



Sketch for 10th Anniversary Party 9/21/96

Rotary Club will donate \$25,000

SIMI VALLEY — The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise plans to donate \$25,000 to 18 local charitable organizations and community groups during a meeting today.

The money will be distributed to the American Cancer Society, Association for Retarded Citizens, Boy Scouts of America, Boys & Girls Club, Care and Share, Direct Relief International, Simi Valley Police Explorer scouts, Free Clinic of Simi Valley, Multiple Sclerosis, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, The Salvation Army, Simi Valley Police Reserves, Simi Valley Council on Aging, Simi Valley Education Foundation, Simi Valley Vikings, Special Awareness Computer Center, Ventura County 4H, and Simi Valley YMCA.

The Rotary Club consists of 60 local business and civic leaders.

— Daily News

Rotary gives \$2,000 for Finn derby

SIMI VALLEY: Park officials say the money will be used to stock fish in lagoon.

From staff reports

The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise has donated \$2,000 to the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District to help fund the district's Huck Finn Fishing Derby.

"The park board is pleased to accept this generous donation from the Simi Sunrise Rotary Club because the money helps with the operation of a very popular, youth program," said park board Chairman James L. Meredith.

"The donation is especially helpful this year in light of today's

tight budget constraints."

The announcement of the donation was made during the club's annual community giving ceremony on Thursday.

This year's Huck Finn Fishing Derby was held May 14 at the lagoon in Rancho Simi Community Park.

The derby attracted an estimated 800 young anglers along with their parents.

It is open to boys and girls ages 14 years and younger.

Dozens of community volunteers supported the derby this year with financial donations, contributions of awards and other prizes and help with running the fishing event.

Park officials said the Rotary Club donation will be used to stock fish in the lagoon.



PAUL ERICKSON & HERSCHEL BERGER
REVERTING TO CHILDHOOD ACTIVITIES
AT CLUB ANNUAL FAMILY
PICNIC

GOURMET ASIAN
MEAL
SEPTEMBER 1995



KATHY SMITH CAROL SHRAGO ELLEN WIEBEN FIRST LADY ELLEN



DOUG WIEBEN



KATHY & STEVE SMITH



ROBIN & DON WEBER



MARSHALL SHRAGO HENRI SHRAGO



B.J. ANDERSON & SPECIAL INGREDIENTS

Chili Cook-Off,
Car Show, &
Craft Show

Simi Valley Star

C2 ■ 8-6-95

AROUND THE COUNTY

SIMI VALLEY

Chili cookoff/car show

The ninth annual Chili Cookoff/Car Show/Crafts Fair is set for Sept. 9 at the Simi Valley Drive-in Theater and Swap Meet on Tierra Rejada Road.

This year's event will include chili cookoff, classic cars and motorcycles, craft fair, the Rick Tucker Band, Cross Country Band, line dance lessons, pony rides, petting zoo and Moon Bounce.

Gates will open at 11 a.m. Adult admission is \$3 with children under 12 admitted free.

Chili cooks, car/motorcycle owners and craft vendors are invited to participate.

All amateur chili cooks are encouraged to participate in this non-International Chili Society event. Prizes include: Best of Cookoff, \$250 plus trophy; 1. Best Individual, \$100 plus trophy; 2. Best Service Club, \$100 plus trophy; 3. Best Restaurant, \$100 plus trophy.

In each of the three categories, second and third place will receive trophies. No entry fee for chili cooks, but all entrants must agree to provide a minimum of five gallons of chili. Pre-register for \$5 by Sept. 1; \$8 after.

Trophies will be awarded in the following categories in the car show: 1934 and older; 1935-1945; 1946-1957; 1958-newer, race cars and special interest motorcycles; Vintage (pre-1947); classic (1948-1969); custom (all years) and competition (all years and makes).

For more information, call 522-0491, 527-2272, 526-6060 or 522-6020. All profits generated from this event will go to a variety of charitable causes.

Checking out the chili

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Krista Chong, right, and Georgia Trumble of First Interstate Bank show off their chili Saturday in front of their teller booth at the Simi Valley Days chili cook-off.

Cook-off delights palates in Simi Valley

By Enrique Rivera
Daily News Staff Writer

SIMI VALLEY — It didn't take long for Simi Valley resident Shelli Blevins and her friend from Northridge to sample the tasty chili recipes entered in this year's Simi Valley Days Chili Cookoff, Car Show, and Crafts Fair.

Walking around Saturday's event at the Simi Valley Drive-in with small cups full of the stuff, the pair admitted they had already sampled about a half-dozen or so of the 22 entries.

"We've only been here about 10 minutes, too," Blevins said.

Up to 4,000 visitors were expected to turn up for the ninth-annual event,

which is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise and is part of the three-week Simi Valley Days festivities, said Michelle Foster, the chairwoman of the event.

In addition to the chili cook-off entries, there were about 50 vendors at this year's event, compared with 12 cooks and 40 vendors last year. There

were about 51 cars competing for prizes this year, she said.

"We have more cooks, more vendors, and more cars," Foster said. "If we have more attendance to go with that, we're looking at our best attendance ever."

See COOK-OFF / Page 3

CHILI: Wins award

Continued from A1

The group raised \$9,000 last year, which it donated to a variety of area charities.

Other winners included the Simi Valley Kiwanis Club, whose chili was judged overall best of show, and best among service organizations by the judges and people; Hometown Buffet, best restaurant chili by the judges; and Maverick's Restaurant, best restaurant chili by the people.

Mirage Hair Design came in second in the individual amateur category among judges, but was the first choice of the crowd.

"We're thrilled we got the people's choice this year," said spokeswoman Lillian Tedesco.

Some contestants were eager to share their recipes.

Susan Jeffers of Parents Without Partners confessed she added some burgundy to her group's mix. Raymond Klimusko of Simi Valley stressed the importance of using fresh-caught fish in his tuna chili.

Others were more reticent.

"It's my grandfather's recipe," said Christa Grandpre of Thousand Oaks. "It has one secret ingredient, and I can't give that away."

Over at the car show, also held at the Simi Valley Drive-In theater, visitors got a chance to check out 59 antique and custom cars.

"They've got a lot of nice little rods in here," said Phil Santos of Simi Valley.

One car drawing a lot of attention was a 1957 Ford Fairlane 500, a hardtop convertible whose roof folds into its trunk.

"It's my baby," said owner Rick DiCesare of Thousand Oaks.

"There are less than 1,000 left in the world. I found it in a barn in Simi Valley where it was sitting for 15 years. It took six years to restore."

Chili cook-off fires up Simi Valley Days

COOK-OFF / From Page 1

The list of cook-off and car show winners was not available Saturday. The event is intended as a fundraiser for various charitable organizations, with last year's event raising about \$9,000, Foster said.

She couldn't tell which of the three aspects of the event — the chili, the cars, or the crafts — was the most popular with visitors.

But she could say how the three work together.

"The chili is what brings people and the crafts and cars keep them here longer because there's more to do," Foster said.

The entrants, which included company and organizational teams as well as private teams consisting of friends, came up with a variety of recipes — some concocted in a matter of hours over a glass of champagne and others invented years ago.

Beyond the recipes, there were enough gimmicks to keep visitors happily intrigued during the day-long event, with booths ranging from straw huts with "Rhino's Breath Chili" in bold letters across the top to stands done up to resemble bank counters.

Ventura resident Dave Jones said he came up with his Rhino's Breath recipe about four years ago when he worked in a restaurant.

The name he gave his dish has nothing to do with the meat he uses, he said.

It's just that over the years, everything he's done he somehow associates with rhinos.

"In high school I had a big truck and I called it the Great White Rhino and the name stuck," Jones said.

This was his first time entering the cook-off. He didn't know how many people had sampled his chili — he only knew that he had gone through about 10 gallons of it within two hours.



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Having best chili surprises the chef

SIMI VALLEY DAYS:
Cookoff, crafts and cars draw thousands.

By Neil Hartstein
Staff writer

It doesn't sound like something you'd want your senses near, but "Rhino's Breath" won the amateur division Saturday at Simi Valley Days' ninth annual chili cookoff.

"It's great," said Dave Jones, of Ventura, whose "Rhino's Breath" chili concoction was tops among 11 individual entries in a blind-taste test by judges, and came in second in a vote of

the people who stopped by for a sample.

"I didn't come here to win anything," Jones said, noting this was his first-ever chili contest. "It's the same kind of a pot of chili I've been making for a long time. My friends like it, and my fiancée said I needed to enter it."

More than 3,000 people attended the combination chili cookoff, car show and crafts fair, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise.

"The weather's been great and we're having a great time," said event chairwoman Michelle Foster. "Hopefully we're raising a lot of money for the community."

Please see CHILI on A6



Staff photo by Chuck Kirman

BIG SCOOP: Bob Gross serves chili at the Simi Valley Kiwanis Club booth at Simi Valley Days on Saturday.



B.J. ANDERSON
CONF.
CHAIR.
1995



PANDA-PAWLS # Simi Sunrise Kids





SIMI SUNRISER NEWS

Issue 19 Published by the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise November 2, 1995

Rotary District 5240 Conference Huge Success Simi Sunrise Rotarians Play Major Role

ANAHEIM -- Over 400 District 5240 Rotarians attended the District Conference held October 27 - 29, 1995, at the Pan Pacific Hotel adjacent to Disneyland. The three-day conference offered a wide variety of activities and information for the attendees.

A golf tournament on Friday kicked off the conference and the first session was held Friday afternoon with a welcome from District Governor Jack MacKenzie. The speaker for that session was A Ray Kneegs Sr. PDG, representing R.I. President Herb Brown.

A Rotary "Expo" was set up in one of the hotel rooms which featured displays from over 40 Rotary clubs about their projects and their fundraisers. The chairman for this event was our own President Dick Strayer who cajoled, wheedled and pestered the District club presidents into coming up with some very interesting and informative displays of their work.

A Gala Welcome Reception was held Friday evening which featured a variety of foods from around the world. We were entertained by the Casmalia Trio who performed 50s and 60s popular music.

Saturday morning, none other than our own Jim Lowry presided over the Plenary Session. With the bagpipes playing "Scotland the Brave" Jim kicked off the session with his usual energy, wit and flair. He introduced District Governor Jack MacKenzie who appeared wearing a blue bathrobe (Jack lost a bet), who then welcomed all of us and provided an overview of the conference.

Rupert Scofield talked about the concept of "Rotary Village Banking," a very exciting program which is effective in helping impoverished people all over the world.

Delores Burgess told us about the "Inner Wheel" which is an organization comprised of spouses of Rotarians and that provides both social and service opportunities for its members.

Dr. Duane Blum told us about the search for a valley fever vaccine. This is a disease which is found in the Southwestern U.S. and, as an example, affected a number of persons in Simi Valley and the San Fernando Valley as a result of the recent earthquake. You will hear more about the Rotary Americas Valley Fever Vaccine Project.

Comedian Downy Conn discussed "Communication: Key to Success." His presentation was endemic in his forlorn approach to the worldpool of information which obfuscates humans in their borderacious attempts to communicate that the medium is the message. Our session ended at noon and we were off to Disneyland!

Sunday morning we were all awakened in our chairs as Jim Lowry shouted at the top of his voice "Hello Anaheim!" After the customary songs, invocation and flag salute Jim introduced District 5240 Governor Stephen Brown who talked about his Rotary travels throughout the world.

Our very own Bob Mitchell addressed the group regarding the importance of membership development and Rotarian Chungsam Doh provided an inspiring talk about his successes as a Korean immigrant.

DGN Darrell Johnson provided us an overview of next year's activities and DG Jock wrapped it up with an inspiring message of our involvement in Rotary and its positive effects on the world.

Your editor has attended a number of these conferences and, without a doubt, this was the best one ever. There are several people who must be acknowledged for their assistance in making the District Conference a success.

B.J. ANDERSON was the Conference Chair and she did a fabulous job pulling all the innumerable details together. As mentioned earlier, Jim Lowry was the Program/Speaker Chair and he made all of us proud with his master of ceremonies expertise. Many other members were involved as well including Dick Strayer - Expo Chair, George Berow - Print Coordinator, Craig Foster - Golf Tourney co-Chair, Michelle Foster - Children's Program Chair, Jim Agronick - Sergeant at Arms, and Other Halves Ellen Wieben - Hospitality Chair and Ken Anderson - Sergeant at Arms.

Altogether there were a total of 22 Simi Sunrise Rotarians and they included (besides the above) Doug Wieben, Dave McCormick, Paul Miller, Cynthia Wells, Cesar Zambrano, Harvey Mahler, Steve Smith, Gary White, Rick Kunz, Ed Chapin, Bonnie Kirtan, Herschel Berger, Laura Jen Kin and Cal Youel.

The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise does it again! (Oh, Yeah. I forgot Jock was there too!)

"Service Above Self!"



VARIOUS DISPLAYS BY CLUBS IN DISTRICT 5240 CHAIRED BY PRESIDENT DCK



CYNTHIA WELLS, COORDINATOR FOR THE DELAVALA CLINIC PROJECT

Some Thoughts About the Passing of a Fellow Rotarian by Paul Miller

I was home Friday morning when the telephone rang. I picked it up and Doug Wieben was on the line and wanted to know if the bulletin had been mailed yet. He told me that Steve Angel had passed away and Doug wanted to advise the club via the bulletin. Unfortunately, I had just gotten back from the post office where I had mailed the newsletter. I had spoken with Steve's wife, Phyllis, just a few days prior and she had said that it looked like Steve was making a slight improvement. Thus, I was surprised to learn that he had succumbed so quickly.

What do I remember of Steve? The first thing that comes to mind is his incredible energy and zest for whatever he was doing. "Irrepressible" is probably a good word for it. I recall that he was always quick to "jump in" whenever club events needed publicity. Through the auspices of KNJO Radio, of which he was Vice-president and General Manager, he utilized that medium to "get the word out" to the community about the Cajun Festival, the Chili Cookoff and our other activities.

And, it wasn't only our club he boosted. If the Kiwanis Club or other organizations in town had public events, he made sure that the information got out over the airwaves. He was truly a booster of the community in which he lived and he did so with zeal and enthusiasm.

Each of us is unique and our individual talents are as varied as our personalities. The great thing about Rotary is that it gives each one of us an opportunity to serve in our own special way. Steve did so in his special way. He was an outstanding communicator and he used those talents to not only further our club's goals, but to benefit the greater community as well. In fact, it seemed as if there was always a cellular phone attached to his ear.

Every member of our club has contributed in some way to the overall excellence of the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise. The success we enjoy today is a result of the members, past and present, who have given of their time, their money and their talents to further the goals of Rotary International and the goals of the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise.

We thank and acknowledge Steve for all he did. The Thursday morning meetings are going to be a little bit quieter now, because we won't hear that cellular phone ringing during the meetings anymore.

