



Your **ROTOSCOPE** for

July 22nd, 2010

for the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, USA

MAYBE IT'S THE REMODELED WHY?

WE TOOK A LUCKY GUESS that our old gray Mayor Dennis would come to speak last meeting, and we are lucky that Dennis was surprised to read this while at a wedding in Vienna (Austria, not Virginia). He flew right back, helping prove that Rotoscope is NEVER wrong, and gave a superb report on the city's balanced budget and proposed lease of the Stoneman School property. We'll try again, and hope we're lucky again. We'd heard that **SUE MARASCO's** program of a few weeks ago, rescheduled as she would be traveling, might be our topic for this next Thursday. Nothing is confirmed, but if she comes it sure will be topical. You've probably read that the YMCA organization has followed marketers from KFC, BP, IBM, GM (with its "Chevy" nickname that it tried to drop recently, then restored), and has remodeled itself as the "Y". Just the "Y", which most people call it anyway, doing far more for every age group than simply providing swimming, camping, and sports for youth. Today's "Y" includes such projects as computer education, adventures for elders, food and health information, each branch across the country preparing services for kids, sure, but also for their parents and grandparents.

IT'S NOT THE OLD YMCA, even if the Village People won't change their song. And if it is indeed Sue Marasco speaking, you'll find out the excitement happening right at our city's limits on Garfield. (If not Sue, well, stay for whatever's coming.)

BOB BRINGS BACK A TIRED OLD TRADITION: THE HEAD TABLE

LONG HEAD TABLES for luncheons and dinners were invented by the Caesars, who enjoyed sitting above hoi polloi while watching the naked dancers or whatever was brought before them. Robber Barons and GOP politicians brought head tables back in the early 1880s so they could blow their cigar smoke away from their plates while looking Important to other diners. Paul Harris started Rotary meetings without using head tables, preferring the first members to sit comfortably around the office. The National Woman's Club and Woman's Temperance Unions liked the head table so ladies seated there could show off their hats. Head tables have been used by some of our past presidents as ways of punishing officers or bulletin editors who displeased them. Sitting at a head table is a form of torture. One must use the best of table manners, but can't talk or even eat much without the audience staring at you. Turn to speak to a person on your left, and he or she is looking the other way. Turn to the right, and another back of a head is facing you. So you must look straight ahead while feigning intense interest in your lunch, chewing thoughtfully with your mouth closed so you won't offend those watching out front.

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY Rotary presidents did away with those old-fashioned, long head tables up on a podium. They've sat speakers and honored guests in a circle so all could enjoy conversations with every one around them. **LOIS MATTHEWS** was a marvelous VIP-table host. She brought in catered gourmet foods from Julienne's for her round table, which was tucked discreetly to the side of the lectern so the rest of us weren't aware the presidential guests were eating much better than the stuff we got off the buffet. **EMILE BAYLE** added a gracious New Orleans touch, continuing the Julienne's entrées but setting up a bar, blending frothy Ramos Fizzes for his special friends. Several drinks inspired some of Emile's programs to rattle along a bit over 1:30, but he'd stand alongside them and his bulk got the message across to stop.

BOB HAS REDISCOVERED what Henry VIII knew: the king looks important up there with his minions alongside. **BOB** is "honoring" a few members each week with assignments to sit up front. This means one can't scoot out if the program is dull; rather, head table "honorees" must look earnestly fascinated by the speaker's every thought. This means ties must be straightened, even on the mayor; knees must be kept demurely together, skirts pulled down, and no elbows can be on the table. It's worse than eating at Grandmother's in a mid-century Norman Rockwell painting.

BOB "HONORED" CITY STAFF last meeting by clustering department heads around the city council so the hired hands could butter up the elected big-shots. It worked, sort of. Our council presented a proclamation to our new president, praising him for his parade, his float, his whipping our club into shape. But we bet he might have gotten more praise had he followed Lois' and Emile's examples of elegant dining at a gracious round table.

