



Ridgefield Men's Club *News*

The Senior Forum

May, 2009

The Prez Sez

Editors Note: The president was doubly inspired this month, so four columns have been devoted to his words of wisdom and inspiration.

This is the season that we see new growth all around us. Various animals are coming out of their winter burrows and the snow birds are returning from Florida. It is only fitting that our nominating committee proposed new candidates to you the membership for your consideration at our May 3d meeting. In accordance with our bylaws elections will be held at our annual meeting on June 17th. The committee's early proposal was completed to give everyone a chance to think about the candidates and review the club bylaws regarding election of club officers. George Hefferon and the other members of the Nominating Committee deserve our thanks for their work in selecting the excellent slate of candidates.

Continuing on the theme of new growth and emergence, Leon Finkle, a new candidate, and Jack Alexander are working to form a bicycling interest group. Please contact them if you are interested. Finally, Rodger Scott, our treasurer reminds us that now is the time to pay annual dues for next year. Ron Steiger, our First Vice President, reminds us to get signed up for the ever popular Ladies Luncheon as space will be limited. Dick Godbout reminds

So Listen



us that planning for our picnic is underway. An I would like to remind you that we may have to grow old but we don't have to grow up.

As we move into spring time it is a pleasure to report that participation in our Clubs regular meetings and activities continues to increase. Club expenditures are under control. We have amended our constitution and the telephone tree has been updated and is working well. Our Newsletter, Website and Activity Calendar continue to improve communication to and between members.

In the new business area the Nominating Committee has made their recommendations as called for in our By Laws. George Hefferon is the Nomination Committee Chairman. The nominees are listed on page three of this Newsletter We also have a committee working to update our procedures for selecting full members from the waiting list. Bud Rigby, Pete Myers, Ron Steiger, Ed Van Den Ameele, and

Pleaz!!!!

Tom McKee make up the committee. Contact them if you have questions or suggestions.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed their time and effort to make the first 3 quarters of our Club year a success. With your help and participation the fourth quarter will continue the success we have experienced to date.

Webster defines fellowship as follows: 1. Companionship; friendly association; 2. A mutual sharing of activities and interests; 3. A group of people with the same interests; company; brotherhood. The Ridgefield Men's Club is all about fellowship and there are two fellowship issues that we need to address-the telephone tree and the candidate waiting list selection process.

TELEPHONE TREE: When we cancelled our first meeting in January it became apparent that the telephone tree had some fallen branches because the message did not make it through to all members. The tree is our only tool to directly contact members. It is initiated by the President primarily to inform the membership of upcoming meeting content, meeting cancellations, as well as member health issues. It is also intended as a feedback tool to report member issues back up the tree. Please help us keep all the branches on the tree strong by carrying out your role as a mem-

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The Ridgefield Men's Club Newsletter is published ten times a year by the Ridgefield Men's Club.

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Ridgefield Men's Club

54 Danbury Rd. , #216 Ridgefield, CT 06877
 (A Non-Profit Social Recreation Club)
 (IRS #06-131978)

Officers

(July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009)

President..... Mike Troy
 1st Vice President..... Ron Steiger
 2nd Vice President..... John Boehle
 Treasurer..... Roger Scott
 Ass't Treasurer..... Chuck Rich
 Recording Secretary..... Carl Scala
 Ass't Recording Sec'y..... Jack Daniels
 Press/Comm Officer..... Jim Connelly

Directors

3- year term expires June 30th year shown,
 2011: Jack Alexander, Tom McKee, Ed Van Den Aemele
 2010: Jim Kelly, John Morris, Bob Payne
 2009: Charles Creamer, Jack Gilchrist, Stephen Antkiw

Trustees

Past Presidents:
 Dar Yoran, Bob MacDonald, Bill Lutzius, Bud Rigby, Al Ryff, Jack Malloy, Ted McCormick, Peter Myers, William Schmitt, Frank Kromer and George Hefferon

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ber of the telephone tree. If you are going to be out of town remember to call the individual who calls you and request that he make your calls. If you feel that you cannot make the calls required please give Al Ryff a call. Use the RMC website or call Al or myself if you need a copy of the latest telephone tree.

