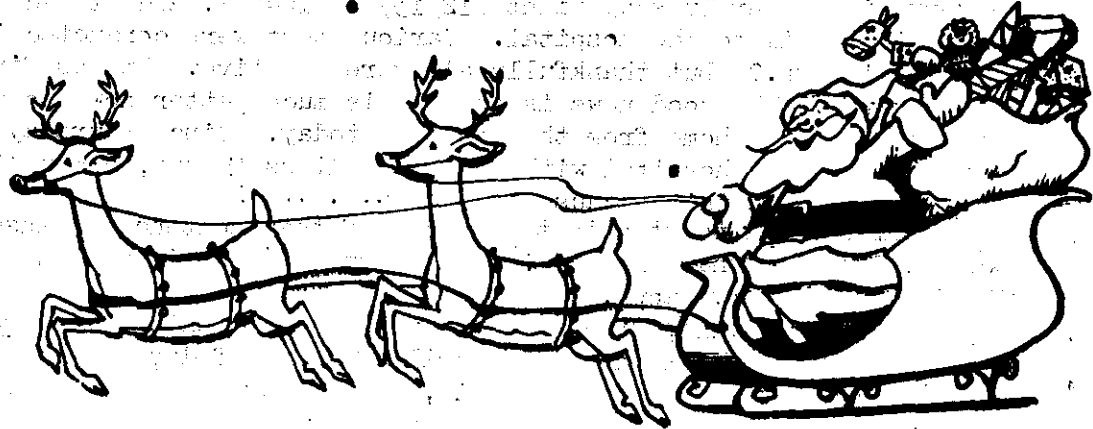




Murd'ring Ministers

#42



Issue #42

December 18, 1981

STUFF

MURD'RING MINISTERS is a gamezine featuring the postal play of DIPLOMACY and other multi-player games. The subscription rate is 12 issue for \$5.50. MM runs on three week deadlines and is published once a month. There are no current game openings, but probably will be in early '82. MM is published by ye olde Main Minister, Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Pl., Bakersfield, CA 93304. The phone is (805) 834-8409. That is all.

Well, the Christmas Season is here upon us once again friends. Time for family, close friends, good times. Char and I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas. I hope you wake up Christmas morning and find your stocking stuffed full of real, wooden DIPLOMACY pieces and not those rotten plastic Chipmunk I.U.D.'s! Oh, and of course, here's to a Happy New Year, too!

Another fake hits the mails! This time the target was Ron Brown's SNAFU!. The fake is eight pages and includes various articles, such as "Essentials of Territorial Expansion" by "Francois Guerrier" which is a brief diatribe on the importance of trying to get "bigger and bigger and bigger. It is not a good idea to get smaller and smaller and smaller . . ." Fairly amusing 'it is supposedly the work of Clive Tonge and Nick Russon; the former publishers of INFIDEL (at least it says so on the last page).

John Caruso and Kathy Byrne, ~~co~~ publishers of WHITESTONIA have released the results of the 2nd Annual Diplomacy Players Poll in W #42. Queen Kathy herself garnered the honors this year as the Best Player in the postal hobby. Congratulations Kathy! I've played with Kathy in games before and I guarantee she certainly deserves the honor. Also placing were your humble publisher, ye olde Main Minister (2nd) and Black Jack Masters (3rd). I don't know how I even got mentioned, but Jack definitely deserves to be right up there. Just look at his record. How many games have you won this year, Jack? 4? 5? Jack and Kathy are two of the top players in the DIPLOMACY Hobby without doubt!



MORE STUFF

Well, I should have known. I thought for sure that this issue would be out very promptly this month. I had the first page done up days before the deadline and was anticipating having the rest ready to go as well and having the games all typed by Sat or Sun. But then the unexpected struck. My youngest son, Andy, came down with a very high fever Tuesday night (12/15) of 104° F. and it didn't go away. Thursday we admitted him to the hospital. Various test were conducted including one for meningitis (sp.?) but thankfully all were negative. It was finally decided he had a flu virus. The good news is that he is much better now (today is the 22nd) and may even get to come home from the hospital today. Since Thursday either my wife or I have been at the hospital with him so needless to say, I haven't got a chance to work on MM. I regret this because it was my. . .

Well, I had to stop in the middle of that sentence to answer the door and guess who was there. Char and Andy! Yep, just got that little bugger back from the hospital! That makes me very happy.

