

Annals of the Rotary Club of Charlotte 1916-1991

PRESIDENTS

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

First Decade, 1916-1926

By J. NORMAN PEASE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The following Directors were elected:

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

THE FIRST DECADE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



ROGERS W. DAVIS
President
1916 - 1918

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

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

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



DAVID CLARK
President
1918 - 1919



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

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

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



JOHN W. FOX
President
1919 - 1920

THE FIRST DECADE

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

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

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



J. PERRIN QUARLES
President
1920 - 1921



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

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



LEWIS BURWELL
President
1921 - 1922

SERVICE ABOVE SELF



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

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

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



J. NORMAN PEASE
President
1922 - 1923

THE FIRST DECADE

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

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



H. M. WADE
President
1923 - 1924



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

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

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

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



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

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

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

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

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

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



HAMILTON C. JONES
President
1925 - 1926



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

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

Second Decade, 1926-1936

By GEORGE M. IVEY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

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

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

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



HENRY M. McADEN
President
1927 - 1928

Gus Pound served as president beginning July 1, 1928.

Several "firsts" were instituted this year. -

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

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

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

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



DR. HAMILTON W. MCKAY
President
1926 - 1927

Henry McAden was president beginning July 1, 1927.

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

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

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



RALSTON M. POUND
President
1928 - 1929

THE SECOND DECADE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



JOHN PAUL LUCAS
President
1929 - 1930

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

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

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

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



JULIAN S. MILLER
President
1930 - 1931

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

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

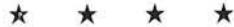


GEORGE M. IVEY
President
1931 - 1932

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

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

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



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

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

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



JUNIUS M. SMITH
President
1933 - 1934

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

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

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



EDGAR A. TERRELL
President
1932 - 1933

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

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

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

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



JAMES H. VAN NESS
President
1934 - 1935

THE SECOND DECADE

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

★ ★ ★ ★

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

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

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

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

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



RUFUS M. JOHNSTON
President
1935 - 1936



LADIES NIGHT—1944

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

Third Decade, 1936-1946

By JOHN PAUL LUCAS, JR.

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

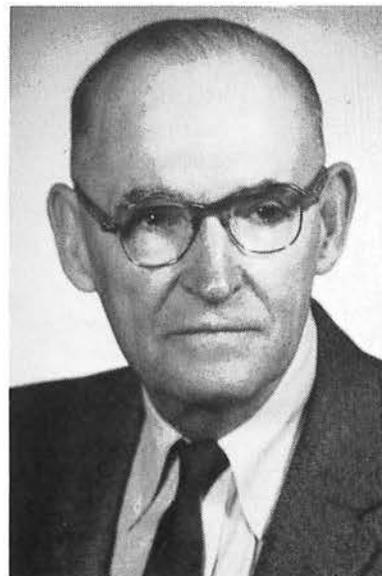
It was in this decade that “Little Rotary,” a unique offshoot of a club grown too large for the intimate give-and-take that turns acquaintance into close and lasting friendship, was born and flourished in an upstairs room at Thacker’s Restaurant, and one of the chapters of this book must surely record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



J. A. Mayo
President
1936 - 1937

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

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



V. K. HART
President
1937 - 1938

THE THIRD DECADE

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

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

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



L. G. OSBORNE
President
1938 - 1939



PLANTING THE TREE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

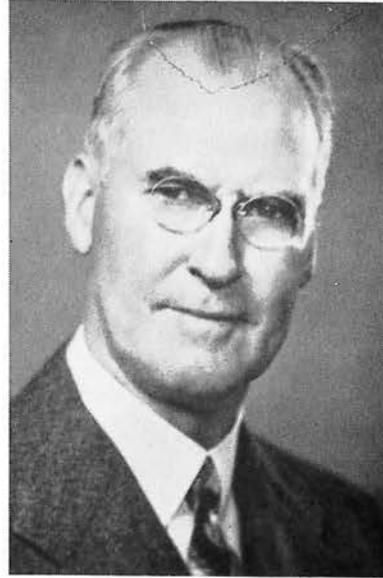
There it was the father of this international household of good-will who lent his noble and inspiring presence to this occasion and to our community.

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

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

THE THIRD DECADE

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



C. H. STONE
President
1939 - 1940

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



PAUL R. SHEAHAN
President
1940 - 1941

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

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



AMOS S. BUMGARDNER
President
1941 - 1942

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

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

The Rotary year 1942-1943, under Wiley S. Obenshain, was paced by the war effort. Plug Osborne, Francis Beatty and Tom Byrnes were noted as servicemen early in the year. Steve Marsh was given leave of absence to serve with the war production board in New York. Hoyt Galvin was busy as chairman of a scrap drive, Paul Lucas was touring the state for War Bonds, and other Rotarians were similarly preoccupied.



WILEY S. OBENSHAIN
President
1942 - 1943



EVERETT BIERMAN
President
1943 - 1944

Everett C. Bierman, the 27th president, saw additional Rotarians go to war.

Precursor to the large scale blood bank operation of the Red Cross today, the Rotary Club of Charlotte started in 1943 the first Blood Reserve in Charlotte with President Everett Bierman giving the first 500 CC's.

One program featured the produce of "Victory Gardens" of some 30 Rotarians. The Charlotte Club sponsored a new Rotary Club at Kannapolis, founded July 8, 1942.

Our Charlotte Club had a membership of 171 for the year and a \$12,211 budget.

HONOR ROLL

Included in the Armed Forces at this time were: George Snyder, Jim Van Ness, Hunter Jones, Vernon Smith, Plug Osborne, Charles Sofley, Jim Barnhardt, Francis Beatty, Tom Byrnes, Rufus Johnston, William F. Martin, Paul Sheahan, Nelson Page and Kingsley MacDonald.

THE THIRD DECADE

Feeling that boys' work activities were much in the spotlight but that girls were being neglected, the Club, under our 28th president, Charles A. Williams, Jr., in 1945, sponsored a highly successful Red Shield girls club, appropriating \$1800 for this purpose. A club room outfitted in various equipment for indoor and outdoor activities was provided. The program was put on its feet in cooperation with the Salvation Army and has continued to function effectively in its area of service.

One of the notable projects of this or any other civic club, our Crippled Children's Clinic, became inactive because it was superseded by federal government and local agency operations.

Student visitor or so-called "Junior Rotarian" activity, including an essay contest to help these boys in their further education, was instituted and proved an interesting addition to our meetings.

One of the program highlights of the year was a meeting and inspection tour of the Shell Loading Plant on York Road.



CHARLES A. WILLIAMS, JR.
President
1944 - 1945



JOHN R. PENDER
President
1945 - 1946

The first of the highly successful Boy Scout exhibits sponsored by Charlotte Rotary was held in 1946 under the administration of John R. Pender, 29th club president. And the idea of the Boys Choir, conceived by Pat Gilchrist and brilliantly executed for so long by that inimitable impresario Jim McMillan, was born during John's administration but got under way in the administration of Powell Majors, the 30th president, with a bang that was heard all over the nation. The boys subsequently sang from Miami to New York and points in between.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

"LITTLE ROTARY"

Rotary had its inception when the lonely Paul Harris, in the indifferent Chicago environment, felt the necessity of warming his soul at the fires of friendly communication with others of his kind. But the formality of organization, the growing size of metropolitan clubs and the rigid pattern of club programs tends to destroy the basic idea of friendly give-and-take in which the Rotarian himself is participant rather than audience.

It was partly this and partly because John Fox, Gus Pound, Louis Rogers, Everett Bierman, Harry Hardy, Ernest Hicks, Paul Lucas, Doug Aitken, Hugh Boyer, Bill Crichton and others as time went on had to eat somewhere, that these Rotarians agreed to meet informally in a private room at Thacker's on Thursdays at noon.

With John W. Fox, one of the best read and keenest minds in the city, as moderator, this highly informal Rotary gathering quickly became a challenging forum on civic affairs, world events, the economy, politics and Rotary itself; and the members present, with a comfortable sense of being among friends and "off the record," attacked any problem with enthusiasm and eloquence, sometimes banteringly, sometimes in dead seriousness, and almost always in good natured debate. With Louis Rogers as Republican protagonist and Everett Bierman as chief heckler; with Sadler Love's sharp repartee and Hoyt Galvin's common sense observations, with Paul Lucas' academic point of view and Francis Beatty's urbanity; with Channing Richards' and Bill Crichton's cross-examining, there was never a dull moment.

Somehow these men left Thacker's with a brighter eye and a lighter step and a finer sense of what Rotary is really all about because of "Little Rotary."

But Thacker's is gone. And so, too, are John Fox, and Gus and Everett. And so before long, will some of the others of this crew. Because they once met and because they were part of the Third Decade of Charlotte Rotary and because their names are nowhere else recorded, you should know who came together from time to time on those lively Thursdays, not because they could get credit for attendance and not to hear an invited speaker, but as Rotarians getting together:

Doug Aitken
Ben Ashcraft
Francis Beatty
Everett Bierman
Hugh Boyer
Cecil Brodt
Jim Cates
Bill Crichton
John Fox
John E. Fox

Hoyt Galvin
Pat Gilchrist
Givie Givens
Harry Hardy
Gerry Harney
Tebee Hawkins
Ernest Hicks
Lenoir Keesler
Sadler Love
Charles Lucas

Paul Lucas
Powell Majors
Harry McKenna
Jim McMillan
Roy Palmer
Gus Pound
Chan Richards
Louis Rogers
Martin Waters
Beau Whitton

Fourth Decade, 1946-1956

By ALBERT L. BECHTOLD

The fourth decade of the Charlotte Rotary Club has many interesting highlights and experiences which Rotarians had during this ten year period. Many programs for the benefit of the youth of our community were not only instigated but were carried forth during these years. The philosophy of Rotary—namely, “Service above Self—He serves the best who serves the most,” seemed to be a great moving force. We shall not have time, nor space, to mention the names of the many men, who through these ten years, did so much for so many in the name of Rotary. Of course, as is the case, there are some people we must mention because of their untiring efforts and their many hours of work for the Charlotte Club.

1946 - 1947

During the Rotary year of 1946-1947 the Charlotte Rotary Club gave birth to the Charlotte Boys' Choir. The four men who were directly responsible and who helped develop it were Pat Gilchrist, Jim McMillan, Billy Whiddit (deceased) and R. P. Majors, president. The Charlotte Boys' Choir made its first public appearance on December 24, 1946, at the Christmas program of the Rotary Club under the direction of John Haldane and Betty Jane Nalley, the accompanist.

The rehearsals for the Choir were held each Saturday morning, and the Rotary Club paid the boys 25¢ each. This “pump-priming” soon dispelled the idea that the Choir boys were “sissy.” Jim McMillan was the Manager of the Choir and held this responsibility through the entire 17 years that the Choir existed. Probably no Rotarian has given so much for the cause and the development of youth in our community as Jim during these 17 years.

The Choir in later years appropriated \$2400 to help pay for the tuition for four foreign students, who attended Davidson College. It might, also, be interesting to know that one of these students is now serving in the Diplomatic Service of his country in Finland and still corresponds with R. P. Majors.

“The reign of Dick Owenby,” Chairman of the Health and Happiness Committee for more than six years, was started and was later known as the “Methodist Hour.”

The lack of applications to borrow money from the Student Loan Fund resulted in a request from the Student Loan Committee to the Board of the Charlotte Rotary Club that the appropriation for the year be directed to visual education. The Visual Education Committee provided a projector and 16 films at a cost of \$1100 to the Public Library. Hoyt Galvin, Director of the Library, not only supervised this equipment and film, but helped with the selection.



R. P. MAJORS
President
1946 - 1947

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The Club this year was host to the District Conference in Charlotte on May 5 and 6, with Everett Bierman being the General Chairman. The Conference elected Macon Williams, from Lenoir, as the District Governor.

Under the direction of the Youth Activities Committee, the annual Boy Scout Merit Badge show was staged. Individual Rotarians sponsored the various booths and the Club underwrote the expenses of approximately \$500.

The officers for this year were: President, R. P. Majors; Vice-President, John R. Pender; Secretary-Treasurer, Roy A. Palmer.

1947 - 1948

The Charlotte Rotary Club continued its sponsorship of the Charlotte Boys' Choir of more than 60 voices, under the direction of Rotarian Warren Wilson and the management of Jim McMillan. The popularity of this group of boys continued to grow, and during the winter and spring, they presented many concerts in North Carolina and South Carolina.

