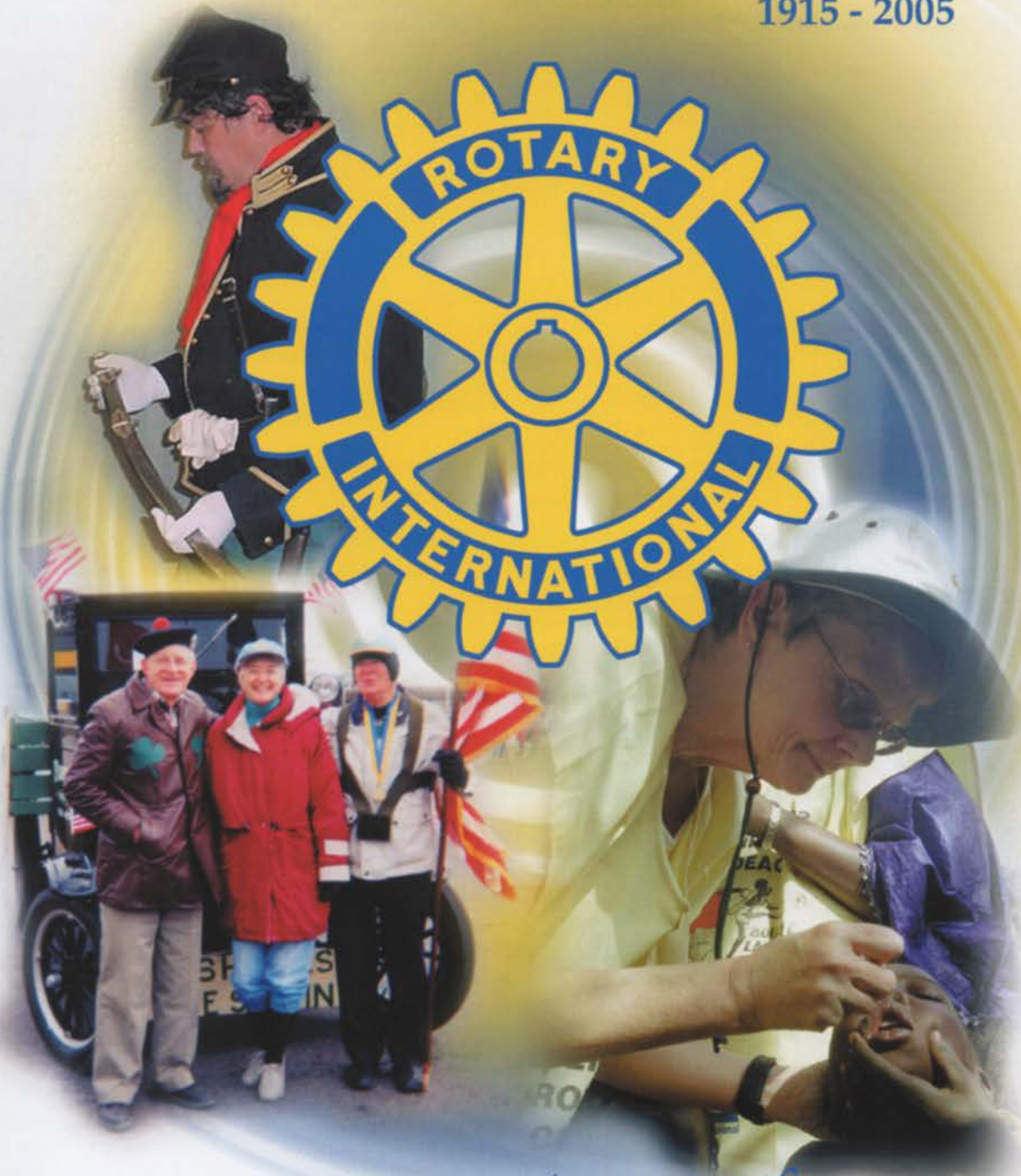


History of the Rotary Club of Bay City

1915 - 2005



Service Above Self



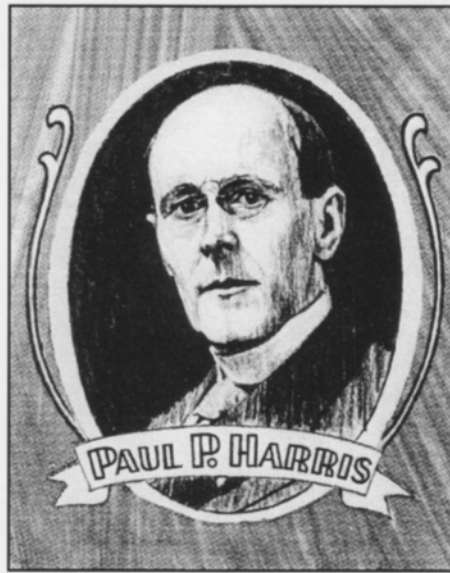
Rotary International: 100 Years of Service

You will read inside this Centennial history of Rotary International, a year also marking the 90th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Bay City, Michigan, comments by longtime member Donald J. Carlyon about the meaning of Rotary and the importance of its project to eradicate polio worldwide.

