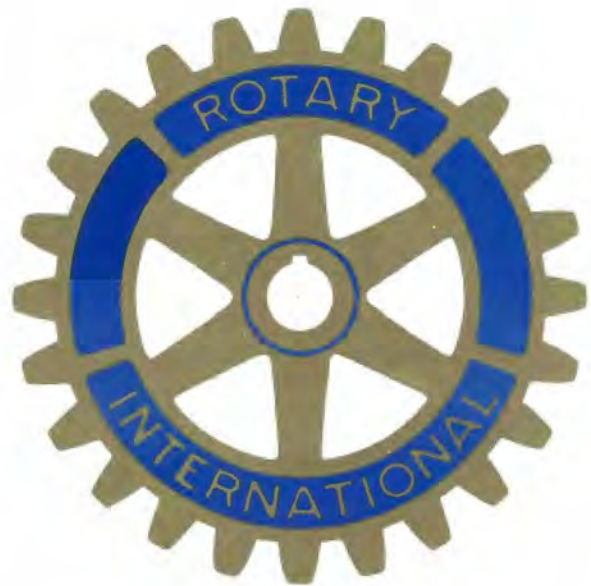




# *THE FIRST 75 YEARS*

ELYRIA ROTARY CLUB  
1918-1993



David J. Holland

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## Acknowledgments

George Worden..... President 1994/95  
Ray Renz..... Secretary 1955/61  
Bob Ohlemacher..... Secretary 1968/74  
Bill Standen..... Secretary 1974/78  
Bob Perry..... Secretary 1978 going  
Bob Choate..... Bound collection of Ramrods  
Dan Messaros..... Photography  
Gary Kneisley..... Audio tape recordings  
John Blevins..... Treasurer reports  
John Tierney..... Treasurer reports  
Tim Grogan..... Computer technology

And committee members for advice and support:

Rorick "Speedy" Amos  
Lawrence "Bud" Deetz  
R. Jay Fitch  
Jim Hunt  
John Murbach  
Jack Murphy  
Ellie Schneider  
Terry "Pete" Shilling





## Preface

**T**he rich traditions of the Elyria Rotary Club have been chronicled with painstaking care by chief club archivist, Dave Holland.

Good luck has been described as “Being in the right place at the right time,” or “When opportunity meets preparation.” In either case, I count it my good fortune that forces came together to accomplish this task during my watch as club president.

Elyria Rotary celebrated its seventy-fifth birthday with great gusto in 1993. We even had Rotary International President, Cliff Dochterman, as guest of honor! But, alas, no club history was proffered. Oh, yes, attempts were made. The problem seemed to be that there was no central repository for this information and longtime Rotarians were reluctant to hand over prized artifacts to “just anybody.”

Enter quiet-mannered Dave Holland, who combined a sense of trust with the inquisitiveness of a detective and an engaging writing style to track our club's first 75 years and a little bit more.

Be a Friend.

George J. Worden  
Club President, 1994-95



# Introduction

## The first seventy five years of the Elyria Rotary Club

When you read this study of the first seventy-five years of Elyria Rotary history it is important to note the changing methods of research and presentation of the facts as found. The first five years of the club were ones involving the membership in a wide variety of projects. These first years are well documented, the archives containing hundreds of pages of material regarding the Crippled Children's program, Boy's Work, Camp Iss-See-Kes, and the connection with the YMCA.

A major discovery was a lost Secretary, Ralph Fay. His name had been omitted from printed programs from 1939 on, no doubt an oversight at the time. The error was carried in succeeding program and directory listings of past secretaries until noted in 1993 when preliminary research was begun.

Research of the first five years was a matter of selecting highlights and informing readers of the material available in the archives. The 1925 to 1935 period required an entirely different method of reporting because of the loss of Secretary James Thomas's records. Cross reference with remaining *Ramrods*, news paper clippings, rosters, membership application cards, and some memorabilia salvaged by Ben Hindman was enough to stitch together an accurate history of the time.

The 1935 to 1955 material from Bill McClellan's era is complete and filed in an orderly manner, each year in a separate file and containing detailed information. The question then became how much detail was needed for this review. The method used was to report major events, create a continuity, and give the history a more narrative style, all within the bounds of accurate historical reporting.

It should also be pointed out the lack of photographs in the archives from 1918 to 1945. Among the few surviving photos are group pictures taken of the club for the tenth and twentieth anniversaries, the first on April 3, 1928, the other from April 1938. A book of past president's photographs was completed in 1943 by Ralph Murbach, missing just two of the first twenty-five. The project has been up-dated to 1995, and Presidents and group photos are included in this review.

Because the technology was not generally available, no audio or video records are from the first half of the club's existence.

Home movies and photographic slides were taken, however, they are in private hands, and unless narrated or converted to printed pictures would be of little value. In 1980/81, Bob Choate recorded on tape cassettes twelve interviews of charter member Ralph Murbach, mostly on the early history of Elyria, but including recollections of the charter members. The twelve tapes are in the archives.

In January 1995, the four available secretaries, Renz, Ohlemacher, Standen, and Perry, recorded on audio cassette tapes about three hours of reminiscences going back to 1945 or so. On May 18, 1995, audio tapes were made by the four oldest members in terms of service to the club in which they talked of the men they knew from the first thirty years of

Elyria Rotary. Participating were R. Jay Fitch, John Murbach, Ray Renz, and Ellie Schneider. Copies are in the archives.

Which brings us to the second half of the seventy-five year review. This era was researched in the same accurate manner, however, because the members and activities were known to this writer, a more familiar style was used. In some instances, reasons are added to facts, and more personal information is used. A strong effort was made to collect and identify pictures, video tapes, and related material, and they were placed in the archives. Included are personal letters and committee notes which will be of historic value in later times.

Although many Rotarians contributed to this review, three must be singled out for special recognition, Bob Ohlemacher, Ray Renz, and Bob Perry. Secretary Bob Ohlemacher had the foresight to salvage and store much of the early archives which might have been lost when the club moved from the YMCA on January 14, 1977. He also provided the dedicated archives room at the Elyria Manufacturing Company so all material is contained and safe for future reference.

Secretary Ray Renz also added much to the research material, especially the original club minute records from 1918 to 1925 and the hand written early history by Ben Hindman. Ray also contributed many hours in the identification of members in old photos.

Secretary Bob Perry's support and encouragement to complete this project was of great importance to the writer. He contributed countless hours to conversion from word processor to computer language, editing, and formatting to enhance the final copy.

And finally, it is important to recognize each person joining Rotary as every one added something to the club's well being. Throughout this work are the men and women that kept Rotary and the community moving ahead for those seventy five years.

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# Chapter One

## The Founding to April 30, 1922

L. BEN HINDMAN - SECRETARY

**F**rank Shelton was the father of the Elyria Rotary Club having been a Rotarian in Canton, Ohio prior to taking the position of Superintendent of the Elyria Schools in May 1916. L. Ben Hindman, previously a Rotarian in Elmira, New York, came to Elyria in 1917, and the two men soon met and began talking about organizing a Rotary Club in Elyria. A previous effort by a representative of the Cleveland Rotary Club, at the urging of the District Governor, made no progress and was unknown to Shelton and Hindman.

The third person to become involved was banker Sam Squire, and the three met in February, 1918 to formulate a plan. They each made a list of prospective members which resulted in an invitation to about fifteen prominent Elyrians. A luncheon meeting of the candidates was held on March 4, 1918 at the Elyria YMCA, Frank Shelton presiding. In addition to Shelton, Hindman, and Squire, nine others were present including Ralph Murbach, the fourth person to become involved.

They decided to attend a meeting of the Cleveland Rotary Club the following Thursday, and after the club's regular meeting, the Elyria group met with Cleveland President John Bentley who was acting as the representative of District Governor Ed Kelsey of Toledo. A great amount of help and encouragement was given, and the Elyria group returned to Elyria with high enthusiasm.

Twenty satisfactory candidates were found, and the recruitment was closed on March 12, 1918. The application to Rotary International for club membership was made the following day. The charter was awarded on April 1, 1918, but it was not delivered to Elyria until the middle of the month. The date of the first official meeting was April 19 when the presentation was made by John Bentley of Cleveland, as representative of District Governor Ed Kelsey.

Although twenty men have been listed as the founding members of Elyria Rotary, the proper term for those signing on March 12, 1918 is Charter Members. Shelton and Hindman were the two original founders and they were soon joined by Sam Squire and Ralph Murbach. In addition to these four, eight others were present at the March 4, 1918 meeting to discuss forming a Rotary Club. These were: Arthur Curren, John H. Grant, E. Jay Howenstine, James A. Hewitt, Clarence W. Phillips, Emerson P. Post, Burt E. Saunders, and A. Lincoln Werner. An additional eight were recruited between March 4 and March 12, for the total of twenty signing the charter application.

The population of Elyria in 1918 was just under 20,000, and the city was the business and manufacturing center of the county. Elyria was the first Rotary Club in Lorain County and preceded The Elyria Kiwanis Club by ten months. The Elyria Rotary Club grew to over fifty members in the first eight months.



## THE CHARTER MEMBERS

ART CURREN                      Wife: Lottie                      Home: 216 Washington Ave.  
President Elyria Telephone Co. Responsible for the new telephone building erected in 1918 on Second St. west of the First Congregational Church. Introduced automatic dialing in 1919.

JOHN GRANT                      Wife: Margaret                      Home: 130 Harrison St.  
Pastor: First Congregational Church. Served the church from September 1908 to August 1923.

AL HANNAFORD                      Wife Florence                      Home 331 5th St.  
Manager Elyria Hardware Co.

JAMES HEWITT                      Wife: Fannie                      Home: 315 Park Ave.  
Construction Contractor Business at 206 Masonic Temple. Rotary President 1929/30. Mayor of Elyria 1928/31.

L. BEN HINDMAN                      Wife: Clara                      Home: 1273 East Ave.  
General Secretary Elyria YMCA. Secretary Elyria Rotary from April 1918 to March 1922. Resigned as Secretary 4/15/22. President of Rotary 1943/44.

JAY HOWENSTINE                      Wife: Roberta                      Home: 435 West Ave.  
Secretary Elyria Chamber of Commerce, Masonic Temple Bldg.

CHARLES LOZIER                      Wife: Grace                      Home: 226 4th St.  
Manager Columbia Steel Co. Elected President 4/25/21, declined because of health reasons. Retired to farming, remained member.

LOUIS MARTELL                      Wife: Lottie                      Home: 920 East Ave.  
Martell Packing Co. 333 E. Bridge St. Manufactured pump and pipe metallic packing. Evolved into the Romec Pump Co. Martell was the first founding member to die - 2/19/19.

RALPH MURBACH                      Wife: Ellen                      Home: 409 Washington Ave.  
Coal Dealer. Rotary President in 1938/39. Was the last surviving founding member.

CHARLES MCDONALD                      Wife: Estella                      Home: 129 E. Bridge St.  
Owner Elyria Canning Co. at 15 Shear St.

GEORGE NICHOLAS                      Wife: Lillian                      Home: 219 Court St.  
Medical Doctor. Rotary President 1919/20.

CLARENCE PHILIPS                      Wife: Clara                      Home: 412 West Ave.  
Owner Philips Drug Store on Broad St. First Sgt-at-Arms.

ALVIN PLOCHER                      Wife: Josephine                      Home: 248 5th St.  
Vice President of Lorain County Savings & Trust on Middle Ave. Dropped 11/20/18.

EMERSON POSTE                      Wife: Erma                      Home: 513 Park Ave  
Chemist, Elyria Enameled Products on Taylor St. Later became the Pfaudler Co.

BURT SAUNDERS                      Wife: Florence                      Home: 608 Middle Ave.  
Dentist. Office in Lorain County Bank Building. Rotary President 1921/22.

CHARLES SAVAGE      Wife: Anne      Home: 355 East River St.  
Jeweler at 401 Broad St.

FRANK SHELTON      Wife: Gertrude      Home: 317 East Ave.  
Superintendent of Elyria Public Schools. Elyria Rotary President for two months April and  
May 1918 and again for nine months in 1923/24.

SAM SQUIRE      Wife: Frances      Home: 229 Third St.  
Vice President and Cashier First National Bank which merged with Lorain County Bank in  
1919. Rotary President for ten months 1918/19. District Governor 1919/1920.

CHARLES TUCKER      Wife: Harriete      Home: 1206 East Ave.  
Lorain County Abstract Co. Elyria Mayor 1914/17.

LINK WERNER (A.L.)      Wife: Mary      Home: 217 East Ave.  
Tailoring Co. Rotary President 1925/26.

The first officers were:

Frank Shelton..... President  
Sam Squire..... Vice-President  
L. Ben Hindman..... Secretary/Treasurer

Directors installed were: Curren, Grant, Lozier, Murbach, Nicholas, and Tucker. By the  
end of 1918, thirty-three new members had joined the charter group of twenty. The club  
was quite selective, the new men being the top candidates for the classifications.

The first year of Elyria Rotary was influenced by a number of circumstances. World War I  
was in the last seven months, and the patriotic spirit gave incentive to honor fallen Elyrians  
and to contribute to the war effort. Two projects resulted: the erection of a war bond booth  
on Ely Square and the planting of trees on the hospital grounds to honor Elyria's war dead.

The YMCA on Third Street was the first home of the club; however, in keeping with the  
custom of Rotary International, meetings were often "rotated" to members' homes and  
places of business. It seemed that Tuesday was the preferred meeting day, but the day was  
often changed to accommodate the host's need. The club was growing so rapidly that it  
became necessary to establish a definite day for meeting, and, within a year, all meetings  
were held on Tuesdays.

In order to build a treasury members donated to various funds, were subject to fines,  
donated products for auctions, and paid dues. The very earliest fines noted were 10¢ for  
non-attendance, levied by the Sergeant-at-Arms. A Christmas fund was established, the  
usual gift being one dollar and by December 18, 1918, that fund totaled \$41.00. A New  
Year's Eve party was held on December 31, 1918, and a fruit auction produced \$23.57. On  
March 18, 1919, Secretary's minutes indicate an auction of prunes with no amount listed.

The need for a service club gave Elyria Rotarians a number of opportunities. Rotary  
International had rejected the plan of taking over the Boy Scout movement, but most local  
clubs found a worthwhile cause by helping needy boys in their towns. Elyria was no  
exception. "Boys Work," in concert with the YMCA, visits to Gates Hospital, and picnics  
and parties for the children at the Lorain County Home in Oberlin continued as projects for  
many years. Elyria Rotary contributed a great amount of time and money to the YMCA  
boys Camp Iss-See-Kes for over fifty years.

The allure of fellowship played a large part in the success of the club. Broad Street was the hub of business, and most members knew one another prior to the formation of the club. Social events were a natural outcome. An annual New Year's Eve party and, for some time, an annual club birthday celebration were held. Membership meetings were spiced with pranks, jokes, and fines, and new members gave talks on their personal and business experiences. Although strictly a men's club, wives were occasional visitors at the weekly meetings and contributed immensely to the social side of the club.

Joining the Elyria Rotary Club was a new experience, because the concept of service clubs was unknown to most; their club affiliations, prior to Rotary, were fraternal or church groups. The attendance and classification rules took some effort to become accustomed to, but the most difficult change was the use of first names or nick-names when addressing one another. The custom was to go by one's initials rather than an informal name. Some resisted strongly.

Another hurdle, for some, was the expense. In addition to dues, special funds were being raised because of the number of projects initiated by the club. Donations of one to twenty dollars a month for good works were not uncommon, this when the average worker's pay was much less than twenty dollars per week.

Attendance rules were not strictly enforced for some time, the average attendance being about 50% prior to September 1920. The influence of District Governor Sam Squire, a member of Elyria Rotary, probably prodded better attendance from his home club. If a member were to be out of town on business or vacation for any length of time, it was necessary to be granted a leave of absence, as a make-up at another club was difficult because of the scarcity of clubs. Another factor affecting attendance, during the first year, was the custom of having one evening meeting each month and having no set day for noon meetings.

Classification was another matter. The holder of a classification owned it for as long as he remained a member. There were no additional active or senior active classifications. Associate members from the same business concern were allowed, however, they had to have separate classifications.

The growing pains of the first two and a half years were sorted out, and, by January 1, 1921, the club was on solid ground with firmer rules and customs. Attendance improved to the 70% mark, and a feeling of fellowship could be noted.

A recap of membership changes from April 1, 1918 to December 31, 1920 shows not only the growth of the club, but the willingness to drop non-attending members.

Year	Members joining	Dropped	Year end total
1918	54	1	53
1919	19	6	66
1920	11	8	69

Even with the newness of the club, Elyria Rotarians were ready to accept two enormous endeavors that would require the talents of the members for a number of years. These were the establishment of the Crippled Children's Societies and the invention of the Community Chest, known today as the United Fund. Both started in Elyria at almost the same time.

One become an International Rotary mission and the other is rarely attributed to the work of Elyria Rotarians.

The following information taken from our Rotary Club minutes, Jim Thomas's book, *DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS IN ELYRIA*, Ben Hindman's writings, and references from the Encyclopedia Americana will clear up some of the mis-information regarding the Community Chest.

Although never an official Rotary project, everyone connected with the formation of the Community Chest was an Elyria Rotarian except industrialist, Arthur Garford. The idea to call combined local fund drives, The Community Chest, and to advise other towns on methods of organization was born in late summer of 1918 when Garford, Edgar F. Allen, and Ben Hindman met to organize the effort.

Local fund drives, up to that time, were generally known as War Chests for the needy, but no program was in place to help a community get started. The Council of Community Chests could point to that meeting in Elyria as the beginning of the national program.

Key men enlisted to carry on the program in Elyria were all Rotarians including: Edgar F. Allen, Fred Colson, Charles Crehore, Ernest Crisp, L. Ben Hindman, John B. Johnson, Ralph Murbach, Charles Sotherdon, James Thomas, and Glade Thomas. Elyria Rotary contributed substantial cash to the Community Chest for many years. Paul Harris, founder of Rotary, was a visitor in Elyria, on June 21, 1922, to study the methods being used here.

Edgar F. Allen's personal mission, to bring the terrible problem of crippled children's needs to the public, was brought to Elyria Rotary at about the same time the Community Chest discussions were being held. The first mention of the project in Rotary records was at the February 18, 1919 meeting, when the club passed a resolution endorsing Ohio House bill number 158 which provided state aid for hospitals for crippled children.

The story is well known in our club, however, a brief recap is in order for this historical review. The following paragraphs are condensed from a number of accounts by Ben Hindman, Ralph Murbach, Harry Howett, and newspaper stories.

Edgar F. Allen of Elyria is generally recognized as the founding father of the Societies for Crippled Children, and he became internationally known for his dedication to the cause of making life more meaningful for crippled children. Allen's humanitarian career had its beginning after a disastrous street car accident in Elyria in 1907 in which his son was killed, and many others were injured and died. Hospital facilities were sadly inadequate, and it was Allen who was the driving force in the campaign to build a well equipped Elyria hospital in 1908.

Allen's interest in crippled children was aroused by the first crippled child patient at the hospital. He commissioned a survey of Lorain, Huron, and Ashland counties and found there were about 700 children in the area that would benefit from orthopedic care in a hospital. With much community help and a large gift from Mrs. W. N. Gates, the Gates Hospital for crippled children was opened in 1915. Because of the cost of care and the stigma attached to having a crippled child, parents were reluctant to make use of the hospital. It became obvious to Allen that state aid and other help would be needed to encourage parents to bring their crippled children out of the closet.

He presented his ideas to many groups and finally found a response, in early 1919, from the Elyria Rotary Club. Elyria invited Rotary clubs from Toledo, Cleveland, and Sandusky to meet to hear the story. A week later, the Ohio Crippled Children's Society was founded with Elyria as the headquarters. Interest spread to nearby states and by October 1921, the National Society was formed, and the movement became international in February of the next year.

Recognition for the spread of the Crippled Children's Societies must also be given to District Governor, Sam Squire, who carried the message to every Rotary Club in the state. Allen and Squire traveled hundreds of miles giving programs to Rotary Clubs in neighboring states and in Canada. Elyria Rotarian, Harry Howett, became Executive Secretary of the International Society in 1924 and was responsible for forming Societies throughout the world. Squire, Howett, and the Elyria Rotary Club played an important part in making E. F. Allen's dream a reality.

## **THE RAMROD**

The *Ramrod*, our club newsletter, had a humble beginning. The first newsletters were mailed on members' stationery and contained only the date and time of the next meeting. It was not long until the notices carried additional messages and an occasional joke. The need for a more complete newsletter was recognized by the board, and a professionally printed version was authorized in May, 1920. A condition of the approval was that it must be fully supported by members' advertising.

Secretary Hindman, having the duty of writing the previous newsletters, took on the added chore of producing the expanded version. It was also Hindman that named our bulletin the *Ram-Rod*, two words separated by a hyphen. There were a number of references to the name in connection with the ram rod of a muzzle loading rifle, but the true meaning was that a Rotarian should be ram rod straight in word and deed.

Hindman's history said that the first printed issue appeared on June 8, 1920, but there is some indication that the July 1, 1920 edition was titled Vol. I No. I. Collections of *Ram-Rods* are in the archives, including about 50 of Hindman's issues.

Another tradition of our club is the multiple year re-election of the Secretary and Sergeants-at-Arms. Ben Hindman served as Secretary for four years, and he would have continued had he not made a job change, moving to Virginia. He later returned to Elyria and became President in 1943/44.

The continuity of having a long term Secretary was of great importance during those first years because of the growing pains of starting the club and the immense task of promoting the crippled children's project. Hindman was acting Secretary for any meetings with other clubs, during discussions of the crippled children's needs, and wrote resolutions and minutes of the meetings. The Secretary also served as Treasurer which made the position even more time consuming. He was paid a small fee that was a minor part of the club budget..

After Hindman's four years, the succeeding Secretaries assumed the same duties: Secretary, Treasurer, newsletter writer, and advisor to the President. Secretary Ray Renz

was the last to carry out the duties of newsletter writer and Dave Wainwright was the last Secretary who was also the Treasurer.

As the Elyria Rotary history continues, we will see the importance of the Secretary to the success of the club. Hindman set the pattern which has been carried on to the present-total dedication to the ideals of Rotary.

## **A REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT DATES AND EVENTS OF THE L. BEN HINDMAN ERA - APRIL 1918 TO APRIL 1922**

The club charter was granted April 1, 1918. Elyria was club number 382 and was in District Ten, which included most of Ohio.

Frank Shelton, first President and leading mover to form Elyria Rotary, was called into military service in June 1918 and held office for only two months. Sam Squire assumed the office of President and served out the term to May 1, 1919. The first known recorded minutes have a date of 12/10/18 and are contained in a ledger with a final date of 4/28/25.

These are samples of the entries in the minute book:

- 12/10/18, Noon meeting at YMCA. Christmas fund notes.
- 1/5/19, Ambassador Wm. G. Sharp addresses club with remarks about his tour in France. Was elected honorary member of the club.
- 2/4/19, Resolution regarding death of charter member, Louis Martell.
- 4/1/19, Nominations for officers and board, contested, 18 nominated for 9 board seats.
- 4/9/19, Election held:
  - George Nicholas.....President
  - James Hewitt.....Vice-President
  - L. Ben Hindman.....Secretary/Treasurer
  - Clarence Philips .....Sergeant-at-Arms
- 4/16/19, Anniversary meeting held at Country Club. 48 members and 26 guests present. Cleveland and Toledo clubs hear presentation of crippled children's project. Addresses by E. F. Allen and Dr. Stern. Remarks by District Governor Bentley. Resolution for clubs to pursue crippled children project.
- 5/6/19, E. F. Allen elected honorary member. Expenses approved for Nicholas and Squire trip to Rotary International convention in Salt Lake City.
- 6/25/19, Ladies night (no meeting place named), regular business and an Oberlin children's home picnic were discussed.
- 7/1/19, Motion to fine those not wearing Rotary pin-10¢.
- 7/8/19, John Murbach, Jeweler (father of Ralph), became an associate member. Classification: Ocean Passenger Service. (First father son combination)

- 7/14/19, Directors meeting. Dues raised to \$25 per year plus an assessment of \$10 from each member, for first year's shortfall.
- 11/11/19, Trip to the Willys Overland plant on Clark St. Tour and inspection of medical department of the plant.
- 12/8/19, Three members dropped for non attendance.
- 12/31/19, New Years Eve party, Elyria Country Club. Dinner \$2.00.
- 2/10/20, Resolution to Congressman urging speedy ratification of the WWI peace treaty.
- 3/24/20, Sandusky Rotarians were guests at the meeting. Carl Ingwer gave a pair of ITS rubber heels to all present.
- 4/5/20, Directors meeting: Plans for four to attend R. I. convention in Atlantic City. Committee for classification formed. Program of weekly visits to children at Gates Hospital by three members. Recommendation that the club join the Ohio Crippled Children's Society with annual dues of \$4.00 per member.
- 4/26/20, New officers elected:
  - John B. Johnson .....President
  - Rod Whelan.....Vice President
  - L. Ben Hindman.....Secretary/Treasurer
  - Ralph Fay .....Sergeant-at-Arms.
- 5/12/20, All day meetings of Ohio Rotary Clubs regarding hospitals for crippled children, 14 cities represented. Elyria club meeting followed at 5:30 with 21 guests in attendance.
- 6/2/20, Showing of first moving picture at an Elyria Rotary meeting. Taken and shown by Mr. Shultz of the Argus Co. Subject-Gates Hospital. Many guests, including District Governor Bentley of Cleveland.
- 10/20/20, Joint meeting with Kiwanis. 140 in attendance. Addresses by Kiwanis Governor Miller and Rotary Governor Squire of Elyria.
- 11/5/20, Directors meeting. Secretary's allowance increased to \$50.00 from \$25.00 per month. Six members dropped because of attendance and one for lost classification.
- 12/19/20, Report on purchase of sweaters, toques, and mittens for children at Gates Hospital.
- 12/27/20, Fifty members and guests take streetcar to the Oberlin Children's Home. Rotarian Art Smith, Santa Claus, with gifts for children.
- 3/15/21, Nomination for directors total twenty for nine seats.
- 4/4/21, Directors meeting, Governor Squire of our club is voted \$100.00 towards Edinburg International Convention. Change in by-laws to elect three directors each year for three year term. Edgar F. Allen accepted to regular membership with the classification-capitalist.

- 5/3/21, New officers installed:
  - Burt Saunders..... President
  - George Philpott..... Vice President
  - L. Ben Hindman..... Secretary/Treasurer
  - Ralph Fay .....Sergeant-at-Arms
- 5/5/21, Directors meeting. Motion to reduce the size of the *Ram-Rod* to eight pages, an 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" x 15" sheet folded into four columns and printed on both sides. Budget approved: Expenses include, Rotary International \$225.00, \$200.00 for children's picnic, \$300.00 for Ohio Society for Crippled Children, contributions \$200.00.
- No minutes from 5/5/21 to 9/1/21 and from 11/10/21 to 3/10/22. Hindman's notes included only four director meetings from 9/5/21 to 3/10/22.
- 3/10/22 Director meeting: Attendance rules of Rotary International adopted last September are being enforced, and it was agreed to continue the rules which included the 60% minimum meeting attendance. Secretary Hindman officially announced his resignation from the club, effective April 15, almost at the end of the club year. It was agreed to appoint a Secretary pro-tem until the election was held. Ralph B. Fay was appointed by the board to fill the position. This ended the term of first Secretary L. Ben Hindman.

In the first four years, Elyria Rotary laid a solid foundation, provided needed aid for worthy civic projects, pioneered the crippled children's work, and enthusiastically supported Rotary International. It is also evident that the greatest contribution to the community was the gathering of Elyria's most prominent men and turning them into Rotarians.

### **SAMUEL H. SQUIRE**

Samuel Herbert Squire was born in Elyria on September 1, 1873. He graduated with the Elyria High School class of 1891. In 1892, he became a messenger boy at the First National Bank of Elyria and rose to the position of cashier. The bank merged with the Lorain County Bank, and Squire became the Vice President.

He was a founding member of Elyria Rotary and took on the Presidency when Frank Shelton was called into military service in June 1918. Squire served the remaining ten months and became a major spokesman for the crippled children's program. Squire and Allen visited Rotary Clubs throughout Ohio to promote the adoption of the program by Rotary International.

There was a growing desire within the Elyria club, to nominate Squire to be the next Governor of District 10. The Ohio Crippled Children's Society and Elyria Rotary held a joint meeting on April 16, at the Elyria County Club, and it was at this meeting that Squire was first promoted to be the District Governor.

With much help from Cleveland and Toledo and a massive demonstration by his home club, Squire was named District Governor and served from July 1, 1919 to June 30, 1920.



His mission was to further Rotary participation with crippled children in Ohio and to promote this work as a Rotary International project.

He attended countless meetings, conferences, and conventions. With the co-operation of the Elyria Rotary Club, District 10, and powerful Rotarian friends, the program was adopted. At the time he was District Governor, there were 746 Rotary Clubs in seventeen countries in the world.

Squire was elected President Emeritus of the Elyria Rotary Club in 1924, a fitting reward for his dedication to "Service Above Self" and his historic contribution to Rotary.

In August 1935, Squire was made an honorary member of the club and left Elyria to become Superintendent of Ohio Banking. Later he became President of the Tiffin National Bank, a position he held until his death on April 18, 1943. His is just one story of many which could be told of our founding members. The foundation stones of Elyria Rotary were solid granite.

The following became members in 1918:

Charlie Crehore.....	Lumber-Retail
Deb Robson.....	Milk-Retail
Ernie Crisp .....	Laundry
Charlie Sotherdon .....	Fire Insurance
John B. Johnson .....	Electric Power
Lynn Knapp.....	Doctor of Osteopathy
Rod Whelan.....	Tools & Supply
Bert Miller .....	Ten Cent Store
Fred Colson.....	Children's Vehicles
Ford Loomis .....	Books-Stationery
Jim Thomas.....	Alloy Manufacturing
Henry Dykeman .....	Elyria Theater
Charlie Hancock.....	Men's Clothing
Sam Auspacher .....	Chemicals-Retail
Harry Hurst.....	Invalid Car Service
John Cronin.....	Manager-C.H. Merthe
Mose Wilder .....	Cigars-Retail
Leonard Birch.....	American Lace Co.
Ralph Fay .....	Screw Machine Products
Carl Ingwer .....	Rubber Heels
George Brownell .....	Screw Machine Products
Earl Jenkins .....	Undertaker
Carl Brown.....	Printing
Charlie Mincks.....	Travel Sales
Gene Taylor .....	Capital Investments
Charlie Huff.....	Coal Agent
Howard Barbour .....	International Stone Co.
Harry Crandall.....	Jewelry
John Murbach.....	Ocean Travel Service
Jacob Murbach.....	Milling Company

George Philpott.....Shoes-Retail  
 Lawrence H. Webber.....Civil Law  
 Charles C. McDonald.....Elyria Canning Co.  
 H. Kellogg Day.....Talking Machines

Members added in 1919:

Edgar F. Allen.....Honorary  
 Alex Altfeld.....Iron/steel  
 Gerald Brown.....Farming  
 J. Frank Burke.....Newspaper  
 Frank Wilford.....Attorney  
 J. W. McHenry.....Meat Market  
 L. Cuthbertson.....Lorain County Electric  
 J. C. Crisp.....Chamber of Commerce  
 Oscar Haserodt.....Optometry  
 Brackett Hecock.....Lumber-Retail  
 Dr. W. H. Hull.....Orthopedic Surgeon  
 W. E. Gray.....Enameled Products  
 Dr. Wm. B. Hubbell.....General Medicine  
 Charles L. Smith.....Savings Deposit Bank  
 Seth Shunk.....Food Products-Wholesale  
 E. J. Strickland.....Insurance Agent  
 Arthur L. Patrick.....General Phonograph  
 George Worthington.....Golf Ball Mfg.  
 Glade Thomas.....Bedding-Retail

New members 1920:

Lee Stroup.....Judge  
 John Britton.....Electrical Contracting  
 Ed Donnelly.....Ladies Wear  
 George Stevens.....Alloy Engineering  
 Frank A. Smith.....Surety Bonds  
 A. Williamson.....Carpet-Retail  
 Eric Chapman.....Asst. Postmaster  
 A. J. Smith.....Auto Repair  
 Cliff Wise.....Automobile Sales  
 R. S. Silsbee.....Architecture  
 R. D. Perry, Jr.....Screw Machine Products  
 J. W. Worden.....Surveyor  
 Howard Morgan.....Agricultural Implements  
 Earl Bell.....Men's Wear  
 Deane Burns.....Chemical Manufacturing

New members 1921:

William O. McClellan.....YMCA  
 E. F. Allen.....change to active  
 George Gill, M.D.....Eye Ear Medicine

John Britton .....Electical Wiring Contracting  
 Herman Dutter .....Telephone  
 Tom Cook .....Children's Vehicles  
 Henry Therman .....Electrical Contracting  
 Art Giles .....Band  
 Vic Woodward .....Theaters  
 Walter Roe .....Electrical Appliances

New members 1/1/22 to 4/30/22:

Carl Crispin .....Unknown  
 Lew B. Fauver .....Corporation Attorney

March 1922 was the membership high mark for this period at 77.

This concludes the list of known members for the first years. The above roster may be incomplete by a few names from mid-1921 to April 1922 as notes were sparse in the meeting minutes during that time.

## Chapter Two

May 1, 1922 to April 30, 1925

RALPH B. FAY – SECRETARY

With the formative years behind them, Elyria Rotarians settled into a more defined mission. The first four years of trial and some errors narrowed the focus to civic improvements and children's needs, especially underprivileged boys of the city. Membership settled into the sixty number area and remained at that level for years. Rotary did attract the most influential men of the town, resulting in the continuing prestige of being a Rotarian.

As a preface to this chapter, it would be good for present day Rotarians to understand the historic power bases of the town. For the first sixty years, the Ely family controlled the economic structure of the area now bordered by Detroit Road on the north to Route 10 on the south. As land was sold off and developed, the Ely family influence diminished. The period from 1870 to 1910 was dominated by the industrial rise of Elyria from a few mills to substantial factories.

The first major factory was the Elyria Tap and Screw Company, later renamed Western Automatic, and now the Moen Corp. This pioneer company spawned the many machine screw and spring manufacturers Elyria has had for the past century. The Fay brothers, Winslow L. and Willis W., were inventive and astute. Winslow patented the invalid chair concept, still a thriving business locally with Invacare. Willis salvaged the troubled Tap and Screw Company and later was a principal in the Perry-Fay Company.

Other leaders in manufacturing were A. L. Garford, R. D. Perry, George Worthington, W. B. Timms, Frank A. Smythe, Fred Colson, David Troxel, and Edgar F. Allen. The power structure of Elyria remained in their grasp until the second decade of the twentieth century when the downtown merchants and professionals emerged as a dominating force.

With that background, it can be seen the formation of Elyria Rotary fell to the hands of Elyria's foremost citizens. These men soon recognized the worth of Rotary and became members or were represented by their right hand men.

Ralph B. Fay, the second Secretary of Elyria Rotary, was born in 1880 in Elyria. He was the son of Willis Wirt Fay. Willis was sales manager of Western Automatic in 1906 when he left to form the Perry-Fay Company, a competing machine screw business. R. D. Perry, Sr. was President, Edgar F. Allen, Vice-President, and Willis Fay was Secretary/Treasurer. Ralph B. Fay was office manager of the company when he joined Rotary.

Little else is known of Fay's background. In 1920, he resided at 219 8th Street with his wife Margaret, who was known to the club as Marjorie. It is apparent he left the Perry-Fay Company soon after joining Rotary because his classification changed to Life Insurance. He was no longer listed in city directories after 1925, and most likely left town.

His handwriting is quite legible, and entries are mostly more complete than Hindman's. It seems the RAM-ROD newsletter was not issued on a regular basis during Fay's term, and some of those were co-authored or totally written by Jim Thomas.

The primary civic project during this time was co-operation with the YMCA, building a cabin at Camp Iss-See-Kes, and encouraging aid for needy boys. The Gates Hospital visits and Oberlin Children's Home picnics continued, and substantial contributions to the Crippled Children's Society were made. Rotarians dominated the Community Chest fund drives, promoted Halloween activities, and became quite involved with the city administration.

Elyria Rotary, by use of resolutions and strong suggestions, made recommendations to the city government much in the manner of a community development department. In an unofficial way, Elyria Rotary also took over many of the activities of a chamber of commerce because of the demise of the Elyria Chamber for a couple of years. Members were instrumental in re-organizing and re-opening the agency.

Fellowship and social events continued to be important parts of the Rotary year. Singing and musical instrument programs by members and touring professionals were often the feature of a meeting. When a speaker did not appear, the musically talented of the club filled a delightful half hour with an improvised program.

The Rotary family picnic became the social event of the summer. Rotarians and families held the picnic, complete with games, music, and contests at a Lake Erie shore resort or the boy's camp on the Vermilion river. Work sessions at the camp were followed by a picnic supper and, occasionally, an official Rotary meeting.

Economic conditions affected local business and, therefore, Rotary membership. The deep post-war recession of 1921/22 caused the membership high of 77 to drop to the lower sixty count during this time. Job changes also resulted in loss of classification, termination of membership, and, in some cases, the need to re-apply.

As we review the minutes of Ralph Fay, a narrowing of focus and a tightening of qualification for membership will be noted. Classification and attendance rules of Rotary International were more strictly enforced during this period of consolidation.

A chronological review of significant dates and events of the Ralph B. Fay era of Elyria Rotary from April 1922 to April 1925 follows. This part of the history is taken almost word for word from the meeting minute book of Ralph Fay because no other references can be found:

- April 27, 1922--Officers elected:
  - George Philpot.....President
  - James Hewitt.....Vice-President
  - Ralph B. Fay.....Secretary/Treasurer
  - A. Lincoln Werner .....Sergeant-at-Arms
  - William O. McClellan.....Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
- Committees for the year named, Program, Constitution review, Finance and Budget, Ram-Rod, Fellowship and Greeters, and Stunt or Pep committee. Fay to be paid \$25 per month secretary fee.
- May 2, Special fund to be raised by subscription from members of \$1,500.00 for the YMCA boys' camp and \$300.00 for the fellowship fund. Ralph Murbach spokesman for the boys' camp.

- May 9, Elyria will be in the newly created 21st District, the northern one half of Ohio. Elyria had recommended a no vote for the change because of the connections with the Ohio Crippled Children's Society. Theodore E. Smith of Akron, Elyria's choice for District Governor.
- June 26, Treasurer authorized to remit to Rotary International \$2.25 per member for semi-annual dues and subscription to *THE ROTARIAN*.
- \$500.00 authorized for the camp fund "when funds are available."
- Picnic for Oberlin Children's Home to be held at Cascade Park, Wednesday afternoon, July 12. Fireworks will be provided for the children at Gates Hospital on the 4th.
- July 18, District Governor visit. Introduced by Sam Squire.
- August 15, Club invites District 21 to hold the conference of Presidents in Elyria on October 11 and 12.
- October 31, \$25.00 authorized as Rotary's share of the Halloween celebration.
- November 21, Winfield Scott Hall of Northwestern University speaker at joint meeting of Rotary, Kiwanis, and Exchange Clubs. Rotary sponsored the evening meeting.
- December 29, Directors voted to pay Ram-Rod editor \$100.00 for work until May 1, 1923. An additional \$500.00 voted for the YMCA camp fund.
- February 13, 1923, Donated \$150.00 to the Community Chest.
- February 14, Directors call for all service clubs to join together to function as a Chamber of Commerce. Kiwanis and the Exchange Clubs endorsed the move and offered support.
- April 10, \$160.00 in the Boy Scout fund returned to the general fund because there was no Scout organization in the city.
- April 17, Seventeen names nominated for nine board seats for the club year beginning May 1, 1923.
- April 24, Additional \$308.00 donated to the YMCA camp fund, a total of \$1308.00 for the year collected from members as the "special 1922 fund." \$261.66 from the special fund went to the fellowship committee in addition.
- April 19, Officers elected for 1923-24:
  - Frank Shelton.....President
  - Thomas Cook.....Vice-President
  - Ralph Fay .....Secretary/Treasurer
  - Lincoln Werner .....Sgt-at-Arms
- April 28, Directors decide every member to serve on a committee for the year. Committees listed were: Education, Crippled Children's Work, Boys Work, Better Business, Community Interests, and Entertainment. Ohio Public Service was asked to change the large sign in downtown to read "BOOST ELYRIA." The *RAM-ROD* was to publish a description of Elyria Rotary's territory and a list of available classifications.

- May 1, Additional committees named, reception or greeters, and constitution and by-law revision. Publication of *Ram-Rod* approved for coming year.
- June 12, Secretary Ralph Fay to represent Elyria at the International convention in St. Louis.
- June 25, Elyria Postmaster requests the club favor half day delivery on Saturdays. Directors approve provided one full delivery is made. Bill for Rotary International convention expense of \$82.00 for Fay approved.
- July 6, Special 1923 fund established at \$1,000.00 to be used for Boys Work and also \$4.50 per member be paid to the Ohio Crippled Children's Society from that fund. Pledge cards to be given to members at the next meeting.
- July 10, Directors voted to dispense with the *Ram-Rod* until some future date. It was noted a complete file of all *Ram-Rods* was saved by the Secretary and no other official records of meetings have been made.
- (Weekly meetings were reported in minutes from July 17, 1923 to April 28, 1925. Apparently no weekly bulletin was issued during this time.)
- July 31, 1923, Mayor Asoph Jones spoke on "What's wrong with Elyria."
- August 7, Rev. John Grant led a memorial service for Rotarian Warren G. Harding, President of the United States, who died on August 2, 1923. "Inspiring address."
- August 14, Annual Family picnic to be held at the boy's camp on August 22 to see the works being done there. Committee formed to sell Red Cross Christmas Seals.
- August 21, Edgar Allen announced to the board that a meeting of the International Society of Crippled Children would be held in Elyria on September 25 and 26. An evening Rotary meeting should be held on the 25th so guests could make up.
- September 11, Guest speaker, G. W. Dudderer from the Lorain Chamber of Commerce, urged a renewal of the Elyria Chamber rather than being the responsibility of service clubs.
- September 11, Board meeting. Pianist hired to play for meetings. \$2.00 per week and a free lunch. Moved to assess each member \$1.00 for the expense for the District Conference.
- September 18, Attendance contest. Two groups to compete, loser to furnish dinner. All clubs in the District competing to increase attendance.
- September 25, Evening meeting with all delegates to the International Crippled Children's Society. Entire proceedings taken by a stenographer, and a copy is in the Elyria files. 59 Elyria Rotarians, 61 guests, including Paul Harris, President Emeritus of Rotary International.
- October 23, Report of the Halloween committee, cost to be \$25.00. Request for special badges for those with 100% attendance was accepted.

- November 21, Meeting held at the Elyria High School Technical building with the dinner and program planned by the "Rotary Anns." Rotarians took part in a "district school" with Betty Burns as teacher. Considerable amusement for the rest of the club.
- November 27, Members attended a dinner given by the Community Chest for workers. All were given credit for the meeting. \$150.00 given by Rotary to the fund, members to be assessed.
- December 4, Howard Barbour at the piano, songs for the day were: "Jimmy Johnson" and "Who Tied the Can on the Old Dog's Tail?"
- January 4, 1924, New Years Eve party with District Governor Sam Siddall of Warren as guest. 94 members and guests attended the party which was held at Alber's Villa. Many "stunts," good meal, and a rousing talk by the District Governor. A grand time.
- January 15, Directors meeting. Discussions with Captain Jeffries of the Salvation Army regarding needy boys of the city. Added emphasis by Rotary International on classification was noted, and a committee was formed to meet requirements.
- January 29, Directors meeting. Need to raise dues and the initiation fee was raised to \$25.00.
- February 19, Business meeting of the club to vote on dues increase and other matters. It was voted to raise the dues to \$50.00 and no "special funds" be assessed during the year. An annual charge for lunches of \$50.00 was also passed so the effective cost would be \$100.00 per year to be a member.
- March 4, Resignation of President Frank Shelton because of his new position in Springfield, Ohio. Tom Cook named "acting" President for the balance of the year to May 1.
- March 25, Herman Adler and J. Warren Sterling from the "Abie's Irish Rose" company were guests. Adler sang some numbers from the production including his compositions. All were invited to the Rialto Theater to see the show.
- April 1, Regular meeting at which several District questions were voted on. Delegates to the District Convention at Lima and the Ohio Crippled Children's Conference were named. The Boys Work committee sponsored the program, an exhibition of the boys' gymnastics and swimming classes performing.
- April 8, A race around the meeting room on scooters donated by Tom Cook of the Colson Company. Members were judged in some manner not explained, and the two winners took home the scooters.
- April 15, Election of officers for 1924/25:
  - Tom Cook..... President (declined for business reasons)
  - James Thomas..... President
  - Link Werner..... Vice-President
  - Adelbert "Deb" Robson..... Sergeant-at-Arms
  - Ralph B. Fay..... Secretary/Treasurer



- April 22, The club books and records were overflowing and a new cabinet was authorized. The boy's work committee expense for the year was \$400.00.
- May 13, Jim Thomas "in the chair" for the new Rotary year. Committee formed to go over the traffic ordinance to be submitted to city council for adoption. Treasurer's report for the previous year showed total receipts of \$3,399.10 and expenses of \$2,625.47.
- Disbursements were: Rotary International \$348.98, Secretary's allowance \$325.64, Crippled Children \$435.00, and Boys Work \$400.00. *Ram-Rod* expense of \$112.00 for printing indicates a renewed publication of the bulletin.
- June 3, Presentation by the LaSalle Touring Opera Company with selections from the "Red Mill." Program followed regarding the construction of the new railway station on East Ave. and Depot Streets. 57 Rotarians in attendance.
- June 24, Committees for the year announced: Program, Fellowship, Public Affairs, Rotary Education, Boys Work, Publicity, Business Methods, and Crippled Children. Every member was assigned to a committee, the total count being 62 members and serves as a known roster for that time.
- July 1, The devastating tornado of June 28 in Lorain was responded to by Elyria Rotary with financial help for the Red Cross. Individual Rotarians were commended for their help after the disaster.
- August 26, Picnic for the orphans from the Oberlin Home held at Camp Iss-see-kes.
- October 28, A change in business connections caused the resignation of Past District Governor Sam Squire, and the club elected him President Emeritus.
- The minutes for the next three months indicate no special activities.
- February 10, 1925, District Governor Clarence Collings made his official visit and reviewed the club activities for the past year.
- March 17, George H. Ely II, a fifth generation descendant of Elyria's founder, gave a talk on the early history of the town. He would have been about 26 years old at the time and, like many of the Elys of the era, moved out of state to engage in business.
- April 21, Directors meeting. Election of officers for 1925/26:
  - Lincoln Werner .....President
  - Glade Thomas .....Vice-President,
  - James B. Thomas .....Secretary/Treasurer
  - Charles Sotherden .....Sergeant-at-Arms
  - Ralph Fay had resigned effective April 30, 1925.

Treasurers report for May 1, 1924 to April 30, 1925: total receipts of \$7,359.20 and a balance on hand of \$1,445.20. An item that had increased greatly was \$473.06 for programs for the year. The Crippled Children's Society and Boys Work continued to be the primary focus of the club.

This concludes the term of Ralph B. Fay as Secretary. It was not as eventful as the first four years. It was a time of continued support of programs of the previous era. Two

notable exceptions were the roll of Rotary as an acting chamber of commerce and the major input into city government. By close adherence to Rotary International's attendance and classification rules, the club became more stable. The rules were so rigidly enforced, that to become a member, one needed a strong sponsor. There were fewer parties, the most notable being the summer family picnic. Secretary Fay did not take a leading roll in club management but acted more as a recorder of the facts. However, he did maintain the continuity of the club and may have been just the settling influence needed at the time. It is interesting to note that Ralph Fay was the only Secretary that was never President of the club, and that Hindman became President twenty years after his term as Secretary.

Members added from April 30, 1922 to December 31, 1922:

Roy Hudson .....YMCA Secretary  
 Dow Baird.....Criminal Law  
 Dr. C. H. Pelton.....Hospitals  
 Joe Birdsell.....Accountant  
 Louis Chase.....General Phonograph

New members January 1, 1923 to December 31, 1923:

Wm. B. Timms.....Spring Mfg.  
 John Parsch.....Sash & Doors  
 Clayton G. Hall.....Telegraph  
 Todd Moise .....Real Estate  
 Harry Lindner.....Commercial Banking

Members added January 1, 1924 to December 31, 1924:

Cary C. Allen .....Furniture Retail  
 Rev Edwin Kirby.....Minister  
 Ernie Leedale .....Barber  
 George Bush.....Poultry Retail  
 Artemas Beebe.....Real Estate  
 Louis Heacock.....Florist  
 Philip Sherman .....College Professor  
 Harvey Hall.....Poultry Raising  
 George Collister.....Metallic Pack  
 Harry Howett.....Exec. Sec. Ohio Soc. for Crippled Children  
 Rev. William Auld .....Minister  
 John Whitney.....Men's Clothing  
 D. A. Heggie.....Sheet Music  
 William. H. Adams .....Natural Gas Service

New members January 1, 1925 to April 30, 1925:

Thomas Hutchings.....Women's wear



## Chapter Three

May 1, 1925 to December 31, 1929

JAMES B. THOMAS – SECRETARY

The influence of strong leadership, economic conditions, and Rotary International all had an effect on Elyria Rotary, and changes can be noted almost yearly. The period from 1925 to 1935 was one of economic well being to chaotic depression. By 1925, the recession early in the decade had been replaced with what is now referred to as the roaring twenties. Good times can be related to Rotary membership numbers and the amount of money spent on civic projects. From 1931 to 1935, both suffered because of the economic depression.

On May 1, 1923, a constitution revision committee was appointed, consisting of Howard Morgan, Oscar Haserodt, and Secretary Ralph Fay. The object was to adhere more closely to Rotary International rules than had been practiced by the Elyria Club previously. Among other things, attendance and classification were not strictly administered, according to Rotary International rules. The revisions to the constitution were adopted by the club on February 19, 1924, to be effective starting May 1, 1924. The more defined objects and obligations had a solidifying effect during Jim Thomas's term as Secretary.

A review of the constitution gives us a better understanding of the requirements at the time. There were two types of membership—active and honorary. Active was defined as a proprietor, partner, officer, or manager of a worthy business. Only men of good character, who had total control of a business, could be invited to join. Active membership was to endure for as long as the person remained with the same business concern.

A second active or additional active to the classification was allowed, however, the candidate had to be with the same concern and be an equal partner or high officer. If the original active member was terminated, for any reason, the additional active was also terminated. The second active could re-apply, if the classification was open, and was not required to pay an additional entrance fee. The only exception to protected classification was for clergy and new paper owners of the area. Any number could be members.

Honorary membership could be voted for a person who distinguished himself by some meritorious service. An honorary could not vote nor hold office, paid no dues, and held no classification.

Attendance rules were to be strictly enforced. Missing four meetings in a row or attending less than 60% during a six month's period was cause for termination, unless excused by the board for sufficient reason. Make ups, six days before or after a missed meeting, were begun.

Other items of interest included the territory of the Elyria Club, which was all of Lorain County, except the city of Lorain. Nominations for the board were to be made thirty days prior to the annual meeting, the third Tuesday in April. The new board was to meet within one week to elect the officers for the year. Board meetings were to be held monthly on the first Tuesday.

Another constitution review committee, consisting of chairman Harvey Cheney, past President Dow Baird and Secretary Jim Thomas, further defined membership, classification, and attendance rules in an un-dated pamphlet. This is believed to have been

produced in 1929, according to past Secretary Bob Ohlemacher. The major change in this revision was the date for the annual meeting and the club fiscal year. Previous to this change, the club year started on May 1 and ended on April 30. The new rules, conforming to the Rotary International fiscal year, required the annual meeting to be held on the fourth Tuesday of May, at which time the election of board members was to be held. The new officers were to take over on July 1. This change started in 1929 or 1930.

