

**ROTARY
IN
WEST DES MOINES**

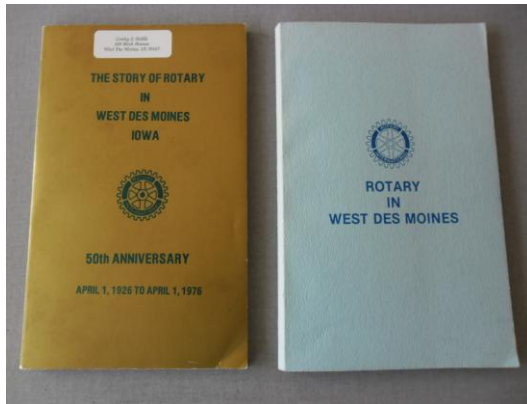


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District 6000
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1994-95

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March 2012

Rev. Conley J. Biddle, as Secretary-Historian and Past President of the West Des Moines Rotary Club, wrote a history book to commemorate the Club's 50th Anniversary (April 1, 1926 to April 1, 1976). This book was distributed at the anniversary party to all members and guests. Five years later, 1981—the year I was Club President, Conley wrote, and the club published, a second edition which included a considerable amount of additional information.



This second edition was also distributed to all members at the time of publication. Now, 31 years later, our membership has almost entirely changed. Only a few current members remember receiving this book, and can still find it on their bookshelves.

Conley was well-respected for his knowledge of Rotary, and he was elected District Governor for 1978-79. (I was his District Treasurer). Our club often called him "Mr. Rotary".

The book contains a wealth of Rotary background and information about early days of our club. I may have been especially attracted to it because I knew and worked with the individuals and programs mentioned therein from 1971 on to its date of publication. This has to be the starting point for any future historic record of our club. In today's world, a new printing is not a practical approach. For ease of distribution, and long-term availability, computerization has to be the answer. I'm not an expert, but with a limited knowledge of Optical Character Recognition, I was able to scan this book into a word processing computer program. This worked reasonably well, but required a lot of correction of misread characters. I was able to improve the font size and correct many misspellings. None of the original sentence structure has been changed.

Conley Biddle was a special friend and a mentor to me. I feel confident that he would be pleased that all his effort on this history book has been extended into the future. I, myself, am pleased to have been a part of it.

Sincerely,

Bill M. Reese

**ROTARY
IN
WEST DES MOINES
1926 - 1981**

BY

**CONLEY J. BIDDLE
Governor Rotary International District
600
1978 - 1979**

First Edition published 1976 for the 50th Anniversary of the West Des Moines Rotary Club.
Second Edition revised and published 1981.

DEDICATION

Dedicated to the men who first organized Rotary in Valley Junction, Iowa in 1926; and to all the business and professional men of the West Des Moines community who have joined the West Des Moines Rotary Club in the years 1926 to 1981, and whose personal dedication to the fellowship and service of Rotary has created the history recorded in this book; and to all future Rotarians in West Des Moines who shall discover through Rotary a way to bring the spirit of friendship and service into all human relations, and thereby help to build a world of peace, understanding and goodwill.

- Conley J. Biddle

FOREWORD

On April 1, 1926 the West Des Moines Rotary Club came into being. The sound planning of the founders and the devoted service of its many leaders and members has placed it in a position of service to the community.

Our Past District Governor Conley J. Biddle is exceptionally well qualified to write this history. He has been a Rotarian for more than 23 years and has held every important office in the Club. His continual study of the structure, program, goals and accomplishments of the Club during its years of history has enabled him to record our past and perhaps throw some light on ways of improving our Club in the future.

Reviewing our past creates a better understanding the present, improves our perspective and increases our ability meet the future challenges.

We are proud of our past and present members, and have confidence in our ability to play an increasing role in serving others in the years ahead.

Donald B. Groves, President
West Des Moines Rotary Club
1975 – 1976

PREFACE

In 19,000 towns and cities in 154 Countries of the world, business and professional men meet together each week in Rotary fellowship. These Rotarians work together in unselfish efforts of service to improve the communities in which they live; they reach out a helping hand to people in other countries of the world and they strive to practice high ethical standards in all their personal, business, professional, and community relationships. This is what Rotary is all about, and why it appeals to men of all vocations, all nationalities, and all cultures.

Rotary is a world wide fellowship of business and professional men who have a common purpose which is clearly stated in "The Object of Rotary". "To encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise, and in particular to encourage and foster;

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

The purpose of this book is threefold;

The first edition which I wrote was published in 1976 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the chartering of the West Des Moines Rotary Club. A copy was presented in person to the General Secretary of Rotary International Harry Stewart, and a copy was given to all Past Governors of Rotary International District 600. A copy of the first edition was presented to each member of the Club in 1976, and to each new member received during the succeeding years until the supply of copies was depleted. The Board of Directors of the West Des Moines Rotary Club in December 1980 asked me to revise and rewrite a second edition of the History of Rotary in West Des Moines.

A second reason for writing this book is to record some of the activities of the West Des Moines Rotarians in their community, vocational, and international service, during the years since our Club was chartered on April 1, 1926.

And a third reason for writing this book is to inform the members in our Club, and the non-Rotarians in the West Des Moines community, about this world wide business and professional men's service organization called Rotary, the first of its kind in the world, whose motto is "Service Above Self" and "He profits most who serves the best".

In writing both the first and second editions of this book I have used many sources of information, including the small amount of early records of our Club which survived both fire and theft; the records of our Club in the files of the Rotary Secretariat at Evanston, Illinois; Rotary International publications; and records from my own files accumulated during my year as Club President and my five years as our Club Secretary; information which I researched from copies of our weekly Club Bulletin "The Wheel"; and information shared with me by old time members of our Club, some of whom are now deceased in 1981.

I wish to express my appreciation to all persons who have assisted me in any way with the writing and publication of both editions of this book. I am especially grateful to the Past Presidents who have shared information about some of the activities of our Club during their term of office, I wish to express my deep appreciation to Donald B. Groves the President of our Club during our 50th Anniversary Year 1975-1976 for writing the Foreword for both editions of this book; and to the members of the Board of Directors of the West Des Moines Rotary Club in 1975-1976 and again in 1980-1981, who authorized the writing and publication.

The work of writing the two editions of this book has given me a deep appreciation of the hundreds of business and professional men, whose individual contributions of Rotary Service have created our Rotary Heritage in West Des Moines, and who by their dedicated leadership and service have helped to make this community, and the world, a better place in which to live and work.

Rev. Conley J. Biddle

President West Des Moines Rotary Club -1959-60

Secretary - 1972-77

Governor R.I. District 600 - 1978-79

Member R.I. President's Research and Advisory Committee -1979-80

District 600 Representative on R.I. Council on Legislation - 1980

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CHAPTER I

THE INTERPRETATION OF ROTARY

Rotary began in 1905 with a great idea in the mind and heart of one man, Paul Harris. He was born at Racine Wisconsin on April 19, 1868, but grew up in his grandparents home in Wellingsford. VT. In June 1891 Paul Harris graduated from the University of Iowa Law Department, and for the next five years he traveled and worked his way across American and Europe, before he settled down in his own law office in Chicago, USA.

In his book, "My Road To Rotary", which he wrote in 1945, Paul Harris tells his own story of how Rotary began. He wrote, "After five years of folly it was difficult for the boy, now a young man, to settle down and become wise. It was dreadfully lonely particularly on holidays and Sundays. I made acquaintances but not real friends. Everywhere there were people but nowhere a familiar face. The thought persisted that I was experiencing what had happened to hundreds perhaps thousands of others in the great city. One evening I went with a professional friend to his suburban home. After dinner we strolled about the neighborhood and my friend greeted by name various tradesmen at their stores. This reminded me of my New England village. The thought came to me why not in big Chicago have a fellowship composed of just one man from each of many different occupations, without restrictions as to their politics or religion, with broad tolerance of each other's opinions? In such a fellowship there could be mutual helpfulness. I did not act upon my impulse at once; months and even years passed. In February 1905 I called three young business men to meet with me and I laid before them a very simple plan of mutual cooperation and informal friendship such as all of us had once known in our villages. They agreed to my plan. We grew in numbers, in fellowship, in the spirit of helpfulness to each other and to our city. The banker and the baker, the parson and the plumber, (he lawyer and the laundryman discovered the similarity of each others ambitions, problems, successes and failures. At a third meeting of the group I presented several suggestions as a name for the

club, among them Rotary, and that name was selected as we were then holding our meetings in rotation at our offices and places of business. Later, still rotating, we held our meetings at various hotels and restaurants. Thus we began as "Rotarians", and such we continue to be. "

Paul Harris' "great idea called Rotary", was an idea which was destined to affect the lives of millions of people of all races in most parts of the world. It was an idea whose time had come, an idea which had within it the seeds of power and purpose, to make the world a more friendly place in which to live and work. Paul Harris believed that an organization of business and professional men, united world wide, could promote humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help to build bridges of goodwill and peace in the world. This is Rotary. This is what Rotary is all about.

The four men who met in an office in the Unity Building in Chicago on February 12, 1905 with Paul Harris the lawyer were, Silvester Schiele a coal dealer, Gustavus E. Loehr a mining engineer, and Hiram E. Shorey a merchant tailor. These men discussed the need of sharing fellowship with other business and professional men, for the purpose of enlarging their circle of friends, becoming better acquainted, and giving each other mutual assistance. Within a short time these four men interested two other men, Harry Ruggles a printer, and Will Jenson a real estate dealer, and there were now six business and professional men in Chicago who were interested in Paul Harris' idea that men in business could be and should be friends. These six men organized the first Rotary Club, with Silvester Schiele as President.

At one of the early meetings of the Club it was agreed that membership in the club would be limited to one representative from each business and profession. This practice has continued all through the history of Rotary. It is known as the "Classification System", whereby one man from a vocation or profession in the community is selected to become a Rotarian. Each Rotary member is loaned his classification which he may hold as long as he is a member of the club, or until he reaches a time when he becomes a Senior Active member.

The purpose of the classification system is to open Rotary to as many different vocations and professions as possible, to see that each member

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is a good representative of his particular vocation or profession, and to encourage each member to share the Rotary ideal of service with all other men in his vocation or profession.

In the beginning meetings were held in each members place of business in rotation so that members would have a better knowledge of each other and of their work. Papers on business topics were read and discussed at the early meetings of the club. Harry Ruggles developed the idea of community singing in the club meetings. The membership of the new club grew rapidly and it soon became difficult to meet in the office of members, so the club decided to hold regular dinner meetings, which later became weekly noon luncheon meetings.

Paul Harris wrote of the men who helped him to organize Rotary, "All were friendly and congenial, and each represented a recognized and honorable vocation different from that of others. In some respects they were widely variant. They had been selected without regard to religious, racial, or political differences. The group included members of the American, German, Swedish, and Irish ancestry, and representatives of the Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish faiths, all products of the American melting pot, and in that respect fitting progenitors of the international order which they were to bring into being."

The first achievement of this new idea of Rotary, was the bridging of the gap between business and friendship. In 1905, by tradition and practice, this gap had never been, and most men thought never would be bridged. But the idea came to the right man, at the right time, in the right place, and Rotary became a force and a movement in human relations. Here was something new, a group of business and professional men, taking a weekly break from the daily routine of their various jobs, to enjoy fellowship and fun with new found like minded friends. The impossible was achieved, and the first "Object of Rotary", became a reality, "The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service. This was the beginning of what we call today "Club Service".

But within the first two years of the founding of the first Rotary Club the members realized that service to each other was not enough, that service in general, and helpfulness to others in the community outside the membership was necessary. So Community Service became a part of the purpose and program of Rotary. The first community service project of

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the Rotary Club of Chicago was completed in 1907 when the Chicago Rotary Club, with the help of other Civic organizations, and City and County administrations, established the first public comfort stations in the city of Chicago. And from that day to this Community Service has been a vital part of Rotary. It was this development of the broader idea of service to include helpfulness to others outside the membership of Rotary, which saved Rotary from dying on the vine, and gave to Rotary a growing purpose. This purpose is clearly stated in the third Object of Rotary. "The application of service by every Rotarian, to his personal, business and community life."

There were men in the early days of Rotary, like Arthur Sheldon, a book salesman, a member of the Chicago Rotary Club, who rebelled against the ruthless, aggressive, dishonest methods of business, the hatred of competitors, and the disinterest in the welfare of employees. Arthur Sheldon saw clearly that success in business did not depend upon selfishness and ruthless aggressiveness, but upon the law of service. Sheldon talked to his fellow Rotarians in Chicago about, "Service Above Self", and "He profits most who serves the best". To his mind profit was the consequence of service. Many Rotarians began to see the need for higher standards and ideals in the business and professional community. Membership in Rotary from the very beginning was based on classification, and classifications were based on vocations. So Vocational Service became a part of the program of Rotary. And the second object of Rotary was established, "High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society".

THE GROWTH OF ROTARY HAS BEEN PHENOMENAL IN THE HISTORY OF' HUMANITARIAN MOVEMENTS IN SOCIETY.

In 1908 Rotary reached the west coast of the United States with the organization of Rotary Club No.2 in San Francisco, California. NO.3 in Oakland, California, NO.4 in Seattle, Washington, No.5 in Los Angeles, No.6 in New York, and No.7 in Boston, Mass. By 1910 when the first Rotary Convention was held in Chicago, Illinois, sixteen Rotary Clubs had been organized, and the twenty nine delegates assembled from fourteen out of the total sixteen Clubs, organized the "National

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Association of Rotary Clubs" and elected Paul Harris as the First President, with a secretary's office established in Chicago.

By the end of 1910, twenty four Clubs had been organized, and Rotary became International by organizing a Rotary Club in Winnipeg, Canada. Rotary took root in Europe in 1911 with the organization of Rotary Clubs in London, England, Dublin and Belfast, Ireland. It was in this same year 1911 that Rotary took root in Iowa with the organization of the Rotary Club in Des Moines on August 1, 1911.

In 1912 Rotary Clubs were organized in Glasgow and Edinburgh, Scotland, and two Rotary Clubs were organized the same year in Iowa, one at Davenport and one at Sioux City. The third Rotary Convention was held in 1912 at Duluth, Minnesota and the delegates to this convention officially changed the name of the organization to "The International Association of Rotary Clubs."

In 1914 a Rotary Club was organized at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and in 1915 the first Rotary Club in the Pacific Islands was organized in Honolulu, Hawaii. Seven Rotary Clubs were organized in Iowa in 1915, Burlington, Clinton, Iowa City, Marshalltown, Council Bluffs, Dubuque and Waterloo.

In the Rotary year 1915-1916 the Rotary Clubs around the world were first grouped into Districts. All the Rotary Clubs in Iowa at that time were grouped into one District No. 11.

In 1916 a Rotary Club was organized in Havana, Cuba, and that same year new Clubs were formed in Ottumwa and Mason City, Iowa. In 1917 the Rotary Club was organized in Ft. Dodge, Iowa.

In 1918 Rotary entered another continent with the organization of Rotary Clubs in Uruguay and Puerto Rico. Also in 1918 a Rotary Club was organized in Charles City, Iowa. In 1919 Clubs were organized in the Philippines, in China, Panama, India and Argentina. Five Rotary Clubs were organized in Iowa in 1919, Boone, LeMars, Red Oak, Belle Plaine and Independence.

In 1920 Rotary Clubs were organized in Japan and Spain.

The first Rotary International Convention to be held outside the United States, was held in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1921. This Convention adopted the fourth Object of Rotary, "The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace, through a world

fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service." No one then could have dreamed that this new dimension of Rotary Service would become the most dominant factor in the program of Rotary activity. The Rotary International Convention held at Los Angeles in 1922 changed the name of the organization to "Rotary International" and this name has developed meaning and purpose from that day to this.

The ten year period from 1920 to 1930 was a time of rapid growth in Rotary. from 750 Clubs with 56,000 members in 15 countries of the world, to 3300 Clubs with 153,000 members in 63 countries of the world.

During this ten year period 1920-1930 fifty one Rotary Clubs were organized in Iowa: Atlantic, Fairfield, Ft. Madison, Muscatine, Oskaloosa, Washington, Cherokee, Clear Lake, Eldora, Storm Lake, Webster City, Ames, Carroll, Keokuk, Mt. Pleasant, Newton, Perry, Iowa Falls, Monticello, Eagle Grove, Albia, Creston, Indianola, Jefferson, Nevada, Winterset, Glenwood, Algona, Cedar Falls, Grundy Center, Olevue, Adel, Chariton, Marengo, West Liberty, Anamosa, Clarion, Hampton, Humbolt, Mt. Vernon, Hawarden, Forest City, Manchester, Sibley, Leon, West Des Moines, Ackley, Dallas Center, Waverly, Emmetsburg, Guttenberg.

During the fifty year period from 1930 to 1980, Rotary increased from 3300 Clubs with 153,000 members in 63 Countries to nearly 19,000 Clubs with nearly 900,000 members in 154 Countries of the world.

Forty eight Rotary Clubs were organized in Iowa during the fifty year period 1930-1980: Shenandoah, Osceola, West Union, Bloomfield, Corydon, Decorah, Pocahontas, Sumner, Grinnell, Lenox, Pella, Britt, Estherville, Maquoketa, New Hampton, Parkersburg, Spirit Lake, Wellman, Rock Valley, Garner, Knoxville, Odebolt, Corning, Kalona, Elkader, Osage, North English, Spencer, Alton, Centerville, Bellevue, Manning, Tipton, Avoca, Keosauqua, Mapleton, Clarinda, Bettendorf, Coon Rapids, Denison, Suburban-Sioux City, Marion-East Cedar Rapids, Rockwell City, Waterloo-Cross Roads, Ankeny, North Scott, Davenport, Altoona.

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Today 1981, there are 119 Rotary Clubs in Iowa with 7800 members, located in 4 Rotary Districts, 10 Rotary Clubs in Iowa are part of

District 561 which includes part of Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and South Dakota.

6 Iowa Rotary Clubs are part of District 565 which includes Iowa and Nebraska.

49 Rotary Clubs in the North part of Iowa are in District 597.

54 Rotary Clubs in Iowa which covers the South, Central, and East West area of the State are in District 600.

All of Iowa was Rotary District 11 until 1937-38.

From 1937-38 until 1949-50 Iowa was District 132.

In 1949-50 what is now District 600 was District 193.

In 1957-58 Rotary International formed District 600, in which the West Des Moines Rotary Club is located.

For the past 10 years 1970-1980 Rotary has increased by one new Club every 18 hours. During this ten year period the growth of Rotary Clubs in the United States and Canada has been 10% . In Great Britain and Ireland 24%, in Australia, New Zealand, and North Africa 36%. In Latin American 41%. In Asia 76%. 65% of all existing Rotary Clubs, and 84% of all new Rotary Clubs being organized are outside the United States.

The vitality and universal appeal of the Rotary ideal of service has been demonstrated over and over by the rapid growth of Rotary. Rotary did not come into being as a full fledged international organization. Rotary has grown and developed in geographical expanse, in membership, and in programs of community, vocational, and international service as Rotarians all over the world have found ways to translate the Rotary ideal of service into useful activities. And the Rotary movement will continue to grow and develop as Rotarians everywhere put into practice in personal, business, and community relations, the principles and objectives of Rotary, in keeping with the Spirit of Rotary.

THE SPIRIT AND PHILOSOPHY OF ROTARY

Rotary is a spirit, an ideal, a principle of service, a bond of friendship world wide, that gives meaning and high purpose to a man's vocation. The Rotary ideal of service is an attitude of mind and heart that relates persons and needs with action. Someone has said, "Thoughtfulness of

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others is the basis of service. Helpfulness to others is the expression of service."

The ideal of service guides a Rotarian in the conduct of his personal, club, business, and community affairs. It leads a Rotarian to seek opportunities for developing the acquaintance and friendship of others. It involves him in the program and activities of his club. It encourages him to practice and maintain high standards in his business, trade, or profession. It alerts him to community needs and provides a way to do something constructive about them.

The Rotary ideal of service emphasizes the importance of the individual in society. William R. Robbins, the President of Rotary International, in his address to the Rotary International Convention at Minneapolis in 1975 said, "There is so much to be done, in so many places, for so many people, but Rotary's strength can be the greatest ever known if each of us, just as one individual will use all of the strength of his hands and most of all the strength of his heart. The first step toward a better world is a better you and a better me."

Rotary is different than other service clubs, not only because Rotary is the first and oldest business and professional men's service club, but it is different because it derives its strength from personal dedication, the personnel commitment of each Rotarian to the spirit and ideal of Rotary service.

The spirit of Rotary is contagious and leads men to constructive action, and makes goodwill a forceful habit. President William Robbins, in a Rotary meeting in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was talking to us about the Spirit of Rotary when he said, "[believe with all my heart that if every Rotarian, everywhere will rededicate himself to the spirit of Rotary, accept a commitment to stand up for what is good and right, do those things within his grasp to build a better world, beginning with himself, Rotary can be one of the greatest forces for good this world has ever known. It is Rotary's job to build men, dedicated, committed, involved men. Rotary's quest for a better world, a world of peace, will not be realized through some grandiose plan in some arena with the spotlight and the eyes of the world upon it. It will take place in the hearts of men, in your hometown and in mine, in you and in me."

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This emphasis upon the importance of each individual, and the spirit and service of each person who does what he can, with what he has, where he lives, for the greatest good for all, is the spirit and philosophy of the Rotary ideal of service.

The service of a Rotary Club to a community is not always visible, because very often the finest contribution of Rotary is an invisible spirit developing better understanding, goodwill, and cooperation, a spirit which serves the communities highest welfare. And this spirit is not limited to local clubs and members. It reaches out into every part of the world. Where the Rotary spirit is present there is liberty. It sets men free from prejudice and bigotry and brings people together in understanding and brotherhood.

The spirit of Rotary changes selfishness to unselfishness, unconcern to concern competition into cooperation, and enhances the dignity and worth of every man's nobility.

THE FOUR AVENUES OF ROTARY SERVICE

The organizational structure of Rotary is simple, yet very far reaching in scope. Rotary is organized on the basis of four avenues of service, Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, and International Service.

CLUB SERVICE means the individual members relationship to his club, through attendance at weekly meetings to share fellowship and information with fellow Rotarians and guest speakers; participating in club programs and activities; serving on committees, and assisting in club service projects for the community. A Rotarian learns that he is expected to accept responsibility in club service.

VOCATIONAL SERVICE is one of the most demanding responsibilities of Rotarians. Part of the Object of Rotary is, "to encourage and foster high ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society". Vocational Service means to extend the spirit of Rotary into everyday relationships on the job. It means spreading the spirit of goodwill and square dealing with customers, competitors, employees, employers, suppliers, in all business and professional relationships.

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A vital part of Vocational Service is the promotion and implementation of the Rotary Four-Way Test, which is a series of questions about the things we think, and say, and do. This simple test was formulated by Herbert J. Taylor, a Rotarian in Chicago, Illinois during the depression years of the 1930's when he became President of a nearly bankrupt kitchenware company. He became concerned about the quality of his products and how they were being sold. He devised a list of four questions as a standard to apply to his business plans and policies, statements and advertising, and he practiced this test on himself, and his employees and executives in his company with prosperous results. Later Herbert Taylor became the President of Rotary International, and his four-way test was officially adopted as a Vocational Service Test for all Rotarians.

THE FOUR WAY TEST of the things we think, say, or do.

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendship?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Rotarians place copies of this test in their places of business. They promote its use among youth in schools and encourage its application in all vocations and professions. Vocational service means putting the Rotary spirit to work where we work.

COMMUNITY SERVICE is Rotary in action, helping a community as individual Rotarians through personal efforts, giving support and leadership through established agencies concerned with aid to youth, the handicapped, senior citizens and others, or initiating service projects as a Club.

Rotary Clubs have always found work that needs to be done for people in the community, and through individual effort and collective action, Rotary serves community needs. Very often after Rotary has launched a service project, others in the community desire to carry it on, and Rotary will let others take over, so that Rotary will be free to continue other work which needs to be done.

One of the outstanding examples of Rotary Community Service was the organization of the National Easter Seal Society of the U.S.A. This National Society to aid crippled children came into being through the efforts of a Rotarian in Elyria, Ohio, and other Rotarians and Rotary Clubs in the State of Ohio. Today Rotary is at work in many communities of the world, in the care, treatment, and education of handicapped children.

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Rotary Clubs and individual Rotarians work with youth in communities, through Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops, support for YMCA's youth clubs, summer camps, playgrounds, parks, scholarship loans or grants, career day for high school youth, and many other youth programs.

Rotary Clubs sponsor INTERACT CLUBS for teenage youth in which young people engage in community service and promote world understanding and goodwill. ROTARACT is sponsored by Rotary Clubs and involves young men and women ages 18-28 in a program of service dedicated to the community, to their vocation, and to all humanity.

Rotary Clubs participate in programs providing the tools of education from books to buildings, from camps to universities, in the training of youth in the means to serve society through work, idealism, imagination, and courage.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE is the nearly 900,000 Rotarians in action in 154 countries of the world today (1981). The scope of International Service is stated in the Object of Rotary, "to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise, and in particular to encourage and foster the advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace, through a world fellowship of business and professional men, united in the ideal of service."