Polio Plus is not a project that is out of sight and sound that local Rotarians mainly support through their donations, although financial help is essential to this cause.

Bay City Rotarian Chuck Cusick and his wife Nancy, a nurse, have recently traveled to Egypt to assist the club's efforts to immunize children during the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. The Cusicks, along with other Rotarians from Michigan, participated in Synchronized National Immunization Days that provided protection from the dread disease to approximately 74 million children in 22 African countries. Bobbi Anker, wife of Rotarian Don Anker, participated in an earlier immunization program in India.

Recently the Rotary Foundation Trustees approved the creation of a special fund to support humanitarian projects that address the needs of children.



You will learn on the pages inside that Rotary is much more than just a luncheon club: it is a true community service organization. And its philosophy provides a foundation for ethical living in many communities across the globe.

The world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, Illinois, USA, was formed on 23 February 1905 by Paul Harris, an attorney who wished to recapture in a professional club the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth. The name Rotary

derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices. The founding members were Harris, Hiram E. Shorey, Silvester Schiele and Gustavus H. Loehr. Rotary's popularity spread throughout the United States in the decade that followed; clubs were chartered from San Francisco to New York, including the Bay City Rotary Club, chartered in 1915. By 1921, Rotary clubs had been formed on six continents, and the organization adopted the name Rotary International a year later. These words from Glenn E. Estess Sr., president, Rotary International, are an appropriate introduction to this book:

The centennial year is an ideal time to recognize business leaders who act with integrity and social responsibility.

During an era of corporate scandals and questionable business practices, it is essential that Rotarians maintain high ethical standards. When I visit a commercial establishment, I am always pleased when I see a Four-Way Test plaque on the wall. It tells me that the manager or owner is a Rotarian who cares about his customers. I feel a sense of trust that the job will get done and get done well.

As we enter a new century of service, let us Celebrate Rotary through vocational service.

For more information please see:

www.rotary.org.

100 Years

Rotary First Service Luncheon Club in Bay City, Organized in 1914

Nine years after the founding of Rotary International in Chicago in 1905 by Paul P. Harris and several friends, the Rotary Club of Bay City, Michigan, was organized. It was the first service luncheon club in the city.

The Bay City club, chartered in 1915, met on Tuesdays in the new Wenonah Hotel, opened just six years earlier, and quickly established itself as one of the leading service organizations in the community.

Otto E. Sovereign, one of the founders of the Aladdin Company, the nation's pioneer ready-cut home manufacturer, was elected the first president and

druggist Charles H. Frantz became the first secretary.

Other charter members were knitting mill executive D. L. Galbraith, real estate broker Harrison W. Garland, merchandise broker Carroll Windiate, real estate broker George W. Ames, businessman J. J. Broas and printing firm owner Chauncey Gregory, John Greenwald, laundry business, and dredge manufacturer Selwyn Ramsay.

Among early activities, the Bay City Rotary Club embraced the cause of children with physical deformities. In addition to medical services sponsored by the club, annual picnics were held at

Wenona Beach during summers and Christmas parties held during the holiday seasons to provide entertainment for the handicapped children. Later the club provided summer camp outings for the children.

By the time the Bay City Rotary Club had reached its 25th anniversary, in 1940, the members had been responsible for the formation of 13 new clubs and the induction of 492 members into Rotary.

Singing was a focus of early Rotary meetings, and Bay City's Charles J. Tingle was one of the song leaders at the 16th annual convention of Rotary in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1921.



Rotary Club of Bay City

P.O. Box 42 • Bay City • Michigan 48707-0042

February 23, 2005

Dear Future Reader:

It is a great privilege to be President of a Rotary Club. It is a greater privilege to be President of the Rotary Club of Bay City. Greater still is to be President of the Rotary Club of Bay City during this international celebration of the Rotary Centennial Year.

On February 23, 1905, Paul Harris and three associates met for the first time in Chicago to form what has become the oldest, largest, and most influential service club in the world — Rotary.

Just ten years later, in 1915, the world's 134th Rotary club was chartered to serve the communities in and around Bay City, Michigan. The club was called the Rotary Club of Bay City. This year, as Rotary clubs everywhere celebrate 100 years of Rotary service to the world, the Rotary Club of Bay City is celebrating its own 90 years of service to the people of Bay City and all of Bay County.

The publication of this history book is one of the ways our club is commemorating the Rotary Centennial. It highlights club activities that have exemplified the club, community, vocational and international service opportunities that are fundamental to the ideal of Rotary — *Service Above Self*.

The Rotary Club of Bay City has been blessed over the years with many highly motivated and talented members who have worked to be a positive influence in the community. Paul Harris was thinking of such folks when, in his autobiography, My Road to Rotary, he wrote: "*It has been, clearly proven that Rotary Clubs do influence the character of the cities in which they are established. Rotarians in small town clubs have frequently, with deep feeling, stated that the advent of Rotary has wrought wondrous changes, that contentions and petty jealousies have given way to civic consciousness and enthusiastic cooperation.*" Without a doubt, Bay City is a better place because of Rotary.

