



Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Plymouth – Foothills

Program for February 22, 2011



Rick Kreth

Hydraulic Mining Days MOVIE



Hydraulic mining for gold, with water monitors to wash away the ancient river channels. Near Mountain Ranch in 1880

Kreth, Inc. began in July, 1946 as Harley H. Kreth General Tractor Work. Rick Kreth's father began the business with his wife Thelma.

Harley did heavy equipment and dozer work for hire until the 1960s, then began mining rock. He had colored rock pits in Mokelumne Hill, Valley Springs and Camanche to meet the demands for the decorative rock in the 1960s era landscaping. Kreth worked in those pits during his summer breaks from Ione High School. After a tour in the military, he returned to work in the family business full-time in 1969. In the early 1970s the business incorporated and changed its name to Kreth, Inc.

Kreth and his wife Valerie have continued to watch the business grow over the years. Clay mining has been one of the main services of the company, with companies from around the Sacramento area contracting Kreth to mine clay all over the area. Kreth, Inc. has been contracted by Pacific Coast Building Products out of Lincoln for 29 years.

Kreth, Inc. continues to be a family business, with Thelma still involved, as well as Valerie and their daughter Andrea working in the office. During the busy summer season, the company employs nearly 30 workers, then scales back to around a dozen in the winter months.

He served three tours of duty in Vietnam with Navy construction, building bases just miles from the Demilitarized Zone. Between his second and third tour of duty, he married Valerie, his high school sweetheart.

Rick is the Past President of the Ione Business and Community Association and Past President of the Ione Rotary. He is on the board of directors of the Amador County Economic Development Corp. He currently sits on the Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

Rick Was named Amador County Business Person of the Year in 2005 by the Chamber of Commerce

Calendar of Events

Mar. 15 Our Charter Night Dinner at the Imperial Hotel

Apr. 9 Dist. 5190 Assembly at John Asquaga's Nugget in Sparks.

Apr. 30 Rotarian's at Work Day

May 7 Plymouth Flea Market

May 21-25 Rotary International Convention in New Orleans. See RI website for details.

Jun. 10-12 Dist. 5190 Conference at the Atlantis Casino Resort, Reno.

This and That

This month's Rotary Theme:

WORLD UNDERSTANDING

Our Four Way Test

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL and better FRIENDSHIPS?

Is it BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



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