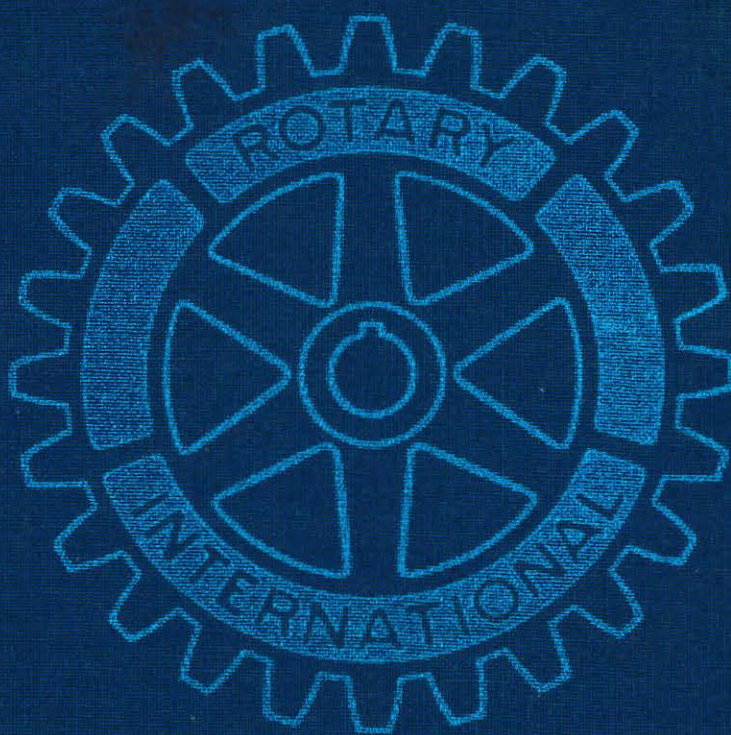


# THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHARLOTTE

1916-1991



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1991-1995

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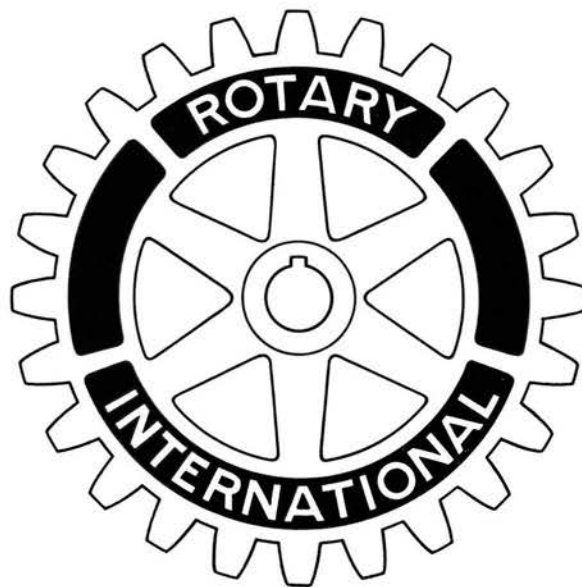
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75TH ANNIVERSARY HISTORY

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <i>Editor and Compiler</i>  | William E. Loftin, Sr.                                   |
| <i>Managing Editor</i>      | Robin A. Smith   |
| <i>Contributing Editors</i> | Henry H. Bostic, Jr.<br>John W. Luby<br>R. Powell Majors |
| <i>Finance</i>              | James Appleby  |
| <i>Program</i>              | Kathryn B. Tyler   |

# THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHARLOTTE

1916-1991



Charlotte, North Carolina

June, 1995

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# Foreword

THIS IS the fourth volume containing the history of The Rotary Club of Charlotte; previous volumes were issued on the occasion of our 25th, 40th and 50th anniversaries. We are indebted to the late Charles H. Stone (1887-1963), a past president and past district governor, who had the foresight to gather first-person accounts from 39 of our first 40 presidents (Rogers Davis, our first president, was deceased). These were published in our weekly bulletin over several months and bound in one volume for our 40th Anniversary.

A Rotary Club, as any institution or person, is defined by its traditions. We did not spring full-blown to be the Club we are today; we stand on the shoulders of those hundreds of active Rotarians who loved this Club and bequeathed to us a proud heritage. We can nourish ourselves with our history and reflect on its meaning.

Your archives committee hopes this book will serve not only as a history, but also as a resource to help explain what Rotary is, what our Rotary Club has achieved over the years and what it aspires to continue. We should be mindful of the admonition Club members received in 1943 from Carl E. Balte, guest speaker: "It is all right to take your hat off to the past, but let's take our coats off to the future."

WILLIAM E. LOFTIN, SR.  
*Editor*

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## PAST DIRECTORS ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| David Clark     | 1929-1930 |
| C. W. Gilchrist | 1962-1964 |

## PAST DISTRICT GOVERNORS

|                       |                 |           |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Rogers W. Davis       | 7th District    | 1919-1920 |
| David Clark           | 58th District   | 1927-1928 |
| George M. Ivey, Sr.   | 188th District  | 1935-1936 |
| J. Mack Hatch         | 188th District  | 1938-1939 |
| Charles H. Stone      | 188th District  | 1944-1945 |
| Everett Bierman       | 194th District  | 1948-1949 |
| Malcolm R. Williamson | 280th District  | 1951-1952 |
| John Paul Lucas, Jr.  | 280th District  | 1952-1953 |
| H. Stanley MacClary   | 271st District  | 1953-1954 |
| Robert S. Woodson     | 682nd District  | 1954-1955 |
| C. W. Gilchrist       | 767th District  | 1959-1960 |
| Charles A. Hunter     | 767th District  | 1968-1969 |
| Joseph D. Moore, Sr.  | 767th District  | 1986-1987 |
| William E. Poe        | 7680th District | 1994-1995 |

# Object of Rotary

THE OBJECT OF ROTARY is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

1. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
2. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
3. The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business and community life;
4. The advancement of international understanding, good will, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.



# The Spirit of Rotary

A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY is always under construction. Rotary is helping to build it. Wherever Rotary is strong, community life is better. By its very nature the spirit of Rotary promotes the common good. We uphold high ethical standards in business and recognize the worthiness of all useful occupations as an opportunity to contribute to the well-being of humankind.

Rotary has really come into its own in this rapidly shrinking global village. International understanding is imperative. Through our world-wide fellowship — 1,200,000 strong in 27,000 clubs in 150 countries — and our student exchange program, Rotary is helping to break down barriers and to build bridges of goodwill and interdependence across the earth.

President Warren G. Harding recognized the problems persons of state and the various forms of government have. He applauded Rotary and said if we could plant the spirit of Rotary in every community and turn it into practical application it would go a long way toward guaranteeing the tranquility and forward march of civilization. As one who first joined Rotary in Atlanta in 1958, I agree. I find the Four-Way Test to be a masterful regimen for daily living: truthfulness, fairness, friendship and the good of all concerned.

What a privilege is ours to be members of the Charlotte Rotary Club! As we celebrate our 75th anniversary, let us rejoice in the illustrious legacy bequeathed to us by many of the Queen City's finest leaders. Yes, and let us resolve to make our membership as meaningful as possible, knowing — as International President Bill Huntley said in his Christmas message (1994) — that the spirit of Rotary, put into everyday practice, "spreads the warmth of human service and understanding wherever the cold darkness of hunger, disease, ignorance or conflict throws its long shadow."

L. Bevel Jones, III  
Resident Bishop  
Western North Carolina Conference  
United Methodist Church

June 2, 1995

# Paul P. Harris, Rotary's Founder

PAUL PERCY HARRIS, Rotary's founder, was born in Racine, Wisconsin, on April 19, 1868. His father fell on hard times in 1871; for economic reasons, he took Paul and his brother to Wallingford, Vermont, to be raised by their grandparents, whom Paul loved deeply all his life.

In 1885 he matriculated at the University of Vermont, but he was expelled in his second year after being wrongly accused of hazing a freshman. Subsequently, in 1933, the university conferred on Paul an honorary doctoral degree.

Paul entered Princeton University in the fall of 1887. The next year Paul's grandfather died, followed by his grandmother in 1890. Paul left Princeton and took a job with the Sheldon Marble Company, West Rutland, Vermont, for a year.

In 1889, Paul studied law in Des Moines, Iowa, in the office of St. John, Stevenson & Whisenand, and then entered the law department of the State University of Iowa. At Paul's graduation ceremony in 1891, the speaker emphasized the value of broadening oneself through travel and new experiences. Paul resolved to take five years to travel and work at various trades before actually beginning a law practice.

He began his journeys in San Francisco, California, where he got a job on the *Chronicle* as reporter. There he became close friends with Harry Pulliam, who later in life became president of the National Baseball League. Together they worked their way around California as fruit pickers.

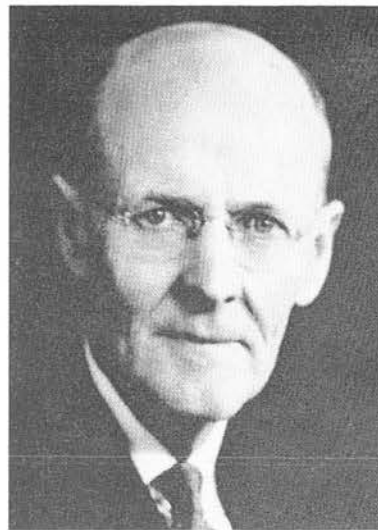
Paul continued to fulfill his plan to travel and experience a variety of occupations. In Los Angeles, he taught in a business college. In Colorado, he was an actor in a Denver theatrical company, a reporter at the *Rocky Mountain News*, and a ranch hand.

Moving on to Jacksonville, Florida, he became night clerk in the St. James Hotel, and then traveling salesman for a marble and granite concern owned by George W. Clark, who later organized the Rotary Club of Jacksonville.

In 1893 he worked for the *Washington Star* in Washington, D.C. He then went to Louisville, Kentucky, traveling for another marble and granite company. Then he found a job on a cattle boat and set sail for England. Returning to Maryland, he worked at a farm and a corn-canning factory. Having missed seeing London on his first trip to England, he worked another ship-board job and visited the historic sites of London and Wales.

On his return to the USA, he took a train to Chicago to visit the Columbian Exposition. Intrigued by Chicago's atmosphere of boldness and vigor, he would be drawn to that city when he finally chose to settle down. Then he went to New Orleans, Louisiana, picking and packing oranges and assisting in rescue efforts during a hurricane.

He returned to Jacksonville to his old position with the marble and granite company. This time he traveled to Scotland, Ireland, Belgium, and Italy as a buyer. He



PAUL P. HARRIS  
1868-1947

visited all major European countries while there. When he came home to the USA, he was sent to New York City to manage the company office there.

Having fulfilled his plans for traveling and broadening himself over a five-year period, he moved to Chicago in 1896 to open a law office. Chicago became his permanent home, where he maintained a successful law practice and some years later was active in the cause of Rotary.

In 1900, Paul visited his boyhood scenes in Vermont and realized that he lacked close friends in his adopted hometown of Chicago. Back in Chicago, he visited a professional friend and, following a walk in which he met various merchants in the neighborhood, Paul conceived the idea of a businessmen's club that could recapture some of the friendly spirit experienced among businessmen in small communities.

In 1905, Paul invited three young business acquaintances — Silvester Schiele, Gustavus Loehr, and Hiram Shorey — to his office and explained his idea of a different kind of businessmen's club, one in which the various businesses and professions of a community are represented. From this meeting on February 23, Rotary was born.

At that inauspicious meeting, Paul Harris challenged his three friends in attendance to dream. Members agreed that subsequent meetings would be held on a rotating basis at various places of business, thus the name "Rotary" was born. In order to build a diverse base of membership, it was also agreed that membership would be restricted to one from any given business or profession.

Rotary and its ideals quickly began to grow. In 1908, the second club was formed in San Francisco, followed by Oakland across the bay in 1909. By 1910, there were 10 registered clubs in the United States. Just two years later, the ranks had grown to 50 clubs. In 1912, Rotary became the International Association of Rotary Clubs. The Rotary Club of Charlotte, organized in 1916, was the 256th club in the world.

Paul Harris died in 1947, but he has left a rich legacy and a challenge to all Rotarians. He wrote, "When you look back over a period of years, much which seemed important fades into insignificance, while other things grow into such commanding importance that one may say in truth, 'Nothing else matters.' Sacrifice, devotion, honor, truth, sincerity, love — these are the homely virtues."



# ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



One Rotary Center  
1560 Sherman Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60201-3698 USA



27 February 1992

To All Members of  
The Rotary Club of  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Dear Fellow Rotarians:

It is indeed a pleasure to congratulate each and every one of you as your club celebrates 75 years of service to the community.

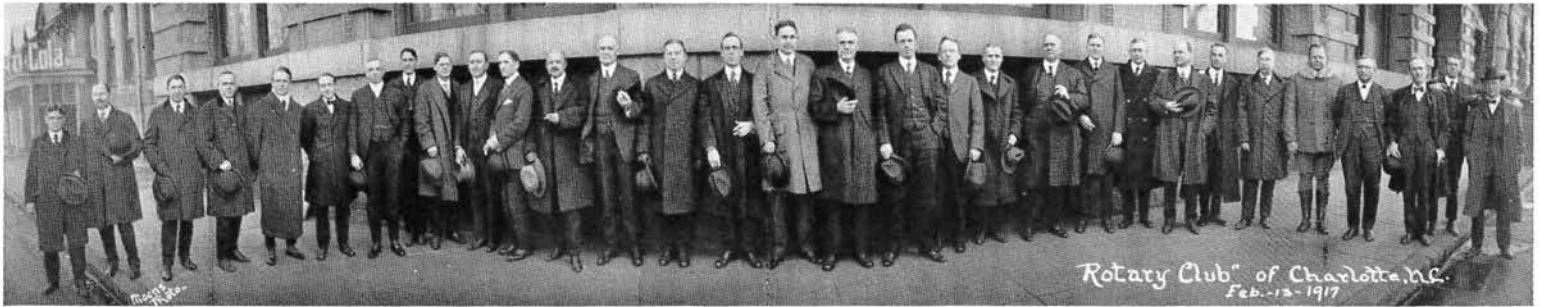
The Rotary Club of Charlotte has a fine history. It has undertaken a variety of projects locally and internationally. I encourage you to continue and build upon this record as you heed this year's Rotary theme, **LOOK BEYOND YOURSELF** to those who need your club's assistance.

You have my best wishes for continued success this year and in the years to come.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rajendra K. Saboo".

Rajendra K. Saboo  
P r e s i d e n t



## CHARTER MEMBERS ROTARY CLUB OF CHARLOTTE

December 1, 1916

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| C. A. Bland        | D. H. McCollough    |
| L. C. Burwell      | Herbert McDonald    |
| Dr. D. S. Caldwell | W. L. McDonald      |
| Banks R. Cates     | Dr. J. P. Matheson  |
| P. M. Cave         | C. A. Mees          |
| E. H. Chisolm      | R. W. Miller        |
| C. C. Coddington   | S. R. Moore         |
| W. S. Creighton    | C. W. Parker        |
| John L. Dabbs      | H. B. Patterson     |
| Rogers W. Davis    | R. M. Pound         |
| R. H. DeButts      | J. Perrin Quarles   |
| W. C. Dowd, Sr.    | B. F. Roark         |
| Brent Drane        | F. M. Simmons       |
| J. D. Duncan       | M. B. Speir         |
| J. W. Ferguson     | J. L. Staton        |
| George Fitzsimmons | W. B. Sullivan      |
| H. B. Fowler       | E. C. Sweeney       |
| John W. Fox        | Z. V. Taylor        |
| F. W. Glover       | H. M. Victor        |
| V. J. Guthery      | J. O. Walker        |
| H. S. Hall         | J. Frank Wilkes     |
| C. C. Hook         | C. A. Williams, Sr. |
| C. O. Kuester      | W. M. Wilson        |
| Thomas G. Lane     |                     |

## The Year 1916

*To lead off our year-long exposition of our history during the presidency of Bill Loftin, Sr., 1986-1987, Jack Claiborne, then associate editor of The Charlotte Observer, presented a program on July 15, 1986 describing the local and national scene in the year 1916, the year of our organization. Excerpts from his remarks appear here.*

NINETEEN SIXTEEN was the last year of one of the happiest, most idealistic moments in American history. It was the high water mark of the Progressive Era, a period that began shortly after the turn of the century with Theodore Roosevelt's ascension to the presidency. It was a time when Americans began to realize that industrialism and mass production had significantly altered American life and human relationships, that frontier individualism had given way to a complex organization of interdependent peoples. Citizens were calling on their government to do more to balance competing interests and promote economic fair play. For more than a decade, under Roosevelt, William Howard Taft and finally under Woodrow Wilson, the federal government responded with a long series of progressive measures.

Many of the reforms sought by William Jennings Bryan and the agrarian Populists in the 1890s and 1910s were written into law in this period: a parcel post system to compete with the monopolistic express companies, the regulation of railroads and utilities to end discriminatory rates, an income tax to replace the protective tariff as the government's chief source of revenue, a limit on immigration to protect the jobs of industrial workers, the popular election of U.S. Senators to take national politics out of the grasp of brokers in state legislatures, direct primaries to defeat the cliques that controlled local and state nominating conventions, and the Australian ballot to insure the privacy and integrity of the voting privilege.

In that reformist atmosphere, the Prohibition movement took root as a means of "purifying" American life, and the movement for women's suffrage gained new converts and momentum. Indeed, in the year 1916, Jeannette Rankin became the first woman elected to Congress — from Montana, one of about 20 en-

lightened states that allowed women to vote prior to 1920's ratification of the 19th Amendment. Also, as if to demonstrate the breadth of tolerance and opportunity in America, a Jew, Henry Louis Brandeis from Louisville, Ky., and Harvard University, was confirmed as the first adherent of his religion to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court. Southerners who remembered the assistance Jews gave the Confederacy were among the earliest supporters of the Brandeis appointment.

To the American work ethic was being added a strong emphasis on selflessness and on service. People were being encouraged to reach out to be good neighbors. Women's clubs were important expressions of this service phenomenon. Women's clubs were so numerous and so popular that *The Observer* devoted a regular column to the chronicling of their activities.

But hanging over all that reform and idealism like a threatening cloud was the bloody war in Europe, which had developed into a stalemate on both western and eastern fronts. The incessant German shelling of Verdun provoked the British and French to mount an offensive across the Somme, with a terrible toll in human life and misery. Within a few weeks, more than a million men were killed. But Americans still hoped they could avoid being involved. They were busy working, building new homes and factories, expanding their railroads and cities and making money. The market in American horses for shipment to Europe was booming, and so was the market for American cotton, an important ingredient in the manufacture of explosives. In the fall of 1916, cotton in Charlotte was selling at 18, 19 and 20 cents a pound, bringing nearly \$20 more per bale than it did a year earlier. An ad for the American Trust Co. said, "Wages are high, work is plentiful, business is brisk, everyone has money." The ad suggested that people save some.

The American Trust Co. was one of eight banks flourishing in Charlotte, all of them locally owned and managed. The day of branch banking had yet to dawn. Early in January, 1916, two of those banks, Charlotte National (now Wachovia) and Commercial National (later NationsBank) purchased what an *Observer* headline termed "An Uncanny Machine." It was a

Burroughs calculator built especially to record transactions on bank ledgers, eliminating the hand book-keeping of clerks. It marked the opening of the age of automation which has brought us to today's computers.

About once a week *The Observer* ran a boxed notice on its editorial page under the headline: "Convincing Facts Showing Charlotte's Growth and Resources." Information in the box was intended to boost the city's image and promote growth. The notice said Charlotte had an "estimated population" of 50,000 — it was more like 40,000. It said the city was served by four railroads and sixty-two daily passenger trains, diverging in eight directions. It said the city had 140 manufacturing plants and was surrounded by 400 cotton mills within 100 miles. It cited Southern Bell as "the largest telephone exchange between Washington and Atlanta." In addition to the eight banks, the notice said Charlotte had four building and loan institutions, the largest homeownership community and the lowest per capita tax rates of any city in the state. It also boasted that Charlotte had sixty-seven miles of paved and macadamized streets.

Many Charlotte institutions were beginning to break out of the close-knit grid of downtown streets in favor of more room and cleaner air in the suburbs. In March, 1916, Mercy Hospital moved from College and First streets to new buildings at East Fifth and Caswell Road on the edge of the city limits. Presbyterian Hospital, then in a converted hotel at West Trade and South Mint streets, was eyeing a site in Fourth Ward. Memorial Hospital (now Carolinas Medical Center), of course, did not exist until 1940. Many people were moving out of Fourth Ward into the new and exclusive suburb called Myers Park.

Having designed Myers Park, landscape architect John Nolen of Harvard was urging Charlotte to draw up a comprehensive plan for the future development of the city, a plan that would take full advantage of Charlotte's rolling terrain, the drainage of its many creeks, and its rich variety of trees. At the suggestion of the Women's Club and the Chamber of Commerce, he drew a sample plan for the city to study and encouraged it to raise money for a more detailed "civic survey." But his proposal was never acted on. Forty years later, when Charlotte finally got around to drawing a comprehensive plan, it borrowed heavily from some of the ideas Nolen had enunciated — but it was too late to save many of the city's creeks.

While the Charlotte of 1916 was busy tooting its horn and promoting its growth, there were increasing signs that the city was beginning to sense a change in its status. It was beginning to accept an emerging role as a regional city and a servant of people in surround-

ing towns and counties. Consider these developments:

Under the masthead of *The Observer* was a slogan that called Charlotte "the Metropolis of the Carolinas." About once a week, the paper and the Chamber of Commerce gathered up information to document Charlotte's increasing importance as "a medical center," as a film exchange (this was still the day of silent movies; remember, talkies didn't come until about 1927) or as "an auto center" distributing not only new cars but also auto tires and auto accessories. In January, 1916, the 160 workers at Ford Motor Co.'s four-story plant in the Hagood building at East Sixth Street and the railroad tracks turned out its first Model-T, and began gathering momentum toward a projected production rate of one car every 20 minutes. Next door, the Ford people maintained a four-story warehouse of spare parts for distribution to auto dealers throughout the Carolinas.

Further evidence of the city's regional responsibility was a push, led largely by Clarence O. Kuester, a charter member of Charlotte Rotary, to expand and improve Charlotte's warehousing and distributing facilities. He understood how important those facilities would become to the city's future. Under Kuester's prodding the Chamber was making plans to sponsor a "Piedmont Dinner" to give business and civic leaders from Charlotte a chance to gather with their counterparts from surrounding cities and towns, all in the name of promoting new industry and commerce in the region. *The Observer* strengthened those efforts by publishing two 48-page special editions extolling the value and variety of manufacturing in the Carolinas. The Chamber of Commerce also published eight-column ads in *The Observer*, calling attention to agricultural and industrial fairs in other counties and urging "every man in Charlotte who possibly can" to attend one of those fairs. The ads were headlined "Neighborliness" and drew warm responses from officials in surrounding communities.

\* \* \*

There were many other interesting things that occurred in 1916:

The Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the income tax, resolving an issue that had been fought back and forth for years;

A cornerstone was laid for the new Post Office building at West Trade and South Mint streets. An expansion of that post office 16 years later would force the dismantling of the 100-year-old U.S. Mint and its relocation in Eastover as the home of an art museum;

North Carolina held its first primary election to nominate a Democratic candidate for governor, a con-

test won by Thomas W. Bickett of Franklin County northeast of Raleigh, over Lt. Gov. E. L. Daughtridge of Rocky Mount. In those days, the governorship was rotated every four years between east and west to prevent party splits in the general election against Republicans. The year 1916 was the east's turn to elect the governor; in 1920, when it was the west's turn, Cameron Morrison of Charlotte would be chosen. If you don't think the east-west rotation was significant, think back to Eddie Knox's campaign for the Democratic nomination in 1984 and recall the difficulties he encountered against Rufus Edmisten from Down East.

Also in 1916:

Woodrow Wilson visited Charlotte on May 20th and spoke from the lawn of the old Presbyterian College at 9th and College streets;

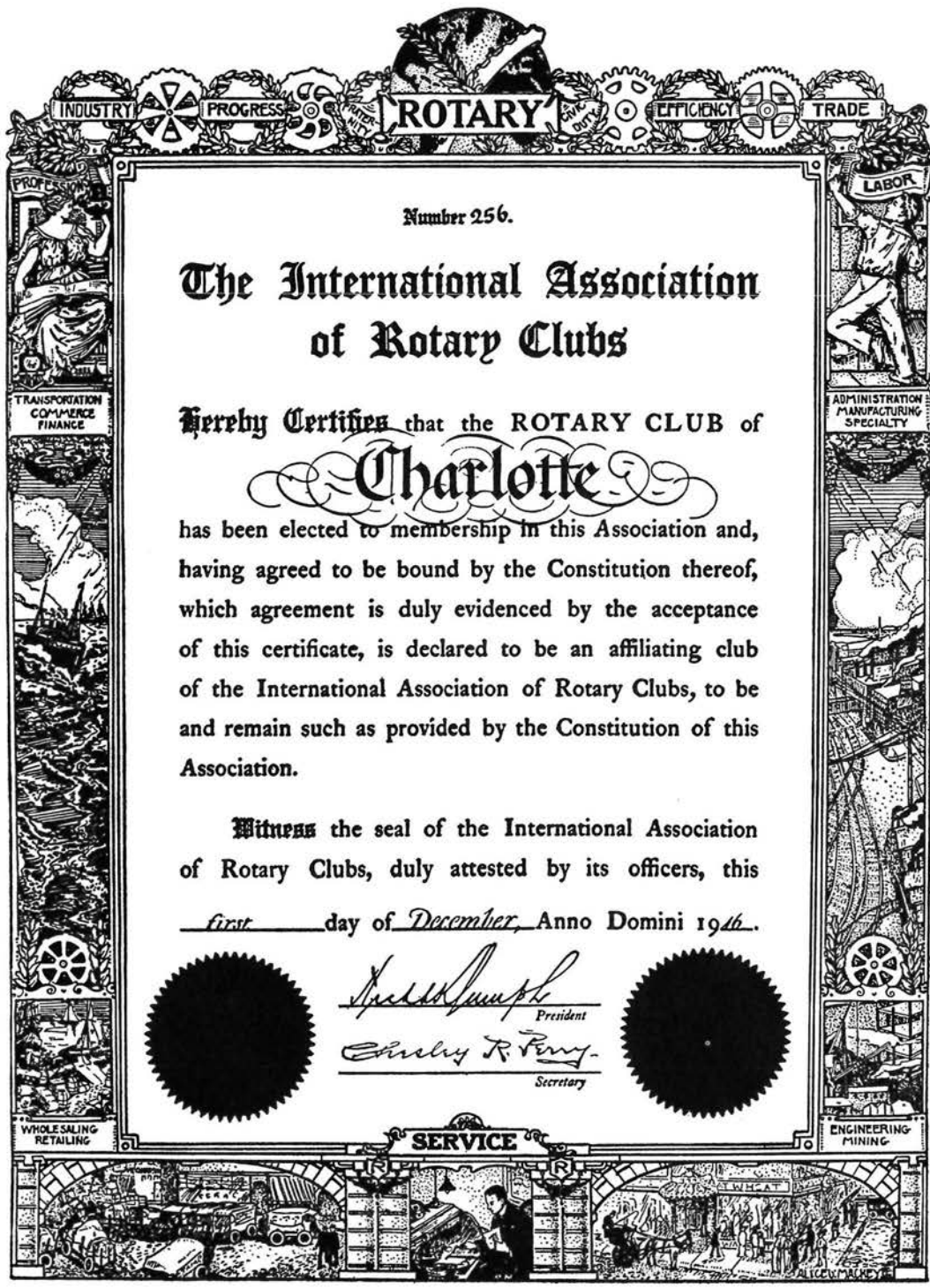
In mid July, six days of rain followed by a hurricane produced a flood on the Catawba River that washed away whole textile mills and interrupted the generation of electric power at several Duke Power dams;

It was in April, 1916, that *The Observer* was sold by American Trust Company's George Stephens and Word Wood to a Tennessee publisher named Curtis B. Johnson and a partner from Columbia, SC, Walter Sullivan. A few years later, illness would force Sullivan to retire, leaving Johnson to control the newspaper. When Curtis Johnson acquired *The Observer*, it had a circulation of just under 13,000 a day. When he died in 1950, it had a circulation of more than 135,000 a day — a 1,000 percent increase. It was Johnson who built *The Observer* into a big newspaper that sold more newspapers in the region than it did in

Charlotte itself, a phenomenon that began in 1916 and still prevails today.

One of the most important events of 1916 occurred on October 24, in the closing days of Woodrow Wilson's hard-fought campaign for reelection against Republican Charles Evans Hughes. On the same day that Henry Ford pledged to pay women workers the same salary as men, on the day that the French at last smashed German lines at Verdun and began to silence the invaders' 14-inch guns, on the day after Charlotteans, at the bidding of the Chamber of Commerce, had mailed 15,000 post cards advertising the city to friends all across the country, a group of 47 men, all from different businesses and professions, gathered for a banquet at the Selwyn Hotel and chartered the Charlotte Rotary Club, an organization whose formation had been under discussion for several months. Among the 47 were some of Charlotte's most prominent business and professional men: architect Charles C. Hook, banker H. M. Victor, real estate developer V. J. Guthery, warehouseman Clarence O. Kuester, *Observer* president Walter B. Sullivan, *Charlotte News* publisher W. Carey Dowd, office supplier R. M. Pound, printing executive Banks R. Cates, stockbroker Floyd M. Simmons, mortgage banker M. B. Speir, Duke Power executive Z. V. Taylor, and ex-mayor Charles A. Bland.

In the spirit of the times, it was a selfless organization dedicated to the betterment of the community and service to humanity. The example it set was to be followed again and again over the next 50 years as, one by one, other civic clubs — the Lions, Civitans, Kiwanis, and Optimists, were founded upon similar principles.



Number 256.

# The International Association of Rotary Clubs

Hereby Certifies that the ROTARY CLUB of

## Charlotte

has been elected to membership in this Association and, having agreed to be bound by the Constitution thereof, which agreement is duly evidenced by the acceptance of this certificate, is declared to be an affiliating club of the International Association of Rotary Clubs, to be and remain such as provided by the Constitution of this Association.

Witness the seal of the International Association of Rotary Clubs, duly attested by its officers, this

first day of December, Anno Domini 1946.



*Arthur H. Sampson*  
President

*Charles R. Perry*  
Secretary



SERVICE

## Our Time and Place

By ROBIN A. SMITH

IT BEGAN on a chilly night in Charlotte on December 5, 1916. A small group of businessmen with a vision met at the Selwyn Hotel at the corner of West Trade and Church streets in the city's bustling business district. Thomas B. McAdams of Richmond, VA, ranking Rotarian of the province, presented President Rogers W. Davis a charter for the nation's newest Rotary club — The Rotary Club of Charlotte. It was the 256th Club in the world.

According to a report by *The Charlotte Observer*, the meeting was well attended with a dinner that was "the most delightful that Charlotte has known in a long while. The music was fine and the fellowship of those present inspiring."

Months prior to that eventful Charter Night supper, the group had met to organize a Rotary club in their growing southern city. Directors were elected, members recruited, and the first Board meeting was held on October 28, 1916. In just six short months, The Rotary Club of Charlotte had become a reality.

Of the five original local promoters, ironically, only three became members: C. O. Kuester, manager of Kuester-Lowe Company (wholesale grocery); Charles A. Williams, Sr., president of Williams-Shelton Co. (wholesale dry-goods); and J. Perrin Quarles, manager of The Equitable Life Assurance Society. Captain John A. Parker, an attorney, was ordered to Texas along with his National Guard company to quell the dispute with Mexican bandit Pancho Villa. In a tragic airplane accident, Parker was killed. Frank Lethco, president of Charlotte Laundry, never joined. Clarence ("Booster") Kuester became the executive vice president of the newly reorganized Charlotte Chamber of Commerce a short while later, in 1919.

*As World War I raged in Europe, President Woodrow Wilson won his reelection bid on the platform, "He kept us out of war." "Mr. Peanut" was introduced by Planters Nut and Chocolate Company, and Coca-Cola adopted its distinctive bottle shape that would identify the soft drink to the present day.*

As the first Charlotte Rotarians sat for the eight o'clock inaugural supper at the Selwyn Hotel, none

could realize the impact Rotary would make in Charlotte, in North Carolina, in their nation and in their world. None could foresee the dramatic changes that were to impact the present and shape the future.

During the seven and a half decades that would follow, two World Wars would ravage the planet. Countless other military conflicts would alter boundaries and bring us to the brink of nuclear annihilation. Space travel would become common. Jet airplanes would become the norm. Polio would be conquered throughout the world with a life-saving vaccine. African-Americans would be granted civil rights. Women would win the right to vote by Congress . . . and become Rotarians.

During those same 75 years, the United Nations would be established. Computers, fax machines and overnight delivery would become standard operating procedure for companies and individuals. The AIDS epidemic would rage. A global economy would be within reach, and the fall of Communism and its bastion, the Soviet Union, a reality.

Charlotte's economy and population received a great boost in 1917. Troops had to be trained for service in World War I, and Charlotteans seized the opportunity to be of service. They lobbied hard to get a base in the area, and won. Camp Greene opened that summer. The camp housed up to 60,000 men during its two-year existence, a larger population than the city proper.

Through it all, Rotarians have been agents of change, leaders as circumstances would demand. From 1916 to 1918, members of The Rotary Club of Charlotte sought to improve conditions at the county jail. The membership also concerned itself with entertaining the officers serving at nearby Camp Greene. Charlotte was a textile-oriented city, so members kept close tabs on agricultural issues and educational concerns of the day. Funds were quickly raised to benefit Davidson College.

And then there was the ongoing passion for sports. Charlotte Rotarians appointed a committee to explore the opportunity of bringing a baseball club to Charlotte. The more things change, the more they remain the same. As the 75th Anniversary year passed, Charlotte would be in the running for an NFL team, and

talk at Rotary meetings would be of coaches and players and the price of tickets.

Rotarians united in 1919 to provide funds needed to buy musical instruments for a Scout band. Those same instruments were later used to establish the Central High School Band. As labor unrest rocked the U.S., involving more than 4 million people, Charlotte faced its own labor disputes with striking streetcar operators, adversely affecting local transportation and businesses.

It was during this year that The Rotary Club of Charlotte changed its meeting date to the Tuesday of every week. Christmas donations benefited orphanages and the Crittenton Home, and the Club helped award a Rotary charter to the Rotary Club of Gastonia. Books for the library, bond issues, playground equipment and more filled discussions between members.

*The year 1919 saw race riots in 26 U.S. cities and the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. The Versailles Peace Conference began in Paris, and the League of Nations was created.*

By 1920, Rotary membership swelled to 139. Meetings rotated from locations like the YMCA, Alexander Graham School and St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

*This was the age of prohibition, of famine in Russia, of the indictment of eight Chicago White Sox players for fixing the 1919 World Series.*

*Charlottean Cameron Morrison was elected governor in 1920. He won a \$65 million appropriation for the state's highway system and became known as "The Good Roads Governor." The highway system positioned Charlotte to become a trucking crossroads and distribution center.*

Discussion turned to Charlotte's need for a loft building in 1921. Norman Pease, a Club member and architect, sketched the plans on a tablecloth at one of the Club's luncheons. Howard Wade seized the idea and built the Wade Loft Building. The Boy Scout movement was also of prime interest for Rotarians as was the Carolinas' Exposition which was held in Charlotte that year.

By 1922, Charlotte Rotary's interests were becoming more defined. Projects for young people were stressed, and the Club's Student Loan Fund was substantially augmented. A high school baseball league was endorsed, theatrical plays encouraged, and the Club urged the establishment of a Third and Fourth Year Medical Hospital and Institution of Learning in Charlotte.

A course in retail selling was established in the pub-

lic schools, thanks to leadership given by Rotarians. YMCA, YWCA and Boy Scout programs continued to be emphasized. The membership also assisted in drives and programs associated with the fledgling Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. Rotarians also requested that the city appropriate funds for the Public Library. Pressure was likewise brought to bear by the Chamber of Commerce to increase the salaries of the mayor and city commissioners to ensure the recruiting of competent officials.

*WBT, the South's first licensed broadcasting station, signed on the air in 1922. It was joined by WSOC in 1929.*

*Nineteen twenty-three began with the shock of President Warren Harding's death. Calvin Coolidge took office. Adolf Hitler failed in an attempt to overthrow the German government from the Munich Beer Garden.*

That year, The Rotary Club of Charlotte honored 160 graduates of Charlotte High School at a dinner. An offering was taken for victims of the earthquakes and floods in Japan. Lincolnton formed a Rotary club which was sponsored by The Rotary Club of Charlotte. Rotarians met members of the Mexican basketball team as they traveled to Washington for a tournament. By 1924, a special committee was appointed to handle Rotary Boys' and Girls' work. Four to five Rotarians met with the Juvenile Court each Friday where each boy or girl was assigned a "Big Brother" for the year. Rotarians counseled with these youths and their parents, and the courts found that there were fewer "repeaters" as a result of the program.

A "Cavalcade" was arranged for Rotary clubs of South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. Good roads were sorely needed throughout North Carolina, and many club members began work on the improvements.

*Lenin died, and Joseph Stalin became a household name. J. Edgar Hoover was appointed head of the Bureau of Investigation.*

As the first decade of The Rotary Club of Charlotte drew to an end, Nellie Ross of Wyoming became the first woman governor. The Crippled Children's Clinic was established under the auspices of the Mecklenburg County Board of Health. Club members publicly endorsed the clinic and pledged to help operate it. The sum of \$25 a month was appropriated for incidental expenses associated with the clinic's initial setup.

The clinic developed into a critically important agency which delivered medical treatment to crip-



pled children whose families could otherwise not afford the treatments. Dr. Alonzo Myers, a Rotarian, served without pay as head of the clinic.

Cooperation continued with the Juvenile Court of Charlotte throughout 1925 with members attending weekly court sessions. Hamilton C. Jones, Club President, served as judge of Juvenile Court and worked closely with the committee which established the system of Juvenile Courts for the entire state of North Carolina.

The second decade for Charlotte Rotary proved to be even more eventful than the first. It opened in 1926 under the watchful eye of Dr. Hamilton McKay. The Charity Fund was established under his leadership. First year gifts totaled \$2,013. The fund was the fore-runner of the United Way. A committee was appointed to administer the funds. Led by President McKay, it included Howard M. Wade and Thomas G. Lane.

The decade beginning in 1926 was one which reflected the economic conditions of the city, state and nation. Records show that in 1926 the total city school budget was \$668,103. School teachers numbered 395, and the combined Charlotte-Mecklenburg tax rate was \$2.14. Also in 1926 a privately owned airport opened; it was the precursor to today's Douglas International.

Club membership numbered 133. The Charlotte Rotary Club met every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. in the second floor dining room of the Chamber of Commerce building, which was on the south side of West Fourth Street. Meetings would continue at that location throughout the decade.

Henry McAden became president of the Club in 1927. He distributed the Rotary Code of Ethics to every member of the Club. Many hung them in their offices or at home. Contributions were made throughout the year to benefit several worthwhile organizations in Charlotte. The Little Theatre started operating that year, becoming the oldest community theater in North Carolina.

In the spring of 1928, the Charlotte Club hosted the District Conference in Charlotte with a gift of \$1,000 toward the expenses.

*The U.S. Federal Reserve Bank opened in Charlotte, positioning the city as a major financial center for the future. Flooding in the Mississippi Valley devastated the area, Charles Lindbergh flew solo nonstop from New York to Paris, and the German economy collapsed on "Black Friday." Babe Ruth hit a record 60 home runs, and the Harlem Globetrotters were organized.*

Ralston M. "Gus" Pound was president in 1928, instituting many "firsts" for the Club. A weekly bulletin,

### Charlotte's Role in Rotary's Beginning

*Our senior Rotarians will remember the late Charles H. Stone (1877-1963) who earned the appellation "Mr. Rotary" for his dedication and service to Rotary (President, 1939-40; District Governor, 1944-45). Charley compiled a history of the first 40 years of our Club — 1916-1956 — in which he suggested the founder of Rotary, Paul Harris, may have conceived of Rotary during one of his trips to Charlotte prior to 1905. The following is an excerpt from Rotarian Stone's history.*

The thought of Rotary may have been born in a split-bottom chair, one warm Sunday afternoon, in front of the old Buford Hotel. Paul Harris, a frail man, born in Vermont in 1868, left New England as a young man and became a traveling salesman, a "drummer," and spent much of his time in the South, making the old Buford his headquarters in this section. On long weekends, he was very lonesome, and longed for the companionship of his neighbors and friends. His weekends here were conducive to thinking. After going to Chicago, and still hungry for companionship, in 1905, he joined with four others, lonesome like himself, in lunching each week. Each was of a different profession or engaged in a different business. As time passed, others joined them, and they settled on a regular eating place and time. Thus was born the first Rotary Club, composed of congenial but non-competitive friends.

*The Buford Hotel was located on the northeast corner of Fourth and Tryon streets, site of present-day Home Federal Savings and Loan. While patronized by traveling men, the Buford also provided living quarters for some of Charlotte's most prominent people. The hotel was closed about 1915. The lower floor was occupied by the Union National Bank. In 1945 the building was renovated and the upper floors occupied by the newly formed Charlotte City Club.*

known as the "Rotary Hornet," (other reports call it "The Hornet's Nest") was published each Friday and mailed to members. It was the precursor of our current "Rotary Reporter." Later that year, short biographies and photos began to appear in the "Hornet." Several committees noted for exemplary work included the Crippled Children's Clinic, Boys' Work and High School and College Education.

Fellowship was stressed, and a series of shop talks about various businesses and occupations were made by members. The British Delegation of Rotary International British Isles paid a visit to Charlotte.

*Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly the Atlantic and Admiral Richard Byrd left for his historic Antarctic expedition. British women won the right to vote and Herbert Hoover became U.S. President.*

The year 1929 started with much promise. Rotary Club membership rose to 157, an all time high for the decade. The GNP reached a high point of \$181.8 billion. The Dow Jones Industrial Stock Average was 311.24. John Paul Lucas, Club President in 1929, watched over the membership during its great prosperity and its decline later that year. In notes, President Lucas stated that the membership's morale always stayed high and that the annual Club picnic was well attended.

The Club's financial reserves were used to cover a loss from sponsoring a concert of the United States Marine Band. A Ladies Night featured entertainment by the Charlotte Little Theatre. A Farmer's Day program was also sponsored by the Club in deference to the large number of farmers in Mecklenburg County.

