



Chips from the Buzzsaw

Weekly Newsletter of the
Rotary Club of West Sacramento
Volume 73, No 24
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International Harvester, A Corporate Tragedy

By Steve Heringer, Dick Marshall, and Lyle Bassett

In July 1831 Cyrus Hall McCormick was an inventive 22-year-old, born of 4th generation Scotch-Irish immigrants. The family farm in Virginia was prosperous, and included substantial acreage, gristmills, sawmills, a smelter, and a blacksmith shop. Not satisfied with his initial effort at creating a grain reaper, he modified and refined it for 3 years until finally patenting his invention in 1834. 6 years of further refinements culminated in his first 2 reapers sold in 1840.

Reaper Slide- Horse Drawn versus Scythe – early hand tied shocks, later mechanically bundled -18” Scythe blade, 5’ or 6’ sickle blade

7 machines sold in 1842, led to 29 sold in 1843, and 50 sold in 1844. McCormick’s factory, in fact a small farm shed, was strained to capacity and in 1847, following sales of 123 machines in 1846, Cyrus moved his factory “West” to Chicago. Chicago at that time was in much better geographical proximity to the major farming regions of the Great Plains of North America and Canada.

The discovery of Gold in California in 1850 removed thousands of farmworkers from the East and the Midwest, and the market for his reapers dramatically expanded. The food requirements of a huge population in the far West coupled with higher profits to mid-West farmers increased the demand for new reaper machines.

The next major challenge for McCormick was the lantern kicked over by Mrs. Patrick O’Leary’s cow on Chicago’s North side. By the time the embers cooled, the Chicago fire of 1871 had destroyed more than 15,000 buildings, 180 million dollars in property, and left 94,000 people homeless. Following the rebuilding of his factories, Cyrus McCormick died in 1884. Then 25-year-old Cyrus McCormick II took the leadership of the McCormick entities following his father’s death and immediately encountered the first serious organized labor confrontations.

Story continued on the next page.



Club 558 of District 5180
PO Box 288
West Sacramento, CA
95691
Meets Every Friday at
Club Pheasant, 12:15

International Harvester, A Corporate Tragedy, CONTINUED

Shortly after the great fire, in 1873 William Deering arrived in Chicago and purchased an interest in the Marsh Harvester Co., a smaller but viable enterprise that expanded into many other lines of farm implements. Thus, McCormick and Deering battled for market share across the next two decades. In the fall of 1890, following several years of conversations regarding mergers, the McCormick's, and Deering's, and 18 other smaller competitors met in Chicago to attempt the first amalgamation, and what emerged was an industrial giant, The American Harvester Company. It was however, doomed from the start, due to lack of working capital financing and government intervention under the newly passed Sherman Anti-trust Act as restraint of trade.

Mule Team Drawn Harvester – Finished product without moving material – Mule driver directed first two, rest followed – 5 man crew Bad Hair Day versus Bad Air Day!!

The decade of the 1890's saw over saturation of farm equipment markets due to overproduction and price wars by the hundreds of small farm equipment manufacturers. A severe recession in 1896 and 1897 culminated in the consolidations of 212 Farm Equipment companies, twice the number seen during the preceding 9 years.

Hay, Oats, Forage grass mower plus Plow's, Disk's, Harrows, and many other Farm tools example of small equipment made by many companies

Thus, after more than 10 years of cat and mouse play, in July of 1902, McCormick and Deere merged and the International Harvester Company was born. The International Harvester company acquired the factories, warehouses, inventories and properties of Milwaukee Harvester, Plano Harvester, Champion Reaper, Marsh Harvester, Deering Harvester, and McCormick Harvesting Machinery Company. IHC then controlled 85% of the US Harvester production and boasted of 110 million in assets, a staggering amount in 1902. Included were malleable Iron works, timberland and sawmills, hemp properties, iron and coal mines, and the Illinois Northern Railroad plus factories in Chicago, Milwaukee, and Springfield.

