

SEVENTY FIVE YEARS OF ROTARY
SERVICE TO ORLANDO

The story of the Rotary Club of Orlando
and the men and women who served their club,
their vocation, their community and the
world from 1920 to 1995.

W. A. McCree and Ormund Powers

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Dedicated to the past and present members of the
Orlando Rotary Club who have contributed greatly in
making their community the finest place
in the world to live.

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The information contained herein has been gathered and recorded with the idea of providing present and future members of the Rotary Club of Orlando with not only the history of the club, but also to tell of the men and women who served the community through Rotary. Sources included existing records, the Rotoptimist and the Rotarian newsletters, the 25th anniversary history, the 50 Golden Years History, and all other written material available. In addition, we have interviewed all the living past presidents either in person or by mail along with several long-time members who never served in that capacity and we have used information furnished in questionnaires and in membership applications. We have also drawn on our memories. We trust that we have tapped every source available that would help us point out the leadership and the service to the community rendered by members of the club.

W. A. McCree did all of the research and Ormund Powers assisted with the manuscript, but it never could have been completed without the cooperation of club members.

We appreciated everyone who has assisted in putting this history together. We are grateful to the informal committee members who rendered assistance, Buckie Allen, Don Hawley, Jim Stokes and Henry Swanson. Lee Jones, a new Rotarian, designed the front cover and for that we are proud and grateful. We are especially appreciative of the tremendous effort exerted by Art Miller and his secretary, Ginny Carvalho, who made it possible to complete the project on time.

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"SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

OBJECT OF ROTARY

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

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



"He Profits Most Who Serves Best"

Seventy Five Years of Rotary Service to Orlando

The 25th Anniversary History by Hamilton Gibson and the Golden Anniversary History by Rolland Dean give details of important Rotary meetings and projects of the past. For those years, this history will not repeat many details, but will concentrate on the personalities and vocations of the Rotarians who were leaders in the community and the projects they headed that helped make Orlando what it is today.

CHAPTER ONE

The First Decade, Prosperity to Boom to Bust to Depression 1920 - 1930

The early settlers of Orlando were by and large independent small business and professional men, enterprising pioneers who were interested in settling here and building a wholesome community that would be good for each of them. They realized that if they were to succeed the entire community must succeed. Their lives, their families and their fortunes were dependent on the community. There were no land barons, big corporations, or political bosses here. The major income producers were agriculture, timber and cattle.

The largest store in town was the Yowell-Duckworth Department Store, a five-story building on the southeast corner of Orange and Central Avenue. The two-story State Bank building stood at the southeast corner of Pine and Orange Avenue. The town had one Methodist Church, one Baptist Church, one Presbyterian Church, one Episcopal Church, and one Roman Catholic Church. The two-story brick post office built in 1917 stood at the northeast corner of Central Avenue and Court Street. The five-story San Juan Hotel was at the corner of Orange and Central where the Rotary club met for the first several years of its existence. The Board of Trade, which became the Chamber of Commerce, was housed in the former Rosalind Club of that time, a wooden one-story structure with a porch that stood where the Angebilt Hotel now stands on Orange Avenue.

The Angebilt is where Rotary's charter night was held May 12, 1920. At that time in Orlando there were 33 miles of paved roads and 35 miles of sidewalks. There were 78 miles of brick roads in Orange County. The city had three banks, 150 real estate dealers, two daily newspapers, the Orlando Morning Sentinel and the Evening Reporter-Star. There was one hospital, Orange General, at the present location of the Orlando Regional Healthcare System. The Florida Sanatorium on Lake Estelle was 12 years old and annually served 1,000 patients who came from all over the U. S. and Canada. A privately owned utility company furnished the city with electricity and water. There were 243 radio receiving sets in greater Orlando, but no broadcasting station. Women's right to vote became the law of the land in 1919; the first woman alderman of the City of Orlando was elected in 1919; Eugene Duckworth was elected mayor of Orlando in 1919.

The first landing field for airplanes was opened in December, 1919, on West Washington Street. The first ride in an airplane to view Orlando from the air was auctioned off and won by

Walter W. Rose for \$40. Orange General Hospital opened in 1918. Dr. J. S. McEwan had been a prime mover in getting it built. N. P. Yowell, W. L. Tilden and M. O. Overstreet were on the board of directors.

July 1 to July 11, 1920, was designated as "rat killing week," and a \$10 prize was offered to the person killing the most rats in the city limits.

Florida and Orlando were ready to grow. Savings of wealthy investors and industrialists were pent up after World War I and they could not travel to war-torn Europe so they came to Florida. The advent of the automobile gave them a way other than riding a train to get here. They came and found the warm winters and beautiful surroundings and many of them settled here and the land boom started.

Orlando was ripe for Rotary. Most leading citizens were already practicing the Rotary motto of "Service above self" and "He profits most who serves best." Through its rigid classification system, Rotary brought together many leaders other than the merchants and lawyers who normally are at the forefront of progressive civic projects. Every member of Rotary was young, enthusiastic and able. Nine of the original 18 charter members eventually became President of the Rotary Club of Orlando.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Tampa, the new Orlando club's preliminary organizational meeting was held April 2, 1920. The charter and installation night was May 12, 1920, with delegations from Rotary Clubs of Tampa, Jacksonville, Palatka, St. Augustine, Lakeland, Ocala and Gainesville present.

The first President of the Orlando club was J. P. Holbrook; vice President, **DeWitt Miller**; secretary, **S. Kendrick Guernsey**; treasurer, **S. Waters Howe**; sergeant-at-arms, **William M. Glenn**.

Each charter member was a leader in his business or profession as well as a leader in the community. In a very short time they found they could have fun working together in Rotary for the benefit of the community. The charter members were:

Dean Adcock, Religion, pastor First Baptist Church.

C. G. "Cank" Brown, Clothier, San Juan's Men's Store, leading clothier to men in Orlando.

Nixon Butt, Tires, Tire dealer, later stock broker, later real estate investor and then an automobile dealer. He was a physically small man with lots of friends and enthusiasm. Nixon was President of the club 1930-31. It was not unusual for businessmen to change vocations during the period of the "Great Depression." The classification committee had to scramble and use some creative ability to keep some of its valuable charter members. Nixon was active in state politics and in 1941 was appointed as a commissioner on the State Road Board.

Donald A. Cheney, Public Utilities, vice president of Orlando Water and Light Co., which was sold to the City of Orlando in 1923. Don was born in Orlando in 1889, attended Rollins Academy, where he was a member of the football squad, the track team and the crew. He graduated from Dartmouth College. When the office of Juvenile Judge for Orange County was created by the Florida Legislature, Don became the first juvenile judge. He promoted the establishment of the Orange County Parental Home, the first in Florida. A trustee of Rollins College for many years, he lived to be oldest charter member of the Rotary Club. He died at age 94 with 63 years of service in Rotary. Don was also a scoutmaster and an organizer of the

Central Florida Council of Boy Scouts and was awarded the Silver Beaver. He founded the Orange County Historical Museum and headed it from 1957 to 1981. He founded the Orange County Historical Society in 1971 and was President for 10 years. In the early days of the Rotary Club, Don led the singing and was part of the first Rotary quartette. He was chairman of the Orlando Rotary Club's 50th anniversary celebration in 1970.

E. G. Duckworth, Capitalist, mayor of Orlando 1920-1924, was born in 1875. He came to Orlando in 1885 at age 10 with his adoptive parents and opened his own shoe store at the age of 17. One of the most important things he did during his life was to serve as mayor of Orlando. He may have made a greater personal sacrifice than anyone before or since to become mayor because he resigned his position and sold his holdings in Yowell-Duckworth Department Store to be able to take the position of mayor. He was recognized as being one of most progressive mayors in Orlando's history. He saw that the necessary legislation was enacted to enable the City to buy the water and light plant, and then campaigned successfully to persuade residents to vote favorably for the purchase. Next, he sponsored legislation to create the Orlando Utilities Commission, one of the most successful local utility authorities in the country. He expanded the Orlando city limits, new sewer lines, built the first public library in the city, acquired three parks, purchased the first fairgrounds, created the first 100 percent professional fire department and put the police department on a 24-hour basis. During his last year of office, two rebel commissioners blocked most of his appointments and killed most of his new projects. He was elected for another three-year term, but so were his opponents. He resigned, saying he could not function as mayor with the majority of council opposing him on every matter.

In 1936, he ran for justice of the peace, was elected and served until his death at age 84 in 1959. The Exchange Club honored him with its Golden Deeds Award. Probably the most traumatic thing that happened to Gene while he was mayor took place in 1921: Sitting as the municipal judge, he had just fined John Brown \$100 for a minor city infraction, when a man entered the courtroom and shot Brown to death. The gunman accused Brown of forcing his attentions on the assailant's wife and was acquitted of the murder charge in circuit court.

V. W. (Doc) Estes, Druggist, and later investor was elected mayor of Orlando, 1935-37. He was president of the Chamber of Commerce in 1926-27, a period in which land was acquired for the new chamber building at 113 East Central Avenue. Estes arranged the financing. The mortgage was paid off and the building dedicated during his term when the "Great Depression" was beginning to end. The armory on West Livingston was built and the airport was expanded. Doc was a practical and highly ethical businessman and community leader.

S. Kendrick (Ken) Guernsey, Hardware, (his classification was later changed to Capital Investments). He was Orlando's No. 1 Rotarian. One of the most active and popular native sons of Orlando, he attended Orlando public schools and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. He was a leader in the Methodist Church. Ken was the first secretary of our club, and the second President, 1921-22. He led the singing and made Orlando a "singing club," which it has remained for 75 years. He was a great joke teller and had the club in an uproar at meetings, but public affairs were considered seriously. Ken published the first Rotoptimist. Under his direction, the Orlando club sponsored the Sanford club. He was district governor in 1923-24, which then consisted of the states of Florida and Georgia. Ken was chairman of first Planning and Zoning Board of Orlando, president and chairman of the Board

of Trade and then Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce for its first two years. The Chamber was the successor to the Board of Trade. Ken also served as a member of the State Road Board, was on the Boys' Work Committee for Rotary International (RI) in the Rotary year, 1924-25, was vice president of RI in 1926, president of RI, 1947-48, and chairman of the RI convention in Tokyo in 1960.

In 1923 he provided the S. Kendrick Guernsey Good Citizenship Award that was a cherished honor for an outstanding Orlando High School (OHS) senior each year. Ken moved to Jacksonville in 1941 to become executive vice president of the Gulf Life Insurance Co. Later he became President then Chairman of the Board. For years after leaving Orlando, until his health failed, he returned to Orlando for the last Rotary meeting of each year (designated Ken Guernsey Day) to speak to our club.

William M. (Bill) Glenn, Newspapers, editor, journalist, and newspaper artist. He was a graduate of Depauw University in Indiana, became part owner of the old Orlando Morning Sentinel in 1914, and bought out his partner, Walter Essington, in 1925. In 1931 Glenn sold his interest to Charles E. Marsh of Texas who bought both the Sentinel and the Orlando Evening Star and combined them. Almost immediately Marsh brought in Martin Andersen who later acquired both newspapers. Billy Glenn continued to write editorials for the Sentinel as well as the highly popular column he called "The Town Slouch." Bill was a respected newspaperman and was one of the founders of the national honorary journalism fraternity, Sigma Delta Chi. Bill was President of the Rotary Club, 1938-39.

J. P. Holbrook, Real Estate, a citrus developer and later developer of Edgewater Heights, a well-known residential section around Lake Adair. J.P. came to Orlando in 1908, became an automobile dealer and drove the first Model T Ford to Orlando. Probably because he dealt in selling orange groves, he wore cowboy boots every day. He was a colorful, distinguished looking individual. He died at age 76 after 41 years in Rotary. J.P. was the first president of the Orlando club. During his tenure, Rotary participated in a move to have a central fund raising organization established for all charities. But it was years later before the Community Chest was created.

Carey Hand, Funeral Director, had the dignified look of a mortician. Formerly a furniture dealer, he built a beautiful funeral chapel in 1918 on Pine St. and built the first crematory south of Washington D. C. in 1925. Most of his caskets came to him unfinished and he and his staff did the upholstery and trim. He was interested in helping boys get a good start in life, and he was a benefactor of the Boy Scouts. He preferred to help people directly and one time paid the admission charge so all the children in Orlando could go to the fair. He built the equivalent of the first mall in Orlando at North Orange Avenue and Livingston St.

S. Waters Howe, Banker, executive vice president of the State Bank of Orlando. He was a student at Rollins College the first day it opened and was treasurer of the Orlando Rotary Club for its first eight years.

J. S. McEwan, Physician and Surgeon, helped organize several early hospitals in Orlando and was a leader in establishing Orange General Hospital which opened in 1918. He received his M.D. degree from Northwestern University. A leading surgeon, he performed a major operation once to save a patient's life by removing a portion of a cancerous windpipe. He served in the medical corps in World War I, and built one of the most beautiful white

colonial homes in Orlando on Delaney Street (it continues to stand today). Two of his sons became Rotarians, Robert (now deceased), a medical technician, and O. B. McEwan, an attorney. Dr. J.S. organized the Orlando Clinic now headed by Dr. Byron Thames, a past president of the Orlando Rotary Club. At one time, Dr. Jack underwent surgery. When the adhesive tape was removed, it hurt so badly that Dr. J. S. vowed never again to snatch adhesive tape from his patients, but to go slow and easy.

DeWitt (Bull) Miller, Hotels, owned and operated the Wyoming Hotel, Orlando's leading resort Hotel at Amelia and Magnolia. During World War II he was administrator of Orange General Hospital. A big, happy, jovial fellow, he was the third president of the club, 1922-23. During his year, the Rotoptimist began to be published on a weekly basis. The Eustis Rotary Club was sponsored and chartered. That fine club set a record for attending several RI conventions with 100 percent of its members.

The first paragraph of DeWitt's message to new members inducted during his term read, "You have been chosen to membership in this Rotary Club because your fellow members believe you to be a leader in your particular line of activity and because you have manifested those qualities of head and heart which fit you to interpret and impart the message of Rotary to your fellowman. You are the only representative of your vocation in this club and any contribution of an educational nature pertaining to your craft must come to us through you. On the other hand, you become the ambassador from us to your classification and it becomes your duty to carry the ideals and principles of service which we inspire to the men whom you have the honor to represent."

M. O. "Mose" Overstreet, Manufacturer. Mose was 51 and was one of the older charter members. He was one of the most influential citizens in Central Florida. Born in Georgia, one of 15 children, he remained on the family farm until he was 29 to assist in raising his sisters and brothers. He came to Florida in 1898, was married in 1900 to Ethel Chapman, of Plymouth, Florida, and moved to Orlando in 1903. He owned and operated a turpentine company and was president of the People's Bank, predecessor of The First National Bank, which later became SunBank. He also owned and operated a lumber mill and orange crate factory. A man who loved the land, he was the largest land owner in Orange and Seminole Counties in 1927. He served on the Orlando City Council, and the Orange County Commission where he was chairman for 12 years. He was elected to the state senate in 1920 and served eight years. The 3,500 year old cypress tree on U.S. 17-92 in Seminole County, on land he donated, is called "The Senator" in his honor. In 1916, he built one of the finest colonial brick homes in the city on Rosalind between Central and Pine. It was unfortunate that it was demolished to make way for the glass tower (formerly Southeast Bank.) Two of the unusual walnut solid core flush doors that were in his house now serve as conference tables in the Orange County Museum. He gave part of Pine Street to the city and donated the land for a number of church sites. For many years his company owned and operated Sanlando Springs as a recreational park.

F. Gray Rush, Automobiles. An early auto dealer, at one time Gray had both Ford and Hupmobile agencies. A native of Mississippi, he was the son of a pioneer medical doctor in Orange County. He married an Orlando native and raised two sons, Fletcher and James, both attorneys and leading community leaders in Orlando. They were not Rotarians, but espoused the ideals of Rotary in their own lives.

Wilbur L. (Tilly) Tilden, Attorney, later a judge. He was known throughout the state as an upright, leading lawyer. Born in west Orange County, Tilly was educated in local schools, Stetson University and Washington and Lee. He had deep roots in Orange County, was the great grandson of Judge Speer, who named Orlando. The Tilden family members were noted for integrity. As a young attorney, he handled a land deal for his uncle and managed to get a little more money than the uncle thought it was worth. When the uncle heard about it, he scolded his nephew and made him rework the sale. Tilly was president of the Chamber of Commerce and the fourth president of the Orlando Rotary Club, 1923-24. During Tilly's year the club set an all time record of attendance-97.83 percent average for the year and for having the most 100 percent meetings in one year-18. The first classification talks were introduced during his year.

Sam Y. Way, Fire Insurance, opened an insurance agency in the year 1900 after coming to Orlando in the middle 1880s. In 1947, he was given an award for being the oldest insurance agent of U.S. Fidelity & Guaranty Company. He took an interest in the community upon arrival and became a member of the Orlando Guard. Over the years he served as alderman, city treasurer, chairman of the school board and clerk of the criminal court. He was elected and served as mayor during the depth of the depression, 1932-34, and again from 1938-40. During his first term he spent his time cutting expenses. He failed on one item which was good for the city. He tried to get the city released from its contract to purchase Herndon Airport from Dr. Phillips. Dr. Phillips won the case in court.

Harry. S. Wilson, Shoes, came to Orlando in 1917 and opened a shoe store, and was later joined in his business by his son, Glenn. Both were faithful Rotarians all of their lives.

During the year of 1920, seven new members were inducted into the Orlando Rotary Club: Four of these men became presidents of the club. Because of their early membership and their contributions to the community, they are mentioned here briefly.

Newton P. (Newt) Yowell was President of the club in 1926-27. His family came to Florida in 1884 for his father's health. After his father died a year later, Newt went to work in a dry goods store at age 14 to support the family. He opened his own store at age 23 and, with Gene Duckworth, formed Yowell-Duckworth Department Store in 1913. They built what was the largest downtown building at that time at the southeast corner of Orange and Central. Newt bought out Gene and took on a new partner in 1919 and changed the name to Yowell-Drew Co. He was a leading entrepreneur in Orlando, and assisted in the establishment of several firms providing many services and products and then withdrawing after the companies were able to operate on their own. He also believed in new ideas for the city and the community. He traveled to New York by boat from Jacksonville each year to buy merchandise for his store and was ever-conscious of new ideas in merchandising. He and his wife raised two sons and three daughters in Orlando. They built a large Florida style home with porches all the way around on a city block facing East Jackson St. near Rosalind Ave. As a Presbyterian, he formed and taught a Sunday School class of boys no one else could handle. That class later became the famous "Yowell's Young Presbyters." These men grew up to become the core of the civic, business and professional leadership in Orlando. Newt continued to teach the same group for 47 years. He petitioned the city for a one mil tax levy to build the first public library in Orlando and was at the forefront of many other civic movements. Newt was president of the

Chamber of Commerce in 1922. In November of 1921, Captain Charles Albertson donated 12,000 books for Orlando's new library at the northeast corner of Central and Rosalind and it was named the Albertson Public Library.

During Newt's term as president of Orlando Rotary, RI president Harry H. Rogers visited Orlando and spoke at a banquet of 456 Rotarians and their guests from throughout Florida. The Orlando newspapers called it "One of the finest gatherings to ever take place in Orlando." In May, a request was made by the advertising manager of the Rotarian Magazine that the club furnish him with names of the three wealthiest men in the club. The request was laughed down and the letter was filed in the wastepaper basket. Newt was honored by the Exchange Club with its annual Golden Deeds award in 1941. He received many other honors along the way, but that was probably his most cherished because it was given for the humanitarian work he did in the community. Newt operated his store with some strong convictions. One was that he advertized only in the Orlando daily newspapers. Every business manager of the Orlando High School annual tried to get him to break that rule; none succeeded, but most came away with a donation. He sold his store to Ivey's during World War II. His grandson, Bob Blackford, was president of the club for the year, 1991-92.

M. J. Daetwyler was a citrus grower and packer and owned a citrus nursery. Later he became a landscape planner and ornamental nurseryman. In 1921 he was president of the Chamber of Commerce. This very talented gentleman contributed much to the beauty and culture of "The City Beautiful." His Swiss ancestry made him a colorful and interesting figure as he rode horseback around his big Lake Conway estate and nursery.

Alfred (Alf) Bumby was the oldest of the Bumby children born in the United States. His father, Joseph Bumby Sr., came from England in 1872 as a railroad man. He got into the retail business and his first store sold feed, hay and farm implements. Next, he entered the hardware business in 1886 and built a two-story brick building on the southwest corner of Church St. and the railroad, where all the nine Bumby children worked at one time or another. Alf became president of the Bumby Corp. and served in that capacity for 32 years. His Rotary classification was changed to hardware when the family bought the Guernsey Hardware Co. in 1922. Bumby's became the most famous hardware store in Central Florida. A slogan used by many people: "Can't find it? Go to Bumby's." Noted for fair pricing and dealing, the company truly represented the ideals of Rotary. Two grandsons of Joseph Bumby later became president of the corporation and members of the Orlando Rotary Club, Alex Maddox and Stanley Bumby. Stanley was president of the club during the 1954-55 year.

Harry P. Leu was born in Orlando in 1884, worked as a boy in a livery stable and became a fireman on a train as a young man. At 20 he became an employee for Cain-O'Berry Boiler Co. He was bookkeeper, salesman, shipping clerk and trouble shooter. He began buying stock and soon owned enough stock to control the company. He then purchased the rest of the stock and changed the name to Harry P. Leu, Inc. Later on he expanded his property to include a square block at West Livingston, between Garland and the railroad and built up inventory until he was one of the largest mill suppliers in Florida. Harry was not only an astute businessman but was also a keen judge of character. He was about as close to a self-made man as one could be. He invested in real estate during the boom of 1920-27, but he was a survivor, knowing when "to hold 'em, when to fold 'em and when to walk away." He had several stores in other

cities. One of those was in Sanford, where Paul Stine was his manager. Stine and his sons would eventually take over from Leu when he became incapacitated. Harry P. Leu was a great proponent of better roads and used his business and political clout to get new roads.

He was president of the Rotary Club in 1924-25. His emphasis during his term was on getting people to pay their bills. He attended 29 consecutive RI conventions (believed to be a world record.) In the process, he made friends in Rotary from all over the world. The Rotary delegation from Orlando to Chicago on the 50th Anniversary of RI was met at the train station by Harry Leu. It was great to have this leading businessman and world traveler see that one's luggage was handled properly. He was president of the Chamber of Commerce in 1925. In 1939, Harry was kidnapped from his office and taken in his Packard automobile to west Orange County, robbed and released. He made his way back to Orlando alone. The car was recovered and the kidnapers were caught. Harry married late in life and purchased an old estate on Lake Rowena, where he concentrated on raising camellias and giving plants to friends as well. Finally he gave the estate to the city of Orlando. Leu Gardens is one of the show places in the City today. He was elected posthumously to the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame in 1980.

David Fishback and his family owned and operated an irrigation supply business. He had come to Orlando from Jacksonville to become a partner of Harry P. Leu. However, when Leu gained control of the Cain-O'Berry company, they split, Leu handling the mill supplies and Fishback handling the pumps, engines, compressors and irrigation equipment. David opened his business on Concord Street at the railroad. He was involved in many civic organizations, including being on the Orange General Hospital board of directors.

William S. Branch, Jr. was one of the most beloved men to become a Rotarian. A friendly quiet man who lived Rotary, he earned a living in his bookstore, which later became an office supply store called O'Neal Branch, and he served the community in many ways. He was organist for his church, the Cathedral Church of St. Luke, for many years and played the piano for the Rotary Club for more than 23 years. He was secretary of the club from 1921 until 1945 except for the year of 1925-26 when he was president. During his administration, many projects were completed, but one that many members will remember is that of building a mess hall at Boy Scout Camp Wewa. It was circular in construction, with a sloping roof and the eaves notched to match the cogs in a Rotary wheel. Bill McCree was mess sergeant (as a Boy Scout) in that mess hall in 1927. During his year, Bill Branch had nine purely Rotary programs. Winter Garden Rotary Club was sponsored by Orlando and chartered; 24 members of the Orlando club attended the RI convention in Cleveland, Ohio, the largest number of Orlando Rotarians to attend a convention until the Orlando convention in 1992. Another record to that date: 1,371 visitors attended Orlando meetings during the Rotary year.

Guy R. Ramsey, Civil Engineer, was inducted into the club Oct. 4, 1920, was president of the club in 1927-28 during the year in which the Florida boom burst. However, the membership climbed to 61 during the year. The club bought a silver trophy to award the champion high school football team in Florida each year. RI president Arthur H. Sapp visited Orlando in February 1928.

Bill Branch said about Guy Ramsey, "The hard boiled Guy, after long service as board member and secretary, was most successful in getting his committee chairman to work. He tried

a new scheme of making all new Rotarians committee heads, with excellent results." A new club at Apopka was sponsored and chartered during his administration. As city engineer in 1913, Guy did the engineering for the city's first sanitary sewer system. In 1915 he was in charge of construction of the first brick road in Orange County-a 15-mile section. He was elected a city commissioner in 1926. He moved to California in 1933.

The Orlando club was formed but with two ideas in mind: To serve the community and to learn about Rotary. Soon all members became believers. Most of the programs during the first few years came from the club members, giving them an excellent opportunity to know each other better.

During its first years, the club concentrated on local affairs and local organizations. "Orlando's greatest need" was the subject of many discussions during many meetings. Very often members would be appointed to investigate local needs or proposals and make a presentation to the club at a weekly meeting. A city planning board was recommended. A Boy Scout Council was organized under Don Cheney. Orlando Rotarians were the early promoters and fund raisers for a business school at Rollins. Prior to that time only liberal arts courses were offered. A central agency for raising charitable funds was discussed although it would be many years before the first community chest would come into being. Education was a main focus with many guests speaking on various educational needs and functions.

Other community leaders became members during those early years. A few are listed below:

Charles O. Andrews, Sr. was inducted in January, 1921. He was a native Floridian and attended UF, had taught school while attending the University of Virginia law school. He was elected bill secretary of the Florida Senate three times and served as a judge of the criminal court in West Florida. He was assistant attorney general for Florida, 1912-19. Upon recommendation of the Florida Bar Association, he was appointed circuit judge in Orange County in 1921 and was later elected president of the Florida Bar. He resigned his circuit judgeship in 1925 to become general counsel for the Florida Real Estate Commission and city attorney for Orlando. He served in the Florida Legislature in 1927 and as a justice of Supreme Court of Florida, 1929-1932. He was elected to the U. S. Senate in 1936 and died in 1946. In 1945, he was declared Orlando Rotary's most distinguished citizen. In 1949, the causeway on North Mills Avenue across Lake Estelle was dedicated to his memory by President Harry S. Truman.

Latta M. Autrey was inducted in September, 1921. He came to Florida from East Texas in early 1920 to head the Lake Wales Naval Stores Co. He settled in Orlando, because adequate housing and office space was not available in Lake Wales. He and his family liked it so well here that they stayed and built an outstanding home at Magnolia and Hillcrest which is now an office building designated as an historical monument. He left his basic business in 1925 and went into real estate investments as did so many other business men in the boom days. He built a number of buildings. The best remembered is the Autrey Arcade on Orange Avenue just north of Washington Street. Autrey was a dynamic leader and took part in community service with real enthusiasm. He was elected mayor and served from 1926-28. During his term, the size of the city nearly doubled; the city got its largest expansion of paved streets to date; Herndon Airport was purchased; the Municipal Auditorium (now Bob Carr Theater) was built;

the first permanent planning and zoning commission was installed; first park board appointed (with three Rotarians on it); the police department was reorganized under a chief brought from Texas (to try to cut crime without local interference). Autrey was another Rotarian who made a tremendous sacrifice to serve as mayor of this fast growing city. Unfortunately, this progressive community leader went broke during the boom along with many others. But he returned to the naval stores business in South Georgia and regained some of the fortune he lost in Florida.

Coite W. Hill, inducted in April, 1921, was the Mack truck dealer. The Mack was sometimes referred to as Bull Dog Mack. He served as president, 1932-33.

Walter W. Rose was inducted in April, 1921, with the classification of Real Estate. He was Orlando's most prominent developer of restricted subdivisions from 1913 until his death in 1958. His subdivisions included Oak Hill, Rosearden, (part of College Park), Buena Vista, Eola Rose, Rosemere, Rose Terrace, two Orwin Manors, Beverly Shores, Rose Isle, and Rosemere. His personal slogan was: "Deliver the Service and the Dollars Will Take Care of Themselves." His advertised slogan: "Rose knows where Money Grows." In many of his subdivisions, individual home plans submitted by lot buyers had to be approved by his architect. He served as president of the Orlando Realty Board and the Florida State Association of Realtors and was a Vice President of the national association. His personal rule was to devote half of his work day to community and state affairs. He helped organize the Florida State Baseball League. He became the state senator for this area during the depression and served with distinction as an advocate of home ownership. He introduced and followed through to completion, Florida's first homestead exemption laws which prevented thousands of Floridians from losing their homes for failure to pay taxes during the "Great Depression." He was highly respected by his fellow members of the Florida Legislature. In 1928 Walter was the intended victim of an extortion plot with a promise to physically hurt him and his family. He contacted the police and they, in cooperation with the sheriff, caught the culprit, who was convicted and spent a long time in prison. Walter Rose is believed to have had perfect attendance for almost all his time as a member of the Rotary Club. During his later years, before the attendance requirements were relaxed after age 65, he came to the club religiously, sat in the rear for 10 minutes and left. Considerable pressure was put on Bill McCree to discuss the matter with Walter during Bill's term as president, 1955-56. Bill said he thought a lot about the matter but decided, "When a man has been a member of the club for 44 years and is over 65 years of age and is willing to come for 10 minutes every week to keep up his and his club's high attendance record, he must really be proud to be a Rotarian and Rotary must mean a great deal to him. I am not going to hurt him by fussing at him for breaking the rule about the percentage of time spent at meetings."

George S. Nash, Abstractor, was secretary and treasurer of the Central Florida Abstract and Title Guaranty Co. at 29 East Central Ave. He was inducted into Orlando Rotary in 1922 and served as president, 1928-29. Membership dropped from 61 to 55 during the year because of damage done to citrus by the Mediterranean Fruit Fly. In those days, the economy depended heavily on citrus. The Rotary club promoted education of its membership on fruit fly eradication.

During this period, recognition of members' birthdays began. In spite of bad conditions due to the boom's bust and the fruit fly, the club sent \$500 to West Palm Beach for hurricane relief. President George's previous experience as program chairman and his work as educational chairman under President Ramsey gave him excellent training. He insisted on, and had, the best programs to date during his year. He was also program chairman for the District 39 Conference in Atlanta and was general chairman for the Orlando conference that came the following year. George realized the great importance of superior programs for a successful Rotary Club. George Nash served as an elected city commissioner for the term 1931-1933.

Victor T. Powe, Telephone Service, was the 10th president of the club and served 1929-30. He was inducted into Orlando Rotary in 1927. He was the district manager for Southern Bell in Orlando and his leadership talents were quickly recognized. Many Southern Bell district managers have rendered great service to Orlando Rotary and to the communities they serve. Southern Bell either picked community-minded individuals to be district managers or trained them to have an interest in the community in which they were serving. It was a tough year because the stock market crash and bank failures were added to the ending of the Florida boom in 1927. But Rotary continued to serve the community in many ways and that year celebrated the 25th anniversary of the beginning of Rotary in Chicago. Vic was promoted and moved in the last months of 1930.

Horace Jacobs, Printer, was inducted in 1923, and served as president in 1942-43. There was not a Rotarian more dedicated to the club and to Rotary principles than Horace Jacobs.

Other Rotarians taken in during the decade left their marks on the community in different ways:

Joshua C. Chase, Citrus Grower, headed one of the largest citrus growing and shipping firms in Central Florida. His company's groves were considered to be the best cared for and the producers of the best fruit in the area.

Manuel H. Jones, Cash Feed Co., became a member in 1927 and was loyal for 13 years. Manuel was active in his church, Broadway Methodist, having served as Sunday school superintendent for 20 years.

J. C. Brossier, Newspapers. J. C. came to Orlando from Miami in 1916 to work as a reporter with his twin brother, R. B., who had purchased the Reporter-Star, the afternoon daily in Orlando. Together they built the newspaper into a popular and profitable institution in fierce competition with the Orlando Morning Sentinel of Bill Glenn, another Orlando Rotarian. Finally the two publishing companies got together and stopped cutting advertising rates. Sometimes they even agreed on editorial policies. Like Bill Glenn, the Brossiers were community minded. They were active in the Chamber of Commerce and other promotional organizations. Probably their greatest contribution was the Orlando Newsboys' Band. The newspaper hired a professional band leader who not only produced a boys' band that played often locally, but also traveled to the North and the East in the summer advertising Orlando. They once played for President Hoover and later at Chautauqua, N. Y. where they were sandwiched between the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra and John Phillips Sousa's Band-the first youth band to share such an honor. When the two daily newspapers were combined and sold in 1931, J. C. stayed on as editor for

the new owners. J. C. became a Rotarian in 1928, dropped out for two years in the early 1940s, then rejoined and served many years as an active member of the club.

Clarence Gay joined the club in 1929 as the secretary of the Orlando Chamber of Commerce. He became clerk of the circuit court about 1932. He was appointed state comptroller and had to resign from Orlando Rotary in 1946. He was reelected twice to the comptroller's post. In 1955 he returned to Orlando to become president of the Citizens Bank of Orlando and rejoined the Rotary Club. **John T. Graham**, head of Stewart Mellon Tile Co., joined the club in 1927. He served a term on the board of directors, but his big contribution to the community came after W.W.II and will be described in that chapter.

Other community leaders who became long time Rotarians during those first 10 years included:

Joe McCormick, Lumber and Millwork dealer. He amassed one of the earliest longtime perfect attendance records (more than 35 years).

Dr. T.A. Neal, Physician.

Harry N. Dickson, Auditor of Department Stores.

Jake Burkhard, Plumber.

Chester Russ, Mattress Manufacturing.

Harrison McMains, Osteopathic Physician.

Harold Stevens, Plant Pathology.

Fred Tedger, Refined Petroleum Products.

Asher Peter, Cemeteries.

John Wigfall, Laundry.

Merle McElroy, Druggist.

B. M. Robinson, Clerk of Circuit Court, who also served as mayor of Orlando from 1903-04.

Lyle H. (Gibby) Gibbs, inducted in the spring of 1930, was a long-time, faithful member of the club who practiced the high ideals of Rotary. He not only sought out good men for membership, but also stacked up an enviable record for perfect attendance. He attended several Rotary International Conventions and at every weekly meeting added much to the friendliness of the club.