*In 1929 Charlotte's council-manager form of government was adopted. It drew national attention because it fostered smooth and interactive dealings between the city manager and the council. It continues today.*

*The stock market hit a high of 381 before it began to plummet. Nineteen million shares were sold, sending the market crashing. The selling panic continued, and billions were lost overnight. The Wall Street hysteria began on Black Thursday, October 24 and peaked on Black Tuesday, October 29.*

As 1930 dawned, the Great Depression clutched the country. Fascism was on the rise in Europe and Asia, and hardship and despair were the norm. President Julian Miller's term was marked by his mastery of public speaking. It is said that members attended just to hear his oratory. Miller was editor of *The Charlotte Observer* and captivated his audience with "his choice of language." During his administration Rotary International founder Paul P. Harris paid a visit to Charlotte.

*A crowd of 30,000 came to the airport in Charlotte as the first airmail was delivered in 1930. By 1931, unemployment was 15.9 percent. Bread lines formed throughout the nation.*

George Ivey's term began in 1931, marked by an unfortunate decline in membership. Because of the lack of ready cash, Club dues were reduced from \$35 to \$25 per year. Luncheon prices were likewise reduced from \$.90 to \$.75, then to \$.60. Thirty-three members resigned because of their inability to pay dues and meals. Even the annual Ladies Night was canceled to conserve funds.

Edgar A. "Turk" Terrell succeeded Ivey in 1932. Economic stress continued, and it showed in the Club and its membership. Resignations continued because

of the lack of cash. The annual budget was set at \$3,000, and it was met with a surplus of \$21. In the budget was a line item of \$700 for the Crippled Children's Committee. This was to be the inaugural season for the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra.

*Meanwhile unemployment nationwide had hit an astounding 24 percent with no end in sight. Auto sales fell 80 percent from 1929. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected president.*

Junius M. Smith's presidency in 1933 began as membership hit its lowest mark, dropping to a mere 85 members. One out of every four people was unemployed. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg tax rate had dropped to \$1.55, \$.59 less than just six years prior. The city's budget was half of what it was six years before. It appeared that things had finally bottomed out, and an optimism took hold. Smith and other officers pushed for increased memberships, and the ranks began to swell. With funds tight, outside speakers could not be paid. Members filled in, handling the programs themselves and building better fellowship and camaraderie.

### How Rotary Started

The year 1905 found Paul P. Harris, a young lawyer in Chicago, Illinois, experiencing the loneliness of a big city. He was desirous of enlarging his circle of acquaintances. He wanted to know more about men engaged in other lines of business. He was anxious to increase and improve his knowledge of men by closer contact. So on the evening of February 23, of that year, this young man met with a few of his friends. He told them of his desires, and the group was soon discussing the formation of a club, the purpose of which was to be mutual helpfulness. Rotary had its beginning! The momentum created at that meeting was to carry the idea around the world.

During the formative period it was agreed that a member should be the proprietor of his business, or partner, or a corporate officer. Meetings were to be held in the members' places of business—in rotation—so that each might obtain a better knowledge of the others. Meeting thus, in rotation, suggested the name "Rotary."

The idea proved so acceptable that the club grew rapidly, making it necessary to meet in hotels and restaurants rather than at the members' places of business.

The second Rotary Club was organized in San Francisco three years later, in 1908, followed by Oakland, California (1909), Seattle, Washington (1909), Los Angeles (1909), and New York City (1909). Membership in the six clubs numbered 510.

The Rotary Club of Charlotte was organized in 1916 — charter dated December 1 — as the 256th club in Rotary International.

In only 11 years following the first Rotary meeting on February 23, 1905, membership had reached 30,000.

The highlight of the year was a visit to the Club by International President John Nelson. By-laws were completely revised.

*It was a year of better spirits for the nation as well. Beer (3.2 percent) and wine were authorized by Congress as the prohibition repeal took effect.*

*On the darker side of world affairs, Adolf Hitler was named German Chancellor. He assumed dictatorial powers later that year. President Roosevelt narrowly escaped an assassination attempt in Florida.*

Jim Van Ness was president in 1934. New members were joining the ranks, and the roster grew to 100 members. Van Ness started what became a Club tradition. Each member was given a round name badge to wear during meetings. Even though the badge shape has changed to accommodate a computer bar code strip, the custom of name badges continues today. The Club endorsed George Ivey for District Governor, and he was duly elected at the District Conference in Rock Hill in May 1935.

The second decade ended under the leadership of Rufus M. Johnston. International Rotary President Ed Johnson visited the Club that year and addressed an inter-city meeting which included Rotarians from nine other clubs.

*Hitler denounced the Versailles Treaty and disarmament; inheritance and gift taxes were levied; the FDIC was created and Persia was renamed Iran. Heinrich Himmler started the state breeding program to produce perfect Aryans. Huey Long was assassinated by a Louisiana physician, and the Social Security Act became law.*

J. A. "Art" Mayo led the Club into its third decade in 1936. The long-standing tradition of club singing was instituted and continues to the present. Billy Whidit led the Club in song each week. He was director of his own boys choir. Later the Club would support the Rotary Boys Choir.

"Little Rotary" was born in 1936. It was an informal Thursday luncheon club attended by Rotarians and their friends and business associates. It continued for years with many topics of conversation. It added to the fellowship of Rotarians and made for lasting friendships.

*The arts flourished in Charlotte. The old U.S. Mint was dismantled stone-by-stone and moved from downtown to the fashionable Eastover neighborhood. Once reassembled, in 1939, it became the first art museum in the state.*

*Margaret Mitchell published her epic novel, Gone*

*with the Wind, while the U.S. Supreme Court building and the Jefferson Memorial were approved and designed.*

*By 1937, unemployment figures were slowly shrinking. Charlotte's population hit 100,000. Charlotte Mayor Ben Douglas realized the value of air travel to Charlotte's future growth. He was able to earmark funds for construction of a modern airport through the WPA. Bonds were passed for \$50,000 for the project in 1935, and the facility opened on June 1, 1937.*

Dr. V. K. "Bill" Hart was Rotary president during this time. He oversaw the reorganization of the Student Loan Fund project which began in 1922. In 1937, it was showing a paper loss of some \$10,000. Hart's philosophy was that young people should build character through the repayment of their loans. Many had not taken their obligations seriously, and the time had come to set things straight.

L. G. "Plug" Osborne followed Hart in 1938. FDR asked Congress for monies to build the Army and the Navy, feeling military conflict was drawing near. Unemployment figures had once again risen sharply.

*Nineteen thirty-nine saw the passing of Sigmund Freud and William Butler Yeats, and the passing of peace throughout much of the world. Germany invaded Czechoslovakia, then Franco took Madrid. German armies rolled into Poland, and Britain and France declared war on Germany in retaliation. Poland fell.*

Once again, the founder of Rotary, Paul Harris, visited The Rotary Club of Charlotte, arriving on April 24, 1939. During his stay, Harris ceremoniously planted the "Paul Harris Tree" on the grounds of the Mint Museum of Art. The tree stands today and is enjoyed by thousands of visitors annually.

Charles Stone took over as Club President in 1939 and later became District Governor in 1944. A greater appreciation for the community was the program mission that year. May 20th was celebrated, authenticating the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. A more serious outcome of Stone's tenure was a contribution made by the Club allowing the Park and Recreation Commission to begin recreational programming after city schools closed for summer break. Membership was 150.

Paul R. Sheahan took over as president in 1940 and oversaw the Club as it started the Negro Girl Scout movement by sponsoring the first troop in Mecklenburg. That year also saw the Club give birth to an idea that would go on to become the Association of Charlotte Civic Clubs. Both projects proved worthwhile.

The Rotary Club of Charlotte also furnished a recreation room at Douglas Airport, which had recently been activated as an air base for military service.

*The dawning of the 1940s was a dark one. An awesome military dictatorship had conquered most of Western Europe, and Japan was a looming threat to the Far East. Winston Churchill took over as British Prime Minister, replacing Neville Chamberlain. Nazis invaded Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg with lightning speed. Italy declared war on Great Britain and France. Japan, Italy and Germany signed the Axis Pact.*

*The crowning blow for the U.S. was the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor inflicting massive damage. The U.S. was stunned. The Japanese continued their assault, taking strategic targets in Manila, Singapore and Hong Kong. U.S. declared war on Japan.*

Nineteen forty-one marked the 25th Anniversary of The Rotary Club of Charlotte. Celebrated October 21, 1941, before war was declared, a gala highlighted Dr. Amos S. Bumgardner's year as president. Tom Davis, Rotary International's president, spoke to 500 guests and honored Charlotte Rotary's past presidents. As winter approached, Rotarians produced a musical review, "Hooray America." The show raised more than \$3,600, which was given to the Chairman of Civilian Defense and fellow Rotarian, Dr. Bob Ferguson. The money was used for medical instruments and supplies.

The Club dealt face to face with World War in 1942. Former President L. G. "Plug" Osborne, Francis Beatty and Tom Byrnes went into active military duty. Steve Marsh received a leave of absence to serve with the war production board in New York. Hoyt Galvin chaired the scrap drive, Paul Lucas toured the state for War Bonds and Rotarians in Charlotte kept the home front going.

*1943 saw the Japanese defeated on Guadalcanal. A brutal Nazi massacre in a Warsaw ghetto took the lives of thousands. The Russians destroyed the German army outside of Stalingrad, and the Allies under General Patton invaded Sicily. The same year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that saluting the flag was optional in schools. Italy surrendered and General Ike Eisenhower was named Commander of Allied European Forces.*

Everett C. Bierman, 27th president, saw more Rotarians go to war. Under his leadership, The Rotary Club of Charlotte started the first Blood Reserve in Charlotte with Bierman giving the first 500 cc's. The Blood Reserve was the precursor to the American Red Cross. Produce from 30 Rotarian Victory Gardens was

the topic of one weekly meeting. Membership in the Club rose to 171 with an annual budget now of \$12,211. Later that year, The Rotary Club of Kannapolis was founded, thanks to Charlotte's help.

Charles A. Williams, Jr., president in 1944, feeling that boys' activities and accomplishments were well recognized in Charlotte, directed the Club's focus on girls. Williams and the Club membership sponsored the Red Shield Girls Club, setting aside \$1,800 for that purpose. A club room was provided along with recreational equipment. The Salvation Army also helped to nurture the fledgling group.

No longer needed because of federal and local agency operations and funds, the Club's Crippled Children's Clinic was disbanded after years of important service to the community. "Junior Rotarians" were student visitors to the Club. Members sponsored essay contests to help the young men further their education.

*In world news, air raids struck at Berlin, FDR was reelected to a fourth term, and the GI Bill of Rights was passed. The United Nations was established, Paris was liberated, and the Germans were defeated in the Battle of the Bulge.*

*In 1945 the nation mourned President Roosevelt who died unexpectedly of a cerebral hemorrhage. Harry Truman took the oath of office as reports of Hitler's suicide reached the western world. Germany surrendered unconditionally. The first of two A-bombs was dropped on Hiroshima, the second, on Nagasaki. The Japanese surrendered unconditionally.*

John R. Pender took the helm of Rotary in Charlotte in 1945 on a note of nationwide optimism. The first of many successful Boy Scout exhibits was sponsored by the Club. The Charlotte Boys Choir, conceived by Pat Gilchrist and administered by Jim McMillan, performed throughout the southeastern U.S., from Miami to New York.

The fourth decade of Rotary saw the Charlotte Boys Choir blossom and grow. R. Powell Majors, then president, oversaw rehearsals each Saturday morning. Rotarians paid the boys \$.25 to overcome the stigma that singing in a choir was "sissy." The choir continued for 17 years, under the leadership of Jim McMillan. In later years, the Choir provided \$2,400 to help pay tuition for four foreign students attending Davidson College. Health and Happiness began its tradition of good fun and humor. Later, it was even called the "Methodist Hour," after Dick Owenby, a Health and Happiness regular and pastor of Myers Park United Methodist Church.

Applications to borrow funds from the Student Loan

Fund were few and far between. The Student Loan Committee petitioned the Board of The Rotary Club of Charlotte to allot monies to purchase a projector and 16 films for the Public Library, all at a cost of \$1,100. Hoyt Galvin, Director of the Library, supervised the equipment's selection and purchase. Thanks to efforts by the Youth Activities Committee, the annual Boy Scout Merit Badge Show was a success. Club members underwrote the show's expenses of \$500.

*Civil war raged in China. The first United Nations meeting was organized, and the Korean provisional government was established, calling for the U.S.S.R. to control the North and the U.S. to control the South. The Nuremberg war trials began.*

The Charlotte Boys Choir, boasting 60 voices, gained in popularity during John Paul Lucas' presidency in 1947. Once again, the Boy Scout Merit Badge exposition was held with help from the Club. The November event drew thousands from Charlotte and surrounding areas. Junior Rotary took on greater formality. Outstanding students from three area high schools were invited to attend Rotary meetings for a one-month period. That year, 21 young men had the opportunity to experience Rotary firsthand.

Visual education programs continued through the Charlotte Public Library with funds used to purchase additional projectors and films. The Student Loan Fund had more than \$14,000 in assets and awarded loans to deserving young men and women. As a first, the Club sponsored a float in the downtown Christmas parade. The float won! Always a supporter of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, Rotarians helped

sponsor a symphonic drama "Shout Freedom" on May 20, celebrating the declaration's 173rd anniversary.

Under Lucas' guidance, the Club also achieved a 100 percent giving level to the Rotary Foundation. Rotary Family Day, picnics, hospital visits to ailing members and other such events promoted Club members' commitment to "Service Above Self." The Civic Affairs Committee honored a group of dedicated teachers in the public schools by staging an "Appreciation Day."

*This was during a time when telephone strikes were commonplace throughout the country and the Marshall Plan was set in place to help rebuild war-torn Europe.*

President David Welton (1948-49) helped the Club weather the changes smoothly. He and Everett Bierman, District Governor, attended the International Convention in Rio de Janeiro. The Dilworth Club was established as a second Rotary club in Charlotte.

The Charlotte Boys Choir achieved national acclaim when they sang in Madison Square Garden for the International Convention of Rotary. Through voluntary contributions from the membership more than 88 people made the journey to New York. The group went on to sing on NBC for a nationwide audience and even appeared on Ripley's "Believe It Or Not" television program.

Members presented more than 40 percent of all Club programs that year. Guest speakers who were not members of the Club included Eddie Rickenbacker and Angus Mitchell, the Australian President of Rotary International.

### Development of Rotary in North Carolina

Rotary began in 1905 in Chicago, Ill., when Paul P. Harris, a young attorney, brought together a group of business and professional men. Harris named the club "Rotary" because members met in rotation at their various places of business.

A second Rotary Club organized in San Francisco, followed by clubs in Oakland, Seattle and Los Angeles.

North Carolina's first club formed in Raleigh on August 1, 1914 followed by Wilmington on April 1, 1915. Our charter is dated December 1, 1916. Nearly all 230 North Carolina clubs are descendants of the Richmond (Virginia), Raleigh or Wilmington clubs.

Rotary began organizing into districts, first called "divisions," in 1912. Each district is governed by a District Governor. North Carolina's earliest clubs (1914-18) were in District 4, which included the southeastern part of the United States south of Washington, D.C. and Maryland. In 1918, the Rotary Clubs

of Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina were grouped together to form District Number 7. Howard E. Ronthaler, Winston-Salem (1918-19), Roger W. Davis, Charlotte (1919-20) and Roger Moore, Wilmington (1922-23) served as district governors in District 7.

In 1923, North Carolina and Virginia were re-organized into District Number 37, and by 1926, the number of clubs organized in North Carolina was sufficient to form a district within the state, creating District 57. Enough clubs existed in the Piedmont and Eastern areas of North Carolina in 1937 to form two Districts. By 1946, North Carolina was divided into four districts. Today, North Carolina boasts six districts.

Over the years, three North Carolina district governors also served as presidents of Rotary International. They inducted M. Eugene Newsom of Durham (1929-30), Charles G. Tennent of Asheville (1957-58) and Luther H. Hodges of Chapel Hill (1967-68). Hodges also is a former governor of North Carolina.

### Our Offspring

Many of the 65 clubs of District 7680 were sponsored by our Club. Most were organized during the first 15 years of our existence under the leadership of David Clark, our first "Mr. Rotary," who served as our second president (1918-19), district governor (1927-28) and director of RI (1929-30). Dave was a tireless worker in the "vineyard." The Dilworth Club was sponsored in 1948 and the other clubs in the county have been co-sponsored.

1. Rock Hill, S. C.—1918
2. Gastonia, N. C.—1919
3. Mooresville, N. C.—1921
4. Statesville, N. C.—1921
5. Monroe, N. C.—1922
6. Chester, S. C.—1926
7. Franklin, N. C.—1927
8. Hendersonville, N. C.—1927
9. Shelby, N. C.—1927
10. Tryon, N. C.—1927
11. Wadesboro, N. C.—1927
12. Camden, S. C.—1927
13. Manning, S. C.—1927  
(co-sponsored with Sumter, S. C.)
14. Walhalla, S. C.—1927
15. Albemarle, N. C.—1928
16. Andrews, N. C.—1928
17. Spruce Pine, N. C.—1928
18. Sylva, N. C.—1928
19. Batesburg-Leesville, S. C.—1928  
(co-sponsored with Columbia, S. C.)
20. Seneca, S. C.—1928
21. Westminster, S. C.—1928
22. Hartsville, S. C.—1929
23. Waycross, Georgia—1930
24. West Jefferson-Jefferson, N. C.—1938
25. Mount Holly, N. C.—1944
26. Dilworth (Charlotte), N. C.—1948
27. Charlotte North, N. C.—1952
28. Charlotte West, N. C.—1963
29. Charlotte East, N. C.—1969
30. Charlotte Top-of-Week, N. C.—1980
31. Mint Hill-Matthews, N. C.—1980
32. Charlotte South, N. C.—1984
33. Charlotte University City, N. C.—1986
34. North Mecklenburg County, N. C.—1989

The baton passed to Hoyt R. Galvin in 1949. Several memorable accomplishments were achieved that year. The Boy Scout Merit Badge Show once again drew thousands, and the Club's annual picnic was held at the Observer Fresh Air Camp. With the help of the Club, the Charlotte Better Business Bureau came into being. Beaumert Whitton, Chairman of the Vocational Service Committee, set about establishing the bureau to "improve the ethical standards of Charlotte business."

In cooperation with other clubs in District 280, the Club contributed \$256.25 to the District Scholarship Fund to finance a Latin American student at Western

Carolina College. Another student was assisted for her year's study at Lenoir Rhyne College.

Junior Rotarians now numbered 24, and all visited the Club and vied for a \$100 scholarship at year's end. The Student Loan Committee had its hands full as 28 loans were made. "Little Rotary" at Thacker's on Thursdays continued, and the Club met its annual budget.

*The Atlantic Pact was signed forming NATO, Siam became Thailand, and apartheid began in South Africa. More than a half million steelworkers went on strike, and communists were dismissed from U.S. schools.*

Once again the Boys Choir was in the news in 1950, being recognized at the Rotary International Conference. President C. W. Gilchrist, also known as "Mr. Rotary," took the bows on behalf of the Club. The Board once again concluded that the by-laws were outdated. Incorporation was discussed, and Jim Craighill took responsibility for the overhaul.

New members were welcomed into the Club with a series of welcome dinners. These meetings were used as indoctrination and educational opportunities for all in attendance. The Boy Scout Merit Badge Show was a wild success, drawing more than 30,000 during the three-night event. Scouting's growth became exponential, with Rotary supporting it every step of the way.

Four-Way Test plaques were presented to each member of the North Carolina State Senate and House by several cooperating Rotary clubs, including Charlotte Rotary. Technology caught up with The Rotary Club of Charlotte as Gilchrist and fellow Rotarian John Paul Lucas led the Club in celebrating its 46th Anniversary by a broadcast that linked well-wishers from as far away as New England with members in Charlotte.

Trying to keep meetings on schedule, Club member Professor Long made a gift to the Club of a cabinet reading stand complete with a neon light and clock that would blink when a speaker's time was up. During Gilchrist's tenure, The Rotary Club of Charlotte was selected as one of the 20 best international clubs and was named to the top five for club service work.

*In 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea. U.S. ground forces were sent to assist, and the Navy blockaded the coast.*

Ernest Hicks was Club President. He pledged that there would be "less talking and more music" at Club meetings. 1950 brought about two major accomplishments. John Paul Lucas was to be elected District Governor. Alice Craven Reynolds, a Charlotte resident, represented the Club in competition for the Rotary

Foundation scholarships for advanced study. She was selected and went to Paris for further study.

The Ladies Night dinner was at the then brand-new Myers Park High School followed by a square dance, which was all the rage. The Boys Choir was its usual outstanding group and sang in Florida.

The next year followed in similar form. Roy A. Palmer was president in 1952, starting his year with a Club Assembly at Island Point. More than 70 Rotarians attended. Inter-City meetings were facilitated this year by Seth Snyder who arranged a softball game between The Charlotte Rotary Club and its counterpart in Gastonia. The entire Club membership toured the North Carolina Vocational Textile School in Belmont and hosted Argerie Vega of San Jose, Costa Rica, the recipient of the 280th District Scholarship.

North Charlotte Rotary was established in December 1952. Once again the Boy Scout Merit Badge Show and this year's addition, the Cub Scout Hobby Show, was a tremendous success, netting more than \$1,000 for the Boy Scouts. The Club, at the urging of the Boys' Work Committee, sponsored an underprivileged boy to the Boy Scout Jamboree in California. The Club donated \$150 to the Nature Museum, and the Boys Choir logged more than 12,000 miles as it traveled out of town on 26 separate trips.

*Stalin died in 1953 at the age of 72. Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norkay reached the peak of Mount Everest. McCarthy hysteria began and communists were hunted throughout the State Department, the Army and the media. Arthur Miller's The Crucible opened on Broadway, and cubism was the avant-garde in art, with Josef Albers leading the way.*

James McMillan became Rotary Club of Charlotte president in 1953. Club attendance reached a new high — 93.25 percent. In an amendment to the Club's constitution, additional territory was given over to the North Charlotte and Dilworth clubs. McMillan also oversaw the successful Annual Family Day Picnic which promoted fellowship and fun. The Club's Speakers Bureau grew to an all time high, supplying speakers for more than 20 Rotary clubs throughout North and South Carolina. Floyd Williams and his Boys' Work and Youth Service Committee helped young people get jobs during their summer break.

The Charlotte Boys Choir was internationally recognized. Proceeds from its concerts and appearances funded scholarships, one used in 1953 for a young Uruguayan student studying at Davidson College.

Charlotte's Freedom Day celebration at Freedom Park was addressed by President Eisenhower, and the

Boys Choir performed. The Rotary 4-H Calf Chain was started this year as three purebred heifer calves were purchased by the Boys' Work and Youth Service Committee.

J. Gordon Christian, Jr. took the helm of Rotary in 1954. The Golden Anniversary Year of Rotary International was celebrated at the International Convention in Seattle. Good fellowship was the Club's mission throughout the year. Extending goodwill, the Boys Choir funded a Finland native's studies at Davidson College, and the group toured Florida and New York, wowing audiences along the way.

The Junior Rotarian program grew in popularity as did the Boy Scout Merit Badge Show which attracted scouts of "both races" for the first time. Four-Way Test plaques were given to all city and county high schools to spread awareness of Rotary and its ethical standards. Educational outreach went into the classroom through the distribution of bookmarks. The Negro Boy Scout Camp was in need of facility improvement so the Club donated all proceeds from the 1954 Boy Scout Merit Badge Show for construction of a new dining hall. The Babe Ruth Baseball League was established with the Club's help and guidance.

International President Herb Taylor visited the Club in January 1956 and addressed a breakfast meeting of the North Charlotte Club. In further celebration of Rotary International's Golden Anniversary, Ladies Night and the Golden Anniversary were combined.

*The French fortress at Dien Bien Phu in Vietnam fell in 1954, and Vietnam was divided at the 17th Parallel. Britain agreed to return the Suez Canal to Egyptian control by 1958. The Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. President Eisenhower suffered a heart attack in 1955 while on a trip to Colorado, and the market plunged \$14 billion. James Dean, 24, died in an automobile accident. Walt Disney's amusement park was under construction in Anaheim, CA, and bomb shelters were under construction in many basements and backyards. Smog became a health concern, and Johnny Unitas had people talking about the growth of the NFL.*

Al Bechtold took the reigns of The Rotary Club of Charlotte, attending the International Conference in Chicago. North Charlotte, Dilworth and Charlotte were the three major Rotary clubs in the area, and territories were discussed throughout most of the year. The three clubs hosted the Scout Circus, in which more than 5,000 Cubs and Scouts participated. Audience estimates for the two-evening event reached

20,000. Brevard Merritt and Jim Allison led the Club's Inter-City Committee, arranging for the Club to meet with the Greensboro membership. Travel was by air-plane via Eastern Air Lines and Piedmont Air Lines.

The Club hosted the Carousel Basketball Classic. Members entertained Coach Howard Hardman and his Colgate University players. Grier Wallace chaired the Tree Committee which worked to beautify city parks, in honor of past presidents of the Club. Compulsory attendance for members with 20 or more years of service was studied. Membership was at 232, and the Club ended the year with a positive cash balance of \$1,283.92.

The fifth decade of service to Charlotte saw Glenn Park at the helm of the Club. Park's first task was to attend the Philadelphia Convention of Rotary International.

Representatives of the Greenville, SC, Club, from which our group sprang, visited the Club in its 40th year. Charles Stone compiled the Club's 40-year history. Membership continued to grow; five members were admitted at one meeting. The Club took the Tree Program seriously and developed it into one of the most successful civic projects ever.

*Procter & Gamble introduced disposable diapers, Ford Motor Company went public, and Nat "King" Cole was knocked unconscious on stage by a group of white men in Birmingham protesting his appearance. Marilyn Monroe married Arthur Miller. Ed Sullivan vowed never to allow Elvis Presley to perform on his TV show. He later recanted but allowed filming from the waist up only. Albert Sabin announced the development of three oral polio vaccines which combined produced long-term immunity. John F. Kennedy was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Profiles in Courage. By 1957, the average American salary was \$4,230. Billy Graham of Charlotte drew 92,000 at Yankee Stadium. Sputnik I was launched by the Soviets. Sputnik II followed, manned by a dog. Rock 'n' Roll was here to stay.*

During Marshall Lake's tenure as president in 1957, Charlotte's Rotary District changed from 280 to 767. The homes of many Rotarians were opened to visiting students from the University of Chile, Santiago. Malcolm Williamson, Jr., son of member and former District Governor, went abroad on a Rotary Fellowship.

Charlie Hunter spearheaded the Boy Scout Circus and reported an attendance of 25,000. Ladies Night was held at Kuester's with a private production afterwards at the Little Theatre.

*By 1958, \$1,250 could pay for a year of study at Harvard. Explorer I became the first U.S. satellite to*

*successfully make it into orbit. Recession gripped the country. De Gaulle became French Premier. Alaska was admitted to the Union. Fidel Castro-led rebels seized the Provincial Capital in Cuba. Arnold Palmer led the PGA's top money list, making \$42,607. Coast-to-coast televised football debuted as Johnny Unitas led Baltimore in its sudden-death overtime victory over New York. Elvis Presley was drafted into the Army.*

Francis Beatty was named president of the Club in 1958. One of his first orders of business was participation in the dedication of a new administrative building at Camp Oaks, the Negro Boy Scout camp, to which the Club had allocated money.

Rotarians journeyed to Greenville, SC, to meet with the Greenville Rotary Club. Later that year, the clubs of Dilworth, Charlotte North and Charlotte joined to honor the retirement of Fred Vantrease, executive officer of the Mecklenburg County Council of the Boy Scouts.

"Turk" Terrell and Charles Stone "went into the manufacture of wooden gavels." Paul Harris, years before, had planted a tree on the grounds of the Mint Museum. From fallen limbs of the tree, the two Rotarians had fashioned gavels which were, in turn, presented to The Rotary Club of Charlotte, to the president of Rotary International and to the Chicago Rotary Club, which Paul Harris founded.

Pat Gilchrist was elected Governor of District 767, becoming the seventh member of the Club to hold the office. The Club joined forces with the Dilworth, North Charlotte and Altrusa clubs to sponsor the first Career-O-Rama. Held in the Charlotte Public Library, hundreds of high school students were exposed to 60 or more vocational areas.

*In the news during 1959, Khrushchev boasted about the Soviet Union's military superiority. Fidel Castro took Havana. Hawaii became the 50th state. The U.S. sent up a space craft that orbited the earth manned by two monkeys — Abel and Baker. Both returned home safely. The Russians, not to be outdone, fired off a space rocket with a 4,400 pound payload and two dogs and a rabbit aboard. Charlotte opened Charlottetown Mall, its first enclosed shopping mall that year. Now named Midtown Square, it still stands as a testament to Charlotte's progressive and aggressive business attitude and "can do" spirit.*

Charles A. Hunter's leadership of the Club during the last days of the Fifties proved auspicious. Starting his year with the Club Assembly at Island Point, Hunter helped the Club host Rotary International President



### Colonel J. Norman Pease

50 years ago . . . 1922/23 . . . Colonel J. Norman Pease proudly presided as the president of the Charlotte Rotary Club.

Asked what differences he thought now existed in Rotary, the Colonel said that it seemed to him that the big change was that now there were a lot more members than projects. However, he added, that he didn't think the type of projects had changed much.

The objectives/projects of 1922/23 were:

Particular emphasis on projects for young people—the club strongly urged the installation of commercial courses in the high schools.

Activities of Boy Scouts were consistently supported and aided.

With a smile, Colonel Pease said that many of the songs that we sing in Rotary today were the same ones sung years ago—with the same enthusiasm.

Discussing the benefits of Rotary, Colonel Pease spoke of the opportunities a club member has of meeting, knowing and working with fellow Rotarians. "I'll never forget," he said, "that when I first came to Charlotte from Atlanta, I knew only one person — until I joined Rotary."

Warming up to the subject he said that the finest thing Rotary can do is to steep a group of men in the principles of Rotary.

Colonel Pease is still very active in the firm he founded in 1938 — which bears his name. He recalls that the first job they ever had was an extension to "George Ivey's" store. They numbered the job 1938, in honor of the year they started.

The colonel is a staunch advocate of the American business system. He says that if anyone will do a good job, they will succeed.

He still carries out the principles of Rotary — still very active in civic and church affairs, plus some travel abroad.

—Charlotte Reporter, June 26, 1973

Harold Thomas of Auckland, New Zealand at a meeting where nearly 700 Rotarians and their wives honored him.

Two new Club traditions were instituted that year. The "Glad to Be Alive Club" was established to solicit funds from members "lucky" enough to celebrate a birthday during that year. These funds went directly to the Rotary Foundation. Also started was the "25'ers Club" which honored those who had been members of the Charlotte Rotary Club for 25 years or more. A special task force was appointed to look into the development of "clubs" within the Club.

Edgar Terrell, Jr. succeeded Hunter as Club President, inheriting an uncertain world.

*Castro gained power in Cuba. Communism was at our doorstep. Gary Powers and his reconnaissance jet, the U-2, was shot down over Soviet air space. The larg-*

*est TV audience to date, 75 million people, watched the Kennedy-Nixon debate. Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz filed for divorce.*

Under President Terrell the student guest program was overhauled. High school students now had the opportunity to rotate between Charlotte area Rotary clubs, providing a better level of communication between clubs and the schools themselves.

The "Trees for Charlotte" program flourished. Under the direction of Glenn Park, 400 white dogwoods and sugar maples were purchased by the Club and donated to the city. The Club also sponsored its first American Field Service Student, a young man from Italy.

A separate Projects Fund was created, thanks to increased dues, but operating costs rose so sharply that service projects were affected due to lack of funds. The meeting place moved from the Elk's Club to the Anchor Inn. Presidents of The Rotary Club of Charlotte and the Wilmington Rotary Club presided over meetings at each other's home clubs.

F. Sadler Love, president for the 1961 term, attended the International Convention in Tokyo. "The Rotary Reporter" carried news of members who were in ill health, and regular visits were made to them. Louis Ratcliffe saw to it that flowers were sent to these individuals at least twice a year.

Love set about to stem the growing tide of members who arrived late and left early. It is said that he made great strides that year in breaking up the infamous "Flutter Club." Pat Gilchrist was sponsored by the Club for Director of Rotary International. He became the second to hold that position from Charlotte. David Clark was the first, serving in 1929-30.

*As part of urban renewal, 238 acres of land were cleared east and south of the Square in an area known as Brooklyn. Much of the city's black heritage was destroyed, but it made room for Charlotte's government plaza and Marshall Park.*

*Kennedy was inaugurated. The Russians sent the first man into space. The first U.S. manned space flight took place with Alan Shepard aboard. The Berlin wall was erected. The Cuban missile crisis gripped the world. Four thousand servicemen were sent to Vietnam as advisors. "The Beverly Hillbillies" was number one in the Nielsen ratings. Jack Nicklaus won his first major PGA tournament — the U.S. Open. Wilt Chamberlain of Philadelphia scored 100 points in a single NBA game.*

M. D. "Red" Whisnant attended the International Convention in Los Angeles as his first order as pres-

## Remembering Charles H. Stone

*Editor's Note: The Charlotte Rotary Club has received \$28,368 over the past 14 years from a bequest made by the late Charles H. Stone, a member of our club who died in 1963. Last year's income from the trust fund amounted to more than \$3,000. By the terms of the bequest the income goes to the Rotary Foundation — a cause "Mr. Charley" believed in deeply. The following feature story was researched and written by Howard Wilkinson to acquaint our newer members with this remarkable Rotarian. —Charlotte Reporter, October 2, 1984*

Charles H. Stone — a magic name in Charlotte Rotary until he was buried 21 years ago. It is a name, however, which should not be forgotten, even today. He was known for many years as "Mr. Rotarian."

"Charley" became a member of Charlotte Rotary in 1934, was president in 1939-40, and district governor in 1944-45. At the age of 86 he died in 1963. These are the statistics, the numbers.

Behind the numbers was not only a smiling face, but also a warm heart which pumped all sorts of energy into a wide variety of Rotary interests and pursuits.

He would do such things as this: Write the Thanksgiving message for the Rotary bulletin; win the city's Distinguished Service Award; leave instructions that, at his death, memorials should be sent to the Rotary Student Loan Fund; head what was then called Charlotte's Community Chest.

Charley Stone!

One indication of "Mr. Rotarian's" devotion to Rotary was his twenty-six-year perfect attendance record. Perhaps that was not as important, however, as the fact that his fellow-members repeatedly said of him that he personified the Rotary slogan, "Service Above Self." Charley always insisted that a badge of his Rotary membership was the fact that he knew Paul Harris, the

founder of Rotary. Charley made it his business to know Paul Harris! It was no accident.

Charley was the son of two Colonial families, a native of Stokes County, and began his adult life as a school teacher. His first term ran for 63 days, he had 63 students and was paid \$63. Later he taught himself accounting and photography. Then he became an industrial stenographer, and from that he went into chemical sales. He was active in the development of the chemical and dyestuff industry in the country. In 1931 he built the first southern plant devoted exclusively to the production of aliphatic finishing materials. (I'll guess there's not a single preacher in this club who knows what that is!) Well, American Cyanamid bought him out ten years later and he worked for them until 1947.

His hobby? Baseball umpiring! Funny thing, though. They always say umpires have no friends. Charley had friends by the hundreds.

The late Frank F. Jones sponsored Charley for membership in 1934. Several of Frank's comments on the sponsorship form were interesting. To the question, "What is his financial interest in his business?" Frank answered, "Owns the whole thing." In answer to the query, "What has he done for the good of Charlotte?" Frank said, "About as much as any man here. Was the main organizer that put over the present city manager form of city government." Dave Burkhalter and Don Steger are agreed that Charley was a nice fellow!

Now, if you're ready, here are some facts: Lived on Queens Road, was a Methodist, was chairman of the Charlotte Park & Recreation Commission, 1941-47, and member of the following: American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists, and many others.

It's said that one big difference between men and animals is that humans remember their dead, whereas animals do not. It's not only human to remember somebody like Charley, it is indeed an inspiration!

ident of the Club. While there, he witnessed Pat Gilchrist's induction as a RI Director. Nitish Laharry, President of Rotary International, visited Winston-Salem. More than 1,400 people attended the meeting, touted as the largest crowd in North Carolina Rotary history. The Italian Ambassador to the United States, his Excellency, Sergio Fenoaltea, paid the Club a visit.

Later in the year West Charlotte Rotary was formed with the help of the Charlotte Rotary Club. Ladies Night was scheduled for an evening when one of the worst snow storms hit the Charlotte area. Only nine members were able to attend.

H. Haynes Baird was elected president in 1963. He inherited the living legacy of the "Trees Program" which had met with much praise throughout the community. The 1963 gift to the city made headline news in the local daily paper. Carl Miller, President of Rotary International, spoke to a group of 1,400 at a Park

Center gathering. In keeping with tradition, Miller ceremoniously planted a tree at the Mint Museum.

The first Rotary student club was started during Baird's year at the helm. Known as the Interact Club, it was formed at Myers Park High School. Governor Terry Sanford addressed a large audience, extolling the merits of Interact, the new international project organized by Rotary International.

*The Board of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution calling for the desegregation of Charlotte's businesses. During that summer, city restaurants and accommodations centers were integrated. Charlotte became the first major southern city to desegregate. The most shattering news of the year was the assassination of John F. Kennedy in Dallas during a parade. The country mourned. Lyndon Baines Johnson took the oath of office. Lee Harvey Oswald, suspected*

*Kennedy assassin, was shot, on live television, by Jack Ruby. U.S. planes were ordered to bomb North Vietnam after an attack on a U.S. destroyer in the Gulf of Tonkin. LBJ won the election in a landslide victory over Barry Goldwater.*

Tebee Hawkins became president in 1964. He had the difficult challenge of reshaping the Club and bolstering membership, hit hard by resignations in 1963. He told the Board that he had not seen such devastation "since Sherman went through."

Ted Kirby was District Governor that year and a member of the North Charlotte Club. He divided the District into six groups of clubs. Charlie Hunter was in charge of the group which included our own Club. The Rotary Club of Charlotte, in conjunction with the other three Charlotte clubs, pulled together to present the District Conference which was the largest ever held in the district. All 42 clubs were represented. The Interact Club grew at Myers Park High School, and Pat Gilchrist served as Rotary International representative to the British Isles.

*Hurricane Betsy in 1965 devastated the U.S. HUD was created, and Medicare became law. A Soviet Cosmonaut became the first man to float in space, followed by Ed White of the U.S., who took a 20-minute walk from Gemini IV.*

*By action of the North Carolina General Assembly of 1965, Charlotte College, led by Honorary Member Dr. Bonnie Cone, became the fourth campus of the consolidated University of North Carolina.*

James R. "Bob" Bryant, Jr. led the Club in its Golden Anniversary year. It is said that Bob Bryant was so efficient that *two* speakers showed up for the first program that year. Interact was selected as the outstanding student club at Myers Park High School.

The Club cooperated with the city of Charlotte to make available to Arequipa, Peru several hundred school desks. Arequipa became the "sister club" to the Charlotte Rotary Club, as ordered by Rotary International. In addition, the membership helped Arequipa found its first YMCA. The project was designated as part of the Club's 50th Anniversary celebration.

A film was developed about the Club, its service activities and its international work to show to community groups and interested persons. Thanks to WSOC-TV, the film was aired locally on television. Membership stood at 271. Meal costs were increased to \$1.75, and Club members brought home-grown vegetables to supplement the luncheon fare.

One of the most significant happenings of the year

was that the current Club format took hold: Introduction of Guests, Head Table Introductions, Health and Happiness, Song, the Invocation and the Speaker. Ralston Pound, Sr., the last remaining charter member, passed away.

A celebration dinner was held to commemorate 50 years of service. Former N.C. Governor Luther Hodges, President-elect of Rotary International, spoke.

The celebration of the Golden Anniversary continued as 1966's Club President Charles Briley took the helm. A group photo was taken of the 50th year membership to commemorate the milestone. The membership gathered on the street outside Honey's Restaurant at South Tryon and Morehead streets.

Always leaders, the Club's vision for Interact became a reality. Norway established its own Interact Club based on the model provided by Charlotte. The club was started by a Charlotte Exchange Student to Norway in October of that year.

*As 1967 dawned, the average U.S. salary was \$6,605. Tragedy struck NASA and the U.S. space program when an Apollo test launch went up in flames, killing all aboard. 75,000 hippies moved to San Francisco. Thurgood Marshall became the first African-American to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court.*

Zach Thomas became Club President. Lawrence Bowles, the Club's Rotary Foundation student, studied at the University of Calcutta, India. Charles Hunter was elected District Governor. Daughters of Rotarians attending Queens College were hosted at a meeting.

North Carolinian Luther Hodges assumed the presidency of Rotary International. Arequipa, Peru officially became The Rotary Club of Charlotte's Sister City. The Club had already approved \$5,000 to help build a YMCA there. Tree plantings now totaled 2,758.

*Rotarians Tom Belk, George Ivey and Zook Crosland announced a superregional shopping mall that year. It was to be built on a piece of pasture land outside of the city center and would be called SouthPark.*

The baton was passed in 1968 to George Henderson. Henry Harkey, a representative of District 767, made a presentation to Rotarians in Sydney, Australia, selling them on the idea and the merits of Interact. Rotarians, with the assistance of Dean Colvard, then Chancellor of UNC Charlotte, helped to establish the Urban Affairs Institute, which stands today as the Urban Institute. Pat Gilchrist was named Chairman of Rotary International's convention which was to be held in Honolulu in 1969.

Member Dave McConnell was appointed Amba-

sador to the United Nations' Economic and Social Council in Geneva. The Rotary Club of Arequipa, Peru announced that it would name a room in its new YMCA facility "The Charlotte Room" because of our Club's financial assistance.

*1968 proved to be a year of profound consequence. The Viet Cong began the Tet Offensive. In Memphis, Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated, sparking rioting throughout the country. In California, Robert Kennedy was gunned down. Sirhan Sirhan, the alleged assassin, was arrested on the spot. James Earl Ray was arrested shortly afterward in the death of Martin Luther King. Richard Nixon won election, beating Hubert Humphrey.*

J. Frank Timberlake took the Club's reigns in 1969. Lonnie Newsom, President of Johnson C. Smith University, became the Club's first African-American member. With his admission, the Club boasted five college presidents as members. The East Charlotte Rotary Club was established that year, thanks to the help of our Club. In addition, the Club reached the 1,100 percent bracket of the Rotary Foundation.

The Club began inviting police officers to the weekly luncheons to drive home the point that citizen involvement was critical to fight the growing tide of crime in the area.

