



*The History of the Rotary Club
Of Bowling Green, Ohio
1938 to 1995*

By

John Parlette

And

Carles D. Meyers

(The following introduction was written by John W. Parlette, one of the Charter Members of our Rotary Club. John was a "real" writer, and his remarks in 1974 still seem appropriate, and can be stated as only John could state them. I have continued with John's "format" in bringing the History of the Bowling Green Rotary Club up to date, but have also included the yearly President's reports that were available.

ROTARY IN BOWLING GREEN

President Ed Miller requested that I (John) replace the late Gerry Acker as Historian and that I compile items of interest since the inception of Rotary in Bowling Green.

The first impulse was to move chronologically and reveal programs and accomplishments in each successive year. That would have been excellent except for a couple things. In the first place, there are several periods where there is inadequacy or complete absence of worthy records. Often the recorded procedures showed who was absent, what the program was and who the visitors were. In the second place, let's face it, there were years when little or nothing transpired.

It is safe to say that not much happened when those in a leadership capacity failed to study and to know the basic significance of Rotary. Those who felt that their primary function was to preside at the weekly meetings. On the other hand, it is safe to say that accomplishments were achieved when the leadership became imbued with the basic purposes and possibilities of Rotary; when the leadership envisioned a worthy program for the club and for all functioning committees and then put pressure on the committees to function as they should.

With the inadequacy of some of the records, we (John and Chuck Mayers) have made an attempt to locate the varied accomplishments and briefly record them without specific yearly mention. Many of the items are based strictly on memory. Memory is a grand thing but it may be inadequate for historical records.

It is to be regretted if, under the circumstances, slight errors might appear or some of the important deeds are overlooked. If this is set up in loose-leaf fashion, those omissions may be added and it may be kept up to date should that be desired.

John W. Parlette Charles D. Mayers

Rotary came to Bowling Green

Spearheaded by Walter Zaugg, a group of men felt there was a place for a second service organization in Bowling Green. They made a study of existing service clubs, then decided to organize under the name of THE CIVIC CLUB. Knowing of the classification idea as a basis of membership, they selected men on that principle. After finding a number of men who were interested, they started meeting and eventually drew up a constitution. Meetings were held in the Parrot Restaurant.

Once, when he was in Columbus, Halter saw the Rotary headquarters of the Columbus Club. He stopped to make inquiry and came away sold on Rotary. The Columbus Club contacted Harold Covault, of Lorain, who was District Governor in Northwest Ohio. Harold contacted a club in our vicinity and they send two men to survey the Bowling Green situation. They contacted a couple of their close friends (a banker and a lawyer) who were members of the then established club in town. They were informed there was no place in Bowling Green for another service club. Governor Covault was not satisfied with the report and spoke of it when in Tiffin. The Tiffin Club immediately volunteered to sponsor a club in Bowling Green. Paul Brown, Superintendent of Schools in Tiffin, was their representative. Many years before that time, Paul had worked for Walter Zaugg.

When Walter completed his year as first president of the Bowling Green Rotary Club, he presented to the club a beautiful flag with suitable standard. Unfortunately, fire destroyed the Parrot Restaurant which was located on the southwest corner of Wooster and Manville. The original flag was lost, but flags purchased since that time have been dedicated to Walter.

On June 1, 1938, The Civic Club held a Ladies Night meeting in "Pierces Blue Rendezvous." After a speech by Mrs. Amos Conn, a business meeting followed; classifications were determined, and an official application was made for a Rotary Club in Bowling Green.

The charter was granted on June 8, 1938 and CHARTER NIGHT was held, in the basement of Shatzel Hall on the University campus, on June 30, 1938. Tickets for the banquet were \$1.00. The Charter was presented by Paul C. Martin, Rotarian Extraordinary of Springfield and was accepted by Walter Zaugg.

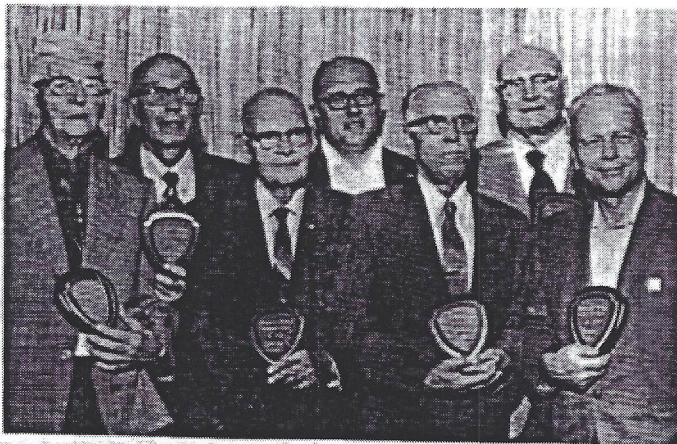
There were 28 Charter Members listed as follows:

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Gerald Avery | Lorin Janzer | John Parlette | Emmett Spittle |
| John Bullis | Edwin Knepper | Willard Porter | T. M. Thirifay |
| LeRoy Cherry | Moses Lane | Edward Richard | John Williamson |
| Charles Cline | Donald Maglott | Randolph Ronk | William Wood |
| Norman Crosby | Maurice Mercer | Burley Rutter | Thomas Wooden |
| Max Dunipace | Harold Milnor | Howard Shawaker | William Wright |
| Correl Hottman | Charles Nearing | Harvey Sherer | Walter Zaugg |



First Row--W. Porter, W. Zaugg, E. Richards, M. Dunipace
 Second Row--R. Ronk, H. Shawaker, E. Spittler

Officers of the new club were: Walter Zaugg, Pres.; Edward Richard, Vice Pres.; Max Dunipace, Secretary; Willard Porter, Treasurer; and Randolph Ronk, Sgt-At-Arms. Other directors were: Randolph Ronk, Howard Shawaker, Emmett Spittler.



Rotary members commended

Charter members of Bowling Green's International Rotary Club were commended Thursday night for 30 years of service each. They were among the members who began the club locally in 1928. From left are Correll Hotman, John Parlette, Elton Preiss, District 800 Governor George Kocher, Lima; Ed Richards, Jerry Avery and Lorin Janzer. The remaining charter member, Lewis Manhart, is not shown. The district governor was the guest speaker in the Pheasant Room in Bowling Green State University Union. (Photo by Gary Hager)

7/25/73



Walter Zaugg

DISTRICT GOVERNORS GOVERNOR WALTER

Perhaps no other man was more widely known and more universally respected in Northwestern Ohio than Walter Zaugg. Walter's services as a speaker were constantly sought and then President Frank Prout designated him as University Orator. Walter, a Professor of Education at Bowling Green served thirty years and after retirement, spent additional years in a similar capacity at Ohio Northern University.

Elsewhere we spoke of Walter's efforts on behalf of obtaining a Rotary Club in Bowling Green. In 1943, a former District Governor spoke at a regular club meeting in Bowling Green. For two hours after the meeting, he talked with a member of the local club and sold the local member on the idea of pushing Walter for Governor of the District. In that session, complete procedures were outlined, and the local club responded enthusiastically to the idea. Plans were made and procedures followed. When the

District Conference, which was held in Bowling Green, came to election time, we learned the former governor had been actively working for Tony, the Fremont bread man. Tony won by the closest possible margin.

The following year, Walter was elected by a wide margin and served as Governor in the year 1945-1946. In serving, he brought great honor to our City, our Club, to himself and to Bowling Green University. He served with distinction.

Walter completed his life's journey in November, 1962. His grave stone carries the Rotary emblem.

The Bowling Green Rotary Club waited until 1979 to have its second governor of District 660. Ed Miller, Rotary president in 1974-75 became District Governor for the year 1979-80. Probably no Rotarian is better known today throughout the District than Ed Miller. Ed lives, breathes, and practices Rotary as a businessman, politician, and in his personal life. The Bowling Green Rotary Club is proud of this former District Governor.

Not to be outdone, and following Ed is another solid and dedicated Rotarian. Ralph Olson became Bowling Green's third District Governor in 1988-89. Ralph also was and is still very active in the local club and on the District Level serving the District in numerous capacities, currently as secretary-treasurer of District 6600. Ralph, too, as have our two previous Governors, exemplifies the ideals of Rotary and lives Rotary on a daily basis.

With 66 Clubs in District 6600 (formerly 660), the Bowling Green Club has now provided the District leadership on three separate occasions in our 56 years of existence. That would appear be a plus for the Bowling Green Rotary Club and its members.

CRIPPLED CHILDREN

"Passing the cup" was instigated for the sake of crippled or needy children. In 1938 Tom Wooden suggested that club members put their pennies in a milk bottle for the Crippled Children's Fund. The first solicitation netted a total of sixty-five cents. Milk for children was provided in many needed cases along with furnishing glasses, dental care, tonsil operations, etc. One of the most appreciated of the services was that of sending children for camping experience in Tiffin. For many of them, it was their first and only camping experience.

