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The Rotary Fountain, Downtown Beaumont

Photo by Mark Low Imagery



Photo by Steve Buser

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## Wheelchair Project



Emily Compton will present this week's program:

"In February, Alex Broussard, Ron Borel (Rotary Club of Orange) and I flew to Mexico City to see first hand how this important project made a difference in the lives of people with disabilities in Mexico. And all of us were overwhelmed with the response.

"The chairs we purchased were distributed to children, teenagers, adults and senior citizens – people who were disabled from lack of medical care, birth defects and a multitude of other situations.

"They were given to people who had

*(Continued on page 2)*

Last year, the Rotary Club of Beaumont partnered with the Rotary Club of Orange and the Beaumont Rotary Foundation to raise \$18,000 for the Wheelchair Foundation. Our donation was matched dollar for dollar by the Kenneth E. Behring Foundation to provide all-terrain wheelchairs globally for the underprivileged. As a result, we were able to send an entire shipping container of 240 wheelchairs for distribution in Mexico City and its vicinity.

## Head Table



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GUEST INTRODUCTION

**JEFF NOBLE,**  
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**From the chef: Lasagna**

**Torch Awards**  
 for Marketplace Ethics  
**BBB** Presentation Banquet  
 Tuesday Night, May 6  
 Speaker **David Oreck**  
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 Friday, June 6, 2003 - Harvest Club  
 For Tickets call Mary Garcia at 832-1644  
 Proceeds from the event benefit disaster victims

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**Program Review**

The good news is that there is buried pirate treasure in Chambers County, Stephen Rowland told our club Wednesday. The bad news is that it is under 10 feet of mud.

Rowland, who chairs the Fort Anahuac committee of the Chambers County Historical Commission, is obviously a man who loves his work.

He reminded us that Fort Anahuac was built by the Mexican Army in the 1830s to collect taxes from colonists but the fort has been covered up for decades.

Although 40,000 to 60,000 cars pass through Chambers County each day on Interstate 10, very few make their way to Anahuac.

To change that, Chambers County folks plan to build a visitors center and other exhibits which will tell the story of what happened there 170 years ago. William Travis was jailed there and Jean Lafitte sailed there, Rowland told us. Using a magnetometer, the shape

of the fort was established - then verified by more traditional archeological techniques.

The fort consisted of 3 million bricks and its walls were five feet thick (7 feet for the emplacements holding 18-pound guns). Residents played in tunnels under the fort, though the tunnels haven't been found yet.

Additional digging is planned during the second and third weeks of May and the public is invited to help and to observe. Ground penetrating radar will be used to further verify the location of the old buildings, Rowland said.

More funding is needed to build the visitors center and reconstruct a "scow schooner" which once plied the waters of the Trinity River in the area.

In addition to his love of history, Mr. Rowland is an applied physicist and chairs the department of Nondestructive Testing and Electronics at San Jacinto College.

**Future Programs**

**May**  
 7<sup>th</sup> Youth Day  
 14<sup>th</sup> Bill Glass

**June**  
 4<sup>th</sup> Magnolia Refinery Centennial  
 11<sup>th</sup> Commissioner Ralph Marquez

**Makeups**

**Monday:**  
 No. Port Arthur .....Holiday Inn Hwy 69  
 Vidor.....Hibernia National Bank

**Tuesday:**  
 Spindletop.....Holiday Inn 11th St.  
 Orange.....Sunset Grove  
 Port Neches.....Pompano Club

**Wednesday:**  
 Groves.....Pompano Club

**Thursday:**  
 Port Arthur.....Holiday Inn Hwy 69

**Friday:**  
 Nederland.....Garden Tea Room

**Wheelchair Project**



(Continued from page 1)  
 no hope of ever obtaining a wheelchair. The gratitude of the recipients brought our little group to tears several times.

"After witnessing the response of the recipients, I was so glad that **President Harland** chose to repeat the project this year. Please attend Wednesday's meeting and learn more about how your contributions from last year and this year are "Sowing the Seeds of Love" in Mexico."

**Emily, Alex** and Ron visited five Rotary Clubs in the Mexico City area, including Toluca and Anahuac, where they presented several of the wheelchairs.

