

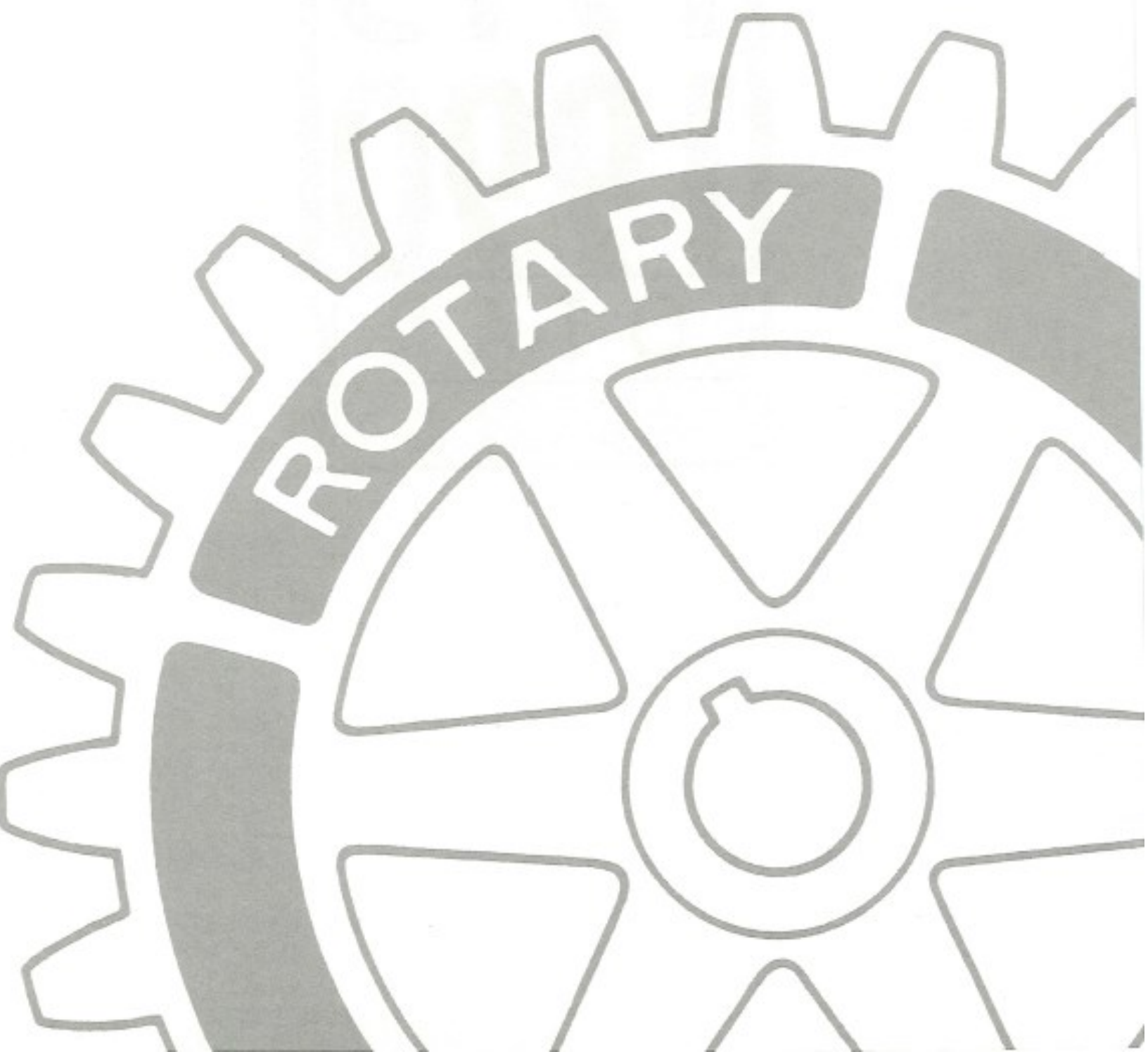
# Fresno Rotary



**“A Century of Service,  
an Unlimited Future”**

*Honoring Rotary in Central California*

*Since March 1, 1916*



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THE LAVAL CORPORATION, GRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY CO. Fresno, CA



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President, 2015-16

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14 December 2015

Dear Rotary Club of Fresno members,

I am delighted to congratulate your club on its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

There is a point when we all must ask ourselves what legacy we want to leave in this world. Will we see someone's need and meet it? Will we work for peace and goodwill wherever we go? Will we try to make the lives of those around us better?

For 100 years, the Rotary Club of Fresno has answered those questions with tireless Service Above Self. Thanks to the work you do, Rotary is known as an organization that fills needs, fosters peace and goodwill, and improves lives in local and global communities.

Each Rotary club is unique. Successful clubs embrace the different strengths and passions of each member, and use that diversity to bring out the best in each individual for the good of all. Vibrant clubs are willing to be innovative in the ways they serve their communities, and the members know that when they gather every week, real and lasting change happens.

This anniversary is an important milestone. It not only marks your commitment to Rotary, and the commitment of Rotarians who have gone before you, but it presents the opportunity to renew your vision and passion for Service Above Self. It is a time to reflect on how we can grow Rotary, so that your club may continue to be effective for the next 100 years. It is an opportunity for us to *Be a Gift to the World* all over again, and that is a truly wonderful thing.

I congratulate all of you and wish you the best in your next year as a club.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K.R. Ravindran".

K.R. Ravindran  
2015-16 President, Rotary International



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# Rotary

## District 5230, California, USA



March 1, 2016

To the members of the Rotary Club of Fresno, CA:

On behalf of your fellow Rotarians throughout District 5230, it is my privilege to congratulate the Rotary Club of Fresno on the occasion of your one hundredth anniversary. On March 1, 1916 you were chartered as the two hundred and third Rotary Club in the world, and since that time you have been a strong force in community leadership. Your club's history is filled with memorable instances of community service, international partnership, and leadership within Rotary itself. Over the years your club has taken the initiative in establishing new Rotary clubs in our area, and eight governors for the district have come from your membership. The Rotary Club of Fresno has been an outstanding leader in Rotary service and we salute you for your efforts.

Now begins your second century of service! In this important year the Rotary International theme is "*Be a Gift to the World*" I can think of no better way of encouraging your continuing work as a club. By doing things you do, you make an enormous difference in your community and around the world, and you build on the traditions and efforts of those Rotarians who established your club one hundred years ago.

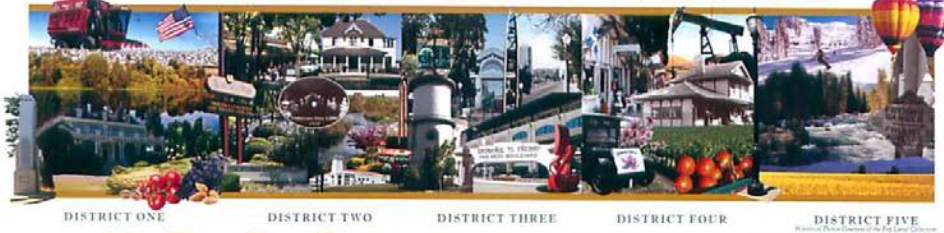
Our very best wishes to you as you continue your work in the spirit of "*Service Above Self*".

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Michael J. Andritch".

Michael J. Andritch  
District 5230 Governor 2015-16  
Fresno, Kings, Monterey & Tulare Counties, CA



# COUNTY OF FRESNO



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS** ~ The Rotary Club of Fresno was first organized as a provisional Rotary Club on December 13, 1915 and chartered on March 1, 1916 as the first Rotary Club in central California, as the ninth in the State of California and the 203rd in the World and will turn 100 years old on March 1, 2016; and

**WHEREAS** ~ The Rotary Club of Fresno was founded by the following 23 Fresno business leaders:

W.D. COATES, JR. – Architect  
C. H. STAPLES – Stationer  
R.W. POTTER – Pharmacy  
GEO. H. POST – Fruit Packing  
R.E. MCCABE – Hats  
J. HERMAN REISS – Insurance  
L. A. MILLER – Lithographing  
H. E. WILKINSON – Optician  
CHASE S. OSBORN, JR. – Newspaper  
JOHN S. COATES – Flour Mill  
W. D. EASTMAN  
GERALD F. THOMAS – Corrugated Culverts

F. O. GARDINER – Business College  
W. L. MATLOCK – Oil Co.  
ROY PULLMAN – Banker  
C. H. JASPER – Southern Pacific Railway  
J.E. CARLSON  
DR. J. HARVEY DEERE – Minister  
CHARLES H. ROSS – Insurance  
E. P. HODSHIRE  
E. A. BERG – Furniture  
C. W. BARRETT – Hardware  
E. R. ARMSTRONG – Musical Instruments; and

**WHEREAS** ~ The Rotary Club of Fresno members have met for 100 years in downtown Fresno beginning with its first meeting in the Hotel Fresno Ballroom; and

**WHEREAS** ~ The Rotary Club of Fresno hosted the first ever District Conference in Rotary in February 1916, a long step from the previous intercity meetings and the national and international conventions; and

**WHEREAS** ~ The Rotary Club of Fresno by 1919 was firmly established having planted 1,000 olive trees along the Golden State Highway, then known only as State Highway 99, as its first community project, organizing a city wide Boy Scout Council, holding Christmas parties at the county old folks home, helping many seeking college education and supporting the crippled children's society; and

**WHEREAS** ~ The Rotary Club of Fresno has supported hundreds of community projects and organizations in the local community including the Water Tower in downtown Fresno, the Rotary Amphitheater at Woodward Park, Storyland and Playland at Roeding Park, Boys & Girls Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Salvation Army, Elementary Schools, High Schools, Secondary Education, and Hospitals; and

**WHEREAS** ~ The Rotary Club of Fresno supported projects in the international community having delivered over 4,200 wheelchairs to third world countries, treated over 100,000 patients over 30 years of medical service to a village in Mexico, and delivered countless solar cookers and water treatment devices throughout the world; and

**WHEREAS** ~ The Rotary Club of Fresno has contributed over \$3.7 million dollars to the local and international projects (or over \$6.6 million in 2015 dollars) it supported as well as countless volunteer hours of time by its members; and

**WHEREAS** ~ The Rotary Club of Fresno has contributed over \$1.2 million dollars to the Rotary International Foundation in support of its worldwide humanitarian efforts of improving people's lives, including the eradication of polio; and

**WHEREAS** ~ The Rotary Club of Fresno is one of the largest Rotary Clubs in the world ranking in the top 100 in size among the over 35,000 clubs in the world; and

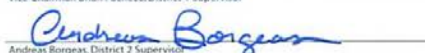
**WHEREAS** ~ The Rotary Club of Fresno has been the sponsor club, either directly or through a club sponsored by them, for 56 Rotary clubs from Madera to Bakersfield.

*Now* **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims 2016 as Rotary Club of Fresno Year in recognition for its 100 years of service to the City and County of Fresno and the world and hereby acknowledge them for their many accomplishments.

**ADOPTED BY THE FRESNO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
THIS 1ST DAY OF MARCH 2016**

  
Chairman Buddy Mendes, District 4 Supervisor

  
Vice-Chairman Brian Pacheco, District 1 Supervisor

  
Andreas Borges, District 2 Supervisor

  
Henry Perera, District 3 Supervisor

  
Deborah A. Pochigian, District 5 Supervisor







## **PRESIDENTS**

* H. E. Wilkinson .....	1915-16
* Milton Neeley .....	1916-17
* Clifford D. Sweet .....	1917-18
* Hugo Allardt .....	1918-19
* E. E. Whitney .....	1919-20
* Clarence Staples .....	1920-21
* Al Sunderland .....	1921-22
* Newton Johnson .....	1922-23
* Gerald F. Thomas .....	1923-24
* John F. McKenna .....	1924-25
* Chase S. Osborn, Jr. ....	1925-26
* Andrew J. Sturtevant .....	1926-27
* S. Parker Frisselle .....	1927-28
* Charles F. Thompson .....	1928-29
* Harry E. Owens .....	1929-30
* Al M. Paul .....	1930-31
* Dr. Frank W. Thomas .....	1931-32
* Joe H. Dale .....	1932-33
* Mount K. Wild .....	1933-34
* Harry W. Shields .....	1934-35
* August P. Johnson .....	1935
* Frank A. Homan .....	1935-36
* Jess E. Rodman .....	1936-37
* Dr. J. H. Pettis .....	1937-38
* Robert W. Potter .....	1938-39
* Harold W. Chutter .....	1939-40
* Dr. Harry C. Mitchell .....	1940-41
* Al R. Kuhn .....	1941-42
* Edward R. Copland .....	1942-43
* Carroll H. Baird .....	1943-44
* Clyde F. Coombs .....	1944-45
* John H. Gregg .....	1945-46
* Clarence E. Bradford .....	1946-47
* Earle G. Granger .....	1947-48
* Joseph C. Kimble .....	1948-49
* Dr. Charles A. James .....	1949-50
* Edwin M. Prescott .....	1950-51
* Melville E. Willson .....	1951-52
* Dr. Guy F. MacLeod .....	1952-53
* James Bradshaw .....	1953-54
* Leon S. Peters .....	1954-55
* Fergus Cambren .....	1955-56
* Richard M. Worrel .....	1956-57
* Brenton B. Bradford .....	1957-58
* Robert S. Miner .....	1958-59
* Maynard Munger .....	1959-60
* William D. Hoak .....	1960-61
* Claude C. Laval, Jr. ....	1961-62
* Dr. William L. Adams .....	1962-63
* George R. Fulmore .....	1963-64
* Harold V. Thompson .....	1964-65
* David T. Harris .....	1965-66
* Harold M. Schuppert .....	1966-67
* Dr. Walter A. Rohlfing .....	1967-68
* John C. Burkhart .....	1968-69
* Joe B. Fields .....	1969-70
* M. Gordon Wild .....	1970-71
* Edwin J. Rousek .....	1971-72
* Charles F. Hamlin .....	1972-73
* Walter E. Staley .....	1973-74
* Phillip C. Weigand .....	1974-75
* Charles A. Looney, Jr. ....	1975-76
* Robert B. Shiner .....	1976-77
* J. Delbert Crummev .....	1977-78
* Paul Chaffee .....	1978-79
* Everett Norcross, Jr. ....	1979-80
* Edgar L. Deatherage .....	1980-81
* Sidney B. Cox .....	1981-82

* Hollis G. Best .....	1982-83
Burton R. James .....	1983-84
* Guy W. Johnston .....	1984-85
Richard A. Johanson .....	1985-86
Robert H. Oliver .....	1986-87
James T. Winton .....	1987-88
Robert H. Jones, Jr. ....	1988-89
R. Gary Renner .....	1989-90
William S. Lucido .....	1990-91
John S. Bakas .....	1991-92
Douglas B. Jensen .....	1992-93
Clifford H. Davis .....	1993-94
Donald A. Jackson .....	1994-95
Bill F. Stewart .....	1995-96
* Louis C. Slater .....	1996-97
David M. Hadden .....	1997-98
Gordon M. Webster, Jr. ....	1998-99
Stephen R. Henry .....	1999-00
Zetta A. Hadden .....	2000-01
Everett E. Norcross III .....	2001-02
J. Scott Leonard .....	2002-03
A. Philip Hinton .....	2003-04
Terry L. Barthuli .....	2004-05
Leonard Ruggiero .....	2005-06
Richard E. Herrinton .....	2006-07
Don Eskes .....	2007-08
Shirley Grace .....	2008-09
Joe D. Thompson, Jr. ....	2009-10
David M. Gilmore .....	2010-11
Douglas R. Armey .....	2011-12
David 'Bud' Dickerson .....	2012-13
Garry S. Griesser .....	2013-14
Shirley A. Bruegman .....	2014-15
Hal H. Bolen II .....	2015-16

## **SECRETARIES**

* J. Herman Reiss .....	1915-17
* Charles H. Ross .....	1917-18
* Jerome O. Cross .....	1918-19
* H. E. Patterson .....	1919-21
* L. J. Allen .....	1921-25
* F. D. Bradford .....	1925-26
* William Bates .....	1926-27
* George M. Hume .....	1927-38
* Sheldon A. Hunter .....	1938-40
* A. Dewey Coates .....	1940-42
* L. N. Paterson .....	1942-44
* Paul L. Fairchild .....	1944-45
* Roger Cameron .....	1945-46
* M. H. Bouton .....	1946-47
* Larry E. Ecklund .....	1947-51
* Walter L. Clark .....	1951-52
* Alex Kleerup .....	1952-53
* Richard M. Worrel .....	1953-54
* Vern C. Redman .....	1954-55
* L. Lloyd E. Baird .....	1955-56
William D. Hoak .....	1956-57
* Robert S. Miner .....	1957-58
* Paul H. Starr .....	1958-59
* Ashton H. Shields .....	1959-60
* Fenton Williamson, Jr. ....	1960-61
* Clifton H. Linville .....	1961-62
* Emory Davis .....	1962-63
* Maurice G. Reetz .....	1963-64
* Harold S. Coles .....	1964-65
* Harold Wardlaw .....	1965-66
* John M. Lloyd .....	1966-67
* A. B. Gus Wilkerson .....	1967-82
* Ian L. Bell .....	1982-86

* John S. Stoughton .....	1986-88
* Everett E. Norcross, Jr. ....	1988-90
* John S. Stoughton .....	1990-92
* Ian Bell .....	1992-93
Garry S. Griesser .....	1993-94
Barbara J. Moen .....	1994-95
* Henry M. Padden .....	1995-96
LeRoy G. Massey .....	1996-97
Zetta A. Hadden .....	1997-98
* Paul E. Besselièvre .....	1998-99
Garry S. Griesser .....	1999-00
* Ian Bell .....	2000-01
Joe D. Thompson Jr. ....	2001-02
William S. Lucido .....	2002-03
* Louis C. Slater .....	2003-04
Jane Papazian .....	2004-05
David "Bud" Dickerson .....	2005-07
William Lucido .....	2007-08
Shirley Bruegman .....	2008-09
Everett Norcross, III .....	2009-10
Paul Duckworth .....	2010-11
Don Eskes .....	2011-12
Tom Licouris .....	2012-14
Michele Cantwell-Copher .....	2014-15
Melissa White .....	2015-16

## **TREASURERS**

* Roy Pullman .....	1915-31
* Fred Black .....	1931-33
* J. Bernhauer .....	1933-35
* Frank Homan .....	1935
* Sam Champlain .....	1935-37
* Joe Jones .....	1938-39
* M. Lohse .....	1939-40
* Julius Nielsen .....	1940-65
* Donald Shern .....	1965-80
* John Stoughton .....	1980-86
* Brenton Bradford .....	1986-92
Bob Williams .....	1992-94
Craig Horn .....	1994-98
Barbara Moen .....	1998-99
Richard Herrinton .....	1999-05
Gerald Lyles .....	2005-07
Richard E. Herrinton .....	2007-16

## **DISTRICT GOVERNORS**

* Frank W. Thomas .....	1944-45
* Joseph H. Dale .....	1955-56
* Harold V. Thompson .....	1971-72
* Walter E. Staley .....	1976-77
Charles A. Looney, Jr. ....	1985-86
Richard A. Johanson .....	1989-90
LeRoy G. Massey .....	1999-00
Shirley Grace .....	2012-13

## **CLUB SECRETARY/ EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS**

* Tillie Reiter, Assistant Secretary .....	1923-24
* Matilda Warner, Office Secretary .....	1945-46
* Margaret Green, Assistant Secretary .....	1941-50
* Violet Lundgren, Office Secretary .....	1951-57
* Matilda Hoover, Office Secretary .....	1960-61
* Roberta Roby, Executive Secretary .....	1961-84
* Geraldine Runnels, Executive Secretary .....	1984-06
Anna Pine .....	2006-present

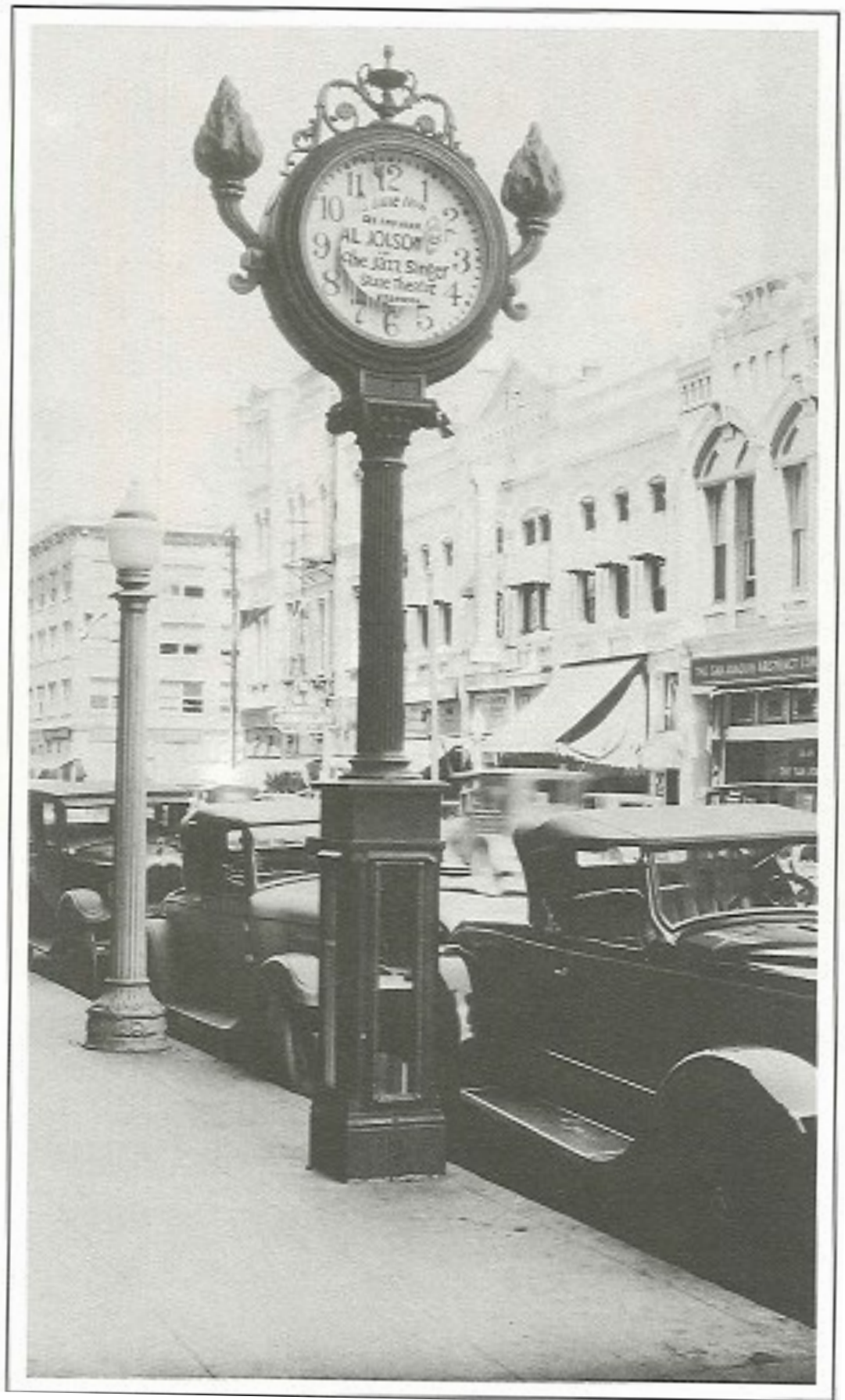
\*deceased



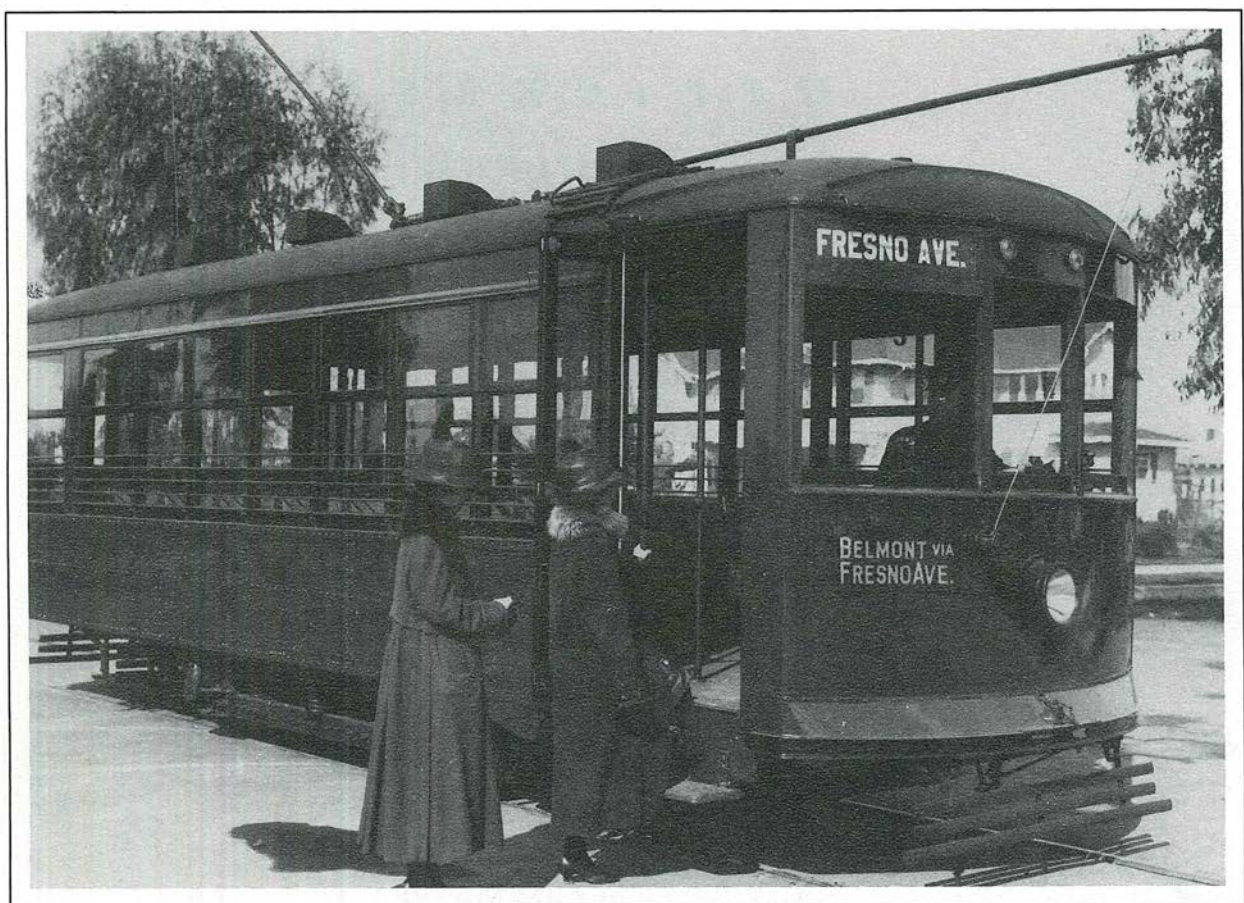


Mariposa Street looking towards Courthouse, 1890

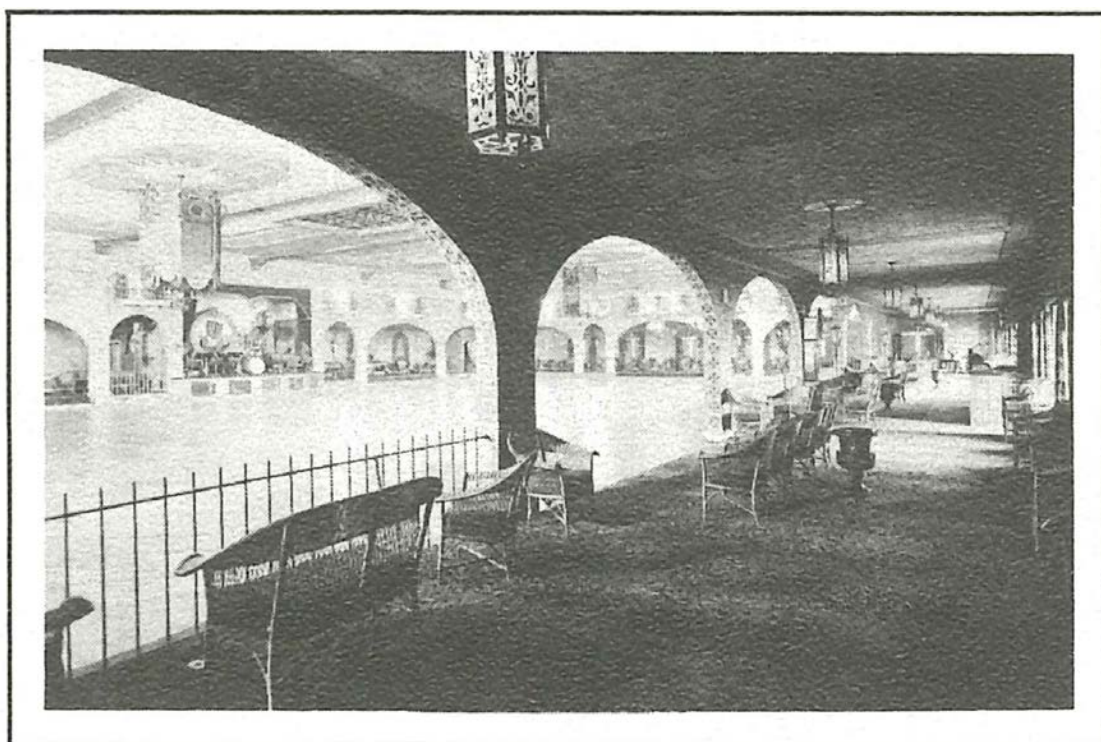




Downtown Fresno, 1928



Fresno Streetcars in service January 1889 to May 1939



The Rainbow Ballroom, 1926





North on Fulton Street 1917

# INTRODUCTION

The history of the Rotary Club of Fresno recorded here is by no means a comprehensive review of every aspect of the many activities completed by all the members of this Club. While for the strict historian, only this will do, the history recorded here is a composite picture of the changing demands of our city and of the response by members to those demands. It is a story of the activities and growing traditions of our Rotary Club. It perhaps should be called "Presidential", as it relies on the recollections of those leaders of the events of their day. This seemed consistent with our practice which allows long range goals and plans to be influenced by the enthusiasm and individuality of each new President. In this account the history is divided into epochs. Each epoch contains an historical sketch of Fresno followed by the history of Club activities for each President's year.

Several sources of club materials were available to us. Invaluable was the "Report of the Committee on The Rotary Club of Fresno History, 1915 to 1943", written for the celebration of the Rotary's Golden Anniversary, in 1955. The members of that committee were: Robert Potter, Hugo Allardt and Doctor Frank W. Thomas, chairman. Also of help was a booklet written for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Fresno, 1965, written by a committee consisting of: Cliff Davis, Dick Halls and Bill Hoak as was the booklet written for the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Rotary Club of Fresno written by Bob Wash, Ed Reimer, Al Puhn and Brian H. Clague M.D., chairman. This book is submitted by the Club's History Committee consisting of: Dick Herrinton, Anna Pine, David Gilmore, and Brian Clague.

The Centennial Celebration committee consisted of: President Hal H. Bolen II, Susan Anderson, Shirley Bruegman, Paula Castadio, Brian Clague, Dave Gilmore, Garry Griesser, Richard Herrinton, Duane Oswald, and Anna Pine.

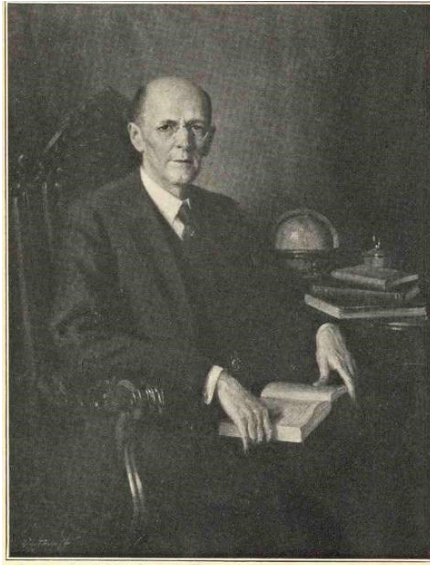
The remainder of our history was written from recollections of Presidents and from a gleaning of Club records. Additional biographical information was brought to light during informal dinner meetings held in 1989, honoring early members of the Club.



Hotel Fresno  
Lobby 1900's



# WHAT IS ROTARY?



© Portrait by Rotarian John Doctoroff, Chicago

In February 1905, Paul Harris, a lawyer in Chicago, and three other men founded Rotary, the world's original service Club. The name Rotary was selected because the meeting place, at that time, rotated from office to office of the members. Rotary quickly expanded around the globe. Today, club members meet weekly to plan service projects, discuss community and international issues, and enjoy fellowship. Clubs are nonpolitical and open to every race, culture, and creed.

Rotary now is a volunteer organization of 1.2 million business and professional leaders united worldwide to provide humanitarian service and help build goodwill and peace. About 35,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas conduct projects to address today's challenges - including illiteracy, disease, hunger, poverty, lack of clean water, and environmental concerns - while encouraging high ethical standards in all vocations.

As the world's largest private provider of international scholarships, The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International helps more than 1,000 students annually to study abroad and serve as cultural ambassadors.

Rotary also partners with five prestigious universities around the world, providing opportunities to earn a master's degree in peace and conflict resolution.

PolioPlus is Rotary's flagship program. By the time polio is eradicated, Rotary club members will have contributed one billion dollars and countless volunteer hours to immunize more than two billion children in over 122 countries. Rotary is a spearheading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, along with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the Gates Foundation, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## **The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:**

- First: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- Second: High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- Third: The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- Fourth: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.





North along Fulton Street, 1926

# WHAT IS THE ROTARY CLUB OF FRESNO?

On December 13, 1915, twenty-three men sat down together at the Hotel Fresno to discuss forming a new sort of organization. The new group would bring together business and professional men to volunteer their time in service to their community. The 23 men enthusiastically endorsed the formation of just such a club in Fresno and The Rotary Club of Fresno was born.

The Rotary Club of Fresno and The Rotary Club of Fresno Foundation has a history of service to the Fresno community starting March 1, 1916 with the planting of trees in Fresno. Over the years, Rotarians of the Club have given thousands of hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars to make the community of Fresno a better place. In addition, there have been dozens of projects completed around the world through the involvement of The Rotary Club of Fresno through funding and hands-on volunteers.

- ⇒ Fresno Rotary developed the Boy Scouts Council, organized raisin growers to develop a cooperative to serve them better, helped to establish the Community Chest, the forerunner of United Way, helped in the organization of the California Society for Crippled Children, the Boy's Work Council for needy young men, the Jr. Traffic Officer's programs for school crossings, and financial support for the development of Christmas Tree Lane.
- ⇒ Fresno Rotary acquired the land for Scouts Island. They arranged entertainment for the servicemen at Hammer Field, began participating in the Rotary International Foundation, contributed to the Girls Scouts camp at Dinkey Creek, and the Boy Scout's camp at Shaver Lake. Rotary instigated the purchase of the Fresno Zoo's beloved elephant – Nosey.
- ⇒ Fresno Rotary began raising funds for the development of Rotary Playland to be followed later by Storyland and the development of Camp Royal, designed to develop leadership qualities for selected students.
- ⇒ Fresno Rotary financially supported the creation of the intensive care unit, a hospice facility, and the Rotary House at Valley Children's Hospital.
- ⇒ Fresno Rotary raised seed money for the California Bowl, helped develop the Neighborhood Watch Program, made a \$200,000 contribution toward Polio Plus, and created the first Interact and Rotaract Clubs.
- ⇒ Physicians and Rotarians from the Club began Project Nino, an annual visit to Mexico to bring needed medical care to thousands of patients, mostly children.
- ⇒ Duncan Polytechnic High School and Clovis West High School are the Club's adopted Interact Rotary Clubs.
- ⇒ Fresno Rotary built the Rotary Amphitheater at Woodward Park, kicked off Solar Cooking and Water Purification for Africa, launched the restoration of the Fresno Water Tower, and a Highway Beautification Art Project (Murals on Highways).

# WHAT IS THE ROTARY CLUB OF FRESNO?

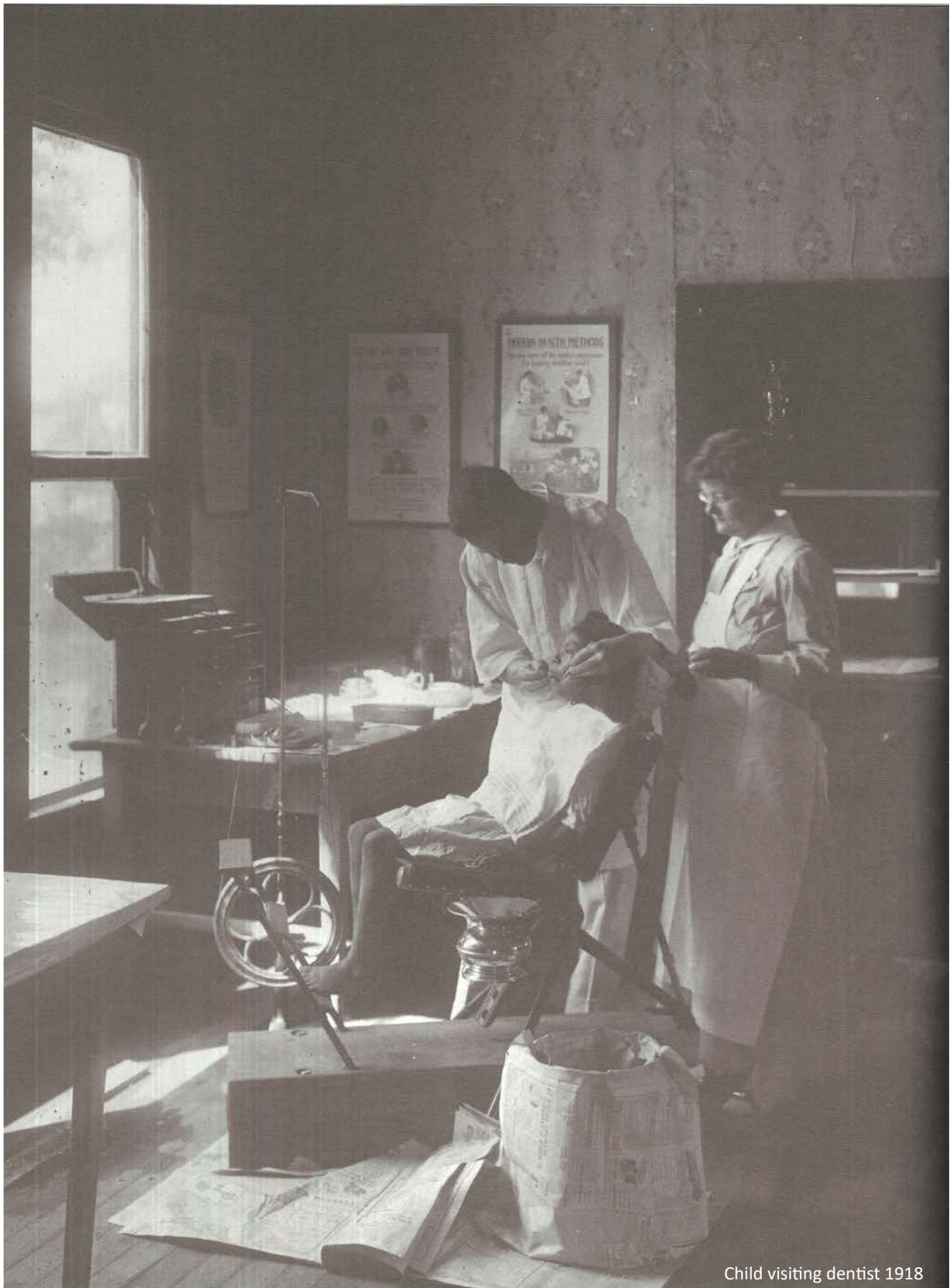
Over the years the Club has expanded in membership to over 300 and in service to include over 40 committees under five avenues of service; club, community, international, vocational, and youth.

- ⇒ Under Club Services there are nearly 18 committees dedicated to club membership activities, inter-club programs and our continuing highly successful weekly Speakers Programing.
- ⇒ In Community Service our efforts have focused primarily on the countless needs of the area. Community aspects of our projects include not only funding projects for the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts, funding pro-grams dealing with vocational guidance and the formation of a dental lab at the Salvation Army headquarters, as well as numerous other non-profit and charitable organizations.
- ⇒ International Service Projects have included support and housing for foreign students visiting the Fresno area. Our Integrated Cooking Method Project, provides the means for cooking food using the power of the sun as well as safe drinking water, in third world countries.
- ⇒ Our efforts in Vocational Service have included committees on rural and urban concerns as well as employer employee relationships. We provide several scholarships annually for both academic and artistic achievements to local area students.
- ⇒ Under the Youth Avenue of Service Camp ROYAL (ROtary Youth And Leadership) was created through our efforts and has become a District wide-project providing leadership training annually to over 200 high school juniors. Our Little Heroes/ Big Heroes Program provides emotional benefits by matching patients from Valley Children's Hospital Central California with Fresno State athletes.

