

STRONGHOLD THE GAZETTE

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HAPPY LURLINEMAS EVE

By Miss Preena Glass

The purpose of Lurlinemas each year is to reflect and give thanks to all that you have been blessed with in the previous year with The Fasting. Just as Lurline so selflessly gave of herself to create Oz, we all choose a vice to renounce. For one week before Lurlinemas, we forsake this chosen transgression as an offering to the Great Fairy Lurline. The Bureaucrat's Guild has announced that the Fasting will begin on the sundown of January the 10th and end on the sundown of January the 17th, Lurlinemas Eve. Once the sun has set on Lurlinemas Eve, the real fun begins! Communities gather together to tell stories, share food, and partake in the vices that they had been withholding. A newer tradition, brought over by Storm Riders, is to hang socks or stockings up. Anyone who wishes to give out treats to fellow countrymen can put them in the stockings before bed. Before going to sleep, we place out a shoe or boot with an offering to the Krampus. The offering might vary from town to town or family to family, but many people include things such as candy, fruit, shiny stones, or a message. Sometimes the Krampus may come, other times he will not. If the Krampus chooses to take your offering, it is considered a blessing. If he leaves a token in exchange for the offering, it is considered an even greater blessing. It is also the Krampus's job to take away naughty children and put them in his sack. He takes these children to his castle to serve out the rest of their childhoods as his servants. Lurlinemas Day is spent exchanging gifts, playing games, and eating treats.

**FANCY YOURSELF A CRACK
SHOT? NEED A LITTLE
PRACTICE? EVERYONE'S
WELCOME AT
WRIGHT ARMS**

By George Aleister Wright

Please be on the alert for wild changelings inflicted by an Earth-disease called Rabies. At this time, town officials have stated that there is no known cure, but are working with County officials to contain the outbreak. Townspeople should be cautious when approached by wild changelings, particularly those that declare "I feel angry and want you all to die", or growl/howl as they claw and bite at you. Until further notice, any creature/person showing these symptoms should immediately be put down, and the authorities notified. If you are bitten, you should immediately clean out the wound, notify the authorities, and have several people "keep an eye on you" with weapons in-hand.

The Red Poppy will host a party on Lurlinemas Eve with hot cider and games, and will be serving a traditional Lurlinemas Day dinner at our usual time. All those who would like to use the tavern to hang stockings or join us in other merriment are more than welcome.

A Time for Change: New Mayor Elected!

By George Aleister Wright
Change is coming. Winter is coming. Invento...is coming...

On a campaign platform of fearing the unknown, Mr. H. P. Invento asked that the townspeople look to the future, protect each other, and embrace the change that was inevitable. He asked the townspeople to put aside the biases of the old world and stand united with him and adapt to the new reality. This was in stark contrast to Incumbent Mayor Ewenice, the humblest sheep, who asked the townspeople to resist the change and "be one with the herd." In the end, the majority of the townspeople agreed that the changes seen throughout Oz needed to be faced head-on, and elected H. P. Invento to usher in the new era of instability and terror. All Hail the Cold Reign of Invento!

TAXES NOW IN EFFECT

By Lucrezion acting officially as Town Treasurer

By requirement of the Emerald City and in order to assure a community chest for the medicines, foods and other items that our town so greatly needs, a new TAX POLICY is being enacted. Each resident of Horizon Stronghold shall pay THREE BITS every tax-season. In the interest of fairness, those not eligible for full votes will pay a reduced amount: TWO BITS for partial votes, ONE BIT for those who cannot vote.

To lighten the burden, the Treasury has agreed to accept certain goods at a reasonable discount from market value. At least ONE BIT per Person

must be paid in cash, for we must have coin to send to the Emerald City. Overpayment may be logged as a CREDIT against future taxes, or may be spent to help pay the taxes of others.

A table of tax exchange values follows:

- Fuel: 3 bits
- Potion: 3 bits
- Lock-and-key set: 5 bits
- Scroll: 9 bits

Arts, Rituals, Artifacts, Weapons and Devices must be negotiated individually. Goods must be necessary for the town's stores to be accepted. Common medical supplies - Trance, Petrolatum, Elixir and Restore - are always accepted.

