

Western Plastics Pioneers

www.pioneers.socalspe.org

Q 2 2012



The objectives of the Plastics Pioneers Association shall be to recognize achievement in the field of plastics/polymer science, engineering, technology and management; to support industry-wide educational programs; and to promote the study and improvement of plastics, science engineering and technology.



President's Message

Hello Western Plastics Pioneers:

On March 15, 2012 I had the pleasure of attending Education Night at Cerritos College, a Southern California Section of the Society of Plastics Engineers event. Attendance was excellent and the presentations quite informative. For me, the highlight of the evening was watching the recycling trailer injection molding machine operate.

As you know, the Western Plastics Pioneers has provided financial and oversight support for this project. Mr. Terry Price kept his audience entertained with an excellent informative and humorous presentation. Although the air temperature outside was cool, all attendees gladly observed, listened and were happy to receive their newly molded plastic clips.

Thank you to those who have contributed to the recycling trailer project and to Terry for his leadership in this program.

Periodically I have fun going through past issues of Plastics Magazine. The August 1980 issue included an article about women in the western plastics industry. Certainly the article did not include all of the women participating in the plastics industry at the time. However, here are a few that were included. You may know some of them and they could be considered for Western Plastics Pioneers membership.

Royle Laskey, Revell Incorporated. Janet Welch, Borg-Warner Chemical. Christine Konecny, Xerox Corporation and Hall of Fame recipient. Mary Gallina, Gallina Machinery. Jeannie Millard, HPM Corporation. Patte Pettibone, Machines Sales business owner. Cheryl Rose, General Electric. Rusty Miller, KRK Incorporated and Hall of Fame recipient.

Susan Hacker, Corth Plastics. Lucy Higgins, Celanese Plastics. Diane Heller, D&R Heller Machinery. Marsha Ehrenberg, All Plastic Materials Company. Shirley Go, Borg-Warner Chemical. Ivy Roth, Grant and Roth Plastics. Zelda Potsdam, Avacor Incorporated. Susan Ruggiero, Jason Products Company. Margie Dickason, Phillips Chemical Company. Consuelo Hauser, Hauser Laboratories. Dolores Robinson, B&R Plastics Company.

Obviously these women continued on in their respective career paths. It would be quite interesting to learn more about their experience in the Western plastics industry.

Best wishes,

Richard Luciano - President - Western Plastics Pioneers

Newsletter Ad's

Western Plastics Pioneers Newsletter has been an integral and vital part of the organization. Newsletter has played a key role in keeping all the Pioneers informed and involved in the industry. The articles, photographs, news, remembrance and more importantly whereabouts of the friends and what they have been up to made an interesting reading. Newsletter is published quarterly. We are requesting your help by asking your organization to advertise in the newsletter to help us defer the cost of publication and postage.

Single Space	1.75 x 2.625	\$ 100 per year
Double Space	3.5 x 2.625	\$ 200 per year
Triple space	4.25 x 2.625	\$ 300 per year

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Thanks for your support.

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REVIEW: A Day at the Races

March 11, 2012

Our morning started at 9:30AM with breakfast in the Willows dining room at Los Coyotes Country Club, on the bus at 10:30AM with snacks and beverages for a quick ride to Santa Anita Park and our day at the races.

When we arrived, a tram with a well informed guide met us to conduct a tour of the horse barns and training areas. Our guide filled us with interesting facts about this famous race track and took us to the Seabiscuit Court and his barn. A short walking tour was also available and then up to the 5th floor of the "Club House" to the Front Runner Restaurant and viewing area. We were seated in the front area overlooking the track and we were served a delicious three course lunch.

Returning on the bus, we were again treated to more drinks and fresh snacks. We arrived back at Los Coyotes at 6:00 PM after fun filled, and for some, a lucky Sunday.



Save the Date

Thursday June 21

30th Annual SPE Golf For Plastics Education and Past Presidents Dinner

www.socalspe.org or call Kerry Kanbara 866-966-0302

Sierra Lavern Country Club, La Verne, CA

Tuesday, July 17

WPP Board Meeting

Los Coyotes Country Club, Buena Park, CA.

Sunday, July 22, 2012

Pageant of the Masters (see flyer)

Irvine Bowl, Laguna Beach, CA

Sunday, August 12, 2012

WPP Annual Luncheon (see flyer)

Los Coyotes Country Club, Buena Park, CA

Thursday, August, 16th

SPE's "Western Plastics Trade Fair" www.socalspe.org

Phoenix Club, Anaheim, CA

Wednesday November 7, 2012

LPGO Ladies Plastics Golf Organization

13th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Golf Tournament

Coyote Hills Golf Course, Fullerton, CA

Faith Love and Spirituality

By Chris Mitchell

There are a lot of flowery adjectives that can describe the many emotions that go through my mind and emanate from my heart when I think about the accident I had that changed my life. I must admit the one that gets me the most is "amazing."

When I left work on Monday, November 28, 2011 I had no idea that my life was about to change forever. Despite being geared up in everything including a reflective vest, I found myself confronted with a tragedy that has slowed my pace down considerably and has made things 4 times as hard to do but also has allowed me to feel the deepest of human emotion one can ever feel.

