

Michelle & Craig Foster



CRAIG FOSTER'S
PRESIDENT YEAR
1999-2000
SINGAPORE



INCOMING CLUB PRESIDENT ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



A Special Feature with The Sunday Times

THE SUNDAY TIMES - June 13, 1999

Rotary International Convention

Rotarians come to town

Drop by the Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre (SICEC) at Suntec City over the these four days and you might mistake the bustle for a United Nations gathering. It is, in a way.

Some 30,000 Rotarian delegates from 125 countries are here in Singapore for the 90th Rotary International Convention which is being held on today to Wednesday. The RI Convention is held once a year in a different country and is only open to Rotarians who have been elected by their local club over the year to review and discuss their work and issues of concern to Rotarians.

This is the first time the convention is being held in South-east Asia, and only the third time in Asia. Seoul, South Korea, hosted the event in 1989, and Taipei, Taiwan, in 1993. Singapore won the bid to host the convention in 1994 with strong support from local Rotarians and the tourism industry. Said Dr Philbert Chin, the Host Organising Committee chairman: "Singapore was chosen because

there are no restrictions to delegates from the Rotary world visiting here, and the island is known for its safety and cleanliness. "Singapore's excellent infrastructure and reputation as an efficient and friendly city also contributed to the outcome." "This event is a

boost for the local tourism industry, expecting to generate more than S\$88 million for the Singapore economy. Said Mr Yeo Khoo Long, chief executive of the Singapore Tourism Board: "It reinforces Singapore's reputation as a top convention city. "Hosting such a mega event will also re-



According to Mr James Lacy, Rotary International president, "Rotarians from all over the world overcome political, religious and ethnic differences everyday to pursue a common goal of humanitarianism".

Topics of concern include children's literacy and numeracy, healthcare and worldwide polio eradication. Among the issues to be discussed at this year's convention, themed "Making dreams a reality of children", is how to work with government and non-governmental organisations and initiate programmes which will benefit children worldwide. These include a programme to feed starving children in the US, a learning and training programme for children with disabilities in Malaysia, HIV/AIDS awareness projects in India, shelter projects in Fiji, as well as a programme to save the Costa Rican rainforest.



What is the Rotary International?

The Rotary International (RI) is an organisation of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and build goodwill and peace in the world. Incorporated in Evanston, Illinois, USA, the organisation was founded in Chicago in 1905. It has since grown to have more than 1 million members in over 110 countries. The RI is a non-profit organisation and its primary purpose is to promote world peace and understanding through service.

Rotary clubs are found in almost every country, bringing together business and professional leaders who share a common goal of service. The RI is a worldwide network of volunteers who work together to improve the lives of people in need. The RI is a unique organisation that brings together people from different backgrounds and cultures to work together for a common purpose.

Rotary clubs also sponsor and support various projects and programmes around the world. These include projects to improve education, health care, and economic development. The RI is a truly international organisation that works to bring people from different parts of the world together to make a difference.

24518

VOTING DELEGATE'S CARD

The Rotary Club of
SIMI SUNRISE
CALIFORNIA
01 D-524 23930
has certified **Craig Foster**
(Name of Rotarian)
as an accredited delegate (or Proxy of Delegate)
of that club.

Name of Proxy's club
if applicable.

The credential of the above named Rotarian has been received and filed and he/she is recognized as entitled to participate in the Convention of Rotary International as a voting delegate.

Credentials Committee, Convention, R.I. 1999

By Preserve Carefully. This card, after it has been issued by the Credentials Committee, is evidence of the right to vote and must be presented at the polls in order to vote.
DUPLICATE WILL NOT BE ISSUED



Michelle

Doc Strayer



1999
CONVENTION
IDE
for Your Trip

Annual
of Rotary
International



Singapore
1999

Program

Welcome Ken Boyd, Chairman
Location
Salute
roductions Paul Sandas, Director
etings Sam Greene, Director-elect
arks James L. Lacy, President
arks Carlo Ravizza, President-elect
ertainment Singapore Youth Choir
Breakfast Served 7:30 a.m.

1998/1999 Governors - Zones 23 & 24

D. Roy E. King	5160	Paul Fisher
D. Peter O. Ernst	5170	Neal Hoffman
D. M. David Selair	5180	Thomas C. Campton
D. Jame B. Harthway	5190	William L. Reeves
D. Neil King	5220	Van T. Sweet
D. John B. Switzer	5230	Raymond K. Rahn
D. Warren Cunningham	5240	Chungsam Doh
D. Robert A. DeLorenzo	5260	Daniel N. Tynon
D. Reginald L. Keddie	5280	Carol A. Wylie
D. David S. Horn	5300	I. Island Mothershead III
D. Louis G. Delsol	5320	Clifford L. Nelson
D. Mary H. Janney	5330	Evelyn Wilcox
	5340	P. Martin Peters

1999 Rotary International Convention

Singapore, Republic of Singapore



The Rotary Foundation
of Rotary International

Paul Harris Fellows Luncheon

Exhibit Hall 401
Singapore International Convention
and Exhibition Centre
Sunday, 13 June 1999

CRIAG'S FIRST MEETING



THE FLAMINGO MASCOT



1999/2000 Official Songbook

Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise

The music and lyrics contained herein are the exclusive property of the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise. Members are required to memorize such contents for repeated use at its regularly scheduled weekly meetings. Any effort to modify the contents of this songbook through the inclusion of actual songs is strictly prohibited.