James Hewitt was President in 1929/30, and Frank Wilford served in 1930/31. It would seem one of the two held office for fourteen months to align with the new fiscal year.

Many of the 1929 constitutional changes had to do with mandated standing committees. These were to be: Aims and Objects, Vocational, Club Service, and Community and Boys Work. Sub-committees under Club Service were to be: Classification, Membership, Program, Fellowship, Education, and Public Relations. Detailed guidelines were spelled out for each committee.

A comparison of the number of clubs is noteworthy. When Sam Squire took office as Governor of District Ten, there were 34 clubs in Ohio, and Elyria was the only club in Lorain County. The 34 clubs doubled within four years so that Ohio was divided into two districts, Elyria re-aligned into the 21st District. In 1918, when Elyria joined Rotary, only nine countries and territories were represented. By 1936, there were almost 4,000 clubs in the world, 2,500 of them in the United States. On January 1, 1995, there are over 27,000 clubs in 150 countries.

In 1926, the meeting place was changed from the YMCA to the Newell Hotel on Broad St. The Newell later became the Graystone Hotel. Sometime prior to December 6, 1932, the meetings were moved to the Elks Club Restaurant.

Membership records show the following: 7/15/25 - 57 members, 9/1/25 - 51 members, 7/6/26 - 56 members, 7/1/27 - 59 members, and 7/1/28 - 71 members. The numbers indicate enforcement of attendance rules in 1925 and improving economic times late in the decade. Membership numbers for 1929 to 1935 will be reported later in this writing, but will show a decline because of difficult economic times.

### **JAMES B. THOMAS, SECRETARY**

James B. Thomas was born on January 8, 1881 in Lynchburg, Virginia. The family came to Elyria in 1895, his father being employed at the Lorain Johnson Steel Company. Thomas attended Elyria High School and graduated from Cornell with a degree in civil engineering. He worked at the Wharton Steel Company in Philadelphia from 1904 to 1909. He moved to Elyria to join the Garford Manufacturing Company. He had married Katherine Garford, the daughter of Arthur Garford, in 1908. The connection to Elyria was to continue for the rest of his life. From February, 1949 to August, 1955, Thomas wrote a weekly column for the Chronicle-Telegram on the history of Elyria. All of these columns were published in his book, *DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS IN ELYRIA*.

Thomas joined Rotary in 1918 with the classification of Alloy Manufacturing. At the time he was Secretary/Treasurer of the Electro-Alloys Company, a Garford owned concern. It was located on the north side of Taylor Street in the two buildings west of what is now Lear-Romec. Thomas was President of Elyria Rotary in 1924/25 and served as Secretary from 1925 to 1935. He died on July 23, 1956.

At the time of this research, no board minute records or complete collections of *Ramrods* have been found. A search of the Elyria Library and the Lorain County Historical Society

produced no additional information. However, enough material is available in a number of surviving *Ramrods*, letters, committee records, printed programs, and newspaper clips to make a reasonable review of the era from 1925 to 1935.

**ADDENDUM:** In late June 1995, a post binder was located which is the complete Treasurer's reports of Secretaries Ralph Fay and James Thomas from May 1922 to June 1935. In addition, the binder contains attendance reports and membership rosters for much of the period. A thorough review of the information does not alter in any significant way the accuracy of the information of this history although month to month financial reports give a more in depth picture of some of the activities of the period. About 12 previously unlisted members were found, however, the men seem to have been short time members and classifications are unknown. The binder has been placed in the archives safe room at The Elyria Manufacturing Co.

Officers for 1925/26 were:

A. L. Werner.....President  
 Dow A. Baird.....Vice President  
 James B. Thomas .....Secretary/Treasurer  
 Charles L. Sotherden .....Sergeant-at Arms

A complete listing of all members on January 1, 1926 follows. A \* will indicate the name not being on a previous list of members.

Edgar F. Allen.....Crippled Children  
 Alex Altfeld .....Iron & Steel Scrap  
 \*Eldon D. Adams .....Education–Public Schools  
 Dow A. Baird.....Criminal Law  
 Artemas Beebe.....Real Estate  
 \*Howard H. Benham.....Insurance–Casualty  
 Carl Brown.....Printing  
 Dean Burns.....Chemical Mfg.  
 \*Harvey C. Cheney.....Corporation Law  
 \*Robert C. Clapp.....Iron Castings  
 George Collister.....Metallic Packing  
 Charles J. Crehore .....Lumber–Retail  
 Ernest J. Crisp.....Laundries  
 H. Kellogg Day.....Music Instruments  
 Herman O. Dutter .....Telephone Service  
 \*Frank Eckler.....Savings Banking  
 Arthur E. Giles .....Bands  
 Dr. George Gill.....Eye Ear Medicine  
 Harvey H. Hall .....Poultry Raiser  
 Clayton G. Hall.....Telegraph Service  
 Albert M. Hannaford.....Hardware–Retail  
 \*Robert B. Hand.....Enameled Ware Mfg.  
 Oscar Haserodt .....Optometry  
 Louis C. Hecock .....Florist–Retail  
 \*David A. Heggie .....Sheet Music  
 James A. Hewett .....Appraisal Service  
 Jay E. Howenstine.....Security Brokerage  
 Harry A. Howett .....Crippled Children

Dr. W. B. Hubbell .....Surgeon  
 Dr. Lynn H. Knapp.....Osteopath  
 \*Elmer Love .....Life Insurance  
 Charles A. Lozier.....Flower Grower  
 W. O. McClellan .....YMCA  
 Howard J. Morgan.....Agriculture Implements–Retail  
 Ralph Murbach .....Coal Dealer  
 Dr. George Nicholas .....MD General  
 John C. Parsch .....Sash & Door Mfg.  
 A. J. Robson.....Milk–Retail  
 Walter C. Roe.....Electrical Equipment–Retail  
 Charles H. Savage .....Jewelry–Retail  
 Charles L. Sotherden .....Fire Insurance  
 Samuel H. Squire .....Financial Banking  
 \*Edgar E. Stark.....Electrical Engineer  
 Glade B. Thomas.....Bedding Retail  
 James B. Thomas .....Alloy Steel  
 Charles E. Tucker .....Oil Products–Retail  
 \*Russell Waldorf.....Automobiles–Retail  
 Lawrence H. Webber .....Civil Law  
 John W. Warden .....Civil Engineer  
 A. L. Werner.....Tailoring–Mens  
 Mose G. Wilder .....Cigars–Retail  
 Alex Williamson.....Carpets & Rugs–Retail  
 V. O. Woodward.....Theaters

The 1925 to 1930 Rotary years saw the continuation of support for the Crippled Children’s Society, the Community Chest, and boys work with the YMCA. After almost a year of no bulletin, the club publication, *Ramrod*, was re-instated. The first issue was dated June 1, 1925. Gates Hospital visits, and Christmas parties for the children at the Lorain County Home in Oberlin and Gates patients were continued. The Rotary family picnic, annual recognition of the club’s founding, and ladies nights were held.

A student loan fund was established in August 1925. It was designed for Elyria college students, whose parents could not afford the costs. A maximum loan of \$250.00 was available. The student had to show need and academic excellence. The account was funded by the club with \$750.00, and within a year, four students had qualified. The fund was augmented by the club from time to time, and pay backs from students kept it going into 1933.

Elyria Rotary was instrumental in the building of the YMCA boys Camp Iss-see-kes. The location was west of Amherst, one half mile north of the Mill Hollow bridge. Rotary, starting in 1921, paid for road improvements, cabin construction, and some general upkeep. A major contribution was the erection of Rotary Lodge, at a cost of over \$3,000.00, a tidy sum at the time. The building was 120’ long and 40’ wide and could accommodate 120 people. The lodge was divided into a kitchen, dining room, and recreation hall. In a big brother sort of arrangement, Rotarians sponsored needy boys at a cost of \$10.00 for a week at the camp. 50 to 60 boys were sponsored each year.

Month to month events from May 1925 to April 1929 are sketchy, however, highlights from news articles and other sources indicate a continued well being of the club. In 1926, it

was reported that a clinic was held at Gates Hospital and 120 crippled children were transported by Rotarians. A news article, dated 6/16/27, listed some Rotary projects: band concerts in Ely Square, placing a tablet listing World War I dead in the square, and bringing the U. S. Marine Band to town for two concerts, at a cost of \$1,500.00. The memorial boulder and plaque remain in Ely Square today.

The ninth birthday party of the club was held on Wednesday, April 6, 1927, at the Elyria Country Club. The members of the two year old Lorain club were invited as guests, and the program was a combined club minstrel show. A riotous production included the Lorain Rotary quartet, Elyria Rotary Orchestra, chorus renditions, comedy skits, and solo numbers. A contest between the two clubs' chorus versions of "Sweet Adeline" was judged by the crowd. The winning prizes were a prescription, donated by Lorain President Bill Whearley, and a certificate of police protection, given by Elyria President Dow Baird.

A membership roster dated 7/1/27 includes these new names:

- Rev. William Muir Auld.....Religion (First Congregational Church)
- Jack E. Flynn.....Tires-Sales (Eldotread Co.)
- W. N. Harding.....Brass Foundries
- W. N. Hathaway.....Hotel (Hotel Newell)
- Dr. Cyrus O. Jaster.....Medical Service-Eye Ear
- Joseph M. Kiss.....Investment Banking
- John R. Mannix.....Hospital (Elyria Memorial Hospital)
- Roy J. Miller.....Country Club (Spring Valley Land Co.)
- Robert T. Moore.....YMCA
- Dr. John P. Rankin.....Medical Service-Psychiatry
- Rudolph Siegfried.....Bakelite Products (General Industries Co.)
- Walter B. Underwood.....Crippled Children Society

The *Ramrod* of 12/6/27, with Jim Thomas as editor, called attention to attendance, a code of ethics, open classifications, and some bits of philosophy, "Every man decides for himself whether he will die old at forty or young at eighty." "The woman who has a model husband is very fortunate-especially if he is a working model." "If you arrive, the world doesn't care when you started nor how hard the trip was."

A booklet, dated 11/15/27, is a complete roster of members with classifications and home and business addresses. Additions to the previous list are:

- Dr. Clarence Barrett.....County Health Commissioner
- Dr. S. F. Basinger.....Obstetrics
- James Guthrie.....Communications Equipment
- Earl Jenkins.....Funeral Director
- Morris Knapp.....Automobile Mfg. Falcon Motors
- Walter S. Kohn.....Gasoline Distributing
- Frank T. Page.....Hot Air Furnaces
- S. B. Pfau.....Automobiles-Retail
- Rev. Edward Reilly.....Priest St Agnes Church

The *Ramrod* of February 7, 1928 featured coming events, including the Tenth Anniversary celebration plans. A Past Presidents' day was held that day with first President, Frank Shelton, as principal speaker. A history of the organization was given by Ben Hindman and printed in this issue. A review of all officers from 1918 to 1928 was listed. Past Presidents and Secretaries are printed in present directories, however, a list of Sergeants-at-



Arms is of interest. They were:

1918 to 1920.....C. W. Phillips  
1920 to 1922.....R. B. Fay  
1922 to 1924.....A. L. Werner  
1924 to 1925.....A. J. Robson  
1925 to 1926.....C. L. Sotherden  
1926 to 1929.....R. B. Hand

The tenth anniversary celebration was held on April 11, 1928 with a tri-city meeting and program at the Elks Auditorium. The Lakewood and Lorain clubs joined Elyria for an evening of fellowship, a rousing address by Toledo Rotarian, Past District Governor Ed Kelsey, and a minstrel show, billed as the Rotary Frolic. Musical offerings were by the inter-club orchestra, choruses, and soloists. Tricks, stunts, and comedy routines abounded.

A special edition of the *Elyria Chronicle-Telegram*, dated 4/11/28, was devoted to Rotary and Rotarians, from local to International. Noted were the 2,796 Rotary clubs, and the first use of the Rotary Wheel, with the Key-way, in advertising by local members. Attendance at the celebration, including members and guests, was: Elyria 140, Lakewood 80, and Lorain 70. District Governor Charles Starkey and guests from Cleveland and Toledo were also in attendance. Toastmaster was Past District Governor Sam Squire, and welcoming all was Elyria President, Larry Webber.

Copies of the program and the newspaper special edition are contained in the Elyria Rotary archives.

Included in the *Ramrod* of July 3, 1928 was a financial report for the previous year. The income was \$3,394.12, mostly from dues and initiation fees. No fund raising projects were listed, indicating special funds were donated by members for some on-going civic needs. Major expenses listed were: Scholarship loan account \$529.98, Crippled Children \$399.82, boys work \$335.50, and Rotary International \$417.75. The June 30, 1928 balance was \$3.86.

A roster, printed January 15, 1929, lists the following new members and a total of membership of 70:

Dr. Ralph Bevard.....Dentistry  
Dr. Thomas F. Cushing.....Urology  
James E. Davidson.....Truck Farming  
Rev. William C. Fowler.....Church of Christ  
Arthur W. Kimball.....Land Development-Spring Valley  
William L. Palm.....Gas Service

Officers for 1928/29 were:

Deane Burns.....President  
James Hewitt.....Vice-President  
James Thomas.....Secretary/Treasurer  
Robert B. Hand.....Sergeant-at-Arms

A financial statement for 1928/29, dated June 30, 1929, listed club income of \$3,317.32, expenses of \$3,176.34 and an overdraft of \$2.67. The year end balance was \$138.31. Contributions for the year included R. I. dues of \$416.70, scholarship loans of \$487.80, crippled children \$344.28, boys work \$298.97, and the Community Chest \$150.00.

The final source of information for the decade is a roster, printed on August 1, 1929.

Officers were:

James Hewitt.....President  
Charles E. Tucker .....Vice-President  
James Thomas.....Secretary/Treasurer  
William N. Harding.....Sergeant-at-Arms

Rotarians joining since the last roster were:

Walter Ayres .....Life Insurance  
William E. Dengate.....Men's Clothing  
George E. Gould.....5&10 Cent Store–Woolworth Co.  
Sidney R. Nichols.....Funeral Directing  
Clarence G. Peters .....Ice Cream Distributing  
Arthur Robinson.....Elyria Savings & Trust Company

This concludes the known history of the club to 1930. No attempt has been made to list when members were dropped. A card file is located in the archives with some additional information on most members including classification, sponsors, and termination date. In a number of cases, members dropped out and were re-instated at a later date, however, the membership count for each year is accurate, according to Secretary reports.



## Chapter Four

January 1, 1930–June 30, 1935

JAMES B. THOMAS – SECRETARY

The market crash of October 1929 had little effect on most people at the time, however, the monetary well being of businesses deteriorated rapidly in 1930 and 1931. Accounts receivable went unpaid, causing a domino effect from large companies to small business men. In the depth of the depression, in 1932 to 1935, unemployment was as high as twenty-five percent, banks closed, and people spent what little they had for food and shelter. The effect on Rotary was most noticed in resignations for lack of money to support their membership. With those conditions in mind, the well being of Rotary was severely taxed for the next five years.

The *Ramrod*, dated March 18, 1930 was filled with the push for Elyria's Lawrence Webber for District Governor. A letter from Lorain's Secretary, H. I. Covault, told of their support for Webber. An "On to the 21st District Convention" committee was named for the May 1st event in Cleveland. Lawrence Webber was the successful candidate for Governor and served for 1930/31. In the same issue of the *Ramrod* was this observation by writer, Jim Thomas, "The future of Elyria Rotary is either in the enlistment of the entire membership in the present routine objectives, which to some have become monotonous, or in the development of a few newer objectives."

Apparently a questionnaire had been given to members at some time, and the back page of the bulletin asked four questions, and gave some of the answers. "What have you received from Rotary?" "What have you given Rotary?" "What do you think Rotary has given to Elyria and the world?" "What is your conception of Rotary's future?" The answers given could be printed today and still be true. In 1930, the population of Elyria was 25,633, and in the June report to the District Governor, membership in Rotary was counted at 70. The report had the following information: attendance for the previous year was 86.94%, club dues were \$40.00 per year, and the entrance fee was \$25.00.

Financial numbers showed a general fund balance of \$138.31 and a scholarship fund of \$2,800.00. Slow growth of the club was explained as being limited by dining room capacity. Hotel (Newell) plans to enlarge same. Directors limited the club to 75. Will add 25 easily when we can accommodate same. The report generally showed the club as being well run and, except for a crowded meeting room, would be growing.

The *Ramrod* of October 14, 1930 listed the following officers:

Frank Wilford.....President  
Dr. Ralph Bevard .....Vice-President  
James Thomas .....Secretary  
Walter S. Kohn .....Sergeant-at-Arms  
William N. Harding.....Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms

Speaker for the day was Dean Francis S. White from the Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland. An inter-city ladies night meeting for December 12 was announced, with Lorain and Vermilion to travel to Elyria for the event. The *Ramrod* had this final word: Patient:

“Doctor, I’ve got a splinter in my finger!” Rotarian Sam Basinger: “What have you been doing--scratching your head?”

Tuesday, April 21, 1931, was past Presidents’ day with Dow Baird as chairman. Almost 100% attendance was noted. “A pleasant time was had by all, both ‘razors and razees.” “The key-note is fellowship and we have it in full measure.” The District Conference in Canton, set for April 30 and May 1, was to be the final official act of Elyria’s Lawrence Webber as District Governor.

Tribute was paid to Edgar Allen, for ten years of service to the Crippled Children Societies, and the recognition of Elyria’s part in the international program. A message from International President Al Roth addressed the problem of older clubs. “Some day we must have a satisfactory procedure for the retirement from active membership, of those who have long and worthily held their classification in the club, so that younger men may be substituted in such classifications.” It took seventeen more years for elective Senior Active membership to be practiced in the Elyria club.

The *Ramrod* for Tuesday May 2 listed 19 nominations for 1931/32 directors, ten to be elected. The *Ramrod* of the following week announced the following for the coming year:

Dr. Ralph R. Bevard.....President  
Walter S. Kohn.....Vice-President  
James Thomas.....Secretary/Treasurer  
Arthur E. Smith.....Sergeant-at-Arms

The above were also listed as voting directors. An appeal was made to the membership to make sure dues were paid before the end of the fiscal year, June 30. With the financial difficulties of the country deepening, some members were un-able to pay. The roster, printed on July 1, 1931, included 73 names, some in arrears in dues.

New members added:

Earl D. Bacon.....Chamber of Commerce  
King Fauver.....Patent Law  
Earl C. Greenland.....Cement Distributing  
Ervin A. Hamilton.....Automobiles–Distributing  
Fred J. Heavens.....Telephone Equipment  
Edmund L. Hukill.....Bus Transportation  
Clinton J. Krantz.....Hardware Distributing  
Harry A. Lattin.....Women’s Clothing–Mfg.  
George Livingston.....Carbonated Beverages  
Clyde A. McMillen.....Oil Well Drilling  
J. A. Mason.....Service Station  
Edward G. Mathews.....Sign Mfg.  
Harry L. Reynolds.....Crane Mfg.  
Alex C. Schilleman.....Public Accounting  
Charles F. Yeager.....Cemeteries

A financial report for the year July 1931 to June 1932 shows total income of \$2040.60 and expenses of \$2039.55.

Major outlays were: R. I. \$431.35, Secretary expense \$375.00, crippled children \$161.00, and boys work \$250.00. Donations to the Community Chest and Halloween parade were half of previous years. The account showed a balance of \$8.92, including carry over from the previous year.

The *Ramrod* of Tuesday, July 12, 1932, included a report from Edgar F. Allen as Elyria's delegate to the International Convention. International President Clinton P. Anderson is quoted, "We can see ahead of us the necessity of careful planning and hard work, no club can coast on its past momentum." Another item in the issue was the annual golf tournament, to be held on July 20, with Rotarians from Lorain, Vermilion, and Lakewood attending. Committee assignments for the year were printed.

The same issue gave an accounting of the scholarship loan fund. It was described as "a major activity of Rotary with little noise and advertising." Eight college students were in the program, with \$2,775.00 loaned, \$980.00 paid in, \$1,145.00 due, and \$650.00 not paid. The fund balance was \$219.64.

Officers for 1932/33 were:

Walter S. Kohn.....President  
William O. McClellan.....Vice-President  
James B. Thomas .....Secretary/Treasurer  
George Livingston .....Sergeant-at-Arms

The only new member added since the previous list was:

C. Joseph Miller.....Optometry

The *Ramrod* of Tuesday, December 6, 1932, is the first to list the Elks Club as the meeting place. The program for the day was the ladies luncheon, with Art Giles directing chamber music. A stamp album, with many stamps mounted, was presented to the children at Gates Hospital to "stimulate the minds of the shut ins." Members were encouraged to contribute unusual stamps. Members were also reminded of a new year approaching and the need to have dues paid, so the club could clear up several obligations.

Tuesday, March 28, 1933. It was announced the fifteenth anniversary party would be held on April 5th at Spring Valley, 6:30 P.M. Guests were encouraged, the cost \$1.50 per person. The depression was at the bottom, and this paragraph was meant to give hope for recovery. "When the pendulum has swung and we look back, how much better will it be to say; well, I hung on to Rotary through it all." Letters in the archives from a number of members offered their resignation. These were not acted on, as their names continued on committee lists.

The next two *Ramrod* bulletins carried the same theme of "things will get better," however, the fifteenth anniversary party was postponed and finally canceled due to the "exigencies" of the times. Dues invoices were to be mailed out for the last quarter with this plea: "Owing to the banking situation, part of our funds are restricted." Rotary International obligations were un-paid. The Elyria club dues were reduced from \$10.00 to \$5.00 for the last quarter, and the luncheon cost was also lowered to encourage attendance.

In reading letters in the archives, one gets the idea that some of the more well off Rotarians were making anonymous donations to the club, and that attendance reports placed a number of members as on leave of absence rather than having resigned.

Officers for 1933/34 were:

William O. McClellan.....President  
Frank Hoover.....Vice-President  
James B. Thomas .....Secretary/Treasurer  
George W. Livingston.....Sergeant-at-Arms

Attendance reports from June 1933 to June 1935 showed a steady drop in membership from 61 down to 50. The *Ramrod* of April 11, 1933 was the last professionally printed bulletin during Thomas's term. The next known *Ramrod* is dated July 16, 1934, and was a hand lettered 8 1/2" x 11" sheet run off on a duplicating machine. The August 7 issue was the same format, except the message was type-written. Starting on October 2, 1934, the *Ramrod* was pre-printed on the address side with a one column masthead and the motto "He Profits Most Who Serves Best." The Rotary wheel, used for the logo, still did not have the key-way.

Officers for 1934/35 were:

Frank Hoover.....President  
William F. Gollmar .....Vice-President  
James Thomas .....Secretary  
George W. Livingston.....Sergeant-at-Arms

As no board minutes and an incomplete set of *Ramrods* are the only reference available for the 1934/35 year, this study will be somewhat sketchy. The July *Ramrods* highlighted the crippled children's visits, a joint Rotary, Kiwanis meeting at the Hotel Newell, and a joint golf outing the following day. The program for August 1 was an an inter-city golf party with Lorain, Vermilion, and Lakewood.

After over a decade of being the President of the International Society for Crippled Children, it was announced that Edgar F. Allen was stepping down. The *Ramrod* stated: "The work will continue to go on in the years to come. The corner stone still is the keystone of the foundation."

The typewritten bulletins contained some rather well done drawings during the year, and the Elyria Lumber Company "press" was given credit for the printing. Attendance and dues reminders were prominent. Most programs were by members, and any leftover time was spent in recounting fish stories and other vacation experiences.

The program for September concerned some of the monetary changes going on to help the country come out of the depression. Described were the gold standard change, what the new dollar is, managed money, how the commodity dollar works, and other related topics. These were difficult times, but new hope was in the air. Cyril Bath, of Cleveland, was the speaker. His speech gave a lift to the club.

A club roster was printed on October 16, 1934 and had names not listed before:

Paul M. Gentzel .....Electric Construction  
Clifford A. Harrold .....Drugs-Retail

William H. Spencer .....Insurance  
 George L. Weller.....Machine Shop  
 Dr. Frank R. Dew.....County Health Service

Additional names added by June 30, 1935 were:

Mark Willis.....Optometry  
 Harry Burr .....Jeweler  
 Andrew Thompson.....Crippled Children  
 Rev. Edward J. Bond.....Protestant Minister  
 Kenneth Botamer.....Flowers–Distributing

The death of Artemas Beebe was announced on November 30. Beebe was the last member of the famous Beebe family, who had helped settle Elyria, starting in 1817. The early Beebe family had constructed the Beebe Tavern and later built the Beebe Hotel, on Broad and Court Sts. Artemas had been a Rotarian for ten years.

November 20 was the Community Chest Luncheon which counted as a regular Rotary meeting. The bulletin headlined, “Only one job this week..fill the Chest.” The *Ramrod* of 12/4/34 stated, “Elyria puts over the Community Chest. That is the news for the rest of Ohio to read; the old town is on the map again.”

The December 18 *Ramrod* had a number of drawings, and members were reminded to take a toy to the next meeting, for distribution to needy children. A payment of 25 cents would be collected from any forgetful Rotarian. Another reference to dues payments: Remember when you said, “When the banks open, I will pay up.”? Let’s make good on that remark.

A club meeting was held on Monday the 24th and admission was to be an honest to goodness Christmas wish for the chap next to you. The turn has come fellows! The message from District Governor Alva Gluck was, “Take this message as an expression of hope for your entire Rotary family and face the new year unafraid.”

The new year 1935 was showing signs of an economic recovery, and the January 15 visit by the District Governor was a 100% meeting for Elyria. Plans were under way for a thirtieth anniversary of R. I., in February. The growth of Rotary shown by these numbers: 3727 clubs in 82 countries, with 153,000 members.

The *Ramrod* for April 9, 1935 listed the program as Harvey Cheney, local attorney, speaking on County Management form of government. Cheney had been a member, and was chairman of the constitution revision committee in 1929. April 27 to May 4 was Youth Week. Elyria Rotary continued to sponsor boys to Camp Iss-See-Kes, and members also made weekly visits to Gates Hospital.

The April 30th meeting was a ladies night held at the Elks, and was also election of Directors for 1935/36. The officers for the next year were announced at the May 7 meeting:

William F. Gollmar .....President  
 Paul M. Gentzel .....Vice-President  
 William O. McClellan.....Secretary/Treasurer  
 George Livingston .....Sergeant-at-Arms

The final *Ramrod*, written by James Thomas during his ten year time as Secretary, was dated July 2, 1935. The final paragraph read, “The thanks of the club to the editorial and



publishing department of the Elyria Lumber Company for their services in getting out the *Ram-Rod* all these many months. Watch and see what Bill does and you will see the work it takes.”

Bill McClellan took over the difficult tasks of Secretary, Treasurer, and *Ramrod* writer for the next twenty years.

The period from May 1, 1925 to June 30, 1935 had been one of extreme change. From good times to difficult, yet a Rotary club in Elyria was never in doubt. Financial troubles reduced the number of members, but never seemed to reduce the feeling of fellowship. The continuity of strong officers gave the club the incentive to “Keep on keeping on.” As we move into the next era we will see a renewed vitality in outlook, and renewed contributions to the community.

## Chapter Five

July 1, 1935 to June 30, 1940

WILLIAM O. McCLELLAN – SECRETARY

The years from 1935 to 1940 were ones of slow economic recovery and a time of continued hardship for many people. The bright spot offered by Rotary was an opportunity for fellowship, the cement that kept the club going during the dismal 1930 decade. By 1935, government make work programs were beginning to give a lift to the spirit of hope to the people of the country. There was even some humor around. The agencies, WPA and PWA, were referred to as, “We putter around” and “Pop Works Again.”

Here in Elyria, failed businesses were on the mend, banks reopened, and, for some Rotarians, the annual vacation was resumed. By 1940, war storms and the resulting factory orders brought new life to the community. Programs that had been abandoned or put on hold by Rotary were being revived, and the boys work and crippled children committees were once again allotted funds for significant contributions. One such program was the student loan fund. All but terminated in 1932, except to collect from previous recipients, the fund was resumed in 1934. A report on the project will be given later.

The period was one of improving membership numbers also. An all time low of 47 members in 1934 advanced to near 70 by the end of 1939, due in some part to the reinstatement of previously dropped members. Attendance was never to get above the lower 25% of the clubs in the District, and dues payments were slow to be paid, although much better than early in the decade. Aging of founding and early members was beginning to be felt in the roster. Retirement and death took a toll. The turnover rate was also greater than the normal ten percent, more in the 20% area. New members were listed one year and disappeared the next.

Another development, because of low and aging membership, was the rapid rise from new member, to a board seat, to being an officer. Nevertheless, by 1940 the club was healthy, growing, and showing a renewed vitality.

The fragile financial condition of the club remained because the only income was from dues, and all social events were expected to break even. No outside fund raising projects were attempted. Rotarians participated in every community betterment program from the Chamber of Commerce to city government. Fund raising for the Community Chest, Red Cross, the Tuberculosis Society, and YMCA were carried out by individual Rotarians.

We can be grateful today for a Rotary archives saved by Secretary McClellan for his twenty year era. A year by year file contains board minutes, an almost complete set of *Ramrods*, financial reports, District Governor and International newsletters, and letters addressed to the board by individual members. Accurate reporting of the era and a sense of knowing the past members is the result of McClellan’s foresight.

Bill McClellan came to Elyria from out of state and was employed by the YMCA as director of boys. He joined Elyria Rotary in late 1922 as an additional active to YMCA General Secretary, Roy Hudson. Hudson had succeeded L. B. Hindman when Hindman took

employment in Virginia. McClellan was an active member from the start, serving on a number of committees and being directly involved with Rotary boys work and Camp Iss-See-Kes. He served on the board and was: Sergeant-at-Arms, Vice-President, President in 1933/34, and Secretary from 1935 to 1955. Following his last year as Secretary, he served as District Governor.

In 1936, McClellan left the YMCA and was employed by the Elyria Board of Education, his classification then being changed to Public School Education. The club newsletter, *Ramrod*, was a reflection of the writer, usually the Secretary. The professionally printed issues had the editor's name in the masthead, while most duplicated editions were unsigned, the style was evident.

During the last year of Jim Thomas's era, the *Ramrod* had three authors. Thomas wrote with a mix of information, humor, and a chatty manner. McClellan alternated with Charlie Crehore, of Elyria Lumber, to produce the bulletin when Thomas was not available. For a number of years, the *Ramrod* was printed on Crehore's duplicating machine from stencils done by Thomas, and then McClellan and Crehore took on the task.

The July 1935 attendance report showed two new members and seven being dropped. Some of the dropped would return in later years, but the club total was at a low ebb during that month.

New members joining in 1935/36 were:

E. J. Bond.....	Minister
Henry Luethi.....	Chamber of Commerce
Neely Powers.....	Institutional Equipment
Marion E. Whitman.....	General Merchandise
Malcolm H. Forbes.....	Dentistry

The membership on June 30, 1936 totaled 50

A chronological report of 1935/36 follows: McClellan took complete charge of writing the *Ramrod*, a pre-print one column of the masthead and meeting information on the address side, and type-written weekly reminders on the other. McClellan's style was brief and to the point.

The financial report, for July 1, 1934 to June 30, 1935, gives an indication of the hard times. Total income for the period was \$1,510.35, including \$64.75 collected on past due dues, and \$500.00 transferred from the scholarship fund. After paying Rotary International dues, Secretary allowance, and internal costs, little was left for donations. About half of the outside expenditures was for previous pledges, some of which were not satisfied until following years. Boys work, the Community Chest, and Easter seal funds were at a minimum. The *Ramrods* for July headlined the District Governor's visit and the inter-city golf outing, with Elyria hosting at Spring Valley. Again, dues payment and attendance needed prodding.

The August 6 *Ramrod* urged attendance at the Gates Hospital pool dedication, on the next Sunday, and the annual Rotary visit to Elyria Memorial Hospital. It was reported Elyria came in dead last in an attendance contest with four other clubs. Also mentioned, were the singing canaries and a ringing telephone in the meeting room at the Elks.

August 13, Sam Squire left Elyria to become Superintendent of Ohio Banking and was awarded an honorary membership in the Elyria club, a distinction he held for the rest of his life.

The September 3 *Ramrod* had a tribute to Edgar F. Allen's wife, Blanche. "It is with much sorrow that our club heard of the death of 'Mother' Allen, and the club feels a great loss in her passing from our midst." A letter is on file in the archives from Allen acknowledging the kind thoughts of the club, and signed "Daddy."

Tuesday, September 7, was to be a busy one for Rotarians. The program for the day was Congressman D. W. Harter at noon and a trip to Akron that evening, to honor Rotary founder, Paul Harris. Although not a District function, many clubs were represented at the Akron banquet.

Starting with the October issue, and continuing for some time, the *Ramrod* was no longer printed on the address side, and the message was hand lettered.

Two away meetings were held in October: a tour of the Ohio Public Service generating plant in Lorain, and on Thursday, the 31st, Elyria conducted a complete meeting for the Cleveland Rotary Club. Called the club exchange, it gave other clubs a chance to share ideas and fellowship. November 11, Dow Baird, Past President of the club, was congratulated for winning the Mayor's race in Elyria. He was the third Elyria Rotarian to hold the office. The board authorized 15 YMCA memberships for needy boys, continuing a program started fifteen years earlier.

Tuesday, December 17, was the annual children's party at Gates Hospital, each member took a toy as a gift. The former District Governor of Michigan, C. W. Otto, gave a rousing address at the luncheon. New name badges were distributed.

December 31 was the annual son, daughter meeting, the suggestion: bring your own or borrow one. An appeal to invite qualified prospects for membership was made, and the usual request for dues payment was highlighted.

The program for February 11, 1936 was the Oberlin College debate teams. The topic was, "The rights of the Supreme Court of the U. S." There had been an attempt to pack the Supreme Court with six additional members. The attempt had failed.

Two inter-city meetings were on the schedule, one at Vermilion, the other with Lorain. The student loan committee had been revived and was commended for a "fine piece of work."

March 3 carried reminders of the coming District Conference at Canton, with no registration fee, and the Rotary International convention, June 22-26 at Atlantic City.

Other March *Ramrods* featured a "special meeting" at the Elyria Country Club to present Edgar F. Allen with an Honorary Life Membership and an engraved Rotary card.

J. C. Penney was the guest of Mike Whitman, his nephew, at the March 17 meeting. Penney returned to Elyria several times to address the club and guests. Improved economic conditions were indicated by this bit of enthusiasm, "the Elyria club is on the go."

The *Ramrod* was again pre-printed on the address side, and the copy indicated a fair number of members were going to the District Conference. Makeups, from out of town and

out of state, were noted in larger numbers. Vacations and business trips, postponed before, were becoming affordable.

New officers for 1936/37 were announced at the May 12 meeting:

Paul Gentzel .....President  
Karl Plocher.....Vice-President  
William O. McClellan.....Secretary/Treasurer  
George Livingston .....Sergeant-at-Arms

Four new members were introduced. The final Ramrod of the club year promoted a successful student loan recipient as speaker for the day. July 2 was Rotary day at the Great Lakes Exposition in Cleveland. All Rotarians were invited to attend. This was Bill Gollmar's last meeting as President.

The financial report for 1935/36 was probably the lowest in income and expenditure ever. Income totaled \$1,211.21, \$70.00 of this was the initiation fees for seven new members. Small donations, of about \$10.00 to \$20.00, were the extent of Rotary's contributions to continuing programs. Exceptions were \$170.00 to the Community Chest and \$75.00 for boys' YMCA memberships.

The 1936/37 Rotary year started with every member being assigned to a working committee and Paul Gentzel "in the chair." Reminders of dues payment and a slipping attendance indicated a continuing problem. Meeting duration was shortened for the summer months. The speakers for August 11 were two Elyria boys that had been sponsored by the club for the Boys State program. One was Bill McClellan's son, Billy, and the other was Leonard Moody.

The August 21st meeting was on a Friday at Elyria Memorial Hospital for a crippled children's rally. All clubs in District 21 had representatives on hand to discuss further help for the children of the state. Edgar F. Allen presided.

The events of September 1936 included a visit from the District Governor, a report on the scholarship loan fund, and a discussion about a division of Rotary District 21.

Regarding the loan fund, even with the difficult times, the results showed the worth of the program. A few numbers tell the story. On January 1, 1932, notes for loaned funds totaled \$2,682.24. New loans were resumed in 1935. Seventeen students had been helped.

November 10 was ladies night at the Oberlin Inn. A sizzling steak, a one act play by Oberlin College players, and music by conservatory students were enjoyed by all. The cost was \$1.00 per person, and guests were welcome. Plans were well along for the annual Christmas party for the children at Gates Hospital.

The new member list by January 1, 1937:

Roy Clymer.....Physical Training  
Worth Fauver.....Corp Law  
Lawrence C. Meredith.....Eye Ear Medicine  
Ike Faxon.....Public Service  
Andrew Ormsby.....Trade Associations  
J. Martin Beck.....Public School Music  
J. D. Severs.....Education-Secondary

Our first Secretary, L. Ben Hindman, was re-instated with the classification of Health Associations. For the next few years, he occasionally wrote the *Ramrod*.

The redistricting of northern Ohio was approved a by majority vote of the clubs, with Elyria again opposing the move. Our club preferred to remain in the same district with its historic partners, Lakewood and Cleveland. Elyria would be included in the north west District 21A, the boundary being at the Cuyahoga County line. After the Rotary International convention, our District number was changed to 157. Many new clubs had been formed in northern Ohio with Lorain County adding Amherst and Oberlin in 1938.

February 23 was the anniversary of Rotary International, and the speaker for the day was Past Governor, John Bentley, from Cleveland. Bentley had been instrumental in organizing the Elyria Rotary Club in 1918.

The District Conference was scheduled in Youngstown on May six and seven. The split in the district would necessitate the election of two District Governors.

The boys work committee reported fifteen YMCA memberships had been given to needy boys, and the summer camp program at Iss- See-Kes would include over fifty boys.

It was pointed out Easter Seals were available, and Elyria Rotarian, Andy Thompson, was in charge of national sales. The first Easter Seals were printed in Elyria at Wilmot Printing.

The March 30 *Ramrod* announced a suggested change in the club by-laws affecting election of board members: nine members to be elected, three for three years, three for two years, and three for one year. In the following years only three would be elected, so a system of continuity would prevail. The amendment passed the following week.

The April 5 issue of the *Ramrod* was the 20th anniversary number. It listed the charter members, dates of early events, and contained a two page review of the club's past twenty years. The issue is unsigned, but is in the style of first Secretary Ben Hindman.

Another activity of the anniversary time was a group photo of the club taken on the steps of the court house. The photo is undated, however, all are wearing top coats and hats indicating cooler weather of early April. A bill from noted Elyria photographer Charles W. Scheide in the amount of \$11.95 for 19 copies of the print is dated May 13, 1938. A copy of the photo is in the archives.

Other April *Ramrods* promoted the Youngstown District Conference, and Elyria's support of Lorain club member, Harold Covault, for District Governor of the newly formed District. Elyrians were also invited to join the Cleveland club's travel group to Nice, France for the Rotary International Convention. The rate from Cleveland, including side trips to Paris and England, was \$522.15.

An interesting exchange of letters was made between Secretary McClellan and the Washington headquarters of the FBI. McClellan requested a supply of booklets, "The Federal Bureau of Investigation," and "The Selection and Training of Personnel." A reply signed by J. Edgar Hoover indicated 53 copies of each were sent. No example has been found in the archives.

Officers for 1937/38 elected on May 4 were:

Karl Plocher.....President  
Ralph Murbach .....Vice-President  
Bill McClellan.....Secretary/Treasurer  
George Livingston .....Sergeant-at-Arms

Lorain's Harold Covault was the successful candidate for District Governor.

Programs for May included a movie, "How to break 90 in your golf game," Ed Bang, sports editor from the Cleveland News, the annual visit to the power plant in Lorain, and a talk by Sam Squire, State Director of Banking. June, the last month of the Rotary Year, included a golf outing and pleas for dues payments.

Two additional member names were added since January:

Harley Stevick.....YMCA  
H. Rea Selby.....Production Manager (Colson)

Membership on July 28, 1936 was 47, on January 12, 1937 was 53, and on July 1, 1937 had dropped to 50. The financial picture for 1936/37 was about as dim as the previous year. Income \$1,255.41, disbursements \$944.13. Contributions for the year went to the YMCA \$50.00, Community Chest \$60.00, and four miscellaneous donations totaled \$30.20. The carry over balance of \$311.28 showed up in 1939 being used for increased community benefit.

The Rotary year of 1937/38 saw further economic improvement, however, the club was saddened by the death of Edgar F. Allen, fondly called "Daddy." The first indication of his ill health was noted in the *Ramrod*, dated Tuesday, August 17, 1937. He had been in Cleveland and was well enough to be moved to his home in Elyria. He died on Monday, September 20, 1937. His only survivor was his son, Frank B. Allen, engaged in a manufacturing concern in Philadelphia. Letters of condolence and resolutions of his unselfish work for crippled children were received by our club from many Rotary Clubs he had worked with. The newsletter from the Rotary International Secretariat, dated September 30, 1937, devoted a quarter page to his memory, the final paragraph reading, "It is a great satisfaction to Daddy Allen's many friends to know that his memory will be perpetuated through the continuation of the splendid work which he initiated."

Another development in 1937 was the change of territorial limits of the Elyria Club. Elyria was the pioneer Rotary club in Lorain County, the second being Lorain in 1926. On December 23, 1937 Elyria relinquished all county territory previously held to allow a new club to be formed in Amherst and paved the way for Oberlin to be chartered in 1938. The Amherst club started with a membership of 25, and the charter night celebration was held on January 17, 1938.

The July 20 *Ramrod* had notice of the first known club assembly, which was to replace the regular noon meeting routine. Committee chairmen were to have reports ready.

The same issue reported that Ralph Murbach was a grandfather. The club golf tournament was held on July 30 at the Elyria Country Club, with all nearby Rotary Clubs invited. Green fees and dinner, \$2.75, including tax. Dinner only-\$1.25. August 17 was the

annual summer meeting at the Elyria Hospital, followed by visit with the children at Gates Hospital.

A series of safety reminders and slogans were printed in most issues of the *Ramrods* in July and August. Events of the next few months included: participation in the Community Chest Drive, a new roof on Rotary Lodge at Camp Iss-See-Kes, work on the Red Cross fund, and the Halloween parade.

November 2 was the District Governor's visit, and November 9 was the ladies party at the Oberlin Inn. The program for the evening was the Oberlin College Glee Club followed by sound movies of wild animal life. Cost-\$1.00 each, including a fine dinner.

On December 21 the following joined the club:

Raymond J. Williamson.....Elyria Coca-Cola  
Howard Gollmar .....Elyria Foundry  
Joseph Q. Petro.....Law

\$24.00 had been chipped in for the children's party at Gates Hospital, and it was noted that Elyria would supply two programs in January for the newly formed Amherst Rotary Club.

The program for January 4, 1938 was Dorothy Fuldheim, brilliant scholar and world traveler; ladies welcome to the meeting. The speaker for January 18 was Cameron Beck, director of the New York Stock Exchange. Kiwanis and other groups were invited to hear this outstanding authority.

The March 15 *Ramrod* announced the twentieth anniversary of the Elyria Rotary Club would be celebrated at the April 5th meeting with charter member, George Nicholas, in charge. Also announced was the District Conference to be held in Marion on May 16, 17. The Rotary International convention would be held in San Francisco. Oberlin became the fourth Rotary Club in Lorain County on charter night May 25, 1938, former Elyria Rotarian, Dr. Frank Dew, the first president of the club. Elyria was also in the process of extending a club in Medina.

The May 25th *Ramrod* announced two events: a ladies night party to be held on June 1 and a joint service club day at the YMCA camp on June 8. The afternoon would give members a chance to see the camp program and would be followed by an evening supper.

Officers for the 1938/39 year were elected:

Ralph Murbach .....President  
Mark Willis.....Vice-President  
William O. McClellan.....Secretary/Treasurer  
George Livingston .....Sergeant-at-Arms

New members joining in 1937/38 were:

Roy Hultz .....Furnace Distribution  
Burton I. Ohlemacher.....Screw Machine Parts  
Wilber K. Jones.....Accountant Elyria Canning

A roster printed in August 1938 listed some previously missed names and classifications. Their induction date is unknown

Melvin Green .....Patent Attorney



Vincent Walsh .....Banking  
Pierre R. Smith .....Investments  
Robert Jones .....Graystone Hotel

The financial report for 1937/38 includes receipts of \$1,992.22, of which \$1,262.00 was dues and initiation fees. Total disbursements were \$1,317.34 including Community Chest and YMCA boys memberships. \$711.74 was carried over to 1938/39.

The 1938/39 year started with a report to Rotary International of 57 members and one honorary, Sam Squire. By January 1, 1939 membership had risen to 63.

The first quarter of the 1938/39 issues of the *Ramrod* and board minutes indicate business as usual, attendance and dues reminders and interesting programs.

The September 28 *Ramrod* promoted a "Fall Festival and Outing" at the YMCA Camp Iss-See-Kes starting at 3:30 and supper at 6:30. A full afternoon of games and family fun was promised, to be followed by a brief program around the big fireplace. Music, stunts, and a good time for all, and just 75 cents per ticket. A footnote said there would be an informal meeting, at the normal noon time, at the Elks, for those not going to the camp, so their attendance could be counted.

The October 25 *Ramrod* had a paragraph regarding "civic responsibility" noting Elyria Rotarian, Harry Reynolds, is chairman of the National Community Chest Association, and Larry Webber is the local chairman for the year. Rotarians were also heading up the Red Cross campaign and the annual Halloween celebration.

The District Governor's newsletter reported Elyria 46th out of 48 clubs for attendance in September.

December 20 was the annual Children's party at Gates Hospital, gifts for the shut ins, Santa Claus, and Holiday songs by Rotarians. A teaser notice had been running to save the date of January 24 for a special event, and make sure the wife saves the date also.

Membership growth continued with re-instatements and new members:

Lewis D. Huffman .....Savings and Loan Co  
Lloyd Brown .....Duplex Foundry, Grey Iron

The promised January 24 event was a ladies night held at the Oberlin Inn, with President Ralph Murbach in charge of a "dandy program." This note in the *Ramrod*, "The Rotarian missing this party will have a hard time living with his wife for the rest of the year!"

A mid-year financial report on January 24, 1939 indicated a slight increase in income and donations, although not approaching the highs of the late 1920's.

The program for February 14 was a panel discussion of suggestions from members for the good of the club and the city. One question debated was, "Should the city buy the old fairgrounds on Third Street?"

An on again, off again program of having Rotarians sit at the President's table on a rotating schedule was being tried.

Friday evening, April 21, was a gala celebration of the club's twenty-first birthday, the coming of age. Held at the Oberlin Inn, 142 people were in attendance, including members

of surrounding clubs. A silver covered program listed the events of the evening: the introduction of charter members and a presentation of pictures by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Four charter members were listed as deceased: Charlie Lozier, Louis Martell, Charlie McDonald, and Charlie Tucker. Only five of the original twenty were still members: Jim Hewitt, Ben Hindman, Ralph Murbach, George Nicholas, and honorary member, Sam Squire. Twenty-six other previous members were also listed as deceased. Dow Baird was the only deceased Past President.

May 1939 included the annual golf tournament, election of directors, and plans for the Rotary International Convention to be held in Cleveland June 19-21. Elyria Rotarians gave talks at the convention on the student loan project and the history of the Societies for Crippled Children. Bill Gollmar and Bill McClellan were selected as Sergeants-at-Arms for the convention, and Ralph Murbach and Mark Willis were delegates.

The June 13 *Ramrod* listed the new officers for 1939/40:

Mark S. Willis.....President  
J. D. Severs.....Vice-President  
William O. McClellan.....Secretary/Treasurer  
George Livingston .....Sergeant-at-Arms

Two new members had been added since January:

Lawrence E. (Dooley) Deetz ..Automobile Retailing  
H. Hodgson.....Electric Equipment

The financial report for 1938/39 showed income of \$2,618.25 and disbursements of \$2,058.70, with a carry-over of \$569.59. The ladies night, 21st birthday party, and golf tournament were subsidized by 50%, and Rotary International dues and convention costs continued to be major outlays. Donations included \$225.00 to the lodge roof repair, \$80.00 boys' YMCA memberships, and \$105.00 in other donations.

Membership on July 1, 1939 was 63 plus one honorary. Installation of incoming officers for 1939/40 was delayed until July 18 because of vacations. The original typewritten installation address by outgoing President Ralph Murbach drew attention to the growth of the past year, the outstanding programs, and poor attendance record of the club. Ralph also called for the appointment of a club historian. "One of the treasures of a club like ours should be its records. It is regrettable to report that previous to the present Secretary the club records are either meager or non-existent." A copy of the address is in the archives.

Two important items to this history should be pointed out at this time. Ben Hindman, the club's first Secretary, was appointed historian in 1939 and did collect much information from 1918 to 1935. His collection of early *Ramrods* and a wealth of material regarding the Crippled Children's Societies are safe in the archives because of his work. Everything prior to 1935 would have been lost except for his foresight.

The other conclusion has to do with Secretary James Thomas. Thomas resigned on June 30, 1935 and was succeeded by Bill McClellan. A 1936 *Ramrod* mentioned Thomas being quite ill, but no further explanation, and he was dropped from the club in 1937. At the board meeting of September 11, 1939 a report was given on Thomas's health, and again no description of the illness was given. Present day members indicate he was an invalid, but

no cause is known. We conclude from this, his papers from 1925 to 1935 were never saved. The remaining archives from the era were collected from other sources.

The summer of 1939 was somewhat uneventful, a golf outing was postponed, attendance fairly good at meetings, and mention of Ralph Bevard playing the piano for song leaders, J. Martin Beck and Howard Gollmar. The world war situation was the topic of some programs and articles in the *ROTARIAN* magazine.

The last three months of the year saw more activity: the Halloween parade, Red Cross drive, The Community Chest, and the annual visit to Gates Hospital.

Additional members added:

James A. Sharkey .....Rivet Mfg  
Theodore F. Schilling.....Furnace Mfg  
A. Edward Hudson .....Hospitals  
Edward C. Carlson.....Air Conditioning Mfg

The year 1940 started with announcements of cancellations of Rotary International meetings and conventions because of the war. Also a warning was issued from R. I. regarding scam artists with stolen Rotary identification asking to have checks cashed while visiting clubs.

Inter-city meetings and a variety of programs kept the club active during the winter and early spring. April 1940 was busy, a ladies night on the 17th, nominations for directors for the following year were made, and a number of Elyria Rotarians attended the District Conference in Lima. The speaker for April 16 was J. C. Penney, the topic, "Opportunities of Men." Many guests and visitors that day.

The only new member added since January was:

Lester Harding.....Brass Mfg.

Officers elected were:

J. D. Severs.....President  
Worth Fauver .....Vice-President  
William O. McClellan.....Secretary/Treasurer  
George Livingston .....Sergeant-at-Arms

There were 64 members on the roster on July 1, 1940.

## Chapter Six

July 1, 1940 to June 30, 1945

WILLIAM O. McCLELLAN – SECRETARY

The war in Europe was spreading rapidly, while relations with Japan were deteriorating. The effect on Rotary International was quickly felt. Clubs in Europe and Asia were abandoned for the duration, the Netherlands being the first country in Europe to be lost to Rotary International. As an industrial town, Elyria prospered during the war, but gave patriotic support in every way.

