

Geneva-Excelsior News

October 8th Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Ward Donnelly. Ten members were in attendance. Pledge to the Flag was led by Gino Benetti, and the invocation was given by Charles Stuhr.

President Ward, reading from the last bulletin, wanted Giulio Francesconi to be included with the other maligned insurance agents and brokers in the club.

Charity Raffle Ch'mn. Dick Johnson reported he has cash in hand for 210 sold tickets. Sales of tickets are now down to a trickle. Dick urged members to tap new sources.

Program Ch'mn. Giulio Francesconi reported the Oct. 15th Pat Valentino Night and the Nov. 19th 49er Night programs are all set. He reminded members to bring guests on these nights. The 49er Night will include a video showing of highlights of the 49ers 1996 season.

President Ward introduced this club's Zone 1 Ch'mn. Myung Seo, who in turn introduced the Region 1 Ch'mn. as "The great Lion Joe Farrah." Joe, not unlike Rodney Dangerfield, finally found some respect. Joe introduced Vice-District Governor Mel Phillips, and Mel introduced District Governor Kenneth Newman. The D.G. introduced visiting Cabinet Secretary Timothy Collins and Cabinet Treasurer John Takemoto.

The governor gave an informative "State of the Union" address and brought the club up to date on affairs with Multiple District 4 and Lions International. The Multiple District is urging attendance at the Feb. 5-8 Convention in Ontario, CA to demonstrate support for Kay Fukushima, candidate for International 2nd V.P. He also answered questions from Lyle Workman and Handford Clews.

DG Ken Newman drew Handford Clews' ticket in the Convention Raffle, but Handford pulled a plain white golf ball out of the sack. He missed the \$50 award. Mystery Lion Lyle Workman had no victims. Absent Bruno Ceccarelli missed out on \$4 in the Attendance Raffle.

October 15th Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Ward Donnelly. Pledge to the Flag was led by Mike Castagnetto, and Dick Johnson gave the invocation. Seventeen G.-E. Lions were in attendance. John Madden had two of his uncles as guests, Philip Romano and James Emanuel. Giulio Francesconi's guest was Gerald Lowe. Joe Farrah had Suren Hagopian as his guest. Visiting from the Burlingame Lions Club were Lions Pete Campanile, Cliff Flook, Jean Simpson and John Benson.

Tail Twister Gino Benetti had with him a list of past heavyweight championship fights. In conducting the self-introductions of G.-E. members, he offered the members an opportunity to have their customary fines waived. Gino named the date, location, the round in which a fight was won, and the winner of subject fight. All the Lion had to do to have his fine waived was to name the defeated boxer. Most of the seniors in the club

knew that the person James J. Corbett defeated in 21 rounds in New Orleans on Sept. 7, 1892 was John L. Sullivan.

Charity Raffle Ch'mn. Dick Johnson reported he has banked funds for 215 raffle tickets sold to date. Only 35 tickets remain to be sold.

Giulio Francesconi distributed copies of a very touching story on Art Holl's life and death, which appeared in Ken Garcia's column in the Oct. 11th edition of the S.F. Chronicle.

Gino Benetti turned in a full bag of used eyeglasses for re-cycling.

Program Chairman Giulio Francesconi gave a little biography of the guest speaker as a prelude to introducing Pat Valentino. Pat, age 78, was born on Day St. in the Mission District. When his family moved to France Ave. in the Excelsior District, he attended Cleveland, Monroe and Balboa Schools. His family owned a produce market at the corner of Brazil Ave. & Mission St. He became interested in boxing at age 13, and by age 17 he turned professional. Between helping at his family's produce store and training at Newman's Gym in The Tenderloin, he was a very busy young man. Pat came to the head table to tell some stories of his boxing and post-boxing career, and to answer many questions from the audience. He fought Tony Bosnich, also from the Excelsior, three times. In a fight with "Turkey" Thompson, his right eye became damaged and required surgery. He was ordered to be idle for 18 months following the surgery. Then he had only five weeks to train for the Ezzard Charles heavyweight championship fight at the Cow Palace in 1948. Although Valentino's fighting weight was only around 177 pounds, his ambition was to fight heavyweights. Pat was ahead on points and Charles had suffered broken ribs, when Pat got knocked out in the 8th round of that Main Event. Interestingly, Pat earned only \$5,000 for that fight. Later he fought the legendary Joe Louis in Chicago. He earned \$7,500 for the Louis fight. After boxing he played bit parts in Hollywood movies, then worked for 22 years as a host at Scoma's, Fisherman's Wharf.

SHORTS

Early this month Al Fregosi went on a church group trip to Lake Tahoe. Al was one of only four men with thirty-six women on the trip. Sneaky Al doesn't share knowledge of these interesting situations with fellow Lions Club members.

Departing October 22nd on a one-week trip with the Sharp Park Golf Club to New Orleans and Natchez are Handford & Margot Clews, Chas. & Estelle Bottarini, Ray & Marilyn Squeri, and Joe & Emily Farrah. The golfers will be playing on three of these days at English Turn G&CC, Oak Harbor Golf Club, and The Bluffs.

FOOTBALL RESULTS

Oct. 12th game score: 49ers 30, Rams 10
1st qtr. Irene Tonelli; 2nd qtr. Wm. Neve & Art Galla; 3rd qtr., Final & Reverse Final Paul Annuzi