

From The Editor's Desk:

.An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer-contractor of his plans to leave the house-building business and live a more leisurely Life with his wife enjoying his extended family. He would miss the paycheck, But he needed to retire. They could get by.

The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favor. The carpenter said yes, but in time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end his career. When the carpenter finished his work and the builder came to inspect the house, the contractor handed the front-door key to the carpenter. "This is your house," he said, "my gift to you."

What a shock! What a shame! If he had only known he was building his Own house, he would have done it all so differently. Now he had to live in The home he had built none too well.

How are we doing...building our Rotary house?

Will we be shocked somewhere down the line?

WHITE ELEPHANT SCHEDULE

District Conference	April 23-25
John Koschwanez	April 27
Dave Leckness	May 4
Bob McQueen	May 11
Norm Miller	May 18

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BUILDING A SCHOOL..A World Kids Voyage project.



"I visualize setting up a tent under the forest canopy near the building site and use it as living quarters and also as a simple communications HQ where I can report back to you from. "

. The families in Cangrejo, Nicaragua are excited about the prospect of at last having a school in their village. Of course it is easier said than done... it has to be built first! In talking with several community leaders, everyone is eager to get started on clearing a central location. All labor will be provided by the village . A team effort! Materials such as fasteners, tools, framework, concrete and bricks will be brought in from the nearest town 30 kms away at San Juan Del Sur. A farm tractor and horses can be used in the more rugged remote regions but we will still need to find a sturdy pick-up truck for running back and forth on the main gravel road .

My major role right now is to facilitate logistics, organize building materials and raise funds in order to get started. I think it is important that we provide the school with a water-well and holding tank facility for the children's health and hygiene. Things like school supplies , black-board, globe and text books could be gathered on behalf of participating "World Kids Voyage" friendship schools.

Two questions I had for the village was how much did they think it would cost to build the school and how long would it take to build it? After much thought and mulling over they concluded \$3000 and about 6-8 weeks to build. I appreciate the honesty of their answer but I know from experience that even in a humble remote corner of Nicaragua where material and labor is inexpensive, projects like this cost twice as much and take twice as long. In conclusion, the goal is to raise a minimum of \$8500. to get the school started by June of this year. The community of Cangrejo feel they can get a teacher to the village to instruct the kids for about \$60. per month. One thing that makes me feel good about the project is that the village is made up of sincere, self sufficient hard-working people who are happy where they live, humble as home may be. A reminder that poverty is a frame of mind . All they need is a little helping hand so their kids may have a chance at a better future. Nothing complicated .

What I have committed to do is leave Chickadee on dry dock in San Juan Del Sur for a while until the school is complete. I visualize setting up a tent under the forest canopy near the building site and use it as living quarters and also as a simple communications HQ where I can report back to you from.

Warm Breezes,
 Captain Eric "Chickadee" B.

MISSION VIEJO ROTARY WELCOMES GSE FROM JAPAN



The Group Study Exchange Program of R.I. Is an educational activity which promotes international understanding through organized travel and person-to-person contact. Team members study the institutions and ways of life in each other's countries, develop personal acquaintances , observe their own professions as practiced abroad and exchange ideas. A special thanks to Victoria Avery and Ken Waters for

THE STORY BEHIND THE CLOTHING DRIVE FOR THE MOUNTAIN PEOPLE OF INDIA

In November of 1997 Dr. Richard Frieder, of the Mission Viejo Rotary Club, and his wife Susan went on a friendship exchange trip to India- This was done with the help of our sister club, the Rotary Club of Pune. The trip was a wonderful experience in which the couple visited and spoke at several of the clubs in the southern part of India. Most importantly they were able to observe first hand the important projects taking place in this needy country. A country where over 60% of the population live below the poverty line.

While touring the mountain region of Ootacamund, an area that has a very cold season, they were shocked to find tribes of unfortunate people suffering from the elements. Many of the children and elderly were without adequate warm clothing and were ill and in some cases dying. The local rotary clubs were trying their best but did not have enough funds to help this population,

The Frieders felt that trying to help clothe these needy people would be an important Rotary District project. The clothing project was presented to the, district in early 1998 at a presidents meeting and the response was very favorable, A Rotarian from the Placentia club, George Ziegler, was in the storage business and volunteered space to store the goods to await shipping.

The response from many of the clubs in the district was amazing and over 6,000 pounds of clothing was collected. An enormous obstacle came when it was time to ship the goods to India, Because of customs and political problems the project became almost impossible. During the wait the Mission Viejo Club sent 2,000 pounds of the clothes to Central America for disaster relief. Many of the Mission Viejo Rotary club members worked together searching for a way to achieve this goal. After several months, of networking, telephoning, and meeting with people, member, Edward Heeren, was able to connect with a shipping line that was willing to help. On April 3, 1999 members of the Mission Viejo and Placentia Club loaded the clothing in a shipping container and is now on its way to India. Thanks to the District, especially Gov. Cliff Nelson, and some of the District Rotary clubs, funds were contributed to pay for the shipping. The project should clothe over one thousand needy people. A great job done by District 5320 and Mission Viejo Rotary.

Reminder: We will be meeting at the District Conference the week of April 20th instead of at our regular meeting place and time

HATS OFF TO TERRY VUOZZO AND HER MONEY RAISING GANG... Lora Lee Anderson, Victoria Avery, Bob Bridges, Jan Eisenbeisz, Bob Germeroth, Dave Leckness, Scott Walker and those donors as well as the givers...who truly gave

to the tune of \$5,000 for our Community ,Vocational and International Service projects!!!!

COMING EVENTS WEEKLY PROGRAMS	
April 20	Meeting Changed to April 23rd (Friday) District Conference West Coast Anaheim Hotel 1855 South Harbor Drive
April 27	Jim Peterson- Boy Scouts
May 4	Mission Viejo Library- Valie Meyer, Librarian
May 11	Helping El Salvador PDG Michael W. Abdalla, MD
May 18	Singing Contest Winner and our two Exchange Students
May 25	Maximus House-Susan Perez
June 1	GSE Team to Japan-Ken Waters
June 8	Saddleback College-Fine Arts Geof. English
June 15	Know Your Credit report- Greg Sullivan
June 22	Rotarian/Bro. Brian Cooper CSV
June 29	Libano Colombia, S.A. Report Wrapping Up the Year
July 6	Jack Keegan Scam Alert- Sharon Neiderhaus RN
SPECIAL EVENTS	
April 11	A Night At The Improv Our Major Fund Raiser
April 13	GSE Team from Japan Visit
April 23-25	R.I. District 5320 Conference
May 1	Van Gogh Trip-Bus leaves YMCA 9:15am to LA County Museum of Art on Wilshire Blvd. Tour showing 11am Bus leaves museum at 2pm
May 6	Annual Prayer Breakfast
June 13-16	R.I. Convention- Singapore
June 19	Build A Home in Mexico with Corazon
June 26	District Demotion & Awards "Cliff's Roadhouse"
July 11	Jack's Roast!! And rewards to the good gualys -Tijeras CC
Sept 26	Pancake Breakfast

