

Rotary Program: October 7, 2010

Funny, Memorable and Unusual Events from our past...

1930-31: President: Richard A. Lee, Secretary: Elmer J. Stokes

"A memorable event of the year for Dick and Anne was the trip to the International Convention held in Chicago, the birthplace of Rotary. A special train was chartered for the trip for the accommodation of the Rotarians and Rotary Anns. On the eve of departure, the special train stopped at Tahoe Tavern on beautiful Lake Tahoe for a dinner-dance given in honor of Harvey Lyon, the district governor elect, and his wife Eleanor. Many Rotarians and their wives from Lincoln also attended."

Question: Who were the Rotary Anns of Lincoln?

The Great Depression years took a great toll on Rotary attendance and this club almost gave up its charter. There are no details in the record, but there is a reference which credits the Rotary Club of Sacramento for helping Lincoln keep going.

In a letter from President Paul Oehler (1935-36) he said:

"The Club had tough sledding during the 1930's. The membership fell off badly and the Club was slipping. It was a tough year and I was most thankful to the small group who stood by, because it was through their efforts the Club was kept going and our membership increased again. The Rotary Club of Sacramento deserves much credit for helping our Club to survive." (History, pg. 10)

1937-38: President: Edward A. Grey, Secretary: Leon K. Fereva

Ed Grey had a tough year, and when it came time to nominate a new President no one would take it. He continued for a second year.

During his second year, he came up with an idea to create interest and possibly recruit a new president. His solution was to appoint a "chairman for the month," with a new "chairman" each month. The DG was set against it, but Ed prevailed and that idea worked.

Ed Grey Sr. had two sons follow him as Rotary Presidents, Edward A. Grey Jr. (1951-52), and Francis Grey (1954-55).

1939-40: President: M. C. "Pat" Gordon, Secretary: Joseph L. Sorenson

Times were still tough, so Pres. Pat and his team of 20 Rotarians went to the businessmen of Lincoln and told them: "They did not need Rotary, but

Rotary needed them. By the end of the year they wound up with a membership of 42.

The DG, James A. "Gus" Pardee was so impressed he gave the club a gift. The portrait of Abraham Lincoln on the west wall of this room is that gift from him.

1943-44: President: W. Franklin Farnsworth, Secretary: Harold "Bob" Roberts.

"WWII was still in progress during Frank's year.

The District Conference was in Reno that year. Frank and Bob attended and while there, cooked up a scheme to save a few dollars by lodging in an Auto Court instead of the more expensive hotel. The money they saved was used to send a full case of cigarettes to our American flyers stationed in Tunisia. The boys received a card of thanks."

There is also a mention of "soldiers' shelters." Any one know what these were?

1947-48: President: George Middleton, Secretary: Harold Greer

This year Rotary instituted the first Annual Halloween Party for teenagers in Lincoln.

1948-49: President: Harold Greer, Secretary: J. B. Elliott

This year the Rotary club purchased a hospital bed for use of the residents of Lincoln.

Also, during the year one Rotarian, "Raymond Clinger offered to pay one dollar for each Rotarian who would attend Church on a given Sunday. Next Rotary meeting after said Sunday Harold collected a sizable sum for the Charity box. Raymond remembers it was ten dollars."

1949-50: President: J. B. "Barb" Elliot, Secretary: Jarol "Jerry" H. Jansen

This year Rotary took over sponsorship of the Blood Bank.

1950-51: President: Jarol "Jerry" H. Jansen, Secretary: Edward A. Grey Jr.

This was the Silver anniversary of the Lincoln Club. It was also the year that Walter K. Jansen (Jarol's Father) was elected District Governor.

1952-53: President: John Pershing Wyatt, Secretary: A. J. Omar Greer

The outstanding event of the year was a dinner given on May 2, 1953, in honor of Karl O. Bayless and Richard A. Lee, both retiring principals of local schools. "It was the largest affair of its kind ever attempted in Lincoln and was attended by over 700 students and friends.

