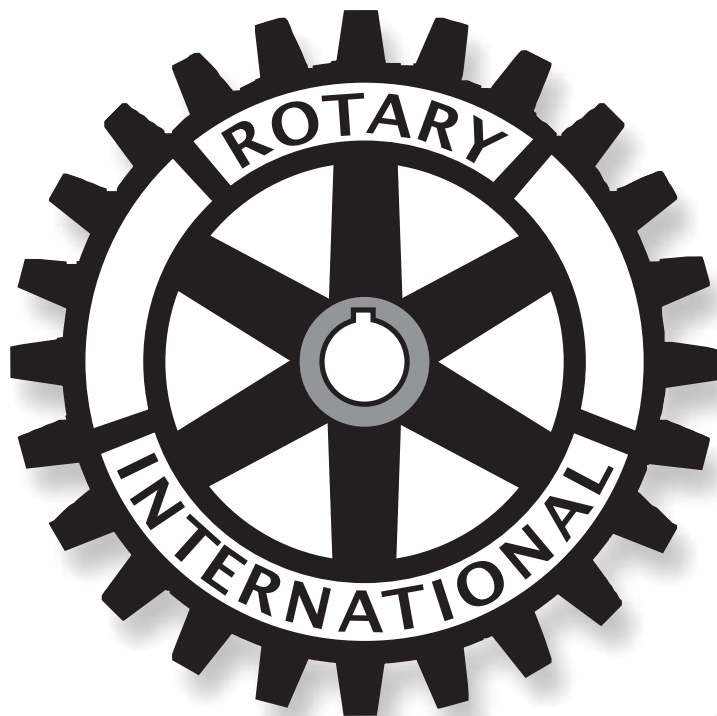


*Service Above Self*



*75th Anniversary Celebration*

*Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale, Florida*

*Stranahan House  
Saturday April 26, 1997*

"It is one of the most beautiful compensations  
of life that we cannot sincerely try to help  
another without helping ourselves."

- John P. Webster

This 75th Anniversary Celebration Program is dedicated to four men each of which have shown a dedication that exemplifies the meaning of being a Rotarian –

Alan James Bassett “Alan”

Thomas F. Carroll, Jr. “Tom”

Horace Chang “Horace”

William Freeman “Bill”

To each one, a warm and gracious  
Rotarian THANKS!

*Each of these gentlemen are  
Paul Harris Fellows*

*75th Anniversary Celebration*

# ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



One Rotary Center  
1560 Sherman Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60201-3698 USA

Luis Vicente Giay  
President, 1996-97

8 April 1997

Mr. Walter L. Morgan  
President, Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale  
P.O. Box 678  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33302

RE: 75th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Congratulations to you and the Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale #1090 for its 75th Birthday. I regret I cannot come back to Fort Lauderdale on 26 April 1997, when your club will have its **Birthday Celebration** in what I'm sure will be a "Grand Rotary" style! Celia and I were happy to visit with your club when it hosted the Celebration of Rotary in South Florida and the Bahamas at the Gala event in Fort Lauderdale; and sincerely wish our travel schedule would have permitted a return for your **Birthday Party**.

The Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale #1090, with over 200 members, has distinguished itself for each of the 75 years since it was granted its charter on 1 March 1922. Please assure each of your members that, while we cannot be there in body, we are with you in spirit on this great day of Celebration. We are sure that each of you will carry on the traditions of Rotary and **Build The Future With Action and Vision.**

Sincerely yours,

Luis Vicente Giay  
President

JEA/trc

cc: Irving J. "Sonny" Brown, Vice-President, RI

Phone: 847-866-3000

FAX: 847-866-3178/3190



**ROTARY CLUB OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
P.O. BOX 678 • FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33302-0678

April 26, 1997

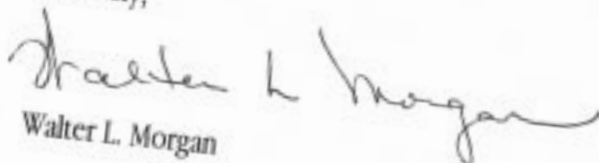
Welcome.

It is with great pleasure that I have had the privilege to serve as President of the Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale during the celebration of our 75th year. As the oldest service organization in Broward County and with a long list of contributions, our membership has been comprised of some of Fort Lauderdale's outstanding individuals since 1922.

Our Club is comprised of 210 members and is the second largest Rotary Club in South Florida. Our contributions include the annual funding of ten college scholarships, sponsorship of two high school Interact Clubs, building housing facilities in Guatemala and annual donations of approximately \$100,000 to local charities and the International Rotary Foundation.

Thank you for joining us in celebrating 75 years of Service above Self in Fort Lauderdale.

Sincerely,

  
Walter L. Morgan

*75th Anniversary Celebration*



**ROTARY CLUB OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
P.O. BOX 678 • FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33302-0678

April 26, 1997

Dear Friends and Rotarians,

I consider it an honor to have been asked to CoChair an event such as the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale. I am proud to be associated with such a distinguished and dignified group of people performing such wonderful services within this community. A community that is much richer because of our members past and present.

I have to especially thank my Co-Chairman, "Wilkie" Gilbert, a Past President who has a devoted heart to this organization. If you ever have an opportunity to work with this man, you will be better for it.

Many thanks are in order for their assistance without which none of this would have been possible:

**75th Anniversary Celebration Committee**

- Christine Thrower
- Kay Gilbert
- Warren Chiavaroli
- Tinker Connolly
- John Day
- Eason Dobbs
- Ian Gail
- Sue Gillis
- Lynn Hayes
- The Honorable Jim Naugle, Mayor, City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida
- The Fort Lauderdale Historical Society
- Gene Marola
- Walter Morgan
- Tom Mahaney
- Hugh McCauley
- Sheldon McCartney
- Bob McGee
- Sandy Newsome
- Lloyd Rhodes
- Art Stone

Please help me this evening, in thanking each and every one of the above for their assistance in making this evening's event - A CELEBRATION!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.D. Thrower".

J.D. Thrower  
Director, Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale  
Co-Chairman, The 75th Anniversary Celebration

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*This modest attempt, at a piece of the history of this club,  
does not do our club's extensive history justice.*

*Bill Robbins once said, "It is not easy to define the spirit of  
Rotary. To do so with full justice to its importance and character  
is impossible."*

*Please excuse any errors or omissions.*

*J.D. Thrower, Editor*

*75th Anniversary Celebration*

SERVICE ABOVE SELF



*This certifies that the Rotary Club of  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida*

*having been duly organized and having agreed,  
through its officers and members, to be bound by the  
Constitution and By-laws of Rotary International  
which agreement is evidenced by the acceptance of  
this certificate, is now a duly admitted member of*

*Rotary International  
Club No. 1090*

*and is entitled to all the rights and privileges of  
such membership.*

*In Witness whereof the seal of Rotary  
International is hereto affixed and the signatures of  
its officers, duly authorized, are subscribed hereto this  
first day of March Anno Domini 1922.*

(This is a duplicate charter issued 13 April, 1945)