The organization and staging of the annual Rotary Boy Scout Merit Badge exposition was held November 5, 6, and 7, and was attended by thousands, not only from Charlotte but neighboring cities.

During this year the operation of the Junior Rotary plan was instigated in which outstanding students from the three High Schools were invited to attend the Charlotte Rotary Club meetings a month at the time. This enabled during the year 21 fine young men, from their respective High Schools, to have an opportunity to observe the functioning of the Rotary Club.

The Charlotte Rotary Club again sponsored visual education programs through the Charlotte Public Library with the purchase of additional films and projectors.

The Student Loan Fund, with more than \$14,000 in assets, was active this year, making a number of loans to deserving boys and girls.

The Club sponsored one of the winning floats in the Christmas parade, which was held November 24.

As one of the sponsors of the May 20 symphonic drama "Shout Freedom," celebrating Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, many Rotarians not only participated on the stage but helped behind the scenes.

During the year the Charlotte Rotary Club had 100% of its membership averaging \$10 each to the Rotary Foundation, to advance understanding and goodwill through the scholarship program of Rotary International. This program through the years has done an outstanding job in bringing foreign students to America so they can attend one of our outstanding colleges or universities in this country and to send United States students abroad.

A systematic hospital visitation and fellowship program for Rotarians and members of their families, who come to Charlotte to be hospitalized was instigated and was, also, carried on for our own members.



JOHN PAUL LUCAS
President
1947 - 1948

THE FOURTH DECADE

During the year many other activities were held, such as, our annual assembly for the discussion of the aims of Rotary, our annual Club picnic and outing on Catawba River for members and families, an inter-city meeting with representatives from 16 neighboring Rotary Clubs in North Carolina and South Carolina, Rotary Family Day, our annual Christmas party with many sons and daughters and their "Mamas" attending.

An appreciation day was held by the Civic Affairs Committee to honor and entertain a group of long service teachers in the public schools. Also, a joint meeting with the Regional Conference of National Association of Manufacturers on a question and answer panel on American Enterprise with the audience mainly from various colleges and universities in this area.

The hospitality meeting for the daughters of Rotarians attending Queens College was held with more than 18 in attendance.

The officers for 1947-1948 were: President, John Paul Lucas; Vice-President, R. P. Majors; Secretary-Treasurer, Milo O. Kirkpatrick.

1948 - 1949

The president, David G. Welton, and District Governor Everett Bierman, of our Club, attended the International Convention in Rio de Janeiro. The establishment of the second Rotary Club in Charlotte, the Dilworth Club, was formally organized and launched chiefly through the efforts of District Governor Everett Bierman, President Dave and Woody Kennedy, who later became the first president of the Dilworth Club. The National Charter was presented in December of 1948.

The Boys' Choir achieved National acclaim this year by performing before the International Convention of Rotary, Madison Square Garden, New York City, in June of 1949. Climaxing of this project and taking more than 88 persons and Choir Boys to New York was accomplished by voluntary contributions from our membership. They sang over Nation-wide NBC and appeared on a Kinescope of Ripley's "Believe It Or Not" program. En route the group stopped in Washington and was greeted by Mr. Charles Jonas and other North Carolinians. Jim McMillan, Manager of the Choir, headed the entire function.



DAVID G. WELTON
President
1948 - 1949

One of the most unusual things during the year was the presentation of more than 40% of our weekly programs by our own members. Besides these, other outstanding programs were presented by Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, Dr. Allen Stockdale, Dr. Hollis Edens, President of Duke University, and Angus Mitchell of Australia, President of Rotary International.

The officers for 1948-1949 were: President, David G. Welton; Vice-President, John Paul Lucas, Jr.; Secretary-Treasurer, J. Gordon Christian, Jr.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

1949 - 1950

"In retrospect, one wonders why so few stumps are showing for a Rotary Year when so much sawing and chopping was done. The weekly duties to provide good programs and Rotary fellowship obviously consume much time for the officers and committees during the year's activities," so said President Hoyt Galvin.

One notable result of the 1949-1950 year was the formation of the Charlotte Better Business Bureau. Beaumert Whitton as Chairman of the Vocational Service Committee took a cue from the president's inaugural speech and began work to establish a Better Business Bureau. After one meeting with the Vocational Service Committee and other Civic Clubs and business groups it wasn't long before Charlotte had such a Bureau, established to improve the ethical standards of Charlotte business. Many Rotarians through the years have served the Bureau on the Board of Directors and many other capacities.



HOYT R. GALVIN
President
1949 - 1950

The Boy Scout Merit Badge Show was again at the Armory Auditorium with many hundreds in attendance.

Cooperating with other Rotary Clubs in District 280, the Charlotte Club contributed \$256.25 into the District Scholarship Fund to finance a Latin American student at Western Carolina College. Also, Miss Laiz France Lessa, of Rio de Janiero, spent one year at Lenoir Rhyne College in Hickory, under our District Scholarship.

Our annual picnic was held at the Observer Fresh Air Camp with Rotarians and their families enjoying the outing.

Twenty-four Junior Rotarians from the three High Schools had an opportunity to mingle with Rotarians for one month each, and were in participation for the \$100 scholarship.

The Student Loan Fund Committee was active during the year and more than 28 active loans were made, and the fund had a net worth of \$14,837.

"Little Rotary" at Thacker's on Thursdays had a popular response by many, especially the new members to get acquainted with others.

Rotary year ended with the Club living within its income.

The officers for the year 1949-1950 were: President, Hoyt R. Galvin; Vice-President, David G. Welton; Secretary-Treasurer, Zangwill A. Ross.

THE FOURTH DECADE

1950 - 1951

The Rotary year of 1950-1951 started well, the president having returned from the International Convention was imbued with the inspiration of Rotary. At the convention the Charlotte delegation assisted in the election of Cleve Allen of Coral Gables, Florida, as Director for Zone 4. He, also, heard the Charlotte Club commended by past president, Angus Mitchell, for outstanding community service which the Boys' Choir was rendering.

The year was a full one with much of the activity carried on behind the scenes. Of major importance was the Board's belief that the Club's by-laws were outmoded and in need of revision; also, that the club should be incorporated in order to alleviate the responsibility of the officers in the crowd-gathering activities of the Club. These projects were worked upon over an eleven month period under the leadership of Jim Craighill.

The St. Augustine, Florida, Rotary Club was so impressed by the Charlotte Boys' Choir appearance in their city that they sent a delegation to Charlotte bearing gifts to the choir, and, also, an embossed scroll of appreciation to the Charlotte Club.

The Charlotte Rotary Club was selected as one of twenty in Rotary International as being a model for its overall activities and one of five for its work in club service.

The administration held periodic supper meetings for the education of the new members, and emphasis was given to lend dignity and solemnity to the induction of new members. The establishment of a detailed and unusually fine introduction of new members was started and has been used by our Club ever since.

The Boy Scout Merit Badge Show was held at the Armory under the general chairmanship of D. F. Schiwetz, and was unusually successful with more than 30,000 attending during the three-night function. The Boy Scout show increased the interest in Scouting and its growth in the Charlotte area has been phenomenal.

The Charlotte Rotary Club participated with other clubs in presenting the four-way test desk plaques to each member of the Senate and the House in Raleigh.

The forty-sixth anniversary of Rotary International was celebrated by a broadcast given by John Paul Lucas and Pat Gilchrist. Messages were received from as far away as New England complimenting the Charlotte Club.

The Charlotte Rotary Club contributed more than \$545 to the Rotary Foundation, so that the Club now has more than 100% of its membership participating.

As the year closed the president and his additional active member, Professor Long, presented to the Club a cabinet reading stand complete with neon light and a clock so the speaker would be able to observe the time limit.

The officers for the year 1950-1951 were: President, C. W. Gilchrist; Vice-President, Hoyt R. Galvin; Secretary-Treasurer, Lanier Bishop.



C. W. GILCHRIST
President
1950 - 1951

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

1951 - 1952

Our President, Ernest L. Hicks, made a pronouncement during his inaugural address that the slogan for the year would be: "Less talking and more music."

The two greatest accomplishments during the year were: first, the effort brought forth by the club for the eventual election of our own John Paul Lucas as District Governor. A large delegation from our Club attended his installation at the Shelby District meeting. Second, sent a Charlotte resident, Miss Alice Craven Reynolds, to represent our Club in competition for the Rotary Foundation for Advanced Study. She was chosen and sent to Paris, France.

Our annual Ladies' Night program followed a different procedure in that we had a dinner at the new Myers Park High School, which was followed by an old fashioned square dance.

Another change was in our annual Boy Scout function, in that we substituted for the Merit Badge Show, a large Boy Scout Circus, which was held at Griffith Park. Since that time the Merit Badge Show and the Circus are put on in alternate years. Both have been most successful.

Jim McMillan together with his able assistants had an outstanding Boys' Choir this year and the public demand was great, many cities were visited in the Carolinas and, also, the annual Florida trip was made by the boys.

The officers for the year 1951-1952 were: President, Ernest L. Hicks; Vice-President, C. W. Gilchrist; Secretary-Treasurer, Ralston M. Pound, Jr.



ERNEST L. HICKS
President
1951 - 1952

1952 - 1953

The year got off to an auspicious start with many good programs, and, also, an outstanding Club Assembly at Island Point. More than 70 Rotarians attended this special meeting.

An innovation in Inter-City meetings was arranged for July 31 by Seth Snyder and his committee between Charlotte and Gastonia Rotary Clubs. More than 250 Rotarians and their families attended to witness a softball game between the two clubs.

Another outstanding meeting of the year was held at the North Carolina Vocational Textile School in Belmont, where the entire Rotary Club met for a tour of the school and lunch.

Our Club had the privilege of being host to the recipient of 180th District Scholarship, Miss Argerie Vega of San Jose, Costa Rica. Miss Vega was a student at Queens College through the entire school year.

The annual District Conference was held November 24 and 25. Our Club and the Dilworth Club were co-hosts, with Donald Follmer as Chairman.



ROY A. PALMER
President
1952 - 1953

THE FOURTH DECADE

On December 1, 1952, the new North Charlotte Rotary Club was organized and received its charter at the North Charlotte Y. M. C. A. It was an auspicious occasion in that Dave Clark, the organizer of the new Club and holder of the distinction of having organized more new Rotary Clubs than any other Rotarian, was present to witness the presentation of the Charter to Arthur Thompson by District Governor John Paul Lucas, Jr.

The Boys' Work and Youth Service Committees of Charlotte, Dilworth and North Charlotte Clubs planned and staged the Boy Scout Merit Badge Show and the Cub Scout Hobby Show in the Armory Auditorium. More than 3,500 Boy Scouts participated and set up 61 booths for the Boy Scouts and 18 for the Cub Scouts. The show was a tremendous success in more than \$1,100 was turned over to the Boy Scouts.

An important decision was made with regard to the territorial limits of the North Charlotte and Dilworth Clubs. The territory for the operation of the North Charlotte Club was established, and the Dilworth territory was enlarged also.

The Boys' Work Committee requested that an underprivileged boy be sent to the Boy Scout Jamboree in California, in the early part of July. This request was granted resulting in experiences for this boy that could not have been had without the financial assistance given by our Club.

Our Club participated in another Community service by donating \$150 to the Nature Museum.

The Charlotte Boys' Choir continued to win more laurels for themselves and our community. They made 26 trips out of town to entertain thousands of people, before their annual Florida trip, and participated in the Carrousel parade. The boys traveled more than 12,000 miles and had many fascinating experiences.

The officers for the year 1952-1953 were: President, Roy A. Palmer; Vice-President, Ernest L. Hicks; Secretary-Treasurer, James H. Barnhardt.

1953 - 1954

Details were worked out for the Annual Family Day Picnic at Fresh Air Camp in September. This was one of the highlights in carrying out the philosophy of Rotary for better fellowship among members and their families.

The Charlotte Rotary Club, in an amendment to its constitution, released some additional territory to North Charlotte and Dilworth Clubs. Also, at a special dinner meeting the three clubs heard Rotary International Director Luther Hodges deliver an inspiring address.

The Speakers' Bureau reached an all time high during the year by furnishing speakers for more than 20 Rotary Clubs in North and South Carolina. The Club continued to offer the Speakers' Bureau service to other civic organizations.