The population of Elyria in 1940 was 25,150 and would grow quickly to 30,000 by war's end with the influx of out of state workers. In 1941, the Bendix Westinghouse plant was completed on Cleveland Street, and, in 1943, the Ridge Tool Company re-located from a smaller plant in North Ridgeville to the seventeen acre site on Clark Street.

Smaller local factories expanded, and a number of one and two man machining enterprises were started. By war's end, over 80 manufacturing companies, large and small, were in production for the war effort. Made in Elyria products included truck brake systems, wheel chairs, ammunition, barracks furnaces, tools, and chemicals.

Rotary clubs in the United States were not affected directly by the war, but membership numbers and attendance fell. Elyria followed the national pattern, attendance in the mid 70% area. The average membership was about sixty, including honorary. Life went on though, civic projects, golf tournaments, inter club meetings, and an occasional party.

It had become apparent the Elyria club was aging, the number of early members disappearing regularly from rosters since 1935. By the twenty-fifth anniversary party on March 31, 1943, only five of the charter members were still active. They were Hannaford, Hewitt, Hindman, Murbach, and Nicholas. Five others were deceased, and the remaining ten had retired, or moved out of the area. The anniversary program also listed 34 deceased previous members, many that had joined the first year, 1918.

The five year period, 1940 to 1945, was not the best time to regenerate the club, and board minute references indicated a reluctance of many men to join. Elyria Rotary had become an older man's club with little direct benefit to the community. Less than \$200.00 per year was being spent, from the club budget, to help the needy.

The *Ramrod* re-affirmed tight circles of factions within the club. Fishing and golfing pals and the feeling of reserved seating at meetings are noted. Of the 58 members on December 31, 1941, only three were of military age. They were probably over 40 years old as two of them assumed the rank of major, and the other, lieutenant. Joining th military were: Roy Hultz, Robert Jones, and Dr. Ray Novotney. They were elected honorary members during their war service.

Adding to the difficulties were war-time rules regarding attendance of those engaged in critical industries. Such things as travel restrictions and food service for the Rotary noon meals also caused problems. By 1943, any member with a factory, producing war materiel, was automatically excused from attendance rules and counted present for every meeting.

Merchants and professionals attempted, unsuccessfully, to get on the list, further dividing the factions.

Conventions and conferences were discontinued in 1944 because of travel restrictions, eliminating other fellowship opportunities. Food service at the Elks meeting room was a cause of dissension and, eventually, a move to the YMCA. The traditional noon meal was more of a dinner: meat, potatoes, and dessert, but, because of war rationing, it became a light lunch. The Elks' attitude was, "take it, or leave it." Eventually, the club decided to leave it.

The minimal club contribution from the general fund to good works was offset by a great deal of pressure for individual members to give to various Rotary projects. A "good Samaritan" plate and a penny pig were passed at every meeting. Avoiding the word, assessment, pledge cards were used to pay for Camp Iss-See-Kes improvements, Community Chest and Red Cross drives, and YMCA boys' memberships. To some it was a burden.

The July 9, 1940 *Ramrod* gives us an example. The club members donated \$400.00 to help electrify Camp Iss-See-Kes, and trustees of the YMCA invited Rotary to a dedication dinner as their guests. The \$400.00 had been collected as a "special fund."

A program was started by Rotary International to place children of Rotarians, in war torn countries, in homes in the U. S. Students and refugees, with no way to return to their homes, were invited to live with a temporary Rotarian parent. A later *Ramrod* reported interest in the program, but no other information on the project has been found.

The last six months of 1940 and the first part of 1941 were uneventful with no unusual new projects. Membership numbers fell, and attendance was a continuing problem. Traditional activities were carried out, but no expansion is noted. Halloween, Gates Hospital visits, and boys work seemed secondary to a good program after a satisfactory lunch.

The only new member added from July 1 to December 31, 1940 was:

Paul Hines.....Heavy Chemical Mfg.

With the arrival of spring 1941, there seemed to be rise of spirits in the club. That feeling was helped by the upsurge of business and manufacturing. Sobering though were programs by people returning from war zones, bringing the message of dismal defeats of the allies and the suffering of whole nations.

New clubs were being chartered, including Huron in our area, and District and Rotary International. events gave incentive to our members to get more involved. A ladies night, on April 29, and inter-club meetings added to the social calendar. In an unusual move, the April 15 meeting was adjourned to the hospital in order to keep up patient, Art Giles,' perfect attendance.

New officers for 1941/42 were announced on May 13

Marion E. Whitman .....President  
Howard C. Gollmar.....Vice-President  
William O. McClellan.....Secretary/Treasurer  
Raymond C. Novotny .....Sergeant-at-Arms.

Thirty Elyrians planned to go to the District Conference in Sandusky. The annual golf tournament, with nearby clubs invited, was held on June 10.

Two new members added were:

T. J. Mattingly.....Protestant Minister  
Raymond C. Novotny .....General Medicine

The financial report for 1940/41 included receipts of \$1,830.20 and disbursements of \$1,591.60. Most contributions were in the \$10.00 to \$20.00 amounts, except for \$100.00 for YMCA Camp electrification and \$80.00 for boy's memberships. The ladies night party was subsidized by \$57.00. Membership on June 30, 1941 was 61 with no honorary members.

The board minutes of 1941/42 show a renewed attempt to enlist new members, a new committee for "rural acquaintance," and patriotic involvement with the community in such things as scrap drives and government bond sales. Continuing unrest with the service and meal quality at the Elks was heightened by the rise to 60¢ for the noon lunch on August 1.

The August 12 meeting had two treats for members: J. C. Penney was the guest of the club and spoke on "Human Relationships." Of equal importance, according to the *Ramrod*, was serving salmon trout for lunch furnished by fisherman, Ray Williamson. It had become a custom for vacationing members to ship home part of the catch, perhaps in a bragging move.

In what could be called the start of two milestones for the club, the first fund raising project was announced, and Rotary was host to Elyria High Football players at a meeting. Speaker at the football meeting was then coach of Ohio State, Paul Brown.

As a civic event, the renowned violinist, Rubinoff, was sponsored for a recital with a Rotary guarantee of \$500.00. A profit from the event amounted to \$211.63. \$100.00 was donated to crippled children work, the balance to the general fund for other donations. Burton Ohlemacher was singled out for selling 13 tickets.

The December 2 *Ramrod* reported a 100% meeting, the first in years. Five make-ups were received, and it was assumed the un-reported make-up of a perfect attending member would come in. He was unable to make up, so the official mark was short by one. Later in December, the annual Christmas visit to Gates was made and \$50.86 was used to buy two radios and individual gifts for the children.

The only new member in the period was:

Denny Coughlin.....Troxel Co.

This paragraph in the January 13, 1942 *Ramrod* would be a forecast of things to come, 40 years later. "New committee: Dooley Deetz is chairman with Mike Whitman as the rest of the committee to meet with the general group in planning the drive for funds for the work in Infantile Paralysis." The Polio Plus campaign in the 1980's could easily be claimed as seeded by Elyria in 1942. We will watch developments as this archives research continues.

The first known Rural Urban program was held on January 27, the object to recognize the importance of farming in Lorain County. Each Rotarian had as his luncheon guest, a

member of the farming community to hear a presentation by an un-named agriculturist. The program continued for several years.

The months following were highlighted by speakers with war experience and general interest. The ladies night party, on April 15, had a new twist, the men starting the day with a fishing outing at Mike Whitman's lake off Gulf Road. The evening festivities at the Elyria Country Club included entertainment by the Elyria High School players club and the school choir. A fishing prize was donated by Ralph Murbach.

The May 19 *Ramrod* announced the officers for the following year:

Roy Clymer ..... President  
Lawrence E. (Dooley) Deetz ..... Vice-President  
William O. McClellan ..... Secretary/Treasurer  
Art Smith and Mike Whitman ..... Sergeants-at-Arms.

Membership on July 1, 1942 was 58. No new members.

The United States was, by this time, deeply in the war, and the effects were being felt in Elyria. Rotary programs focused on military personnel experiences, first hand accounts of civilian refugees, and explanations of war time controls of business and individuals. Labor and price policies affected most all Rotarians. Rotary spearheaded the placement of a plaque in Ely Park, honoring servicemen from Elyria. Civil defense activities were chaired by Rotarians.

Rotary International introduced a relief program to aid war displaced persons, and each club was asked to make a weekly collection. Elyria joined the program, donating part of the Good Samaritan money collected weekly. Money from the again dormant student loan fund was used to buy savings bonds for use when things got back to normal.

The December meetings were designated as service men's recognition, crippled children's party, and son-daughter day. Service men, home on leave, were frequent guests and many times told of their experiences in the military. Government sponsored speakers were available to encourage patriotic spirit and work.

New members added in the last six months of 1942 were:

Ellsworth R. Schneider ..... Life Insurance  
Harry Flynn ..... Trade Associations  
Harry Bemis ..... Drugs-Retail  
Ralph McQuot ..... Pumps Aircraft  
Rev. William Leath ..... Minister

The *Ramrod* of February 2, 1943 outlined the annual Rural Urban meeting which featured the senior Ohio agriculture officer, the topic was "Agriculture's War Production." Each Rotarian was assigned a farm guest and expected to pay the lunch cost. Thirty clubs in District 157 collected \$1,381.08 for the war victim relief fund. Elyrian Mike Whitman was on the district committee to re-do the rules for the selection of District Governor.

The silver anniversary of Elyria Rotary was celebrated on March 31, 1943 with Ralph Murbach as chairman. A very informative program was printed for the event, listing historical dates, charter members and officers' data, and a complete roster of the 1943 members and officers. An "in memoriam" section listed 34 previous members that were

deceased. Clubs from the area attended, and the principal address was given by past Rotary International President, Arch C. Klumph of Cleveland. Klumph was responsible for starting the Rotary Foundation. The topic was "Rotary Reminiscences." 172 members and guests attended, including District Governor Jule Bohn from Ashland. A copy of the program is in the archives.

The April 20 *Ramrod* announced the death of Past Governor Larry Webber. Webber had been the second Governor from Elyria, serving in 1930/31. For about three years, Webber had been staying in Toledo but remained a member of the Elyria Club. His make ups were noted in almost every *Ramrod* during the time. His death was described as sudden.

Officers for 1943/44 were announced on May 4:

L. Ben Hindman.....President  
Malcolm H. Forbes .....Vice-President  
William O. McClellan.....Secretary/Treasurer  
Arthur Smith .....Sergeant-at-Arms.

It is unknown why Dooley Deetz declined to move up to the Presidency from Vice-President, but the press of business is likely.

Ben Hindman, the first Secretary, left town in 1922 and returned in 1927 to re-join the club. He resigned again, in 1933, and returned a couple of years later. Hindman wrote the *Ramrod*, as a substitute, whenever called upon, and, during his term, inaugurated the President's message in the *Ramrod*.

Ben Hindman was charged with the task of writing a history of the club, and notes in the board minutes indicate he completed his work in 1944. The only known history of the club, up to the time of Bob Choate's work, is the hand written material covering 1918 to 1922.

The June 30 membership report listed 58 active and three honorary members.

New members in the previous six months were:

James McFarland.....Natural Gas Sales  
Dr. Charles B. Hess .....Home for the Aged

Kellogg Day was re-instated, in March, after having been out of the club for ten years.

The financial report for 1942/43 was much the same as the previous year excepting a charge of \$126.15 for speakers fees and meals. This was for the expense of paying touring speakers sponsored by the armed forces. Again, about \$200.00 from the general fund went for donations, the major portion of traditional gifts being by the individual Rotarians.

Before moving into the events of 1943/44, the difficulty of establishing exact times of new member induction should be pointed out. Prospective members' names and tentative classifications were published in the *Ramrod*, and, if no objection was raised, the prospect was asked to join. The same process is used today, but, at that time, no mention was made in the *Ramrod* or board minutes about the acceptance by the candidate. About half did not. By checking attendance reports and committee assignments, a reasonable deduction of new members joining can be made, however, there is a possibility of omission.



Two significant events took place in 1943/44, the meeting place change from the Elks Club to the YMCA and a \$3,000.00 project to supply water to Camp Iss-See-Kes. For some time, there was dissatisfaction with the Elks' menu which, because of shortages, had become a "dairy lunch" with an increase in price. A ballot was printed for Rotarians to vote on the move, listing sample menus: a pint of milk, graham crackers, Shredded Wheat or "Wheaties" breakfast cereal, and a variation of soup, sandwiches, baked beans, or chili con carne. A dessert and coffee were also included—the price 60 cents. The vote was almost unanimous to move to the YMCA, and the first meeting was there on October 5, 1943.

The only water supply for Camp Iss-See-Kes was pumped from a small spring and was barely adequate for kitchen use and an occasional shower. The Rotary plan was to erect a building for sanitary purposes and showers, the water being pumped from the Vermilion River. A septic system was included in the project. The cost of \$3,000.00 was to be raised over three years by personal pledges by members. A detailed four page project booklet, complete with drawings, was given to each member, one surviving in the archives.

The July 6, 1943 *Ramrod* listed the new officers for the year and also announced Grant "Ducky" Waddle from Sandusky as the new District Governor. The Governor would visit Elyria on August 31, so committee chairmen were asked to get moving. The program for September 7 was by Ike Trubey, new football coach at Elyria High School. Trubey remained as coach of the school for years, and many of us remember him as a hard nose but fair friend. Nationally known players from Elyria were coached by Ike.

Wednesday, the 8th, was a dinner meeting at Camp Iss-See-Kes, ladies and children invited, and held at Rotary Lodge at the site. The meeting was counted as official and, therefore, could be used as a make-up. President Ben Hindman continued his weekly observations in the *Ramrod*, giving credit for Rotarian's contributions, and urging attendance. Rules for attendance were frequently printed in the *Ramrod*.

An interesting note in a September *Ramrod* follows, "We regret the unpleasant occurrence at last week's meeting. Our speaker evidently forgot that he was addressing a group of gentlemen." The speaker was war correspondent Bruce Thomas from the San Francisco Telegram. No further explanation of the problem was noted except the remark, "only the second time in 25 years."

The year 1943 finished with the annual visit to Gates Hospital, with gifts for the children paid out of \$36.02 in donations collected at two previous meetings. Elyria Rotary's three members in the armed services were remembered with round robin letters signed by all Rotarians.

New members added were:

Robert Elzey .....Office Supplies-Retail  
M. Laur Mathews .....Labor Relations

The January 1, 1944 membership report listed 57 members plus four honorary, the three members in the armed services and Frank Wilford.

These remarks by President Ben appeared in the January 11 issue of the *Ramrod*, "The club will have as its guests next meeting, members of the Elyria Ministerial Association. The rough-neck section of our membership is asked to be on its good behavior for this one

meeting.” A ladies night party was announced for February 23, to be held at the Elyria Country Club.

March 14, 1944, the camp water improvement project was placed before the club asking for pledges over three years to raise \$3,000.00. Members were required to turn in their pledge by March 21. The committee in charge was Schilling, Williamson, Clymer, and Murbach. The response was announced on the 28th, 43 members had pledged \$920.00, and the remaining members were strongly urged to subscribe. By April 11, the fund was up to \$1,302.00, with still a few to pledge.

Newly elected officers for 1944/45 were:

Theodore F. Schilling.....President  
Lewis Huffman.....Vice-President  
William O. McClellan.....Secretary/Treasurer

The Sergeant-at-Arms was no longer one of the officers of the club but was considered to be a committee chairman. Pierre Smith was the Sergeant-at-Arms for 1944/45.

New members added in the first six months of 1944 were:

Ralph Standen .....Real Estate  
Edward C. Harr .....Furnace Mfg.  
Howard G. Gensert.....Drugs-Retail  
C. A. Gibbons.....County Schools Supt.  
Jule Bohn.....Education-Administration

Bohn had been a member of the Ashland club and was a Past District Governor. He took the job as Superintendent of Elyria City Schools and moved to Elyria.

The financial report for 1943/44 shows receipts of \$2,277.42 and disbursements of \$1,915.47 for the year. Donations to various projects amounted to about \$300.00 from the general fund, the major contributions coming from individual pledges. No outside fund raising projects were noted during the year.

The war news of 1944/45 brought feelings of hope for the end of hostilities, and plans for the post war period were being considered by the club. Also noted by June 1945, was a feeling of discontent in the club by some members and the board. The June 1945 board minutes included the line, “the whole situation of the club will be discussed at another meeting.” It was apparent that newer members had a greater voice than in past years, and the older members had receded in influence. The 1945 to 1950 segment of this review will show the results.

The July 25 *Ramrod* announced that the annual golf tournament would be held on August 1, and no noon meeting would be held. August 8 was scheduled as the District Governor’s visit, a new roster had been printed, and committee assignments had been made.

As a sign of things to come, sons of members were being invited to meetings, one of interest was Bob Ohlemacher, on August 22. Bob later joined Rotary and became President, Secretary, and a guiding force for many years. A discussion of ladies attending meetings as guests was resolved by finding no rule against the practice. Another attempt to move the club out of the 157th District was defeated, once again the newer members challenging the old timers.

The final *Ramrod* of 1944 was a recap of the children's party at Gates Hospital, \$74.00 in gifts presented. Un-dated photos in the archives seem to be from this party as those pictured were members at the time. The photos came from Pete Schilling's estate. It was noted that a new Rotary banner and American Flag had been installed at the meeting room.

Membership was 63 plus three honorary on January 1, 1945. New members added were:

Roy Daily.....Air Brake Mfg.  
Dick Burgess.....Accounting Service  
Fred Janes.....Building Materials-Retail

The January 16, 1945 *Ramrod* announced a policy of renewed enforcement of attendance rules and termination of the war work exemption. A later *Ramrod* contained this note of interest, "The 79th Congress of the U. S. has 21 Senators and 46 members of the house that are Rotarians." The 40th anniversary of Rotary International was observed on February 27 with a talk by Past District Governor and Elyria Rotarian, Jule Bohn.

March 13 was the annual Rural-Urban meeting, each Rotarian had, as his guest, a man of the farming community. The speaker of the day was the President of the Cleveland Stock Yards. The program from the event, which includes a roster of the club and the names of the farm guests, is in the archives.

Even though war travel restrictions were still in effect, the "out-of-towners" list contained a number of out of state visits by Elyrians. Because of the restrictions, the District Conference was canceled. A ladies night was held on April 18, cost, \$5.00 per couple. Rotary supported the clothing drive for war refugees, the final war time project of the club.

New officers for 1945/46 were elected by the board and announced as:

Ray Williamson.....President  
Ellsworth Schneider.....Vice-President

Both declined for "personal reasons."

Later elected were:

Arthur Smith .....President  
Burton I. Ohlemacher.....Vice-President  
William O. McClellan.....Secretary/Treasurer

The Rotary year ended with 62 members and three honorary. Two new men joined in the past six months:

Spurgeon Winter .....Gray Iron Castings Mfg.  
Hubbard Wilcox.....Civil Law

## Chapter Seven

July 1, 1945 to June 30, 1950

WILLIAM O. McCLELLAN – SECRETARY

This five year chapter in the history of the club could be titled “transition to a new era.” The difficult depression and war years left their mark on Elyria Rotary, the most notable being age and resistance to change. The post depression period, from 1938 on, saw few new members added; however, those new men were to lead the way to the expansion of the club from 1945 to 1950. Again, the foresight of Secretary McClellan and his carefully saved records make for a precise review of the times. The records will remain as he left them in the archives.

The membership rose from 62, plus three honorary, in 1945 to 74, plus three honorary, by June 30, 1950. The Rotary International rule of voluntary senior active membership, after being ignored for some time, became accepted. Haphazard enforcement of attendance rules were tightened, and there was a renewed involvement with District and Rotary International.

Even the *Ramrod* would get new vigor with additional writers and format. The financial picture improved with a ten dollar per year rise in dues and increased initiation fees, and for the first time, outside fund raising efforts were used. None of the changes was abrupt during the five year period. The influence of two men seems to be the force that brought about the change.

One of those men was Jule Bohn, joining Elyria Rotary in the spring of 1944. As previously noted, he came from Ashland to a new position in Elyria as Superintendent of Schools. Being a Past District Governor, his experience was immediately turned to very active participation in the club. He accepted committee chairmanship for important projects, however, his greatest contribution was to get Elyria on track with Rotary International and the District. He forced the issue of senior active membership by convincing members that it was an honor to become a senior active.

He was instrumental in having Burton Ohlemacher elected Governor of District 157, in 1949. Burton was the next great influence on the club.

From committee reports, board minutes, and *Ramrods* the influence of Bohn and Ohlemacher can be followed. Bohn was in demand as a program speaker and continued his travels around the District for that purpose, while Burton was also a frequent guest of nearby clubs to show his movies of Rotary and vacation events. His movie equipment was of excellent quality, the proof being a report of over \$600.00 worth being stolen out of his automobile while on a trip to a Canadian Rotary convention.

As noted in make-up listings, Bohn and Ohlemacher often accompanied one another to other clubs for speaking engagements. In this way, Burton also became well known throughout the District. Although Bohn's introductions were of great value, it was Burton's chairmanship of the 1947 District Conference hosted by Elyria that put him in contention to be District Governor.

The last six months of 1945 were brightened by the end of World War II, however, travel restrictions and shortages continued. Normal activities took some time to resume, but the Elyria Rotary Club made every effort to get back to community service. A highlight was sponsoring four lectures by the Rotary International Institute On Foreign Affairs with Jule Bohn as chairman.

The series of free lectures was brought to Elyrians with the club paying all expenses, except for use of the High School auditorium, which was furnished by the school board. The cost to the club was \$248.00 plus local expense for the speakers. An insert in the September 18 *Ramrod* gave all details. The topics of the lectures are listed:

- “International Security in the Pacific”
- “Maintaining World Trade and a High Standard of Living”
- “The Constructive Use of Air Transport”
- “Making International Organization Effective”

The predominant topic for weekly programs was returning veterans telling of their experiences. The dark side of local events was the move of the National Society for Crippled Children from Elyria to Springfield, Illinois. An intensive campaign to keep the headquarters in Elyria was raised by Rotarians and other local powers, but to no avail.

The August 21 issue of the *Ramrod* noted past Rotary International President, Guy Gundaker, was a guest at the previous club meeting, and that Jule Bohn and Bill McClellan took him to visit Gates Hospital. He was impressed by the work being done there.

The annual summer golf invitational was again well attended as was the September outing at the YMCA camp. Work had begun on the water system, but the initial \$3,000.00 raised by Rotary fell short of the cost. An additional fund drive for this project and other renovation were discussed at future board meetings.

The November *Ramrod* had some interesting information. The Rotary Wheel signs at the city limits were kept in good order by repainting by members. The first known printing in the *Ramrod* of “The Four Way Test” was in this issue, and it was also noted that Rotary International had lost 370 clubs in Europe from 1937 to 1943.

The year 1945 was concluded with the annual gifts and visit to Gates Hospital and a daughter, son meeting on December 27.

New members added since July were:

- Richard J. Gollmar.....Grey Iron Castings
- R. Jay Fitch.....Banking
- William A. Schmittgen.....Plastic Mfg.
- Marion H. Crowder.....Casualty Insurance
- John A. Bieber.....Natural Gas Distribution

It should be noted Gollmar, Fitch, and Crowder became presidents of the club within a few years.

A seventeen line paragraph, in the January 8 *Ramrod*, spelled out the qualifications for senior active status, and a plea was made to open classifications for younger members. The

message was a partial reprint of the theme Past Governor Bohn used in his presentations as speaker to other clubs. It would be two years before Elyria Rotarians would respond.

The annual Rural Urban luncheon was held on February 26, and a printed program listed some facts about Elyria. The population was 31,000, there were 64 miles of streets, the tax rate was 15.12 mills, and there were 40 beds at Gates Hospital for children. The annual ladies night party on March 19 had special door prizes—nylon stockings! A rare item at the time.

On the Rotary International scene, there was a recommendation to move the headquarters from Chicago to Denver. The proposal was thoroughly defeated at the Rotary International Convention in Atlantic City in June. The District Conference was held in Tiffin in May; Bohn, Ohlemacher, and McClellan were the club delegates. It was at this conference that our delegates became convinced that the 1947 event could be held in our town.

Officers for the following year were elected and announced on May 7.

Burton I. Ohlemacher.....President  
C. A. Gibbons.....Vice-President  
William O. McClellan.....Secretary/Treasurer  
Spurgeon "Spud" Winters.....Sergeant-at-Arms

Burton was also appointed to be our delegate to the Rotary International Convention. No new members were added since December, the member count in June was 68.

The financial report for 1946/47 included a contribution to camp Iss-See-Kes of \$776.63, about \$350.00 in other donations, and a carry-over of \$1,430.75.

The proposal to hold the 1947 District Conference was officially presented to the board by District Governor Brown in a letter read at the August board meeting. The question of available hotel rooms in the county was settled, final acceptance of the project was made in September, and Burton Ohlemacher was appointed as conference chairman. By February 1947, all conference committees and plans were in place and accepted by the Board.

The July 30 1946 *Ramrod* announced Marion Crowder would assume the duty of writing the club newsletter and would also head up a new public relations committee. Crowder's editions contained more news of members, upcoming dates, and names of guests at the previous meeting. Vacationers' stories and short biographies of new members were featured. A move to re-name the *Ramrod* was defeated by vote of the club.

The last six months of 1946 included the final payoff of pledges for the YMCA camp, and it was reported that the campaign went over the top. Programs continued the post-war theme of new developments for industry, presentations by members, and general interest. An international dinner meeting was held in December with foreign students and visitors from abroad. The usual holiday children's party was held at Gates. Behind the scenes preparations for the April District Conference were in full swing.

New members added were:

Thomas D. Bowen.....Accounting Service  
William H. Humphrey.....Telephone Service  
Rev. Louis G. Novak.....Religion  
Gilbert Schiesz.....Auto Parts Mfg.

Attendance continued to be less than satisfactory, and a weekly drawing was held to stimulate the members. An attendance contest with another club was discussed, but declined because Elyria would be a sure loser. The board was generous with leaves of absence and excused misses. The result was an average of about 75% attendance putting the club in the lower 15% of the District.

There was no lack of attendance for special events, a "Smoker," now called a Stag, held on the evening of January 13 was well attended. Jay Fitch and his "sports" were in charge, it was a fine time! February 28 was the annual Rural-Urban day.

The February 4, 1947 *Ramrod* headlined the death of Rotary founder, Paul Harris. Noted was his untiring work with the crippled children societies and the ties to Elyria. Paul Harris made at least two visits to Elyria during the club's early years. Rotary International later started a memorial fund in his honor, Elyria contributing a substantial sum.

Plans for the annual ladies night in March and a party for Elyria's 29th anniversary on April 1 were set, however, the District Conference scheduled for April 26-28 was uppermost in every thought. At a special dinner meeting on February 14, District Governor Paul Brown met with conference chairman, Burton, and each committee to review plans. The following Tuesday meeting was devoted to outlining those plans for the entire club.

Because Elyria had no convention facilities, conference visitors were split into manageable groups for luncheons and banquets. A recap of the schedule follows:

- Conference headquarters was in the High School Gymnasium on Sixth Street. It was called "The House of Friendship."
- All business sessions were held in the School Auditorium.
- Men's luncheons were held at three locations:  
YMCA second floor  
Masonic Temple dining hall  
St. Paul's Church
- Ladies luncheon at the Elyria Country Club.
- The District Governor's Banquet was divided between:  
The First Methodist Church  
The First Congregational Church
- The Governor's Ball followed at 9 p.m. at the Elks' Hall.

Two welcoming statements were printed in the program booklet: the first by Past Secretary Ben Hindman, a general view of our club, and the back pages were devoted to the crippled children work. A photo of Gates Hospital with a brief caption and a short history of Elyria's pioneering efforts for cripples, written by Harry Howett, should be reproduced for the benefit of all of today's Rotarians. Of all the thousands of words written on the subject, this is the best example to come to light.

Every Elyria Rotarian had a part in the conference, but the success could be attributed to the extra efforts of General Chairman Burton Ohlemacher, Vice-Chairman C. A. Gibbens, Conference Secretary Bill McClellan, and Banquet Chairman Jule Bohn. A separate

program was printed for the District Governor's banquet. On the cover is the first known use by Elyria of the motto, "Service Above Self." A condensed version of the official program was printed in the April 22 *Ramrod* using District Governor Paul V. Brown's official letterhead

Even as the highly successful conference was imminent, club business went on. Officers for 1947/48 elected were:

C. A. Gibbens .....President  
Marion H. Crowder.....Vice-President  
William O. McClellan.....Secretary/Treasurer  
Spurgeon "Spud" Winters.....Sergeant-at-Arms.

The May 20 *Ramrod* singled out the perfect attendance record of Harry Howett. "...since 1931 Harry Howett has always made a Rotary meeting...and considering the fact he was traveling (for the Crippled Children's Society) he made up at more than 200 clubs in the U. S. and Canada." During his Rotary lifetime, Burton Ohlemacher would exceed that record.

New members added:

Henry Ault .....Groceries-Retail  
Russell Gleason .....Young Men's Association  
Eldred Evans.....Air Brake Mfg.  
George Cole.....Auto Parts Mfg.

The large carry-over balance from 1946 plus dues and contributions allowed the club to donate \$1,456.62 to the YMCA Camp improvement, \$630.00 to Rotary International for the Paul Harris memorial, and \$200.00 for other causes. About \$100.00 in individual donations and \$20.00 from the general fund were used for children's gifts. \$636.30 was carried over to the new administration.

1947/48 started with two changes. Marion Crowder took on the program committee chairmanship and ended his *Ramrod* writing, and Bill McClellan once again filled the duty. The resignation of Jule Bohn was accepted as he would move on to Springfield, Illinois to be Superintendent of Schools. He was commended for his "inspiration and leadership" while in Elyria.

Two significant events had there start in 1947: the formation of a by-laws revision committee and Elyria's nomination of Burton Ohlemacher for District Governor for 1948/49. The by-laws were up-dated to conform with Rotary International rules enacted in past years, those which had not been completely recognized by Elyria. The major change was to allow elective Senior Active classifications. It would be mid 1948 before the club voted the changes.

The nomination form for Burton was sent to District in January after being approved by our board and the club membership, unanimously, of course. Two other nominations were made to the District committee and Elyria had to wait until that committee met February 11 at Tiffin for the outcome. Burton was selected and served for the year 1948/49.

A clothing drive was promoted by the club for the refugees in Denmark, Lew Huffman chairman. Elyria sent 45 boxes of clothing by March 1948 and was the leading club in the District for the project. Another major pledge from members was approved by the board for



further improvements to Camp Iss-See-Kes, the goal over \$4,000.00. The year end financial report will show the results.

The annual children's party and holiday programs brought 1947 to a close.

New members added:

Harold H. Eibling .....Superintendent of Schools  
Ralph Tibbles.....Chamber of Commerce  
Glennard L. Pierson .....Electric Light and Power

In the January 13, 1948 *Ramrod*, the listed program for the day was Harry Notley and his plan to build a subway under Broad Street to eliminate traffic problems. According to a city directory of the time, Notley resided at the Graystone Hotel, and no occupation was listed. About the same time, the controversy over the construction of the Ohio Turnpike route through northern Elyria was being debated. Rotary had a couple of programs on the subject. The subway idea died, the Turnpike was constructed in the early 1950's.

February 17 was the annual Rural-Urban luncheon, the second last such event held by the club. After 1949, the Chamber of Commerce held a farmer's day, and interested Rotarians also attended rural Grange meetings.

An inter-city meeting was held in Elyria on March 2, the speaker being A. Z. Baker, a director of Rotary International. Election of club directors for 1948/49 was held at the same meeting. The "On to Lima" committee for the District Conference March 14-15, in support of Burton, was in full swing.

A thirtieth anniversary party was held on April 6 at the Spring Valley Country Club. A program from the event indicates no other clubs were involved, and that the evening was highlighted by a few speeches and local entertainment, including a "Whistler-singer and a piano-solovox rendition."

Burton became the District Governor elect for 1948/49, and the first duty was to attend the Governor's indoctrination meeting in Quebec. Back in Elyria, the club visited the new General Motors plant on May 18, and Al Hannaford was to represent Elyria at the Rotary International Convention in Rio. Hannaford also became Elyria's first senior active member on June 24.

A number of changes were made for the 1948/49 Rotary year including newly elected officers:

Marion H. Crowder.....President  
Edward H. Harr .....Vice-President  
William O. McClellan.....Secretary/Treasurer  
Charles Sotherdon.....Sergeant-at-Arms

Burton Ohlemacher resigned from the board, and Mark Willis was appointed in his place. Ralph Tibbles succeeded Harry Howett as editor of the *Ramrod*. Howett had performed the task for most of the previous year, relieving McClellan of the duty when Crowder quit writing and became President. *Ramrods* were generally unsigned, however, each writer's style was recognizable.

The financial report for 1947/48 was about the same as previous years, \$277.74 the amount of donations. The ladies night party had been subsidized by \$170.00, the Secretary's compensation was \$300.00 and \$302.00 was spent for speakers' expenses.

Ten new members were inducted for the full year, those added in the first six months of 1948 were:

Dean Kissoberth.....Auto Parts Jobber  
Joseph Strong, M.D. ....Medical Service-Orthopedic Surgery  
Max Calkins.....Plumbing  
Alvin R. Sterner .....Creamery Products-Retail  
Jack Thornquist.....Broadcasting Station  
Floyd Schlitt .....Gas Burner Mfg.  
Howard Miller .....Cash Registers-Retail

Club membership on July 1, 1948 was 69 plus 2 honorary.

The ongoing contributions for Camp Iss-See-Kes improvements were reported in the July 27 *Ramrod* by chairman Ralph Murbach. \$1,200.00 was pledged for the year by 47 members, this in addition to the \$3,200.00 collected in previous years. The final goal of \$5,000.00 was within sight.

The first quarter of the Rotary year included a golf day at the Elyria Country Club, a District sponsored dinner and program at Lakeside, and the revived annual family day picnic at the YMCA camp on September 14. The event started at 3:00, had games and entertainment, and a full menu of "...plenty to eat. And all for free; no hat passing at this party!"

On November 9, Rotary again had as the guest speaker, J. C. Penney. The anticipated interest in his talk led to a co-sponsorship with the Chamber of Commerce and a public meeting at the Congregational Church. The following week's program was by a participant in the Nuereberg war trials, and the presentation brought comments of being outstanding.

The December 21 *Ramrod* featured the annual visit to Gates Hospital children, the gift collection amounting to \$131.00. District Governor Ohlemacher's official visit to the club had been the week before, attendance at nearly 100%. Another note in the bulletin announced, "Kellogg Day was married at high noon two weeks ago!"

New members since July were:

Harold F. Enyeart.....Pump Mfg.  
William Baughman.....Natural Gas Production  
Norris Ryder.....Chamber of Commerce  
Ernest Splete .....Leather Goods-Retail  
Bert Koeblitz.....Radio Broadcasting

Two financial decisions in January had lasting effects. It was approved, by the board, to pledge \$3,000.00 to the Elyria Memorial Hospital building fund, a relationship from the past and one which would extend far into the future. Individual Rotarians had long been members of the hospital board, the administrator usually a member of Rotary.

The other financial move was a fund raising White Elephant sale held at Deetz's showroom, on January 15. Sale items included a bicycle from Deetz, chairman of the

project, a mahogany desk from Ralph Murbach, and a desk chair from Lew Huffman. Proceeds went to the Elyria Memorial Hospital building fund. A little over \$550.00 was made.

District Governor Burton and Elyria Rotary were hosts for the District ladies night held March 3 at the Elks Ball Room. Speaker for the evening was Phil Lovejoy, Secretary of Rotary International, and entertainment was provided by the Elyria High School A Cappella Choir. An attractive program listed the committee, about half the membership, and a song sheet including a number of tunes still being sung 45 years later.

The March 8 *Ramrod* had a number of announcements: The District Conference would be held in Toledo on May 8-9 where District Governor Burton would preside. As of July 1, the District number would be changed from 157 to 227. Reservations were encouraged for the fortieth annual Rotary International Convention set for New York City, June 12 to 16. The theme for the year would be, "Developing Good Will Among Men."

It was announced on April 5 that six members had chosen to become Senior Active members. Joining Al Hannaford were: George Nicholas, J. B. Johnson, Jim Hewitt, Ed Carlson, and Bill McClellan. Rules for Senior Active were: a membership for twenty years or age 65 and membership for five years. This significant change paved the way for a new wave of younger members in the following years.

The first known attempt by the club to sponsor an Elyria student for foreign study was highly successful. Elyrian, Ed Clark, was selected by the Rotary Foundation to study at Cambridge University in Great Britain. The club members donated enough to buy Clark a fine camera, and a large amount of correspondence was exchanged with him during his stay in Europe. These letters and other artifacts are in a file in the archives labeled, "Special activities."

Another fund raising project was initiated in May 1949, however, the results were disappointing. A contract was entered into with a company to place vending machines around the city, 10% of the profits to go to Rotary. Each member was asked to secure locations, a condition of the contract being 50 locations before the company would place the machines. At one point, the board discussed abandoning the project, however, after months of effort, the required number of locations was met and the project was under way.

The list of Rotary International Convention goers to New York numbered 10 couples, and included future Rotarians: Bud Deetz, Bill Fitch, and Bob Ohlemacher, sons of members. Even with renewed enthusiasm in the club, attendance continued to be less than the District average and cause for frequent pleas in the *Ramrods*.

Officers elected for 1949/50 were:

Edward H. Harr .....President  
R. Jay Fitch .....Vice-President  
William O. McClellan.....Secretary/Treasurer  
Robert Elzey .....Sergeant-at-Arms

New members since January were:

Harold Dicken .....Funeral Director  
Carl Miller .....Rabbi

Dan Kothe.....Government Service  
 Arthur Michalske.....Chemicals  
 R. K. Ball.....Oil Products  
 Parvin F. Brown.....Variety Stores  
 C. Robert Cook.....Hospital  
 John R. Hannaford.....Hardware-Retail  
 Foster P. Dirlam.....Employment Services  
 Harold Graham.....Tires-Retail  
 Harold Seville.....Radio  
 David O. Thomas.....Automotive Airbrake  
 Dr. Eugene Stanton.....Medical Service-Neuro-surgery

The 1949/50 Rotary year started with 72 members plus two honorary. The increased membership was also reflected in the year end financial report: \$4,759.42 receipts, \$3,842.31 in disbursements, and a carry-over of \$1,118.94. Donations totaled about \$550.00.

On July 29, 1949, the search for fund raising ideas led the board to contract for three performances of the Civic Drama Guild of New York. The traveling troupe would bring three well known plays to Elyria, Rotarians to sell tickets for the events but guaranteeing a set amount for the players group.

Second thoughts must have been raised after the contract had been signed because a special board meeting was called for September 26, to discuss canceling the event. The iron clad contract was enforced, so the plays were held later in the year. The year end financial report of 1949/50 shows the outcome: cost of the project, \$1,115.62, and income of \$1,298.60—a net to the club of \$185.00. By contrast, the second White Elephant sale, on September 24, at Deetz's Garage had a profit of \$300.00.

Social events of the summer included the annual golf day and a Rotary Vs. Kiwanis softball game at the Lexington Avenue diamond on August 29. Pre-game activities included a dummy Rotarian strung up in a tree at the field, "caught stealing second base," and a "Kiwanis champion softball pennant" was flown from the flag pole atop Rotary Vice-President R. Jay Fitch's bank. The winner was to be challenged by the Lions Club. No mention of the final score was seen in later *Ramrods*, and no indication Rotary played the Lions!

At the November 29 meeting, Elyria had six Past District Governors in attendance. The speaker was Rotary International Director, William Rastetter. The Amherst, Vermilion, Oberlin, and Lorain clubs were invited. The year was finished out with the crippled children's party and the annual son, daughter, and grandchild meeting. "Wives also welcome to watch the kids."

New members added:

Rudolph Frey.....Plastics Engineering  
 Curtiss Travers.....Warm Air Furnaces  
 Lynn N. Nicholas.....Superintendent of Schools  
 Bud Oliver.....Barber  
 David P. Wainwright.....Funeral Director

Membership total on January 1, 1950 was 74, plus 3 honorary.

Starting on March 14, the *Ramrod* was pre-printed on the address side with the last names of all members, officers, directors, and all committee assignments. Meeting days and times of seven other clubs were included. District and International Conference information was part of the bulletin copy, noting the Rotary International Convention in Detroit would only have rooms for delegates and families.

The April 25 *Ramrod* announced the death of founding member, first Secretary and Past President, Ben Hindman. During his Rotary lifetime, Hindman had served in almost every capacity available to a member, from *Ramrod* writer to club historian. We are indebted to Hindman for collecting much of the early archives of the club and the foresight to save as much as he could. He was quite active in the formation of the Crippled Children's Societies, Community Chest, Tuberculosis Society, and the local Red Cross chapter. He would be missed.

The ladies night party for the year was held on May 9, the speaker being "world renowned spy, Countess Maria Pulaski," telling of her hair raising brushes with death. She would also speak at the up-coming Rotary International Convention in Detroit.

Officers elected for 1950/51 were:

R. Jay Fitch.....	President
Louis Novak.....	Vice-President
William O. McClellan.....	Secretary/Treasurer
Ralph Fox.....	Sergeant-at-Arms

New members added:

Ray A. Renz.....	Tires and Auto Accessories
George Beall.....	Hotels
Dr. R. A. DeMarco.....	Medical Services

The July 1, 1950 membership totaled 74, plus 3 honorary.

The financial statement for the year listed income of \$5,471.56 and expenses of \$4,713.79 including the civic drama project cost and income. The vending machine profit for the year was \$64.22. The hospital pledge of \$1,000.00 was paid, and the usual civic contributions were made.

## Chapter Eight

July 1, 1950 to June 30, 1955

WILLIAM O. McCLELLAN – SECRETARY

If the previous five years would be described as a transition time of the club, this chapter could be one of consolidation and the rise to club service by younger members. The slow move to acceptance of Senior Active status by those with twenty years membership was accelerated in this period. Older members applied for the classification to allow their sons or business partners to join Rotary.

In addition, the total membership count rose from 74 plus 3 honorary in 1950 to 88 and 3 honorary by June 30, 1955. This lowered the average age and filled open classifications with a more representative mix of occupations.

With a younger and somewhat less affluent membership, Elyria Rotary moved away from the reputation of being a checkbook club and looked to fund raising to add to the pot for civic donations. Time and work took the place of paid labor for some projects, the YMCA camp fix up being an example. A greater interest in student recognition and in entirely new projects was seen. Additional dues, because of a larger membership, also improved the financial position of the club.

The noon luncheon changed from the “Dairy Lunch” of the mid 1940’s to a more pleasing meal, served at the table by waitresses. In spite of an increase in price from 60¢ to \$1.00, members were more inclined to bring guests. Rotary provided new tables and a sound system for the YMCA meeting room. In general, it was a pleasant time in the history of the club.

The *Ramrod* newsletter continued to be written until 1955 by Secretary McClellan after the death of Ralph Tibbles in 1949. The practice of a President’s message in the bulletin had not been seen for some time, the format being program reminders, out of town listings, new member proposals, and frequent pleas for attendance. An occasional thought for the day was printed—some will be repeated in this study.

The first program of the year was given by Ed Clark, the young man Elyria had sponsored to be a Rotary Fellow. He was a graduate student at Cambridge University in Great Britain. He told of his work and travels the previous year. Tuesday July 18 was the annual golf day, Dooley Deetz chairman. The *Ramrod* was up-dated with a new roster and committee assignments.

September 5 was a joint meeting with the Lions Club, with Senator Robert Taft the speaker. The following Tuesday was the annual family day picnic at Camp Iss-See-Kes, and September 18 was the official visit by District Governor Irving Reynolds of Toledo. A list of open classifications was printed.

The method of raising funds for the next installment of the \$3,000.00 hospital pledge was accepted by vote of the club on November 18. Each member would be billed \$6.65 for a voluntary payment, twice a year, until the pledge was paid off. A fair number did

not volunteer, however, a new fund raising project started in January and proceeds from the vending machines more than covered the short-fall.

The annual visit to Gates children and the holiday party for Rotarian's children finished the year 1950.

New members added:

Fred Reiter .....Automotive Air Brake Mfg.  
John Flynn.....Home for the Aged  
George B. Miraben.....Education  
Stanton Fitzgerald .....Oil Burner Mfg.  
Maurice Condon.....Radio

The first indication of formation of a United Fund committee in Elyria was the appointment of five Rotarians to the campaign. Following the national trend, Elyria replaced the Community Chest with an United Appeal for all worthy local causes.

The new club fund raising project was announced in January and would be a source of money for the club for a number of years. At the time, an Ohio sales tax of three percent was collected, and receipts were given to the customer. The tax stamps, as they were called, could be redeemed at a percentage of face value by service clubs. Members were encouraged to turn in the stamps to chairman Dave Wainwright, a group of four teams competed to be the champion collectors. It was worth the effort as will be seen in the year end financial report.

Elyria sponsored several high school students to the World Affairs Institute in Cincinnati with George Miraben in charge. The program continued for several years. The club also gave funds to the Rotary Foundation for scholarships. The District Conference was held in Mansfield, and the Rotary International Convention in Atlantic City, Elyria being represented at both events. Burton Ohlemacher served as Vice-Chairman of the Club Service Committee at Atlantic City.

New officers for 1950/51 were:

Rev. Louis Novak.....President  
Norris Ryder.....Vice-President  
William O. McClellan.....Secretary/Treasurer  
Curtis Traver.....Sergeant-at-Arms

New members proposed:

Harry Beiter.....Truck Transportation  
Wayne Wise, Sr. ....Chiropody

The year ended with 77 active and 3 honorary members.

The financial report showed income from hospital pledges of \$780.45, vending machine profit of \$170.54, and tax stamps redemptions of \$150.93. \$1,000.00 was paid on the hospital pledge, and about \$300.00 was used for community betterment. Rotary International dues were \$496.75 for the year.

The first six months of the 1951/52 Rotary year were uneventful except for the many political speakers. Rotarians manned the Salvation Army kettle as a club effort, and the Gates Hospital children's party was well attended.

New members added were:

Andrew F. Haiduck ..... Aircraft Pumps  
B. Kenneth Anthony ..... Minister  
Richard Baird..... Criminal Law  
H. Clifford Taylor..... Natural Gas Service  
Harold Zealley..... Hospitals  
Robert W. Stevenson..... Mechanotherapy

President Louis Novak proposed an all out attempt to have a 100% meeting in January, a first for the club. Members were urged to make the meeting and, if out of town, to attend a make up. The campaign was a success and a milestone event, but took 34 years to accomplish. The emphasis on attendance continued with an internal contest. February ended with the attendance at 92.63%, an all time monthly high.

The board proposed an amendment to the bylaws that no projects could be initiated without available funds, and that the no commitments could be made to obligate ensuing administrations. The motion was tabled at the regular meeting on June 24, and sent back to the board to clarify how any funds could be raised. The outcome was not resolved for some time.

Officers for 1952/53 elected were:

Norris Ryder ..... President  
George Beall..... Vice-President  
William O. McClellan ..... Secretary/Treasurer  
Curtice Travers..... Sergeant-at-Arms.

Three new members were added in the past six months:

Ralph Michael ..... Barber  
Charles Lawton ..... Mill Supplies  
Richard Pope..... Foundry Castings

Membership on June 30, 1952 was 78 plus 3 honorary.

The final payment of \$1,000.00 was made on the hospital pledge, about \$650.00 for improvements to the YMCA meeting room, and less than \$300.00 to other causes, including the students' cost for the World Affairs Council. One hundred new song books were acquired at 10¢ each. Income, other than dues, included \$765.06 from tax stamp redemption and \$136.37 from vending machine profits. The voluntary hospital fund contained \$1,429.89 after the pledge was paid. About that same amount was carried over to the next administration.

The 1952/53 Rotary year started with the announcement that elective senior active status could now be made after 15 years, rather than the previous 20. A member over 65 with 5 years of membership could now be named a Past Service Member if he lost his classification due to retirement.

J. C. Penney was again the guest speaker in August, the occasion being the fiftieth anniversary of his first store. The annual golf day and camp family picnic finished out the summer. Reminders of attendance and tax stamp collections were frequently mentioned in the *Ramrod*. Jay Fitch complained because someone walked off with his hat, but, it was found out later, he was covered by Marion Crowder's Insurance



agency. He bought a new one from Earl Bell with the insurance money. He later admitted the hat was about worn out and he hoped it would not be returned.

The club scholarship fund was reported to have a balance of \$2,084.95, after a donation to the Rotary Foundation. Past District Governor Burton Ohlemacher was quite active in district affairs and did a number of installations at other clubs.

The contributions for the Gates children's gifts amounted to \$126.00. Also in December, the club voted to raise the dues to \$40.00 yearly and to increase the initiation fee to \$30.00. A special projects committee had been formed and would report on four programs for the first half of 1953. Once again, the club rang the Salvation Army bell for the "Ton Of Money" campaign.

New members added:

D. M. Overcash.....	Auto Parts Mfg.
Harold Andrus.....	Aircraft Pumps
George Raike .....	Electrical Engineer
John Vestal .....	Shoes Retail
Robert D. Choate.....	Printing

The special projects committee proposed six extra activities in 1953. The club voted to buy an infant resuscitator for the hospital, inaugurate a junior Rotarian student guest program, aid the high school choir, and sponsor a boys' Pony League baseball team. The resuscitator cost was \$650.00, the student program would be three boys each month to visit club meetings and shadow a Rotarian whose occupation the boy was interested in following after graduation.

The District Conference was held in Lima, a number of Elyrians attending, among them Secretary McClellan who was becoming more active in district affairs. Ralph Murbach and Jack Hannaford planned to attend the Rotary International convention in Paris. A combined ladies' night and 35th club anniversary party was announced for the first part of May.

The March 24 program was Lt. Robert Ohlemacher, recently returned from his tour of duty in Korea. Pictures of the war torn country were shown. Two students were sponsored by the club for the World Affairs Institute and would give a program in April. Attendance was improving, 84.57% reported for February, and 89.63% for March.

The May 12 *Ramrod* featured the news that Rotarian Ray Renz had been chosen by the Elyria JayCeers as their "Young Man Of The Year."

Officers for the coming Rotary year elected were:

George Beal .....	President
Ralph Fox .....	Vice-President
William O. McClellan.....	Secretary
Robert W. Stevenson.....	Sergeant-at-Arms

Harold Zealley was the chief song leader, and Ralph Bevard was the club pianist.

The combination thirty-fifth anniversary and ladies' night party was held on May 13 at the Elyria Country Club. The cost was six dollars per couple and was promoted the

most outstanding party in years. A gold covered program listed the evening events highlighted by an address by District Governor Simon Davidian. Club President Norris Ryder presided, and the four remaining charter members were introduced. They were Dr. George Nicholas, Ralph Murbach, James A. Hewitt, and Albert Hannaford. The center pages of the program chronicled a history of the club, and the back pages had a club roster and listed committees for the 1952/53 year. The outside cover featured the objects of Rotary. It is apparent many District guest tickets were paid by the club, the financial report showing income of \$393.00 and expense of \$1,005.53, a \$600.00 subsidy by the club.

New members for the period were:

R. W. Beckett ..... Oil Burner Engineering  
W. Stanley Smith ..... Home for the Aged  
Robert H. Williamson ..... Soft Drink Bottling

The membership total on June 30, 1953 was 81 plus 3 honorary.

Club donations for the year totaled \$900.00 including \$250.00 in improvements to the YMCA meeting room, and \$276.00 to the Pony League for the boys' baseball team.

The 1953/54 year would see the third time since 1918 a President resigned because of a move out of town. George Beall took over the hotel in Springfield Ohio, so Ralph Fox was elected to serve from January to July, and Ray Renz took on the Vice-President duties, which included being the program chairman.

