

## **THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE**

### **Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley**

POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428

WEB SITES: [rotary.org](http://rotary.org) [rotary5470.org](http://rotary5470.org) [northforkrotary.org](http://northforkrotary.org)

Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall

District 5470

Club 1180 - Chartered 12/20/22

Vol 58 Issue 40 – November 21, 2019

Guest Editor: Bain Weinberger

**LAST MEETING: November 14, 2019**

President Coombe presided.

Visiting Rotarians: None

Key Guest: None

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- No Meeting on 11/28, 12/26 or 1/2
- The highway cleanup last Saturday was successful. Bud Light won the award for most litter with over 60 cans recovered.
- Felix' last radio show will be this Sunday at Noon. He and Dennis will be announcing the start of a special fund drive to purchase an emergency generator for the primary transmitter to allow KVNF to remain on the air in the event of a power failure (which is common in the summer). This marks the end of Felix' 40-year tenure on KVNF. Felix said it is time to allow for some fresh ideas.
- Sarah Jacobson passed away on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. She spent 8 days on life support. There was some sort of electrical problem with her heart that caused it to malfunction. A celebration of life will be held November 23<sup>rd</sup> (which would have been her birthday) from 1-2 PM at Shadescapes in Hotchkiss. A memorial fund has been set up at the United Business Bank. There is also a GoFundMe set up for contributions.
- Treasurer Bishop has applied for a grant from Rotary (in combination with the Rotary clubs in Montrose, Cedaredge and Delta) for scholarships. The clubs will be donating \$4000, which will hopefully be matched for a total of \$8000.
- Treasurer Bishop has also secured a \$2000 grant from The West Elk Community Fund to assist with the refurbishment of Poulos Park. As part of paving the paths in the park, a hop-scotch grid was permanently embossed in the concrete according to park neighbor Felix.
- A new tree in memory of Sam Parks has been planted in the park to replace an earlier tree that had to be removed. A re-dedication will take place in the Spring when the tree is in bloom.
- A banner of ribbons was displayed on the wall containing awards the Club won for:
  - Winning the Chili Cookoff in 1987 and 1988
  - The highest percentage of membership growth in the District in 1990
  - District Conference Attendance in 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1985
  - Fourth place in weekly attendance in 1984 and 1985
- The football pool was won by Glenn who only missed a single game with 14 out of 15 correct.

## Program: President Eisenhower

Ulli introduced Forrest Carver who grew up in Gettysburg and became friends with Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower between the years of 1961 and 1965.

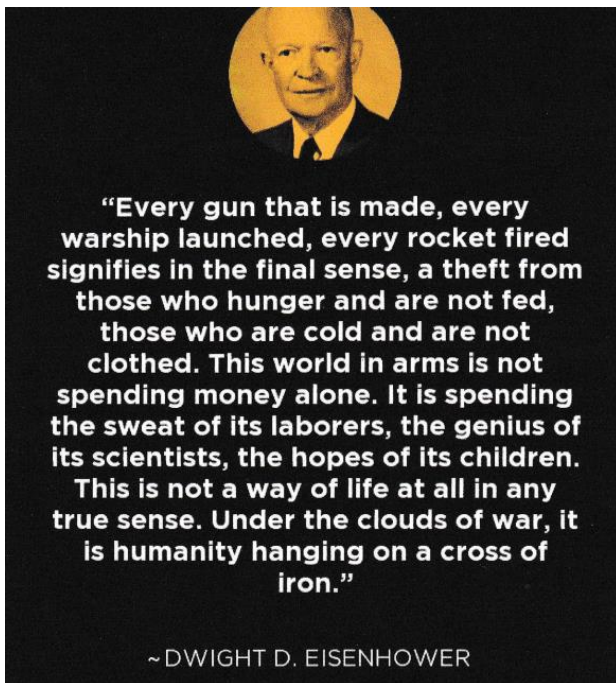
Forrest began by mentioning his long association with Rotary, both through friends and neighbors who were members, as well as having been a member himself for a period of time. He said he had been working as a fundraiser for various organizations for over 53 years. He has lived in Paonia for five years.

He said his family owned a flower shop in Gettysburg for 45 years. The Eisenhower's would order flowers from the shop for various events. Forrest, who was 16 at the time, would make the deliveries. Meeting and spending time with the Eisenhower's made a deep impact on his life. He said Eisenhower just wanted to be called "General", not "President Eisenhower".

The former President, his wife and Forrest would sit on the Eisenhower's front porch drinking lemonade and discussing history. Eisenhower told Forrest the story of making the decision to launch the D-Day invasion with threatening weather that might doom the invasion. The forecast was 50-50 for success or failure. Eisenhower flipped a coin to make the decision that changed the course of history.

Eisenhower also became very emotional and began to cry when recounting the trauma of entering the German death camps and seeing the stacks of bodies, especially children. He said Eisenhower told him even then, that 40-50 years in the future, people would deny that the horror of killing 6 million Jews ever took place.

Forrest provided several handouts to the group, including a copy of Eisenhower's farewell address, the Wikipedia entry for Eisenhower, photos of the Eisenhower estate in Gettysburg quote below from his First Inaugural Address:



In his Farewell Address, Eisenhower coined the phrase "Military Industrial Complex". He was deeply concerned that the large industrial companies involved in military production were funding (and thereby corrupting) the major universities in the US.

Forrest said that, at this time, well over 50% of the tax money collected in the US goes to the military. [It was 54% of *discretionary* spending in 2015 according to the National Priorities Project – Ed.]

In Gettysburg, Forrest became friends with both historian David McCullough and filmmaker Ken Burns. Those two have designed a 2½ day historical tour encompassing Jefferson's Monticello, Washington's Mt Vernon and Gettysburg.

Eisenhower was a deeply religious man and attended the Presbyterian church every Sunday. He and Mamie sat in the

pew behind the one President Lincoln sat in when he visited the church while in Gettysburg to deliver his famous address.

Eisenhower is now considered to have been one of the top 10 presidents. He was dignified and treated everyone with honor.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Member</b>
11/21/2019	Charles Stewart	Town of Paonia update	Bob Lario
11/28/2019		no meeting (Thanksgiving)	
12/5/2019			Ed Bliss
12/12/2019	Scott and Cari Johnson	Forest Service Project up Stephens Gulch to improve Elk habitat	Jackie Parks
12/19/2019	Kelly Yeager	Delta County planner (12/12 & 12/19 speakers may swap dates)	Kevin Parks
12/26/2019		no meeting (Boxing Day)	
1/2/2020		no meeting	
1/9/2020			Karri Polson
1/16/2020	Emily Wassell	Paonia Experiential Leadership Academy	Greg Thompson
1/23/2020			Norm Lewark
1/30/2020		Fifth Thursday	
2/6/2020			Felix Belmont
2/13/2020			Bill Bishop
2/20/2020			Sarah Bishop