As The Rotary Club of Fresno marches towards its 100th year of service, we continue to grow, to commit and extend participation to the very life of Fresno and surrounding communities.

Rotarians regularly experience the fulfillment that comes from giving back to the community. As members of the oldest service Club in the world, Rotarians represent a cross-section of their community's business owners, executives, managers, political leaders, and professionals – people who make decisions and influence policy. The Rotary Club of Fresno is always looking for outstanding men and women committed to helping Fresno. Rotary is an organization of successful leaders. Team-building, fundraising, public speaking, planning, organization, and communication are just some of the leadership skills that Club members can exercise and enhance.

The Rotary Club of Fresno Club did its part in the growth of Rotary through the sponsoring of many clubs in the valley: Bakersfield in '20, Porterville '21, Visalia '21, Madera '22, Dinuba '22, Selma '24, Avenal '36, Corcoran '40, Los Banos '40, North Fresno '48, and Cultural Arts '53. The Club's formation family tree is over 56 Rotary Clubs.



Child visiting dentist 1918



# FRESNO 1850 to 1915

When 23 Fresnans met on December 13, 1915, to organize the Rotary Club of Fresno, they represented a changing pattern in business organization in a city of 33,000, which itself had undergone tremendous changes. Fresno had developed under a form of colony farms between 1872, when the railroad arrived, through 1890, when depression and cheap farm prices led to extensive settlements on small pieces of land. Irrigation systems had expanded to 300 miles of main canals, serving 20,000 people and 200,000 acres. By 1900, streets were paved, electric lights introduced, and horse drawn streetcars appeared. Public grammar schools and a public library were built. Several service institutions were started including the Elks, YMCA and several women's' clubs. Between 1910 and 1915 prosperity reigned, as many large brick buildings were erected. The Burnett Sanitarium was built, the Fresno City Railroad Company and the city expanded North into the fig gardens, under development by J.C. Forkner. A junior college at Fresno High School was started in 1910. In 1911 Fresno Normal School, later to be Fresno State College, was established. The second high school in Fresno and five elementary schools were founded.



The dramatic demotion party for President AL Sunderland culminated in the presentation of a traveling bag, and the hint that there would be no objection to Al's using it to get out of town. Front row, left to right: Bob Craighead, Gerry Thomas, Emory Wishon and Charley Miller. Front row: Newt Johnson, Clarence Staples, Hugh Allardt, E.E. Whitney, George Hume, President Al Sunderland, Wilky Wilkinson, John McKenna, and Robert Poller.



# FRESNO 1850 to 1915



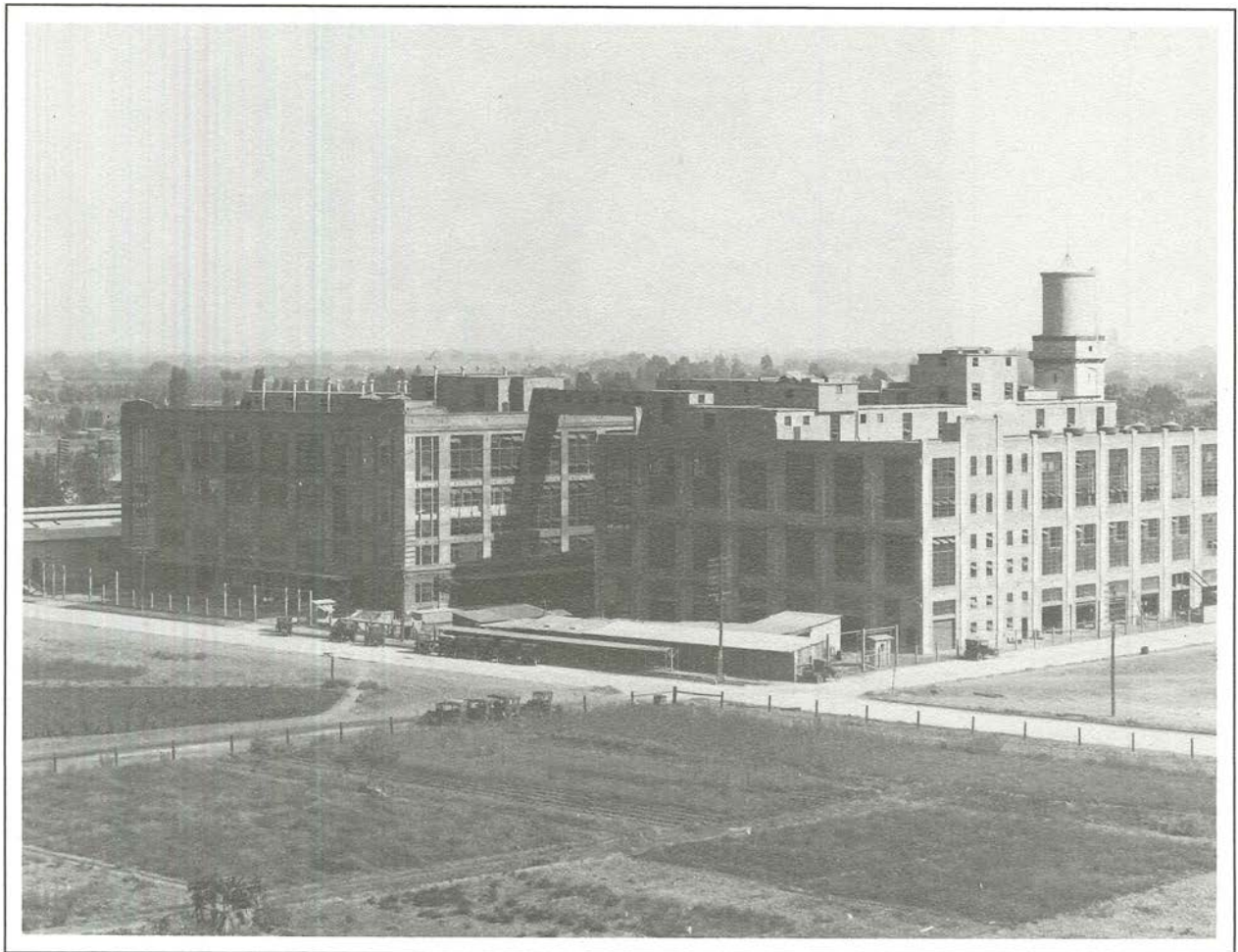
Zapp's Park. 1915

To meet the challenge of increasing population many cultural organizations were begun including a University Club, The Rotary Club of Fresno, a Music Club in 1905 and the Fresno Symphony in 1910. Families gathered at the Court House, or Zapp's Park (Blackstone and Olive Avenues), or attended the Raisin Day Festival. Social welfare programs were based on a traditional sense of community responsibility to the poor, the indigent, the elderly and the homeless. The first temporary hospital was a rented building, established in 1878. Through the years a series of permanent buildings were built, culminated in the Fresno County Hospital which became Valley Medical Center in 1960. The aged and the indigent were sent to live at the Fresno County Hospital until a separate building was built in 1907 – The Old Peoples' Home. The home was finally moved to the remodeled orphanage where it continued until 1957, when it was moved back to the Fresno County Hospital. Welfare of the indigent was handled by separate petition to the Board of Supervisors until 1970 when the Indigent Act was passed, making the State Board of Charities responsible for indigents. In subsequent years the Fresno County Welfare Department was founded to carry out the state regulations. The Fresno County operated a "poor farm" to provide funds for the ill and indigent between 1887 and 1925. This was an eminent and prosperous era.

The concept of businessmen and other professionals working together was founded in Chicago in 1905, under the leadership of Paul Harris. It was named ROTARY. The philosophy was soon to spread to San Francisco and Oakland. Franklin L. Wright, an itinerant Fresno salesman for the Monogram Oil Company, was transferred to Fresno from Oakland bringing with him the experience of this new Rotary organization. The idea that by working together, in a charitable arena, one could foster business, sounded good to the 23 men who would meet on December 13, 1915, in the Hotel Fresno to establish the Rotary Club of Fresno. Those Founding Members included: W.D. Coates, Jr., C.H. Staples, R.W. Potter, George H. Post, R.E. McCabe, J. Herman Reiss, L.A. Miller, Chase S. Osborn, Jr., John S. Coates, W.D. Eastman, Gerald F. Thomas, F.O. Gardiner, W.L. Matlok, Roy Pulliam, C.H. Jasper, J.E. Carlson, Doctor J. Harvey Deare, Charles H. Ross, E.P. Hodshire, E.A. Berg, C.W. Barrett, E.R. Armstrong. H.E. Wilkinson was its first President. Within six weeks, the group hosted a District Convention, the first of many.

# FRESNO 1915 TO 1925

World War I plunged Fresno into wartime efforts with doughboys boarding trains in September 1917. The Red Cross and the War History Committee, which would later become the Fresno County Historical Society, were founded in 1919. Celebrations of the end of war in 1919 were overshadowed by a flu epidemic which killed millions in the nation. Prohibition saw the rise of crime. The commission form of government was adopted in 1920. Many new buildings were erected, including two junior high schools, Roosevelt High School, and five additional grammar schools. And in 1922 the Fresno Bee was completed. The Frank H. Ball Playground also opened in 1922. The automobile began to change lives, as the congestion of cars and trolley cars filled the downtown area. People considered commuting! This prosperity began to collapse as raisin prices dropped and businesses failed. The Depression loomed.



Sun Maid Plant, 1920



Chamber of Commerce Group, 1919



# PRESIDENTS

## H. E. WILKINSON 1915 TO 1916

The first President of the Rotary Club of Fresno was H.E. (Wilky) Wilkinson; he was the man for the job. He had helped organize the Fresno Merchants Association in 1911 and was its first president. He was moderator of the San Joaquin Valley Baptists' Association for five years and head of its state convention in 1915. He saw completion of the Rotary Constitution, and the addition of 39 members to the Club. Wilkinson helped begin discussion on the selection of olive trees to line Highway 99, between Fresno and Herndon. This was the Clubs first civic project. He presided as the Club hosted the first District 13 Conference which was held in Fresno. The conference was attended by over 300 delegates and members from 11 Rotary Clubs of District 13. Significantly, the discussions centered on expansion of Rotary and the criteria for the size of cities which could be accepted as a site for a new club. The minimum size had been set at 10,000 people. This was changed in 1921, when the Palo Alto Club joined District 13. The weekly meeting date was set to Monday—a tradition which has never changed. The first battle over classifications centered around the classification of "wine manufacturing." A heated debate ensued. The first Club Bulletin was published and titled the "Babbler."



## MILTON NEELEY 1916 TO 1917



The term of Milton Neeley continued the practice of open discussion of Club operations and business by the membership acting as a committee of the whole. There was further discussion of the Tree Planting Project. An element of fun was introduced with occasional stunts. The Club sent H.E. Wilkinson to the International Association of Rotary Clubs held in Cincinnati, Ohio, in July of 1916.

## CLIFFORD D. SWEET, M.D. 1917 TO 1918

President Clifford D. Sweet, M.D., a practicing physician was the first President to be raised in Fresno; his family moving here in 1910. He graduated from Fresno High School and U.C. School of Medicine. The organization was changed so that Club business became the province of the Board of Directors and weekly meetings began to feature a variety of speakers on vocational topics.



# THE BABBLER

ISSUED ONCE A MONTH BY THE FRESNO ROTARY CLUB

No. 1

Vol. I

MEET YOUR  
NEW PRESIDENT



Here he is, H. F. Allardt, chief officer of the Rotary Club for the year by the grace of your votes. His first name is Hugo, but his friends declare he ought to be called "Frosty," not because of his disposition, however. He lets you have ice when you pay for it. As manager of the ice company "Frosty" ought to make a good president of the Rotary Club for the summer anyway

**NO LUNCH AT NOON  
TODAY—SAVE YOUR AP-  
PETITE FOR TONIGHT.**

**To-Night! To-Night!**  
THE BIG MONTHLY ROTARY MEETING

You owe it to yourself and you owe it to Rotary to be at this monthly meeting.

Your club voted to have the meetings once a month so that we could have a genuine heart to heart talk about Rotary, and as long as you are a member of the club you are expected to attend, for these monthly meetings are more important than the noon luncheon.

Come and "get off your chest" the things you don't like about the way Rotary is being projected. There will be "eats," so don't go home for dinner.

If Friend Wife protests, tell her you will be home for lunch, as there will be no noon lunch today.

**BE THERE!** Hotel Fresno  
6:15 P. M.  
—and Eats!

## THE PRESIDENT'S SUGGESTIONS

In his address to the club President Allardt outlined the policies for the coming year as follows:

(1) To keep the membership fully advised of all of the activities of the board of directors, the committees and the financial condition of the club.

A regular order of business will be followed at the meetings consistent with conditions.

The monthly evening meetings should be for Rotarians only and the program should consist only of Rotarians and for Rotarians.

To centralize the control of committees and make the committee work more efficient. Chairmen of the standing committees are members of the board or directors.

(2) To economize in every way consistent with good business judgment.

Our weekly Babblar will hereafter be printed but once a month.

Allowance to secretary has been voluntarily reduced by the

new secretary, he having suggested that the allowance be reduced from \$40 a month to \$10 a month.

The savings effected through these economies, it is estimated, will pay the expenses of two delegates to the annual convention.

(3) To increase the membership to at least 100 members.

This would mean that each one of our present members would be benefited by adding 35 intimate friends to his acquaintance, or at least bringing them closer to them. This is accomplishing one of the principles of our Rotary platform.

(4) To improve the educational side of our programs.

The monthly program committees should be a means of improving our meetings by injecting new ideas. It is every Rotarian's duty to respond when called upon for a talk and it is urged that the vocational idea be not overlooked. Outside speakers should be invited when our finances permit.

## LATE BULLETIN

Harry McKannay, president of the San Francisco Rotary Club, will be with us tonight

First issue of The Babblar in a four page newsletter format, 1918.



# PRESIDENTS

This began a trend of having weekly programs, including social trends, scientific advances and world problems. Club member's often travelled as exchange speakers to Clubs in other cities. The "Babbler" grew to a four page mini-newspaper, featuring personal notes on members and their families activities. The division of our nation into 13 Rotary districts including ours as the 13th District, which consisted of the four Southwestern states including Hawaii. This proved inadequate because of the increase in the number of Clubs in the West. The numbering system was changed to 23 Districts. In 1921, the numbering plan was reversed from East to West and our District was renumbered as number 2.

## HUGH ALLARDT 1918 TO 1919



President Hugh Allardt expressed a tradition of community involvement by members. He served on the Elks Club, the Masonic Lodge, the Fresno County Red Cross and several local business groups and associations. He also served concurrently as Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Fresno. He was an adept organizer. He sponsored the Organizational Wheel, patterned after the Rotary Emblem, with spokes indicating the roles of Directors of the Club in their responsibilities for the five committees. There were weekly programs stressing civic and business needs related to the war. Members participated in numerous civic duties, including chairmanships of the Liberty Loan Bond Drives, the Red Cross, Youth Agency and Home Security. The Rotary Club of Fresno led in organizing a city-wide Boy Scout Council, arranging for a Scout Council of 100 members to promote, finance and expand programs. Beginning with 13 troops, totaling less than 100 boys, a goal was set for 5,000 boys; growth was rapid thereafter. The Club sponsorship of Rotary Club in the Valley centered on Bakersfield. The plan was approved in Chicago, allowing a group of our members to go to Bakersfield to study possibilities. To further promote Rotary in the Valley, a caravan of 14 cars, carrying 50 members of the Rotary Club of Fresno, traveled to Stockton on May 5.

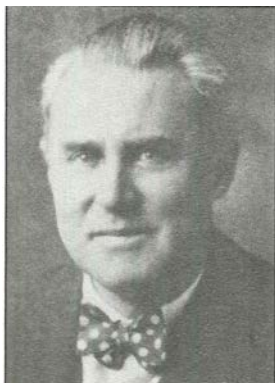
## E.E. WHITNEY 1919 TO 1920

Our fifth President was E. E. Whitney, who hailed from Boston, Massachusetts, moving here in 1906 as the manager of the National Cash Register Company. Since war related work no longer claimed the energies and resources of the Club, its emphasis upon Boy Scout activities now was greatly increased. Weekly programs highlighted the petroleum shortage which followed the war. The Rotary Club of Fresno voted to assist in the campaign to secure sign ups of all raisin growers to membership in a Growers Cooperative with hopes of stabilizing the raisin market and of improving local conditions.

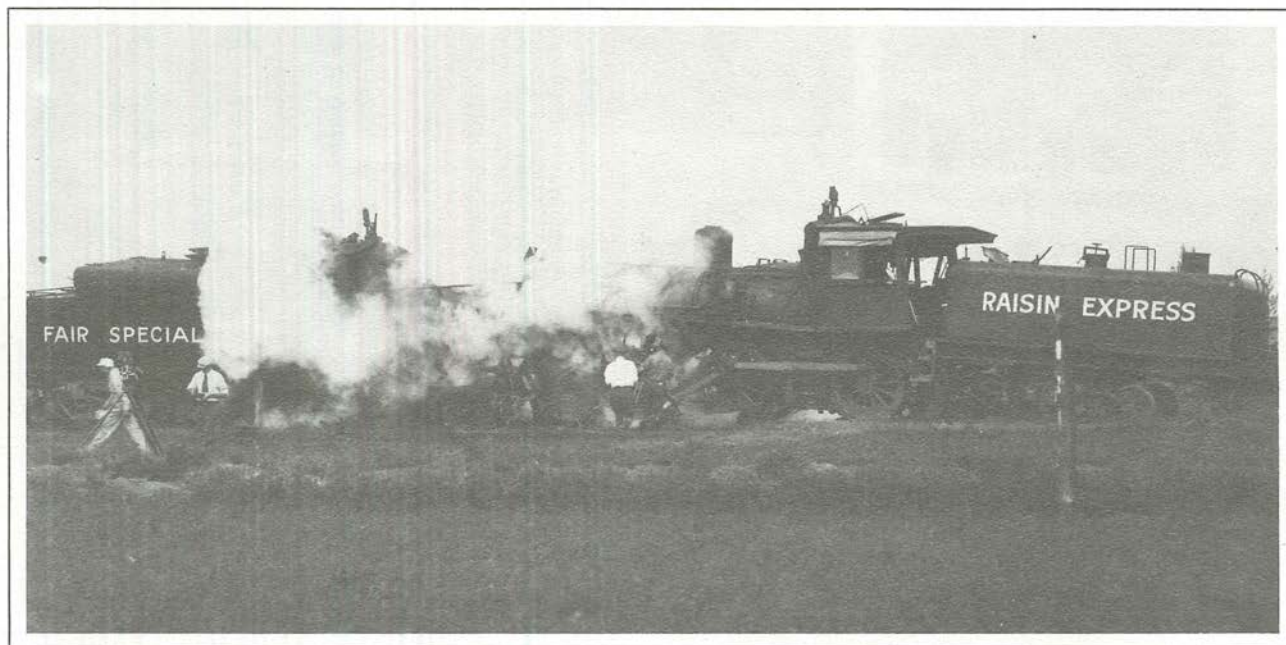


# PRESIDENTS

## CLARENCE STAPLES 1920 to 1921

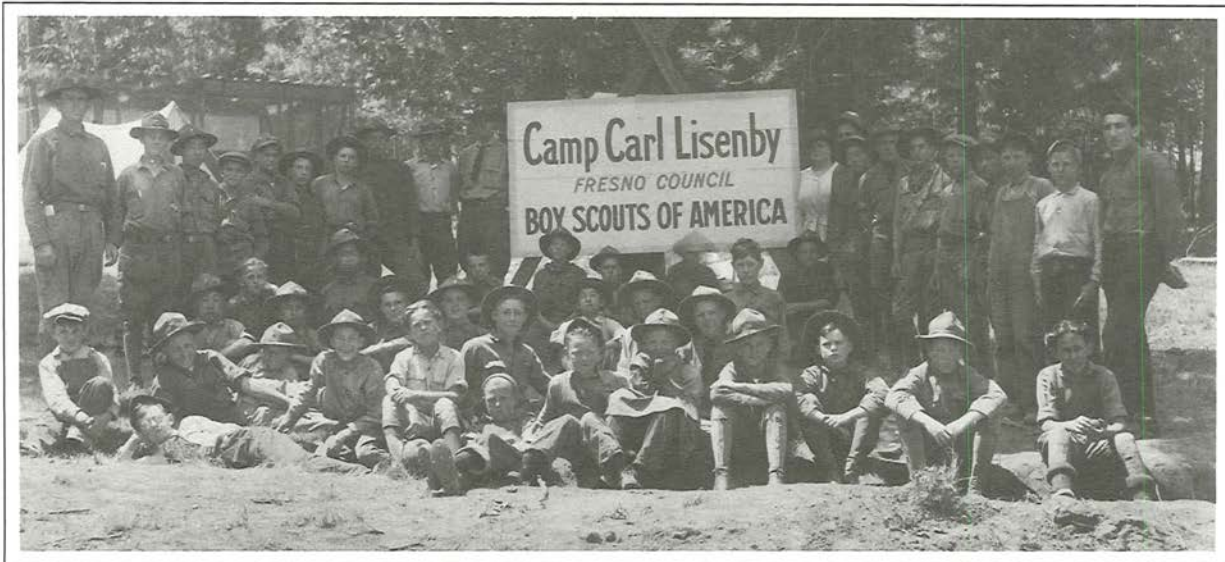


President Clarence Staples initiated his year by riding in on a mule for the first meeting. He then unveiled a list of the chairmen for the 10 Club committees. The Boys Work Committee helped raise \$3,200, which was one half of the budget of the Scout Council for the year. They also sponsored a "School Children's Day" on September 28, at the Fresno District Fair. The Club furnished 10 cars to transport local Scouts to a Stockton Jamboree. A burst of organizing activities was responsible for chartering new Clubs this year; Past President Hugh Allardt helped sponsor Bakersfield in 1920 and Porterville in 1921; Nye Sweet—Visalia in 1921; Andy Sturtevant—Madera and Dinuba in 1922. Weekly programs discussed the special needs of the fire and police departments. The Public Affairs Committee called a meeting of representatives of all civic organizations for the purpose of choosing superior candidates and persuading them to run for city offices. However, political complications prevented the complete success of this undertaking. This helped to remind the Club that precepts of Rotary included non-aligned politics. The practice of handing out fines was established and initially consisted of a fine of fifty cents for each absence from a meeting. The year ended with at the first Demotions Ceremony, which witnessed Gerald E. Thomas who "Swept Out Staples". This practice was formalized at the end of the next year and continued until 2012.



Staged train wreck at the Fresno Fair, 1919

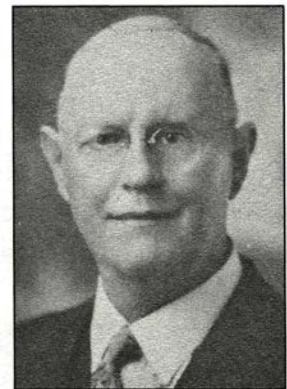
# PRESIDENTS



Carl Lisenby Boy Scout Camp at Bass Lake, 1920

## AL SUNDERLAND 1921 TO 1922

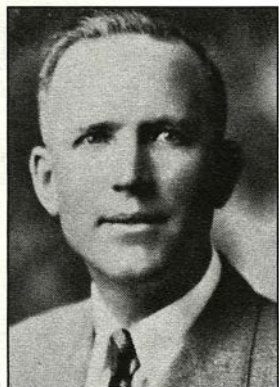
Under President Al Sunderland, the weekly programs were given a lively flair. Nevertheless, the fine for missed attendance was raised to 75 cents. A tradition was stated of supporting the Christmas Party at the "Old Folks Home." Among the special meetings and programs of the year, and one of the most successful, was the big inter-city Club meetings held in the spring of 1922. It was held in honor of new Clubs in the Valley, and almost 100% of the members of Dinuba and Madera were there, along with representatives from other Clubs from Merced to Bakersfield. District Governor Charles Bills came from Sacramento as the featured speaker. A memorable program was the "stirring" visit of Aimee Semple McPherson. The club began a tradition of visiting member's businesses with a visit to Ned Prescott's Auberry sawmill. To comply with Rules of Attendance of the Rotary International Convention, a fund was started to pay the major expenses of the delegates to the future International convention which was provided for by a slight surcharge to the luncheon charge. The year ended with the Demotion of President Al. The motives for a demotion and the way it was carried out are recalled by the master of the demotion, Jerry Thomas, who in 1951 wrote: "In the course of the dynasty another former mayor, Al Sutherland, was elected President." Al Sunderland also had some ideas of his own—so much so that before his term was over, he had acquired the name Czar AL, and, because there had been others elsewhere of similar bent, the sentiment was growing that no President should remain on the Board of Directors in the year immediately following his reign. That was to discourage the habit of Saying "Now in my time this is the way we did it." And thus it was, to cinch it for all time, that Al Sunderland was given a tin crown for a present at the conclusion of his term and demoted to the ranks — and that was the birth of the custom that has since spread far in Rotary, a ceremony known as "Demoting the Domo." Our colorful, demoted President would later become mayor in 1925.





# PRESIDENTS

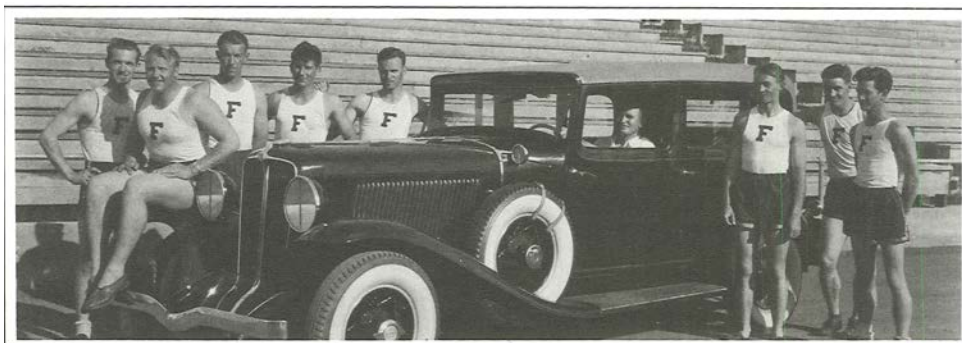
NEWTON A. JOHNSON 1922 TO 1923



The first attorney to serve as Club President was Newton A. Johnson. He promoted an improved program supported by a dues raise to \$30 a year. One program of note on June 19 was the appearance of Colonel Marshall. He explained what later became famous as the "Marshall Plan" for transporting water from Northern California to the deficient Valley; a plan which years later became the center of the Central Valley Project and seemed an essential step in solving the water problems so urgent 30 years later (or to this day). Club size was limited by space at the Hotel Fresno and members organized to support a new hotel with facilities for service club meetings. This would lead to the birth of the Hotel Californian. Members also supported continued civic efforts to develop a Raisin Cooperative.

GERALD F. THOMAS/ 1923 TO 1924

The term of Gerald F. Thomas was marked by several organizational changes. First, the office of Vice-President was discontinued, with those functions to be shared by the Directors. Chairmanship for weekly programs was rotated monthly through 12 divisions of the Club; but when this proved unworkable, a chairman, serving on an annual basis was established. Using Rotary International Guidelines, classifications were extended to many subclassifications under the major vocations, as set up in the manual. Openings for membership were available to specialists in such fields as medicine, law and finance. The Rotary Club of Fresno was instrumental through a representative committee in aiding the establishment of The Community Chest for Fresno by helping to draw up the bylaws to govern the preparation for the project and the conduct of the annual campaign. For the first time, a special assessment of \$5 was raised for Earthquake Disaster Relief for Japan that had suffered fearful losses in August 1923. The final meeting of the year was held in the new Hotel Californian. Fines previously at 15 cents were for the first time raised to \$5, and, according to Gerry Thomas, this almost broke up the Club.



J. Flint Hanner with his  
1921 Fresno State  
College track team.



California Hotel 1923





For several years the Rotary Club sponsored a float in the Raisin Day Parade - here 1925. The Club voted against active participation - especially marching!

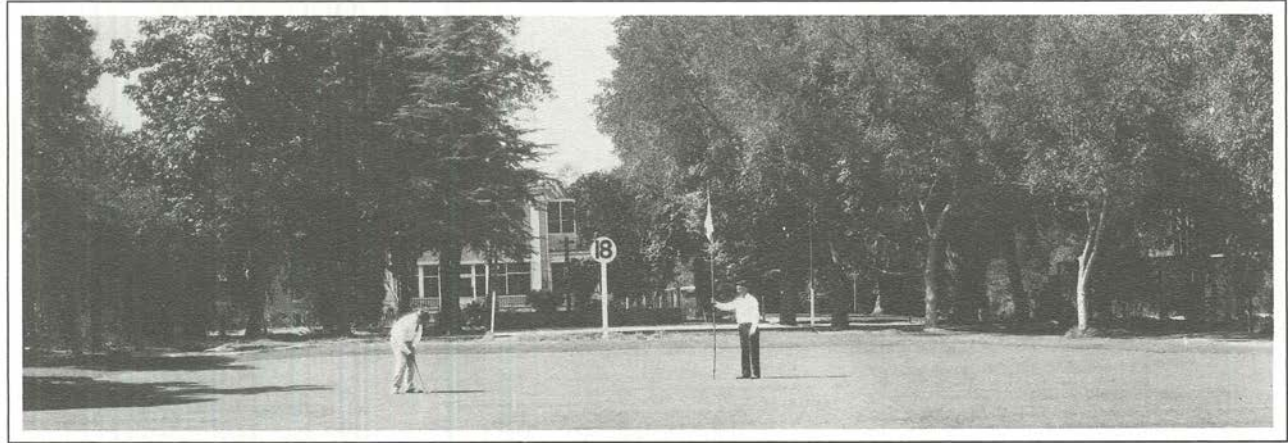
#### JOHN F. MCKENNA 1924 TO 1925



President John F. McKenna, M.D., witnessed the close of a 10 year period, much as the period that opened—with the Rotary Club of Fresno hosting the District Conference, for District 2, on March 25. Every member of the Club participated in the 14 committees it required to produce a very successful and memorable convention. The hard work for these committees over the year garnered praise from all Clubs in the District, but more importantly it gave the entire Club a sense of unity, pride and satisfaction through the service that was to set the tone and spirit of the Club for years to come. A dues raise was necessary to \$42 and an inter-city program was launched to gain Valley support for the conference. The added jobs led to the hiring of the first full-time Secretary, at \$100 a month, and the acceptance of a rent-free room at the Hotel Californian, which was the first office for the Rotary Club of Fresno. The Rotary Club of Fresno sponsored the Selma Club. Organizationally, the Club had reached 142 members and established a format for the Education Committee which was to be responsible for instruction of new members on the meaning of Rotary membership. Rotary International changed their emblem from a buggy wheel, adopted in 1906, to a gear with 24 cogs, six spokes and a central keyway, an emblem soon adopted by all Rotary Clubs.

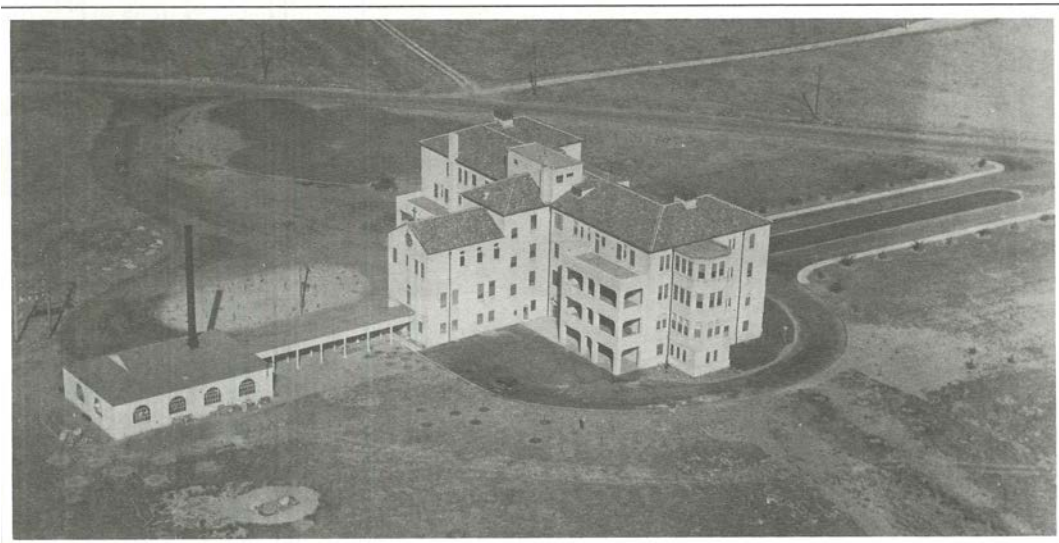


# FRESNO 1925 TO 1940



18th Green, Sunnyside Country Club, 1925

The bubble of prosperity which would contract with the stock market crash of 1929, heralded the arrival of refugees from the Mid-West in the 1930's. The bubble was still growing at the opening of this period, as Fresno saw the licensing of Radio Station KMJ in 1925, the start of regular air service in 1926 at Chandler Field, the opening of the Saint Agnes Hospital in 1928, the organization of the Fresno Art Association in 1928 and the publication of the first short stories of William Saroyan. Silent movies played at the Bijou and the airways carried the voices of Kate Smith, Rudy Vallee and Bing Crosby. The biggest problem facing the Fresno County Welfare Department was a program to support the unemployed. A city shelter temporarily housed unemployed men. They would not be returned to work in any great numbers until funds were designated by the Federal Government. Federal programs enlisted local manpower through the Works Project Association (WPA), in the building of the county school buildings in 1936, the Memorial Auditorium and the Hall of Records in 1937, the Fresno Post Office and Friant Dam in 1939 and a new City Hall in 1941. These hard times were counteracted by the efforts of the Salvation Army, the Community Chest and the encouraging "Fireside Chats" of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Fresno's population reached 60,000.



St. Agnes Hospital on Fruit Avenue, 1925





In 1893 Fresno Milling Company was sold to Sperry Flour Company and managed by Club member Ray Cornell. They operated the mill until 1925 when it was closed.

# PRESIDENTS

CHASE OSBORN, JR. 1925 TO 1926

President Chase Osborn, Jr. started each meeting with the words "your attention please." This "Attention" centered on Club activities. The tradition of inviting members of the Senior Class of Fresno High School to attend the last luncheon meeting before their commencement was started. Support was given to needy boys to attend summer camp. One special project was undertaken which would begin a process that would consume four years of effort and more than \$5,000. The task involved the rehabilitation of a boy in Laton who was born with multiple orthopedic problems. It was only many years later that the Club would learn that this effort had resulted in a productive adult. An assessment of \$5 for earthquake relief was raised for the Santa Barbara trembler in 1925.



ANDREW J. STURTEVANT 1926 TO 1927



The regime of Andrew J. Sturtevant as President saw youth activities emphasized. The Club gave strong emphasis to community service, continued to support a regular Boy Scout program and a special appropriation of \$150 was made toward paying the expense of a group of Eagle Scouts who made a strenuous hiking trip to Mount Whitney. The Club sent representatives to San Francisco in August to take part in an organizational meeting of the California Society for Crippled Children. The Society had two purposes: To promote volunteer service in helping secure proper care and treatment for crippled children and also to work for legislation by which the state would provide special and educational facilities for such children. The custom of having a joint meeting with the Community Chest

Campaign Workers was begun in October of that year, and, in fact, the major part of the leadership in the fund raising of the campaign for the Chest was provided by members of the Rotary Club of Fresno. By now, various organizations in the city had become interested in "Boys Work" and were carrying on projects of their own. To minimize duplication, the Rotary Club of Fresno invited other service clubs and all organizations interested in boys club activities to attend a meeting, on November 17, 1926, to consider ways of correcting these wasteful duplications. At this meeting, a Boys Work Council was organized for the exchange of information among participating clubs or agencies and for coordinating the various kinds and areas of work for boys. Under Membership policies, the Board of Directors voted to accept the recommendation of Rotary International and open additional active classifications. This reversed the trend toward higher average age of the membership. In order that the territorial limits for the Club would be clear, it was decided that a boundary of a 10 mile radius around the City of Fresno would be established. A twice a year program for fostering closer ties with neighboring Rotary Clubs was adopted and which included Madera, Merced, Turlock and Modesto. In the spring another meeting brought together all Valley Clubs "for an inter-city meeting," with Fresno again, as the host Club.





Pageant Scene—District Conference March 19-21, 1925—Old Municipal Auditorium at Kern and L Streets. Pageant titled “The Test of Rotary” with ideas by Gerry Thomas and George Hume, dialogue by Frank Thomas. Featured a “Father Time Person” on upper level who learned of ways Rotarians acted to help their fellow man in “Service above Self.” Pantomimed on lower level. In conclusion, songs of nine of the 23 countries that made up the Rotary world were sung by singers from the Fresno State College chorus dressed in appropriate costumes. 3,371 were in attendance.



ROTARY CLUB OF FRESNO

# BABBLER

VOL. VIII

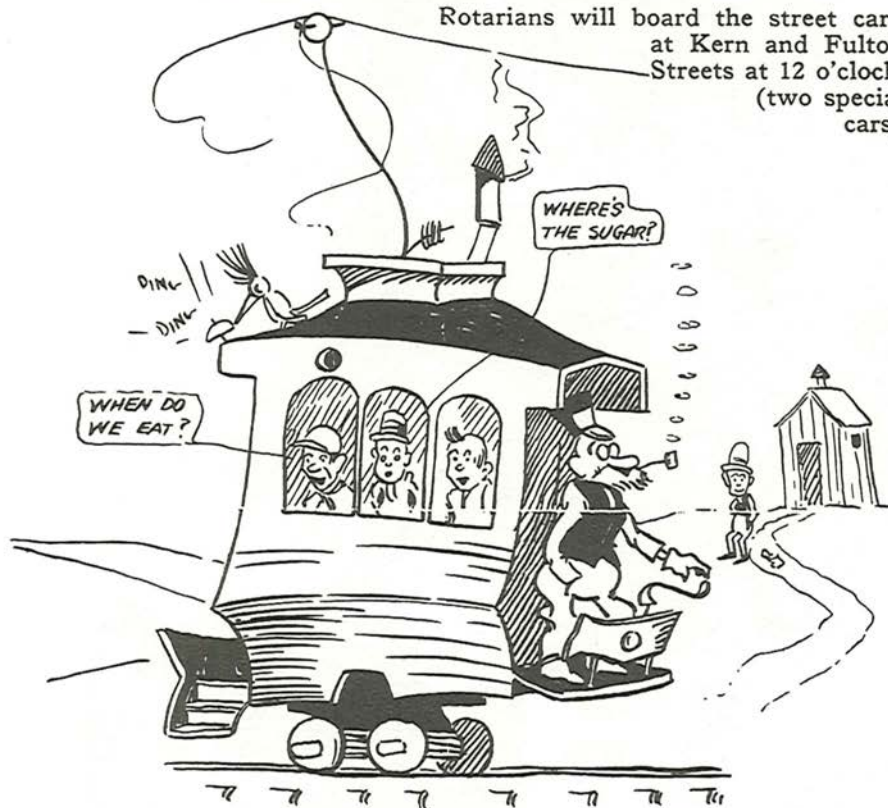
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, JUNE 21, 1926

No. 12

**EXTRA!**  
**YOU MUST BE AT THE CALIFORNIAN HOTEL**  
**TODAY BY 12 O'CLOCK**

**All Plans Indicate Trip to Sugar Pine**  
**Mill Will Be Well Attended**

Rotarians will board the street cars  
at Kern and Fulton  
Streets at 12 o'clock.  
(two special  
cars)



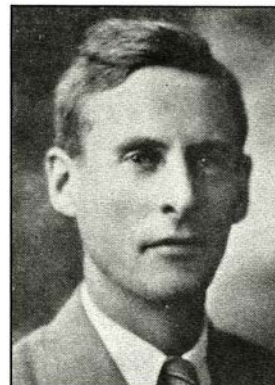
**ALL ABOARD FOR SUGAR PINE**

The round trip fare on the cars and your lunch at the Mill will cost you \$1.50, so get your change ready. Each man will receive a colored card as his receipt and identification at the Mill. Your guide at the mill will wear a color corresponding to the one you are given—look for the

# PRESIDENTS

## S. PARKER FRISSELLE 1927 TO 1928

Great inspiration and enthusiasm was exuded by President S. Parker Friesselle, returning from a great International Convention of Rotary at Ostude, Belgium in 1927. That enthusiasm was continued by the Rotary Club of Fresno and expressed in the formation of a new Boys Work Council of Fresno whose budget supported a camp for the needy boys. The Rotary Club of Fresno established its own Budget Committee, using this format to handle expenditures on an annual basis. Several committee projects stand out for the year. In June of 1927 the Rotary Club of Fresno joined with the Lions Club in sponsoring a civic dinner in honor of Charles L. McLane retiring from the Presidency of the Fresno Normal School. In October, the Rotary Club of Fresno furnished leadership in the campaign of the Community Chest and donated \$1,200 to that organization. The Rotary Club of Fresno also sent a resolution endorsing a statewide movement to develop a Society for Crippled Children. A gift of \$550 helped provide a special Christmas Party at the Old People's Home. A Club visitation included a trip to the Rotary Club of San Francisco. The ever increasing size of District 2 led to the development of an Executive Conference for new Club President's and to the intuition of a simplified visitation plan for the Governor's annual visit to each Club. Finally, the end of the year found the Board of Directors purchasing statuary for display in the Short Home as a memorial to culture in the community.

