

Remembrances of Early Sandpoint Rotary Club

By: Dar Cogswell

The year was 1966 when three men walked into my office, the first one, Bob Rockwell, announcing that he was an FBI agent. My apprehension abated when I learned that they were Rotarians looking to start a Rotary club in Sandpoint. Bob was from the Coeur d'Alene club and Walt McLean and Lowell Brown from the Spokane Valley club.

I was somewhat skeptical of their success because of the strong presence of the Kiwanis and Lions clubs in Sandpoint. (I was a past president of the Lions and knew what a good group of workers they had) However, I liked their explanation of the work Rotary did on a world wide basis and especially the classification requirement whereby club members would come from all walks of life with different professions and occupations. I signed up not realizing what a long term, happy relationship with Rotary that I was undertaking.

We needed 20 charter members to sign the petition to RI and actually acquired 23. Our application is dated March 14, 1966, and we were accepted and had our Charter Night in June, 1966, whereat Kay Kincaid was inducted as a new member. There are still, as of June 24, 2010, two charter members in the club, Jack Parker and myself, Dar Cogswell.

The charter members had to learn about Rotary in a hurry, line up a meeting place, find programs, learn the procedures of RI, negotiate the meal agenda, and all the things to organize a new club.

In the months following the euphoria of starting a new club decreased and the club membership dropped to a dangerous level of 12. In the 1960's and 1970's we started recruiting good members such as: Dale Coffelt (1967), Terry Merwin (1968), Bob Farmin (1974), Pierre Huguenin (1974), Joe Wyeth (1977), Royal Shields, (1976) Chuck George (1978), Jim Nelson decd (1973) and Jack Young decd (1974).

Rotary originally tried meeting on Mondays and then switched briefly to Fridays, and finally settled on Wednesdays.

There was one meeting at the Pend O'Reille Lodge (destroyed by fire)

The North Shore (now Edgewater)

Travelers Motel (now Quality Inn)

Pastime Café (now Oishii)

Elks Lodge (now Jalapenos)

Power House (defunct)

DiLuna's

Tango at Panhandle State Bank

Sandpoint Rotary has been blessed with continuously outstanding presidents. We have traditionally given each an unusual welcome when they were inducted, which should be reconsidered in the present time. In 1977, President Bud Moon called the meeting to order and the entire club rose and walked out of the meeting leaving Bud with an empty room. In 1983, President Don Zimmerman, appeared at the meeting only to find none of the Rotarians, but in their place, all of their wives. This was prior to women in Rotary. In 1982, President Jim Nelson, was greeted by a beautiful young woman belly dancer. Jim unflinchingly joined the dance to the surprise of the woman in question. We also have a distinction that would be rare to find in the Rotary world and that is that we had a past president charged with First Degree Murder. He was found not guilty by a jury, but it was a traumatic time for all club members.

Remembrances of Early Sandpoint Rotary Club (continued)

By: Dar Cogswell

President Wally Staglund was determined that we were not going to be only a knife and fork club but a "service club". We had little money but were able to scrape together \$300.00 for our first high school scholarship and we have never looked back, increasing club projects yearly.

WOMEN IN ROTARY- These three words struck fear into the hearts of early Rotarians. "How could this happen?" The issue had been brewing for a long time and in the 1980's the Duarte, Cal. Rotary admitted women. RI sued Duarte to terminate the club charter. The case worked itself up to the United States Supreme Court and in 1987; the Court ruled that the denial of membership violated the civil rights of women under the Unruh Act, which act was also followed in the State of Idaho.

Our first lady Rotarian was Judy Hughes of Washington Water Power, proposed by Joe Wyeth. A funny thing happened at her induction. The earth didn't shake. There was no thunder and lightening. The curtains of the temple were not rent asunder and we found that the women in Sandpoint Rotary have been a tremendous resource to the well being of the club. Cindy Barton was our first of many lady Presidents in 1993. As far as anyone can determine, Sandpoint Rotary lost only one "old grouch" as a result of women in Rotary.

Exchanges between clubs were more common early on, where one club would set up a visit with another club in the district and also furnish the program for that visit. A return visit was always expected. A lot of friendly banter was had if somehow an item of Rotary worth could be lifted from the visited club such as their bell or a memento, such as a gavel. Jim Nelson quickly earned the reputation of "light fingers" on such visits to the point where the visited club would place a guard on its artifacts.

A sizeable contingent, 8 to 10, of the club members that had RV's and some non RVer's regularly attended District Assemblies in such places as Spokane, Pasco, Pullman, Kellogg, Coeur d'Alene, Cranbrook, Creston, Trail, Rossland and the most fun seemed to be at the Canadian assemblies. Much of the same group attended International Assemblies in San Francisco, Las Vegas and Portland. The Las Vegas caravan of 8 RV's started out poorly with a blown water pump (Ray Kincaid), a blown cylinder (Glen Judge) and water in the fuel (Jim Nelson) all before leaving the State of Montana.

One of the most rewarding acts that a Rotary Club can take is to honor someone with presentation of a Paul Harris award for excellence in their life and profession. It is especially significant when someone outside of the club is so honored. A few early ones come to mind: Sam Wormington, the first manager of Schweitzer Basin, Dr. J.P. Munson, a longtime Sandpoint doctor, Hazel Hall, a long time Sandpoint activist, and Dr. Forrest Bird, a nationally recognized inventor.

The list goes on to more current time and includes not only club members, but wives and children of club members in whose name important projects will be financed through Rotary Foundation. What a great tribute. All members can be proud of the continued high quality of the programs and projects of Sandpoint Rotary and the members that make it work. I would have missed a great deal over the past 43 years if I had not met with Bob Rockwell, Walt McLean and Lowell Brown on that fateful day in 1966.

Dar Cogswell

Charter member Sandpoint Rotary

September 15, 2009

Sandpoint Rotary Past Presidents

Wally Staglund	1966-67
Dan Carter	1967-68
Tom Rodda	1968-69
Dar Cogswell	1969-70
Ray Kincaid	1970-71
Everett Hofmeister	1971-72
Ray Eller	1972-73
Dale Coffelt	1973-74
Jim Judge	1974-75
Chuck Bonar	1975-76
Harry Winter	1976-77
Bud Moon	1977-78
Jim Judd	1978-79
John Major	1979-80
Fred Darnell	1980-81
Joe Skubi	1981-82
Jim Nelson	1982-83
Don Zimmerman	1983-84
Joe Bedard	1984-85
Royal Shields	1985-86
Dick Sams	1986-87
Jack Young	1987-88
Bill Watt	1988-89
Warren Wanamaker	1989-90
Craig Johnson	1990-91
Ed Miller	1991-92
Dave Jensen	1992-93
Cindy Barton	1993-94
John Snedden	1994-95
Tom Harvill	1995-96
Dale Reed	1996-97
Pierre Huguenin	1997-98
Eric Paull	1998-99
Colleen Spicklemire	1999-00
Tom Gibson	2000-01
Dick Creed	2001-02
Louise Soles	2002-03
Tim Cochran	2003-04
Ryan Luttmann	2004-05
Mickey Poppino	2005-06
Karen Applegate	2006-07
Kendon Perry	2007-08
Jon Sayler	2008-09
Nancy Hadley	2009-10
Matt Kerr	2010-11

Sandpoint Rotary Charter Members

Edward Abromeit
Sporting Good Retail
Pend Oreille Sport Shop
Owner

Richard W. Ammerman
Savings & Loan
First Federal Savings & Loan
Manager

A. James Caddis
Forester-Land Exchange
U.S. Forest Service
Manager Forestry Land Div.

Daniel M. Carter
Rancher-Livestock
Owner

Dar Cogswell
Civil Law
Bandelin & Cogswell
Partner

Fred A. Currie
National Govt. Administration
Kaniksu National Forest
Administrative Officer

