



## Mayor Trueloves Inauguration Is All Wet

by Mathilda Gregory, Editor-in-Chief

Margo Truelove was sworn in as the new Mayor of Hardy Falls on January 17<sup>th</sup> at an invitation-only ceremony taking place in the main banquet hall of the Fallside Restaurant. Things did not go as expected when the room's fire sprinklers malfunctioned and unexpectedly doused the cream of Hardy Falls society in a torrential downpour.

"I'm not sure why Margo insisted on going to that place anyway," said deposed Mayor Ruffio, who attended the ceremony to pass over the gavel of office and welcome the new Mayor to her responsibilities, or lack thereof. "The Country Club was always good enough for me."

The taxpayers might point out that the city hall building has quite a respectable room where the town council holds their meetings, but we suppose food and drink would not be provided for the attendees if the inauguration was held there.

We might also point out that food and drink do not necessarily need to be provided for an inauguration ceremony in Hardy Falls, and that said inauguration should probably be open to the whole town, not just a select few invitees.

"The Country Club is on the outskirts of town. I wanted something more local," said the newly-minted Mayor Truelove. "I thought the venue should capture the charm of Hardy Falls."

Charming the Fallside may be, but when this reporter suggested that the Country Time Bar and Grill, or Murphy Lanes Bowling Alley, or even the Sunnyside Diner might more accurately capture the charm of the town and do it for a lot less money, Mayor Truelove looked askance.

"We don't have to be ridiculous," she said. "I do have some standards. And Parker told me they could handle the occasion."

"Of course we can handle the occasion," Parker Anderson, owner of Fallside argued. "We handle occasions like this all the time. We had a system malfunction, that's all." He sighed. "I told her we had to reschedule because we'd noticed something was going on with some of the systems after that really bad cold snap we had at the beginning of the year. But she insisted on keeping the date."

When asked why he'd allowed the ceremony to proceed even though he'd thought there might be problems, Mr. Anderson shrugged.

"She paid more money."

The Hardy Falls Gazette is looking into whose money was paid to convince the Fallside owner to reconsider – Mayor Truelove’s, or the town’s. We suspect we know the answer.

A plated dinner was served while the ceremonies commenced, and Ms. Truelove assumed the mantle of her new office. However, once those were finished, and the attendees were up mingling and dancing to music provided by Roy and The Outlaws, things went downhill.

“After the speeches, everyone was walking around talking and drinking, and it started getting really hot in the room,” said Brandon Mansfeld, a Fallside server who was working at the banquet. “I mean, really hot. Everybody started complaining. Then suddenly it started to...rain.” He waved his hands. “I mean, a lot.”

It appears that the sprinkler system in the room was triggered in error and malfunctioned, spewing water everywhere. The rest, as they say, was history.

“Everyone was running and screaming, and water was just pouring from the sprinklers,” said Mr. Mansfeld.

“It was horrible. I hope we saved our equipment,” said Roy Randolph, leader of the Outlaws. “Animal threw himself on top of the amp, but I don’t know if that helped.”

We don’t have any further information about the state of the amp, but fortunately, Animal, the drummer for the band, was not electrocuted for his heroic efforts.

“Dr. and Mrs. Black were there, and I heard Dr. Black shouting about his tuxedo,” added Mr. Mansfeld. “Mrs. Black was just yelling about her dress. And her hair. I’m pretty sure she was upset about her hair, too.”

“Samantha Black had spent five thousand dollars on that dress, and it was ruined, simply ruined. I was so embarrassed,” said Mayor Truelove. “And Trevor’s new tuxedo was a complete loss. They want to sue Fallside, and I said I’d use the power of my office to help them win.” She clenched her fist with determination. “Parker Anderson had better not bill me for those ice sculptures! In fact, I want all of my money back!”

When we passed this information along to Mr. Anderson, he sighed. “Good thing I have insurance.”

He might also want to rethink his business practices. Sometimes it doesn’t pay to jump after the easy money, even in Hardy Falls.

More information to follow as we investigate just where that “easy money” came from.