This club history book attempts to give to future readers a flavor of what Bay City Rotary has been about for the last 90 years. It also attempts to introduce to readers many current and former club members, wonderful individuals whom future generations would have considered it a privilege to know. Their stories are the real story of Rotary, for these members have provided the solid foundation upon which the Rotary Club of Bay City can continue to build during the next 100 years, in order to serve the ever-changing needs of our community.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Stoner".

Michael Stoner
Club President 2004/05



Inside The History of Bay City Rotary



Rob Clark

International Night a Delight - Page 3

We doubled our pleasure and fun at International Night at the DoubleTree in 2004. Read how this fund-raiser evolved into a popular community event as well as the highlight of the club year.

Women Have Made Rotary Stronger - Page 5

For 75 years the Bay City Rotary Club was comprised only of men. Read how this club has grown from two pioneers, Linda Heemstra and Joy Gaasch, and leadership in the past 15 years.



Linda Heemstra

Undying Exploits of Legendary Speed - Page 6

Anyone who has known Francis "Speed" Charipar will never forget him. Some of Speed's hi-jinks and his many accomplishments in Rotary leadership are reviewed fondly by Tim Holsworth.



Speed Charipar



Barb Fisher



Don Massnick

Rotarians Foresaw World War II - Page 7

Members of the Rotary Club in the small Midwestern town of Bay City, Michigan, had many indications that the world was drawing closer to war, Don Massnick nostalgically recalls.



Joy Gaasch



Mike Stoner

Famous Speakers Highlighted Rotary From 1942 - Pages 9-16

Mike Stoner's research uncovers long-forgotten Rotary Club programs, meeting places, developments and famous speakers like Lowell Thomas, Pauline Frederick and Charlie Gehringer.



Harry Farris



Gay McInerney

Saving Trombley-Centre House was Rotary Project - Page 15

Gay McInerney recalls how under Rotary leadership the first frame house in Bay City, built in 1836-37, was floated down the Saginaw River on a barge and relocated in Veterans Park in 1981.





International Night Tops Rotary Year

Cuisine from around the world; buckets of fun; live entertainment; and all the Rotary camaraderie that a person can handle in one night. It's all wrapped into one glorious evening hosted by the Rotary Club of Bay City each October. It's called International Night.

Started in 1993 as a modest fund raiser for the club, International Night has turned into a community event not to be missed. Today, hundreds of club members and local guests attend the event and help the club raise more than \$30,000 in one night for its major projects.

This year's International Night, the 13th annual, is set for 5:30 p.m., Oct. 13, 2005 at the new DoubleTree hotel & conference center in downtown Bay City. The evening will begin with a social hour, during which time guests will be treated to live entertainment, sample top-notch wine and beer from around the world and have a chance to bid on nearly 200 silent auction items. As in the past, last year's event had a theme: "Happy 100th Birthday Rotary!" The theme was chosen to coincide with the 100th anniversary of Rotary. Paul P. Harris, a Chicago lawyer, who founded Rotary in 1905.

Past themes like "The World is Your Canvas," "Rotary's Wide World of Sports" and "Sing For Your Supper" have touched on international art, sports and music. The first year that International Night was held in downtown Bay City was in 2004. The event actually got its start at Bay Valley Hotel & Resort in Frankenlust Township and was later moved to Saginaw Valley State University. In each case, the evening's events were highlighted by a silent auction, various raffles - including the Buckets of Fun, which are giant pails filled with expensive wines, beers and booze - and delicious international cuisine. The focus has always been on the food.

In the early years of the event, librarians working for the Bay County Library System were charged with researching different foods from four countries or regions of the globe. In 1993, for example, the featured food was native to Hawaii, Alaska, Israel and Switzerland. The Alaskan menu included crab puffs, Yukon Jack beef and goose with wild

blueberry sauce. From Hawaii came smoked pork with guava sauce, mahi mahi with pineapple butter and lime pie. Lox with cracked olives and caviar topped the selections from Israel and Swiss steak, Swiss cheese fondue and Swedish meatballs made up the menu from Switzerland. In recent years, the club has relied on the on-site chefs to come up with a smorgasbord of goodies. Two years ago, the chefs hoisted the flags of New Zealand, Sweden, France and Brazil to find inspiration for the menu. The cuisine included braised lamb shanks; salmon with pickled cucumbers; coq au vin; and Churrasco, a carved flank steak much like barbecue. Although fun, food and follies rule the evening, the underlying purpose of the event has always been to raise money. In the early days of the event, around \$10,000 was raised for charities like Camp Rotary, Catholic Family Services, the Literacy Council of Bay County, YWCA Camp Meadows and more. Today, the event raises between \$30,000 and \$35,000 annually.