A major early project involved our interest in the Easter Seal Campaign. In 1940, there was no Easter Seal organization in Wood County. Rotary took over the sole management of the Seal drive and continued over a period of a few years while the Seal organization was originated and developed. It was then turned to them when they could handle it. Rotary's interest and cooperation continued. Walter Zaugg headed the local group, went on to lead the State Crippled Childrens Association and eventually served on the National Council. Ben Segal for many years, was a dedicated worker with the association as were Karl and Gary Hager.

For a few years. Rotary sold jelly beans on the streets for the Easter Seal Society.

Currently, the Club makes an annual contribution to the Easter Seal Fund to aid crippled children wanting to attend a summer camp.

SENIOR CITIZEN ACTIVITIES

Rotary has become very active in the activities of Senior Citizens. When the former post office was redesigned in 1982 as the Senior Center, Rotary purchased all of the furniture for the front lounge. Currently, the Club meets there once a year and holds their dinner meeting with the food being prepared by the Senior Center staff. In 1993, Rotary used \$6000 from the auction to purchase a new oven for the Center.

For a number of years, band concerts were held on a Sunday afternoon at City Park. Rotarians were responsible for bringing residents of the various Nursing homes to the concert. Also, the Club started in 1986 to host Senior Citizens and nursing homes residents at the dress rehearsal for the annual Ice Show at the BGSU arena. Several hundred people are transported to the arena by the Rotarians and served refreshments there while watching the ice show.

The Senior Citizens Committee has also been involved with surveying the needs of the nursing homes in the community, and then trying to help them with the purchase of needed items. One of the interesting projects consisted of building a horseshoe court and providing the shoes and stakes necessary for the resident's use.

ROTARY MAKEUP

One of the responsibilities of each Rotarian is to maintain attendance either at the Bowling Green Rotary Club or by visiting other Clubs wherever they may be in the world. Our members have visited many Rotary Clubs in the 154 countries where Rotary exists. It becomes a very unique way to make new acquaintances. One of our members, Lowell Jones, is pictured below dutifully making up at a Rotary Meeting in England.



MEETING PLACES

From the beginning and for a few years, Rotary meetings were held in the Parrot Restaurant which was located on the SW corner at the intersection of Wooster and Manville Streets. It was lost to a fire. Meetings were then held where we could get service. For a short period meetings were held in a restaurant adjoining the skating arena on South Main while a study was made. Following a search, the club moved the Women's Club and remained for many years. On May 8, 1958, meetings were shifted to the University Union and the Dogwood room. The price of the first meals at the Union was \$1.75. The only recent change is in the location of the meeting room which is now the Alumni room.

Changes to other locations have been considered, but after thorough examination, the Union always comes out on top. Only minor complaints have been made about foods served except on one occasion when it was debated whether the food was liver or tongue. It's still a mystery.

Several meetings are field trips to the places of business of BG Rotarians. Picture below are members of the Club on the yearly visit to the Cygnet Sod Farm owned by Doug Hess.



Identified left to right are: Darrel Hentges, Norm Dolgin, Jan Knape, John Harden Jack Kapron, Jim Corbitt, Ed Walden, Pat Newnam (back to camera), Shirley Hilyard, Ed Miller, Wayne Michaelis, Al Green, Larry Sattler, Oscar Hoffman, Kevin Moyer, Lowell Jones, John Harkness.

GIRL SCOUTS

The first major project for Bowling Green Rotary was in providing Girl Scouts quarters for their meetings. Prior to 1939 they had been meeting in homes. Rotary secured the third floor on the NW side of Four Corners, painted the room, brought in light and heat plus the necessary chairs and furniture. Utilities were provided until their organization took its place with others and became self-supporting. In their appreciation for Rotary's assistance, the Girl Scouts presented the club with a beautiful plaque.

BOY SCOUTS

There were several Boy Scout troops in the City back in 1942. There were boys, however, in what was then the Children's Home on West Wooster who were not privileged to affiliate. Perhaps they needed scouting more than other boys. Under the leadership of Ed Ayers, Rotary organized and developed a troop with the sanction of the Home management. Ed served as Scout Master and the troop was considered to be one of the best in the area. It developed in popularity to the extent that boys from the outside sought membership in the Home Troop. Thanks to Rotary.

ROTARY GENEROSITY

No one can justly say that Bowling Green Rotary has not been generous - perhaps to a fault. At times we tend to provide money for others to do good work instead of doing it ourselves. There are always worthy individuals seeking contributions for worthy causes. If funds are not carefully budgeted, it is sometimes difficult to say "No" even though we should.

Records show the following grants were made during a period of nine months: Junior Science Symposium (described elsewhere) sending 2 students -three days- to State Meeting; Project Hope, \$50, Scholarship Banquet \$10, Upward Bound Scholarship \$100; Haiti Child Welfare Foundation \$25; Dollars for Scholars \$100; Christavschram School in India \$30; Retail Merchants for fireworks \$50; World Affairs Institute sending five to Cincinnati (described elsewhere). Later \$50 for Dave Wottle celebration.

Over the years Rotary has been supportive of other worthy organizations. These include: Wheeled Meals (Insurance for drivers), Guatemala Earth Quake Relief Fund, Safety Town, Easter Seals, New containers for Wheeled Meals, Wood County Mental Health, City Christmas lights, Health, Hunger & Humanity Fund, Help-A-Child Tutoring Program, just to name a few.

NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS

There was a definite shortage of nurses. While scholarships were available in other fields, none appeared available for Nurses Training. On the basis of those facts, Rotary came to the rescue in 1964. Scholarships were made available on a basis of \$100 for each successful candidate. In addition to the \$100 grant, the candidate was privileged to borrow an additional \$200. The loan was without interest but the \$200 would be repaid when the training was completed and the individual employed. In this way the fund became a circulating fund for assistance to others at a later time.

Several change have occurred in the method by which scholarships are given. Along with increasing the size of the scholarship to first \$250 in 1978 and then to \$500 in 1983, the number of scholarships was increased to two in 1984. In addition, the scholarships are no longer limited to nurses training only, but enlarged to include any area of the medical profession.

WORLD AFFAIRS INSTITUTE

Sponsored by the Cincinnati Rotary Club in cooperation with Rotary Clubs of Indiana,

Kentucky, and Ohio, the World Affairs ' Institute has been a valued training project for many years. High School juniors are eligible on a selective basis. Bowling Green has cooperated on the project over a long period of years. At the outset, our club alternated in sending two boys one year and two girls the next year. In recent years, we have sent two boys and two girls and a sponsor each year.

A general topic is announced well in advance, to permit students to make an advanced study. International leaders are headlined in a series of programs. The students report to the home club and are able to carry the information into the senior-year classes.

In the past several years, the World Affairs Institute has been discontinued, but has been replaced by the District 6600 World Community Workshop. Operating on a similar basis as the previous World Affairs Institute, Bowling Green High School students are selected to attend the workshop. These students are invited to a Rotary meeting where they are asked to report on the topics presented.

JUNIOR SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

A worthy Bowling Green Rotary project related to the Junior Science Symposium - a branch of the Ohio Academy of Science. Rotary provides the financial aid to send students with outstanding projects who are eligible to attend the State Junior Academy meetings. The project takes on a strong local flavor because of the late Rotarian Gerald Acker (Bowling Green) was a leader in the development of the Junior Academy and the Science Symposium. In recognition of his outstanding leadership and his promotional abilities, the Ohio Academy established a Gerald Acker Scholarship as a memorial to his contribution to students and to science in Ohio.

NAIRATOR

Soon after the inception of Rotary in Bowling Green, a mimeographed News Letter was turned out with the title: *AROUND THE ROTARY WHEEL* by the secretary Max Dunipace. After a few years, an imaginative Rotarian ("Doc" Bell - Insurance) came up with the ideal of reversing the letters of the magazine ROTARIAN. Since that time the bulletin has been issued as the *NAIRATOR*. The task grew too large for the Secretary and Mrs. Paul Schmitz turned out the bulletin consistently and efficiency for a number of years.

After a considerable discussion in 1982, it was decided to discontinue mailing the NAIRATOR to the total membership. Any member who was willing to pay the postage could have it mailed. Otherwise, the newsletter is now available at each Thursday's meeting.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH?

Charter member Ed Richard made a comprehensive study of the membership in Bowling Green Rotary. One interesting fact uncovered was that in 1938, 14% of the club members were in the general classification of Education. By 1972, he reports, the number in the general field of Education had risen to 31%.

One revelation which he reports, fails to reflect credit on the club. In the early years, growth was about what one would expect in a new and growing club (about 15 in the first couple years). In 1948, the membership had grown to 66. With no growth in 24 years, the membership in 1972 also stood at 66. Here is the rather startling bit of information. In the 30 year period from 1940 to 1970 there were 149 members received into membership. In the same 30 year period there were 141 withdrawals.

In 1983, the first woman, Shirley Hilyard, was initiated into the Bowling Green Rotary Club. Currently, there are five women in the Club. All are very active and involved in Rotary.

The number of members has continued to lessen since 1972 with the current membership standing at 54. As mentioned above, this means, we are losing more than we are gaining. Some of the reasons are reflected by John Parlette in his remarks below.

