



**GUESTS OF ROTARIANS**

**Bryan Cartwright** brought  
Brandon Hansen with  
Moss Adams

**Fred Kaiser** introduced  
Kelly Lewis, Allied H. R. Consulting

**Bob Morse** introduced members  
of the David Morse family:  
• *Grandsons:* Noah Booker,  
Judson Morse, Mike Morse and  
Elijah Lux • *Daughters:* Patricia  
Morse and Catherine Morse and  
husband Tony Aman • *Rotarians:*  
D. C. Morse, Jan Marchbanks,  
Daver Morse and Aaron Booker  
and wife Kelly

**Student of the Month parents:**

Jan Challender, mother of  
Melissa Challender,  
Squalicum High School  
Rollin & Djuna Harper,  
parents of Daria Harper,  
Sehome High School

**VISITING ROTARIANS**

**Scott Wallace & Pete Kremen**  
Whatcom North Rotary Club

**Jim McCallum**  
Bellingham Bay Rotary Club

**THIS ISSUE:**

**Reporter:** Mauri Ingram

**Editor:** Jan Marchbanks

**Photographer:** Robin Halliday

**This Tattler brought to you by:**

**Bruce Smith**

**ESTATE PLANNING  
ATTORNEY**

**OPENING REMARKS**

President Tim welcomed all and took a moment to reflect on the passing of beloved club member, David Morse. Don Anderson filled the room with another lovely rendition of "America the Beautiful." Kevin Allen's invocation offered thanks for the many rich contributions David Morse made to our club and our community combined with guidance that we will each follow David's exceptional example.

Nancy Bitting announced visiting Rotarians. Ed Lowry announced the NCAA basketball pool. For a mere \$30 you may choose your numbers now and you will be assigned teams next week following playoff schedule announcements.



Our Friend, David C. Morse

**IN MEMORY -  
DAVID CHISHOLM MORSE**  
(Presented by Dan Cheney)

David was born in Bellingham on June 30, 1913 and died Tuesday, February 20, 2007, at the age of 93. Our task today is not only to grieve with family and friends of David's passing, but equally importantly, to celebrate his life and his service. And, to that end, I

would like to talk about David and the Rotary Club of Bellingham. David loved Rotary; David believed in Rotary; David believed in service. As a Club leader, everyone wanted a piece of David. They wanted to share in his knowledge and to seek his counsel. He was a most respected leader.

On February 22, 2005, Brian Griffin, as a member of our Club's History Committee, sat down with David to talk about the Morse family origins, from the founding of Morse Hardware by his father in 1884 to the present. The purpose of this interview was to commend, and establish a means to preserve, the Morse record of service. Copies are owned by the Museum and the State Archives. I've had the opportunity to review those recordings. They present a record of an extraordinary family steeled by hard work and success, inherent love, and an incredible commitment to family and community service.

In the interview David talked of his childhood and growing up in Bellingham. His father died when David was just 7 years old. David spoke with love and respect for his mother and dwelled on her dedication to raising the 3 children. David's comments seemed to me to reflect his mother's upbringing of a gentle, fair-minded, unselfish and principled young man. Anyone who knew David understood that to be true.

David reflected also on his childhood a number of times. "I have had a happy life," he said. "I have nothing but happy recollections of my childhood." He spoke of "precious memories and mementos" and a devoted mother always there for her children...

Following graduation from Fairhaven High School, David's college career divided time between Bellingham Normal School (now Western Washington University) and the University of Washington.