For the past five years, money raised at International Night funded the Young Adult Outreach Librarian Program for the Bay County Library System. This year will be the first of a new five-year, \$250,000, commitment to help fund two Bay City beautification projects. First on the list is a \$100,000 pledge to the Bay City Downtown Development Authority to create two pocket parks in the downtown area. The parks will include historical vignettes - glass etched with an image of how the land near the park looked 100 years ago, with some background information. The remainder of the money will be donated to help with renovations of the historic Pere Marquette Railroad Depot. The money will help pay for a 10-foot-wide promenade leading from Fourth Street, where it ends at Adams Street, to the



Rotarians Walt and Marty Fitzhugh ponder their meal selection at the 10th annual International Night Celebration of the Bay City Rotary Club in 2002 at Saginaw Valley State University.

west entrance of the depot. The walkway will include trees, benches and possibly a clock or fountain.

The majority of the money raised at International Night comes from the sale of items in a silent auction and live auction. Items on the auction block in the past have included tickets to Michigan or Michigan State football games, a stay at a condo on Grand Cayman Island and various hotel stays and golf packages. A significant portion of the money raised also comes from corporate sponsorship of the event. Sponsorship opportunities range from \$150 to \$1,000 and include recognition at the event and tickets for the event. In an attempt to keep International Night accessible to all members, the ticket price over the 12-year history of the event has only increased from \$40 to \$50 per person.

By Rob Clark, Rotary Club of Bay City



Past Presidents

1914-15:	Otto E. Sovereign	1946-47:	Newell Eddy III	1977-78:	John C. Noell
1915-16:	William F. Jennison	1947-48:	Paul Briggs	1978-79:	Albert C. Hicks
1916-17:	D. Leonard Galbraith	1948-49:	Lorne H. Meisel	1979-80:	Frederick R. Kloepfer
1918-19:	James E. Duffy	1949-50:	E. Benjamin Foss	1980-81:	Milton J. Miller
1919-20:	James C. McCabe	1950-51:	Laurence H. Cook	1981-82:	Kyle E. Haselden
1920-21:	J. Just Broas	1951-52:	Louis Westover	1982-83:	Jerome L. Yantz
1921-22:	Charles T. Clark	1952-53:	Richard V. Dixon	1983-84:	Frederick A. Webster
1922-23:	W. Selwyn Ramsey	1953-54:	F. E. Charipar	1984-85:	Jack A. Shaw
1923-24:	William H. Reid	1954:	Gilbert Leppelmeier	1985-86:	Gerald P. VanAlst
1924-25:	Samuel Ball	1955:	William M. Lambert	1986-87:	James A. Griffiths
1925-26:	Charles B. Curtiss	1955-56:	Henry G. Rexer	1987-88:	Richard J. Van Akker
1926-27:	William H. Tomlinson	1956-57:	Louis D. McDowell	1988-89:	Robert N. Sanborn
1927:	N. Russell Crawford	1957-58:	Patrick J. Trahan	1989-90:	Jerry A. Woodcock
1927-28:	John P. Greenwald	1958-59:	LeRoy C. Engelhardt	1990-91:	Wesley Timm
1928-29:	John A. Johnson	1959-60:	Richard C. Learman	1991-92:	Lawrence Martin
1929-30:	Frank C. Learman	1960-61:	Frederick E. Fitzhugh	1992-93:	Dominic Monastiere
1930-31:	G. Wight Cooke	1961-62:	Theodore P. Southerland	1993-94:	Patricia Vance
1931-32:	L. F. Foster	1962-63:	Howard W. Harlow	1994-95:	Keith Markstrom
1932-33:	James S. Risser	1963-64:	Robert F. Shearer	1995-96:	Dennis Serafini
1933-34:	George A. Long	1964-65:	Harry B. Farris	1996-97:	Walt Kwiatkowski
1934-35:	John Switzer	1965-66:	Lowell L. Shepard	1997-98:	Joseph Sasiela
1935-36:	John Hoffman	1966-67:	Arthur E. Hagen	1998-99:	Cnythia Chadwick
1936-37:	John Thompson	1967-68:	Thomas R. Tabor	1999-2000:	Hratch Basmadjian
1937-38:	Herbert W. Bean	1968-69:	Robert E. Benson	2000-01:	Don Anker
1938-39:	A. H. McMillan	1969-70:	Charles C. McNay	2001-02:	Kathy Czerwinski
1939-40:	Benjamin Klager	1970-71:	Walter G. Cramer	2002-03:	Tim Holsworth
1940-41:	George MacPhail	1971-72:	Franklin E. Braman	2003-04:	Rob Monroe
1941-42:	Leslie C. Hale	1972-73:	Kamel J. Sams	2004-05:	Michael Stoner
1942-43:	Ronald E. Fischer	1973-74:	Allen B. Moore		
1943-44:	J. Harry Adams	1974-75:	David Castrodale		
1944-45:	Fred J. Fenske	1975-76:	Floyd C. Stevens Jr.		
1945-46:	T. P. Dixon	1976-77:	Carlton J. Lockwood		