BRANDEIS-BARIN INSTITUTE

CONCERT IN THE HILLS

JULY 8, 1999

Saturday, July 3, 1999

S.M.

The Star

Col

K-9 team makes its home in Simi

ATTENTION-GETTER:
Police dog Rex wins
praise from business
owner, residents.

By Kara L. Richardson
Staff writer

Simi Valley Police Officer Richard Morton flashes an all-American smile as he explains, "I'm just the guy who drives Rex around."

Morton, 27, and his K-9 partner Rex have been working the Simi Valley streets since Nov. 15. Morton attended 10-hour weekly training sessions for two years before getting a police dog of his own. It was worth the wait, he said.

The two work well together. On a recent patrol night, the duo stopped in front of a convenience store on Cochran Street. While Morton took a 22-year-old woman aside to discuss a domestic dispute, Rex waited patiently in the car.

A towheaded boy recognized the K-9 car and cheered out "Rex!" as his mother escorted him out of the store.

Due to the very public nature of the Simi Valley K-9s, the dogs are selected for their social and working ability, Morton said.

All of the Simi Valley dogs are trained to be passive-alert, or nonaggressive, on searches. Instead of tearing and biting at the location of narcotics, the dogs alert their partners by sitting and waiting for the seizure.

Rex is still the newest member of the Simi Valley force. He was 16 months old when he came from



Photo courtesy of Craig Dungan

DIGGING IN: Simi Valley Police Department K9 officer Richard Morton and Rex have been working in Simi Valley since Nov. 15. The team is credited with tracking down a car thief.

Germany as "Barry von Rusem." He still responds to about 40 commands in German, Morton said. And, he still greets visitors with the excitement of a puppy and licks the hands of newcomers — unless it is time to work.

"He's great with anybody," Morton said, smiling. "Unless I tell him not to be."

While waiting for a roadside assist for Simi Valley motorist Leslie Jordan on Highway 118, Morton talked about his K-9's training and handler techniques to

pass the time.

The dog, he notes, draws attention wherever they go.

"Is Rex in there?" asked Swink's Towing driver James Spaminato while adjusting braces on the tires of Jordan's station wagon.

Before leaving, Jordan and her

passenger stopped to pet Rex's head. Rex's youth showed as he enthusiastically licked the hands of the two women.

"It's always fun to see a new dog and handler work hard and be successful," said fellow K-9 officer Stephanie Shannon of Morton and Rex.

"We have quite a legacy to uphold," Morton said about working with the award-winning dog handlers of the Simi Valley Police Department. But the newcomers already have been receiving accolades for their work on the street and in canine competitions.

Buzz Guilbault, general manager of Bob Beatty Ford, can testify to that. In May, the duo tracked down the thief of a \$35,000 Ford F-250 Super Duty truck that was "loaded to the gills."

The Ford dealership has paid \$4,000 to be a corporate sponsor for the Paws for Paws Golf Tournament held annually to benefit the Simi Valley K-9 Unit.

"I have always believed in the program," Guilbault said. "I feel a hell of a lot better about that check now."

George Barrow



Marvin Richards



Cyndi Mohler



Cathy & Steve Smith

Ann Barrow

Craig

Craig Foster



Jim & Kathy Lowry



WILLIAM WINTER'S FAREWELL PARTY

AT THE LOWRY'S

Doug Wilman



William & Jim



Tesara



Rich

John

Dave George

Dennis

David



Dennis Craig Dave



FIRST ANNUAL

KID' FEAST

SEPTEMBER 12, 1999

THE
STAR
MONDAY
SEPT. 13, 1999
SECTION B
Bureau chief:
Karen Hibdon
579-1946
1720 Los Angeles Ave.,
Unit H-1, Simi Valley,
CA 93065



SIMI VALLEY



FRIENDS: Matthew Aulicht, 3, feeds a goat at the petting zoo during the Kids Fest at Rancho Santa Susana Park.

Fest offers more than kids' stuff

SIMI VALLEY DAYS: Tattoos, car show keep children of all ages entertained at park.

By Wendy Dager
Correspondent

Excellent weather, an abundance of activities, and about 3,000 Simi Valley residents set the stage Sunday at Rancho Santa Susana Park for Kids Fest, which organizer and Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise member John Shanahan hopes to make an annual event.

"We thought this would be something the families of Simi Valley would appreciate and a way for us to give back all the support they've given us through the years," Shanahan said.

After opening festivities, performer Gregory Dee took to the stage with lively lyrics.

Vendors provided kid-friendly foods such as pizza, hot dogs, and cotton candy. Many businesses set up booths.

"This is a great opportunity to reach the public with the service we provide for the community," said Chris Bern, owner of Simi Valley Junior Music Academy.

Some of those faces received airbrushed tattoos, including Allison Porter, 4, who chose a blue butterfly from an artist stationed at the Balloon Décor and More booth. Her mother, Terri Porter, waited while towing 5-month-old son Jack in a stroller.

"He liked the firemen and the policemen so far," said his mother.

