

Wayne Braid

Travel Treasures

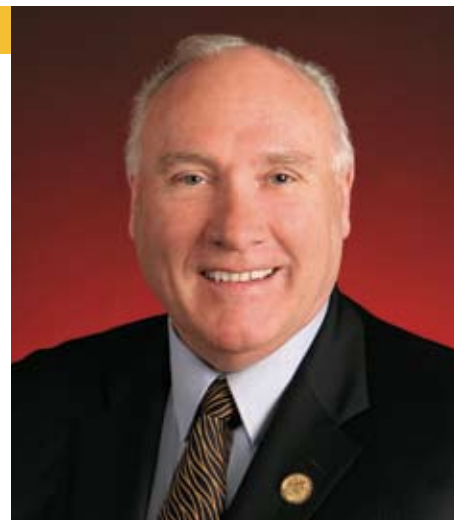


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W elcome to the Summer *Scrivener*.

For your reading pleasure, we are focusing on Travel.

I have come across very few people in my life who don't like to travel. As one of the magazine's Editors for the past 6 years, I have noticed that when our writers provide us with insight into their lives or talk about an event that has changed them forever, more often than not it involves travel.

When I first approached our Editor-in-Chief Val Wilson with the idea of an issue on travel, she was all over it! I recall her initial excitement and her emails back to me of all the people who would share their knowledge and their photos! The Magazine Committee was also supportive and, today, here we are with our "International Travel" issue.

Our Cover Boy is our President Ken Sherk. This unique and talented man was our President from 1998 to 2000 and Chair of our Notary Foundation from 2000 to 2002. In 2006, he was elected to yet another term as President of The Society of Notaries.

A main responsibility of the president of any organization is attending functions and meetings and representing the members. I have lost count of the number of days and evenings Ken has invested on behalf of our Society. (I intend to do a tally before his term is complete.)

This man's energy and his dedication to our profession and to each and every member in our association are incredible. He is determined to make a difference and to ensure British Columbians have the opportunity to experience, first-hand, the services of a BC Notary! In the Cover Story Feature, you will learn more about Ken's exceptional efforts and commitment.

Another passion in Ken's life is his love of travel to various cultural settings where he seeks out the best wine and the most spectacular structures and historical sites!

For me, travel is the chance to get away with my wonderful wife Laurie and spend time with her. That may involve venturing around our beautiful province or flying to a faraway locale to see one of my offspring.

In the places we visit, we habitually search out Notaries or the history of Notaries. We have photos of many unique Notary signs—including one in Texas where you can clearly see the bullet hole beside the Notary's name. In Europe, we watch for signs announcing *Il Notario*.

Laurie and I love Italy—the food, the wine, the architecture, and of course . . . the history.

A couple of years ago, in Perugia, Italy, home of some of the best chocolate-makers in the world, I discovered the Palazzo dei Priori, a beautiful building in the centre of the city where the Mayor and

Magistrates used to meet to manage local affairs. The walls and ceilings of this outstanding edifice are completely covered with frescoes from the late 1200s depicting Coats of Arms of the City and the Chief Magistrates from neighbouring republics. In 1582, the town turned the Hall over to the Notaries guild. To this day, it is known as the "Hall of the Notaries."

Born in 1230, Jacopo dei Benedetti studied law and served his community as a Notary for years until his wife died tragically when the floor in their home gave way as they danced. Also a well-known poet, "Jacopone" was steadfast in his condemnation of corruption. The Pope excommunicated him but he continued to fight for his beliefs. He died in 1306 and is buried in San Fortunato, Todi—the site of our next trip!

We hope to discover some of the other Notaries who worked with this most interesting gentleman. ▲



The small Umbrian town of Todi, the birthplace of Jacopo dei Benedetti