



**RAMBLINGS FROM THE TOP**

by Terry Hesson

Dateline Houston - June 23, 1993

Our new Blastoff editor, Gene Oley, has been harassing me for three days now for a year-end article for the bulletin. I have not had the time nor the inclination to sit down and write such prose. I cannot put him off any longer, so here it is.

The timing is right but these will be ramblings - random thoughts about the last year.

I just returned from putting my 16 year old daughter on an airplane for a three week Rotary Youth Exchange to Stuttgart, Germany. I know that Alan Wylie, Karen Birchenough and LaWann Tull preach to us about how wonderful the exchange program is, and indeed the many students I have met through this program have been fantastic young people, but putting Lindsey on that airplane today was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do. I know it will be a highlight of her life for the rest of her life, but for Daddy it was awful. And to think Karen parted with her son for an entire year and the Wylies's are giving up Aaron for a year in August. j It's tough, folks.

I don't know how much room Gene has saved for me but I hope there's still room. I said this would be rambling, right?

I guess every Rotary club president is very hesitant at the beginning of their year (right, Vic?) but you eventually settle in. You have a lot of goals and great expectations in July but a lot of things happen between July 1 and June 30 of the following year. If you reach all of your goals, maybe you didn't have them high enough. We did not reach all of our goals this year but we did have some lofty ones. This is a volunteer organization and you can only demand and expect so much. If a committee chairperson does not do what you expected of them, you can't fire them or kick them out of the club. Fortunately we only had a few chairpersons who did not achieve their full potential. Most of our 52 committee chair people did their jobs in an admirable fashion. A few went way above and beyond their assigned duties and were honored at my last meeting on June 28, 1993.

I want to thank my officers and directors for doing an outstanding job this year. I have served on the board of directors in our club for seven years and I know that I have had the best group of people to serve with in the history of the Space Center Rotary Club. These are the people who get up early on the first and third Tuesdays of every month to attend our 7:00 AM board meetings. Until you do that, you don't realize what a sacrifice it really is. The other thing you don't realize unless you really get into it is that we have one of the best Rotary clubs in the

entire world. You're saying "yeah, right, sure". But we do. At the dedication of Rotary International in Houston last year, I had the supreme pleasure of meeting, talking to and having my picture made with Dr. Clifford Dochterman, President of Rotary International. When I mentioned Space Center Rotary Club, he knew who we were and he knew of Project Free Enterprise (which David Taylor started) and our Junior Interact Club at Clear Lake Intermediate School. Around the district we are known, respected and envied. For me to have served this club as President is an honor beyond your imagination. To have my name considered in the same text as such people as Marvin Matthews, Al Jowid, Chuck Jacobson, Frank Morgan, Charles Hartman, Bob Wren, Billy Weseman, Billy Smith, Jack Lister, and my Rotary mentor, Floyd Boze, still humbles me and amazes me. It has been an incredible year and I know Vic's year will be as rewarding for him as mine has been for me. To serve as a Rotary club president is one of the greatest honors of a lifetime. To serve as the President of the Space Center Rotary Club is an honor beyond belief. I want to thank A.B. Olsen, who was my sponsor in this club and Jim Hargrove, who called me one Saturday afternoon while I was covered with dirt working in the garden and asked me if I would be willing to run for the board of directors of the Space Center Rotary Club. What a ride it has been! The best wish I can wish for all of my Space Center Rotarians is that you someday have the opportunity to serve as President of this incredible organization. It is truly the thrill of a lifetime.

Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart. I love you all. It has been a wonderful experience.

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