

# Reclassification Talk

## by Jack Bartingale

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(Editors Note: a "Reclassification Talk" is an opportunity for a senior member of our Club to re-introduce themselves by sharing information about their career, family, hobbies, interests and anything else that might be of interest.)

Jack Bartingale recently made a trip to our local Borders Bookstore and bought "What If", a book comprised of 25 essays where historians wonder what might have been if certain events had not happened the way they did.

Using these same "what if" premise, Jack gave us some insights into his life. For example, as a kid, Jack was enamored by the Wisconsin Badgers and if that had not been the case, Jack wondered if, in 1950, he would have decided to attend the University of Wisconsin. Or if his high school band teacher had not been Eau Claire's legendary Sarge Boyd, would Jack have developed his love of music.

As a sophomore playing pinochle with his buddies, one of them suggested a history course as an elective. He not only loved the course, but also met a young Two Rivers coed named Carol... now his bride of 56 years. Jack wondered what would have happened if his buddy had suggested taking a geography course... he probably would have never met Carol.

After graduating in January 1955, and even though he was awaiting his military orders, Marathon Paper Company in Menasha, Wisconsin was willing to hire Jack. Eight weeks later, Jack was ordered to Korea. After returning, Jack worked for Marathon for eight years... until he received a phone call.

In 1964, a key employee at Bartingale Plumbing died suddenly, and Jack's dad called him and asked him to come home and join the family business. After taking a couple of days to think about it, Jack and Carol decided to make the move to Eau Claire.

What if Jack had developed an interest in golf instead of tennis? What would he have been doing every Thursday afternoon rather than spending those two hours on the tennis court.

How would his social life have been different if it were not for his love of football and basketball... a passion that led him to securing season tickets to all Packers and Badgers football games along with Badgers basketball games.

What if in 1934 his grandfather Burt and later in 1956 his father Wes had joined Kiwanis instead of becoming Rotarians... would Jack have also become a Kiwanian in 1965 instead of a Rotarian... probably... and that would have been a true loss for Rotary.

Thank you Jack for sharing your story and for your 46 years of service to Rotary.

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**Jack Bartingale** has been a member of our Rotary Club for the past 46 years, is a Paul Harris Fellow and served as president during the 1974-75 Rotary year.