



# the skein

wherein ARE WOUND  
THE JARARVELLIR JARNS



The Skein  
Paul Goldschmidt  
5625 Highland Way  
Middleton WI 53562



MAY 2009 A.S. XLIV



## BARONESS:

Her Excellency Eithni ingen Talorgain (*Jean Hetzel*) 4934  
 Goldfinch Dr, Madison WI 53714, 628-7782, 226-0846,  
 baronesseithni@yahoo.com

## BARONIAL OFFICERS



**Archery Captain:** Lady Jois Corbet (*Deena Thompson*) 226-0846,  
 corvusjoyous@gmail.com



**Chatelaine:** Eliane Halevy (*Jennifer Friedman*) 238-7627,  
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**Chirurgion:** Lady Fiona (*Lyn Andreasen*) 445-4622,  
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**Chronicler:** Paul Wickenden of Thanet (*Paul Goldschmidt*) 827-  
 6891 goldschp@tds.net

**Demo Coordinator:** Annora le Spindlere (*Vicki Spindler*) 835-2617,  
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**Directory:** Cwenthryth wine (*Toni Sumner-Beebe*) 298-0918  
 cwen@uwalumni.com



**Exchequer:** Lady Tatiana McGowan (*Dawn Brueggemann*) 989-  
 493-9019, exchequer@jararvellir.org

**Historian:** Paul Wickenden of Thanet (*Paul Goldschmidt*) 827-6891,  
 goldschp@tds.net



**Knight Marshal:** Roisin igen Ailill (*Rebecca Heidelberg*) 244-4621,  
 roisin106@aol.com



**Minister of Arts & Sciences:** Ermina (*Bettymae B. Doyle*) 338-5897,  
 bettymae.doyle@charter.net



**Pursuivant:** Kristyan Applegate (*Kristen Bird*) 715-760-0603,  
 kristyanapplegate@gmail.com

**Rapier Marshal:** Cosimo de Cellini (*Joe Ordaz*) 274-0997,  
 jordaz@netzero.com



**Seneschal:** Ivan Matfeevich Rezansky (*John Beebe*) 298-0918,  
 rezansky@sbcglobal.net

**UW Reservations:** Amy of Jararvellir (*Amy Dee*) 715-559-3653,  
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**Web Minister:** James (*James Krot*) 989-493-1953,  
 jamesjkrot@yahoo.com

Baronial Mailing Address: PO Box 259537, Madison, WI 53725-9537

Baronial Web Page: <http://www.jararvellir.org>

Baronial Email list: [jararvellir@minstrel.com](mailto:jararvellir@minstrel.com)

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**SUBMISSIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Subscriptions for 2009 are free, but there is a recommended donation of \$1 per issue to cover postage and copying (Full year = \$12). Submissions will be edited for grammar and spelling. Anything that is in poor taste or violates SCA publication guidelines or copyright law will not be published. *The Skein* is published monthly on the first Wednesday after General Meeting. The submission deadline for each issue is the Friday before the General Meeting of the publishing month. Submissions are accepted in any (legible!) format and via e-mail. Please also include any publication restrictions beyond those of this newsletter.

**ART CREDITS:** The cover art is unattributed and taken from an unknown antique book, reproduced at the Karen's Whimsy website (<http://karenswhimsy.com>). The filler art comes from the electronic archives.

## CANTON OF COILLE STOIRMEIL

(Monroe & Juneau County, WI)

<http://www.coillestoirmeilonline.org>

Seneschal: Matthias of Rolling Oaks (Matt Schwall)