100 Years

Otto E. Sovereign Bay City Rotary Club's First President

Otto E. Sovereign was a charter member, organizer and first president of the Bay City Rotary Club in 1914. Mr. Sovereign was president and sales manager of the Aladdin Company. Founded by Otto and his brother, William, in 1906, the company was called the North American Construction Co. The Aladdin firm was credited as being the original "ready-cut" mail order housing manufacturer in America. The firm produced over 50,000 homes during its active years. Mr. Sovereign suggested the name "Aladdin" for the company, getting the idea from the fabled tale of "Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp," in which Aladdin's genie produced a complete castle overnight. Otto also became a board member of Mutual Building & Loan in 1914. He served 40 years on the board including twelve years as vice-president. The Rachel Sovereign Memorial Home (for elderly women) was a gift to the Bay City community by Mr. Sovereign in memory of his mother. The Otto E. Sovereign Park in Bay City was named after him.





Women Make Positive Impact

On January 7, 1989, the following headline appeared in The Bay City Times: 2 Women First to Join Local Rotary Club. On that day, Linda Heemstra, then director of the Bay County Library System, and Joy Gaasch, then director of the Bay County Growth Alliance, were the first women inducted into The Rotary club of Bay City.

The club, formed in 1914, had consisted solely of men until 1989 when, after 25 years of legal battles in Superior and Supreme Courts, the Rotary International Council on legislation voted to eliminate the requirement that membership in Rotary be limited to males.

The role of women in Rotary had been discussed since the formation of the National Association of Rotary Clubs, but

the Bay City Morning Club to avoid mixing genders - a club that now has just as many women as men members.

During Rotary's first 84 years, the wives and daughters of Rotarians played a vital role in the organization's success - regardless of whether they belonged to a formal auxiliary. Wives of club members worked alongside them in projects, were equal partners in their financial support, and were often the driving force in urging their spouses to take an active role in the organization's leadership and humanitarian projects.

Since 1989, The Rotary Club of Bay City has inducted many women who actively participate in all four avenues of service. Many have assumed leadership positions including club presidency,



Kathleen Allison Czerwinski



Cynthia Ann Chadwick

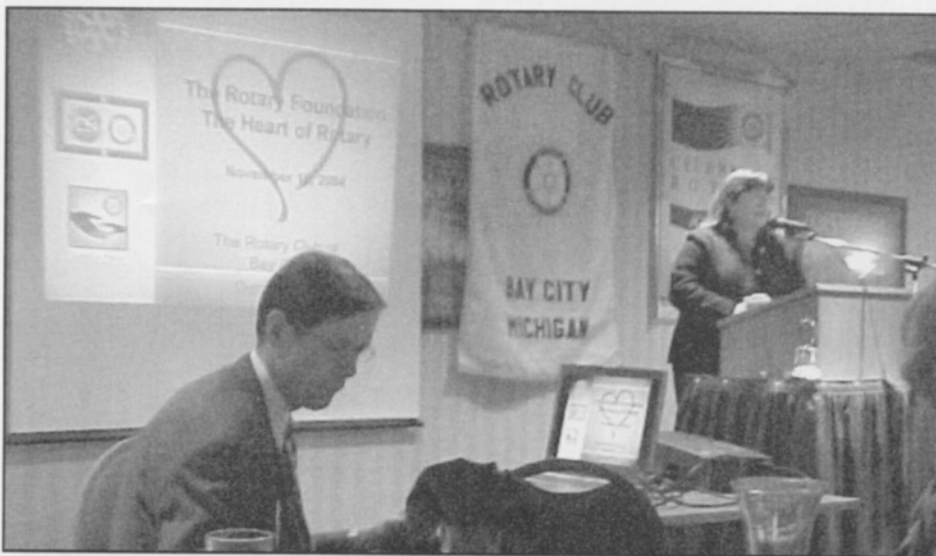


Pat Vance

What Is The Family Of Rotary?

The Family of Rotary Committee will consist of Rotarians as well as some non-Rotarian family members. The goal of the committee will be to assist Rotary in club projects identified by groups such as the local community projects committee. (Cleaning of the Rail Trail on May 1st is an example.) We have had family members in the past assist and we will continue to include them. The committee also will strive to make non-Rotarian family members feel welcome at our weekly meetings as well as other Rotary functions. We did invite Mary and Ashley Anderson to the pre-Christmas lunch/program. We also are experiencing more family members joining us at lunch, including Owen Clark, the youngest member of our "Family of Rotary." We will also work on ways to have special recognition for "Honorary Rotarians" such as Nancy Cusick, a member of our committee. Another goal is to initiate a new project. We are looking into a summer picnic or winter gathering where all family members will be invited. Having this as some kind of fund-raiser is also being considered. We were involved with assisting Diane Engelhardt of A&J Galleries at the private champagne reception following the Bijou Orchestra concert on Saturday, May 1, 2004 during the District conference. Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome to contact me at 894-4800 or traha53@yahoo.com.

Anne Trahan



Kathy Czerwinski, past president and chair of the RI Foundation, is assisted by Rob Monroe as she takes the podium to promote donations to PolioPlus, the international RI effort to eliminate polio.

their participation was limited to occasional social events to which the Rotarian's wives were invited.