*Walter Dill Scott*  
President Rotary International

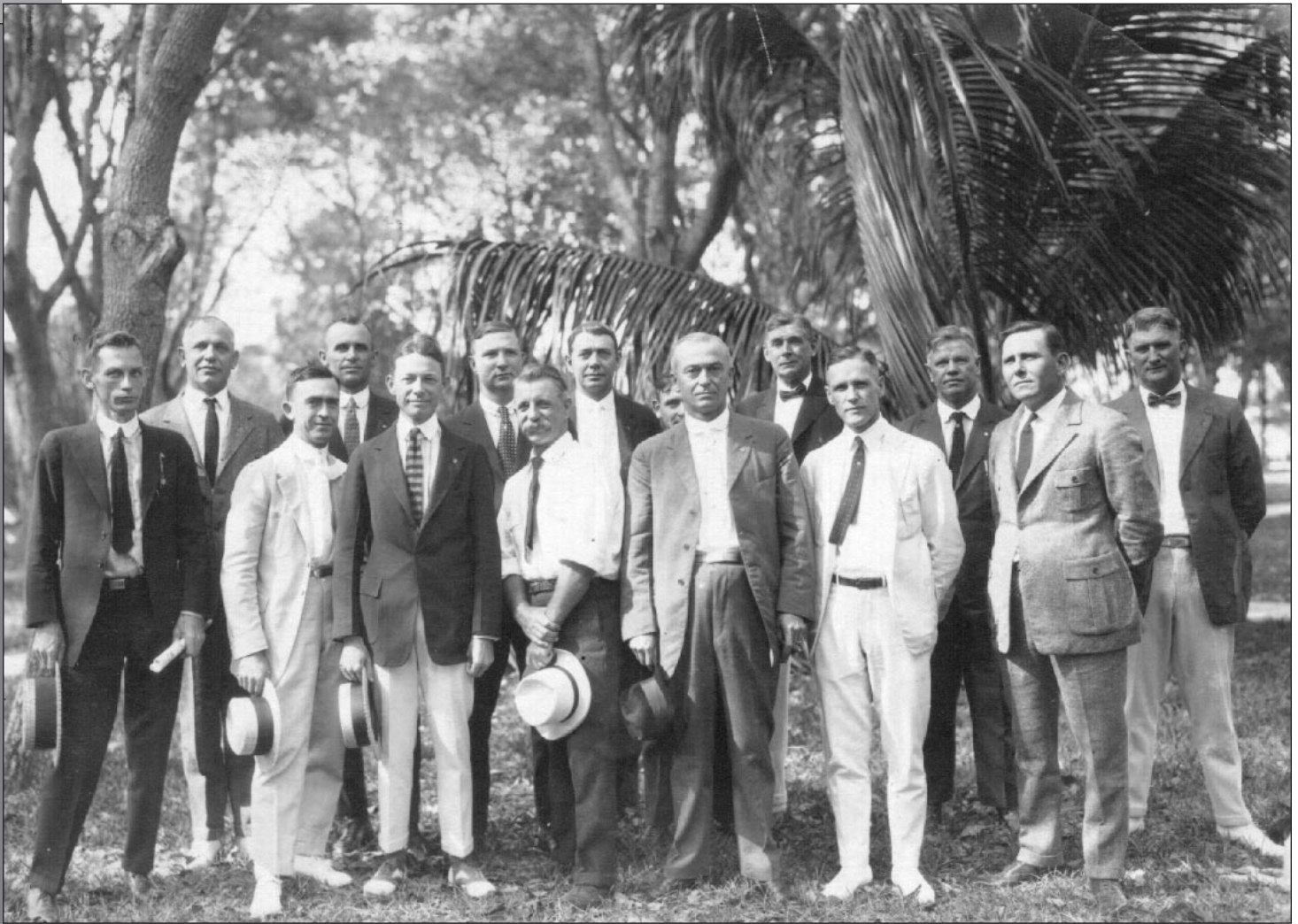
*James R. ...*  
Secretary Rotary International



SERVICE ABOVE SELF



# 75 Years... A Rich History



*Picture credit: The Fort Lauderdale Historical Society*

*Picture caption: The Charter Members Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale 1922*

*From left to right: (Front Row) D.D. Oliver, A.J. "Doc" Beck, Maxwell Baxter, Commodore A.H. Brook, Dr. John A. Stanford, James S. Rickards, W.C. Kyle; (Back Row) From left to right: John D. Sherwin, M.A. Hortt, A.D. Marshall, John W. Needham, H.G. Wheeler, C.E. Rickard, Ed H. Hortt, D.T. Hart.*

*75th Anniversary Celebration*

"People seldom improve when they have no other model but themselves to copy after."

GOLDSMITH

# Who were the Charter Members?

*The following text reprinted from August Burghard's account of these biographies in the 50th Anniversary Program of the Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale's 50th Anniversary Event. Some of the photos are courtesy of The Fort Lauderdale Historical Society.*

## JOHN SHERWIN

John Dewey Sherman was born Nov. 16, 1876 and came to Fort Lauderdale January, 1914. He was a newspaper editor and publisher.

He was a member of the Port Everglades Authority, a charter member of Rotary Club, active in everything he thought would be of benefit to Fort Lauderdale, including the splitting off of Broward County from Dade in 1915.

He remained in Lauderdale until his death. His wife was the former Maude Ransom. They had a son Vernon C. He is now living in Baltimore, Md., where he is News Editor of The Baltimore Evening Sun.

He died in April, 1932. Mrs. Sherwin died in November, 1930. Both are buried in Lauderdale cemetery.



John D. Sherwin was born in Elk Falls, Kansas, the son of John F., and Sarah Kearns Sherwin who migrated westward from Jamestown, N. Y., in the days of the Conestoga wagon. Published Moline ( Kan. ) Advance, a weekly, before moving to Lauderdale. Worked briefly for Col. George G. Mathews on the old Lauderdale Sentinel. Started the rival Fort Lauderdale Herald in partnership with John L. Mouring, a printer, and Henry V. Calder, pioneer Lauderdale resident. Sold Herald during boom of 20's to Galvin Brothers of Lima, Ohio, who also bought Sentinel and established Lauderdale Daily News. Devoted himself to real estate and politics for remainder of his life.

## ALFRED J. BECK

Alfred J. (Doc) Beck was born in Alabama, 1892, and came to Fort Lauderdale from Ocala, Florida in 1916, shortly after he and his wife Annie were married.

He was the owner-operator of Beck's Drug Store on Andrews Avenue and then on Las Olas Blvd. until the time of his death on July 31, 1961.

When they arrived in Fort Lauderdale, they found a town of sand dunes and pine trees and several hundred people centered around the F. E. C. Railroad Station. "Doc" Beck was active in organizing the community's first Episcopal Church. He was made treasurer and served in that capacity for twenty-eight years. He was a member of the Junior and Senior Wardens of his church.

At the time of his death, he was the last surviving member of the Rotary Club founders, and one of its past presidents.



His wife, "Annie" Beck is one of the outstanding gardeners of South Florida The Annie Beck Library of the Fort Lauderdale Garden Clubs in the Garden Club Center in Birch State Park is said to be the most complete of its kind in Florida. The tabebuana tree in her front yard on E. Las Olas Blvd., when covered with its yellow blossoms in the spring, makes one of the most vivid and spectacular displays to be seen anywhere.

"Doc" Beck was a fresh water fisherman and an ardent hunter. He was a gregarious individual, and the cool back of his store was a favorite gathering place for chess and checker players on hot and quiet summer afternoons.

One of the disappointments of the Historical Committee, (John Ulman and the writer) is that a tape recording of his memories and experiences in early-day Fort Lauderdale was borrowed from the Rotary Club, improperly used, and destroyed.

The Becks added much to Rotary, and to Fort Lauderdale.

### MAXWELL BAXTER



Maxwell Baxter was born February 15, 1888. He was an Attorney-at-Law, and served as City Attorney of Ft. Lauderdale, 1919-1925. Acting City Atty., 1945-1946. Member, Broward Co. Port Authority, 1934-1936.

His wife was Floy Arren. Maxwell Baxter, Jr. was a son.

He died March 28, 1958. Survivors — wife, Floy Baxter, son, Maxwell Baxter, Jr.

Was a Past Commander of the William C. Morris Post, American Legion, in Ft. Lauderdale;

Was attorney for the Broward County Board of Public Instruction;

From 1935 to 1937 acted as Special Attorney for the U. S Department of Justice. He was a First Lieutenant in the U. S. Air Service in World War I.

### A. H. BROOK



Commodore A. H. Brook, born March 9, 1886, came to Fort Lauderdale, November 1917. He was an Outdoor Advertising Executive and a Landscape Architect. He was Chairman, American Waterways Congress, President, Waterway League of America, Chairman, Florida Inland Navigation Dist. (from inception to 1945). Founder of Zoning and Planning Board, Fort Lauderdale, and co-founder Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce.

The Commodore was a bachelor.

He died April 2, 1946, leaving a sister, Clare A Fursman, Nephews, Henry J. Brook, William P. Brook, Dania.

He won the title Commodore by heading several Yacht Clubs in the New York-New England area. He was a dollar a year man in the First World War, serving the Dept. of Justice by fighting "Spy Activities," Un-American Activities. He was a charter member and first Commodore, of the Fort Lauderdale Yacht Club.

*(Charter Members Continued)*

**M. A. HORTT**

M. Allen Hortt was born June 24, 1880. He came to Fort Lauderdale on June 10, 1910 and engaged in the real estate business.

He was Mayor of Fort Lauderdale, member of Chamber of Commerce of Florida and Ft. Lauderdale. He was Commissioner of Finance of the city.

He was Pres of Ft. Lauderdale Y. M. C. A., Honorary member of Boy's Town, Nebraska.

His wife is the former Lenora Goozee.

He died in 1958 and was survived by his wife and three sisters survive in Utah.

He was the first delegate to an International Rotary Convention (held in Los Angeles in 1922) from the new Fort Lauderdale Club.



**A. D. MARSHALL**

A. D Marshall (Arden DeBerry) was born Sept. 20, 1881. He came to Fort Lauderdale about 1900. He was a farmer, grocer, jailer for County Sheriff during terms of A. W. Turner and Walter Clark. He was a member Mahi Temple Shrine, Miami, Masonic Lodge, Hahira, Ga., and the Elks Lodge of Fort Lauderdale.

His wife was Mattie Lawson from Hahira, Ga. Children, Robert Lee, Alene (Mrs. William Anglin of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea)- Alice (Mrs. George Walters of Ft. Pierce, Fla.)

