

## Four New Members Give Classification Talks

Classification talks are back, with talks last week by four new members, Betty Talley, Greg McNall, Orlean Smith, and Robert Miller.



Betty Talley

in 1962.

She says she "loved banking" and opened banks at Olathe and Lenexa, Kan. She joined Rotary and became club treasurer there.

She said she will never forget throwing out the first ball for the Royals' baseball team in 1990.

When she moved back to McAlester, she and her husband had a baby

Her doctor was delayed by a train. And she could not remember who delivered the baby, but Thurman Shuller signed the birth certificate.



Greg McNall

Greg McNall was born in Colorado and went to high school at the Air Force Academy.

He started in the banking business at Fort Collins, then lived 23 years in Wyoming as a bank manager. He came here and is president of the Bank of Oklahoma in McAlester and Eufaula.

"I think McAlester is a wonderful place to live," he said.

Greg has done sky diving and has been a biker. He now enjoys



Orlean Smith

fishing, he said.

Orlean Smith is the third generation in the phone business. His grandfather bought the Crowder phone exchange in the 1920s, for the spare parts.

Orlean worked for Oklahoma's Wrangler Plant, then moved to help at the Canadian Phone Company. He said his wife cried when he told

her they were moving to Crowder.

Today he operates a wireline phone company, a cable company, a high speed internet business, and is a partner in a long distance and fiberoptics company.

He has a wife and two children, and lives in this area "because I want to."



Robert Miller

Robert Miller says he is "out here in the oil field," where he sees turkeys and deer everyday. But he is a retired school teacher and superintendent.

Robert says he listens to books on his iPod, takes photos with his iPod, is in the bail bond business, and provides electricity and internet technology. He said he is also "getting into the Bobcat business."

### Rotary Notes & Quotes

Since everyone introduces their speaker as the valedictorian of their graduating class, the new members may be trying to top that.

One said he was a sky diver and a biker, and a bank president, and a woman said she threw out the first baseball for the Kansas City Royals in 1990.

## Pliant Manager Gives Bright Report Of Plant Expansion



Terry Lanham

Terry Lanham, manager of the Pliant Corporation plant here, told us Oct. 17 that the plant has 190 employees and an \$8 million annual payroll.

The corporation which makes film, diapers, and feminine hygiene products, uses 1700 tractor trailers a year and receives 30 railroad cars a month with its supplies. The company is buying printing

presses, and has completed Phase II of its expansion, he reported. The firm has put \$15 million into its plant in the last 14 months, Lanham said.

The local corporation ships its goods to Mexico, Canada, and Europe. "We really have a good crossroads here," he said.

Lanham said has spent "the majority of his life" in Pittsburg County. "We've got to continue to do things in McAlester," he emphasized.

"We hear so many negative things." But the economic news is about "expansion, investment and jobs... Let's keep this momentum going."

The plant manager said the plant here is hiring more people, and will

soon have 230 or 240 employees.

The company has 23 plant around the world, he said.

There is "some talk" of the company building "Mega Plants," which would double their size. The McAlester location is "always looked at," when such expansion is considered, he said.

Talking about past plant locations, Lanham said that Oklahoma "went head-to-head" with four states, including New York and Georgia... "They're making decisions based on the bottom line... I can say Oklahoma won," he stated.

International trends affect their products, and "more and more" of the production facilities are going to China, he admitted.

"But we need to be more friendly in our economic development. There is no reason we can't do better," he said.

### Rotary Notes & Quotes

George Lampton and Randy Saunier were our "Halloween Ghosts" last week.

When you get in late, Randy sometimes sounds like he doesn't make sense. But one thing he said did make sense: If it happens in Rotary, let's keep it in Rotary.

(My identical twin sister?)

# Steve Smith Tells About Eastern's Classes And Cooperation With Other Schools



Sherri Hundley



Steve Smith



Gay Miller



Peggy Ivy

Steve Smith, dean of the McAlester Campus of Eastern State College, gave us a rundown of Eastern's expansion of educational cooperation with other schools, at our Oct. 24 meeting.

Eastern started at Wilburton in 1908. Enrolment is up 2 ½ percent and ranges a little above or below 2,000 students.

Groundbreaking on a new student center will be next spring, Smith said.

Eastern works with 19 area schools, beginning with sixth and seventh graders. It also works with the Kiamichi Tech Center.

Online education is now a big business, Steve said. "Adults really take advantage of that," he added.

Coach Glen Stone of McAlester has started his running program back up.

The McAlester campus was started in 1998, with the help of Mrs. Wanda Bass and the First National Bank. A room there seats 120 and has media presentation equipment. It has 10 interactive television rooms, Steve reported. There are 900 to 950 students on the local campus.

He said Eastern now offers a Master's Degree in Public Health, in cooperation with Oklahoma University. Eastern officials are talking with Oklahoma State, about offering Doctors' Degrees.

In addition to working with public schools, Eastern works with the Department of Human Services, with the Ammo Center and the work force.

Steve introduced Peggy Ivy, Sherri Hundley and Gay Miller, also from area colleges. Ms. Hundley is from Durant. She said Southeastern offers bachelor's Degrees in Elementary Education and Business Administration.

East Central at Ada has experienced "tremendous growth" Gay said, and has expanded its courses and programs offered here. The school offers degrees in Human Resources and a Master's in Nursing.

Ms. Ivy, Campus Advisor, told about the McAlester campus. It is open from 5 to 10 p.m., for many fully employed people who take classes in the evenings. It offers basic English, History and Math. A student can get an Associate Degree here in two years.

There are 70 McAlester High School juniors and seniors who are getting a "jump-start" with some college courses, they said. Nine hours are offered in non-degree programs.

CPR and First Aid are taught, and placement services provide scores to work with.

The Public Schools, Technical Schools and Higher Education are working together well in this area, Steve stated.

## Rotary Notes & Quotes

President Ann Owens said we should try to wind up the Dictionary Project by Thanksgiving. And she said we will be ringing the Salvation Army bells again, at Christmas, if you will put your name on the sign-up sheet.

She also read a thank-you letter from Miss McAlester, to the club.

## Attendance, Visitors, and Handshakers

Last week the attendance was 52. Mary Harris was a guest of Don.

On Oct. 24 the attendance was 46. Steve Dudley was a guest of Dick Dudley. The other guests were on the program and were guests of Steve Smith

On Oct. 17, there were 43 in attendance. Paul Sells was a guest of Becky.

HANDSHAKERS- Last week, Richard Lerblance kept it

in the family, giving the \$1 to Ashley.

On Oct. 24, Banker Greg McNall gave the buck to Thurman Shuller. And on Oct. 17, Brett Smith gave a \$1 campaign contribution to the other politician, Brian Renegar.

### New Club Members

Evans McBride, First National Bank; and Steve Smith, McAlester Campus of Eastern Oklahoma State College, were introduced as new members on Oct. 17.