

HISTORY of WRANGLERS OF PUGET SOUND: 1990-2001

by *Wrangler Founder/Historian, Joseph H. Iwano*

In 1988, I (*Joe Iwano*) moved from Alliance, Ohio, where I had practiced urology for many years, to Mercer Island. Retired, I came with my wife Molly to be here where our son lived. An organization I belonged to in Ohio, *The Wranglers Club of Alliance*, has a long history, having started in 1913. Its aim, as written in its constitution, was "to develop its members intellectually and socially." It established a proud tradition. For its members, it became an honor to be elected into it. And it was, after all, a connection I really missed.

Once here, I joined Mercer Island's *Probus Club*, an association of retired and nearly retired professional and business people. For over a year I observed the various men in the club, evaluating them as maybe potential members of a new Wranglers club. In 1990 I approached several of them and broached the idea of forming a local Wranglers club. Several thought it might be interesting, and in March of that year a meeting was held at Roberto's Restaurant on Mercer Island.

At this initial meeting a constitution was discussed and adopted. It followed, more or less, that of my earlier Alliance club. The objective of the club would be— "to expand us intellectually and socially." The name, *The Wranglers of Puget Sound*, was approved. I was elected President, and Dick Campbell was Secretary/Treasurer.

Charter members: Dick Axell, Dick Chappelle Mark Kirchner, Dick Buckingham, Chet Ferguson, Ken Porter, Ivan Bricel, Joe Iwano, Dick Campbell Jim Keefe. Iwano also was named Historian. It is remarkable that all but one of these charter members are still in the club.

The Start

The first official meeting was held on **April 12, 1990, at Roberto's**. Soon thereafter Bryan Cairns, Greg Draper, Ray Gilkerson, Dan Hungate, and Milt Yanicks were voted into membership. Iwano presented the first paper so as to give an example. His topic was "**The Kamikaze Pilots**," in which the fruitless sacrifice of the lives of idealistic young men of Japan were discussed. This was followed the next month by Chet Ferguson's "**Forest Fires**"...about his experiences fighting fires back in 1938 when he was in the CCC. He also noted that 1988 was the warmest summer ever, resulting in a record number of fires. Next, Draper discussed the **Goodwill Games** which were coming to Seattle; they needed volunteers. Dick Axell's "**Wind Energy**" told about the new wind turbine generators being built in this state, a renewable source of energy. He was way ahead of his time, and a follow-up would be interesting in view of the energy shortage today. Dick Buckingham gave the club free medical advice by speaking about **Coronary Heart Disease**. By now we had *moved our meetings to the Red Lion Inn in Bellevue*. Jim Keefe presented a fascinating paper, "**Inside Japan**" — he discussed the Japanese language and gave an insight into the Japanese mind. In January, 1991, Ken Porter gave an informative paper talking about "**The Britalus, A New Brayton Cycle Pulsed Combustion Engine**" something he was working on. He modestly acknowledged that he had served as a pilot in the Royal Air Force for four years piloting a Rolls Royce powered plane. He thus developed an interest in engines. Dick Chappelle next gave us food for thought by talking about "**Higher Education in Washington State**." He had served as co-chairman of the Higher Education Committee of the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce so he knew what he was talking about. The conclusion— more schools were needed since UW and BCC were turning away students. Dick Campbell presented an absorbing paper on "**Air Traffic Control System**," something he was interested in since he was a pilot. He told about the responsibilities of the various air traffic controllers, including departure, landing, enroute, and taxiing. Ivan Bricel acquainted us with the great physicist "**Nikola Tesla**" — born in Yugoslavia and migrated to the US where he worked for Edison. Tesla was responsible for the adoption of alternating current versus the direct current espoused by Edison. Milt Yanicks presented an erudite paper— "**The Revolution In 20 Century Philosophy**" in June. He discussed the thought movement which arose in Vienna called "Logical Positivism." This ended the fiscal year. **We started the tradition of inviting spouses and friends to the December meeting.** Also, in *spring of 1991 we moved to Island House on Mercer Island*. As can be seen, the topics were multiple, varied, and interesting, running through a whole gamut of subjects. The members seemed to be enthusiastic about the club. Of the aforementioned charter members only one dropped out and another is an Emeritus member. Over the years some revisions of the Constitution have been made and more members have been admitted. In 1991 Dean Brokaw, Bil Parker, Loyal Moore, and Gordon Rasmussen were added to the club. Of these, only Parker is still a member, demonstrating the wisdom in the selections of the original members.

