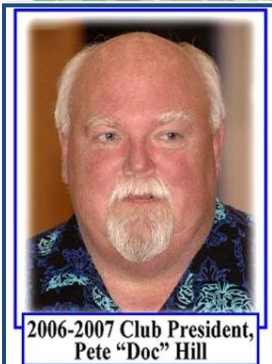




The Appleknocker

Sebastopol Rotary Club's Weekly Bulletin

PETE HILL 12/01/1947 - 6/14/2013



Date: June 21, 2013

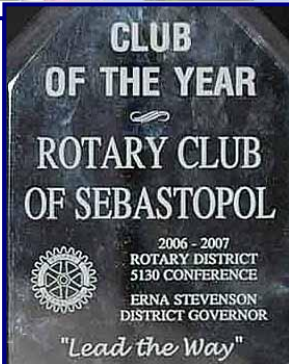
Volume: 2012/13—Issue E11-48

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Photography hh, AK Archive Photos taken by Rotary Friends: Les Crawford, Tony Given, hh, Mike Long, Richard Power, Dorothy Rodella, Bob Rogers, Jerry Warren and former member, Jim Walton

Co-Editors: Tom Boag / Jack Dunlap

Club President 2012/2013: Edwin Wilson



A memorial service and mass for **Pete Hill** was held, June 21st at St. Sebastian's in Sebastopol. At the reception following, one of the speakers, a fraternity brother, noted that **Pete** enjoyed a life well-lived. He was blessed with a loving family and many friends who will miss him dearly. He had an impact on many people, particularly Rotarians, past and present. He was a positive force within the Sebastopol community, even as a youth.

Rotary was a huge part of **Pete's** life; among his many accomplishments, he was particularly proud of his year as the **Sebastopol Rotary Club president, 2006-07**.

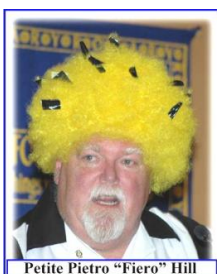
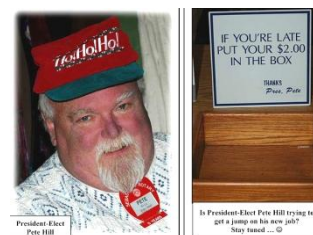


Father Lombardi, Pastor of St. Vincent's Parish in Petaluma, was joined in the mass by Father Raju Balugari, Pastor, St. Sebastian's. Chip Castleberry, who came to Sebastopol from Texas and became close friends with **Pete** immediately (a friendship that lasted 57 years) and Rotarian **Mike Long** provided remembrances of Pete's life.



Chip noted that the packed church reminded him of AT&T Park, the home of the Giants and a favorite venue of **Pete's**. (Chip claimed that he saw three scalpers in front of St. Sebastian's, hawking tickets.) He recalled little league stories of homeruns into Ives Pool, as well as Analy gridiron days when **Pete** was the blocker while Chip ran/hid behind him, and the Tigers going on to glorious titles. While **Pete** was known as "**Doc**" to many, Chip shared his high school moniker, "Cheetah". Despite his lineman duties, **Pete** was the fastest player on the squad. Chip also remembered a high school rally/assembly when **Pete** came out in costume as "Hannah from Savannah"; Chip confessed that he actually found **Pete** kind of attractive in that role.

Mike Long, who followed **Pete** as the **President** of Sebastopol Rotary, noted that **Pete's** year in office was a year when the club was voted the highest honors in the district, an area covering a good part of Northern California. **Mike** shared some of his own stories of **Pete's** Rotary experiences including his 'Battle of the Chefs' with local legend Guy Fieri.



