



**Governor Dick's Drivel for March and April** Editor's note—title is Dick's, not mine!

**Have you ever noticed** how Rotary binds people together in fun and true friendship? Proof of this was abundant at the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary party that the Newman club had to celebrate their chartering. Mr. Newman, a charter member whose family gave the town its name, told us why the club was founded and how important for the community it was to start a first rate service club. A past president told how the club had faithfully supported Oristimba High School and its Interact club. Someone even told about a time some forty years or so ago when they tricked the District Governor into overindulging so they wouldn't have to admit to some club oversight. Then there was the time club members provided a wild dove dinner because it would have been too expensive to buy meat. Past presidents from as far away as Orange County added historical details. The stories went on and on for the enjoyment of all. But interlaced with all the funny stories were the stories of service provided for the community. It was delightful to be able to share the memories.

**And have you ever noticed** how captivated Rotarians are by watching pictures of an international service project. We watched it happen at a meeting of the Angels-Murphys club. After a great dinner where very good wine was served, President John Brophy began to tell us about the *Amigos de Guatemala Project*. He and his wife had been a part of a group making improvements to a school for very poor people high in the mountains of Guatemala. The pictures showed a beautiful place where people had limited future opportunities. A key part of helping the community is providing some very basic things for the school. School supplies were donated as part of the project. Adding more classroom space helped. John proudly showed pictures of the sidewalk up the hill to the school that he helped build. He even admitted, finally, that the men in the community took over the concrete finishing so the walk would be smooth but let the volunteers continue mixing and placing the concrete. As John started his program conversation stopped and the room became still. Attention focused on the presentation and everyone there understood why work like this is so important.

**It is fascinating to watch Rotarians** face up to responsibility. Our District sends its presidents-elect to a President-Elect Training Seminar. Rotary knows there are lots of things a club president needs to know in order to have a successful year. It also knows that Rotarians are busy people and three days is about as much as most incoming presidents can spare at any one time. The result is that PETS takes on some of the characteristics of a Marine boot-camp. Sessions start early in the morning and they end late in the evening. After the last session PE's are encouraged to fraternize, share ideas and make friendships. The leaders in training learn club management, how to insure good programs, all about the inner workings of the Rotary Foundation, how to build membership and a thousand other things. And all the while your PE's are inspired to plan for a great year, to imagine creative service projects, to spread the message of Rotary and to develop leaders within the club. And how do they react to this sort of treatment you might ask and the answer is they do very well. They are enthusiastic and they share ideas. Of course the leader of our contingent, District Governor Elect Janine McClanahan, was there marshalling her troops and conducting training sessions that pertained only to District 5220. What can be said in the final analysis is that we have an excellent bunch of presidents-elect led by a top-notch incoming District Governor. The District will truly be in good hands next year.

**Yours in Rotary Service,  
Dick and Marty Wyatt**

***We'll Get the Job Done By Doing Good and Having Fun!***

**March—April  
2008**

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