

Casa de Macau no Canada (Toronto)

Newsletter



Vol. 10 December 7, 2006

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Boas Festas
E
Feliz Ano Novo

From the Executive



This possibly could be the last time that I will be writing to all the members in the capacity of President of our Casa. I would therefore like to take the opportunity to thank all the members for lending both my committee and myself your support these past twenty-seven months. We certainly could not have accomplished all that we did without your support. Reflecting on the past term I think it safe to say that we've provided a variety of activities that we hope you all have enjoyed participating in. We hope that you will continue to support the next committee both in volunteering your services and in your continued attendance and participation in the events whatever they may be.

Your Executive would also like to take this opportunity to wish all the members a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2007.

Appreciation Dinner

Continuing on the theme of thanks and acknowledgement of the terrific volunteer spirit that exists in our Casa, the Executive invited 37 members to an Appreciation Dinner held in their honour on November 9, 2006. We can honestly admit that without these individuals, we would not have been able to offer many of the enjoyable activities. For all those "armchair" critics, and we know there always are those who find it easier to criticize rather

than offer assistance, I would like to put a challenge to you...if you did not like the way things were done these past two years, put your name in for one of the positions of the Executive and make a difference. *(Photo of volunteers on page 7)*

Annual General Meeting

As announced in the General Notice sent to all members on October 5, 2006, the Annual General Meeting for the purpose of election of the new Executive will be held January 20, 2007. Members are reminded that the deadline to submit your name to fill one of the following positions on the: Executive Committee; Social Committee; Clubhouse Manager; and Editor is December 20, 2006. A Final Notice will be mailed to all members on December 21, 2006, which will include the names of the Full members in good standing who have indicated their intentions to run for the respective positions. Should there be only one slate, one group, they will assume office by acclamation on January 20, 2007. It will be the duty of the Chairperson appointed at the time of the Annual General Meeting to formally announce the names of the members and their respective positions. The term of the new Executive will henceforth officially begin. [Refer to our Constitution Article 4, Section 2 (e)]

If more than one slate comes for-

ward, members eligible to vote will be notified by way of said Final Notice. Included with this mailing will be: Proxies (only to be used in the event you cannot attend the Annual General Meeting); an Agenda; and an RSVP form for attendance of the dinner, which will directly follow the Meeting. We ask your cooperation in returning these forms **promptly** by the indicated deadline. For those who will be attending the Meeting, ballots will be handed to eligible members upon Registration on January 20, 2007 so that they can exercise their right to vote.

2007 Membership Renewal Forms

The 2007 Membership Forms have been included with this newsletter. **Please complete and send in your forms and dues ASAP.**

TAKE NOTE:

ONLY PAID-UP MEMBERS FOR 2007 WILL BE ENTITLED TO ATTEND THE AGM. If you intend to stay for dinner, your confirmation (for dinner) must be received **NO LATER THAN** January 8th. You will be receiving dinner reservation forms with the Final Notice of the AGM.

Reminders to families who have children who have turned 18 this year, you have two options: if your child is continuing his/her education, they can pay \$12 as a Student and will be registered as an Associate Member or they can pay \$24 and be registered as a Full Member. Seniors who have turned 80, also have two options: as Seniors your fees are waived however we remind you that you still must fill in and submit the Membership form so that you will remain on Casa's membership list. If you so choose, as a number of our Seniors have done in the past, you may pay your dues regardless.

Take the time **NOW** to fill in the enclosed Membership Form and

send it in ASAP to avoid the Christmas Mail rush.

1st Lusofonia Games

As mentioned in the last newsletter, I was invited to attend the 1st Lusofonia Games in Macau, October 7th – 15th. It was indeed a very enjoyable experience, after all, what's not to like about being treated as a VIP? The Comissão Organizadora dos 1^{os} Jogos da Lusofonia (COJOL), the organizing committee for the Games spared no expense. They had invited all the Presidents of the Casas worldwide and provided accommodation for us at the Landmark Hotel. Coupons for lunch and dinner were provided as well as all Breakfasts were complimentary. Cars were at our disposal and took us anywhere we wanted. In the Registration information package handed to us at check-in time were invitations to a number of receptions and dinners, not to mention some last minute invitations, which were slipped under the door of the hotel room throughout the week.