"The meeting I will never forget started when Ken Silveira interrupted our "Uncle Pietro" with a "double-dead-fish-dare" and introduced Guy Fieri with his wild yellow hair. Not to be outdone was our Uncle Pietro in a wild yellow wig himself. Fieri challenged him to boning a fish and Pete seriously fileted that fish and nailed it to our cheers!!! Again he was having the time of his life in his apron competing with the star of the Food Network! "





Mike also touched on stories and tributes he had gathered from other Rotarians:

"I will never forget **Pete's** year as President of our club from 2006 to 2007! There was never a President who loved his job so much and just glowed each week as he stepped up to run our meetings."

"He always complained about how hot it was



so we nicknamed him **Pete "Doc" Hill (It's Hot in Here!)** The heat could have come from the array of hats he wore looking like Ronald McDonald, Santa's Elf, and the Pied Piper!"



New Multiple
Paul Harris Donors

"He put a little figurine on the lectern and for the rest of the year "Is there a Doc in the house?" appeared in the Apple Knocker every week....because **Pete** was "**Doc Hill!**"

"I could go on sharing the fun we had that year but I will summarize by how it ended at the District Conference. All of us club members were sitting together with **Pete** when DG Erna Stevenson announced that Sebastopol was not only the winner of eight awards but was also the Club of the Year!!!"

Thank you, **Pete** for being such a fun-loving part of us and we will miss you so much, but I am sure you are up in heaven with some fancy hat on having a good time!!!"
- **Patti Blount**



"My memory had to do with being pocket dialed by **Pete** from baseball games across the country. How nice it was to hear how happy he was in those situations and how I will miss that enthusiasm for life which **Pete** had...." - **Richard Power**

"Before **Pete** became **President of the Rotary Club** of Sebastopol in 2006, he asked me if I had any grapes he could have for Pinot Noir that he was going to have made to give to guest speakers and so forth. All the vineyard blocks were under contract, but because it was **Pete**, and he had asked, I crossed one of the small blocks off the list, and said he could have it. He asked me to let him know when it was ready.

Of course what I thought that meant was when it is ready, have my guys pick it, and transport to the winery. No problem, I was looking forward to it. Well when the grapes were at sugar I called **Pete**. To my surprise **Pete** comes out the very next day in his car with some tubs, and starts picking the grapes. He worked, sweated, worked, sweated, and got them all picked.

The wine was made, it was delicious, and he gave me six bottles. Well five of those bottles are long gone. I keep one however in the wine cellar. It is probably aged now to something akin to vinegar, but that is okay as I am no longer aging the wine but rather aging the label with his picture on it, and the memories of **Pete**."

-**Mike Ferguson**

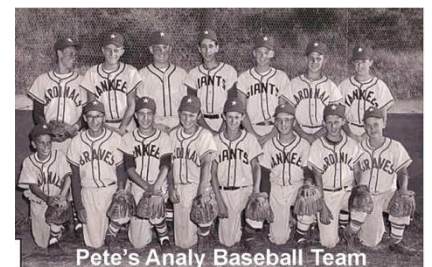


Mike Long summarized **Pete's** legacy by stating that Pete's Rotary family and wife Ann's family are one in the same, and that Rotary will always be there for the **Hill** family. All those **Rotarians** at St. Sebastian's Church this day were then asked to stand. As a Rotarian, this was a powerful moment and expression.

Two **Hill** family members read short quotes and thoughts – "The souls of the just are in the hands of God." (Sister-in-law, Kay Hill) and "Our inner-self is growing every day. What is seen is transitory." (Pete's Brother, Monte Hill). The **Hill** family hosted a luncheon after mass in the meeting hall behind St. Sebastian's. The photos on display were a reminder of the close-knit **Hill** family; **Pete's** many connections within

Sebastopol, and his athletic prowess. While he excelled in many sports (more on that later), his baseball accomplishments were 'Ruthian'. Accounts of his high school no-hitters and game-winning plays were beyond count. In fact, a few months ago another Sebastopol native, Dennis Crandall, noted that **Pete Hill** was the greatest player he had ever seen. Dennis graduated from Analy a few years after **Pete**, went on to be inducted into the UC Davis baseball hall-of-fame and was credited by John Wetteland (1999 World Series MVP with the Yankees) for saving his career --so Dennis knows of what he speaks.

