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Shrimporee—NO DATE

Marvin Matthews, who is deceased and a former president, of Space Center Rotary, was the founder of the Space Center Rotary Club Shrimporee and Auction. A friend of his told him about the Brazosport Rotary Fish fry and Auction. Marvin got several people in the club to go down and watch their event. They were very impressed. Along with them on that trip were Al Jowid and Don Qjick. The idea for the event was proposed to the club board and approved. Marvin became chairman, Al Jowid volunteered to fry fish and Don Augic agreed to handle the auction. Those involved in the planning felt that the hard work during the event would give the members an excellent opportunity to get to know each other better whether it made an money or not. We accomplished both goals.

The auction committee did not have a lot of hope until Mr. McCree with McCree Ford heard about the even. He was a member of the Dickinson Rotary Club and he wanted to shake his club into action so he donated a used car. This woke the committee up and we learned the sky was the limit. We went to Norman Frede and Chuck Miller, and they donated used cars. Both Norman and Chuck have continued to do this every year. Their contributions have been enormous.

The auction items that sell are sometimes hard to understand, but some of the items that do sell well are popular dolls, stuffed animals (the larger the better), golf clubs, shotguns, cars, paintings, jewelry, video games and bicycles. Small-dollar items and gift certificates are very difficult to sell at reasonable prices, and often are not worth the time expended.

We have had several auctioneers over the years, but Harris County Commissioner Jim Fonteno has by far been the best. Judge Steven Phelps has long been Jim's assistant and has made a large contribution. The giving of their time and talent has meant a great deal to the success of the auction.