He died Feb. 21, 1953. Survived in Fort Lauderdale by son, Robert Lee Marshall and brother, Elias E. Marshall.



**JAMES S. RICKARDS**

James S. Rickards was born July 26, 1883 at Terhune, Indiana. He came to Fort Lauderdale in 1913.

His occupation: Education. Principal, Supt. of Public Instruction in Fort Lauderdale and Broward County.

He was Secretary-Treasurer, Broward Drainage District, Supt. of Public Instruction of Broward County; Charter member and President of Ft. Lauderdale Rotary Club.

He organized Ft Lauderdale Library and remained on its Board as long as he resided in Ft. Lauderdale.

In 1929 he moved to Tallahassee, Florida, to become Executive Secretary Treasurer of the Florida Education Association.



His wife: Grace Adelaide Havens. Their children: Becky Lou (now Mrs Arvah Hopkins of Tallahassee), William Havens, Dorothy Jane, Beth (now Mrs. William Darrel Cavness), James S. Jr. He died in 1949. All survive him except the youngest son Jimmy, who was killed in the Battle of the Bulge, World War II.

Club 1090 has in its permanent records a copy of the address given by distinguished Florida Attorney J. Velma Keen on the occasion of the dedication of the James S. Rickards High School at Tallahassee on Sept. 30, 1960.

### **D. T. HART**



D. T. Hart was born Sept. 18, 1883. His business: Wholesale Grocery.

He came to Lauderdale in 1916. Then due to ill health, went to Hendersonville, N. C. in 1929, where he had maintained a summer home for several years, and went into the feed business.

His wife was Lula Lacke. They had two daughters.

He passed away Sept. 18, 1946 on his 63rd birthday. He left no surviving relatives in Fort Lauderdale.

He was a member of Presbyterian Church and Masonic Lodge. He was a lover of horses and dogs.

### **DAVID D. OLIVER**



David Dickson Oliver was born Apr. 14, 1888 and came to Fort Lauderdale June, 1910, as bookkeeper for The Stranahan Company. His business: President of Peninsular Supply Company. He was director of Broward National Bank, Director of Fort Lauderdale National Bank; was City of Fort Lauderdale's first Treasurer; Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce; Ft. Lauderdale Rotary Club, Lauderdale Yacht Club; Lodge 1516, Elks.

His wife; Eugene Besset; Children; Pauline Elizabeth (deceased), David D. Oliver, Jr., who married Sarah Humphreys, Frances Bryan, wife of Alan S. Frank, and Martha Gene, wife of Hugh W. Thistlethwaite.

He died January 15, 1957, Relatives surviving who live in Ft. Lauderdale: Mrs. D. D. Oliver, Sr., D. D. Oliver, Jr., Mrs Alan Frank (Frances).

During the time Mr Oliver was a member of the Rotary Club he edited a paper for them. Mrs. Oliver presented copies of the paper (The Tarpon) to the club.

Dave was first Secretary of the Ft. Lauderdale Rotary Club, A. B., University of N. C., a Phi Beta Kappa.

Dave's father served in the Confederate forces in the War Between the States. As a young Second Lieutenant in Co. E, the 20th North Carolina Regiment, he was captured at Gettysburg and held a prisoner on Johnston's Island, in Lake Erie until the war's end.

### **CLARENCE RICKARD**

Clarence Rickard was born June 12, 1871, and came to Fort Lauderdale December 1910. His business: Retail Lumber and Building Materials. Civic and political activities, offices held, etc. include; Member Board of Directors Ft Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, 1915 to 1926; President of Chamber 1922-1926. Chairman Board of First Christian Church 1914-1922; Member Board Trustees, Dade County School Board 1913-1916.

*75th Anniversary Celebration*

*(Clarence's Photo next page)*

Maiden name of wife, Cora I. Grimes; his children, Laurence S., Grace (Collins), Geneva, F. Laird.

He died February 1935. Surviving were, Laurence S., Grace Collins, Geneva; 6 Grandchildren, 8 Great-grandchildren.

He was a Director, Florida Lumber & Millwork Ass'n. 1925-1928.

He was the first City Manager, Fort Lauderdale, August-September 1925, and received a token salary, \$1.00 per Year.



**DR. STANFORD**

John A. Stanford, M. D. was born Apr. 26, 1875, and came to Fort Lauderdale in 1913, remaining here until the time of his death. His wife was the former Essie Cora LeGrone. Their children: H. B. Stanford, K. L. Stanford, Alvarez L. Stanford and Vera E. Stanford. He died in 1951.

He was President and Director of Pioneer Dept. Store (now the Radio Center Bldg.), Vice-President & Director of the original First National Bank. which was located in the present Sweet Building, and said building was erected by the First National Bank. He was local physician for the U. S. Coast Guard and Florida East Coast Railway for a number of years. He was a charter member of the B. P. O. E. Order and belonged to the Masonic Order. Church affiliation: First Methodist Church. Charter member Broward County Medical Assoc., and third President in 1928 of this organization.

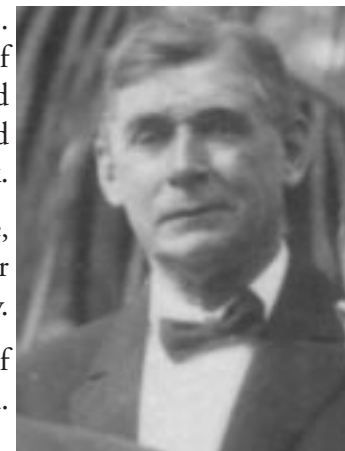


**H. G. WHEELER**

H. G. Wheeler was born June 28, 1860, and came to Fort Lauderdale in 1906. His business: Farmer, Produce Agent, Merchant, Real Estate Agent, Inventor of bicycle arrangement for wheel chair at Palm Beach. He was Chairman, Board of County Commissioners; Stockholder and member Board of Directors of old First National Bank.

His wife: Katherine Lee Adams. He had two daughters by former marriage, Mildred and Blanche. He died in 1931. He was survived by Katherine Wheeler Hyatt, and adopted daughter, Katherine Wheeler Garvey.

He was a 32nd Degree Mason, Scottish Rite, a member of the Woodmen of the World.



# The Rotary Club 25 Years Old

*Written in 1947*

*By Maxwell Baxter, President - 1932-33*

*Charter Member - 1922*

Fort Lauderdale Rotary is twenty five years old. No doubt this period is the greatest era in the history of the world.

Fort Lauderdale Rotary was organized during December 1921 and January 1922, with fifteen charter members. The charter was issued in Chicago March 1, 1922. It is written into the charter that it is granted to the smallest city or community of Rotary International at that time.

For some time before we received the charter and officially functioned as a Rotary Club, we held weekly meetings. Our sponsors were the late Judge Frank Stoneman, editor of the Miami Herald, a dignified gentleman who inspired confidence, and affable John Turner of Tampa and Miami. John Turner was a natural Rotarian. He was engaged in the piano business in Tampa and Miami and I had known him when I lived in Tampa before the First World War. I often passed his place of business and would generally see him out front smiling and talking with people. He was always smiling and always had a good word for everyone.

Judge Stoneman and John Turner attended our weekly meetings before and for quite awhile after we received our charter instructing us on the principles of Rotary. We really learned Rotary in the hard way, when we consider the advantage to a new member in being inducted into the well ordered club of today.

To me it seemed silly for fifteen businessmen in the little town of Fort Lauderdale to meet week at noon, and join in singing "Old MacDonald Had a Farm." I think the other fellows felt the same as I did because we later commenced to sing "Sweet Adeline." I still believe it was the singing that created the impression in their minds that their businesses occupied all their time.

Having been told that Rotary was not a money organization, that its fundamentals consisted principally of service above self, that the Chamber of Commerce was an outlet for influence in the material problems of the community, and that political and controversial matters were not to be engaged in, I was glad of the opportunity to discontinue donations to other worthy projects, and let Rotary perform its real function.

I, therefore, reduced the dues from \$12.00 to \$8.00 quarterly and we got along just as well as we had before, or perhaps as we have since and we retained our full membership. Two of the members who expressed the desire to resign have since served as presidents.

I think Rotary was more impressive twenty-five years ago than today, perhaps because it was young, and the few of us who knew about it were much impressed with the rule that Rotary selected its membership from the leaders of business and the professions of each community.

We charter members looked upon Rotary more as a sort of new religion. The Rotary motto of "He profits most who serves best" was explained to us, and naturally we thought we had been living by this motto before we became Rotarians, because we had been giving full weight and warranty to the goods we sold, and our professional services were not criticized; but, later we learned that service did not just apply to the material things of life, but included service to our fellow man in general in the every day affairs of life.