Although Orlando did not fly as high or roar as much as some other parts of Florida (because of Orlando's conservative settlers), and its "boom and bust" was not as bad as in other places, Orlando was invaded with a lot of people who came to make a quick buck. Much progress was made before the end of the boom came. Three additional banks were organized in the early 1920s and three failed in the late '20s. Florida National Bank took over the third new bank in 1929 and two of the banks in business in 1920 failed in 1929. Several savings and loan associations came into existence. The Orange County Building and Loan Association survived to join with the newly created First Federal Savings and Loan Association in 1933. Land prices skyrocketed. Almost every businessman was involved in real estate in one way or the other. Subdivisions appeared all over the county without rhyme or reason. Most transactions were done on paper without much cash, making the profits high for awhile and the crash more pronounced when it came. The boom commenced to cool in late 1925 with an embargo on rail transportation, due to the tremendous demand for building materials and other

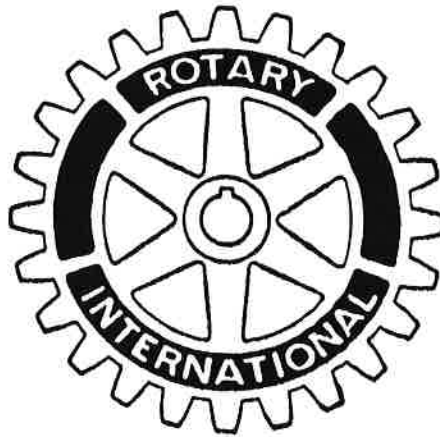
goods. The Florida Boom actually hit bottom in 1927 before the stock market crash of 1929. To add to economic woes, the Mediterranean Fruit Fly struck Orange County in 1929. Thousands of boxes of fruit were lost; 66,500 boxes of fruit ready for shipment were destroyed and 11,000 acres of citrus were quarantined.

Many changes took place in Orlando in 1920-30: The Orlando skyline also changed. The first high-rises were built: The Angebilt Hotel, 1923; the 10-story State Bank building at the northeast corner of Orange and Central, 1923; the 10-story Orlando Bank & Trust, at the southwest corner of Orange and Pine St., 1924; the four-story First National Bank building at the northwest corner of Orange and Church St., 1930. In addition, a multi-storied addition to the San Juan Hotel was built of masonry concrete and steel using Spanish architecture; the Dickson-Ives Department Store was built on the southwest corner of Orange and Central; the new Spanish style railroad station was built at Columbia Street and the railroad; the Albertson Public Library was built on the northwest corner of Central and Rosalind; the Municipal Auditorium (now the Bob Carr Auditorium) was built on West Livingston Street; the City Hall was moved into the former school building at Jackson and Orange Avenue; a new Orlando Senior High School building was built on East Robinson Street (the school is now Howard Middle School) and occupied in 1927; Cherokee Junior High was built in 1926-27; Grand Avenue and Princeton Elementary Schools were occupied in 1927; the new limestone courthouse was built on the southwest corner of Main Street (now Magnolia) and Washington Street in 1926-27; the new Spanish styled Chamber of Commerce was built at 113 East Central Ave. This building became the permanent meeting place for the Orlando Rotary Club for next 37 years, until it was demolished to make way for construction of the present day Orlando Public Library.

All major church buildings were expanded or new ones built. Dozens of new churches were organized. The Orlando light and water plant was purchased by the city under the newly-chartered Orlando Utilities Commission authority in 1922. The first radio station (WDBO) began broadcasting from Rollins College in 1924 and the first remote broadcast was made from the Angebilt Hotel in 1926 by Ken Guernsey. The station was acquired by Colonel George Johnson, a Rotarian, in 1925. It grew rapidly to become popular and profitable. WDBO later built and operated Channel 6 TV.

The first traffic signal lights were installed in 1924. The first air mail was inaugurated March 1, 1929, and a site for a new airport on the east side of Orlando was purchased. The population of Orlando tripled to 27,500 and the county's population doubled-in spite of the loss of many who were wiped out by the boom.

After 10 years the Rotary Club of Orlando had a membership of 78, showing a solid steady growth. Average attendance was 93.7 percent for the 10 years. Rotary was alive and healthy although the economy had sunk to an all time low.



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 GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
- 4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?**



CHAPTER TWO

The Great Depression and Recovery 1930-40

The year 1930 might well be described as "the bottom of the Great Depression." After the "Boom and Bust" of the previous decade, everyone in the country, including the Rotarians in Orlando, were near the end of their economic rope and it was believed that we could go no further down; that the only way we could go was up. However, there were a good many business failures in the early 1930s. Because financial resources had dwindled after the catastrophes of the past three years, most people were beginning to adjust to a lower standard of living. Rotarians for the most part accepted the situation and set about on the slow road to recovery. Unfortunately, the federal government was three years away from adopting policies to help the population get back on its feet and many administration officials would consistently forecast that "good times are just around the corner" without doing anything to help the economy turn that corner. Locally, taxes were lowered, budgets were lowered and economies were instituted to reduce the expense of local government. As has been mentioned previously, at the urging of State Sen. Walter W. Rose, Rotarian, the legislature passed the Homestead Exemption Law, which helped many Florida families retain their homes. With the advent of the election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his "New Deal" program in 1932, the country started the slow road to recovery. Basic social legislation was adopted by the U. S. Congress after FDR took office, and most of it, for better or worse, has remained in one form or another. Several of President Roosevelt's programs were temporary in nature, but Social Security and unemployment insurance were here to stay and the federal government committed itself to the beginning of welfare programs, of one form or another which, would never end.

Nixon Butt, president for 1930-31, was a typical businessman of the times. When he became a charter member he was a tire dealer. During the boom he became a Realtor and investor, and in the depression he became an automobile dealer, first with Ford and then with Packard, considered by some old timers to be the best automobile ever built. At one time he was agent for Cord and Auburn, cars whose styling would be acceptable today. Many Rotarians kept the classification committee busy trying to find classifications to allow the club to keep some of the Rotarians who had switched occupations. Rotarians became very jealous of their classifications and sometimes were reluctant to make way for anyone else in a similar vocation. Nixon pushed attendance by winning a contest with West Palm Beach for the greatest number of perfect attendance meetings (four at 100 percent). He also established close working relations with Kiwanis, Lions, Exchange and Civitan through inter-service club meetings.

He was an outgoing popular little man whom everybody liked. Long time Rotarians who became members during his administration includes:

George A. Barker, Sr., Outdoor Advertizing. George served on the school board for many years.

William J. Mullin, Retired Traffic Consultant. He served on the Orlando Zoning Board, the Orange Memorial Hospital Board and several other community organizations.

H. R. Cloud, Electric Light and Power and president of the club, 1934–35.

K. C. Moore, State Agricultural Extension Agent. During its second decade, despite the depression, Orlando Rotary continued to attract good solid members as well as a number of dynamic individuals that made a definite impact on the metropolitan area.

The Orlando Rotary Club inducted a new member, **Martin Andersen**, who would have more influence and affect on Central Florida than any other person for the next 35 years. Andersen, publisher of Orlando Daily Newspapers, Inc., was a native of Mississippi and had become a newspaperman at the age of 15, editing and managing his school paper. He also was a former Rotarian in Austin, Texas. He began buying stock in the newspaper company and by 1945 was the sole owner. He later related to Bill McCree: "Upon arrival in Orlando, I soon discovered it had the most dedicated, civic minded group of business and professional men in the country. I considered it my responsibility to encourage and support them in their efforts to build a better and more beautiful community." And that he did in a magnanimous way. He got behind every worthwhile community project and backed the leaders with news stories and editorials. Rotary International rules allow more than one newspaper man in the clubs—an exception granted to that classification and the classification of clergyman. The Sentinel and the Star were represented by Andersen and J. C. Brossier until J. C.'s health prevented him from attending. Andersen resigned from the club in 1936, being unable to maintain his attendance, but his interest in the club and his support for Rotary projects never wavered. The club continued to have two active Rotarians as writers to report on the meetings and activities until Andersen sold the paper in 1965. In 1966, Martin Andersen was elected an honorary member.

Andersen used the power of the press for the good of Orlando. Anyone wanting his backing for a project would first have to convince Andersen it was good for Orlando and, second, that the proponents had the energy and ability to furnish the leadership and stickability to see the project through to completion. It is not possible to mention all of the projects he backed. A biography being written by Rotarian Ormund Powers will provide the details. Andersen began the beautification of Orlando with azaleas by buying thousands of small plants and selling them for cost or below. One project he initiated had perhaps the most far reaching effect of any. In the late 1940's and early '50s, he took advantage of the opposition of local merchants along U. S. 1 on the East Coast to building the turnpike from Miami to Jacksonville. The merchants believed it would hurt their businesses. Andersen convinced the state to reroute the Turnpike inland to bypass Orlando on the South and West. Then the interstate system was built making Orlando the crossroads of Florida traffic. Disney (the only major happening not directly promoted by the civic leadership of Orlando) came because of that highway system and the excellent airport we had and Orlando became the entertainment capital of the world.

Sam Way, Fire Insurance, a charter member, was president for the Rotary year 1931–32.

During this year, long time Rotarians inducted were:

Major Walsh, Salvation Army.

J. A. Mooneyham, Telephone Service, Southern Bell district manager.

Harry B. Vincent, Motion Pictures.

Harry A. Baldwin, Cigars and Tobacco, wholesale.

Ben Carpenter, Citrus Fruit Grower, and a future club president.

Dr. Duncan McEwan, Surgeon. Duncan was a member for five years and dropped out because of difficulty with attendance. He missed Rotary and rejoined in a few years and became a staunch member of the club. His presentations at fireside meetings will always be remembered by those who attended them. Duncan, like his uncle and predecessor, Dr. J. S. McEwan, was a highly skilled and ethical physician and held in high regard throughout the community. He was active in the medical community, and was elected in 1954 as president of the Florida Medical Association. He founded the Orlando Clinic. His Son, Bruce is a 24-year veteran of the club at the time of this writing.

Coite W. Hill was president during 1932-33. A club soft ball team, organized by President Hill, won the intercity civic club championship. The Orlando Rotary Club also won an intercity contest for having the most members present at a combined meeting held with other civic clubs to discuss support for the Chamber of Commerce. 78 of 80 Rotarians attended. In his newspaper column, Will Rogers, famous cowboy humorist and philosopher, complimented the Orlando Rotary Club, five other civic clubs and the Chamber of Commerce for suspending luncheons for 60 days: "March 20, 1933—Orlando, Florida, has seen the light and has suspended six civic (eating) clubs. . . for 60 days. . . This country just civic-luncheoned itself into a depression. If they will all go home and eat with their own families, they will not only get their first good lunch in years, but will be surprised how much more intelligently their own wife can talk, than 'the speaker of the day.' God Bless Orlando, Florida."

As evidence of their belief in community service, Coite and Mrs. Hill's will established a scholarship fund for qualified needy students. The president of the Orlando Rotary Club continues to serve as a trustee of that fund. Over the years the fund has disbursed thousands of dollars to needy worthy students. Outstanding community leaders who were inducted during Coite's administration included:

William R. Boone, Principal of Orlando High School, basketball coach and, according to his students, the best history teacher ever. He endeared himself so much to the educational community that when he died in 1952 on his last day before moving into a new building, the new high school was named W. R. Boone High School.

W. R. (Patches) Woods served as club president for 1933-34. He had joined the club in 1929 with the classification Coal, Retailing. This classification was switched to Fuel Oil, Retail, as that kind of fuel became available for heating buildings. Patches was a big man with gray bushy hair who laughed easily. He established a level of service in his vocation that continued after he sold his company in 1944. Programs during his year included several joint efforts with other service clubs and the Chamber of Commerce. Three future presidents of the club were inducted during President "Patches" year:

Jack Branham, Fire Insurance.

Whitney Spiegel, Real Estate Brokerage.

Linton E. Allen, Banking.

Other outstanding leaders who became members for a long period were:

Howard A. Gross, Carbonated Beverages (sergeant-at-arms for many years).

W. L. Thorpe, Furniture Retailing.

Arthur H. Park, Fire Insurance Rating Bureau. Arthur was a well known, long time perfect attender who became the Confederate Army historian of the club.

Charles Finley, Paint Retailing and, later, Fish and Game Commission.

Major Albert E. Walsh, Salvation Army.

Carl E. Wooten of Standard Brands, Inc., classification Yeast Distributing.

Harry O. Wimberly, Telegraph Service, who served faithfully as sergeant-at-arms from 1934 to 1944.

Holman R. Cloud, classification Electric Light and Power, was inducted into the club in 1931 and elected president for 1934-35. He became vice president and general manager of Florida Public Service Company in 1937. When his company merged with Sanford Gas and Santa Fe Land Company, he became a director of the Florida Power Corporation. In 1954, when Minute Maid bought out Dr. Phillips' grove holdings, Holman became president of Granada Growers, a subsidiary of Minute Maid. When Jack Fox left Minute Maid, now a part of Coca Cola Foods, in 1961, Cloud became president of Minute Maid. He was a director of the First National Bank from 1945 to 1963. He was president of the University Club in 1944 and was inducted posthumously into the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame in 1980.

Long Time Rotarian **Charles C. Potter**, CPA, of Potter Bower and Co., joined the club during Holman's year.

The 1935-36 president of the club was J. C. Robinson. J. C. was general manager of Yowell-Drew Co. and additional active to N. P. Yowell. It was the first of a few cases in which two Rotarians from the same firm served as president of the club. J. C. was one of several colorful individuals who made the Orlando Rotary Club interesting, fun, and pleasant. He was born in 1893 on a South Carolina farm, where his father had a tough time and finally lost the property on a foreclosure. As a young boy, his family suffered extreme hardship and actually had to walk from the farm to the closest town, Lancaster, S. C. He finished only five years of schooling, but educated himself at home, reading and studying such things as bookkeeping and English. His first job at age 10 was in a cotton mill. He came to Florida in 1925 and went to work for N. P. Yowell in the Daytona Beach store. Mr. Yowell recognized his talents and moved him to Orlando to make him the store superintendent and credit manager. J. C. was store manager when the company went into receivership during the depression, but was able, along with Yowell, to pull the store through. J. C. was president of the Orlando Chamber of Commerce in 1932. When the store was sold to Ivey's in 1944, he moved to Wheeling, W. Va., where he became president of two department stores—and a member of that Rotary Club also. He returned to Orlando and the Orlando Rotary Club about 1960 to retire, but managed the Tradewind's Cafeteria chain until his death with colon cancer in 1972. In spite of the pain, he told his son, Jim, before he died that the good thing about it was that he would never have to fire anyone anymore.

J. C. was a devout Presbyterian, active in the First Presbyterian Church, a strong disciplinarian and a tither. He believed in hard work and thought that stress was brought on by not knowing who you were and what you believed in. During W.W.I, J. C. married Agnes Bryan, an honor graduate from college, and in spite of some, who said the marriage wouldn't last, they remained married for more than 50 years. They raised three sons, William, Bryan and James, prominent Orlando attorney and a staunch Presbyterian. As president-elect, J. C. attended the RI convention in Mexico City along with Ben Carpenter. J. C. will always be remembered for his long cigar. We are told that when he attended church at First Presbyterian, he laid the cigar on the hedge outside and picked it up as he left the morning service.

Long time Rotarians were inducted during his year:

Two future club presidents, **Milt Vergowe**, Property Management, and **Harry Voorhis**, Lawyer and song leader.

Roy Horan, Golf Pro at the Country Club of Orlando.

R. B. Griffith, Abstracts & Titles and winner of a Silver Beaver Award for service with the Boy Scouts of America. He also was a member of the first board of directors of the Community Chest which was organized in 1938.

Dr. Robert P. Henderson, Urologist.

Victor Hill, Kitchen Appliances.

John T. (Jack) Branham joined the Orlando Rotary club in 1933 and was elected president in 1936-37. Outstanding leadership was always recognized quickly in the Orlando club, particularly during that decade. Many became presidents just a few years after joining. Jack's father and mother came to Orlando in 1885 on a honeymoon from Tennessee and liked the city so well that they stayed. The elder Branham built a home on the southeast side of Lake Lucerne, went into the citrus business and raised five children including Jack. The young man's college education at UF was interrupted by W.W.I. When he returned he entered Rollins. In 1925, he established an insurance firm with Richard (Dick) Tucker. The firm continues in business. Jack was a leader in many business and community organizations. He became a director of the First National Bank in 1938 and served on the credit policy committee of that board for 29 years. Linton Allen gave a great deal of credit to Jack and the other members of that committee for the steady growth and tremendous success of the bank. Jack was a long time member of the Orange Memorial Hospital Association board of directors and served as treasurer, vice president and president of the hospital. Another of Jack's special interests was the Central Florida Blood Bank. He was chairman of the initial fund raising committee to establish the Blood Bank in 1942 and served as treasurer for many years until being elected chairman. In 1980, he was elected chairman emeritus and remained in that honorary position until his death at the age of 93. Jack also served on the Orlando Utilities Commission from 1942 to 1954 and served three terms as president. He was an organizer and second president of the University Club in 1927. That organization was created as a social club for college graduates. At the bottom of the depression, when the Orlando Country Club was in danger of going bankrupt, he persuaded the mortgage holder to settle a \$200,000 debt for \$40,000. He was a life long deacon of the First Presbyterian Church. On March 8, 1937, during Jack's year as president of the club, Paul Harris, founder of Rotary, visited Orlando and was presented at an interclub meeting attended by 535 Rotarians and guests. Next day, Paul planted an oak tree at the northeast corner of Eola Park. The original tree died after many years and the Orlando Rotary Club replaced it with another tree and the original plaque.

While Jack was president, three future presidents of the club were inducted:

Alex Robinson, Stocks and Bonds.

Bob Robertson, Merchandise Warehousing.

Gus Lawton, Jeweler. Gus maintained the finest jewelry store in the city. His ad in the Sentinel always showed a square empty frame with the inscription: "A picture of a watch I can't fix." The large clock that once stood in front of his store was moved in 1960 to the new Sentinel-Star building at 633 N. Orange Ave. Gus was a popular bachelor who walked with a limp. No one knew that Gus was a professed atheist until he was called upon without notice to give the invocation for the Rotary luncheon. He replied he could not because he was an atheist.

Benjamin A. Carpenter, a Quaker farmer and citrus fruit grower, joined the club in 1932 and was elected to serve as president in 1937-38. Ben, who lived in what is now the Metro West Area, was often introduced as "The Squire of Turkey Lake," and was one of the most colorful members ever to wear the Rotary pin in Orlando. His peculiar but pleasing accent, his words of wisdom, his colorful programs on his travels and his picturesque appearance will never be forgotten by those who attended Rotary with him. During August after his election, he began his weekly Ben Franklin type of quotations and "Word for the Day." The first was: "Shun Idleness, it is the rust that attaches itself to the most brilliant of metals." He ended each meeting for the rest of his term with one of his favorite sayings. Many presidents who followed asked him for his "Word for the Day" at the close of each meeting and he never failed to come up with a short piece of philosophy. He traveled throughout the United States and took movies and slides of most of his travels. At the age of 60 he rafted down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon for a week. He once made the statement that if he knew a place in the U.S. that he had not been, he would go there. When he retired from traveling, he gave his camera to the Rotary Club to be auctioned off for the benefit of the Children's Home Society of Florida. Ben was a frequent attender of RI conventions. Bill McCree remembers two that Ben and he attended: At the Chicago convention, during the celebration of the golden anniversary of the Founding of Rotary International in 1955, Ben wore a straw hat and complained of a heart condition that slowed him down. However, when the meeting broke up, Ben's straw hat could be seen above the crowd traveling faster than any other Rotarian in the huge crowd. In New York City in 1959, at the "Dixie Dinner," one of several regional dinners, Ben almost blew his top because the Waldorf Astoria's waiters would not bring him a cup of coffee until after the meal. The waiters were nice but they paid no heed to his many supplications. Ben also had a gun collection, probably unequaled in Central Florida at the time. Dick Lawrence and Bill Roy tell of being invited to Ben's house at Turkey Lake to see the collection and witness some excellent shooting by Ben. Long time members of Rotary inducted in Ben's year:

Cloyd McClung, Air Conditioning.

Julian D. Howard, Fertilizer Manufacturing.

Marshall Lane, Termite Control, who was a faithful sergeant-at-arms for five years.

A. H. Reppard, Cooperative Loans.

Rabbi Morris A. Skop, Jewish Congregations.

Grover Ivey, popular Druggist and very active on the Orlando General Hospital board.

Charles Goodman, a Fire Insurance Agent.

William M. (Bill) Glenn, charter member and pioneer newspaperman became president in 1938, when he was associate editor of the Orlando Morning Sentinel. During his year, the club joined with Kiwanis to welcome Capt. Eddie Rickenbacher to Orlando and celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Orlando Airport (Herndon). The club donated \$300 to aid hard of hearing students. Harry Voorhis became official song leader. Three new Rotarians were inducted who would render great service to the club:

Doyle Darnold, Casualty Insurance, who served as club secretary from 1945 through 1963 except for 1960-61 when he was president.

Hamilton Gibson, Capital Investments. Ham served as editor of the Rotoptimist, club historian and author of the 25 year history from which most of the data of that period is taken. He also wrote a supplementary history covering the period, 1945-1955.

Jim Pittman, Building Materials, Retail, president of the club, 1945-46. The year of 1933 might be described by Rotarians who lived through it as the turning point in the Great Depression. Things could get no worse so they must get better, everyone reasoned. The First National Bank and Trust Company in Orlando was one of two surviving banks in the city and was forced to withstand repeated "runs" on its deposits. In March the governor of Florida declared a six day bank holiday. This was followed by a federal bank holiday which lasted much longer. In this crisis, and in its effort to replace the old First National with a new bank, two road builders who were stockholders of the old bank convinced Linton Allen, head of the Sanford Atlantic Bank, to move to Orlando and become executive vice president and cashier of the new First National Bank at Orlando, which opened on Feb. 14, 1934. This move had a far reaching effect on banking in Central Florida, The First Presbyterian Church in Orlando, the entire community surrounding Orlando and The Orlando Rotary Club.

Linton Allen was inducted into Rotary in April of 1934 and was elected president for 1939-40. Linton Allen was another community builder who entered the local scene during the Great Depression. Like his friend, Martin Andersen, Linton accomplished so much it is almost impossible to list his achievements or know how many parts of Central Florida that were affected by his being on the scene. He will be described as Linton Allen, 1, the man; 2, the banker; 3, the builder; and 4, the Rotarian and community leader.

1. Linton Allen was born in 1889 in Chipley, Ga., one of three sons of a banking family. His father and one brother became bankers and the other brother became a stockbroker and investment banker. His family moved to Brunswick in 1907 where his father had organized Glynn County Bank. After graduation from the University of Georgia in 1909 he spent a summer in Europe. His first business venture was a haberdashery in Brunswick which may have accounted for his impeccable but conservative dress. After two years, he went to work in his Dad's bank for \$50 per month. In 1917, he received a commission as second lieutenant in the infantry and saw combat duty in Europe. After the war, he worked for major banks in New York and Chicago and made some wise investments. He came to Orlando to retire at the age of 37. He immediately became active in the First Presbyterian Church and married Helen Ives, a member of a pioneer merchant family. They had one daughter, Happy, who was raised in Orlando and became the wife of John Sterchi, another Rotarian. John Sterchi also became a great community leader--the YMCA building is named for him. John died at the age of 40. Happy and her children continue to live in Orlando. Linton was a true Christian gentleman. Whenever the church needed support on any moral issue before City Council or any other local governing body, Linton was always on hand. His church described him as "One whose chief purpose was to glorify God." He was always a tither, but in his later years, he and his wife gave 35 percent of their income to the church and other worthwhile charitable institutions. After a visit to Europe in 1955 in which Linton noted the beautiful fountains of France and Italy, he came home and proposed that the city build a fountain. The Orlando Utilities Commission built the beautiful fountain in lake Eola. Linton and the commission received some criticism for spending money which could have gone to reduce electric or water rates. But Linton said, "I have been criticized for everything I ever did that was worthwhile." Appropriately, after his death, the name of the fountain was changed to Linton Allen Fountain. Orlando is a much better place for Linton Allen having been a leading citizen here. He died in 1965 while being honored

by his church in the Reformation Chapel of the First Presbyterian Church that he and his wife built.

2. The Banker: Linton became restless shortly after he moved to Orlando in 1927 and accepted the position of president of the Sanford Atlantic National Bank where he remained for six years. In 1930, one of the road builders who asked him to come to Orlando dealt with him in Sanford while building roads in Seminole County and was impressed with his ability and personality. In 1936, Linton was elected president of the new First National and was on the road to building Orlando's No.1 bank. His secret of success lay in three areas. He was an expert with figures in relation to loans and investments; he knew how to recognize good talent and then convince the person to become an employee of his bank; and he loved to deal with the depositors and customers on a one to one basis. Two great Rotarians and community builders Linton was able to lure from lucrative law practices to become bank executives were Bill Dial and Joel Wells Jr. Linton was famous for his quotations and slogans. One of the first to appear in the bank's lobby was, "It is intended that each customer will be extended every courtesy," and included his signature. His office was always located so that he could look through the door and see his customers as they came into the bank. He would speak to them and shake hands if at all possible. He knew how to challenge young men and women to reach for higher goals. In 1940, he was elected president of the Florida Bankers Association. Although his fellow bankers did not like it, in 1942, during World War II, Linton again entered the army as a major in charge of procurement for the 4th Service Area and served for two years. Upon being relieved from active duty, he was faced with his greatest personal challenge. Several directors wanted to take over the First National Bank and told him to either buy them out or sell his stock to them. He took an option on a majority of the stock, but his opponents did not believe he would be able to raise the money for the purchase. His friend, G.G. Ware, a Leesburg banker, had good connections at the Citizens' and Southern Bank in Atlanta, and went there with Linton to get the financial backing he needed. Linton became owner of 51 percent of the bank's stock. Linton kept up with the latest innovations in customer service. Branch banking was not permitted by law in Florida until 1973, so the method of extending the services and influence of a major bank was through starting or acquiring of affiliate banks. An affiliate bank is one in which a majority of stockholders of the affiliate and the main bank have a majority stock in each bank. First National's first affiliate was College Park Bank, which was initiated by Arnold Albert, a druggist in College Park and a member of the Orlando Rotary Club. In few years other affiliates were organized in Central Florida. Linton Allen became chairman of the board of First National in 1952 and Wm. J. (Bill) Capehart another Orlando Rotarian, became president. In 1961, Linton became chairman emeritus. Linton had built a great bank during his 31 years in Orlando and had laid the foundation for Sun Bank, which is the second largest bank in Florida today.

3. The Builder: "Build your community and you will build your bank" was Linton Allen's favorite expression and he used it often with everyone who was employed by his bank. In the middle 1950s the property at the southwest corner of Church Street and Orange Avenue was purchased for the purpose of constructing a suitable building to house the rapidly growing First National Bank. In 1960, the new building opened. To many old Orlando citizens it was the most beautiful building in the city. The main lobby was finished in wood and marble, a combination that gave people the warm feeling that Linton Allen wanted. Following with

Christian beliefs he erected a bronze plaque in the lobby with the inscription: "For every house is built by someone, but he that built all things is God," a quotation from Hebrews. In 1959, he and his wife, Helen, built a beautiful Greek revival home on Alba Drive. He once told Bill McCree, his builder, that he believed everyone that could afford it should build a beautiful home for the benefit of the community. A number of his friends asked him how much his new home cost. He replied, "It cost more than I thought it would, but I thought it would."

Rotarian and community leader, he became a member of the Orlando Rotary Club in April, 1934, and was elected President for the year 1939-40. Attendance record for his year as president was 97.22 percent and topped that of all Rotary Clubs in our division. He had four 100 percent meetings. RI President Walter Head visited the club. Linton was an organizer of United Appeal and served as a member of the Municipal Planning Board during the late 1950s when a critical new Comprehensive Plan for the city was adopted, including putting I-4 through the center of Orlando. He was an organizer of Junior Achievement in Central Florida and was interested in every movement that was good for Orlando. He was the first, in 1977, to be inducted into the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame. He became the first to be selected Central Florida Salesman of the Year by the Sales and Marketing Sales Executives Club in 1955.

One of Linton Allen's greatest accomplishment for his community and his bank was to entice the Martin Company (Martin Marietta) to build a plant in the Orlando Area.

Before 1957, Orlando and Central Florida's economy depended primarily on citrus and tourism as we knew it before Disney. In early 1956, Linton accompanied Gov. LeRoy Collins and a number of other leading businessmen and state officials on a goodwill trip to Northern cities in an effort to attract suitable industry to Florida. Among the people contacted was a director of the Martin Co. Six months later, the chairman of the board of Martin and Ed Uhl, vice president in charge of the operations, came to Orlando looking for a site to build a plant to support their operations at the Kennedy Space Center. They had initial contacts with some other people but were not happy with them and dropped by to see Linton Allen at the request of their director who knew him. Linton found a piece of land he thought suitable for the plant and wrote his personal check for \$1,500 as a binder on the land. Ed Uhl was sent to Orlando to build the buildings involved and be in charge of new Martin-Orlando plant. The industry was clean and smoke free and initially opened with 4,000 employees in 1957. Later it became the largest employer in Florida with more than 12,000 employees. Martin's locating here lured many more high tech companies to establish their plants and headquarters in the area.

During Linton's year, a number of men were inducted into the club who would play significant parts in the club's future:

Paul Stine, brought from Sanford by Harry Leu to manage his mill supplies operation, would render lifelong service as president, district governor, advisor to the board for many years and Mr. Rotary of Orlando.

W. A. (Bill) McCree, General Contractor, who would serve on many committees, become president in 1955-56 and part time club historian in the last 25 years.

Howard Evans, a retired railroad executive from Chicago.

Cecil Hook, Store Equipment.

Ormond McAbee, Travel Agent.

Clayton Chryst, Stocks and Bonds.

W. Leonard Bartlum, Insecticides, Manufacturing.

Frank B. Seghers, Box Manufacturing.

Ray Pascall, Railroads.

Robert (Bob) Stokes, Monument Manufacturing. Bob was a great Rotarian and greeter. He moved about the room during meetings and shook hands and spoke to everybody. His loud bass "Amen" after each song would be heard all over the meeting hall without benefit of a mike.

At the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the club, 17 of the original 18 charter members were present although only 12 were active members at the time. It was a great day with the "old men" cracking jokes about one another and repeating some of the horseplay of the early days.

The club was small enough in those days to do some things that are not practical for a large club. Rotary-Anns, as wives of Rotarians were called, were sent a box of candy on their birthday. New fathers were given a sterling silver cup with a Rotary emblem for their new children. When Bill McCree received a cup for his first daughter, he was required to demonstrate to Whitney Spiegel how to put diapers on a baby.

The Great Depression ended in the 1935-36 era and Orlando enjoyed a substantial growth, especially in the residential areas. Some of the changes in the business operations in the decade of the 1930s included: Sears came to town in 1931 and located on the northeast corner of Orange and Washington Streets. The First Federal Court in Orlando was established in 1933. Grant Stores came in 1934 and Kress opened in 1936 to add to McCrory and Woolworth which were already here. All four of these 5 & 10-cent stores were located in a two block area on Orange Avenue between Central and Church Streets, making it convenient for shoppers. A TB Sanitarium was opened in West Orlando on Silver Star Road in 1937. The first Community Chest was formed in 1938. The J. C. Penney store, Howard Johnson's Restaurant and WLOF radio opened in 1940.

Orlando was changing.

CHAPTER THREE

World War II and Aftermath 1940-50

1940 was a busy year in Orlando, mostly because of the brooding war clouds over Europe. The United States under President Franklin D. Roosevelt had taken the position of aiding its allies, England and France, in every way possible short of furnishing manpower and entering the war. A draft was authorized for the U.S. and reservists were being called into service along with draftees. Adolph Hitler, a distraught artist and paper hanger who had been a corporal in World War I, had become politically powerful in Germany and appealed to the German people on the basis that theirs was a superior race that had been taken advantage of by the Jews after Germany's degrading defeat in W.W.I. Hitler had become a virtual dictator in control of the entire German war machine including the Army and industry. In 1936, he had occupied the Rhineland, which had been taken from Germany after W.W.I. By 1938 he had taken Austria. In 1939, he took control of Czechoslovakia and split Poland with Russia. This caused England and France, after many efforts at keeping the peace, to go to war with Germany and its allied Axis powers, including Italy and the captured nations.

Orlando had taken full advantage of Works Progress Administration (WPA) projects during the post depression days to build installations that would be useful to the U. S. Government in time of war. All of Florida had been eyed by the federal government as a potential training ground for military aviation. With the cooperation of local governments, Florida was ready for the important role it was to play in W.W.II. Fifteen Florida cities were being served by three major airlines. Only Texas (with 17) had more. WPA ground schools had prepared youth of the Sunshine State mentally and physically so that Florida was also air-minded.

Two Rotarians played key roles in obtaining land for the Orlando Air Base in and around what is now Executive Airport (formerly Herndon): Mayor Sam Way and U. S. Sen. Charles O. Andrews. Other Rotarians played important roles in bringing what was later called AAFTAC (Army Air Force School of Applied Tactics) to Orlando. Sept. 5, 1940 was a big day when the first bombers and fighters arrived at the newly activated Orlando Army Air Base. The major role of the base was to test new tactics of defense against, and pursuit of, enemy aircraft in the various theaters of war. The Orlando base was considered one of the most important in the entire Allied Air Command for tactical training purposes. Many experts claimed that the tactics introduced here changed air travel and aircraft use for all time to come.

The Orlando community was so hospitable and attractive to the arriving soldiers and airmen that many of them married local girls while stationed here and many returned to make this their permanent home. Rotarians did their share in welcoming the airmen.

In 1942, a secondary air base was built south of Orlando and called Pinecastle Air Base. Dual runways were 12,000 feet long. That base became the home of B-17s in W.W.II. In the Korean War, it was the training ground for jet fighters and the base for B-47 Stratojet Bombers and later B-52s as a part of U. S. global defense until 1974. In 1958, the base was re-named McCoy Air Force Base in honor of its legendary Col. Michael M. W. McCoy, who was killed in 1957 on a flight over Orlando.

Hitler apparently convinced himself and Japan that an attack on the United States would deal a fatal blow to this peace-loving nation. Even though he knew how to influence the German people, he misjudged the Americans. The dastardly Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor united the people of the United States into an invincible fighting machine that defeated Japan and Germany.

Information on the Orlando Rotarians who served in the armed forces during W.W.II is somewhat sketchy, but included the following, in order of their entry into service (they were made honorary Rotarians and their classifications were held open for them). In addition, their time in the service was added to the perfect attendance records. One was a past president and four would be elected presidents of the club during later years.

Maj. Arthur Park, Army Cavalry Reserve, was called to active duty in August of 1940 and married "Becky" Leland about the same time. He served at base installations in the U. S. for the duration.

Richard "Dick" Harris was inducted into the club under the classification of Galvanized Iron Roofing, October, 1940, and was called to active duty Feb. 26, 1941, with the Army Air Corps. Little is known of his service, except that he was killed in action in Burma in early August of 1945. He was the only Gold Star member of the Orlando Rotary Club.

Bill McCree, second lieutenant, Army Reserve, Ordnance Dept. was called to active duty April 25, 1941, reporting to Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md. He sailed for Australia with the first ground troops on Jan. 30, 1942, and did not return until November, 1944. He commanded an Ordnance Maintenance Company and later became Ordnance Supply Officer in New Guinea and Australia and finally became the G-4 of the 14th Anti-Aircraft Command with the rank of lieutenant colonel. He returned to civilian life in September, 1945, after the war was over.

Bob Robertson entered the service in 1941 as an ensign in the Navy with duties in the Panama Canal Zone. Later he became an aide to the admiral in Miami and was promoted to lieutenant.

Carl E. Wooten, a member since 1934, entered the service in 1942.

James M. Milligan was given a commission in the Army Air Corps as an administrative officer.