Rotary International is an association of Rotary Clubs around the world working and serving in a program to build bridges of brotherhood, goodwill, understanding, service and peace, between man and man, country and country, culture and culture. Rotary includes men of all creeds, colors, and nationalities. It does not crusade for any special cause or ideology. It welcomes all men who can work together in free assembly. The Rotary ideal of service finds expression only where there is freedom of the individual, freedom of thought, speech, and assembly. Freedom, truth, justice, the worth and dignity of human beings, respect for human rights, are all inherent in the principles of Rotary, and are vital to international service, peace, world order, and the progress of civilized man.

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Rotary emphasizes the involvement of each Rotarian in efforts to promote world peace, world understanding, goodwill, and international service. Each individual Rotarian everywhere in the world is expected to make his own contribution to the achievement of the ideal of international service.

Rotary has an outstanding record of World Community Service. World Community Service is a program through which a Rotary Club

in one country works with a Rotary Club in another country, to accomplish a needed project that will help to raise the standard of living and increase international understanding. Rotary Clubs in some countries face problems in their communities which they cannot meet alone, and need the help of other Clubs and other Rotarians to provide technical knowledge, money, and sometimes the personal service of Rotarians with special skills.

Through this program, for example, Rotarians in Pusan Korea teamed up with Rotarians in Lansing, Michigan, and other Rotarians in District 636 in Michigan USA contributed the money to build electrical and water systems for an orphanage on the south coast of Korea. Rotarians in Germany and Austria cooperated with Rotarians in Peru to build a school in Peru. A Rotarian in Hershey, Pennsylvania went to Pakistan to share his skills with business men and small factory managers in Pakistan. This kind of world community service is carried on by Rotarians in many parts of the world as an implementation of the Rotary ideal of Service Above Self.

Rotary has a great purpose which has something of the spiritual in it and because Rotary has a great purpose it has a great power for good, and because it has a great power for good it has a great place in today's world. Today the local and worldwide work of Rotary's humanitarian service is accomplished by Rotarians who understand the real spirit and philosophy of Rotary, and who see in the challenges of the world in our generation the opportunity to apply the Rotary principles of goodwill, understanding, and peace, to all human situations.

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James Bomar the 1979-1980 President of Rotary International speaking to the Rotary International Assembly at Boca Raton, Florida in May 1979 said, "As we review the parade of Rotary accomplishments during our 75 years, we can take pride in our membership growth, our world wide expansion. Our organization has survived two global wars. It is unique, the only truly international people to people organization, working together to expand and improve understanding among the peoples of the earth."

In a world torn by hatred, misunderstanding, and distrust, can goodwill and understanding exist? Rotary is proof that it can. There is an old proverb which says, "Meet your neighbor, talk with him, and there will be peace." This is the challenge of Rotary, because Rotary is the best equipped organization in the world to achieve goodwill, understanding, and peace, through the unity of 900,000 human beings, speaking 36 different languages, and living in the various political, cultural, and social situations of 154 countries of the world.

Rotarians do not exist alone and apart from the rest of the world, but are united by strong bonds of fellowship and service which cannot be confined to the narrow limits of political, racial, or cultural boundary lines. Dag Hammarskjold the former Secretary of the United Nations once said, "A good Rotarian I think is bound to be a good internationalist." Someone has said that, "Treaties are written by diplomats, but lasting peace must be written in the hearts of men." This is Rotary's destiny as the writer of this book sees it. Men can be cruel and hateful, and we see plenty of this kind of action in the world of 1981. But men can also be kind and loving, caring and helpful, and we also see much of this in the world today 1981. Man can do his worst. But man can also do his best. Rotary appeals to the best in men.

A brief review of the International involvement of Rotary is impressive.

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

The Rotary Foundation is part of the International involvement of Rotary. This is a program of "education for peace" which is not matched by any other organization in the world. In 1916, just eleven years after the founding of Rotary, a Rotarian lumber dealer, Arch Klumph in Cleveland, Ohio, a Past President of his Rotary Club, became the President of Rotary International, and he started to raise a Trust Fund of ten million dollars to enable Rotary International to serve in the area of education for peace and world understanding. The Rotary International

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Convention in Atlanta, Ga. in 1917 approved this program. The first contribution to this Trust Fund was given by the Kansas City Missouri Rotary Club, a gift of \$26.50 in 1918. In 1928 the R.I. Convention in Minneapolis Minnesota amended the By-Laws of R.I. to provide for the Rotary Trust Fund, and organized the Rotary Foundation, under the supervision of a Board of Trustees. In 1931 The Rotary Foundation was organized as a Trust Fund in the State of Illinois. This fund had a very slow growth from 1918 to 1947 with only about \$6,000.00 accumulated. Paul Harris the founder of Rotary died in 1947, and more than 1.5 million dollars in memorial gifts were sent to the Secretariat at Evanston, Illinois from Rotarians and Rotary Clubs from all over the world, to be used for the Rotary Foundation. The world was picking itself up from the destruction of a global war, and people everywhere in 1947 were realizing as never before that the survival of the civilized world depended upon finding ways to develop world understanding. The Rotary Foundation in 1947 set a goal of \$2,000,000.00 to establish educational scholarships for young men and women to study abroad as ambassadors of goodwill. This financial goal was reached, and in 1947 the Foundation awarded 18 Graduate Scholarships. Since 1947 more than 15,000 Education Scholarships have been awarded to young men and women as Rotary Ambassadors of goodwill and understanding to study in more than 125 countries of the world.

The Rotary Foundation is governed by a Board of eleven Trustees, six Past Presidents of R.I., and five other Rotarians who are appointed. At the time of the writing of this book (1981) the Trustees of the Rotary Foundation have made grants of 1200 Scholarships for a total expenditure from the Foundation Funds of 14.5 million dollars to students from 65 Countries to study abroad in the 1981-82 academic year as Rotary ambassadors of goodwill.

Included in this total are:

919 Graduate and Undergraduate Scholarships

135 Vocational Scholarships

86 Teachers of the Handicapped Scholarships

81 Journalism Scholarships

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The Scholarships of the Rotary Foundation provide complete coverage of all school related costs, but they also carry the responsibility of the students becoming ambassadors of goodwill, which makes the program much more than a mere tuition grant. Through contacts with Rotarians and their families they come to know the people in their host nation. Then upon their return they share their understanding with Rotary Clubs and others in their home countries, thus the purpose of world peace is advanced in the hearts and minds of men and women who learn first hand of the human needs and hopes shared by all people everywhere.

No Rotarian or a relative of a Rotarian is eligible to receive a Rotary Foundation Scholarship Award. The Graduate Scholarship is awarded on a competitive basis to men and women, ages 20-28, married or single, who have achieved a Bachelors Degree, an outstanding student, an ambassador of goodwill for one year of graduate study in a country other than their own. In 1946 the Group Study Exchange Team Scholarship was initiated. This is a District sponsored program which is funded by the Rotary Foundation. The Team is made up of five non-Rotarian business and professional men ages 25-35, with one Rotarian who serves as the Team Leader. The Team members are selected by the District Committee and the District Governor. The Team travels and studies in a Rotary District outside their own country for a period of four to six weeks. There are on average 135 Rotary Foundation Group Study Exchange Teams traveling and studying in 135 Countries of the world each year.

Our own Rotary District 600 in Iowa has both received and sent abroad a number of these Group Study Exchange Teams in the past fifteen years. Our West Des Moines Rotary Club has entertained a Group Study Exchange Team from another country on several occasions, notably the Team from Brazil, in May 1976. During the 1978-79 Rotary year when the author of this book was serving as the Governor of District 600, we received a Group Study Exchange Team from District 185 in North Germany, and the following year 1979-1980 our District sent a Team to District 185.

In 1966 the Vocational Scholarship program began. This program is for men and women ages 21-35, married or single, and provides study and travel expense for technicians to train in a country other than their own for a period of one year.

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In 1967 the Undergraduate Scholarship program was started for men and women married or single, ages 18-24, who have completed two or more years of undergraduate work but not yet obtained a degree.

In 1971 the Teachers of the Handicapped Scholarship program began for teachers of the handicapped, men or women, married or single, ages 25-50 who have completed at least a secondary education, and have been employed full time as a teacher of the handicapped for two years at the time of application.

In 1976 the Journalism Scholarship program was started for men and women ages 21-28 who have been employed full time in a journalism position or studying full time for two years in print or broadcast journalism at the time of application.

The Rotary Foundation receives contributions from several sources. A local Rotary Club is designated a "Friend of the Foundation" Club when it agrees to make a contribution annually of a minimum of ten dollars for each new member and a minimum of a dollar for each other member. Our West Des Moines Rotary Club is a "Friend of the Foundation Club" as are all the other 54 Clubs in our District 600.

An individual who contributes, or in whose behalf is contributed, one thousand dollars to the Rotary Foundation in anyone year, is named by the Foundation as a "Paul Harris Fellow". At the time of the writing of this book, we now have seven "Paul Harris Fellows" in our West Des Moines Rotary Club whose pictures appear in another section of this book.

An individual who contributes to the Rotary Foundation an initial gift of one hundred dollars with the understanding that he will add to this gift over a period of years until he reaches a total of one thousand dollars, is named by the Foundation as a "Paul Harris Sustaining Member", and at the time when his contributions total one thousand dollars he becomes a full Paul Harris Fellow. The complete list of all the "Paul Harris Sustaining Members" in our West Des Moines Club appears in another section of this book.

A "Memorial Contributor", is an individual who contributes more than one hundred dollars to the Foundation in anyone year in memory of a deceased person.

THE ROTARY HEALTH, HUNGER, HUMANITY PROGRAM

A new dimension was added to Rotary International Service in 1978 when Rotary International launched a "3H, Health, Hunger, Humanity" program. The purpose of this new program is to improve health, to raise levels of nutrition, and to enhance the human and social development of the peoples of the world. Rotarians were challenged to contribute the equivalent of US \$15.00 per Rotarian at some time during the two year period ending on June 30, 1980. The goal was 12 million dollars, and the total contributed to this fund which became known as the "75th Anniversary Year Fund" was more than 7 million dollars at the time when this book was written in 1981.

The first project of the 3 H Program was the immunization against polio of more than six million children of the Philippines at a cost of more than \$700,000.00. Other projects were the immunization against red measles in India, and sending polio and tetanus vaccines to San Jose Costa Rica, and sending medical volunteers to work in the refugee camps in Asia. Three new projects are scheduled for the immediate future, including a two year project in Malawi in Southeast Africa for treatment and rehabilitation of polio victims; a one year project in Guatemala to find ways to overcome malnutrition among urban children, and a three year project in Guatemala to teach the construction of earthquake resistant buildings to the rural population. Our own West Des Moines Rotary Club became a "Banner Club" in the financial support of this program, giving \$15.00 per member.

Rotary Regional Conferences of Goodwill, held in 1979-80 to bring together Rotary leaders in troubled geographical regions of the world on a people to people basis, in search of answers to better understanding, goodwill and peace, were attended by more than 30,000 leaders.

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

The Rotary Youth Exchange program has been an important part of Rotary's international involvement. This program which provides for

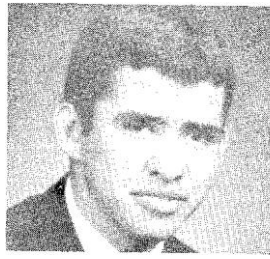
carefully selected High School Youth leaders to spend one year in a High School level study program in a country other than their own, is a program of growth in world understanding. In this program a local Rotary Club serves as a Host Club and provides three or four homes in the community for the Exchange Student to live in while completing a year in the local High School. More than 50,000 young people have participated in this program.

In 1979-80 more than 7800 youth were involved in this Rotary Youth Exchange program. Our own R.I. District 600, in 1978-79 during the year this writer served as District Governor, hosted 39 Youth from 14 different countries of the world. And in 1979-80 we had more High School youth from District 600 going abroad for one year of study in the Rotary Youth Exchange program than ever before.

Our own West Des Moines Rotary Club has participated in this program by hosting Rotary Exchange Youth from Mexico, The Netherlands, and Australia. And during the Rotary year 1978-79, Julie Hoier, the daughter of one of our own Rotary families, Larry and Karen Hoier, went to Australia as a Rotary Youth Exchange Student from our own Club. This is the first time a youth from one of our own West Des Moines Rotary families has represented our Club in a year of study abroad.

Rotary World Community Service between matched Clubs and matched Rotary Districts has resulted in Rotarians reaching out across the world to give sight to the blind, to dig wells, to plant crops, to build schools and hospitals, to save human lives, all in the name of humanitarian service, goodwill and peace.

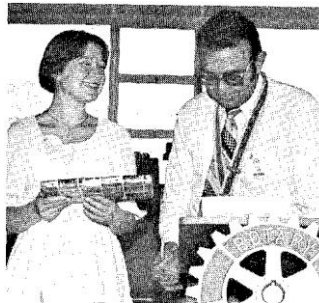
In all of these avenues and more, Rotary is involved in this troubled world today, seeking by every means possible to bring goodwill, understanding and peace, into our human situation. Two years before his death, in an interview in 1945, Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary was asked, "What about the future?" And he replied, "My hope for the future is that Rotarians will continue to be the purveyors of tolerance, forbearance, helpfulness, kindness, neighborliness, and friendliness; and that through our world wide Rotary fellowship we shall ultimately achieve our goal of international understanding, goodwill, and peace. "This was Paul Harris' dream. And this is the destiny toward which we move as Rotarians.



Mario Ismael Aviles Jr. of Los Mochis Sinaola Mexico, Rotary Youth Exchange Student, hosted by The West Des Moines Rotary Club 1966-1967.



Catherine Janssens - Rotary Youth Exchange Student from "The Netherlands" hosted by the West Des Moines Rotary Club 1977-78.



Julie Hoier of West Des Moines, a 1979 Rotary Youth Exchange Student, visiting and speaking to the Gladsville Australia Rotary Club. Julie Hoier was the first youth to be sponsored by the West Des Moines Rotary Club as a Rotary Youth Exchange Student.



Margaret Culshaw, Rotary Youth Exchange Student from Australia hosted by the West Des Moines Rotary Club 1979-80.

In April 1979 Julie Hoier sent the following letter from Australia to our West Des Moines Rotary Club.

Dear West Des Moines Rotary Club:

Although I do not yet know many of your club members personally, I feel that I can address you with much warmth. I am Julie Hoier, your youth exchange student in Australia. I am not sure just how to convey to you what it means for me to experience all that I am as you are sponsoring me in Australia this year.

I believe that through student youth exchange, Rotary is not only performing an invaluable service to the community, but to the world. Such programs as student youth exchange foster growth in youth and a promising future for the world. I believe that student exchange is a bridge that fills in the gaps that would otherwise prevent world understanding and acceptance. Because I have been given the opportunity to experience an environment completely foreign and new to me, I am able to look at a world without borders. That makes me feel confident to shape the needs of the future. Through Rotary's effort of reaching out in the world, you have become a model to youth, introducing the challenge the world has for us and the importance of taking on that challenge.

I believe that the key is understanding and I cannot think of a better way to gain understanding than through experience. In a letter that I wrote to my family, I told them that a seed has been planted in my life and for the rest of my life I will be reaping the benefits.

I would like to thank Rotary for giving me this opportunity in Australia which has allowed me to blossom and grow and most of all, understand. I will continue to keep you informed on my experiences here. This letter is simply one of thanks since I have so much gratitude in my heart. Thank you so much for sponsoring me.

Love,
Julie Hoier

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Letter from Mr. and Mrs. Stan Culshaw, parents of our Club Rotary Youth Exchange Student Margaret Culshaw.
85 Wellbank St., Concord, Australia

Dear Sirs:

Please accept our gratitude for welcoming Margaret into your wonderful country and helping her when in need, so to speak. She has so many thoughtful people looking after her interests over there that it's a consolation to us, being so far away.

She writes regularly and never ceases to tell us how fortunate she is and wonders at times how such generosity and hospitality can be repaid.

International Rotary certainly is a wonderful organization and truly does promote goodwill and friendship throughout the world.

Thank you once again for giving Margaret the opportunity to see America and we hope she has proven to be a suitable ambassadress for Australia.

Yours faithfully,
Stan and Bev Culshaw

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CHAPTER II

THE HISTORY OF THE VALLEY JUNCTION (now West Des Moines) ROTARY CLUB

The early records of the Valley Junction Rotary Club were lost twice, once in a fire in 1946 which destroyed the Masonic Temple on fifth street in Valley Junction where the Rotary Club held regular weekly meetings, and once more several years later when the Club Secretary's brief case was stolen. Information about the early years of our Club History has come from two sources, J .S. Compton the first President of our Club, and from Earl McLaren also a Past President of our Club, who attempted to write down from memory some of the names and events of the early years. Both of these men were Charter Members of our Club and both are now deceased.

The Rotary International Secretariat at Evanston, Illinois has been most helpful in supplying the writer of this book with a list of our Charter Members and Officers, the Past Presidents and Secretaries, the District Governors who have served our Club, and the number of members in our Club year by year, as well as a record of the changes which have taken place in the District organizational structure of Rotary in Iowa.

The Valley Junction Rotary Club came into being through the influence of Rotary friendship. This has been a consistent pattern in the growth of Rotary around the world since 1905 when Rotary was founded as a business and professional men's organization. In Valley Junction, a banker, Mr. W.R. (Bill) Beck, the President of the Valley Junction Savings Bank, had a Rotary friend, Mr. Al Falenhainer of Algona, Iowa, who in 1925-1926 was serving as the Governor of the Rotary International District II which included the entire State of Iowa. Bill Beck and Al Falenhainer shared their interest in Rotary with a group of representative business and professional men of Valley Junction. Several meetings were held to discuss the possibility of forming a

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membership roster and applying to Rotary International for a Charter for a Rotary Club in Valley Junction. The Des Moines Rotary Club offered to sponsor this new Club, and gave assistance in planning meetings. Meetings of the Valley Junction men were held from October 1925 to March 1926. Among this motivating group of men were William Beck the President of the Valley Junction Savings Bank, Albert H. Minnis Grocers Wholesale, Herman Utis of the Iltis Lumber Company, and Jess Compton manager of the Stock Yards.

The Rotary Club of Valley Junction was officially organized on March 22, 1926, and the Club was admitted to membership in Rotary International on April 1, 1926. The Charter Night Banquet was held in the Valley Junction Odd Fellows Hall. Two Past Presidents of the Des Moines Rotary Club, Clyde Hulsizer and Ellis Engelbeck were special representatives from Des Moines. And these men along with the District Governor, Al Falenhainer, presented the Charter for this new Valley Junction Rotary Club. Rotarians were present from Des Moines, Adel and Winterset.

CHARTER MEMBERS, April 1, 1926

The records on file in the Rotary Secretariat at Evanston, Illinois lists the following seventeen Charter Members:

Edward J. Askew - Druggist
Wm. R. Beck - Banker
Jesse S. Compton - Manager Stock Yard
Herman M. Iltis - Lumber Company
Edwin A. Falk
Moses L. Jacobson - Clothier
Erwin H. McCoy
Thomas P. McCurin
Earl McLaren - Mortician
Earl E. Mason - Jeweler
James C. Merrigan - Coal and Feed
Albert H. Minnis - Grocers Wholesale
Bert A. Morgan - Ford Dealer
Fred C. Pollard - Hardware

Peter Riley - Dry Goods
Walter S. Sharpe - M.D.
Frank E. Thornton - Dentist

Other lists of Charter Members from old records include the following names:

Wm. Carmody – Druggist
George Held – Garage Owner
Cecil Nickle – High School Principle
James Swan – Newspaper
Noble McKay – Iowa Power and Light
Sam Polonetzky – Tailor
Ellis Compton

These names were written from memory by older members in the 1940's, but do not appear on the official Charter membership list in the files of the Secretariat. These men probably joined the new Rotary Club after the Club was Chartered.

THE VALLEY JUNCTION ROTARY CLUB CHARTER

The original Charter of our Club which was issued by Rotary International and presented to our Club on Charter Night April I, 1926 was signed by Donald A. Adams, President of Rotary International, and by Chester R. Perry the General Secretary of Rotary International. This original Charter was hanging on a wall in the room of the Masonic Temple in Valley Junction, where the Rotary Club held weekly meetings, when it was lost in the fire which destroyed the building and the Rotary records.

On January 24, 1951, Rotary International issued an OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE to the Valley Junction Rotary Club to replace the destroyed Charter. This certificate shows that our Club is No. 2309 of Rotary International and entitled to all the rights and privileges of membership in Rotary International. A photo of this Certificate is included in this book.

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THE FIRST OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE VALLEY JUNCTION ROTARY CLUB

President - Jesse S. Compton
Secretary - Walter S. Sharpe
Vice President - Albert H. Minnis
Treasurer - William R. Beck
Sergeant-at-arms - Frank E. Thornton
Directors - Edward J. Askew, Fred Pollard

MEETING PLACES OF THE WEST DES MOINES ROTARY CLUB

The Club has held regular weekly meetings in nine different locations in the West Des Moines Community.

The first meeting place for the new Club was the Odd Fellows Hall. The second meeting place was the Masonic Temple (This was the hall destroyed by fire when all Rotary records were lost. Part of the records lost included a portfolio containing pictures of each Rotarian). The third meeting place was a restaurant in the 100 block of 5th street. The fourth meeting place was the Methodist Church, which was then located on the corner of 7th and Elm. but after a few years the ladies of the Church decided not to serve meals for the Club. The Rotary Club then moved to its fifth location, the dining hall of Club 100. This place was large but noisy as other groups also used this dining hall at the same time. The sixth meeting place for the Club was at the Des Moines Golf and Country Club on Ashworth Road in West Des Moines where Emil Donadin, a member of our Club was the Chef. Emil provided wonderful meals for our Club. When the Des Moines Golf and Country Club was sold, the Rotary Club moved its weekly meetings to the Westside Restaurant at the corner of 4th and Grand Avenue where Emil Donadin was the Chef and owner. When the Westside Restaurant changed hands, the Club then moved to its eighth meeting place, the Eddie Webster Inn on 35th St. in West Des Moines. And in 1979 when the Webster Inn was sold, the Club moved to the King Arthurs Restaurant on 8th Street in West Des Moines, where the Club holds regular weekly meetings in its

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ninth location. On June 2, 1981, our club moved to the tenth location, West Des Moines YMCA.

SOME INTERESTING ITEMS WRITTEN BY EARL McLAREN_

Earl McLaren was the last living Charter Member of our Club, and in 1957 several years before his death, he wrote these notes about our Club; "In addition to the Club activities enumerated in Jess's (Jesse Compton) brief history, the Club members as a body donated one full day's activities in restoring and rebuilding some accommodations at Walnut Woods State Park. On the suggestion of Keith Willcoxson members of our Club have manned the Kettles on our streets on cold winter days, raising contributions for the support of the Salvation Army.

Our preacher members in order from our beginning were Rev. Bishop-Methodist, Rev. Ehricks-Lutheran, Reverends Lawton, Nightingale and Morrow-all Methodist, then Rev. John Schrick Lutheran, and our present Pastor Rev. Conley Biddle-Christian. (Since Earl wrote these notes in 1957 other ministers have been members)(Editors note).

We have been hosts during the years to our farmer friends, and the Club has among its members four Civic Award members. We have contributed the expenses of one foreign exchange student and contributed to the expenses of another. (Editors note. The foreign student was a boy from Switzerland an American Field Service student and the first foreign student to attend Valley High School. His entire expense was paid by the West Des Moines Rotary Club.)

In addition to the fire at the Masonic Hall which destroyed our records up to that date (1946) we were unfortunate some years later in having our records, and our Secretary's grip stolen while he was on vacation at a Northern lake. Neither was ever recovered."

Other activities listed in another article by Earl McLaren include the following account; "During the years various activities have been sponsored by the Club. For some 25 years we have awarded a medal to a member of the Senior High Class as winner of a public speaking contest and incidentally the resultant benefits to all who participated. We have at various times entertained as a guest of the Club a member of the High School students and at the end of the month asked them to give a brief

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talk on their observations. We have sponsored boys to summer Y.M.C.A. Camp, and on one occasion the Club as a whole donated a day's construction work at the nearby State Park.

Some years ago we sponsored a trip of seventeen boys, supervised by William Meyers the Superintendent of Schools, taking them through the Dakotas, Montana, Yellowstone Park, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, and home. On several occasions we entertained as guests of the Club our elderly people 75 years and over. We held a 25 year celebration party, entertainment for farm friends, attended Rotary conventions, but not in proportion to which we should.

We believe the Rotary Club has been beneficial in the development of friendship, and feeling of community responsibility. New members are initiated into Rotary. The importance of attendance, copy of the bylaws are presented to them together with a Rotary pin." (Editors note. This brief statement about early activities of our Club is all the historical record we have left except one copy of an early issue of the Club bulletin date Nov. 18, 1929 and printed elsewhere in this book).

