

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 forerunner 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