

25 Years of Champions: The History of IML in a Book

by Joseph W. Bean

In 1997, shortly after I arrived in Chicago to become the Executive Director of the Leather Archives & Museum, I mounted the LA&M's first changing exhibit. That display used half of the museum's then very limited space to give visitors the opportunity to "stroll through" the artifacts and images of International Mr. Leather's first 19 years. As planned, three months later, the exhibit was replaced by a new show—Kink: A Women's Perspective. That was a popular show, but people continued to want to see as much IML memorabilia as I could fit into the exhibits or bring out of the archives for them. In short, whatever else was displayed, the LA&M's public had one overriding interest: IML.

Now, the history of IML is being compiled as a book. Some might laugh to hear that this project will result in a "coffee table" book since dungeons seldom feature coffee tables, but the whole idea is to have pages big enough to accommodate lots of hot photos and a book long enough to squeeze in essays, memoirs, images, timelines, captions and other text to both tell the IML story and place IML in its proper context in the leather world and the wider world of our times.

The 25 years covered by *25 Years of Champions* includes the names, cities and (where appropriate and available) the titles of all 1,123 competitors for the IML title. Over the years, by the way, nearly 50 other men qualified and applied to compete but, for

extremely various reasons, didn't stay in the running long enough to draw a contestant number: the cut off point for being included in the book.

Each year of IML is a chapter in *Champions*, and each annual chapter includes the contestant list, commentary by people who were involved in that year, a basic history of what was new or interesting about the contest weekend, and a memory from a specific person recalling his or her participation in IML, plus as many pictures as possible. Then, at the end of each chapter is a page about what was happening outside IML in the leather world and the mainstream headline-world.

Photographs from IML's various official photographers—Bob Maddox, Lee Newell, Jack Sitar and Ron Volanti—are shown along with images by event and art photographers from around the world. Arthur Tress, Steve Savage, Michael Rosen, Slawek Starosta, Mark Thompson and many others have allowed their photos to be included. Writers have been generous too: Jack Fritscher and Guy Baldwin, for instance, have contributed to *Champions*. And many leather celebs we don't think of as writers have written for the book: David Kloss, Peter Fiske, Harry Shattuck and Chuck Renslow among them.

The physical book is intended to be 208 pages, each one 14 inches wide by 11 inches tall with color photography (where available) throughout. While the price, the types of



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Bob's attitude probably pleased the IML 1982 judges as much as his body did. See more of all of it in 25 Years of Champions... backstage, on-stage, everywhere else.

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\$30,000 raised during IML 2003

by Rick Storer

During the 25th anniversary of International Mr. Leather weekend, many groups and organizations raised funds for the Leather Archives & Museum. International Mr. Leather, Inc. raised \$17,257 from vendor fair entry donations.

The LA&M thanks all of the individuals who contributed to these fundraisers, and who donated funds to the LA&M directly.

For a list of individual donors, please visit the LA&M website.

Other multi donor fundraisers included: Leather Navigator Party, Mark Bozif (Mr. MO Leather) send off fundraiser, Maple Leaf Party, Chicago Eagle armband fundraiser, Cellblock club party (Chicago Leather Club / Defenders – Dignity), the Hearts Foundation, Windy City Boys Troop and the Non Toxic party. High Risk Gallery / Coup de Gras catering also held a fundraiser on behalf of the LA&M, but has not remitted the funds as of the date of this release.

IML Book *continued from p. 1*



From IML 1979 (left to right) Jesse Capello, second runner-up; David Kloss, IML 1979; and Durk Dehner, first runner-up

covers and some other details will be determined by the not-yet-finalized publisher contract, the decision that *Champions* will be copyrighted in the name of the LA&M is definite. The plan is for this book—and possible future update editions of it—to be a continuing fund raiser for the Leather Archives.

