



# SPACE CENTER ROTARY CLUB BLASTOFF

The Space Center Rotary Club  
meets on Mondays, 11:45 a.m.  
at the Nassau Bay Hilton

Rotary International District 5890

"Real Happiness is Helping Others"



Rotary International President: Clifford Dochterman  
District 5890 Governor: Billy Weseman  
Club President: Vic Maria

BLASTOFF STAFF: Editor: Gene Oley, Photographers: Vince  
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Production: Bob Frost, Advertisement Billing: Bill Lowes

AUGUST 30 1993

## WHAT'S NEWS

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### PROGRAMS

- AUG 30 Bill Taylor & the Shrimporee Boys
- SEP 6 Holiday (No Meeting)
- SEP 13 TX General Land Comm, Garry Mauro
- SEP 20 CL Transportation Partnership, Chuck Jacobson

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### EVENTS

- AUG 30 GOLF FUND-RAISER FOR SHRIMPOREE
- SEP 12 VIP SNEAK PREVIEW
- SEP 18 SHRIMPOREE
- DEC 10 CHRISTMAS PARTY

### SICK LIST

- Terry Hesson's Father Passed Away
- Carlos Villagomez is home recuperating from lung surgery
- Floyd Boze was in the hospital for his diabetes checkup



### SHRIMPOREE

This years shrimporee will be held on Saturday, September 18 at the usual place (Cap Landolt Pavilion in Clear Lake Park. Tickets are \$10 at the door or at the meeting. Our president expects each of us to buy or sell 20 tickets. If you would like, you may donate any or all of your tickets to charity.

### VIP SNEAK PREVIEW

This years VIP sneak preview will be held on Sunday September 12th from 7 to 10 PM in our regular meeting room in the Hilton. Tickets are at the door. Fabulous items are to be auctioned. Entertainment includes: singers, magicians, a choir, a karate demonstration, etc.

## SEP 21 ASTROS NIGHT

Orders must be in by Sep 1st

How's that Governor?

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REMEMBRANCES OF CHILDHOOD BASEBALL

By Lionel Garcia

We loved to baseball. We would take the old mesquite stick and the old ball across the street to the parochial school grounds to play a game. Father Zavala enjoyed watching us. We could hear him laugh mightily from the screened porch at the rear of the rectory where he sat smoking his cigarettes.

The way we played baseball was to rotate around after every "out". One person would play first base, which was where one would normally find second base. This made the batter have to run past the pitcher and a long way to first base, increasing the odds of getting thrown "out". First base was the only base we used. We believed there were too many bases in baseball. The pitcher stood in line with the batter and first base and could be as close or as far from the batter as he or she wanted. There would be a pitcher, and a catcher. All the rest of us would stand in the outfield. After an "out" the catcher would come up to bat. The pitcher would then be the catcher. The first baseman would move up to be the pitcher. Those in the outfield were left to their own devices. I don't remember ever coming up to bat.

There was one exception to the rotation scheme. I don't know who thought of this but whoever caught the ball on the fly would go directly to be the batter. This was not a popular thing to do. One would expect to be thrown out on the next pitch. Except for Juan and Matias and Cota we never caught the ball on the fly. There was no set distance for first base. First base was wherever Matias or Juan or Cota threw a stone down. They were the

law. It could have been a long way to run or not, depending on how soon we thought we were going to be called in to eat. The size of the stone marking the base mattered more than the distance from home plate to first base. If we hadn't been called in to eat by dusk, first base was hard to find. Sometimes someone would kick the stone farther away and arguments erupted.

