

Rotary News

www.wvgoodwill.org/throtary.htm

October 2005

Mike Farr Envied by Eldred, Newlin and Williams

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If you would like to submit items for publication in the next newsletter, please get information to one of the following editors by noon on the last Thursday of each month.

Editor's Note: I so thoroughly enjoyed Mike's response to my standard interview questions that I submit them to you unedited. I always the the interviewee that the purpose of this feature is to get to know you better. Mike's sense of humor made me laugh several times. I hope you enjoy reading this as well!...
J. Keenan

Here goes regarding my life history. I was born in Terre Haute long, long ago on January 29, 1949. I have lived here all of my life. I attended Gerstmeyer high school, the same as Pat Ralston, but he is much older than I. He graduated in 1966, and I graduated in 1967. By the way, Linda Stanley also graduated from Gerstmeyer in '67 and was our class valedictorian with a perfect 4.0 index. My wife, Nancy, was our salutatorian. Several others in our Rotary Club WANTED to go to Gerstmeyer, including Mike Eldred, Tom Newlin, and Steve Wil-

liams, but they could not meet our academic standards! I enrolled at ISU after high school and graduated in 1972 with a degree in Business Education.

I entered the life insurance business (now the financial services industry) on a part time basis while still in college, and signed my first full time contract upon graduation from ISU. It is called the financial services industry now, because we handle investments, disability and health insurance as well as life insurance. I always thought I would become a teacher and coach upon graduation from college, but my dad had been in the insurance business for as long as I could remember, and he convinced me to give it a try. The starting salary for a first year teacher in 1972 was \$7,200 annually, so I decided if I didn't make at least that much in my first year in the insurance business, I would give it up and apply for a teaching job. That was 33 years ago, and I guess you could say I am still trying this insurance business thing, although on some days I think it is trying me! I

spun off my own agency in 1980. Nancy joined me in the business in 1987. Last year we became affiliated with Forrest Sherer Inc. The Michael Farr Agency is still an independent agency, but we do life insurance work for Forrest Sherer through a marketing agreement with them. I think I am safe in saying that both parties have been pleased with the relationship and the results we have achieved together. Prior to the insurance business, while in high school and college, I flipped burgers at a fast food joint, delivered televisions and appliances for a local retailer, and washed cars for the Chevrolet dealership in Riley, IN. Since Nancy and I attended high school together, most people assume we were high school sweethearts. That is NOT the case. We knew each other, but never dated. She says her Dad would have never let her date me, because I was in her words "too wild". Anyone who knows Nancy also knows what a "hoot" that statement is! Nancy and I



SERVICE Above Self

TAKE NOTE:

- Good Will Drive—November 5, 2005
- Salvation Army Drive—December 3, 2005
- Rotary Christmas Party—December 6, 2005
- If you have any ideas for community service projects that you would like the club to consider, please contact Paul Stanley

- October is Vocational Service month. A committee is being formed for vocational service awards.
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did not see each other for 10 years after high school. We got reacquainted while planning our 10 year high school reunion. Nancy and I did not go to the reunion as a couple. I had been dating someone else and had already asked her to go, and just couldn't get out of it. Nancy had planned to go to the reunion alone, but I tried to help her out by setting her up with a blind date... A friend of a friend type thing. He turned out to be a rather undesirable type (very long hair and suspected of smoking funny type cigarettes). I wanted him to buy Nancy a corsage for the reunion, but he didn't want to spend the money, so I ordered two corsages... one for my date and one for Nancy's blind date to give to her. They were supposed to look different, but the florist messed up the order, and both ladies had identical corsages. To make matters worse, both were seated at the same table. She was completely humiliated and completely furious with me.

Somehow we got past that rather unpleasant evening and began to date regularly shortly after the reunion. We were married about one year later, and the rest, as they say, is history. Nancy and I have three children (all grown) of whom we are very proud. Michael is an orthopedic surgeon in Indianapolis, Chris is a successful pharmaceutical rep for Eli Lilly in Chicago, and Lori is a second grade teacher in Indianapolis. We also have two grandchildren, Ethan age 2 and one-half, and Cecilia, who will be one this month. Grandchildren are the greatest thing ever, and we are doing a very good job of spoiling them. As far as my interests are concerned, I am an avid, die hard ,Chicago Cub fan. I know it is a sickness, and I know it is genetic. My Grandfather passed it to my Dad who passed it to me, and I am afraid I have passed it to my sons. I am sure it will be passed to their children as well. My Grandfather has been gone for many years now,

but he told me that he actually saw the Cubs in the World Series! Maybe my grandchildren will live long enough to see that again... you never know with modern medicine, it COULD happen. I am also an avid hunter and a lousy golfer. My passion in life has always been, and will always be my family. I spent many years coaching all three kids, and sponsoring teams at the Boy's Club, YWCA, Little League, Babe Ruth, and Girl's Softball. Those days are over now, and I kind of miss them at times. I am looking forward to attending my grandchildren's events and maybe even coaching again.. Meanwhile, Nancy and I are enjoying our empty nest, traveling and spending time together.

