



# HOT POTATO

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Rotary Club of Wayland, New York, D7120

Don Griffing, president

Thomas Quinlan, secretary

## Attendance Up Dramatically Under President Don

It is very gratifying to see the table full two meetings in a row. Unfortunately, I was unable to write the second Potato for the year because of unusual workload. Here is what should have been the third, but now became the second.

During the second meeting, there were lots of Potato Festival details brought up. Past president Bob was very concerned with the 15 vendor applications he had received. That is less than half the normal number. There is a conflict with the County Fair in Bath, but that has happened in the past with less severe results. It really is a pity when we try so hard to make the Festival memorable this year. With the fantastic backing from the Gunlocke company, we had the ability to get the Festival going again, we thought. I don't see how we can reverse the trend now. I predict even lower numbers for coming years. It's all about perception in these days of advertising and modern journalism. Perceptions easily become self fulfilling. That means that we have to work extra hard to counteract these perceptions during the Festival.

That is enough of gloom and doom for one issue of the Hot Potato!

The second meeting, we had lighter than normal fare, consisting of a ham and cheese sandwich with various salads. It was appropriate for the swelteringly hot weather. Last meeting, we were back on track again with NY strip steak, mashed potato with gravy, and a medley of peppers, onions and mushrooms. The dessert was a spongy type of cake with blueberries and cream on top. Oh yes!

Bud StGeorge arrived late last meeting for business reasons. He declined one of our wonderful songs, but said that he didn't care if he were fined. President Don took it as dropped gauntlet and fined him \$3. Considering how many times Bud got away under Bob's presidency, will this very stiff fine serve as a deterrent? I have made enough predictions for one Potato, so I leave it up to you, the reader.

To illustrate the Perception/Deception thing I alluded to earlier, take Tom Didas' recounting of his weeklong(+) trip to the Adirondacks. He didn't state it quite that way, just that he made short trip to Burlington, VT, to look at UVM. This conjures up the image of the poor parents bringing their child to look at some overpriced college in Vermont. Even though president Don appeared to see

through the strategy, and brought out the full extent of the trip, he fined him only \$2. So, did the modern perception thing work? Bud, I think you have to wrap your confessions better to avoid stiff fines.

Marty Kimmel had picked up on the perception thing and tried to characterize his trip as business! He wasn't as smooth as Tom but quite successful anyway. The \$2 trip measured 2,100 miles, bringing them to St Louis via Cincinnati, then to Chicago, then back to Cincinnati before returning to Wayland. The business part turned out to be (you guessed right) model trains in St Louis, but visits with children in the other cities.

Sally Smith was fined a buck, I think, for her trip to NYC. She met up with some old school friends there, stayed on Times Square, took in plays, etc. It was an "unwrapped" confession, so my theory is that Don had to compare days spent, etc.

## Business

Art Traphagen reported that the Golf Tournament had been quite successful, and expected the total to top \$5,000, pending one last receivable. Even without it, we are looking at just under the 5k mark. Wow, that's very nice.

In other golf related business, president Don announced that the district tournament takes place on September 9,

which is a Friday, at the Lima Country Club. Contact him or go to the district 7120 web site for more information.

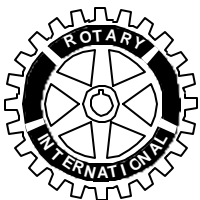
Then we switched over to Potato Festival matters. President Bob had found out that we had another collision for vendors, namely the Keuka Arts and Crafts Show. It's good to know, and it's depressing too, that we rank fairly low on the vendors' lists, so to speak. We switched dates to avoid a collision with the NY State Fair, particularly concerning a tractor pull event, which we aren't even going to have as it turns out. I admit, I thought it was a good idea to move the date too but it may have been the wrong thing to do.

Art Traphagen needed a Potato Festival T-shirt to send to Don Alhart at News 13. It has to say Potato Festival on it. I think Roy Robinson would be able to help him with this.

It was decided that a small group would join President Don and his pickup truck to place sandwich board signs (kept at Bud's garage) after the meeting.

No meeting on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>, rather gather at Victory Park on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> to set up stuff. Come as soon as you can after work or other chores (for some).

Pat Lysell won the 50/50, or was it Bo? She donated it back anyway.



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