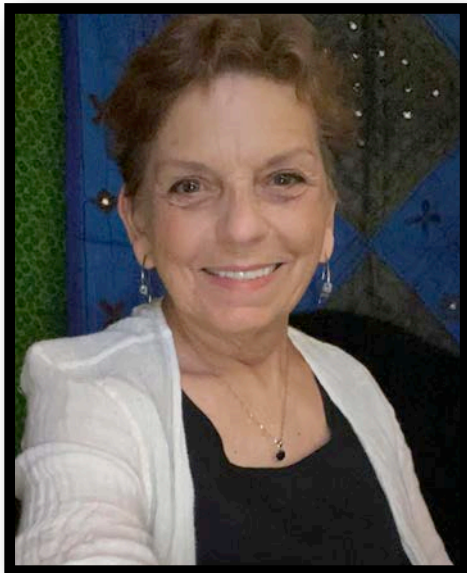




MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



“If a nation loses its storyteller, it loses its childhood.” -

Peter Handke

Hello, my friends,

This past month I was in Downs, Kansas for the annual Kansas Storytelling Festival. Downs is a small town located north and west of Salina, Kansas on Highway 24. The storytellers this year were Brian Fox Ellis, Mo Reynolds, Rev. Robert B. Jones, Sr. and Kevin Kling. People come from all over the region to listen to stories. I always go to listen to tales, but I also go to teach children the art of storytelling.

Many years ago, I was one of the tellers. I looked around and the audience looked like most storytelling audiences I have sat in for the last few years. Most of the people had gray or white hair and looked like they were retired or about to retire. I encouraged the organizers of the event to try to change that. Could they have children perform during the event? We could at least get the parents of the kids. They would be younger than retirement age.

Let's plant the seed when they are young, I said. They agreed to a workshop and a slot in the program for the children to tell their stories. I have been teaching storytelling to children there ever since. I hope I am planting seeds that will grow.

If we want the art of storytelling to grow, we all need to do the same thing. Let's keep storytelling alive.

Love to you all,

Joyce Slater

President of MO-TELL

THE STORY BEAST

For Story Artists, Listeners, and Dreamers

Sink your teeth and claws into our monthly publication now



A new free E-Publication the 15th of each month

While you explore, consider submitting stories, articles, poems, and art.



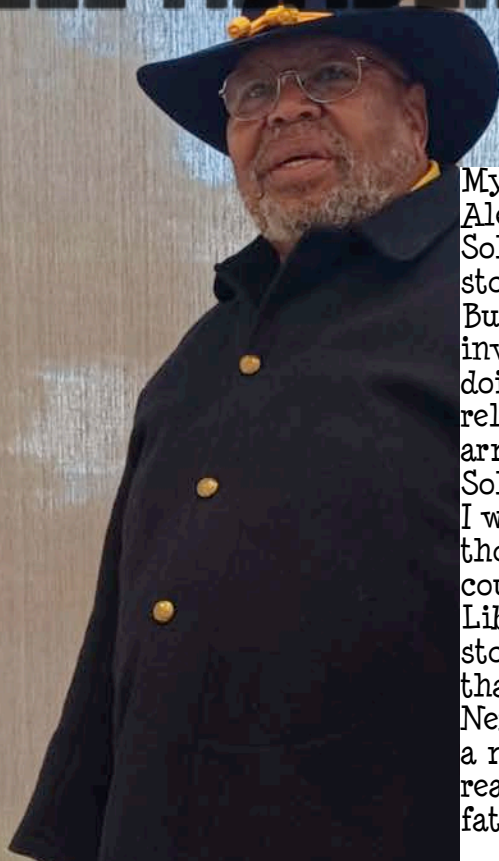
MD-TELL.ORG/TEARS-CONTEST

STORYBEAST.ORG/ARCHIVE



MO-TELL MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Robert Daniels



My name is Robert Daniels. I am a member of Alexander/Madison 9th and 10th Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers, historical storytellers. My interest in storytelling started when I learned about the Buffalo Soldiers rich history in their involvement in the United States Army. After doing some research I discovered that I had relatives who had served in all branches of the armed services, during the time that Buffalo Soldiers served. This only piqued my interest and I wanted to learn more about them and to tell those brave mens' story. After that I took the course offered by the Mid-Continent Public Library Story Center and received my oral storytelling certificate in December 2022. After that I joined the River and Prairie Storyweavers. Next, I attended the Chicken festival and became a member of Missouri Storytelling. Another reason I became a storyteller was because of my father, who wrote short stories and poems.