NEED EMERALDS?

From the desk of H. P. Invento Mayor

These days, times are tough. With Winter well on its way and rumor of food shortages, emeralds just don't seem to go as far as they used to. What's a person to do?

Mayor H. P. Invento has an answer.

Are you a strong lad who's not afraid to get his hands dirty? Do you enjoy working with your hands? Do you get a sense of satisfaction knowing that there is no better place in all of Oz than Horizon's Stronghold?

Mayor Invento does. He has created a new department and he wants you to help! Join Horizon's Stronghold's Public Works department and you will be paid up to two emeralds for fixing up the town. With all the raids upon our fair home, much needs

fixing. With your help, we'll put the "strong" back into Horizon's Stronghold.

"This sounds too good to be true," you may think, "how does it work?" Simplicity itself, good friend. Over the course of two months a census of the town's needs will be assembled by the office of the Mayor, and every two months, volunteers such as yourselves will meet him in Hilde Hall where he will dispense the work on a first come-first served basis. All jobs will pay you, cash in hand, the very day upon completion of your duties - some as much as two emeralds!

So come on down to Hilde Hall on Saturday and speak to the Mayor! Together let's make Horizon's Stronghold better and your purse heavier!



STRONGHOLD THE GAZETTE

New Revisions to the Laws in Horizon's Stronghold

Laws of Horizon's Stronghold

Horizon's Stronghold

"Do no harm and no harm shall come to you."

Positions of Authority

Those in authority in Horizon's Stronghold are there to further the prosperity and protect the town. In order to be eligible for a position, one must be a Citizen. Those in the positions of Mayor, Judge, Deputy of Invention, Treasurer, and Sheriff are responsible for upholding and altering the law as needed. Citizens may petition to have laws altered or new laws reversed in town hall meetings.

Mayor: The elected leader of the town who has authority that supersedes all other government positions. The Mayor is still subject to the law. If the Mayor is unable to fulfill their duty the Judge takes up the Mayor's duties until a new elected official can be chosen. The Mayor receives a monthly salary of 6 emeralds for their service (after taxes). Room and board provided.

Judge: An elected official who oversees all trials and decides innocence or guilt. If the Judge is unable to fulfill their duty the Marshal takes up the Judge's duties until a new elected official can be chosen. The position of Judge is decided by a majority vote of the people. This position may be put up to election by the mayor in the spring. The Judge receives a monthly salary of 5 emeralds for their service (after taxes). Room and board provided.

Deputy of Invention: The Deputy of Invention is the head of a special task force to solve local problems. They report directly to and are advised by the Mayor on their current project(s). The position of Deputy of Invention is appointed by the mayor and may be recalled at anytime. Deputy of invention receives a monthly salary of 4 emeralds for their service (after taxes). Room and board provided.

Treasurer: The Treasurer is in charge of the town's finances and is responsible for collecting and setting the taxes each month. The position of Treasurer is decided by a majority vote of the people. This position may be put up to election by the mayor in the spring. The Treasurer receives a monthly salary of 4 emeralds for their service (after taxes). Room and board provided.

Marshal: An elected official who commands the local law enforcement, while defending and enforcing the laws. If the Marshal is unable to fulfill the Deputy Marshal takes up the Marshal's duties until a new elected official can be chosen. The position of Marshal is decided by a majority vote of the people. This position may be put up to election by the mayor in the spring. The Marshal receives a monthly salary of 4 emeralds for their service (after taxes). Room and board provided.

Deputy Marshal: The 2nd in command in local law enforcement. The position of Deputy Marshal is appointed by the Sheriff and may be recalled at anytime. The Deputy Marshal receives a monthly salary of 3 emeralds for their service (after taxes). Room and board provided.

Officer: An Officer is a member of the local law enforcement. The position of Officer is appointed by the Sheriff and may be recalled at anytime. An Officer receives a monthly salary of 2 emeralds for their service (after taxes). Room and board provided.