*(Continued Next Page)*

*75th Anniversary Celebration*

Rotary Peace Medium

We organized in the aftermath of the First World War, at a time when the future peace of the world was an intensive subject of discussion as it is today. Rotary at that time was rapidly expanding throughout the nations of the world. Our statesmen had not been able to accomplish anything in the way of a united peace. We knew that nations of the world had failed in the past, and religion, as old as it is, had not eliminated the hatreds and jealousies of the peoples throughout the world.

Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points, which were based primarily upon the fundamental principles of Rotary, had been scrapped because of the desire of our allies, particularly France, for revenge and the opposition of one man in this country.

To us it seemed reasonable that Rotary, which afforded the opportunity of acquaintanceship and friendship without suspicion or selfish motive was the medium by which an enduring peace among all nations could be brought about. Our faith by reason of the Second World War has not been shaken, because we realize time is necessary in disseminating the motto of "Service above self" to the men of all nations.

Today our foreign policy is opposed by one of our allies and by a citizen of this country as was done at the first war.

I am not as hopeful for peace in our time as Mohandas K. Gandhi, who at the age of 77 years, in an address recently delivered at the Inter-Asian Relations Conference in India said: "I would not want to live in this world if it was not going to be one world. I would like to see this ideal realized, not in this generation, but in my lifetime."

I still believe that Rotary is the medium through which a united peace can be made, and through its international relations, the idea of one world and a united peace should be its objective in the future.

Maxwell Baxter

###



(Partial article reprinted from *The TRIBUNE*  
as seen on Wednesday 27, 1983)

For the Benefit...

## Stranahan House given \$100,000



George W. English, a 58-year resident of the city, pioneer banker-lawyer and founder of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, has made a gift of \$100,000 toward the completion of the restoration of the home of the city's founder, the late Frank Stranahan and his wife Ivy.

The donation was announced recently during a luncheon held in English's honor by leaders of Stranahan House, Inc., the project corporation, represented by R.M. Gardner, president of the Historical Society, and Barbara Campbell, president of the Fort Lauderdale Area Board of Realtors.

English said the fund will be used simply to "restore the property, inside and out," adding that those responsible "can use it in any way they want."

English worked side by side with Stranahan in the late 1920's when he was city attorney and the pioneer ferry boat and trading post operator was

mayor. He recalled that Stranahan had run for office "after the bubble had burst" at the end of the land boom, "on a platform of solidifying everything and getting the city back on track."

While Stranahan was alive, I went to the house and sat on the porch with him many times, while the two of them attempted to work the city out of the heavy bonded indebtedness it had taken on during the high flying years of the boom.

In the decades that followed Stranahan's death English became a closer friend of Mrs. Stranahan and the two of them initiated the founding of the Historical Society.

.....

*A devoted Rotarian, the span of culture and history encompassed by George English's tenure in this city is quite incredible. When he arrived here, the Seminoles were still bringing furs out of the Everglades in dugout canoes to sell at the Stranahan trading post.*

75th Anniversary Celebration

## JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

Junior Achievement was organized in Broward County in the early summer of 1959 with eleven members of the Fort Lauderdale Rotary Club as Directors, and Howard Allen as the first President.

The object of Junior Achievement is to instruct both boys and girls of the Broward County High Schools the fundamentals of the Free Enterprise System, and the need for personal initiative and individual accomplishment in the operation of their miniature business Companies.

The Achievers work under the gratuitous guidance of local businessmen whose companies are largely financial supporters of the program. They teach the young students how to organize their own companies of 12 to 20 members each; sell their Company stock (about \$100.00) to provide working capital; select and make their product; determine its cost and selling price. Wages and sales commissions are determined and their operating problems are solved as they strive to conduct their Company on a profitable basis. These companies operate from the middle of October to the latter part of May when all must prepare a full and complete report of their business activity, and make a final liquidating payment to their stockholder.

Each student attends a class only one evening per week from 7 to 9 P.M. If absent, his home is telephoned within a half hour of starting time to determine his unexcused absence.

Our first year He had 173 student. We do not accept nor continue the enrollment of a student who does not maintain proper scholastic work in his class.

Our program is supported financially by business interests, service clubs and interested individuals. Donations are tax deductible since we are classified "Educational."

Ralph Marshall, Chairman

1967

*(First Published in Fort Lauderdale  
a Chamber of Commerce Magazine)*

# DOWNTOWN ROTARY FORT LAUDERDALE'S PIONEER SERVICE CLUB

*By August Burghard*

"The first Rotarian was the first man to call John the Baptist 'Jack'." That snide remark is attributed to Henry L. Mencken. "Where is Rotary going? I'll tell you where Rotary is going. It's going to lunch." That was George Bernard Shaw.

But Mencken, Shaw, Sinclair Lewis and other detractors, belittlers and pokers-of-fun-at lived to recant their words as service clubs, with Rotary in the forefront, pressed ahead with their really important programs.

Fort Lauderdale in 1922, with a scant 2,000-plus population, was the smallest city in the United States to receive a Rotary Club charter. As the city's first service club, and perhaps because the number of community leaders was so limited, it was only natural that community leadership and Rotary membership came to be considered as synonymous.

Rotarians were active in civic and community endeavor, and government. Today, 44 years later, Fort Lauderdale is a metropolis, with many more fine Rotary and other service clubs active, but old Downtown Club 1090 carries on magnificently and continues to render distinguished service in the grand tradition. It has a sound and serious purpose.

Names of earlier and present-day Rotarians are honored in such structures as the Commodore A. H. Brook Memorial Causeway—Seventeenth Street to the Ocean; George W. English Park off Sunrise; the Sherwin Building; Ulric J. Bennett School; M. A. Hortt School; James S. Rickards Schools in Fort Lauderdale and Tallahassee; the "Big John" Monahan Bridge near Indiantown; the (Rotary Anne) Annie Beck Library in the Garden Center at Birch State Park; and in Forman Field, site of the vast, electronics assisted, Nova School complex.

Rotary trained men in civic responsibility and awareness.

The Club furnished Chamber of Commerce presidents, directors, managers, and mayors, city and county and port commissioners, judges, and state officials. It participated in the creation of the hospital, the Community Chest became the United Fund, waterway development, flood, and Everglades fire control, the aquatic forum, and outstanding leadership in youth work.

John Ullmann, Jr., of the Club's Historical Committee, and Florence Rifenburg, veteran secretary, are amassing a wealth of material on Rotary activities beneficial to this city and area.

M. A. Hortt was the first delegate to an International Rotary Convention, the 1922 Los Angeles meeting, was president of the Y. M. C.A. and author of *Gold Coast Pioneer*. George Anderson developed the hibis-

*75th Anniversary Celebration*

cus into a plant of much greater beauty. Under his hands its blooms flamed, and grew in many shapes and sizes. His Rotary “Hibiscus Presentations” each year were spectaculars. In his honor Fort Lauderdale could well be called “The Hibiscus City.”

A. D. Marshall was county jailer under sheriffs A. W. Turner and Walter R. Clarke. D. T. Hart was a great lover of horses and dogs. Maxwell Baxter was a city attorney and American Legion Commander. Dr. J. A. Stanford was physician for old Coast Guard Base Six and the Florida East Coast Railroad, and a charter member of the Broward County Medical Society.

A Baltimore Sun editor, Vernon Sherwin, wrote the late Dr. L. F. Robinson of the Historical Committee: “I carry father’s watch, inscribed “Presented to John D. Sherwin, first president of the Fort Lauderdale Rotary Club— 1922 — and it continues to keep perfect time!” W. C. Kyle, bank president, was a force in community development.

Commodore A. H. Brook, who headed the C. of C. and the Florida Inland Navigation District, inaugurated the first Big Game Fishing Contest on the lower East Coast, was president of the Angler’s Club and first Commodore of the Lauderdale Yacht Club. This club’s publication, the Rotary Tarpon, was started by D. D. Oliver, a Phi Beta Kappa, a bank director, the city’s first treasurer, and later head of the Peninsular Supply Co. J. S. Rickards, when Superintendent of Education, brought the first Seminole Indian, Tony Tommy, into the public schools of Broward and established the first junior high school in Florida.

John W. Needham managed the city’s first tourist hotel, the Broward, where Rotary met for years. A. J. Beck, one of the organizers of the First Episcopal Church and its treasurer for 28 years, staged championship chess and checker games in his drugstore, and was a great woodsman, hunter and fisherman. H. G. Wheeler invented the famed Afrmobile, the bicycle arrangement for wheel chairs so popular in early-day Palm Beach. He was a bank director, chairman of the County Commission, and producer of a prized, much sought-after, avocado. Dallas A. Swindle, William A. Ketchin and Edward Smith served both Boy and Girl Scout organizations.

In later days Alonzo Putnam headed the Rotary group which constructed the overnight Girl Scout Camp at the old Naval Air Station. He was aided by Martin Gundersen, William Ketchin and 75 other Rotarians. Wyatt B. Hodges built the big swimming pool. Peter Clements, vice mayor, and Dr. Fred Boyd were active in the acquisition of the Girl Scout camping acreage west of Lake Okeechobee.