In Memory of Rotarian Steven Angel

by
Eileen Strayer

We were all saddened to learn of Steve's passing on Thursday, October 5, 1995, and many of us attended his funeral on Sunday, October 8, 1995. During the service a song was played which Phyllis had written and recorded earlier. I obtained permission to have it reprinted here in our bulletin. Due to its length, you will find it on the other side of this page. The song was sung beautifully by Phyllis. It is an experience we shall always remember. Please take a moment and read it. All of our thoughts and prayers are with Phyllis and her family during this time of sorrow.



D.G. "JOCK" MACKENZIE & B.J. ANDERSON

GREAT PEOPLE MEET TO GIVE THANKS!



NEW MEMBER
RICHARD BRUCKNER



NEW MEMBER
JOHN NIND



NEW MEMBER
JOHN SHANAHAN



PAUL HARRIS FELLOW
MICHELLE FOSTER



MAYOR STRATTON PRESENTS
CITY PROCLAMATION TO
D.G. MACKENZIE



NOVEMBER 18, 1995



"ROTARY
Day
of
THANKS"



BREAKFAST @ EGGS & THINGS : 7AM



MEMBERS KEN GUERRA
KURT FREDRICKSON
ELLEN WIEBEN



"DOC" IVAN DELMAN



"PRINTER" GEORGE BAREEN



"OKAY, THE MAIL BOX HAS TO BE HERE SOMEPLACE!"



"ADMIN" ALAN RICE

ORGANIZED THROUGHOUT DISTRICT 5240 AS
A COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT, SIMI SUNRISE
WORKED THREE LOCATIONS + THE

HEADQUARTERS
FOR CARE & SHARE!



SIMI SUNRISE
EXCELS AGAIN!



JIM SHITZMAN & PAUL MILLER



HAL RENIGER



ALAN RICE HOME OWNER MELINDA KIRCH MICHELLE FOSTER DENNIS BAREE



SONNY SANDERS



PRESIDENT DICK

MARSHALL SHRAGO



GEORGE B. Home Owner

Jim Lowrey

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL SIMI SUNRISE ROTARIANS



1995

1995







Early bird Rotarians work for community

SIMI VALLEY: Sunrise club raises funds for many organizations, projects.

By Karen Hibdon
Staff writer

Since receiving its charter nine years ago from Rotary International, the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise has been an active participant in the community, doing out thousands of dollars annually to local and international charities and becoming a high-profile club in Simi Valley.

CLUB OF THE WEEK

It's the Rotary motto "service above self" that is most reflected in the deeds of the club's members.

With a membership of 71 business and civic leaders, Simi Sunrise is part of a worldwide organization that includes more than 1 million Rotarians belonging to 27,591 clubs in 153 countries.

In a recent mid-year review,

President Dick Strayer told members the Simi Sunrise Club's accomplishments "are a true reflection of your dedication to provide service above self and to work toward international fellowship and world peace."

On the Thursday before Christmas, Simi Sunrise Rotarians played Santa, handing out \$8,350 to 18 local charitable organizations.

The checks were presented during the club's regular 7 a.m. meeting at the Posada Royale Clarion Hotel. It brought the club's total giving for the past five months to more than \$50,000 for both community and international projects.

Organizations receiving their bit of Rotary-style holiday cheer were the Boys & Girls Club of Simi Valley, Care and Share, Casa Pacifica, Caring Neighbor Program, Food Share, Interface, Model Railroad Explorer Post, Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Older Adult Services and Intervention Systems.

Also, RCLU Radio, Salvation Army, Samaritan Center, Simi Valley Police Reserves, Simi Valley

Please see ROTARIANS on B2



CROWNING TOUCH: Steve Milich ("Santa Fink") crowns Dick Strayer, president of Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, with a court jester's hat during a meeting at the Posada Royale Clarion Hotel.

ROTARIANS: Busy helping others

Continued from B1

Senior Center, St. Rose of Lima Christian Service and Toys for Tots.

The funds for Rotary's charitable giving program were generated through such club fundraisers as the Memorial Day Weekend Carin/Croole Music Festival, the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Golf Tournament, the Pars for Paws Golf Tournament and the Simi Valley Days Chili Cook-off/Car Show/Crafts Fair.

Community service remains a top priority for the club and in the past year members visited hospital patients and shut-ins on the holidays, helped pay holiday utility bills for 20 needy seniors, assisted with toy projects for needy and disabled children, provided Lifeline units for seniors, delivered Meals on Wheels to three communities on Thanksgiving Day, cleaned homes and yards for those unable to do so, helped escort developmentally disabled children to a special day in their honor at the Simi Valley Days Carnival, sponsored a Cub Scout Pack and Explorer Post and participated in Rotary Gives Thanks day by having 25 members work at four sites painting and cleaning.

The club also supports youth in a variety of ways, including inviting youths to members' businesses and providing a Career Speakers Bureau that sends members into schools to talk about their careers and businesses. Simi Sunrise gives \$4,500 scholarships to three students based on academics, and a scholarship recognizing a vocational student in the works.

The most visible symbol of the club's commitment to community will soon be completed along the Simi Valley Freeway at the valley's east end. A Welcome to Simi Valley sign should be completed soon, Strayer said.

In nine years, the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise has written its own success story. And the key to that success, Strayer said he believes, is fellowship.

"Because we have so darn much fun and enjoy working together," he said.

SIMI VALLEY CITY COUNCIL BRIEFS

SIMI VALLEY Donations received

Two Simi Valley police programs got \$5,500 richer this week.

The department's police dog program received a \$2,000 check from the Friends of Simi Valley Police Canine Program, and the DARE program got \$3,500 from the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise Sixth Annual "Hackers" Golf Tournament.

Dave McCormick, owner of Dave's Club Service towing company, presented both checks to Police Chief Randy Adams at Monday's council meeting.

Police Officer Sterling Johnson and his champion dog, Charly, accepted the \$2,000 check for the canine patrol program.

"That'll buy a lot of dog food," said Mayor Greg Stratton.

The presentation was applauded by a crowd of Simi Valley residents who had come to the meeting for a variety of reasons. Charly barked several times as the check was passed.

The DARE funds are used for stickers and prizes in the

department's anti-drug program on school campuses.

SV STARR 11-28-95

The Newsletter Is Changing and the Wine Tasting Was Great Too!

Neil Havens, Mike McGuigan, Bill Hill, Steve Sojka, Vern Simmons, and I met with Paul Miller, the Editor of the Simi Sunrise, on Tuesday, January 16th. While tasting (O.K. drinking) wonderful beer and wine, our creative juices began flowing. We discussed everything from fonts, to layout and newsletter content. The highlights are outlined below:

The group selected the font style and size included in this newsletter.

The base sheet format will be changed to 11" x 17", which will be folded in half to a regular sized sheet - just like a magazine format. It will take a few weeks to design and print these blanks, keep your eyes peeled.

We will begin including member profiles of each of our members in just a few weeks. I'll be contacting you for your specific information.

We will try to include more articles from the Rotary News basket, regarding Rotary activities of interest world wide.

We will begin including funny articles about our members' professions in upcoming issues. I'll be calling on each of you!

We can use the newsletter to communicate with guests and prospective members. If you'd like someone to receive a copy, just let me know. We'll also have a few extra copies at the sign-in desk each week.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please give me a call! The group would like to extend a special thanks to Paul Miller, from the morning club, for his patience, interest, and great input.

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Simi Valley Noontime Rotary Bulletin

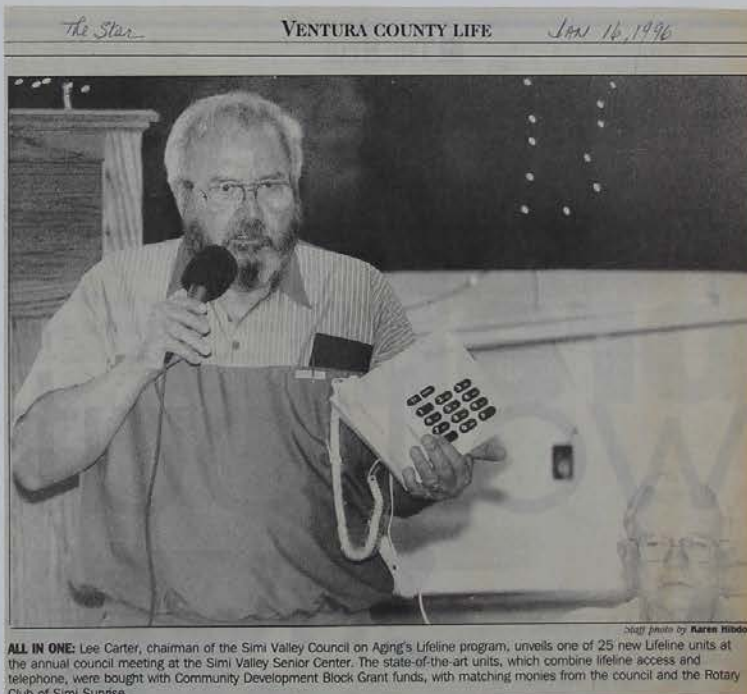
LOCAL

Sunday, Jan. 7, 1996 EC The Star



PRE-MULCH: Don Brummett, left, treasurer of the Rotary Club of Simi Valley, helps Bob Mitchell, director of the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, unload a Christmas tree Saturday to run through a chipper at Simi Valley Unified School District headquarters. The donated trees were chipped and will be used as mulch, compost and water conservation.

Staff photo by Joseph A. Garcia



ALL IN ONE: Lee Carter, chairman of the Simi Valley Council on Aging's Lifeline program, unveils one of 25 new Lifeline units at the annual council meeting at the Simi Valley Senior Center. The state-of-the-art units, which combine lifeline access and telephone, were bought with Community Development Block Grant funds, with matching monies from the council and the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise.

Staff photo by Karen Hibdon

New Lifeline unit for seniors unveiled at Aging Council meet

SIMI VALLEY: Twenty-five new machines will replace several obsolete ones.

By Karen Hibdon
Staff writer

One of 25 state-of-the-art Lifeline units that will be loaned to area seniors was unveiled Monday at the annual meeting of the Simi Valley Council on Aging.

The new units, which link participants to emergency services at

the push of a button they wear around their necks, will be added to the council's fleet of machines being used by about 90 seniors and shut-ins in Simi Valley and Moorpark. The new additions will replace several obsolete units — some of them 12 years old — currently in use.

"This is fantastic," said Lee Carter, Lifeline chairman, unwrapping a new unit Monday afternoon at the Simi Valley Senior Center. "It's a telephone and Lifeline in one and has large keys," making it easier for seniors to use.

The council-sponsored program

started in 1984 with 23 units. The new models were purchased with city Community Development Block Grant monies and matching funds from the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise and the council, said Kathryn B. Oliver, senior services coordinator.

A highlight of Monday's council meeting was the presentation of the annual Wayne Templeton Volunteer of the Year Award. The honor went to Jo Gee, who retired from Litton Industries and has volunteered at the Senior Center since 1985.

Monday's meeting also saw four

seniors voted to the Council on Aging's executive board, filling four vacancies.

New board members are Velma Swanger, current board treasurer, who will serve a second two-year term; Betty Schick, active with Simi Valley Woman's Club, Chapter 3605 of the American Association of Retired Persons; Jean Leighton, recently retired from First Interstate Bank; and Boris Palaz, retired Rockwell International aerospace engineer who recently served as president of the nearly 300 volunteers at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Li-

brary.

Council Chairman Bill Funk presented the council's annual report, noting that in the past year the council's treasury has swelled thanks to aggressive fund-raising efforts.

Those efforts have included pancake breakfasts, a fashion show, two arts and crafts fairs, special dinners and twice monthly Friday night dances.

The council ended the year with more than \$70,000 in its coffers, which will be used to support ongoing senior programs and services.

ROTARIANS IN THE:

NEWS

Q&A

Randy Adams: Simi Valley Police Chief

Works to use resources well

By Neil Hartstein
Staff writer

Randy Adams, 44, took over as Simi Valley police chief Sept. 5. He previously was assistant chief of the Ventura Police Department.

Q: Five officers accused of wrongdoing left the department last year. Four were linked to an illegal pyramid scheme, but only two were indicted. The fifth was acquitted on a charge of perjury. Did you force them out?

A: All four of those individuals chose to resign ... to put an end to an investigation being conducted ... A lot of people choose to do that prior to being terminated ... for damage control, so it does not go into their personnel file.

If you ask them they will tell you they resigned of their own free will. They were not coerced into resigning by the chief. That's not my style.

(The fifth officer) is no longer on the force. He did not resign. ... The standard of proof in an administrative action is lower than for a criminal conviction.

Q: Will you be shaking things up in the department this year? Moving supervisors around? Hiring

new managers? Coming up with a new review board for police actions, including shootings?

A: Will we be moving people around? Possibly. We wouldn't do it just to do it, but as part of a reorganization to enhance the efficiency of our resources.

I'm very satisfied with the procedures in place in the department, but am always looking for better ways to do things. ... There's an administrative review of any use of force ... and whenever there's a concern or allegation of inappropriate action.

Q: Any plans to review hiring practices? A number of Simi cops are former Los Angeles Police Department officers. It's been suggested they sometimes miss the action of urban crime and are too quick on the trigger. Two incidents last year resulted in the slaying of a police officer and wounding of a resident. What's your opinion?

A: We have hired a lot of officers with experience with other departments, and a number of them have come from the L.A. area, but it's not like having all LAPD folks.

The action those officers took in those situations was warranted. They had no other choice but to do what they did. Just because these officers worked in the LAPD, there's no analogy that they're quick on the trigger or that other officers from some other department might not do the same thing. ... It has nothing to do with where they worked. A good shooting is a good shooting.

Q: Some critics say the police are overzealous and ill-prepared to cope with mentally disturbed people in an emergency, as in the two examples cited above. Do standard police tactics still work? Do you plan any changes?

A: We handle thousands of calls involving the mentally ill on a yearly basis, and most are resolved without any problem. ... If we're able to talk to an individual, fine, but we don't always have that opportunity.

It's a Catch-22 situation. When we're at the scene, we certainly do not want it to end with a violent confrontation, but we have to protect life. If someone is suicidal, if we don't try to intervene and get aid and wait for the mental health team, they could open the door and find the person dead. What would people



say if we didn't go in and try to save them?

Q: Simi Valley is rated one of the safest cities in the country. What do you see as growing problem areas that might bring it down?

A: There's been a lot of concern over gangs and gang violence. We've tried to work proactively to address that. I think we've made a big difference with our gang sweeps. ... But the police can't do it alone. We need the help and assistance of the community. ... It makes a major difference for gang and criminal activity if people are not apathetic. They help us by being our eyes and ears.

There's concern over the influx of the criminal element from the Los Angeles area. People come here and participate in criminal activity and then go back. The criminal element has to realize that with our level of

"When we're at the scene, we certainly do not want it to end with a violent confrontation, but we have to protect life."

law enforcement, night and day ... the likelihood of being apprehended in Simi Valley is far better than in an urban area.