When the batter hit the ball in the air and it was caught that was an "out". So far so good. But if the ball was hit on the ground the fielder had two choices. The ball could be thrown to the first baseman. If the throw beat the batter to the base that was an "out". But, more interestingly, with ball in hand, the fielder could take off running after the batter. When close enough, the fielder would throw the ball at the batter. If the batter was hit with the ball before reaching first base, the batter was "out". If the batter evaded being hit with the ball, he or she could run to first base but would have to run back to home plate. All the while, everyone was running after the batter picking up the ball and throwing it at him or her. To complicate matters, the batter, on the way home plate, had the choice of running anywhere possible to avoid getting hit. For example, the batter could run to hide behind the hackberry trees until he or she could make it safely back to home plate. Many a time we would wind up playing the game past Father Zavala and in front of the rectory half a block away. Or we could be seen running after the batter several blocks down the street toward town trying to hit the batter with the

ball. One time we wound up all the way across town before we cornered Juan against a fence, held him down and hit with the ball. Afterwards, we fell in a pile on top of each other laughing, exhausted from the run through town.

The old codgers, the old shiftless men who spent their day talking at the street corners, never caught on to what we were doing. They would halt their idle conversation just long enough to watch us run by them, hollering, throwing the old ball at the batter.

It was the only baseball Father Zavala had ever seen. What a wonderful game it must have been for him, to see us hit the ball, run to a rock, then run for our life down the street. He loved the game, shouting from the screened porch at us, pushing us on. And then all of a sudden we were gone, running after the batter. What a game! In what enormous stadium would it be played to allow such freedom over such an expanse of ground?

My uncle Adolfo, who had pitched for the Yankees and the Cardinals in the majors, had given us the ball several years back. When he returned to visit one time he saw us playing from across the street and walked over to ask us what we were doing?

"Playing baseball," we answered as though we thought he should know better. After all he was a professional baseball player.

He walked away shaking his head, probably marveling at our ignorance.

A VISIT FROM OUR GOVERNOR

By Gene Oley

8-16-93 Governor Billy Weseman and his wife Rotarian Anne Weseman visited with us today.

His visit was marked with good feelings, good will and memories of old times.

(For those who don't know---both Billy and Anne are Members of our club)

Governor Weseman told us we were the third largest club in the district! (prompting the question--- who's on first?). Each year, he said, 1400 scholarships are awarded through Rotary. The 500,000th child received vaccine from the polio plus program.

This year we are going to concentrate on the Rotary Foundation, and starting goodwill in Mexico City.

Gifts were exchanged between the Governors family and the Presidents family at the end.

But wait Billy asked to make sure everyone knew about the Astros Night date being changed to September 21.

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Dear Fellow Rotarian:

Bill Taylor, Chairman

I just wanted to remind you that if you haven't solicited any items for the Shrimporee Auction, IT IS NOW TIME TO GET STARTED!

PLEASE NOTE THAT in lieu of sending a list of strangers for you to call, we are asking you to approach a minimum of five people of your choice! This will be a good time for some of your associates to "return the favor" for all the contributions you have made to their charities! Don't wait for another letter. Just pull out the old Rolodex and spend thirty minutes making some phone calls.

If you wish to try some "door knocking" or call on specific types of business, the Auction Committee wants you for the A-Team! Please call one of the following:

Restaurants & Hotels	Vann Jones	483-6027
Retail	Tom Kropp	333-2555
Major Corporations	David Murphy	945-6331
Professional Services	Eddie Janek, Jr	280-3906
All other	Gene Oley	280-0444

September 1, 1993 will be the cutoff date for any contributors and their items to be listed in a publication that will be distributed by Gene Oley's Auction Committee. Contributors of items received after that will receive acknowledgment at the Shrimporee.

If you don't think you have the time, please remember that there are several members of this club that will end up spending an equivalent of two week's vacation time to make this year's Shrimporee a success. Please take a lunch hour off and make some calls yourself!

Finally, you should have your meal tickets by now. If not, contact David Baldwin. We are asking that NO TICKETS BE TURNED IN. Please sell them, buy them yourself and give them away, or buy them and donate them back to the club for distribution to deserving persons.

The Shrimporee can't be a success without you doing two things: First, get the tickets into the public's hands so they will show up. Second help us secure quality auction items that the public will be interested on bidding. GEAR UP FOR ROTARY! Bill Taylor, Chairman

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To place an advertisement contact Gene Oley

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