

August Message

Handling Your Most Valuable Possession:

Things of value don't have a chance in my hands. Place something in my hands and its future is in doubt. As an example, I lose pens all the time. If someone gives me a nice pen, it is a pretty good bet I will lose the pen within a few weeks, if not a few days. I have gone through six pairs of reading glasses this year. I can't imagine where they have all gone! (Where is Past President Frank Devlyn when I need him?)

If I have something of value, it is because I have kept it safely at home and never taken it out of the box it came in. While serving as Rotary Regional Foundation Coordinator, I managed to lose or misplace my credit card three different times. After the first time, the credit card company figured me out and stopped giving me frequent flyer points for obtaining a "new" card.

Printed Rotary directories should have a string attached: Particularly when placed in airplane seat pockets. They must be an alternate form of jet fuel they way the planes seem to eat them up on me.

Rotary pins are in the same class. After 10 years in Rotary I had probably replaced my Rotary pin a half dozen times. In August of 1993 I lost my Past President's pin, it was just a few months after I finished serving as Club President.

It had been awhile, but last week I lost another Rotary pin. It was just an inexpensive, basic Rotary pin: The kind worn by most of us. However, it was my father's pin. Dad never misplaced his possessions, a trait he pointed out to me frequently. Dad's pin was the same one placed on his lapel in 1964 when he joined Rotary. It was also the one he wore on December 12, 1980; the day I was inducted into Rotary. Dad died in November 2006, a few months before I was selected to serve as Director. During Dad's memorial service, Mom handed me his pin.

It was amazing to me how much it meant to me to place that pin on my lapel. Wearing that pin was a way to quietly pay tribute to my father. Fortunately, the pin is only a symbol and is not the only gift I inherited from Dad. In 1980 he shared with me his service organization.

It is a precious gift, one to treasure. Fortunately the best way to actually preserve this precious gift is to share it with others. Just as important is the need for us to enhance its value. Rotary has grown in value because we have helped it evolve. We must constantly take it out of the box it came in, polish it off, make it presentable to the newcomers and pass it on. It very well may be the best gift you will give to the leaders of tomorrow. So have the courage to share this gift; have the courage to make Rotary better. After all, **The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands.**