

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

Dear Reginald:

How are things back in the olde country? Let me tell you about my visit today to the Palo Alto Rotary Club. Palo Alto is a quaint little town in the middle of the San Francisco Peninsula. I gather that there is some sort of agricultural college connected to it because I heard the locals refer to it as "The Farm".

I got lost getting to the meeting place because they use strange Spanish names here for the streets. When I, eventually, got there I was warmly greeted by TERRY FATEHI and by the president RALPH ADAMS who is some sort of ex-army chappie. There was lawyer fellow DICK MANSFIELD noting names and CHARLES CHENG was taking the spondulicks. They were started patriotically by JOHN KIDD by saluting the flag and then everyone sang "America the Beautiful". It would have been frightfully embarrassing if they had sung "My Country 'tis of Thee" which they nearly did.

After that various Rotary visitors were introduced. I couldn't catch them all but there was a Steve from Baltimore and a Tony from San Mateo. Then members introduced their guests – a Dick Bush by MIKE COUCH and his son David by GEORGE FITZGERALD.

They seem to have a strange custom of having members give opening remarks which I understood can be pretty free-form. For instance TOM GRACON talked about happenings during visits to Beijing and Machu Picchu to decry the globalization and homogenization that is occurring in the world.

Then a new club member KAREN KIENZEL was introduced by IRIS KOROL, a former Club President. District Governor Loren Harper (more anon) presented the Rotary pin. I have to say that I am wondering about the wisdom of still excluding women from our club back home. It seems that the women in this club take on a great deal of the responsibilities and do it rather well. (Perhaps I have been away from the old country too long to entertain such revolutionary thoughts).

Maybe because the District Governor was there and they wanted to look good, they emphasized contributions to the Rotary Foundation. One chap called MIKE COUCH got a special diamond pin for his contributions totalling \$10,000. Then a whole bunch of people got pins for becoming what they called a "Double Sustainer" for giving \$200 (only about 120 quid!) It all happened so quickly that I couldn't get any names.

After a rendering of happy birthday to those celebrating this month, some members agreed to give \$100 for personal announcements.

JUDY KLEINBERG proudly spoke of a son with double

MBA's from UCLA and Singapore and of her daughter passing architectural exams. TRISH BUBENIK spoke of her leaving the Red Cross in Palo Alto and obtaining a \$2,500 Challenge Gift for the outstanding Red Cross Safe Ride Program protecting secondary school students which needs support.

The main event was the District Governor Loren Harper, introduced by the ADG Bobby Sharma. I have to say DG visits to clubs all seem much the same the world over so I hardly need to comment much further on it.

The DG did single out five club members for their District work contributions – IRIS KOROL, WALT HAYS, PAM BRANDIN, GLORIA HOM and GINNY LEAR. I did get a chuckle from the story told by the DG about trying to impress visitors from the UK by taking them to a 200 year old mission in Fremont. He was rather put out when one of them announced that back home in England he owned a garage that was older than that! The DG and his wife Diane spoke of their very worthy project helping abandoned street children in Brazil. Two other points stood out. One was that this District is rated number one in the world for its Interact program with 6,500 members raising over \$250,000. The other was the importance of understanding the Rotary theme this year of "The Future of Rotary is in your Hands", meaning the hands of every Rotarian and recruiting new members. The value of attendance, particularly by new members at the District Avenues of Service event on October 15 at the Centennial Hall in Hayward was emphasized. The DG also drew attention to a new District monthly newsletter that can be found at the District website www.rotary5170.org

To close, the President told of a dictionary being given in the DG's name to a student in East Palo Alto.

I hope you find this report of interest. I look forward to lifting a pint of best bitter in the bar with you next week before the meeting and to telling you about some of my other strange adventures in the Wild West.

Cuthbert

"Keep off the grass."

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September 21 - Russell Hancock, "The State of Silicon Valley"

September 28 – New Member Talks

NEARBY MEETING PLACES

[Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information](http://www.rotarypaloalto.org)
www.rotarypaloalto.org