

This Week in the History of the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo

December 28, 2014 - January 3, 2015: The founding of the Kalamazoo Rotary Club, Tuesday, December 29, 1914

In the year 1914 Edmund Munro was the resident representative of the Bradstreet Co. (later to become Dun & Bradstreet). Late in the fall while he was in Detroit on business, he was invited by a friend to attend the Rotary Club of Detroit which had been in existence for four years. He must have been impressed with his first meeting because he returned to Kalamazoo and began to immediately organize. He discussed the project with several friends, found several who agreed with him.

On Tuesday, December 29, 1914, four days after Christmas, the Kalamazoo Rotary Club was founded. Ten business leaders of Kalamazoo met at the Park-American Hotel, 313-325 E. Main (now East Michigan Avenue) then acknowledged to be the city's leading hotel, for lunch. The three story yellow brick structure stood where the YWCA now stands on Michigan Avenue. The dining room served excellent food, though some people naturally thought it a bit expensive. A wet snow had fallen that morning and because the temperatures were in the mid-30's, it was wet and slippery.

The day itself was to be an exciting one because the Charity Ball was to be held that night in the new Masonic Temple Ball Room – the first major public function to be held there. (This beautiful and still fully functional building is located at 309 N. Rose Street). Kalamazoo Mayor Alfred B. Connable, Sr., who later joined the Kalamazoo Rotary Club in 1917, was to lead the list of social luminaries though a number of fashionable young people like Donald Gilmore and Geneviene Upjohn were to attend. And her brother, Harold, was to be in the stag line. The handsome new white ballroom with its mahogany trim was beautifully decorated with wreaths and roping. At either end of the orchestra platform on the north side of the room were Christmas trees decorated with electric lights.

But all of the front page headlines of The Gazette that day dealt with the Great War in Europe which began August 28, 1914, just 155 days earlier. The United States was not to enter World War I until April 6, 1917, twenty seven months later. Also reported in that day's newspaper, was a notice of President Woodrow Wilson's 59th birthday.

The minutes of that first meeting are as follows:

KALAMAZOO—December 29, 1914

Geo. Pulver, Will Brownell, Fred Bond, Edmund Munro, Alex Clark, John Johnson, Geo. Hanselman, Frank Bowen, John Ryan and Geo. Wiggington met this day by appointment at the Park-American Hotel at a luncheon for the purpose of discussing the advisability of organizing a Rotary Club.

Geo. Pulver was chosen as Chairman of the Committee and Geo. Wiggington as Acting Secretary. After a thorough discussion of the principles of Rotary, it was moved by Geo. Wiggington, seconded by Frank Bowen, that the ten gentlemen present and Charles Blaney and

Alex Crawford, organize a Rotary Club, and that the twelve parties mentioned should constitute the Charter Members. On motion being put, it was immediately carried.

On motion the meeting adjourned to meet Tuesday, Jan 5th, at the Park-American Hotel for further consideration of the project.”

Read and approved, Oct. 19, 1923, Original Minutes Attested by members still in club

Geo. B. Pulver

John H. Ryan

Chas A. Blaney

John D. Johnson

Frank H. Bowen

Wm. L. Brownell

Fred J. Bond

It is interesting to note the occupations, classifications and business addresses (some of which still exist) of these twelve charter members contained on the official Roster of Rotary Club of Kalamazoo, 1914-15 as detailed below:

Edmund P. Munro, Local Manager, The Bradsreer Company, 5th Fl, K.N.B. Building

William L. Brownell, Proprietor, Brownell Adv. Agency, 502 Hanselman Bldg.

Fred J. Bond, Bond Supply Company, Rose & Eleanor, Mill & Plumbers Sup.

Alexander Clark, Standard Paper Co., No. Pitcher St., Box Board Mfrs.

John D. Johnson, Johnson Paper & Supply Company, 522 N. Burdick St, Jobbers Sta. & Supplies

Geo. Hanselman, Hanselman Candy Company, 141 E. Water, Cdy & Ice Cream Mfr.

Frank H. Bowen, Manager, Lee and Cady, N. Rose & Ransom, Wholesale Grocer

Geo. P. Wiggington, Kal. L. L. B. Co., 314 W. Kal. Ave., L. L. Books & Ptg.

Chas A. Blaney, Wheeler & Blaney Co., Burdick & Eleanor, Plumbers and Heating

John H. Ryan, Kal Laundry Co., 219 N. Rose St., Laundry, Cleaning, etc.

Geo. B. Pulver, Kal Corset Co., Church & Eleanor, Corset Mfr.

Alex Crawford. Mr. Crawford's name appears as one the twelve charter members in the Club's first meeting minutes of December 29, 1914. However his name does not appear on the Roster of Rotary Club of Kalamazoo, 1914-15 nor anywhere else in Rotary archives. It appears that Mr. Crawford may have chosen to leave the club during the first month.

January 4-10, 2015: The Second Rotary Club Meeting, Tuesday, January 5, 1915, and Should Our Club Assess Fines For Not Singing? Tuesday, January 17, 1922.

Fresh off of its inaugural organizational meeting held a week earlier, the Kalamazoo Rotary Club met for a second time, on Tuesday, January 5, 1915, at the Park-American Hotel. In workman like manner, the club got tight down to business and appointed a committee to constitute bylaws and designated George Pulfer, Treasurer and General Manager of the Kalamazoo Corset Company, located at Church and Eleanor, as the official representative to the forthcoming July convention of Rotary Clubs in San Francisco. Our club was establishing its roots.

In contrast to the seriousness of this meeting, a meeting held seven years later on Tuesday, January 17, 1922 began with a thoroughly lighthearted moment. After singing one verse of “America” to open the meeting, Rotarian Herman Ostrander felt that a great many of our members were not singing, but simply going through the motions. Somewhat peeved at those Rotarians who chose not to sing, Mr. Ostrander amply demonstrated to us how to sing and suggested that a fine of 10 cents be imposed upon each member who did not sing with the other members at the opening of the meeting. A motion was made, was seconded but in putting this motion to a vote, it did not carry!

January 11-17, 2015: Our Club’s Minutes Reflect the Pall Cast Over Our Country, Tuesday, January 6, 1942.

Our weekly minutes probably do not differ much in format than those of other service organization. Most of our weekly minutes are about two typed pages in length. Typically our minutes record songs sung, prayers read, birthday, tardiness, absentee and other assessments, member illnesses, guests, visitors, reports from various committees, programs, outstanding individual acts of charity and service, and motions and votes on matters requiring immediate attention.

But our minutes of a certain January meeting are like no other. They barely cover half a page. No birthday greetings, assessments of any kind, no votes, motions, in fact, no official business whatsoever. The date at the top of the minutes reveals why, for it is Tuesday, January 6, 1942.

It has been less than 30 days since the Japanese launched their surprise attack on this nation at Pearl Harbor. American is now one of twenty eight allied countries now at war with the three main Axis countries; Germany, Japan and Italy. Hitler has conquered Europe and is deep inside the Soviet Union. The Japanese are attacking almost at will in the Far East including the Philippines, Burma, Malaya and the Dutch Indies. England has fought alone for one and a half years. Democracy is in peril around the world. The siege of Bataan will begin this day and end 3 months later with the surrender of 15,000 American and 60,000 Philippine soldiers. The surrender will be the largest United States surrender since the Civil War battle of Harper’s Ferry. Soon afterwards, Filipino and American prisoners of war were forced into the Bataan Death March.

Soon, some Rotarians will join the Armed Forces, others will see their sons and daughters join. Over 60% of our membership will officially participate in the war effort. Families will be separated, some will never be reunited. Businesses will close, some will be converted to war

production. Some will never reopen. A pall of uncertainty hangs over the country, for the only thing that is certain is uncertainty.

Tuesday, January 6, 1942 is a special day. President Roosevelt will address the country in his State of the Union address, his first major address to the country since our country declared war less than a month ago.

Our club met at noon on Tuesdays in our early days. On this day our club gathered to hear our President address the nation on radio. President Fox presided at our regular meeting at the Columbia Hotel. We sang "America" and then John Rayner gave the invocation. In typical Kalamazoo Rotary Club fashion, Rotarian Ralph Ralston brought over radios so all could listen clearly to the President. The President spoke of the seriousness of things, how the war was opened by Japan had caused severe losses, and owing to the distances involved the country had not yet been able to reinforce our forces in the Far East. He said that orders had gone forth to throw every source of production of armament in high gear and said that plans were already made to produce 60,000 planes, 45,000 tanks, 8 million tons of shipping and other needs in proportion to 1942, and that every one of those measures would be stepped up in 1943. The war was the only topic addressed.

After the speech, Rotarian Dunlop Clark asked for our club's support in raising \$30,400 for the Red Cross, an incredible \$440,400 in today's currency. Of course our club agreed to support this drive and eventually led it. You will hear more about our special relationship with the Red Cross later this year.

As if invited especially to brighten and close an otherwise very somber meeting, the quartette of W. Carmon, Eugene Audre, Elston Tuller and Helene Dustman representing the Kalamazoo Chamber Music Society performed. Our minutes state that "their program was excellent, and generously applauded."

After thanking the quartette by the President, the club adjourned.

Like a river, the history of our country and our city runs through our club. Service Above Self.

January 18-24, 2015: First Election of the Kalamazoo Rotary Club's Officers, Tuesday, January 19, 1915, Exactly 100 Years Ago Today!

And, Let's Take Up The President's Offer and Go See A Basketball Game, Tuesday, January 19, 1926

On Tuesday, January 19, 1915, the Rotary Club again convened at the Park-American Hotel. At this meeting the club, upon motion, elected the popular George Pulfer, Treasurer of the Kalamazoo Corset Company located at Church and Eleanor, as President. He was twice re-elected to this office and served until July of 1918.

Other officers elected that day were:

Vice President Frank Bowen, Manager of Lee & Cady Grocery, located at North Rose and Ransom,

Secretary George Wigginton, of the Kalamazoo Loose Leaf Binding Company located at 314 West Kalamazoo Ave.,

Treasurer George Hanselman, of Hanselman Candy Company located at 141 E. Water Street, and,

Sgt.-At-Arms Edward Munro, local manager of The Bradstreet Company, later Dun and Bradstreet, located on the 5th floor of the Kalamazoo National Bank Building. To those of you who did not attend our re-enactment meeting, Edward Munro visited the Detroit Rotary Club in the fall of 1914, returned very enthusiastically and gathered his friends to create our club on December 29, 1914.

So, Happy Birthday President Joe Brogger, Secretary Byran Zocher, Treasurer Mike Oliphant and Sgt.-At-Arms Sid Ellis, for exactly 100 years ago today, the very first of your predecessors were elected as our club's first officers.

At this decisive third meeting, the Club took in its three first members. They were:

Herbert E. Johnson, President of the Kalamazoo City Savings Bank located at 126 E. Main Street.

Henry P. Streng, of Streng and Zing Dry Goods located at 105 West Main Street, and

Keene B. Phillips, Osteopath Physician, located at 905 Hanselman Building.

The Club also adopted bylaws and established an entrance fee of \$3.00 and yearly dues of \$2.00.

And, on Tuesday, January 19, 1926, Rotarian William McCracken, Professor of Chemistry at Western State Normal College, and Rotarian Dwight Waldo, President of Western State Normal College extended an invitation to all of our members to be guests of the college on Friday night at the basketball game to be held in the newly constructed Men's Gym on Oakland Drive, later to be renamed Oakland Gym. That game saw the Western State Normal Hilltoppers coached by Buck Read beat the College of Detroit Titans 28 to 23. This is the earliest mention of our club having attended a Western basketball game. And for the last several years we have rekindled this tradition. Let's hope this continues.

January 25-31, 2015: Application for Affiliation with the International Association of Rotary Clubs, January 26, 1915.

On Tuesday, January 26, 1915, exactly one hundred years ago today, the Club held its fourth meeting. At this meeting, held less than month after our organization meeting, the club formally submitted its application to the International Association of Rotary Clubs. On April 1, 1915, the International Association accepted the Kalamazoo Rotary Club's application thus becoming the 142nd Rotary club. At this time, Rotary International already clubs throughout the United States, in Winnipeg, Dublin, London and Glasgow, and,

Our Club Honors and Entertains the Troops, January 25, 1944.

It is January 25, 1944. The war is slowly turning in favour of our allies. American troops have joined the fray in North Africa and are now in Italy. The Marines are slowly advancing in the Pacific, island by island. However, much still needs to be accomplished. D-Day, the allied invasion of Europe, is still over five months away, the Battle of Bulge 11 months away, the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa over a year away. The final victory will not occur for another year and a half.

And so, our club held its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 25, 1944. This single meeting provides the foremost example of the how our club chose to respond to the war effort, with Service Above Self and by honoring those engaged in this titanic struggle, both home and abroad.

First, Rotarian Wallace Borgman, who joined the armed services after Pearl Harbor was introduced to the membership as Captain Wallace Borgman. He was called to his feet by a great round of applause.

Second, Rotarian Gerald Rosenbaum announced that the USO was staging a number of stag parties for the soldiers and that our club was asked to help out on the evening of February 15.

Third, Rotarian Rosenbaum also reported that the club is furnishing the orchestra (yes, here we go again, our club did have our own orchestra) on February 9th for the Officers' Lounge Dance at the YMCA and invited members to attend.

And last, our club received a very special visitor. Rotarian Elmer Wilds introduced Ernest W. Owen, British Consul, of Detroit, and a Rotarian, who introduced Wing Commander Raymond H. Harries of London, the top ranking pilot in Great Britain's Royal Air Force. At the time, the Commander was credited with 15 downed German aircraft and an additional 12 probables. He had received English, French and Belgium decorations. He was one of the fliers referred to by Winston Churchill when he made his historic statement that there "was never a time when so many owed so much to so few" after the Battle of Britain.