Perhaps a little editorializing or questions would be in order (this is not history), but comments from John W. Parlette: Did we use poor judgment? Did we seek members for sheer numbers? Did we make proposals for social reasons or to pay a debt? Do we tend to form cliques and freeze out members? Do we make everyone feel welcome and wanted? Do we put new members to work and guide them? Does our overall activity program convince them Rotary is worthwhile? Do we seek their advice? Do we make attendance an end instead of a means to progress? Do we encourage members to become active in the community and recognize their efforts?

There are other questions we might ask but it would be better to answer them than ask them. The June 1974 issue of the ROTARIAN carried a worthwhile series on "WHY MEN (and now WOMEN) QUIT ROTARY!"

BUD'S WELFARE



In 1939 Bud Gallier (at left) became Bowling Green's first Honorary Rotarian. "When they were hungry he fed them; when they were in rags he clothed them; when they were cold he gave them warmth through friendship." Such was his love for needy children. His chief source of revenue was the annual Ice Cream Social. At the social almost all of the physical or leg work was done by Rotarians. Usually there were more Rotarians than available jobs.

When "Bud" started showing signs of aging, he had "BUD'S WELFARE FUND" incorporated in the hope it would continue to function after his death. He selected Rotarians to continue the work: as president, he chose John Parlette; as vice-pres., Ed Richard and as secretary-treasurer, Don King. Bob Harms was selected as legal advisor.

The fund continues to operate chiefly through the office of the school nurses. With some \$26,000 accumulated in the fund (as of 1996), the officers gave up the ice cream social with the intention of resuming it if and when the need arises. In 1993, a gift of \$2,000 was donated by Rotary towards the principal of the fund as part of the proceeds from the auction.

The fund is today still maintained by Rotarians with John Quinn as pres; Harland Lehtomaa as vice-pres; Charles Mayers as secretary-treasurer, and Mike Miesle as member-at-large. Mark Smith and Joe Herringshaw were added to the Board of Directors beginning in 1997. The fund continues to serve children in need of clothing, food, medical treatment, and school materials.

"BUD'S WELFARE FUND" still operates without fan-fare. For all intents and purposes, it is a worthy Rotary project.

ROTARY FOUNDATION

On the basis of a contribution of \$10 per individual member, the Bowling Green club became a 100% club in 1952. By 1996, Bowling Green reached the status of a 5400% club. Birthday money and other funds are channeled into the Foundation and are used to promote International Understanding through grants for study abroad.

A \$1000 contribution makes the individual a Paul Harris Fellow. Early in 1975, the Board honored Elon Priess and John Parlette by making a contribution (\$200 for each) to the Foundation in their names. As a result, they became Paul Harris Sustaining Members and Bowling Green's first Paul Harris Fellows.

Since that time, a number of members have become Paul Harris Fellows. Those names are listed elsewhere in this historical writing.

Currently, the club is a 2200% Club as of July 1, 1995. This large increase in contributions to the Rotary Foundation has taken place primarily because of the request by Rotary International asking members to pledge \$1000 to the Polio Plus Campaign in 1987. Any member that pledged could have his money counted as a contribution towards a Paul Harris Fellow.

The Bowling Green fund drive was capably chaired by Mike Miesle. Rotary International requested that the Bowling Green Club's goal be \$4000 toward this worthy project. Bowling Green members responded by pledging over \$22,000 to the Polio Plus Fund. Since these contributions could be credited towards a Paul Harris Fellow by the individual members, it has provided a method for many of the Bowling Green Rotary Club members to be recognized as Paul Harris Fellows.

We have given, but we have also been the receiver. Lee Goddard is a former Rotary Fellow who spent his year of study in Australia. In 1974-75, he served on the District Rotary Foundation Committee. In 1973-74, we were privileged to have a Rotary Fellow from Japan, Taeko Ishii, attend BGSU. She was followed in 1974-75 by another Rotary

Fellow, Bruce Bridges who attended BGSU from Christ church, New Zealand. In 1978-79 another student from Japan, Shin Maeda, attended BGSU.

* Others following to study at BGSU include: 1978-79 - Norike Shikita from Japan and Eva Salazar from the Philippines; 1932-83 - Mark Bosche from France; 1985-86 - William Rockwood from Sri Lanka and Marie Nellie from Martinique; The Foundation pays all expenses of Rotary Fellows.

Representing our Club, Ann Bowers of Bowling Green, in 1969-70 was the first Bowling Green representative as a Rotary Fellow studying in Wales. Several others have followed since that time. These representatives include: 1979-80 - Marianne Belleville studying in Belgium and Dan Elsass in New Zealand; and 1980-81 - Scott Dudley in Italy and Mary Black studying in Ecuador; 1985-86 - Julie Bentley studying in Vienna.

BOWLING GREEN ROTARY FOUNDATION, INC.

On October 5, 1983, the Bowling Green Rotary Foundation, Inc. was established. The incorporators were John Parlette, chairman, Edwin L. Miller, vice-chairman, and Robert W. Maurer, Secretary and Treasurer.

The purposes of the Foundation are listed as follows:

1. To establish a permanent memorial fund to the memory of Rotarians and others who recognize the merit of the purposes of the fund and to assist in their accomplishments.
2. To provide a reliable depository for gifts of real or personal property given by Rotarians or other donors, during their lifetime, or bequests, or from any other reputable source.
3. To receive and maintain said funds or real or personal property, or both, to use and apply the whole or any part of the income therefrom and the principal thereof, exclusively for charitable, religious, scientific, literacy or educational purposes.

Currently, the fund has balance of \$4261.25. Efforts are being investigated to make the fund grow in order to begin using some of the monies for the purposes designated above. An art auction was held in 1995 to augment the funds in the Foundation. As a result \$1,000 was added to our Foundation.

FISH FRY

It was in the 50's (records do not show exact time) that the Rotary Fish Fry was instigated. The earliest records found were 1364 where the net profit was \$485.54". The largest net profit appears to be 1992 with a net of \$3815.00. Bud" Gallier, a chef-sergeant in World War I, became head man in determining what to purchase, on to prepare and in frying. Action started in the present Junior High School with frying being done in large pans made at Daybrooks. At that time the fish was bought fresh, and had to be scrapped and cleaned prior to frying. It took a number of hours to prepare the fish. "Bud" was successful in teaching others how to fry fish, how to prepare deserts, salads and vegetables.

Now served in the Senior High School, the fish fry has constantly been the chief source of revenue for club projects. In spite of the shifting of assignments, the project has been most successful. Our faces were red on one occasion. The fish arrived later than frying usually started; they were frozen instead of fresh; no time to thaw them properly - result: we had fish fried hard on the outside and rather raw on the inside. The fellowship has always been a plus factor in addition to the monetary returns. Net income each year now averages about \$3000. About 1000 community members look forward and turn out for the Rotary Fish Fry.

HAM DINNER

In 1980, the former Bowling Green post office was remodeled for a Senior Citizen Center. A number of major needs were evident, one of which was furniture for the lounge. Since most of the Rotary Fish Fry funds were committed to annual projects, it was decided to have a ham dinner in the fall of the year. The first year, 1980, the dinner's net profit of \$1700 was used to purchase the needed furniture for the Senior Center. These dinners continued until 1984, and it was then decided that they had run their course, and were thus discontinued.

EXCHANGE PROGRAM

As an outgrowth of our celebration of Rotary's 50th (1355) anniversary, when contacts were made with clubs over the world, our club designed a program of slides with a tape to exchange with other clubs. Designed and operated by Al Koppenhafer and John Parlette.

The exchange was operative for ten years with clubs in almost every section of the world. The first exchange was with a club in Rangiora, New Zealand. Our correspondent there was Dr. L. M. King. When he retired, he and his wife took a trip around the world and visited us in Bowling Green. One of our programs from England was brought in person by Jim Carey-Wood from Poole, England, their program to us via a Hertz rental car.

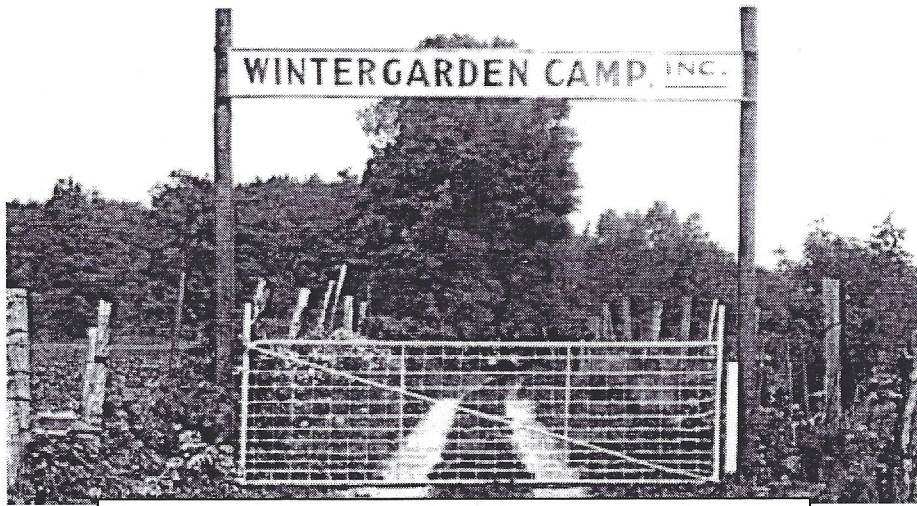
Programs we received were presented in neighboring clubs and on two occasions were presented at District Conferences. A Girl Scout troop took our program on a trip to Europe.

