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ERNIE AYALA RECEIVES HIXON

Ernie Ayala, immediate past president of the Rosemead Kiwanis Club, was presented the coveted Hixon award at the Club's October 12, 2006, meeting.



Frank DiNoto; Ernie and Fran Ayala

In making the award, past Kiwanis International President Frank DiNoto cited Ernie's willingness to complete the unexpired term of his predecessor, who unexpectedly resigned due to a move. Ernie then served his own full term.

His tenure was highlighted by the initial Garvey School District after-school contract (funded by the Rosemead Kiwanis Foundation), recruiting of after-school partners, expansion of the RIF (Reading is Funda-

mental) program, starting inter-generational programs, establishing the Rosemeadkiwanis.org website and inauguration of the RKC Reporter Newsletter. In addition to the increase in activities there have also *(See "Ayala" - page 3)*

CMI Craft Group Joins With RKC

Several residents at the California Mission Inn are actively utilizing crafts to assist RKC and other programs, according to Kiwanian Elizabeth Landing.

"These ladies are talented and terrific." Elizabeth says. "One is even making reindeer out of washcloths for the holidays. Others are doing wreaths and afghans."

Multiple skills – such as crocheting, needlepoint and knitting – are being utilized in parallel. Some apply existing talents; others are newly acquired. A principal project is making baby hats for newborns as part of the Kiwanis Baby Hat program for newborn infants. Hospital rules permit only green white pink and blue yarn. Other colors can have adverse

consequences. Lavender and yellow, for example, can make babies look jaundiced.

The effort is not limited to CMI residents. Others, such as Mes. Freddi Kay, mother of Kiwanian Jan Mackay, have also been contributing to the hat project. All interested individuals with crafts skills or desiring to acquire them are welcome.

Rosemead
Kiwanis
Club

'Since 1945'

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RKC SOAP REPORT – October, 2006

(SOAP = "Supported Organizations and Projects" of the Rosemead Kiwanis Club; for information on K-family groups and partners mentioned here please see links on the right side of the rosemeadkiwanis.org website home page)

ROSEMEAD CLUB GARNERS NEW MEMBERS

Rosemead Kiwanis has recently added a number of new members. They include:

Michael Alley – California Mission Inn

Pablo Garcia – Woodcraft Rangers

Jorge Lopez— Wal-Mart Rosemead Manager

Ann Lotsinger – Maryvale Group Home

Fred Moscarro - Rosemead School District Board

Amy Perez - Rosemead School District Superintendent

MISSION INN CAR SHOW/FAIR SUCCESS

The RHS KEY club pitched in with ten hours of volunteer time at the California Mission Inn's Fun Faire and Antique Show on Saturday, September 23, 2006.

According to Club Secretary Tina Ngo, "Many of the cars were old models and seemed to be in top condition (from Thunderbirds to Cadillacs, etc). They were "classic," as the name of the event

suggested, and the many visitors seemed to enjoy them.

"KEY Club's volunteers spent their time helping decorate the area with balloons, etc. as well as preparing some food."

The show also featured live entertainment and clowns. It is the latest in an ongoing series of CMI events intended for both residents of the Inn and the general Rosemead community.

AKTION CLUB UNDER WAY

The new San Gabriel Valley AKTION Club has begun serving the community, reports advisor and Kiwanian Mario Manzano.

The Club's first project was assisting a local food bank. Rose float

decoration, donation of equipment to Garvey schools and assisting Rosemead's Savannah Cemetery are being considered.

The Club is based at the Lincoln Training Center (LTC), which has a long history of affiliation to Rosemead Kiwanis (see the October, 2005, issue of the *RKC Reporter*), but is not limited to LTC employees. It is hoped that there will be participants from throughout the San Gabriel Valley area.

ORPHANAGE CELEBRATES 150 YEAR MILESTONE

The Maryvale Group Home (formerly known as the Maryvale Orphanage), located on Graves Street in Rose-

mead, celebrated its 150th anniversary this month (October, 2006). Home today to the Garvey District's Logsdon School and several Kiwanis projects, the facility began in 1856 on the site of the current Los Angeles Union Station. This makes it the oldest charity in Southern California.

Founded by the Sisters of Charity, the orphanage within one year grew to accommodate 120 children. By 1891, the Alameda site could no longer accommodate the demand. The sisters moved to a larger home in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles for 62 years. It was then called simply the (See "SOAP," page 4)



New San Gabriel Valley AKTION Club

(Ayala - (from page 1)

been improved relationships with the Rosemead High School and Don Bosco Technical Institute KEY Clubs as well as the Muscatel and Logsdon Builders Clubs. The final month of his term saw the addition of a Rosemead Kiwanis sponsored ACTION Club at the Lincoln Training Center.

“These two years,” said DiNoto, himself a Kiwanian for nearly fifty years, “have been one of the most rapid periods of change in the history of the Club. “

Ernie will not be retiring from Rosemead Kiwanis as he leaves office. He remains on the Board and will become the Club’s liaison with the Don Bosco KEY Club.

