THE

Curry COURIER

Volume 12 - September 1997



FULL PAGE, COLOR INSERT with maps for *The Knights of the Square Table* inside!

A *Curry Courier* special report -- Klaus gets sick!



STORIES NEEDED! **DETAILS INSIDE!**

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Editor's Pages

Information you should know

Welcome to the September 1997 issue of *The Curry Courier!* In this issue, we have many specials, which make this issue more exciting than the last. Our main feature is *The Knights of the Square Table,* which takes a shocking turn. A **full page, color insert** featuring Christopher's map from *The Knights of the Square Table* is included in all of our home subscribers' issues. Put this in a safe place so you can refer to it in future editions of *The Curry Courier.* In addition, the Editor's page has been expanded to **two pages** so we can get all the news to you. Another treat is that we found a few more stories that Christopher Sokolowski had hidden away, so there are short stories in this issue. (As you may recall, Christopher had run out of stories last issue because of the end of school.) Also, Christopher has volunteered to finish *The Secret of Fdol*, which was started by Michael Curry in May and in which several of our subscribers were interested. *The Secret of Fdol* will be in next month's issue. Another reason to look forward to next month's issue will be a two-page house assessment special, which will tell you the results of several neighborhood protestors.

It's also that time of year again. By the second week of this month, school will begin again, and the young will begin their 180-day trek through the school year. Now that school has restarted, this is a perfect opportunity to send us your stories. Just copy stories written in school with a xerox machine or just send the originals! If necessary, the editor will even reimburse you for the postage in your next *Courier*! If you would like to start a chapter story, then please slip a note in with your first chapter, and be sure to send a chapter or two each month. Have fun reading this month's *Curry Courier* and we hope to be hearing from you soon!

Acknowledgements

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All letters, stories, etc. MUST be received by Wednesday, September 17, 1997.

Neighborhood News

September 1997

NEWS SHORTAGE BECAUSE OF VACATIONS

It seems that everybody has been on vacation lately, so there isn't much big news this month. Here are some newsworthy items:

The Hoffmans went to Disney World on August 8 - August 15. (For more details, see *Klaus gets sick* on page 8.)

The Sokolowski family reports that they went on six trips this year, ranging from an overnight trip to a four-day stay. These include: Virginia in May, Poconos in July, Baltimore near the end of July, Wildwood in early August, Poconos again in late August, and an upcoming trip to Wildwood Crest. During a recent interview, Jean Sokolowski said, "I liked going to Baltimore the best. We (except Steve) enjoyed those hard shell crabs. We also liked the Aquarium."

Stephen Sokolowski, 14, reports that he is tired of going on vacation. "It's too much," he said. "But I liked the vacation up the mountains the best." Stephen was referring to the time his family went up the Poconos with his grandparents.

Next month, as vacations slow down, we will hopefully be able to come up with more news.

RORVICKS CUT DOWN WEEDS AND GRASS IN WOODS

Tony Hoffman reports that the Rorvicks, the owners of the property behind the Sokolowskis, recently cleared a path that runs from the creek behind the neighborhood to Pileggi Park. This opens new opportunities for people in the neighborhood. Henry Sokolowski reports, "This is great. The only problem is that there's no way to get our bikes over the creek when we go bike riding."

Since then, the weeds have grown back. Tony Hoffman, who in May suggested to build a bridge over the creek, has canceled his plans.

CHICKEN POX RECURRENCE

Christopher Sokolowski, who contracted a mild case of chicken pox in June 1995, recently got chicken pox a second time in late July of 1997.

Elsie, who didn't give her last name, is a nurse at Pediatric Medical Associates in Rydal. She said that because Christopher had a mild first case, he would be likely to get another mild case sometime later in life.

Christopher experienced little pain or itching during his illness. "It doesn't even itch!" he said. Christopher recovered in just five days and was well enough in time to go on vacation to the Poconos with his family.

OTHER NEWS TIDBITS

We told you we had a lot of "little" news!

-The results of house assessment appeals have not come in yet. As you may recall, in last month's issue, we said that they'd be ready this month. We will have a full page special in October, so stay tuned.

-Father Gill, who supposedly left the parish

to go to Rome in June, will be leaving the Parish in September. During the past few months, Fr. Gill has been attending school, learning to speak Italian.