The Boys' Work and Youth Service Committee, headed by Floyd Williams, undertook to assist in a community wide project to help young people get jobs during the summer months. A survey was made of the members to find how many jobs were available.



JAMES P. McMILLAN
President
1953 - 1954

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The Charlotte Boys' Choir, under the tireless effort of Jim McMillan, is now internationally known. The receipts from the concerts were again used to provide a scholarship for a Uruguayan student at Davidson College.

President Eisenhower's speech at the Freedom Day celebration at Freedom Park took place of one of the regular Rotary meetings. The Boys' Choir, under the direction of Fred Waring, participated in the program.

The Boys' Work and Youth Service Committee, headed by Floyd Williams, awarded three pure-bred heifer calves to start the Charlotte Rotary-4-H Calf Chain. The 4-H'ers will feed and care for these heifers, breed them, and return the first calf to the Chain for placement to another 4-H member.

Under the direction of D. P. Schiwetz our attendance record showed a tremendous improvement—93.25%, a new high in the Club.

During the year work was started toward thinking about the Golden Anniversary Celebration of Rotary International, and a committee was appointed to draft plans for the observance.

The officers for the year 1953-1954 were: President, James P. McMillan; Vice-President, Roy A. Palmer; Secretary-Treasurer, A. L. Bechtold.

1954-1955



J. GORDON CHRISTIAN, JR.
President
1954 - 1955

President-Elect J. Gordon Christian and Secretary-Elect Martin K. Waters attended the International Convention of Rotary in Seattle, Washington, where Herb Taylor was installed as President of Rotary International and the Golden Anniversary Year was celebrated during the installation function.

Being the Golden Anniversary year for Rotary International, it was the object of this administration to have a good follow-through on all Club projects that have grown to be synonymous with Rotary in Charlotte. Such as, Charlotte Boys' Choir, which went a step further in Community service this year by providing a scholarship to a native of Denmark to attend Davidson College. Two major trips were taken by the Choir—Florida in the Spring, then New York in the Summer.

The Merit Badge Show was put on very elaborately and with greater participation by Scouts of both races.

The Junior Rotarian program was extended to include the major County High Schools as well as those

within the city, making a total of six High Schools. Each school sending one Junior Rotarian each month to the Club.

In addition to these and other projects, this administration set about to extend the Club's activities during the Golden Anniversary year by supplying the 4-Way Test plaques to all major City and County High Schools. Conferences were held with principals and teachers. These desk plaques were furnished each faculty member. Bulletin board posters were displayed in all the classrooms, and each school librarian was given a supply of book-marks to be given to each student taking books from the library.

THE FOURTH DECADE

The Club, also, instituted a move to improve the facilities at the Negro Boy Scout Camp in Mecklenburg County with particular emphasis on constructing a dining hall. The net proceeds from the Merit Badge Show were earmarked for this service and the Negro leaders were given an opportunity to supplement these funds.

The formation of a Babe Ruth Baseball League was undertaken and accomplished during the year. This proved to be a splendid project and received much public acclaim.

International President Herb Taylor visited the Charlotte Club on January 31, and addressed a breakfast meeting of the North Charlotte Club.

A combined Ladies' Night and Golden Anniversary meeting was held April 11 with the Dilworth and North Charlotte Clubs joining in. The speaker for this meeting was Past-President of Rotary International, Ken Guernsey.

The officers for the year 1954-1955 were: President, J. Gordon Christian, Jr.; Vice-President, James P. McMillan; Secretary-Treasurer, Martin K. Waters, Jr.

1955 - 1956

The Rotary year 1955-1956 began with President Al Bechtold and his Rotary-Ann, Martha, together with Glenn Park and his Rotary-Ann, Dorothea, attending the International Convention in Chicago on June 6 through 10. At this particular convention Community Service was stressed; and Al left the meeting greatly imbued and challenged to return and render a greater service to his community.

At the first Board of Directors meeting in July, discussion came up in respect to the territories to be assigned to Dilworth and Charlotte and North Charlotte Clubs. A committee headed by Jim Craighill was asked to study territories originally allocated by Rotary International for the Clubs. After much discussion and meeting with officers of the other two Clubs, a resolution was drafted setting up territorial limits for each of the Clubs. This resolution was passed unanimously on November 1 by Charlotte Rotary and subsequently by the other Clubs.

The three Charlotte Rotary Clubs, namely, North Charlotte, Dilworth and Charlotte, participated in the annual Scout Circus in which more than 5,000 Boys and Cub Scouts presented their various activities. Attendance for the two evening performances was over 20,000 people.

Another outstanding event for the year was conducted by Brevard Merritt, Chairman, and Jim Allison, Vice-Chairman, of the Inter-City Committee. They worked out the details with Greensboro to meet with Charlotte on April 9. The Charlotte Club took 40 Rotarians on two special airplanes; namely, Eastern Air Lines and Piedmont Air Lines, and left here at approximately 9 A.M. Landing in Greensboro, they were greeted by President Fielding Fry of the Greensboro Club and 20 of their Rotarians. These Rotarians gave the Charlotte group a complete motor tour of the city of Greensboro. At lunch with the Greensboro Club, Charlotte presented the program; Mr. Shelton Smith of Douglas Aircraft Nike plant was the speaker.



ALBERT L. BECHTOLD
President
1955 - 1956

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The preliminary work was started on the tree project which has been carried on so successfully. A discussion, led by Al Bechtold, was held in regard to planting some Cherry trees at the Mint Museum in cooperation with the Garden Club. Grier Wallace was asked to serve as Chairman and received a price of \$325 for 26 Cherry trees. A suggestion was passed unanimously and the Club appropriated \$200 for planting trees at the Mint Museum as a memorial to the past presidents of the Charlotte Rotary Club. Later that year, our Secretary, Glenn E. Park, brought up the suggestion again and recommended that the Club set out trees honoring each past president as a beautification project for our city parks.

Also during the year the Constitution and By-Laws were restudied regarding the subject of compulsory attendance for members who had 20 years of service or more. Jim Craighill was given the assignment for study. Membership consisted of 232 active, additional active, senior active and past service members. This was a gain of 15 members. There were also 15 honorary members and a loss of 12 members by resignation and death. Four great Rotarians who through the years gave of themselves answered their last call, namely, David Clark, Frank Jones, Perrin Quarles and Penn Wilson.

The Club, entirely solvent, closed the year with \$1,283.92 for the next Administration.

Also, this year, a District Conference was held Monday and Tuesday in which Charlotte Rotary cooperated with the North Charlotte Rotary Club, who was host for the Conference.

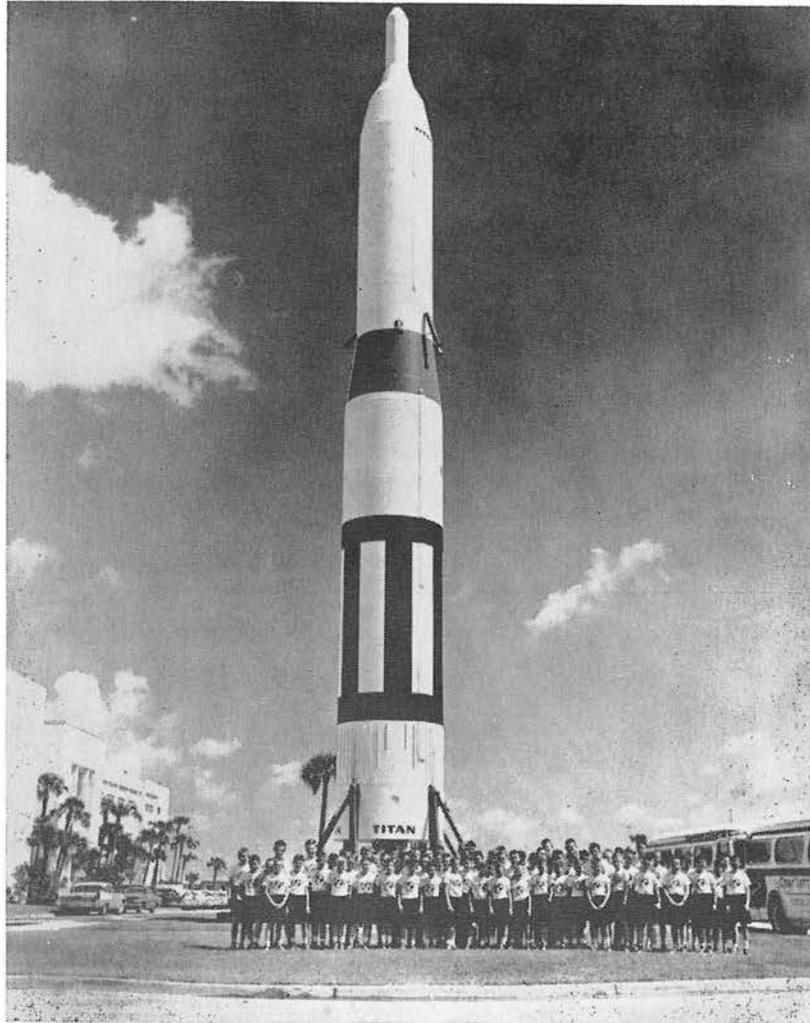
Charlotte Rotary Club also acted as one of the hosts at the Carrousel Basketball Classic entertaining the Colgate University Basketball team together with their Coach, Howard N. Hardman, during the tournament.

The officers for the year 1955-1956 were: President, Albert L. Bechtold; Vice-President, J. Gordon Christian, Jr.; Secretary-Treasurer, Glenn E. Park.



(See story in 1953-54 year)

THE FOURTH DECADE



The Charlotte Boys' Choir at the base of the giant Titan missile at Cape Canaveral.

Fifth Decade, 1956-1966

By F. SADLER LOVE

The last decade of the first half-century of the history of the Charlotte Rotary Club dawned on July 1, 1956. The day was much like any other, with little to distinguish it from days which had gone before. Like any 40 year veteran, the Club found its joints to be just a little more creaky, its muscles a little less anxious to meet the rising sun. Some of the exuberance of youth had been worked off in the preceding 39 years, but in its place had come the calm assurance and the mature judgment that is said to mark those individuals and organizations in the middle years.

The world looked fairly good that year. That is, if you chose not to look behind the atomic reactors nor at the shiny red buttons beside the blood-red telephones. Nikita Khrushchev, at the 20th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, launched the new Russian party line, which he indicated was to be the destruction of Joseph Stalin as the national idol and the projection of a "peaceful" Soviet Union image. Nikita's speech announcing the new party line was seven hours long.

Glenn Park took over the Presidency of the Rotary Club that year, and, in his inaugural address announcing plans for the coming year, required somewhat less time than Nikita. Nevertheless, there were those in the Club who said that he ruled with the same iron hand while he diligently chipped away at the statue of his predecessor, Al (Peanuts) Bechtold. Other wags commented that he might chip either at the statue or stature, but he would never be able to do much with the girth.

Be that as it may, the new President came to his task fresh from the Philadelphia Convention of Rotary International, bringing with him several incandescent bulbs from General Electric and a more-or-less willing helper in the person of Ed Pickard, Secretary-Treasurer.

In the fall of this year the 40th anniversary of the Club was celebrated by a visit from representatives of the Greenville, S. C., Club which had served as the "mother" (why is there never a father in these things?) club for Charlotte. The late Charles Stone, long an honored member, completed his history of the first 40



GLENN E. PARK
President
1956 - 1957

THE FIFTH DECADE

years and presented it to the Club. Some noted at the time that 40 years was the same length of time the Children of Israel wandered in the wilderness. Early in the winter the Charlotte Club had the honor of nominating "Buzz" Tennent of the Asheville Club for President of Rotary International, and he was elected the following year at Lucerne, Switzerland.

In his own comments regarding his year, Glenn notes that the Club reached 200 per cent participation in the Rotary Foundation. He also seemed to take particular pride in the new members inducted into the Club, especially in the fact that five had been initiated in a single day. Since Manuel Rogers, Bill Morrison and Lenoir Keesler were among those who came in in 1956, some of the membership viewed this with a slightly lesser degree of enthusiasm.