It was business as usual during Beall's six month term, no new projects, traditional events continued, but a run of local speakers on timely topics including the Ohio Turnpike controversy made for interesting meetings. The major change was to up-date members' badges, replacing those that had been lost, at the members' expense. The first ladies' holiday lunch was held, J. Martin Beck leading the Elyria High School A Cappella Choir, a program still in place now after 40 years.

The annual Gates visit was on December 22, and the final program of 1953 was a return of Lt. Robert Ohlemacher from another tour of Korea.

New members added:

Russell H. Pratt ..... Chemical Compounds  
George C. Rubenson ..... Electric Power Service  
Clifford Wheeler ..... Electroplating Service

The custom of inviting the Mayor of Elyria to report on the conditions of city was continued with new Mayor J. Grant Keys as the speaker on January 19. The District Conference was held at Findlay and the Rotary International Convention in Seattle. Elyria sent many members to participate in both. Secretary McClellan was showing signs of seeking higher office. Some editorial remarks about the District are noted in his *Ramrod* writings from time to time.

The youth committee again sponsored two students to the World Affairs Institute, and high school boys continued to be guests at the noon meetings. Spring 1954 brought the annual ladies' night party and first mention of the golden anniversary of Rotary International to be held in February, 1955.

This paragraph appeared in the May 11 *Ramrod*, "Recently a club had a speaker who came from a long distance to be its guest. When he stood up to speak, many of those in the audience stood to leave. The speaker decided his personal business was just as urgent as that of those leaving, so he folded his notes, and left the room."

New officers elected for 1954/55 were:

Ray A. Renz .....President  
George B. Miraben.....Vice-President  
William O. McClellan.....Secretary/Treasurer  
Robert D. Choate.....Sergeant-at-Arms

New members added:

James N. Johnson.....Hotels  
Harold Geitgey .....Insurance  
Lloyd Hennings .....Education-Secondary  
William Olsen.....Furnace Mfg.  
Russell N. Dean .....Spring Mfg.  
Charles J. Snoble.....Law  
William J. Grant.....Sporting Goods Repair

The membership total on June 30, 1954 was 77 plus 3 honorary.

The financial report shows about \$400.00 in donations and a year end carry over of \$3,072.28. The tax stamp redemption project produced an income of \$307.62.

By the end of the 1954/55 year, many changes had taken place. A younger trend in new members was noticeable, and they assumed chairmanships and board positions more quickly than in the past. The traditional party at the Elyria Country Club was held elsewhere and was somewhat less formal. Bill McClellan ended his twenty year reign as Secretary. The rise in membership numbers continued, lowering the club average age, with resulting new ideas. All of the above fit the celebration of Rotary's fiftieth anniversary and fulfilled the prophecy of Paul Harris, stated years earlier, "Rotary must change with the times."

The fiftieth anniversary of Rotary was planned by a special committee headed by Burton Ohlemacher. They held monthly meetings to assure a gala and worthwhile celebration.

The club projects committee donated two new hospital beds for Gates Hospital, started a \$500.00 scholarship fund, and gave several books to the library as part of the year's anniversary efforts.

Other related activities were the District Conference at Lorain, and the Rotary International Convention, May 29-June 2, 1955 in Chicago.

A golden anniversary hard cover book was offered to club members for \$2.75 per copy. The Book was titled, *ROTARY, FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE* . A copy is in the archives, donated by Ray Renz.

Along with the preparations for the anniversary, the normal club activities continued, a golf outing, family picnic at the YMCA camp, crippled children visits, and the holiday meeting with wives.

New members added were:

Robert L. Ohlemacher..... Screw Machine Products  
Lawrence E. (Bud) Deetz..... Automobile Sales  
John W. Murbach..... Building Supplies-Retail  
Robert G. Edwards..... Architecture  
William George ..... Tires Retail  
Donald Erb..... Tires Retail (past service)

The District Governor visit was on January 11, 1955, and the move for Bill McClellan to be nominated as the next District Governor was surely brought to the club's attention. Outgoing District Governor, Ed Burger from Lorain, was of great help to McClellan in the nomination. McClellan was named at the District Conference held in Lorain on February 27-28.

The *Ramrod* for February 23, 1955 was the anniversary issue and was mailed with "Rotary stamp affixed" and "First day cover and cachet" issued by the post office to commemorate the milestone. The *Ramrod* was mailed in a first class envelope—no example can be found of the stamp, cachet seal, or envelope. A copy of the club party program is described: a gold covered four page piece listing the location at the American Legion hall, the inside having the "Objects of Rotary," program for the evening, lists of charter members, Past Presidents, committee members, and a complete roster of members. The outside cover has the first known use of the Four Way Test by Elyria Rotary. Two tickets printed in gold are included in the program, cost, \$3.00 per person. A large ad was placed in the Chronicle-Telegram as a commemorative feature, however, no copy of the ad can be found in the archives.

Addendum: A carton of material from the 50th anniversary of Rotary International, as celebrated by Elyria Rotary, was located by past Secretary Ray Renz and donated to the archives. The carton contains: three examples of the first day cover mailing, two of which include original insertions and two newspapers, one dated April 2, 1953, the other July 24, 1954 with photos of Rotarians but having no relationship to the 50th anniversary; a six page, double spaced, typewritten history of Elyria Rotary, un-signed and un-dated. It appears to have been written by Bob Choate and presented for the inauguration of President George Miraben in 1955. A copy of the 50th anniversary issue of *THE ROTARIAN* magazine. A proclamation from Elyria Mayor, J. Grant Keys. Two hard cover books; proceedings for the Rotary International. convention in 1955 and *ADVENTURES IN SERVICE*, both containing a number of historic photographs. Much material regarding the Easter Seal Societies. Printed programs of events of the era of Ca. 1955. No significant new information was found to alter this history, however, the material is of great value for future reference.

Activities for the balance of the year included sponsorship of students to the World Affairs Institute, student guests at meetings, and the first known "Fireside Chat" of the club. Two separate gatherings, dividing the club, A through K and L through Z, were held at the home of Bob Choate. It would seem about 35 to 40 members attended each meeting, the results described as "Excellent."

April 20 was an Inter-Club dinner party sponsored by Elyria Rotary, held at the American Legion. All area Rotary Clubs and other service clubs were invited, and the

party was the final observance of Rotary's fiftieth anniversary. Elyria Rotary President Ray Renz presided at every event of the celebration.

May 10 was a fix-up paint-up day at Camp Iss-See-Kes and involved some plumbing and painting of three cabins. The tax stamp collection and vending machine projects continued, and a club picture was taken on June 25.

New officers for 1955/56 were:

George B. Miraben.....	President
James N. Johnson.....	Vice-President
Ray A. Renz .....	Secretary/Treasurer
Robert Edwards .....	Sergeant-at-Arms

New members added:

Charles W. Fox.....	Veterinarian
J. Edgar Glass .....	Corrugated Box Mfg.
William Naegele.....	Printing
William Gerlach .....	Auditing Service

On June 30, 1955 there were 88 active and 3 honorary members. The financial report for 1954/55 can not be found at this time.

## Chapter Nine

July 1, 1955 to June 30, 1961

RAY RENZ – SECRETARY

**R**ay Renz was the fifth Secretary of The Elyria Rotary Club. He joined the club on February 21, 1950 and rapidly rose to President by 1954. He was born in Cleveland on October 8, 1918, and his family moved to Elyria three years later and settled in the Eastern Heights area. Renz attended Elyria public schools and graduated from Elyria High School in 1937. He worked at the Romec Pump Company during World War II and moved into retail sales with the Goodrich Tire Company store in Elyria, as manager, in 1948.

He joined Rotarian Dooley Deetz's dealership in automobile sales from 1955 to 1957 then moved to the Royal Supply Company as an outside salesman. He was employed there until his retirement in February 1995.

His community activities included work with the United Fund, Chamber of Commerce, the Merchants Association, and he was president of the Elyria Youth Council for five years. He was the recipient of the Elyria Jay-Cees' Distinguished Service Award in 1953.

After his six years as Secretary, his most notable contribution was being chairman of the handicapped children's committee for fifteen years. After the closing of Gates Hospital, Renz spearheaded Rotary's yearly party for the orthopedically handicapped in co-operation with the Elyria School system. More of this program will be told in later chapters.

Renz was the last Secretary/Treasurer of the club who also wrote the *Ramrod*. Previous Secretaries would occasionally be spared the task by having club members write a few issues when the Secretary was on vacation. In some instances, such as Harry Howett and Ralph Tibbles, they wrote the newsletter for a year or more. However, the job always seemed to fall back on the Secretary. Renz had the foresight to save all the District Governor's newsletters as well as much correspondence from Rotary International

Renz's style of writing the *Ramrod* was much in the same format used by the previous Secretary, Bill McClellan; but, as time went on, Renz increased the "newsy" copy and expanded the number of topics covered. The April 8, 1958 *Ramrod* was the last that Renz wrote. Bob Choate took on the bulletin editor's task starting the next week, April 15. Choate continued writing until 1993, thirty-five years. For about half that time, he wrote 52 issues each year.

The six year period of Renz's service as Secretary was also the end of the transition from the old guard influence in the club. It was not an abrupt shift, but the post war era brought new blood and new vigor at just the right time. It seemed like a throw-back to the first years of the club when humor, pranks, stunts, and greater fellowship were practiced. The difficult depression and war years were over.

The first six months of the 1955/56 year were a mirror of previous times: golf outing, family picnic at the YMCA camp, District Governor's visit, and the children's party. In what may have been his final appearance in Elyria, J. C. Penney spoke to the club on

September 20. A wide range of local and visiting speakers gave the club some excellent programs during the period. Ed Clark, the Rotary Foundation scholarship recipient sponsored by Elyria some years before, was named to a professorship in English at Lawrence University and Edgar Drake, winner of the \$500.00 scholarship awarded in 1953, was in his second year at Murray State.

The first United Fund campaign, after a couple of years in organization, was under way in October, and Rotarian Fred Reiter was named chairman. Elyria Rotarians headed every major fund raising effort in the past five years, the hospital and YMCA building funds, as well as the United Fund. The Elyria Rotary board voted for the entire year's budget to be spent as a contribution to the United Fund.

There were no new members added from July 1 to December 30. The January 10, 1956 *Ramrod* made note of \$282.00 that the tax stamp project had produced the previous year, and an appeal was made to continue the collection by members. Mayor J. Grant Keys was the speaker on February 7, and the program on February 28 was described: "Burton Ohlemacher will introduce George Miraben, and if Burton finishes the introduction, and if George manages to thank him for the fine introduction in time, they will show us some films!"

April 1956 was a busy time for Elyria Rotary, a combination ladies' night and 39th club anniversary party was held on the tenth, and the District Conference, ending Bill McClellan's year as District Governor, followed on April 22-23. A ladies' night program listed the officers, committee, and a complete roster of the membership. Bill McClellan was the principal speaker, followed by impersonations done by a member of the Denison University Arts Theater.

The District Conference was held in Oberlin and a number of Elyrians participated in various capacities including: Burton Ohlemacher, J. Martin Beck, George Miraben, Ray Renz and, of course, outgoing District Governor McClellan. The Conference program featured an up to date biography of McClellan, repeated here as written:

W. O. McClellan is business manager for the Board of Education in Elyria, Ohio. He was born in Kenova, West Virginia and attended Oberlin College. He has been a member of Elyria Rotary Club since 1921 and is past President of that club.

He is a member of the Legislative Commission of the American Legion. A member of his area council of the Boy Scouts of America, he is a member of the Elyria Draft Board and of the City Annexation Committee. He has served as a member of the Ohio School Survey Committee, as Ohio Commander of the American Legion, as Secretary-Treasurer of the Ohio School Business Officials, and as Chairman of the Red Cross Fund Drive for Elyria.

With the District Conference over, the club turned to normal business. The project committee reported two activities: the purchase of pins for students in the National Honor Society and sponsorship of the Rotary Club Pony League team. The Elyria Police Department was given \$50.00 for training films.

New officers had been announced earlier in the spring, however, Fred Reiter, who had been elected President, declined because of the press of business. This same situation happened a number of times in the club history, and would happen again.

The new officers were:

- James N. Johnson..... President
- Richard J. Gollmar..... Vice-President
- Ray A. Renz ..... Secretary/Treasurer
- G. Rorick Amos..... Sergeant-at-Arms

New members since January 1, 1956 were:

- Harry Miles ..... Automobile Club
- Don Boddy..... Radio Equipment
- Charles Persons, Jr. .... Ready Mix Concrete
- Paul Hovey..... Insurance General
- G. Rorick Amos..... Health Insurance
- Frank Brandau..... Jewelry-Retail
- Weldon Case..... Telephone Company
- William D. Wentz ..... Electrical Contracting

There were 87 active and three honorary members on June 30.

Income for the year totaled about \$5,500.00, the tax stamp redemption project producing \$278.00, but the vending machine program had been discontinued, as no income was shown. Major donations went to the United Fund, scholarship and youth programs, and \$349.00 to Camp Iss-See-Kes. About \$1,000.00 was used for good works, a new high for the club.

An interesting letter dated February 8, 1956 from the Rotary Foundation listed Elyria's contributions since 1932.

- 1932..... \$ 50.00 (paid by L. H. Webber)
- 1942/43.....19.07
- 1943/44.....25.00
- 5/5/47..... 630.00
- 4/30/51.....84.93

Elyria sent another donation of \$91.00 on 3/19/56 for a total in the account of \$900.00

Summer 1956 activities included the golf outing, the annual family picnic, and a donation to the Oberlin children's home for black topping the drive and play area. Attendance remained between 75 and 80 percent, still in the lower quarter of clubs of the same size. The District Governor's visit, a variety of speakers, and the annual Gates Hospital party were highlighted in the *Ramrod*, still being written by Ray Renz...postage two cents.

New members added:

- Robert E. Boylan..... Automobile Club
- Delbert A. Russell..... Medical Service-Radiology
- Hedley Burrell ..... Salvation Army
- Roy A. Hayes..... Medical Service-Surgery
- Harold McDonald ..... Medical Service-Urology
- Julius Edwards ..... Service Station
- Robert Denman ..... Alloy Castings

The period from January 1 to June 30, 1957 was one of growth in membership and a feeling of renewed fellowship in the club. President James Johnson added much humor to



the meetings, according to notes in the *Ramrod*. The younger members were now in full control of the club, and the resulting greater activity was soon felt. More members attended the District Conference in Mansfield and the Rotary International Convention in Philadelphia. The ladies' night party, on April 23, was reported to be an enjoyable event and the YMCA camp fix up day, the following week, had many volunteers.

More personal activity was also noted by club members working with: the Elywood Park renovation, the Elyria Youth Center, and the Pony League baseball team. \$500.00 was donated to the Salvation Army, and the club continued to support the National Honor Society students, the Oberlin Children's Home, and the World Affairs Institute student trip.

Members added since January 1 were:

Charles Johnson..... Steel Tubing Mfg.  
James Begley ..... Material Handling Mfg.  
Eugene Conway ..... Brazing Flux Mfg.  
John B. Findling ..... Auto Parts Mfg.  
Wilbur G. Senft ..... Air Conditioning Mfg.  
Willard Wachler ..... Furnace Research  
John F. Smith..... Security Brokerage

Membership was at an all time high of 98 active and 3 honorary, but because the honorary were not counted by Rotary International, the milestone number of one hundred was not met until 1959.

Donations for the year included \$500.00 each to the Salvation Army and the United Fund. In addition to regular contributions to the YMCA camp, a new canoe was purchased for \$204.15. The only fund raising project of the year was the tax stamp redemption of \$351.92, while over \$4,000.00 income from dues and initiations was realized.

The installation of officers for 1957/58 was preceded by an "Oustallation" of outgoing President Jim Johnson in retaliation for a year of needling and witty remarks. Ellie Schneider began the program after a rather sarcastic introduction of Johnson, only to be interrupted by Ken Anthony leading a derogatory song about Johnson's jokes of the past year. Incoming President Dick Gollmar then entered the scene carrying what appeared to be a gift tray of crystalware glass. Gollmar tripped, and the glass crashed to the floor. Other equally funny items were presented including a homemade plywood Past President's pin. The members roared with approval, and the mood seemed to continue for years.

July 1, 1957 marked the change of District 227 to 660, a change in number only as the area remained the same. The theme of Rotary International for the year was: "ENLIST for action, EXTEND for strength, and EXPLORE for knowledge." An effort was made by every club to get all its members working and participating in worth while activities and extension of new clubs was promoted.

The summer months of 1957 included the annual golf outing, a joint meeting with Kiwanis, and the family picnic which was now being chaired by Al Sterner. Being a professional restaurant owner, Sterner put on a picnic dinner raved over by all attending, probably more enjoyed because the cost was only \$3.00 per person...children free.

The Rotary Foundation fellowship grant program was well known to the Elyria Club, having sponsored Ed Clark a few years before. A complete explanation of the program, in a two page attachment to the October 29 *Ramrod*, gave these numbers: 953 young men and women had received \$3,250,000 in grants. Elyria voted to send \$10.00 to the foundation for each new member initiated into the club to be added to the \$900.00 previously sent.

At the December 10 board meeting, a committee was formed to print a history of the club, the work to be finished for the 40th anniversary in 1958. Bob Choate was chairman, George Nicholas, Ray Renz and Bill McClellan were on the committee. The result was a twelve page insert with a preface by President Dick Gollmar in the 40th anniversary program dated April 23, 1958. The 5" x 8" pages each had about 250 words. This condensed version of the first forty years will be incorporated into a short version of this detailed work at a later time.

December also brought the annual visit to Gates Hospital, an "unwanted item" gift exchange between members and the announcement of an attendance contest within the club. The club was divided into six teams with strict rules to be followed: a mouse in a cage would travel for a week with the team having the lowest attendance. It was to be returned at the next meeting. Failure of the team to bring back the mouse would be a fine of \$1.00.

If the club had a 90% meeting, President Dick Gollmar would get the mouse for a week and, in addition, must return with two mice or suffer a fine. Furthermore, each time the President had the cage for an additional week, he would have to double the "pot." By mid-January, attendance figures had improved rapidly, however, no mention can be found on the fate of the mouse (mice) when the contest ended.

The only new member for the period was:

Stanley C. Orr ..... Glass Lined Tank Mfg.

At the January 7, 1958 board meeting, the question of the attendance records of 21 members was discussed. By strict enforcement, all should have been asked to resign, four having missed every meeting the previous year. The board voted to excuse all but three misses for all on the list. Illness, leaves of absence, and long time membership were the reasons used for the reprieve, but the move did result in the resignation of some marginal members and improved the attendance record of most of the others on the list.

Other board actions in early 1958 included raising the cost of lunch to \$1.50 and, of greater importance, voting for the re-instatement of Russell (Gus) Gleason, classification YMCA. Gleason had been a short term member a few years before but, because of conflicts at the YMCA, had resigned. Gus went on to be a long time Sergeant-at-Arms, and Treasurer of the club.

The speaker for February 25 was James Dawson, economist for the National City Bank of Cleveland, who was introduced by Jay Fitch. Dawson made yearly economic forecasts at Elyria Rotary meetings for nearly thirty years. Dawson invented the hem line stock market theory, "The market follows the length of women's skirt fashions." His program always brought out a full attendance of members and a large crowd of guests.

After months of planning, the 40th anniversary and ladies' night party was held on April 23. An extensive gold covered program for the event, held at the Elyria Country Club, had

much information on the evening's activities. It also contained a complete roster including: classifications, wife's names, Past Presidents, charter members, officers, and the party committee. Included also is the 12 page history mentioned earlier. Featured speaker was Numa Vidal, a member of the Lorain Rotary Club. Numa was able to speak with authority on almost any subject, it seemed. He was a frequent guest at Elyria meetings and could hold a group spellbound with his stories.

If a date were to be named when Elyria Rotary made the final change to a new personality, it would be April 15, 1958, the day Bob Choate became editor of the *Ramrod*. The personality change started two years earlier when Jim Johnson was President and brought fun to the podium. Quick wit and infectious humor became the standard for an Elyria President, but it was Bob Choate's pen that would stir the club for thirty-five years.

With the club at 100 members, the Secretary-Treasurer duties were a burden, and Ray Renz welcomed the opportunity to hand off the job of newsletter writer. Bob Choate came to town after the war, bought Wilmot Printing, and having been a Rotarian in the 1930's, it was natural that he would join the Elyria club. He and Numa Vidal were cut from the same cloth, great speakers on a variety of subjects and able to use the pen with equal ease. Choate was in much demand as a speaker and was in the center of every worthy fund raising project and city or school issue.

Bob Choate's style of *Ramrod* was pointed, newsy, informative and, at the same time, written in a lighter vein. The *Ramrod* changed from a notice of dates and events to a newsletter with an editorial format. Copy about up-coming and past programs was extremely complimentary and urged attendance because of the fine messages to be heard. At times, Choate berated an officer for some minor infraction of speech or deed and, before the paragraph ended, threw in a complement. The result was a further move by members to a more friendly and familiar atmosphere. The sometimes abrasive writings brought on some dissent, especially from the victims, and, in print, Choate would often reply, "If you don't like it, Buster, you write it." In private correspondence, copies of which are in the archives, Choate explained that he was taking the position of devil's advocate or "burr under the saddle" to goad the club into a more fraternal attitude. It seemed to work.

An example of the new newsletter was the May 6 issue, a five paragraph detailed description of events, and then: **Bulletin for those who don't like to read-tear on dotted line.**

-----  
Last week..... Speech  
Next week ..... 2 Speeches  
Visitors ..... Two  
Guests ..... Willis  
-----

Officers for 1958/59 were:  
Harold Zealley ..... President  
Kenneth Anthony..... Vice-President  
Ray A. Renz ..... Secretary/Treasurer  
Russell Gleason ..... Sergeant-at-Arms

New members added in the first half of 1958 were:

James Ralston..... Air Brake Sales  
Henry Irish..... Spring Mfg.

Membership on June 30, 1958 was 97 plus 3 honorary. The club treasurers report of July 1 had a balance of \$3,959.18, after donations of \$1,000.00 for the YMCA camp pool project and \$500.00 for the United Fund. Other expenses, including student projects, totaled about \$500.00.

The installation of officers meeting on June 24 had as an additional highlight, a trial of outgoing President Dick Gollmar. The trial was conducted by the attorney members of the club, and Gollmar was found guilty of all of the trumped up charges. According to the review in the *Ramrod*, it was one of the best programs of the year.

Fellowship and camaraderie took another turn for the better with the 125th anniversary celebration of the founding of the city of Elyria. Beard and mustache growing, key-stone cop squads, and preparation for a huge parade and a community pageant brought the whole town together. Rotarians were in the center of planning and participation for the events, and the summer of 1958 was an outstanding time for Rotarians and the town.

The August 12 program was George Elias of the Rogers Company, producer of the "Black River Saga" pageant presented at Ely Stadium with a cast of 1,000 amateur Elyria players. The show was described as excellent and fast moving, many Rotarians taking prominent parts.

In a new move to more fellowship, a greeting committee of three different Rotarians each week was assigned to welcome members as they arrived. The golf outing and the family picnic continued the summer of fellowship, and, not to be outdone, the Rotary Anns held a joint, ladies only, luncheon with Lorain on October 10. The event became a yearly tradition for some time after.

The year ended with the usual happy visit to Gates and, what became an annual holiday program, the Salvation Army bell ringing.

New members added from July to December 31 were:

Al Wrisley..... Hotels  
Walt Evans ..... Graphic Arts  
R. Dana Hart..... Air Traffic Control  
James G. Frank..... Hospitals

Membership was still under 100, ending the year at 98 active.

1959 was a year of consolidation of the younger set, referred to in the *Ramrod* as the "sandbox crowd." The *Ramrod* became a new dimension in the club, voicing opinion and giving new ideas a run up the flag pole. Inside jokes and banter, left handed complements, and an occasional jab at an officer were difficult for some older members to understand. Objections were passed off with, "Watch it, Buster," or a similar remark. To become part of the circle and get one's name in the *Ramrod* was a new incentive for members to become active.

Nevertheless, the mission of Rotary prevailed, fellowship grew to new highs, and good works increased as time went on. A look at the financial report of 1958/59 gives us

examples of both. The ladies' night party was subsidized by \$328.00, the family picnic about broke even, and the golf outing produced a surplus of \$125.00. On the other side of the ledger, about \$1,500.00 was expended for youth projects, scholarships, and the United Fund. Membership on June 30, 1959 totaled 99 plus 3 honorary, still below the one hundred active mark. Attendance for the year averaged 80.73%, about mid-way in the District tabulation.

New members added:

Donald E. Barr..... Natural Gas Service  
Earl J. Fauver..... Commercial Banking  
Russell W. Johnson..... Dentistry  
Carl J. Schreiber..... Title Examining  
Maurice W. Fogle ..... Minister

Because Rev. Ken Anthony was called to another church and left town, two new names appeared as officers for 1959/60:

John W. Murbach ..... President  
David P. Wainwright ..... Vice-President  
Ray A. Renz ..... Secretary-Treasurer  
Russell Gleason ..... Sergeant-at-Arms.

A boisterous induction of new officers, and a rousing demotion of past President Zealley ushered in the new year of 1959/60. The theme of the day had to do with Zealley's English ancestry, "John Bull," underlining the BULL, and presentation of suitably "Sir Hal" type gifts including a silver hip flask. The team of Jim Johnson and Dick Gollmar was congratulated for a hilariously devised final day for "ol flip lip Zealley."

New President John Murbach brought a more calm mood to the club during his stay, a very successful golf outing and family picnic, and a number of new projects. A major rebuilding of the Camp Iss-See-Kes bath house was cause for additional fund raising, a renewed effort at tax stamp redemption, and even a rummage sale. A check for \$504.88 was forthcoming from tax stamps, and \$322.98 income from the sale was promptly used for the work. Wib Senft chaired the rummage sale and further added to the receipts by a \$4.00 fine for anyone not participating, thereby increasing the total take and gaining the title, "Little Caesar."

A meeting/tour was held at the Elyria Methodist Home on West Avenue in November and was followed by the annual Gates Hospital visit and holiday programs, including the Salvation Army bell ringing in December. According to the District Governor's newsletters, Elyria had finally reached 100 active members in August, added two more by November, but dropped back to the 100 mark on January 1, 1960. The population of Elyria at the time was 43,783 and about 125 manufacturing companies were in business. A recession started in 1958.

New members from July 1 to December 31 were:

Alden J Ritter ..... Warm Air Furnace Mfg.  
George W. Brian ..... Natural Gas Service  
Robert W. Beiter ..... Motor Freight  
Lawrence Montrose ..... Rabbi

David Hoffman ..... Civil Engineering  
John Findling ..... Auto Parts Mfg.

The sometimes caustic *Ramrods* by Bob Choate prompted written responses by easily offended Rotarians, and some members also voiced questions from the podium about “minor errors” in the newsletter. All in good fun, of course, and the outcome was a two way dialogue which added much fun to the meetings. A long term correspondence with an anonymous Rotarian “using a typewriter with a vivid blue ribbon” was started, some messages were printed in the *Ramrod* on occasion. The unsigned notes continued for years, the writer later becoming known as ZERRO with two R’s. Zerro will reappear in later reports in this study.

The election of board members held in March resulted in a three way tie and was settled by the toss of coins. The winners were Bob Ohlemacher, Rorick Amos, and Bob Stevenson. Programs included speakers discussing local problems, while a number of presentations dealt with the beginnings of the computer age and national issues. The, then auditor of the State of Ohio, James A. Rhodes, spoke on, “The trial of Mary Todd Lincoln,” a book he had written.

The cold war with Russia, unemployment, and mounting taxes were also topics for programs, some given by high school students sponsored by Rotary to the World Affairs Institute. Student guests attended almost every meeting of the club during the school year.

Donations for the year included \$375.00 for nursing student tuitions, \$100.00 for the Junior Achievement program, and an additional \$1,000.00 for the YMCA camp swimming pool.

New officers for 1960/61 elected were

David P. Wainwright ..... President  
Wilbur G. Senft ..... Vice-President  
Ray A. Renz ..... Secretary/Treasurer  
Russell Gleason ..... Sergeant-at-Arms

New members added were:

William P. Henline ..... Minister  
William Dutch ..... Civil Engineer  
Ivan Justice ..... Fund Raising Agency

Active membership on July 1, 1960 was 100 with honorary no longer being listed on District reports.

The July 12, 1960 *Ramrod* had another change in header style. It was pre-printed with: officers listed at the top, a new graphic title logo and Rotary wheel in dark blue, and the phrase, “Meets Tuesday-12:05-Elyria YMCA.” The art work was credited to Walt Evans Art Company, the printing from Choate’s Wilmot Printing Company. The copy continued to be mimeographed, and Bill Naegele filled in as a writer on occasion. Perhaps, depending on his mood, Bob Choate signed his newsletters in a number of different ways: Bob, Bob C, Bob Choate, R. D. C., and on December 13, 1960, for the first time, “As Ever,” Bob Choate.

A club picture was taken in front of the Court House after the last meeting in June, dues remained \$40.00 per year, and the golf outing and family picnic were announced as summer fellowship opportunities. Attendance continued to be poor, Elyria was in last place out of 53 clubs for a couple of summer months. Student guests were again welcomed to the noon meeting starting in September, and another anonymous letter was printed in the *Ramrod* taking the editor to task for some mis-deed. The letter was signed "E Pluribus Uranium."

The year, 1960, closed out with the usual holiday visit to Gates Hospital and Christmas program at the YMCA. It should be noted at this point that Gates Hospital usage was down because of newly discovered Polio vaccines being available. With the main hospital expansion, Gates was eventually moved to the new building, but, in the mean time, Rotary continued to visit the children and kept the tradition going. Between 1960 and 1980 Elyria Rotary provided braces and invalid equipment to those still afflicted. More information will be reported as the years are reviewed

New members added from July 1 to December 31, 1960 were:

Richard Linde..... Minister  
William Raddatz ..... Alloy Castings

The District Governor's year end report showed Elyria had slipped back to 98 members, and poor attendance placed the club at 48th position out of 53 in the District.

The club treasury had been accumulating, so another large donation to the Elyria Memorial Hospital building fund was made, \$3,000.00 in February 1961, and no special collection was asked of members. There was a move to have a Rotary Memorial plaque placed in the yet unfinished Gates floor of the new building. \$200.00 was also given to the YMCA for new drapes for the meeting room.

A thoroughly enjoyed program was presented on April 4 by Oberlin College music professor, Arthur Williams, and was reported in the *Ramrod* under the heading "Elyria's Little Sympathy Orchestra." The professor provided some \$4,000.00 worth of instruments to musically disinclined Rotarians, instructing each one in a few notes of the song, "Hot Cross Buns," and proceeded to have each add his part in turn to the song. The result was an instant Rotary Band, much hilarity, and enthusiastic applause from the audience. Included in the rendition were "three feeble squeaks from an oboe" played by the *Ramrod* editor.

A fund raising event was held on a Saturday with Rotarians manning the pumps at Julius Edwards' gas station, the \$200.00 proceeds going to the Skills Workshop of the Center for the Sightless. It was announced that Elyria would be the host club for the District Conference to be held on April 27-28, 1962. Also announced was an invitation for all members to attend the YMCA 50th anniversary banquet. Elyria Rotarians had been the principal supporters of the YMCA since its beginning in 1911.

The year concluded with the annual ladies' night party on May 2 and the June 6 clean up day at Camp Iss-See-Kes.

Induction of officers for 1961/62 was held on June 27, Past Governor Bill McClellan doing the honors:

Wilbur G. Senft..... President  
Robert Stevenson..... Vice-President  
David P. Wainwright ..... Secretary/Treasurer

Ray Renz retired from the office of Secretary/Treasurer after six years of service.

New members added since January were:

Arthur Showalter ..... Cold Drawn Steel  
Baxter Case ..... Communications-Telephone  
Leroy Barr..... Aircraft Pump Mfg.  
Robert Cox..... Commercial Banking

The year end report listed the membership once again back to 100, and the club had a bank balance of \$1,376.41





## Chapter Ten

July 1, 1961 to June 30, 1968

DAVID P. WAINWRIGHT – SECRETARY

**D**ave Wainwright was the sixth Secretary of the Elyria Rotary Club and the last to also hold the duty of Treasurer. Dave was a native Elyrian and a product of Elyria schools. He attended Hiram College and the Cleveland College for Morticians. He owned a funeral home at 604 Middle Avenue until a new facility was built on Chestnut Ridge at State Route 57 in late 1964.

Wainwright served as President the year before being named Secretary and had, from his joining Rotary on November 30, 1949, been instrumental in the tax stamp redemption fund raising. His nature was reserved and soft spoken, his work in Rotary thorough and exacting. During his time in office, the club hosted a district conference, made progress in new civic contributions, and inaugurated the cancellation of some traditional Elyria Rotary projects which had outlived their usefulness. Wainwright played a part in each of the changes.

Club membership from 1961 to 1968 ranged from a low of 94 to a high of 112. A major advancement was made in 1962, when the first annual directory of members was printed. The new directory gave a complete listing of important information of every member. Included were: nickname, home address, phone number, wife's name, company name and phone number, classification, birthday, date of joining the club, and membership status.

Also changed in July 1961 was the layout of the *Ramrod*, the address side being pre-printed with logos, meeting time and place, the Four Way Test, officers, and a complete list of committee assignments. The message side was printed on a multi-lith press. The result was easier to read than the previous mimeographed sheets. On January 1, 1963, first class postage went from three to four cents for the *Ramrod*.

The summer and fall of 1961 were enjoyed with the usual golf day, YMCA camp family picnic, camp work project, and a combination ladies night and tour of the Oberlin Aircraft Control Center. Planning for the District Conference, to be held in Elyria in April 1962, was started, and, by October, every member was assigned to a special committee. Arrangements for the conference took up much of the energy of the club in 1961/62, so no break from the traditional Tuesday meeting activities was tried. Because of the hospital building construction, the annual visit to Gates Hospital was cut to a short gift ceremony by a few members.

Membership on January 1, 1962 was at 94, dropping from 99 the previous July 1, a number of resignations having been accepted and only two new members added.

Herbert Carlson..... Glass Lined Tank Mfg.

Harry J. P. Woltz ..... Accounting Service

The first six months of 1962 had some different programs including a one time revival of the Rural-Urban day meeting with local farm owners. The first basketball team recognition noon banquet was held, the student World Affairs Institute project was completed, and a

number of Rotary information programs were presented in anticipation of the District Conference on April 27-28.

Elyrians heading the conference committees were: Wib Senft-General Chairman, Burton Ohlemacher and Bill McClellan-Vice-chairmen, Ray Renz-Secretary, and R. Jay Fitch-Treasurer. All activities, except the ladies luncheon, were held in the Elyria High School buildings, making use of the gymnasium, cafeteria, and auditorium. The ladies' luncheon was held at the Elyria Country Club with Mrs. Wib Senft as chairman. The program included a skit by the Elyria Rotary Anns entitled, "No Anns in Your Plans," written by Mrs. Fred Janes and directed by Mrs. William Naegle.

Principal speakers were outgoing Governor Donald Beveridge, Percy Hodgson-Past Rotary International President 1949/50, Arthur Secord, author of business management handbooks, Dr. R. C. "Scottie" Young-Education Systems lecturer, and Eddie Finnigan-Athletic Director at Western Reserve University.

A colorful program featured the Elyria Rotary Club banner with the inscription, "Where Rotary started work for crippled children." In addition to the schedule of events, the program listed the fifteen Past District Governors in attendance, all clubs of District 660 along with the names of their Presidents and Secretaries, and all Elyria Rotary committee chairmen. It was a highly successful conference, Elyria gaining many new "Rotarian friends" according to the report in the *Ramrod* of May 1.

The financial report for 1961/62 listed income of \$6,961.13, disbursements of \$7,315.27, and a bad check for \$399.00 from a student loan recipient. The shortfall was covered by the previous year carry-over of \$1,376.41. Donations totaled \$1,555.73 including \$533.40 for a new compressor for the Center for the Sightless Skills program, \$225.00 to the United Fund, and \$250.00 for the Pony League baseball team.

In a section of the audit, it was suggested that the student loan program be administered through the general fund rather than through a separate account as had been the practice. Art Giles, having audited the club books since his joining the club in 1921, gave a brief summary of the program and hinted at the need for closer attention to collection from students in the future.

Membership on July 1, 1962 totaled 96. Those added in six months were:

Ben V. Myers.....	General Physician
James F. Hill.....	Commercial Banking
Paul Bundy.....	Hotels
Dan Cooksey.....	Gray Iron Castings
J. Norman Stark.....	Architecture
Joe Simpson .....	General Merchandise

Officers for 1962/ 63 were:

Robert W. Stevenson .....	President
George C. Rubenson .....	Vice-President
David P. Wainwright .....	Secretary/Treasurer
Russell Gleason .....	Sergeant-at-Arms

To demonstrate the change to younger members in the club, President Bob gave these statistics at the first meeting of 1962/63: "The club has 24 members under five years, 21 from 5-10 years, 19 from 10-15 years, 11 from 15-20 years, and only 16 over 20 years service. The average tenure in the club is 12 years."

An event worth noting happened on October 9, the second 100% meeting in the club history, the occasion being the official visit of the District Governor. The following week was a tour of the Ford Assembly Plant in Lorain and attendance dropped by half.

A fund raising event by the projects committee was for internal use, selling fruit cakes to members only. At a price of \$3.25 and a sale of 225 cakes, the committee hoped to pay for part of the \$600.00 nurses' scholarship. The event was reported in the *Ramrod* as being sold out at one meeting. Elyria Rotary participated in the Sabin polio vaccine campaign on November 25 by providing transportation of supplies to seven locations. Free or low cost polio vaccine injections were available to everyone in the county and eventually eliminated the dreaded disease. It was twenty-five years later when Elyria also participated in the world wide Rotary International Polio Plus campaign and donated nearly \$60,000.00. A full report on the Polio Plus project in Elyria will be covered later.

The new wing of Elyria Memorial Hospital was under construction, but Gates Hospital was still in use, so the annual visit was made. No new cases of polio were being treated, but the 28 patients previously afflicted still needed some cheer.

The year ended with the Salvation Army bell ringing as the next two regular meetings were not held because December 25 and January 1 both fell on Tuesday. The year ended with exactly 100 members on the roster including those added in the previous six months:

Carl L. Smith..... Investments  
Richard J. Elliott..... Advertising Specialties  
William J. Fitch..... Commercial Banking  
Leonard Dittman..... Home for the Aged  
William W. Standen..... Surety Bonds  
John Rosenblatt..... Rabbi

On January 8, 1963, the projects committee held an auction of left over and duplicate Christmas gifts donated by members. In case a member forgot to bring along a donation, the committee had suitable replacements at the door for \$2.50, and a strong suggestion that the empty handed take advantage of the opportunity. Between the fruit cake sale and the auction, the committee raised \$450.00. A total of \$1,150.00 was used for the nurses' scholarship, a student music scholarship, the Pony League baseball team, and an equipment purchase for the Skills Workshop. An additional \$125.00 was used to send two children to the Ohio Society for Crippled Children camp.

Spring 1963 was filled with activities including a ladies night party, and a large group of Elyrians attended the District Conference where Jay Fitch was elected District Treasurer. Meeting programs took an internal turn with members showcasing their occupations.

Officers elected for 1963/64 were:

George C. Rubenson ..... President  
George W. Brian ..... Vice-President

David P. Wainwright ..... Secretary/Treasurer  
Russell Gleason ..... Sergeant-at-Arms

For the second year, Rev. Dick Linde was named club chaplain. Because George Rubinson was head of Ohio Edison and George Brian headed Ohio Fuel Gas, they became known as "Electric George" and "Gas George" and sometimes "George one" and "George two."

New members joining since January 1 were:

Norman Weston ..... Telephone Service  
Thomas P. Haywood ..... Jewelry-Retail  
William McGovern ..... Boy's Work-Scouting

With three new members and five resignations, the year ended down 2 at 98.

The 1963/64 year started with the Rotary International statistics that there were 535,500 Rotarians in 129 countries. On the home front, the club voted to raise the dues to \$45.00 per year. Summer activities included: the golf day and the annual picnic at Camp Iss-See-Kes with about 100 Rotarians and family members in attendance.

December 3rd was an evening bus trip, dinner, and visit to Nela Park in Cleveland for the holiday light display, with 80 Rotarians and wives on the tour. The last Gates Hospital visit and program for crippled children was held on December 17. The polio victims, needing special care, were transferred to the new wing of Elyria Memorial Hospital in January. The number of afflicted reached a new low of 25, prompting Elyria Rotarians to find a new way to aid the handicapped. A committee worked on the new program, which was inaugurated in late 1964. Details of the plan will be told as we review 1964/65.

New members added July 1 to December 31, 1963 were:

Charles Lawson ..... Travel Agency  
Robert Vandemark ..... Barber

January 1964 started with 96 active members and the semi-annual dues billing was up by \$2.50 as voted previously. Attendance for 1963 was in the 82% range, about mid-way in the District average, but an improvement over the previous decade. The usual push for a 100% meeting in February fell short by eight members.

Chairman Bob Ohlemacher and the ladies night committee started a teaser campaign using French language announcements in the *Ramrod*, some of the language being less French than it could have been. Various translations were offered by members in later issues of the *Ramrod*, adding to the mystery.

The amateur translations of the French Ladies' Night promotions were featured in the *Ramrod* on occasion, this one April 7:

"Ne pas quarante cinq en noir, mais en nuit  
Mai dix-neuf, s'il vous plait! Ooh, la, la!"

was translated by Hal Zealley to:

"You'll not get quarantined with red spots but black  
My dead nephew had his hair in braids. Hotcha."

The ladies night was a huge success. It was held at the Oberlin Inn, complete with: French decorations, sidewalk entertainment, a gourmet meal, and, for the first time at a Rotary

function, spiked punch was available. Compliments flowed, including this remark in the *Ramrod*: the committee “outdid anything ever done” and it was the best party in years. It was reported in the *Ramrod* two weeks later that Bob Ohlemacher was confined to his home with the mumps. “Speedy recovery,” wished the *Ramrod*.

Another change, to add variety to the club, was the addition of architect Norm Stark to the “*Ramrod* Writers Guild.” On March 3, Stark started alternating with Bob Choate and continued writing until he moved to Cleveland in April 1966. Stark was an accomplished artist as well as a good alternative to Choate’s writing style, adding the straight man to the team. On occasion, Stark would add a caricature to his copy to focus on an event. When Stark left town, Bill Naegele resumed being *Ramrod* substitute writer when needed.

Officers elected for 1964/65 were:

George W. Brian ..... President  
Charles J. Snoble..... Vice President  
David P. Wainwright ..... Secretary/Treasurer  
Russell Gleason ..... Sergeant-at-Arms

New members added were:

Lyle B. Reichert..... General Contracting  
Robert Bonner ..... Telephone Service  
A. N. “Chick” Smith..... Real Estate

The 1963/64 year ended with 97 members. The yearly audit had these numbers: carry-over from the previous year \$804.97, receipts \$6,497.00, disbursements \$7,077.65, and a balance of \$224.32. This was the 42nd consecutive year that Art Giles had audited the books, starting the year of his joining, 1921. Art Giles original classification was “Bands” because, at the time, his income was primarily from his music. He was elected Lorain County Auditor but maintained his Bands classification until he was eligible to become a Senior Active member. There was no classification for elected officials. His 42 years of service to Rotary as auditor is a record worthy of acknowledgment in our history.

The club continued the annual golf day, however, for the first time the event was not counted as a regular meeting, and members were reminded to meet at the YMCA or make up. Over 130 members and guests attended the family picnic at Camp Iss-See-Kes. Because of the closing of Gates Hospital, it was the first time since 1919 that the club had no handicapped children’s party.

New members added July 1, to December 31 were:

George Reading ..... Red Cross  
Charles Hamilton..... Minister  
Paul Nakel..... Radio Station  
Leslie Spier..... Community College

Membership on January 1, 1965 was 96. Most of those with fifteen years sevice had elected to become Senior Active, however, a few still resisted in order to keep their original classifications.

Because of the changing needs of crippled children, a new program was inaugurated in March 1965 to benefit those needing help with leg braces. As polio victims grew older,

new braces were needed, and although State aid was available in most cases, brace suppliers required pre-payment for the specially fitted appliances. An Elyria Rotary Crippled Children's committee was formed to administer a loan and grant program for those not eligible for state aid or were unable to pay in advance of the three month wait for state aid. Funds for the program came from disbanding the student loan account and an allocation from the club general fund. Rotarians were also urged to tour the Gates floor in the new hospital and participate on clinic days with refreshments for the children. The brace program was administered through the hospital social service department, with that department acting as repayment agent for Rotary.

The student guest visit was reinstated, two students from one of the high schools being introduced, a different two once a month. Also continued was the long time project of sponsoring students to the World Affairs Institute. Participating students gave a program at a Rotary meeting on their experiences.

May was the start of a campaign to build a new Elyria Public Library. This was not a Rotary project, but many Rotarians as well as Kiwanians had leadership roles. Roy Barr and Stanton Fitzgerald helped promote the campaign to replace the old library on Third Street with a new building to be built on Washington Avenue. The goal was to raise \$265,000.00, Rotarians and their businesses were some of the major givers.

The club met at Elyria Memorial Hospital on June 15, and Jim Frank explained the work being done with Rotary funds for those needing braces. He also noted the 50 years that the Gates division had been a pioneer in orthopedics. A tour of the new Gates floor and an address by Dr. Joe Strong concluded the meeting.

Officers elected for 1965/66 were:

Charles J. Snoble..... President  
Robert L. Ohlemacher ..... Vice-President  
David P. Wainwright ..... Secretary/Treasurer  
Russell Gleason ..... Sergeant-at-Arms

New members from January 1 to June 30, 1965 were:

Robert E. Campbell ..... Ship Fittings-Mfg.  
Everett A. Kazup..... Yellow Pages Advertising-Sales  
James Rafferty..... Steel Spring Mfg.  
Stanley M. Cowen ..... Glazing

On July 1, 1965 the club membership totaled 99 active.

Area developments are always topics for Rotary programs, and in 1965 two were in the news: Lorain County Community College and the Lorain County Regional Airport west of Elyria. Chartered on July 1, 1963, the college opened the first building on Abbe Road in 1965, having used rented classrooms prior to that time. A number of Rotary programs were devoted to the need for the facility and the support of the people of Lorain County. The plan to build a new airport was approved. An attempt that was made to turn the airport into a jetport to serve the Cleveland area as a freight and charter center, met with much opposition. Expansion costs would pay for themselves was the message by a number of speakers before Rotary. Lorain County Community College went on to rapid development,

but the airport expansion failed to materialize. Elyria Rotary continued to be an important sounding board for ideas, controversial or not.

The classification committee did a thorough study of available classifications in the club and also recommended some changes to up-date members' classifications. Attorney and banker classifications needed greater separation, and other terminology needed to be modernized. It was suggested that an effort be made to fill more of the un-used classifications, rather than separate existing classifications. A greater use of committees to define projects and carry out Rotary's objects was promoted.

Members added from July 1 to December 30, 1965 were:

- Earl Sandrock..... Office Equipment Retail
- Robert Dawson ..... Electric Power Distribution
- John V. Bara..... Education-Junior High School
- Nick Giorgianni ..... Oil Products-Wholesale

Membership totaled 97 on January 1, 1966.

A report from Rotary International dated 2/8/66, listed a cumulative total of Elyria's contributions to the Rotary Foundation of \$1,035.00. Jim Frank, chairman of the crippled children's brace project, gave a report showing 13 cases receiving financial help from the club and another 16 cases pending with the state. The club also supplied refreshments for clinics held for the afflicted. The program was showing results.

The weekly *Ramrod* became a contest of wordsmiths, Bob Choate and Norm Stark running a relay with the members' antics, produced a newsletter of continuing interest. A member having his name in the bulletin, for better or worse, felt proud. The mood was light, often with much humor, and "Foolosophee" such as this was printed:

Sign in a butcher shop in London: "We make sausage for Queen Elizabeth II."  
Sign in a rival shop across the street: "God save the Queen."

The Elyria Rotary Club continued to support the World Affairs Institute and was rewarded with programs by the attending students. The number of students participating also grew, so that on March 29, seven Elyria High School seniors gave their impressions. Also continued was the noon banquet, honoring the basketball teams from Elyria High School and Elyria Catholic High School. Student guests became a regular feature of at least one meeting each month during the school year.

Ladies night parties continued to have a theme, the 1966 edition was a "Down on the farm" evening of square dancing and rural humor. Straw hats, corn cob pipes, and granny gowns set the stage for an outstanding party.

New officers for 1966/67 included an addition of a second Vice-President to share the duties and be in closer contact with more working committees. The experiment was to last only two years, then back to a single Vice-President.

Those elected:

- Robert L. Ohlemacher ..... President
- James G. Frank..... 1st Vice-President
- Richard J. Elliott..... 2nd Vice-President



David P. Wainwright ..... Secretary/Treasurer  
Russell Gleason ..... Sergeant-at-Arms

New members added since January:

Frederick E. AuWerter..... Office Equipment-Retail  
Robert H. Perry ..... Dentistry  
Kenneth A. Sommer ..... Mobile Homes

Membership on July 1, 1966 was 97.

After the retirement of Art Giles, Harry Woltz took over the annual audit of the club books and continued the service for about twenty years. The financial report for the year showed income of \$4,690.35, all but \$19.85 from dues and initiation fees, since no fund raising projects occurred during the time. Donations included the United Fund, Library Building Fund, and student activities. The golf day, family picnic, and two ladies nights had a shortfall of about \$700.00.

The 1966/67 year started with changes: a member directory not being printed and the *Ramrod* listing a roster of members' names on the address side. The directory returned in 1967/68. The roster of names in the *Ramrod* was to be a feature until 1994. The general layout of the *Ramrod* also remained the same for some time, except for an occasional change in the artwork for the logo, and an increase in size from 8" x 11" to 8" x 14" in 1973. As published in 1966, the *Ramrod* was attractively pre-printed on the address side, the message side having no artwork. Because Norm Stark had relocated his business to Cleveland and moved out of town, Bob Choate again became full time editor with Bill Naegele substituting on occasion.

President Bob Ohlemacher inaugurated changes in the meeting format: the call to order was made promptly at 12:25, the speaker started at 12:45, and adjournment was at 1:15, eliminating the uncertain schedule of previous meetings. Paul Nakel, of the radio station, gave the news report at the start of each meeting. A new fellowship party was held at Oak Lake Park in October. Billed as a stag, Rotarians enjoyed games, guests from the two high schools, and a cook out. It was reported, "order your steaks the way you want them," however, as it turned out, they were either burned or very rare.

The activities for the balance of the year included: work on the Halloween parade, a joint Rotary, Kiwanis football banquet, and a ladies luncheon with the Elyria High School choir performing.

A number of younger members joined during the six month period:

Theodore Wickens ..... Employment Services  
C. Richard Miller ..... Education  
John Machowiak ..... Steel Tubing  
Vern Schillings ..... General Merchandise  
Fred J. Snoble ..... Banking Law  
J. C. William Tattersall .... Municipal Law  
Scribner L. Fauver ..... Corporation Law  
Ronald Taylor ..... Telephone Service

Membership had increased to 103 by January 1, 1967.

The first mention of the Group Study Exchange program was a report in the *Ramrod* that Elyria was to support the District in the project. Another international event for Elyria was a month long visit by a Rotary sponsored ambassador from Uruguay, a Senora Garcia, her mission to promote world friendship. On February 21, the club hosted over 30 foreign students from Oberlin College for an International Night dinner. The event combined the World Understanding Week observance of the founding of Rotary International and ladies' night.

Also, for the first time, Elyria was invited to join the OVAL(E) interclub banquet with the Oberlin, Vermilion, Amherst, and Lorain Rotary Clubs. Elyria had been an outsider with the other clubs because Lorain had sponsored the other three. However, there may have been other rivalries over the years that kept the clubs apart. Members visiting among clubs to make up were always warmly welcomed, but this was the first joint meeting of all the clubs in the county.