*In 1969 Astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first man on the moon, as millions watched on television. Nixon ordered the first withdrawal of troops from Vietnam. Earth Day was celebrated for the first time, and Nixon asked for the vote for 18-year-olds. Four students were killed at Kent State, shot by National Guard members, as they protested the Vietnam War.*

In 1970, Bert Finch began his year as president by honoring the presidents of The Rotary Club of Charlotte's four sister clubs. Dr. Lonnie Newsom of Johnson C. Smith University received assistance from Club members during that university's \$1.5 million campaign. Charles Hunter and Pat Gilchrist spearheaded the sponsoring of a Rotary International Institute for Zone Four, which included our Club. "America" was sung 27 times that year at weekly meetings.

President Barry Miller succeeded Finch in 1971, staging the "Gala Ladies Night." The event, complete with professional entertainers, was held at the City Club. Dr. J. B. Duming, Rotary International Director from South Africa, was honored at a special program.

The Speakers Bureau was revitalized. During the year, it provided speakers on a variety of topics for other Rotary clubs and the community.

*The Pentagon Papers were published by The New York Times. 200,000 demonstrated in Washington, D.C. against the Vietnam conflict. Nixon visited China. The 26th Amendment passed, lowering the legal voting age to 18. The "Women's Lib" movement was in full swing, led by feminist Gloria Steinam. An obscure break-in took place at Democratic Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Two young journalists with The Washington Post connected the Watergate incident with the Committee to Reelect President Nixon. Nixon won a landslide victory.*

Don Davidson became Club President in 1972. The Tree Committee planted its 4,440th tree. Jake Golden of the Health and Happiness Committee revived what was known as the "Methodist Hour," so named for Dick Owenby in the 40s.

Lunches were increased to \$2.50 each week. Dr. Rolland Jones, Superintendent of Schools, began a series of programs on the education system. Concerns about the health care industry surfaced through members' luncheon conversations.

*N.C. Senator Sam Ervin was named to head the Senate Committee charged with overseeing the Watergate Hearings. John Dean, Presidential Counsel, implicated President Nixon in the affair. Nixon's secret tapes were revealed. Vice President Spiro Agnew resigned, and Gerald Ford was appointed Vice President.*

Warner Hall succeeded as president in 1973. His lilting Scottish accent was a joy to listen to, so many members recall. During that year, Glenn Park attained 29 years of perfect attendance. A Rotary Music Camp was sponsored by the Club at Wildacres. Donations to the Rotary Foundation reached 1,900 percent. Membership had grown to 268, and the Student Loan Program had 32 loans that year, for a total of \$19,125.

*Agreements made between the city and Southern Railway in the 1960s to clear 25 acres of spur lines now came to fruition as Charlotte opened the new Convention Center in 1973. Mayor John Belk presided at the ribbon cutting.*

In 1974 Marvin Lymberis was president. He was known for his Louisiana Cajun storytelling. His eight-point program of self-inventory regarding "How Am I Doing In Rotary" was well received and benefited members for years to come.

One speaker from IBM told Club members at a weekly meeting that the use of computers would become "as commonplace as automobiles." Another speaker said that North Carolina was one of the most

competitive states anywhere in the nation. The speaker was a banker. How right he proved to be!

Charlotte installed a much talked about computerized traffic signal system to alleviate Charlotte's growing traffic challenges. Honey's restaurant, Charlotte Rotary's home, changed its name to Izzie Pittles.

The 5,000th tree was planted in Park Road Park. The Club also gave \$3,000 to establish recreational facilities at Dalton Homes and Boulevard Homes. The Club hosted six Australians and a foreign exchange student. A second Interact Club was established at Charlotte Latin School.

*An 18½ minute gap was discovered in President Nixon's tapes. Mayor John Belk officially designated the central business district as "Uptown." The House*

*of Representatives voted to investigate Nixon. Before the year was out, he resigned. Gerald Ford became president and pardoned Nixon. In 1975, Watergate conspiracy convictions continued. Saigon fell. Unemployment reached 8.9 percent, its highest since 1941, and Teamster Jimmy Hoffa disappeared.*

Thomas Garrett took the Club's reins that year, moving the group's weekly meeting place from Izzie Pittle's to the 30th floor of the First Union building where Slug Claiborne served the membership from his restaurant on the floor below. The reason for the move: members were served two hot dogs and pork and beans on a paper plate. It was the final straw. Tom said, "The membership was after my hide."

Garrett helped set up a team from District 767 to

### Remembrances

Let's let Ben Hood, age 98 on December 15, 1977, tell it like it was.

"In the beginning, we had 48 charter members. Gus Pound was the last of the charter members. He died in March, 1966 at age 90. I shall mention John W. Fox, who was our third President (a charter member). He was our oldest member. John died in May, 1964 at age 97. Dave Clark was the first new member after the original organization to be taken into Rotary. He was our second President. Dave was always active, especially helping members to become better acquainted and organizing new clubs nearby.

"In 1926, Ham Jones was President. We had about 125 members then and stressed becoming acquainted with each new member and his classification. We were meeting at the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce on West 4th Street. The principal club project then was the Rotary Clinic under the auspices of the Mecklenburg Board of Health. This clinic was operated for crippled children with free examination, surgery, etc. Dr. Alonzo Myers ran the clinic for a number of years. Once in a while, pictures would be shown to us 'before' treatments and 'after' treatments. Dr. Myers died in October, 1953. I do not know of any better service to our Club and the public than that given by Dr. Myers.

"We had 133 members in 1926—three years later, 157 members. Then hard times came in the 30s and our Club membership went down to 85 members—climbed back to 105 members in 1935. We had only one club in the city at this time, so it was difficult to keep our attendance up. Later, we could make up our attendance at Belmont Rotary Club.

"I asked Harry Harding if he was a charter member. He said he was invited, but the School Board did not think it wise for him to join because of the amount of time it would take, but soon the School Board changed its mind, and Mr. Harding gladly joined our Club.

"My strongest impression of Rotary is getting

personally acquainted with professional businessmen. Acquaintanceship is the best asset of any business. Rotary projects have always been the best for the community. One of our best projects, handled by Glenn E. Parks, is furnishing trees for our city parks and playgrounds. Rotary provides friendship and education. Belonging to the Club identifies a person as one who knows his profession and enhances his prestige.

"My first wife, Olive, and I attended the International Convention in San Francisco, California (a 17-day trip by train). It was a chartered train from this section and via New Orleans, Los Angeles, to San Francisco, returning via Denver, Colorado and St. Louis, Missouri. We traveled at night—sight-seeing by chartered bus in the day time, thus seeing many large cities. There were 15,327 delegates registered. I have not forgotten that Charlie Williams was aboard with us. He was only 12 years old at this time.

"Olive and I attended another International Convention at Lucerne, Switzerland in 1957, when my friend, Buzz Tennett from Asheville, was elected International President. We were on a tour of Europe lasting 6 months—from Naples, Italy to Bodo, Norway in the land of the midnight sun and in the Arctic Circle in July, 1957. I made Rotary attendance on the ship *Independence*, then in Naples, Paris, London and Denmark.

"We had a full meeting about jokes in the 30s. A Scotchman announced he could tell a joke about any profession called from the audience, and he did just that—about 20 times. I remember Frank Jones called out 'real estate.' The Scotchman said 'I'm sorry, friend, but I have stopped telling dirty jokes.'

"We also had a Ladies Night in 1944 at the Hotel Charlotte. I played the part of the mother and Clyde Craven was the son. All were Rotarians that took part."

Our deepest appreciation to you, Ben, for telling us your very warm and interesting story about our Rotary Club. You have helped us to appreciate our Rotary heritage more than ever. Warmest best wishes on your 98th birthday! —*Charlotte Reporter*, December 13, 1977

go to District 269 in Sydney, Australia. The Club attained 2,000 percent for the Rotary Foundation. Much of Garrett's year was spent on the sidelines because of a heart attack he suffered early in his term. Members stayed jolly in his absence with performances by a Queens College medley of the group's summer plays.

S. R. "Pete" deWitt became president in 1976, the nation's bicentennial year. It was also The Rotary Club of Charlotte's 60th anniversary. The Club employed its first executive secretary, Rotarian and former Scout Executive Tom Warren. Warren also acted as Camp Development Director for the new Mecklenburg Scout Reservation. Club members joined in the celebration of its dedication.

More than 200 dogwood and maple trees were given that year to the Park and Recreation Commission. The Club Assembly was held at the Red Fez Club.

*In world affairs, Vietnam was reunified with Hanoi as its capital. Jimmy Carter won the Presidential election, and Mao Tse-Tung died. "The Muppet Show" debuted. Legionnaire's disease left 34 dead in Philadelphia, and two amateur electronics whiz kids developed the Apple computer in their garage.*

Doug Booth was handed the gavel for the 1977 Rotary year. There were 259 members. Eleven trees planted by the Club at UNCC had to be relocated to make room for new construction. Weekly meetings moved to the Top of the Tower Banquet Hall, and members (for a short time only) were required to RSVP their luncheon reservations. Bill Loftin, Sr. started a tradition that year by asking that anyone who had aged considerably since their last photo get a new one taken for the roster. The request every year from that time has been the same.

*A skyway was announced in the Uptown area. It would connect Ivey's and Belk department stores for pedestrians. As 1978 began, the prime rate was at 12 percent, and inflation even higher. A Polish Cardinal was elected Pope — John Paul II. Charlotte legalized liquor by the drink.*

Dean Colvard, president for the 1978 Club year, was Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. An all-club dinner was held at the Sheraton Center with Clem Renouf, President of Rotary International, as speaker. The Quality Inn became the Club's home, thanks to the help of Food Committee Chairman Ed Pickard. The Club purchased a new piano. Members rejoiced.

During Colvard's tenure, some members commented that the Club banner was lacking color and spirit. Tom

Warren, executive secretary, designed a new one featuring a hornet's nest and a scroll depicting the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

Hoke Nash accepted leadership of the Club in 1979. Congressman Jim Martin started the year off with a speech. (Martin later became Governor of North Carolina and is now an Honorary Member.) Ben Hood celebrated his 100th birthday with Club members on December 15, 1979. Hood joined Rotary in 1925. The year was Rotary International's 75th Anniversary. Ladies Night was held in conjunction with other Rotary clubs in the area. The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra performed to the delight of all.

The District 767 Conference was held in Charlotte that year. District Governor was Peter Gerns. Rotary International President James Bomar spoke. The Annual Club Assembly was held at UNC Charlotte. The Club reached the 2,900 percent level in the Rotary Foundation. Glenn Park attained 35 years of perfect attendance. "Red" Whisnant reached 34.

*The U.S. and China established diplomatic relations in 1979. Margaret Thatcher became the first female Prime Minister of Great Britain. Students seized the U.S. Embassy in Iran and 62 American hostages. The Soviets invaded Afghanistan.*

As of 1980, the Club Roster showed that membership was at a strong and healthy 264, including six honorary members, 21 Paul Harris Fellows and eight Paul Harris Sustaining Members. The Rotary Club of Charlotte had, by that time, been visited by 30 Rotary International Presidents and had produced 12 District Governors and two Rotary International Directors.

David Burkhalter took over as president. International Rotary's theme was "Take Time to Serve." Burkhalter instituted the theme by having the Avenue Chairmen appoint committee members. Traditionally, the president appointed those individuals. The Board adopted the requirement of 30 percent attendance in one's home club during a six month period.

The Speaker's Bureau was comprised of 22 "excellent" speakers. Ladies Night was celebrated with a trip to the circus. In other celebrations, E. H. Little, honorary member, reached his centennial birthday.

*The following year, the U.S. boycotted the Moscow Summer Olympics. A rescue mission to free the hostages in Iran failed. Ronald Reagan became president. John Lennon was assassinated. The prime rate hit 21 percent. Yellow ribbons symbolized the hope that Iranian hostages would return safely. Ted Turner's CNN news channel began operation.*

Nineteen eighty-one brought Price Gwynn as president. Tom Warren, the Club's first and only executive secretary, became the 34th Paul Harris Fellow. Two new Rotary clubs were formed, thanks to our Club's assistance: Mint Hill-Matthews Club and Top of the Week. The Club had aged considerably. Of 265 members, 25 percent were over the age of 70. The "graying" of the Club had begun.

*Discovery Place opened. Iran released the hostages. John Hinckley shot Reagan in the chest in an attempted assassination. The first Space Shuttle flight went as planned. Pope John Paul II was wounded in an assassination attempt, and Sandra Day O'Connor became the first woman Supreme Court Justice. Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer. Argentina and Great Britain went to war over the Falkland Islands. Princess Grace of Monaco died in an automobile accident, seven died from the Tylenol poisoning in Chicago and Leonid Brezhnev died at the age of 75. Tom Watson won the U.S. Open. UNC won Dean Smith's first NCAA basketball championship. It was a day of Valley Girls ("grody to the max"), Smurfs and E. T. paraphernalia. Piedmont Air Lines located its hub in Charlotte, and a new terminal opened at Charlotte/Douglas International Airport.*

William E. "Bill" Poe was Club President in 1982 describing it as "a good, solid year of traditional Charlotte Rotary." A California court upheld the male-only Rotary membership rule, but some clubs were waiving the rule to include women. Club membership was 270, with 20 physicians, and 13 each in the lawyer, educator, electric power and clergy classifications.

Poe noted that 51 members had lived beyond the allotted life span of threescore and 10 years. Ben Hood turned 103, and Colonel Norman Pease celebrated his 97th birthday. The passing of Hood just two months later and the death of long-time member Colonel Francis Beatty saddened the Club. Dick Bray, Harry Weatherly and former school superintendent Elmer Garinger passed away that year as well.

In joyous news, Roger Owens became a father. Club members were hard pressed to remember when the last time was that a birth had been celebrated. Warner Hall became the 45th Paul Harris Fellow.

Notable speakers included Leighton Ford, then U.S. Congressman Jim Martin and E. K. Fretwell, Chancellor of UNC Charlotte. Governor Jim Hunt was to speak but was taken ill and headed for the hospital instead.

*The Dow exceeded 1,200 for the first time in history. In Beirut, terrorists bombed the U.S. Embassy,*

*killing more than 100, and Marine headquarters at Beirut's airport, killing 239. Korean Air Lines Flight 007 was shot down by Soviet missiles; 279 aboard perished. Lee Iacocca led Chrysler Corporation to profitability, "Dynasty" appeared on TV and The Big Chill was a favorite movie. Elizabeth Dole, a North Carolina native, became the first female Secretary of Transportation.*

G. Carswell Hughs was elected to succeed Bill Poe as president, but he accepted the call to pastor an historic Presbyterian church in Charleston, SC. Lee Morris was tapped to lead the Club. Morris began all 1983 meetings when he presided with "little-known but important facts" from the pages of history. For instance, did you know that Wild Bill Hickock was shot and killed while playing poker? The trivia tidbits got the meetings off to a good start.

During the year, there were several interesting programs. Hugh Morton of Grandfather Mountain fame spoke about saving the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, and Johnny Harris informed the membership about plans for the new Charlotte Coliseum. Political guest speakers included Governor Jim Hunt, Charlotte mayoral candidates Harvey Gantt, Ed Peacock and George Selden, and Congressional candidates Susan Green, D. G. Martin, Alex McMillan and Ben Tison.

By year's end, membership had grown by 28, and The Rotary Club of Charlotte won a Rotary International award for meeting and exceeding Rotary Foundation expectations.

*In 1984 Trivial Pursuit topped Monopoly as America's favorite board game. Mia Lin's Vietnam Memorial was dedicated, and Frederick Hart's sculpture facing the blackened wall was demanded as a more noble memorial to the fallen heroes. Democrats nominated Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro. The GOP renominated the Reagan/Bush ticket; the two won in a landslide. Indira Gandhi was assassinated by Sikh bodyguards, and Margaret Thatcher narrowly escaped injury when the IRA bombed the Brighton Hotel. A horrible gas leak in Bhopal, India left 2,000 dead.*

Dal Shefte became president in 1984. Membership development improved greatly under his direction. Charlie Hunter pointed out that Rotary Foundation had \$200 million in assets and that 25,000 students had benefited through scholarships and fellowships.

Martin Waters succeeded Shefte in 1985. During his year, each new member of the Club was given a handsome plaque, made possible by a contribution from Bert Voswinkel. Martin's credo, "Goals unset are goals unmet" rang true throughout his tenure. On his

### RI Presidents Came to Visit

The late Francis Beatty compiled the names of R.I. presidents who had visited our Club. Former District Governor and 50-plus-year member of our Club Charlie Hunter has added others. The first such visit took place in 1934 when John Nelson came to town. The complete list follows:

- 1934 John Nelson
- 1935 Ed Johnson
- 1939 PAUL HARRIS
- 1939 Arch C. Klumph
- 1939 Walter D. Head
- 1941 Thomas Davis
- 1942 Fernando Carbajal (Peru)
- 1945 Tom Warren (England)
- 1947 Ken Guernsey
- 1948 Angus Mitchell (Australia)
- 1954 Herb Taylor (originator of the Four-Way Test)
- 1957 "Buzz" Tennant (Asheville)
- 1959 Harold Thomas (New Zealand)
- 1964 Carl Miller
- 1965 Richard Evans
- 1967 Luther Hodges (North Carolina)
- 1974 Bill Robbins
- 1978 Clem Renouf
- 1979 Jim Bomar
- 1980 Stan McCaffrey
- 1983 Bill Skelton
- 1992 Cliff Dochterman

On Saturday afternoon, April 22, 1939, the founder of Rotary, Paul Harris, in token of friendship and goodwill, planted a tree from the soil of Illinois on the grounds of the Mint Museum. Twice Paul Harris had officiated at similar rites, once at the University of Ohio and the other time at the University of Wisconsin, but ours was the first Rotary Club to receive such a token "from his gentle hands and warm heart." Twenty years later, in 1959, three gavels were made using prunings from the tree: one for use by our Club, one for the Rotary Club of Chicago (the first club in Rotary), and one to the president of R.I., Harold Thomas of New Zealand, who came to Charlotte that year. The tree, an English walnut, is still very much alive on the grounds of the Mint Museum of Art. Charlie Allison has some "offspring" of the tree.

Other "President's Tree" plantings: the Carl Miller sugar maple at the Mint Museum on February 24, 1964; the Clem Renouf sugar maple at the Mint Museum on August 21, 1978; and the Bill Skelton sugar maple at CPCC on September 13, 1983.

agenda were good programs, fun and fellowship, membership development (18 new members that year), outstanding special events (evidenced by the successful Ladies Night), well-run committees and good service to the Rotary Foundation (36 new Paul Harris sustaining members were added along with three new Paul Harris Fellows).

*In world news, the great Senator Sam Ervin died as did Rock Hudson, Orson Wells and Eugene Ormandy. Mikhail Gorbachev took over as Soviet leader. The space shuttle Challenger with school teacher Christa McAuliffe aboard exploded 73 seconds after lift-off, killing the seven member crew. Charlotte Observer cartoonist Doug Marlette won the Pulitzer Prize for his sketch of the American eagle looking heavenward toward space with a tear in its eye which memorialized the shuttle crew's deaths. Gorbachev asked Soviet government officials for "radical reform" and condemned former leaders. Marcos left the Philippines in exile as Aquino took over, and an accident in a nuclear power plant in Chernobyl endangered both the U.S.S.R. and Europe.*

Bill Loftin, Sr., took the helm of president in 1986. Under his watch, the PolioPlus Program was launched by Rotary International. Its mission would be to eliminate polio from the planet by the 100th anniversary of Rotary in 2005.

Loftin imparted a great deal of Club history to members that year, recounting 70 years of achievement by the Club and its members. Doug Aitken was honored as he attained membership for 50 years. Colonel Norman Pease was honored as he celebrated his 101st birthday. A loss to the Club came as C. W. "Pat" Gilchrist, a former RI director and our "Mr. Rotary," died.

Joe Moore served as District Governor, the first from our Club in 18 years. The North Scranton, PA Rotary Club sent 8,600 bales (175 tons) of hay by truck to Mecklenburg County to relieve the shortage of live-stock fodder created by severe drought and heat during the summer of 1986.

Under Loftin's administration, the tenth club to serve the area, Charlotte Evening Rotary Club, was formed. Two candidates for Rotary Foundation scholarships were successful. Both studied in New Zealand. In addition, a record 10 members attended the Rotary International Convention in Munich, West Germany. The World Service Committee, led by Mike Greeson, formed a relationship with two Sister Cities of Charlotte: Krefeld, West Germany and Arequipa, Peru. Our Club furnished badly needed microscopes for the treatment of tuberculosis to the city of Arequipa. Mike Greeson, our chairman for this project was later named an honorary citizen of Arequipa.

In other Club news, the Philadelphia Boys Choir was sponsored by all local Rotary clubs to raise money for PolioPlus. The Spring Gala (formerly Ladies Night) featured the NC School of the Arts Jazz Ensemble on the campus of Davidson College.

The issue of women in Rotary became a hotly de-



bated subject. The Supreme Court of California ruled that a Rotary club was a private business and that, as such, it could not bar women from joining.

William L. Kinney took charge of the Club's leadership in 1987. As the year progressed, more and more women were becoming involved with Rotary International. After much discussion among members, three females were sought out and approved for membership.

To involve more members earlier on in their membership, the Board adopted a requirement that two years of absence from the Board had to be taken by directors before reelection. Planning also began for the "Excellence in Management" Program which became an annual affair sponsored by our Club, the Charlotte Chamber and *The Business Journal*.

PolioPlus was a tremendous success during Kinney's term. The Club exceeded its three-year quota by almost 10 percent, achieving that in two years' time.

*The average salary in 1987 was \$15,630. Evangelist Jim Bakker admitted to sexual infidelity. Charlotte got non-stop air service to London. Gary Hart's political career went avry when sexual indiscretion was exposed. Thatcher was reelected as British Prime Minister for a third time. The Dow topped 2,700 then dropped 508 points in a single day of trading, the worst decline in history. Meanwhile, Oliver North took the Fifth Amendment in the Iran-Contra affair.*

*The year 1988 brought a buzz to Charlotte. The city celebrated its first official NBA season with the Charlotte Hornets. The team played in the brand new Charlotte Coliseum which had just opened and featured 25,000 seats. The Hornets were greeted by the city with a ticker tape parade sponsored by The Charlotte Observer. Also to come to the Queen City that year was "Rameses the Great" on loan from Egypt. It drew 60,000.*

Tom Belk took over as Club President in 1988. Excellent programs marked his term. The first female member was inducted into the Club during Belk's term. Her name was Ruth Shaw, president of Central Piedmont Community College. The first "Excellence in Management Award" was also presented. The recipient

was Albert F. "Pete" Sloan, a former member of our Club.

The gavel passed to Harold Hoak in 1989. Membership during his term numbered 286. Losses totaled 25, including five who passed away, but new members totaling 25 replaced them. Perfect attendance honors were given to 40 members, ranging from one year to 45.

*The Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan was completed in 1989. One million demonstrated for democracy in Beijing. The Berlin Wall fell and the tide of democracy swept Eastern Europe, the former Soviet bloc. An earthquake rocked the San Francisco Bay area. Jim Bakker was sentenced in Charlotte to 45 years for selling bogus lifetime vacation packages.*

Richard "Dick" Hagemeyer led the Club in its 75th Anniversary year. As part of the celebration and observance, the Club joined with nine other clubs in the county to help build Habitat for Humanity homes.

The annual gala was a dinner and concert by George Straight and his Ace in the Hole band at the new Charlotte Coliseum. The "Excellence in Management Award" was given to Bill Lee, Chairman and CEO of Duke Power Company. The Board authorized the purchase of a computer system and scanner to check attendance.

*Change was afoot throughout the world. It had become an increasingly smaller place. Environmental issues were of great concern as was the growing crime rate. War broke out in 1990 in the Persian Gulf with UN victory assured. Club member Tom Norwood was called to serve as a tanker pilot, and Judge Bob Johnston was called to active duty at Goldsboro. Price Gwynn, former Club President, was elected as Moderator of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.*

As of December 31, 1991, the Club had 186 Paul Harris Fellows. Membership stood at 291.

Through growth and change, risk and renewal, The Rotary Club of Charlotte has passed its 75th year, weathering world wars, riots, strikes and natural disasters. Through it all, our willingness to serve, our commitment to the future and the fun and fellowship see us ready to tackle the next 25 years and beyond.



Twenty-two of our past presidents were recognized at our meeting on June 9, 1959.

*Front row, left to right:*

Roy A. Palmer, 1952-1953  
 Paul R. Sheahan, 1940-1941  
 John Paul Lucas, Jr., 1947-1948  
 Hamilton W. McKay, 1926-1927  
 J. Norman Pease, 1922-1923  
 Howard M. Wade, 1923-1924  
 Ralston M. Pound, Sr., 1928-1929  
 John W. Fox, 1919-1920  
 Charles H. Stone, 1939-1940  
 J. William Thomson, Jr., 1924-1925

*Back row, left to right:*

Glenn E. Park, 1956-1957  
 Hoyt R. Galvin, 1949-1950  
 Amos S. Bumgardner, 1941-1942  
 R. Powell Majors, 1946-1947  
 Wiley S. Obenshain, 1942-1943  
 Edgar A. Terrell, Sr., 1932-1933  
 J. A. Mayo, 1936-1937  
 James H. Van Ness, 1934-1935  
 James P. McMillan, 1953-1954  
 Charles A. Williams, Jr., 1944-1945  
 David G. Welton, 1948-1949  
 Everett Bierman, 1943-1944

## Recollections

*R. Powell Majors, 33rd president of our Club, 1946-1947, and still very much with us each Tuesday, 49 years later at the time of the publication of this volume, has known all presidents of our Club with the exception of Rogers W. Davis, our first president.*

WITH THE exception of Rogers Davis (1916-1918), I have known on a first-name basis all of the presidents of the Charlotte Rotary Club. I was invited to join Rotary in 1938 during the administration of V. K. "Bill" Hart.

David Clark (1918-1919) was a stern, serious man and the first new member of the Charlotte Rotary Club. He took to Rotary like a duck to water and was instrumental in the formation of many Rotary clubs — North Charlotte being one of his last. Dave didn't seem to take kindly toward me or any of the other younger members. It was extremely difficult to call Dave by his first name and he didn't seem to encourage it. He was 61 and I was 32 at the time. At Little Rotary, a group that met at Thacker's on Thursdays for lunch, Everett Bierman and I unintentionally hurt Dave's feelings. We apologized then and later; even so, he didn't speak to either one of us for six months. He was a District Governor and one of only two directors of Rotary International in the history of our Club.

John W. Fox (1919-1920), although ten years older than Clark, was easy to know and extremely intelligent. It was interesting to hear him tell about introducing electricity to area mill owners who didn't think three wires could bring in enough power to operate a cotton mill. John was born in Australia and was brought to Charlotte to help what is now Duke Power Company get started in the early 1900s. John wore thick glasses, had an "Aussie" accent, and a very analytical mind. One of the few things that he was wrong on was nuclear power — he didn't expect it to become the factor it is today.

J. Perrin Quarles (1920-1921), the third president, was an agent for Equitable Life and a salesman from the word "go." He was very outgoing and fun-loving — easy to call by his first name at first introduction. It

was during his term as president that Club membership reached 100.

I really never knew Lewis Burwell (1921-1922) very well. I'm under the impression that he suffered considerable financial loss during the Depression. He was a small, wiry fellow. One of his sons was a championship tennis player. Lewis was 30 years older than I.

Norman Pease (1922-1923) was the resident manager for Lockwood-Greene, an engineering firm. When the office was closed during the Depression, he became a salesman for Thermoid Company in Trenton, New Jersey. Thermoid owned Southern Asbestos Company in Charlotte and he was eventually sent here to plan and oversee construction changes in the plant in 1937. When I was invited to join the Lion's Club in 1938, I asked Norman about it. He suggested that Rotary would be better and when I said fine, he called R. M. "Gus" Pound and gave him the necessary information which led to my becoming a member in April, 1938. Shortly thereafter, Norman started J. N. Pease Associates along with Jim Stenhouse. He was called into service in World War II and served as a colonel in the South Pacific. During World War I, he had managed the construction of the camp at Columbus, Georgia, the town of his birth, which became Ft. Benning.

Howard M. Wade (1923-1924) was likewise a native of Columbus, Georgia. He owned and operated a firm that made bank fixtures — Wade Mfg. Company. He owned a great number of shotgun houses on Graham Street. Howard Wade was several times a millionaire and made it easy for me to call him Howard. At a Rotary meeting in the 1920s, Norman Pease sketched on the table cloth a loft building which Howard later built on 6th Street. The idea of a loft building came from Dave Clark.

Bill Thomson (1924-1925) was a kind, gentle man who was associated with Perrin Quarles in operating a life insurance agency. He was from South Carolina and kept that drawl throughout his life. After he retired from business, he served Queens College for a period when the college was in trouble.

Hamilton C. Jones (1925-1926) was an attorney

and served the school board in that capacity, as well as being a juvenile court judge. Ham enjoyed a beer or so and was a lusty singer at club assemblies. He served several terms in Congress and was defeated by Charles Raper Jonas in 1952. A straw ballot taken at Rotary after the two men had spoken on successive Tuesdays indicated Jonas would win.

Hamilton W. McKay (1926–1927) was a urologist, the first of several doctors to be president of Charlotte Rotary. Ham gave the appearance of being gruff, but was not. He was a leader in the medical profession and an early supporter of Charlotte Memorial Hospital, now Carolinas Medical Center. It was not unusual for him to attend Rotary wearing a green scrub suit from the hospital. Two grandsons, Johnny and McKay Belk, are now members of Charlotte Rotary.

Henry McAden (1927–1928) was president of First National Bank when he headed the Club. Henry wore high celluloid collars and seemed distant to me. The bank failed during the early days of the Depression. The First National building has been known at various times as the Liberty Life, Baugh, Southeastern Savings, which is in the one hundred block of South Tryon Street. Rumor had it that Henry would not allow doctors to be tenants because of the various odors that would be created by their offices. He failed to rent to the telephone company because he feared that line-men would be in and out of the building. The Johnston building, later the United Carolina Bank building, added floors to accommodate Southern Bell.

Ralston M. "Gus" Pound (1928–1929), a charter member, was a partner in Pound and Moore, an office supply firm. He was a leader among the merchants of Charlotte and active in Rotary until his death at age 90 in 1966, our 50th Anniversary year. He introduced his son Ralston, Jr. into Rotary in 1947.

John Paul Lucas, Sr. (1929–1930) was a Duke Power man in charge of public relations. He was sophisticated and seemed to me to be aloof. He died after I had been in the Club a little over two years and I never felt that I got to know him.

Julian Miller (1930–1931) was the editor of *The Observer* — a brilliant man and gifted writer. Julian was not prompt in paying his dues and the Club directors had me become a collection agent during my two terms as secretary. Julian always paid when I'd call and we became good friends as a result of so many calls.

George Ivey, Sr. (1931–1932), along with his father and David Owens, ran Ivey's Department Store. He presided over the Club when membership dropped because of the Depression. Club lunches fell to 60 cents during his year and dues to \$25 per year. George

took a cruise each August to be away from the golden-rod which caused him to have hay fever. George thought and lived Rotary principles and was opposed to having another club in Charlotte when Dilworth was proposed.

E. A. "Turk" Terrell (1932–1933) founded and owned Terrell Machine Company. He was a Citadel graduate and the second president to have a son who was later to become president. The first was John Paul Lucas. Turk was a staunch Republican. He invented and patented several items of textile machinery which his firm manufactured.

Junius M. Smith (1933–1934) was an associate of David Clark in the publishing and printing business. He was with Gus Pound when they called on me in April 1938 to invite me to join Charlotte Rotary.

James H. Van Ness (1934–1935) was only 28 years old when he was elected president, at which time he was associated with the family business, W. I. Van Ness — photographic equipment and gift items — located on 5th Street across from Ivey's. Later he joined George Snyder at Charlotte Coca-Cola Bottling Company.

Rufus M. Johnston (1935–1936) held the classification of "Farming." He was land poor and lived on North Tryon Street in a large home just past the First Methodist Church. Rufus had trouble keeping his dues paid and I called on him regularly at the request of the directors. On one occasion, he took a great Mason jar full of coins to Miss Minnie Hamlet, the part-time executive secretary of the Club, in payment of some arrearages. Rufus had a reserve commission and was called up for service in World War II.

Art Mayo (1936–1937) appeared to be stern and gruff; actually, he was kind-hearted and very warm. He was completely bald. He operated a shortening refinery for Swift and Company. Lance, Inc. was a good customer and during rationing in World War II, Art arranged for Lance to get an emergency supply of shortening in one pound boxes; usually, it came in tank car lots.

V. K. "Bill" Hart (1937–1938) was an ear, nose, and throat doctor and president when I joined the Club in 1938. The Club met at a dining room operated by the Chamber of Commerce on the second floor above its office on West 4th Street. Club membership was about 125 and there was a strong emphasis on knowing all members and calling them by their first name or nickname. Bill had no children. He helped countless college students with loans and gifts through the Rotary Student Fund anonymously. Bill Hart was directly responsible for my son becoming an ear, nose, and throat specialist after finishing medical school. Bill

was a serious fellow and very dignified. At one meeting, his chair fell off the platform at the head table. Fortunately Bill was not hurt, only his feelings.

L. G. "Plug" Osborne (1938–1939) had a sharp wit and changed the atmosphere of the weekly meetings from serious to that of fun-loving. Plug had a combination of talents which Sadler Love, Tom Garrett, Haynes Baird, Bill Burton, and Leland Park would exhibit in later years. At a Ladies Night program held at Myers Park Country Club, Plug had Rufus Johnston at the podium for the purpose of some sort of phony recognition. When he presented a set of dishes, they were dropped — on purpose — and smashed to pieces.

Charlie Stone (1939–1940) was a precise and serious man and extremely intelligent. He was a leader in the chemical industry. Prior to World War I, America was dependent on Germany for chemicals. Stone and a few others developed an industry for America. Stone chaired the Parks and Recreation Commission, leading it to new heights. He chaired the Community Chest Campaign (pre-United Way). He ran for district governor twice and suffered a defeat before being elected. The Stones had no children and very few relatives. Their million-dollar-plus estate was left to area educational institutions, including UNC-Charlotte, CPCC, Queens College, and Randolph-Macon. In addition, a generous bequest was left in a trust, the income from which continues to this day to be distributed to the Charlotte Rotary Club and Rotary International.

Paul R. Sheahan (1940–1941) captured the attention of the Club by a great speech he gave; the topic I have long since forgotten. As a result of the speech given in the spring of 1940, he was elected president of the Club. Paul did not have roots in Charlotte and after he sold his business he moved to Roanoke, Virginia.

Amos Bumgardner (1941–1942) was one of the first orthodontists in Charlotte and was president during the 25th Anniversary of the Charlotte Club. He was an avid hunter and maintained several hunting dogs. Amos selected me as the secretary of the Club. Amos, his wife, Dot and I, along with Charlie Stone attended the International Convention in Denver in June 1941. At a stop in Colorado Springs, we were driven up a mountain to the Will Rogers Memorial. I wasn't feeling well and went to an isolated corner to vomit. I looked up to see that Amos had a movie camera aimed at me and I got well immediately. In Denver it took two cabs to take the five of us and our bags to the Harvard Hotel where we were assigned rooms by Rotary International. The Harvard was seedy — it looked flea-bitten and the bath was private after you went down the hall and locked the door. With one

accord, we said, "No way!" and went to the headquarters hotel with bags. No rooms available we were told and were advised to go back to the Harvard. We persisted. Charlie Stone was our spokesperson and we ended up with deluxe rooms at the Brown Palace Hotel headquarters.

Wiley Obenshain (1942–1943) asked me to continue as secretary and sit beside him at the head table at each meeting. He was ill at ease as the presiding officer. He never ate a meal or missed a meeting. When we missed a train connection in Washington, DC, en route to the Rotary Convention in Toronto, Wiley pressured the Southern Railway to provide Pullman cars in the Washington station for us to spend the night, as hotel rooms were not available in the city due to the war effort. Wiley was a regional manager for Southern Dairies.

Everett Bierman (1943–1944) promoted a blood donor program by giving his own blood at a Club meeting. Even with World War II in progress, the Club grew and had a membership of 171 at the end of the year and a budget of just over \$12,000. Fourteen active Rotarians were in military service. Bierman was a big, affable fellow that played football for Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. He later was a District Governor of Rotary International.

Charlie Williams (1944–1945) was a wholesale merchant whose father was a charter member of Charlotte Rotary and probably the first Catholic to lead the Club. His son, Charles Williams III, is a member of the Club as this is written in 1992. As in the previous two years, Charlie's presidency was stifled because of the war.

John Pender (1945–1946) was program chairman for an entire year and originated "How I Got Where I Am" programs. John did not give notice as to who or when one would be called. Older members as well as new members were called on. John was a student of military strategy and often expounded his views at Little Rotary. John was an official of Pyramid Life Insurance Company and part-time real estate developer (Club Colony being one of his).

My year (1946–1947) saw the start of the Charlotte Rotary Boys Choir under the leadership of Jim McMillan, who continued in this role for the life of the choir. Our Club hosted the District Conference under the leadership of Everett Bierman. Dick Owenby, a Methodist minister, started a six-year reign as chairman of the Health and Happiness Committee and his reports were referred to as "the Methodist Hour." Club meetings were held at the Hotel Charlotte, corner of West Trade and Poplar streets.

Paul Lucas (1947–1948) was the 31st president of Charlotte Rotary. His father was the 13th — the first

father-son presidents. Paul used his public relations talents (he was vice president of public relations at Duke Power Company) to provide a good year publicity-wise for Charlotte Rotary. Paul had taught English at Clemson and was an excellent presiding officer. His "postscript" appears on the back page of our roster.

Dave Welton (1948-1949), a dermatologist, was president the year Everett Bierman was District Governor and together they attended the Rotary International Convention in Rio de Janeiro. Everett claimed that Dave took along enough pills to stock a small drug store. It was during Dave's term that the Dilworth Rotary Club was chartered. Prior to the Dilworth club, Belmont and Mt. Holly were the closest places to make-up attendance. Few members of Charlotte Rotary left

to help establish Dilworth. Dave's father was a Rotarian in Wisconsin and three of Dave's sons — Scott, Rex and Sandy — are members of our Club. During Dave's year, the Club raised funds to send the Boys Choir to New York to appear on the program at the Rotary International Convention and do a nationwide broadcast on NBC Radio.

Hoyt Galvin (1949-1950) came to Charlotte from Huntsville, Alabama, where he was a Rotarian, to direct the public library which had been closed for a year. Under his leadership, the Club promoted the establishment of the Better Business Bureau which continues to render a service to area residents and business firms.

## Club Projects

THE ANNALS of the Rotary Club of Charlotte, which appear in another section of this book, are replete with projects, large and small, which have helped make Charlotte a better place to live and work for the past 75 years; and, in recent years, through support of the Rotary Foundation, have increased understanding, goodwill and peace among the peoples of the world.

The Club was organized, in 1916, just one year following the reorganization of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. Many of the early projects — better schools, better libraries, better health, better roads — were an extension of the Chamber's program for the advancement of the city. The close alliance between Rotarians and the Chamber is evidenced by the elevation of three of our charter members to the presidency of the Chamber: Clarence O. Kuester, Charles C. Hook, and Charles A. Williams, Sr. "Booster" Kuester, as he would be known as the city's enthusiastic promoter, became the first full-time executive of the Chamber in 1919, a post he was to hold until his death in 1948. Over the past 75 years our Club has furnished a number of Chamber presidents.

From the beginning members took a definite responsibility for all worthwhile community projects and furnished leaders and workers for all such movements. While most projects were of short duration, directed at a specific need, many were continued for years, some are still in existence today.

### Student Loan/Scholarship Fund (1921)

ESTABLISHED in 1921 during the presidency of J. Perin Quarles and continuing to the present day, 70 years later, this Fund has helped hundreds of students with their high school and college education.

However, by 1937, the Fund was in disarray; President V. K. (Dr. Bill) Hart reported he was shocked to find "a paper loss of nearly \$10,000." He felt that "to loan money to young people and not build character at the same time was futile and wholly inconsistent with Rotary." After study of other such funds, both Rotary and non-Rotary, a committee recommended the Fund be incorporated with specific rules. Long-time member Doug Aitken, a banker, took responsibility for

operation of the Fund. 63 loans were made between 1942 and 1953. By 1953, the Fund had a net worth of \$15,778, consisting of cash, a government bond, and outstanding loans backed by current, properly endorsed notes. During 1952-53 new loans amounted to \$1,900. It is interesting to note, that of the 29 outstanding loans on June 30, 1953, nine loans were to black students: included were a teacher with a PhD in psychology, a speech therapist, a school teacher, and a dentist. The others had not completed their education.

By 1979, administrative details and the complexities of reporting to the government led to the transfer of the day-to-day operation of the Fund to the Greater Charlotte Foundation, now The Foundation for the Carolinas. At that time there were 16 outstanding loans totalling \$11,388.81 with liquid assets of approximately \$25,000 to be loaned to worthy students.

As applications for loans decreased, the Board concurred with the recommendation of the Foundation that the Fund be made a scholarship fund. Scholarships are awarded to outstanding students, chiefly from Central Piedmont Community College, desiring to complete their college education.

### Juvenile Court (1922)

THE Boys and the Girls Work Committee cooperated with the Juvenile Court and Welfare Department commencing in 1922. Every Friday a committee of four or five Rotarians was present at court to act as "Big Brother" throughout the year, becoming aware of the causes of delinquency and establishing a tie of friendship. Some provided jobs for these youthful offenders. President Hamilton C. Jones (1925-26) served as judge of the Court. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Juvenile Court system for the state and with it the implementation of a probation system, which eliminated the need for our involvement.

### Crippled Children's Clinic (1925)

A CLINIC for crippled children was created by the Board in October 1925 under the supervision of Dr. Alonzo H. Myers, a member of the Club. Dr. Myers gave un-

selfishly and unstintedly of his expertise for nearly 20 years. The Club provided the financial support for appliances and supplies without cost to the families. As other services became available and the number of orthopedic surgeons increased, the Clinic was phased out.

### **Boy Scout Merit Badge/Circus/Expo/Show (1946)**

THE FIRST Rotary/Boy Scout Merit Badge Show was held at the Armory Auditorium in 1946 during the presidency of John R. Pender under the leadership of Everett Bierman. Individual Rotarians sponsored the various booths and the Club underwrote the expense up to \$500. A citation for community service was received from Rotary International in recognition of the program.

Over the years this Show has been known by other names: Circus and Exposition. Upwards of 25,000 people have attended the Show in many years.