Q: What do you see as your role in department? Does a large part of it include lobbying council members and making public appearances?

A: I think it's a balancing act. You can't have a chief invisible to the community and have him really understand the pulse of the community and what it expects. I moved here, and am active in social clubs. It gives me a broader perspective.

It's not necessary to lobby the council. ... Their actions follow their words. They say the police department is their No. 1 priority and everything I've seen demonstrates that support. That's a primary reason why we're one of the safest communities in the nation.

The Starr 1-7-96

Simi Valley Boys & Girls Club board named

From staff reports

The Boys & Girls Club of Simi Valley toasted its 1996 award winners and announced its new board of directors at the recent Century Club Dinner at the Radisson Hotel.

Tim Shannon, past president, presented the awards to business and individuals supporting the club throughout the year.

Simi Valley Bank was named Business of the Year, while Burt von Bieherstein of Pacific Beverage received the Volunteer of the Year recognition. The President's Award was presented to Ken Anderson of Hasco Technology Inc. and the Kiwanis Club of Simi Valley received the Perpetual Friendship Award.

Long-time club supporter Jim Lowry received a special recognition award and Micom Communications was presented the 1996 Benefactor Award.

SV STAR 2-1-96

tion award and Micom Communications was presented the 1996 Benefactor Award.

Event chairmen saluted for their outstanding work on the club's largest fund-raiser of the year were: Tom Carter and Steve Smith, golf tournament; Bill Slatery, Century Club; and Sherry Keown, auction.

Humanitarian sponsor recognition went to the Kiwanis Club of Simi Valley and Micom Communications. Benefactor sponsor honors went to Pacific Beverage, Simi Valley Star, Comcast Communications, Simi Valley Bank and Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise.

The annual Youth of the Year Award went to two club members, Becky Fleishman and Justin Martinez.

New executive board officers installed are: Tom Pfeifer, presi-

dent, Simi Valley Star; Tim Shannon, past president, Farmers Insurance; Tim Patten, president-elect, Simi Valley Hospital; Dick Ballagh, vice president operations/human resource, Micom Communications; Tony Palmer, vice president finance/treasurer, Simi Valley Bank; Brian Troop, vice president fund development, Troop Real Estate; Keith Jakko, vice president marketing, Supervisor Judy Mikels office; Margie Minter, vice president board development, First Interstate Bank; Club directors installed were Ken Anderson, Dr. Otto Austel, Jack Cannady, Dick Creamer, Paul Erickson, Michelle Foster, Vicky Howard, John Jackson, Keith Mashburn, Jan Meek, Wayne Schultz, Gary Seaton, Bill Slatery and Dan Upham.

"Service Above Self" is Alive and Well in this Club

by
Jock MacKenzie

SIMI SUNRISE

Occasionally someone asks me what an ideal Rotary club does, and I'm usually not at a loss for words. There are some great things going on in our clubs. Any long-time reader of this News Letter has seen frequent examples of "Service Above Self." And anyone who has asked knows that I have words to describe marvelous projects right on the tip of my tongue, ready to spew out on demand.

But I've recently come across a remarkable document. It lists the half-year activities of just one club. Under Community Service, for example, there are twenty separate and distinct activities listed. As you might expect, many of them are the result of check-writing from a club which raises more money per member than any other club in the District. But seven activities required the use of club members' personal time and effort.

Eight projects are listed under International Service, most involving purely financial involvement, but three requiring personal time and effort. There are six Vocational programs. Membership is way up. Attendance is up. Foundation donations are up. Programs are better. The bulletin is arguably one of the best in the District for this or any other year.

I suppose it's possible for a club to be better than the one whose activities I've cited - to be more committed to doing well with each of its avenues of service. But I have a hard time thinking of the effort it would take. Not all of this club's members are rich, nor are they all corporate presidents, nor all white, nor all male, nor all college graduates, nor all physically fit. That's what they aren't. What they ARE are compassionate humans who see the value of Rotary ideals and are burning

rubber to take them to others. There have been Popes, saints, royal families, politicians and public icons who have done less - a lot less. The members of this club have determined what's important about their Rotary affiliation, and they've decided to honor the promises they made when they joined their club.

Have ALL the club's members gone down this road? Not at all; there are always the ten percent that don't get the word. Do they ALL work on EVERY project? Not in this lifetime; that's not the case in any club I know of. What this club's president told each of his members, though, represents club goals and the achievement of gutsy, honest people who have gone well beyond the Rotary norm. He wrote, "Congratulations. You have accomplished more in six months than most clubs do in a year. The number of accomplishments is a true reflection of your dedication to provide service above self and to work towards international fellowship and World peace."

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF SIMI VALLEY

1996 Century Club Dinner
"A Dream Come True"

A Banquet to Honor Those To Whom We Owe So Much

Our Corporate Sponsors:
Kiwanis Club of Simi Valley
Micom Communications Corp.
Pacific Beverage Co.
Simi Valley Star
Comcast Cablevision
Simi Valley Bank
Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise

Other Awards to be Presented:
President's Award
Volunteer of the Year
Event Chairs
Business of the Year
Benefactor Award
Perpetual Friendship Award
Special Recognition Award
Youth of the Year

Saturday, Jan. 20, 1996
Radisson Hotel
Call 527-4437 for information

Published courtesy of **SIMI VALLEY STAR** ID. No. 95-2811018



Photo by Jeff Earle

LITTLE CHARMER: Kristi Fredrickson affectionately holds Dennis Valle Rivera, 3, before he returns to Honduras. The Fredricksons served as the boy's foster family while he underwent surgery to repair heart defects.

Blue baby in the pink after surgery

By Karen Hibdon
Staff writer

Now he's a charmer, full of energy and able to wrap grown men and women around his tiny finger.

But when Dennis Valle Rivera traveled from Honduras seven weeks ago to live with a Simi Valley family before undergoing open heart surgery, he was a blue baby with little energy. Then the Rev. Kurt and Kristi Fredrickson and their two teen-age children let him into their home and hearts.

"He's got everybody in the family wrapped around that little finger of his," Kurt Fredrickson said. "Having him here has taught all of us a lot about life and what's important."

Dennis, 3, is one of thousands of children who has been helped by Healing the Children, a nonprofit

organization that brings life-saving medical treatment to youngsters who cannot get it in their own countries. He is the first child in the program to live with a Ventura County family.

Heal the Children relies on families like the Fredricksons to make the program work, telling them, "We bring the kids in, fix their hearts and then break yours."

"We ask the families to give their all to these children and then they have to give them up forever," said Kris Embleton, Healing the Children founder. "It's very difficult to let go."

That's something the Fredricksons will have to face later this week when a healthy Dennis heads home to his Central American family.

Born with a life-threatening heart defect called Fallot's tetralogy, Dennis came to Simi Valley Dec. 10.

"He had blue lips and the pads of

his nails were blue. His hands were always cold, but he was a normal, active kid who just tired easily," Kurt Fredrickson recalled.

After undergoing surgery Jan. 2 at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles to correct the four abnormalities in his heart, Dennis is in the pink. Aside from announcing "no mas owies" when he goes to the doctor or when he sees a big building like the Cedars Sinai hospital, he shows no signs of illness.

He proudly lifts his shirt to show off the long, surgical scar on his chest. He has gained 5 pounds and he throws his weight around with a grin, using a crook of his finger and a whisper-soft voice to issue childish commands to sit, throw the ball and "no bow-tye."

Fredrickson, pastor of Santa Covadonga Church, and his wife, Kristi,

Please see **OPERATION on A5**

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

JANUARY 29, 1996

Death's experience brings life to kids

By Karen Hibdon
Staff writer

Cris Embleton knows the heartache of seeing a child die. She also knows the joy of seeing a child with a life-threatening condition given a future.

Founder of Healing the Children, a nonprofit organization providing medical services to children in more than 60 countries around the world, Embleton was recently in Simi Valley to visit Dennis Valle Rivera, a 3-year-old from Honduras who underwent open heart surgery Jan. 2.

He's been staying with Simi Valley residents Kurt and Kristi Fredrickson and is scheduled to go home later this week.

Healing the Children arranges transportation, foster homes, medical care, surgery and supplies for children who need treatment. In

addition, teams of medical professionals and volunteers provide care for children in their homelands.

A team headed up by a Southland cardiologist and surgeon leaves Feb. 24 for El Salvador, where more than over 4,000 children are waiting, Embleton said.

She and her husband, Gary, started Healing the Children in 1979, in Spokane, Wash., after Lori Jo, a young Korean girl they adopted, died shortly after arrival in the United States. Her death resulted from a simple car condition that should have been treated in infancy but wasn't because the medical care was not available, Embleton said.

The couple's first project helped a child from Guatemala who needed heart surgery, which they arranged at Children's Hospital in

Seattle. Since then Healing the Children has grown into 13 chapters throughout the country, all run by volunteers and under a national umbrella organization. When the Embletons moved to Valencia, they started the California chapter.

Transportation for the children to this country is arranged through American Miles for Kids, with frequent flier miles donated to the program. Off-duty airlines personnel are enlisted as child escorts because they can fly for free.

Foster families are desperately needed for the program that relies on donations of time, talent and supplies.

"We couldn't operate without that kind of help," Embleton said. "Our work doesn't take money to accomplish. It's nice, but we don't wait around for it."

For information, call 288-1957.



Photo by Jeff Earle

LITTLE LIVE WIRE: Dennis Valle Rivera, 3, of Honduras displays a lot of energy after undergoing heart surgery. The Fredrickson family, from left, Kristi, Lindsey, Daniel and Kurt enjoy his antics in their Simi Valley home.

OPERATION: Honduran child lives with Simi couple during treatment

Continued from A1

a marriage, family and child counselor in private practice, say Dennis has taken over their household. The couple's two teen-age children—Lindsay, 14, and Daniel, 12—and even the neighbors have fallen under his spell.

Lindsay and Daniel complain with a grin about having to baby-sit and put up with Dennis' demands. "He's always my baby, though," Lindsay announces.

Daniel plays endless games of ball with his "little brother."

Healing the Children success stories are abundant, Embleton said, thanks to the volunteer families and medical professionals who provide life-saving treatment. Ranging from infants to young adults, many of the patients have cardiac ailments while others have orthopedic problems, need burn treatments or corrective surgeries for a variety of disabilities.

More than 3,192 foreign youngsters from 60 countries, as well as 1,107 American children have been helped since Healing the Children began. In 1982, the program expanded to send teams of medical personnel to other countries, reaching an additional 27,475 youngsters, Embleton said.

Officials said the program is run on a shoestring, relying on donations of supplies and the services of medical professionals.

In the Southland, Shriners Hospital and Cedars-Sinai provide the surgical facilities for small fees that are usually covered by donations, Embleton said. In the past, two youngsters underwent surgery at Los Robles Regional Medical Center in Thousand Oaks.

The hospital's costs for Dennis' surgery were underwritten by Debbie and Graham Luck, a Santa Clarita couple whose only son was killed by a drunken driver.

Doctors performed the surgery for free.

Being uprooted from his parents and two sisters in December was nothing new for Dennis, who had spent most of his life in hospitals recovering from respiratory ailments resulting from his heart condition. A Rotary Club in Honduras sponsored his journey a year ago to Mexico City to have a shunt put into his heart so he could get enough oxygen in his blood to keep him alive.

At that time, Healing the Children's outreach didn't stretch to Honduras, but Dennis' mother's fight for her child always stuck in Embleton's mind. When the Lucks offered to sponsor a child's hospital stay, she remembered Dennis, was able to track down his family and arrange for the surgery and family stay.

It was Embleton, too, who picked Dennis up and escorted him and two Guatemalan

children here via plane for medical procedures.

The Fredricksons met the entourage at LAX and then brought Dennis home.

"When he first got here he would look out the window and call 'Mommy, Poppy' and sob," Kristi Fredrickson said. Now Dennis uses the terms of endearment with her and her husband.

The couple plans to be available for another child when their young charge returns to Honduras, but are dreading the inevitable goodbyes soon to come.

Dennis will leave with a strong heart, but with fragments of broken hearts in tow.

"To think this guy did not have a chance at living and now has his whole life ahead of him," is amazing, Kurt Fredrickson said. "And maybe we played just a little part."

If anyone wants some tips on what it takes to MOVE a club in this direction, talk to anyone at all from Simi Sunrise, Dick Strayer, the Club President, closed his summation of the club's activities by writing, "You are to be congratulated on a top notch club, and I am extremely pleased to be associated with you. Thank you very much."
Ditto.



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Rotary International

DISTRICT 5240 NEWS





THE SUPER CLUB (Midyear Review)

by
Dick Strayer, President
Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise



Congratulations, You have accomplished more in six months than most clubs do in a year. The number of accomplishments is a true reflection of your dedication to provide *service above self* and to work towards international fellowship and World peace. The following list is an example of what teamwork can accomplish. I apologize for the listing without much description. To fully document all of the accomplishments would constitute a book!

Community Service

Many of the activities are ongoing and overlap periods. Many activities are not listed as they are in process and will be accomplished during the second half of the year. The following is a sample of what you have been able to accomplish in six short months:

Lending a Hand is a project where eleven members worked for a day cleaning a cluttered, overgrown yard for a handicapped senior citizen. This program has also been called **Christmas in April** but actually occurred in October.

Mentally Retarded Youths were tended by some members and entertained at the carnival during Simi Valley Days.

Meals On Wheels were delivered in three different communities on Thanksgiving day.

Care and Share was resupplied several times with food and supplies. In addition, not only did the club donate cash, some fifty members donated \$20 each.

Rotary Gives Thanks found 25 members working at four sites painting and cleaning.

Lifeline Units for senior citizens continued to be supplied by Simi Sunrise.

Welcome to Simi signs were placed at all freeway off ramps in conjunction with the City.

An Ecological Campsite for youth was investigated with the Simi Valley Parks and Recreation, Dr. O's and the noontime Rotary Club. This project continues under study.

Cub Scout Pack 3617 is again being supported by Simi Sunrise.

Explorer Scouts Post 2651 is also receiving ongoing support.

Simi Valley Days was supported by Pancake Breakfast, Del Taco and Mavericks fund raisers.

Simi Valley K-9 funds were also generated through fund raisers and merchandise sales.

Seniors-Visit A Friend is where members visit shut-ins and hospital patients on Christmas Day.

Simi Valley Council on Aging was presented with new furniture totaling over \$13,000 through a matching grant and a Block Grant.

Meals For Seniors are Christmas dinners delivered by members to shut-ins.

Holiday Utility Bills of \$50 paid for twenty needy senior citizens.

Chipping Christmas Trees program is underway and will be accomplished using the previously donated \$15,000 chipper to Simi Valley Unified School District.

Disadvantaged Children were provided toys by individual members. The toys were distributed to 47 youths through the Boys and Girls Club.

