


42
YEARS
OF
WENATCHEE
NORTH
ROTARY



Wenatchee North Rotary, born a child of Wenatchee Rotary, the somewhat stodgy behemoth that had commanded downtown environs since 1921, came into being on April 1 (the date of the first meeting) or April 19, 1969 (the date of the club's charter), depending on the source. The organization was christened with the cumbersome name of Rotary Club of Wenatchee North, a more or less meaningless territorial designation that supposedly gave WN rights to any potential member north of Fifth Street. The club's conception was sponsored by 'Downtown Rotarians', who, in part, were looking for a convenient way to make up missed meetings. They intended for 'Wenatchee North' to hold forth on Tuesdays at noon. The club's first meeting occurred on a Tuesday, as expected, but the downtowners soon learned that the whippersnapper upstart didn't think much of get-togethers on that day of the week to please the old guys, instead quickly establishing Wednesday as the Wenatchee North meeting day. - *Don Elliston*

Among twenty-four charter members, along with Don Elliston and Roy Miller, who are still with the club, were Wenatchee North's first president, Clay Johnson; Bill Muirhead; Dean Parsons; Joe Anderson; Don Schoening; Gil Manor; Jim Franklin; Don Smith; Burton Gowing, MD; Dean Richardson; Lonnie DeCamp; Ben Colson; Bob Manry; John Jenkins, MD; Earl Bailor; Ken Paton; Steve Grover; Roy Henderson; Wayne Stewart; Don Gardner; Larry Lewin; and Tom Shelton. As expected, Wenatchee North was quickly adopted as a favorite place for 'Downtown Club' members to make up missed meetings - so popular, in fact, visitors outnumbered Wenatchee Northerners in attendance at times. - *Rotary International*

The first meeting, on April 1, 1969, was marked by an incident that some thought to be an omen. While a plaque commemorating Wenatchee North's initial meeting was being presented to the president, it was dropped and broke apart upon impact with the floor. But, then, what could be expected when choosing to hold an inaugural meeting on April Fools Day? - *Don Elliston*

WN's membership was decidedly 'less seasoned' than that of the Downtown bunch and was soon referred to as "The Young Men's Rotary Club." In those days, the classification system for Rotary membership was quite rigid and exclusive. Many of the charter members were 'young bucks' who would face roadblocks in becoming Rotarians since their occupations were already represented in Wenatchee Rotary. It followed that the young guys originally comprising Wenatchee North developed a less formal, more relaxed meeting format at the Chieftain. Some of the old-liners thought that Wenatchee North meetings bordered on being irreverent, that they were too much about having fun, that they were more like a, *heaven forbid*, Lions Club. A minister who had visited the club on one occasion, wrote a letter of complaint that Wenatchee North meetings weren't formal or serious enough, that there was entirely too much levity. The

April 11, 1969 - Beatles release the single "Get Back/Don't Let Me Down" and it hits #1 on the charts

May 18, 1969 - Apollo 10 launches for a lunar orbit and returns eight days later

Dec. 1, 1969 - The first military draft lottery since WWII is held, featuring tv and radio broadcasts - those with birthdates on the first 120 balls drawn are likely to be drafted

club decided to respond by saying that he could look for some other Rotary club to visit because change wouldn't be occurring to satisfy him. - *John White*

Originally, the club met at the Fox 'n Hounds Restaurant (present location of Tequila's Mexican Restaurant), before moving to The Chieftain after about a month at president Johnson's insistence. The Chieftain's meeting room, home to Wenatchee North for twenty-six years or so, had chocolate brown walls, no windows, rather poor ventilation, a large mirror along one wall to make the room seem bigger, and three rows of tables running lengthwise, cafeteria style. With doors closed to muffle noise from the "Pow-Wow Room" lounge across the hallway, combined with clouds of cigar and cigarette smoke hanging in the stagnant air, the room wasn't especially inviting, except maybe for a spelunker. - *Don Elliston*

It was into this environment that longtime Wenatchee Northerners Bob Bullis ('73); Joe Gaspers ('74); John White (July '75); Daryl Miller, DDS (Nov. '76); Jeff Mertes (May '77); Jim Haglund (Aug. '77); Gordi Northrup (Dec. '78); Jim Mills, DDS (Dec. '79); Phil Johnson (Mar. '80); Chip Small (Jan. '82); Brian Taylor ('83); Dave Parsons ('83); Dave Doerr (July '83); Ivan Christensen, DC (July '83); Greg Brown ('84); Rich Adams (Apr. '85); Ron Kemp (May '85); Fred Van Sickle ('87); Bob Mitchell (May '88); Bryan Campbell (Sep. '88); Candy Kunz (Apr. '89); Sandy Ross (Jun. '89) and Jim Goodwin, PsyD ('89) hit the beach in the 1970s and '80s as Wenatchee North Rotarians, and still remain as members. The dates indicated are often up to several months later than the actual date of joining because secretaries had a tendency to neglect to send new member information to Rotary International in a timely fashion. Bullis, incidentally, got Wenatchee North's 'Yo-Yo Yo-Yo Yo-Yo Yo' award with the distinction of being the only member to join WN ranks four times (also '82, '90 & '08) after, obviously, dropping out three times. Two-timers who wandered away for a spell, before rejoining the fold, included Gaspers ('85), Taylor ('89), Goodwin ('96), Brown ('01), Kunz ('02), Parsons ('03) and Van Sickle ('08). Adams, who originally became a Rotarian in 1970, and Northrup, in 1973, began with other Rotary clubs before transferring to Wenatchee North. - *Rotary International/North Poll club bulletin*

Founding fathers including Elliston, Wenatchee North's second president, Schoening (6th president), Muirhead (7th president) and Don Kellogg, an early member, envisioned a project that the club could hang its hat on, at least as worthy as Rotary's original effort to build a public latrine in Chicago. The intent was to enhance the club's image and emphasis on helping youth of the Wenatchee Valley. They hit upon the idea of a sports awards banquet to honor North Central Washington's finest athletes, teams and coaches, and, most importantly, enlisted the support of Wenatchee *World* sports editor Dick Pieper. The first event was held March 29, 1971, in the Cascadian Hotel ballroom, with Oregon State's athletic director and head football coach, Dee Andros, as featured speaker. Known as 'The Great Pumpkin', Andros was a big hit with the community, as was the event despite running over four hours in duration with four speakers. Dr. Ed Cadman, who later became president of



Don Elliston hands out the President's Award at the inaugural Sports Awards banquet.

