

Joe Woolford Tribute 11 May 1998

PROGRAM: This week's program was the Woolford-Hegy Scholarship program. The Woolford scholarships were established by former Eureka Rotarian Joe Woolford, who donated dollars to assist students in the graduate program at Humboldt State. In 1977, the first awards were made from the trust established in 1957. In the past 21 years, over \$150,000 have been provided by the Woolford Scholarships to HSU students. This year's recipients were grand in their achievements: Heather Golden (MA in Teaching, Writing, Literature); Laura Fox (double - MA, one in English and a second in Literature and Teaching of Writing); Kathleen McChesney (MA Academic Psychology); Samara Smith (MA in Social Sciences); Andrew Jensen (MA in Wastewater Utilization Program); Stephani Holzwarth (MA in Educational Psychology); Jonathan Mermis-Cava (MA in Sociology); and Juan Ball (MA in Psychology).

The Bill Hegy Scholarship fund was established by Mr. Hegy and his wife, Elizabeth, to provide a \$ 1,000 scholarship annually. The winner of the Donald Morris Hegy Memorial for 1998 is Linda Mowry. She is earning a Masters in Wastewater Utilization Program.

At the conclusion of the brief statements by each of the recipients, the meeting was bonged to an end.

PAT FOLKINS

I am Pat Folkins and served as

President of the Rotary Club of Eureka for the years 1987-88.

Today I want to share information about a very special Rotarian. Joseph Sidney Woolford was born 100 years ago in Illinois. He attended the University of Illinois in Urbana graduating in the class of 1922 and went to medical school at the University of Louisville in Kentucky. He then came west and did his internship at Letterman Hospital at the Presidio in San Francisco with advance work in Radiology at the University of Chicago. He came to Eureka in 1933 and was the very first Radiologist in Northcoast California.

He worked primarily at General Hospital in Eureka set up the X-Ray department and trained the personnel. Because of the many lumber company accidents he became an expert in unusual fractures and many times shared this information with the National Medical Society. He joined Rotary in 1934 in Eureka and was known as an outgoing, social and a person with a great sense of humor. He took an active interest in both the community and politics.

He and his wife completed their wills and established a family trust to encourage his nieces and nephews to attend college. He passed away in 1957 and all his relatives outgrew the trust in 1975. Those proceeds were then turned over to Eureka Rotary to further local education. During 1976 President Dave Dillon appointed Haven Howitt of Eureka Rotary who worked with Dr. Alba Gillespie of Humboldt State and a

program to assist graduate students was established. In 1977 the first awards were made and since then more \$150,000 has been provided to HSU students.

Joe Woolford loved this part of world and he loved Rotary. He was determined to have his faith in young people continued even after his death. This has made a significant contribution to education in our area and at Humboldt State. Rotary decided to have these dollars assist students in the graduate program as at the time there was no other financial assistance available. On May 10, 1993 the Rotary Club of Eureka honored his memory by awarding a Paul Harris Fellowship for him.