End of June the following were members: Dick Axell, Ivan Bricel, Dean Brokaw, Dick Buckingham Bryan Cairns, Dick Campbell, Dick Chappelle, Greg Draper, Chet Ferguson, Ray Gilkerson, Dan Hungate, Joe Iwano, Jim Keeffe, Gordon Rasmussen, Mark Kirchner Milt Yanicks, Bill Parker, Ken Porter

1991—1992

Dick Campbell headed the Club, with Dick Chappelle Vice President and Chet Ferguson Secretary/Treasurer. Leo Anderson, Win DeForest, and John Kasonic were added to the club, although we eventually lost them. Again, interesting and thought provoking papers were presented during the year. Hungate started in September with an exotic subject, "**Tibetan Buddhism**," how the religion started, and its philosophy. Prince Gautama was born to a life of luxury. He sought the meaning of life, and after a period of meditation under the Tree of Knowledge, he became the Buddha. Kirchner's enlightened us about "**Wind Shear**," telling about the dangers of downdrafts to aviation and the attempts to overcome these perils. He cited several plane crashes caused by these downdrafts. From 1976 to 1986 it was the main factor in plane crashes, responsible for 40% of fatalities. Cairn's fascinating "**Strategic Defense Initiative**," (or "Star Wars"), was very elucidating. He was working on a project and so had to be careful not to divulge classified information. It is a very expensive, sophisticated, and complex program. Gilkerson's "**The View From the Middle**" was thought-provoking. He took the middle of the road and quoted Haynes Johnson who, in a Pulitzer Review, deplored the deepening division in our society. He concluded that we need to be more open-minded! Chappelle entertained us and guests with his Christmas presentation of "**Wranglers' View of the World**," in which he grouped the papers presented so far into four categories: War, Sports, Humanism, and Technological Changes. He commented on several papers presented so far. In January, Bill Parker presented "**We Are All Related**"— how all mankind arose from one common source. He gave an excellent lecture of how our world was formed 4.5 billions years ago and how our continents divided and coalesced. This was followed by Iwano's "**State of the Union**" in which he presented figures showing the disproportionate sharing of the wealth in our country and how the middle class has suffered. Next, a very controversial topic, "**Abortion**," presented by Anderson. As can be imagined, considerable wrangling followed. Kasonic discussed "**US Health Care: Its strength and weaknesses.**" He presented various views in the attempts to solve the crisis. Ferguson's provocative "**Affirmative Action**" elicited much wrangling. He gave pros/cons and asked our opinions. Draper followed by testing us psychologically by using Kersey and Bates's "**Please Understand Me.**"

Members: Leo Anderson Dick Campbell Chet Ferguson John Kasonic Ken Porter, Dick Axell, Dick Chappelle Ray Gilkerson Jim Keeffe, Milt Yanicks, Ivan Bricel Win DeForest, Dan Hungate Mark Kirchner, Bryan Cairns, Greg Draper, Joe Iwano, Bill Parker.

1992— 1993

The year was presided over by Dick Chappelle w/Ken Porter as Secretary/Treasurer. Unfortunately, not all of the speakers give copies of their talks to the Historian so records are incomplete. ***It is urged to all that they make sure he is given a copy of their papers.*** Jim Keefe opened the year with an exciting account of his experience as a **German prisoner of war**. He was a pilot and was shot down over Holland. He took evasive action but was finally captured. Dick Axell presented a well researched paper on the "**Age of Discovery**," climaxed by Columbus's discovery of America. This paper was very apt since we were celebrating the quincentennial of his voyage. He told us "**Everything We Need to Know About Columbus.**" We were disappointed in December because a heavy snowfall resulted in cancellation of our meeting. Ken Porter had prepared a nostalgic and sentimental paper entitled "**Christmas in Spondon**," a town in England where he lived as a boy. He did pass out copies of his paper to us at a later date which we read with great enjoyment. In January Bricel presented "**Those Balkans**"— a recapitulation of the history of the various countries and gave us an insight into the problems facing them. Next, Campbell presented us with "**The Gene Revolution**" and how it is about to change our lives. Soon, we will be able to purchase red, fresh, tasty tomatoes in winter as in summer with the help of molecular technology. We will be able to plant crops which defy drought, make its own fertilizer, and which manufacture medicinal drugs. Ray Gilkerson next gave an esoteric paper, "**Time-Lapse Creation**," in which he tried to reconcile science and religion. He concluded that the two are compatible. Milt Yanicks discussed the autobiography of the great Russian author, Tolstoy, in a scholarly manner. In his "**A Confession**," he relates how he grew away from his church but in later life realizes that faith in God will rescue

him. In May, Mark Kirschner presented a whimsical paper on **Birds, the fastest, the largest, the smallest**, the most intelligent, the best swimmer, the greatest traveler, etc. Dan Hungate ended the year with his cerebral paper, "**Culture and Technology**," tracing mankind's development by the use of technology. During the year Win DeForest, Bill Duvall, Bud Liebes, Gene McBrayer, Al Skinner and Bob Wiley joined the club.