June 28, 1969
- Apollo 11
astronauts take first
walk on the moon

April 11, 1970 -
Apollo 13 launches
but has to abort
landing on the
moon because of
major malfunction,
and returns to earth
after six days

May 4, 1970 -
Four students are
killed and nine
others wounded
when fired upon
by the National
Guard during an
anti-Vietnam War
demonstration at
Kent State
University

Jan. 12, 1971 -
The first regular
episode of the tv
series "All in the
Family," with
Archie Bunker, airs

1972 - The new
Wenatchee High
School building
opens at the corner
of Miller & Russell
streets

1972 - The first
hand-held scientific
calculator is
introduced
making the slide
rule obsolete

Rotary International, served as emcee. The banquet immediately gained recognition at the 506 (before it was 5060) Conference for upstart Wenatchee North as the best project among district Rotary clubs. And, of course, the NCW Sports Awards is set to be staged for the 39th time this year, netting approximately \$224,000 for scholarships and club supported youth sports activities in its history. - Don Elliston/Jeff Mertes

Legendary Wenatchee High School football coach Lee Bofto, faced with the prospect of replacing an all-state quarterback, asked Wenatchee North to sponsor a summer 'passing league' to give Panther quarterbacks, receivers and defensive backs a chance to develop skills. The North Rotary Passing League was established in 1971 and included players from other local high schools in addition to Wenatchee. The club sponsored the league for five years during a time when the Panthers were among the most dominant football teams in the state. - Don Elliston

The Sports Awards selection process, headed by Muirhead for several years, was very reliant on information provided by Pieper. During those early years, the final selection meeting, composed of Selection Committee members from within the club, along with Pieper, often dragged on past midnight. Muirhead and Pieper seldom saw eye-to-eye, and almost came to blows in 1973 while disputing about who should be named Athlete-of-the-Year. In 1984, Mertes revamped and expanded the selection process to include members of North Central Washington sports media and, two years later, computerized the preliminary nomination process. - Don Elliston

It was also in 1973 that Wayne Walker, a former star linebacker for the Detroit Lions and then a color commentator on NFL game telecasts, was the featured speaker at the Sports Awards banquet. Elliston and Kellogg were to pick him up at a room at the Chieftain and escort him to the event. The two Wenatchee Northerners were greeted with quite a surprise after knocking on the motel room door. The door opened wide to reveal a voluptuous "friend" of Walker's clad only in a shower cap. As Elliston said, "You should have seen the look on Kellogg's face." Knowing Elliston, though, he was focused on more than Kellogg's mug, describing the "friend" as definitely being blonde although her hair was covered by the shower cap. - Don Elliston

After Mertes induced Haglund to become a Wenatchee Northerner following an especially taxing two-hour handball match that totally wore down Jim's willpower, the two youngest members of the time rode together to meetings. Their route of travel passed Joe's Log Cabin, and the car would quite often veer into the tavern parking lot as if guided by a magnetic force, or head off to some other random destination, to keep their Rotary attendance hovering around sixty percent. Both remain as club members, although they wisely haven't carpooled since the '70s. The two 'once wayward' Rotarians have been instrumental in the success and longevity of the Sports Awards for thirty-two years. - Jim Haglund/Jeff Mertes

Gaspers was considered to be 'a one and a half term president' - he presided over nearly half of the meetings during Anderson's term in office as well as all of his own year, 1979-80. It was all too common for president-elect Gaspers to get a last minute phone call, as Anderson was flying out of town, to handle the meeting. At times, Anderson wouldn't even notify Gaspers, leaving him to dangle at the podium totally unprepared. During that Anderson-Gaspers copresidency, one of the programs dealt with embezzlement within small business

March 29, 1972 - Vietnam War ends

Sept. 5, 1972 - Terrorists abduct and ultimately kill the Israeli wrestling team at the Olympic Games in Munich

Feb. 12, 1973 - The first wave of Vietnam POWs is released, including John McCain

April 1973 - First call is made on a portable cell phone by its inventor, Martin Cooper

Aug. 6, 1974 - Wenatchee is rocked by the Appleyard explosion

Aug. 9, 1974 - Nixon resigns to avoid impeachment resulting from the Watergate scandal

1975 - Seattle natives Bill Gates, 20, and Paul Allen, 22, found Microsoft in Albuquerque before moving to Bellevue in 1979

1975 - The Olds Station bridge opens to traffic

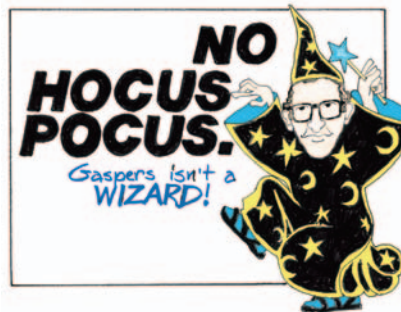
Sept. 12, 1976 - Seattle Seahawks play their first NFL regular season game

Nov, 1976 - Dixie Lee Ray is elected as Washington state's first female governor

Nov. 1977 - Rubik's Cubes first appear on the market

1978 - Wenatchee Valley Mall opens in East Wenatchee

and organizations, and how to keep it from happening. Unfortunately, most Wenatchee Northerners must have been napping. During Gaspers' presidency, the position of treasurer was filled by an all-too-eager volunteer, we'll just call him 'Noah Count'. Ways & Means Committee chairman Haglund, who a few months earlier had proposed a weekly 50/50 drawing, built on that success with a quick fix for what had become a depleted financial situation by proposing a cash drawing held at the Christmas Party on December 12, 1979 - "Prizes? We don't need no stinking prizes," assured Haglund. Wenatchee North proved that a lot of people wanted cold, hard cash and increased the club's bank account by about 500% after lucky winners were paid. Even so, Gaspers took flack from some members about resorting to such an 'immoral' form of fundraising. - *Joe Gaspers*



Joe Gaspers trying to make funds materialize as depicted in a Jeff Mertes cartoon.

In the fall of 1979, Gaspers and a group of 'wheezing' Wenatchee Northerners, put a smoking ban into effect during meetings. The response overwhelmed the president - *and the ban was rescinded by a vote of the membership in January of 1980.* Obviously, a majority of club members were still hooked on nicotine at that time. - *Joe Gaspers/North Poll club bulletin*

Wenatchee North continued to seek and pursue fundraising ideas. One



Jim Haglund poses as the poster child for the Sport\$wap.

community. - *Gordi Northrup/North Poll club bulletin*

Also among fundraisers of the early 1980s was a one year stint as the sponsor of the Apple Blossom Run down the parade route, subsequently taken over by the Wenatchee Valley Clinic with volunteer support from Wenatchee North. The club sponsored and administered the Autumn Leaf Festival Run in Leavenworth, as well, for two years. - *Jim Haglund*

The club's fortunes have ebbed and flowed over the years. A crisis occurred in 1984 when Wenatchee North's president discovered that the treasury of about \$8,000 (the equivalent of more than 16 grand in 2009 dollars after adjusting for inflation) had disappeared "down a well", suspected to have been a downpayment on admission to 'heaven', and enlisted White to take over club bookkeeping. The tainted treasurer, the previously mentioned 'Noah Count', summarily left town, and all payables and records had also vanished along with the funds. White was left to shadow box his way through the crisis with \$80, or so, in the bank. Ironically, it was a former president, we'll just call him 'Ben M.