Christmas Toys consisting of Barbie Dolls and Hot wheels worth about \$2,000 were distributed district-wide to needy and disabled children.

Cash Donations of approximately \$50,000 were distributed to over 50 organizations and individuals.

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International Service

This Avenue of Service is relatively new to our club but nonetheless very aggressively pursued to promote international fellowship and world peace. Service is provided by funds given to the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. Our foundation giving has been the highest ever approaching \$200 per member.

Celaya. The support of the Celaya Clinic is of our first direct involvement in an International project. Simi Sunrise has taken the lead in raising \$50,000 and identifying their dental needs. Simi Sunrise was instrumental in bringing over 20 other Clubs into this project. In conjunction with Santa Barbara Sunrise, Celaya Clubs, Mexico District 4160, District 5240, Direct Relief International and an R.I. matching grant, we should be to provide at least \$250,000 worth of medical equipment and supplies.

Village Banking. We have investigated and are in the process of participating in village banking that promotes free enterprise in third world nations.

Paul Harris Drawing. You continue to support the Rotary Foundation through your monthly participation with at least two more Paul Harris awards.

PHF Matching Funds. A Paul Harris Fellow matching fund program was started this year with Six members choosing to participate.

River Ambulance. Once again, we are supporting one of Dr. O's project of providing medical aid for the Indians on the Araguaia River.

R.I. Endorsed Disasters. A project adopted this year was to provide some support to every R.I. announced disaster. This program is in recognition to the aid we received after the earthquake of 1994. So far, we have contributed to all nine R.I. declared disasters.

International Exchange Student. Our support continued by two members who hosted a student from Brazil for one year.

Polio Plus. A committee is in the process of being established. And in recognition of the continued fight to eliminate Polio worldwide, you assessed yourselves additional amounts to provide a Paul Harris Fellow with the funds going to Polio Plus.

Vocational Service

This Avenue of Service is often called the forgotten avenue and is inactive during the summer months. In the last part of this period, projects have been initiated which will carry into the last six months.

Vocational Service Award. A new program was instituted to recognize a non-Rotarian who lives and operates by the principles of Rotary. The first annual award was presented today.

Classification Talks. Classification talks continue to be of interest with one being a program and a second scheduled program for the first meeting in January.

Youth Career Development. Visits by youth to members' businesses have been initiated and will continue as in the past years.

Interview Workshops. An interview workshop is in the planning stages to reinstate a program that was in hiatus for the past two years.

Scholarship. In addition to our normal \$4,500 scholarships to three students based on academics, a scholarship to recognize a vocational student has been approved and is in process.

Career Speakers Bureau. This is a program where members will speak at schools about their careers and businesses.

Page 2

Club Service

Membership. Simi Sunrise is the top club in the district for adding new members. Simi Sunrise has led our district to become second best district west of the Mississippi. This is not a result of recruiting but a result of quality people recognizing what a fantastic job you have done. People are attracted to first class organizations. Keep up the good work.

Fellowship. A well-planned program started with a visit/picnic to the Brandeis/Bardin Institute music program and has continued every month through the Holiday party at Wood Ranch.

Programs. Starting at the District Assembly last May, a year of programs was designed by dividing the duties among four members. This design has resulted in interesting, quality programs. This well-orchestrated program is instrumental in eliminating our prior district image of being the worst scouting club.

Speaker Cups and Achievement Caps were initiated at the beginning of the year with our logo and the current year's Rotary logo.

Other

Simi Sunrise Rotary Charitable Foundation. We incorporated and gained tax-exempt status for our own charitable foundation and received our first tax-deductible contribution. We are in the process of establishing operational procedures and policies.

Michael Clark Memorial. A memorial fund for aid to police officers and others in time of need has been established in recognition of Michael Clark being killed in the line of duty. A continuing resolution was passed to set aside at least \$1,000 per year.

Fund Raisers

Simi Sunrise is noted as the best fundraising Club in the district. You continue to exert great amounts of effort to exceed prior years and initiate new fund raisers.

Chili Cookoff/Car Show/Crafts Show in September was the financially best one yet. You continue to improve the event and exceed prior performances.

DARE Golf Tournament was successful in generating funds for DARE.

Cajun Creole Music Festival planning is well under way.

Pars for Paws Golf Tournament planning is on schedule.

Flags project has been initiated and should become operational in January. This project is a new one that we are adopting from the defunct Rancho Simi Rotary Club.

Simi Valley Game could be a major fund raiser to which we have devoted much time and is again underway and will be reinstituted this coming month.

Other. Auctions, newly instituted investment strategy and other minor fund raisers continually add up. Auction of flowers at the last demolition was the highest ever at \$785.

Public Relations

This is one of the areas being encouraged by the District this year.

Welcome Simi Sign is a long-term project that has made significant process in the past six months with all permits being obtained, sign redesigned, hardware and letters complete. We should see the completion of the sign in the very near future.

Awards Presentation Programs were made twice in the past six months with press coverage giving away more than \$30,000 not counting the Foundation and other giving.

Other items such as media coverage of many of our events, off-ramp signs, initiation of a trophy case, scrap book and other activities continue in process.

Page 3

Other Half

Although not a direct part of our Club, many spouses have been quite active. This activity is designed so that if will not detract from spousal support of our Club's activities.

Java Island Coffee Hour has been touted around the District and helps promote fellowship.

Chinese Gourmet Dinner initiated fellowship with a great mixer among old and new members.

The District Governor's Reception was a function handled very well by the other half. A hand made gift was presented to the District Governor's Other Half.

Pumpkin Patch Picnic found the children enjoying Halloween activities.

Fellowship activities are being held to provide closer ties and to involve new members.

Children's Cultural Holiday Party was very successful in introducing member's children to various other cultures, to other Rotarian children and to provide fellowship.

District Level

Simi Sunrise members have become increasingly involved at the District level.

Positions. Three members hold District offices. Many others are involved in District activities.

Foundation. Members of Simi Sunrise created and obtained tax-exempt status for the District 5240 Rotary Charitable Foundation. The objective of this Foundation is to generate very significant funds for use in District projects, primarily scholarships.

District Conference. About fifteen of members, including the Conference chair, Program chair, M.C., EXPO chair, Golf Tournament, Children's program et al. represent the majority of people involved in presenting a most successful Conference.

District EXPO. Five Past District Governors judged Simi Sunrise's exhibit as the best of 44 exhibits at the District Conference.

District Attendance. You have been one of the most active supporters of District events. Twenty-three (23) attended the District Conference. Fifteen (15) attended the District Assembly. All but two Board members attended the District Conference. All but one Board members attended the District Assembly.

PEARLS. Fourteen of you are PEARLS graduates with eight others partially complete. Two of you are Master Pearls graduates with two members partially complete. All but two of the Board members are PEARLS graduates.

D.G.N.D. Our club has put forth, supported and achieved the election of the District Governor Nominee Designate for the year 1997-1998. This will be the first District Governor from Group 5 in the District. Our club will strongly support the D.G.N.D.

Many activities are under way during this period that will be culminated in the last half of the year. Some are the annual American Pride Day, Flag Day, United Nations celebration, Spring Cleanup, Neighborhood Council, tree planting, blood drive, RYLA, K-9 Golf tournament and, of course, the biggest of them all, the Cajun-Creole Music Festival.

We are NOT just a fund raising club as noted in the District—we are more active in Service above Self and perhaps in fun RAISING.

The above is a very lengthy list of what you have accomplished during the first six months of this year. I apologize for overlooking some items that may have escaped my attention. This article mentioned no names as teamwork is the most crucial factor. Please join a team. These accomplishments are not unusual for Simi Sunrise but merely maintaining a tradition of significant service above self. You are to be congratulated on a top notch club and I for one am extremely pleased to be associated with you. Thank you very much.

Page 4

1ST ANNUAL Simi Valley Family Street Festival!

May 4th
11:00am - Sundown

The community of Simi Valley will honor its families with a community picnic on the Farmer's Insurance parking lot on Cochran Street, May 4th, 1996 beginning at 11:00am until sundown. Hopefully it doesn't rain!

Musicians or Small Bands are Wanted
For More Info:
Call Julieann at (805) 522-3615

What Will Be There...

- Planned Events
- Face Painters
- Moon Room for Small Children
- Clown
- Fire Engine
- Police Dog with Officer Friendly
- Balloons! Balloons! Balloons!
- Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Pie & Ice Cream Will Be Sold
- Small Children and Older Kids will be Able to do their Favorite Arts or Crafts Here (Artists Can Display their Special Talents or Models)
- Some Art Supplies Available
- Public Parking is Limited
- Pavement Chalk Art

Come to an
Old Fashion
Family Day
in the Sun!!!



What to Bring...

- Umbrellas for Shade
- Plenty of Sunscreen
- TV Trays
- Lawn Chairs (Seating is Limited)
- Picnic Basket & Blanket (If You Can)
- Bring As Many Art Supplies as You Can (All Paints Must Be Washable)

**PLEASE
No Animals
No Alcohol**

Trying on career options



Michael Gerardo gives pupils from Simi Elementary School a look at his veterinary facility in conjunction with a Rotary Club career program.

Simi 6th-graders tour vet's quarters

By Alicia Doyle
Daily News Staff Writer

SIMI VALLEY — Nuzzled between hot water bottles with a catheter in his paw, Winston watched sleepy-eyed from his cage Friday while eight career shoppers took a tour of the Rancho Sequoia Veterinary Hospital.

The building puppy was oblivious to the Simi Elementary School sixth-graders, who stared in awe as they toured the X-ray room, surgery quarters and animal pharmacy. Winston's eyes, barely opened as the youngsters peaked through bars of his cage, some sad to learn the dog was being treated for pneumonia.

"The students were equally sympathetic to other sick pets — Wee Wee the cat was recovering from an abscess operation. Buffy the dog was getting over knee surgery. 'We try to make sure the animals are as comfortable as possible,'" said Lauren Reinsel, a registered veterinary technician who has

worked at the hospital for nine years. "It's good for students to come here and see what this is all about."

Veterinarian Michael Gerardo began giving regular tours of the hospital three years ago, after years of visiting his own children's schools to talk to students about veterinary medicine.

A member of the Simi Sunrise Rotary Club, Gerardo thought other members should become involved with some sort of career day at a local school.

"I thought it would be a good way to give these students a career to think about that they may not have thought of at this point in their lives," Gerardo said.

Once a month during the school's second semester, Simi Elementary's sixth-graders visit local businesses, where Rotary Club members teach them tricks of their trades.

This month, 34 students took their pick of different

businesspeople to study — police officer, auto body worker and dentist.

"The whole purpose is to get them to start thinking toward the future," said Barbara Patten, Simi Elementary principal. "They learn what kinds of jobs and businesses are needed in a community of this size. This raises their consciousness to the level of what's coming next."

In addition to touring the veterinary hospital, the students learned about different jobs in the same field, like animal training and veterinary technician work. They were given a brief lecture on how pets can be treated for ear mites, fleas, lice and allergy problems. They learned that animals can contract the same diseases as humans, like cancer, and diabetes.

Debbie Redmond, a parent volunteer who took the tour with her daughter, Lindsay, said the visit also helped comfort children who bring their pets to the

veterinarian.

"When kids have a pet that's sick, they worry about them," Redmond said. "This way they see what it's like and see what the doctors do. They are reassured that their animal is in safe hands. They know that this animal that's been a part of their life is taken care of."

At the end of the tour, Gerardo opened the group for discussion. Students asked about how long they would have to go to school to become a veterinarian. Others wondered how many animals are admitted each day, and what's the worst disease Gerardo has treated.

Twelve-year-old Lindsay Redmond, who hopes to be a veterinarian some day, asked Gerardo if he has ever had any animals die while he was operating on them.

"Unfortunately, yes," Gerardo explained. But that didn't sway the youngster from wanting to continue pursuing her career goal.

"I've liked animals since I was a little kid," Lindsay said. "I want to take care of them."

Thank You

From

3rd Annual Pars For Paws

Hosted by Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise

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Special Thanks to Our Volunteers

SIMI VALLEY POLICE EXPLORERS * FELLOW ROTARIANS
COUNTRYWIDE EMPLOYEES * DERENE CURTIS & SPOUSES OF SIMI VALLEY POLICE OFFICERS

Extra special thanks to my Daughter Jessica for her hard work
Sincerely,
Dave McCormick, Tournament Chairman

DAILY NEWS 04-05-1996

Gift plugs kids in to computer age

When representatives of the Rotary Club entered a class for severely emotionally disturbed children at Mountain View Elementary School in Simi Valley on March 29, they were greeted by a room full of quiet, expectant children.

School principal, Karyn Cryster told the class that their visitors had a special surprise. Dick Strayer, president, and Richard Kunz, president-elect of the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise explained to the wide-eyed students that the Rotary Club had brought them a new computer.

After the "oohs" and "ahs" had subsided, the shiny new computer was wheeled to a counter where "the dinosaur," as the children called it, sat. The dinosaur is a several-years-old Macintosh, dimly from overuse.

Suddenly, the computer experts in the classroom came to life: One child announced he knew exactly how to set up the color ink jet printer; another could hook up the mouse. The students gathered around the equipment, thrilled and amazed as each piece was unpacked.

One child gasped when he found it had a CD-ROM drive. Another asked if they could access the Internet. The excitement was contagious as the computer was "hooked up" and a video introduction unfolded on the screen.

As for those Rotarians who gave up a morning to deliver and hook up the new \$2,000 computer, a warm sense of accomplishment was felt for hours made a difference in the lives of these children who learn best by seeing and interacting.

That classroom does not get much help from the usual grants and aids. Most of those programs, we were told, are earmarked for children considered "multi-handicapped." They might not have received a new computer, but for the spirit of 77 Rotarians who live or work in Simi Valley.

Richard F. Kunz, President-elect Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise

Grant funds effort to aid Brazil tribes

SIMI VALLEY: Doctor receives Rotary donation for South American mission.

By Karen Hibdon
Staff writer

A Simi Valley physician who has taken medical and other services to South American Indians for years has received almost a quarter-million dollar grant from Rotary Club International.

Dr. Otto Austel was notified Friday that his project with the Karaja and Tapiripe Indians has received a 3-H (Health, Hunger, Humanity) grant of \$224,378. It was one of 76 proposals submitted from 150 countries for 1995-96, and one of 10 approved by the Rotary International trustees.

"I have very mixed feelings about getting the grant," Austel said Monday.

"On one hand, I'm elated because I can now go forward with the project. On the other hand, it's a humongous amount of work."

Austel said he plans to spend the next five years seeing the project is imple-

mented appropriately.

"It's just a lot of work to do — overwhelming," he said.

The funds will be allocated over a three-year period, and Austel envisions dividing his time beginning in August between his practice in Simi Valley and his work in the jungle, rotating every three months.

The project is a pet one for Austel, who is president-elect of the Rotary Club of Simi Valley. In recent years he has made several treks to the jungles and taken other Rotarians and health care professionals along on his medical sojourns.

