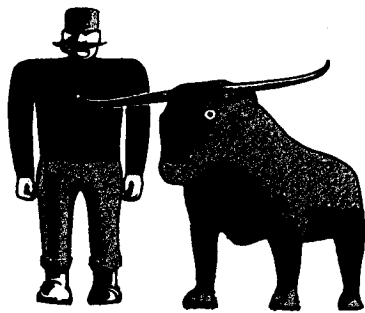
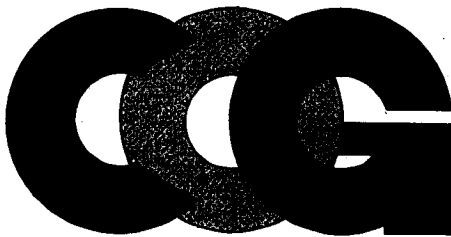


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Club No. 3790

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BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

January 16, 2006

### This Week's Program

Center for Advanced & Emerging Technology – Dr. Elaine Hoffman

### Next Week's Program

Swaziland Well/Garden Project – Tessa Reff

#### Important Dates to Remember

District 5580 Conference  
Williston, North Dakota  
April 27-30 2006

#### Playhouse Update

The playhouse construction will be starting on January 21 from 9-3 at Mark Shough's garage. Contact Scott Turn if you have questions at 444-3486.

#### Assistant District Governors Training

Assistant District Governors are needed! If you are interested, training will be offered within the next couple weeks. The primary responsibility includes annual visits to about five clubs in our area & ongoing communication with each club president. Contact Hank Imsande.

#### You Don't Have to Be a Curler to Curl!

Terry Matson has organized a Rotary curling team for the Goodwill Meeting held in Winnipeg on February 17 & 18. If you are interested in curling on Terry's team please contact him at 751-1510. He needs at least one more curler and numerous Bemidji Rotarian Cheerleaders!

#### Walk to Williston

Our governor's goal is two-fold, keeping us healthy Rotarians and help feed the hungry. Keep up the good work everyone! Our goal is to raise \$5/person. The money raised will help purchase lentils for the Hunger Plus food packages. Bring your walking shoes; you may have to walk the treadmill next Monday!

#### Farewell to Rev. George Smith



Not many new Rotarians had the privilege and honor of knowing Rev. George Smith. It certainly wasn't difficult to gather information as George is well known and honored in many communities. I would like to share a piece that the Star Tribune published on January 7, 2006 by reporter Chuck Haga.

Smith was the step-grandson of the Rev. John Emmegahbowh, the Church's first American Indian priest.

*He was a masterful storyteller, according to the Rev. Stephen Schaitberger, director of the diocese's department of Indian Work.*

*He said Smith told of an Ojibwe woman who cooked a meal for him, a meal that featured a meat he couldn't identify and found distasteful. Not wanting to offend an elder, he slipped the meat off his plate and tried to feed it to the woman's cat. But the woman kept refilling his plate, finally telling Smith he might as well finish it off because her cat didn't care much for loon.*

*And there was the hunting trip 30 years ago on Lake Winnebigoishish.*

*"George knew that lake quite well as he had supplemented his meager salary in hard times by being a fishing guide," Schaitberger said. "He admitted that he had lied about his fishing expertise to the resort owner. Of course, lying about fishing is totally acceptable in both white and Ojibwe cultures."*

*As they watched geese fly south in a V-formation, "George turned to me and asked, 'Have you noticed that...one side of the V is longer than the other? Do you know why that is?'"*

*"There I was in the bull rushes of Lake Winnie with my mento/friend thinking that I was about to learn one of the secrets of ancient Ojibwe lore," Schaitberger said.*

*No, he told Smith. He didn't know why one side was longer.*

*"George responded, 'There are more geese on that side.'"*

*Smith was born on September 19, 1915 on the White Earth Indian Reservation. He left to attend an Indian boarding school in South Dakota, graduating in 1935. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, whom he married in 1942; son Kent, Bemidji; daughters Claricy, Minneapolis, and Nancy Falkum, Wabasha; three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.*

Rev. George Smith was highly revered not only in local communities but also nationally. He was actively involved in many prestigious national organizations such as the President's Task Force on Poverty and the Governor's Interstate Indian Council. George has been a Rotarian since February 1975. He will certainly be missed and always honored for his service above self.