

Paul Harris (1868-1947), a lawyer in Chicago conceived the idea of Rotary.

"The aim was a fellowship of businessmen that would transcend trade and bring persons of diverse interests together on a common ground. This is the genius of Rotary and the Service Club."

These businessmen would meet in rotation in their stores and offices and have a meal together, hence the name Rotary.

The second Rotary Club was founded in San Francisco, followed by two more in California, one in Seattle, then New York and Boston. The Rotary Club of Lincoln is No. 2171.

Membership in Rotary is by invitation, not by application. Members are leaders in their business and vocation.

It is estimated that the Rotary attendance at meeting averages about 80% over the world. Rotary meetings consist of singing, either luncheons, dinners or breakfasts. Rotary Foundation amounts to \$5.8 million a year.

The Rotarian Magazine is published in 17 languages including Arabic, Dutch, Japanese, Chinese, French, Italian plus many more.

Interact and Roteract:

Students in the four years just before the university level are grouped to form an organization known as Interact. There are more than 3200 Interact clubs in 70 countries.

Roteract comprises young men and women between the ages of 18 and 28 who live, work, and study within the limits of a sponsoring Rotary Club. Roteract is in 64 countries with more than 1900 clubs.

The compiling of the history of any organization is a difficult task, and for an organization such as the Rotary Club of Lincoln, the problems are even greater. Why is this so? Because over the years Rotary in Lincoln has undertaken so many fine projects, not with the idea of crediting Rotary or any individual with having done something for the publicity that might be obtained, but rather because the members wanted to perform a service to the community, always keeping in mind the motto of Rotary International: "Service above Self."

As you read the following pages you can't help but wonder how so much of the history of the Club could be gathered. I feel we all owe Dick Lee a great debt for the many, many weeks he worked unceasingly on this project. Dick gives credit to everyone else, but without his time and effort, there would be no history.

As a second-generation Rotarian of the Lincoln Club, I can recall that Friday was Rotary Day from the time, as Dick would say, "I wore knee-britches," and this history of the Club will be something we younger and newer Rotarians will always treasure.

Rotary International was founded on the basis of friendship and fellowship, and in fifty years has grown from one club and four men to 8477 clubs and 398,000 men. We became a part of this organization in 1925, and with that same spirit of friendship and fellowship, our Club too has grown and prospered.

In the years to come we younger Rotarians no doubt will hope that we will have added our bit to the history of the Club, knowing full well we couldn't approach what was given by our early members.

(1955)