



LODI ROTARY



SERVICE Above Self

STRIPPINGS

JUNE 15, 2006

OUR SPEAKER TODAY IS CARRIE VANDERKAR

ROTARY YEAR
2005-2006

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Paul Donovan, probably the only man in this club who has ever shot his age in the grand and royal game of golf, saved the day again last week by telling one and all of his most recent trip to Europe in which he traced the various historical episodes across the Continent from the World War II pursuit of the German army from Normandy to Der Vaterland. The one thing you can say about Paul is that, like his namesake, the Saul who became Paul, he ain't scared of nothin'. Taking a trip like that at the tender age of 80 plus, is daunting enough, but to try it with only three pairs of clean shorts is a downright test of a man's ability to withstand pain.

Paul went on to talk about the matter of people killing one another over what amounts to dubious principle. I told my kids 40 years ago that there would be a huge war over religion, and even then turned right around and found that historically speaking, there had been something like 15,000 documented wars since Jesus was here. He is sitting in heaven saying to Himself, "You people aren't doing what I told you!"

I don't believe I read where He used the phrase, "Go ye forth and kill one another."

Actually, he probably spoke a type of Hebrew rather than King James' English. I do remember hearing about the religious southerner who heard about yet another revision of the Bible said, "If the King James Version was good enough for Jesus, it's good enough for me."

This could easily segue to the matter of how Rotary is trying to save the planet. This has been mentioned before, but there is only one real motive in Rotary and that is service. I honestly think

Rotary does good simply for the sake of doing good...there are no trades.

The Red Cross has been known to sell donuts and coffee, the Salvation Army usually wants you to listen to the sermon before you taste the soup, and they know as you do, you can't learn or concentrate on an empty stomach.

Right now there are some incredible atrocities happening in the Middle African over issues that ostensibly involve matters of belief. I saw a documentary in which Muslim soldiers simply went in, killed the men in some villages and let the women and kids fend for themselves and starve.

There has been ethnic cleansing here and there, the Balkans were the site of impossible sounding cruelty. That issue is still not solved; [Jane Wiebe](#) can tell you that. Anarchy is still the rule as it is in Somalia and elsewhere...like the United State Senate.

North Dakota was cruel, but that was the weather and the half of those people who ended up in Lodi and began a life of literal luxury in comparison.

Enough fun news.

The speaker today is Carrie Vanderkar, who represents Hospice. The people who work there are the salt of the earth to be sure.

Speaking of which, [Thalia](#) and [Sally](#) were a couple of the big influences with the Cancer Walk this past week and them guys raised a quarter million bucks to help in the war on cancer. There are a lot of people who are still with us over the fact so much research has gone on in that continuing effort. The latest is a cyberknife, a radiation unit that delivers the beams of radiation to precise areas of involvement to make it possible to treat specific spots of cancerous involvement in a manner that is kind to surrounding tissue.

The bad news is the walk raised a quarter million, the cyperknife costs four and one half million...