23149 State Hwy 21, Tomah WI 54660

[limos112@hotmail.com](mailto:limos112@hotmail.com), (608) 372-5445

Monthly Meeting: First or second Sunday of the month at the Nest in Tomah

# BARONIAL MEETINGS, GUILDS, AND CONTACTS

*Please call the contact person to verify when & where an activity is held!*

## **Archery Practice Sun 12-2PM, Wed. 6:30-9PM. UW Stock Pavilion**

Contact: Lady Jois (Deena) 226-0846

## **Armoured Combat Wed. 7-10PM, Sunday 2-4PM. UW Stock Pavilion**

Contact: Roisin igen Ailill (Rebecca Heidelberger) 244-4621, roisin106@aol.com

## **Armormaking Tuesdays 7PM. 3314 Ridgeway Avenue**

Contact: Master Giles (Ed Gilbert) 244-2845, horsebows@mail.madtown.net

## **Bardic Arts (not currently active)**

Contact: Vacant

## **Brewing & Vintning Third Monday. Various locations (call for info)**

Contact: Robert the Stout (Robert Trefz) 441-6150, rtrefz@tds.net

## **Calligraphy & Illumination Tuesdays 7PM. Call for location**

Contact: Lady Eile (Alicia Cronk) 250-4595, leleth.faery@yahoo.com

## **Clothier's Guild Alternate Mondays, 7PM. Contact for location and dates.**

Contact: Iohanna (A. Rebekah Turner) 957-9072, arebekah@gmail.com

## **Cordial Guild First Tuesday 7:30PM Contact for location**

Contact: Lady Cianna Kharleen (Carrie Wilkey) 846-8008, cianna@teadame.com

## **Equestrian (not currently active but information available)**

Contact: Alissende de Montfaucon (Tammy Thompson) 212-5433, alissende@centurytel.net

## **European Dance Sundays 3PM. UW Campus—check TITU for room.**

Contact: Lady Genevieve Elisabeth Dumas (Jenny Becker) 206-9330, kathrynscurly98@aol.com

## **Fletching Fridays 6:30PM (call ahead) 5418 Imagine**

Contact: Lord Toussaint de Caluwe (Tyson Patterson) 838-4092

## **Fool's Guild Alternate Wednesday 6:30PMish, UW Stock Pavilion.**

Contact: Lady Aliénor Hathaway (Mariessa Dobrick) 658-8941, reesa83@aol.com

## **General Business Meeting Usually 1st Sunday, 7PM, Edgewood College,**

**Predolin Hall — call to verify meeting date and location.**

Contact: Ivan Matfeevich Rezansky (John Beebe) 298-0918, rezansky@sbcglobal.net

## **Instrumental Music Mondays 7PM-Beginners, 8PM-Advanced.**

UW Campus—Check TITU

Contact: Lord Nikolaus der Ausländer (Clint Hotaling) 846-0859, n\_auslander@hotmail.com

## **Middle Eastern Dance and Drumming Wednesday 8:15pm, UW Stock Pavilion.**

Contact: Lady Kenya (Heather Cushing) 298-0103, evilkenya@tds.net

## **Needlearts Tuesdays 7:30. Call for location**

Contact: Lady Helena Caxton (Sara Andrews) 414-507-5872, lostvirtue76@yahoo.com

## **Pottery Guild First or second Monday (alternating with Clothier's), Fired Up Pottery.**

Contact: Annora (Wendy Nelson) 438-6530, wendybyrd42@yahoo.com

## **Rapier Practice Wednesday 6:30-9PM, UW Stock Pavilion**

Contact: Cosimo de Cellini (Joe Ordaz) 274-0997, jordaz@netzero.com

## **Social Practice Wednesday 9PMish. Call to verify location**

Contact: HE Eithni (Jean Hetzel) 628-7782

## **Thrown Weapons Sundays Noon, Second Wednesdays 7PM, UW Stock Pavilion.**

Contact: John "Jack" Bartholomew of Flanders (David Thompson-Hall) 257-1082

## **Vocal Music Thursdays 7 PM UW Campus—Check TITU**

Contact: Lady Aliénor Hathaway (Mariessa Dobrick) 658-8941, reesa83@aol.com

# EPISTLE FROM THE BARONESS

Greetings unto the Populace of Jararvellir from Eithni ingen Talorgain!

Happy May Day and Happy Birthday to the SCA!

Spring is a time of joy and renewal and, in that spirit, it is also the time when we usually hold many of the contests to determine the new Baronial Champions. At May Day, we held the Armored Combat, Rapier, and Arts and Sciences Championships and in the coming weeks we will hold the Archery and Thrown Weapons Championships at the Stock Pavilion. (Watch for the Bardic Championship at WW, when we can have a proper bonfire by which to hold the competition.) I would like to thank my outgoing Champions: Armored Combat Champion Robert the Stout, Rapier Champion Hroswitha, Arts and Sciences Champion Sarra Romney, Archery Champion Masha, and Thrown Weapons Champion James. Your talents and service are much appreciated by your Barony and Baroness! The incoming champions, being determined after this letter is due, will be announced next month.