Regardless of its value to the LA&M, *25 Years of Champions* is sure to be a treasure for the men and women who worked, volunteered or competed in IML's first 25 years as well as for the many, many thousands who have gone to Chicago for the show. Admittedly, for the great majority of those many thousands, the book may offer them their first view of what really happens during IML week outside the pleasure-domes known as the IML host hotels!

Since publication details are still uncertain, IML is collecting the names and contact information of people who wish to be informed when and how to order copies of *Champions*. Drop a note to info@imrl.com or International Mr. Leather 5015 N. Clark Street Chicago IL 60640-2823.

From 1980: Dom "Etienne" Orejudos who was Chuck Renslow's partner in life and the founding of IML. Dom served as head judge of IML from the founding until his death. Thom Dombkowski stepped in as "Chief Judge, not 'head' judge" in 1992.



Utah History Project

by Ronnie Norton

I began putting together a Brief History of the Utah Leather Community back in November of 2002. I started it because I felt that I had run out of things to offer the community. Then someone mentioned that, for the most part, I had been around since the beginning of the pan-sexual leather community here in Utah. I thought, why not share what I remember of its beginnings before the history is lost?

So I made up a questionnaire and sent it out to as many people as I could still contact from the original groups. I asked them for their input, trying to get all of the view points and

memories together into one picture. As I waited for the responses to come back, I started to look around at what I had that the archives might want. I also asked others in the community for donations. Christopher, from Utah Power Exchange, put everything into an informative Web page (see address below)

After finally getting everything together, the project was completed at the end of June. I sent my compilation of the original information and the items donated to the archives so that anyone will be able to learn how Utah's leather roots began.

To learn more, go to the new Utah Leather History website set up as part of this project:
<http://www.xmission.com/~spyder/UtahLeatherHistory.html>

Just a few items of Utah Leather History:



Utah Power Exchange, one of the original club patches



Wasatch Women of Leather Official Club Patch



Matchbook covers from Falcon Flight, a motorcycle run that began in the mid-1980's, sponsored in the Wasatch Leathermen of Utah

September 20 LA&M
One Shot Volunteer Day, Chicago IL
10am-5pm

September 13 NLA Indianapolis presentation <http://nla-indianapolis.org>

12-14 Indiana Falcons anniversary weekend www.indianafalcons.org, Indianapolis

September 26-28
Black and Bluegrass at the B&B, www.nla-kentucky.org

October 17-19 Dungeon
801, www.leatheru.com/dungeon/dungeon.htm, Ft Lauderdale FL

Calendar

Capital Campaign Donors



Adoptions

Etienne Auditorium

Adopted by Renslow Family Enterprises

Teri Rose Memorial Library

Adopted by MJ Productions

Brad Grauman Memorial Gallery

Adopted by the William Smith Trust,
Carlos Adams and Club

International Mr. Leather Collection,

Adoption in progress with Jon Krongaard
and Ken R., Chicago, IL

**Leather Archives Lobby in Memory of
Copy Berg** Adopted by Frank Thies and
J.P. Weir

Uniforms Room Adopted by Andy
Mangels, *In Uniform* Magazine and the
city of Portland, OR

**Administrative Office In Memory of
Scott Rodriguez** Adopted by Tim
Franulovich and the Cuff Complex,
Seattle, WA

Green Room in Honor of Jill Carter

Adopted by Menamore LLC

**Box Office to be named for Wes
Randall and Lee Willis** Adopted by
Washington State Mr. Leather Organiza-
tion

John E. Larson Memorial Gallery

Adopted by Robert Ridinger

Donors of More than \$5000

Donald C., Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Steve S. and Kirk T. In Mortgage Payment
Program

Jim C., Utica, New York
Roger B.A.K. & David H., San Francisco,
California

Renslow Family Enterprise, Chuck
Renslow, Chicago, Illinois
International Mr. Leather, Inc., Chicago,
Illinois

Donors of \$2500 to \$5000

Leroy D. & Chris R., In honor of their
meeting in leather
The Cuff, Seattle and Washington
Leather
Dixie Belle Complex and Kansas City
Leather Community, Joseph E.
Welch and others

