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The Rotary Fountain, Downtown Beaumont

Photo by Mark Low Imagery



Photo by Steve Buser

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Senator-Elect Tommy Williams



Senator-elect Tommy Williams brings a strong record of public service, business achievements and community involvement to the people of Southeast Texas. In the recent November elections, Texans showed their confidence in Williams by electing him to the Texas Senate with 64% of the vote. Senator-elect Williams is a three-term member of the Texas House of Representatives and is an outspoken advocate for Texas taxpayers, and a recognized leader in budgetary issues.

Senator-elect Williams is a life long Texan. He was born in Marshall, Texas and attended schools in the Marshall Independent School District. Graduat-

ing from high school in three years, he attended Kilgore Community College for one semester before entering Texas A & M University. After graduating from Texas A & M with a BBA in Accounting, Williams began a career in industry and public accounting prior to entering the insurance and financial services field in 1983. He is a member of the Texas Society of CPA's and now serves as President of Financial Services for Woodforest National Bank.

The proud parents of two teenage sons, Tommy and his wife, Marsha, are active community leaders and members of The Woodlands United Methodist Church, and will be celebrating their twentieth wedding anniversary this year.



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GUEST INTRODUCTION
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REMINDER

If you participated in Rotary Goes to Work last month and have not yet paid for your lunch, please do so before the end of November. Alexine's assistant Sharon will be collecting money and marking names off her list before every meeting. Mailing statements costs both time and money.



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Program Review

When asked what one word would best describe the current state of the telecommunications industry, "turmoil" was the one chosen by David Huntley, Vice President of SBC Southwestern Bell.

He told our club that the industry has lost \$2 trillion in market value and about 500,000 jobs, eight times the losses in the savings and loan collapse.

Several huge companies have already gone into bankruptcy and more may follow. Those failures have ripple effects. For instance, Huntley told us, Worldcom owes SBC about \$450 million and its bankruptcy may mean that the money won't be paid.

In order to survive, SBC has already laid off thousands of employees and has plans to lay off thousands more. Capital spending has also been cut, he said.

The problems for SBC are exacerbated by laws which require SBC to make available its local service networks for less than it costs SBC to provide them.

The solution for the industry and for SBC is for laws to be passed which are fair and consistent so that competitors will be playing on a level field, Huntley said.

He also reminded us that - despite the current downturn - SBC still employs 37,000 Texans with an annual payroll of \$1.8 billion. The company also sponsors the program which we call "Rotary Goes to School."

Eddie Arnold, SBC's Regional Manager, introduced Mr. Huntley and, during the question and answer period, was called into action to provide responses to several queries about the cost of service. The first of those questions came from the normally reticent **Jerry White**, who wanted to know why "it costs more to call Paris, Texas, than Paris, France?"

We owe Eddie a debt of thanks for bringing Mr. Huntley to our meeting and for jumping in with the answers to the tough questions.

Future Programs

November

27th Vocational Excellence Awards

December

4th Pending
11th Dave Marrow
17th Holiday Party
25th No meeting

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

The Big Day

Continued from last week's issue:

Other Beaumont Rotarians noted in The Big Day collection published by the Spindletop 2001 Commission included Rotary Luncheon Chairman **David Hitt** who headed up the sold-out event at the Montagne Center. Assisting with the "big lunch" which attracted 1,200 people were:

Kathleen Jackson who made arrangements for the keynote speaker;
Barbara Knight and **Sheri Arnold** who coordinated ticket sales;
Gerald Condon and **Lori Falk** who managed memorabilia sales;
Jerry White and **Arthur Berry** who were responsible for activities with area Rotary clubs;
Kathryn and **Bruce Walker** who were in charge of meeting logistics;
Nancy Beaulieu and **Bessie Chisum** who ensured program and meeting etiquette;
Becky and **Chuck Mason, Floyd McSpadden, Angela Baker, and Evelyn Lord** who served as ex-officio members; and **Janice Trammell**, member of the

Spindletop Commission, who served as facility liaison for Lamar University.

Maurine Gray served as chairman of the Texas Energy Museum's annual "Blowout." Lending their talents to that event were **Harland Merriam** who presented the invocation and **Carolyn Howard** who sang the National Anthem.

Alex Broussard served as Chairman of the "Gusher Clubs" educational school project with assistance from committee member **Bob Harris** and ice cream treats from **Travis Brewer** of Blue Bell Creameries.

Robert Robertson and **Tom Lamb** assisted with the Tyrrell Historical Library Association's traveling exhibit, "Spindletop Set the World in Motion" which toured BISD seventh grades classes and schools in Austin.