The Karaja and Tapiripe peoples live up the Araguaia river from Belem, Brazil, on the world's largest river-formed island, Bananal Island.

Austel first visited the southern Amazon Basin as a missionary and linguist in 1950, and was there intermittently until 1960 when his 8-year-old son died of malaria after being bitten by an insect.

Austel then returned to the United States, entered medical school and became a doctor. He is the founder of Family Health Care Medical Group, which has more than 30 partner physicians and

45,000 patients.

In 1991, as part of a Rotary group study exchange, Austel returned to the area. The people and their environment had changed, he said. The trip "made me resolve to help the individual villages recover from the shock of civilization."

The grant is the largest Austel's project has received, however, it isn't the first. In 1993, 1994 and 1995 he received \$12,000, \$20,000 and \$30,000 grants from Rotary International, matching funds contributed by the local Rotary District.

The 3-H grant will allow work to move forward to develop sanitary conditions and provide clean water for the Karaja and Tapiripe Indians, as well as help them generate an agricultural base, Austel said.

The advance of civilization in the name of progress has drastically affected the natives of the rain forest areas.

"The world doesn't realize the awful thing that has happened in the world of the indigenous people. They are facing absolute and complete extinction," Austel said.

"They are dying because we're being silent about it and letting the progress of our world take over."



Los magníficos anfitriones Anita R. de Olivares e Ing. René Olivares con Jock y Lynn Mackenzie, Ing. Javier González, Alfonso Arroyo, Tere V. de Arroyo, Maritene G. de Ledesma y Lic. Manuel Ledesma.

Grata Convivencia de Rotarios de Celaya y U.S.A

Los ecos de la grata vivencia compartida por las damas y caballeros del Rotario Nat Tah Hi, Rotario de Celaya, Rotario Santa Bárbara, Simi Sunrise y China Lake, aún son saboreados por cuantos participaron de ella, máxime que el resultante fue de comunión por el servicio y en la amistad.

Los distinguidos visitantes del vecino país del norte retornaron a su lugar convencidos de que en Celaya encontraron el camino de la autenticidad en el servicio comunitario después de conocer la trascendencia de la obra que realizan tanto las damas del Nat Tah Hi como damas y caballeros del Rotario Celaya pero igualmente importante, fue la oportunidad de estrechar lazos de amistad

China Lake, sino un auténtico canto a la amistad con brillo de buen humor, bienestar e intercambio de una rica suma de positivas compatibilidades que propiciaron brindis sobrios y llenos de cordialidad al aprovechar las refrescantes bebidas espirituosas que estuvieron circulando como aperitivo primero y para acompañar después la exquisita cena que fue servida en honor a esa amistad.

Para ello, los anfitriones dispusieron el servicio de un buffet simplemente sensacional en cuanto a diversidad en las viandas cuya sola presencia invitaba a paladearse, lo mismo que en calidad y exquisitez en el sabor, bajo la característica de que privó exclusivamente nues-



Geor Vázquez y Marthita Sales departiendo en el hogar de los Olivares Ramos con sus invitados de Santa Bárbara y del Simi Sunrise.



Insuperables amigos del vecino país del norte con el futuro Gobernador Rotario y su guapa esposa Esthelita y los esposos Alatorre Alarcón.

tanto entre ellos mismos como entre los dos países, hecho que se manifestó plenamente durante el ameno departir que anfitrionaron los rotarios de casa bajo el marco de la residencia del Ing. René Olivares y Gascon y su distinguida esposa Anita Ramos de Olivares.

Los estupendos jardines del hogar de los Olivares resultaron el marco ideal para esa convivencia en la que privó la calidez humana y desde luego el disfrute de ese toque tan especial que sabe prodigar a todos los detalles la guapa dueña de ese hogar.

Esa noche no fue exclusivamente un 'hasta pronto' a los amigos de los clubes Santa Bárbara, Simi Sunrise y

tra cocina nacional y constituyendo todo un agasajo a los paladares más exigentes.

De hecho y a pesar de los mitos que en el extranjero se guardan para con nuestra cocina, fue más poderoso el deseo de probar de todo y la confianza total en sus anfitriones lo que hizo que Jock y Lynn Mackenzie, Darrel y Pat Johnson, Mike y Pamela Young, Hershel Berger, César Zambrano, Mike Francis, Patricia Montemayor, Ruth Cardona, Doug Katsev, Mary Lattig, Dan Kus, Tom Hit, Dick y Eileen Strayer, Cynthia Wells y Norman Grannis se dieran el gran banquete junto con todos sus amigos celayenses sin restricciones de ninguna especie, comprobando la ricura y bondad de lo nuestro.



Con Doug y Tom; Jorge Montes, Dr. Mario Valle, Mary G. de Montes, Rosita P. de Arias, Güera c. de Morin, Rebe L. de Sánchez y Rosita A. de Vázquez.

Grant to aid club's work in Mexico

DAILY NEWS
05-05-1996

By Alicia Doyle
Daily News Staff Writer

SIMI VALLEY — A \$50,000 grant has been awarded to the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise for the "Help Me Grow Healthy" project the club is sponsoring in Mexico for impoverished families.

The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International made the contribution, which will be combined with \$57,000 already raised for the project by 29 other Rotary clubs.

"We want to improve the health of these people," said Dick Strayer, president of the Simi Sunrise Rotary. "This is a service to mankind."

"Help Me Grow Healthy" is an international project to help provide medical equipment and supplies to the Celaya Clinic, located in the agricultural district between Mexico City and Guadalajara.

The area is home to many

impoverished children who have health problems resulting from malnutrition.

The goal of the clinic is to prevent malnutrition through education, Strayer said, and to provide medical needs such as dental work, cataract surgery and cleft palate operations.

While clinic services will not be free, those who cannot afford to pay money can work at the clinic for a few hours to pay off their debt, Strayer said.

With the \$107,000 raised, the Rotary club will be able to purchase up to \$500,000 worth of equipment from Direct Relief International, an organization that will buy the equipment wholesale, Strayer said.

The money will purchase items including dental equipment, microscopes for cataract surgery, stethoscopes and sanitizing equipment.

"We wanted to step in and help these people," Strayer said.

Rotary Club wins grant

From staff reports

The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise has been awarded a \$50,000 grant for a service project in Celaya, Mexico.

The project is co-sponsored by the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise and the Rotary Club of Santa Bárbara Sunrise.

The grant from the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International brings the total raised for the project to about \$107,000. The money will be used to acquire about \$400,000 to \$500,000 worth of equipment from Direct Relief International.

Titled "Help Me Grow Healthy," the international project provides medical equipment and supplies to the Celaya Clinic in the agricultural district between Mexico City and Guadalajara.

Many children in the area have significant health problems resulting from malnutrition.

The Celaya Clinic is owned and operated by Rotarians. All medical personnel are Rotarian volunteers. Rotary clubs in Celaya work on the project.

The project promotes global community development and international fellowship, said Dick Strayer, Simi Sunrise president.

Area Rotarians have visited Celaya at least four times since March 1995 and club members from Celaya have come here, Strayer said.

In March, Strayer and his wife, Eileen, along with fellow Simi Sunrise Rotarians Norman Grannis and Cynthia Wells, Dr. Herschel Berger, Mike Francis and Cesar Zambrano, and 11 members from other Rotary clubs, visited Celaya.

S.V. STAR 5/96



En su visita al Centro de Rehabilitación Nutricional, los rotarios de Santa Bárbara y del Simi Sunrise constataron la grandeza de la obra.



Las dos banderas que simbolizan a estos dos distritos hermanos presentes en la sesión.

Visitan nuestra ciudad Rotarios de California

**Dan a conocer
programas de
Clubes Rotarios
Celaya y Nat-Tha-Hi
a socios de
California del
Distrito 5240**

CONNIE DE FERNÁNDEZ / A.M.

Una visita de gala tuvieron los Clubes Rotarios Celaya y Nat-Tha-Hi, al recibir a socios de diferentes Clubes del Estado de California del Distrito 5240.

Los Rotarios de los Clubes antes mencionados prepararon un largo itinerario para darles a conocer los diferentes programas que los Clubes tienen en nuestra ciudad.

Como primer evento se ofreció una cena de gala en la Casa Club a la que asistieron el Ropoldo Alvarado Mosqueda y Elnora Choleco de Alvarado, los presidentes de los diferentes Clubes Rotarios de la localidad, aparte de la gran mayoría de los socios.

En primera instancia se hicieron los Honores a la Bandera que estuvo a cargo de los Hon. Gobernadores los señores Ernesto Aranda Gómez, Carlos Vázquez Díaz y Mariano González.



Momentos en que el Arq. Rubén Medina entrega un reconocimiento a Jack Maquenzie, Gobernador del Distrito 5240.

El Arq. Rubén Medina presidió la sesión y el Doctor Luis Morín fungió como Director del programa presentando a los distinguidos rotarios que nos visitaron, entre ellos: Jack y Lynn Madenize, Gobernador Actual del Distrito 5240, David y Pat Johnson, próximo Gobernador, Mike y Pamela Young, Presidente del Club Santa Bárbara, Hershel Berger, Cesar Zambrana, Mike Francis, Patricia Montemayor, Ruth Cardona, Doug Katswe, Mary Lanning, Presidenta del Club China Lake, Dan Kus, Tom Hill, Dick y Eileen Strayer, Presidente del Club Sami Sunrise, Cynthia Wells y Norman Grinnis.

Uno de los momentos más emotivos fue cuando Lulu Aranda, Presidenta del Club Rotario Nat-Tha-Hi, dirigió un relevante mensaje relacionado con las operaciones de cataratas que se efectuarán al día siguiente en las instalaciones de la Clínica Fernando Ortiz Martínez, ubicada en las instalaciones del DIF,



Ruth Cardona vestida con su típico traje de Raggedy Ann.

siendo este un programa que vienen efectuando los socios de este Club hace ya varios años.

Posteriormente se tuvieron temas de interés general dando por concluida la sesión, para sorpresa de los visitantes arribó al lugar un mariachi que amenizó la cena en la cual todos los socios pudieron convivir momentos muy agradables.

Al día siguiente se tenía preparado una serie de eventos para que los visitantes conocieran a fondo los diferentes programas que se



Un aspecto de la mesa de honor y de los mariachis que animaron la reunión.

vienen desarrollando en nuestra ciudad por los Clubes antes mencionados.

A las 8:30 de la mañana del sábado se comenzaron las operaciones de cataratas y trasplante de córnea en la Clínica Fernando Ortiz Martínez del proyecto "Cara Feliz" programa rotario, ubicada en el DIF Municipal con un éxito rotundo; el Doctor Doug Katswe donó 4 córneas, las cuales fueron implantadas por los Doctores Mario Valle, Doctor Vicente Morín y el Doctor Sánchez Vancina, haciendo posible que personas de escasos recursos, tengan la posibilidad de ver nuevamente. Al mismo se realizaron 12 operaciones de cataratas a personas de escasos recursos; una de ellas, casualmente se realizó a una persona recién acorrida que llegó a pedir atención a la clínica.

Posteriormente se trasladaron a la Escuela de Oficios, siendo recibidos por el señor Manuel Arias y Jorge Montes, quienes son Presidente y Vice-Presidente respectivamente de la Escuela, en donde pudieron ver los avances que se tienen en este programa, esta escuela se dedica a capacitar a personas en algún oficio para que se puedan reincorporar a labores de la localidad.

Enseguida se dirigieron al Centro de Rehabilitación Nutricional, en donde el nuevo patronato, presidido por Luis Fernando De

Leon, los recibió y les enseñó los avances que se han obtenido, así mismo se les ofreció un almuerzo.

La última visita la tuvieron en la Casa Cuina, siendo recibidos por la señora Rebeca Lomelin de Sánchez, Presidenta de la Casa Cuina, en donde se sembró un árbol, símbolo de la amistad que existe con nuestros rotarios hermanos; el Doctor Luis Morín, como médico del programa, les explicó las carencias que esta Casa Cuina tiene y ver la posibilidad de recibir el apoyo que siempre les han brindado.

En la tarde hicieron un recorrido por nuestra ciudad para conocer los sitios de mayor interés.

Ya para finalizar el día se ofreció una cena en casa de los señores Rene Olivares y



Rene y Anita Olivares.

Anita Ramos de Olivares, en la que pudieron compartir vivencias con los socios de la localidad, el toque musical estuvo a cargo de un mariachi el que amenizó la cena interpretando variadas canciones; se sirvió un buffet momentáneo a petición de los porterosmarineros.

Al día siguiente se trasladaron a San Miguel Otzacruan en donde se realizó la Jornada de la Salud; ya para finalizar se trasladaron a la ciudad de Guanajuato para conocer esta bella ciudad.



Muy agradables momentos compartieron con los visitantes rotarios.



Rotarios del Distrito 5240 y de nuestra ciudad compartieron muy agradables momentos durante la cena.



Imperó un ambiente de mucha cordialidad.



BREAKFAST @ EGGS & THINGS



JIM STUTZMAN



PAUL MILLER

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APRIL 14, 1996

Hands-on community work



Hal Roniger cuts the grass in Naomi Brant's back yard during the Simi Valley Rotary Club's second annual Day of Thanks on Saturday.

Rotarians clean up Simi Valley

By Enrique Rivero
Daily News Staff Writer

SIMI VALLEY — Naomi Brant had much to be thankful for Saturday morning when volunteers from two local Rotary clubs answered her call for help and visited her cozy Pride Street house to do some much needed yard work.

The 75-year-old widow suffered a stroke last summer, uses a wheelchair and rarely gets out of doors. She didn't even know things had gotten so out of hand until a few days ago, when she went to her normally tidy back yard and found a weed-choked jungle.

"It looks terrible, just terrible," Brant said. "I didn't realize it was so bad until the nurse took me out to the patio the other day and I thought, oh my God. My yard used to be so beautiful."

The work was part of the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise's second

annual Day of Thanks, when club members took the morning out with their Rotary Club of Simi Valley counterparts to perform a variety of work to make the city a better place to live.

Other beneficiaries were the Boys & Girls Club of Simi Valley, which got assistance packing for its expected May move from its temporary quarters to a new, \$3.3 million facility at Rancho Tapo Community Park; a fresh coat of paint for the local Care and Share food pantry; and yard work at another needy elderly woman's home.

About 23 Rotarians swept over the city, with nine coming to Brant's house. Among them were Councilman Paul Miller, who said the effort fits in with the Rotary's mission of community service.

"You can give to charities and that's fine," Miller said. "But for a club like us, to really get a feel for the

community you have to get out and help."

The volunteers cleaned Brant's front and back yards. Though the front was easy, the back came as a shocker to Sunrise Rotary director Bob Mitchell, who said he stopped by the house Friday and peeked over the fence to get a feel for the amount of work it needed.

The small area visible didn't look much worse than the front, with the weeds only a few inches high, and he expected the job to be a "slam dunk."