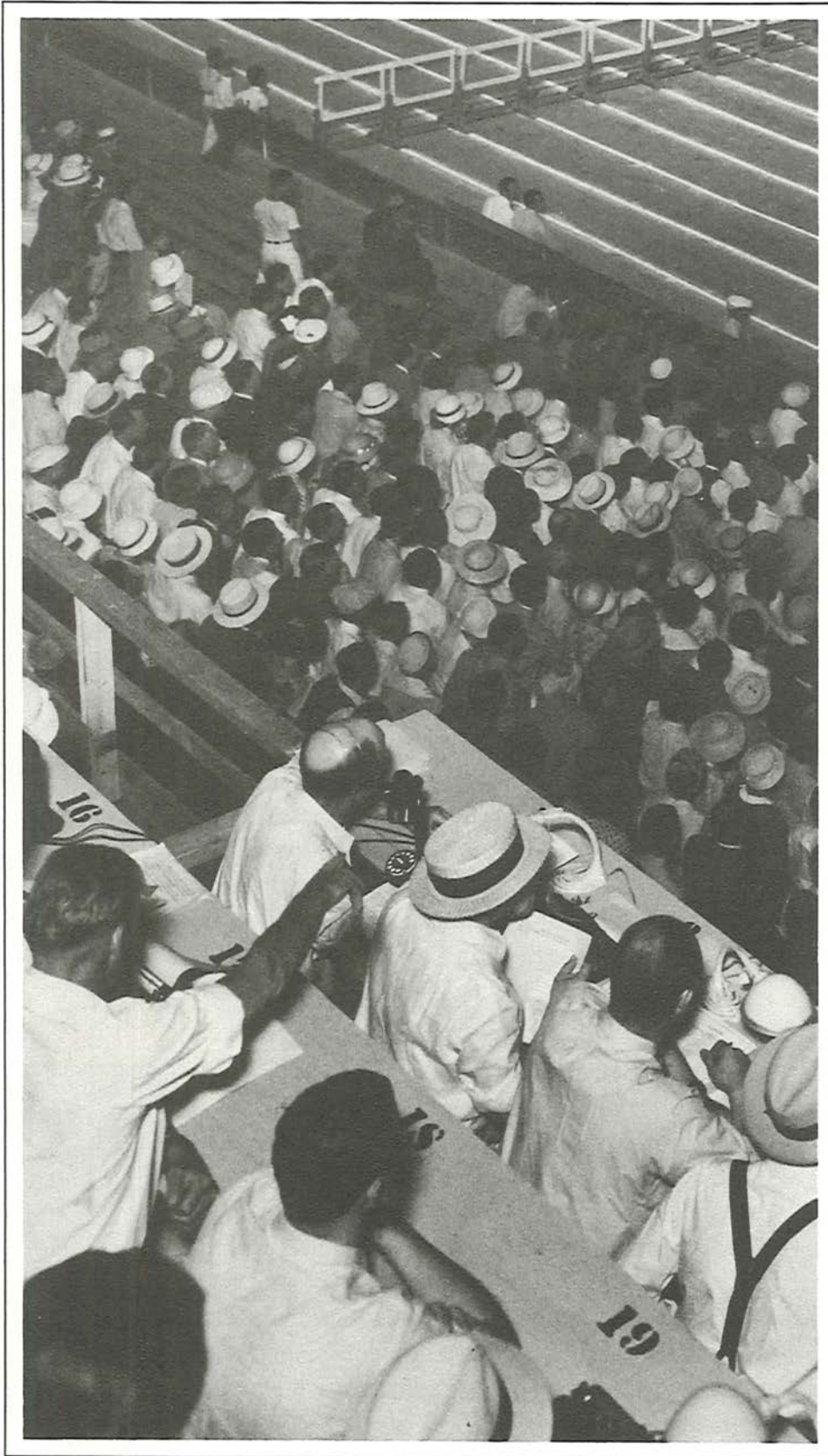


## CHARLES F. THOMPSON 1928 TO 1929



It was clear to President Charles F. Thompson and the Board of Directors that increasing community service projects required a special committee— which was duly organized in that year. Two new annual customs were begun: The Annual Rotary Picnic was held at Roeding Park and would later become an annual Sports Day at Sunnyside Country Club; the attendance of student presidents of local high schools and state colleges, as guests, at regular meetings was begun. By the following spring, this plan had proved so successful in bringing about closer understanding with the student groups that there was less regret in giving up the custom of inviting the whole group of senior boys from Fresno High School to the Club as guests just before commencement, an undertaking that had become impossible because of the increased numbers graduating. Club organization improved with a Bylaws Amendment, which provide an improved format for the election of officers. The Board of Directors formed a separate committee to act as the Aims and Objects Committee of the Club, formulating its goals for each year. This was a recommendation of Rotary International for Clubs with less than 150 members. It was left to the Chairman of the 14 committees to make committee recommendations as to size and membership.





The West Coast Relays began in 1927

# PRESIDENTS

HARRY E. OWENS 1929 TO 1930

Rotary Club of Fresno activities during the presidency of Harry E. Owens continued to demonstrate support for community concerns. This showed itself in support and financial aid in the establishment of the Junior Traffic Officers program for school crossings. The depression brought special problems and concerns. The Community Chest Drive had fallen short. To support it the Rotary Club of Fresno donated an additional \$500 for the Boy Scouts and \$400 towards expenses for 40 boys at summer camp. Raisin sales had fallen and as an act of prohibition wineries were closed. This led the Club to support legislation to begin to limit and control raisin tonnage going to market. Dues were not changed. A memorial gift to house the exhibits of the Science Department at Fresno State College was funded. Also at this time, the Vatican announced that Catholic Priests were not to consider membership in Rotary as a suitable use of their time. This made their continued membership very delicate. As a result several priests resigned from the Club.



AL PAUL 1930 TO 1931



"To emphasize the positive," President Al Paul had a special Club council session which endorsed four aims: increase membership to 150 and achieve 100 percent attendance in at least one quarter; supporting the aims of Rotary International by inviting foreign speakers to the Club; stress greater tolerance for local groups of foreign extraction; and to urge Club members to assume personal responsibility for aiding needy students. Of note was the beginning of financial support for establishing Christmas Tree Lane. Weekly programs focused on worldwide economic stresses particularly in Europe, and emphasis was placed on attending the upcoming International Convention in Vienna, Austria. The International President for this year would be Al Roth, past President of the Rotary Club of Palo Alto.

FRANK THOMAS 1931 TO 1932

The term of Frank Thomas began a month later than usual as he and other delegates remained for an extra month in Europe, gaining impressions of the civil distress. At home it was necessary to increase dues, but financial support for charitable programs continued in the forms of grants to the Community Chest, the YMCA, the YWCA, scholarship loans and the Salvation Army. No new special committee projects were undertaken this year. A donation was made for earthquake relief to Santiago de Cuba. Club membership declined from 146 to 133 members.



# ROTARY'S FOUR WAY TEST

In 1932, Herbert J. Taylor, the newly appointed president of a nearly bankrupt Chicago cookware company, believing his employees were in need of an “ethical yardstick,” wrote four questions on a small, white piece of paper:

1. **IS IT THE TRUTH?**
2. **IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED?**
3. **WILL IT BUILD GOODWILL AND BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
4. **WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED?**

When Taylor penned what came to be known as The Four-Way Test, the country was in the grip of the Great Depression, and there was widespread distrust of banks and corporations after the stock market crash three years earlier.

At the Aluminum Products Company, a new and expensive type of cookware was being sold with rapidly declining success by door-to-door salesmen using high-pressure tactics.

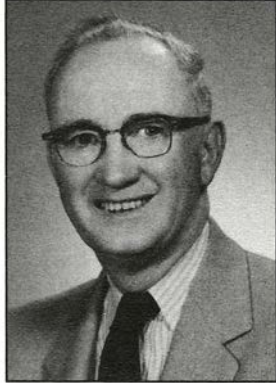
Although Taylor instituted additional measures, such as establishing distribution channels through retail stores and offering free trials and affordable payment plans, he came to believe that applying his test to his Club's advertising and sales methods was the key factor that led to the company's remarkable return to profitability.





# PRESIDENTS

JOE DALE 1932 TO 1933



Club Spirit was kept high as the "Club Jester," Joe Dale became President, and he intended that "There would never be a dull moment." Stringent times required continue reduction in dues and a reduction in initiation fees from \$50 to \$25. Membership retention received special attention. In addition to maintaining the support for established charities, new caps were provided for the Junior Traffic Officers and \$25 was contributed to the San Joaquin Valley Tourist and Travel Association. The Four Way Test was introduced by Rotary International and the Rotary Club of Fresno set up a committee to expand and publicize these principles.

MOUNT K. WILD 1933 TO 1934

Soon after the election of Mount K. Wild as President, Fresno was selected to hold the 1934 District Conference. A special drive to increase membership by reducing the initiation fee and broadening classifications, brought the membership to 150 and ensured enough help for the upcoming Convention. To accomplish this goal the Rotary Club of Fresno arranged for construction of new facilities at the Fresno Fairgrounds. The hard times limited attendance at this District Conference; nevertheless, the third Convention to be hosted in Fresno was deemed a success. Support for charities continued unchanged.



Century Pacific Airlines, Chandler Airport, 1931

# PRESIDENTS

HARRY SHIELDS 1934 TO 1935



The 20th President of the Rotary Club of Fresno, Harry Shields, saw several changes in policy. To combat new member indifference, prospective members were obliged to meet with the Rotary Information Committee before being officially accepted into membership. Support for the Community Chest was continued, but it was decided to make no special donation to agencies already included in the Chest budget. Exceptions were the boys' activities. A special donation went towards the Boy Scout and YMCA combined project of building a dam at Sequoia Lake. The Annual Meeting in April elected Augie Johnson as President. However, he was soon transferred from Fresno and only served a few short months. To replace him, Frank A. Homan was elected. In 1915 when he was President of the Merchant's

Association, Frank Homan had opposed the developing organization of the Rotary Club of Fresno. Now he would soon preside over the Club's 20th anniversary in 1935—a further testimony to Rotary's winning ways.

AUGIE JOHNSON 1935

The term of Augie Johnson lasted only until August before his moving out the area.



FRANK A. HOMAN 1935 TO 1936

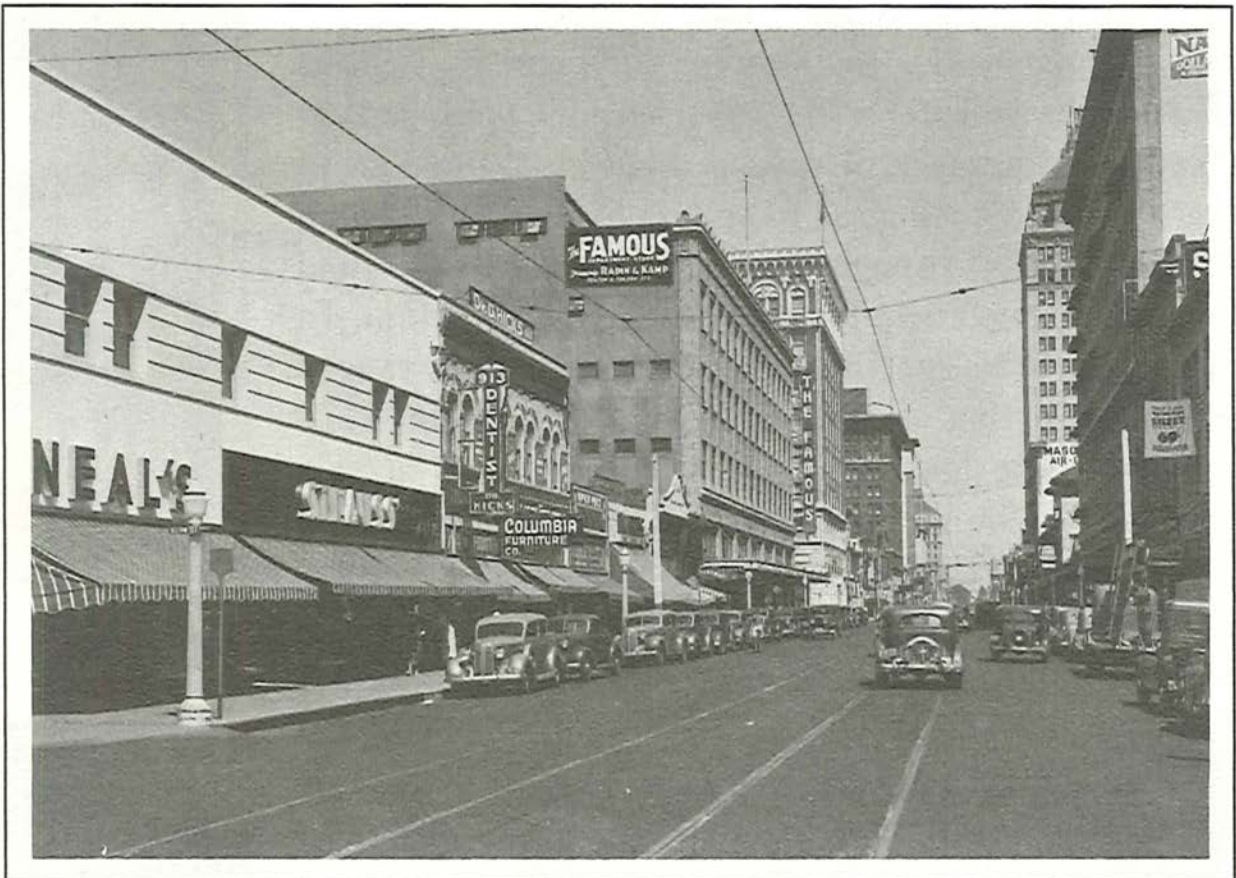


Although Frank A. Homan's administration started late in August, it accomplished much by increasing the budget to charities, voting an assessment of \$1 for flood relief on the East Coast, setting up a Rotary Student Loan Fund with a special Board of Trustees, dropping the requirement of initiation fees to the clergy and reducing their annual fees by 50 percent. The Rotary Club of Fresno voted to contribute \$100 towards a Queen's Float in the upcoming celebration of Fresno's 50 years as an incorporated city. The Rotary Club of Avenal was dedicated with our sponsorship. The size of District 2 continues to be debated amongst the various Clubs in the Valley and Rotary International would soon intervene to decree that a division was necessary by 1937.

# PRESIDENTS

JESS E. RODMAN 1936 TO 1937

Club activities during the regime of Jess E. Rodman were generally routine. The Initiation Fee was raised from \$25 to \$40. The Club budget stood at \$7,500 and included \$1,200 for charity, \$250 for the Student Loan and \$100 for flood relief in China. The Club accepted the inevitable breakup of District 2, which was voted on at the District Conference in Hollywood, and this created District 106, which ran from Lodi to Monterey in the North, down to Taft and Ventura on the South. The Avenal Rotary Club was chartered on December 7, 1936, with the help of George Hume representing the Rotary Club of Fresno.

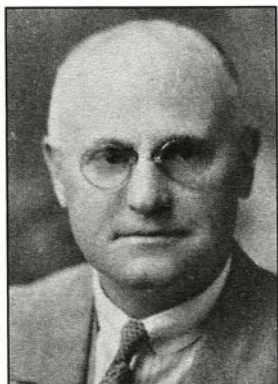


Fulton St. between Merced and Tuolumne, April 1936

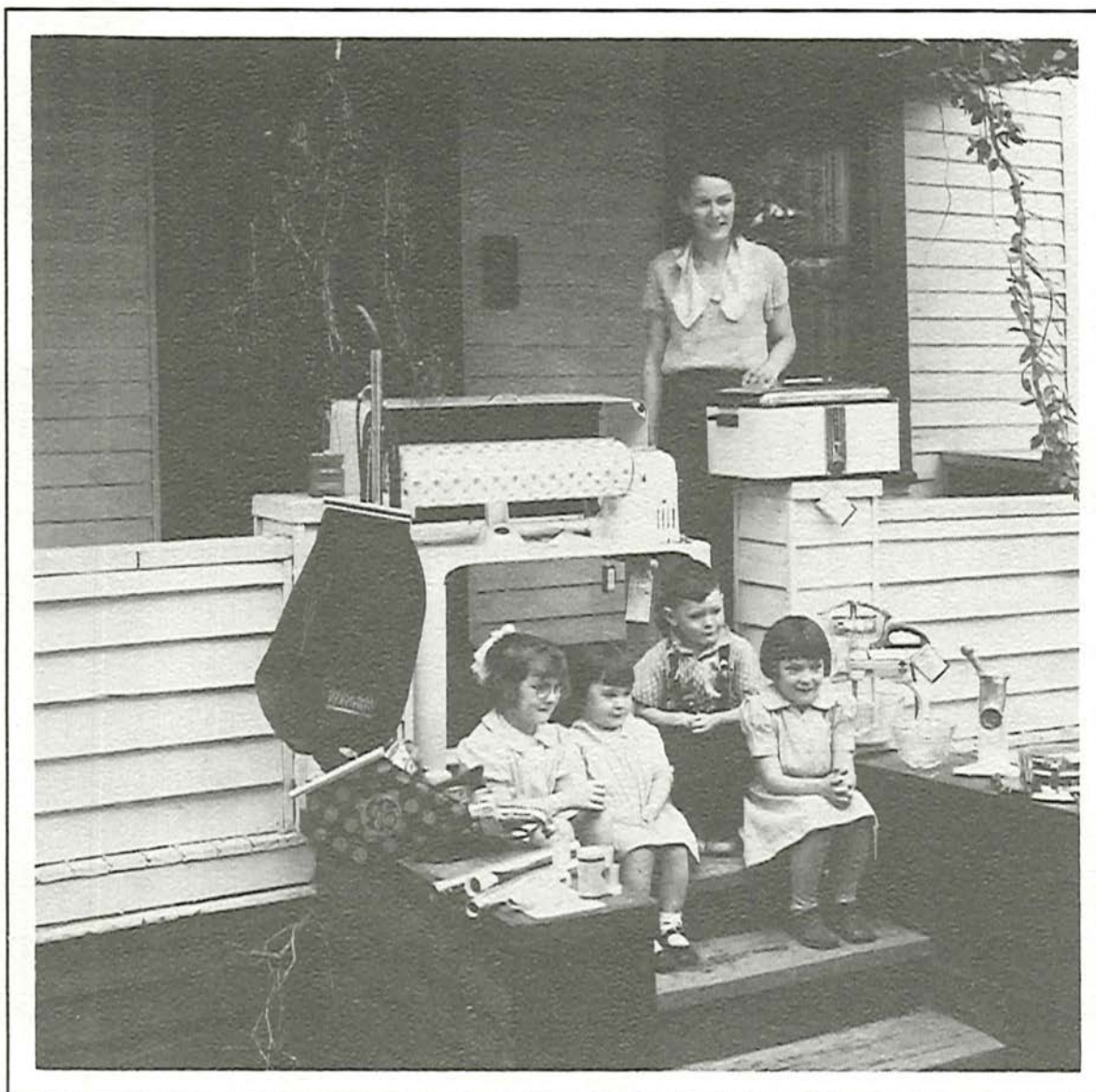


# PRESIDENTS

JACK H. PETTIS, M.D. 1937 TO 1938



Club activities, in the area of budget, under Jack H. Pettis, M.D. as President, were much as they had been. It was decided at this time to place budget items on a standard basis in a policy creating fixed expenditures for community services. The Club adopted a policy of nonparticipation in marching groups or as float sponsors in civic parades, but continued their leadership roles and financial assistance where needed. More than half the Club attended the 1938 Rotary International Convention in San Francisco. The first "long term" Club Secretary, George Hume, resigned that important post after 10 years of Service.



Typical "Modern" home electrical appliances, 1937.

# PRESIDENTS



On Armistice Day Parade, 1937

## ROBERT W. POTTER 1938 TO 1939

President Robert W. Potter began his term by attending the first District Assembly designed to give instruction in the responsibilities of the incoming officer. Joining him were the Club Secretary and Chairman of the Club's Community Service Committee. The forerunner of the Sunshine Committee was established to maintain communication with old members. The practice of presenting out-of-state visitors with a memento of their visit to the Fresno Club was also started in the fall of this year. Both the Club and the community were enjoying a spirit of prosperity and by December 1938 the Club membership passed, for the first time, the 150 mark. An inter-city meeting of Clubs in the Southern Valley sent out an invitation to the new Rotary Club of Avenal and to support that 36 Fresno Rotarians attended that meeting by traveling on a special bus.





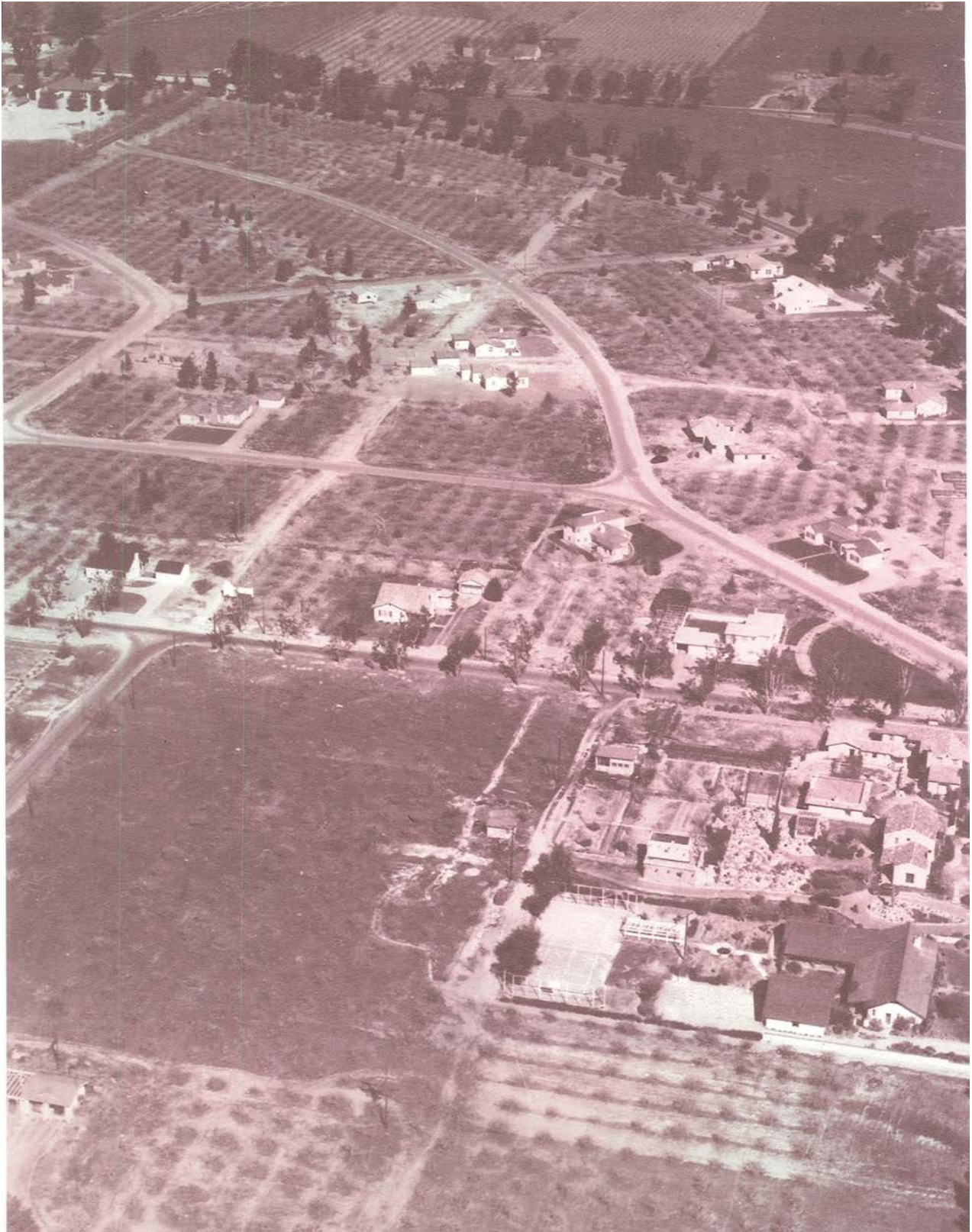


Fig Garden looking north to Shaw, 1939

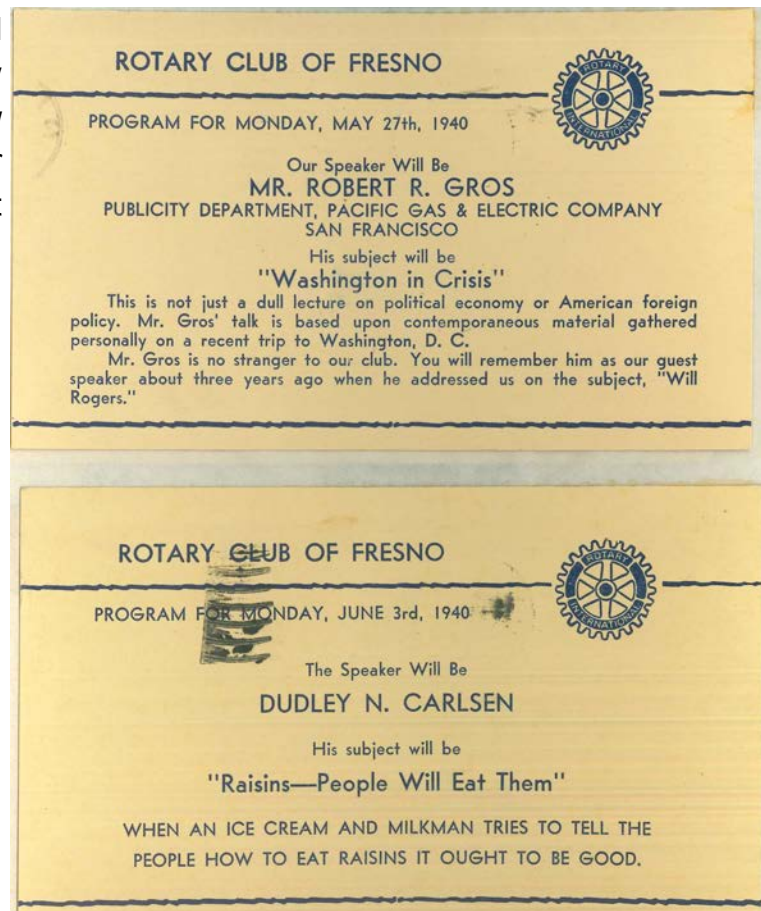


# PRESIDENTS

HAROLD W. CHUTTER 1939 TO 1940



During the term of President Harold W. Chutter, the Club held 48 regular meetings at the Hotel Californian with the exception of the Sports Day Program at Sunnyside Country Club, the West Coast Relays program at Fresno State College and a visit to the plant of Producers Cotton Oil Company. Two additional nonattendance affairs were held: On February 22, an intercity meeting with all Clubs of District 106 was held and on May 8, a Kiwanis-Rotary Golf Tournament followed by a dinner was held at Sunnyside Country Club. On May 20, Rotarians and Ladies attended the Charter Presentation of the Rotary Club of Corcoran and present that club with an American Flag. On June 27, 19 members attended the Charter Presentation of the Rotary Club of Los Banos, which was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Fresno, with 38 Charter Members. Of the 48 regular programs held during the year, nine covered subjects related to Club Service, 13 Community Service, 11 Vocational Service topics and 15 Internationals affairs. Eight members spoke on various subjects during the year. Special constructive activities included: a donation of \$1,000 to Fresno State College to be used in project work; the Bylaws were revised; two large and three small Rotary signs were placed on the main approaches to Fresno by the Public Affairs Committee and a new loudspeaker was purchased. The year ended with the Demotion of President Chutter.



# News and Views

## ROTARY CLUB OF FRESNO

CARROLL BAIRD, President  
Phone 3-3241

Rotary Office, Hotel Californian  
Phone 3-3611

LESLIE N. PATERSON, Secretary  
Phone 3-7194

### PROGRAM FOR MONDAY, JULY 12, 1943

What I Saw  
What I Heard  
What I Learned  
At the Rotary Convention at St. Louis and Later  
CARROLL BAIRD, Our New President

### PROGRAM FOR

MONDAY, JULY 19, 1943

JOHN K. CHAPEL, Radio Commentator  
Will talk on Russia, Past and Present  
Lieut. Milton Budd of Camp Pinedale and  
Mary Jane, singer, also will entertain

### THIS IS YOUR PAPER

Carroll Baird, our new president, is going to be a task maker. I can see that. One of the first orders he gave was to direct the already overworked Public Information Committee to get out the News and Views twice a month. Loyal to our new boss, the committee has assumed the task with this issue.

In the past George Hume has done this job and the club owes him a vote of thanks for the time and effort he has put into it. He has done a splendid job and the Information Committee only hopes it can do as well.

The committee wants every member of Rotary to know that this is his publication. Particularly should the chairmen of the various committees realize this and take advantage of it. If you have a meeting notice, a club appeal, a story, a feature or any material which seems suitable for this paper, please mail it or phone it to Bob McLaughlin, chairman of the committee. By necessity he is

thoroughly familiar with the laws of libel so don't try to fool him. Mail should be directed to him care The Fresno Bee and phone calls to 3-5221.

There may be a lot of little items of interest to Rotarians you would like to see in News and Views. Send them along and we'll try and squeeze them in.

Material should be sent by noon on alternate Wednesdays. The closing time for copy on the next issue will be noon Wednesday, July 21st.

### AL DID IT AGAIN

That Kuhn boy is good when it comes to debunking tired and retired past presidents of Rotary. Because of the paper shortage he had no prepared speech, not even notes, but he stood up before the mike last Monday and told things about Outgoing President Ed Copland the latter had forgotten.

Al does it in a nice way. All his words are dipped in honey. He deals not in satire or in sarcasm. As a "jello-

tiner" he lets the blade fall where it will, just so it hits the neck of his victim.

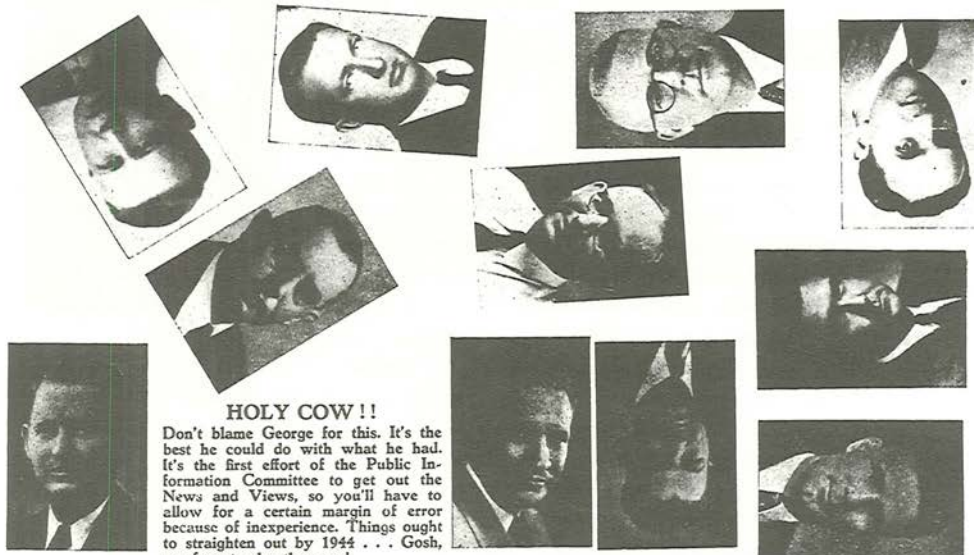
It was all in good fun. We laughed. Ed laughed and Gerry Thomas stepped up and congratulated Al. It was a nice gesture on Gerry's part, keeping Al pepped up so Gerry won't fall heir to the job again.

### A SILENT PRAYER

President Carroll will initiate a new ritual at Monday's meeting that is going to be most impressive. After the Star Spangled Banner has been sung members of the Fresno Rotary Club will stand in silent prayer for 60 seconds as they pay tribute to the Rotarians, their sons and daughters, who are in the service.

We know what the prayer will be. It will ask God's help in bringing the war to a speedy and successful end and that Rotarians and their relatives in the armed services return home safely. The president's gong will sound the end of prayer.

## Meet The New Board of Directors!



### HOLY COW !!

Don't blame George for this. It's the best he could do with what he had. It's the first effort of the Public Information Committee to get out the News and Views, so you'll have to allow for a certain margin of error because of inexperience. Things ought to straighten out by 1944 . . . Gosh, we forgot who they are!



# FRESNO 1940 TO 1955

The decade opened with American's growing involvement in World War II. 25,000 Fresnans, from the total population of 70,000, entered active service. War Relief programs increased. Three military bases were established in Fresno. The tension of wartime saw the creation of the USO Clubs and local bands. A third radio station KFRE, was started. The Fresno Philharmonic and Fresno Art League were begun. Fresno's population grew by 30,000, necessitating additional growth of facilities at Saint Agnes Hospital and the new Fresno Community Hospital, formerly the Burnett Sanitarium. Roeding Park Zoo was developed, aided by the creation of the Fresno Zoological Society (1949) and donation of Playland by the Rotary Clubs of Fresno (1954). The increasing numbers of people required new homes, forcing growth of the city from its center to the North. Life became more complex as Fresno watched baseball (St. Louis Cardinals Farm Team, 1941), ice hockey (The Fresno Falcons, 1946) and softball (The Fresno Rockets). To our newspaper and radio coverage was quickly added the dimensions of television. Leisure pursuits were diversified to accommodate most urban needs.



Materials furnished by the Rotary Club of Fresno were used in the construction by Boy Scouts at Camp Oneonta, 1940.



# PRESIDENTS

HARRY MITCHELL, M. D. 1940 TO 1941

With war threatening, the administration of Harry Mitchell, M.D., gave special attention to problems of idle youth awaiting the draft. Prompting this was the Eastern newspaper report of attacks by juveniles on Wendell Wilkie and his wife while on the speakers' platform in the Wilkie-Roosevelt Presidential Campaign of 1940. This led to a one day district wide Youth Conference in Fresno, called by District Governor Hugh Dormody. The object of the conference was to develop a practical program of community youth service for all Rotary Clubs in District 106. Several members of the Club were drafted into the service of the country and the Club decided to award Honorary Membership to any member who was called. Over the next two years, this privilege was granted to Earle Granger,



Brenton Bradford, Heine Bray, Walter Clark, Graydon Ross, Bud Fine, Walter Wilson, Vern Snorgrass, Doctor Neil Dau, Doctor Monty Doane and Doctor John Morgan. The club celebrated its 25th Anniversary in December 1940, with a speaker and special program. A close-up motion picture, in color, of each and every member of the Rotary Club was made at this time.

AL KUHN 1941 TO 1942



The term of Al Kuhn witnessed the effects of war and Rotary's response. In the words of Al Kuhn, "You of course, will recall that Pearl Harbor occurred on December 7, a Sunday, and our Rotary meeting was the next day. Everyone was quite serious and I asked Reverend Neil McGowan to offer a prayer for our safe deliverance from the attack and fortunately we planned a serious party for Christmas and I turned the total arrangement over to George Hume. In one corner of the room he had arranged a replica of a church window and at the proper moment the lights were dimmed and a group of young children came in singing and carrying lighted candles. There was singing by the Fresno State College Choir and again Neil McGowan spoke to a very quiet and serious audience. "One response of the Fresno Club was to extend hospitality to Rotarians, or sons of Rotarians serving at Fresno military bases. One outstanding achievement was the assistance of the Club in securing the property located on the San Joaquin River, in Fresno County, for the Sequoia Council of Boy Scouts of American. A donation of \$1,100 towards provision of a fence for the property led to it being known as Scout Island. This facility was used by the Scouts for the purpose of taking tests in camping, cooking, etc., thus saving the expense and time of going into the mountains for this purpose. This property was used by the Signal Corps of the United States Army, during the war, for training soldiers in camouflage. A District Conference was held at the Fox Wilson Theatre, with 918 people attending.

# PRESIDENTS

## EDWARD R. COPLAND 1942 TO 1943

President Edward R. Copland led a delegation to a District Assembly held especially to decide on Rotary's participation in wartime activities. Officers and Committee Chairmen from the Rotary Clubs of Avenal, Dinuba, Selma and Fresno discussed what might be done. Most of the attention centered on ways of cooperating with the officers of the big air base at Hammer Field and the Induction center at the Fresno Fairgrounds in promoting morale of the men. It was agreed to participate in the Relief Program of Rotary International and to set up and give assistance to families of Rotarians in desperate distress due to the war. The Directors of the Rotary Club of Fresno made an initiation donation of \$250 to Rotary International Relief. There were no Club contributions to the Community Chest that year; however, the salary for the Secretary was increased to \$150 and \$300 was donated to furnish a room at the Basic Training Center.



## CARROLL H. BAIRD 1943 TO 1944



Carroll H. Baird, President, presided over a club structure that was dominated by a Names and Object Committee which had under it four avenues of Service: Club Service, with nine Subcommittees, Community Service, with five Subcommittees, International Service and Vocational Service Committees. This totaled 19 committees and subcommittees. The Club bulletin was restarted with a new format and was retitled "News and Views." Weekly programs dealt with the war issues: "Russia: Past and Present. "A clear close-up of the Far East Peace", "India", "Some Considerations of Postwar Settlement" and "The Art of Camouflage." The Rotary Bond Committee sold \$550,000 in bonds. Nine members were in service and 41 sons and daughters of the Rotary Club of Fresno members were involved by November of 1943. For the first time since 1915, the Rotary Club of Fresno could support its own candidate for district Governor. He was past President Frank W. Thomas. On the international scene, Rotary International had started a "Rotary Endowment Fund", establishing in 1917 with a \$26.50 contribution from the Rotary Club of Kansas City. In 1928 the fund had reached \$5,739.07 and was renamed the Rotary Foundation. Our Club voted to contribute to it and to support the work of the Foundation, which at this time was directed towards assisting Rotary Clubs in war torn countries. On the social side, members toured Hammer Field and also held a Sports Day at Sunnyside Country Club.

# PRESIDENTS

CLYDE F. COOMBS 1944 TO 1945

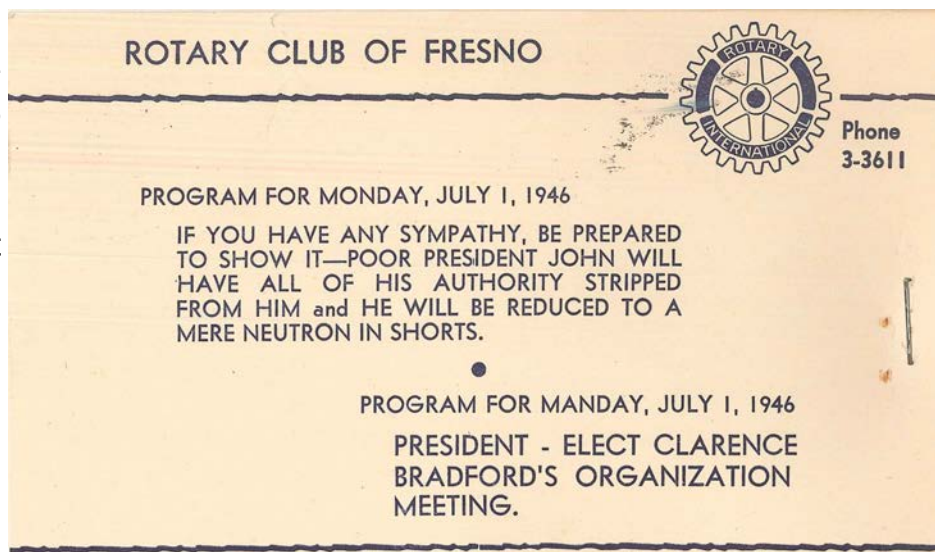
Clyde F. Coombs, as President, maintained the same format and organization of his predecessors. Rotarians participated in national and community war activities. Harold Chutter acted as Rotary Chairman for the Sixth War Bond Drive. Three more would be held during the year as well. "News and Views" carried weekly columns featuring "One of the Oldsters - Charter Members". Forty-five Rotarians and their wives enjoyed an outing at the Ned Prescott Saw mill, Auberry. Weekly programs continued to focus on the war and its effects.



JOHN J. GREGG 1945 TO 1946



When John J. Gregg took over as President the Club assets stood at \$18,000. Annual income was close to \$8,000 and charitable spending was \$3,500. Special projects for the year included an ice house for the Girl Scouts Camp at Dinkey Creek. The Club participated in the construction of the first permanent building at the new Boy Scout Camp at Shaver Lake, with many Rotarians taking active interest in the project and contributing \$3,000 to the new building. On January 28 the club was honored by having as its guest speaker for the day, Thomas A. Warren of Wolverhampton, England, the President of Rotary International for the 1945-46 term. He awarded a Special Certificate of Merit to the Vocational Service Committee in recognition of outstanding service. The District 106 Conference was held in Fresno, on May 5 through 6, and the Annual Assembly District met in Fresno, June 29 to 30. For the first time the Club participated in a West Side Tour on June 11. The response was enthusiastic. The Club also honored ex-servicemen returning from active duty on March 18. During this year, the Club would count 10 members with 28 years of continuous service, 14 at 25 years, 18 at 20 years, 21 at 15 years, 26 at 10 years and 28 members at 5 years. On a sad note, "The Club Bulletin, "The News and Views" was discontinued.