Members: Leo Anderson Dick Campbell Chet Ferguson John Kasonic Ken Porter, Dick Axell, Dick Chappelle Ray Gilkerson Jim Keefe, Milt Yanicks., Ivan Bricel Win DeForest, Dan Hungate Mark Kirchner, Bryan Cairns, Greg Draper, Joe Iwano, Bill Parker

1993— 1994

We elected Bryan Cairns President, Mark Kirchner Vice, President, and Dick Axell Secretary/Treasurer. It was another interesting year. The first paper presented was Cairns's "**Malthus Revisited**," discussing the escalating and alarming growth of our world's population. Malthus had written his treatise in 1798. For many years he seemed to be an alarmist, but now there is the threat that what he had predicted so long ago may become realized in the near future. We learned a lot from Skinner's "**Perspective on South Africa**" in which he gave us highlights of its history and its present status. Besides giving us a lesson on its history he discussed the racial makeup and politics. McBrayer's "**Valdez Revisited**" showed how successful the clean up of the oil spill has been. Despite dire predictions, hardly any evidence of pollution is now seen. He also pointed out the errors committed following the spill. In the December meeting Iwano's "**Trivia Around the World**" entertained us and our spouses. He showed slides of his travels and how everywhere he went he learned something new. In January Liebes told us about "**The American Language, How It Got That Way**." The reason we speak English today is due to the British victory over France at the Battle of Quebec in 1759. Noah Webster had a dominating influence on the English language from 1783 to the end of the 19th century. Next was Wiley's turn. He tackled a morose problem, "**Teen Age Pregnancies**," telling us about the rise in these unwanted pregnancies. Many of these children end up in Aid to Dependent Children, and the problem doesn't end there since many of them grow up to be problem adults. Buckingham again gave us free medical advice, speaking on **Coronary heart disease**. He discussed bypass surgery versus angioplasty. Duvall's briefed us on "**The Regional Transit Authority**." It was very informative and pertinent. He compared Seattle's transportation system with those of Toronto, Paris, and London, which showed the need for improvement by Seattle. Sam Fry next spoke about "**Railroad Challenges of the 90's**." He described the formidable task in the building of the railroad over Steven's Pass over a century ago. Chappelle ended the fiscal year with his sobering paper, "**Will Our Grandchildren Live Happily Ever After?**" He gave us startling statistics on the carrying capacity of our Earth with the projected increase in population. Unless major changes are made, our world won't be as happy for our future progeny. In their July 6, 1994 issue, The Mercer Island Reporter featured our club in a full page article, "Scholarly Group Meets for Mental Workout," authored by islander Jane Nelson.

Members: Dick Axell Dick Campbell Chet Ferguson, Joe Iwano, Gene McBrayer Bob Wiley, Ivan Bricel Dick Chappelle Sam Fry, Jim Keefe Bill Parker Milt Yanicks Dick Buckingham Win DeForest, Ray Gilkerson Mark Kirchner Ken Porter, Bryan Cairns Bill Duvall, Dan Hungate, Bud Liebes Al Skinner, Dick Buckingham Win DeForest, Ray Gilkerson Mark Kirchner Ken Porter, Bryan Cairns Bill Duvall, Dan Hungate, Bud Liebes Al Skinner. Also, we welcomed Sam Fry into the club

1994—1995

We elected Milt Yanicks/President, Gene McBrayer Vice President, and Bill Duvall/Secretary-Treasurer. Stan Pemberton, Jerry Gropp, and Gerald Hand were added to the club. Parker opened the year talking about **Baseball**. We were amazed when he traced the game to Egypt, Greece and Rome. The game appeared in the US in the early 1800's and has changed dramatically in the subsequent decades. The presentation was enjoyed by all. Keefe followed with "**Weather**," something in which he was an expert. He explained the technical aspects of weather in layman's language. It was a very elucidating paper. Ferguson spoke about the **Survival of our salmon**, tracing the life cycle of a Sockeye from its birth in Idaho's Redfish Lake to its 900 mile trip into the ocean then back, and the hazards it faced. For the Christmas program, attended by spouses and guests, Axell, entertained us by tracing the history of the **migration of our forefathers to this country** from 1620 to today. He even traced the ancestral countries of the various members of our club. In January Porter discussed "**The Soul of Science**," a vast subject encompassing the universe, detailing what we know at present, which is still very limited. Bricel next talked about the **Celts**, a very successful group who peopled a vast area of Europe. In

