



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

June 14, 2016 : Volume XXIII, Issue 50



Meet John Germ, President Elect 2016-2017

John F. Germ of Chattanooga, Tennessee, is the Rotary International President-Elect for the 2016-2017 year. Germ joined Rotary in 1976 and has served Rotary as vice president, director, Foundation trustee and vice chair, aide to the Foundation trustee chair, chair of Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge, RI Board Executive Committee member, RI president's aide, Council on Legislation representative and chair, membership zone coordinator, chair of numerous committees, area coordinator, RI training leader, and district governor. Germ has received several Rotary awards. He is board chair and chief executive officer of Campbell and Associates Inc., consulting engineers.



June/July Calendar

June 7 - Shelly Wells Cain – Girls Scouts

June 14 - Sam Wray - Oak Ridge – The Town the Bomb Built

June 21 - Gail Brooks – RI Housing Authority Foundation Tuesday

June 28 - Retiring President, John Phillips

July 5 - New President, Steve Morenz

July 12 - Kirk Marske - Career Cruising

July 19 - TBA & Foundation Tuesday

July 26 - Jacqueline Holm – Quad Cities River Bandits

Pre-Summer Fun at the Fislars!

Several Rotarians enjoyed the Fislar hospitality at their backyard paradise on Sunday, June 12. Bob Swanson, Sergeant of Mixed Drinks for the afternoon, made a lot of cool beverages for a hot day. A good time was had by all!



**Rotary Night
at
Modern
Woodmen
Park
Friday,
August 19!**

Tickets available at the
Sergeant at Arms table!

P.O. Box 4514
Rock Island, IL 61204
www.rirotary.com

Officers

John Phillips, President
Steve Morenz, 1st VP
Bruce Peterson, 2nd VP
Anne McGlynn, Secretary
Carrie Crossen, Treasurer
Mike Locander, Past President

Board Members

Angela Campbell
Sue Cassatt
John Daly
Lawrence Davis
Jeff Eder
Mark Mayeski
Carrie O'Neill
Billy Puckett

Co-Sergeant At Arms
Vic Boblett & Bob Swanson

Program Chairs 2015-16

June: Diane Koster
July-August: Kyle Vietti

Club Notes & Announcements!

- **Welcome Guests!** Duncan Cameron, Naples, FL Club; Rebecca Arnold, former member and EClub member; Mark Zimmerman, Davenport Club; Brian Porter, guest of John Oliger; Hilde Wray, wife of Sam Wray.

- **Volunteers Needed for JDC!** The Moline Rotary Club has the 18th hole during the John Deere Classic. It takes about 10 to 12 persons at all times to make this happen and the Moline Rotary is extending an

invitation to Rock Island Rotary to help cover the slots. The classic is the weekend of August 11, but will run from Wednesday thru Sunday. Your entrance fee is free, but you will have to buy a Tee Shirt that costs about \$25. You get free snacks while on duty and a free lunch at noon time. If you are interested, please contact Sam Wray at 799-5160 or Kent Crippen at 787-3514.

- **Rotary Night at the Ballpark August 19!** The Night At the Ballpark Tickets! Be sure to get your tickets for our Rotary Night at the Ball Park on August 19th. Seats are reserved box seats normally sold for \$11. We have them for just \$10! And, after the game you'll be treated to one of the area's finest fireworks displays. Just stay in your seats and watch the colorful displays over the mighty Mississippi! There's also a pre-game social on the River Bandit's new patio. So what are you waiting for? Bob has the tickets at the Sergeant's Table.
- **Raffle Results!** Al Metz won the wine. Bill Stengel won the \$35 cash and is going to buy \$35 worth of tickets the next time there is a Tadlock Bowl in the offerings. Unique strategy!



Welcome Rebecca!

Secret City Exposed: Life in a Community that Built the Bomb

As a child, for a brief period of time, Rock Island Rotary member Sam Wray lived in a secret city in the state of Tennessee. The secret city was called Oak Ridge, and it was home to a pop-up community of scientists charged with the task of enriching uranium for the atom bomb.

When World War II broke out, the United States was searching for bigger and better weapons. Einstein has theorized that the atom contained immense power that could be unleashed via fusion or fission. This exploration into a new kind of weaponry needed to be kept top secret, so the government decided that a new site needed to be developed. Government officials selected an area in the “boon docks” of Tennessee, about 25 miles west of Knoxville. A company was hired to build a city to house 20,000 –25,000 people plus all the facilities needed for their top-secret scientific work. Sam Wray’s father worked for the company that received the contract to develop the city and moved his family to the brand new town, Oak Ridge. Oak Ridge consisted of huge buildings in which the scientists would do their work, plus several thousand trailers that were brought in for residences, and then a number of “Hutments” built for supervisors. The Hutments were constructed of wood and were essentially 16x16 foot boxes. They had cold running water and initially no indoor toilet facilities. Families, like Sam’s, were given a double Hutment. Security to get in or out of town was tight and entrance to each of the scientific buildings was highly restricted. There was no pavement and walkways were all boardwalks to help keep people out of the mud. Hutments were built just 6’ to 8’ apart and their only glass in the home was a kitchen window. Other windows were open or closed by raising and lowering an awning.

Security was very tight. It was illegal to speak or write certain words such as “uranium”, “enrich”, “plutonium”, and “isotope”. The fear was that any mention might give away what was going on there. It was also illegal to have a camera, and for that reason Sam has a period of his young life where no photos exist of his parents, sister, or himself. One unanticipated problem was the immediate need for schools. With over 20,000 residents being relocated to Oak Ridge, many brought children. A top priority became building and constantly expanding school facilities for the children. Sam noted that all the playground equipment was on skids so that it could be quickly moved to make way as additions were added onto the school. When Sam started third grade there were 3 classrooms of third graders. Before the end of that school year there were five third grade classes.

During wartime, everyone was expected to help in Oak Ridge, even the children. Most men were in the military; therefore children did much of the farming. At 8 years old, Sam drove a tractor to help farm. Since children couldn’t lift hay bales or do other heavy work, they were the ones taught to drive the equipment. The men that were available provided the heavy work. Many women just out of high school were hired and brought to Oak Ridge to assist the scientists. They were trained to monitor dials, make adjustments to equipment, etc. and do other essential laboratory assistant work. Ultimately, the project was a success with each phase coming together to produce the atomic bomb that ended the World War.

Sam noted that after bombing Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the United States let it be known that the *next* target was Tokyo. That piece of knowledge led the Japanese to surrender. What the Japanese didn’t know at the time was that only **two** bombs had been built and both had been used. The US threat was a bluff, and it worked!