Below is a short report of the official functions I attended as Casa's representative:

Oct. 6 evening - The Opening Ceremony dinner hosted by Chief Executive of RAEM Dr. Edmund Ho;

Oct. 7 evening - a cocktail reception preceded the official Opening Ceremonies of the Games, which was a spectacular affair. Entertainment was provided by representatives of the 12 nations competing in the Games which included Brazillian dancers; a couple of songs from "The Thunders"; fado singer from Portugal as well as a performance by the "Alma de Coimbra", an all male choral group accompanied by guitars; African drummers from Angola, Mozambique, Timor and dragon dancers capped off with fireworks and the raising of the flags and lighting of the torch.

Oct. 9th evening - was a reception at

Bella Vista, the Portuguese Consul's residence, at which time Manuel Silvério, Chairman of COJOL, was given the "Order of Sport Merit." Manuel Silvério received the merit from Secretary of State of Youth Affairs and Sports of Portugal Dr. Laurentino Dias, under the witness of Macao SAR Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Dr. Fernando Chui Sai On, Deputy Commissioner of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Macao SAR Huang Songfu, and Consul General of Portugal in the Macao SAR Pedro Moitinho de Almeida. Right after this reception we had to rush back to the hotel for an impromptu dinner/meeting that had been called by Dr. José Rodrigues (President of the Conselho das Comunidades Macaenses). (A report on this and the official meeting of the CCM called for October 13th will follow)

Oct. 11th evening - the Presidents were invited once again, this time for an 'informal dinner' at the Associação dos Macaenses (ADM) clubhouse. We were treated to a most fantastic and mouth-watering spread of many typical Macanese delicacies both savoury and sweet such as: apabico; chilicote; pão rechiado; cheese toast; pasteis de bacalhao; battered shrimps; macau prawns; margosa de lorcha; pork cutlets; bacalhao a bras; curry brisket; Molotov; Batatada; Pudim flan; Bolo laranga; Tai Choi pudding; Bolo Menino; to name just a few. Needless to say, it was a unanimous decision of the group to walk, but more honestly it was more of a "roll" back to the hotel.

Oct. 12th - we were invited to a late afternoon reception at the Chinese Embassy to meet the Chinese Foreign Secretary. It was then back to the hotel with only time to freshen up and then we were off to the Portas do Sol for an intimate banquet dinner hosted by Manuel Silvério. After dinner each President was

presented with a gift from Mr. Silvério and in turn a gift was presented to him on Casa's behalf. The next time members are at the clubhouse, look up on the wall shelf and you will see the frame given to us on display.

October 13th - the morning began with the CCM meeting, which was followed by a reception at the Center for Tourism at which time the works of Rigoberto do Rosário Jr. ("Api") entitled "Macau Antigo" were displayed. From this reception we walked a few doors down to 'Lung Kei' where we had lunch. Later that evening we attended the dinner at Portas do Sol once again, but this time hosted by APIM. Before dinner began there was a brief ceremony when Armando Santos' CD and a book written by Leonel Barros entitled "Memórias do Oriente em Guerra-Macau" were officially launched. The guests were then entertained with a patuá skit; a performance by the "Thunders"; (with Manuel da Costa playing the drums) a quartet of lady singers from Shanghai who had been invited to perform especially for the occasion and also Macau's "Elvis" performed. Rounding out the evening was music provided by Armando Santos.

This was the conclusion as far as "official" dinners and receptions were concerned that we could attend. Unfortunately due to the flight schedules of EVA Airways, we had to leave Macau the evening of the Closing Ceremonies of the Games thus missing it and another lunch reception held at the Macau Tower the following Monday, which we were only made aware of Sunday morning.

After reading about all the above activities, it is quite evident that any "free" time we had, we had to rush if we wanted to accomplish anything. In deference to our host, we did manage to squeeze in seeing

some of the finals games, namely the Table tennis and Football (Soccer). The results of both were gold medals for Portugal.

I could go on but as time and space is at a premium in this issue of the newsletter I won't, however, I will be happy to engage you in conversation should you wish to know more details.