In 1994-95 a sister relationship was established with two Rotary Clubs in St. Petersburg, Russia. Through the efforts of Colleen Sheeks, an exchange of materials and information has been made between these Clubs. In 1995, Jan Knape, Mark Smith, Colleen Sheeks and Jeff Grilliot visited France, England and St. Petersburg, Russia to gain information and support for the Children's 2nd Medical Center Raduga.

WINTERGARDEN CAMP

On behalf of the Bowling Green Rotary Club, the City Council advertised the area off Wintergarden Road for rent. Rotary submitted a bid of \$10 on the basis of \$2 per year. There being no other bids, the Rotary offer was accepted. Articles of Incorporation for "WINTERGARDEN CAMP, INCORPORATED" were drawn up and duly signed on March 3, 1954. Those signing the incorporation papers

were: E. Edward Richard, ' Lorin K. Janzer and Robert G. Riegle. In addition to the incorporators, the original trustees included: LeRoy Monroe, Ben Segall and Russell Coffey.



Wintergarden Camp as it appeared in early stages.

The purposes of the corporation were: "to develop, improve, operate, supervise and control camp and recreation sites; to foster and encourage outdoor activities of young people; to make available picnic grounds for young and old." E. Edward Richard was duly appointed agent for the organization, granting to him power to grant permission for the use of the park. Ed also kept some very interesting statistics.

In addition to providing facilities for the use of scouts and varied other groups, the Camp provided opportunities for Rotarians to cooperate in constructive, wholesome work assignments. The work included the clearing and mowing of paths, developing parking areas, the construction of shelters, construction of toilet facilities, providing a water fountain under shelter, installing a bell, erection and dedication of a flag pole which was contributed by the Baron family, providing tents, building bird houses and setting out trees in the grove and in the arboretum along Wintergarden road.

Looking over the minutes of meetings of the trustees, shows a wide involvement of Rotarians on the board and in work assignments over a period of ten years. Most of all, the minutes give ample proof that everything was done strictly on a businesslike basis. Richard's record shows that the Camp was constantly used and appreciated by leaders of groups, In 1955, 37 groups used the Camp (several used it on more than one occasion) involving 2277 individuals. One groups was composed of Rotarians who held a regular meeting, picnic style. On one occasion they cooked hamburgers and on another they had frozen dinners which were cooked at the University.

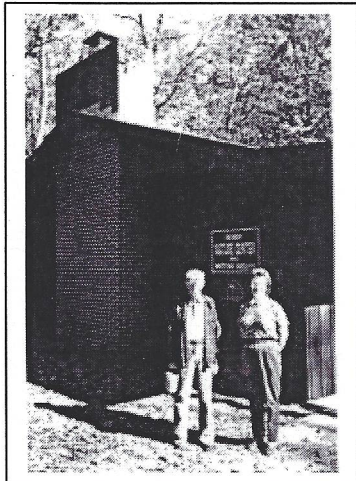
District Governors and R. I. considered this an ideal Rotary project. The last recorded minutes of the board of trustees is dated June 18, 1964. Apparently in our old age, we just petered out. Too often projects like this finds a relatively too few people carrying the load.

In closing out the camp, the club's active direction air-pressure was exerted to keep the area for recreation purposes. The present structure and the present use being made of the area is evidence of the wisdom of Rotary's endeavor. It could have been just another area for a housing development.

The Park continues to be an integral part of Bowling Green. The area is still used by many youth and Civic groups, and the building serves as an overnight area for hostel groups. In 1991-92, a contribution from the Rotary auction in the amount of \$9,598 was presented to the City of Bowling Green to help make repairs on the building at Wintergarden Park as Rotary continues to support this project.

In 1994 the Club committed \$44,000 to renovate the Lodge at Wintergarden Park. The plans call for making the building accessible for meetings and for nature study. In addition to needed repairs, the inside structure of the building was changed to reflect the newly established purpose of the Lodge. Profits from auctions will be used to fund the project. The committee working with the city on this project included: Russ Coffey (honorary chairman), Linda Ensinger, Jeff Fallen, Al Green, Kathy Lemmerbrock, Bob Maure:, and Don Zajac.

By action of the Bowling Green City Recreation Board and the Bowling Green City Council in 1995, the Lodge was renamed the Rotary Nature Center.



Pictured at the left is the former Wintergarden Lodge, recently renamed the Rotary Nature Center, Russell Coffey and Linda Ensinger are standing in front of the Center. Russell Coffey was one of the members of the Board of Directors of the Lodge when it was first taken on as a Rotary project and currently was co-chair of the Rotary committee in charge of renovating the building. Linda Ensinger will be BG Rotary's first woman president in 1998-99.

KIWANIS (Friends)

It would be difficult to find more cordial relations existing between two service clubs than that of Kiwanis and Rotary in Bowling Green. Shortly after Rotary was chartered, Marsh Sherer (Kiwanis President) wrote a congratulatory letter, invited Rotary officers to be guests at their meeting where they were properly greeted. They suggested a joint committee and areas in which we could properly work together. They sent a floral display for our Charter Night; a beautiful arrangement when our club celebrated Rotary's 50th anniversary (Also a floral arrangement at B.G. 25th anniversary.). Several joint ladies nights were held with alternating sponsorship and the more recent picnic meetings in the park. It has been a happy relationship; Rotary has profited and we can but hope the

benefit has been mutual

CYCLONE

It was an act of mercy and what better day than Sunday to perform such an act. In 1945, a cyclone struck across the Southern section of the County, Action by Red Cross and volunteers came to the front to handle immediate emergencies. Other problems, however, exist after the storm is over. Rotary conceived the idea and organized to help. To cut down on traffic congestion, a school bus was obtained and the group spent most of the day gathering up litter scattered over fields so the farm machinery could operate safely. The spirit of Rotary prevailed.

MORE YOUTH ACTIVITY

In the interest of safety and the recognition of constructive activity, in 1945, Rotary organized the sponsorship of the Youth Patrol. In cooperation with AAA, the necessary gear was provided and community recognition was accorded.

It was in more recent year (1965) the club became the sponsor of a PEEWEE ball club. Uniforms and equipment were provided and recognition was duly accorded. On several seasons they were declared champions of the league. The Club continues to recognize this activity by attending as a group one of the team's games and by hosting the team and its coaches at a Rotary Club meeting after the season is completed.



One of the annual activities of the Club is the Christmas party for the children and grandchildren of Rotarians. In the picture above Santa (Dick Bostdorff) is passing out the "goodies" with his helper (Norm Dolgin). Also seen in the picture are Don Zaja (back) and Sd Brandeberry (front)

CIRCUS

It was a high powered salesman who persuaded the club leadership, in 1959, to schedule a circus for Bowling Green under Rotary sponsorship. Apparently there was little enthusiasm for the project but it came and went. We were not able to get specifics but one

source contends we lost money on the venture. Not so, says another source - "we made \$8 on the deal." "We" still have an unused ticket for the Circus; will sell at a bargain price.

THE EDITOR SPEAKS

Spencer Canary was Editor and President of the Sentinel Company for many years. Bowling Green Rotary conferred on Spence: an Honorary Membership and the following excerpts from two letters tell an interesting story.

December 18, 1940

Dear

-----"I am very gratified by the mark of distinction and favor on the part of the club but it is with some misgiving that I have decided to accept. To harvest where I have not sown has not been my habit of life; to enjoy the emoluments of fellowship in such a splendid organization without taking upon myself the duty of active participation in its projects would relegate me to the status of the lily of the valley which neither toils or spins. I did, however, encourage the establishment of Rotary. It had a place which you fellows have splendidly filled."

S. A. Canary

SIX MONTHS LATER

June 12, 1941 Dear

"After enjoying the honor and the privilege of being an honorary member of Bowling Green Rotary, I would become imbued with the desire for full membership and I would esteem it another favor on your part to propose my name.....I am in accord with the club's principle of Service to Others. An extension of those principles throughout the world would, I believe, solve most of the human ills. . . . It has been a pleasure to throw off the burdens of making a living and enjoy intercourse with your fellows....."

S. A. Canary

Editorial Comment (JWP):

The Sentinel Tribune (Apr. 24, 1944) coverage of the District Conference, editorial, pictures, etc. discloses Spencer's respect for Rotary. He was a loyal active member until his health made withdrawal an undesired necessity.

LIFETIME AWARDS

One community member was made an honorary Rotarian in the 1950s. "Bud" Gallier received this award because of his outstanding contributions to the community. Several Rotarians have been presented with lifetime memberships in the Rotary Club. These members were unable to attend meetings because of their own health problems or health problems in their families. The first of these awards was given to John Parlette in 1986. In 1992, Lowell Randall, Jerry Laukhuf, and Robert McCracken were awarded lifetime membership in Rotary. We commend all of these recipients for their many major contributions to our Club.

