



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

January 16, 2023

Program

Lion Chris Robinson introduced our program speaker, Mr. Robert Apel who talked about his experiences as a stuntman and character actor in a number of movies. His wife, Julie-Ray, a retired nursing professor, also spoke about their family that includes 3 of their own and 7 adopted children, some with special needs and outside the USA. Lion Chris noted that they have been great missionaries for God and have demonstrated service to others wherever they have been.



Julie-Ray and Robert Apel accept token of appreciation from Lion President Milford Parrish. Robert explained that he happened to be at the right place at the right time and auditioned for a stunt-man job at a movie studio in Tucson, Arizona in a movie that starred John Wayne. He was able to stay on and worked in different productions, doing about 5 scenes a day, working for small and large companies alike, such as 20th Century Fox and Metro Goldwyn Mayer. He mentioned many actors that he worked with including Charlton Heston, James Colburn, Nicholas Cage, and Michael Landon. One of his favorite actors to work with was Clint Eastwood.

Robert auditioned as an actor in the movie, "The Outlaw, Josie Wales," in which he was the first man that Clint killed in a gunfight, as well as playing several other minor roles in that movie, as well as parts in other movies with Eastwood. Robert also worked with Michael Landon in the TV series "Father Murphy," which was a spin-off of "Little House on the Prairie." He said the Michael was one of the nicest men he met in the movie/TV business. Robert told many stories of his contacts with Hollywood celebrities.

Robert gave an example of his acting prowess in an impromptu scene. Later, he and Lion Chris Robinson acted out a fight scene as stuntmen would perform it.



Lion Chris Robinson and Mr. Robert Apel stage realistic, but fake fight scene.

Mrs. Apel talked about her children who have all gone on to successful careers, including a daughter, who despite having a learning disabled, is now a psychiatrist. She also told an amusing story about when she first came to Hollywood and was eating with her two boys in the studio dining facility. She noticed a red-headed woman sitting by herself and asked if they could share the table. The lady said OK.



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Julie-Ray noted that she, herself, had grown up very poor on an Indian reservation and had never watched TV, so she did not recognize that the lady she had sat down with was Lucille Ball. Julie-Ray had asked Ms. Ball her name, and she then remarked that she had read that anyone could get their name changed for \$65. This all turned out fine, and Lucille Ball paid the tab for the whole table.

This was a very entertaining program.

Other Business

Lion Ron Seybold was with us tonight, following his surgery for knee replacement. We had another update from Lion Jerry Eddleman's family, saying that he is now in hospice care; pray for him and his family. Lion Howard Perry reported that his son is in a hospital in Birmingham with a serious condition; you are asked to pray for his son and family.

The annual "Empty Bowls" dinner will be held again at the 1st Methodist Church on Monday, February 20th, from 4:00PM to 6:30PM. This dinner will be in lieu of our regular Lions Club meeting. The Club will pay \$10 for each Lion's meal.

Lion David Bussman, working with the schools' Leos advisor, is planning a combined meeting with our Club and the Leos on February 6th. We are planning for the first time to mobilize the Leos' help with Fish & Ham ticket sales.

Lion Frank Odell announced that the next opportunity of the round-table

presentations for new Lions would take place on the last Monday of the month in January, February, March, and April. Lion Frank said that he emailed all Lions who have become new members in the last 3 years and have not attended a previous session. Just respond to that email to be scheduled for your attendance. These sessions have been very informative and interesting for new Lions. The location is Freddy Day's Catering building on Hwy 31, near the Fair Grounds, immediately after the regular Lions Club meeting.

Our Club meetings are being recorded and can be seen live, or you may view past meetings at the following Facebook web site:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1106236123576541/?ref=share> .

If you have any problem getting to the site, contact Lion Craig Gadow at 256-736-8361.

Upcoming Programs and Events

January 23: TBD.

February 6: Leos meeting with us.

March 3-4: Friday, prep for Fish and Ham Dinner. Saturday, Fish and Ham Dinner

Tale Twister Input

If you need something special or to report a correction in the *Tale Twister*, see Lions Carey Thompson or Don Smith at the meetings. Lion Carey can be reached at 256-739-0580 (H) or 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 (C).