Down the road, kids of a slightly older variety were enjoying Simi Valley Days



LESSONS: Delaney Roney, 7, left, and Jayme Backos, 5, being held upside down by Spanner the clown, take part in a drill by fire clowns Sunday.

More inside

BARN DANCE: Simi Valley residents kick up their heels and celebrate their Western heritage at dance. — B2

Rotary Car Show: For a \$20 entry fee, owners of cars — vintage and new — competed in 10 categories for trophies. The event featured dozens of cool cars.

Among them was Ken Schluenz's 1963 VW Bug, looking lovely in two-tone paint, shiny rims and a hand-cranked sunroof.

Schluenz, an underwriter, credited memories of his first car — also a VW — as inspiration. Surrounding Schluenz's Bug were cherry Corvettes, Mustangs, GTO hardtops, and a 1940 Willys Coupe

with flames painted on its front end. One of the most unusual cars was a foreign model owned by 35-year Simi Valley residents Jack and Vi Vopals. Their Spanish-built 1956 Pegaso Z-102 Panorama Coupe is one of 25 left in the world. It was selected for display at the Barcelona Museum of Art in 2000 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first Pegaso built.

"My car doesn't fit with hot rods," said Jack, "but they asked me if I would help judge the show. It's a great show and I like to be here and I like to talk about the car."

The most sentimental part of their ownership of the Pegaso, said the Vopals, is the memory of their son Jeff, who encouraged his father to buy it. Although it was a difficult task, the couple continued with the restoration of the car in honor of Jeff, who died of lymphoma in 1992.

"He's never been to one show where he doesn't meet friends of our son," Vi said of her husband.





Ken

Heather

Michelle

A BRIEF INTERRUPTION

VISIT TO THE WATER SANITATION



HOW DID THE FLAMINGOS ESCAPE?





IS THERE FISH IN THAT LAKE?



RON COONS

LAURA HERRON



KID'S FEAST CONTINUES



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to everyone who attended

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and special thanks to these corporate sponsors

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The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise
"Service Above Self"

FOR CLUB INFORMATION
www.cir2000.com/history



Linda



Michelle



Tim

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY



RELAY FOR LIFE



SEPTEMBER 25, 1999



FELLOWSHIP DINNER

AT THE HARTMAN'S

SEPTEMBER 26, 1999



Two area businesses honored for community support

SUPERVISOR MIKELS: She presents involvement awards to Boeing Co. and PrintMasters.

By Dana Bartholomew
Staff writer

Ventura County Supervisor Judy Mikels honored two local businesses Wednesday for their steady hand in helping local communities.

For their contributions to local charities and schools, Mikels awarded the Boeing Co., parent company of Rocketdyne, and PrintMasters, a Simi Valley mom-and-pop shop, this year's Business Involvement awards.

"Having run a business myself, I know how difficult it is to run a business and stay active in the community," Mikels said. "When a business does something ... they need to be recognized."

Mikels' awards program, in its fourth year, highlights businesses that have consistently pitched in to improve life in the

Fourth District, which includes Somis, Moorpark and Simi Valley.

Mikels lauded Rocketdyne for helping teach science in local schools. The company also gave \$20,000 to the Simi Valley Family YMCA, taking it "over the top" in its fund-raising drive for a \$2 million headquarters slated to open next year. Rocketdyne also contributes to many local agencies, including the Moorpark College Foundation, and sponsors the Simi Valley Days Parade and other community events.

Mikels said Boeing, whose Ventura

County laboratory is undergoing a multi-million-dollar cleanup of chemical and radioactive contamination, has gotten a bad rap.

"With all the unfortunate press, that revolves around the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, Boeing needs to be recognized for what they are doing," Mikels said.

"They have always supported the community," Rocketdyne Vice President Byron Wood accepted the award for the Boeing Co.

Mikels praised Printmasters owner George Bercow for jumping to the aid of any nonprofit group, whenever asked. Bercow has donated thousands of dollars in printing costs to the Boys & Girls Club of Simi Valley and other organizations. He has also been a behind-the-scenes force in many Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise fund-raisers.

"Whenever anybody needs anything, George is there to help," Mikels said. Bercow's daughter and son-in-law, Michelle and Craig Foster, who both work for PrintMasters, accepted the award.

Volunteers ready to dish up holiday feast

11TH YEAR: Police reserves, Rotary plan to feed up to 400 at Simi Senior Center.

By Karen Hibdon
Staff writer

Members of the Simi Valley Police Reserves will roll up their sleeves Wednesday for the 11th annual free Thanksgiving dinner in Simi Valley. For the second year, the

reserves will be joined by members of the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise to feed almost 400 people at the Simi Valley Senior Center.

The event is also sponsored by the Simi Valley Council on Aging.

The volunteers will be dishing up turkey dressing, potatoes, vegetables, candied yams, rolls and desserts.

Maverick's restaurant is baking the 30 turkeys for the occasion and Von's market has provided a discount on food that will allow the entire feast for about \$900, said Rotar-

ian Hal Reniger. Marie Callender's, Hometown Buffet and Denny's restaurants have provided the pies.

The annual event has grown from humble beginnings, said Reserve Sgt. Steve Sampson, co-chairman of the event. When he first got involved with the annual Thanksgiving feed, it was a project of the Simi Valley Police Officers Association.

