

The Napa Rotagram August 5, 2009



It's a Chrysler! No, it's a Chevy! Good Heavens, IT'S A FORD!
Indeed, it was Past President Jim Ford at the podium while President Bruce was far, far away.

Before he ever hit the



the Old Reminiscer had us on Memory Lane with a Fordian look back at how we used to be when we sang and prayed and learned how to pledge allegiance without the commas (that were never there in the first place).

Before the meeting was over we were reminded of all those hallowed halls in which Napa Rotarians have been gathering since 1920. These included Webbers, the Masonic Temple (downtown), the Chamber of Commerce, the Plaza Hotel, Chapman's, the Elks I, the Marriott, Embassy Suites and the Elks II.

The Past Presidents in the room were given one of Jim's famous Recognitions (sans the usual dollar value).

Special Past Presidents' Recognitions went to Bill Blanckenburg who had the podium 57 years ago; Bob Barwick who parlayed his year into a turn as District 5130's Governor in 1968-69; Gary Rose who launched Napa Rotary's greatest fund raiser and Steve Orndorff whose Pathway Home Project is Rotary at its best.

We were reminded that in 1920 we were the 649th club in the then expanding Rotary world. This makes us the oldest club in District 5130, a distinction which carries the interesting responsibility of providing bells for new clubs as they are launched.
That's been a lot of bells.

Among the club's props, none was more famous in years gone by than the



New members were required to take their turn carrying it from time to time. Of course losing it with its contents was disastrous. On one occasion new member Dick Lonergan suffered the "so where's the can, Dick" humiliation two weeks in a row. Not to worry, week three Officer Lonergan showed up with his handcuffs, shackled himself to the can and the problem was solved.



After lingering on memory lane, AP (that's acting president) Jim got the meeting underway with a perfectly punctuated Pledge and a Harrell Miller invocation.

Eschewing President Bruce's technologically enhanced motivational thought for the day,

AP Jim gave us the following:

The role of Santa Claus in our lives—

At first we believe in him

Then we don't believe in him

For a time we are him

and finally

We look like him!!!



Visiting Rotarians

Erna Stevenson and George Shanks from
North Napa

Brian Kelly for Napa Sunrise



The Program

Napa Rotary's own Brenda Speth shared the podium with Bill Kisliuk to give us a look at the Napa Valley Register along with the rest of Napa Valley Publishing—The St. Helena Star, the Weekly Calistogan and the American Canyon Eagle.



Brenda, NVR's Publisher, gave us the all-important numbers: A daily readership of 32,627 with 25,298 more reading the weeklies. Crunch the numbers and you'll find that 70% of all the adults in the areas served by the papers read them. That's up from a couple of years ago and is good news for Napa's little piece of an industry that has been struggling to find its way of late.



Bill, the Editor of the Register and husband of our Elisabeth Frater, talked with us about the fine line that a small town daily has to navigate between the big hard news and the smaller community news. If reader opinions are accurate – so far so good.