Dan Deshon
Premix Concrete
Bargain Supplies, Inc.
Owner

Ray Eller
Beer Distributing
Eller Distributing Co.
Owner

Beaner Johnson
Hardware
Building Supply Co.
Manager

Leo R. Johnson
Oil & Gas Retail
Beaners Texaco
Partner

Carl Kaiser
Motels
North Shore Lodge
Manager

Roger Kahler
Printing
Eclipse Printing Co.
Owner

Paul D. Knaggs
Lumber Distributing
P. & E. Woodworking Inc.
President

Dr. Gerald Madson
Medicine-Dentistry

Kenneth D. Martin
Laundry
Sandpoint Laundry
Owner

John B. Parker
Automobile Retailing
Sandpoint Motor Co.
Manager

Ronald L. Hall
Accounting, C.P.A.
Ronald L. Hall
Owner

Raymond A. Pepper
Life Insurance
Bonner Service Center
Owner

E. Thomas Rodda
Religion, Protestant
St. Agnes Episcopal Church
Pastor

Darold J. Sauer
Variety Store
Ben Franklin Stores
Manager

Wallace Staglund
Telephone Service
Gen. Telephone Co. of N.W.
Plant Manager

Clem Yeakel
Real Estate-Farm Sales
Strout Realty
Branch Manager

Harold Young
Lighting Fixture Mfg.
Wite Lite Manufacturing Co.
Sales Manager

Greek Wells

John Tsalaky

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS—*CHARTER NIGHT*

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1966

American Flag	Walla Walla, Washington Club
Canadian Flag	Trail, B.C. Club
Head Table Flags	Spokane, Washington Club
Rotary Bell	Spokane Valley Club
Gavel	Hillyard, Washington Club
Members' Badges	Kimberly, B.C. Club
Guest Register	Fruitvale, B.C. Club
Speakers Stand	Nelson B.C. Club
"Rotary Meets Here"	Moscow, Idaho Club
Secretary's Record	Rossland, Grand Forks & Castlegar, B.C. Clubs
Treasurer's Record	Wallace & Kellogg, Idaho Clubs
Road Sign	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Club
Road Sign	North Spokane Club
Charter Members Pins	Cheney, Colfax, Clarkston, Pullman, Pasco, Richland, Washington; Lewiston, Idaho; Fernie, Cranbrook & Naksup, B.C.

Community Projects:

Habitat for Humanity house	Downtown Benches
Playground at Kootenai School	Playground equipment at Hickory Park
Bleachers at Stidwell Farmin	Total scholarships given – Over \$140,000
Boardwalk Stairway	Patio and benches at the Library
Picnic Shelter Travers Park	Trees Centennial Park
Picnic Shelter Lakeview Park	Hospital room renovation
Christmas lights for Community Hall	Farmin Park: Sidewalks, Clock Tower, Art Work
Bike Path paving	Playground bathrooms
Downtown bathrooms	Waterlife Center bench
Foundation:	International:
Polio Plus	Mexico – bathrooms and library project
Potable water	The Market Children of Tegucigalpa

THE DAILY BEE

Tues, Aug. 12, 1969

ROTARIANS HOST SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Sandpoint Rotary Club members hosted the Sandpoint High School graduate who won the club's first scholarship Monday.

Pat Chronic, who plans to major in education at the University of Idaho this year, told Rotarians she probably would not have been able to attend College this year without the scholarship. She said she plans to work with blind, deaf or first grade children after earning her degree.

"Everywhere we look in magazines and newspapers these days we find something about student riots and delinquency," said Miss Chronic. "Your scholarship shows how persons you have faith and trust in us."

➡ Rotary Club of Sandpoint has awarded
in excess of \$140,000 in
scholarships in the past eleven years.

Lake-to-Forest rookies tough out triathlon wins

Bonner County Daily Bee

Tuesday July 30, 1996

SAGLE – Todd Struckman ran for his life Sunday morning. And he didn't stop until he crossed the finish line.

The Missoula man captured first place in the 15th Annual Lake-to-Forest Triathlon at Garfield Bay, outlasting a field of 118 individuals and 29 teams.

This year, the swim was lengthened from 1 kilometer to 1.5, and the bike ride was changed from 37K to 40K so the course would qualify for international standards.

That effort, combined with beautiful sunny blue skies, turned the 15th running of the Lake-to-Forest into an outstanding event.

Rotary Club of Sandpoint
Exchange Students—Outbound

1993-1994	Aaron Coburn	Germany
1994-1995	Amber Gildersleeve	Denmark
1995-1996	Chelsea Pennick	France
1995-1996	Steve Snedden	France
2000-2001	Amy Wolfe	Japan
2002-2003	Ashley Wolfe	Argentina
2002-2003	Liam Orton	Japan
2002-2003	Adam Hicks	Costa Rica
2003-2004	Adrienne Stoll	Australia
2004	Ben Lockwood	France—Summer
2004-2005	Elizabeth Czirr	Spain
2005-2006	Annie Edwards	Costa Rica
2006-2007	Danae Aguire	Thailand
2006-2007	Courtney Brown	Denmark
2006-2007	Anna Ballard	Brazil
2007-2008	Tyrell James	Brazil
2007	Mallory Triplett	Germany—Summer
2008	Olivia Guthrie	Italy—Summer
2009	Ethan Kopecki	France—Summer
2010	Galen McDonald	Spain—Summer

Rotary Club of Sandpoint
Exchange Students—Inbound

1993-1994	Nayibe Raad	Columbia
1994-1995	Anna Phillipsson	Sweden
1995-1996	Ricardo Natlin	Brazil
1995-1996	Linda Bezier	France
1996-1997	Sandra Blockman	Denmark
1997-1998	Busanan Adipat	
1998-1999	“Sole” LaFon	
1999-2000	Sophia Poldermans	Netherlands
2001-2002	Jacobo Vargas	Costa Rica
2003-2004	Waree Lertkokenkul	Thailand
2004-2005	Anakaren Gongora	Mexico
2005-2006	Malte Wortmann	Germany
2006-2007	Pernille Seest	Denmark
2007-2008	Morgan Heyse	France
2008-2009	Tatiana Ferreyra	Mexico

Staglund honored by Rotary, city

Bonner County Daily Bee July 10, 1999

Sandpoint—Friday's dedication of a new gazebo at Memorial Field to Wally Staglund was as fitting as the weather. Under cloudless skies, Sandpoint Rotarians joined with city officials, family and friends to dedicate the structure to Wally Staglund, one of the founding members and past presidents of the local Rotary.

"I'm honored, thrilled and a bit bewildered," said Staglund, marveling at how he was able to cajole community leaders into forming a local Rotary chapter 32 years ago.

The gazebo was built by the city's Parks and Recreation Department, funded by the Sandpoint Rotary and designed by fellow Rotarian and acclaimed local architect Royal Shields, Jr.

"One of our mottoes is service about self," explained former Sandpoint Rotary President Eric Paull.

"And that fits Wally to a T. He has given his heart and soul to Rotary and to the community."

The Sandpoint Rotary has provided funding for a variety of parks enhancement projects—from the little league backstop at Travers Park to the entire sidewalk system at Farmin Park. The club has also donated money to install benches downtown and at City Beach and Travers Park.



What a Day!!

The Sprocket a Bi-weekly newsletter from the Sandpoint Rotary Club

August 11, 1999

The first Annual Rotary Club of Sandpoint Golf Fest was a spectacular success by any measure. With about 100 golfers, near ideal weather, and great play, what could have gone wrong? After the dust settled and the keg ran out, it was President Colleen's Hubby's team who won. Team member Judd Reed also took home a closest to the pin prize. The other half of the Meany family stroked the longest putt.

President-Elect Tom Gibson was overheard wondering why his team didn't win. From my vantage point on the beer cart, I was able to witness a few of Tom's T-shots and I just may be able to answer his query. There are already folks ready to enter for next year! A big thank you to Bob Chapman for making it work.

Brandon Reed wins new bicycle

Bonner County Daily Bee September 23, 1999

Sandpoint—Brandon Reed, 7th grade student at Priest River Jr. High, became the proud owner of a brand new Mountain Climber Sport bicycle as the result of the combined efforts of Sandpoint Rotary Club's funding and Panhandle Health District's desire to increase immunizations in children.

Beginning in July and continuing through the end of August, the Panhandle Health District, for the second year in a row, administered immunizations shots to children 12 years of age and under while adding a bit of incentive.

"Whenever a child became immunized during those particular days, they were also able to fish for a prize, enjoy cake and ice cream and enter their name in the bike giveaway." Said PHD's senior nurse, Brenda Swenson.

Reed was the lucky winner of the 12-speed bicycle this year.

"They tried to call but couldn't get through, so they sent me a letter and told me that I won," he said. Reed has another bicycle "but it came without brakes. I got it at an auction and it didn't have brakes."

