

## CHAPTER I

1925-1955

The Rotary Club of Lincoln was organized in 1925. In May of that year, a committee of five members from the Auburn Rotary Club came to Lincoln to talk over the feasibility of forming a Rotary Club. The five men who had been invited to meet this committee were: Walter K. Jansen, Fred Clark, Major M. J. Dillman, Doctor F. E. McCullough and Charles Gladding. The committee from Auburn were: William G. "Bill" Lee, E. T. Robie, Guy Brundage, Dr. R. B. Howell and James D. Stewart. The meeting took place in the office of Walter Jansen and Son's Warehouse.

After much discussion, during which some of the Lincoln men expressed a certain degree of skepticism as to Lincoln being large enough for such an organization, it was decided to make a survey of the classifications available among the business and professional men of the community. In order to start a club, it was necessary to name not less than fifteen nor more than twenty-five charter members.

The Lincoln committee went to work and found they could readily obtain about twenty distinct classifications. They met again with the Auburn committee a week or two later and informed them of the result of the survey. It was thought advisable, however, at that time that further proceedings in the matter should wait until after the summer months and vacation time were over.

Accordingly, in September the two committees met once more at the Jansen Warehouse, at which time the Auburn committee selected the name of a man to represent each one of the classifications previously submitted by the Lincoln committee.

An organization meeting was then arranged by the Auburn Rotary Club, which meeting took place on October 16, 1925 at the Woman's Club Building.

Following is a report of this dinner as reported in the Lincoln News Messenger:

"Last Friday night in the Woman's Club House in Lincoln some forty Rotarians from Sacramento, Marysville, Auburn and other places in northern California met under the auspices of the Auburn Rotary and perfected the organization of a Rotary Club for Lincoln and also indulged in a real Rotary dinner. Dinner covers were laid for some sixty men, and with the prospective Lincoln members, nearly every cover was taken. During the chicken dinner course songs were enjoyed, and the regular Rotarian ethics followed out. The dinner was furnished by the Lincoln Woman's Club, and to tell the truth about the matter, we'll say it was some dinner! The dainty table service and the good graces of the ladies who waited upon the members went a long way in making the dinner a huge success, and let us state that it was cooked to the queen's taste.

After the sumptuous viands had been devoured by the hungry aggregation of good fellows; the members and Lincoln gentlemen entered the council rooms of the club house and went into executive session and perfected the organization of the local club, after which the Lincoln business men were declared members. After the business session those present enjoyed several addresses by prominent members from various clubs.

Mr. E. T. Robie, President of the Auburn Rotary Club was the presiding officer, who officially declared the existence of Lincoln's Rotary Club.

Among others who delivered addresses were Chester Bowen, President of Marysville Rotary Club; Ray Jones and Mr. Dunning, also of Marysville; both past presidents; Carl Lamus and Fontaine Johnson, past presidents of Sacramento, with others, who made plain the objects and aims of Rotary Clubs.

The meeting, all in all, was one of the best and most hospitable ever held in Lincoln, where nothing but the best of fellowship prevailed. "

On January 5, 1926, the Rotary Club of Lincoln received its charter from Rotary International, the charter being presented at a banquet held in the Lincoln Civic Auditorium.

An account of this meeting as reported by the Lincoln News Messenger follows:

"Last Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock at the Civic Auditorium, the Lincoln Rotary Club members, with their wives and some 100 Rotarians, guests, and their ladies were in attendance at the dinner and charter presentation ceremonies scheduled for that date. Guests representing Auburn, Grass Valley, Chico, Oroville, Gridley, Colusa, Marysville, Sacramento, and North Sacramento were in attendance, and it was a fine representative bunch of good fellows and their ladies who enlivened the affair with their mirth and good fellowship.