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

**March 5**  
Mark Bussett  
Chemist's Roadmap to a  
Post-Petroleum Era

**March 12**  
Dr. McGregor, Sudden Cardiac Arrest

**March 19**  
Sean Hogan - RYLA Representative

**March 26** - TBD

**April 2**  
Diane Bruland - Whatcom Hospice

**ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS**

**Ralph Rinne**, February 26th

**Peggy Zoro**, February 27th

**Jim Hines**, March 2nd

**Ann Jones-Richardson**, March 2nd

**Jeff Jenkins**, March 4th

**PARTNER BIRTHDAYS**

**Lee Eberhardt**, February 26th

**Billie Ershig**, February 27th

**Shelley Jepson**, March 1st

**Rochelle Plenkovich**, March 4th

**CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**

**Bruce Smith**, February 26th  
11 Years

**Maureen Enegren**, February 28th  
7 Years

**Peg Larson**, February 28th  
7 Years

**Pete Gaasland**, March 1st  
39 Years

**Ed Lowery**, March 1st  
29 Years

**D. C. Morse**, March 1st  
37 Years

**Jack Mulhern**, March 1st  
42 Years

**Bud Peth**, March 1st  
17 Years

**Bob Reid**, March 1st  
49 Years

**Charlie Self**, March 1st  
14 Years

Design courtesy of

Tattler distribution provided by



## HAPPY BUCKS RECOGNITION FINES

Gregor Hodgson, fresh from what must have been a dizzying experience fundraising what he mistook for the YMCA (it was actually the YWCA), donated \$20 to announce a “guys night out” event on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club (even though there will be no girls at this event...no wonder Gregor thought it was the YM!) on March 22nd at the Bellingham Country Club. If you are an ‘M’ and not a ‘W’, contact Gregor for more information.

He graduated from the UW in 1934 with a BBA (Bachelor of Business Administration) degree, presumably heading for a banking career. But the hardware business was calling. David and Joyce were married August 31, 1935. Seventy-one anniversaries would follow marking the love, romance and mutual respect of these high school sweethearts.

After college, David went on to serve in the Armed Forces on two occasions. Modest and self-effacing, he didn’t talk much of these experiences. His initial duty with the Washington National Guard extended from 1934 to 1940, where David began as a private and advanced through the ranks to be commissioned as a 1st Lt. In 1943 he volunteered and because of his education received a direct commission as a Navy Lieutenant (j.g.).

Only in these past few days has much been revealed about David’s service. He, like many veterans from the WWII era, said little of his duty. David, along with thousands of men and women like him, left his home and loved ones to answer duty’s call. These people left to do a job, and once finished, they often did not speak of that time in their life again. And many didn’t come home.

David’s time in the military included several stateside stops for training in anti-submarine school, navigation and amphibious warfare. During his Pacific duty, he commanded a landing ship, designated LST 10-22, and for many of the Pacific island invasions provided transportation to beach assaults. He traveled to Guam, Saipan, and later to Okinawa in preparation for that last assault. His ship provided shuttle service for men and equipment. They also worked with the LCI landing craft, infantry, on invasions. David didn’t elaborate on encounters with the enemy, but a Japanese submarine and a Kamikaze aircraft were mentioned as an aside. As the war wound down, David spent time on Okinawa as part of a huge flotilla of ships poised to invade the Japanese mainland. Shortly after that, the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima. It happens that David was on a ship that landed in Nagasaki a little over a week after the bombing there.

In 1998, Brian Griffin gave a History Committee report to our membership featuring “the Morse Dynasty.” We saluted a family that has served this community since the very beginnings of the towns that became Bellingham, a family that continues its amazing record of community involvement. Cecil A. Morse, David’s half-brother, was a charter member of our Club formed in 1917 [90 years ago]; David joined in 1943 and was Club president in 1957; Bob and DC followed in 1970; Jan in 1989; and Aaron (and Daver) more recently. This represents over 201 years of Morse Rotary service, with David’s 63 years leading the pack.

Similar to their passion and commitment to Rotary Service, David and Joyce Morse were passionate about education, and created a dynasty of life-long learners. We recall the pride that they both expressed for the educational accomplishments of their four children, all with masters degrees, and 10 grandchildren, who are all college graduates, and many more upcoming Morse scholars. Seems like hardly a Rotary meeting passed without David standing up to give generous happy bucks in honor of either a graduation, a birth, or perhaps both.