Panhandle Health District saw a total of 145 children, 12 years of age and younger, during the seven weeks of administering the immunizations. A total of 331 shots were given, boosting their numbers a good fifty percent. Two to three nurses were on hand for dispersing the shots. "I like to let everyone know that vaccines do work and they are crucial in the prevention of the spread of disease." Swenson said.

Witte earns Rotary scholarship

Bonner County Daily Bee Friday, August 11, 2000

Sandpoint—Last year, members of The Rotary Club of Sandpoint took home a "Rotary Can" in hopes that spare change "just laying around" would be collected and later presented to a student in honor of his or her outstanding community service activities.

Jennifer Witte was the winner of the contents of the "Rotary Can" and was recently presented with a check by the Rotary's community Service Committee in the amount of \$500 for her involvement in local community service projects.

Witte was honored for her role as vice president of the National Honor Society and for organizing and running the Bulldog Bench booth at The Festival at Sandpoint, organizing volunteers and helping with the Bulldog Bench spring and Fall golf tournaments, organizing volunteers for the Special Olympics, working with the Toys for Tots campaign, putting together a team for the Multiple Sclerosis Walk in Coeur d'Alene, working with children during the Christmas season at various assisted living centers and organizing tutors at the library who would provide children with reading assistance.

"I'm sure that she has probably been involved with other projects as well," said Rotary member Colleen Spickelmire. "This young lady had a very busy senior year."

Sandpoint Rotary receives grant money for flu shots

Bonner County Daily Bee December 15, 2000

Sandpoint—The Rotary Club of Sandpoint received from the Rotary Foundation a Blane Community Grant in the amount of \$500 to assist the Panhandle Health District in immunizing 0 to 12-year olds as well as assist senior who are low income in receiving flu shots this fall.

As the flu vaccine was late in arriving to the Sandpoint area, the flu shots are just now being distributed in the Bonner County area.

The Rotary club would like to invite anyone under 65 who is low income that would like to get the flu vaccine to come to the Bonner Mall during one of the next four clinics being held to receive—on a first come-first served basis—their flu shot at no charge.

There is a limited supply of these shots available. The clinics are Friday, Dec. 15 from 8:30-10:30 a.m.; Monday, Dec. 18 from 8:30-11:30 a.m.; Wednesday, Dec. 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Dec. 27 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Rotary Club would like to encourage any senior who has not received a flu shot yet, to do so at one of the upcoming clinics.

For more information, please call the Panhandle Health District, 263-5159.

Rotary sponsor Sandpoint Centennial film showing

Bonner County Daily Bee 2001

Sandpoint—The Sandpoint Rotary Club is sponsoring a showing of the Sandpoint Centennial film, "Sandpoint—At the North End of the Long Bridge" as part of the Winter Carnival festivities.

The film photographed by Winter Carnival Parade Marshal Eric Daarstad, will be shown Saturday, at 7 p.m. at the Panida Theater. Tickets will be \$5.

The Rotary will also have tickets available for the drawing for a trip to Maui, Hawaii at the theater. The drawing will be held Sunday and proceeds will help the local club finance their local projects.

Rotary and the Tropics

Bonner County Daily Bee 2001

Sandpoint—Ron and Dollie Behimer of Sandpoint will wing their way to warmer climes early next year, thanks to a little luck and the Sandpoint Rotary Club. The Behimers were chosen as winners of Sandpoint Rotary's Palau vacation fundraiser, a tropical saltwater fishing and snorkeling adventure that includes air transportation and all accommodations. The monies raised in this and similar activities help rotary continue in their commitment to community service, locally and globally. On a local basis, Rotary continues to provide public facilities like the new gazebo at the Lakeview Park boat launch and the outdoor reading area at the Library. The efforts of Rotary International include international youth exchange, literacy programs and the continuing endeavor to eradicate polio worldwide by 2005. Sandpoint Rotary is grateful to the Behimers and all the others who bought tickets for the fund raiser.

Sagle teacher experiences marvel of Peru

Bonner County Daily Bee June 13, 1999

Sandpoint—She was one of five professionals selected by Rotary International to experience the marvels of Peru—the people who live there, their culture and their land. Third grade Sagle Elementary School teacher, Mrs. Betty Collins, accompanied one other American and three Canadians in various professions as part of a team effort on an educational/cultural mission. Collins, herself, was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Sandpoint.

Collins brought back a host of experiences to share with the community. During the five week journey she stayed with Peruvian families, speaking their language, learning their cultural ways and trekking on the land that brought her and the other team members a multitude of surprises.

"There were things I didn't expect geographically," Collins said. "I didn't expect to be at an elevation of 7000 feet and feel warm temperatures, see palm trees and people wearing shorts and T-shirts—not at that elevation. I think we were all pleasantly surprised. The city of Cuzco at an elevation of 10,000 feet didn't pose a problem as long as the Peruvian formula for preventing elevation sickness was followed. Drinking tea was recommended by the people to adjust for altitude—coca tea to be exact.

"If you follow their guidelines you usually do pretty well," Collins said. "Adaptation to the elevation takes a lot longer than a week or two. We realized why the Peruvian women had big chests." A day was spent at Machu Pichu—the edge of the rain forest. The group aboard watercraft drifted across Lake Titicaca and visited the floating island of Uros.

"The island actually is floating—an island made of floating reeds and there are people actually living on these reeds." She floated farther up the lake to the island of Taquile "where the people have maintained their culture and are famous for their weaving." Later, the team was dropped off on one side of the island and had step to climb "which took about an hour before we reached the town center." Again, safeguards due to elevation needed to be heeded.

"The step went from the lake level of 13,000 feet. We climbed 200 feet up and at that elevation you don't do anything fast. You take a few steps and rest—taking it easy and taking your time," she added.

The group visited Colca Canyon—thought to be the deepest canyon in the world until one deeper was found fairly recently—still in Peru. The canyon, twice as deep as the Grand Canyon, brought Collins within close range of flying condors. "They are huge—just huge—with a wing span of three meters across," she said. "I have a picture taken with 20 feet of a juvenile condor who landed on a rock."

After a visit to the city of Arequipa at an elevation of 7000 feet where the flowers bloom all year round, Collins and the rest of the team headed toward the coast. "As soon as you get out of the city you meet the desert which, I was told, was one of the driest places on earth." Collins' visit to the country brought her in close contact with its people, which by itself proved to be extraordinary. Staying with five families throughout the visit gave her an opportunity to observe Peru in its truest form and the opportunity to communicate with its people.

"I did the best I could with the language and I was pleased with how well I was able to make myself understood," she said. "This was learning a language by extending my base of knowledge." Collins studied Spanish in high school and college and never really had a chance to use it until her visit to Peru.

"I knew the words but was not adept at the grammar and the tenses. The people I stayed with were so helpful when I got to the point that they could tell what I was trying to say—in terms of the tense of the verb for example. They were able to help me along and that was really good." She said that Spanish was a fairly uncomplicated language having only one way to pronounce a word "unlike ours where we have the confusion of consonants and vowels."

During the fourth week of her visit, Collins stayed in a mining town—the closest bus stop being about an hour away. The team was picked up there and taken to Toquepala where miners worked at the Southern Peru mine. Collins stayed in a dwelling different than what she had been previously accustomed to during her visit.—*Continued.....*

Sagle teacher experiences marvel of Peru — *Continued.....*

"It was really like any house that you would find here in Idaho," she said. "I learned that they have these American style homes because half of the supervisors in the mines are from America and so the Peruvians wanted to offer them the level of comfort that they were accustomed to." The town was totally self-contained having their own police force, churches and three different schools—public, private and an American school.

"It was all quite amazing when I think back on it," she said. "But if I had any overall kind of impression to reveal, it would be how wonderful the people are. They opened their homes to us and took care of us. The best part of the trip was all the people we met along the way and conversed with."

The Rotary Club of Sandpoint has been in existence for 33 years with a current membership of 55 and belonging to a district of Rotary International encompassing north Idaho, Eastern Washington and parts of Canada. Past president of Rotary Club of Sandpoint, Dar Cogswell, said that it has been quite a long time since the rotary has sent someone on an international exchange. "But Betty was such a strong candidate for the exchange," he said. "It is difficult to be chosen."

Rotary project will be a relief to field users

Bonner County Daily Bee 2001

Sandpoint – Goodbye port-a-potties, hello white porcelain and stainless steel.

The Sandpoint Rotary Club has unveiled plans to construct a new restroom complex at the Farmin-Stidwell play fields. The club has already raised \$17,000 for the project. The Lake Pend Oreille School District has tentatively agreed to chip in \$3,500, according to club officials.