J. B. Fraser headed the building fund committee for War Memorial Auditorium in Holiday Park, and also the committee to build the U. S. One tunnel under New River— two major civic accomplishments.

Hunley Abbott prepared the city’s Post World War II Report and Recommendations. Ray Whyte, club poet laureate, a relative of James Whitcomb Riley, helped found the Young Men’s Christian Association.

Earl O. Shreve, former National Chamber of Commerce President, Junior Achievement head, and member of the National Boy Scout Council, sparked the start of Junior Achievement locally. Walter Dunn and Ralph Marshall and many other leaders in Junior Achievement followed. Colorful Charles L. Pierce, banker, first white child born in Boynton Beach, had a father who acted as a “Barefoot Mailman.” William J. Eastman ran the great WW Two Service Men’s Center, and later, War Memorial Auditorium.

It has been said that the biggest civic job in Fort Lauderdale, second only to the Chamber of Commerce presidency, is to be president of Downtown Rotary. (See Current President’s List in this book)

Under 1966 President John Miller activities cover many fronts. In William J. Burke the club has its first District Governor, and played host in November to the District's 51 clubs at the Conference at Miami Beach.

Rotarians raise sizable funds for the Rotary Foundation which enable talented students to continue their studies in foreign universities.

The club has always been interested in the young. Two J. B. Fannin scholarships operate through Rotary. Other examples: C. W. Reynolds plays host in his home this year to a young student from Stockholm, Sweden here as part of RSVP—the Rotary Student Visitor Program. Dr. Robert Shepard, recent “Outstanding-Young-Man” selection of the Jay-Cees, is in his third year as Rotary’s sponsor of the Interact Club of Fort Lauderdale High School.

Forty students comprise its membership and they are tremendously busy in school activities and improvements. Downtown Rotary first sponsored Interact in 1948, when it was known as the Wheel Club. The late Everett Steinbuch was the original Rotary representative.

Rotarians are a gregarious lot. “Perhaps only the bison and the elephant have stronger herd instincts than Rotarians, who manifestly enjoy one another’s company and flock together in a variety of local, district and regional conclaves.” John Bird wrote that for the Saturday Evening Post in “The Wonderful, Wide, Backslapping World of Rotary.”

Downtown Club 1090 has a fine old custom: allowing a different layman member to pronounce the invocation before each weekly meal. This brief prayer, borrowed from Pompano Beach’s Dr. Blair Sutphin, is a good one with which to close an article on service clubs:

*“Dear Lord,  
Here in this age of the goof-off and the coffee-break,  
Make us ashamed of unearned leisure, and  
Help us to make Work a sacred word again.  
Help us to do the best we can,  
Right where we are,  
With what we have,  
Secure in the knowledge that angels  
Could do no more.”*



◀ Who is this guy? Hint: He's in our club, he's a past president. (Photo circa 1965)

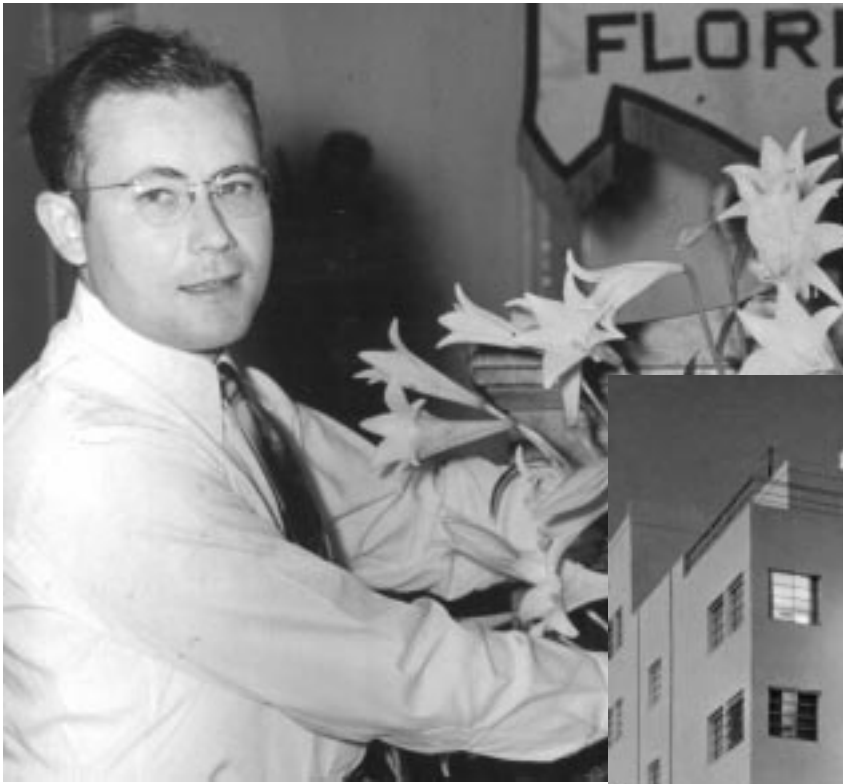
*Service Above Self*



◀ Don and Sally Glenn, win the prize of least changed in \_\_\_\_\_ years!



▶  
*Is it the TRUTH?  
Those Rotarians will do just  
about anything for a good cause,  
not excluding telling little girls  
that this is a pony.  
Funny looking pony fellows!*



▲ Can you name this Rotarian? (Photo circa 1946)

Can you name this Rotarian?

▼ (Photo circa 19??)



▼ One of the many places we used to meet. (Photo circa 1960)



◀ Can you name this Rotarian? (Photo circa 19??)

75th Anniversary Celebration

*Bill Robbins a GIANT in the world of Rotary.  
Reprinted here is a letter from Bill to The Interact Students  
as published during his term as President of Rotary  
International 1974-75.*

*After reading about this man all I can say is WOW!*

*The Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale maintains two active  
Interact affiliations, with Cardinal Gibbons High School  
and Fort Lauderdale High School.*





A Letter from the President of R.I. to All Interactors

Dear Interactors:

As President of Rotary International I wish to extend my warmest wishes for the new year to all members of Interact clubs. I have called upon all Rotarians, during this Rotary year, to RENEW THE SPIRIT OF ROTARY. It is this spirit which has bound an ever growing number of men around the world in friendship and to service to their communities and the world. It is not easy to define the spirit of Rotary. To do so with full justice to its importance and character is impossible. The truest

definition of this pervasive spirit is to be found in the good work and satisfying friendships and experiences which it leaves in its wake.

The spirit of Rotary is manifested in the relationship of Rotarians with the youth of their communities. In Interact the members of Rotary clubs find means for communication with young people who will be the responsible adults of the future. They learn to understand better the needs and strengths of their communities' most valuable resource— its youth. They help them to develop their understanding of the world through sharing experience and knowledge. Interact also allows the Rotarians themselves to gain new insights as they have the opportunity to share the perspectives of Interactors.

At the same time, you, the members of Interact clubs, share in the spirit which is at the center of the Rotary concept by serving your communities and accepting principles similar to those upon which Rotary itself is founded—upon which it has built through seventy years of success.

As the new calendar year begins I congratulate you on all that has been done by your clubs, and ask that you too reexamine and renew that spirit which guides your clubs in their activities and attitudes.

Renewing the spirit which makes you an Interactor is essentially an examination of that fundamental commitment to service and understanding which underlies your participation in your club. As we all go forward, building a better world, let us be aware of that which links us together — the intangible, indefinable but everywhere-evident spirit of Rotary. As long as that spirit is kept fresh in each one of you, Interact is assured of remaining a living thing, a living force for the good in the lives of its members and in the world where they live.

Sincerely,

William R. Robbins  
President, Rotary International 1974-75

*75th Anniversary Celebration*

RESOLUTION NO. 73-290

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE CITY OF  
FORT LAUDERDALE AS A FOUR-WAY TEST CITY  
AND ADOPTING THE FOUR-WAY TEST PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, Rotary International has developed and adopted the Four-Way Test as a convenient and effective instrument through which great improvement can be made in human relations when applied to business and personal affairs on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, the Four-Way Test has been formally presented to the United States Congress and to several state legislatures and to many local governing bodies with abundant success; and

WHEREAS, there is deep concern at all levels among the members of this community to receive fair and equitable treatment from their fellowman; and

WHEREAS, all residents of the City of Fort Lauderdale are concerned with the quality of living, including the environment to which a conscientious application of the Four-Way Test has a relevance; and

WHEREAS, the application of the Four-Way Test in a conscientious manner will provide and promote an atmosphere of integrity among the residents of the City of Fort Lauderdale and their businesses, profession, local government, schools, civic institutions, trade associations and throughout the entire community; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission is desirous of implementing this program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale Florida, hereby adopts the Four-Way Test for use at its meetings and further designates the City of Fort Lauderdale a Four-Way Test City.