As I was saying, it was my intention to get this to you before Christmas -- but now this is impossible as it is still a couple of days away from getting into the mail. So by the time you read this, please allow me to wish you all a belated Merry Christmas. Thanks for your indulgence.

Steve Hartman sent in a little Christmas jingle for you to enjoy (actually he dictated it over the phone to Char). It goes to the tune of the "12 Days of Christmas":

"On the first day of Christmas, my allies gave to me,
An apology for stabbing in my back.
On the second day of Christmas, my allies gave to me,
Two faked letters and
An apology for stabbing in my back.
On the third day of Christmas, my allies gave to me,
Three doublecrosses, two faked letters, and an
Apology for stabbing in my back.
On the fourth day of Christmas my allies gave to me,
Four NMR's, three doublecrosses, two faked letters, and
An apology for stabbing in my back.
On the fifth day of Christmas, my allies gave to me,
Five non-aggression treaties;
Four NMR's, 3 doublecrosses, 2 faked letters, and
An apology for stabbing in my back.
On the sixth day of Christmas, my allies gave to me,
Six lines of press (etc)
On the Seventh day of Christmas, my allies gave to me,
Seven misleading statements, (etc.)
On the Eighth day of Christmas, my allies gave to me,
Eight words of praise, (etc.)
On the Ninth day of Christmas, my allies gave to me,
Nine forged letters, (etc.)
On the Tenth day of Christmas, my allies gave to me,
Ten white lies, (etc.)
On the Eleventh day of Christmas, my allies gave to me,
Eleven good excuses, (etc.)
In my very last DIP game, my GM gave to me,
Twelve unfavorable rulings, 11 good excuses,
10 white lies, 9 forged letters, 8 words of praise,
7 misleading statements, 6 lines of press, 5 non-aggression treaties;
4 NMR's, 3 doublecrosses, 2 faked letters, and
An apology for stabbing in my back!"

THE GAMES!

1981AP WINTER 1904

Austria- NRR!	GM disbands A Alb & A Gal	Italy- Builds F NAP, A VEN
England- No Adj		Russia- Builds A MOS, A SEV
France- A Hol-r-RUH, A Mun-r-BUR,	disbands F Eng	Turkey- Builds F ANK

1981AP SPRING 1905 GAME TAKES VERY INTERESTING TURN! ENGLAND & FRANCE NOW ALLIES?

Austria (Hugh)*	NMR! A BUD-H.
England (Gray):	F Lpl-CLY; A WAL-H; A Lon-DEN; F NTH-c-A Lon-Den; F Hol-HEL; F KIE-Ber.
France (Mainardi):	A Bel-PIG; A Bur-MUN; A RUH-s-A Bur-Mun; F Mid-POR; F Nat-NWG.
Italy (Williams):	A Ven-TRE; A VIE-s-A Ven-Tri; A Gas-SPA; A MAR-s-A Gas-Spa; F Lyo-WES; F Nap-TYS; F ADr-ION.
Russia (Wells):	F NWY-H; F BAL-H; A BER-s-A Mun; A Mun-H/d/-r-Boh,Sil,Tya,OTB; A War-GAL; A RUM-H; A UKR-s-A Rum; A Sev-ARM; A Mos-SEV.
Turkey (Haffey):	F Ank-BLA; F Eas-SMY; A SER-Bud; A BUL-Ser; F GRE-Bul(sc); F Ion-TUN.

Fall 1905 is due January 29, 1982.

*Would Keith Mercer, R.D.#6, Old Ash Rd., Mercer, PA 16137 please submit standby orders for Austria? You're welcome, Keith! Thanks to Steve Hartman for the standby orders for France which were not needed!

1981AP Press- ST. PETERSBURG GAZETTE: European leader defects!!! After some difficult and surprising developments, the ST. PETERSBURG GAZETTE has learned that the recent rumors of the assassination of the French ruler, Thomas Mainardi, are false. These rumors have run rampant in Europe following his disappearance, most of them attributing his death to The Holy Roman Death Squads which the last Italian government was known to sponsor. Yet, the truth is even more astounding. Msr. Mainardi is, in fact, a relative of the "mad" General Garbanzo of Italy! It is this connection which led France to keep its defenses down as the cowardly Garbanzo retreated into France! The Prime Minister, Stephen Hartman, is attempting to gain order in the confused nation.