March, Campbell discussed the **Regional Transit Authority** proposal to raise \$6.5 billion for a regional rail and bus system. He had invited a representative from the Transit Authority to respond to questions. Much discussion took place. Pemberton presented the pros and cons of a **National Identification Card System**. He was convincing since a vote by the members after the talk indicated that the majority favored the NIC. In his maiden speech Jerry Hand discussed a serious problem, "**The Rise and Fall of the Great Western Powers.**" He concluded that we should build a more prosperous and peaceful nation to continue as the world's greatest power. Yanicks closed the year with his usual intellectual presentation. He spoke about **Soren Kirkegaard**, the Danish philosopher who influenced modern theology. He was the principle exponent of existentialism.

Members; 1995: Dick Axell Dick Campbell, Sam Fry, Dan Hungate Bud Liebes Ken Porter, Ivan Bricel, Dick Chappelle, Ray Gilkerson Joe Iwano, Gene McBrayer Al Skinner, Dick Buckingham Bill Duvall, Emory Gleason Jim Keefe, Bill Parker, Bob Wiley, Bryan Cairns, Chet Ferguson Jerry Hand Mark Kirchner, Stan Pemberton Milt Yanicks

1995—1996

Officers: Gene McBrayer President, Al Skinner/Vice President, Jim Keefe/Secretary-Treasurer. Kirchner opened the year with a vast subject, "**A History of Space and Time,**" which expanded our knowledge of our universe. He traced its study from Aristotle to Einstein, Planck and Hubell, all giants in the field of science. We who were ignorant of astronomy found the presentation illuminating. Gilkerson followed with a philosophical paper, "**Bringing Balance into our Lives,**" because of rapid changes in our circumstances. He touched on the inherent dangers of genetic engineering and the loss of individuals' souls. He based his talk on three books, *The Education of Henry Adams*, *The Virgin and the Mouse-trap*, and *Care of the Soul*. Hungate discussed **Our Constitution** in a scholarly manner with special emphasis on two sections of the Bill of Rights, the right of the citizens to be secure in their homes and the right to religious freedom. He cited the case of random and involuntary testing of Oregon school athletes. Also, the Supreme Court upheld the funding of a school newspaper at the University of Virginia. President McBrayer welcomed the ladies to our Christmas program, and especially Ann Iwano, who had just recently returned home after being hospitalized since August, fighting for her life following a cat-bite infection. Cairns then gave a most delightful program. We learned much about the **Origins of Christmas customs**, Santa Claus, mistletoes, Christmas trees, stockings for Santa Claus, carols, etc., and he debunked many of the fallacies evolved throughout the centuries. In January Gleason based his paper on Adam Smith's educational philosophy. He discussed **School Vouchers and Charter Schools**. Everyone had his own opinion, and President McBrayer had to extend the meeting because of the prolonged wrangling. Skinner next presented "**The Philosophy of Humanism,**" another intellectual topic and well presented in a scholarly manner. He espoused "Naturalistic Humanism" and tried to explain what it meant. McBrayer's "**Making the Right Choice**" followed, using a scientific method to make the "right choice." He said we are increasingly faced by ethical problems. In April Iwano presented "**The World of Non Profit Organizations**" in which he deplored the fact that many organizations take advantage of loop holes in our laws regarding non-profits. Libes discussed another favorite topic, **Our Constitution**, giving special attention to freedom of speech. Much wrangling followed. Buckingham closed the year with his "**Medicine, Changes in Delivery, Cost and Reimbursement,**" reviewing the changing nature of American medicine. Because of the mess medicine is in at present, dramatic changes are in the offing.

Members: Dick Axell Dick Campbell Sam Fry, Dan Hungate, Bud Liebes Ken Porter, Ivan Bricel Dick Chappelle Ray Gilkerson Joe Iwano Gene McBrayer Al Skinner, Dick Buckingham Bill Duvall, Emory Gleason Jim Keefe, Stan Pemberton Bob Wiley, Bryan Cairns Chet Ferguson Jerry Hand Mark Kirshner Bill Parker Milt Yanicks