The crippled children's loan and grant fund committee, headed by Jim Frank, reported that, in two years, Rotary had assisted 73 children needing braces. The committee spent \$92.74 for cookies and milk for youngsters coming to the weekly clinics and had guaranteed \$4,521.50 worth of braces. With repayments by the parents and \$602.00 in donations, the project ended the year with \$118.00.

The club held the June 13 meeting at the Elyria Memorial Hospital to visit the orthopedic clinic and hear Dr. George Bennett give an up-date of hospital needs. The Gates building was in the process of being changed over to the M. B. Johnson School of Nursing.

It had been one of the most active years Elyria Rotary had in some time, new projects and more members getting involved, and a record number of new Rotarians joining:

James S. Garber..... Public Relations  
Harold E. McDonald..... Medical Service-Urology  
Owen E. Workman..... Commercial Banking  
Phillip E. Hubrick..... Petroleum Marketing  
Kenneth Hall..... Sanitary Engineering  
James E. Terrell..... Printing  
Malcolm E. Cash..... Light & Power Service  
Michael DeNicola..... Law Enforcement  
Richard Boblenz..... Chemical Mfg.  
Norman Shanks..... Rivet Mfg.  
Robert Brennan..... Hospitals

Membership attained another new high with 109 on July 1, 1967.

The financial report for 1966/67 listed \$810.00 to the project committee and a loss of \$233.39 on the International Night event.

Rotary International dues for the year totaled \$806.67, the club dues were still \$45.00 per year. The year end carry-over was \$2,309.94.

Officers for 1967/68 installed were:

James G. Frank..... President  
Richard J. Elliott..... 1st Vice-President  
A. N. Smith..... 2nd Vice-President

David P. Wainwright ..... Secretary/Treasurer  
Russell Gleason ..... Sergeant-at-Arms

The summer and fall months of 1967 included a bus trip to the Lorain steel mill and the second annual stag steak fry at Oak Lake Park. Student guests became a regular feature of noon meetings, District Governor Ross Herrick from Lorain made his official visit, and the controversial airport expansion topic made for a couple of lively programs. A major step was completed with the extension of the Avon Lake Rotary Club by Elyria, the first meeting held on October 27. Wib Senft and Bob Ohlemacher of Elyria and John Corrigan of Lorain spearheaded the drive.

The year ended with the annual football banquet, jointly held with Kiwanis, and the following week, the ladies' luncheon with the Elyria High School choir as the program. Woody Hayes from Ohio State spoke at the football banquet, his usual inspiring ways were highly noted in the *Ramrod*.

New members for the last six months of 1967 were:

Edward Lees ..... Medical Service-Surgery  
Charles E. Zepp ..... Medical Service-Ophthalmology  
David Pence ..... Passenger Travel Agency

On January 1, 1968 there were 112 members in the Elyria Rotary Club.

Plans were well under way for the Elyria Rotary Club's 50th anniversary party to be held on May 21, committees already meeting to arrange for this milestone event. In Mid January, postage went from four to six cents for the *Ramrod*. February 28 was the second year Elyria participated in the county Rotary joint meeting, now called OVALE-AL with the addition of Avon Lake. March activities included an international night with foreign students as guests and, later in the month, the annual high school basketball teams recognition.

Elyria hosted another "guest ambassador" from Argentina, Maria Raventos, under the sponsorship of Rotary International and, on March 17-18-19, the club hosted six Group Study Exchange delegates from Iceland. Elyria Rotarians welcomed the group into their homes, the only complaint by the guests was too many activities. A large number of Elyrians attended the District Conference in Lorain on April 20-21, speakers included Bob Choate of Elyria and Colonel "Shorty" Powers, the voice of NASA space missions. The following Tuesday meeting featured George Steinbrenner as the speaker, telling of the future of Lorain as a major lake port.

The fiftieth anniversary party on May 21 was an event of remembering the past with a printed program featuring short histories of the club and saluting past presidents and charter members. The program also included a number of photographs: twenty-two Past Presidents, a group picture of members in 1968, and a number of Gates Hospital scenes. Ralph Murbach, the last remaining charter member, was recognized, and tribute was paid to the five past Secretaries that had served the club during those fifty years. The program featured skits and short reminiscences from older Rotarians and a presentation to the Elyria Recreation Department of \$2,000.00 for the good of the city. The evening was described as a "flood of nostalgia."

On June 25, the club met at Elyria Memorial Hospital for the annual visit to hear an up-date on the loan and grant program for those children needing braces. Gates had been transformed into a school of nursing and the Rotary meeting was held in its new auditorium. The meeting of Tuesday June 25, 1968 was the final time Dave Wainwright served as Secretary having passed the duty to Bob Ohlemacher. Wainwright had served the club well for the past seven years, and the thanks of the club were expressed by President Jim Frank.

The financial report for the year indicated no outside fund raising, the income from dues only. The international night meeting was subsidized by \$313.88 and the 50th anniversary party had a shortfall of \$1,318.80. Donations, in addition to the gift to the Recreation Department, totaled about \$1,100.00, the treasury ending the year with just \$109.74 as a carry-over.

New members added since January 1 were:

Robert J. Byrne..... Petroleum Marketing  
John R. Aquilla..... Investment Brokerage  
Clarence Schauer ..... Community College

Officers for 1968/69 were:

Richard J. Elliott..... President  
Harold Enyeart..... Vice-President  
Robert L. Ohlemacher ..... Secretary  
Russell Gleason ..... Treasurer/Sergeant-at-Arms

For the first time the duties of Secretary and Treasurer were split, a move made necessary by the increasing size of the club.



## Chapter Eleven

July 1, 1968 to June 30, 1974

ROBERT L. OHLEMACHER – SECRETARY

**B**ob Ohlemacher was born in Elyria on November 25, 1927, the son of Burton and Madeline Ohlemacher. Bob attended Elyria schools and went on to graduate from The Ohio State University in 1948. After graduation he took on a couple of local jobs, one selling insurance for Marion Crowder for two years. Bob enlisted in the U. S. Army, attained the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in ordnance, and served a year in Korea. Upon returning to Elyria in October 1953, he joined the family business, Elyria Manufacturing Corp, and became President of the company when Burton retired in 1965.

Bob's interest in and dedication to Rotary began as a youngster when he accompanied Burton to a number of his many District and International convention visits. Bob joined the Elyria Rotary Club in 1954 and was elected president for 1966/67. He was chosen as Secretary in 1968 and served in the position until June 30, 1974. Prior to becoming President, he was instrumental in creating a more useful committee system with working members rather than a committee in name only with the chairman doing much of the work. Bob was chairman of Club Service, Community Service, a number of social events, and brought a greater number of members into the active column.

In addition to his Rotary involvement, Bob was active in many civic and business organizations including the JayCees, the Elyria Chamber of Commerce and the National Machine Screw Manufacturers Association of which he became President.

Bob's dedication to Elyria Rotary did not end when he turned the Secretary's duties over to Bill Standen in 1974. He continues to be a voice in the club's management with advice and counsel when appropriate, but remaining in the background much of the time. His role in District and Rotary International events for many years qualifies him as one of Elyria's experts in Rotary's rules and regulations.

One of the greatest debts the club owes to Bob is his foresight in saving the records of all previous secretaries and storing them in safety until they were consolidated in one room in 1994. When Bob became Secretary, the Board instructed him to collect the records of the previous administration and keep them at the YMCA meeting room. With the help of Ray Renz, this was done. Later, when the club moved the meeting place to the YWCA, he moved all of the club's archives to his home for safe keeping. In December 1994, a dedicated Rotary archives room at the Elyria Manufacturing Company was established and all material was moved there. In addition, all known records from 1968 to 1994 have been collected and stored in the room.

During Ohlemacher's term, the membership went from 113 members in July 1966 to 121 in June 1974 with a high of 124.

Changes proposed and passed at the board meeting of February 27, 1967, during the previous administration, were inaugurated on July 1, 1968. It was decided to separate the offices of Secretary and Treasurer and only the Treasurer would be compensated for his duties.

\$40.00 per month had been the compensation for previous Secretaries, until Bob Choate took over the writing of the bulletin, at which time the Secretary's stipend was reduced by \$5.00. This \$5.00 was to be paid to the *Ramrod* writer, however, there is no record that it was ever accepted, and also no indication that Treasurer Gus Gleason ever took any compensation for his service to the club.

The first mention of another far reaching change in Elyria Rotary's personality was at the July 2, 1968 board meeting when a "Fine" committee was established with Mal Cash as chairman. It was decided to fine members a token amount, such as a dime, for not having a lapel pin or a quarter for some other "infraction," such as a picture in the newspaper. The idea was not so much to make money as to add more life to the meetings. A whole chapter could be written on the early adventures of Mal Cash, suffice it to say, he handled the situation with great humor and set the stage for this on-going activity. He started with a small piggy bank passed around the room, added a somewhat larger one later, and finally used a plastic piggy bank which he named, "El Rota." Mal took on the persona of a southern sheriff who was a part of a very popular television commercial for Dodge automobiles. He was famous for saying, "Y'all in a heap of trouble, Boy," when he fined someone. Because of his portly build and southern accent, he was soon dubbed "Porky Pig."

Elyria Rotary, since the founding, has operated under the "Standard Rotary International Constitution" and has usually followed the by-laws and directives of Rotary International. An amendment made by Rotary International, during Ohlemacher's term, caused a mandatory change to Senior Active status for anyone with fifteen years service and the age of 65. The club used this rule to open seven classifications held by long time members that had not elected to become Senior Active on their own.

A social committee report, dated July 22, 1968, gave tentative plans for the coming year. Four social events were suggested: fall clam bake, Christmas choir luncheon, Ladies night, and a family picnic. All events were to be self supporting and the dates had to work around the OVALE-ALnight and the District 660 Conference. It was also decided to have a foreign guest ambassador and an International Night.

An attendance contest between Elyria and Lorain was held in October and each member of our club, who missed a meeting and did not make up, was fined a dollar—the proceeds going to a joint meeting in November. Lorain won the contest and some dissension was noted over the dollar fine.

Elyria continued to support the Rotary Foundation with a donation of \$10.00 for each new member and \$1.00 for each other member for the year. The United Fund was no longer kept in the budget because it was felt the individual members already contributed. The traditional holiday meeting with the Elyria High School Choir was followed the last Tuesday of December with children and grandchildren as guests.

Membership in the club on January 1, 1969 was 113, the same number as the previous July 1. The last person to be listed as an honorary member was J. B. Johnson. New members added:

Thomas W. Porter.....Child Welfare Association  
Douglas H. Schneider .....Glass Lined Tank Mfg.

Thomas Clayton .....Auto Accessories-Mfg.  
Alan Botamer .....Flowers-Retail

The four additions were offset by four resignations. Attendance for the six months averaged 76%.

The third annual International Night was held on February 18, and foreign students from all area colleges and high schools were invited. About thirty-five students attended, mostly from Oberlin College.

It was voted by the club to increase the size of the board from nine to twelve members, each to serve a three year term. The election of board members was held in late February and new officers were elected in early March. Officers elected for 1969/70 were:

Harold Enyeart.....President  
Robert H. Perry .....Vice-President  
Robert L. Ohlemacher .....Secretary  
Russell Gleason .....Treasurer/Sergeant-at-Arms

In an attempt to increase attendance, it was decided to promote a calling committee. Each member was to call the name below his on the roster and remind him of the next meeting. The person listed above a man missing at the meeting was asked to explain his absence or pay a fine. Reminders in the *Ramrod* suggested calling, but the program must not have been effective because the notices stopped after about a month.

The annual basketball banquet for high schoolers was held jointly with Kiwanis. A week later, John Murbach, the speaker for the April 15 meeting, was introduced by Tom Haywood. The entire introduction was, "He sells bricks." The annual ladies night was to feature the Lord Mayor of Dublin, however, he failed to arrive on Irish Air Lines as scheduled. The committee came through with a suitable substitute.

A plaque was presented to Elyria Rotary by the National Easter Seal Society to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of crippled children's work in Elyria. The plaque was installed at the Gates floor of the hospital. President Dick Elliott proposed establishing a scholarship fund for crippled children in Elyria, a challenge that was fulfilled in later years with scholarships at Lorain County Community College.

The 1968/69 year finished with a meeting held at the hospital for the annual report, given by Jim Frank, on the handicapped brace project. Loans and grants for the year totaled \$5,932.00 with repayments and donations nearly matching. The fund ended the period only \$55.00 short of the previous year's balance. Other civic projects for the year were helped with over \$1,500.00 in donations from the club. All social events were self sustaining except for a ladies night shortfall of \$105.35.

Membership on June 30, 1969 was at 119. New members added since January 1 were:

Thomas S. Price.....Building Maintenance  
Dale Cutler .....Plumbing Supplies-Mfg.  
Ronald Landig .....Architecture  
DeWayne Everitt.....Plastics-Mfg.  
Phillip Young .....Real Estate  
Donald F. Andress .....Insurance-Life



Richard J. Bergman.....Golf Ball Mfg.  
H. Boyd Cameron.....Machine Shop

Hal Enyeart, the President for 1969/70, proposed a review of all Rotary activities and the implementation of new projects to replace those that were outdated. His goal was to increase member participation. To that end, a career day was proposed for high school students, student guests at meetings were continued, and students were again sent to the World Affairs Institute. Promotion of fellowship and an attendance contest with Lorain were two activities high on the agenda for the fall months. Noon lunch cost rose to \$2.00.

The international guest ambassador for the summer was Miss Manni E. L. Elings from Enschede, Holland. She arrived on August 2 and departed on September 20, and, in that interval, treated Rotary to her international charm with weekly "News at noon from the Netherlands" reports. As an example, she said that the story about the boy with his finger in the dike is relatively unknown in the Netherlands and is American folklore. She stayed with a number of Rotarian families during that time, further creating good will in both directions. She was so much in demand for speaking engagements and social gatherings, it was necessary for Barb Wentz to be appointed as her social secretary. Although not sponsored by Rotary, the international visitor experiment led to Elyria's support and participation in the Group Study Exchange and foreign exchange student programs of later years.

Mal Cash with his "Porky Pig" was now a regular routine at the noon meetings, fines going as high as a dollar for serious offenses such as a previously bald member showing up with a full head of hair. The second annual clam bake was held at the Sommer's Mobile Home Park on October 18 with much fun and games as reported in a later *Ramrod*. Another attendance contest with Lorain was held in October, our club divided into two teams: "Speedy's Speedsters" and "Terrell's Terrors." A steak or beans dinner was the prize. The outcome was a clear win for Elyria over Lorain, 93.8% to 87.5%, and Speedy Amos's team had the steak while Jim Terrell's losers had "hundreds of things" . . . beans.

1969 concluded with the high school football banquet jointly held with Kiwanis and, in the following weeks, the ladies' holiday luncheon and the year end children and grandchildren show off time. The Salvation Army kettle bell ringing was by now an annual event for Elyria Rotary with some rivalry developing between the two locations to see which could collect the most money.

New members added from July 1, to December 30, 1969 were:

Charles M. Hyman.....Commercial Law  
Harold A. West.....Real Estate Law  
William P. Sheehan.....Air Conditioning-Mfg.  
David J. Holland .....Autos-American Made  
John F. Murphy .....Pipe Tool Mfg.

There were 114 members on January 1, 1970, the population of Elyria was 53,427, and 136 manufacturing concerns were in business. The make up of downtown Elyria was shifting from merchandising to offices and there was a growing number of vacant store fronts. Retail businesses were relocating to Mid-Way Mall and the downtown area was changing to a center for lawyers, bankers, and other professionals. Entertainment

businesses changed from movie houses to cafes and night clubs. Although it was a gradual change, Rotary was affected by the need to accept more professionals in order to maintain its historic cross section of the community. Classifications were opened to accommodate the changes.

The increase in size of Elyria Rotary also affected the management style and goals of the club. In the two previous decades, the average age of Elyria Rotary's membership was lowered considerably. This resulted in an increase in fellowship and camaraderie which replaced the somewhat "stuffed shirt" image the group had previously. The club was now run by a strong Secretary and a system of rising candidates for office. As with any voluntary service club, Elyria Rotary was divided into three types of members: the very active, the middle "do whatever is asked of them" group, and a few marginal members. The active far out numbered the latter.

The January 15, 1970 board meeting minutes listed a number of up-coming events: a two day junior science symposium for Elyria High School students at Bowling Green, a joint stag meeting with Lorain Rotary, and a high school career day, all to be held in February. The basketball banquet was scheduled for March and ladies night was set for May with a Bermuda theme.

The stag with Lorain turned out to be one of the funniest evenings spent in some time. The "trophies" for winner and loser of the attendance contest were described as different parts of a horse. The crowning award was a toilet seat, suitably decorated, and presented to Elyria. At a regular meeting, Mal Cash was challenged to a contest with Oberlin's Art Salo to see who could fine his members the most. No mention of the outcome other than, "us members will be the losers."

The Career Day was a huge undertaking for Rotary with over 1,000 students seeking information from nearly 100 business and community leaders. Both high schools took part and the educators, as well as the students, described the effort as an outstanding success. Student guests were now in attendance at Rotary meetings almost weekly, and the World Affairs Institute was once again supported by the club.

Signs, at the entrance points to Elyria, were a joint project of five service clubs including Elyria Rotary. The per club cost was \$261.26, each club to furnish its own emblem, and Rotary was also to maintain the sign on Route 113. An historic marker was proposed for Route 57 South to read, "Elyria—Where the International Crippled Children's Movement Was Started by Edgar F. (Daddy) Allen in 1919."

Other projects were a blood bank donor drive and an attempt to gather photos of Past Presidents. The photo book was nearly complete to 1943 when Ralph Murbach started the collection, however, many of the next twenty-seven were missing. The response for pictures was less than hoped for, and the same plea would be repeated in later years. Rotarians also joined other civic clubs for a downtown clean up day, Harold West being Rotary's "Sanitation Officer" for the project. The year ended with a Luau Ladies Night party, grass skirts, and antics by "some bald headed guys" and "Porky Pig."

Officers for 1970/71 elected were:

Robert H. Perry .....President  
Richard Linde.....Vice-President

Robert L. Ohlemacher .....Secretary  
Russell Gleason .....Treasurer/Sergeant-at-Arms

Bill Fitch was named program chairman.

As in the past few years, the program chairman took a leading part in the club and was often on the way to becoming President. Providing an interesting program each week of the year being one of the most difficult tasks of Rotary, it was good exposure for an aspiring President.

New members added were:

Everett Baird .....Plumbing Supplies-Mfg.  
Richard Groff.....Department Store  
Peter Mealwitz.....Religion-Protestant

The financial report for the year showed an income of nearly \$9,000.00 with about \$1,900.00 being disbursed for Community, Vocational, and International services. There was \$289.26 in the unallocated fine fund from Porky Pig, and the club contributed \$137.00 to the Rotary Foundation. There were 115 members on July 1, 1970.

As an indication of another good year when Bob Perry, classification Dentistry, was inducted President of Elyria Rotary, the theme chosen by the new Rotary International President was "Bridging the Gaps." Perry's year was light and lively. Mal Cash and Porky Pig rose to new heights with new categories for fining, and some fines reached a dollar. Mal easily matched the quick wits of his victims. A blind auction of donated items from members gave Cash another opportunity to fill the pig and, at the same time, created a light mood at the meetings. With Perry, Cash, and *Ramrod* editor, Bob Choate, it seemed every meeting was more relaxed and easy going than the previous one, even the guests joined in the banter.

It was also a serious time as many of the program topics addressed the problems of drugs in our schools, the changing downtown, the Mid-East turmoil, and the war in Southeast Asia. Two committees presented projects for the year on these subjects: an anti-drug campaign in the schools and support of the local POW-MIA movement. The Vietnam war was very much in the news at the time.

Social events included the annual golf day, a trip to Blossom Music Center for an evening, and support of the Community Concert series. The football banquet, ladies holiday luncheon, and kids day finished out the year of 1970.

New members added were:

Conrad A. Schaffer .....Commercial Banking  
George Persons.....Ready Mix Concrete  
Theodore Lakocy.....Real Estate  
William I. Kennedy.....Cosmetology

The new year saw an increase in postage for the *Ramrod* to eight cents. This was followed, at the next board meeting, by the request for some less expensive means of delivering the newsletter. The committee, appointed to study the matter, reported a month later, "Members consider it worth the cost." February was a rematch of the attendance contest with Lorain. Elyria won easily with a 90% plus average and accepted a humble invitation

from Lorain to a joint meeting later in the year. March was busy with the annual high school basketball team joint meeting-banquet with Kiwanis, an exchange student and guest party at the Oberlin Inn. Elyria Rotary's second last honorary member, J. B. Johnson, passed away in mid-March after 50 years of service to the club and the community. He was the fourth President of Elyria Rotary, holding the office in 1920/21.

April programs included four students from the two high schools reporting on their impressions of the World Affairs Institute. The impressions were not entirely positive. Congressman Mosher gave his annual report of Washington happenings. The ending of the Vietnam war and the difficulties with J. Edgar Hoover of the FBI were the major topics.

A gala Ladies Night party promoted as, "Moonlight and Roses," was held at the Elyria Country Club on May 11, the highlight being "no speaker." Entertainment was by an Oberlin College string trio followed by vocal solos and a dance band.

The Treasurer's operating statement for July 1, 1970 to June 30, 1971 gave an idea of the difficulty the club had in making substantial donations to any cause. The income was from dues and the Porky Pig fund with no outside fund raising. In addition, the practice of not assessing members had been in effect for some time. Total income for the year was \$5,893.88 and Club Service expenditures used four fifths of that amount, including \$1,500.00 for Rotary International dues. Community, International, and Vocational service expenditures totaled about \$1,800.00 with about \$1,000.00 being spent for a highly successful Career Day.

The year was described in the *Ramrod* as: "It was a good year with fine programs, extraordinary fellowship, and many tasks well done."

The only new member added:

Joseph M. Strong, Jr. ....Dentistry-Periodontics

Officers elected for 1971/72 were:

William J. Fitch.....President

Richard Linde.....Vice-President

Robert L. Ohlemacher .....Secretary

Russell Gleason .....Treasurer/Sergeant-at-Arms

Bill Standen was named program chairman for the year.

Membership totaled 114 on July 1, 1971. Off to a fast start—the club had a well attended golf day, an early annual visit by the District Governor with all committee reports in order, and plans for a repeat trip to the Blossom Music Center. The August 10 *Ramrod* had the first known printing of an invocation (by Jack Murphy). The prayer has been an occasional feature of the bulletin since then.

Mal Cash, the original Porky Pig, accepted a promotion with Ohio Edison and moved out of town opening the way for Bob Perry to step into the fund and fellowship routine that Cash had done so well. The key to the success of Mal was a quick sense of humor and his willingness to step into untried territory. Bob Perry had the same qualities and continued the tradition.

To accomplish any major project, the club needed to inaugurate substantial fund raising efforts, and this started in the fall of 1971. The need for a new park shelter in Elywood

Park prompted an Italian Dinner project and a golf ball sale promotion that provided an income of over \$1,100.00. The Italian dinner provided Rotarians with another opportunity for fellowship as well as financial gain. Prior to this time, fund raising, other than assessment of members, produced no more than three to four hundred dollars per year.

The student guests at weekly meetings, the football banquet, and a program called SCOPE (dealing with drug problems in schools) continued Rotary's interest in the youth of the area. Twelve students were transported to Findlay for the SCOPE conference with the club paying the \$172.00 registration cost. The year ended with the holiday programs and the Salvation Army bell ringing. Due to Rev. Richard Linde's resignation as Vice-President, Bill Standen was appointed to finish out his term.

New members added were:

C. Rue McIntyre.....Home for the Aged  
Thomas Showalter .....Education  
Donald Boddy .....T.V. Sales  
William Huber.....Title Service  
Lloyd McIntire.....Natural Gas Service

The membership was 118 on January 1, 1972.

The annual student career day, basketball banquet, and student guests kept the club tuned to youth projects while the handicapped brace effort maintained Rotary's commitment to the crippled children of the area. Meetings were also enlivened with stock market reports by John Aquilla, Ted Wickens' determination with the new members greeting committee, and the antics of Porky Pig Perry. Programs included representatives from the fast growing Lorain County Community College, talks on the rising energy shortages, and presentations by local industrial leaders.

In the spring was another successful international students night and, later on, a combination club anniversary and ladies night. The ladies night party theme was, "Be a Sport," come dressed for your favorite sport. Rotarians responded with some quite unusual costumes including two with referee outfits and one wearing a swim suit.

New members added:

Rodger McCloud .....Aircraft Pumps  
Timothy Grogan.....Printing  
John Buchheit .....Light and Power Service  
Robert Rothgary.....Department Store  
Richard Smith.....Plastics Mfg.

The complete financial report for 1971/72 shows a payment for District dues of \$261.00, the first known entry of the kind. Continued support of the Rotary Foundation was in the amount of \$174.00, and \$600.00 was used for Rotary International convention expense for officers going to Houston. \$1,790.00 was spent on the park shelter project.

Membership totaled 114 on July 1, 1972

Officers for 1972/73 were:

William W. Standen.....President  
Richard J. Bergman.....Vice-President

Robert L. Ohlemacher .....Secretary  
Russell Gleason .....Treasurer/Sergeant-at-Arms

Harold West was named program chairman for the year.

The Presidency of Bill Standen was one of fine tuning traditional events: the golf day, the joint basketball teams banquet with Kiwanis, and the holiday programs. Fellowship was at its best with group singing, Porky Pig humor, and programs by members giving meetings a more personal and entertaining tone. The big fund raising effort was a repeat of the Italian dinner—with Dick Bergman and Chuck Hyman adding much enthusiasm with their spirited announcements. Some of the banter was reported in the *Ramrod* as being hilarious.

New members added were:

David Smith.....Aircraft Accessories Mfg.  
Richard Myers.....Employment Agency

Membership on January 1, 1973 was down by two to 112.

Effective January 1, there was an automatic change to Senior Active status for any Rotarian with fifteen years of service. Nineteen members joined the select group, the elective option no longer in Rotary International rules.

John Aquilla's stock market report on January 9, 1973 had the Dow Jones Average over 1,000 for the first time. To get the feelings of members about their club, a survey was taken, and the results were: 58% rated the club effective with community service, 52% effective and 40% satisfactory for fellowship, and 98% enjoyed the Tuesday meetings. 50% of the surveys were returned.

Talk about fellowship: a group of friends including a number of Rotarians crashed the meeting on February 27, captured Bob Perry and outfitted him with a scuba wet suit. Celebrating his 40th birthday, to the glee of all Rotarians, the "friends" escorted him from the meeting, took him to the downtown park fountain, and chained him there for about four hours. At the next meeting Perry was fined \$5.00 by President Bill "for disgraceful conduct."

\$2,000 in proceeds from the Italian dinner (with some help from the general fund) were used to complete kitchen improvements at the Neighborhood Center on South Middle Avenue in time for their open house. In addition, a lot of time and personal donations were given by members. The joint Kiwanis, Rotary Basketball banquet, a ladies night dinner dance, and a revival of the family picnic (this one held at Ted Wicken's farm in Wakeman), kept the club busy and active. A sad note was the death of Past District Governor William O. McClellan. Mac had been active in the club for 52 years.

An additional \$561.00 was paid to the Rotary Foundation, making Elyria a 200% club. Rotary International rules about make-ups were changed in July to allow credit for attendance at another club six days before or six days after a missed meeting. The noon lunch price was raised to \$2.50, and the very active Elyria Rotary year ended with membership of 120—a new high.

New members added were:

Albert Andrews.....Commercial Contractor  
William P. Camp.....Alloy Castings

William Doslak .....Oral Surgery  
 William Fauver .....Banking-Commercial  
 John McGoldrick.....Community Services  
 Anson H. Russell .....Electrical Contracting  
 John P. Tierney.....Screw Machine Products  
 Ibrahim Y. Assily.....Passenger Travel Agency  
 Lester E. Drage.....Real Estate Commercial  
 William A. Kirkpatrick .....Roofing Construction

Officers for 1973/74 were:

Richard J. Bergman.....President  
 John F. Murphy .....President-Elect  
 Robert L. Ohlemacher .....Secretary  
 Russell Gleason .....Treasurer/Sergeant-at-Arms

Bill Sheehan was named program chairman, and the Vice-President was now known as President-Elect.

New President Dick Bergman set the tone of his year by announcing at the July 17 meeting, "We had a beauty contest in my home town and nobody won." The Governor's visit brought the message that Rotary clubs around the world are sharing project ideas because some of the old standby, charitable works, were being taken over by government agencies. A case in point was the handicapped children's work started in Elyria fifty years earlier. Our club was commended for being a 200% member of the Rotary Foundation because of the average \$20.00/member donation. The first indication of the Paul Harris Fellowship program had been made in 1971, and the District Governor reviewed the qualifications for becoming a Paul Harris Fellow.

The third annual Italian dinner was a success, however, the proceeds fell to about \$400.00. The event had become as much a fellowship event as it was a fund raiser. Rotary and Kiwanis jointly held the football banquet for the high schools. Bob Choate complained that he only got to write 50 *Ramrods* in 1973 because Christmas and New Years fell on Tuesdays.

New members added were:

Robert Smith.....Aircraft Pump Mfg.  
 Orlin Heller.....Department Store

After thirteen years away from Elyria, Ken Anthony returned and was reinstated only to leave town again in just a few months. Membership on January 1, 1974 was back to 118.

A 6 x 9 inch, sixteen page booklet, dated 1973 but distributed in 1974, was a commemorative and historical review of Elyria Rotary entitled, "Care of the Crippled Child." The cover had the club banner printed in blue and gold on white and the sub-title: "A 1915 Plan Became a Worldwide Reality." The inside headlines were: "How it Began," "Why Rotary," "Medical Care," "The Program Today," "Many Helped," and "The Spirit of Rotary."

Photographs were of The Elyria Memorial Hospital; Edgar F. Allen, father of the Crippled Children's Societies; Gates Hospital; Harry Howett, for many years the Secretary of the Ohio Crippled Children's Society; James A. Hewitt, long time hospital Secretary-

Treasurer; Dr. Clarence Heyman, chief of the Gates medical staff; and Rotary founder, Paul Harris. Quotations were reprinted from Paul Harris, Edgar F. Allen, a 1920 District 10 Conference Resolution, and this final quote from "a worker for Illinois Rotarians," Jane Weil: "If you don't care who gets the credit, you can do anything."

Noted in the February 19, 1974 *Ramrod* are these comments: A local business man framed the first dollar he ever earned in a ten cent frame. Now the dollar is worth a dime and the frame a dollar. Noting the report of John Aquilla of the Dow being below 800: "My broker is staying with me to my last dollar." First class postage for the *Ramrod* went to ten cents in mid-March.

The Porky Pig collections for dubious infractions by unsuspecting members now amounted to a sizable fund each month. Bob Perry and sometimes substitute, Jim Johnson, raised the standard fine to a dollar, serious offenses two or more dollars. The patter was often a hoax having to do with a headline in the newspaper and aimed at an innocent Rotarian by Perry or Johnson. An example was naming mild mannered Fred Snoble, "The Streaker." The latest fad at athletic events was "streaking" crossing the field without clothing and being hauled away by the police. Fred took the abuse for months, paying his dollar fine, and loving every minute.

April 24 was an OVALE-AL evening meeting. The speaker was Ohio Governor John Gilligan with a non-political address encouraging business growth in the state. April 30 was the ladies night dinner dance held at the Elyria Country Club with social hour, dinner, and dancing at \$10.00 per person. The program for May 7 was Richard Ford, brother of Gerald Ford, then Vice-President of the U.S. Richard Ford was a good friend of club President Dick Bergman.

A devastating tornado in Xenia prompted a \$500.00 donation from Elyria Rotary to be administered by the Xenia club. Another \$1,500.00 was donated to the Elyria Park Board for an additional park shelter.

New members added:

Donald Gleisner .....	Athletic Equipment
James Markle .....	Light and Power Service
Lewis Biel .....	Copy Service
John S. Blevins.....	Commercial Banking
Jack E. Ryba.....	Commercial Banking
Ronald K. Marmaduke .....	Religion-Protestant

Membership totaled 122 on July 1, 1974.

New officers for 1974/75 were:

John F. Murphy .....	President
Peter Mealwitz .....	President Elect
William W. Standen.....	Secretary
Russell Gleason .....	Treasurer/Sergeant-at-Arms

Anson Russell was named program chairman.

This ended the six year era of Bob Ohlemacher as Secretary, a period of growth and a change in direction of some club projects and customs. Ohlemacher was a strong Secretary, advocating strict adherence to attendance and classification rules. He also motivated club



members to attend more District and Rotary International events and advocated greater participation in Rotary Foundation programs. His dedication to Rotary continues to this day.

## Chapter Twelve

July 1, 1974 to June 30, 1978

WILLIAM W. STANDEN – SECRETARY

**B**ill Standen was born in Elyria on May 16, 1936, the son of Ralph and Ruth Standen. He is a product of Elyria Schools. He graduated from Elyria High School in 1954 and then went to Cornell University, graduating with honors in 1958. Bill served three years in the U.S. Navy as a line officer.

Returning to civilian life, Bill joined his father, Ralph, in the Standen and Geitguy Insurance Agency. Prior to Ralph's retirement in 1969, Bill and partner, Homer Guthman, bought the company and Bill became President.

Bill joined the Elyria JayCees in 1961 and was elected President in 1965. He was the recipient of the Jaycee's Distinguished Service award in January 1967 and was named one of five Outstanding Young Men in Ohio. Bill joined Rotary in 1962, headed many committees, went through the chairs, and became President in 1972/73. His year as President was one of the club's more active ones.

He also served as President of the Elyria Chamber of Commerce and the Lorain County Insurance Agents Association. He served on a number of boards of directors including the Elyria Hospital Company, The Elyria Methodist Home, and The Elyria Savings and Trust National Bank. He continues to be active in Rotary and many civic affairs.

Bill's term as Secretary was one of steady growth of the club with a net gain of ten members during the time. From 1974 to 1978, the economy of the U. S. was plagued by an energy crisis and inflation resulting in some slowing of business. A loss of members because of business changes was more than offset by the number of new members. A review of Secretary Bill's years follows:

The 1974/75 year started on a sad note: Art Giles, long time auditor of the Rotary books, passed away at 92 after a long and fruitful life. He had become a Rotarian in 1921.

In early September, Burton Ohlemacher became the first Elyria Rotarian to be named a Paul Harris Fellow, and he received a standing ovation from the club on the occasion. Burton's son, Bob, had quietly made the donation to the Rotary Foundation to honor his Rotarian father.

The tentative budget for 1974/75 included anticipated expenditures of about \$2,500.00 for community and vocational service, and \$300.00 was earmarked for the Rotary Foundation.

A report from the Elyria Parks Department stated the \$1,500.00 donation from Rotary, the previous year, had been used to complete another shelter in Elywood Park, and that Rotarian Bill Kirkpatrick's company had donated all the material and labor for the roofing. On September 10, John Aquilla's stock market report showed the Dow Jones Average at 662.16 reflecting the pull back in the economy. Bob Perry's Porky Pig fines, representing about two months take, totaled \$95.50 when the plastic bank was emptied by Treasurer Gus Gleason. Perry's innovation of "new categories" covered many bases including an instant fine for any member bold enough to challenge "Porky."

Secretary Bill reminded those members over 65, with twenty years membership, that they could request their attendance not be counted in reports to Rotary International. This was an attempt to increase the club attendance average above the 80% level.

Ralph Murbach, the last remaining founding member of the club, was named Elyria's second Paul Harris Fellow, the \$1,000.00 donation made by his son, John. Elyria was noted as being a 300% club by the Rotary Foundation because of our \$30.00 per member average donation since the program began in 1932. The Paul Harris Fellowship concept resulted in an immense increase in the Rotary Foundation's capital.

1974 ended on these notes: the annual football joint meeting with Kiwanis, the ladies holiday luncheon with the Elyria High School choir performing, and the father-son, father-daughter year end meeting. Porky Pig awards for the year were handed out by Bob Perry: "Eraser of the year" to *Ramrod* editor Bob Choate, to correct mistakes in the newsletter, and "Streaker of the Year," a gilded tennis shoe, to Fred Snoble for his supposed exploits as a streaker. Reverend Peter Mealwitz was the recipient of a one inch square piece of paper on which to write his next prayer.

As of the new year Elyria Rotary dues went to \$60.00 to cover the Rotary International dues increase to \$5.00 per member and District's increase by a dollar. The only new member added since July 1:

Robert Bowman.....Banking-Commercial

Membership had fallen to 118 by December 31, 1974.

The year 1975 saw the first Elyria Rotary sponsored foreign exchange student, Lauro Natali from Sao Paulo, Brazil. His twelve months stay was with four Rotarian families. Bill and Barbara Wentz were the first hosts. High school students continued to be guests at noon meetings.

The April 22 *Ramrod* was written by Tim Grogan, his initial offering signed, "Apprentice Editor, Tim." He became the substitute for Bob Choate on the rare occasions when Choate was unavailable and then, in January 1977, Tim and Bob began alternating the duty of writing the weekly bulletin. The first extra long *Ramrod*, 8 1/2 x 14 inches, appeared on July 8, 1975 and continued for only four issues. The permanent change to the larger size came in 1979.

Elyria Rotary donated \$1,500.00 for a feasibility study for the YMCA building fund. A \$1,000.00 gift to the club, from the estate of Rotarian Bill Dutch, was used to establish a nurses scholarship fund while other club donations were made to the Elyria Arts Council and the Elyria Park System. The first mention of an Interact Club for high school students was at the March board meeting, the original plan being an attempt to establish clubs in the two high schools and Lake Ridge Academy. The question was referred back to committee. Later Elyria was to become the sponsor of the first Interact Club established in District 660.

New members added:

Arnold Tollett.....Vending Machine Service  
Peter M. Van Wormer....Men's Clothing-Retail  
Leon S. Altfeld.....Industrial Supplies  
Charles Myers.....Electrical Contracting

Dale Bartizal .....Banking  
Jack Lance .....Auto Leasing

The membership total on June 30, 1975 was 120. New officers for the 1975/76 year were:

Peter Mealwitz.....President  
Harold A. West .....President-Elect  
William W. Standen.....Secretary  
Russell Gleason.....Treasurer/Sergeant at Arms

Jack Ryba was named program chairman and Bob Perry accepted the duty of being the District Governor's Aide for the area and also continued his Porky Pig high jinks at Elyria's noon meetings.

Poor attendance by thirteen members was called to their attention by Secretary Bill Standen, and his advice was to make up and get back on track. Attendance rules and membership development were high on the list of improvements needed, one change being the requirement that a new member serve six weeks on the greeting committee.

A novel first time event for Elyria Rotary was a "fly-in/drive-in" official meeting at the Lorain County Airport. Flying Rotarians from around the district were invited to make up by flying in for the noon lunch. There were about 25 visiting pilots, and the total attendance was nearly 160. Elyria Rotarian pilots provided plane rides for all interested attendees.

John Aquilla was still doing the stock market reports, usually finding some funny remark to offset the ups and downs of the Dow which by then had recovered to 845.72. A new rule of Rotary International required all board members to be elected by December 31 prior to taking office the following July 1. Elyria complied, and invited new board members to attend the directors' meetings, as observers, until their terms began.

Another group photograph was taken in September, the first color photo known. A copy, with an attached sheet identifying those in the photo, is in the club archives bound into the 1975 collection of *Ramrods*.

In December, an uncontested election was held for the new board members. Prior to this time, there were often more candidates than there were positions. There have not been any contested elections since. It was announced that the Elyria Rotary Club was matching Ralph Murbach's donation of \$1,200.00 to the Ely Park renovation, the total of \$2,400.00 to erect two new flag poles. Also announced was Elyria's contributions to the Rotary Foundation, placing the club in the 400% group.

New members added:

John Majoras .....Ambulance Service  
Donald R. Taylor .....Hospital Administration  
Roy K. Cannon .....Alloy Castings  
Terry G. Hillman .....Real Estate Commercial  
Philip W. Kelly .....Loan Company  
James W. Canan .....Auto Accessory Mfg.

1976 began with 125 members and postage up to thirteen cents for the *Ramrod*. The club bulletin was now being printed rather than typed, allowing more information to be included with each issue. A new element crept into the Porky Pig ritual with the appearance of a

mysterious “Zerro” supplying material, such as old photos, for use in fining Rotarians. The anonymous donor signed his notes “Zerro,” two r’s.

Bob Choate became the club’s third Paul Harris Fellow, a gift from his wife Pauline. A letter was read from the District Governor complimenting Elyria as being one of the finer Rotary clubs in District 660. He also included praise for the *Ramrod* as being “one of the best newsletters” he receives.

A controversy was created when an ex-Nazi was nominated to be President of Rotary International. Wolfgang A. Wick resigned the nomination after protests were received from all over the world. In other more pleasant notes, Elyria, for the first time, hosted a member of the Group Study Exchange, a fellow from Pakistan, for a week, and former Elyria Rotarian, Mal Cash, was named chairman of the up-coming District Conference in Mansfield.

On May 25, the meeting was disrupted by a group that bodily removed Bill Standen from the room, another episode reminiscent of the Bob Perry capture a couple of years earlier. The “Secretary nappers,” mostly Rotarians, were helping Bill celebrate his fortieth birthday. Bill was flown to Put-In-Bay, stripped of identification and money and left to his resourceful wit to find a way home. He did. A collect call to his office and his alert wife, Sheila, rescued him in time to attend a PTA meeting that evening, much to the surprise of some of the rascals of the day who attended the same meeting.

The annual ladies night had a new twist, a cocktail hour and tour of the Lorain County Historical Society Museum on Washington Avenue, then on to Spring Valley for the dinner dance. What proved to be one of the final events for Rotary at Camp Iss-See-Kes was a cleanup day attended by just eight members. The camp had been a favorite project of Elyria Rotary for 55 years, however, times had changed the need for the facility.

June 22 proved to be one of the final performances of Porky Pig handler, Bob Perry, as he turned the challenging duty over to Jim Johnson. Johnson carried on the tradition of Mal Cash and Perry with a wit equally as sharp as his two predecessors. The impact of Porky Pig greatly added to the lively meetings Elyria had become known for, and it was a let down when the routine was not part of the schedule.

New members added were:

- George D. Strom.....Antique Car Restoration
- Herbert J. Werren.....Automotive Air Brake Mfg.

Officers for 1976/77 were:

- Harold A. West .....President
- Anson H. Russell.....President-Elect
- William W. Standen .....Secretary
- Russell Gleason.....Treasurer/Sergeant at Arms

Bob Bowman was named program chairman, and Pete Mealwitz was appointed as District Governor’s aide. Bob Choate now shared the bulletin writing with Tim Grogan.

For the first time, Elyria Rotary sponsored high school aged exchange students, sending Janice Myers to East London, South Africa and Linda Sheldon to Sweden. It was an

auspicious start because it was difficult for a club to have even one successful candidate survive the selection process at District level.

The first meeting of 1976/77 was the official change from Porky Pig Perry to Jim Johnson and his jug. Perry was presented with the time worn "El-Rota," the plastic bank that was used for collecting fines. The bank had been made into a plaque, complete with an internal light, by Bob Choate. George Miraben presented a hand painted scroll which listed some very dubious honors that Bob had won. Johnson unveiled his cash collecting receptacle, a plastic gallon milk jug, and proceeded to establish his right to extract cash from notable Rotarians.

The board was faced with the need to find a new meeting room for the club, as the YMCA no longer could handle the food service because of aging equipment and a loss of help. The new YMCA on Washington Avenue was in the final planning stages, and the old building on Court Street was becoming too costly to maintain.

A search committee was named, and the decision was made to move to the YWCA on Holly Lane after the holiday season. The first meeting at the YWCA was on Tuesday, January 14, 1977.

New members added the last six months of 1976 were:

- A. Daniel Messaros.....Photography
- Warren T. Ries.....Title Service
- James R. Thompson.....Telephone Service
- William G. Laufman.....Veterinary Medicine
- Burton R. Leidner .....Education-Community College
- Robert V. Manion.....Commercial Banking

Membership on January 1, 1977 was 123 with ten senior active members excused from attendance rules. Included were three members that had joined Elyria Rotary in its beginning: Ralph Murbach, 1918, H. Kellogg Day, 1918, and Earl Bell, 1921. Bell had dropped out during the early depression years but rejoined in 1938.

The Sustaining Paul Harris Member plan was inaugurated. A \$100.00 donation started a member in the sustaining category with additional increments being added each year to remain in the program.

John Aquilla continued the noon stock market reports, the Dow around 950 and unable to get back over the 1000 mark of a few years before. John always ended his report with a remark such as, "Psychiatrists say that one out of four Americans are unbalanced. Think about your three closest friends, and if they're OK, you're in trouble."

A new routine was established whereby those having a birthday during the month had to sit at the same table as well as contribute three dollars to Johnson's jug for the privilege. In an attempt to encourage attendance, the *Ramrod* reported members that had missed two consecutive meetings, and, over a short period of time, the list fell from an average of about fifteen to eight names.

The traditional ladies night parties were now being flavored with a program, usually a humor filled skit or dialogue by the committee. The 1977 program was a slide photo montage of Rotary Anns caught in candid poses, the pictures provided by scheming

husbands. Accompanied by the witty comments of narrator, Bob Perry, the results were an outstanding success, although some Rotarians reported suffering the spouses' wrath on the way home. 146 Rotarians and guests attended the event.

New members added between January 1, to June 30, 1977 were:

Robert S. Cook .....Oil Burner Mfg.  
Alvin H. Gelman.....Food-Wholesale  
Paul E. Fackler.....Natural Gas Service

Membership totaled 125. Financial contributions for the year went to student activities, the nurses scholarship fund, the Rotary Foundation, and Children's Services of Lorain County.

Officers for 1977/78 were:

Anson H. Russell.....President  
Thomas Showalter.....President-Elect  
William W. Standen .....Secretary  
Russell Gleason.....Treasurer  
Donald F. Address.....Sergeant at Arms

Don Address took on the task of Sergeant-at-Arms while Gus Gleason continued to be the Treasurer. Art Schowalter became the program chairman for the year.

President Anson outlined the objects for the coming year including the Rotary International theme of "Serve, to Unite Mankind." The major aim of Elyria Rotary was the perennial one of improving attendance, the previous year average being 74.10% compared to the District average of 81.39%.

Kellogg Day became the fourth Paul Harris Fellow, a gift from his sister, Dorothy Gates, and brother, George Day. Kellogg was the oldest member in Elyria Rotary, a young acting 96. To encourage participation in the Sustaining Member campaign, a drawing was announced, the winner to receive a matching \$100.00 for his first contribution. In another Rotary International related matter, Elyria sponsored John Krasnobrucky to be a member of the 1978 Group Study Exchange trip to Australia.

The six months from July to January included the traditional mix of student guests, golf outing, the third fly in, joint Kiwanis Rotary football recognition banquet, holiday programs, and much fellowship provided by Johnson's Jug and internal programs.

New members added:

Niel R. Butch.....Metal Plating Service  
Mainard F. Hicks.....Radio Broadcasting  
Paul Jacobowitz.....Discount Store  
Robert N. Stang.....Import Autos-Retail  
Frank J. Mann.....Plumbing Supplies Mfg.  
William O. Somers .....General Insurance  
Philip R. Lednik .....Metal Fasteners-Mfg.  
Herbert W. Kaatz .....Aircraft Components-Mfg.  
David H. Jones.....Senior Active (formerly YMCA Director)

April 1, 1978 was the 60th anniversary of Elyria Rotary, however, no special observance was held. The milestone was remembered at the time and also during the "Good old days" ladies night party. The party had silent movies, a rinky tink piano, but the Stutz Bearcat didn't show up. Two Paul Harris Fellows were added to the list, Ray Renz compliments of his wife, Becky, and Gus Gleason sponsored by Al Andrews.

A major fund raising effort, that had lasting effects, was the first annual Rotary Steak Fry, benefits going to the Lorain County Historical Society. Al Gelman spearheaded the project which involved most of the club members in some way. Tickets cost \$8.75, each member asked to dispose of four. The Steak Fry was held on June 23 on the grounds of the Hickories, Rotarians providing a steak dinner with all the trimmings. The weather was warm, the round tables were set, and an "oom-pah" band greeted the guests. The evening was noted as being one of the best mixers ever held in Elyria. It turned a profit of about \$1,800.00 to be used by the museum for storm windows. It was an all around success and was the guide line for one of the largest annual fund raising events for the next fifteen years.

Other activities for the 1977/78 year included: a trip to Northfield Park for a night of horse racing, sponsoring an exchange student from Columbia, student participation in the World Affairs Institute, the nurses scholarship fund, and about \$500.00 in other donations.

The year ended with 128 members. Added since January:  
Thomas P. Kilbane .....Outdoor Advertising  
James D Spicer.....Groceries-Retail

Officers for 1978/79 were:  
Thomas Showalter.....President  
Arthur Schowalter .....President-Elect  
Robert H. Perry.....Secretary  
Dale Bartizal .....Treasurer  
Donald F. Andress.....Sergeant at Arms

Tom Haywood was named program chairman. With the change to a new Secretary and a new Treasurer, this concluded the terms of two dedicated Rotarians, Bill Standen and Gus Gleason. During their service, the club had grown and prospered by the addition of members with a wide variety of classifications. The large turn over ratio of the past two years was the result of a closer attention to attendance rules, a practice which Secretary Perry continues to the benefit to the club.





## Chapter Thirteen

July 1, 1978 to June 30, 1983

ROBERT H. PERRY – SECRETARY

**B**ob Perry was born in Fostoria on February 5, 1933, the son of Dr. Harlan and Glenna Perry. He was a product of the schools of Fostoria, Ohio, graduating from high school in 1951. Bob was appointed to the Coast Guard Academy, which he attended for a while, but decided to attend The Ohio State University where he won his degree in Dentistry in 1957. After two years as a Naval Dental Officer he came to Elyria to set up his practice. As he found out later, it was a coincidence that his first office, in the Elyria Savings & Trust building, had been the one used by Rotary founding member, Burt Saunders, also a Dentist.

Having an outgoing personality, it was a natural move for Bob to join the JayCees, and in 1964, he became President of the club. Prior to joining Rotary in 1966, his time in Elyria was spent in the development of acquaintances in an expanding circle of friendships and an involvement in civic activities in his adopted home town.

As noted in the previous chapter his early years in Rotary were a whirlwind of activities, committee chairman, social event chairman, through the chairs to the Presidency in 1970/71, and then the Porky Pig routine for five years. In addition to the JayCees and Rotary he has been the President of the YMCA, the Lorain County Historical Society, and the Elyria Public Library Board of Directors. Bob was the winner of the Jaycee's Distinguished Service Award in 1968. His hobbies have been many and each pursued with intensity. He is a craftsman at wood working and photography and, at this time, headed in that direction in computer knowledge.

On July 1, 1978, there was an unusual change of management of Elyria Rotary, every officer was new to the position, including the Secretary and Treasurer. Until 1968, those two duties were combined, and the shortest tenure was four years, the longest twenty years, so there was always an overlap with other officers. The smooth transition in 1978 can be attributed to the ongoing input of past Secretaries, Ray Renz, Bob Ohlemacher and Bill Standen, and the dedication of incoming Secretary Bob Perry. Having served in most capacities of the club plus a year as Governor's Aide, more than qualified Perry to carry on the continuity.

The national economy in 1978/79 was one of rapidly rising inflation due to the energy crisis and at the same time there was an upswing in employment and gross national product. In Elyria, the flight of downtown merchants to Mid-Way Mall continued, however, the manufacturing base remained steady. The effect on Rotary was a growing number of factory related classifications as well as an increase in social service classifications. Elyria had never been a town with a dominant industry, so Rotary always had a diversity in membership.