Victor M. Hill was commissioned a lieutenant, junior grade, in the Coast Guard in early 1942.

Dr. Vincent Frankforth, superintendent of Orange General Hospital, was inducted into the club in late 1940 was called to active duty in the medical corps in early 1942.

Alex Robinson was commissioned a captain in the Army Air Corps.

Cloyd McClung entered Officer's Candidate School in the summer of 1942. He spent most of his war years with the Air Transport Command in the China-Burma Theater, where he received a promotion to major.

R. B. Griffith was commissioned a lieutenant in the U. S. Naval Reserve and was called to active duty in 1942.

Linton Allen was commissioned a major in the Army Finance Dept. and entered the service for a year beginning in 1943.

Cecil Hook, who had been inducted into the club with the classification of Commercial Refrigeration in February of 1942, was called into the armed forces in 1943.

Dick Lawrence, Dairyman, enlisted for training at Aberdeen Proving Grounds to become an instructor in the maintenance and repair of light tanks, but after seven months, he was returned to civilian life to supervise milk processing for soldiers at Orlando Air Force Base.

An even greater number of veterans became Rotarians during the post war years.

The Orlando Rotary Club continued to function during the second World War even though a good many fringe benefits had to be curtailed such as the weekly publication of the *Rotoptimist*.

Harry Voorhis, Sr., president 1940-41, was short in stature but tall on talent. A partner in the law firm of Maguire, Voorhis and Wells, the dynamic song leader, who often stood on a chair while leading the singing, was one of the club's colorful and popular members. His favorite songs were "McNamara's Band" and "Under the Spreading Chestnut Tree" with all the motions included. He and Harold Kelly collaborated to write the "Welcome Song" that the club continues to use. The *Rotoptimist* of that time reports that Harry's election as president was applauded by the large winter visitor contingent of that era. As president-elect, Harry was appointed to head up the meeting of presidents-elect of clubs with more than 100 members at the RI convention in Havana, Cuba, in June of 1940. Harry told his son, Harry, Jr. that he never wanted to belong to a club other than the Orlando Rotary Club. Before being elected president of the club, Harry never wore a watch of any kind. When elected he went to Gus Lawton's Jewelry Store and bought an Elgin "wind up" which he wore until the day he died. He was always punctual and had no use for anyone who was late.

He and his partner, Raymer Maguire Sr., prosecuted a criminal once and the criminal was convicted and sent to jail. On the way out of the courtroom the prisoner pointed his finger at Raymer and said: "I will get you when I get out." Raymer and Harry never handled another criminal cases. He liked bank, land transfers and trust work. He was attorney for the SunBank Trust Dept. and served on the board of directors of the First National Bank from 1945 to 1964. Linton Allen considered him a more knowledgeable attorney on trusts than anyone else in the area. After Harry's wife died, he had dinner almost every night at the Country Club of Orlando. The club reserved a special parking place for him. Harry was active in the community and served as president of the Orlando Chamber of Commerce in 1929.

During Harry's year a number of Rotarians who would serve a long time were inducted:

Dick Lawrence, manager of the Perfection Dairies Co-op, served as president, 1957-58.

William H. Lawrence, Plumbing Supplies, who served 25 years-plus as treasurer and president, 1949-50.

J. J. Newell, Electrician, who was active in the Orlando High School Athletic Association and who supervised the construction of the first permanent bleachers for the Tangerine Bowl (now the Citrus Bowl) during the WPA days. He also served as a city commissioner for three terms.

Dr. Frank Kottmeier, Dentist.

Harold Nabell, Additional Active for Bob Stokes in monument manufacturing.

Glen Bowstead, Photo Supplies.

J. A. Mooneyham, the second president, 1941-42, was the top official for Southern Bell in Orlando. The club has had one of the principal managers from Southern Bell as a member for most of its 75 years and all have been active in club and service projects or have served on the board of directors, indicating the interest that Southern Bell has in the community and its service clubs. Mooneyham served for seven years as club treasurer. Most of the community projects performed or supported in those years were connected with the war effort. Example: collecting and donating books for distribution to Army and Navy posts, supplying envelopes and letterheads for personnel at Orlando Air Base, working on War Bond drives, and furnishing flags for servicemen's clubs.

Clarence Coddington and **Frank Whitmore**, retired business leaders, who had been good Rotarians in other cities, were inducted. Their service to Orlando Rotary over a number of years proved their worth.

Horace Jacobs, Printer, president, 1942-43, had been a very active Rotarian since he joined the club in 1923 and edited the Rotoptimist from 1935 until he became president. He voted for, and encouraged, Rotarians to serve on the board of directors based on the member's ability to serve as president. He believed sincerely no one should serve on the board who was not willing or capable of being president. The club continued its support of wartime activities including providing furnishings for the Base Hospital, but it did not neglect other interests such as the Orlando High School Band and the Young Women's Community Club, an organization founded to assist young women by providing a place for them to stay until they could get a job and save money to have their own apartment. This was a great help to business and professional men in recruiting new office employees.

New Rotarians who joined the club during the Jacobs administration included:

Henry B. Hall, Insurance and Bonds.

Stewart Gilman, Past Service. "Stew" was a Phi Beta Kappa from Yale who was born and raised in Sioux City, Iowa. He was a banker by trade, but was most active as a community leader, being elected mayor of his home town for two terms (a record). He was appointed by the governor of Iowa and served several terms on the state board that was charged with waterway development along the Mississippi River.

Herman Langford, trust officer at the First National Bank.

Dr. Meredith (Mal) Mallory, beloved and highly respected Orlando physician.

Alfred Webster, past service, a former executive of the John Deere Co.

Clarence Cubbege, Casualty Insurance.

Another inductee, the **Rev. Bob McCaslin**, pastor of the Park Lake Presbyterian Church, was one of the best speakers to become a Rotarian in Orlando. His use of the English language was likened to that of the one-time vice president of the U. S., Hubert Humphrey. One of his hobbies included collecting epitaphs from old cemeteries. His speech on that subject was a masterpiece of humor and human interest.

Bob and Ben Carpenter were close friends (even though Ben was a Quaker). Their antics and conversation at club meetings made attendance at Rotary a joy.

Maj. Henry MacDonald, Salvation Army.

Dr. Frank Pyle, M.D. and "human plumber," who came into the club in February, 1943, served as president 10 years later and his outstanding leadership will be noted in that chapter.

Robert B. Shugart, Steel Fabrication, was introduced to Rotary by Gibby Gibbs of Gibbs Machinery in February of 1943. Gibby told him the Orlando Rotary Club was the best club in the world. Bob has become the "grand old man" of the club with the longest perfect attendance of any Rotarian in the Orlando Club--50 years. He was 100 years old Feb. 12, 1995. The entire club helped him celebrate. He was already the oldest member to have active membership and is a Centurian. (Under unique Orlando rules, a Rotarian whose age plus years of perfect attendance add up to 100 becomes a Centurian and pays no dues thereafter). Bob became an equally great Mason and Shriner. He became a Mason about the time he became a Rotarian and said he realized that he could not do everything for both organizations, so he tossed a coin and Masonry won. But Bob said he would make attendance at Rotary and that he has done. In the meantime he has risen to great stature as a Mason and has received many honors. Bob was born in Cleveland, Tenn., and attended public schools there. His dad did two things for him as a boy: He told Bob that he would help him get what he needed until he attained the age of 21 and from then on it was up to Bob to pay his own way; and he bought him a new \$40 bicycle (the best of its day) and told him to take care of it because he would never buy him another. Bob took his father seriously and took care of the bike. To save it during the bad winter weather, he built another bike from used spare parts and set up a bicycle repair shop in his garage and began to save his money.

After high school he attended Georgia Tech one year and then persuaded his folks to let him attend a specialized electrical engineering school in Washington, D. C. which gave him a degree in two years of concentrated study. Western Electric recruited him and sent him to New York City, Cleveland, Ohio, and Youngstown Ohio. He received several promotions for devising innovative ways to charge batteries and mount machinery.

One Sunday afternoon he and his helper rode the street car downtown to attend a movie. World War I had been declared against Germany two days earlier. While waiting for the movie house to open they ducked into an open door to get out of the bitter cold. The almost empty room included the newly established Army recruiting office. Bob and his helper both enlisted, but had to return home because quarters for them were available. The Army paid for their meals and room while they finished their job with Western Electric. Before leaving Youngstown, they were housed in a church and began training. Next, they were moved to Montgomery, Ala. to become a part of a machine gun battalion. They went to France and stayed until the war was over.

Bob's dad, a railroad engineer, became ill and the doctor prescribed the salt air and the sun of Florida beaches for him during the winter months. The family moved to DeSoto Park below St. Petersburg and his father regained his health after several winters. Bob returned to Youngstown, Ohio, and set up a "jitney" service that ended when he wrecked the car he had bought. Then he went to work for Truscon Steel Co. and when the foreman became ill, Bob was promoted. After that, his next job was working in a gas station and then working for the

Ford Motor Co. assembling cars. That led to employment as service manager for one of the largest, and the newest, Ford dealers in the U. S. at the time.

After Lindbergh flew the Atlantic non-stop, many individuals wanted to learn to fly. Bob signed up for lessons in 1930. On an early lesson, the instructor, who was riding in the front, took the plane up 500 feet and for some reason put it into a spin and it didn't come out. The instructor was killed and Bob was laid up for four years. He was taken to the hospital in a "baby hearse," an old wagon hearse put on a pick up truck for use in carrying children to the graveyard. The instructor went in the only ambulance in town. Bob had a number of serious injuries including a knee that required rebuilding using ground up bone and glue. Although he spent three years in the hospital and another year learning to walk again, the knee gave him no more trouble until he was 95. During his recuperation period, his mother cared for him. Six months before he gave up crutches, he and his mother moved to Tampa. Bob worked in Tampa as a welder for a time then ran an ad for a job. American Machinery of Orlando spotted the ad and offered him a job designing and building steel trailers for hauling fruit. He designed and built the first all welded trailer frame. Although welded structures for buildings were beginning to be used about the same time, many believed that the vibration of a trailer would break the welds. As a result, owners insisted on riveted frames until the welds had proved themselves. That employment led to his establishing the Allied Welding and Steel Co., which he owned upon coming into Rotary. Bob met his wife, Lucia, while doing business with a customer in St. Cloud. They were married and lived happily together for 51 years, until her death in 1986.

Whitney Spiegel, W.W.II president for 1943-44, a real estate broker, had joined the club 10 years earlier. He proved that Rotary was alive and well even in time of war. Rotarians who performed community service during the war included: Harry Voorhis, draft board; Jim Pittman, chairman of the rationing board; Johnny Graham, Milt Vergowe, Frank Whitmore, Bill Lawrence and Ham Gibson served on various rationing boards; Meredith Mallory was the wheelhorse of Civic Music; Whitney Spiegel and Bill Mullin served as members of the Community Chest and as presidents (at different times) of the Salvation Army board; Jay Newell was an elected city commissioner.

New members inducted during Whit's term included:

Charley Meyer, Paving and Road Construction.

Byron King Jr., Buick Automobiles.

Leon Estey, Machinery Manufacturing.

Hugh Akerman, Corporate Law.

Frank Balfour, Crates and Baskets.

Earl DeLoe, Architect.

Leroy B. Coffman, Ornamental Iron Manufacturing. Leroy had a special interest in assisting those with stuttering and stammering difficulties. Leroy was active in several other community organizations and was chairman of the United Way Campaign in 1951. Leroy was also president of the Central Florida Builders Exchange in the late 1940s, an active trade organization composed of those in the construction industry.

Jack Hottel, Shirt Manufacturer (could have been "drummer" or "traveling salesman") was unique in several ways. He was the only one ever to hold the classification of shirt manufacturer in the Orlando club. He made up at more clubs than any other Orlando member

and would rank high among Rotarians in the world for out-of-club make-ups. He was a unique traveling salesman in that his wife accompanied him. Jack became a Rotarian in 1937 at 30 (youngest member in the club) in Trenton, N.J., where he was in the shirt manufacturing business with his father. The club had 125 members. Jack learned each one's name by working on the registration desk. After a short visit to Winter Haven in 1938, where he found some Rotary friends, he was urged to move to Florida and set up a shirt factory. He moved to Lakeland in 1940 and to Orlando in 1944 to get closer to his market and gradually went from four shirt machines to 16 after incorporating. His first Orlando order for a custom made shirt came from Byron King, Sr. and one of his stockholders was N. P. Yowell. During W.W.II a large part of his market was making shirts for new military officers in Miami and at Ft. Benning, Ga. After the war, it was difficult to get materials for shirts. He found that dress material was easier to get. His wife, who graduated from Florida State College for Women as a home economics major, pitched in and spent several months in New York at a dress designers' school. Next, Jack and his wife began making dresses in addition to shirts. Eventually, price competition and lack of skilled labor forced them to sell their clothing factory and both of them went on the road selling a high class line of women's clothing and accessories. They started in Florida, but expanded their territory to include seven Southeastern states. Customers included Burdine's of Miami, Ivey's of Charlotte, N. C., Rich's of Atlanta and Rutland's of Orlando. They ran the business for 30 years. The great amount of traveling did not prevent Jack from making up his attendance in Rotary and his Sunday attendance at church (Presbyterian, if possible). In their off seasons, they traveled to various places in the world and once made a trip around the world. They have attended hundreds of Rotary Clubs. As of April, 1994, Jack had 49 years of perfect attendance, but most of it was made at clubs other than the Orlando club. Jack's uncle convinced him to attend UF, but the social life was too much, and although his grades were average, his father pulled him out and sent him for a year of intensive training at the Babson Institute in Massachusetts. The institute was unusual in that each student went to school for six nine-hour days and punched a time clock; each also had a secretary to type reports. Students were trained specifically to be business executives.

Jack never had time to be active on a committee in the club. What he has gotten from Rotary, he said, is becoming acquainted with Rotarians all over the world and learning of club projects done by Rotary. He and his wife of 50-plus years are living in Westminster Towers in Orlando now.

The 1944 Rotary Convention was canceled, because of wartime restrictions on travel. Business was transacted by officers of RI and district governors and the legislative council on May 15-18 in Chicago. An attempt to allow Harry P. Leu to attend, because of his record of 23 years of perfect attendance at RI conventions, failed.

Milt Vergowe, the affable property manager and active community and church worker, was elected president for 1944-45. The meetings had to be lively because of the innovative and unique personality of the president. Very little is known of the year he served because only one issue of the Rotoptimist was printed during his term. However, many new Rotarians were brought into the club. Those who are listed in the 1948-49 directory:

Otis Taylor, Industrial Life insurance.

George F. Brass, Appraiser and later chairman of the board of the College Park First National Bank. George served as an elected city commissioner, 1928-1932.

John K. Wood, Paint Retail.

Russell S. Hughes Sr., Electrical Supply, Wholesale.

Art Karst, Citrus Groves, caretaking.

H. H. Fikret, Manufacturer's Representative.

J. N. Stonebreaker, Advertising.

James B. Keith, general manager of Ivey's, successor to Yowell-Drew Department Stores. He was club president, 1951-52, district governor, 1957-58, and a giant in the Orlando Rotary Club.

Carl C. Hall, Building Management.

B. S. Weathers, Paper Products, distributor.

D. E. Layman, Motor Courts.

Charles Courtney, Crate and Box Distributor.

J. Wayne Reitz, Economist. He left in a few years to become Provost for Agriculture at UF and then became president of that institution.

The outstanding event of President Milt's year was the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Orlando Rotary Club, held on May 15, 1945. Ham Gibson had written and published a comprehensive 25-year history of the club. Milt gave the welcome, Harry Voorhis was the master of ceremonies and led in singing "America," "Grandfather's Clock," "R-O-T-A-R-Y" and the National Anthem. The first president of the club, J. P. Holbrook, spoke; Ken Guernsey related some "unreported organization minutes"; District Governor Fred Bultman gave a forecast on Rotary, 1945-46; Dean Henry Edmunds of the Rollins College Chapel addressed the group on "The Challenge of Rotary."

Bill Branch, who was president, 1925-26, and was pianist and club secretary continuously from 1927, retired and was given special recognition, thanks and accolades for his long and faithful service. War restrictions didn't dampen the spirits of the Rotarians for that day. The attendance record for the first 25 years was an astounding 94.62 percent, with 100 percent meetings frequently along the way.

Jim Pittman, Building Supplies, was elected president for 1945-46. Jim had been inducted six years before being elected president. His interest in Rotary, and in seeking good men with solid classifications to become members, plus his service on the board of directors and various committees, and serving as treasurer for four years, prepared him for the presidency. Jim's son, Joe, was chosen in 1952 for a Rotary Foundation scholarship. In those days sons and daughters of Rotarians were eligible. Later such scholarships were restricted to students whose parents were not Rotarians.

Doyle Darnold was elected secretary and served 17 years in that position.

W. H. (Bill) Lawrence was elected treasurer and served 25 years in that office.

Marshall Lane was reelected for another year as sergeant-at-arms and served a total of eight years.

When Jim Pittman took office, Germany had collapsed and the U.S. was determined to defeat Japan in the Far East. Within the next few months, two atomic bombs were dropped by the Army Air Corps on Japan, and that nation surrendered immediately. The war ended in

August, 1945, and those Rotarians in the service began to return to Orlando and resume active membership in the club. It was a readjustment period for everyone. Those connected with the construction industry found a tough time ahead because of the pent up demand for construction, which had been curtailed during the war. Good service and good employees were hard to find until things leveled off and became normal a couple of years later. During Pittman's term, in addition to the members returning from the armed services, 12 community leaders became Rotarians who would be members for a long time:

Earl Kipp, Superintendent of Education for Orange County. Earl had been a very popular school principal. He remained in that position for a number of years.

Gary E. Snow, Carbonated Beverages.

Henry Thomas, AA to Gary. Henry became one of the club's outstanding song leaders. Henry was a W.W.II veteran, having entered the Army as a private and gone to Officers' Candidate School and then to service in the U. S., Philippines and Japan.

John C. Fosgate, Jelly and Preserves--a classification relinquished by Ham Gibson when he sold his business. Jack Fosgate was a member of the Fosgate family, long a major packer of oranges and producers of orange marmalade.

Harold Nabell, Monuments, Retail, AA for his father-in-law, Bob Stokes, of the "Amen Corner."

Dr. Hollis Ingram, ear, eye, nose and throat specialist and surgeon. Hollis, the son of a Rotarian, was educated at Rollins and obtained his M.D. from Tulane. He came to Orlando in 1937, served as a captain in the Army Air Medical Corps for 3 1/2 years. He was an amateur photographer and built an unusual home that resembled a French farmhouse at Marks and Laurel Streets in Orlando.

Howard Phillips, son of Dr. P. Phillips, pioneer citrus fruit grower, canner and shipper, classified as Citrus Fruit Distribution. Howard attended Harvard and was a veteran of W.W.II, where he served with the Quartermaster Corps as supply officer in the European Civil Affairs Dept. He attained the rank of lieutenant colonel and was awarded the Legion of Merit. Howard was appointed in 1948 as a director of the Jacksonville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank. Howard conceived of the idea and spearheaded the establishment of the Committee of 100, which raised funds and furnished financial aid to families of police officers killed in line of duty. The committee continues to function. This unique bachelor, gourmet cook and philanthropist, maintained a perfect attendance record in Rotary until his death, and took an unusual interest in international service, spearheading drives for magazines and other items to be shipped to South America. The story of the Dr. Phillips philanthropies--begun by Howard--is told at the end of Chapter Five. Howard was interested in Junior Achievement, helped introduce the idea to the Orlando Rotary Club and served on JA's first board at large. He was also inducted by JA into the Mid-Florida Business Hall of Fame in 1979. His father had been honored in the same way by the first award in 1977.

William H. (Billy) Dial, prominent attorney with the classification of Corporate Law, was attorney for the Orlando Sentinel and the First National Bank (SunBank) and later CEO of that bank. He was elected to the board of directors after being in the club just a few months. Next, he was elected president for the year 1948-49. (More about this community builder is told under his year of presidency).

O. B. "Bo" McEwan, Probate Law, son of charter member, Dr. Jack McEwan, graduated from UF with an A.B. degree and from Washington and Lee with and L.L.B. He did graduate work at Harvard. He was a veteran of W.W.II and served with Gen. George Patton during his blitz through Europe. Lt. Col. "Bo" was awarded the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and European Theater ribbon with five campaign stars. Bo served as a member of the board of directors of the club, 1955-57, and on the classification committee for many years. He joined the club for fellowship and to render community service. He said he has enjoyed 48 years of Rotary fellowship. In his professional life he has been president of the Orange County and Florida Bar Associations. He was the attorney for the City of Orlando at one time. Additional business connections included serving as a director of Gulf Life Insurance Co., Jacksonville. He was commander of the Amvets, Veterans of W.W. II and a leader in the American Legion.

Reed Whittle, Liquefied Petroleum, owner of Green's Fuel Systems and Sales. He was a graduate of UF with an M.B.A. from Harvard. During W.W.II he was with the Ordnance Dept. in charge of purchasing in the Birmingham Ordnance District. The shortage of appliances and lack of public utilities in rapidly growing rural areas made bottled gas popular. It was also a more efficient fuel than the manufactured gas that was used before natural gas came to Orlando. Reed's companies capitalized on that and they developed outlets to get appliances faster than others. Reed also owned a tank manufacturing company in Alachua, and experimented with raising cattle on the Zellwood muck farms. He claimed more beef per acre could be raised than anywhere else. He once hosted a big dinner and invited public officials and special guests to try to taste the difference between Western beef and Florida beef that he had raised there in Zellwood. No one could tell the difference.

J. D. Letton, Lumber, Retail, secretary of Mutual Millwork Co., was drafted into the infantry, but went to OCS and served in Hawaii and Ft. Benning, Ga. He left the service as a captain. J. D. served as a director from 1949-1952.

Dr. Richard Chase, Periodontist.

Burt Rutledge, Sr., Optical Goods, manufacturing.

Several unique events and programs emerged during this year; Paul Stine instituted the practice of new members serving as greeters for the first month of their membership to let them get acquainted; Paul Harris visited Orlando to become a patient at the Florida Sanitarium and Hospital; Ken Guernsey, former member, was promoted for the next president of Rotary International; the first loose leaf roster of club members with pictures was published; mass chest X-rays for TB were made of club members. With the end of W.W.II, the Orlando Rotary Club began to hit its stride along with the growing Orlando and Orange County. One of the great programs to improve and keep good race relations in Orlando was created and carried through by Rotarian **Johnny Graham** and a select committee from our club (later expanded to include non-Rotarians). Johnny owned and operated Steward Mellon Tile Co. of Orlando. One of his black helpers returned from the war and could not find a decent home for his family. He asked his boss, John Graham, what he could do. John checked into places where blacks could live and found nothing satisfactory. John brought the matter before the Orlando Rotary Club and they approved the idea of taking action to alleviate the situation. The result was the founding of a non-profit corporation (first of its kind in the U.S.) and soliciting community leaders to put up the money to buy land and develop a subdivision where blacks could build homes. The project

received city and county approval and the support of the entire community. All of the investors' money was returned when the lots were sold. The project received national recognition and was duplicated in a number of other cities. Johnny saw the project through to completion without profit except for the satisfaction of having done something for blacks in Orlando, and for the entire community. His outstanding leadership in that mammoth project prompted many of his co-workers to ask him to run for mayor.

The president for the 1946-47 Rotary year, Paul Stine, became known as "Mr. Rotary" and is considered one of the Rotary "greats" in our club. An AA to Harry P. Leu, he had a good example of a 100 percent Rotarian in his boss. Paul had managed the H. P. Leu store in Sanford, where he became president of the Rotary club. He was general manager of H. P. Leu in Orlando and later became president and major stockholder of the company. He raised three sons, two of whom, Joe and Jon, are long time members of the club. Jon was president in 1978-79. Paul's outstanding record as president caused him to be chosen as district governor during 1947-48. For the rest of his life, he remained as the unofficial consultant and advisor to the board of directors of the club. He had an unique talent and endless patience. He attended all board meetings, but never spoke unless called upon. His wise counsel kept the club on a steady, progressive course. In addition, he held many other leadership positions in the community: president of the Chamber of Commerce in 1947, president of Associated Industries of Florida, a director of the Florida Chamber of Commerce and others. He also was active in the establishment of the Boys Club in Orlando. He was awarded the Silver Beaver from the Boy Scouts of America for his contribution to youth. Paul was a soft spoken gentlemen but firm in his beliefs and noted for his integrity in business and government. He constantly supported those projects and laws which would build a better Orlando. The Orlando Sentinel featured him as its "Man of the Week," May 7, 1961.

During Paul Stine's year, Paul Harris died and the Orlando Club strongly supported the Paul Harris Memorial Fund under the umbrella of the Rotary Foundation. The fund would provide (1) Rotary Foundation Fellowships for advanced study. (2) Institutes of International Understanding. (3) Emergency relief for Rotarians and their families in disaster crises. (4) Other effective projects under the fourth object of Rotary. The Orlando club led all RI Class D clubs in attendance for January, 1947, with 98.43 percent. Bill McCree remembers two standard quotations from the many fireside indoctrination meetings for new members in which Paul Stine participated: "Community service is the rent we pay for being alive"; and, "Attendance does not necessarily make a good Rotarian, but a good Rotarian makes attendance."

The Rotary Club of Winter Park was sponsored by the Orlando club to become the first new club in our area in 20 years. Its charter was presented April 24, 1947. Ken Wacker was elected the first president of the new club.

Paul Stine reorganized the Orlando club with new major committees including club service, community service, international service, general information, and entertainment. Later, the breakdown would be reduced to the four avenues of service that exist today and that follow the Object of Rotary. The practice of having an outstanding high school boy attend the weekly Rotary meetings as a guest was instituted by Paul Stine.

Harry Voorhis, Jr., a present member of the club, was one of those honored guests.

Long term Rotarians inducted during Paul's year included:

L. T. Eubank, Painting Materials. L. T. had for many years been one of the foremost custom painting contractors in Orlando and was an expert in mixing colors before machines were invented to do that job. He was a leader in the Broadway Methodist Church and was well known throughout the community.

Ed Fishback, Irrigation Pumps and Equipment, continues to be a member of Rotary and is a regular member of the "Old Timers'" table on the west side of the room. Ed was forced to leave UF after two years to come home and take over the family business, when his father, Rotarian Dave Fishback, became seriously ill about 1933. Dave said he believed strongly in staying in business even in the very tough times that occurred during the depression, when growers and other customers were declaring bankruptcy. Special studies offered by Fairbanks Morse and other suppliers allowed Ed to become an expert on engines and pumps. He also learned how to plan irrigation for orange groves and nurseries. During W.W.II, he rendered a valuable service to the Orlando Air Base and surrounding bases by locating and ordering hard to get pumps, most of the time without personal compensation. Because of his knowledge of engines and pumps, several times he was offered good civilian positions with the Orlando Air Base, but he declined because he felt he had to keep his business going because growers and agricultural interests needed his help and his family needed the income.

Joe Moorehead, Cash Registers Retail, spent his entire business career with National Cash Register Co. and was the Orlando branch manager. He was a graduate of Roanoke College in Virginia and active in the Lutheran Church and junior and senior Chambers of Commerce. For many years Joe was a faithful worker at the registration table at each club meeting.

Charles Evans became AA to Glen Bowstead with Cameras and Photo Supplies. His firm was one of the first to process colored slide film locally.

Joe Moody was general manager of the Ft. Gatlin Hotel, a popular hotel on North Orange south of the present Sentinel building. Many Rotary board meetings were held there during W.W.II. The building was demolished in the 1960s.

Jim Reviere was a structural engineer.

Jack Kline, Pastry Foods, graduated from OHS where he was president of the junior and senior classes and was awarded the Ken Guernsey Good Citizenship Cup. He graduated from UF. His mother developed a well known pie dough mixture called, "Mrs. Smith's" pies. Jack became the CEO of that company. He was very active in Rotary and served during 1956-59 as a director. Health problems prevented his becoming president of the Orlando Rotary Club.

Eugene Wise, Insurance, Bonds, attended UF and headed the Wise-Johnson Co., Insurance and Bonds. He was active in the Central Florida Builders Exchange, the Chamber of Commerce and the Methodist Church.

Neil Dale filled the classification of Agriculture, marketing. He was with the U. S. Department of Agriculture promoting new ideas and distributing federal grants for trying new methods in agriculture. He was an active Rotarian and chaired the Rural-Urban Committee for years.

J. R. Glover, an old timer in education in Orange County, filled the classification of Education, Veterans, which supervised the education provided by the government to veterans of W.W.II under the GI bill.

Bob Bramling was a Parole Officer with the state.

Olin Yergin filled the Funeral Director's classification.

Floyd M. Call of the Florida Bankers Association became a very active Rotarian. Floyd was a native of Indiana, a graduate of Depauw University with a master's from Northwestern. After being a banker and bank examiner, he was inducted into the Army in 1941, served as the commander of a combat battalion and was released five years later as a colonel in the U. S. Army Reserve. He became affiliated with the American Bankers Association and next came to Florida to be executive secretary of the Florida Bankers Association and moved to Orlando.

The biggest Rotary event of the year was the election of Ken Guernsey as president of Rotary International at the RI Convention at San Francisco, June 8-12. The entire issue of the June 13, 1947, *Rotoptimist* was dedicated to our own President Ken of RI.

The lead article reads, "Ken was installed in the official position of president of Rotary International during the convention at San Francisco, June 8-12, 1947. The honor is deserved, for there has been no more enthusiastic or faithful member of Rotary for the past 27 years, and his knowledge of the operation of Rotary affairs is most extensive, based on offices he has held in this club, this district, as international vice president, from chairmanships of various international committees, and, recently, as program chairman for an international convention.

"A native son of Orlando, he was born on March 11, 1892, in what was afterward the Beardall home, on Lake Minnie, (now named Cherokee). The home was built by an attorney named Edward Gunby, for whom Gunby Avenue was named, as one of the houses in what was called 'Honeymoon Row.' In 1885, seven young married couples moved to Orlando and built homes on the west and south banks of Lake Minnie: J. M. Cheney, father of Donald; Judge Odlin, law partner of Cheney; John W. Weeks, afterward secretary of war under Presidents Harding and Coolidge; Edward Gunby; George R. Newell, father of Sidney; and at the far end of the row, Nat and Ollie Poyntz, pioneer Orlando bankers. Gunby sold his home to Joe L. Guernsey and some years later it was purchased by William Beardall, father of Mayor Billy Beardall.

"Ken's education began in the old wooden schoolhouse, and he graduated from senior high in 1910, the exercises being held on the second floor of the old city hall/police station. He was president of his class, evidencing at an early age those qualities of leadership and personality which have placed him in the forefront of all activities with which he has been affiliated.

"Ken matriculated at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating in 1914 with the degree of B.S. in economics. While attending UP he became a close friend of Edward Everett Horton, the movie star. The completion of his college education brought Ken back home as an affiliate of the retail hardware business owned by his father and brothers. In 1917 he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a private and was sent to Camp Jackson. Later he became a valued instructor in the Quartermaster Department where he remained until the Armistice, despite his urgent requests to be sent overseas for fighting service.

"In the spring of 1920 the governor of the old eighth Rotary district, Truman McGill, was visiting his cousin, S. Waters Howe, and suggested a Rotary Club be formed in Orlando. Ken Guernsey was appointed on the organizing committee with Howe, J. P. Holbrook, Bill Glenn, V. W. Estes and Wilbur Tilden. The club was presented with its charter on May 1, 1920, and Ken was elected the first secretary. The following year he was chosen president and

in 1923 was the choice for district governor. From then his rise in Rotary was rapid--member of the International Boys' Work Committee in 1924, chairman of the same committee in 1925; international vice president and board member in 1926 by vote of the first Denver convention.

"While serving on the Boys' Work Committee he instigated and helped organize the International Boys' Work Council which for the first time brought together in cooperative effort the many youth organizations in the U.S. and Canada and Ken served as its first president. The same committee envisioned and organized National Boys' Week. In 1946 Ken was community service member of the International Aims and Objects Committee and in 1945 chairman of the convention committee. . .

"In the 21 years Ken was a member of the Orlando Rotary Club, he was our constant inspiration toward better attendance, better programs, larger membership, renewed devotion to duty and representation at assemblies, conferences and conventions. If the Orlando club has contributed anything that was worthwhile to Rotary as a whole, it is the work of, and the enthusiasm from, our charter member Ken Guernsey. He served as chairman or member of every committee, and was on the board of directors continuously for nearly 20 years. He was song leader. . . he wrote words for songs, compiled parodies, introduced and taught us many new and original songs.

"Late in the year 1941, Ken received a flattering offer to move to Jacksonville and become executive vice president of the Gulf Life Insurance Co., which he did.

"Ken has received the highest honor which Rotary can give, and will carry the torch of service to all the ends of the earth with honor, justice and generosity. He will not be spoiled by his year in exalted places, but will return home to happily rejoin the citizens of his native state in building for a finer and better Rotary in and for Florida."

Gus Lawton, Jeweler, was elected to serve 1947-48 as president, after having served as two years as program chairman. It was almost mandatory in those days to at least serve one term as program chairman in order to be elected president. The value of a good program chairman and good programs was considered essential to a good club. Gus was one of the best and his experience prepared him to be president. He had also attended a number of RI conventions. One of the first activities of the Orlando club was to participate in a big party for Ken Guernsey in Jacksonville on July 16, 1947. Over 1,000 Rotarians and their wives from Rotary clubs and other service clubs from all over the Southeast gathered at a luncheon at the George Washington Hotel. Another Rotary gathering--a regular Rotary meeting--was held on Nov. 11 after Ken returned from travels around the world. Orlando was well represented among the 700 Rotarians and wives present at that meeting. The ladies' night held on March 12 was reported to be one of the best to date--perhaps because the president was a bachelor. Attendance for the year was 94.43 percent with 109 of the 156 members having a 100 percent record. The attendance average for 28 years was 94.78 percent.

Dotty Felteberger was employed Jan. 1, 1948, as the assistant secretary to work under Doyle Darnold, secretary of the club. The size of the club demanded professional help to keep records and take care of day to day operations. Dotty soon became the bureau of information for the club. She was also a choir director and organist and became the pianist for the club. Her background included both music and secretarial training and experience. Her interest in Rotary began when she was secretary to the president of Gardner Advertising in Pittsburg. At

that time her boss was president of the Pittsburgh Rotary Club and she handled all the details of the club, which had no paid help at the time. Dot served the Orlando club faithfully until she retired in 1971.

Rotarians inducted during the Rotary year included:

Dr. Newton McCullough, Orthopedic Surgery. Newt, a native of Pennsylvania, received his M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, an Ivy League private school in Philadelphia. His orthopedic training was obtained at Cook County Hospital in Chicago and in New York City. He entered the Army in 1942 and became chief of orthopedic surgery at Rhodes General Hospital in Utica, N.Y. After the war he came to Orlando where the climate, the fishing and the hunting were better. He was a popular well known "bone" doctor.

Dr. Robert Stevens, Radiology.

Z. N. Harvey, Citrus By-products, with Southern Fruit Distributors. When he joined the club, he was manager of the Orlando store of General Mills, farm service division. He came to town in 1925 to work for the First National Bank. That was a typical change of classification for those who survived the Florida Boom and the Depression. Z.N. was a well liked, dependable Rotarian.