-Christopher Sokolowski went to Dr. Mark Solomon's office recently for a third laser surgery for the removal of his birthmark. Christopher commented, "It didn't hurt a bit, and I wasn't even nervous." Christopher is very brave.

-Jean Sokolowski has volunteered to be a first grade cathecist at OLGC's PREP class on Wednesday nights. "I am a little apprehensive, but I am really looking forward to the experience." Stephen, her son, will be her teacher's aide.

-The Sweet Things bowling league will begin on Thursday, September 4 with Jean Sokolowski as Treasurer. Unfortunately Jean will not be able to attend the first session, because she will be on vacation. "It's a shame," she said, "because that week most of the money is collected, and we bowl for averages."

-Christopher Sokolowski reports that he received two hermit crabs as a gift from his godmother on July 26. When asked to comment, Christopher said, "I really like them. They're neat!" Jean Sokolowski thinks they are cute, but she also says, "All they do is sleep and defecate."

-Jean Sokolowski's garden is being terrorized by a chipmunk. It recently destroyed six of her red tomatoes. She has put five bricks over the chipmunk's hole and plans to put a fence around the garden soon.

Lost and Found

CHICKENS DISAPPEAR, GOAT TAKES THEIR PLACE

In former issues, we reported that chickens were terrorizing the neighborhood, eating vegetables and destroying flowers.

Recently, Robert Altimari placed a call to the Rorvicks, and informed them that the chickens were eating weed killer in their yard. As a result, the Rorvicks have finally decided to control their chickens.

In recent days, a goat, presumed to belong to the Rorvicks, has been roaming around the area. One car had to stop for over thirty seconds while the goat crossed Pioneer Road. If the goat gets brave and begins to leave the Rorvicks' property, then Henry Sokolowski plans to call a complaint.

Going to the Dogz

AUBREY ATTACKS!

On August 15, 1997, as the Sokolowski family was cleaning up after cutting their grass, the Speickers' dog, Aubrey, charged after Stephen Sokolowski, who was standing near some pine trees near Pioneer Road on his property. The dog reportedly chased Stephen as he ran for his life towards the lawn tractor. On his way, he accidentaly tripped over a metal pole that was being used as a "STOP" sign for the tractor and bent it wildly out of shape. The dog continued to chase Stephen until he reached the tractor and jumped on top of the grass collector bin. Jean Sokolowski, who was brushing off the tractor, says that

Rosanne Speicker, the owner of the dog, was chasing Aubrey because she ran away. Ironically, when Rozanne tried to get Aubrey to go home, the dog laid on the ground and had to be pulled half the way. Rozanne said, "That's because he knows he's going in the dog cage when he goes home. That's where we punish him." Jean, as always, disagrees and said, "The dog didn't know any better. Stephen was just over reacting."

O'DONNELLS GET DOG

Tony Hoffman has reported that the O'Donnell family, who lives next to the Sobolefskis, has a new dog. He also reports that it howls at the moon, like his dog, Klaus.

Comedy Central

HAZARDOUS WASTE MUTATES CHRISTOPHER SOKOLOWSKI

As you may remember recently, several chickens devastated the Butternut-Acorn area. The hazardous waste has not disappeared, though.

Christopher Sokolowski was morphed into a six-legged dog when he went to retrieve the baseballs he lost in May. When he returned, the Sokolowski family thought that Christopher was a stray and shooed him outside. Once outside, Christopher had a run-in with Klaus, the Hoffmans' dog. Klaus chewed off two of Christopher's legs, making him look like a regular dog. Henry Sokolowski was called in by Tim Hoffman to clean up the blood and torn up limbs that occupied the Hoffmans' yard. "This is a MESS! AAAAAAAAAAH!" he screamed. Henry hates messes.

Christopher then went to Limerick Nuclear Power Plant and bit one of the workers, causing the plant to explode and radiation to leak into the air. Henry warns that the radiation is drifting towards Collegeville. "People in the Collegeville area may mutate into strange creatures within the month, just like my son, Christopher. Hidden Forest Drive is expected to be the hardest hit. People with addresses over 819 are expected to mutate into rabid moles, laying waste to lawns in the area. "Be careful not to be stomped on," Henry warns.