Despite the fact several women's Rotary clubs were formed, the opponents of female membership ruled each time the matter came up and referred the request to the RI board of Directors. The Rotary Club of Bay City had some dissension when discussions heated up in 1980's regarding the admittance of women members.

Many Bay City Rotarians were adamant about maintaining an all male service club and several broke off to form

secretary and treasurer. Patricia Vance was inducted as the first woman president in July of 1993, Cindy Chadwick was the second in 1998, and Kathy Czerwinski was the third in 2002. Kathy Laethem was club treasurer from 1997 to 2003 and Wanda Dziwura followed her as Treasurer in 2003. Barbara Fisher became Club Secretary in 2002 after the passing of Carl Hendershot.

As far as the impact of women in the club - most would agree it has been very positive.

(The following Rotarians collaborated on this article: Kathy Laethem, Nancy Greve, Tom Tabor, Ron Fuller)

Speed: King of Rotary Wise-Crackers

I met Speed Charipar at a club meeting in 1992. He was serving as a greeter and I was a guest visiting for the first time. He welcomed me to the club, introduced himself, and we exchanged hello's. He also asked me several questions about myself. The next week I arrived to meet Speed again. He knew my name, where I worked and what I did. I was impressed. Speed was 87 years young at the time.

Speed was the consummate greeter for the Bay City Rotary Club. He was the king of the wise-crackers. His humor and enthusiasm were unmatched. You weren't anyone until you were introduced by Speed.

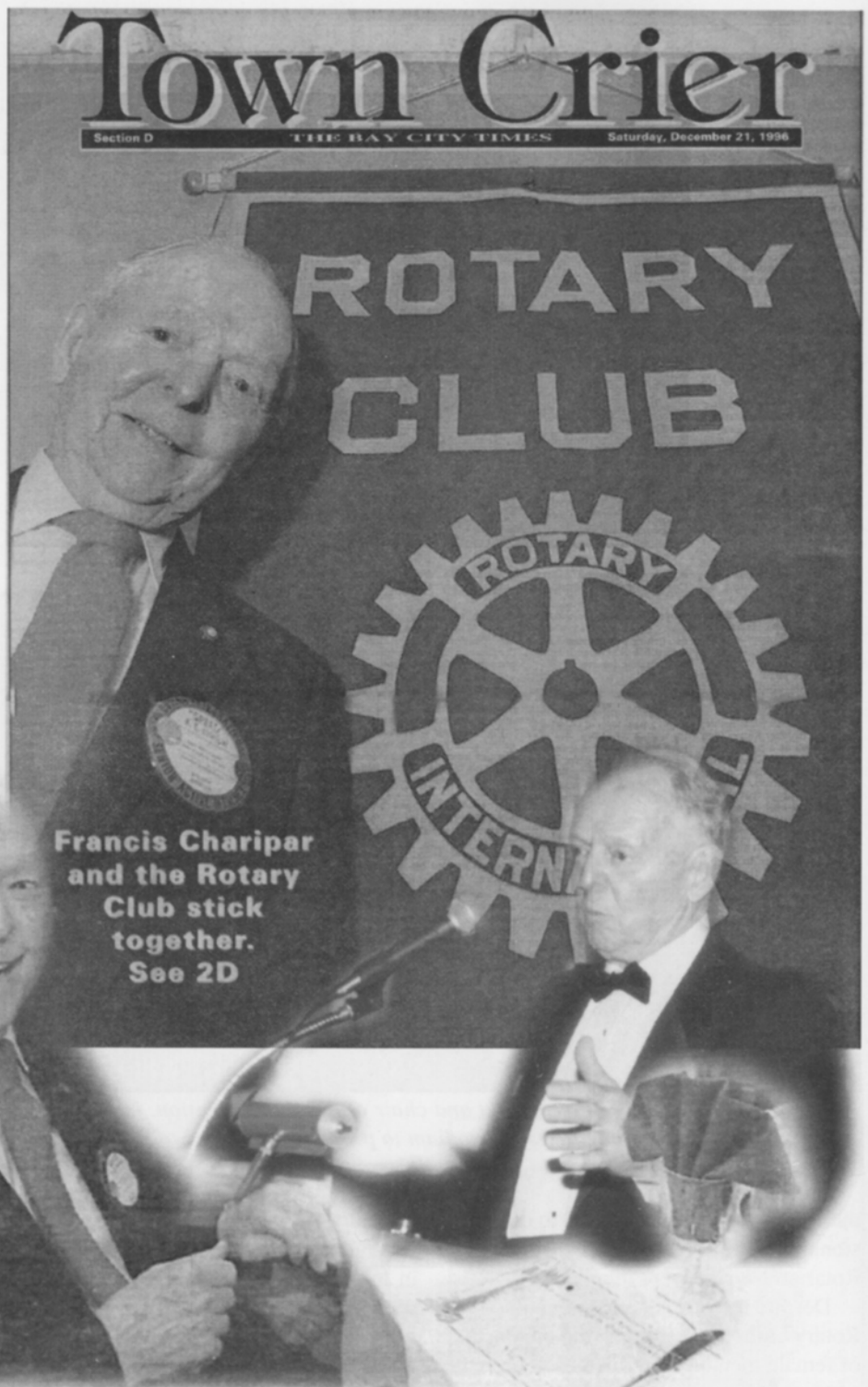
Speed got his nickname racing cars in Detroit when he was a teenager. After a particularly nasty crash, involving several fatalities, his family convinced him to quit racing. Off to the railroads he went, working for the New York Central Railroad in several towns throughout Michigan.

