



Waunakee Rotary Club

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Every man is faced with tough choices in his life. Gordon Meffert's were a bit more unusual, however.

The Waunakee native had to choose whether to continue his career in the Navy, open a dental practice, or resume race car driving.

Gordon shared his experiences with the Waunakee Rotary Club during his classification talk Feb. 4. He passed around a photograph from 1972 that the Tribune recently published of him with his race car. And he circulated a Shaker oval box made with pegs, saying both it and the car had artistic and aesthetic value, something his profession as a dentist provides for, as well.

Race car driving is a combination of "violence and finesse," Gordon said. "It's an art. A man builds a machine and competes against other machines."

Gordon's family came to the Waunakee area in 1847. His grandfather was 10 years old when his parents moved here, and both of Meffert's parents grew up on roads that bore their family names, he said.

In 1953, Gordon's father bought the land along Hwy. 113 from the state of Wisconsin. Today, Gordon's dental practice sits there. Gordon went to St. John's School and Waunakee High School, then attended Marquette University and gained early acceptance to dental school. About that time, he bought the race car. He was named rookie of the year by Sports Club of America, and went on to race in Formula 1 events before he was commissioned to the Navy.

He eventually decided to pursue dentistry, feeling that he had a duty to put his medical training to use, he said. While he has missed racing, he is more excited about the future, he

said.

Gordon pursued his dental practice with his wife, Marilyn, whom he taught to be his assistant. The Mefferts have three children, Spencer, Wyatt and Anistar.

"The practice, I used to say, was for 3 to 93," Gordon said about his patients' ages. "Now it's 1 to 100."

Gordon said that he provides well baby checks and has elderly patients, too.

"I love the work. I find it technically interesting," he said.

But the people are the most enjoyable part of his work, he added.

Gordon was previously a Rotary member and left the club in 1989. Ray Statz remembered that Gordon took over writing the newsletter and waxed so poetic, he significantly expanded its length.

Also at the Feb. 4 meeting, the club met in committee. The following are some of the reports:

- Pat Durden of membership said thank you notes with invitations to a club meeting have been sent to Rotary Lights brochure contributors.

- President Tom Reis said scholarship applications will be going out to high school seniors, so if you know of seniors who are not children of Rotarians, encourage them to apply.

- Linda Olson said the board approved \$750 for a Haiti Outreach program. Ben and Diane Ballweg are planning a trip there. See Linda for Ben's number if you'd like to go. Also, Linda and Bill Erickson are going to Guatemala to work on the well project. The cost to go is about \$1,000. Check with Bill soon if you'd like to join them. The board also approved \$100 to continue a microlending project with Arboretum Elementary School and will soon be looking for books to

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Calendar of Events:

- Feb. 5-7, Winter weekend for Rotary Exchange students
- Feb. 7, Super Bowl
- Feb. 20, Hypnotist show benefit for Waunakee Community Foundation
- May 17, Jachin Jordan Golf Outing a Bishop's Bay

send to the Philippines.

•Ray Kuehl noted that Super Raffle tickets are on sale, and members are needed to help sell them. The Super Raffle is March 3.

Other items:

•The club inducted Becky Ohan as a member – finally! She has attended several meetings.

•Tom said the club is looking for a WaunaFest chair person to attend those meetings.

Guests: Ray Kuehl, guest of Rex Endres.

Visiting Rotarians: None.

Birthdays: Feb. 11, Phil Willems; Feb. 11, Ron Ballweg; Feb. 15, Dave Kruchten.

Anniversaries: None.

Prayers: Feb. 11, Susan Vergeront; Feb. 18, Leonard Allen; Feb. 25, Pat Durden.

Programs: Feb. 11, Navigating Rotary's Web site; Feb. 18, Dr. Jim Davis on leadership; Feb. 25, Kevin Even and Susan Hedrick on plans for a new library.

Greeters: Feb. 11, Robert Lenz and Jim Leonard; Feb. 18, Joyce Maly and David May; Feb. 25, Joy McMerty and Gordon Meicher.