WAITING LIST: Fellowship as we know is all about association/participation. Some of the candidates on the waiting list participate in our bi monthly meetings and various monthly activities on a regular basis. More of our candidates do not participate thereby missing out on the fellowship that forms the basis for our organization. Currently the waiting list procedure is a linear one in which a candidate advances toward full membership based on how many candidates were ahead of him at the time he joined. The Executive Committee has requested that the Membership Committee take a look at our current selection procedure and see if it can

be effectively changed to give recognition to participation by candidates when selecting full members from the waiting list. The membership committee will be reporting back to the Executive Committee shortly and then we will report back to you.

In the mean time, I have been sending emails that invite the candidates to our regular meetings to encourage participation. The leadership has been holding regular meeting business sessions to approximately one half hour to allow the members and candidates to have time for fellowship before the speaker session. Our newsletter team has agreed to email our Newsletter to the candidates as well. Sponsors can help our effort to increase participation by making sure that they are fulfilling their obligation to keep their proposed candidate informed of the Clubs activities on a regular basis.

With your help and understanding we will successfully address the issues we have with the telephone tree and candidate participation.

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Stork Drops.....

May 2009

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These Are Your Nominees!!



Can You identify the candidates?

- President Ron Steiger**
- 1st Vice John Boehle**
- 2nd Vice Ed Van Den Ameele**
- Treasurer Roger Scott**
- Ass't Treasurer Chuck Rich**
- Recording Sec'y Carl Scala**
- Ass't Recording Sec'y Jack Daniels**
- Press/Communications Jim Connelly**

**Directors for three years beginning 7/1/09
Max Caldwell, Joe Rabideau, Bryn Welton**

**Candidate for Director to replace vacancy term ending 6/30/11
Jerry Dineen**

Election of Officers will take place at the June 17th meeting. If you will not be present notify Carl Scala, please, for an absentee ballot, return it to him signed, prior to the election, to validate your vote.

Bulls & Bears

by Dick Paul

Bulls & Bears

During the period from 1933 to 1999 the US stock market as measured by the Dow Jones Industrial Average index (DJIA) grew in value at an 11.8% annual rate. During that same period the real US Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at an annualized rate of 4.18%. From 1999 to 2008 the DJIA grew minus 0.6% per year. The GDP grew 2.33% per year. The first 66-year period is when the Glass-Steagall Act (1) was in place. The second nine-year period followed repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act. From 1933 to 1999 the profits for the US financial sector averaged 17% of the profits of the S&P 500 companies. From 1999 to 2008 the profits for the US financial sector averaged 40% of S&P 500 profits. In other words the better it was for the financial sector the worse it was for the US economy. This obviously is not what the US banking sector was set up by the US government to accomplish.

How did this happen? It happened because a relatively few people in the banking and insurance sectors engaged in highly speculative and profitable activities with the backing of the full faith and credit of the US government—just the type of activity the Glass-Steagall act was enacted in 1933 to pro-

hibit. Based on the foregoing it would seem wise to once again enact legislation with all the important provisions that were contained in Glass-Steagall.



Whose Eating Our Money?

For those critics who would say this would hurt the competitive position of the US financial sector in the world economy my response is that they have already done so without the aid of Glass-Steagall being in place. Re-enacting Glass-Steagall alone will not keep credit crunches from occurring in the future. There are too many smart people figuring out ways to get around regulations (regulatory arbitrage) and too much money being spent on their interests for this to occur. At the very least it will slow them down. This is obvious from the amount of money and influence that was spent on legislators and regulators to get Glass-Steagall repealed. Next month's column will deal with other important factors that led up to the credit crunch and possible ways to keep

them from happening again. In dealing with this problem it is important keep in mind that this is a global problem. It had its origins in the US and quickly spread to the UK (the Anglo-Saxon countries). Any lasting solution will have to be a global one.