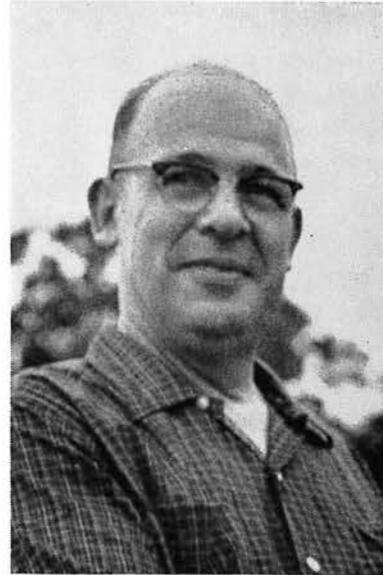
However, while "Buzz" Tennent was sweeping unopposed to the Presidency of RI, the late Marshall Lake, President of the Charlotte Club for 1957-58, was in Lucerne chaperoning Edgar Terrell, Secretary-Treasurer. Marshall came back with a great store of information concerning the principles, precepts, and ideals of Rotary. Edgar came back with 427 color slides of snow on the tops of the Alps.

Also worthy of some note is the fact that during the year Charlotte's own Rotary District changed its numerical designation from 280 to 767. Some said this was an attempt to disclaim the actions of some district members who represented their Clubs at the Lucerne meeting. This could not be verified.

Incidentally, during the year representatives from nearly all the Clubs in North Carolina turned out at Raleigh to honor the new International President, with a delegation of twelve going from Charlotte.

During the middle of the year several events of international significance occurred. Dr. Pedro E. Zuleta and eleven students from the University of Chile, Santiago, Chile, were entertained in the homes of Charlotte Rotarians as a part of the effort to bring about better international relations. During the same year, Malcolm Williamson, Jr., son of our good member and former District Governor, went abroad on a Rotary Fellowship.

Charlie Hunter headed the Boy Scout Circus that year and reported that 25,000, including the Scouts, participated. The Club sent two high school science instructors and ten high school juniors to the Research Triangle at Raleigh for a "Junior Science Symposium," which from this distance in time sounds like an exceptionally good project. Mrs. Minda Rothrock, who had long served as the efficient and genial Clerical Secretary for the Club, found it necessary to discontinue this activity, and Mrs. Betty Knowlton began work as her successor in May 1958. Ladies Night was held at Kuester's (anybody remember Kuester's?) and after dinner moved on to the Little Theater for a private production of "The Reluctant Debutante," which was marked in the main by a stellar performance from Kitty Beatty, who just by chance happened to be the daughter of the new President.



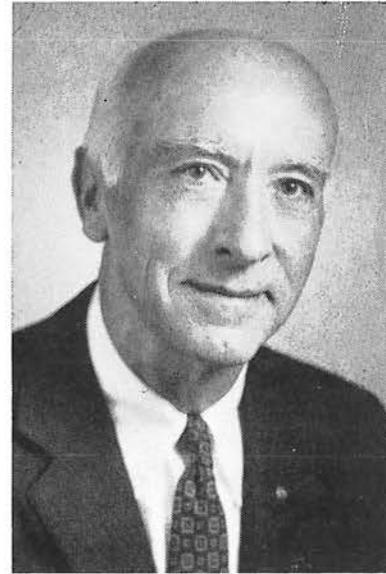
MARSHALL E. LAKE
President
1957 - 1958

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The management of the Club announced as the year moved to a close that the size of the group was beginning to tax the dining facilities of the Elk's Club (some felt this would not require much taxing), and it had been decided that in the future we would be more selective in choosing new members. The rank and file of the Club found this new policy difficult to understand, since the following year Charlie Wright and Bill Pinson were initiated.

Despite these handicaps, however, Francis Beatty, assisted by Secretary-Treasurer Jim Allison, took the helm on July 1, 1958, for a year which was to be marked by courtesy, gentility, and an address by Harry Golden. Almost before the gavel had begun to cool, Francis participated in the dedication of a new administration building at Camp Oaks, a camp for Negro Boy Scouts, with much of the money involved coming from the Rotary promotion of the Merit Badge Show and the Boy Scout Circus.

When the year was only about three months old, some 40 members of the Charlotte Rotary Club journeyed to Greenville, S. C., to extend greetings to the Greenville Rotary Club. They were also returning the courtesy extended when several years before Greenville aided in the celebration of our 40th anniversary. Also during the year the three Rotary Clubs in Charlotte (at that time Charlotte, Dilworth and North Charlotte) joined in a unique meeting to honor the retirement of Fred Vantrease as the Executive Officer of the Mecklenburg County Council of the Boy Scouts.



FRANCIS J. BEATTY
President
1958 - 1959

The archives also yield the fact that during the year "Turk" Terrell and the late Charles Stone apparently collaborated in some sort of new venture involving the manufacture of gavels. The record shows that a number of years before, Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary, planted a tree on the grounds of the Mint Museum in Charlotte, and during the year of Francis Beatty's presidency "Turk" and Charles Stone made, or had made, from the tree gavels which were presented to the Charlotte Club, to the President of Rotary International, and to the Chicago Rotary Club. There was a question in the minds of some members as to how long the tree would last if this practice continued.

"Pat" Gilchrist, who for some reason is referred to by Francis as "our own," was unanimously elected Governor of District 767 to become the seventh member of the Club to serve in this capacity. "Our own Pat" was destined to go on to higher things, but more about this later.

During the year the Charlotte Club joined with Dilworth, North Charlotte and the Altrusa Club to sponsor the first Career-O-Rama. This was held at the Charlotte Public Library, and hundreds of high school students were exposed to some 60 vocational areas. It was said by some that Charlie Hunter milked a cow in Booth No. 9, but this could not be confirmed.

THE FIFTH DECADE

Surviving this accusation, however, as well as the Ladies Night address of Harry Golden, Charlie assumed some measure of control over the Club when he became President, July 1, 1959. He got off to a running start at the RI Convention in New York City, to which locale he was accompanied by the new Secretary-Treasurer, Tebee Hawkins. The experience of these two lads in New York set a record as yet unsurpassed, proving that two hayseed country boys can ride the New York subway at the rush hour.

Back home with sunburned tonsils, these two threw themselves into the task of operating the weekly meeting while keeping the numerous activities alive and progressing. They began with the Club Assembly at Island Point. "Our own Pat" participated in the Assembly and, as Charlie says, "gave the charge." Those present agreed that the Club had not gotten a charge like this since "Cunny" Cunningham opened the last keg of free beer. During the year the President of Rotary International, Harold T. Thomas, of Auckland, New Zealand, visited us, and nearly 700 Rotarians and their wives turned out to honor him.



CHARLES A. HUNTER
President
1959 - 1960

Charlie diligently pursued the existing activities of the Club such as the highly successful Boys' Choir, the Speaker's Bureau, the Scout Circus, Rural Urban Day, the Student Loan Fund, etc., and, also, supervised the inauguration of two new activities. One of these was the "Glad to be Alive Club." Through the devious devices of this new organization, members lucky enough to have a birthday were induced and seduced into making a financial contribution to the Rotary Foundation. Those who were trying to forget their birthdays found no respite. Also begun during the year was a "25'ers Club" which honored those who had been members of the Charlotte Rotary Club for 25 years or longer. This, together with the "Flutter Club," now made so many "clubs" within the Club that a special committee was designated to study the situation.

Meanwhile, back in the national picture, Fidel Castro was rising to power in Cuba, and the United States broke off diplomatic relations with that country. The Soviets launched Lunik I, which went into orbit around the sun and became the first man-made planet. A few months later Lunik II hit the moon, a month later Lunik III circled the moon and sent back photographs, and in the United States, seemingly as far from the moon as ever, the nationwide steel strike came to an end after a record 116 days.

None of this, however, had much to do with the fact that on July 1, 1960, Edgar Terrell became President of the Charlotte Rotary Club, flanked by an able team with Murray Davidson as Secretary-Treasurer and Tom Belk as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

During the year the student guest program was reorganized so as to rotate high school students among the various Rotary Clubs in town, thus providing a stream of communications between Rotary and the schools. Of particular significance is the fact that during this Rotary year the "Trees for Charlotte" program was begun under the leadership of Glenn (The Friend of the Dog) Park. During this year 400 white dogwoods and sugar maples were bought by the Charlotte Club and donated to the City. Not since Joyce Kilmer had a man won such lasting fame through trees.

Also during the year a Separate Projects Fund was established with funds resulting from an increase in dues. The management of the Club announced that operating costs had risen to such an extent that the Club was faced with the danger of seeing its altruism sadly diluted because of lack of funds. In Edgar's year, the Club sponsored its first American Field Service Student, a young man from Italy who stayed in Don Hamilton's home.

During the year, an "Operation Improvement" program was carried out whereby the Presidents of the Charlotte Club and the Wilmington Club changed places, each presiding over the meeting of the other Club. This was quite an improvement for Charlotte, and it was said that this project was dreamed up among the "Palace Guard" of the Charlotte Club, who hoped that it might grow into something permanent. These hopes were spiked (which would have been a good idea for Ladies Night) when the Wilmington Club sent our man back to us.

The Scout Merit Badge Show, the Career-O-Rama, and other activities were continued during the year, and also during the year the meeting place was moved from the Elk's Club to the Anchor Inn, because the former announced its discontinuance of the service of food. There were also some irreverent comments on this, but when Edgar announced that the food would definitely be better at the new establishment, his announcement was met with wild acclaim. This was the same sort of reaction Roosevelt got when he announced he was going to provide more free federal services and lower taxes. Both statements turned out about the same way.

The quality of the food was forgotten, however, as the members faced a new problem and a new administration. Just as December 7, 1941, was known as a "day of infamy" so, also, was the group later to view July 1, 1961. What was later described by some as "the year of the locust" got off to a bad start when Frank Farmer, Secretary-Treasurer, negotiated a transfer from Western Union so that he could escape service. An unsuspecting Charlie Briley replaced him, and Tom Payne was "planted" in the group as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer to see whether or not he might be able to find some grounds for impeachment.



EDGAR A. TERRELL, JR.
President
1960 - 1961



F. SADLER LOVE
President
1961 - 1962

Sadler Love, the new President, who had spent the best years of his life in a courageous effort to stem Japanese textile imports, went to Tokyo to attend the International Convention. While there, and in a manner as yet undetermined (some said that saki played a major role), he became embroiled with a young Japanese student, Yasuo Fukai, the son of the President of a Japanese textile mill, who was coming to Davidson College to study. This resulted in twelve months of solid confusion in the Love household, culminating when it was found that Yasuo had a trunk-load of Japanese books on the subject of how to sell the American market.

Those who had felt that Briley and Payne might exercise a sobering (sic) influence were quickly disillusioned. Bringing the District Governor back to Charlotte from the Club Assembly during the course of a torrential downpour, Messrs. Briley and Payne distinguished themselves by driving him into a metered parking lot, only to find that the exit gate was defective and they were locked in the lot. There were those who said that

the year would have gone better had a policeman not released them.

In spite of a lack of leadership, the routine activities of the Club apparently went forward, giving living testimony to the fact that Rotary is bigger than any three individuals. In a sense, the year was marked by recognition—recognition by name for those individuals who habitually arrived late and for those who habitually left early. This completely broke up the “Flutter Club,” but made it impossible for the President to go out of the building without a bodyguard. Particular attention, but in a different way, was paid to those members who, because of illness, had been unable to attend meetings for an extended period of time. Items concerning these members were carried in “The Rotary Reporter,” and they were remembered with letters and personal visits. Through the courtesy of Louis Ratcliffe, flowers were sent each of these members twice during the year. Also during the year, arrangements were made and carried out to provide a considerable amount of material assistance to a club member during the final months of a long, terminal illness.

It is also worthy of note that during this year the Charlotte Club sponsored “Pat” Gilchrist for Director of Rotary International, and organized a campaign to secure support from several hundred other Clubs. “Pat” was elected at the next convention of Rotary International, thus becoming the second RI Director from Charlotte.

The worst one-day break in New York stock exchange prices since 1929 occurred in May 1962, and the Rotary year came to an end the following month. There was a sigh of relief. “The year of the locust” had passed.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The strength and virility of the Charlotte Rotary Club was demonstrated as it bounced back under the leadership of "Red" Whisnant, with Tom Payne as Secretary-Treasurer and Tom Barnhardt as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. "Red" and Tom Payne went to the Los Angeles Convention, and apparently they spent more time in Hollywood and Disneyland than they did at the meetings, because we seemed to hear more about these few activities than anything else. It was at this meeting, however, that "Pat" Gilchrist was elected a Director of Rotary International, and this event thus retrieved some measure of dignity for the Club. "Red" presented "Pat" to the voting delegates, a fact which both have since been trying to forget.