It was only Saturday morning, when he arrived for work and went into the yard for the first time that he saw the weeds get progressively higher further back, reaching heights of several feet.

"I went into the yard this morning and saw it and said, oh no!" he said.

Armed with edgers, hedge clippers, weed eaters, pruning shears,

rakes and shovels, the determined volunteers made surprisingly quick work of it, finishing in about two hours.

They made good use of the hedge trimmer, turning it into a weed eater that rapidly cut through the tangle of weeds until a nice carpet of grass emerged.

"One person it would have taken a week," Mitchell said.

Brant was unable to get to the back yard without help and could only see about half through her sliding glass window as she baked bread in her kitchen.

But she knew it would all look the way it was before and was grateful for the help.

"I looked out front, and it looks wonderful — I'm so thrilled," she said. "Just because I suffered a stroke doesn't mean I'm a lazy woman, and I like a tidy house and a tidy yard. It means so much to me."



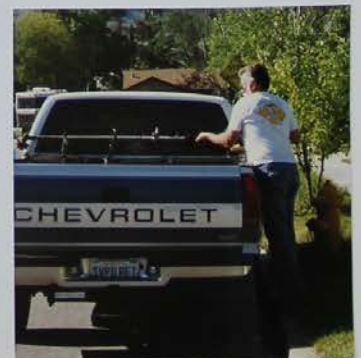
KURT FREDRICKSON



GEORGE BERCOV



CHIEF OF POLICE (RET.) PAUL MILLER'S TRUCK
"LOOKS LIKE A VIOLATION"



Hooked on fishing

DAILY NEWS 05-05-96

Small fry angle for big catches at annual derby

By Enrique Rivera
Daily News Staff Writer

SIMI VALLEY — Ah, sweet revenge.

Adrian Nava has been fishing about every two months, but had never entered a fishing competition until Saturday, when he joined about 600 or so young anglers for the annual Hook 'n' Fishin' Derby at Rancho Simi Community Park.

He did it just to show up a friend who was a big winner at last year's competition. This year the 13-year-old Simi Valley Junior High School seventh-grader beat his friend, walking away with a trophy and new fishing rod as one of three youngsters who hauled in the heaviest fish.

"I didn't even know I was going to win. I was just in competition with my friend," he said as he proudly held his trophy. "Last year he was the champion and he was rubbing it in, so I had to beat him."

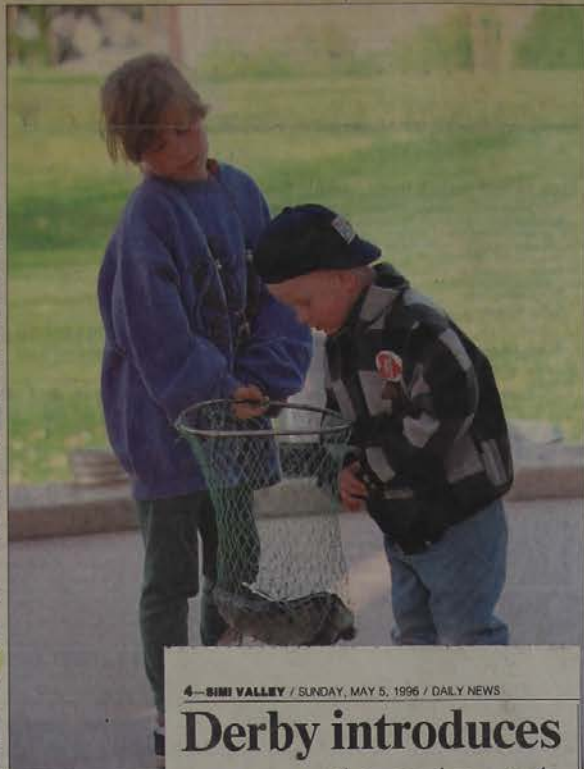
The annual competition — sponsored by the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District and now in its 21st year — brings together youngsters 13 and younger for a morning of hooking catfish and trout in the park's lagoon.

"These are the pre-fishing license years," said Doug Gale, recreation supervisor for the district.

In preparation, the pond was stocked with about 1,800 catfish — about \$5,000 worth contributed by local Kiwanis and Rotary clubs — and about 300 trout contributed by the California Department of Fish and Game, Gale said.

The fish last the rest of the year, he said.

"This is the only time it gets stocked all year," he said. "In September, October and



Mallory Jones, 8, and her brother

4—SIMI VALLEY / SUNDAY, MAY 5, 1996 / DAILY NEWS

Derby introduces youngsters to art of hooking fish

DERBY / From Page 1

November, kids still come out on Saturday morning with their fishing poles. I get a real kick out of it."

Trophies and other prizes were given to the winners in several categories. Competitors were limited to catching a maximum of three catfish or five trout.

The event provided a party-type atmosphere, with contestants and their parents and relatives lining the edge of the lagoon in folding chairs or sitting in tree stumps or on the ground, fishing lines trailing in the water like spider webs.

When it came time to announce the winners about 10 a.m., a large group of people crowded the back of the park stage, with a few youngsters climbing a nearby tree or sneaking into the bushes to await the results.

One big little winner was 3-year-old Paige Kirk, who caught one of the largest trout and won in several other categories, taking away a trophy that was almost as tall as the

youngster herself. She got minimal help from her aunt and uncle, who had brought her to the event, and eagerly shared with anyone within earshot her secret for luring the fish her way.

"I used cheese," she said. Winners in each category, according to age classifications were: Heaviest Fish: Dane Zabel, 6; Kevin Knight, 7; Matt Turner, 13; Adrian Nava, 13; Brian Cohen, 14; Jake Van Sloten, 14; and Travis Burg, 9. Dane, Matt and Adrian tied for the biggest fish, with each hauling in a 2½-pounder.

Lightest Catfish: Wesley Garcia, 11; Paige Kirk, 3; Collin Reddy, 13. Largest Trout: Garrett Dibene, 3; Ryan Williams, 4; Paige Kirk, 3; and Wesley Garcia, 11.

Heaviest Trout: Wesley Garcia, 11, who caught a 1½-pounder. First three competitors to catch the maximum three catfish:

Paige Kirk, 3; Mike Seifert, 9; and Jake Van Sloten, 14.

No one reached the maximum five trout.

STEVE SMITH



The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise is honored to have the opportunity to co-sponsor the Boys & Girls Club Golf Tournament. The youths of the community are our future and we feel the investment in them now will result in a strong base for generations to come. This year's golf tournament was notable for its fellowship as well as being a successful fund-raiser and we Rotarians were pleased to co-sponsor the event.

The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise is proud that twelve of its members and spouses are or have been members of the Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Club. Indeed, five of our members and spouses have served as President of the Boys & Girls Club.

The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise supports many youth groups, however, we especially appreciate the many fine programs and goals of the Boys & Girls Club and we will continue to support this organization through such events as this golf tournament as well as other annual events.

Thank You!

Dick Strayer

President, 1995-1996
Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF SIMI VALLEY



6th Annual Golf Tournament

1995 YEARBOOK

The Best Programs for Kids Aren't on T.V.



SIMI SUNRISE

Rotary supports the youth of Simi Valley, knowing they are the civic and business leaders of tomorrow.



Through Rotaract, the Rotary club can contribute to the guidance and development of business and community leaders of the next generation. Membership in a Rotaract club is open to young adults between the ages of 18 and 28.



An Interact club provides the opportunity for club members to work closely with their local "junkie partners in service," helping them to develop a sense of civic responsibility and commitment to international understanding that will benefit themselves, their community, and the global community both now and in the years ahead.



A major key to finding world peace rests



The goal of the Foundation is to further

ROTARY CLUB OF SIMI SUNRISE

Simi Valley Bank

Budweiser

HOST THE
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB
OF SIMI VALLEY
6TH ANNUAL
GOLF TOURNAMENT

Whirlwind work bolts 'Welcome' to cyclone fence

A group of 18 people took about an hour to install the new landmark Welcome to Simi Valley sign that westbound drivers see on Highway 118 as they drop into our city.



Michael E. Hoffman

"We had people moving letters, putting on bolts and checking things and bang, we were done," said Jim Lowry, the Simi Valley resident who came up with the idea and carried much of the momentum to do the project.

If you haven't seen it, the large white letters hang on a length of dark green cyclone fence on the south side of the freeway. You can catch a quick (but dangerous) glance as you head east into the San Fernando Valley but the best view is as you enter town. It's a project that's been about three years in the making.

People and companies throughout the county contributed to the sign. Gil Carrillo, the cabinet coordinator at Home Base, crafted the letters from wood. Carrillo, who also teaches judo at the Boys and Girls Club of Simi Valley, also installed the bolts that hold the sign.

The letters are covered with the same sort of hardened material used to coat spars. Alan Steinhardt of Hydro Systems, a Simi bathtub manufacturer, had people at his company coat the letters.

"It will be there for a long time," Lowry said. Design for the sign was done by Richard E. Doss, a registered professional engineer.

George Kerr of Ecology Landscape & Nursery coordinated with the California Conservation Corps to clear a path from the highway side to the sign site.

Maybe the hardest work was done by Bob Purdum of Simi Valley Plumbing. He helped dig the five holes, each 4 feet deep and 2 feet square, for the poles that hold the sign.

Councilman Paul Miller helped move the project through the approvals it needed.

Members of the Rotary Club of Simi Valley Sunrise have agreed to keep the growth around the sign low.

The next step is a minor revision. Lowry says a few letters, the V, A and C, need to be adjusted. And another Rotarian, Dr. Otto Austel, is looking into ways to light the sign with solar power.



KERR



LOWRY

SATURDAY ♦ MARCH 30, 1996

♦ SIMI VALLEY EDITOR: MICHAEL E. HOFFMAN ♦ 526-6211 ♦

S

SECTION A, PAGE 3

Sign says 'Welcome to Simi Valley'

ROTARY CLUBS PROJECT: Volunteers to bolt 19 letters (count 'em) on 30-foot-long chain-link fence next week.

Rick Geiger

president

On a sunny afternoon in January, volunteers from two Simi Valley service clubs dragged 100 feet of concrete pump hose up a steep, chaparral-choked knoll above Highway 118 and built a 30-foot-long chain-link fence.

It was a milestone in a pet project the

groups have been working on for three years, a project that will culminate next Saturday when club members bolt 19 letters to the fence.

"Welcome to Simi Valley" the letters will read, clearly visible to westbound Highway 118 traffic cresting the Santa Susana Pass summit.

"We're proud of our community and we want people to feel welcome here," said Simi Councilman Paul Miller. "It's important for a community to have a positive identity."

The Rotary Club of Simi Valley and the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise collaborated on the project.

"We painted the chain-link structure

olive drab to blend into the surrounding vegetation," said Dick Strayer, president of Simi Sunrise Rotary.

The camouflage job is so good that it's difficult to see the structure now. But after the letters are up, homeward-bound and weary commuters will be welcomed by three-foot-tall, white epoxy letters floating against the green hillside. A six-foot diameter Rotary Club logo will accompany the message.

"We originally planned a \$25,000 sign," Strayer said. "But we decided our money was better spent elsewhere."

The finished sign will be accomplished for one-tenth of the original budget, Strayer estimated.

The sign stands on land belonging to the Rancho Simi Open Space Conservation Agency, a joint-powers entity between the city of Simi Valley and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. Permission to plant the sign had to be approved by the agency board of directors, then by the City Council and the park district board of directors.

"That's the main reason it took three years," Miller said.

Three months ago, Rotary club members teamed up with the Simi Valley Kiwanis Club to plant signs near all freeway off-ramps in town. These small signs also say "Welcome to Simi Valley," but add, "Relax and Slow Down."



PAUL MILLER



NEIL HAYES DICK STRAYER STEVE SMITH



DICK STRAYER TIM SHANNON MARSHALL SHREAGO

3/12

Simi Rotarians install 30-foot-long city greeting

By R.A. Hutchinson
Daily News Staff Writer

SIMI VALLEY — It's smaller than its famous cousin, but Rotarians want the tall, white-lettered sign welcoming visitors to Simi Valley to attract the same attention as the one above Hollywood.

"We certainly hope it will be compared with the one in Hollywood," says Jim Lowry, a member of the Simi Sunrise Rotary Club. "It's been 3½ years in the making."

About a dozen members of Simi's two Rotarian clubs — Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise and Rotary Club of Simi Valley — gathered at 7 a.m.

Saturday to bolt on the 2-foot- to 3-foot-tall white letters. A 30-foot-long by 10-foot-high mesh fence and foundation footings had been cemented into place in January.

Lowry, who retired in January from the Los Angeles Police Department, said he wanted to improve the image Simi Valley got when it became the center of attention in 1993 as the site for the Rodney King beating trial. The courts ordered a change of venue in the Los Angeles case because of pretrial publicity.

Four white Los Angeles police officers were acquitted of using excessive force in the 1992 arrest of

King, an African-American. King's arrest was caught on video by an amateur cameraman and played over national television.

"This is a great city and it's not our fault we had the Rodney King trial. I want this sign to let people know we're not all that bad out here," Lowry said.

The sign is on hill just south of the Ronald Reagan Freeway, west of Rocky Peak Road. Drivers coming over the pass from the San Fernando Valley and Pasadena can see the sign from the freeway to their left.

"It's an expression of civic pride. We want people to feel welcome," said Paul Miller, a Simi Sunrise

Rotarian and a city councilman for Simi Valley.

Miller said the Rotary clubs received permission from the Rancho Simi Open Space Conservation Agency to erect the sign, and received the appropriate building permits from the city. Members of the two clubs will maintain the sign.

Lowry said the project has taken three years to complete because the original design would have cost \$25,000 to build.

"We figured there were a lot of other things we could spend \$25,000 on," he said.

The finished sign cost the clubs about \$3,000.



Rotarian Jim Lowry makes adjustments to the city's sign Saturday.



GEORGE BELLOWS



CHUCK WRIGHT



DR. OTTO AUSEL

277



BOB PURDUM



Jim Lowry (L)
Dave McGinnis (R)



Staff photos by Joseph A. Garcia

Extending a welcome

Three years' worth of work came together Saturday when two Simi Valley service clubs installed a welcome sign, above, along Highway 118. Rotary and Sunrise Rotary club members hauled 19 letters — count 'em — up the hill, where they were fastened in place. Jim Lowry of the Sunrise club served as project coordinator.



4-7-96
Simi Valley Star

3-1-3



PAUL MILLER



CONSTRUCTION STORYBOARDS

HOLE FOR FOUNDATION 35' x 3' x app. 4'

BUILD FRAMES FOR VERTICAL RE-BAR SUPPORTS AND PLACE IN FOUNDATION EVERY 2-3 FT EACH DIRECTION

REINFORCE WITH PLASTIC 6x6 WELDED SIDES WITH

CONCRETE AND TRAVEL SURFACE SO THAT SUPPORTS PROTRUDE TO A HEIGHT OF 5 FT.