Although the radiation is expected to stay away from the Butternut-Acorn area, Christopher still remains mutated. He is reported to howl at the moon at night and be friends with Klaus. Henry, who figured out Christopher was a dog, was recently working on a potion to change him back to a boy in the remains of his basement which had been destroyed by giant chickens last month when something went terribly wrong. The basement exploded, setting two of the Rorvicks' mutated goats on fire. They ran into the Hoffmans' house, and soon after, Tony Hoffman was running for his life, chased by a flaming goat. The goat chased Tony towards Collegeville. People in the Collegeville area are required to stay indoors, set firebreaks, and above all, stay away from Christopher, the mutated dog.

Klaus Gets Sick

The Curry Courier special report
Approved by Tony Hoffman

As reported earlier, the Hoffmans went on vacation to Disney World on August 8-15. When they returned home, Klaus was sick. Below is a description of events during the Hoffmans' vacation.

Mr. Hoffman reportedly asked Tim Hoffman Jr., his son, to take the dog with him to his townhouse until they returned. Unfortunately, after half a day, Klaus began to tear up the grass of the townhouse complex he lived in. Tim then returned the dog to the Hoffmans' house that night and stopped every morning and evening to feed Klaus for the rest of the vacation. However, Tim didn't notice anything different about Klaus.

Jean Sokolowski said that she heard Klaus howling at the moon on Sunday, August 10. She also heard howling at other occasional times during the week.

When Mr. Hoffman returned home, he found Klaus in a pile of brown stuff in his doghouse. "He was loping around, very tired," he said. That was the first indication of Klaus's illness. They took him to the veteranerian the next day, and found that Klaus had thrown up inside the doghouse. He also found out that Klaus had an intestinal problem. Mr. Hoffman said, "We couldn't get him to eat at all. He would only drink. Anything we gave him to eat, it all just came back up moments later."

When Mr. Hoffman checked his mailbox on Saturday, August 16, he found an unsigned note about Klaus's howling. Then Mr. Hoffman learned shocking news when he went back to the vet that afternoon. "The doctor told us that Klaus could have been given something," he said.

Stephen Sokolowski believes that someone who was angry with Klaus's howling could have tainted Klaus's water to stop him. Mr. Hoffman thinks that if someone had approached Klaus, he would have barked, and that would have alerted the neighbors. Henry Sokolowski added that because it was at night, nobody probably would have heard the barking because they were asleep in their homes, or Klaus was asleep and did not notice the impostor coming. Mrs. Hoffman believes that someone fed Klaus some sort of poison.

Another less likely possibility for Klaus's illness is that Klaus feasted upon insulation under the Hoffmans' hot tub that was up on their pool deck. Several times, Mr. Hoffman has seen torn insulation strewn about the yard. This explanation is unlikely, because even if Klaus had ingested some insulation, he would not have done so within the past month and a half, because his new doghouse has been blocking the way. Also, Klaus might have eaten some of the Hoffmans' pool screen house when it blew over on a windy day.

The vet prescribed a type of antacid for the dog, and Mr. Hoffman says that Klaus is still sick as of Thursday, August 21. He is scheduled to have an operation within the week if his condition doesn't improve. The Hoffmans have agreed to do anything it takes to get Klaus better.

Is this a criminal act? Or is it just a coincidence? That is for you to decide. But for now, we have no real answers.

The Knights of the Square Table
Chapter 5

"Hurry! Jump off!" Mike said. The waterfall loomed closer. Dave and Katie jumped off and swam as far away from the floating bridge as possible. Of course, with the swift current, it was impossible to get out of the water.

"NO! We'll all die!" said Tony.

"JUMP OFF!" Katie screamed.

Mike jumped off, trying to pull Tony with him, but it was to no avail. Tony stayed on the bridge, and Dave and Katie screamed as the bridge plunged into the depths below. They didn't have much time before they too were swept over the edge of the waterfall.

Dave hit the water hard. Once he had cleared the pounding surf of the waterfall, he looked around. The waterfall was about fifty feet high! He frantically looked for Mike and Katie. They were farther downstream, clinging to the battered remains of the bridge. They got out of the water, and pulled the bridge with them. Dave wondered why would they do that? Then he remembered that Tony hadn't jumped off!