Law Enforcement

The members of the local law enforcement are entrusted to uphold and enforce the law. Law enforcement can be identified by the Star worn on their lapel. Special Service to the Ruler of Oz wear a silver star. National officers such as Tin Men wear a tin star. Local officers such as the Marshal, Deputy, and his Officers wear a brass or copper star. Temporary officers, when required, wear a cloth star. In the line of duty an Officer should strive to defend the laws and the people by non-lethal means. An Officer may see a situation where lethal force is warranted and this grim duty is lawful in defense of the law. An Officer may arrest anyone suspected of a crime for two hours for questioning. At the end of the two hours the suspect must be charged and awaiting trial or released. Trials should be swift and held within 24 hours of the arrest, circumstances permitting.

Every Autumn, the position of Mayor is put to a vote. All citizens are expected to participate in the voting process. Once elected, the Mayor has the option of placing the position of Judge, Marshal or Deputy up for election, whose

Election takes place in Spring. Voting counts as follows:

Citizens vote count as one vote

Changeling Citizens count as 2/3rds vote

Non-Citizens count as 1/2 vote

Changeling Non-Citizens do not get to vote.

Whoever has the most votes at the end of the election wins.

Death or absence of an official: In the unfortunate circumstances that an official dies or is unable to fulfill their duty, a special election will be held 2 months after. Should he be returned as a construct, they may fulfill their duty until the election is completed. They may not return to their position until they regain citizenship.

Citizenship

With the recent opening of Oz's borders, and the rise in threats from outside forces, it is necessary to have a path to citizenship. In order to make all equitable under the law, eligibility to citizenship applies to all living within the borders of Oz.

Humans living in Oz before the Great Spell faded are granted automatic citizenship.

A non-citizen must have a sponsor for citizenship. The sponsor agrees to pay an equal fine should the non-citizen commit any crimes. Sponsorship lasts a minimum of 6 months.

Upon completing Sponsorship, The non-citizen and sponsor meet before a Judge. The Sponsor announces that the non-citizen is worthy of citizenship, the non-citizen makes an oath of fealty to the Nation of Oz. Character witnesses may then speak on behalf or against the non-citizen. The Judge had the final word on granting citizenship to the non-citizen.

Should the non-citizen fail to pass citizenship, he may attempt the process again with a new sponsor.

A newly formed Construct does not retain his Citizenship that he held in life, and must seek it anew.

Nomes are forbidden from acting as sponsors.

Changeling must have a Certificate of Domesticity before they may seek sponsorship.

Laws

Fines are doubled for non-Citizens. If a non-Citizen is sponsored, His sponsor pays half of the fine, and he pays half of the fine. Non-Domesticated Changeling are not tolerated within the borders of Oz. Changeling who break the laws lose their Certificate of Domestication. If they are not Domesticated and they commit a crime, they are to be put down. The Judge may levy alternative fines and/or punishments in severe cases.

1. Any act of assault will be dealt with by a fine of 4 bits, 75% of which will go to the victim and no less than 24 hours in jail. Assault is defined as doing physical, spiritual, or severe emotional harm to an individual. Manipulation of free will through magical or other means is also seen as assault.

2. Any act of assault with clear intent to kill will be dealt with by a fine of 12 bits, 75% of which will go to the victim and no less than one month in the local jail.

3. Any act of murder will be dealt with by a fine of 5 Emeralds, 75% of which will go to the victim's next of kin and no less than 6 months in the local jail. The punishment for murder can also include execution but this must be signed off on by the Mayor, Judge, and Marshal.

4. Any act of theft will be dealt with by a fine of Twice the value of the stolen item, 75% of which will go to the victim.

5. Any act that results in the willful destruction or damaging of property will be dealt with by a fine of Twice the value of the damaged property, 75% of which will go to the victim.

6. Any act that interferes with local law enforcement will be dealt with by a fine of 4 bits.

7. Any act of public drunkenness or recklessness will be dealt with by a fine of 3 bits.

8. The casting of involuntary necromancy (raising the dead) will be dealt with by a fine of 2 Emeralds and no less than 3 months in jail.

9. Creation of a construct without the permission of the constructed party will be dealt with by a fine of 2 Emeralds, 75% of which will go to the victim and no less than 3 months in jail.

10. An deliberately wrongful accusations of a crime will be dealt with by a fine of 4 Bits, 75% of which will go to the victim.

