

Dick's Corner

by Dick Valentin

Luncheon Kicks off 1991 Drive

I enjoyed the Corporate Meeting held on October 30th at the Brauhaus Restaurant. It was nice meeting some friends whom I haven't seen in some time. **John Lunkes**, although only a few blocks from where I live, was one that I haven't seen for two years - hard to believe, isn't it. I also talked to **John O'Donnell** who sold so many tickets for our 55th Anniversary Banquet, and then there was **Ned Kimbrel** who was one of the little angels in one of our Christmas shows. There was the ever pleasant **Erv Huber** and then **Tony Reibel** whom I thought would never give up playing softball - or did he? **Bob Mergens**: he's always present at all N.B.C. affairs. Young **Bob Hoellen** received a nice award for his father and mother who couldn't make the dinner. Oh yes, John Lunkes also received a nice plaque for the many nice things he's done for the N.B.C. for the past fifty years. **Bernie Hansen**, alderman in the Wrigley Field area, was responsible for and presented the club with a \$5,000 donation from the Cub's organization. Mrs. **Brenda Weigelt** told me that she was going to sponsor the Football Classics. Also present were **Jim Bauer**, one of our most generous Alumni contributors. **Dick Shuster**, who always donates thousands of eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt, was also enjoying the dinner. I came with my nephew **Don Valentin** and **Robert Buchler**, who is recovering very well from a knee replacement.

Jim Baumhart, president of the Better Business Men's organization, gave the principal talk in which he emphasized the valuable effect N.B.C. has been in the neighborhood, helping to keep it one of the lowest areas in juvenile delinquency in Chicago. He really inspired the business people for their support. **Bob Patullo**, president of the Alumni, also gave a very nice presentation about the Boys Club. **Rich Brandon**, executive director of N.B.C., did an excellent job as M.C. and did very well in giving the history of the Club since its inception in October, 1931. I'm sure that I've missed some guys who were present - sorry about that.

I was on a fishing trip in northern Wisconsin with some N.B.C. leaders many years ago and noticed that **Earl Puls** was getting much better at casting. I commented "Gee, Earl, I wouldn't be surprised if the plug you were casting would reach the other side of the small lake." In all seriousness Earl replied "I don't have enough line."

Jim Desherow surely does a great deal of traveling - just hard to keep up with him. He just returned from a cruise to Hawaii, Bora Bora, Morea, and Papeete Tahiti in French Polynesia. At 71 he's in great shape - swims a mile a day, rides a bike, hikes, etc. where he lives in Ocala, Florida. On his recent trip he took a downhill bike ride from the summit of Mt. Haleakala to sea level. He also went deep sea fishing in Kona but only caught a few small fish - quite different from the time several years ago when he caught a GREAT WHITE SHARK.

I think **Tom Krier** may have been a little embarrassed about the nice flowering article written by **Ed Forst** in the last Alumni Chatter. I know how embarrassed I was when I received that type of letter from U.S. president Gerald Ford during his term of office. I never published it and never will. The letters reminded me of a little story that Tom and Ed as well as others would enjoy.

When **Bill Nickels** was a freshman at Illinois U., he always wrote home every week or two. One day his dad asked me to read a recent letter to see if I knew what it was all about. Bill's dad laughed and said "What does that kid think using all those big words. I'll fix him." So in his next letter to Bill, he used nothing but big words - must have consulted a dictionary or book of synonyms. Bill got the point! In his next letter he wrote, "Hey dad, how about a few more bucks!"

I got a letter the other day from **Richard Ritt** who has more nicknames than anyone I know. He got a lot of them from dishing it out himself. Some of them are Hack, Pickle Puss, Hose Nose, Slew Foot, etc. He wrote that he hurt his shoulder and wasn't able to play golf once this year. **Herb Preiner** is still waiting for his challenge to a golf game. How about next year, Hack?

Bill Nickels and I attended the Founder's Day luncheon at Loyola University on October 26th. It was held at the Weston hotel with about 300 guests present. **Father Ray Baumhart** has been president of the University for more than ten years and has always balanced their budget. That never happened until Skip took over.

Art Couch, who played with the Cobras in the 30's had his leg amputated below the knee because of bad circulation. He's home and doing very well now and our prayers are with him for a full recovery. He played with our American Legion team that won the City Championship in baseball.

I was talking to **Earl Puls** at the Clarion's 52nd anniversary dinner. As usual, he was smoking a cigar and he told me that up to now he has smoked 37,000 cigars. He has always purchased his cigars from a company in Florida and they recently told him this is what their records show. He's in fine health and I told him he's sure to live to be 100 since smoked meat lasts much longer.

I got my first invitation to attend a Christmas party from **Marv Brustin** who attended the Corporate meeting. His law firm puts on a big splash every year for Christmas. **Larry Meyer** and I were his guests a few years ago.

I had a nice visit a few weeks ago from **Ed Biering** and **Carl Costanza**. Ed has been a Century Club member since it started but was very generous even before that. Ed was one of the best pitchers we ever saw at N.B.C. He knew where to throw his curve ball with excellent control while he played with the Trojans in the 30's. Ed lives in Indianapolis and is retired from his insurance business.