The Club continues to make contributions of money and manpower to this facet of Boy Scout activity.

### **Charlotte Boys Choir (1946)**

THE BOYS CHOIR made its first public appearance on December 24, 1946 at the Christmas program of the Club during the presidency of R. Powell Majors. The leadership of this very successful community project was assumed by Rotarian James P. McMillan. Jim gave of himself unselfishly, both in time and money. Under his direction the Choir appeared on the New York stage and coast-to-coast radio stations of CBS and NBC. It received national attention as guests of the mayor of New York City and the captain of the Queen Elizabeth.

Three boys from each of the city's elementary schools made up the first choir. Rehearsals were on Saturday mornings at Central High School (now a part of Central Piedmont Community College) and the boys were paid 25¢ to attend. The Choir developed a variety show which entertained audiences from New York to Florida for seventeen years. More than 1,000 boys were members of the Choir during its life.

The Choir reached its pinnacle in 1949 when it appeared before the International Convention of Rotary in Madison Square Garden. That same year it made its first of what became an annual trip to Florida to appear before Rotary clubs and other audiences.

From its program earnings the Choir provided scholarships for four foreign students to attend Davidson College.

### **Our Rotary Trees**

IT HAS BEEN the custom for Rotary International presidents to plant a tree whenever they come to visit to symbolize the spirit of friendship and goodwill championed by Rotary around the world. There are four such trees in Charlotte and they are still standing in spite of Hurricane Hugo's best efforts.

The trees and their location and date of planting are as follows:

English walnut planted by the founder of Rotary, Paul P. Harris, on April 22, 1939 on the grounds of the Mint Museum. L. G. "Plug" Osborne was our president. Two other trees at the Museum are the Carl Miller Hard Sugar Maple planted on February 24, 1964 during the presidency of Haynes Baird, and the Clem Renouf Red Maple planted on August 21, 1978 when Dean Colvard was our president.

The fourth and last ceremonial tree is on Elizabeth Avenue at Central Piedmont Community College (about 100 yards before reaching Independence Boulevard going toward Presbyterian Hospital). Lee Morris was serving as president, in 1983, when RI President Bill Skelton came to address the joint meeting of all local clubs. The tree is a red maple.

Our own tree planting effort began during the presidency of Al Bechtold in 1955-56 with the planting of cherry trees at the Mint Museum as a memorial to the past presidents of the Club. Glenn Park, who was secretary that year and president the following year, turned this effort into an ongoing project commencing in 1960 with a gift of 200 sugar maples and 200 flowering dogwoods to the Park and Recreation Commission. Over the next 18 years we provided a total of 5,350 trees for the beautification of Charlotte. With the hiring of a full-time arborist the effort was taken over by the City.

Since 1979, we have selected special areas for development each year, including University of North Carolina at Charlotte; Boy Scout Service Center; Marion Diehl Center on Tyvola Road; Salvation Army Boys Club; Central Piedmont Community College; Queens College; and Southside/Brookhill Community on Remount Road.

Although the exact cost over 30-plus years cannot be determined, a conservative estimate would be \$25,000. Taking over from Al Bechtold and Glenn Park have been Charlie Allison, Ed White and Bev Freeman.



### The Rotary Foundation

It was at the 1917 Rotary convention in Atlanta, Georgia, that Rotary's sixth president, Arch Klumph, revealed his desire to create an endowment fund for Rotary. Its purpose: "For doing good in the world in charitable, educational, and other avenues of community progress." This embryonic endowment fund received its first contribution a few months later — \$26.50 from the Rotary Club of Kansas City, Missouri. Since then, contributions have grown substantially, totaling more than \$555 million by 1990.

But even more impressive is what The Rotary Foundation has achieved during its 75-year history. The some 21,000 scholars who have promoted world understanding, the estimated 278 million children who have thus far been immunized against polio, and the countless numbers of people who are enjoying clean drinking water, accessible health care and schools, and improved nutrition, thanks to Foundation grants — all of these are the true measure of the Foundation's value.

Our Rotary District 7680 with 4120 members contributed \$221,106 to The Rotary Foundation in the Rotary year ending June 30, 1991. Included in the total was \$53,954 for PolioPlus.

The real impetus for the Foundation came in 1947 following the death of Rotary's founder, Paul P. Harris, when the Paul Harris Fellow Program was inaugurated to serve as a memorial. The Fund has grown to almost \$600 million, including more than \$200 million for the PolioPlus program to eliminate this deadly disease from the face of the earth. The grand total of Paul Harris Fellows internationally has grown to 341,300.

The objectives of the Foundation — to further understanding and friendly relations among peoples of different nations and to relieve human misery — are carried out through six programs:

- Grants for Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H). (PolioPlus is an example.)
- Scholarships (Graduate, Undergraduate, Vocational, Teacher of the Handicapped, Journalism and Agriculture).
- Group Study Exchange (mainly business and professional men and women).
- Grants for University Teachers.
- Special Grants.
- Rotary Forum for World Peace.

The Foundation's work is supported mainly by contributions from individual Rotarians. Every cent of

contributions is used for the work of the Foundation — none goes to fund-raising or administration.

Our Club's contributions to the Foundation total \$391,079.10 as of the publication of this volume.

The first listing of Paul Harris Fellows for our Club was in the Roster for the 1971–1972 Rotary year. There were five Fellows: C. W. "Pat" Gilchrist, Luther Hodges, Jr., Milo Kirkpatrick, Charles H. Stone, and James B. Watt. The Rotary Foundation Committee was chaired by Bob Bryant that year. The number of our Paul Harris Fellows has grown from five to 186 over the past 20 years and the number of Sustainers from 1 to 150. The PolioPlus Program, launched in 1986, attracted a large number of members over the past five years. The tabulation of the increases by year is shown below:

|                    | <i>Fellows</i> |              | <i>Sustainers</i> |              |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
|                    | <i>New</i>     | <i>Total</i> | <i>New</i>        | <i>Total</i> |
| 1970–71            | 5              | 5            | 1                 | 1            |
| 1971–72            |                | 5            | 1                 | 2            |
| 1972–73            |                | 5            | 3                 | 5            |
| 1973–74            | 3              | 8            | 1                 | 6            |
| 1974–75            | 1              | 9            | 2                 | 8            |
| 1975–76            | 4              | 13           | 2                 | 10           |
| 1976–77            | 2              | 15           |                   | 10           |
| 1977–78            | 4              | 19           |                   | 9            |
| 1978–79            | 2              | 21           |                   | 8            |
| 1979–80            | 6              | 27           |                   | 8            |
| 1980–81            | 6              | 33           | 1                 | 9            |
| 1981–82            | 8              | 41           | 1                 | 10           |
| 1982–83            | 6              | 47           | 4                 | 14           |
| 1983–84            | 8              | 55           | 1                 | 15           |
| 1984–85            | 13             | 68           |                   | 14           |
| 1985–86            | 6              | 74           | 32                | 46           |
| 1986–87            | 24             | 98           | 45                | 91           |
| 1987–88            | 29             | 127          | 20                | 111          |
| 1988–89            | 11             | 138          | 28                | 139          |
| 1989–90            | 22             | 160          | 3                 | 142          |
| 1990–91            | 21             | 181          | 8                 | 150          |
| 1991–92 (5 Months) | 5              | 186          |                   |              |

Although the first listing of Fellows didn't appear until the 1971–72 Roster, there is a record of the chairmen of our Rotary Foundation Committee commencing with the 1959–1960 Rotary year. There have been twelve chairmen in the 33 years of the committee's existence. The longest tenure belongs to Frank Timberlake with nine of those years, followed by John Barnhardt with five, and George Harris with four. The complete record follows:

|         |              |
|---------|--------------|
| 1959–61 | David Welton |
| 1961–62 | Ed Thomas    |
| 1962–63 | Beau Whitton |

|         |                  |
|---------|------------------|
| 1963-64 | Dave Williamson  |
| 1964-67 | George Harris    |
| 1967-69 | Pat Gilchrist    |
| 1969-72 | Bob Bryant       |
| 1972-73 | Frank Timberlake |
| 1973-74 | Ralston Pound    |
| 1974-75 | George Harris    |
| 1975-79 | Frank Timberlake |
| 1979-81 | Randall Groves   |
| 1981-85 | Frank Timberlake |
| 1985-90 | John Barnhardt   |
| 1990-92 | Darrell Holland  |

### POLIO-PLUS

CHARLOTTE ROTARY joined the battle to lick polio during the 1986-87 year after President Bill Loftin brought the news of Rotary's ambitious program from the RI Convention. Over the next three years our members contributed approximately \$70,000 — the greatest humanitarian effort in our history: enough funds to provide vaccine for more than a quarter-million children.

Historically, Rotary's effort against polio began when a 3-H request was received for polio vaccine to immunize children of the Philippines. The first vaccine was shipped there in September 1979. Seven years later, a PolioPlus grant of \$1,245,000 launched a mass immunization campaign in Mexico.

Between 1979 and 1986, the Trustees of the Rotary Foundation approved grants totaling \$12,330,900 in the 26 project countries.

Because of its international membership, Rotary is uniquely able to add personal dimensions to its participation. That was demonstrated dramatically during the month of September 1985 when some five million children in three countries — Turkey, Paraguay and Sudan — were immunized against polio and other diseases. Rotary — and Rotarians — were involved in all three.

Each year more than 100 million children are born in developing countries, including many where the polio battle barely has started. To carry the fight to a successful conclusion, Rotary International organized a worldwide fund-raising campaign among its own members and enlisted public support.

### POLIOPLUS-AT-A-GLANCE (November 1991)

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Countries with approved grants . . . . .     | 97            |
| Grants and commitments made . . . . .        | \$177,264,318 |
| Children to be immunized . . . . .           | 600,521,000   |
| Estimated number already immunized . . . . . | 278,219,039   |
| Cash received through committees . . . . .   | \$230,104,342 |
| Received from government grants . . . . .    | \$7,781,698   |

"This shooting war uses vaccines instead of bullets," said UNICEF Executive James P. Grant. "We will not let up for an instant. We will push even harder now that the adversary (polio) is on the run."

### YMCA for Arequipa, Peru

AS PART of our 50th Anniversary observance in 1966, we pledged \$5,000 toward the restoration of a colonial house in Arequipa, Peru, for use as a YMCA. Sometime earlier Rotary International had assigned the Rotary Club in Arequipa as our sister club. We still enjoy a relationship with this Club. In the 1986-1987 year Mike Greeson, chairman of our World Service Committee, was responsible for our providing 25 binocular microscopes for diagnosis of tuberculosis. For his service, Mike was made an honorary citizen of Arequipa.

### Other Projects

THE CHARLOTTE ROTARY CLUB has a rich history of support for special projects which have affected the quality of life in our community in positive ways. We have heard the dreams of various people—and of our own committees—concerning many needs. Through initial financial support, we have been able to see many of these dreams come to fruition. At this time our projects budget is \$10,000 per year. For more examples of projects over our 75-year history see the year-by-year histories commencing on page 57.

It is our intent to fund new ideas or projects with initial start-up cost or seed money and, from time to time, to provide gifts to unique, one-time needs. Priority is given to new projects which meet community needs and have the potential of becoming self-sustaining. Priority is given, also, to projects under consideration by our own Club's committees.

## Our Rotary Office

*In celebration of our executive secretary's 80th birthday, Tom Warren was toasted at our meeting on November 8, 1994. Henry H. Bostic, Jr. delivered a tribute. Following is an edited version of these remarks.*

TOM WARREN has had his finger on the pulse of Charlotte Rotary since he retired in 1976 as the scout executive in Charlotte. During that time he has been the Club's mainstay — its continuity, its memory and, on more than a few occasions, its savior.

Tom is not afraid of a challenge or of trying something new. So in the past few years he has led Charlotte Rotary into the computer age. He even bought a machine for his home so he could do Rotary work there.

More than one club president and club secretary/treasurer can say without reservation that it is absolutely wonderful — and essential — that a club the size of Charlotte Rotary has someone like Tom to handle day-to-day activities.

The Rotary bureaucracy in Evanston, Illinois, is second only to the federal bureaucracy in churning out paper — as any former or current president or district governor in our club can attest. Tom's tenacity and attention to detail have served Charlotte Rotary well.

He's also a bit of a thorn in the side of local postal officials. Tom can't understand why the post office can't deliver 300 or so Rotary Reporters to club members between Friday lunch and Tuesday lunch — even when they are mailed first class. On more than one occasion he's discussed that inability with any postal official who'll listen. "They don't like me," is all Tom will say.

Tom became executive secretary during the 1976-77 Rotary year when Pete deWitt was president and Maloy Rash was secretary.

Tom recalled it this way: "I had just retired from the Boy Scouts and Beth Small, who had been serving as our office secretary since the forties, was leaving. The secretary asked me to find someone. He said to me, 'You're not doing anything, get us a secretary.'

"I asked what the job was. There was no job description. The secretary said, 'I don't know. Go find



THOMAS R. WARREN, JR.  
Executive Secretary

out,' " Tom said. "So I did and thirty days later I came back with a notebook full."

And I guess we could say he's been learning on the job since then.

For those of you who don't know, Tom was the scout executive in Charlotte before he took on the responsibilities with Rotary. He served Scouting for 33 years, beginning his work in Charleston during World War II. Tom was 4-F because of his severe asthma.

Born November 4, 1914 in Durham, he's a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with an electrical engineering degree. Tom said he graduated during the Great Depression when jobs were hard to come by. He sold advertising and sporting goods and worked in a men's store. He was even a certified Lionel train repairman.

Someone told him to apply for a Scouting job, in 1942, but he didn't because the starting salary was too low and he didn't have a car. Later he got a car when American Tobacco went on strike in Durham, and someone needed to sell a 1938 Chevy.

After joining the Scouts, he was able to get gas

during the war even though it was rationed. Tom's career with the Scouts began in Charleston, South Carolina. In 1948, he moved to Greensboro as scout executive, and that's where he first joined Rotary in 1949. He came to Charlotte as scout executive in 1959.

Friends and associates describe Tom as a detail-oriented person. Nothing exemplifies that any more than the last project of his scouting career — the development of Camp Grimes in Dysertsville. Tom spent most of his waking hours at the camp for the two years it was under construction, spending weekends in Charlotte and the work week in Dysertsville. He oversaw construction from beginning to end. As a consequence, the camp turned out exactly the way it was designed.

Accountants in our Club say Tom always looks at financial records through an engineer's eye. He doesn't miss a trick.

Wayne Brendell, his through-the-back-yard neighbor, says Tom has a real passion for horse trading and love of cars. He trades cars at least every three years to

keep the car in warranty so he doesn't have to pay for any repairs.

You may have heard Tom brag about fixing his 1940 Ford one day when it wouldn't start. He hit it in the right place with a 2 by 4 and it ran fine after that. Just had to get it's attention, I guess.

Tom was devoted to his late wife, Carolyn, but that didn't mean he wouldn't let his horse trading embarrass her a little. The story goes that Tom and Carolyn went to Folger Buick to get a new car. During the negotiations, Carolyn got embarrassed at Tom's tenacity.

Evidently, it was apparent to the salesman as well because once Tom bought the car, Folger sent Carolyn a bouquet of flowers several days later congratulating her on being able to put up with Tom.

But all of us at Charlotte Rotary love "putting up with him." We just wonder how long he will "put up with us."

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## Earlier Club Secretaries

IN THE EARLY DECADES our Club's office existed in the office of various members. The earliest known secretary was Miss Minnie Hamlett, a secretary to Clarence Kuester, a charter member and head of the Chamber of Commerce staff. The Club met for many years in the second floor dining room of the Chamber in the first block of West Fourth Street.

In the 1950s Mrs. Rothrock, a secretary at Kings Business College, which was operated by Rotarian Milo Kirkpatrick, filled this role.

In 1958 our own office was opened at 117 East

Third Street with Mrs. W. H. (Betty) Knowlton as office secretary.

Mrs. Robert (Toi) Glasgow, wife of fellow Rotarian Bob Glasgow, succeeded Mrs. Knowlton sometime in the 1960s. Mrs. Glasgow was followed by Mrs. John H. (Beth) Small in 1969. The office was at 330 S. Tryon Street in the Mutual Savings and Loan building. Mrs. Small retired in 1976 and was succeeded by Thomas R. Warren, Jr. The office was moved to its present location, Suite 200, 201 South McDowell Street, in August 1993.

## Miscellany

- What Rotary Means to Me
- Memorable Rotarians
- Our Meeting Places
- Memorable Events
- Charter Night Dinner  
December 5, 1916
- "Little Rotary"
- Glad to Be Alive Club
- Golden "50" Club
- Bicentennial Programs
- A Most Unusual Day
- Leaders All
- All in the Family
- Senior, Senior Rotarians
- Bequests
- Excellence in Management
- Chan Gordon Scholarship
- Four-Way Test
- Perfect Attendance Leaders

### What Rotary Means to Me

*A program feature during our 70th Anniversary observance, 1986-1987.*

DAVID G. WELTON  
President 1948-1949

Like President Bill, I became acquainted with Rotary through my father, a charter member of the Madison, Wisconsin club, organized in 1914. That club's annual Family Picnic was one of the highlights of my childhood. Then, while attending the University of Wisconsin I served as accompanist for that club. The song-leader was a Professor of Music at the University and Director of a large church choir. He taught the members of that club four-part singing.

As soon as I joined the Charlotte Club (in 1943), I was told that my place was at the piano, and I've been "holding down that classification," so to speak, ever since, with pleasure.

As president-elect in 1948 I was sent to the Rotary International Convention in Rio de Janeiro, along with Everett Bierman, another member of this club who was our District Governor that year. This trip was a milestone in my life: it was my first trip abroad and my first R.I. Convention. In many respects it was an edu-

cational experience which left indelible impressions on my mind . . . one of these being the importance of International Understanding, the 4th Object of Rotary.

While visiting in Sao Paulo, Brazil, three of us were entertained by the president of the Ford Motor Co. of Brazil, a Danish gentleman named Orberg whose sons were being educated in the U.S., one at M.I.T. and one at the University of Michigan. The Michigan student later visited us in Charlotte. His father believed that the Rotary Foundation Fellowships awarded to outstanding students were making a very significant contribution to international understanding. He had great faith in the potential of this program.

During the past 30 years or so I have attended Rotary meetings in ten countries and have had, as many of you have, some very interesting experiences thereby. In Musashino, a Tokyo suburb, I was the guest of the club president who, halfway through lunch, informed me that I was the program for that day! At first I thought he was joking, but he was serious. When I asked what he'd like me to speak about, he immediately replied: "Your impressions of Japan and the Japanese people." He had thoughtfully seated an English speaking member on my right, a man with a PhD from the University of Chicago who taught English at one of the Tokyo universities. This turned out to be the easiest impromptu talk I ever gave. After speaking for several paragraphs,

I stopped and the man on my right translated those remarks into Japanese. This gave me time to think of what to say next!

One could fill many pages describing ROTARY's assets. My purpose is to list briefly those which have meant the most to me.

First and foremost are — in the words of Paul Lucas — “The pleasant wine of Rotary acquaintance . . . and the warmth of Rotary fellowship.” For the true Rotarian, imbibing of this wine is irresistible; and regardless of the quantity ingested, there is no “hang-over”!

As a physician, I welcome this weekly opportunity to meet with men of all vocations. Its effect is broadening and rewarding . . . both in personal relationships and in keeping my information spectrum broad.

As a member, I welcome the opportunity to participate in the work and functions of our Club. There is no better way to enrich your Rotary experience.

Perhaps the greatest asset is the “*Spirit of Rotary.*” Difficult to define, this spirit permeates the Rotary experience so completely that once inoculated by it the member neither seeks nor desires a cure!

Now, a physician seldom leaves a patient without writing at least one prescription, and I have one for you: To live a long and healthy life, be an ACTIVE ROTARIAN!!

F. SADLER LOVE  
President 1961–1962

*One feature of our 70th Anniversary observance this year is spotlighting our past presidents, particularly those who served 15 or more years back. In this issue we salute Sadler Love, who served as president 25 years ago. Sadler spoke without manuscript at our meeting on August 19, 1986. His summary of those remarks appears below.*

President Bill has asked me to tell you what Rotary has meant to me over the past 35 years and what it continues to mean to me. To further complicate matters, he has asked me to do this in two and a half minutes. Being keenly aware of the time problem facing the president of Rotary, I shall stay within that limit.

First, with Rotary operating world-wide in some 160 countries, with now over 1,000,000 members, I am a part of a far-reaching effort to bring men and nations closer together in the hope that we may advance toward the elusive goal of peace while at the same time helping in considerable measure in the battle to lessen world suffering. Rotary's effort to eliminate polio in the world population would of itself make my membership worthwhile.

Second, I have been and continue to be a part of an organization of nearly 300 men in the Charlotte Rotary Club who are striving day by day and year by year to make this community and this state better places in which to live, not just for ourselves but for our children and our children's children, for people in all walks of life.

Thirdly and finally, I have shared for 35 years —

and continue to share — the fellowship, the friendship and the humor of much of the leadership of Charlotte and Mecklenburg, men of good will moving forward to light a million candles in a world so desperately in need of light.

You asked me, Mr. President, what Rotary has meant to me. I say in reply that my only regret is that I have not been able to serve Rotary in the same measure Rotary has served me.

JOHN PAUL LUCAS, JR.  
President 1947–1948

John Paul Lucas, Jr. was unquestionably one of our most literate members, having served as a newspaperman and coauthor of a book. He had few peers as a writer and spokesman for Rotary. Our roster contains a postscript authored by Paul which will continue to inspire us. A beautiful example of his gift of expression appeared in the April 28, 1964 Reporter under the heading “Rotary's Assets.” He wrote:

“As a freshman member of the Charlotte Rotary Club in the Fall of 1941, full of enthusiasm and ignorance, I was caught embarrassingly off-guard by a non-Rotarian visitor who asked me a simple question.

“What is the real reason for Rotary?”

“And sure enough, when you look at it that way, how do busy men justify the time and energy and, in most cases, the personal expense requisite to membership? We live in a fairly busy society with a good many demands that must be faced, and the question may well be asked of any time-consuming organization, Rotary included, ‘What is its justification?’

“I couldn't answer then. I'm still looking for the best answer. But after twenty-odd years of Rotary I'm sure Rotary's justification is not in its weekly get-together over the clatter of knives and forks. Not in its annual Ladies Night. Not in its emergence in 1905 out of the companionable heart of young Paul Harris, lonely in a big city. Not in the long series of luncheon programs designed to raise the level of our civic intelligence and broaden our sense of social obligation. Not even in a club's many worthwhile projects of benefit to the community.

“*You yourself are the justification of Rotary.* And the measure of that justification is precisely the measure by which the individual member actually does use his Rotary acquaintance as an opportunity for service through his vocation and his community. Technology has made the world smaller, but Rotary is making men larger — in understanding and in vision.

“If I had any single thing to say to a new member, I think it would be this: Why not define Rotary to your own satisfaction? Then, just for fun, try it out on someone!”

On another occasion, Paul summed it up in these words, “. . . after all, the end product of Rotary is Rotarians.” Certainly, this man was an adornment to the name we bear.

—Charlotte Reporter, May 15, 1979

CHARLES A. HUNTER  
President 1959–1960

Virtually for all of my adult working life I have had the loan of a Rotary classification. I was 22 years old in May of 1940. In June, I graduated from college. In October 1940, I was in Rotary.

As I recall, it was Socrates who said that the unexamined life was not worth living.

In my work out on the dairy farm, on many occasions I had the opportunity to ponder the question, "Why Rotary?" Why disrupt harvesting or other pressing duties, shower, slip into Sunday clothes, and head towards Rotary meetings at the old Chamber of Commerce dining room, the Hotel Charlotte, the Elks Club, or Honey's, often adding another couple hours to the working day.

It may have been the better use of time to sit down with the butcher, the baker, and the candlestick maker and to listen to 52 thoughtful topics each year . . . my horizons kept expanding. When day was over, my world was a little larger.

In the midst of this I continued to ponder the question, "Why Rotary?"

Fortunately, the answer presented itself. I was exposed to the thinking of Abraham Maslow and his theory on the hierarchy of needs of people. Many of you, I am sure, are acquainted with the five levels of human needs as outlined by Maslow.

*First* is the physiological need of food, clothing, shelter and rest. These are the first basic needs.

*Second* is the need for safety or security. When physiological needs are satisfied, man wants to keep and protect what he has. He starts to try to stabilize his environment for the future.

*Third* level is that of social needs. As his environment becomes more stable, he seeks to be part of something larger than himself. He has social needs for belonging, for sharing and association, for giving and receiving friendship. This is the point at which Rotary begins to interplay. . . . We refer to it as fellowship and acquaintance.

*Fourth* is the ego need. These are the needs that relate to one's self-esteem and self worth coupled with the human building blocks of self-confidence, independence, achievement and competence. It nudges us on to earn status, recognition, and respect of our peers. At this point Rotary begins to accommodate even more of the needs.

*Fifth* and highest needs are that of self-fulfillment . . . the need for growth, self-development, self-actualization. As the capstone of all his other needs, man wants to realize the full range of his individual potential as a human being.

Yes, Rotary identifies with the higher needs of mankind. Stand on a railroad track and peer down the rails on a straight track; they appear to merge in the distance. But stand on the avenue of service in Rotary and look down its length and it gets wider and wider. To me, that is the miracle called Rotary.

Memorable Rotarians

DAVID CLARK  
President 1918–1919

By Charlie Hunter

The Rotary Club of Spruce Pine, North Carolina, recently celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary . . . having been organized in September, 1928. In representing the sponsor club I did some research.

Dave Clark of the Charlotte Club was the Rotarian who was chairman of the committee in organizing the new club of Spruce Pine. This was one of the thirty Rotary clubs that he started. He was the second president of the Charlotte Club (1918–1919). He went on to be District Governor, and a director of Rotary International.

In the early days of Rotary, Dave had a running battle with the leadership of Rotary. There was a strong position for organizing Rotary Clubs only in the large metropolitan cities. This was the stance of a majority of the leadership of Rotary International.

Dave took the position that Rotary was something that was needed in every community that could muster sufficient classifications to organize a club. His tenacity was unmatched . . . he could become a majority of one.

In time, Dave Clark's thinking prevailed, and Rotary was welcomed around the world—from small communities of 500 population to the great cities of millions. Today, we find 17,874 Rotary Clubs in 154 countries and geographical regions, with a new club coming on stream every day. Dave Clark made a good-sized contribution.

—Charlotte Reporter, October 24, 1978

C. W. "PAT" GILCHRIST

President 1950–1951

District Governor 1959–1960

Director Rotary International 1962–1964

Finance Committee R. I. 1964–1966

Chairman 1965–1966

Chairman Agenda Committee International Institute 1967

Chairman R. I. Convention 1969

*Past District Governor Charlie A. Hunter delivered the following eulogy for Rotarian Gilchrist at our meeting on January 6, 1987.*

In the design of Divine Providence we are sent individuals of unique capacity and nature. One is described as "A Man of All Seasons." In the expression of William H. Danforth the unique are referred to as individuals who:

Stand Tall  
Think Tall  
Act Tall, and  
Live Tall

C. W. "Pat" Gilchrist was such an individual. He walked, he lived, and he gave generously of his tall self. We have been blessed by his sojourn in our midst.

It has been observed that great individuals are the result of the right combinations of some six (6) of the

200 positive attributes. Pat got his act together in a beautiful way. He endeared and inspired his host of friends at home and in the wide world of Rotary.

Pat joined the Charlotte Rotary Club in 1943. Seven years later he was president of the Club. Nine years later he was district governor, and two years later he was a director of Rotary International. We often said if we could have turned the clock back a few years on Pat we could have seen him proceed to the ultimate position of leadership in Rotary. He would have been a great president of Rotary International.

Sunday it fell my lot to call his close friends in Rotary. Four of them were past presidents of R. I. (Roy Hickman, Bill Robbins, Jim Bomar, and Bill Skelton). The others were past directors of R. I. Just as he touched the lives of those at home he established affinity with the other tall men of Rotary.

If I may lift a line from the "Sound of Music" . . . after a moment of despair "We cry a little, and then wait for the sun to shine." We grieve with the passing of Pat Gilchrist, but we bask in the glow of his life of service, his cosmos vision, his sensitive human touch as a friend, and for the love with which he encompassed his family.

I join with his host of friends in turning heavenward a simple, but complete prayer, "Dear God, send our way more fine men like C. W. "Pat" Gilchrist." You see, he was one of God's Gentlemen.

*Rotary Legacies from Pat Gilchrist*

Lectern for Head Table  
50th Anniversary History of  
Charlotte Rotary  
Brass Bell for New Clubs in District  
Annual Pat Gilchrist Award  
for Best Club in District

*In the name of Rotary [Charlotte Rotarians] have written their histories indelibly into the affections of a grateful community. Perhaps these individuals were totally unaware of the yeoman service they were rendering. The stepping stones they trod on the way to accomplishments were often marked by absence from family, tiresome meetings, negative opinions, monetary sacrifice, and so many other drab inconsequential. This is the history we cannot write. Yet, what they worked for is now called blessed.*

*A Half Century of Rotary, 1916-1966*  
Foreword by C. W. "Pat" Gilchrist  
Chairman, 50th Anniversary Committee

JOHN PAUL LUCAS, JR.  
President 1947-1948

Death has removed from the ranks of Charlotte Rotary one of its most beloved members and Charlotte has lost a sterling citizen in the passing of John Paul Lucas, Jr. on May 8, 1979. In 38 years as a member, Paul served on virtually every committee, was a director numerous times, secretary (1944-45), president (1947-48) and district governor (1952-53). He was a frequent program guest at Rotary clubs in this and neighboring

districts and had a wide acquaintance in Rotary everywhere he went.

Paul personified the Rotary ideal of "Service Above Self." His contributions to the civic, educational, and religious life of Charlotte and North Carolina would fill all four pages of this publication. On the national level, he was the first Charlottean to be made a director of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

With earned degrees from Duke, North Carolina State, and Princeton, he taught briefly at State and at Clemson. His service to Charlotte College and UNCC as a trustee was recognized when a classroom building at UNCC was named in his honor. He was also a trustee of Johnson C. Smith University and vice chairman of the N. C. Board of Higher Education.

Paul followed in the footsteps of his distinguished father who came to Charlotte as editor of the *Charlotte Observer* and went on to become vice president of Duke Power Company. Paul, Sr., preceded his son as president of our club (1929-30) — the two being the only father-son holders of this distinction in our 73-year history.

The Methodist Church was a beneficiary of Paul's talents, too, in his role of chairman of the Board of Stewards and District Lay Leader.

Paul was unquestionably one of our most literate members, having served as a newspaperman and co-author of a book. He had few peers as a writer and spokesman for Rotary. Our roster contains a postscript authored by Paul which will continue to inspire us.

—Charlotte Reporter, May 15, 1979

## Meeting Places

The first meetings, in 1916, were at the Selwyn Hotel at the northeast corner of Trade and Church streets, then in its heyday. In 1918 members enjoyed a fine luncheon for 75¢ at the prestigious Southern Manufacturers Club, a couple of blocks farther west on Trade Street. During 1921 there was an experiment in "rotating" the meeting place at the YMCA, Alexander Graham School, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, the YWCA and Second Presbyterian Church; also, some picnics at country churches: Steele Creek, Sardis and Sugar Creek Presbyterian churches. By 1923 the Club was eating in the second floor dining room of the Chamber of Commerce in the first block of West Fourth Street. In 1931 the price of meals dropped from 90¢ to 75¢ and finally to 60¢.

During the 1940s we met at the Hotel Charlotte on West Trade (now the site of Carillon building) . . . the Elk's Club in the 1950s and 1960s, at the northeast corner of South Tryon and Stonewall streets . . . Honey's and Issie Pittle's in the 1960s and 1970s at the southwest corner of South Tryon and Morehead streets. By 1976 we were meeting at the Top of the Tower dining room on the 30th floor of the new First Union National Bank building on South Tryon and Third streets. In 1970 we moved to the Quality Inn Downtown at 220 South McDowell. The name was changed to Howard Johnson City Center in 1989 and to Government House in 1990.



## OTHER MEMORABLE ROTARIANS

*Excerpt from Health and Happiness Report  
by Zach Thomas on December 28, 1982.*

Each of us, and all of Charlotte will be thankful for years to come that Glenn Park was a Rotarian, and a 37-year perfect attender at that, prior to his recent death. Glenn caused there to be some seven or eight thousand living monuments to Rotary to exist in our community in the form of beautiful dogwood and sugar maple trees, an annual project that is still active. We cannot think of Rotary's relationship to trees without the fond memory that Rotarian George Ivey, Sr., plus other Club members accompanied our founder, Paul Harris, to the campus of the Mint Museum where he personally planted a small English Walnut tree honoring this Club. Today one sees a sturdy and beautiful tree towering over the bronze Rotary marker.

None who were so fortunate to be on hand could ever forget the beautiful luncheon music often provided for us by members Roy Palmer on the cornet, Ernie Hicks on the clarinet and Dave Welton on the piano.

Your Club took the bit in its teeth and opened its heart and its membership in the year 1970 to Dr. Lonnie Newsome, then president of Johnson C. Smith University, who became the first black to be taken into membership by a local civic club.

I am sure there are those here who remember one of the warmest and kindest men of all times, Red Whisnant, who, as our president, could murder the king's English in more different ways than anyone.

The humor and the timing and the material used by Dr. Dick Owenby as our permanent in-residence Health and Happiness performer quickly gained for him a time slot before lunch known as the "Methodist Hour."

Our Club is fortunate to have Tom Warren as our executive secretary, the first club in the state to enjoy the services of one of its own members in such a position.

I wish time would permit to do more than to mention the names of the people who have meant so much to this Club and to me, such as Dave Clark, "Mr. Rotary" of his day; Gordon Christian, a man totally dedicated to his club; the sage and humorous John Fox; the genuine Dr. Ham McKay; John Paul Lucas' articulate leadership; Bob Woodson's alliterative blessings; Henry Swanzey's continual search for the high notes while leading our music; Ken Goodson's sharp wit and deep wisdom; Jim Watt's eternal vigilance as sergeant-at-arms now so ably continued by Cecil Lawrence; Clarence Kuester's enthusiasm; Jim McMillan's and Powell Major's never ending patience in the direction of the Rotary Boys Choir, including their performance in Madison Square Garden; Charles Stone's love of Rotary; and Pat Gilchrist's international involvement which never interfered with his loyalty and support of his own club; Dr. V. K. "Bill" Hart's sincerity and loyalty; and the capacity to lead which belonged to Everett Bierman.

## Memorable Events

By G. Douglas Aitken, Sr.

Your editors thought that many of the newer members would enjoy being brought up to date on some of our members with the longest Rotary membership and hearing about some of their impressions of Rotary and some of the highlights and humorous happenings from the past.

The first to respond to our questionnaire was Doug Aitken, who joined Rotary on June 23, 1936. Doug was on the board of directors at various times from 1949 through 1968, and served on the budget and finance committees from 1971 to 1976. Doug tells us of many things that come to mind as he looks back over the past forty years. He remembers:

(1) The first-aid emergency supply station headed by George Ivey, Sr. during World War II.

(2) Furnishing school equipment to the YMCA in Arequipa, Peru, one of our sister cities — a project of Pat Gilchrist which had great response.

(3) A request for funds to start an annual Boy Scout Merit Badge Show — a project of Fred Vantreas.

(4) A beauty contest won by Ben Hood's "legs."

(5) The time when one of the members paid an organ grinder with his music box and a bear to bring the bear to the meeting room surreptitiously and have the bear stand and put his paws on the shoulder of a seated member. The member went under the table and all nearby gave the bear plenty of room.

Doug has lived in Dilworth since early childhood. His family consists of Nita, his wife, and two sons, Douglas and Alan. He was educated in the local schools and holds certificates from the American Institute of Banking, UNC and Northwestern Schools of Banking. He was with the Bank of Commerce for 52 years and was president for 12 years. He served on city council as mayor pro-tem, on the local board of education for six years and the state board of education for 16 years. He served on the Chamber of Commerce board for three terms. Doug has been interested in YMCA work since 1914 and continues to the present, having served on various committees and board and trustee membership from 1936. He is an elder in the Avondale Presbyterian Church and has served as clerk of the session and on many other committees in the presbytery and synod and as a commissioner to General Assembly three times.

Doug feels that the Club, in addition to its regular sustaining projects, should develop singular projects each year or so — supporting one good project, as for example, "The Festival in the Park."

In addition to Doug's other activities, he served as secretary and treasurer of the Club, as treasurer of the Rotary Student Loan Fund for 30 years, as treasurer of the Boy Scout Merit Badge Show for several years and as treasurer of the District Conference and other committees.

Thanks for the memories, Doug — and thanks for your fine service to the Club and your community.

—Charlotte Reporter, October 4, 1977

ner were J. S. Sitrine, Harry R. Wilkins, Charles H. Newton, Jr., G. M. MacNider, John A. Singleton, Milton G. Smith, Bob Bowe of Greenville; Isaac Andrews, G. F. Wilson, E. H. Everett, Elwood F. Bell, A. W. Horton, Charles E. Band, R. H. F. Chapman, H. Frank McGee, J. W. Alexander of Spartanburg; William E. Morton of Richmond.

### A Brief History of "Little Rotary"

By AL BECHTOLD

(Assisted by Hoyt Galvin and Powell Majors)

Never heard of it some will say — "Little Rotary?"; let's ask, "What was it?" In the next few paragraphs we shall endeavor to give a brief description of the who, what, when, where and why.

About 30 years ago many Rotarians were eating lunch downtown at Thacker's Restaurant, 221 S. Tryon Street. This was the year of John Pender's presidency. A group of 8 to 10 Rotarians would gather each Thursday for lunch in a private dining room. It so happened President John had asked Wesley Bouterse to organize a plan to indoctrinate new members. Since Wesley was chairman of the fellowship and acquaintance committee, he conceived the idea of bringing prospective new members to Thacker's to talk with and listen to some of the "old-in-point-of-service" Rotarians about the Club's functions, ideas, etc. It worked well and gave new members a knowledge of Rotary. This plan of acquainting new members with Rotary is still carried on by various chairmen in different ways.

The group of Thursday gatherings kept on and grew until some days as many as 25 to 30 men came to discuss — sometimes serious things, sometimes just stuff and stuff. It was dubbed "Little Rotary." How it actually got its name could not be determined or who first mentioned "Little Rotary" but it stuck with the group until Thacker's Restaurant went out of business. As time went on, more and more Rotarians would come on Thursdays to enjoy the fellowship and lunch (only 50¢) and hear expounded much wisdom, ideals, and some "bunk." As this group gathered informally, John W. Fox, one of the best read and keenest minds in the entire City of Charlotte, would act as moderator. When John was unable to attend, others took the chair and presided — remembering at all times that it was informal and was in no way an official part of the Charlotte Rotary Club. These highly informed and informal gatherings quickly became a challenging forum on civic affairs, world events, the state of the economy, politics and Rotary itself. The members present had a comfortable feeling of being among friends for "off the record" discussions. Regardless of the problem or idea, it was attacked with enthusiasm, eloquence sometimes banteringly, sometimes dead seriously, and almost always in good-natured, thought-provoking discussions.

With Louis Rogers as Republican protagonist, with Everett Bierman as chief heckler, with Paul Lucas's academic point of view, with Jim McMillan's promotional dreams for greater Charlotte, with Woody Ken-

nedy's thoughts for a great university and engineering school, with Pat Gilchrist's true loyalty and philosophy of Paul Harris's meaning of Rotary, with Ernest Hicks' thoughts about politicians and politics, with Francis Beatty's urbanity, with John W. Fox's wisdom and overall knowledge in any field, with Chan Richards, Bill Crichton and Powell Majors cross-examining each thought expressed, there really was never a dull moment or lack of discussion material at any session.

It has been said by some of Charlotte's leaders that the "seed was sown" at Little Rotary for many worthwhile projects — not only for the Rotary Club but also for the city — which benefitted and furnished enjoyment to many thousands of people.

Here is a partial list of the "seeds" — discovered and planted — which have grown and produced valuable fruit:

- Better Business Bureau
- Charlotte Coliseum and Auditorium
- Charlotte Boys Choir
- Charlotte College (now CPCC) and UNCC
- Rotary Scout Circus Show
- Expansion of Rotary in Dilworth
- "Hoorah America" Show put on by Rotary for Medical Supplies in World War II
- Ceiling reading machine for the Library
- Children's Nature Museum

Here is a partial list of Rotarians attending "Little Rotary" at times:

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Doug Aitken     | Tebee Hawkins   |
| Ben Ashcraft    | Ernest Hicks    |
| Francis Beatty  | Floyd Hurt      |
| Al Bechtold     | Lenoir Keesler  |
| Everett Bierman | Woody Kennedy   |
| Wesley Bouterse | Sadler Love     |
| Hugh Boyer      | Charles Lucas   |
| Cecil Brodt     | Paul Lucas      |
| Jim Cates       | Powell Majors   |
| Doc Coles       | Shorty Martin   |
| Dave Clark      | Harry McKenna   |
| Bill Crichton   | Jim McMillan    |
| Bob Flack       | Roy Palmer      |
| John E. Fox     | John Pender     |
| John W. Fox     | Gus Pound       |
| Hoyt Galvin     | Louis Ratcliffe |
| Pat Gilchrist   | Chan Richards   |
| Givie Givens    | Louis Rogers    |
| Harry Hardy     | Martin Waters   |
| Gerry Harney    | Beau Whitton    |

—Charlotte Reporter, March 15, 1977

### Glad to Be Alive Club

Our "Glad to Be Alive" Club originated during the presidency of Charlie Hunter, 1959–1960. Members of the Club commit to making a donation to the Rotary Foundation on their birthday each year. Some members contribute one dollar for each year of their life. The late Jody Kellermann took particular pleasure in doing this on his birthday.

### Golden "50" Club

The following have been members of our Club for 50 or more years. Six were active members at the time of our 75th Anniversary in 1991.

- Gus Pound, charter member, 1916–1966
- Turk Terrell, 1919–1973
- Rufe Johnston, 1920–1976
- Wiley Obenshain, 1922–1972
- Mack Hatch, 1922–1974
- Ben Hood, 1926–1983
- Jim Van Ness, 1928–1982
- Francis Beatty, 1933–1983
- Doug Aitken, 1936–1990
- Powell Majors, 1938–
- Jim M. Alexander, 1938–
- Hunter Jones, 1938–
- Hoyt Galvin, 1938–
- Jim Barnhardt, Sr., 1939–
- Charlie Hunter, 1940–

### Bicentennial Programs Presented to Local Schools

At the invitation of Grant Whitney, Charlotte Bicentennial Celebration Chairman, the Rotary clubs of Charlotte volunteered to present Bicentennial programs on the subject of local history to the public and private schools in the area. Under the chairmanship of Bill Tennent of East Charlotte Rotary, a Committee was organized to prepare a talk and obtain volunteer speakers. Dal Shefte was the representative from our Club on this Committee. With the help of Professor Chalmers Davidson of Davidson College, a talk was prepared on local history, and volunteer speakers were recruited from all of the Rotary Clubs.