While it was hard to hear a few of the speakers over the large hall gathering, there were some poignant and some hilarious memories shared by **Pete's** friends.





One speaker was a Sigma Chi fraternity brother of Pete's at the University of Arizona. He noted that this was a 'jock' house and that **Pete** could throw a football faster, farther and more accurately than the starting quarterback for the U of A, who was also a member of Sigma Chi. He told of the time that he and **Pete** had to decide whose car was fastest --**Pete's** 1966 396 Nova SS or a Corvette Sting-ray (Did we ever hear the final outcome?). While neither was caught speeding (although the race took place on Speedway Drive in Tucson), they weren't so lucky with the fire hose incidents. Apparently, Sigma Chi felt it important that it have a powerful fire hose in the house. However, it was mostly used to hose down other students who lingered too long at night in front of sorority houses or unsuspecting convertibles driving through the campus. Eventually, the hose was returned to the house. In summarizing **Pete's** relationship with **Ann**, he noted that "she was his better half; actually, she was his better three-quarters....four-fifths."

Another speaker was Fred Miller, one of a number of Sebastopol/Forestville youth who grew up with **Pete** and still stayed in touch. Fred was also extremely athletic and the two had regular competitions, which Fred admitted almost always went **Pete's** way. This included regular marble battles over the years. However, neither was willing to risk their favorite marble in such competitions --until finally, it happened: Fred's marble, "Whiskers", versus **Pete's** cat's eye marble, "Tiger". Whiskers prevailed. Fred kept "Tiger" for many years. He eventually placed the marble in a small wrapped box and put it under the **Hill** family Christmas tree --to its rightful owner.

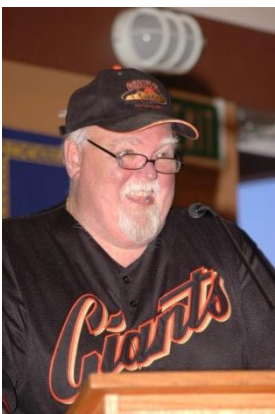
And while this story was not shared publicly, it did make its rounds at one table. **Peter** was an altar boy at the old St. Sebastian's Church (the site was near the new Barlow development). On Sundays three (very) young, but not so innocent, women would occupy pews together and do their best to distract him from his duties. To protect their reputations, we will just call them Donna, Teresa and Christina. They knew he was cracking up inside, but they could never get him to bust out in a smile or laugh. But it was young Peter who would bring out the smiles and laughs, something he would do during a full life.

[More recollections about **Pete Hill** were received after the service. -Ed.]

"The Big Guy"



Pete and I go a long way back. My parents moved next door to **Pete's** family on Western Avenue here in Sebastopol when **Pete** was just a little guy. You know I am lying . . . **Pete** was never a little guy! **Pete** started school at Pine Crest and I think he weighed 100 pounds, so you know he was never little. Being such a big guy, he was a legend in Little League. He could hit a ball a country mile. Then at high school, he not only played football, but pitched three no-hitters. He was a really good athlete! His mother, father, sister, and brother always called him "Peter". Later in life he wanted to be known as "**Pete**". Living next door, that's all I ever called him . . . Peter Hill. When he was President of Rotary I would slip up and say, "yes, Peter!" to which he would fire back, "What do you want . . . Robert?"



I will miss going to the Giants games with him and **Ann**, and hearing the ushers say, "Here comes **The Big Guy**", which was written on the back of his Giants jersey. What a picture seeing him in his Giants jersey, and his orange Giants tennis shoes! **Pete** and I always said to each other, "I hope the Giants win a World Series before we die . . . and, by golly, **Pete** . . . we won two!

