



# Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West

## Bulletin for April 20, 2009 "The Great Santa Rosa Earthquake – 1906"

By Diane Winsby

### Preliminaries



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#### Coming Up:

5/4 - 5 PM Cinco de Mayo at  
Harvest Moon Winery (in lieu of  
noon meeting)

5/15-17 - District Conference

The joint meeting with the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa East was called to order by **President Dave MacDonald**. He welcomed **President Don Drummond** of Santa Rosa East Rotary and all the members attending the meeting today.

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by George Batchelder. The Moment was given by **Barbara Larson**.



Then we were lead by **Larry Lera** of Santa Rosa East in a rousing rendition of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm"; not to be overshadowed Bob Reinking of our club lead the singing of "99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall".



Visiting Rotarians were introduced by **Bob Zeni**; as was **Brian Cox**, a counselor from Piner High School. **Mike Moore** returned from the desert just in time to introduce the visiting Rotarians.

Santa Rosa East Rotary introduced their guests and made several announcements pertinent to their club.

### Announcements & Such

**Ginny Pitts** announced a change of meeting venue on May 4<sup>th</sup>. The margarita machine will be turned on at her home to celebrate Cinco de Mayo starting at 5 PM. Spouses are of course invited to attend this meeting.



**Susan Nowacki** announced that the meeting next week will be started at 12:15 PM because this is the speech contest day. She asked that everyone be early if possible so that the speech participants will have enough time.

**Bob Zeni** introduced the Students of the Month. These two students are the last of the four young men and four young women that will be competing for the two \$2,000 scholarships.

**Taun Long** gave a brief biography. She is one of 5 children in her family, and likes to play Badminton on the varsity team at her school; she also plays the piano, belongs to many clubs and hopes to become a doctor. She will be attending UC San Diego in the fall.



**Tony Engle** also gave his biography. He is in many clubs at Piner High, Likes Theater work, bowling and is on the basketball team. He has been on the honor roll all of the four years he has attended Piner. He has two jobs on top of all his school work and said that he has learned to balance work and school. He will be attending Chico in the fall. He hopes to become an English teacher in the future.

**Mike Merrill** presented **Casey Williams** his permanent blue badge and **President David** collected \$10 from him as a fine.



### Recognition

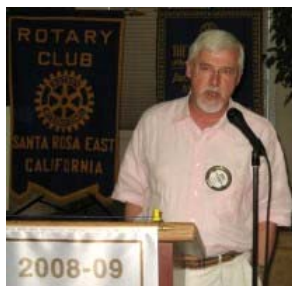
Keeping a great tradition going between the dual club meeting both **Presidents David** and **Don** asked that their

members stand up and give some "Bragging Bucks" to the "kitty" that would be donated to the local Food Bank. Just so many people got up to brag Thanks to everyone that donated. Here the Presidents Pony-Up themselves!



### Program: "The Great Santa Rosa Earthquake – 1906" with Jim Johnson

**Scott Bartley** then introduced our speaker for today; fellow Rotarian **Jim Johnson**.



**Jim** recently produced a wonderful historical video about the 1906 earthquake in Santa Rosa entitled "The Great Santa Rosa Earthquake – 1906." He was assisted in this effort by documents loaned to him by **Gaye LaBaron**, the Sonoma County Museum, newspaper archives and various individuals that had family photos and stories to tell.

He said that he has shown the video literally hundreds of times at various schools and organizations in our community.

When the earthquake happened in the early hours of April 18, 1906, Santa Rosa had a population of nearly 10,000 people. Over 100 people died from injuries caused by falling buildings. He said that virtually no building in Santa Rosa escaped damage, the town was completely destroyed; then the fires began. Santa Rosa had more damage than San Francisco and damage was severe from Santa Rosa to Ukiah. Petaluma, however, escaped with little damage.

Jim's video was extremely interesting and showed how the survivors in Santa Rosa by working together rebuilt the town.

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