Other committees that included Rotary members were the City of Beaumont's Spindletop Committee with **Lupe Flores, Larry Beaulieu, Lulu Smith, Carolyn**

(Continued on page 3)



Kitchen Concepts

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The Big Day

(Continued from page 2)

Howard and Barbara Knight. Lulu Smith, Carolyn Howard, and former Rotarian Greg Shepard served on the Community Celebrations Committee which hosted a competition and award event.

Lending a hand in different kitchens were **Marvin Dunham** (who also produced a special blend of coffee to celebrate the centennial and hosted a cookbook signing event) and **Janelle Frazier** who headed up the food committee for "The Big Day," helping to feed the crowd that attended the event.

James Fuller led the introduction of "Prayer for Education and Our Youth" at the Prayer Breakfast. **Lois Ann Stanton** hosted special guests from Austria in her home. **Jolene Ortego** helped staff the Media Center. **Russ Schultz** made the local arrangements at the Lamar University Theatre for the "Stars Fell on Texas: The Texas Oil Story as Told by Hollywood: Symposium of Popular Culture and History" collaborating with **Robert Robertson** and **Ryan Smith**

The creative touch of **Dennis Moncla** was literally everywhere during the celebration as his derrick logo was used on many pieces of commemorative memorabilia.

Ensuring the legacy of the Spindletop Commission were **Janice Trammel** with the new Visitor's Center at Gladys City, **Ryan Smith's** dedication to the Texas Energy Museum's new project, "Unlocking the Energy of Oil, and the Spindletop Centennial Oral History Project" headed by **Matt White**.

And of course, writing about the big event was **Ellen Reinstra** who co-authored Spindletop: The Sleeping Giant which is now in local book stores.

A generous contribution from **Walter Crawford** helped make it all possible.

Too numerous to mention were the outstanding efforts of **Sam and Evelyn Lord** who made January 10, 2001 and the Centennial Celebration of Spindletop a day and an event long to be remembered.

Birthdays



22nd Carol Flatten (98) Executive Director, Foundation for Southeast Texas. Born in Hartford, Connecticut, she is a graduate of the University of Texas. Carol

and her husband **Gerald** are the parents of Charlie, Eric, Catherine and Christi, and are members of Trinity United Methodist Church. She enjoys genealogy, reading and traveling.



23rd David Locke (98) Vice President, Bank One. A Beaumont native, he is a Lamar graduate. David and his wife Ginger are the parents of Carol and Kayla,

and are members of Trinity United Methodist Church. He enjoys his children, fishing and gardening.



23rd Charlie Weinbaum (49) Partner, Weinbaum Insurance Agency. A Beaumont native, he is a graduate of Texas A&M University and the New York University Graduate School. Charlie and his wife Gloria are the parents of Becky,

Bo, Danny, Jonny and Bern, and are members of Temple Emanuel. He enjoys fishing, hunting, golf, softball and watching sporting events. Charlie is a Paul Harris Fellow.



25th Larry Beaulieu (83) Vice President & General Manager, KFDM-TV Channel 6. Born in Dallas, he is a graduate of Texas Tech University and Lamar University. Larry and his wife **Nancy** are the parents of Brad and Lara, and are members of First Baptist Church. He enjoys fishing, hunting, computers and SCUBA diving. Larry is a Paul Harris Fellow.

The Beaumont Rotary Club and many of its members took active roles in making the celebration a success. Service and dedication were certainly on the minds of those who helped.



25th Melinda McNeely (00) City Manager, Kelly Services. A Beaumont native, she is a Lamar graduate. Melinda and her husband Kenny are the parents of Garrett and Abbey, and are members of Our Lady of Sorrows.



25th Tommy Polk (70) Vice President - Investments, UBS PaineWebber. Born in Houston, he is a graduate of St. Edward's University. Tommy and his wife JoAnn are members of St. Anne's Catholic Church. He enjoys gardening. Tommy is a Paul Harris Fellow.



26th Eddie Arnold (98) Regional Manager, SBC Southwestern Bell. Born in Pittsburgh, he is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University. Eddie and his

wife **Sheri** are the parents of Aaron, Kelly, Holly and Carol. He enjoys golf, fishing and travel. Eddie is a Paul Harris Fellow.



26th Kathy Snyder (01) CEO, Healthsouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Beaumont. Born in Midland, she is a graduate of Texas Christian University. Kathy

and her husband Graham have one son, Matthew. She enjoys fishing, golf and volunteer work.



27th Margaret Cherb (87) Retired Executive Director, Rotary Club of Beaumont. Born in Mobile, Alabama, she is a graduate of the Salvation Army College in Atlanta, Georgia. A member of Calvary Baptist Church, she enjoys music, travel and reading. Margaret is a Paul Harris Fellow.

IS YOUR BIRTHDAY COMING SOON?

Please notify the Rotary Office of changes in your life.

The data in the birthday bios comes from your information sheet.

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