FRANCE-ENGLAND & ITALY: I hope you two guys did what I asked. If you did, you should both be getting some builds. If not, then you better watch out for R/T.

TURKEY-RUSSIA: I really don't expect your support into Bud. However, I should point out, ignoring Turkey is not a good idea either.

FRANCE-ALL: Sorry I haven't been more actively involved in this game. (i.e.- letters). I've been very pre-occupied lately.

ST. PETERSBURG GAZETTE: In a surprise move, the Tsar Allenyi has announced that he will be trying to train selected members of the St. Petersburg zoo as a crack infiltration force. The ultimate success of this move is yet to be seen.

* * * * *

MM STANDBY LIST

Regular DIPLOMACY - Larry McCloud, Keith Mercer, Ron Kelly, Paul Goodrich, W.A. Hugh, Jim Gray, Bern Sampson, and Steve Hartman. Anyone want on or off?

* * * * *

"If to do were as easy as to know what were good to do, chapels had been churches, and poor men's cottages princes' palaces."

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE I, ii, 13.

1981AB SPRING 1904 OLD TSAR ABDICATES, NAMES SUCCESSOR AS THINGS LOOK GRIM FOR KRAUTS!
England (Fleming): F Lpl-NAT; F IRI-Mid; F ENG-s-F Iri-Mid; F Nth-HOL; A KIE-s-
F Nth-Hol; F DEN-s-A Kie.
France (Manuel): A Bur-RUH; A DEL-s-A Bur-Ruh; A Pic-BUR; A MAR-s-A Pic-Bur;
F BRE-Eng; F MID-s-F Bre-Eng.
Germany (Goodrich): A Ruh-Bel/a/; F Hol-s-A Ruh-Bel/d/-r-Hel,OTB.
Italy (Kuszynski): A Bud-VIE; A Tya-s-A Bud-Vie/d/-r-Ven,Pie,OTB; A TRI-s-A Bud-
Vie; A SER-Bul; F Gre-ION; F TUN-s-F Gre-Ion; F NAP-s-F Gre-Ion;
A ALB-Gre.
Russia (Ragsdale)*: A Ber-MUN; F SWE-H; A Vie-TYA; A BOH-s-A Vie-Tya; A War-GAL;
A RUM-s-A War-Gal; F SEV-s-A Rum; F BLA-s-A Rum.
Turkey (Arnawoodian): A Bul-GRE; F AEG-s-A Bul-Gre; A CON-Bul; F Ion-TYS,
Fall 1904 due 1/29/82.

*Steve Heinowski, 12034 Pyle So. Amherst, Oberlin, OH 44074, is taking over the
Russian position. Rick Ragsdale is resigning because of a new job with the Air
Force and must cut back on his hobby time. Good luck to Rick in his new assignment!
1981AB Press-

AUSTRIAN CONSULATE - MOSCOW: On behalf of the deposed Dual-Marchessa we wish
to thank the Russian people for their fine show of respect and salute -- and we
applaud their strong defensive measure against the very clever Italians.
To answer their question, however, "to hoocy do kai yi" is Chinese (phonetically
spelled) for "Go to Hell!" It was brought to our attention that the Italian Ruler's
grandmother was Chinese and the "D-M" thought this would be the less offensive way
to tell him where she hopes he winds up, without unduly offending the other players.
However, to the best of our knowledge, it does not come with a musical background
as Russia's answer ("Whoopie; Ti Yi Yo") does!
LONDON-PARIS: They weren't lies when I wrote them, Dave. But if I get no answer
I can only assume the worst.

1980IX SPRING 1906 IS THERE A WAR OR A SHOW GOING ON IN THE BALKANS?!

England (Schiwautz): A LPL-H; F Den-HEL; F Nth-HOL; F Lon-ENG; F MID-H(unordered).
France (McCloud): A BEL-s-Eng F Nth-Hol; A PIC-s-A Bel; A RUH-Kie; A BUR-Mun;
F IRI-H; F Eng-NTH.
Germany (Heinowski)*: NMR; F Hol/a/; A KIE, A MUN, F BAL - all H.
Italy (Pearson)**: F SMY-Con; A Gre-SER; A TRI-s-A Gre-Ser; A Vie-TYA;
A Ven-PIE; F Nap-TYS; F Ion-TUN; F Aeg-BUL(sc).
Russia (Cunningham): F Bla-CON; A NAK-s-F Bla-Con; A Sev-RUM; A Bul-GRE;
A Ser-Gre/d/-r-Alb,Bud,OTB; A Bud-VIE; A GAL-s-A Bud-Vie;
A SWE-s-English F Den/OTM/; A Fin-NWY; A STP-s-A Fin-Nwy;
F NAT-NWG.