"And then we just kind of inherited it," Sampson said. "We thought it was a good thing to do and went on from there. It just

kept getting larger and larger, and we kept outgrowing dining places."

Early on they served 35 to 40 dinners, using facilities provided by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The next move was to Grace Brethren Church facilities, and then five years ago the feast moved to the Simi Valley Senior Center, an appropriate location considering most of the diners are seniors.

Last year, when the number of

reserve officers had dwindled and Sampson and others thought seriously about canceling the event, Simi Sunrise Rotary stepped in to help. This year's Rotary co-chairman is Roger Cogger.

The Rotary Club, Sampson said, has done the majority of the leg work, buying the groceries and picking up supplies. On Wednesday afternoon, before the doors open for the 5:30 to 8 p.m. dinner, the Reserves will tackle the kitchen chores.

Serving duties will fall to the Ro-

tarians and cleanup efforts will be the responsibility of several Scout troops.

Entertainment will be provided by music groups from Santa Susana and Simi Valley high schools.

Attendance is on a first-come, first-served basis. In addition to seniors, the event generally feeds 50 to 75 members of the city's homeless population.

Seniors needing transportation to the dinner can call Dial-A-Ride at 386-6464, but reservations are a must today.

THE
STAR
TUESDAY
NOV. 23, 1999
SECTION B
Bureau chief:
Karen Hibdon
579-1946
1720 Los Angeles Ave.,
Unit H-1, Simi Valley,
CA 93065

Thursday, Nov. 25, 1999

EC ★

The Star

C

"This shows them that they're cared about, and that they have a place to go and have a nice holiday."

— Roger Cogger,

Rotary Club volunteer at annual Senior Center Thanksgiving dinner



Staff photo by Ed Compton

KITCHEN CREW: Simi Valley Police Reserve Sgt. Steve Sampson, left, prepares gravy as Sgt. Mike Harrington stirs a pot of broth Wednesday at the Simi Valley Senior Center.

Hundreds feast at Simi Senior Center

By Alicia Doyle

Staff writer

"Service above self." The Rotarian motto applied to all volunteers who put aside their daily routines Wednesday to serve Simi Valley's elderly and homeless at the 11th annual free Thanksgiving dinner.

"This is so people who don't have a Thanksgiving will have one," said Roger Cogger of Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise. "This shows them that they're cared about, and that they have a place to go and have a nice holiday."

Cogger was among many volunteers who rolled up their sleeves to feed about 400 people at the Simi Valley Senior Center. Helpers included members of the Simi Valley Police Reserves and the Simi Sunrise Club.

Police Reserve Sgt. Steve Sampson spent much of the afternoon Wednesday preparing gravy, dressing, mashed potatoes

and candied yams. The event takes two months of preparation, he said, and is pulled together with the help of volunteers, who buy groceries, pick up supplies, cook and serve.

Giving his time to help others in need, Sampson said, is simply "enjoyable."

"Thanksgiving is a time of sharing," he said. His greatest satisfaction is "when people say 'thank you.'"

Reserve Sgt. Mike Harrington said the event helps put officers in a different light.

"You see faces eating dinner that you see on the street," Harrington said. "This shows a softer side of law enforcement, plus it's giving back to the community."

Contributors who helped to make Wednesday's event a success were California Water Service Companies, Hometown Buffet, Mavericks BBQ

Restaurant, Sen. Cathie Wright, Simi Valley Stake of the Church of Latter-day Saints, Southern California Water Co., Denny's Restaurant, Marie Callender's, Smart & Final and Starbucks Coffee. Also assisting were Boy Scout troops 618, 623 and 622.

Music groups from Santa Susana and Simi Valley high schools provided entertainment.

Rotarian Hal Reniger said Wednesday's feast was well-deserved.

"In one way or another, our elderly have helped us out," Reniger said. "It's time for us to return the favor. This is just a way to say 'thank you.'"

CLEAN UP-PROJECT



Bob



Bob

Michelle



Kjell



John



Jim

Dennis

Bob



Hal



Jim

Rotary club weeds out woman's dilemma

GRATEFUL RESIDENT:
Service group comes to rescue by clearing yards.

By S.L. Salomone
Correspondent

They don't call themselves knights in shining armor, but a Simi Valley woman said she will be forever grateful to the people who rescued her from a predicament.

Debbie Glasgow's problem started last summer when she was suffering from the effects of a stroke and unable to maintain her front and back yards.

Left unchecked, the weeds started to take over, growing to a height of nearly 6 feet in some places.

Her neighbors complained and Simi Valley's Code Enforcement Department cited her.

And then members of the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise came to the rescue.

With nothing more than a thank you expected, members of the service club offered to spend a week-end cleaning up Glasgow's yard.

"It's not often we get a call like this," said Craig Foster, president of the club. "But we are a service organization and we try to be of service to everyone. We take on about eight to 10 of these kinds of jobs per year."

They arrived on a Saturday morning in November, men, women and children, armed with shovels, wheelbarrows and pruning equipment.

Within a few hours, they transformed what had become a fire hazard, back into a quaint back yard.

"I don't know what I would have done without them," Glasgow said. "I just didn't know what I was going to do. I knew there were service organizations out there, but I didn't know they did stuff like this."