Harries came to the United States in January 1944 to lecture on fighter tactics and to otherwise bolster the morale of our country. According to our minutes, Wing Commander Harries made a splendid talk in giving his own experiences in the air. He said that during the Battle of Britain fighters were forced into the air five to six times a day, from 3:30 am to 10 and 11 at night; and that all were so exhausted that at times flyers were help out of their planes upon return by the ground men. Almost 400 pilots were lost in the battle but 2,700 German planes were destroyed. For 60 nights the Germans dropped bombs on England and most people spent nights in the tubes. Of London's 2,600,000 homes, only 20% went unscathed. In 1942 Harries escorted the first squadron of American bombers over Rouen, France. He gave details of several missions in which he shot down 3 German planes in 35 seconds, was pursued by 4 and finally escaped home with a badly damaged plane. He was greatly applauded.

It had to have been a great day to be a Kalamazoo Rotarian!

February 1-7, 2015: The month of February was an extremely active month for our club which is at once a blessing and a curse when one has to select and present a solitary Rotary golden

moment. This unfortunate situation has forced me to present three short golden moments for this week. While short, each provides a different insight and lends flavor as to the nature and activities of our clubs' rich past.

February 1, 1921: Let's Go Bowling! It is 1921, the beginning of the Roarin' Twenties. Warren G. Harding was inaugurated as our 29th president on March 4, and the first radio broadcast of a professional baseball game took place on August 5; Harold Arlin announced the Pittsburgh Pirate-Philadelphia Phillies games from Forbes Field in Pittsburgh on KDKA, not WKRP in Cincinnati. But our club had a different sport in mind this year. At the Tuesday, February 1, 1921 regular meeting held at the Park-American Hotel, a motion was made and seconded, to pay a sum of \$15.00 to pay for the entrance fee of the Rotary Bowling Team into the Kalamazoo Bowling Terminal. So now we all know that our club had our own orchestra and bowling team. Future minutes reveal some very interesting scores and highlights from the alleys. No word yet as to whether President Joe wishes our club to sponsor his travelling platform tennis team! Perhaps he is too afraid his motion would get bowled over. And,

February 1, 1927: The Rotary Club Lights It Up! It is 1927. Calvin Coolidge is our 30th president. Babe Ruth would hit his first of a record 60 home runs on April 1 and lead the New York Yankees Murderers Row to a 4 game sweep of the Pittsburgh Pirates in the World Series. And, Charles Lindbergh, born in Detroit, Michigan, made the first, solo, non-stop transatlantic flight from New York to Paris on May 20-21. Our club held its regular meeting at noon on Tuesday, February 1, 1927 at the Park-American Hotel. This was a special meeting for we had with us our wives and members of our families as guests. We also had the Western State Normal Orchestra and they furnished us with some wonderful music, which our members greatly enjoyed.

Owing to the program being so long, all business of the club was dispensed with during the day. Rotarian Charles Blaney of Wheeler and Blaney Plumbing and Heating, made a motion to allow the ladies to smoke, which was seconded by Rotarian William Brownell, proprietor of the Brownell Advertising Agency. The motion carried. This meant of course, that the men could smoke in the presence of women for the very first time at a Rotary function.

Self Interest In the Form of Gallantry! And,

February 3, 1925: Our Generosity Extends to Wildlife! It is 1925. The Mount Rushmore Memorial was dedicated on October 1, and the inauguration of President Coolidge was the first to be broadcast on radio. London's first enclosed double-decker buses were introduced this year and the Chrysler Corporation was founded by Walter Percy Chrysler. And the Detroit Panthers were admitted into the National Football League beginning 90 years of near total football futility in the Motor City. At our regular noon meeting held on Tuesday, February 3, 1925, Rotarian William E. Kidder gave a talk to our club on the raging winter storms pummeling the western United States. These storms were placing several large elk herds in grave danger. Upon his request a hat was passed around and \$27.00 was received to buy hay for the starving elks. That is \$365.00 in today's currency.

Service To Our Four Legged Friends!

February 8-14, 2015: We have three Rotary readings for this week.

February 6, 1934: Attendance Contest Announced! At this meeting held at the Columbia Hotel, Fred Bond announced an attendance contest between our club and the Battle Creek Rotary Club. Rotarian Bond made a short talk calling the attention to the importance of being present at every meeting in the month of February. He then called on Captains Hunt, Grainger, Van Dusen, Palmer Coombs, Richardson, Ryan, Hopkins and Burdick for a roll call of the members of the club. According to our minutes, "this method of securing a good attendance has proved very successful and will continue at least through February."

February 6, 1917: No Soliciting For Charitable Purposes Policy Adopted! Most of us know that our club has long had a policy prohibiting soliciting for charitable purposes. But few know when this policy was adopted. This policy was adopted in our club's infancy when we were less than two years old. At our February 6, 1917 meeting at the Park-American Hotel, it was moved by Charles Blaney and seconded by Steve Marsh that no soliciting for charitable purposes be hereafter allowed at our meetings.

February 10, 1920: Our Official Birthday Song? Sounds Fishy to Me! As we all know, music has played an important role in the composition of our meetings and has been a source of much entertainment throughout our history. Here is another example. At our February 10, 1920 meeting, Rotarian William Shakespeare made an offer to present to the Rotarian composing the best birthday song for the club the finest reel manufactured by the Shakespeare Company. His offer was unanimously accepted. There was a catch however. The offer had a time limit of one month!

February 15-21, 2015: We have three readings this week.

February 15, 1944: Time to Come to the Aid of Our Country. We all know that our club has always been extremely active and generous in raising funds for charitable purposes; local, national and international. But our club has also come to the aid of our country in dire and trying times. At our regular meeting on February 15, 1944, four months before D-Day, Rotarian George Kunkle made his final report on our club's War Bond drive. George reported that \$262,875 in bonds had been sold by our club. That is approximately \$3,535,000 in today's currency, give or take a few hundred thousand dollars. Of this original amount, \$133,300 was sold to individuals and \$129,575 was sold to businesses. George thanked the members who had performed this splendid job and much applause greeted him when he sat down. Service Above Self! And,

February 22, 1944: Rotary Hits The Air Waves To Celebrate Our Birthday! At our February 22, 1944 meeting, it was announced that our club's 39th anniversary would be on the radio the coming Wednesday. President Ralph Ralston would provide a talk to Kalamazoo about our club and its activities on WKZO at 4:15. No news yet on whether President Joe or President-elect Cupper will duplicate the feat! And lastly,

February 26, 1918: Our Club Distributes Copies of the Rotary Code of Ethics. We all know that Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary, wanted to create a professional group with the same friendly spirit he felt in the small towns of his youth. He wished to form a place where professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas, encourage sound and ethical business practices and

form meaningful, lifelong friendships. One formal objective of Rotary is in fact to foster high ethical standards in businesses and professionals. This led to the formation of the Rotary Code of Ethics in 1915, the same year our club officially received its charter. At our regular meeting of February 26, 1918, our Secretary was instructed to purchase for distribution to our members, one hundred copies of the Rotary Code of Ethics. The Code contained 11 duties all Rotarians should adhere to in their business and personal life. It was supplanted by the Four-Way Test and not used after 1980. This code illustrates the mind-set of Rotary's founders and early leaders. The Rotary Code of Ethics is summarized in its preface:

“My business standards shall have in them a note of sympathy for our common humanity. My business dealings, ambitions and relations shall always cause me to take into consideration my highest duties as a member of society. In every position in business life, in every responsibility that comes before me, my chief thought shall be to fill that responsibility and discharge that duty so when I have ended each of them, I shall have lifted the level of human ideals and achievements a little higher than I found it.”

Service Above Self

February 22-28, 2015: Happy 110th Birthday Rotary International! Paul P. Harris founds the first Rotary Club on Thursday, February 23, 1905.

Our 1.2 million-member organization started with the vision of one man – Paul P. Harris.

On a summer evening on 1900 Paul P. Harris, a young lawyer and a comparative newcomer to Chicago, was walking with Bob Frank, a lawyer friend of his, through a local business district. Mr. Frank stopped several times for a chat with business men on the street, and Paul was impressed with the friendliness of these men. A relative stranger in Chicago, Paul felt his own lack of intimate personal friendships. He conceived the idea of a club of business and professional men, banded together socially, but each having exclusive representation for his particular craft so that members might be mutually helpful in a business way.

It was not until February 23, 1905, exactly 110 years ago today, that Paul was able to consummate his dream. On that date four men: Paul Harris, lawyer; Silvester Schiele, coal dealer; Gustavus E. Loehr, mining engineer, and Hiram E. Shorey, merchant tailor, met in the old Unity Building in Chicago, and formed the first Rotary Club. The next day Paul interested Harry Ruggles, printer, who in turn interested Will Jenson, real estate dealer.

The members of the new club did not at first meet at luncheon, but met in rotation at the offices or places of business of the various members. They decided to call the new club “Rotary” after this practice of rotating meeting locations. Today, “Rotary” is a word that stands for better business practices and loftier ideals in business and professional intercourse, for service to one's city, state, or nation, to society in general, and for the development of international peace and understanding.

The second Rotary club was organized in San Francisco in 1908. Then in quick succession came others with Detroit as No. 16. In August 1910 Rotarians held their convention in Chicago. The

16 clubs and 3,000 Rotarians that existed at that time united to form the National Association of Rotary. When established in 1915, was club No. 142.

As years passed Rotary membership spread over the entire world. In 1912 the name of the organization was changed to “The International Association of Rotary Clubs.” This was shortened to “Rotary International” in 1922. Today Rotary International has 1.2 million members in 34,000 clubs located in 200 countries.

The objects of Rotary are to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

1. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.
2. High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society.
3. The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business and community life.
4. The advancement of international understanding, good will, and peace through world fellowship of business and professional men and women united in the ideal of service.

As Rotary grew, members pooled their resources and used their talents to serve their communities. The organization’s dedication to this ideal is best expressed in its motto: Service Above Self.

Rotarians have not only been present for major events in history – we have been a part of them. From the beginning, three key traits have remained strong throughout Rotary:

We are truly international. Only 16 years after being founded, Rotary had clubs on six continents. Today we are working together from around the globe both digitally and in-person to solve some of our world’s most challenging problems.

We preserve in tough times. During World War II Rotary clubs in Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain, and Japan were forced to disband. Despite the risks, many continued to meet informally and following the war’s end, Rotary joined together to rebuild their clubs and their countries.

Our commitment to service is ongoing. We began our fight against polio in 1979 with a project to immunize 6 million children in the Philippines. By 2014, only three countries remain polio-endemic – down from 125 in 1988.

So, let us give pause today and thank the millions of Rotarians who came before us and have our world a far better place to live, and think of what we can today and tomorrow to make this world an even better world. Happy Birthday Rotary International! Service Above Self.

March 1-7, 2015: Our Rotary Club’s Wonderful Connection with the Kalamazoo Red Cross, March 6 and March 13, 1917.

It is March 1917. The Great War has already been raging for two and one half years. The United States has not yet entered the war but is slowly being drawn into the conflict. On February 1 Germany announced its submarines will resume unrestricted submarine warfare, which left US freighters and tankers subject to sinking by German U-boats. On February 3 the United States severed diplomatic relations with Germany. Finally, on April 6, 1917, the United States declared war on Germany. But our country is ill-prepared to wage war. Our military is woefully undermanned and ill-equipped. Just as important, our country lacks the industrial infrastructure required to wage war and civilian organizations such as the Red Cross capable of supporting a war 3,000 miles away. This has not gone unnoticed both in Washington, D. C. and yes.....Kalamazoo.

At our regular March 6, 1917 meeting, Rotarian John Adams spoke of organizing a Red Cross Society in Kalamazoo and urged our club to support this cause. Our club expressed the opinion that this was a subject of vast importance and worthy of a greater full hearing at another meeting when more time could be devoted to it. A mere one week later at our regular March 13, 1917 meeting, Rotarian John Adams again addressed our club on the subject of creating a Red Cross Organization in Kalamazoo. A motion was made and supported that our club appoint a committee of ten Rotarians who would be the nucleus for organizing a Red Cross Society in Kalamazoo.

Prior to the First World War, the Red Cross introduced its first aid, water safety, and public health nursing programs. With the outbreak of World War I, the organization experienced phenomenal growth. The number of local chapters jumped from 107 in 1914 to 3,864 in 1918 and membership grew from 17,000 to 20 million adult and 11 million Junior Red Cross members. The Red Cross staffed hospitals and ambulance companies and recruited 20,000 registered nurses to serve the military. Additional Red Cross nurses came forward in 1918 to combat the worldwide influenza epidemic which, as the subject of an earlier Rotary moment, we know took its toll on Kalamazoo.

One of those 3,757 newly formed chapters was right here in Kalamazoo, created by our club, 98 years ago this month. The Kalamazoo Red Cross website states that it has been “a vital resource to the community since 1917.....” Now you know who created it..... we did. Today the Kalamazoo Red Cross annually provides more than 150 local families with immediate relief after an emergency, collects more than 13,000 units of blood; each saving up to three lives, teaches 7,000 individuals how to save lives, and provides emergency assistance to over 400 military personnel. So, the next time you see that familiar Red Cross flag, or see that emblem on your television at a disaster site, or give blood, think of those 10 Rotarians who founded our city’s Red Cross, that during the World War I touched the lives of numberless armed forces members, including the 126th Infantry made up Kalamazoo and other Southwest Michigan boys, commanded by yet another Rotarian, our own Col. Joe Westnedge.

Service Above Self!

March 8-14, 2015: Our Rivalry with the Battle Creek Rotary Club, March 13, 1934, March 10, 1936 and March 7, 1939.

It seems that most organizations and certainly most educational institutions have their dreaded archrival; Bronson versus Borgess, Fifth Third versus Comerica versus PNC versus Mercantile versus First National Bank, Michigan versus Michigan State, Western Michigan versus Central, K-College versus Hope, and Albion versus K-College. Our club, being composed of spirited, red blooded Americans, is no different in this regard. In the annals of the history of Rotary International, there is no more bitter rivalry than that between our club and our little brother just down the road.....the dreaded Battle Creek Rotary Club. Chartered on November 1, 1915, exactly seven months after our club, we competed furiously and fiercely with our little brother in a variety of competitions. And for reasons unknown, the competition was most heated during the months of March and April.....must have been Spring Fever. Here are three of the greatest moments from this great rivalry from the 1930s' while this country was mired in the Great Depression, a time when money was tight, and spirits were low.