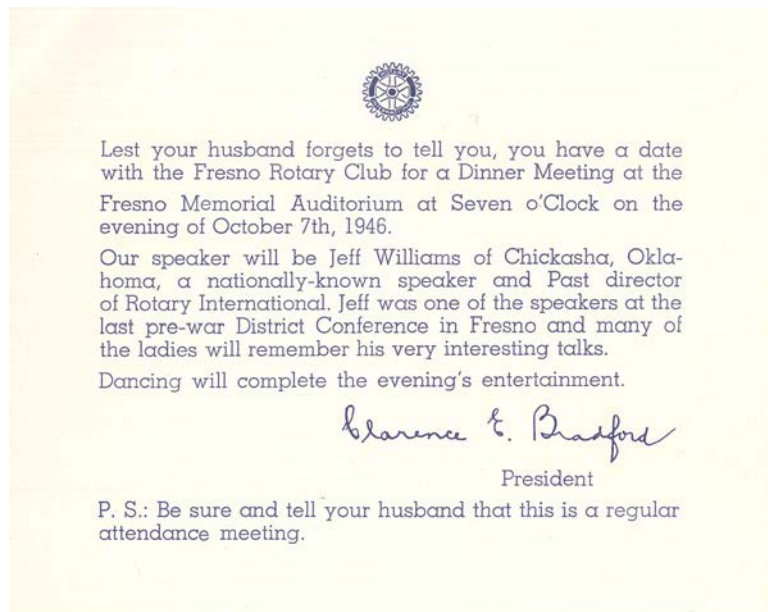




# PRESIDENTS

## CLARENCE E. BRADFORD 1946 TO 1947

Clarence E. Bradford, President, enlarged member participation on the Aims and Objects Committee to 21 members and added a Food Committee to the organization. The Boys Club was awarded a \$500 gift for a bugle and drum set. The balance of the cost for the boat house at Shaver Lake, of \$3,500 was contributed. The Bylaws were amended to reflect a dues change from \$35 to \$40 per month. It was about this time that the tradition of accepting Rotary pins as gifts from the Warner Company begun. Conrad M. (Connie) Warner, founder of Warner Jewelers first located at 1123 Fulton Street and for 107 years in downtown Fresno, first made the proposal. Members stood at 230 and all the charities were supported, as they had been in the past.



## EARL E. GRANGER 1947 TO 1948



Earl E. Granger, President, presided over a Club with 228 members. The Rotary Club of Fresno sent goods to a Rotary in Rennes, France in support of rebuilding that town. The Club supported the Freedom Train which traveled through the San Joaquin Valley carrying historical evidence of democracy at work in America. Work with the Boy Scouts involved 10 Rotarians in close associations with troubled youths, matching them on a close working basis—much like the formula followed by Big Brothers.

# PRESIDENTS

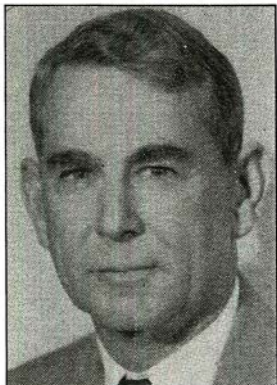
## JOESEPH C. KIMBLE 1948 TO 1949

This was also a busy year for President Joseph C. Kimble and the following items are worthy of note: 1) The Rotary International Convention was held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1948, and was attended by the President accompanied by Ned Prescott and Sam Simple. 2) Through the able leadership of Past President Harry Mitchell, the Rotary Club of Fresno was successful in securing the Charter for the North Fresno Rotary Club and he was elected by the new club as its first Honorary Member. The first Club meeting was held at Borders Restaurant. 3) The Patio Room at the Hotel Californian was scheduled now for social events for the Club to accommodate the substantial increase in members. Thirty new members were added that year. 4) the Club recognized the effort by Carroll Baird and Al Kuhn in promoting membership. Classifications were changed so that members could become Senior Active Members, allowing younger members to enter the Club. 5) The effects of inflation were recognized through a 25 percent increase in the cost of meals. 6) The Club reestablish the custom of having Invocations under the leadership of John Gregg. 7) During the course of singing the National Anthem, the Club established the practice of turning out the lights and spot lighting the flag, which practice was continued for many years. 8) An inter-city meeting with the San Francisco Rotary Club in San Francisco was held and Club members traveled by special train. 9) The District Conference in Santa Barbara was well attended. 10) The Past President's Advisory Council promoted the publication of a Club Bulletin and assumed the responsibility of getting each member of the Club registered as a contributor to the Club Foundation. 11) Three new Rotary road signs were erected. 12) A new public address system was completed. 13) The accounting system was revised with the assistance of Past President Clarence Bradford. 14) An extensive classification survey was made. 15) A new pictorial Club Roster was authorized, as the existing pictures were 10 to 20 years old. 16) The Board of Directors arranged for the purchase and presentation of the Past President's Rotary Lapel Buttons. 17) The Speakers Program was quite successful, with the exception of the unfortunate experience counted in the "Professor Fish Face Program," early in July 1948. A rigid rule was adopted that no speaker, regardless of this importance, would be permitted to address the Club by reading a prepared speech. 18) The Board of Directors and Program Chairman took an active interest in assisting smaller Clubs throughout the Valley and filling deficiencies in their program with a Speakers Bureau. These were the highlights. An appropriate Demotion for President Kimble was arranged at the conclusion of his term.



# PRESIDENTS

CHARLES A. JAMES 1949 TO 1950



The regime of Charles A. James, M.D., saw some change in the organization. The Information Committee was designed to meet with new members over dinner. There was a change of the Bylaws in the method of choosing candidates for the President. In the existing method the Board of Directors selected suitable candidates. This function would now be given to a Nominating Committee, appointed by the Board. Additionally, the tradition of having guests step to the microphone and introducing themselves was discontinued in the interest of time. Also discontinued was the practice of presenting visitors with a special stenciled pencil. The Rotary Club of Fresno did complete a clothing drive and sent 6,500 pounds of clothing to Rotary Clubs in Athens, Greece, and to Hanover, Germany. Additionally, the Rotary Club instigated the purchase of "Nosey, the Elephant" at the Fresno Zoo, with the support of the Zoological Society. Club activities also included a District Convention in Fresno and an inter-city visit to San Francisco.

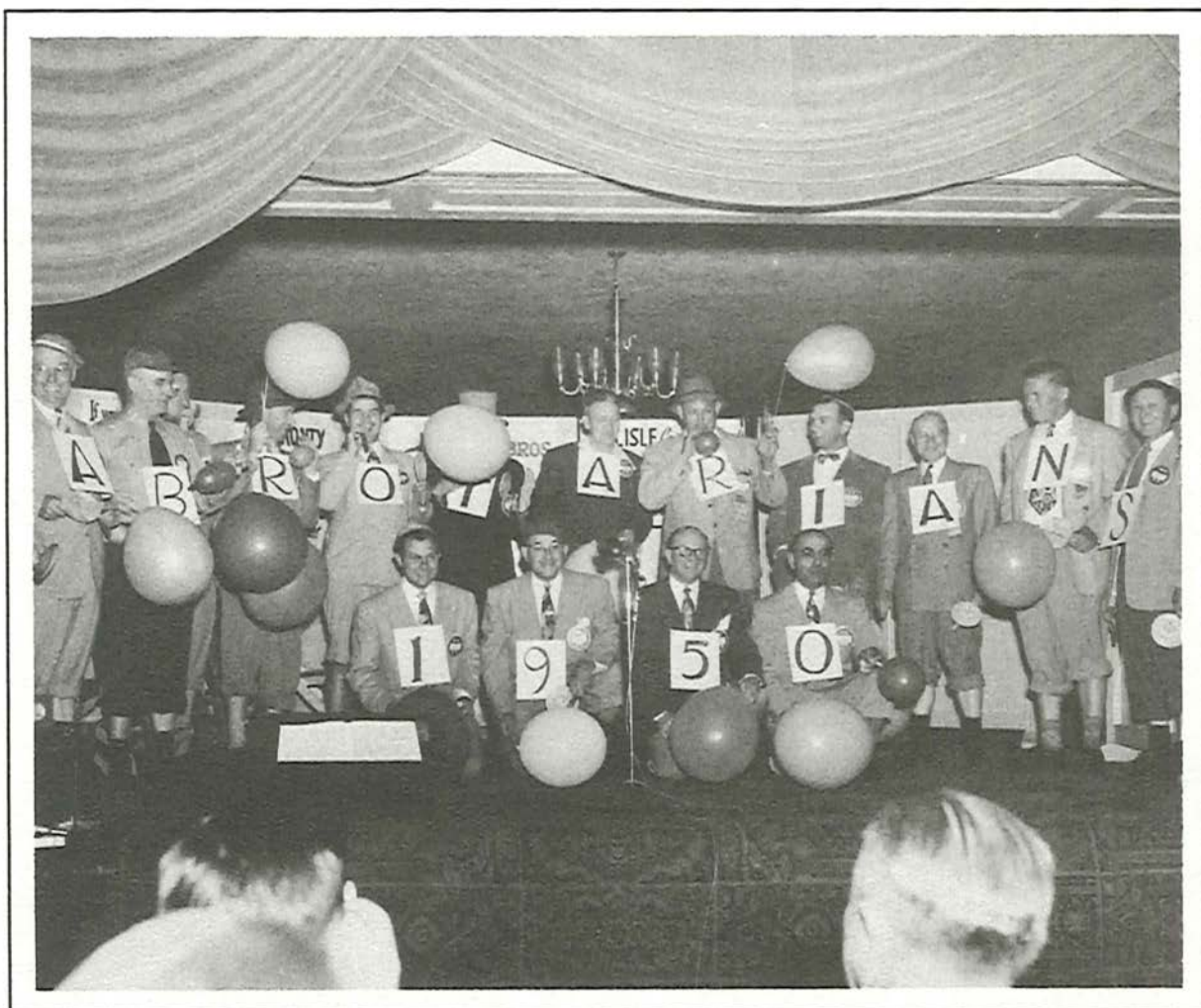
One of the programs best remembered by the membership was the famous "Zither Player," who entertained the Club on an instrument that no one recognized, but that all appreciated.

EDWIN "NED" M. PRESCOTT 1950 TO 1951

The term of Edwin "Ned" M. Prescott had the great distinction of maintaining peace and fair order in the weekly meetings. The Board of Directors met regularly and was able to place \$2,000 in the savings bank for subsequent Boards to use. The Community Service Committee felt that the membership would appreciate having something of a permanent nature of benefaction, so, under the leadership of Lee Terzian, a \$25,000 kitchen and dining room were designed and built at the Boy Scout Camp at Lake Sequoia for a total cost of \$10,000; due to fine design and "splendid panhandling by the gang." Our foundry man, Lyman Perkins, cast a beautiful brass Rotary Emblem and it was unveiled by a delegation of Club members and Scout Executives at the dedication of the building. The practice of having new members introduced to the Club at an informal dinner featuring jokes and tall tales continued to be successful and would find its place as a permanent tradition. An inter-city meeting with 53 members of the San Francisco Rotary Club was held in Fresno on the date of the 35th Anniversary of the first conference.







Rotary Meeting, June 19, 1950. Front Row: Vernon Hyde, Leo Stahl, Homer Guffey, Leon Peters. Back Row: Norman Webster, Henry Watson, Gordon Day, Nelson Hayhurst, Don Rainberry, unidentified, Don Larwood, Junius Snead, John Raffinella, William Lockwood, Jim Fenston, Otto Diederich.



Fresno's Skyline , April 1954



# PRESIDENTS

MELVILLE E. WILLSON 1951 to 1952

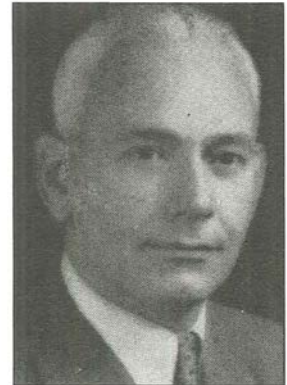


Although President Melville E. Willson presided over a busy program as well, he often found time to remind members and visitors that there are two "L"s in Willson. The Rotary Club of Fresno donated \$250 to the Detention Home in addition to other charities. Under Willson's leadership of the Rotary Club of Fresno, Presidents from 34 organizations were invited to serve as trustees for a revamped Fresno Community Chest to be called The United Givers Plan. This would later become The United Way, which would act as an annual fund raiser for mental health, welfare, recreation and youth agencies in Fresno. The most memorable day for President Willson occurred when he was asked to auction off his coat stuffed with one dollar bills in an effort to raise funds for charities and to take a jab at his business successes. The most memorable speaker was J.C. Penney

who decried the advent of the credit card.

GUY F. MacLEOD, M.D. 1952 to 1953

Guy F. MacLeod, M.D. was President and encountered no difficulties in maintaining the programs and projects of the Club. A request for substantial improvements of the Boy Scout facilities at Shaver Lake was declined at this time. A successful clothing drive did send 14,000 pounds of clothes to Free Berlin. The Rotary Club of Fresno participated in the Annual Assembly of District 158, held in Sonora, California, on July 27 through 29. Many interesting weekly programs were held.



JAMES BRADSHAW 1953 to 1954



James Bradshaw brought to the Presidency the distinction of being the former football coach at Fresno State College. He was also the Director of the City Service Program for Athletics and Recreation. During his term the Boy Scout Project at Shaver Lake was reinitiated and completed. The Classification Committee finished the job of reclassifying our membership so that they were classified within the guidelines of the Policy of Rotary International. Many members performed before the Club for the weekly program. This was instrumental in uncovering talent and added immeasurably to the enjoyment of the meetings. The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual District Conference was held in Fresno, with 1,200 Rotarians and their families attending. The main speaker was Ernesto J. Aguilar of Mexico City, representing the President of Rotary International. The Club attended the chartering of the

West Fresno Metropolitan Rotary Club, which was the last club to be sponsored by the Rotary Club of Fresno through Harry Mitchell. (For a full listing see the genealogy chart )



# PRESIDENTS

LEON S. PETERS 1954 to 1955

The final President for this era was Leon S. Peters, who was then the President of Valley Foundry and Machine Works. He also continued to hold many volunteer positions in the business and cultural life of Fresno. He was introduced to Rotary by a business rival and Club member, Lyman Perkins, when both men, stranded for several hours in a valley airport, took the time to learn more of each other's lives. That small start would grow to a snowball of involvement in the Rotary Club of Fresno. It is perhaps fitting that his term was taken up with the celebration of the Golden Anniversary of Rotary. Many activities were scheduled to highlight that celebration. The first activity was raising money to purchase five carloads of corn and grain. The commodities were obtained through CROP and shipped to the hungry and needy of Asia. Another event was the joining of our Club and North and West Fresno Rotary to raise funds and make Rotary Playland a reality. That project required a substantial investment of time and money. When completed, the Rotary Playland Foundation was formed to manage it. The Foundation often lists members of the Rotary Club of Fresno as Directors. Today we continue to play a significant role in the development, function and perpetuation of that facility. Another event of considerable importance was the Golden Anniversary Pageant held at Roosevelt High School which was well attended and thoroughly personified the spirit of Rotary. There were many interesting weekly programs, with such titles as: "Who Rules the World?", "I Saw Stalin's Wall", "Israel's Position In the Middle East", "The Fresno City Charter", "West Coast Relays", "Armed Forces Day", and "Railroad Consolidation, Pros and Cons". This was the very busy and memorable year.



C. Edward Best of Stockton, Governor of Rotary District #158, right, and Richard F. Kennedy, a Rotarian and President of Roeding Park Playland, Inc., break ground for the \$100,000 Playland. Looking on, left to right, are Jin Ishikawa, President of West Fresno Rotary Club, Galen Hartwick, President of North Fresno Rotary Club, Leon S. Peters, President of Fresno Rotary Club, Allen Lew, architect, Robert L. Bourne, Vice-President and Benton B. Bradford, Secretary-Treasurer of the corporation and Fresno Mayor Gordon G. Dunn.





Celebrating Rotary International's Golden Anniversary.  
In the middle is Leon S. Peters

# FRESNO 1955 TO 1970

The commission form of government in Fresno was replaced in 1957 by the more efficient City Manager-Council System. Civic attention sought to address the changing patterns in society symbolized by the apparent abandonment of the downtown area as the "heart of the city". It was felt at that time that if this area could be revitalized, life would continue reflecting the values of the past which had built our institutions. To that end, an ambitious period of growth and renewal saw the construction of the Federal Building and Police Department Headquarters in 1968, the Del Webb Town House in 1964, the Convention Center in 1966, conversion of the Fulton Mall in 1964 and a new Court House in 1966. Cultural opportunities were widened with the opening of the Fresno Art Center and Storyland in Roeding Park. Social stress began to appear, best recognized as problems of youth to be addressed by volunteer organizations; "Drop Outs Anonymous" and "HELP" (a hotline for the emotionally troubled) and groups dealing with the problems of disadvantage, ethnicity, poverty and ecology. Social activism followed the urging of President John F. Kennedy who pleaded that we "Ask not what our country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." Activism was also urged on by the expanded coverage of the media in the campaigns of Martin Luther King and the worlds and energy of "The Beatles". Major changes occurred in the payment and delivery of Social Services for health, welfare, the indigent and the elderly, with the passage of Federal and State legislation creating the Medi-Cal and Medicare using the County Hospital. The elderly could be cared for in dispersed facilities away from the Home for the Elderly. This legislation made it difficult for the County governments to regulate the admittance and management of this area of public concern. This both shifted more responsibility and visibility of these individuals to the State regulators and decentralized them as a focus of volunteer support programs. This is similar to what had occurred upon the closure of the City Orphanage in 1918 in preference of the Foster Home Program which effectively removed the problem of unwanted children from the public eye.



The Fresno Rotary Club observed its 40th anniversary in December of 1955. Among those honored were, left to right, Joseph H. Dale, Fergus Cambern, Robert W. Potter, Harry Shields, Charles Ross, Milton Neeley, Hugo Allardt and J. Herman Reiss.





Rotary Playland in Roeding Park - Opening 1958. View towards the rides.







Railroad car loaded and ready for shipment to Europe, 1955, Club members from right to left:  
Fergus Cambern, Pres. Leon J. Peters, George Oslen and Maynard Munger.

# PRESIDENTS

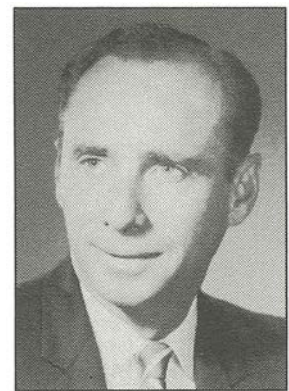
FERGUS CAMBERN 1955 TO 1956



The term of Fergus Cambern was notable for the continuation of traditional formats of service programs. Meetings were generally of a high caliber perhaps because President Cambern went each Sunday evening to talk with Monday's speaker to remind the speaker that the membership did not want anything "off color." There were no special projects which were considered for this year. Membership continued to climb and financial stability was ensured.

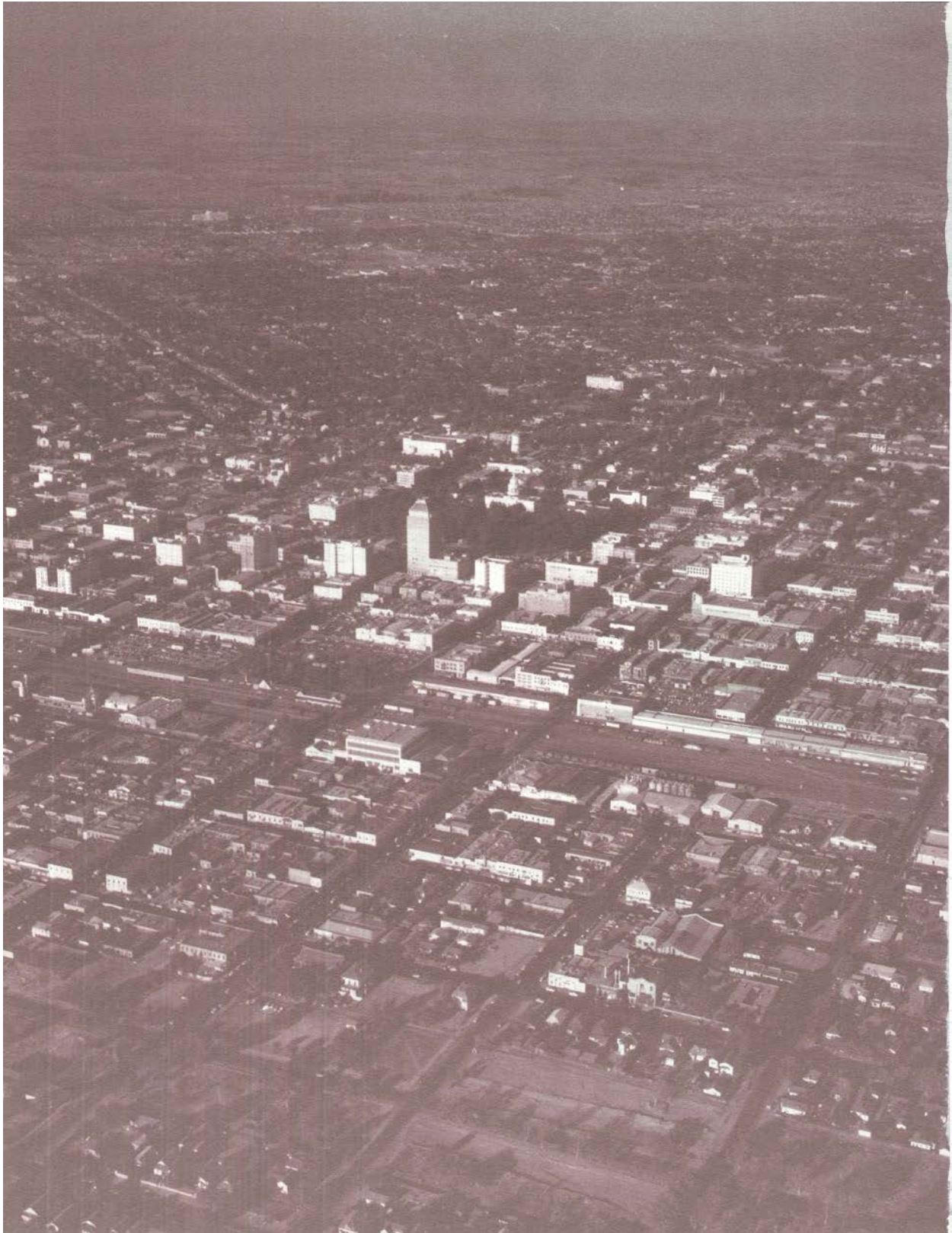
RICHARD M. WORREL 1956 TO 1957

President Richard M. Worrel selected as his slogan "Help us to make this a year you will never forget." As an innovation each Committee Chairman was asked to select an assistant from those members who had been in the Club 18 months or less. This proved to be quite successful. A very active weekly program was provided under the leadership of Claude Laval and his Committee. Topics included the Suez Crisis, Pacific Coast football, opposing views on water management in the Valley, and many national programs as well. Special effort by the Attendance Committee, Chaired by John Sulla, produced for the first time in 42 years a 100 percent meeting. It should be noted that the Magazine Committee saw to it that both foreign and English language subscriptions of the Rotarian reached the libraries and schools in Fresno. An inter-city meeting was held with Merced. The Music Committee, under the Chairmanship of Dave Harris, brought a long discussed quartet to fruition.



Contributions to the Community Projects totaled nearly \$4,000. An agricultural panel at Fresno State College was held and The West Side Tour was attended by 322 members. Rotarians continued to work on the Rotary Playland Committee. The efforts of Tad White, a Fresno Rotarian, helped bring the Southern Pacific engine to Roeding Park. Fines continued to be collected on a fun and avaricious, non-parsimonious basis, with collections for \$3,600 for Community Projects. The news was now carried for the second year in a bimonthly issue called "The Fresno Rotarian," which often averaged four legal size pages. This year could only end with an appropriate Demotion.





Fresno 1959

# PRESIDENTS

## BRENTON BRADFORD 1957 TO 1958



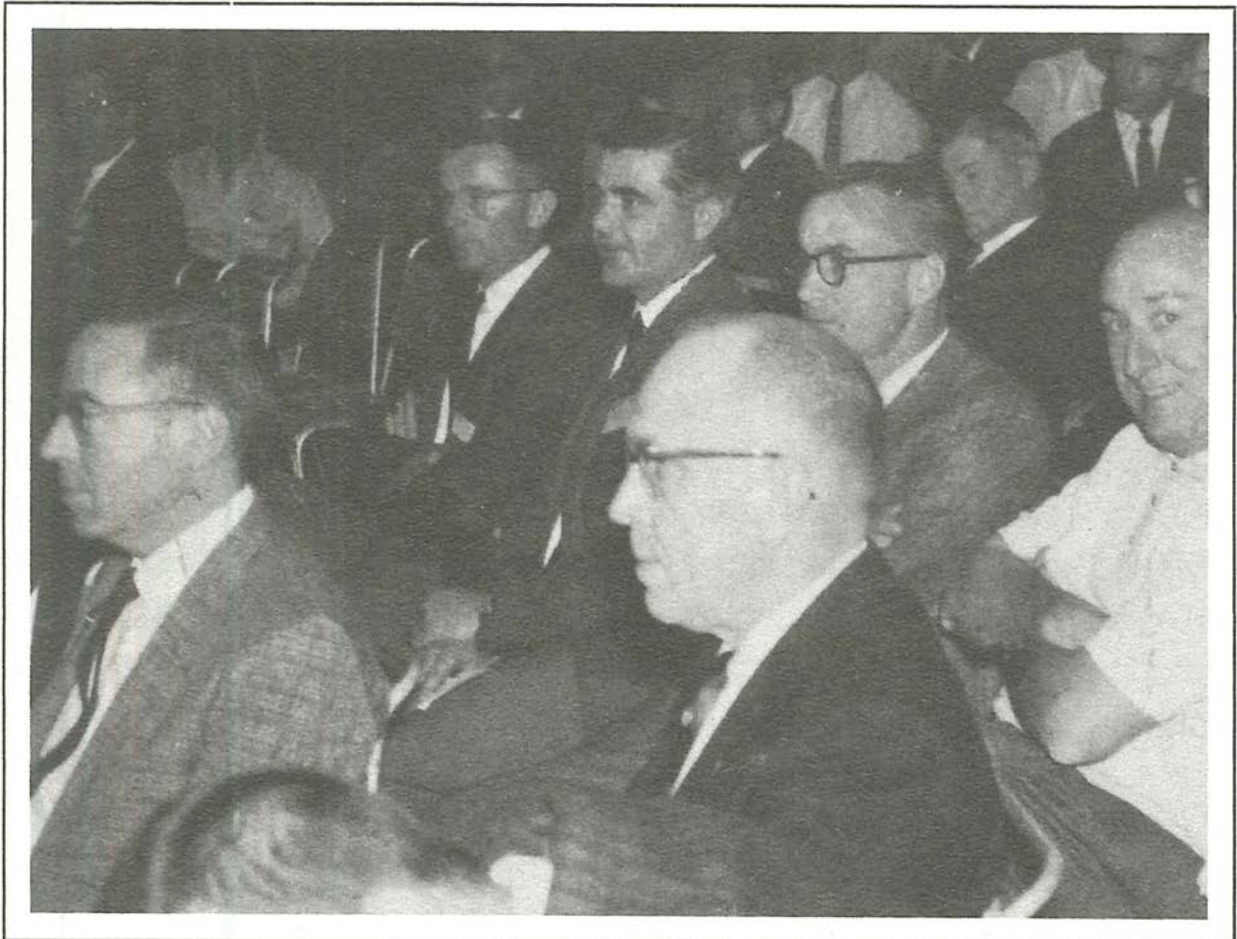
The term of Brenton Bradford as President seemed to be one of firsts. He was the first son of a President to become President. Club membership stood at 175 members and the budget totaled \$20,000. President Bradford was the first President elected under the age of 40. The Club could be said to have taken on a youthful vigor. The Club sponsored 30 students from Fresno High School for an educational trip to view the U.S. Navy Missile Development at China Lake Naval Air Station. Two hundred Rotarians made a 200 mile comprehensive field study trip to the Sierra National Forest to view the newly completed Mammoth Pool hydroelectric project of the Southern California Edison Company which hosted a lunch and program. On the return another program, with refreshments, was held at the U.S. Forest Service Experimental Range near O'Neals and concluded the day at a Founders' Day barbecue at the new Fresno State College. Twenty-nine new members joined during this year, one of whom proved to be an Honorary Member. The Attendance Committee saw to it that attendance remained over 90 percent for the year. A Public Information Committee, headed by Dave Harris, had improved the method of distribution of news and set up a program under which newspapers and all radio stations got each item of news simultaneously. A Spiritual Emphasis Committee saw to it that arrangements were made for an invocation at each Club meeting. An Inter-City Committee function of merit was an excellent dinner at Lake Millerton with the Madera Club. The Community Projects Committee made a final payment to Fresno Community Hospital on a contribution of \$6,000 for additions to the hospital. Contributions were made at Valley Children's Hospital, Sierra Hospital and a number of camperships for youth were purchased. A contribution was made to Valley Children's Hospital for the initial printing costs of a self-financing safety handbook, produced from initial technical data submitted by the medical staff of the hospital. A Rural Urban Committee sponsored a trip to Mammoth Pool on May 7. It was quite successful. The Youth and Student Guest Committee continued the program of inviting student body presidents from four high schools, Fresno City College, Fresno State College and guest members at the weekly meetings. The International Student Projects continued to assist sons and daughters of Rotarians in visiting Yosemite or Sierra National Parks. Under Rotary Foundation work this Committee selected Edward L. Fanucchi, a Fresno State Senior (now a club member) for a year's study abroad at the University of Milan. The 1957 Board desired to place a Rotary meeting date and place signs at the airport, but had not yet completed that. An especially humorous fine was leveled at the expense of George Fulmore for his impersonation of a teacher at Fresno High School during Parents Night, when he unexplainably donned the badge of one of the teachers and was accosted by a parent. Speakers addressed the Club on topics from Communism in America to National Defense and Urban Renewal.



# PRESIDENTS

BOB MINER 1958 to 1959

Bob Miner was the first High School Principal to serve as President of the Club. Many members joined President Miner on a ten car Rotary Streamliner special train which traveled to the International Convention in Dallas, Texas. The Club participated 100 percent in a mammoth year-long undertaking in sponsoring the Oberammergau Passion Play which raised \$8,000 for the Community Projects. Maynard Munger acted as chairman. Members sold tickets, acted as ushers and appeared in the crowd scenes. Regular weekly meetings and charities continued. A week following a program by a magician, Maury Reitz dressed as a magician with Vern Redman as assistant cut off the ties of three prominent Rotarians. The magic was gone when he attempted to return the ties in one piece.



1960 Meeting



# PRESIDENTS

MAYNARD MUNGER 1959 to 1960



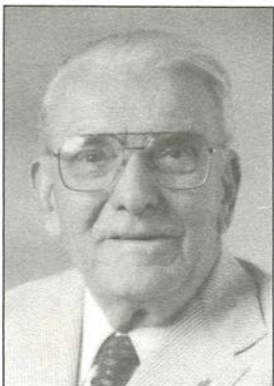
Maynard Munger, as President, appointed Chairmanships of the Passion Play Committee which had carried over to his year as President. Speakers continued to focus on local and national topics. Memorable programs included: The Reverend Manly Johnson who spoke on the theory and interpretation of Negro spirituals. U.S. Senator Thomas H. Kuchel spoke on the San Luis Reservoir Bill. Mortimer Adler spoke on democracy in action. All the Club Committees continued to function well.

WILLIAM D. HOAK 1960 to 1961

The first meeting of the newly elected President, William D. Hoak, was addressed by the man who, as International President of Rotary, presided over the first meeting of the newly formed Rotary Club of Fresno. He was Doctor Brunnier. This year saw good natured meetings, witnessing a variety of programs, some of which turned into catastrophes. One such occasion comes to mind. A Group at the head table performed amateur magic tricks in retaliation for the amateur magician program of the previous week. One participant released some pigeons. Their fluttering around the chandeliers disturbed dust that hadn't been disturbed since Wendel Wilkie appeared in the ballroom! Total order was never restored, the speaker gave up and the meeting adjourned ten minutes early! The Rotary Club of Fresno's special project was a \$10,000 donation to a fund for a new entrance to Storyland at Roeding Park.



CLAUDE LAVAL, JR. 1961 to 1962



Membership stood at 265 when Claude Laval Jr. came to the Presidency as the first son of a member and the father of a member. Before his term he attended an International Convention of Rotary in Tokyo, Japan. In addition to regular programs, Community Service planned a West Side Tour and a Mammoth Pool Tour ending in a program at Fresno State. The Club continued to support the Boy Scout programs, Rotary Playland programs, and had its attention directed inward in its many service programs.

## FRESNO ROTARY CLUB'S VISITATION TO

### Rehabilitation on Basin Burn & Haas Underground Powerhouse

## MONDAY - JUNE 11, 1962

(ALL FOR ONLY \$4.00)

The trip will be made in AIR CONDITIONED Greyhound buses and, in each bus, there will be a representative of the United States Forest Service, as well as the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, to explain various points of interest on the trip.

The Buses will depart from the Hotel Californian at 7:45 A.M. with a twenty-minute coffee break en route at Sycamore Creek. After leaving Sycamore Creek, we will next go to Patterson Mountain where we will stop for about 15 minutes and it is here that the Forest Service will present an explanation of the rehabilitation work being done on the Basin Burn area. After leaving here, we will then go to the Haas Power House and, following an inspection of the Power House, we shall have luncheon here. Following luncheon, we will return to Fresno via Tallhouse and will provide a stop at McKinley Grove for refreshments, such as beer and soft drinks, and we expect to arrive back in Fresno around 6:15 P.M.

**MAP OF TRIP**

**IMPORTANT - If you are not going on this trip the Ticket below must be returned by Tuesday, June 5th, or you will be charged \$4.00.**

If you plan to bring a guest - Call Adams 3-3611 for Ticket and Reservations.

# PRESIDENTS

BILL ADAMS M.D. 1962 to 1963

Bill Adams, M.D. as President, presented members with many interesting programs, including a memorable review of the amateur radio commentators. There were no major projects unveiled this year and all Community Services continued to be funded at previous rates, with the annual budget at \$8,000. Two full busloads of Rotarians made another memorable field study trip, over the most scary road in the Sierra, to new forest resources including PG&E's newly constructed Haas Underground Power House. The second bus broke down on the Black Rock switchbacks which led to an eventful rescue by PG&E's people, which included refreshments and dinner at Balch Camp. The beleaguered, but happy, Rotarians finally made it back to Fresno in the early morning hours of the next day.

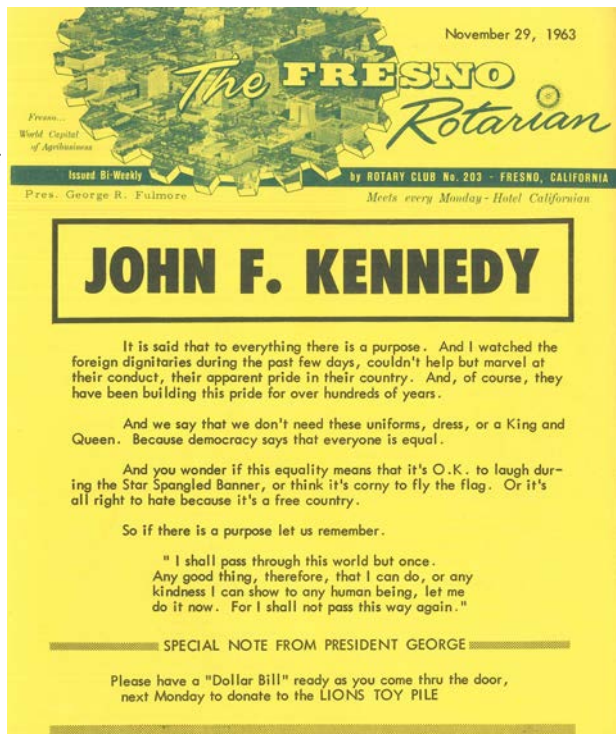


GEORGE R. FULMORE 1963 to 1964



George R. Fulmore, as our President, brought new energy and life to our Rotary Club, and stressed Rotary International's theme "Challenge to the Space Age." President Fulmore worked with his program chairman, Karney Hodge, and for the first time in the history of the Rotary Club of Fresno, several night meetings were conducted. The most outstanding night meeting was when Mr. Melvin Belli spoke on the upcoming Jack Ruby trial following the death of President John F. Kennedy. Another memorable event was a "Hawaiian Night" for the Rotary Club members and their wives. The theme "Challenge to the Space Age" was met in two practical matters of Club

activity: President Fulmore engineered the move of the Monday meetings from the Hotel Californian to the more spacious newly constructed Del Webb Town House to accommodate the Club's growth. With the exception of a few years in the mid 70's, when we met at the newly built Holiday Inn, the meeting place has centered at the downtown Fresno Hilton Hotel. He also rearranged the table seating to include rectangular tables for the purpose of improving member conversation. President Fulmore hired Mrs. Roberta Roby as Executive Secretary, who remained with the Club for 20 years. Finally, President Fulmore called his year a "Vintage Year."



# PRESIDENTS

## JUDGE HAROLD V. THOMPSON 1964 TO 1965

Judge Harold V. Thompson returned from the International Convention in Toronto, Canada, with a full program of activities. His year started with a bang – the clock fell off the wall and a waiter dropped a tray of dishes at the first meeting! His imaginative method of assessing fines featured various props which gauged the members' offenses. The best recalled was a "Suntan Chart" for members returning from vacation. Anyone referring to Harold Thompson as "Judge" in Rotary was automatically fined \$5. Projects completed during the year included assisting in furnishing a library in Bangalor, India. Most memorable speaker was Jesse Unruh, candidate for Governor of California.



## DAVID T. HARRIS 1965 to 1966:



David T. Harris presided during the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Fresno, which was celebrated on December 14, 1965. The inspirational program included an address by Richard L. Evans of Salt Lake City, Utah, who was the President of Rotary International. A commemorative booklet was printed. Among the many achievements of this year included the International Agricultural Conference which was spearheaded by the Rotary Club of Fresno. Cliff Davis chaired the Program Committee which, like its predecessors had its share of fiascos to be interesting. One deserves notice. Doc Benson's efforts at reporting on the Rotarian, delving as he did into the intricacies of printing, left no time for the speaker, Paul Chaffee to discuss the Zoo. Paul, the consummate humorist, prophetically added, "Don't worry, I'll get it (the zoo) back some time." The Club and the City have all witnessed and benefitted by Paul's vision for the Zoo.

## HAROLD M. SCHUPPERT 1966 to 1967

During the term of President Harold M. Schuppert, the Bylaws were changed to include an Annual Financial Audit. Fines for the day averaged \$10 to \$15. The Minutes show that one could be fined for being a Stanford Graduate (Brenton Bradford, Del Crummey, Bill Docker, Lew Eaton, Roger Fipps, Nelson Hayworth and Bill Hoak). There were 35 active committees. An International Student Project arranged for housing of out of town Rotarians and Rotary Club sponsored students who were passing through Fresno on their way to Yosemite.