Not only were the weeds removed, but garbage was hauled out and three overgrown trees were trimmed.

"My mother and I bought this place together," said Glasgow, whose mother, Doris, died three years ago. "I loved the back yard and did all the work on it myself."

She pointed out where she had laid brick stepping stones and scalloped, stone edging along the flower borders.

"I felt awful watching everything get away from me," she said.

Glasgow has since suffered three more strokes, but is up and around and feeling better.

She also has some advice for anyone in a situation like hers.

"Don't wait to ask for help," Glasgow said. "There are people out there that can help."

THE STAR
MONDAY
JAN. 24, 2000
SECTION B
Bureau chief:
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Rotarians on quest to quash illness

INDIA BOUND: Group joins with World Health Organization in effort to put an end to polio.

By Karen Hibdon
Staff writer

Carol Burhoe remembers well the polio scares that occurred during her childhood.

"I'm the right age, have the right number of gray hairs to remember the polio scares we'd have in the summers," the Santa Paula resident said. "It was a terrifying thing."

At summer camp, a sore throat, lamed campers in the infirmary as a precaution against the crippling disease, she recalled.

On Monday, Burhoe will be among a contingent of Rotarians, from around the world heading for India to take part in a World Health Organization effort to immunize 13 million children. As PolioPlus Partners, the Rotarians are holding fast to the Rotary International fight to eradicate polio from the face of the Earth by 2002.

Burhoe, past president of the Santa Paula Rotary Club, said the trip — expenses paid for by each Rotarian — is the opportunity of a lifetime. In addition to helping in the immunization effort during which children 5 years and under will be given oral vaccine, Burhoe plans to visit friends in India.

The immunization effort is made possible by volunteers from local Rotary clubs around the world. Last year, 190,000 volunteers, including 100,000 Rotarians, were involved in immunizing 138 million children under the age of 5 — about half of the total population of the United States.

With Burhoe will be 37 others from Rotary District 5240, which covers Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Kern counties. They represent 12 clubs in the district.

Anil Garg of Simi Valley is heading the district contingent, along with Otto Austel, district governor. Both men live in Simi Valley. The team will be identified among the massive crowds on trains, in clinics and on the streets by royal blue jackets and gold caps embroidered with their India/USA PolioPlus Partners and Rotary International logo.

Participating in the massive undertaking is an opportunity to give something back to his homeland, said Garg, who came to the United States from India in 1970.

He's seen the devastation of polio — a couple of his friends in India had the crippling disease.

Please see QUEST on B4

THE
STAR
SUNDAY
JAN. 16, 2000
SECTION B

County editor:
John Moore,
655-5815

READ ACROSS AMERICA



Rotary offers scholarships

GOODWILL: Money helps spread groups' message by letting students study abroad.

From staff reports

Three years ago Sarah Arron, then 24, was nominated by the Rotary Club of Simi Valley to travel to Zimbabwe on a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship.

The graduate of Royal High School and the University of Virginia made the trek to expand her experience in international public health.

Now the Rotary Clubs of Simi Sunrise and Moorpark have joined together in the search of other qualified students interested in applying for Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships for the 2001-2002 academic year.

Designed to further understanding and goodwill on an international scale, the scholarships provide for study abroad in more than 150 countries where Rotary clubs are located.

The sponsorship is for one year and provides funding for round-trip transportation, tuition and fees, room and board, some educational supplies and

language training where necessary, up to a maximum award of \$23,000.

During their studies abroad, those selected act as ambassadors of goodwill and will make appearances before Rotary clubs, schools, civic organizations and other forums. They will be called upon to make similar presentations when they arrive back at home, including before the clubs sponsoring their nomination.

Qualified applicants will receive applications and must be available for further interviews. School transcripts, two education recommendations and two essays will be required to complete the final application process.

The Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship exchange is the world's largest privately sponsored international scholarship program and focuses on humanitarian service, personal diplomacy and academic excellence.

More than 30,000 Rotary Scholars have gone abroad since the program's inception in 1947.

Interested applicants should contact either Bob Mitchell, 582-2263, or Pam Hill at 523-8630 for a brief phone screening no later than March 17.

CAMP ROTARY PROJECT



CAMP ROTARY CAMPOUT



TOAST: From left, Gary Lord of Zimbabwe, Catherine Olivares of Fillmore and Denis Paul of Zimbabwe get acquainted at Volanda's in Ventura before the California group leaves for Africa.

Staff photo by Matt McClain

Rotary sends study team to Africa

BUSINESS: Five area professionals will share expertise, help build friendships.

By Helen Gao
Staff writer

Five young professionals from Ventura and Santa Barbara counties led by a longtime Rotary Club member will embark Friday on a monthlong adventure in Africa, hoping to build bridges of friendship, share professional expertise and extend a helping hand in humanitarian endeavors.

The trip is being financed by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International, which sends hundreds of teams to different countries each year on similar missions.

Richard Strayer of Simi Valley, a business professor at California State University, Northridge, and former owner of a semiconductor company, is leading the group that includes a photographer, surgical technician, construction estimator, phone company manager and technical writer.

The group is scheduled to stop in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, where it will be hosted by local Rotarians. The members will make presentations to local Rotary Clubs on their vocations and visit humanitarian projects, such as orphanages, to better understand how they may help in the future.