During "Red's" year (1962-1963) the President of Rotary International, Nitish C. Laharry, visited Winston-Salem, and four Districts joined together to turn out what was said to have been the largest crowd in North Carolina Rotary history. Some 1400 people turned out to honor the new President. Two chartered buses carried 92 Charlotte members and their wives to this conclave.

Another distinct international flavor was added to the year by the visit to our Club of the Italian Ambassador to the United States, his Excellency, Sergio Fenoaltea.

It is also significant to note that in February 1963, with the help of our Club and under the stimulus of "Pat" Gilchrist, Charlotte's fourth Rotary Club—West Charlotte—was born.

One of "Red's" most vigorous efforts of the year, said to be much like that of the wounded bull moose, came when he scheduled Ladies Night in the middle of the worst snow and ice storm seen since the blizzard of '93. This met with varying reactions among the nine members of the Club who were able to attend. Some said he was trying to "snow" the group. Others said he was trying to throw discredit on either his predecessor or his successor. We must leave it to history to unravel his true motives, but it is a matter of record that the President-elect, Haynes Baird, was not even man enough to show himself at his own Ladies Night.



M. D. WHISNANT
President
1962 - 1963



CHARLOTTE ROTARIANS ACTIVE IN BEHALF OF BOY SCOUTS
Left to right: Charlie Hunter, Fred Vantrease, Marshall Lake and Francis Beatty.

THE FIFTH DECADE

While his absence met with the popular approval, nay, the wildest enthusiasm, of those present, it did bode ill for the 1963-64 year. Lenoir Keesler, Secretary-Treasurer, and Mark Johnson, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, could do little to save the year.

The honest and diligent historian can find little of substance to bolster the chronicle of events for Baird's year. Those who thought they had seen locusts realized that they had not seen anything up to that point. Both the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary refused to go with him to the International meeting in Saint Louis. Instead, he was accompanied by his wife and daughter, both of whom said they would do anything to get away from home.

There was, of course, a certain measure of publicity for the Club during the year. The Glenn Park "Trees Program" had prospered and progressed during the several years of its existence, and the 1963-64 gift to the city was marked by a photograph in the local paper. This showed Haynes with a sort of silly grin on his face, looking up into the limbs of an unplanted maple. This naturally gave rise to a number of ill-considered and flippant comments concerning such things as the Scopes Trial, canines, the urological profession, and the future of Rotary in general.

During the year Carl Miller, President of Rotary International, visited Charlotte, and at an affair at Park Center spoke to 1400 people. This assemblage apparently rivaled the one of the preceding year which was heralded as the largest in North Carolina Rotary history. While in Charlotte, President Miller planted a tree at the Mint Museum, apparently trying to keep ahead of "Turk" Terrell, who had been rapidly carving up the other one to make gavels.

Also during the year, the first Rotary student club was started in Charlotte. This was the Interact Club at Myers Park High, which got off to a fine running start as a part of a new international project organized by Rotary International. At one of the regular meetings toward the end of the year, Governor Terry Sanford addressed an overflow audience of the Club.

The number of members leaving by resignation was unusually long, but as May gave way to June, hearts became lighter and frowns gave way to smiles. At long last, members of the Club knew what Moses meant (or was it Moses?) when he said, "How long, oh, how long!"

Nevertheless, when the waters of the Red Sea rolled back, they revealed a devastated Club. A few new members had come in blindly from other Clubs, but many more members had resigned, unable to stand the tyranny any longer. It was obvious that a rebuilding job was necessary, and an alert and intelligent membership and Board of Directors turned to an architect, Tebee Hawkins, to tackle the job.



H. HAYNES BAIRD
President
1963 - 1964

Tebee immediately showed his intelligence. While at the Rotary International meeting in Toronto, Canada, he palmed off his teenage son on a District Governor from the Sao Paulo, Brazil, area, this being the "matched district" for the Charlotte Club. That solved the problem of what to do with teenagers in the summer.

The rebuilding process, however, was even more difficult than it had appeared to be. Tebee was said to have informed the Board of Directors that he "had not seen such devastation since Sherman went through." It was unclear as to whether he had himself witnessed Sherman's march, or whether he was operating on hearsay. Tebee brought a good team to help him, however, with Bill Pinson as Secretary-Treasurer and "Mac" Jackson as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. Ted Kirby of the North Charlotte Rotary Club was District Governor that year, and he, too, occasionally came up with projects and suggestions to stimulate the new President.

Ted divided the District into six groups of clubs, with Charlie Hunter in charge of the group which included Charlotte. The District Conference was a project of the four Charlotte Clubs jointly, and Richard Evans, President-elect of Rotary International, spoke. This was the largest District Conference ever held in our District, with all 42 Clubs represented by 1100 registered individuals.

This was the first full year of the Interact Club at Myers Park. Under the careful guidance of the Charlotte Rotary Club, the baby was reported as doing well and growing lustier every day. Henry Swanzey also added a certain degree of lustiness when he brought in live models (girls, that it) to lead the Club in singing "Hello, Dolly." This met with popular approval, although some said that they would rather have had the girls without the music.

Continuing the international flavor of Rotary, "Pat" Gilchrist served as the RI President's personal representative to the British Isles in September and October, but returned in time to join with Ted Kirby in keeping President Hawkins on the job.

Rebuilding or no rebuilding, when the year came to an end all were agreed that it had been a difficult one. U. S. weather reports, for example, indicate that "Nature assailed the U. S. in 1965 . . . inflicting widespread suffering and destruction . . ." Hurricane Betsy, which did more damage in the United States than any other in history, in September swept up from the Bahamas with winds up to 150 miles per hour. There was also a good bit of hot air, both in the Rotary Club and in the nation at large.



TEBEE B. HAWKINS
President
1964 - 1965

THE SIXTH DECADE

But the year did finally come to a close, and the Directors, looking back over the preceding nine Presidents of the fifth decade of the first half-century, realized that the end was near. As was natural at a time like this, they turned to an individual of ability and dignity. Bob Bryant, a man with many years of experience in covering up the mistakes of others, bowed his head humbly as the mantle of leadership fell across his shoulders. He knew why he had been chosen, and he set about the task with quiet patience.

First, he selected "Hank" Wilmer as Secretary-Treasurer, and then he chose Roddey Dowd as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

This in itself was almost enough to complete the interment, but to finish off the situation, through some error, *two* speakers turned up for the first program of the new 1965-66 Rotary year!

Nevertheless, and despite all predictions to the contrary, it turned out to be a pretty good year. Projects which we have come to consider as "routine," but which mean so much to the community, were continued with renewed vigor. The relatively young Interact Club at Myers Park High was chosen this year as the outstanding student club at the school. Our Club cooperated with the city of Charlotte in making available to Ariquipa, Peru, several hundred school desks for use by the schools of their city. Ariquipa is the "sister club" designated for Charlotte by Rotary International.

As an additional effort to bring about improved international relations and friendships, the Board of Directors of our Club decided this year to participate over a three-year period in helping to found a YMCA in Ariquipa.

The YMCA project was designated as a part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Charlotte Club, planning for which was well underway by the end of the Rotary year. One facet of the activities is the production of a film which will use the Charlotte Rotary Club to show the impact of a civic club upon a community. This film is being made by WSOC-TV and will be used locally on television. A print will also be presented to Rotary International. Additionally, it was announced that Luther Hodges, President-elect of Rotary International, will be the speaker at a dinner to celebrate the anniversary.

As a fitting climax to the year, Bob Bryant reported that the Club had become a 500 per cent member of the Rotary Foundation. He appointed committee members to plan our 50th anniversary observance. At June 30, 1966, the finances were in good shape, and the membership stood at 271. Unfortunately, in June, Mrs. Betty Knowlton, who had served exceptionally well as Clerical Secretary since May 1958, moved her residence to Florida. She was succeeded by Mrs. Robert Glasgow. Especially unfortunate was the loss by death of the last charter member of the Club, Ralston Pound, Sr.



JAMES R. BRYANT, JR.
President
1965 - 1966

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

And so at long last the decade had come to an end. It was time to hang the confetti and light the candles on the birthday cake. It was also a time to remember the 112 Rotarians who, since 1916, had died while members of the Charlotte Rotary Club. It was a time to remember that what is past is prologue, a time to be proud of the past, a time to look to the future.

"The moving finger writes; and having writ,
Moves on: nor all your Piety nor Wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,
Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it."



PRESENTATION OF NORTH CHARLOTTE ROTARY CLUB CHARTER
Art Thompson, First President of the North Charlotte Rotary Club, accepts from Governor John Paul Lucas the Charter for his new club. Dave Clark, who helped organize the club, looks on.

Sixth Decade, 1966-1976

By ROBIN A. SMITH

As the sixth decade for The Rotary Club of Charlotte dawned, the nation was in turmoil. These were the Vietnam years, a time of upheaval throughout the country. Sons of members were off fighting on foreign soil. Those were not the "good old days," but The Charlotte Rotary Club stood firm and solid throughout.

1966 - 1967

President Charles Briley launched the Club into its second half century of service. The Golden Anniversary year of the Club was still being celebrated, and Club members gathered for a group photograph. The group gathered on the street outside Honey's Restaurant at the corner of Tryon and Morehead streets. All were dressed in their finest. Some were even in parade dress with guns, knives and a 50-year-old camera.

The photographer on hand was obviously optimistic. He took only one shot of the group. Prints were sold at the next meeting . . . no doubt, to prevent public distribution.

Meal costs were increased to \$1.75. One of the speakers that year noted that our biggest world threat is the conflict between communism and capitalism. Another speaker pointed out that the major issue for North Carolinians is to deal with its traffic accident deaths. The introduction of seat belts would help the situation.

As of 1966, Charlotte had only four Rotary clubs — North, West, Dilworth and Downtown. That year, members brought home-grown vegetables to complement the luncheon meals.

A new Club format took hold that year, beginning with the introduction of guests, the introduction of the head table, Health and Happiness, Song, Invocation and, last, the Speaker. Song leaders from 1966 on amazed the group that they could consistently find a note of the scale so different from what everyone else was singing.

The Club's ongoing vision for Interact became a reality as Norway established its own Interact Club, based on the model provided here in Charlotte. The Norwegian Club was started by a local Exchange Student studying in Norway in October.



CHARLES BRILEY
President
1966 - 1967

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

1967 - 1968

The July 4th fireworks display heralded not only the traditional celebration of America's independence, but signaled another great meaning to Rotarians — a date which marked the 100 year Centennial Anniversary of the birth of Paul P. Harris, Founder and President Emeritus of Rotary International on February 23, 1905 in Chicago, IL.

We said goodbye to a beloved friend and founding member of our Club, Dr. "Ham" McKay and to other revered ones like Cecil Brodt, Walter Pratt, Frank Kimbrell, Gordon Christian, Jim Parham and Past District Governor George Ivey, Sr.

We boosted our community tree planting to 2,758 healthy and beautiful leafy arbors which someday will make a valuable contribution to our city. Lawrence Bowles, the Club's Rotary Foundation student, studied at the University of Calcutta in India.

We continued to wonder how Henry Swanzey, our song leader, could so consistently find a note of the scale so different from the one everybody else was singing.

Arequipa, Peru was hailed as our Sister City Rotary Club whose visitors to our Charlotte Club on October 19, 1967 were the appreciative recipients of our pledge to them of \$5,000 as the first of annual contributions to assist them with their project of developing a YMCA in Arequipa.

We sang a Happy Birthday to Jim Parham on his 87th birthday. We strutted with pride to learn that our Club had exceeded the 100 percent budgeted contribution of per capita giving by a factor of six to become a "600 percent" Club, to the Rotary Foundation.

Rotarians Tom Belk, George Ivey and Zook Crosland (of Belk's, Ivey's and Sears) jointly announced the development of a Super Regional Shopping Center to be located in the Southeast sector outer fringe of the community.

We joined the applause to learn of the recognition given to Barry Miller by both the City Council and the County Commission by appointing him to the chair of the Youth Council and to the Mayor's Youth Opportunity Council. Charles Hunter, a Club member, was nominated and duly elected District Governor. In addition, daughters of members who were attending Queens College were hosted at one of the Club's meetings.

At his birthday, age 82, a well deserved round of applause greeted the ears of J. Norman Pease for his unselfish and enduring contributions which he had made to the community.