Fall 1906 due 1/29/82.
*I will not call a standby for Heinowski as I am reasonably sure that Steve will get
his orders in next time.

**COA - Al Pearson, PO Box 898, Charles Town, WV 25414.

1980IX Press-
ITALY-WORLD: Once again I will trust a Cunningham. Will it be once too often?
MOSCOW: The Tsar wishes to announce to all that he's still very much in this game.
As a hedge against possible errors by the GM or the postal service, he is now sending
duplicate sets of orders to Herr Brown (in separate envelopes).
This is not intended as a criticism, but rather a recognition of current realities.
People will, from time to time, make mistakes. The Tsar urges all players to follow
his lead and send in duplicate orders.
MOSCOW-BAKERSFIELD: No offense intended, Herr Brown, OK?
BAKERSFIELD-MOSCOW: No offense taken, mein Tsar. Your advice is excellent as I
have never claimed to be other than human and quite capable of making mistakes.
(Con'd next pg.)

ST.PETE-EUROPE: The Russian government has embarked on a new foreign policy in Europe. Because of rumors circulating in Europe to the effect that some unnamed countries have designs on Russian-occupied soil. While not believing these nasty rumors entirely, he did think it was wise to take appropriate defensive precautions. Any nation committing acts of aggression against Mother Russia had best be prepared to fight to the death.

On the other hand, the Tsar is willing to talk peace with any and all European nations so as to bring this awful, bloody war to an end.

* * * * *

1980KZ WINTER '05/SPRING '06. GAME DELAYED

I am delaying this game because of a GM blunder. Jack Masters, as usual, sent his orders to me very promptly . . . and then I promptly misplaced them. I called Jack but was unable to make connections. Additionally, a reliable source who had spoken with Jack recently told me that Jack said he was dropping all his games so he may not be interested in resubmitting moves. The new deadline for orders is Jan. 29, 1982. Jack, would you mind sending me your orders again if you are keeping this position? I promise not to lose them again! And just in case Jack does not wish to continue, would Ron Kelly, 6038 Richmond Hwy #314, Alexandria, VA 22303 please submit standby orders for Turkey? Orders are on file for A E F G & I.

The Positions:

- Austria - Has F ADR, A Tri/d/-r-Tya,OTB. (1) -1
- England - Has A LON, F NTH, A NWY, F STP(nc) (5) +1
- France- Has F MID, F IRI, F TUN, F ION, F TYS, A TUS (5) -1
- Germany - Has F SWE, F DEN, A BEL, A BOH, A VIE, A TRI, A WAR, A LVN (10) +2
- Italy - Has A MAR, A ROM, F NAP (4) +1
- Turkey - Has A MOS, A SEV, A GAL, A SER, A RUM, F APU, F ALD, F GRE (9) +1

* * * * *

1981AY SPRING 1903 ALLIANCES FIRING UP;AS WAR RAGES ON; RUSSIA ASSAULTED IN NORTH!

- Austria (Lucas): F VEN-H; A Tya-VIE; A BUD-s-A Tya-Vie; A TRI-s-A Bud.
- England (Hartman): F Lpl-IRI; F Eng-MID; A Bur-Gas/d/-r-Ruh,OTB; F NTH-c-German A Hol-Nwy; F Nwy-BUR.
- France (Winger): A Mar-BUR; A PAR-s-A Mar-Bur; A GAS-s-A Mar-Bur; F Por-SPA(nc); A PIC-s-German A Hol-Bel/NSO/.
- Germany (Albrecht): A Ruh-BEL; A MUN-Sil; A KIE-Lvn; F BAL-c-A Kie-Lvn; A Hol-NWY; F SWE-s-A Hol-Nwy.
- Italy (Martin)* NMR! F WES, A PIE -H.
- Russia (Reed): A STP-H; A MOS-Lvn; A WAR-Sil; A GAL-Vie; F RUM-H; A SER-s-Turkish A Gre-Alb.
- Turkey (Halls): + A Gre-ALB; A BUL-s-Russian A Ser; F Nap-TYS; F Lon-TUN; - F Con-AEG; F Smy-EAS.