Bay City was one of the towns he worked in, and when retirement time came, Speed moved back to the place he referred to as "vacationland". Bay City was happy to have him!

As an elderly gentleman, Speed broke all the stereotypes. He drove a sports car, never saw a doctor, and was the picture of vim and vigor. I truly admired this man. His sharp wit was no match for anyone, and he loved to laugh.

The Rotary Club of Bay City is a reflection of its past. Part of that reflection is shaped by a man, over 90 years young, with sharp mind, and good natured humor. His enthusiasm for life and Rotary will live forever. Thank you Speed Charipar.

By Tim Holsworth



Name: Francis Charipar
Born: 29 Mar. 1905
Nickname: "Speed"
Profession: Railroad Executive
Hobby: Wisecracking
Rotary: Chief Greeter
Club President: 1953-54
Died: 27 Feb. 1998



Bay City Rotary and World War II

Well before America's entrance into World War II, members of the Bay City Rotary Club addressed serious issues relative to what would eventually turn into the greatest military conflict of our time.

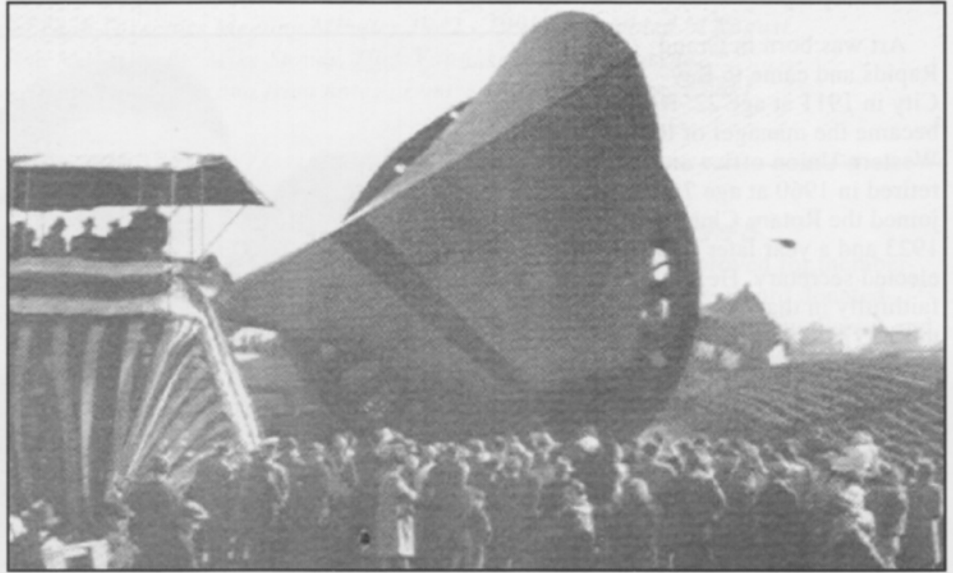
In early July, 1940, at its regular Tuesday noon luncheon at the Wenonah Hotel, the topic of whether the United States should prepare for an aggressive military action or simply concentrate on the defense of the Western Hemisphere was the program for the day. In view of the then-present world conditions and the conflict in Europe, it was appropriate for Bay City's community leaders to address this issue forthright and fully, and so they did.

According to an article in the 7/9/40 issue of "The Bay City Times", among the subjects discussed were the practicality of a strong U.S. defense contrasted with the aggressive carrying of the fight to enemy territory in order to avoid bloodshed and destruction within our own borders. The future of world trade in light of a totalitarian Europe or a democratic Europe, and the precarious position of the United States in world affairs regardless of the outcome of the struggle abroad, were also reviewed.

After considerable discussion, a strong defense for the United States capable of aggressive action was the answer to which the Rotarians arrived at this most important meeting of the Club. Hindsight tells us that our Rotarian forefathers accurately predicted the events that were actually to occur in less than 18 months, although entering the war was an action forced upon us by the dastardly Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Approval of the Bill of Rights

After the entry of the United States into the Second World War, it seemed appropriate to Bay City Rotarians that they examine our heritage and beliefs to see if what we were fighting for was truly worth the effort and the dreadful casualties that we were suffering. To do this, an imaginary Bill-of-Rights "convention" was conducted by club members. Entering into the spirit of the occasion, Rotarians voted unanimously in favor of the Bill of Rights after the reading of the Articles put before them.