SECTION 2. That the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale hereby urges all of its citizens of the City of Fort Lauderdale to implement the Four-Way Test in conducting their personal relations with other citizens.

SECTION 3. That the Four-Way Test is hereby declared to be "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?"

ADOPTED this the 4th day of September, 1973.

Virginia S. Young  
Mayor-Commissioner

ATTEST:

Margaret Dora  
City Clerk



Office of the Mayor  
City of Fort Lauderdale

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, the ROTARY CLUB OF FORT LAUDERDALE duly formed on March 1, 1922 with the principle of "service above self" and with God's grace has richly served the Fort Lauderdale community for 75 years; and

WHEREAS, the ROTARY CLUB OF FORT LAUDERDALE celebrates this long history of service in our community serving many individuals and many groups who, with this dedication of Rotary has made their lives, and our lives richer; and

WHEREAS, the ROTARY CLUB OF FORT LAUDERDALE began its distinguished history in Fort Lauderdale with a scant 2,000 plus population, our City at the time, the smallest city in the United States to receive a Rotary charter; and

WHEREAS, the ROTARY CLUB OF FORT LAUDERDALE was the City's first service club, and has made community leadership and Rotary membership synonymous; and

WHEREAS, the ROTARY CLUB OF FORT LAUDERDALE affectionately referred to as the "Downtown Rotary Club" carries on today magnificently and continues to render distinguished service to our community as a grand tradition, with sound purposes; and

WHEREAS, the ROTARY CLUB OF FORT LAUDERDALE with programs from local to international, fulfill the object of Rotary which 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 by each member of their occupation as an opportunity to serve society; Third. The application of the ideal of service by every member to their personal, business, and community life; Fourth. The advancement of international understanding, good will, and peace through a world of fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service; and

WHEREAS, the ROTARY CLUB OF FORT LAUDERDALE will celebrate 75 years from its distinguished, and visionary beginnings on Saturday, April 26, 1997, in grand tradition, on the grounds of Stranahan House;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, as City Commissioners of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 26, 1997 as:

## ROTARY CLUB OF FORT LAUDERDALE DAY

in the City of Fort Lauderdale in celebration of 75 years of service to this community and extend our deepest appreciation for all their efforts in our community. We wish them each the best and all our support in moving forward with this grand tradition and applaud their purpose.

the 26th day of April, 1997.



*[Signature]*  
Mayor Jim Waugle

# The Presidents of The Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale

1922-23	John D. Sherwin	1960-61	Thos. A. Cook
1923-24	Charles E. Fritz	1961-62	Wm. J. Burke
1924-25	Rev. R.D. Tracy	1962-63	Thord M. Marshall
1925-26	C.J. Joiner (1/2 year)	1963-64	Sam O. O'Bryan, Jr.
1926-27	J.S. Rickards (1/2 year)	1964-65	A.W. Saarinen, Jr.
1927-28	A.J. Beck	1965-66	Robert H. Six
1928-29	Russell Snow	1966-67	John C. Miller
1929-30	Wm. A. Glass	1967-68	Ben A. Bolinger
1930-31	J.A. Raymond	1968-69	Clem E. Bininger
1931-32	Ulric Bennett	1969-70	Walter F. Dunn
1932-33	Maxwell Baxter	1970-71	Robert E. Shepard
1933-34	C.C. Freeman	1971-72	Robert H. Pfeifer
1934-35	J.B. Fannin	1972-73	E. Birch Willey
1935-36	W.J. Eastman	1973-74	Clinton D. Hamilton
1936-37	Dr. O.C. Brown	1974-75	Charles Creighton
1937-38	August Burghard	1975-76	J.B. Richner
1938-39	Jackson McDonald (1/2 year)	1976-77	Mitchell J. Alles
1939-41	Holt McPherson (1 1/2 years)	1977-78	Donald T. Glenn, Jr.
1941-42	W.M. Ketchin	1978-79	Charles H. Bolton, III
1942-43	Howard Pierce	1979-80	Ralph A. Marrinson
1943-44	Dallas A. Swindle	1980-81	Harvey E. Ramsey, III
1944-45	Carlyle Sweet	1981-82	James E. Houston
1945-46	Harry Randel	1982-83	I. Fred Anderson
1946-47	Paul W. Myers, Sr.	1983-84	R. William Weimer, Jr.
1947-48	J.B. Patterson	1984-85	Allan C. Sorensen
1948-49	A.W. Putnam	1985-86	William L. McGee, Jr.
1949-50	E. Thos. Wilburn	1986-87	Romney C. Rogers
1950-51	C.I. Pierce	1987-88	Eugene M. Jones
1951-52	Robert A. Childers	1988-89	G. Wilkerson Gilbert
1952-53	Robert V. Roberts	1989-90	John Dorner
1953-54	Richard W. Ward	1990-91	Ian C.R. Gail
1954-55	Harlow Davock	1991-92	Thomas L. Tapp
1955-56	F. Peter Clements	1992-93	M. Scott Whiddon
1956-57	Mark S. Bibson	1993-94	Roger Arndall
1958-58	Grant I. Clarke	1994-95	R. Stephen Botkin
1958-59	Ernest N. Orr	1995-96	Gene A. Whiddon, Jr.
1959-60	Wm. B. Hulett	1996-97	Walter L. Morgan

*75th Anniversary Celebration*

# Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale Day The 75th Anniversary Celebration Sponsors

*In the true spirit of Rotary, a warm and grateful THANKS, for their generous support of this historic event.*

Sun Sentinel, \$2,500

Art & Bonnie Stone, \$500

Florida Power & Light, \$500

Gill Hotels, \$500

Hugh's Catering, \$500

The Rhodes Insurance Group, \$500

Keagy, Whiddon & Co., \$250

Twenty First Century Engineering, \$250

# This Evening's Program

7:00 PM	Cocktails	
8:00 PM	Call to Order Dinner	Walter Morgan, President
8:20 PM	Program Opening	J.D. Thrower 75th Anniversary Committee CoChairman
	Introductions	“Wilkie” Gilbert 75th Anniversary Committee CoChairman
	Rotary In Fort Laud. A Special Presentation	Art Stone
	Proclamation	The Honorable Jim Naugle Mayor, City of Fort Lauderdale
	Guest Speaker Honorary Rotarian?	Gene Marola
9:00 PM	Dancing	To the Music of “Avello”



*75th Anniversary Celebration*

## In Review . . .

# The Past 25 Years of Rotary from the Presidential Points of View

by Eason Dobbs and J.D. Thrower Scribes

A quarter of a century in Rotary has changed, according to some trips down memory lane recollected by numerous former presidents of the Fort Lauderdale Rotary Club. These men have led this Rotary Club, which is the oldest service club in the City of Fort Lauderdale, through a fascinating journey that has resulted in an organizational evolution from professional exclusivity to pride and prejudice to fellowship and, above all, service. Volunteer efforts of Rotary have resulted in many, many scholarships for students who may otherwise have been unable to attend college, numerous civic projects for which public funding was unavailable, and many goodwill endeavors sponsored by our local Rotary efforts as well as Rotary International.

According to Cicero, *The first law for the historian is that he shall never dare utter an untruth. The second is that he shall suppress nothing that is true. Moreover, there shall be no suspicion of partiality in his writing, or of malice.*

Well, these covenants may be difficult for this writer to uphold, given the sources of information and their sometimes forgotten or distant memories of their terms in office. But the challenge is quite seriously undertaken and many past presidents have gone out of their ways to help in the assimilation of a factual accounting of where this club has been, what it has done, and how it has come such a very long way since the early 1970s, not to mention over the 75 years of its existence. We take seriously the fact that these words will be read during the Centennial Celebration of Rotary in the year 2021, and during other yet to be named chronicles denoting the passage of time. So, read on, fellow Rotarians, about the good times, good deeds and good friends that have made Rotary the fine service organization that it is today.

While F. Peter Clements, who is at this time the oldest living president of the Fort Lauderdale Rotary Club, actually served some 40 years ago (1955-56), his recollections are a treasure that are certain to remain a source of inspiration to any future club historian. ...

### F. Peter Clements -1955-56

I was president when the Rotary Club met at the Pioneer House which was located in the building now occupied by Stranahan House. The meetings were kind of interesting because the room was L-shaped and you couldn't see the speaker unless you got there early and sat in the part where the head table was located. Also, we were practically right on top of the old bridge over the New River (which was eventually replaced by the Henry Kinney Tunnel), and it was very noisy, so the program suffered a bit now and then because you couldn't hear anything but the bridge. Then we moved to Governor's



Club and I remember the first meeting that we held there being quite a show. This guy who was president of the Sunshine Biscuit Company was the speaker and he was telling a lot of jokes so whenever he made a boo-boo he would throw all these cigars out all over the room. Florence Rifenger was our club secretary and she died in 1996 at age 102, God love her!