Fall 1903 due 1/29/81.

1981AY Press-

CONSTANTINOPLE: It is a sad day for the world peace movement. The Turkish Government has declared War on the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Diplomatic efforts have failed to bring about a settlement in the 6 month old conflict between Russia and Austria, and now Turkey will join with Russia in the fighting. "We feel that deep ideological differences have come between us and those Fascist pigs in Budapest," a source close to the Sultan was reported to say. It appears that this will be a long, drawn-out struggle.

GERMANY-FRANCE: If you have honored our agreements, your worries are over.

1981AY Press (Con'd)

PARIS-BERLIN: When you fooled me once, shame on you, but to fool me again, shame on me.

LONDON-PARIS: His Majesty challenges your Emperor to a test of military strength. Since His Majesty has four fleets and only one army, while you have the reverse of that, March your armies to the coast where we might do battle, strength against strength.

VIENNA-LONDON: We are pleased for your pleasure and are encouraged by news of a break in the Russo-Turkish alliance.

LONDON-ST. PETERSBURG: The hospitality of your port, Oslo was so delightful that we have recommended it to the Kaiser for R&R for his Holland garrison. I'm sure that he will agree that Norwegian hospitality is truly remarkable. Our fleet has been positioned to protect your northern flank since you are without naval units.

NAPOLI: The Turkish Expeditionary Force came to this province to protect the peace loving people here from the Imperialistic ambitions of their neighbors, it appears that there staying for the baked zettie and the summer yachting season.

BUDAPEST-BAKERSFIELD: May I be the first to second Steve's compliment, Ron. This is a superb game and magazine.

BAKERSFIELD-BUDAPEST: Thank you for the kind words. I do appreciate it!

AUSTRIA-FRANCE: Bejeezus, beset by bees! Better bring big birds before bees become bane.

ALBANIA(via LONDON)-WASHINGTON D.C.: As we are now surrounded on all sides and caught in the midst of a clash of superpowers, we seek the protection of your big stick, Teddy Roosevelt. WE NEED ROUGHRIDERS NOW!!!!

BAKERSFIELD-ALBANIA: Too late! The Turks have already taken over!

AUSTRIA-TURKEY: The Austrian people are incensed by your invasion of Albania. You have abandoned any hope of future cooperation.

BAKERSFIELD-AUSTRIA: Maybe this is why he declared war on Austria?!

* * * * *

1981D SUMMER 1905 RUSSIAN A Rum-r-OTB (NRRt)

1981D FALL 1905 RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT (AND TROOPS!) VANISH AS TURKS MARCH INTO MOSCOW!

England (Arnawoodian): F Mid-SPA(sc); F POR-s-F Mid-Spa(sc); F Iri-MID; F Eng-BRE; F NTH-s-German A Bel; A NWY-H.

France (Kelly): A BUR-Bel; F IIC-s-A Bur-Bel; A GAS-Bur; A PAR-s-A Gas-Bur; F Wes-TUN.

Germany (Langley): A BEL-s-A Ruh-Bur; A RUH-Bur; A BOH-Tya; A MUN-s-A Boh-Tya; A War-GAL; A SIL-s-A War-Gal; A UKR-s-Turkish A Sev-Rum/NSO/; F DEN-H.

Italy (Filbeck): A MAR-Bur; F LYO-s-French A Gas-Spa/NSO/; A VEN-Tya; A VIE-s-A Ven-Tya; A BUD-Gal; A Ser-TRI; F Ion-GRE; F TYS-Ion; F Bul(sc)-H/d/-r-Aeg,OTB.

Russia (CD): NO UNITS

Turkey (Ethington): F Rum-BUL(ec); F BLA-s-F Rum-Bul(ec); F CON-s-F Rum-Bul(ec); F EAS-Ion; A Sev-MOS.

Winter 1905 AND Spring 1906 due 1/29/82.
 *COA - Martin Ethington, 1732 18th Ave. Apt. 0, Seattle, WA 98122.