Otto Austel, governor of Rotary Club District 5240 from which the team members were selected, said this trip to Africa is part of Rotary's effort to make the world a better place.

The main objective of Rotary is to advance international understanding, good will and peace through fellowships of professionals," said Austel.

From about 40 applicants, Strayer said the local district picked five for the team based on each one's ability to represent Rotary's mission.

"One of the things we look for is ability to be ambassadors of goodwill," he said. "We are developing friendships with different

About Rotary

Rotary is a service organization founded in 1905 in Chicago by a group of men led by Paul Harris, a lawyer. The mission of Rotary, which is open to both men and women, is to promote world peace and goodwill, encourage high ethical standards in all professions and provide humanitarian service, such as funding grass-roots projects to alleviate hunger and reduce illiteracy in Third World countries.

The named Rotary came from the practice of early members rotating the meeting sites among their offices.

Today, approximately 1.2 million Rotarians work to better their communities and the world through some 29,000 clubs in 160 countries. Rotary's motto is "Service above self."

In Rotary District 5240, which includes Ventura, San Luis Obispo, Kern and Santa Barbara counties, there are 62 clubs and approximately 3,400 members.

For more information about Rotary call Nancy Falconer, 578-1061.

On the Net:
Rotary International:
www.rotary.org

countries. If we have friends in different countries, we can't go to war with them."

The team is passionate about the mission.

Donna Granata's eyes light up with excitement when she talks about the trip. Granata is an Ojai photographer and arts educator who hopes to establish connections with African artists through her trip.

"To me art is such a universal language. It transcends all boundaries," she said. "Sharing the language of art is personally what I want to document."

Granata is bringing 150 rolls of film to document the trip. She has read up on the Shona tribe, which is recognized for its stone sculptures, and the Ndebele tribe, which is famous for its wood work.

Brian O'Leary, a service manager for Lucent Technologies from Camarillo, said he is eager to learn about telecommunications in Africa and see how he can help the needy there.

"Lucent is a global business. We are expanding throughout the world. We have technologies that can help out everyone," he said. "I will have an opportunity to find out how much they are using wireless, compared to wired, and out how they are using the Internet."

At the same time, O'Leary

wants to learn how Rotary can help the orphanage project that is being proposed in Maseru, Zimbabwe. It will shelter children left behind by AIDS-afflicted families.

Strayer said the local district is considering paying for the equipment for the project. Other Rotary Clubs around the world are working on financing and other aspects.

The rest of the team members are Tara Racine, a technical writer from Thousand Oaks; Devon Quinn, a construction estimator from Santa Barbara; Catherine Olivares, a surgical technician from Fillmore.

Helen Gao's e-mail address is hgo@worldnet.com.



17th Annual Cajun Creole Music Festival

Memorial Day Weekend

Sat. May 27 11 am to 8 pm
Sun. May 28 11 am to 7 pm

Adults \$10
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SATURDAY

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Lisa Haley & Zydekats
Geno Delafosse & French Rockin' Boogie
Lil' Band O' Gold featuring:
Warren Storm, Steve Riley, C.C. Adcock
and the St. Martin Horns
Doug Kershaw

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one strand / person

SUNDAY

Acadiana
Lisa Haley & Zydekats
Rosie Ledet
Geno Delafosse
& French Rockin' Boogie
Boo Zoo Chavis

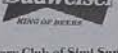
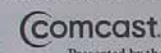
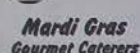
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Heather

Craig



GEORGE BERCOW

2000 CAJUN FESTIVAL CHAIRMAN

AKA BUSINESS MAN OF THE YEAR!!!!

Our Times (Over Valley)

*VC / SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2000

Cajun Culture Adds Spice to Music Festival

Fund-raiser: Thousands are expected to sample the food and Zydeco music at two-day Simi Valley event sponsored by Rotary Club to benefit charities.

By TINA DIRMANN
Times Staff Writer

SIMI VALLEY — Denise Bigger watched her mom tear the head off a blistering red boiled crawfish, rip open the hard-boiled body and pop the tender pink meat into her mouth. "Yek," she said, with all the disgust a 7-year-old can muster.

Mom Sheri Bigger simply smiled. She knew better.

"Mmmmm," the elder Bigger said. "Cajun food. It's wonderful."

Mom and daughter were among the thousands of people in Simi Valley sampling a little Cajun culture at the 17th annual Cajun Creole Music Festival, a fund-raiser hosted by the city's Rotary Club that began Saturday and continues today.

More than 15,000 people were expected to flock to the festival, where many were anxious to don Mardi Gras beads and tap their feet to Zydeco music.

But it was clear why most were there.

"The food," said Jason Manis, 33 of Simi Valley. "I'm here for the food."

All the Cajun classics were there: shrimp etouffee, red beans and rice, jambalaya, gumbo, pol' boys. And, of course, boiled crawfish—though plenty of folks had more than a little trouble figuring out how to eat it. John Bishadrecki twisted and turned the tiny red sea creature while deciding on his best plan of attack. He twisted off the head, pinched off the tail, then painstakingly peeled off the hard-boiled body. Finally, left with a tender piece of pink meat, he popped it into his mouth.

