



BE THE INSPIRATION
2018-2019

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Jan 31st
Rutledge Haggard
Saving Plano's Oldest house

Feb 7th
NO NOON METING

Feb 14th
TBD



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Little, Pamela	Jan 04
Via, Jo	Jan 05
McWhorter, David	Jan 15
Aris, Jerry	Jan 17
Brodhead, John	Jan 20
Hernandez, Paul	Jan 25



WINTER Weekly

Volume 267, Issue 332, January 31st, 2019

Reader

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

BACK IN MY DAY

GERiatric Club of Plano earned its sobriquet with this program: the reminisces of a trio of old-timers, each trying to outdo the others with either the earliest memory or the most inclusive one. The program will be available on our Facebook page once **Carrolyn the Petite** gets her daughter on it.

La Petit was AWOL, making preparations to retire! She and her husband were selling their Vet Hospital, although he's going to grind on with it for a while. The up-shot was that **Jeff Beckley**, Son of **Judy**



Kristan (North Mecklenburg Rotary), chaired the meeting, calling upon **Ray Huffines** for the Invocation and **Gary Garza** for the Pledge. Plano City Council Incumbent **Rick Grady** was shaking hands as Greeter; it must be Silly Season once more.

Jeff summoned **SERGEANT NANCY** to introduce our many Visiting Rotarians and Guests, such was the appeal of the trio of old-timers. The first was Jeff who was hosting **LaShon Ross**, former Asst. City Manager, now running for the promoted position of City Councilman! **Howard Matson** welcomed a former Bahamas Rotarian, **Alan Gottlieb**, here to look us over as a possible new Rotary port in a storm. Alan

went to school with Lt. Col. **James Reed**, the Undersecretary of the Treasury, but we won't hold that against him. **Kelly Palmer** was AWOL, so **Olin Jaye** introduced his guest, **Steve Matthews**, an incumbent



running again for **Collin College** Board of Trustees. Olin then returned to introduce "an advocate for **Collin County Realtors®**," **Diane Donley** (formerly one of the many Ms.



Jeran Akers). **Rick Horne** bragged on **Magna Cum Laude** son, **Zack**, who has been granted a scholarship to study Engineering. Not to be outdone, Ray bragged on his manager trainee back from A&M, son **Sam** (not, mind you, Son OF Sam).

For Visiting Rotarians, we had the aforementioned Jeff Beckley Mom as well as returning visitor, **Friday Epke** (Hilltop Nigeria). Prodigal son **Randy Wright** returned briefly from **Plano East**, and **Dun-**



can Webb, campaigning for Collin County office, was back for more *Gleneagles* lunch (*Plano Metro* dines here).

NANCY endowed LaShon with free advertising, choosing her for the *3 Minutes of Fame* segment. 1st car: '82 orange *Chevette* (standard). Favorite band: *The Ooh Ooh Ah Ahh*. Weirdest job-related incident: a coworker, sharing an elevator, asked to kiss her; he was remanded to custody. **TARDIS** moment: anywhere with mountains close



to an ocean and lots of Nature (try California). She has no tattoos. One thing we don't know about her is "I love puzzles;" she can do crosswords "8 hours at a stretch." And she "loves communication, talking to people," so she'd love to be the newest City Council member to discuss and perhaps disagree "without annihilation." Jeff called her a "good sport for being picked upon." LaShon knew the value of an open mic.

When Rick Grady asked for (and was granted) equal time, **NANCY** reminded all sponsors of those running for office about the fine bucket and their \$5 contribution. Then he turned to Olin again for the program introduction.

Commenting on photos too embarrassing (to **Jamie Schell**) to be presented, he introduced those who needed no introduction: **Rutledge Haggard**, Jamie Schell, and **Randy Brodhead**, "the only three names here today that are mentioned in Plano: The Early Years." **Larry FLASH Flannery** handed out a packet of "censored" photos of early Plano.

Rutledge's family came to Plano in 1856 "and settled about 100 yds from where I live today." But once he gets

started, no one else "might get the microphone. It's obvious [the audience] didn't know what the program was today." Olin replied that they were here because "they thought it might be scandalous." Rutledge's great great grandfather died a couple of years after arriving, "and my great grandfather was 16 at the time."

Jamie said he'd give Olin \$5 after the program to buy some socks. "But your ankles are very attractive." "OK," said Olin, "I won't bring up the sheep."

January 1878 Jamie's family arrived as **Fred and L.E.R. Schimelpfenig** (Plano's 2nd Library). 1894 Jamie's grandmother, the youngest of eight, **Irene Martha Schimelpfenig** was born. She married **A.R. Schell** in 1922 and a year later "**Little Alex**," his Dad, was born.

Randy said, "Moving up a few years, my Dad moved here in the 1930s," who described Plano then as "the 'cliqueiest' town he'd ever seen. If you weren't a Haggard, a Harrington, a Schimelpfenig... people didn't want to do business with you." "Bein' an outsider, no one wanted to do business with me." His correspondent asked, "Where did you move in from?" "Allen."

