

The Kiwanis Chronicles

News of the Club and the Community it Serves

November 4, 2009

Volume 9-10, Issue 05

**Preserving Yesterday,
Reporting Today**

Kiwanis
La Mirada

**Serving the Children of
the World**
La Mirada Kiwanis Club,
La Mirada, CA

The Private War of Howie Beach

Our speaker of the morning, Howie Beach, was introduced by MARK ROYSTON who noted that he first met Howie when St. Paul of the Cross Church was founded some fifty plus years ago. The word was out then that Howie had been awarded the Silver Star for combat heroics but you could never get Howie to talk about it. It was the grandchildren who brought him to the point where, not only would he talk about, but would write a very descriptive book, "The Private War of Howie Beach." Howie has been married to Murphy for over 61 years and they have five children, 11 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Howie began by stating the obvious, The war in Europe was fought against the Germans and the Italians while the war in the Pacific was fought against the Japanese. He noted that as a rule we did not have an extreme dislike against the Germans, but it was the Waffen SS troops that were the source of our anathema as they showed no mercy in their encounters with our troops who were medically out of battle.

He was in forward reconnaissance and that put them at the front constantly. He recalled one encounter with a German Luftwaffe pilot who attempted to strafe their armored car. Howie was on the 50 caliber machine gun and attempted to shoot his plane down. In the end the pilot flew away without firing a round. In retrospect, Howie calculated the pilot was out of ammunition while attempting the strafing run as a secondary target. This probably accounted for Howie's survival.

A month later his 9th Recon Troop had orders to penetrate the vaunted Siegfried Line and reconnoiter some 50 miles into the Huertgen Forest. He described the actions which included the encounters with German troops. This mission would be the deepest penetration of the Allied Forces to that period of time. As they prepared for their patrol they had a rare visit from a mobile field kitchen. There he learned to drink coffee if only for the purpose of warming his hands. He recalled the Army ditty about the taste and quality of Army coffee which ends with "Gee, Mom, I want to go home." This appeared to be the sentiment of those in the patrol as they started their mission into this heavily protected forest.

Their first encounter ended with a number of German casualties with no serious wounding or deaths of Americans. Flame Throwers were brought in and cleared several pillboxes in the area. They continued their penetration into the forest. The vehicles they were using finally reached a point where they could no longer maneuver. Eleven were picked (including Howie) to go on foot. They were told to carry as much ammunition as possible. The night was so dark that each man kept his hand on the shoulder of the G.I. ahead of him.

As they progressed up the mountain they could hear voices of Germans at the top. They sensed that they were greatly outnumbered and this was confirmed in the morning as it was determined that two companies of SS troops were stationed above. Noises were heard that could have been German scouts coming toward them or could have been simply tree limbs falling. They were prepared to use knives in an attempt to silence any German patrols. Before daybreak they decided to retreat back down the mountain with the Sergeant being the last man out, just behind Howie.

Howie lost contact with the patrol but met up with a Division mortar platoon and a light Army tank. They were attacked by SS Troops who were shouting, "Fur the Fuhrer, Fur the Fuhrer." The encounter lasted some two hours and Howie lost five of his comrades in the battle. One by one they were struck by the intense fire. Finally, out of ammunition, Howie was forced to withdraw alone down to the mortar group. One man next to him was shot so that his leg was severed. He was later killed by SS Troops as he was being loaded onto a medical Jeep which was clearly marked with a red cross. The medic and Jeep driver were also killed.

Howie told of how one of his buddies was killed by friendly fire and about a P38 pilot who continually risked his life as he strafed enemy positions. In the 33 days the 9th Infantry Division fought in the Huertgen Forest they suffered 3836 casualties. During this time his 9th Recon Troop of 155 men lost 13% killed and 30% wounded. (Continued on Page 2.)

October 28 Grins and Grimaces

The morning opened with the Pledge led by LA DONNA MUNIER. PAT RUIZ led us in "God Bless America." LOU PILTZ was called upon to plead our cause to the Almighty. The Secret greeter was La Donna and she fingered two who didn't shake a hand even though they may have shook a leg to get here.

CHRIS STAPLES was called on to be the collector of the "Grins and Grimaces" bucks. LOU PILTZ gave for the upcoming Meals On Wheels dinner and one that will remain forgotten. REED TAYLOR gave for the cancellation of the pancake breakfast on Thursday. GENE GLEASON gave a Goodbye Angels dollar and one for the upcoming Thanksgiving assembly at Temple Beth Ohr on November 24.