In summary, the 4 things I will miss of the experience:

- 1) being treated as a VIP
- 2) having a car available at the hotel door at my disposal
- 3) being treated to all the delicious food
- 4) enjoying the camaraderie and company of my fellow Presidents

The 4 things I will NOT miss:

- 1) the heat and humidity of Macau in October
- 2) having to wait a minimum of 15 minutes if not longer to get a cab back to the hotel;
- 3) my waistline suffering under the 'weight' of eating all the delicious food...I know, someone HAD to do it;
- 4) having to take two showers a day to keep refreshed.

Conselho das Comunidades Macaenses (CCM)

We received an email from the Secretary of the CCM the Thursday before I was to leave for Macau, officially informing us that there would be a meeting called October 13, 2006 for the representatives from the Casas of the General Committee of the CCM. At said meeting, there would be discussions on the upcoming Encontro among other things. As we mentioned in the previous newsletter, if CCM decided to call a meeting, then Gloria, as Casa's second representative of the General Committee would attend. Needless to say, we had to scramble at the last minute but thankfully successfully managed to get a seat for Gloria on the same flight as myself out

of Toronto the following Wednesday.

In addition to the formally called meeting, after we arrived in Macau we were informed that Dr. Rodrigues wanted to have a somewhat informal dinner/meeting with us a few days prior on October 9.

Rather than reprint the Official Minutes, which we have not as yet received anyway, below in point form are some of the items that we think would be of interest to members as discussed at both meetings:

- Encontro – Undoubtedly the most anticipated bit of news as we knew the Encontro was an item to be discussed on the Agenda. Unfortunately, all we can report is that there will be an Encontro in 2007 in November. No dates confirmed. The CCM will be the "Organizing body" and have asked the Casas for feedback regarding programs and planning of the Encontro. We went prepared with our own list of suggestions as did other Casa representatives but none were asked specifically to present them at the meeting. The CCM has requested that we have until March 2007 to submit our suggestions so if members have some ideas, please let us know ASAP.

- Establishing an "Istitute Adé" whose purpose is the "investigation and promotion of the Patuá dialect" as well as the Macanese cuisine. It is the ultimate hope that a petition be made to and accepted by UNESCO some time next year recognizing Patuá as a dialect worthy of World Heritage status. Members will recall that on July 15, 2005, The Historic Centre of Macau, which included some 25 monuments and buildings, was inscribed on the World Heritage List making it the 31st designated World Heritage site in China.

- Once again the issue of the general lack of interest shown by the

Macanese youth was raised. The concern was expressed that as they are seen as the future to ensure the preservation of the Macanese heritage all Casas should make every effort to encourage their participation and involvement in Casa affairs.

There were other items discussed but due to space, they will not all be reported here. If any member is interested to find out everything that was discussed, give us your name and when we receive the official Minutes from the Secretary of the CCM, we will make them available at a time convenient to both parties.

It was brought to my attention that some derogatory remarks directed at me and by association, our Casa were published in the November issue of the Macau Cultural Association (Casa de Macau) of Western Canada Boletim Macaense. As the remarks are totally false, I have asked for and expect a published retraction and apology printed in their next Boletim.

Re-ordering Casa Fleece Jack-ets

Members who missed out on the first placement of orders for the black Fleece Jackets embroidered with Casa's logo you are in luck. Names are being taken to submit a second order. If anyone is interested in purchasing these very warm jackets, contact Monica ASAP. The cost per jacket is \$61 as long as we can place an order for twelve.



January Thursday Social

Please note that our Clubhouse Manager, Isabel Gomes da Silva, advises that there WILL be an Afternoon Social on Thursday, January 4th.

Regular Events

Tai Chi – Last class Dec.13, and will resume Jan.8, 2007

Line Dance-Last class Dec. 19. If interested in next session, contact Naomi Baltazar (416) 937-9102.

Friday Yoga– Last class Dec.15 and will resume Jan. 5, 2007

Monday Yoga– Last class Dec.18 and will resume Jan.8, 2007.

Congratulations

Congratulations are in order for several of our members.

- Catherine Barradas Ashley – Catherine is currently attending York University in the Bachelor of Arts Program. Her hard work has been rewarded by a number of scholarships. She was the recipient of: the Queen Elizabeth II Aim For The Top Scholarship; a Millenium Grant from the Province of Ontario; and a scholarship from York University. Well done Catherine!