Peter was the originator of ringing the bell for the Salvation Army and was very involved with the Girl Scouts. While he was president, the club developed the Girl Scout camp at the site where Executive Airport is now located, and then we had to move it so we found a location on Hamburg Road where the County agreed to a lease for \$1 a year.

### **Robert H. Pfeifer -1971-72**

When I became president of Rotary, the whole club seemed sort of stagnant as it was made up primarily of older members. We needed a stimulus and so we went out and got 18 new members in the hopper.

On those days, the rule of one member per professional category was held steadfastly. Sam O'Brien was adamant about that and would not allow any other lawyer to get in. I had to wait seven years because Dr. O.C. Brown was the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat physician and he held onto all the categories in my profession. Thank goodness this policy changed over the next few years.

August Burghard was responsible for the 50th Anniversary Book and he took all the photographs for that meritorious epitome of club history. At the same time, a black man was proposed and some members got together a petition against him so he withdrew.

It was Bill Hulett who told the classic story of stuffing a Thanksgiving story in his inimitable Southern drawl. He said that his mother would crumble up the sausage, the stock, and 1/2 cup of popcorn and bake it at a very high heat for 20 minutes. The punch line was that the popcorn will blow the ass out of that turkey quicker than you can open the oven door.

If you served on the Board of Directors you were eligible to run for president when we counted and the top two vote-getters would go into a run-off for president.

The best program that we had that year was Mel Fisher who was the keynote speaker at our annual party. He arrived but forgot the main artifacts and slides and the projector didn't work, so it was a disaster.

Clint Hamilton came up with the idea of a mystery challenge about Rotary every week in which he would present a paragraph, then the facts, then the clues. It was called "Clueish."

We also had Rotarian of the Month and the Rotarian of the Year programs. A silent auction was held once a month with the retail value listed. It was a blind auction and the proceeds went to

Rotary. We also recognized the visiting Rotarian who traveled farthest to attend a meeting.

Finally, I remember that Harry Brindel won an award for 50 years of perfect attendance.

**E. Birch Willey -1972-73**

I do remember Dave Blume bringing coconuts for all visiting Rotarians, but frankly speaking, I was just glad to get through the year.

Suffice to say that I am still alive and well, but I don't remember much from 25 years ago!

**Clint Hamilton -1973-74**

Long known as Mr. Rotary, Clint Hamilton exemplifies all that is the basic good and service to mankind through Rotary. His inspirational leadership and values are reflected not only in the Club on a weekly basis, but he continues to work very actively as a Past District Governor.

While president, he invited the President of Rotary International William Carter to come down as speaker to a regular meeting of the Club along with three other clubs (North, South, and Beach) as a joint project. He also was responsible for organizing an appreciation function for Bill Robbins, incoming President of Rotary International with the Past President of Rotary International, Ray Hickman.

Clint commenced the movement of bringing in younger members and the effort to adopt standard club practices. That year three local clubs went in together to buy a mobile blood unit for the City of Fort Lauderdale.

**Charles Creighton -1974-75**

(deceased)

Charles owned Creighton's Restaurant in Fort Lauderdale.

**J.B. Richner -1975-76**

(deceased)

Mr. Richner headed the trust department at the old Broward National Bank.

**Mitchell J. Alles -1976-77**

(deceased)

Mitch owned Regal Press here in Fort Lauderdale. Worked diligently with August Burghard on the 50th Anniversary Program Book. I spoke with his widow Maxine and she stated, Mitch sure loved that club. I invited her to attend tonight's Celebration but she declined saying, Mitch was the social one in this family, but give everyone my best wishes.

**Donald T. Glenn, Jr. -1977-78**

Undoubtedly, one of the most historical efforts we accomplished was getting the State Building on Broward named for R.H. Gore a prominent past Rotarian, Don said. An effort that would not have occurred without involvement from our Rotary Club, he continues. It was twenty years ago, I don't remember much else, Don said as I questioned him.

**Charles H. Bolton, III - 1978-79**

Mr. Bolton an Engineer, is now relocated in Tampa, I did not contact him.

**Ralph A. Marrinson -1979-80**

It was a great year with the Rotary International Convention being held in Rome where thousands of Rotarians gathered from around the world and shared Rotary thoughts and ideas. Back home, Daveable John Lupton was the highlight of every meeting with the day's news from WFTL.

We had a active Port Committee that would meet each ship. The Port Greeting Committee was made of Rotary members that could speak a foreign language who could assist the visitors coming into Broward County. This was truly a great service.

Billy McGee was made head of membership and in that year we increased our membership by 24 and took the club up to 124. The largest net increase in membership resulted in an 80 percent attendance average.

We came up with the idea and sponsored the first Goodwill bus which highlighted the name of the Downtown Rotary Club. Birch Willey was named Downtowner of the Year.

And guess who won the Scholarship Raffle? The winning numbers were pulled by Judge Norman Roettger and the Rev. Canon William S. Brace of All Saints Episcopal Church . . . Jeanine Marrinson really did win.

**Harvey Ramsey, III - 1980-81**

The major accomplishment of this period was the recruiting a large number of young members to the club, an effort greatly assisted by Bill McGee. Harvey's favorite memory is serving with Tinker Connolly as executive secretary.

There were many other accomplishments, but my memory has faded as to the details at this point, he said.

**James E. Houston -1981-82**

Ø was invited to join the Rotary Club 1090 by past president J.B. Richner [75-76], who was then head of the trust department at the old Broward National Bank. Attendance at my first meeting (at Williamson's Restaurant on S. Federal Highway) is still clear and vivid to this day. Other than a few youngsters like Don Glenn, Chuck Bolton, Harvey Ramsey, Fred Anderson, Ralph Marrinson, and Bob Shepard, the rest of the room looked like it would retire to a nursing home until next weeks meeting. One old, dedicated member brought both his nurse and his OXYGEN BOTTLE!!!

Øndest memories relate to all of the outstanding Club 1090 members who always pitched in to give their time & resources for any worthwhile Club 1090 or Rotary International project.

Ø also recall and treasure all of the membership committee meetings and social events held at the home and ranch of Past Rotary International President, Bill Robbins. Bill and wife, Mary Francis were ever gracious and willing to support Club 1090. Bill Robbins always said, *Øhe strength and effectiveness of Rotary is in the individual club member.*

Ø Bette and I appreciate the opportunities we had to serve Club 1090 and Rotary District 6990...

**I. Fred Anderson -1982-83**

Øuring my term as president we had 38 new Paul Harris Fellows, Ø recounts Fred. Øtan McCaffrey immediate Past President of Rotary International presented the certificates, Øhe continues.

Ø fondly recall the cooperation I received from all Rotarians. George Ernst researched the background of several Rotarians. Each week we would feature one of these Rotarians. The featured Rotarian would sit at the head table as we read his biography.

**R. William Weimer, Jr. - 1983-84**

Bill owned Tower Pharmacy in Fort Lauderdale, has sold the pharmacy and relocated in Sarasota, Florida. I could not contact him at this writing.

**Alan Chresten Sorensen -1984-85**

Øs President-Elect, Ed Cadman of Rotary International came to our dinner to recognize our Paul Harris Fellows. The Wednesday lunches at pier 66's Panorama Room were fun-filled and very well-attended, Øhe continued. Øots of prizes were donated every week and our Boys & Girls Club Christmas Drive was absolutely spectacular.

Ø We held our Christmas/Holiday party in that same room right on the Intracoastal the same night as the 1994 Boat Parade. Talk about good seats!

Our membership drive to reach 200 brought in some very active new members, many of whom are still around. We also changed our logo and started Tinker's newsletter.

I started self-introductions of members once in awhile so that members would get to know each other better. I was also responsible for officially naming our winter visiting Rotarians Snow Birds so that they would not be introduced every week.

The Rotary Foundation grew substantially, and one week of each month was dedicated to general club information, birthdays, Paul Harris Fellows, and new member introductions.

On the lighter side, I was nominated to the Board almost before I actually became a member, then I became president within two years. They must have been really desperate!

#### **William L. McGee - 1985-86**

Bill McGee is credited by every member since 1983 for starting the Rotary Auction, now our biggest fund-raising event that annually contributes \$40,000 to \$50,000 to our Scholarship Fund. He also moved club meetings to the Riverside Hotel.

I take a lot of pride in bringing in new members and growing the club as well as getting the auction off the ground, he said. The most fun we had was putting together the Rotary Raft for the New River Raft Race.

Adding new members is the lifeblood of the club and the club changed from an older club to a younger group. We added fun to our projects and got the membership turned around.