Roger Clerk, of Atlantic Chemicals, owned and operated a chemical supply business in Orlando. He was a graduate of the Pratt Institute in Chemical Engineering.

Joe Johnson of Wise and Johnson, Inc. became an AA to Eugene Wise. The business has continued to be a going insurance company to this date with the sons of Joe carrying on under the name of Johnson and Co. Joe was a football player at Rollins, when they had a team. He earned his A.B. degree in 1940 and served in the Navy as a lieutenant. Joe's main interest beside his business, his wife and two sons, was golf.

Ernie Gertner, Meat Distributing, was a popular proponent of the "Eat more beef" philosophy, who became club president in 1961-62.

Curtis S. Stanton, perhaps one of the largest and most colorful men ever to be a member of the club, had the classification of Municipal Water Service, general manager of the Orlando Utilities Commission, a model for city-owned and operated utilities for the entire nation. Demands for information on how OUC was set up and how it operated were so frequent that a packet of information was prepared by the attorney, Tom Gurney, Sr. and sent out upon request. Curt was perhaps the youngest and one of the best managers of a municipal facility anywhere. Most of the present members know him only as the patriarch who presides over the "Old Timers" table at the weekly meetings, but Curt probably did more to affect their lives insofar as electric power and water are concerned than any other person. He is a "conch," the nickname of those born in Key West. His enviable record at UF included a degree in mechanical engineering "sumo cum laude"; cadet colonel of the ROTC; Phi Kappa Phi and Blue Key. Immediately upon graduation he was offered two jobs--one with General Electric and another in the shipyards at Newport News. He chose the G.E. job because it paid 70 cents per hour, a dime better than the shipyards. G.E. requested that he resign his commission as a second lieutenant in the infantry, because they needed him for installations of steam turbines in ships and military facilities. The first turbine at Oak Ridge was one of his installations. On a trip to Gainesville for business and recruiting purposes, he learned that OUC was looking for an assistant manager because Martin Brown, long time general manager was sick. Curt was

anxious to get back to Florida and warm weather, and to be closer to his and his wife's parents. After checking out the OUC in 1947, he applied for the job. At the completion of his interview with the commission members, including L. B. McLeod, president, and Jack Branham, a Rotarian, in 1947, the OUC offered him a one year contract at twice his salary with General Electric. He said he wanted the job but not the contract. That puzzled the commissioners because all other applicants had wanted one to three year contracts. L. B. McLeod asked: "Why no contract?" Curt replied: "A contract works two ways--if I don't like you, I might want to leave." McLeod laughed and said, "You have the Job." Curt became general manager within a year at age 30 and held the position for 36 years without a contract.

Curt married his college sweetheart, Claire Tillman, daughter of the University of Florida physician. They have three daughters and five grandchildren. Curt's hobbies include fishing, golf and traveling by motor home.

Curt is ever grateful for the advice and help of two men in particular: Foster Worthington of General Electric, who told him of the excellent non-political and clean record of OUC but gave him this advice: "You have to consider three factors: First, the engineering aspects; second, the business aspects; and, third, the political aspects. Sometimes one will weigh heavier than another on a plan or a problem, but always consider all three." To Tom Gurney, Sr., general counsel for OUC and a Rotarian for many years, Curt gives much of the credit for keeping OUC on a steady course. Tom, by nature a conservative, never said no to any of Curt's ideas, but when he did not believe in something he would reply: "Well, if I were you, I don't think I would do it."

When Curt came to Orlando, the Lake Ivanhoe plant of OUC--now the Dr. P. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts--would produce 15 to 18 megawatts of electricity. The capacity of the new plant is about 1,200 megawatts and when the Stanton plant No. 2 goes on line in 1998, the total capacity will be more than 1,800 megawatts. At one time, plans had been made, land had been purchased on Lake Downs in Windermere, and most of the easements had been obtained for lines to Orlando so OUC could build a power plant in that location, but the residents in West Orange County put up such a protest that the idea was shelved. It was the first major effort in Orange County to protect the environment. Next, the Lake Highland generating plant was built directly south of, and across the railroad from, the Ivanhoe plant. This oil and gas fired plant was recently dismantled. Increasing requirements from growing Orlando caused the construction of the Indian River "all gas fired" plant. Stanton Energy Plant No. 1 uses coal which took the pressure off dwindling gas and oil supplies. The coal is shipped from Eastern Kentucky in hopper railroad cars, mostly owned by the OUC, on unit trains that pass through Orlando during the night. The coal is ground into fine powder at the plant and is a very efficient fuel. All emissions have met the highest standards for elimination of air and water pollution.

Curt said he was honored to have the plant named for him after his retirement, but joked to close friends that he was going to be careful so the plant would not be a memorial too soon. He was allowed to throw the switch that put the plant on line in 1987.

The progress in water production has been no less dramatic. In 1947, all city water was being taken from lakes. Lakes Ivanhoe and Highland were principal sources. A line was built from Lake Fairview to Lake Ivanhoe to help meet the increased demand. Shallow wells (400

feet deep) were dug and the water pumped into the lakes, but the quality of water was not good. More thorough treatment was required. One of Curt's first recommendations to his first boss, Mr. Brown, was to employ Dr. Black from UF as a consultant on water. Further investigations found that good quality water could be obtained at 1,000 feet. Finally a contract for 13 wells to be drilled to 1,200 feet was awarded. This was believed to be the largest contract ever in the U.S. for domestic water. Results were satisfactory. One problem with a growing city using a single source of water is that the lines required to deliver the water have to be large and the pressure has to be maintained. The decentralized wells and water treatment plants have served the population well in every respect. Curt was active in the American Waterworks Association and served as president one term. He was given their highest award: the Distinguished Public Service Award in 1986.

In 1965, after serving six years on the board, he was elected president of the Chamber of Commerce and reorganized it, bringing in Tom Brownlee as executive vice president and general manager. Prior to Curt's presidency, the city and county furnished 75 percent of the funds for the chamber. He and his board and other leaders set out to eliminate control by the city and county by not using tax funds. Curt said he will "always be grateful for the support and help of Martin Andersen, owner, publisher and editor of the Sentinel" for his help and advice. Curt also was president of the Central Florida Fair Association, chairman of the Orange County Red Cross and chairman of United Appeal.

Curt received a number of honors. Among them: The Chamber of Commerce John Young Award for outstanding citizens who bring honor to Orlando; and induction into the Mid-Florida Business Hall of Fame in 1990.

Curt was attracted to Rotary because of its high ideals, aims and objectives. He said the thing he has enjoyed the most is the making of super friends from the high caliber of men who are and have been members of this club.

The club chose for its president for 1948-49, William Henry (Billy) Dial (IV), a man who had been elected a director after only a few months' membership and who had been a member of the club only two years. This is a record that has not been equalled. His record as a lawyer and a businessman is legendary; he has left his imprint upon our city, county and state. In vocational and community service, he was a leader whom many tried to emulate. Billy Dial was a third generation Floridian whose father died when he was four. His mother left a heavily mortgaged farm and moved to Gainesville to work as a legal secretary and to raise her two sons and one daughter. Billy worked his way through high school and college, doing everything from waiting tables, surveying roads and selling men's "made to order clothing" to traveling with a road show one summer. Upon graduation from UF, he chose a job in Orlando with attorney Hugh Akerman that paid \$50 a month, just half what he could have earned in Jacksonville. He said the reason he picked Orlando and the lower salary was that his future wife, Grace Franklin, lived in Orlando. After two years he was raised to \$100 per month and married Grace in 1935. They were blessed with two daughters, Joan and Patty. He was assigned the First National Bank account in 1935 upon the death of one of Hugh Akerman's law partners and that was the beginning of his career as a successful banker.

His work as attorney for the bank impressed Linton Allen, president, so much that Linton asked Bill to become a director upon his return from three years in the U. S. Army during

W.W.II. His climb from a lieutenant in the National Guard Infantry to lieutenant colonel in the Quartermaster Corps, in charge of the procurement of produce for all of the armed forces in the nation, indicated the trust placed in his ability. He was aggressive, hard working, quick to make the right decisions and knew how to manage his employees.

Billy's law clients in Orlando after the war read like a "Who's Who." In addition to the First National Bank, they included the Orlando Sentinel with Martin Andersen as owner and publisher, the Bradshaws, the Mormons, the Florida Bankers Association and the Orange County Commission. He was an ideal businessman's lawyer. One client said that if Billy were asked a question on a point of law one day, the next morning his client would have a one page memo on his desk giving a clear opinion in language the client could understand. In 1953 Billy took on the formidable task of revising and codifying the antiquated banking laws of Florida. His work made him many friends among bankers as well as politicians in the state.

Linton Allen, chairman of the board, and Bill Capehart, president, both Rotarians, were looking for younger leadership for the bank. They listed all the qualifications of the man they wanted and realized that Bill Dial had them all. Linton persuaded Billy to become executive vice president of the First National Bank in 1958. One of their selling points was that he was working himself to death as a lawyer and that he would have more time to play golf if he took the bank's offer. Billy accepted and became the president within three years. He was elected chairman of the board in 1968, an office he held until 1975. He was the leader in establishing First at Orlando, a bank holding company, in 1966, serving as president and chairman until 1977, when he retired. The name of the bank was changed to SunBank. The SunBank chain grew to be the second largest bank holding company in Florida during Billy's tenure.

While building the bank he also built the community. He was a member of the State Road Board at the time the Martin Company came to town and was the bank's attorney. He handled the negotiations for obtaining the land for the Martin Company and, as the State Road Board member, handled the negotiations for the state to build the necessary roads to accommodate the plant which soon was the largest employer in Florida with 12,000 employees. The consensus was that Orlando would no longer be dependent on citrus as a major economic factor; the economy now had freeze protection. When Martin Andersen recommended bending the Florida Turnpike to come by Orlando, Dial assisted Andersen in seeing that the Turnpike ran near Orlando. As road board member, Dial also held the hearings that brought Interstate-4 through the center of Orlando. The City of Orlando Municipal Planning Board had asked for the road to go through the center of the city and planned for it, but there was much opposition. Billy conducted the crucial public hearing at the city auditorium. An effort to break up the meeting was thwarted by his cool handling of the meeting. The city needed the road to prevent the deterioration of the center city. Orlando has maintained an orderly Downtown development and has created a dynamic center city because of the roads that feed it and go through it. The fact that I-4 and the Turnpike cross southwest of Orlando, plus the Orlando international airport, made the area attractive to Walt Disney and Orlando has become the No.1 tourist attraction in the world. Billy Dial was a leader in making that happen.

When the University of Central Florida was envisioned for Orlando, Billy was a prime mover in getting the entire community behind the new university with moral, civic and monetary support. He was rewarded by being given an honorary doctorate. Friends he had made in

Gainesville and throughout Florida, were now the powers in the legislature and were helpful in getting the university authorized and funded. Bill was also honored by his alma mater, UF, for his work while a member of the Board of Control, predecessor of the Board of Regents. Incidentally, his daughter, Joan Ruffier, also served later on the Board of Regents. Other honors Bill received included being a laureate in the Mid-Florida Business Hall of Fame, sponsored by Junior Achievement. He also served as president of the Chamber of Commerce. In 1985, Bill was given the J. Thomas Gurney, Sr. award by the Chamber of Commerce. That award honors an Orlando resident who has given a lifetime of service to the community. When he retired from SunBanks in 1977, the bank set up a professorship in banking in his honor at UF to educate young bankers. In 1962, Florida Trend named Dial one of the 77 most influential men in Florida. Florida Trend magazine gave its first "Builder of Florida Award" to Billy Dial in 1984.

Billy's year as president of the Orlando Rotary Club found the club at a new peak. Financial affairs were in order, attendance in the previous administration had been one of highest in the history of the club, a large number of leading business and professional men had been inducted during the last few years. Dial called upon every Rotarian to put his shoulder to the wheel to assimilate all the new members and imbue in them the Rotary spirit. The year started off with one of the greatest club picnics on record. Bill McCree remembers the big affair at the Bumby family camp on Lake Butler: The perfectly fried chicken and famous Phil Slemmons onions, prepared by Phil using his secret recipe, plus potato salad and ice cream completed the picnic meal. Boat rides on Lake butler were available for all who cared to look at the shore from the lake. A big sing-a-long accompanied by an accordion furnished the music for the event.

Like a good lawyer, President Bill also sorted through all the rules and regulations of RI and briefed the requirements for membership in Rotary as follows: "The standard constitution for a Rotary Club provides the following requirements for active membership in Rotary: Adult male persons of good character and good business reputation--engaged as proprietor, partner, corporate officer, or manager of any worthy and recognized business; one holding an important position in an executive capacity with discretionary authority in any worthy and recognized business or acting as local agent or branch representative of any worthy and recognized business, having entire charge of such agency or branch in an executive capacity, and adult males of good character and good professional reputation engaged in any worthy and recognized profession, providing that the business or profession of that individual is not substantially the same as the business or profession of one already a member of the club. A man proposed for membership should have attained, not necessarily the greatest success, but he must have attained at least moderate success in his chosen field. All other things being equal, consideration should be given to the younger of two men proposed for the same classification so as to keep down the average age of the club."

Another special committee of the club, appointed by Dial, was composed of Paul Stine, chairman, George Brass, a former city commissioner, Herman Langford, bank trust officer, Ernie Gertner, meat distributor, and Bo McEwan, lawyer. They studied the needs of the city and recommended to the City Planning and Zoning Boards six important public improvements that should be made. The Rotary Board endorsed the report. All projects were accomplished.

The highlight of Bill's year was the visit of Angus Mitchell, Rotary International president from Australia. An intercity meeting was held on March 16, 1949, at the Orlando Country Club (cost \$1.50 each). Because of the limited seating only Rotarians (no guests) could attend, but more than 200 Rotarians came from practically every club in Central Florida. After the meeting, Angus planted a eucalyptus tree on the western shore of Lake Cherokee near the home of Rotarian John Wigfall. The Wigfall home was the birthplace of Ken Guernsey, a charter member of the Orlando club and, at that time, immediate past president of RI.

Bill was honored on past presidents' day, on the 74th anniversary of the club in May of 1994, as the oldest living past president of the club.

Leading Rotarians inducted during that Rotary Year included:

Robert McEwan, with the classification of Medical Technician. He was the son of charter member Dr. J. S. McEwan and the brother of O. B. Bob received a B.S. in biology and chemistry from Rollins and served as a first lieutenant during W.W.II as a bacteriologist. He was in charge of medical laboratories in the U. S. and France. He operated his own clinical laboratory in Orlando. Bob maintained perfect attendance all the rest of his life and died in 1987 while an active member of the club.

John E. (Skinny) Getzen, Mechanical Engineer.

Herb Haack, Restaurant Equipment, became president in 1958-59.

Vaylor Logan, Office Equipment.

Alex Stevens, Lithographer.

Dr. Williams Dean Steward, Internal Medicine, AA, one of Orlando's most respected physicians. He served as club president, 1959-60.

Murray Dantzler, Meat Packing, local manager of Swift and Co.

Jim Kieth, Jr., son of Jim Kieth, Sr., Life Insurance.

A. H. Smith, Insurance Adjusting, was the foremost insurance adjuster in Florida. He lived by the 4-Way Test before there was a 4-Way Test.

Dr. Robert Zellner, Surgery, AA to Dr. Duncan McEwan, was another popular doctor who was vitally interested in community affairs. A graduate of UF and Rush Medical College at the University of Chicago, he interned at Orange General Hospital. He served three years in W.W.II as a medical officer with the Navy taking care of U.S. Marines.

Joe Mackie, Director of Music for the First Presbyterian Church, who once presented his boys' choir to the club and described them as "not only the best musicians, but also the best behaved boys in town." Joe was a graduate of Duke University and Westminster Choir College. His background: 37 months in the Navy during W.W.II, a performer in musical theater and professional skipper for small craft for deep sea fishing. He was a welcome addition to the song leaders of Rotary.

The January 1949 issue of the Rotoptimist listed the Rotarians who had served as president of the chamber of commerce:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1919-- E. G. Duckworth | 1932-- S. Kendrick Guernsey |
| 1920-- Judge Wilbur Tilden | 1933-- J. C. Robinson |
| 1921-- Col. W. M. Glenn | 1937-- C. DeWitt Miller |
| 1922-- M. J. Daetwyler | 1938-- H. N. Dickson |
| 1923-- N. P. Yowell | 1940-- Geo F. Brass |

1925--J. M McCormick
1926--Harry P. Leu
1927--V. W. Estes
1928--Col. Geo. C. Johnson
1930--Harry M. Voorhis

1941--Henry B. Hall
1942--H. R. Cloud
1944--G. W. Lawton
1947--Paul Stine
1948--James B. Keith

The Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club were formed about the same time. Over the first 30 years, 20 Rotarians served as president--a good indication of the community leadership given by Rotary Club members.

W. H. (Bill) Lawrence was elected president by the board for 1949-50. For Bill it was an interruption of his 25 years-plus service as treasurer. Bill was kidded a lot during those 25 years for being such a tight-fisted treasurer, but during his tenure the club stayed on an even keel financially and Bill had the reputation for collecting dues better than anyone anywhere. The Rotary office liked Bill because he was always ready to come by and sign checks when needed. He came to Orlando as the manager of Standard Supply in 1936, but became the sole owner and changed the name five years later.

He was the butt of many jokes, for example: "He sold everything the plumber needed including the parts left at home." "The dues are only a drip in the bucket compared to the leaks in the budget." One of enjoyable things about attending Rotary meetings was hearing him and Herman Langford haggling and kidding each other. In 1948, he was elected president of the Southern Wholesaler's Association, which covered Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Virginia the Carolinas and Mississippi. Bill Lawrence was one of the best liked members of the club.

During that Rotary year, Jim Keith, program chairman, furnished a large number of educational and inspiring programs. Five colleges, Rollins, Stetson, Florida Southern, UF, and Florida State presented programs; bronze plaques were placed on the Sen. Charles O. Andrews Causeway on 17-92 across Lake Estelle after the causeway had been dedicated by President Harry Truman. Rotarian (Bow) Bowstead came up with the idea for the plaques and raised the money through contributions primarily from members of the Rotary Club. The number of members at the end of Bill's term was 169 and attendance for the decade, 1940-50, was 96.17 percent.

Rotarians inducted during Bill Lawrence's year included:

Dr. John Michaels, Gynecology.

E. C. (Doc) Pinel, Auto Parts.

C. Howard Sweatt, Citrus Concentrate Mfg., who served as club president in 1956-57.

J. Stanley Bumby, Hardware Retailing, who served as club president in 1954-55.

G. G. (Shorty) Hall, Peggy Jo, Florist. Shorty began a program of furnishing flowers for the weekly Rotary meetings without charge. Peggy Jo has continued to perform this service to Rotary for 45 years. Shorty's widow, Naomi Williams, operated the shop for many years after Shorty died. He was made a Paul Harris Fellow by the club in appreciation.

H. Stuart Johnson, Chamber of Commerce.

Wallace Mercer, Dry Goods Retailing, J. C. Penney Co., served as club president 1963-

Dr. John McKey, Pediatrics. He has one of the longest perfect attendance records in the club, 44 years. John, a native of Valdosta, Ga., received his M.D. from Emory University in 1941 and married Joyce two days before graduation. He did his internship and residency at Grady Hospital in Atlanta and entered the Navy in July of 1944. He was sent to the southwest Pacific with the rank of lieutenant, J.G. He served two years before returning to the U.S. and moving to Orlando in 1946. Dr. Edgar Hitchcock invited Dr. McKey to share his office, and later John opened his own office. He was the first board certified pediatrician in Orlando, was chairman of pediatrics at ORMC for nine years and head of the medical staff for one year. John's hobby is golf, and he has won the Country Club of Orlando championship seven times and the Rio Pinar championship five times. He has been city champion four times and national Champion of Club Champions three times. His son, an attorney is another good golfer. His daughter is office manager for Dr. Sam Stevens. John was president of the Orange County Mental Health Association. He said he believes that the mental health problems of children are due mainly to lack of parental guidance.

W. P. Benson, Coffee Roasting.

Amos Brim, Machinery & Mill Supplies, AA to Paul Stine of Harry P. Leu, Inc.

William E. Haile, Seeds and Bulbs, retailing, a native of Georgia, who moved with his family to Florida in 1925 and to Orlando in 1933. He graduated from UF and enlisted in the U. S. Army Air Corps in 1940 as a private. He attended flying school and was commissioned as a lieutenant in 1943. In 1945 he was shot down over Berlin, released from service in 1946 and entered business with his father.

It was a big day for President Bill Lawrence when he inducted his only son, J. Sidney Lawrence, into the Orlando Rotary Club. Sidney had the classification of Plumbing Supplies, AA. It was a first for a president of the club.

As the third decade of Rotary in Orlando ended, the club was alive and well. The attendance for the year was 96.88 percent. The Rotary office moved to 62 E. Pine St. along with the offices of Doyle Darnold, secretary. This made the office more convenient and closer to the meeting place in the Chamber of Commerce building at 113 East Central Ave.

Harry P. Leu was made an honorary member after 29 years of perfect attendance, since joining in October, 1920, and 28 years' perfect attendance at RI conventions, a record never paralleled in the club and probably in no other club in the world. When attendance requirements were no longer necessary for men over 65 with 15 years of service, Harry again became a senior active member. Jim Keith, program chairman, with his great connections in Rotary and the business world, presented great programs during the year. On ladies' night, with 185 present, baby pictures of Rotarians were shown with much razzing and kidding going on. RI President Percy Hodgson visited the club with a timely report on Red China. The Rotary Club of Kissimmee was sponsored by Orlando and received its charter June 26 in the closing days of President Bill's year. Orlando continued its steady growth during the 1940s with a real spurt in construction activity after the war. Several physical changes in the city were noted. In 1941, a new post office and federal building was built at Robinson and Magnolia. The Orlando Junior College, the first such institution in Central Florida, was opened in the old high school building at Magnolia Avenue and Livingston. J. P. Holbrook, Orlando Rotary's first president, was the first chairman of the college board of trustees. The institution was moved to Marks Street and

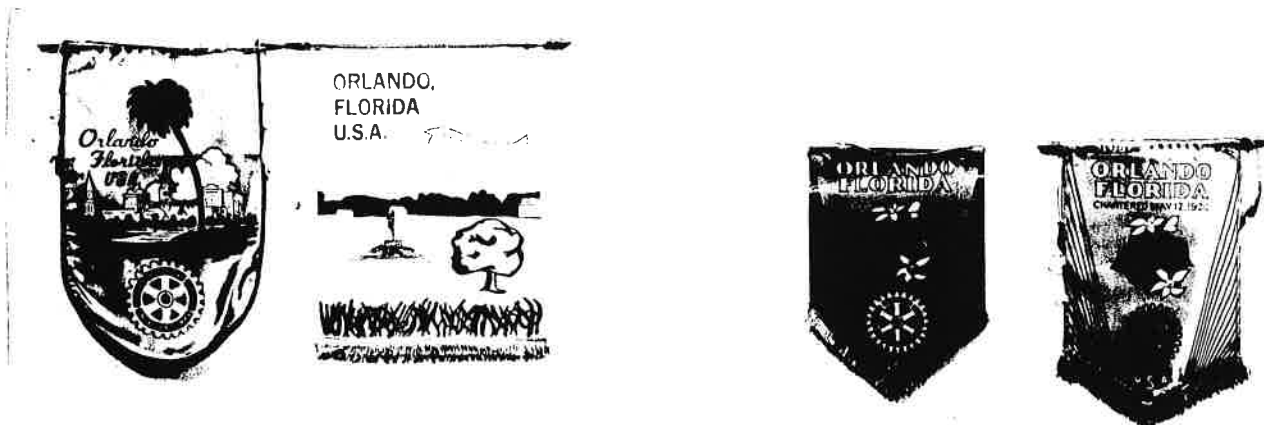
Highland Avenue. It was phased out in 1971 because of the opening of Valencia and Seminole Community Colleges. Building and grounds were turned over to Lake Highland Preparatory School, which continues to date. In 1940, the first low cost housing project for blacks was constructed and called Griffin Park. In 1942, the second, Reeves Terrace, was built on East South Street. In 1946, the Orange General Hospital's name was changed to Orange Memorial Hospital. At that time, DeWitt Miller was the chief administrator of the hospital. The city bought Lake Fairview Park and built the facilities for harness racing which came to Orlando in 1943. In 1949, the first parking meters were installed and in 1950 the first election machines were used in Orange County.

After 30 years, four charter members remained active members of the club: J. P. Holbrook, Gene Duckworth, DeWitt Miller and Harry Wilson.

ROTARY CLUB BANNERS

The official banner of the Orlando Rotary Club has undergone several design changes during these 75 years. It is not known when Rotary club banners were first used, but it is believed that the first design was adopted in the late 1940s and consisted of a bronze and navy silk banner with a drawing of the then skyline shown from across Lake Eola with a predominating palm tree as shown below. The second banner is believed to have been adopted when "The City Beautiful" was declared the "Action Center" by the Chamber of Commerce in the 1950s. The white and blue banner with shades of silver also included gold oranges and a gold Rotary emblem. The setting is again Lake Eola with the then new fountain. In 1962, the banner became a handsome blue and gold design with gold fringe and an orange in the center. At Henry Swanson's suggestion, the orange banner was revised about 1982 to include the charter date of the Rotary Club of Orlando.

The club now has 1,274 banners from other clubs in 64 countries, including 665 that represent Rotary clubs in the United States. It has banners from every state except Idaho. Henry Swanson, who has been the dedicated keeper of the banners, put them on display twice for club meetings and has arranged them in storage where they can be readily available for future displays. These Rotary banners are not only colorful, but include many fine pieces of art work as well as craftsmanship. All banners were given to the club by visiting Rotarians or brought back by members of the club, who had visited another Rotary Club.



CHAPTER FOUR

SOLID GROWTH 1950-60

Population of Orlando, 51,826; Orange County, 114,074

The decade of the 1950s was a period of laying a new foundation for Orlando. Plans were made for bringing Interstate-4 through Orlando, a new city hall was built, the J. Rolfe Davis Causeway was constructed across Lake Lucerne, and the first regional mall was built at Colonial Plaza. Comprehensive zoning and planning changes for the entire city were made. All Rotarians had a part in this growth with Rotary Club members leading the way in many areas. Their story is told here and in other chapters of this book.

The Rotary year began about the time the United States became involved in the Korean War and again Rotarians were called by their country:

Lt. Colonel Talmadge J. Denton, Filling Stations, who joined in 1951.

Capt. James B. Keith, Jr., Life Insurance, who joined in 1949.

Major Cloyd McClung, Air Conditioning, who had joined in 1937 and served several years in World War II.

Fearing the restrictions that might be put on construction, and thinking that the conflict might accelerate to include a war with Russia, many people decided to get buildings started as soon as possible, creating a minor building boom. Fortunately for the world that did not happen and no sanctions were placed on construction materials. However, McCoy Air Force Base was reactivated and many young men, both reservists and draftees, were called into service from the community. The decade was quite important to Orlando's economy as more permanent residents continued to arrive in Florida. The first major industry (the Martin Co.) built a large plant in south Orange County.

Alex M. Robinson was elected president of the club for 1950-51. He selected Bob Robertson as his program chairman whom many old timers consider to have given the club some of the best programs to date. He was as careful in this assignment as he was meticulous in his moving and storage business. Bob, during his unique two-year stint at the job, successfully weeded out the "not so good" and "self interest" programs as the club was large enough now that many wanted to speak to it. One special meeting, instituted by Stan Bumby's Employer-Employee Relations Committee, was for each Rotarian to have as his guest an employee. The program was popular and continued for years. Also, Howard Phillips, International Relations Committee, secured and sponsored the showing of four foreign films with \$829 of the admission proceeds going to the Orlando club and \$175 going to the Winter Park club for the Rotary Foundation.

Members inducted into the club during the year included:

Caywood Whitley, Renting - Proprietary, AA for Howard Phillips.

Robert Neel, Cemeteries, AA to Asher Peter. Bob would later become president of the club in 1962-63 and district governor, 1971-72.

Ford B. Rogers Jr., Airport Operator, who operated Showalter Flying Field and Charter Services.

Chester Gregory, Pianos - Retailing.

Dr. Roger E. Phillips, Orlando's leading psychiatrist, who continues to be an active member today. Roger served as a director from 1954-56. Roger's grandfather moved to the Orlando area in 1884, but Roger came later. He was born in Massachusetts in 1907, graduated from Orlando High School in 1924 and earned a BS from UF before obtaining his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania, where he also interned. He practiced in Pennsylvania from 1934 to 1943 when he entered the Navy as a lieutenant and served until 1946. He then took a residency in psychiatry at Menninger's Clinic in Topeka, Kan., and came to Orlando to set up his own office in 1949. Semi-retired since 1974, he has continued to work part time with hospital patients. His mother, Teresa Phillips, taught math in the high schools of Orlando for 35 years. The student of whom she was most proud was John Young, an astronaut from Orlando. Roger and his wife, Larrie, have two children, Amy Grant of Wharton, Texas, and Roger V. Phillips, also a member of the Orlando club. A sister, Marion Clark Phillips, was a U. S. Army nurse in World War II and was killed in an airplane accident in Italy in 1945. The Marion Clark Phillips American Legion Post for women veterans was named for her. Dr. Phillips was sponsored in Rotary Dr. Bob Zellner. Roger was impressed with the membership which included his old scoutmaster, Don Cheney. Roger has been active in the Red Cross, the Community Planning Council, the State Social Workers Association, Primrose School, and the Mental Health Association. The Central Florida Chapter of the Mental Health Association honored him with the Golden Bell Award in 1976.

When asked what Rotary has meant to him he answered: "Fellowship! And an opportunity to serve." He said, "Rotary has furnished the community with outstanding leaders with good ideas and the ability to implement them, making Orlando a great community." His many hobbies include: photography, home movies, sailing and raising roses. One unique hobby in today's world is the keeping of a complete daily diary all of his adult life. Excerpts from that diary have been most helpful to the writers of this Rotary history and will be used in the chapters that follow. For the 1950-51 Rotary year he records that Homer Rodehaver, the world renowned singer and Methodist evangelist, spoke to the club in 1951.

James B. (Jim) Keith was a natural for president in 1951-52. He was elected district governor for 1957-58. He had been president of the Asheville and Daytona Beach clubs before coming to Orlando to manage Ivey's, successor to the Yowell-Drew Department Store. Jim was a true Southerner, a "deep water" Baptist and a Rotarian "through and through." He smiled most of the time and saw the best in everyone. He believed the most important thing in any organization, whether business, church or service club, was the people involved, especially the leaders. Selecting the right man to do the right thing was more important than having a good organizational structure, he felt.

Jim was an enthusiastic and dedicated Rotarian and used his connections to provide Bob Robertson, program chairman, with top notch programs. The famous actress, Constance Bennett, accompanied by her poodles was an example. The Vocational Service Committee not

only staged an Employee Relations Day but a Competitor Relations day, added under the guidance of Bill McCree, who headed that committee. Every Rotarian was urged to bring a competitor as a guest. This special day continued for years. The most unusual competitor was Jack Holloway, liquor dealer, invited by Malcom Watson, minister at Park Lake Presbyterian. Malcom said that Jack got more of Park Lake parishioners' money than the church did.

Another incident that happened at one of Jim's directors' meetings was told by Dick Lawrence: "The board was meeting at the old Fort Gatlin Hotel in a room with plate glass walls next to the hallway. There was a lot of military in town at the time. One inebriated captain knocked on the door persistently and finally Jim went to the door. The captain inquired if it was a Rotary meeting and said he had a message for the Rotarians. Jim presented him to the board and everyone's ears perked up. The captain then asked that not a word of what he had to say should leave the room and that really got everyone's interest. Finally he came closer and said: 'Don't send hard candy overseas!' and walked out."

Longtime Rotarians who were inducted during Jim's year included:

Judge Terry Patterson.

Col. William A. McKee, Juvenile Court Advisor.

B. Philip (Phil) Jones, Tires, retailing. Phil was active in the club about 30 years. His son was the founder of Bernie's Coffee shops.

G. Emerson (Mark) Markham, Restaurants, owned and operated the Eola Plaza restaurant (later the Cherry Plaza and now Lee's Lakeside), the first lakeside restaurant in Orlando and a popular place for banquets and meetings.

Dr. Robert Neill, Neurosurgeon.

William H. Beardall, Abstracting, an attorney in the Fidelity Title and Abstract Co. owned by Bill's father, "Billy" Beardall, a popular mayor of Orlando for 12 years. Bill, a quiet friendly Rotarian, served as president in 1971-72.

William J. (Bill) Capehart, Banking AA, second in command at the First National Bank of Orlando. Bill joined the bank in 1936 as vice president and cashier and progressed upwards through the presidency and chairman of the board before his retirement 30 years later. Linton Allen described him: "Bill Capehart is the best bank credit man and operational officer in Florida. While I was tooting the horn and ringing the bell, he was on the job stoking the furnace and keeping up the steam. I attribute the major part of the successful operation and earning capacity of the First National Bank to the dedication and the efficiency of my devoted friend, Bill Capehart." He was a faithful but quiet Rotarian who did his job in Rotary without fanfare as he did with his bank.

Paul D. Hudson, Cleaning Garments.

Otis Taylor, Health and Accident Insurance, Industrial.

Milton Blanck, Public Service Municipal, directed the Orlando Industrial Board, which was charged with seeking new industry for the area. He had a full time job during the time the city was growing rapidly.

Paul S. Mears, Taxicab Service, later became a leasing agent in addition to owning several taxicab companies. Paul was an exceedingly astute business man who had the knack of turning every business he touched into a profitable venture.

Glen W. Spears, Men's Clothing, was the son-in-law of Walter Rose, but was trained while working for Rutland's, eventually opening his own business.

Robert A. (Bob) Robertson, Program Chairman for the two previous years, was elected president for 1952-53. Bob was as thorough in his stewardship of the office of president as he was in operating his family business of household goods' storage when he changed to strictly merchandise warehousing and became one of the largest operators in the area. He built new warehouses in several locations before finally locating permanently on Shader Road east of U.S. Highway 441 (Orange Blossom Trail) near Fairvilla. Bob was a careful planner, constructing quality buildings which served for palletized storage. His favorite expression was: "All I have to sell is space. I want it to be the best for my customers." He usually began construction early in the year, often on Jan. 1, to get the greatest tax advantage for the buildings which usually took three months to build. Bob was a devout and active member of First Presbyterian Church and served as chairman of the board of deacons and an elder as well as a member of many major committees. He held a little religious service at the ground-breaking for each new building. He was a gentleman in every respect and a set a good example of Rotary and the 4-Way Test in his business and personal affairs. He served one term as president of the Orlando Chamber of Commerce, one term as president of the Orange Memorial Hospital Board. He was active in the various trade associations of his vocation and served a year as president of the Southeast Warehouseman's Association.

An avid tennis player, he was captain of the Rollins Tennis Team and later champion of singles and doubles in Orlando. A graduate of Orlando schools and Rollins College, he served on the board of trustees of Rollins for many years. In 1993, he was inducted into the Mid-Florida Business Hall of Fame by Junior Achievement. Bob was an avid traveler and selected unusual trips, like photographic safaris in Africa, rafting down the Salmon River of Idaho, or exotic trips to the Orient and Europe for vacations with his family. After retirement and some health problems he spent the summers at a second home in Jackson Hole, Wyo. His family business was taken over by his son and son-in-law. You can usually find him about one o'clock having lunch at one of the large community tables at the University Club, where he likes to tell and listen to the tales of past experiences.