Nov. 4, 1979 - Iranian militants seize the U.S. embassy

May 18, 1980 - Mt. Saint Helens erupts

Nov. 4, 1980 - The actor who played 'The Gipper', Ronald Reagan, is elected U.S. president

July 7, 1981 - Sandra Day O'Connor becomes the first female U.S. Supreme Court Justice

Sept. 30, 1982 - The first regular episode of the tv series "Cheers" airs

1982 - Washington state's first lottery is held

1984 - The internet is introduced on a very limited basis

1985 - The Cannon Gold Mine begins production south of Wenatchee

Besslin', who initially approached White about taking over the treasurer's position. - *John White*

With a balance purportedly of twenty-seven cents by the time Haglund succeeded Northrup, Wenatchee North teetered on ruin. Generating money was a primary concern to keep Wenatchee North afloat. The result was a desperate emphasis on fundraising that produced the popular option of 3 tickets for \$2 to double weekly raffle revenue, an upgrading of the fine wheel to as high as ten dollars by eliminating zeros; an emphasis on turning the Sports Awards into a major fundraiser, rather than viewing it only as a community service project, by selling ads in the program; frequent 'Chinese auctions' at meetings; and a mega Wenatchee North member 'yard sale' held in a vacant Safeway store parking lot across from the Wenatchee Valley Clinic. Another emphasis was the enforcement and doubling of 'early leaver fines' because many visitors from the downtown club habitually tiptoed out the back door well before the end of meetings. Needless to say, the club survived and prospered although membership briefly waned into the high 20s. White continued as treasurer during this critical time with Mills taking over the duties of secretary before later becoming treasurer for several years. The two of them worked diligently to stabilize Wenatchee North at a difficult time. - *Jim Haglund/Jeff Mertes*

Weekly programs have been a staple of Wenatchee North meetings since the very beginning. Generally interesting, insightful and/or thought provoking, they have encompassed a wide range of topics. Occasionally, members have been called on to give presentations about recent 'exotic' vacations, or trips of interest. Easily among the most memorable dealt with a trip to Bali by Taylor who had taken along a 35mm camera. The lights went down and the slideshow began with typical shots of scenery, landmarks and cultural events. A few Rotarians, with bellies full, took the opportunity to catnap, as usual. Well into the program, interest perked and attention was riveted when Taylor threw a 'screw ball' with images of shapely Australian and European sunbathers, resplendent in their altogether on an all-nude beach, flashed onto the screen - *click, clickity, click, clickity, click*. Taylor's photography received rave reviews - the only standing ovation ever given for a program. Said the surreptitious shutterbug, "I forgot my telephoto lens, so I had to get up real close to get those shots." And the question went unasked, how exactly did Taylor sneak up on them, without being detected, on a nude beach, anyway? No doubt, he must have used exceptional camouflage. Of course, there's always the "When in Rome" theory. Among several chairmen who have taken on the difficult task of seeking and providing programs of interest week in and week out, Adams has been a glutton for shouldering responsibility as booking agent for many years. - *North Poll club bulletin*

Camaraderie within the club was at an all-time high during the 1980s. Among activities was the formation of a softball team, the Wenatchee North Rinos, that took on any and all service club challengers. One by one, they fell - Wenatchee and East Wenatchee Rotaries several times each, Lions, and Kiwanis were among the vanquished - until the team's record was a spotless 10-0. Opponents started loading rosters with ringers, but still succumbed. At one juncture,



Brian Taylor shutterbugging with the best in Bali.

Nov. 1985 -
Microsoft launches
Windows

Jan. 28, 1986 -
The space shuttle
'Challenger' breaks
apart 73 seconds
after launching

the only way that the Rinos could get a game was to agree to hit from the off-side of the plate - righties hit from the left-side, lefties hit right, and still, the team won by a healthy margin. The lineup varied during the span with stalwarts being Keith Hoffman, Colin Brine, Gene Robards, Joe Gavica, Dan Albrecht, Tim Jones, John Ringler, Dave Herald, Dean Parsons, Dennis Key, Kerry O'Farrell, Dave Parsons, Phil Johnson, Doerr, Small, Schoening, Adams, White, Northrup, Haglund and Mertes. Others made contributions during the course of the streak as well, including Anderson who umped when not in the lineup (which was almost never). The only injury of note was when Dave Parsons, perhaps the youngest team member, tore his Achilles tendon while hotfooting down to first. - *Jim Haglund*

Several club social functions usually took place each year. One memorable get-together in the mid-1980s involved attending a Wenatchee Valley College football game followed by pizza and beverages at Gordi and Sandy Northrup's house. Sandy proudly showed-off their brand new white carpeting and everyone respectfully removed shoes at the front door. While bringing in two plates of pizza, balanced dramatically in each hand above his head, Anderson stumbled in the middle of the living room. Much to everyone's horror, the pizza, dripping with tomato sauce, gobs of melted cheese and various whatnots, went 'kersplat', facedown onto the pristine carpeting. Without hesitation, Anderson made an unforgettable announcement, "Now we know where the Christmas tree will go this year." - *North Poll club bulletin/Jeff Mertes*

A golf tournament was typically held on the day of the installation banquet with twelve to twenty competing at Wenatchee Golf & Country Club. Dave Parsons, sporting about a three handicap, dominated for years. Finally, after Parsons had ruptured his second Achilles while playing basketball, Mertes, who had been runnerup several times, thought he had a chance to win the coveted title at last. Parsons, though, decided to try to limp through the round in a walking cast. Mertes carded a respectable 82, but Parsons, cast and all, shot an amazing three over par 75 to win the Wenatchee North championship yet again. - *North Poll club bulletin*



Dave Parsons sporting a cast in the 1988 Swim Suit Edition.

May 5, 1987 - The U.S. Supreme Court makes it official that Rotary International can't revoke a club's charter if a woman is admitted to membership. Ironically, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor abstains because her husband is a Rotarian. This means each Rotary club can determine if it will admit any member, whether male or female

In 1987, the bastions of all male Rotary, at least in the United States, came tumbling down as women were declared eligible for membership. Each club could decide whether or not females would be proposed as members. A debate ensued among Wenatchee Northerners with traditionalists afraid that the



Siri Woods becomes a member of the team and is assigned Jackie Robinson's number.

unique personality of the club would become drastically altered as an accommodation to the 'fairer sex'. Jones, in his classically sarcastic, unsubtle way, introduced the Geoduck Party, complete with an artfully drawn giant clam logo and a motto of, "Service Thyself," to point out how ridiculous it was to keep women out of Rotary. Anderson, especially, was concerned that his own outspoken commentary during the course of meetings, would have to be curtailed. The prospect of Anderson being 'gagged' had a big impact - a vote