San Francisco Leather Community, San
Francisco Party at IML, 1998
Art for the Archives, Peter Fiske
Black Rose/BR 98, Washington, DC
Pat Daley, Tasso's Mom
Nimbus Michigan, Inc., Grand Rapids,
Michigan

Ralph K., College Station, Texas
Brother Help Thyself, DC, Silent Bid for
Life
Mr. Maryland Leather 2000, Bob
Guenther
Portland Leather Alliance, Portland,
Oregon

Donors of \$1,000 to \$2,500

Eagle PDX, In Memory of Jeff Rose
Tom Stice, In Memory of Master Jack
Stice
Leather Pride Night 98, New York City, NY
Tarheel Leather Club, North Carolina
Black Rose/BR 99, Washington, DC
Centaur MC, Washington, DC
MJ Productions, in memory of TRAINMAN,
Chicago, Illinois
Lee Lambert & Family, Los Angeles, CA
American Leatherwoman 1999, Mercea
Strecker
Dale R. Mount, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Thomas and Joshua Smith, International
Mr. Rubber 1999 & Mr. Minnesota
Leather 1999

Doug F., Chicago, Illinois
Ray H., Smithfield, Pennsylvania
Trident International, South Florida
The Cain Berlinger Family, Producer, Mr.
Ebony Leather
Lords of Leather, George Hester
Love & Leather 1999, Atlanta, Georgia
TSM Media, Thomas Schwartz
The Hun, Bill Schmeling
Leather Knights Dallas, Buy Daddy's Box
Blackout Leather Productions, Portland,
Oregon
SMMILE, Folsom Street Fair, 1999
Philadelphians MC, Philadelphia, PA
NLA: International, Living in Leather XIV
Mike Sheehan & Dennis C.

Palm Springs Leather Order of the
Desert
Midori and Michael B., San Francisco,
California
Mike Taylor, IML 2000, Funds raised at Mr.
Tri-State Leather
Ohio Leatherfest, 1999 & 2000SM
Odyssey (Fundraiser), San Jose,
California
Don Matheson, Provincetown, MA
Jack McGeorge, In Mortgage Payment
Plan
Dean Ogren and John P., In Mortgage
Payment Plan
Bill Stadt, In Mortgage Payment Plan
Rick Storer, In Mortgage Payment Plan

David Sellon II, In Mortgage Payment Plan

Mark Moody, in Mortgage Payment Plan
Ian Gibson-Smith and the Ian Thom Foundation, in Memory of Thomas G. Smith

NLA: Fort Lauderdale, July 2003
Roger Scheid, Chicago, Illinois

Donors of \$500 to \$1000

NLA International, First Donor to the Building Fund
Joseph W. Bean, In Memory of warren w. west
Joseph W. Bean, In Memory of e. scott smitherun
Peter Fiske, To Remember IML 1983 Coulter Thomas
John Birch, Leatherneck Bar, Chicago, Illinois
JoAnne C. Gaddy
Tom Stice, In Memory of Jack Stice
Black Rose/BR 10, Washington, DC
Jerry L, Chicago, Illinois
The 15 Association, In Memory of Michel de La Roche
Jack McGeorge & Lolita Wolf, Christmas gifts to each other
NLA: Dallas, First NLA Chapter to donate
Able Productions, Jim Cobb, President
NLA: Dallas, In Memory of Mike Geinzer
NLA: New England Leather Association
Molly Devon, In loving memory of her Master & Soulmate Philip Miller
Daniel W.F., Pennsylvania
Michael J. Horowitz, New York City
Jonathan Krall, DCSMA
IMsL 96 Family, Jill Carter, Viola Johnson and Queen Cougar
Keith Waltrip, Mr. World Rubber
Living in Leather XIII, NLA: International T.U.L.S.A., Oklahoma
Mr. S. Leater Co., Fetters USA, San Francisco
from a grateful boy
Butchmann's, Palm Brings
Brush Creek Media, San Francisco, California
Mr. D.B. Leather 1999 & The Leather Shop, Kansas City, Missouri
Sandia Leatherwomen, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Sandia Leathermen, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Black Rose Women, Washington, DC
Mr. Cellblock 1999 Kevin Powers
Babalu Cobb, Utica, New York
Utica Tri's MC, Utica, New York

