

## Mistaken Identity

*By Cindy Peters*

It was about 20 years ago. I was sent on a work assignment to interview a man named Gordon. The goal of the interview was to obtain information on how Gordon started the Social Security Fraud Unit in Atlanta, Georgia. The arrangements were made that I would meet him at the Crown Plaza Hotel Restaurant where I would be staying. Gordon emailed me that he would be wearing an Atlanta Braves sports shirt and I said I would be wearing a Rockies Shirt.

I arrived at the restaurant and saw Gordon wearing his Atlanta Braves shirt. I introduced myself as I sat down and he was most cordial. We spent a few minutes bantering about what baseball team was the better team. Then he ordered us drinks. I began to ask him his views of fraud in the Social Security System. His answers were quite impressive.

He offered to buy me another drink and ordered us dinner. We were having a lovely time with great food and conversation. Suddenly, half way through the dinner a man came running to our table huffing and puffing. He asked my name and apologized for running late. As he removed his jacket he was wearing an Atlanta Braves shirt and introduced himself as Gordon.

Gordon sat down and remarked, "Oh this must be your husband. Hi, I am Gordon and so glad to meet you." I was flustered and turned bright red with embarrassment. I had to explain that this man was not my husband. I then turned to the man sitting next to me and exclaimed, "Who are you?" Gordon asked me if I always had dinner with strange men. This man turned out to be a promoter for the Atlanta Braves Baseball Team.

We all laughed our way out of this awkward moment. The man insisted on paying the bill as he said he enjoyed the conversation and he would write it off as a business expense. I grabbed the bill and paid my half of the bill. Gordon and I then politely removed ourselves from the table. As we were leaving, the man was bantering and yelled out to me: "The Atlanta Braves are a much better team than the Rockies." As it turned out this stranger had much better insights into fraud than Gordon and I actually used some of his insights in my report.