

Ambassadorial Scholar
Third Report
February 2005
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Sponsoring Rotary District 5730
Hosting Rotary District 1040
Leeds, England

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Dear District 5730:

It has been a very busy month in Northern England, and a very memorable one. Before I get into all the events that I have been involved in, let me say Happy 100th Birthday to all Rotarians in District 5730! I am sure you all celebrated the big event in style and I wish each of you much happiness and success during this second century of Rotary.

I've been privileged to talk to several Rotary Clubs over this past month to share my Ambassadorial Scholarship experience. The first talk occurred on January 31 at the Roundhay Rotary Club near Leeds. As a note of interest, there are several clubs in Yorkshire that still do not allow women into their club (in theory, they are supposed to, but in practice, certain clubs are still opposed.) Roundhay was one of them. That, to me, is an interesting occurrence given our day and age. Nevertheless, the members of the club were very nice and interested in what I had to say. In fact, this was the first club I have been to where general political issues were discussed. During the question and answer period, I was thrown many questions from the U.S. "being insular" to the U.S. boycotting the Kyoto Protocol. Global warming is an incredibly intense political issue in the UK (and much of the rest of the world) so they do not understand why the U.S. is not participating in the treaty. Other questions brought up were local U.S. military involvement (in Yorkshire) in regards to the defense systems "Star Wars" and how some feel the US program will bring unnecessary attention to Yorkshire and possible extra potential for terrorist attacks. Needless to say, I had to be on my toes for that meeting, but very much enjoyed the dialogue!

On the 17th of February, I spoke to Castleford Rotary Club, my England based sponsoring club. It was great to talk to them, in particular, because one of their members has visited many of the Rotary Clubs in District 5730. He mentioned to me that he stayed in Levelland, and traveled from Odessa to Amarillo, Pampa to Plainview. And, in fact, named several Rotarians

from Pampa that I have known my entire life! His name is Milton Frary, the immediate Past Governor of this District in England, and he asked me to send his personal regards back to the Rotarians in District 5730.

Castleford Rotary Club invited me back to their club for their 100th Rotary Celebration dinner and asked that I say a few words of greeting from the U.S. In order to do the greeting justice, I read a statement from the President of our Pampa Rotary Club, Duane Harp, and wished Castleford Rotary club well in this new Rotary Century.

The very next day I attended a lunch with the "Lord Mayor" of Leeds at the Leeds Rotary Club along with most of the Ambassadorial Scholars in Yorkshire. We all spoke a few words about our experience, where we were from, and what we were doing. It was a very nice celebrator lunch as well.

Needless to say, I have been well fed lately by the Rotarians in Yorkshire at their many events, but as the Leeds Club President rightly pointed out (a woman I might add - their first woman President) "There is no such thing as a free lunch, because you have to speak to eat." I have found that to be very true! Have a great month Rotary.

God bless,

J.B. Horton