During Bob's year, the emphasis continued on youth and the second Orlando nominee was selected for a year's study abroad. Jim Pittman's son, Joe, was the fortunate young man. Bob established the practice of presenting a copy of the book, "Service is my Business," to all speakers and new members. Emphasis was placed heavily on voting in the fall elections and a check of the records found that every eligible member of Rotary was registered, indicating that Rotarians are interested in doing their part in selecting public officials.

New members inducted during that year included:

Joyce P. Layden, Vehicle Renting.

Howard E. Ferris, Gas Service, who was later vice president and general manager of South Atlantic Gas Co. He was very active in the club and in the community, serving as chairman of the United Appeal campaign in 1954. He served as sergeant-of-arms from 1966-76.

J. W. Gelm, Medical Supplies.

John Evans, Telephone Service, replaced Al Mooneyham as district manager of Southern Bell in Orlando. As is typical with Southern Bell managers, John became an active Rotarian and also was chairman of the United Way campaign for the next year.

Mills Lord, Public Schools, AA. Mills was a longtime Rotarian. Mills first joined Rotary in Live Oak, Florida, in 1948, then became a Rotarian in Sebring between 1949-53,

becoming president of that club in 1950-51. He is a Paul Harris Fellow and had 36 years' perfect attendance. Mills received a B.A. and M.A. in education from UF, and did other graduate work at FSU. He is a native of Ocala, Florida, and has held positions as a teacher, principal and administrator in Waldo, Oviedo, Live Oak, Sebring and Orange County. He is a retired colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and served six years in World War II. He said, "Rotary has been a stabilizing influence in my life."

Don Hawley, Electronic Scientist, was a research scientist at the Naval Underwater Sound Laboratory in Lake Gem Mary on South Summerlin Avenue and Gatlin Street. The story of this little known, but very important Naval research facility, is very interesting and Don Hawley was connected with it for such a long period that a brief history will be related here.

When World War II began, much of the research on underwater sound for the U. S. Navy was being conducted by Columbia University War Research in New York City. The Navy asked the Bell Telephone Laboratories to help locate and build a better facility for the purpose. The Bell System sent out a flier to all its employees in the United States telling them of the requirement for a body of water for research in underwater sound. A Southern Bell employee in Orlando suggested that Lake Gem Mary (formerly called Deep Lake) had the qualities necessary-- deep, round, soft mud bottom and small enough to prevent much wave action. Two specialists were sent to Orlando to inspect the lake. It was deemed ideal and was leased by Columbia and the necessary facilities were built. It was taken over after the war by the Navy. It is now called the Underwater Sound Division of the Naval Research Laboratory. Germany developed an acoustical torpedo in early 1942. It was designed to be guided to an Allied ship by noise from the propellers and the rudder. They fired one in the Thames River, but somehow it went into the mud and did not explode. The Allies recovered the torpedo, took it apart and sent it to Orlando. It was so secret that everyone not essential to the work was barred from the lab. Similar torpedoes and many other underwater devices were designed and tested here. Little is known of all the important testing and experimenting that has gone on in the little lake on Gatlin St.

Don Hawley is a native of Michigan, but has lived in Florida most of his life. He graduated from UF with a B.S. in physics (minors in math and chemistry) in 1939, where he worked at WRUF radio to pay his way. After graduation, he brought his wife, Mildred, to Orlando and was employed by WDBO until he entered the Navy in April of 1941. While at Florida, he had taken ROTC, but had also enrolled in the Naval Reserve. He preferred the water to being a foot soldier. He went on active duty as an ensign and left in 1946 as a lieutenant commander. During World War II, he was stationed first at Pensacola Naval Air Station in naval communications. Next he became a part of the Navy Radio Material Section in New Orleans, then spent a year in post graduate study at the U. S. Naval Academy. He was assigned to the staff of the Amphibious Command in California and went to the Philippines to prepare for the invasion of Japan. After the war, he kept up his Naval Reserve connection until 1974 and retired as a captain. After the war, he joined the Underwater Sound Laboratory in Orlando. He began in the lab handling the physics of measuring sound. Promotions over 25 years gave him the final title of electronics scientist.

Don has been very active in Rotary with a perfect attendance of 41 years and has served on the Youth, Magazine, Rotary Information and History Committees. He also served as club secretary two terms, 1976-78. Outside the club he has worked with Boy Scouts and the United

Appeal on the solicitation level and he is a 6 gallon blood donor. He has received several honors including being listed in the 1966 edition, "Men of Science." Don's hobby has been "ham radio." He has been licensed since he was 14 and now communicates with Rotarians all over the World. His principal Rotary friend in this endeavor has been Past President of RI Hugh Archer who is a member of Rotary Radio Fellowship. Don has three children, a son, Malcom, a Rotarian for about 20 years; a daughter in California who is married to a Rotarian; and another daughter who lives here. The Hawleys have eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Dr. Frank J. Pyle, Urology, was elected president for 1953-1954. Dr. Pyle, a native of Pennsylvania, is unusual because he received an engineering degree before getting his medical degree. If the degree had been in mechanical engineering, the relation between the plumbing part and urology could be explained, but it was in electrical engineering from Penn State and his M.D. was awarded by the University of Pennsylvania. Frank served previously as president of the Scottsdale, Pa. Rotary Club in 1939-40. He came to Florida in 1942 and associated himself with the Orr Clinic, leaving right after the war to start his own private practice. He and his wife, Lois, had a daughter, Ann Williams, of Orlando, and a son, Frank Jr., who now practices law in Orlando. He was a good president of the Orlando Rotary Club, and was as good at it as he was as he was at being a "human plumber."

President Frank's year was a great one, but what will be remembered by many as the most important community service project was the institution of a program for Drivers' Training Education in Edgewater and Boone High Schools. A car was lent by a local dealer and instructors were trained and paid by funds raised by the club. Two years later, under the leadership of Frank Pyle and Dick Lawrence, a bill was pushed through the legislature making drivers' education available at all high schools in the state. The club started a Schoolboy Patrol, and interest in that continued and three boys were sent to Washington for a national conclave and visit to the nation's capitol. Previously, raincoats and rain hats had been furnished to the Schoolboy Patrol by the club. Police Inspector "Bulldog" Rogers came to the club to say "Thank you!" Both programs were sponsored by the Traffic Safety Committee.

President Frank chose Stanley Bumby as his program chairman which let the club continue to have outstanding programs. During the 10 years from 1945 to 1955, nine of the club presidents had been program chairmen and the programs steadily became better. With the exception of one year, the programs were selected by the program chairman for the year, thus the programs were balanced between Rotary information, entertainment, education, fellowship, international, science, current events and inspirational. Practically no programs were promotional for either individuals or organizations except Rotary. A most interesting program was presented by Glen Middleton, former producer of the radio show, "Amos 'n' Andy." Middleton was one of the builders and promoters of the Citrus Tower in Lake County. Another outstanding speaker was E. Stanley Jones, famous Methodist missionary to India and author of many books. The crowning program of the year was an inter-city dinner meeting which honored Herbert Taylor (president-elect of RI) and his wife with over 250 present. Herb Taylor is the man who conceived the idea of the 4-Way Test when he was CEO of an insolvent company in 1932. The company began using the 4-Way Test and under his guidance paid off more than \$400,000 in debts and paid a million dollars in dividends, ending up with a net worth of over \$2 million. The 4-Way Test inspired his people to produce more and build sales for the

company. The four tests were found in the Bible. As a result of his visit, a campaign was initiated by the club to spread the 4-Way Test through the schools and throughout Central Florida, having companies and institutions adopt it as a principle. Other programs included a report of the experiences of Jon Stine, son of Paul Stine, Joe Bumby III, son of Stan Bumby, and two other Boy Scouts at the Third National Jamboree of the Boy Scouts in California; four congressman visiting Florida in the interest of agriculture including our congressman from Leesburg, Syd Herlong. Another program was a special buyer-seller program that resulted in a city-wide seminar on selling by Dr. Frank Goodwin of UF. Visitors and visiting Rotarians hit an all time high to date of 3,008. The board of directors reaffirmed its previous action that it would not donate to the group but would encourage individual members to make donations organization of their choice. An example of Rotarians helping Rotarians: J. J. Newell became very ill and Russ Hughes had him flown to Duke Hospital in the Hughes Supply Plane.

President Frank became alarmed when the attendance one quarter dropped to 93.37 percent, the lowest in 12 years. His year ended with 94.73 percent and a membership of 195. Fellowship was emphasized as new members continued to be on the greeting committee.

The 25 new members inducted during his year included:

Harry Baldwin, Jr., Cigars and Tobacco, Wholesale AA, for his father.

C. D. (Cally) Caldwell, Boys Organizations, Boy Scouts of America, Scout executive for Central Florida Council. Cally had 15 years' experience in Rotary prior to coming to Orlando.

Malcom Watson, Protestant Religion, successor to Bob McCaslin as minister at Park Lake Presbyterian Church. Malcom was previously a missionary in South America and furnished some interesting programs.

Glenn Wilson, Shoes, son of Harry Wilson, charter member.

Francis Auger, Commercial Credit Reporting, a humorous speaker who became club president for 1965-66.

Orville Robinson, Past Service who was Sergeant-at-Arms for 10 years.

James Brown, Telephone Service.

Rolland Dean, Newspaper Publishing, associate editor of the Sentinel, a previous Rotarian in Sanford where he published the Sanford Herald. Rolland was editor of the Rotoptimist newsletter from 1954 to 1969 and wrote the 50-year history of the Orlando Rotary Club in 1970. The club has been blessed with many talented editors of the Rotoptimist, but Rolland added "zip" to his stories that made good reading. He also included a couple of dozen personal items in every issue. For many years he also wrote a weekly article in the Sentinel on Rotary weekly programs and Rotary projects. Rolland Dean was described by his friend, Ormund Powers, another long-time Rotary and Sentinel editor, as being the "dean" of Rotoptimist editors. Rolland described the first program of Stan's year as president of the Orlando club in this way: "Bill McCree, our new program chairman, got off to a flying start with what will probably be his most captivating presentation of the year. Miss Marion Ettie, 1953 Florida Citrus Queen, told us about Cypress Gardens in a beautiful speech punctuated with well rounded figures of speech and flashing black eyes. Through her wavy black hair she gave us a close insight into the publicity racket. Did you notice that dotted Swiss creation she was wearing? She revealed that Cypress Gardens has 37 acres in tropical plants and has made more than 1,000 newsreels and 150 movie shorts in the last year. But, who the hell cares about that?"

Carl Pilhorn, Household Furniture.

Dr. Charles Davis, Veterinary Medicine.

Charles Wood, X-Ray equipment, retail.

R. N. (Nick) Turnbow, Oil Lands, Leasing.

Stanley Bumby, Hardware, Retail, president 1954-55, was a third generation member of the Bumby family who came from England in 1872 to establish Bumby Hardware, an institution for years on Church Street across the tracks from the old railroad station. Both buildings are now a part of the Church Street Station complex. Stan, a cheerful, outgoing fellow was a commercial airline pilot before returning home to enter the family business. A popular man, Stan was active in many community affairs and served as president of the Retail Merchants Association in 1952. Stan later became manager of Bumby's Winter Park store and was elected as president of the Winter Park Rotary Club in 1960-61.

Other unique events of the year were: Ken Guernsey failed to make it for Ken Guernsey Day on Dec. 29 due to illness. On 36 hours' notice, his nephew, Joe Guernsey, president of Orlando Federal Savings and Loan (and future president of the Orlando club) substituted and made an excellent speech on some of the needs of Orlando. Said Joe: "Uncle Ken taught me all that I know--but not all that he knows." Herb Haack led in the chartering of the first Wheel Club at Edgewater High School with 25 members on April 25, 1955. Jon Stine was the first president. Bill adopted the policy of alternating programs as they applied to the four avenues of Rotary service: Club, Community, Vocational and International. He planned one program each month as pure entertainment to promote fellowship and in addition added extra music by recruiting young musicians from Boone and Edgewater High Schools using various instruments or voice. This developed a good relationship with the high schools as well as being enjoyable for the members. For a number of years the club had guests each month from one or the other local high schools and dubbed them "Junior Rotarians." After the establishment of Wheel Clubs, their members were the guests each month. On the last day of the month one of the Junior Rotarians made a short speech. Joey Pittman, returned Rotary Foundation Scholar from Switzerland, gave an excellent presentation on what it meant to be a Rotary scholarship student in a foreign county. A year or so later the rules were changed to make relatives of Rotarians ineligible for foundation scholarships. Joey was the only relative of an Orlando Rotarian to have the foundation.

In January, the plans for the future Interstate 4 were revealed for the first time in Orlando. The big event for Stan's year was the 50th birthday celebration of Rotary International on the evening of Feb. 23, 1955, at the Edgewater High School gymnasium that we shared with the Winter Park Club. On Perfect Attendance Day, April 13, 167 members were present and 28 made up. Wallace Mercer was attendance chairman. It was the first perfect Attendance Day in six years. As the club grew in membership, a perfect attendance day was harder to accomplish. For June 15, an elaborate program had been arranged in which the Rotary club would meet at the Pinecastle Air Base, have lunch, enjoy a tour of the base and see the B-52 strato bombers. Gen. Keith Compton, base and wing commander had made the arrangements, but a sudden atomic alert called the day before forced President Stan to cancel the meeting at the last minute.

Longtime Rotarians inducted during Stan's term included:

Walter G. (Buckie) Allen, Drugs Distribution. Buckie, sponsored by Bob Robertson,

became a super Rotarian, was elected president for 1975-76 and district governor for 1979-80.

W. A. (Ole) Johnson, Building Materials, AA for Jim Pittman.

Col. James W. Lansing, Public Defense, Air, base commander of Orlando Air Force Base. He was the most active and community-minded military man to be a member of the club while on active duty.

Harry D. Bull, Cosmetics Distributor, later Travel Agent, served as president in 1964-65.

Stanley Scott, Building Specialties, was a native of Orange County whose family went back several generations. Born at Kelso Grove, Winter Garden, Stanley was a graduate of Purdue University where he was a member of Tau Beta Pi, the honorary engineering fraternity. He rendered his greatest service as an active member of the American Field Service, an organization that provides for the exchange of high school students of different countries to live with families in the United States for a year, and vice versa.

Gerald Gay, Home Builder. He was the son of longtime Rotarian Clarence Gay. There was no classification in the book for Home Builder, but his sponsor, Bill McCree, insisted his was a different business from that of general contractor. Gerry served as an active Rotarian and served on the board of directors several terms. He attended Georgia Tech and learned to fly his own plane. He and his family enjoy numerous skiing trips to Colorado in the winter. He also developed a hobby of sailing in the Atlantic. After many sailing trips to the Bahamas, he purchased a new 42-foot sailing vessel, a state of the art craft. He and Ben Walters, another Rotarian, spent months planning a trip to the Virgin Islands via the Bahamas. After leaving the Bahamas en route to the Dominican Republic in February of 1984, Gerry, Ben and their wives disappeared and were never heard from again. Gerry's two sons, Gerry Jr. and David are now members of the club.

J. M. "Monte" Hood, Jr., Tractors retailing.

John W. Rourk, Building Materials, Distribution, attained a record for perfect attendance and as a blood donor. He also worked for years at the registration table.

Robert J. Hennis, Orthodontist.

William (Bill) Y. Akerman, AA in Corporation Law. Bill was active in the community and served as president of the Chamber of Commerce in 1956.

J. Stuart (Stew) Cudlipp, Senior Active, became one of the song leaders and served as sergeant-of-arms for eight years beginning in 1957.

James Quinn, Hospital Administration, Orange Memorial Hospital.

Bill Hudson, Ready Mixed Concrete of Thomas Ready Mixed Concrete Co. Bill was one of those young men who became active right away and stayed that way. He was inducted in January and was of great assistance during the February celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of Rotary. He was in charge of several of the all night supervised parties for high school seniors.

President Stan's year ended with 204 members which put the club in category "C" in RI: clubs with 200 or more members.

W. A. (Bill) McCree was elected to become President for 1955-56. Bill came to Orlando with his family in 1926, graduated from OHS and received a B.S. degree in civil engineering after working his way through Georgia Tech. He returned home in 1936 to become a partner in his father's construction business and was invited to join Rotary in 1940. At the

age of 14, he became an Eagle Scout and organized a new Boy Scout troop in his neighborhood. Later he served as a Scoutmaster. He was a veteran of World War II, having served 33 months in Australia and New Guinea and attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Ordnance Department. As was customary for incoming presidents, he attended the RI convention in Chicago in June of 1955 before taking office. This, the first of eight RI conventions for Bill, was inspiring and presented several unique experiences for him, he said. The convention train from Orlando carried not only Bill and his wife, Pauline, but Paul Stine, Ernie Gertner, Harry P. Leu, Doyle Darnold, and Howard Gross. President Stan Bumby, Ben Carpenter and their spouses went by plane and Gibby Gibbs stopped by the convention returning from a vacation at points further north. Upon arrival in the Chicago railroad station, Harry Leu took charge, organized the porters to handle the luggage and secured the taxis to take the Orlando delegation to their respective hotels. Bill said he had never witnessed such organization anywhere--not even in the Army. It required only 10 minutes to check into the hotel. Buses ran every five minutes between the hotels and the Cow Palace, where most of the sessions were held. Bill tells the story of ordering breakfast in the hotel and before he could go to the dresser and get his wallet, the breakfast was there. It seems they had a small kitchen rigged up on an elevator. The convention was celebrating 50 years of Rotary.

Rolland Dean described Bill's first meeting: The headline on the article read, "HAIL TO THE NEW CHIEF," and read, "You can tell Col. Bill McCree is a construction man by the way he wields the 'hammer.' You can tell also that he is going to be a real 'prexy' by the way he is bringing in the new ideas; new members and committee chairman brought to our attention; by the businesslike manner in the conduct of the meetings; and by his tolerance for Presbyterians. So we say, 'Hail' (thunder, lightning and rain) for the new chief--but mostly 'sunshine' we add with sincerity and seriousness."

Bill's experience as president was a great one. Howard Sweatt and Phil Jones worked very hard to get a 100 percent meeting in December and one man was brought from the hospital in a stretcher, but the second ill member could not attend. A practice of giving door prizes for those wearing badges was initiated by the Fellowship Committee and continued for two years.

It was also a year of "eating good" for Orlando Rotarians: In August, George Jenkins, founder and owner of Publix Super Markets, spoke to the club about how he organized what was to become the second largest company in Florida and George furnished T-Bone steaks. Ernie Gertner and Winn-Dixie were not to be outdone and presented a most interesting program showing how a "steer" was carved to give customers their favorite cuts of beef and again furnished T-Bone steaks. The warden of the state penitentiary at Raiford told the club how the state correctional institutions are operated. Dr. Roger Phillips' daughter, Amy Lou, along with the Choraliers furnished beautiful music for the club. The highest compliment paid to Bill McCree took place on ladies night, April 17, 1956 the affair being held at the old San Juan Hotel with 241 people present. Paul Stine made a serious speech telling what a wonderful year President Bill McCree was finishing and said that in appreciation the club was presenting him with a fine gift. Herb Haack came forward with a huge crystal punch bowl wrapped in cellophane with a big bow and just as he was about to place it in Bill's hands, Herb slipped and the bowl (filled with heavy spikes) crashed to the floor in pieces. Just then the doors opened and a dozen newsboys came in with a special edition of the Sentinel-Star with 2-inch headlines reading, "PUNCH BOWL PLOT LAID TO REDS" and a story captioned, "Butter Fingered Act

Lacerates McCree." Bill said that during his year he was very conscious of the time meetings used. He reasoned that with 200 Rotarians and guests present that every minute of the meeting represented 3 hours and 20 minutes of time for the highest paid executives in Orlando and each meeting represented 300 hours of that expensive time; so he decided to make every minute count. He let no one make announcements except the president and programs were scrutinized carefully to make sure the members would get something worthwhile for the time they spent at Rotary.

Being president of the Orlando Rotary Club was the beginning of many community leadership roles of McCree. He served on Orlando's Municipal Planning Board with Rotarians Linton Allen and Paul Stine, Beth Johnson, who became the first lady state senator, C. Walton Rex, John Newsom and other leading citizens. He was chairman in 1959-60. During his eight years' service, I-4 was planned and construction was begun through Orlando. A new comprehensive street and zoning plan was adopted. He became president of the Central Florida Development Committee (1960-61) and presented the following goals which were adopted by CFDC: A water control system for Orange County; better roads including completion of I-4 through the city; a five county Regional Planning Commission; and a new university for Central Florida. All goals were reached within a few years. Gov. Farris Bryant (1961-64) appointed Bill as chairman of the Canal Authority of Florida. This assignment gave Bill McCree an insight into government and the people who run it, both state and national. It also established lasting friendships. During his four-year term, the authority directed the beginning of construction of the Cross-Florida Barge Canal. The project was stopped in 1970 for political reasons.

Other community activities in which Bill participated included serving as vice chairman of the Local Government Study Commission (1965-67), which recommended a county mayor for Orange County (implemented 22 years later with election of a county chairman). Bill was a leader in his local Methodist Church and later became president of the trustees of the Florida Conference of the Methodist Church, president of the Central Florida Builders Exchange and president of the UCF Foundation. Bill served one term on the board of Orange Memorial Hospital and while acting as secretary proposed the name for the "Doctor's Wing" at the hospital (now Orlando Regional Healthcare System). The only business connection outside of construction that Bill ever had was as a director of the College Park First National Bank for 15 years. Among the honors he received were: Being chosen the Orlando Sentinel's "Man of the Week" in 1961; being chosen in 1962 as one of the 77 most influential men in Florida by Florida Trend magazine; being named Salesman of the Year in 1964 by the Central Florida Sales and Marketing Executives Club; being inducted in 1987 into Junior Achievement's Mid-Florida Business Hall of Fame. Bill was married to his wife, Pauline, in 1938. She was a music teacher at OHS and an organist in Bill's church. She continued to direct choirs and play the organ intermittently for many years and was the pianist for the Orlando Rotary Club for about 10 years in the 1980s. After retirement, Bill and Pauline traveled and then he learned to use a computer and took up the hobby of writing books. Included were a history of his business, "The Hammer and the Pencil," plus two family histories. The couple have two daughters, two sons and eight grandchildren. Son Allen, is a Rotarian in Brentwood, Tenn., a retired Air Force command pilot and a speaker/entertainer. Richard is president of McCree, Inc. and past president of the Windermere Rotary Club. Bill, Pauline, son-in-law Michael

Spraggins and his wife Margie, and both of Bill's sons, are Paul Harris Fellows.

Rotarians inducted into the club during Bill's year included:

Freeman (Bud) Blandford, Air Transportation, Eastern Air Lines.

Bill McBride, a Radio Station official, announcer and newsman. The popular Rotarian gave a short newscast to the club every week for many years.

Joe Guernsey, President, Orlando Savings and Loan Association, nephew of Ken Guernsey and president of the Club in 1970-71.

Gratton Hammond, Jr., Radio Equipment. Head of Hammond Electronics and a Georgia Tech graduate in electrical engineering.

Ralph Bagley, Artist, maintained his own art school and studio and gave a fine demonstration of his talents at a weekly meeting.

Charles Potter, Jr., AA to his father in Accounting. Charlie served on the board of directors for several terms and was a very active Rotarian. He was a native of Orlando, graduating from Orlando High School and UF receiving his B.S.B.A. in 1943. Charlie was elected to the Orange County School Board and served as chairman. He was also president of the Chamber of Commerce in 1969, president of the Valencia College Foundation, and as president of the FTU Foundation. In addition, he headed his firm of accountants for a number of years.

Alex Maddox, another grandson of the original Joseph Bumby, took over the store management from Stan Bumby. Alex was born in Ft. Meade, educated at UF and came to Orlando in 1935.

Capt. Burt Rowland of the Salvation Army.

John S. Cooper, district manager for Southern Bell, found and filled his place in community service with distinction. John was a graduate of Georgia Tech, joined South Bell in 1930 and worked in Atlanta, Daytona Beach, Gainesville, and Jacksonville, before coming to Orlando. He was president of the chamber of commerce, was campaign manager for United Way for one year and chairman of the board for two years. In 1962, he was one of four Rotarians from Orlando to be named one of the "77 Most Influential Men in Florida" by Florida Trend magazine.

Dr. Robert Crandall, Dental Surgeon, went to work right away and visited other Rotary clubs. He came back from the Miami club and brought back the idea of the Junior 25 Club for new members which was instituted in the administration of Herb Haack.

Harold Roll, Associations, Sunday School, was administrator of the Florida Conference of Seventh Day Adventists.

And **Dr. Robert Tolle**, OB, GYN, took the place of Dr. John Michaels who resigned.

Charles Eady, Reinsurance, vice president, comptroller, American Fire and Casualty, was a native of Alabama and served in the U. S. Army as a major, theater fiscal officer, under Gen. MacArthur in the Pacific from 1942-47. Charles and his wife, Dorothy, had one son and one daughter.

At this time, RI adopted the rule that senior active members who had been members for 20 years or more, and who were over 65, could be relieved from attendance requirements at their request. This rule greatly reduced the number of winter visitors. It also provided a means for older members to remain active members without having to attend regularly. One past president with a record of 29 years of perfect attendance elected to become an active member

again: **Harry P. Leu.** Joe McCormick with 33 years' perfect attendance elected to be excused from attendance requirements. However, he stretched his perfect attendance to 36 years. Joe had the longest perfect attendance record in the club at that time. A few years later, Bill McCree was asked to make a statement to the club as to what Rotary meant to him. His condensed version: "Rotary means: 1. Meeting for lunch each week with friends who are my peers, but whom I usually see only at Rotary. 2. A code of ethics for conduct of my business and personal life that I strive to attain (the 4-Way Test). 3. An inspiration to perform community service and learn to enjoy it because my friends in Rotary are enjoying working together to improve our community. 4. A world-wide group of men with the same goals, such as those that I meet at RI conventions where friendliness and cooperation prevail and we develop the same fellowship shared by the Rotarians of Orlando."

Howard Sweatt, Citrus Fruits Concentrates, was elected president of the Orlando Club for 1956-57. He was sponsored in Rotary by Linton Allen in 1949. He was a graduate of Cumberland University. He and his charming wife, Mary, were originally from Tennessee. He was a sales executive and served as president of the Central Florida Sales & Marketing Executives Club, 1959-60. He was the sales chief of Crown Can Co. and later Citrus Central. Becoming sales manager of Golden Gem required him to move to Eustis for 20 years, where he was active in that dynamic little Rotary Club. When he retired he moved back to Orlando and became active in Orlando Rotary again. The tall, handsome friendly man was a gentleman in every respect and a leader in every activity with which he became associated. In addition, he was a good golfer and played the game he loved all his life. He was president of the Orlando Youth Center when it was built in Loch Haven park in 1957-58, and was chosen as "Man of the Week" by the Sentinel for his work on that project. He always made it a policy to circulate among the different tables at the club luncheons in order to get better acquainted with more members. Mary, his wife of 50-plus years, and he both were Rotary Foundation Fellows.

Dick Lawrence, Program Chairman, kept up the good work of having excellent programs. World traveler Howard Phillips had returned recently from a tour of South America and instituted a program to collect certain helpful magazines to be sent to cities he had visited. He asked for the donation of magazines dealing with cooking, clothing, homes, gardens, health, science, mechanics, farming, and industrial development. He arranged to have them crated and shipped. During the year he shipped several tons of magazines to Latin countries. Other happenings of the year included: Under Joe Guernsey, great emphasis was put on promotion of the 4-Way Test and its adoption by business firms, government, schools and other institutions. The Orlando club became the first club to have 100 percent participation in the Rotary Foundation; Dr. Duncan McEwan made a hole-in-one on the course in his home town, Cooperstown N. Y. Jim Keith was nominated by the Orlando club for district governor for 1957-58 and was elected by the district conference. Howard's recommended New Year's resolution for 1957: "From now on, I am going to spend a few minutes each week being personally friendly with two or three Rotarians, with whom I normally have no contact." In April, Duncan Hines, National authority on good places to dine visited the club and remarked: "More people die each year from overeating than from famines." When Ben Carpenter turned 80 years old, he invited all the Orlando Rotarians over 75 to his Turkey Lake Estate for an afternoon party and eight attended. Louise Sand of St. Petersburg wrote a detailed report on her experiences in South America while a Rotary International scholar at the University of Chile in

1955-56. At his last board of directors' meeting, President Howard gave all the outgoing officers and directors a bow tie with the Rotary wheel on it--the tie-it-yourself-kind.

New members inducted into the club during Howard's administration included:

William Perry, Comic Strip Artist, who went to work for the Chicago Tribune as a shipping clerk right out of high school, discovered his talent in cartoons and finally took over the Gasoline Alley comic strip from Frank King.

Irwin Jackson, Assistant manager of Ivey's and AA to Jim Keith. Irwin was a grandson of J. B. Ivey, founder, a graduate of Duke University, a veteran of World War II.

Ernest Traynham, Sr., Household Goods storage, who bought Fidelity Storage and Warehouse Co. from Bob Robertson.

Earl Wolpert, Structural Engineer.

Bill Berson, Attorney, AA to Bo McEwan.

Robert L. MacLeish, Newspaper Publishing AA, advertising manager for Orlando Sentinel. A native of Ohio, Bob moved to Florida and graduated from Florida Military Academy and UF with honors, receiving a B.A. in journalism in 1947. He then joined the Sentinel-Star staff as advertising manager, new products development team and assistant to the publisher. He married Mildred Persons of Kissimmee and they have two daughters and a son. Bob served with U. S. Army Air Force in the Far East in World War II. At the suggestion of Martin Andersen, owner and publisher of the Sentinel, Bob joined the Rotary Club of Orlando and served on many committees. He is currently sergeant-at-arms and a Paul Harris Fellow. In the community, Bob has worked equally as hard, serving as president of Florida Newspaper Advertising and Marketing Association; served on vital committees of the chamber of commerce, YMCA, Sons of the American Revolution, lay reader of First United Methodist Church, and was one of the eight original founders of the shelter for the homeless. He was a leader in beginning the Methodist Walk to Emmaus in Florida.

William Shultz, Manager of Hart-Swalstead, Jeweler. Bill was a native of Winter Park and attended the University of Florida and the University of Alabama. Swalstead's was one of the leading jewelers in Orlando at that time.

Jim Stokes, AA to Gerry Gay of Stokes and Gay Construction Co. Jim in many ways represented the ideal Rotarian. He took his Rotary seriously, worked on committee assignments diligently, stayed for the entire meetings, and enjoyed the fellowship of Orlando Rotary. He was born in Lexington, Miss., on March 23, 1926. After high school, he acquired a B.S. in civil engineering from the University of South Carolina and a master's in civil engineering from Georgia Tech. He became a structural engineer with the Portland Cement Association, leaving in 1955 to join Gerry Gay in construction in Orlando. Later he became president of Stokes and Gay, Inc. He is married to Rosemary, a musician and a teacher; they have three children, six grandchildren and one son-in-law who is a Rotarian in Baton Rouge, La. He has served diligently on several diverse committees. In the community, Jim served as a member of the Municipal Planning Board of Orlando for six years and was chairman of the City Zoning commission. He is a leader in the First Methodist Church having been a teacher, a Sunday school superintendent and chairman of the administrative board. His hobby is walking and tennis. He says: "Rotary has been a stabilizing influence in my life" and that the Orlando club's greatest year was 1992 when the International Convention was held here. Jim was a tireless worker in the unique "Friendship Room," perhaps the greatest Friendship Room ever for a

Rotary International Convention.

Richard H. (Dick) Lawrence was elected president for 1957-58. Dick was born in Viola, Wis. in 1914, was educated at Kent University and the University of Akron, Ohio. He and his beautiful wife, Jane, also a Kent student, were married in 1937. Jane was also a community leader who served as chairman of the Municipal Planning Board of Orlando. They moved to Orlando in 1940, where he managed a milk processing operation in partnership with his father-in-law. Three years later the elder partner had a serious auto accident and they sold the milk processing plant to the producers and Dick went to work for Dr. P. Phillips. However the producers did not manage too well and Dick went back to protect his interests in 1948. He created Perfection Dairies Co-op and became the manager. The co-op was sold in 1967. He became a Rotarian in 1940 after attending a Fireside Meeting at Ken Guernsey's home. Dick was very active in the community holding many positions of leadership: president of Central Florida Development Committee during the time the Orange County Expressway and Orlando Industrial Board were created. Establishment of UCF was also promoted. He was a deacon and elder in the First Presbyterian Church and a director of the local American Red Cross. He served on the Orlando Utilities Commission, 1963-75, and was president in '63 and '75. He played golf with Howard Sweat almost every Saturday and they attended canning association conventions together. Dick was elected to the Florida Dairy Hall of Fame in 1982.

All past presidents were given special gold badges this year and during Dick's year the club had a net gain of nine, from 204 to 213; attendance was 93.21 percent. One of the outstanding events of the year was an all-night supervised party for high school graduates of Boone, Edgewater and Bishop Moore at the new Youth Center, which had been built under the chairmanship of Past President Howard Sweatt. Music and all supplies were donated. The Youth Center had been built with community contributions. McCree, Inc. had donated all overhead and supervision for the \$100,000 plus project, with other sub contractors and suppliers doing their part.

Several unusual things happened during Dick's presidency.

Herb Taylor, Past President of RI and author of the 4 way Test, came back to Orlando to kick off a full program of community and individual companies adopting the 4-Way Test. Joe Guernsey was chairman of that effort when Herb spoke to the club on Oct. 9, 1957. Just before the meeting, Col. Mike McCoy, commander of Pinecastle Air Base, and his crew were killed in a B-47 crash near Ben White Raceway. Henry Swanson was to be inducted into Rotary that day and witnessed the crash but he made it to his induction. On Jan. 8, it snowed in Orlando, Dade City and Lakeland. Students were excused from school for half an hour to watch the flakes fall. Paulo Lang from Italy, an immediate past president of RI, spoke to the club on Jan. 15, 1958. New members inducted included:

Oliver Bateman, Paper Boxes.

Charlie Brumback, Newspaper Publishing, comptroller of the Sentinel and business manager, Charlie moved up the ladder and became publisher after the Sentinel was sold to the Chicago Tribune. At the time of this writing, he is chairman of the board of the Tribune Companies and lives in Chicago. His entrance into the newspaper business began while he was here on vacation. (His mother was raised in Orlando and maintained a winter home here.) In a casual conversation with the owner and publisher of the Sentinel, they discussed some tax matters and Martin Andersen asked Brumback to come to work for him.

Floyd Eaddy, Music, Minister of Music at the First Presbyterian Church. Floyd was a big addition to some already good song leaders. He had a great bass voice and contributed much to our club singing. Orlando has always been a great singing club and Floyd made it even better.

John Fox, Frozen Concentrate, and the pioneer in the marketing of frozen Orange Juice. Unfortunately his stay as a member of the club was short. As president of Minute Maid, a national Company, he could not make attendance. President Dick sponsored him and had to take his resignation.

Dr. Oscar Freeman, Internal Medicine, AA to Dr. Dean Steward.