With that preface, the year by year review continues. There was an increase in postage for the *Ramrod* to fifteen cents on July 1, further adding to the expense of the newsletter. The alternating editors, Bob Choate and Tim Grogan, kept the cost worthwhile by writing the

material in a light and friendly manner and giving recognition to members when an event was successfully completed. Jim Johnson's jug fining pater was reported in full, members were pleased to have their name in the *Ramrod* even at the cost of Johnson's wit. The reverse side of the newsletter continued to have a complete roster of members up-dated quarterly, officer list, and meeting make-up information.

In the move from the YMCA to the YWCA, the old round tables were left behind because the YW had an ample supply of new rectangular tables for eight. It was soon decided the round tables were more "friendly" and were retrieved from the new owners of the YMCA, at no cost.

Fall 1978 events included the fourth annual fly-in at Lorain County Airport, complete with a catered lunch, a speaker on experimental airplanes, and short, sight seeing, plane rides by Elyria Rotarian pilots. All for \$4.50 per person! A repeat of the visit to Northfield for a night of horse racing was somewhat more expensive, especially for the wagering inclined, so reported the *Ramrod*.

In a revival of the historic mission of Elyria Rotary's crippled children's help, a new project was inaugurated. In co-operation with Elyria's orthopedically handicapped classes, Ray Renz spearheaded the program, which continues today. The holiday time luncheon and gift giving event was first held at Maplewood School on West River Road, and, in later years, moved to Crestwood, then to Elyria West High School. The day of the polio afflicted child was over, however, other debilitating diseases affected over one hundred children in the Elyria area, many confined to wheel chairs. These children were the guests at, what has become, an annual event and a highlight of the Rotary year.

The traditional holiday luncheon for spouses, with the Elyria High School choir performing, was followed, a week later, by the children/grandchildren noon meeting. It was reported 47 offspring participated, all well mannered and even tolerant of Jim Johnson's taking money from fathers or grandfathers.

New members added:

Jonathon B. Bates.....Commerce & Industry Association  
William E. Cromling.....Banking-Commercial  
D. Lyle Crosby .....Sheet Metal Contracting

1979 began with 131 members on the books, nine being Paul Harris Fellows. The *Ramrod* was now printed on 14 inch stock that was folded into four parts for easy mailing. Make-ups, guests, "Missed two meetings in a row," and greeters, for the coming meetings, were printed on the lower fourth of the newsletter.

A renewed effort was made to promote the fireside meeting program and met with fairly good success, the participants pleased with the fellowship of the evenings. The student guest visits to Rotary continued, and they were awed at the March 6 meeting when Bud Deetz lead the singing of "Stodala Pumpa." The camp song was done with much gusto by Rotarians, and, over the years, it has become Deetz's personal right to lead the song. It is also traditional to do the song for the annual District Governors' visits and on other special occasions.

Elyria joined Bucyrus Rotary in a project to collect and ship hand tools, to be used by the handicapped, in Columbo, Sri Lanka. The project was mentioned a number of times in the *Ramrod*, however, results of the effort are unknown. The preparations, for the second annual steak fry, got under way in late April with Ray Renz as spokesman. The ticket price was \$10.00, and every Rotarian was asked to buy or sell four. The proceeds went to the YMCA, the Historical Society, and the Easter Seal Society.

While the steak fry committees were being formed for the big evening on June 22, other Rotary events were also moving along. Another major change was in the club directory. It was introduced in 1962/63 as a 4 x 6 inch, 14 page booklet. By 1968, it had grown to 4 x 7 inches, and in 1973, had double the number of pages of the original. In preparation for the 1979/80 directory, a photograph of every available Elyria Rotarian was taken by club photographer, Dan Messaros. As printed in June, the size was increased to 5 x 8 inches and included a photo of all but a few members, one of the missing being photographer, Dan Messaros. Secretary Bob Perry inaugurated the changes, and the addition of photographs caused the directory to be the model for many other clubs.

The final report on the steak fry project was made by chairman, Tim Grogan. 450 tickets sold for a net profit of about \$2,700.00. It was not only a record income, but another highly successful social evening for Elyrians. It had been an eventful year for Elyria Rotary.

New members added:

Frederick O. Bauer .....	Funeral Directing
William E. Kilfoyle .....	Savings & Loan
Raymond A. Muzilla.....	Senior Active (formerly Law)
Michael S. DeLuca .....	Insurance-Life

Cash disbursements for the year included a \$400.00 donation to the nurses scholarship fund and sizable amounts to the Historical Society, Easter Seal Society, and the handicapped children's gifts. The year ended with membership at 134.

New officers elected for 1979/80 were:

Arthur E. Schowalter .....	President
Thomas P. Haywood .....	President-Elect
Robert H. Perry .....	Secretary
Dale Bartizal.....	Treasurer
Donald F. Andress .....	Sergeant-at-Arms

Al Gelman was named program chairman.

An effort was made to promote fellowship, during the last half of 1979. The result was a large turn out for each event. The golf day, night of horse racing at Northfield Park, and a clam bake set records for attendance. The annual fly-in drew 160 Rotarians, about 15 from out of state, and the combination dinner at the Oberlin Inn and tour of the FAA facility was another well attended outing.

Programs included economist, Jim Dawson, always bringing a full house for his lively forecast, and later in the year, a report from Jerry Jerrett, from Ameritrust, on the advantages of Northern Ohio for business and industry. A number of Rotarians gave

programs, dealing with local issues or their travels. One was a slide show, "On the Beach" by Bob Perry, showing a very funny collection of out of shape Americans strolling a Florida Beach. An outstanding program was provided by, nationally syndicated cartoonist, Tom Batiuk, with his "Funky Winkerbean" drawings. These were auctioned off and brought in a total of \$185.00. The money was given to the Salvation Army.

The holiday party for handicapped children was the highlight of the year. It was started the previous December as a lunch and gift program for the children. This year, it became a real production. It was moved to a larger room at Crestwood school, and over 100 Rotarians and guests shared tables with the youngsters. They watched and listened as the children presented a number of holiday songs. In bounded Santa Claus, with a bag full of gifts, each one tagged for a certain child, the gift eagerly accepted. Moving back to the tables, the children were aided by Rotarians, who helped remove the wrappings. Laughter and smiles from the handicapped children, and hardly a dry Rotary eye was the accepted order of the day.

1979 closed with the Salvation Army bell ringing, Rotarians adding enough to go well over the \$500.00 mark for the club's donation.

New members added since July were:

James F. Hunt.....Building Supplies-Retail  
William E. Thomasson Jr. ....Potato Chip Mfg.  
John W. Avard.....Management Training  
Michael B. Duffin.....Screw Machine Machine Products-Brass  
James E. Myers.....Electrical Contracting  
Gregory A. White.....Law-Civil  
Dennis J. DeMarco.....Food Market Franchising  
Richard H. Balk.....Roofing Contracting

Membership of Rotary totaled 137 on January 1, 1980, and the population of Elyria had risen to 57,204.

On January 22, Elyria's most senior citizen, H. Kellogg Day, presented, to each Rotarian, an autographed copy of his book, "*ABOUT NINETY SEVEN YEARS AND A DAY*", a collection of essays about his life in Elyria. A hard cover edition, it was written in a homespun manner and contained 204 pages of Kellogg's reminiscences of early Elyria and his friends, including many Rotarians. Local historians prize the book, placing it in the case, next to Rotarian Jim Thomas's, "*DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS IN ELYRIA*," published in 1967. Present day Rotarians would be well advised to read both books, which are available at the Elyria Library or the Historical Society.

February 23 was a gathering of all Rotary clubs, in Lorain County, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of Rotary International. Forty eight couples from Elyria attended. The "3-H" program -Health, Hunger, and Humanity- was explained by the District Chairman for World Community Service, Dr. Marvin Ludwig, President of Defiance College. Personal pledges of \$15.00 for the program were made by members.

In a separate action of international good will, our club took on the task of rebuilding a bridge in Thailand. The bridge had been washed out in a flood and the people had no funds to rebuild it. The bridge connected a village of 800 people to the market where they sold

their products. Elyria Rotary provided \$2,067.00 and the bridge was completed. Elyrian, Bill French, a member of the Peace Corps, was in Thailand and represented our club.

At a meeting on March 25, 1980, John Murbach asked a question at the request of his father, Ralph (the last remaining founding member), "Does anyone know what happened to the original club charter?" Even with the extensive archives collected in 1994/95, no trace of it has been found.

Spring 1980 was a busy time for the club, a career day was held for high school seniors to shadow Rotarians in their work, and a student recognition day was planned for the top seniors of area high schools. In other matters, an auction was held as a fund raising event. Held at Bud Deetz's Auto dealership building, donations of white elephant items, appliances, and an automobile produced \$2,070.90 to replenish the treasury. A major contribution to the success was a calling committee of Rotary Anns, soliciting salable items for the auction.

The annual steak fry on June 20 was another success, Rotarians served 450 guests and added \$3,100.00 to Dale Bartizal's treasurer's report for the year. That report, dated June 1, 1980, shows \$1,000.00 was donated to Crestwood School for special equipment for the handicapped, \$1,717.38 collected for the 3-H project, \$750.00 to Easter Seals, and \$400.00, each, to the nurses scholarship fund and the Lorain County Historical Society.

New members added were:

George M. Rickus.....	Air Brake Mfg.
Gary H. Scott.....	Investment Brokerage
Karl A. Stutz.....	Welding Supplies & Gases
William S. Lasch.....	Cinemavideo
Donovan E. Beal.....	General Contracting
Alfred C. Silvidi.....	Telephone Service

Officers for 1980/81 were:

Thomas P. Haywood.....	President
Alvin H. Gelman.....	President-Elect
Robert H. Perry.....	Secretary
Dale Bartizal.....	Treasurer
Donald F. Andress.....	Sergeant-at-Arms

Don Boddy was named program chairman for the year. There were 137 members on the roster on July 1, 1980.

Summer and fall events, in 1980, were a repeat of the successes of the previous year, golf outing, night at the races, and clam bake—all were well attended. A highlight of the clam bake was a challenge by 99 year old, Kellogg Day, for anyone to beat him and his partner at a game of Jarts. The two of them were never defeated. His partner did admit to great care in choosing who they would play.

The August 19 program was the showing of a video taped interview by Bob Choate of founding member, Ralph Murbach. Ralph recounted the early days of the club and gave a glimpse of each of the other nineteen founders. It is unfortunate the video tape can not be

found and is added to the mystery of our lost charter. An audio taped version of the interview has been located and is safe in the club archives.

The September 30 issue of the *Ramrod* listed a number of rule changes by Rotary International, two affecting attendance. Senior Active members, over the age of 70, with 15 years membership, or age of 65, with 20 years membership, *may* be excused from attendance rules.

All members *must* attend 30% of the meetings, of their home club, in any six months period, unless excused by the board. Another rule change was: members, who lose residential or place of business qualification, may remain a member of their club.

Two actions of the board, in September, were a donation of \$1,000.00 for raincoats and vests for school crossing guards and sponsorship of a boy to Boys State and a girl to Girls State. Also announced was an increase, to \$3.50, for the noon lunch. Five weekly drawings were made for \$100.00 towards a Paul Harris Fellowship, tickets for the drawing were sold for a dollar..

The handicapped children's holiday party, chaired by Ray Renz, was another great success, about 60 children receiving gifts from Santa Claus, perfectly played by Jim Johnson. His "HO HO" greetings with his arm around the kids was a sight to behold. Later, Jim would admit, he had all he could do to control his emotions while seeing the wonder in the children's eyes. For modern Rotarians, it was a rebirth of the original crippled children's project in the early days of the club, the same feeling of having given a small lift to a needy child.

The year ended with the traditional holiday programs and 138 members on the roster.

Added in the past six months:

Terry L. Doan.....	Education-Public Schools
Gerald E. Schaefer .....	Savings & Loan
Deane R. Williams .....	Religion-Protestant
R. Lyle Burger.....	Telephone Service
Adelbert K. Charles, Jr.....	Lumber Company
David J. Knapp.....	Gray Iron Castings
Thomas M. Simon .....	Floor Covering-Retail

On January 20, 1981, Elyria Rotary welcomed exchange student, Stephen Pike, from South Africa. His first home, in Elyria, was with the John Blevins family. Elyria was in the midst of extending the club in North Ridgeville, the aim for 35 members by charter night in May. One of the student guests of the day was John Tattersall, son of Rotarian Bill.

The February 17 *Ramrod* reported the attendance for January was 82.4%. The holiday Salvation Army bell ringing produced \$200.97, and the added contributions from members brought the total up to \$1,295.97, however, Kiwanis did about \$100.00 better. A report of our club's contributions to the Rotary Foundation listed a total of \$17,303.00 having been donated since 1932. All, but about \$1,750.00, was given in the past few years for eleven Paul Harris Fellowships and Paul Harris sustaining memberships.

Postage for the *Ramrod* rose to eighteen cents in March. The stock market reports, by John Aquilla, had not seen the Dow Jones Average above 1,000 in years. The regaining of that mark indicated a mild recovery from the economic and energy difficulties of the previous half dozen years. The student guests were now a weekly event during the school year. Exchange student, Steve Pike, provided a program on his native South Africa, and Elyria sponsored, Dwayne Jobst, was touring Chili as part of the Group Study Exchange program.

The calendar of events for the balance of the year included the District Conference in Lorain, where a slide presentation of Elyria's bridge project in Thailand was shown. Other dates were the annual fund raising auction on May 21 and the steak fry June 19.

The financial report for 1980/81 indicated the high level of activity during Tom Haywood's presidency and is listed in part: income from the Steak Fry, \$3,376.00, the auction, \$3,580.00, and J. J.'s Jug, \$1,438.00.

Donations included:

Two students trip to Washington D.C. ....	\$ 680.00
Rain coats for school crossing guards .....	1,000.00
Lorain County Historical Society.....	300.00
World Affairs Institute for students .....	510.00
Crippled children's equipment and gifts.....	1,264.00
Health, Hunger, Humanity Program.....	1,565.00
YMCA endowment fund .....	1,000.00
Lorain County Children's Services .....	300.00
M. B. Johnson nurse's scholarship.....	400.00
Easter Seal Society .....	360.00
Boys State and Girls State.....	170.00

In addition, about \$1,000.00 was spent for student guests and the exchange programs.

New members added since January 1 were:

William R. Chapman.....	Trucking
Theodore F. Gebhardt .....	Insurance Claims
Haynes V. Reichel .....	Printed Circuit Engineering
Frank G. Kosa.....	Gold and Silver Importing
Joseph E. Cirigliano .....	Law-Judicial
A. Malachi Mixon, III .....	Medical Products Mfg.
Howard Weiss.....	Auto Parts Jobber
James P. Ross .....	Accounting Service

Membership, on July 1, 1981, was 143.

Officers elected for 1981/82:

Alvin H. Gelman .....	President
John S. Blevins.....	President-Elect
Robert H. Perry .....	Secretary
Warren Ries.....	Treasurer
Donald F. Andress .....	Sergeant-at-Arms



The program chairman was Arnold Tollett and the *Ramrod* editors continued to be Bob Choate and Tim Grogan. Dale Bartizal, after three years of being treasurer, turned the office over to Warren Reis.

The growth of Rotary International is shown by these numbers in the summer of 1981: 19,278 Rotary Clubs in 156 countries with 898,500 members. There were 62,072 Paul Harris Fellows in the world. Elyria hosted the Group Study Exchange in August and sponsored two exchange students for a year abroad, Don Persons to Germany and Kim Mealwitz to Brazil. Don was the nephew of Rotarian, George Persons, and Kim, the daughter of Rotarian, Pete Mealwitz. They started their tours in August, just as our incoming exchange student, Claudia Bussmann, arrived from Germany.

September 8 was Kellogg Day's 100th birthday which was duly celebrated by the club, on the 15th. Kellogg, when asked how he had lived to be 100, replied, "It was easy, I was born September 8, 1881." He was the recipient of congratulatory citations from Rotary International headquarters and the Governor of Ohio, James Rhodes. Secretary Bob Perry presented Kellogg with Elyria's first "Century Award for Service Above Self," Kellogg responded with a challenge, to any member of the club, for a Jarts game at the up-coming clam bake.

Another fund raising event had its beginning in mid-September, the Apple Festival. The Elyria Rotarians sold fried ice cream, that they had made in their booth. Also included, as a fund raiser was a large, wormy apple where people could have their picture taken. They appeared as the head of the worm. Mike Duffin was the overall chairman, and Dan Messaros was in charge of the Polaroid picture project. Income from the event, although not huge because of the initial set up costs, was offset by a great amount of fellowship by those manning the booths.

Fall events included the fly-in at the county airport, the clam bake held at Julius Edwards' spread off Indian Hollow Road, and a District sponsored "International" night dinner at DeLuca's in Lorain. It was later reported the dinner and program were outstanding, but attendance was far less than needed to break even. An appeal was made by Lorain for each member of the Lorain County clubs to donate a dollar to help. Elyria responded by passing the hat at a meeting, more than doing its share.

The annual handicapped children's party was the highlight of December, Jim Johnson doing the Santa Claus gift giving duty with a more than realistic performance, each child having his or her moment in the spotlight. Sarah Tattersall, daughter of Bill, and winner of the talent award in the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, performed for the club at a later year end meeting. A "magic show" by Vermilion Rotarian Stewart Kraner followed.

New members added since July 1 were:

Robert Stuart.....	Hotel Management
Martin H. Ebel, Jr.....	Law Enforcement
Robert J. Reinker.....	Photo Equipment-Retail
John P. Frain .....	Accounting Service
John A. Hottenrott .....	Electronic Supplies
Thomas E. Lang.....	Optical Service

There were 143 members on January 1, 1982.

The *Ramrod* now used one half of the address side for the roster of members, listing the full name and the nickname for each. Postage was now twenty cents. The January 12 issue reported Rotary had bested Kiwanis in the Salvation Army bell ringing and member donations by \$29.00. Rotary's total was about \$1,750.00, according to Ben Myers, chairman. The Paul Harris Fellow sustaining member list was growing, and, to keep the enthusiasm going, another series of \$100.00 drawings was held.

The bridge in Thailand project made *THE ROTARIAN* magazine two years after the story was submitted by Tim Grogan, not an unusual delay, considering the amount of material coming from clubs around the world. February programs included a return of economist, James Dawson, and a state of the city address by Mayor Mike Keys.

Spring 1982 was another busy time with a tours of NASA and the Lorain County Joint Vocational School. The 64th anniversary of the club was celebrated at a combination new member reception and cocktail hour, on April 6, at the Elyria Country Club. May 4 was honors day for students of the local high schools at the noon meeting, each student individually introduced and recognized. The auction was held in late May, and the net income came to just over \$5,000.00. \$2,000.00 was made as a down payment on a planned \$10,000.00 scholarship fund for Lorain County Community College, while the \$400.00 nurses scholarship was again awarded.

In other financial matters, the annual steak fry produced a net of \$4,059.41, donations from the project going to the Historical Society, Easter Seal Society, and the YMCA. It is interesting to note, the amount of International and District dues paid by the club for the fiscal year: \$3,281.73 to Rotary International and \$1,290.00 to District 660. A major donation was \$3,000.00 to Elyria High School for Nautilus equipment.

New members added from January 1, to June 30 1982 were:

Victorino M. Fusilero.....Medical Service-Plastic Surgery  
John S. Bobel.....Office Equipment Retail  
Donald Bedillion.....Natural Gas Service  
Michael M. Austin.....Steel Spring Mfg.  
Charles E. Baumgartner.....Hospital Law  
C. Kenneth Mundorf.....Education-Jr. High School

There were 145 members on July 1. Officers for 1982/83 were:

John S. Blevins.....President  
Robert T. Bowman.....President-Elect  
Robert H. Perry.....Secretary  
Warren Ries.....Treasurer  
Donald F. Address.....Sergeant-at-Arms

Lawrence E. (Bud) Deetz was named program chairman for the year. In what had become another tradition (since 1969), Secretary Bob Perry presented outgoing President Al Gelman with a commemorative plaque and gavel, made in Perry's home workshop, and suitably engraved with a brass plate by Tom Haywood's Brandau Jewelers.

A tour of the expanding Lorain County Community College and the new Stocker Center was held in late August. The institution now served 7,000 full and part time students with

over 2,800 receiving financial aid of some sort. Rotary's scholarship fund was one of sixty administered by the college.

Exchange student, Claudia Bussmann, was honored at a Sunday brunch on August 8, before leaving for Germany. In September, returning student, Don Persons, provided a program on his year abroad, and our other exchange student, Kim Mealwitz, gave her report the following January. September was a busy month, another Sunday brunch on the 12th, honoring Kellogg Day on his 101st birthday, the Apple Festival on 17-18-19, a stag steak fry outing on the 22nd, and the annual fly-in meeting on the 28th.

It developed, that because of illness, Kellogg Day was unable to attend the brunch and passed away in early October. Good friend and Jarts partner, Bob Perry, gave a fitting tribute to Kellogg at the following meeting, listing the good Day had done for the community during his lifetime. Kellogg was in the midst of writing his second book when he died. He had been an Elyria Rotarian for over 64 years.

Rotary's Apple Festival booth took the award for the best confection, "Fried Ice Cream," the brainstorm of Bob Stuart. A combination of apples or cherries and ice cream in a waffle sandwich, the "product" sold out the last afternoon, 2,200 servings dispensed over the three days. A profit of \$3,000.00 was added to the club treasury, and another high mark of fellowship was reached during the event. In a side note, the town festival was started by Rotarians, Lyle Crosby, Bill Fitch, Al Gelman, Ray Renz, and John Blevins, not as a Rotary project, but as another example of the civic leaders in Rotary.

The annual fall stag outing had some changes, from a clam bake to a steak fry, and a change of location, to Herb Kaatz's country estate, west of Grafton. An afternoon of outdoor games and idle conversations was followed by the fine meal, card games, and an exchange of humorous story telling, especially featuring Jim Johnson and his forced English dialect. Pete Van Wormer's committee took a well deserved bow for the camaraderie of the day. The following week, the fly-in again drew a large crowd, including many guests from around the state. The speaker was Hans Friedebach, President of the United States Aeronautical Museum Society, dedicated to the preservation of antique aircraft and memorabilia. Arch West again presided.

As reported in the *Ramrod*, November 16, 1982 was "Ralph Murbach Day," honoring the last surviving founder of our club. Approaching his 95th birthday, Ralph took the podium for the program and proceeded to review the events leading up to the formation of the club in 1918. He gave a brief biography of the other nineteen founders, adding personal information on each. Printed copies of the address and an audio tape of an interview of Ralph Murbach are in the archives.

Another first, which was to have a far reaching influence on the club, was the presentation of Rotary information sketches by Bob Choate. On occasion, as club archivist, he would give a short report on some historical event of the club or Rotary International. In time, the reports were given by other members and became known as the "Moment For Rotary."

The annual handicapped children's party took on new features also. The children placed hand made favors at each table, to be a present to each Rotarian, and, in addition, they gave an expanded singing program before the entrance of Santa Claus. They prepared for the

party for weeks beforehand, giving them an incentive do something rather than the normal school work. It was also an inspiration for Rotarians.

December ended with the traditional ladies luncheon and kids day— an eventful year.

New members since July 1 were:

Richard S. Buchanan .....Medical Service-Pathology  
Mahendra R. Patel.....Medical Service-Orthopedics

1982 ended with 143 members.

1983 started with Ben Myers making the report of the Salvation Army bell ringing by Rotarians, now at four locations. A total of \$1,525.00 was collected at the kettles, plus \$1,200.00 from passing the basket at club meetings. A personal gift from Dr. Ben brought the total to \$3,060.00, the best ever.

The reports of archivist, Bob Choate, became a regular feature of about every other meeting. He gave information on the early days of Rotary in Chicago and the origin of many of the rules and customs of Rotary International. The club was invited to attend a community recognition banquet at the Holiday Inn, and, on another occasion, a play at the LCCC Stocker Center. Although not Rotary functions, about 45 members attended each affair. Student guests were present at almost all meetings during the school year, and a recognition lunch was held in April for 30 of the top students of the area.

Economist, James Dawson, in his annual prognostication of business conditions, pointed to an end to the mild recession and inflation that had been plaguing the country since the energy crisis began ten years earlier. Later, in another economic program, Jacob Kamm, from Baldwin Wallace College, gave a similar report, although his projection was not as rosy for Lorain County because of our heavier industry.

On the international front, Elyria Rotary provided for infant care in the Philippines, two wheel chairs for Zambia, and adopted a student in Kenya, by paying his upper school tuition for four years. The Rotary International convention was in Toronto and eleven couples from Elyria attended.

The two fund raising events produced a substantial income, and donations increased by a wide margin. The spring auction netted \$3,840.00, and the steak fry added \$5,221.57 to the treasury. \$2,500.00 was expended for scholarships, \$2,000.00 for international projects, \$1,700.00 to the Historical Society, and \$2,000.00 to the Easter Seal Society. Student projects included a trip to Washington, at a cost of \$1,275.00, and \$639.76 was used for the World Affairs Institute trip. Other donations totaled about \$1,500.00.

New members added from January 1 to June 30, 1983 were:

Calvin Leader .....Public School Education  
John E. Hooker.....Chemical Mfg.  
Robert R. Reich .....YMCA  
Richard L. Stoffer.....Trucking  
Nicholas M. Abraham .....Automobiles-Retail

Membership fell to 137 by July 1, 1983 because of deaths, resignations, and members dropped for non-attendance.



## Chapter Fourteen

July 1, 1983 to June 30 1987

ROBERT H. PERRY – SECRETARY

**A**lthough economic conditions of the country were on the rise, the situation in Elyria, between 1983 and 1988, was somewhat dismal. The Tappan Company, established in 1915 as the Fox Furnace Company, and, in later years, sold to American Standard and then Tappan, ceased to be a going business and was bankrupt. In 1983, the Stanadyne Company, which was the descendent of the pioneer Western Automatic Machine Screw Company, split with Moen Inc. and moved operations to North Carolina. Also in 1983, the Bendix Westinghouse Company, now owned by Allied Signal, moved all manufacturing operations to North Carolina, leaving the plant on Cleveland Street as an engineering division and an empty factory.

Another serious blow to the local economy was the closing of the General Motors Fisher Guide Division on July 1, 1988. It was a plant that, at one time, had employed 2,000 people. In five years 4,500 jobs had disappeared. The effect on Elyria Rotary was minimal, because fewer than a dozen members were involved with these companies, and under the new rules of Rotary International, those that did not leave town were able to keep their membership.

On the plus side, the increases in employment by Borg Warner (which became York International) and Moen Inc. plus the spectacular rise of Invacare, offset some of the losses. Of greater importance, the number of smaller manufacturing concerns increased, the Taylor Street industrial park being an example. New entrepreneurs were invited to join Rotary, and, included in the new group, were some from other parts of the country and the world.

Elyria Memorial Hospital changed from being a local facility to becoming a regional health center and attracted medical personnel from around the world. The Mid-Way Mall retail center now covered many acres, bringing in small specialty shops with a diverse national flavor, and, in addition, the complex added large national retailers. In the 1980's, the Elyria area became more of a multi-cultural community, resulting in the opportunity for Rotary to gain members of many backgrounds.

In 1983 there were 118 legislative proposals discussed by Rotary International including the question of removing the words "his" and "men" from the "Objects of Rotary" statement. The move failed, but it was the first attempt to de-genderize Rotary. It was becoming more apparent equal rights for women was going to affect "men only" clubs. Later, to the benefit of Rotary, women were invited to join. Elyria gained three top executives in 1987. The changes will be noted as this chapter unfolds.

Officers elected for 1983/84 were:

Robert T. Bowman.....President  
Lawrence E. Deetz .....President-Elect  
Robert H. Perry .....Secretary

John S. Blevins.....Treasurer  
Donald F. Andress.....Sergeant-at-Arms

James F. Hunt was named program chairman. Past President John Blevins moved into the Treasurer's duties following the resignation of Warren Reis, Blevins also took on the job of Governor's Aide for the year. President Bob Bowman's year was off to a fast start, and after the shake out of non attending members during the past year, a goal was set to increase the rate of inductions—but only of qualified people.

One of the summer activities was participation in Elyria's Sesqui-Centennial celebration which included a number of dinner dances around the town. Rotarians were prominent in the various committees for the activities. The Apple Festival booth was refined to work better, and each member was responsible for selling ten tickets @ \$2.00. Chairman Bob Stuart set a goal of 3,000 servings, looking for a record income from the project.

September was again a busy month, the fly-in at the airport, the fifth annual stag day at Herb Kaatz's acres, and the District Governor's visit on the 27th. The *Ramrod* of the same date reported the Apple Festival project did set a record: \$4,335.00 net to the treasury. In an attempt to increase the opportunity for fellowship, a Rotary round table was started by Tim Grogan and Bob Perry, meeting Monday at noon at the Holiday Inn. The idea was to get together for lunch and talk about any subject, no schedule, no dues, no fines, just an informal hour of friendly patter. The idea enjoyed a fair success for some time.

November brought an appeal for members to join, or add to, the sustaining Paul Harris Fellowship fund. Seventeen members were already Paul Harris Fellows, and the sustaining list was rapidly growing. The last surviving founding member, Ralph Murbach, was made an honorary member of Elyria Rotary by unanimous board action, and he joined past honoraries: Sam Squire, Edgar F. Allen, L. Ben Hindman, Frank Wilford, J. B. Johnson, and three others named during World War II for their war service.

December also was a busy time with the ladies luncheon and choir, kids' day, and the Salvation Army bell ringing, but the annual handicapped children's party continued to be the highlight of the Rotary year. Because of renovations at Crestwood and Elyria West High School, the children's party was again held at Maplewood School. Forty-five youngsters were the guests, and their songs and Santas gifts made the day for all.

New members for the July 1 to December 31, 1983 term were:

Gene M. Bedocs.....Chiropractic  
William R. Marsh .....Overhead Doors  
Carl W. Wagner, Jr. ....Signs-Mfg.  
Raymond H. Vecchio.....Dentistry  
Jeffrey B. Ohlemacher.....Screw Machine Products-Steel  
Thomas J. Wagner .....Building Maintenance  
Marvin A. Evenchik.....Real Estate Management  
Andrew W. Culberson.....Heating Contracting  
Thomas J. Smith .....Law-Personal Injury  
Frederick R. LePage.....Heating and Air Conditioning-Mfg.  
Richard D. Barr.....Religion-Protestant

Membership on December 31 was 147. Attendance for the period was at 83.1%, indicating renewed attention to the rules.

Starting January 1, 1984, the initiation fee was raised to \$40.00, and new members were given a copy of the Rotary Basic Library—seven booklets explaining the concepts of the Rotary. January 10 was the charter meeting of the South Amherst club, sponsored by Amherst. Elyria Rotary donated an American flag for their use. South Amherst was the sixth and next to last club to be formed in Lorain County. It is the only evening club in the county.

Bob Choate continued his historical anecdotes of early Rotary, this being an example: Practical jokes were a mainstay of the Chicago club, Paul Harris often the instigator. Harris was nominated to his second term as club President only to be greeted with an indignant demand for his resignation by a group of irate members. The room was in an uproar as another group rushed to Harris's defense. When order was restored, the hoax was revealed, and Harris tendered his resignation with the statement, "Where there's smoke there's fire." It was weeks before all was smoothed over.

Jim Johnson's jug was also a continuing highlight of our meetings. Johnson's wit combined with retorts from members made for a lively few minutes, all adding a substantial amount of money to the club treasury. In the absence of newsy items about members, Johnson was not above making up false reasons for fining Rotarians with a name common to someone or an event in the news. Secretary Bob Perry was often hit because the Perry Atomic Power plant was in the news. If a Rotarian was listed in a police report for a traffic offense or other misdemeanor, he was in for much chiding by Johnson and a more serious fine.

A summer exchange student program was promoted as an opportunity for a four week visit overseas for Rotarians' sons or daughters. The participants hosted a student from Europe for four weeks, and then the Elyria youth exchanged families the following month. Rotarians' daughters, Stacey Botamer and Sally Fitch, had participated in the program the year before.

The membership voted to increase the dues to \$40.00 per half year, the proposal described as a "railroaded job" by amused members. Twenty volunteers were recruited to man the telephones for the Easter Seal Telethon on channel 43, another Elyria connection to the crippled child. A theater in the round ladies night event was held in April, and the annual recognition day for high school students was held in May. After almost a year in Elyria, exchange student, Peter Winzel from Sweden, gave an interesting and entertaining program about his home town and his experiences in Elyria.

The annual spring auction fund raising event produced a net of \$2,110.27. This was promptly given to the LCCC scholarship fund. The seventh annual steak fry added over \$6,000.00 to the treasury.

A recap of the years financial contributions included:

Lorain County Historical Society.....	\$2,000.00
Easter Seal Society .....	2,000.00
LCCC scholarship.....	2,000.00
Easter Seal camp for the handicapped.....	560.00



Washington student workshop ..... 870.00  
Student World Affairs Institute ..... 613.00

Additional donations totaled over \$1,000.00.

New members added from January 1 to June 30, 1984 were:

William E. Custer .....Manufacturer Representation  
Donald F. Boddy.....Television Sales & Service  
Thomas E. Haywood.....Jewelry-Retail  
Bill F. Nash.....Banking-Commercial  
Edward T. Blum.....Tobacco-Wholesale  
Roderic H. Pierce .....Religion-Protestant  
Robert M. Bownes.....Auto Accessory Mfg.  
John P. Knapp.....Life Insurance

Don Boddy and Tom Haywood took over the former classifications of their Rotarian fathers. There were 150 members on the June 30, 1984 roster.

Officers for 1984/85 were:

Lawrence E. Deetz .....President  
Ibrahim Y. Assily .....President-Elect  
Robert H. Perry .....Secretary  
John S. Blevins.....Treasurer  
Donald F. Address .....Sergeant-at-Arms

Joseph E. Cirigliano was named program chairman. A lasting change was made in the rotation of *Ramrod* editor-writers, starting in July. Bob Choate and Tim Grogan had been alternating the duty for some time, and they asked for additional writers so the task could be rotated monthly. John Bobel, and later Dave Jones, volunteered, and two new styles were added to the club newsletter. The *Ramrod* was well received by members, and a number of copies were mailed to out of state retired Elyria Rotarians, at their expense, so they could keep up with home town events and friends.

Imaginative events replaced the traditional in a number of ways, the July 18 ladies night was an example. The evening started with a dinner at the Birmingham Methodist Church and was followed by a tour of Otto Schoepfle's garden and aboretum. The Tuesday meetings were sometimes punctuated with a two minute biography of an older member. Some recognized were: Burton Ohlemacher, Ralph Murbach, Ray Renz, and Bob Choate. The biographies were printed in the *Ramrod* during 1983-84. Buick auto dealer, Nick Abraham, donated tickets and accommodations for the Olympics and The Elyria Savings and Trust Bank gave the transportation portion for a raffle fund raiser. Bob and Barb Cook won the drawing, and Rotary added \$3,200.00 to the treasury.

On the student exchange program, Elyria was host, for the year, to a young lady from Japan, Hiroko Eto. Bob Cook's daughter took part in the summer Home Stay Program by going to Copenhagen for a month. Student guests from the local high schools resumed their weekly visits in September.

The annual Apple Festival project posted a \$3,000.00 gain for the club, and the event was followed, a week later, by the stag at Herb Kaatz's Grafton manor. Tours through the

grounds in golf carts, yard games, and fellowship were followed by a pig roast. The annual fly-in, on October 2, featured a talk about ultralight aircraft. Bad weather kept the speaker's plane grounded, and he could not fly it to the fly-in as planned. Twelve other clubs had visitors at the unique noon program.

Another six week student Home Stay visitor arrived in late October, Ernest Rameras from Guatemala, and Elyria had two foreign student guests at the meetings for a while. New *Ramrod* writer, John Bobel, took to the task with a keen eye for reporting "asides" to the meetings. He got after early leavers with this suggestion, "If you can't stay until the speaker finishes, sit near the back of the room, OR DON'T COME!"

The handicapped children's party was moved to the West High School gym where it has remained since. Ray Renz and his wife, Beckey, again co-ordinated the annual event, which continued Elyria Rotary's concern for handicapped children. In addition to the children, the dedicated teachers and bus drivers were recognized for their work. The annual Salvation Army bell ringing produced \$1,648.00 for the one day effort at four locations. Christmas and New Years Day fell on Tuesday, so no meetings were held and the year ended.

New members added since July 1 were:

Richard C. Anderson .....Commercial Banking  
 Dinubhai C. Patel.....Medical Service–Gastroenterology  
 Robert J. Everhart.....Food Processing  
 Larry A. Kelly .....Industrial Development  
 Kevin J. Flanigan .....Pipe Plug Mfg.  
 Thomas D. Gary.....Computer Consulting  
 Dean Kruse.....Country Club  
 Nicandro V. Leano.....Medical Service–Family Practice  
 Robert C. Skillicorn.....Dentistry–Periodontics  
 William J. Ward .....Commercial Banking  
 Todd K. Sommer.....Modular Structure Sales

The membership on January 1, 1984 totaled 155, a new high for the club.

A mid year financial report had these numbers for the six months:

Cash on hand 7/1/84 ..... \$ 3,075.38  
 Income for the period ..... 18,859.83  
 Expenses for the period..... 12,713.24  
 Cash on hand 12/31/84 ..... \$ 9,221.97

The figures indicate the growth of the club since the depression years when income for six months was about \$600.00, and the club was at about 50 members.

In January 1985, the social year started with a trip to the Lakewood Little Theater for a dinner and the play, "Little Mary Sunshine." Inflationary times caused the price to be \$45.00 per couple compared to a similar event 50 years earlier at \$2.00 per couple. In another indication of rising costs, postage for the *Ramrod* rose to 22 cents.

Jim Johnson and his jug continued to collect fines from errant Rotarians such as produce company owner, Al Gelman, for an overturned truckload of french fries. "Special all week on mashed potatoes?" chided Johnson as he passed the jug to Al. Fellowship continued to

be stressed when new members, “less than two years in the club,” were invited to a get acquainted reception held at the Holiday Inn in February. A benefit performance of the Hershey Pennsylvania Boys Glee Club was held at the LCCC Stocker Center, jointly sponsored by Rotary and Kiwanis. Tickets sold by Rotary amounted to \$1,130.00, Kiwanis \$600.00, expenses \$450.00 and about \$1,250.00 going to the city recreation department.

The historical reviews of little known Rotary facts, by Bob Choate, took on a different flavor with the appointment of Tom Porter as assistant “archivist.” Tom was the first to answer Choate’s question about the *ROTARIAN* magazine. It may have been a set up to get a partner to share the duty, but it worked. The team of Choate and Porter alternated with weekly tid-bits, the process evolving into the “Moment for Rotary” reports at today’s meetings. The reports ranged from serious to hilarious, and gave newer members a hint of past highlights of the club.

Springtime 1985 included Bill Wentz’s induction as a Paul Harris Fellow, the club’s 25th member of the select group. Eleven couples attended the District Conference in Mansfield and President Bud Deetz encouraged Elyrians to join him for the Rotary International Convention in Kansas City. Jim Johnson concluded his May 21 jug fining routine with this remark, “The definition of mixed emotions is opening the refrigerator and finding your wife’s picture on a milk carton.” At the time, missing persons photos were printed on milk cartons.

The annual steak fry was a huge success, involving virtually every member of the club, and produced \$6,500.00 for the treasury. The project had become the social event of the summer with about 750 people being served on the grounds of the Lorain County Historical Society on Washington Avenue. The fellowship of Rotary was shared with all.

The financial report for all of 1984/85 showed total income of \$32,946.95. \$10,458.55 was donated to various projects, and over \$5,000 went to International and District dues. About \$4,500 was spent for the *Ramrod*, directories, and club supplies. \$2,025.45 was donated to the handicapped children’s class for a computer and supplies.

New members added from January 1 to June 30, 1985 were:

- William G. Goodspeed .....Furniture Refurbishing
- Stephen S. Groves .....Metal Fabrication
- Razak U. Kherani .....Medical Service–Cardiology
- Gary L. Kneisley .....Radio Broadcasting
- Robert B. Kubasak .....Pharmacy
- Darshan Mahajan .....Medical Service–Neurology
- Donald E. Mills .....Moving and Storage

Membership was up to 159 on July 1, 1985.

Officers elected for the 1985/86 year were:

- Ibrahim Y. Assily .....President
- John P. Frain .....President-Elect
- Robert H. Perry .....Secretary
- John S. Blevins .....Treasurer
- Donald E. Address .....Sergeant-at-Arms

David J. Knapp was named program chairman.

A number of changes were announced by new President, Abe. During the summer months of 1985, the Rotary Foundation initiated the Polio Plus program. Contributions to the project counted toward a member's Paul Harris Fellowship account. Bud Deetz organized the first Interact club in District 660. The group was formed at Elyria West High School.

In attempting to increase the Apple Festival income, it was decided to offer turkey legs along with fried ice cream. The result was a great deal of work by members and a net profit of \$4,150.00. The turkey legs were a disaster! The annual stag at Herb Kaatz's spread was well attended, the dinner changed back to roast beef after the lightly attended pig roast of the previous year. The annual fly-in featured speaker, General Logeais, from the Military Airlift Command, who told of the fast reaction the service provided in national emergencies.

In another epic *Ramrod*, this one dated November 5, 1985, unpredictable editor, Bob Choate, reported the news of the club in a letter addressed to President Ronald Reagan, Washington, D.C. 20201. "Dear Ronnie," it started out, and ended with, "Don't forget I voted for you twice. Love to Nancy." The issue was the talk of the town, printer Tim Grogan offered copies the following week for \$400.00 each. There was no response from President Reagan—that we know of!

The Rotary International Council on Legislation again considered rule changes, including replacing the word "men" in the constitution with "persons," another hint of women joining Rotary. Another proposal was: no officer could be elected to succeed himself. This would be contrary to Elyria's long time Secretary tenure. In our club, there was thought of adding a morning club. It had been done successfully elsewhere, however, the idea was dropped by its proponents following prolonged discussion.

The traditional ladies luncheon with the Elyria High School choir and the Salvation Army bell ringing were part of the December holiday schedule, but the handicapped Children's day was still the highlight of the season. Each year, chairman Ray Renz seemed to add some new delight for the kids, this time it was "Butterfly the clown" who escorted Santa and later moved around the hall making a balloon animal for each child. Eyes and smiles were as wide as saucers.

New members from July 1 to December 30, 1985 were:

- Harold Lee Bays.....Application Systems
- C. Donald Bramley.....Banking-Commercial
- Larry D. Koslick .....Red Cross
- Rodney H. Lynk .....Medical Service-Ophthalmology
- David J. Pacanosky .....Furniture-Retail
- Kenneth E. Reiber.....Banking-Commercial

Membership on January 1, 1986 totaled 159.

February was the official inauguration of the first Interact club in District 660, the honors done by District Governor Charles Oswald. Bud Deetz and committee had poured countless hours into the program, bringing together students from the various schools in Elyria. On the Rotary International scene, the one millionth Rotarian joined on the 17th, and shortly after, club number 22,000 was founded. To put that into perspective, Elyria was the 382nd

club to be chartered. In other matters, the courts in California ruled Rotary was a business rather than a service club, therefore, must comply with the laws of the state regarding equal rights. The verdict was appealed, but the move was to have far reaching effects.

Elyria Rotary participated in four international projects in India, under the guidance of Mike Patel. Funds were provided to administer vaccines to a number of children in three different locations of the country. A large amount of medical and hospital equipment was also collected by the committee and furnished to poor areas of the world under the District's Medical Equipment and Supplies Abroad (MESA) project.

A number of big name speakers appeared during the period, including Ohio Supreme Court Judge, Thomas Moyer, and Lieutenant Governor candidate, Bob Taft Jr., all in the political arena, and discussions were aimed at the workings of the state government. The exposure probably didn't hurt them for the coming election. The spring social event was a "Wahini Night" for the ladies, Hawaiian attire and \$35.00 per couple.

The meeting on June 3 was held at the Elyria Methodist Home on West Avenue, the tables shared with residents of the facility. One table of six included three Rotarians and three charming ladies, one being Jane Hicks, 90 or so years old. As it turned out, Miss Hicks had been the private secretary for Clara Ford, wife of Henry Ford. Her fascinating stories led to a friendship with this writer, a number of rides in antique cars with her and a couple of her friends from the home, and the loan of a book written about Mrs. Ford and prominently mentioning Jane Hicks. She passed on about six years later, but the memory of her continues.

The steak fry on June 26 was chaired by Karl Stutz with Ted Gebhardt and Bill Marsh lending much support, and every Rotarian had an assigned task. It was now a must attend event for the socially involved of the town, 677 tickets sold, and a net of \$6,357.00 for the treasury.

Major donations from Elyria Rotary for the year were:

Handicapped children.....	\$2,035.00
LCCC scholarship.....	2,000.00
Lorain County Historical Society.....	1,000.00
Exchange students.....	1,113.00
Other scholarships.....	1,200.00
Elyria Public Library.....	1,000.00
Rotary International programs .....	2,200.00

Included in the \$2,200.00 Rotary International contributions were funds for polio vaccines and the projects in India. In all, about \$15,000.00 was expended on Community, International, and Vocational service for the year.

New members since January 1 were:

Roger W. Turnau.....	Home for the Aging
David H. Tower.....	Brazing Flux Mfg.
Larry D. Jones.....	Computer Sales
Frank Glavin.....	Golf Ball Mfg.
Henry G. Budd.....	Senior Active (Religion)

Total membership on July 1 was 161 even though thirteen resignations were recorded during the year. Another number of note, there were 35 Paul Harris Fellows and 23 Paul Harris Sustaining Members at year's end.

Officers for 1986/87 were:

John P. Frain .....President  
J. C. William Tattersall .....President-Elect  
Robert H. Perry .....Secretary  
John S. Blevins.....Treasurer  
Donald F. Address .....Sergeant-at-Arms

Calvin E. Leader was named program chairman.

President John Frain got an early start on the Rotary year, having the club assembly on July 15, 38 members in attendance. In a hint of things to come, Lee Bays and the Rotary Foundation committee offered help for anyone interested in the Foundation's foreign study programs and stressed the need for more members to become Paul Harris Fellows. Incoming exchange student, Munaji Nigade from India, arrived the end of August, but not in time to join the new member reception on the 21st.

September was again a busy month, another successful Apple Festival project, the annual stag outing, the District Governor's visit, and the fly-in on the last day of the month. The fried ice cream, wormy apple photos, and soft drink dispensing not only set records for income but also the number of participating Rotarians. The stag outing and fly-in offered more opportunities for fellowship and were well attended. The District Governor's message was complimentary to Elyria. Our medical supplies donations, exchange student programs, the Interact Club, and contributions to the Rotary Foundation brought high praise. District Governor Herb Kephart also outlined the newly inaugurated "Polio Plus Campaign," the Rotary International program to wipe out childhood diseases by the year 2005 (the 100th anniversary of Rotary International). 120 million dollars in donations from Rotarians and the public was the estimated cost to carry out the world wide effort.

October and November meetings were spiced with historical and modern reports by "archivists" Bob Choate and Tom Porter. The subjects were usually taken from the current *ROTARIAN* magazine and presented in a light manner. Programs continued to be timely, and included Mayor Keys with his annual "state of the city" message. By now the traditional December schedule was so well run, it was carried out with ease. The handicapped children's party continued to be the highlight of the season, each child getting his or her moment in the spotlight. Santa Claus (Jim Johnson) did overdo hugging the female teachers, much to the delight of the kids.

New members added from July 1 to December 31 were:

Robert B. Demby.....Real Estate  
Raymond T. Fuqua .....Aviation Services  
Gregory G. Kruszka.....Pipe Tool Mfg.  
Alan L. Murphy .....Advertising-Marketing  
Phillip T. Schaefer .....Waste Disposal  
David A. Tollett.....Vending Service

New inductions and resignations offset each other, so the membership total ended the year at 161.

Elyria Rotary lost two long time members in mid January 1987, founding member, Ralph Murbach, one year short of being 100, and Mark Willis who joined in 1934. Murbach was President in 1938/39 and Willis the following year, 1939/40. Murbach was the father of the YMCA Camp Iss-See-Kes and, for many years, sought the help of Rotary to expand and care for the facility. Willis was a quiet man, always ready with a smile, a helping hand, and always a defender of Rotary ideals. A moment of silence was observed at the January 20 club meeting for both pioneer Rotarians.

January items of interest included a meeting and tour at the Ridge Tool Company, each member received a copy of their famous calendar. Later there was another sell out crowd for the annual talk by economist, James Dawson, who predicted two years of rising economic well being.

The following was noted in the *Ramrod* on February 3: "Historian Tom Porter reported there are now 150,000 Paul Harris Fellows, the last one a lady." The fireside meeting program was re-instituted with Mike Duffin pushing for participation. Spring brought another outing, this one to Northfield for a night of horse racing. The bus, dinner at Northfield, and park entry were \$20.00 per person. An unusual spring snowfall of seven inches canceled the April 7 meeting, even though President John Frain made it to the YWCA.

A program that had a slow start was the establishment of the Elyria Rotary Foundation. \$100.00 donations by members Bob Ohlemacher and Bill Tattersall were the beginning efforts, with not much happening until about five years later. The slow start can be attributed to the major effort for the Polio Plus campaign.

The year ended with another successful steak fry, chairman Howard Weiss reported almost 140 Rotarians took part in the all day chores. Over \$7,200.00 was the profit for the event, but the money was over shadowed by the fine evening of social gathering with fellow Elyrians. With the LCCC scholarship paid out the previous year, the largest contribution in 1986/87 went to the handicapped children programs in the amount of nearly \$2,000.00. The check book balance on July 1, 1987 was \$6,927.09, over \$2,000.00 less than the previous July 1, a sign of increasing club service costs. District and Rotary International dues totaled \$5,403.00 and other expenses were rising rapidly.

New members added to July 1, 1987 were:

- William Ivancic .....Steel Mfg.
- Roy A. Church .....Community College
- Robert E. Clark.....Natural Gas Service
- Jeff L. Gaskalla.....Telephone Service
- Gordon J. Gatien.....Telephone Service
- Carl M. Gomoll.....Contract Assembly
- William L. Halverson.....Public School Administration
- Leonard J. Sikora .....Metal Stamping
- Joseph J. Remalius.....Hotel

Membership was at 162 on July 1.

Officers elected for 1987/88 were:

J. C. William Tattersall .....President

David J. Knapp.....President-Elect

Robert H. Perry .....Secretary

John S. Blevins.....Treasurer

Donald F. Andress.....Sergeant-at-Arms

Gregory G. Kruszka was named program chairman for the year.





## Chapter Fifteen

July 1, 1987 to December 31, 1990

ROBERT H. PERRY – SECRETARY

**R**otary was founded on February 23, 1905. The idea was to bring together men of high ethics in an atmosphere of fellowship. In that respect, Rotary was a complete success, however, membership was restricted to men but with no restrictions as to race, creed, or color. It took eighty-two years for the rules of Rotary International to be changed to allow women in the organization.

As a reminder to the workings of Rotary International, Rotarians are members of their club, and the club is a member of the District and Rotary International. Each club can propose changes to the Council on Legislation which meets every three years to recommend actions to the Rotary International Board of Directors. The Council on Legislation is composed of one delegate from each District in the world, therefore, rule changes are not made for a unique local situation. The Council meetings in 1983 and 1986 addressed the women in Rotary question in a resounding negative manner.