Stationary Baler – Hay was mowed, Raked, then moved by wagon to the baler, hand fed into chamber, compressed and hand tied with 5 wires

Horse drawn mechanical planting – replaced human manual labor undertaken for 5000 years from 3000 BC to 1900 AD. Horse power generally required approximately 30% of the farmers production just to keep them fed.

In 1902 the various companies of McCormick, Deering, P&O plow, Plano and other small companies were combined into International Harvester under the financing of JP Morgan. The company became the Colossus of agricultural sales in the world. It enjoyed 85% market share of thrashing equipment. In the 1930s and 40s it had 38% market share of tractor sales. In 1907 it started the truck division. In the 1920s it started its construction division. Also in the 1920s it started the refrigeration and home appliance division as it brought electricity into homes with home generation and refrigeration for the many dairies in the country as well as the home kitchen. At the start of world War II it was the 33rd largest manufacturing company in the world and produced military hardware such as tanks, half tracks, and the Garand rifle. Following the war it continued its dominance in the farm tractor and had an absolute corner on the medium duty truck. In the 1960s, after having the same transmission for decades, John Deere took on their dominance and came out with the model 4020 with a power shift. It was a game changer and John Deere took the lead away from IH. At the time IH came out with their own successful power shift transmission in 1980, an engineered a revolutionary change and harvesting with its axial flow combine, the ag industry fell on hard times, the economy went into an inflationary overdrive and in the dispute over wages and benefits IH employees went out on a strike. The strike cost the international harvester company \$584 million in 6 months. It broke the company, it broke the union, and was devastating to its customers. In desperation in 1982 IH sold off at agricultural division to Tenneco/Case; shortly thereafter the construction division was sold to Dresser industries leaving the truck division renamed Navistar. And just recently Navistar was sold to Volkswagen. It was an ugly, sad, unproductive and unnecessary end to a giant that had revolutionized the worldwide production of food.

MEETING RECAP

Inside this issue:

CHIPS 73.24 4-2-22

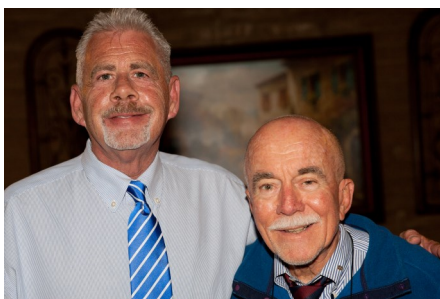
Program of the Week	1
Last Gathering's Program	
Meeting Recap 4/1/2022	2
Visitors and Guests	
Meeting Summary	
The President's Page	3
Remarks from President Dave Kamminga	
David Kamminga's Music Trivia	
Past Meeting Recaps	4-5
Visitors and Guests, Meeting Summary, Speaker Story, and Music Trivia	
3/4/22. 3/11/22, 3/18/22. 3/25/22	
Celebrations	6
Bellringers	
Kwong Gong	
Save the Dates!	7
Meals on Wheels Schedule	
Club Calendar	
Upcoming Speaker Programs	
Future Rotarians Interact	8
Speech Contest	
Membership Spotlight	9
Birthdays and Anniversaries	
Leadership Team Directory	
Prospective New Members	
Stay Connected to Rotary	10-11
Object of Rotary	
Additional Announcements	
Club Runner Instructions	
District 5180 Leadership	
4-Way Test	
Club and District Website Information	



Tim Kwong tries for the Joker but wins a free lunch



Paul Kolarik leads the pledge



Visitors and Guests April 29th, 2022

Guests

Bryan Thomas — Ed Rounthwaite
Judy Longaker — Richard Marsahl
Kit Swenson — Babs Sandeen
Jim Marshall (zoom) — Richard Marshall

Visitors
None

April 29th, 2022 Meeting Summary

Presiding: David Kamminga

Pledge: Paul Kolarik

Opening Blessing: Marty Garozzo

Song Master: Dick Marshall, "My Country Tid of Three"

