

'Governor' Stresses Rotary Potential Around The World



District Governor Ed Hardesty

One person in Rotary can "change the world," and Rotary can accomplish what no other entity can do, District Governor Ed Hardesty told us during his visit Sept. 13.

Rotary is non-political and does not represent any religion, and it is not hampered by conflict and greed. "This gives us strength."

We can do things that no other group can, he stated. "We share the same values....Service above self points us the right way."

Land mines were eliminated in the war in Cambodia thanks to Rotary leaders. In another country a war was stopped so Rotary could go in and immunize children on both sides.

The drive to eradicate polio started as the idea of one man, the District Governor noted. "...Our values are learned as small children.. Our values are intrinsic, deep within us," he said.

"Governor Ed" told stories about the whale that splashes the

front row at Sea World, because that is what the whale does naturally.

He told about the old movie on Roman legions that starred Kirk Douglas as Spartus. When he stood up, every man there stood up to support him.

And he told about Frank McBee, a justice of the peace from Austin, Tx. McBee had lost his left leg to cancer, and Obie Jones, a state legislator from Austin.

Jones had lost his right leg to a bone disease. When McBee came to the Texas Legislature in 1939, he met Jones. They looked at each other and asked the other, "What size shoe do you wear?"

They both answered 9, and from then on, when Jones bought a pair of shoes, he would send one to McBee and when McBee bought a pair, he would send it to Jones.

The arrangement continued the rest of their lives. McBee's daughter-in-law said they were "just so delighted that they had a person to give the extra shoe to."

Rotary is happy to give to help others, too, he said. Gifts to the Rotary Foundation return 50 percent to a local club and gives 50 percent back in grants.

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Judicial District To Get Drug Court, Second Special Judge

This judicial district will get a "Drug Court" and another special judge, because of its heavy legal caseload, Associate District Judge Jim Bland told us last week.

The 18th Judicial District includes Pittsburg and McIntosh Counties. This district had the highest caseload, per judge, in the state, Judge Bland said.

He explained that when a vacancy occurred in the State Supreme Court, Judge Steven Taylor was named to the position. Judge Tom Bartheld, who was Associate District Judge, was named District Judge. Judge Bland, who was Special Judge, became Associate District Judge, and Donnita Wynn, former District Attorney, was named Special Judge.

The "Drug Court" will start at the first of the year. The idea has worked in other areas of the state, but it will need the "help and support of the community," Judge Bland said.

The present system is "not working" and a drug court is "the most realistic alternative," Judge Bland said.

He called the new court "a necessity." Drug cases were a "big problem" with marijuana and stronger illegal drugs. But the situation was nothing like the problem when methamphetamines became available, the judge said.

The present system "is not working," a Drug Court is the most "realistic alternative," Bland said. "It can be a very good thing for the community."

Local judicial officials have been studying the idea of the Drug Court. Judge Bartheld visited the Drug Court in Pontotoc County, which has been in operation eight years.

The court relies heavily on drug education and drug tests, Bland explained. "And it takes a lot of committed people to make it work."

Under the system, there is a "tough prosecutor," and defendants are given requirements, that are reviewed "every other Friday."

Requirements include no alcohol offenses, attendance at drug education classes and AA meetings, as well as drug tests, Judge Bland related.

Part of the program apparently is voluntary, in lieu of jail terms, but the judge said that every defendant in the Pontotoc County court "was with the program."

Funding of the program is a question that has not yet been answered, he said.

The judge also mentioned a newspaper picture of students wearing shirts that said they broke a law and prayed in school.

There is no such law, and there has never been a person prosecuted in court for praying in school, he said.

Bland called it a "major misconception," and said federal directives state that any student can pray in school, but the school cannot sponsor or organize prayers or prayer meetings.



Associate District Judge Jim Bland

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The Rotary Foundation provides clean water and good health to underdeveloped nations, he pointed out. But if you gave to the foundation three years ago or longer, it is gone.

Former District Governor Gerald Harp donated matching funds, so that contributions from this district are matched 50-50. Hardesty said he uses the payroll deduction plan. For \$20 a week, Hardesty gives \$1,000 a year to the foundation. At the end of the year, he is asked to name a Paul Harris Fellow.

To show where the need is, Hardesty said if we could shrink the world's population to a village of 100 people, there would be 57 Asians, 21 Europeans, eight Africans, and 14 from the Western Hemisphere.

