



Club Hears from Helen Wheeler, Scifres on Fifth Tuesday



Karl Scifres and Helen Wheeler
Photo by George Lampton

Helen Wheeler and Karl Scifres split up a “Fifth Tuesday Classification Talk” last week, since Helen has left her Chamber of Commerce job, and Karl reported on a Rotary District 6110 meeting. The Rotary meeting was attended by President-Elect John Kenny, new president of Rotary International.

Helen had taken a position with Terry Don Miller and Associates, an architectural firm.

Karl is President-Elect of the McAlester Rotary Club.

Ms. Wheeler pointed to several projects that the firm had drawn up plans for, including the Choctaw Travel Plaza and projects in Missouri, Iowa, and Galveston, Tx.

Steve Smith commended Helen for her accomplishments at the chamber.

The Rotary theme for this year will be “The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands, President Kenny told the group. “The future of Rotary will not be shaped at Rotary International Headquarters,” the new international president said. “It will be shaped in each and every Rotary Club,” Kenny continued, “because it is for each of us, as Rotarians, to do what is

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English Violinist Who Will Teach This Summer, Gives Program

Peter Povey, who will be here for his fourth summer, to teach students music, June 8 to June 20, performed three short musical numbers on the violin., at last week’s program.

A native of England, Povey attended Eaton with Prince William, the Royal College of Music in London, is earning his Master’s at Yale University, and is to start on a doctorate in Music, this year at Northwestern University.

He was introduced by Lucy Smith, who explained that the two-week program is taught here in the summer, through the Ardenium, started by Tom and Allece Garrard. However the summer musical program needs some financial help, Lucy, a former president of the McAlester Rotary Club, explained.

The British musician called the seminar here “One of the

highlights of my year.” There were 70 students at last year’s seminar.

The two-week event will be at Parker School. It is for students who cannot afford the program. Enrolment has opened for this year, but the number of students this year “will depend on the money raised,” Lucy said.

Povey played a piece by Massenet. His second and third were from works by Paganioni.

Povey began playing the violin at the age of 3, and the piano at the age of 5. He has played at dozens of events throughout the United Kingdom, including the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic, both in Great Britain.

Episcopal Rector, Author, Gives St. Patrick’s Day Program



Stephanie Swinnea
Photo by George Lampton

Stephanie Swinnea gave us a St. Patrick’s Day program March 17, played some Irish music, and told us about her book on Saint Patrick.

Patrick, who later became a saint, came from Wales. He was captured by pirates and taken to the Northwest Coast of Ireland. The book traces his travels to France, to Britain and back to Ireland.

He walked over 200 miles across Ireland, “Mother

Stephanie,” an Episcopal Priest, (Rector,) said. She studied the history of the area, when the Romans left Britain.

Patrick had been the son of a Nobleman, and had the education that Noblemen had during that time.

Pirates raided the areas after that time. Patrick was one of some 2,000 people, captured by the pirates, taken to Ireland and sold in the slave market.

The book was called, “I, Patrick, A Sinner.”

In her talk, Stephanie mentioned “The Irish Connection,” to Oklahoma, when the Cherokee Indians sent hundreds of dollars to Ireland, during the Irish Famine.

Stephanie also played a “recorder” of Irish music during the program.

Fort Smith Rotarian Tells About Leading Study Exchange



Ken Colley Photo by George Lampton

A Fort Smith Rotarian told us March 10, about leading a Rotary Group Exchange to Brazil last May.

Ken Colley said the Rotary Club in each town had arranged a tour of their schools, hospitals, water and/or sewer plants, fire stations and any city facilities or monuments. "It seemed like everyone was collecting cardboard or plastic,"

Ken related.

The study exchanges would last about a month. They usually include about eight people, with a Rotarian as a leader.

The "host families" got together and had a dinner, the day before they left, and showed a video.

He showed pictures of some of the luncheons, and various types of fish that would be served. When the meal was cooked on swords or long knives, they might serve "anything".

Colley was a real estate appraiser.



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necessary to keep Rotary strong..

President Kenny acknowledged the foundation established by past Rotary leaders, and said the responsibility for building upon that success rests on every Rotarian.

"Each one of us is standing on the shoulders of generations of Rotarians past, and it is our responsibility to determine Rotary's future," the international president said.

President Kenney emphasized that every Rotary club is "and must be autonomous. "Everything begins and ends with our clubs," he said.

"Our clubs work together, through their own districts, in cooperation with other clubs and districts, and with the support of our Foundation.

"But at the end of the day, everything that we accomplish is done through the strength of our clubs. And so each club must have autonomy to serve where and how it can serve best."

At the same time, Kenny highlighted the importance of the Rotary International Strategic Plan, adopted by the

Rotary International Board of Directors, as "an essential tool in providing continuity.

"The plan is designed to strengthen and proclaim the core values of Rotary service, fellowship, diversity, integrity and leadership," President Kenny said.

He concluded his remarks by sharing a favorite saying from his homeland of Scotland.

"We must look beyond our own parish pump."

He said that means "We must look beyond our own home and our own community."

"We must look beyond our own needs, and we must be aware that ours is only one community, of one country, of the many communities and countries in the world."

Lost & Found Department

The club is looking for our poster board presentation of Rotary Park. The poster board was about 2x3-feet in size and contained 5x7-inch photographs of the various improvements and facilities in the park. The poster board had been displayed at some of our meetings in the past and was used during the indoctrination sessions for new members. If anyone knows the whereabouts of this poster board, please call Bob Saunier or George Lampton.

Attendance, Guests, Handshakers, *Plus the Great Big Pot*

Attendance last week was 42. Kyle Burmeier had as his guest, his dad, Austin Burmeier. Ariyo Rayne Washington was a guest of her grandmother, Loise Washington. On

March 24, there were 36 present, but no guests. On March

17 there were 35 present. Brooke McVeigh was a guest of her grandmother, Sue Hawkins. On March 10, there were 50 present. Tony Washington was a guest of Loise. Pete Stastak was a guest of Don Lewis. And on March 3, there were 38 present.

HANDSHAKERS-Brian Chadsey was back with the buck last week, for Carl Filskow. On March 24, there were 44 present.

On March 17, Sue Hawkins was the handshaker, with Wayne Hanway the \$1 winner. Then on March 10, Bob Thornton gave the buck to Craig Kennedy. But March 3 was so far back that I can't

remember. However, if you think that's bad...

The Big Pot is a big blur. I bought 10 tickets every week, but couldn't hear when they called my number, and couldn't draw the joker when I got up there. Fortunately, no one else could find the joker either.

So whatever is there should still be there. (And President Brett told me they sold \$54 in tickets last week. If there is less than that, we may have to have a grand jury, just to come out even.)

2009 Rotary Flags Committee

Armed Forces Day	May 2
Memorial Day	May 25
Flag Day	June 14
Independence Day	July 3
Labor Day	Sept. 7
Veterans Day	Nov. 11

(See Sign-Up Sheet-Jim Thompson)