On Tuesday March 13, 1934 at our regular meeting at the Columbia Hotel, President Dave Van Dusen sadly reported to our club that the upstart Battle Creek club was the winner in February's attendance contest. For the month of February, the weekly meeting attendance of the Battle Creek club was 95.26% compared to our club's 94.88%. It would be so wonderful to see attendance number like that today!

But revenge is so sweet.....On Tuesday March 10, 1936 at our regular meeting at the Columbia Hotel, Secretary Fred Huff read a notice from fellow Rotarian Fred Gage boastfully acknowledging that our club had won the February attendance contest over our younger brother. For the month of February our weekly meeting attendance measured 94.84% vs 91.90% for the Battle Creek club. A thorough trouncing if there ever was one.

And lastly, on Tuesday, March 7, 1939, at our regular meeting at the Columbia Hotel, Rotarian Merton Rowe, being barely able to control his enthusiasm, proudly announced that both of our bowling teams won all six games against the downtrodden Battle Creek pin boys!

Since both clubs will be celebrating their Centennial this year, I think that District Governor-elect Rick Briscoe, acting as an intermediary, should contact that club down the road and see if they would like to engage us in yet another competition, be it attendance or something else, such as golf. Perhaps this could turn into a charitable fundraising event.

Competing to Make Our Club Number One, and Service Above Self!

March 15-21, 2015: One Celebration Is Not Enough! Former Michigan Governor George Romney, 1968 Republican Presidential Candidate, and Father of Mitt Romney, Addresses Joint Celebration of the 65th Anniversary of the Kalamazoo Rotary Club and the 75th Anniversary of Rotary International, Tuesday, March 18, 1980, at the Grand Ballroom, Kalamazoo Center.

On Tuesday, March 18, 1980, our club celebrated our 65th Anniversary and also the 75th Anniversary of Rotary International. The following are the remarks of then Kalamazoo Rotary Club President James P. White as contained in the 65th Anniversary program:

“The year 1980 marks the 75th Anniversary of Rotary International and the 65th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo.

This year, over three-quarter of a million business and professional men in more than 152 countries who are sharing the Rotary motto, “Service Above Self,” will be pausing to reflect on their accomplishments in making their communities, their countries, and the world a better place to live.

The Kalamazoo Rotary Club stands 142nd in a chronological roster that now numbers more the 18,300 clubs. We are proud of our accomplishments, many of which are briefly recounted in our anniversary booklet.

We know that what we have accomplished would have been impossible without the cooperation and assistance of many other organizations and individuals. To all of these, your Rotary club says “Thanks” and pledges many more years of service.

Let Service Light the Way.”

The agenda for that evening’s celebration was:

The Star Spangled Banner

Dinner

Introductions by club PresidentJames P. White

Roll Call of the Presidents by.....John Bright, Master of Ceremonies

Presentation of The Rose Garden to the City of Kalamazoo by club presidentJames P. White

Introduction of the Hon. George Romney by Rotarian.....J. Michael Kemp

And the Address given by the HonorableGeorge Romney

To celebrate and honor these two events, we presented to the City of Kalamazoo a Rose Garden that was located on the grounds of the Hilton Hotel, which is now the Radisson Plaza Hotel at Kalamazoo Center. Unfortunately, this garden was never properly cared for by the City, our club nor the Hilton Hotel and sadly, is lost forever. Perhaps we might entertain reviving this garden as a part of our Centennial celebration.

Let Service Light the Way!

March 22-28, 2015: Our Club Saves An Army and An Architectural Landmark, Tuesday, March 30, 1937 and, Our Club Works To Clothe Europe, Tuesday, March 13, 1945.

Standing like a fortress on the southeast corner of North Rose and Eleanor Street in Arcadia Commons, this English Tudor Revival building was the headquarters of the Kalamazoo Salvation Army between 1927 and 1991. In 1927 Kalamazoo architect Ernest Batterson executed the design, and local company George Lather & Sons constructed the building. It became known as the Citadel, which reflected the Salvation Army’s military emphasis. In 2001 the Salvation Partners received an award of merit from the Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission for its work on the Citadel. And now for the rest of the story.....

Seventy eight (78) years ago, in 1937, at the height of the Great Depression, our club led the effort to save both the Citadel and its owner, the Kalamazoo Salvation Army. Like a great many charitable organizations during the Depression, the Salvation Army was under severe stress to meet its own needs, let alone serving the needs of millions of families worldwide. At our regular meeting on Tuesday, March 30, 1937 at the Columbia Hotel, Mr. Herbert Stapleton spoke to our membership in behalf of the Kalamazoo Chapter of the Salvation Army. Mr. Stapleton explained to our club that the Kalamazoo Chapter was in dire financial straits. He asked our club for our support to raise \$19,000 to pay off its mortgage and to make certain repairs to the Citadel. That would be \$308,400 in today's currency. We did so. So the next time you are walking or driving on North Rose near KVCC, take a look at the Citadel. And the next time you see the familiar Salvation Army logo, rings bells for the Salvation Army, or drive by its current headquarters on 1700 S. Burdick St., think of the Citadel and the role our club played in saving this iconic structure, and more importantly, the Kalamazoo Salvation Army itself.

Three weeks ago you learned how our club founded the Kalamazoo Chapter of the American Red Cross during World War I. Now you know how our club helped save the Kalamazoo Salvation Army and the Citadel at the height of the Great Depression.

Not only do we do place Service Above Self, we also Serve Others Who Also Serve Others!

And, secondly.....It is March 1945. World War II in Europe will end within 60 days. Relief and service organizations world-wide for the past two years have been making plans to provide food, clothing and shelter for millions living in a completely war torn and devastated Europe. A nationwide goal of collecting 150 million pounds of clothes for Europe was set, a little more than one pound for every American. And who led this drive in Kalamazoo? At our regular meeting on Tuesday, March 13, 1945 at the Columbia Hotel, after Rotarian John Ward led the singing of three Irish songs, Rotarian LOY NORRIS..... (sound familiar?) was announced as the general chairman of the Kalamazoo clothing drive and asked our club for our wholehearted support.

This is just another example of how Rotary has always served internationally, with our club being the rule, not the exception. Service Above Self!

March 29-April 4, 2015: Happy 100th Birthday Kalamazoo Rotary Club! Formal Acceptance of the Kalamazoo Rotary Club as a Member of the International Association of Rotary Clubs, April 1, 1915. And, to Celebrate This Event, Frank L. Mulholland, President of the International Association of Rotary Clubs, Addresses Our Club, April 13, 1915.

As you recall, our club was formally organized on December 29, 1914. In January 26, 1915 we applied for membership to the International Association of Rotary Clubs, the prior name of Rotary International. And on Tuesday, April 1, 1915, the International Association of Rotary Clubs officially admitted the Kalamazoo Rotary Club as its 142nd member! In April we received our charter which is dated April 1, 1915. So, Happy 100th Birthday Kalamazoo Rotary Club!

Now, when Gary went searching for our charter in our archives, he came up empty handed. There was no mention of this document in the archives, nor was there any mention of a charter in any of our club's minutes. So, earlier this year our club requested a copy of our charter from

Rotary International. So after being lost, stolen or misplaced for God only knows how many years, we finally have a charter, and here it is.

As you know, we will celebrate our 100th birthday at our gala on Friday, August 21. Addressing our club will be the President of Rotary International, K. R. “Ravi” Ravindran. But, did you know that we celebrated the birth of our club with the visit of the 4th President of Rotary International?

On Tuesday, April 13, 1915, Frank L. Mulholland, President of the International Association of Rotary Clubs and Hugh Campbell, Chairman of the Rotary International Transportation Committee visited our club. The two Rotary officials were in Kalamazoo for two specific purposes: 1. To personally welcome our club into the ranks of Rotary International and, 2. To speak to our club and to the Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce at the Chamber’s first annual banquet which was to be held at the Knights of Pythias Castle located at 514 West Main, then known as West Michigan. As you can see it, was a nice cozy place complete with its own ballroom on the third storey. Never can tell when company will drop by!

So great was the interest manifested in this event that the number of banquet places was increased from 400 to 500. The Kalamazoo Gazette called the event a “Mammoth Fete.” Most of the vast interest in this event stemmed from the notoriety of featured speaker, Rotary International President Frank L. Mulholland. You see, in addition to being President of Rotary International, Mr. Mulholland was considered to be one of the most brilliant orators on civic problems America had ever produced. His themes were simple. He spoke of boosting civic spirit and civic pride. He talked of the necessity of smiling, of optimism and service and sound, ethical business practices. He was an orator of magnetic personality. He impressed with deepest and sincerest fervor of the principle of service. He made continual appeals for the development of good fellowship among men and the complete defeat of pessimism. He spoke of the cheerful message of business cooperation. He spoke of the philosophy of a smile and spirit of optimism, the joy of living and growing and being a booster of the community. His motto was, He who profits most, serves best. He wanted to see all Rotarians united as a brotherhood to promote the good of humanity. One Ohio newspaper reported that “he was the most eloquent of orators, speaking with flights of beautiful word pictures that held his audience to almost silence and attention throughout a speech that lasted an hour and a half, and concluded with a sweeping flood of eloquent patriotism that was dramatically inspiring. When he concluded the audience applauded for nearly five minutes. Many rose to their feet and cheered lustily, waving their arms, napkins and handkerchiefs.” This man was a rock star.....and best of all..... he was one of ours, a Rotarian of course, and a Michigander. Frank L. Mulholland was born in Disco, Michigan, population 400, located in Macomb County, north of Detroit. A son of a Methodist minister, he graduated from Albion College, President Joe’s Alma Mater, and obtained his law degree from the University of Michigan. From there he moved to Toledo to practice law. He was a charter member of the Toledo Rotary Club which was organized in 1912. Miraculously, Mr. Mulholland became Rotary International’s 4th president only two years later. He was only 39 years old! This gentleman’s ladder of success consisted of only two steps!

So, let us return to our regular meeting of Tuesday, April 13, 1915 held 12:15 at the Park-American Hotel. The minutes simply reveal that the guests of the day were Frank L. Mulholland, President of the International Association of Rotary Clubs and Hugh Campbell, Chairman of the International Transportation Committee. There is no mention of our charter, not even a word

about our club becoming the 142nd Rotary member less than two weeks earlier. Vice President Frank Bowen, Manager of Lee & Cady Grocery, located at North Rose and Ransom, made an announcement of the Chamber of Commerce banquet that was to be held that evening, and it was decided to meet at the Burdick Hotel and escort our guests of honor to the Knights of Pythias Castle. I would like to think that it was here, at the Burdick Hotel after our Rotary meeting, perhaps over drinks and cigars, that President Mulholland, son of a Methodist minister, gave our charter to Kalamazoo Rotary Club President George Pulfer, President of the Kalamazoo Corset Company, located at Church and Eleanor. But we will never know.

The minutes do reflect that after conducting the usual club business, the balance of the meeting was taken up by brilliant addresses by Frank Mulholland and Hugh Campbell. That had to have been an understatement.

That evening President Mulholland addressed our club and the Chamber of Commerce at their first banquet. His speech was titled, "Organized Citizenship." It was vintage Mulholland, encouraging and challenging all to wear the smile, to promote civic pride and spirit, and for businesses to uphold sound practices and cooperate to unite to promote the good of humanity.....and to serve. He closed his speech with the following poem titled, "Commerce" attributed to the poet C. Henry.

I come no more in grey disguise,
With grasping hands and greedy eyes,
Living on larceny and lies.

No longer do my mighty host
Of ministers and servants boast
Of giving least and getting most.

And now, with eyes greed cannot blind,
With open hands and willing mind,
I live in service to mankind.

And holds him first among the rest,
Who bears this motto on his breast,
He profits most who serveth best.

The following day The Kalamazoo Gazette reported on President Mulholland's speech. It said, "Mere words cannot convey the earnest spirit of public service radiated by Frank L. Mulholland in his masterly address. The influence of his dominate personality and the truths of the gospel he preached will remain long, and much good in the minds of those who before him at the Banquet of the Chamber of Commerce last night."

What a way to celebrate our birth! Happy 100th Birthday to our club, to a century of service to our community, and to the next 100 years!

April 5-11, 2015: The Founding of Our Second Club Charity, Pretty Lake Open Air School, Spearheaded by Rotarian Edward B. Desenberg, Kalamazoo's Musician and Philanthropist, Tuesday, March 28, 1916.

It is March 1916 and our club is but one month short of its first birthday. Much was accomplished by our club in its first frantic 11 months. We elected our first officers, received our charter, established our first club charity, Lake Farm for Boys, now Lakeside, and organized Prosperity Week, an exposition promoting Kalamazoo products. We also sent a delegation to the San Francisco Panama-Pacific World Fair and Exposition to celebrate and promote "Kalamazoo Day." Kalamazoo's industrial success in the local, national, and international markets made it deserving of special recognition at the exposition. Kalamazoo was an economic leader with such companies as the Kalamazoo Stove Company, the Upjohn Company, and especially its paper and celery industries. Kalamazoo's industries were to have the honor of serving as the focus for the day of July 6, 1915 at this international event. And, this was only the beginning.

According to our minutes, at our regular meeting on Tuesday, March 28, 1916 at the Park-American Hotel, Rotarian Edward B. Desenberg "gave a very excellent talk on the Open Air School and explained in full the good work that he has promoted, and the good results that were being obtained there-from, the result being that \$250.00 (\$5,400 in today's currency) was raised at this meeting to aid Mr. Desenberg in this good movement." This was the start of a very long and close relationship between our club and this charity. For decades we contributed thousands of dollars, donated clothes, supplies and even built cabins at the Open Air School.

Before I continue explaining the concept of Mr. Desenberg's Open Air School, a word or two is in order concerning Rotarian Edward Desenberg, Kalamazoo's Musician and Philanthropist, and one of its most talented.