During the month of January, talks were presented to an estimated 13,000 students by these volunteer speakers.

Volunteers from our Club presented approximately 26 programs at 11 local schools. These volunteers and the schools at which they spoke are:

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Bill Morris     | West Charlotte High School                                  |
| Bill Poe        | West Charlotte High School                                  |
| Charlie Hunter  | Northside Christian School<br>and Wilmore Elementary School |
| Tom Lane        | Cochrane Junior High  |
| Bill Burton     | Cochrane Junior High  |
| Beau Whitton    | Hawthorne Junior High                                       |
| Jack Smylie     | Northwest Junior High                                       |
| Tom Warren      | Sedgefield Junior High                                      |
| Bob Sailstad    | Huntersville Elementary School                              |
| Ed Moline       | Berryhill Elementary School                                 |
| Bill Meanor     | University Park Elementary School                           |
| Charlie Trexler | Tuckaseegee Elementary School                               |

The willingness of these Rotarians to volunteer to spend their time and talents on this project is appreciated by Rotary and the community.

—Charlotte Reporter, March 9, 1976

### A Most Unusual Day

On Tuesday, March 30, 1976 the Rotary Club of Charlotte named the late Dave Clark, the late George Ivey, and Charlie Hunter as Paul Harris Fellows. In doing so it has honored itself as well as these outstanding Rotarians.

DAVE CLARK first "new member of Charlotte Rotary Club . . . second president (1918) . . . District Governor (1927) . . . During his years in Rotary organized 30 new Rotary Clubs including 15 during his year as DG — a world's record for any individual . . . Vice-Chairman, International Rotary Extension (1928–29) . . . elected to International Board of Directors (1929) . . . elected to honorary membership in 1953 . . . truly an example of Rotary dedication — finding fellowship, being a friend, and giving that highest grade of "Service above Self" . . . all Rotarians mourned his death in 1955.

GEORGE M. IVEY past president . . . past district governor . . . actively involved in the movement of Rotary International . . . member of Charlotte Rotary for over 40 years . . . a vital force in the development of community, civic and church welfare . . . Chairman of the Board, J. B. Ivey Company . . . a man of deep religious convictions . . . trustee of Providence Methodist Church . . . trustee of the Methodist Home for the Aged . . . active in the work of the national and local activities of the National Council of Christians and Jews . . . Rotary noted his passing in 1968 with regret — a farewell to a wonderful man and a great Rotarian.

CHARLIE HUNTER member since 1940 . . . sponsored by Dave Clark . . . one of the youngest men ever taken into the Club (at 22 years of age) . . . served on most every committee in Rotary, and as chairman of many . . . president of our Club in 1959–60 . . . inaugurated two new features in Charlotte Rotary: the "Glad to Be Alive Club" and the "25'ers Club" . . . district governor in 1968–69 . . . active scout leader, holder of Silver Beaver Award, three terms as president of Mecklenburg Council . . . Presbyterian elder and Sunday School superintendent, teacher for 25 years . . . active on boards of United Appeal agencies and Chamber of Commerce . . . leading dairyman, leader in state and national associations . . . N. C. Small Businessman of the Year 1973.

—Charlotte Reporter, April 13, 1976

### Leaders All

The Charlotte Chamber of Commerce sponsored "A Salute to Charlotte's National Leaders Luncheon" on June 11th. Each of the 46 honorees has served as chief executive of national or international organizations.

Included in this group of generous and talented persons are the following members of Charlotte Rotary:

- Francis J. Beatty, National Cotton Council of America
- David A. Burkhalter, International City Management Association
- Frank H. Caldwell, Moderator, Presbyterian Church, US
- John R. Cunningham, Presbyterian Church, US; Association of American Colleges

Elmer H. Garinger, American Association of School Superintendents of Cities of 100,000 to 200,000  
 Charles A. Hunter, National All-Jersey, Inc.  
 R. Zach Thomas, Jr., Public General Hospital Section of the American Hospital Association  
 George Wrenn, Materials Handling Equipment Distributors Association  
 —*Charlotte Reporter*, June 17, 1975

Our members serve on many community groups rendering a service to us all.

Among those working with the Boy Scouts at the Council level are the following members of boards and committees: Bill Barnhardt—Vice President for Camp Development; with him on the Executive Board are: David Burkhalter, S. R. deWitt, Charles A. Hunter, Clifton Johnson, J. Lee Morris, B. B. Parker, Dalbert Shefte, Marion H. Ward, Ray Wheeling, Beaumert Whitton.

Council members on the Advisory Committee are: Fred Alexander, Thomas Belk, Bob Bryant, T. P. Hawkins, McDaniel Jackson, Barry G. Miller, and William Poe.

Council Members At-Large include: Francis J. Beatty, Dean W. Colvard, Stanhope Lineberry, Samuel R. Spencer, R. Z. Thomas, Jr., and I. Grier Wallace, Jr.

The community owes a debt of gratitude to all of you who serve the youth of our city. . . . Thanks, Rotarians!

—*Charlotte Reporter*, May 11, 1976

Rotarian Dr. Dean Wallace Colvard has been selected *Charlotte News* Man of the Year for 1977.

Dean was honored for leading the development of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte from a small school with an enrollment of 1800 to a university of 8500 students in the brief space of 11 years.

The chancellor presides over a campus of 1,000 acres with a physical plant valued at \$54.5 million. The annual budget is now more than \$17 million.

Despite the rapid growth, the chancellor has emphasized quality and a number of programs are ranked near the top in the state.

After 43 years in education, Dean has announced his intention to retire on or before Dec. 31, 1978. He has gained a reputation for being an institution builder as a dean at N.C. State University, as president of Mississippi State University and as the first chancellor of UNCC.

Dean is the ninth number of our club to be accorded this recognition. Inaugurated by the *Charlotte News* in 1944, the first Man of the Year was Charlotte Rotarian Coleman W. Roberts, now deceased. Other winners were:

- 1945 C. W. "Pat" Gilchrist
- 1947 George M. Ivey (deceased)
- 1948 Col. J. Norman Pease
- 1953 James P. McMillan (deceased)
- 1962 Thomas M. Belk
- 1970 William E. Poe
- 1973 Richard H. Hagemeyer

—*Charlotte Reporter*, January 17, 1978

## All in the Family

Fellowship is at the heart of the Rotary experience. The Object of Rotary — the official statement of purpose — includes these words: "The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service." Fellowship is shared with a continuing stream of new members over the years. It is especially pleasurable whenever the opportunity comes about to introduce a family member to the warmth of our fellowship. Listed below is a "family tree" of our active members at present:

### Father/Son

James M. and James F. Alexander  
 Charles W., Jr. and Charles W., III, Allison  
 James H., Sr. and James H., Jr., Barnhardt  
 James H., Sr. and Sadler H. Barnhardt  
 William M. and Richard Alan Barnhardt  
 E. Raymond, Jr. and Robert J., Sr., Brietz  
 Tebee P. and George B. Hawkins  
 William E. and Kenneth W. Poe  
 Charles B., Sr. and C. Brent Trexler, Jr.  
 David G. and C. Rex Welton

### Father/Daughter

Thomas L. Burgess and Kathryn B. Tyler

### Brothers

Henry J., Jr. and Rufus K. Allison  
 R. Z., Jr. and J. Robert Thomas  
 John and Tom Belk

### Father/Son-in-law

C. Dean Couch, Jr. and Hubert L. Shuler, III  
 Joseph D. Moore and Fred T. Lowrance

Going back in time, we find these relationships:

J. Robert Allison, Jr.—son of former member, James, Sr.  
 Thomas M. Barnhardt, III—son of Thomas, Jr. (deceased)  
 James C. Evans—son of Robert E. (deceased)  
 Ira L. Griffin, Jr.—son of Ira L., Sr. (deceased)  
 Charles M. Lineberry—son of Stanhope (deceased)  
 Ralston M. Pound, Jr.—son of Ralston M., Sr., charter member and our first 50-year Rotarian (deceased)  
 Louis G. Ratcliffe, Jr.—son of Louis G., Sr. (deceased)  
 Louis L. Rose, Jr.—son of Louis L., Sr. (deceased)  
 K. Martin Waters, Jr.—son of K. Martin, Sr. (deceased)  
 Frank E. Watson, III—son of former member, Frank, Jr.  
 Charles A. Williams, III—son of Charles A., Jr. and grandson of Charles A., Sr., charter member of our Club (both deceased)

By action of the District Conference in Shelby in 1952, the District Scholarship was named the Chan Gordon Memorial Scholarship in memory of Chan Gordon of Asheville who was stricken with a fatal illness in 1951 while serving as District Governor. Chan was known and beloved by a large number of Rotarians, and his youthful and exuberant spirit is perpetuated in the scholarship which now bears his name.

The clubs of the District have voted to support the Chan Gordon Scholarship with a voluntary contribution of \$2 per member each year. From the fund created a \$2500 grant is awarded each year for a student living in our District to study abroad. A health and accident policy is also provided. In addition, the scholarships for students coming to this District for study are provided from this fund.

Miss Shelley Welton, Chan Gordon Scholar for 1972-73 (and daughter of our own Dave Welton), recently gave us a fascinating and informative report on her year of study in England. Grier Wallace's son, Jack, was a Chan Gordon Scholar, also.

—Charlotte Reporter, April 23, 1974

### The Four-Way Test

It was 1932, one of the dark moments of the Great Depression, and the Club Aluminum Company, owing \$400,000 more than its total assets, was about to go under. The creditors employed Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor, hoping he could save the cookware company from bankruptcy. With a \$6,100 loan from a Chicago bank, the company did make a comeback.

But not without effort. Taylor and his associates recognized that "while we had a good product, our competitors also had fine cookware with well-established brand names." So they looked for "something which our competitors would not have in equal amount." If everyone connected with the business could be persuaded to govern his or her conduct by higher standards, the resulting improvement in efficiency and reputation might enable the firm to improve its position. It was not a matter of developing detailed rules, he decided. Rather it was the need for some way of reminding the individual, faced with a decision, of what he already knew was right. To provide this reminder he evolved a simple Four-Way Test and used it for a period in his own daily decisions. Then he suggested that his department heads try it out. They did — and found it helpful. Then he asked all the people he employed to learn it and use it.

The Four-Way Test by which Club Aluminum would be guided was so successful that in 1942 Rotary International adopted the same test for its members. Simple and brief, the Four-Way Test is equally suited for a family, individual, church, or nation.

1. Is it the *TRUTH*?
2. Is it *FAIR* to all concerned?
3. Will it build *GOODWILL* and *BETTER FRIENDSHIPS*?
4. Will it be *BENEFICIAL* to all concerned?

The four simple questions have been publicized in more than 80 countries by Rotary International. They proved acceptable and applicable to people of all religions and in every kind of situation. They have been translated into many languages. Four-Way Test posters are displayed prominently on the streets of Bombay, in Japanese railway stations, and in the offices and plants of countless business and professional men throughout the world.

—Charlotte Reporter, November 20, 1990

### Perfect Attendance Leaders

|                    | <i>Years</i> |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Hoyt Galvin        | 47           |
| Sy Piligian        | 40           |
| Ralston Pound      | 40           |
| Martin Waters      | 40           |
| Joe Moore          | 38           |
| Charlie Hunter     | 37           |
| Mac Jackson        | 37           |
| Paul Buck          | 33           |
| Paul Smith         | 33           |
| Barry Miller       | 31           |
| Guy Keller         | 29           |
| Les Berry          | 28           |
| Dean Couch         | 28           |
| Jeff Jeffries      | 28           |
| Reagin Warren      | 28           |
| Tom Warren         | 25           |
| Jim Barnhardt, Jr. | 20           |
| Speck Wilson       | 20           |
| Chuck Lineberry    | 17           |
| Dwight Thomas      | 17           |
| John Vaughan       | 16           |
| Bill Barnhardt     | 15           |
| Leland Park        | 15           |
| Tom Burgess        | 14           |
| Sam Elliott        | 14           |
| Vernon Anderson    | 12           |
| Don Fryar          | 11           |
| Glenn Clinefelter  | 8            |
| Ronnie Pruet       | 7            |
| John Phillips      | 6            |
| Bert Voswinkel     | 6            |
| Tom Lane           | 5            |
| Bart Warren        | 5            |
| Alan Barnhardt     | 3            |
| Ken Harris         | 3            |
| Peter Relic        | 3            |
| Dick Bevier        | 1            |
| Bruce Darden       | 1            |
| Jim Kiser          | 1            |
| Lamar Thomas       | 1            |

—Charlotte Reporter, July 16, 1991

Although not a complete listing, some known family relationships involving current members with other local Rotary clubs include:

Bobby Lee Cockerham's father is a past president of Charlotte North Rotary.

George Page's son is a past president of Dilworth Rotary.

Phil Van Hoy's father is a past president of Dilworth Rotary.

—Charlotte Reporter, March 5, 1991

### Senior, Senior, Charlotte Rotarians

Twenty-four of our members have shared the Rotary spirit for 40 or more years—four for fifty-two years! That says a great deal about Rotary and about these men. The fellowship, the opportunity for service, the programs, and even the food has kept them loyal to our Club and to Rotary International for more than 2,000 roll calls.

|                    | Joined<br>Rotary | Years<br>in Rotary |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Powell Majors      | 3-1-38           | 52                 |
| James M. Alexander | 4-19-38          | 52                 |
| Hunter Jones       | 4-19-38          | 52                 |
| Hoyt Galvin        | 12-20-38         | 52                 |
| Jim Barnhardt, Sr. | 5-9-39           | 51                 |
| Charlie Hunter     | 11-2-40          | 50                 |
| Dave Welton        | 12-14-43         | 47                 |
| Dean Colvard       | 1945             | 45                 |
| Bob Kizer          | 12-28-45         | 45                 |
| Zach Thomas        | 1-21-47          | 43                 |
| Ed Pickard         | 1-27-47          | 43                 |
| Ray Brietz         | 6-7-47           | 43                 |
| Ralston Pound      | 2-3-48           | 42                 |
| Tom Warren         | 2-49             | 41                 |
| Haynes Baird       | 5-2-49           | 41                 |
| Dave McConnell     | 7-1-49           | 41                 |
| Bill Burton        | 10-49            | 41                 |
| Sy Piligian        | 1-50             | 40                 |
| George Wrenn       | 4-50             | 40                 |
| George Page        | 5-30-50          | 40                 |
| Louis Ratcliffe    | 6-6-50           | 40                 |
| Speck Wilson       | 6-6-50           | 40                 |
| Sadler Love        | 6-27-50          | 40                 |
| Martin Waters      | 8-22-50          | 40                 |
| Tebee Hawkins      | 1-5-51           | 40                 |

—Charlotte Reporter, September 25, 1990

### Bequests

The Club is the beneficiary of four bequests:

Charles H. Stone (1877–1963) for the Rotary Foundation.

C. W. "Pat" Gilchrist (1900–1987) for the Rotary Foundation.

Harry Hardy (1895–1973) for charities selected by the Projects Committee.

Anonymous, in honor of Charlie Hunter, to be used for community projects.

### Excellence in Management Award

A. F. "Pete" Sloan, Chairman of Lance, Inc., is the recipient of the first "Excellence in Management" award, sponsored by the Charlotte Rotary Club, The Business Journal and the Charlotte Chamber.

Older members will remember Pete as a fellow Rotarian from 1968–77.

The "Excellence in Management" program was launched by the sponsoring groups as an approach to measuring management excellence in the Charlotte-area business community. With many highly successful managers and businesses operating in the area, the Charlotte Chamber was in pursuit of excellence recognition. Paralleling this was an emerging effort of the Charlotte Rotary Club's Trade and Professional Relations Committee to recognize good business practices, high ethical standards and professionalism (one of the four Objects of Rotary).

Sloan was chosen from a field of 36 management candidates who were nominated by business community members. The selection was made by a committee of Chamber/Rotary officers who evaluated nominations with particular focus on the following areas: fairness, consistency, flexibility, knowledge, perceptiveness, sharing, fostering of relationships, communication goals and commitment.

Other recipients:

1989 Leroy Robinson

1990 Bill Lee

1991 Byron Bullard

1992 Ken Iverson

1993 Ed Crutchfield

1994 Johnie Jones

—Charlotte Reporter, October 25, 1988

### The Chan Gordon Memorial Scholarship

The Chan Gordon Memorial Scholarship had its beginning at the 39th Annual Convention of Rotary International in Rio de Janeiro in 1948. On the final day of the Convention President Frank Spain introduced a young man from Rio de Janeiro who had spent one year as a guest of District 147 at Northwestern University. This young man spoke so convincingly of his experiences in the United States that a group of Rotarians from this district who heard him resolved to launch a similar program.

Following the Rio Convention, our District Assembly, meeting in Hickory, instructed Governor Everett Bierman of Charlotte to appoint a committee to study the matter. This was done, and at the District Conference of 1948 in Hendersonville, the Hickory Rotary Club offered a plan which was adopted to initiate a scholarship program and invite young men and women from other countries for a year of undergraduate study at one of the senior colleges in the District: Appalachian, Davidson, Lenoir Rhyne, and Western Carolina. The Chan Gordon Memorial Scholarship Committee reserve the right to select the student and the college he will attend.

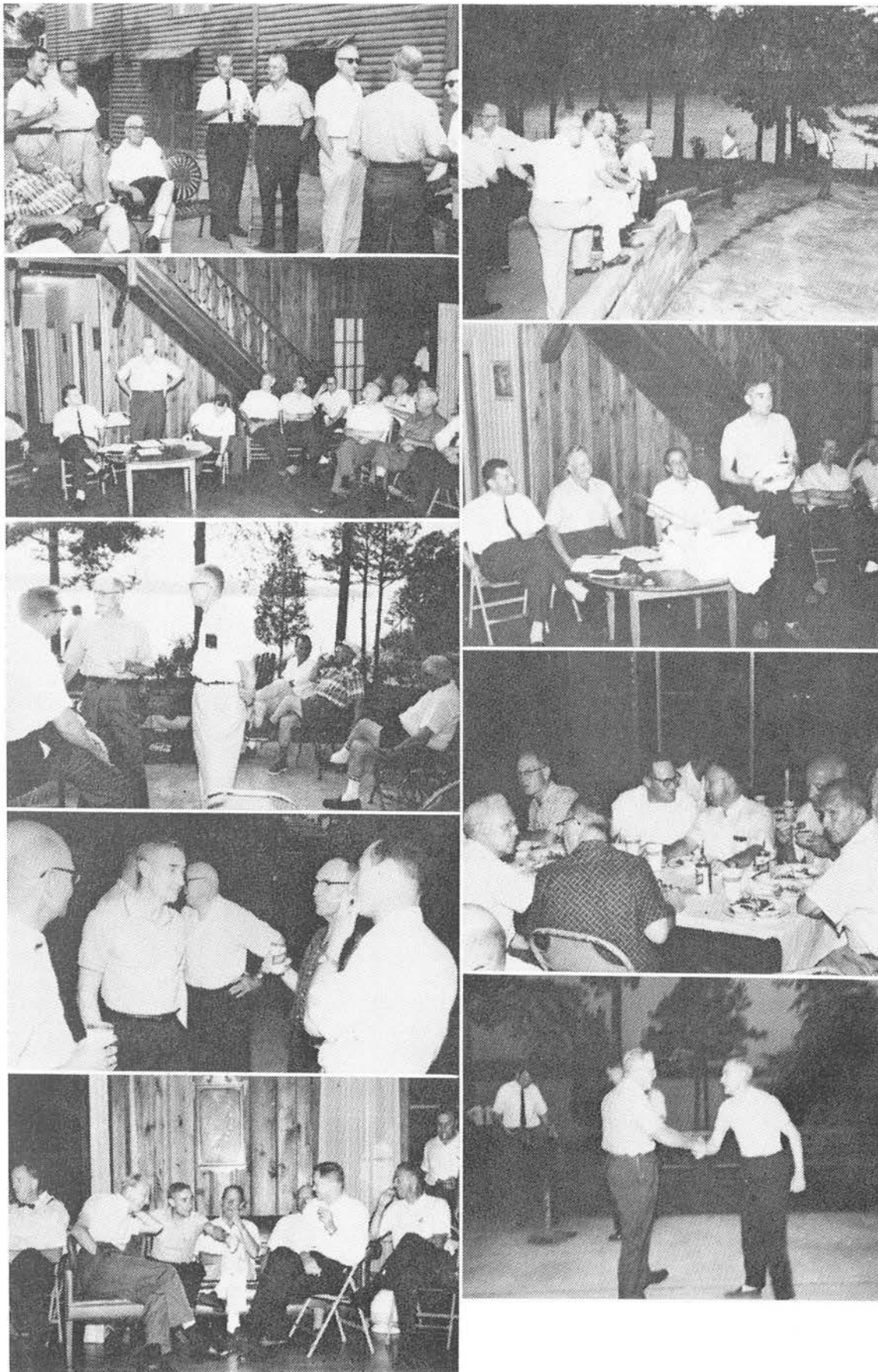


But there is a serious side to Rotary!!



All work and no play makes a dull boy . . . they say.





1961-1962 Club Assembly on Lake Wylie.



An appreciative audience on a typical Tuesday.



President Doug Booth congratulates Jim Van Ness on completing 50 years of membership in the Club. Jim joined in 1928, was president in 1934–1935 when only 28 years old. He collected Rotary commemorative stamps from the world over and donated them to the Club.



President E. K. Fretwell presents our executive secretary Tom Warren with a Paul Harris pin in celebration of Tom's 80th birthday and his service to the Club.



Four new members of the Golden "50" Club: Powell Majors, Hunter Jones, Hoyt Galvin and Jim M. Alexander. Hunter and Jim joined on the same day, April 19, 1938.



Past presidents Bill Loftin, Sr. (1986–1987); Jim Barnhardt, Jr. (1991–1992); and Price Gwynn (1981–1982) at the head table.



RI President Bill Skelton, assisted by Ed White of our Trees Committee, continues a gesture of friendship first extended by Paul Harris in 1939 when he planted a walnut tree at the Mint Museum of Art. This tree, a sugar maple, was planted on September 13, 1983, on Elizabeth Avenue at Central Piedmont Community College.



Pat Gilchrist presents a check to the officers of our sister club in Arequipa, Peru, representing part of our Club's pledge of \$5,000 to help establish a YMCA. This was a feature of our 50th Anniversary observance in 1966.



Some of the 200 dogwood and sugar maple trees received from Tennessee in 1976 for donation to the Parks and Recreation Department.



Warner Hall presents a \$3,000 check to fellow Rotarian and city manager Dave Burkhalter for recreational facilities in the West Boulevard area.



Mrs. Rufus Johnston with her daughters, Mrs. Frank Timberlake and Mrs. Carl Horn presented a bequest provided in the will of Rufus Johnston to Charlie Allison of our Trees Committee and President Doug Booth. At the time of his death in 1976 Rufus held the Club record for membership: 56 years.



Ladies' Night, now Spring Gala



Bill Morris made this camera record of Ladies' Night 1977. Pictured are Carswell and Ina Hughs, President Pete deWitt, President-elect Dean and Martha Colvard, Jim Barnhardt, Jr., Bill and Grace Burton, and Haynes Baird. Jim was master of ceremonies and Haynes, the Squire of Madison County, served up the humor.



Bob and Toi Glasgow, Paul Harris Fellows. Toi was our office secretary in the 1960s.



Abel Girault, master of ceremonies, 1974 Ladies' Night, and President Warner Hall congratulate President-elect Tom Garrett.



Senior actives Glenn Park, Francis Beatty and Bob Woodson.



District Governor Joe Moore and Virgilia are feted at the district conference in Asheville, May, 1987.



Ben Hood, a member since he was 47, was honored on his 100th birthday by President Hoke Nash and the Club, December 1979.



President Dean Colvard introduces President-elect Hoke Nash at Club Assembly, 1979.



Directors at work. Left to right, front row: Jim Fogartie, President-elect Marvin Lymberis, Bill Poe, Jody Kellermann and President Warner Hall. Back row: Don Davidson, Tom Garrett, Fred McPhail, Charlie Trexler, Bob Glasgow, Louis Ratcliffe, John Temple and Bill Barnhardt.



Rotarians from North Scranton (Penna.) Rotary Club brought hay for drought-stricken cattlemen in Mecklenburg County, September 1986.



Don Steger, our man from ???

# Rotary Hornet

Buzzing with News & Comment  
Concerning the Charlotte Rotary Club

Volume 1

Charlotte, N. C., July 27, 1928

Number 1



C. W. "PAT" GILCHRIST  
*Chairman*

50th Anniversary Committee

In picture above is the gavel, made of over 60 different woods, given to Pat at the Dixie Dinner in St. Louis, 1963. The oil portrait on the wall was presented to Pat at the Dixie Dinner in Toronto, Canada, 1964.

## The Initial Buzz

President Gus Pound returned from Minneapolis with several Rotary Bees in his bonnet, so to speak. One of these bees evolved into the Rotary Hornet, which with this issue wings its first flight to the homes of Charlotte Rotarians.

The Rotary Hornet will be published Fridays and will replace the weekly attendance letters. It will feature news, announcements, facts and comments concerning the local club, and in addition will carry items of timely interest pertaining to Rotary in general—its objects, growth and activities.

And now the club editors hasten to emphasize the fact that this is YOUR publication, not theirs. Criticisms, suggestions, and contributions will be welcomed at all times. Personal items of a "Health and Happiness" nature concerning Charlotte Rotarians and their families are particularly requested.

Forms will close at noon on Thursdays, and all contributions must be in the hands of the editors by Wednesday night to insure publication in that week's issue.

It is sincerely hoped that everyone will throw his shoulder to the wheel and help make the Rotary Hornet a really important and helpful factor in the life of the local club.

Perhaps there will be a visiting Rotarian at your table next Tuesday. Introduce yourself and the rest of the bunch to him. He will appreciate this far more than the formal word of welcome.

## Unfiled Classifications

July 1, 1924, the membership of the Charlotte Rotary Club was 145. July 1, 1928, the membership totalled only 140.

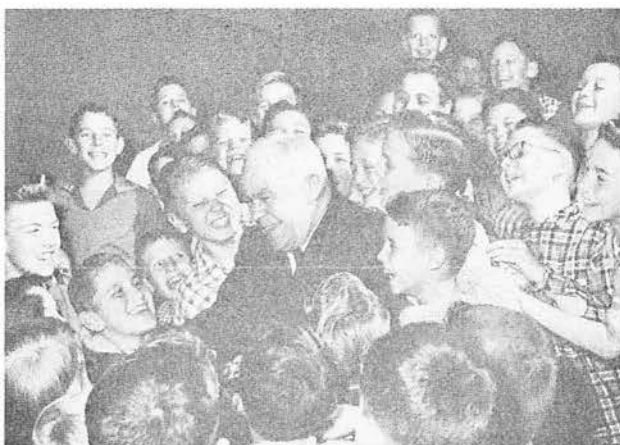
On the backpage will be found a partial list of open classifications. The majority sentiment of the club seems to favor the filling of classifications in every case where there is a man available who fully meets Rotary requirements.

To quote from a recent article in the Rotarian: "If there remains in our club an unfiled classification and outside a man equipped to fill it, that club of ours is not fully functioning. We are holding off from Rotary a strength that might be utilized; we are denying a fellow-man a help that we might offer him."

Look over this list of open classifications. Perhaps you know a man with the character and qualifications to worthily fill one of them. Secure a blank from the secretary or president and propose his name.

Probably none of us, even including Joe Garibaldi, ever before fully appreciated the real worth of a watch and chain, until we heard that "jewel" of a presentation made by Bishop Ed Penick to retiring President Henry McAden.

With an attendance percentage of 92.48 the Charlotte Rotary Club in April made the "high ten" in Division B, Rotary International. This division is composed of 138 clubs having between 100 and 200 members. It is said that this is the first time that Charlotte has ever won this distinction. It was the only southern city in the group.



Happiness is . . . Jim McMillan was loved by thousands of young men because he touched their lives through the Charlotte Boys Choir, which was sponsored by our Club.



Past presidents all. *Front row, left to right:* Jim McMillan, Pat Gilchrist, Glenn Park, Hoyt Galvin. *Back row:* Rufus Johnston, Gus Pound, Marshall Lake, Roy Palmer, Charlie Williams and Francis Betty.

# Annals of the Rotary Club of Charlotte 1916-1991

## PRESIDENTS

|                               |           |                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| ROGERS W. DAVIS .....         | 1916-1918 | J. GORDON CHRISTIAN, JR. .... | 1954-1955 |
| DAVID CLARK .....             | 1918-1919 | ALBERT L. BECHTOLD .....      | 1955-1956 |
| JOHN W. FOX .....             | 1919-1920 | GLENN E. PARK .....           | 1956-1957 |
| J. PERRIN QUARLES .....       | 1920-1921 | MARSHALL E. LAKE .....        | 1957-1958 |
| LEWIS C. BURWELL .....        | 1921-1922 | FRANCIS J. BEATTY .....       | 1958-1959 |
| J. NORMAN PEASE .....         | 1922-1923 | CHARLES A. HUNTER .....       | 1959-1960 |
| HOWARD M. WADE .....          | 1923-1924 | EDGAR A. TERRELL, JR. ....    | 1960-1961 |
| J. WM. THOMPSON, JR. ....     | 1924-1925 | F. SADLER LOVE .....          | 1961-1962 |
| HAMILTON C. JONES .....       | 1925-1926 | M. D. WHISNANT .....          | 1962-1963 |
| HAMILTON W. MCKAY .....       | 1926-1927 | H. HAYNES BAIRD .....         | 1963-1964 |
| HENRY C. MCADEN .....         | 1927-1928 | TEBEE P. HAWKINS .....        | 1964-1965 |
| RALSTON M. POUND, SR. ....    | 1928-1929 | JAMES R. BRYANT, JR. ....     | 1965-1966 |
| JOHN PAUL LUCAS, SR. ....     | 1929-1930 | CHARLES N. BRILEY .....       | 1966-1967 |
| JULIAN S. MILLER .....        | 1930-1931 | R. ZACH THOMAS, JR. ....      | 1967-1968 |
| GEORGE M. IVEY, SR. ....      | 1931-1932 | C. GEORGE HENDERSON .....     | 1968-1969 |
| EDGAR A. TERRELL, SR. ....    | 1932-1933 | J. FRANK TIMBERLAKE .....     | 1969-1970 |
| JUNIUS M. SMITH .....         | 1933-1934 | BERTRAM C. FINCH .....        | 1970-1971 |
| JAMES H. VAN NESS .....       | 1934-1935 | BARRY G. MILLER .....         | 1971-1972 |
| RUFUS M. JOHNSTON .....       | 1935-1936 | G. DON DAVIDSON .....         | 1972-1973 |
| J. A. MAYO .....              | 1936-1937 | WARNER L. HALL .....          | 1973-1974 |
| V. K. HART .....              | 1937-1938 | MARVIN N. LYMBERIS .....      | 1974-1975 |
| L. G. OSBORNE .....           | 1938-1939 | THOMAS J. GARRETT, JR. ....   | 1975-1976 |
| CHARLES H. STONE .....        | 1939-1940 | STUART R. DEWITT .....        | 1976-1977 |
| PAUL R. SHEAHAN .....         | 1940-1941 | DOUGLAS W. BOOTH .....        | 1977-1978 |
| AMOS S. BUMGARDNER .....      | 1941-1942 | DEAN W. COLVARD .....         | 1978-1979 |
| WILEY S. OBENSHAIN .....      | 1942-1943 | HOKE S. NASH, JR. ....        | 1979-1980 |
| EVERETT BIERMAN .....         | 1943-1944 | DAVID A. BURKHALTER .....     | 1980-1981 |
| CHARLES A. WILLIAMS, JR. .... | 1944-1945 | PRICE H. GWYNN III .....      | 1981-1982 |
| JOHN R. PENDER .....          | 1945-1946 | WILLIAM E. POE .....          | 1982-1983 |
| R. POWELL MAJORS .....        | 1946-1947 | J. LEE MORRIS .....           | 1983-1984 |
| JOHN PAUL LUCAS, JR. ....     | 1947-1948 | DALBERT U. SHEFTE .....       | 1984-1985 |
| DAVID G. WELTON .....         | 1948-1949 | K. MARTIN WATERS, JR. ....    | 1985-1986 |
| HOYT R. GALVIN .....          | 1949-1950 | WILLIAM E. LOFTIN, SR. ....   | 1986-1987 |
| C. W. GILCHRIST .....         | 1950-1951 | WILLIAM L. KINNEY .....       | 1987-1988 |
| ERNEST L. HICKS .....         | 1951-1952 | THOMAS M. BELK .....          | 1988-1989 |
| ROY A. PALMER .....           | 1952-1953 | HAROLD G. HOAK .....          | 1989-1990 |
| JAMES P. McMILLAN .....       | 1953-1954 | RICHARD H. HAGEMEYER .....    | 1990-1991 |

## **First Decade, 1916-1926**

By J. NORMAN PEASE

The history of the Charlotte Rotary Club could only be well told by giving credit to the small group of people who pioneered the Charlotte Club. We refer specifically to Perrin Quarles who compiled the first chapter of the forty year record published by Charles Stone. This chapter read as follows:

"In the spring of 1916 I had occasion to visit my brother-in-law, H. Frank McGee of Spartanburg, S. C., who was the manager and part owner of the Aug. W. Smith Co. While there he asked me if we had a Rotary Club in Charlotte. I told him no. What was it? He explained to me what a wonderful Civic Club it was. That there was one in Greenville, South Carolina, as well as in Spartanburg, S. C., and certainly Charlotte should have one.

"When I returned to Charlotte, I contacted Captain John A. Parker, an attorney, who represented my Insurance Company for titles to mortgage loans. John told me he had a lawyer friend, a Mr. Bloom of Richmond, Va., who had spoken to him about forming a Rotary Club in Charlotte. He had him to come to Charlotte for a preliminary meeting.

"John called in the following business men for this Conference:

"Frank Lethco, President, Charlotte Laundry; Clarence O. Kuester, Mgr., Kuester-Lowe Company (Wholesale Grocery Co.); Charles A. Williams, Sr., President, Williams-Shelton Co. (Wholesale Dry-Goods Co.); John A. Parker, Attorney; J. Perrin Quarles, Manager, The Equitable Life Assurance Society.

"We were going along with the organization plan, when the Mexican 'flare-up' occurred and Captain Parker and his National Guard Company were ordered to Texas. This upset our plans for the time being as John was handling the details. A little later his associate, W. M. (Bill) Wilson, and I got busy with the details and after several conferences with other business men and prominent citizens a group met on October 7, 1916, for the purpose of organizing the Charlotte Rotary Club.

"One of the prime men in helping to form the Club was Tom G. Lane, who was elected the first secretary of the Club.

"On October 24, 1916 the organization meeting was held at the Selwyn Hotel. We had about 47 members, but only 37 qualified and 27 came to this meeting.

"The following Directors were elected:

"For the three year term: Fred Glover, Ralph Miller, Rogers Davis. For the two year term: H. M. Victor, J. P. Quarles, C. C. Coddington. For the one year term: C. O. Kuester, John L. Dabbs, Charles A. Bland.



## THE FIRST DECADE

"The first Board meeting was held on October 28, 1916, in the office of the Mill-Power Supply Company, and the following officers were elected: Rogers W. Davis, President; John L. Dabbs, Vice-President; Thomas G. Lane, Secretary; Fred Glover, Treasurer; James O. Walker, Sergeant-at-Arms.

"On November 14, 1916, the Board of Directors met to set the date for the Inaugural Dinner, when the Charlotte Club would become affiliated with Rotary International Association. This meeting was held at the Selwyn Hotel on Tuesday, December 5, 1916, at 8. P.M., and District Governor Thomas B. McAdams, of Richmond, Virginia, formerly of Chester, South Carolina, gave the inaugural address. Our Club, No. 256, joined the other cities in Virginia, North and South Carolina, which comprised the 7th District of Rotary.

"President Rogers Davis presided. The Charter was presented by District Governor McAdams, and President Davis accepted with a graceful speech. The date of the Charter is December 1, 1916. Other speeches were made by Sirrene, of Greenville, Morton, of Richmond and Horton, of Spartanburg.

"There are many interesting facts during the organization of our Club. Gib Slaughter, a Rotarian of Greenville, gave us some valuable information on Rotary. Later Gib came to Charlotte and was a member of our Club.

"It is interesting to note that it required about six months to form the Charlotte Club. Also, that of the five original promoters, only three became members: C. O. Kuester; Charles A. Williams, Sr.; and J. Perrin Quarles. Capt. Parker remained in the Army and was accidentally killed in an airplane. Frank Lethco never joined."

As the first president of the Rotary Club of Charlotte, Rogers W. Davis was instrumental in both the organization and further development of the club. Rogers was one of the original directors and in a meeting at Mill-Power Supply Company, October 28, 1916, he was elected president. Since Rotary was new in Charlotte both its members and the public had to learn what it was supposed to do. In June of 1917 the Board re-elected all officers for one full year so that the first president and officers actually served for one and a half years.

The Charter Members and the Board of Directors were strict about attendance rules and instituted fines for unapproved absences.

Among the outstanding projects of President Davis' administration was the interest in Camp Greene. There were a number of Army Officers and Rotarians located there who visited the club at their regular meetings. A sum of \$1,200.00 was raised for Davidson College as a result of a talk by Dr. Martin, President of the college. Rotary's interest in farmers was also evident during this administration when 20 farmers attended the March 12, 1918 meeting at Selwyn Hotel. Rogers Davis' administration was one of details and preliminary organization and in this he was thoroughly fair and impartial in his dealings. Rogers Davis was made District Governor of the 7th District after he retired as the President of the Rotary Club of Charlotte. At that time the states of Virginia, North and South Carolina made up the 7th District.



ROGERS W. DAVIS  
*President*  
1916 - 1918

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

On May 28, 1918 the Rotary Board of Directors elected David Clark as President to serve for the year July 1, 1918 to June 30, 1919. The officers were George M. Rose, Jr., Vice-President, Tom G. Lane, Secretary-Treasurer, and Sterling Graydon, Sergeant-at-Arms. Among the events of importance during Dave Clark's term was the change of meeting place to the Southern Mfg's Club and fixing a price of 75 cents for the luncheon. The Board of Directors voted to employ a lawyer at a cost of \$50.00 in an effort to improve the conditions of the County jail.

Other matters of importance during the Clark administration were the increase in membership from 41 to 83, the entertainment of officers from Camp Greene and the direction of President Clark to appoint a committee to see what could be done about a baseball club for Charlotte.



DAVID CLARK  
President  
1918 - 1919



The year that John W. Fox became president, Thomas Lane was again the secretary. Much discussion was given the question of city playgrounds, providing a Juvenile Probation Officer for public schools. As a result of discussion by Wylie Moore, it was agreed to form a scout band and the club provided funds to buy instruments which were later used to establish the Central High School Band.

Despite much effort to bring the club into a discussion of the streetcar strike that affected city transportation, the club refused to take any action on the matter. Meeting day was changed to Tuesday of every week and reading of the minutes of previous meetings was dropped. There were numerous important activities of the club during the Fox administration. A plan was adopted, at the request of Louis Burwell, for donations during the Christmas season for the benefit of Orphanages, Children's Homes and the Crittenton Home.

The club participated in the award of a charter to the Rotary Club of Gastonia. It also brought 24 high school students to a regular meeting introducing them to Rotary practices of fellowship. Further discussion was given to parks and playgrounds for the city. Interest was shown in a plea for books for the city library and the club passed resolutions recommending bond issues to provide more school facilities. It supported a bill in Congress to incorporate Rotary and agreed to adopt the Constitution and By-Laws of International Rotary.



JOHN W. FOX  
President  
1919 - 1920

## THE FIRST DECADE

The year 1920-21 was an eventful year under the leadership of Perrin Quarles, the new president. The membership at the beginning of this period was close to 100 and ended with 139.

A decision was made to rotate meetings in line with the name Rotary and some of the meetings were held at the Y. M. C. A., Alexander Graham School, the Southern Bakeries, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, the Y. W. C. A., and the Second Presbyterian Church. Some picnics were also held at country churches such as Sardis, Steele Creek and Sugar Creek. Discussion of the 11 articles of the Code of Ethics played a part in activities of the club during this period. Interesting talks on this subject were given by three ministers, Ed Penick, an Episcopalian, Bunyon McLeod, a Presbyterian, and W. A. Jenkins, a Methodist. Others in the discussion were J. Wilson Smith, George Fitzsimmons and Julian Miller.

A special Armistice Day meeting was held on November 9, 1920, which was handled by ex-servicemen who had served in World War I. This meeting was in charge of Phil Woolcott. The following Rotarians were in the service: Dr. William Allan, Louis Ratcliffe, Ed Penick, Turk Terrell, Stuart Gilchrist, Rufus Johnston, Phil Woolcott, J. Wm. Thomson, Yates Edgerton, Dr. Myers Hunter, Wm. E. Thomas, Bill Johnston, Dr. Ham McKay, Bill O'Hair, Ed Y. Keesler, W. M. Jones, John L. Morehead and J. Norman Pease.



J. PERRIN QUARLES  
*President*  
1920 - 1921



Despite its growing pains, the club was a lusty youngster increasing in influence and effectiveness when Lewis Burwell became president. Having been the pioneer civic club in Charlotte, Rotary stimulated much interest, resulting in many civic clubs to follow.

Charlotte's parks and playgrounds continued to be an outstanding project of the club. Of special interest was the Boy Scout movement and the club appropriated \$100.00 for entertaining visiting Boy Scouts from Knoxville, Tennessee. The club appropriated \$200.00 for the purpose of bringing Miss Elizabeth Bain of the American Society of Hygiene for a 10 day lecture. Ham McKay was in charge. David Clark told of Charlotte's need for a loft building and Norman Pease presented plans for the building which resulted in the eventual building of the Wade Loft Building by Howard Wade. Club members took an active part in The Carolinas' Exposition held in Charlotte.