Board Meeting Notes

John Catone, Director of Development for the Sisters of Providence, Ron Green, Dean of the School of Business at ISU, and Diana Cooper-Bolinskey, ISUU Associate Director of Exponential Learning were approved for membership.

Sally Stewart will take over as chairman for the Salvation Army drive. Our date is the first Saturday in December.

The board voted to discontinue Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together as Rotary projects.

Goodwill drive will be November 5, Bill is looking at a way to allow new members to get involved with the project by allow "Red Badgers" to sign up first.

Happy Jar donations will go to help a Rotary Club/District in the Golf Coast Area.

Rotary/Kiwanis outing will be set for the 1st Thursday after Labor Day of each year.

Stephanie has Rotary brochures and pamphlets to hand out to prospective members to follow up with prospective members.

A Rotary Application will be put

on-line.

Need to add people to the "New Member Orientation" committee.

Investment committee will meet to discuss relationship with Wabash Valley Community Foundation, Rotary Foundation, and how to better coordinate activities.

It happened at the Dictionary Project:

By: Dan Weber

I want to share you what happened to me in the second class rooms as we were looking up rooms. I gave the word POWER to look up and read the definition. Then I asked them to look up KNOWLEDGE and read the definition. Then I talked about how knowledge is power and how important it is to use the dictionary to understand the words we use.

A little guy in the front row who was obviously one of the more "active" kids in the class is waving his hand to get my attention. I was not sure what he wanted so I asked if he had a question. In a very loud voice he asked me if I knew there were dirty words in there as he was pointing to some word he had already looked up! The teacher's eyes were rolling in the back of her head as if she expected him to come up with something. I could of died but assured him that I was aware that most words in our English language were in the dictionary so you would know what they mean but that did not mean you had to use them!

I want to thank Mike for giving me the opportunity to understand what teachers go through daily!

October Birthdays

- Robert Bishop—26
- James Doti—2
- Shelton Hannig—14
- Rodney Heerner—8
- David Mitchell—4
- Wilber Neil—31
- John Perry—30
- Raymond Rickert—31
- Alice Shagley—14
- Claude Sutton—9
- Thomas Tucker—22



Terre Haute Club Committees

Club Service.....Joyce Keenan
 Bulletin.....Ray Brauer & Joyce Keenan
 Fellowship.....Sally Stewart
 Program..... Bill Tromble & Todd Sullivan
 Public Relations..... Dave Piker
 Web Site.....Bill Tennis
 Invocations.....Bart Colwell
 Membership.....Charlie Williams
 Classifications.....Tom Dever, Mike Hopper
 Orientation.....Lee Ann Crooks, Allen Varner
Community Service.....Paul Stanley
 Interact.....Janice Adkins, Marty Woods
 Environmental Protection.....Santhana Naidu & Committee

Habitat for Humanity.....Jim Brown
 Blood Drive.....Rick Kohr
 Rebuild Terre Haute..... Sally Stewart
 Goodwill Drive.....Bill Aubin
 Salvation Army.....JoEllen Orndorf
Foundation/Paul Harris.....Craig McKee
 Ten for one club.....Craig McKee
 Paul Harris Awards.....Stephanie Welsh
 Community Grants.....David Bolk
International Service.....Dave Mitchell

Vocational Service.....Brian Miller

2005-2006 Officers and Board Members

President.....Steve Songer
 President-elect.....Tom Dever
 Vice-President.....Paul Stanley
 Secretary.....Stephanie Welsh
 Treasurer.....Linda Stanley
 Attendance.....Kim Ingalsbe
 Past President.....Lisa Pepperworth
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Mike Collins

2004-2006
 Bill Aubin
 David Bolk
 Lee Akers
 Joyce Keenan
 Brian Miller
 Alice Shagley

2005-2007
 Mike Collins
 Bart Colwell
 Kim Ingalsbe
 Chuck Shutt
 Sally Stewart
 Charlie Williams

MISSED MEETINGS are easy to make up by attending another club’s meeting; coming to a board meeting (first Monday of each month at the Goodwill Offices); doing a service project; attending a committee meeting; or going on-line, reading an interesting article about Rotary and answering a question or two.

Make-up Locations

Monday:

Paris Noon Cafe` France
 Princeton Noon General Hospital

Tuesday:

Marshall 6:45 am Family
 Restaurant

Casey Noon Richards Farm
 Indianapolis Noon
 Sullivan Noon Sullivan Elks Club

Wednesday:

Rockville 7:15 am Terre Vin Winery
 Brazil Noon Elks Club
 Greencastle Noon Walden Inn
 Linton Noon Elks Club

Plainfield Noon Kristy's Club

Thursday:

Terre Haute 7:00 am Holiday Inn

ON LINE MAKEUPS AT:

www.rotary5450.org