Love you, **Pete**, and I'll miss you! - **Bud Daveiro**

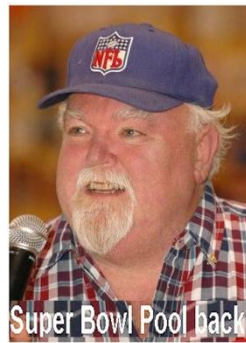
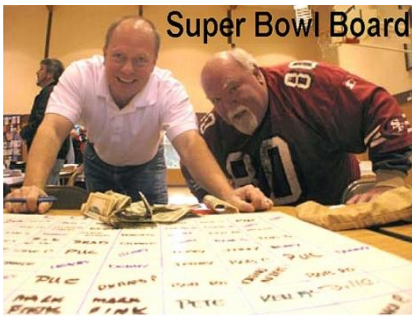
"University of Arizona Wildcats, Home Runs, Rotary Super Bowl Lottery"



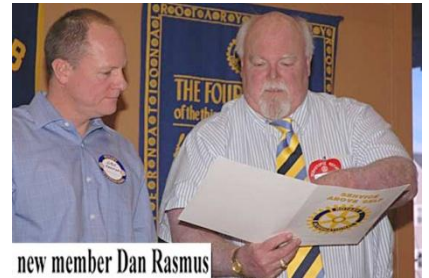
Pete and I first connected shortly after I joined the club when he learned that I was also a University of Arizona Wildcat. We always talked about Arizona sports! **Pete** also told me that the street I reside, Hill Drive, was named in honor of his

family who had owned most of the acreage where I now live. As **President Elect**, **Pete** was the person who "pinned" me when I became a new member (**Ken Jacobs** was in a crab pot or something).

I don't remember who told me about the legendary **Pete Hill** Home Run that hit the Vets Building from Polley field....but I told my son and every Little Leaguer who would listen about that massive home run - that story will be carried down another generation.

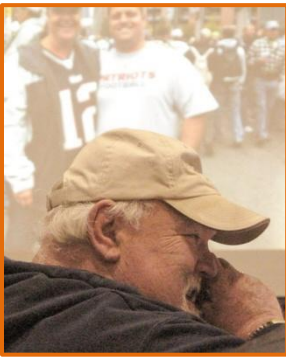


As a new club member, I was honored when **Pete** asked me to help him run the Super Bowl (RotaryBowl) board when he became President. I have had the privilege of running it with **Pete** ever since. **Pete the Bookie**



would have everything organized house. He always talked to my kids about their sports and activities. They will miss **Big Pete** too. I don't know how this year's Super Bowl Board will be without him - I know it will never be the same. We will do something special to honor **Pete** during this year's Super Bowl. We will celebrate **Pete** and remember how much **Pete** loved Rotary and the Sebastopol Rotary Education Foundation (SREF). - **Dan Rasmus**

"Little League with Pete Hill"



Pete & I were on Seb's first Little League teams. The league consisted of just 4 teams, the Indians, the Dodgers, the Yankees & the Orioles. Pete pitched for the Orioles and was the Sultan of Swat.

I was an 11 yr. old boy with size 12 feet that pretty much sat on the bench with sponsor/coach Tom Barlow of the Dodgers. I learned a lot about baseball tactics from the bench and I was witness to some of **Pete's** awesome shots out of the park.....

Pete not only hit the ball into the swimming pool & once hit the Vet's building, but what are un-mentioned were his home runs to left field. Left field home runs for **Pete** meant hitting the ball out of the park, over some trees and either over Rodney Miller's shop roof in the truck yard or bouncing them off Mr. Miller's tin roof and listening to the launched hard ball dribble down the ridges of the aluminum roof. It was pure art from contact to the last bounce off of Mr. Miller's corrugated roof - **hh**



"Home Run at Grandma Polley Field"

Generations of Sebastopol Little Leaguers have heard the legend of **Pete's** mammoth home run at Grandma Polley Field that splashed down in Ives Pool. When I asked **Pete** if this was true, his eyes twinkled and his face broke into a wide grin and he said, "Yeah it's true, but I hit another homer much further. It hit the Veterans Building."