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PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES WHO HAVE SERVED THE WEST DES MOINES ROTARY CLUB, AND THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS REPORTED EACH YEAR TO ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

YEAR	PRESIDENTS	SECRETARIES	MEMBERSHIP
1926-27	Jesse S. Compton	Walter S. Sharpe	17
1927-28	Albert Minnis	Walter S. Sharpe	20
1928-29	Herman Iltis	Walter S. Sharpe	21
1929-30	William R Beck	Walter S. Sharpe	22
1930-31	Frank E. Thornton	Walter S. Sharpe	19
1931-32	Erwin H. McCoy	Sam L. Polonetzky	23
1932-33	Clarence Ellis	J. Reid	18
1933-34	Earl McLaren	Frank J. Vass	16
1934-35	P. L. Riley	M. L. Silcox	21
1935-36	Martin L. Silcox	Jack Helwig	25
1936-37	Howard Fearing	Bert Bennett	22
1937-38	Jack Helwig	Earl Josten	21
1938-39	Dr. Fred Sternagle	Wilbur Bridges	19
1939-40	Frank J. Vass	H. W. Fearing	23
1940-41	Rudy Bechtold	Roy Messerschmidt	20
1941-42	Wilbur Bridges	Ray Kirk	22
1942-43	Roy Messerschmidt	John Sexton	21
1943-44	Ray Kirk	Charles R. Way	21
1944-45	Charles R. Way	Max R. Berry	24
1945-46	Amos C. Lee	Charles C. Orebaugh	21
1946-47	Max R. Berry	Roy Riley	30
1947-48	Thomas A. Wilson	Rufus Payne	31
1948-49	Roy Riley	Richard W. Pittman	31
1949-50	John Graham	Richard W. Pittman	31
1950-51	J. Rufus Payne	Richard W. Pittman	34
1951-52	James M. Stout	Richard W. Pittman	38
1952-53	Dr. Eugene Penn	Vern Bailey	31
1953-54	Elmer E. Foster	Vern Bailey	30
1954-55	Glen W. Rhodes	Vern Bailey	33
1955-56	William F. Bowen	Vern Bailey	35
1956-57	Keith E. Willcoxson	Vern Bailey	35
1957-58	B. Sheldon Goreham	Vern Bailey	38
1958-59	W. Dave Frevert	Vern Bailey	37
1959-60	Rev. Conley J. Biddle	Robert Scarborough	40
1960-61	Vern E. Bailey	Russ Hookom	46
1961-62	Stanley VerPloeg	Charles H. Vandenberg	42
1962-63	Clayton Ridgeway	Charles H. Vandenberg	43
1963-64	Charles J. Joss	Charles H. Vandenberg	40
1964-65	Carl Ripper	Charles H. Vandenberg	38
1965-66	A. A. Martin	Charles H. Vandenberg	44
1966-67	Joe VanWinkle	Charles H. Vandenberg	43
1967-68	Dr. George W. Thompson	Charles H. Vandenberg	45
1968-69	Roy McKay	Charles H. Vandenberg	47
1969-70	Dr. Gordon Elliott	Charles H. Vandenberg	44
1970-71	S. R. Bruce	Richard W. Pittman	45
1971-72	James Newsome	Bill M. Reese	36
1972-73	Clair C. Weintz	Bill M. Reese / Conley J. Biddle	55
1973-74	Larry Lang	Conley J. Biddle	56
1974-75	Howard C. Amick	Conley J. Biddle	75
1975-76	Donald B. Groves	Conley J. Biddle	72
1976-77	Lyle C. Smith	Conley J. Biddle	72
1977-78	Eugene Jessick	Conley J. Biddle / James Brown	72
1978-79	Elmer P. True	James S. Brown	75
1979-80	Douglas Hillman	James S. Brown	73
1980-81	Bill M. Reese	James S. Brown	

Guests at the banquet included many Past District Governors who had served our Club, along with representatives from many Rotary Clubs in our area. Special guests of honor included Harry A. Stewart, General Secretary of R.I. and his wife from Evanston, Illinois, Albert M. Efner, Governor of District 600 and his wife from Ottumwa, Iowa, Ann Geidel a Rotary Foundation Graduate student from Germany, a student at Drake University and sponsored by our Club.

Donald Groves our Club President presented a beautiful gavel which he had made, to Past President, Conley J. Biddle, in recognition of his service to the Club. Conley used this gavel on several occasions when he served as the Governor of District 600.

The Golden Anniversary Banquet was the climax of our Club's Anniversary year activities.

Durk Offringa, a great Rotarian and long time member of the Des Moines Rotary Club wrote a poem of tribute to our Club which he read at the banquet.

"A TRIBUTE TO ROTARY" On the 50th Anniversary of the West Des Moines Rotary Club April 6, 1976

The Rotary Club of West Des Moines is here to celebrate its golden anniversary;
A most enjoyable date. Here's 50 years of fellowship, Of "service above self".
"He profits most who serves the best", That's Rotary itself.

A giant leap for fellowship Paul Harris made with glee;
When with just three Chicago friends he founded Rotary.
The impact of this humble start resounds around the world.
Eight hundred thousand meet each week with friendship's flag unfurled.
With service and with fellowship There's Rotary's four way test.
Is it the truth and is it fair to all concerned the best?

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With seventeen thousand Rotary Clubs in hundred fifty lands,
Advancement of goodwill and peace is made on every hand.
Here business and professional men join in a mighty goal.
Providing through acquaintanceship goodwill from pole to pole.

One great ambition of my life came true in 1911.
When I came to America, a place almost like heaven.
Another milestone in my life was joining Rotary.
As charter member of the club sponsored at Waverly.

And as I love this land of mine, I wish that all might share.
In spite of any race or creed, its blessings everywhere.
That we might live our Rotary ideals and strive as best we can,
For worldwide Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man.

THE ELECTION AND SERVICE OF A DISTRICT GOVERNOR FROM OUR OWN CLUB

One of the key persons in the organizational structure of Rotary International is the District Governor. The By-laws of R.I. outline the duties of a District Governor and the procedure for his nomination and election. The District Governor is an Official of Rotary International and during his term of office he is the top R.I. officer in his district.

He has ten major duties:

1. Supervise the organization of new Clubs in his district.
2. Help strengthen the existing clubs in his district.
3. Promote cordial relations between the clubs in his district and between the clubs and Rotary International.

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4. Plan, develop, and preside, at the District Conference and District Assembly.
5. Make an official visit to every club in his district as early in the year as possible,
6. Issue a monthly letter to each club President and Secretary in his district.
7. Report promptly to R.I. as may be required by the President or the Board of Directors of R.I.
8. Supply to his successor full information as to conditions of clubs in the district with recommended action for strengthening clubs.
9. Transfer continuing district files to his successor.
10. Perform such other duties as are inherent in his responsibility as the officer of Rotary International in the district.

The procedure for the nomination and election of a District Governor is also stated in the R.I. By-Laws. A Rotary Club in the district by official resolution submits the name of a candidate from the club who has been a Rotarian for seven or more years and has served as the President of the Club, to the District Nominating Committee. The District Nominating Committee then makes the selection and notifies the District Governor. The District Governor then publishes the name of the selected candidate to the clubs of the district, and at the next District Conference the candidate is voted on as the District Governor Nominee. And one year later the District Governor Nominee is elected at the Rotary International Convention.

It is an honor for a local Rotary Club to promote one of their own members as a candidate for District Governor and to participate in his nomination and election. The West Des Moines Rotary Club had this honor in the Rotary years 1977 to 1979 when the Club participated in the nomination and election of Rev. Conley J. Biddle, who served as the Governor of R.I. District 600 during the 1978-79 Rotary year. The club published and distributed throughout the District a brochure which stated Conley's qualifications and service to Rotary, to Churches, and to the West Des Moines community. A copy of this brochure is included in the records of the Club.

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Conley was installed as District Governor on June 27, 1975 during the banquet which the West Des Moines Rotary Club held at the Iowa Farm Bureau building in West Des Moines for the installation of Club Officers for the 1978-79 Rotary year. The new District Governor was the banquet speaker on that occasion, and after his address Past President, Donald B. Groves, on behalf of the West Des Moines Rotary Club, presented Conley with the coveted "Paul Harris Fellow" award, as a gift from the Club.

This was an "historical first" for the West Des Moines Rotary Club, and a high honor for the writer of this book. My wife Vera and I spent eight days in training for the work of District Governor at the Rotary International Assembly at Boca Raton, Florida, in May 1978, and a few days later I was elected District Governor at the R.I. Convention in Tokyo, Japan on May 18, 1978.

District 600 is one of 375 Districts in the Rotary world, and the experience of personal friendship and worldwide Rotary fellowship with 374 other fellow District Governors at the International Assembly was a once in a lifetime opportunity. It was at Boca Raton where I made contact with the incoming Governor Paul Lessman of District 185, North Germany, which resulted in a Rotary Foundation Group Study Exchange Team from Germany, and with Graham Edwards of District 103, in North England, which resulted in the Paul Harris Exchange Couple, Philip and June Boobyer of Durham, England, to visit our District, during the 1978-79 Rotary year.

District 600 covers more than the South half of the State of Iowa, with 54 Rotary Clubs and 4000 Rotarians in a 23,000 mile area. I drove more than 20,000 miles on official Rotary business, and in addition to the required official visit to every club where I held three meetings, and gave an address, I also made 26 other visits to the Clubs to give addresses and attend special club functions.

One of the responsibilities of the District Governor is planning and conducting the District Conference which is a three day meeting. And the home Club of the District Governor is expected to assist in this part of the Governor's work. The members of our Club early in 1978 found themselves involved in District Conference planning. We included the Northwest Des Moines Rotary Club and the Des Moines Rotary Club as Co-Hosts for the May 4,5,6, 1979 District Conferences at the Hyatt House in Des Moines,

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Elmer True, the President of West Des Moines Club, Charles Gabus, the President of the Northwest Des Moines Club and Randal Winters, the President of the Des Moines Club, assisted in the planning of the Conference program and served with me as presiding officers at the District Conference sessions. We had more than 60 Rotarians from all three co-host clubs serving on the planning committee. 26 of these were from our own club. Bill Reese, from our Club served as The District Treasurer and Conference Treasurer, Douglas Hillman, served as the Conference Secretary, Larry Spinney, Lee Minear, and others served on the hospitality committee; James Brown, Mike Canady, Suku Radia and James McCarl served on the registration committee with others from the other two co-host clubs. Steve Roberts, Stan VerPloeg, Scott Nelson and other served on the decorations committee. Larry Lockridge, and Larry Hoier were sergeants-at-arms. Donald Groves, Merrill Evans and Oliver Gillespie served on the committee which planned and conducted the Conference barbeque at the Living History Farms on the opening night of the conference, and served more than 400 people. Paul Burgess, of our Club, was one of the official conference photographers. The other photographer for the conference was Allen Anderson who was not a member of our Club then, but became a member of our club in 1980. Glen Taylor and Mike Sinks of our Club worked with the Hyatt House management in planning the conference meals. Tom Fredregill and Dewey Vukovich assisted with transportation. Jerry Foster and Joe VanWinkle worked with the youth entertainment committee. Eugene Jessick was in charge of meeting places for conference sessions and equipment. Dale Pearson served on the housing committee. All of these men and others held regular planning meetings at Eddie Websters Inn and at the Hyatt House, nearly every two weeks from November 1978 to April 1979.

Planning and conducting a District Conference is a major endeavor requiring many months of hard work, cooperation, and dedication, and the three host clubs, West Des Moines, Northwest Des Moines and Des Moines, provided all of this and more, in a great show of support for the District and for the District Governor. All the hard work paid off and resulted in the largest number of registrations (655) in the history of District 600, and the best attended conference (averaging 400 in each session). The theme of the conference was my theme for the entire District in 1978-79, "Reach Out, Stand Tall, You Are A Rotarian".

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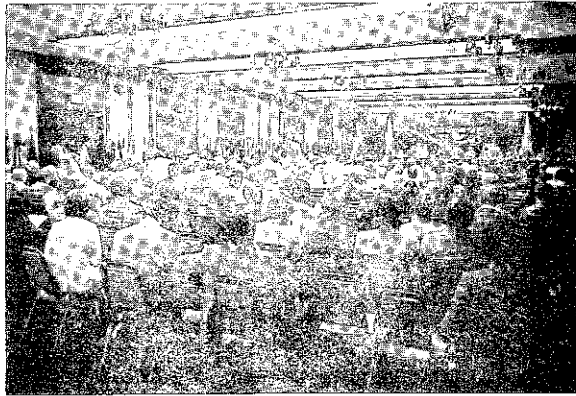
The District Conference delegates in 1979 elected the District Governor, Conley J. Biddle, to serve as the District 600 representative on the Rotary Council on Legislation which was held in Chicago, in June 1980 following the 75th Anniversary R.I. Convention. And once again the West Des Moines Rotary Club was honored through their own District Governor. This was another "Historic First" for our Club.

In April 1979, preceding the District Conference, our Club entertained the District 600 Paul Harris Exchange Couple, Rotarian Philip and Rotary Ann June Boobyer of Durham, England. In 1977 our Club had this same privilege when we entertained Arne and Ingeberg Haftorn from Rena, Norway.

Three of our West Des Moines Rotary Club members are now (1981) serving on District 600 Committees. Douglas Hillman is serving as the Chairman of the Rotary Foundation Educational Awards Committee, Donald B. Groves is serving on the District Nominating Committee, and Larry Lockridge is serving as the Chairman of the World Fellowship Committee. Bill M. Reese from our Club served on the District 600 Executive Committee during the 1978-79 Rotary year when he was the District Treasurer.



District Conference, R.I. District 600, Hyatt House, Des Moines, Iowa, May 1979. Conley J. Biddle, Governor of R.I. District 600 addressing the Conference.



R.I. District 600 Conference delegates assembled in plenary session.



IN RECOGNITION OF ITS

Golden Anniversary

This Certificate is Presented to the

ROTARY CLUB OF

West Des Moines, Iowa, U.S.A.

Wm. C. Stephenson
President, Rotary International
Henry C. Stewart
General Secretary, Rotary International

Date: April 1, 1955

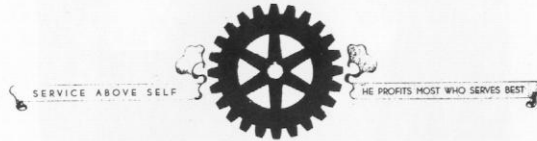
PICTURE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CERTIFICATE

DISTRICT GOVERNORS WHO HAVE SERVED THE WEST DES MOINES ROTARY CLUB

GOVERNOR	YEAR	DISTRICT NUMBER
Al Falenhainer	1925-26	11
Bruce F. Gates	1926-27	11
Pearl K. McGee	1927 -28	11
Clyde Hulsizer	1928-29	11
Clarence Knutson	1929-30	11
Thomas Purcell	1930-31	11
Roy Louden	1931-32	11
Charles Rhinehart	1932-33	11
Gerald Hunt	1933-34	11
William P. Bair	1934-35	11
Willis Edson	1935-36	11
Albert Fuller	1936-37	11
William Brandon	1937-38	132
P.K. Wright	1938-39	132
G.B. Price	1939-40	132
Lester A. Royal	1940-41	132
Charles T. Cownie	1941-42	132
Thorald Davidson	1942-43	132
Lou Chrysler	1943-44	132
H.O. Brenbrock	1944-45	132
Dan J.P. Ryan	1945-46	132
Alvin Edgar	1946-47	132
Dallas Harrison	1947-48	132
Edward D. Walker	1948-49	133
G. Floyd Hatcher	1949-50	193
Tomas Fultz	1950-51	193
Oliver Bimson	1951-52	193
Clarence R. Off	1952-53	193
Allen Winston Dakin	1953-54	193
Paul Hellwege	1954-55	193
Nathan Keith	1955-56	193
Wallace Barron	1956-57	193

**DISTRICT GOVERNORS WHO HAVE SERVED THE WEST DES MOINES ROTARY CLUB
(Continued)**

Lester Glover	1957-58
Rev. Kirby Webster	1958-59
W. Ralph Taylor	1959-60
Fred Johnson	1960-61
Harold O. Hegland	1961-62
Richard Hoerner	1962-63
Watters Scott	1963-64
Russell Wm. Harper	1964-65
M. Robert Everetts	1965-66
John Coolidge	1966-67
Ralph E. Kirk	1967-68
Alson E. Braley	1968-69
J. Wayne Douglass	1969-70
Fred Morain	1970-71
Logan E. Reif	1971-72
Gordon Hawk	1972-73
Henry B. Hook	1973-74
R. Lynn Johnson	1974-75
Albert M. Efner	1975-76
Ralph E. Patterson Jr.	1976-77
Eugene Melson	1977-78
Rev. Conley J. Biddle	1978-79
David McPherrren	1979-80
Lloyd Knowler	1980-81
Donald Koch	1981-82



This Certifies that the Rotary Club of
West Des Moines, Iowa, U.S.A.

having been duly organized and having agreed, through its officers and members, to be bound by the Constitution and By-Laws of Rotary International, which agreement is evidenced by the acceptance of this certificate, is now a duly admitted member of

Rotary International

Club No. 2309

and is entitled to all the rights and privileges of such membership.

In witness whereof the seal of Rotary International is hereto affixed and the signatures of its officers, duly authorized, are subscribed hereto this ~~twenty-fourth~~ day of January Anno Domini 1961.

(Original charter issued 1 April 1926, signed by Donald A. Adams, President and Chauncey W. Perry, Secretary)



Arthur H. Hays
President, Rotary International
Raymond
Secretary, Rotary International

Picture of Official Club Certificate



JESSE S. COMPTON — Manager Stock Yards
Organizer-Charter Member-First President
of the West Des Moines (Valley Junction)
Rotary Club - 1926-27



HERMAN ILTIS — Retail Lumber
Organizer-Charter Member
President of West Des Moines (Valley
Junction) Rotary Club - 1928-29



WILLIAM R. BECK — Banker
Organizer-Charter Member-First Treasurer
President of the West Des Moines (Valley
Junction) Rotary Club - 1929-30



West Des Moines Rotary Club 50th Anniversary banquet, held at the Des Moines Golf and Country Club, April 1976. Left, Donald B. Groves, President; And at right, Harry Stewart, General Secretary Rotary International.



50th Anniversary banquet. (Left to right) Howard C. Amick, Past President; Harry Stewart, General Secretary R.I.; Mrs. Harry Stewart; Mrs. Howard Amick, Mrs. Albert Efner, Albert Efner, Governor R.I. District 600.



50th Anniversary banquet. (Left to right) Richard Souder, Mrs. Richard Souder, Ann Geidel, Rotary Foundation Graduate Student from Germany sponsored by the West Des Moines Rotary Club, Mrs. Harry Stewart, Harry Stewart, General Secretary R.I.

CHAPTER III

EXCERPTS FROM THE CLUB BULLETINS- 1926-1981

Early in our Club history a weekly bulletin entitled, "The Rotary News" was published to inform members about Rotary programs and activities, and to provide information about Rotary service around the world. In some old records of our Club shared with us by Amos Lee, a Past President, was a copy of an early Valley Junction Rotary Club Bulletin called, "The Rotary News" published on November 18, 1929. The copy is marked Vol. I, No 3 and indicates that this bulletin was published every two weeks. This is the only copy of any West Des Moines Rotary Club bulletin available from 1929 to 1956. Copies of other bulletins during those years have been lost. But we do have in our Club records copies of Club bulletins from 1956-1981.

Excerpt from "The Rotary News" Vol. I Valley Junction, Iowa, Nov. 18, 1929, No. 3.

"Feel happy? Then sing. It is a recognized fact that when people are happy they sing. We also recognize the fact that each individual has songs, which because of some sentimental or personal appeal they like better than others. On this basis we believe it will be an interesting procedure to discover if possible, what the special songs enjoyed by individual members are. Therefore, you will find at your plate Monday, a questionnaire asking for your own choice of songs as they appear in the song book. The idea which is in our minds is to dedicate the songs of a certain individual at each meeting. This adds a personal touch and at the same time no doubt, will give us a larger variety and will widen our range of songs."

Another excerpt from the 1929 Club bulletin, "He Quit Hating Competitor When He Came To Know Him." "I sat up nights hating the other printer." writes Ralph Parlette of the Parlette Padgett Co. and Chicago in "Starch". Can you understand anything of the eloquence of my hatred? I could see the horns sticking out on that fellows head. I went on the other side of the street, so as not to breathe the air contaminated by his unholy presence. There I sat at my mortgaged desk

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standing off the landlord for his rent with one hand while I wrote editorials with the other, editorials that would reform the race. Doggone the race would not read my editorials. They got the other fellows paper. By Friday afternoon we put the form of a great family uplift on the press, just started the press, and bang the big side casing broke. We could not fix the press or get another; that one was not paid for. Finally in desperation I said to the boys, "Go home, I want to be alone. I want to make some remarks on the journalistic situation." They all went home and I was alone. I did the thing every coward does; I sat down and bawled. I said, "I'm up against it." Then a man came upstairs, that other printer, the devil incarnate came upstairs to gloat. You know why I was upstairs? The rent was cheaper. Now I saw the horns on his head. Why had he come? The old reptile came over to me and put his hand on my shoulder and said in the kindest tone a man ever used, "Ralph you are in a bad fix, I'm sorry." He gathered up that type and said, "Come on I will help you print it in my shop. Use my shop as if it were your own." For the first time in my experience I looked in the fellows face and couldn't see any horns. I was looking in the face of one of the finest citizens the town had, and I want to tell you that was the beginning of one of the finest friendships of my life. We got acquainted. The other day an old man eighty years and I sat down and laughed over it. It was funny how we discovered each other at last, but the printing business prospered better for both of us after that. We learned how to cooperate and I want to tell you that a lot of things happened in that town. We discovered ourselves and things changed. That is the spirit of today."

ROTARY NEWS Published every two weeks, Editor Unknown.

Officers: William Beck, President, Walter Sharpe, Secretary, Bert Morgan, Treasurer, Albert Minnis, Director, Jesse Compton, Director, Herman Iltis, Director

Membership:

Wm. Meyers	Wm. Beck
Alfred T. Bishop	Bert Morgan
Jesse Compton	Erwin McCoy
Walter Sharpe	Earl McLaren
Wm. Carmody	Noble McKay
George Held	Cecil Nickle
Albert Minnis	Pete Riley
James Merrigan	Jim Swan
Fred Pollard	Frank Thornton
Herman Iltis'	Sam Polonetsky

At sometime during the early history of our Club the name of the bulletin changed from "The Rotary News" to "The Rotary Wheel", and from a biweekly to a weekly bulletin. I wish we had a complete record of all the Rotarians who served as "Bulletin Editors", and who gave so much time and effort to the publication of "The Rotary Wheel". But these records are lost. The Nov. 18, 1929 copy of the bulletin which we have in our records carried the statement "Editor Unknown". Perhaps the editor wished for special reasons to be unknown. But for many of the years of our Club History the bulletin editors have been well known, and very often subjected to fines extracted by the Sergeant-At-Arms for editorial mistakes or for whatever reasons suitable or unsuitable, at the weekly luncheon meetings of our Club.

From our Club records available we learn that the following Rotarians have served our Club as Bulletin Editors, and we honor them in this history of our Club.

Roster of Club Bulletins Editors: (Not in sequence of service)

Earl McLaren	Dave Frevert	Bill Bowen
Elmer Foster	Joe VanWinkle	Gordon Elliott
Raymond Clark	Barry Brock	Arnold Olson
William Manis	Elmer True	Norman Pogemiller
Brian Blair	Harry Beardsley	Allen Anderson

SOME EXCERPTS FROM CLUB BULLETINS 1956-1981 may be of interest to those who read this book. I am sure that a history of the programs and service activities of our Club could be written on the basis of

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information researched from the weekly bulletins alone, if we had a complete set of copies for all the years of our Club's existence.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - 1958:

This issue marks the revival of our regular Rotary Club Bulletin, (Feb. 4, 1958). It is good work and effort of our Director of Club Service activities, Dave Frevert. Also as assist from Bill Bowen, who arranged for typing and printing this copy. To keep it going smoothly each week depends on YOU, yes we mean each and everyone of YOU (the 40 members of our Club) News and interesting facts about any member or his business will have to be channeled voluntarily to the Editor each week. As a good Rotarian make it part of your responsibility to assist with this publication. -Sheldon Goreham, President.

DON ALT PRESENTS "PEOPLE & MONEY"

Don Alt, assistant vice-president at Home Federal Savings and Loan Association of Des Moines, presented a talk entitled, "People and Money" to our club last Tuesday noon. Pointing out that most of us spend more time thinking about money than any other single thing, he agreed with the late Mike Todd that a person's attitude toward money makes him poor or rich. Don explained that Savings and Loan Associations are solely in the home loan business. He forecast an important future making money available for home ownership needs which are a certainty, even in the next few years. Thanks Don and Program Chairman Tom Wilson (April, 58)

STAN WRITES ON FIRE PROTECTION

An article entitled, "Building for Fire Protection, written by West Des Moines Rotarian Stan VerPloeg, appears in the spring issue of the nationally circulated "Your Church" magazine. In this well written article Stan appraises the merits and hazards of different types of construction and stresses the vital importance of the architect's and engineer's function in designing structures which have proper exits and which eliminate causes of fire."

BOONE ROTARY CONFERENCE

Warm hospitality of the Boone Rotary club and good weather guaranteed a successful District 600 Conference last Saturday and

Sunday. Attending this meeting from our Club were Rev. Conley Biddle, Vern Bailey, Amos Lee and Dave Frevert.

FIRESIDE MEETING:

President and Mrs. Sheldon Goreham were hosts to a fireside meeting of 13 West Des Moines Rotarians and their Rotary Anns last Friday evening.

CLUB LEADERS ASSEMBLY

An annual event in Rotary District 600 is its Club Leaders Assembly. This year's Assembly, called by District Governor Lester R. Glover, is being held in Newton on Tuesday, May 6. The assembly is an opportunity for club officers to exchange ideas and make plans for the new Rotary year. Attending from our club are Rev. Conley Biddle, Al Politch, Stan VerPloeg and Dave Frevert.