When I woke up in the hospital I don't remember what day it was, I believe it was Friday, December 2. Next to me was the most wonderful woman in the world, Toni. I had no idea that for the next 48 days she would come to visit me every day but two while I healed. I remember everything about that Monday except the 2 seconds before and 2 seconds after I collided with the van that had turned left in front of me and my motorcycle. My injuries included an amputation of my mid-knee on my left leg, a simple compound fracture of my left femur, a fractured right knee patella, seven fractured ribs on my left front and six fractured ribs on my left back. It doesn't appear I sustained any trauma to my head.

During my stay at UCI medical Center I went through seven surgeries. I learned how to roll over again, I learned how to sit up, I learned how to

place my feet on the edge of my bed and I learned how to stand up. All of this was under excruciating pain; but the blessings and encouragement from the hospital staff and my desire to get back up and move forward were only part of my recovery process. I have been extremely blessed by having many friends and family who put their prayers and their voices out for me to heal. No one would ever expect to survive an accident of this magnitude without incredible support from families and friends.

Hospitals can only do so much; once you are discharged you are on your own. However, I again found that this wonderful woman I spoke of was again next to me. On January 16, 2012 I was discharged completely from all hospitals I found my way to the home of this wonderful woman. Before my discharge Toni had taken the time to order the proper bathtub seats, assisted handrails and so many other items to make my next phase of recovery a success. Each day as she left for work she would say to me "do your exercises, eat right and take your medicines." Every morning when I woke up I would make her breakfast. I believed that by getting up at 6 AM, getting out of bed and starting my day was always the best strategy. After 106 days I can now say that I am as ready as I can possibly be to go back to work and today May 1, 2012 was my first day. That same word that I mentioned earlier has to be used here also "awesome" but it was also exhausting. I will continue to work half days the rest of this week and then I'll work my way up into full days over this next month.

I have been extremely fortunate to be able to experience the drama, the emotional highs the depression the anxiety the love the encouragement and support of so many good friends. They say you don't know how loved you are until you're dead. I have to tell you that you don't need to wait until you're dead; but I do not encourage you to have this kind of accident happen in order to find out. You have to remember that so many people do love you and they care about you. Unfortunately it's us that will find reasons in our minds to counter what are emotions and our heart knows

Last month I also experienced another tragedy. My brother who raised me and was the third person to ever hold me died just one day after I was able to spend a wonderful day with him. I can't tell you how hard all of this has been without having that experience as well. Knowing that there is a God who looks out for you and cares for you is a way of helping you deal with tragedies like these. You have to believe, you have to seek, you have to allow that God into your heart and once you do you're going to be tugged in every direction while you try to find your balance. I learned in science in middle school that everything is made of carbon and there are positive and negative forces. These forces keep you from being balanced. I like to tell people that I'm riding on a carbon rail and the positive and negative charges are pulling at me and if I allow the negative to pull me harder those positive charges seem bigger than what they are. If I allow the positive charge to pull me then those negative charges also hit harder and seemed bigger. Letting God in your life allows you to escape and allows you to balance yourself on the carbon rail.

I look forward to the rest of my life whatever it will bring. I know that I would like to think I make my own destiny, and feel like I have my own free will. But the truth is I think we're just here and we need to do the best we can to love our families are friends and be good citizens.

Gorman, John H. (Jack) Jr.,



John passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, May 7, 2012 at his home in Anaheim Hills, CA. He was 87 years old. He was born July 15, 1924 in St. Louis to Josephine and John H. Gorman. He attended Richmond Heights High School in Richmond Heights, MO and Washington University, St. Louis, where he was a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. In 1946, he married Margaret (Peg) Schwankhaus. He was employed by Monsanto Co. for 34 years, starting out in engineering and ending up as District Sales Manager for the west coast. He retired in 1981. Jack and Peg sold real estate in Orange, CA for 15 years after Jack's retirement from Monsanto.

Jack and family lived on both coasts as well as St. Louis. Over the years, as his children were growing up, he was active in his church, teaching Sunday school, as well as PTAs and Boy Scouts. Once in sales, he traveled a lot, but he was always home to watch little league games or attend school functions. He was a Mason, a Shriner, and a long-time member of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) and the Society of Plastics Industries (SPI). He was named a Plastics Pioneer by the Southern California chapter of the SPI in 2002. He also received the Western Plastics Pioneers Hall of Fame award in 2006. He was an amateur musician, who enjoyed playing the piano for over 60 years. He and Peg entertained in their home frequently for clients, friends and family. He also enjoyed hunting and spending time with family at their vacation home in Winter Park, Colorado.

He is survived by his daughter, Julia Gorman of Orange, CA and sons, Jeff (Lea) Gorman of DeKalb, IL, and Jim (Leanne) Gorman of Anaheim, CA, and 3 grandchildren, Greg Gorman of Indiana, Jenna Gorman of Colorado, and Chad Gorman of California.

To honor Jack the family has requested that donations be made to the St Joseph Hospital Foundation, 1100 W Stewart Dr, Orange, CA 92868 or by going on line to <http://www.sjo.org/For-community/Ways-to-give.aspx>.

An advertisement for C & G Mercury Plastics. The logo features a stylized 'G' and 'C' with a blue and white color scheme. Text includes: "C & G Mercury Plastics", "Custom Injection Molders of Thermo Plastics", "Gregory Leighton", "President", "12729 Foothill Boulevard • Sylmar, California • 91342", "Phone: 818.8373773 • Fax: 818.8373770", "Email: sales@cgplastics.net • www.cgplastics.net", and a logo for the "Society of The Plastic Industry" with the word "MEMBER" below it.



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