Raffle: Tim Kwong, \$1,269, 8 & 10 of Diamonds

Foundation Raffle: None



Above: Visitor Kit Swenson and Babs Sandeen
Left: Visitor Bryan Thomas and Ed Rounthwaite

**Photos courtesy of
Tim Kwong**

The President's Page

Remarks from President David Kamminga

This past week I had the great pleasure of attending the Rotary District 5180 Conference in South Lake Tahoe. In all my years in Rotary, whenever the District Governor came for their visit, they always announced the District Conference. I never attended and always thought it wasn't something I would be into. Well as the President this year, I knew my attendance was expected. So I went. Not knowing what to expect and even wondering the day before and on the drive up there that it probably wasn't something I would really be into and I would make my appearance and go to all the scheduled sessions as was expected of me.

WAS I IN FOR A SURPRISE!!! What an amazing experience it was.

I drove up on Friday after our meeting and some errand running I needed to take care of. I wasn't going to be up there in time for the SS Dixie sunset cruise on the lake. I arrived in the evening got myself settled and went down to check out the Hotel/Casino. Then explored around and got some dinner down the street and went back to my room. The next morning I got up and went down to the Check in desk to check in and pay for my meals. Then I went into the Hall of Friendship that had some familiar faces, Shelter Box, Polio Plus, Interact and Ryla etc... also the Rotary Hall of Fame that has photos of Great Rotarians over the years, Dave Wilson is on there. Then I went into the first Session. A Great opening, they started announcing some awards, and showing some videos and welcomed everyone. Then a break and to the District 5180 Speech Contest finals. Four amazing high school speakers delivered passionate speeches about Serving to Change Lives. Then the Lunch Session. The food was delicious and the speaker was Jeffery Cadorette representing Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta. He was very entertaining and engaging and his main message was that Clubs change and adapt to fit the needs of their members and that Innovative new ways of having meetings will engage members better and promote involvement and that traditional one size fits all Rotary meetings are not what's going to tap into the strength of Rotary. Also how important it is to hold onto our young members. As Rotarians we do a great job engaging and bringing up young people with Interact and RYLA, then we don't see them anymore.

Our club was awarded the GOLD Award for Youth Services, because of our Interact sponsorship, our Speech Contest, our sending high school age young people to RYLA.

The Dinner session that evening once again had a very engaging speaker Adrienne Bankert who many of you may remember when she was on Channel 3 news in Sacramento and moved up to Good Morning America. Her message was VERY touching. She focused on all of our power to help people in need. When we have fellow rotarians, family members, friends, or even strangers that are experiencing tough times, our encouragement and compassion for them gives the strength to heal them and help them get through the challenging times. We all have gone through some challenges the past 2+ years where the lives we knew and were comfortable with were basically uprooted and trashed around due to the pandemic we all have been going through. After the Dinner session was time for some socializing and fun. We went to the Club Blu which was turned into Rotary Club Blu for the night with beverages, popcorn, dessert and good times, this was the time I spent with some members of the Clarksburg Club and I made some new friends from the Roseville club and even got to share some of the superpowers that Adrienne Bankert spoke about in connecting with some new people.

The next morning was the Breakfast session and another great speaker Past District Governor Wade Nomura, who shared his experiences with international Water projects

Then the drive home....

It was truly an amazing experience to see the Power of Rotary in Action

Yours in Rotary Service,
David Kamminga, 2021-2022 President



Save the Dates

David Kamminga's

OPENING REMARKS: "This Week in History April 23rd — April 29th"

1957 – Harry Belafonte signed for the unheard of sum of \$1 Million with RCA Records. Known as the King of Calypso Harry was actually from the Bronx.

