



Your **ROTSOCPE** for
Thursday, September 24, 2009
 for the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, USA

WALKING THROUGH LAND MINES

BILL MORSE IS DEVOTING his time and skills to help people he doesn't know, in a country far distant, who suffer from "explosive remnants of war," ERWs, a fancy description of land mines left behind in "low priority" villages throughout Cambodia. Bill is a fellow Rotarian from the Palm Springs club. He is president and international project manager of the Landmine Relief Fund, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization supported by worldwide contributions. The work is dangerous, but necessary. Millions of anti-personnel mines remain scattered in Cambodia and several other nations. Bill has spent seven years working with ex-Khmer Rouge soldiers to find and clear some of the ERWs that have continued to kill and maim innocent villagers wandering over them. He spent most of the last two years continuously in Cambodia, through heat and monsoons, continuing this sometimes quixotic endeavor.

WHY DID BILL MORSE GET INVOLVED in Cambodia? Bill will give us a bit of the history of wars that have enveloped this beautiful country for the past sixty years, and what it's like to live and work there. He will describe how mines and other ERWs are cleared, and how the Landmine Relief Fund is dealing with the peculiarities of working in Cambodia. He'll tell how the magnificent temples around Angkor and the superb tourist facilities of Siam Reap are safe, but the many backwater villages remain dangerous to the livestock – and children, and peasant farmers – who take a misstep. You'll see more than the tourist view from the spas and elegant French restaurants; you'll hear of the suffering of the Khmer Rouge years continuing with villagers maimed by those explosive remnants of a very bitter war.

ANOTHER FINE PROGRAM to bring a guest with you and hear this great humanitarian tell his story.

SINNERS AMONG US, BUT IT WAS GOOD

EMILE BAYLE SINNING didn't surprise us Thursday night, though eating three large scoops of Fosselman's from The Ice Cream Shop did raise him from just venal to cardinal sinning, we thought, especially considering all that chocolate sauce. We expected Ann and Gene Dryden to sin too, as soon as they saw the variety of flavors waiting for them. We're most disturbed by a guest, Art Cribbs of Congregational Church, who tried to justify his sinning by saying he'd asked for only two scoops under all that whipped cream. All loved the shop!

BORING OLD TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER DENNIS KNEIER isn't old, but his report is getting boring, month after month: all our bills paid, all our dues received (well, just a couple he's awaiting, and we're sure you'll pay immediately if you're one) – and we're comfortably in the black, without even having to borrow from cities as our Golden State is doing. We're not sure if this good management is because of Emile, or if credit should go to Lois (who's still listed as our president on our web page, so let's say she's responsible for everything). Cheers to all of us for paying dues promptly and managing cautiously.

WHAT GREAT FUN IN THE SAN MARINO COURTYARD!

LUCILLE NORBERG AND HER SOCIAL ORGANIZERS must be busting their buttons with pride for how well our "meeting" succeeded Thursday night. With a few minutes to sip Mr. Charles Shaw's finest vintages, a fine choice of dinners, and lots of dessert treats, no one could have left hungry. With Jann's bell interrupting and happy voices loud, I couldn't hear all the various announcements, but it sounded as if Lucille said there were eighty guests in the courtyard – just about as full as it could get. San Marino Seafood Restaurant was full with diners happy with their fish; Jasmine's brought fine Chinese choices tableside, and Sweet and Savory produced overloaded plates of succulent ribs, meats, and pasta. Maybe the best was the ice cream store. Teen age couples nestled over banana splits, kids reliving high school: Tinker and Emile, Judy and Wayne, cuddled in the corner window. Fosselman's Ice Cream has got to be the finest available, and most Rotarians enjoyed big servings. Many visitors didn't know The Ice Cream Shop is open most evenings, and we were surprised with the other goodies they sell: fresh cookies, old-fashioned candies, and other goodies. Discoveries were also made at Sweet & Savory, some scones for Friday morning and fat muffins to enjoy over the weekend. Great party!

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2009

SEPTEMBER

24 Noon Clearing land mines from Cambodia

OCTOBER

1 Noon Brazilian GSE team visits
 8 Noon Craft talks from two "D's"
 15 Noon Assemblyman Mike Eng

THE ROTOSCOPE

For the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, U.S.A.

September 24: Saving Limbs and Lives



WATCH OUT FOR YOUR FRIENDS

THEY ARE BUSIER than usual, given hard times and high unemployment throughout California, given young groups looking for easy cash, given more serious addicts needing money for a fix. Crime is climbing in the Los Angeles area, though we remain a relatively sheltered island in San Marino. Help keep it that way!

WE'RE HEARING OF the old tricks, back again: a GPS or i-Pod taken from an unlocked car at midday, a purse snatched from an unguarded arm in a parking lot, a bunch of mail missing from your box to look for checks coming or (even better, so they can be altered) going. And the older trick: a midafternoon ring of your doorbell. If you answer, they're looking for "John" or "Susie," and "sorry to disturb you; wrong house." If no one answers, it's around in back for them to see what's open – or what can be easily broken to gain entry.

A PASADENA FRIEND just over our city limits in the Oak Knoll District thought she was pretty smart not to answer the midafternoon doorbell. A minute later, she saw the two young males at her back window, trying to open it. She called the police, who responded quickly and caught the two guys, both with burglary records. But police had responded TOO quickly. The bad guys hadn't gotten in yet, hadn't broken any windows, were guilty only of minor trespass, and they were right back out on the street to try their work again on someone else, maybe down the hill into San Marino.

THE MESSAGE OF ALL THIS? You're part of your neighborhood watch, organized or not. You need to make sure your family and friends lock cars and houses, and follow all the safeguards we've long been taught.

POUTINE FOR THE NAFIES

IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY a couple of months have passed since the Bayles represented us at RI's convention in England. Actually, it *was* only a couple of months. But already RI is urging us to urge you to go with the Nafies to the next international convention, in Montreal. The way they're tempting you may not get you to go, however: their bulletin talks about poutine, "Montreal's gift to the world." Sounds more like a heart attack waiting to happen: a plateful of quarter-inch-thick French fried potatoes with a hearty helping of fresh cheese curds, topped off with a rich beef gravy, bacon, smoked meat, and poultry fat. Yummy!

POUTINE IS SUPPOSED TO translate from Acadian slang for "bad stew" or "gooey mess," according to Wikipedia. Why RI chose this as a feature for the June 2010 convention is a mystery to me. If you go, RI promises several fast-food booths featuring this gussied-up pile of cholesterol. The convention site at www.rotary.org is offering special transportation and housing deals – already. Only ten months to go, and you can enjoy a plateful of this gooey mess.

WORLD PEACE FELLOWSHIPS

KNOW SOMEONE WHO WANTS to change the world? Rotary helps make this possible through the Peace Fellowship program, very generous financial support for bright grad students who are ready to attend one of nine universities in seven countries. Each Peace Fellow can concentrate on conflict resolution and international diplomacy programs. Free informational brochures and CDs are available out of Evanston for you to pass out among good candidates: go to shop.rotary@rotary.org and look up items #084 and #092.

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OFFICERS:

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EMILE'S PHILOSOPHIES:

Duct Tape is like "The Force".
It has a light side, a dark side, and it holds the universe together.