Jan. 1988 - Prozac is introduced to the U.S. market

was taken and WN became the first club in the District, and one of the first in the nation, to admit a woman - Siri Woods. Since, a succession of females have made important contributions to club activities including Jill Dempsey, who became president in 1998. Now, distaff members are considered to be 'among the guys'. - Chip

Small/North Poll club bulletin

Although Key's 'pet' fundraising idea of a Fishing Derby never drowned a worm, it was during his 1987-88 presidency that Wenatchee North became the sole sponsor of the Youth Drug Counseling Aftercare Program for teens with a \$5,000 donation. The club continued to sponsor and provide funding to the community program for several years. - North Poll club bulletin

It was during Key's presidency that WN members made a pledge of \$11,500 in support of Rotary International's global Polio-Plus campaign to eradicate the disease from the face of the earth. The pledge amounted to an average commitment of \$250 per member. - North Poll club bulletin

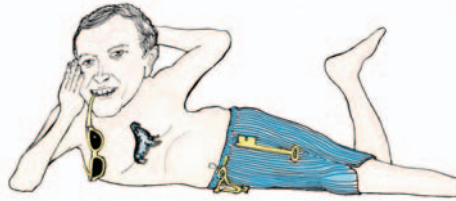


Jim Haglund, left, and Sandy Ross in the midst of a heated RINO Bowl playoff.

'mini' fundraiser requiring very little effort or time commitment on the part of the membership. Entrants represented their alma maters, colleges attended, colleges they wished they had gone to, or colleges attended by their children. Modified somewhat after three years, this 'mini' has raised substantial funds for scholarships, netting approximately \$32,380 to date after the awarding of prizes. The successful longevity of The RINO Bowl has been due, in large part, to the efforts of Joey the Geek (Gaspers) and Ryan O'Ralphie (Mertes). - North Poll club bulletin

The RINO Bowl was designed to peak at the annual Wenatchee North Christmas Party with creative tiebreakers and a drawing for prize money. Contestants donned vintage leather football helmets to keep their minds in the game while 'struggling' to determine final RINO Bowl placings. The Christmas Party, with a reputation as a lively affair, has been held at various venues with Wenatchee Golf & Country Club the most frequent place of celebration. One especially raucous year, Johnson managed to set fire to a centerpiece, and subsequently tried to douse flames by tossing a glass of water onto the conflagration - but the glass he grabbed was full of vodka and the flames surged almost to the ceiling. Amazingly, Wenatchee Northerners weren't denied a welcome back. - North Poll club bulletin

For several years, the meeting before Christmas included children and grandchildren of members, complete with entertainment and Santa Claus in the form of the lanky, 6'2" Jones dressed as a child's nightmarish vision of the 'jolly elf', or Haglund as a kinder, gentler version. Featuring a fire-eater one year, Small was selected to take part. As the torch was inserted into his mouth, a



Dennis Key lounges at poolside to reveal a barely dry tattoo of the 'presidential seal' in the 1988 Swim Suit Edition of the North Poll.

1989 - Seahawk wide receiver Steve Largent is inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame eight years after speaking at the NCW Sports Awards

Nov. 9, 1989 - The destruction of the Berlin Wall begins



Phil Johnson salutes whoever gave him this gift that he can't live without at the Christmas Party.

1989 - The World Wide Web is invented by Tim Berners-Lee to allow physicists to collaborate on research

Dec. 17, 1989 - The first regular episode of the animated tv series "The Simpsons" airs, created by Matt Groening, an alum of Evergreen State College



Trainer Don Elliston gets Jim Haglund to bulk up for his upcoming bout as Santa in 1985.



Self-caricature of Jeff Mertes in witch doctor mode, drumming-up RINOsecurities for the tribe in 1989.

comment was uttered, "I've wanted to do that to some lawyers, myself." Rumor had it that the person who made the remark was Judge Van Sickle. Small would later assume Van Sickle's seat in Superior Court when Fred was appointed to the federal bench. - *North Poll club bulletin*

Wenatchee North Rotary surpassed fifty members for the first time during Mertes's 1988-89 presidency, thanks in large part to a tremendous "Philly Round Up" put together by membership chairman Johnson that brought in nine. Among those who



Caricature of Phil Johnson heading-up the 'Philly Round Up' membership drive.

were lassoed as a result, Ross, Campbell and Kunz are still members. Along with Ross and Campbell, Stan Stewart was also corralled during the Round Up with all three later serving as president. However, the number dropped back to forty-nine by year's end. Membership remained in the high 40s until Kemp's term in 1991 when fifty-four were briefly counted on the club roster, which has been Wenatchee North's all-time high to date. - *North Poll club bulletin*

Also while Mertes was president, Woods proposed that the club sell roses as a major fundraiser. With Woods and Gaspers serving as co-chairs, and flower deliveries taking place during October, the activity rapidly became Wenatchee North's second largest money making endeavor, netting about

\$3,400 that first year. The 588 dozen roses sold brought smiles to countless 'sweethearts' throughout the Wenatchee Valley. Sales peaked after three years, though, then began to taper off which contributed to the discontinuation of the Rose Sale after seven years. - *North Poll club bulletin*

It was a madhouse when a reported 350 people were in attendance for the 1991 Sports Awards banquet with Seahawks head coach and general manager Tom Flores as featured speaker. The throng surpassed the previous high of 308 set in 1981 when Seahawk wide receiver Steve Largent spoke. The '91 event barely broke even financially, though. General chairman Small came up with the idea of inviting a substantial number of local Latino youths to attend at no cost to see Flores as a role model. Certainly a noble gesture with great intentions. The turnout exceeded anything that had been imagined, and the same was true of the tab for all those 'free' meals. - *North Poll club bulletin/Jeff Mertes/Jim Haglund*

Wenatchee North adopted a stretch of highway and picked up trash along it for the first time during Kemp's term in 1991-92. Dr. Dave Derleth chaired the club's initial foray into the garbage pick up business, "limiting" the original crew to fifteen hearty Rotarians. Perhaps the pinnacle of the ongoing clean up effort, still being waged, occurred when Doerr noticed a funny looking leaf, speared it smartly, and realized it was a one hundred dollar bill. - *North Poll club bulletin*

May 31, 1990 - The first regular episode of the tv series "Seinfeld" airs with the character of Kramer played by Michael Richards, an alum of Evergreen State College

Dec. 1990 - Bernie Madoff establishes Fairfield Sentry, Ltd, as part of the 30 year-old firm of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities to begin a scheme of investor fraud