IN RECOGNITION OF ITS

*Golden Anniversary*

This Certificate is Presented to the

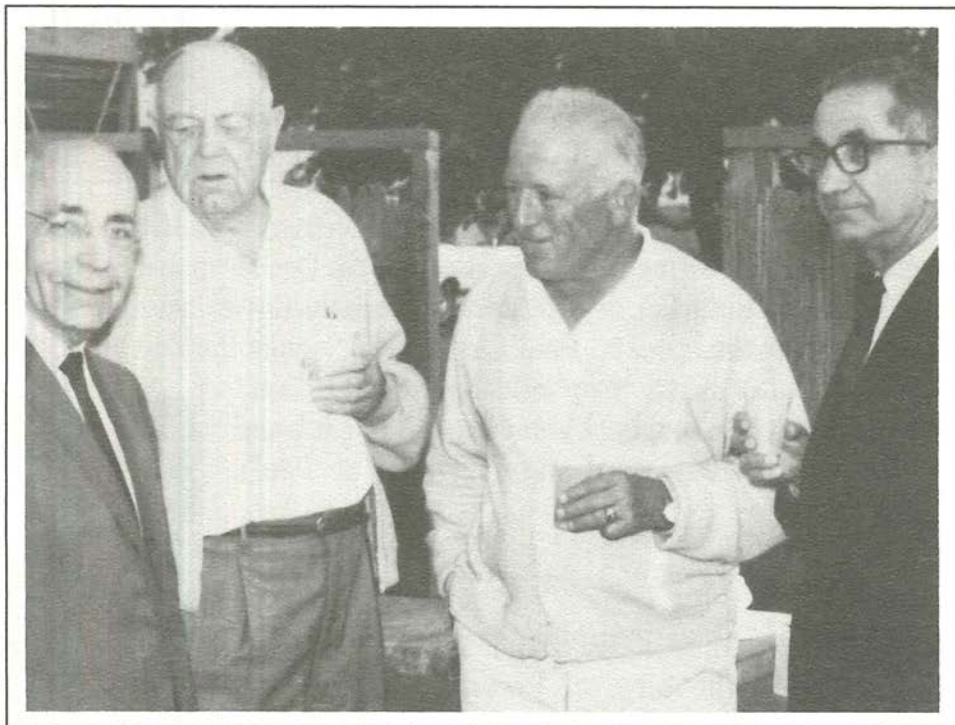
ROTARY CLUB OF

**Fresno, California, U. S. A.**

Date 1 March, 1966

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Rotary International  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
General Secretary, Rotary International

# SPORTS DAY MAY 1969



# PRESIDENTS

WALTER A. ROHLFING 1967 to 1968



This was the term of Walter A. Rohlfing, M.D. President Rohlfing started each meeting with a short recitation of the Rotary Point of Unity, or a statement of activity from a committee, and ended with a thought for the day. An example from August 18 is that "The world is full of willing people; some willing to work, the rest willing to let them." During his term the new bookkeeping systems showed the Club to be practically insolvent. A current budget problem was solved following a rousing speech by the President, by which \$7.50 was assessed to every member not yet fined. A more chronic problem arose from the fact that billings were sent to members on a three month basis for fines and dues. Hotel bills could not be paid until collections were made, resulting in a 90 day delay. To solve this problem, bills were sent monthly. To insure more predictable income for next year's budget, it was decided that monies raised by fines would be available for spending in the subsequent year. To that end, no disbursements were made for any area of service during the term of Walt Rohlfing. Fines were held for the following year's use. This tradition has continued. Consideration was given to encourage Rotary members to invite foreign students into their homes, a practice begun by the North Fresno Rotary Club and later adopted at our Club. This continues today to be an active program, with great rewards. A Special donation of \$1,000 was made to the Fresno State College Tutorial Program and also \$500 to The Fresno Art Center.

JOHN C. BURKHART 1968 to 1969

John C. Burkhardt, as President, saw several changes occur in the organization. The Bylaws were revised to allow incoming Vice-Presidents to attend Board Meetings for information on activities. The tradition of "Ringing the Bell" as an accompaniment of fines of \$100 was started. Also, it was decided to have the Immediate Past President involved in subsequent Demotion of the President. President Burkhardt's hope was to increase the Club's size to 300 members. A most memorable program was the "Genie Exerciser Salesman" who, it is said, "cleaned up" in subsequent sales to Club members of these less than perfect machines.



Herm, don't look now, but Lee just put a bug in Jack's ear.

Excerpt from Club  
Newsletter  
February 21, 1969  
Chas Looney, Jr.  
Editor



# CLUB FELLOWSHIP



Ham Leas and Paul Chaffee.



Bill Stockburger and Larry Shehadey.

# PRESIDENTS

JOE B. FIELDS 1969 TO 1970



The term of Joe B. Fields as President is best remembered for the conception and development of Camp Royal – a special educational and social experience meant to develop leadership qualities for selected high school leaders. Instrumental in development of this project were Club members Bob Miner, Walter Staley and Gus Wilkerson. This project would later see the development of a facility for the students and guest speakers. It would later be extended, by invitation, to students selected by other clubs in the District. The urgency for this program was the witnessing of young men coming back from the Viet Nam War. The budget for the year for Community Service stood at slightly less than \$4,000. Student Awards were \$265. The Youth Committee was close to \$600 and the Camp Royal Budget was \$1,300. The Club Constitution was changed to allow the election in March of the Vice-President to allow the incoming President sufficient time to prepare properly to run a 400 member club. The President was elected this year in December. The next year, Rotary International changed their Bylaws to elect a President and Secretary before the end of December each year. As usual, the year's weekly programs were impressive. The introduction given by Rotarian Ole Bane to the Secretary of Finance of the State of California was rated as the longest in the Club's history. Subsequent verbose introductions are often referred to as "an Ole Baney".

The first Club member, and for that matter, District member, to become a Paul Harris Fellow was recognized this year. This designation is for an individual who contributes \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation. The Program has been initiated in 1957 and by 1964 contributions in this category had reached \$1,000,000 a year. These funds are used for special Rotary International Projects.

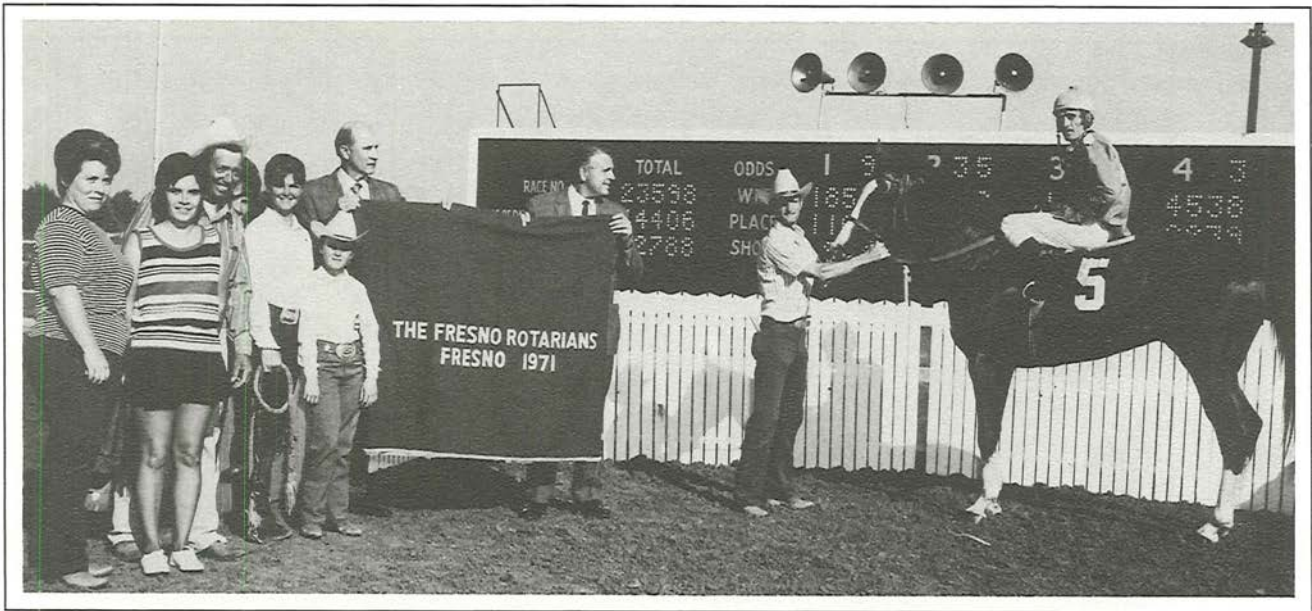
# FRESNO 1970 TO 1980

The sixties ended with demonstrations for and against the war in Viet Nam. The seventies began with US troops invading Cambodia, leading to a violent protest at Fresno State College. Fresno, through the media, proved it was sensitive to world events. The conclusion of US and Far East involvement would bring the first of many waves of Hmong and Vietnamese immigrants to Fresno in 1975. 1970 witnessed one major change in medical policy, with the decentralization of mental health care which involved removing patients from institutional care in the State hospital system to ambulatory outpatient care in community ambulatory facilities. The impact of US fiscal policy and international entanglements fostered national inflation, led first by a worldwide inflation, which was aggravated by the spiraling world oil prices. All of which led to a readjustment in business affairs. High prices for goods, stagnation of enterprise, and shortages of gas led to business stringencies and bankruptcies. The drought in 1971 added to the local Valley stresses. Desegregation attempts began with mandatory busing in Fresno, later to be replaced by the Magnet School Concept. Fresno State College became California State University, Fresno in 1972. The seventies started out as a period of great technological advances in America. Power, which had traditionally come in the form of electricity, gas and coal, now was available in laser, fusion, geothermal and microwave sources. The new IRS Center, like many businesses, featured electronic processing. Hospitals were especially forced to modernize and this period saw Fresno Community Hospital increasing and extending its facilities and specialties. A major move was made by Saint Agnes Hospital to rebuild on Herndon Avenue. Services and volunteer resources were increasingly required to meet social needs. Typical of this was the start of a Hospice Program at Saint Agnes Hospital and the Alzheimer Support Group. Many organizations were springing up to service special needs not met by traditional agencies. Highway 41 was the sole force helping to bind the far-flung edges of the city with the center of town and although this inconvenienced transportation, it tended to legitimize the theory of centrifugal spread.

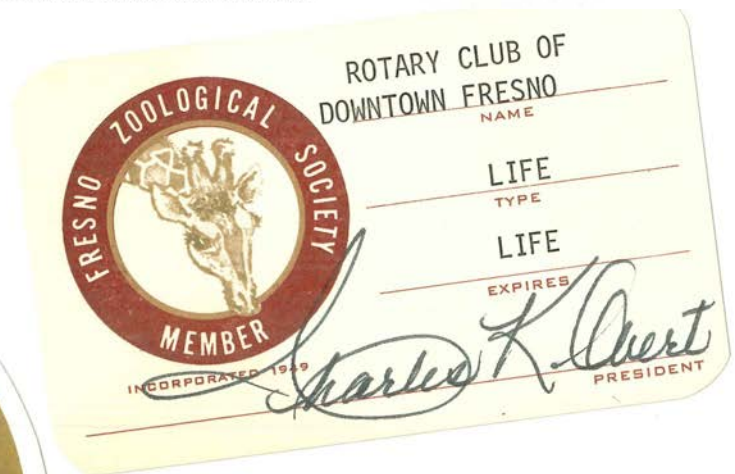
This period in the history of the Rotary Club of Fresno witnessed a continuing tendency to focus more energies on local issues and events. It had been 22 years since the Rotary Club of Fresno had sponsored a new Rotary Club and yet by the end of the next decade there would be seven Rotary Clubs in Fresno. There was less time taken out for all day individual family events, such as tours of unique businesses, or cultural events in the city, and inner city Rotary exchanges would become less frequent. Members who might work at one end of town would be grateful for the presence of Highway 41 which facilitated their trek to the downtown area for the Monday meeting, whereas before they might occasionally find it difficult to stay for the full program or any extended discussion afterwards. Time seemed to be at a premium, there being less time for any single event and yet members continued to participate in the wide range of their social organizations in addition to Rotary as they had in the past.







"Rotary Blanket" presented during "Fair Day" on Oct. 11, 1971 by President Ed Rousek and Urban-Rural Committee Chairman Tom Mason.





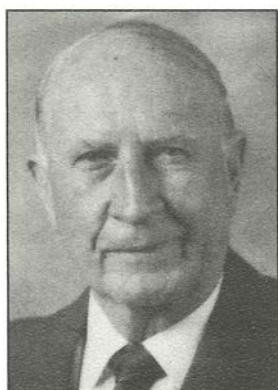
# PRESIDENTS

GORDON WILD 1970 to 1971

President M. Gordon Wild presided over the Board's decision to adopt Camp Royal as a District 522 project and to approve a District wide assessment of \$3.00 per member per club to finance it. Community projects included providing a new pickup to the 7<sup>th</sup> Step Foundation, donations to Junior Achievement, Easter Seals Society, Pop Warner football, and New Hope Singers. Support was given to the Roosevelt High School marching band and promised to St. Agnes Hospital. The Club hosted the District Assembly June 18-19. Funds were donated for the program. Walt Staley and Gus Wilkerson represented the Club at the celebration of Porterville's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



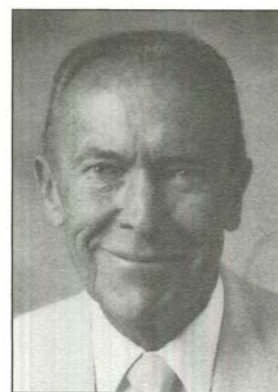
EDWIN J. ROUSEK 1971 to 1972



President Edwin J. Rousek began preparation for his term by attending the Rotary International Convention which was held in Sydney, Australia in 1971. Following the Convention, he and Mrs. Rousek took a month's tour of the Pacific Rim. The Rotary International President, Stan McCaffery, visited the Club while he was Vice-President of Rotary International. President Rousek made it a point to fine every member, but always on a humorous note. The average fine at this time was \$50, but some fines reached \$100 which, of course, were "bell ringers." President Rousek was noted for this question, before fining a Rotarian, "How is Business?" This helped the Rotarian to respond in some humorous way. Del Crummey served as Program Chairman and he had many fine educational programs, as well as many musical programs. Committees were active with the budget for youth increasing to \$1,900. The Rotary Club of Fresno decided to contribute \$10, to be taken from the initiation fee of each new member, to the Paul Harris Foundation, thereby increasing our percentage rating. Club meetings were often held at the Rainbow Ballroom during this year.

CHARLES HAMLIN 1972 to 1973

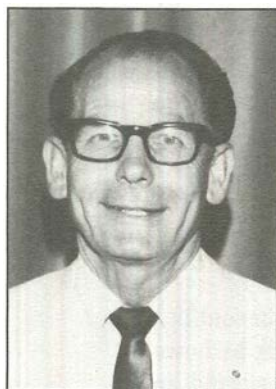
The term of Charles Hamlin as President witnessed the continued tradition of good programs. Among these were a talk by Lowell Thomas on world affairs. The definition of the roles of elected and employed secretaries was completed during his term. A memorable event was "Shelly's Golf Clinic" during which President Hamlin broke a five iron while swinging the club in front of the membership. During Charles Hamlin's year he issued his famous list of "The Greatest Presidents of the Rotary Club of Fresno to that date who, in his estimation, were: Mel Willson, Leon S. Peters and Joe Fields. The names were intentionally forgotten and all Presidents, before and after, have laid claim to being one (which seems reasonable – Editor).



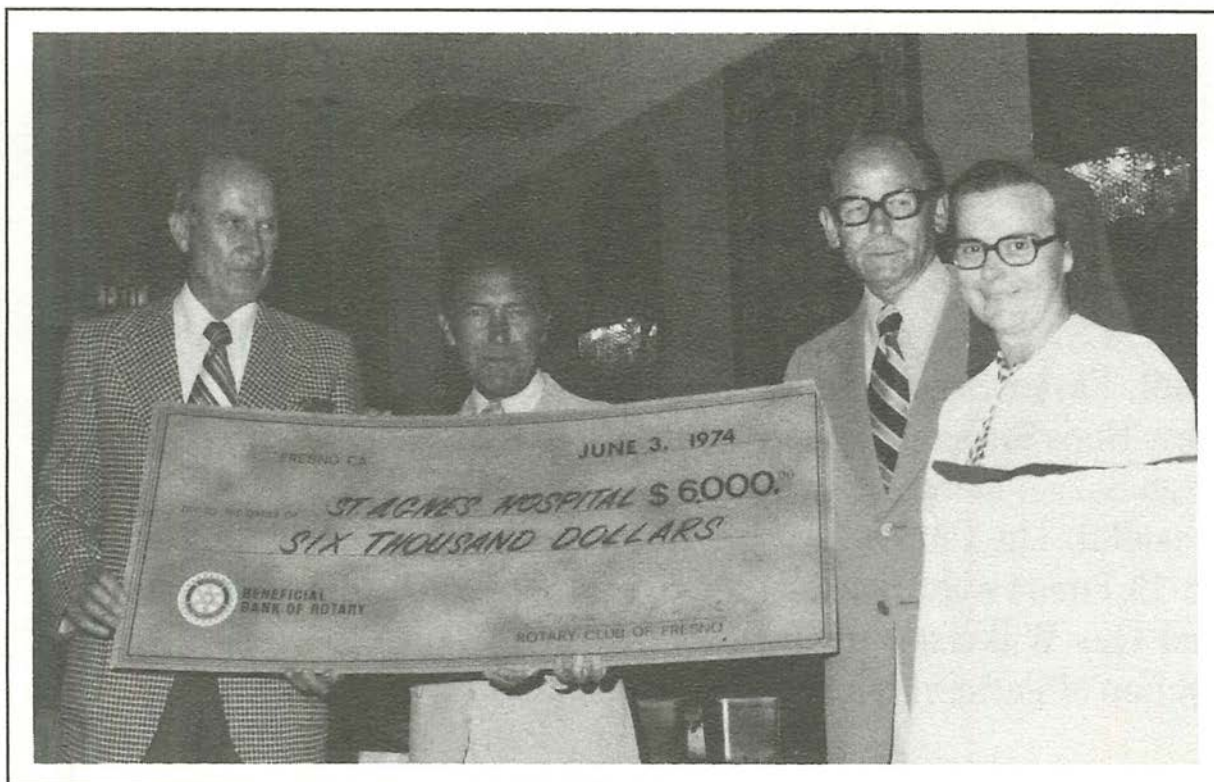


# PRESIDENTS

WALTER "DUB" STALEY 1973 to 1974

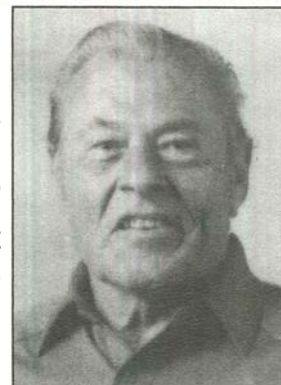


Walter "Dub" Staley was a busy President. At the Convention he heard the President of Rotary International speak with high praise of the Rotary Club of Fresno's Camp Royal Project. President Staley considered his "The Year of Change". For a change, visiting Rotarians came forward to introduce themselves, for a change, the President placed the Rotary Pin on the lapel of each new member and, for a change, he designed and implemented a set of "Gears" which utilized the Rotary Emblem and was used to introduce new members to their roles in Rotary. All of the community projects continued to perform. Memorable among the fine speakers was Ronald Reagan.



PHIL WEIGAND 1974 to 1975

During the term of Phil Weigand as President, the spirit of kinship among members was stressed and all members were encouraged to participate and socialize. In keeping with the theme of Rotary International, which was "Renew the Rotary," inner action was emphasized. There were no new community projects started at this time. The most memorable speaker was William Burger, President of the North American Space Association, who spoke on the newest of technologies which was space shuttle transportation.



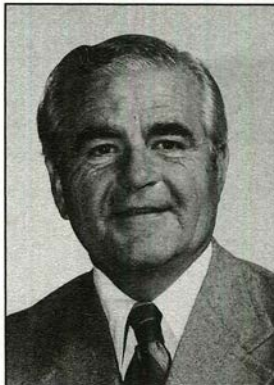
# PRESIDENTS

CHARLES A. (CHAS) LOONEY 1975 to 1976

President Charles A. (Chas) Looney, borrowing techniques from his advertising profession, introduced a novel approach to fining the members. He awarded "Good Guy" Cups to members for their good work and contribution to the community and Club. Some had price tags. Some did not. It added fun and excitement to that part of the program. The members responded by increasing fines 50%. There were many outstanding programs, including the first visit to the Club by the new head football coach at Fresno State, Jim Sweeney. The Club size increased to nearly 400 members. An invitation was received to a meeting (hosted by the Rotary Club of Sacramento) for the President-Elect and Executive Secretary. Bob Shiner was the first President-Elect to be so honored.



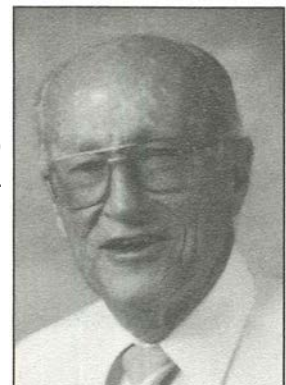
ROBERT B. SHINER 1976 to 1977



President Robert B. Shiner passed out the first of many "George Washington Shiner Awards", making the first presentation to Governor Walter Staley. The inscription on the Award read "Walt Staley Did It For Fresno Rotary." A Special Community Project was a \$10,000 donation to the Fresno Bee building for its proposed conversion to the Fresno Metropolitan Museum. Notable programs included Supervisor Sharon Levy, who spoke on the role of women in government. There were several programs on health and agribusiness. The Fresno Rotarian was printed in different colors each week as an added incentive to read it. Two hundred members attended the Rotary Exhibit at the Fresno Fair Grounds.

J. DELBERT CRUMMEY 1977 to 1978

President J. Delbert Crummey presided over a busy schedule of many ongoing activities of the Rotary Club of Fresno. The Club pledged \$400 to District 315 in India to assist following a typhoon. The Club commissioned Clement Renzi to create an art object as a gift to our sister-city club in Kyochi, Japan. A goal accomplished was to decrease early leave-taking from meetings.



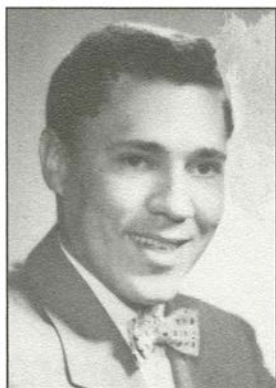


Rotary Club daylong tour of Sun Maid Raisin plant December 1977



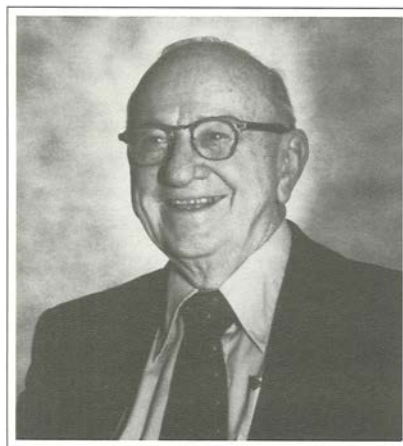
# PRESIDENTS

PAUL CHAFFEE 1978 to 1979



President Paul Chaffee entered with a regime that used fines of \$35 and \$55 for community projects. One could be fined for a football victory by USC that might cost \$20. For not reading *The Rotarian* one might pay \$25. The growth of Fresno Guarantee gave Lou Eaton the opportunity to be recognized and to donate \$1,000 to Fresno Community Projects. There were many programs centered on local issues, such as Fresno State University, local government and agri-business. The budget for the year had grown to \$17,000. One of the highlights of the year was a special program in honor of A.B. "Gus" Wilkinson, who had served 16 years as Executive Secretary of the Club. Gus was a great Rotarian, an effective secretary who was much loved by the members. The

dinner was held at the Downtown Club and a special plaque was presented. The new Environment Committee was appointed. President Chaffee prevailed on Eckhart Thompson to play the piano at each meeting. There was no music for some time prior to that. Eckhart Thompson continued as the piano accompanist at meetings for many years



A.B. Wilkinson, Revised Past Secretary, 1967-1982.

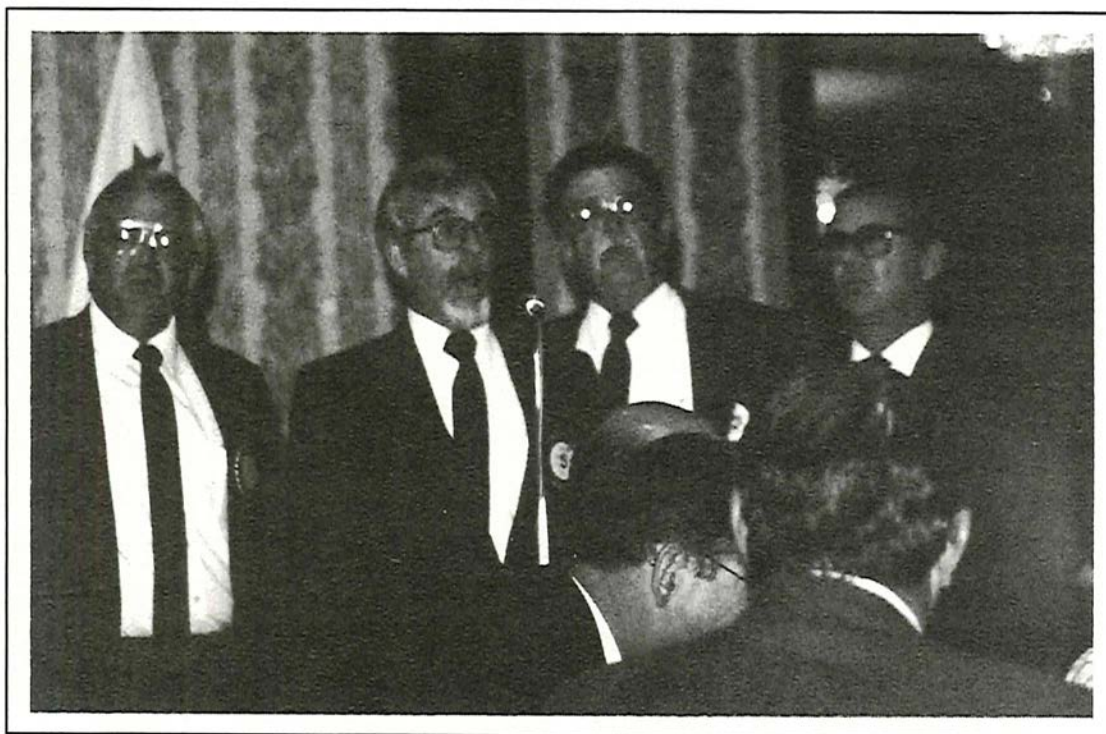
E. E. "ED" NORCROSS 1979 to 1980

Ed Norcross served as the last President of a decade which witnessed increasing social needs. Quite a few goals were accomplished during his term. The Club reached a membership of 394, and was the largest single year growth in the District. We reached 76 Paul Harris Fellows. Valley Children's Hospital was completing an intensive care unit, partially supported by our contributions. There was a new school in San Carlos, Mexico, also a project of our International Committee. The Bylaws were corrected and updated. Finally, an endowment fund was established to be called the Rotary Club of Fresno Foundation for the purpose of adding greater funds for charitable projects, the budget of which had risen from \$6,000 at the start of the decade to nearly \$20,000 at the end. The budget for Youth Programs had reached \$5,500 and would triple by the end of the next decade. Several fine programs were presented during the year. Attendance remained high at over 85 to 90 percent throughout the year and membership continued to increase.



# FRESNO 1980 TO 1990

Growth in population and complexity of society, coupled with inflation, typified the eighties. The Population increased by 45 percent during this decade, reaching 360,000, among which were 60,000 Vietnamese and Hmong residents. The percentage of people living in the poverty area though continued to grow, as evidenced by nearly 30 percent of the residents relying on state insurance for medical needs. Coupled with this would be the increase in the number of individuals relying on United Way services. The end of the decade would see nearly 225,000 individuals served, over a 12 month period, by 40 agencies under the United Way umbrella. In addition to that number, the number of volunteer and other social organizations continued to increase to meet special needs. High tech medicine came in the form of CT scanners which were soon superseded by magnetic resonant scanners, both with high costs. A severe financial blow to municipalities came in the form of a cap placed on property taxes by the Jarvis-Gann Bill (Prop. 13), which placed a decelerator on local government spending. The resulting gap in coverage would actually be shifted to volunteers and individual agencies, evidenced by the plethora of school fund drives, by community sponsored fund runs and by the increased size of hospital drives such as the Valley Children's Hospital Telethon, Rotary would be asked to do its part in volunteerism as well. The Rotary Club of Fresno Budget would begin the decade at \$20,000 and by the end of the decade would reach close to \$105,000. Social institutions which were added to the scene included Fresno Agriculture Museum in 1981, expansion of the Fresno Art Center in 1983 and the Fresno Metropolitan Museum of Art History and Science in 1984. This would be the decade of high tech entertainment as well, with television moving over to include VCR recorders, disc players, and special effects movies. While university campuses were crowded, the incoming students were more serious and were more dedicated to job security.



The Club Barbershop Quartet, started in 1954, first consisted of Ferg Cambern, Dave Harris, Tad White and Dick Halls. Shown here performing for a club meeting Aug. 1988, left to right: Ray Eggebraaten, Carroll C. Cotten, Edgar Deatherage and Brian Morse.

# PRESIDENTS

ED DEATHERAGE 1980 to 1981



It was prophetic that the first President of the decade, Ed Deatherage, would accomplish most of his stated goals of providing better fellowship, more opportunities to service and a major Club project. This start included the initiation of a plan for Camp Royal for girls, the COG's Wine Tasting event which netted \$3,700 for Camp Royal, the raising of \$1,000 as seed money for the California Bowl, the relocation of the Rotary Office to the Crocker Bank Building, the increased memberships from 392 to 413 members, the leadership of the Rotary Club of Fresno and District 522 with 90 new Paul Harris Fellows, the maintenance of attendance levels at over 90 percent for the year, the recognition of Doctor Bill Lesley on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday by national television coverage and, finally, the formation of a Rotary Bowling Team and Rotary Orchestra. The most memorable program was called, "What's Good About America", and was chaired by Guy Johnston. The program included songs by soloist Jack Hannah, the Fresno City College Choir, and a presentation by Neil (Moon) Reagan, brother of President Reagan, and a long time Rotarian. Neil was a retired advertising executive, and a business acquaintance of President Deatherage. He brought with him a personal letter from his brother, "Dutch," which complimented the Rotary Club of Fresno for the patriotic program. This letter has been framed, and is on display in the Rotary office. The main speaker was a 92-year-old retired British Naval officer, and Boy Scout executive who made a humorous and patriotic presentation on Scouting. At the conclusion, he received a rare spontaneous standing ovation. If that was not enough, we should also note that this President did also reach a goal of beginning to revitalize the Rotary Quartet, of which he was a proud member and, to this day can still carry his tune. Other members are Brian Morse, Carroll Cotton, and Ray Eggebraaten.

**Rotary Club of Fresno**  
2220 Tulare Street, Suite 100P  
Fresno, California 93721

SECOND CLASS  
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Fresno, CA 93706

**The Fresno Rotarian**  
Fresno-Agribusiness Capital of the World

Vol. 65, No. 28 JANUARY 12, 1981

**MONDAY'S PROGRAM:**

**ARNETT ON TAP**

**GUEST COLUMNIST:**

*(Ed's note: DEL CRUMMET came into Rotary with a strong family background in Rotary. He served as well as President and during his tenure on the Board of Directors. Always a firm believer in attendance he considered "early leavers" from meetings upon a regular basis as a blotch upon the escutcheon of Fresno Rotary, and he made "no bones" about it. In all his Rotary activity he has approached it with his usual sense and enthusiasm.)*

*by DEL CRUMMET*

The following is an excerpt from an article about my father that appeared in the San Jose Rotary Bulletin dated March 20, 1968. The occasion was my father's 90th birthday on March 18th.

"John came into Rotary in 1918 when he was 40. In 1925 he became President Number 12 of the Rotary Club of San Jose. The founder of Rotary, Paul Harris, visited San Jose, spoke to our members and became a personal friend of John Crummet. John has many interesting stories to tell about their relationship. During the administration of John's term, he stressed the ideals of Rotary. He emphasized attendance and community service."

I refer to this for three reasons:

First, to point to those who were around during my year as president that my dedication to attendance was an inherited trait.

Second, to make note of the consistency of our Rotary organization. Since its inception, stress has been placed on the ideals of Rotary and on any or (CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE)

**Next Program:**

REAR ADMIRAL GLEN W. LENOX,  
Commander Light Attack Wing, United States Pacific Fleet.

**"Take Time To Serve"**

**Rotary Club of Fresno**  
2220 Tulare Street, Suite 100P  
Fresno, California 93721

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**GUEST COLUMNIST (Continued)**

all avenues of service. They are still as vital and meaningful as ever. It would be a rare Rotarian indeed who did not find himself a better man as a result of his Rotary experience.

Three, the reference to Paul Harris, who was a guest in our home, when I was seven years old, highlights to me the brief period during which Rotary as grown to its present stature. Just imagine what it can do in another 75 years!

One final note: There are those who feel that we overdo our emphasis on attendance, but attendance is what Rotary is all about. If you aren't going to attend regularly, then you should not have joined in the first place. Also, this writer is one that believes that attendance should be counted ONLY IF YOU STAY FOR THE PROGRAM. (You know that was coming, didn't you?)

(Ed's note: Fresno Rotary was fortunate to have DEL'S Dad as a speaker, which many of you will remember as a beautiful Rotary day. Mr. Crummet was given a standing ovation upon the close of his heartfelt remarks.)

**SAY "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" TO:**

WALTER STALEY . . . . . The 9th  
GUSS GRAHAM . . . . . The 12th  
VIRGIL SNOW . . . . . The 12th

**SANDERS AND BURKHART REPORT**

Only two cars were entered in an automobile race held in Moscow -- a Lynx and a Russian Moskvich. The Lynx won easily. Next day without mentioning how many cars competed, Pravda reported, "The Soviet Moskvich placed second, while the American car came in next to last."

**NEWSMAKING ROTARIANS . . .**

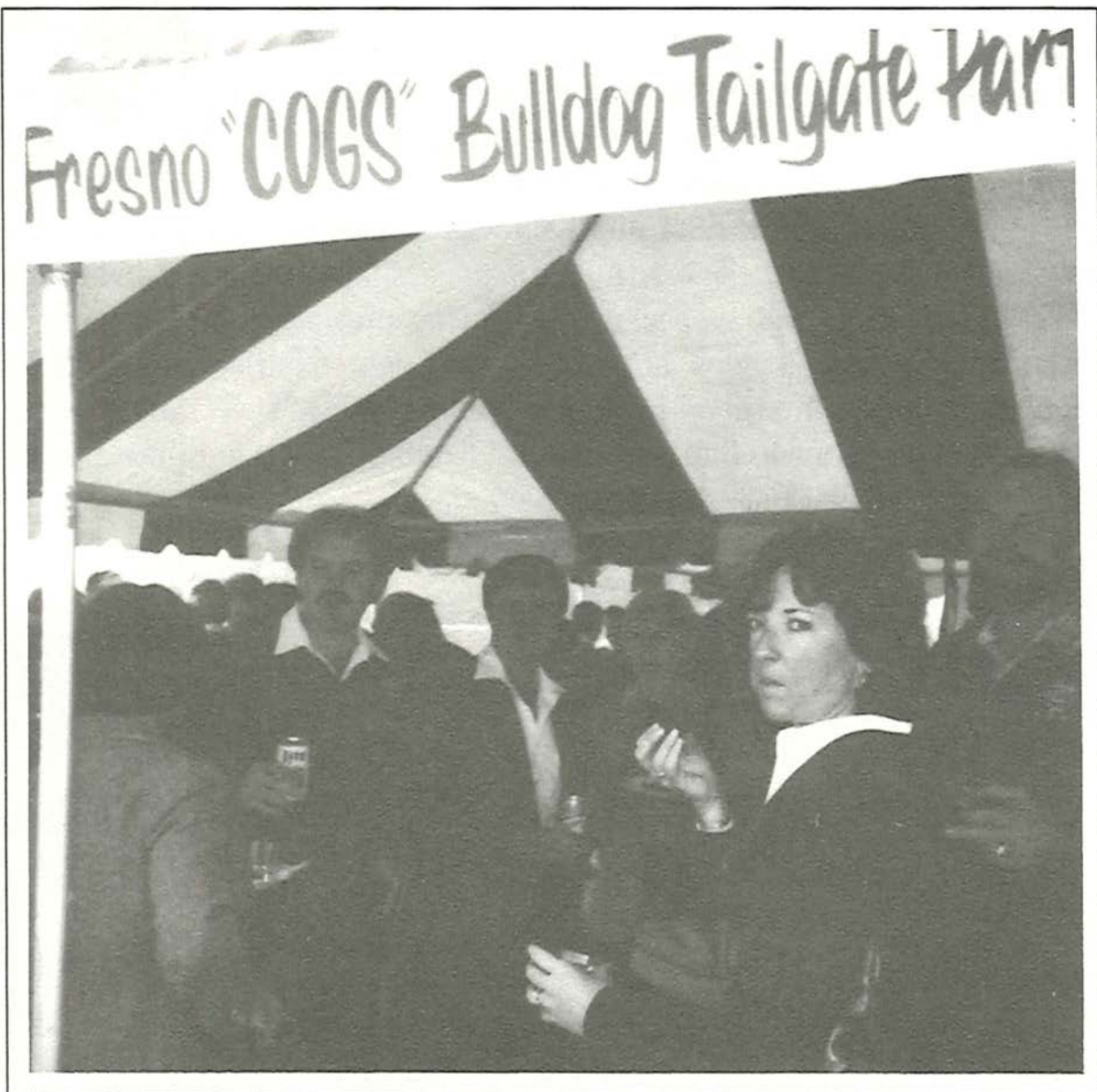
JOHN RIDDERING is working with Fresno State in setting up a regional irrigation research project . . . Did you know that last year our Fresno Rotary was the 39th largest Rotary Club in The World? Today, we are the 28th ranking club! . . . DAVID HADDEN is scheduled to speak at Sanger Rotary on the 16th . . . MAYOR DAN is doing the same at North Fresno Rotary . . . President-Elect STAN McCAFFREY of Rotary International will be honored at a dinner in Turlock on January 29th . . . DALE BLICKEN-STAFF is set to speak to North Fresno Rotary on the 15th . . . LARRY FORTUNE set in with Westchester Rotary (adjacent to L.A. International Airport) . . . BILL SCHWARTNER visited the West Honolulu Rotary . . .

Jones Eades

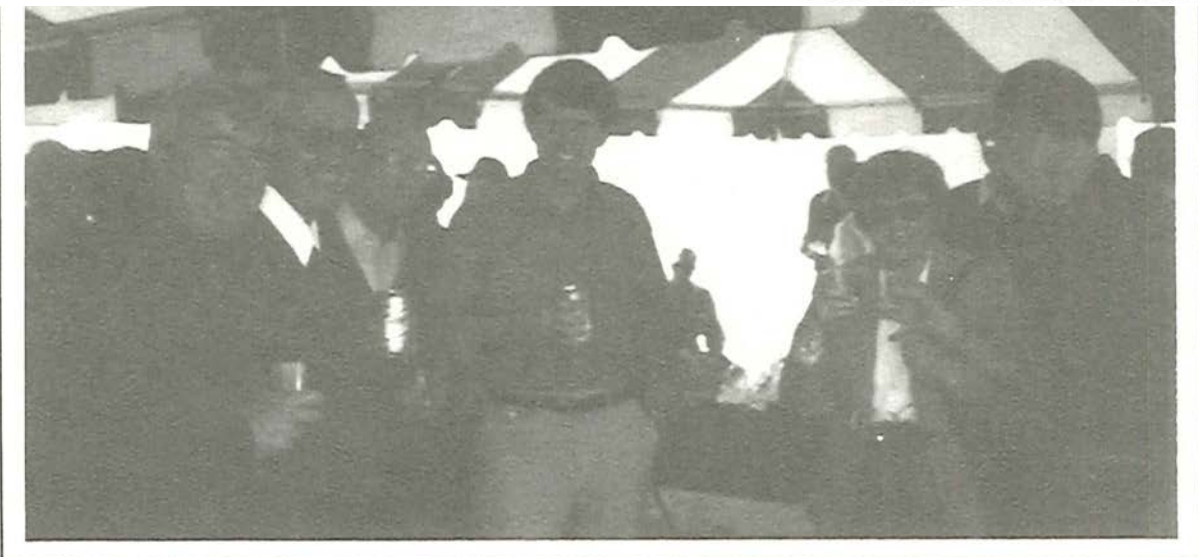




Rotary Club of Fresno Bowling Team, 1980-81. Left to right: Dick Herrinton, Al Pecchenino, J.C. Jones, Guy Johnston and Wil Pimentel.



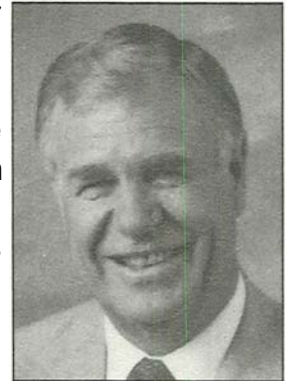
Fresno "Cogs" Bulldog Tailgate Party, 1981



# PRESIDENTS

## SID COX 1981 to 1982

The accomplishment of the past year continued in the programs of service under President Sid Cox. One innovation, begun by President Cox which has continued as a tradition, is the invitation at the start of each meeting to “shake the hand of a nearby Rotarian.” Not as long-lived was President Cox’s device for limiting free speech at the rostrum – a three minute hourglass was used to define discussion (in some cases this might be worth bringing back – Editor). Another innovation saw a special events committee bringing noteworthy local folks to most meetings for special honors – including a college basketball player who protected a winning lead for the final two minutes after his entire team fouled out! Cox also “rewarded” recalcitrant members (6) who missed “Perfect Attendance Week” with live turkeys. Noting that Director Guy Johnston needed a legitimate first name, Cox conducted a contest to rename Johnston, with proceeds to Rotary charity. Member Norman Webster’s winning name for the non-hirsute Johnston: “Archibald.” New membership increased. Memorable programs included John Ralston, former Stanford coach, and Russian defector Andrea Sakhorov, and the late C.K. McClatchy in one of his rare public speeches. A world champion bubble gum blower is also remembered. The Rotary International Theme for the year was “World Understanding and Peace Through Rotary.”