1996—1997

Al Skinner presided, Bill Parker was Secretary/Treasurer. Duvall opened our year with his paper, "**The Extraordinary Growth of the Environmental Movement- Its Successes, Myths and Impact on Western Forests.**" He detailed the proliferation of environmental organizations in the 80's and the 90's. Sam Fry followed with a related paper discussing how to **preserve our precious recreational lands**. He also led us in singing. Ferguson presented an unusual paper, "**Ishmael,**" a captured gorilla. Its parents had been killed by the famous hunters, the Osa Johnsons, and they then adopted it. They used this cruel system regularly to capture infant gorillas, then sell them to zoos and entertainment parks. Iwano next discussed "**The Kamikaze Pilots,**" in

the Christmas program. He had presented this paper in the club's initial meeting and felt that because the club was new proper wrangling had not been done. In January Parker presented a provocative subject, "**Taxation, the Bad and the Ugly.**" He gave a history of taxation going way back to the Babylonians. His talk was authoritative since he is a partner in a national CPA firm. We agreed with him that tax reform was needed. Next was Keefe's nostalgic paper "High Flight," showing us some of his old aviator's equipment. He even demonstrated that he could still fit into the suits. A thought provoking paper by Wiley on **Our penal system** followed. He concluded that society is the victim of our inadequate court system. He advocated swifter punishment of the guilty. In April Chappelle spoke on another favorite topic, the **World's population explosion.** He pointed out the increasing gap between the haves and have nots, and the huge number of illegal immigrants entering our country annually. Axell's "**History of America's Future, (1584 to 2069),**" was based on a book by William Strause and Neil Howe. They grouped Americans into 18 generations, from Puritan to our millennial generation, each with its own characteristics. Hand ended the year with an interesting discussion of "**Hemingway, the Man.**" He was a man for all seasons, a reporter, an ambulance driver, a big game hunter, fisherman, sportsman, socialite, prize fighter, and soldier of fortune. All besides being a genius of a writer.

Our membership had not changed from the previous year.

1997—1998

Dick Axell/President, Ken Porter/Vice President, Jerry Hand/Secretary-Treasurer. Bricel presented an exciting story, "**Espionage in World War II,**" when he was a Slovenian spy. His hobby as a youngster was radio and he learned to build sets. At age 18 he joined the underground resistance at great risk to his life. Next was Campbell's "**Hong Kong,**" in which he gave us a detailed history of the city which was originally an anchoring place for British opium merchant vessels and has grown into one of the most fascinating cities in the world. It had been ceded to Britain after the Opium War of 1839-1842 and now was being ceded back to Communist China. He discussed the concerns of the inhabitants and the flight of the wealthy to other countries, such as Canada. **At this meeting we created a new membership category, Emeritus.** A member who is 70 and has been a member for at least 5 years and feels that he cannot do an adequate job preparing papers any more is eligible to be an Emeritus member. At the next meeting, Pemberton told us about his career with the "**International Basic Economy Corporation**" created by Nelson Rockefeller, founded to improve the condition of third world countries. Pemberton described Rockefeller as a visionary. In December Fry led us in singing carols, and Porter presented "**The Christmas Spirit.**" After a spiritual talk he invited us to adjourn to smaller groups and relate to each other experiences of Christmases past, then choose a spokesperson who would tell his or her story to the entire gathering. Everyone enjoyed it. Three erudite papers followed. Yanicks and Gilkerson are the intelligentsia of our group and present the more academic papers. In January Yanicks discussed "**The Grand Inquisitor on the Nature of Man,**" by another great Russian author, Fyodor Dostoevsky. He made it very understandable. Yanicks again spoke the following month, substituting for Hungate. He did a reading from Lucretius's "**On the Nature of Things.**" Then, in the March meeting Gilkerson presented his paper entitled "**The Balance, Part 2**"— about the impending new millennium and its challenges. "**Punitive or Preemptive Strikes**" by Kirchner, caused much wrangling. The existing situation with Iraq was used to illustrate his premises. He concluded that nuclear action should be used only in response to a nuclear attack. Next was "**The Jury,**" by Cairns, giving us a history of the jury system, which originated in ancient Greece. The Romans adopted it and it spread throughout Europe, England, and thence to America. "**Liberty and Leadership,**" by Gleason, wondered whether a first rate nation can exist with second rate leadership. He concluded that under our system, we can. Our President Clinton was in the throes of a sensational scandal at this time. We added Ralph Blohm to the club but regretted the loss of charter member Dick Buckingham due to difficulties he had in attending meetings. We also gave special thanks to Jerry Hand for faithfully discharging his duties as Secretary/Treasurer. He'd moved to Olympia but continued to drive all the way to Mercer Island to attend our monthly meetings.

