

# BILL BELL: BIG APPETITES AND OLD PALS

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Friday, Feb. 12, 2010, President Abraham Lincoln's 201st birthday.

Friday also was the seventh annual meeting of the Lincoln Club of Whittier founded by its first president Rudy Cervantes, retired necktie maker and super-salesman. Rudy has put ties around such necks as the late President Ronald Reagan and late great entertainer Elvis Presley.

The auspicious seventh anniversary meeting was held at Whittier's flashy new restaurant, Seta in Uptown Whittier.

Cervantez, public relations super star Bruce Martin and me created the club to get together to talk about Abraham Lincoln and other things around town. We had so much fun with it that kept it going and have since added more members.

Friday's meeting was a luncheon occasion hosted by Martin and presided over by the club's president, Whittier's own Ruth B. Shannon. The meeting welcomed newly inducted senior member Hubert Perry, a 96-year-old native-born Whittierite, and last year's inductee, former Whittier City Manager Tom Mauk, who is now Orange County's executive officer.

Sumptuous-eating-at-the-expense-of-the-host-with-bottomless-pockets topped the agenda of pressing business to be conducted.

The squash soup was, indeed, really good and also bottomless.

The meeting opened with some earnest and respectful discussion about President Lincoln.

We spoke words of reverent respect for two departed members and our namesake - Ed

On the glum side, our discussion touched on the universal downtown of the economy but we quickly decided that if we wanted to feel bad we could all go home and watch CNN.

Last year the Lincoln Club, with five members present. voted 3-2 to support an NFL Stadium in the City of Industry. This year we just touched on the subject again.

Since I was sitting across from Tom Mauk, I asked him what he thought about a stadium in Orange County. He said the county has a great location for a stadium but there would be no public funding available for it.

The biggest item on this year's agenda was a motion by president Shannon that the Lincoln Club propose to the Whittier City Council an individual plaque of special recognition honoring former Whittier Mayor Allan Zolnekoff as the prime mover behind the building of the Greenway Trail.

The motion was unanimously passed by all six members present.

The Club was also advised that a major celebration marking the 20th anniversary of the Ruth B. Shannon Center for the Performing Arts is in the planning stages.

The last order of business was to schedule the next annual meeting of the Lincoln at the Nixon Library and Birthplace in Yorba Linda, where we could eat and visit the replica of the East Room of the White House. There were no dissenters.

Meeting adjourned until 2011.

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