



HOT POTATO

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Rotary Club of Wayland, New York, D7120

Patrice Lysell, president

Thomas Quinlan, secretary

Dining With Lions and a State of Steuben Address

Ten Rotarians showed up to the meeting the Lions Club had invited. There were fourteen Lions, I think, for a total of two dozen. This was the first meeting that Lion vice president Larry Schroeder conducted, and he was very visibly concerned about the safety of his bell and gavel, carrying it with him everywhere, even to the bar.

The Miller House served us salad, then a pork chop with gravy, stuffing, baked potato and a side of corn. The dessert was a berry torte with cream on top. I happened to sit at the same table as Lion Bob White, proprietor of the establishment. He insisted on being served last to avoid a fine.

Between two courses of the meal, introductions were made, starting at the head table, where we found Rotary president Pat Lysell and Lion president Larry flanking the guest speaker, Pat McAllister. The rest of us were sitting around four other tables with a good mix of Rotarians and Lions at each. We all stood up and introduced ourselves, which I won't cover in any more detail.

After the meal, the paranoid behavior we observed in many of the Lions was explained. Along with the usual confessions you find at our Rotary meetings, like birthdays, publicity seeking and windfalls at football pools, they vigorously pursued games like "squealing and stealing" to an extent I haven't seen since the days in the Naples Rotary club. President Pat had carelessly walked to the bar without her bell and gavel, and ended up paying five dollars "ransom."

After a profitable fine session, president Larry introduced Pat McAllister, well known attorney from Wayland, whom we elected to the Steuben county legislator.

McAllister gave us a status report on what's going on in the county. Of all the money they raise and spend, the lions share is mandated by state and federal legislation. Medicaid has grown by double digit percentages for years, and it takes away money from just about the only area the county has full control, - highways. There are 620 miles of county roads, and over 300 bridges to maintain. Pat also touched on the voting machine debacle. He didn't think we would see a new system before the 2010 elections. We thanked Pat for a great, succinct presentation, and the only question after was "What's wrong with the current machines?" We heard no answers, indeed...

It was a very enjoyable evening, and I think all Rotarians in attendance thought we should do it again next year, that time at our invitation. Thanks Lions for a great meeting.



From left to right at the head table, Rotarian Pat Lysell, Pat McAllister and Lion Larry Schroeder.