Someday I would like to take some of his poetry and expand them into story form in his honor. I also believe that with the world going the way it is today, people are banning books, we have to save our history and several types of books. 'Cause if we do not learn from the past, we will repeat it in the future.

I have not been a MO-TELL member for very long so I cannot tell you much about how to improve MO-TELL. I like the way they encourage participation in storytelling and how no one is disrespected by other members. I suggest that for the drawings at the conventions we might look for gifts from members like gift cards (I don't know about you, but I get some I will never use). I also suggest we do silent auctions or white elephant auctions (members bring junk from home) and I suggest they invite the public to hear stories.

Storytellers who have influenced me are Hal Holbrook (Mark Twain), Garrison Keillor (Prairie Home Companion), My fellow Buffalo Soldiers, Jim Two Crows Wallen and members of River and Prairie Storyweavers.

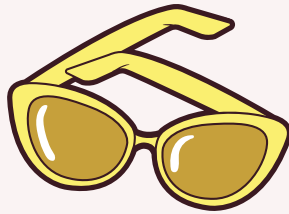
Some of my favorite movies are Song of the South book and movie, Sergeant Rutledge, 1960 movie, Once Upon a Time in the West, and The Great Escape. Raisin in the Sun, They Call Me Mr. Tibbs. I was a child who grew up as a baby boomer, so I watched a lot of TV westerns, science fiction, comedies, boxing, football and wrestling.

These are my holiday memories. The Christmas I asked for a Mattel burp gun, and I got a plastic Machine Gun, (big bummer at the time, look back now and was lucky I got anything). Trick or treat was fun as a child but as I got older found out about girls. Everyone has experiences they can talk about. I was in an intercity Boy Scout troop so we never when camping or fishing, until high school age then we went to summer camp. Camps were segregated so we could not swim with the white kids. Our school motto was "Lee Township against the World." I graduated in from HS in 1965 and was drafted after that and sent to Vietnam 1966. I have learned a lot in my life and have lots of stories to tell.

MO-TELL.ORG

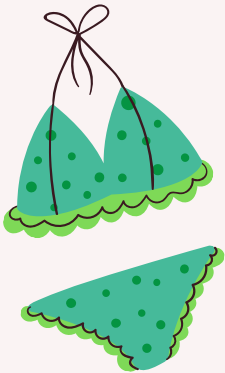


Crazy Days of Summer



13 June 2023

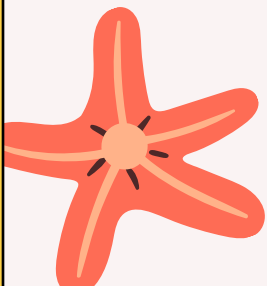
7PM CDT ZOOM



Register in advance for this event

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrceCprz8pHdO1L6luQJ16xLLzgccFvCJl>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting



**WE'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE...WE REJOICE IN
THE RETELLING!**



MAGNET
HERE

FOR YOUR FRIDGE

MAGNET
HERE

STORIES, GATHERINGS, AND STORY GATHERINGS
AROUND OUR FAIR STATE.

RAPS

May 2023

Thursday May 4, 2023, 7:00 pm

First Thursday Meeting

Hybrid* meeting at Trailside Center AND on
Zoom

Teller Spotlight: Denise Grow

Story Theme:

“Necessity is the Mother of Invention”

Saturday May 20, 2023, 10:30 am Third Sat.
Meeting

Hybrid* meeting at Woodneath AND on Zoom

Thursday June 1, 2023, 7:00 pm

First Thursday Meeting

Hybrid* meeting at Trailside Center AND on
Zoom

Workshop: “From Page to Story”

Story Theme: **“Surprise!!”**

*Hybrid meetings will be held in-person at:

Trailside Center	Woodneath
Library Center	
99 th & Holmes Rd.	8900 NE
Flintlock Road	
Kansas City, MO 64131	Kansas
City, MO 64157	

If not on RAPS Mailing List,
Contact: RAPS.Secretary@gmail.com for
additional info and Zoom links.