Pete will always be the Sebastopol Little League's Sultan of Swat. - **Tom Lambert**

"Pete Hill's Year"

Recalling times with **Pete**, I realized that - no matter what he was going through health wise - that I never heard him complain about how he felt or what he had just endured. He always made it to meeting and events with a big smile on his face and occasionally a joke that could be repeated in public. **Pete** was engaged in life and always had something going on with Rotary, vacations, baseball games, spring training, grandchildren, and spending time with **Ann**. He will be missed but not forgotten. - **Steve Prandini**

"Club Archives, Gentle Man"

I'll never forget **Pete's** sense of the club's history. It was in 2000 and we were celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Sebastopol with several events throughout the week. Pete was one of the leads in collecting many of the club archives and artifacts over the months leading up to that



fourth week in May. He also got involved in connecting the Chamber and the Historical Society with our one week celebration. **Pete** had a real sense pride, protection, and emulation of this town and this organization.

After the event he became the club's chief archivist and I know much of our history has been sheltered under **Pete's** watchful eye.

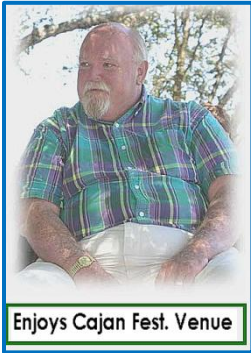
As everyone knows, he was the ultimate Giants fan and I always, always loved 'discussing' our team's latest turn of events and hearing about his recent or upcoming visits to ATT (or Pac Bell prior to that).

In addition to his best friend, **Ann**, and his family, **Pete** loved Sebastopol, sports, and almost all things Rotary. The phrase 'one of a kind' seems overly trite but it definitely fits this gentle man who made us all happier in life. He leaves a huge void in the lives of so many of us. - **John Blount**



"Way Back... The Young Bucks"

I arrived a little late for Rotary, got my lunch and sat down with my closest friends, Rotarians. **President Edwin** walked to the podium and explained that as Club President, he has the opportunity to do some things that just make his day, but on this day, what he had to do, "just sucked". He then proceeded to announce that he had been informed that fellow Rotarian, and friend, **Pete Hill**, had died the night before. Suddenly I wasn't sure my legs were going to hold me up and I felt like someone had just kicked me in the chest. My immediate thoughts were, "that can't be true"; then, of course, I realized it was in fact true.



Enjoys Cajan Fest. Venue

Pete and I go way back; we were both raised in Sebastopol at a time when the train ran down main and people didn't lock their doors, even when they went on vacation. (You had to leave your door open in case the neighbors needed to borrow something while you were away.)

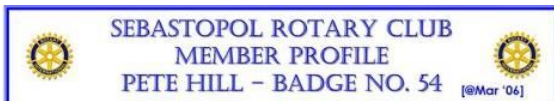
Pete, four to five years younger than me, arrived at Analay High School the year after I graduated; I graduated 1961, Pete graduated in 1965. We both were baseball pitchers and we both played football at Analay. Over the years, usually around the time Spring grass aromas filled the air, Pete and I would reminisce about baseball, sharing story after story of the strikeouts, not-hitters, shutouts, homeruns and special friends we played with who had never left our memories. The more we talked, the more that sparkle glistened from Pete's eyes and that unforgettable, mischievous smile would flow across this face.

While our age difference did not allow the two of us to play baseball or football together in high school, We did get to play together later in life in an "Over 35" softball league; it was a great time, all of us acting like kids on Sunday and then trying to heal the rest of the week so we could play again the next Sunday. We also got the chance to re-live our love for baseball through our sons, David and Troy, when they played baseball together throughout their younger years. **Pete, Ann, Jean, and I** attended a lot of baseball games, sitting in the bleachers and working in the snack shack.

