

## The Rotary Club of Gastonia

*Service Above Self*

### 4th Decade, 1950-1959



CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS IN GASTON COUNTY

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: OIL PRODUCTS Distributing

To fill the open classification of Associate Member,  
I propose for active membership—

NAME Olato Pearson Jr

HIS FIRM Gastonia Industrial Oil Co

HIS POSITION Vice President & Asst Mgr.

FIRM'S PRINCIPAL BUSINESS Oil Products

BUSINESS ADDRESS Box 1281

RESIDENCE ADDRESS Roland Park

Approximate age 25

Has he ever been a Member of a Rotary club? no

DATE 5-22-50

Olato Pearson Jr  
Signature of Proposer

MEMBERSHIP PROPOSAL

I am sufficiently acquainted with this man and his business to believe he would make a valuable member. If authorized to do so I shall initiate Rotary in him and endeavor to obtain his application. If he is then elected, I shall serve as his sponsor.

Membership application for "Tete" Pearson, 5/11/50. Tete is now our longest-serving and oldest member.

Early in this decade, our Club was grieving the loss of Charter Member, Past President, and community leader Joseph Separk. The club moved its meetings to the Masonic Temple, and according to later accounts, "when the membership became dissatisfied with aspects of the Temple, the club bought new curtains, a new amplifiers, and a new screen for slide shows. Meals for about 95 were catered each week by Mrs. Marguerite Brown and her husband, Leroy. The Polio outbreak and high numbers of children hospitalized at the Orthopedic Hospital led to service projects including sponsoring Scout troops and providing Christmas gifts to the patients.

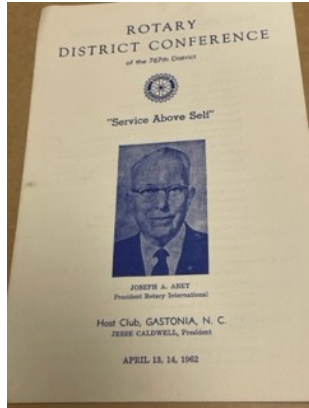
#### **1950's FAST FACTS!**

- ♦ **Meeting place: Masonic Temple**
- ♦ **By 1950, membership had grown to 97**

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### 5th Decade, 1960-1969

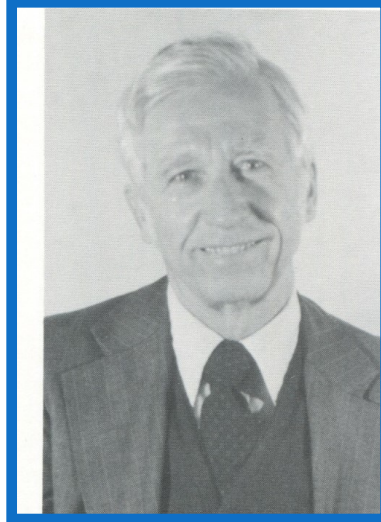


**RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS  
OF OUR MEMBERS**

A study made of the denominational relationships of our Rotary Club membership reveals some rather interesting statistics.

The survey was made by one of our own members who is noted for his inquiring mind and deep interest in all things about Rotary.

It would be natural to assume that Baptist would be the predominant choice of most of our members but that is not the case. The ranking is as follows: Methodist, 39; Presbyterian, 36; Lutheran 12; Episcopalian, 10; Baptist, 9; Associate Reformed Presbyterian, 7; Roman Catholic, 4; Greek Orthodox, 2; Unitarian, 1; Jewish, 1; Moravian, 1.



**“Jick” Garland  
District Governor  
1966-1967**



Gastonia Rotary was the host for two District Conferences in this decade, the second time championed by our first District Governor, James Boyce “Jick” Garland, Sr, who served from 1966-67. The son of Past President James Garland, Sr., Jick served not only as Rotary Club President but also Mayor of Gastonia, just as his father did. The Club continued to sponsor a Boy Scout Troop among the patients of the Orthopedic Hospital. The Club also continued to support and fundraise for the Girl Scouts at Camp Rotary, and proudly held several summer-time club meetings there to see first-hand the improvements that had been completed.

#### **1960's FAST FACTS!**

- ♦ **Hosted two District Conferences, in 1962 and 1967.**
- ♦ **Gaston Natural History Museum renamed Schiele Museum of Natural History in honor of Rotarian Bud Schiele.**
- ♦ **Jick Garland elected District Governor, first from our Club.**
- ♦ **Meeting place: Masonic Temple.**



**The Rotary Club of Gastonia**

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# Our Club Celebrates 50 Years of Service!



**Gastonia East  
Rotary** 

In February 1970, a Club meeting was held to debate the formation of a new Rotary Club, to be named Gastonia East Rotary. The membership approved, and led by incoming President Bynum Carter and Jim Smith, Sr., the new club was formed as part of our Club's 50th anniversary celebration. The dividing line for membership was Broad St. in downtown Gastonia, later modified until finally, decades later, prospective members could choose any Gaston County club to join. Gastonia East was chartered on September 14, 1970.