Musician and Philanthropist



Edward B. Desenberg

Music was clearly Edward Desenberg's first love. Formally educated in Kalamazoo and abroad, Desenberg quickly became an instructor, composer and entertainer of substantial merit. Following closely in his father's footsteps, Desenberg later became an astute businessman with an ability to make things happen. His immense talent and inherent drive helped awaken the cultural awareness of Kalamazoo.

But second only to Eddie Desenberg's love of music and art was his compassion for children, especially those less fortunate. To that end, his lasting legacy was to create a place that would help make life a little bit better for what he termed, his "kiddies" of Kalamazoo.

Born in Kalamazoo on 9 September 1867, Edward B. Desenberg was the son of Bernhard L. Desenberg, a successful local grocer, and Bertha L. Schuster Desenberg. While still in high school, Eddie Desenberg, became an accomplished pianist, and began performing for society and literary functions, including numerous programs at the Ladies Library. While still a teenager, Desenberg performed a piano piece for the Kalamazoo College commencement exercises in 1886, and gave one of his popular xylophone performances during the Kalamazoo High School commencement in 1889. In fact, Desenberg was the first person in Kalamazoo ever to play such an instrument.

With a desire "to cultivate his rare talent for music," Eddie Desenberg traveled to Germany with his father in 1883 to study music at the Conservatory in Leipzig. In April 1890, Desenberg boarded a train for New York, where he would again set sail for Europe to study music in Berlin. For more than two years Desenberg would study music at the Berlin University of the Arts, the Royal Academy of Berlin and the Royal Academy of the Arts.

By October 1892, Desenberg was back in Kalamazoo performing with the Academy of Music Orchestra, while giving piano and musical composition instruction from his residence at the corner of Lovell Street and St. John's Place.

Ed Desenberg's desire to contribute to the "greater good" of his community was evident early on. In January 1893, Desenberg took an active role in a "Grand Charity Benefit for the Needy" at the

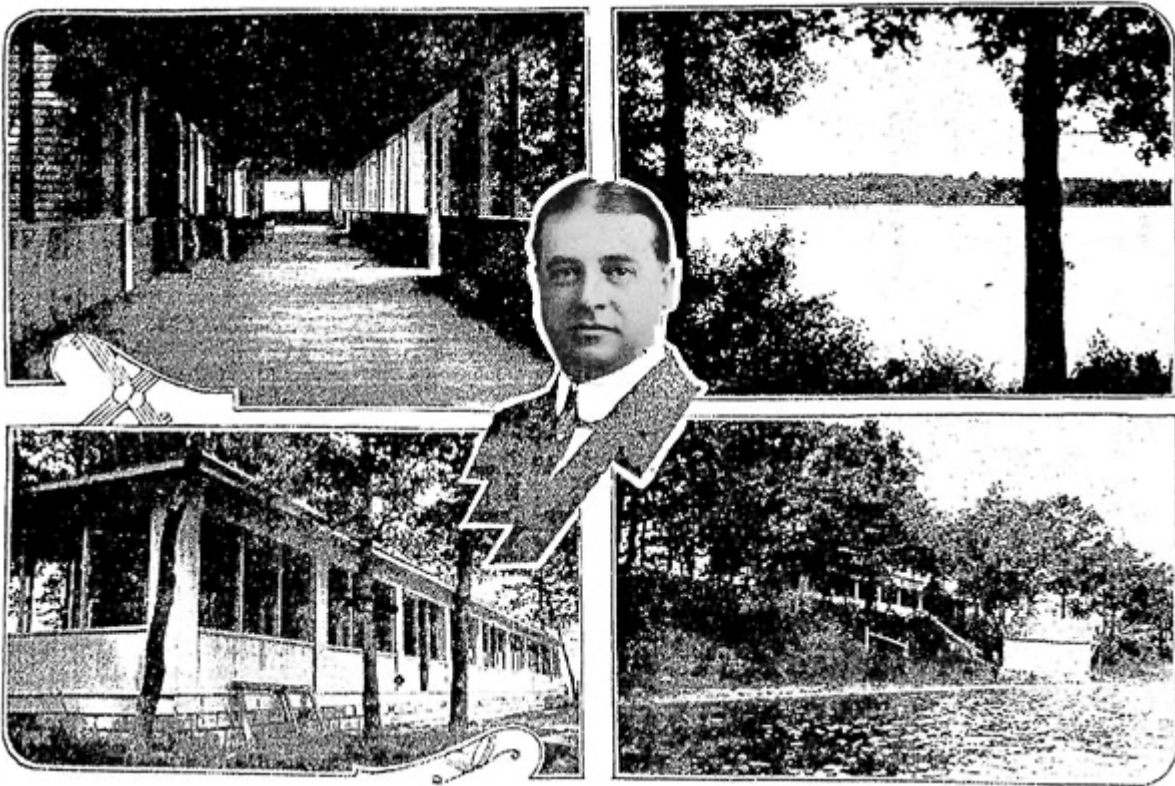
Academy of Music. He was actively involved in many of the local charity minstrel shows organized by Orville Henry Gibson, founder of, you guessed it, the Gibson Mandolin-Guitar Manufacturing Company.

Though he was seldom a performing member of the orchestra itself, Ed Desenberg was closely associated with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra throughout the organization's formative years.

During the 1890s, Desenberg joined his father's lucrative wholesale grocery business, where he would remain until 1909, though he was never far from his music. By 1899, Desenberg was president of the Kalamazoo Conservatory of Music and a respected music columnist for the *Kalamazoo Gazette*. As organist and choir director at Temple B'nai Israel on South Street, Desenberg would often contribute his talents to solo and ensemble performances there and elsewhere throughout the city.

A director of the Kalamazoo National Bank by March 1911, Ed Desenberg was elected president of the Kalamazoo Orchestral Association, a professional organization formed in direct response to the success of the newly organized Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra.

When the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra formed in 1914, Desenberg's composition, the intermezzo, *Mizzoula*, was featured during the 26 April 1914 performance. A year later, Desenberg, then president of the Kalamazoo Choral Union, was elected vice president of the official incarnation of the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra.



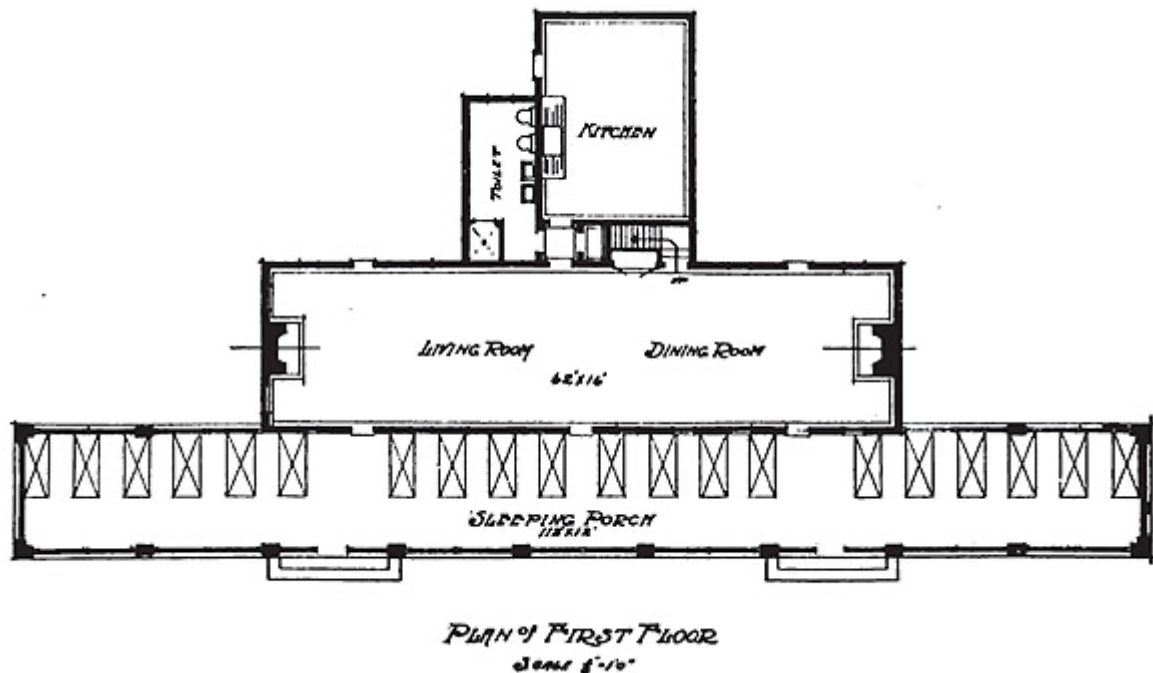
Pretty Lake Vacation Camp, ca. 1916. Edward B. Desenberg, inset.

While music was undoubtedly Eddie Desenberg's first love, his compassion for children, especially those less fortunate, was a close second, and would indeed prove to be his lasting legacy.

Mrs. Bertha L. Desenberg, Eddie's mother, was instrumental in bringing the Fresh Air School movement to Kalamazoo. The idea of open-air schools originated in Great Britain about 1907, and came in response to illness brought on by malnutrition, poor living conditions and tuberculosis. To improve the health of children who were too sick to attend school, the movement emphasized the importance of education in an environment of fresh air, exercise and adequate nutrition. As part of her effort, Mrs. Desenberg arranged a two-week encampment during the summer of 1915 at West Lake near Kalamazoo for twenty-one needy local children.

When Ed Desenberg was asked to deliver an extra tent to the location, he was aghast when he saw that the pump for drinking water at the cottage they had rented for the children was located just a few feet from the outhouse. Realizing for the first time the importance of his mother's work, Desenberg immediately set out to solicit financial help from able community members to build a safe, permanent camp for the children. Within six weeks, Desenberg was able to raise the money necessary to establish a fresh air camp at Pretty Lake, located southwest of Kalamazoo, complete with suitable sleeping quarters and proper water and septic systems.

Pretty Lake Fresh Air Vacation Camp



Pretty Lake Vacation Camp, main building floor plan, ca. 1916

Journal of the Outdoor Life, September 1916

Opened in 1916, the Pretty Lake Fresh Air Vacation Camp provided 15 children with six weeks of summer camp away from the dirt and heat of the city. Within two years, the facility had grown to accommodate 35 children during each two-week period. By 1923, more than one hundred needy kids were able to stay at the camp during each of the five two-week periods—500 kids each summer. Since that time, the Pretty Lake Camp has provided a cost-free summer camp experience to nearly 50,000 at-risk youth from Kalamazoo County.

Throughout the years, the camp has enriched the lives of thousands of youth by offering a safe, structured and encouraging environment in a natural setting. Pretty Lake accommodates over 700 children each summer.

Many of the children who attend Pretty Lake Camp face significant challenges at home, in school, and in their community. The camp strives to remove all barriers that prevent a child from being able to come to camp.

Through the financial support of generous individuals and organizations, Pretty Lake provide everything that campers need during their session at camp – clothes, toiletries, bedding, towels, food, transportation to and from camp, and activities – at no cost to the camper or their family or caregiver. Their focus is to assist in the development of campers by teaching life skills and helping campers cope with life's challenges.

A spokesperson for Pretty Lake camp once said that the camp's "...success is due, without a doubt, to a man whose heart and soul are in the work.....Eddie Desenberg"

Eddie Desenberg, a Rotarian, Kalamazoo's musician and philanthropist who simply wanted to make life a little better for his "kiddies of Kalamazoo." Desenberg remained a Kalamazoo resident until 1930, when he moved to Chicago, though he always identified himself as "a Kalamazoo man". He retained a close association with Pretty Lake and spent each summer at the camp until his death in 1940 at the age of 72. He is buried at Mountain Home Cemetery in Kalamazoo.

In recent weeks you have learned how this Rotary Club created the Kalamazoo Red Cross and saved the Kalamazoo Salvation Army. Now you know how Pretty Lake Camp was created, by the vision of one Kalamazoo Rotary Club Rotarian, 99 years ago last month.

Service Above Self.

April 12-18, 2015: Our Club Quickly Responds to World War I, April 3, 1917, Rotarians Elected As City Commissioners, April 2, 1918, We Change Our Meeting Site, April 7, 1931, And A Return Visit By That Coach From South Bend, April 13, 1926.

We have Rotary Moments from our history this day.

It is Tuesday, April 3, 1917 and our club assembles at the Park-American Hotel for our regular meeting. But the atmosphere of this meeting had to be like no other meeting. For this meeting was held the very day after President Wilson asked Congress to declare war upon Germany thus

entering the country into World War I. The minutes reflect the somber mood, and our quick response to war. Rotarian Ford Rowe of the Flag Committee reported that the American flag could be printed on a 6" x 7" card and a copy could be given to every Kalamazoo school child at a total cost of \$20. A motion was made that our club bear the expense of having the cards printed and distributed to the children. The motion passed. So, in the span of 74 years, our club moves from distributing American flags to reading about college to Kalamazoo school children. Different service, same mission.

At this same meeting, Rotarian John Adams reported that the certificate of authority for the Kalamazoo Red Cross Chapter that our club would found, was in his hands. You may recall that our club formed a committee to establish a Red Cross chapter in Kalamazoo a mere three weeks earlier, on March 13. Rotarian Adams announced that a public meeting would be held the next day for those interested in the Red Cross and he urged Rotarians and their wives to be present.

And, on Tuesday, April 2, 1918 at our regular meeting, Rotarian Sam Bickerstaff suggested that we extend our congratulations to the three Rotarians of our membership who had just been elected City Commissioners. A motion to this effect was carried.....but it cost Sam \$1.50 for attaching the term "Mister" to each of these gentlemen's names. For you see...in those days Rotarians were required to address and refer to each other by their given name. By the way, that fine cost Sam \$23.32 in today's currency!

And, on Tuesday, April 7, 1931 at our regular meeting at the Park-American Hotel, Rotarian Jim Murray moved that beginning next week that the Columbia Hotel be the meeting place of the our club. This was supported by Rotarian Rudolph Light and carried by a written ballot of 36-30.