As soon as Dave reached the shore, he asked, "Where's Tony?"

"Right here. He's injured," Katie responded.

Dave went over to Tony. There was a large cut on his right arm. It was bleeding. Dave had never seen so much blood in his life!

Mike went off to see if he could find some leaves to stop the bleeding. Dave and Katie were left alone with Tony.

"Well, expecting that he lives," Katie said angrily, "What should we do with him?"

Dave said, "We should just leave him here! He's only trouble. Why didn't he jump off the-"

Just then, a small green figure clad in green garments appeared out of the underbrush. "May I be of assistance?" he said.

"Who are you?" Dave and Katie said in unison.

"Christopher the Imp, at your service."

Dave and Katie began to back away from the figure. It appeared not to be frightened, and it stood where it was.

"What do you want?" Katie said, frightened. She and Dave huddled near some bushes.

"To help you. What else do you think?" it said.

Dave and Katie had a quick conference. Needless to say, there was a lot of arguing; but they decided to allow the imp to help them.

"Okay," Dave said. "What do you think you can do?"

"Watch." Slowly, the Imp waved its short, skinny arms in strange motions. To everybody's amazement, Tony began to rise slowly from the ground! Christopher continued to wave his arms until Tony was at eye level. Then he stopped, but Tony didn't fall. The Imp dropped to the ground, exhausted.

"WOW!" Dave exclaimed. Katie sat back in silent wonder.

"Do you believe me now?" the Imp said.

Just then, Mike came back, and several events happened at once. Mike screamed and

dropped the pile of leaves from his hands. He looked frantically back and forth at the Imp and Tony and then ran off towards the river. Dave screamed and began to yell at Mike to come back. In his hurry, he ran into Katie, who was also trying to reach Mike. They fell. Then everything stopped. Mike was in the air, jumping over a fallen tree. Tony was floating, and Dave and Katie were sprawled on the ground on top of each other.

Unnoticed in the commotion, Christopher had been waving his arms in the same strange sort of motions. After he was done, he collapsed to the ground and could not get up for a long while. Then he walked in front of Mike and waited a few more minutes.

All of a sudden, everything began again. This time, when Mike tried to get away, he ran into Christopher. Strangely, Christopher did not fall. It was like Mike running into a brick wall.

Mike sat up, stunned. "How..." he said. He inched away from Christopher and backed into Dave and Katie! There was a loud commotion, and finally Dave, Katie and Mike stood up. Dave hastily explained that the Imp was on their side. He also recounted all the other events that had happened while he was gone.

"Well, now? Are you coming with us?" Dave said.

"Yes. I will assisst you."

"Good. I need your help to find out where the trolls-"

"Trolls?" Christopher said. "We must not go to the trolls."

"Why not? Those people from the castle will find us and kill us if we don't notify the trolls!"

"NO!" Christopher screamed loudly, "We must not go to the trolls. THEY will kill you."

"But they seemed better than the people," Katie said.

"The people....yes," the Imp muttered, "they are chasing you right- I mean they are probably on your tail."

Dave, Katie and Mike looked at each other, but turned quickly back towards Christopher. "Well, then, what should we do?" said Mike.

"A few miles from here is a town called Oman. We can take your friend there and care for him. Then we can figure out what to do next."

And so the companions began their journey to Oman. It was hard going in the forest, and they had to constantly get Christopher to cut down low underbrush or guide Tony through the dense trees. It was starting to get dark when the party reached the edge of the forest. A wide plain stretched before them. They could see faint lights in the distance.

"That's Oman. We'll get there tomorrow morning." Just then, Dave noticed how hungry he was. "I'm starving!" he complained.

"Yes. Me too." Mike said.

"Don't worry," Christopher said. "There's a small stream. I know how to fish." No sooner had he said this then he was off to the stream. By the time he returned, he had two large fish. It was dark now. The companions ate and then decided to go to bed.

The next morning dawned bright and early. Everyone was still tired when Christopher woke them at our equivalent of 5:00 a.m.. They ate the remaining fish--they had been too big to eat both-- and started off. By 8 o'clock, they could see the village before them. Presently, they entered the main gates.