On Wednesday, Sandpoint's Public Works Committee pledged to waive a \$180 building permit fee, a \$1,260 hook-up fee for new sewer users, and donate labor and materials worth \$600 needed to tie into the city's water system. The committee, however, declined to waive the \$2,015 new User Facility Fee for water service because of concern over setting an unwanted precedent.

Rotary officials hope to have the project completed this April.

The club took the project under its wing because the ball fields at Farmin-Stidwell see a lot of use for eight to nine months a year. Also, when soccer tournaments are held, portable toilets have to be brought in, which has led to some complaints about hygiene by players and parents who visit the fields.

The facilities can also be used by students at the schools, said Tom Gibson, the club's president.



Sandpoint student spending year in Costa Rica

Bonner County Daily Bee Oct. 3, 2001

My name is Angela Quinn, I am 16 years old and I am currently on a year long Rotary exchange to Costa Rica. On August 23, I left beautiful Sandpoint to begin my adventures, learning about the culture, becoming fluent in Spanish, attending a foreign high school, and above all, having fun. Rotary District 5080 and The Sandpoint Rotary Club have sponsored my exchange, instilling in me the idea of bring Costa Rica and the United States of America closer together.

Learning about another culture and teaching your own culture will decrease ignorance, therefore closing the cultural gap. Through sharing my past experiences in the United States with my host family and friends here in Costa Rica, the bonds have grown stronger and acceptance of one another is now the result. It also works the opposite way, me learning about Costa Rica and learning to accept a new way of life . . .my way of life for a year. Recently, in the wake of the terrorist attacks on the United States, Cost Rica has become extremely interested in every step of the retaliation. I remember sitting at the breakfast table in my home in Cartago, watching the coverage on CNN about the first flight that struck the twin towers. I left for school only minutes later, in complete disbelief. What had just happened? Was this an accident? If not, who would do such a thing? These were all questions running continuously through my head.

At school, I did not know what to expect from my teachers or classmates, mostly because I was not even sure it would affect them. I walked into class and everyone, students and teachers alike, automatically surrounded me. The school counselor approached me cautiously and asked me if I needed to call home or if I would like to watch the news with him, showing genuine concern for how I was feeling. As it turned out, every class was spent watching CNN (in Spanish, of course) keeping up to speed with the events. Later that day, while driving back to my home, I noticed all of the flags at half-mast, mourning silently for those in the towers, flights and the pentagon. The ticos (Costa Ricans) felt so strongly for the unfortunate happenings; this was clearly shown through the Independence Day celebration in San Jose on September fifteenth.

This celebration was to be unlike any other. The president Miguel Angel Rodriguez and the Archbishop were the main speakers, as well as some other honorary guests. It was a true honor to be guests at the event. Before the President began speaking about Independence Day, he said "Yo quiero decirle a todo el mundo que yo me siento apenada por quienes perdieron su vida en los recientes ataques en Nueva York. Mi corazon siempre estara con las familias de las victimas. " Translated, it says, "I would like to tell everyone that I feel strongly for those who lost their lives in the recent attacks in New York. My heart will always be with the families of the victims." We then had a five minute prayer followed by a three minute silent prayer. While I stood there, during the three minutes silence, I thought of how amazing this was. Not only was the President of Costa Rica delaying his own speech, he was also genuinely remorseful for the misfortunes. It did not come as a surprise as much as it came as a relief. This idea of living in a country that cared so much about the lives of others, help me deal with the thought of attacks and possibly war. It gave me a sense of security and comfort and to an extent it assured my safety. The feeling of love mixed with grief filled El Parque Nacional and after the silent prayer, no one spoke a word; they just quietly sat down and continued listening to the powerful words of the dignitaries.

Following the Independence Day celebration, there was a reunion of all Central American Rotary Representatives, in which the president of Costa Rica and the President of Rotary International would address the need for international cooperation. I was selected as the student representative, which meant speaking in front of both presidents as well as about five hundred other people. What an honor! I prepared my speech in Spanish and addressed my experiences so far in the country, the importance of foreign exchange. I was very concerned about representing the U.S. in the wake of the attacks but it all went very well and I felt a great deal of support from all of the representatives. The President of Rotary International congratulated me on how well I represented the group as well as the United States. I am proud to be a student ambassador and I intend to represent Sandpoint, Idaho and the United States as well as I possibly can.

Throughout the next year, I will be writing about adventures here in Costa Rica, including cultural experiences and differences. If you would like to hear more or would like to comment on anything, please feel free to e-mail me at snowstar14@hotmail.com. In the subject box, please say something about Costa Rica, so I know it is something I can open. Thank you for your time and pura vida!

International Committee Launches its Atzala, Mexico Program

By Nancy Lewis

Rotary Buzz The Rotary Club of Sandpoint September 2001

The Rotary Club of Sandpoint is working in concert with the Rotary Club of Rotario de Taxco to construct 20 dry ecological toilets in the town of Atzala, Mexico. Our submittal for Rotary Foundation funding was submitted on August 1st, in anticipation that the funds would become available within 4 to 6 weeks. As a steward for this project, I will travel to Mexico on 26 September for the project kickoff. The Rotary Foundation relies on the "integrity of the clubs and the Rotarians engaged in project implementation to ensure that funds are used properly", based on established guidelines, rules and standards. Accordingly, if the project is not completed on schedule, we must submit an interim report detailing the project's progress, financial activities (including copies of receipts and invoices), and an estimation of the revised completion date. A final report must be submitted within two months of the project's scheduled completion date of March 2002.

The International Committee has two new projects up for board consideration. The first involves an area around Taxco, Mexico, which has an extremely high fatality rate attributable to uterine and breast cancer. For the past six years, the Rotary Club of Taxco has conducted a cervical cancer detection clinic every three months. The average attendance during the three day event is an astounding 6,000 patients. Taxco desperately needs a clinic with permanent services for the 72 communities within the municipality of Taxco.

Taxco is seeking specific equipment to support the operation of the clinic. They have indicated they would be happy with used equipment, as last year's cost for new equipment was \$21,510. The Taxco public hospital and the Club Rotario de Taxco have agreed to take responsibility for maintaining the equipment. Our committee has sought approval from the Board to assist in providing new or used equipment for the Taxco clinic based on an equipment list to be provided by the Taxco clinic and have identified several means by which to deliver the equipment to Mexico, either inexpensively or at no cost to us.

Another project under Board consideration would also occur in Taxco. Last year the Club Rotario de Taxco had a Matching Grant Application for the distribution of potable water to an area that would service approximately 1,900 people. The system would include three reservoirs and a pipeline for distribution to homes. Last year we estimated that it would take approximately \$49,108 to complete this project. This is too large a project for our club, but Club President Dick Creed suggested it could possibly be done in phases and completed over several years or perhaps it could be a District 5080 project.





Mexican Library Project



Medical Equipment Donated by The Rotary Club of Sandpoint

Rotary donates to polio campaign

Bonner County Daily Bee 2002

Sandpoint—The Rotary Club of Sandpoint recently donated \$13,000 to the “Rotary International’s Polio Plus” Campaign. Club president, Louise Soles, and Club Foundation Chair, Dale Reed, presented the check to Colleen Spickelmire, Rotary International District 5080 Assistant District Governor. The contribution is the Sandpoint Club’s commitment to Rotary Clubs throughout the world to raise \$80,000,000 this year in the continuing fight against polio. The funds come from a combination of member contributions and anonymous gifts to the memory of a long time Rotarian from Sandpoint. Polio Plus is a commitment to Rotary International to wipe out the poliomyelitis virus throughout the world by the year 2005, the one hundredth anniversary of Rotary International. Contributions by Rotarians have surpassed \$460,000,000 since the start of the campaign in 1985, resulting in more than 99 percent of the world’s population being immunized against the dread disease.

Scooters bridge the century at July 4th parade

Bonner County Daily Bee 2001

Sandpoint—Old-fashioned box scooters created by local resident, Bob Lindemann, will make their way into Sandpoint’s Fourth of July/Centennial Parade on Wednesday. The project actually is a result of a competition between the Sandpoint Rotary Club and the Community Assistance League. Lindemann made the first few scooters with old apple and fruit boxes, and when he ran out of those he began to build additional authentic-looking boxes so that a total of eight scooters could be paraded through downtown Sandpoint. The scooters will be ridden by members of the Rotary Club accompanied by members of CAL who will be dressed in old-fashioned styled swim suits with matching hats and socks—the outfits will depict the “olden days.” The old style box scooters will be followed by teens riding more modern-day scooters.