Most of the wheelchairs were presented on Sunday, February 23rd at a health fair commemorating Rotary Interna-

(Continued on page 3)



**Alex Broussard** and **Ron Borel** with one of our wheelchair recipients.

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## Board Action

Your Board of Directors met Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, and approved the following:

### New Members:

Lorrie Hayes,  
Executive Director, Junior Achievement of the Golden Triangle,  
"Assns – Junior Achievement"  
Proposed by Terry Bourdier

Jay Spencer,  
Owner, Go 4 It Resources,  
"Bus. Service – Business Planning"  
Proposed by Gerald Condon

Daniel Ward,  
Vice President, ICU Environmental,  
Health & Safety,  
"Engineering – Testing & Inspection"  
Proposed by Henry Strait

Unless written objections to the Board of Directors are received by Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the candidates listed above will be considered elected to membership.

### Classification Change:

**Kathleen Hardey** – from "Financial Services—Financial Consulting" to "Credit Union—Human Resources"

### Leave of Absence:

**Kent Batman** - 3/26 - 6/30/03  
- business travel

### Resignation accepted with regret:

**Cathy Long** - business pressures

### Recalling deceased members:

**James Mann** - 3/20/03  
**Tommy Polk** - 4/14/03

(Continued from page 2)

tional's 99th anniversary. It was held in a major Mexico City plaza and was attended by thousands of people including the Rotary District Governor and Past Governors as well as local and national government officials. The event was covered extensively by the national press.

**Emily** and **Alex** will share their experiences and photographs of their trip.

## Birthdays

### 30<sup>th</sup> Bruce Hoffer (01)

Attorney, Law Office of Bruce A. Hoffer



Born in Houston, he is a graduate of the University of Texas and Suffolk School of Law. He and his wife Carey are the parents of Wesley, Sarah and Rebekah, and are members of Temple Emanuel. He enjoys refereeing kids' soccer and softball, playing tennis, scuba diving, fishing and hunting.

### 30<sup>th</sup> Carolyn Howard (92)

Executive Director,  
Beaumont Main Street



Born in Dallas, she is a graduate of Baylor University and a member of Trinity United Methodist Church. Carolyn enjoys vocal performance.

### 30<sup>th</sup> George Schaumburg (46)

Retired, Schaumburg & Polk



Born in Reading, Pennsylvania, he is a graduate of Lehigh University. He is the father of George Jr., and is a member of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. He enjoys woodworking and gardening. George is a Paul Harris Fellow.

### 30<sup>th</sup> Don Thompson, Jr. (89)

Owner, Thompson Telecommunications



A Beaumont native, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Judy are the parents of Sarah and Trey, and are members of Wesley United Methodist Church. He enjoys horses, 4-H, cattle, playing golf, hunting and fishing.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Lupe Flores (84)

County Court Judge, Jefferson County



Born in New Gulf, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Nancy are the parents of Andrea and Jamie. He enjoys reading, hunting and fishing.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Steve Buser (98)

President/CEO,  
Partnership of Southeast Texas



Born in Kansas City, Missouri, he is a graduate of Louisiana State University. He and his wife Linda are the parents of Vicky, Shawn and Charles, and are members of North End Baptist Church. He enjoys music, computers and photography.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Don Coleman (87)

Manager, Crawford & Company



Born in Boston, Massachusetts, he is a graduate of the University of Alabama. He and his wife Celia are the parents of Alan and Michelle, and are members of St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan Hallmark (84)

Southeast Texas Area Regional Chairman, Hibernia National Bank



Born in Jacksonville, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Jan are the parents of Wendy and Stephen, and are members of Calder Baptist Church. He enjoys hunting, fishing and travel. Dan is a Paul Harris Fellow.

### IS YOUR BIRTHDAY COMING SOON?

The data in the birthday bios comes from your information sheet. Please notify the Rotary Office of changes in your life.

Plan now to join us for the  
**ROTARY CLUB OF BEAUMONT  
GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
Monday afternoon, May 19<sup>th</sup>  
Beaumont Country Club

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