"I know the man who runs the inn here. He will help us." So, the companions proceeded

to the inn. The manager of the inn was very friendly and decided to take care of Tony for the time being. He also gave the party a free room.

Once settled, Mike began, "What should we do now? You said you had a plan."

"Oh, yes," said Christopher. "We must find our way to-"

"Wait a minute," said Katie, "Why should we go where you tell us? You are friendly, but we have our own things to do."

"Yeah," Mike said. Everyone agreed.

Then Christopher the Imp began, "Well, I think you deserve an explanation. This will take some time. Are you sure you want to hear?"

"Yes. Tell us," Dave said.

"Okay. Somewhere in the north, evil deeds are at work. I have noticed that there are many more people getting lost in the forests . Many complain, just like you, that they were pushed into the river. Many don't survive. I watched this for over five years. Then I decided to find out what was going on. I started to go north, and I found hundreds of trolls in a camp a little north of this town. Standing behind a large rock, I heard them say things about strange happenings in a country called Antike. Something about the evil Yavin, who is trying to take over the world. The trolls also mentioned that many of the other strange creatures such as calks-"

"What in the world are calks?" Dave interrupted.

"I was getting to that. Calks are like birds; but they are huge, and have large bills. They can fly at enormous speeds and can pick up something as large as a horse if they must. Anyway, these creatures are joining Yavin in his quest to control the world. Already the northern countries have been overwhelmed. One traveler escaped a prison in the Dark Castle and told me of this."

"What does all of this have to do with us?" Katie said.

"Watch." The Imp pulled a large sword from his belt. It shone clear in the sun from the window, almost as if it were transparent. The group stood in awe. Then Christopher put his sword away and continued. "This sword, which goes by the name of Falchion, is our only hope to defeat Yavin and free the world."

"But why can't anyone else do this job?" Mike asked.

"Why don't you find out?" said Christopher. He took the sword from its sheath and held it out to Mike. "Take it," he said. As soon as Mike touched the shining sword, its aura stopped and it looked like a regular sword. But as soon as he gave it back, it was shining as bright as ever.

Christopher continued, "The Falchion can only be used by one who has a strong desire to wield it. It takes many years to build up that confidence. We don't have the time to find the right person. He could be on the other side of the world. Even as we speak, the Enemy is laying siege over the northern parts of the continent. The Falchion is the only weapon that can destroy Yavin and free the world. There was another weapon, a knife, years ago, but it fell into the hands of Yavin. So-"

"Wait. Why do we need to be concerned with this? *You* have the sword. Why don't *you* go and defeat Yavin yourself?" asked Dave. "We have to be concerned about getting home-" He put a hand over his mouth.

"He has a house far down south and is homesick," Katie said, covering the mistake. "We were on our way there.

"I thought you were going to the trolls," Christopher said.

"Well, that was only a stop on the way," Mike said.

"There's no need to hide it," Christopher said. "I know what you are thinking. I wanted to get home at first, too. But eventually, you will learn to live here."

"You don't understand-"

"Yes I do," Christopher said. "I used to live just like you. You see, I am from the same place you came from. The future."

"What?!" Mike said.

"I'd better explain. I am actually from the year of 1920. When I arrived here, I appeared next to a castle and was imprisoned like you. In the dungeon, I met a strange woman named Deneb. She was a sorcerer, and she taught me many spells. One day she and I were digging, and we found the Falchion. We stayed in prison for many years, and eventually she died. I grew old, but I didn't feel any older than that day we found the sword. That was when I learned of the sword's power. It made the user immortal as long as he kept the sword. I managed to escape from prison. It was then that I learned that my Imp form would not grow old, and I could cast more powerful spells. To my knowledge, 150 years have passed."

"150 years!" Mike exclaimed. The others were too astonished to speak.

"Wait," Dave said, "Why do you need our help?"

Christopher said, "There is a legend in this time that says that three boys and one girl will overcome all evil. Look at this." He pulled out a small transparent stone from his pocket and handed it to Katie.

"What is this?" she asked. But even as she spoke, the stone began to glow. It cast a pure white light around Katie, and then...she disappeared!

Everybody stood in awe. Then finally Dave spoke. "What is that?"

