



Having fun helping others... "watering the rosebuds"

THE RIO ROTARIAN

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Bob Bard, Ed

Wayne Woodward is M. C.

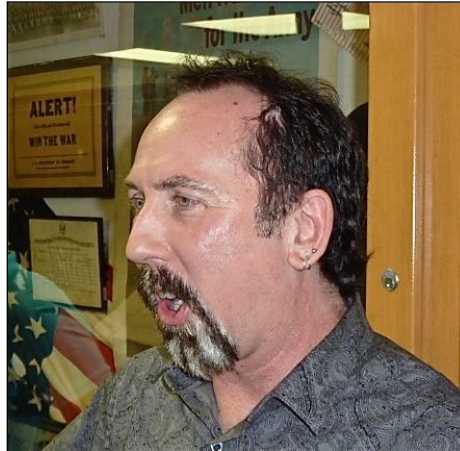
This week's meeting was held Friday evening at the Rio Vista Museum. Wayne dutifully took his turn as program chair as we went through the opening rituals. We were pleased to greet our Student Rotarians, Tyler Gomes and Dylan Coito, as well as Mel's guest, Dick, from Brentwood Rotary, and Evelyn's "date," Sue Mortimore.

Our hosts—the museum volunteers

Jim and Joyce Metcalf, along with bar tender Pete Hamilton, historian Beverly Bellows and the Tingey's did the lion's share of the setup/cleanup. The meal was catered by Kevin at Lira's and featured delicious tri-tip or chicken with all the trimmings. Most of those who signed up showed up. Nevertheless, we gave away over a dozen extra dinners packaged in partitioned styrofoam boxes and many unfinished bottles of wine to diners who wanted them as they left.

Our speaker

Do you ever want to hear a speaker who can enthusiastically relate amazing local historical events and keep you glued to your seat? If so, don't ever pass up an opportunity to hear Phil Pezzaglia speak. The man is gifted, plain and simple. And, he happily shares his gift with anyone who'll listen. Every time we hear him, we are amazed and spellbound by his endless stories.



Museum curator, Phil Pezzaglia, gives slide show on Rio Vista history.

Our historical program

Phil narrated a slide show in which the digital projector actually worked properly. (That, in itself, was an historic event!)

Where in the world is "Wind's End?"

Give up? In 1858 that was the name of our city before it was flooded out and moved downriver to its current site. Betcha didn't know that.

More interesting factoids

The fire truck in the museum was our city's second one. It is a 1929 Seagraves. When the Fire Department delivered it, they rolled it back off the trailer, but it had no brakes and almost smashed into Harvey's car.

The Homicidal Handyman

Harvey's photo appears in a book available for purchase at the museum. It turns out that Harvey (who has been a teacher for every kid around here at one time or another) had a student who's currently on death row for killing 8 prostitutes to "clean up Sacramento." Harvey claims he was a nice, quiet youngster, in the band and manager of the football team.

Oldest photo of Rio Vista

Phil shows a photo from 1869, a 2-story that burned in 1892. However the downstairs was saved and is now the Pizza Factory building.

Horse studding hours on Main St. and other miscellany

Horsing around was regulated, back then. Lake Holdenback was drained, filled and built up north of Main St. Bank of Rio Vista started 1892, later bought out another bank at current location. Curbs used to be wooden. Rio Vista Hotel was built in 1914, gutted by fire in 1917, rebuilt in 1919. Sidwell Hotel (later Ram) was once prestigious, now derelict. Bill Foster was bootlegger who opened a bar here when his welcome wore thin in bay area. He changed his name from Freitas. He had sawdust on floor and girls on counter. Earl Warren tried to shut him down.

Thanks, Phil

If we have any questions, now we know whom to ask.



Evelyn, Sue and Kelley enjoy great camaraderie following delicious dinner.



I'm in the South Pacific; hope I'm back by demotion. The gavel.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

DATE	SPEAKER/EVENT	PROGRAM CHAIR
Friday, March 21	Skip Thompson, Solano County Supervisor	Jim McCracken
Friday, March 28	2014 Iditarod Dogsled Race	Hale Conklin
Wednesday, April 2, 6:00 pm	Appreciation Night, Montezuma Fire Station	Lee Williams
Friday, April 11	To Be Announced	Joe Awender
Friday, April 18	To Be Announced	Hector De La Rosa