Rotary Pianists:

Eva Brown Johansen, first pianist 1925-1941

Anne Lee, 1941-1945

Florence Roe, "served about 3 years."

Milton Eifertsen, "served about 3 years."

Carlton Hall, 1951-???

1957-58: President: Carleton Hall, Secretary: Arnold Reese

"Carlton's year was extremely eventful. Frank Farnsworth almost sawed John Perry's leg off when they were working the Camp Rada (Roseville Automobile Dealers Association) Boy Scout Hall on Gold Hill Road. John was rushed to the Roseville Hospital where they stitched the wound. John survived.

Carlton and Pershing Wyatt purloined the Lions Club charter at their Charter night dinner which caused much confusion. The episode touched off a friendly feud between the two clubs. The Lions in revenge swiped Carleton's gavel and returned it to him frozen in a 200 pound cake of ice. Rotarians Hall, Coppin, Clinger and Jerry Jansen built an outdoor barbecue and a walk-in box at Camp Pahatsi Boy Scout Camp. It was reported that they kept their spirits up with Cutty Sark and Soda (whatever that is).

1963-64: President: Primo Santini, Secretary: Jack Griggs

This was the year of the "Dart Board." "Rotarians who missed a meeting had to throw darts at a target to determine the amount of the fine. The dart board was designed by Ray Johnson of Gladding McBean Co. and was constructed by Edward Russell."

1968-69: President: Orrin Hofman, Secretary: Jack Griggs

This year the club started the High School Scholarship fund. The award was \$100.00.

1969-70: President: Bill Williams, Secretary: Jack Griggs

Bill originated the "Oops Award" to harass the members.

"Bill would surreptitiously consult a Rotarian's wife to dig up an embarrassing moment concerning her husband.

He would then expose the Rotarian at our luncheon, present him with an "Oops" award and sock him with a big fine (a money making scheme)."

"The "Oops" were very cleverly designed."

1970-71: President: Eli Demas, Secretary Jack Griggs

Eli had a good year. The club increased the percentage of the Rotary International Fund by 100 %. He also donated a color TV to the Rotarian with the best attendance for the year (Louis Franceschi won it). The attendance for the year was 98 %.

His Kick Out ceremony was a "shortgun" wedding performed by Bishops Kellar and Jackson. It was the opinion of his father, Peter, that the girl involved (imported from Yuba City) should have a legitimate husband."

1974-75: President: Eugene H. Watts, Secretary/Treasure: Jerome Haines

The Club conducted the first annual BBQ dinner for the Community's 4th of July Celebration. One reason was to keep people home and off the highways.

The Club sponsored the Senior Citizens Telephone Service for their Head Quarters at the Civic Center. They also paid for the installation and the monthly fee of \$150.00.

The Club honored all faculty members of the WPSD at a luncheon and all new teachers and staff were introduced to the community leaders.

The Club gained 10 new members and ended the year with 55 members.

1983-84: President: Terry Sturgis, Secretary: Harrison Jackson

You never know what will happen at a Rotary function...

When incoming President Terry arrived at the PETS conference he was surprised and pleased to discover that his club had made special provisions for him. He recounted: When he arrived at the Concord Hilton, he found that he was the only incoming president to be assigned a female roommate. It didn't take him long to request a new roommate.

"August and September were quiet until someone decided to steal my bell for about 6 weeks. I ended up having to go to Roseville to retrieve it. There may be some consolation in the fact that Roseville lost all its Badges to Citrus Heights.

Another notable event was that the Club had 4 - 100% attendance meetings that year. This started after President Terry had done a make up meeting at Folsom.

He was running late one Thursday evening to attend the Folsom Club for a make up. He stopped to ask a policeman for directions. This is his story: Without knowing he was a Rotarian, the policeman that I had stopped to ask directions gave me a personal light and siren escort to the meeting house. The speaker that night was Sacramento County Sheriff, Robbie Waters.