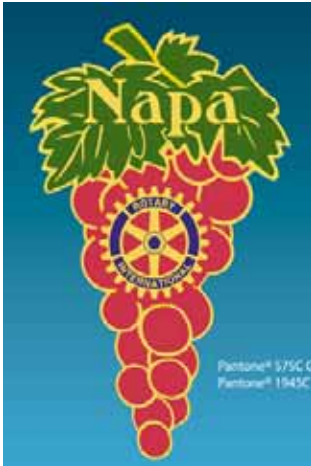


The Napa Rotagram

September 24, 2008



Thought for the Day

Pres Gary had the thought once again:

Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail. – Ralph Waldo Emerson

This coming Wednesday, October 1, is the Napa Valley Rotary Association dinner and meeting. Anyone wishing to attend the event in Calistoga, be at **Pres Gary's** office at 5 p.m.

The St. Helena Rotary Club holds a major fundraiser Saturday, October 4. It benefits the club's Nicaraguan project.

Tom LeMasters was featured in the Napa Valley Register's business section. When asked ...



What is your favorite charity?

"I tend to favor those charities that support youth and public education like the Napa College Foundation, and the Napa and Vintage High boosters."

Ooops!! No mention of Rotary. That'll cost you.

Pres Gary, sporting his own set of Hawaiian beads, auctioned off a shirt (perfect for the upcoming luau) and a set of beads provided by **Alecia Hancock**.



Alecia also had some coffee, pancake mix and other goodies from the Islands.



She said this "Love Package" would cause your partner to, "think highly of you." **Dale Carriker** will soon find out.



Mike Bethard led the birthday celebration – but all but one celebrant played hooky. **Gene Kelly** told of his Accelerated Training Institute, helping people to learn trades and noting that 24-percent of students don't graduate from high school and are in need of such programs.



Visiting Rotarians



John Dumars and **Howard Haupt**, of Napa Sunrise and **Steve Hill**, Mission San Rafael.



Our Speakers ...

Henry and Lynn Michalski, just back from attending both major party conventions presented their "Tale of Two Cities," Denver and St. Paul, in pictures and political insight.



Henry is a retired Napa High teacher who was noted for getting his students involved and caring about the world around them. With his first political convention in 1956 in San Francisco, these were his 15th and 16th party gatherings.



Henry said 1964 might have been the most exciting convention when the GOP nominated Barry Goldwater. The Arizona conservative told the crowd, "...extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice! That may have cost him the landslide loss to LBJ.

The Michalskis noted that both Denver's Pepsi Center and St. Paul Excel Energy Center are smaller than they appeared on TV. The Democrats probably generated more excitement with Barack Obama drawing 85,000 to a stadium for his acceptance speech.

The pace picked up in St. Paul as well once Hurricane Gustave subsided in the Gulf area.

The complexion of the two conventions also was marked by contrast. Michalski said female and minority representation were much more prevalent in Denver.



Henry rubbed elbows with a lot VIPs, seen here with Mayor Gavin Newsom and Demo party head, Howard Dean.

Lynn said both parties were taking a "Green" approach to their events, with conservation high on the agenda.



Lynn hooked up with Orson Swindle from her hometown of Camilla, Georgia. Swindle was a POW with John McCain at the Hanoi Hilton.



Lynn added there were many protestors at both locations --- protesting "everything."

Henry had the chance to chat with Tom Brokaw. Some folks considered the Napa couple to be a part of the "Liberal Media."



Deftly camouflaging his own political colors, Henry avoided Gary's query as to whose victory party they'd be attending on election night.

Next Week ... Donny Robinson, bronze medalist in the Olympic BMX competition.

Mark your calendars ...

Wednesday, October 15 at 6:30 p.m., the boardroom of the Napa Valley Unified School District, Lincoln & Jefferson, will be dedicated to the memory of our friend and former Rotarian and past president, **Bob Hansen**. Join family, friends, colleagues and Rotarians for a brief ceremony.