## HOLLIS S. BEST 1982 to 1983



Hollis S. Best, as President, worked with a budget of \$25,000. A Special Grant was raised for the Program for the Retarded. Weekly programs varied with interesting personalities from the past, such as coaches, generals and TV executives. Fines often amounted to \$100 or more. One-hundred dollars became “standard”, in order to assure an adequate Community Project Fund for President Elect Burton James, M.D. Support was stated for the Fresno Metropolitan Museum and for the Rotary Youth Science Center. It was during this term that Gus Wilkerson retired after 17 years as Secretary of the Club. Following him would be Ian Bell. Also retiring, but after 20 years of service as Executive Secretary of the Rotary Club of Fresno, was Roberta Roby. Assuming her duties was Gerri Runnels. The Demo-

tion of Holly Best featured a “Trial by Jurors”, the main charge being failure to issue enough fines to support community projects. After a humorous poem by Jerry Blum, for which he could be nominated as the “Poet Laureate of the Rotary Club of Fresno”, the verdict, unfortunately, was fixed and the President was duly demoted.



Roberta Roby,  
Executive Secretary  
1961-1984



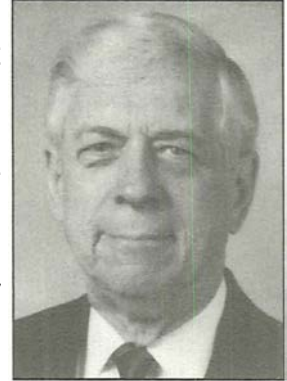
Geraldine Runnels,  
Executive Secretary  
1984-2006



# PRESIDENTS

BURTON R. JAMES, M.D. 1983 to 1984

The term of Burton R. James, M.D., another son of a former Rotarian Charles James, continued membership involvement as each member was called up at least once during the year to be highlighted as an individual or within a group. After much deliberation, the Club moved its weekly meeting place to the newly constructed Conference and Convention Center. One of the many diversified programs was an address by Governor Deukmejian. He was introduced by Leon S. Peters. This would be Rotarian Peters' last official function for the Rotary Club to which he was so deeply devoted. In the fall of 1983, Mr. Leon S. Peters, former President of the Rotary Club of Fresno and an outstanding civic leader, required hospitalization for a terminal illness. Through the suggestion and guidance of Bill Forbes, a very unique and significant program was arranged involving all of the Fresno/Clovis area Rotary Clubs in what was known as "Thank You, Leon Peters' Day." Ten prominent speakers representing local, county and state institutions expressed recognition and appreciation to Mr. Peters by highlighting his commitment to the ideals of Rotary as demonstrated by his work through Rotary throughout the whole community. The meeting was very well received and greatly appreciated by Mr. Peters and his family who were able to observe the proceedings by video recording in his hospital room.



GUY JOHNSTON 1984 to 1985

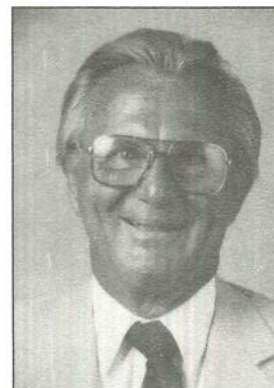


Guy Johnston as President, led 421 members in many areas of service. Camp Royal for Girls was initiated after several years of planning. Funds were raised for a viewing shelter at the Japanese Gardens at Woodward Park and "The Sneezelless Garden" was conceptualized to be at Fresno State University. Doctor Bill Ziering chaired the Committee. This program project would be accomplished over the next three to four years when it would be formally returned to the University for maintenance. Leadership was lent in initiating the Neighborhood Watch Program in Fresno and in taking over the Buddy Booster Program which is part of the Cal Bowl. Efforts were underway to computerize the Rotary Club Office. The Rotary Club of Fresno hosted the Big Club Conference of President-Elects and Executive Secretaries from all 400 member Clubs west of the Mississippi, plus New Orleans, Louisiana and Memphis, Tennessee. Bob Shiner was chairman and R.I. President Elect Ed Cadman was the featured speaker. The Club sent a check for \$10,000 to the Tlantlapanta, Mexico Rotary Club to aid after a Pemex explosion. On that mission were Tony Geruldis, Wil Pimentel and Peter Pierre Sr.

# PRESIDENTS

RICHARD A. JOHANSON 1985 to 1986

The regime of President Richard A. Johanson sought to complete the goals of his predecessor in computerizing the office. He established a new Club committee – the Government Relations Committee. A highlight of the year was a luncheon meeting at which over \$33,000 was presented to Charles A. Looney as the Club's contribution to the newly launched R.I. Polio Plus Project. The drive's success was due to the efforts of a special committee chaired by Bob Jones. Polio Plus is the first truly international program sponsored by Rotary International through the combined efforts of the 23,000 Rotary Clubs worldwide, which had as its goal the raising of over \$200,000,000 to be used to eradicate polio throughout the world. The Club's Allergy Free Garden Project (also known as the "Sneezeless Garden") continued to receive recognition throughout the state. In the spring the Club celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the new Centre Plaza Hotel at which time plaques were presented to Mel Willson and Kenny Hickman for their years of participation and service. Fresno's first Interact Club was organized in November at Roosevelt High School with 34 charter members. As the year concluded, membership had risen to almost 440 Rotarians. Fifty-three Paul Harris Fellowships were awarded. The most memorable speaker was Frederico Compean, who came from the San Luis Potisi, Mexico, and spoke of his experiences throughout the world enjoying Rotary Fellowship.



ROBERT H. OLIVER 1986 to 1987



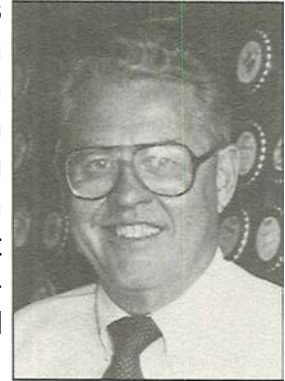
President Robert Oliver set an ambitious goal to increase the presence of Rotary in the Fresno community as well as in the families of Rotarians. Emphasis was placed on activities including wives (the last year that term would be used) and children. These included the family picnic, an evening at Roger Rocka's, and participation in events surrounding the Rotary Soccer Cup competition. In an effort to recognize community leaders, seven Paul Harris Fellowships were awarded to non-Rotarians who by their word and deed, had fulfilled the objectives of Rotary. Bob's Program Committee, chaired by Bob Jones, did a stellar job. Rotary speakers included Governor Deukmejian, Senator Wilson, an astronaut, the president of the AMA, and a thinly veiled sales pitch for the ever-famous "Exergenie". The Club participated in the funding and installation of a kiosk in the Fresno Air Terminal

which extols the Rotary four-way test; the Club observed the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Constitution in several ways which included a high school poster competition contest and a member program featuring an informative debate. Membership was 434. Oliver's administration initiated the first ever "Dream Drawing"; a lucky winner received a brand new Mercedes Benz and a trip to Germany. This project netted \$30,000.00 for the Rotary Club of Fresno Foundation. During President Oliver's year, Rotary International and the California Supreme Court indicated that it was appropriate for women to become part of the Rotary. In keeping with the intent and spirit of that ruling, Oliver had the honor of installing the first three women in any Fresno area Rotary Club at the last regular meeting of his term. Oliver had been quoted as saying that "Until this year I did not truly appreciate the meaning of Ladies' Day."

# PRESIDENTS

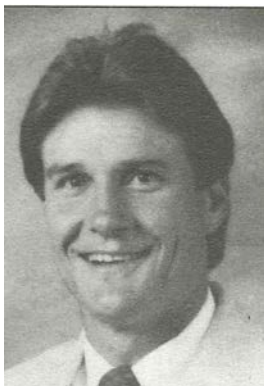
JAMES WINTON 1987 to 1988

The stated goals of President James Winton seemed just as breathtaking as his predecessor's. Completed during the year was the Interact Program at Duncan Polytechnic High School and also the continued smooth assimilation of women into Rotary. Goals met included the start of an Exchange Program Assistance with Tlalnepantla, Mexico, a Dental Clinic in the Salvation Army facility and a Smoking Awareness Program. Of special note was the role of the Rotary Club of Fresno in helping to conceptualize and popularize the idea of a Rotary hospice facility at Valley Children's Hospital. Director John Bakas traveled the District with the District Governor, Ed Nichols, and urging District-wide support. Ultimately, this special project would be completed in early 1990 and the facility dedicated in June 1990.



This facility will allow a respite to family members of patients undergoing cancer treatment at Valley Children's Hospital by providing a homelike environment during the less acute phases of their care. During the year, 26 Paul Harris Fellowships were awarded. One humorous program was the contest for the "Funniest Guy in Rotary Contest" which pitted Bob Jones, Sid Cox and Guy Johnston in several skits. A familiar theme at all meetings was awareness of the Red Wave activities of Fresno State University. The biggest challenge for the year was completion of our share for Polio Plus – a project chaired at the District level by Charles Looney and Sharon Levy.

BOB JONES 1988 to 1989



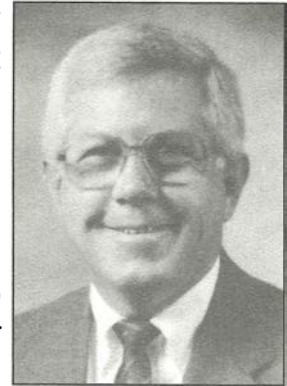
Bob Jones brought an era of lightheartedness to the podium as President while carrying out his ambitious programs. Objectives for the year included starting a major fund raiser, which proved to be the Ranch Auction Party, netting over \$45,000. Increasing community awareness, and increasing the Dental Clinic facility at the Salvation Army were also significant efforts. During the year, the goal of \$200,000 for Polio Plus was accomplished by our Club and the last check was presented to the District. A team of physicians and Rotarians visited Mexico, supplying medical supplies and expertise. Finally, Duncan Polytechnical High School was adopted by the Club and an annual tour of the facility was begun. One hundred and twenty Club members participated in the Buddy Booster Program and many attended the festivities at Valley Children's Hospital learning of the unique value of this relationship which coupled individual football players with a patient. Forty committees continued to operate with 408 members involved.



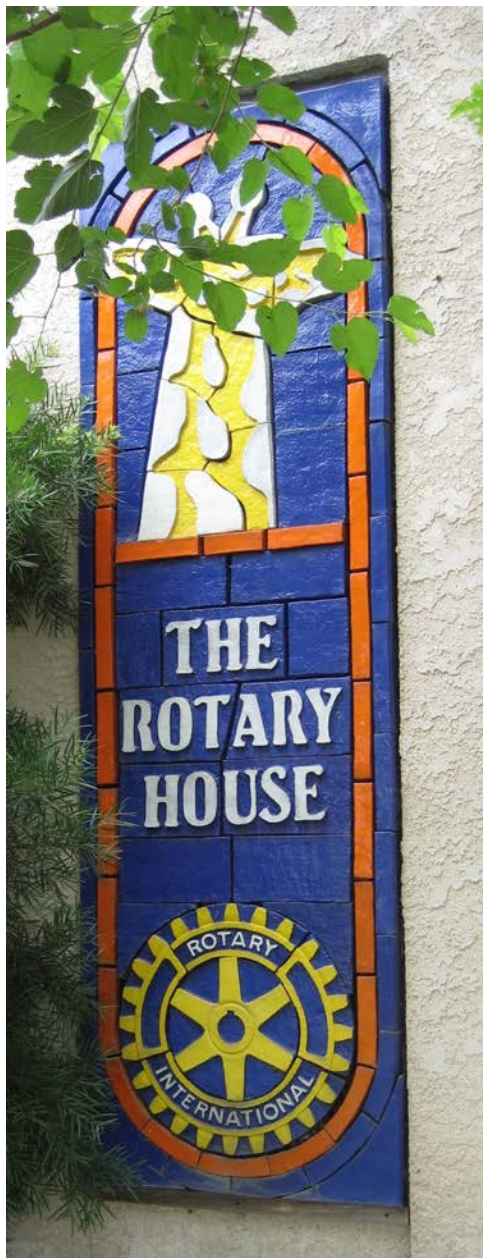
# PRESIDENTS

GARY RENNER 1989 to 1990

In this year, Rotary International President Hugh Archer had as his theme “Enjoy Rotary,” and our very own President Gary “The Short One” Renner, saw to it that we all did. Rotary fellowship was encouraged through events such as the Annual Family Picnic, Rotary Soccer Sup and Rotary Night at Roger Rocka’s. The Club began preparations for celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary by compiling a club history. Some of the more significant events of the year included the dedication of the Rotary House at Valley Children’s Hospital to which the Club donated \$50,000; the



Sneezeless Garden was turned over to Fresno State; the Club raised over \$10,000 to help earth quake victims in Watsonville; the Buddy Booster Program marked its more successful effort by contribution over \$15,000 to Valley Children’s Hospital and the California Raisin Bowl; a member handbook was developed for all new members; and the Club’s first Long Range Plan was written to provide future focus and direction for the 1990s. Our Rotary District was led by our own Dick Johanson. Governor Johanson could be proud as our “Project Nino” was named the District’s Outstanding International Project, while at the same time our newly expanded Fresno Rotarian was awarded the Governor’s Special Award for Outstanding Bulletin. Finally, the Club conducted its Second Annual Fundraiser, “Paradise Found,” raising over \$45,000. This year marked the first time that the Club raised over \$100,000 for Rotary Charities.



Rotary House March 1993

# FRESNO 1990 TO 2016

The last 25 years saw Fresno take its place as the fifth largest city in California with a population of 500,121 as of 2011, an increase of almost 42% from 1990 to 2011. Fresno County reached 940,220 people in that same time period. Those 25 years saw rapid development in the technology we all use including computers, cell phones and social media. Fresno and its surrounding counties continued to lead the nation in agricultural output but there were changes in the types of crops that were being produced with more crops like almonds and less in the way of row crops like cotton. It seemed like the world was changing at an ever faster pace although like every generation that says the same thing, it probably was not as fast as it seemed. There were booms and busts in the economy. The United States saw the devastation of the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington D.C. There were several significant natural disasters including Hurricane Katrina, deadly storms in the Midwest and California had two major earthquakes, Northridge in 1994 and Napa in 2014. Wars were fought in Iraq and Afghanistan. California found itself in the middle of a significant drought in 2012-2015. Yet in the face of all of these events, Fresno stood proud and The Rotary Club of Fresno continued its history of service to Fresno and the rest of the world showing the true meaning of the Rotary motto of "Service above Self."

Rotary saw many changes over the last 25 years. Perhaps one of the most significant is the increase in the number of women members since women were first admitted to membership in the Rotary Club of Fresno in 1987. During the last 25 years the Rotary Club of Fresno saw its first four women presidents and had the joy of having one of its presidents, Shirley Grace, become a District Governor. The Rotary Club of Fresno "family tree" of Rotary Clubs grew once again. The Rotary Club of Fresno was part of change in Fresno during those 25 years.

In 1998, Fresno became home to the Fresno Grizzlies, AAA franchise initially affiliated with the San Francisco Giants and later with the Houston Astros. A beautiful stadium was completed downtown in 2002. In 2003 the Save Mart Center on the Fresno State Campus opened and provided a venue in Fresno for many large acts to visit. Bulldog Stadium, home of the Fresno State Bulldog Football team was expanded in 1991 by 10,000 seats. Fresno State crowned two national champions, its softball team in 1998 and baseball in 2008. In 2005 downtown Fresno saw a new federal courthouse and in 2007 a new building for the Fifth Appellate District of the Court of Appeal among others. Downtown Fresno saw a beginning of a revival with several housing developments and the arrival of Bitwise, an entrepreneurial technology hub. Staying true to its roots, The Rotary Club of Fresno remained in downtown Fresno. The Club helped to jump start efforts to revive downtown with its project to preserve the historic water tower. The water tower, built in 1894, is a landmark in Fresno. The Club lead a drive that resulted in the successful remodeling of the water tower in 2001. It now serves as a Visitor Center.

Fresno State, Fresno City College and Fresno Pacific University continued to grow and thrive winning many academic awards and turning out successful leaders. The Rotary Club of Fresno worked with Fresno State and its athletic department on Little Heroes, a project designed to match Fresno State athletes with children at Valley Children's Hospital for activities that neither the athletes nor the children might otherwise have. The project continues to provide joy to both athletes and children. The Club worked with disadvantaged students at Jefferson Elementary and with students in Interact at Duncan Polytechnical High School. The Club provided scholarships on an annual basis to worthy high school students.

# FRESNO 1990 TO 2016

The arts in Fresno thrived with, among other things, Art Hop, Roger Rockas Dinner Theater, Second Space Theater, the Fresno Philharmonic, the Fresno Grand Opera, Broadway in Fresno, events at the Shegoyan Theater on the Clovis North campus, Woodward Park Shakespeare Festival and others too many to mention. The Rotary Club of Fresno contributed significantly to this growth with the development of the Rotary Amphitheater at Woodward Park. The Amphitheater has seen internationally known performers and provides an ideal venue for many events. The Rotary Club of Fresno also did its part to try to beautify the area working with local high schools to design and install murals along Fresno's highways and to install a Welcome to Fresno sign along Highway 99 on the North part of town.

The Rotary Club of Fresno's outreach goes well beyond just Fresno. For the last 26 years Project Nino has delivered medical, dental and optical services in Mexico. The Project now includes classroom education for medical professionals in Mexico. Over the 26 years of its existence, tons of medical supplies have been donated and delivered to Mexico and thousands of patients have received medical care that might not otherwise be available to them. Long term relationships have developed between the volunteers and the recipients. The Rotary Club of Fresno was a pioneer in the development of solar cookers and both providing solar cookers, and related item such as rocket stoves and hay baskets, and teaching their use in many places in the world where women must struggle day to day to obtain firewood to cook because of a lack of alternatives. WAPIs, devices used to measure whether water is safe to drink, have been built and delivered by the Rotary Club of Fresno all over the world. As of this writing over 75,000 WAPIs have been delivered.

The Rotary Club of Fresno has supplied over 4,200 wheelchairs to those in need of mobility over the last 12 years. Taking advantage of the Wheelchair and Rotary International Foundations, The Rotary Club of Fresno has raised the funds necessary to acquire and deliver the wheelchairs in many places around the world. More recently the Rotary Club of Fresno, working with Clubs in India, started a project in Goa to provide women with sewing machines to enable them to become self sufficient.

These items are just a part of the generosity of the members of the Club. The Rotary Club of Fresno was instrumental in the development of the "Sneezeless Garden" at Fresno State showing ways to have allergy free gardens. It provided financial and other assistance to Rotary Playland and Storyland, a place for families in Roeding Park. There have been contributions made to help others in need as a result of natural disasters whether in the mid West or in places like Haiti. The Rotary Club of Fresno started its own Foundation in 1987. Since its inception, it has given away over \$700,000 to local charities.

From its inception in March of 1916 to its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March of 2016, the Rotary Club of Fresno has done projects from its first, planting trees along Golden State Boulevard, to its Centennial Project, the installation of a new entry plaza for Rotary Playland. Throughout its history, its members have given of their time and money to try to make Fresno and the world a better place. Along the way many great and enduring friendships have been made and much joy and laughter shared.

David M. Gilmore, Past President



# PRESIDENTS

WILLIAM "Bill" LUCIDO 1990 to 1991



When Bill Lucido took over the reins of our Club, the membership was at 403 and the Rotary Motto for the year was "Honor Rotary with Faith and Enthusiasm". During 90-91, the Rotary Club of Fresno celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. On March 22, the Club ran an eight-page Special Advertising Section in The Fresno Bee featuring our Seventy-Five years of Community Service. The featured speaker at our March 23, 1991 event, "A Celebration of Service" was Rotary International President-elect-nominee 1992/1993 Clifford L. Dochterman (Stockton Rotary Club). The event was black-tie, but someone forgot to tell Cliff who showed up in a business suit. Five future Club presidents served on the board or as bulletin editor: Doug Jensen, Bill Stewart, Dave Hadden, Gordie Webster and Zetta Hadden. Among others, Paul Chafee and Martin Winton died that Rotary Year. Each week, we started the meeting with an "event from this

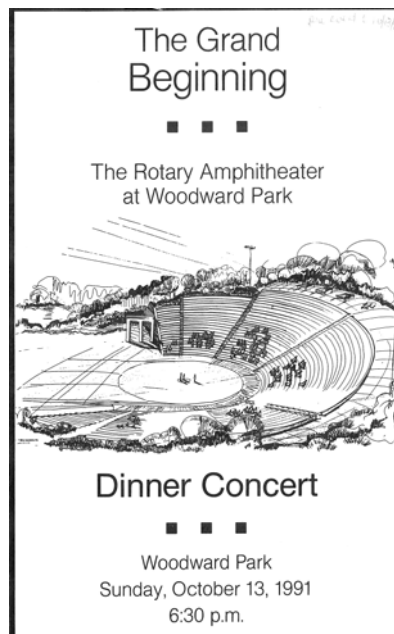
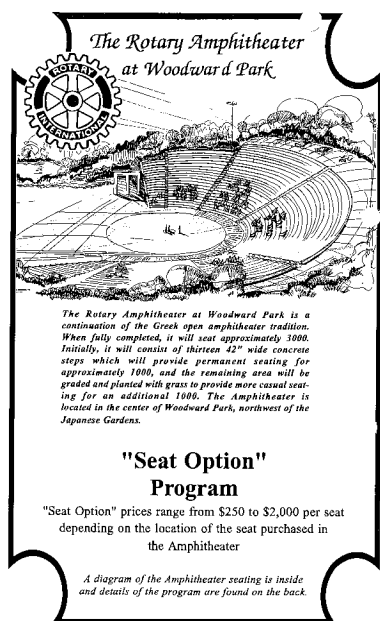
date in history". Two of our goals were to increase membership, which we did, and to get more members involved, which we also accomplished. The demolition Flight 90-91 ended with Colonel Lucido's court marshal.

JOHN S. BAKAS 1991 to 1992

The year 1991-92 was the year of "Carpe Diem" or "Seize the Day" of John Bakas. John was a man of vision, who thought a Greek-style Amphitheater would be a natural setting in Woodward Park... and under his leadership, this was established as a project of our Club. He also set up a Little Heroes Program with Valley Children's Hospital matching patients with athletes from Fresno State, which became an ongoing Club project. During his term, we had one of the most hilarious programs ever. Gene Ford challenged John to shave his beard onstage in return for a substantial cash donation. To the cheers of the



audience, John did so and the smiling, through unfamiliar, face of Father John was revealed.



# PRESIDENTS

DOUG JENSEN 1992 to 1993



Doug Jensen took over the reins of the Club for 1992-93, with a membership of an even 400. He will be long remembered for opening each program with his "Legal Thought for the Day", a barrister's humorous look at the legal profession.

The Club members truly defined this year. After many years of saving birthday contributions and squirreling away unspent funds, the Club had accumulated more than \$400,000 in its Foundation. The Club's plan was to bring the balance up to \$500,000 before paying out any income for particular purposes. The Club members gave Jensen great memories of his year in office by contributing enough to the Foundation to raise its capital balance above the \$500,000 target. As a result, we were able to bring contributions to local projects, such as the Rotary Amphitheater at Woodward Park, which was started by John Bakas the previous year.

Perhaps it was that spirit, commitment, exemplified in all of our Club activities and committees that convinced the District to give us Club of the Year honors. "Scoop" Norcross as Editor of our Bulletin, which roundly deserved and, in fact, won Best Large Club Bulletin kudos.

CLIFFORD H. DAVIS 1993 to 1994

Under the R.I. theme "Believe In What You Do", a key goal was to focus on finishing the 4-year-old Rotary Amphitheater project at Woodward Park. The first on-site event, "Picnic in the Park", showed everyone how the spectacular development was shaping up.

Back at the hotel, we pressured the Hilton to rent a sound system that worked... and it did. When we broke the Blood Bank with record pints (blood that is), Davis thought the system crashed. Instead, the squealing we hear was a live piglet... the award. "Rotary At Work" was stressed and the Four-Way Test was recharged with its appearance in the Club Directory and on key chains given to all visiting students. Mid-term, Fresno Rotary was the first to join the other Clubs to financially rescue Rotary Storyland/Playland.



In 1994, the Miss California Pageant moved to Fresno. Hosting all the candidates for lunch produced one of the year's memorable, no-doze programs. We gained membership and added some extra spin to the Rotary Cogs. The District Conference gave us the top award for the Rotary Amphitheater which, appropriately, was slated for dedication during Don Jackson's up-coming year.

# PRESIDENTS

DONALD A. JACKSON 1994 to 1995



Memories of the year 1994-95's projects have withstood the test of time and are still part of our club's activities. Principal projects were the adoption of Jefferson School as an ongoing Rotary commitment and the completion of raising \$725,000 in funding for the Rotary Amphitheater at Woodward Park. Jefferson projects included the donation of \$6,300 for uniforms for students, providing equipment for the parents' safety patrol, providing shoes and jackets for students, fencing a secure parking area for school staff, financing the year book, providing bike racks and a wheelchair for the school nurse's office and also providing the design, materials and labor for installation of landscaping.

The principle new project for the year, however, was the formation of the Rotary Net program and committee, which served as a safety net for Rotarians experiencing a voluntary or involuntary career change. Over the years, the members of this committee have mentored many Rotarians and provided discipline and direction to the transition process.

This year also saw the introduction of portable microphones and a significant increase in the funds available for charitable projects for the following year. The Club's Organizational Chart and Member's Handbook were also revised. The Club continued Project Nino (which provides medical and dental services in Tlalnepantla, Mexico), instituted the Guyana Project (which sent books, teaching materials, computers and equipment to Guyana to update its educational system) and began a three-year pilot project for Solar Cookers for Africa.

Awards for the year included: Rotary International Award for the Rotary Amphitheater, District Award as Club of Distinction, Governor's Awards for Bulletin, Crime & Violence and Community Service, International Service, Benefactor and Club Service.

BILL F. STEWART 1995 to 1996

Bill Stewart took over the Club of 382 members with his usual enthusiasm. As a means of raising money for our Club projects, Bill became our "Incredibly Vanishing President" as he volunteered to lose weight to the tune of \$1 to \$50 per pound. While his efforts raised a grant total of \$23,000, there are no historical figures available on the total weight loss.

This year saw massive payments toward the construction of the Amphitheater and, finally, the opening ceremonies for the project. As always, our Club won numerous District awards. One of our major contributions was a gift of \$10,000 for the Blood Bank's Bloodmobile. And, as a welcome change of pace, our Club hosted the first joint Fresno Club meeting, honoring the contestants in the Miss California Pageant.





# PRESIDENTS

LOUIS "Dewey" C. SLATER 1996 to 1997




During the first week of September of 1996, the five-year-long Woodward Park Amphitheater was the site of a gala Club fundraiser, the very first event held there. All enjoyed great entertainment, great food, great fun and a great auction.

The fall of '96 also saw a national election and President Slater became our first admitted Democrat since the two party system began. This became a cause for great consternation among the membership. However, the Democratic victory was not a great drain on the financial resources of our members who bet on the outcome with Slater. Our income from recognition continued as always, due to the great generosity of our members.

Meetings were often subject to spontaneous interruptions, largely the doing of Jim Paige who, due to hearing loss, had to sit very near the front and therefore, near the microphone. Most of the comments made by the venerable Mr. Paige would have been censored were he not a semi-retired judge.

The Rotary year also saw the first woman governor for our District. She led us well, holding a Governor's Ball in Fresno that raised \$156,000 for the Rotary International Foundation. During this year, the Club also funded two major educational projects, one through the Fresno Adult Literacy Council and one through the Sequoia Council Boy Scouts of America.



CLUB #203

VOLUME 81 - NO. 46 MAY 19, 1997

**THE FRESNO**  
**Rotarian**  
ROTARY DISTRICT 5230

Dewey Slater, President

Artwork by Doug Hansen used by permission of Fresno Bee

CHARTERED MARCH, 1916

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MAY 19, 1997 . . . . . CHAFFEE ZOO AT ROEDING PARK


**ROTARY FAMILY ZOO OUTING**  
COME EARLY - STAY LATE - BUFFET LUNCH - 12:00 NOON

GUESTS WELCOME - STAY AS LONG AS YOU WISH AND ENJOY THE NEW AND IMPROVED CHAFFEE ZOO.

RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!!!

COST: \$8.50 PER PERSON  
(Includes admission to the Zoo and Winged Wonders Bird Show)

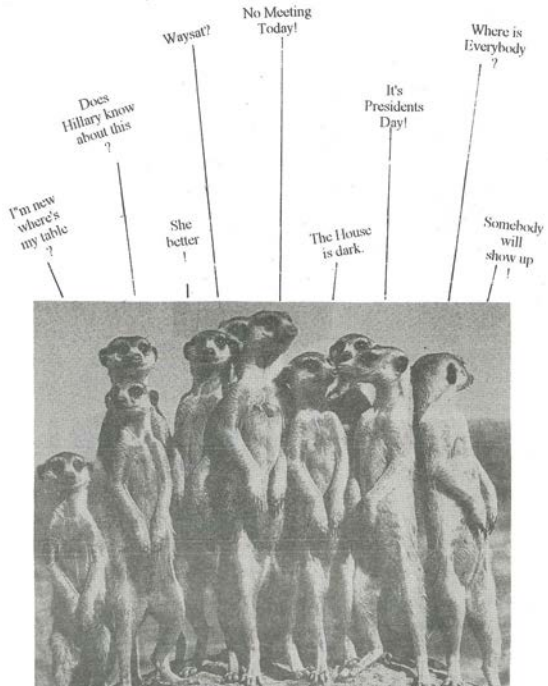
THIS IS A MEETING - SIGN-INS AT THE HILTON ARE NOT VALID!



Volume 81 - No. 34

**THE FRESNO ROTARIAN**  
February 17, 1997

DEWEY SLATER, Pres.



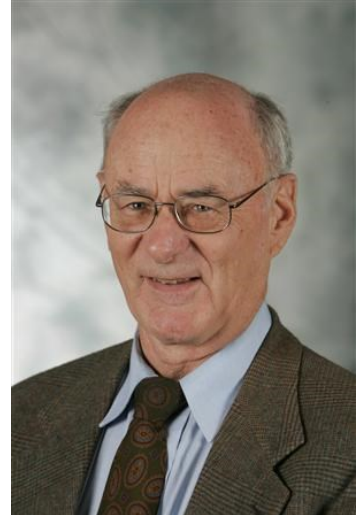
# PRESIDENTS

DAVID M. HADDEN 1997 to 1998

The Rotary year 1997-98, under the Presidency of Coroner Dr. Dave Hadden (a.k.a. Dr. Death), raised the Fresno Rotary Club to new heights with the addition of a platform in front of the dais so that guests, students and people receiving recognition could be seen in the back of the room.

The year may have insulted a higher authority. Judge Annette LaRue was scheduled to do the invocation which she lost in the bottom of her purse. There was an awkward delay while she was searched in the depths of her handbag. Finally, the President leaned over and said, "Annette, hurry up, God is waiting".

Governor Gray Davis, then a candidate, was a featured program speaker. He was the only speaker in the 85-year history of the Club to use a teleprompter. He also declined an invitation to trade political jokes with the President.



The year's main project was to be the restoration of the Fresno Water Tower and its conversion to a Visitors' Center. Club Secretary Zetta vigorously counseled against accepting the project because it involved the City and that was bound to incur frustrations and delays. Ironically, what was to have been the high point of President Dave's year became a completed project in his wife Zetta's presidential year (2000 to 2001). Nevertheless, Rotary achieved its goal, acting as a catalyst for the restoration of this old and proud Fresno symbol. Following his model railroad experience, President Dave had 1,200 china models of the water tower constructed. By the opening of the Tower, 1,100 had been sold to involve Fresno citizens at \$50 a piece. One hundred pictures of the Tower were sold for \$1,000 each to a group dubbed "The Fresno One Hundred". These projects accounted for most of the \$144,000 Fresno Rotary agreed to contribute to the restoration. A proud monument, the Water Tower has now increased the prominence and symbolism thanks to the efforts of the Fresno Rotary.

Southern Pacific donated locomotive 1238 to Fresno Rotary, which now stands in Roeding Park.



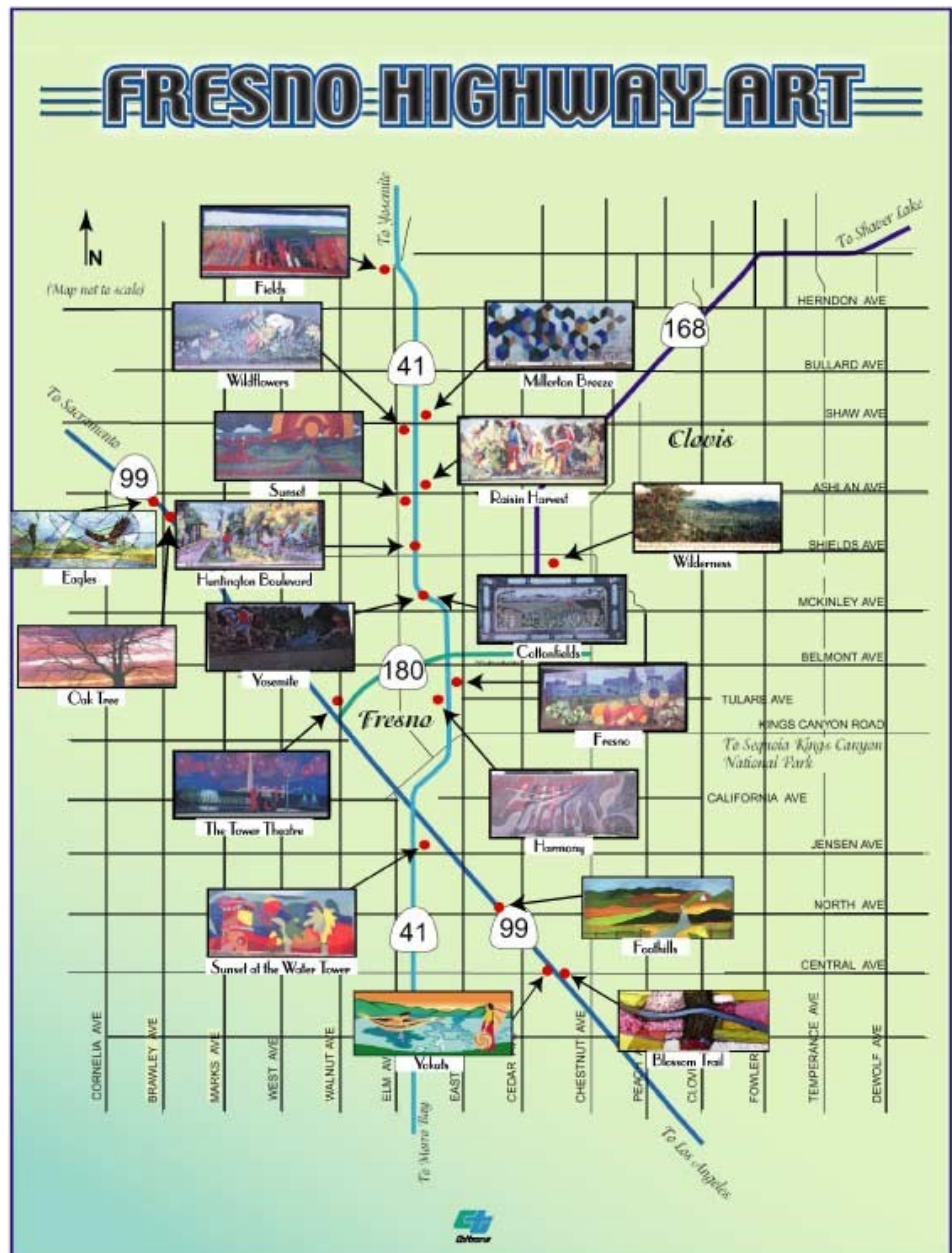
# PRESIDENTS

GORDON M. WEBSTER, JR. 1998 to 1999



This year saw the creation and installation of four murals located along entryways to Fresno as part of the ongoing Highway Beautification Art Project. The Club also donated \$15,000 to the Valley Freeze Coalition to be used for food and shelter for the Valley's farm workers hardest hit by the 1998 citrus crop freeze.

Sixty-two Paul Harris Fellows were presented from the Fresno Rotary Club to International President James Lacy in 1998-1999; a Club record.





# PRESIDENTS

STEPHEN R. HENRY 1999 to 2000

“Oyez, Oyez, Oyez” called our meetings to order during Judge Steve’s year. We ushered in Y2K in dotcom style with a sophisticated Club website.

Meetings were fun, informative and varied: Authors Susan Maxwell Skinner (Princess Di) and Dr. J.S. Holiday (California history) autographed their excellent books after they spoke.

Biggest meeting ever occurred when 975 Rotarians and guests convened at the convention center to hear presidential candidate Steve Forbes address the Club. He promised to place his speaker’s gift prominently in the Oval Office.



Former President Thomas Jefferson also spoke with us through Public Radio personality Professor Clay Jenkins.

California Supreme Court Justice Ming Chin took on Governor Davis’ attitude about the judiciary after the Justice was presented by honorary member Justice Marv Baxter.

Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante spoke, after getting some good advice from our Bulletin editor, Ed “Crusty” Norcross.

Coaches Pat Hill and Tark the Shark forecast their seasons; humorous past Rotary International President Cliff Dochterman had us rolling in the aisles; the Good Company Players knocked our socks off; we cried at the courage Rotarian Bob Sweet showed dealing with the ravages of polio in his highly successful life; mayoral candidates Alan Autry and Dan Whitehurst faced off in gentlemanly debate; and much, much more...

Judge Steve also embarrassed 23 past Club presidents by calling each of them up to justify their claim to being one of the Club’s “three great past presidents.”

The Club committees had our four avenues of service humming with activity. The most prestigious award went to Community Service when the Council of Fresno Governments recognized our Club for our highway mural project, conferring its Award of Achievement for Urban Programs. The Club Foundation came to full fruition this year. Along with lesser grants, a \$34,000 grant was approved to restore the carousel at Rotary Playland.

The R.I. theme was “Act with consistency, credibility, community”.

# PRESIDENTS

## ZETTA HADDEN 2000 TO 2001



Purported at the time to be the last remaining large club in the District to have a women serve as president, the Rotary Club of Fresno celebrated 85 years of service to the world and began the new millennium with me as it's elected head.

After having donated thousands of dollars to other community organizations for office equipment, computers and software over the years, my officers, board and I focused our efforts on upgrading the equipment and software within the Rotary Office to improve services to our club membership.

The goal of each meeting was to educate and entertain, at times that was easier said than done. At least three meetings involved programs that were cancelled at the last minute. The most notable cancellation involved Steve Allen, the entertainer, who had the misfortune to die three days before he was to speak to our club.

I am proud that I began the tradition of having a Program speaker at the conclusion of their presentation, sign a children's book that was then donated to the Jefferson School library. At the conclusion of my year over 150 books were donated. This tradition is still ongoing six years later.

My predecessors began a long-term project with the City of Fresno to raise funds and oversee the restoration of the Water Tower at Eaton Plaza. This project was the focus of four previous Club presidents and was finally completed and dedicated toward the end of my year in May 2001. Also in May, the Club celebrated its 85<sup>th</sup> year of being chartered with a fundraiser with the proceeds going toward the Little Heroes Program.

The day of my demotion was bittersweet, after all my year had come and gone so incredibly fast. It was also one of the most poignant. When I was selected as president elect-elect long time Rotarian Ian Bell told me he had one more go in him and offered to serve as my Club Secretary. Ian had held that position many times before so his offer was quite a compliment. During that June demotion meeting Ian indicated that he wasn't feeling well. At the conclusion of the meeting he went to the emergency room where it was determined that he was suffering from an aortic aneurysm. Within three hours Ian had died. Loosing someone who offered trusted counsel, friendship and encouragement on the last day we were to serve together was completely inexplicable.

Having the opportunity to serve and work so closely with Ian, a Rotarian who exemplified Service above Self in all aspects of his life and Geri Runnels the Club Exec. who after 16 years with Fresno Rotary in my year became an honorary Rotarian, was one of the Rotary experiences for which I am most grateful. Availing myself of that year of service to my club as President has been life changing.

# PRESIDENTS

## EVERETT NORCROSS III 2001 TO 2002

Everett Norcross, the son of one of "The Three Great Past Presidents" Ed Norcross (1979 to 1980), began his year with a presentation of the Rotary International Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Rick King, the President of Rotary International for the year 2001–2002, had as his theme "Mankind is our Business." Everett's theme for the year was "Celebrate the Rotary Club of Fresno." Both were accomplished by a committed and dedicated membership with great enthusiasm.



Fellowship was featured during this year with 30 Rotarians cruising to Mexico, a Rotary Club of Fresno night at Roger Rocka's theater, a Grizzlies pro baseball game, a bus trip to Vandenberg AFB to witness a rocket launch, and 110 Rotarians and spouses attending intimate dinners hosted by fellow Rotarians. This fellowship led to an active year of successful outreaches to the community, the District and the Rotary world.

Our membership and our country was shaken by the events of September 11, 2001, but we re-evaluated and recommitted ourselves to do the work of Rotary.