SERVICE AWARDS

"SERVICE ABOVE SELF," a certificate honoring individuals "For Outstanding Service is in the interest of a better community" was designed and put to use. It was the feeling that outstanding services should be recognized in the hope it would encourage added community work.

The certificate with a written summation of the reasons for the award was presented to: (Started in 1954)

Rufus Libbe (farmer); "Bud" Gallier; Walter Zaugg; Ed and Etta Richard; Betty Riggs (Community Hospital); John Parlette; Kathryn Steifvater (Nurse); Loren Janzer; Esther Hayhurst (Teacher); El on Priess; Don King; Russell Swigart and Elizabeth Gelvin (Teachers); Harry Cauffman.

Beginning in 1973, the same certificate has been used as a COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD. It has been used in honoring business people, clerks and public servants who, in their everyday work, exemplify the Rotary Philosophy of "Service Above Self."

Member; so honored include: Herman Clair, Becky Meek, Helen Heers, Don Kinsey, Fred Reichert, Galen Ash, Dorothy Joyce, Tom Ohns, Harmon Voskuil, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Glenn, Mrs. Gary Martens, Beatrice Laskey, and Roy DeWitt, Jean Cheetwood, Marion Newmam. Clark Duncan, Matt Brichta, Wayne Rinehart, Joseph Mason, Eileen Brainard, Richard Koontz, Sr., Wally Mudd, Gladys Smith, Ruth Otto, Merle Klotz, Helen Cramer, and Jack Raney. The recipients are nominated by the general public.

TEACHER OF THE OF THE YEAR AWARD

In 1969, the Club initiated a annual teacher of the year award for 3owling Green City Schools Faculty. The first award was presented to Laurabell Jo Mooney, 3G Junior High Art Teacher, Following year awards were presented to; Jane Brodt, Kenwood Elementary; Elizabeth Gelvin, BG Junior High English, Ken Dcehring, 3GHS Business.

R. I. CONVENTIONS

Three incoming Bowling Green Presidents, Parlette, Richard Miller and Olson, celebrated the honor by attending R.I. Conventions. At the close of our first year as a Rotary Club, eighteen members attended the R.I. Convention in Cleveland. In the years following, several members of Bowling Green Rotary have attended Conventions ranging from Minneapolis and other U.S. Cities to Canada, to Mexico and to Australia. Without exception, every one of them will testify to the friendly and enthusiastic International fellowship experienced at an R.I. Convention and would strongly recommend that all members attend, if possible, at the earliest opportunity.

DISTRICT CONFERENCES

Thanks to the availability of University facilities, we have had the honor of hosting three District Conferences; in the years of 1944, 1952, 1964, and 1930.

In 1944, we were but six years old but full of "vim and vigor", and anxious to prove ourselves a worthy club. As a courtesy to our neighbor clubs, we invited North Baltimore and Waterville to come with us in a joint sponsorship. They cooperated fully in every possible respect. Herb Bowman was Club President; John Parlette, Conference

Chairman; John Bunn, Mel Fleckner (North Baltimore) and William Robertson (Waterville) Vice Presidents. We worked under the leadership of Grant (Ducky} Waddle of Sandusky who was District Governor. University President Frank Prout (Kiwanian) went "all out" to make ours a successful adventure. He cleared residence halls, giving the girls a vacation so Rotarians could have convenient and economical living quarters. Printed cards, signed by the girls were prominently displayed in rooms extending a welcome; copies of TOLEDO TIMES were placed at each door and stacks of Sentinel Tribunes were on hand in the House of Friendship.

Arrangements were made with two fraternities to place a piano on a truck and serenade residence halls at a late evening hour. Stress was on little things usually forgotten. "This is my 29th District Conference and it's absolutely the best one ever staged in this District." That was the statement of Peter Hulsken (Lima) who was more or less a permanent fixture as District Conference Sgt-At-Arms.

The April 24, 1944 issue of the Sentinel Tribune carried more than 228 column inches (19 feet), fourteen (14) pictures and a long editorial about Rotary and the Conference. The road signs along streets near the city limits were installed in 1947. In 1940, our club sponsored an International Institute bringing four world known speakers to Bowling Green.

In 1952. The second District Conference hosted by Bowling Green was held on April 20-21, 1952. Governor Tom Bartlett, of North Baltimore led the local group in setting up plans for the Conference. John Bunn directed the local planning committees as he served as Conference Chairman and worked closely with E. E. Richard the president of the Bowling Green club.

Governor Tom apparently did not set up a central theme for the conference hence it was primarily a business and a training type of meeting. Like our first District Conference, it was co-hosted by Bowling Green and North Baltimore.

One record was established which had not been achieved before and perhaps not since in that each of the 51 clubs in the district was represented by one or more people. In 1964. A highlight of the District Conference in Bowling Green in 1964 was the appearance of Charles Pettengill who was the President Elect of Rotary International. Glenn Christian was president of the local club, immediate past president Robert Harms served as Conference Chairman while Etta Richard serves as chairman for Rotary Anns. "Rotary in a Space Age" was the Conference theme and featured a speaker from the National Aeronautics & Space Administration (Richard G. Mulligan). During the Conference, an Air Force X15 Rocket was on display.

Bowling Green was matched with a club in Australia; hence, speakers regarding Australia were featured. Among them was Lee Gcddard who had been a Rotary Fellow studying in Australia and became a Rotarian in Bowling Green. Another interesting feature was the appearance of the miniature train from the Portage Drive-In Theater which was used for conducted tours over the campus.

As in 1964, the North Baltimore and Waterville clubs assisted in the planning of the Conference. Sgt-At-Arms Roger Peatee levied a heavy fine on Governor Ralph Razor and made it stick. Seventeen of the 21 living Past District Governors attended the Conference.

In 1943, Bowling Green received the Governors Award for Community Service. It was based mainly on our club's efforts in support and our work toward the movement to raise funds to build a Hospital in Bowling Green.

In 1980, Bowling Green was again chosen to host the District Conference. One of the highlights of the conference was a career exploration service attended by 1200 high school students from schools in District 660. Rotarians served as facilitator to aid these students in exploring their interests in specific careers.

WATERMELON

Not to be outdone by the Circus held in 1959, the Rotary Club started its year in 1982-83 with a watermelon sale. Evidently watermelons were either in large supply or there was little demand. Total profit from the sale was a staggering \$2.51.

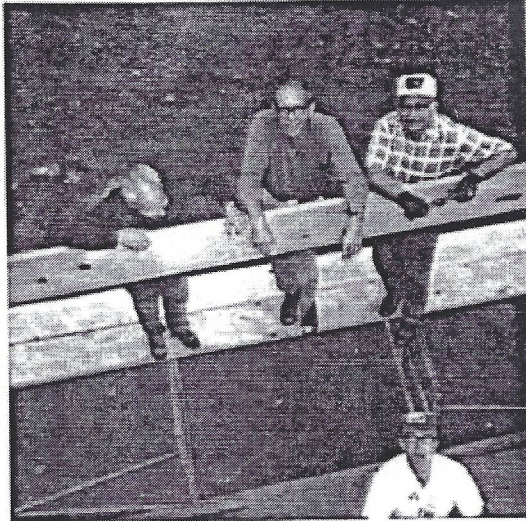
CARTER PARK

After Wintergarden, a lengthy search was conducted for another worthy project for club action. The search ended with the opening of Carter Park. Rotary agreed to accept the responsibility of constructing two shelter structures. Robert Harms coordinated the study of plans and of raising funds (\$17' along with the coordination of construction. Henry Konecny turned the club into a "den of iniquity" in raising about \$2"7 the fund. It was very fortunate that we had a man in the club who not only knew all of the angles, but knew how to cut them. That man was Karl Hager who engineered the structural work.



Pictured above and below are the structures built by Rotarians. In recent years, the beams have been sealed and the roofs repaired by Bowling Green Rotarians. Several

of the people have been identified in the pictures and are named below.



