

1935-1936

Paul G. Oehler - Tenth President
Karl O. Bayless - Secretary

When Paul took over as president, the Rotary Club was still struggling for existence. In fact, the Board of Directors on April 15, 1936 voted six to one to surrender the Charter. K. O. Bayless, the Secretary, was instructed to canvass the members on said proposition. The results of the canvass showed twelve in favor of surrendering our Charter and six against the idea. Three members did not vote.

However, at a later meeting of the Club, it was decided to carry on.

Quoting from Paul's letter:

"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."

It, surely, was a hard year and Lincoln owes Paul a deep debt of gratitude for keeping the Club going.

1936-1937

Julius E. "Jute" Tofft - Eleventh President
Edward A. Grey - Secretary

The Rotary Club felt that Jute was the man for president, but he was hard to get. A promise was made to him that if he would take the job, an effort would be made to make a drive for new members. On July first, the day Jute took office, ten men joined the Club, seven of them being new members. Three had belonged, previously.

Records of the activities of Jute's year are scarce. However, he was a popular president, and carried on the usual activities of the Club in good fashion.

1937-1938
1938-1939

Edward A. Grey - Twelfth and Thirteenth President
Leon K. Fereva - Secretary

The Rotary Club was fortunate in having Edward A. Grey serve during the twelfth and thirteenth years of its existence. The events of those years can best be expressed in Ed's own words. Quote:

"During this period of Rotary, there were but 18 to 20 members in the Club. Interest in Rotary was low, and attendance was not too good. In an attempt to improve attendance and fellowship, emphasis was put on programs and ladies' nights at least every three months. The past few years had been bad for business, and this was reflected in the Rotary Club. Joint ladies' nights were held with our neighboring Clubs, which proved to be very successful. When the time came for the nomination of a new president, the nominating committee could not come up with a new president, and I continued for a second year.

Upon taking over for a second year, I announced to the Club that each month a different person would be appointed as chairman for the month with the thought that during the year, we could come up with someone for president next year. This theory was explained to the District Governor at the District Assembly, and he was very much against it. It was explained that I was trying to create the Rotarians' interest in Rotary, and without that interest, there would be no Club. The District Governor finally approved. This plan was worked for the year, and with the help of the fellowship gained by joint meetings with our neighboring Clubs, interest began to develop in Rotary again."

Ed Grey was one of Rotary's staunchest supporters from the very beginning. He was determined that Lincoln should have a Rotary Club, and his hard work carried the Club through two tough years.

When it came time for the nomination of a new president, M. C. "Pat" Gordon was nominated by the committee. After much persuasion, "Pat" consented to accept the nomination. He was elected and this seemed to be a turning point in the Club to get Rotary back on its feet.

Edward A. Grey Sr. is the father of two Rotary presidents, Edward A. Grey Jr. (1951-1952) and the incumbent president, Francis. It does not happen very often that one family supplies three presidents, all members of the same club.

During Ed's term of office the dues were again reduced, this time from twenty dollars to fifteen dollars.

1939-1940

M. C. "Pat" Gordon - Fourteenth President
Joseph L. Sorenson - Secretary

Without a doubt, M. C. Gordon, brought about a rejuvenation of the Lincoln Rotary Club. He had the enthusiasm and the "know-how" to get the co-operation of each and every member.

Let Pat tell it in his own words. Quote:

"The high light and outstanding event in my year was the fact that the twenty members, working as a team, were determined to keep Rotary in Lincoln, alive. They convinced the good business and professional men of Lincoln that they did not necessarily need Rotary, but that Rotary did need them. So, by and with their efforts, we wound up the year with a membership of 42 enthusiastic Rotarians."

James A. "Gus" Pardee, District Governor, after his annual visit, wrote Pat a letter complimenting him for his successful management of the Club.

The portrait of Abraham Lincoln hanging on the west wall of this room is a gift from Gus Pardee.

1940-1941

Ray Miner - Fifteenth President
John Gilcrest - Secretary

Ray and Carolyn attended the District Conference in Susanville, and Carolyn had a wonderful time. Ray recalls that he and "Pat" Gordon had to pay their dues in order to get enough money to make the trip.

The Club in all probability had its best ball team during his year. A Rotary Soft Ball League had been formed and the players had uniforms, (blue and gold), and everything else necessary for a championship team.

It is not known for sure whether Ray was the originator of Stag Dinners or not, but it is a certainty that no member has enjoyed them more than he.

1941-1942

Joseph L. Sorenson - Sixteenth President
W. Franklin Farnsworth - Secretary

During Joe's year, the usual Rotary activities were carried on, especially the Boy Scout program. The membership grew and Joe turned the Club over to John Gilcrest, his successor, in good shape.

In addition to being an active president, Joe served as secretary for Pat Gordon and finished the year as secretary for Edward A. Grey after Leon Fereva resigned.

Joe modestly admits that he was song leader for one year, too.

1942-1943

John Gilcrest - Seventeenth President
W. Franklin Farnsworth - Secretary

John Gilcrest served during the first dark days of World War II. The members of the Club were quite active in selling War Bonds. Also, many of the Rotarians were members of the State Guard. John says: "Sergeant Walter Jansen will vouch for this. Virginia and I still get many laughs remembering the intensive drills we went through."

Also, many hours of labor were spent on the Boy Scout Hall during John's year.

1943-1944

W. Franklin Farnsworth - Eighteenth President
Harold "Bob" Roberts - Secretary

World War II 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.

You probably remember the two soldiers' shelters, one located near the Pottery and the other near the Fruithouse. Frank was responsible for this kind act. The shelters were constructed at the high school.

On April 21, 1944, a stag party was given at which delicious food was served. Frank paid the full amount of the check for the dinner out of his own pocket.

(Future presidents, please note)

Frank was responsible for two interesting inter-city meetings, one with Auburn and the other with Roseville.

1944-1945

Albert S. Gulliford - Nineteenth President
O. Lynn Freel - Secretary

H. E. "Bob" Roberts was elected to serve as the nineteenth president of our Club, but was transferred to Oroville. Al Gulliford was then elected and O. Lynn Freel was made secretary.

Al was the originator of a project to raise funds which was called "Little Night in Reno," and said activity lived up to its name. Al "shot the works"! He had roulette, bingo, electrically operated "One Arm Bandits" (to the uninitiated--slot machines) and that good old American Past-time known as Black Jack. The games ran true to form and brought in a goodly sum of \$81.00--that was good for those days. However, when word got around concerning his nefarious activities, poor Al was in the "dog house" with the good church brethren. When Al explained that the money was to be used for crippled children et cetera, all was forgiven.

"Little Night in Reno" developed into the "Gold Rush Gaities" and operates along the same lines introduced by Al, only more so.

Also, the Boy Scout Hall was completed during Al's year.