Members: Dick Axell, Dick Campbell, Sam Fry, Dan Hungate, Bud Liebes, Ken Porter, Ivan Bricel, Dick Chappell, Ray Gilkerson, Joe Iwano, Gene McBraver, Al Skinner, Ralph Blohm, Bill Duvall, Emory Gleason, Jim Keefe, Bill Parker, Bob Wiley, Bryan Cairns, Chet Ferguson, Jerry Hand, Mark Kirchner, Stan Pemberton, Milt Yanicks

1998—1999

We elected Ken Porter to lead us, Bill Duvall as Vice President, and Emory Gleason as Secretary/Treasurer. Skinner challenged each of us to do a one minute speech on one of the subjects he had chosen, a few of which were: **Asteroid Collision, Viagra, over 5000 children shot in 1995, global warming, population explosion,** and numerous other topics. His talk was about the **dire effects of global warming.** During the 20th century, tons of CO2 have been released annually into our atmosphere due to our use of fossil fuel, causing a huge buildup of this heat trapping gas. He foresaw melting of ice caps resulting in flooding of islands and coastal plains, among other things. The next month McBrayer's answered with a rebuttal, "**Global Climate Change**" citing scientific work done by a former colleague at Exxon showing despite some warming of our Earth, these changes were minor compared to variations in any given year. He used slides to show that Earth has gone through many episodes of global warming in the past without dire consequences, and we should wait for real proof before rendering judgment. In the true spirit of Wranglers, Skinner made a spirited challenge to these assertions in the wrangling that followed. Blohm next presented a fascinating paper, "**Uzbekistan Revisited.**" He had spent some time under the auspices of the US State Department in this ancient country which lies along the Great Silk Route. He presented its history, social, political, and economic situations. For the Christmas program Duvall presented "**Poetry Rediscovered,**" reading quotes from several poems, which made a hit with the ladies. Ferguson started the program by reciting from "**The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam.**" In January Keefe presented a controversial paper, **Tyrant, Tyranny, Rights & Self,** in which he emphasized the importance of the right of people to bear arms. As can be imagined, there was considerable wrangling following this assertion. Another interesting paper was presented by Mottet, "**Who Discovered America?**" The Vikings did, that is, after the Native Americans. Also thought-provoking was Fry's "**Missionaries, Help or Hindrance?**" He had recently visited his daughter and son-in-law who were Evangelical Lutheran missionaries in New Guinea and showed slides. Hungate's "**Ice Ages**" was very informative. Glacial-interglacial cycles are caused by changes in the procession of equinoxes, ranging from 19,000 to 23,000 years. Parker's "**Millennium: Media Mania Madness**" spoke of the inconsistencies and errors in our calendar system. Although it is based on Christ's presumed birthday he was probably born in 4 or 5 "BC", not in the year 0. Only 30% of the world use the western calendar and there are over forty different ones currently in use. He pointed out that the new millennium is really coming a year later, in 2001. In June Iwano discussed **Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery,** based on Ambrose's book, *Undaunted Courage.* He recommended that those who hadn't read the book to do so. He pointed out that soon we will be celebrating the bicentennial of their heroic expedition. A great western migration followed with tragic consequences to the Native Americans.

Members: Dick Axell, Ivan Bricel, Ralph Blohm, Dick Campbell, Dick Chappelle, Bill Duvall, Emory Gleason, Jerry Hand, Dan Hungate, Jim Keefe, Mark Kirchner, Carl Mottet, Bill Parker, Stan Pemberton, Ken Porter, Bob Wiley, Milt Yanicks, Bryan Cairns, Ray Gilkerson, Joe Iwano, Gene McBrayer, Al Skinner. Chet Ferguson and Stan Pemberton were Emeritus members.

1999—2000

Bil Duvall/President, Emory Gleason/Vice President, Ray Gilkerson/Secretary-Treasurer. We started off with three sobering papers. Wiley's "**End of Life Decisions**" emphasized the importance of making these decisions while we are in our right senses. He cited the sad and tragic case of Karen Anne Quilian, who suffered years of agony due to absence of any directives. Chappelle's "**War is Hell**" followed in which he cited startling figures, that in the 20th century, three times more people were killed than all the years from the birth of Christ to 1899. He warned that although we are living in relative quiet at present, the world should build a lasting foundation for peace or face annihilation. Axell's chilling report, "**The Lessons of Columbine,**" reminded us of the ten students and a teacher who were killed and 23 wounded by two students in the high school near Denver. There had been clues pointing to the instability of these two youths before they began the carnage. Campbell presented a lighter paper, "**Christmas Toys,**" which captivated the ladies as well as the men at our Christmas party. He asked the audience to name toys they remembered from childhood. Lionel trains, Teddy Bears, Crayola, Tinker Toys, and Erector Sets were some which were mentioned. Kirchner gave a follow up of Chappelle's "**War Is Hell**" paper presented in October. Because of technologic advances there is a real