On April 26, 1968 there were 13,204 clubs and an estimated 631,000 members in 142 countries and geographical regions. During the past year 311 clubs have been formed.



R. ZACH THOMAS, JR.
President
1967 - 1968

THE SIXTH DECADE

1968 - 1969

George Henderson, President, and Robert Glasgow, Secretary, started the 52nd year of the Club with a report on the Rotary International Convention held in Mexico City.

Henry Harkey, a representative of District 767, made a presentation to Rotarians in Sydney, Australia, selling them on the idea and the merits of Interact.

Rotarians, with the assistance of Dean Colvard, Chancellor of UNC Charlotte, helped establish the Urban Affairs Institute.

Frank Timberlake was serving as Vice President and President-elect. Dave McConnell was appointed an ambassador to the meeting of the United Nations' Economic and Social Council in Geneva, Switzerland.

Pat Gilchrist, "Mr. Rotary," was appointed Chairman of Rotary International's Convention to be held in Honolulu, Hawaii on May 25-29, 1969.

The third check of \$1,000 was sent to our Sister City of Arequipa, Peru to help build a Y.M.C.A. A total of \$5,000 was originally pledged to erecting the Y.M.C.A. Rotary clubs of Arequipa and Peru are helping with financing of equipment. A room in the new Y.M.C.A. will be known as "The Charlotte Room."

"Rotary Trees for Charlotte Committee," Glenn Park, Chairman, (AKA "Dog's Best Friend") presented 275 trees to the Charlotte Park and Recreation Commission. This committee, since 1956, has donated 3,133 trees; 1,073 sugar maples and 2,060 dogwoods.

The Directors for the year were: Charles Ibach, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer; Zach Thomas, Immediate Past President and Don Davidson, Jeff Dishongh, Frank Farmer, Harold Green, Harry Weatherly, Jim Barnhardt, Bert Finch, Sadler Love, Powell Majors, Bill Parker and Martin Waters.

The year came to an end with Henry McKenna announcing the formation of the East Charlotte Rotary Club, sponsored by our Club, with Charlie Hunter as the originator of the movement.

Charlotte now has five clubs with meetings Monday through Friday.

1969 - 1970

We began our Rotary year with 277 members and ended it with 272. New members that joined the Club were Terry Osborne, Jim Butterworth, Elliott Taylor, Eric Ritzen, F. Funnells, Dave Pickard, Lonnie Newsom, Bill Lester, Charles Cowsert, Richard Charles Dunn, Emerson Johnson, Robert Henry Swanzey, Charles Trexler and Rex Welton. One new member, Lonnie Newsom, President of Johnson C. Smith University, was the first black member in our Club or any Rotary Club in the Charlotte area. Lonnie's membership made a total of five heads of area colleges, who were members of our Club. Three members, Don Hamilton, Jim McMillan and Frank Shannonhouse, died during this year.



C. GEORGE HENDERSON
President
1968 - 1969

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Our projects for the year included the final payment of \$1,000 to the Arequipa project. Our Club sponsored a foreign exchange student from Chile this year as well. We again spent \$524 toward the Chan Gordon Scholarship. The Club also instigated a project of recognizing the Charlotte Police Department and two outstanding policemen each Tuesday.

Our Club served as a sponsor for the Eagle Scout Banquet, which was very successful. We approved a project for Explorer Scout Career Counseling. The project committee and board approved the Ben Hood Landscaping Project for UNC Charlotte. The Club had already donated \$500 towards this project. The tree project continued to be well received by the City of Charlotte throughout the year.

The student loan fund, under the direction of Lenoir Keesler and Hugh Cathey, continued to be a wonderful project. Our Club made loans for the education of several students.

The Interact Club of Myers Park High School proved to be a very successful project. One of the major accomplishments of this Interact Club was participation in the Aquarian Youth-in. The Interact Club also participated in the Festival in the Park. Its members wrote 150 Christmas letters to soldiers in Vietnam. In addition, the Myers Park High School Interact Club also participated in various other projects, ranging from tutoring at the Bethlehem Center to holding their annual foreign exchange student banquet.

The Boy Scout Circus continued to be one of The Charlotte Rotary Club's main projects. This circus produced good revenue for Scout work in Charlotte. Zeb Watkins was Chairman this year.

Charlotte Rotary Club helped to organize the East Charlotte Rotary Club. Members of this committee, headed by Harry McKenna, included Milo Kirkpatrick, Powell Majors, Al Bechtold, Francis Beatty, Bob Bryant and Bert Finch.

During that year, Charlotte Rotary Club reached the 1,100 percent bracket on the Rotary Foundation. The 1969-1970 Rotary Club had two Paul Harris Fellows, Luther Hodges, Jr. and Pat Gilchrist.

1970 - 1971

The gavel was transferred from Frank Timberlake's capable hands to begin the new decade for Charlotte Rotary. Recession talk abounded. When it will begin and when it will end were discussions taking place simultaneously.

Charlotte planned for City/County Consolidation during the year. A thunderstorm accented the Club Assembly meeting.

Notable events of the year included the Club welcoming home sons of members who were returning from Vietnam. The Club also began and continued a tradition of inviting policemen to our luncheon programs in support of the community's stand on crime prevention and law and order.



J. FRANK TIMBERLAKE, JR.
President
1969 - 1970

THE SIXTH DECADE

Club member Bill Poe was named Charlotte's Man of the Year by *The Charlotte News*. Lonnie Newsom of Johnson C. Smith University and a member of the Club received assistance from fellow members during that University's \$1.5 million campaign. Charles Hunter and Pat Gilchrist gave leadership to spearhead the sponsoring of a Rotary International Institute for Zone Four, under which the Club fell.

The anthem "America" was sung 27 times that year at Club meetings.

1971 - 1972

Following my Family, my God and my Country was the year as president of the Rotary Club of Charlotte — unequaled in any other civic and/or professional endeavor.

Rotary International met in Sydney, Australia. Our own Rotary International Director, Pat Gilchrist, made this event a royal experience for Lois, our children and myself. In Director Pat's presence, we met international



BARRY G. MILLER
President
1971 - 1972

leaders that would never have been in our contact other than through the grace of Pat and Katie Gilchrist.

The most outstanding memory we have of this year was the operation of the "Auto-Pilot." From the weekly management of the Head Table, Ladies Night, Club Assembly and Weekly Programs, all avenues of service were managed by dedicated Rotarians with an attitude that our year was to be one of pure pleasure, which it was — totally "auto."

Ladies Night, always a gala event, was made possible by the Lucases of Charlotte North Rotary. They provided us with vintage American theater and costume. The City Club provided a beautiful environment for the evening.

We are daily reminded of the year '71-'72. As we walk in the back door of our home, there grows a lovely dogwood planted by Beau Whitton the month I became president of Charlotte Rotary. In our living room, to remind us daily of this wonderful year in our life, is a

beautiful painting presented to our family with a plaque reminding us that '71-'72 was a very special year for the Millers.

Our children shared with us the trip to Australia. The highlight of our return was that our sons brought back two backpacks of rocks and meteorite crater debris weighing more than all of our luggage. This rock collection is now a part of the Boy Scout Council exhibition.

1972 - 1973

Our membership grew from 252 to 260 members this year with 22 new members having been taken in. The 51 members who served as officers, directors or committee chairmen are proof that this is a working club, otherwise it would not have been possible to have won the Pat Gilchrist trophy for the outstanding club in our District.



BERTRAM C. FINCH
President
1970 - 1971

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The Club remained in sound financial condition. Approximately \$8,000 was expended this year on projects such as international student exchange, trees for Charlotte, the Rotary Foundation, Interact, boys work and the Human Relations Award.

New activities initiated this year include the Public Service Recognition Committee, Rotarians at Work Committee and the Youth Vocation Project.

The Tree Committee had planted 4,440 trees in Charlotte parks and playgrounds since it was started. Jake Golden of the Health and Happiness Committee revived what was known as the "Methodist Hour," so named when Dick Owenby reported to the Club in the 40s.

Lunches increased in price to \$2.50 a week. Dr. Rolland Jones, Superintendent of Schools, began a fascinating series on the education system.

1973 - 1974

Outstanding work was once again rendered by the many sub-committees and individuals who make up our Rotary Club. The hard work and service which is carried out behind the scenes does much to make our Club an important part of not only our lives but those of fellow community citizens.



WARNER L. HALL
President
1973 - 1974

Finances were in good order. Membership is up now to 268, up from 260. We had three members become Paul Harris Fellows during the year, two posthumously. Our donation to the Rotary Foundation made us a 1,900 percent club.

The student loan program for deserving students now has outstanding 32 loans for a total amount of \$19,125. We still provide a large number of dogwood and maple trees to the Park and Recreation Department for the beautification of the city.

A handbook for guidance counseling by volunteers from our membership was prepared and given to all of the high schools. Members of the Speakers Bureau made over 60 talks to other clubs.

Glenn Park attained 29 years of perfect attendance, and a Rotary Music Camp was sponsored by the Club and conducted at Wildacres.

1974 - 1975

The one accomplishment to be claimed from the 1973-74 Rotary year is the goal of being the Friendliest Rotary Club in Charlotte.



G. DON DAVIDSON
President
1972 - 1973

THE SIXTH DECADE

Highlights of the year include the cost of meals rose again . . . to \$3.25. One speaker from IBM informed the group that the use of computers will become as commonplace as automobiles.

Charlotte welcomed the much heralded computerized traffic signal system to solve our traffic problems. It was cause for celebration when a president correctly introduced the Head Table.

Honey's restaurant changed its name to Izzie Pittles. The second Interact Club was organized at Charlotte Latin School, and the Club planted its 5,000th tree and committed to purchasing playground equipment for Dalton Village.

1975 - 1976

This was the year of the Great Exodus. We were meeting at Honey's Restaurant on the corner of Tryon and Morehead. The food, always mediocre, was beginning to get worse and worse, and the members grumbled more and more.

Then Honey sold the restaurant to Izzie Pittle. Hope sprang that things might get better. But no, if possible, they got worse. The members were after my hide to do something. The day Izzie served us two hot dogs with pork and beans on a paper plate did it.

We moved to the 30th floor of the First Union Bank where Slug Claiborne served us from his restaurant on the floor below. The Club attained 2,000 percent for the Rotary Foundation.

In February 1976, I had a heart attack and stayed out a couple of months, making Marvin Lymberis serve a record long term in office.



MARVIN N. LYMBERIS
President
1974 - 1975



THOMAS J. GARRETT, JR.
President
1975 - 1976

Seventh Decade, 1976-1986

By ROBIN A. SMITH

The second half of the decade of the seventies launched the Club into its seventh decade of service. It was to be an era of enormous change, socially and economically. The nation would celebrate its Bicentennial, recession would end and the Equal Rights Amendment would result in a female Prime Minister in Great Britain and a U.S. Supreme Court Justice. Space travel, too, would become commonplace. The Club would change with the times but keep its honored tradition of fellowship and service.

1976 - 1977

This was the year of Tom Warren and the dancing girl – independently! More on that later –

Tom Garrett, our retiring president, was a tough act to follow. Helping me to try to “fill the bill” was Maloy Rash, Secretary. Robert A. Manchester, II served as President of Rotary International. Con Bost was our District Governor. District 767 contained 46 Rotary Clubs with 2,855 members. Charlotte Rotary Clubs included our own, Charlotte North, West Charlotte, Charlotte East and Dilworth.

Under Tom Warren, as Camp Development Director, the new Mecklenburg Scout Reservation was completed. Our Club participated in its dedication as well as the Rotary-Scout Exposition.

On October 31, 1976, Beth Small, our office secretary for many years, retired. Rotarian Tom Warren accepted the position of Club Executive Secretary and has done an outstanding job from “day one.”

On December 1, 1976, our Club celebrated its 60th birthday. We were the 256th Club to be founded. J. Norman Pease, our President in 1922–23, was among the many notables at our party (meeting) on November 30, 1976.

Two hundred dogwood and maple trees were given to the Park and Recreation Commission. This brought the total to over 5,000 trees planted in 17 years.

Our Club Assembly was held at the Red Fez Club on June 14, 1977. Good food, excellent fellowship, great fun!



STUART R. "PETE" DEWITT
President
1976 - 1977

THE SEVENTH DECADE

A study exchange group came to District 767, including Charlotte, from India. To date, this program had involved 4,195 men from more than 50 countries.