Everyone can appreciate that David always supported Club youth activities - Scholarships, awards and other student recognition, as well as the Millard Scholarships were all favorites of David Morse. Options high school, Bellingham Technical College and Whatcom Community College have also been Club supported for years, David and Joyce established scholarships of their own at these institutions. In fact, BTC recently honored the Morses by dedicating the newly constructed David and Joyce Morse Center on their behalf. It is abundantly clear that education has been among the top priorities in this special man’s life.

While serious in many regards, David also had moments of unpredictability. David, along with Past president Judge David Nichols, was responsible for a memorable moment in the Club’s history, duly reported in Keith Murray’s History of Bellingham Rotary Club. In 1981, when Jim Caldwell was chairman of the District Conference Committee, he commissioned Nichols to enliven one early morning session with a skit, built around a theme of how to conduct a Rotary Meeting. Nichols and his “cast of characters” did little in the way of rehearsing, so it was improvisational theatre with a vengeance. The “speaker” was boring, “early leavers” kept sneaking out one by one, several who did stay went to sleep, and others talked loudly to each other. Finally, David Morse, playing the part of sergeant-at-arms, pulled a gun from his pocket, fired a blank shot at the speaker (thus silencing him), and adjourned the meeting. The audience loved it.

## HAPPY BUCKS RECOGNITION FINES

You appreciate that I could go on for pages about David's Club accomplishments, but, instead, I'll mention several significant moments of recognition. David was the Club's Community Service Award winner in 1992. In 2003, at the age of 90, David was recognized again for his commitment to the Bellingham community and the lasting influence he fostered. This honor became the first David C. Morse Community Service Award and henceforth will be given annually in his name. David was named a Paul Harris Fellow in 1975. As a strong supporter of Rotary International, he had eight subsequent Paul Harris designations. He served on the RCOB Foundation Board and was a regular on the Scholarships and Awards committee.

David was always the consummate gentleman and therefore a superb ambassador for Rotary. Joyce and David enjoyed travel and the adventures looming on new horizons. Often, it seemed that the importance of traveling rested more in the friendships and acquaintances forged than in the destination. In fact, David found everyone interesting.

David traveled on behalf of Rotary also. He and a small contingent from our Club, including friends Al McNeil, Ben Hodges and Vince Davis, made two visits to Guatemala in the late '80s at the invitation of Doug Anderson of the Firs. They helped with construction of a clinic and built furniture for a daycare center. They were in their 70's then and were heroes to the villagers they served. These trips also helped open the door to our Club's dental outreach program with the first of 8 subsequent clinics conducted in 1990. In 1995, David twice led a Rotary group to Eastern Russia to coordinate joint service projects with the newly formed Nakhodka Rotary Club. This was during the time Nakhodka and Bellingham became sister cities. David was in his mid-80s and proved a hearty traveler eager to make new friends and foster the ideals of Rotary. With his youthful exuberance, David Morse was always an effective ambassador, using his creative and critical thinking skills to learn from and share his experience with others.

It is clear to me that David was a gentle man of uncommon qualities, a man who touched the lives of many, influencing and inspiring, serving his family and community and country...a man who led by quiet example. His personal strength, commitment to others, honor, integrity, and generous spirit will be missed by all who knew him. Let us give thanks for a man and life well lived.

## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Jim Visbeek, in what can only be described as a frightening transformation, introduced himself as Ryan Secrest, host of Rotary Idol. His dutiful judges were Randy Jackson (Del Vandekerk, who should never use the word 'sister' unless he is referring to a blood relative); Paula Abdul (an exuberant and slightly woozy Pat Foley); and Simon Cowell (aka Bob Sytsma, apparently doing his impression of George Harrison doing Simon Cowell). This spectacle was, in fact, our student of the month feature.

Laura Henninger, our Bellingham High School student of the month, was on Maui and unable to join us. However, she sent a thoughtful letter of thanks that spoke to her passion for her musical talents and arts education. Laura is a choir and orchestra member, including swing choir, biology, chemistry, physics and English. She participates in numerous honors programs and has extensive community volunteer efforts to her credit. Laura will be attending Pacific Lutheran University.