As stated in the last newsletter we encourage your involvement in these discussions. Whether you like it or not you are very much involved already if you own a home and/or an investment portfolio. Watching the value of your key assets decline by as much as 50% is not much fun! Get involved in the solution through letters to the editor rather than leaving it to someone else. There is no one better positioned to look after your interest than yourself. (1) For a chronology tracing of the life of the Glass-Steagall Act, from passage in 1933 to its death throes in the 1990s, go to www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/show/wallstreet/weill/demise.html.

In Vino Veritas

by Col Jack Daniels

Grenache is becoming more popular and according to Dorothy Gaiter and John Brecher, who write the wine column for the Wall Street Journal, it may be the next big thing in winedom; time will tell. Many of us who love wine, have tasted Grenache but only in blends such as Chateauneuf-du-Pape and Tavel from France or Priorat and Rioja from Spain, where it is called Garnacha. In his revised version of the Schoonmaker encyclopedia Alexis Bespaloff writes, "It is a high-yielding variety whose full-bodied red wines are a useful component in blends;" Jancis Robinson in her Oxford Encyclopedia notes, "Grenache, the world's second most widely planted grape variety sprawling, in several hues, all over Spain and southern France."

There is much of it, and herein lies a mildly troublesome problem! How can one find bottles of 100% Grenache or Garnacha. I took this as a challenge to be investigated in behalf of, and for the edification of our RMC members; somewhat for my own satisfaction as well just to see what made this "blending wine" so attractive. At a birthday lunch for my wife at Silver Spring, I asked for a

100% Grenache, there was none available, we were served "Ursa Maior" a delightful Rioja but a blend of Garnacha and Tempranillo. At the Barcelona Restaurant in Norwalk my request for 100% Garnacha was assuaged with a flavorful Artazu from the Penedes region of Spain.

This piqued my curiosity! I began by visiting wine stores in the area. First, was Ancona's where Neal Balkun sold me a 2006 Alto Moncayo from Spain. It is 100% Garnacha and costs \$45.57.



This was now becoming interesting, obviously a tasting was called for with half a dozen bottles and a troop of intrepid volunteers to see what this wildly popular grape tasted like when served straight. Having this purpose in mind, I proceeded north to Fairgrounds Wine and Spirits where Ben sold me a 2006 Trevor Jones "Boots" Grenache from Australia for \$15.89. Then there was Cellar XV where Kelly showed me the Trevor Jones again but rewarded me with my first California wine; a 2006 Graff Fam-

ily Vineyards Chalone for \$26.50. Steve at Liberta's was out of California Grenache, produced by the well-known and well-esteemed vineyards of Quivira. He will call me when it comes in.

Lastly I visited with Paul Flynn at Elmer's All the Best Wines located on Hiway 7 at the Wilton/Norwalk boundary line. I hit the Jackpot! Paul presented me with the oldest wine in my growing treasury of Grenache, a 2002 Marilyn Remark from Monterey County, it was not only the oldest but also the most expensive at \$46.25. The most recent vintage was found at Coturri, a 2007 from their Testa Vineyards in Mendocino County. Made in the artisan style with naturally occurring yeasts and no chemicals or preservatives it cost \$32.85.

The very last, though not necessarily the least, came from d'Arenberg a 2005 Australian wine from the McLaren Vale costing \$21.13. All prices include tax. Paul is ordering another California Grenache, which has been well reviewed, and comes from Tensley. These eight wines we hope to have ready for tasting in June and will be reported on in the July column. Meanwhile look for this grape in your wanderings. Taste it and let me have your opinions as to its charms.

Jericho Partnership Inc.

By Jerry Dineen

The Jericho Partnership (JP) is a Danbury umbrella organization whose motto is "Mobilizing Ministry...Transforming a City". JP takes its name from the parable of the Good Samaritan, who helps a beaten and bruised traveler along the road to Jericho. The parable ends with Jesus saying "Go and do likewise".