Promptly at 7 o'clock the Rotarians and their company sat down and began to devour the sumptuous and appetizing banquet. The banquet ceremonies were presided over by Ray Jones of Marysville club, and let us say, Ray is some toastmaster, for he wielded a dominating stick that meant nothing but good fellowship and a jolly good time for the diners. This elaborate and substantial dinner was the result of the untiring efforts of the wives of the local Rotarians, with Mrs. Walter K. Jansen supervising. The tables were not only laden with everything good to eat, but also nicely decorated. Unique favors were placed at each plate. The stage from which came fine music from Croft's orchestra of Penryn, was also nicely decorated, and all in all, the dinner decorating scheme was homelike and appealing; and the ladies are to be congratulated on their ability as culinary experts.

This banquet was the occasion of the presentation of the charter to the Lincoln Rotary Club by Paul Reiger, past governor, of San Francisco, representing Thomas Bridges, District governor.

The highlights of the evening were the four-minute talks by Ed Robie, president of the Auburn Rotary Club; Gus Brinkman, president of the Sacramento Club; George Dunn, president of the North Sacramento Club; Mr. Shaw, secretary of the Chico Club; Ex-Governor William G. Stephens, a former member of the Sacramento Club; aside from other remarks by various members. The main talk of the evening was delivered by Paul Reiger, past governor of the Rotarians, and to say the least, his address was received with pleasure and interest, for he is a pleasant and convincing speaker. He said many fine things in a fine way.

The Code of Ethics was recited by Chester Bowmen of the Marysville Rotary Club. The charge to the class of Lincoln charter members was given by Lou Chamberlain of the Auburn Rotary Club, who was very impressive in his remarks.

The big surprises of the evening followed, the first being the gift of a beautiful Rotary bell on which was surmounted the international Rotary wheel, or emblem, which was the liberal gift of Antone Fereva, a staunch member of the Lincoln Club. The presentation was made by Leon Fereva for his father who is seriously ill at his home in Lincoln. This was followed by the presentation of two gavels presented by Sacramento and Grass Valley Clubs. The next event was the patriotic presentation of the national emblem--an American Flag--by the Auburn Club to our Club. The presentation of the flag was made by P. B. Goss of Roseville, which was responded to by President Walter K. Jansen, who responded in appreciative words. The Auburn Club was also the donor of the Code of Ethics to each member of the Lincoln Club.

As the Rotarians and their guests entered the Auditorium, they were given a door ticket number, and after the above mentioned events had taken place, a drawing was made for prizes,

and it was found that the first prize, a beautiful pottery fern urn, which was donated by Gladding, McBean & Company, was won by Mrs. C. E. Finney, and the second prize, a case of the Placer County Canner's Association's choicest peaches, went to Heinie Reynolds of the Auburn Club.

During the singing of songs as the dinner and entertainment progressed, Foster Miles, a former Lincolnite, of the Grass Valley Rotarians, performed the duties as song leader, and he did the job in an efficient and "businesslike" manner. All through the evening many jovial pranks and remarks were made, all of which were of a clean and wholesome nature.

This memorable meeting of the Lincoln Rotary Club makes it a member of the Rotary International, and the Club will be known as Rotary Club of Lincoln, No. 2171. The meeting taken as a whole was a wonderfully successful and pleasing affair, and the committees having it in charge are to be congratulated. Let the constructive forces of Rotarianism prevail. "

The charter members and officers of the Lincoln Rotary Club are as follows:

W. K. Jansen, President and Director  
E. J. Stokes, Secretary and Director  
Fred Clark, Treasurer and Director  
M. J. Dillman, Director  
A. Fereva, Director  
F. E. McCullough, Director  
Charles Gladding, Director

J. E. Wyatt	L. A. Wrabek
Richard A. Lee	Edward A. Grey
W. E. Butler	George B. Mallory
J. E. Tofft	P. G. Larkin
W. D. Ingram	H. C. Gordon
H. P. Jansen	M. W. Hogle
F. H. Saugstad	M. F. Johansen