“This special event will be a fitting celebration for the Centennial,” Lindemann said. “The theme is “Bridging the Century”—the older with the younger on their scooters.”

A judging of swimsuits will take place with either the Rotary or CAL rejoicing in their victory. The victor is the recipient of a barbecue feast presented by the loser.

“It’s simply a warm human-interest competition,” Lindemann said. “A lot of things are happening with the parade and throughout the community this year in celebration of the Fourth of July.”

On Wednesday, the dedication of Centennial Park will be held at Travers Field, the Centennial Commission donated an extra \$2,000 to the Sandpoint Lions Club to make this year’s display of fireworks extra spectacular and former Sandpoint mayors will participate as Grand Marshals in this year’s parade.



Hicks spending senior year in Costa Rica

Bonner County Daily Bee September 14, 2002

Adam Hicks of Faith Christian Academy, is spending his senior year of high school in Costa Rica on a Rotary Youth Exchange Scholarship. A year in a foreign country where Spanish is the tongue of choice just makes sense, since Adam loves that language. Indeed, his goal is to become a Spanish translator/interpreter after attending college at Seattle Pacific University. Costa Rica was Adam's first choice, among the 20 or so countries possible. In an interview before he flew out, Adam said he likes the culture of Costa Rica and is excited to be traveling to Santa Cruz, a city "with a population of more than one million, located on a tropical plain at the east side of the Andes."

The host family he'll be staying with has three daughters, Adam said. One, a 17-year-old, is to spend her last year of school in Spokane, also through Rotary. Students participating in the youth exchange gain more than the value of their coursework.

"Everybody that we've talked to has come back with a deeper understanding of themselves and of how the world works; better prepared for college," said Adam's dad, Robert Hicks.

"For a lot of kids, college is their moment of individuation from home," Robert added. "This gives Adam the opportunity to have that experience away—to help define himself—prior to college."

Home schooled most of his life, Adam said he feels "kind of nervous and excited" about the trip. The trickiest part of the whole thing is probably "leaving everything I know and going somewhere completely different; leaving a lot of friends."

"It's huge," Robert acknowledged. "I'm mostly excited, and very, very proud that he's doing this."

The Rotary Youth experience includes bringing for your host family little gifts indicative of your local culture. Adam packed his bags with cartoon maps and little jars of huckleberry jam. Robert Hicks said also he feels "an enormous amount of gratitude" to the Sandpoint Rotary Club for their support.

"We're planning on putting the rest of our children through the program," he said. "His younger brother is already picking out a country."

Wolfe spending year in Argentina

Bonner County Daily Bee 2002

Sandpoint—Like many traveling Americans, she arrived without the usual armor of language.

But that doesn't scare Sandpoint High School sophomore Ashley Wolfe, who's spending a year in Tornquist, Argentina, on a Rotary Youth Exchange Scholarship. Why that country?

"It just seems really different from the states and there's a lot to learn about that country," she said in an interview last month, on the day before her flight.

The daughter of Sagle residents Larry and Cheryl Wolfe, Ashley was born in Sandpoint. She's an experienced traveler, having visited Spain and Morocco, Africa—twice. She also spent last summer with a pen pal in Istiea, Evias, an island off the northeast coast of Greece.

This time, ready to spend the school year abroad, Ashley Wolfe was met in Buenos Aires by her Argentinean host family. She reportedly enjoyed the six hour car ride south to Tornquist, a town of about 5,000 people. When Wolfe, she quickly [sic] learned it was winter in Argentina. The temperature was hovering at 40 degrees and spring was around the corner, she told her Sagle family.

Wolfe's host mother is a math teacher in Tornquist--the same school Ashley will attend, sitting through classes that will of course be held in Spanish.

In Tornquist, summer vacation starts in December, all the more exciting since she's going to be living only about 45 minutes away from Bahia Blanca, a well-known port city on the Atlantic Ocean.

"I think I am going to love it here in Argentina," Ashley told her parents. She thanked the Rotary Club for making the experience possible. By the way, "No one speaks English here, so I better learn Spanish fast." "It's going to be a great experience for her. I'm excited," Cheryl Wolfe said.

Rotary club sponsors immunization clinic

Bonner County Daily Bee 2003

Sandpoint—Sandpoint Rotary, in conjunction with Panhandle Health District, will sponsor two free immunization clinics this month for area youngsters. This is the fifth year Sandpoint rotary has sponsored the immunization clinics. Its efforts are part of Rotary International's 20-year commitment to eradicate polio by the group's 100th anniversary in 2005.

Sandpoint Rotary has donated \$500 for the costs of immunizing 42 youngsters ages two months to 13 years. Each child who is immunized during the Rotary event will receive a prize.

The immunization clinics will be held Aug. 20 and 27 at the PHD office at 1020 Michigan St. in Sandpoint. Parents wanting to have their children immunized must call the Sandpoint PHD office for an appointment at 263-5159.

To protect them against serious, sometimes fatal childhood illness, youngsters need to be immunized against the following diseases before they turn 2: diphtheria, tetanus (lockjaw) pertussis (whooping cough), polio, measles, mumps, rubella (German measles), varicella (chicken pox), Hib meningitis, pneumo-coccal meningitis and hepatitis B.

Immunizations are available at other times at the Sandpoint PHD office. Call 263-5159 for more information. Fees are based on a sliding scale; however, no child is ever turned away for inability to pay.

Rotary International has put a special emphasis on the eradication of polio throughout the world.

As part of Rotary's 20-year commitment to end polio by its 100th anniversary in 205, the humanitarian service organization recently announced that its 1.2 million members successfully raised more than \$88 million; surpassing its original goal of \$80 million.



Hickory Street Park nearly complete

Bonner County Daily Bee 2003

Sandpoint—Hickory Street Park is nearing completion in one of the last neighborhoods in Sandpoint to be without a park. The park is a 2.3 acre piece of property on the corner of Hickory Street and Forest Ave., one block west of the Louisiana-Pacific mill.

The Sandpoint Rotary Club and Rotary International donated \$3,000 for park improvements including the swinging bench seen in the photo. Standing left to right are Ron Chaney, Jim Michaud, Chuck Spicklemire, Maurice Dunn, Stan Hatch, Louise Soles, Dan Schupp, Ryan Luttmann and Beth Ann Williams. Seated is Olinda Wolters, a member of the park design committee.

Construction of the park began in May of 2002, and the official opening is anticipated for July or August of 2003. Upon completion, the park will contain: a basketball court, two swing sets, a youth play structure, a picnic shelter, drinking fountains, benches (including a swinging bench), picnic tables, sidewalks and lighting throughout the park, an informational kiosk at the entrance, a maintenance building and off street

Sandpoint High School teen gets taste of Japan

Bonner County Daily Bee March 22, 2003

Sandpoint—Sandpoint High School junior Liam Orton has been spending the school year in Wakayama Japan, through the Rotary Youth Exchange program.

Not having studied Japanese before leaving, "It was kind of a baptism by fire," his mom Kristina Orton said.

Throughout the year, Liam is to live with four families. Now on his third arrangement, only one family so far has spoken any English, his mom said.

He used a palm-sized electronic translator when things get really sticky. Still, "he's now doing extremely well with the language," Kristina said. It is one of the goals behind the Rotary program: To immerse students in the life, language and country of someone else until it tastes familiar.

Liam attends school in Wakayama, and all his classes are in Japanese. He is currently studying higher math than he had here in Sandpoint, his mom said. The math teacher there has been extremely helpful, working with Liam as many as four additional hours after school. Meanwhile, the vice principal has been coaching him in Japanese.

Liam's host families "have been wonderful, taking him out and about and showing him their country, Kristina said. One family even wrote her a letter telling her how much they had enjoyed meeting her son.

A tennis enthusiast, Liam is still playing while abroad. In Japan, students choose one sport to play all year, with the goal of honoring the entire school, Kristina said.

One thing that struck Liam is how cold people keep their homes.

"My family really doesn't believe that it is cold, so they don't heat their home," he wrote in an e-mail.

"Idaho is colder, but people actually use their heaters."

On a weekend in November, Liam traveled to Tokyo with his Rotary district and the other exchange students—teens that hail from all over the globe, including Venezuela, India, Mexico, Canada, Taiwan, Denmark and Germany. He even got to visit the "Tokyo Disneyland, "which was a lot of fun," he said.

