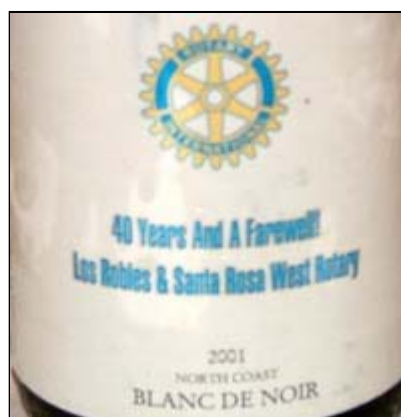


Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

Bulletin for November 28, 2005 Beginnings of the End (No, Just the Last of the First 40 Years)

By Jim Hinton

Preliminaries



President **Chris Parr-Feldman** opened this historic last meeting at Los Robles Lodge with a clang of the bell at 12:30 pm, about the 1,823rd time it has been heard on Mondays at Los Robles Lodge since the club's first meeting there more than 40 years ago on April 15, 1965.

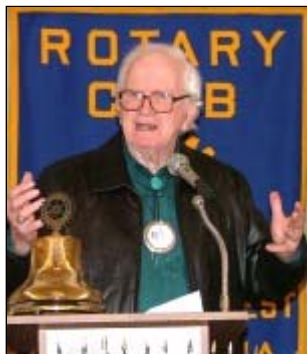
President **Chris** did not have tears streaming down her cheeks as she contemplated the enormity of the occasion. Instead, with a huge smile and both arms raised above her head, and with enthusiasm unmatched by any cheerleader, she welcomed members and guests to today's meeting of *The Greatest Club With The Finest Members*.

And she honored Past President **Jim Hinton** by having him lead the Pledge of Allegiance.



The Rotary Moment today was a wonderful review by Past President and Historian **John Palmer** of some of the club's highlights over the last 40 years, featuring much fun, great

fellowship, and major contributions to our local and international communities, as well as a couple never-to-be-forgotten "bad days."



He reminded us that two of the charter members of the club, Charter President **Bill Fisher** and Past President **Carson Mitchell**, are still with us as active members; and the first two new members, Past President and Past District Governor **John Withers** and Past President **Don Ling**, are also still active members.

He also reminisced about the many programs over the years ranging from informative, educational, provocative and embarrassing. **John** recalled that one of those "bad days" was when a speaker actually slumped over the podium from inebriation immediately after his introduction, and our embarrassed president then immediately closed the meeting and everyone walked out. Another memorable and provocative one was when Linda Lovelace was supposed to be the speaker, but instead one of her agents appeared and showed a long clip of her *Deep Throat* movie. The club member who had arranged this program never thought any of the movie would be shown, but he nevertheless resigned from the club soon after.

John also talked about the imaginative and creative debunking parties the club has enjoyed, especially recalling the debunkings of **Bob Bartley** and his golf balls and **John Withers** and his airplane.

And these 40 years saw many progressive changes in Rotary, including the addition of women members for more than 15 years now. But it was 40 years at Los Robles Lodge with virtually the same menu every Monday, and so John was enthusiastic about the future venue of our club meetings at Fountaingrove Inn with a new luncheon menu.

Great job, John Palmer. Thanks for the memories.

And Now A Toast:

With thanks to the generosity of Past President **Jim Valinoti** for supplying a wonderful 2000 vintage Blanc de Noir champagne, everyone joined President **Chris Parr-Feldman** in a toast to The First Forty and



in a second toast to The Next Forty. Man, that tasted good!

"Change is good," Chris said.

Introductions of Visiting Rotarians and Other Visitors:

After that glass of champagne, **Fred Zmarzly** was in fine style when he introduced our District Governor, **Charlie Kelly**, and his wife **Joan Kelly** (yes, the very same man who distinguished himself a couple weekends ago in a cave man costume at the Foundation Dinner); five visiting Rotarians from the downtown club, **Deena Merga, Mark Burchell, Bishon Doctor, Bill Hatcher, and Timothy Fawcett**; and visiting Rotarian **Clay Cook** from Moses Lake, Washington.



Patrick Sizemore, a Past President of the club but no longer a member, also was a visitor today.

Announcements and Such:

Secretary **Janet Coddling** announced that lunches at Fountain Grove would be \$19.00.

Susan Foster implored everyone to check her spreadsheet for the club roster to make certain that it contains accurate information.

Tarina Hall said that live auction items were needed for the upcoming Crab Feed and that the first wine round-up would be next Monday at Fountain Grove.