W. E. Gholdston, Office Supplies, AA.

Richard Grace, Sanitary Equipment Manufacturing Agent, became a life long Rotarian and enjoyed golf with his Rotary friends. Dick was born in 1905 in Cincinnati and educated as a business major at Baylor University in Texas. He was an accountant until he moved to Orlando in 1950. Dick maintained a perfect attendance record for 25 years when he asked to be excused from attendance.

Dr. Ralph Miller, Consulting Entomologist, whose advice on dealing with bugs of all kinds was sought far and wide. Dr. Miller served as a member of the state Board of Control, which set the policies for all state universities.

Dr. Henry Parker, Pastor of First Baptist Church, was elected president of the club, 1969-70, one of two ministers to serve in that capacity.

Walter Pharr, Real Estate Agency, club president, 1972-73.

Richard Skelton, Building Materials, Distributor.

Robert Stine, Industrial Supplies AA, who worked with H. P. Leu for a while.

Bud Strep, Musical Instruments.

Ed Uhl, Vice President and General Manager of the Martin Co., who was in charge of building the big Martin Co. plant in South Orlando. Ed became very much interested in the Central Florida community for the short time he was here and contributed a great deal toward its orderly development.

Joel Wells Jr., Civil Law, a partner in Maguire, Voorhis and Wells, became one of Orlando's greatest leaders and served as the club president for 1966-67.

Henry Swanson, Agricultural Extension Work, County, State and Federal Agricultural Agent for Orange County. Henry was and is a dedicated Rotarian with 37 years' perfect attendance to date and with a primary interest in agriculture and Rotary Club extension by forming new clubs. Henry was elected to and served seven, two-year terms on the board of directors of the club, a record. A native of Palm Beach, he was raised in Delray Beach, Tavares and Eustis, Florida and graduated from Eustis High. He went on to graduate with a B.S. and M.S. in agriculture from UF and served three years in World War II in the U. S. Navy Medical Corps. He also developed a hobby of feeding butterflies in his back yard and recording the activities of the beautiful creatures which returned year after year for 17 years (3,814 daily visits). He has made many talks and has written many articles on the demise of agriculture in Orange County and has written two books: "Countdown for Agriculture for Orange County" and "Butterfly Revelations." He also produced some great farm-city programs for the club and has served as club historian. His story of agriculture and Orlando Rotary is included at the end of this chapter. His story on the extension efforts of the Orlando club is included in another

chapter. Henry was honored with a Paul Harris Fellowship from the club in 1973 and by Orange County by having a building at the Agricultural Center named for him.

Henry was named by the Orlando Sentinel as Man of the Week in 1962 and was chosen to receive the National Association of County Agents' distinguished service award. Henry has been the unofficial custodian of Rotary banners and has arranged them for display several times. Orlando Rotary has one of the largest collections of banners in the Rotary World because it has so many visitors and the members do so much traveling. For Henry, Rotary has provided "A chance to make new friendships."

Jim Keith, governor of district 696 for the year 1957-58, was probably one of the best district governors Florida has ever had. He held his district conference in Orlando Oct. 27-29, 1957, and, because of his standing in RI and in business in the Southeast, put together one of the all-around great programs for the conference. A blue ribbon committee headed by Bill McCree as conference chairman handled all the details for everything else. Host clubs were Orlando and Winter Park. Total registration reached 772 with 650 for the Fellowship Dinner on Sunday evening at the Bob Carr Auditorium. Entertainment for the evening was furnished by a string quartet from the Florida Symphony Orchestra and the main speaker was Luther Hodges, governor of North Carolina, later president of Rotary International. Pre-registration for the dinner was 100 percent. Howard Sweatt managed the registration and distribution of badges, etc. Other speakers for the conference included Frank Spain, past president of RI; C. Farris Bryant, governor of Florida from 1961-1965; Clarence Walker of the Coca Cola Co.; four foreign students in their native dress; and Ken Guernsey, past president of RI. Rotarians and Rotary-Anns were invited for an afternoon at Rollins College by President Hugh McKean on the second day of the conference. Bus transportation to all affairs from the San Juan and Orange Court Hotels was furnished. Bill McCree remembers two incidents that were gratifying:

"During the planning, the chamber of commerce sent its convention planner to one of our committee meetings, but when he arrived and looked around the room at the large number of community leaders who were there, he wished us well and left." (Jim Keith, Paul Stine, Howard Sweatt, Ken Wacker, Bill Dial, Harry Smith of Winter Garden, Oliver Bateman, Ed Hutson and many more were in that distinguished group.) McCree said, "I had been warned that many evening meetings of Rotary are late starting, which delays the main speaker until everyone is tired and sleepy. At one committee meeting, I announced that we would start all sessions on time whether anyone was there or not. "PDG and Past RI Director Ken Wacker spoke up, 'You would not start without Gov. Hodges, would you?' I replied: 'Try me.' The governor was on time and as I struck the bell at exactly 7 p.m., the starting time, he looked at his watch and exclaimed: 'Getting started on time. I like that.'"

Herbert Haack, president 1958-59, showed that he was made of presidential stock by being an outstanding program chairman for President Dick Lawrence. Herb became one of the hardest working presidents ever to serve the club. Herb was born in Germany, spoke with an accent and had a problem pronouncing some of the more unusual English words, but he worked hard at it and did well. Herb owned and operated his own restaurant supply business. He was active in the Central Florida Sales and Marketing Executives Club, serving as president and then as district governor of that organization. He was later elected president of the American Food Service Equipment Industry Association. He had distinguished himself as a Rotarian in the

organization of a Wheel Club (later called Interact) at Edgewater High School and during his term organized clubs at Boone and Winter Park High Schools. Harry Bull, Wheel Club chairman, spearheaded those activities. Phil Jones, attendance chairman, gave him a 100 percent meeting. The club membership ended with 214, a gain of one. There were 20 new members, 15 resignations and four deaths. Average attendance was 93.36 percent, making Orlando one of the top 10 clubs of its size in the U. S. During Herb's year a Junior 25 Club was formed of the 25 newest members and meetings were held in homes or business to let all new members get better acquainted. Dr. Bob Crandall saw this system in action in Miami and brought it to Herb. A Rotary-Ann Club was formed under the leadership of Helen Haack and she became the first president. Four old-timers--Newt Yowell, John Graham, J. C. Robinson, and Frank Pyle--attended the Rotary Caribbean & Gulf conclave at Ciudad Trujillo and reported to the club about their international experience.

Ed Uhl was honored for outstanding work as chairman of the Payroll Savings Committee's "Share in America" campaign. Bob Robertson received one of only two awards given in the United States for turning in the finest performance of any chairman of a U. S. Savings Bond Drive. The citation was made with wood from the platform on which President Dwight Eisenhower took the oath of office in 1953.

One of the most memorable programs over the years was Ken Guernsey Day on Dec. 31, 1958. Ken was honored by past and present Rotary Friends from around the world. Harry Voorhis was program chairman. The Rotary Quartet, composed of Burt Rowland, Henry Thomas, John Getzen and Joel Wells, sang familiar songs for Ken, an early song leader of the club. Long distance calls were arranged from Cliff Randall, president of RI, and George Means, secretary. Harry related Ken's personal history and climb to the top of the ladder in Rotary as well as business. Miss Eunice Delaney, one of his first school teachers, said he was a good student and helpful to other students as he became influential in the state. Harry Leu told of fishing trips in the Keys, Don Cheney sang a song from a Gilbert and Sullivan Operetta that Ken sang as a young man. After the luncheon a tree was planted on the shores of Lake Cherokee, near the old Guernsey homestead, in Ken's Honor. One planted by RI President Angus Mitchell of Australia in Ken's Honor in 1949, had died.

Ernie Gertner came up with a great program on Florida beef April 1, 1959, and furnished the steaks to prove it. On Jan. 7, 1959, Fidel Castro took over Cuba. On March 4, 1959, Pioneer IV passed the moon to become one of the gold plated planets orbiting the sun.

New permanent Rotarians inducted during Herb's year included:

Frank Butterfield, Insurance Adjuster.

Don Senterfitt, Corporation Law, AA; Don was another lawyer who turned banker and later became vice chairman of the board of SunBanks.

Charles E. Terry, Secondary Education, a teacher who practiced international relations by traveling extensively in England and Europe.

Harold Thompson, Marble & Tile Installation.

B. J. Walker, Pest Control. He became an active Rotarian.

Loren Ward, Real Estate Development, became president in 1968-69. Loren was secretary/treasurer of Rex-McGill Investment Co. He attended the University of Minnesota and Rollins and was a Methodist.

Clyde West, General Merchandise, Retail, district manager of Sears, became club

president in 1977-78.

Roe H. Wilkins, Civil Law, AA to Joel Wells, Jr. was a good Rotarian, a good lawyer and a devout Baptist, later becoming a Mormon bishop.

Dr. Wallace Roy, Citrus Concentrate, AA. Wally Roy's story is one of accomplishment that had worldwide significance. Jack Fox (a short term Rotarian), Wally and their associates fathered frozen orange juice concentrate. Wally was the chemist and the chief lab technician when the National Research Corp. took on the task of trying to produce an orange juice powder which, with water added, would produce reconstituted juice, but it was never successful. One of the steps in that process was to make frozen concentrate, which the USDA had experimented with at Lake Alfred, Florida. Jack Fox, highly successful sales manager for IBM, was asked to form a new company, Vacuum Foods, to produce the powder. When it was discovered that the frozen concentrate could be marketed, the name was changed to Minute Maid and a pilot plant was built at Plymouth, Florida. The headquarters building for Minute Maid was in Orlando on West Colonial Drive at Orange Blossom Trail. Wally became vice president of Minute Maid in charge of quality control and all technical procedures.

A native of Chicago, Wally acquired all the attributes of a Southerner. He moved to South Carolina when he was a child, grew up there and graduated from Clemson University with a degree in chemical engineering. He had played football for Clemson and tried teaching and coaching for a year, but did not like either. He moved to Kentucky to work for the State Agricultural Experiment station and acquired an M.S. in physiological chemistry and then a Ph.D. in bio-chemistry from the University of Minnesota. He moved to Florida in 1935 to work for the USDA. During World War II he served as a nutrition officer for three years with the rank of captain. Upon being released in 1946, he heard about Vacuum Foods in Plymouth, contacted H. R. Cloud and asked to get involved in the experiments which were under way. He became a Rotarian in 1958. When his boss, John Fox, joined Rotary, Wally became an additional active. When Fox left Rotary, Wally became the active member again. After John Fox successfully arranged the sale of Minute Maid to the Coca Cola Co., he resigned to move on to another challenge and became president of United Fruit. Ben Oehlert, a Coca Cola executive, moved to Orlando to become president of Minute Maid. Ben, another short-term Rotarian, refused to let Wally be the AA and took that membership himself.

When Ben Oehlert retired and was appointed ambassador to Pakistan, he asked Dr. Roy to come to Pakistan and make a survey of their citrus canning (single strength) industry and make recommendations in order to try to help that nation become a better producer of canned citrus products. It was a revealing experience for Wally, although he does not think he accomplished much. During his 30 days' stay he said he found everything being done manually: squeezing the juice by hand, carrying it by hand in buckets, and heating it in open vessels. He also found that more people were employed than were needed. He asked why and was told that to get a permit to operate a canning plant the government required a certain number of workers to be employed. After visiting all 13 canning plants in Pakistan, he wrote a 150-page critique making recommendations for modernization.

Wally was program chairman during the Rotary presidency of Loren Ward, and had one odd experience. A member of a prominent family called and said that he had a special program and wanted to talk to Dr. Roy about presenting it to Rotary. Wally gave him the appointment and learned the outline of his speech was a warning to Rotarians of a forthcoming rebellion by

black citizens and how to prepare for it. Wally turned it down saying he didn't want to embarrass the club or the speaker with such a program.

Egbert (Bert) Neidig, Associations, Charity, executive director of United Appeal (previously Community Chest and subsequently United Way), was an association professional, a great Rotarian and community leader. Very few people have been as dedicated to serving others and the community as Bert was. Born in 1912 in Goshen, Ill., and raised in Michigan, he decided as a youth during the Great Depression that he did not want to follow in his father's footsteps and become a manufacturer of ice cream, cottage cheese, and other dairy products. He chose social work as a profession. He prepared himself well by attending the University of Michigan and then going for his master's at Ohio State University, the only college in the nation offering a master's with a major which would prepare a graduate student to become a professional in a community chest or other similar activity. Upon receiving his M.A., he moved to Detroit and was employed immediately as campaign director for the Community Chest in that city. From there he moved to Cincinnati and then became executive director of the United Appeal of Kansas City, Mo., where the organization included five cities in two states. It was there that he came under the influence of the great mayor of Kansas City, Roe Bartle, one of the nation's outstanding mayors. Mayor Bartle recommended that Bert join the Rotary Club, saying, "There are more leaders in Rotary in Kansas City than there are in the chamber of commerce or any other organization." Bert heard about the need for a United Appeal professional in Orlando, applied for the job and got it. Orlando appealed to him because of its weather, its enthusiastic leaders, its promise of growth and the challenge that went with the position. In addition, Bert was an enthusiastic water sports participant and especially liked sailing. Florida afforded more water and more sunshine for sailing than any place he could imagine. He married his wife, Florence, in Detroit in 1941. They raised and educated three sons. Two of the sons followed their Dad's lead and became professional social workers, one on Long Island with abused children and spouses, one in Appalachia, and the youngest became a defense attorney in Oregon. Bert and Florence have three grandchildren and live on Lake Conway, where he can sail to his heart's content. They also have a 24-foot racing sailboat that they race in the Atlantic near Ponce Inlet.

The Rotoptimist newsletters of the early 1920s record several efforts by community leaders to get the various charitable organizations together in one common fund raising effort, but it was not until 1938 that a formal organization came into being. "Orlando, A Centennial History," by Eve Bacon, says, "Orlando's first Community Chest was formed in November of 1938 when representatives of 10 civic clubs met at the Chamber of Commerce to form a permanent united charity organization." The first board of directors included R. B. Griffith as a representative of the Rotary Club. Tom Gurney, later to become a Rotarian, was the first campaign chairman in 1939. The 10-day drive for \$34,100 in February netted \$40,155.98. Subsequent Rotary campaign chairmen included: Jim Kieth, 1947; Jim Pittman, 1950; LeRoy Coffman, 1951; John Evans, 1953; Howard Ferris, 1954; John Cooper, 1959; Billy Dial, 1960; Clyde West, 1962; Bob Neel, 1963; Bill Roy, 1964; Tom Willey, 1965; Phil Clark, 1968; Bill Amidon, 1970; Ken Kienth, 1973; John Rourk, Jr. 1974; Jim Fenner, 1976; Bert Neidig, 1978. Board chairmen since 1957 included: Joel Wells, Jr., John Cooper, Clyde West, Tom Willey, John Hollyday, John Rourk, Jr., Bob Neel, Jim Fenner, Bert Neidig, and Royce Walden. Bert Neidig took a salary cut to become executive director in Orlando, but said it was worth it to

work with the people of Orlando: "I was delighted to move to Orlando and it was most exciting to work to build United Way and help build community leadership in a community where there were lots of eager volunteers. Orlando was ready to go and needed only some good professional ideas and administration. Rotary provided much of the leadership." Bert was truly dedicated and was able to keep the overhead low in the 22 years that he served. Overhead costs averaged only 3 percent of the amount collected, when the national average for the same size organizations ran about 10 percent. One way he was able to keep the overhead low was by taking a low salary himself. Fortunately he and his wife had an independent income.

When Bert arrived in Orlando the goal had not been reached in any of the last 10 campaigns. He recommended the goal remain the same (\$400,000) and they went over it slightly. From then on, realistic goals have been set and made. He came to Orlando about the same time as the Martin Co., which soon became the leading single employer in Florida. Payroll deduction of contributions were introduced and the Martin Co., with Ed Uhl, Tom Willey and John Hollyday leading the way. The advantage of giving the United Way soon spread throughout the community. For many years, during the campaigns, one of the Weekly Report Luncheons was held at the regular weekly meetings of the Rotary Club. Bert considered those as the most effective meetings he held. Bert's quiet manner, his professional ability to organize and manage and get the right volunteers is largely the reason for the huge success and the expansion to a tri-county area of the Heart Of Florida United Way. When he retired in 1980, the goal was \$3,250,000, the total pledged was \$3,472,100 and the board of United Way honored him by making him campaign chairman for a year and then chairman of the board. In 1993, there was no goal but \$15,530,100 was pledged.

Dr. William Dean Steward, Internal Medicine, was the second of four medical doctors to become president of the Orlando Rotary Club, 1959-60. Dean did not like to make long speeches. He began his year by asking for the cooperation and prayers of everyone. His final speech at the end of his term was equally short. He thanked everyone for their cooperation and prayers, and said their prayers must have been answered because of the successes of the year. He then turned the meeting over to Floyd Eaddy for a musical program from the talented singer, Ruth Hall, and the equally talented accompanist, Jack Bookhardt, of the First Presbyterian Church. Those two short speeches summed up the kind of a Rotarian Dean Steward was. He took his Rotary as seriously as his patients. The Georgia native came to Orlando about 1940 after graduating from the University of Georgia medical school and joining Dr. Meredith Mallory and his associates to form, Mallory, Mathers and Steward, P. A. Shortly after, he entered the U. S. Army and served in the Far East, receiving a Bronze Star for establishing a hospital on Saipan. After World War II, he returned to Orlando to resume his practice and later became president of the Orange County Medical Society. Dean was an active Presbyterian, a deacon and an elder of the First Presbyterian Church. He also served as president of the Orange County Heart Association. The popular doctor with his wife and three children lived in Orlando until his retirement from practice in 1976. He then became the County Medical Officer in the West Florida town of Marianna. President Dean, like Herb Haack before him, usually wore a bow tie and his hobbies were golf and growing orchids.

The 1960 RI Convention was held in Miami in late May with 34 Rotarians and their wives attending from Orlando. Howard Phillips continued his good work in international relations by preparing four sets of tape recordings and slides on Orlando to be distributed

throughout the world. Because of the heavy attendance, Rotary held two all-night parties were held at the Youth Center for high school graduates in June of 1960. After several years of the club's working with Little League under the guidance of Bill Beardall, a Rotary Pony League was organized and equipped with uniforms, bats, balls and other needed equipment. Funds were donated by individuals and companies. Program chairman for the year was Wally Mercer, who continued the traditional high quality programs the club expects. The year began with 214 members and ended with 214 members, but 19 new members were inducted to offset an equal number of terminations by resignation and death. Attendance was 93.47 percent.

Among the new Rotarians inducted who were members for a long time were:

Austin Caruso, Citrus Juice, Canning, of Southern Fruit distributors, a large local family company.

Dr. William S. Cooper, Agriculture Experiment Station.

Frank Wooten, Senior Active.

Hixon Eldridge, Insurance, Casualty, son-in-law of Doyle Darnold. He followed Doyle as secretary of the club and served for 12 years. Hixon was a retired Air Force officer and became a partner in Darnold and Eldridge, Insurance.

Wayne Harper, Decorating Materials, owner of his own company, Harper Paint and Wallpaper, had a record of 32 years of perfect attendance in 1994. The native of Illinois attended several colleges there plus the Hotel School at Cornell. Wayne was a former Rotarian in East Patterson, N. J. and served six years in a P-47 group in Europe during and after World War II. He became a Rotarian in East Patterson, N. J. in 1952. Wayne served on the board of directors for one term and has worked on several committees. He has always enjoyed the fellowship of Rotary and the opportunity to expand his acquaintances. He is married to Eleanor and operated the Harper Decorating Service on South Orange Avenue since 1959.

Paul Pankey, Senior Active, was a Rotarian of 27 years in Birmingham, Ala., when he affiliated with the Orlando club. Paul was one of the organizers of Junior Achievement in Orlando and served on the first board of directors. He was given the Junior Achievement award for Outstanding Community Leadership at a banquet at Walt Disney World for "Future Unlimited" in June of 1976.

H. E. (Gene) Johnson, Renting, Proprietary, Dr. P. Phillips Co., is a native of Lakeland. He graduated from Ft. Myers high school and studied accounting and business administration at George Washington University, University of Tampa and Orlando Junior College. Gene worked as an accountant with Walgreen Drugs and with Social Security and War Production Boards in Washington D. C. Entering the Army during World War II, he served in the Signal Corps Searchlight Battalion and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the infantry serving in the Philippines and Japan. He was transferred to the finance department and served in the GHQ Staff in Japan working on the liquidation of Japanese banks and returned home as a captain. Gene joined the Dr. P. Phillips companies in 1953 in Orlando and worked there until retirement, serving first as internal auditor, then assistant corporate secretary, corporate secretary, president and chairman of the board. He retired in 1990, but continues as a consultant. Other accomplishments include: licensed general contractor and registered real estate broker in Florida. Past director of the North Orlando Bank at Fairvilla. Gene and his wife Mabel have one son, Robert Eugene, who is a professional law enforcement officer, currently with the Orange County Sheriff's Department. Gene has not only been active in the

Orlando Rotary Club, but also in the community, as past commander of the American Legion Post and past president of the Jaycees in Lake Wales. He was an Eagle Scout and also served as scoutmaster and was awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Gene is a former steward at College Park United Methodist Church and former chaplain of the Orlando Police Reserves. He served as chairman of the Municipal Planning Board and of the Zoning Commission; former secretary of Central Florida Development Committee; active member of the Orlando Chamber of Commerce and charter member of the Committee of 200; served on the Orlando Utilities Commission, 1980-81; Crime Study Commission; screening committee of the police chief of Orlando and member of the Civil Service Board of Orlando; member of the board of directors of the Rotary Club of Orlando; and currently serves on the board of the Orlando Regional Medical Healthcare System; Committee of 100 of Orange County--former president. He is also a past president of the University Club. Gene was honored by Junior Achievement by being inducted into the Mid-Florida Business Hall of Fame in 1992. Gene's hobby was golf but is now his computer. The Dr. P. Phillips story is told at the end of Chapter V.

W. V. (Bill) Roy, District Manager for Southern Bell. Bill has served the club well over the last 34 years. He was sergeant-at-arms for many years and helped out more years than that. He is a regular at the "old timers table." He became division commercial manager and retired in 1968 after 37 years with Southern Bell. He is a native of Tennessee, was educated in Nashville and served in the U. S. Army in the South Pacific during World War II from 1943 to 1945. His many community services include: vice chairman of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida; chairman of the Orange County Civic Facilities Authority in 1979; honorary life member of the board of the American Red Cross; member of the Committee of 100; past president of the Orlando Industrial Board; past president of the Central Florida Development Committee; chairman of the Municipal Planning and Zoning Boards of Orlando; president of John Young Museum; chairman of the Mayor's Action Committee for Orlando; and president of the Touchdown Club. He was honored by the Chamber of Commerce with the Andy Slaughter Award for Outstanding Community Service. Bill was also elected "Boss of the Year" by the local chapter of the National Secretaries Association and selected as the Orlando Area Salesman of the Year by the Orlando Sales and Marketing Executives Club in 1973.

Agriculture and Orange County

The Rotary Club of Orlando has been closely linked with agriculture, according to member Henry Swanson, author of "Countdown for Agriculture," in 1975:

When the Orlando Rotary Club was chartered in 1920, agriculture was the principal industry in Orange County. That is why the county was named "Orange" and the principal street in Orlando is called Orange Avenue. For years before the mid-1950s, the economy was either "good or bad" depending on how well citrus fared in the marketplace. The banner of the Orlando Rotary Club was orange in color and bore the picture of an Orange for the same reason. During World War II, thousands of troops in the Army Air Corps were stationed in Florida. A big percentage settled here after the war was over, creating a building boom with construction becoming a principal industry. The Korean War, 1950-55, caused the activation of the big air base at Pinecastle and brought more service personnel to man the big bombers

which would stay though the "cold war" with Russia and the atomic bomb threat era. The selection of Cape Canaveral as a launching site for space vehicles in the 1950s brought the Martin Co. and many other high tech "clean" industries and personnel to run them. The Military-Industrial Complex replaced agriculture as the county's economic stimulus and replaced many citrus groves. Also, the freezes of the late 1950s and a devastating freeze in December of 1962 gave grove owners more of an incentive to replace groves with houses.

A good many Rotarians were involved in agriculture in one way or the other. Some of the principal ones are listed below:

Ben Carpenter, president, 1937-38, joined the club in 1932 with the only classification of "farmer" ever held in the club. He was a citrus grower and the only grower to become president of the club. He came to the area in 1925 to develop citrus groves for a group of Northern investors. He left the group and planted his own grove around Turkey Lake in southwest Orange County. His son, John, a Rotarian farmer from Salem, N. J., attended school in Orlando and disposed of the groves after Ben's death. The property is now a part of Valencia Community College.

H. R. Cloud, president, 1934-35, was the head man for Florida Public Service, an electric and gas company, and played a major role in the development of citrus concentrate. Citrus concentrate made orange juice a year around business and took away the strictly seasonal market of fresh juice. Canned juices and sections had been used but did not have the flavor of the frozen product. This industry began when John Fox, Orlando Rotarian for one year 1957-58, came to town looking for a place to process and pack citrus powdered concentrate. Linton Allen suggested that Holman Cloud would be a great man to head up the operations in Florida. This move was good for Linton's bank, the citrus industry and the community. John was headquartered in Boston. Cloud resigned his position as vice president and general manager of Florida Public Service Co. to go into a fledgling industry. John Fox was an "idea" man, an MIT/Harvard "whiz-kid", who looked for innovative ways to produce concentrated foods and market them. Before the powdered product could be perfected, other methods of processing citrus concentrate began at the plant in Plymouth. The company was called Florida Foods, Inc., later becoming "Minute Maid." Dr. Wally Roy, a chemist and concentrate specialist, and later an Orlando Rotarian, produced the first commercial pack of orange juice concentrate in 1946 at Plymouth, Florida, along with Fox and Cloud. It would be difficult to assess the great impact of citrus concentrate on the economy of Florida. Frozen concentrate can be stored in bulk during surplus production years and canned for distribution during lean production years, greatly lengthening its marketing period. No longer was the grower entirely dependent on the weather or the size of the crop to assure the profitable sale of his oranges. The number of employees in the citrus business increased tremendously. Production of Florida citrus increased from 46 million boxes in 1946 to more than 220 million boxes today. All Florida citizens owe a debt of gratitude to the pioneers who produced the first frozen citrus concentrate. Howard Sweatt, president, 1956-57, began in the citrus industry canning juice and sections of grapefruit and oranges in the 1940s. He handled sales for the various companies he was associated with: Besco Products, Crown Can and Citrus Central. He then left Orlando and moved to Eustis as sales manager for Golden Gem Citrus Products including concentrate. He returned to Orlando upon retirement. He was a top grade representative for concentrate and traveled all over the world in that capacity.

Richard H. Lawrence president, 1957-58, was manager of Perfection Dairies Cooperative's milk processing plant and is the only Rotarian to ever hold that classification. One of the first milk processors in Florida to use paper cartons, he was inducted into the Dairy Hall of Fame in Orlando in 1981.

Ernie Gertner, president, 1961-62, owned a meat processing and distribution plant in South Orlando and was a strong proponent of Florida-raised beef. Not as well known, because of his limited experimentation, Rotarian Reed Whittle, whose principal business was bottled gas distribution, tried raising cattle on the Zellwood mucklands and raised some very fine beef there. He once held a dinner and invited dignitaries and served both Western beef and Florida muckland beef. No one could tell the difference.

Rotarians Austin Caruso and Z. N. Harvey of Southern Fruit Distributors were also active Rotarians for a long period of time.

Mallory Roberts, a great Rotarian and past district governor, was engaged in citrus by-products sales while a member of the Orlando Club.

Dr. David Lynn, a veterinarian, with the classification of large animal practice is also a valuable member of our club related to the cattle industry.

Agricultural representatives in government who played essential roles in Orange County agricultural and who were Rotarians included: K. C. Moore, Orange County Agricultural Agent from 1926 to 1946. K. C. promoted chickens as food and helped to make them something that average families could afford. A political slogan developed in 1930: "A chicken in every pot and a car in every garage," urged people to eat more chicken and pushed chicken raising by promoting it through Rotary and other civic clubs. "A chicken a day in May" was a slogan printed by the "Orlando Sentinel" between each editorial for two weeks. Next, the Chamber of Commerce took up the cry. Fried chicken began to be served at dinners and banquets. It was reported that all the chickens raised in the county for food were eaten that summer without shipping any out of the county.

Neil Dale, production and marketing consultant with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, was the leading Rotarian from government from 1947 to 1957. He put on rural-urban programs once or twice a year and had visitors from 4 H-Clubs and other agricultural groups and promoted visits to various facilities by Rotarians.

Henry Swanson, assistant Agricultural Agent for Orange County, who became county Agricultural Agent when his senior retired, was the most active agent and Rotarian until his retirement in 1978. A county agricultural agent has three bosses, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the state commissioner of agriculture and the county commission. Each one participates in paying the agent's salary. Henry conducted Farm-City programs at the club and invited the club to lunch at the county agricultural offices. One program at the club included seven guests: a cattleman, a citrus grower, a dairyman, a chicken farmer, an ornamental plant nurseryman, and a truck farmer. The speaker was the commissioner of agriculture of Florida, Doyle Conner. Once he sponsored a chicken plucking contest which was won by Francis Auger.

Jay Hebert took Swanson's place as county agent and became a Rotarian. Jay came from a cattle background in Louisiana. Other horticultural classifications were filled by Dr. W. C. Cooper, Dr. Frank Gardner, T. T. Hatton and Jack Hearn, with the U. S. Agricultural Experiment Station.

THE CENTRAL FLORIDA DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Central Florida Development Committee came into being about 1960. Although it was not a Rotary project, it was organized by Rotarians and led by them for the first three years. It was comprised of a group of owners and executives of major business institutions in Orlando who were dedicated to the orderly growth of Central Florida. It was conceived by Rotarian Ed Uhl, the vice president and general manager of the Martin Co. Ed's experience in other communities showed what could be done when the top business leaders decided to get involved. Other Rotarians in the CFDC included Bill McCree, Dick Lawrence, Paul Stine, Linton Allen, Harry P. Leu, Bob Robertson and others. As a result, in a very few years, Orange County had the first county-wide water control system in Florida, a new University (UCF) was established, I-4 was finished through Orlando and the Orange County Expressway Authority was created to build the East-West toll roads, and the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council was established. These major projects required total community cooperation.

The title of this chapter is "Solid Growth" and that is what took place in the community and the Rotary Club in the 1960s. "The Orlando Sentinel" moved from its downtown location on South Orange Avenue to a new building at its present location on North Orange.

The city boldly planned an interstate highway through the center of town. Many private and public buildings were built under a strict zoning and building code, but it was just the beginning as will be seen in the chapters ahead. Rotarians and other leading, community-minded citizens had done their work well and served unselfishly, but the profits of those who served were manifold.

THE ROTOPTIMIST and THE ORLANDO ROTARIAN

The first bulletin of the Rotary club of Orlando was a column in the Orlando Sentinel each week. Records indicate that Ken Guernsey was the first editor. The Sentinel was a big booster for the club and printed all the Rotary news. A copy of the front page telling of the organization is included in this volume. The club has continued to have good publicity in the local daily newspapers throughout the years. On July 12, 1922, the first weekly Rotoptimist appeared with Bill Branch as the editor as well as the club secretary. It was a printed single sheet 8 1/2 x 14 and listed all officers, members, committees and news pertaining to the club. Records do not tell why the name was chosen but it is believed it was because Rotarians were so enthusiastic and optimistic about the club and its future. At the time there was no Optimist Club. In 1923, the format was changed to a printed four page format about 5" x 6." Several years later it was enlarged to a printed 5 1/2 by 8 1/2 four page bulletin and remained with that format until WWII. Regular publication was suspended during the war and after the war it became an 8 1/2 x 14 double paged mimeo-graphed sheet printed in the Rotary office. In 1962 advertisements were introduced into the bulletin and it again became a printed weekly publication. Other changes took place but the major change came in July of 1992, when it was decided to issue it only every two weeks and to change the name to The Orlando Rotarian. The name change had been debated for years, because of the Optimist Club, but about 40 years was required to get the change made. The names of the dedicated Editors are listed below. It will be noted that several were pro-fessional journalists.

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------|---------------------|---------|
| S. Kendrick Guernsey | 1921 | Rolland Dean | 1954-69 |
| Wm. S. Branch | 1922, 1924 | Gaylord Gilbert | 1969-77 |
| William Glenn | 1923 | T. H. (Spike) Geltz | 1977-78 |
| Victor Powe | 1925 | A. H. Geisler | 1978-79 |
| Guy R. Ramsey | 1930 | Ormund Powers | 1979-81 |
| H. R. Cloud | 1931 | Richard J. McHenry | 1981-82 |
| Sam Y. Way | 1931 | Ormund Powers | 1982-86 |
| Paul Meridith | 1932 | Paul Knepper | 1986-87 |
| W. R. Woods | 1933 | Ron Tyo | 1987-88 |
| J. F. Schuman | 1933 | Myron Herndon | 1988-89 |
| J. C. Brossier | 1933 | Ed Baranowski | 1989-90 |
| Horance Jacobs | 1935-44 | Brett Lovett | 1990-91 |
| Donald A. Cheney | 1948-49 | Robert MacDonald | 1991-92 |
| Hamilton Gibson | 1949-50 | Paul Knepper | 1992-93 |
| Horace Jacobs | 1950-52 | Art Miller | 1993-94 |
| Henry Jacobs | 1952-54 | Sara Van Arsdel | 1994-95 |

Make-Up Places

Monday

| | | |
|------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Kissimmee | 12:15 p.m. | Elk's Club - East 192 near Turnpike |
| Sanford | Noon | Civic Center |
| Winter Park | Noon | Civic Center, W. Morse Blvd. |
| Winter Park West | 7:30 a.m. | Mt. Vernon Lodge |

Tuesday

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Longwood | 7:50 a.m. | Rolling Hills Country Club |
| Maitland | 7:30 a.m. | Maitland Civic Center |
| Maitland West | Noon | Maison et Jardin |
| Orlando Breakfast | 7:30 a.m. | Citrus Club |
| UCF/Research Park | 7:30 a.m. | Kelsey's - Alafaya Trail & UCF Blvd. |
| Windermere | 6:54 a.m. | Town Hall |
| Winter Garden | 12:15 p.m. | Colony Plaza |

Wednesday

| | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Casselberry | 7:30 a.m. | Olive Garden |
| Dr. Phillips | 7:00 a.m. | Bay Hill Country Club |
| Goldenrod | Noon | Puff n'Stuff - Forsyth Rd. |
| Oviedo | 7:30 a.m. | Canterbury Center - 1601 Alafaya Tr. |
| Rosemont | 12:15 p.m. | Rosemont Country Club |
| Sanford | 7:30 a.m. | Colonial Room - W. 1st St. |

Thursday

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Altamonte Sprgs/ Forest City | 7:30 a.m. | Quality Inn - SR 434 at I-4 |
| Apopka | | Great Western Bank |
| College Park | 7:30 a.m. | Dubsdread Country Club |
| Lake Buena Vista | 7:30 a.m. | Travelodge |
| Lake Mary | 7:30 a.m. | Timacuan Country Club |
| Mount Dora | 11:45 a.m. | Lakeside Inn |
| Orange Co. East | 7:30 a.m. | Holiday House-Aloma Shopping Ctr. |
| W. Orlando | 12:15 p.m. | Rotary Civic Club - Kirkman Rd. |

Friday

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| Kissimmee West | 7:00 a.m. | Sizzler's Steak House |
| Lake Buena Vista | 7:00 a.m. | Travelodge |
| Orlando South | Noon | Shoney's Inn at Florida Mall |
| Seminole Co. South | 7:30 a.m. | Maison et Jardin |
| Winter Springs | 7:30 a.m. | Wedgewood Tennis Villa Club |

CHAPTER FIVE

GATEWAY TO THE MOON 1960-70

President John F. Kennedy's inauguration speech in January of 1961 promised that the United States would put a man on the moon within the next decade. Although Russia was the first to put a satellite in space, and followed that with a man in orbit, the United States would put a man on the moon July 20, 1969, and Russia never has to this date. Cape Canaveral was the launching pad for satellites as well as for putting men in space and launching a man on the moon. Orlando was the city nearest the Cape and had an excellent airport which was built by the Army in World War II; the state and the local community were building roads between the Cape and Orlando's airport; and a new university was created in the 1960s to serve the Central Florida area. The Martin Company, a principal supplier of space and military hardware, had located to Orlando in the 1950s, helping Orlando play an important part in the development of the space program. Meanwhile Orlando continued to grow and the planning of the 1950s would pay off in ways not even dreamed of at the time. The 1960 population of Orlando was 88,135; Orange County, 263,540.