I will, however, at this time announce to you the Candidates for the position of Baron and Baroness, in order of letters of intent received:

Æsa Gilesdottir with Kitakaze Tatsu Raito

and

Duncan MacPherson with Seonaid inghean Dhomnaill

These are all fine candidates and I have the utmost confidence that either of the candidate slates will provide Jararvellir with an excellent Baron and Baroness. But you need not take my word for it - next month's Skein will feature more information about the candidate slates and at least one "Meet the Candidates" night will be scheduled soon, so watch the Jara List for details about that gathering. However, if you are unable to make that meeting, I'm sure the candidates would be more than happy to speak with any gentles interested in the process. If you have any questions about the Baronial changeover process in general, please also feel free to contact either Seneschal Ivan or myself and we would be happy to address them with you. This is

an exciting time in Jara's history and an auspicious start to a new year...

Amidst all this excitement, the weeks continue to fly by and launch us into the busy summer season. I hope to see many of you at ARRG (May 22-25) in a few weeks hence, and, of course, Warriors and Warlords (July 9-12) creeps ever closer, so do remember to volunteer, volunteer, volunteer! Come learn, come volunteer, come play - all with smiles on those Fishy Faces!

Yours ever in Fishy Service,

Eithni

## MAY GENERAL MEETING minutes

**Baronial Transition (Ivan):** There are two pairs of candidates for the baronial high seats - Duke Kitakaze tatsu Raito and Duchess Æsa Gilsdottir; and Sir Duncan MacPherson and Mistress Seonaid Inghean Dhomnaill. He also announced that the baronial mailbox has moved. There will be a contact link on the website.

**MoAS (Ermina):** Ermina nominated Cwenthryth as her replacement in the position. **[We will vote on the appointment next month]**

**ARRG (Eithni):** ARRG is coming up. Make sure to come. It's not just for Rapier enthusiasts; spectators have been known to have even more fun than that. And the Friday fish fry is quite good.

**WW (Eithni):** The Warriors & Warlords website is now up, and all assigned staff are on the website; volunteer. VOLUNTEER.

**SUN (Eithni):** The S.U.N. (Stellar University of Northshield) event is coming up in early November.

**Golden Gryphon (Eithni):** The Golden Gryphon will be held on October 17-18 at Roadway Inn off 51 and the beltline. Teams start their needles at 10 pm, making an outfit from the skin out; step away

## JARARVELLIR ARTILLERY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 17 at 11am

Announcing the first Archers' BBQ of the season. Please join us Sunday, May 17 at 11:00 a.m. at lovely Hoyt Park. We'll provide the hot coals and condiments, bring a grillable item for yourself. Feel free to provide something else for people to munch on, though it's not required. Please bring your own feastware. After the BBQ, we will retire to the Stock Pavilion at noon to shoot. You are welcome to join us at one or both locations. Loaner equipment is available.

### Directions to Hoyt Park:

FROM THE EAST--take your best route to Regent St. Head west on Regent, keep going past West High School and the cemeteries. Continue on Regent, it will take you into Hoyt Park. Keep driving past the sign for the park and the parking lot for the large park shelter (on your right), continue down the street as it meanders along. Eventually the houses on the left give way to an expanse of lawn with picnic tables and stone fireplaces. On the right, the woods with picnic tables and stone fireplaces drop away and a scenic overlook with parking for several cars appears just before the road starts to meander downhill. Park there. Go across the street to the table with the SCA people sitting at a table with a tablecloth.

FROM THE WEST--take your best route to Midvale Blvd. Turn onto Hillcrest, located halfway between the Mineral Point and Regent intersections. Go several blocks on Hillcrest and turn left onto Owen Parkway (note that you will pass Owen Dr. along the way). The street sign is hard to see, but if you reach Westmoreland you went 1 block too far. Owen Parkway will take you up into Hoyt Park and turn into Regent St. Look for the lawn with stone BBQ's on your right and the scenic pullout on your left. You can park in the pullout, or continue down the street to a lot on your left as you leave the park.

Questions? Contact Sol (sol1040@gmail.com)

### ANSWERS TO RIDDLES FOR THEE AND ME

1) A coffin, 2) An egg, 3) An onion, you dirty-minded person! 4) Odin, with Sleipnir, Huginn and Muninn., 5) A daisy looking at the sun, 6) A boat, or Shoes. 7) A Fish. 8) Eleanor of Aquitaine, 9) The wind, 10) Vlad the Impaler, 11) Little John (of Robin Hood fame)

## EVENTS

### OUT AND ABOUT

For more information visit the individual group's website (accessed from <http://www.northshield.org/Events/List.aspx>).