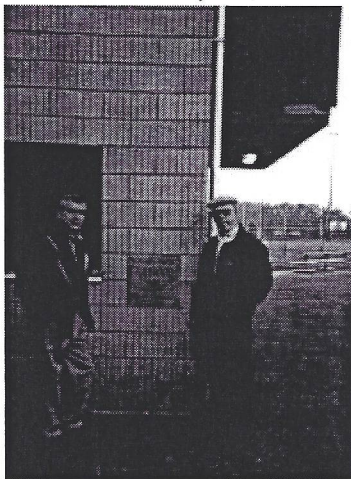
(L. to R.) - Lorin Janzer, Hank Konecny,
Ralph Olson S. below - Ed Miller)



(Two front people -standing - Warren
Waterhouse, measuring Jim Ruehl)

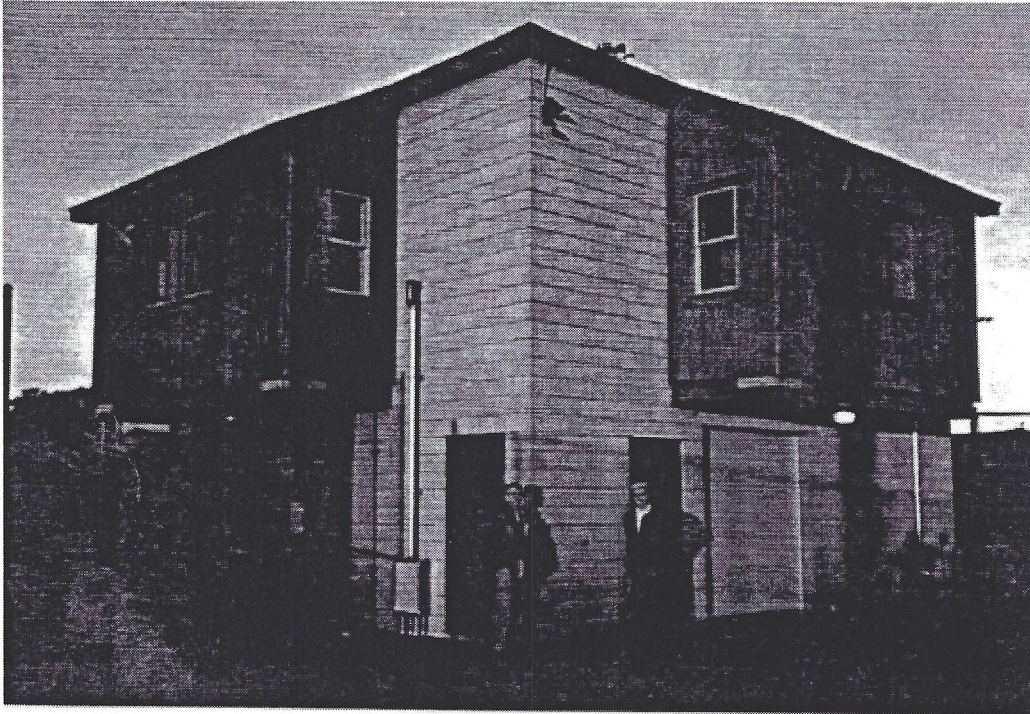
It was announced that labor would start at 6:00 a.m. on the first work day (Sept. 28, 1974) - but it didn't. Fifteen men reported for work. It was a good day for Rotary for a similar number of men aided Robert Maurer who directed a "Street Sale" on Main Street. The sale netted better than \$100.

As Carter Park continued to expand, facilities were provided for Little League baseball and community Softball. A total of eight diamonds were laid out and work began in 1985. It was at this time that the Rotary Club, looking for a good community project, undertook the largest monetary responsibility in the history of the Club. It was decided to build a 'hub' building for the Little League diamonds. This building would contain restrooms, concession stands, storage area, a place for meetings, and an area where the scorekeeper could perform his functions during ball games. The cost of the project was estimated at \$35,000, but eventually with all of the conditions and regulations set forth rose to over \$65,000.



Two of the committee members in charge of the project, Bob Maurer and Al Green, are shown in front of the block identifying the building as a Rotary project. Other members of the committee were John Kretzschmar, Tom Reicosky and Jim Ruehl.

At the same time, the City was also proposing to build such a building for their softball fields. Since the City is a governmental agency, it appeared to be cheaper for them to allow the Bowling Green Rotary Club to undertake this project also, and then be reimbursed by the City of Bowling Green for this building. So, the Rotary Club undertook the project of building these two structures. In the spring of 1990, the projects were completed, and the keys were presented to the Mayor of Bowling Green, Rotarian Ed Miller. A plaque on each building recognizes the Rotary Club for their efforts. Many people were instrumental in this major operation, but much credit has to be given to Bob Maurer who kind of "engineered" the whole operation, and to an able committee composed of Al Green, Jim Ruehl, Tom Reicosky, and John Kretzschmar.



A full view of the building built by the Club. Maurer and Green are pictured in front.

After the completion of these two buildings, the Rotary Club found a need for two more shelter houses at Carter Park. Approximately \$20,000 was raised to build these two shelter houses. Estimates for these two shelter houses were a total of \$10,000, but when you need to have inspection from both city and county and meet both of their codes, the price goes up dramatically as evidenced in building these two simple buildings.

Someone suggested the four shelter houses in Carter Park built by the Rotary Club should be named. It was decided to name each of the shelter houses using the names of the former Rotarians who served as Mayor of the City of Bowling Green. Thus, these three buildings are appropriately named for Ed Miller, Lorin Janzer, Charles Bartlett, and the 4th for Alvin Perkins.

The Rotary Club's contribution to Carter Park are quite obvious in the community and

from Route 75. This Park is one of the finest areas in Ohio to hold baseball and softball tournaments. It has fine baseball and softball fields, two excellent hub buildings, and shelter areas where people can come and enjoy the friendly confines of Bowling Green, Ohio.

AUCTION

With the construction of the projects mentioned above, money had to be raised. In 1986, the Rotary Club held its first auction at the Junior Fair Building. Rotarians donated auction items for this event and the community was also solicited for goods and services to be auctioned. Items included used automobiles, fishing trips, condo vacations, furniture, athletic equipment, home cooked meals, dinner music, and on and on. The auctions have been continued each year, and the profit annually ranges from \$12,000 to \$15,000. Six years of auction money was needed to pay for the "hub" building and the two shelter houses at Carter Park. In 1992, the \$13,000 was used to buy a new oven for the senior citizen center, to repair the roofs at Wintergarden Park, and to provide dental services for children through the Dental Dispensary of Northwest Ohio. In 1993, \$5000 was donated to the library to purchase new doors, \$5000 to the Recreation Department to begin the Community Building, and \$2000 to help increase the principal of the Bud's Welfare Fund. The auctions again provide an opportunity for Rotarians and their spouses to work together for worthwhile projects, and probably will continue for some time. In round figures, auctions through 1995 netted approximately \$15,000. The 1996 auction reached the all time high in net profits with 22,509.64.

Some interesting items have been purchased at the auction, in particular by the president's wives. Wives have been known to purchase such items as a styrofoam cake for Mike Miesle, a donkey for Andy Foley, a very used tuba purchased for George Amend, a French maid for David Harkness, and a motorcycle ride (his dream) for Carl Lipp, a vasectomy for Jeff Fallon, and a "relic to say the least" tractor for Jim Corbitt.

To prevent a conflict with Kiwanis which had an annual Farmers Night, Rotary decided, in 1940, to have a similar occasion with FFA (Future Farmers of America). This was a welcome service to an enterprising group which ordinarily received little public attention. Farm specialists and Farm Magazine writers usually provided programs along with boys reporting on their farm projects. Some objected that the programs were too much alike from year to year so we shifted to athletics and heard the same program from year to year on football and basketball.

Rotarian Norm Holley was an active PFA member while this particular service was functioning. It functioned several years.

FARMERS NIGHT

Contrary to the comments above, Bowling Green has instituted a farmers night each year. Arranged originally by Al Koppenhafer and later carried on by Darrell Hentges, Rotary invites approximately 40 farmers from Wood County to meet with them once a year. Programs have been excellent and highly informative to both Rotarians and our guests. In addition, a number of farm tours have been arranged including a visit to a buffalo farm, Klotz Nursery, Bostdorff Nursery, Massey-Ferguson implement dealer, Cygnet Sod Farm (Doug H353), and Davidson's sheep farm to name a few.

JUST FOR FUN

The sign said: SPECIAL - DUCK DINNER - \$2.00/ Twenty-eight of our members and two from Waterville paid the added 25 cents and got a ticket. When serving began, the Sgt-At-Arms asked for a show of hands of the ticket holders. "If you'll DUCK under the table, you can eat your pork chops there," he added. Net gain: $30 \times .25 = \$7.50$. New members gave autobiographical sketches. On this occasion, Lowell Jones read from the Sentinel Tribune dated 4C years later. It was the funniest, most original, most unusual and the most egotistical OBITUARY ever written. His own, of course.

A man bought a house which was built for a family with a flock of your children. The bathroom stool was low to accommodate the children so the new owner had it changed. In making a report on the Club's FINANCIAL PROGRESS at our 30th anniversary (Ladies Night), Don King told the story then added "It's the only time in history that a plumber was called in to raise a man's assets"

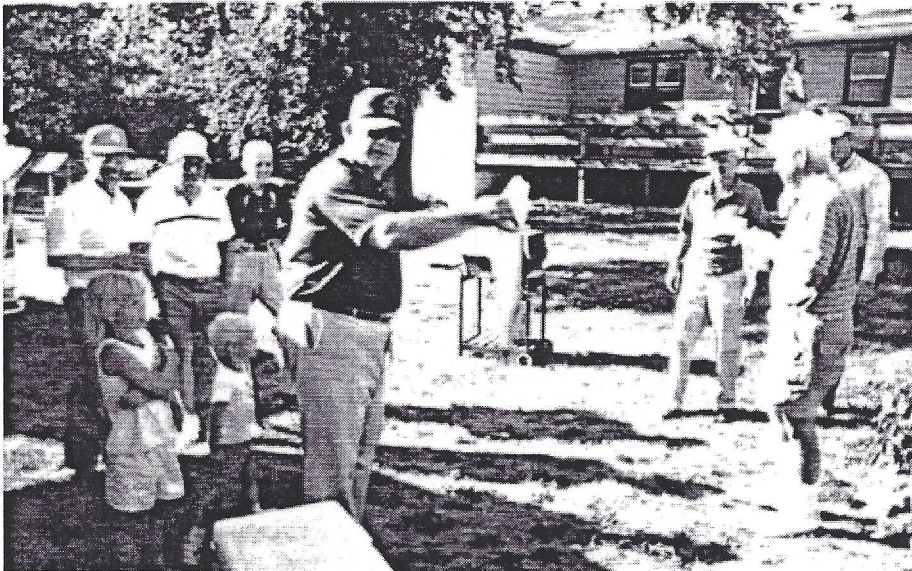
The sergeant bailed out the program committee in 1968-69 (the program didn't show) and Sgt Harland Lehtomaa provided the program by finding something to fine each and every member present that evening. The sergeant's fund grew tremendously.