- Andrew Alves Brander – Interested in politics since the early age of 15 Andrew has been involved in and working on campaigns at all three levels of government, namely from the Municipal, to Provincial to Federal levels. Wishing to have a voice and to make a difference in the youth sector of the population, Andrew decided to run for President of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Youth Association (OPCYA). Leading up to the convention held in Toronto over the weekend of October 21, 2006 were numerous delegate selection meetings, policy meetings, fund raising events to attend etc.etc. Happily, all the hard work paid off as Andrew was successful in his bid. As President of OPCYA, an Association numbering approximately 2,500 members Province-wide, brings with it much responsibility. Congratulations Andrew! It does not matter what political stripe one wears, as long as you have the passion to affect change and feel you can make a difference and be of service to your community.

- Joyce and Michael Barros were blessed with their second grandchild on October 7, 2006. Their daughter, Shelley (hubby Mike Findlay) gave birth to a second daughter, Avery Christine Findlay who weighed 8 lbs. 8.5 ozs. at birth. Avery's big sister is Kyra, who is 2 1/2 yrs. Joe and Terry Larcina are the proud great grandparents.

May they rest in peace



Sadly the Macanese Community has lost some of its members these last few months. Casa has sent cards and prayers to the respective surviving family members.

- Edith Sales, wife of Commendador A.de O. Sales, passed away in Hong Kong, after a long illness. Casa received a nice note from Commendador Sales, which is posted on Casa bulletin board.
- Ben Abbas, long time member and stalwart supporter of Casa lost his battle to cancer. He is survived by his wife Nidia (Norgueira

Casa - Social Events



Credit Valley Train Trip

Thirty-seven Casa members and friends set off Saturday, October 21, 2006 on an outing on the Credit Valley Train. Unfortunately due to stormy weather in the week prior to the trip caused much of the fall foliage to be stripped from the trees, nevertheless, the ride along the Credit River was till picturesque in its own stark way. From the very amicable train conductor, who provided commentary along the way to the service attendant who kept coming around offering us drinks and food, added to the most enjoyable ride. With a brief stop in Inglewood, the three-hour trip was over before we knew it. Everyone re-

boarded the bus, which took us to Main Street in Orangeville. We were given time to stroll along the street and take in the shops. Thankfully the major rain held off until we returned to Scarborough. (See *Photos on website*)

Bazaar

We wish to thank Lilia Vieira for organizing our annual bazaar. The success was due in most part to participants as well as members who *dropped-in*. There were too many delicious choices, but slightly ahead on the list, must have been Susanna da Costa's mouth watering loh-pak-ko. It went so quickly, that Susanna went back home for a second container which was made for their own consumption. Virginia Sanchez made a wonderful woo-tao-ko, and Lilia and daughter Bernadine came up with a big pot of Diabo. Thank you ladies for donating these dishes. Lydia Ozorio helped Casa purchase the tender beef and cooking it for making Prego, you might say it's the Portuguese version of a hamburger. Lunch was delicious and sold by plate at very reasonable prices. For dessert Marie-Camille Gonsalves produced yummy ginger cookies, also shortbread and Frisca Ozorio made raisin/oatmeal cookies Americo Sousa baked and donated a cake. Mustn't forget everyone's favourite yummy gummies, which were baked and donated by Lilia.

There were prizes for a raffle draw at \$1 per ticket. Lots of nick knacks at the white elephant table at very reasonable prices, home made baked goods, beautiful handknitted scarfs, baby outfits and blankets, and so on.

Although Casa stipulated that the *vendors* donate a minimum 20% from their sales to the Casa for charity, most turned in their whole earnings. We are pleased to say that a cheque for \$668.05 has been mailed to The Shepherd's Trust.

Last but not least, we wish to thank

the many members who donated their time, and talents to make this another successful bazaar. (*Photos on website*)

Christmas

Christmas came very early to some Casa members this year – due to availability of venues; we celebrated our annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 3rd. Over 150 members, their families and friends attended. To view pictures of the festivities, please check our website casademacau.ca and click on Photo Gallery in the next couple of weeks.

Our thanks go to all who attended, especially those members who had a long way to travel; also to those members who donated the door prizes. Although it may not seem fair to single out anyone, and there were many, we feel we must mention Lilia Vieira as most of the prizes were from her. As well, Mike Rose and David Brander for their usual 'bottles'. Not to forget all the others that pitched in, one way or another, to make the evening the success that it was.