ZOOM IN TO SEE THIS CRUCIALLY IMPORTANT SECRET MESSAGE!

GATEWAY

Gateway Storytellers Reunion Picnic!

Stacy Park Pavilion
9750 Old Bonhomme Rd,
Olivette, MO 63132

May 9 th , 2023 6:30 until dusk
B.Y.O.F and B.Y.O.D.



Cordially Invites You To
Throw Your Hand In
at the

Ninth Annual Missouri Liars Contest

July 8, 2023

Webster Groves Masonic Temple



WHAT HAVE
YOU GOT TO
LOSE?

For more details, please visit:
MO-TELL.ORG/LIARS-CONTEST

ENTRY DEADLINE - JUNE 1, 2023

**IT'S ALL TRUE, THIS CONTEST.
AS FAR AS YOU KNOW...**

**THE NINTH ANNUAL
MISSOURI LIARS CONTEST**
SATURDAY, JULY 8TH, 2023 - 8:30AM - 5:00PM

WEBSTER GROVES MASONIC TEMPLE
12 E. LOCKWOOD AVE. WEBSTER GROVES, MO 63119

**FREE OF CHARGE!
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

STORY SWAP SHARE YOUR STORY!

SILENT AUCTION BENEFIT YOURSELF & MO-TELL!

"FIND YOUR VOICE" WORKSHOP HONE YOUR SKILLS!

LIARS CONTEST BE THE 2023'S CHAMPION FABULIST!

MORE DETAILS AT
MO-TELL.ORG/LIARS-CONTEST



**ENTRY DEADLINE:
JUNE 1, 2023**

MISSOURI LIARS CONTEST

SCHEDULE OF SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2023

8:30 - Registration

9:15-10:45 - Storytelling Workshop for Beginning & Skilled Tellers - "Find Your Voice(s)" with Master Storyteller, Sherry Norfolk

11:00-11:30 - Story Swap (Stories 5 minutes or less.)

11:30-3:30 - Silent Auction Begins

11:30-12:30 - Lunch \$15 - food and a beverage

1:00-3:30 - **2023 9th Annual Liars Contest**

- Winner of the Written Contest reads story aloud.
- Awards presented to champion liars.

4:00 - Silent Auction Ends

- Quilt Raffle winner announced.

4:00-5:00 Pay up and cleanup

Find Your Voice(s)

a workshop with Sherry Norfolk

An actor typically develops a voice for one character whom s/he plays throughout the performance. But a STORYTELLER is responsible for portraying all the characters plus the narrator – and needs to move between them smoothly and consistently throughout the story!

In this highly interactive workshop, we'll explore how to develop distinctive voices for each of the characters in your stories using pitch, tone, rhythm, tempo and texture. We'll also practice using visualization to maintain those voices faithfully throughout the story. *Please come prepared with a story that has a minimum of three characters that you can learn to bring to life through character voices. A simple well-known folk tale is fine. If you don't have one we can give you one!*

ENTRY DEADLINE:
JUNE 1, 2023

THE GREAT 2023 TELL-A-THON

ONE NIGHT ONLY! ARISING FROM THE PIERRE LACLEDE HONORS COLLEGE'S
LEGENDARY STORYTELLING COURSE COME SEVERAL YOUNG & AMBITIOUS NEW
TALENTS WITH STORIES TO THRILL, INSPIRE, AND AMUSE YOU!

MAY 9TH, 2023, 7PM

UPSTAIRS AT O'CONNELL'S PUB

4652 SHAW AVENUE
ST. LOUIS, MO 63110

DINNER & A SHOW!
IN WHATEVER ORDER YOU'D LIKE!
COME FOR ONE, STAY FOR THE OTHER.

MAKE A NIGHT OF IT!

**FREE
STORIES**



**SUPERB
BURGERS
& PINTS**





MO-TELL QUILT RAFFLE

AS A PART OF OUR FUNDRAISING, MO-TELL HAS A WONDERFUL QUILT TO RAFFLE. IT IS BRAND NEW. THE QUILT IS A HAND-PIECED QUILT WITH MACHINE QUILTING. MO-TELL MEMBER MARSHA STIFEL MELLENDORF MADE THE QUILT AND IS DONATING IT FOR THE RAFFLE.