Then there was the night the shrill sound of a whistle told the Club Sergeant John was there, helmet and all with fines clearly written, and aptly collected by Sgt. John Hardin.

How about the night Doc Jones came to the meeting with his mental faculties in complete disarray. After being analyzed by nurse Shirley Hilyard, Pastor Ed Walden, it was determined his condition was due to a golf ball nearly hitting him in his backyard. The golf ball was produced and lawyer Bob Maurer read in numerous sections of the law with which the person hitting the golf ball could be charged. A close examination revealed the words Columbia Gas on the ball, and Jack Kapron pleaded guilty. The following week Doc Jones returned to normal.

We don't repeat Prexy Bob Harms' weekly stories.

One of the fun activities each year is the trip to Doc Jones Cottage in Port Clinton. Several Rotary "fishermen" go out on Lake Erie and bring home the evening meal. The picture illustrates one nice catch.



(L. to R.) - Don Ullum (and his son and daughter), Al Green, Don Ullum's father, Bob Rueblin (with the fish), "Doc" Jones, Jim Zimmerman (sitting on the rail), Ton Reicosky, and Harland Lehtomaa)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Bowling Green Rotary is in an enviable spot when it comes to building International Relations and Friendships. We are a small town whose University student body included many students from other lands. These students have many problems, difficulties and many become homesick. Some Rotarians have befriended some of them, but as a club we have done only a mediocre job. Several of the students have attended club meetings, have provided programs or served on panels. A highlight was the occasion when we contacted Rotary clubs or officials in their home town asking them to send letters of greetings to be read as part of the program when we were to have the students as guests of the club. Among the many letters extending greetings and appreciation was one from the President of the Republic of Panama. When that letter was read a Miss Ruiz jumped up and literally yelled "I used to work for him." It was a happy occasion for them. Ours is the responsibility of helping them with their problems and of having them in our homes.

GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE

One of the newer programs for Rotary International is the Group Study Exchange sponsored as a part of the Rotary Foundation. This program allows a group of young men and women from a foreign country to visit District 660 and become acquainted with people and products in their field of interest.

The BG Rotary Club has hosted groups from Turkey, India and Sweden for several overnights when visiting our community and has provided them with opportunities to talk with community business and professional leaders. Visits were made to several University departments as well as governmental agencies and local manufacturing plants including plastics and potato chips

A group of men and women from District are then chosen to visit the same country with the same objectives in mind. Each group has a group leader. Ralph Olson was the group's leader for the Exchange Program to Turkey in 1984 and Ron Parshall led District 660 team to Central America in 1985.

FOREIGN STUDENTS

Another program promoted by Ed Miller has been the student foreign exchange program. High School students from Bowling Green are selected to attend high schools in foreign countries. In 1992-93 Bowling Green has four students studying abroad. In exchange, Bowling Green is asked to host students from two countries. In 1992-93 two students, Tejas Rao and Nathan Soenaidi are attending Bowling Green High School and living with members of the Bowling Green community. In 1993-94 we had the pleasure of having Natsuko Ueno from Japan as our guest. In 1995-96 Krista Seppala from Finland was our exchange student guest. The exchange student in 1996-97 is Liliana Frasquat from Spain.

MESA

A District project, starting in 1982, were efforts to collect, repair, and distribute needed equipment and supplies for deserving people in South America. By 1987 3-4 million dollars worth of supplies had been sent to Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, etc. In 1987, Ed Miller, Ralph Olson, and Dave Harkness, along with 40 other Rotarians and wives from District 660, made a two week trip to Guatemala at the invitation and as guests of the Guatemala City Club. The Bowling Green Rotary Club cooperated with the Waterville Club to send medical supplies to Guatemala. Two complete sets of dental equipment has been sent to Guatemala and Mexico from the BG Club. Since that time, the BG Club has contributed \$500 in each of several years to help continue this supply. Currently, the project has expanded with many Districts now involved, sending supplies and equipment all over the world. One of the current differences today is that the equipment must be first class and be shipped immediately since there are no storage or repair facilities.

ADOPT THE HIGHWAY

Starting in 1992, the Bowling Green Rotary Club initiated a project of helping keep the highways in our area clean. The Club was assigned the area from Route 75 east on Route 105 to two miles east of town where 105 turns towards Pemberville. Rotarians volunteer four times per year to go along the sides of the roads to clean up the debris. Neither fear of rain, snow (with John Hardin as weather forecaster), or fierce dogs keeps the Rotarian from completing this task. It's another opportunity for service.

LEADERSHIP

Rotary can take justifiable pride in the leadership its members have provided. Several members, for example, have served as president of the Chamber of Commerce; Rotary provided the leadership in fund drives for a hospital, a big barn dance and a two-day community auction all for a hospital. Four members of the BG Rotary Club have served as mayor of the City of Bowling Green. Two B.G. Rotarians and two N. Baltimore Rotarians served successive years as president of the Wood County Chapter of Red

Cross; three served as chairman of the Crippled Children's Society; one as head of the Wood County Forum. At least six members served as president or chairman of their professional groups or societies on the state level. Churches have constantly depended on Rotarians for leadership. Don King has served as treasurer of most groups and organizations in town. These come to mind and doubtlessly there are many, many other instances of leadership provided by members of Rotary in B.G. A number of our members have completed the Leadership Training Program.

INTERCITY

Each year, several B.G. Rotarians enjoy the food and the fellowship at the North Baltimore Corn Roast. Until it was discontinued, a similar number attended the Waterville Fish Fry. Although not an annual affair, Bowling Green has held several Intercity meetings. On one occasion, our speaker was "Dick" Hedke of Detroit who was a Past President of Rotary International.

RECORDS

Ed Richard had a 37-year perfect attendance record. Harry Mathias was but a few year behind. Currently, Warren Waterhouse has a record of perfect attendance for the past 33 years. Past President, Elon Priess started as Secretary in 1961 and continue in that position until 1975. The long time honors, however, go to Don King who served as Treasurer from 1943 through 1975.

ENTER R.I. PRESIDENT WILLIAM ROBBINS

November 15, 1974 saw a major dream come true when William Robbins, President of Rotary International, paid a visit to Bowling Green and District 660. On previous occasions, "Dick" Hedke, a past R.I. President and Charles Pettingill, a President Elect, were guest speakers in Bowling Green, but President Robbins was the first active President to make an official visit to District 660.

President Ed Miller with his co-chairman, Henry Konecny, working in constant contact with Governor "Bill" Ford, are deserving of a lion's share of the credit for their planning and for the smooth operation of the big event. Credit would have to be shared, of course, with the well organized and functioning local committees along with representatives from Waterville and North Baltimore. Harry Poulston, District Secretary from Lima, gave valuable assistance in securing the presidential visit and in selling the idea to other clubs in the District.

The "Rotary Boys Choir," of Lima, entertained during the social hour. Some of the planned activities were curtailed because of the late arrival of President Robbins. Toledo was desirous of having a restricted part in the show. They met President "Bill" in Detroit, entertained him at a noon luncheon and was to deliver him at B.G. for activities starting at 4:30 p.m. It appears that a fender bending accident and difficulty in reporting it to proper authorities caused delays. The host club had no word or explanation until the dinner hour (7:00 p.m.) when the Toledo President delivered President Robbins.

The delay did not dampen the spirit of the 654 in attendance. In addition to Rotary Annals,

the guests included most of the living Past Governors; representatives from all 59 clubs in the district; Rotary Exchange Students; past and present Rotary Fellows and others. Bruce Bridges, Rotary Fellow from Christ Church, New Zealand, who is attending Bowling Green State University, responded for the Rotary Fellows.

President Ed brought credit to himself and to B.G. Rotary by presiding and in giving credit to all who cooperated in the venture. He presented Roger Peatee, (Sgt-At-Arms) who enriched the coffers of the Rotary Foundation with several \$5.00 fines. He turned the meeting over to Governor Ford who made introductions, acknowledgements and announcements. He presented Major Chuck Bartlett of Bowling Green who gave Robbins a key to 'the City.

The Governor then presented President Robbins. "Bill" responded with a stirring address which was an inspiration to everyone. His speech was recorded so we may hear it often. Following the address, Governor Ford presented a beautiful Robbins portrait to the President: Governor Nominee Bob Soul presented a Paul Harris Fellow From District 660 for "Bill" Robbins Jr., a Rotarian in Miami. In conclusion, a package of Bowling Green products was presented to Mrs. Robbins.