We had our popular 20/30/50 draw with the three prizes, totaling \$555 split among the three winners: Naomi Baltazar (Casa's line dance teacher), Ange Malig and Meno Larcina. Our ticket sellers were Lilia's grandchildren, Stephanie, Christina and Francesco. Linda and Robert Sanguinetti won a prize for being the first to register for the party. Our two grand prizewinners of the \$100 each gift certificates were Jennifer Rose and Terry Larcina.

As to the 'gang' of youngsters, some of whom had attended previous Christmas parties and, at that time, sat on Santa's knees, are now all grown up and in their teens, how time flies! We had two up-and-coming rock stars perform, 2 ½ year old Cameron Barradas with his guitar, and Anthony da Rocha who

gave a demonstration of how one should dance to modern music. These two were so entertaining that the DJ invited them on to the stage to perform !! Bravo guys.

Food was delicious, sweet table ample, music great, service and ambience excellent, all the needed ingredients for a successful party, which it was from the feedback we received.

The Executive wish to thank you all for your support and once again wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

News from Other Casas

- Casa de Macau Inc – Australia – at recently held elections on September 16, 2006, the following were elected to the Board of Executives:

President – Yvonne Herrero
Vice President – Marcus Gutierrez
Secretary – Mary Rigby
Deputy Secretary – Antonieta Manolakis

Treasurer – Mariazinha Callaghan
Committee Members: Lizette Akouri; Auito Barros; Rogerio Fernandes and Jose Carlos da Silva.

- Casa de Macau do Rio de Janeiro – at recently held elections, the following were elected to the Board of Executives.

President - Pedro Paulo de Almeida
Vice-President- Augusto Eduardo Carion
Financial Director- Augusto Pina
General-Secretary Mariana Nolasco da Silva
Social Director- Cristina Pina
Cultural and Sports Director- Pedro Marcelo Nolasco da Silva
Patrimony Director- Pedro Nolasco da Silva

- Casa de Macau (USA) Inc – at recently held elections on November 11, 2006, the following were elected to the Board of Executives for a term of 2 years:

President – Henrique Manhao
Vice President – Albertino da Rosa

Secretary – Rita Lopes
Treasurer – Alice da Luz
Directors: Irene Manhao; Ida Capitulo; Antonio Capitulo; Rosita Lopes; Luiza da Rosa; Carlos Villarama; Cristina Villarama; Jessica Xavier; Jose Xavier; and Lourdes Xavier.

• Macau Cultural Association (Casa de Macau) of Western Canada – at recently held elections on November 19, 2006, the following were elected to the Board of Executives

President – Sergio Rui de Pina
Vice President – Luiz M Souza
Secretary – Josefina do Rosario
Treasurer – Helena Xavier

• UMA Inc – at the recently held elections, the following were elected to the State Board of Executives

President – Raquel Remedios
Vice President - Maria Gomes
Secretary - Sandra Souza
Treasurer – Rita Ribeiro

On behalf of the members, congratulatory messages were sent to all the recently elected Boards wishing them every success in their respective terms in office.

• CDs available for sale – thanks to the generosity of Herculano “Alex” Airoso, a box of 32 CDs have been donated to our Casa. The CD is entitled “Ensaio do Coral da Casa de Macau São Paulo/Brasil” and is a compilation of 12 songs performed by members of the São Paulo Casa. All proceeds from the sale of these CDs will go towards supporting activities of our Casa. We thank Alex for his kind gesture and commend the singers for a wonderful product. Anyone interested in purchasing a copy of the CD can contact any Executive. The cost per CD is \$10.

Across the wires



The South China Morning Post, Hong Kong

Saturday, November 18, 2006
CELINE SUN and NORMA CONNOLLY

Star Ferry switch may mean end of the road for rickshaw owners

The owners of Hong Kong's last four working rickshaws say the relocation of the Star Ferry pier could spell the end of their business, which has fallen dramatically since Sunday's move.

The rickshaws lined up yesterday outside the new Star Ferry pier in Central but, instead of vying for paying passengers, were looking for new owners. The red carriages with their green canopies stood near the newly opened pier carrying signs reading "Good rickshaw for sale" and "For rent".