SIMI VALLEY SIGN COMPETITION
DESIGNER: ALEX WRIGHT - CALARTS
DESIGN ELEVATION 1/2" = 1' 15'



APPLY WIRE MESH TO GIVE FORM TO ROCKWORK

WEATHERPROOF PLYWOOD WITH FIBERGLASS, HATHITE, ETC., THEN APPLY REFLECTIVE VINYL

NOTE:
 This was the original design which was abandoned after costs & construction complexities made the job beyond the reach of our club.
 The letters originally were to be 18" but turned out to be 36" etc, etc. *Jim Lowrey*

SIMI VALLEY SIGN COMPETITION
DESIGNER: ALEX WRIGHT - CALARTS
ORTHOGRAPHICS 25 AUG 93 3 OF 4

APPLY THICK COAT CONTOUR (VISUALLY)



Daily News SIMI VALLEY

EDITION

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1996

ENTERTAINMENT



La Louisianne Express owner Stephen Stoffel is one of 16 food vendors who will cook in this weekend's Cajun Creole Music Festival.

Local eatery will spice up Cajun festival

By Alicia Doyle
Daily News Staff Writer

SIMI VALLEY — Stephen Stoffel relishes how just the right blend of Cajun spice creates a deep heat that arrives on the palate slowly, while tantalizing the nose with a distinct fragrance.

"A lot of people think Cajun Creole food is outrageous," and Stoffel, owner and chef of the city's only Cajun food restaurant, "But it's really taking the gentle blend of the Spanish with the French that creates a laid-back zest that's never overpowering."

La Louisianne Express on Erving and Cochran will be among 16 food vendors serving

up dishes like etouffee and Louisiana sausage during the Cajun Creole Music Festival over the Memorial Day weekend.

Alligator on a stick, jambalaya, gumbo and boiled crayfish are among other authentic Creole dishes on the menu.

For the less daring, hot dogs will be served.

"We try to make it really authentic," said Ed Chapin, organizer of the event. "If we don't have it just right, we hear about it."

That means the right combination of food, dancing and authentic Cajun and zydeco music, Chapin said.

Among this year's featured guests is Acadiana, a five-member band that hopes to attract a crowd of experienced and novice steppers to

the dance floor with its traditional swing-dance variations.

For those who have never experienced authentic Cajun sound, expect something "completely different," said Terri Tintori, the band's Cajun accordion player.

"It's more danceable than bluegrass, and it's definitely not disco," said Tintori. "It's different than country, and it's not rock 'n' roll. It's a sound all by itself — you'll know when you hear it."

The weekend fund-raiser is the seventh coordinated and sponsored by the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise. Last year's festival raised

See CAJUN / Page 4



Creole festival planners cook up zesty weekend

CAJUN / From Page 1

THE FACTS

■ **WHAT:** Cajun Creole Music Festival

■ **WHEN:** 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday

■ **WHERE:** Corner of Tapo Canyon Road and Los Angeles Avenue

■ **COST:** Advance tickets, \$8 at the gate, \$10. Children under 12 admitted free when accompanied by an adult

■ **TICKETS:** Available at Simi Valley Bank (all branches), Ken's Stationers, Del Taco, La Louisianne Express, Holiday Hardware, Les Sisters in Chatsworth,

children will also be available.

"We've been planning for this all year," Chapin said. "It will celebrate the Cajun Creole culture — that's the attraction of it."

SIMI VALLEY STAR

WEDNESDAY ♦ MAY 29, 1996

Thousands attest Cajun music fest is bekuwa party

Bringing tourists to Simi Valley is a challenge for the city. We have a bed tax on hotel rooms, but we don't have any of the traditional

draws: a beach, an entertainment center, a major mall.

This weekend, however, the city pulled in people from throughout the Southland for the seventh annual Cajun Creole Music Festival.

Thousands of people attended the two-day event off Tapo Canyon Road and Los Angeles Avenue. And judging by a give-away contest, most were from out of town. The three winners for a drawing Sunday afternoon were all from outside Ventura County.

The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise runs the event. Proceeds go to the club's charities. It's become my favorite party the city has all year.



Michael E. Hoffman



Simi goes to the bayou at Cajun festival



Kenny Menard plays Cajun music on an accordion at a festival that will continue today by Tapo Canyon Road in Simi Valley.

Bands, parade, dancing planned for today

By Enrique Rivero
Daily News Staff Writer

SIMI VALLEY — Linda Banales stood with her mother in front of a big yellow food booth Saturday at the seventh annual Cajun-Creole Music Festival, trying to get up the nerve to order an unusual item — alligator on a stick.

"I'm thinking of trying it — I want an itty-bitty piece," said Banales, who lives in Van Nuys, as she sidled up to the counter.

But she either had to buy a 6-inch piece of deep-fried alligator or get none. Overwhelmed with curiosity, she bought the whole thing and tried unsuccessfully to get her mother, Carmen Amaya of Torrance, to take that first bite.

With a sour look on her face, Banales took a bite — and her face immediately brightened. "Mmmm — it tastes like shrimp," she said and continued to munch.

Banales and her mother were among thousands of people who turned up for the first day of the festival that will continue today with entertainment and food.

The annual festival is the major fund-raiser of the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise. All proceeds go to local programs for youths, senior citizens and the needy, club leaders said.

Groups and organizations that receive funds include the Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, Free Clinic of

See FESTIVAL / Page 2



2 — SIMI VALLEY / SUNDAY, MAY 26, 1996 / DAILY NEWS

Festival features zydeco, exotic food

FESTIVAL / From Page 1

Simi Valley, Care and Share, the Salvation Army and the Red Cross.

About 8,000 people — about 1,000 more than came last year — are expected at the festival before its two-day run ends, organizers said.

People come from all over the region, including some from as far as the South Bay, said Ed Chapin, chairman of the event.

"We want to get more locals out here. That's our goal," Chapin said. "The locals don't realize how much fun it is."

Saturday's entertainers included the Vatican Playboys, Acadiana Cajun Band, Lisa Haley and the Zydeco, Andre Thierry and Zydeco Magic, and Sheryl Cormier and Cajun Sounds.

Today's lineup is expected to include Kenny Menard and Bonne Musique Zydeco, T. Lou and His Super Hot L.A. Zydeco Band, Joe Simien and Sheryl Cormier.

Festivities today will include a parade and lessons in traditional Cajun dances, which Chapin described as resembling country-western dance, but "jazzier."

And a highlight of the festival is, of course, the food. Its aroma enhanced the exotic flavor of the festival Saturday.

There were red beans and rice, jambalaya and seafood gumbo, crayfish and spicy sausages, poor-boy sandwiches, voodoo chicken and such traditional American fare as hot dogs, hamburgers and barbecued goodies.

Chapin added, "We get a tremendous amount of volunteer help from the Cajun-Creole community."

Spicy Cajun and Creole food is another festival attraction, with alligator-on-a-stick a clear favorite.

Most of the alligator is farm-raised, but some of it comes from one-month hunting seasons in Louisiana and Florida, said Butch Fouroux of Mardi Gras Foods.

"On the farm, after they fillet an alligator, they can throw everything left back in to feed the otherigators," he said.

"I hate to say it tastes like chicken, but it does," said Rotarian Phyllis Angel.



Jimmy Harvey and his wife, Carrie, dance to syncopated rhythm Saturday at a festival in Simi.



Staff photo by Jeff Kato
HAVIN' A GOOD TIME: Pascale Mericoni traveled Saturday from Ojai to Simi Valley to dance — here — with Will Toland of Cold Spring, N.Y. — and enjoy the food at the seventh annual Cajun-Creole Music Festival. The event continues today.

Simi Valley goes Cajun for weekend

By Rick Geiger
Correspondent

The sounds of Cajun music — and its jazzier cousin, Zydeco — mingled with the aromas of jambalaya, Creole sauce, gumbo and deep-fried alligator today at the seventh annual Cajun-Creole Music Festival in Simi Valley.

The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise will put the "fun" in fund-raiser again today from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. when the festival resumes at the corner of Los Angeles Avenue and Tapo Canyon Road.

The festival draws people from all over Southern California, including a sizable contingent of Cajun and Creole descendants, said Rotarian Ed Chapin, this year's festival chairman.

Festivalgoer Ken Menard, father of Cajun musician T. Lou, watched the throngs in awe. "When I was young, growing up in Lafayette, La., (Cajun-Creole culture) was so isolated," he said. "But now it's yatching on, just look at this crowd."

More than 2,000 people were toe-tapping and wigging to the Acadiana Cajun Band's accordion, fiddle and rubboard sounds.

"This upbeat music, it makes people dance," said a instructor Chuck Hyatt, as he lined people up for the 100-foot-long dance floor.

"I've been here five years in a row," said Simi

resident Michelle Murray. "I like to dance and I love the music."

Even Simi police assigned to the festival were ever-so-slightly nodding and bobbing to the catchy tunes. "This is a good wholesome event," said reserve Sgt. Steve Sampson. "We've never had an incident in seven years."

Simi Valley's peacefulness is among the attractions that draw Cajun and Creole descendants.

"This is one of the best I've been to," said many of the ceremonies. Russell Ardon, who also volunteers for festivals in Northern California. "The people are nice. It's grass and trees, not dirt and dust; you can breathe."

Chapin added, "We get a tremendous amount of volunteer help from the Cajun-Creole community."

Spicy Cajun and Creole food is another festival attraction, with alligator-on-a-stick a clear favorite.

Most of the alligator is farm-raised, but some of it comes from one-month hunting seasons in Louisiana and Florida, said Butch Fouroux of Mardi Gras Foods.

"On the farm, after they fillet an alligator, they can throw everything left back in to feed the otherigators," he said.

"I hate to say it tastes like chicken, but it does," said Rotarian Phyllis Angel.



RICHARD & LORIE SHAW



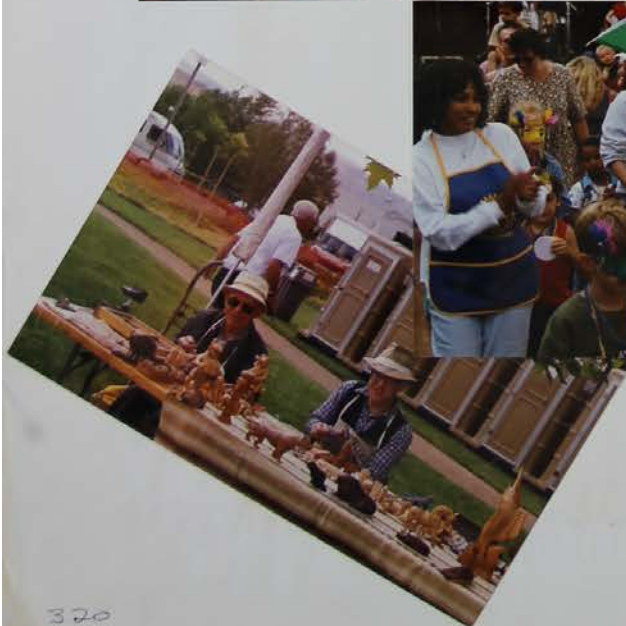
THE KUNTZ FAMILY



DENNIS BARBER



317



CARJUN

CREOLE

MUSIC FESTIVAL



Today's weather:
SUNNY

Highs: Mid-90s Lows: Low 60s



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MONDAY, JUNE 10, 1996

DESIGNATED AREAS HIGHER 25c

Camp proposed at Tapo Canyon Park

By Terry Kanakri
Daily News Staff Writer

SIMI VALLEY—Two Rotary clubs want to lease Tapo Canyon Park from the county to set up a rustic educational camp to teach children about history and nature.

Members of the Simi Valley Rotary Club and the Simi Sunrise Rotary Club think the 210-acre park on Bennett Road north of Simi Valley would be ideal for low-cost, weeklong educational camps for schoolchildren.

"Our hope would be to give the children an anti-gang lifestyle ideal," said Otto Austel, president-elect of the Simi Valley Rotary Club. "Hopefully, we can give them messages and counseling that will help them

with value clarification, help them know what they want to do with their lives, and give them direction to help them seek their stars."

Bob Amore, Ventura County's lease development officer, said he is reviewing the Rotary clubs' proposal. He said his initial reaction is positive because the proposed camp would provide great recreational opportunity for children.

"It sounded like it could work," Amore said. "Our job is to provide public recreation, so we'd look at that as a positive thing."

Amore plans to present the county's proposed terms for a lease within a month.

Dick Strayer, president of the Simi Sunrise Rotary Club, said he is optimistic an

agreement can be reached with county officials.

"They seem to be very willing and very cooperative," Strayer said. "We just have to prove that there's a need for this, and I don't think there's any doubt about that. It's just going to take some time."

Ventura County Supervisor Judy Mikel, who represents Simi Valley, favors leasing part of Tapo Canyon Park for a youth camp.

"It makes a lot of sense if, in fact, the business plan works," she said. "It sounds great. If, in fact, the interest is there on the part of the public and the school... system, I think it would be an awesome use of public land."

Members of the Rotary clubs want to develop a camp where children would be

taught about American Indian history, ecology, camping and other outdoor activities. The children also would study the history of Simi Valley and its pioneers.

The facilities would include replicas of Chumash Indian structures and of adobe ranch houses, built and maintained by volunteers and students.

The camp would cater to students from public schools, scouting groups and religious organizations.

In the first phase of site improvements, the Rotary clubs would put in tents and tent platforms for sleeping and eating, create hiking trails and plant indigenous trees. Any parking lot could be small, officials said, because most campers would be driven to the site and dropped off.

"Our children do very well in school, but what do they really know about the real outdoor life, nature and the environment?" Austel said.

Strayer said the camp would make a difference in many children's lives.

"It makes them more responsible citizens to start with, and hopefully we'll turn their attention to productive matters instead of drugs or graffiti," he said. "It provides them with an outlet for their energy."

Amore, the county lease officer, said an educational camp could be an ideal attraction at Tapo Canyon Park, among the least utilized of the county's 23 parks.

"So far, it looks like it could be feasible to do something like that up there," he said.