Dec. 16, 1991 - Link Transit begins route operation

Sept. 1992 - 24 Wenatchee homes below Castle Rock are destroyed by wildfire

The Sports Awards Banquet was set to roll on June 16, 1992 when a call was received at about 10:00 a.m. informing general chairman Adams that the featured speaker, Bruce King, wouldn't be able to make it to Wenatchee for the noontime event because he had been injured in a fall. King, a well known sports anchor for KING-tv in Seattle, was a victim of polio in his youth and walked with the aid of two canes. On a moment's notice, with just an hour or so to prepare, Schoening, who was already serving as emcee, assumed the role of featured speaker as well. The former Wenatchee Valley College athletic director gave a meaningful speech, in his down-home style, about competing at higher levels and that the Sports Awards was a good example. He said that to be included among finalists meant that all were winners with only a very slight difference between receiving a Sports Award and not receiving one. Schoening pointed out the true honor was to be among finalists. That speech became the basis for switching the emphasis of the banquet to honoring all the finalists and to get away from referring to those who received Sports Awards as "winners". Instead, they became "recipients" from among the area's finest athletes, teams and coaches who had earned the honor of being finalists. King, incidentally, made good by speaking at the 1993 banquet. - Jeff Mertes

1993 - Commercial providers are allowed to sell internet connections to individuals

1994 - Jeff Bezos, 28, begins Amazon.com in his Seattle garage

Wenatchee North was in the international news spotlight in 1994 during Taylor's presidency when a BBC camera crew came to a meeting. The object of their focus wasn't Rotary, the Brits showed up to film "The Pied Piper of Prozac," psychologist Jim Goodwin, who happened to be a WN member. The so-called "Doctor Feel Good" became newsworthy by questioning the very foundation of psychological care by advocating the use of Prozac as an essential tool when treating clinical depression. Goodwin was interviewed on all major national news-casts as well as *Oprah*, *Good Morning America* and *The Today Show*, among others. Fellow Wenatchee Northers knew him more for his Yiddish prayer, chairmanship of Wenatchee North's annual Salvation Army bellringing, and Marine Corps "Hoo-rah," though. - Jeff Mertes

Oct. 1994 - The opening of the East Wenatchee side of the riverfront trail completes the Apple Capital Loop

A number of golf outings were common each year during spring and summer months among Wenatchee North members to Leavenworth, Three Lakes and Rock Island. Eventually in 1996 with Albrecht as president,



Dave Parsons lets Northers know that a golf date with members of Leavenworth Rotary is coming up.

golf, putting and bowling were incorporated into a six-month 'games' known as the 'RINO Olympics' that was staged for three 'seasons'. Two teams were formed with all Wenatchee North members on the roster of one squad or the other. The Olympics consisted of a schedule of competitions culminating in a championship putt-off on the Desert Canyon course, that included spouses, followed by a 19th hole banquet. Roy Miller, with his custom drilled ball and classy twinkle-toed approach to the line, proved to be a dominant force on the lanes. Martin Barron, a 'native' of Zimbabwe, voiced the only complaint when he lamented that cricket wasn't included among events. Barron was subsequently awarded a concession of 25 points for every beer that he consumed at post-competition get-togethers. RINO Olympics stakes were \$20 donations to Rotary by losing team members at the end of each year's schedule of events. - Jeff Mertes/North Poll club bulletin

It was in 1996, after Phil Johnson complained of intestinal distress caused by Chieftain lettuce, Wenatchee North left the back of the bus across

from the Pow-Wow Room lounge and moved north to The Red Lion. And then, following a streak of being shuffled from room to room and having to host the Apple Blossom Royalty in the Grizzly Bar, a move across the Columbia to East Wenatchee's Mickey O'Reilly's ensued. That stay lasted about three years until president Campbell spied an alien black flake on the surface of orange juice he customarily ordered with lunch. Pointing out the floater to the assistant manager, she tried to unsuccessfully scoop it up with her pinky fingernail. With considerable concentration, she trolled again and managed to trap the nasty looking trespasser on her fingernail and fished it out. "Got it," she said, wiping it off on the tablecloth. With no further ado, she turned and walked away as if nothing out of the ordinary had happened. Campbell, feeling 'violated' as usual, immediately mounted a campaign to abandon Mickey O's, and the club returned to the Red Lion in January of 2003. - Bryan Campbell



Trudy Bullis and Brian Taylor shake their 'booties' at the Christmas Party in 1996.

Apr. 1997 - Tiger Woods wins The Masters, his first major title, at age 22

During vagabond years of the '90s to the present, Barron (Feb. '92); Randy Zielinski (Dec. '00); Marco Azurdia (July '02); Brian Walker (Jun. '03); Ben Wolk (Jun. '03); Bob Oldwyn (Nov. '03); Tim Cetto (Jun. '04); Joe Gamboni (Nov. '04); Deb Hassler (Jan. '05); Audray Bessonette (Feb. '05); Alex Stoll (Sep. '06); Shaunna Pipkin-Larson (Nov. '06); Chris Baker (Jun. '07); Brad Huddle (Jun. '07); Bruce Law (Jun. '08); Bryan Maroney (Jun. '08); Mark Urdahl (Dec. '08) and Steve Ellis (Mar. '09) joined the roster and are currently among members. Incredibly, Barron is the lone retained member of the club who joined Wenatchee North during the decade of the '90s. - Rotary International



Wenatchee Northers step up to the plate and raise 24Gs to complete the WVC softball park.

In 1999, with Bullis 'sometimes' as president, Wenatchee North committed to donating \$24,000 to Wenatchee Valley College for the completion of its softball facility. To raise funds, two community events, known as the Step Up to the Plate Auction, were held in successive years beginning in 2000, with Gaspers, Ross, Dempsey and Marcia Henkle playing important roles. The field became the showcase for one of the best softball programs among northwest community colleges, and WVC honored the club by naming the facility Wenatchee North Rotary Park. - Jeff Mertes

During the reign of Dempsey, Wenatchee North's first female president, the club heard the call of the wild after Mitchell suggested that WN lend a hand to the Forest Service by rebuilding and maintaining trails. So it came to pass that Northers spent four nights under the stars up the Icicle River in July of 1999 and 2000. Aching muscles and backs were common with Don Lloyd serving as 'slave driving trail master' (under close supervision by the Forest Service) as well as camp chef. The food was phenomenal, and sitting 'round the campfire watching Dempsey's introduction to Mike's Hard Lemonade was priceless. "I kent eef-fen taysh enny owl-ca-haul enit'," she exclaimed several times before going nighty-night. The Forest Service actually commended Wenatchee North for a job well done. - Jeff Mertes

With Judge Small at the helm in 2001, Wenatchee North embarked on a fundraising project, in conjunction with Wenatchee Valley College's Tree Fruit

Sept. 11, 2001 - Terrorists fly two jetliners into the World Trade Center in New York City, and another into the Pentagon in Washington, DC

Dec. 2, 2001 - Enron files for bankruptcy following an accounting scandal - the largest bankruptcy to that time