To say that the summer of 1960 was a wet summer would be an understatement. On July 25, the 8 inches of rainfall in Orlando in 24 hours is believed a record since records have been kept. Many lakes in the county overflowed and the ground water level was almost to the surface everywhere. Then, on Sept. 10, Hurricane Donna came out of the Atlantic, crossed the Keys, turned back northeast between Naples and Ft. Myers, and struck Orlando with winds up to 60 mph. The damage was great (not as bad as hurricanes hitting the coast, but the worst for Orlando in the 16 years preceding and the record holds 34 years later). Huge oak trees were blown down all over the city and plate glass windows were blown out, but luckily no one was hurt. The extra flooding caused whole subdivisions to be under water. Hundreds of homeowners gave their property to the mortgage companies and moved away. As with most disasters, Orange County was challenged and obtained the first County Water Control act in Florida. The Central Florida Development Committee, under the leadership of Rotarians, was responsible for that legislation getting passed in 1961. Hurricane Donna and the high water were quite a setback, but no worse on the economy than the freeze of Dec. 12, 1962-- the worst since 1895, with the thermometer going down to 25 degrees and staying awhile. This wiped out thousands of acres of citrus and many owners started growing houses. Orlando Air Base and McCoy Air Force Base were phased out in the late sixties and early 70s, but the U.S. Navy chose those facilities for the establishment of a third naval training base. The decision was made by the Navy, but a great deal of work was done by local citizens in lobbying in Congress to get approval and funding. Finally, the NTC required over 15,000 serviceman and civilians for operations and trained up to 9,000 recruits at one time. It was a boost to the economy of the area.

On the threshold of the 1960s, the club chose as its president, Doyle Darnold, who had served as secretary for 15 years and would serve in that capacity for another two years. Doyle,

a native of Ohio, was 65 but did not look his age. He came to Orlando in 1929, joined Rotary in 1938 with the classification of Casualty Insurance, having been a principal in the firm of Darnold and Dorsey. He and Mr. Dorsey built a fine reputation both for ethics and efficiency in business and for community leaders. Doyle was chairman of the trustees of the First Baptist Church and an honorary life member of the American Red Cross. He also held the Silver Beaver Award for outstanding service to the Boy Scouts in Central Florida. Doyle knew Rotary inside out and was well equipped to hold the office of president. He was serious, but easy going and quiet. The Rotary office had been located in the rear of Doyle's place of business for years and that was a help also. Dotty Feltyberger, Rotary's professional secretary, was at his elbow.

An early and unique program on Aug. 24 honored one of the true "characters" of all time in the Orlando Rotary Club, Ben Carpenter, the "Sage of Turkey Lake," on the occasion of his completion of 28 years' perfect attendance. Rolland Dean, editor of the Rotoptimist, billed Ben as "The most unforgettable character I've met--a rugged individualist, a 100 percent American, a 100 percent Rotarian and a past president of our club."

The district conference for RI District 696 with Gov. Steve Grimes from Bartow was held at the Cherry Plaza Hotel on Oct. 2-4, 1960. Herb Haack, conference chairman, furnished a first class program. An address by the Democratic nominee for governor, Rotarian Farris Bryant of Ocala, hit a chord that will continue to be applicable: He recounted that historically, a 2 percent minority has the courage, ability, dedication and tenacity to determine events that happen in the world. He further quoted RI President J. Ed McLaughin's theme for the year: "YOU are ROTARY-- EXPRESS IT, EXPAND IT, LIVE IT," and then Bryant continued: "It seems sometimes that there is little one man can do to improve conditions, but a few resolute men can determine the course of the world." He urged Rotarians to be a part of those few men.

Another unique program was presented on Jan. 18, by the one-year-old Rotary Anns' Club under the leadership of Helen Haack, Rotary Ann of Past President Herb Haack. The fashion show, narrated by Mrs. Holman Cloud, included Rotary Anns wearing hats or other apparel depicting their Rotary husband's business while Pauline McCree played suitable music on the piano. Examples: Mrs. Doyle Darnold's hat pictured a house on fire for her husband's insurance business; Helen Haack's hat included kitchen utensils in honor of Herb's Kitchen Supply business; Mrs. Bud Blandford's chapeau was adorned with an Eastern Airplane. A dozen others used novel ways of depicting their husbands' classifications.

For Ladies night, April 28, Program Chairman Ernie Gertner brought Abigail Van Buren (Dear Abbie) who kept the crowd in stitches all evening.

Rotarians, Charles Potter, Jr., Bill McBride, Dr. Frank Pyle, Asher Peter, Alex Robinson, John Graham, and their Rotary Anns attended the RI Convention in Tokyo, Japan, and came back with a lot of stories about each other (some would not measure up to the 4-Way Test), but one interesting observation was that Japan was left without a God (practically) after World War II and used Rotary to fill the gap for a religion.

The club changed its meeting place on June 10, 1961, from the CofC, where it had met for over 35 years, to the Community Room of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association. The advantages were a parking garage adjacent, larger space in a lighter room, adequate sound and A/C. system, three elevators vs. one. The new place was beautiful and comfortable.

Permanent Rotarians inducted during Doyle's year included:

Tom Pinel, Appraiser.

Bob Hughes, Phillips 66 distributor.

Clarence Petersen, Accounting, who became president in 1974-75.

Norris Sapp, Senior Active.

R. Hamilton Jones, Civil Engineer.

Doris Weeden, former member of Asbury, N. J. Club with 40 years' perfect attendance.

Dr. Frank Gardner, AA, Federal Experimental Station, USDA.

Dr. Truett Frazier, Urologist, who became president for the year, 1973-74.

Al Geisler, telephone answering service.

Niles Jester, Securities Brokerage, Thomson & McKinnon.

C. M. (Neil) Franklin, Funeral Director (Carey Hand). A native of Tampa, Florida, he began working in a funeral home in high school and then obtained a degree in mortuary science from Cincinnati School of Mortuary Science. He became a licensed funeral director and embalmer in 1938. With two partners, he came to Orlando in 1946 and purchased Carey Hand Funeral Home. In 1969, his partnership merged with a national chain, but Neil is continuing to direct funerals with a total of 63 years service. In his profession he has served as secretary and president of the Florida Funeral Directors Association and president of the National Funeral Directors Association. Community service included eight years (4 years as chairman on the City of Orlando Parking Commission, (6 years on High School Athletic Association, one year as president, 23 years as a Trustee for Magnolia Towers (6 as president), a low cost housing high rise for the elderly, deacon in the Downtown Baptist Church for over 40 years and also has been active as a Mason. In Rotary, he has 34 years of perfect attendance and is a Paul Harris Fellow. He has been married to Pansy for 57 years, has four children, 8 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

Tom Willey, vice president and general manager of the Martin Co., Orlando, when they were the largest employer in Florida. He was very active in the establishment and promotion of Junior Achievement and was the president of Christian Businessmen International. He also was a lay preacher in his church. He was the epitome of a community leader, who headed a major company in Orlando and was greatly admired by his fellow Rotarians. "Florida Trend" magazine in 1962 listed him as one of the 77 most influential men in Florida. Junior Achievement honored him by inducting him into the Mid-Florida Business Hall of Fame in 1978.

Joe Stine, Harry P. Leu, Inc. and son of "Mr. Rotary" of the club, Paul Stine. Joe was the third member of the Stine family to become a Rotarian. He became executive vice president of the firm in 1967 and president from 1978-87, when the company was sold. He then formed his own company, Tree Planting Systems, Inc. He is a native of Sanford, moved to Orlando with his family in 1939 and graduated from UF in industrial engineering. Joe is a registered professional engineer, specializing in environmental engineering. Joe is easily recognized by his crew haircut and his friendliness. He has served on the board of directors for several terms as well as chairman of the Rotary Information Committee for a long period. He has 33 years of perfect attendance. His Rotary Ann is Joan and they have six children. Joe is active in the Boy Scouts, where he served on the board and as district chairman and was given the Silver

Beaver Award. He served one term as president of the Southern Industrial Distributors Association. He is an avid hunter and fisherman and likes to hike. For him, Rotary has given the opportunity of being an active part of both the local and international community.

David Williams, Holiday Inns. A native of Tennessee and educated at Cumberland University, he moved to Orlando in 1957 and acquired several Holiday Inns in the area. Later he expanded his Holiday Inn holdings throughout the U.S. He was an active Christian worker and leader, a member of the Billy Graham team, Bible teacher, chairman of the board of the First Methodist Church, Orlando, trustee of Edgewood Boy's Ranch and many other Christian organizations. This dynamic leader unfortunately died young after being a Rotarian for only 10 years.

Ernie Gertner, Meat Distributor, was elected president for 1961-62. He was owner and operator of E. R. Gertner and Co. on South Orange Avenue, near Lake Jennie Jewell. Ernie was a native of Louisville, Ky., being born April 27, 1902. After schooling at the Spencerian College, he became employed with the Kingan Co. in Indianapolis. He moved with Kingan to Jacksonville and later to Tampa. In 1925 he joined Rath Packing Co. and stayed with the firm until he formed a partnership in Daytona Beach in 1936. He left the partnership to come to Orlando in 1939 and form his own company and became distributor of Hormel Products. In 1924, he was married to Mamie Nolan of Jacksonville. They had one son and one daughter. Ernie was made "Man of the Week" by the Orlando Sentinel's Florida Magazine in 1964 in recognition of his good work as president of Junior Achievement of Orange County. His board of directors was composed almost totally of Rotarians.

Ernie joined the Orlando Rotary Club in April of 1948. He was the second president in a row to be a member of the First Baptist Church. He was a deacon in the First Baptist Church and was superintendent of the Young People's Department for 15 years. Ernie was a happy and friendly Rotarian and served diligently on several committees and as an outstanding program chairman under Doyle Darnold. It is recalled that the club enjoyed several steak dinners because of his connections in the beef industry.

During this year the Rotary office was moved from 62 East Pine Street to 724 South Delaney when the offices of Darnold and Eldridge moved. Loren Ward was the Program Chairman and continued to provide the high quality of programs for which the Orlando Rotary Club was noted. He mixed pure Rotary programs with current happenings in the world, community projects, entertainment, fellowship and international programs to furnish a very good variety. The first program of the year brought a former Rotarian and Cuban attorney, Raphail Pina Gali, who had managed to get out of Cuba before Castro took over. (The U. S. severed relations with Cuba on July 9, 1961.) The Cuban attorney wanted the United States to wrest Cuba from the Communists. One of the best programs of the year was arranged by the Rotary Anns: Forty young ladies from the Chorus of Converse College in Spartanburg, S. C. sang for the club. These beautiful young women not only charmed the club members with their appearance, but also with their beautiful music including popular folk and classical music. The final regular program for the year also included feminine beauty: Becky Jenkins, chosen as "Miss Florida" during 1962, let the club enjoy her beautiful voice and good looks. Many efforts had been made during the club's history to have a Rotary Quartette, but during this year it was accomplished. The "Awesome Foursome" consisted of Floyd Eaddy, bass and director, "James

Melton" (Grover) Ivey, "Enrico Caruso" (Henry) Thomas and John Getzen "McLoud." Another version of the Awesome Foursome would include: Floyd Eaddy, Clarence Peterson, Bob Harmeling and Autry Dawsey. Floyd Eaddy was one who would always have depth on his team. Ben Carpenter was asked to resume his "Thought for the Day." He shook the rafters when he quoted from Sir Walter Scott's "The Lay of the Last Minstrel," "Breathes there a man with soul so dead who never to himself hath said, 'this is my own, my native land.'" He paraphrased it to read: "Breathes there a man with soul so dead, who never hath turned his head and said, 'HmMMMM, boy! Not bad! Not Bad!--at all!" He had many good thoughts for the day during the rest of the year, but none created quite that sensation. Badge drawing for prizes continued for the seventh straight year when there were prizes donated. It was a great year for international relations as assistance was given to send Valerie Murdock to Turkey as an exchange student for the summer and brought Kathy Hotzel of Berlin to live with an American family and attend Edgewater high for a year. A major change came in the format and financing of the Rotoptimist. In February, 1962, the club returned to a printed Rotoptimist using advertising to help defray the extra costs. It has remained that way since. It was good to have pictures in the bulletin again after many years. The club adopted a new banner with an orange on a yellow and blue background. It was selected after a contest in the art departments of the high schools and a modification by Ralph Bagley, professional artist member of the club. The club also added the feature of giving a gift to the visiting Rotarian from the greatest distance.

The club unanimously endorsed Ken Wacker of the Winter Park Club for election to the office of RI director from Zone 4. Ken was elected and the club felt it had a personal representative on the board. Ken began Rotary in Royal Oak, Mich., and helped organize the Winter Park Club in 1947. He had spoken often to the Orlando Club and had hundreds of friends in Orlando. He had served as district governor in 1954-55 and had been an aide to RI President Herb Taylor and RI President Gian Paolo Lang, and had attended almost every international convention for the past 13 years. He served in the Navy as a lieutenant in World War II and taught Sunday school in the Congregational Church. No better man could have been elected.

The all-night party for seniors was held at the Youth Center on two nights, included six high schools and was co-sponsored by the Winter Park Rotary Club. A total of 3,205 students participated. Several substantial prizes (two cars, 3 TVs, etc.) were won by students who spent the whole night at the Youth Center.

Permanent Rotarians who joined during Ernie's year included:

Jesse Holbrook, Women's Shoes, another long time perfect attender with 33 years. His father was a director of RI. Jesse was a native of Kentucky and a graduate of the University of Kentucky in 1940. Starting as a shoe store manager from 1945-65 he became an insurance broker for New York Life and other companies. He served five years in the Infantry in World War II and held the rank of major when he was discharged. His wife, Ruth, and he have three children. He has served the club as a director and has headed several committees.

Ben Walters, Swimming Pools. Ben and his Rotary Ann were with Gerry Gay and his wife, Doris, when they disappeared in the Atlantic Ocean in 1984.

Tom Smith, Hearing Aids.

Sidney Smith, Otis Elevators.

John W. Rourk, Jr., Building Materials, Distribution, president of Timber Products Co., graduate of Georgia Tech where he was a member of the SAE fraternity and honored as a member of Phi Kappi Phi, active on many committees in the club and a multi-gallon donor for the Central Florida Blood Bank.

John M. Holliday, Missiles Manufacturing, the Martin Co., in charge of industrial relations. John was active with Junior Achievement, where he served as a director.

Walter Rutledge, Optical goods, Manufacturing AA.

Dr. Robert Delgado, Opthamologist, native of Miami, educated at the Universities of Georgia and Emory, served in the U. S. Navy 1946-48. His hobby was flying and he flew all over the country. He was killed when his plane went down returning from a hunting trip to Alaska.

Dr. Wilfred Sisk, Orange County medical officer.

Norman Bryan, Civil Engineer, Reynolds, Smith and Hill.

Gerard King, Printing and Publishing.

Gordon Wood, Land Surveying, Jones and Wood.

Paul Guthrie, Department Store, executive vice president of Ivey's, a deacon in the Baptist Church, became a regular at the registration table. He was a native of North Carolina, majored in math and physics, but took a job in a department store because it was available and he stayed with it. Supervised construction of Ivey's Winter Park Mall store and major renovation of the downtown store. Membership stood at about 220 at the end of Ernie's year.

Robert G. Neel, president for 1961-62, and district governor for 1971-72, might well be dubbed "Mr. Enthusiasm." Because of his enthusiasm and leadership ability, he was able to glamorize the cemetery business and become president of the many trade and service organizations that he was a member of. A native of Doe Run, Mo., one of nine children of a railroad engineer father and a "perfect" devoted Christian mother, he attended the University of Missouri where he obtained B.S. and B.A. degrees. At the University of Missouri, he met his future wife, Annette Peter, daughter of Asher and Doris Peter. Upon graduation he went to work for a stockbroker in Kansas City. One day Asher Peter called Bob on the phone and asked him to come to Florida to work for him. "It was a cold winter day and as I stepped off a curb into snow and slush up to my knee, I decided Florida would be a nice place to be; so I took Asher up on his offer. He was in real estate and owned Woodlawn Memorial Park. I had always been taught that if you want to be great, you have to concentrate, so I chose Woodlawn, beginning as a salesman selling cemetery lots in 1949. Asher Peter encouraged me to buy stock in the company." In 1967, Bob became president and owner of the cemetery. Later a funeral home was added on the site and the name was changed to Woodlawn Memorium-Funeral Home & Memorial Park. At present he is chairman of the board and CEO. Bob has two boys who are a part of the Woodlawn organization and two girls. One is married to a doctor and the other is in school. His oldest son is a Rotarian in the Windermere club.

When asked how he became so good at glamorizing a cemetery, Bob replied that the first modern memorial garden was developed in 1917 by Dr. Hubert Eaton in Los Angeles. Bob met him at a National Cemetery Association convention, and the enthusiasm of Hubert Eaton captured his imagination. The modern cemetery, Bob said, should be a beautiful park where nature and art work can be enjoyed and appreciated, where the living can visit and enjoy the

peace and quiet. Bob then set about to make Woodlawn the outstanding, beautiful place that it is today. His latest mosaic depicting the Life of Christ is the largest of its kind in the world and thousands of people visit it each year. Other statuary from various parts of the world are located in the unique gardens of Woodlawn and are equally beautiful and inspiring. One of his promotional ideas involved offering a free burial site to anyone killed while driving and drinking on New Year's Eve.

Bob has reached the top in the various cemetery associations, having been president of the Florida, the Southern, and the American Cemetery Association and chairman of its centennial committee in 1987. He was honored by being inducted into the ACA Hall of Fame in 1991. He was one of 15 such honorees during the 104 years of the association. He has become an authority in the field of cemetery sales and has written numerous articles on the subject, and has appeared on many programs as an expert in his field. In the community, Bob has also been a leader, having been elected as president of the Orlando Area Chamber of Commerce, USO Citizens Committee, Orlando Area Sales and Marketing Club, and the Orange County Historical Museum. He was campaign manager and the chairman of the board of the Heart of Florida United Appeal. In addition he has been an active member of the boards of the University Club, American Red Cross, Junior Achievement, March of Dimes, Central Florida Fair, and other organizations, such as the Dale Carnegie Institute as an instructor and example of a successful salesman.

Honors received included: Executive of the Year in 1989 by Central Florida Sales and Marketing Executives Club; 1963 Andy Slaughter Award for most outstanding Citizen; Kentucky Colonel; Southern Bell Award for leadership in United Way; VFW Award for distinguished service to veterans. Don Cheney, who survived all other charter members of the club, worked through the Boy Scouts of America in arranging for the miniature Statute of Liberty at the intersection of Magnolia and Orange Avenues at Lake Ivanhoe after World War II. The city landscaped the triangle with annuals, but somehow the bronze statue began to deteriorate. Bob noted the problem and arranged to have two skilled artisans flown down from Pittsburgh to restore it in time for the 1976 Bicentennial. In fact, a small scaffold was built around the little statute at the same time that a huge scaffold was surrounding the original Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. For his good work, the Chamber of Commerce gave Bob the ambassador-at-large award: one of only four ever given. But for Bob the most satisfying part was receiving hundreds of letters from patriotic citizens who watched and appreciated the rejuvenation of the miniature Statue of Liberty.

Bob furnished the same enthusiasm and leadership as president of the club as he exhibited in everything he became involved in. Prior to being elected to the board, he acted as sergeant-at-arms for two years, served as chairman of the Buyer-Seller Committee and worked at every task he was assigned with equal fervor. Throughout his year as president, Bob continually sought suggestions from the club through the Rotooptimist and from the podium. It helped make his year more successful. The appointment of Joel Wells as his program chairman assured him of a highly successful year. Bob always introduced him as the greatest program chairman in RI. The Joel Wells success story is included later. This optimistic young attorney had imagination, high goals, and an enthusiasm that matched the "cemetery salesman" president. Joel's contacts in state government and in Orlando, plus Bob's contacts through his many travels and

associations provided an unusually fine group of programs. Early in the year, however, Joel ran into trouble. Joel announced that he had arranged to have a famous rocket scientist, Dr. R. Brandenberger, a graduate of Heidelberg University and a protege of Dr. Werner Von Braun of Huntsville, Ala., present the program. Several announcements and unexpected interruptions delayed the meeting and Dr. Brandenberger became upset and walked out of the meeting with Joel following and using his best persuasive efforts to get him to return. President Bob adjourned the meeting. Most of the Rotarians left the meeting feeling that we had insulted a famous scientist. The next day's Sentinel revealed that it was all a hoax and the supposed rocket expert was in reality Thom Rumberger, a young attorney in the law firm of Maguire, Voorhis and Wells. Actually, the program for the day had been canceled at the last minute and this was Joel's solution for a different program. Among other speakers during the year were State Sen. Fred Dickinson, president of the Florida Council of 100; Gov. Farris Bryant at an intercity-interservice club meeting; Ollie Edmunds, president of Stetson University; the chairman of the Orange County Commission, F. B. Surgine on County Water Control; Max Brewer, member of State Road Board from this district. Francis Auger, the club's "Q" ball-headed humorous speaker, entertained with his many anecdotes and tales of his travels all over the U. S. while speaking mostly about credit associations and bill collectors--two subjects on which he was an expert. Classifications talks were a regular event. Don Hollingsworth of the Institute of Highway Safety in Washington, D. C. presented a program on highway safety; Dr. E. R. Annis, president-elect of the American Medical Association, spoke on Medicare: Four American Field Service students from four foreign countries provided more international understanding and friendship.

However, the greatest program of the year was obtained by President Bob. Bob set out to have the President of Rotary International, Nitish Laharry of Calcutta, India, come to the Orlando Rotary Club. He started with his cemetery partner and father-in-law, Asher Peter, who was a close friend of Ken Guernsey, a past president of Rotary International. Ken, a charter member of the Orlando club, took a real interest in Bob's request and managed to get the president for a Valentine's Day Ladies' Night celebration on Feb. 14, 1963. All Rotary clubs in the area were invited to attend and it turned out to be one of the biggest nights ever for Orlando Rotary. The Orlando Sentinel covered the visit and the program in an extraordinary way with a front page color cartoon published on the day of the meeting.

A number of long-term Rotarians were inducted into the club during Bob's presidency:

John Sterchi, Vice President of The First National Bank (later SunBank, N. A.) and the son-in-law of Linton Allen. His classification was Banking, AA, to Bill Capehart. Bill Dial resigned because of business and his involvement in state and local affairs. He was immediately elected an honorary member. John, a graduate of the University of Tennessee, came to Orlando in 1949 to set up a furniture warehouse for the furniture store which bore his family name. He met Happy Sterchi, daughter of Linton Allen, and they were married in 1951. John moved to several other cities where there were Sterchi stores. The couple had three children. Linton persuaded John to leave his furniture career and join the First National Bank in Orlando in 1958. John advanced rapidly in the bank and when he joined Rotary, he was a vice president and a member of the board of directors. In 1965, he was elected president of an affiliate bank, The First National Bank at Pine Hills. He was an elder in the First Presbyterian Church and became

interested in the YMCA and headed a capital fund drive to raise a million dollars for a new building, a feat never attempted before in Orlando. He was successful. Shortly after his 40th birthday, he developed a serious illness and died in early 1968. He received the Jaycee Distinguished Service Award in 1963 and was the "Man of the Year" for the Hi-Y and Tri Hi-Y in 1965. A grateful YMCA named their building for him.

Arnold F. (Doc) Schoen, TV Broadcasting, executive vice president and general manager of Cherry Broadcasting Co., owners of WDBO-TV. Doc was a graduate of Syracuse University and a veteran with five years service in World War II.

A. G. (Bert) McCree, General Contractor, vice president of McCree Design and Construction Inc. He was later president and chairman of the board of McCree Inc., AA to Bill McCree. Bert was a native of Orlando and raised in construction, received his Bachelor of Architecture Degree from UF in 1953. He served three years in the Air Force during the Korean War, three years' apprenticeship in the offices of James Gamble Rogers II, became a registered architect and joined his brother as the architect in the firm. He has served on many Rotary committees, served on the board of directors for three terms and served as club secretary for two years, 1990-92 and is one of the song leaders of the club. He spearheaded the activation of the Orlando Rotary Club Foundation during the presidency of Dr. Howard Chadwick. He was chairman of the House of Friendship Committee for the 1992 RI Convention and designed that facility. He and his wife, Marie, are Paul Harris Fellows. He has been the architect and/or builder on a number of well known buildings including the Mercado, Martin Marietta Data Systems building, dozens of churches, banks, cold storage rooms and other structures in Central Florida. He and his wife have three children including Mark, an architect in West Palm Beach. His outside interests have included Junior Achievement and Boy Scouts. For years he was an enthusiastic member of Toastmasters. His principal hobbies are golf, music and snow skiing.

William C. (Bill) Denson, mechanical engineer with Wolpert, Tilden and Denson, Engineers, AA to Earl Wolpert.

Gordon Wood, Land Surveying.

Frank Hutchinson, editor of the editorial page of the Orlando Evening Star. A Virginia native, educated at West Virginia Wesleyan and Syracuse University. He was a former member of the Syracuse Rotary Club and two New Jersey Rotary clubs before coming to Orlando. Frank was a valuable addition to the club, assuring that the programs of Rotary and Rotarians were publicized to the community, especially their community service projects. He was present at every meeting and wrote up an account of each one for the paper.

Thomas W. Lawton, manager of the Florida State Unemployment Service, attended Rollins but graduated from UF and was a lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserve.

William L. Mims, Probate Law, AA to Bo McEwan.

William Morris, Junior Achievement of Mid Florida.

Paul McKinney, Jr., senior active, became a member under the provision that senior actives are able to transfer membership. He was previously a senior active member of the Columbus Ga., club. Paul was president and treasurer of Repco, Inc., which manufactured electronic equipment including sophisticated police radio telephones. Paul's special community interest was the YMCA for which he served as president in 1965. Paul also served as president

of the CofC for 1972. He was honored by Junior Achievement by induction into the Mid Florida Business Hall of Fame in 1985.

Capt. Sydney Lynch, Salvation Army, built the Salvation Army citadel on West Colonial Drive an Lake Dot.

Ben H. Oehlert, Citrus Concentrate, president of Minute Maid and vice president of the Coca Cola Co. A native of Philadelphia, he received his B.S. from Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, and his law degree from the same university. He joined Coca Cola in 1938. He was a director of the First National Bank at Orlando. He handled the negotiations for sale of Minute Maid to Coca Cola. Ben became the U. S. Ambassador to Pakistan.

Dr. James F. Richards, Orthopedic Surgeon.

Keith Taylor, Aluminum Shapes; later owned and operated Taylor Supply, distributing laminate and other cabinet accessories and supplies.

Bob Neel said that Rotary had been a school in leadership and service inspired by the men he became acquainted with in Rotary. Bob's final remarks made during an interview were, "Rotary and Orlando are loyal. If you contribute, you will be greatly rewarded. 'Service above Self' and 'He profits most who serves best.' are all true sayings."

In December 1962, "Florida Trend" named Orlando Rotarians John S. Cooper, Billy Dial, Bill McCree, and Tom Willey among the 77 most influential men in Florida. In 1958, the magazine named Martin Andersen, publisher and editor of the "Orlando Sentinel," and an honorary member of the club.

Wallace Mercer, Dry Goods, Retailing, manager of J. C. Penney Co. in Orlando, was elected president for 1963-64. Wally was a native of Georgia, educated at Mercer University and had managed J. C. Penney stores in Albany, Ga. and Montgomery, Ala. where he became a member of Rotary in 1937 and served on the board as vice president, prior to coming to Orlando in 1949. He served on the Orlando Utilities Commission for five years and was elected president in 1965. He also was an elder in the First Presbyterian Church and served on the board of United Appeal. He also was on the executive committee of the Orange Memorial Hospital board. He and his Rotary Ann, Julia, had one son and two grandchildren. In Rotary, he served as director of the Club Service Committee, program chairman and several other Rotary committees.

Program Chairman Harry Bull continued with the same high type programs that Orlando Rotarians expect. To start the year, Army Maj. Gen. J. B. Medaris, USA (RET.) spoke to the club on the responsibilities of Americans. He pointed out that the Constitution is a document of privileges, but we need to go to the Declaration of Independence to find responsibilities. Sen. Beth Johnson, of Orlando, first woman elected to the Florida Senate, told the club what went on in the legislature. Bill Dial spoke on the new University in East Central Florida. Bill McCree told about the beginning of construction of the 120-year dream of water transportation across Florida via the Cross Florida Barge Canal. In a different vein for Rotary, a debate was held between Mayor High of Miami and Mayor Burns of Jacksonville, both candidates for governor, but it gave the Rotarians a clear cut view of the differences between the candidates. Judge John G. Baker, old time attorney, spoke on race relations in Orlando. Col. Stanley hand, commander of the 36th Bombardment Wing of SAC at McCoy Air Force Base (formerly

Pinecastle) spoke to the club on the mission of SAC. The slogan of SAC is "Peace is our Profession." Dr. Wayne Reitz, former member of the Orlando club and later president of the University of Florida, spoke on "Higher Education in Florida." Francis Auger added much to the club meetings.

Nov. 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, the only assassination of a president of the U. S. in this century to date. The country and the City went into several days of mourning.

On April 1, 1964, Johnny Graham announced that the last lot in Washington Shores, a restricted subdivision strictly for blacks, had been sold, and the non-profit development company, Washington Shores Inc., had gone out of business. The project was Johnny's idea and launched as a Rotary project in 1945. Johnny thanked N. P. Yowell, W. J. Mullin, Hamilton Gibson, Howard Gross and Herman Langford of the Rotary Club for their major help. Directors of the corporation included Rotarians Hugh Akerman, Harry Baldwin, Jack Branham, Dick Lawrence, Gus Lawton, Doyle Darnold, Bill Lawrence, Bob McCaslin and Milt Vergowe. The mayor of Orlando, William Beardall, father of Rotarian Bill Beardall, had been a big help. Many believe that this project, a first in Florida and one of a very few in the U. S., contributed greatly to good race relations in Orlando during the troubled times of the '60s.

During a period when problems developed with the printer of the Rotooptimist, Sears' advertising department did the printing without charge. The club was grateful to Clyde West, district manager, for this service.

The Rotary-sponsored Pony League All Stars won second place in the Southeastern Pony League Tournament in Marietta, Ga. The league, begun by Bill Beardall, was now being looked after by Tom Lawton.

Doyle Darnold retired from the office of secretary where he served so well for 18 years. His partner in business, Hixon Eldridge, was elected to take his place. Doyle was honored at a Rotary dinner at the Orlando Country Club with 20 past presidents of the club present. Entertainment was furnished by a high school trio, "The Street Singers," consisting of Allen McCree, guitar, Terry McCree, bass and singer Sharon Vaughn. Allen wrote a special song called the "Double D" telling about Doyle.

John Hollyday, chairman of the Employer-Employee Committee, conducted a tour for Rotarians and others to the Martin plant and the Sentinel Star to hear computers discussed with employees of those large corporations. Many employees were afraid that the computer might replace them.

Permanent Rotarians inducted during Wally's year as president included:

William Ritter, Senior Active.

Al Shepard, Municipal Finance Consultant.

Ormund Powers, Orlando Sentinel editorial page editor, became president for 1981-82.

Thomas A. (Pete) Denmark, Sporting Goods, Retail, became president for 1976-77.

Arnold Albert, Druggist, served faithfully and helped organize the College Park Rotary Club in 1986, then moved his membership there. Arnold also served as president of the Florida Pharmaceutical Association. He was a graduate of the UF in pharmacy.

Brig. Gen. Robert Betts, Civil Defense.

Col. Stanley Hand, Wing Commander at McCoy Air Force Base, became president for 1978-80.

Chester Robinson, Fire Fighting Equipment, ABC Fire Fighting Equip., Inc.

Austin Caruso, Lift Trucks, Distributor, later Citrus Juice Canning, Southern Fruit, Inc.

Wesley Darnold, Casualty Insurance, AA, Darnold & Eldridge, Insurance, Inc.

Glenn Greathouse, Radio Active Chemicals, manufacturing.

Harry Bull, Beauty Supplies, distribution, was elected president for the year 1964-65.

Harry's story is a truly American success story of a small businessman. He was raised on a farm in North Carolina, but after high school, he left the farm to begin selling by distributing samples for Proctor and Gamble. W.W.II came along and he became an aviation machinist's mate in the Navy from 1942 to 1946. Then he went to work in the beauty supply business until he married Nita, a registered nurse, in 1948. He then opened his own business selling beauty supplies. In 1952, they moved to Orlando and he and Nita opened the Friendly Beauty Supply Co. Since that time she has been a partner in everything Harry has done. In the 1960s, he began manufacturing beauty shop fixtures because of the unreliability of delivery from other manufacturers and the high cost. The marketing was handled by displays at beauty shop shows, which take place every year in various parts of the Southeast. The company covered seven states. As a promotional tool, Harry and Nita began in the early 1970s to charter airplanes and take their best dealers on incentive trips to faraway places such as Hawaii and Japan once a year. The number of people traveling would vary from 180 to 240. They liked that so well that they decided to go into the travel business. When Harry retired at 62, the travel business became full time. As with most small business his three children worked when they were in school. His son, Dean, after graduation from college, joined full time in the travel business. In 1984, they sold the beauty supply business. They continue to help in the travel agency by hosting trips all over the World. However, their principal customers in the agency are business and professional men who travel a lot in their business or whose employees travel a lot. Travel agents, because of computer networks, are now able to render fast service to the advantage of the airlines by issuing tickets and making seat assignments. Harry says in the future that individuals with the right computer connections will be able to be their own travel agents. When asked what Rotary meant to him, he replied: "Rotary gave me the opportunity of associating with, and making friends of, the real community and business leaders in Orlando. When you run your own small business, you work all the time and rarely have time to make friends with those outside your business and perhaps your church. Rotary allowed me to broaden my horizons."

