

Exchange Club members remember Rev. Russ Rudolf

◀ **EXCHANGE** from A2
I am so sad at the passing of such a wonderful man. It made that last time we saw him even more special. — **Clark G.**

Russ was our local historian. His knowledge of not only the calendar but the meaning of the day and what it represented. He would give us the day of the day of Exchange Club relevance, community, religious or equinox significance and then give a little background on the meaning. I will miss those bits of knowledge as people are quick to tell you it is a significant day but the understanding of the day is truly the thing to take with you. The knowledge he presented clearly showed he was a good reader but the knowledge he passed to us meant he was a good leader. — **Steve Carroll**

I first met Russ at the Owatonna Country Club at one of the earlier Exchange Club Center for Family Unity Golfing to Prevent Child Abuse charity events. I soon learned that golfing and child abuse prevention were two of his passions. It didn't take long through Exchange Club to learn that he was a most unforgettable character with many other passions as well: education (Wartburg and Owatonna Public Schools), classical music, history, travel, family, and his Christian faith. God put him on this earth to live life to its fullest. It was his mission to experience and learn all that he could about his passions and advocate through any medium possible in front of anyone who would listen. Russ was a disciple of Christ who touched innumerable

lives with his unforgettable thoughts that left us all as better persons. — **Wendell Engelstad**

And now, I conclude this editorial with my thoughts of Russ.

Russ had a quick, stern smile. He related stories so well to others. His wife

Jane would set out his clothing for the day, especially Exchange Club Day. He always looked "dapper." Russ was stoic, but yet soft. Knowledge played a role in his life but what good was knowledge if you did not share with others? He had many of

our students laughing as he introduced them to Club members as he had researched the student! A quick call from "Russ Rudolf" always had meaning. It might have been a compliment, or it might have been a suggestion on how to do something

better. Either way, a call from Russ was not just a "whim." It was a well thought out conversation before the conversation even happened. And, oh yes, he had a

great collection of ties! Signing off.

Gail Buckingham is the president of the Exchange Club of Owatonna.

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Tip of the Week

Spring Gardening

- Delay raking the yard until the ground has firmed up and dried out.
- If cleaning up perennial beds, leave some of the debris for our native pollinators, nesting in the winter debris.
- Place order for seeds, select your seeds off the racks in stores now for best selection.
- Remove early growing perennial weeds like dandelions from your gardens.
- Get a soil test for your vegetable garden.
- Remove mulch from plants starting to grow.

Keep an eye on the forecast for a deep freeze to blanket new sprouts, if necessary.
Trim broken branches on trees and shrubs.
If starting a new garden, start SMALL!

Tips provided by Julie Wanous of Steele County Master Gardening.

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