possibility of **total destruction of our world**. He discussed possible solutions to resolving disputes between countries before resorting to war. Bricel's "**Measures, Units and Standards**" which traced the history of measurements was very informative. He related the history of standards of measurements, from Ra to cubit, yard to meter. The next month Porter offered us a glimpse into the life and works of a genius, **Einstein**, born in Ulm in 1879. His discoveries changed many concepts held by physicists that have profoundly influenced our world. Yanicks presented a provocative paper, "**Give War a Chance**," which contrasted with Chappelle's and Kirchner's papers a few months previously. He read an article from Foreign Affairs which stated that recent wars, especially those between minor powers, have not been permitted to run their course, leaving each to regroup and resume the contest again in the future. Gilkerson gave us a scholarly paper, "**A Short Journey to Tomorrow**," which addressed the subject of biological and technology discoveries and developments. He listed five fields which impact our lives to come: Sequencing the human genome, Computerization and artificial intelligence, Global warming and pollution, Global economics, and Darwin's legacy. Whitlow's first paper was about **nuclear weapons**. He had been in Hiroshima about a month after it had been destroyed. He described the utter destruction he saw. Today there are 69,000 nuclear weapons in the world, most held by five powers, the USA, the Soviets, Britain, France, and China. This June meeting was held at Denny's on Mercer Island due to difficulties Island House had with staffing. Island House warned us that they may not be able to accommodate us in the future, and we discussed other possibilities. Different members offered to investigate possible meeting places. During the year we mourned the deaths of Sam Fry and Stan Pemberton, two stalwart Wranglers. We shall miss them. We welcomed Jim Abbott and Chick Hodge to the club.

Members: Jim Abbott, Dick Axell, Bryan Cairns, Dick Campbell, Ray Gilkerson, Emory Gleason Joe Iwano, Jim Keefe, Bill Parker, Ken Porter, Bob Wiley, Milt Yanicks, Ralph Blohm, Dick Chappelle, Chick Hodge, Mark Kirchner, Al Skinner, Ivan Bricel, Bill Duvall, Dan Hungate, Gene McBrayer, Joe Whitlow. Chet Ferguson was an Emeritus member.

2000—2001

SBil Parker's capable leadership guides us with Ray Gilkerson/Vice President and Milt Yanicks/Secretary-Treasurer. Bill **introduced the concept of "MemberMoment,"** in which one of us will give a five minute dissertation on an incident in his life. Another first paper was Abbott's discussion of **he Future of Northwest Salmon**, the threat to its survival, and how to preserve it. He told us how logging, mining, and dams have combined to threaten the fish. In October, Chappelle presented the first "Member's Moment" when he talked about receiving a pacemaker. Cairns spoke about his "**Thoughts of a Mercer Island Councilor**," discussing the problems facing the City Council. He is an elected member of the Council. In his five minute presentation the following month, Porter spoke about technology and cosmology and his home town Spondon in Derbyshire, England. Iwano then presented his paper, "**The Greatest American**," and nominated George Washington as the apotheosis of our many heroes. Other patriots and foreigners who came to help the colonies were given credit. Iwano had requested that he be moved up in the schedule because his eyesight had become very poor and he wanted to present his paper while he could still read. This was the last meeting at Island House. We **moved to the Hilton Bellevue Hotel in December**. Island House could not accommodate us any more because of problems with their help. We decided that the Hilton was an excellent choice. The program was given by Skinner, an entertaining talk about "**Christmas, 1791, on the Northwest coast, and the Adventures and Explorations of Four Centuries**." He used slides to illustrate his paper, which was received well by our Christmas guests. The Member's Moment was given by Iwano who read a paper he had composed in a writing class. Its title was "**Refuse to Lose**," tracing the course of the Seattle Mariners during their amazing rally to win the championship in 1995, and his wife Ann's desperate struggle for life at the same time. In January, Hungate gave his Member's Moment, speaking nostalgically about life as a youngster in Priest Lake in northern Idaho. Gleason followed with an inspirational speech about **planting a seed in the new millennium**, one being the propagation of new Wranglers Clubs. A committee was named to look into this matter. At the next meeting Bricel spoke briefly about his annual trip back to his home town Lubiana in Slovenia for Member's Moment. Hungate then told us about his **grueling cross country bicycle ride from Seattle to Washington, DC**. It was for the benefit of the American Lung Association for which the cyclists raised a considerable amount of money. He said the heaviest traffic was in the Chicago area, and Pennsylvania was the hardest state to bike through. In the March business meeting we voted to assess each member \$20 to cover deficit spending. Also, we agreed to