The question was triggered by the club in Duarte, California when it became the first in the world to admit women. By action of Rotary International, the club was dropped, but the case went through the California courts from 1983 to 1986. The outcome was the high court ruling that Rotary was a business club and not a service club. It was, therefore, subject to equal rights and tax laws of the state. Because of the California ruling, allowing women to join Rotary was again discussed at the 1986 Council on Legislation. The results reported in the Rotary International newsletter of May 1986: "The perennial proposal to admit women to Rotary club membership was once again defeated, this time by a voice vote estimated at one third 'for,' two thirds 'against'."

This statement from the fourth meeting of the Rotary International Board of Directors followed its action to appeal the California law to the U. S. Supreme Court: "It is the official policy of Rotary International, announced by its Board of Directors on May 28, 1986, that the Constitutional prohibition against female membership be adhered to by all Rotary clubs, whether in California or elsewhere."

A softening of that directive was made in the December 1986 Rotary International Bulletin: "...Rotary clubs of the world are requested to recognize the membership of women who have been formally elected to membership in clubs which have been directed to disregard the male only provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws....(at present in California, U.S.A. only)."

By May 1987, attempts to uphold the all male provision of Rotary's Constitution had been ruled illegal in the U. S. by the Supreme Court and at the Rotary International Convention in Toronto it was announced women were to be invited to join "providing all qualifications were met." Elyria Rotary was quick to react, the subject was discussed at the June board meeting. The decision was to consider any membership proposal (male or female) in the same manner as before. The membership committee met on July 23 and agreed that the club

should actively seek the best female candidates available. They were to meet the same standards as the men.

On November 10, 1987 the first women were inducted into the Elyria Rotary Club: Carol G. Simonetti and Maureen M. Cromling. The third woman inducted was Frances E. Bostwick on November 24.

Carol G. Simonetti .....Community Foundation  
Maureen M. Cromling .....Waste Disposal  
Frances E. Bostwick.....Charitable Fund Raising

The rule change to invite women into Rotary was a landmark decision. It was a decision that caused heated debate in some parts of the United States, and, in some countries, the rule has been completely ignored. Even years later, in the U. S. there are clubs with no female members. Elyria was not the first, nor the last, in Ohio to induct female members. Cleveland welcomed their first three in August. The decision has proven to be beneficial to Rotary.

President Bill Tattersall's year was eventful in many ways, women in Rotary, the successful Polio Plus campaign, and an increase in membership. July was the kick off of the highly successful Polio Plus campaign. Elyria's goal was announced at \$50,000.00 by chairman Lee Bays, pledges to be paid over a period of two years. This amounted to over \$300.00 per member, however, the incentive to pledge was helped by the donations being applied to the members' Paul Harris Fellowship account.

July 21 was a visit to Otto Schoepfle's gardens in Birmingham with dinner following and an evening of fellowship. August and September had a number of events including the club assembly for committee chairmen, a combination golf and tennis day at the Elyria Country Club, an away noon meeting at the LCCC Stocker Center and a chance to tour the complex. The cost of the golf day, including dinner, was \$55.00, tennis and dinner only-\$30.00. A \$2.00 charge for the same golf outing in 1918 was met with some criticism at the time.

September events kept Rotarians busy with the Apple Festival booth, the annual stag and the fly in. September 13 was the last all male "stag" held by the club. The Apple Festival sold out 3,200 ice cream treats and netted just about \$6,000.00, according to chairman Tom Smith. October 20 was a bad day on Wall Street, John Aquilla reported, "Further gyrations can be expected." It was the start of a selloff which did not recover for two years. The following week, Jim Johnson fined every stock broker and banker in the club for taking advantage of "us poor folks."

The November 3 meeting was devoted, in part, to another plea for members to get on the Polio Plus team. To that date, 22 Rotarians had pledged \$14,690.00 only 29% of the \$50,000.00 goal. The *Ramrod* of December 1 carried the by-line of Dave Holland as guest writer and the issue dated December 22, 1987 was the first by Bob Reich. December holiday programs once again highlighted the handicapped children's party at West High School.

The year ended with the great news that Elyria Rotarians had gone over the top for the Polio Plus campaign, a total of \$51,450.00 pledged or paid. It was a gratifying result for

chairman Lee Bays, the club officers, and the membership because the original goal suggested by the District was about \$100.00 per member, \$15,000.00.

New members added in addition to the three women listed were:

Dale R. Forthofer.....Sound & Security Systems  
Frank S. Jacobs .....Country Club  
Robert T. Thompson.....Printing-Envelopes  
Bradley R. Ohlemacher.....Screw Machine Products-Steel  
Dennis F. Fredriksen .....Religion-Protestant  
Michael L. Gebhardt .....Insurance-Personal  
John M. Ryan.....Insurance-Commercial  
Charles V. Watt.....Home for the Aging

The Salvation Army bell ringing by Rotarians and personal donations from members totaled \$2,885.00, while Kiwanis raised \$2,367.00. A new member reception was held in early February, the first attended by women members, and all went well. Plans were under way for recognition of the seventieth anniversary of Elyria Rotary. The board approved solicitation of funds from members to place ads and have the story of Rotary in the *Chronicle-Telegram* in early April. Historian Bob Choate's remarks, recorded in the March 1 *Ramrod*, indicated 200 women per week were now joining Rotary Clubs in the U. S. Postage for the *Ramrod* went to twenty-five cents on April 1.

The Interact club at Elyria West High school, through a couple of fund raisers, donated \$350.00 to the Polio Plus campaign, this reported by proud adviser, Bud Deetz. The District Governor's newsletter placed Elyria second behind the 400 member Toledo Rotary Club in donations for Polio Plus. At the April 5 meeting, a copy of the double page spread in the *Chronicle-Telegram* about the 70th anniversary was given to each member. Two stories appeared, one by feature writer, Connie Davis, on the history of Elyria Rotary, the other an interview of John Murbach about his father, Ralph, and reminiscences of Rotary.

May 10 was the expanded senior student recognition luncheon which now included the three Elyria high schools, Lake Ridge Academy, Midview, First Baptist, and Open Door Christian schools. Twenty-eight top students were recognized. A group photograph was taken of the club on May 31, the previous one having been done in 1976. A collection of these photos back to 1928 is in the archives. The annual steak fry was held on Friday, June 17, 840 people were served resulting in net income of about \$8,300.00. The June 21 meeting was a lunch and tour of the fast growing Invacare plant on Taylor Street.

New members joining since January 1, 1988 were:

Theodore S. Altfeld .....Industrial Supplies  
Jeanine P. Donaldson.....YWCA  
Terry D. Goode.....Title Service  
Thomas A. Herberger.....Dentistry-Orthodontics  
Richard C. Laubenthal .....Funeral Directing  
William F. Nichols.....Medical Service-Surgery  
Terry S. Shilling.....Law-Tax  
Ronald A. Sommer.....Modular Homes

There were 166 members on June 30 including 46 Paul Harris Fellows and about the same number of sustaining members. In addition to the 46 Rotarian Paul Harris Fellows, eleven spouses were also so honored for a club total of 57.

Officers for 1988/89 were:

David J. Knapp.....President  
James F. Hunt.....President-Elect  
Robert H. Perry .....Secretary  
John S. Blevins.....Treasurer  
Donald F. Andress .....Sergeant-at-Arms

Thomas J. Smith was named program chairman. Long time *Ramrod* writer, Tim Grogan, retired from the newsletter staff and was replaced by Jack Ryba. There were five writers so there was a substitute, when needed, and he was also assigned the fifth Tuesday.

It was announced in July the two Elyria nominees for the 1989 Group Study Exchange had been accepted for a month in India. Jim Ketchum and Tim Martin were the successful candidates. District Governor Ralph Olson's visit was highlighted by his report on the Rotary Foundation Polio Plus statistics. \$120 million was the goal, \$219 million had been raised and Elyria was praised for more than doubling the original quota. Someone suggested the District Governor propose a rule that a club could not have over four Ohlemachers. Elyria's Burton, Bob, Jeff, and Brad took no offense.

Projects in the final stages of planning were a three year pledge of \$15,000.00 for improvements to the YWCA, a move to have a joint function with the other seven Rotary clubs in Lorain County, and a planned fishing expedition in September. As it turned out, the fishing trip was held on a cold day in October, the total catch by four boat crews was one fish, true size unknown. The annual events for September: the Apple Festival, Stag-Stagette party, and the fly-in were quite successful.

The Elyria Rotary Foundation, after a slow start, received a \$3,000.00 boost from the Board of Directors, and, with other donations, had a worth of about \$10,000.00. In a move to increase the effectiveness the foundation, trustees were reduced from twelve to seven with overlapping terms, the changes scheduled to take place in July 1989. In other board actions, a "Four Way Test" speech contest for high school students was authorized, and \$800.00 was approved for a "Leadership Lorain County" scholarship.

The year ended with a successful handicapped children's party, spouses luncheon and Salvation Army bell ringing. It was now the custom to provide the handicapped students with funds for classroom equipment and paid fees for use of the YMCA swimming pool for therapy sessions. Rotary's commitment to the handicapped child was and still is an important part of the club's history.

New members added:

John A. Falkenstein.....Furnace & Air Conditioner Mfg.  
Thomas A. Gaston.....Commercial Banking  
William E. Ruth .....Education-Vocational School  
Larry G. Standen.....Auctioneering

There were 169 members on January 1, 1989. The year started with a nice gesture by the club in awarding a Paul Harris Fellowship to long time pianist, Helen Kolopus. She was always ready to cater to the changing whims of song leaders. The announced total for the Salvation Army collection was \$2,702.00. The handicapped swim program was paid with a Rotary donation of \$1,900.00. Attendance for the previous year was at a respectable 84% indicating a tight reign by the board and Secretary Bob Perry.

The Lorain County Rotary Clubs' Fellowship night was held on February 11 at the Stocker Center at LCCC. The social hour was followed by a performance of "Will Rogers-U.S.A." an evening of impersonations of the famed entertainer of the 1930's. Other activities included the student Four Way Test contest, the winner to receive a \$100.00 prize and a trip to the District competition. A bus trip outing to attend a Cleveland Cavs basketball game was also held during the busy month, thirty Rotarians participated.

An awards committee was formed to recognize any Rotarian or other notable Elyrian for outstanding community service. The program was entitled, "Trade or Professional Service Award," and was called the T.O.P.S. Awards. Six high school seniors were sponsored to the International Workshop at Defiance College.

A temporary change in the club meeting place was necessitated by remodeling at the YWCA, starting in April. The noon luncheons were held for a couple of months at the Elyria Holiday Inn at Mid-Way Mall. The service and treatment were exceptional, and many Rotarians expressed the hope the re-location could be permanent. Support of the YWCA and a short walking distance for downtown members seemed more important, so after the renovation, meetings were resumed at the YWCA.

May activities included a lunch and tour of the R. W. Beckett Manufacturing Company in North Ridgeville, a visit to the club by the Group Study Exchange team from India, and the annual honor day for thirty outstanding high school seniors. June was just as busy: a tour of the new Grafton prison which housed 700 inmates, the annual steak fry, and the T.O.P.S. awards for the year. Rotarian and Beckett Vice President, Bob Cook, provided an historic "free lunch" for the plant tour, while the prison tour featured "jail house food" at 85¢ per plate. An inmate confided the servings were better than the usual prison fare. Compare that to \$4.50 for the regular noon lunch fee.

Friday June 16, the day of the steak fry, followed a night of heavy and continuing rain, so the location was moved to Nick Abraham's new auto dealership building on East Broad Street at Route 57. Moving tables, chairs, grills, food serving necessities, and the bar was a major accomplishment, but all was ready by 6 P.M. As it turned out, the evening was described as, "the best steak fry ever." There was an overflow crowd which produced a profit of \$8,522.00. Contributions to community good works totaled \$14,200.00 during the year.

New members added from January 1, to June 30, 1989 were:

Jerrold E. Blackmore .....Home for the Aging  
Clarence E. Wills.....Red Cross  
Art Williams.....Appraisal Service  
David A. Basinski.....Law-Judicial  
David L. Kaszubinski.....Auto License Bureau

Eric E. Bloom.....Faucet Mfg.  
 Ronald A. Cocco .....Architectural Service  
 Robin A. Kaufman.....Steel Sales  
 Delbert L. Lancaster.....Minority Advocacy  
 Timothy P. Martin.....Hospital Foundation  
 Richard J. Stewart.....Appliance Sales  
 Michael J. Jaworski.....Physical Therapy  
 R. Harrison Bolen.....Family Planning

Membership on July 1 was at an all time high of 174, and yearly dues had been voted to be raised to \$90.00 to cover the increased costs of club service.

Officers for 1989/90 were:

James F. Hunt .....President  
 Gregory G. Kruszka.....President-Elect  
 Robert H. Perry .....Secretary  
 John S. Blevins.....Treasurer  
 Donald F. Address.....Sergeant-at-Arms

Program chairman for the year was Gregory A. White.

The first official act for President Jim Hunt was to announce the award winners for the T. O. P. S. program honoring community leaders. Chairman Gary Kneisley presented the awards to:

Thomas E. Haywood.....Merchant  
 Scribner L. Fauver .....Professional  
 Mid-Town Improvement\*.....Service  
 Robert Gollmar .....Manufacturer

\*Founders of the group were Donald Bramley, Robert Bowman, Thomas E. Haywood, Charles Hyman, Carol Dean, and William Kilfoyle.

It was also during Jim Hunt's year that the club became increasingly active with exchange students and outbound Group Study Exchange participants.

August activities included a new member, old member social hour at the Holiday Inn, the annual golf outing, and a bus trip to a Cleveland Indians baseball game. September Rotary events were the annual Stag, Fly-in, and a very successful Apple Festival booth which produced a profit of over \$7,000.00. The awards ceremony for the October fishing day was brief: no fish were caught, but the dinner and fellowship were outstanding. It was decided to re-name the fishing trip the "save the fish day project."

The first club banner was designed in 1962 showing a downcast boy in a wheel chair with the inscription, "Where Rotary Started Work for Crippled Children." A redesigned flag was unveiled on November 14, 1989. It pictures a boy on crutches with his dog at his side. The inscription reads, "Where the International Effort Began for the Handicapped Child." The original artwork for the 1962 version is in the archives. Sixty-five children were honored at the traditional handicapped Christmas party, again Santa had a special gift for each child. The spouses' luncheon and Salvation Army bell ringing events ended a successful year.

New members added:

Henry C. Doll.....Family Foundation  
Pamela J. Hickson .....Public Library  
Linda Y. Huntley.....Public Schools-County District  
Paul L. Reichlin .....Tool & Die Mfg.  
John F. Krasnobrucky.....Mortgage Lending  
Bruce E. Stevens .....Commercial Banking  
Janet A. Long.....Religion-Protestant  
Richard E. Mele .....Electrical Supplies  
James J. Markus.....Transformer Mfg.  
George J. Worden.....Senior Active (Education Development)

There were 182 members of Elyria Rotary on January 1, 1990. The population of Elyria was officially 56,746, down 458 from ten years earlier. There were nearly 180 manufacturing and assembling companies in and around the city. Added to those numbers were the retail store growth of Mid-Way Mall and the proliferation of law, medical, and social service offices. The economy of the area was rapidly expanding and Elyria Rotary continued to attract the best people moving to the new enterprises.

As the countdown continued toward the seventy-fifth year of Elyria Rotary, the decade of the nineties began with a busier than ever club. Jim Johnson livened most meetings with his jug passing routine, there were two tours, and the first woman historian, Carol Simonetti, joined Bob Choate and Tom Porter with pages from the past. Exchange student, Bhayan Chandran, was doing well in school, and Elyria was busy planning to host the Group Study Exchange team from Germany. February 16 was the Lorain County Rotary Clubs' cocktail party at DeLuca's Place in the Park. The social was attended by nearly 450 people, "good entertainment, and a number of door prizes won by Elyrians."

February 20 was a tour of the Joint Vocational School south of Oberlin which had an enrollment of about 1,200 day students and trained about 5,000 adults in night classes. At most noon meetings, in addition to the regularly invited weekly students, Interact Club members from West High School were introduced as special guests.

Spring 1990 activities included a bus trip to the Crawford Museum in Cleveland, a tree planting project, an Easter Seal walk-a-thon fund raising, and a number of fireside fellowship evenings. The *Ramrod* was changed to a more readable two column format, and, with the resignation of Robert Reich, Pam Hickson became the first female writer. An April *Ramrod* reported some of Jim Johnson's typical patter, "Second prize today will be a copy of 'The Road Kill Cook Book,' first prize goes to those having a birthday this month. Put in three bucks!" Another line, "If you're not on some kind of board, put in a buck."

May events started with a lunch, meeting, and tour of the Moen Corporation plant, and later in the month nineteen Rotarians attended the District Conference in Marion. Four Lorain Countians were chosen for the Group Study Exchange with Sweden in 1991, and it was also announced the '91 District Conference, sponsored by Amherst, would be held in Elyria.

President Jim Hunt's eventful year ended with a highly successful steak fry fund raiser, now billed as the "social of the summer for Elyrians." Chaired by Phil Schaefer and



worked at by nearly 150 Rotarians, the project made a record \$8,671.00 profit. Club contributions for the year totaled \$13,381.02, including these major donations:

Handicapped children.....	\$2,200.00
Leadership Lorain County.....	800.00
Historical Society.....	1,000.00
YWCA.....	5,000.00
YMCA pool repair.....	1,000.00

About ten other civic projects were helped with amounts around \$500.00.

New members from January 1, to June 30, 1990 were:

Lavina J. Mooibroek.....	Passenger Travel Agency
Wesley L. Shirley.....	Rivet Mfg.
George G. Aldrich.....	Financial Services
Maud W. de la Porte.....	Ambulance Service
Richard A. Kaplan.....	Furniture-Retail
Mark Skellenger.....	Civil Engineering
Kevin E. Walter.....	Visually Impaired Service

There were 184 members on July 1, 1990. Attendance continued to be excellent, 88% for June—the high for large clubs in the District.

Officers for 1990/91 were:

Gregory G. Kruszka.....	President
Herbert W. Kaatz.....	President-Elect
Robert H. Perry.....	Secretary
John P. Tierney.....	Treasurer
Donald F. Address.....	Sergeant-at-Arms

After years of service, John S. Blevins stepped down as Treasurer. Carol Simonetti was named program chairman.

President Greg Kruszka set his goals for the year—two new areas for Rotary service: a literacy project and an attempt to help our local ecology. The club assembly was held eleven days into the new administration, and most committees had reports ready. Bob Bowman took on the important duty of Rotary Foundation chairman to encourage new Paul Harris Fellows and remind those with unpaid pledges for Polio Plus to finish the program.

A cooking school, working with the YWCA, provided the noon lunches for about two months, but the arrangement did not please many Rotarians. In September, a professional caterer was engaged, resulting in increased costs and eventually a raise in dues. The size of the club was taxing the facilities of the YWCA causing preliminary inquiries to be made about a larger meeting place. September 1990 was the high water mark for membership at 189, falling to an average of 185 for the next few years.

President Greg instituted two changes in the *Ramrod*: a monthly President's message and an occasional paragraph from committee chairmen to explain their goals for the year. Our dean of *Ramrod* writers, Bob Choate, returned to duty after recovering from a slight stroke, his pen having lost no pointedness.

In a turn about, Jim Johnson was the target of much abuse from friends for his minor car accident while touring Scotland. In his best English accent, Bob Cook read a fake news clipping about the incident. "As a typical American tourist, he forgot about driving on the proper side of the road, bent a fender on a lady's Rolls-Royce and was so apologetic, she invited him to her home for tea. It was further noted Johnson had averted an international incident by complying with the lady's wishes." Not to be outdone, Johnson enlisted the help of County Prosecutor and Rotarian, Greg White, and two weeks later, a grand jury complaint named all Rotarians involved in the attack on Johnson. All were fined five dollars. For the full story read the August 14 and 28, 1990 *Ramrods*.

In serious Rotary business, it was reported 95% of the Polio Plus pledges had been paid by our members. The busy September schedule of Apple Festival, Stag, and fly-in also included welcoming our latest exchange student, Oscar Emard, from Sweden. Because of the rising cost for the catered lunch and use of the YWCA meeting room, dues were increased by \$32.00 per year. The noon lunch price of \$5.00 about covered the caterer charges, and the balance of the dues increase went to the YWCA. Two Elyria women were sponsored by the club for the Group Study Exchange to Sweden: Marsha Drusal and Jeanette Drachenberg. A career move to Wadsworth by *Ramrod* writer, Pam Hickson, opened the way for Jim Hunt to join the staff, doing the fifth Tuesday duties. The song leader committee had also been enlarged in the past few years, giving a variety of talent to the task.

The *Ramrod* of December 11, 1990 announced the passing of two long time and revered Elyria Rotarians, Burton Ohlemacher, and Russell "Gus" Gleason. Burton joined the club in 1938 and served in nearly every capacity including District Governor in 1948/49. He also served the community on the School Board, the Chamber of Commerce, and many other civic activities. After retirement, his travels allowed him to make up in almost one hundred different Rotary countries. Gus joined the staff of the Elyria YMCA in 1945 and joined Rotary shortly after. Starting in 1968, he served as Treasurer and then Sergeant-at-Arms for many years. His quiet manner and helpful ways were a great asset to a smooth running club during his tenure. So passed two well liked Rotarians.

December events included a report of \$1,300.00 being raised by Rotary for the Easter Seal Society during the "Walk-a-thon," a riotously funny talk by Swedish exchange student, Oscar Emard, and the traditional handicapped children's party. The year ended with another highly successful spouses' luncheon and a record setting collection for the Salvation Army kettles.

On December 30, 1990 there were 187 members, these added:

- John B. McCoy.....Radiology
- Robert W. Cairns.....Natural Gas Service
- John C. Putz.....YMCA
- R. Joseph Johnston.....Hospital
- Ramiz Masri.....Medical Service-OB/GYN
- Kenneth D. Stahl.....Salvation Army
- Estelle W. Dobrow.....Chamber of Commerce
- Mark T. Davis.....Blood Bank



## Chapter Sixteen

January 1, 1991 to June 30, 1993

ROBERT H. PERRY – SECRETARY

This final chapter of the “First Seventy-Five Years of Elyria Rotary” is about an eventful two and a half years and covers many improvements to an outstanding club. It tells about a diversified and highly qualified membership, new community projects, fund raising of record proportions, and historic events of the period. January 1991, for example, was the arrival of our second exchange student for the year, Berenice Jones from South Africa. Oscar Emard was excelling in school, and a letter from previous visitor Bhavana Chadran indicated she was involved with a Rotaract project in her home town in India.

As of January 11 there were 77 Paul Harris Fellows and 52 sustaining members in Elyria Rotary. Total contributions to the Rotary Foundation were \$110,208.00, a vast amount compared to our club’s first humble donation back in 1931. In other Rotary International news, a zero was added to each District number, ours became 6600. There was no change other than the number, however, there was some talk of splitting 6600 into two districts because of the large size. Nothing happened.

Fellowship was at a high level, a new member reception, a number of fireside meetings scheduled, Jim Johnson’s jug routine causing much laughter at meetings, and a dinner dance, “Spring Fling,” at the Elyria Country Club. Planning for the May 3 to 5 District Conference at the LCCC Stocker center brought together Rotarians from the eight county clubs. Elyria and President Greg Kruszka took a leading role. Thirty-one Elyria Rotarians served on various committees for the Conference.

The theme of the Rotary year being “Preserve Planet Earth” prompted our club to sponsor three ecological projects in the spring of 1991. Planting 190 trees at the Metro Park Indian Hollow Reservation, purchase of four large trees in Elyria, and a clean up of the roadside of Route 57 from Route 113 to Mid-Way Mall involved over 75 members. Other spring activities included the Easter Seal walk-a-thon, a blood donor drive, and a visit to the TRW Nelson Stud plant for a tour. Jim Hunt and Ray Renz joined the select group of historians, giving a minute or so of little known facts about Rotary.

The May 14, 1991 *Ramrod*, postage now at twenty-nine cents, gave a complete run-down of Elyria’s participation in the District Conference, a long list of activities well done by our members. The account is much too long to include in this work but will be a fine guide for the next time Elyria is involved in a District Conference. A copy of the conference program is also bound in the 1991 collection of *Ramrods*.

It was fitting the successful year would end on other high notes, the annual steak fry served 915 and netted over \$9,000.00, the field trip to Schoepfle’s gardens for an evening of quiet pleasure, and the announcement Jim Hunt had been chosen to lead the 1992 Group study Exchange for six weeks in the Philippines. The financial report for 1990/91 listed donations of \$11,120.00, which included \$5,000.00 to the YWCA building fund, \$2,400.00 to the handicapped classes, and \$1,000.00 to a Leadership Lorain County

scholarship. Exchange student expense totaled \$1,228.19. A major outlay continued to be Rotary International and District dues, \$7,960.50 for the year.

Members added from January 1 to June 30, 1991 were:

Stephen A. Cihla .....Building Supplies-Retail  
Steve R. Huzicko.....Public School Administration  
Chris Mead.....Accounting Services  
John S. Kreighbaum.....Commercial Banking  
Freddie M. W. Springfield....Law-Criminal

There were 183 members on July 1, 1991.

Officers for 1991/92 were:

Herbert W. Kaatz.....President  
Carol G. Simonetti .....President-Elect  
Robert H. Perry .....Secretary  
John P. Tierney.....Treasurer  
Donald F. Address .....Sergeant-at-Arms

Henry C. Doll was named program chairman. Bill Standen headed one of the most active committees for the year, planning for the club's seventy-fifth anniversary set for spring 1993.

The cost of printing the club directory prompted a delay of the 1991/92 issue and eventually a re-designed loose leaf variety. Much discussion by the board preceded the change, ending with authorization to try the binder, the idea to just add inserts rather than print an entirely new booklet each year. In its final form, each member's photo and information were printed on a separate 2 x 5 inch card having four holes punched so it could be inserted in the ring binder. It was estimated the cost per year could be lowered by half over five years, and the change was made. The first 25 copies were ready in September, the balance delivered in October.

Although the seventy-fifth anniversary was eighteen months away, the committee solved the problem of obtaining a prominent speaker. Jim Johnson played the key role. Clifford L. Dochterman, the Rotary International President designate for 1992/93, was a classmate of Johnson in college, the friendship continued and contact was made. Dochterman readily agreed to speak at the 75th function thereby becoming the first Rotary International President to visit Elyria while in office. The anniversary preparations are a prominent part of this chapter.

In other actions, the board authorized a contribution to the YMCA for \$15,000.00 to be funded over five years. In conjunction with this commitment, a fund raising auction was planned. Final approval was made for a \$1,000.00 matching fund from Elyria to buy sewing machines for schools in India through a Rotary Foundation grant. Preliminary plans were discussed to co-ordinate a county Rotary Club fellowship party in 1992 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Rotary International's charitable Foundation. Past Rotary International President, Hugh Archer, was suggested as the principal speaker.

The September 1991 Apple Festival was a success as always, \$7,866.70 net, however, the equipment and the booth had become inadequate and somewhat of a hazard to the workers.

It was decided that all new equipment was needed if the project was to be continued. The result was a year-long effort to replace the booth with a professionally built mobile vending trailer and new cooking equipment for the 1992 festival. With donations and sponsors, the cost was kept to a comfortable level. A full description is included later in this chapter.

September was also the annual “Stag” party at Herb Kaatz’s grounds in Grafton. The annual Fly-in was canceled because it had become difficult to find a suitable speaker and participation by other clubs had fallen to a low level. The balance of 1991 was filled with committee meetings to prepare for coming events, the county Rotary fellowship dinner set for February, a high school career day program, and a business-education day for teachers of the area. The year ended with the traditional December programs, the handicapped children’s party once again being a stand-out undertaking by the club.

New members added:

Ellen D. Bricmont .....	Family Planning
Jan C. Carlen .....	Rhenium Metallurgy
William H. Carter .....	Dentistry-General
Ronald L. Burdick .....	Historical Society
Thomas B. Howell.....	Air Traffic Control
Clyde R. Scott.....	Senior Active (Education)

There were 186 members on January 1, 1992.

The January 7 meeting was one of farewell by exchange student Berenice Jones heading back home to South Africa, and the following week the club welcomed incoming student Tiurma Hindrajanto from Indonesia. It is always delightful to watch the exchange students transformed from using halting English when arriving, to becoming proficient speakers in just one year. Elyria also sponsored two out bound students: Rhonda Wills, daughter of Rotarian Clarence, to Mexico, and Mindy Simon to Belgium. Elyria Rotary’s role of being international ambassadors also included Jim Hunt’s leading the Group Study Exchange visit to the Philippines in February and our club’s part in hosting the incoming team in May.

A noon program in February was the first of a series featuring the concept of “Lorain County 20/20” with industrialist and civic leader, John Beckett, as the speaker. The plan was to promote our county as a good place to live, work, and play—the theme being “A vision for the future.” Later a non profit agency was established to carry out the goals to improve the areas image with Rotarian Fran Bostwick as Director.

February 22 was the Lorain County Rotary fellowship dinner party held at DeLuca’s with 196 people in attendance. The speaker of the evening was Past Rotary International President and chairman of the Rotary Foundation, Ed Cadman. The cost of bringing the speaker, other expenses, and a less than anticipated attendance caused a shortfall of over \$2,500.00 which was made up by a balance from a previous event and donations from individual clubs. The experience had a dampening effect on future programs of this type.

A vocational service project involved 376 teachers visiting 43 places of business for a day of gaining career information for their students. “Highly worth while” was the consensus. Despite valiant efforts by the committee, the Four Way Test speech contest for high school students was poorly accepted as only three students participated. The weekly visits by high

school students were quite successful, and the annual student recognition day more than offset the failed Four Way Test program.

On the fund raising scene, the annual steak fry had become so well run and participation so universal it could be counted on for a great social evening as well as a tidy profit for the treasury. The Apple Festival booth problem was also solved by the design and building of a handsome vending trailer with Bob Cook, Arnie Tollett, and Todd Sommer under-writing the cost. Cooking appliances, signs, and other internal needs were, in part, donated by Rotarians. After renting the booth from the three for two years at \$750.00 plus a clean up charge for each usage, the cost of the \$12,500.00 trailer was finally paid for by the club. It was decided the booth should be for the exclusive use of Rotary. Another fund raising event in the planning stage was an auction to be held in October and will be reviewed later as it happened.

The seventy-fifth anniversary committee met regularly to cover every step of the party set for March 11, 1993. Meetings were held regarding the banquet hall, menu, dress for the evening, VIP guests, and decorations. Also at work was a committee to provide historical memorabilia for display at the event. A large folder of committee notes and letters exists in the present archives for future reference.

Spring 1992 activities included the annual clean up of a mile of Route 57 and a donation to the Easter Seal Society of \$1,600.00 by Walk-a-Thon participants. The club also supported the YMCA swim program, helping 66 children in the process. A reception was held in mid-May for the visiting Group Study Exchange team from the Philippines with about sixty members and spouses in attendance at the Elyria Country Club.

Because of a \$10.00 increase in Rotary International and District dues, our annual dues were raised to \$140.00. Those members who were excused from attendance rules paid \$105.00. The annual student recognition program honored 20 of the top high school seniors in the area. The June 9 *Ramrod* was unusual in that it was written by exchange student, Tiurma. It was entitled, "Elyria Rotary as seen through the eyes of a girl from Indonesia." Well done.

A look at the financial report for the period July 1, 1991 to June 30, 1992 shows some interesting figures:

Steak fry income.....	\$10,028.01
Apple Festival income .....	7,866.70
JJ's Jug income.....	2,339.26

Major expenses were:

Rotary International and District dues.....	\$8,917.50
<i>Ramrod</i> & postage .....	5.65
Loose-leaf directory.....	9,486.59
YWCA room rental.....	4,737.20

In addition, about \$12,800.00 was expended for donations, student programs, and the International Youth Exchange. Donations were:

YMCA capital campaign.....	\$3,000.00
Handicapped classes .....	2,600.00

India (sewing machines).....1,000.00  
Historical Society.....1,000.00

An additional \$2,000.00 went for seven other contributions.

New members added:

Kathryn E. Ramsey .....Department Store  
Donald R. Day.....Boy Scouts  
Charles E. Jones.....Light & Power Service  
Robey R. Taylor.....Mall Management  
James E. Chorak .....Roofing Contractor  
William H. Kaatz .....Valve Mfg.

There were 181 members on July 1, 1992. Officers for 1992/93:

Carol G. Simonetti .....President  
William F. Kilfoyle .....President-Elect  
Robert H. Perry .....Secretary  
John P. Tierney.....Treasurer  
Donald F. Address .....Sergeant-at-Arms

George J. Worden was named program chairman.

The officer installation was another milestone in our club's history. We welcomed our first woman president. Although 1993 was the seventy-fifth year of the club, Carol Simonetti was actually the 76th president because of the dual officers in 1953/54. To celebrate the historic day, a committee had been working for some time to plan the "Coronation" of "Queen Carol." Quoting the *Ramrod* of the day gives some idea of the unusual event: "Carol was be-robed, be-crowned, and be-throned. Master of ceremonies and choreographer, George Worden, directed the fast moving satire and high comedy with precision." In rapid order, a fake telegram from the Queen of England was read by Bob Cook in his impeccable British accent, and Jim Johnson, in a serious gesture, came forward with a gift tray of Waterford Crystal. Crash went the glass as Jim tripped on an imaginary spot on the floor, remorse by all involved almost believable. The installation was finally official when Bob Bowman did the honors. Brad Ohlemacher took a video of the proceedings, and an audio tape was also done and is in the archives.

Because of the retirement of John Bobel and James Hunt, three new *Ramrod* writers joined the staff during 1992, Estelle W. Dobrow, Dale R. Forthofer, and Herb Kaatz. The demanding jug duty of Jim Johnson was relieved by the addition of Ted Altfeld as assistant "Jugger." Ted took to the task with wit and determination, there-by gaining the title, "Terrible Ted."

The July club assembly outlined coming events: The all new Apple Festival booth was set for September 18-19-20, a group picture for the 75th anniversary program was scheduled, and the annual "Stag" would have an expanded committee for more activities. A fund raising dinner and auction was set for October 10, the goal to raise \$15,000.00 to pay off the pledge to the YMCA campaign. Rather than being a white elephant auction, the plan was to solicit high value new items from members and businesses. As reported in the October *Ramrod*, the event was a huge success, over 150 items auctioned, 144 Rotarians and guests attended, and nearly \$20,000.00 was realized. This was the all time high



amount from any Elyria Rotary fund raising effort, and it allowed paying off the YMCA pledge and added a cushion to the general fund of the club.

Once again Elyria Rotary was recognized as the birthplace of crippled children's work by a four page feature story in the *ROTARIAN* magazine. The December issue article was under the by-line of singer Pat Boone and contained historical information about Elyria and the Easter Seal Society. As the time was drawing near for the 75th anniversary party in March, Bill Standen and committee made frequent announcements to encourage complete club participation. As an added part of the program, it was announced Easter Seal Society President, James E. Williams, Jr., would be on hand to present a special plaque to our club.

The December handicapped children's party was once again well attended and brought home to every Rotarian the meaning of service. Jim Johnson performed the Santa Claus task with great enthusiasm, much to the delight of every child, the teachers, and his fellow Rotarians.

The year closed with the spouses luncheon and the Salvation Army bell ringing. Membership for the six months was a low of 179 in August and back up to 185 on December 30.

New members added:

John E. Byrne .....	Gray Iron Castings
Ofelia Sigalove.....	Psychological Services
Kenneth M. Arndt.....	Education Administration-City Dist.
Kenneth R. Blake .....	Telephone Service
Michael J. Jackson .....	Education-Junior High School
James L. Keegan.....	Hospital Holding Company
R. Daniel King.....	Department Store
Ellen L. Payner .....	Services to the Mentally Retarded

For some time there had been a slight tension building in the club regarding the opening prayer as given by members because of an occasional pointed religious reference. Being a multi-cultured group, some from one religious denomination would take offense with a prayer specific to another religion. It took an action by the board to announce all invocations should be of a generic nature, acceptable to all Rotarians. Strong opinions were held by some that they would pray only in their normal manner, and, therefore, would not give the invocation. The difficulty was solved by a more selective invocation committee.

Another situation needing board action was the loose leaf directory. It was structured as a money saving device because only part of the information needed to be changed. Up-dated material was printed about every four months for insertion in the binder, however, many members omitted making the additions. Others found the bulky directory did not fit the usual place in their desk and felt that it was somewhat unhandy to use. Rather than cause any division in the club, the board voted to return to the complete yearly re-print for 1993/94.

There had been some question whether the club would have an incoming exchange student in January, but all was solved with the arrival of Ana Luisa Reis from Brazil. It was unfortunate Lu, as she preferred to be called, had to suffer through an extremely cold

February, some major snow storms, and two canceled Rotary meetings that month. However, the anniversary party date, March 11, was fast approaching to warm up our club's spirit

All plans were in place for the 75th celebration: speaker Rotary International President, Clifford L. Dochterman, indicated he would be in town an extra day to meet with Jim Johnson and some of their college classmates, and it was confirmed James E. Williams, CEO of the Easter Seal Society, would make a presentation. Invitations were mailed to every Elyria Rotarian as well as the present and past District Governors and neighboring clubs. The banquet hall decorations were to include 150 flags from Rotary nations and a display of Elyria Rotary historical material.

On the night of the party, all was ready. Bill Standen and the committee covered every base: the dress for the evening was black tie optional, an Oberlin College string quartet played in the background, the decorations and center pieces were in place, and the 249 Rotarians and guests arrived. After a suitable get acquainted cocktail hour, President Carol called the meeting to order. We sang *AMERICA*, and George Worden gave a stirring invocation. After the dinner, Jim Johnson took to the podium and called on song leader Jack Ryba who promptly lead us in *SMILE* and *STODOLA PUMPA*, two of the club's finest vocal numbers.

The introductions by Jim Johnson were everything they could have been, hilarious, personal, and, when needed, serious. The plaque presentation by Williams was moving. He recounted Elyria's part in Easter Seals and the crippled children's societies founding, giving our club highest praise. The large plaque is displayed in the Lorain County Easter Seal Society office.

Rotary International President Dochterman's address was light and lively, humorous, and pointed to the accomplishments of Rotary. It was an excellent presentation. For chairman Bill Standen, the committee, President Carol Simonetti, and master of ceremonies Jim Johnson, it was a fitting tribute to two years of hard work. To those planning the 100th anniversary, there is a complete file of the committee's material and a video tape of the evening in the archives. Also preserved are the comendation from Rotary International and proclamations from District 6600 and the city of Elyria. In addition, programs of all previous anniversary parties are in the file, much of which was not available for the 75th committee.

Two unusual side events to President Dochterman's visit are notable, he met privately with our Interact Club for an inspiring half hour before the dinner, and also had lunch with about 30 Rotarians. The lunch guests included officers and committee chairmen of the club for a casual two hours of conversation covering a wide range of Rotary topics. For Elyria Rotary, March 11, 1993 was a crowning day in the 75 year history.

Spring 1993 included a walk-a-thon fund raiser for the Easter Seal Society, a trip by 80 Rotarians and guests to the Honda plant in Marysville, and the annual student recognition day. The program was "A Russian Update" by Oberlin College President, Fred Starr. His message was, "There is no more USSR, it's now fifteen countries loosely bound to one another."

On the project scene, the Route 57 clean up was completed, and preliminary work was being done by the ecological committee regarding the Black River. New projects in the planning stages were a playground building session at the Salvation Army grounds and preliminary discussions of an observation deck in Cascade Park. The Group Study Exchange visitors from Brazil were guests of the club at the annual Steak Fry, adding an international flavor to the fund raiser-social event. Again the weather co-operated for an outstanding evening of fellowship for Rotarians and other significant Elyrians.

New members added:

Brian J. Smith .....Religion-Protestant  
David L. Klein.....Men's Clothing-Retail  
William E. Thornton .....Senior Active (Natural Gas Service)  
James D. Martin .....County Park System  
Lester H. Schultz.....Public School Superintendent  
Robert J. Scott.....Commercial Banking  
Gerald E. Skully.....Charitable Fund Raising  
Jeffrey A. Brausch .....Financial Services

There were 188 members on June 30, 1993.

The financial report had these entries: for the first time total income was over \$60,000.00 and Rotary International and District dues went over the \$10,000.00 mark. Contributions included the retiring of the YMCA pledge balance of \$12,000.00, \$2,851.00 for handicapped children, and \$1,870.00 to the Nord Center. Over \$2,400.00 was spent on student activities, including exchange expenses. Although not planned, there was a surplus from the 75th celebration of about \$7,500.00, most of which was donated to the Easter Seal Society.

Officers for 1993/94 were:

William E. Kilfoyle .....President  
George J. Worden.....President-Elect  
Robert H. Perry .....Secretary  
John P. Tierney.....Treasurer  
Donald F Andress .....Sergeant-at-Arms

Frances E. Bostwick was named program chairman for the year.

This concludes the "First Seventy-five Years of Elyria Rotary." One purpose of this work is to inspire a continued up-date in future years. Perhaps at another time, a volume will be titled; "The Second Seventy-Five Years of Elyria Rotary."

## Afterword

**JULY 1, 1993 to JUNE 30, 1995**

ROBERT H. PERRY - SECRETARY

The completion of the "First Seventy-Five Years of Elyria Rotary" opens a new era of continuing to record events of the club as time goes on. This afterword is included in (the 75 year review so additional chapters will) start from July 1, 1995 and continue in perhaps five year increments to be published as addenda and, in later times, combined in another volume.

The new administration of President Bill Kilfoyle and President Elect George Worden kept the enthusiastic momentum of the club going with a well attended club assembly as the 1993/94 began. A major financial commitment was announced by the board, the establishment of a \$50,000.00 endowed fund with Lorain County Community College for students with disabilities. The fund was inaugurated by converting \$10,000.00 from a previous Rotary scholarship endowment and an additional donation of \$5,000.00. Special fund raising events were expected to complete the \$50,000.00 pledge over the next few years. As it turned out, the obligation was nearly retired with two successful fund raising auctions, one in 1994, the other in early 1995. Somewhat over \$2,500.00 each year will be generated for needy students with disabilities, a further commitment of Elyria Rotary to the handicapped.

In another turn of events, long time "jug" handler Jim Johnson required major surgery and a recuperation period so the "fining" duties were shared by Jim's assistant, Ted Altfeld, and guest "jugger," Bill Goodspeed. In July, club membership was briefly at 190 but reduced to 188 at the same board meeting, moments later, with the acceptance of the resignation of two members having attendance problems. Along the way, a goal of two hundred members was set, but the average remained at 185 for the next two years. Enforcement of attendance rules raised the the club's standing to first or second in the District month after month.

The only annual event to be continuous since 1918 was the golf outing, such socials as ladies night and inter club activities mostly regulated to an occasional revival. A new member and spouses reception became a more informal and less costly means of getting acquainted, the August 1993 event well attended. The exchange student program continued with both out bound and incoming programs for the year. Members also supported Paul Harris Fellowship contributions, the club now boasting ninety-one inducted in about ten years.

The September Apple Festival fund raising event once again was a total success and was followed a few days later by the relaxed "Stag" outing. The event of the month though was a surprise "Jim Johnson Day" at the meeting on the 28th. The normal noon routine was interrupted by the sound of "news boys" hawking a special edition of the *CHONICLE-TELEGRAM* which demanded Johnson cease his unfair plagerizing of stories and photos from the local newspaper. Publisher Art Hudnutt distributed copies of the edition with the headline; "C-T probe unveils 'J. J.' scam...News 'jars' pals." Attorney Bill Tattersall, County Prosecutor Greg White, and Hudnutt promised court action, with G. Rorick Amos

offering “damning testimony” as the leading witness. In the *Ramrod*, the following week, Amos retracted his position by a remorseful admission that Johnson had “week after week, for fifteen years, collected pennies, quarters, dimes, and dollars in ‘J.J.’s Jug’ adding up to thousands of dollars to support Rotary’s programs in the community.” The roast and tribute to Johnson left him speechless, the first time ever!

In November an away meeting and tour of the Nordson plant was not well attended, however, those that took the tour were much impressed by the size and activity of the company tucked in the center of Amherst. The December schedule was highlighted by the annual handicapped children’s party which included an extra visit by District Governor John Broadbeck resulting in the good work of Elyria Rotary being recognized in later District newsletters. It was hoped other clubs would renew their interest in helping the handicapped. As an aside, Mike Gebhardt took over the Santa routine because of the deteriorating health of Jim Johnson, Mike doing an excellent job of carrying on the tradition.

The year ended with the spouse/guest luncheon and the annual Salvation Army bell ringing. It was later reported Rotary volunteers had collected \$1,900.00 in the kettles.

New members from July 1, to December 30, 1993 were:

William Samek.....	Heating & Air Conditioning
Robert L. Byrd .....	Education-Parochial School
Gary C. Smith .....	Commercial Banking
David C. Smith .....	Commercial Banking
Gary L. Zrimec .....	Medical Service-Cardiology
John G. Morrisson .....	Senior Active (formerly Law)

There were 189 members on January 1, 1994.

The year started with extremely cold weather which continued on into March. The January Club Assembly was well attended, however, and plans for the balance of President Bill Kilfoyle’s term focused on projects already in the schedule. Student guests each week, a variety of timely programs, and springtime activities such as the Route 57 clean-up kept the club’s attention. The meeting of March 1 was the last performance of Jim Johnson with the jug routine as his health continued to decline. He passed away on June 6, 1994, a most dedicated Rotarian, to be missed by all.

May proved to be a busy month, a new member reception, the annual Easter Seal Walk-a-thon, and the District Conference-a joint two District convention in Windsor, Ontario. Thirty Elyria Rotarians and guests attended. A new project for the club was cooking for the first annual LCCC FamilyFest & Barbecue on May 22. About 6,600 hamburgers were grilled by Rotarians to benefit the College.

After seventeen years, the club meeting place was once again moved. The crowded facilities at the YWCA prompted the move to the larger First Congregational Church’s “Great Hall” starting with the June 7 meeting. Having a capacity of 240, the room was better suited for guest meetings such as the annual student recognition day. Rotary was no stranger to the hall as many inter-club and spouses meetings had been held there in the past.

June weather made up for the cold January, the Steak Fry on the 17th a sizzler in more ways than one. Even with the thermometer in the 90's, 875 steaks were served, 170 Rotarians participated, and because of the heat, the bar netted a record \$3,756.00! It was later announced the net proceeds from the event totaled \$8,941.00.

With the change to a new year of committees it was an opportune time for Bob Choate to announce that he could not continue to write the *Ramrod* because of his difficulty in using a keyboard. For over forty years Bob had either been the full time writer or had taken his turn in the schedule, and in that forty years his innovations and provocative style made the *Ramrod* the envy of the District. As we shall see in a later paragraph, the club's respect for Bob brought on an unusual event.

June 28 was the final meeting to be conducted by President Bill and was highlighted by these announcements: The first club assembly for incoming President George Worden was scheduled for July 7, forty members expected to participate. Also announced was the Easter Seal Walk-a-thon by Rotarians produced a check for \$2,001.00 for the society. A plea was made for help to complete the Salvation Army playground, an ongoing part of the expanding Salvation Army headquarters. Then on to July 5, 1994, the changing of the guard for the year 1994/95.

All started in traditional fashion, the invocation, a couple of songs, a few announcements, and then some words of appreciation by retiring President Bill Kilfoyle.

Bob Bowman proceeded to install the new officers:

George J. Worden.....President  
Dennis F. Fredriksen .....President-Elect  
Robert H. Perry .....Secretary  
John P. Tierney.....Treasurer  
Donald F. Address.....Sergeant-at-Arms

Dubbed "King George," President Worden announced his theme for the year: "BE A FRIEND." George then seemed to rummage around in his notes and finally read the letter from Bob Choate concerning his reluctant resignation from the *Ramrod* committee. Called to the podium, Bob was aghast to learn it was to be BOB CHOATE HONOR DAY. A specially prepared oversized *Ramrod* with editorial praise and roasting remarks by some of his closest friends was then passed out to all Rotarians and guests. President George presented proclamations from Mayor Mike Keys and Governor of Ohio Voinovich, letters of commendation from President William Clinton and Congressman Sherrod Brown, and a flag which had been flown over the U. S. Capital. After the ceremony and words of praise, Bob Choate took the microphone and remarked, "All damn lies, but I enjoyed it anyway." A typical response by quick witted Choate.

Membership on July 1, 1994 was 185, new members added in six months since January were:

Christie L. Vargo.....County Improvement  
Catherine A. Worden .....Vision Rehabilitation Services  
Galib-Bey Alibeckoff .....Sponge Mfg.  
Raymundo de la Pena.....Medical-FamilyPractice

Thomas W. Janas .....Law-Judicial  
Kimberly F. Litwinowicz .....Light & Power Service

The financial report for 1993/94 indicated an income for the year of just over \$60,000.00 and expenses of \$69,376.00. The check book balance of \$17,262.00 in July 1993 was reduced to \$8,181.00 by July 1994. Major expense included paying off the Apple Festival booth, \$12,897.00, District and Rotary International dues of \$9,290.00, and meeting room rental of \$7,041.00. Contributions totaled \$21,786.00, the major recipients being: The Easter Seal Society, Lorain County Community College scholarship, the handicapped children's program, and the Salvation Army.

The year 1994/95 was another busy one for Elyria Rotary starting with a well attended club assembly in anticipation of the visit by District Governor John Brodbeck. President George Worden's term was off to a fine start. In mid-July the results of the Steak Fry project were announced: 836 people served and a net of \$9,625. Summer 1994 activities included the first Rotary canoe trip, a delightful afternoon on Old Woman's Creek, the golf outing, and a scheduled Cleveland Indians game. The baseball strike canceled the trip, so sportsmen were encouraged to sign on for the September fishing trip which turned out to be held in early October. The event was again named "Save the Fish Day" as few anglers were successful. The meeting program schedule was an informative mix of topics, ranging from computer technology, to political debate, to business entrepreneurs.

September was busy with another successful Apple Festival fund raiser and the annual stag at the Kaatz grounds. Since first published 75 years earlier, the *Ramrod* had gone through a number of changes in format and style. The September 27, 1994 issue was the beginning of another major overhaul and after a few experimental issues resulted in a more informative make-up. Eliminated was the roster and in place a President's message, expanded "Dates to Remember" and "Coming Programs" and news from Rotary International features were highlighted. The traditional weekly meeting recap was carried on the other side of the 8½ x 14 inch sheet. As a result, the *Ramrod* was later named the best newsletter in District 6600 for clubs having more than 125 members.

Fall 1994 programs included a visit to the Murray Ridge complex for people with disabilities and also an initial insight into the infant and toddler Immunization project being spearheaded by Elyria Rotary. Plans were well under way for a fund raising auction to be held in February 1995. An number of informal discussions were held from September to December regarding the lack of an Elyria Rotary archives and by early 1995 the results were gratifying. A dedicated archives room at Elyria Manufacturing Corporation was in place and enough material was gathered to begin research for writing a complete history of the club. Once the archives was established a great amount of memorabilia, previously unknown, was obtained by the committee and continues to accumulate as this is written.

The eventful year of 1994 ended with traditional December activities; the spouse and guest luncheon, the Handicapped Children's party, and the Salvation Army bell ringing.

New members added from July 1 to December 30 were:

W. Daniel Waldron.....Commercial Banking  
David Loop.....Home for the Aging

Bonnie A. Kerpics .....Boy Scouts  
Robert C. White .....Law-Civil

The chill of January and February 1995 was offset by a warm reception by members for the club assembly and the record setting fund raising auction. Further progress was being made with the child immunization project while small group fellowship opportunities were being planned. One well attended event was basic computer sessions for technology disadvantaged members. It was reported the auction produced a net of over \$28,000.00, the proceeds going to the Elyria Rotary Foundation and resulting community contributions.