Father John Bradley of Belmont Abbey College spoke on democracy and the free enterprise system. Outstanding! A musical program featured Sadler Hayes of New York City, a relative of many of our Barnhardts. Most enjoyable! An update on the Charlotte school system was presented by our Rotarian Bill Poe who had served for 10 years as the Chairman of the Charlotte Board of Education. Bravo! A number of programs were offered by ministers of various faiths – I could see no improvement in the “character/s” of our Club. W. S. “Bill” Lee talked about energy. A lot of fireworks since then.

Rotarian Dr. Dave Welton, Chairman of the NC delegation to the American Medical Association, spoke to the Club on some of the concerns of the medical profession. Very informative. Dr. Frontis Johnston of Davidson College described the “Scotch Irish” settlers of Mecklenburg County. What a speaker – fantastic! Admiral Jeremiah A. Denton, U.S.N., talked of his experience in Vietnam as a flyer and prisoner. A standing ovation.

At the last program of the year, we were in “high cotton” for two reasons. First, Georgia Hayes, the 1967 Maid of Cotton, was our speaker. Secondly, I had announced to the membership at each meeting that we must “move along” to save time for the dancing girls at the end of the meeting. But alas, full meetings and no dancing girls. But, lo and behold, at this last meeting of the year came lovely Valerie Bost, a student at Grose School of Dancing, who performed for us. This was my farewell salute to the Club as I passed the gavel to Doug Booth.

1977 - 1978

The year began with a roster of 259 members being distributed with instructions for its use as a coloring book, wallet or coaster.

This busy Rotary year saw many changes in the Club and its city. Eleven trees planted by our Club were re-located to make way for new construction on the UNCC campus. Our meeting place was moved to the Top of the Tower Banquet Hall. The largest luncheon crowd ever showed up to hear our own Ken Harris speak on the challenges facing the city of Charlotte.

Members were requested (for a very short period of time) to RSVP their luncheon reservations. Membership classifications increased to 104. Bill Loftin requested, in calling for new information in the roster, that anyone who had aged since their last picture, should submit a new one. The connection of Ivey's and Belk's through a skyway was announced, and Club member Dean Colvard was selected as Charlotte's Man of the Year by *The Charlotte News*.



DOUGLAS W. BOOTH
President
1977 - 1978

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

1978 - 1979

My service as President of The Charlotte Rotary Club came at a crucial time in my career. Serving as president in the last half of 1978 and the first half of 1979 overlapped with the last six months of my tenure as Chancellor of The University of North Carolina at Charlotte and the first six months of my retired status as Chancellor Emeritus.

My serving as Rotary Club President gave me a new sense of appreciation of the high quality of individuals who compose the Rotary membership. As I set about to organize the Club for the new year, I was impressed by the fact that not a single person asked to serve refused to do so. One would have expected that there would be at least some refusals based on perfectly legitimate reasons. Rotarians are great people.

Among the highlights of my Rotary year were the following: On August 21, 1978, we had an all-club dinner meeting at the Sheraton Center with Clem Renouf, President of Rotary International from Australia, as our speaker.

We participated along with past District Governors Charlie Hunter and Paul Lucas in planting a hard sugar maple tree at the Mint Museum. Colonel Francis Beatty recalled having witnessed the planting of another tree in the same area by Paul Harris in 1939.

We were advised that we could no longer meet in the Top of the Tower Banquet Hall in the First Union Building. With Ed Packard as Chairman of the Food Committee, many different options of meeting places were explored. This resulted in the selection of Quality Inn as our new home from May 1, 1979. Many of the members welcomed the free and convenient parking this new setting provided. After a trial run of service on a seated and a cafeteria basis, membership voted in favor of the cafeteria. The only changes that have been made since that time have been the name of the hotel, which, at this writing, is Government House.

Another highlight of my year was the purchase of a new piano and the enthusiastic reception of it by Dave Welton as well as the members.

During my regime, some feelings were expressed that our Club banner was lacking in color and attractiveness when compared with other banners presented to us from various parts of the world. Our genial and imaginative executive secretary, Tom Warren, came up with the version of our Club banner which is still in use. Tom sketched some new ideas among which was a red and blue on white incorporating the "Hornet's Nest" and a scroll depicting the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. The new design, modified slightly, was adopted by the Board, and the initial order for 200 was placed. We are still using the same banner, although Tom says, "At times we exchange it with our English brother Rotarians a bit tongue-in-cheek."

The saddest event of the year for me personally was the death of my good friend and former District Governor Paul Lucas. Paul had sponsored my membership in Rotary soon after my arrival in Charlotte and was in my regular Saturday morning golfing foursome. Former District Governor Charlie Hunter paid a meaningful tribute to Paul Lucas by saying that he "preached a daily sermon with his life and was truly one of God's choicest gentlemen."



DEAN W. COLVARD
President
1978 - 1979

THE SEVENTH DECADE

1979 - 1980

We began the year with Representative Jim Martin as our speaker. We celebrated Ben Hood's 100th birthday December 15, 1979. Ben joined Charlotte Rotary in 1925. Humor aside, I had trouble getting Ben to give up the mike so we could get on with the rest of the program.

We celebrated Rotary's 75th Anniversary on February 26 and a retrospective review of 64 years of Charlotte Rotary.

Ladies Night was held in conjunction with other Charlotte Rotary clubs at the Sheraton Center. The Charlotte Symphony performed.

The District 767 Conference was held in Charlotte at the Holiday Inn North under the leadership of District Governor Peter Gerns. The highlight was a speech by Rotary International's President James L. Bomar whose theme was "Let Service Light the Way."

The Annual Club Assembly was held at UNC Charlotte where a landscaping project was given by Charlotte Rotary and dedicated to Rufus Johnston. Glenn Park attained 35 years of perfect attendance. "Red" Whisnant reached 34 years without a miss.

Charlotte Rotary reached the 2,900 percent level in the Rotary Foundation. One humorous incident to remember — after the University of Georgia lost consecutive football games to Wake Forest, Clemson and South Carolina, Bill Pinson, Bill Burton and Hunter Jones conspired to have a dead funeral wreath decorated with the colors of their three schools and emblazoned with a "The Dawgs is Dead" banner. This was presented to me during the meeting.



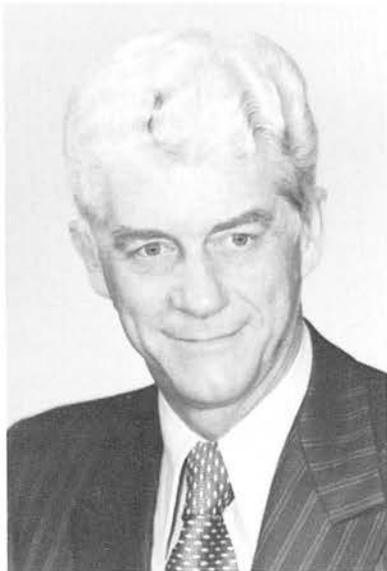
HOKE S. NASH, JR.
President
1979 - 1980

1980 - 1981

The International Rotary theme for this year was "Take Time to Serve." One way of bringing this theme into focus was having the Avenue Chairmen appoint the committee members. Normally, the president appoints all committee members, but this method assured that each chairman would contact each one and that person would be aware of a special request to serve.

Rotarian E. H. Little reached the 100 mark. The biggest shocker — the Board adopted the International rule which required 30 percent attendance in your home club every six months.

Twenty-two excellent speakers, members of our Club, formed an outstanding Speakers Bureau. In addition to good programs, the president tried to initiate further interest, some mystery and a little entertainment with some surprise. The idea was to create a relaxed and interesting atmosphere in which to enjoy the fellowship of Rotary. This was done by instigating a countdown of Club dates remaining in the president's Rotary Year.



DAVID A. BURKHALTER
President
1980 - 1981

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The Ladies Night Committee climaxed the year with a trip to the circus. The committee had one of the cleverest promotions our Club had ever experienced. Some members said the activity was redundant – that the president had conducted a circus all year. Tom Garrett said it best: “Our president, in his job and at Rotary, has never been paid what he’s worth. The minimum wage law prevents that!”

1981 - 1982

Due to my rigorous schedule, the 1981–82 Rotary year was to be known as the year of the Stand-Ins for all the substituting required. Ten substitutions were noted throughout its course.

The year began with the announcement of Tom Warren as our 34th Paul Harris Fellow. The Top Of The Week and Mint Hill-Matthews Clubs were formed, under our capable guiding hands, and we attended our fifth annual joint Rotary meeting.

Of an average 265 members, 25 percent were over 70 years of age. The graying of Charlotte Rotary had begun.

The 1981–82 year came to a satisfactory close with the onset of lawyer slamming jokes . . .

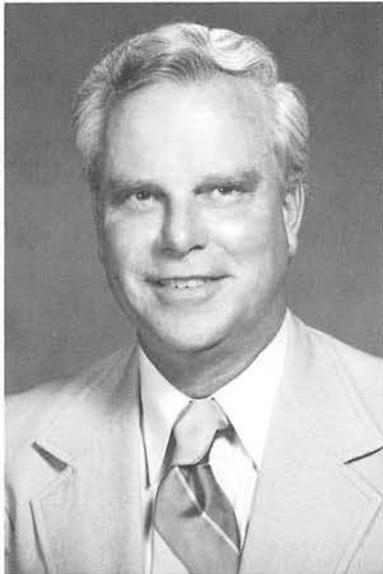


PRICE H. GWYNN, III
President
1981 - 1982

1982 - 1983

“A good, solid year of traditional Charlotte Rotary” aptly describes the 12 months from July 1, 1982 to June 30, 1983. We were traditional in membership – all male – and about 270 strong. There were 20 physicians and 13 each of the following: lawyers, educators, electric power officials and clergymen. The members were faithful, but Father Time was catching up with many of us.

There were 51 members who had lived beyond the allotted span of threescore and 10 years. Eighteen of them had more than 40 years’ service each to Charlotte Rotary. Colonel Norman Pease, a 62 year member, celebrated his 97th birthday on November 1, 1982. Ben Hood, who became 103 years old on December 15, 1982, passed away on February 13, 1983, after 75 years of service to our Club. Colonel Francis Beatty, a 50-year member, died in January 1983. Dick Bray and Harry Weatherly died in January and April, respectively. Another well-known citizen and former school superintendent, Elmer Garinger, passed away on August 21, 1983, after 33 years as a Rotarian.



WILLIAM E. POE
President
1982 - 1983

At the other extreme, Roger Owens became the proud father of a baby girl in November 1982. No one could remember when the last “birth” day occurred among the membership.

As usual, there were notable speakers during the year: Congressman Jim Martin reported on the 97th Congress and previewed the 98th. E. K. Fretwell, Chancellor at UNC Charlotte talked

THE SEVENTH DECADE

about a plan in the making to develop a new town center called University Place in pastures and woodlands north of the city. Leighton Ford gave an overview of his Charlotte Crusade at the old coliseum, and Governor Hunt canceled his appearance because of an illness which put him in the hospital.

Warner Hall became our 45th Paul Harris Fellow.

Luther Hodges, Jr. was the featured speaker at the joint meeting of all Charlotte clubs on October 19. The Chairman and CEO of the National Bank of Washington talked about the "New Corporate Role in Community Affairs."

A California court upheld the male-only membership rule of Rotary, but some clubs were beginning to violate the rule anyway.

Dr. G. Carswell Hughes was elected to succeed as president, but he accepted a call to pastor an historical Presbyterian Church in Charleston, SC. Lee Morris was selected to succeed Carswell.

1983 - 1984

Like Frank Sinatra said in one of his hit songs of the 1960s, 1983-84 was a very good year.

In order to get each meeting off to a happy start, I introduced each program with little-known but important facts from the pages of history. Examples: In 1848, bloomers for ladies were introduced as a new item of wearing apparel. In 1876 Wild Bill Hickock was shot and killed while playing poker.

Throughout the year, we had some very interesting programs. A report on the Rotary International Convention in Toronto was given. The new theme was "Share Rotary . . . serve people." Guest speaker Hugh Morton gave a presentation on Save the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, and Johnny Harris gave the Club an update on plans for the new Charlotte Coliseum. District Governor Don MacKay made his annual visit to our Club as well.