pay annual dues of \$50 next September and pay \$11 at each meeting we attend. We also voted to stop serving the fruit and cheese plate. Axell spoke about his experiences with earthquakes in Member's Moment. These occurred in Korea, Seattle, Alaska, and at the Tacoma Dome. Keefe was the speaker, substituting for Hodge. He presented **important dates in the early history of the United States of America** and reviewed our Constitution. He discussed the fate of the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence. They were offered amnesty by King George, but not a single man retracted his signature. In the April meeting Mac Adams was welcomed into our membership. In Member's Moment Joe Whitlow told us about his experiences in WW I in the South Pacific...in intelligence. McBrayer gave a report on **The World's Energy Future.** He presented alarming statistics using slides which showed that our oil production peaked in 1984 and has been declining steadily, and our world's production will peak by mid century. With advanced techniques making drilling environmentally safe he advocated drilling in Alaska as a stopgap measure and developing nuclear power, using France as a model. France now produces 70% of its power using nuclear. In May Duvall again talked about **"The Sound Transit System."** We agreed that something has to be done, what with our traffic problems being the second worse in the country. He presented various alternatives, light rail system using various routes, I-5 heavy rail, I-5 light rail, monorail, and an all bus system. He gave advantages and disadvantages of each, and a possible solution. For Member's Moment, Iwano told how as our Historian he is working on a book, History of The Wranglers of Puget Sound, now ending its eleventh year. Our last meeting of the fiscal year was held on June 14. During dinner the club gave a toast to our outgoing President Bill Parker in absentia. He and his wife Beverly had recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. He was absent because he and Bev were in Africa. Ray Gilkerson presided in his absence. The new slate of officers for the coming year was voted on, and Ray Gilkerson was voted President, Bob Wiley/Vice President, Dan Hungate/Secretary-Treasurer. In Member's Moment, Milt Yanicks gave a tribute to his mother...of Greek ancestry and born in Turkey. After World War I she had to flee the country. Ralph Blohm then spoke about the **United States flag** and how to deal with its desecration. Since this was Flag Day the topic was very appropriate. He outlined the origins and history of our flag. Flag burning has been protected by the Supreme Court as an expression of free speech. There was much debate in the prolonged wrangling that followed, and whether a Constitutional amendment was called for to protect our flag. Bill Martin joined us during the year and Chet Ferguson resigned.

Members— 2001: Jim Abbott, Ivan Bricel, Bryan Cairns, Ray Gilkerson, Joe Iwano, Gene McBrayer, Joe Whitlow, Mac Adams Ray Gilkerson Dick Campbell Emory Gleason Jim Keefe, Bill Parker, Bob Wiley, Dick Axell, Emory Gleason, Dick Chappelle, Chick Hodge, Mark Kirchner, Ken Porter, Milt Yanicks, Ralph Blohm, Chick Hodge, Bill Duvall, Dan Hungate, Dick Martin, Al Skinner

Thus ended our 11th year.

Looking back it has been an enjoyable trip. So many stimulating and absorbing papers have been presented followed by protracted, intelligent, and entertaining wrangling. I have only two recommendations. First is something we have discussed in the past, and that is— **recruit some younger men**. Second, since **we have over two years to prepare our papers, we should try to address the audience directly and use our paper only as a prompter**. This makes for a more interesting presentation.

Our club now has been in existence long enough that traditions have been established, enough to write this history. It should be a matter of pride when we look at our roster and see how many of us have been in the club for so many years, many since its inception. The future looks good. In conclusion, I would like to give credit to my wife, Ann. She has been invaluable as my editor, reader, and offering helpful suggestions. All, besides faithfully driving me month after month to our meetings.

Joe Iwano, Historian

Postscript to Joe Iwano's History of Wranglers

From 2001 until 2018, members have come and gone, many to their reward, or at least, to their repose. Members are still exclusively male, although spouses do participate at the December gathering. Of the 1990 members— Dick Campbell, Dan Hungate, Milt Yanicks and Brian Cairns continue. The venue has changed to the Aljoia retirement community on Mercer Island. Papers presented still address an interesting variety of subjects. Wrangling continues to be spirited and informed— (with even

one member shouting "you're a liar!") But still, as yet, there have been no fisticuffs! Member's Moments have provided 5-10 minute personal histories. The "dues" for meal costs have risen to about \$340/year.

Respectfully submitted. Alfred L. Skinner, November 26, 2017