- THE QUILT MEASURES 56" BY 72".
- COLORS ARE EARTH TONES WITH A LIGHT BROWN FIELD AND BLACK BORDER.
- THE TICKETS FOR THE RAFFLE ARE AS FOLLOWS: ONE TICKET FOR \$5, THREE TICKETS FOR \$10, FIVE TICKETS FOR \$15 AND TEN TICKETS FOR \$20.
- TICKETS ARE FOR SALE NOW THROUGH THE LIARS CONTEST ON JULY 8, 2023. YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.
- MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A MAILING REGARDING THE RAFFLE.
- THE DRAWING FOR THE QUILTS WILL BE AT THE END OF THE

GIVE A LITTLE SO WE CAN GIVE A LOT.



www.mo-tell.org

Silent Auction Event 2023 Annual Fundraising

Missouri Storytelling, Inc., MO-TELL, is a 501C3 storytelling organization dedicated to spreading the joy and art of storytelling throughout the state of Missouri.

On July 8, 2023, MO-TELL will celebrate the 9th Annual Missouri LIARS CONTEST in Webster Groves, MO. Contestants come from all over the state and beyond. Listeners come to hear the wonderful stories! The event is free and open to the public.

This will be a grand event with storytelling, swapping ground, story workshop, as well as the LIARS CONTEST. There will be a Silent Auction to support the MO-TELL mission.

We are asking for donations to the auction. The funds support storytelling in Missouri State Parks and Historic Sites as well as festivals. Our goal for 2023 is to raise \$2,023. We can then bring storytelling to people throughout Missouri. We are asking for a donation valued at just \$20 or more. Last year we had auction items valued up to \$100. If you donate, your name will be listed in the program. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is a partner in this mission. Our board and MO-TELL members donate as well. Your donation is tax-deductible.

Thank you for your donation! Call or text Perrin Stifel at 314-413-2858 with any questions. Keep this copy for your donated item.

Donor name _____ Date of donation _____

Item donated _____ Value _____

Item donated _____ Value _____

Donation accepted by _____ (signature of member)

Thanks for your support of storytelling in Missouri

Joyce Slater, President, Missouri Storytelling, Inc.
7338 Belleview, Kansas City, MO 64114



www.mo-tell.org

Silent Auction Donations, Page 2
MO-TELL LIARS CONTEST 2023

This page is to be returned with donated item (s) to Perrin Stifel in the St. Louis area or Joyce Slater in the Kansas City area for Silent Auction. Please mail any gift certificates to Perrin at 636 Elmwood Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119. We will set up the auction the morning of July 8, 2023, at the event at the Webster Groves Masonic Temple, 12 E. Lockwood Ave. 63119.

Donation to Missouri Storytelling, Inc., MO-TELL.

Dear Friend of Storytelling,

Thank you for your generous donation to MO-TELL. MO-TELL is a 501C3 organization devoted to spreading the art and joy of storytelling throughout the state of Missouri. Your gift helps to continue this mission in Missouri State Parks and Historic Sites.

Please list the value of your donation here for tax purposes.

Item _____ Value _____

Item _____ Value _____

Donor name _____ Date of donation _____

Donation(s) accepted by _____ (signature of member)

Again, thanks.

Missouri Storytelling, Inc.

Call Perrin at 314-413-2858 for questions or email at pstifelstl@earthlink.net

HEY, MO-TELL GANG!

THOSE LOVABLE MUCKITY-MUCKS AT MO-TELL ARE BEGINNING A HISTORY PROJECT.

THEY'RE BEGINNING TO CONTACT CURRENT, FORMER, AND CHARTER MEMBERS TO "PICK THEIR BRAINS" FOR INPUT AND IDEAS. YOUR BRAINS MAY JUST BE THE MOST PICKABLE OF ALL!

WE NEED YOUR THOUGHTS!

SEE BELOW ON ITS OWN PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION!

WHILE WE HAVE YOUR ATTENTION..