11. Unregistered Witches Pose a serious threat to the Nation of Oz. A discovered, unregistered witch will be fined 8 bit and no less than 1 month in jail.

12. Acts of Treason will not be tolerated. Anyone found guilty of Treason will pay a fine of 5 Emeralds and no less than 1 year in the local jail. The punishment for Treason can also include execution but this must be signed off on by the Mayor, Judge, and Marshal.

13. Anyone found aiding, abiding, or not reporting suspicious activity will be met with a fine of 4 bits. If they are doing so on behalf of a traitor, the fine is raised to 2 Emeralds, and can lead to 3 months Jail time.

14. Anyone caught committing food related crimes during the great rationing will be forcible changed to a construct and turned over to their next of kin as property, unless tangible damage was done, in which case the construct becomes property of the wronged party or their next of kin.

15. Each month the treasurer will announce the taxation amount for that tax period. No citizen may be taxed more than 1 emerald per taxation period. Non-citizens will pay a filing fee of 2 bits each taxation

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period. Taxes may be paid with goods and food at a 10% fee to their fair market value. If the goods are worth more than the current tax rate an account will be opened to pay for future tax periods.

16. Failure to pay taxes will carry the fine of the current amount owed plus 50% or a day of servitude to the town per bit owed.

Witches

The nation of Oz promotes the advancement and creation of all technologies. But just as an inventor registers a device with the national patent office, a witch must register with local law enforcement. When a witch or other magic user moves into the area, they must notify the Mayor, Judge, and Marshal of their presence. This includes their magical leanings, abilities, and reasons for relocating. Local officials have the option to require a witch to wear specific markings, allowing their neighbors to identify them without direct communication. An unregistered witch is punishable by law.

Domesticated Changeling

Due to the unpredictable nature of Changelings, Changelings living in town must prove they are fit for society. Changeling may seek a Certificate of Domesticity, which documents a Changeling's training to live amongst humans in society. Certificates of Domesticity are granted by an Elder, defined as the Changeling who has lived the longest in town. Exact tests are up to the Elder, but may include: public service, obedience training, character testimony, and fees. Should the changeling meet the Elder's requirement, she will receive a certificate of Domesticity. Should an Elder be found irresponsible in his duties, he may be overturned as elder and a new one will be chosen by the Mayor, Judge and Marshal of town.

By George Aleister Wright Marksman Tournament Champion!

It was quite plain to me that this was unlike any other tournament that Wright Arms has held in our long history of gun tournaments. You see, the top three contestants competing in the finals were all women, a Marksman Tournament first! But before I describe the wonderful final round of competition, let me explain how we came to such a breathtaking finale. In our preliminary round, we had many top shooters from town competing, such as Deputy T.A. Buckworth, Mr. Danny Emerald, Miss Clawdette, and the first Marksman tournament champion Sherriff Silver. However, competition rookies Lt. Brigg and Miss Eboshi Gozen breezed through the preliminary rounds and secured their place in the finals with top scores of 3 out of 6 bulls-eyes, forcing the tournament veterans to

Eboshi Gozen: Marksman Tournament Champion!

fight for the last finals spot. And you guessed it, Miss Clawdette clawed her way into that final spot by knocking down former champion Sheriff Silver. Now the finals were quite exciting as well. Miss Eboshi Gozen immediately placed first and won a Wright Arms repeating rifle with her 3 out of 6 bulls-eye score, leaving Lt. Brigg and Miss Clawdette to shoot one more round to determine second place. And with a near perfect score of 5 out of 6 bulls-eyes, Miss Clawdette clinched her second place prize, a Wright Arms six shooter. Lt. Brigg, our third place winner, received a Wright Arms derringer. Congratulations to all of our winners! Now who do you think will win the Third Marksman Tournament title? I think I'll be betting on the Ladies!