The Don Bosco KEY Club is currently involved primarily in assisting with student tutoring in the Saturday

program at the Garvey Intermediate School. It is hoped that the Club will become more involved with community service and inter-generational projects.

Ernie’s background

Ernie is a Rosemead insurance agent and past President of the Rosemead Chamber of Commerce, married and a decorated Viet Nam war veteran.

He is noted nationally as a professional military dog handler and currently serves as sergeant at arms for the national Viet Nam Veterans Dog Handlers Association.

He is also a Los Angeles native, born in East Los Angeles, and the father of 5 children, now grown, with 13 children of their own.

Unlike most people of Hispanic heritage, he is a third generation Baptist, harking back to a

unique event in the life of his grandfather.

In the Mexican civil war against Pancho Villa Ernie’s grandfather worked as a municipal policeman for the Mexican Federales. Villa’s agents tried in vain to capture and kill him.

Ernie’s grandfather instead took refuge for several months in a small Baptist church in Mexico. While there he met people who so impressed him that he adopted the Baptist faith. The family has been Baptist ever since.

After graduating from Garfield High School in 1963 Ernie enrolled in East LA College intending to become a policeman but was drafted. Under the rules at that time he chose to enlist with the idea of going to Germany as an MP.

In a surprise development he became one of 32 men (out of a class of 400) sent to Okinawa for canine training and then on to Viet Nam. Despite initial reservations he came to enjoy the canine corps.

Coming out of the service, Ernie went to Columbia College, then located in Hollywood but now in Sherman Oaks, majoring in television broadcasting. (He notes this school is associated with Columbia College in Chicago, not the Columbia School of Broadcasting or the Columbia Broadcasting System).

After a stint doing editorial writing, community service spots and public relations with KNX radio, he moved to a variety of television jobs with KNBC, KCBS and finally as news anchor for six years on Theta Cable television.

(See “Ayala,” page 4)

KIWANIS AREA CLUB MEETINGS

There are regular meetings of other Kiwanis clubs in our area, including those listed below. For current date and time information please visit our rosemeadkiwanis.org website and click on the 'Meetings' link.

- Alhambra
- Altadena/Crown City
- El Monte
- Arcadia
- Montebello
- Monterey Park
- Pasadena
- San Gabriel
- Pico Rivera
- San Marino
- Sierra Madre
- South El Monte
- South Pasadena
- Temple City

SOAP (from page 2)

Angeles Orphanage.” Over 9,000 girls came and went through its doors..

Shocks from an earthquake and a blast from a nearby construction project caused significant damage to the building.

In 1950 Countess Estelle Doheny donated a 14-acre parcel on Graves Street. By 1957 180 girls were calling Maryvale home.

Today numbers are much smaller. There are only 73 residents, all abused girls placed in Maryvale’s care by court order.

Care procedures are far more individualized and therapeutic but the objective is the same as a hundred and fifty years ago: to not only provide stability, but to instill fulfillment, dignity and self-esteem.

Rosemead Kiwanis has been involved with Logsdon School at Maryvale through sponsorship of the Builder’s Club and a RIF (Reading is Fundamental) program. Recently the Club has undertaken to help establish a first-ever library for Logsdon students.

Ayala (from page 3)

One day Ernie was asked to do a story on the East Los Angeles Skill Center, part of LAUSD Adult Education. After the interview was over the school’s director offered Ernie a faculty job, knowing that Theta Cable was being sold. Ernie accepted and remained in education for six years.

From there he moved into insurance sales in 1980, where he has been ever since.

**.KIWANIS
‘We Build’**

Over the years Kiwanis themes have included:

- **Business Mutual Aid**
- **Young Children**
- **Education**
- **Spiritual Development**
- **Economic Education**
- **Community Health and Recreation**
- **Developmentally Challenged**
- **Parent Education**

‘Helping and changing the world— one person and one community at a time’

**CALIFORNIA MISSION INN
COMMUNITY EVENTS**

California Mission Inn and the Rosemead Kiwanis Club family will be offering the following free community activities during November:

Saturday, November 4, 2006 10:00 am - 2:00 pm - BOOK FAIR , with keynote speaker Denise Hamilton (former SGV correspondent for the LA times and now best selling author) plus at least forty authors (co-sponsored by the Rosemead Public Library and Friends of the Rosemead Library. Food will be available with proceeds going to the friends of the Rosemead Public Library.

Saturday, November 11, 2006 11:00 am - 6:00 pm and Sunday, November 12, 2006 11:00 am - 4:00 pm – PET ADOPTION DAYS – numerous dogs will be on display and available for adoption in cooperation with San Gabriel Humane Society.

Tuesday, November 14, 2006—2:00 PM - ANTIQUE ROAD SHOW – free evaluation and appraisal by certified appraiser Jim Konoske of up to two items per person for attendees bringing items.

Note: due to scheduled remodeling there will be no California Mission Inn community activities in December.