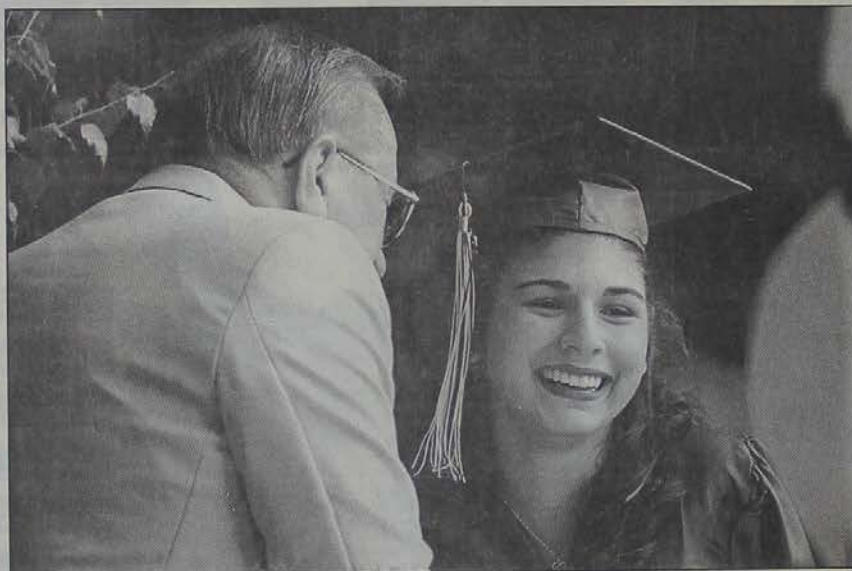


Photo by Frederick M. Brown

SMILE OF SUCCESS: Valedictorian Nicole Ramirez gets congratulations from Dick Strayer, president of Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, during Apollo High School's graduation ceremony on Wednesday.

Seventy-one receive diplomas at Apollo High School

Class of achievers had more steps to climb

By Karen Hibdon
Staff writer

A student who started out at Apollo High School in 1992 with no credits graduated with top honors as valedictorian Wednesday night, tallied scholarships from several community groups and was praised by school staff members for overcoming major obstacles in her life.

During commencement ceremonies, Nicole Ramirez said, "Apollo was a place where I wanted to be."

While going to school she has worked 40 hours a week, has lived on her own and is raising a sibling.

She dedicated a poem, "Believing," to classmates, stressing, "The way to win is to believe in yourself and everything you say."

Ramirez shared the 1996 Principal's Award with her boyfriend, Michael Gligorjevic. Salutatorian honors were shared by Mary Rose Kelly and Matthew McDonald.

School District Trustee Judy Barry and Leslie Crunelle, district director of secondary education, helped dole out diplomas to the 71 graduates of the Class of '96.

"One thing I've learned during my years at Apollo is don't ever give up — keep going for your goal until you reach it."

Krista Simington,
senior class speaker

As each student was called forward, a member of the Apollo staff shared a brief sentiment about the student.

"In this class, there are many, many bright students," said Jackie Hardie, Apollo counselor. "There isn't one out there who didn't work hard."

Getting her diploma is a starting point for Suzannah Florika, who shared senior class speaker honors with Krista Simington.

"It's something I've wanted to accomplish for so many years and I'm doing it a year early," Florika said.

She enrolled as a junior at Apollo in January, after attending Royal High, and earned 35 credits per quarter to graduate five months later.

She has enlisted in the Navy and plans to pursue a career in search and rescue.

Simington said she often is told that "Apollo is a school for losers. It's not," she said. "One thing I've learned during my years at Apollo is don't ever give up — keep going for your goal until you reach it."

Scholarship recipients Wednesday evening were Comcast — Kendra Schledorn; Helen Galbraith Emblem Club Scholarship — Nicole Ramirez; Kiwanis Club of Simi Valley — Jessica Hammerle; Simi Sunrise Rotary — Jamie Millin, Melanie Char, Nicole Ramirez; Simi Valley Noontime Rotary — Kacey Dolan, Robert Acosta, Rhannon Burt; Simi Valley Woman's Club — Ramirez; Sharon David Scholarship — Lisa Brinkman.

Florika said the support of staff, parents and fellow students saw her through.

"At Apollo, we have something that no other school has — Apollo love. We're supportive of each other, and that's something you can't survive without."

SIMI VALLEY STAFF 06-13-1996



7th Annual Cajun Creole Music Festival

Sponsored by The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Corner of Tapo Canyon & Los Angeles Ave.
in Simi Valley

LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY - MAY 25

11:30 - 12:00 Noon DANCE LESSONS (Chuck & Karen Hysell)
12N - 1:30 pm VARIAN PLAYBOYS
1:30 - 2:00 pm DANCE LESSONS
2:00 - 3:30 pm ACADIANA CAJON BAND
3:45 - 4:15 pm MARDI GRAS PARADE
4:15 - 5:45 pm LITA HALEY & THE ZYDEKAYS
5:50 - 7:20 pm ANDER THIBERT & ZYDECO MAGIC
7:20 - 8:30 pm SHIRLEY CORNIER & CAJON SOUNDS

GATES OPEN AT 11 A.M. DAILY

ADVANCE TICKETS - \$8
AT THE GATE - \$10

Advance Tickets Available at:

Simi Valley Bank (all branches)
Ken's Stationers Del Taco
La Louisianne Express
Holiday Hardware
Les Sisters, Chatsworth

Children under 12 free when accompanied by a paying adult

SUNDAY - MAY 26

11:30 - 12:00 Noon DANCE LESSONS (Chuck & Karen Hysell)
12N - 1:30 pm KENT MENARD & BONNE MUSIQUE ZYDECO
1:30 - 2:00 pm DANCE LESSONS
2:00 - 3:30 pm T LOU & HIS SUPER HOT L.A. ZYDECO BAND
3:45 - 4:00 pm MARDI GRAS PARADE
4:00 - 5:30 pm SHIRLEY CORNIER & CAJON SOUNDS
5:35 - 7:00 pm JOE SIMIEN

AUTHENTIC
Cajun/Creole FOOD

NON-STOP DANCIN'

CRAFTS BOOTHS

CONTESTS FOR KIDS

FUN FOR THE
WHOLE FAMILY

THANK YOU - Corporate Sponsors



Daily News

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COMCAST



WELLS FARGO BANK

VENTURA COUNTY STAR



Simi Valley Noontime Rotary Bulletin

Coming Events

Simi Valley Sign Lighting May 11th

This Saturday we will meet to install solar cells, batteries, and lights on the Welcome to Simi Valley sign. Details will be announced at Tuesday's meeting.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend! We'll need everyone's help.

Birthday Picnic May 19th

Sharon Austel just received an invitation to become an AARP member, for which you must be 50 or older. We plan to celebrate this "GOOD NEWS" by inviting our Rotary Club friends and their families to our home on Sunday afternoon, May 19, around 2:00 P.M. We'll plan to picnic on our generous front lawn, swim, play tennis, ping pong, basketball, lawn games, Jacuzzi, exercise on a bike or Nordtrack, socialize, or just plain relax and enjoy talking with friends and playing with our children (and Sharon's grandchildren, of course). We will provide the chicken and hamburgers for the barbecue. You bring your picnic baskets, drinks, lawn toys for the kids and a spirit of fellowship. A basketball, swim clothes, towels, tennis rackets, markless tennis shoes and a lot of energy will be needed for the "young at heart".

Please don't bring any gifts for Sharon unless they are big diamonds. Her fiftieth birthday is already past and was already celebrated. What we are celebrating is her induction into "AARP" (American Association of Retired Persons). You might, however, bring me a condolence card for being married to such an old woman.

Demotion June 14th

Mark your calendar's for June 14th. Each year the demotion is a lot of fun! If you have some ideas, please contact Will Hopp.



International Convention Calgary June 23 - 26

This year's international convention will be well attended by our club. However, we've had a couple of members cancel. This frees their room. If you'd like to attend, please contact Vern Simmons or Otto Austel. That way we can fill the rooms ourselves, instead of turning them back. (The entire community is booked!)



July 4th Community Event

The committee is exploring a number of new ideas for expanding this event. It promises to become a full day of fun for the entire family! Please contact Dr. Deborah Wolium if you'd like to get involved, or simply attend the next meeting!

Our Daughter Club, Simi Sunrise, Sweeps District Awards

We should all feel like proud parents! The Simi Sunrise club, which we began in 1986 with former member and President of our club (1981-82) Sal Fasulo as President, nearly swept the District Governor's awards, which were announced at the District Assembly in Bakersfield, on Saturday, May 4th.

They not only received the best medium sized club award, but they won the Best Club of the District award.

As District Governor Jack McKenzie put it, "to save time, I'll just say that the Simi Sunrise won all the rest of the awards!"

Congratulations to the Sunrises! Your parents are proud!



ROTARY CLUB OF SIMI SUNRISE 1995-1996 HISTORY

1995-1996 Dick Strayer, President

President Dick enthusiastically took over the club during the reign of District Governor Jock MacKenzie with President Herb Brown's theme of "*Act with Integrity, Serve with Love, Work for Peace.*" The club had its most productive year. The Club garnered virtually all the awards in the District including, "Governor's Citation, Best Medium Club, Best Membership Increase, Best PRLS Completion, Best Club Attendance, Best Vocational Service, Best International Service, Best Bulletin and Best Club Service." The club also received the "Rotary International Presidential Citation" and, regardless of size, the District 5240 "Best over-all Club." President Dick was awarded "The Rotary Foundation District Service Award" and was named District "The Rotarian of the Year."

Community Service. Dennis Barbee led our club with a busy schedule of more than 20 community service projects. Some of the projects include Rotary Gives Thanks days with three yard cleanings; Senior activities including Meals, Holiday visits, lifeline, payment of utility bills, etc. Youth activities included mentally retarded, boys and girl scouts, RYLA camp, Explorer and cub scouts. Toys for disadvantaged children were distributed. Camp Rotary was initiated in conjunction with the noontime club. One of the more active years in community service.

International Service. This avenue was rather new to the club and was very active under the leadership of Cynthia Wells. Simi Sunrise took the lead in raising over \$50,000 from 29 Rotary clubs and obtained another \$50,000 matching grant from Rotary Foundation and in conjunction with Direct Relief International was able to provide about \$500,000 medical equipment and supplies for the Celaya Clinic in Mexico. Other projects were supported such as the River Ambulance for Indians on the Araguaia River in Brazil. Simi Sunrise contributed to every R.I. endorsed world wide disaster. An exchange student from Brazil was hosted by the club and stayed in the homes of Kelley Gilliland and Bob Mitchell.

Vocational Service. Steve Smith continued some of our usual vocational projects and initiated two new ones. A vocational service award was created to honor a non-Rotarian who operates by the principles of Rotary. A Vocational scholarship was also created.

Club Service. Cynthia Wells initiated club service by creating a new speaker gift of a cup with Simi Sunrise and the 1995-1996 Rotary theme. Cynthia also set up a rotating speaker program that was very effective. Monthly fellowship events were scheduled.

Membership. Twenty-eight new members joined us! A mentor program was initiated to help assimilate so many new members into the club..

Hats, Hats, Hats. This year will be noted as the "Hat" year. President Dick, "The Hat Man," wore a different hat each week to match the theme of the program or season. Achievement hats or "Hats Off" awards were given to recognize accomplishments of members.

Hall of Fame. A Hall of Fame perpetual trophy was created to recognize long service to Rotary and to Simi Sunrise. The first recipient was Jim Lowry.

Welcome to Simi Valley. After some three years, this sign project, led by Jim Lowry, was completed on the 118 freeway by the placement of the sign. This was a joint project with the Simi Valley "noontime" Rotary club.

Rotary Foundation. Simi Sunrise and its members contributed over \$20,000 to the Rotary Foundation, the largest ever for our club. Our club giving was the second largest in the district with \$340.59 per capita. Funds were generated through monthly contributions, sustaining members, matching grants, Polio Plus giving and general giving.

Fund Raisers. This year was the most successful fund raisers with the traditional events and a couple of new ones. The Cajun-Creole netted about \$56,500, Chili Cookoff/Car Show about \$14,000, Pars for Paws golf tournament about \$11,000 and the DARE tournament were the traditional events. Two new events were initiated--the Street festival and the resurrection of the Flag project, "American Pride Day," from the deceased Rancho Simi Rotary club. Several minor fund raisers occurred.

Donations. During the year, about \$100,000 was donated to various organizations and activities. Most of the donations were made during two awards programs with press coverage. Additionally, in-kind donations were made.

Simi Sunrise Foundation. The Simi Sunrise Rotary Charitable Foundation was created and initiated. A Michael Clark Memorial Fund was established to aid public servants in need. A Simi Sunrise Fellow similar to a Paul Harris Fellow was established. This tax exempt adjunct has received donations and should be very active in the future.

Other Half. The other half was created by Eileen Strayer and co-chaired by Susan Kunz. This spousal group held many fellowship functions, children's parties such as cultural holiday party, pumpkin Patch Picnic, Spring Break party. A weekly coffee hour at Java Island was a success. The Other Half hosted an excellent reception for the District Governor with food, drink, music and gifts.

District. Simi Sunrise members were very active at the District level. Doug Wieben was elected the District Governor Nominee Designate, the first ever from Group 5 in the District. Bob Mitchell served as District Membership Chair. Jim Lowry handled the District awards. In addition to the award winning editor of the Simi Sunrises News, Paul Miller was also the editor of the District Newsletter.

The District Conference was substantially manned by about fifteen Simi Sunrise members. B.J. Anderson was the chair, Jim Lowry was the master of ceremonies, Michelle Foster was in charge of the children's program and Craig Foster co-chaired the golf tournament. Dick Strayer was Chair of the District EXPO that was by far the largest ever and won praise from the President's representative. The Simi Sunrise exhibit received "The Best Exhibit Award" as voted by Past District Governors.

The District 5240 Rotary Charitable Foundation was the idea of Doug Wieben. Dick Strayer incorporated the Foundation and obtained all the needed tax exemptions and other approvals.

Dick Strayer was in charge of the *first ever* District 5240 booth at an International Conference that was held in Calgary, Canada. The exhibit was named INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. The booth distributed brochures and displayed pictures of 25 projects by 58 clubs in District 5240 in cooperation with 27 International District. Herbert G. Brown, RI President presented the District with an award for outstanding "Humanitarian Service" exhibit.

District Governor Jock MacKenzie awarded Bob Mitchell, B.J. Anderson, Jim Lowry, Paul Miller and Dick Strayer partial or total Paul Harris Awards for their contributions to the District.

Simi Sunrise earned the reputation as the "Super Club" of the district. The club is to be congratulated on being a top notch club and we are extremely pleased to be associated with you. Thank you very much.

Note

SIMI SUNRISE NOTE

Rough translation of message from Celaya:

PICTURE: In the name of Simi Sunrise, we delivered the donation of \$2,000 to the Nutritional Center. The delivery of the check is by Georgina Vazquez, president of Nat-tha-hi and attorney Ricardo Espinoza, president of Club Rotario of Celaya. Receiving the checks is Mother Veronica, Mother and director of the Clinic.

Many Thanks for all the help Simi Sunrise has given to our clubs so that we can help so many people. Hoping to see you soon in Celaya.

Your Friends, Rose Maria and Carlos Vazquez, DG, 95-96.



La presidenta del Club Celaya Rot-ht-hi-
Georgina Vázquez y el Presidente del
Club Celaya Ricardo Espinoza, entre-
gando los cheques de 1,000 \$lls. cada
uno que nos envían para el
Centro Nutricional. Reciben los
cheques la madre Verónica y el
Presidente del Rotatorio el señor
Fernando de León