Our environment and ecology committee began work on five new highway murals along the Highway 99 corridor and completed four. The club hosted Caroline Lorentes, a foreign exchange student from Argentina, who had a wonderful time and attended most of our club meetings. The format of the club bulletin was changed to include color and crisper, clearer photographs. At the end of the year the first e-bulletin took its journey through cyberspace to announce our move into the Information Technology Age. The

club was treated to many memorable programs with one highlight being a joint meeting of all the Fresno Clubs. 300 Rotarians were present to hear Rotarian Claudine Fletcher motivate us to cherish our lives and our Rotary lives. Many ongoing projects were continued throughout this exciting year including the donation of books to the Jefferson School Library autographed by the program speakers.

During the year 13 new Paul Harris Fellows and 18 new Fresno Fellows were added, while club membership increased after several years of decline. The year was very successful on many levels and the club had a great time celebrating the Rotary Club of Fresno and making Mankind Our Business.

Volume 86  
#45

## The Fresno Rotarian

### Girl Scout Troop 650

Monday, May 6, 2002

They have been a part of our club for 10 years! Showing up in March with their delicious cookies... Face painting at our Christmas Parties and at Jefferson Elementary... Helping with many Rotary activities including Project Nino.

The troop began with 12 girls who were then in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Calwa Elementary. When they graduated from 6<sup>th</sup> grade, troop leader, Terry Barthuli promised to take them to Hawaii if they stayed with the program and graduated from high school.

Next month 3 of the remaining 4 girls will graduate and go with Terry on a Hawaiian adventure!

Join us this week to learn about these wonderful girls and the great times they have shared over the years! You won't want to miss this meeting!

**Rotary Club of Fresno**  
Club No. 203 District 5230  
**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL**  
Executive Secretary - Geri Rummel



# PRESIDENTS

SCOTT LEONARD 2002 TO 2003



2002-2003 was one of my greatest and most rewarding years. Being President of The Rotary Club of Fresno is both a privilege and an honor. The year was filled with exciting opportunities. Our work at Jefferson Elementary brought rewards in both improved teaching facilities but more importantly, student achievement. One of the most memorable moments came when Chris Lewis from the Wheelchair Foundation came as our speaker. Upon the conclusion of his remarks, I felt a strong urging to ask the club if they would be willing to support this project. Anyone who had an interest was encouraged to come forward and ring our bell as an indication of their commitment to making a gift. The following moments were indicative of the generosity of this club. In just a matter of moments, nearly the entire club spontaneously rose to their feet and came forward to ring the bell. The outpouring was so great that our club funded an entire container of wheelchairs (280) on

the spot. Subsequent to the club's response, 16 Fresno Rotarians made a trip to Costa Rica and personally delivered each wheelchair to a person in need. The impact of this and other projects undertaken by this club is immeasurable. It was one of my greatest honors to be a part of the great things that this club does.

PHIL HINTON/ 2003 TO 2004

Geri Runnels, our club executive, was the most important part of our team. She embodied the spirit of Rotary, service above self.

At meetings, classical music and overhead messages greeted us. Raffle tickets for items and services donated by our members were sold for the weekly drawing. These included sponsored dinners, sporting events, services, concert and show tickets, hot air balloon ride, hand-made quilt, champagne and glasses. The bell struck at 12:25 sharp, announcing the four thousand, one hundred ninety-third meeting of the Rotary Club of Fresno, followed by directions to meet and greet our fellow Rotarians and guests. We sang. Boy, can our Rotary club sing! "This day in history" was next with Doug Armey. A new feature was "Neil with the News," as Neil Koenig entertained and enlightened us with key observations on baseball, Wal-Mart and Costco. New Rotarians were introduced with distinction, "Rotary - more than one million two hundred thousand members worldwide, more than thirty-one thousand clubs in more than one hundred sixty countries, representing a vibrant cross-section of each community's business, vocational, and professional interests; Rotary - dedicated to service above self, dedicated to good will and peace through fellowship of business and professional persons, dedicated to high ethical standards; Rotary-founded in 1905, with 99 years of service; Rotary- -membership by invitation only. 'New Rotarian Name,' you have been chosen to join a distinguished group of community leaders who feel you have what it takes to become a committed, active, participant in promoting service above self. "I would like for all of you to stand. Now join me in giving



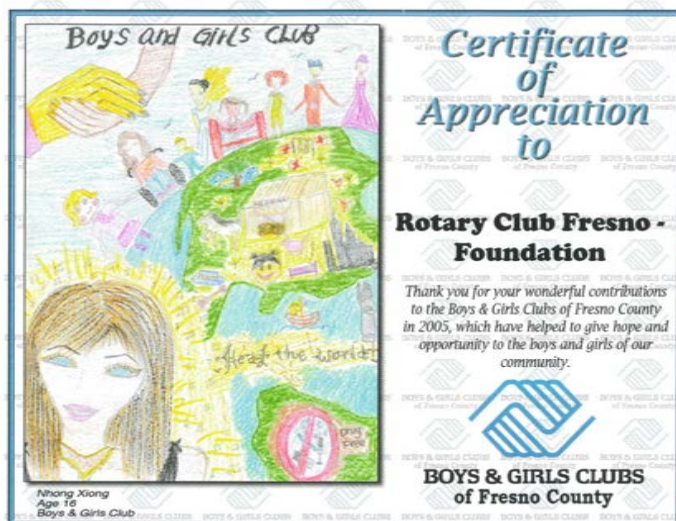
# PRESIDENTS

a rousing welcome to membership in the Rotary Club of Fresno." And at the end, we went out with a colorful story, "Dr. Phil's prescription." One of his favorites: "We are an ecumenical club. Our members include people of many faiths. You must remember that Protestants do not recognize the Pope as the head of the Christian faith. You must keep in mind that Jews do not recognize Jesus as the Messiah. You must understand that Baptists do not recognize each other at liquor stores and Hooters restaurants."

This year we started our West Fresno Boys' and Girls' Club Centennial Project, advanced our Wheelchair distribution, added freeway murals, sent Dr. David Hodge's Project Nino team to Mexico City, supported Rotary Playland and Storyland, Little Heroes, Wil Pimentel's Solar Cookers and Rocket Stoves, Public Servant Awards, Jefferson Job Institute, Salvation Army Bell Ringers, Polio Eradication, Exchange Student Coralee, Miss California Pageant, and many other efforts to improve our community and our world.

## TERRY BARTHULI 2004 TO 2005

Terry was president in Rotary International's Centennial Year. To commemorate the milestone, the Rotary Club of Fresno and seven other local Rotary Clubs raised \$1.6 million to renovate and expand the West Fresno Boys and Girls Club. Terry helped spearhead this project. Under her leadership, Dinner-for-Two Raffles were started to generate much-needed funds for the club's operating budget while, at the same time, providing a social setting for members to get better acquainted. The Rotary Awards, a signature fund-raising event, was begun in the 2004-05 year. The Academy Awards type show spotlighted individuals who have contributed significantly to Valley communities. First year net revenue was nearly \$40,000 and used for charity. Behind the scenes, Terry facilitated moving the club's office from an antiquated downtown office with little parking to a modern, more member-friendly setting. New furniture was purchased, files organized, computer equipment upgraded and new software purchased to facilitate more comprehensive record-keeping. Even with moving expenses, the club's operating reserves were increased. Terry established a protocol for members to have advertisements inserted in monthly statements and began providing return envelopes for remittances. During the 2004-05 year a procedure to solicit nominations for club president and directors from club members was implemented. Using electronic screens to communicate club activities to members during weekly meetings was begun in this year. Terry's motto was, "Lots of people doing little things make a big difference." The Rotary Club of Fresno made a big difference locally and internationally during the Centennial Year.



# ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CENTENNIAL PROJECT

In 2005 Rotary International celebrated its 100 year anniversary and eight Fresno area Rotary clubs, spearheaded by the Rotary Club of Fresno, joined together in a Rotary Centennial Project – a \$1.6 million project to renovate and expand the West Fresno Boys & Girls Club. Built in 1959, it was the county's first such club, had been in continuously use since, and was just worn out and not large enough.

Ground breaking for the project was held in January 2006 and the project completed in the summer of that year. The project included a refurbished gym, a new teen room, a computer center and library and rooms for crafts, fine arts, games and fitness. The facility was expanded by 3,500 square feet into the parking lot to enable the club to provide more activities. The once dreary exterior was painted yellow and purple.

In addition to the \$1.1 million contributed by Rotarians and Non-Rotarians \$500,000 of in-kind contributions were donated.

West Fresno Boys and Girls Club Gymnasium Floor





# PRESIDENTS

LEN RUGGIERO 2005 TO 2006

Monthly Hurricanes and Weekly Storms greeted each member by email, reflecting the clubs news and upcoming events for 2005-06. Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans was felt by all in the fall of 2005. Then on February 22, 2006, Geri Runnels, the Clubs Executive Director, lost her battle to cancer. On Monday, March 6, 2006, the Rotary Club of Fresno held a special remembrance service, arranged by Scott Leonard, in her honor. Geri had been with the club since 1984. Donations to the West Fresno Boys and Girls club in Geri's name now reflect a room in her honor.

"I know all of you will join me in grieving for our beloved Geri. She was truly the heart and soul of our Club. All of our best to her family." ...President Len

Len and his Board of Directors greatest Club accomplishments over the course of the year were in modernizing the Rotary Office, holding the annual Wheelchair Appeal and raising funds for the second annual Rotary Awards to raise funds for the West Fresno Boys and Girls Club.

Len Ruggiero remarks, "I would like my year to be remembered as one that was lots of fun, that I did not take myself too seriously, that I kept a consistent message throughout the year of getting involved with Rotary". LEN'S 4-WAY TEST: 1. Join A Committee 2. Bring In A New Member 3. Continue Your Annual Giving, and 4. Do Business With A Rotarian.

Later in the year, Geri's Executive Assistant Anna Pine was named the Executive Director of the Club.



Photo: President Len pins new member Michael Hanson, Superintendent, Fresno Unified School District, sponsored by Rotarian/ Past District Governor/ Past President Richard Johanson. Feb 2006.

# PRESIDENTS

RICHARD 'DICK' HERRINTON 2006 TO 2007



The year began in July 2006 when President Dick outlined his vision for the Club under the theme of ***"Let's have fun, while getting the job done."*** To accomplish, this several goals were established, including:

- For each of us to strive to become better Rotarians and not just members of our Rotary Club. Through hard work and diligent effort by all, this goal was met.
- To improve our image in the community. Increased awareness of the Club was accomplished through a concentrated public relations program. During the year the Rotary Club of Fresno's name appeared over 30 times in the Fresno Bee and numerous times on TV.
- To increase our membership by a net five members. While it is difficult to measure, our public relations program may have contributed to our membership increase of nine.
- Provide significant, meaningful programs. Our average attendance at weekly meetings increased during the year, evidence of the terrific job done by our program committee. Programs included a presentation by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (which was subsequently posted in it's entirety on his web site) and the immediate Past President of Rotary International, Carl Wilhelm Stenhammer.
- To contribute \$100 average per member to the Rotary International Foundation. Through the generosity of our members in excess of \$250 per member was contributed to the Foundation and over 150 new Paul Harris Fellows were recognized (both Club records).
- To participate in District conferences and activities. Our members took part in all District functions, included a bus trip of Rotarians and guests to the District Conference. Subsequent to the District Conference, at a meeting of the Club, the District Governor presented awards for activities in our solar cooking outreach, ambassadorial scholarship program, membership growth, per capita giving to the RI Foundation, a club Distinguished Service Award and a Rotary International Presidential Citation Award.

For the first time the market value of the assets of the Rotary Club of Fresno Foundation exceeded one million dollars. Distributions made by the Foundation included providing dictionaries (partially funded by a District Simplified Grant) to every fourth grade student (about 6,000) in the Fresno Unified School District and the sending of all sixth grade students of Jefferson Elementary to camp. Additionally, the Foundation supported facility improvements at the Boy Scout camp at Shaver Lake, provided funds to Rotary Storyland/Playland and sent relief funds to the Greensburg, Kansas Rotary club for tornado relief.

On the International level our members assisted in the delivery of over 1,400 wheelchairs and an aggregate total of 15,000 WAPI's, all to third world countries in Africa. Our Project Nino, in its 21<sup>st</sup> year, treated over 3,000 patients and distributed 500 pairs of eyeglasses during their annual trip to Mexico. The Solar Cooker committee of the Club continued its mission of education in the use of Solar Cookers and Rocket Stoves at several foreign locations. We sponsored two Ambassadorial scholars to study abroad.

# PRESIDENTS

The total dollar impact of our community outreach programs, both on a domestic and an international level aggregated about \$150,000. The long-term effects and benefits to human lives cannot be calculated. In addition to those projects listed above, funds were expended for our Little Hero program, our support of both Jefferson Elementary and Duncan Poly High School, scholarships awarded as well as numerous grants to deserving local area non-profit organizations.

Two old traditions were brought back. Monthly birthdays of our members were recognized at special birthday tables and the flag salute was conducted under dimmed lights with a special light on the flag of our country. Having our new member orientations during an afternoon social started a new tradition.

At the first meeting in July 2006 President Dick quoted Robert Woodruff, who said, "There is no limit to what we can accomplish, if we don't mind who gets the credit". It's clear that's what happened this year. Collectively, we gave renewed meaning to being a Rotarian while substantially improving the financial strength of our Club. ***We got the job done, while having fun.***



Anna Pine,  
Executive Assistant 10/17/2005 to 2/22/2006,  
Executive Director 2/23/2006-present

## DON ESKES 2007 TO 2008

What an honor and privilege it was to serve as president of the Rotary Club of Fresno as the club continued its work both locally and around the world. The two primary goals for the year were fellowship and service. Honoring the more senior members throughout the year was a focus and our longest serving member, Brenton Bradford was recognized for being a member for 68 years and club president exactly fifty years prior (1957-1958). Although we lost a number of senior members during the year, 29 new members came into the club.

Service to our Fresno community included the Little Hero's program, working with Jefferson School, Duncan Polytechnical High School, the highway mural project, the Rotary Amphitheater and funding over \$100,000 in various local community projects. The Rotary Club of Fresno Foundation was increased substantially by 54 new Fresno Fellows.

The club also was very active in international service with club members participating in projects in Mexico, Guatemala, Vietnam, Rwanda, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, and Zambia. These projects included Project Nino, distribution of wheelchairs, the solar cooker project, and the WAPI project. In addition to the hands on work of the membership in international projects, giving to the Rotary International Foundation by club membership averaged over \$130 per member.





# PRESIDENTS

SHIRLEY GRACE 2008 TO 2009



This was a year of warm fellowship and light hearted fun while making ambitious dreams come true within our community and abroad. Shirley Grace was our President and she instituted hugs as the standard greeting, replacing handshakes previously used by members. Greeting lines at our meetings of board members or Past Presidents added to the welcome feel. We honored the knowledge and experience of our veteran members, Larry Shehadey who turned 101 years old, and embraced our young Rotarians who have taken up the charge of leadership within our club. We instituted a COGS day program in March that was run completely by our new members from start to finish. A Ski/Snowboard day fellowship was reinstituted in addition to a new Central Coast Wine Tour and Opening Day Fair Concert by Chicago. Our Sports Day fellowship and Dinner was an honored tradition as was our COGS Tailgate party at Fresno State. Membership increased to

over 300 and attendance also increased due to terrific programs arranged by Co-Chairs Al Smith and John Ostlund. Our web site was updated thanks to Bruno Boehi and Anna Pine and our Bulletin was a class act thanks to Jeff Rickels. Our directory was professionally transformed by Clint Phelps into a multiyear book updated with inserts. Team work provided successes throughout the year in every venue but none more telling than our fundraising event for Children's Hospital Rotary Recovery Room, dubbed after our President: "Club Shirley". This dinner, live and silent auction was not only a wonderful event and fellowship but a financial success. Net proceeds were \$25,500 which was combined with a donation from our Rotary Club of Fresno Foundation totaling \$52,000 for this great cause. The long standing tradition of recognition was in full bloom with the aid of Past President & Treasurer Dick Herrinton at the podium assisting President Shirley. Members gave from their hearts throughout the year increasing our Paul Harris Fellows, Benefactors, bequest Society Members and Fresno Fellows. Numerous awards were received at the District Conference in recognition of the great work done by our club including Large Club of the Year! Fun, fellowship and service was the goal and all who observed would say mission accomplished!

JOE D. THOMPSON, JR. 2009 TO 2010

The Rotary International Theme for the year, "the Future of Rotary is in your hands", was a call for each Rotarian to take responsibility to achieve today on a local level what would lead to Rotary's growth and development throughout the world.

To promote growth & development within the community a colorful 16 page insert was published in the local newspaper highlighting the various service accomplishments of our club both locally and internationally. Detailed information was included which explained the history of Rotary as well as its focus on "service above self". To further support this effort a television campaign was aired, funded by a District grant. At the highly attended Annual Women's Conference the club hosted a very attractive booth to distribute literature and answer questions about Rotary. These



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efforts were rewarded with the Public Relations Large Club District Award for Public Relations.

As Rotary was so involved in the Polio eradication, Dr. Linda Venczel, a representative from the Gates Foundation, gave a very moving speech explaining why Rotary was chosen as grant recipient to oversee the eradication effort. Other international efforts included a container of wheelchairs to Kenya, Solar cooker training, Project Nino, and numerous Paul Harris Fellows (including three raffled during the year at weekly meetings).

Fellowship events included a bus trip to visit Hearst Castle coupled with stops at two wineries for "leg stretching". After hours "Jokin with Joe" meetings were held for getting to know fellow Rotarians in an informal setting.

At the annual fundraiser, Joe's Beach Ball, the infamous song "Dirty Dinghyville" was introduced but demotion day topped the year off with a visit to "The Rotary Club of Lazbuddie"!

DAVID M. GILMORE 2010 TO 2011



"The Theme for Rotary in 2010-11 was "Building Communities, Bridging Continents". The International President, Ray Klinginsmith, was known for his talks about cowboy logic but his emphasis was to get the message out locally and globally about Rotary's good works within local communities and the rest of the world. Ray actually visited Fresno for a black tie, gala fundraiser, which is one of the few times a sitting Rotary International President actually visited Fresno. It is impossible in this small space to do justice to the good works of the Club. The Club has so many very successful projects, committees and outreach efforts. The goal of the Club in 2010-11 was to keep those wonderful projects, committees and outreach efforts going strong but to make sure we share the gifts of Rotary with our community and to encourage the growth of the Club. To that end, the Club participated in a District wide promotional effort through an insert in the Fresno Bee to spread word of Rotary's good deeds. Among the things that were started in 2010-11 was the Young Leaders Group and to develop "Rotary After Hours" as a way to give members another fellowship opportunity. The Young Leaders Group was started to develop and grow membership among a younger group of professionals. The Club also built on the good work done by Joe D. Thompson, Jr. to reorganize the program and membership committees both to great success. The Club continued its incredible work with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Project Nino and continued work with Integrated Solar Cooking, WAPIs and Wheelchairs. The Club continued its good work supporting local needs. The Club won several awards from the District that reflected the selfless dedication of the members of the Club. As the President, I had a fabulous year taking the microphone each week to lead the meetings with an occasional moment of history and attempting to keep the meetings fun. In reality what I take from my year as President is that the members of this Club go above and beyond to make this community and the world a better place and being the President was a joy as a result.

# PRESIDENTS

DOUGLAS R. ARMEY 2011 TO 2012

With a swing of the gavel President Doug Armey launched our year on July 11. During the meeting he outlined aggressive goals which caused one member to tweet, "It's gonna be a ride."

President Doug focused on his theme "Share the Gift of Rotary and Change Your World." For the next 12 months that theme would be echoed. Membership growth captured front and center. Doug encouraged everyone to invite guests and sponsor new members. He set a goal of 50 new members for the year. The momentum built until we introduced one new member nearly every week. At year end we celebrated 38 new members. He also emphasized retaining members. A Membership Engagement Committee was formed to follow-up on members who had drifted in attendance.



Growing younger was realized with our "Young Leaders" group which began during the previous year. By year end they had increased in numbers substantially and formed their own committee structure. They met monthly and took on several service projects. Yet, even with the emphasis on younger members, President Doug honored our "Trailblazers." At the first meeting Past Presidents formed a receiving line and were honored with a standing ovation. At the last meeting 30 year plus members were introduced. And monthly we had a "Heritage Moment" presented by Past President Dick Johanson.

Attendance was emphasized as well. The Program Committee, now a perpetual committee, provided interesting speakers each week. Full house attendance resulted with a few Mondays at "standing room only" capacity. To provide an opportunity for fellowship and make-ups, we launched a monthly "Rotary After Hours." We enjoyed happy hours at local restaurants, Grizzlies baseball, the Fresno Fair, Christmas Tree Lane, the Amphitheater and much more. These culminated in our fourth annual President's Ball "Doug's Drive-in." Focused on classic cars, 50's/60's attire, a great dinner, auctions and rock-n-roll. We had the largest registration and the most money raised in the history of the event.

Another emphasis was increasing participation in committees and projects. We launched a monthly "Club Spotlight" which focused on one Avenue of Service each time showing the committees, purpose and needs. This increased member participation and revitalized some committees.

We also had "International Day" showcasing our international projects—Solar cookers, WAPIs, Wheel Chairs and Project Nino. Attendees' hearts were touched as they saw and heard about the lives changed.

Then we went back to our Rotary roots launching a "Business-to-Business Committee." It spent the year exploring how to allow members to promote their businesses in sensitive ways. They developed some strategies through a monthly sponsored raffle and work on an on-line business directory.

We emphasized giving to the Rotary International Foundation and our own Fresno Foundation. Each month we awarded Paul Harris Fellows and/ or Fresno Fellows. During these presentations we described the work of each Foundation encouraging others to step-up their support.

To wrap all of this together a new member award was created called "The Rotary Club of Fresno All Star." This was awarded to a member who sponsored a new member, had 80% attendance, actively participated in a committee and was at least a sustaining Paul Harris and Fresno Fellow. This new



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designation created buzz as we awarded these nearly every week. At year end we had 41 "All Stars" and they celebrated together at an exclusive year end event. Fresno Rotary was also awarded with the 2011 Salvation Army Red Kettle Award.

The biggest compliment to this energetic year came at our District Conference when we were awarded "Club of the Year." This was a fitting testimony to the dedication of all of our members. As President Doug often said, "This was an amazing year, in the life of this amazing club, which is filled with amazing members."

DAVID "BUD" DICKERSON 2012 TO 2013



One of the most rewarding experiences in my "volunteer life" was being president of the Rotary Club of Fresno. I was humbled to be asked to serve and I am very proud of the experience. The Club is blessed to have an Executive Director whose function is to keep all the parts of this organization moving in the right direction and at the right time. Anna Pine serves in the position and she truly is the glue that keeps us together.

The year was filled with the continuation of many of the outstanding projects for which this club is known. Such activities as Project Nino, Little Heroes, sponsorship of Jefferson Elementary School and Duncan Polytechnical High School, Integrated Solar Cooking and WAPI's, Young Leaders, sponsorship of the Miss California Pageant, the Wheelchair project, plus too many more to list here.

End Polio now became our theme and we donated both money and club member's time to that project. According to International Rotary record keepers, there are only three countries on the globe where Polio is still a cause of concern for parents of small children. As RI President, Sakuji Tanaka said, "We are this close to conquering this dreadful disease," as he held his fingers about 1 inch apart.

District 5230 was led by a member of our club, District Governor Shirley Grace, and she drew from our members a lion's share of her leadership team. The District Conference was held in Fresno and made use of two of our projects from earlier years, Rotary Storyland/Playland and the Rotary Amphitheater in Woodward Park.

The Rotary Club of Fresno partnered with the District on several grants as we provided funding for projects locally and internationally. I lost track of how many grants we were involved with, but I can guaranty that our club treasurer, Dick Herrinton, who also served as the District Lieutenant Governor for Shirley, did not lose count of the grants nor the hours they required. Because of the nature of some of these grants, our local Boy Scout organization received nearly \$100,000 for improvements to their camp at Shaver Lake.

Finally, the most memorable and heart touching moment for me came as the result of one of our newest projects, Soled Out for Kids, where we partnered with other local nonprofits to provide a new pair of shoes and socks for every student at a local elementary school. Our members helped put 681 pairs of new shoes on little feet, some who had never had new shoes on them before. One student said to the people who were fitting him, "Now I can go to school every day since I don't have to share shoes with my brother." Never again will I allow anyone around me to ask if Rotary is making a difference. We are making a difference, both locally and all around the world. Thank you for allowing me to be part of the leadership team for this great club.

# PRESIDENTS

GARRY S. GRIESSER 2013 TO 2014

The RI theme for the year was "Engage Rotary - Change Lives" and we demonstrated throughout the year how well we have embodied the theme for many years. The Community Projects Committee awarded \$45,000 in gifts to deserving Fresno area organizations. Our Rotary Club of Fresno Foundation disbursed \$50,000 to nonprofit organizations as varied as Hinds Hospice, Kepler Neighborhood Charter School, Rotary Storyland and Playland and the Salvation Army.

Our club budget provided \$44,000 to support scholarships, Polio Plus, Project Nino, the Rotary Sneezeless Garden and Solar Cookers/WAPIs.

The cherry on top of our giving and fundraising was the successful raising of \$188,000 in capital gifts to increase the endowment of the Rotary Club of Fresno Foundation.

Each and every one of our 30 committees did an excellent job of fulfilling their purposes and achieving their goals for the year.

Rotary After Hours monthly events continued to grow and provide both interesting and fun fellowship opportunities for everyone.

The monthly Business to Business program allowed one nonprofit and one for profit Rotarian's business to be showcased at our meetings.

Our highlights and accomplishments were too many to be able to record here. After 27 years as a Fresno Rotarian, I can tell you one can only truly appreciate the service of all our Rotarians from the perspective of President. Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving.



SHIRLEY BRUEGMAN 2014 TO 2015



The RI theme for 2014-2015 was *Light Up Rotary*. We accomplished that goal by combining the committed efforts of our members.

The following are a few highlights:

Keeping with our reputation as the "friendliest club in town," greeters were assigned to welcome everyone as they arrived. Our members and guests would then enter the conference center, met by the sound of beautiful piano music.

On the hottest day of the year, we held our annual tailgate prior to the Fresno State vs. Nebraska game. The Cornhuskers won and, thus, my alma mater pride remained intact. It was indeed a great year of many After Hours fellowship events, ranging from football to the art museum.

One outstanding program followed another, running the spectrum from experiencing a replay of the Kentucky Derby race to having the Chancellor of the University of California system speak. And, what a special meeting it was when several colleagues, friends, and fellow Rotarians traveled from Mexico to help us celebrate our partnership with Project Nino.

# PRESIDENTS

The future of Rotary rests with our youth. This year the Interact Club at Duncan Polytechnical High School continued on course and a new club was chartered at Clovis West High School.

The COGS program was restructured and attendance continued to grow as the year unfolded. The members of COGS learned about our club as well as Rotary International. Each month, past presidents shared why they became Rotarians—and, the role it has continued to play in their lives.

The Board of Directors and the many chairs (and their committees) worked tirelessly and joyfully throughout the year. They maintained our local involvement with Big/Little Heroes, provided scholarships, granted monies to those in need of help, and continued our outreach throughout the world.

A huge thank you goes to the staff of our Rotary office. They definitely practiced “Service Above Self” each day.

It was a fitting conclusion. Due to hard work and commitment, our club was recognized at the end-of-year District Conference with many awards, including the “Outstanding Club of 2014-2015.”

Thanks for the memories.



Photo: President Shirley (looking terrific in her Railroad conductor outfit) helps promote Rotary Storyland and Playland activities at a meeting.



# PRESIDENTS

HAL H. BOLEN II 2015 to 2016

It has been my deep and profound honor to serve as the President of The Rotary Club of Fresno. That it is our centennial year has made the honor that much more meaningful. One Hundred years of Rotary in Central California is amazing to think about. With one exception, all of the clubs in Central California were directly or indirectly spawned by The Rotary Club of Fresno. When one considers all of the millions of dollars of gifts and thousands of hours of Service Above Self that the Rotary Clubs of Central California have provided to our communities and to the world, the magnitude is truly staggering.



But to me, that in a way obscures what Rotary really is. In my mind, it is a gift in and of itself. The return that comes from doing what Rotarians do is immeasurable. I can't imagine where else one can tender very modest dues and a few volunteer hours and change so many lives here at home and around the world while at the same time making lifelong friends and having a mountain of fun and fellowship. Rotary truly is unique and indeed, is a Gift.

Though as I pen this in anticipation of our Centennial Gala, our year is not over, we have nevertheless given tens of thousands of dollars to those in need and who do such good work in our community. Examples are \$6,835 to Central California Adaptive Sports Center for a recumbent leg-powered adaptive mountain bike for use by disabled children; \$4,509 to Sweet Nectar Society for the Sweet Eats Program at Valley Children's Hospital; \$3,800 for Youth for Christ; \$1,000 to Behavioral Intervention Association for books for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder; \$4,205 to Girl Scouts of Central California; \$3,500 to Fresno Metro Ministry; \$2,400 to Columbia Elementary School for playground equipment for kindergarteners; \$3,500 to Kepler Education, Inc. training instructors in playground techniques at the Kepler Neighborhood School; \$5,000, partnering with several local Rotary Clubs to purchase a \$21,000 Galileo Tilt Table for Break the Barriers; and my favorite, nearly 200 warm up kits for Poverello House kids.

We renewed our efforts to do more hands-on volunteer work, by volunteering to wrap Christmas presents for patients at Valley Children's Hospital. We prepared material for stuffing food bags for Feed our Future and other worthwhile projects.

We instituted changes to streamline the meetings, use more technology and hopefully make ourselves more attractive to younger members. Our young leaders group was reactivated as well as the establishment of the Past Presidents' Council. While always a challenge, our membership has grown, especially with younger members.

It's been an incredible year so far and not over yet. I am humbled and deeply honored to have been a small part of it.

GIVE THE GIFT OF ROTARY!





#### D. DUANE OSWALD 2016 TO 2017

The Rotary International theme for the year 2016-2017 was "Rotary Serving Humanity". Throughout the year, the Rotary Club of Fresno demonstrated service to humanity locally, regionally and internationally, through various programs and services provided by our Rotarians. A major goal for the year was to increase fun and fellowship, while at the same time raising funds and giving back to the community, with Service Above Self. To accomplish the above, President Duane identified goals in each avenue of service and their achievement resulted in a Presidential Citation from Rotary International.

In the area of Club Service, we increased membership attraction and engagement. A monthly membership challenge and other activities, resulted in thirty-one new members and one reinstatement. We received District 5230 recognition for the largest number of members brought in to the Club and the largest percentage growth in new members of all the Clubs in our District. Membership engagement was enhanced through a variety of activities. Most notable was member recognition during the meetings. Each week, various members were recognized for their personal accomplishments and achievements beyond Rotary. These recognitions provided opportunities for the members to know their fellow Rotarians on a more personal basis. Rotary After Hours was another form of membership recruitment and engagement by providing an opportunity for members and others to interact informally and fellowship together. In addition, we involved a number of members in the regular meeting agenda, from leading the invocation and pledge of allegiance, to the introduction of guests and visiting Rotarians, overseeing the Lunch and House activities, capturing the meeting through photographs and the welcoming greetings at the sign-in table.

Our Community Service Avenue of Service was very busy reviewing worthy community projects and granting funds for the projects or volunteering to work in the various programs. The Environmental Health and Ecology Committees joined efforts with the Solar Cooking and WAPI projects to further educate persons locally on the use and benefits of Solar Cooking as well as sharing knowledge of allergy free and drought resistant plants. Rotarians at Work continued to provide volunteer opportunities for our members.

Our Youth Service Avenue of Service continued to make an impact on the youth of our community through Camp Royal, Little Heroes-Big Heroes, Youth exchange and our sponsorship of two Interact Clubs; one at Duncan Poly Technical High School and our newest Club at University High on the campus of Fresno State University with over 200 hundred members. We also provided support to Kepler Elementary School, a charter school which began operating in Cornerstone Church facilities used by our Rotary Club to a new location close to our club. Other activities supported the Boys and Girls Clubs of Fresno County and Valley Children's Hospital.

The Rotary Club of Fresno continued with the ongoing International Projects of Wheelchair distributions to Harare, Zimbabwe and three Global Grant; two in India and one in Armenia.

Foundation giving increased individual giving to over 1000 Rotary Foundation Paul Harris Fellows in the Centennial Year of the Rotary Foundation. Contributions for the year, amounted to over \$40,000, to the Rotary Foundation. Our own Rotary Club of Fresno Foundation now has over one million dollars in assets and over 540 Fresno Fellows contributing to our local Foundation to support our community projects. The Rotary Club of Fresno Foundation provided funds for Rotary Storyland Playland, the Rotary Amphitheater and the Poverello House. Overall grants to a variety of organizations totaled over \$177,000 during the year.

The Rotary Club of Fresno One Hundred and First (101st) Year was a success. Thank you to all of our members who were fully engaged in and supportive of the activities of our Rotary Club.

Our Club received District 5230 Recognition as Outstanding Club of the year for our service to our community and the world. We had fun and fellowship, as together we were "Rotary Serving Humanity". It was a real honor and privilege to serve as President of the Rotary Club of Fresno.

## MAUREEN LEWIS 2017 TO 2018

2017 marked the 30th anniversary of women's admission into Rotary. I'm sure the nominating committee didn't take that into consideration when selecting me to be president, but it added a specialness to my year. During the first meeting, we honored the four women presidents who served before me. We heard the story of the admittance process from members who were involved all those years ago. It is hard to imagine our club without women!



This year we brought The Four Way Test front and center by hanging a new sign at the podium so members and guests could be reminded of the four sentences that guide us not only in Rotary but in life. Adopted in the 1940's, it is timeless in its simple, important words.

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Rotary International is 113 years old and the Rotary Club of Fresno is 102. That is a lot of historical knowledge and information. There are levels of Rotary- International, Zone, District, and Club. There are also many acronyms; RI, RYLA, PETS, DGN, DGE, PHF and probably another 100 or so. There are known organizational rules in Rotary but each club acts a little different. Rotary can be confusing to new members (and sometimes older ones too). Rotary "Tid Bits" was my way of bringing Rotary knowledge to members in little doses at each meeting. Members could learn something new, be reminded of the 11 origins of a club project or hear how the "One of the Three Great Past Presidents" story started and lives on today.

The RI theme for 2017-2018 was "Making a Difference." We knew we could make a difference by bringing service projects to the club. These hands-on projects at the beginning of the meeting meant all members could participate. We stuffed backpacks for kids at Kepler Charter School, we wrote encouraging notes to Interact students starting the new school year, we wrote notes for Veterans thanking them for their service, we made sure moms living at the Marjaree Mason Center during Mother's Day were thought of with a little note, and we prepared goodie bags for children waiting to see doctors and medical personnel at Project Nino in Mexico.

The Rotary Club of Fresno chartered a new Interact Club at University High School this year. With over 165 students, they jumped in looking for many projects and hosted an Interact conference. With funding from our club, Interact students from the District packaged 15,140 bags of food in one hour and ten minutes for distribution.

Looking for a different way to fund 2018-2019's community projects budget, President-Elect, Al Smith created "Party Gras." A Mardi Gras themed event with all the music, food and entertainment of New Orleans. Guests dressed for the occasion and were treated to little surprises throughout the evening. I've loved being the President this year but getting to be Queen of "Party Gras" was the icing on the cake.





AL SMITH 2018-19

As that great American philosopher, Yogi Berra said, "When there is a fork in the road, take it."

As my year comes to a close, I reflect back on the vision that was developed in July of 2018. Our officers and directors focused on membership increases; member diversity; telling the Rotary story better; increased financial support for the needs of our universe; launching a continuous social/fund raising celebration and insuring that our gatherings did not take ourselves too seriously, but enjoyed the fellowship we had with each other.

And, like 103 Fresno Rotary Presidents before me and as my predecessor Maureen Lewis did for me, the torch will be passed along to our new club leader, Todd Sheller.

This organization is steeped with enormous history and accomplishments. For over a century the passing of the club's welfare and accomplishments has been touched by the fingers of some of Fresno's finest leaders and each succession has allowed the new President to build off of the shoulders of his/her predecessor.

But, as we again make that transition one question remains "will the shoulders of its future leaders be stronger than the previous?" I offered that query in a recent Rotary newsletter column this year, "If Fresno Rotary no longer existed, would anyone care?"

The fork in the road that Yogi mentions could be this organization's very future. With millennials quickly becoming the world's largest population group, how are Rotary - or other civic organizations - reshaping themselves to be relevant to their core beliefs and goals.

"But we have always done it this way" are words that should be struck from our vocabulary. Will we embrace the words, "the best beef comes for slaughter sacred cows? What are we hanging on to? What needs to change?"

In this fast changing world where connectivity is more about Facebook; Twitter, Instagram, e-mails and texting, will there be a place for weekly meetings, social events and community project collaboration?

Locally as well as internationally, the great thinkers and planners of Rotary need to work toward addressing how we continue to be a force in today and tomorrow's future society. There is no bigger challenge.

U.S. President, John F. Kennedy once observed, "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

So if Millennials say they want a cause, with a futuristic approach Rotary can be it.

However if we don't, the great accomplishments that Rotary has done for millions in addressing the needs and people around the world could become the footnotes of history. With planning now, hopefully we will never have to utter those terrible words, "I remember when...."

TODD R. SELLER 2019-20

"First in Fresno and one of the top 50 Clubs Worldwide;" it was a distinct honor to be at the podium for the 2019-2020 Rotary Year. Our Rotary International Theme, by RI President Mark Maloney, was "Rotary Connects the World." With District Governor Rod Coburn and our own Shirley Bruegman as the ADG, the 250+ member Rotary Club of Fresno connected and made impacts in our member's lives, our community and our world. With a solid mission, the Rotary Club of Fresno united business professionals and took action and created a lasting positive transformation in ourselves, our community and across the world.



As a Club, we have many accomplishments to celebrate! Our members reached out to the community in ways beyond what I could've planned for. We were people of action with community and foundation grants that placed our member donations to work through several non-profit organizations in the Fresno area and beyond in India and Africa.

We joined leaders and exchanged ideas every Monday with some absolutely outstanding presenters. I enjoyed challenging our program committee with themed months where we could enjoy presentations on more focused topics. From international speakers, cultural dynamics, mayoral debates, City and educational updates, a small business symposium, disaster relief, election and voting, Fresno State sports, world renowned political and judicial speakers, timely information related to critical events and even what goes on in an Amazon distribution center to marijuana; we peaked the interests of all our members.

During my particular time at the podium, I took a chance or two in launching videos and short clips to gain attention on our new website, announcing membership challenges, introducing specific Rotary videos that solidified our mission, providing leadership advice and taking the time to laugh or smile at a funny clip or song. All fun and I had a wonderful time reviewing and selecting those during my President-Elect year.

The goals were modified to objectives as we took action in telling our story to the greater Fresno Community while we strengthened our Club's knowledge in the Five Avenues of Service. Our membership advancement was challenged over the year but the new business members that did step forward are forever changed as members in "THE" Rotary Club of Fresno, est. 1916.

From the executive and business side of our Club, I cannot express my thanks enough for Ms. Anna Pine, our CEO and our Treasurer, Mr. Dick Herrinton. We collectively made tough choices for our budgetary needs evaluating all line items down to lunches, insurance, office space and dues. The Club Rotary Board's mentorship was invaluable along the way as we made efforts to promote the true value in Rotary membership.

There was this Global Pandemic called COVID-19 that affected our meetings and our membership. We missed meeting in-person the last three months of the year and most in our Club knew of or were affected by someone that contracted the deadly virus. We took immediate precautions and suspended our normal operations before receiving a direct notice from RI. This was an unfortunate and socially critical time in our collective history but it also challenged me and our leadership team to innovate our meetings and presentations with what we could do. ZOOM became our platform to invite our presenter's into a new Fresno Rotary way of a Monday member connection. Time will tell on how those and future meetings went but overall; we connected, we laughed, we cared about others, we took action in our community and we were still the best place to network and see an outstanding presenter every Monday!

I was humbled by the opportunity to serve our Club as President and will continue to focus on being open, being respectful, shaking a hand, making a connection, doing business and creating relationships within Rotary.

# DISTRICT LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Our history would not be quite so complete without an explanation of our Club involvement in Rotary at the district level. Rotary, like other service clubs, is arranged in a tiered fashion. The basic unit is the individual club. All clubs in a geographic area constitute a district. Our district includes the counties of Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Monterey. Districts further collect into zones. Zones collectively constitute what is known as Rotary International. There may be several zones in any one country. The district organization is headed by an individual called a Governor. He is selected by a district wide nominating committee in November and the selection is voted upon at the annual District Conference. The Governor elect meets with incoming Club presidents at a District Assembly to prepare the budget and programs for the district. The Governor and his organization are well prepared than to begin their year of service.

The Governor is assisted by a number of Rotarians who serve as chairs of committees which have as their interest rather similar interests of committees within each district club. There is a committee which compiles statistics on membership activity for each club in the district as well as for the membership attendance and club projects throughout the district. There are committees which promote interclub programs, interclub meetings, that facilitate the annual visit of the Governor to each club, that disseminate Rotary International information and programs, and that promote intradistrict club functions. The committees are indispensable in maintaining a cohesive district-wide awareness of club activities and to facilitate cooperative efforts.