Rotarian Harry J. Defoe's "rollover" method of shipbuilding won U.S. Navy Awards for production.

Although this action had absolutely no impact on the future of the Bill of Rights, it pointed out the extent to which our community leaders, through the facility of the Bay City Rotary Club, tend to address important issues of our time. We were, in fact, fighting to preserve our freedoms by our aggressive action in World War II...freedoms which we all cherish to this day!

Rotary Sponsors "War Show"

On March 31, 1944, Bay City Rotary sponsored a "War Show" at the Armory for the benefit of Bay City's Squadron 635-1 of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). Proceeds were used to purchase a two-way radio telephone for one or more planes and to equip Army Air Force Cadets, temporarily affiliated with the CAP pending a call to active duty, with CAP cadet uniforms.

According to "The Bay City Times", the War Show featured a series of motion pictures, official releases of the army, navy and air force. The radio equipment was to assist CAP in its coastal patrol, in which it conducts observation and reconnaissance along Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron. The radio equipment was for use in CAP's courier service in which planes and pilots are on 24-hour call for emergency transfer of material and personnel for war plants of the Bay area.

Not only did Rotarians, as a service club, support the war effort, but many

club members headed up factories that were producing critical materials for our armed services. At a Rotary luncheon in early May, 1942, Governor Murray D. Van Wagoner spoke to our business leaders and said that "Bay City was in the best condition today regarding employment of any city in Michigan". The total expected employment is anticipated to reach 20,000, which is 6,000 above that of the previous year.

The Governor challenged those present to see to it that adequate housing is made available to accommodate the several thousands of people who will be moving here to fill those jobs over the next several months. (It is interesting to note that the Governor specifically picked the Bay City Rotary Club to hear his message, likely due to the fact that most community and business leaders were members of Rotary at that time).

Some Rotarians were called into service by the government as were their children who were drafted or who volunteered their services to the war effort. All in all, the Bay City Rotary Club was sensitive to the plight of the United States, pulling out all stops to be of service in a multitude of ways. The club continues its civic duties to this day.

By Don Massnick



MISTER ROTARY

Arthur K. Milster Born 9/24/89 Died 3/29/76

Art was born in Grand Rapids and came to Bay City in 1911 at age 22. He became the manager of the Western Union office and retired in 1960 at age 71. He joined the Rotary Club in 1923 and a year later was elected secretary. He served faithfully in that capacity until 1973 (49 years) and would have served longer but he had to resign to take care of his sick wife. Art had the title Secretary but in actuality he ran the club. The president presided at our regular Tuesday meetings and at board meetings but whenever a question came up it was Art who had the answer. We had a head table in those days and he



Arthur K. Milster and his wife, Bertha

always sat at the head table along with the president, the programmer, and the speaker. As he sat there looking out over the crowd he took attendance. He did the paperwork for everyone including the treasurer.

He was married to his wife Bertha and they had two sons Stuart and Harold, both of whom were members of the club.

Art undoubtedly had a greater influence in shaping the Rotary Club of Bay City than anyone else in the history of the club. We made him an honorary Paul Harris Fellow in 1965, the first in our club. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Arthur K. Milster, *MISTER ROTARY*.

100 Years

Rotary Hosts Collegians In 1929

**Members,
Youthful Guests
Share Honors in
Furnishing
Entertainment**



(From The Bay City Times, Jan. 1, 1930, page 1)

Bay City Rotarians drank at the fountain of youth - collegiate youth - Tuesday noon. The formal business man the doctor and lawyer, gave way to "I've been working on the railroad," "Collegiate, collegiate, yes we are collegiate." The Rotarians were entertaining the boys home from school for the holidays. Or, if you will, the boys entertained the club members. Six of one, half dozen of the other. Members of Rotary were designated by Ed Forde, chairman of the good fellowship committee, to bring a college student as guest. About 50 were present. Each student was introduced by the Rotarian who accompanied him. Leslie "Les" Fenske, former cheer leader of the Michigan State College, and son of Fred Fenske, chairman of the stunts committee, led the college boys in some snappy songs. Then, upon the beckon of the stunts committee chairman, several Rotarians were asked to "fall in" with the college chorus. Up to the platform

marched R. G. Boehringer, Alvin H. Weber, Otto E. Sovereign, Fred Rechlin, M. W. Carroll, C. B. Curtiss, Fred Waldbauer, C. I. Schultz, B. R. Hahn, Edward C. Smith, and others who are not named because of their ability to conceal themselves in the crowd. Whether these men sang if they can sing, or even if they attempted to and couldn't is beside the point. They were up there and happy. As this was Rotary's last meeting of the year, falling on the last day of 1929, there were of course the characters: Father Time, (Chan Gregory) and "Youth," (James E. Duffy.) Each bowed and made his little speech. Dr. F. J. Chapman was selected to membership in Rotary prior to the collegiate program. New year's greetings were read from Dr. J. Roy Van Wyck, former minister of First Presbyterian Church, who is confined to a hospital near Toronto.