PRESIDENT SHELDON HONORED BY BETA GAMMA SIGMA

Our congratulations to President Sheldon Goreham on his election as an honorary member of Beta Gamma Sigma society whose purpose is to encourage and reward scholarship and accomplishment among students of commerce and business administration, to promote the advancement of education in the art and science of business, to foster integrity in the conduct of business operations and to recognize those persons who have achieved distinction in business.

ELMER TRUE SPEAKS:

Last Tuesday (June 17-58), Mr. Elmer True, West Des Moines City Clerk, addressed the club and announced future plans for streets in WDM. He said that WDM 1st Street (DM63rd) and 19th Street would eventually be thorough-fare for north and south bound traffic. Ashworth Road would be widened and improved. Eighth Street would not be a major thorough-fare.

AND THE FLOODS CAME: - (1958)

July 3rd, Valley High was set-up as a Disaster center for flood victims. With great dispatch, the American Red Cross had 150 beds, a first aid center, and kitchen ready to serve those needing help. Every department of every operation was well staffed with well trained personnel. Only 15 were sheltered for one night. The flood did not reach crest level predicted.

HARD HATS FOR ALL

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Dusty Rhodes has the program July 29th. Immediately after our luncheon, all are invited to tour the Penn-Dixie Plant to see how cement is made. Dusty says that a quick tour of the plant will take about 30 to 45 minutes. No special clothing is necessary. Hard hats will be provided by the company. Just before we leave for the plant Dusty will give a brief resume of what we will see and a brief explanation of the cement making process.

WEST DES MOINES GROWS, GROWS, AND GROWS:

A publication of the West Des Moines Citizens committee states, "In 1956 our figures show there were 9,559 people and 2,719 homes in the area. 1958 figures show a 10.7% increase in population to 10,588 and an 18.3% increase in dwellings to 3,217. Indications point toward 175 more new homes being built this year in West Des Moines.

WELCOME HANS:

Starting today Hans Wyss of Berne, Switzerland will be the guest of our Club each Tuesday during December, and Hans will bring one of his friends from West Des Moines High School. As most of us know, Hans is the foreign student that our Club is sponsoring this year in the great and good program of international understanding. He is staying at the home of Edwin Brocks, and from all reports and appearances, Hans is living up the year with unbounded enthusiasm. The Brocks have many fine things to say about this young fellow.

GOOD NEWS:

Average attendance for the District last month (Dec. 1958) was 85.52 with West Des Moines having 86.43. Which way are you pushing the club - up or down?

EMIL IN SWITZERLAND:

Emil Donadin and family made a flying trip to Switzerland to visit friends and relatives. He visited Hanspeter Wyss's parents in Brene. The Wyss family was very happy that Hans had the opportunity to visit America. Hans writes very interesting letters home about the wonderful people in America.

EARL MCLAREN SUBMITS:

"Are you an active member
The kind that's liked so well,
Or are you just contented

With the button in your label?
Do you attend the meetings?
And mingle with the flock,
Or do you stay at home
And criticize and knock?
Do you take an active part
To help the work along;
Or, are you satisfied to be
The kind that just belongs?
Do you push the cause along
And make things really tick,
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the clique?
Come to the meetings often
And help with hand and heart.
Don't be just a member
But take an active part."

\$100.00

Ten members of the local club pledged \$10.00 each to the High School Student Council in support of a new foreign student for next year. Congratulations to a fine new member Bob Scarborough for the promotion.

THE WOMEN, BLESS THEM:

Next Tuesday Stanley VerPloeg will have a panel of four West Des Moines women to tell us what they do and do not like about shopping in West Des Moines. This will be a vocational service program in line with a suggestion by District Governor Ralph Taylor.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Four members of our Club have been elected as winners of the West Des Moines Community award; Earl McLaren, Dr. Fred Sternagel, Amos Lee and Ray Kirk.

GOOD PROGRAMS IN THE OFFING:

1. President Conley - "Hells' Canyon" (He has looked it over this summer)
2. Dr. Fred - "A Doctor behind the Iron Curtain" (Dr. Fred is in Russia at the present time and is expected back mid-Sept.)

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3. Rudy Bechtold - "Retiring on an Acerage of 30" (Rudy will retire officially Sept. 1)
4. Past President Dave - "Life of an Army Officer Vs Career as an Architectural Engineer"
5. Elmer Foster - "Life at Gun Flint"
6. Keith Willcoxson - "Keeping Cool with Ice Cream".
7. Sid Inman - "What Peggy Ann Has Done for Me."

COMING PROGRAMS:

Mar. 8th, 1960 (Community Service) Mr. Seeds, Resident Director of Neighborhood House in Des Moines.

Mar. 15th - (Vocational Service) - Bob Roberts, Regional Office of the U.A.W. Division of the AFL-CIO.

Mar. 22nd - (International Service) - Foreign Student Exchange Program with Fred Sternagel and Sid Beattie.

ATTENDANCE:

Thanks to one 100% meeting in March (1960) we joined the "Big Ten" with monthly percentage average of 92.00% or 5th place in our Club grouping (17 clubs with 40 or more members) and 10th place in the entire district with a total of 5 I clubs.

ROTARY NOTES:

At last week's meeting (Apr. 26, 1960 bulletin) - we had three excellent autobiographies given by Paul Grodt, Gus Martin and Carl Ripper. We believe however, if these new members in reporting of their life's history, do not care to take an oath, to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, under the fifth amendment, that a committee be appointed and empowered to obtain by questioning or any other method deemed necessary to obtain the facts for all our club members. To hear at least two of these histories, we would conclude that during their war service they were never in the "Brig" of off Base with leave.

KEEP IN MIND **

That October 18, 1966 will be our last club meeting here at the D.M. Golf and Country Club. Oct. 25th will take the form of an evening get together with our wives in several member's homes, and on Nov. 7th we plan to meet at Emil's new establishment at 1st and Grand, WDM.

ROTARY EXCHANGE STUDENT CHANGES ADDRESS

Our Club-sponsored exchange student, Mario Aviles of Los Mochis, Sinaloa, Mexico, a sophomore at Valley High School this year (1967) will soon be terminating his almost five month stay at the home of Mr. and Mrs'. Jim Fay and family. As recommended by the R.I. Student Exchange Committee, other club members have been invited to host our foreign visitor during the last half of the school year. At the end of the present semester (mid-January) and until Easter vacation (Mar. 26) Mario will be living at the home of Gordon Elliott and his wife Dee, and sons. Mark and Jim. During the last nine weeks of the school year, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley VerPloeg and their family will host Mario at their suburban home on Cook Rd. in WDM.

ROTARY ANNOUNCES COMMITTEE TO STUDY AND CARRY OUR PRIVATE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN:

In compliance with the recommendations of the Mayor and other civic leaders to support an extensive clean-up campaign for our city, Rotary President Joe and the members of the Board of Directors, last Wednesday approved an "Urban Renewal" committee to carry out this important community project.

Howard Amick has been appointed chairman of the committee, and others who will be working with him include Rotarians Wilbur Bridges, Paul Burgess, Elmer True, Walt Batman, Dick Bruce, and Paul Grodt.

The idea involves helping repair, paint and remodel if necessary some of the homes in the more unsightly part of West Des Moines.

INTERACT-*TO GET UNDERWAY

Interact is a high school boys club devoted to school, community, and international service, governed by its own membership with council from the sponsoring Rotary Club under a general format provided by Rotary International.

What we hope will become the 2nd club in District 600 will hold its first meeting at Emil's West Side Restaurant on Oct. 5th (1967) at 6:30 P.M. This will be a dinner meeting and all Rotarians sons, grade 10, 11, and 12 are invited to attend. About 100 selected boys from the WDM School District have been invited to join. Our "Interact" Committee is composed of Joe VanWinkle, Paul

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Grodt, Chuck Joss, Barry Brock and Dr. Jim Dolan.

TODAY (Oct. 17, 1967)

Immediate Past Pres. Joe VanWinkle who also happens to be Chairman of the Club Interact Comm. will present the officers of the new "Interact" Club and discuss what this new Club will do and how it is organized. Officers of the new Club are as follows: Pres. Jerry Stock; Vice Pres. Jerry Thompson; Secretary, Jim Alt; Treasurer, Jim Far III.

This group met last Thursday with 32 out of the 35 Charter members present. Joe has been assisted in the formation of this club by Dick Bruce, Norman Pogemiller, George Thompson and Paul Grodt.

THE BEAUTIFICATION CONTEST:

First place winner was George Barbour the owner of a house at 416 8th St. West Des Moines. He won the \$100.00 first prize. (Howard Amick was the chairman of this project.)

THE NEW NORTHWEST ROTARY CLUB

Territory has been released by the Des Moines Rotary Club to enable the new Northwest Rotary Club to get underway. Members Jim Fay and Dave Frevert are involved in the organization of this group. This new Club will meet on Friday noons at II :45 A.M. at Bishops in Merle Hay Plaza.

The geographical area of this new club is bounded by Hickman Rd., Merle Hay Rd (both sides), the north city limits of Johnson, and west to the Interstate.

THIS AND THAT:

On October 10th the farewell luncheon for the Norwegians visiting under the Rotary International Group Study Exchange will be held at the regular meeting of the D.M. Rotary club. Make your reservation.

Dave Frevert says the new Rotary Club of N. W. Des Moines will hold their Charter Night Banquet at the hotel Ft. Des Moines on Thursday evening Nov. 21, 1968. The Des Moines Club is the sponsoring Club.

LAST WEEK:

Stan VerPloeg presented the long range comprehensive plan for West Des Moines and told us about the problems the city fathers have had in preparing this plan. It looks like a fine plan for the future growth of West Des Moines from a population of 2600 in 1910 to an approximate 15,000 today with a projection to 40,000 in ten years. An interesting

statistic that Stan provided was the fact that the average age of West Des Moines residents in 1950 was 31, while in 1960 that average age was 28. It is a young town, and often referred to as a bedroom city. (Bulletin Mar. 16, 1970)

BITS OF NEWS:

The West Des Moines Rotary Club is sponsoring the Chinese Booth under Mrs. Charlotte Tews' direction at the Annual International Food Fair at the Veterans Auditorium. (Oct. 1971)

THIS WEEK:

Mark Paulson will be our guest speaker today. He is the recipient of the Mark Elliott Fellowship of Christian Athletes Scholarship. Mark will be a senior at Valley High School. He has just returned from the F.C.A. Camp at Ft. Collins, Colorado. (Aug. 1973)

INTERACT CLUB:

Rotary member George Thompson reports the following information regarding the Rotary-sponsored youth club of Valley High School. The officers are: Pam Downs Pres.; Eric Newberg V. Pres; Leslie Reed Secretary; and Janene Meier Treasurer. Some of their club functions this month include a discussion with representatives of the West Des Moines Police Dept., a visit to a custodial home for retarded people, and a speaker from Youth Line. The club meetings average about 25 participating each time. Meetings are held every other Wednesday at 8:00 in the Forum room at Valley High School. Jim Meade and Paul Egan are assisting with the Interact Club activities also.

PRESIDENT'S KORNER: Larry L. Lang (Oct. 23, 1973)

The Inter-District meeting at Davenport last Tuesday evening was a rousing success. Rotary International President Bill Carter gave one of the most outstanding speeches it has been my privilege to hear. Governor Robert Ray (Iowa) was present to welcome President Bill. Those attending from West Des Moines Rotary were Dick and Margaret Bruce, Joe and France VanWinkle, Jim Newsome, Ken Mitchell, Howard Amick, Don Groves, Conley Biddle, and Larry and Dee Lang. Close to 800 Rotarians and Rotary Anns were in attendance.

We received a very grateful letter from the WDM Suburban YMCA sharing their appreciation for our support of the program and telling of the equipment purchased with the money we presented to them. Certainly no one will object to being fined if he sees the enjoyment young kids are deriving from the "Day Camp" program.

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PRESIDENT'S KORNER - (Dec. 11, 1973) - Larry Lang

This Saturday Dec. 15th we will have opportunity to be of service to the kids of the West Des Moines Opportunity Center. A shopping venture with Rotary providing \$5.00 for each child accompanied by a West Des Moines Rotarian, to purchase Christmas presents for their parents, brothers, and sisters. Bob Wise and Harry Beardsley are heading up this venture for our Club.

SOME OF THE NEW PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS THIS YEAR INCLUDE: (73-74)

1. Rotary first Year Scholarships for post High School study. Two scholarships of \$200.00 each to apply towards first year study. Selection will be based on scholarship 20%, leadership 20%, service 20%, financial need 40%.
2. Providing money and labor in developing facilities for the YMCA summer camp program.

PRESIDENT'S KORNER: - Larry L. Lang

Howard Amick, Conley Biddle, Don Groves and Larry Lang, attended the District Rotary Conference at Bettendorf last Saturday. Newspaper columnist Ann Landers was the featured speaker at the noon luncheon and proved to be most entertaining. Al Efner of Ottumwa was nominated as District Governor Elect to follow Lynn Johnson of Chariton, who will assume the office of District Governor this next July.

PRESIDENT'S KORNER - (Apr. 9, 74) - Larry Lang

Your Rotary Board of Directors met last Thursday with the following decisions being reached.

1. A special program is being planned for June to honor the past presidents of West Des Moines Rotary and to serve as a time of initiation of the new officers for the 1974-75 year.
2. Later this spring we will be having a work day to build a storage shed and work table for the YMCA Shady Creek Day Camp.
3. The Board voted to provide \$300.00 for the YMCA Camperships to the Shady Creek Day Camp.

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FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE REPORT: Feb. 1974

The West Des Moines Rotary Club ranked 19th of 53 clubs in District 600 during February. Our Attendance percentage was 85.57. The District average was 81.59.

PRESIDENT'S KORNER (May 7, 74)

We are happy to have as our special guests today nine students from the 7th grade at Stilwell Junior High School. These students are the award winners in the Rotary 4-Way Test, essay and poster contest, and will be awarded their prizes during the program. Principle Jim Stone and staff members Twylla Kerr, Virginia Miller, Bob Hulling and Bob Klum have coordinated the contest and today are accompanying the following students; Linda Brantley, David Cook, Linda Edmond, Sherri Erickson, Nancy Kersey, Steve Silverman, Danny Terrebonne, Kellie Tschudy, and Cathy Zaharis. This is the first year we have sponsored this contest and the cooperation of the schools and the fine efforts of each student who participated is greatly appreciated.

PRESIDENT'S KORNER - (June 1974)

Many thanks to Larry Lockridge for his help in mowing at the Shady Creek Camp and to Gene Jessick, Rex Roupe, Bob Wise, Roy McKay, Paul Egan, Harry Beardsley, Ben Krautman, George Thompson, and Joe VanWinkle for aiding in assembling the tables and benches and setting up the tent at camp on Saturday. The Rotary Club gave six tables plus benches and two tents to the West Des Moines YMCA for their use at the camp.

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY REPORT: (June 1974)

Governor Henry Hook of Davenport went out in a blaze of glory last Saturday June 22, at the Old Colony Inn at the Amanas when in his usual fine style he conducted one of the best District Assemblies District 600 has ever had with what can only be described as an overflow crowd. West Des Moines was well represented with six participants including incoming president Howard Amick, V.P. Don Groves, Don Brown, Gene Jessick, Secretary Conley Biddle, and editor Joe VanWinkle. For the size of the club this gave us one of the best representations at the Assembly which is held annually to train and help to prepare new club officers for the upcoming year.

Incoming Governor R. Lynn Johnson of Chariton was prominent in the part he played in the meeting setting up our "Guidelines" for our

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year and stressing International President Robbins theme to "Renew Our Rotary Spirit". Governor elect (for fiscal 1975-76) Al Efner of Ottumwa, who was also District 600's chairman of the membership committee, gave a report on membership, which showed a healthy gain for the past year, including one new club, North Scott in suburban Davenport. West Des Moines contributed to that healthy growth.

OUR GOVERNOR CANDIDATE:

The West Des Moines Rotary Club, which in its 49 years has not had a District Governor, at last week's meeting (Apr. 29, 1975) nominated Conley Biddle to be our candidate next year for Governor of District 600. Conley has been a Rotarian for 14 years and has served in many capacities in our Club including President in 1959-60 and three times on our Board, including his present position as Secretary. President Howard Amick and President-Elect Don Groves will be making contacts at this week's District Conference at Adventureland.

SALVATION ARMY KETTLE DRIVE REPORT:

Don Brown reported the West Des Moines Rotary Club won the Salvation Army Golden Kettle Award by winning 1st prize in the Des Moines Area of 32 participating clubs for the most money per club member. We also had the distinction of collecting the most money for a club in our division. Congratulations to Don for a good job of organizing and to those club members who rang the bells and contributed to this worthwhile project.

PRESIDENT'S KORNER (Sept. 3, 1974) Howard Amick

There is a road from Salsburg, Austria to Frankfurt, Germany called "The Romantic Road". It is world famous for the beauty of the areas passes it passes through. We have four "Romantic Roads" leading to and through West Des Moines-I-235 from the east, I-35 from the south, I-35 and 80 from the north, and I-80 from the west. And all approaching our city with only farm lands and golf courses and office parks and fine schools and beautiful homes and the Raccoon River and Walnut Creek - no factories - no junk yards - no clutter. What a wonderful impression visitors must have. How lucky we are to be members of the Rotary Club in this community. West Des Moines is truly at the crossroads of the midwest. It is easy to give it and our Rotary Club, all we've got.

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ROTARY FOUNDATION GIVING:

Our Rotary Club is in a very favorable position in comparison to other clubs in District 600 regarding the amount of money contributed to the Rotary Foundation during the last fiscal year. A report from the District Governor indicates the following information as of April 30, 1974; \$339.00 contributed this year, \$3059.00 for an accumulated amount, and the plateau percent of 600. There are nine other clubs in District 600 that are at the 600 Plateau percent or better.

PROGRAMS PAST:

A wonderful visit from our District 600 Governor, Al Efner brought us a fine example in himself of the meaning of Rotary, past, present and future. Governor Al described Rotary as "Main Street" and as being a "citizen of the world". He also outlined that Rotary must grow to a "citizen of the world". He also outlined that Rotary must grow to help mankind throughout the world. A fine thought from a fine leader.

ROTARY FOUNDATION FELLOW:

We will have a chance to meet Dick Souder's pretty German protégé when we party with our Rotary Anns on September 25 (1975). Annegret Geidel of Brackwede, Germany is 21 and is the recipient of a full scholarship from the Rotary Foundation for one year's study at Drake University. Our Club was fortunate enough to be appointed liaison for District 600 for Annegret with Dick Souder serving as our Rotarian Counselor.

WORLD UNDERSTANDING WEEK:

Our club will join with nearly 17,000 Rotary Clubs in 151 countries this week to observe World Understanding Week. We will be observing the occasion by sponsoring a Saudi Arabia booth at the International Food Fair at the Veterans Auditorium and contributing \$75.00 for this event, on Sunday Oct. 19th.

NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY LETTER:

In District 600 the first of our 53 clubs chartered was Des Moines in 1911 (of course West Des Moines was in 1926) and the most recent was North Scott in late 1973.

(As mentioned by the President or our Club last week) - a new District assignment - "Governor's Group Representatives" has been formed. A group of six well known Rotarians have been appointed by Governor Al Efner to assist him in liaison with area clubs. Conley Biddle is one of the select six District Governors representatives.

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TRAVEL LECTURE SERIES:

The first Travel and Adventure Series programs was held Sunday evening (Oct. 19, 1975) to the delight of approximately 250-300 persons. A majority of those attending were season ticket holders. But there is room for many more. All Rotarians may still sell season tickets for the remaining four programs at only \$14.50. Remember single tickets for adults are \$2.00 with students getting in for half of those prices. Adult single season tickets will be \$5.50.

PROGRAM PREVIEW (Oct. 28, 75):

Annegret Geidel will be the club's guest today. She will speak to us on her experiences here in the U.S. and will give us a glimpse of her native Germany. She is the recipient of a Rotary International scholarship with which she is attending Drake University. Our West Des Moines club was chosen to be her liaison with Rotary International, Jess Allen, program chairman, and Dick Souder, her "God-father" while she's attending Drake, bring you Anne Geidel. Welcome Anne.

"OUCH" (The Wheel-Nov. 18, 75)

Dick Souder addressed our club about the need for more sales in our Travel Series program. Cost to date; \$2000.00 Sales; \$1600.00. For the remaining three shows starting January 13, 1976, single admission for one show will remain at \$2.00 but for a single season ticket (3 shows) the price will be \$4.00. For a family season ticket (3 remaining shows) the price will be \$10.00. Take note, and turn your money and results to Jim McCarl. This might be an idea for a Christmas gift to a good friend.

SAY CHEESE PLEASE-(Nov. 18,75)

At the last club meeting our good President Don reported that Conley Biddle will be submitting his copy on the History of our West Des Moines Club to the printer about January 1, 1976. He further stated we need a good photographer to take the pictures of the present club members for this book.

WHAT A DAY-(Dec. 2, 75)

President Don expressed the sincere gratitude or everyone in the response shown for the 100 percent attendance day. With make-ups coming in, Don believes we may have made it, but regardless, the turn

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out proves the club can get out of the cellar and hopefully soon be considered in the top ten. Results of our percentage will be in the next issue. (WE MADE IT 100 percent attendance for Nov. 25,75)

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE-President Don Groves (Dec. 16,75)

"During the Christmas season particularly, the advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace, through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service, is of utmost importance to us all. Christmas time is a period of joy in celebration of the birth of Christ that is honored by millions of people throughout the world. Our West Des Moines Rotary Club extends to our guests and to all throughout the world sincere wishes for these glorious times.

Rotary International represents the true spirit of Christmas throughout the year and for the benefit of our younger guests today we extend to them our sincere appreciation for their youthful vigor and an excellent exhibition of Christmas Spirit of which we enjoy. Because this period of the year is marked by festivals and observances in many lands, we wanted to have a special program to be shared with our Rotary Anns and guests. Hopefully it is our way of promoting acquaintances, understanding, and goodwill.

Rotary International celebrates its 71st anniversary on February 23rd, and we honor the Golden Anniversary of our West Des Moines Club in 1976. This is a special Christmas and let us all rejoice."

ROTARIAN OF THE MONTH: (Dec. 23,75)

Have you noticed at the last several meetings a man with a camera trying to assist Conley by providing photographs of our Club Members? He has worked very hard at this volunteer assignment, been late dining, and tried his best to make us look good. Don Hewitt is your editor's choice for "Rotarian of the Month". Congratulations Don.

(April 6, 1976) - "Your editor has chosen Donald B. Groves as Rotarian for the month of March, for his devoted efforts toward the goals and objectives of Rotary; his spirit and enthusiasm for increasing attendance; his hard work in planning this anniversary party, and for his leadership as President of West Des Moines Rotary".

(Apr. 27, 1976) "Brazil Visitors: Bob Prestifilippo has reported our Brazilian friends have arrived in Iowa and were met at the Cedar Rapids

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airport. These gentlemen will be guests of District 600 which includes most of southern Iowa. They will arrive in West Des Moines on May 11th, 12th, 13th.

(June 22, 1976) "Installation Night. Those being installed for fiscal year 1976-77 are; President Lyle Smith; Vice Pres. Gene Jessick; Secretary Conley Biddle; Treasurer Bill Reese; Directors Merrill Evans, Jesse Allen, Elmer True, Bob Prestifilippo.

(Nov. 2, 1976) Today: Maria Cecilia Adurans of Santos Brazil, a student at Drake University studying Special Education for the handicapped especially the mentally deficient, will be our speaker today. She is our Rotary Foundation Fellow sponsored by our Club, and Paul Eldridge is our direct contact with her.

(Nov. 16, 1976) Items Worthy of Note - The membership and attendance committee plans to provide red badges for new members to be worn for a period of one month. The committee will also serve as greeters at all meetings to welcome visitors and new members and introduce them to members. "The Board has voted to turn over to the Pioneer Telephone Organization the operation of the antique switch board and other related Rotary purchased equipment at the Living History Farms." "At the request of our District Governor, our Club (with officers and Conley Biddle, Governor's Area Representative doing the honors and work) will serve as Host Club for the District Institute to be held at the Hilton Inn on Fluer Drive Saturday, December 4th. This Institute is for Club Presidents and Chairman of Membership, Rotary information, World Community Service and Rotary Foundation committee."

(Jan. 4, 1977) "Catherine Jannssens, 18 year old Rotary Exchange Student from Doxtel, Holland will be our principal speaker. Catherine has been residing with Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Jessick for the past four and one half months and on January 5th will move to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Reid's home. Catherine is a Senior at Valley High School. (Catherine was sponsored by our Club)

(Jan. 4, 1977) -LAST WEEK- "That was the week that was". Started off with our good President Lyle not being able to preside and our good Vice President Gene having an important commitment elsewhere. Elmer True was selected by Conley Biddle to preside, and then Dewey explained his speaker for the day had an emergency in the family and was

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unable to attend. Dewey took the matter in his own hands and spoke to us on the automobile industry. An excellent presentation and it proves we have some very interesting stories to be told by our members. Nice going Dewey."