The Rotary Club of Fresno is fortunate that in its founding year the District Conference was held in Fresno, which brought experienced Rotarians from other parts of the district here to share their expertise and enthusiasm. This ensured a great start for our Club! We responded in kind by helping to organize other Rotary clubs in the valley (see the genealogy chart) and in the course of time, we also helped by hosting the district conferences beginning in the year 1915 and continuing in the following years: 1925, 1934, 1942, 1945, 1949, 1952, 1972 and 1982. Additionally we also hosted many district assemblies.

The Club enthusiastically has participated in many intercity meetings held both here in the valley and as far away as San Francisco, when it was a part of our district. When our Club reached 400 members, we became eligible to be invited to and have since participated in an annual meeting known as the "Large Club Conference," which is held in districts West of the Mississippi. Several of our Club projects have been selected as projects to be carried out at the district level and as such have enjoyed the cooperation of other clubs. These have included our Camp Royal project, the Rotary House at Valley Children's Hospital which served as a Hospice facility, and more recently, our international project known as project Nino.

We have also supported members from our Club in leadership positions in the district and over the years have successfully sponsored eight members to the post of district Governor. They are: Dr. Frank Thomas, 1944-45; Joseph H. Dale, 1955-56; Harold Lee Thompson, 1971-72; Walter E. Staley, 1976-77; Charles



# DISTRICT LEVEL ACTIVITIES

A. Looney, 1985-86; Richard A. Johanson, 1989-90, LeRoy G. Massey, 1999-00; and Shirley Grace, 2012-13. In addition to that many of our members have served as committee chairmen on district committees over the years.

We have supported international programs, particularly through participation in the Paul Harris Fellowship program with over 950 Paul Harris Fellowships having been achieved and project "Polio Plus."

From our inception our Club has been very active in support of district level Rotary activities and will continue to do so.

Fresno Republican Article December 14, 1905: "Fresno is now the baby club, will have the distinction of entertaining the delegates to the anniversary convention."

*Fresno Republican*  
12/14/05  
THE FRESNO MORNING

## FRESNO BUSINESS MEN ORGANIZE ROTARY CLUB

Wilkinson Elected Temporary Chairman, Reiss Is Secretary

Baby Club Will Entertain Delegates Here On February 22

Temporary organization of the Fresno Rotary Club was perfected last night at a banquet held at the Hotel Fresno with the election of H. E. Wilkinson as chairman and J. Herman Reiss as secretary. Shortly after 11 o'clock, following the appointment of a committee to frame a constitution, the Rotarians adjourned until call of the chairman. It is planned to have a big affair when the Rotary Club is formally organized and visitors at the banquet last evening declared that Rotarians from all parts of the state would be present.

About thirty-five Fresnoans and visitors from San Jose, Stockton, Oakland and San Francisco attended the meeting last evening. H. J. Brunnier of San Francisco, governor for this Rotary district, which includes California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, presided at the banquet and later explained the duties of a Rotary Club. He told of the things that had been accomplished in San Francisco and how the members exchanged ideas and each worked for the other, but in no way in opposition to his competitor nor against other organizations.

"The Rotary club has a duty of its own to perform," explained Brunnier, "but we want to work hand in hand with any other organization for any purpose that is for the betterment of a man or city."

The organization of the Rotary club here takes away the distinction from the San Jose Rotary Club of being the baby Rotary club of California. Fresno is now the baby club, but will have the distinction of entertaining the delegates to the anniversary convention, which will be held here February 22.

Charles O'Brien of San Jose made a speech last night, in which he told of what the club had done in his city. O'Brien is the president of the San Jose Rotary Club. He told of putting up street signs, after the other organizations had failed to accomplish the work, and also of taking orphan children and school children to San Francisco to see the exposition.

Dr. Dewey R. Powell of Stockton, president of that Rotary club, declared that Rotary means more than the local organization. He told of attending the national convention and the good fellowship that existed among the Rotary Club members. He also related the charitable work that had been done in Stockton on Christmas and how the Rotary Club members had made arrangements to have fresh milk delivered every day to poor families where there were little children.

Harold Bassford of San Francisco related the duties of a Rotary Club he was followed by Alexander Stewart of Oakland, who recalled of his visit here in 1893 as director at a musical.

### Many Speeches Made.

Among the other speakers were Dr. J. Harvey Deere, William Lyon, of the San Jose Mercury; "Bashful" Smith, San Francisco; A. N. Faight and J. O. Sanford, both of Stockton; Frank Baker, San Jose, and H. F. Feighner, secretary of the San Francisco Rotary club.

Just before the close of the meeting Franklin J. Wright of Oakland, who brought about the organization here, thanked the new Rotarians for the support and he declared that if it had not been that he was backed by the Rotarian spirit he would not have been successful in his efforts.

An insignia of the Rotary clubs, with Fresno in the center, was uncovered from the wall during the evening, amid the applause of the men.

The following were named on a committee to draft a constitution: George H. Post, R. W. Potter, C. H. Jasper, L. A. Miller and W. L. Matlock.

### Charter Members Named.

The following charter members were elected:

E. A. Berg, W. D. Coates, Jr., C. H. Staples, R. W. Potter, Geo. H. Post, Chas. W. Barrett, R. E. McCabe, J. Herman Reiss, L. A. Miller, H. E. Wilkinson, Chase S. Osborn, Jr., John S. Coates, W. D. Eastman, Gerald F. Thomas, F. O. Gardiner, W. L. Matlock,

# GENEALOGY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF FRESNO

*(as of March 1, 2016)*

Chicago – Founded Feb. 23, 1905

San Francisco – Nov. 12, 1908

Oakland – Feb. 5, 1909

Fresno – March 1, 1916

Bakersfield – May 1, 1920 (see A below)

Porterville – May 23, 1921 (see B below)

Visalia – Oct. 1, 1921 (see C below)

Madera – May 1, 1922 (see D below)

Dinuba – May 10, 1922 (see E below)

Selma – Sept. 10, 1924 (see F below)

Avenal – Dec. 7, 1936 (see G below)

Corcoran – May 20, 1940 (see H below)

Los Banos – June 11, 1940 (see I below)

North Fresno – Oct 5, 1948 (see J below)

Fresno Cultural Arts – Feb. 18, 1953 (see K below)

Bakersfield – May 1, 1920

A1 Taft – Dec. 4, 1924

A2 Delano – Dec. 12, 1924

A3 Shafter – Feb. 11, 1939

A3.1 Wasco – June 21, 1946

A4 Bakersfield North – Dec. 7, 1942

A4.1 Bakersfield South – Feb. 28, 1963

A4.1.1 China Lake – June 27, 1951

A4.1.1.1 Inyokern – Nov. 11, 1991

A4.1.2 Bakersfield Breakfast – Dec. 13, 1982

A5 Bakersfield East – Dec. 23, 1952

A5.1 Bakersfield West – Jan. 14, 1975

A5.2 Tehachapi – June 9, 1987

A6 Kern River Valley – Feb 21, 1962

Porterville – May, 23, 1921

B1 Lindsay – May 26, 1959 (terminated Jan. 2, 2001)

B2 Porterville Breakfast – Feb. 27, 1992)

Visalia – Oct. 1, 1921

C1 Hanford – Oct. 6, 1940

C1.1 Hanford Sunset – May 16, 1992

C2 Woodlake – Dec. 22, 1941

C3 Lemoore – May 26, 1958

C4 Visalia Country Center – May 9, 1978

C4.1 Earlimart – Mar. 18, 2010 (together with Tulare)

C5 Visalia Breakfast – Feb. 4, 1989

C5.1 Visalia Sunset – Jan. 7, 2005

C5.2 Tulare County (Visalia) Latino – July 26, 2010

(also sponsored by Visalia Country Center and Visalia Sunset)

# GENEALOGY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF FRESNO

Madera – May 1, 1922  
D1 Chowchilla – Jan. 15, 1947  
D2 Madera Sunrise – Oct. 18, 1975  
D3 Oakhurst-Sierra – May 3, 1978

Dinuba – May 10, 1922  
E1 Sanger – July 16, 1953  
E2 Dinuba Sunrise – April 6, 2007

Selma – Sept. 10, 1924  
F1 Reedley – May 10, 1959  
F2 Kingsburg – June 27, 1968  
F3 Parlier – June 8, 1995 (terminated Jan 26, 2000)

Avenal – Dec. 7, 1936  
G1 Coalinga – June 30, 1945 (no longer in existence)

Corcoran – May 20, 1940

Los Banos – June 11, 1940  
I1 Dos Palos – 1941  
    I1.1 Mendota – 1944 (no longer in existence)  
        I1.1.1 Firebaugh – 1945 (no longer in existence) (new club formed 2002)

North Fresno – Oct. 5, 1948  
J1 East Fresno – Apr. 25, 1956  
    J1.1 Clovis – Feb. 10, 1961  
        J1.2 Fresno Sunrise – Dec. 12, 1983  
        J1.3 Auberry-Intermountain – March 12, 1996  
        J1.4 Fresno River Park (no longer in existence)  
J2 Kerman – July 24, 1957  
    J2.1 Firebaugh – April 29, 2002  
J3 Fig Garden – June 28, 1978  
    J3.1 Fresno Woodward Park – June 10, 1985 (terminated Oct. 16, 2006)  
        J3.1.1 Springville Sierra Sunrise – Jan. 16, 1992

Fresno Cultural Arts – Feb. 18, 1953  
K1 Fresno Latino – May 21, 2007  
    K1.1 Fresno Sunset – March 26, 2012



# THE ROTARY AMPHITHEATER AT WOODWARD PARK

The Rotary Club of Fresno, in its desire to contribute beauty and quality of life to Fresno and the valley, undertook the building of a Greco-Roman style amphitheater at Woodward Park with groundbreaking ceremonies on October 3, 1994.

The open air theater seats over 3,500 and does not compromise the integrity and serenity the park offers. The amphitheater was built for use as a cultural arts facility for use by local non-profits and educational organizations.



The amphitheater has hosted such nationally renown stars of contemporary jazz as Al Jarreau, David Sanborn, Richard Elliot, Boney James, Michale Lington, The Philippe Saisse Trio, The Jeanette Harris Band and the Pete Escovedo Orchestra. In addition, the amphitheater has hosted several country music stars and even comedy great Paul Rodriguez. After completion the Rotary Club of Fresno donated The Amphitheater to the City of Fresno. The City of Fresno manages all operations held at the Amphitheater, including ticketing and events as well as notifying Seat Option holders of information about events and how to proceed in obtaining tickets.



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, SEQUOIA COUNCIL

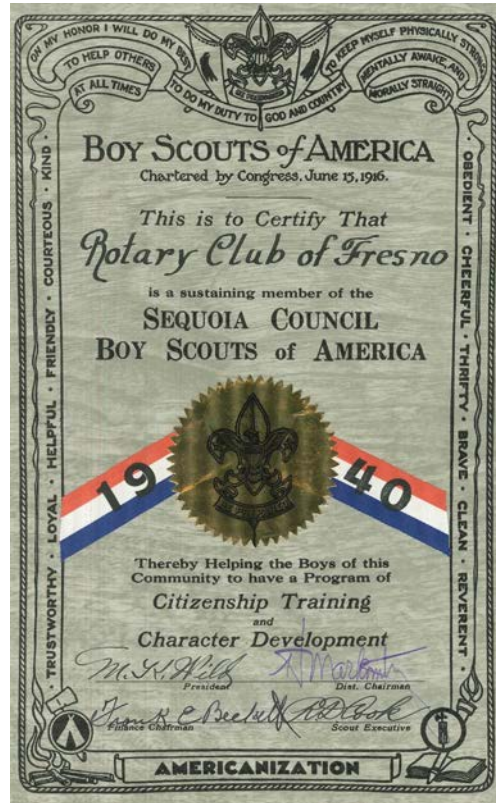
In 1919, members of the Rotary Club of Fresno met to form and organize the first charter for the Sequoia Council, Boy Scouts of America. Scouting was only nine years old at the time and local Councils were being formed across the country. Fresno Rotary was only three years old at the time and is early evidence that the Rotary Club of Fresno was destined to make significant impacts in the community, the region, and around the world.

The Rotary Club of Fresno provided the funding for the operation of the Council for its first few years of existence. Project wise, the Sequoia Council's Camp Chawanakee on Shaver Lake, has benefitted greatly from the support of the Rotary Club of Fresno and other local Rotary clubs over the years. Examples of that support include a kitchen facility, a climbing wall, a COPE course and zip line, and Pico sailboats. Rotary also helped establish the Scout headquarters in Fresno when its new office was built in 2002.

In 2013 the Sequoia Council constructed 13 log cabins at Camp Chawanakee, one of which was for a camp office, eleven for use during the fall, winter and spring by various scout groups, and two which were fully accessible for those with disabilities. The Rotary Club of Fresno led the way, with the help of three International Rotary Clubs, two Rotary Districts and the Rotary Foundation, to fund the acquisition cost of \$95,000 for the contents of the cabins, such as tables and chairs, beds, appliances and the like.







Framed Photo appreciation from the Boy Scouts presented July 1954 for Club grants of improvements to the building funding in 1945 and the added dining and kitchen facilities in 1954.



# THE DICTIONARY PROJECT

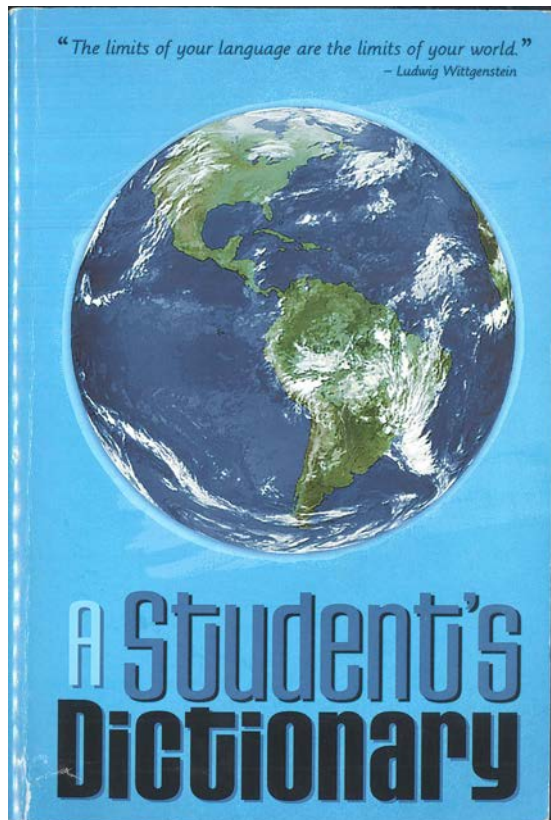
The Rotary Club of Fresno has long supported the advancement of literacy and lifelong learning for children. That's why the nationally recognized "The Dictionary Project" had special appeal to the club and why the club distributed a dictionary to each fourth grade student in 2007 (6,000) and each third grade student in 2008 (6,000) who attended the Fresno Unified School District.

The program provided a personal dictionary for each student to own and use either in the classroom or at home and help inspire them in the power of words. A dictionary helps a child solve a problem when reading, writing or thinking creatively. The inside cover of each dictionary included a sticker with Rotary's four-way test and a place for the student to put their name.

This email was received from the father of one of the students who received a dictionary:

*"Thank you for the gift of a dictionary for my son, Anthony. He received it yesterday from Wolters Elementary. When I picked him up from school on Friday he was reading the book and quoting to me the census information about our 50 United States of America. He was telling me about the state capitals. He was so excited to tell me about each states motto! He is completely interested in this fascinating book! He woke up this morning and the first thing he did was grab the book and start to read it! Outstanding! I can't thank you enough for giving my eight year old son this inspirational gift of knowledge. I have a feeling that he will always do his best.*

*Mr. Don Eskes, President of the Rotary Club of Fresno; I salute you and all of your members for providing these personal dictionaries for so many of our communities growing minds. Please continue your good works of thoughtfulness and generosity. Our society needs you more than ever."*



## THE ROTARY FOUR-WAY TEST Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

This dictionary belongs to

---

2007 Donation from  
THE ROTARY CLUB OF FRESNO

# FRESNO ROTARY'S ENVIRONMENTAL/ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

## Rotary Allergy Free Garden at Fresno State

A substantial percentage of the area's population suffers from allergies, including allergic asthma. These medical conditions are one of the major causes of absenteeism from schools and work.

In 1985 the Rotary Club of Fresno designed a program for the reduction of allergic pollen through landscaping by creating Rotary's "Allergy Free Garden" on the campus of California State University, Fresno. The University dedicated a half acre of land (located just behind the Smittcamp Alumni House) on the campus and a local architect volunteered his expertise and prepared plans for the garden.

The garden demonstrates to the community, in an educational way, plantings that are just as beautiful as allergy-causing plants. Significant renovation of the garden is currently underway with the addition of new varieties of plants which continues the original theme of allergic pollen reduction. Photos below are from the recent transformation of the garden to an outdoor teaching arena.





# FRESNO ROTARY'S ENVIRONMENTAL/ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

## Highway Arts Murals

The Highway Beautification Mural Project resulted in several mosaic-tile murals completed on Highway 99, Highway 168, and on Freeway 41. Travelers from all over the world pass through Fresno on their way to the beautiful national parks that surround Fresno. Today, travelers and residents, pass by an art gallery of towering mosaic murals depicting the culture and bounty of the Valley.

These murals are the result of the foresight and work of the Environment and Ecology Committee of the Rotary Club of Fresno. To accomplish this task, Rotary collaborates with Cal Tans, local artists, the construction community and high school art departments. Cal Trans accepts responsibility for logistics, placement, and maintenance of the murals. A panel of judges headed by a Rotarian selects the art for the 20' x 8' murals from work submitted by local artists. Crews of students in partnership with teachers, Rotarians and other volunteers work side-by side to assemble the mosaic ceramic tiles.



Students, Teachers & Volunteers installing Highway Arts Mural



Rotarians Annette LaRue and Rudy Castillo



Rotarians Bob Belcher, Rudy Castillo & Gary Lowe



Preparing the tiles for installation



# GIRL SCOUTS TROOP

The Rotary Club of Fresno has supported the Girl Scouts over the years by providing funds for various items at Camp El-O-Win, including an ice house, repairs to a bridge, and a dining hall and roof. Funds for camperships, educational materials, and supplies for a Brownie Troop also were provided.

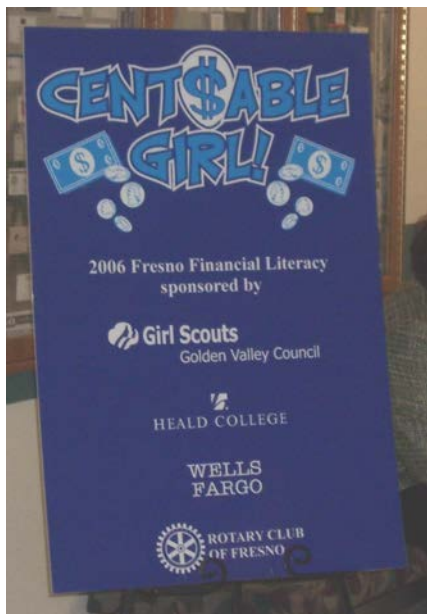
## Troop 650

The lives of a dozen Calwa Elementary School students were changed forever when Girl Scout Troop 650 was formed in 1992. Rotarian Terry Barthuli was the leader and the Rotary Club of Fresno its sponsor for eight years.

The troop began with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders who agreed to continue their Scouting careers until they graduated high school. Given their circumstances, mere graduation was a lofty goal and Girl Scouts was a way to make that important goal a reality. A trip to Hawaii for graduating Scouts was promised.

Rotarians opened doors that made completing badge work educational and fun. Telephone and public speaking workshops; worksite visits to explore careers; craft, arts, health, history and science projects; camping and travel opened their eyes to opportunities they would never have imagined. Trips included Mexico for Project Nino, San Francisco, San Diego, Disneyland and the Nixon Presidential Library, Santa Cruz, Morro Bay and Hawaii.

An example of how Girl Scouting changed a life is evidenced in one girl – immigrant from Mexico, non-English speaking, kept back a grade in school, very shy, and lived in a garage. She took advantage of all Troop 650 offered, received her Gold Award, became a U.S. citizen and registered nurse before marrying, having two children and buying a home. *(Footnote: A member of the Rotary Club of Fresno anonymously underwrote scholarships for the college education.)*



# FRESNO ROTARY AND THE SALVATION ARMY



The Rotary Club of Fresno is proud to call the Salvation Army a community partner for the past 94 years. This partnership has been a strong bond that continuously strives to meet the needs of our community.

Camp, scouting and youth enrichment programs can leave a lasting, positive impression on children of all ages. The Salvation Army's youth programs provide a safe environment where youth can gain new skills and self-reliance, develop new friendships and have fun. Children all have the same wishes and dreams, regardless of socioeconomic status: joining a scout troop, attending summer camp, or playing sports. Thanks to donations from the Fresno Rotary spanning 15 years, we were able to breakdown costly barriers and give worthy children an opportunity to fulfill some of those dreams.

Dating back to 1950, The Rotary Club of Fresno has worked side by side with The Salvation Army to make Christmas a little brighter for our struggling neighbors. Sometimes parents are faced with the choice of keeping the lights on at home or providing a wonderful Christmas memory for their little ones. Thanks to this club, a number of families over the years didn't have to face that decision. Whether it was donating funds, adopting families or donating toys, the members of this notable group came together to provide joy and laughter to children in Fresno.

One of the lesser-known programs The Salvation Army runs is the Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC). The center gives people the opportunity to gain moral and spiritual values that help form healthy work habits. The goal is to help those going through the program to regain their self-respect, allowing them to once again be healthy, and contribute to society. The Rotary Club of Fresno has spent nearly 10 years helping to improve the ARC. Rotary has helped with an on-site dental clinic, self-help videos/books, bed linens, cooling systems, furniture, yard equipment and GED testing. Rotarians have a heart for serving others and helping them reach goals to better their lives. Sometimes it is the simplest of things, such as clean new sheets, that give someone a sense of pride and self-confidence. It is in meeting these basic needs that The Rotary Club of Fresno shines as a true humanitarian group in our community.

In addition to meeting the needs of those in The Salvation Army programs, The Rotary Club of Fresno comes along side our organization to make sure families in emergency situations get food. The club has spent over \$6,000 helping us feed people in Fresno who are struggling.

In times of natural disaster The Salvation Army is often one of the first teams to respond and offer assistance to survivors. This Rotary Club recognizes the importance of reaching out to our neighbors in their time of need. This is clearly evident in the financial support provided during Hurricane Sandy, tornados in Oklahoma and flooding in Colorado. As well as assisting closer to home with drinking water during drought relief efforts.

Whatever the need, the Rotarians in this club have stepped up to help The Salvation Army continue meeting the needs of suffering humanity. This has included funds to purchase a 15 passenger van for our Gabelcrest Transitional Recovery Program for women and children. It has also included the funding to purchase a utility trailer. The list goes on and on. The Rotary Club of Fresno is a service club in the truest sense of the word – with their time. The members of this club have been volunteer bell ringers with The Salvation Army for over 55 years. This has been quite the commitment over the years and consisted of 100+ hours per year for the past 8 years.



# ROTARY STORYLAND / PLAYLAND



The Rotary Club of Fresno joined with the North Fresno Rotary Club and the West Fresno Rotary Club (now the Fresno Cultural Arts Rotary Club) to raise the funds and build Rotary Playland, which opened to the public in May 1955. Over the years Playland offered 11 rides, including the Willis B. Kyle Express Train, a Carousel, Tea Cups, and Lady Bugs. Seven years after the opening of Rotary Playland Rotary Storyland opened. Storyland is a walk-through park of Mother Goose and fantasy.

For decades Rotary Storyland/Playland generated funds that went back into the community to help countless causes. For example, it was money from the parks that in 1964, bought 50 acres of land to help form Woodward Park, funds went toward the zoo's reptile house, a new home for Nosey the elephant, land for Logan Park, and the Shinzen Friendship Garden.

Over the years the Rotary club of Fresno and the Rotary Club of Fresno Foundation have donated nearly \$150,000 to Rotary Storyland/Playland. Such funds were used by the Rotary Storyland/Playland Board for such things as an entry-way at Storyland, restoration of the carousel and various items of equipment.







Rotary Storyland 2016



# FRESNO'S HISTORIC WATER TOWER

In 1997, the Rotary Club of Fresno agreed to join the City of Fresno and the Fresno Convention and Visitor's Bureau in a collaborative effort to rehabilitate the existing Old Fresno Water Tower. The Rotary Club of Fresno contributed more than \$140,000 towards the rehabilitation. The Old Fresno Water Tower was originally constructed in 1896 at the corner of Fresno and O streets to provide water to downtown Fresno. The tower closed in 1963 when its pumping machinery could no longer keep up with the demand of the growing city. From 1963 to 1970 the building was used as a city parking meter repair shop. The tower was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1971 and was named an American Water Landmark in 1972. In 2001, the tower was renovated into a visitors' center for Fresno and Fresno County, at which time the second floor was removed.





# FRESNO ROTARY YELLOW BIKE PROJECT

In January 1996 the Rotary Club of Fresno launched its Yellow Bike Program by placing 56 bicycles at various locations around the City of Fresno. Each bike was painted yellow, except the seat and handle grips. The intended use for these bikes is that they would be shared by any adult who needed to get from one place to another. When they arrived at their destination, the bike was left at any major street or intersection for use by the next person.

Bikes were also made available for "permanent placement" to aid individuals with transportation needs for work, school, etc. They were also given to students at Jefferson Elementary, individuals at Hope Now for Youth and others.

The Yellow Bikes were warehoused at the Salvation Army in Fresno and refurbished and repaired by inmates at Pleasant Valley Prison. Bikes were donated to the program by private citizens, The Fresno Police Department and The Salvation Army.

By July 1997 over 450 bikes had been placed in the community. In June 1997 one of the Yellow Bikes was on display at the Rotary International Convention in Glasgow, Scotland and the project was included in an issue of Rotary International's booklet "PRESERVE PLANET EARTH".

Jim Burgess with the first delivery of 50 bikes.



**FREE COMMUNITY BIKE**  
PLEASE RETURN TO A MAJOR STREET  
FOR OTHERS TO USE.

**USE AT YOUR / REPAIR or PICKUP**  
**OWN RISK! / CALL 497-5566**



**ROTARY CLUB OF FRESNO  
YELLOW BIKE PROGRAM**





# FRESNO ROTARY'S PROJECT NINO

Project Nino (Spanish for child) was started in 1985 by the Rotary Club of Fresno out of the desire to provide medical help to the children who had been affected by the Mexico earthquake of 1985. The project now serves over 4,000 children annually in five days who otherwise would have very limited access to medical care. Each year, a group of physi-



cians, dentists, optometrists, nurses, and psychologists from Central California turn the elementary school in the village of Santiago de Tautla (forty-five miles north of Mexico City) into a clinic.

For most of the children, this clinic is their only medical care and some families walk for days to get to the village. Medical problems are treated or referred for care. Dental restorations or extractions are performed and dental hygiene lectures are given to try to prevent future problems. Eye examinations are performed and eyeglasses provided to those in need. Public health lectures are provided to help the people understand better what they can do to prevent illness. Psychologists help parents deal with the behavior problems of their children. A pharmacy stocked mostly by donated medicines is able to provide the medicines needed to treat most common ailments. For those conditions not treatable on site, referrals are made to local hospitals, the National Institute of Pediatrics, or the Shriner's Hospital in Mexico City.

Another important portion of the project is a series of seminars conducted in Mexico City hospitals for doctors and nurses. Using simultaneous translation, topics previously selected by the Mexican health care professionals are presented by doctors and nurses from the Central California area. This ensures that additional help can be found and the project will eventually become sustainable. These doctors and nurses are witnessing a third generation and the abundant impact this project has had in changing lives.

Project Nino is unique in the world of Rotary. We doubt there are any other projects where the cooperation between two Rotary clubs from different countries has persisted for 30 years and there seems to be no end to their cooperation.

# FRESNO ROTARY'S INTEGRATED SOLAR COOKING/WAPI COMMITTEE

## Integrated Solar Cooking

In 1994, the Rotary Club of Fresno started a solar cooking project with the Nairobi East Rotary Club in Kenya. Fuel wood shortages was and is a major problem in Africa and other parts of the world. The use of the sun's energy where sunshine is prevalent is a natural alternative.

The program offers sustainable technology improving the quality of life for those who use it. The solar cooker program involves the teaching of the construction and use of a solar cooker, a rocket stove, a hay basket (thermos) and a WAPI.

Solar cooker projects are around the world, including in the countries of Kenya, Turkey, Armenia, Mexico, Rwanda, Uganda, Bolivia, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, the Ivory Coast, Swaziland and Ghana. The program has spread to 21 different sites on five continents.

To learn more about this project visit: [www.integratedsolarcooking.com](http://www.integratedsolarcooking.com)





## FRESNO ROTARY'S INTEGRATED SOLAR COOKING/WAPI COMMITTEE

### WAPI's

The WAPI program (a water pasteurization indicator) was started by the Rotary Club of Fresno in 2005 and since then WAPI's have been distributed by the Club on a worldwide basis. A WAPI is a simple, low cost reusable device that helps determine when water has reached pasteurization temperatures killing disease causing organisms. When used correctly, the WAPI can have a significant impact on the fight against water-borne diseases. The WAPI can be used successfully over most fuel sources including solar, wood, charcoal and gas.

To date more than 75,000 units have been produced and distributed under directions from members of the Rotary Club of Fresno to many countries, including Haiti, Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Iraq, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and New Guinea. Recently, the Club supplied military families with necessary WAPI's in Iraq. Currently, the Club is preparing to send 25,000 WAPI's to Rwanda.

To learn more about this project visit: [www.integratedsolarcooking.com](http://www.integratedsolarcooking.com)





# FRESNO ROTARY'S WHEELCHAIR COMMITTEE

During the past 12 years the Rotary club of Fresno has distributed 4,200 wheelchairs changing the lives by giving mobility to people in the following countries: Costa Rica, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Dominican Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Swaziland, South Africa, Ecuador and the Philippines.

Members of the Rotary Club of Fresno travelled to all these destinations to personally deliver the wheelchairs. All who traveled agreed that taking place in the deliveries and lifting the recipients into the wheelchairs was one of the most emotional experiences of their lives. This is Rotary in action around the world. This was all made possible because of the tremendous generosity of the members of the Rotary Club of Fresno and the supporting grants from Rotary District 5230 and the Rotary International Foundation amounting to \$600,000.

In addition, Past President Shirley Grace, when she was Rotary District 5230 District Governor in 2012-13, made the distribution of wheelchairs her premier project. She succeeded in raising \$55,000 from all Clubs in the District and we helped her deliver 2,800 wheelchairs to India, Zimbabwe and the Philippines.



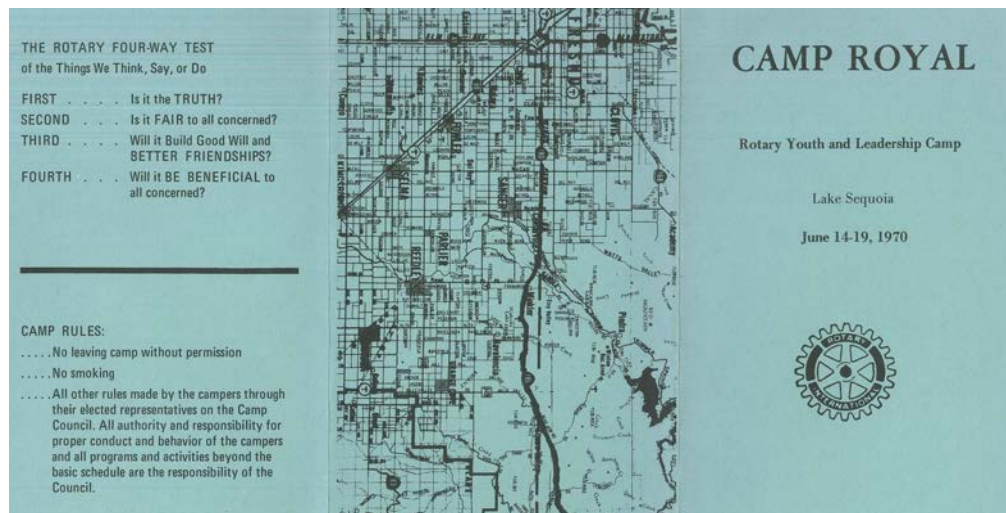
Remarkable  
achievements  
with 7,000  
lives changed  
forever!

# FRESNO ROTARY'S CAMP ROYAL

Camp Royal, which stands for Rotary Youth and Leadership, was established over 45 years ago by the Rotary Club of Fresno and eventually evolved as a Rotary District 5230 project. The camp is held in June of each year at the 5,000-foot elevation YMCA facility at Sequoia Lake.

The camp is a five-day, intensified leadership program for outstanding 11<sup>th</sup> grade leaders. Originally a single session for young men only, the camp added a session for young ladies in 1982.

Young leaders are selected on the basis of leadership, personal values, intelligence and integrity, first by their schools, then by a Rotary screening committee. Photos from 1970:





# FRESNO ROTARY'S SPONSORED INTERACT CLUB'S

Interact is Rotary International's service Club for young people ages 14 to 18. Rotary Interact clubs are sponsored by individual Rotary Clubs, which provide support and guidance, but they are self-governing and self-supporting.

Interact Club membership varies greatly; Clubs can be large or small. They can draw from the student body of a single school or from two or more schools in the same community.

Each year, Rotary Interact clubs complete at least two community service projects, one of which further international understanding and goodwill. Through these efforts, Rotary Interactors develop a network of friendships with local and overseas clubs and learn the importance of

- Developing leadership skills and personal integrity
- Demonstrating helpfulness and respect for others
- Understanding the value of individual responsibility and hard work
- Advancing international understanding and goodwill

As one of the most significant and fastest-growing programs of Rotary service, with more than 18,600 clubs and 430,000 members. The Rotary Club of Fresno sponsors Rotary Interact Clubs at Erma Duncan Polytechnical High School and formerly sponsored Clovis West High School.



Interact leaders from  
Duncan PolyTechnical High School February 2016 presenting to Fresno Rotarians their club activities.

**Interact**  
*Rotary Sponsored Club*



University High School

**Interact Club**

*Sponsored by Fresno Rotary  
June 3, 2017*





# FRESNO ROTARY'S LITTLE HEROES-BIG HEROES



The Little Heroes-Big Heroes project of the Rotary Club of Fresno started in the early 1990's. The club invited seriously ill children from Valley Children's Hospital to a Cal Bowl football game. As word got out, more parents wanted their children to participate. The result was a year-round project. Little Heroes-Big Heroes is a matching of some 30 Little Heroes from Valley Children's Hospital with 60 Big Hero athletes from Fresno State. Each child has two Big Heroes. Families of the Little Heroes also participate.

A Little Heroes-Big Heroes gathering occurs about six times per year. Sometimes it is a pizza party and other times it is a picnic and games in the park or a trip to the Fresno Chaffee Zoo. There is always a special party at Christmas. Our Little Heroes tell us this program is "the best" because it gives them something to look forward to other than illness and hospital stays. The athletes have thanked us for providing them the opportunity to give something of themselves to these children.

As one might imagine, there are sad moments. Some of our Little Heroes have passed on. We also have our happy stories. Eleven-year-old Adeline was a Little Hero for five years. She had six operations and a liver transplant. Adeline stood on a chair to see over the podium and told our Rotary Club members what her Big Heroes and the program has meant to her. It was a deeply moving experience for all of us.



Photo from [www.gobulldogs.com/sass/fres-sass-heroes.html](http://www.gobulldogs.com/sass/fres-sass-heroes.html)

# FRESNO ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP

“In the lexicon of youth there is no such word as fail”. The author of that quote may be unknown but the sentiment has been borne by Fresno Rotary Scholarship recipients for the last 40 years.

As a function of the “Rural Urban” committee Past Club President Ed Rousek and Rotary Member Alvin Quist saw an opportunity for the club to help the college aspirations of high school students here in Fresno County. Ed a PhD faculty member of Fresno State in the Animal Science Department and Al Quist a rancher, dairy farmer and school board member in the Washington Union School district in Easton were moved to approach the Club to assist graduation high school seniors who demonstrated academic excellence, a commitment to serving their community, who led a balanced life by participating in school sports, organizations or clubs and lastly were goal directed, meaning they had given some thought to the discipline they might pursue in college.

Securing scholarship money from the club through dues and fines, they established the maximum award for three deserving seniors at \$250 each. Initially, students from Fresno High, McLane High and Washington Union High were invited to submit an application. The applications were scored with points given in these four areas; grades, community service, outside involvement and financial need.

By 1991 the scholarship awards had risen to \$500. This was due in large part to the increase in membership and therefore an increase in money to give back to the community. By this time the participating schools were Duncan, Edison, Fresno High, McLane and Dewolf, the continuation high school.

By the time Ed and Al handed off the responsibilities of the committee in 2001, six \$1,000 scholarships were awarded, one \$500 award and four \$250 Duncan awards for the total of \$7,500. At the last award ceremony in June 2015, the Club presented a total of \$14,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors who attended Central High East, Central High West, Duncan PolyTechnical, Edison High, University High or Washington Union High. The University of California Ag Extension choose a 4-H senior from Kingsburg High.

For over 40 years the Rotary Club of Fresno has awarded hundreds of students with close to \$300,000 in scholarship money. We like to think we have made a \$300,000 investment in the future. We tell each recipient that the “gift” we are awarding them is a symbol of our belief in them and their ability to dream, work hard and ultimately make a difference. When we provide a scholarship we assist in changing that student’s life with a college experience and further Rotary’s goal of changing the world.



# FRESNO ROTARY'S MISS CALIFORNIA RECEPTION COMMITTEE

The Miss California pageant, part of the Miss America Organization, has been crowning a Miss California since 1924, resulting in five Miss American winners. The event is held the last week of June at the William Saroyan Theater at the Fresno Convention Center. The pageant has been held in Fresno since 1994.

The Rotary Club of Fresno, being fully aware of the benefits of having the pageant in Fresno, has hosted a reception for the contestants and staff since 2003 on the Sunday evening of pageant week as well as making a cash contribution to their scholarship fund. This event allows Rotarians, their families, and friends to visit with the participants, welcome them to Fresno, and relay genuine appreciation for the pageant being in Fresno. These receptions were held at the CSUF President's house from 2003 to 2007, at the Rotary Amphitheater at Woodward Park in 2008, and since 2009 at Pardini's at Shaw and Van Ness.



Rotary Club of Fresno  
presents

## California Garden Party Miss California Contestants Reception

Sunday, June 22, 2003

6:00 - 8:00 in the evening

in the garden of John and Sharon Welty

4411 North Van Ness Boulevard  
(Old Fig Garden • 2 blocks north of Ashlan.)

\$100 per person includes 2 tickets to the Pageant

Hors d'oeuvres, wine and beverages

Featuring entertainment by former Miss California Winners

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of guests \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$100 each      Total to be billed \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Charge to my Rotary account      Signature \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Charge to my (circle one)      Visa      MasterCard      Discover

Card number \_\_\_\_\_      Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_





## FRESNO ROTARY'S PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

Since 2002 the Rotary Club of Fresno has honored the work of local law enforcement officers and first responders who have demonstrated *"Service Above Self"* by going beyond the call of duty in serving our community. The agencies participating in this program are the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, the Fresno Police Department, the Fresno Fire Department, and the California Highway Patrol.

Each year the agencies are asked to select an officer, citing an incident or act in which the officer performed an act of heroism or other deed that exemplifies service to the community above and beyond the officer's normal duties. Each such officer is then recognized at a meeting of the Rotary Club of Fresno.



March 2014-15

# ROTARY CENTENNIAL PLAZA

The year was 1954. A North Fresno Rotarian had a vision to provide children in the Fresno and surrounding community affordable amusement. His dream came true with the help of the Rotary Club of Fresno, North Fresno Rotary, and the Rotary Club of West Fresno (now the Cultural Arts Rotary Club). On May 30, 1955 the first phase of Playland was opened with long lines of children anxiously waiting to ride on the train, carousel, and roller coaster.

In 1962, seven years after Playland opened its gates, Storyland welcomed children into a storybook where children would experience the fun of reading. A magical kingdom complete with a castle, pirate ship, and keys that would unlock boxes where Mother Goose stories were narrated.

In spring, 2015, the Board of Directors decided to close Playland/Storyland and reevaluated its position. With overwhelming community support and under the auspices of a new board and encouragement of Chaffee Zoo, plans unfolded quickly to reopen Storyland on Labor Day Weekend, 2015. Thousands of children and their families attended, reliving old memories and making new ones.

You can make a difference to the children of Fresno by donating to the fun and inviting Rotary Plaza at Playland. The Rotary Plaza will be a unique and colorful entryway. The estimated cost of the project is \$100,000. At the completion of extensive improvements, Playland is scheduled to reopen in spring, 2016.



SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE CENTENNIAL SPONSORS!

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