

The Rotary Club of Gastonia

Service Above Self

6th Decade, 1970-1979



David LaFar, III
District Governor
1971-72

The 1970's were a time of growth in the community, as it truly became a worldwide textile industry leader. Club member classifications became more and more detailed to allow more members from the burgeoning industry to join, and it was decided that there were enough potential Rotarians to support two Gastonia clubs. Two of the biggest and most memorable events of the 1970's was the celebration of the nation's Bicentennial in 1976 and the City of Gastonia's Centennial year in 1977. Above, member Jesse Caldwell, Jr. hams it up at a Centennial skit. Also in 1977, the Club helped to purchase the county's first Jaws of Life.

1970's FAST FACTS!

- ♦ **Speaker in 1970: NASCAR driver Ned Jarrett**
- ♦ **60th Anniversary Celebration at Gaston Country Club, October 19, 1979**
- ♦ **Meeting place: Masonic Temple**
- ♦ **Local resident Kyn Dellinger awarded a prestigious Rotary Graduate Fellowship to study in Geneva, Switzerland.**



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7th Decade, 1980-1989

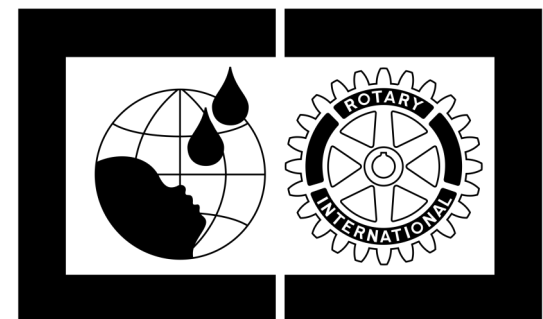


A new Club program supplied Emergency Room volunteers at Gaston Memorial Hospital. The last surviving original member, Chris Levantis, passed away in 1983. Just before the official PolioPlus campaign was launched by Rotary International, in 1984 Club President Wes Styers and Torben Seear went to Panama with a group of District Rotarians to help vaccinate children against the disease. For its 65th anniversary project, the club sponsored the Gaston Breakfast Rotary Club, which originally met at the EconoLodge hotel in Bessemer City. This club was chartered on June 21, 1985, and Bynum Carter, Jim Smith, Sr., and Max Erwin were instrumental in its formation. In 1988, the first women to join the club were Beverly Dickson, Caroline Garrison, and Elaine Handley. In 1989, the Club's meeting location changed from the Masonic Temple to the new City Club of Gastonia, the first meeting outside the downtown area since the 1920's meetings at the original Country Club.

1980's FAST FACTS!

- ♦ ***1980 membership count: 143***
- ♦ ***Notable speakers: George Shinn, former owner of the Charlotte Hornets, Graham Bell discussing his vision for a Cramer Mountain Country Club, "Humpy" Wheeler of Charlotte Motor Speedway***
- ♦ ***First women admitted into the club.***
- ♦ ***Meeting places: Masonic Temple, City Club of Gastonia***

PolioPlus



Rotary International

Rotary
Club of Gastonia



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Service Above Self

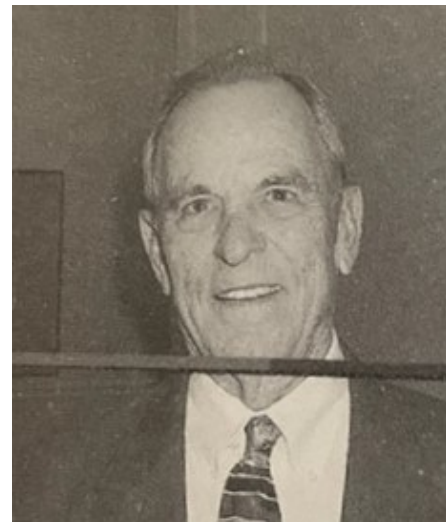
Our Club Honors 75 Years of Service

The Rotary Club of Gastonia celebrated its 75th Anniversary by developing ROTELL, in a successful effort to promote and address the presence of illiteracy. This description is in the words of Club President Lonnie Waggoner, Jr.:

“Since this is the 7th anniversary of our Club, we wanted to identify and carry out a project that would be of real and lasting service to our community. Our Board of Directors, and subsequently the entire membership, agreed unanimously that addressing the problem of illiteracy in Gaston County certainly would fill that bill.

Caroline Garrison and Max Erwin agreed to co-chair the Rotary Task Force which would spearhead and organize an attack on illiteracy and promote life-long learning in Gaston County. The acronym ROTELL, Rotary Task force for Education Life-Long Learning, was adopted to identify new efforts for education and to involve all people in the community possible, five sub-groups with appropriate chairpersons were formed. These included churches, the school system, business, civic, and community organizations, and the Literacy Council already in existence. Our Club donated \$11,500 and requested and received a 2:1 match from the Glenn Foundation.

Great strides are being made now in each of the five different groups. There has been much publicity and publicity continues regarding the problem of illiteracy in our community and what is being done about it. Interest continues to increase regarding this problem and enthusiasm is building. This is a project that does not have a definite end point but one that in all likelihood will need to continue for several years to adequately address and begin to solve this most important problem in our community. This has been a most interesting and fulfilling year for our Club.”



Caroline Garrison, Max Erwin, and Lonnie Waggoner, Jr.

1994—1995