



The First Rotary Spring Gala, featured a pork and chicken dinner, music from a Jazz Band of Travis Gunner on the keyboard, singer Autumn Gunner, Andy Brooks,

the drummer and Christyn Raincrow on the bass. Mike Lowber and his "Volunteer Chairmen" put on the Saturday night event which drew over 70 Rotarians and guests.

About City Charter Election, May 13

Smith, Member of Charter Review Committee, Talks

There is no perfect city charter, Weldon Smith told us Aug. 15. But Weldon, a member of the McAlester City Charter Review Commission, made a presentation to the club about the Charter Election coming up May 13, at the request of former Mayor Tim Wynn, who was chairman of the Review Commission..

No charter will prevent corruption, Weldon stated. But an updated charter would have made it difficult, the speaker said, pointing to an attorney who said he worked for the city manager, and not the City Council.

The present city charter was ratified April 4, 1972, or 36 years ago.

A city charter could be amended 100 times, in an effort to correct it, "and still need a new one," he noted.

The goal today is to cut out legal language, add topics which have been omitted...and make it consistent."

A copy of an old 1920 city charter tells rules about sidewalks and railroads.

See Charter Review on Page 2

Says Area Scout District Executive

'Decline in Morals, Ethics' Boosts Scouting's Importance

Nick Carris, District Executive of the Indian Nations Council, told us last week about area Scouting, and the Boy Scout Camp near Talihina.

Area parents feel there is a current "decline of morals and ethics," and this makes Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting "even more important" its sponsoring groups feel, said Carris.

There are 50 Cub Scout and Boy Scout units in this district. Four of the five Scout troops in McAlester are sponsored by churches and the other is by the American Legion. The history of Troop 2, sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church goes back almost 100 years, he related.

There are new Cub Packs "everywhere," he said.

Carris was high in his praise for parents as well as sponsoring groups.

Using a program called "Scout Reach," the Boy Scouts send an individual into a small community. He puts on an evening program on Scouting.

"We want to educate the adults as well," he emphasized.

These communities "don't want a free ride," he said. The Scout

Reach Program has 350 paid registration fees and 12 "scholarships," he stated. Then they will sell popcorn and may raise \$10,000 for the Scout program in that way, he said.

The Boy Scout camp is just outside Talihina. During nine weeks, the camp may have 6,800 campers this summer, he predicted. Chartered buses start to roll in, as the camp opens each year. Kansas City buses came last year, he noted.

Due to the funds raised and buildings donated since it opened in 1961, the cost of a week at camp has been held to \$185, he said.

"If you haven't been there lately, they've made quite a bit of improvements," he said. The camp is 480 acres and has added an additional 146 acres. It is adding campsites and expanding activities. The latest is "Black Powder Shooting for the older kids," he said.

The camp serves all the "food you can eat," using convection ovens, and the quality is good, Carris says.

Carris handed out brochures which give the Boy Scout Oath, Law and Motto. The camp offers 50 merit badges on various Scouting skills.

State Director Tells About Oklahoma Scholars Program



Terri Nicoll

Terri Nicoll and Stephanie Holt told us April 8 about the Oklahoma Scholars Program.

The program takes students before they enter high school and encourages them to take challenging courses that will give them a foundation to succeed in a university, community college, technical school, military, or industry. All this leads to better jobs, better pay, and better communities, they said.

Ms. Nicoll is state project director for the program.

The program requires four high school credits in English, three in math, (Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2;) three credits in basic lab science, (Biology, Physics and Chemistry;) three and one-half credits in social studies, (chosen from U.S. History, Oklahoma History, World History, Geography, Economics and government;) and two credits in the same foreign language.



Stephanie Holt

Terri told about the extra honors for some of the Oklahoma Scholars, and Stephanie told about the local “perks” and events. Movie passes and discount cards from local merchants went to some of the “Scholars.” Forty of the students were given an OSU “Campus Tour.” Some got “Graphing Calculators.” Some schools have “Scholars’ Night” at a football game. They all had their names in the football program, and were recognized at halftime. A “Senior Scholars Lunch” was planned at the Country Club for local scholars.

“The community that sets high expectations for all students, is the community that is going to prosper in the long run,” Ms. Nicoll said.

Ms. Holt is Assistant Principal. The sponsors believe that students who make “C” in the courses in the Scholars’ Course of Study, are better prepared than students who make higher grades in other courses.

Charter Review from Page 1

Members of the Charter Study Committee looked for loopholes to “close,” and put an emphasis on openness and honesty, the speaker said. They also wanted “greater accountability” from elected officials.

Dollar amounts and personnel policies are often out-of-date, recalled the speaker.

The Hospital Board members have had problems with the cost of equipment, due to limits on spending, in the present charter. The sale of city property also runs into problems, because of the limits and today’s higher price of property, he reported.

The proposed charter keeps a \$50,000 limit, but a provision is made for economic development land, with a “check/balance” provided by requiring a higher majority vote of the council.

Although the council is required to re-draw the ward boundaries after each federal census. Although this occurs only every 10 years,

it affects a vital aspect of our democracy, Weldon said, based on the idea that every person’s votes should count the same as any other votes.

The Audit and Finance Advisory Committee is mentioned in the new charter, but its operational details are left to city ordinance. At Enron, the audits didn’t mean anything, because no one understood the audit, pointed out the speaker.

The commission has a member from each ward. Weldon is from Ward 1; Sharon Ervin, Ward 2; Debbie Quadracci, Ward 3; Dorothy Crone, Ward 4; John Cathey, Ward 5; and Phil Beatty, Ward 6.

Information that Weldon handed out said the present charter “has been patched many times,” the newly proposed charter “is better organized, more understandable and consistent” and will provide “a good legal basis for the city now and into the future.”

And it “supports more efficient and effective government” and will “improve the planning, budgeting and other financial and operational activities of the city.”

Attendance, Visitors, Handshakers (*And The Big Pot*)

Attendance, Guests and Handshakers (*And The Big Pot*)

Last week we had 44 persons at the meeting. There were several guests who were on the program or there because of the program, including Tim Wynn chairman of the Charter Review Commission, and Debbie Quadracci, who showed the “Power Point slides,” and John Cathey and Sam Swinnea.

On April 15, there were 43 present. No guests.

On April 8, there were 46 present. Dorothy Chatenay was a guest of Jack. Student guests were Brandon Sullivan of Pittsburg and Stanley Wilkinson of Alderson.

HANDSHAKERS—Last week George Lampton gave the dollar to

Greg McNall. The week before, Noble Miller gave it to Greg McNall. (That’s two bucks.) On April 8, Brett Smith gave the buck to Carl Filskow.

AND ON THE BIG POT, one of the Student Guests bought \$20 worth of tickets, last week, but then drew the wrong card, after they drew his number.

The previous week, Mary Shannon tried to win for the women, but drew the wrong card.

And on April 8, Paul Million drew the wrong card.

THAT WAS A NICE DINNER FOR THE FIRST JAZZ GALA, WASN’T IT, MIKE?