(Apr. 12, 1977)-TODAY- "Our program chairman for April brings to our Club his own Rotary Ann, who will speak to us on the "Kids of Smouse" Sue Ann Hillman is the Speech Pathologist for Smouse Opportunity School located in Des Moines, Iowa, and recognized for many years as one of the leading institutions of its kind." April 19, 1977 - "A most interesting program was given last week by Sue Ann Hillman and her able assistant about the "Kids of Smouse". Our Club's contribution of \$700.00 to this institution could not be more deserving."

(Apr. 26, 1977) TODAY" Arne and Ingeborg Haftorn of Rena, Norway will be on the program for today and we look forward to meeting them." (Arne and Ingeborg were District 600's Paul Harris Exchange Couple and members of our Club entertained them in our homes for three nights and two days).

(May 17, 1977) SMOUSE VISIT - "Members of our Board of Directors and one guest with a close connection to Smouse Opportunity School in Des Moines, visited the school for lunch and a tour Monday, May 9th. Dr. Langerak, Principal described the background and services of the school which provides educational services for students who are orthopedically, visually, or aurally impaired. Sue Ann Hillman wife of a Club member Doug Hillman, and speech pathologist at the school joined Dr. Langerak in leading the tour. In the course of the tour the group met, talked with, listened to and observed the work of two other wives of club members who are on the Smouse Staff, Joyce (Mrs. Bill Reese) teaches the multiply handicapped, and Winnie (Mrs. Harry Beardsley) the visually impaired. As decided at last week's meeting the Board voted to give \$700.00 to the Occupational Therapy Department of Smouse to purchase a hydraulically adjustable height work table which will be easier to fit to the suitable height for the students using it."

(June 7, 1977) ROTARY INTERNATIONAL "This is big annual week for Rotary International as Rotarians from all over the world meet in San Francisco (June 5-9) for the Rotary International Convention. Governor Elect Conley Biddle, and West Des Moines President Elect Gene Jessick, are in attendance from our Club."

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(June 28, 1977) THIS WEEK - "Rotary Ann Night and INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS; Officers to be inducted are: President Eugene Jessick; Vice Pres. Elmer True, Secretary Conley Biddle, Treasurer James McCarl, Directors, Bill Reese, Paul Eldridge, Doug Hillman, Jesse Allen.

Rotary Scholarships amounting to \$250.00 each were presented to Susan Schmitt and Steve Johnson."

(July 5, 1977) "Four club members participated in the District 600 Golf Tournament at Ottumwa. Larry Lockridge won first place, Jerry Foley won second place, Mick Simmons won second place in the third flight. Mike Sinks played but none of the three would reveal his score. Congratulations to those who represented our club in this annual event.

(Dec. 20, 1977) THIS WEEK "It's our annual Christmas Party, attended each year by our Rotary Anns. This will be a change this year from our traditional program of music by singers from Valley High, and today we'll have a special program by the children from Smouse School, which is one of the recipients of our community service activities."

(March 14, 1978) THIS WEEK "Today is COMPETITORS DAY when vocationally (one of the four avenues of Rotary service) we practice good Rotary principles in bringing our competitors to the Rotary meeting. March Program Chairman Ron Lundeen brings our speaker Leon Shearer, an attorney with the Tomah Law Firm speaking on the subject of "recent development in Labor Relations and Collective Bargaining."

(June 6, 1978) FINAL MONTH FOR PRESIDENT GENE: "Rotary Presidents come and go like clockwork, and with incoming President Elmer True busily getting his organization and committees etc. lined up for our 1977-78 Rotary year, President Eugene Jessick begins his final month as president. Most club presidents will tell you that they never really know what Rotary is all about until they serve their year as president. President Gene has had a good year and he hasn't been afraid to try something different. His leadership has been positive and the "organization" has run smoothly."

(June 27, 1975) THIS WEEK. Rotary Ann Night and Induction of club officers for 1975-79 fiscal year will occur. 1977-78 District 600 Rotary

Governor Eugene Melson of Jefferson will induct our own Conley J. Biddle as District Governor for 1978-79. This is a signal date in our Club's 52 year history as it is the first time that the West Des Moines Rotary Club has ever had a District Governor. The Reverend Conley J. Biddle has had a long and distinguished career in Rotary, having served as our club's President during the fiscal year 1959-60. He again served on our Board of Directors in the mid-sixties. After his retirement as Pastor of the West Des Moines Christian Church, he was a member of the Branson-Hollister Rotary Club in the Ozark region of southern Missouri for a time. On his return to Iowa he rejoined our club and has served as our club secretary for several years. He has not only served with distinction, but has been a stabilizing influence on our club."

Our incoming president Elmer True will be one of the few former presidents we've had who can call West Des Moines his home town. As a city manager he has acquitted himself admirably and was the recipient of the Chamber of Commerce's Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award."

TONIGHT'S INDUCTIES:

President Elmer True, Vice Pres. Douglas Hillman, Secretary James Brown, Treasurer James McCarl, Directors Larry Spinney, Lee Minear, Bill Reese, Jesse Allen.

(Nov. 21, 1978) THIS WEEK - "We welcome our own Conley Biddle on the occasion of his official visit as District Governor. We look forward to a real Rotary challenge from him, a truly excellent representative of Rotary dedication and service."

(Jan. 2, 1979) ATTENDANCE CONTEST. "At a recent club meeting, unanimous (?) approval was given to challenge the Northwest Des Moines Rotary club to an attendance contest. The contest was expanded to include a membership contest as well, The attendance commissioner is Stan Marshall and Gene Jessick is the membership commissioner. The club is divided into leagues with Don Groves the President of the American league and Lyle Smith the President of the National league. More later."

(March 13, 1979) Attendance - "As President True stated last week, we may not have been the winner of the contest with the Northwest Club officially; however our improvement to 4th place in District 600 out of

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53 clubs during January to an all time high of 93.54% in fact showed our relative improvement much better than Northwest's. They only moved from all average of 2nd or 3rd place in the District, always above 90% to first place and 99% attendance. And they lost one member while we were at a plus one."

(March 20, 1979) ROTARY CONFERENCE: May 4,5,6, "Our own Governor Conley Biddle's exhortation for our West Des Moines Rotary Club to get behind the annual District 600 ROTARY CONFERENCE to be held at the Hyatt Hotel in Des Moines May 4-6 was well placed. This will really be the biggest event in our Club's history. Normally a single Rotary Club puts on a conference, that of the governors home club. Conley has wisely involved all three of the area clubs this year to help him make "His Conference" the biggest ever - a worthy goal. Nevertheless, we have the Primary Responsibility as his home club to back him to the hilt. Our club can indeed be proud of this dynamic leader and feel justified in promoting him for this high office."

(June 5, 1979) THE ROTARY CONFERENCE - "It's this editors first opportunity to comment on what was the best attended and perhaps the best Conference ever held in District 600. We can take pride in the fact that it was under our Club's first District Governor that this was accomplished. The program was well organized and extremely well run and just chocked full of good things accomplished in Rotary locally, all over the District and around the world with things just a bit more well pin-pointed than would be the usual rule. Needless to say, Conley's rare skills as a fine speaker and experienced parliamentarian made him stand out as just a fine District Governor, one of the best ever."

(June 26, 1979) THIS WEEK - "Tonight is our annual Installation of our new Officers with our Rotary Anns attending with the following slate coming into the administration of the club for the 1979-80 Rotary Year; President Doug Hillman, Vice President Bill Reese, Secretary Jim Brown, Treasurer Jim McCarl, Directors Mike Canady, Lee Minear, Larry Spinney, Larry Hoier.

(June 26, 1979) ELMER'S SWAN SONG; - "It speaks well for a Rotary Club to have a year when their president is the city manager and one of its members is the District Governor". Co-Hosting the conference with Elmer as Co-Chairman of the conference (with Northwest and Des

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Moines the others) it would be most commendable if this responsibility were carried on as well as this administration did. Besides hosting almost every weekly meeting with dignity and always good humor, Elmer's year according to his own appraisal was in raising the quality of the membership and raising the club to the highest attendance percentage in January and February that this editor can ever recall with a high of 4th place and 94% in those months. There was nothing wrong with the acquisition of good new members, but the culling out left us with just one shy of our starting point last summer. Much of our work was in the national and international level as we sent for the first time a member's child, Julia Hoier abroad as an exchange student, and a considerable amount of work has been done in planning for the 75th Anniversary of Rotary International next year. On the local level we gave two scholarships to graduating seniors compared to our usual one, and increased our giving to the West Des Moines YMCA. These later funds are used to provide scholarships to the local summer day camp for disadvantaged youngsters. Those funds provide from 10 to 12 full time scholarships.

(July 31, 1979) - "Saheb Sahu, a club member and Des Moines Pediatrician, spoke of his goals to build a children's and women's hospital in Orissa, India. A non-profit corporation has been formed and tax deductible contributions are being received now. Thank you Dr. Sahu for an excellent program." (The members of the West Des Moines Rotary Club gave financial support to this hospital program during the 1979-80 Rotary year by each member contributing).

(Nov. 20, 1979) The West Des Moines Rotary Club announces a new meeting place beginning Tuesday, November 27, 1979 at the Drawbridge Restaurant 8th St. Exit of Int. 235 West Des Moines.

(Dec. 18, 1979) -ROTARY TRADITIONS- "It's been traditional to pass around the bottle each Tuesday noon when members, also guests participating, put in their small change to help support community service projects. Later in the meeting an important and fun filled part of our meeting weekly is the fining session when sergeants-at-arms like laughing Larry Hoier, grinning Larry Spinney and clever Suku Radia fine members either on trumped up charges in the news, associations,

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actually appearing on one of the news media or having children, grandchildren, etc. We all miss witty Glenn Taylor of the Farm Bureau, who recently retired and moved to Missouri. Glenn used to share the sergeant's duties and keep us in stitches. The Walnut Creek Family YMCA has been the biggest recipient of the fund, which over the years has spent thousands of dollars, used principally to make it possible for underprivileged children to attend the YMCA summer day camp."

(Dec. 18, 1979) RECIPIENT OF ROTARY AWARD. Robert J. Silverman of 1709 Luin Lane Windsor Heights has been awarded a Graduate Fellowship from the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International for the 1980-81 academic year to study Arabic language at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel. Robert is sponsored by the West Des Moines Rotary Club and is presently a student at Princeton University."

(Jan. 29, 1980) LAST WEEK - "Julie Hoier, Rotary Exchange Student, gave a most interesting report on the year she spent in Australia. She had many enjoyable personal experiences, but also gave her host families a good representative look of what a fine American teenager is and what they think about and believe in."

(March 11, 1980) LAST WEEK - "Larry Lang, at present her American father, introduced Margaret Culshaw, our Australian Rotary Exchange Student. Margaret was not only fast talking but witty as she told us a lot of things about her native land. She's not only over her homesickness and cultural shock but is thoroughly enjoying her sojourn in the United States. "

(March 25, 1980) April 14th will be Rotary Ann night at the Des Moines Civic Center where we will have a fine dinner and enjoy the operetta "HMS Pinafore".

(May 20, 1980) President Doug reported the club is now at the 1400% level in the support of the Rotary Foundation and only about \$200.00 short of reaching the next plateau. Doug showed the club the banner which was received from R.I. for the Club's support of the Health, Hunger, Humanity Program of R.I.

(June 24, 1980) THIS WEEK - "Tonight will mark the swan song of 1979-80 fiscal year, president Doug Hillman, and the beginning of 1980-81 fiscal year president Bill Reese. It's our annual dinner with Rotary Anns and the induction ceremony of the officers for the new

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fiscal year. They include President Bill Reese, Vice Pres. Larry Hoier, Secretary Jim Brown, Treasurer Jim McCarl, Directors, Suku Radia, Charles Raffay, Lee Minear, Mike Canady.

(July 1, 1980) Can't speak for the noon roundtable gathering, but those of you who missed the Farm Bureau feed and the program concluding with the installation of officers for the 1980-81 (the reign of King Bill) including the beginning of the "horsecollar" tradition, food and fun to bursting. New members who have not seen a straight-faced Don Groves break up a meeting with one of his reports saw him in rare form on the Rotary Foundation. And Jim Newsome was made a "Paul Harris Fellow".

SERVICE ITEMS FROM THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR the 1979-80 Rotary year.

International Food Fair - \$75.00

Rotary Foundation - \$147.00

Fellowship of Christian Athletes Scholarships \$270.00

Opportunity School - \$250.00

Youth Student Exchange - \$180.00

Rotary Foundation 3 H Program - \$990.00

Scholarships - \$750.00

West Suburban YMCA - \$600.00

The Convalescent Home for Children - \$300.00

Walnut Creek YMCA Day Camp - \$300.00

(Sept. 2, 1980) **MEMBERSHIP GOAL** - "During the Club Assembly program in July it was announced that a major emphasis of President Bill and the Club Directors was to promote membership this year. The slogan "101 in 81" was announced and each member was urged to think seriously of contacting friends and acquaintances to reach this membership goal."

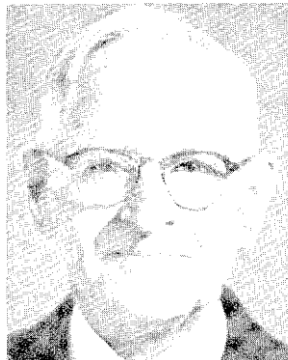
(Oct. 28, 1980) **MEMBERSHIP** - "Chuck Raffay says, "Members, members, we need new members. If we are to reach our goal of "101 in 81" each member should make an attempt to at least propose one new member soon. Let's not just think about it, let's get with it and do it." (Dec. 16, 1980) - Even though 5 new members joined the Club last week, our total membership is about the same due to transfers and other reasons.

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CHAPTER IV

"PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS" in our Club

The Rotary Foundation awards a certificate of appreciation, a medal, and a special badge of recognition, to individuals who become, "Paul Harris Fellows", by contributing, or in whose behalf is contributed, \$1000.00 or more to the Rotary Foundation. This fund is used by the Rotary Foundation to provide educational scholarships for young men and women to study abroad as ambassadors of goodwill. These competitively selected young men and women are introduced to the country, the culture, the ways of life, of the country in which they study, by Rotarians and Rotary families, who advise and befriend them, and where they help build bridges of understanding, goodwill, and peace. It is a significant honor to become a "Paul Harris Fellow", and our Club is honored to have the following "Paul Harris Fellows", Earl McLaren, Carl P. Ripper, Raymond H. Kirk, Donald B. Groves, Conley Biddle, James A. Newsome, and James McCarl.



EARL MCLAREN

Earl McLaren, the last surviving charter member of our Club died in June 1971 at the age 91 years. Earl was an active member of the West Des Moines Rotary Club from the time he helped to organize the Club, until the time of his death, 45 years later.

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Earl served as the President of the club during the Rotary year 1933-34, and across the years he served in nearly every office in the club. He was a dedicated Rotarian who believed in the principles of Rotary and shared the Spirit of Rotary with his fellowmen. In honor of Earl McLaren, and in his memory, the West Des Moines Rotary Club made a memorial contribution of \$1000.00 to the Rotary Foundation and made Earl a "Paul Harris Fellow". The certificate of award and the medal, were presented to Earl's family by Past District Governor Wayne Douglass of Oskaloosa, who was the Chairman of District 600 Rotary Foundation, and by Clair Weintz the President of West Des Moines Rotary, at a special meeting of the Club on November 22, 1971. It was significant that the main speaker on this occasion was Malay Kumar Kar, a Rotary Foundation Fellow, from Calcutta India, who was a graduate student at Iowa State University at Ames, Iowa. Earl McLaren was the first "Paul Harris Fellow" in our Club.



CARL P. RIPPER

Carl P. Ripper who served as the President of West Des Moines Rotary Club during the Rotary Year 1964-65, became the second "Paul Harris Fellow" in our club by contributing \$1000.00 to the Rotary Foundation. Carl has served as an officer of our Club, a member of the Board of Directors, and a member, and chairman, of nearly every committee in our Club organization. Carl is an active and dedicated Rotarian, who exemplifies the Spirit of Rotary.

The Paul Harris Certificate of Award, the Medal, and Badge of recognition, were presented to Carl at a regular meeting of the Club on November 13, 1973. The main speaker for this occasion was Sylvina Ramaccioni from Florence Italy, who was a Rotary Foundation graduate student at Drake University in Des Moines, Three Past District Governors were present and spoke at this meeting, Keith Hawk of Knoxville, Wayne Douglass of Oskaloosa, and John Coolidge of Des Moines.

The Paul Harris Award was presented to Carl by Past District Governor Keith Hawk of Knoxville, Clair Wentz the immediate Past President of our Club was in charge of the program.



RAYMOND H. KIRK

Raymond H, Kirk, the third "Paul Harris Fellow" in our Club was a Rotarian's Rotarian, a man who honored his classification by exemplification of the Rotary "Four-Way Test" and the Rotary Ideal of Service, in his personal, business, and community relationships. Ray received the West Des Moines Community Service Award for his outstanding Community leadership and service. Ray became a member of the West Des Moines Rotary Club a few years after the Club was organized, and across the years he served Rotary in many capacities, as Club Secretary (1941 1942) as Club President (1943 1944), as a member of the Board of Directors for many years, and as a member of Rotary Committees.

For many years, Ray inspired other Rotarians by his contribution of leadership and money, in the Rotary sponsored Salvation Army kettle drive, by calling on West Des Moines business men for contributions. During his years of Rotary service Ray brought many new members into the West Des Moines Rotary Club, and he was actively concerned about the extension of Rotary membership to representative business and professional men of the community.

Ray attended the regular weekly Rotary Club meeting on Tuesday August 19, 1975, and died a few days later.

In November 1975, his wife Iva contributed \$1,000.00 to the Rotary Foundation in his memory, and made Raymond H. Kirk a "Paul Harris Fellow". The certificate of Award, the Medal, and the Badge of recognition were presented to Iva Kirk on April 6, 1970, at the Club's 50th Anniversary Banquet.



DONALD B. GROVES

Donald B. Groves is the fourth "Paul Harris Fellow" in our Club. Don became a member of the West Des Moines Rotary Club in November 1971. He has served Rotary as Vocational Service Director (1973-74) Vice President (1974-75) and President of the West Des Moines Rotary Club (1975-76). Don has served on the Board of Directors of our Club for four years and has given leadership to many Rotary Committees and programs. Donald B. Groves became a "Paul Harris Fellow" by contributing

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\$1000.00 to the Rotary Foundation. The Paul Harris Certificate of Award, the Medal, and the Badge of recognition, were presented to Donald B. Groves at the Club's 50th Anniversary Banquet on April 6, 1976. Don Groves is a dedicated Rotarian, who takes seriously the Rotary ideal of "Service beyond Self" and who gives expression to the Spirit of Rotary in his personal, vocational, and community relationships.



CONLEY J. BIDDLE

Conley J. Biddle became the fifth "Paul Harris Fellow" in our Club. He became a member of the West Des Moines Rotary Club on January 12, 1957, and he has served the Club; as Director of Community Service, Director of Club Service, Director of International Service, Chairman of many Club Committees, Club Historian, Vice President 1958-59, Club President 1959-60, and Club Secretary 1972-1977. Conley served R.I. District 600; as the District Assembly International Service Leader in 1975, as a District Governor's Area Representative in 1975-76 and again in 1976-77. He served Rotary International as Governor of District 600 in 1978-79, as the District 600 Representative on the R.I. Council on Legislation in 1980; as a member of the R.I. President's Research and Advisory Committee 1979-80. Conley was made a "Paul Harris Fellow" by a gift of \$1000.00 to the Rotary Foundation in his honor, by the members of the West Des Moines Rotary Club. The Paul Harris Certificate of Award, the Medal, and the Paul Harris Badge of recognition, were presented to

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him by the West Des Moines Rotary Foundation Chairman Donald B. Groves, on June 27, 1978, at the banquet held at the Farm Bureau Building on the night when Conley was installed as the Governor of R.I. District 600. Conley served for 45 years as a Christian Church minister before he retired in October 1970. His last pastorate was in West Des Moines where he served for 14 years as the minister of the First Christian Church.



JAMES A. NEWSOME

James A. Newsome was the sixth member of the West Des Moines Rotary Club to become a "Paul Harris Fellow". Jim was elected to membership in the West Des Moines Rotary Club in 1966. He served on the Board of Directors of our Club for several years, and has given leadership to many Club Committees. He served as Club Vice President, and then Club President during the Rotary year 1971-72. James has been a dedicated Rotarian from the time of his induction into Rotary, putting into practice the Rotary ideal of service in his personal, business, and community relationships. He has probably attended more Rotary International Conventions, in various parts of the world, than any other member of our Club. James A. Newsome became a "Paul Harris Fellow" by contributing \$1,000.00 to the Rotary Foundation. The Paul Harris Certificate of Award, the Medal, and the Badge of recognition, were presented to him by Donald B. Groves, chairman of the West Des Moines Rotary Foundation Committee, at the installation banquet held at the Farm Bureau Building on June 24, 1980.

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JAMES C. McCARL

James C. McCarl was the seventh member of the West Des Moines Rotary Club to become a "Paul Harris Fellow". Jim was elected to membership in the West Des Moines Rotary Club in 1975. He has served as an officer and Treasurer of the Club since 1977, and continues to serve as Club Treasurer in 1981. He has been elected to serve as Club Treasurer for the 1981-82 Rotary year. Jim has been a loyal Rotarian from the time of his election in our Club. He has served on numerous Club Committees, and has been very efficient in keeping our Club financial records and funds in order. James is a dedicated Rotarian and a dependable leader and Club officer.

James McCarl became a "Paul Harris Fellow" by contributing \$1000.00 to the Rotary Foundation. The Paul Harris Certificate of Award, the Medal, and the Badge of recognition, were presented to him by Donald B. Groves, chairman of the West De Moines Rotary Foundation Committee, at the installation banquet in June 1981.

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ROSTER OF "PAUL HARRIS SUSTAINING MEMBERS" IN OUR CLUB

A "Paul Harris Sustaining Member" is an individual who contributes, or in whose honor is contributed, an initial gift of \$100.00 to the Rotary Foundation with the purpose of adding further contributions until the total of \$1000.00 is reached. Additional contributions may be made in any amount and credited to the individual's plan. When the individual's contribution reaches the total \$1000.00 the person is then recognized as a "Paul Harris Fellow" and receives the "Paul Harris Fellow

Certificate", the Medal, and the Badge of recognition.

Roster of Paul Harris Sustaining Members in the West Des Moines Rotary Club when the manuscript of this book went to the publisher on April 1, 1981.

Merrill B. Evans
Murray Drake
Stanley VerPloeg
C.E. Sinks
Thomas Fredregill

Bill M. Reese
Joseph S. VanWinkle
John R. Goldman
Suku V. Radia

Donald M. Rogers
Paul O. Grodt
Charles J. Raffay
A. Douglas Hillman

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CHAPTER V

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

It is a responsible and demanding task to serve as the President of a Rotary Club, even though it is a distinct honor to be elected by your fellow Rotarians to this high office. Each President during his term of office gives willingly of his time and energy, as well as money, to help the Club grow in program, in Rotary Service activities, and in membership. And each President makes his own individual contribution to the progress of the Club.

The West Des Moines Rotary Club has been blessed with strong leadership across all the years of its history. And in the writing of the first edition of this book the author asked living Past Presidents, whether current members of the Club or not, to write a brief report of some of the activities and achievements of the West Des Moines Rotary Club during their term of office. Some Past President's records have been lost, and for those years the author has included information from Club bulletins, and from his own personal files, where this information has been available. We appreciated the reports of the Past Presidents published in the first edition in 1976, and we have continued this chapter in this second edition to include Past President's Reports since 1976.

WILBUR RRIDGES 1941-42 (Deceased since first edition of this book)

Every new President of Rotary, during his term of office hopes that he can make a contribution to our Club to the extent that the Club will never be quite the same again. My idea, not exactly new, during my year as President was to have the best Club Programs and the best speakers. This plan was to attract a 90% attendance of the membership and to enlist the finest new members.

Where else, and how else, during your luncheon hour, could you find an opportunity, a potential, to meet, and to make lasting friendships with so many fine men? Here was a diversified group, a cross section of the community. This group not only listened to interesting speakers, but with pertinent questions and comments, helped the speaker to develop his topic, creating interest and information for all. Rotary every week was to furnish up-dated lifetime continuing education.

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You know what I am talking about, and you know it's importance because that is exactly what Rotary Presidents have done before, for us, and what they are doing for us now.

One other point, I always hoped to launch a student exchange with foreign countries for Rotary International with the accent on International. The idea came to me before 1941, the year I was President, but did not exactly work out until years later. I was the beneficiary in France of such a program in 1918. I have been privileged to do something, through Rotary Club to return the favor not only to France but to many other nations." -Wilbur Bridges

ROY MESSERSCHMIDT - 1942-19413

I was President from 7-1-42 to 7-1-43. Our meetings were then held on each Monday in the Masonic Temple building, before that building burned in a very bad early morning fire and there were three floors to the building at that time. The fire burned up our piano and some records of the Rotary Club. We were in World War II and we had food rationing and we had to be more careful in making our weekly reservations because of the food situation. We also had bank rationing and bond drives and I think I am correct in saying that West Des Moines made it's quota in each and every instance. At the same time, I was president of the Commercial Club and Master of Capital Masonic Lodge and with the extra work in the bank with Bond drives and ration banking there were just hardly enough hours in the day. Our membership was not large then as it is now, but as I recall it, it held up well in the year and we had very fine programs all through the year. Christmas party with Santa Claus, in person." -Roy Messerschmidt

AMOS LEE - 1945-46

"Our Rotary Year of 1945-1946 was a year highly flavored with the return of World War II soldiers, sailors and marines. Local School faculty members such as Chuck Orebaugh, Max Berry, Chuck Poppenheimer who were active members of Rotary, gave great assistance in bringing forth interesting programs. It was a year during which our own members were requested to give their life histories, as parts of weekly programs. Six of our members attended a District meeting in Burlington. Records reveal a series of interesting programs by outside talent and local members.