#### **Romney C. Rogers - 1986-87**

The most significant accomplishment during my term was following Billy McGee into office, Romney recounts. Further, my fondest memory of my term was following Billy McGee into office, he continues.

The expansion of the scholarship account through the #1090 Foundation with the Ron Woodyard gift was a significant event in the life of the Club during my term of office. The gift of shares of stock was valued at approximately \$29,500.00 and the decision was made to sell the stock and invest the proceeds. The Ron Woodyard Scholarship for Journalism is given every four years in that it is a four year stipend. As of June of 1996 the Foundation account, through the great efforts of all the members, was valued at a cost base of \$273,000.00.

During my term of office the club moved its meeting place from Pier 66 to the Riverside Hotel. Our park project for the year was the Virginia Young Park located at the intersection of S.E. 9th Avenue and 10th Street. The project was somewhat unique in that it was funded by the Rotary Club, neighbors in the park community and the City of Fort Lauderdale. The City of Fort Lauderdale provided the plans, supervision and equipment and the Rotary Club and neighbors provided the funding and the manpower.

The highlight of my term was working with so many dedicated, gifted Rotarians who worked tirelessly for the good of the community and Club, and truly evidenced the Rotary motto of SERVICE ABOVE SELF.

Lastly, Tinker Connolly was the glue that held the board together and her consistent heartfelt efforts were invaluable to me, the Board of Directors and the Club.

#### **Eugene M. Jones -1987-88**

Starting and finishing the Rotary Gazebo down at the Riverwalk, I remember proudly, Gene said. As well as assisting with the four-year Journalism Scholarship, which was started with a trust endowment from Ronald Woodyard. Gene continues, One of my fondest memories is attending the Rotary International Convention in Munich, Germany. Gene finishes, My funniest memory is when I handed Wilkie the gavel as incoming President. He wouldn't say anything more, I guess you had to be there.]

#### **G. Wilkerson Gilbert "Wilkie"- 1988-89**

The year that I was President of this Rotary club was the most exciting year of my life. It was the year that HAPPY DOLLARS was started and we started the Youth Movement Membership Drive. On the local front, the community service committee did a major park project with the city of Ft. Lauderdale and we lost the softball game to the Interact Club for the first time in anyone's memory. Our clubs response to Hurricane Gilbert (no not me, the real one that hit Jamaica) produced the most memorable part of the year for me, it showed just how powerful Rotary really is.

#### **John Dorner -1989-90**

The busiest year of my life, stated John. I was arrested during the meeting one day and bail was set at \$500, for my release. The club came thru with the cash right there to bail me out. Part of the American Cancer Society's Bail & Bail Fund Raiser. This writer queries, is this a compliment for the club members? or John? - I think both.]

One of the meetings that stands out the most, John continues, Was the day we had Frank Lorenzo, President of Eastern Airlines, who busted the Unions of Eastern Airlines, as guest speaker. We had 263 people in attendance that day, including all of the local news media. The picketers were in force, outside the Riverside Hotel and the police were present to keep order. We didn't let in any of the picketers in the meeting, John said, Because they weren't Rotarians.

We raised \$11,142.00 for the Salvation Army, we had our Christmas party at Gibbey's, we landscaped Las Olas Boulevard with Tom Tapp, we had a big drive for Paul Harris Fellows, we had 10,000 percent participation in Rotary Foundation, we had the Fish-fry at Harbor Beach, we had a picnic at Bill Robbin's Ranch, we had the Group Study Exchange (GSE) team from Australia, we co-sponsored a Steak-and-burger-dinner with Dan Marino and 90% of the Miami Dolphins, benefiting the Boys and Girls Club, and we had one hell of an auction, John said.

As I stated earlier, John continues, it was the busiest year of my life.

### **Ian C. R. Gail- 1990-91**

As a devoted non-golfer who has been spotted on a golf course in Broward County once or twice since his ship came in from South Africa, Ian was responsible for beginning the annual Rotary Golf Tournament.

He fondly remembers being sponsored by Wilkie Gilbert and Al Sorensen who was the club president during his first year. In those days we met in the Panorama Room at Pier 66, bridge permitting! Ian was installed as President in 1990 during a black-tie dinner dance with an elevated podium and incoming and outgoing presidents.

He will never forget Wilkie Gilbert's antics regarding his accent and the tales of Art Stone's adventures in and around Southeast Florida since his arrival here as a carpenter hundreds of years ago.

On the serious side, there was a great deal of commotion caused by the entourage of Frank Lorenzo who spoke to the club during the middle of the eastern Airlines crisis while all the unions were picketing the meeting room. That was followed by considerable repercussions about political speakers when President Ronald Reagan's Attorney General, Ed Meese, came to talk to the group.

### **Thomas L. Tapp -1991-92**

Under Tom Tapp's very capable leadership, the club won nine awards from District 6990. He especially remembers taking his oath of office in front of the entire club, which was a great honor.

Special programs undertaken during his term were city-wide park projects. Seeing all these businessmen dressed in work clothes covered with dirt and paint and working on a park project was really great, he said.

Finally, it was an honor to serve as president of the finest group of men and women that I know who make up the membership of this organizations.

### **M. Scott Whiddon -1992-93**

Looking back on my Rotary experience, I can say that I have nothing but fond memories. Contrary to what others may say... I did know the four-way test and could say it by rote before I became presi-

dent... however, something mystical happened during my term and for some unknown reason, I often found myself referring to the banner that hung on the wall.

Every meeting was genuinely fun and I relished the meetings where there was no speaker or the scheduled speaker failed to show... it meant that we could let our hair down and just have more fun.

Perhaps my most memorable event from being president in the years 1992-93 was the shattering of the glass ceiling as our club inducted our first female members...long overdue, but handled with graciousness and understanding (mostly, and thankfully from those being inducted).

Good thoughts of Tinker [our Club Secretary] frantically trying to get checks signed...Alan coming forward for the \$\$, and of course my brother trying to throw me off-base by making faces at a time that no doubt called for strict composure.

It was indeed a pleasure for me to have served as President. Speaking on behalf of my brother Gene, I only wish our dad (who was a loyal Kiwanian) could have been around to see us rise to the occasion. Then again.....maybe not! At least I got to be president first!

#### **Roger Arndall -1993-94**

I take pride in the fact that we accomplished all our goals and exceeded our fund-raising efforts and membership growth, Roger writes. Working with such a great group of people and the Rotary International Organization is a most enriching experience.

One of my most memorable, humorous moments was when Gene and Scott Whiddon with funny clothes and silly string surprised me and covered me with the silly string at my first meeting as president. Their idea of initiation into my term as club President.

The most memorable moments were all the fun we had with Scott going to Orlando for the Rotary International Convention followed by my attendance in Australia at the Rotary International Convention.

#### **R. Stephen Botkin -1994-95**

We were able to raise more money than any previous year and in turn were able to give more back to our local charities. We increased the number of scholarships as well as the amount we give per year to each student.

The excitement of running and weekly meeting and honor of being at the helm of the best service club in Fort Lauderdale is an experience that I shall never forget, Steve said. Planning our association with the Shell Air & Sea Show continued to be one of our greatest achievements.

I felt during my whole term during the meetings was marked by levity and a great amount of fun. But, on the serious side, Rotary is a wonderful International Service Organization that affects so many people in so many ways around the world. Sending the club president to the International Rotary Convention helps give us a broad and world-wide perspective of our involvement with this organization.



**Gene Whiddon -1995-96**

My most significant accomplishment was breaking the 200 mark for members in the club and having a great team to assist in raising more than \$100,000 for scholarships and charities. My fondest memory is being able to produce a retirement video and going away party for our long-time executive secretary, Tinker Connolly.

The special program started during my term as president was getting the beer concession at the Air and Sea Show. Also, I came up with the idea of assigning all new members to the Auction Committee.

Gene continued that when he stood to announce that eight people were running for the Board, he asked them to stand when their name was called and not one of them was present!

As president I had the opportunity to meet so many people from all over the world. Also, I had the chance to work with people in the club on different committees. Some have become very good friends for those that really Get-on-Board-with-Rotary. It is so very rewarding.

**Walter Morgan - 1996-97**

We started the Rotary Business and Social Hour a county-wide event involving all interested in Rotary in a casual happy-hour setting. This social has been a source for new members to all the Rotary clubs in Broward county who choose to participate.

Our club hosted a Celebration of Rotary this year. An event that allowed our District 6990 as well as Districts 6960 and 6930 to meet and visit with Rotary International President - Luis Vicente Giay from Arrecifis, Argentina. Hundreds of Rotarians had the opportunity to have their Paul Harris Fellow pins and certificates presented by our International President. So as well as involving younger members in the organization.

Walter said that the satisfaction of being aware of each service deed performed by our club as they occurred was his most enduring memory of his year, so far, as president.

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...Welcome to history in the making...

*Service Above Self*