IN 2023 MO-TELL WILL HOST FOUR ZOOM EVENTS. ALL OF THESE EVENTS WILL BE AT 7:00 PM (CENTRAL) AND ONLY ON ZOOM.

MARCH 14 LUCK OF THE IRISH
JUNE 13 CRAZY DAYS OF SUMMER
SEPTEMBER 12 A NEW MOON - NEW BEGINNINGS
DECEMBER 12 HELPING HANDS

THE MERRY MYTH OF MAY

May was a very pretty baby born on Mayday. Mr. and Mrs. May were very proud of May. She grew up in Mayberry and her father was a Maytag dealer. May's favorite flower was Mayapple which was found in a forest of Maples. She loved Maple syrup. She loved going to see her favorite movie Maytime. When May grew up she went to Mayfield College in Maine. She marched in the marching band and wrote a memoir. May met Max May.

When they were married, May didn't want to take his last name. Or she would be May May May. So she kept her maiden name, May May. May May and Max May were married by the Mayor of Mayberry. May wore her mauve Muumuu. Max and May danced around the Maypole in the merry month of May. Within a year May mothered twins, June and Junie. Maybe Max and May might make more . . . Don't myth next month's myths.



[Story Swap \(Hybrid\)](#)

Thu, May 18 2023 6:30pm - 8:00pm Story Center Programming Room Story Center Event Registration Required

This open-mic storytelling event is open to anyone! Put your name in the hat for a chance to share a seven-minute story, or just come to enjoy the show.

[EVENT DETAILS](#) REGISTER NOW

[Resources for Storytellers \(Hybrid\)](#)

Thu, May 25 2023 6:30pm - 8:00pm Story Center Programming Room Story Center Event Registration Required

It takes various tools to become a seasoned storyteller, including books, websites, organizations, and more.

[EVENT DETAILS](#) REGISTER NOW

IT'S THE MTHP 2023

IN THE COMING MONTHS WE WILL BEGIN INTERVIEWS FOR THE MO-TELL HISTORY PROJECT.

ALL MEMBERS OF MO-TELL WILL BE ASKED FOR MEMORIES OF MISSOURI STORYTELLING, INC. FROM ITS BEGINNING UNTIL TODAY. WE LOST MUCH OF OUR HISTORY YEARS AGO AND ARE TRYING TO RECOVER IT THROUGH THE MTHP.

THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR INPUT! WE NEED YOU!!

CURRENT MEMBERS WILL BE PHONED OR EMAILED BY A BOARD MEMBER. YOU MAY CHOOSE TO RESPOND ORALLY OR BY EMAIL, BY ANSWERING SOME QUESTIONS, OR BY USPS MAIL TOO. WE WILL ALSO INTERVIEW PAST MEMBERS AND TELLERS INVOLVED WITH MO-TELL.

WE WANT ALL MEMORIES AND WILL COMPILE THEM. WE NEED ANY PAPERS: NEWSLETTERS FROM THE PAST, TICKETS, ADS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ETC.

EVERY QUESTION COULD BE ANSWERED WITH THE 5 W'S. WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY WILL GIVE US A FULL PICTURE. THANKS!

--PERRIN STIFEL

PERRIN STIFEL
636 ELMWOOD AVE.
WEBSTER GROVES, MO 63119

314-413-2858
PSTIFELSTL@EARTHLINK.NET

**NOW THAT YOU'VE FOUND MO-TELL
DON'T LET GO!**



NORMALLY, WE'D SAY "DON'T LOOK DOWN" BUT, IN THIS INSTANCE, THE DETAILS FOR MEMBERSHIP ARE BELOW.

**LOOK DOWN &
JOIN UP!**

THE MO-TELL BILL OF FARE

OFTEN IMITATED, NEVER DUPLICATED

MEMBERSHIP DUES

FISCAL YEAR, FEBRUARY 1-JANUARY 31

RENEW TODAY!

