

TODAY: DON McCUE will enlighten the club with reflections on our 16th president.

LAST WEEK: The Four Way Test speech contest went very well and the judges did a great job. Thanks to **BERNIE O'PREY** for getting this organized and all the best to our candidate who will go on to compete at the District Level.

NEXT WEEK: John Semcken of Majestic Realty will speak on their company's progress toward the construction of a sports stadium to bring an NFL team to the LA, OC and Inland Empire area.

PAST PRESIDENT PONDERINGS: These have been great "strolls down Memory Lane". Many thanks to the Past Presidents who so kindly contributed!

LARRY WORMSER: In '77-78 in Asia, it was the Year of the Horse. In Redlands Rotary, for reasons beyond my understanding, it was the Year of the Worm. Club membership stood at 163 in September, and by demotion time the following June had climbed to 173. This took place before the founding of the Sunrise Club and the admission of ladies to our ranks. Our attendance level was about 96% and we were the largest club in District 533. Our major project that year was the complete painting of the interior of the YWCA building. The project took place over two weekends and at least 35 of our members participated. Ernest Cronemeyer celebrated his 99th birthday and Ed Fisher turned 90. Typical fines ran \$3.00 to \$5.00 and a serious sin such as the purchase of a new car could reach \$10.00.

LARRY BURGESS: My most challenging task of running the meeting came with student-of-the-month. We used to let the counselors talk. Oh my.... My best memories, among many, were the kind words of encouragement, often unexpected and coming at a time I really needed support. The greatest and most useless crusade to contend with: change of the food menu. Why bother? A more successful venture would be to shovel "detritus" against the tide.

MARVIN HUDSON: One thing I remember is there being a bitter-sweet result of the success of our Student of the Month program: we were experiencing growing pains, it was getting harder and harder for Rotarians to find a seat if they didn't get to club early on those days. We contacted Sunrise Rotary and discussed the idea of sharing this success with them...they could supplement their morning student rep reports with a Student of the Month recognition. By advertising these awards, their club would receive additional publicity. They agreed, and in January 2006, Sunrise began to recognize middle school Students of the Month and our club focused solely on high school Students of the Month. It was a win-win-win. Another thing that occurred during the 2005-06 year is that we began to host the public ride component of the Redlands Bicycle Classic, calling it the Rotary Ride. Research and exploration revealed that we could not only help the Classic maintain this well-liked component of their event, but also allow our Foundation to financially benefit should we decide to organize and run it. We implemented this and the first Rotary Ride took place on March 25, 2006. The Quarters for Kenya project really took off during my year, also the Dictionary Project, the Community Baccalaureate Service, and Breakfast and a Book.

CAL BOOTHBY: 2004-2005 was Rotary's 100th anniversary and Rotary Club of Redlands' 85th anniversary. It was a year of celebrations, big and small. A group of area Rotarians traveled to

Chicago by train for Rotary's 100th birthday celebration in the founding city of Chicago. Our own club launched the year with a 4th of July BBQ, then honored our Paul Harris Fellows, celebrated birthdays each month with fanfare, and in general made every occasion into a celebration. The year's finale took place poolside at my demotion party, celebrating the year of celebrations. My fondest is that of a very special birthday party at ESRI Café, where we celebrated Rotary's 100th birthday and our club's 85th, AND the birth of one of Redlands' own, **DON KLECKNER**. As our club turned 85, so did **DON**, the quintessential Rotarian and we surprised him. We arranged for **DON'S** entire family to be there and brought in a guest speaker with special ties to **DON** - Past Rotary International President, Rick King. In addition to being a gifted speaker, Rick King is a talented musician. He opened with a song dedicated to **DON** that brought goose bumps to all in attendance, a moment I'll never forget. **DON**, more than anyone else, prepared me for my presidential year, demanding attention to every detail. He was my mentor and my friend, and I was happy that we could honor him during this very special year.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS: 1st - **ED MALESKY**, 3rd - **PAUL GRANILLO**, 6th - **KEN STEIN**, 8th - **JIM BRASWELL**, 9th - **GENE OUELLETE**, 18th - **CAROLE BESWICK**, 28th - **AL REID**. Happy Birthday to all of you! Belated and Otherwise! This was a BIG birthday for **KEN STEIN** and we can all only hope he celebrated appropriately!

UPCOMING EVENTS: Here we are.... two days before The 25th Anniversary of our wine tasting fundraiser. It's time to bring it home for the Red, White, and Blue teams! Which one will be the winner of the coveted prize?! And almost as interestingly: just WHAT IS the coveted prize??

The annual wine tasting gala will be held this Saturday evening at Orton Center from 5 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door.

ALLAN'S AVENUE

There probably isn't a more important time for a Rotarian in our Club to consider what he or she can do to put energy behind their pledge to commit themselves to the success of our Club, than in the days leading up to our major fund raiser, the Red Wine and Blues wine tasting bash. I really want to extend my personal appreciation to the **HUDSON'S** and all those serving on this most important committee who are striving to make this event a success. In light of the commitment so evident in the work of this committee, I feel the following "Rotary Pledge", which I recently came across, sums up what they demonstrate and we all must understand: My role as a Rotarian prompts me to open doors to peace, goodwill and equality for all people. And in this endeavor, I will not be a passive member, but rather a driving force; consider Rotary attendance and participation a joy and encourage that for all members; serve in any capacity in which I am asked; recognize my community as my plot of ground to till for all its citizens; be an ambassador for my vocation; proudly serve and associate with people of all cultures, creeds, and races, knowing that a deep conviction to international understanding is the fruit of international peace; put Rotary to work where I work; live Rotary where I live; make a concerted effort with body, mind and spirit to be not just a member, but a Rotarian.