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Our meeting place for noon programs was on the second floor of the West Des Moines Masonic Hall, and in the old downtown Methodist Church. Yes indeed we did have a wonderful association with one another in West Des Moines Rotary." -Amos C. Lee

B. SHELDON GOREHAM - 1957-1958

"The only significant thing I recall during my term as President of the West Des Moines Rotary Club was that we helped initiate the funding of bringing an AFS Student to Valley High School. That first year we solicited voluntary contributions, most of which were \$10.00 each and as I recall, raised enough funds to pay approximately one-half the cost for one student. It was quite evident that without our helping sponsor such a student, the program would not have gotten anywhere in West Des Moines. While this is not a very outstanding contribution, it still is an accomplishment of Rotary."

-B. Sheldon Goreham

(Writers note: In the June 24, 1958 issue of The Rotary Wheel there is this summary statement of Sheldon's year as President.)

ROTARY HAS A GREAT YEAR IN WEST DES MOINES

WDM Rotary wishes to express their appreciation to their club officers for the excellent leadership given during this past year. President Sheldon Goreham, Vice President Harley Riggs, Secretary-Treasurer Vern Bailey, Music Directors Roy and Mrs. Messerschmidt and Chaplain Conley Biddle were a smooth operating team. The outstanding achievement of the year were

1. Winning top honors for the kettle drive.
2. Raising \$650.00 to make it possible for a foreign exchange student to come to WDM.
3. Rotary Banquet.
4. Rotarian breakfast at the home of Sheldon and Mrs. Goreham.
5. Sending several boys to "Y" Camp.
6. Better attendance records
7. Top-flight programs.
8. Fellowship which cannot be matched.

DAVE FREVERT - 1958-59

"In 1958-1959 Rotary Year, our West Des Moines Rotary Club enjoyed its first "personal" international service project under the leadership of a committee headed by Sheldon Goreham and International Service Chairman Wilbur Bridges. Club members personally donated \$650.00 to sponsor the first American Field Service Exchange Student at Valley High School. The student, Hanspeter Wyss, age 17, from Bern, Switzerland arrived on August 10, 1958, for a successful school year. Hanspeter made his home with the Ed Brock family, visited several Club meetings, and was entertained in Rotarian's homes a number of times.

Since club records had been lost in a fire at its meeting place a few years perviously, the time was ripe to adopt the R.I. Standard Club Constitution and By-Laws, which had not been done. On January 20, 1959, upon recommendation of a committee headed by Ray Kirk, the club adopted the standard documents.

A personal interest highlight of the year, through the assistance of Tom Wilson and Northwestern Bell Telephone Company, was a club meeting long-distance call to Glen "Dusty" Rhodes who was hospitalized in Arlington, Va., as a result of a vacation trip auto accident.

As a basis for later sustained membership growth, Earl McLaren, our only remaining charter member of the club, proposed the Club's first Classification Survey, recognizing potential and ability of the Club to increase membership, always striving for the best one from each business and profession.

During the year the Club lost 4 members and gained 4 members, thus beginning and ending the year with 37 members. When cost of meals at the Country Club increased to \$1.12, it became necessary to raise quarterly dues to \$22.50, a real bargain by later standards." - W. Dave Frevert

CONLEY J. BIDDLE - 1959-1960

"In planning the program for my year as President of the West Des Moines Rotary Club, I used as a general objective the two key words of Harold Thomas of New Zealand, the President of Rotary International. Harold Thomas emphasized the two words, "Vitalize" and "Personalize", in all programs of Rotary Service around the world.

During my year as Club President we held Club Assemblies, fourteen

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meetings of the Board of Directors, and fireside meetings. 11 new members were added to the Club, and were inducted into membership and presented with the Rotary lapel button, Rotary books, including "The Seven Paths to Peace", Club membership Roster, Program schedule, and Committee Organization, and the District Directory, along with a framed copy of The Rotary Objectives and the Four-Way Test. Copies of the Objectives and The Four Way Test were also given to each member of our Club to frame and hang on the wall in his place of business. This had not been done for many years.

Our Club was represented at the District Assembly at Knoxville, the District Institute at Grinnell, the District Conference at Mt. Pleasant, and the District Assembly at Indianola.

We purchased the film, "Making of a Rotarian" for use in fireside meetings and regular Club meetings. We purchased Rotary Highway Road signs and installed them on highways leading into West Des Moines. Service projects included, financial assistance to boys to attend "Y" Camp. Financial assistance to the American Field Service Student exchange program at Valley High School Legislative Conference in Des Moines. Financial support to the Rotary Foundation. Recognition of achievement of a Valley High School Senior and awarding a Rotary medal. Salvation Army Kettle drive. A committee was appointed to study the possibilities of establishing a community scholarship fund for Valley High School students.

International contacts were established through personal letters each month from our International Service committee to Rotary Clubs around the world.

Our Club observed special days and Rotary events such as Family Picnic in September, District Governor's visit in September, Rotary Foundation Week in November, Rotary Magazine week in January, and we also had a "Rotarian" review each month by the Magazine chairman.

Ladies Night in February. Rotary International Anniversary Week in February.

In March we held a World Understanding Week Club program. High School and College students, doctors, and interns, from Bolivia, Argentina, the Philippines, Austria, Sweden, East Pakistan, India, Arabia,

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Cuba, and Korea, shared in this program. Our Club meeting seemed like a meeting of the United Nations. Each foreign visitor spoke briefly of his country and why he was in Iowa.

We held a special Founders Day and Past Presidents Day in April when we celebrated the charter date of our Club and gave recognition to all Past Presidents living in West Des Moines. Many of our Past Presidents had never received a Past Presidents lapel button and we brought this program up to date by presenting Past Presidents the proper button.

We held a Senior Citizens Recognition Day in May at our regular Club meeting, and each member brought as his guest a Senior Citizen of the community. I asked Wilbur Bridges to be the speaker for this occasion.

During the year someone stole our Rotary Bell from the office at the Des Moines Golf and Country Club where we held our weekly meetings, and I remember breaking several empty milk bottles which I used for a bell, before we could purchase a new bell.

Rotary friendship with the Rotarians of West Des Moines, and the many Des Moines Rotarians who visited our Club each week enriched my life and widened my acquaintance." -Conley J. Biddle

VERN BAILEY - 1960-1961

(Writers Note-A summary report in "The Rotary Wheel" lists some of the clubs activities for 1960-61 as follows:

1. Halloween Program to keep young people off the streets.
2. Dinner Program for Valley High Seniors.
3. Oratorical contest in Valley High _ Award of Speakers medal.
4. Salvation Army kettle drive.
5. Recommendation of Students in our community for Rotary Foundation Fellowships.
6. Community skating rink.
7. Y.M.C.A. fund for summer Camp memberships.
8. Survey for Inter-City phones for West Des Moines.
9. Senior Citizens recognition day.
10. Initiate foreign student program.

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11. Inter-city programs with Adel, Winterset, Des Moines others.

12. "Rotary Wheel" and luncheon programs of community, state, national, international significance, which have evidenced nothing less than the best efforts in the program chairman in charge." -C.J .B.

STANLEY VERPLOEG - 1961-62

(Writers note), "The records were lost for the year except a few copies of the bulletin. The writer remembers that Stan helped to stabilize the Club throughout Rotary information, fireside meetings, club projects, and new members. Stan and the writer became members of the West Des Moines Club in the same year, and we shared together in our first Rotary Fireside meeting in the home of Elmer Foster, as new members. George Thompson was one of several who became new members during Stan's year as President.

One of the projects of the club in 1962 was to support the Goodwill Industries. After a representative of this organization spoke to our Club, the Board of Directors voted to give \$100.00 to Goodwill Industries for a receiving building for discarded items, and club members were asked to share in giving articles of furniture and other items to Goodwill. President Stan and his wife opened their home for fireside meeting for new members." -C.J .B.

CLAYTON RIDGWAY - 1962-63

(Writers note:) "One of the many activities of the Club t his year was the Foreign Student Week end in West Des Moines. Our Club was the original sponsor for the foreign exchange student in West Des Moines. The Rotary Club sponsored a picnic for 33 American Field Service foreign students from 21 countries, including students from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Germany, Guatemala, North Ireland, Japan, Laos, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Viet Nam." -C.J.B.

CHARLES C. JOSS - 1963-64

(Note from the writer of this book) In response to my letter asking Past Presidents for a brief report of Rotary activities during their year in

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office, several Past Presidents, including Charles Joss, could not locate any of their Rotary records. However, the writer remembers that Charles had a good year as President of our Club, and regular Rotary programs -and service projects were achieved. One special article of interest appears in an October 1963 issue of "The Rotary Wheel" as follows:

ROTARIANS SHOW APPRECIATION FOR INDUSTRY:

President Chuck Joss and all the Rotarians who attended the Industrial Appreciation tours last week at Mid-West Concrete, Delevans, and Corn States Metal Products, deserve a hearty well done in playing a major roll in making this year's tours and the entire Industrial Appreciation week a success.

Stan VerPloeg was in charge of planning the tours on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce; Joe VanWinkle was the chairman of the entire week's activities; the Chamber manager Ross Kleinhienz managed the entire program (all Rotarians); and President Chuck got out the Rotary members, who totaled roughly half of those who made the tours. Rotarians aren't always the best publicists - especially on their own behalf - but where true community service is concerned they can't be topped. -C.J .B.

CARL P. RIPPER - 1964-1965

(Writers note - The bulletins and records for this Rotary year were lost, except the record of the officers, directors and committee chairman who served with Carl. The writer remembers that Carl had a good year with interesting programs and a continuation of long term service projects in the community.)

Officers-Directors-Committee Chairman were as follows;

President, Carl Ripper
Vice President, Gus Martin
Secretary, Charles Vandenburg
Treasurer, Harold Gillespie
Past President, Charles Joss

Board of Directors:

Club Service Director - Conley Biddle
Vocational Service Director - Keith Vawter
Community Service Director - George Thompson
International Service Director - Joe Van Winkle
Music - Roy Messerschmidt
Classifications - Keith Willcoxson
Attendance - Amos Lee
Fellowship - Keith Goreham
Membership - Ray Kirk
Program - Gus Martin
Rotary Information - Elmer Foster
Competitor Relations - Sheldon Goreham
Trade Associations - Roy McKay
International Contacts - Stan VerPloeg
International Information - Wilbur Bridges
International Student Projects - Tom Wilson
The Rotary Foundation - Dave Frevert

-C.J .B.

GUS MARTIN - 1965-66

(Writers note - Information for this summary comes from an article published in "The Rotary Wheel", and a letter written by Dave Frevert)

From "The Rotary Wheel" June 28, 1966: "The 1965-66 year comes to a close this month and we look back over the events of the past 50 weeks to realize that, among other achievements, we gained no less than seven new members. These new Rotarians include Howard Amick, Ray Clark, Dick Hoffa, Norman Pogemiller, Don Taylor, Elmer True and Clair Wentz. This also was the year that we continued singing two or three songs at each meeting, when President Gus remembered to call on Roy. This was the year when our Club adopted the Rotary Foundation "Ten and One" plan and became a "Supporter of the Rotary Foundation."

The excerpt from a letter written to the District Governor by Dave Frevert records the action of our Club.
"Dear Governor - (George Rigler, Iowa City)

During the Calendar year 1965 the Rotary Club of West Des Moines has had quarterly Birthday Tables at which time Club members with birthdays in the quarter, were recognized. Members so recognized voluntarily contributed \$1 for Rotary Foundation.

New members are paying as a part of their original membership fee the amount of \$10.00 for Rotary Foundation. The West Des Moines Club is therefore financially prepared to participate in Rotary Foundation's "Ten and One Plan" as of January 1, 1965.

In a letter to Rotary International Dave Frevert wrote;

"Enclosed is "Supporter of the Rotary Foundation" certificate fully executed for the West Des Moines Iowa Rotary Club.

Also enclosed is the Club's check in the amount of \$88.00 for the calendar year 1965 on the following basis;

Five new members. \$50.00

Thirty eight other members. 38.00

\$88.00

Please send the certificate designating this club as "Supporter of the Rotary Foundation." - This letter was dated April 5, 1966.

(Also from "The Wheel" this article about Rotary Service.) **WDM JUNIOR CITY COUNCIL**

Several Valley High Seniors are presently attending the WDM City Council meetings to help learn the makings of city government and to assist in some of the problems faced by the council.

The students forming this Junior City Council, sponsored by our Rotary Club, include Ruth Ann Flanagan, Tom Olson, Dave King, Linda Titzel, Tom Pearson, Dean Johnson, Dave Westphal and Mike Wegner.

JOSEPH S. VAN WINKLE - 1966-1967

"Looking back nine years to the state of the 1966-67 Rotary year when I had the privilege of serving the WDM Rotary Club as president invokes pleasant and special memories of one of the greatest, and I like to think, one of the most fruitful years of my life. Certainly with a Board of Directors of nine members with all but two of them who either had been or subsequently became club presidents, it was a staff with leadership that could not help but make it a successful year. Past President Gus Martin and Vice President George Thompson, one of the most sincere Rotarians I have ever known, Past President Amos Lee as Treasurer, and future presidents Dick Bruce, Gordon Elliott, and Roy McKay as board members were the seven. Secretary was the long time

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Secretary, Charles Vandenburg, who handled the secretarial duties so officially that I learned very little about that portion.

Two key committee chairmen, past President Stan VerPloeg, who chaired the Rotary Ann party, and future president Howard Amick who chaired our really great Community Service project, the WDM Rotary Beautification Project, were two additional men that helped to make up a working group that would be hard to beat anytime. Besides serving as Community Service Director, Gordon Elliott was bulletin editor, and in closing out the year he prepared a portfolio of my year as President which included bulletins and other mementos such as a picture of our Foreign Exchange student Mario Aviles, and a copy of our Beautification Contest handout. Gordy not only worked tirelessly for our club in his dual role but rereading these bulletins shows a keen incisiveness and a jolly sense of humor that supplemented his canned and usual inserts. An example of this was a headline, "HOT, STICKY SUMMER BIRTHDAY".

At least once a month he had a Rotary information quiz which reminded me how much we did on a regular basis about this key area of Rotary.

The July 26, 1966 bulletin outlines our objectives for the year which as a general objective indicated an overall goal of increased membership, more action at meetings, more fellowship, more activity in International service, more emphasis on vocational service one additional community service project, a more effective job of indoctrination, and better liaison and cooperation with District 600 and Rotary International. Our governor was John Coolidge and the international President was the late Richard L. Evans, renowned as the Voice of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir from the Crossroads of the West, and these two men, two of the best ever to hold these positions gave us great leadership and backup.

In international service we were presented with an opportunity that our club has seldom had with the cooperation of the Jim Fay's, the Gordon Elliott's and the Stan VerPloeg's who hosted this likeable young man from Los Mochis, Sinaloa, Mexico, our club reached a high point in International service. Mario was like the mascot of our club and his presence pervaded our club's activities for the entire year.

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It was during this year that we were forced to discontinue holding our meetings at the Des Moines Golf and Country club on Ashworth Road and moved to Emil's West Side at First and Grand, but it diminished not one our goal of increased activity and more fun at meetings, which with the Board's blessing as Sergeant-at-arms, and a great one, Chuck Joss probably collected more fines than ever before, an activity that both sweetens the kitty and provides hilarity in our club until the current era.

If you want a job done you turn it over to a capable man, Stan and Ginny VerPloeg had one of the loveliest and most tasteful Rotary Ann parties that I have ever attended-I still remember it including George Thompson's very good vocational talk. A relatively new member Howard Amick very capably chaired our community beautification project, which as I recall it among other benefits brought our club more publicity and community awareness than anything we have done before or since. This project actually carried over into the entire year as the awards were made at a meeting the following fall.

Almost a closing highlight was the District Conference held at the Memorial Union on the Iowa State Campus in Ames in April when our club had 10 registrants, significant in achieving our goal of increased district activity.

In the June 20, 1967 bulletin in which Rotary quiz No. 17 appears (with the number two question being "Who founded Rotary") appears my closing statement which states more succinctly than I can compose today a summary of one of my greatest and most glorious years.

"Whatever we've achieved in Rotary in WDM cannot be surpassed by the fact that this year as President of your club has been the most challenging and pleasant experience of my life. Fully realizing that not everyone can be a club president, I would nevertheless say that one can never understand Rotary as well as he will after being a club president.

Like all Rotary ideals, Rotary International holds up a high unreachable goal for the operation of its clubs and puts almost discouragingly stringent demands on its club presidents. One must weigh at the same time pushing membership farther than it will go and assuming a position of attempting so much as to be obviously critical of past administrative continuity that bespeaks some progress.

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District 600 itself this year began to participate in two long time Rotary projects for the first time, and along with them we moved forward in several areas ourselves such as greater participation in District affairs. Notably with them we moved ahead in the International Service area and even realized increased activity in Club service, which has appeared to be our strongest area. This was also one of the strongest years in Vocational service, and we achieved our goal of initiating one new Community Service project.

Lastly, along with our progress in membership, my greatest satisfaction springs from the new administration which will be succeeding this one, because with George Thompson at the helm it cannot help but be a better year in 1967-68".

-Joseph S. VanWinkle

GEORGE W. THOMPSON-; - 1967-1968

"In June 1967 a large group of Iowa, Des Moines and West Des Moines Rotarians flew by charter to Europe for the Rotary International Convention at Nice France. International President was Luther Hodges of North Carolina, District 600 Governor Ralph Kirk of Boone.

Student speakers June, 1968 were Thomas VanGillion, Barbara Peterson, Margie Keller, William Barnard.

Valley High Interact Club was organized in October 1967 through the efforts of Joe VanWinkle. President Jerry Stock, Vice-president Jerry Thompson, Secretary Jim Alt, Treasurer Jim Fay III. There were 35 charter members.

In October 1967 George Barbour was awarded the \$100.00 prize in the Rotary sponsored West Des Moines Beautification contest for fixing up the house at 416-8th Street. Other winners were Joe Daggett \$50.00 and \$25.00 each to L.C. Murray, Merle Roos, James Viefs, Pete Rodish, George Earle.

The club met at Emil's West Side restaurant.

In the December 1967 Salvation Army kettle drive West Des Moines topped \$1000.00 for the first time, \$400.00 better than previous highs. Locations were Dahls and Safeway Stores. Interact boys helped in this for the first time.

In June 1968 the International Convention was held in Mexico City.

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In the summer of 1967 West Des Moines Rotarians took part in the West Des Moines Diamond Jubilee celebration, as actors in the pageant and a float in the parade.

Rotary in this year sponsored a student City Council experience for senior high school students. The Vice President was Roy McKay, Secretary Charles Vandenburg, Treasurer Amos Lee, Directors Jim Newsome, Don Taylor, Dick Bruce and Gordon Elliott."

-George W. Thompson

ROY E. McKAY - 1968-69

"During my term of office as president of the West Des Moines Rotary Club we had a year of growth. One of our goals was an increase in membership and I believe we had a net increase of six members. Another goal was to have the weekly bulletin issued on a regular basis. Personally I feel the weekly bulletin adds a great deal to help keep the club informed of the many items of importance to the members. We also set up a regular closing time of 1:00 P.M. which I feel sets the members minds at ease during the meeting.

Our Rotary Ann meetings were a Des Moines theatre dinner outing, and also an Ames dinner theatre evening, and both seemed to go over real well.

We hosted a Norwegian Exchange business group. This required a good deal of coordination on the part of the club and seemed to be a very successful effort.

We participated in the formation of the new Northwest Rotary Club and presented a podium to the new club at a meeting with the Des Moines club on their charter night.

Twelve months at the helm of the West Des Moines Rotary Club is a challenging and demanding position. It is all made possible with a functioning executive committee and patience and support of the membership. "

-Roy E. McKay

GORDON L. ELLIOTT - 1969-70

"The downstairs dining room at Emil's West Side, 63rd and Grand, continued to be the regular meeting place for the (WDM) Rotary club during Gordon Elliott's tenure as President. This was the year that

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James F. Conway was President of Rotary International and Wayne Douglass of Oskaloosa our District Governor. And although our achievements at the local level were somewhat overshadowed by the United States putting the first man on the moon in July 1969, nevertheless we were successful in many avenues of service and we did begin a few innovations with regard to Rotary Information.

Early in the year we announced an attendance contest which divided the membership into two teams (Jim Newsome's "Catfish" and John Brinkman's "Tigers"). The team with the best total attendance at the end of the four months' contest enjoyed a steak dinner at one of our meetings while the losers had to settle for beans.

Our bulletin editor, Arnie Olson, kept us well informed and his weekly issues of the Rotary Wheel reflect many interesting features. One was his Rotary Quiz. This encouraged the members to bone up on the contents of the month's Rotarian magazine so they might save themselves a fine if they are unable to correctly answer one of the questions printed in the Wheel the week before.

George Thompson continued his interest in acting as sponsor of the West Des Moines Interact Club at Valley High School; and Earl McLaren, the last Charter member of our Club was honored on the occasion of his 90th birthday in December 1969.

During the year, two outstanding Ladies' Nights were held, one in the fall, and one in the spring. The first was a Dinner-Theater party at Noah's Ark Restaurant and the Riviera Theater in downtown Des Moines. The second was one of the most unique events held in years. The Board of Directors (Gordon Elliott, Dick Bruce, Dick Pittman, John Thomas, Norm Pogemiller, Howard Amick, and Clair Wentz together with the chairman of the entertainment committee, Ed Morris, hosted a Rotary Ann International Party at the Des Moines Golf and Country Club where gifts from Rotary Clubs of more than 40 different countries were presented to our Rotary Anns and other women guests. Some of the gifts were accompanied by a letter, some written in broken English, and some in a foreign tongue which had to be translated. This was truly a remarkable evening and gave us all a better insight into the Fellowship of Rotary at the International level.

Other achievements of Club members included winning (again) the

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Salvation Army Trophy for top achievement in our division in the usual Kettle Drive in December (1969) under the chairmanship of Dick Hoffa. And Club Vice President Dick Bruce kept busy in December and January trying to recruit volunteers to chaperone the teen-age crowds at a new youth center called "Knowhere" in downtown West Des Moines. Dick also had the distinction of being our delegate to the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, in March 1970.

In conclusion we might add that one of our more colorful members, namely Chuck Gabus (now a member of the Northwest Club in Des Moines), was frequently fined by the sergeant-at-arms for some of his admonitions, like the time he said, "We'll have a heck of a time ever getting together as long as most of us want to be in the front of the bus, in the back of the Church, and in the middle of the Road".

-Gordon Elliott

S.R. (DICK) BRUCE - 1970-71

(Writers note: Dick reported that he had lost his records for his year as President of our club, but in "The Rotary Wheel" for 70-71 we found these news items of club activities)

"The Rotary Wheel" - Aug. 25, 1970: "Today this will be Rev. Conley Biddle day - Conley was President of our club in 1959-60. He is now retired and will be moving. The following men will talk on his behalf; Ray Kirk, Wilbur Bridges and George Thompson. Rev. Conley will also give us a few words."

THE ROTARY WHEEL - Sept. 15, 1970 "THANKS FROM THE YMCA" This year you helped send 28 boys and girls to YMCA Camp. Most of these boys and girls came from the Opportunity Center of West Des Moines and couldn't have gone without your help."

"The Rotary Wheel" - Sept. 22, 1970 - INTERACT - Interact had a good start with Bill Reichardt as their speaker. Bill did a good job and talked on a lot of subjects. Fifty boys and girls were in attendance.

"The Rotary Wheel" - Sept. 29, 1970 - "FOREIGN STUDENTS" -At our December 22nd meeting we will entertain 40 foreign students. The meeting is planned to be held at the Des Moines Golf and Country Club."

"The Rotary Wheel" - October 20, 1970 - "WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE" - The Rotary Club has bought 350 books from Planned

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Parenthood and sent them to Korea for the Rotary Library at the University. This is our contribution to World Community Service.

"The Rotary Wheel" - October 27, 1970 - "INTERACT NEWS" -Wednesday October 14th the Interact group held a rap session on drugs. Saturday Oct. 24th five students visited the Troutman Custodial Home as part of their service project.

Wednesday Oct. 28th the group will hear Dr. Bill Clark from the Polk County Board of Education talk about tutoring. This will also be part of their service project.

November 3rd the group will be getting people to vote. Our Interact group under the leadership of George Thompson is very active and doing a lot of service projects for our community.

From "The Rotary Wheel" - April 27, 1971 - "PRESIDENTS CORNER"

Every president wants to end up with a gain during his year, and thus far we've lost 9 members and added 5 new ones. President Dick says it takes a rough two for one ratio of losses to additions to show a gain. We now stand at 39 Rotarians in a growing community of 16,000 people with plenty of new industry to choose from."

From "The Rotary Wheel" April 27, 1971 - An article indicates that a ladies night party was held at the C. Y. Stevens Auditorium in Ames under the leadership of Howard Amick.