<i>MEMBERSHIP</i>	<i>ANNUAL DUES</i>	<i>COMES WITH</i>
SINGLE MEMBERSHIP 1 YEAR	\$25	MO-TELL PRESTIGE
SINGLE MEMBERSHIP 2 YEARS	\$40	MO-TELL PRESTIGE
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP 1 YEAR	\$35	FAMILY-WIDE MO-TELL PRESTIGE
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP 2 YEARS	\$50	TWICE AS MUCH OF THE SAME!!
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP -60	\$250	LOGO BAG <i>PLUS</i> MEMBER'S CHOICE OF ONE: (CAP) (T-SHIRT) (LOGO MUG)
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP 60+	\$200	LOGO BAG <i>PLUS</i> MEMBER'S CHOICE OF ONE: (CAP) (T-SHIRT) (LOGO MUG)

SEND CHECK PAYABLE TO:

MO-TELL c/o Jackie Wright, PO Box 28994, St. Louis, MO 63132-8994

Olivette Branch Post Office, 9621 Olive Blvd. 63132-9998.



THE BENEFITS YOU RECEIVE FOR YOUR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP:

1. MISSOURI STATE PARKS STORYTELLING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE
2. MISSOURI LIAR'S CONTEST
3. WEB SITE PRESENCE FOR STORYTELLERS
4. MONTHLY STORYTELLING PROGRAMS
5. LOADS OF MERCH (HATS, CAPS, CLIPS, MUGS, BAGS, AND WHATNOT!)
6. NATIONAL STORYTELLING NETWORK AFFILIATION
7. A WORLD CLASS NEWSLETTER (HUZZAH!)
8. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (AND A VOICE THEREIN!)
9. CONNECTION TO THE OTHER STORYTELLING ORGANIZATIONS IN THE REGION

RENEW TODAY!

Story of the Month

MA COMPLAINS ABOUT THE OUTHOUSE

Minnie and Arthur lived in a log cabin with an outhouse just down the trail from the house. One day Ma stomped into the house and slammed the screen door so loud that Pa jumped up off the couch where he had been napping.

“Goldarn it, Arthur!” “You get out there and fix that outhouse!” Minnie said.

Arthur knew better that to argue, so he gathered some tools and went to the outhouse. Now Minnie had not said what needed fixing, so Arthur checked the roof. There were a few loose shingles, so he nailed them down tight. He checked the door and tightened the hinges. Satisfied that he had fixed the problem, Arthur went back in the cabin to continue his nap.

It was not too long afterwards that Minnie grabbed Arthur by the ear and lifted him up off the couch. “Arthur! I said, go fix that outhouse!!” Minnie yelled. “Fix it or I will slap you into next Tuesday.”

Well, Arthur did not want to be slapped into next Tuesday, so he went back to the outhouse and inspected it a little closer this time. He added some lime to keep down the flies and the odor. He swept out some cobwebs up by the ceiling. He oiled the hinges. He even got some barn paint and painted the entire outhouse. By the time he was finished it looked like something you would see on the cover of the Country Living magazine. Surely, Minnie would be satisfied now.

But just to be safe, Arthur stuck his head in the hole to look around. Right then, Minnie came in and surprised him. Arthur pulled back his head and caught his whiskers on a small crack in the seat. “Ouch!!,” Arthur exclaimed in pain while rubbing his beard. “Hurts, don’t it,” said Minnie.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Missouri Storytelling, Inc (MO-TELL) is an organization of storytellers and other interested persons dedicated to spreading the joy and art of storytelling throughout Missouri.

MISSION STATEMENT

We envision that every Missourian will hear and share stories and keep the oral tradition alive.

VISION STATEMENT

President: Joyce Slater, joyceslater20@gmail.com

Vice-President Sue Hinkel, suehinkel1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jackie Wright, jpapawright@sbcglobal.net (Membership)

Secretary: Linda Kuntz, iharilag@gmail.com

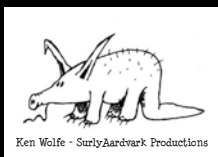
At Large: Gary Kuntz, galirahi@aol.com
Nancee Walker Micham, walkermicham@gmail.com
Glen "Papa" Wright, jpapawright@sbcglobal.net

Emeritus: Perrin Stifel, pstifelstl@earthlink.net

www.mo-tell.org

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Volume 6, Newsletter 5

Our mailing address: 7338 Belleview Ave, Kansas City, MO 64114



THE MO-TELL BOARD