But Disneyland was not the only indication of western influence. Liam "trooped over to Planet Hollywood Tokyo" where he enjoyed an "amazingly delicious sirloin steak." He then went shopping at the GAP and bought a cinnamon role from Cinnabon. "Score!" he said.

"Want to know something hilarious?" Liam asked in the same e-mail.

"In Japan the sizes are made bigger, so I fit into extra small!"

He took a trip to the ruins of the Japanese Imperial Palace, destroyed by U.S. bombers during World War II.

"That really (upset) me," he said.

Thank You

Bonner County Daily Bee July 24, 2003

Town spirit thrives in Sandpoint. Stairway from Bridge Street to Boardwalk now complete.

Under a tight deadline Sandpoint and the following businesses and individuals were able to demonstrate what can happen when a cooperative spirit tackles a project. Within a few weeks they were able to raise the necessary funds, design and construct a stairway from Bridge Street to the Boardwalk moorage and have it completed on time for the Inland Northwest Boat Show.

Thank you for sharing in this common goal and demonstrating the true strength of Sandpoint—its people.

ROTARY CLUB OF SANDPOINT

RYAN LUTTMANN

DICK CREED

KRIS CONTOR

CLIF WARREN

JIM MICHAUD

GARY RENCH

BETH ANNE WILLIAMS

BOB FARMIN

JOAN WANAMAKER

KEN BAKER

INTERSTATE CONCRETE

DOYLE READER

CITY OF SANDPOINT

STEPHEN DRINKARD

**CITY OF SANDPOINT PUBLIC WORKS
DEPT.**

ROD BERGET

LEO WILLIAMS

**DOWNTOWN SANDPOINT BUSINESS
ASSOC.**

PAUL & MARK AT RENT-X

**SANDPOINT CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

DAVE BLACK

RICHARD GRAY

ERNIE BELWOOD

CHET JACKMAN

CITY OF SANDPOINT PARKS DEPT.

NORTHWEST HANDMADE

DAN MIMMACK

GREG HUSTON

ED HESTER

LANCE MILLER SURVEYING

MAC MCDONALD



Speaker inspires others to serve the community

Bonner County Daily Bee Wednesday, November 12, 2003

Get ready to be inspired.

Richard King, the past president of Rotary International, will be in Sandpoint on Thursday to inspire others by talking about his lifetime of service.

King, who is a very dynamic speaker, will fill the City Forum with laughter and inspiration. The event, which is hosted by the Sandpoint Rotary Club, is open to everyone in the community who wants to learn what "service about self" really means, said organizer Colleen Spickelmire.

Tickets are \$25 per person and can be obtained by calling 265-4899 or 263-7735 or contacting any Sandpoint Rotary Club member.

The event will begin at 6 p.m. and includes a delicious dinner.

King is the past world president of Rotary International and is the senior partner in the California law firm of King, King and King.

King has been honored by 50 national and international organizations as well as the president of the United States for his community and charitable service.

He is one of Rotary's most popular speakers, King has addressed Rotary International conventions, assemblies, institutes, seminars, conferences and Rotary clubs in every state in the United States and some 100 countries.

As president, he led Rotary International to its greatest one-year growth record in its 97 year history, with 75,000 new members net, a global membership of 1,243,431 and 1,158 new rotary clubs in 2001-02, more than one new club every eight hours.

In the same year, Rotarians contributed the highest amount of money ever raised for the annual fund of the Rotary Foundation.



Sandpoint Rotary—Habitat for Humanity Project

There's Two Reasons Sandpoint Needs Public Restrooms

And if you're not laughing yet, then you haven't met up with the Potty Committee

The River Journal August 27, 2003

"Mom, I gotta goooo!"

There's probably not a parent alive who hasn't heard those words and who knows there is nothing that will kill a delightful afternoon out quicker than a child with a pressing bladder, and no public bathrooms.

Denise Huguenin, who owns Arby's in downtown Sandpoint, is a member of the Community Assistance League. The group wanted to do something to help support the revitalization efforts of downtown Sandpoint. "We talked about different things we could do downtown and then wondered, what's the point if you don't have a public bathroom?" That's one item not included in Sandpoint's revitalization plan. "It's tough to get a grant for bathrooms, yet they're one of those things you really need."

Denise undertook an informal survey of downtown businesses, asking if they made their bathrooms available for shoppers to use. "Several businesses allow people, even non-shoppers, to use their facilities and a couple have spent their own money to improve the bathrooms in the space they rent just for the public to use. Some businesses don't make their bathrooms available—they might be a closet room, or accessible only through the storeroom.

The Lions Club, JUD, Kiwanis and Rotary signed on to the bathroom effort, and the group began to brainstorm ways to raise money for the project.

"We figured it would take one-and-a-half to two years to raise the money," Denise explained. The plan was to locate bathrooms in the new town square, located in what was called the "bull pen" at the junction of 3rd Avenue, Oak and Main, directly across Third from Farmin Park. The new town square is under construction this summer and the group learned, "the city of Sandpoint really wants to get the whole project done this fall." So the project went into overdrive to raise money on a much faster timeline than they previously planned.

"Ryan Luttmann came up with the slogan for the shirts," Denise said, talking about the t-shirt available for sale at Arby's, Jalapenos, and Haynes Photo. "It reads: Two Reasons Sandpoint Needs a Public Restroom—Number One and Number Two." The accompanying graphic shows an outhouse and a tree. "We decided from the beginning that our number one goal was to raise this money but we were going to have fun doing it. After all, we're talking bathrooms here," Denise laughed. For \$15 anyone can purchase a conversation-piece t-shirt and help support the construction project.

To help launch the project, and to let people know what they're up to, the group designed and staffed a float in the Sandpoint Fourth of July parade—and ended up the grand champions. "We had two toilets on a trailer, Ryan was sitting on one, reading a newspaper." That same Ryan, shirt designer, also developed a marching song for the group to perform. "I don't know what you've been told . . .but number one is hard to hold," they sang. "When it comes to number two . . .public restrooms are for you."

They really are determined to have fun with this.

Continued.....

There's Two Reasons Sandpoint Needs Public Restrooms

Continued.....

The money the groups need to raise is still an undetermined amount. "Cost is always the tricky part. The city has agreed to come up with the money to pay an architect and develop some plans. And we've been told it could cost as much as \$75,000. We're hoping we can get that price down—we're not building the Taj Mahal after all. This is not going to be a really "fluffy" project, just a serviceable building." Maintaining the bathrooms is something the city has already agreed to take responsibility for. "We wouldn't take (this fundraising) project on until they'd agreed to that."

It's hard to get anything done in August, with hot weather sending people out into the lake or up in the mountains as much as possible, but with a construction date looming, the group plans to kick off some serious fundraising in September. "We'll be doing the Farmer's Market in September, and will be challenging businesses, service groups and civic groups for donations. The Bonner County Association of realtors has already donated \$500." Other ideas to raise money include a silent auction and a raffle, and "we're thinking of mobile toilets. We'll put Ryan on one and wheel him all over town. A business can pay to get him to leave."

The group is hoping that, by the time construction begins, everyone in the community will have had something to do with making the bathrooms a reality—everyone, after all, has gotta go. "Even if people just donate a dollar, that would be great," Denise explained. "Then they'll really belong to the community. This is such a positive project—finally, we have something we ALL can agree on!"



Campaign urges students to hoof it to school

Bonner County Daily Bee 2003

Sandpoint – Walk to School Day is growing in the Lake Pend Oreille School District.

The Oct. 6 event is expected to draw 1,500 participants and twice as many walking groups as it did during its first year last year. About 1,000 people walked to school last year to promote physical activity, health and safety as well as concern for the environment.

The Rotary Club is heavily involved this year with money and volunteers. Close to 60 VIPs have been invited—everyone from local government and elected officials and members of community organizations and businesses such as Bonner General Hospital and Coldwater Creek. More schools are getting involved, too.

In addition to Farmin Stidwell and Washington Elementaries, Kootenai Elementary and Sandpoint Middle School will have walking groups. Organizer Molly O'Reilly hopes Lake Pend Oreille high School and Sandpoint Charter School will participate as well.

"Studies do show that kids who walk to school have earlier social development than ones who are driven, and are better able to mentally map their route and their neighborhood," O'Reilly said.

