

TODAY

In keeping with the time of year, **HARRY JOHN** will talk about his Christmas of 1944 and the impact that the French Underground had on his life (the French Underground was a resistance movement which fought against the Nazi German occupation of France as opposed to a source of Indie films at the Palm Springs Film Festival as **LARRY BURGESS** might have you believe).

LAST WEEK

JIM PINDER recounted his trip to Benin, a French-speaking, west African country of about 8 million that borders Nigeria. Anecdotes from the eight days “in country” included having to give up his hat to a villager as a bribe to get the villager’s son vaccinated, drinking parasite-laden water before a two-hour bus ride and losing a Rotary team member who was the group’s French-speaking interpreter because she “couldn’t take the heat”. Of the over 3,000 children vaccinated on this Rotary excursion of about 50 Rotarians, Jim provided oral vaccine doses to about 20 kids. It was an excellent program and it was good to hear firsthand about the Rotary International Polio Plus program.

NEXT WEEK

We will be “dark” the next two Thursdays and December’s stand-in Spoke editor will use the time to heal injuries to self-esteem incurred by **Prez ALLAN’s** unprecedented and shocking hijacking of the Spoke last week when he only permitted HIS column to appear in print.

MEMBER MUSINGS

Kudos and thanks to **PAT** and **ANNE-MARIE MEYER** for hosting Noon Rotary’s annual Holiday party. Reports from those in attendance were that was a soiree to remember.

Add soirees to remember: The lights were on, the welcome mat out and the wine flowed at the **BURGESS** mansion last week as **LARRY** and **CHAR** hosted the monthly outing of a venerable supper club. **BOB HODGES** and **NEAL WANER** reportedly made a stab at temperance by forgoing an earlier cocktail party at a nearby

residence but ended up succumbing to the vices offered at 923 W. Fern.

Add **HODGES**: **Prez ALLAN** will come up short if he tries to fine **BOB HODGES** for his NFL football pool winnings so far this year (you need to have winnings). **CINDY ANDREWS**, on the other hand, has cashed in on that same pool.

There is no truth to the rumor that **CAROLE BESWICK** bought the rights to Sammy Hagar’s “I Can’t Drive 55” to keep the Stanford Band from playing the song at halftime of next season’s USC vs. Stanford football game.

Final football note: There also is no truth to rumor that the entryway of **JIM HOLMES’** home is lined with poinsettias in a tribute to Cal having the honor of playing in that prestigious, mid-December Bowl game that will not be played on national television.

ALLAN’S AVENUE

As the first six months of my “reign” comes to a close, I find it compelling to try to decide if the Rotary Club of Redlands has made a difference in the humanitarian growth of this city or beyond. What comes to my mind, as I indicated in my talk to the club on my first day, is that the resources and talents of this organization are incomparable in this community. A few of the things that come to my mind are: Jim Pinder’s African participation in the Polio Plus endeavor; Jennifer Dobb’s offer to start an Early Act program; Kevin Correia’s ability to get the Interact program back on track; Ray Watt’s PLAN for membership growth; Janet Greenfield’s serious tackling of our menu concerns; the early success of the Redlands Service Club Council receiving 2 District Community grants and Pat Meyer’s willingness to shepherd it this year; Jan and Marv Hudson’s perseverance in keeping the Red Wine and Blues on target; and last but not least Jim Nolin, Pam Huston, and Stan Weisser making the Student Recognition, Breakfast and a Book, and the Purple Turtles a continuing feather in our service caps. Gosh, I think we have made a difference, thanks to you all, Rotary IS an organization that places service above self.