He became a worker with the Wheel Club under Herb Haack and again made the acquaintance of Bill Robbins of Miami, a great Wheel Club advocate, and later president of RI. He enjoyed being program chairman under Wally Mercer and felt highly honored to be elected president. Harry is active in the First United Methodist Church. He was president of the Central Florida Sales and Marketing Executives Club in 1962. Harry's program chairman was Jack Kline, a long time Rotarian and at that time head of Orlando Office Supply Co. During that year Arthur J. Ranson from Apopka was selected for a Rotary Foundation Fellowship award to study for a year in New Zealand. He was a student at Florida Presbyterian College in St. Petersburg. On March 11, 1965, Harry led a group of 71 club members on a tour of the Kennedy Space Center.

Rotarians who were members for a long period and who were inducted during Harry's year included:

Joseph Antink, Trade Associations, originally with Downtown Council and then with Dairy Products. Joe, a native of Illinois, was educated at the University of Illinois, served in the Navy for 22 years, and retired in 1962 with the rank of lieutenant commander. He saw action in W.W.II in the Aleutians, Gilberts, Marshalls and the Solomons. Joe was an ace tennis player and president of the Orlando Tennis Club. Joe was considered the best-dressed man in the club. While a member of the club he was part of the first tour group to visit Communist China.

Clifford Hames, Banking, AA. Cliff came from Trust Company of Georgia to be assistant trust officer of First National Bank at Orlando. He later became trust officer, then trust officer of SunBanks Corp., the holding company, then became vice chairman of SunBanks, N. A. He was elected to the First National board in 1967 and remained until retirement. Cliff was a native of Atlanta, educated at Emory, received a law degree from Atlanta Law School and attended Rutgers University Graduate School of Banking. He was married with two children and was a deacon at the First Presbyterian Church.

Charles Yowell, Insurance, Rating & Inspecting. A native of Virginia, he worked with Southeastern Underwriters Association. He was educated at Virginia Polytech. He was a staff sergeant during W.W.II in the European theater. He was a tenor in the Presbyterian Church choir.

Charles Longnecker, Women's Clothing, LuSairs.

Jon Stine, Industrial Supplies, Distributing, H. P. Leu, Inc., AA. He was elected president of the club for 1978-79.

Tom Brownlee, Orlando Area Chamber of Commerce. A native of Nebraska, he was an alumnus of the University of Nebraska. He served in the Navy in 1944-46 and was a first lieutenant in the Korean War. He worked with the chambers of commerce in Daytona Beach, Tampa, Tallahassee, Columbia, S. C., Winston-Salem and then came to Orlando in the early 1960s. He was executive vice president of the Orlando CofC at the time of induction and later was given title of president. When he came the chamber was at an all-time low. The local chamber was rated one of the weakest in the U.S. With the help of Rotarian Curt Stanton, followed by Clyde West as presidents, Tom was able to turn the chamber around and change it from being primarily government supported to standing on its own feet financially. The third president in a row, Rotarian Bob Neel, had led the campaign to sign up 450 members in three hours which set a national record. All kinds of other national records were set and the Orlando Area Chamber of Commerce became one of the top twenty in the U.S. Several special programs were brought into being: Leadership Orlando, a program for training business and professional men and women for civic leadership in Orlando; the Hob-Nob barbecue to let chamber members get acquainted with lawmakers and candidates for all offices; and the Orange Juice Club which meets several times a year for breakfast to provide fellowship among the members. In addition, Astronaut John Young was given the first John Young Award after his first successful space flight to the moon. The award has been given to other leaders who have brought recognition to Orlando for outstanding performances in many fields. One of the programs was the "Help Your Neighbor" project in which members donated material, labor and

money to fix up homes owned by people below the poverty level who could not afford to have the work done. It was headed by a Rotarian. It was several years earlier that the present Rotary H.E.A.R.T. program. The Local Government Committee of the Chamber was well represented by a Rotarian in 1967 when the Local Government Study Commission was created by the Legislature. Most of the recommendations of the commission have now been accomplished. Rotarians were at the forefront of many more activities of the Chamber and when Brownlee left after 13 years, the Chamber had enjoyed a 2,000 percent increase in membership and was housed in an ultra modern building on Lake Ivanhoe. Rotarians have furnished the elected leadership for many years. From 1950 to 1995, the following Rotarians were president of the CofC:

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| 1956--William Y. Akerman | 1969--Charles Potter |
| 1961--William H. Dial | 1970--Joel Wells, Jr. |
| 1962--Bob Robertson | 1972--Paul McKenny (Chm) |
| 1963--John Cooper | 1980--Bob Blackford (Chm) |
| 1965--Curt Stanton | 1991--Ted Pope (Chm) |
| 1966--Clyde West | 1992--Fred Leonhardt (Chm) |
| 1968--Bob Neel | |

Tom left chamber work in 1977 and founded an energy saving light fixture business, which has grown tremendously until it is now the largest fixture manufacturing company of its kind in the U. S. The company has sales representatives in Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean. Tom served one term as city commissioner (1978-82). He has been active on many community boards and has been active in the Scottish games. One of the great things he did as a Rotarian was to organize and supervise the Christmas Kettle drives for the Salvation Army for five years. He became president of two state, two regional and the National Association of Chamber Executives. He is listed in "Who's Who" in the World and the U.S. Tom and wife, Olive, have four children. Three are in the family business.

Jim Hinson, Renting, Proprietary, the Dr. P. Phillips Companies, AA. A native of Decatur, Ga., Jim liked working on automobiles as a youth and intended to be an auto mechanic and attended Southern Tech, but he dated Patricia who was a distant relative of Gene Johnson's dad who was living in the area at that time. Gene needed a bookkeeper for the Dr. Phillips Companies and ask his dad for a recommendation. Jim was suggested and Gene flew him down for an interview (it was Jim's first airplane flight). Jim got the job and moved to Orlando. Jim studied further at the University of Georgia in Atlanta, the Orlando Junior College and Rollins. He married Pat and they have three sons. Jim advanced up through the Dr. Phillips companies and foundation and is now the president, chairman of the board and CEO of Dr. P. Phillips, Inc., the Dr. P. Phillips Foundation and the Howard Phillips (charitable) Fund, Inc. Jim has served on the board of directors of the Orlando Rotary Club and on various committees. His principal community service has been rendered through the two foundations, but he also has been involved in many other community organizations. He belongs to several country clubs and the University and Citrus Clubs. He is a former vice president of the local chapter of the National Association of Industrial and Office Parks, has been a member of the Orange County Citizen's Commission for Children, and the Executive Council for Economic Development. He

is a trustee of the Ivanhoe Foundation and the United Arts; a director of the U.S. Business and Industrial Council; the UCF Foundation; and the Community Foundation of Central Florida. He is a former board member of the YMCA, and is a member of the First Baptist Church. To Jim the greatest Rotarian he has ever known was Howard Phillips. (The Dr. P. Phillips story is told at the end of this chapter.)

Francis Auger, Credit Associations, president for the term 1965-66. He is among the five most popular "characters" in the history of the club. Ben Carpenter, "The Sage of Turkey Lake," Curt Stanton, "Presiding Officer at the Old Timers Table," Leon Handley, "World Traveler," and Paul Knepper with his "Eye Witless News" were the other four. But Francis was different. Both he and Leon are quick witted with a play on words that is uncanny and both have spoken to a great many people, but Leon had hair, while Francis was chief of the "Balding Eagles." He chose as his program chairman another balding eagle, Dr. Bob Zellner. Between them they kept the first meeting in July in an uproar with their banter. It is believed also that Francis has made more speeches than anyone in Orlando. He believes that he has spoken more than 500 times to audiences all over the United States--but he never considered himself as a professional speaker in that he did not receive his principal income from that source. While he spoke many times to the club, he is remembered most for his introductions of guests. Each introduction was a speech in itself.

Rotary was born just four months before Francis. He was a native of Wisconsin with French Canadian parents. He spoke French before he spoke English. They came to Orlando in 1919. He attended the law school at UF. Forced to drop out after the death of his father, he applied for a job as office boy with Maguire, Voorhis & Wells, where he agreed to work without pay. (It worked as well for him as it did for Mark Twain). He was hired and when the regular office boy found out that Francis was not getting paid he quit and Francis was paid \$10 per week. The bookkeeper for MVW was an alternate investigator for the Retail Credit company. The chief reporter for Retail Credit quit and the job was offered to MVW's bookkeeper. He refused and recommended Francis. The young man worked with Retail Credit for several years and then had a chance to buy the Credit Bureau of Orlando from Allie Dickson. Harry Voorhis helped him with the negotiations and he ended up being sole owner of the Credit Bureau of Orlando in 1941. One of the services rendered to members of the Credit Bureau was the daily "scandal sheet" which listed all the real estate transactions, loans and etc. in Orange County. Later Francis started a collection service with doctors as his principal clients. He built his own building in 1955. The collection service became more profitable than the Credit Bureau, so he sold the latter. When he retired in 1970, his son, James, took over the collection agency.

Francis realized when he entered business that he had trouble communicating, so he joined Toastmasters to learn public speaking. For him, being humorous came naturally. He took advantage of his early baldness to accentuate his humor. At one time he wore a suction cup on his head with a rattle. His speaking ability opened a whole new world. He developed some ideas about collections and he taught his doctor clients how their office employees could get better information from the patients and make collections easier, thus reducing collection expense. Finally, the American Medical Association discovered his talents and he was asked to travel the U.S., holding schools for doctors' secretaries. He helped organize the Women's

Credit Association. He is a past president of the American Association of Credit Bureaus, has headed the Cancer Society in Orange County, and the Lung Association. Currently Francis is a resident at Westminster Towers retirement center where he has been a leader in the activities.

He was a director for two two-year terms and program chairman of the Rotary Club before being elected president. Prior to being a Rotarian, Francis had been president of the Exchange Club, but quit to become a member of Rotary upon the recommendation of a great Rotarian, Jim Keith. When asked what Rotary meant to him, he replied: "Trying to live up to the principles of Rotary has made me a better citizen. Being able to associate with the leaders of the community has meant much." Francis initiated the practice of naming a Rotarian of the Week at each club meeting. Floyd Eaddy was the first chosen for his excellent work with club music and as head of the music committee.

When time came for the club assembly in September, District Governor Jim Franklin, of Fort Myers, could not get to Orlando because of a hurricane. President Francis held the assembly anyway and took all reports. Dr. Zellner, Francis and Bill McBride presented the program at the regular club meeting when the district governor failed to arrive. Another "different" program was presented by five foreign students brought to Orlando by The American Field Service to live in the homes of Orlando residents for a year. Students from England, Iran, Bolivia, Turkey, and Switzerland spoke to the club. The program was sponsored by Stanley Scott who worked closely with the AFS. The Swiss student was Melchior Schallibaum, who lived in the home of Bill McCree as a guest of his son, Richard.

Several events made the news and changed every American's life: on July 28, 1965, Congress passed the Medicare Act and sent it to President Lyndon B. Johnson. He signed it. The worst major electrical power blackout in U.S. history put the Northeast U. S. and parts of Canada in the dark and the birth rate went up. On Nov. 10, 1965, President Johnson's State of the Union address to Congress was carried live on color TV--a first on Jan. 2, 1966.

New members inducted into the club during Auger's year included the following:

Russell V. Hughes, Electrical Supplies, distributor, treasurer of Hughes Supply. He was educated at UF, served in the Army in the European Theater, was a prisoner of war. He is married to Phyllis and they have two children and are members of the Presbyterian Church.

William Lippold, Trade Associations, real estate, executive vice president of the Florida Association of Realtors. A native of Louisville, he was educated at UF, elected to the honor court there. His wife is Elizabeth. They are members of the Winter Park Presbyterian Church.

Edwin Rambo, U. S. Post Office. He was assistant station superintendent of the College Park Branch of Orlando Post Office, a native of Illinois, he was educated at UF, came to Orlando in 1912 and was in insurance and contracting before entering the postal service.

Judge George Young, Judiciary, Federal. A native of Cincinnati, he attended Rollins College as a freshman, then obtained his A.B. and J.D. from UF where he was president of Florida Blue Key, SAE, and the debate team. Also, he was selected for the Hall of Fame and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Delta Phi and Order of the Coif. During W.W.II, he served with the Navy in the Philippines and the Caribbean. He practiced in Jacksonville and was elected president of the Jacksonville Bar Association and became a member of the Florida Bar Board of Governors. He was appointed to the federal bench in 1961 by

President John F. Kennedy and moved to Orlando in 1964. He is an Episcopalian and a Paul Harris Fellow. His wife is Iris and they have a son and a daughter and three grandchildren.

Cecil L. Bothwell, Jr., Business Consultant, was a native of Illinois, received a BA degree from the University of Chicago and a MBA from North Western, served in WWII as a Captain in the U.S. Army Air Corps in management control from 1941 to 1945 and has operated his own business since. He joined Rotary because of its interest in Boy Scouts and served on the attendance and Americanism Committees of the Club and has 27 years perfect attendance. He served several terms in the Florida Legislature and is a faithful Republican. Community activities include: all phases of Scouting from Boy Scout to Executive Board of Central Florida Council, BSA; local and state president of Sons of the American Revolution and on the Executive Board of the National SAR. He was honored by the Boy Scouts with a Silver Beaver a Vigil Honor Order of the Arrow.

Harvard Anderson, Church Council, Presbyterian Church of U. S. Synod of Florida.

Alton J. Nolle, Jr., Education, public schools, became president of the club in 1988-89.

Stanley Albert, Druggist, AA and senior partner and big brother of Arnold Albert. Educated at Columbia and New York College of Pharmacy. He was an avid stamp collector, a "Life Master" at contract bridge and also plays the piano.

Joel Wells, Lawyer (Maguire Voorhis & Wells) Banker (First National, SunBanks and SunTrust, community builder and former "Greatest Program Chairman in all of R.I.," was elected president for 1966-67. He had served two terms on the board of directors and had proved to be one of the most active community leaders after Billy Dial. He possessed a more solid enthusiasm about the orderly development of Orlando than anyone of his time. His enthusiasm never waned, even after he became president and CEO of SunTrust and spent most of his time in Atlanta. Joel became ill in high school and was forced to give up a cherished ambition of going to the U.S. Naval Academy. A graduate of the UF Law School, he inherited his father's keen legal mind and "the drive" to get things done from his popular mother. He used both these talents to move ahead in his profession, as a banker and a great community leader. In his roll of attorney for the First National Bank, he helped put together the SunBank Holding Company. He became general counsel for Major Realty, became president of that company and persuaded the board of directors to bring all of Florida Center into the City of Orlando, the largest single annexation ever to take place in Central Florida. Prior to that he had been the chairman of the Municipal Planning Board of Orlando, president of the Central Florida Development Committee, and president of the rejuvenated Chamber of Commerce. While in the last assignment, he lobbied heavily over much opposition for the resort tax, which has allowed the building of one of the finest and largest convention centers in the world. The hotels that opposed it initially, have profited immensely and the area now has more hotel rooms available for conventions than any other area in the world. He was persuaded to become executive vice president of SunBanks and from there quickly climbed the ladder to become CEO of SunBanks of Florida and then to become SunTrust president and chairman where he served until his death at age 62. He served the community in many other capacities and was honored by Junior Achievement by being inducted into their Mid-Florida Business Hall of Fame posthumously in 1992. Joel was a visionary and an optimist. Once, at a time of economic and political distress, he addressed the Orlando Rotary Club on "What's Right with America." Paul

Stine would have said, "He paid his rent for the space he occupied on earth by his community service!"

Joel was one of the club's most colorful presidents and began the year by recommending that Martin Andersen, who sold the Sentinel to the Chicago Tribune the previous year, be made an honorary member. In a colorful ceremony, Andersen was presented with the honorary member's pin which included a ruby in the center. Andersen was visibly appreciative as he was designated "Mr. Central Florida" by John Sterchi, program chairman. Andersen had been a Rotarian in Austin, Texas before coming to Orlando in 1931 and was a member of this club for five years, before being forced to give up his membership because of the press of business that would hurt the club's attendance record. Later, he told Bill McCree that being elected an honorary member of Orlando Rotary was among one of the highest honors he had received and he was proud of it.

Having the greatest district conference in history was a goal of Joel. The conference was scheduled for Sept. 30-Oct 1., early in the year. Bob Neel was selected as the chairman of the Conference Committee backed up by two dozen leading Rotarians. The U. S. space program was the central theme of the affair, and Astronaut John Young, of Orlando, and a schoolmate of Joel Wells at OHS, was chosen as the speaker. The space administration balked until a good Rotarian from Winter Park who was then in Congress, Ed Gurney, intervened. President Joel saw his goal fulfilled in the district conference. There were 927 registrants and 738 at the Fellowship Dinner at which John Young vividly spoke of his experiences in space travel and expressed a hope to attend a Rotary meeting on the moon. The club made him an honorary member.

An outstanding program was presented by Allen Drury, the famous Pulitzer Prize winning political novelist, who was living in Maitland at the time. Drury wrote, "Advise and Consent," "Capable of Honor," and "Throne of Saturn," among others. Some of the old timers who recall the program remember how he forecast that the United States would have more crime and that the people would become more violent. Another timely program was given by Bill McCree, vice chairman of the legislature-mandated Local Government Study Commission. McCree outlined the recommendation for a new county government. At first most of it was rejected by county officials, but 20 years later it became law. Joel Wells and Don Rybolt were also members of that commission. Another day, Joe Brechner of Channel 9-TV, gave an illustrated talk of his visit to Vietnam. A major change in the by-laws of the club was approved by the board and the membership, involving the election of a president-elect a year ahead of time in order for him to be prepared and so that he could act in absence of the president. In the spring of 1967, **Dr. Byron Thames** was elected president for 1967-68 and **Loren Ward** was named president-elect for 1968-69 by the new board of directors.

President Wells also recommended the establishment of a local Rotary Club Foundation to grant scholarships and handle appeals from organizations. The foundation did not come into being until later. Joel Wells, John Sterchi and Doc Pinel attended the RI Convention in Nice, France.

The club occasionally enjoyed some of the antics of the members. Howard Phillips usually wore bermuda shorts in the summer. The former president of Minute Maid, Ben Olehert, who had gone to Atlanta as a Coca Cola vice president, returned to speak to the club

and was introduced by Howard. Ben kidded Howard publicly about the shorts and offered to buy Howard a pair of pants. When Ben did not produce, Howard bought a pair and proceeded to put them on with the members of the club as witnesses. Howard sent the bill for \$11.95 to Ben, but Ben refused to pay it because he could not read Howard's signature--neither could anyone else.

New permanent members, who were inducted during Joel's administration included the following:

Dr. Howard Chadwick, Religion, Christian, Presbyterian--Pastor First Presbyterian Church. Served as president, first of two ministers to serve in that capacity, 1980-81. A native of North Carolina, Howard received his A.B. from Moravian College, Bethlehem, Pa., his master of divinity from Duke University, and his D.D. from Salem College in West Virginia. He served as pastor in the Moravian Church nine years, Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, N. C. nine years and First Presbyterian, Orlando, 16 years. His wife is Helen and they had two boys and one girl.

George Wolly, Stock Broker, Thomson & McKinnon, was formerly a Rotarian in Marianna, Florida and came into the Orlando club as a senior active. He is a native of New Jersey and a graduate of UF.

Alfred (Al) Woods, Restaurant, Gary's Duck Inn. A native of Ohio, he was educated at NYU where he was a star athlete in football, baseball, basketball and tennis. He came to Orlando via the New York Stock Exchange, and Howard Johnson's Restaurants. He was part owner of Gary's Duck Inn, which was bought out by Red Lobster and General Mills. Al continued to be an officer in the well known restaurant chain. He became a real Rotary booster.

Dr. Charles Millican, Education, University, President of Florida Technological University (later University of Central Florida). A native of Arkansas, he was educated at Union University and Peabody and received his Ph.d. from UF. He had the task of building the new university east of Orlando for which many Rotarians and other community leaders had fought hard to get. He came here from the University of South Florida, where he had been dean of the School of Business. He established the new university on a solid foundation with his "Accent on Excellence" and his "Accent on the Individual" themes. The Board of Control could not have found a better man to build and then operate the great university. Members of the Orlando Rotary Club were active in having UCF established and had a lot to do with sustaining it.

Charles V. Marshall, Law, Title Examination, Attorney with Rush, Marshall, Bergstrom, Robison and Chapin. A native of Virginia, he attended Virginia Poly Tech and graduated from the law school at UF, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif. He served in the Air Force during the Korean War.

Dr. William Daniel, Urology AA to Dr. Truett Frazier, was a Georgia native and graduate of Emory Medical School. He said he came to Orlando, because "it was a good place to live." He was a lieutenant commander in the Navy during the Korean War.

Richard T. Lee, Milk Distribution, President of Lee Vista Center and former President of T. G. Lee Foods, who owned and operated the largest dairy and dairy processing plant in Central Florida. Their milking parlors were a showplace. They also were one of the first firms to provide a meeting room for community activities. Richard was a second generation Orlandoan. His father founded the dairy that bears his name. He joined the club because his

dad thought it was a good idea. Richard agrees after 28 years' of perfect attendance. He has served on boards of the following community service organizations: Chamber of Commerce, Arnold Palmer Children's Hospital, ORMC Foundation, Florida Dairy Products Association. He is a Paul Harris Fellow. He was active in the Sales Executive Club, the March of Dimes and the First Presbyterian Church.

Ronald Strickler, Air Conditioning, Ward Air Conditioning, native of Minnesota, graduate of UF with a mechanical engineering degree. He was a U. S. Navy jet fighter pilot from 1952 to 1956. His wife is Lynda and they have two sons.

William Yager, Jr., executive director of Junior Achievement of Central Florida.

Alvin R. Schneider, Brass & Schneider, appraisers. Al is a native of Ohio who graduated from the business school of Stetson University. He was a Mason, Shriner and has worked with the YMCA and United Appeal. He is a Methodist.

C. B. Van Alstine, Building Materials, Concrete Products. A native of Oklahoma, he got his B.S. in civil engineering from the University of Oklahoma, worked for the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation before W.W.II, when he served in Europe. C. B. came from Fort Pierce, where he was a Rotarian. C. B. has been one of the most helpful Rotarians in club service and other avenues of service.

Dr. David L. Lynn, Veterinarian, was a native of Durham, N.C., and got his education at Orlando Junior College, North Carolina State and University of Georgia. He succeeded his uncle, Dr. W. M. Lynn, who was the first licensed veterinarian in Orange County. W. M. Lynn came to Orlando in 1916. The U.S. called him for duty in World War I and he stayed in government work until 1926 when he returned to Orlando and opened Lynn Animal Hospital which is now located at 110 East Weber Street. Dr. David Lynn's civic activities include OJC, YMCA, Boys' Clubs, Jaycees and United Appeal. David was the recipient of the Jaycee Distinguished Service Award in 1965 and selected for the YMCA Youth Outstanding Leadership Award for 1966. He was a trustee of Orlando Junior College. David said, "Three outstanding Rotarians influenced my life, Henry Swanson, Buckie Allen and Ormund Powers." David has worked on the Rotary Information Committee, Program Committee, Convention Committee, and welcoming committee. He is listed in "Who's Who in American Colleges," and was a member of the Agricultural Trade Commission. He is a member of the Florida Veterinary Medical Association, American Veterinary Medical Association. His hobbies are work and quail hunting. David says Rotary is "An outstanding international organized effort. The local programs always keep me focused and motivated. I think Rotary has meant a positive, progressive, developmental force for Orlando. To me, Rotary always means service above self."

Col. Gaylord Gilbert, Senior Active, was a Rotarian for 12 years in Angola, Ind. He was a native of Indiana, was educated at Purdue and the University of Louisville. He served in W.W.I, W.W.II and the Korean War. Although retired when he joined the club, he was active and was editor of the Rotoptimist for a number of years. While serving in the Pentagon, in the Judge Advocate's department, Col. Gilbert was advised that he needed to be admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. Someone arranged for him and a fellow military jurist, Col. Sullivan, to be admitted at the same time. When their names were called they were introduced as "Gilbert & Sullivan." Veteran reporters said it was the first time that the "Nine

old Men" ever smiled. As this document is being written, Col. Gilbert lives in Westminster Towers and celebrated his 100th birthday in 1995.

Leep Zelones, Photographer, came to Orlando from Rochester, N. Y., where he was a Rotarian for 10 years. Starting off as a newspaper photographer, he obtained a master's degree in photography from the Professional Photographers of America. He served in the Korean War in the Navy. Leep was very active in the club and left to help organize the South Orlando Club in 1970.

The year 1966-67 ended with 265 members (believed to be the highest in the history of the club) with a 90.30 percent attendance average.

Dr. Byron Thames, Family Practice with Orlando Clinic, was elected president of the club for 1967-68. He was born Nov. 13, 1930, in Alabama, making him the youngest president of the club to date. At the date of this writing, Byron has 34 years' of perfect attendance since becoming a member in 1960. He was the third of four medical doctors who have been president of the Orlando club. He promised his sponsor, Dr. Duncan McEwan, that he would be a perfect attender and he has kept that promise. He points out that Dr. Pyle and Dr. Steward, the previous physician presidents, also had long perfect attendance records. He received his pre-med education at UF and got his M.D. at Duke, served a rotating internship in the USAF in 1955 and then was a flight surgeon for three years. Next, he came to Florida looking for a place to practice. Dr. Duncan McEwan had advertised in a medical Journal for a family practice physician. Byron liked Duncan and his Orlando Clinic and came in--he soon became the managing partner for business purposes and is now head of the clinic. He has served as Chief of Medical Staff for ORMC, president of Orange County Medical Society, president of Florida Academy of Family Physicians, president of Florida Medical Association. He was selected as family practice physician of the year in Florida for 1981. Dr. Thames is married to Judy, the executive director of this area's agency on aging. They have four children including Randy of the Orlando Police Dept.; Tommy, a physician in Virginia; and Helen, a teacher and mother of three.

Byron says that Rotary gave him contacts with business and professional men in the community outside medicine and outside his practice and that has meant a lot to him; and it gave him a chance to serve in the community and the club. He is proud that the West Orlando Rotary Club was sponsored by the Orlando Club and began during his term as president. Tom Cassel, a member of the Orlando Club and former president of the Gainesville Rotary Club, was elected president of West Orlando Rotary Club at the organizational meeting. Henry Swanson, dedicated to organizing more clubs in the Orlando area, did most of the hard work necessary to get that new club going. Details of organizations of new clubs in Orlando are covered at the end of Chapter VII. Luther H. Hodges, former governor of North Carolina and former head of Marshal Field's Dept. Store chain, began his year as president of RI with this slogan: "Make your Rotary membership more effective" and suggested four ways. 1. Get personally involved in Rotary. 2. Exercise leadership by being successful in your business or profession. 3. Be loyal to your community and nation and serve them whenever possible. 4. Keep informed and develop an understanding of the problems of people of other nations. President Hodges was the keynote speaker at the Rotary District Conference in Orlando in 1957.

Pres. Byron began a new custom of having a Rotarian on the platform as "The man who came to Dinner" in the interest of fellowship and getting better acquainted within the club.

At the suggestion of past President Joel Wells, the board considered the possibility of having a RI Convention in Orlando. It happened 25 years later.

One international service project which began with the club and became a district project was completed during Byron's term. That was the raising and dispensing of funds to help build an orphanage in Vietnam. The project was suggested and spearheaded by one of the most colorful Rotarians of the period: plastic surgeon Dr. Joe O'Malley. Dr. O'Malley served in Vietnam several times in several capacities, both as a volunteer and as a Navy doctor. He saw the need for the orphanage and promoted the idea to the club, unfortunately the goal was only about half reached, but over \$5,000 was sent from the district. Dr. Joe was also an explorer and hunter and hunted extensively in Africa and South America and furnished the club with many programs on Vietnam, Africa and South America. He was another young man who died early.

Long time Rotarians who were inducted into the club during Byron's year included:

Harry P. Luff, AA to Curt Stanton. He was assistant to the general manager of the Orlando Utilities Commission and followed Curt Stanton as general manager. He was a mechanical engineer from Brown University and had worked with OUC since serving in the Navy from 1943-46. He is a native of Orlando, and is married to Eleanor. They have one son, a lawyer, one daughter, a teacher, and four grandchildren. Harry and his children are believed to be the only surfing family in the club. Harry maintained perfect attendance for 23 years until reaching 65 and being excused from attendance. He served one term on the board of directors and was active with youth programs. He says Rotary has helped him be a better person.

Paul Pennington, Fire Chief for City of Orlando, was a native of Senola, Ga., A trustee of the Florida State Fire College, a 32nd degree Mason and a Shriner and was a member of the International Fire Chiefs' Association.

James Auger, Collection Bureau of Orlando. Jim is the son of Francis Auger and was an AA to Francis in classification. He attended Orlando Junior College and served in the Air Force in Europe with a mobile communication squadron. He was active in Toastmasters and is a member of the Catholic Church. James is married and has two daughters. He served on club committees and was elected to the board of directors for 1988-91.

Ken Kienth, executive director of the Downtown Council and later elected clerk of the Circuit Court of Orange County. Ken was a retired Air Force colonel, having served as base commander at the Orlando Air Force Base. A native of Ohio he was educated at Marquette and the University of Kansas. He was chairman of the 1973 United Way Campaign and chairman of the board in 1975.

Julian Phelps, Bearings, Distributor. He is district manager of Dixie Bearings Inc. He was formerly with Sears and Western Electric before coming to Orlando. He served eight years in the Navy and is involved in several community organizations.

Robert Murphy, Architect, is a native of South Carolina as could be evidenced by his Southern accent. He was educated at Clemson and Harvard and was an Air Force captain in W.W.II. He is married to Robin and they have five children. Bob was an excellent designer of modern architecture and designed many buildings in the Orlando area.

Frank McMillan, AA to Harold Roll of Seventh Day Adventist Conference. Frank was the attorney for the conference. He was a native of Atlanta, educated at UF and Southern Missionary College in Tennessee.

Richard Staub, AA to Clyde West, General Merchandise, Sears, was manager of Sears in Fashion Square. He was a native of Pennsylvania and a graduate of Duquesne University. He was a veteran of the Korean War and was a worker in United Appeal and Junior Achievement.

Lucien Harris, AA Banking, vice president of the First National Bank (later SunBank, N.A.). A graduate of Emory, he came from Trust Company of Georgia in Atlanta. He was a naval aviator in the Pacific. Lucien began as an amateur artist and liked it so much that he gave up his banking career to become a full time professional artist.

Mallory Roberts, past district governor. He was assistant national sales manager for the Coca Cola Co. A Rotarian since 1938 and a former member of the Winter Haven club (and president), as well as the Jacksonville and Tampa clubs. A native of Pinehurst, Ga., but educated at UF, Mallory was considered by many as the ideal Rotarian, club president and district governor.

Loren Ward, Real Estate, secretary-treasurer of Rex McGill Investment Co., was the first president-elect to serve as president the following year, 1968-69. Loren was a native of Minnesota and was educated at the University of Minnesota and Rollins College. He was married to Anne Morgan of Orlando. They were members of the First United Methodist Church and Loren had been active in Rotary since being inducted in 1959. He served as program chairman, a member of the board of directors and as director of the Avenue of International Service. He was past president of the Orlando-Winter Park Board of Realtors. He attended the 1968 Rotary International Convention with Dr. Byron Thames and their wives in Mexico City. Gen. Betts and his wife also attended. Loren and Anne also attended the 1969 RI convention with Dr. Parker, Bill McCree and Ernie Gertner and their wives in Hawaii. They were impressed with the friendliness and the cleanliness of the people and the excellent care given to the landscape both public and private. Hawaii was sign free and that was like a breath of fresh air. Many lasting friendships were made as there always is at these international get-togethers. Loren had a great year as Rotary president. He died about six weeks after completing his year.

An Orlando Rotary Club project of giving scholarships to students entering the Orange Memorial Hospital Nurses' Training School was continued that year.

Programs throughout the year were great, but the program on snake bite presented by past President Dr. Byron Thames was different, timely and outstanding.

Three new Rotary clubs were chartered in Orange County in 1968-69: West Orlando, July 25, 1968, sponsored by Orlando; Orange County East, Oct. 17, 1968, sponsored by Winter Park; Windermere, March 10, 1969, sponsored by Winter Garden. The West Orlando Club was the first club to be sponsored by Orlando in over 20 years and came after much controversy in the club of ceding territory to another Rotary club. The much debated matter will be reported at the end of Chapter Six.

On Feb. 15, 1969, 275 Rotarians from 33 clubs in the district held a dinner honoring the president of Rotary International, Yoshita Togasaki. Dignitaries included three present district

governors and 15 past district governors. President Togasaki said he came to Florida for four reasons: 1. To honor a great Rotarian, Ken Wacker; 2. To visit an old friend, Ken Guernsey; 3. To make friends in the district and visit Florida; 4. To bring his wife, Orika, on the second honeymoon for each of them. Both had lost their spouses and had been recently married.

Long time Rotarians, inducted in Loren's year included:

Ed Stewart, Meat Products, district manager, Central Portion-Pak, Inc. Ed, a native of Georgia, selected Orlando after traveling all over the Southeast in connection with his business. He is remembered as the faithful Rotarian who served at the registration desk for many years. Ed is married to Evelyn and has 26 years of perfect attendance.

Charles (Chuck) Payment, Concrete Products, founder and retired president of the family business, Atlas Concrete Products. The company, which manufactures burial vaults and other concrete items is now operated by a son and grandson. He was born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, just 15 miles from the home of Herb Taylor, a past president of RI and author of the 4-Way Test. Chuck has perfect attendance since induction. Since his retirement in 1982, he spends summers on a houseboat on St. Mary's River which connects Lakes Superior and Huron. He became a member of the club because he was inspired by the Rotarians he knew. His company loaned the fountain for the Florida booth in the Southland House of Friendship at the 1992 Rotary International Convention in Orlando.

Dr. T. T. Hatton, USDA (AA) to Dr. William Cooper, is a native of Florida, attended UF, Hunter College and Brooklyn College and obtained his Phd from Washington State University. He was a lieutenant colonel in W.W.II in the artillery.

George Balfour, Abstracting and Titles, was executive vice president of Fidelity Title and Guaranty Co. A native of Savannah, he was educated at Clemson, served in the Air Force and moved to Orlando in 1924. His wife is Beverly.

Claude Edwards, Judge of the Circuit Court, was elected president for the year, 1883-84.

Malcom Hawley, Dentist, is the son of longtime Rotarian, Don Hawley.

Ormond McAbee, Jr., Travel Agent, owned and operated the Sunniland Travel Bureau with his father, a Rotarian, since 1939.

Hugh McCarroll, Trailers, Sales & Service. A senior active who had been president of the Rotary Club of Deadwood S. D. and a member of the Custer, S. D. club, Hugh was a native of North Carolina.

John E. Majors, Otis Elevator, Orlando manager, was a native of Georgia and played football for the Bulldogs.

Gaynor Markham, Canvas Goods, president of the Markham Co., which manufactures and distributes tents, awnings, cushions and boat covers of canvas. He followed his father who was a member of the club for many years. He is a native of Kansas and he and his wife have one son.

Donald Rybolt, Cattle Raising, educated in Orlando schools and the UF in agriculture. He raised cattle on acreage in East Orange County originally purchased by his uncle, Carey Hand, a charter member of this club. Don was versatile. He built and piloted his own helicopter for use on his ranch. Don was active in the Farm Bureau and represented the