

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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Reporter: Walt Hays

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Palo Alto Rotary

August 25 - Dr. Marc Feldman - Human History Seen Through the Genes

September 1 - Dark -- Labor Day holiday

September 8 – Irvin Yalom, MD – Starting at the Sun: Overcoming the fear of death.

OPENERS:

RALPH ADAMS led the pledge of allegiance.

VISITORS AND GUESTS:

ANNETTE GLANCKOPF introduced visiting Rotarian Mona Armestead, a psychoanalyst from Los Altos, and guests Ed Danger, Renata Poray, Jean Couch (wife of MIKE), and Bob Mansfield (son of DICK).

OPENING REMARKS:

PAM BRANDIN, noting that 2008 is the 100th anniversary of the introduction of the Model T Ford, offered some interesting facts about the newest auto phenomenon, the Tesla all-electric sports car. A new dealership is opening on El Camino in Menlo Park, where one can be purchased after a 12-month waiting period for a mere \$105,000. If chased by the police, however, it can go from zero to 60 in four seconds. The 12 buyers to date include ordinary people like the founders of Google.

THANKS:

ROB LANCEFIELD served as Greeter, and DENNIS BOYLE, as cashier.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CASH ALAEE reminded us that MIKE AND JEAN COUCH are hosting a party on September 4, from 5-7. They are providing food, so guests need only bring wine. SY GREENSTONE, noting that the Club is planning a hands-on trip to Oaxaca in February, mentioned that he has

some large prints of his own trip there, which he would be glad to share.

PRESIDENT'S CLUB:

HAL MICKELSON invited members to share summer travel experiences at the bargain rate of \$20 for international, \$10 for U.S., and \$5 off either if the bathroom was down the hall. LAURIE LISTON had a great trip to Brazil, where his son is stationed in the Foreign Service; RALPH ADAMS described a "wild west" tour from Jackson Hole to Mt. Rushmore; and LE LEVY paid in anticipation of a forthcoming trip to hear concerts at Tanglewood.

SPEAKER:

ART STAUFFER introduced Steve Staiger, President of the Palo Alto Historical Society, who gave a talk entitled "Suiting Palo Alto to a T: The Impact of The Ford Model T on Palo Alto," with his usual great photos of cars and roads of that time. In the early 1900s, when cars were introduced, roads outside urban areas were "terrible, almost impassable," and Palo Alto was not considered urban. The initial State speed limit was 10 mph, but Palo Alto enforced 8 mph and became known as a speed trap. Between 1904 and 1908, 241 companies went into the business. Ford later drove most of them out of business. He introduced his assembly line in 1914, by which time he had 48% of the market. He sold 600,000 cars at \$360 each in 1916, and over 15 million between 1908 and 1927.

Ford's success caused significant changes in American society: On the positive side, it was a great liberator of American women, especially farmers' wives, who had previously lived lives of semi-isolation. On the negative, since 1900 more than 3.2 million Americans have been killed in auto accidents.

NEARBY MEETING PLACES:

[Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information](#)