Reflecting on Plano's Past



Rutledge said, "Back when I was growin' up, Plano was still a rural community." There were grain elevators and folk lived, shopped, and went to school in Plano, "but all the farming activity took place in Frisco." While the farming products went there, "the grain went to Carrollton." Susan has urged Rutledge to write a book about his experience of the community. "Downtown Plano was really warm; I can understand why Randy's Dad moved from Allen to Plano." His dealership was by the old train depot, "we had his Allis Chalmers combines that we ran."

In downtown Plano, "there was a doctor, there was a *Huffines* store, there was a furniture store, a grocery store, there was a locker plant," which he explained was used before the days of freezers. It was where you preserved slaughtered beef "for the year." "Prior to locker plant was a smokehouse..." It was **Homer Horton's** locker plant. Rotary President **Nathan White** had a clothing store. "You'd put your money in the pot...you'd pull a string and away it went to the top of the building where a cashier sat." "**John R. Weatherford** [jewelry store owner] was a classmate of my Dad."

Jamie's home was "only a few blocks from downtown," and his first memories of going downtown "was to my Dad's (and Granddad's) insurance agency because he always kept candy, so we'd go and raid the candy jar." "Harrington Pharmacy, White's Auto Supply...the 'Rat Palace' movie house" were all downtown. **Joe Griffin** Olds was near the Post Office, "but that was about it." **Janis Allman** piped up, "You remember the funeral home was on the top floor of Harrington's?"

"Right around the corner was Haggard Park, and we would go down there and fish for crawdads." Jamie went to Mendenhall and Cox for Junior High and attended the last class in *Plano High School* "before it converted to Williams."

Randy's home was "almost downtown," being on K just north of 15th. His first memory of downtown was "goin' to my Dad's implement business." "All 12 grades were in the Cox building," when Randy started school. "I remember goin' to the movie theater on Saturday morning." "It was a big deal when we got a Dairy Queen," which was where Randy hung out as a teenager.

Randy then pulled out a large photo showing the Community House where the Rotary Club first met. Lion's Club and Rotary Club used the same venue, "built by the members" just south of downtown; "it's a church now."



"In Plano, they used to have the Gay 90s Banquet," and they had a dunking tank, "right down on 15th Street." "A portable jail set up, and all the guys had to have beards or mustache," and if you didn't and refused to pay the fine, you were jailed for 10 minutes. In 1959, "My Dad and [former County Judge] Nathan White did a skit, boxing **John L. Sullivan**..."

Jamie hung out in Dallas because "there wasn't a whole lot going on in Plano."

Randy posted a photo of Plano Little League Baseball, and sought out AWOL **Johnny Lewis** to refresh his memory, then successfully named every player in the photo!

"It's a sad story, where I hung out as a teenager," admitted Rutledge. Living 10 miles out of downtown, he spent his teen years at home. When asked where he parked when

dating, he "refused to answer on the grounds that it might incriminate me."

Jamie said that "**Gene Cason's Dad, Leon, was the Ag teacher at Plano High School.**" "There was nothing West except for [Rutledge's] farm and Rodney's and the Campbell's...but across the street from us was the Cason family...but Gene raised sheep in the back of their lot...for his Ag class."

Randy had a story about a friend at the *Preston Royal* movie house. His Dad had a veterinary practice, and when they defumed baby skunks, the friend saved the scent glands in a sealed jar. On Friday, "Leon unscrews the cap and he starts dropping [the glands] down the aisle" of the theater.

To Rutledge, Plano "changed from a rural community to a metropolitan one...over night." "I had my name scattered all over my [cotton] trailers, so I could find 'em," but he erased his name after his 15 mph trailer impeded traffic! "I'm proud of Plano...the schools did their planning in advance..."

To Jamie, Plano was a bedroom community then a metropolitan one. Population changed the fastest, going from 3,000 the year he was born to 18K in 1970 to 105K by the early 80s. It's all "attributable to City Father's vision."

For Rutledge, his memory of a population sign around the time of his graduation was 1275. When Jamie's Dad graduated (1940), there were 40 people in his class. 28 years later for his brother's graduation, there were 98. Seven years later, 450-500 in Jamie's graduating class.

Olin said the *University of Plano* was formed by HUAC Robert Morris, a small liberal arts college until the late 70s. "It was very, very, very **John Birch**, far-right, at that time...imagine that, now come full circle."

Janis volunteered that it was in 1958 that 75 expressway was opened between Richardson and Plano "and it's been under construction ever since."

Rutledge volunteered a program on the history of the Collinwood House.

Jeff distributed our flash drive, led us in the Four-Way Test, and belled us out at 1:05.



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Friday Ekpe
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Duncan Webb

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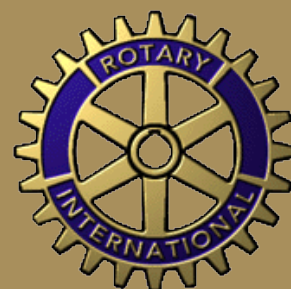
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