



# Service clubs really pitch in



David Stoeffler/  
Tribune editor

**A**s a reporter in Madison, I could never imagine a worse assignment than having to cover a speech at Rotary.

A bunch of old guys, sitting around, singing songs (off-key) and eating hotel food.

Now, having just completed a year membership in the downtown Rotary Club of La Crosse, I'd like to acknowledge the errors of my youth.

Not that our club doesn't have a bunch of old guys — like Jim Brindley, Bob Daley, Marv Davis, Sam Fellows, Adolf Gundersen, Jerry Ostreng, Rollie Solberg, Dave Trapp, Phil Quillin and John Wettstein — plus some distinguished ladies, too — like Jean Bassett, Ruth Dalton and Anita Froegel.

And certainly we have some Rotarians who sing off-key — not Al Saterbak or Morrie Enders or Linda Zoerb, mind you — but I suspect that Marilyn Manson won't be knocking on the door of Dan

Brady, Bob Bue, Marv Davis, Sheila Garrity, Bill Hoel, Ed Kondracki, Dave Koudelka, David Morrison or (my boss) Jim Santori.

As for the hotel food, well Steve Hedberg and his crew from the Radisson Hotel put on a better-than-average spread — at least it sure seems to sit well with the likes of Marv Davis, Jack Haase, Roger LeGrand, Dean Morton, Rob Reinhart and Brent Smith.

No, my year in Rotary here has been a rewarding one and helped me see the virtue in fellowship with business people — even if I can't see the virtue in Marv Davis.

I don't have room to talk about the good that Rotary has done — from individual projects, to Rotary Lights to the recent fund-raising drive for the Cairns Iris high-tech helmets for firefighters.

Not a meeting passes where Rotarians fail to give generously toward some worthy cause.

And what hardened business person wouldn't well up with pride in finding out about Bob Monk's latest project, or seeing Dean Dickinson's children perform, or hearing about the generosity of Tom Reinert's daughter on a Rotary exchange to Mexico?

Although the Tribune comes in for its share of ribbing (not all in jest), I was greeted warmly to the club by folks like Merl Case, Sister Helen Elsbernd, Pat Heim, Mark Jolivet, Judy Kuipers, Bill Medland, Lindy Saline, Gary Schettler,

Dick Swantz and Dave Witmer.

Sure, it's tough to put up with the odd sense of humor of Rotarians like Marv Davis and Pete Stinson. And the fact that Marv Davis can't pronounce my name correctly and wears that hideous NewsChannel 8 hat when he does Rotarians in the news. And then there's Chuck Hanson's ties (not to mention Joe Durst's bow ties).

But what makes up for it is the chance to have a good conversation with people like the Rev. Bob Cook, Jim Gallagher, Tara Johnson, Peter Grabow, Doug Hastad, Lori Rebhan and Ted Solie.

Newspaper people — editors in particular — tend to lead sheltered lives, hiding behind our supposed need for objectivity, using it as a screen to keep us from having to be involved in our communities.

I'm happy I found out that there was more to Rotary than sitting around with a bunch of old guys, singing off-key and eating hotel food.

And Bill Soper is happy he asked me to do Rotarians in the news this week — wherein each member whose name has been in the newspaper has to pay a \$1 fine.

By my total, that's \$59 — unless Marv Davis will throw in an extra \$1 to round it off.

David Stoeffler is editor of the La Crosse Tribune and expects he'll be paying for this column in the weeks to come. You may call him at (608) 791-8223 or (800) 262-0420, ext. 210.

## YOUR VIEWS: Damaged property, old memories...

...still means a lot to me. I took his ear, I say if you still have it, you get from doing

say a picture of a building on 911 Adams St.

The article: Couple transform former food store into comfortable and stylish home. Story by: Susan Snyder, Special to La Crosse Tribune.

my husband (Eddie) and I were first married we bought a home across the street, 914 Adams St. This was in 1949. The store was there many years before that.

Mr. Bruha was an elderly man — a perfect old time grocer like you see in the movies.

took complete charge of the store. The Bruhas were the most wonderful people I have met in my 76 years, 61 in La Crosse. Joe retired first so Carl hired a young lady, Esther (Pitz) Fanzer, to help him. (I think that was the first woman behind the counter). I am not 100 percent sure