Lastly, at a special night meeting held on Tuesday, April 13, 1926 at the Park-American Hotel, Coach Storm of Central High School, Rev. J. R. Hackett of St. Augustine's High School, Coach Reed Waterman of The Normal High, Coach Barnard of Kalamazoo College and Coach Buck Read of Western State Normal College, each made a short talk on what they considered what their boys had done in the way of athletics. Afterwards, a man by the name of Knute Rockne, Football Coach and Director of Athletics at Notre Dame College, then gave our members as well as our guests, a most wonderful talk on athletics, taking football as his subject. According to our minutes, "It was one of the most wonderful talks that has ever been given before our club and our guests certainly enjoyed his talk equally as much and he left with them something to be thought of in the way of athletics. We were very glad indeed to have with us the boys from all of the schools in Kalamazoo and from all appearances they enjoyed this meeting very well."

By the way, Notre Dame finished 9-1 that year, losing only to the Carnegie Mellon Tartans, 19-0, in Pittsburgh.

And, this was the second and last time that Coach Knute Rockne spoke at our club, the first occasion being December 6, 1921.

Fight On For Old Notre Dame, Service Above Self!

April 19-25, 2015: Acts of Kindness, Charity and Service Performed During the Month of April Throughout Our Years.

We all know how generous our club has been in terms of its time and treasure in supporting those less fortunate and the agencies created to serve these individuals. Here are just a few examples of our generosity and service to our community performed by our club during the month of April that I thought you should know about.

On Friday evening, April 19, 1940, while World War II was raging in Europe, the Board of Directors met at the home of Rotarian Reader Hubbell. The wives of the members were the guests of Mrs. Hubbell. Rotarian Carleton Reade presented the subject of the club sponsoring a local Boy Scout Troop. Moved by Rotarian Ralston and seconded by Hubbell that our club sponsor local Troop #14 to be known as the "Rotary Troop." The motion carried unanimously. Our club continued to support Rotary Troop 14, as it was commonly known, for years.

And, at our regular meeting held on Tuesday, April 6, 1937 at the Columbia Hotel, Rotarian Herold Hunt reported that our club had mailed 1,591 donation envelopes for the Crippled Children's Campaign and that 578 had been returned with donations totaling \$1,121.95. That amount is equal to \$18,400 in today's currency, a staggering amount considering we were still mired in the Great Depression at the time.

And, at our regular meeting held on Tuesday, April 18, 1939 at the Columbia Hotel, our club discussed the capital improvements campaign being conducted by Bronson Hospital. A motion was made and carried that our club provide \$500 (\$8,500 in today's currency) to furnish a room which was to be called the "Rotary Room."

And, at our regular meeting held on Tuesday, April 19, 1921 at the Park-American Hotel, charter member Frank Bowen, manager of the wholesale grocer, Lee and Cady, located at N. Rose & Ransom, took the floor and asked for information as to what had been done in the way of looking after the 64 widows and children which we had furnished Christmas baskets to in December. It was found that a number of Rotarians were still looking after these families from their own resources.

Lastly, at our regular meeting held on Tuesday, April 18, 1922 held at the Park-American Hotel, Rotarian Melville Dunkley, Chairman of the Boys Works Committee, made a report on a one armed boy who was seeking an education. The boy's name was Morgan Brauer. Rotarian Dunkley made a motion that was seconded by Rotarian Rudolph Light and carried, that our club undertake the support of Morgan for one year, the cost of which was to be taken care of by its members.

Here we have but five examples of how our club has helped less fortunate individuals and organizations created to serve others that were near and dear to our club for decades. There are hundreds if not thousands of other examples contained in our minutes. We have such a rich history of giving and serving and much to be proud of, for our club has touched and improved the lives of thousands of people in Kalamazoo and abroad. And, we will continue to do so for the next 100 years. Service Above Self!

April 26-May 2, 2015: Rotarians Exceed Our War Bond Quota by 400%, April 20, 1943, and Rotarians Convert Their Businesses from Peacetime to War Production, April 11, 1944.

It is 1943 and our country is at war. It is also flat broke....and deeply in debt. Our country's debt as a proportion of gross domestic production would reach its highest level in history in 1945. To pay for the war our government used a variety of measures to finance it. This included deficit spending, increased taxes and a war bond campaign in which our club participated.

At our regular club meeting held on Tuesday, April 20, 1943 at the Columbia Hotel, Rotarian Col. Art Wilson reported on the status of the war bond campaign. He stated that our club had been issued a quota to raise \$108,000 or \$1,000 each for its 108 members. He then gleefully reported that bond sales amounting to \$394,000, or nearly four times our quota, or \$3,600 per member had been filed to the credit of the club. That is the equivalent of \$5,377,500 in today's currency. That's a lot of Girl Scout cookies!

And, in January of this year you learned of what had to have been a very somber meeting our club held on Tuesday, January 6, 1942. It was held less than 30 days after the Japanese launched their surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. We gathered that day at the Columbia Hotel to listen to President Roosevelt's State of the Union address. In typical Kalamazoo Rotary Club fashion, Rotarian Ralph Ralston brought over several radios so all could listen clearly to the President. The President spoke of the seriousness of things, how the war opened by Japan had caused severe losses. He said that orders had gone forth to throw every source of production of armament in high gear and said that plans were already made to produce 60,000 planes, 45,000 tanks, 8 million tons of shipping and other needs in proportion to 1942, and that every one of those measures would be stepped up in 1943.

Soon, some Rotarians will join the Armed Forces, others will see their sons and daughters join. Over 60% of our membership will officially participate in the war effort. Families will be separated, some will never be reunited. Businesses will close, some will be converted to war production. Some will never reopen. A pall of uncertainty hangs over the country, for the only thing that is certain is uncertainty.

Let us now spring forward 3 years and three months to our regular meeting held April 11, 1944, less than 2 months before D-Day. Our program that day was announced as a forum, to tell how businesses owned by Rotarians were now involved in wartime production.

Rotarian Glenn Stewart of a Kalamazoo paper concern, announced his firm was making special paper for prisoners' correspondence that prevented the use of any invisible fluid for writing.

Rotarian Fred Allen of the Upjohn Company told of making large quantities of penicillin for the armed services saying that very little was available for civilian use. The company was also making sulfa drugs and many others for the armed forces.

Rotarian Palmer Coombs said his foundry was making grey iron, bronze and aluminum castings for diesel engines, parts for machine gun ball turrets on bombers, parts for landing craft and anti-aircraft guns, and fans.

Rotarian Cam Davis said his company was very busy constructing temporary housing units for airfields and hospitals throughout the country.

Rotarian Gerald Rosenbaum said his plant had made several million pair of trousers for the army.

Rotarian Richard Staebler reported his paper box company had made boxes for penicillin, machine parts and ammunition boxes.

Rotarian Robert Walton of the Kalamazoo Corset Company said that the government had frozen production of elastic webbing which forced him to stop making corsets. He was now making several thousand parachutes.

Rotarian Miles Wilson said his plants were producing insulation for Russian factories and block insulation for the boilers of Liberty transport ships. He reported his plants were working 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

Rotarian Paul Morrison said his company had solved the army's problem with the automatic shell extractor for its M-1 carbine and was now contracted to produce 3 million.

Rotarian Herman Jones stated that the Shakespeare Company was making controls for jeeps and B-29 bombers.

He also said that Ihling Bros. was making uniforms, and that a Kalamazoo Paraffin Company product was being used to saturate the battery boxes used on submarines.

Rotarian Charles Reeves said that the Kalamazoo Stove Company was making armor plate and flares.

Rotarian Carleton Reade said his Kozy Coach Company was making trailers for housing war workers.

Lastly, Rotarian John Rockwell said his company was making storage tanks for powder mills, rubber plants and silos for farmers. He also reported that labor troubles had hampered his production.

These are but a few examples of how our club members and their businesses responded to that great element of uncertainty that filled the same hotel meeting room 3 years earlier. Privately, I have told a few of you that the history of this city runs through this club. Our club also reflects the history of our country. It certainly did on that day in April, 1944.

May 3-9, 2015: Supreme Court rules that Rotary Clubs must admit women, Monday, May 4, 1987, exactly 28 years ago today.

Casting doubt on claims by many private clubs that they have constitutional rights to exclude women from membership, the Supreme Court ruled in a 7-to-0 decision on May 4, 1987 that states may outlaw such discrimination by Rotary Clubs.

Representatives of some private clubs said the Court's reasoning focused on the particular characteristics of Rotary Clubs, notably their large and "inclusive" membership and their practice of inviting nonmembers, such as business associates, to their meetings. The Court did not define with precision how private and selective a club must be to have a constitutional right to exclude women, thus leaving the way open for other clubs to argue that they are more private than Rotary Clubs.

The issue for the Court in 1987, as in a somewhat similar 1984 ruling against the then all-male Jaycees organization, was whether the particular organizations involved were entitled by the First Amendment right of freedom of association to be exempt from state laws against sex discrimination.

A California appellate court had held that that state's ban against sex discrimination by any "business establishment" applied to Rotary Clubs. It thus barred Rotary International from revoking the charter of the Rotary Club of Duarte, Calif., for admitting three women as members in 1977.

In the 1987 ruling, the Court rejected Rotary International's argument that it has a constitutional right to bar the admission of women as members of any affiliated club because of its selective membership policy, public service activities and other attributes.

"The evidence in this case indicated that the relationship among Rotary Club members is not the kind of intimate or private relation that warrants constitutional protection," Associate Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr. wrote for the Court.

"Indeed, by opening membership to leading business and professional women in the community, Rotary Clubs are likely to obtain a more representative cross-section of community leaders with a broadened capacity for service."

Justice Powell said that, while Rotary Clubs performed "commendable service activities that are protected by the First Amendment," there was no evidence that these activities would be harmed by admitting women."

And how did our club respond to this ruling? If you know anything about our club, you probably guessed, quite rapidly and positively. One month after this Supreme Court decision, a special 7:30 morning meeting of our club's board of directors was held on June 8, 1987, at the office of the Kalamazoo Foundation in the Comerica Building. Some of you here today attended this meeting. At this meeting Rotarian David Hatfield, Chairman of the recently formed Women in Rotary Committee, recommended that our Board adopt a policy in conformance with that expressed by Rotary International Board of Directors that the "male only" rule will not be enforced and that appropriate steps be taken to process proposals from women for membership in an expeditious manner and that a group of women be inducted at one time, if possible, rather than have individual introductions at different meetings. Membership will continue to be by invitation and not be application. Members must be of good character and reputation and hold some professional, proprietary, executive or managerial position in their business or profession and the usual requirements of classification will also be followed. The motion was carried and was reported to the full membership at our regular meeting later that day.

Eight days later, our Board held its regular 12:15 luncheon meeting at Tuesday, June 16, 1987 at the Park Club. Rotarian David Hatfield reported for the Committee on Women in Rotary and recommended that a group of women approved for membership be introduced to the membership and inducted at one time. The recommendation was approved by unanimous consent. Also approved by unanimous consent was a recommendation that the media not be notified of such introductions as news event. The following 8 women were approved for membership on that day by our Board:

Phyllis J. Barents

Antoinette Beuche

Sandra Gagie

Linda K. Harrison

Judith M. Lectka

Eleanor Pinkham

Sheryl Sculley and

Karen V'Soske.

Five other women were also inducted that day and 28 years later, they remain members of our club. They are:

Lisa Godfrey

Caroline R. Ham

Judith Moore

Marilyn J. Schlack and

Elizabeth S. Upjohn

Since then, our club has welcomed hundreds of women into our ranks including the following 6 Club Presidents:

Shari LaBrenz, our first woman President who served from 1994-95.

Barbara L. James

Nancy S. Owen

Judy Moore

Deb Chope Hughes and

Sandy Bliesener

From these Rotary Minutes, you certainly know that the history of this city runs through this club. Our club also reflects the history of our country. It certainly did on June 18, 1987.

May 10-16, 2015: Railway Road Trip, Rotary Style, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 16 and 17, 1916. Woodrow Wilson is President, World War I is raging, America is still at peace, and our

club is barely one year old. During our club's first 30 years, we had a very close relationship with both the Battle Creek and Jackson rotary clubs due to our close proximity and the fact that these three clubs were founded within a year of each other. We learned from each other, grew together, helped one another in forming and developing our new clubs and competed against one another in a variety of ways. But what is most unusual and heartwarming is that we visited each other's club at least once a year for three decades. Our minutes are full of stories of the comradery shared by the Rotarians of these three cities. The following is just one example.

It is Tuesday, May 16, 1916.

At 3:46 p. m. 47 members of our club, or nearly all of our membership, convened at the Michigan Central Depot for a railway trip to Jackson to be the dinner guests of the Jackson Rotary Club. This depot is now better known as the Amtrak Station or the Kalamazoo Transportation Center located at 459 North Burdick. This trip was made in a special railway car, thanks to Rotarian Will Toombs.

An hour before the above noted time, the world famous Kalamazoo Rotary Band (directed by Charles Sousa Fischer) rendezvoused at club Vice-President Frank Bowen's Prune Renovator and Sterilizing Plant, where Frank kindly loaned them the top floor for practice. As you recall, Vice President Bowen was the manager of the Lee and Cady Wholesale Grocer located at North Rose and Ransom. In this isolated and insulated spot they were allowed to practice a few bars and get their instruments to within a few half tones of the same key.

The Jackson Rotary Club met us at the depot in the Prison City and our President, George B. Pulfer, Treasurer and General Manager of the Kalamazoo Corset Company, was invited to seat alongside Jackson club President Hod Tompkins in a carriage that smacked of old southern hospitality.

We then paraded down the Main Street, led by Vice President Bowen (donned in silk hat and frock coat) and Jackson's Mayor Sparks. Our Rotary Band was dressed in uniforms of many colors and styles worn for the first time on this occasion and dispensed the most beautiful noises at all too frequent intervals. The band uniforms were provided by Rotarian Lew Hubbard, whose men's and boy's clothing store first located at the Downtown Mall and later Maple Hill Mall would be a Kalamazoo staple for the next 60 years.