#### May 2009

16—Beltaine by the Bay,  
**Darkstone** (Ashland WI)

22-24—ARRG VIII: Ship,  
Captain, and Crew,  
**Jararvellir** (Montello WI)

29-31—Mermaid's XVI—  
Sweet 16 Coming Out Party,  
**Turm an dem See** (Valders  
WI)

#### June 2009

12-14—Border Skirmish VI,  
**Caer Anterth Mawr** (WI/IL  
Border)

#### July 2009

9-12—Warriors and Warlords,  
**Nordskogen and Jararvellir**  
(Boscobel WI)

#### August 2009

7-9—Poor Man's Pennsic XVII,  
**Falcon's Keep** (Wisconsin  
Rapids WI)

## LOCAL NEWS

### STOCK PAVILION SCHEDULE

Though the UW stock pavilion calendar does not have us on for May, I have spoken with the scheduling coordinators on the university end, and they assured me that we have our usual dates and times through the end of May. They're running a little slow on the calendar because of the end of semester crunch. As always, the full schedule can be found at:

<http://www.ansci.wisc.edu/Facilities/stockp.htm>

jois

from the work at 6 pm the next day. Site fee is \$10.00 per participant and \$7.00 per spectator. Shava is gate, and Iohanna is snacks/lunch. There will probably be pizza after the work finishes and while the judges deliberate. There are plenty of electrical outputs, although last year there were only two needed - the rest did hand-work. The folks attending voted and carried a motion for this event to go ahead.

**Exchequer (Tatiana):** I am looking for deputy exchequer.

**Chirurgeon (Fiona the younger):** we need to replace the baronial medical supplies kit, which is years out-of-date. She reckons the replacement cost will be less than \$50. The attending voted and carried a motion for the replacement, up to \$50.

**Fletching (Jois):** The funds and receipts for fletching have been turned in to the Exchequer.

**Stock Pavilion (Jois):** Sol will be stock pavilion coordinator. UW is slow to update their calendar here recently due to the end-of-semester activity, but we currently have all our expected dates.

**Shadefly Construction (Iohanna):** King Steven promised more shade to the merchants at Pennsic, and is asking each barony to make 2 shadeflys toward that end. Maestress Giovanna has a line on both fabric and wood, and Gabriella has a line on stakes. With fabric comes the need for more care than just to put them away and forget them. They must be dried before storing, and kept from getting wet. There was discussion of putting them in plastic boxes, but that was said to be a problem due to condensation during temperature changing. Wood, and specifically a cedar chest was suggested as the optimal solution. There would sixteen-foot uprights to be stored. But someone needs to be the keeper-of-the-shadeflys or the work making them is for naught. The keeper would also be responsible for seeing the shadeflys got to WW and to Pennsic; the keeper would not need to actually bring them, but would need to see that they got there. The baroness said that if/until someone else steps forward to take responsibility for the shadeflys, she will be the keeper. Iohanna requested \$400 of the barony's funds to build and own two shadeflys that will be in Eithni's care and will have wooden storage boxes.  
**[The folks attending voted and approved that expenditure]**

**May Day (Robert the Stout):** Make sure you clean up after yourselves before you leave.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING  
will be on June 7,  
AT 7PM, EDGEWOOD COLLEGE



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### THROWN WEAPONS CHAMPIONSHIP

Please join us for the annual Baronial Thrown Weapons Tournament to be held at the UW Stock Pavilion on Wednesday, May 20th, 2008. Please announce your intent to compete to Baroness Eithni by 8PM. The competition will start around 8:15 or once the range is prepared and contestants are warmed up. The format of the throw is TBA, but the winner will be judged on prowess, finesse, and the Baroness' whim. If you have any questions, please contact Eithni.

eithni

8) My father was the noblest knight,  
Although he lived a lie  
His bastard son saw holy light—  
Just Percy, Bors and I

Two thrones beneath my royal seat  
Two scepters in my hand,  
My court would prove that love is sweet  
"By God's wrath, ain't life grand?"

9) Thirty white horses on a red hill—  
Now they stomp, now they chomp, now they stand still  
Voiceless it cries,  
Wingless it flutters,  
Toothless bites,  
Mouthless mutters.

