

This Week

Jon R. Grundy, MA
Superintendent,
Pasadena Unified
School District
(PUSD)

Guest Host:
Ray Carlson

Formerly chief executive officer of Los Angeles County Office of Education and interim superintendent of LAOCE, Jon Grundy was responsible for the financial and academic stability of 80 school districts, 2 million k-12 children, and a staff of nearly 4000.

Prior to that, he served 12 years as an administrator in the Houston, TX Independent School District and also taught classes in English, Spanish and ESL. He was a Fulbright scholar and has a bachelor's degree in accounting, a very needy skill in this tight-budget economy and that can also enhance our students' and teachers' grasp of *financial literacy*. (Maybe *entrepreneurial literacy*, too!)

He is just a few weeks into the school year as superintendent of PUSD, so we are honored that, in this busy time, he is coming to acquaint us with his vision for our schools,

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View by President
 Tony Hill
from the Hill

More Paraprosdokians — My Favorite Type of Humor

It's late, I'm tired, and my weekly Sparks article is due. So my faithful readers, you will have to forego the usual eloquent prose about Rotary and my observations of life, and settle for more examples of humor borrowed from the pages of the *Pasadena Star News*. I will do my best to get back to the usual again next week.

Because I enjoy them so much, the humor I am again choosing this week are further examples of paraprosdokians. These are defined as a two-part quotation in which the second part puts a surprise twist on the first part, often with humorous effect, a la Roger Dangerfield. So here goes:

- Try walking a mile in the other guy's shoes. That way you will have his shoes and a mile head start.
- The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on the list.
- The early bird gets the worm. But it's the second mouse that gets the cheese on the mousetrap.
- Change is inevitable. Except from a

vending machine.

- I love you so much that if we were on a sinking ship and there was only life jacket, I would have no choice but I'd miss you a lot and think of you often.
- Have you ever noticed how fast the bus goes when you're running after it? And how slow it goes when you're on it?
- I'm so miserable without you. It's almost like you're still here.
- I installed a skylight in my apartment. The upstairs neighbors are furious.
- The pen is mightier than the sword. If you're in a duel, however, go for the

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Greeters

October 13

Tom McCurry

October 20

Dennis Mehringer

October 27

Kevin Moore



Program Review

Studying and Researching One's Ancestry

One of the rites of passage for a new member of Altadena Rotary is the presentation of a Craft Talk. This is a way for new members to introduce themselves to the club by talking about their occupation, their hobbies, their family and the various charities and nonprofit groups they belong to and support. This last Thursday the club had the opportunity to hear from one of our newest members, Gordon Seyffert, who spoke on a subject that he has pursued with a passion for many year, the study of Genealogy.

According to Seyffert, the purposes of genealogy are many, but there are several that are primary. Studying genealogy gives one a knowledge of his/her ancestry, who their forebears were and what they accomplished. It may give one *bragging rights* to find out that he/she is related to a famous member of royalty or a revolutionary war hero. Genealogy can allow one to better bond with his or her own immediate family by working on a school assignment with a child into family history. Genealogy allows one to connect with relatives such as cousins or aunts and uncles. This connection can lead to family reunions and other gatherings. The study of genealogy can foster one's ethnic, religious or denominational pride and heritage. For example, many people's ancestors came from Europe in the late 19th and early 20th century through Ellis Island. This can be shared with family to develop understanding and pride. Historians looking at the past often use the tools and resources of genealogy in their research and analysis. Finally the study of ances-

try often appeals to those who like puzzles, mysteries and difficult challenges.



Fortunately for the budding scholar of ancestry, there are a myriad of resources available. The people who came before us left a huge paper trail of documents, much of it handwritten, original and unique. These documents are a treasure trove of information and insight. They include such items as letters, memoirs, journals, newspapers, diaries, maps, sketches, report cards, invoices, passports, diplomas, property deeds, business ledgers, military records, medical reports, and many many more. In addition, there are Public Records such as records of births, marriages, and deaths; religious records such as baptisms, confirmations, marriages and burials; military records, including orders and discharges; tax and property records, census records, court filings, corporate

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Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

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John Frykenberg International

TBD Youth Contests/Awards

TBD Vocational/Youth Projects

TBD Membership

Editor, Design & Typesetting Foreman Graphics

Photography Jacque Foreman

October Programs

Vocational Service Month

Program Chair, Tom McCurry

Oct 06 - Gordon Seyffert Craft Talk

Oct 13 - Dr. Jon R. Grundy - the new Superintendent of PUSD

Oct 20 - Bianca Vobecky - *Super Entrepreneur*

Oct 27 - Carolyn Leach - Administrator of Waldorf School in Altadena

November Programs

Rotary Foundation Month

Program Chair, Hal Yorke

Nov 03 - To be Announced

Nov 10 - To be Announced

Nov 17 - To be Announced

Nov 24 - To be Announced

Congratulations



Birthdays



10/08 - Susan Cox

10/17 - Noriko Suzuki (Mehring)

10/24 - Jim Gorton



Anniversaries



10/19 - David P & Elsa Smith

Chairmen's Corner No more Hiding our Candle under a Bushel Basket ... Let's let our Light shine Brightly

by Jacque Foreman, Public Awareness Chair



Of course one of the first reasons for not continuing to hide our collective Altadena Rotarian Candle under a bushel basket is that we don't want to burn the basket when we can use that same basket to carry around examples of what we have done and are doing to make the world and our community a better place in which to live. And for this, I need your assistance.

