

The Men Who Joined Hands..

"When the five or six men of the nucleus group have agreed to the formation of a club, their aid should be secured in preparing a list of from fifteen to twenty other business and professional men in the community who will be invited to become charter members of the club." (Extract from R.I. Pamphlet 'Organising a Rotary Club' - dated July 1958.)

Jack Shillan had been working on his community survey for ten years and had a very comprehensive knowledge of Nassau and the "Who's Who" among business and professional men. We had already covered the phase outlined above, except that we were in reverse!! But Jack moved quickly after he had arranged the meeting with the Florida Rotarians (see letter dated 28th October 1961). Out of his small group he appointed the "nucleus" of six, a balanced team consisting of two expatriate Rotarians (Shillan and Hammond - Chairman/Secretary), one Bahamian Rotarian (Lester Brown), and three non-Rotarians (Dr. Ken Rodgers, McKinney - Controller of Customs, and Sir George Roberts - President of Legislative Council), a fine blend of expat/Bahamian, Rotarian/non-Rotarian, and race/colour, conditions so much desired in the local social climate and also emphasised by Leslie Bunker, R.I. Director from R.I.B.I. in his letter of the 5th September 1961 to Jack Shillan.

Shortly after the successful meeting between the Florida sponsoring group and our 'nucleus', the final formality of completing and submitting the Application for Membership in Rotary International, including details of our twenty-eight Charter Members and the Registration Fee, took place in the office of R.I. Director (later President, R.I.) Bill Robbins in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Shillan and Hammond being the signatories for the club.