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

(As written by John Parlette in 1974, with a few additions by Chuck Mayers)

Every club office and every club member should remember specific things of importance and/or insignificance with delight. Of those things, a history scholar could possibly build a worthy and interesting story. A history scholar - we are not. We have just touched briefly on a series of some of our major and interesting accomplishments.

Lest we rest on our laurels, let's take a look from another angle. In a period of 55 years we have accomplished much but we doubtlessly have fallen well below our potential. Too often we have accepted the challenge of a worthy project, like a child accepts a new toy, but too soon it becomes old and we drop it. Too often those entrusted with leadership have failed to study the "Manual of Procedure" and to visualize the possibilities about us. Too often members have been satisfied to let others carry the load and to accept the benefits of membership while neglecting their responsibilities. Too often we fail to indoctrinate members (especially new ones) on the basic purposes and potentials of Rotary. Too often we forget that Rotary is based on a GIVE philosophy as expressed in our motto "Service Above Self." We need to remember, however, that our failures and our shortcomings can never erase the effects of the many good things we have accomplished.

In another section, we spoke of membership and our lack of growth, and in the past few years a decline. We observed that a large number of men accepted club membership in a period of 50 years while practically the same number withdrew from the club. It's interesting to note that the same pattern is reflected in the list of Charter Members and in the list of Past Presidents. Perhaps the problem is similar to the person who keeps falling out of bed. If you don't get into bed far enough, you are bound to fall out. Maybe our members don't really "get" into Rotary, and as a result fall by the wayside. Some of the withdrawals doubtlessly were for sound reason and justifiable cause. Is it

possible that some withdrew through a feeling of futility and a lack of purposeful action? An analysis of the reasons for withdrawal and/or lack of interest could serve as a useful purpose in helping to chart the future course of Rotary in Bowling Green, Ohio. Any study of analysis should not be based on a false premise for size does not necessarily imply quality. A medium size club of dedicated Rotarians is more to be desired than a large club of just so-so members.

CLUB OFFICERS

| Year | President | Vice Pres. | Secretary | Treasurer |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1938-39 | Walter Zaugg | Ed Richard | M. E. Dunipace | Willard Porter |
| 1939-40 | John Parlette | M. M. Mercer | M. E. Dunipace | Elon Priess |
| 1940-41 | Elon Priess | Ed Knepper | Lloyd Helms | Ken Boley |
| 1941-42 | Ken Boley | Jess Curry | John Bunn | Loren Janzer |
| 1942-43 | Jess Curry | Lew Manhart | Ed Knepper | Emmitt Spittler |
| 1943-44 | Herb Bowman | Les Vesey | Ed Knepper | Don King |
| 1944-45 | Les Vesey | Robert Porter | Harold Finch | Don King |
| 1945-46 | Ed Knepper | Charles Cline | Harry Mathias | Don King |
| 1946-47 | Charles Cline | Carroll Foster | Harry Mathias | Don King |
| 1947-48 | Carroll Foster | Paul Muse | Harry Mathias | Don King |
| 1948-49 | Henry Rappaport | John Bunn | Harry Mathias | Don King |
| 1949-50 | John Bunn | Dudley Avery | Harry Mathias | Don King |
| 1950-51 | Dudley Avery | Ed Richard | Harry Mathias | Don King |
| 1951-52 | Ed Richard | Al Koppenhafer | Bob Riegler | Don King |
| 1952-53 | Al Koppenhafer | Bob Riegler | Bob Riegler | Don King |
| 1953-54 | Robert Riegler | Ben Segall | Charles Bartlett | Don King |
| 1954-55 | Ben Segall | Gerald Acker | Charles Bartlett | Don King |
| 1955-56 | Gerald Acker | Karl Hanneman | Charles Bartlett | Don King |
| 1956-57 | Karl Hanneman | Austin Patrick | Charles Bartlett | Don King |
| 1957-58 | Austin Patrick | Lowell Randall | Lee Horton | Don King |
| 1958-59 | Lowell Randall | Charles John | Lee Horton | Don King |
| 1959-60 | Charles John | Lowell Jones | Lee Horton | Don King |
| 1960-61 | Lowell Jones | Gerald Avery | Robert Harms | Don King |
| 1961-62 | Gerald Avery | Robert Harms | Elon Priess | Don King |
| 1962-63 | Robert Harms | Glenn Christian | Elon Priess | Don King |
| 1963-64 | Glenn Christian | LeRoy Bortel | Elon Priess | |
| 1964-65 | LeRoy Bortel | Harry Cauffman | Elon Priess | Don King |
| 1965-66 | Harry Cauffman | Wilfred Williams | Elon Priess | Don King |
| 1966-67 | Wilfred Williams | Lee Goddard | Elon Priess | Don King |
| 1967-68 | Lee Goddard | Charles Mayers | Elon Priess | Don King |
| 1968-69 | Charles Mayers | Don Shull | Elon Priess | Don King |
| 1969-70 | Don Shull | Karl Hager | Elon Priess | Don King |
| 1970-71 | Karl Hager | Curtis Gast | Elon Priess | Don King |
| 1971-72 | Curtis Gast | Earl Radel | Elon Priess | Don King |
| 1972-73 | Earl Radel | Warren Waterhouse | Elon Priess | Don King |

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|-----------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1973-74 | Warren Waterhouse | Ed Miller | Elon Priess | Don King |
| 1974-75 | Ed Miller | Henry Konecny | Elon Priess | Don King |
| 1975-76 | Henry Konecny | Ralph Olson | Elon Priess | Don King |
| 1976-77 | Ralph Olson | Jim Ruehl | Lorin Janzer | Charles Mayers |
| 1977-78 | Jim Ruehl | Harland Lehtomaa | Lorin Janzer | Charles Mayers |
| 1978-79 | Harland Lehtomaa | Robert McCracken | Lorin Janzer | Charles Mayers |
| 1979-80 | Robert McCracken | Darrel Hentges | Lorin Janzer | Charles Mayers |
| 1980-81 | Darrel Hentges | Robert Maurer | R. McCracken | C. Mayers |
| 1981-82 | Robert Maurer | Oscar Hoffman | R. McCracken | C. Mayers |
| 1982-83 | Oscar Hoffman | Ron Parshall | R. McCracken | C. Mayers |
| 1983-84 | Ron Parshall | Al Green | R. McCracken | C. Mayers |
| 1984-85 | Al Green | Mike Miesle | R. McCracken | C. Mayers |
| 1985-86 | Mike Miesle | Andy Foley | R. McCracken | C. Mayers |
| 1986-87 | Andy Foley | George Amend | R. McCracken | C. Mayers |
| 1987-88 | George Amend | David Harkness | R. McCracken | C. Mayers |
| 1988-89 | David Harkness | John Kretzschmar | Jim Zimmerman | C. Mayers |
| 1989-90 | John Kretzschmar | Carl Lipp | Jim Zimmerman | C. Mayers |
| 1990-91 | Carl Lipp | Jeff Fallon | Jim Zimmerman | C. Mayers |
| 1991-92 | Jeff Fallon | James Corbitt | Jim Zimmerman | C. Mayers |
| 1992-93 | James Corbitt | Don Ullum | Dan Nocleg | C. Mayers |
| 1993-94 | Don Ullum | Mark Smith | Dan Nocleg | C. Mayers |
| 1994-95 | Mark Smith | Ed Brandeberry | Dan Nocleg | C. Mayers |
| 1995-96 | Ed Brandeberry | Gene France | Dan Nocleg | Carl Lipp |
| 1996-97 | Gene France | Linda Ensinger | Dan Nocleg | Carl Lipp |
| 1997-98 | Linda Ensinger | Shirley Hilyard | Dan Nocleg | Carl Lipp |
| 1998-99 | Shirley Hilyard | Jan Knape | Dan Nocleg | Carl Lipp |
| 1999-2000 | John Harden | Kent McClary | Dan Nocleg | Carl Lipp |
| 2000-01 | Jan Knape | Rolando Andrade | Dan Nocleg | Carl Lipp |
| 2001-02 | Rolando Andrade | Bob Vincent | Dan Nocleg | Carl Lipp |
| 2002-03 | Bob Maurer | Bob Vincent | Dan Nocleg | Carl Lipp |
| 2003-04 | Bob Vincent | Don Zajak | Dan Nocleg | Carl Lipp |
| 2004-05 | Don Zajak | Pat Newnam | Dan Nocleg | Carl Lipp |
| 2005-06 | Pat Newnam | Don Manley | Dan Nocleg | Carl Lipp |
| 2006-07 | Mark Manley | Ron Stoner | Manley/Stoner | Carl Lipp |
| 2007-08 | Ron Stoner | Jeff Grilliot | Mark Manley | Carl Lipp |
| 2008-09 | Jeff Grilliot | Fred Staunton | Tom Clemons | Carl Lipp |
| 2009-10 | Fred Staunton | Mike French | Tom Clemons | Carl Lipp |