



HOT POTATO

Number 32, Volume 9

April 11, 2006

Rotary Club of Wayland, New York, D7120

Don Griffing, president

Thomas Quinlan, secretary

Officer Clark and the D.A.R.E. program

We had seen snow in the hills again. When will this stuff ever end? Our snow birds were smart to remain in Florida, or wherever they go. We still ended up with 13 people around the table, thanks to some guests.

We had three guests. George Smith was accompanied by his lovely wife Joann, whom we had met before at the Old Madrid meeting. Ellen Stephens has become a welcome regular, and then Art Traphagen brought Wayland PD officer Chris Black, who was also the meeting's speaker.

President Don has certainly had a lot of mishaps this year. Well, he was absent, not because of a mishap of his own, but his mother had the misfortune to step on a snake in Florida, where she stays over winter. It had caused her to fall and break her arm (including the elbow). Don had to go down to help. Not wanting the club to slack off in his absence, he had asked Art Traphagen to act in his place. Oh boy, better pay close attention to that bell. Art's fuse is short.

We had grilled chicken for the main dish, accompanied by The Miller House

mashed potato and green beans. The dessert was cherry jello with cream.

Art started soliciting confessions. George Smith offered up another happy dollar, reporting further progress with the position at St Peter and St Paul. They had to leave early for the bible study they conduct on Tuesdays.

At this point, Pat Lysell pulled a fast one on Art, inquiring if Art and Deanie had time to pick up their prizes. Tom Didas quickly saw the implication and opening to turn the table. A painful look was seen on Art's face as he tried some spin control. He offered a happy dollar, the reason being that he was glad that the day was over. It had been strenuous with attendance at Rotary meetings in Mt Morris and Dansville. I don't remember if he paid anything for the prizes. I don't think so, but he made Pat pay a buck for Bo's prize, a pizza certificate redeemable only in Palmyra, and thus unlikely to ever be used. Maybe Don should probe into this when he returns.

The prizes were all part of the district assembly in Palmyra. It was excellent as usual. Art, Bo and Pat had learned a lot, and picked up lots of ideas.

Business

The only business was by Tom Didas. His daughter Meghan participates in a fundraiser Run-A-Thon on the following Saturday, which I guess is too late now to make a plug for. Benefits to go to the Vincent House in her case. I hope she got a lot of sponsors.

It became time for Art to introduce, who had until then been a mystery guest to Sharon Vogt. Normally, this kind of gaffe would result in a fine for Art, but nobody dared to proceed after seeing Bob Radell lambasted and fined for calling Art "Mr Make Believe President." Clearly, Art wasn't to be played with this evening. The mystery guest was one of the few cops Sharon apparently had not yet flashed, Chris Black, who is stationed at the WCCS as school resource officer.

12. The program used to be 17 weeks long, but it has been shortened to nine lessons.

The education is aimed at teaching the kids to resist peer pressure in the areas of alcohol, tobacco and marijuana, and is also trying to reduce violence among students. Officer Black passed around the book he used, which is provided free of charge, courtesy of NY State. (Otherwise, the program is funded to 25% by the Village and to 75% by the school district. Apparently, the school district wants to drop the support for the coming year, if it no longer will receive a federal grant, covering their part.)

Our club has donated money for tee-shirts, given to students graduating from the program. Graduation is predicated on writing an essay on the subject. Special awards are given to the six top essays.



Chris Black, "Make Believe" President Art

The D.A.R.E. Program

Officer Chris Black came to tell us what Drug Abuse Resistance Education entailed. Chris is DARE certified to teach the program in grades 5 to 12. Wayland offers the program to grades 5, 7, 9 and

During the question and answer session, there was inevitably a lot of concern with the school board's intentions regarding the funding of this program. I vote in Naples, so I can do nothing about it, but it sounded like some backlash could await the board in coming elections. Our club members were going to try to find out who is voting which way on the board. We all agreed that the police presence at school was very beneficial, and we could see why the students

have come to trust Chris Black. What a fine officer for the task! (We also secured some information about activities in the science wing, Don. Be prepared for close scrutiny next week.)

Marty Kimmel won the 50/50 and he graciously donated it back to the club.