"It's the Hadar rock. It's more powerful than it looks, but nobody has ever been able to use its true power. It's also helpful for concealment." The sword shone blindingly bright.

Katie put the stone in her invisible pocket, and she became visible once again. "I don't like the part about *three* boys and one girl. What about you?"

Suddenly, there was an urgent knock at the door.

Dave unlocked it. A maid came in. She looked sad. "I'm sorry," she said, "but your friend didn't make it."

The Knights of the Square Table
Chapter 6

"WHAT?!" Dave screamed.
"Your friend...He's dead," the maid said.
"DEAD?!" Katie said.
"I'm sorry. There was nothing to be done. There was too much bleeding."
"Why didn't he jump off the stupid bridge?" Mike said quietly, and then...started to cry.

THREE DAYS LATER...

"It looks like he will remain in the middle ages now," Mike said. He was walking away from Tony's gravestone.
"If we are in the middle ages," Dave said.
"Maybe when..IF we get back, we'll see his tombstone somewhere," Katie said.
The three walked somberly away from the graveyard and headed for the inn, not knowing what better to do. When they arrived at their room, Christopher was sitting in a chair, in deep thought.
"Paid your final respects?" Christopher said.
The three nodded.
"Good," Christopher continued, "because I know now what we must do. We must defeat Yavin and bring peace to the world."
"Us?" Mike asked.
"It may get us home. I don't know how, but it may. Besides," Christopher looked up at Mike. "Do you have anything better to do? I don't feel like spending my life here. Something would be...missing."
Everybody was quiet for a minute. Then Katie spoke.
"I agree,' she said sadly.Mike and Dave nodded their heads.
"Then it's settled. We'll leave tomorrow morning. Cheer up. You still have the rest of the day ahead. Go and look around. But first, let me tell you my plans."
Everybody sat down at a large wooden table in the center of the room. Christopher searched in his pocket, and found what he wanted: a map. (shown on insert)
"Where'd you get this from?" Mike asked. "I thought you were from the same time we were."
"I am," said Christopher, "and I got this map from the prisoner that I told you about earlier. He managed to steal it during his escape."
"So what do we do?" Dave questioned.
Pointing to the map, Christopher said, "We are here." He was pointing to the lower-left corner, at the town of Oman. "These red lines are roads. I don't think they will be of much use to us. Yavin already has his servants out to find us and the sword. We must stay off the roads as much as possible. This means that we must go through the Calhorn foothills until we near Jasper. Then we can get back on the road. Jasper is a major trading post and a crossroads. We can stop there for rest and news of the Enemy. It will probably take about ... seven or eight days to get

there."

"Seven or eight days!" Katie exclaimed.

"This will be hard," Dave commented.

"We'll pack lots of supplies, and even winter furs, because the journey is likely to take a few months."

"I wonder what Mom's saying now?" Mike worried.

"Nothing. Remember how we came back last time the same instant we left?" Dave said.

"Oh. Yeah. Right."

"Well, anyway," Christopher continued, "we can stop at Jasper and figure out what to do next. Now," he turned to Katie, "that stone is yours. Use it wisely. Anything you touch except the ground and air will disappear too. Try it."

Katie took the stone out of her pocket and rubbed it in her hands. It started to glow. Then Katie disappeared. A moment later, there was a cry of "Aaaah!" and Dave disappeared. Soon after, there was a loud crash, and Mike, too, disappeared.

Christopher chuckled. Then all three of them appeared. Katie was grabbing Mike and Dave's arms on both sides of her. Everybody returned to their seats.

"Well, now that you've had some fun, let's take the rest of the day to prepare and rest," Christopher said.

***

Christopher woke the party before daybreak. They had gone to bed early and were not tired. Presently, they ate a large breakfast, for they would not eat the same for some days, and made final preparations. Christopher gave Dave a gold coin, and he bought two horses to carry their packs. When he returned, everyone left the room; and they were on their way.

As they passed through the town toward the north, Mike admired the sights, wondering if he would ever come back to his home alive. They passed through the town gates to the road and turned eastward. By about 7:30, they were in the foothills. They continued eastward through the hills. Around noontime, everyone was getting hungry, so they stopped on top of an unusually tall hill.