Then came the two club Presidents in their chariot, followed by the Kalamazoo Rotary members with Jackson bringing up the rear. Six o'clock dinner was served in the St. Paul Episcopal Church. The Keys of the city and the jail were handed over to us.

Our members on the program showed up like stars of major magnitude, President George Pulfer was eloquent, Will Brownell, Proprietor of the Brownell Advertising Agency, was enthralling, Jacob Kindleberger, President of the Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Paper Company, was thrilling, O. B. Townes, Secretary of the Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce, was enraging and amusing, and Grocer-Vice President Frank Bowen was pruniferous, which means, "bearing plums." Our Rotary Quartette sang the pants off of any musical four ever advertised.

At 10:00 the dry dinner at the church adjourned and the wet lunch at the City Club began. Rotarians Charlie Blaney and Harry Parker objected at first to attending this latter part of the

program, but other members pleaded with them and they finally consented. (Can you sense impending doom lurking about?)

We left the clubrooms two hours later, at midnight, to catch our 12:20 train and were escorted to the station by Brother Callihan, who was delegated by the Jackson club.

The return trip was uneventful except that Vice President Bowen, who may, with others, have overindulged at the “wet lunch” became ill and was taken off of the train in Battle Creek. He was afterwards released and reached Kalamazoo the next day. There were 47 members who made the trip, which is the largest Rotary delegation that ever went forth---the South Bend trip being no exception.

Service Above Self, Party Hearty!

May 17-23, 2015: Service Above Self! First Community Service Project Selected, Tuesday, May 18, 1915, Exactly 100 Years Ago Today

It is Tuesday, May 18, 1915 and our club has held its charter for only 48 days. To date our club has made charitable donations to the local tuberculosis chapter and the Cribside Society. This money was generated from fines levied to members for tardiness, absenteeism and birthdays. But our club is anxious to strike out a new path in the form of community service.

On Tuesday, May 18, 1915, the Kalamazoo Rotary Club had its weekly meeting at the Park-American Hotel. On motion, a committee of three, consisting of Fred Bond, President of the Bond Mill and Plumbers Supply Company, Herbert Johnson, President of the Johnson Paper & Supply Company, and William Brownell, Proprietor of the Brownell Advertising Agency, was appointed by corset maker club President George Pulfer “to work out a plan for the support of the Lake Farm for Boys in Kalamazoo” thereby becoming the first community service project of the Kalamazoo Rotary Club. This institution still exists today.

The Lake Farm for Boys can trace its origins to September 30, 1907. But its genesis predates that, probably back to a spring evening in June of 1907 when William S. Dewing, an English-born Kalamazoo businessman with a great concern for children, assembled 24 of Kalamazoo’s leading citizens in his residence.



For several years, Dewing and fellow resident James Balch thought the community needed a sanctuary for homeless boys. Their social conscience was shared by Rotarian William Brownell who pleaded the case in such convincing fashion that the 24 were galvanized into action. They decided to form an organization “for the care, education, and bringing up of boys.” It was in business by September.

That first Board of trustees included two Rotarians, Eddie Desenberg and Francis Milham.

The idea of Lakeside was to locate the home in a rural setting so the youngsters had close contact with farming, hard work, and nature, yet still near enough to the city to take advantage of its educational and religious assets.

The Lakeside grounds at 3921 Oakland Drive now cover around 48 acres, much smaller than the 150 acres it held during its land-owning heyday.

Through Dewing’s leadership, 55 acres of farm land were initially purchased on the shores of Whites Lake in the spring of 1908. By the time October rolled around, one cottage had been completed and the committee of 24 arranged for an “open house.” Some 500 inquisitive souls took the Kalamazoo trolley to the end of the line on Oakland Drive and Parkview where they were transported to the new “home for boys” by carriage, wagon, or buggy, compliments of Dewing. It was October 6, 1908. The first boy arrived on the grounds August 20, 1909, and enrollment had grown to nine within a few months.

Newspaper accounts of the grand opening said that the new home was “the first of its kind in Michigan” for destitute and homeless boys and was one of the few in the whole nation. Individual and corporate philanthropy made the land purchase and construction possible.

The change in Lakeside's role as an orphanage for boys to its current status as a treatment center for troubled youth, took place after the merger in 1963 of two Kalamazoo institutions dedicated to helping children in need; the Lake Farm for Boys and Dewing Hall for Girls.

The girls' home goes back even farther than its counterpart for boys.

In the early 1870's, Mrs. William G. Dewing (Jane) and Miss Eliza Fisher Goodspeed began organizing activities, classes, and schooling for young girls who could not attend traditional classrooms because of family difficulties. After operating in houses at W. Main and Douglas Ave. and Potter St., their program for girls was blessed with a home of its own, a three story brick building in the 800 block of South Westnedge Ave. that became known as the Kalamazoo Children's Home. (The 1877 structure was razed in 1972 to make room for a Laundromat.)

The name "Children's Home" was changed to Dewing Hall in 1957 to honor its founders, who not only had established the orphanage but had also contributed to its support for many years.

Dewing Hall had become a licensed residential treatment unit for adolescent girls, with about 16 young women living there. As the facility aged, prominent community leaders, including Rotarian Burton Upjohn, worked tirelessly on a relocation of the Children's Home or a merger with Lake Farm.

The Lake Farm Board offered 10 acres of its land for a new home. In 1963, plans were made to move Dewing Hall from downtown Kalamazoo to the Lake Farm site. After many anxious meetings with the neighborhood, Dewing Hall and Lake Farm merged officially and became Lakeside, Inc. on April 8, 1964.

For decades our club supported Lakeside financially and in many other ways such as providing building and operating supplies, Christmas food baskets, and clothing from Rotarian Lew Hubbard's men's and boys clothing store. We also invited the boys to our annual Boys Night meeting. Our Boys Night meeting involved gathering the sons of Rotarians, Kalamazoo high school senior boys and other young men for a night of entertainment, instruction and mentoring.

What started out as an orphanage and home for neglected boys and girls is now a treatment center for adolescents with chronic behavioral issues. Lakeside continues to serve the entire State of Michigan and select other states in providing quality services that promote maturity, clear thinking and individual growth. The Lakeside legacy continues as does our service to our community. Lakeside was our first service project, initiated exactly 100 years ago today. Our acts of generosity and community service of our first hundred years are found throughout our city, county, state, country and overseas. We have touched and improved the lives of countless people. We should rightfully be proud of what we have accomplished during our first 100 years. We have done much, and hopefully we will do much, much more in our next hundred years.

Service Above Self!

May 24-30, 2015: Our Club Endorses Daylight Savings Time, Tuesday, May 23, 1916, and Votes to Conserve the Use of Wheat at Our Luncheons, Tuesday May 28, 1918.

We have two readings this week that show the civic-mindedness and generosity of our club.

First, at our regular Tuesday meeting at the Park-American Hotel on May 23, 1916, a motion was presented by Rotarian Bertrand Hopper as follows: “RESOLVED: That in the sense of this meeting longer daylight hours would be beneficial to a large majority of the citizens of Kalamazoo, and that a committee of five be appointed to prepare a petition to be presented to the City Council requesting them to make the official City time one hour faster than central standard time.” The motion passed.

Second, it is May 1918 and we have been at war for over one year. Food shortages, rationing and the resultant food conservation efforts are beginning to appear throughout our country. Our club was no exception. At our regular Tuesday meeting at the Park American Hotel on May 28, 1918, our club’s Food Administrator, Rotarian Ed Desenburg requested our club conserve on the use of wheat. Rotarian Alfred Connable presented the following motion: “RESOLVED: That no more wheat bread be served at our luncheons until conditions have changed sufficiently to warrant it.” It was then explained by the hotel staff that our club was not being served wheat bread anyway and no action was taken.

Service Above Self!

May 31-June 6, 2015: Our Club Presents a Rotary Motto Plaque to Our Meeting Host, Western State Normal School, Tuesday, May 25, 1920.

Since our founding our club has always had a very close relationship with Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College. The following is just one example of this special relationship with Western Michigan University.

Our regular meeting on Tuesday, May 25, 1920, approximately 95 years ago, was held at 6:30 in the evening, at East Hall, Western Michigan University’s first building. We were guests of Western State Normal School. As many of you know, East Hall, which sits majestically atop Prospect Hill, is currently undergoing renovations scheduled to be completed in November of this year.

In the absence of President Frank Bowen the meeting was presided over by Vice President Fred J. Bond, owner of the Bond Mill and Plumbers Supply Company, located at Rose & Eleanor. A most excellent dinner was served to our club, the Normal School Faculty and the visiting Rotarians from St. Joseph and Benton Harbor. The dinner was prepared by the School’s Domestic Science Department under the direction of Miss Moore.

The business conducted in the Assembly Room included a reading of a letter from Kalamazoo City Manager Harry Freeman explaining the cause of delay in repairing holes in pavements about the city. History never repeats itself! A most splendid entertainment was furnished by the Normal Students. Songs by the Senior Girl’s Glee Club, Men’s Glee Club and the Girl’s Quartet,

while in the gymnasium and exhibition of marching, dancing and a swimming contest was given by the Junior and Senior girls of the physical Education classes.

The three and a half hour meeting closed at 10:00 with all Rotarians expressing themselves more than pleased with the hospitality of the Normal Faculty and students. A motion was made and seconded and carried requesting the Entertainment Committee to give consideration to extending an invitation to the Normal Faculty and to the young men and women who furnished the entertainment to be the guests of our club at some future meeting.

Lastly, Rotarian Jacob Kindleberger, President of the Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Company, moved that in view of the fact no Rotarian was permitted to pay for the splendid dinner, that each contribute \$1.00, the money to be used in purchasing a bronze tablet bearing the Rotary motto, "He Profits Most Who Serves Best", and that this be presented to the Normal School. The motion carried and \$71.00 was immediately collected.

We have inquired of the University as to the whereabouts of this plaque and sadly, they do not know where it resides.

He Profits Most Who Serves Best – Rotary's first motto adopted in 1911, and Service Above Self, Rotary's second motto adopted in 1989.

June 7-13, 2015: A Picnic Dinner Meeting at Brook Lodge, Wednesday, June 5, 1918, Entertaining the Battle Creek Rotary Club at the Kalamazoo Country Club, Monday, June 6, 1938, Moment of Silent Prayer, June 6, 1944.

We all know that June is a wonderful month to entertain and be entertained out of doors in Michigan, and our club took full advantage of June's great weather.

First, on the afternoon and evening of Wednesday, June 5, 1918, approximately 150 Rotarians, their wives and friends, motored to Brook Lodge in Augusta, where we enjoyed the hospitality of "Rastus Upjohn at a picnic dinner. Brook Lodge was the summer home of Dr. W. E. Upjohn, Rotarian and founder of the Upjohn Company. Tables were stationed around the grounds and a most enjoyable dinner was served out of doors. The peonies were in full bloom, and before returning to the city, everyone gathered an armful of more than "57 Varieties." It was the unanimous opinion of those making the trip that as an agreeable host "Rastus" cannot be beat.

Second, on Monday, June 6, 1938, our club had the Battle Creek Rotary Club as its guest at the Kalamazoo Country Club for an afternoon and evening meeting. This meeting was the result of an attendance contest held by the two clubs last winter and won the Battle Creek Rotary Club. The golfers showed up early and about 10 foursomes teed off. Later the baseball teams reported and our club won by a large score. By 6:00 PM our Rotary band led by Charles Fischer were playing in the clubhouse and the men sat down to dinner when and where they chose. Credit should be given to the country club for serving such a fine dinner. It was hot, served without confusion. The steaks were tender and very large. After the early birds had finished dinner, they gathered on the lawn and porches to visit and smoke while the later arrivals ate their dinner. At 8:00 PM Kalamazoo Rotary President Ernest Burnham called the men together and got the program underway. It would be hard to overstate the program of music performed by the

Parchment Male Quartet and the Women's Trio under the direction of Mr. MacDowell. They looked fine and sang better than that and we all wanted more. If the party had ended then we might have been well repaid but there was more to come. Golf prizes were awarded to Kalamazoo Rotary Club members, Bob Walton, Rudolf Light, Reader Hubbell, John Kreilick, Glenn Stewart, Dick Gregory and Harley Sears. Battle Creek Rotarians receiving golf prizes were A. Kennett, Art Humphrey, Bill Baker, Joe McAullife and R. T. Whalen.

Kalamazoo Rotarian Smith Burnham then gave the address of the evening. Rotarian Burnham was introduced as an International Traveling Rotarian and he gave us his impressions of world affairs after his recent tour of several foreign Rotary Clubs including those located in Japan, the Philippines, Palestine and India. His message was that the world was in desperate need of Good Will and, that Rotary has no larger job than to foster the Spirit of Good Will among all men.

And, our last reading is from a meeting held exactly 6 years later, on Monday, June 6, 1944. We held our regular noon meeting on June 6, 1944 at the Columbia Hotel. That day the Columbia inaugurated a new method of serving lunch, somewhat on the cafeteria plan. After all were served some had already consumed part of their lunch. After lunch, President Ralph Ralston asked that the club stand for a moment of silent prayer as the news had come of D Day. American, British and Canadian boys were at this very moment fighting to establish themselves on the beaches of France. Then, God Bless America was sung by our club. This was followed by a very impressive invocation given by Victor Thrall. At the very time our club stood in silent prayer that day, the invasion of Europe had begun only 12 hours earlier. Its outcome was far from certain. At the end of that day, an estimated 2,500 American and 1,195 British and Canadian boys would lose their lives defending liberty and freedom. Another 6,000 would be wounded.

Service Above Self!

June 14-20, 2015: Taking Care Of Our Boy Scouts, June 28, 1927 and June 11, 1941, Lake Farm For Boys Becomes a Reality, June 29, 1920, and Petitioning the Secretary of War to Name a New World War II Light Cruiser After Our City, June 16, 1942.