Management program, to market apples for Christmas gifting. The project, headed by Adams and Brown, entailed selling apple gift boxes to businesses and organizations primarily by making presentations to other Rotary clubs around the state. One of the presentations, at the Emerald City Rotary Club that convened for breakfast at the Washington Athletic Club in Seattle, was conducted by Gaspers and Mertes. While Gaspers dazzled the club with his pitch, Mertes used an apple slicer to quarter the exceptional fruit for samples. Unfortunately, the device wasn't sharp enough to cut through the crisp Wenatchee apples, made even more solid by a night in the WAC's restaurant cooler, without considerable force. Pushing mightily to slice the third apple, the table collapsed sending fruit to the floor in front of seventy bemused Rotarians and guests. Although relatively productive that initial year despite a late start, the project met a similar fate to the Gaspers-Mertes presentation - it collapsed. - *Joe Gaspers*

Zielinski served as Wenatchee North's president in 2003, and played a major multi-year role in planning and construction of Rotary Park. The largest project ever undertaken through the combined efforts of local Rotary clubs amounting to more than \$600,000, it transformed a seven acre eyesore on Western Avenue into a wonderful community asset. The membership of WN, with Campbell serving as chairman, enthusiastically supported all aspects of the project with funds, an impressive participation in a massive three Rotary club auction and volunteered time. Oldwyn, among a host of dedicated volunteers, was able to demonstrate prowess as a heavy equipment operator. "Heavy equipment operator" didn't necessarily refer to the size of the machinery, by the way. - *Jeff Mertes*

Also during Zielinski's term, he implemented a meeting segment that featured a different past president each week to talk about happenings in the year of his presidency. But Zielinski soon regretted his idea after the very first presentation by Elliston, WN's second president, at a meeting with the Apple Blossom Festival Royalty in attendance. The reminiscence went well, but before Elliston could get back to his chair, he crumpled to the floor, stricken with a 'heart attack'. Luckily, Dr. Lisa Stone had been seated next to the downed Rotarian and within seconds was administering CPR with Christensen's help. After Fire Department paramedics took over a few minutes later and stabilized their patient, Zielinski looked several shades paler than Elliston. Elliston proved it would take a lot more than an irregular heartbeat to keep an ex-pharmacist from Wallace, Idaho down, and returned to Wenatchee North meetings less than two months later. - *Dave Doerr*

With Azurdia as president in 2005, Christensen proposed that the club take on a Fudge Sale fund raiser. Working with a local fudge maker, Wenatchee North realized a sizable return with somewhat limited membership participation. The next year, ramrodded by Brown as well as Christensen, the Fudge Sale netted more than \$5,000, but had to be discontinued when the fudge maker went out of business. At this time, combined with several years of Sports Awards ad sales generating between \$22,000 and \$27,000 each, WN's income and donations reached unprecedented highs. - *Jeff Mertes*

During Walker's 2007-08 term, the club took



Tim Cetto facing the big job of getting Wenatchee North back to flush.

February 1, 2003 - The space shuttle 'Columbia' disintegrates upon re-entry over Texas

March 19, 2003 - The Iraq War begins

Feb. 5, 2006 - Seattle Seahawks play in their first Super Bowl, losing 21-10 to the Steelers in Detroit

Sept. 23, 2006 - Barry Bonds breaks Aaron's Major League homerun record by hitting his 734th - the record, though, is tainted because Bonds allegedly used illegal steroids to help him achieve it

Sept. 2008 - The Wenatchee Regional Events Center opens

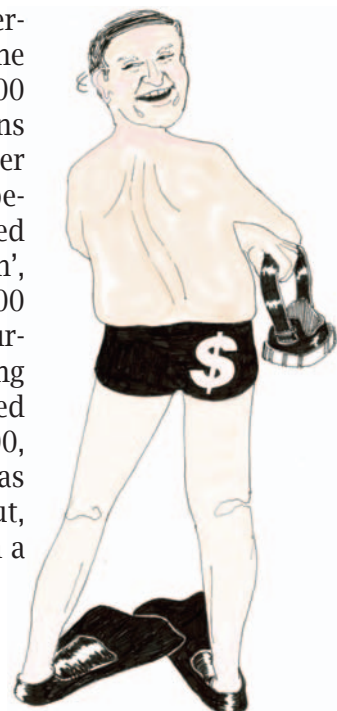
Sept. 15, 2008 - Lehman Brothers files for bankruptcy as a result of the subprime mortgage scandal to become the largest in history

Nov. 4, 2008 - Barack Obama is elected as U.S. President - the first of African decent

Dec. 11, 2008 - Bernie Madoff, 70, a "respected" veteran of Wall Street, is arrested for running a \$70 billion Ponzi scheme

on a commitment to provide textbooks for a school in Guatemala. With Barron heading the international project and personally travelling with the Guatemala Literacy Project team, he was on hand for the inaugural delivery of books to Paquix Nufed School in February of 2009. Barron thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality offered by the Guatemalans and was touched by their expressions of appreciation. - *Martin Barron*

The club sustained a major setback, the second embezzlement of funds, in 2008. Wenatchee North had scratched and clawed to accumulate a treasury that finally could service substantial donations to worthy causes - reaching to over \$40,000 at one time. When the realization came to light that the bank account had been milked dry after more than \$27,000 (at least) was taken; that promised college scholarships and Rotary International donations from club members had gone unpaid; that all the revenue from the Sports Awards and other fundraisers had been pilfered; and that district and RI dues hadn't been paid, a sentiment of betrayal, never heard before to such an extent, resonated among members. The fact that the deed was perpetrated by a longtime trusted and liked 'brother', the aforementioned 'Ben M. Besslin', made the situation even more difficult. Worse still, it was determined that more than \$8,000 in obligations needed to be paid immediately. Down, but not out, a course was set for survival. Wenatchee Northerners pulled together to meet the challenge with president Cetto serving as 'coxswain' and Barron taking over the responsibilities of treasurer. Immediately, WN forged a successful Arlberg Shopping Spree raffle, headed by Walker and Brown, that netted \$5,000, sold pucks and drawing tickets at a Wenatchee Wild hockey game for another \$1,300 that was spearheaded by Ross, and accepted donations from club members to weather the storm. But, as Wenatchee North's 40th anniversary was being celebrated, the challenge still remained, in a time of national economic recession, for the club to resurrect and replenish. - *Jeff Mertes*



Rich Adams shows off his best side in a Swim Suit Edition.