Children used to walk to school more. About half of all 5-18-year-old students walked or bicycled to school in 1969. Recent data shows that less than 10 percent walk to school now, according to a Safe School Routes brochure O'Reilly helped design.

Now, about 20 percent of morning traffic comprises parents driving children to school. Many do so because streets are frequently unsafe for pedestrians. Walk to School Day is a catalyst to help lawmakers and parents understand the obstacles faced by children walking to school, which vary by age, O'Reilly said.

Parents don't want their children to walk down busy streets where their children are not separated from the traffic. "The worst obstacles we have are big fast roads and highways," O'Reilly said. Drivers are another important factor. If a driver hits a child at a speed of 25 mph or less, the child has an 80 percent chance of survival. At faster speeds, survival rates drop rapidly, O'Reilly said.

Children must also know the rules. Under ideal conditions—a few blocks on quiet streets—students should start walking at 8-10 years of age. "You can't expect a child under 8 to understand and obey the rules, no matter how mature they seem," O'Reilly said.



Rotary celebrates club's many achievements

Bonner County Daily Bee February 23, 2005

Sandpoint—Gov. Dirk Kempthorne has declared today as Rotary International Day as part of the world's oldest volunteer organization's centennial celebration.

Sandpoint Rotary President Ryan Luttmann is proud of the local Rotary Club's accomplishments during the past 40 years. Luttmann is planning to recognize the club's achievements today at the group's noon luncheon. "Sandpoint Rotary has attempted to leave a mark on Sandpoint, our youth and the world," he said. Luttmann cited a long list of accomplishments in and around Sandpoint. During the past few years,

Rotarians have contributed to the construction of:

- The War Memorial at Memorial Field.
- The downtown Sandpoint bathrooms
- The patio at the Sandpoint Library.
- Numerous benches in and around Sandpoint.
- The Lincoln Street connector project.
- The gazebo at Memorial Field
- CPR dummies at BGH

The organization has also donated thousands of dollars in scholarships to local students. Rotary International is second only to the US government in the amount of scholarship dollars awarded each year. The annual Rotary exchanges have sent Sandpoint students all over the world and have attracted students from many countries.

The 80-plus members of Sandpoint Rotary aren't resting on past accomplishments though. In April, a 20-foot metal clock tower will be erected at the east side of Farmin Park.

Constructed by Rimar Construction, the \$25,000 clock tower is a project Luttmann feels will be a unique centerpiece to the Town Square.

Luttmann is also proud of a partnership he has established with Bonner General Hospital as part of his President's Project this year. The club has agreed to help purchase baby monitors, build shelves, paint walls and help spruce up the birthing rooms and waiting rooms at BGH.

Luttmann also would like to help Ponderay start a Rotary breakfast club. He's working on the paper work to get the club started as soon as there is enough interest.

"It would be great to get Ponderay's club started this year," he said. "The club would be a Rotary Centennial Year Club and all of the original members would be Centennial members."



Rotary celebrates club's many achievements

Bonner County Daily Bee February 23, 2005



Sandpoint Rotary Club Invests in Professional Technical Education

The Cog . . . in gear Sandpoint Rotary Newsletter

June 15, 2005

The Sandpoint Rotary Club's Professional Technical Education Grant Committee is investing \$3,000 to support individual teacher grant proposals for the 2005-2006 school year. This year's grant recipients are Kathy Holm, Erin Daniels and Chris Rinehart, whose proposals best focused on innovative, challenging, projects that raise student achievement.

The largest award is \$2,000 for the Health Occupations Students of American (HOSA) at SHS, to support student travel to the national competition. The rigorous HOSA academic competitions focus on aspects of the health industry. Students must earn a first, second or third place in state competitions to qualify for the National HOSA competition or hold a leadership position in the local HOSA chapter. More than 4,000 students compete at the National level.

For the past four years, Sandpoint High students have qualified for nationals, each year increasing the number of qualifying students. This competition is considered by the rotary subcommittee to be a "once in a lifetime" opportunity for these students. On June 21st twelve students will travel to Nashville, Tennessee to compete. Travel funds come from local businesses, various fundraisers and parental support. This grant will assist with the costs for travel for June 2006 national HOSA competition.

The Journalism Program at SHS will receive \$500 to assist with a \$2,000 upgrade for the current Macintosh operating system to the new "Tiger" version.

The Journalism Program produces the school's award winning *Cedar Post* eighth best among hundreds of entries at the national journalism conference in Atlanta this school year.

Upgrading the software will allow the students to use industry standard software as well as allow the newspaper lab to "include better organizational capabilities, better performance on all our machines, and an opportunity for students to learn about automating routine tasks with the programs automation features . . . and improve security."

Chris Rinehart, Technology Education Instructor at Clark Fork High School will receive \$500 to purchase robotic components so that students can build small robots. "An understanding of robotics is an essential component of technology literacy . . . With this new equipment students will be able to build robots capable of performing a wide variety of tasks, including surveillance, graphic design, milling, guidance, deployment, combat, navigation, communication and more." With each technological advance it becomes imperative that students have the opportunity to learn how to manipulate current technology, which integrates science and math.

The Sandpoint Rotary Club is pleased to make an investment in education that will benefit many students over a period of years through these grant funds. The decisions are always difficult to make since each proposal is well developed and directly benefits students.

Downtown clock tower is taking shape

Bonner County Daily Bee April 19, 2005

Sandpoint – Everything ticked into place as the “clock tower” — a special gift from the Sandpoint rotary Club to the city of Sandpoint—was topped off early Monday at the town square.

In celebration of the city’s centennial, the Sandpoint Rotary Club voted to present the city with the clock tower. The project also celebrates 100 years of Rotary International.

“Rotary was founded in 1905 and this is the 100-year celebration,” said Sandpoint Rotary President Ryan Luttmann. “We wanted to build a clock as a testament—as a symbol that rotary withstood the test of time. We thought it was an appropriate centennial year project.”

The 8,600-pound tower, which arrived in three very large and very heavy pieces, sits on a 10-foot by 10.5-foot solid concrete foundation that drops into a three-foot pit under ground and is balanced with engineer fill and a concrete cap. The tower is 20 feet, 6 inches high.

The face of the clock itself, which is expected to arrive in about four weeks, will measure 35 inches. The electric clock is run by a controller costing \$1,400. Rotary officials estimate the total cost of the clock tower is about \$25,000. “We have space, however, for two more clocks on the tower,” said Ivan Rimar who housed the pieces at his place of business until its erection. Funds are being sought for the addition of two additional clocks, which are estimated at \$1,700 each. Soon after the clock arrives, a dedication ceremony is planned.

The clock tower is a project funded through various community fund-raisers through Rotary. Donations came from Crane Construction, Chris Contrello who took on the competed welding of the project.

The entire clock was build in the Fabrication Shop at Rimar Construction, Interstate Concrete and Asphalt gave Rotary a good price on concrete, the city of Sandpoint hauled off “spoils”—or the dirt removed from the three foot hole that was dug for the clock tower, and the Paint Bucket donated the exterior paint.

“That was a lot of paint,” Luttmann said.

Just more than \$3,700 was donated to a public art project by the Sandpoint Arts Commission in memory of the late Bob Lindemann—a Rotarian and lover of the arts. It would be the first public art project of the SAC, and the first art project in conjunction with the clock tower.

“Bob was very involved in the arts and very involved in Rotary.” Luttmann said.

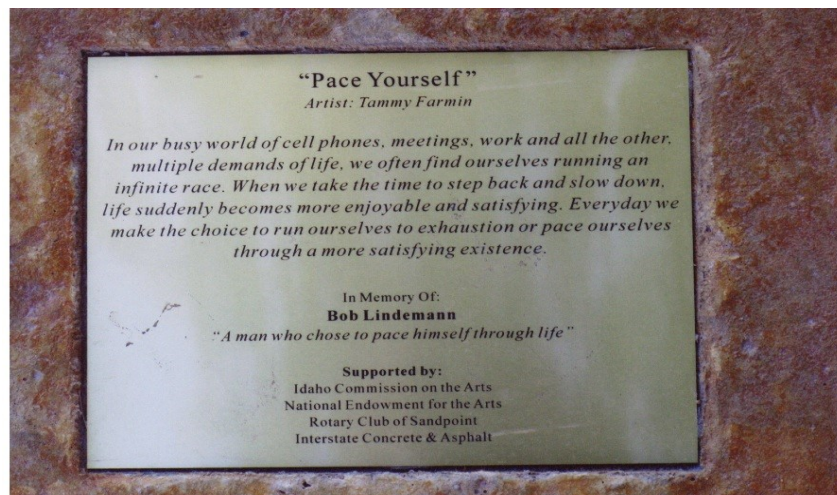
To raise additional funds for the clock tower, Rotary is currently selling raffle tickets for a seven-day round trip cruise for two to the Inland Passage. The winner will be drawn on May 4.