William Beattie, the Executive Chairman of JP, a retired Union Carbide executive who after a successful business career wanted "to give-back" to the community, spoke to the RMC on April 15, 2009. He was greatly influenced by a book "Half-Time" (subtitled "Success to Significance") written by Bob Buford. "Half-Time" is directed to financially independent marketplace leaders with a desire for their second half of life to be focused on changing lives of the less fortunate in our society.

Beattie pointed out that Ridgefield with a population of 25,000 people makes provision for social services thru Meals on Wheels, Boys and Girls Clubs, senior activities, and church outreach groups. It is obvious that Danbury, with a population of 80,000 with many at a lower economic level, needs more social programs and trained volunteers.

Beattie started doing chari-

table work in Danbury in 1997. He was instrumental in starting the JP organization in 1999. Since then, the JP has become a 501(c)(3) cross-cultural umbrella organization that provides financial, volunteer and staff support to nine autonomous downtown ministries. It also collaborates with ten partner churches. JP's staff of six members represents five church congregations which help foster the concept of church collaboration. JP is able to focus and coordinate resources, avoid duplication and create practical initiatives to break the cycle of poverty and hopelessness. JP has transformed lives and benefitted the Danbury community. Jericho's goals include playing a major role in: reducing the achievement gap between low and high income groups of middle and high school students; improving high school graduation rates for at-risk students; providing transitional and supportive services and housing for the city's at-risk and homeless populations.

In 2007 JP purchased a former Danbury Furniture showroom and warehouse at 13 Rose Street (just a few blocks from two city housing projects), renovated the 30,000 square foot facility that now houses five inner-city ministries: (1) Pathway Academy, a learning center and after school tutoring program for middle school at-risk boys, (2) Pathway Danbury, a one-on-one

mentoring program for at-risk boys from sixth grade into their teens and graduation from high school, (3) The Samaritan Health Center, a free pediatric clinic for uninsured and underinsured families, (4) Hopeline Pregnancy Resource Center, a pro-life counseling and resource program offering abortion alternatives, (5) Young Life Danbury, a national program for building positive relationships with middle school and high school youth.

The JP 2007-2008 Annual Report shows it took the efforts of over 500 volunteers and \$1.2 million to provide the needed services. Beattie stated JP has a 2012 challenging goal of transforming lives in the at-risk communities of Danbury by annually providing a combination of more than \$5 million in funds, volunteer hours and facility support to partner ministries in the city, enabling the growing list of ministries to effectively connect with their target populations.

Bill Beattie gives us a great example of what one person can do to bring "Significance" to the second-half of life. More information on the JP organization can be obtained at www.volunteersolutions.org/vcswc/org/10252436566.html

What's Up?

Letters to the Editor:

In the April issue Dick Paul encouraged readers to offer their comments on his article in that issue. This was a reply to that request. Dick in this month's article discusses the Glass- Steagall legislation mentioned in Charlie's letter. ED.

To the Editor:

In his column in the most recent newsletter, Dick Paul asked for reactions to his contention that a major contributor to our current financial distress is that we are trapped, because we have allowed certain banks to become "too big to fail". He is correct, but the banks are hardly alone; in the 1970's, Chrysler was "too big to fail" and received a government bailout. Today, all the U.S. automakers fall into the same category. Exxon Mobil, General Electric and a host of other Fortune 100 companies subject to the vagaries of wildly fluctuating commodity prices, global economic cycles, geopolitical unrest or other variables are all "too big to fail". This raises at least three pertinent questions: which firms are to be bailed out, and what are the bailout criteria? And what should be done in an effort to avoid future disasters?

The answers to the first two questions are essentially political, as were the decisions 20 years ago to deal with the failures of Long Term Capital and a significant portion of the savings and loan industry.

The answer to the question about the future requires re-visiting the recent past. For the financial industry, it means, at a minimum, re-imposing some form of the Glass-Steagall legislation, which required a separation between commercial banking, investment banking and stock brokerage activities. Sandy Weill's dream of a Citibank financial supermarket turned out to be a nightmare in part because the wisdom hard-earned during the Great Depression had faded after 65 years.