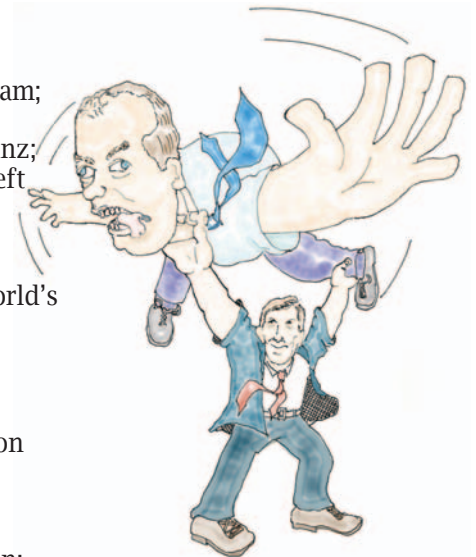
Also not to be forgotten -

- Hoffman's oft demonstrated ability to eat a beer glass - an ever popular show stopper by the former Mankato (now Minnesota) State linebacker;
- Haglund's thirty years of participation in the leadership of RYLA;
- Wolk becoming the first president with a punk haircut;
- Mertes, the first "counter culture" president;
- Small's unequalled success bringing new members into the Wenatchee North fold;
- The infamous Christmas 'booby cup';
- Johnson's more than twenty years picking fellow Rotarians' pockets as a finemaster;
- Christensen's steam locomotive fetish;
- The loss of Key as a friend to all in 2008, not to mention an ever hard-working fund raiser;
- Kunz's convoluted explanations of fines she levied, as well as giving us two-bits for ol' Wenatchee High;
- Bullis's brainchild, The Loop the Loop Relay;
- Bessonette as the first Wenatchee North Rotarian to be 'with child';
- Bessonette as the second Wenatchee North Rotarian to be 'with child';
- RINO implants & RINOsectomies;
- Anderson, just because;
- Ditto for Goodwin;
- Ditto for Jones;
- Club treasurers Gaspers and Mills who counted and reported for about a decade each;
- The heaping plates of barbecued beef ribs served to visiting Group Study Exchange Team members...*who happened to be Hindus from India*;
- Barron and Brown's many years of service on the Scholarship Committee;
- Jones, thinking he was shaking Northrup in a Honey Bucket, only to discover his intended victim emerging from the unit next door;
- Jones groveling at the feet of the poor, somewhat disoriented, wetted stranger who was doing his business in the shaken toilet;
- Mertes on the ground, convulsing with laughter;
- Northrup totally unaware of what was going on;

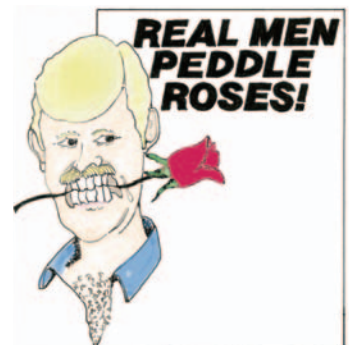


Not to be outdone by Adams, John White strikes a pose exposing his flippers.

- Daryl Miller's longtime chairmanship of the annual Blood Drive;
- Scott Stanley's tear jerking qualities, ever trying to fill a need;
- Azurdia playing ghetto golf at the Rotary International Convention in Chicago;
- Long term Bulletin editors - Anderson, Mertes, Jones and Small;
- The four North Poll swim suit editions cranked-out by Mertes;
- Elliston, The Father of the Sports Awards, participating in all but one of the banquets;
- Doerr's reading of news items from his home state of North Dakota in an authentic 'NoDak' accent;
- Stewart's dozen years of selfless service to the Rotary Youth Exchange program;
- The *RINO Rag* club song;
- Innumerable donations of flower arrangements to auction at meetings by Kunz;
- White's many years of driving auction prices higher, and paying a lot when left dangling at the top;
- Ditto for Brown;
- Haglund's humor as the club's impromptu auctioneer;
- Christensen's pitch pipe - I mean, *really*, to think it would help the Rotary world's most tone deaf club;
- Dr. Derleth's delight when double-meaning, bogus names he scribbled on the Visiting Rotarians list were read;
- The sorrow of Derleth's sudden, untimely death in 1995;
- The 'unknown banker', some say resembling comedian Jim Carrey, carrying on Derleth's tradition that actually began with Haglund;
- Northrup's knee buckling invocations invariably taking almost as long as the program;
- All in attendance having to get hepatitis shots after a meeting at the Chieftain;
- Shirts & Skins;
- Schoening's dream of building a dome in Dryden to house a NFL team with his hound, Old Blue, as mascot;
- RINO Homecoming;
- Mike Brophy and Gaspers being taken for a ride by an Englishman at the bus station;
- Campbell's incredible knack of pacing Sports Awards ad sales for more than ten years;
- Shaun Koos quietly figuring into club successes much more than most members realized;
- The hospitality of Jan and Tim Cetto as hosts of many club functions at their mansion in East Wenatchee;
- A pair of Wenatchee North distaffers, Hassler and Stoll, puffing on stogies, supplied by Small, without turning green at a Cetto fireside;
- Northrup's morning crab-walk entrance into the hotel restaurant at the District Conference in Kamloops...*now, that boy was definitely green*;
- Mertes's twenty-five years as chairman of the Sports Awards Selection Committee;
- Brown's gung ho support of fundraising projects and just about anything that had to do with the club;
- Anderson's verbal abuse if any unsuspecting visitor was caught sitting in 'his seat' at the Chieftain;
- Gamboni's droll wit and Parsons' outspoken 'Seinfeldlike' sarcasm;
- The incredible stat that nearly 20% of Wenatchee North's 2008 membership had recorded holes-in-one at one time or another;
- Haglund and Northrup being exactly the same height to a sixteenth of an inch as proven in a 1980s 'tale of the tape' measurement;
- The foreign born contingent that has added perspective as Wenatchee North members over the years - Francis Collins (Ireland), who hardly anyone could understand, Barron (Zimbabwe), who everyone understood perfectly, and Ross (Canada), who spoke fluent Zamboni;
- Kemp proving he could pump more iron than any other Wenatchee North Rotarian during a fireside at the Smalls;
- Good, bad and ugly fund raisers over the years: fine wheel, Sports Awards ticket sales, weekly drawing, fines of recognition, The Shaft, pass the basket, early leavers fines, Apple Blossom parade food booth, Apple Blossom Run, Autumn Leaf Run, WHS-EHS Alumni Football Game program sales, Christmas Cash Drawing, Chinese auctions, SportSwap, yard sale, dart throw, RINOsectomies, Rose Sale, RINO Bowl, RINO Trivia, Sports Awards Illustrated ad sales, RINO Olympics, meeting auctions, Nason Creek rest stop cookie & coffee sales, pass the pig, Loop-the-Loop Relay,



Bryan Campbell demonstrates to Jim Mills the secret of his successful Sports Awards sales technique.



Ron Kemp inspires the troops as Rose Sale chairman in 1990.

Step Up to the Plate Auctions, 'Third Auction', North Rotary shirt sales; Apple Gift Box Sale, Shirts & Skins, Fudge Sale, Arlberg Shopping Spree Raffle, Wenatchee Wild puck & lottery ticket sales, and Rotary Park tile sales
- Cetto naively thinking that being president would be a slam-dunk.

This is not an all-inclusive history of the club, by any means. Many more individuals, than mentioned here, have contributed and participated. It is a testament to the true meaning of Rotary, a few examples of fellowship, humor, sorrow, triumph and recession depression combined with teamwork, dedicated fundraising and generosity that have molded Wenatchee North's unique personality within the truly great organization that is Rotary. Good deeds have been too numerous to count, all water under the bridge as the current courses onward, its direction guided by each successive newest member.

