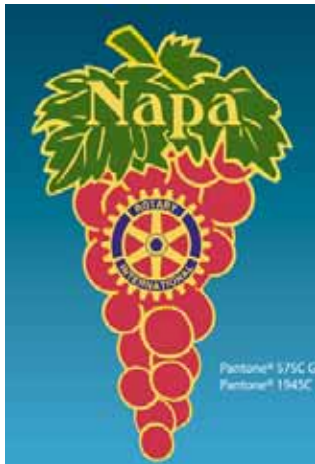


The Napa Rotagram

July 15, 2009



Thought for the Day
Mike Loughran rolled off several thoughts reminiscent of his presidency ...



... but perhaps his greatest revelation is the fact his retirement is imminent after 37 years in law enforcement.

Visiting Rotarians



Dave Winckler of Laguna Beach, **Bud Mills** and **Brad Wagenknecht** from Napa Sunrise.

Pres McCall kicked off his third meeting like a seasoned pro -- including an admonition to **Jill Barwick**: "Don't mess with the president."



Lorrain Kongsgaard was remembered as a lifelong Napan, humanitarian and wife of former Rotarian, the late **Judge Thomas Kongsgaard**.

Another Rotarian jurist, **Don Fretz**, is retiring -- again -- from the bench. **Phil Champlin** said Don, "had performed profound service," and has an amazing settlement rate. **Vince Goetz** added the Pat Brown appointee created a "school" that judges from far and wide attend to hone their skills. Mark your calendars to be at the historic courthouse on July 31 at 4 p.m. to honor Don.

Kirk Candland had three chances to avoid a fine by knowing some key dates. When will the District Governor visit Napa? (August 26). When is the 2010 Cycle for Sight? (April 17). What is **Pres Bruce's** birthday? (April 1). One out of three wasn't bad.

New raffle opportunities ...

Draw a face card, get your money back; draw an Ace, double your money; draw the Joker and share the pot with the club. Even though the winnings are in the \$300 range, neither Brian Kearney nor Tim Cooney drew a lucky card ... and Brian had two tickets drawn!



"People who work together will win, whether it be against complex football defenses, or the problems of modern society."

Pres Bruce presented a three minute inspirational video featuring the wisdom of famed coach Vince Lombardi.

For those of you who couldn't get to this week's Pathway Home graduation, there will be another in October.



Maren Namdar, who suffers from acute multi-nationality disorder, noted she belongs to an exclusive club of foreign born Rotarians. Born in Hamburg, Germany, she said she is really, "an Irish woman trapped in a German body."

Joe Dacanay sees many unusual sights as he volunteers at the annual Burning Man event in Nevada -- such as a fellow wearing nothing but a Rotary BBQ apron. Finemaster **Jim Riley** claims Joe was the only one there without a bone in his nose.



Drink your guarana!!



Finemaster Riley told of a recent "power drink" experience which contained guarana, a Brazilian import much like caffeine. There were conflicting reports on its source (not lizard venom) and even its pronunciation (war-a-NAH).



Jim also nailed **Kirk Candland** again for his dysssomnian ways; hit **James Barrett** and **Bruce Ketron** for having hair and being tall; and distributed photos of **Dave Wildhagen** (above) in an agrarian pose.

Our Speaker ...

Ron Blum was a pro at Silverado in 1974 and refereed high school and Pop Warner games around Napa. He recently completed his career after 25 years as an official in the NFL.



In the years Blum officiated, scrutiny of the calls and plays has increased exponentially. Some 28 cameras record their every move and are reviewed following every game. Contract renewals are based on their performance.

A typical game weekend sees an official leave on a Saturday morning, often to fly to the east coast. Meetings are held and the past week's films reviewed.

On game day, they arrive at the stadium two-and-a-half hours early, inspect the facilities, field markings and even check the players.

Football are tightly controlled. It wasn't always that way. Blum said there was a time when teams filled them with helium before a kick.

Officials are well paid. A rookie makes \$3,000 per game; a 20 year veteran can make up to \$9,000. Post-season games are lucrative with the Super Bowl paying \$25,000.



Blum has fond memories of working Napa-Vintage games and many NFL contests, including Super Bowls, but the most memorable was "The Play" that ended the Cal-Stanford game in 1982. Following a razzle-dazzle kickoff return, the band was on the field and chaos ensued. Cal won 25-20, although that is still disputed in some circles.



50 Years Ago

An editorial from the September 23, 1959 Rotagram: Birthday fines and scholarships – For some time now **President Bill (Dodd)** has asked for either five-dollars or ten-cents for each year. For such a worthy cause it would seem that we should stop giving at the Kiwanis level and establish a new minimum of ten dollars or 25-cents for each year. How about it President Bill?

P.S. The motion failed.