The Stronghold Gazette would like to welcome a new advice column Priscilla Knows Best

Dear Priscilla, Clang Clang Clang! Every day and night this infernal racket comes from my neighbors house. It's driving me up a wall! How can I convince my local inventor to keep things neighborly? Creative Calamity

Creative Calamity, Nothing is worse than a noisy neighbor However, you must be careful and approach with tact. If your inventor is friendly, go for a visit and marvel at their creation. After a few compliments, bring up your problem with the noisy hours he keeps. Perhaps you could challenge him to invent a sound-proof workshop. Try not to tread on any toes, for inventors are very valuable friends. If he is unwilling to comply, perhaps you can strike up a bargain where you can get something for your lack of sleep. Emeralds, always make good earplugs.

Priscilla, my daughter has recently started seeing a changeling, much to the chagrin of my husband and I. We know that if we forbid her to see him, it will just drive her into his arms. We are at our wits end. How can we save our daughter from making a terrible mistake? Trouble with Teens

Trouble with Teens, teenagers always know how to try a good mothers heart. Whatever you do, do not forbid this rebellious affair. Instead try to be supportive. Use more subtle clues to cause your daughter to think. Serve the changelings food on the floor, and treat

him like a good pet. Make sure he is healthy, and that you all take him for a run as a family. This treatment will surely cause the boy to lose his 'bad boy' image, and your daughter will move on to more wholesome thoughts. With luck, you may get a loyal pet out of your daughters rebellious phase.



Dear Priscilla, I can't sleep since 'winter' has set upon us. I fear the rumors of the food shortage are true. How am I going to feed my family, and how can I get back to sleep? I Think I Ate My Pillow

I Think I Ate My Pillow, winter is quite scary! I understand being unable to sleep, as I suffered from it a bit myself in the first few weeks. But since then, I have been keenly aware of some of the newest styles coming out, and think they are quite cute! Fur collars are fashionable and functional. And while the food shortage is unfortunate, it has given me quite a winter figure! I've begun to believe that winter is a woman's friend! So rest your head and dream of how slim and sumptuous you will look to your husband, and have no more worries.

**LOOKING FOR ODDS, ENDS,
AND WHAT-NOTS COM-
PLETED AT REASONABLE
PRICES?
CONTACT
EWENICE,
THE HUMBLEST SHEEP**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Official Request for Article Retraction

To: The Editor - Wright Publishing

Concerning: The Stronghold Gazette - Vol. 1 No. III November 15, 145

Article: Hungry? Join the Army!

Reason: Line 5 references "Askadellia's army" in the present-tense. Askadellia does not have an army. Askadellia is in charge of the Civil Authority only.

Requested Action: Formally retract the incorrect Askadellia Army statement in the referenced article in your next issue.

Signed: Persnickety Docket

Libel In LauraBee



It has been brought to the community's attention that someone is spreading libel regarding the LauraBee family. The family has no history of changeling, golem, witch or other blood, and is simply a humble family here to represent the simple folk. Someone with ill intent is clearly trying to impugn the mayor's good name for some nefarious purpose of his or her own. Citizens are encouraged to take up questions or concerns directly with the mayor, rather than conducting their attacks through the medium of the public.

"An Honest Citizen"

Caution

Wild Changelin's ain't always angry, but we've been seein' more an' more that are as it turns colder an' food gets harder to find. Please! Watch yerself and don't corner 'em, then they only got one choice for gettin' away, and that's through you.

There's somethin' else to keep in mind, as if that weren't enough to worry about already! Storm rider doctors are callin' it "raybees", an' you could catch it from bein' bit by someone who's got it. It can make ya shaky, or angry, an' just not able to control yerself like normal. If you get bit, don't panic! Wash out the bite as quick as you can, an' go find yerself a doc to take a look.

PLEASE r'member that these'r yer fellow creatures an' treat 'em with respect - don't go shootin' just because yer scared; they're proolly scared too!
Clawdette

Doctor Works to Find Anger Cure!

By Perga Tory Jingle

Doctor Sebastian LeCroix is hard at work to find cure to rage disease spreading among local Changelings.

Dr. Robert Jones of the newfound Rippers Guild spoke well of the Stormriders doctor, stating, "The disease being investigated is an especially persistent and dogged one. It is a task well suited to our esteemed peer, Dr. LeCroix. We have no doubts that he will turn over every stone needed and bring a cure quickly to the lands."