To paraphrase The Biggest Little Trophy Dealer in the Northwest, "We're ALL proud to be Wenatchee North Rotarians!" And, rightly so.

- Respectfully entered into club lore April 1, 2009 by Jeff Mertes

Wenatchee North Rotary's second president and founding father, Don Elliston, died suddenly on January 14, 2011 at 78 years of age. He was integral not only in establishing the club on April 1, 1969 and serving as the primary link with WNR's past, but was also known as "The Father of the Sports Awards Banquet." Don participated in all forty of the events from 1971-2010. His loss left only one remaining charter member in Wenatchee North Rotary - Roy Miller.

The club sustained a major vacancy when 2010-11 president Deb Hassler resigned at mid-term due to an employment opportunity in Portland, Oregon. In order to provide continuity of leadership at a critical time, president-elect Steve Ellis accepted the reins as a "one and a half term president." In recovering from the devastation of the 2008 embezzlement, successful fundraising had returned the treasury to solvency. The challenge for the club became recruiting to replace, and hopefully expand, what had become a depleted membership roster. Recent losses prompted an examination of organization and documentation of philosophy for support unique to Wenatchee North Rotary in order to provide guidelines for subsequent club officers.

On June 28, 2011, the 41st NCW Sports Awards banquet, dedicated to the memory of Elliston, was deemed one of the best. In his honor, the President's Award that he originally presented in 1971, was renamed the "Don Elliston President's Award." Like an "Oscar" or "Emmy", receiving a "Don" represents exceptional achievement as a contributor to the betterment of North Central Washington youth and athletics.

At the six-month mark of the Ellis presidency, the club's treasury had finally recovered, but the pressing problem of revitalizing the membership roster still required attention as two longtime Wenatchee North Rotarians, Marco Azurdia and Chip Small, resigned. After polling club members, WNR decided to "go back to college" and moved the meeting venue to the campus of Wenatchee Valley College.



Dr. Francis Collins goes river dancing along the banks of the Columbia in the Swim Suit Edition.



Special thanks to contributors -

- Don 'The Don Father' Elliston;
 - John 'Wheezer' White;
 - Jim 'Biggest Little Trophy Dealer' Haglund;
 - Joe 'The Geek' Gaspers;
 - Gordi 'Gord-Ho' Northrup;
 - Chip 'Too Tall' Small;
 - Bryan 'The Unknown Banker' Campbell;
 - Dave 'Open Der' Doerr;
 - Martin 'Googly' Barron;
 - Every blessed one of the North Poll club bulletin editors
- and
- Rotary International



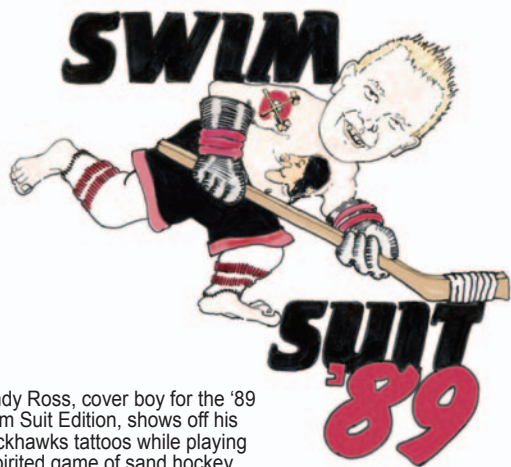
Rose Sale chairman Tim Jones deals with wife Kirsten's reaction after finally breaking down and buying roses for her.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR BARBEQUE...

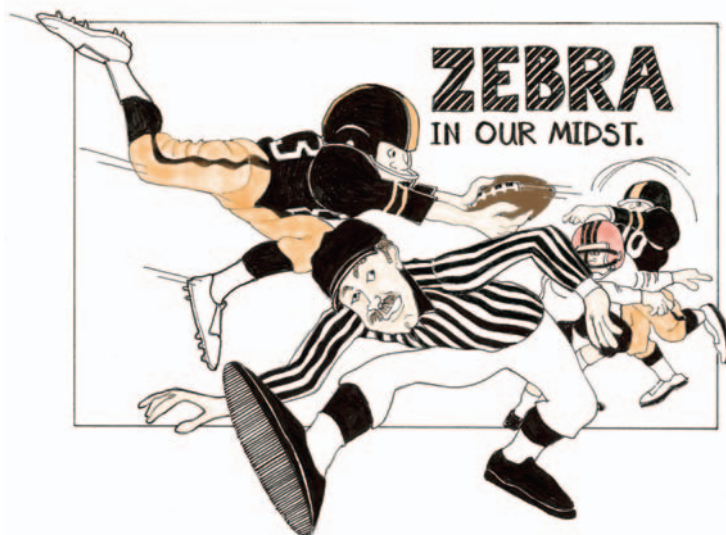


A 'SHOE-IN'!

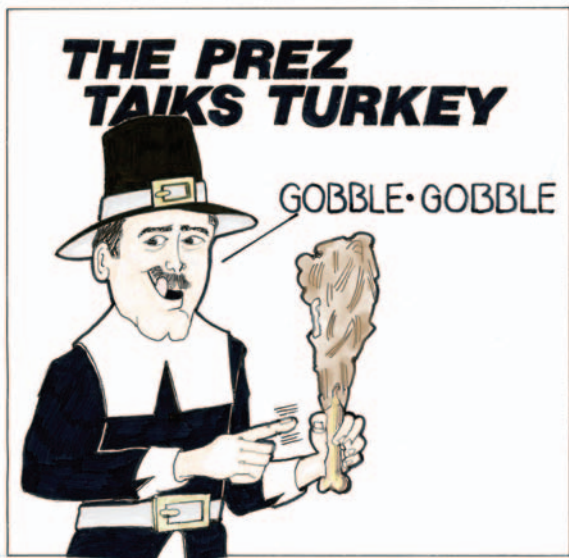
Don Schoening 'roasts' Joe Anderson at the District Governor's Barbeque held at the Schoening's residence in Dryden during the mid-1980s.



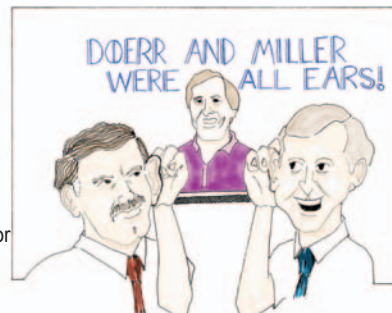
Sandy Ross, cover boy for the '89 Swim Suit Edition, shows off his Blackhawks tattoos while playing a spirited game of sand hockey.



Chip Small 'moonlighting' as a high school football official and getting decision making experience before declaring, "Here come de judge."



Phil Johnson gives a 'State of the Club' address in 1985.



With both having sons starting for the Panthers, Dave Doerr and Daryl Miller listen very closely to a program featuring the new Wenatchee High football coach.