LEWIS BURWELL  
*President*  
1921 - 1922

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF



Throughout J. Norman Pease's tenure of office as president of the Charlotte Rotary Club (during which period we celebrated the 18th Anniversary of Rotary International), particular emphasis was placed on projects for young people. The educational program was stressed and ardently supported. The Student Loan Fund (initiated for worthy young boys and girls desirous of attending college) was substantially augmented; strongly urged commercial courses in high schools; heartily endorsed the movement to establish for North Carolina a Third and Fourth Year Medical Hospital and Institution of Learning in Charlotte and proffered a 10-acre site therefor; athletic and dramatic programs in high schools actively supported—funds allocated to assist in forming a high school baseball league and encourage theatrical plays; and endorsed action of Charlotte School Board and Merchants Association to install a course in Retail Selling in public schools.

The Boys' Work Committee continuously cooperated with the Juvenile Court and Welfare Department; activities of Boy Scouts were consistently supported and aided; Legislative Delegation was notified club favored submitting bill to Charlotte voters providing for Parks and Playgrounds; appropriated funds to bring Dr. Emmet Angel (Playground Director) to Charlotte for one week; assisted in Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. programs; sent representative to Raleigh in connection with survey made for crippled orphan children and further vigorously supported many other programs for youths.

The Club gave moral and financial support to "Made-in-Carolinas" Exposition conducted in Charlotte; endorsed local efforts to secure a Company of Engineers as a part of the National Guard for Charlotte; contributed funds to citizens of New Bern who suffered from disastrous conflagration; participated in Chamber of Commerce drives and programs; requested City to make adequate appropriation to Public Library; notified representatives in Legislature of endorsement of resolution submitted by Chamber of Commerce to increase salaries of Charlotte's Mayor and City Commissioners to enable procurement of competent officials; and further worked diligently for numerous other promotional civic programs in the community.



J. NORMAN PEASE  
*President*  
1922 - 1923

## THE FIRST DECADE

H. M. Wade became the president of the Rotary Club of Charlotte for the period of 1923-24. He took over May 1 and on the 15th day of May, 1923, the Rotary Club entertained 160 graduates of the Charlotte High School for dinner. In September a free will offering to Japanese sufferers from earthquake and floods was made through a decision of the Board of Directors and forwarded through the Charlotte Chapter of the American Red Cross.

In January 1924, a committee was appointed to sponsor the Rotary Club of Lincolnton, North Carolina, and in the same month a Mexican basketball team on their way to Washington, D. C., was entertained by members of the club. Also in the same month the club donated \$200.00 for the purchase of a row boat for the Boy Scouts. An important committee was appointed in the spring of 1924 to handle Rotary Boys' and Girls' work. The committee was composed of: Lewis Burwell, J. P. Quarles, Charles R. Brockman, Henry Sloan, Albert Boyle, Louis Lipinsky, Joe Garibaldi, Louis Ratcliffe, and Charles Lauer.



H. M. WADE  
President  
1923 - 1924



The club president for 1924 and 1925, J. W. Thomson, Jr., had previously served two terms and part of the third as secretary of the Rotary Club. His directors were: H. M. Wade, Ed Keesler, Ed Dwelle, Jim Harris, Arthur Draper, Harry Harding, Charlie Brockman, Henry McAden, Floyd Rogers, Ham Jones, Fred Glover, John Dabbs and T. Guion Griffith, secretary.

The outstanding project of the Thomson administration was cooperation with the Charlotte Juvenile Court which had been initiated in a former administration. A committee of four or five Rotarians were present when the Juvenile Court met each Friday afternoon where boys and girls were before the court for various offenses. As each case was disposed of the judge assigned the offender to some member of the Rotary Committee who acted as "Big Brother" throughout the year.

Working through the homes and the parents of the delinquent, club members often found the cause and efforts were made to correct conditions contributing to delinquency. Rotarians counselled with these young people, established a tie of friendship and often provided jobs or assisted in finding employment. Court officials found there were few "repeaters" among those receiving such treatment.

During the Thomson year a move was started by Dave Clark to establish a highway from the Great Lakes to Florida which was to come through Charlotte. A committee arranged for a "Cavalcade" from Rotary Clubs of South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. A meeting was held in Wytheville, Virginia, and there were about 300 present, including 15 or 20 from Charlotte. The trip itself proved how badly good roads were needed.



J. W. THOMSON, JR.  
President  
1924 - 1925

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The last president of the first decade was Hamilton C. Jones. One of the major projects for which the Rotary Club of Charlotte was noted was set up under the auspices of the Mecklenburg County Board of Health.

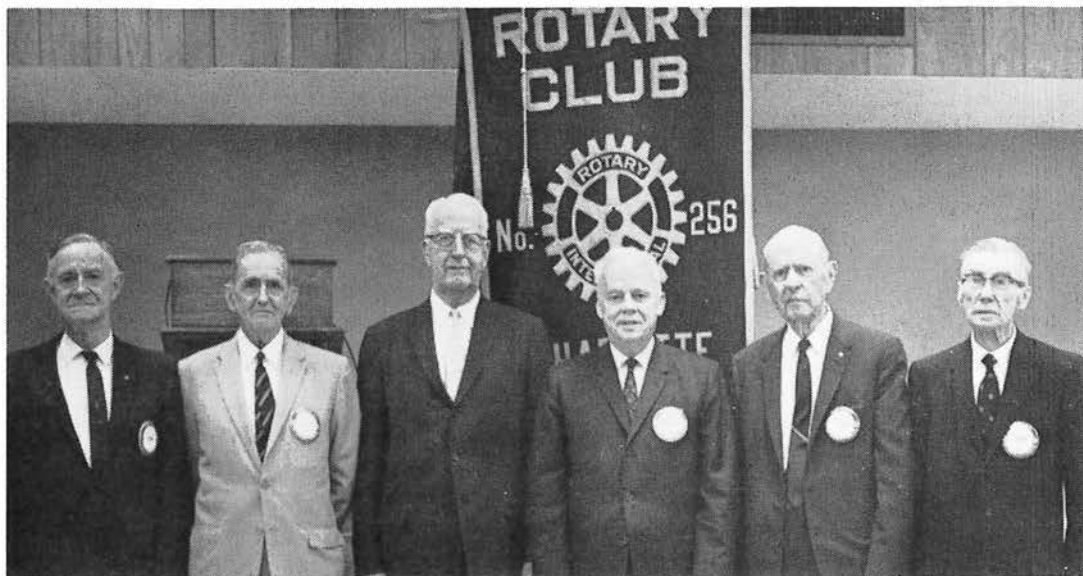
This was known as the Rotary Clinic and was suggested to the Board by John Dabbs and Dr. Alonzo Myers. It was decided that the Charlotte Rotary Club would publicly endorse and help operate the clinic and would appropriate the sum of \$25.00 a month for incidental expenses of setting up the clinic. The Rotary Clinic developed into a very important agency in dealing with crippled children of the city of Charlotte without any expense to them or their families. Dr. Alonzo Myers and his wife gave very unselfishly and unstintedly of their service.

The cooperation with the Juvenile Court of Charlotte was continued during the Jones administration and club members showed great interest in attending the weekly sessions of the court, resulting in much satisfaction and knowledge for themselves. Our president was the judge of Juvenile Court and worked with the committee which inaugurated the system of Juvenile Courts for the state of North Carolina.

Continued activity of the Rotary loan plan for boys and girls of high school and college and a plan to improve acquaintance among members of the club were important features during the last year of the first decade in the Rotary Club of Charlotte.



HAMILTON C. JONES  
President  
1925 - 1926



Charlotte Rotary Club's "Old Timers" who joined the club during the first ten years 1916-1926. Left to right: E. A. Terrell, Sr., 1919; Rufus Johnston, 1920; Wiley Obenshain, 1922; Charlie Williams, Jr., 1923; Mack Hatch, 1922; Ben Hood, 1926.

In addition to the above the following members were unable to be present for the picture: Jim Parham, 1918; Dr. Ham McKay, 1919; Walter Pratt, 1920; Junius Smith, 1923.

# Second Decade, 1926-1936

By GEORGE M. IVEY

This decade in the life of the Charlotte Rotary Club is a reflection of the economic condition of the country during that ten year period. This embraced the rapid rise in industry and the stock market, the crash in 1929, the awful depression in the early 30's and the slow recovery years.

At the beginning of this decade, in July, 1926, membership in the Charlotte Rotary Club was 133 and had reached 157 at the peak in July, 1929. The lowest membership of 85 was recorded in July, 1933, and climbed back to 105 by July, 1935.

The Gross National Product (GNP) reached a peak of \$181.8 billion in 1929 and a low point of \$126.6 billion in 1933.

The Dow Jones Industrial Stock Average in 1929 was 311.24 and in 1932 was 64.57.

During the first three years of the decade (1927-29) unemployment was only 3.2%, while in 1932 it was 24.9%. One of every four persons was without a job.

The population of Charlotte had a gradual growth from 67,000 in 1927 to 90,000 in 1936.

The combined Charlotte-Mecklenburg tax rate was \$2.14 in 1927, was reduced to \$1.55 in 1933 and ended the decade with \$2.10.

The total number of teachers in the public schools in the city in 1926 was 395. The number of teachers in 1935 was 467, an increase of 18%, whereas the number of enrolled pupils increased 42% to 18,395.

The total city school budget in 1926 was \$668,103, dropped to \$344,000 in 1933 and in 1935 the budget was \$639,370.

## Presidents and Beginning Memberships July 1, 1926 to June 30, 1936

|         |                       |     |
|---------|-----------------------|-----|
| 1926-27 | Dr. Hamilton W. McKay | 133 |
| 1927-28 | Henry M. McAden       | 144 |
| 1928-29 | Ralston M. Pound      | 140 |
| 1929-30 | John Paul Lucas       | 157 |
| 1930-31 | Julian S. Miller      | 151 |
| 1931-32 | George M. Ivey        | 134 |
| 1932-33 | Edgar A. Terrell      | 113 |
| 1933-34 | Junius M. Smith       | 85  |
| 1934-35 | James H. Van Ness     | 94  |
| 1935-36 | Rufus M. Johnston     | 104 |

The meeting place of the Rotary Club throughout these ten years was in the second floor dining room of the Chamber of Commerce building which was on the south side of West Fourth Street. The meeting day was Tuesday at 12:30 P.M.

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Ham McKay was president for the year beginning July 1, 1926.

One of the accomplishments of his administration was the establishment of a Charity Fund amounting to \$2,013. The committee appointed to administer the Fund was composed of Howard M. Wade, Thomas G. Lane and President McKay.

The District Conference was held in Spartanburg, South Carolina, April 26 and 27, 1927. David Clark was elected District Governor of the then 58th District. President Ham reported that a large percentage of the members of the Club and their wives attended the Conference.



HENRY M. McADEN  
*President*  
1927 - 1928

Gus Pound served as president beginning July 1, 1928.

Several "firsts" were instituted this year. -

A weekly bulletin known as the Rotary Hornet was published each Friday and mailed to every member. Later in the year, short biographies and photographs of three members began to appear each week in the Rotary Hornet.

The major activities during the year which were carried on by competent and enthusiastic committees included High School and College Education, Boys' Work and the Crippled Children's Clinic.

Acquaintance and fellowship were stressed. A series of shop talks on their businesses were made by many members. Members were encouraged to visit other members at their places of business.

A distinctive and enjoyable occasion of the year was the visit to Charlotte of a British Delegation of R.I.B.I. totaling 50 Rotarians, including their wives.



DR. HAMILTON W. MCKAY  
*President*  
1926 - 1927

Henry McAden was president beginning July 1, 1927.

The Rotary Code of Ethics was distributed to every member of the Club and many members hung them on the walls of their offices.

During the year, contributions were made by the Club to several worthwhile projects and organizations in the city.

The District Conference was held in Charlotte in the spring of 1928 with the Charlotte Club acting as host, with District Governor Dave Clark presiding. One thousand dollars was provided by the Club toward the expenses of the Conference.



RALSTON M. POUND  
*President*  
1928 - 1929



## THE SECOND DECADE

The term of President Paul Lucas, which began on July 1, 1929, was marked as the crest of growth and virility in the Club and prosperity in the nation as well as the beginning of the decline in membership of the Club and the damage to the economy following the stock crash.

All of the committees of the Club functioned well and the morale of the membership was high.

The financial reserves built up in the Club treasury were more than enough to withstand the loss which was experienced in sponsoring a concert of the United States Marine Band.

The Club Assembly and the Annual Club Picnic were well attended.

Ladies' Night was featured with entertainment by the Charlotte Little Theatre.

A Farmer's Day Program included the presence of a large number of farmers from Mecklenburg County.

David Clark served as a Director of Rotary International during this year of 1929-30.



JOHN PAUL LUCAS  
*President*  
1929 - 1930

The term of President Julian Miller, which began July 1, 1930, was marked with the brilliance of his intellect and oratory. Rotarians attended the meetings to hear him preside.

His choice of language and smoothness of expression always captivated his audience.

As the distinguished Editor of the Charlotte Observer, Julian Miller wrote feelingly on every available subject but one of his choicest literary gems is his descriptive account of the visit to Charlotte of the Founder of Rotary, Paul P. Harris.

The article is printed in the story of the Third Decade.



JULIAN S. MILLER  
*President*  
1930 - 1931

During President George Ivey's term, which began July 1, 1931, the decline in membership continued.

Because of the general lack of ready cash the Club dues were reduced from \$35 to \$25 per year; luncheon prices were reduced from 90¢ to 75¢ and then to 60¢; 33 members resigned because of inability to pay Club dues and meals; and the annual Ladies' Night meeting was canceled in order to conserve expenses.

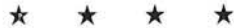


GEORGE M. IVEY  
*President*  
1931 - 1932

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The year covered by Turk Terrell's presidency, beginning July 1, 1932, was one of great economic stress and its effect upon Rotary was keenly felt. Many members were forced to resign because of their inability to continue paying dues.

In spite of the strains imposed by the depression, committees continued to function and by careful attention to details the annual budget of \$3,000 for the year was met with a surplus of \$21. The budget included \$700 for the Crippled Children's Committee.



Junius Smith became president on July 1, 1933. Membership was at its lowest.

The condition of the country began to show a slight improvement. The membership of the Club was increased and the average attendance of members showed a substantial gain.

This was the period marking the birth of the New Deal and the establishment of numerous new govern-



JUNIUS M. SMITH  
*President*  
1933 - 1934

Jim Van Ness was president during the year beginning July 1, 1934. The Club was becoming more virile with new members being brought in and by December the roster had grown back to 100 members.

A new custom was begun by President Jim to have the Club provide each member with a round name badge, showing name, classification, etc., to be worn at each meeting. The custom is still in use.

The Club endorsed and promoted the candidacy of George M. Ivey for District Governor. He was elected at the District Conference held at Rock Hill, South Carolina, in May 1935.



EDGAR A. TERRELL  
*President*  
1932 - 1933

mental agencies and bureaus, including N.R.A.

The highlight of the year was the visit of International President John Nelson.

Because of the lack of money to pay outside speakers, most of the programs were put on by the members themselves, which developed better acquaintanceship and created a friendlier atmosphere in the Club.

An important club service project was the study and complete revision of the By-Laws by a special committee appointed for that purpose.



JAMES H. VAN NESS  
*President*  
1934 - 1935

## THE SECOND DECADE

President Jim voiced optimism at the conclusion of his term in stating that, "the Club is growing and functioning well, there is a balance in the bank and all accounts are paid, members are paying their dues and luncheon accounts promptly and we are not at the bottom of the attendance list."



The last of the ten presidents who served the Charlotte Rotary Club during this decade was President Rufus Johnston, who began his year on July 1, 1935.

The highlight of this year was the visit of International President Ed Johnson, when he addressed an inter-city meeting which included Rotarians from nine other clubs.

The annual District Conference was held in Charlotte in May, 1936, with the Charlotte Club acting as host. George M. Ivey was the retiring District Governor.

Recapitulation of Ten Years—from July 1, 1926, to June 30, 1936

Throughout this period of peaks and valleys, the Charlotte Rotary Club justified the basic principles of the ideal of service above self and of international cooperation and goodwill which were the underlying foundations of Rotary as taught and practiced by its founder, Paul P. Harris.



RUFUS M. JOHNSTON  
President  
1935 - 1936



LADIES NIGHT—1944

The Rotary Reporter of February 29, 1944, says the following Rotarians took part in the show pictured above: Doc Coles, Clyde Craven, Ben Hood, Elliott Ewell, Eddie Dillard, Bill Hart, Gus Pound, Bob Ferguson, Frank Smith, Fred Huffman, Carl Flath, Dave Welton and Charlie Stone.

## **Third Decade, 1936-1946**

By JOHN PAUL LUCAS, JR.

Against the changing tapestry of ancient feuds and modern warfare as Hitler and Mussolini rose to power and met defeat and death, Rotary at Charlotte turned in part to war-related projects—the purchase of medical supplies, the furnishing of recreation facilities for the air base, the maintenance of close liaison with our own members in the service.

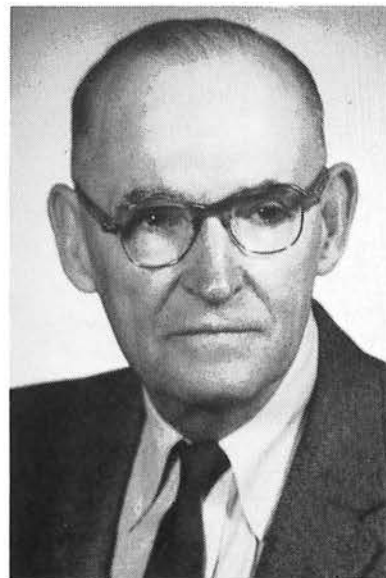
It was in this decade that “Little Rotary,” a unique offshoot of a club grown too large for the intimate give-and-take that turns acquaintance into close and lasting friendship, was born and flourished in an upstairs room at Thacker’s Restaurant, and one of the chapters of this book must surely record the nature of this expression of the essential Rotary concept.



J. A. Mayo  
*President*  
1936 - 1937

Dr. Bill Hart’s year as president saw the reorganization of the Student Loan Fund project, started in 1922 but by then showing a paper loss of some \$10 thousand. It was Bill’s philosophy that to lend money to young people and not build character at the same time was negative and wholly inconsistent with Rotary, and he insisted that the Fund policy be that any youngster borrowing money should be made to recognize the seriousness of the repayment obligation in terms of integrity

The decade began with Art Mayo’s administration in the year that Edward VIII abdicated the throne of Britain to marry “the woman I love.” The tradition of club song was started under Art and, for better or worse, has continued to this day. Our leader was Billy Whiddit whose own splendid boy choir may have planted the seed of our subsequent interest in the Rotary Boys Choir.



V. K. HART  
*President*  
1937 - 1938

## THE THIRD DECADE

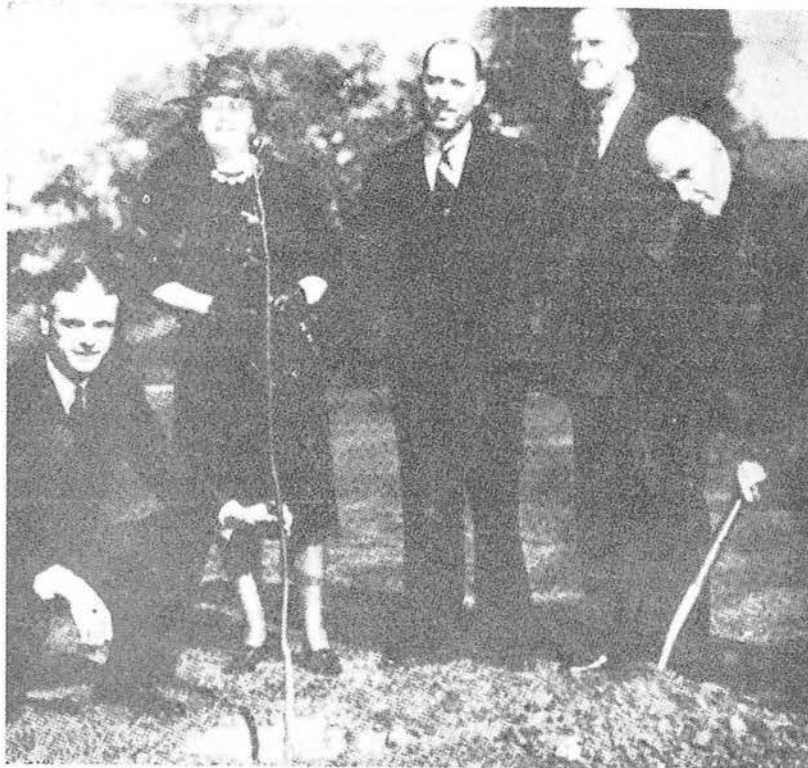
and credit and, secondly, a desire to pass on the benefits received to someone else which could be accomplished only by paying back the money. Under the conscientious and time-consuming supervision of Doug Aitken this has been done for many years. Among recipients of Rotary loans who were able to get a foot on the ladder toward career accomplishment are doctors, dentists, social service workers, nurses, teachers, a Negro Ph.D. in Psychology, and other men and women leading good and useful lives in business, the professions, and government.

During this decade Charlotte was visited by the founder of Rotary, Paul Harris, on April 24, 1939, in L. G. "Plug" Osborne's administration when the "Paul Harris Tree" was ceremoniously planted on the grounds at the Mint Museum.

Other Rotary International officers to come during this decade included Thomas J. Davis, Fernando Carbajal and Tom A. Warren, each of whom left the stamp of his unique personality and contribution on the host club and the District.



L. G. OSBORNE  
President  
1938 - 1939



### PLANTING THE TREE

Picture shows  
George Ivey  
holding tree  
with  
Paul Harris  
shoveling in the  
dirt while  
President Osborne  
and  
Julian Miller  
look on.

The gifted Rotarian Julian Miller, Editor of the Charlotte Observer, had this to say of the Tree ceremony:

That was a significant and historic occasion at the Mint Museum Saturday afternoon, April 22, 1939, when Paul Harris, Founder of Rotary International, planted a tree from the soil of Illinois in token of friendliness and good will. It was significant because of the presence of the distinguished personality of this honored and widely-known golden-hearted gentleman. It was historic for the simple and unique ceremonial in which his hands played a commanding part.

Twice elsewhere in the United States Mr. Harris has officiated at similar rites, once at the University of Ohio and the other time at the University of Wisconsin. Charlotte is the first city in this country, therefore, aside from institutional attachments, to receive such a token from his gentle hands and warm heart.

But Mr. Harris has planted trees for the same significance and purpose on every continent of the globe as a gesture of international understanding and friendliness. If you are disposed in levity to designate this custom as a mere hobby, you must consent that it has a dignity of purpose and depth of meaning which transcends any personal gratification it may give him who conceived the thought and has so happily and widely carried it out.

It is one designed to transmit to the future in its own practical and effectual way the high-mindedness and nobility of sentiment which this eminent visitor set in motion in quite another form almost 35 years ago.

And Charlotte should be grateful to become a new link in a chain of communities of the world to have this memorial in the form of one of nature's noblest products lifted from the earth of a distant state and planted in our own friendly and fertile soil.

"I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree," wrote the gifted Poet Joyce Kilmer in an immortal ode. But he and all of us have seen things far more lovely and worthy of our veneration.

We have seen an idea planted and an ideal created that make for individual improvement and social advancement. Paul Harris has made a planting of far more immutable value than this tree or all of the trees he has ever touched to the soil of the nations.

In 1905 he almost casually dropped into the imaginations of men the ideal of friendliness in business competition, the ideal of altruism as a substitute motive for self-interest, the ideal of service above self, the ideal of conference and of international cooperation and of good-will.

And from the sinking of the roots of that concept into the germinating soil of his fellow Americans and later into the receptive impulses of business and professional interests throughout the world has come into being an organization that now lifts its white banners in more than 80 countries and numbers a world membership of more than 220,000. The leaves of that tree which he has planted "have been for the healing of the nations."

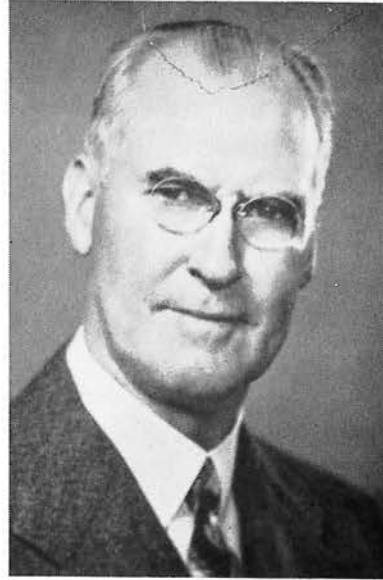
There it was the father of this international household of good-will who lent his noble and inspiring presence to this occasion and to our community.

Good-will in the communities that will remove frictions and soothe social irritations and bring in their stead the warm spirit of kindly sympathy and beneficent service.

Good-will in the community of business where selfish competition all too often cuts and slashes like a sabre and the business buccaneer and industrial pirate are tempted to run at large. Good-will in the world where among governments and people the lusts of reprisal and punishment and revenge and barbarity are at this moment threatening to issue in a war to end civilization.

## THE THIRD DECADE

Charles H. Stone, who would become District Governor for 1944-1945, was 23rd president of the Club. Program theme for the year stressed a better appreciation by Rotarians of their community and included a memorable May 20th Day which left us convinced of the authenticity of the Mecklenburg Declaration, a study of Charlotte financial operations, and an initial contribution by the Club enabling the Park and Recreation Commission to begin a directed recreation program after the closing of the city schools. Membership of the Club at this time was 150.



C. H. STONE  
*President*  
1939 - 1940

Under Paul R. Sheahan, who later moved to Roanoke, Va., the Club inaugurated the Negro Girl Scout movement by sponsoring the first troop in Mecklenburg, and conceived the idea that led to organization of the Association of Charlotte Civic Clubs. These two ventures proved their worth and have continued active in the life of the city—each rendering needed service. It was in this year that the Club furnished a recreation room at the recently activated Air Base which added much to the comfort and pleasure of the young men in service there in preparation for difficult years ahead.



PAUL R. SHEAHAN  
*President*  
1940 - 1941

The 25th anniversary of the Club was celebrated October 21, 1941, at a gala occasion highlighting Dr. Amos Bumgardner's year as president. Five hundred guests were present to hear R. I. President Tom Davis, and 70 clubs were represented. Living charter members honored included: John L. Dabbs, Clarence O. Kuester, Lewis C. Burwell, J. P. Quarles, John W. Fox, Fred W. Glover and Gus Pound. Charles H. Stone did a beautiful job as General Chairman.

This was the year of Pearl Harbor, and in the winter the Club went all out in the production of a musical



AMOS S. BUMGARDNER  
*President*  
1941 - 1942

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

review entitled "Hooray America," which did much to unite the Club in fellowship and produced a profit of \$3,675.00 which was turned over to the Chairman of Civilian Defense, Rotarian Dr. Bob Ferguson, to be invested in medical instruments and supplies.

The Rotary year 1942-1943, under Wiley S. Obenshain, was paced by the war effort. Plug Osborne, Francis Beatty and Tom Byrnes were noted as servicemen early in the year. Steve Marsh was given leave of absence to serve with the war production board in New York. Hoyt Galvin was busy as chairman of a scrap drive, Paul Lucas was touring the state for War Bonds, and other Rotarians were similarly preoccupied.



WILEY S. OBENSHAIN  
*President*  
1942 - 1943



EVERETT BIERMAN  
*President*  
1943 - 1944

Everett C. Bierman, the 27th president, saw additional Rotarians go to war.

Precursor to the large scale blood bank operation of the Red Cross today, the Rotary Club of Charlotte started in 1943 the first Blood Reserve in Charlotte with President Everett Bierman giving the first 500 CC's.

One program featured the produce of "Victory Gardens" of some 30 Rotarians. The Charlotte Club sponsored a new Rotary Club at Kannapolis, founded July 8, 1942.

Our Charlotte Club had a membership of 171 for the year and a \$12,211 budget.

### HONOR ROLL

Included in the Armed Forces at this time were: George Snyder, Jim Van Ness, Hunter Jones, Vernon Smith, Plug Osborne, Charles Sofley, Jim Barnhardt, Francis Beatty, Tom Byrnes, Rufus Johnston, William F. Martin, Paul Sheahan, Nelson Page and Kingsley MacDonald.



## THE THIRD DECADE

Feeling that boys' work activities were much in the spotlight but that girls were being neglected, the Club, under our 28th president, Charles A. Williams, Jr., in 1945, sponsored a highly successful Red Shield girls club, appropriating \$1800 for this purpose. A club room outfitted in various equipment for indoor and outdoor activities was provided. The program was put on its feet in cooperation with the Salvation Army and has continued to function effectively in its area of service.

One of the notable projects of this or any other civic club, our Crippled Children's Clinic, became inactive because it was superseded by federal government and local agency operations.

Student visitor or so-called "Junior Rotarian" activity, including an essay contest to help these boys in their further education, was instituted and proved an interesting addition to our meetings.

One of the program highlights of the year was a meeting and inspection tour of the Shell Loading Plant on York Road.



CHARLES A. WILLIAMS, JR.  
*President*  
1944 - 1945



JOHN R. PENDER  
*President*  
1945 - 1946

The first of the highly successful Boy Scout exhibits sponsored by Charlotte Rotary was held in 1946 under the administration of John R. Pender, 29th club president. And the idea of the Boys Choir, conceived by Pat Gilchrist and brilliantly executed for so long by that inimitable impresario Jim McMillan, was born during John's administration but got under way in the administration of Powell Majors, the 30th president, with a bang that was heard all over the nation. The boys subsequently sang from Miami to New York and points in between.

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

### "LITTLE ROTARY"

Rotary had its inception when the lonely Paul Harris, in the indifferent Chicago environment, felt the necessity of warming his soul at the fires of friendly communication with others of his kind. But the formality of organization, the growing size of metropolitan clubs and the rigid pattern of club programs tends to destroy the basic idea of friendly give-and-take in which the Rotarian himself is participant rather than audience.

It was partly this and partly because John Fox, Gus Pound, Louis Rogers, Everett Bierman, Harry Hardy, Ernest Hicks, Paul Lucas, Doug Aitken, Hugh Boyer, Bill Crichton and others as time went on had to eat somewhere, that these Rotarians agreed to meet informally in a private room at Thacker's on Thursdays at noon.

With John W. Fox, one of the best read and keenest minds in the city, as moderator, this highly informal Rotary gathering quickly became a challenging forum on civic affairs, world events, the economy, politics and Rotary itself; and the members present, with a comfortable sense of being among friends and "off the record," attacked any problem with enthusiasm and eloquence, sometimes banteringly, sometimes in dead seriousness, and almost always in good natured debate. With Louis Rogers as Republican protagonist and Everett Bierman as chief heckler; with Sadler Love's sharp repartee and Hoyt Galvin's common sense observations, with Paul Lucas' academic point of view and Francis Beatty's urbanity; with Channing Richards' and Bill Crichton's cross-examining, there was never a dull moment.

Somehow these men left Thacker's with a brighter eye and a lighter step and a finer sense of what Rotary is really all about because of "Little Rotary."

But Thacker's is gone. And so, too, are John Fox, and Gus and Everett. And so before long, will some of the others of this crew. Because they once met and because they were part of the Third Decade of Charlotte Rotary and because their names are nowhere else recorded, you should know who came together from time to time on those lively Thursdays, not because they could get credit for attendance and not to hear an invited speaker, but as Rotarians getting together:

Doug Aitken  
Ben Ashcraft  
Francis Beatty  
Everett Bierman  
Hugh Boyer  
Cecil Brodt  
Jim Cates  
Bill Crichton  
John Fox  
John E. Fox

Hoyt Galvin  
Pat Gilchrist  
Givie Givens  
Harry Hardy  
Gerry Harney  
Tebee Hawkins  
Ernest Hicks  
Lenoir Keesler  
Sadler Love  
Charles Lucas

Paul Lucas  
Powell Majors  
Harry McKenna  
Jim McMillan  
Roy Palmer  
Gus Pound  
Chan Richards  
Louis Rogers  
Martin Waters  
Beau Whitton

# Fourth Decade, 1946-1956

By ALBERT L. BECHTOLD

The fourth decade of the Charlotte Rotary Club has many interesting highlights and experiences which Rotarians had during this ten year period. Many programs for the benefit of the youth of our community were not only instigated but were carried forth during these years. The philosophy of Rotary—namely, “Service above Self—He serves the best who serves the most,” seemed to be a great moving force. We shall not have time, nor space, to mention the names of the many men, who through these ten years, did so much for so many in the name of Rotary. Of course, as is the case, there are some people we must mention because of their untiring efforts and their many hours of work for the Charlotte Club.

1946 - 1947

During the Rotary year of 1946-1947 the Charlotte Rotary Club gave birth to the Charlotte Boys' Choir. The four men who were directly responsible and who helped develop it were Pat Gilchrist, Jim McMillan, Billy Whiddit (deceased) and R. P. Majors, president. The Charlotte Boys' Choir made its first public appearance on December 24, 1946, at the Christmas program of the Rotary Club under the direction of John Haldane and Betty Jane Nalley, the accompanist.

The rehearsals for the Choir were held each Saturday morning, and the Rotary Club paid the boys 25¢ each. This “pump-priming” soon dispelled the idea that the Choir boys were “sissy.” Jim McMillan was the Manager of the Choir and held this responsibility through the entire 17 years that the Choir existed. Probably no Rotarian has given so much for the cause and the development of youth in our community as Jim during these 17 years.

The Choir in later years appropriated \$2400 to help pay for the tuition for four foreign students, who attended Davidson College. It might, also, be interesting to know that one of these students is now serving in the Diplomatic Service of his country in Finland and still corresponds with R. P. Majors.

“The reign of Dick Owenby,” Chairman of the Health and Happiness Committee for more than six years, was started and was later known as the “Methodist Hour.”

The lack of applications to borrow money from the Student Loan Fund resulted in a request from the Student Loan Committee to the Board of the Charlotte Rotary Club that the appropriation for the year be directed to visual education. The Visual Education Committee provided a projector and 16 films at a cost of \$1100 to the Public Library. Hoyt Galvin, Director of the Library, not only supervised this equipment and film, but helped with the selection.



R. P. MAJORS  
President  
1946 - 1947

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The Club this year was host to the District Conference in Charlotte on May 5 and 6, with Everett Bierman being the General Chairman. The Conference elected Macon Williams, from Lenoir, as the District Governor.

Under the direction of the Youth Activities Committee, the annual Boy Scout Merit Badge show was staged. Individual Rotarians sponsored the various booths and the Club underwrote the expenses of approximately \$500.

The officers for this year were: President, R. P. Majors; Vice-President, John R. Pender; Secretary-Treasurer, Roy A. Palmer.

1947 - 1948

The Charlotte Rotary Club continued its sponsorship of the Charlotte Boys' Choir of more than 60 voices, under the direction of Rotarian Warren Wilson and the management of Jim McMillan. The popularity of this group of boys continued to grow, and during the winter and spring, they presented many concerts in North Carolina and South Carolina.

The organization and staging of the annual Rotary Boy Scout Merit Badge exposition was held November 5, 6, and 7, and was attended by thousands, not only from Charlotte but neighboring cities.

During this year the operation of the Junior Rotary plan was instigated in which outstanding students from the three High Schools were invited to attend the Charlotte Rotary Club meetings a month at the time. This enabled during the year 21 fine young men, from their respective High Schools, to have an opportunity to observe the functioning of the Rotary Club.

The Charlotte Rotary Club again sponsored visual education programs through the Charlotte Public Library with the purchase of additional films and projectors.

The Student Loan Fund, with more than \$14,000 in assets, was active this year, making a number of loans to deserving boys and girls.

The Club sponsored one of the winning floats in the Christmas parade, which was held November 24.

As one of the sponsors of the May 20 symphonic drama "Shout Freedom," celebrating Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, many Rotarians not only participated on the stage but helped behind the scenes.

During the year the Charlotte Rotary Club had 100% of its membership averaging \$10 each to the Rotary Foundation, to advance understanding and goodwill through the scholarship program of Rotary International. This program through the years has done an outstanding job in bringing foreign students to America so they can attend one of our outstanding colleges or universities in this country and to send United States students abroad.

A systematic hospital visitation and fellowship program for Rotarians and members of their families, who come to Charlotte to be hospitalized was instigated and was, also, carried on for our own members.



JOHN PAUL LUCAS  
President  
1947 - 1948

## THE FOURTH DECADE

During the year many other activities were held, such as, our annual assembly for the discussion of the aims of Rotary, our annual Club picnic and outing on Catawba River for members and families, an inter-city meeting with representatives from 16 neighboring Rotary Clubs in North Carolina and South Carolina, Rotary Family Day, our annual Christmas party with many sons and daughters and their "Mamas" attending.

An appreciation day was held by the Civic Affairs Committee to honor and entertain a group of long service teachers in the public schools. Also, a joint meeting with the Regional Conference of National Association of Manufacturers on a question and answer panel on American Enterprise with the audience mainly from various colleges and universities in this area.

The hospitality meeting for the daughters of Rotarians attending Queens College was held with more than 18 in attendance.

The officers for 1947-1948 were: President, John Paul Lucas; Vice-President, R. P. Majors; Secretary-Treasurer, Milo O. Kirkpatrick.

1948 - 1949

The president, David G. Welton, and District Governor Everett Bierman, of our Club, attended the International Convention in Rio de Janeiro. The establishment of the second Rotary Club in Charlotte, the Dilworth Club, was formally organized and launched chiefly through the efforts of District Governor Everett Bierman, President Dave and Woody Kennedy, who later became the first president of the Dilworth Club. The National Charter was presented in December of 1948.

The Boys' Choir achieved National acclaim this year by performing before the International Convention of Rotary, Madison Square Garden, New York City, in June of 1949. Climaxing of this project and taking more than 88 persons and Choir Boys to New York was accomplished by voluntary contributions from our membership. They sang over Nation-wide NBC and appeared on a Kinescope of Ripley's "Believe It Or Not" program. En route the group stopped in Washington and was greeted by Mr. Charles Jonas and other North Carolinians. Jim McMillan, Manager of the Choir, headed the entire function.



DAVID G. WELTON  
President  
1948 - 1949

One of the most unusual things during the year was the presentation of more than 40% of our weekly programs by our own members. Besides these, other outstanding programs were presented by Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, Dr. Allen Stockdale, Dr. Hollis Edens, President of Duke University, and Angus Mitchell of Australia, President of Rotary International.

The officers for 1948-1949 were: President, David G. Welton; Vice-President, John Paul Lucas, Jr.; Secretary-Treasurer, J. Gordon Christian, Jr.

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

1949 - 1950

"In retrospect, one wonders why so few stumps are showing for a Rotary Year when so much sawing and chopping was done. The weekly duties to provide good programs and Rotary fellowship obviously consume much time for the officers and committees during the year's activities," so said President Hoyt Galvin.

One notable result of the 1949-1950 year was the formation of the Charlotte Better Business Bureau. Beaumert Whitton as Chairman of the Vocational Service Committee took a cue from the president's inaugural speech and began work to establish a Better Business Bureau. After one meeting with the Vocational Service Committee and other Civic Clubs and business groups it wasn't long before Charlotte had such a Bureau, established to improve the ethical standards of Charlotte business. Many Rotarians through the years have served the Bureau on the Board of Directors and many other capacities.



HOYT R. GALVIN  
*President*  
1949 - 1950

The Boy Scout Merit Badge Show was again at the Armory Auditorium with many hundreds in attendance.

Cooperating with other Rotary Clubs in District 280, the Charlotte Club contributed \$256.25 into the District Scholarship Fund to finance a Latin American student at Western Carolina College. Also, Miss Laiz France Lessa, of Rio de Janiero, spent one year at Lenoir Rhyne College in Hickory, under our District Scholarship.

Our annual picnic was held at the Observer Fresh Air Camp with Rotarians and their families enjoying the outing.

Twenty-four Junior Rotarians from the three High Schools had an opportunity to mingle with Rotarians for one month each, and were in participation for the \$100 scholarship.

The Student Loan Fund Committee was active during the year and more than 28 active loans were made, and the fund had a net worth of \$14,837.

"Little Rotary" at Thacker's on Thursdays had a popular response by many, especially the new members to get acquainted with others.

Rotary year ended with the Club living within its income.

The officers for the year 1949-1950 were: President, Hoyt R. Galvin; Vice-President, David G. Welton; Secretary-Treasurer, Zangwill A. Ross.

## THE FOURTH DECADE

1950 - 1951

The Rotary year of 1950-1951 started well, the president having returned from the International Convention was imbued with the inspiration of Rotary. At the convention the Charlotte delegation assisted in the election of Cleve Allen of Coral Gables, Florida, as Director for Zone 4. He, also, heard the Charlotte Club commended by past president, Angus Mitchell, for outstanding community service which the Boys' Choir was rendering.

The year was a full one with much of the activity carried on behind the scenes. Of major importance was the Board's belief that the Club's by-laws were outmoded and in need of revision; also, that the club should be incorporated in order to alleviate the responsibility of the officers in the crowd-gathering activities of the Club. These projects were worked upon over an eleven month period under the leadership of Jim Craighill.

The St. Augustine, Florida, Rotary Club was so impressed by the Charlotte Boys' Choir appearance in their city that they sent a delegation to Charlotte bearing gifts to the choir, and, also, an embossed scroll of appreciation to the Charlotte Club.

The Charlotte Rotary Club was selected as one of twenty in Rotary International as being a model for its overall activities and one of five for its work in club service.

The administration held periodic supper meetings for the education of the new members, and emphasis was given to lend dignity and solemnity to the induction of new members. The establishment of a detailed and unusually fine introduction of new members was started and has been used by our Club ever since.

The Boy Scout Merit Badge Show was held at the Armory under the general chairmanship of D. F. Schiwetz, and was unusually successful with more than 30,000 attending during the three-night function. The Boy Scout show increased the interest in Scouting and its growth in the Charlotte area has been phenomenal.

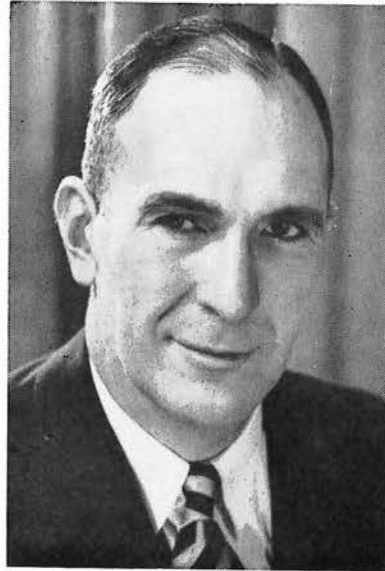
The Charlotte Rotary Club participated with other clubs in presenting the four-way test desk plaques to each member of the Senate and the House in Raleigh.