As you know, our club had a warm relationship with the Boy Scouts for over 50 years. We have two short readings about this relationship. First, I hope you recall at our regular meeting on Monday, November 25, 1919, we partnered with the Kalamazoo Kiwanis Club by pledging \$15,000 (that is \$205,800 in today's currency) over the next three years by members of both clubs to enlarge the work and increase the enrollment of Boy Scouts in Kalamazoo. One year later, a portion of this money was used to purchase the initial 10 acres at Bass Lake to establish Camp Roto-Kiwan.

Well, it is now 8 years later and Camp Roto-Kiwan is in need of tents. At our Tuesday evening Board Meeting of June 28, 1927, Rotarian Frank Downing informed the Board that a total of \$85.00 (that is \$1,200 in today's currency) would be required to purchase 4 tents. The Board agreed to join with the Kiwanis Club to purchase these tents.

Second, I hope you also recall, that at our Friday evening Board meeting held on April 19, 1940, while World War II was raging in Europe, our board approved a motion made by Rotarian Ralph Ralston and seconded by Reader Hubbell that our club sponsor local Troop #14 to be known as

the “Rotary Troop.” The motion carried unanimously. Our club continued to support Rotary Troop 14, as it was commonly known, for years. Well, it is one year later. At our regular meeting held on Monday, June 11, 1941, Vice President Cleo Fox made a motion, supported by Secretary George Martin, to purchase a flag for our Rotary Troop 14 for a grand total of \$8.05!

And, as you recall, on Tuesday, May 18, 1915 the Kalamazoo Rotary Club had its weekly meeting at the Park-American Hotel. On motion, a committee of three, consisting of Fred Bond, President of the Bond Mill and Plumbers Supply Company, Herbert Johnson, President of the Johnson Paper & Supply Company, and William Brownell, Proprietor of the Brownell Advertising Agency, was appointed by corset maker club President George Pulfer “to work out a plan for the support of the Lake Farm for Boys in Kalamazoo” thereby becoming the first community service project of the Kalamazoo Rotary Club. This institution still exists today.

Well, it is five years later and Lake Farm For Boys is a reality. Thirty nine Rotarians enjoyed the hospitality of our President William Brownell and our board of directors at a 6:00 PM meeting held on June 29, 1920 at Lake Farm for Boys. According to our minutes, this meeting “was one of the best meetings of the season.” A splendid dinner was served and President Brownell gave the Rotarians a fine talk on the good work that Lake Farm was doing. This was followed up with short talks by Lake Farm President and Rotarian Ralph Balch, and members of the Lake Farm Board and Rotarians. Everyone was more than pleased with the good work that was being done. But apparently there was one piece of very important recreational equipment that was still needed. On motion which was seconded and approved, a resolution was passed that our club would provide a suitable boat to Lake Farm. President Brownell then appointed a committee of three Rotarians to arrange for the purchase of the boat. And who was best suited to chair this committee? Why of course, no one other than Rotarian William Shakespeare, founder of the Shakespeare Company of Kalamazoo, maker of premier fishing reels! I think Bill might have thrown in a few fishing rods and reels with the boat.

Lastly, it is June 16, 1942 and our country is at war and our industries are converting to wartime production. The U. S. Navy has announced that it is building, among many other types of ships, a series of new light cruisers. At our regular Monday meeting at the Columbia Hotel on June 16, Rotarian Dale Ogden presented petitions to the club asking for the naming of one of these new ships to be named the “USS Kalamazoo.” He stated that our city should be honored in this way as navy recruitment in Kalamazoo exceeded other cities of our size and we should have a ship named after our city. The petitions were then signed by all Rotarians. Unfortunately, the petitions were denied by the Department of War. However, Rotarian Ogden’s dream of having a ship named after our city would have to wait until November 1, 1972 when the USS Kalamazoo, a Wichita-class oiler ship, was launched at the naval shipyard of General Dynamics Corporation in Quincy, Massachusetts. The USS Kalamazoo served with distinction for the next 24 years until 1996 including deployment during Operation Desert Storm.

Service Above Self!

June 21-27, 2015: That’s Entertainment! Hosting the Battle Creek and Jackson Rotary Clubs, Tuesday, June 27, 1916.

It is 1916 and our country, for the most part, had escaped the ravages of World War I which was now in its third year. While the war in Europe was certainly at the forefront of the country's thoughts, our club had more lighthearted activities to pursue at the height of summer. On Tuesday, June 27, 1916, the Kalamazoo Rotary Club entertained the Rotary Clubs of Battle Creek and Jackson at the Gull Lake Country Club, a setting much like this evening's. The Rotarians from the three cities assembled at the Country Club at about 5:00 P.M. After greetings were passed and exchanged a program of sports including golf and baseball was carried on. For the separate events handsome trophies were offered having been generously donated by Kalamazoo Rotarians.

Supper was served at the Club House and entertainment was provided by all three clubs. The evening was most pleasantly spent with liberal doses of music, song and wit. The meeting fittingly closed with the singing of America and Auld Lang Syne. And that's the way it was, 99 years ago this week.

Service Above Self, Comradery Among Rotarians

June 28-July 4, 2015: The Second Visit of a Sitting Rotary International President to our Club, Rotary International President Tom Warren, Tuesday, June 26, 1945.

It is June, 26, 1945. Germany surrendered to the Allies but 50 days ago and the world is celebrating the end of war in Europe. But we and our allies are still at war with Japan. Throughout Europe people are trying to put back together their lives, families and their countries. One man, Rotary International President Tom Warren of Wolverhampton, England, is trying to save and rekindle the Rotary movement and ideal.

Tom Warren was a magnetic and inspirational speaker who rightly took his place at the head of Rotary International when peace dawned throughout the world. Prior to that, he is the person most credited for holding the Rotary movement together in Britain and Europe as Rotary Clubs throughout Europe saw the lights go out one by one. President Warren addressed our club at our regular Tuesday meeting at the Columbia Hotel. He was accompanied by Reginald Coombs, Past President of the London Rotary Club. Owing to the presence of the International President, the Rotary International Hymn was sung. Kalamazoo Rotary President Elmer Wilds announced this was a great day and introduced our two distinguished guests. President Warren said he brought the greetings of Rotarians in the British Isles and both North and South Ireland. He spoke for a few moments about the Rotary movement and ideal. He said that Rotary is based on the ideal of service and where freedom, justice, truth, sanctity of the pledged word, and respect for human rights do not exist, Rotary cannot live nor its ideals prevail. He said the Rotary movement is not equaled by any other. He then spoke of the future. President Warren said that the German and Italian clubs would be reorganized but only if they became free people, as Rotary will not function in non-democratic countries. He stated that existing clubs in France were now again meeting and that new clubs were forming. He said there were no clubs in Russia, that it is a changing country but still an unsolved problem.

Then Past President of the London Club, Reginald Coombs was introduced by Rotarian Dale Ogden. Reginald greeted our club by stating that Kalamazoo was well known in England

because of the wide use of Loose Leaf Binders made here. He then spoke of the conditions in London during the blitz and how the London Club still met regularly because its members sought the friendship of others. South London suffered the worst in loss of property and lives; the bombings were most dreadful and continued day and night. At every Rotary meeting reports were received of members' places of business or homes being damaged or destroyed. He then spoke of lighter matters. He said that it was customary for his club members to start the meeting at their cocktail bar as the President greeted each member and visitor. He said the meetings usually started at 1:15 and ended at 2:30. He closed by saying that Rotary was a jolly fine thing and a great help in times of trouble.

Rotary International President Tom Warren addressed our club exactly 70 years ago this week. It was the second time a sitting President visited our club, the first being 100 years ago in April 1915, when then International President Frank L. Mulholland welcomed us into the Rotary family and when we believe we received our charter. The third and fourth visits to our club by a sitting Rotary International President occurred in 1955 (A.Z. Baker) and 1964 when Charles W. Pettengill spoke at our club's 50th Anniversary. There will be a fifth visit in August. As you know, we will celebrate our 100th birthday at our gala on Friday, August 21. Addressing our club will be the President of Rotary International, K. R. "Ravi" Ravindran. I do not know if this fifth visit will set some sort of record for a Rotary club of our size, but I do know that visits by standing presidents to individual clubs are exceedingly rare. We are indeed fortunate. This will likely be your only opportunity to hear and perhaps meet our President.....unless you think you will live for another 50 years!

Service Above Self!

July 6-12, 2014: Kalamazoo Rotary Club President Uses First Transcontinental Telephone Line, Tuesday, July 6, 1915 to celebrate Kalamazoo Day at the San Francisco Panama-Pacific Exposition

Out-going Mayor Alfred B. Connable Sr., who would join the Kalamazoo Rotary Club in 1917 and serve its president in 1918-1919, received exciting news in December 1914 for the city of Kalamazoo and for its manufacturers. The special events committee of the Panama-Pacific Exposition, opening 15 February 1915 in San Francisco, announced that 1 June would be Kalamazoo Day. The 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition, like all world's fairs, displayed the latest scientific innovations from the U.S.A. and countries around the world. Kalamazoo's industrial success in the local, national, and international markets made it deserving of special recognition at the exposition. Kalamazoo was an economic leader with such companies as the Kalamazoo Stove Company, the Upjohn Company, and especially its paper and celery industries. Kalamazoo's industries were to have the honor of serving as the focus for the day at this international event. Kalamazoo was one of only a small number of industrial cities its size selected for recognition at the fair. Western Railways already had special excursion rates to San Francisco in place for the people of Kalamazoo to attend the exposition.

The November 1914 election saw Mayor Connable voted out of office and James B. Balch elected Kalamazoo's new mayor. Late in May, Balch asked for the names of residents planning

to attend the exposition in San Francisco. Mayor Balch wanted to make a list from which he would select an official representative for the city at the exposition.

The official representative selected was Prof. James A. Starkweather, principal of Woodward Avenue school. Prof. Starkweather's first task was to contact the exposition's special committee to delay Kalamazoo Day until sometime between 2-7 July 1915. Within two days, Prof. Starkweather announced the new date of 6 July. Mayor Balch then contacted William Longyear and C.E. Linsey, former Kalamazoo residents living in California. They respectively served as the president and secretary of the Michigan Society of California, and agreed to help with arrangements and the program. Mayor Balch asked Kalamazoo's Chamber of Commerce to help by selecting representatives from the prominent manufacturing industries to accompany Prof. Starkweather and distribute literature. The departure for Prof. Starkweather and those wishing to travel with him to San Francisco was set for the 26 June from Chicago on a train decorated with Kalamazoo streamers.

On the day Prof. Starkweather's group left Chicago, Mayor Balch described the plan for a unique program. With the help of E.P. Platt and A.W. Robb of American Telegraph and Telephone Company, George B. Pulfer, president of the Kalamazoo Rotary Club arranged for a long distance call from Kalamazoo to San Francisco on the new transcontinental cable. Both E. P. Platt and A.W. Robb would later join the Kalamazoo Rotary Club in 1919 and 1916 respectively. The cost to use this new technology was \$5.45 per minute. However, by allowing a representative of the state phone company to present a brief history of the transcontinental cable at the event, Kalamazoo's use was free of charge. The Rotary Club presidents of Kalamazoo and San Francisco were to serve as hosts of the phone call. In Kalamazoo, the Rotary Club members were to host 55 residents to a lunch at the Park-American Hotel 313-325 E. Main, now East Michigan Ave. A phone receiver sat at each table so that all could hear the conversations. In San Francisco, there was a similar set up in the Liberal Arts Palace at the exposition.

At noon on 6 July, Kalamazoo Rotary Club President George Pulfer initiated the call to San Francisco and exchanged greetings with the California governor's representative. Originally, Michigan Governor Woodbridge N. Ferris was to be in Kalamazoo, but neither governor was able to attend. From Kalamazoo state and city representatives prepared to speak with their counterparts or a representative in California. In Kalamazoo, Congressman J.M.C. Smith stepped in for Governor Woodbridge to pass official greetings from Michigan to California. Mayor Balch did not get to speak with the mayor of San Francisco, but received high praise from the latter's representative on Mayor Balch's stance toward the importance of "municipal ownership." Mayor Balch also spoke with the Panama-Pacific's vice president who thanked him for Kalamazoo's representation at the exposition. Prof. Starkweather and his wife spoke with Mayor Balch and described the journey and involvement at the exposition. Dr. W.E. Upjohn, who would join the Kalamazoo Rotary Club in 1917, represented the Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce and spoke with a San Francisco Chamber of Commerce member. Walter Blinks, Kalamazoo's assistant secretary of the General Gas Light Company, who would join the Kalamazoo Rotary Club in 1916, spoke with a San Francisco representative of the company. It was not all business though. Michigan Senator, William Alden Smith of Michigan, through a special connection, was able to speak with his 80 year old mother living in Santa Anna, California and Frank H. Bowen, manager of Lee & Cady, Wholesale Grocer and one of the twelve 1914 Kalamazoo Rotary Club Charter Members, spoke with a longtime friend living in California. The San Franciscan hosts

then sang, "I Want to Go Back to Michigan," and caused even those at the Park-American Hotel to join in the singing. A rousing rendition of "Dixie" from the San Franciscan concluded the call.

The free 3,000 mile transcontinental phone call between Kalamazoo and San Francisco further demonstrated the importance of the city in both the Michigan and U.S. economy.

July 13-19, 2014: Kalamazoo Rotary Club Welcomes 2nd Lieut. Jack Sims, Kalamazoo's most decorated serviceman on Tuesday, July 7, 1942.

Jack Ahren Sims was born on February 23, 1919 in Kalamazoo. He graduated from Western Michigan University in 1940 with a BA degree. That same year, at the age of 21 Jack entered military service.

It is now 1942. As one of 80 volunteers for an unknown and dangerous mission, Col. Sims (then a 2nd Lieut.) co-piloted one of the 16 B-25 Mitchell medium bombers launched from the deck of the aircraft carrier Hornet on the morning of April 18, 1942. Major John Hilger, second in command to Lt. Col. "Jimmy" Doolittle for the historic Doolittle Raid, chose Sims as his co-pilot for the first bombing of the Japanese Home Islands, a mere four months after the Pearl Harbor attack and U.S. entry into WW II. The Raid raised the morale of the American people and our Allies, showing the Japanese people and their military chiefs that their homeland was no longer impregnable. The Raid eventually triggered the Battle of Midway, which ended Japan's dominance in the Pacific War.