JULY / AUGUST 2010

JULY

22 Noon What's happening at our local YMCA?

29 Noon The latest drama from the Pasadena Playhouse

AUGUST

5 Noon Today's Red Cross

12 DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S VISIT – 9:30 officers, 10:30 Board, noon lunch.

19 Noon A Hundred-Year-Old Story

26 Noon Keys to Nature Health

THE ROTOSCOPE

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

July 22nd: Maybe Y? Or Y Not?



ROTAPLAST?

IT'S BEEN MISSPELLED AS "Rotoplast," which sounds like something found wrong in this bulletin. It is actually spelled "Rotaplast", which sounds like something to apply to a sore elbow. Find out what it is, and you'll be intrigued. Find out a little more, and you'll be fired up to help our district meet its commitment to collaborate, and our president's promise to contribute this year.

ROTAPLAST INTERNATIONAL, INC. is its legal name. Two Rotarian-physicians with the Big Club in downtown San Francisco in 1992. Dr. Peter Lagarias was president that year of San Francisco Rotary, which is the second-oldest club in the world, started just a year after Paul Harris gathered Chicago #1. #2's membership included Dr. Angelo Capozzi, a surgeon who saw urgent need to treat children with the cleft lip and palate anomaly in Third World nations who would otherwise not receive surgical intervention. With a small grant from SF #2, Doctors Lagarias and Capozzi went to La Serena, a poor town in Chile, to treat a few dozen children with this simple surgery that changed their lives. For the next few years, the Rotary Club of San Francisco sent their team out on one surgical mission a year. Now? The 124th mission is completed, with over 10,000 children in 18 countries assisted.

ROTAPLAST REMAINS a project of Rotary, through a separate non-profit corporation that keeps expanding its mission. Teams have gone to Vietnam, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Mexico, Venezuela, Bolivia, Peru, Guatemala, Ecuador, El Salvador, Romania, China, Ethiopia, India, Nepal, Brazil, and the Philippines. Hundreds of medical and non-medical volunteers give their valuable time, and generous hospitals and medical equipment companies give supplies. Our district has committed to sponsor a team to El Salvador next spring and we've promised help.

SWEETS OF THE WEEK

THE LATEST BATCH OF M&M's went to the five retiring members – that doesn't sound right, as none of them are very retiring. Let me try again. Sweets for "Mission and Membership" performance went to the five members termed off our San Marino Rotary Charities board after three years of diligent service disbursing our club's support to various local projects, especially those involving youth. (Some old-timers still call this our "San Marino Rotary Foundation" – no, while it is the non-profit part of our club, we changed the name some years ago to "Charities" to differentiate it from The Rotary Foundation, nee the Paul Harris Foundation.) Those honored were:

WAYNE CARTER
ELLIOTT KATZ

DICK DURANT
LUCILLE NORBERG

JOHN WALLACE

"READERS" THANKS and BOOKS

OUR "ROTARY READERS" BOOKS were distributed a bit later than usual, so thanks came in from these appreciative third graders just recently. As you know, this is the old "Reading by Nine" program in partnership with Scholastic books, but the old name was taken away by other groups so our club continues under "Rotary Readers". The last of the books went to an elementary school in Alhambra, and chair Will Bortz has a fistful of delightful notes and drawings from the recipients that he'll display at the next lunch meeting. Take a look and realize how your dollars help these kids.

SPEAKING OF BOOKS: "LAST CALL" is one of the several good selections set out for our speakers to present the city library. It's not quite a third-grader's choice, but it's heartily recommended for your summer reading. Daniel Okrent of The New York Times has written an engaging study of Prohibition, of Suffrage, the Income Tax, brewers, and their inter-connection that brought the 18th Amendment – and Repeal.

WHAT A TEAM!

SMILES ALL AROUND BOB AT HIS FANCY HEAD TABLE!

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2010-11



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Emile Joseph Bayle
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BOB SAYS:

"DO NOT MACHINE WASH OR TUMBLE DRY"

simply means I'll never wash this, ever.