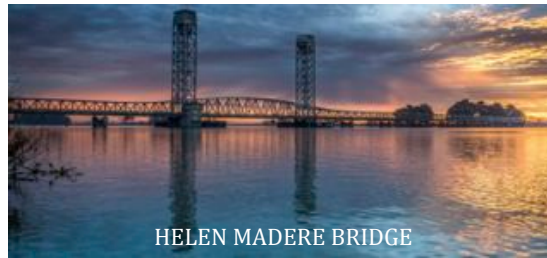




THE RÍO

"I would challenge you to a battle of wits, but I see you are unarmed."
— WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE "



HELEN MADERE BRIDGE

Rotarian

"Having fun helping others... watering the rosebuds"
— DR. TED SCHULZ



Bob Bard, Ed.

Notorious openings

Clang! We begin. Our ears burn with less-than-tuneful Smiling Irish Eyes, and Ed Kingen wins Wells Fargo quizzie; it was established in 1852.

Our guests

Edwin welcomes Jennifer Brazil, Hale greets Jon Blegen, Esq. *we still haven't gotten his pic*, Wayne welcomes keynote speaker Dave Trojan, and Dick greets Dennis Elliott. Pres. Greg welcomes Dennis as new member of Rotary, classification: Tech Marketing! We also greet special guests Irwin Anderson and Neil Wood, who have come to hear this morning's program.

Soroptimist Academic Achievement Awards

We're invited to attend event at RVHS auditorium honoring this year's scholars at 6:00 p. m., Wednesday, May 18.

Kelley has the floor

Membership orientation: we are confident that Kelley will handle this assignment with excellence...once she gets herself oriented, that is. Golf tournament: please donate a basket for the raffle and/or sign up a 4-some. Registration forms at riovistarotary.org, click on "Golf Tourney Application", and print out the second page. If you don't have 8 1/2 X 14 paper, you'll loose a little on the ends, but that's okay. Fill it out and get it to Kelley. It'll work okay. *Trust me*. Last night, Kelley dreamed that she won Derek's hole-in-one car. Then, she woke up. Golf committee meeting next Friday!

Milestones

Joe, birthday; Jim McPherson, 13th Rotary anniversary. Joe is on leave and Jim isn't here. (Gary & Evelyn also absent...the silence is deafening...but soothing.)

Student Rotarians

Most Interactors are on an AFS field trip, but our two mainstays, Cheyenne and Alyssa, give excellent report. Boys and Girls Swimmers both win at Bradshaw, abbreviated schedules at school, testing in Psych, today, planning Prom at Point, Sat., April 16, "Hollywood" theme, Softball won 15-3, students haven't decided on college.

Wayne reports

You can't see the Hwy 12 lighted crosswalk when you're looking straight ahead. Wayne jogged 7 miles the other day, possibly hastening the need for local street maintenance, but he evidently didn't hit anyone in the crosswalk.

Confessions

Tom and Sarah spend romantic 30th anniversary on island of Kauai, and he gives \$50 to Sarah's PHF.

Cub is guest DJ on 96.9 Eagle Classic Rock for 2hr. 9

minute gig. He gives \$96 to dad's PHF.

Greg visits Ontario P. D. for 4 days, where someone was shot outside during meeting.

Program

Wayne introduces David Trojan, whose business card describes him as an Aviation Archaeologist--Travis Heritage Center Researcher. David's passion is discovering aircraft artifacts at crash sites. Wayne says David will discuss the crash site of a WWII P-39 fighter that went down at the McCormack ranch in 1943, when only members of the R. V. Lions club were alive.



David Trojan, Travis researcher, speaks on local B-29 crash.

David welcomes Irwin Anderson, who witnessed the crash when he was a lad of 15. Dave gives us a little background on the P-39; they were our first line of air defense during WWII, but they were built with a severe flaw: their center of gravity was too far aft; the engine was located behind the cockpit, making it impossible, depending on the load, to recover from a spin.

When a P-39 crashed on the McCormack ranch, it was being flight tested. The pilot had deliberately put it into a tailspin at 15,000', but could not recover. The plane had gone into a flat spin at 7,000', and he parachuted out at 5,000'. He later said, "The first 10,000' were for Uncle Sam and the last 5,000' were for me. He was not seriously injured, but said he wished he'd had a book to read on the way down, prompting some sage Rotarian to comment, "Yeah, the Bible."

David donated a display of artifacts that he and his



Cheyenne and Alyssa deliver Student Rotarian Report, even though school's out for Spring Break!

team recovered from the crash site to the Rio Vista Museum, where you may view it. (There's still no charge to visit the museum.)

David found a microfilm report describing the crash. Utilizing 3 photos in the report in which distant hills and nearby landmarks were visible, he was able to pinpoint the crash location. Then, he assembled a crew, and using metal detectors, they began digging up remnants of the aircraft, guns, and ordnance. Encouraged when he found an article in a 1943 edition of the River News-Herald, Dave also found Rio Vista Fire Department records describing an interview with the test pilot.

The pilot led the firefighter straight out of the crash site to his parachute and helmet to retrieve them. This had been the pilot's first parachute jump. He commented, "What the hell good is it to teach somebody how to jump if you have to do it right the first time anyway?"

Local farm boy, Irwin Anderson, helped David nar-



Jennifer Brizel

Irwin Anderson

Neil Wood

row down the search area.

David described a crash in a B-29 at Travis AFB in which General Travis was killed. The base was then named in honor of the General.

David searches for plan crash sites all over the world, and he's searched for underwater sites in Hawaii. He enjoys history. He has offered to speak to us again on other airplane crashes.

[50/50 Raffle](#)

Derek Jones not only has the ticket, he wins \$247.50!

COMING ATTRACTIONS		
DATE	SPEAKER/EVENT	PROGRAM CHAIR
Friday, March 25	Veterans Administration Website	Alan Hartford
Friday, April 1	It's April Fools Day (and the first day of the District Conference)	Tom Donnelly
Friday, April 8	Assemblyman Jim Frazier	Dick Burkhardt
Friday, April 15	TBA	Jamie Wilson
Friday, April 22	TBA	TBA