"This is a little difficult," Bishadrecki said. "I'm not so sure I'm getting enough out of all this."

Vendor Steve Stiefel, who dished out heaping bowls of red beans and rice, smiled at the novice. After all, he is a Louisiana native who grew up on this kind of cooking.

"With an accent like this, I'm sure not from New York City," he said in a perfect southern drawl straight off the boys.

Stiefel, owner of La Louisiana Express, assured his customers they were eating authentic Louisiana cooking—grandma's recipe, in fact.



Darius Johnson and his wife, Sharon, dance to Cajun music at Cajun Creole Music Festival.



Katie Marsh offers Mardi Gras beads to children at Cajun festival.

"Just like Hank Williams Jr. family tradition," Stiefel said. "We're just carrying on an old George Bercow, chairman of this year's event, said the festival seems to get more popular every year. Last year, organizers had to stop admitting people for about an hour because the crowds were so large. To fix that problem, Bercow moved the festival to a larger location, an open field at the corner of Stearns Street and Los Angeles Avenue.

"I can't imagine anyone sitting still with music like this," Stiefel said. "Once I'm out there dancing, I won't even think about the heat."

Taste of New Orleans arrives this weekend at Cajun Festival

THE STAR
SATURDAY
MAY 27, 2000
SECTION B
Bureau chief:
Karen Hibdon
579-1946
1720 Los Angeles Ave.,
Unit H-1, Simi Valley,
CA 93065

By Alicia Doyle
Correspondent

They needed more head necklaces. Fifteen thousand, to be exact. That's because Simi Valley's year-by Cajun Festival keeps growing year after year, leaving organizers without enough traditional beads to go around.

"We sold out last year," said event chairman George Bercow. "So we ordered three times as many."

The city's 11th annual Cajun Creole Music Festival, which kicks off today at Santa Susana Community Park, is expected to attract more than the 15,000 the event drew last year, Bercow said.

The growing crowd year after year is why event organizers moved the event to the park, which is about one-third larger than last year's venue at Tapa Canyon Road and Los Angeles Avenue. Before that, it was at Strathearn Park.

"Because we've been around so long, the word has gotten out about our event," Bercow said.

Presented by the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, the event features authentic Cajun and Creole food booths and live music.

"Because we have more vendors, the variety of food is wider," Bercow said. "The stage and sound is bigger and better than before."

Today and Sunday, the festival will be home to roughly 90 food and craft booths. Participants can enjoy authentic Cajun dishes from alligator on a stick to black beans and rice, crawfish to crab cakes.

Hot dogs, shaved ice, Kettle Korn, hamburgers and cotton candy also will be sold.

A safe and shaded area will be provided for children, where organized crafts and games will be available throughout the day. Children and adults will have the chance to make Mardi Gras masks and take part in a Mardi Gras parade.

Last year, the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise raised roughly \$125,000, all

of which went directly to charitable organizations locally, nationally and internationally.

Bercow expects this year's event to raise even more.

Supporters include many volunteer Rotarians, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Explorers and the Simi Valley Police Department.

A number of local companies have signed on as corporate sponsors. Nationally known bands slated to play include Andre Thierry, Geno Delafosse, Lil' Band O' Gold, Acadiana, Geno Delafosse and Boo Zoo Chavis. For more information call 520-4894, or contact the Web site www.simivalley.com/rotary/cajun.html.

To attend

WHAT: 11th annual Cajun Creole Music Festival sponsored by the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, with proceeds going back into the community.

WHEN: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. today and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday.

WHERE: Soccer fields behind Rancho Santa

Susana Community Center, Los Angeles Avenue and Stearns Street.

ADMISSION: \$10; children under 12 admitted free.

DETAILS: Mardi Gras parade, vendors, Cajun music, food and children's activities.

INFORMATION: 520-4894



Louis Carmine



Chance Bruce

THE STAR
SUNDAY
MAY 28, 2000
SECTION B
County editor:
John Moore,
655-5815

Cajun festival heats up weekend

SIMI VALLEY: Fair raises money for community, is touched by tragedy as 1 killed, 1 hurt in accident.

By Jim Perez
Staff writer

At least once a year, people in Simi Valley have a little Creole in them. And it's that time of the year again. The 11th annual Cajun Creole Music Festival opened Saturday.

The first day ended, however, on a tragic note when a pickup struck two pedestrians near the festival in the 5000 block of Los Angeles Avenue. Both victims, whose names were unavailable Saturday night, were taken to Simi Valley Hospital. One was pronounced dead. The other was hospitalized with unknown injuries. (Story on Page A1.)

This year the festival moved to a larger facility at Santa Susana Community Park at Los Angeles Avenue and Stearns Street, and promised to be bigger, better and more fun than ever. The festival continues from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. today.

Last year's festival was dampened by cool weather, but this year's event was blessed with bright sunshine. Festivalgoers sat under trees along the fence, trying to escape the muggy heat that gave the festival a true, steamy New Orleans atmosphere.

And Zydeco music, laughter and smells of Creole cooking filled the air.

Jim Barrett, 30, of Simi Valley, attended last year's festival.

As he stood sipping a beer in the hot sun, he said this year's location is "better than last year. There's a lot more room." Barrett said he and his buddies planned to "just hang out, have some drinks and enjoy the music."

