

THE GOOD CAUSE

Defining service, Rotary delivers dictionaries to Walapai

The longest word in the English language is a 1,909-lettered name for an enzyme that has 267 amino acids. Space limitations prohibit the word's reproduction here.

Thanks to the efforts of the Fountain Hills Rotary Club, though, a roomful of third grade kids in Peach Springs, Ariz., now know that word. At the very least, they know how to look it up.

The longest word in the English language is included in *A Student's Dictionary*, a book organizers of The Dictionary Project hope to someday have in the hands of every third grader in the world.

The Dictionary Project is a non-profit organization that recruits service clubs in the United States and other countries to combat illiteracy.

In the U.S., *A Student's Dictionary* is more than a book of word definitions. It contains facts about states, presidents, the solar system, weights, measurements, the Constitution and more.

Locally, the Fountain Hills Rotary Club has donated and delivered the books for a couple of years.

After giving the books to each third grader at Four Peaks Elementary, the Fountain Hills Charter School and



Rotary members (back, from left) Sandie Sickels, Darlene Thompson, Bob Scott and Jim Thompson smile with Barbara Tinhorn's third grade class.

Hmañ 'shawa Elementary at Fort McDowell, Rotary members decided to expand their

efforts to outlying areas where the need existed.

The recent trip to Peach Springs was the second time Rotary made a visit to the Walapai Indian town.

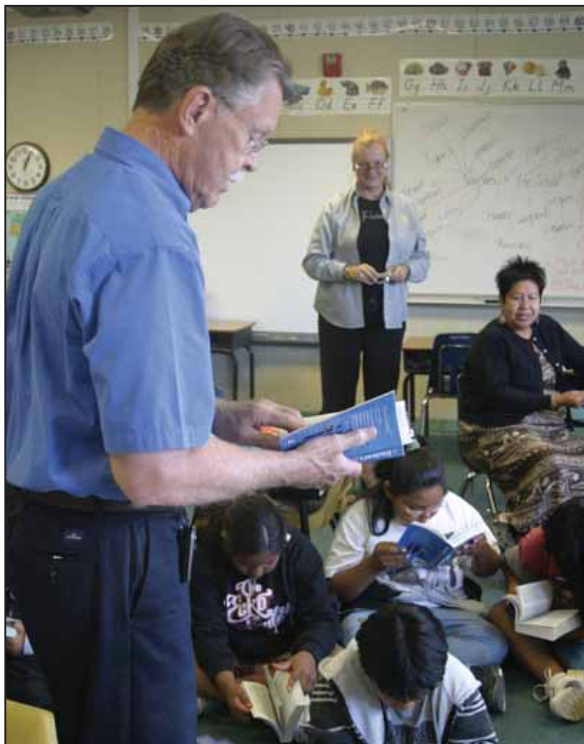
The small town is a dot along Historic Route 66, but it lags in many areas, including economically and educationally, primary reasons the Rotary Club has made it part of its dictionary distribution efforts.

While there, Rotarians Jim Thompson and wife, Darlene, Sandie Sickels, Bob Scott and Todd Elwood told the kids Rotarians are like super heroes who travel around the world to help people.

Some of the kids seemed dubious about that claim, but soon all were scrambling through their new books looking up facts for a chance to win a Rotary coin.

They didn't leap over tall buildings, but for the Rotary members, seeing the kids entranced in the books seemed heroic enough.

The Fountain Hills Rotary Club meets every Tuesday at noon at the Community Center. For more information, call Jim Thompson at (480) 837-2370.



(Left) Jim Thompson challenges the third graders to find the answer to his question. (Above) Third grader Alejandro Hunter listens to see whether his answer is correct.