

It was the first of November, a day I'll always remember... And it was the Dearborn Kiwanis Club's 53rd annual fall Cook-out held @ Ray Scorboria's house. You know, there are a lot of memories for me regarding this event. As long as I have been a member, Ray & Jane have always hosted this soiree, either at their white hillside home at the corner of Lodge Lane & N. Melbourne or at their home on Heinz 57 street. The camaraderie along with the Peanut Team competition is a highlight of the "Kiwanis Year" for me (along with sandwich making).

A lot of members have come and gone, but the spirit of the club remains. Well, before I start sobbing, I'll tell you what happened.

I arrived @ 1800 hours and was welcomed by Ray. Al Holmes had his table set-up in the warm & cozy garage. Al brought along his older brother for security & support in collecting dinner dues and the massive amount of money he expected to be turned in from the peanut sales. I paid my dues and turned in my team peanut money as my Captain (Tom Gillespie) had instructed. I then went and got a cocktail and wandered out to the veranda to see what was cooking.

Well, Chef Leon was set-up for grilling, but unlike Al's peanut drive Kick-off cook-out held in early September, where Leon was cooking burgers with sous chef Skip Armstrong helping him, there was no Skip. I asked Chef Leon if he needed a sidekick to help prepare the Steaks that he himself had generously brought for this gig, and he said yes to the offer. Well, it was a good thing for me that I worked the back grill at Blazo's back in my high school daze, because I needed all that experience to keep up with the Chef and his food prep. He was like Chef Ramsey in barking out orders, and it wasn't pretty to hear him talk to customers who thought their Steak wasn't "done enough" or wanted it "extra rare-I mean mooing".

Well, the Chef got all the steaks done, and who but Al Holmes comes into the grilling space and wants "Chicken". Unfortunately for Al, the Chef only cooks beef, and told Al that, so Al had to change into his Kentucky Colonel outfit, and cook the chicken himself.

When I finally got to get into the garage, it was filled with Kiwanis members. There was Ed Chilens, who gave a "happy dollar" for the play of Houston Astro star Jose Altuve in the World Serious. Bob Zakar stopped by and it was good to see Pat Abbott, Richard Nettlow, John Curran, Kerry Manseau, Mike Marxer, Pat Richardson, Renea Callery, Linda Michalak, Walt Mueller and everybody else. Al Holmes had to embarrass some "dead beats" who thought they didn't have to pay for dinner. La Presidente Adrienne arrived a bit late from her new job and gave us a few updates. Adrienne said the Tally for the night put us over our Peanut Sale Projections. She also encouraged everyone to attend the November 8th meeting at the KofC, as we are hosting the other clubs in our Kiwanis District for dinner that night (i just hope we don't serve leftovers). She asked that you RSVP to Don Killion about attending the Inter-Service Club luncheon to be held on Wednesday, November 15th.

Our nominee for the event is Norm Record.

Before I left to go watch the Astros beat the Dodgers, Bob Curran showed up and said that with his apprenticeship at Howard Johnson's back in the 1960s, he could have filled in at the grill with Leon. "No Problem".

Anyways, Kudos to The Scorboria's for hosting this event, Leon Bergeron for purchasing and cooking the steaks, Al Holmes for the Beans, Renea for the salad, whoever made the chili & brownies, and Jerry Assenmacher for the cook-out logistics. And Thanks to everyone who stood in the streets, in front of stores, twisted friends and colleagues arms, for rasing the money we give away to worthy projects and organizations.

Mr. November,

Thomas Turkey (rhymes with Goerke)