



HOT POTATO

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Rotary Club of Wayland, New York, D7120

Don Griffing, president

Thomas Quinlan, secretary

One Year Hiatus For Potato Festival?

We had reasonable attendance last meeting. It makes it much more fun that way, doesn't it. The weather continued to be lousy. I think it must have rained every day for at least two weeks.

The Miller House served us chicken with fried potatoes and corn on the side. The dessert was a delicious vanilla (?) pudding with cherries on top of a sponge cake. It went down easy.

There seemed to be no confessions this week, but Pat Lysell stirred up some trouble by enquiring about acquisitions of pets. She mentioned no specific case, but must have looked enough in a particular direction to clue in president Don to a possible infraction of this kind. He started grilling Art Traphagen, who had to confess to Twinkie, a 6 month old kitten, all black, to replace Fuddie Duddie, who passed away some months ago. Bob Radell did not earn points with Art when he asked how the animal was acquired, implying some untoward methods had been used. Bo Lysell also got on Art's list by suggesting a dollar a leg, plus a dollar for the tail. After some haggling, Art volunteered a dollar, but he will remember! Pat, keep it to your self...

Business

After exhausting the Twinkie subject, we switched over to some business.

Bud StGeorge had taken care of the tires for our Festival trailer. They were difficult to remove, but he had enlisted help from his employee. He just has to install the last wheel.

The question of additional paint around the sides of the roof was brought up. Marty will check to see whether the last weeks of rain had caused any leaks.

Tom Didas had the Halloween Parade under control. Judges had been lined up, except for may be one. Janine Miceli, Megan Didas and Pat Lysell were three of the chosen ones, and Bud's daughter Jill would perhaps do it if daddy asked nicely. Judges start their job at 12:30 in the parking lot before the parade gets under way, thereby avoiding the tedious loops in the Bath National parking lot.

Interact club members should gather at 12:45 to help with the smooth progression of the parade.

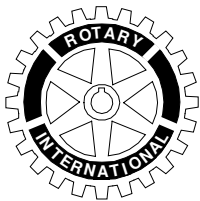
Cider and donuts were on order, but this year we have to make sure the kids get the stuff, and prevent the adults from

hogging it. The weather for the parade looks promising. Hopefully, the kids will come in droves.

Another piece of business was the demise of the Saint Vincent House. The immediate problem is not economical, it is a lack of volunteers. The present director has resigned and her last day is on Friday (last Friday if you read this at the next meeting). Art Traphagen brought a bunch of volunteer sign up sheets, which he offered to interested club members. They are looking for one or two 4 hour shifts a month. The position of director, will be filled by Tim Petersen for the next month, but the board has to work hard to solve that problem too. Nancy Levesque left early for a board meeting with the Saint Vincent House.

Bud StGeorge offered to resume the lawn mowing for St Vincent when he heard that the lawn needed mowing, but it could also be that the lousy weather had played a trick.

Next week's program will feature a representative from the DEC, who will talk about the latest in hunting rules and the Venison Program. In the 3rd week of November, president Don would like to invite representatives for the volunteer groups, who helped with the Festival



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How About The Potato Festival?

With the somewhat disappointing net economical result of the last Potato Festival, President Don wanted to hear the members' feelings about this project. Why has attendance by both vendors and visitors diminished so dramatically in the last years? Can we change it?

The broad conclusion was that we need something special, which draws people to the event. This does not appear to be a musical attraction, nor a parade, based on the information about other successful projects. No, it's some unique activity, or perhaps even the uniqueness of the community that draws. Wayland has earned a reputation of being "boring," and it's not going to be easy to change it.

The remoteness of Victory Park could be a factor. We spend a lot of effort just trying to direct people to the place. (*We are not in the middle of the village, obstructing traffic and getting noticed, like Naples.*)

Several members thought we were already too late in getting stuff out to potential vendors. In view of this, should we skip 2006 all together, trying to regroup with greater participation from local organizations?

A vote will be held next meeting on this important issue. Don't miss it.