Melissa Challender, a violinist from Squaticum High School, treated us to a captivating version of Vivaldi's Spring from the Four Seasons. Melissa's school activities include ASB Senate and Representative, FBLA and Storm Mentors. She participated in the regional Solo and Ensemble Contest the past 2 years and in the All-State Symphony Orchestra for 3 years, including this year. Melissa received twelve letters at Squaticum for Concert and Chamber orchestra.

Daria Harper is a familiar face from Sehome High School. Daria performed with the choir at our holiday program in December. She has been performing in plays, musicals, choirs and operas since she was seven years old. During her high school career she has been involved in many arts-related pursuits, including acting in every school play, performing with Improvising Change, an improvisational troupe that tours schools educating students about bullying and harassment



SQHS Student, Melissa Challender



SHS Student, Daria Harper & Friend

This Tattler brought to you by:

**Bob Sytsma**

**VARNER SYTSMA & HERNDON CPAs**

# TATTLER

February 26, 2007

## 2006-2007

### OFFICERS

**Tim Farris**  
President

**Dave Blair**  
President Elect

**Margaret Curtis**  
Vice President  
& Program Chair

**Steve Hoekstra**  
Secretary Treasurer

**Jim Cunningham**  
Immediate Past President

### BOARD of DIRECTORS

**Chuck Snyder**  
Avenue of  
Club Service Development

**Greg Grant**  
Avenue of  
Club Service Fellowship

**Rick Wright**  
Avenue of  
Community Service

**Brad Burdick**  
Avenue of  
International & Vocational Service

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

**Sandee Lindhout**  
PO Box 1578  
Bellingham, WA  
98227-1578

Phone: 360.734.5532  
Fax: 360.656.5043

Email: [rcob@comcast.net](mailto:rcob@comcast.net)

### Club Website

[www.bellinghamrotary.org](http://www.bellinghamrotary.org)

District 5050 Website  
[www.district5050.org](http://www.district5050.org)

...continued from page 3

prevention, and the audition-only Concert and Chamber Choirs, all while maintaining a 3.9 GPA. She also auditioned for and performed with the All-Northwest and All-State Choirs her sophomore and junior years. Daria's future plans include competing at the State Solo and Ensemble competition.

## PROGRAM

Bob Gibb introduced Gerry Wilbour, trail designer and fellow co-chair of the Chuckanut Mountain Parks District (CMPD) Advisory Committee, to explain why the proposed parks district area is unique and should be saved. (Bob also introduced his guest Pam Went, CMPD Advisory Committee secretary.)

Mr. Wilbour explained that the parks district is a special service district which may include multiple jurisdictions, in this case Whatcom and Skagit counties. The boundaries of the proposed district now include Chuckanut Ridge, Blanchard Mountain and portions of Lookout and Galbraith Mountains. District resources may be used to purchase land for open space, conservation and recreation oriented uses.

He noted the distinctive coastal mountain formation is one of the last undeveloped corridors between the mountains and the sea along the west coast. He cited several species which occupy the Chuckanut area as well as the areas' steep slopes and other sensitive areas as the basis for creation of the district. Despite extensive open space and conservation planning over the years, the area has seen little in the way of implementation. Increased tourism, business attraction and retention, decreased healthcare costs as the result of a healthy lifestyle, and improved water quality are some of the benefits of creating the parks district mentioned by our speaker.

Bob Gibb concluded the program by extending an invitation to eligible members to sign petitions to put the CMPD on the November ballot, presumably a highly finable offense. Stay tuned...

## CLOSING

President Tim thanked our speaker and the members of the Morse family who honored us with their presence; congratulated our students of the month; and sent us on our way with one final farewell to David Morse, a genuine leader and friend.



THE ROTARY CLUB of BELLINGHAM

BELLINGHAM'S FIRST ROTARY CLUB

1917-2005

Club meets Mondays - 12:00 Noon @ Northwood Hall

Look for the new "Tattler On Line" at [www.bellinghamrotary.org/tattler.htm](http://www.bellinghamrotary.org/tattler.htm)

*The Tattler*  
Rotary Club of Bellingham  
PO Box 1578  
Bellingham, WA 98227 - 1578