



HOT POTATO

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Rotary Club of Wayland, New York, D7120

Don Griffing, president

Thomas Quinlan, secretary

Back After The February Break

It was a typical winter day for the Finger Lakes area, i.e. not too much snow, just irritatingly chilly. We got up to the magic dozen with a little help from a guest, Deanie Traphagen.

The Miller House served us a fruit salad to start with, which started some speculation as to what was to come. I guess we should have realized that it was theater season, i.e. we had ham and scalloped potatoes with green beans on the side. The dessert was a chocolate frosted chocolate cake.

President Don had cancelled last week's meeting when he detected a definite lack of remaining members, who didn't go somewhere over February break. There should be fines galore coming up over the next few weeks.

Actually, the fining started already last week. Marty Kimmel confessed to a 10 day venture to Myrtle Beach. They had taken in lots of entertainment, dined well, and generally had a good time. President Don was going to let him off easy, but Marty thought it was worth \$5. I think that Marty was the one who also gave us an update on Polly Shriner, but it could have been Tom Quinlan, too, or maybe both of them. It was nice to hear that she is now home in Springwater, and doing much better than before. Art is not ready to let her stay at home alone, so we won't see him for meetings for a while yet. He also looks much better now, with a lot of stress relieved.

Tom Quinlan had spent two weeks in Florida, where the weather had been "OK." That probably translates to terrific by our standards up here, even though it may have been a little iffy by their standards down there. Tom had made up a meeting, so Don felt that \$5 was enough.

Sharon Vogt contributed a happy dollar for something, I'm sorry to say I missed, being at the other end of the table. Thank you, Sharon!

I didn't have to miss Art Traphagen's happy dollar because there was a small verbal preamble exchange with Tom Didas at first, which drew everybody's attention. Art was offering his powerful hearing aids to Tom, should he be unable to hear what he was saying. Art was relieved that they were no longer hosting. The cultural clash, if that is what it was had been "a bit much" in Australian parlance. I think the word ordeal was employed in Art's U.S. version. He brought a copy of "Rotary Life Down Under" for show and tell.

Having completed half the table, it was Pat Lysell's turn. She confessed to a trip to Spain for 9 days and brought another club member for escort. The weather had been a little uncooperative but the important part of the trip was accomplished, to visit Anna-Lisa, and that made up for it. She is at the University of Salamanca this semester, and proved to be an excellent tour guide, showing an amazing fluency in the lingo over there. A lot of museums and old cities were visited, which could become the subject of a program some time. They had also made up a meeting at the Rotary club of Salamanca, which Bo the escort was asked to tell about.

It was definitely a different style of Rotary meeting than what we have been accustomed to in most other parts of the world. First, it started at 9 pm, and went on for two and a half hour. You may think that this sounds like an ordeal. Nooo, they start with business, but during the business part, the first rounds of wine bottles were brought in, so that we could sit and sip some wine, and

chew on some rolls during the discussions. Very civilized! There were only seven or eight members present at first, but another half dozen came late, spread out during the business part of the meeting. I guess one has to understand how life works in Spain, including the effects of siesta. Most businesses are open until 9 pm.

With business concluded after about an hour, more wine was brought in to go with our main course, which was an elegantly presented veal cordon bleu with fried potatoes, broccoli and tomato slices with cheese on top. Delicious! Then came the dessert, which was a masterpiece, both in flavor and presentation. A very moist colorful cake (spectrum) with artfully applied sauces in patterns on the plate. Very elegant, and to top it off, champagne was served with the dessert!

We did exchange flags, and received a beautiful specimen in exchange for our, well, flag. I guess you can say that the flag was appropriate for the beautiful city of Salamanca. Pat offered to pay \$10 for the fine. President Don thought that it would suffice, including the escort. That triggered Pat's memory, bursting out that somebody had a birthday in Spain. Having ruled out the royalty there, etc., president Don came to the conclusion that she must be referring to the escort, guided by Pat's stares and nods in that direction. That cost the escort \$3 under suspicion of having tried to avoid it. The truth was that we had not come full circle yet.

After all this social stuff, there was still time for **business**.

President Don had received more than you letters from recipients of the dictionaries, which he sent around the table. Very nice letters!

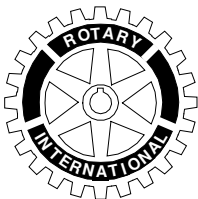
We received a thank you letter from Karen Raub, appreciating our offer to help them with a fund raising food concession at their "Relay for Life" event later in the spring. This is the Cancer Society as benefactor.

There was a solicitation from the Grad Bash. For \$200 minimum, we can get our logo on a tee-shirt. We have done this for several years, and Tom Quinlan moved we do it again. Marty Kimmel seconded that motion, which carried without discussion.

Art Traphagen had brought in a little jug of pennies, and challenged the membership that he would make an additional donation (in "silent" money) if they could beat the size of it. I don't know if Tom Quinlan's three drug bottles of pennies added up to more, but for safety's sake, let's look to see what we have.

We also had a bit of a program (Australian parlance again) presented by Deanie Traphagen. She talked about the Foundation and sustained donor-ship, PHFs, etc. In particular, she also talked about the district grants we are entitled to apply for. It was a nice presentation, and some members received their stickers to put on their name badges. Congratulations!

With George Smith absent, Art Traphagen won the 50/50, which he donated back to the club. Thanks, Art!



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