If you have been bitten, scratched, or otherwise accosted by a Changeling it is recommended that you find a Ripper's care immediately. If you have any information relating to a cure, please seek out Dr. LeCroix of the Horizon's Stronghold whereabouts.

"For All Your Needs, Think Green"

Danny Emerald, purveyor of Fine Fuels, Required Restoratives, and Devious Devices. Mr. Emerald is your one and final stop for any and all of your ordinary or extraordinary needs. It's his solemn promise to see to it that if you have the coin, he has what you need for fair market value. Don't let your device run empty, your protections go by the wayside, or your ailing's get yah down!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOWN HALL MEETING: SATURDAY, JAN. 18TH, 3:00 PM

Your elected officials will be available to discuss issues plaguing the town.

- Please remember the following rules in the open forum.
- Please do not fire your weapons during the town meeting, roofing is expensive.
- Please keep your Constructs and other devices under control for the duration of the meeting. We don't want a repeat of the Great Hypnotica incident.
- Anyone found excessively intoxicated will be removed by an officer and held until sober.



Eboshi Gozen Interview

By George Aleister Wright

Inquiring minds want to know. Who is this Eboshi Gozen, winner of the second Marksman's tournament? Miss Gozen was kind enough to take time from her busy schedule to answer the questions that our readers are pining to know.

GAW: Congratulations Miss Gozen! You showed quite the prowess with a sidearm! How does it feel to be the winner of the tournament?

EG: My companion Satoko-san and I have resided in town for about a year.

GAW: Ah, you are close friends with deputy Satoko-san. There seems to be several townspeople hailing from the Heiwana Tochi-region. Is there anything in particular you would like the townsfolk to know about you or your friends?

EG: I would like to thank the benevolence of Lourleen for the opportunity to participate in the marksmanship contest. It was an honor to compete.

GAW: I assure you, the honor was ours! May I ask, who is Lourleen?

EG: As a stormrider, I suppose you must not have heard of her. According to legend, she is the fairie of creation, the creator of Oz. Lurlineism is a very old religion here and every winter the holiday of Lurlinemas is held to celebrate the creation with stories gifts and games!

GAW: I like the sound of that legend! I especially like the part about gifts and games. Speaking of games, winning the marksman tournament is no small feat. Tell us, how did you come to be such a great shot?

EG: I have practiced very hard since The Great Spell fell, in order that nobody suffers the way I have seen some unfortunates - people that have left us for good. My goal is that nobody comes to mortal harm if I can help it.

GAW: Wow, what a wonderful, benevolent goal! We are so lucky to have you here! Your dress is a bit different from the other townspeople, what brought you to this town?

EG: My family's clan sent me out into the world to discover the cause of failure of The Great Spell. I have been to many places in Oz, finally settling in this fine town for a while.

GAW: Let's hope you stay for a long, long while. And how long has it been since you settled into the town?

EG: I know that the people of this town can come together to adapt to this "Win Tor," as the stormriders call it. We will learn to live our lives and thrive despite the bleakness.

GAW: Ah yes, native Ozites are not familiar with the concept of "winter". Luckily, stormriders such as myself have experience with this phenomena. Miss Gozen, we shall come together and survive together! I have taken too much of your time, so I'd like to wrap up with one last question. Along with your outstanding marksmanship, you must possess other remarkable skills. Tell us, do you provide any goods or services that might benefit our readers?

EG: As I said, I am willing to assist in the defense of the town against opposing entities. However if one were to require a more focused guardianship I would be available for a fair monetary exchange. Also, as soon as my delivery of supplies comes in from my home, I will be hosting a Tea Ceremony from my homeland of Heiwana Tochi, a curiosity not to be missed!

GAW: Well, you've definitely peaked my curiosity. Thank you Miss Gozen for answering our questions!

EG: Thank you, Wright-san.

My dear readers, I hope your thirst to know about Miss Eboshi Gozen has been quenched. And please make it a point to congratulate her on her victory the next time you see her. I'll definitely be looking into the Tea Ceremony, and hope to see you all there. And remember, if you are in need of some extra-special protection, look no further than Miss Gozen. You know she won't be missing any targets!