1981D 1905 Supply Center Chart

England- Home, Nwy, StI, Swe, BRE, POR, SPA.....	(9)	+3
France- Nth , Par, Mar, Spa, Iri , TUN.....	(2)	-3
Germany- Home, Den, Hol, Bel, War, Mos	(7)	-1
Italy- Home, Tya , Tri, Vie, Bud, Ser, Gre, MAR.....	(9)	0
Russia- Rum.....	(1)	NO HOME CENTERS TO BUILD
Turkey- Home, Bul, Sev, MOS.....	(6)	+1

1981D Press-

ENGLAND-GERMANY: Borrow? What do you mean borrow Sweden? Tell you what. I'll keep Sweden and borrow Holland and Denmark!

GERMAN HIGH COMMAND-POPE BRUCIE: We do need to discuss the partition of Turkey at greater length. Somehow I keep coming back to the part about my "Army in Ankara" being safe from your fleets.

CONSTANTINOPLE: European situation deteriorating fast. Turkish troops panic. Command apparently incapable of making decisions. Rumors of revolution in Russia pull northern army toward Moscow. Anarchist sailors in Rumania attempt to retrace path to Bulgaria. God knows why. Navy in obvious disarray. Stories of military personnel just giving up and going home abound. Sultan reportedly emotionally incapacitated with the thought of the Balkan penetration by the previously peaceful Pope.

GERMAN HIGH COMMAND-KING WOODY: How did you convince Kelly that I was the villain in this piece?

ENGLAND-WORLD: Everyone is called upon to stop the greedy Italian! He plays just like Kathy Byrne: give him Austria and he wants Turkey, Germany, and France.

GERMAN HIGH COMMAND-KING RON: Woody made me do it.

ENGLAND-GM: Why do you think I did r-BTD?

GM-ENGLAND: Because re-BORN TO DIP had that, how should we say it? That, well, you know, that certain Woody-flair to it! Besides everyone knows how much you hate Bozo for being such a _____ (fill in with the word of your choice).

SWITZERLAND: Swiss neutrality has not been threatened. Analysts of the war indicate that the English have completely fooled the weak minded Germans. The English are about to make great forward strides while their ally marks time in futile attacks on neutral lands. The Turkish forces seem even more foolish in their relationship to the Italians. It is clear that England and Italy are the powers to contend with in this great conflict.

WRAP-UP

Well, that's it for this one! This issue of MM will take its place among the briefest of all. There have been a few other 8 page issues, but not many. I planned to include much more originally but the last time I tried to get a lot into the issue after such a late start it took three weeks to get it out!! So, instead, I'll merely say that the next issue will probably be bigger than this one... With luck, I'll have this one in the mail tomorrow which won't be bad at all. It still won't reach you until the Sat. or the Mon. after Christmas but that's a lot better than it looked for awhile there. The deadline for all games is Jan. 29, '82 so get those preliminary orders back in away!

You all have a very Happy Holiday Season!

Bye!

"We few, we happy few, we band of
brothers;
For he today that sheds his blood with
me
Shall be my brother."

HENRY V IV, 111, 60.

"In time the savage bull doth bear the
yoke."

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING I, 1, 271

CONTENTS

STUFF..... PG.1
 MORE STUFF..... PG.2
 1981AY, MM STANDBY LIST..... PG.3
 1981AD, 1980IX..... PG.4
 1980KZ, 1981AY..... PG.5
 1981D..... PG.6
 WRAP-UP..... PG.7
 THIS PAGE..... PG.8

Your sub expires with MM# _____

Would you please standby in game _____ on pg. _____?

Trade

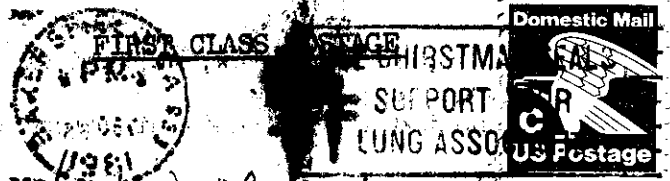
Complimentary _____

* * * * *

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL
and to all
a Good Night!

MURD'RING MINISTERS
Ron Brown
1528 El Sereno Pl.
Bakersfield, CA 93304

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



Rod Walker
"Alcala"
1273 Crest Dr.
Encinitas, CA 92024

1ST CLASS POSTAGE