10) When fell the Eastern Rome I fought  
To keep the Turks at bay,  
And so my name's with terror fraught  
Unto this very day.

11) The name they gave me at my birth  
Would soon be turned around.  
On log o'er stream I proved my worth  
And so my fortune found.

(For answers, see page 17)

## RIDDLES FOR THEE AND ME

by Reinholdt von Trollenhagen

- 1) The man who made it had no use for it,  
The man who bought it didn't want it  
The man who got it didn't know it  
What was it?
- 2) In marble halls as white as milk  
Lined with skin as soft as silk  
Within a fountain crystal clear  
A magic apple doth appear  
No doors there are to this stronghold  
Yet thieves break in to steal the gold.
- 3) What hath a hairy root and makes the maidens cry?
- 4) What has 5 eyes, 10 legs and 4 wings?
- 5) A yellow eye in a green face saw a yellow eye in a blue face.  
"That eye is like to my eye, but in a high place, not in a low place"  
Name both.
- 6) When do the living carry the dead?
- 7) Alive without breath,  
Cold as death  
Never thirsting,  
Ever drinking  
All in mail, never clinking.

## NEW BARONIAL ADDRESS

The Baronial post office box has moved. Mail should be forwarded from the old address to the new one, but to prevent delays, please use the new address from now on:

SCA Inc, Barony of Jararvellir  
PO Box 259537  
Madison, WI 53725-9537

Thanks,

**IVAN MATFEEVICH REZANSKY,**  
**SENESCHAL**

## SHADE FLY CONSTRUCTION

At General Meeting, the Barony agreed to pay for the construction materials of two shade flies that will be used on the field at WW and Pennsic (and wherever else we may need them in the coming years). I will be managing the project.

For those of you interested in helping to make the Baronial Shade Flies, or perhaps you're thinking about constructing one for yourself, the plans we will be using can be found through the link below:

<http://midtown.net/dragonwing/sunshade.htm>

The two Baronial Shade Flies will be 15' x 20' and I plan on constructing one that is 10' x 15' for my personal use.

I'll be setting up work days in late May and June, once the materials have been obtained.

**iohanna**

PS - If you are interested in making a personal shade fly, I may be able to help facilitate. Please don't hesitate to contact me.





Now for the shaft. Get two 12" angle irons, and two 8" angle irons. Get the heavy kind, not the weak aluminum ones you use to put up shelves. Stand your shaft up in the middle of the X on the platform. Arrange the angle irons around the shaft to line up with the 2x4s, with the matching irons on opposite of their mate. To increase the strength of the pell, we will make the "target" sides of the pell the ones with the 12" brackets, so line these up with the one whole 2x4 on the base. With a pencil, draw through the eyeholes of all the irons.

Separate the pieces, and get out a drill with a 7/16 bit and drill the 8 holes in the base, all the way through the 2x4s and the plywood. When you get to the shaft, you will notice the marks on opposite faces line up and don't cross with the other sets. Drill the four holes on the shaft, being careful to drill straight through the wood to meet the mark on the other side.

OK, now get twelve 3/8"-wide carriage bolts, that are 6" long. A carriage bolt has a low, domed head (instead of a hex). You will also need twelve wing nuts, and twenty-four wide washers. When assembling the base, pass the bolts up through the base and put the wing nuts on top. Be sure to use the washers, or the pressures of using the pell will damage the equipment.

For the "target" you will need two old tires. First cut out the inner raised lip of the tires, as these contain heavy cable and you will be unable to cut through them easily. Now cut the sidewalls of the tires in the four directions, stopping at the tread. Cut once across the tread, so that you can flatten the tire into one strip. Nail the sidewall flaps onto the shaft of the pell, putting the tread on the "target" sides.

That's it! You now have a pell you can set up or break down in about ten minutes. If your strikes are exceptionally heavy, you might need to position bricks or cinderblocks on the four corners to keep the pell stable. See ya all next month (say goodbye, Gristle)!

"I'll get you, my pretties!"

## SCARAMOUCHE DELSTRAGO

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

I no longer have access to the email bdoyle@mge.com. The company is working on getting my personal mail to me, but I know that I have several electronic directory requests. If you have requested a directory and have not heard from me, please re-request the directory from bettymae.doyle@charter.net. I have the electronic form of the directory and will send it.