Not all the entertainment was on the main stage. Charles Soper, a Simi Valley resident, played his "super washboard," and entertained the crowd.

The washboard featured two cow bells and miniature cymbals. His sewing thimble-covered fingers drifted



MARDI GRAS STYLE: Kaitlin Conti, 6, of Thousand Oaks tries on a mask at the Accent of New Orleans Booth at the Cajun Creole Music Festival on Saturday at Simi Valley's Santa Susana Community Park.



HOT FUN: Warm temperatures brought out a crowd to the Cajun festival Saturday in Simi Valley. Mary Fiederer of Agoura, above, looks at some brightly colored hats that were for sale while Nikki Harina, left, dances with her 2-year-old daughter, Olivia. The festival continues today.

Celine Olivas, a 6-year-old at Atherwood School in Simi Valley, scrambled up the 30-foot fake rock.

During her climb, she stopped halfway, looked down to her father for encouragement, then made it the rest of the way to the top. As she was lowered down on a safety line, her face beamed with a triumphant smile.

Her father, Manny Olivas, proudly held her as she shyly shook her head no when asked whether she was scared during the climb.

Louis Metoyer is editor of "Bayou Talk," a 14-year-old newspaper in Montebello.

He said the paper is a resource, a way to keep in touch, for Creoles and Cajuns who have emigrated west from Louisiana.

Metoyer said the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, which sponsors the festival as a major fund-raiser for local charities, "has done a great job over the years. I go a lot of festivals, and this is the best."

Jim Perez's e-mail address is jperez@outlook.com.



THE AFTER PARTY FESTIVAL



Louis



Rah George Ann
Jim Craig Rod



Dennis Rah



George Ed Ann



Craig Rod



George Jim Dennis

THE DAY AFTER PARTY CLEAN UP



THE END??



Dennis George



Craig Heather Louis



Marshall

Michele

Rotary business award surprises its recipient

By S.L. Salamone
Correspondent

Patrick Benton didn't think too much about it when the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise recently asked him to speak at one of its club meetings.

As a senior vice president of administration for Countrywide Home Loans, Benton has a lot of information to offer, and he had spoken to groups in the past.

But when his schedule suddenly conflicted with the club meeting and he offered to send someone else in his place, club members had to come clean.

Benton, of Thousand Oaks, was chosen as Business Person of the Year.

"They were trying to make it a surprise," Benton said. "And I spoiled it, but I was still flabbergasted."

Presented yearly, the award is bestowed on a person in the community who is not a member of the Rotary Club.

Benton received his award May 25 during an early morning ceremony held at the Grand Vista Hotel in Simi Valley.

Craig Foster, club president, said Benton was chosen from 10 candidates, because his conduct in business most typified the Four Way Test of Rotary International.

"There were a lot of qualified

candidates," Foster said. "But Patrick was just a step ahead."

The Four Way Test is: truth in thought, word and deed; fairness in actions; build good will among people; and actions are beneficial to all concerned.

"I had no idea there was a Four Way Test," Benton said. "But I'm glad I know now. I think I do contribute to the community. It's been good to me and the corporation. I think it's natural to want to give back."

Active in the communities of Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley and Calabasas, Benton serves on the board of the Chamber of Commerce in Calabasas. This year he is the chairman for the fund-raising campaign for the Simi and Conejo Valley Boy Scout programs, and he is an active member of the Simi Valley Police Foundation Board of Directors.

"He has high ethical standards in the workplace," Foster said. "And we were very happy he got the plaque and the recognition."

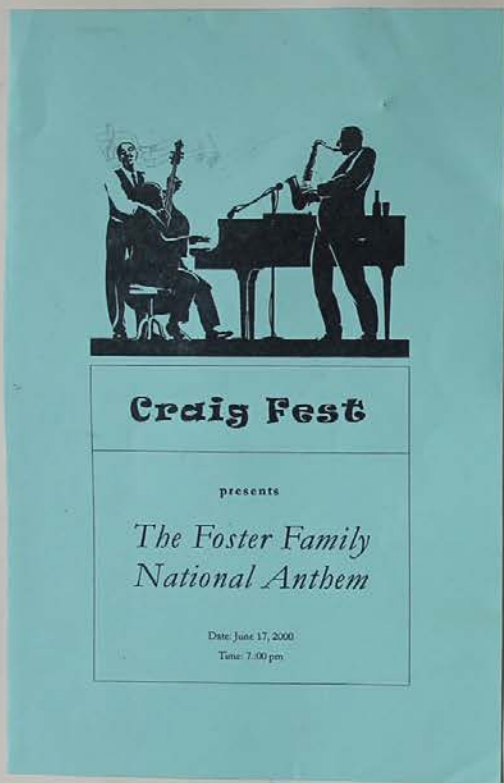
Benton lives with his wife, Tina, and their two daughters, Heather, 12 and Ashley, 9. He said he hopes he is setting an example for his children.

"I hope I'm teaching them that everything you give you get back in full," he said. "There's nothing more rewarding."

CRAIG'S YEAR IS UP ALREADY???

CRAIG'S FOSTER'S DEMOTION

JUNE 17, 2000



Dick Strayer



Craig

Ann Berow



Sid Liberman

Craig