In the item, "THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER" in the club bulletin for May 18, 1971 is the following; President Dick proudly sent me the most recent months District 600 Attendance Report, and proudly penciled in the margin, "Best in months". With an average District attendance of 83.25 West Des Moines had 85.40% for the month which placed us in 20th place out of 51 clubs, and we beat Northwest which had 84.09. Our club was asked to vote on three candidates for Rotary International Council on Legislation, and we will support Past District Governor John Coolidge of the Northwest Club."

-C.J.B.

JAMES A. NEWSOME - 1971-1972

"We integrated our membership by recruiting a black businessman Bob Parks, Loan Officer at Des Moines Savings and Loan, as a member

of our Club. This is a first.

We moved to a dignified, attractive meeting place that we are sure will be a big boost to our clubs image in the city.

We established a Memorial fund for, and in the name of Dr. Gordon Elliott's son who was killed. This will be a permanent fund to send one top athlete to the National of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes each year. We will fund it annually as we do the F.C.A. local chapter.

We developed a program that directly relates to politics and the pertinent issues. Our sponsorship of the "kick-off" speeches and platforms of the Governor, Lt. Governor, and other top candidates from the entire state has won big newspaper, radio, and T.V. publicity which has enhanced the status of our club. Twelve candidates for public office have opened their campaigns at our club meetings.

We adopted for the first time a Police-City Mgmnt. and Community plan to help with specific actions during the year, to aid in building a stronger image of our representatives of law and order. This is a sound workable good will program. We also recruited our City Manager and the Chief of Police as members of our club.

We have not neglected projects of precious years such as the Salvation Army Christmas kettle drive, and our unique sponsorship of the graduation speakers at our Valley High School.

We have set up a new bookkeeping and accounting and record keeping plan, and selected and retained as an active member a new Secretary-Treasurer Mr. Bill Reese, an outstanding young C.P.A.

Probably the most outstanding and successful activity that we have had this year, has been our streamlined and dynamic recruiting of new men, under the leadership of Past President Carl Ripper. This took our club from a membership of 31 men in July 1971, to a membership of 62 men as of July 1, 1972.

Some of our annual projects included; High School Seniors Oratorical contest; High School student guests; Vocational Projects; Sponsor Camp program for youth in WDM; Sponsor Rotary Foundation Educational Awards; Salvation Army Kettle Drive; Camperships Girl Scout Junior Leaders of low economic areas; Sponsor Lebanon Medic to University of Iowa on Eye Diseases; "Knowhere" sponsors for one month; International Student Exchange and sponsors; Sponsor

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booth at Foreign Food Fair; a sponsor of special Elliott scholarship award for Fellowship of Christian athletes; Interact club.

-James A. Newsome

CLAIR C. WEINTZ - 1972-73

"My first job as president was to weed out those from our roster who had not attended in many months and many who had never paid a dime in dues. We succeeded in raising our attendance records to the respectable 80's from 55% in June 1972 which placed us at the far bottom of the District. An attendance contest helped bring the attendance of the members to the Rotary requirement on attendance.

The Club made a \$1,000.00 contribution to the Rotary Foundation in the name of Earl McLaren who had been our last surviving charter member. (Read the Paul Harris Fellows section of this book for further information.)

Activities in which I was involved prior to becoming president, in Dec. 1967 as chairman of the Christmas Kettle Bell Ringers (for Pres. George Thompson) we doubled our contribution to the Salvation Army.

For Pres. Lang's Rotary Foundation Day Observance, I arranged for our Club's second Paul Harris Fellow with Carl Ripper's personal contribution to the fund. (See the Paul Harris Fellows section of this book.)

I also started the ball rolling for my cousin, Miss Helen Barker of New York City, to give her "Antique" telephone switchboard to our Rotary Club to sponsor its installation at the Living History Farms. (This board has been evaluated for income tax purposes at \$8,000.00)

When I was Vice President of the Rotary Club, and program chairman, Howard Amick scooped the State by arranging for (within one months time) the appearance of the top 2 Democratic and Republican candidates for Governor."

-Clair C. Wentz

(Writers note: Other activities of the club during Clair's term of office which I found in letters and bulletins show that the West Des Moines Rotary Club gave \$300.00 to the WDM YMCA for camperships for 10 boys and girls to attend the Shady Creek Day Camp, who otherwise could not have had this experience.

During Clair's term of office the board of directors elected Conley Biddle as Secretary and Bill Reese as Treasurer. Board meetings were

held at the Commodore Hotel in Des Moines each month.

During the year 1973 a new Rotary Club was organized at Ankeny, Iowa and our Club contributed to the organization of this new Club.

Our Club continued to sponsor an Interact club for H.S. youth under the leadership of George Thompson.

District 600 Group Exchange team from Australia was entertained by our club and President Clair had his hands full trying to arrange schedules for this team during an extra heavy snow storm which blocked highways and transportation for several days. This team was present at the District 600 Conference in Des Moines. President Clair inducted a new member into our club at this District Conference, which was planned and conducted by District Governor Keith Hawk.

-C.J.B.

LARRY L. LANG - 1973-74

"The 1973-1974 Rotary Year marked the beginning of several new projects. Two scholarships (\$200.00 each) were given to Valley High Graduates for post-high school study. They were awarded on the basis of need, scholarship and high school activities. First year recipients of the scholarships were Mary Rice and Mark Paulsen.

An essay and poster contest was held at Stillwell Junior High School with the theme being The Rotary 4-Way Test and what it means to me as a seventh grader. Awards were made to five essay winners and three poster winners. The contest was well received by the participating students, faculty and administration and served to inform those participating about Rotary in general, and the Rotary 4-Way Test, more specifically.

A community project resulted in providing a new tent and work tables for the YMCA summer camp program.

President-elect Howard Amick provided an exceptionally good year of programs for the club. This served to stimulate attendance to its highest percentage in many years.

Vice-president Don Groves headed a program which resulted in a net gain of nine new members during the year. Many different Rotary members participated in a variety of programs including the Salvation Army Kettle Day (we finished first again), the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Scholarship program, providing support for Patti Whiting as

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Miss Polk County in the Miss Iowa contest (she was first runner up), International Food Fair, and many others.

The Club enjoyed a variety of Rotary Ann parties including an outing to the Memorial Union in Ames for dinner and on to the production of "1776" at the C.Y. Stevens Auditorium. The Christmas program included the Valley Singers and Wayne Smith, minister from Lexington, Kentucky who presented a most enjoyable talk.

Patti Whiting sang, and Herb Plambeck spoke at the year-end banquet at which new officers were installed and all past Presidents were recognized. "

- Larry L. Lang

HOWARD C. AMICK - 1974-1975 (Deceased since first edition of this book)

"I am sure each West Des Moines Rotary Club President since 1926 has felt that the club accomplished more during his administration than any in the past. And this undoubtedly is the truth for each administration builds on all of those preceding, that is the reason we have such a great club. The year 1974-1975 was no exception. My administration was the one just ahead of the one in which we will celebrate our 50th Anniversary which will be in April 1976. It is significant that 1976 is also the 200th Anniversary of our nation and that the West Des Moines club has been in existence one fourth of that time. It seemed important to me that the stage should be set for this 50th year by setting two goals; to substantially increase our membership by bringing in high caliber men to even more adequately serve this community in the future; and to establish a long term project that would bring honor and recognition to our club for possibly the next 50 years. Both of these goals were met.

We had a tremendous twelve months, thanks to the support of every member and especially the officers and directors. With Donald B. Groves as 1st Vice President in charge of programs and bulletins, and Lyle Smith 2nd Vice President responsible for attendance and membership, along with Conley J. Biddle as Secretary and Bill M. Reese as Treasurer, how could a President have a better set of officers? And then with Donald Brown Director in charge of Vocational Service, Gerald Foley Community Service, and Larry L. Lang immediate Past President there was no way we could not have a banner year. Because West Des Moines, Windsor Heights and Clive are such

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dynamic growing communities it seemed obvious that our club should be substantially larger if we were truly to represent the business and professional life of our communities during the next 50 years. Starting with 59 members in July 1, 1974 we built this membership to 76 in July 1, 1975, a net gain of 17 members or almost 30%.

To accomplish this we added 22 outstanding new members. This has been the largest gain in membership in the history of our club. The potential of these new members as outstanding Rotarians is almost unbelievable. We are now in excellent position to start our next 50 years.

Now about our second major goal. One of the middle west's stellar attractions is the Living History Farms, consisting of several hundred acres of prime Iowa land within a mile of our city limits. There are three working farms, an 1840 farm operated as farms when the State was being settled, a 1900 farm when the power to operate was furnished by horses, and an ultra modern farm. This land is all located at the junction of two of the most important interstate highways in the nation-highways 35 and 80, and is already visited by tens of thousands of people each year, even though this whole complex is still in its early stages of development. During this past year our club purchased a very old 1905 magneto hand crank type telephone switchboard together with several old wall telephones and associated equipment. (The platinum for connections in the switchboard was appraised as being worth at least \$1,400.00) This antique system was placed in working operation by our club and is demonstrated daily to the thousands of people visiting these farms. We will eventually build and own a small "Telephone Office" building located on an old time "Town Square" to be built on this farm. At that time these old crank type telephones will be connected to the switchboard and all appropriate buildings on the farm. It will be the only working magneto telephone system in the State, and of course will be properly identified as being owned, maintained, and sponsored by the West Des Moines Rotary Club. It is a long time project that will require help and direction from our club that could possibly extend into the decades ahead.

No organization such as ours can long exist without good, lively humorous weekly meetings with qualified speakers and interesting bulletins. They are the bread and butter that keeps us going. Perhaps my

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administration could facetiously be known as the "Dehydrated Water Year". We printed labels on empty tin cans advertizing West Des Moines Rotary Dehydrated Water with instructions that read, 'Empty Contents into one gallon of Water Stir until dissolved, Chill and Serve'. These were presented to each speaker with some humorous reference to some part of his remarks. They were not only well received, but concluded each meeting on the lighter side.

During the 1974-1975 term two plans were made for things to come (1) Promotion of our Conley J. Biddle for District Governor 1977-1978 and (2) a club sponsored series of travelogues for the public at Valley High School auditorium. In addition to the magneto telephone system installation at Living History Farms, two other long time projects were considered-(1) the sponsorship of a West Des Moines Farmers Market during the marketing season each year, and (2) rewarding those outstanding antique dealers who have made downtown "Valley Junction" famous throughout the State, with certificates of excellence where they qualify. Maybe at some future time these goals can be attained.

We continued to support the many projects and causes indetified with our club for a long period of years. Just to mention a few, (1) Salvation Army Kettle drive (2) Financial scholarship awards to deserving High School students (3) YMCA Camp for underprivileged children (4) Valley High oratorical and essay contests and many others, including the International Food Fair. Of these, sponsoring the oratorical contest dates back the longest. The first winner was Dorothy Sturtridge in 1928 when Albert Minnis was president of our club.

Altogether it was a great year and a real effort was made to be sure the West Des Moines Rotary Club was in high gear to start our 50th year under the leadership of Donald B. Groves, president for that year.

-Howard C. Amick

DONALD B. GROVES - 1975-1976

The 1975-1976 program of the West Des Moines Rotary Club is an ambitious one, but since this is the year in which we celebrate our golden anniversary, we believe there is sufficient incentive to achieve the goals we have established.

In this summary I shall not attempt to identify every area in which we hope to make progress, but I shall list the principle areas and the status

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of these programs midway through the year (December 31, 1975).

Membership and Attendance

Considerable emphasis during recent years has been placed on the securing of new members, but regular attendance at weekly meetings has not been emphasized, as a result, our monthly attendance has been averaging about 70%, placing us for the most part in the low 10% of the clubs in District 600.

This is a result of new members not being properly informed about attendance requirements and insufficient action on the part of boards of directors in enforcing attendance requirements as outlined in the Constitution.

For this year we are working for a net gain in membership of about 10%. Prospects look good for achieving this goal. Every member has been informed, through various means, of attendance requirements. A few who have felt they could not meet these requirements have ceased membership, and in addition, death and business reasons have caused other to drop, but for the most part the members are responding in fine fashion.

On November 25th the Club had its first 100% attendance in many years, and as a result our membership attendance for November placed us in 17th place in the District, instead of 51st for October. Several other 100% attendance days are planned for the remainder of the year. Our goal in this area is to place our club among the top 10, and prospects look very favorable for achieving it.

Membership Development

Three Club Assemblies have been held to date and others will be held later to better inform our members relative to the organization and structure of Rotary, its programs and membership responsibilities in achieving a more viable club. Meetings of new members and their wives on a periodic basis are being held to assist them in getting off to a good start.

Rotary Foundation

At present our Club has only 2 Paul Harris Fellows, but our program this year calls for an increase of 3 more. As of December 31st two more Paul Harris Fellows are assured, and we believe we will reach our goal of three by the time we celebrate our 50th Anniversary on April 1, 1976.

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In addition to financially aiding the Foundation by increasing our list of Paul Harris Fellows, the Club is also participating as a "Friend of Rotary," which should produce approximately \$300.00 more,

This year our Club is fortunate in having in our midst Miss Anne Geidel of Germany, who is here as a Rotary Foundation Scholar and is attending Drake University. Dick Souder of our Club acts as her advisor. Miss Geidel is living proof of one of many worthwhile programs sponsored by the Rotary Foundation, in building bridges of friendship and understanding throughout the world.

Action Programs

Our Club is continuing to support the Kettle Program of the Salvation Army, and the Y,\I.C.A, program, which enables underprivileged boys to attend summer camp. We provide scholarships to 2 students at Valley High School, based on scholastic achievements and need. We will also provide certificates and some prize money to students presenting the best essays on the meaning of the 4 Way Test.

A new and exciting program being sponsored this year for the first time is a series of 5 travel and adventure films, This program provides an opportunity for member participation and good clean educational and entertaining programs for the entire family. In addition, any profits realized will be used to fund other worthwhile programs for those less fortunate.

Our Anniversary Year

Our very capable secretary Conley J. Biddle has written the history of our Club for its first 50 years. We all look forward to receiving our copies of this book which will be off the press in time for our celebration.

Another outstanding goal of our Club this year is to have the honor of having the District Governor for 1977-78 from our own West Des Moines Rotary Club. Conley Biddle is our candidate. He is exceptionally well qualified and we believe he has an excellent chance of being elected. Our Club has never had a governor from its midst, and the last governor elected from Polk County, which currently has a combined membership of over 400 members from its 4 clubs, was in 1941-42 in the person of Charles Cownie.

In brief, our major objectives for the year of 1975-76 are as follows:

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1. Choose our new members more carefully and do our very best to properly indoctrinate them into Rotary.
2. Greatly increase emphasis on attendance and strive to be included among the top ten clubs in our District.
3. Increase our Paul Harris Fellows by at least 3.
4. Use this Golden Anniversary year to further improve the understanding of our members of the entire Rotary program.
5. Elect Conley J. Biddle as the District Governor for 1977-78.
6. And finally, to instill in our members an increased pride in their Club and the Clubs throughout the world who this year are striving to help, "Dignify the Individual" which is President Ernesto Imbassahy de Mello's theme for this year.

In all, this is an ambitious program, but I believe we are well on our way in achieving these goals.

Personally I am very grateful for the splendid cooperation of our Board of Directors and our Members who whole-heartedly believe that Rotary can be an important instrument for world understanding and peace.

- Donald B. Groves

(Authors note) - Don Groves wrote this report for the first edition of this book in March 1976 when he had served only part of his year as our Club President. At the close of his year, Don wrote the following report for the full Rotary year 1975-76.

"If we were in the wine business 1975-76 we would be considered a vintage year, but since this is Rotary we'll say it was a wonderful year. Yes, it was a golden year since it was our 50th. Our Club has continued to move forward in many areas and in several we have reached new highs. Two statements made recently by relatively new members pretty well sum up the reasons why people get so enthused about Rotary.

This past year Dick Souder acted as counselor for Ann Geidel who was attending Drake on a Rotary Foundation Scholarship. Dick has said on several occasions that if he never received anything more from Rotary than the experience he and his family have enjoyed in being a participant in one of Rotary International's program, it would be worth more than he could ever give to the organization.

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Just recently in talking with Jess Allen he made this comment, "When I came to Des Moines one of my goals was to become closely associated with a group of men of good character, well respected in the community, and who I could enjoy being a part of on a regular basis. I found that group in the West Des Moines Rotary Club."

Attendance

We have put considerable stress on attendance - first because it is a part of the constitution under which we operate, and secondly, believing that your interest in Rotary and its service programs grows along with regular attendance. The first quarter of the year our attendance averaged 70.6% which is about average for the past several years. During the second quarter we improved to 78.6%. The third quarter averaged 86.7% and the fourth quarter 84.6%. During the year we had one 100% meeting and for the month of March we averaged 94.18% making us the second high Club in District 600 and the highest in the Club's history. This is progress.

International Programs

Our participation in international aspects of Rotary has reached a new high this year. Dick Souder acted as counselor for Ann Geidel of Germany. We participated with the Brazilian Group Study Exchange Team. Bob Prestifilippo and many other members did a fine job with this program. This fall Paul Eldridge will act as counselor to Maria Cecilia Adurens of Brazil as a Rotary Foundation Graduate Student, and Gene Jessick and family will have living with them Catherine Janssens of the Netherlands and she will be attending Valley High. This again is a new high in R.I. programs of which this Club has been a part.

Paul Harris Foundation

Our Club's participation in the Paul Harris Foundation has been another high point. Mrs. Ray Kirk gave the \$1000.00 for a Paul Harris Fellowship in memory of Ray who had been a long time member and former president of the Club. Donald Groves, the club's president, also provided the necessary funds for a second fellowship. These two fellows, plus our giving as a friend of Rotary, has moved the Club from a 600% to the 800% level of giving per member. As of now, only 4 clubs in the district exceed us in this respect.

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We want a District Governor

The West Des Moines Club has never had a district governor. In fact the whole Des Moines Metropolitan area with 4 clubs, has only had 2 district governors in the history of Rotary. Our Club nominated our very capable secretary, Conley Biddle, for this position for the period of 77 -78. He was however, not successful so the club renominated him for the 78-79 term and we feel quite confident he will be elected for that term.

Our 50 Year History

Conley authored the 50 year history of our club after spending several hundred hours in research. It was made available to all members at our 50th anniversary celebration on April 6. Harry Stewart, general secretary of Rotary International, gave us a splendid speech and he and his wife added much to the evening program.

Several past district governors, past presidents and presidents of other clubs in the district were in attendance. This evening celebration of our 50th anniversary and the presentation of the 50 year history made this the high point of our year.

Travel and Adventure Series

For the first time in our Club's history we sponsored a series of 5 travel films. Contrary to the experience of many clubs, we operated in the black for our first year. This is another step forward for our Club.

Other Projects and Programs

Four club assemblies were held during the year and in addition an informal meeting for new members and their wives was held. We believe the bringing of our Rotary Anns to the informational meeting is a step in the right direction.

The old fashioned telephone service promoted during the past couple of years was installed at the Living History Farms. This is a Community Service that should long be remembered.

In addition to the above mentioned programs, we had the usual Kettle Drive for the Salvation Army, we participated in the YMCA camp program, and we contributed to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

We honored the 4 participants in the Valley High oratorical contest and gave a prize to the winner.

\$200.00 scholarship awards were provided to the two worthy students at Valley High.

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In summary, we are proud that we were able to end the year with 74 members and an overall increase in attendance of approximately 10%. We believe the members are more enthused over what the Club is doing and that this spirit will continue to grow in the future.

Our understanding of the greatness of the Rotary International movement has been considerably improved, and we are determined to help it play an ever-growing role in World Understanding and Peace between all nations.

It has been a great honor to serve as your president during the 1975-76 year. We have had an excellent board of directors, and the cooperation of the members on the various programs has been wonderful.

I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart.

-Don Groves

(Writers note:) Following the 1975 Valley High School Commencement program, Mrs. F.E. Zimmerman (formerly Dorothy Strutridge) of Fairfield, Iowa, the first winner of the Rotary sponsored original contest and the recipient of the first gold Rotary Wheel Medal, wrote to President Howard C. Amick and offered to return her Rotary Medal for safe keeping with our club records. Her generous offer was gratefully accepted. Mrs. Zimmerman not only sent to our club the first Rotary medal awarded by our club, but also sent a copy of a newspaper clipping from the West Des Moines Express announcing the award, and a copy of the 1928 Valley High School Commencement program.

In her letter to President Howard Amick, Mrs. Zimmerman said, "The reason I am writing to you is to ask if your historian and your club would like to have me return this Rotary wheel to you for your collection of memorabilia of the history of your organization. It is not that I have not been proud to be the possessor of this medal that I make this inquiry. My mother, immediately upon my being awarded the medal, had my name and the year engraved on the back and I wore it on a chain around my neck throughout my college years and later put it on a key chain. But I must confess that the past years have found it at the bottom of my jewelry box. Of course I could pass it on to my daughter and no doubt she would like to have it. but feel sure that eventually it would find its way again to the bottom of a jewelry box. If it would be meaningful to your club, let me know and I will gladly send it to you.

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May I commend your club for the continuance of this award through the years. I was and am still a grateful recipient and I am sure the other recipients are equally as proud and grateful.

Sincerely,
Dorothy Sturtridge Zimmerman
Fairfield, Iowa

CLIPPING FROM WEST DES MOINES EXPRESS

Rotary Medal Won At Commencement

By Dorothy Sturtridge

Thirty-Five Seniors End High School Careers Friday

The honor of winning the first medal awarded by the Rotary club to the member of the graduating class of Valley Junction High School presenting the best original oration at the commencement exercises was won by Miss Dorothy Sturtridge. Her oration was awarded the prize in competition with six other members of the graduating class.

Prof. C.C. Carrouthers of Drake university chose the winner and the solid gold medal was presented her by A.H. Minnis, president of the Valley Junction Rotary Club.

Prof. Carrouthers based his decision on two points, content and delivery. The thought in the orations and the manner in which they were given determined the winner, and Miss Sturtridge's oration ranked high on both points. Her oration, "The Necessity of Law Enforcement," appeared in another column in this paper.

In presenting the award, a solid gold pendent in the shape of the famous Rotary wheel, Mr. Minnis said that the local club was glad to have a part in the world movement of promotion of public speaking. He praised the thought and work expended by the seniors in making their preparations, and said he was only sorry that all of the speakers could not be presented with medals.

A slight change in the procedure of the commencement exercises was made this spring, only those giving orations and have a part in the program sitting on the platform, and the rest of the graduates sitting in a

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special section in the main floor of the auditorium. At the conclusion of the program, the orchestra played while the graduates filed out, instead of all trying to get out as best they might.

Superintendent Myers presented the class for graduation in a few well chosen words, and C.H. Mahoney, president of the board of education presented the diplomas to the thirty-five graduates.

The Rev. R.E. Kinsell gave the invocation and benediction, Clarice Crosswait in an instrumental solo Blanch Harvey in a vocal solo and the high school orchestra, directed by Nevin Wasson, completed the program.

Lyle C. Smith - 1976-77

The West Des Moines Rotary Club enjoyed a very successful year. Goals were established at the beginning of the year and most of the goals were achieved in each of the four areas of Rotary service. Doug Hillman, Bill Reese, Jess Allen and Paul Eldridge served as the directors and provided outstanding leadership.

Attendance is the life blood of a Rotary Club and a continuous effort must be made to achieve this goal. An overall attendance of over 80% was maintained for the year. Thirteen new members were admitted to the club and there were eleven resignations during the year. This resulted in a net gain of two members.

The West Des Moines Rotary Club sponsored a Rotary Youth Exchange student, Catherine Janssens from the Netherlands. Catherine was hosted by Eugene and Phyliss Jessick and Dick and Irene Reed. Catherine proved to be an outstanding ambassador for the Netherlands. During the year, Catherine's father visited our club.

Paul Eldridge and his wife Merideth served as our club sponsor for a Rotary Foundation Fellow, Miss Cecilia Audrens of Brazil who was a graduate student at Drake University. She had been awarded a Teacher of the Handicapped Scholarship by the Rotary Foundation.

The West Des Moines club also hosted the District 600 Paul Harris Exchange Couple, Arne and Ingeborg Hafton from Rena Norway.

The travel and adventure series was continued and provided excellent entertainment for West Des Moines and adjoining communities. The \$700.00 earned by this project was used to purchase equipment for the Smouse Opportunity School.

Additional projects completed during the year were;

Hosted the District 600 Information Institute held at the Des Moines Hilton Inn.

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Provided each member with a club roster which included a picture and information of each member.
Donated \$50.00 to the Valley High Debate Team travel fund.
Donated \$50.00 to the West Des Moines little league basketball team travel fund.
Awarded two \$250.00 scholarships to Valley High School seniors. Donated \$220.00 to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.
Donated \$600.00 to the West Suburban YMCA summer camp fund.
Supported the International Food Fair with a \$75.00 donation.
The total contributions made by the West Des Moines Rotary Club amounted to \$2195.00 for the year.

Conley J. Biddle, Secretary of the West Des Moines Rotary Club and a Past President, was nominated to be District 600 Governor for 1978-1979. Our Club was very proud and honored to have Conley elected to this high honor. I have endeavored to highlight some of the activities of the West Des Moines Rotary Club during my year as President and I want to thank the Club for this honor.