1961 – Robert Zimmerman performed on record for the first time when he played harmonica on Harry Belafonte's Midnight Special album and earned \$50. He soon became better known for his own songs and singing as... Bob Dylan

1964 – The Rolling Stones self titled album was released. It went on to #11 and began a string of more than 40 albums charting in the next 5 decades.

1965 – Actor-Singer Julie Andrews charted with her only top 100 single "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" in at #66

1976 – At a low point in his career and ten years after his last Top 40 hit, Roy Orbison performed at the Van-a-Rama Auto Exposition in Cincinnati, Ohio, before a crowd of less than 100 people. Adding to the degradation it was his birthday. Presidents note he later had a resurgence in the 80s and a successful album and also hits with The Traveling Wilburs.

1976 – David Bowie was held captive for several hours by customs officers at the Polish-Russian border while they confiscated his newly acquired treasure-trove of Nazi memorabilia.

1982 – Rod Stewart was robbed on Hollywood Blvd. in Los Angeles while standing alongside his \$50,000 Porsche (At Least they didn't steal the Porsche)

1993 – Due to Mistreatment by his record label Prince announced he would no longer record. Forty-One days later, he changed his name to the combined symbols of men and women. By 1994 he was being called "The Artist Formerly Known as Prince"

And the number one song in 1978 – Night Fever by the Bee Gees



Dan Ramos



President David Kamminga



Mondays: Route 9

- 5/2 Tom Wallace
- 5/9 Paul Kolarik and John Hills
- 5/16 JoAnn Moffett and Jaonie Kapell
- 5/23 Tom Wallace

Wednesdays: Route 1

Jeff Post and Kent Ramos—Every Week

Wednesdays: Route 6

- 5/4 Shaun Morrow
- 5/11 Dan Ramos and Mike Campbell
- 5/18 Dustin Dumars and Pedro Cisneros
- 5/25 Steve and Donna Heringer

SPEAKER PROGRAM

May 13th

David Ogilvie, Grape Growing and the Impact of Frost

May 20th

Vocational Visit, Yolo County Landfill Recycle Center

June 17th

Andy Wallace, Experience of Singing in a World-Class Barbershop Quartet

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Leadership Team	
President	David Kamminga
President-Elect	Jaclyn Powell
Immediate Past President	John Raney
Secretary	Amy Busch
Treasurer	Dustin Dumars
Membership	Denice Domke
Speaker Chair	Dick Marshall
Interact Advisor	Kat Gallagher Charyl Silva
Youth Service	Jaonie Kapell JoAnn Moffett
Club Service	Shaun Morrow
International Service	Kumaraswamy Sivakumaran
Sergeant at Arms	Marty Garozzo
Social Media/PR	Peter Anderson
Finemasters	Chris Bradford Katie Villegas
Rotary Foundation	Barry Kalar
Vocational Service	David Santiago
Community Service	Shaun Morrow
Rotary Youth Exchange	Steve Oren
Meals on Wheels	Tom Wallace
Scholarships	Ken Wilson
Club Prayer	Marty Garozzo



Len Strickland



President David Kamminga, Judy Longaker, Dick Marshall Douglas Hsiu, and Corliss Suen, attended the Rotary District 5180 Conference in South Lake Tahoe

Birthdays & Anniversaries	
May Birthdays	
Dustin Dumars	1st
Marty Garozzo	1st
Pedro Cisneros	3rd
Charyl Silva	11th
Lyle Bassett	15th
Luan Christ	27th
Siva Sivakumaran	29th
John Raney	31st
May Anniversaries	
Amy and Neil Busch	11th
Peter and Linda Anderson	12th
Marty and Kathy Garozzo	13th
Jaclyn Powell and Justin Allen	16th
Elizabeth and Nick Esquivel	31st



Stay Connected to Rotary



OBJECT OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the: ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND: High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD: The application of ideal of service by every Rotarian to his/her/ personal, business and community life;

FOURTH: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideals of service.

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. See David Kamminga for Rotary at Work T Shirts.