Full Moon Saloon, Bob Graves
Boston Ramrod Leather Community and Mr. Boston Leather 1998 Dan Olesen
Piston's Long Beach, Mark Malan
Defenders, New York, New York
William J., Wilmington, North Carolina
Mr. Palm Springs Leather 1999 Dale Breunig
Randy Mangham, Escondido, California
Fraser Picard and Kyle Taylor
david stein, New York, New York
Tom of Finland, Dehner Public Relations Stars M.C., Albany, New York
Thunder in the Mountains, Denver, Colorado, 1999
La Chateau Exotique, Joy Berger
New Orleans Leather Alliance
Sharrin, Bear, Lolita, Cristo; Doin' it, not just talkin' 'bout it.
Joe Gallagher, IML 1996
The Eulenspiegel Society, New York, New York
NLA: Austin, Texas Leather Pride
Jon Krongaard, Ken R., Chicago, Illinois
Joe D., In Mortgage Payment Plan
Jack Rinella, In Mortgage Payment Plan
Kevin Roche, In Mortgage Payment Plan
Joseph W. Bean, In Mortgage Payment Plan
Liz Highleyman, San Francisco, California
Bare Images/IMsL, Omaha, Nebraska
Threshold Society, Los Angeles, California
Centaur MC, Washington, DC, Basket Auction 2000
Chris M., Washington, DC
NLA: LA, Los Angeles, California
Mike Taylor, IML 2000, Heartland Leather
Fetish Temple, Detroit, Michigan
Ric Grothe, Chicago, Illinois
Alan Gilmour, Birmingham, Michigan
Panther LL, Atlanta, Georgia
bTC2 (Boys' Training Camp 2), Dallas, Texas
david stein, New York City, A birthday gift for Joseph W. Bean

Stephen Scott, Mr. Sooner State Leather, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Pocono Warriors
Society of Janus, San Franscisco, CA
Weston Milliken, West Hollywood, CA
Joe Coloff, In Mortgage Payment Plan
Michael Connell, In Mortgage Payment Plan
Black Rose, Washington, DC, In Memory of Tammad Rimilia
Jack Darnell, Mr. Alaska Leather 2000 & The Last Frontier Men's Club
Mr. Dixie Belle Leather Contest, Joseph E. Welch
Big Sky Distribution
Mr. Philadelphia Cuir Leather 2001, Mark Collins
Chris Messick, Greenery Press
SMart Rhein-Ruhr, www.smart-rhein-ruhr.de, December 2001
Riverbound, Quad Cities Iowa/Illinois
Mark Collier, Drecksau, Chicago, Illinois
Raymond L. Hearn, Morgantown, WV
Bruce Barnes, Chicago, Illinois
Leather Knights, Dallas, Texas 2002
Chicago NetTech Inc., Bruce Barnes, Chicago, Illinois
Richard Bolingbroke, In Mortgage Payment Plan
Maryann Brown, In Mortgage Payment Plan
Michael Floyd, In Mortgage Payment Plan
Bob Goldfarb, In Mortgage Payment Plan
Chris Kurek, In Mortgage Payment Plan
Joseph Norton, In Mortgage Payment Plan
Werner Tiling, In Mortgage Payment Plan
Malcolm W., In Mortgage Payment Plan
Bill M., In Mortgage Payment Plan
In Memory of Jarret C. Christiansen, aka "Mightypup"
Jeff Brooks, Levittown, Pennsylvania
Men of Onyx, Chicago, Illinois, 2003
People of Leather Among You, Metropolitan Community Churches, General Conference, Dallas, 2003

Archives Clean Out Project

by Rick Storer

During July of 2003, the archives room of the LA&M was emptied out, cleaned, and put back together. This large undertaking started July 4th weekend, when the Board of Directors and a few volunteers (thank you Jose Gutierrez!) helped to empty out the archives room. All boxes, artwork, cabinets, and filing drawers were systematically removed from the room and temporarily stored in the main exhibit gallery.

