



LODI ROTARY



SERVICE Above Self

STRIPPINGS

JULY 6, 2006

ROTARY YEAR
2005-2006

**ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT
CARL WILHELM
STENHAMMER**

**DISTRICT 5220
DISTRICT GOVERNOR
MARK OLIVER**

**PRESIDENT
MIKE SMITH**

**PRESIDENT ELECT
JERRY EVANS**

**SECRETARY/TREASURER
WALT AND JERRY**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RON BECKMAN
STEVE DARLING
KAREN DILLARD
JERRY EVANS
TERRY HICKEY
CHRIS LITTLEFIELD
RON METTLER
PAT PATRICK
STEVE SENIOR
SCOTT WILSON**

**FOUNDATION CHAIR
JERRY FRY**

**STRIPPINGS EDITOR
BOB BADER**

On November 18, 1960, in a little log cabin by the Tualatin River just south of Portland, Oregon, a son was born unto the Smith Family. Dad was a minister of the gospel and mom was proud as punch. Michael grew into a man and attended Diablo Valley College, where his dad became a professor of psychology as well as a minister. The stipulation there on the part of the student, Mike, was that no one was to learn of the connection between psychology student Mike and psychology professor dad, a wonderful man who was a peace activist, and as time passed, Mike also marched in Peace Movement Parades where he met Martin Luther King and other notables of the movement. The fact Mike is still an activist in the care and keeping of young people tells us that his kind and generous heart probably was rooted in the lovely family and kind heritage from which he arose which, through natural progression, he and his wife confer on their family. Mike went on to graduate from Fresno State College where he learned the art and science of Structural Engineering.

In 1985, Mike found his way to Lodi where he met and entered into a business union with one of Lodi Rotary's finest, a fellow named Victor Meyer and, as time passed, became the sole owner of a successful business now known as The Leslie Smith and Husband Engineering Enterprise.

In truth, Vic Meyer passed away and the natural course of events led to Mike taking over the business. Mike joined Rotary in 1991 and soon became a most invaluable member who, in his sincere desire to aid in the betterment of society, became involved in the Camp Royal program, which is now known as Camp RYLA, (Rotary Youth Leadership Association), and has been the literal spark plug of the Lodi branch of that tree. Mike has also helped

with the founding of the Rotaract Club at the Jim Elliott Christian High School.

In the past few years, every Rotary activity, especially the various benefits conferred on the community, have the words "Mike Smith" written on them because he has the willing spirit and the technical training to make projects of almost any kind come to life. The man is a dream come true for every service club because without a number of such heroes, the whole matter of service to others would suffer.

For Mike, the transition will be a lot easier from Program Chairman to Club President than what was usual because of two things: Number One, the immediate Past President kindly arranged his schedule to make it possible for Mike to have numerous opportunities to take the gavel (when it was here) and learn the business of running meetings even before the PET seminar where such things are taught every year was even offered, and the Past President should be recognized for that. Number Two: The Immediate Past President didn't feel it was absolutely necessary for this President to wear a tie at every dadgum meeting as was the case with the dictatorial mentor of Past President Virgil Suess, who still has chafed spots on his neck and throat from having to observe the spit and polish and tight neckwear that was foisted on him by the former prison warden, W. H. Friesen, the Scourge of the Tieless. We love Walt and don't want you to get the idea he wasn't right. Even Arnold Schwarzenegger has been seen with a shirt open at the neck, and goodness knows, the last thing we need is a little less dignity from our politicians. (Note to Mike Smith, "Don't take this personally. You have dignity no matter how you are dressed.")

Mike is married to Leslie and they have two children whom you met at the Copenhagen Meeting two weeks ago. Let me assure you, those kids don't drink even though photographic evidence may have shown otherwise. With kids their ages, warm Irish beer just doesn't cut it, period.

Congratulations, Mike Smith, on your elevation to the presidency to a small segment of the greatest service club in the world. You can take the knowledge forever with you that you had an active hand in making the world a better place because of your role here in Lodi and your support of the world-wise organization that will be forever remembered as the club that did great things in small ways for others simply because the need was there and that the club did its good works for precisely for the joy in giving, expecting absolutely nothing in return.