LA DONNA MUNIER gave a thank you dollar. SHERRY BRAKEBILL gave a "Granddaughter is four" dollar. JOHN TOVAR gave for last week's talk. Pastor JACK MIRANDA gave for Oscar Diaz visiting us this morning and for his oldest son getting married. TOM THORNTON gave for the Angels and for the Dodgers. PAT RUIZ gave for Adrienne taking over the Children's Shopping Spree. She added one for Howie Beach, our speaker of the morning. ADRIENNE MEDRANO gave for our visitors this AM. Speaker Howie Beach gave for his wife, Murphy, turning 90 this past week. STEVE FORSTER gave for the season start of the NBA, noting that nothing matters for the next five months. He's off to Michigan to reduce the deer population.

Dr. ED NORMAN (referring to the pancake cancellation) gave for "The Panning Pancakes for Health" session that ART LESLIE must feature at his Pancake University so that the school kids can enjoy the fruits of our turning. TONY ARMAS was glad to get the word on the pancake breakfast cancellation, in that he would have been up and at 'em otherwise, early AM tomorrow. RICH TRUJILLO gave a mixed emotion dollar regarding the cancellation of the breakfast. (Maybe the pancakes will take a turn for the better as regards to the students consumption allowances.)

DEBBIE SCHEIBEL gave a lost Angel dollar. CHRIS STAPLES gave a sad dollar for his wife's grandmother dying. It was doubly sad in that he was called upon to take care of the children while his wife attended the funeral. Dr. JERRY ROODZANT gave a Yankee dollar. (As in, "Save your Confederate money boys, the South will rise again.) He added one for the mis-named Anaheim Angels.

Who Am I?

I spent my time in the Army guiding a mule named Barbara as we took supplies to the top of Pike's Peak.

I once started on a nationwide tour shortly after 9/11 but cut it short when the liquid ran dry in Utah.

I could never say no to any program that benefitted kids. Who am I?

Announcements

MOW SPAGHETTI DINNER

January date to be announced. Entertainment needed.

Check Received from Kiwanis International in the amount of \$756 because our membership growth totaled 18 new members.

Shopping Spree

Chairperson ADRIENNE MEDRANO announced that the night Kiwanians had already pledged support for 4 children for the KIWANIS SHOPPING SPREE FOR NEEDY CHILDREN and are working toward the goal of 10! A signup sheet will be passed around at the morning meeting next week for pledges of \$100 per student and for chaperones for the event on Tuesday, December 8.

PRESIDENT JERRY'S quote for the week:

.It has been my experience that those who have no vices have very few virtues.
Abraham Lincoln

The Private War of Howie Beach (Continued)

Later on the US Army would be pushed back and they would have to retake the City of Kalterherberg some four months later. During the second taking, Howie told of the patrol going into a house and one of their men falling and breaking his back. He was removed to a rear area aid station. After the war Howie looked him up and found that he was now working at his old job in Milwaukee at Schuester's Department store. Howie found him looking older but able to get around, doing the same job that he had before the war.

Howie answered some questions. One in particular was concerning the difference in fighting then and fighting now. Howie thought that it was most difficult to go in and out of combat whether it be this war or WWII.

We thank Howie for this seldom seen look at combat as he describes in his book, "The Private War of Howie Beach."

2009-2010 Officers, Board

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The Objects of Kiwanis International

To give primacy to the human and spiritual, rather than to the material values of life
 To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.
 To promote the adoption and the application of higher social, business, and professional standards.
 To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable citizenship.
 To provide through Kiwanis Clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build better communities.
 To co-operate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which makes possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism, and goodwill.

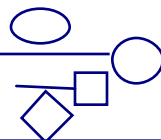
The La Mirada Kiwanis Club is the home club of the following Past Lt.-Governors : Dr. ED NORMAN, CARY MAYER and HARLAN COMEE and at one time was the home club of: HAL BENVENISTE, IRWIN KAISER, FRANK MCCOY, and GEORGE HARRISON, all Past Lt. Governors of Div. 30. It is the home club of Lt. Gov. Elect DEBBIE SCHEIBEL



Legend:

Board Meeting

Today's Date



November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1		3	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Announcements

November 12-Bingo at Imperial
 November 14-Mad Dash Pancake Breakfast
 November 19-Bingo at Mirada Hills
 November 21-Knabe Katch
 December 8-Shopping Spree

Birthdays: Nov. 7-RICH RIVERA, Nov.14-LOU PILTZ, Nov. 15-TONY ARMAS, Nov. 27-RUFFO ESPINOSA

Anniversary: Nov. 25-BRIAN ILTEN, Nov. 27-TOM THORNTON, Nov. 29-PAT ROJAS,

Calendar-Regular Meetings

Every Wednesday Morning

7:15 AM Gateway Holiday Inn

Monthly Evening Meeting-First Thursday

Volunteer Center Suite 4 (11900 La Mirada Blvd.)

7:00 PM