We also had some informative political guests. Governor Jim Hunt made an address that year before our Club. Candidates for mayor of Charlotte, Harvey Gantt, Ed Peacock and George Selden presented their platforms. Congressional candidates Susan Green, D. G. Martin, Alex McMillan and Ben Tison also appeared on a panel outlining their candidacy.

During the 1983-84 year we gained 28 new members and won a Rotary International Award for meeting and exceeding Rotary Foundation expectations for our Club.



J. LEE MORRIS
President
1983 - 1984

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

1984 - 1985

Rotary has such a continuous record of good activity and achievement that it was hard to improve tremendously on that during my term. Great progress was made on membership development during the year. The involvement of new members in Rotary and its projects, particularly the Scout Expo, is very satisfactory.

The committee structure was altered during the year, with Board approval. Increased awareness in Rotary activities and projects was good for the Club and its membership.

Charlie Hunter announced that \$200 million was now in the Paul Harris fund account. Over 25,000 students had already benefited from the funds in the way of scholarships and fellowships.



DALBERT U. SHEFTE
President
1984 - 1985

1985 - 1986

"Goals unset are goals unmet." This was my operating philosophy for the Club. Edgar Love and his four quarterly chairmen did a fine job with programs. Under Fun and Fellowship, pleasant meetings were abundant, and the straight man's participation in Health and Happiness assured us of that on numerous occasions.

In Membership Development, the emphasis was placed on "top flight" individuals. Eighteen were recruited this year. A memorable Ladies Night highlighted the objective of Special Events, and Functioning Committees could not have been better. The sergeant-at-arms and reporters for the weekly bulletin are especially to be praised.

John Barnhardt updated the Rotary Foundation year. Thirty-six new Paul Harris sustaining members and three Paul Harris Fellows made up Club ranks. We will reach \$16,000 for the year.



K. MARTIN WATERS, JR.
President
1985 - 1986

Eighth Decade, 1986-

By ROBIN A. SMITH

As the Rotary Club of Charlotte approached its 75th Anniversary, Charlotte bloomed and prospered. Building cranes could be seen everywhere around town. A new Charlotte Coliseum, an NBA team, a new corporate headquarters for First Union National Bank and another rumored for NCNB Corporation – Charlotte was on the move. Large headquarters sought out Charlotte for its quality of life and progressive business atmosphere.

1986 - 1987

The PolioPlus Program of Rotary International was launched to eliminate polio from the world by the 100th Anniversary of Rotary in the year 2005. With an original goal of \$31,200 (\$120 per member), later increased to \$61,634 by Rotary International, the Club contributed a total of \$66,920.57 over a two-year period. President Bill described this project as "Rotary's finest hour."

There were 53 Tuesdays (meetings). This enabled President Bill to inform the members of more of the history of our first 70 years. The president used the weekly meetings to instill pride and inspire the Club to even greater accomplishments.

The theme of the International President, M. A. T. Caparas of Manila, The Philippines, for the year was "Rotary Brings Hope" – the PolioPlus Program supplemented the ongoing programs of the Rotary Foundation which promote international understanding and cooperation by providing scholarships for 10,000 students and sponsoring 25,000 service projects.

Doug Aitken was honored as the Club's first member to attain 50-year membership. Gus Pound, one of the charter members of the Club in 1916, died just months short of the 50th Anniversary of the Club in 1966.

Carrying out the "history" emphasis, four old-time members were featured in the spotlight on past presidents: Powell Majors (1946-47), Dave Welton (1948-49), Charlie Hunter (1959-60) and Sadler Love (1961-62). Health and Happiness "brought back" such oldies as Hoyt Galvin, Jeff Jeffries, Dean Couch, Bill Barnhardt, Bob Bryant and Zach Thomas.



WILLIAM E. LOFTIN
President
1986 - 1987

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Joe Moore served as District Governor this year — the first from our Club in 18 years. Fourteen members have served as district governors in the past.

A group of Rotarians from North Scranton (PA) Rotary were guests of the Club on the occasion of their bringing two tractor-trailer truckloads of hay to relieve the shortage brought about by the severe drought and heat in the summer of 1986. All totaled, the Pennsylvania club was responsible for supplying 8,600 bales (175 tons).

The Club honored Colonel Norman Pease on his 101st birthday. He carried his own plate through the Rotary luncheon buffet line and was asked to come down and say a few words at the microphone. He said he got a phone call from a stockbroker trying to sell him an annuity. Colonel Pease replied, "Young man, at my age I don't even buy green bananas!" Norman was president of the Club for the 1922-23 year.

We co-sponsored a new Rotary club — the 10th in the city — named Charlotte Evening Rotary Club. Our two candidates for Rotary Foundation scholarships for study in New Zealand were successful.

C. W. "Pat" Gilchrist, our ranking member with service on the Rotary International Board, 1962-64; Chairman of the Rotary International Finance Committee, 1965-66; Chairman of Rotary International Institute Agenda, 1967; and Chairman of the Rotary International Convention in 1969, died on January 2, 1987. Pat had also served as Club President and District Governor.

A record group of 10 members attended the Rotary International Convention in Munich, West Germany, led by President-elect Bill Kinney.

Our World Service Committee, led by Mike Greeson, established a working relationship with two Sister Cities of Charlotte: Krefeld, West Germany and Arequipa, Peru. We entertained a delegation from these cities. A special achievement was the furnishing of microscopes for the treatment of tuberculosis to the city of Arequipa.

Attractive wooden plaques with membership certificates were contributed by Bert Voswinkel to each member. The Philadelphia Boys Choir was sponsored by all local Rotary clubs in a concert to raise monies for PolioPlus.

The Spring Gala (formerly Ladies Night) featured the North Carolina School of the Arts Jazz Ensemble. Bill Meanor and his Special Events Committee staged a beautiful affair at Vail Commons on the campus of Davidson College.

The Trees and Beautification Committee (Ed White, Chairman) planted trees in an open space in the Southside/Brookhill Community off Remount Road.

The issue of women in Rotary was discussed at the local, district and international level. The Supreme Court of California ruled that a Rotary club is a private business and, as such, must not bar women — or anyone on the basis of sex, race, etc.

Nineteen new members were added. Four members were lost by death. Total membership on June 30, 1987 was 271, plus 12 honorary members.

1987 - 1988

My year as President of the Charlotte Rotary began on June 5, 1987 in Munich, West Germany. Our Club was well represented at this International Convention by the Kinneys, the Grahams, the Greesons, the Sadlers, the Hunters, the Moores and Bert Voswinkel, who acted as our official guide and hospitality chairman. Following this inspiring convention, we extended our trip for several days, allowing us to enjoy sightseeing in Germany and Austria. This also gave

THE EIGHTH DECADE



WILLIAM L. KINNEY
President
1987 - 1988

us time to accept the generous hospitality of Bert's friends in Augsburg and the Sadler's friends in Erbach, Germany.

On July 7, I began my official term as president, supported by a great staff of Charlotte Rotarians who accepted positions of responsibility during my tenure. Their support carried right through to the end, providing me with one of the most satisfying experiences of my life for which I will always be grateful.

As the year progressed, our Club recognized the increasing number of women becoming involved in Rotary International. We sought out and approved our first three female members for full membership. This was indeed a special event in Charlotte Rotary. As President, I recognized that we needed to promote a better distribution of Club responsibility among the membership, particularly the younger members. To do this, the Board agreed to require a two year absence from the Board before re-election. This had the effect of increasing the required number

of Board members for a three year period from 18 to 24. We also began the planning and execution of the "Excellence in Management" Program, which subsequently became an annual affair sponsored by the Charlotte Rotary Club, the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce and *The Business Journal of Charlotte*.

If there was a crowning success during my term, it had to be the success of the PolioPlus Campaign. Due to the dedication of our members, we exceeded our three year quota by almost 10 percent and we did this in two years. I attended the 1988 Convention in Philadelphia when it was announced that in two years Rotary International had raised \$219 million to be used for the elimination of polio worldwide. All of our members were thrilled with this success.

On July 12, 1988, I turned the gavel over to Tom Belk, our new president, thus ending one of the greatest years of my life.

1988 - 1989

The Avenue Chairmen and all committee members were chosen and in place long before the Club Assembly. It was agreed that, in addition to all the various activities, we would make this year memorable for good programs. We felt that to keep and hold the interest of busy people, we must make attendance informative as well as good fellowship.

Judging from the comments received, we did have a year of excellent programs. From the presidents of the great colleges and universities in our area to the promoters of literacy, from the Olympic Committee, to top people in the sports world. From the top bankers in the country to the publisher of *Fortune* magazine. These programs mixed with our own members, and inspirational messages left us buzzing with excitement.



THOMAS M. BELK
President
1988 - 1989

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

There were also two outstanding "firsts" during this year. The first active female member was inducted, and the first "Excellence in Management" Award was presented to Albert "Pete" Sloan, an honorary member of our Club.

Fifteen Paul Harris Fellows were announced. It was a good year, and it helped promote the International theme for the year, "Put Life Into Rotary – Your Life." The various Avenue Chairmen and committee members made it work and made it easy for the president.

1989 - 1990



HAROLD G. HOAK
President
1989 - 1990

Every Rotarian should have the opportunity to serve as president of a Rotary club. Being asked to accept the presidency of the Charlotte Rotary Club as its 73rd president was certainly an honor and, thereby, accepted as a challenge and opportunity in filling the shoes of 72 outstanding predecessors.

The Charlotte Rotary Club began the new year with 286 members and concluded the Rotary year with 286 members. Ironically, losses amounted to 25, including five by death, offset by the acceptance of 25 new members.

Forty members achieved perfect attendance honors, ranging from one year to 45 years, representing 20.5 percent of the total membership.

Paul Harris Fellows numbered 150 beginning the Rotary year 1989 and concluded the year with 31 new members, thereby reaching a new high for the Charlotte Rotary Club.

The International Convention during 1989–1990, was held in Seoul, Korea, and will go down as a memorable experience for many reasons, including a long, exhausting flight covering 19,450 miles round trip from Charlotte, where 38,897 Rotarians from 86 different countries came together to meet fellow Rotarians and hear the summary of achievements presented by Rotary International President Royce Abbey.

As we began the new Rotary year, Tuesday, July 11, 1989, having missed July 4, in view of the holiday, your president challenged the Charlotte Rotary Club to continue our growth, with emphasis on maintaining a high caliber of men and women joining the Charlotte Rotary Club. With all the challenges and opportunities ahead, specific attention was given the Paul Harris Fellowship Program, as your president felt that every Rotarian should have both the privilege and obligation to support this Foundation in a manner commensurate with his or her economic ability.

The Charlotte Rotary Club is, indeed, an outstanding organization, comprised of many individuals fulfilling the object of Rotary in their daily activities, within their respective classifications.

1990 - 1991

Charlotte Rotary Club members responding to a questionnaire overwhelmingly expressed their willingness to support, both financially and with sweat equity, the Area Council of Rotary Clubs' project to build a Habitat for Humanity house.

THE EIGHTH DECADE

The annual Gala Event was a dinner and concert by George Strait and his Ace in the Hole Band in the new Charlotte Coliseum. Good food and a good time was had by all, but even country music lovers had problems coping with the sounds. Many Rotarians said they could hear even with hearing aids turned off.

William States (Bill) Lee, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Duke Power Company, was the second recipient of the "Excellence in Management Award" sponsored by the Charlotte Rotary Club, the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce and *The Business Journal*. Leroy Robinson, Belk Stores Services, Inc., became the third winner of the "Excellence in Management Award."

After several years of discussion, the Board of Directors took the action needed to relieve Tom Warren, our half-time secretary, of the time consuming, laborious task of recording over 18,000 attendance entries, reporting these and all other records and reports to the District Governor and Rotary International. They authorized the purchase of the technology needed so the attendance is recorded by each Rotarian using a scanner which feeds the data directly into a computer. These and other Club data stored in the computer can then be transferred directly on the various required forms and reports.

One of the many outstanding programs scheduled by the 1990-91 Program Chairman was provided by Hugh Morton, owner of Grandfather Mountain, talking about the acid rain problem and its threat to our environment. This photographic presentation dramatized the magnitude of the threat and helped make more meaningful the articles on acid rain published in the last few years and increased Rotarians' awareness of the seriousness of the problem.

Price Gwynn was elected Moderator of the Presbyterian Church USA 1990-91, and later gave a fascinating talk about his experiences and travels.



RICHARD H. HAGEMEYER
President
1990 - 1991