The forty-sixth anniversary of Rotary International was celebrated by a broadcast given by John Paul Lucas and Pat Gilchrist. Messages were received from as far away as New England complimenting the Charlotte Club.

The Charlotte Rotary Club contributed more than \$545 to the Rotary Foundation, so that the Club now has more than 100% of its membership participating.

As the year closed the president and his additional active member, Professor Long, presented to the Club a cabinet reading stand complete with neon light and a clock so the speaker would be able to observe the time limit.

The officers for the year 1950-1951 were: President, C. W. Gilchrist; Vice-President, Hoyt R. Galvin; Secretary-Treasurer, Lanier Bishop.



C. W. GILCHRIST  
President  
1950 - 1951

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

1951 - 1952

Our President, Ernest L. Hicks, made a pronouncement during his inaugural address that the slogan for the year would be: "Less talking and more music."

The two greatest accomplishments during the year were: first, the effort brought forth by the club for the eventual election of our own John Paul Lucas as District Governor. A large delegation from our Club attended his installation at the Shelby District meeting. Second, sent a Charlotte resident, Miss Alice Craven Reynolds, to represent our Club in competition for the Rotary Foundation for Advanced Study. She was chosen and sent to Paris, France.

Our annual Ladies' Night program followed a different procedure in that we had a dinner at the new Myers Park High School, which was followed by an old fashioned square dance.

Another change was in our annual Boy Scout function, in that we substituted for the Merit Badge Show, a large Boy Scout Circus, which was held at Griffith Park. Since that time the Merit Badge Show and the Circus are put on in alternate years. Both have been most successful.

Jim McMillan together with his able assistants had an outstanding Boys' Choir this year and the public demand was great, many cities were visited in the Carolinas and, also, the annual Florida trip was made by the boys.

The officers for the year 1951-1952 were: President, Ernest L. Hicks; Vice-President, C. W. Gilchrist; Secretary-Treasurer, Ralston M. Pound, Jr.



ERNEST L. HICKS  
*President*  
1951 - 1952

1952 - 1953

The year got off to an auspicious start with many good programs, and, also, an outstanding Club Assembly at Island Point. More than 70 Rotarians attended this special meeting.

An innovation in Inter-City meetings was arranged for July 31 by Seth Snyder and his committee between Charlotte and Gastonia Rotary Clubs. More than 250 Rotarians and their families attended to witness a softball game between the two clubs.

Another outstanding meeting of the year was held at the North Carolina Vocational Textile School in Belmont, where the entire Rotary Club met for a tour of the school and lunch.

Our Club had the privilege of being host to the recipient of 180th District Scholarship, Miss Argerie Vega of San Jose, Costa Rica. Miss Vega was a student at Queens College through the entire school year.

The annual District Conference was held November 24 and 25. Our Club and the Dilworth Club were co-hosts, with Donald Follmer as Chairman.



ROY A. PALMER  
*President*  
1952 - 1953



## THE FOURTH DECADE

On December 1, 1952, the new North Charlotte Rotary Club was organized and received its charter at the North Charlotte Y. M. C. A. It was an auspicious occasion in that Dave Clark, the organizer of the new Club and holder of the distinction of having organized more new Rotary Clubs than any other Rotarian, was present to witness the presentation of the Charter to Arthur Thompson by District Governor John Paul Lucas, Jr.

The Boys' Work and Youth Service Committees of Charlotte, Dilworth and North Charlotte Clubs planned and staged the Boy Scout Merit Badge Show and the Cub Scout Hobby Show in the Armory Auditorium. More than 3,500 Boy Scouts participated and set up 61 booths for the Boy Scouts and 18 for the Cub Scouts. The show was a tremendous success in more than \$1,100 was turned over to the Boy Scouts.

An important decision was made with regard to the territorial limits of the North Charlotte and Dilworth Clubs. The territory for the operation of the North Charlotte Club was established, and the Dilworth territory was enlarged also.

The Boys' Work Committee requested that an underprivileged boy be sent to the Boy Scout Jamboree in California, in the early part of July. This request was granted resulting in experiences for this boy that could not have been had without the financial assistance given by our Club.

Our Club participated in another Community service by donating \$150 to the Nature Museum.

The Charlotte Boys' Choir continued to win more laurels for themselves and our community. They made 26 trips out of town to entertain thousands of people, before their annual Florida trip, and participated in the Carrousel parade. The boys traveled more than 12,000 miles and had many fascinating experiences.

The officers for the year 1952-1953 were: President, Roy A. Palmer; Vice-President, Ernest L. Hicks; Secretary-Treasurer, James H. Barnhardt.

1953 - 1954

Details were worked out for the Annual Family Day Picnic at Fresh Air Camp in September. This was one of the highlights in carrying out the philosophy of Rotary for better fellowship among members and their families.

The Charlotte Rotary Club, in an amendment to its constitution, released some additional territory to North Charlotte and Dilworth Clubs. Also, at a special dinner meeting the three clubs heard Rotary International Director Luther Hodges deliver an inspiring address.

The Speakers' Bureau reached an all time high during the year by furnishing speakers for more than 20 Rotary Clubs in North and South Carolina. The Club continued to offer the Speakers' Bureau service to other civic organizations.

The Boys' Work and Youth Service Committee, headed by Floyd Williams, undertook to assist in a community wide project to help young people get jobs during the summer months. A survey was made of the members to find how many jobs were available.



JAMES P. McMILLAN  
*President*  
1953 - 1954

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The Charlotte Boys' Choir, under the tireless effort of Jim McMillan, is now internationally known. The receipts from the concerts were again used to provide a scholarship for a Uruguayan student at Davidson College.

President Eisenhower's speech at the Freedom Day celebration at Freedom Park took place of one of the regular Rotary meetings. The Boys' Choir, under the direction of Fred Waring, participated in the program.

The Boys' Work and Youth Service Committee, headed by Floyd Williams, awarded three pure-bred heifer calves to start the Charlotte Rotary-4-H Calf Chain. The 4-H'ers will feed and care for these heifers, breed them, and return the first calf to the Chain for placement to another 4-H member.

Under the direction of D. P. Schiwetz our attendance record showed a tremendous improvement—93.25%, a new high in the Club.

During the year work was started toward thinking about the Golden Anniversary Celebration of Rotary International, and a committee was appointed to draft plans for the observance.

The officers for the year 1953-1954 were: President, James P. McMillan; Vice-President, Roy A. Palmer; Secretary-Treasurer, A. L. Bechtold.

1954-1955



J. GORDON CHRISTIAN, JR.  
*President*  
1954 - 1955

President-Elect J. Gordon Christian and Secretary-Elect Martin K. Waters attended the International Convention of Rotary in Seattle, Washington, where Herb Taylor was installed as President of Rotary International and the Golden Anniversary Year was celebrated during the installation function.

Being the Golden Anniversary year for Rotary International, it was the object of this administration to have a good follow-through on all Club projects that have grown to be synonymous with Rotary in Charlotte. Such as, Charlotte Boys' Choir, which went a step further in Community service this year by providing a scholarship to a native of Denmark to attend Davidson College. Two major trips were taken by the Choir—Florida in the Spring, then New York in the Summer.

The Merit Badge Show was put on very elaborately and with greater participation by Scouts of both races.

The Junior Rotarian program was extended to include the major County High Schools as well as those

within the city, making a total of six High Schools. Each school sending one Junior Rotarian each month to the Club.

In addition to these and other projects, this administration set about to extend the Club's activities during the Golden Anniversary year by supplying the 4-Way Test plaques to all major City and County High Schools. Conferences were held with principals and teachers. These desk plaques were furnished each faculty member. Bulletin board posters were displayed in all the classrooms, and each school librarian was given a supply of book-marks to be given to each student taking books from the library.

## THE FOURTH DECADE

The Club, also, instituted a move to improve the facilities at the Negro Boy Scout Camp in Mecklenburg County with particular emphasis on constructing a dining hall. The net proceeds from the Merit Badge Show were earmarked for this service and the Negro leaders were given an opportunity to supplement these funds.

The formation of a Babe Ruth Baseball League was undertaken and accomplished during the year. This proved to be a splendid project and received much public acclaim.

International President Herb Taylor visited the Charlotte Club on January 31, and addressed a breakfast meeting of the North Charlotte Club.

A combined Ladies' Night and Golden Anniversary meeting was held April 11 with the Dilworth and North Charlotte Clubs joining in. The speaker for this meeting was Past-President of Rotary International, Ken Guernsey.

The officers for the year 1954-1955 were: President, J. Gordon Christian, Jr.; Vice-President, James P. McMillan; Secretary-Treasurer, Martin K. Waters, Jr.

### 1955 - 1956

The Rotary year 1955-1956 began with President Al Bechtold and his Rotary-Ann, Martha, together with Glenn Park and his Rotary-Ann, Dorothea, attending the International Convention in Chicago on June 6 through 10. At this particular convention Community Service was stressed; and Al left the meeting greatly imbued and challenged to return and render a greater service to his community.

At the first Board of Directors meeting in July, discussion came up in respect to the territories to be assigned to Dilworth and Charlotte and North Charlotte Clubs. A committee headed by Jim Craighill was asked to study territories originally allocated by Rotary International for the Clubs. After much discussion and meeting with officers of the other two Clubs, a resolution was drafted setting up territorial limits for each of the Clubs. This resolution was passed unanimously on November 1 by Charlotte Rotary and subsequently by the other Clubs.

The three Charlotte Rotary Clubs, namely, North Charlotte, Dilworth and Charlotte, participated in the annual Scout Circus in which more than 5,000 Boys and Cub Scouts presented their various activities. Attendance for the two evening performances was over 20,000 people.

Another outstanding event for the year was conducted by Brevard Merritt, Chairman, and Jim Allison, Vice-Chairman, of the Inter-City Committee. They worked out the details with Greensboro to meet with Charlotte on April 9. The Charlotte Club took 40 Rotarians on two special airplanes; namely, Eastern Air Lines and Piedmont Air Lines, and left here at approximately 9 A.M. Landing in Greensboro, they were greeted by President Fielding Fry of the Greensboro Club and 20 of their Rotarians. These Rotarians gave the Charlotte group a complete motor tour of the city of Greensboro. At lunch with the Greensboro Club, Charlotte presented the program; Mr. Shelton Smith of Douglas Aircraft Nike plant was the speaker.



ALBERT L. BECHTOLD  
*President*  
1955 - 1956

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The preliminary work was started on the tree project which has been carried on so successfully. A discussion, led by Al Bechtold, was held in regard to planting some Cherry trees at the Mint Museum in cooperation with the Garden Club. Grier Wallace was asked to serve as Chairman and received a price of \$325 for 26 Cherry trees. A suggestion was passed unanimously and the Club appropriated \$200 for planting trees at the Mint Museum as a memorial to the past presidents of the Charlotte Rotary Club. Later that year, our Secretary, Glenn E. Park, brought up the suggestion again and recommended that the Club set out trees honoring each past president as a beautification project for our city parks.

Also during the year the Constitution and By-Laws were restudied regarding the subject of compulsory attendance for members who had 20 years of service or more. Jim Craighill was given the assignment for study. Membership consisted of 232 active, additional active, senior active and past service members. This was a gain of 15 members. There were also 15 honorary members and a loss of 12 members by resignation and death. Four great Rotarians who through the years gave of themselves answered their last call, namely, David Clark, Frank Jones, Perrin Quarles and Penn Wilson.

The Club, entirely solvent, closed the year with \$1,283.92 for the next Administration.

Also, this year, a District Conference was held Monday and Tuesday in which Charlotte Rotary cooperated with the North Charlotte Rotary Club, who was host for the Conference.

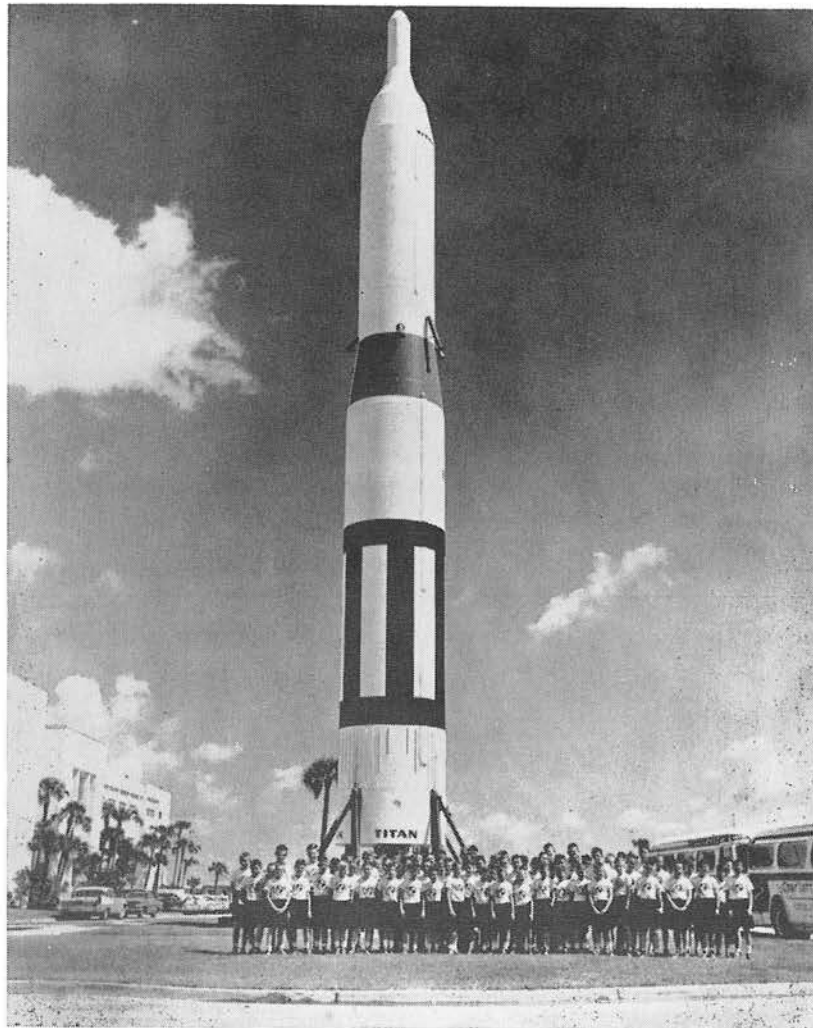
Charlotte Rotary Club also acted as one of the hosts at the Carrousel Basketball Classic entertaining the Colgate University Basketball team together with their Coach, Howard N. Hardman, during the tournament.

The officers for the year 1955-1956 were: President, Albert L. Bechtold; Vice-President, J. Gordon Christian, Jr.; Secretary-Treasurer, Glenn E. Park.



(See story in 1953-54 year)

## THE FOURTH DECADE



The Charlotte Boys' Choir at the base of the giant Titan missile at Cape Canaveral.

## **Fifth Decade, 1956-1966**

By F. SADLER LOVE

The last decade of the first half-century of the history of the Charlotte Rotary Club dawned on July 1, 1956. The day was much like any other, with little to distinguish it from days which had gone before. Like any 40 year veteran, the Club found its joints to be just a little more creaky, its muscles a little less anxious to meet the rising sun. Some of the exuberance of youth had been worked off in the preceding 39 years, but in its place had come the calm assurance and the mature judgment that is said to mark those individuals and organizations in the middle years.

The world looked fairly good that year. That is, if you chose not to look behind the atomic reactors nor at the shiny red buttons beside the blood-red telephones. Nikita Khrushchev, at the 20th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, launched the new Russian party line, which he indicated was to be the destruction of Joseph Stalin as the national idol and the projection of a "peaceful" Soviet Union image. Nikita's speech announcing the new party line was seven hours long.

Glenn Park took over the Presidency of the Rotary Club that year, and, in his inaugural address announcing plans for the coming year, required somewhat less time than Nikita. Nevertheless, there were those in the Club who said that he ruled with the same iron hand while he diligently chipped away at the statue of his predecessor, Al (Peanuts) Bechtold. Other wags commented that he might chip either at the statue or stature, but he would never be able to do much with the girth.

Be that as it may, the new President came to his task fresh from the Philadelphia Convention of Rotary International, bringing with him several incandescent bulbs from General Electric and a more-or-less willing helper in the person of Ed Pickard, Secretary-Treasurer.

In the fall of this year the 40th anniversary of the Club was celebrated by a visit from representatives of the Greenville, S. C., Club which had served as the "mother" (why is there never a father in these things?) club for Charlotte. The late Charles Stone, long an honored member, completed his history of the first 40



GLENN E. PARK  
*President*  
1956 - 1957

## THE FIFTH DECADE

years and presented it to the Club. Some noted at the time that 40 years was the same length of time the Children of Israel wandered in the wilderness. Early in the winter the Charlotte Club had the honor of nominating "Buzz" Tennent of the Asheville Club for President of Rotary International, and he was elected the following year at Lucerne, Switzerland.

In his own comments regarding his year, Glenn notes that the Club reached 200 per cent participation in the Rotary Foundation. He also seemed to take particular pride in the new members inducted into the Club, especially in the fact that five had been initiated in a single day. Since Manuel Rogers, Bill Morrison and Lenoir Keesler were among those who came in in 1956, some of the membership viewed this with a slightly lesser degree of enthusiasm.

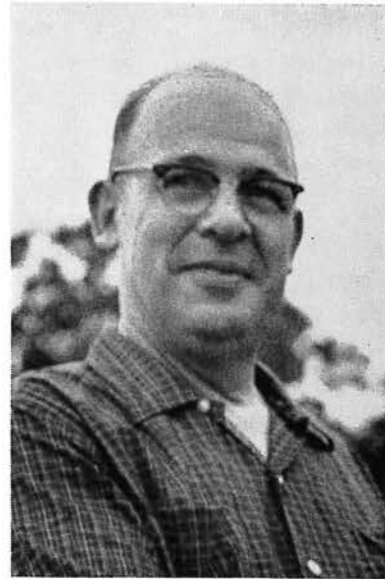
However, while "Buzz" Tennent was sweeping unopposed to the Presidency of RI, the late Marshall Lake, President of the Charlotte Club for 1957-58, was in Lucerne chaperoning Edgar Terrell, Secretary-Treasurer. Marshall came back with a great store of information concerning the principles, precepts, and ideals of Rotary. Edgar came back with 427 color slides of snow on the tops of the Alps.

Also worthy of some note is the fact that during the year Charlotte's own Rotary District changed its numerical designation from 280 to 767. Some said this was an attempt to disclaim the actions of some district members who represented their Clubs at the Lucerne meeting. This could not be verified.

Incidentally, during the year representatives from nearly all the Clubs in North Carolina turned out at Raleigh to honor the new International President, with a delegation of twelve going from Charlotte.

During the middle of the year several events of international significance occurred. Dr. Pedro E. Zuleta and eleven students from the University of Chile, Santiago, Chile, were entertained in the homes of Charlotte Rotarians as a part of the effort to bring about better international relations. During the same year, Malcolm Williamson, Jr., son of our good member and former District Governor, went abroad on a Rotary Fellowship.

Charlie Hunter headed the Boy Scout Circus that year and reported that 25,000, including the Scouts, participated. The Club sent two high school science instructors and ten high school juniors to the Research Triangle at Raleigh for a "Junior Science Symposium," which from this distance in time sounds like an exceptionally good project. Mrs. Minda Rothrock, who had long served as the efficient and genial Clerical Secretary for the Club, found it necessary to discontinue this activity, and Mrs. Betty Knowlton began work as her successor in May 1958. Ladies Night was held at Kuester's (anybody remember Kuester's?) and after dinner moved on to the Little Theater for a private production of "The Reluctant Debutante," which was marked in the main by a stellar performance from Kitty Beatty, who just by chance happened to be the daughter of the new President.



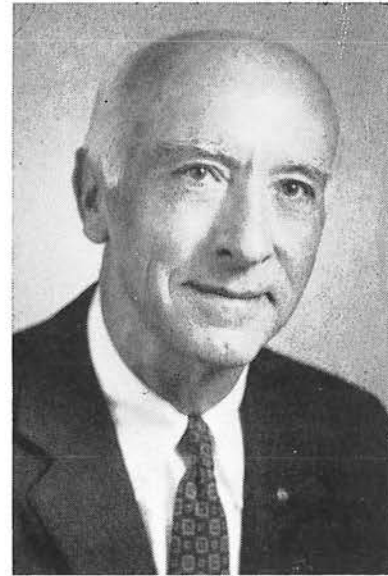
MARSHALL E. LAKE  
*President*  
1957 - 1958

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The management of the Club announced as the year moved to a close that the size of the group was beginning to tax the dining facilities of the Elk's Club (some felt this would not require much taxing), and it had been decided that in the future we would be more selective in choosing new members. The rank and file of the Club found this new policy difficult to understand, since the following year Charlie Wright and Bill Pinson were initiated.

Despite these handicaps, however, Francis Beatty, assisted by Secretary-Treasurer Jim Allison, took the helm on July 1, 1958, for a year which was to be marked by courtesy, gentility, and an address by Harry Golden. Almost before the gavel had begun to cool, Francis participated in the dedication of a new administration building at Camp Oaks, a camp for Negro Boy Scouts, with much of the money involved coming from the Rotary promotion of the Merit Badge Show and the Boy Scout Circus.

When the year was only about three months old, some 40 members of the Charlotte Rotary Club journeyed to Greenville, S. C., to extend greetings to the Greenville Rotary Club. They were also returning the courtesy extended when several years before Greenville aided in the celebration of our 40th anniversary. Also during the year the three Rotary Clubs in Charlotte (at that time Charlotte, Dilworth and North Charlotte) joined in a unique meeting to honor the retirement of Fred Vantrease as the Executive Officer of the Mecklenburg County Council of the Boy Scouts.



FRANCIS J. BEATTY  
*President*  
1958 - 1959

The archives also yield the fact that during the year "Turk" Terrell and the late Charles Stone apparently collaborated in some sort of new venture involving the manufacture of gavels. The record shows that a number of years before, Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary, planted a tree on the grounds of the Mint Museum in Charlotte, and during the year of Francis Beatty's presidency "Turk" and Charles Stone made, or had made, from the tree gavels which were presented to the Charlotte Club, to the President of Rotary International, and to the Chicago Rotary Club. There was a question in the minds of some members as to how long the tree would last if this practice continued.

"Pat" Gilchrist, who for some reason is referred to by Francis as "our own," was unanimously elected Governor of District 767 to become the seventh member of the Club to serve in this capacity. "Our own Pat" was destined to go on to higher things, but more about this later.

During the year the Charlotte Club joined with Dilworth, North Charlotte and the Altrusa Club to sponsor the first Career-O-Rama. This was held at the Charlotte Public Library, and hundreds of high school students were exposed to some 60 vocational areas. It was said by some that Charlie Hunter milked a cow in Booth No. 9, but this could not be confirmed.



## THE FIFTH DECADE

Surviving this accusation, however, as well as the Ladies Night address of Harry Golden, Charlie assumed some measure of control over the Club when he became President, July 1, 1959. He got off to a running start at the RI Convention in New York City, to which locale he was accompanied by the new Secretary-Treasurer, Tebee Hawkins. The experience of these two lads in New York set a record as yet unsurpassed, proving that two hayseed country boys can ride the New York subway at the rush hour.

Back home with sunburned tonsils, these two threw themselves into the task of operating the weekly meeting while keeping the numerous activities alive and progressing. They began with the Club Assembly at Island Point. "Our own Pat" participated in the Assembly and, as Charlie says, "gave the charge." Those present agreed that the Club had not gotten a charge like this since "Cunny" Cunningham opened the last keg of free beer. During the year the President of Rotary International, Harold T. Thomas, of Auckland, New Zealand, visited us, and nearly 700 Rotarians and their wives turned out to honor him.



CHARLES A. HUNTER  
*President*  
1959 - 1960

Charlie diligently pursued the existing activities of the Club such as the highly successful Boys' Choir, the Speaker's Bureau, the Scout Circus, Rural Urban Day, the Student Loan Fund, etc., and, also, supervised the inauguration of two new activities. One of these was the "Glad to be Alive Club." Through the devious devices of this new organization, members lucky enough to have a birthday were induced and seduced into making a financial contribution to the Rotary Foundation. Those who were trying to forget their birthdays found no respite. Also begun during the year was a "25'ers Club" which honored those who had been members of the Charlotte Rotary Club for 25 years or longer. This, together with the "Flutter Club," now made so many "clubs" within the Club that a special committee was designated to study the situation.

Meanwhile, back in the national picture, Fidel Castro was rising to power in Cuba, and the United States broke off diplomatic relations with that country. The Soviets launched Lunik I, which went into orbit around the sun and became the first man-made planet. A few months later Lunik II hit the moon, a month later Lunik III circled the moon and sent back photographs, and in the United States, seemingly as far from the moon as ever, the nationwide steel strike came to an end after a record 116 days.

None of this, however, had much to do with the fact that on July 1, 1960, Edgar Terrell became President of the Charlotte Rotary Club, flanked by an able team with Murray Davidson as Secretary-Treasurer and Tom Belk as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

During the year the student guest program was reorganized so as to rotate high school students among the various Rotary Clubs in town, thus providing a stream of communications between Rotary and the schools. Of particular significance is the fact that during this Rotary year the "Trees for Charlotte" program was begun under the leadership of Glenn (The Friend of the Dog) Park. During this year 400 white dogwoods and sugar maples were bought by the Charlotte Club and donated to the City. Not since Joyce Kilmer had a man won such lasting fame through trees.

Also during the year a Separate Projects Fund was established with funds resulting from an increase in dues. The management of the Club announced that operating costs had risen to such an extent that the Club was faced with the danger of seeing its altruism sadly diluted because of lack of funds. In Edgar's year, the Club sponsored its first American Field Service Student, a young man from Italy who stayed in Don Hamilton's home.

During the year, an "Operation Improvement" program was carried out whereby the Presidents of the Charlotte Club and the Wilmington Club changed places, each presiding over the meeting of the other Club. This was quite an improvement for Charlotte, and it was said that this project was dreamed up among the "Palace Guard" of the Charlotte Club, who hoped that it might grow into something permanent. These hopes were spiked (which would have been a good idea for Ladies Night) when the Wilmington Club sent our man back to us.

The Scout Merit Badge Show, the Career-O-Rama, and other activities were continued during the year, and also during the year the meeting place was moved from the Elk's Club to the Anchor Inn, because the former announced its discontinuance of the service of food. There were also some irreverent comments on this, but when Edgar announced that the food would definitely be better at the new establishment, his announcement was met with wild acclaim. This was the same sort of reaction Roosevelt got when he announced he was going to provide more free federal services and lower taxes. Both statements turned out about the same way.

The quality of the food was forgotten, however, as the members faced a new problem and a new administration. Just as December 7, 1941, was known as a "day of infamy" so, also, was the group later to view July 1, 1961. What was later described by some as "the year of the locust" got off to a bad start when Frank Farmer, Secretary-Treasurer, negotiated a transfer from Western Union so that he could escape service. An unsuspecting Charlie Briley replaced him, and Tom Payne was "planted" in the group as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer to see whether or not he might be able to find some grounds for impeachment.



EDGAR A. TERRELL, JR.  
*President*  
1960 - 1961



F. SADLER LOVE  
President  
1961 - 1962

Sadler Love, the new President, who had spent the best years of his life in a courageous effort to stem Japanese textile imports, went to Tokyo to attend the International Convention. While there, and in a manner as yet undetermined (some said that saki played a major role), he became embroiled with a young Japanese student, Yasuo Fukai, the son of the President of a Japanese textile mill, who was coming to Davidson College to study. This resulted in twelve months of solid confusion in the Love household, culminating when it was found that Yasuo had a trunk-load of Japanese books on the subject of how to sell the American market.

Those who had felt that Briley and Payne might exercise a sobering (sic) influence were quickly disillusioned. Bringing the District Governor back to Charlotte from the Club Assembly during the course of a torrential downpour, Messrs. Briley and Payne distinguished themselves by driving him into a metered parking lot, only to find that the exit gate was defective and they were locked in the lot. There were those who said that

the year would have gone better had a policeman not released them.

In spite of a lack of leadership, the routine activities of the Club apparently went forward, giving living testimony to the fact that Rotary is bigger than any three individuals. In a sense, the year was marked by recognition—recognition by name for those individuals who habitually arrived late and for those who habitually left early. This completely broke up the “Flutter Club,” but made it impossible for the President to go out of the building without a bodyguard. Particular attention, but in a different way, was paid to those members who, because of illness, had been unable to attend meetings for an extended period of time. Items concerning these members were carried in “The Rotary Reporter,” and they were remembered with letters and personal visits. Through the courtesy of Louis Ratcliffe, flowers were sent each of these members twice during the year. Also during the year, arrangements were made and carried out to provide a considerable amount of material assistance to a club member during the final months of a long, terminal illness.

It is also worthy of note that during this year the Charlotte Club sponsored “Pat” Gilchrist for Director of Rotary International, and organized a campaign to secure support from several hundred other Clubs. “Pat” was elected at the next convention of Rotary International, thus becoming the second RI Director from Charlotte.

The worst one-day break in New York stock exchange prices since 1929 occurred in May 1962, and the Rotary year came to an end the following month. There was a sigh of relief. “The year of the locust” had passed.

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The strength and virility of the Charlotte Rotary Club was demonstrated as it bounced back under the leadership of "Red" Whisnant, with Tom Payne as Secretary-Treasurer and Tom Barnhardt as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. "Red" and Tom Payne went to the Los Angeles Convention, and apparently they spent more time in Hollywood and Disneyland than they did at the meetings, because we seemed to hear more about these few activities than anything else. It was at this meeting, however, that "Pat" Gilchrist was elected a Director of Rotary International, and this event thus retrieved some measure of dignity for the Club. "Red" presented "Pat" to the voting delegates, a fact which both have since been trying to forget.

During "Red's" year (1962-1963) the President of Rotary International, Nitish C. Laharry, visited Winston-Salem, and four Districts joined together to turn out what was said to have been the largest crowd in North Carolina Rotary history. Some 1400 people turned out to honor the new President. Two chartered buses carried 92 Charlotte members and their wives to this conclave.

Another distinct international flavor was added to the year by the visit to our Club of the Italian Ambassador to the United States, his Excellency, Sergio Fenoaltea.

It is also significant to note that in February 1963, with the help of our Club and under the stimulus of "Pat" Gilchrist, Charlotte's fourth Rotary Club—West Charlotte—was born.

One of "Red's" most vigorous efforts of the year, said to be much like that of the wounded bull moose, came when he scheduled Ladies Night in the middle of the worst snow and ice storm seen since the blizzard of '93. This met with varying reactions among the nine members of the Club who were able to attend. Some said he was trying to "snow" the group. Others said he was trying to throw discredit on either his predecessor or his successor. We must leave it to history to unravel his true motives, but it is a matter of record that the President-elect, Haynes Baird, was not even man enough to show himself at his own Ladies Night.



M. D. WHISNANT  
*President*  
1962 - 1963



CHARLOTTE ROTARIANS ACTIVE IN BEHALF OF BOY SCOUTS  
Left to right: Charlie Hunter, Fred Vantrease, Marshall Lake and Francis Beatty.

## THE FIFTH DECADE

While his absence met with the popular approval, nay, the wildest enthusiasm, of those present, it did bode ill for the 1963-64 year. Lenoir Keesler, Secretary-Treasurer, and Mark Johnson, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, could do little to save the year.

The honest and diligent historian can find little of substance to bolster the chronicle of events for Baird's year. Those who thought they had seen locusts realized that they had not seen anything up to that point. Both the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary refused to go with him to the International meeting in Saint Louis. Instead, he was accompanied by his wife and daughter, both of whom said they would do anything to get away from home.

There was, of course, a certain measure of publicity for the Club during the year. The Glenn Park "Trees Program" had prospered and progressed during the several years of its existence, and the 1963-64 gift to the city was marked by a photograph in the local paper. This showed Haynes with a sort of silly grin on his face, looking up into the limbs of an unplanted maple. This naturally gave rise to a number of ill-considered and flippant comments concerning such things as the Scopes Trial, canines, the urological profession, and the future of Rotary in general.

During the year Carl Miller, President of Rotary International, visited Charlotte, and at an affair at Park Center spoke to 1400 people. This assemblage apparently rivaled the one of the preceding year which was heralded as the largest in North Carolina Rotary history. While in Charlotte, President Miller planted a tree at the Mint Museum, apparently trying to keep ahead of "Turk" Terrell, who had been rapidly carving up the other one to make gavels.

Also during the year, the first Rotary student club was started in Charlotte. This was the Interact Club at Myers Park High, which got off to a fine running start as a part of a new international project organized by Rotary International. At one of the regular meetings toward the end of the year, Governor Terry Sanford addressed an overflow audience of the Club.

The number of members leaving by resignation was unusually long, but as May gave way to June, hearts became lighter and frowns gave way to smiles. At long last, members of the Club knew what Moses meant (or was it Moses?) when he said, "How long, oh, how long!"

Nevertheless, when the waters of the Red Sea rolled back, they revealed a devastated Club. A few new members had come in blindly from other Clubs, but many more members had resigned, unable to stand the tyranny any longer. It was obvious that a rebuilding job was necessary, and an alert and intelligent membership and Board of Directors turned to an architect, Tebee Hawkins, to tackle the job.



H. HAYNES BAIRD  
President  
1963 - 1964

Tebee immediately showed his intelligence. While at the Rotary International meeting in Toronto, Canada, he palmed off his teenage son on a District Governor from the Sao Paulo, Brazil, area, this being the "matched district" for the Charlotte Club. That solved the problem of what to do with teenagers in the summer.

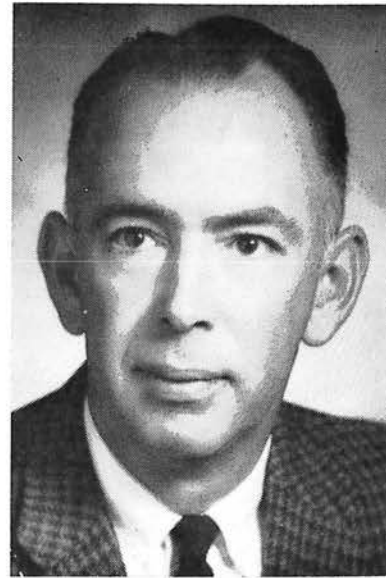
The rebuilding process, however, was even more difficult than it had appeared to be. Tebee was said to have informed the Board of Directors that he "had not seen such devastation since Sherman went through." It was unclear as to whether he had himself witnessed Sherman's march, or whether he was operating on hearsay. Tebee brought a good team to help him, however, with Bill Pinson as Secretary-Treasurer and "Mac" Jackson as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. Ted Kirby of the North Charlotte Rotary Club was District Governor that year, and he, too, occasionally came up with projects and suggestions to stimulate the new President.

Ted divided the District into six groups of clubs, with Charlie Hunter in charge of the group which included Charlotte. The District Conference was a project of the four Charlotte Clubs jointly, and Richard Evans, President-elect of Rotary International, spoke. This was the largest District Conference ever held in our District, with all 42 Clubs represented by 1100 registered individuals.

This was the first full year of the Interact Club at Myers Park. Under the careful guidance of the Charlotte Rotary Club, the baby was reported as doing well and growing lustier every day. Henry Swanzey also added a certain degree of lustiness when he brought in live models (girls, that it) to lead the Club in singing "Hello, Dolly." This met with popular approval, although some said that they would rather have had the girls without the music.

Continuing the international flavor of Rotary, "Pat" Gilchrist served as the RI President's personal representative to the British Isles in September and October, but returned in time to join with Ted Kirby in keeping President Hawkins on the job.

Rebuilding or no rebuilding, when the year came to an end all were agreed that it had been a difficult one. U. S. weather reports, for example, indicate that "Nature assailed the U. S. in 1965 . . . inflicting widespread suffering and destruction . . ." Hurricane Betsy, which did more damage in the United States than any other in history, in September swept up from the Bahamas with winds up to 150 miles per hour. There was also a good bit of hot air, both in the Rotary Club and in the nation at large.



TEBEE B. HAWKINS  
*President*  
1964 - 1965

## THE SIXTH DECADE

But the year did finally come to a close, and the Directors, looking back over the preceding nine Presidents of the fifth decade of the first half-century, realized that the end was near. As was natural at a time like this, they turned to an individual of ability and dignity. Bob Bryant, a man with many years of experience in covering up the mistakes of others, bowed his head humbly as the mantle of leadership fell across his shoulders. He knew why he had been chosen, and he set about the task with quiet patience.

First, he selected "Hank" Wilmer as Secretary-Treasurer, and then he chose Roddey Dowd as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

This in itself was almost enough to complete the interment, but to finish off the situation, through some error, *two* speakers turned up for the first program of the new 1965-66 Rotary year!

Nevertheless, and despite all predictions to the contrary, it turned out to be a pretty good year. Projects which we have come to consider as "routine," but which mean so much to the community, were continued with renewed vigor. The relatively young Interact Club at Myers Park High was chosen this year as the outstanding student club at the school. Our Club cooperated with the city of Charlotte in making available to Ariquipa, Peru, several hundred school desks for use by the schools of their city. Ariquipa is the "sister club" designated for Charlotte by Rotary International.

As an additional effort to bring about improved international relations and friendships, the Board of Directors of our Club decided this year to participate over a three-year period in helping to found a YMCA in Ariquipa.

The YMCA project was designated as a part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Charlotte Club, planning for which was well underway by the end of the Rotary year. One facet of the activities is the production of a film which will use the Charlotte Rotary Club to show the impact of a civic club upon a community. This film is being made by WSOC-TV and will be used locally on television. A print will also be presented to Rotary International. Additionally, it was announced that Luther Hodges, President-elect of Rotary International, will be the speaker at a dinner to celebrate the anniversary.

As a fitting climax to the year, Bob Bryant reported that the Club had become a 500 per cent member of the Rotary Foundation. He appointed committee members to plan our 50th anniversary observance. At June 30, 1966, the finances were in good shape, and the membership stood at 271. Unfortunately, in June, Mrs. Betty Knowlton, who had served exceptionally well as Clerical Secretary since May 1958, moved her residence to Florida. She was succeeded by Mrs. Robert Glasgow. Especially unfortunate was the loss by death of the last charter member of the Club, Ralston Pound, Sr.



JAMES R. BRYANT, JR.  
*President*  
1965 - 1966

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

And so at long last the decade had come to an end. It was time to hang the confetti and light the candles on the birthday cake. It was also a time to remember the 112 Rotarians who, since 1916, had died while members of the Charlotte Rotary Club. It was a time to remember that what is past is prologue, a time to be proud of the past, a time to look to the future.

"The moving finger writes; and having writ,  
Moves on: nor all your Piety nor Wit  
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,  
Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it."



**PRESENTATION OF NORTH CHARLOTTE ROTARY CLUB CHARTER**  
Art Thompson, First President of the North Charlotte Rotary Club, accepts from Governor John Paul Lucas the Charter for his new club. Dave Clark, who helped organize the club, looks on.



# Sixth Decade, 1966-1976

By ROBIN A. SMITH

As the sixth decade for The Rotary Club of Charlotte dawned, the nation was in turmoil. These were the Vietnam years, a time of upheaval throughout the country. Sons of members were off fighting on foreign soil. Those were not the "good old days," but The Charlotte Rotary Club stood firm and solid throughout.

1966 - 1967

President Charles Briley launched the Club into its second half century of service. The Golden Anniversary year of the Club was still being celebrated, and Club members gathered for a group photograph. The group gathered on the street outside Honey's Restaurant at the corner of Tryon and Morehead streets. All were dressed in their finest. Some were even in parade dress with guns, knives and a 50-year-old camera.

The photographer on hand was obviously optimistic. He took only one shot of the group. Prints were sold at the next meeting . . . no doubt, to prevent public distribution.

Meal costs were increased to \$1.75. One of the speakers that year noted that our biggest world threat is the conflict between communism and capitalism. Another speaker pointed out that the major issue for North Carolinians is to deal with its traffic accident deaths. The introduction of seat belts would help the situation.

As of 1966, Charlotte had only four Rotary clubs – North, West, Dilworth and Downtown. That year, members brought home-grown vegetables to complement the luncheon meals.

A new Club format took hold that year, beginning with the introduction of guests, the introduction of the head table, Health and Happiness, Song, Invocation and, last, the Speaker. Song leaders from 1966 on amazed the group that they could consistently find a note of the scale so different from what everyone else was singing.

The Club's ongoing vision for Interact became a reality as Norway established its own Interact Club, based on the model provided here in Charlotte. The Norwegian Club was started by a local Exchange Student studying in Norway in October.



CHARLES BRILEY  
*President*  
1966 - 1967

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

1967 - 1968

The July 4th fireworks display heralded not only the traditional celebration of America's independence, but signaled another great meaning to Rotarians — a date which marked the 100 year Centennial Anniversary of the birth of Paul P. Harris, Founder and President Emeritus of Rotary International on February 23, 1905 in Chicago, IL.

We said goodbye to a beloved friend and founding member of our Club, Dr. "Ham" McKay and to other revered ones like Cecil Brodt, Walter Pratt, Frank Kimbrell, Gordon Christian, Jim Parham and Past District Governor George Ivey, Sr.

We boosted our community tree planting to 2,758 healthy and beautiful leafy arbors which someday will make a valuable contribution to our city. Lawrence Bowles, the Club's Rotary Foundation student, studied at the University of Calcutta in India.

We continued to wonder how Henry Swanzey, our song leader, could so consistently find a note of the scale so different from the one everybody else was singing.

Arequipa, Peru was hailed as our Sister City Rotary Club whose visitors to our Charlotte Club on October 19, 1967 were the appreciative recipients of our pledge to them of \$5,000 as the first of annual contributions to assist them with their project of developing a YMCA in Arequipa.

We sang a Happy Birthday to Jim Parham on his 87th birthday. We strutted with pride to learn that our Club had exceeded the 100 percent budgeted contribution of per capita giving by a factor of six to become a "600 percent" Club, to the Rotary Foundation.

Rotarians Tom Belk, George Ivey and Zook Crosland (of Belk's, Ivey's and Sears) jointly announced the development of a Super Regional Shopping Center to be located in the Southeast sector outer fringe of the community.

We joined the applause to learn of the recognition given to Barry Miller by both the City Council and the County Commission by appointing him to the chair of the Youth Council and to the Mayor's Youth Opportunity Council. Charles Hunter, a Club member, was nominated and duly elected District Governor. In addition, daughters of members who were attending Queens College were hosted at one of the Club's meetings.

At his birthday, age 82, a well deserved round of applause greeted the ears of J. Norman Pease for his unselfish and enduring contributions which he had made to the community.

On April 26, 1968 there were 13,204 clubs and an estimated 631,000 members in 142 countries and geographical regions. During the past year 311 clubs have been formed.