Only four rickshaws are licensed to carry passengers in Hong Kong, and the government stopped issuing new licences in 1975. The HK\$50 licences must be renewed annually.

One rickshaw owner, who gave his name only as Mr Chan, complained that there were fewer customers at the new pier than the old one at Edinburgh Place.

"We used to be able to earn about HK\$100 on average a day, but now a whole-day wait can only bring HK\$20 or HK\$30," said Mr Chan, 79, who has been in the business for more than 20 years and hopes to sell his vehicles for HK\$10,000. He charges HK\$10-HK\$20 for photographs and HK\$50-HK\$200 for rides.

Each licence stipulates a set route, from the old Star Ferry pier in Edinburgh Place to Statue Square, and until the owners apply for amended licences they are not allowed to pick up passengers at the new pier. By yesterday, the Transport Department had received no applications for a

route amendment.

Rickshaw driver, Hung Chiu-ping, said: "In the past, travellers taking our rickshaws could have a tour around City Hall, the Legco Building, Statue Square, but now, at this pier, there's nothing to look at but buses and taxis."

Star Ferry general manager Johnny Leung Tak-hing said until the rickshaws were licensed to operate from the new location, they would not be allowed to use the new pier.

"Transport Department officials have asked us if we will give permits to the rickshaw owners to place the rickshaws there. We have certain requirements they have to follow.

"For example, they cannot cause any nuisance to any passengers or disrupt our operations," Mr Leung said.

A Transport Department spokeswoman said it was outside her department's scope of influence if the rickshaws were parked on a pavement or used by tourists as photo opportunities, rather than for carrying passengers.

East Timor Orphanage in East Timor needs your help

We received a request from Francisco Correa in Australia to circulate information regarding the plight of a girls' orphanage in East Timor.

The Gift of Water for Christmas

The Laura Vicuna orphanage is located on a hill in the town of Laga in the District of Baucau. The orphanage has been serving the region since 1986 and was taken over by the Salesians sisters in 1995. The orphanage presently holds 124 girls that are cared for by five staff.

The main difficulty facing the orphanage is a lack of water. Historically the orphanage received water from one of the villages higher in the mountains to the south. This

THANK YOU CASA VOLUNTEERS



L to R standing: Annie Barradas; Lourenço Conceição; Monica Alves; Mike Rose; Dave Brander; Chuck Gonsalves; Celsa Larcina; Cacilda Ribeiro; Cecília Conceição; Joyce Barros; Ange Malig; Marie-Cecile Remedios; Peter Cheung; José Anok; Humberto Viana; David Tavares; Elfrida Alves; Barbara Baptista.
L to R seated: Clare Soares; Elizabeth Tavares; Helena Barradas; Lilia Vieira; Marie Camille Gonsalves; Gloria Anok; Isabel Gomes da Silva; Regina Holden.
Volunteers missing from photo who could not attend the dinner:
Nidia Abbas; Maldred Airosa; Nancy Barradas; Lydia Ozorio; Chappy Remedios; 'Honey' and Pedro Rosario;
Virginia Sanchez; Cintia and Antonio Serro; Marie Helena Yen.

water came down to the orphanage in steel pipes and was stored in two water tanks at the orphanage. Recently these pipes were broken and the higher villages decided not to allow water to flow to the orphanage, stating that they needed all of the water. The girls were then forced to use the water from a well some distance from the orphanage that was near the sea and salty to drink.

Twice a day the girls would have to walk to the well and wait patiently to fill up their personal buckets to carry out washing of clothes and basic hygiene as well as carry water back up the hill to the orphanage. This situation is difficult and with a lack of water in the orphanage the girls are forced to go elsewhere for their toilet needs and this could have serious health implications if it was to continue.

In the event you wish to help the orphans by contributions you can directly contact the people concerned: **Luke Gosling OAM**, Country Director, Life, Love and Health, Timor-Leste Glenfern Avenue, Doncaster VIC 3108, AUSTRALIA cheques made payable to "AFAP – Life, Love and Health (e-mail luke@lifelovehealth.com www. lifelovehealth.com)

The information received is too lengthy to include in this mailing (4 pages). However, for anyone wishing to have complete details, please give us a call and we will be pleased to mail the entire package to you.