It's difficult for me to be everywhere and take pictures of everything we do. Your pictures and articles are welcome. We need to let our community and our fellow Rotarians in District 5300 know what we do. If you write an article for the *Highlighter*, please identify yourself as an Altadena Rotary member — we get kudos for these articles. It's as simple as putting **Altadena** after your name in the by-line. If this is a mystery to you, ask, and I'll tell you how. Don't make those at the District level have to guess from which club you come.

Brian Hayes has shared some contacts with me, so we might be able to get a bit of coverage in local papers. And we have a facebook page, so we can post photos there of what we are doing. We need to have pictures of our community and international projects. And I don't mind putting other's pictures in *Sparks* or on the web.

For best results in *Sparks*, I need a photograph that is sufficiently large that I can transpose it to 300 dpi and still have the picture large enough to see detail. Photos on line — e.g., Facebook, require only 72 to 150 dpi. Don't worry, I have the facilities to modify dpi. The best bet is to send

me the photos as they come off your camera, so I can modify them as necessary. Some of the newer phones have sufficient dpi and definition, but not all.

So I'm drafting all of you to help with club Public Relations. Let me know what you are doing and write a preliminary article. You know best what you are doing; please **don't** just **tell** me, **write** me. It's very difficult to create articles out of thin

View

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- sword.
- I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather. Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.
- Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal ideas from many is research.
- God is watching us. The least we can do is be entertaining.

Hope you enjoyed the foregoing. These are tough times but remember, laughter is the best medicine. ☺

This Week

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teachers, and children. And to allow us to acquaint him with what Altadena Rotary has been doing to help the same target group.

Let's think through our list of friends and acquaintances and invite one or two to lunch to meet Jon Grundy, the No.1 man in our school district. ☺

air, an outline is fine.

I can't promise coverage in local newspapers or the District 5300 *Highlighter*. What I can promise is: if you don't share what you are doing, no one will know. ☺

Program

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records, etc. Today many records are in digital format. More and more documents are being scanned into computers for permanent storage. These documents can be searched. In addition, there are a number of internet sites, some that are subscription but some that are free that are very useful. These include: www.ancestry.com, www.familysearch.com and www.heritagequestonline.com, and the even the National Archives. www.archives.com.

In his summation, Seyffert spoke like a long-time Rotarian and advised the attendees to keep the Four Way Test in mind when conducting genealogical research: Remember that the past contains many lies and deceptions [*Is it the Truth?*]; Be tolerant of other views and be balanced in your presentation of material [*Is it fair to all concerned?*]; Cooperate with others and share your research and finding with other scholars and seekers [*Will it build goodwill and better friendships?*]; Ensure that your research will be of benefit to your audience, your family and other relatives and will preserve your heritage for future generations. [*Will it be beneficial for all concerned?*].

We will look forward to more enlightening presentations from Seyffert in the upcoming months. *Boyd Hudson* ☺



MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

Economic Update Last Week in the News

New home sales fell 2.3 percent in August to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 295,000 units from a revised rate of 302,000 units in July. Compared to a year ago, new home sales were up 6.1 percent.

The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city housing price index — on a non-seasonally adjusted basis — rose 0.9 percent in July after a 1.2 percent increase in June. On a year-over-year basis, prices fell 4.1 percent compared with July 2010.

The Mortgage Bankers Association said its seasonally adjusted composite index of mortgage applications for the week ending September 23 rose 9.3 percent. Refinancing applications increased 11.2 percent. Purchase volume rose 2.6 percent.

Orders for durable goods — items expected to last three or more years — fell 0.1 percent in August after a revised 4.1 percent increase in July. Excluding volatile transportation-related goods, orders posted an identical monthly decrease of 0.1 percent.

In its third and final report for the second quarter of 2011, the Commerce Department announced that gross domestic product — the total output of goods and services produced in the US — increased at a revised annual rate of 1.3 percent in the second quarter of 2011, compared to the previous estimate of 1 percent. This follows a 0.4 percent pace of growth in the first quarter of 2011.

Pending home sales, a forward-looking indicator based on signed contracts, fell 1.2 percent in August after a 1.3 percent increase in July. On a year-over-year basis, pending sales are up 13.1 percent.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits unexpectedly fell by 37,000 to 391,000 for the week ending September 24. Continuing claims for the week ending Sep-

tember 17 fell by 20,000 to 3.7 million. Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on construction spending on October 3 and factory orders on October 4.

Knowledge Builder


Early US Land Division Methods

One of the earliest land division methods in North America was the long lot. Sometimes called the French long lot or the riverine long lot, this land division method can be found where French immigrants settled. Characteristics of the long lot include a narrow frontage adjacent to a river between 100 feet to 600 feet wide and about a mile in length. Early French settlers were largely fur traders and this system maximized access to rivers, which were their primary trade routes.

Metes and bounds was a system used for centuries in England and was used in New England by English settlers. The system relied on physical features of the landscape, along with directions and distances to define the boundaries of a parcel of land. Metes refers to a boundary defined

by measurement. Bounds refers to a boundary, such as a large oak tree, a stone wall or an adjoining public road.

Long lots and metes and bounds are considered organic land division systems because they rely heavily on the natural features of the landscape. This makes them problematic because natural features inevitably change. To this day, in Louisiana and in the eastern US, disputes concerning early land division systems often require courtroom adjudication.

William Penn, in the 1683 Philadelphia Plan, developed a better land division method based on a grid. The Philadelphia Plan intentionally ignores the landscape's natural features. The grid system consists of property boundaries at right angles in a checkerboard-like pattern. Each lot is identical in size and adjacent orderly numbered streets. The simple and easily verifiable Philadelphia Plan has become the archetypal urban grid street pattern in the US. 

Find Linda Wilkes on line: <http://www.myprospectmortgage.com/lwilkes>



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MONTHLY MEET & GREET

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