There would be 52 females or 52 percent, and 48 would be male. Seventy would be non-Christian and 30 would be Christian.

There would be 89 who are heterosexual and 11 homosexual.

There would be 80 in substandard housing; 50 would suffer from malnutrition; 70 would be unable to read.

Six people would own 59 percent of the wealth, and they all would be from the United States.

One would be near death; one would be near birth. Only one would have a college education and one would own a computer.

The speaker told of the boy who was allergic to bee stings. He was riding in the car with his father when a bee got in the car.

The boy was afraid. But the father caught the bee in his hand, and showed his son the stinger in his hand. The bee could not sting again.

"Rotary takes that sting away," he said, "with service above self."

Terry Harrison Reports About Some Strange State Legislation

Rep. Terry Harrison told us Sept. 20 that some legislators are retired vo-ag teachers. Some are day care owners, some are restaurant owners, and some are retired farmers or teachers. But when they write legislation, it sometimes comes out being a little strange.

Terri proved his point, telling some of the laws which the legislature has passed.

One state law says you cannot secretly loiter, to eavesdrop, or to spread false rumors.

Another law says it is illegal to trap birds in a cemetery.

A third says it is illegal to injure fruit or melons in the daytime.

A law says people cannot buy a car on Sunday. And another says it is illegal to wear a mask in public, unless it is Halloween, or you are in a circus.

Terry told a story of when his mother and grandmother wanted to buy a ranch in Texas, for a surprise family birthday present, they found a woman could not own property in Texas. And at that time, a woman could not go to court, if she was unmarried.

Telling more about Oklahoma law, Terry said it is illegal to wrestle a bear in the state.

It is a felony to cut off a chicken's comb and other parts from its

head and under its beak. But if a man beats his wife, it is just a misdemeanor, Harrison said.

You also cannot "use profane language to irritate a person," Terry related. Or use a telegram to place a bet.

One bill set Ronald Reagan Day. Another made an hour glass selenite crystal the state crystal. Another said a state employee could not inspect septic tanks.

When retired weatherman "Don Woods came to visit state legislators, they made "Gusty" the state cartoon character. And the strawberry is the state fruit.

There were 1,600 measures introduced in the last legislature, and only 482 were signed into law by the governor.

Only 10 laws dealt with education. Five were on tourism; eight were about veterans; two were about transportation. A few were about banking.

There were 245 tax decreases and 20 bills on criminal justice. However, the legislature did not set the election on a gas tax increase, Harrison reminded. It was set by a citizens' petition.

Yet with all these bills, the legislators could not get their work done in the regular session, Terry reminded.

MHS Good Citizens, Attendance, Visitors and Handshakers

"**Good Citizens**" for September have been Amanda Ardesi and Tom Harrison.

Amanda is a senior. She is the daughter of Don and Carrie Petty. Tom also is a senior. He is the son of Bailey and Karen Harrison.

Amanda is in the high school band. Her schedule includes band and Sociology, Pre-Calculus, Physiology, English V, Spanish II, and Varsity Tennis.

She likes play on the tennis team, playing the drums in the band, singing, acting, and hanging out with her friends.

After graduation she plans to attend OU or the University of Arkansas. She plans to major in nutritional health and dietetics. She wants to be an RN.

Tom's schedule includes office aide, Chemistry II, AP, Spanish IV, AP Calculus, Biology II, AP, English IV, AP, and tennis.

His hobby is tennis and he plans to go to college. He made 30 on his ACT.

"**Attendance And Guests**" On Sept. 20, our Foreign Exchange

Student, Gustavo Borges attended the meeting. Ralph Perona, Lee Perona, and Allen Mitchell were guests of Terry Harrison.

Ann Owens had Stanley Gahreig as her guest. Iva Due also had a guest.

On Sept. 13, Frank Shuller was a guest of Thurman Shuller. Wayne Miller was a guest of Robert Miller, and David Winett was a guest of Jack Chatenay.

Last week, Vanessa Cummings was a guest of Shayne Javersak. David Winett was a guest of Jack Chatenay.

John Tucker was a guest of Fred Turner, and Sandy Brock-Bahe had Breanna Vasquez as her guest.

"**Handshakers**" Mark Jordan gave the lucky Rotary coin to Jim Elliott last week, who turned it over to the FBI to see if it was counterfeit or not.

Paul Green handed it to Angie Nelson, the week before.

And Don Brumley said Carl Filschow stopped long enough to shake his hand Sept. 6, so he got the commemorative coin.