in her iPhone. He looked right into it and pressed his nostrils up against it—a kiss for Deborah, Donna, and Toria? First time I have ever had to clean horse breath (or whatever) off of my phone! What a character he was.
 - Brady gave us a lot of information about Cash.
 - Weight: 2000 pounds
 - Height: 18 hands (6 feet) at the shoulders
 - Age: 10 years; typical life span is 20 years
 - Cash is a lead horse on the team. You saw him in that role earlier in this document. He is one of the two smallest horses on the team. They arrange the team with the smallest horses in front, working back to the largest ones close to the wagon. On this team, the age of the horses ranged from 6 to 16 years.
 - Typically, the horses do not drink Budweiser. With some of the older horses, there is a problem with insufficient sweat in the hot southern summer. So, they give those horses a bit of beer to make them sweat (but it's not Budweiser).
 - Cash had been bathed prior to the party. He had been combed again inside his mobile stall, just before making his entrance. He felt very silky.
 - Sandy went around and talked to folks who were there, in addition to Brady and Lauren.
 - There were a couple of women there from out of town; one from New York City. Meridian has traditional ties to the northeast as it is on the main rail line from New York City to New Orleans, in the heart of the Southern Pine Belt. Trainloads (now truck loads as well as trainloads) of huge pine timber leave here for telephone poles and construction projects in cities served by the rail line. Meridian was settled, in part, by lumber barons from the northeast.
 - There were representatives there from Mitchell Distributing, the Anheuser-Busch distributor serving much of Mississippi as well as Baltimore MD.

Mitchell is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year. We thanked them for bringing the Clydesdales and many fine opportunities to Meridian.

- Bill brought out beer. We had 'Southern Pecan' a beer brewed in Mississippi and perhaps the first beer in the world to be brewed using pecans. We had a lively discussion about craft beer, involving techniques for storage, service, and production. Mississippi laws surrounding alcohol sales, and more. Deborah seemed quite interested in hearing about the comparison of craft beer to wine (Bill is a 'Cicerone', a 'Sommelier' for beer) and so she and Bill had a nice conversation that Donna, and more, also jumped into.
- Shortly before we were done, our friends Jacque and Jim Harms joined us at an interior table (out of the, by then, scorching sun). Jacque is the General Manager and Vice-President of WTOK-TV, the award-winning ABC affiliate (Gray Television) in Meridian. She is never at a loss for words and is at home on camera. Jim teaches high school anatomy and physiology at Meridian High. We had a nice conversation with them.
- Jacque assured the group on the Zoom call that there was plenty to do in Meridian for future Zooms, and indeed that is true and we will do more along those lines; however, it remains prudent to remember that we are a 'satellite'. Thus, we look forward to participating in Zoom meetings centered around the Ann Arbor area in the not too distant future (show us all the 11th most livable city in the country, according to a recent poll).
- Look for more coming! The second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, we are planning to get together via Zoom, one place or another. with plenty of room left for various other activities.
- We have some momentum going....let's build on it!!