David McDonald announced that only 9 Crab Feed "Gold Tables" were left and that sign-ups were being taken now.

Ken Prouty announced that the International Service Committee would be meeting on December 8th at noon at Josef's Restaurant.

John Meislahn announced that the club Christmas party would be at **Jim Hinton's** home, on Sunday, December

4th, beginning at 5:00 pm. A sign-up sheet is circulating.

Recognition

And Of Course Some Recognitions With Monetary Consequences...

Ken Dansie, who spent Thanksgiving in London with his daughter **Hannah**, was fined \$20.00 for spending Thanksgiving in London.



Scott Bartley, who lost \$100.00 playing blackjack in Las Vegas, was treated very kindly.

Ginny Pitts, world traveler, recently back from Paris, and more recently back from Hawaii where she swam with dolphins, volunteered a nice amount to Rotary Foundation.

Ralph Lassa was recognized for being a member of a medical group of singers who recently gave 7 concerts in Germany.

Susan Nowacki, fully and firmly believing in The Four-Way Test, committed \$60.00 to Rotary Foundation in recognition of her 60th birthday.

The Final Raffle At Los Robles

Bill Dodson had his ticket number called for a shot at \$500.00 if he drew the black marble from the bag. He didn't.

Terri Galazzo walked away with a fine bottle of Chardonnay (or is it a bottle of fine Chardonnay?) when her ticket number was called.

And Finally There Was The Final Program

The program today featured the eloquence of Past President **Mike Moore** as the Master of Closing

Ceremonies.

Mike performed brilliantly in an opening monologue, recalling some great meetings (one in particular was about Satan at a Day Care Center?). He then worked the room to offer the microphone to anyone who wanted to say anything.



Past President **Ken Prouty** recalled a program where **Rich Barbieri** was the scheduled speaker and **Al Barbieri**, his brother, stood up and said something like "I wouldn't listen to this guy," at which point everyone got up and left.



Chuck Olson presented a very clever "Top Ten Reasons Santa Rosa West Rotary Club is leaving Los Robles Lodge.

Former Secretary **Fred Zmarzly** recalled a debunking where **Janet Coddling** portrayed Lady Godiva.

Past President **Pat Sizemore**, a guest today, recalled that what he saw from the podium every Monday was **Mike Moore** at the same table, in the same chair, with his palm to his forehead and his head bent down and shaking back and forth, again and again and again. Whatever was Mike thinking?

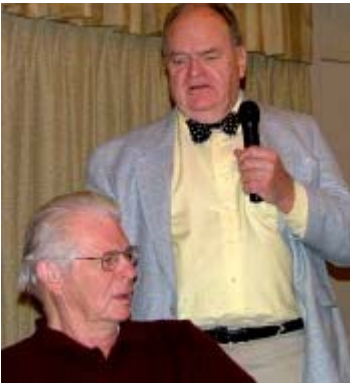


Joe Perez wondered where the table "enclaves" would be seated at Fountain Grove.

Chris Rosell recalled a day when **Janet Coddling** showed up with a leather outfit on a motorcycle.

Past President **Carson Mitchell** recalled a "worst program" when somebody named Hank fell on the floor.

Past President/Past District Governor **John Withers** recalled his debunking when he was released through a bomb bay type door from a suspended airplane into a swimming pool.



Ginny Pitts, the third woman in the club, recounted the gentle words of **Pete Hoogland**, who told her: "You don't belong here."

Past President **Brian Herndon** recalled a meeting where everyone walked out when then-President **Bob Marigo** rang the bell.

Jeri Arnold, whose sponsor is **John Withers**, thanked **John** for constantly being "on her case" about attendance.



Past President **Jim Valinoti** cited the fact that it was during the administration of Past President **Bill Gittins**, who along with his Secretary **Bob Harris**, and then President Elect **Jim**, began their tireless efforts to bring to our club, the first internet based weekly bulletin, as well as District 5130's first club web site. Their specific goal was to produce and distribute our award winning bulletins electronically.

President **Chris Parr-Feldman** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Patsy Barnes**, the first woman admitted to our club and the first woman president. We lost Patsy this past year.

And Then It Was Goodbye

We said our goodbyes with \$223.00 we all contributed to the wait staff of Los Robles and a standing ovation for **Mike Moore's** program.

It's been a great ride!

Your Bulletin Reporter:
Jim Hinton



Your Bulletin Editor:
Jim Valinoti