Programs included a state of the city message by Mayor Michael Keys, a presentation by an agent of the IRS, and a blood bank demonstration by donor Rorick Amos. Other activities included a tour of the Plain Dealer newspaper complex and a Business-Industry Education Exchange with Elyria school teachers. Active in district events, club members attended the District Assembly and the May District Conference. A number of Elyrians served on district committees such as Youth Exchange, finance, and Governor's representative. Elyria also continued to be a leader in the Group Study Exchange program.

Many years earlier Elyria pioneered the high school age Interact Club concept in District 6600 and in the spring of 1995 added a second club centered at the Joint Vocational School. Rotary's historic involvement with Cascade Park was continued with a \$10,000.00 grant for the erection of an observation deck in the falls area. In addition, as part of "Elyria Pride Day", a two mile long clean-up of the Black River through Cascade Park was completed, an immense task by many volunteers. Elyria Rotary also participated in District 6600 events including the annual Conference, the May 5-7 assembly held in Sandusky with many Elyrians involved. Elyria was recognized at the District Conference with a Presidential Citation for Balanced Club Achievement and also received the "Best Newsletter" award. In mid-May our club was host to the visiting Group Study Exchange from France.

Programs during May and June were highlighted by the annual student recognition day and a "Downtown Elyria Business Walking Tour." Both programs were well received, the downtown tour featuring a close look at management of seven successful businesses. In a new approach to fellowship, a listing of hobbies and pastimes of all members was compiled for the up-coming 1995/96 Club Directory. All members were urged to have their photograph taken or up-dated for the directory.

The year 1994/95 concluded with a highly successful Steak Fry again held on the grounds of the Historical Society and Rotary played host to well over 800 guests for the evening. A project initiated but not entirely firmed up was a co-operative partnership with the Cleveland City Club to bring nationally known speakers to Lorain County. Installation of new officers for 1995/96 was held on June 27. Those installed were:

Dennis F. Fredriksen .....President  
William H. Kaatz.....President Elect  
Robert H. Perry .....Secretary  
John P. Tierney.....Treasurer  
Robert S. Cook.....Asst. Treasurer  
Donald F. Address.....Sergeant-at-Arms



Christie Vargo was named program Chairman. Membership on July 1, 1995 was at 184.

Added since January 1 were:

William E. Cromling II .....Hazardous Waste Transportation  
Jim H. Ries .....Air Traffic Control  
Marge Van Fossen .....Advertising Specialties  
William D. Bowdler, Jr.....Law-Judicial

Average attendance during 1994/95 was 83%, second highest for clubs with over 100 members in District 6600. A preliminary financial report for the year indicated: Income, \$65,800.00, \$29,600.00 disbursed for Community Service, and \$4,000.00 for International and Vocational Service. R.I. and District dues amounted to \$10,800.00.

This concludes the Afterword and is included in the "First Seventy Five Years of Elyria Rotary" as an addendum to bring our history up to the publishing date of mid 1995.

## About the Author

### David J. Holland

Dave was born in Cleveland, Ohio on October 21, 1930. He moved to Elyria at an early age and has been a resident ever since. For 43 years, he worked in the automobile business in sales and management; he retired from J. R. Dall Ford Sales in September 1994.

A man of diverse interests, Dave has restored several antique automobiles and has an extensive collection of banjos, some of which he plays. He is also very knowledgeable about the history of automobiles and the industrial history of Elyria. He serves as a member of the board of the Lorain County Historical Society.

He has been writing for a number of years and has had numerous articles published in magazines including one in the *Rotarian* pertaining to researching the history of Rotary Clubs. Shortly after his retirement, Dave began the research for this book. He is a long time writer for the Elyria Rotary Club publication, *Ramrod* having been a Rotarian since 1969.

Members of the Elyria Rotary Club are deeply indebted to Dave for all the time and talent that he put into making this book a reality.

Robert H. Perry



## Past Presidents



Frank M. Shelton  
1918



Samuel H. Squire  
1918-19



George D. Nicholas  
1919-20



John B. Johnson  
1920-21



Burt E. Saunders  
1921-22



George Philpott  
1922-23



Frank M. Shelton  
1923-24



James B. Thomas  
1924-25



A. Lincoln Werner  
1925-26



Dow A. Baird  
1926-27



Lawrence H. Webber  
1927-28



Deane Burns  
1928-29



James A. Hewitt  
1929-30



Frank Wilford  
1930-31



Ralph R. Bevard  
1931-32



Walter S. Kohn  
1932-33



William O. McClellan  
1933-34



Frank W. Hoover  
1934-35



William F. Gollmar  
1935-36



Paul M. Gentzel  
1936-37

## Past Presidents



1937-38



Ralph Murbach  
1938-39



Mark S. Willis  
1939-40



J. D. Severs  
1940-41



Marion E. Whitman  
1941-42



Roy Clymer  
1942-43



L. Ben Hindman  
1943-44



Theodore F. Schilling  
1944-45



Arthur Smith  
1945-46



Burton I. Ohlemacher  
1946-47



C. A. Gibbons  
1947-48



Marion H. Crowder  
1948-49



Edward H. Harr  
1949-50



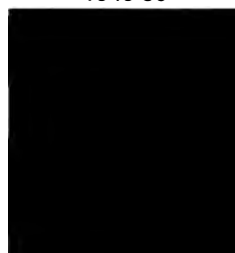
R. Jay Fitch  
1950-51



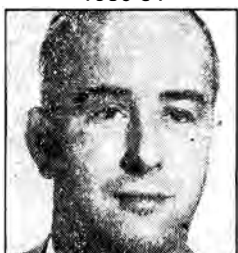
Louis G. Novak  
1951-52



Norris Ryder  
1952-53



George Beall  
1953-54



Ralph D. Fox  
1953-54



Ray A. Renz  
1954-55



George B. Miraben  
1955-56

## Past Presidents



James N. Johnson  
1956-57



Richard J. Gollmar  
1957-58



Harold A. Zealley  
1958-59



John W. Murbach  
1959-60



David P. Wainwright  
1960-61



Wilbur G. Senft  
1961-62



Robert W. Stevenson  
1962-63



George C. Rubenson  
1963-64



George W. Brian  
1964-65



Charles J. Snoble  
1965-66



Robert L. Ohlemacher  
1966-67



James G. Frank  
1967-68



Richard J. Elliott  
1968-69



Harold F. Enyeart  
1969-70



Robert H. Perry  
1970-71



William J. Fitch  
1971-72



William W. Standen  
1972-73



Richard J. Bergman  
1973-74



John F. Murphy  
1974-75



Peter Mealwitz  
1975-76

## Past Presidents



Harold A. West  
1976-77



Anson H. Russell  
1977-78



Thomas Showalter  
1978-79



Arthur E. Schowalter  
1979-80



Thomas P. Haywood  
1980-81



Alvin H. Gelman  
1981-82



John S. Blevins  
1982-83



Robert T. Bowman  
1983-84



Lawrence E. Deetz  
1984-85



Ibrahim Y. Assily  
1985-86



John P. Frain  
1986-87



J.C. William Tattersall  
1987-88



David J. Knapp  
1988-89



James F. Hunt  
1989-90



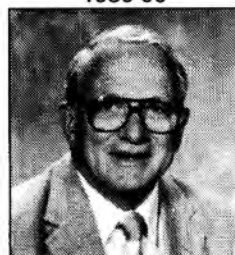
Gregory G. Kruszka  
1990-91



Herbert W. Kaatz  
1991-92



Carol G. Simonetti  
1992-93



William E. Kilfoyle  
1993-94



George J. Worden  
1994-95

# 1938 Rotary Photo



- |                    |                    |                       |                       |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Lawrence Webber | 15. Art Smith      | 29. Ernie Crisp       | 43. Unknown           |
| 2. Ralph Murbach   | 16. Dr. Basinger   | 30. George Livingston | 44. Ralph Bevard      |
| 3. Karl Plocher    | 17. Unknown        | 31. Roy Clymer        | 45. Harry Reynolds    |
| 4. George Nicholas | 18. Unknown        | 32. Unknown           | 46. Burton Ohlemacher |
| 5. Unknown         | 19. Bill McClellan | 33. Charlie Sotherdon | 47. Bob Hand          |
| 6. Unknown         | 20. Unknown        | 34. Ken Botamer       | 48. Ben Hindman       |
| 7. Unknown         | 21. James Hewitt   | 35. Unknown           | 49. Unknown           |
| 8. Unknown         | 22. Unknown        | 36. Unknown           | 50. Kellogg Day       |
| 9. Paul Gentzel    | 23. J. Martin Beck | 37. Unknown           | 51. Unknown           |
| 10. Worth Fauver   | 24. Unknown        | 38. Unknown           | 52. Unknown           |
| 11. A. J. Uthe     | 25. Unknown        | 39. Unknown           | 53. J. D. Severs      |
| 12. Unknown        | 26. Mark Willis    | 40. Unknown           | 54. Art Giles         |
| 13. Al Hannaford   | 27. Mike Whitman   | 41. Unknown           |                       |
| 14. Unknown        | 28. Unknown        | 42. Unknown           |                       |

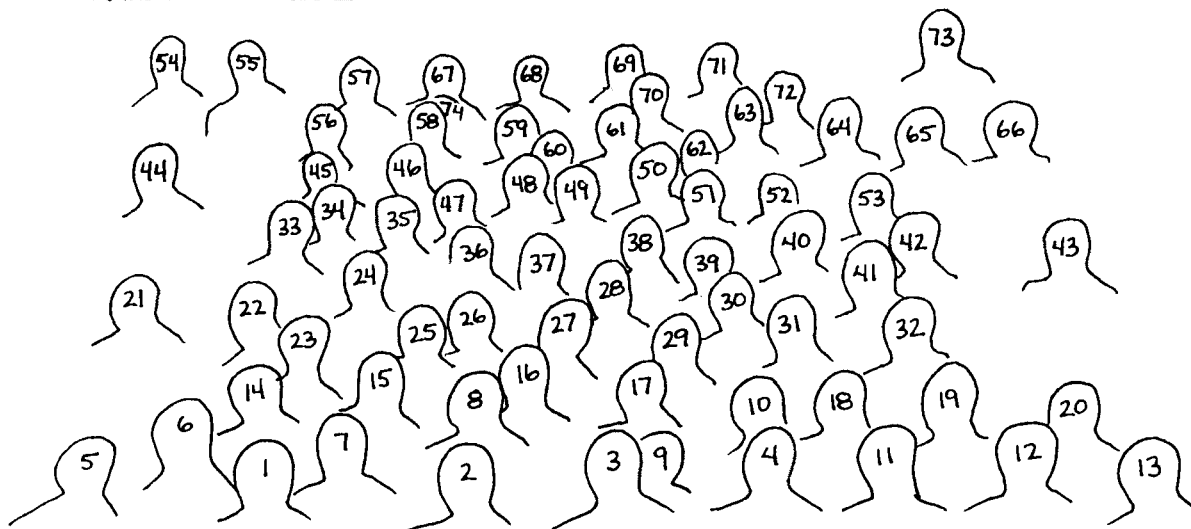
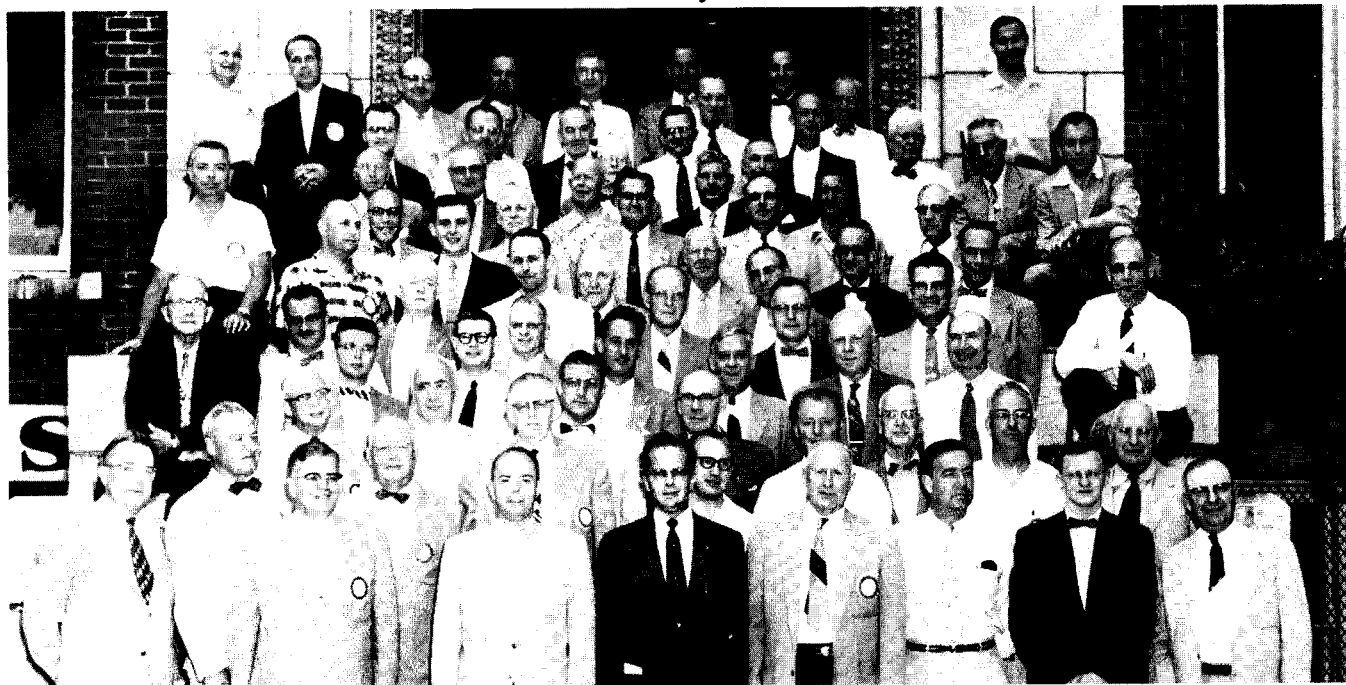


1947 Rotary Photo



- |                      |                       |                       |                        |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Kellogg Day       | 14. Louis Novak       | 28. Mike Whitman      | 41. Ralph Standen      |
| 2. George Livingston | 15. Lawrence Meredith | 29. Paul Gentzel      | 42. Bill McClellan     |
| 3. Harry Howett      | 16. Jim Hewitt        | 30. Ken Botamer       | 43. William Schmittgen |
| 4. Burton Ohlemacher | 17. Lou Huffman       | 31. Charlie Sotherdon | 44. Worth Fauver       |
| 5. Art Smith         | 18. Frank Lawrence    | 32. Unknown           | 45. Dick Gollmar       |
| 6. Karl Plocher      | 19. A. J. Uthe        | 33. Art Giles         | 46. Vince Walsh        |
| 7. Al Hannaford      | 20. Harry Reynolds    | 34. Unknown           | 47. Harlie Stevick     |
| 8. Earl Bell         | 21. Roy Clymer        | 35. Fred Janes        | 48. Mark Willis        |
| 9. Harry Bemis       | 22. Ellie Schneider   | 36. Ralph Bevard      | 49. R. Jay Fitch       |
| 10. Bob Elzey        | 23. Stub Nichols      | 37. Harry Burr        | 50. Ralph Murbach      |
| 11. J. D. Severs     | 24. Marion Crowder    | 38. Hub Wilcox        |                        |
| 12. Charles Hess     | 25. Henry Ault        | 39. Tom Bowen         |                        |
| 13. C. A. Giggons    | 27. Spud Winters      | 40. Ed Harr           |                        |

### 1954 Rotary Photo



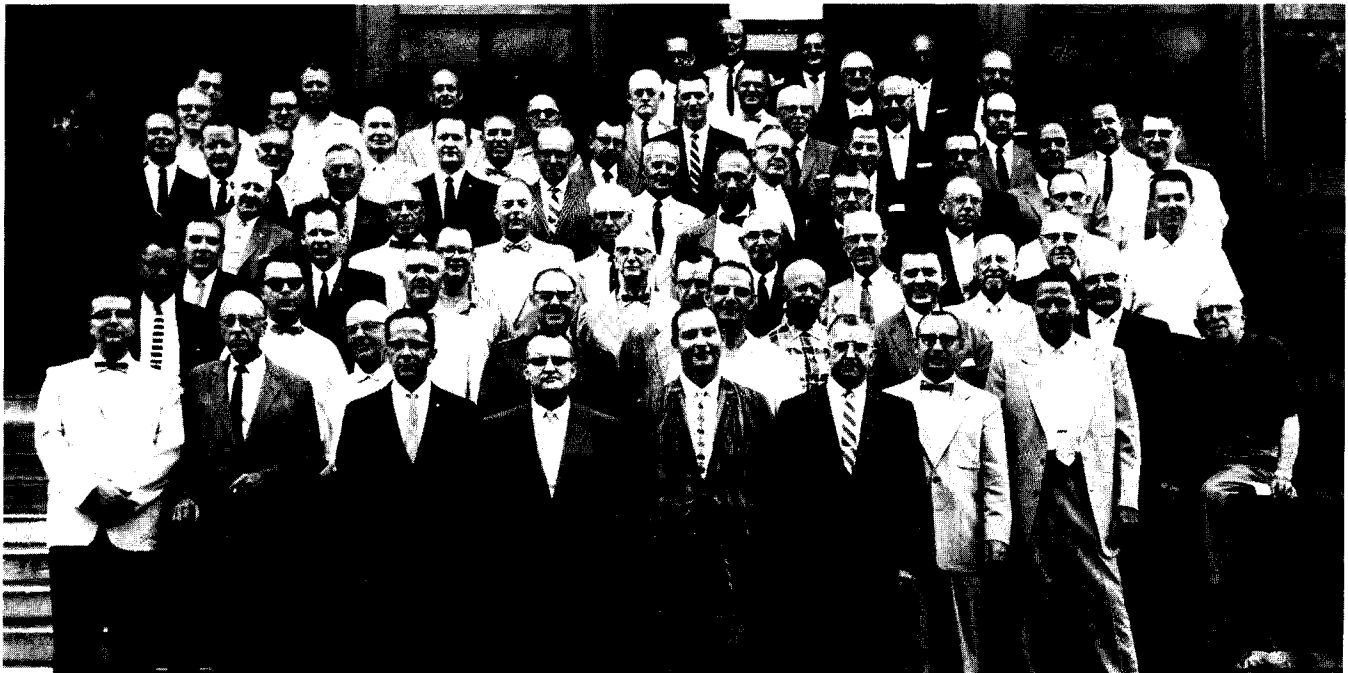
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|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Burton Ohlemacher | 20. Roy Hultz          | 39. Mark Willis     | 58. C. A. Gibbons      |
| 2. George Miraben    | 21. Harry Howett       | 40. Louis Novak     | 59. Reg Beckett        |
| 3. Ray Renz          | 22. Wayne Wise         | 41. Marion Crowder  | 60. Stanton Fitzgerald |
| 4. Bill McClellan    | 23. Bob Ohlemacher     | 42. Dick Baird      | 61. Al Sterner         |
| 5. Lou Huffman       | 24. Stanton Fitzgerald | 43. Floyd Schilt    | 62. George Rubenson    |
| 6. Ralph Murbach     | 25. Cliff Hennings     | 44. Bob Williamson  | 63. Chuck Fox          |
| 7. Frank Lawrence    | 26. Russ Pratt         | 45. Karl Plocher    | 64. Vince Walsh        |
| 8. Curt Travers      | 27. Fred Reiter        | 46. Charlie Snoble  | 65. Pete Dirlam        |
| 9. Bob Edwards       | 28. Harry Burr         | 47. Art Giles       | 66. Bob Stevenson      |
| 10. Jack Hannafor    | 29. Norris Ryder       | 48. Ray Williamson  | 67. Dean Kissaberth    |
| 11. Max Calkins      | 30. Harold Zealley     | 49. Dwight Overcash | 68. Charles Lawton     |
| 12. Bud Deetz        | 31. Harold Andrus      | 50. Herb Meyfarth   | 69. Hub Wilcox         |
| 13. R. Jay Fitch     | 32. Ernie Splete       | 51. Ken Anthony     | 70. Ed Harr            |
| 14. Earl Bell        | 33. Bud Geitgey        | 52. Ken Botamer     | 71. Hal Enyeart        |
| 15. Pierre Smith     | 34. J. Martin Beck     | 53. Fred Janes      | 72. Ralph Standen      |
| 16. Ellie Schneider  | 35. Jim Johnson        | 54. Harry Bemis     | 73. John Murbach       |
| 17. Ralph Bevard     | 36. Jack Vestal        | 55. Mike Whitman    |                        |
| 18. George Nicholas  | 37. Charlie Sotherdon  | 56. Dave Wainwright |                        |
| 19. Ralph Fox        | 38. Kellogg Day        | 57. Pete Schilling  |                        |

# 1956 Rotary Photo



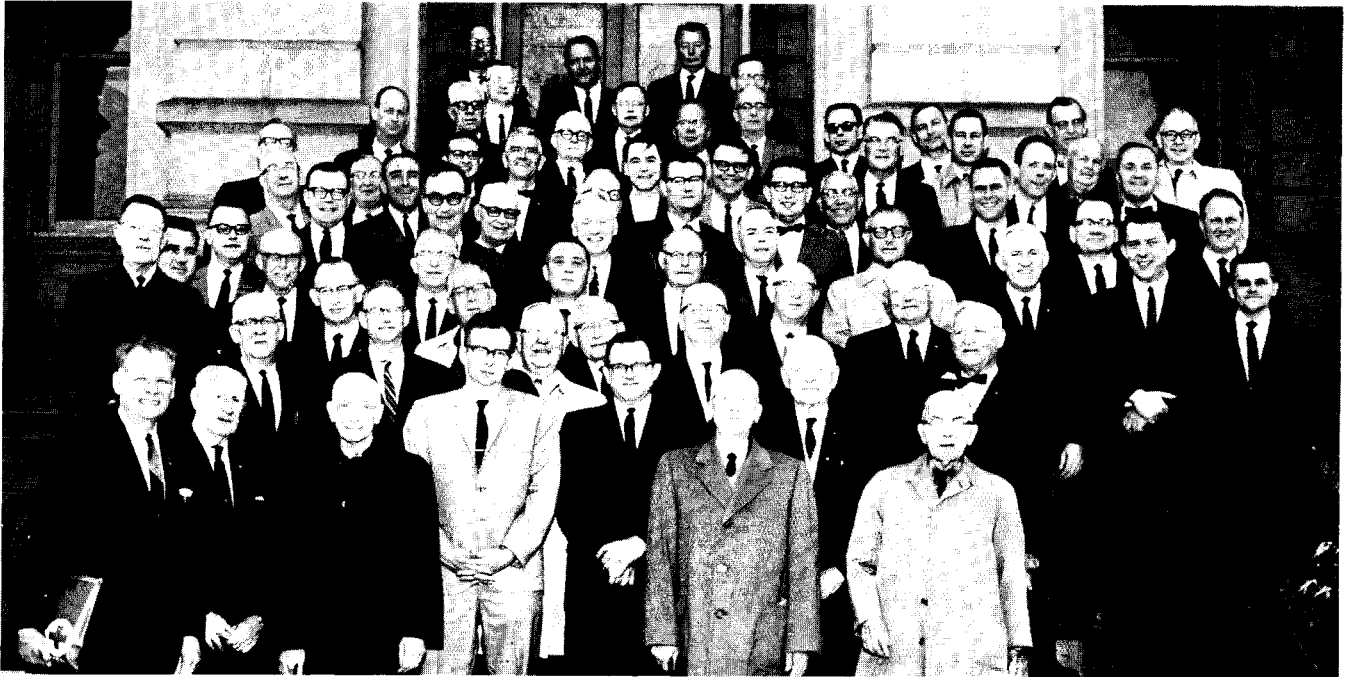
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|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Harry Howett       | 18. Harry Bemis    | 35. Clifford Taylor | 52. Jim Hewitt         |
| 2. Harold Zealley     | 19. R. Jay Fitch   | 36. Dwight Overcash | 53. Bill Olsen         |
| 3. Ralph Murbach      | 20. Karl Plocher   | 37. Stanley Smith   | 54. Jack Hannaford     |
| 4. Ray Renz           | 21. Ralph Bevard   | 38. Harold Andrus   | 55. Charles Hess       |
| 5. George Miraben     | 22. Reg Beckett    | 39. Ellie Schneider | 56. Hal Enyeart        |
| 6. Jack Vestal        | 23. J. Martin Beck | 40. Mark Willis     | 57. Charlie Sotherdon  |
| 7. Jim Johnson        | 24. Curtis Travers | 41. Ralph Fox       | 58. Bob Edwards        |
| 8. Dooley Deetz       | 25. Kellogg Day    | 42. Bud Deetz       | 59. Charles Lawton     |
| 9. Fred Reiter        | 26. Lloyd Hennings | 43. Peet Dirlam     | 60. Stanton Fitzgerald |
| 10. Ralph Standen     | 27. Bob Williamson | 44. John Murbach    | 61. Bud Geitgey        |
| 11. Pete Schilling    | 28. Mike Whitman   | 45. Dean Kissaberth | 62. C. A. Gibbons      |
| 12. Earl Bell         | 29. Chuck Fox      | 46. Russ Pratt      | 63. Ken Anthony        |
| 13. Burton Ohlemacher | 30. Vince Walsh    | 47. Marion Crowder  | 64. Fred Janes         |
| 14. Pierre Smith      | 31. Herb Meyforth  | 48. Louis Novak     | 65. Frank Lawrence     |
| 15. Howard Gollmar    | 32. Bob Ohlemacher | 49. Bob Choate      | 66. Dick Gollmar       |
| 16. George Nicholas   | 33. Wayne Wise     | 50. Dave Wainwright | 67. Bob Stevenson      |
| 17. Lou Huffman       | 34. Al Sterner     | 51. Glen Hale       | 68. Bill George        |

# 1960 Rotary Photo



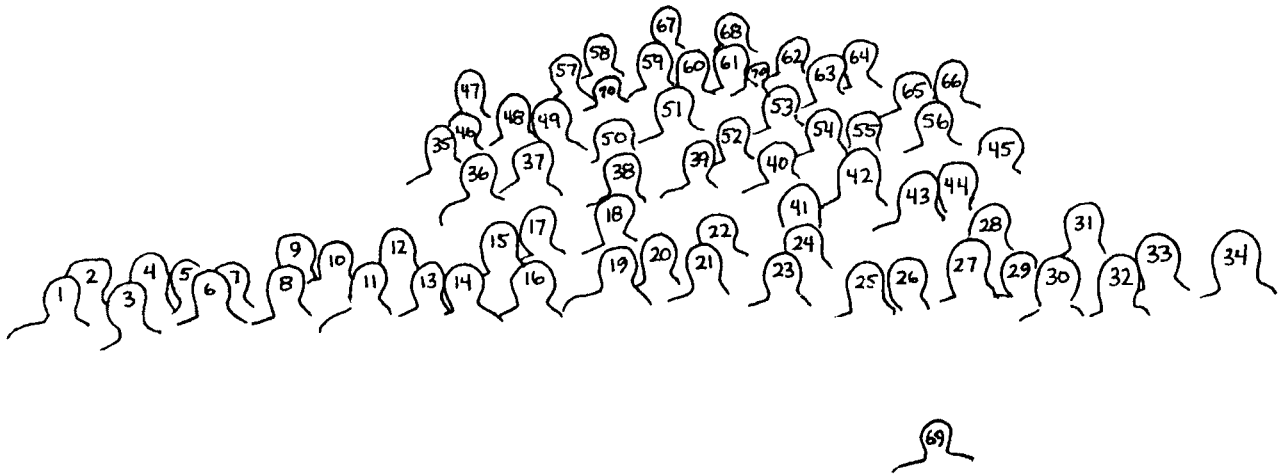
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|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Ray Renz        | 19. Russ Gleason    | 38. Lou Huffman       | 55. Ernie Splete       |
| 2. Dave Wainwright | 21. Bob Choate      | 39. Ellie Schneider   | 56. Chuck Fox          |
| 3. John Murbach    | 22. Charles Hess    | 40. Bob Elsey         | 57. Harry Howett       |
| 4. Wilber Senft    | 23. Jim Frank       | 41. Mark Willis       | 58. Stanton Fitzgerald |
| 5. Bob Ohlemacher  | 24. J. Martin Beck  | 42. Earl Fauver       | 60. Chuck Persons      |
| 6. Fred Janes      | 25. Walt Evans      | 43. Ed Harr           | 61. Hub Wilcox         |
| 7. Frank Lawrence  | 26. George Miraben  | 44. Henry Irish       | 62. Art Giles          |
| 8. Stanley Smith   | 27. Harlie Stevick  | 45. Bill Wentz        | 63. Ralph Michael      |
| 9. C. A. Gibbons   | 28. George Rubenson | 46. Mike Whitman      | 64. Harold Andrus      |
| 10. Ray Williamson | 29. Kellogg Day     | 47. Marion Crowder    | 65. Dick Gollmar       |
| 11. Jim Johnson    | 30. Unknown         | 48. Unknown           | 66. Alden Ritter       |
| 12. J. B. Johnson  | 31. Bill McClellan  | 49. Paul Hovey        | 67. Bud Deetz          |
| 13. Bob Edwards    | 32. Del Russell     | 50. Burton Ohlemacher | 68. Howard Gollmar     |
| 14. Rorick Amos    | 33. Bob Beiter      | 51. Unknown           | 69. Dooley Deetz       |
| 16. Charles Snoble | 34. Ralph Standen   | 52. Unknown           | 70. Pete Schilling     |
| 17. Wayne Wise     | 35. Jack Smith      | 53. Al Sterner        |                        |
| 18. Bill Naegele   | 36. Harry Bemis     | 54. Jack Hannaford    |                        |

1968 Rotary Photo



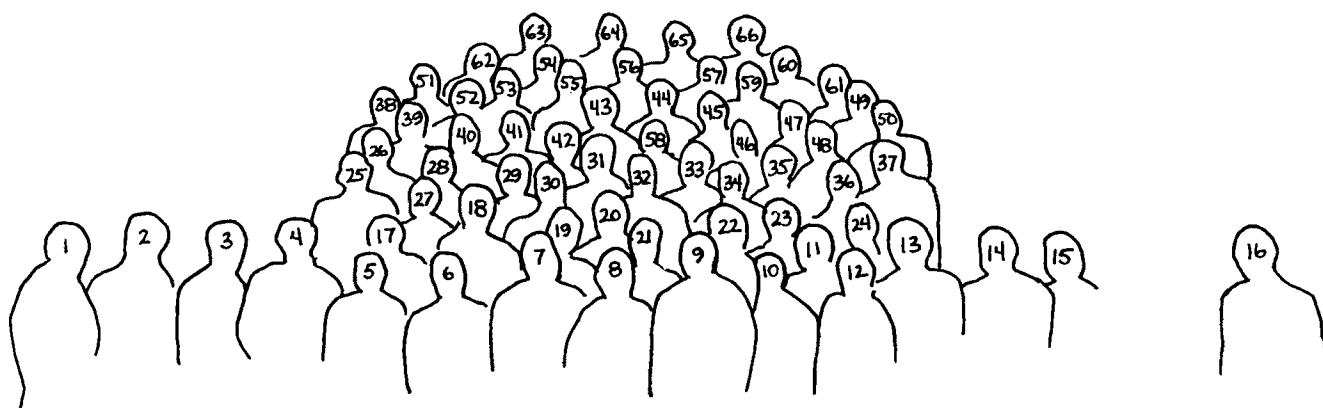
- |                       |                      |                        |                     |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Jim Frank          | 19. Norris Ryder     | 37. Bill Standen       | 55. Pete Dirlam     |
| 2. Bill McClellan     | 20. Ed Harr          | 38. Ted Wickens        | 56. Dick Miller     |
| 3. George Rubenson    | 21. Fred AuWerter    | 39. John Aquilla       | 57. Bud Deetz       |
| 4. Jack Smith         | 22. Wilber Senft     | 40. Art Schowalter     | 58. Paul Hovey      |
| 5. R. Jay Fitch       | 23. Mark Willis      | 41. Russ Gleason       | 59. Jim Garber      |
| 6. Carl Smith         | 24. Malcolm Cash     | 42. Stanton Fitzgerald | 60. Ray Renz        |
| 7. Al Sterner         | 25. Fred Snoble      | 43. Lyle Reichert      | 61. Jack Hannaford  |
| 8. Howard Gollmar     | 26. George Miraben   | 44. Unknown            | 62. Unknown         |
| 9. J. B. Johnson      | 27. Ellie Schneider  | 45. Bill Wentz         | 63. Jim Hill        |
| 10. George Brian      | 28. Leonard Dittman  | 46. Clarence Schauer   | 64. Jim Terrell     |
| 11. Art Giles         | 29. Charles Hamilton | 47. Bob Perry          | 65. Marion Crowder  |
| 12. Charles Snoble    | 30. Jim Johnson      | 48. Charles Zepp       | 66. John Murbach    |
| 13. Ralph Murbach     | 31. Dick Elliott     | 49. J. Martin Beck     | 67. Bill Tattersall |
| 14. Harry Howett      | 32. Herb Carlson     | 50. Rorick Amos        | 68. Bob Choate      |
| 15. A. N. Chick Smith | 33. LeRoy Barr       | 51. Scrib Fauver       | 69. Hub Wilcox      |
| 16. Unknown           | 34. Ralph Fox        | 52. Harry Bemis        |                     |
| 17. Bill Naegele      | 35. David Pence      | 53. Hal Enyeart        |                     |
| 18. Earl Bell         | 36. Carl Schreiber   | 54. Chuck Fox          |                     |

# 1972 Rotary Photo



- |                      |                        |                    |                     |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Dana Hart         | 19. Bill Standen       | 37. Fred Janes     | 55. John Aquilla    |
| 2. Ken Sommer        | 20. Dick Elliott       | 38. Jack Murphy    | 56. Bob Stevenson   |
| 3. Kellogg Day       | 21. Russ Gleason       | 39. Dan Cooksey    | 57. Jim Hill        |
| 4. Charles Hyman     | 22. Frank Lawrence     | 40. Fred Snoble    | 58. Tim Grogan      |
| 5. Bob Choate        | 23. Bob Ohlemacher     | 41. Earl Sandrock  | 59. Paul Hovey      |
| 6. Harold West       | 24. Ed Harr            | 42. Bob Campbell   | 60. Al Botamer      |
| 7. Art Schowalter    | 25. Bill Fitch         | 43. Marion Crowder | 61. Dick Linde      |
| 8. Burton Ohlemacher | 26. George Rubenson    | 44. Jim Rafferty   | 62. R. Jay Fitch    |
| 9. Tom Porter        | 27. Fred AuWerter      | 45. Harry Bemis    | 63. Phil Young      |
| 10. Ed Lees          | 28. Roy Hayes          | 46. Bud Deetz      | 64. Ben Myers       |
| 11. Mark Willis      | 29. Julie Edwards      | 47. Chuck Fox      | 65. Pete Schilling  |
| 12. Ralph Fox        | 30. Stanton Fitzgerald | 48. Walt Evans     | 66. John Murbach    |
| 13. Bill McClellan   | 31. Bob Perry          | 49. George Persons | 67. Bill Huber      |
| 14. Ralph Murbach    | 32. Pete Mealwitz      | 50. Dick Gollmar   | 68. Ellie Schneider |
| 15. Howard Gollmar   | 33. Jim Johnson        | 51. John Buchheit  | 69. Jack Smith      |
| 16. Dick Bergman     | 34. Rorick Amos        | 52. Don Andress    | (Kneeling)          |
| 17. Unknown          | 35. Roger McCloud      | 53. Tom Price      | 70. Bill Sheehan    |
| 18. Bill Wentz       | 36. Tom Haywood        | 54. Scrib Fauver   |                     |

## 1975 Rotary Photo



- |                       |                        |                     |                       |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. John Blevins       | 18. Bob Choate         | 35. Ray Renz        | 52. Jim Markle        |
| 2. John Buchheit      | 19. Ben Myers          | 36. Tom Showalter   | 53. Walt Evans        |
| 3. Bill Huber         | 20. Tim Grogan         | 37. Charles Hyman   | 54. Fred Snoble       |
| 4. Al Botamer         | 21. Del Russell        | 38. Dana Hart       | 55. Anson Russell     |
| 5. George Rubenson    | 22. Earl Sandrock      | 39. Dale Cutler     | 56. Abe Assily        |
| 6. Ralph Murbach      | 23. Dick Bergman       | 40. Dan Cooksey     | 57. John Tierney      |
| 7. Russ Gleason       | 24. Kellogg Day        | 41. Bob Stevenson   | 58. Dick Gollmar      |
| 8. Pete Mealwitz      | 25. Al Sterner         | 42. Jack Smith      | 59. Ellie Schneider   |
| 9. Bill Standen       | 26. Jack Lance         | 43. Tom Porter      | 60. Jack Hannaford    |
| 10. John Aquilla      | 27. George Miraben     | 44. Joe Strong      | 61. A. N. Chick Smith |
| 11. Jack Ryba         | 28. Art Schowalter     | 45. George Persons  | 62. John Bara         |
| 12. Burton Ohlemacher | 29. Stanton Fitzgerald | 46. Les Drage       | 63. Henry Irish       |
| 13. Ev Baird          | 30. Bill Wentz         | 47. Bill Tattersall | 64. Wib Senft         |
| 14. Bob Perry         | 31. Jim Johnson        | 48. Chuck Fox       | 65. Ken Sommer        |
| 15. Bill Kirkpatrick  | 32. Don Andress        | 49. Pete Van Wormer | 66. Leon Altfeld      |
| 16. Ron Marmaduke     | 33. Bob Bowman         | 50. John Murbach    |                       |
| 17. Julie Edwards     | 34. Lyle Reichert      | 51. George Brian    |                       |

# LIST OF MEMBERS

Abraham, Nicholas M.	1983	Boblenz, Richard B.	1967	Cocco, Ronald A.	1989
Adams, Eldon D.	1925	Boddy, Donald J.	1956	Cole, George	1947
Adams, William H.	1924	Boddy, Donald F.	1984	Collister, George	1924
Aldrich, George G.	1990	Bohn, Jule	1944	Colson, Fred	1918
Alibeckoff, Galib-Bey	1994	Bolen, R. Harrison	1989	Condon, Maurice	1950
Allen, Cary C.	1924	Bond, Edward J.	1935	Conway, Eugene	1957
Allen, Edgar F.	1919	Bonner, Robert	1964	Cook, C. Robert	1949
Allen, Edgar F.	1921	Bostwick, Frances E.	1987	Cook, Robert S.	1977
Altfeld, Alex	1919	Botamer, Alan B.	1968	Cook, Tom	1921
Altfeld, Leon S.	1975	Botamer, Kenneth	1935	Cooksey, Dan H.	1963
Altfeld, Theodore S.	1988	Bowdler, Jr., William D.	1995	Coughlin, Denny	1941
Amos, G. Rorick	1956	Bowen, Thomas D.	1946	Cowen, Stanley M.	1965
Anderson, Richard C.	1984	Bowman, Robert T.	1974	Cox, Robert	1961
Andress, Donald F.	1969	Bownes, Robert M.	1984	Crandall, Harry	1918
Andrews, Albert	1973	Boylan, Robert E.	1956	Crehore, Charles J.	1918
Andrus, Harold	1953	Bramley, C. Donald	1985	Crisp, Ernie	1918
Anthony, B. Kenneth	1951	Brandau, Frank	1956	Crisp, J. C.	1919
Aquilla, John R.	1968	Brausch, Jeffrey A.	1993	Crispin, Carl	1922
Arndt, Kenneth M.	1992	Brennan, Robert	1967	Cromling, Maureen M.	1987
Assily, Ibrahim Y.	1973	Brian, George W.	1959	Cromling, William E.	1978
Auld, William Muir	1924	Bricmont, Ellen D.	1991	Cromling II, William E.	1995
Ault, Henry	1947	Britton, John	1920	Cronin, John	1918
Auspacher, Sam	1918	Brown, Carl	1918	Crosby, D. Lyle	1978
Austin, Michael M.	1982	Brown, Gerald	1919	Crowder, Marion H.	1945
AuWerter, Frederick E.	1966	Brown, Lloyd	1938	Culberson, Andrew W.	1983
Avard, John W.	1979	Brown, Parvin F.	1949	Curren, Arthur	1918
Ayres, Walter	1929	Brownell, George	1918	Cushing, Thomas F.	1928
Bacon, Earl D.	1931	Buchanan, Richard S.	1982	Custar, William E.	1984
Baird, Dow A.	1922	Buchheit, John F.	1972	Cuthbertson, L.	1919
Baird, Evert	1970	Budd, Henry G.	1986	Cutler, Dale H.	1969
Baird, Richard	1951	Bundy, J.	1962	Daily, Roy	1945
Balk, Richard H.	1979	Burdick, Ronald L.	1991	Davidson, James E.	1928
Ball, R. K.	1949	Burger, R. Lyle	1980	Davis, Mark T.	1990
Bara, John V.	1965	Burgess, Dick	1945	Dawson, Robert	1965
Barbour, Howard	1918	Burke, J. Frank	1919	Day, Donald R.	1992
Barr, Donald E.	1958	Burns, Dean	1920	Day, H. Kellogg	1918
Barr, Leroy R.	1961	Burr, Harry	1935	de la Peña, Raymundo	1994
Barr, Richard D.	1983	Burrell, Hedley	1956	de la Porte, Maud W.	1990
Barrett, Clarence	1927	Bush, George	1924	Dean, Russell N.	1954
Bartizal, Dale	1975	Butch, Niel R.	1977	Deetz, Lawrence E.	1939
Basinger, S. F.	1927	Byrd, Robert L.	1993	Deetz, Jr., Lawrence E.	1954
Basinski, David A.	1989	Byrne, John E.	1992	DeLuca, Michael S.	1979
Bates, Jonathon B.	1978	Byrne, Robert J.	1968	DeMarco, Dennis	1979
Bauer, Frederick O.	1979	Cairns, Robert W.	1990	DeMarco, R. A.	1950
Baughman, William	1948	Calkins, Max	1948	Demby, Robert B.	1986
Baumgartner, Charles E.	1982	Cameron, H. Boyd	1969	Dengate, William E.	1929
Bays, Harold Lee	1985	Camp, William P.	1973	DeNicola, Michael	1967
Beal, Donovan E.	1980	Campbell, Robert E.	1965	Denman, Robert	1956
Beall, George	1950	Canan, James W.	1975	Dew, Frank R.	1934
Beck, J. Martin	1936	Cannon, Roy K.	1975	Dicken, Harold	1949
Beckett, R. W.	1953	Carlén, Jan C.	1991	Dirlam, Foster P.	1949
Bedillion, Donald	1982	Carlson, Edward C.	1939	Dittman, John	1962
Bedocs, Gene M.	1983	Carlson, Herbert	1961	Doan, Terry L.	1980
Beebe, Artemas	1924	Carter, William H.	1991	Dobrow, Estelle W.	1990
Begley, James	1957	Case, Baxter	1961	Doll, Henry C.	1989
Beiter, Harry	1950	Case, Weldon	1956	Donaldson, Jeanine P.	1988
Beiter, Robert W.	1959	Cash, Malcolm E.	1967	Donnelly, Ed	1920
Bell, Earl W.	1920	Cavagna, Charles B.	1995	Doslak, William J.	1973
Bemis, Harry D.	1942	Chapman, Erie	1920	Drage, Lester E.	1973
Benham, Howard H.	1925	Chapman, William R.	1981	Duffin, Michael B.	1979
Bergman, Richard J.	1969	Charles, Jr., Adelbert K.	1980	Dutch, William	1960
Bevard, Ralph	1928	Chase, Louis	1922	Dutter, Herman O.	1921
Bieber, John A.	1945	Cheney, Harvey C.	1925	Dykeman, Henry	1918
Biel, Lewis	1974	Choate, Robert D.	1952	Ebel, Jr., Martin H.	1981
Birch, Leonard	1918	Chorak, James E.	1992	Eckler, Frank	1925
Birdsell, Joe	1922	Church, Roy A.	1987	Edwards, Julius	1956
Blackmore, Jerrold E.	1989	Cihla, Stephen A.	1991	Edwards, Robert G.	1954
Blake, Kenneth R.	1992	Cirigliano, Joseph E.	1981	Eibling, Harold H.	1947
Blevins, John S.	1974	Clapp, Robert C.	1925	Elliott, Richard J.	1962
Bloom, Eric E.	1989	Clark, Robert E.	1987	Elzey, Robert	1943
Blum, Edward T.	1984	Clayton, Thomas	1968	Enyeart, Harold F.	1948
Bobel, John S.	1982	Clymer, Roy	1936	Erb, Donald	1954



Evans, Eldred 1947  
 Evans, Walter 1958  
 Evenchik, Marvin A. 1983  
 Everhart, Robert J. 1984  
 Everitt, DeWayne 1969  
 Fackler, Paul E. 1977  
 Falkenstein, John A. 1988  
 Farrow, Darrin B. 1995  
 Fauver, Earl J. 1958  
 Fauver, King E. 1931  
 Fauver, Lew B. 1922  
 Fauver, Scribner L. 1966  
 Fauver, William 1973  
 Fauver, Worth A. 1936  
 Faxon, Ike 1936  
 Fay, Ralph 1918  
 Findling, John B. 1957  
 Fitch, R. Jay 1945  
 Fitch, William J. 1962  
 Fitzgerald, Stanton 1950  
 Flanigan, Kevin J. 1984  
 Flynn, Harry 1942  
 Flynn, Jack E. 1927  
 Flynn, John 1950  
 Fogle, Maurice W. 1958  
 Forbes, Malcolm H. 1935  
 Forthofer, Dale R. 1987  
 Fowler, William C. 1928  
 Fox, Charles W. 1955  
 Frain, John P. 1981  
 Frank, James G. 1958  
 Fredriksen, Dennis F. 1987  
 Frey, Rudolph 1949  
 Fuqua, Raymond T. 1986  
 Fusilero, Victorino M. 1982  
 Garber, James S. 1967  
 Gary, Thomas D. 1984  
 Gaskalla, Jeff L. 1987  
 Gaston, Thomas A. 1988  
 Gatien, Gordon J. 1987  
 Gebhardt, Michael L. 1987  
 Gebhardt, Theodore F. 1981  
 Geitgey, Harold 1954  
 Gelman, Alvin H. 1977  
 Gensert, Howard G. 1944  
 Gentzel, Paul M. 1934  
 George, William 1954  
 Gerlach, William 1955  
 Gibbons, C. A. 1944  
 Giles, Arthur E. 1921  
 Gill, George 1921  
 Giorgianni, Nick 1965  
 Glass, J. Edgar 1955  
 Glavin, Frank 1986  
 Gleason, Russell 1947  
 Gleisner, Donald 1974  
 Gollmar, Howard 1937  
 Gollmar, Richard J. 1945  
 Gomoll, Carl M. 1987  
 Goode, Terry D. 1988  
 Goodspeed, William G. 1985  
 Gould, George E. 1929  
 Graham, Harold 1949  
 Grant, John 1918  
 Grant, William J. 1954  
 Gray, W. E. 1919  
 Green, Melvin 1938  
 Greenland, Earl C. 1931  
 Groff, Richard 1970  
 Grogan, Timothy T. 1972  
 Groves, Stephen S. 1985  
 Guthrie, James 1927  
 Haiduck, Andrew F. 1951  
 Hall, Clayton G. 1923

Hall, Harvey 1924  
 Hall, Kenneth 1967  
 Halverson, William L. 1987  
 Hamilton, Charles W. 1964  
 Hamilton, Ervin A. 1931  
 Hancock, Charlie 1918  
 Hand, Robert B. 1925  
 Hannaford, Albert M. 1918  
 Hannaford, John R. 1949  
 Harding, Lester 1940  
 Harding, W. N. 1927  
 Harr, Edward C. 1944  
 Harrold, Clifford A. 1934  
 Hart, R. Dana 1958  
 Haserodt, Oscar 1919  
 Hathaway, W. N. 1927  
 Hayes, Roy A. 1956  
 Haywood, Thomas E. 1984  
 Haywood, Thomas P. 1963  
 Heacock, Louis 1924  
 Heavens, Fred J. 1931  
 Hecock, Brackett 1919  
 Hecock, Louis C. 1924  
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Spicer, James D	1977
Spier, Leslie	1964
Splete, Ernest	1948
Springfield, Freddie M. W.	1991
Squire, Samuel H.	1918
Stahl, Kenneth D.	1990
Stair, Gary M.	1995
Standen, Larry G.	1988
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Stang, Robert N.	1977
Stanton, Eugene	1949
Stark, Edgar E.	1925
Stark, L. Norman	1962
Sterner, Alvin R.	1948
Stevens, Bruce E.	1989
Stevens, George	1920
Stevenson, Robert W.	1951
Stevick, Harley	1937
Stewart, Edward M.	1995
Stewart, Richard J.	1989
Stoffer, Richard L.	1983
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Strom, George D.	1975
Strong, Joseph M.	1948
Strong, Jr., Joseph M.	1970
Stroup, Lee	1920
Stuart, Robert	1981
Stutz, Karl A.	1980
Tattersall, J. C. William	1966
Taylor, Donald R.	1975
Taylor, Gene	1918
Taylor, H. Clifford	1951
Taylor, Robey R.	1992
Taylor, Ronald	1966
Terrell, James E.	1967

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Thomas, David O.	1949
Thomas, Glade	1919
Thomas, Jim	1918
Thomasson, Jr., William E.	1979
Thompson, Andrew	1935
Thompson, James R.	1976
Thompson, Robert T.	1987
Thornquist, Jack	1948
Thornton, William E.	1993
Tibbles, Ralph	1947
Tierney, John P.	1973
Timms, William B.	1923
Tollett, Arnold	1975
Tollett, David A.	1986
Tower, David H.	1986
Travers, Curtiss	1949
Tucker, Charles E.	1918
Turnau, Roger W.	1986
Underwood, Walter B.	1927
Van Wormer, Peter M.	1975
Vandemark, Robert	1963
Van Fossen, Marge	1995
Vargo, Christie L.	1994
Vecchio, Raymond H.	1983
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Wachler, Willard	1957
Wagner, Thomas J.	1983
Wagner, Jr., Carl W.	1983
Wainwright, David P.	1949
Waldorf, Russell	1925
Waldron, W. Daniel	1994
Walsh, Vincent	1938
Walter, Kevin E.	1990
Ward, William J.	1984
Warden, John W.	1920
Watt, Charles V.	1987
Webber, Lawrence H.	1918
Weiss, Howard	1981
Weller, George L.	1934

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Werner, A. L.	1918
Werren, Herbert J.	1975
West, Harold A.	1969
Weston, Norman	1963
Wheeler, Clifford	1953
Whelan, Rod	1918
White, Gregory A.	1979
White, Robert C.	1994
Whitman, Marion E.	1935
Whitney, John	1924
Wickens, Theodore M.	1966
Wilcox, Hubbard C.	1945
Wilder, Mose G.	1918
Wilford, Frank	1919
Williams, Art	1989
Williams, Deane R.	1980
Williamson, Alex	1920
Williamson, Raymond J.	1937
Williamson, Robert H.	1953
Willis, Mark S.	1935
Wills, Clarence E.	1989
Winter, Spurgeon	1945
Wise, Cliff	1920
Wise, Sr., Wayne	1950
Woltz, Harry J. P.	1961
Woodward, V. O.	1921
Worden, Catherine A.	1994
Worden, George J.	1989
Worden, J. W.	1920
Workman, Owen E.	1967
Worthington, George	1919
Wrisley, Al	1958
Wukie, James J.	1995
Yeager, Charles F.	1931
Young, Phillip	1969
Zealley, Harold	1951
Zepp, Charles E.	1967
Zrimec, Gary L.	1993