What about companies in other sectors? Clearly, "gigantism" has held sway in the U.S. over the past several decades, and Merger and Acquisition activity has become a widely followed spectator sport, not to mention a lucrative source of income for Wall Street. Now that the fever for de-regulation has broken (owing to the unfortunate results in the financial, electrical power and airline industries among others), perhaps the climate is right for an overhaul of the country's anti-trust legislation, with a view to a new interpretation aimed specifically at the phenomenon of entities that are likely to become "too big to fail".

Charlie Pankenier

***What say you members of the RMC?
Dick is waiting!!***

Speakers:

05/20- Heidi Hammel, The Planet Saturn
06/03- No Speaker, Ladies Luncheon
06/17- John Frey, Connecticut State Legislative Report
07/01- Patrick Falciano, Report on Indian Point Atomic Unit

Driver Safety Info:

The Ridgefield AARP chapter will be sponsoring its next Driver Safety Program from 9am-1pm on Monday June 15 and Tuesday June 16 at Ridgefield Crossings, Rt. 7 just a short way up from the Rt 35 connector, on the right hand side, same driveway as laurel Ridge Nursing Home and The Regency Town Homes.

This is a good way to get a financial break on your Auto insurance, exact amount determined by your Insurance Company. You will also get a refresher on the latest in traffic rules and signage. (Things might have changes a bit since you got your license. The cost of the 2 day course per person is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non – members. After the June course Ridgefield AARP will have courses September 14 and 15 and November 9, 10.

(What's Up, con't on page 10)

A Georgetown Story

By Ted McCormick



A documentary was produced and shown to us by Lynn Hyson. It featured the Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill and the town that grew up around it. The mill produced many innovative products such as a kitchen sieve and house window screens, which were called "a significant event in the lives of Americans". It manufactured over 400 million miles of various types of wire. The three narrators of the film, Bertil Rosendahl, Art Moore and Serena Nazzaro, represented the ethnic groups of Irish, Scandinavian and Italian who made up the original settlers. Scenes were recreated to show the Old Mill Road, a dirt road which was the main artery circa 1795, complete with oxen, horses and sheep. It was a toll road but was free for those going to church or a funeral. 10 cans of 16mm film not seen for 40 years were salvaged to chronicle life in Georgetown from parades to ball games to a family eating

in the backyard. The town life revolved around grocery stores, the general store which sold nearly everything and the Mill. It employed most inhabitants and was the source of multiple curious events. There was the "Ghost Bell". The church bell rang every Halloween eve observed by large crowds of townsfolk in spite of the fact that no one was in the church. It was later exposed as two young factory workers had strung very fine wire from the mill from a nearby building to the bell where they could ring it undetected.



Members of the Sacred Heart Church choir sang an original song by Martin Fegy called Run River Run using lyrics adapted from an Oliver Wendell Holmes poem. Most of us who grew up in small towns felt a very close kinship to the life style presented, the people and their activities. We were all greatly impressed by the professional result by John Maher, the Director and Lynn Hyson who was responsible for shepherding the project.

Trivia Question:

What is unusual about the steps of the U.S. Capitol?

Last month's question:

Where is the world's largest swimming pool ?

And how big is it?

Answer:

A salt water pool at the San Alfonso del Mar resort in Algarrobo, Chile is 3,324 feet long and up to 115 feet deep. It covers 19 acres, holds 66 million gallons and cost \$1.5 billion (that's BILLIONS) to build!!

Ain't these "Ducky"



Don't argue with an idiot; people watching may not be able to tell the difference



How come we choose from just two people to run for President and over 50 for Miss Universe?

RMC History

VOL II Number 8

November 4, 1985

Submitted by Dick Godbout

A new hand at the tiller. V.P. Ed Pierce conducted the meeting in president Jack's absence and did a splendid job of touching all the bases and keeping the rowdy and unruly crowd under control. guests: Al Pfeifer brought Fred Smith and Lynce Carboni brought John Tulipani.

