

The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

www.danburyrotary.org ,

District 7980

January 22, 2020

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

From the Editor's Desk:



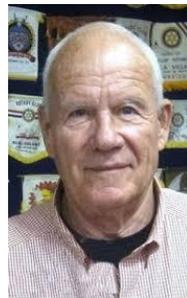
Two weeks ago I made a presentation based on some of the more memorable events in my life. I received quite positive feedback for the effort, and a strong commitment from former Fire Chief Barry Rickert. He has two scrapbooks relating to all of the fires he attended, and would gladly make a presentation to the club outlining his remarkable

career. His presentation on stamp collecting was a winner. This one is likely to be even more exciting and dramatic.

Yours in Rotary Service, Ralph

Tary's Rotary Minute:

On January 4th, Ralph Welsh, who wasn't editor of the Spoke then, filled in for the current editor—and he did a wonderful job. Our speaker that day was the V. P. of Union Carbide, James Rowland, who had been there for 30 years. Some of the facts he presented were trivial—such as 14% of their male employees were married, and that 21% of their female employees were also married. But the statistic that stands out is the pay scale. He reported that 34% of their work force was earning over \$25,000 a year—which is equivalent to \$101,000 in current dollars. Maybe that's part of the reason they folded. Just a guess.



Yours in Rotary Service, Tary

Make-ups-

- Mon. 12:15 pm, Norwalk, Norwalk Inn
- Mon. 6:15 pm, Newtown, Newtown Country Club
- Tues. 12:00 pm, Wpt, Branson Hall at Christ and Holy Trinity Church
- Wed. 12:15 pm, Danbury, Ethan Allen Inn, Danbury
- Wed 6:15 pm, Ridgefield Dinner Club, Bernard's, 20 West Lane, Ridgefield
- Fri 7:30 am Westport Sunrise (no longer active)
- Fri. 12:15 pm, Wilton, Marly's Bistro

Speakers:

- 1/29/20 Marybeth Cale, on Autism
- 2/5/20 Michael "M. J." Durkin
- 2/19/20 Robert Ronan, Control Systems Sustainability

Our Fellowship Evening at Chuck's: Always a Great Way to get to know your Club Members:



As always, our dinner meeting at Chucks was a delight. Carl Bailey just returned from his recent medical mercy mission to Bolivia, and let us all know, "It wasn't just work.



The Bolivians really know how to party." I learned a lot from Fran Kass who has two wonderful daughters, one in Florida and one here in CT. No rental required for a



Snowbird heading to Florida with a daughter there.

I provided some information to soon-to-be-inducted Dennis

Perkins. His work as a bail bondsman would make a great luncheon presentation. Surprisingly, Dennis didn't know that Rotary was



international. It was a fun evening. We clearly need more fellowship events.



Dennis Perkins

Rotary Club of Danbury 2019-2020

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No Spoke issues missed since 1/4/06
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Forest Palmer: Passed Away at 95. A Community Giant!



We lost another special Danbury Rotarian last month. Former club president, long term editor and publisher of The News-Times, WW II veteran who fought in the Battle of the Bulge and community activist, Forest Palmer. His step-son, Hugh Bailey who is the editorial page editor of the CT Post and the New Haven Register, remarked, "He was a real believer in the importance of community newspapers. He thought that

people needed to know what was going on in their communities...it was really something that drove him, not just in journalism, but in his life."

The war had an enormous impact on Forest. He once said, "The bitter experience of war is that it forever alters the life you led before."

According to Bailey, Forest was a firm believer in equality at every level. "While at the News-Times, he championed the hiring of minorities and he put into action the promotion of

women to executive positions. A Rotary straw vote we took regarding the admission of women, just prior to the Supreme Court Decision (5/4/87) forcing Rotary to take women into their clubs, he was only one of three of us voting to admit women. In fact, many members threatened to leave the club if women were admitted. None did. According to one of our great club humorists, Frank Hauser, "The admission of women to Rotary raised the collective I.Q. of the organization 20 points."

Forest is survived by his wife, Patricia of 34 years, Sons Ray and James and their wives Linda and Catherine, four step-sons and numerous grandchildren.

Forest died at the Danbury Regional Hospice, December 20, 2019 at age 95.

