

Rotarian of the Month



Betty Davis

"The Farmer's Choice"

# THE RÍO Rotarian

Proudly serving Rio Vista, CA, USA, RI District 5160--Since 1953

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Bob Bard, Ed.



*Dressed in stylish western garb replete with bolo tie, Gene balks at singing a great 40's song, "Pistol Packin' Mama," along with Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters. Judy Tussy, seated beside your editor, sang all the lyrics beautifully.*

### Gene "Rest Home" Resler

Friday evening, we celebrated what may have been our most entertaining demotion ever. Our outgoing president serenaded us with a bevy of historic songs covering 6 decades.

Okay, make that 5 decades, as he really wasn't into music the latter part of the 40's, when he was born. With M. C. Cub delivering the backup and narrative, and Bongo Bongo Laz handling rhythm, we were treated to a first class demotion.

After Cub described each decade of Gene's life, Gene entertained us with music of that period.

Gene was born in Odon, Indiana, but his family soon moved to CA, where his dad joined the crew building the Shasta Dam. Gene attended a small school in a class of 7 students in a 2-room schoolhouse.

In his Junior year Gene's family moved to the town of Dorris, CA, in Siskiyou county, and he graduated in 1963. Gene's dad taught him to play guitar, and he soon joined a band called the Medallions. The band changed its name to Afterglow, and they released an album in 1968 which has since become a collector's item.

Gene left Afterglow in 1973 and formed a band with his new wife, JJ. After 2 years JJ left Gene for a trapeze



*Following the gavel's year of numerous nefarious escapades, his younger brother is presented to Gene on a plaque for posterity.*

artist, and Gene left CA for HI, where he learned some great island songs. He even played some for us.

### The Great Barista

Gene's life was changed forever when a tree got in the way of a small pickup he was driving. He married Kerry and the happy couple settled in Vacaville, where they owned and operated a bar, while Gene brought in droves of customers with his amazing musical talent.



*Pres. Gene is all smiles as he embarks on his musical demotion. He is flanked by his Rotary Ann, Pat Dyer on the left and Stephanie De La Rosa. Happily, Gene doesn't have to worry about his errant gavel anymore.*



*Drinking my sorrows, where is my President?*



*Posing with Monica Awender (left) Beverly Bowman, our newly installed president, anticipates a fantastic year. She secures the gavel under her belt, but it promptly escapes to seek some liquid refreshment (left photo).*

### COMING ATTRACTIONS

#### DATE

Friday, July 5  
Friday, July 12  
Friday, July 19  
Friday, July 26  
Friday, August 2

#### EVENT

No meeting  
John Dwyer, Assistant District Governor  
Club Assembly  
To be announced  
Amazing Features of the Rotary Website

#### CHAIRPERSON

Yankee Doodle  
Beverly Bowman  
Derek Jones & Beverly Bowman  
To be announced  
Jim McCracken



*The 50's, Elvis' heyday*



*The 60's with Tiny Tim*



*The psychedelic 70's + bongo player*



*The 80's, Gene Gets Physical*



*The 90's a la Willie Nelson*

The 90's

The next decade found Gene entering the real estate business, but he did not curtail his musical career. Instead he got gigs serenading folks who were unable to get out and about, earning him the nickname, "Rest Home Resler."

And here we are, today

Gene's next move was to get himself elected as mayor of Iseleton. Then, in August of 2011 he married Pay Dyer, who has been keeping him on the straight and narrow ever since.

Gene's formidable repertoire

Gene proved, once again, that he is an excellent musician who is gifted with a magnificent voice. He sang and played numerous Hawaiian songs, many songs from each decade, and finished with Goodnight, Sweetheart, and Good Bye.

Paul Harris Fellowships

Gene's last official act of his presidential career was to announce the following PHF's: Jim Mac, +6; Hector, +3; Lee, +1; Jack, +5; Jim Metcalf, 1.

Special announcement

After a few brief moments, Bev lost her gavel. It just disappeared!



*Betty and Larry Davis*



*Marian Bard and Prudy Lazdowski*



*Curley Hurley*



*Dick Brann*



*Gary Lazdowski*



*Hank Tussy*