INTEREST GROUPS:

Bridge. Need players to make up a couple of tables.

Fishing. Too Cold

Antiques. will meet to repair and restore at Stan Petersons house

Debating group (New) If interested contact Hans Taeger

Sky Diving. We like to get this started again..The original 5 members who started it last year are, unfortunately, no longer with us, past members (god rest their souls) Good, clean, air born fun, sign up if interested.

Gardening. A interesting visit to Pinchbecks organized by Ferd Bedeni. Good time had by all

Free trip to Florida...National car rental are looking for drivers. You can drive to Florida with their cars between Nov 1 - Dec 20 also drive one back 4/10 —5/30/86 call 203-... or talk to bart.

Hans Taeger has a nephew in Germany who would like to come to the U.S. as a Journalistic - Trainee, anyone with newspaper- magazine contacts talk to Hans

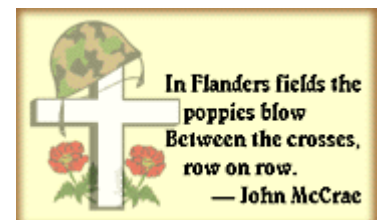
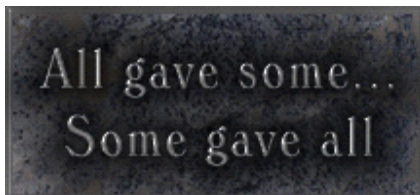
REMINDER RMC holiday luncheon in December. will be at the Red Lion Ed Pierce is the chairman. sign up next meeting.

Air Force Concert Tuesday Nov 12 Free tickets see Tom Somma

Speaker Mr Kilgren from Danbury Social Security He gave a very interesting and informative talk. If you have question contact the Danbury office .If you dont get satisfaction...You now have a friend in Dave Kilgren the Area Manager so call him if you need special help.

Thanks to Tom Somma who shops for donuts and makes the coffee. we even had some halloween cider to enjoy..

Good refreshments and good programs- Lets not take these or the men responsible for them for granted. they are the essence of our club.. Ed Gilchrist, Editor



Memorial Day, 2009

**Phil Sheridan
Requiem In Peace**



Phil Sheridan a long time RMC member died on April 17, 2009. Phil was 89 years old and except for the last few months of his life lived and acted as if he could go on forever.

Most of his working years were spent with the FBI. He retired in 1970 after 33 years of service. During WWII he commanded a sub-chaser in the South Pacific.

Phil and Kathleen moved to Ridgefield and lived here for 27 years, enough time to raise and educate nine children. He was active in our community during that time as a member of the American Legion and the Knights Of Columbus where he was a member of the Rev John D. Kennedy Assembly 4th Degree as well as the local Marquette Council 3rd degree. He was an active member of St. Mary's parish where he served as a Eucharistic Minister, Lector and

Usher. He and Kathleen had been married for 63 years.

Phil had a no nonsense approach to life probably developed and honed in the military and FBI. I think those of us who knew him well would characterize him as a straight talker and thinker. You always knew where you stood with Phil. His presence in our lives will be missed, he lived a full and happy life and the accomplishments of those 89 years will not be soon forgotten and will be carried on in our community by many of his children who still work and live here.

The members of the RMC send their heart felt sympathies to Kathleen and all of his wonderful family members. A suitable donation will be sent in his name to a charity of the family's choice

What's Up?

(con't, from page 7)

Any questions or wish to enroll call Ed Van Den Ameele at 431 3183

Ladies Luncheon:

The Ladies Luncheon this year will be held at Le Chateau, June 3. The event of the season, sign up **NOW!**

In Memoriam:

Traditionally May is the month we remember those of us who have passed on, so I would like to close out this May edition of the News letter by remembering those of our members who have passed on since May 2008

Bill Yule

Tom Sheehy

Jerry Brown

Marshall Shaw

Phil Sheridan

Gone but not Forgotten