"Nice day, isn't it?" Dave commented.

"Yes. It is. Not too hot. But it's only June. After midsummer, it'll get really hot. But we're going north. That will probably give us some relief. But when it becomes winter-" Christopher answered.

"Hey!" Mike interrupted. "What's that?" There were two men standing still on the road towards the west. They looked around as if searching for something.

"That doesn't look good," Katie said.

Suddenly, the two men looked directly at them. Then they galloped off to the east.

"I think we've been spotted by the Enemy," Dave said.

"I think you're right," Mike said.

Christopher interrupted, "Let's get out of here before they find us."

So they quickly finished their lunch and were off.

For the rest of the afternoon, they traveled farther back from the road. Everybody was anxious, and that anxiety grew as it began to get dark. As soon as the sun had set, they found a grove of trees. They ate a quick supper; and after a lot of complaining, Mike decided to take watch until midnight. Little did he know how dangerous that watch would be.

The Great Celebration

By Christopher Sokolowski

One day there was a guy named Christopher Sokolowski. He was having a great party. It was a bowling party. So far, it was going well. I was in the fifth frame when all of a sudden the doors slammed open. It was robbers! We all scrambled in the birthday room and locked the door for protection. Everyone was quiet to hear the robbers. Then the robbers left. We opened the door. Everything was quiet. Then it started to rain. There was thunder and lightning. Suddenly, there was a big **CRASH!** The power went out. The lightning struck the telephone pole right across the street. But a car had some familiar people. It was the robbers with all the money and the manager. Then it stopped raining as they all got to the window on the door. But they couldn't see after they went in because of the darkness. Then I found a candle in the storage room. My mom had a match box in her pocket, so she lit the candle and there was finally light in the bowling alley. But it was very dark and windy outside. So we all got our jackets. Half ran to the car. The other half stayed back. Then the half at the bowling alley called an ambulence and the police. Soon the vihicles were there. The manager was rescued. The robbers were sentenced to jail for twenty-five years. The manager got his money back with some extra from the robbers.

Future Communities

By Christopher Sokolowski

In the future, communities will probably have stronger telephone poles and wires so they will not cut off so easily. They will probably have fuse boxes to get rid of the surges of electricity. There will be more people buying electric-powered things like electric powered cars and factories, so there would not be as much pollution in the air. There will be no guns being sold to anyone except policemen. Then there would not be as much crime in the world. There will be no drugs sold except good ones so population in communities will increase, not decrease. There will not be as many people smoking, so everyone stays healthy. There will be new telephones that do not need any wires everyone can bring their phone everywhere in the world and call anyone in the world. There will be new foods so people can have something different to eat, not the same old things everyday. There will be stronger ships so not as many oil spills occur and kill sea animals. There will be more non-alcoholic drinks with the same taste so people will like it. There will be a lot more things in the future but I can't think anymore of them.

The Lost Underworld

By Christopher Sokolowski

Once I saw a broken machine in the forest. I carried it home and started trying to fix it. Then I called my friends Ken and Billy over to help me to fix it. At 12:00am, we finished. We noticed that it was a teleporter. We started the machine up and it teleported us to a submarine. Nobody was in it. Billy and me controlled the submarine. Then we looked out the windows and found a lost underworld. Almost everything had disintegrated. Then Billy banged into one of the buildings, and the ground started to rise. Chris got the submarine out just in time and teleported back to Chris's house. Then Billy, Ken, and Chris destroyed the teleporter and trashed it. Chris's mom asked what was on the floor. Chris said it was legos.

Earth Day Kid

By Christopher Sokolowski

One day there was a boy named Billy. It was his favorite holiday, Earth Day. Billy started by cleaning up his backyard. Then he cleaned up his neighborhood. Then Billy saw a sign to clean up the most trash to get an award. Billy then cleaned up 48 states. Then Billy cleaned up Asia. But he noticed that it was the 23rd of April. Then Billy cleaned up Antarctica and Australia. Then it was the 24th of April. Then Billy cleaned up Europe and South Africa. It was the 25th of April. Then Billy cleaned up North America and returned home. It was April 26th and Billy got his award, as many cheesesteaks as he wanted for the rest of his life.