R. ZACH THOMAS, JR.  
*President*  
1967 - 1968

## THE SIXTH DECADE

1968 - 1969

George Henderson, President, and Robert Glasgow, Secretary, started the 52nd year of the Club with a report on the Rotary International Convention held in Mexico City.

Henry Harkey, a representative of District 767, made a presentation to Rotarians in Sydney, Australia, selling them on the idea and the merits of Interact.

Rotarians, with the assistance of Dean Colvard, Chancellor of UNC Charlotte, helped establish the Urban Affairs Institute.

Frank Timberlake was serving as Vice President and President-elect. Dave McConnell was appointed an ambassador to the meeting of the United Nations' Economic and Social Council in Geneva, Switzerland.

Pat Gilchrist, "Mr. Rotary," was appointed Chairman of Rotary International's Convention to be held in Honolulu, Hawaii on May 25-29, 1969.

The third check of \$1,000 was sent to our Sister City of Arequipa, Peru to help build a Y.M.C.A. A total of \$5,000 was originally pledged to erecting the Y.M.C.A. Rotary clubs of Arequipa and Peru are helping with financing of equipment. A room in the new Y.M.C.A. will be known as "The Charlotte Room."

"Rotary Trees for Charlotte Committee," Glenn Park, Chairman, (AKA "Dog's Best Friend") presented 275 trees to the Charlotte Park and Recreation Commission. This committee, since 1956, has donated 3,133 trees; 1,073 sugar maples and 2,060 dogwoods.

The Directors for the year were: Charles Ibach, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer; Zach Thomas, Immediate Past President and Don Davidson, Jeff Dishongh, Frank Farmer, Harold Green, Harry Weatherly, Jim Barnhardt, Bert Finch, Sadler Love, Powell Majors, Bill Parker and Martin Waters.

The year came to an end with Henry McKenna announcing the formation of the East Charlotte Rotary Club, sponsored by our Club, with Charlie Hunter as the originator of the movement.

Charlotte now has five clubs with meetings Monday through Friday.

1969 - 1970

We began our Rotary year with 277 members and ended it with 272. New members that joined the Club were Terry Osborne, Jim Butterworth, Elliott Taylor, Eric Ritzen, F. Funnells, Dave Pickard, Lonnie Newsom, Bill Lester, Charles Cowsert, Richard Charles Dunn, Emerson Johnson, Robert Henry Swanzey, Charles Trexler and Rex Welton. One new member, Lonnie Newsom, President of Johnson C. Smith University, was the first black member in our Club or any Rotary Club in the Charlotte area. Lonnie's membership made a total of five heads of area colleges, who were members of our Club. Three members, Don Hamilton, Jim McMillan and Frank Shannonhouse, died during this year.



C. GEORGE HENDERSON  
President  
1968 - 1969

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Our projects for the year included the final payment of \$1,000 to the Arequipa project. Our Club sponsored a foreign exchange student from Chile this year as well. We again spent \$524 toward the Chan Gordon Scholarship. The Club also instigated a project of recognizing the Charlotte Police Department and two outstanding policemen each Tuesday.

Our Club served as a sponsor for the Eagle Scout Banquet, which was very successful. We approved a project for Explorer Scout Career Counseling. The project committee and board approved the Ben Hood Landscaping Project for UNC Charlotte. The Club had already donated \$500 towards this project. The tree project continued to be well received by the City of Charlotte throughout the year.

The student loan fund, under the direction of Lenoir Keesler and Hugh Cathey, continued to be a wonderful project. Our Club made loans for the education of several students.

The Interact Club of Myers Park High School proved to be a very successful project. One of the major accomplishments of this Interact Club was participation in the Aquarian Youth-in. The Interact Club also participated in the Festival in the Park. Its members wrote 150 Christmas letters to soldiers in Vietnam. In addition, the Myers Park High School Interact Club also participated in various other projects, ranging from tutoring at the Bethlehem Center to holding their annual foreign exchange student banquet.

The Boy Scout Circus continued to be one of The Charlotte Rotary Club's main projects. This circus produced good revenue for Scout work in Charlotte. Zeb Watkins was Chairman this year.

Charlotte Rotary Club helped to organize the East Charlotte Rotary Club. Members of this committee, headed by Harry McKenna, included Milo Kirkpatrick, Powell Majors, Al Bechtold, Francis Beatty, Bob Bryant and Bert Finch.

During that year, Charlotte Rotary Club reached the 1,100 percent bracket on the Rotary Foundation. The 1969-1970 Rotary Club had two Paul Harris Fellows, Luther Hodges, Jr. and Pat Gilchrist.

1970 - 1971

The gavel was transferred from Frank Timberlake's capable hands to begin the new decade for Charlotte Rotary. Recession talk abounded. When it will begin and when it will end were discussions taking place simultaneously.

Charlotte planned for City/County Consolidation during the year. A thunderstorm accented the Club Assembly meeting.

Notable events of the year included the Club welcoming home sons of members who were returning from Vietnam. The Club also began and continued a tradition of inviting policemen to our luncheon programs in support of the community's stand on crime prevention and law and order.



J. FRANK TIMBERLAKE, JR.  
*President*  
1969 - 1970

## THE SIXTH DECADE

Club member Bill Poe was named Charlotte's Man of the Year by *The Charlotte News*. Lonnie Newsom of Johnson C. Smith University and a member of the Club received assistance from fellow members during that University's \$1.5 million campaign. Charles Hunter and Pat Gilchrist gave leadership to spearhead the sponsoring of a Rotary International Institute for Zone Four, under which the Club fell.

The anthem "America" was sung 27 times that year at Club meetings.

1971 - 1972

Following my Family, my God and my Country was the year as president of the Rotary Club of Charlotte — unequaled in any other civic and/or professional endeavor.

Rotary International met in Sydney, Australia. Our own Rotary International Director, Pat Gilchrist, made this event a royal experience for Lois, our children and myself. In Director Pat's presence, we met international



BARRY G. MILLER  
*President*  
1971 - 1972

leaders that would never have been in our contact other than through the grace of Pat and Katie Gilchrist.

beautiful painting presented to our family with a plaque reminding us that '71-'72 was a very special year for the Millers.

Our children shared with us the trip to Australia. The highlight of our return was that our sons brought back two backpacks of rocks and meteorite crater debris weighing more than all of our luggage. This rock collection is now a part of the Boy Scout Council exhibition.

1972 - 1973

Our membership grew from 252 to 260 members this year with 22 new members having been taken in. The 51 members who served as officers, directors or committee chairmen are proof that this is a working club, otherwise it would not have been possible to have won the Pat Gilchrist trophy for the outstanding club in our District.



BERTRAM C. FINCH  
*President*  
1970 - 1971

The most outstanding memory we have of this year was the operation of the "Auto-Pilot." From the weekly management of the Head Table, Ladies Night, Club Assembly and Weekly Programs, all avenues of service were managed by dedicated Rotarians with an attitude that our year was to be one of pure pleasure, which it was — totally "auto."

Ladies Night, always a gala event, was made possible by the Lucases of Charlotte North Rotary. They provided us with vintage American theater and costume. The City Club provided a beautiful environment for the evening.

We are daily reminded of the year '71-'72. As we walk in the back door of our home, there grows a lovely dogwood planted by Beau Whitton the month I became president of Charlotte Rotary. In our living room, to remind us daily of this wonderful year in our life, is a

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The Club remained in sound financial condition. Approximately \$8,000 was expended this year on projects such as international student exchange, trees for Charlotte, the Rotary Foundation, Interact, boys work and the Human Relations Award.

New activities initiated this year include the Public Service Recognition Committee, Rotarians at Work Committee and the Youth Vocation Project.

The Tree Committee had planted 4,440 trees in Charlotte parks and playgrounds since it was started. Jake Golden of the Health and Happiness Committee revived what was known as the "Methodist Hour," so named when Dick Owenby reported to the Club in the 40s.

Lunches increased in price to \$2.50 a week. Dr. Rolland Jones, Superintendent of Schools, began a fascinating series on the education system.

1973 - 1974

Outstanding work was once again rendered by the many sub-committees and individuals who make up our Rotary Club. The hard work and service which is carried out behind the scenes does much to make our Club an important part of not only our lives but those of fellow community citizens.



WARNER L. HALL  
President  
1973 - 1974

Finances were in good order. Membership is up now to 268, up from 260. We had three members become Paul Harris Fellows during the year, two posthumously. Our donation to the Rotary Foundation made us a 1,900 percent club.

The student loan program for deserving students now has outstanding 32 loans for a total amount of \$19,125. We still provide a large number of dogwood and maple trees to the Park and Recreation Department for the beautification of the city.

A handbook for guidance counseling by volunteers from our membership was prepared and given to all of the high schools. Members of the Speakers Bureau made over 60 talks to other clubs.

Glenn Park attained 29 years of perfect attendance, and a Rotary Music Camp was sponsored by the Club and conducted at Wildacres.

1974 - 1975

The one accomplishment to be claimed from the 1973-74 Rotary year is the goal of being the Friendliest Rotary Club in Charlotte.



G. DON DAVIDSON  
President  
1972 - 1973

## THE SIXTH DECADE

Highlights of the year include the cost of meals rose again . . . to \$3.25. One speaker from IBM informed the group that the use of computers will become as commonplace as automobiles.

Charlotte welcomed the much heralded computerized traffic signal system to solve our traffic problems. It was cause for celebration when a president correctly introduced the Head Table.

Honey's restaurant changed its name to Izzie Pittles. The second Interact Club was organized at Charlotte Latin School, and the Club planted its 5,000th tree and committed to purchasing playground equipment for Dalton Village.

1975 - 1976

This was the year of the Great Exodus. We were meeting at Honey's Restaurant on the corner of Tryon and Morehead. The food, always mediocre, was beginning to get worse and worse, and the members grumbled more and more.

Then Honey sold the restaurant to Izzie Pittle. Hope sprang that things might get better. But no, if possible, they got worse. The members were after my hide to do something. The day Izzie served us two hot dogs with pork and beans on a paper plate did it.

We moved to the 30th floor of the First Union Bank where Slug Claiborne served us from his restaurant on the floor below. The Club attained 2,000 percent for the Rotary Foundation.

In February 1976, I had a heart attack and stayed out a couple of months, making Marvin Lymberis serve a record long term in office.



MARVIN N. LYMBERIS  
*President*  
1974 - 1975



THOMAS J. GARRETT, JR.  
*President*  
1975 - 1976

## **Seventh Decade, 1976-1986**

By ROBIN A. SMITH

The second half of the decade of the seventies launched the Club into its seventh decade of service. It was to be an era of enormous change, socially and economically. The nation would celebrate its Bicentennial, recession would end and the Equal Rights Amendment would result in a female Prime Minister in Great Britain and a U.S. Supreme Court Justice. Space travel, too, would become commonplace. The Club would change with the times but keep its honored tradition of fellowship and service.

1976 - 1977

This was the year of Tom Warren and the dancing girl – independently! More on that later –

Tom Garrett, our retiring president, was a tough act to follow. Helping me to try to “fill the bill” was Maloy Rash, Secretary. Robert A. Manchester, II served as President of Rotary International. Con Bost was our District Governor. District 767 contained 46 Rotary Clubs with 2,855 members. Charlotte Rotary Clubs included our own, Charlotte North, West Charlotte, Charlotte East and Dilworth.

Under Tom Warren, as Camp Development Director, the new Mecklenburg Scout Reservation was completed. Our Club participated in its dedication as well as the Rotary-Scout Exposition.

On October 31, 1976, Beth Small, our office secretary for many years, retired. Rotarian Tom Warren accepted the position of Club Executive Secretary and has done an outstanding job from “day one.”

On December 1, 1976, our Club celebrated its 60th birthday. We were the 256th Club to be founded. J. Norman Pease, our President in 1922–23, was among the many notables at our party (meeting) on November 30, 1976.

Two hundred dogwood and maple trees were given to the Park and Recreation Commission. This brought the total to over 5,000 trees planted in 17 years.

Our Club Assembly was held at the Red Fez Club on June 14, 1977. Good food, excellent fellowship, great fun!



STUART R. "PETE" DEWITT  
President  
1976 - 1977



## THE SEVENTH DECADE

A study exchange group came to District 767, including Charlotte, from India. To date, this program had involved 4,195 men from more than 50 countries.

Father John Bradley of Belmont Abbey College spoke on democracy and the free enterprise system. Outstanding! A musical program featured Sadler Hayes of New York City, a relative of many of our Barnhardts. Most enjoyable! An update on the Charlotte school system was presented by our Rotarian Bill Poe who had served for 10 years as the Chairman of the Charlotte Board of Education. Bravo! A number of programs were offered by ministers of various faiths – I could see no improvement in the “character/s” of our Club. W. S. “Bill” Lee talked about energy. A lot of fireworks since then.

Rotarian Dr. Dave Welton, Chairman of the NC delegation to the American Medical Association, spoke to the Club on some of the concerns of the medical profession. Very informative. Dr. Frontis Johnston of Davidson College described the “Scotch Irish” settlers of Mecklenburg County. What a speaker – fantastic! Admiral Jeremiah A. Denton, U.S.N., talked of his experience in Vietnam as a flyer and prisoner. A standing ovation.

At the last program of the year, we were in “high cotton” for two reasons. First, Georgia Hayes, the 1967 Maid of Cotton, was our speaker. Secondly, I had announced to the membership at each meeting that we must “move along” to save time for the dancing girls at the end of the meeting. But alas, full meetings and no dancing girls. But, lo and behold, at this last meeting of the year came lovely Valerie Bost, a student at Grose School of Dancing, who performed for us. This was my farewell salute to the Club as I passed the gavel to Doug Booth.

1977 - 1978

The year began with a roster of 259 members being distributed with instructions for its use as a coloring book, wallet or coaster.

This busy Rotary year saw many changes in the Club and its city. Eleven trees planted by our Club were re-located to make way for new construction on the UNCC campus. Our meeting place was moved to the Top of the Tower Banquet Hall. The largest luncheon crowd ever showed up to hear our own Ken Harris speak on the challenges facing the city of Charlotte.

Members were requested (for a very short period of time) to RSVP their luncheon reservations. Membership classifications increased to 104. Bill Loftin requested, in calling for new information in the roster, that anyone who had aged since their last picture, should submit a new one. The connection of Ivey's and Belk's through a skyway was announced, and Club member Dean Colvard was selected as Charlotte's Man of the Year by *The Charlotte News*.



DOUGLAS W. BOOTH  
President  
1977 - 1978

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

1978 - 1979

My service as President of The Charlotte Rotary Club came at a crucial time in my career. Serving as president in the last half of 1978 and the first half of 1979 overlapped with the last six months of my tenure as Chancellor of The University of North Carolina at Charlotte and the first six months of my retired status as Chancellor Emeritus.

My serving as Rotary Club President gave me a new sense of appreciation of the high quality of individuals who compose the Rotary membership. As I set about to organize the Club for the new year, I was impressed by the fact that not a single person asked to serve refused to do so. One would have expected that there would be at least some refusals based on perfectly legitimate reasons. Rotarians are great people.

Among the highlights of my Rotary year were the following: On August 21, 1978, we had an all-club dinner meeting at the Sheraton Center with Clem Renouf, President of Rotary International from Australia, as our speaker.

We participated along with past District Governors Charlie Hunter and Paul Lucas in planting a hard sugar maple tree at the Mint Museum. Colonel Francis Beatty recalled having witnessed the planting of another tree in the same area by Paul Harris in 1939.

We were advised that we could no longer meet in the Top of the Tower Banquet Hall in the First Union Building. With Ed Packard as Chairman of the Food Committee, many different options of meeting places were explored. This resulted in the selection of Quality Inn as our new home from May 1, 1979. Many of the members welcomed the free and convenient parking this new setting provided. After a trial run of service on a seated and a cafeteria basis, membership voted in favor of the cafeteria. The only changes that have been made since that time have been the name of the hotel, which, at this writing, is Government House.

Another highlight of my year was the purchase of a new piano and the enthusiastic reception of it by Dave Welton as well as the members.

During my regime, some feelings were expressed that our Club banner was lacking in color and attractiveness when compared with other banners presented to us from various parts of the world. Our genial and imaginative executive secretary, Tom Warren, came up with the version of our Club banner which is still in use. Tom sketched some new ideas among which was a red and blue on white incorporating the "Hornet's Nest" and a scroll depicting the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. The new design, modified slightly, was adopted by the Board, and the initial order for 200 was placed. We are still using the same banner, although Tom says, "At times we exchange it with our English brother Rotarians a bit tongue-in-cheek."

The saddest event of the year for me personally was the death of my good friend and former District Governor Paul Lucas. Paul had sponsored my membership in Rotary soon after my arrival in Charlotte and was in my regular Saturday morning golfing foursome. Former District Governor Charlie Hunter paid a meaningful tribute to Paul Lucas by saying that he "preached a daily sermon with his life and was truly one of God's choicest gentlemen."



DEAN W. COLVARD  
*President*  
1978 - 1979

## THE SEVENTH DECADE

1979 - 1980

We began the year with Representative Jim Martin as our speaker. We celebrated Ben Hood's 100th birthday December 15, 1979. Ben joined Charlotte Rotary in 1925. Humor aside, I had trouble getting Ben to give up the mike so we could get on with the rest of the program.

We celebrated Rotary's 75th Anniversary on February 26 and a retrospective review of 64 years of Charlotte Rotary.

Ladies Night was held in conjunction with other Charlotte Rotary clubs at the Sheraton Center. The Charlotte Symphony performed.

The District 767 Conference was held in Charlotte at the Holiday Inn North under the leadership of District Governor Peter Gerns. The highlight was a speech by Rotary International's President James L. Bomar whose theme was "Let Service Light the Way."

The Annual Club Assembly was held at UNC Charlotte where a landscaping project was given by Charlotte Rotary and dedicated to Rufus Johnston. Glenn Park attained 35 years of perfect attendance. "Red" Whisnant reached 34 years without a miss.

Charlotte Rotary reached the 2,900 percent level in the Rotary Foundation. One humorous incident to remember — after the University of Georgia lost consecutive football games to Wake Forest, Clemson and South Carolina, Bill Pinson, Bill Burton and Hunter Jones conspired to have a dead funeral wreath decorated with the colors of their three schools and emblazoned with a "The Dawgs is Dead" banner. This was presented to me during the meeting.



HOKE S. NASH, JR.  
*President*  
1979 - 1980

1980 - 1981

The International Rotary theme for this year was "Take Time to Serve." One way of bringing this theme into focus was having the Avenue Chairmen appoint the committee members. Normally, the president appoints all committee members, but this method assured that each chairman would contact each one and that person would be aware of a special request to serve.

Rotarian E. H. Little reached the 100 mark. The biggest shocker — the Board adopted the International rule which required 30 percent attendance in your home club every six months.

Twenty-two excellent speakers, members of our Club, formed an outstanding Speakers Bureau. In addition to good programs, the president tried to initiate further interest, some mystery and a little entertainment with some surprise. The idea was to create a relaxed and interesting atmosphere in which to enjoy the fellowship of Rotary. This was done by instigating a countdown of Club dates remaining in the president's Rotary Year.



DAVID A. BURKHALTER  
*President*  
1980 - 1981

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The Ladies Night Committee climaxed the year with a trip to the circus. The committee had one of the cleverest promotions our Club had ever experienced. Some members said the activity was redundant – that the president had conducted a circus all year. Tom Garrett said it best: “Our president, in his job and at Rotary, has never been paid what he’s worth. The minimum wage law prevents that!”

1981 - 1982

Due to my rigorous schedule, the 1981–82 Rotary year was to be known as the year of the Stand-Ins for all the substituting required. Ten substitutions were noted throughout its course.

The year began with the announcement of Tom Warren as our 34th Paul Harris Fellow. The Top Of The Week and Mint Hill-Matthews Clubs were formed, under our capable guiding hands, and we attended our fifth annual joint Rotary meeting.

Of an average 265 members, 25 percent were over 70 years of age. The graying of Charlotte Rotary had begun.

The 1981–82 year came to a satisfactory close with the onset of lawyer slamming jokes . . .

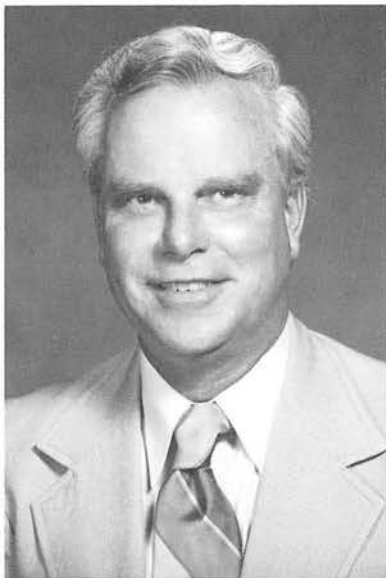


PRICE H. GWYNN, III  
President  
1981 - 1982

1982 - 1983

“A good, solid year of traditional Charlotte Rotary” aptly describes the 12 months from July 1, 1982 to June 30, 1983. We were traditional in membership – all male – and about 270 strong. There were 20 physicians and 13 each of the following: lawyers, educators, electric power officials and clergymen. The members were faithful, but Father Time was catching up with many of us.

There were 51 members who had lived beyond the allotted span of threescore and 10 years. Eighteen of them had more than 40 years’ service each to Charlotte Rotary. Colonel Norman Pease, a 62 year member, celebrated his 97th birthday on November 1, 1982. Ben Hood, who became 103 years old on December 15, 1982, passed away on February 13, 1983, after 75 years of service to our Club. Colonel Francis Beatty, a 50-year member, died in January 1983. Dick Bray and Harry Weatherly died in January and April, respectively. Another well-known citizen and former school superintendent, Elmer Garinger, passed away on August 21, 1983, after 33 years as a Rotarian.



WILLIAM E. POE  
President  
1982 - 1983

At the other extreme, Roger Owens became the proud father of a baby girl in November 1982. No one could remember when the last “birth” day occurred among the membership.

As usual, there were notable speakers during the year: Congressman Jim Martin reported on the 97th Congress and previewed the 98th. E. K. Fretwell, Chancellor at UNC Charlotte talked

## THE SEVENTH DECADE

about a plan in the making to develop a new town center called University Place in pastures and woodlands north of the city. Leighton Ford gave an overview of his Charlotte Crusade at the old coliseum, and Governor Hunt canceled his appearance because of an illness which put him in the hospital.

Warner Hall became our 45th Paul Harris Fellow.

Luther Hodges, Jr. was the featured speaker at the joint meeting of all Charlotte clubs on October 19. The Chairman and CEO of the National Bank of Washington talked about the "New Corporate Role in Community Affairs."

A California court upheld the male-only membership rule of Rotary, but some clubs were beginning to violate the rule anyway.

Dr. G. Carswell Hughes was elected to succeed as president, but he accepted a call to pastor an historical Presbyterian Church in Charleston, SC. Lee Morris was selected to succeed Carswell.

1983 - 1984

Like Frank Sinatra said in one of his hit songs of the 1960s, 1983-84 was a very good year.

In order to get each meeting off to a happy start, I introduced each program with little-known but important facts from the pages of history. Examples: In 1848, bloomers for ladies were introduced as a new item of wearing apparel. In 1876 Wild Bill Hickock was shot and killed while playing poker.

Throughout the year, we had some very interesting programs. A report on the Rotary International Convention in Toronto was given. The new theme was "Share Rotary . . . serve people." Guest speaker Hugh Morton gave a presentation on Save the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, and Johnny Harris gave the Club an update on plans for the new Charlotte Coliseum. District Governor Don MacKay made his annual visit to our Club as well.

We also had some informative political guests. Governor Jim Hunt made an address that year before our Club. Candidates for mayor of Charlotte, Harvey Gantt, Ed Peacock and George Selden presented their platforms. Congressional candidates Susan Green, D. G. Martin, Alex McMillan and Ben Tison also appeared on a panel outlining their candidacy.

During the 1983-84 year we gained 28 new members and won a Rotary International Award for meeting and exceeding Rotary Foundation expectations for our Club.



J. LEE MORRIS  
*President*  
1983 - 1984

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

1984 - 1985

Rotary has such a continuous record of good activity and achievement that it was hard to improve tremendously on that during my term. Great progress was made on membership development during the year. The involvement of new members in Rotary and its projects, particularly the Scout Expo, is very satisfactory.

The committee structure was altered during the year, with Board approval. Increased awareness in Rotary activities and projects was good for the Club and its membership.

Charlie Hunter announced that \$200 million was now in the Paul Harris fund account. Over 25,000 students had already benefited from the funds in the way of scholarships and fellowships.



DALBERT U. SHEFTE  
*President*  
1984 - 1985

1985 - 1986

"Goals unset are goals unmet." This was my operating philosophy for the Club. Edgar Love and his four quarterly chairmen did a fine job with programs. Under Fun and Fellowship, pleasant meetings were abundant, and the straight man's participation in Health and Happiness assured us of that on numerous occasions.

In Membership Development, the emphasis was placed on "top flight" individuals. Eighteen were recruited this year. A memorable Ladies Night highlighted the objective of Special Events, and Functioning Committees could not have been better. The sergeant-at-arms and reporters for the weekly bulletin are especially to be praised.

John Barnhardt updated the Rotary Foundation year. Thirty-six new Paul Harris sustaining members and three Paul Harris Fellows made up Club ranks. We will reach \$16,000 for the year.



K. MARTIN WATERS, JR.  
*President*  
1985 - 1986

## Eighth Decade, 1986-

By ROBIN A. SMITH

As the Rotary Club of Charlotte approached its 75th Anniversary, Charlotte bloomed and prospered. Building cranes could be seen everywhere around town. A new Charlotte Coliseum, an NBA team, a new corporate headquarters for First Union National Bank and another rumored for NCNB Corporation – Charlotte was on the move. Large headquarters sought out Charlotte for its quality of life and progressive business atmosphere.

1986 - 1987

The PolioPlus Program of Rotary International was launched to eliminate polio from the world by the 100th Anniversary of Rotary in the year 2005. With an original goal of \$31,200 (\$120 per member), later increased to \$61,634 by Rotary International, the Club contributed a total of \$66,920.57 over a two-year period. President Bill described this project as "Rotary's finest hour."

There were 53 Tuesdays (meetings). This enabled President Bill to inform the members of more of the history of our first 70 years. The president used the weekly meetings to instill pride and inspire the Club to even greater accomplishments.

The theme of the International President, M. A. T. Caparas of Manila, The Philippines, for the year was "Rotary Brings Hope" – the PolioPlus Program supplemented the ongoing programs of the Rotary Foundation which promote international understanding and cooperation by providing scholarships for 10,000 students and sponsoring 25,000 service projects.

Doug Aitken was honored as the Club's first member to attain 50-year membership. Gus Pound, one of the charter members of the Club in 1916, died just months short of the 50th Anniversary of the Club in 1966.

Carrying out the "history" emphasis, four old-time members were featured in the spotlight on past presidents: Powell Majors (1946-47), Dave Welton (1948-49), Charlie Hunter (1959-60) and Sadler Love (1961-62). Health and Happiness "brought back" such oldies as Hoyt Galvin, Jeff Jeffries, Dean Couch, Bill Barnhardt, Bob Bryant and Zach Thomas.



WILLIAM E. LOFTIN  
*President*  
1986 - 1987

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Joe Moore served as District Governor this year — the first from our Club in 18 years. Fourteen members have served as district governors in the past.

A group of Rotarians from North Scranton (PA) Rotary were guests of the Club on the occasion of their bringing two tractor-trailer truckloads of hay to relieve the shortage brought about by the severe drought and heat in the summer of 1986. All totaled, the Pennsylvania club was responsible for supplying 8,600 bales (175 tons).

The Club honored Colonel Norman Pease on his 101st birthday. He carried his own plate through the Rotary luncheon buffet line and was asked to come down and say a few words at the microphone. He said he got a phone call from a stockbroker trying to sell him an annuity. Colonel Pease replied, "Young man, at my age I don't even buy green bananas!" Norman was president of the Club for the 1922-23 year.

We co-sponsored a new Rotary club — the 10th in the city — named Charlotte Evening Rotary Club. Our two candidates for Rotary Foundation scholarships for study in New Zealand were successful.

C. W. "Pat" Gilchrist, our ranking member with service on the Rotary International Board, 1962-64; Chairman of the Rotary International Finance Committee, 1965-66; Chairman of Rotary International Institute Agenda, 1967; and Chairman of the Rotary International Convention in 1969, died on January 2, 1987. Pat had also served as Club President and District Governor.

A record group of 10 members attended the Rotary International Convention in Munich, West Germany, led by President-elect Bill Kinney.

Our World Service Committee, led by Mike Greeson, established a working relationship with two Sister Cities of Charlotte: Krefeld, West Germany and Arequipa, Peru. We entertained a delegation from these cities. A special achievement was the furnishing of microscopes for the treatment of tuberculosis to the city of Arequipa.

Attractive wooden plaques with membership certificates were contributed by Bert Voswinkel to each member. The Philadelphia Boys Choir was sponsored by all local Rotary clubs in a concert to raise monies for PolioPlus.

The Spring Gala (formerly Ladies Night) featured the North Carolina School of the Arts Jazz Ensemble. Bill Meanor and his Special Events Committee staged a beautiful affair at Vail Commons on the campus of Davidson College.

The Trees and Beautification Committee (Ed White, Chairman) planted trees in an open space in the Southside/Brookhill Community off Remount Road.

The issue of women in Rotary was discussed at the local, district and international level. The Supreme Court of California ruled that a Rotary club is a private business and, as such, must not bar women — or anyone on the basis of sex, race, etc.

Nineteen new members were added. Four members were lost by death. Total membership on June 30, 1987 was 271, plus 12 honorary members.

1987 - 1988

My year as President of the Charlotte Rotary began on June 5, 1987 in Munich, West Germany. Our Club was well represented at this International Convention by the Kinneys, the Grahams, the Greesons, the Sadlers, the Hunters, the Moores and Bert Voswinkel, who acted as our official guide and hospitality chairman. Following this inspiring convention, we extended our trip for several days, allowing us to enjoy sightseeing in Germany and Austria. This also gave



## THE EIGHTH DECADE



WILLIAM L. KINNEY  
President  
1987 - 1988

us time to accept the generous hospitality of Bert's friends in Augsburg and the Sadler's friends in Erbach, Germany.

On July 7, I began my official term as president, supported by a great staff of Charlotte Rotarians who accepted positions of responsibility during my tenure. Their support carried right through to the end, providing me with one of the most satisfying experiences of my life for which I will always be grateful.

As the year progressed, our Club recognized the increasing number of women becoming involved in Rotary International. We sought out and approved our first three female members for full membership. This was indeed a special event in Charlotte Rotary. As President, I recognized that we needed to promote a better distribution of Club responsibility among the membership, particularly the younger members. To do this, the Board agreed to require a two year absence from the Board before re-election. This had the effect of increasing the required number

of Board members for a three year period from 18 to 24. We also began the planning and execution of the "Excellence in Management" Program, which subsequently became an annual affair sponsored by the Charlotte Rotary Club, the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce and *The Business Journal of Charlotte*.

If there was a crowning success during my term, it had to be the success of the PolioPlus Campaign. Due to the dedication of our members, we exceeded our three year quota by almost 10 percent and we did this in two years. I attended the 1988 Convention in Philadelphia when it was announced that in two years Rotary International had raised \$219 million to be used for the elimination of polio worldwide. All of our members were thrilled with this success.

On July 12, 1988, I turned the gavel over to Tom Belk, our new president, thus ending one of the greatest years of my life.

1988 - 1989

The Avenue Chairmen and all committee members were chosen and in place long before the Club Assembly. It was agreed that, in addition to all the various activities, we would make this year memorable for good programs. We felt that to keep and hold the interest of busy people, we must make attendance informative as well as good fellowship.

Judging from the comments received, we did have a year of excellent programs. From the presidents of the great colleges and universities in our area to the promoters of literacy, from the Olympic Committee, to top people in the sports world. From the top bankers in the country to the publisher of *Fortune* magazine. These programs mixed with our own members, and inspirational messages left us buzzing with excitement.



THOMAS M. BELK  
President  
1988 - 1989

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

There were also two outstanding "firsts" during this year. The first active female member was inducted, and the first "Excellence in Management" Award was presented to Albert "Pete" Sloan, an honorary member of our Club.

Fifteen Paul Harris Fellows were announced. It was a good year, and it helped promote the International theme for the year, "Put Life Into Rotary – Your Life." The various Avenue Chairmen and committee members made it work and made it easy for the president.

1989 - 1990



HAROLD G. HOAK  
*President*  
1989 - 1990

Every Rotarian should have the opportunity to serve as president of a Rotary club. Being asked to accept the presidency of the Charlotte Rotary Club as its 73rd president was certainly an honor and, thereby, accepted as a challenge and opportunity in filling the shoes of 72 outstanding predecessors.

The Charlotte Rotary Club began the new year with 286 members and concluded the Rotary year with 286 members. Ironically, losses amounted to 25, including five by death, offset by the acceptance of 25 new members.

Forty members achieved perfect attendance honors, ranging from one year to 45 years, representing 20.5 percent of the total membership.

Paul Harris Fellows numbered 150 beginning the Rotary year 1989 and concluded the year with 31 new members, thereby reaching a new high for the Charlotte Rotary Club.

The International Convention during 1989–1990, was held in Seoul, Korea, and will go down as a memorable experience for many reasons, including a long, exhausting flight covering 19,450 miles round trip from Charlotte, where 38,897 Rotarians from 86 different countries came together to meet fellow Rotarians and hear the summary of achievements presented by Rotary International President Royce Abbey.

As we began the new Rotary year, Tuesday, July 11, 1989, having missed July 4, in view of the holiday, your president challenged the Charlotte Rotary Club to continue our growth, with emphasis on maintaining a high caliber of men and women joining the Charlotte Rotary Club. With all the challenges and opportunities ahead, specific attention was given the Paul Harris Fellowship Program, as your president felt that every Rotarian should have both the privilege and obligation to support this Foundation in a manner commensurate with his or her economic ability.

The Charlotte Rotary Club is, indeed, an outstanding organization, comprised of many individuals fulfilling the object of Rotary in their daily activities, within their respective classifications.

1990 - 1991

Charlotte Rotary Club members responding to a questionnaire overwhelmingly expressed their willingness to support, both financially and with sweat equity, the Area Council of Rotary Clubs' project to build a Habitat for Humanity house.

## THE EIGHTH DECADE

The annual Gala Event was a dinner and concert by George Strait and his Ace in the Hole Band in the new Charlotte Coliseum. Good food and a good time was had by all, but even country music lovers had problems coping with the sounds. Many Rotarians said they could hear even with hearing aids turned off.

William States (Bill) Lee, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Duke Power Company, was the second recipient of the "Excellence in Management Award" sponsored by the Charlotte Rotary Club, the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce and *The Business Journal*. Leroy Robinson, Belk Stores Services, Inc., became the third winner of the "Excellence in Management Award."

After several years of discussion, the Board of Directors took the action needed to relieve Tom Warren, our half-time secretary, of the time consuming, laborious task of recording over 18,000 attendance entries, reporting these and all other records and reports to the District Governor and Rotary International. They authorized the purchase of the technology needed so the attendance is recorded by each Rotarian using a scanner which feeds the data directly into a computer. These and other Club data stored in the computer can then be transferred directly on the various required forms and reports.

One of the many outstanding programs scheduled by the 1990-91 Program Chairman was provided by Hugh Morton, owner of Grandfather Mountain, talking about the acid rain problem and its threat to our environment. This photographic presentation dramatized the magnitude of the threat and helped make more meaningful the articles on acid rain published in the last few years and increased Rotarians' awareness of the seriousness of the problem.

Price Gwynn was elected Moderator of the Presbyterian Church USA 1990-91, and later gave a fascinating talk about his experiences and travels.



**RICHARD H. HAGEMeyer**  
*President*  
1990 - 1991

## Trivia

No Club president has died in office.

The Club has had two father-son's presidencies: John Paul Lucas, Sr. (1929-1930) and son, Paul, Jr. (1947-1948); Edgar A. (Turk) Terrell, Sr. (1932-1933) and son, Edgar, Jr. (1960-1961).

First African-American member: Lionel H. Newsome, president, Johnson C. Smith University, January 20, 1970. Introduced by Jack Smylie.

First female active member: Ruth (Mrs. Colin) Shaw, president, Central Piedmont Community College, July 12, 1988. Introduced by Powell Majors.

Tom Burgess has "made-up" attendance in 23 countries — from Austria to New Zealand. In August (1995) he expects to add Russia and Finland. He has a 17-year perfect attendance record (1995).

David Clark (1877-1955), second president of our Club (1918-1919) played a major part in organizing 30 Rotary clubs in North and South Carolina and Georgia.

In the beginning meetings were held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

The lighter side: Ben Hood, remarried in his 90s, said he was looking for a house near a school. Ben died at 103, the record for our Club. Norman Pease at 101 said he never bought any green bananas.

E. H. Little, native Mecklenburger, started out selling soap from a horse and buggy — and went on to become head of Colgate Palmolive Company. The Club named him an honorary member in 1972.

Jim Van Ness, president in 1934-1935, was given \$100 for expenses to the RI Convention in Detroit in 1934. He told of finding a room without air conditioning for \$2.50 a day. Jim introduced name badges for members. His stamp collection of Rotary commemorative issues from countries the world over was bequeathed to the Club and is kept at the public library.

At a meeting in the 1930s a Scotsman offered to tell a joke about any profession named by a member. After 20 or more, one member called out "real estate," whereupon the speaker replied, "Sorry, I stopped telling dirty jokes."

Average age of our members at time of publication of this volume is 68.5 years.

Oldest person to attend one of our meetings: Rotarian Benjamin O. Hood at 102; youngest: infant grandson of Rotarian James F. Alexander.

The In Memoriam section of the Roster for our 75th Anniversary contained the names of 223 members who died while members of our Club.

Shortest meeting: July 18, 1989. Electric service to our meeting place, Howard Johnson City Center, had been turned off by Duke Power for failure of the management to pay bills. A member, Doug Booth, was president of Duke Power at the time; also, executive vice president Warren Owen and distribution manager Fred West.

Longest meeting: March 17, 1987. Fellow member David M. McConnell, the speaker, was introduced at 1:20 p.m.

Luther Hodges, Jr., son of Governor and RI President Luther, Sr., president of North Carolina National Bank (predecessor of NationsBank) at one time, lays claim to being the only Paul Harris Fellow to be kicked out of Rotary (for attendance).

The entire graduating class and faculty of Central High School — 160 strong — were entertained at dinner on May 15, 1923.

In 1952, following talks on separate occasions by Past President Hamilton C. Jones, incumbent congressman seeking a fourth term, and Charles Raper Jonas, a first-time candidate, a straw vote favored Mr. Jonas, who went on to serve as representative of our district for 20 years.

In our 75th year there were 32 past presidents living — all in Charlotte — and most attending our meetings. The oldest living past president was R. Powell Majors, president 1946-1947 — 45 years earlier. When Charles H. Stone compiled our 40th Anniversary history in 1956, 39 of the 40 past presidents were living (Rogers W. Davis, our first president, was deceased); 37 of the 39 still citizens of Charlotte.

Ralston M. (Gus) Pound, Sr., was the last charter member to die — in our 50th year, 1966.

Powell Majors, president 1946-1947, knew it was time to start meetings when everyone started to light up cigars and cigarettes.

Two members reached the century mark while still active members: Benjamin O. Hood was 103 at the time of his death in 1983 and J. Norman Pease was 101 in 1987 at the time he died.

In 1976 our roll included five college presidents: Richard H. Hagemeyer, Central Piedmont Commu-

nity College; Samuel R. Spencer, Jr., Davidson College; Alfred O. Cannon, Jr., Queens College; Wilbert Greenfield, Johnson C. Smith University; and Dean W. Colvard, University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Oldest president at time of holding office: E. K. Fretwell (1994–1995), 71. Youngest president: Jim Van Ness (1934–1935), 28.

At our Club Assembly on June 17, 1975, aboard The Outrigger on Lake Norman, President-elect Tom Garrett, was “arrested” by the Lake Norman Patrol, charged with an offense (failure to provide child support) against the peace and dignity of the State. A \$2,000 bond was posted and Tom was handcuffed. It turned out to be a case of mistaken identity.

Paul Harris, founder of Rotary, was not the first, but the third president of Rotary International.

The famed Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, our speaker during Dave Welton’s tenure as president, arrived at 1:10 after taking over a flight from Washington, D.C. and ordering it to make an unscheduled stop at Charlotte. (He was president of Eastern Airlines!)

First four Rotarians were a lawyer, a tailor, a coal dealer and an engineer. A fifth, Harry Bridges, a printer, joined the group a day later (!). It was Bridges who introduced singing to Rotary.

Included among the thousand or more members who have joined over the past 75 years are four with a direct link with the charter membership: Tom Lane’s father was the first secretary of the Club; Ralston Pound’s father was president, 1928–1929; Charlie Williams’ and John Dabbs III’s grandfathers.

Our program feature “How I Got Where I’m At” originated in 1945 during the presidency of John Pender.

The annual budget for 1932–1933 totaled \$3,000, including \$700 for the Crippled Children’s Clinic. Today, our budget is \$226,000.

Dues: 1921, \$20.00; 1995, \$284.00.

Meals: 1921, \$40.00; 1995, \$520.00.

MEMBERSHIP

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| 1916 (charter) | 47  |
| 1926           | 133 |
| 1929           | 157 |
| 1933           | 85  |
| 1935           | 105 |
| 1944           | 171 |
| 1956           | 232 |
| 1966           | 271 |
| 1979           | 264 |
| 1991           | 283 |

TOLERATION

STABILITY

HELPFULNESS

NATURE

PARTICIPATE

WORK

SERVICE

FELLOWSHIP

*The National Rotarian, Volume 1, Number 1, headlined an article by Rotary founder Paul Harris. It begins: "If by interposition of Providence I some day were to find myself standing on a platform in some great Coliseum looking into the eyes of every living Rotarian, and were to be told that I could have one word to say, without an instant's hesitation and at the top of my voice, I would shout 'Toleration!'" In December, 1972, Past District Governor Mark C. Hollis of Lakeland, Florida, asked every living Past President of Rotary International: "What would be your one word, if you had the opportunity to address every living Rotarian?" Their responses — each man's word and his reason for choosing that word — bespeak the continuing tradition of the dynamic leaders of Rotary International. As we mark the 75th Anniversary of The Rotary Club of Charlotte, we should be reminded by these words of all that can ennoble human behavior. What would be your one word?*

Note: Three past presidents chose the word "LOVE," hence, only 23 words are shown here.