



**OAKDALE'S PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS**

**FROM THE CLUBS**

~from an article by Kim Van Meter in the Manteca Bulletin—

Hosted by the

Oakdale Sunrise Rotary for its second year, the Gladys Lemmons Center was packed with a veritable who's who in fire, police, and ambulance services, and political figureheads as well. Oakdale Mayor Pat Kuhn agreed, stating that she was very proud of the city's public safety officers.

The winners, selected by their peers, were awarded stately boxed certificates complete with their company badges inset at the corner, as well as certificates of merit from the city, the county and Assemblyman Dave Cogdill's office. Unlike other dinners, Sunrise Rotary foots the bill for the entire evening, allowing members of the awardees family to attend without needing to worry about the cost. According to club president Deborah Magers, proceeds from the upcoming Sock Hop dance fund the following year's Public Service Dinner. —the night was full of exciting awards, tearful acceptances and even a standing ovation for former Mayor and cancer survivor Wes Stewart as he accepted his award from the police department as Volunteer of the Year. Other awardees, such as Gary Cortes, Jr, took home the honor for the second time in a row from City Fire as their Volunteer of the Year. Paramedic of the Year, Karen Pitassi, was characteristically humble as she accepted her award, even blushing as her superior, Ray Leverett, expounded on her virtues both as a person and as an employee. By the end of the evening, the warm fuzzies were contagious and anyone who didn't leave with a smile clearly hadn't witnessed the pure joy on the faces of the attendants. "We need to honor those in our own community," said Magers. "This is the best place to live and raise a family and it's because of the people honored tonight."

**NEWMAN**

For the fourth year Newman club held its annual 4-Way Test high school essay contest. This year, one entire class of advanced placement senior English students wrote. Roberto Salinas was club essay chair. The judging was most difficult. The papers were well presented and there were many interesting ideas. The teacher, Catherine Quittmeyer, and Principal Joe Terra, brought the winning trio to the club to read the essays. Splitting \$300 in prize money were Karleen Kirby (1<sup>st</sup>), Janet Rodriguez (2), and Vanessa Goncalves



(3rd). In the past three years, two of our Newman essayists have taken first place in the district contest. This year there is no district contest.



It was a great day at the horse races when fourteen (members and spouses) spent an afternoon at

**GALT ROTARY IS THE FIRST CLUB TO REACH THEIR FOUNDATION GOALS**

The 24 members of the Rotary Club of Galt set a very lofty goal of contributing \$3,950 to the Annual Fund of the Rotary Foundation during the 2004-2005 Rotary Centennial year. However, they have already far exceeded that goal with contributions of \$5750 or \$239.58 per member. Congratulations to Galt Rotary.