Hildi's Hall

By George Aleister Wright

For her courage in the face of the unrelenting undead assault, the government building of Horizon's Stronghold was renamed "Hildi's Hall" in honor of High Bureaucrat, Brunhilde. When asked about the specifics of her heroics, Brunhilde stated "Regardless of the risk to myself, I properly notified the civil authorities, the Scarecrow army, and all the guilds, through official channels, up, down, and sideways, that the Undead Horde was being held on the Southern Boarder, and therefore taxes were still to be collected as usual." "It is a great pleasure to be honored in this way" beamed Brunhilde, as Miss Alia Brachelia Vandergold, head of the Mercantile Guild commented that Brunhilde "does it(bureaucracy) beautifully".

Hope this Statement Ain't too Bold! Here Comes the Judge, Here Comes the Judge!

By George Aleister Wright

An emergency election for the position of town judge was held at the September town meeting. The position had been held by Judge Silver for some time, however, our esteemed Judge was called away to the Emerald City months ago, and we received word that she would be away indefinitely. Due to the circumstances, Judge Silver chose to retire from her position early, and with her blessing, Mayor Ewenice opened up the floor for nominations.

The townspeople quickly nominated Mr. Luc and Miss Cookie, both employed at the Red Poppy Inn. Mr. Luc and Miss Cookie are upstanding, long-time citizens of the Stronghold's Horizon Township. When asked why Mr. Luc should take on the mantle of judge, many voiced their opinions about his fairness and honesty. Nods of agreement were seen throughout the crowd, and chuckles of laughter erupted when one person blurted out "Luc never cheats at poker, he deals them straight!"

When asked why Miss Cookie should done the robes of judgement, many touted her long, long life. "I bet she's made more decisions in her life than all the townspeople put together!" "She'll make the hard calls, don't matter if they're unpopular or difficult". Were some of the murmuring that were overheard from the crowd. In a very close election, Miss Cookie edged out Mr. Luc by a vote of 8 to 6. Upon Miss Cookie's victory, Mayor Ewenice proclaimed that from this day forth, all the cookies in the town are to be named "The Cookie" in Judge Cookie's honor.

Renovation strikes Stone Inn

Reports have it that the Stone Inn is being remodeled under new ownership by the Nome called Rockwell. The Inn's spacious accommodations mean every paid guest will be offered a firm mattress and proper board to include a hearty bowl of hot soup. The secret recipe is considered traditional pub fare in the land below and is safely edible to Storm-Rider and Munchkin alike. Tell your family, tell your friends to stay where the stones stay warm- the Stone Inn.

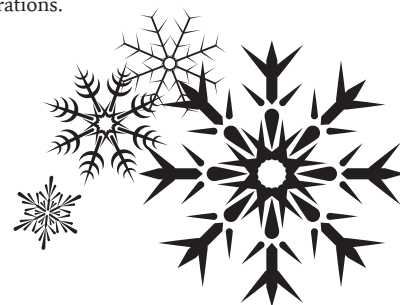
'Silver Apple' Raiders Sought

By Marshall Johnson

As the Land of Pastoria dies beneath our feet and before our eyes, it is order that must be found. Unfortunately, there are those who wish to cause disturbance and ruckus. Among that number is the Bandit named, Cool Jack. Cool Jack and the Cool Kids gang recently went on a rampage throughout Winkieland and have now found their way to Munchkinland.

Most recently they were spotted fleeing the grove of the Silver Apples, having raided the sacred trees and stolen many baskets of fruit. At least two Unicorns have been destroyed, and four of their Dwarven counterparts were left in critical condition.

Cool Jack and the Cool Kids gang are currently being sought by the Civil Authority. The capture of, or information leading to the capture of, comes with a reward of three months certified food rations.



Has the food shortage got you hungry for a change?

All over Oz people are starving, yet thanks to some keen foresight, and the generous donations of contributors that wish to remain anonymous, you may not have to! There will be available for a limited time and limited availability a small selection of premium non-changeling food animals! Preserved untouched by winters chill these cattle, chickens, and ducks have been fattened to perfection and preserved for your darkest hour! Bring your emeralds to the Poppy and ask for "Mr Blue."

This is a limited time offer and will only last till supplies run out. Don't let this opportunity pass you by!