-Lyle C. Smith

Eugene T. Jessick - 1977-1978

I started out my year as President 1977-78 attending the International Rotary Convention in San Francisco which was a rewarding experience and gave me a better understanding of the International impact Rotary has all over the world. This trip also concluded our year with Catherine Janssens, Exchange student from Holland. She was a joy and delight to have in our home for a year. Our Treasurer's Report for the year showed all expenses paid and projects funded properly.

Our attendance improved but needs careful follow up. Growth pattern was good but living in a transit area made it difficult. The Club Bulletin was in capable hands with Joe VanWinkle. Fellowship has always been a plus in our Club, and the Christmas party was a joy with the handicap children from Smouse School putting on the program. The Rotary Ann party in spring at Iowa State was a success with a dinner and play, "My Fair Lady" at C. Y. Stevens Auditorium. Fireside meetings were held on a quarterly basis for new members. The weekly programs held at our luncheons were outstanding as they have been in the past.

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Vocational Service:

This area was not as active as it should have been, but we did have an Employee Day and Competitor Day.

Community Service:

We provided a Travel and Adventure Series which was enjoyed by those attending. It was a little disappointing by the lack of support of some members, but we did meet our commitment to provide adjustable tables to the Smouse Opportunity School from the proceeds. We again sponsored the Oratory Contest for the Graduating Class of 1978 at Valley High School. We also provided two scholarships for graduating seniors.

International Service:

I personally was involved with an Exchange Student which was one of the highlights of my Rotary association. Endeavors were made to promote this program with the idea for our Club to send someone abroad.

In a final review, it was a good year and that I enjoyed very much. I would personally like to thank the following; Elmer True- President Elect, Conley Biddle-Secretary 6 months, James Brown-Secretary 6 months, James McCarl-Treasurer, and all Board members.

-Eugene T. Jessick

Elmer P. True - 1978-1979

Our Rotary Year in Review

On June 27, 1978 this Rotary Club installed its 53rd President and slate of new officers. This was an important event but not unusual for this club since we had a lot of experience in ceremonies of this kind. What was uncommon for this club, and a first, was the installation of one of our own members as District Governor of Rotary District 600. That was a highlight of the evening. That same evening this club awarded Conley Biddle a Paul Harris Fellow, making him the 5th one in our club to join that select group. Also, several other of our members were honored as Paul Harris sustaining members that same evening. It was quite a night.

Our club had its obligations to meet during the following twelve months and although we did not set any records in membership we maintained the excellent quality of our club by bringing in nine new members and improving our attendance record. Unfortunately three of our members

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were dropped because of poor attendance; one resigned because of pressing business, and seven were transferred to other cities in connection with their work.

More work needs to be done on increased membership and I hope this same time next year this club can reach at least a goal of 100 members.

During the past year we again sponsored a Travel Series program and provided good clean family viewing of travel films and narration. Many of the people in this community, particularly the older residents, appreciated this community service but unfortunately our membership voted not to continue the series for next year. I hope that we can renew the series sometime in the near future because it was a wonderful community service and could be quite successful.

We continued our participation and financial support of the YMCA youth program and even granted an additional allotment for day camp activities involving some of our disadvantaged children of the community.

We awarded two scholarships to Valley High students planning to attend college and continued our financial support to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

During the Christmas season we again asked our members to stand in the cold and ring bells for the Salvation Army - another worthy cause.

Our spring outing and fellowship at C. Y. Stevens auditorium in Ames with our Rotary Arms was a smashing success and we saw one of the better plays of the year.

The weekly programs we had during the year were outstanding and I compliment the various program chairmen that were responsible. We perhaps had more Rotary guests make-up at our club meetings this year than ever before. Sometimes the guests almost outnumbered our regular members. This proves that West Des Moines has a reputation of being the best make-up club to attend in the district. This can be attributed to our good programs and the excellent food served by Eddie Websters.

Speaking of make-ups and attendance our club was challenged this year by Northwest Des Moines for a series of meetings during January and February. We reached a record high of 93.5% for one period but averaged out at 92% for the contest. Needless to say we lost to a very active club that averaged 98%, but in my opinion both clubs were victorious in the spirit of Rotary.

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We were much higher in percentage of improvement and during January we ranked 4th in the whole district and in February dropped down to 5th place. Governor Conley stated in his newsletter that our 4th place was the highest this club ever achieved in the district. There is no reason why this club couldn't stay in the top ten for the entire year.

We also had an internal contest regarding attendance and the membership was divided into two groups - The National League and the American League. The winners were served steaks and the losers were served weiners and beans. Thanks to Gene Jessick and his committee we had a lot of fun and enjoyed good Rotary fellowship.

Larry and Karen Hoier's daughter Julie, was honored and accepted by Rotary as our youth exchange student to Australia and she had been a very delightful and lovely representative of our country and club. We are proud of her and even more so since Larry is a very active member of this Club.

Our members were kept very busy participating in many committees preparing for the Annual Conference of District 600. We were also blessed during the year by having the opportunity to host for four days Phillip and June Boobyer of Durham England, who were the Rotary English Exchange couple. Most of you met this lovely couple and their visit strengthened our international relationships. We wish to again thank Nelson and Nancy Rhodes for sharing their home for four days during the Boobyer's visit, and the Rotary members who assisted during their stay with us. This was topped off by a very elegant meal prepared by Eddie Websters at the conclusion of their visit with us.

Of course another highlight of this Rotary year was our co-hosting and participation with our District Governor regarding the Annual District Conference held on May 4th, 5th, and 6th.

It has been customary for the Governor's home club to host the event, but Conley chose to include the Des Moines Rotary Club and the Northwest Des Moines Rotary Club to share with West Des Moines this responsibility. Perhaps this larger sponsorship was the cause for this year's Conference to be the largest and most successful one held in District 600. Conley had more people serving on committees for this conference than we had membership in this club, so we welcomed this assistance from our neighboring clubs. Conley has been an excellent District Governor and we are all quite proud of his successful year.

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I wish to thank all members of the Rotary Board for their splendid cooperation extended, and particular thanks to Jim Brown and Jim McCarl, our respective Secretary and Treasurer. As you know Jim Brown served this club in severe pain at times because of his hip, but always was right on the job and performed his assignments in an excellent fashion. Jim McCarl was also on the job and assisted in every way in fulfilling his assignments as Treasurer.

A special thanks is extended to all members of this Rotary Club for their support and dedication to the ideals of Rotary.

Your new President Dr. A. Douglas Hillman, and his capable Board will undoubtedly make many improvements for the club and I ask you to extend to these gentlemen your complete support and cooperation.

Thank you for the opportunity to have served this wonderful organization as President this past twelve months.

-Elmer P. True

A. Douglas Hillman - 1979-1980

My year as President of the West Des Moines Rotary Club began with an exceptionally memorable event. My Rotary Ann and I traveled to Rome, Italy, with a group of Rotarians from Iowa for the Rotary International Convention. This is indeed an exciting way in which to begin one's year as President. The spirit of Rotary is probably not felt with any greater intensity than at an international convention. Upon arrival in Rome, we went to the fellowship house for registration, and to begin our experience of International fellowship. Meeting Rotarians from around the world indeed brings the meaning of Rotary to life. The chance to talk with Rotarians from Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, India, and all over the Rotary World was very meaningful and sure put us in the mood for the convention.

The Rotary International Convention also gave us the opportunity to experience internationalism in another way. Here we had a chance to live in a foreign country, and experience the ways and customs of that country, helping to more fully understand the need for Rotary. This also has to bring home the benefits that are involved in so many of the Rotary programs. The Rome Convention was indeed a fitting beginning to my year as president. We returned home to the installation of officers at the Farm Bureau. It was an enjoyable evening and an honor to take the leadership over from Elmer True.

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Plans for the 1979-1980 year were discussed with District Governor Dave McPherson on his traditional "governor's visit" the evening of October 2nd at my home. All of the board members came away from the meeting enthusiastic about the year ahead. We began the year with several objectives for the West Des Moines Club, including the involvement of more of our own members in the programs. This proved to be beneficial to the club. Programs by such members as Dewy Vukovich, Gene Jessick, and Bob Weise, brought a greater awareness to our club of each member's activities in putting the spirit of Rotary into practice.

Another objective set out by the board was the participation in the 3H Program of Rotary International. Several money raising projects were considered, but the club decided to establish a foundation charge on each member's dues. The first three quarters of the year brought in sufficient funds for the West Des Moines Club to make a contribution to the fund that qualified us for a "banner club" in the "Health, Hunger, Humanity" program. This was indeed a worthy accomplishment as the program has already begun to make an impact on the world's health problems. Remaining funds from the foundation charge are being used for other Rotary projects selected by the board, such as supporting the establishment of a children's hospital in India by West Des Moines Rotarian Saheb Sahu.

The youth fund of the club also found increased levels of activity this year. After a very moving program, the club as well as many individual members chose to support the building of the Des Moines Convalescent Home for Children. We chose to expand our support of the YMCA Program by adding several summer camping scholarships for the disadvantaged to our contribution. We have also chosen to assist in the building of the Walnut Creek Branch of the YMCA, which continues and expands our close ties with the YMCA.

The youth fund also continued to support the Valley High School huddle of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, by sending two deserving members to F.C.A. summer Camp.

The internationalism of Rotary was also brought a little closer to home for the West Des Moines Club this year by the welcoming of a

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Rotary Youth Exchange Student from Australia, Margaret Culshaw. Margaret was indeed a welcome addition to the West Des Moines Club and community. During her stay she lived in the homes of Rotarians Lans, Grabinski, Vierlins, Raffay, and Hoier. She participated actively in club programs, speaking to the club on several occasions. She was also active in our community, teaching Laotian Refugees to speak English, the King's probably, and working with handicapped young people at the Boone Y. Camp and Smouse Opportunity School. Margaret became very dear to the club, and we found ourselves in a tearful parting at the airport when she left for home.

The year 1979-80 found the West Des Moines Club looking for a new home. After many years affiliation with Eddie Webster's, the Inn was sold, and we began the task of searching for another meeting place. This was not an easy chore as we need good sized meeting facilities on a regular basis. A successful search was finally concluded with the move of our Club to King Arthur's Restaurant on 8th Street. Although we are sometimes crowded, it will provide a challenge to the members in attempting to outgrow our new home.

New member growth was slow during the year. As of June 1, we had only brought in 7 new members. However, we finished the year with a growth spurt bringing in 5 new members in June.

Rotary fellowship on the local level was again important to the West Des Moines Club. We celebrated the traditional Christmas party with our Rotary Anns at the Rolling Prairie Inn, with time for some good conversation dinner, and outstanding entertainment by "The Refreshment Committee". Valentine's Day brought a new tradition to the Club with a special party for our very special Rotary-Anns at the Elbon Club in downtown Des Moines. This was an evening of good old fashioned fellowship along with a chance to express our love to our Rotary-Anns. The annual spring outing found us journeying to a new location, the Des Moines Civic Center. A dinner was held preceding attendance at the production of the "H.M.S. Pinafore".

The year was brought to a close with the traditional installation of new officers at the Farm Bureau building. With mixed emotions I turned over the leadership of the West Des Moines Club and the horse collar, our new badge of office, to Bill Reese.

-A. Douglas Hillman

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Bill M. Reese - 1980-1981 (July to May 1, 1981 when this book went to press)

What a privilege it is to serve as president of a Rotary Club. The honor is not in the office, but in the opportunity for personal growth throughout an intensive year of observing the Object of Rotary in action. The opportunity is enhanced, of course, through the efforts of an enthusiastic Board of Directors and the fellowship which is such a vital part of Rotary. The West Des Moines Club is "twice blessed" with an abundance of both.

My year started in early June with attendance at the International Convention in Chicago, Illinois. Fellowship with so many devoted Rotarians from around the world, and hearing Rotary International President Rolf Klarich present his theme, "Take Time To Serve", was an unforgettable experience. The trip was marred, however, by the theft of several items from our automobile including my briefcase containing Rotary information I had saved through several years.

Past Presidents of the club were recognized at the installation dinner in late June and a new tradition was started. Through the generosity of Living History Farms, I was able to obtain an old horse collar which is a relic of the days when the farms were part of the state prison system. I cleaned, polished and decorated the collar with the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self" and presented it to the oldest past president in attendance. It was then passed from president to president to start the tradition, and will be passed to each new president in the future as a symbol that the job can best be accomplished by pulling (as opposed to pushing) in the right direction. Goals must be determined and the president must then pull to achieve them.

Goals for the 1980-81 year were presented as challenges to committees under each area of service as follows:

Club Service

- a. Increased membership - a goal of "101 in 81".
- b. Attendance average of 90% with two 100% attendance days.

Vocational Service

- a. Develop a program of youth career counseling.
- b. Plan and hold an employee recognition day.
- c. Arrange for one or more club tours of local plants.

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Community Service

- a. Develop a meaningful service project.
- b. Develop a "fun" fund-raising project.

International Service

- a. Obtain five new Paul Harris Fellows or Sustaining Members.
- b. Continue to pursue exchange student and scholarship activities.

At this writing our year is still in progress. We have continued to meet at "King Arthur's, but are outgrowing the available space. The popularity of our programs is evidenced by the number of visiting Rotarians, an average of eleven per meeting.

We have initiated thirteen new members and, of course, have lost a few through job transfers. I regret the deaths of Past Presidents Wilbur Bridges and Howard Amick.

Our activities have included;

Participation in the charter presentation to a new Rotary Club at Altoona, Iowa. Our gift was the American flag and stand.

Several Rotarians manned the telephones at the Jerry Lewis Telethon for Muscular Dystrophy.

We held a wine and cheese fireside chat for new members and their wives.

A plant tour of Moon Lithographing and Engraving, Inc. was held through the courtesy of Chuck Raffay.

Several hundred dollars were raised for the Salvation Army as a result of our Kettle Day participation.

Club parties included Christmas at Des Moines Golf and Country Club, Valentine's Day at the Des Moines Botanical Center, and together with other area clubs, the grand opening of the new Marriott Hotel in downtown Des Moines.

Margaret Culshaw, our Rotary exchange student from Australia, has been a delight to the club. Her year ended in January and she carried our club banner and all our good wishes back to her home.

We have, of course, continued our financial support of the West Suburban YMCA, Smouse School, FCA, scholarships, and other activities.

My special thanks goes to Conley Biddle for the dedication and effort required to produce this updated revision of our club history.

Rotary has truly enriched my life. Thank you for the opportunity.

-Bill M. Reese

CHAPTER VI

ROSTER OF MEMBERS, OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, 1975-1976 and 1980-1981

Roster of 1975-1976 Members - Officers - Directors

MEMBERS	CLASSIFICATION
Jess Allen	Life Insurance
Don Alt	Branch Manager Sav. & Loan
Howard Amick	Farming
Robert L. Baker	Savings and Loan
Harry W. Beardsley	Mgr. Public Relations
Conley J. Biddle	Religion-Protestant(S.A.)
Wilbur Bridges	Lawyer (S.A.)
James S. Brown	City Engineer
S.R. 'Dick' Bruce	Telephone
Paul D. Burgess	Engineer
Charles J. Celsi	Commercial Real Estate
Richard M. Clary	Banking
Micheal Canady	Property Manager
Murray Drake	Mayor
Paul J. Egan	Honeywell Mg. Control
Gordon L. Elliott	Osteopathic Physician
Merrill B. Evans	Personnel Mgr.
Gerald T. Foley	Copier Sales
Karrigan 'Kip' Garabedian	Electric Light & Power
Walter T. Giles	Farm Management
H. Oliver Gillespie	Director Foundations
B. Sheldon Goreham	Plastic Manufacture
Dale L. Grabinski	Superintendant Public Schools
Paul O. Grodt	Real Estate
Donald B. Groves	Farm Bureau
Charles W. Hanson	Farm Cooperatives
Oren W. Herndon	Lawn and Garden Supplies
Donald J. Hewitt	Real Estate Investment
A. Douglas Hillman	Accounting Professor
Ray A. Holmquist	Insurance Agency Manager

Eugene T. Jessick	Mgr. Otis Elevator Co.
Wayne Kern	Int. Funeral Service, Legal
Larry L. Lang	Pedodontist
Larry B. Lockridge	Mgr. Mobile Home Park
James C. McCarl	Controller
Brian F. McGarvey	Orthodontist
W. Harold McIntyre	Retail Furniture (P.S.)
Roy E. McKay	Casualty Insurance
Stanley G. Marshall	Credit Card Manager
James M. Meade	Lawyer
Roy M. Messerschmidt	Banker(P.S.)
Robert A. Miller	Paper Mfg.
Carl L. Moss	Pharmaceutical Goods Wholesale
Thomas H. Nettifee	Religion-Protestant
James A. Newsome	Real Estate
Eugene O'Neil	Architect
Norman W. Pogemiller	Business Manager Schools
Robert Prestifilippo	Mail Order Sales
Ovie Palmer	Service Station Mgr.
Richard A. Reed	Communications Telephone
Bill M. Reese	C.P.A.
Carl P. Ripper	Cemetery Manager
Rex V. Roupe	Lawyer
Saheb Sahu	M.D.
C.E. 'Mike' Sinks	Beverage Mgr.
Lyle C. Smith	Postmaster_____

Clair C. Weintz	Draftsman (P.S.)
Keith E. Willcoxson	Ice Cream Mfg.(Hon
Thomas A. Wilson	Telephone Rep. (P.S.) S.)
H. Lee Wilts	Property Ins.
Robert R. Wise	Y.M.C.A. Director
John L. Wright	Tree Service

OFFICERS - 1975-1976

President - Donald B. Groves
 Vice President - Lyle C. Smith
 Secretary - Conley J. Biddle
 Treasurer - Bill M. Reese
 Immediate Past President - Howard Amick

DIRECTORS - 1975-1976

Club Service - Eugene T. Jessick
 Community Service - Richard S. Souder
 Vocational Service - Merrill B. Evans
 International Service - Gerald T. Foley



Officers and Board of Directors West Des Moines Rotary Club 1975-1976
 Front row(left to right) Conley J. Biddle, Secretary; Donald B. Groves, President;
 Bill M. Reese, Treasurer. Back row(left to right) Howard C. Amick, Immediate Past
 President; Gerald T. Foley, Director International Service; Lyle C. Smith,
 Vice President; Richard S. Souder, Director Community Service; Eugene T. Jessick,
 Director Club Service. Merrill B. Evans Director Vocational Service(not in picture)



Officers and Board of Directors West Des Moines Rotary Club 1980-1981
 Front row(left to right) James S. Brown, Secretary; Charles J. Raffay,
 Director Club Service; Bill M. Reese, President; Suku V. Radia,
 Director International Service; Back row(left to right) A. Douglas
 Hillman, Immediate Past President; Michael L. Canady, Director
 Community Service; Larry D. Hoier, President Elect; O. Lee Minear,
 Director Vocational Service; James C. McCarl, Treasurer.

Roster of 1980-1981 Members - Officers - Directors

MEMBERS	CLASSIFICATION
Ronald Achilli	Hospital Administrator
Terry Aikin	Savings & Loan
Robert Albright	Y.M.C.A.
Don Alt	Investment-Real Estate
Allen Anderson	Insurance Advertising
Harry Beardsley	Public Relations
Conley J. Biddle	Religion-Protestant (S.A.)
Robert C. Brooks	High School Principal-Education
James S. Brown	Engineer (S.A.)
Noel Brown	Elevators & Escalators
Paul Burgess	Engineer
Thomas Burlingame	Corporate Lawyer
T. Paul Calkins	Adult Education & Training
Michael L. Canady	Property Manager
John Carlson	Telephone Service
Robert Clauss	RE-Title Lawyer
James Coit	Building Materials
Robert Coleman	Res. Property Rentals
Jack L. Crain	Gynecologist
Robert DeWaay	Loan Management
Murray Drake	County Government-Supervisor
Timothy Eldredge	Office Furnishings & Carpets
Merrill B. Evans	Administrative Management
James B. Fleming	Electric & Gas Utility Engineer
Gerald T. Foley	Distributed Data Processing
Gerald V. Foster	Insurance Estate Planning
Thomas Fredregill	General Contractor
Walter T. Giles	Farm Management
Stephen Givens	Accounting Services
John R. Goldman	Insurance
B. Sheldon Goreham	Plastic Mfg. (S.A.)
Dale L. Grabinski	School Administration
Paul O. Grodt	Real Estate (S.A.)

Donald B. Groves	Farm Bureau (S.A.)
A. Douglas Hillman	Education-Accounting
John D. Hintze	Tax Lawyer
Larry D. Hoier	Grocery Sales
James H. Homan	Stock Broker
Frederick James	Book Binding
Albert E. Jones	Commercial Temperature Controls
Greg Kenyon	Domestic Relations
Larry L. Lang	Pediatric Dentist
James R. Lawyer	Trial Attorney
Larry B. Lockridge	Mobile Home Park Mgr.
Stanley G. Marshall	Credit Manager
James C. McCarl	Controller
Roy M. Messerschmidt	Banking (S.A.)
O. Lee Mincar	Banking
James A. Newsome	Real Estate (S.A.)
Eugene C. O'Neil	Architect
Dale H. Pearson	Data Processing
Norman W. Pogemiller	Education-Business Mgr. (S.A.)
Suku V. Radia	Tax Services
Charles J. Raffay	Printing
Bill M. Reese	C.P.A.
Nelson D. Rhodes	Military
Carl R. Ripper	Cemetery Management (S.A.)
Donald Rogers	Estate Analysis
Saheb Sahu	Pediatrician
C.E. Sinks	Beverage Mfg.
James Smidt	Computer Sales
Lyle C. Smith	Postmaster
Ed Strunce	Employee Recruiting
George W. Thompson Jr.	Dentist (S.A.)
Elmer P. True	City Manager (S.A.)
Joseph S. VanWinkle	Water Conditioning (S.A.)
Donald (Joe) Willis	Property & Casualty Inc.

LeRoy Veale	Religion-Protestant
Stanley VerPlöeg	Architect (S.A.)
Dewey Vukovich	Auto Sales
Robert R. Waddill	Real Estate
Lawrence R. Wilcox	Manufactures Representative
John L. Wright	Tree Service (S.A.)

OFFICERS -1980-1981

President - Bill M. Reese
 President-Elect - Larry D. Hoier
 Secretary - James S. Brown
 Treasurer - James McCarroll
 Immediate Past President - A. Douglas Hillman

DIRECTORS - 1980-1981

Club Service - Charles J. Raffay
 Vocational Service - O. Lee Minear
 Community Service - Michael Canady
 International Service - Suku Radia

CONCLUSION

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "The true test of any civilization is not the size of the cities nor the crops, but the kind of man it produces." If the test of Rotary in West Des Moines is the kind of man it produces, then I am sure that the West Des Moines Rotary Club has been very successful.

Rotarians have led the way in service to the West Des Moines community through their dedicated leadership and service in every community activity and organization, institution and program, including the areas of government, religion, education, vocations and professions.

The Rotary Club service projects for youth and adults in this community have helped to make life better for everyone who lives in West Des Moines. No one can accurately measure the intangible as well as the tangible contributions of Rotary in West Des Moines. And certainly no one can ever begin to assess the constructive influence of Rotary fellowship in the lives of the hundreds of men who have been members of the Rotary Club in this community across the years.

Officially Rotary is defined as an organization of business and professional men united worldwide, who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. A local Rotary Club may be defined as an association of representative business and professional men of the community who have accepted the ideal of service as the real basis for achieving happiness and success in personal, business, and community life.

Rotary has also been defined as "an ideal in constructive action". Rotary is an on-going movement in our society, and at no point in time could anyone say that "this is where Rotary stops and the world moves on". Rotary is a continuing spirit, a moving, developing, changing, organization, and program of service to humanity, on a person to person, people to people basis. And it will ever continue to be such. Someone has said, "The world moves on, and Rotary moves with the men who move the world."

In 1935, just thirty years after the beginning of Rotary, Paul Harris the founder of Rotary wrote, "This is a changing world; we must be prepared to change with it. The story of Rotary will have to be written again and again."

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In a real sense the story of Rotary re-written each time a new member is inducted into a Club, and each time a new Rotary Club is chartered. Each individual Rotarian writes his own definition of Rotary, and each Club writes a chapter in the total history of Rotary International.

More than a half century of Rotary fellowship is behind us in the West Des Moines Rotary Club. And we honor those Rotarians who have given us a great Rotary heritage in this community. But what about the future? The future of Rotary in this community will depend upon our dedicated leadership and service, how we live and work as Rotarians, how we continually renew and extend the spirit of Rotary, how we apply the ideals and principles of Rotary to every relationship of our personal, business, professional, and community life.

The West Des Moines Rotary Club has an excellent record of service, and our destiny is to continue, and to expand our Rotary service in this community, and in the world, and thereby help to build a better life, a better community, and a peaceful world.

The writing of both the first and the second edition of this book has been a very demanding task. But I have enjoyed the opportunity given to me to record in these pages a brief history of the service and activities of the West Des Moines Rotary Club. When I finished writing the first edition, I told a friend that I was not sure whether the writing of the book was "a labor of love, or a love of labor". I guess it was a combination of both. I feel the same way now that I have finished the second edition. I have made a sincere attempt to be accurate and to "tell it as I found it" in the researching of the records which have been available to me. If there are errors in this historical account I wish to be forgiven.

It is my hope that all future Presidents and Secretaries of our Club will write their reports, and keep our Club records on file, so that some future historian of the West Des Moines Rotary Club will at some future date revise and update our Club history.

-Conley J. Biddle

May 1, 1982

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