2. Signups for the Fireworks Booth will begin in mid-May.

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Deadline for all materials you would like published in the CHIPS is Tuesdays!



4 Way Test

Of the Things we Think, Say or Do:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and better **FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?



Left: RYE Visitor from Belgium
Aurelien Delacroix

Bottom Left: Past District Governor
Wade Nomura

Bottom Right: Adrienne Bankert



Stay Connected to Rotary



YOUR LINKS TO ROTARY

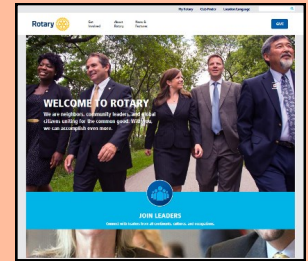


www.rotaryclubofwestsacramento.org



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SACRAMENTO"

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Rotary-Club-of-West-Sacramento/12087025467716>



www.rotary.org

Rotary District 5180
<http://www.clubrunner.ca/portal/home.aspx?did=5180>

2021-2022
Rotary International President
Shekhar Mehta



2021-2022
Rotary District 5180 Governor
Desiree Wilson



2021-2022
Rotary District 5180 Assistant Governor
Martha Ng



District 5180 Rotary Clubs Meeting Times and Locations So You Can Make Up Each Week

Day	Who	When	Website	Who	When	Website
Mon	Foothill Highlands	12:15pm	Foothillhighlandsrotary.org	Walnut Grove	12:30pm	Walnutgrooverotary.org
	Oroville	12:00pm	Rotaryoroville.com	Fair Oaks	6:00 pm	Rotaryfair Oaks.org
Tues	Oroville Sunrise	7:00am	Portal.clubrunner.ca/8432	Midtown-Sacramento	5:30 pm	Midtownsacrotary.org
	Sacramento	12:00 pm	Rotarysacramento.org	Carmichael	6:30 pm	Carmichaelrotary.org
	West Sacramento Centennial	7:00 am	Portal.clubrunner.ca/9129	Rancho Cordova	12:15pm	Rotaryclubofranhocordoba.org
Wed	Arden Arcade	12:00 pm	Ardenarcaderotary.com			
	Folsom Lake	12:00 pm	Folsomlakerotary.org	South Placer	11:45 am	Southplacerrotary.org
	El Dorado Hills	7:15am	Edhrotary.org	Citrus Heights	12:15pm	Chrotary.org
	Laguna Sunrise	7:45am	Portal.clubrunner.ca/9112	Elk Grove	12:00 pm	Elkgroverotary.org
	East Sacramento	12:00 pm	Portal.clubrunner.ca/2027	Yuba City	12:15pm	Portal.clubrunner.ca/9130
	Historic Folsom	7:00am	Historicfolsomrotary.org	Lincoln	12:00 pm	LincolnCaRotary.org
	Clarksburg	6:00 pm	Portal.clubrunner.ca/13810	Placer Valley Sunrise	7:00 am	Placervalleysunriserotary.com
Thu	South Yuba County Sunrise	7:00 am	Portal.clubrunner.ca/9131	South Sacramento	11:45 am	Southsacrotary.org
	Pocket-Greenhaven	7:30 am	Pgr.rocks	Folsom	6:30 pm	Folsomrotary.org
	North Sacramento	12:00 pm	Portal.clubrunner.ca/4563	Roseville	12:00 pm	Rosevillerotary.org
	Marysville	12:00 pm	RotaryClubofMarysville.org	Gridley	12:00 pm	Rotary5180.org/clubinfo/gridley
Fri	Greater Sacramento Passport One	6:00 pm	Rotarypassport.org			
	Orangevale	7:00 am	Portal.clubrunner.ca/9117	Natomas	7:15 am	Portal.clubrunner.ca/9116
	Point West	7:30 am	Pointwestrotary.com	Granite Bay	12:00 pm	Portal.clubrunner.ca/9110