We both joined Rotary about the same time; **Pete** joining the Club for the first time in 1970. Shortly after, he took a pharmacist position that made it inconvenient for him to attend Rotary; however, after about a twenty year break, **Pete** was once again in a position to re-join the Club. When we first came into the Club, everyone seemed so old. We used to joke about how old everyone was and even discussed how uncomfortable it was at time being the young bucks. As the years went by, we both had the opportunity to serve on a lot of Rotary Committees together and both had the opportunity to serve the Club as President. During **Pete's** presidency he brought so much fun to the Club with his enthusiasm for sports and making our community a better place to live.

Pete was a great guy, and, while I will not have the opportunity to talk baseball with him again, every Spring when I smell that fresh grass, I will remember him, to great stories we told each other (some of them even true) and the times be had together at the ball park. I will always remember his wonderful, mischievous smile, and that twinkle in his eye. Every time I go to CVS Pharmacy (Longs), to pick up my prescription I will remember the "Big Guy" from behind the counter, yelling, "Harry Polley, how you doing today".

I will miss my friend Pete Hill, but I will never forget him. - Harry Polley



Classification
Drugs-Retail

Joined Rotary
1997

Sponsor
Gary Kimes

Educational Background:

B.S. Pharmacy, University of Arizona

Personal Background:

Born and raised in Sebastopol. Wife Ann (former champ swimmer) Married December 31, 1969. Two children; Troy, 35, and Spencer, 32. Grandkids; Coehlo, 9, and Jules, 5.

Employment Background:

Pharmacist for 35 years, and a manager for 25 years at Medico and Longs Drugs.

Personal Interests or Hobbies:

Baseball, football, fishing, golf, gardening, and travel.

Rotary Leadership Positions:

Board Director, and President-elect 2005-2006.

Rotary Projects:

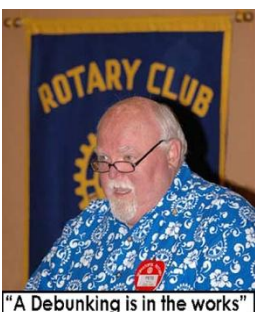
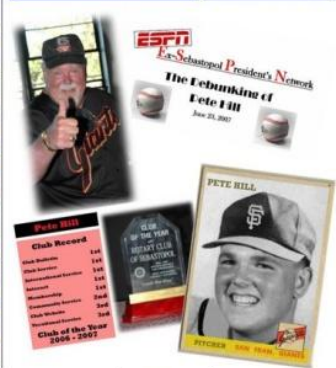
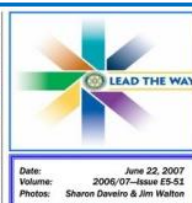
Lights at Carlson Field, Analay H.S. (His alma mater.)

What Does Rotary Mean to You?

An avenue to give back to the schools and community. The camaraderie with fellow club members.

Additional Comments:

Nickname as a kid: "Powie" Hill.



Take Me out to DeBunking

Sebastopol Rotary fills lots of needs,
We raised some of the money...at the crab feed.
More still came in a Great-Get-a-way

We got an "A"
a great day
Giving dictionaries and mini grants,
hospital beds and malaria nets.
Taught kids to swim and did Read to Me.
And now it is ti-me to par-r-ty...so...

Take me out to debunking
Take us out with the crowd
Give us some laughs and a pat on the back
This pre-si-de-ent will never be back.
So lets root, root, root for our Rotary
And celebrate our great year.
For it's one, two, three, weeks he's out
Yea! Debunking is here.

We showed up at we-ekly meetings
And learned about interesting things
We brought in new members and grew the club
Not a stub, We're the hub.
With Ro-o-la-ar-rian of the year.
Over the top sharing for PH, give a cheer.
We've proved to be the best Rotary
in the whole of our district, I hear. So...

Take me out to debunking
Take me out with the club
We can't believe that the year's finally done
With all that it's been, we can't take another one
So let's raise our glasses to Pete Hill
This club may never be the same
But it's one-year---we won't forget
Let's put him in the Hall of Fame!