ERMINA

## FOUR DECADES AND FOUR KINGDOMS!

On October 3, 2009, at the University of Chicago, the Incipient Barony of Aryeton will host the Midrealm 40-Year Celebration. In honor of the Midrealm, and in honor of the related kingdoms of Calontir, Ealdormere and Northshield, all who hear these presents are invited to join the celebration!

This event will be a celebration of History and Legend, with special emphasis on our shared culture and the continuity of our customs and traditions. The activities of this event will be focused on interactions between old and new people, sharing the memories of our SCA lives, and creating new memories.

In the Early Days of our history, there were Heroes who walked among us. We are strongly hoping for attendance by the senior members of the Kingdoms, especially those from the founding days of each Kingdom.

1st Decade: 1969-1979. Founding of the senior Baronies of the kingdoms: Northwoods, Castel Rouge, Three Rivers, Septemtria. First Midrealm Coronation 1969.

2nd Decade: 1979-1989. First Calontir Coronation 1984.

3rd Decade: 1989-1999. First Ealdormere Coronation 1998.

4th Decade: 1999-2009. First Northshield Coronation 2004.

The proposed activities include Displays of Ancient Wonders, Tournaments of Youth and Valor, and Remembrances of Golden Days of our Past. Some examples are:

\*Royal Regalia of Four Kingdoms

\*Stories of the Pennsic Wars

\*First Garb Fashion Show

\*Constitutional History / All Those Strange Laws have a Story Behind Them

- \*Songs of the SCA
- \*The Great Booke of the Midrealm
- \*Evolution of SCA armor
- \*Arts and Sciences Masterpieces (and the first attempts!)
- \*Historic T Shirts of the SCA

A location will be established for reunions of Chivalry, Laurels, Pelicans, and other groups as requested.

In addition, there will be day-long feasting, prepared by several taverns on site. The taverns can serve food all day, meaning that people can eat when and what they want. Or bring your own feast!

On Sunday, the same site will be available for a huge regional fighting practice. Come one, come all!

For further details, see the evolving website at <http://cleftlands.cwru.edu/mk40.html>. Or check the Midrealm Calendar page at <http://www.midrealm.org/calendar/>.

To contribute ideas, and to volunteer, contact the Autocrat: Countess Sir Fern de la Foret (Laurie Erickson, 2506 W Morse Ave, Chicago, IL 60645, 773-764-1920, [fern1445-tgs@yahoo.com](mailto:fern1445-tgs@yahoo.com).)



**Editor's Note:** In the late 90s, the *Skein* featured a series of how-to articles on various subjects written by Scaramouche (and his trusty sidekick Gristle). By request (and also because we are short on recent original contributions), I have decided to re-run a number of these articles.

This article (on pells) originally appeared in the *Skein* in the March XXXI (1997) issue.

## SCIENTIFIC JARAVELLIAN

Huzzah and welcome, good gentles, to the next installment of This Old Castle. I am your host, a veritable Bob Vila in black tights, Scaramouche DelStrago. Yes, I have another load of advice and abuse for you, so get out your trenchers and get in line. Mmm...tasty!

Okay, this month finds us again with the fighters (no, I don't mean people debating the Baronial succession), people with sticks, looking for things to swing at (yes, I'm sure I don't mean anyone but stick-jocks). Well, after just a few moments with this crowd, I know what they need — a target other than me! To provide this, I will now tell you how to make a collapsible, moveable pell.

The problem with most pells is that they need to be sunk three feet into the ground to keep them steady while you're swinging at them, and many of us just don't live in places where we can do that to the lawn (I know I wouldn't get my security deposit back). So this is the way to make a pell you can collapse and store when not in use. Now, you will need a central shaft of strong, unbreakable lumber — either a 4x4 or two 2x4s nailed together. For a person of my height, my pell will be 6' tall. If you need a different size, go ahead and make yours taller or shorter. I won't stop you.

Let's start with the base. Go out and get a sheet of plywood. They come 8' x 4', which is just what we want. [Buy 3/4" ply—editor] Cut the rectangle into two 4' x 4' squares, and nail one on top of the other. Now take a 2x4 (they come in 8' lengths) and cut it in half to make two 4' sections. Take one and nail it across the middle of the 4' x 4' square. Cut about 3 1/2" off the other section, and then cut it in half to make two 22 1/2" lengths. Nail these areas to the middle of the base in the other directions.