Tickets can be purchased from any Rotarian.



Downtown clock tower is taking shape

Bonner County Daily Bee April 19, 2005





Farmin Park Sidewalks



Rotarian visits India on goodwill mission

Bonner County Daily Bee January 29, 2006

Sandpoint—Sandpoint Rotarian Angela Potts recently returned from India where she participated in a Rotary Friendship Exchange—an international program that provides an opportunity to experience various cultures by living with Rotarians in countries abroad.

The program focuses on fostering international understanding and peace through these Rotarians who cross borders.

Angela was one of a group of seven—six Canadians and three Americans who made the three-week trip. [sic]

“What happens is that our Rotary clubs becomes aware of a need, and adopts a project relating to that need,” she said. “And then we ask other Rotaries to ‘partner’ with us on that project.”

She stayed in the homes of eight different families, and was given a grand tour of the country’s culture.

Every day, she was a part of their life—watching them work and play and worship each day.

“Each family has a worship room that is set up with their idols. They believe in more than 6,000 idols.” She said. “And they are a highly superstitious people. They are so into karma.”

In the mornings the siren sounds and the chanting begins. It’s their “temple time” that begins around five or six o’clock depending on whether they are in a village or a city.

“Here in the states we tend to hide our faith because we want to be politically correct,” she said. “But there, in India, they are very visible with their faith. As a people I would say they are very tribal and have this huge community commitment. It’s part of their nature.”

The country recognizes 15 languages and wherever this group of Rotarians went, they heard an ancient language spoken. The children of India are taught at least two foreign languages including English.

Angela witnessed the colorful clothing worn by the women. She watched children wear uniforms to school where they were taught academic subjects between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. each day.

“Going to school is an honor there—a privilege.” Angela said. “They are also into classical dance, music and their chanting.”

Angela walked to a small holy city on the Ganges River with her host family. The “holy river” is a place where when one dies their bones would be placed there within 15 days. A lot must happen within those days.

“These people cremate their dead and it takes three days, but it doesn’t turn the bones into ash. So they pull out the bones which leaves 12 days to get to the river. During those 12 days they treat the bones as if they are still alive because the person hasn’t come to rest yet. So the bones come to breakfast with them, the bones go to bed and the bones get woken up each day. The bones go wherever the family goes.

Once the bones are put to rest in the river, a celebration takes place.

“It was right at sunrise and these people are submerging themselves in the water, drinking the water and giving offerings of the water,” she said.

It was of little concern to the people that the water had 1.5 million parts of fecal coliform.

“The safe number is 500 or less,” Angela said. “But this is all rooted into their superstition. These are a very superstitious people.”

Although they are aware and educated about health issues, the people of India are driven by their rituals and superstitions, which take precedence in their lives. They believe that the gods will protect them, although there is a lot of sickness.

“But they don’t see it that way. Their lives are based on karma or something else.”

Angela’s host families lived mostly in Mediterranean-style homes—two stories high with either granite, or marble floors and walls. They were considered middle-class dwellings. Some of the country’s people live in train stations or under tree.

Continued.....

Rotarian visits India on goodwill mission — *Continued.....*

“One woman lives under a particular tree. The tree is her ‘spot’ and she had a bag containing everything she owned. She’s lived that way for years,” Angela said. “These people aren’t fighting this. This is the way they chose to live.”

“Also the people were not yet on a scale of cleanliness as we are. There was litter everywhere. You have the holy cows walking around and they go through the litter eating the paper and cardboard. The dogs go in and pick through the litter, and so do the goats and sometimes, wild pigs. They scavenge it. And then what is left are the plastic bottles and things like that.”

From the one hotel room that the visiting Rotarians stayed in during their visit, they could see that the garbage from the hotel was simply thrown out the back window. On beautiful waterways one would view spectacular scenery and abundant wildlife marred only by the litter of a multitude of plastic bottles.

“There was litter everywhere but the people don’t understand the significance of it,” Angela said.

“It takes a lot of reconditioning to change things — and there is a group of individuals now who are taking on the litter problem as a major project. Generally speaking, Rotary doesn’t get involved in issues of government or religion.”

Nearly 30 years ago, one of the Rotarian projects was working in a medical camp where apparently about one-third of the world’s blind population was discovered to be in India. The blindness was mostly due to cataracts. With funding from the government, Rotary, Lions Club and other sources, cataract surgeries were performed, and today the country shares a state-of-the art eye institute now recognized internationally which performs thousands of cataract surgeries each week.

“There is that much demand,” Angela said. “Normally the surgery is an outpatient procedure, but there they have the pre-screening, transportation from the village, the pre-op stay, the surgery, post-op and transportation back. All of that can be done for only \$30. So if anyone wants to give the gift of sight, they can visit Website: giftofvision.org.”

The vision project is one of many performed in India by the rotary Club. One of the most recent projects was the construction of a crematorium in the town of Tirapur just over two years ago. Typically, to cremate a body, which is an important ritual in the country, would cost more than \$200 if the process was done with sandalwood.

“Which is the way they prefer to do it,” Angela said. “It has to do with their belief about reincarnation and things like that. But a lot of these families can’t afford that, so the bodies would be wrapped up and end up on the street.”

With the building of a new crematorium, villagers can now cremate loved ones for only \$20 which includes the necessary ceremonial rites. Since the construction of the crematorium, more than 7,000 bodies have undergone the process.

“The Hindu are such a gracious people,” Angela said. “They do everything graciously. They are so generous — not only with their time, but with everything. They share materially, spiritually and emotionally. They are an old civilization and don’t look at people or other countries from the perspective of wealth and resources, but instead they are about relationships, peace and karma. We think the Western culture is so advanced, but I’ve learned that in a sense we’ve lost so much touch with what’s important.

Rotary members combine forces to help food bank

Bonner County Daily Bee Sunday, December 24, 2006

Sandpoint – When an individual joins Rotary, he or she learns that what cannot be accomplished by one person can be conquered by a group.

Recently, the Sandpoint and Ponderay Rotary chapters put that discovery into play by working together for the first time on a project –this one to assist Bonner Community Food Bank.

Each rotary chapter agreed to contribute \$1,000 and rotary District 5080 agreed to match the donation with a \$2,000 grant.

The money will be used to buy food, said food bank manager Alice Wallace.

Rotary District 5080, which covers Washington, Idaho and British Columbia, also stipulated that both clubs have to volunteer at the food bank throughout the next year.

Although about 3,000 people throughout Bonner County are served by the organization each month, it receives about \$18,000 less a year in FEMA money because the area's unemployment rate is low. This year that amounted to about \$13,000. Wallace expects that amount to be reduced even more next year.

Unfortunately, she added FEMA does not take into account those people who are no longer eligible for unemployment benefits or the county's poverty rate.

The food bank also needs another \$1,000 to purchase a forklift to unload food from semi truck shipments delivered several times a month by Litehouse Foods. The company picks up food from the Spokane Food Bank and delivers it to Sandpoint where volunteers and employees unload the boxes by hand, Wallace added.

Demand for food typically increases during the winter months when seasonal jobs come to an end, and utilities are more costly.

The food bank also is an official Salvation Army location and assists people by providing winter clothing, diapers, energy assistance and help with buying automobile fuel.

The Market Children of Tegucigalpa

Mickey Poppino was part of a team that went to Tegucigalpa, Honduras to participate in the Market Children program. He has also spear-headed a continuing campaign to sponsor these children's educations.

The Market Children Program is an effort to educate those who cannot afford it. Many children stay in the market place to help earn money because their families cannot afford to send the children to school. The cost to send one child to school is \$80.00 US. This covers their uniforms, books and fees. Many Sandpoint members have been sponsoring one or more children for several years. The club is now the proud sponsor of 31 additional children. The money raised in our club will be sent to Ron and Elaine Ross in Canada so it may be matched by government money.

We raised a lot of money for the Market Children program on Jan. 3rd, enough for about 35 children or so. This team will also be working on the mobile library van to get books out into the neighborhood.