Over the course of the next week, the archives room got a nice facelift. Several walls were torn down to make the room larger. Many existing walls which had been damaged by water were replaced. One of the restrooms which adjoins the archives room was cleared out to make way for storage.



The newly clean archive room

Finally, the floor and several walls were repainted. During the following weekend, volunteers arrived to help put the archives room back together. Volunteers from TNGC (The Next Generation – Chicago) and weekly LA&M volunteers helped to re-mount shelving units, replace filing cabinets, and move hundreds of boxes.

The final result is cleaner and more spacious home for our history. The flood damaged walls from the summer of 2001 have been removed. The walls are better suited to keep water out, and keep the steady temperature and humidity in. The LA&M owes much gratitude to the volunteers who helped with this project. Our history thanks you!

Capital Campaign Update

by Rick Storer

When we say “The Leather Archives & Museum, located in Chicago and serving the world”, the ‘located in Chicago’ refers to the LA&M’s physical building. This building is a 10,000 square foot – two story building located on Chicago’s north side. Hopefully, you’ve had a chance to visit the building and see the exhibits and archives. If not, please make plans to do so next time you’re in Chicago.

An important part of operating a successful archives is owning the building the history resides in. In 1997, the LA&M kicked off a capital campaign to achieve this monumental accomplishments. Here’s what’s happened so far (figures as of July 31, 2003):

Campaign goal : \$500,000
Donated to date : \$289,908
Pledged to date : \$17,682

Amount left to raise : \$192,410

If you’ve already contributed to the campaign, you can find your name on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter. If you haven’t contributed, it only takes \$500 to ‘buy a brick’ for the campaign.

In Memory

Mark Collier

"Drecksau"



Contact Information:

**Leather Archives & Museum
6418 North Greenview Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60626 USA**

**Tel: 773.761.9200
Fax: 773.381.4657**

archives@leatherarchives.org

www.leatherarchives.org

**Donations
and Tax Deductions:**

The Leather Archives & Museum is recognized as tax exempt under the US Internal Revenue Service section 501c(3). Donations are deductible from your Federal Income tax, subject to IRS deduction regulations.

**It is just \$500 to buy a brick ...
ensure the future of our history**

LA&M in Your City

While the physical gallery and archives of the museum are located in Chicago, we seek to serve leather communities all over the world. Our board members travel to leather conferences and event weekends around the US. We currently have two travelling exhibits which also make appearances around the country. If you are an event organizer and would like a travelling exhibit at your event, please contact Rick Storer.

Visiting the LA&M

Open visiting hours are:

**Thursday 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday 12 noon to 3 p.m.**

Requests to see the museum at other times and requests to conduct research in the LA&M archives can be arranged by contacting the LA&M

Board of Directors:

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The LA&M Newsletter:

If you have ideas or suggestions for future newsletters, please mail them to us, to the attention of
justin tanis, editor
or please e-mail them to
jetanis@aol.com

I wish to become a member of the Leather Archives and Museum. Enclosed is my donation.

Name: .
Club or Organization: .
Address: .
City, State and Zip: .
Phone: .
Fax: .
E-mail: .

Please send information on:

- A codicil to my will
- Donating Materials
- Club Colors Project
- Vacation Volunteering
- Local Volunteering
- Regional Volunteers

I represent

- An individual
- An Organization
- A Business

I will contribute:

- \$30 and become a Member of the LA&M for one year
- \$100 and become a Voting Member of the LA&M for one year
- \$500 and become a "Full-Brick" donor to the LA&M Building Fund
- \$600 and become a Voting Member & donor to the LA&M Building Fund
- \$ as a donation to the operation of the LA&M