The Raid, memorialized in the book and movie "Thirty Seconds over Tokyo", and more recently, re-lived in significant part in the movie "Pearl Harbor", was an early defining moment in Sims' military career. Flying a fully loaded B-25 bomber off the deck of an aircraft carrier, in choppy seas and into enemy territory thousands of miles from home, had never been attempted before. Having to fly some 400 nautical miles further from the target than planned, because of an early sighting of several Japanese trawlers, meant Sims and the rest of the Raiders took off with almost certain knowledge that they had insufficient fuel to reach their intended destinations in unoccupied China. A crash landing in unknown territory was inevitable. Of the original Raiders, 10% never returned. Four others survived 40 months of solitary confinement in Japanese internment camps.

Sims and his crew flew practically at sea level at an altitude of 50 to 75 feet, and then along the coast of Japan's main island of Honshu. They then rose to a bombing altitude of 1,500 feet as they approached the city of Nagoya to avoid being hit by heavy flak and Japanese fighters. They successfully bombed their four military targets, including the Mitsubishi Aircraft Works.

After heading across the East China Sea, Sims and the rest of the 5 man crew were forced to bail out of the fuel-empty plane as it crashed into unoccupied China. Sims landed on the side of a mountain, causing him to be temporarily "knocked senseless". His pilot, Jack Hilger, suffered broken ribs. They were fortunate to be discovered by Chinese villagers, who at great risk to themselves, tended to them and eventually aided them to find their way to safe haven in Chungking. There they rendezvoused with Doolittle and other Raiders, and received personal decorations from Madame Chaing Kai-shek.

Exactly 80 days after the Doolittle Raid, a now 23 year old Jack is back in Kalamazoo. The day is Tuesday, July 7, 1942. He is to be the honored guest of the Kalamazoo Rotary Club. The pertinent minutes of that meeting read:

“Lieut. Jack Sims, the local boy who helped bomb Tokio last April, was present as a guest, and was introduced by Dale Ogden. He received great applause.”

Jack was reassigned to North Africa, where he flew B-26 Marauder medium bombers. As Squadron Commander of the 444th Bomb Squadron, 320th Bomb Group, attached to the U.S. 12th Air Force under the command of his former Raider commander, now Brig. General "Jimmy" Doolittle, Sims flew 40 bombing missions. Jack was shot down on his 40th mission, over Salerno, Italy.

Upon his return to the states, Sims continued to serve in the Air Force in various capacities, during which time he earned his MBA at the University of Chicago. He spent 4 yrs. at the Air Command and Staff School Air Force Base as a student and later as faculty. He then attended the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base. Sims held several unique and high profile assignments including being named to the position of Chief, USAF Liaison Officer in the U.S. House of Representatives, a position that he held for 6 years. He was later assigned to the U.S. Embassy in London as Chief of the USAF-RAF exchange program. Subsequently, he was back in Washington as Executive Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff, USAF Headquarters.

After 28 years of serving his country, Sims retired from the Air Force in 1968 with a rank of full Colonel with a Command Pilot rating. His awards for valor and service include:

- Legion of Merit (2)
- Distinguished Flying Cross (2)
- Bronze Star
- Air Medal (8)
- Order of Celestial Cloud (Chinese award for the Doolittle-Tokyo Raid)
- European-African-Mideast Campaign
- Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with three Battle Stars
- WWII Victory Medal
- Air Force Longevity Service Award (2)
- Army Commendation Medal
- National Defense Service Medal (2)
- Army Occupation Medal (Japan)
- United Nations Service Medal (Korea)
- Korean Service Medal
- American Defense Service Medal
- Air Force Good Conduct Medal

In 1968, Jack Sims and his wife, Lee Adams Sims, moved to Naples, FL. Jack joined the Rotary shortly thereafter. He received a Paul Harris award.

Sims was recently enshrined in the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame as "an outstanding air and space pioneer", taking his place along side Henry Ford, Charles A. Lindbergh, Clarence "Kelly"

Johnson, and --other aviation pioneers. He also held officer-military pilot membership in the Order of Daedalians, an organization dedicated to ensuring America's preeminent position in air and space. Sims, with the help of A.B. Cook, wrote "First Over Japan", his autobiography, published by Southpointe Press. In Nov. 2006, at the opening of the WWII Memorial Center in Washington, he received the Audie Murphy award for distinguished service to the U.S. military.

Jack passed away on June 9, 2007. He left a legacy for all Americans to remember. But on July, 7, 1942, Jack was just a local boy who helped bomb Tokio, and received great applause from the Kalamazoo Rotary Club members.

July 20-26, 2014: Kalamazoo Rotary Club funds Crippled Children Program and Entertains a Request form the Kalamazoo Public library, Tuesday, July 17, 1934.

The year is 1934, the United States is in the 5th year of the Great Depression. And since the start of the Great Depression the Kalamazoo Rotary Club has lost 20% of its membership.

For decades the Kalamazoo Rotary Club supported various organizations devoted to caring for the physically and mentally challenged children of Kalamazoo County. We supported the Kalamazoo Cribside Society through the collection of "birthday fees" from our members. There were dozens of individual gifts. assessments, We provided transportation of children to clinics and provided funds for an operation of one needy child.

On Tuesday, July 17, 1934 Kalamazoo Rotary Club President George Hopkins "reported on behalf of the Crippled Childrens committee that \$250 be appropriated throughout the year for the service of Mr. and Mrs. Hunri to perform clerical and other detail work necessary in connection with the care and treatment of the crippled children in Kalamazoo County. The resolution passed. While the sum of \$250 may not seem so large, that amount is the equivalent of approximately \$4,400 in today's currency.

During that same meeting, a request by the Kalamazoo Public Library "that a subscription to the Rotarian would be valuable for their reading rooms" was discussed and a motion was made that the Club pay for a one year subscription of the "Rotarian" for the use of the library and that further that the International Year Book for the past should also be purchased at a cost of \$2.00 for the files of the Kalamazoo Public Library. The motion passed.

It seems that no matter how bleak the world looked in 1934, our club found ways to help far less fortunate children and to help another civic organization.

July 27-August 2, 2014: The Kalamazoo Rotary Club Hears Two Exceptional Fine Addresses Regarding the First World War, Tuesday, July 30, 1918.

Our club has always been proud, and deservedly so, of our informative and entertaining weekly programs.

The year is 1918. World War I has been raging for four years and has dominated our country and virtually every aspect of the lives of its people since April, 1918, when America entered the war. So it is not surprising that the War has a strong influence on our weekly club programs.

On Tuesday, July 30, 1918, four months before the War ended, 66 attending Rotary members heard “two exceptionally fine addresses.” Major Jules Bellot, who was sent here by the French government to act as special instructor to American Divisions leaving for France, spoke of the special training needs required of American troops who have not yet seen action. According to his biographer, “Sir John Fraser was one of the most noted English war correspondents. He first visited the United States as a public speaker in 1918 to tell about his experiences in the Great War. He speedily gained the reputation of being the most popular and brilliant speaker that ever visited our country from Great Britain. He was a native of Edinburgh, Scotland. For many years he was Britain's foremost special newspaper correspondent travelling in all parts of the world.

At the beginning of 1918 that Sir John was invited to the United States to deliver a series of speeches in the big cities on the War. He came for ten weeks and remained ten months. He captured America. His wide knowledge of world affairs, his restrained and cultured diction, his delicate humor, together with his striking personality made him the most outstanding figure amongst all British speakers. He was always ready to assist in War work and received the thanks of the United States Treasury for his help in the Liberty Loan drives.

These two men must have delivered two fine speeches, for the minutes of this Rotary meeting state that “Two exceptionally fine addresses were delivered.....”

We had entertaining and informative programs even in our infancy!

August 3,-9, 2014: Serving the Community One Person At A Time; Tim Ray Gives Thanks to the Kalamazoo Rotary Club, Tuesday, August 5, 1930.

We all know how generous this club has been in donating hundreds of thousands of dollars to hundreds of charitable organizations in Kalamazoo and throughout the world. But few know that in our past, we have been of service and helped at least 3 individuals help overcome their unfortunate situations.

For example, in May of 1920, 94 years ago when our club was only 5 years old, Rotarians donated \$160.00 (that is \$1,903 in today's currency) to a poor woman in Kalamazoo with a family of 3 children. The money was used to make the first payment on her home. This would enable her to keep the family together as she could secure laundry to do at home and take care of her children and make monthly payments on the property.

Two years later in April of 1922, Melville Dunkley, Chairman of the club's Boys Work Committee, made a report to the club about a one-armed boy seeking an education, and upon his motion, our club undertook the support of this boy for one year.

And lastly, in September of 1922, Rotarian Louis Rosenbaum read a letter to the club which he had received as to “crippled children” and also produced a picture of Timothy Ray who could not walk. Our club found the resources to send Timothy to our club's clinics for crippled children.

Flash forward eight years to Tuesday, August 5, 1930, our regular weekly meeting at the Park-American Hotel. The honored guest at this meeting is the same Timothy Ray. But this is a different Timothy Ray, for he can now walk. Not only can he now walk, Timothy is now the director of orthopedic records at University Hospital in Ann Arbor. The minutes of that meeting read:

“President Dan introduced Tim Ray, a young man who was enabled to walk thru attention received in the Rotary Club’s clinics for crippled children. Tim told of his experiences and his present position in charge of orthopedic records at the University Hospital in Ann Arbor.”

Service Above Self—serving the community one person at a time.

August 10-16, 2014: Be Careful Of Our Gavel President Joe, For It Is Truly Special and Very International, Tuesday, August 10, 1937.

It is 77 years ago and American is still deep in the midst of the Great Depression. Our club membership is down to 98, a loss of 20% since the start of the Depression in 1929. In 1937, the U.S. economy has been growing slightly for three years, thanks in part to government programs aimed at ending the deep recession. But the unemployment rate in Kalamazoo County is reportedly 25%.

Harold B. Allen was our president from 1931 to 1932. Harold must have been quite a man for he is remembered in our club minutes as giving several short, interesting talks to the club throughout his membership. You see, much of our weekly programs then involved members simply telling stories of their travels and experiences, giving lectures or giving book and poetry readings.

At our regular Tuesday noon meeting, August 10, 1937, at the Columbia Hotel, former Kalamazoo Rotary Club President Allen, addressed the club with a wonderful bit of history about our own club’s gavel. When Harold became our club President in 1931, he wrote diligently wrote letters to clubs in 62 countries asking for samples of native wood. He then miraculously procured the wood from 55 countries and had a gavel made from these pieces. Our gavel is therefore truly international in character and should remind our members of the scope of Rotary. Thank you former President Harold B. Allen!

August 17-August 23, 2014: Service Above Self - Serving our Country in Time of War, Wednesday, August 26, 1942.

It is August 1942. Pearl Harbor occurred 8 months earlier, the World is at war again for the second time in less than 21 years and America is firmly on a wartime footing. In July of 1942 Rotary International sent a questionnaire to all Rotary Clubs asking about the war activities of its members. Of our club membership of 116, 61 or 53%, fill out the questionnaire and report they are participating in the war effort. This report sent by our club to Rotary International is dated August 26, 1942 and reads in part:

“The club has within its membership:

The President of the local USO (United Service Organization)

Secretary of the Defense Council

Instructor of first aid

Senior Air Warden

Supervisor local Control Center

The Director of Public Utilities in Civil Defense

A director of Victory Speakers' Bureau

Chairman Scrap Rubber Committee

Chairman Sales of Stamps Committee

Vice Chairman Red Cross Disaster Committee

Chairman of the U.S. Treasury Victory Fund Committee for 9 Counties

Member of the War Rationing Board

Medical Examiner for the Induction Center

Eleven members of the club have joined the colors (Army, Navy, Marines)

Four have donated to a blood bank

Eight are Air Raid Wardens

Three have joined the Civil Air Patrol

Seven have taken first aid courses

Four members are directing 100% war work factories

Two directing other war work factories

One directing Army construction work

One working in the Civil Air Patrol

Six selling war bonds

One in National Association of Automobile Dealers work, Ordinance Department

One member of the Speakers' Bureau

Members are working with the Red Cross Emergency Committee, Victory Gardens, on Civilian Defense Enrollment, on Air Raid Precautions Committee, on Pilot Ground Training Courses, on Red Cross Emergency Housing, Share-The-Ride Campaign.

Every member has purchased War Bonds.

The Club has sponsored a Victory Book Collection, donated to the Rotary Relief Fund, aided in Navy Days, had a Lt. Commander of the Navy as a speaker, gave a meeting to Chemical Warfare under a Major at Fort Custer; Held meeting honoring Lt. Sims, local boy who was with Doolittle over Tokyo; meeting on Air Training Work at Western Michigan College; a meeting addressed by officer of the local Control Center; a meeting on subject of Magnesium, Tin and Rubber shortage.”

We have every right to be proud of our club and its outstanding war time contributions to our country and our community!

August 24-30, 2014: Our Club Swiftly Responds to the Passage of the 19th Amendment, Tuesday, August 24, 1920.

It is August 1920. The Versailles Treaty ending World War I barely one year old and the world is at peace. In America, it is now time to focus on domestic and social issues. Social change, in the form of the Women’s Suffrage Movement, is within days of securing what has taken 42 years to achieve, the ratification of the 19th amendment to our constitution. The amendment was the culmination of the women's suffrage movement in the United States, which fought at both state and national levels to achieve the vote for women. Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton drafted the amendment and first introduced it in 1878; it was forty-one years later, in 1919, when Congress submitted the amendment to the states for ratification. A year later, it was ratified by the requisite number of states, with Tennessee's ratification on August 18 being the final and 36th vote needed to add the amendment to the Constitution. Incidentally, Michigan was the 3rd state to ratify the amendment having done so on June 10, 1919.

The text of the 19th amendment simply reads: “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

And how did the then all male Kalamazoo Rotary Club respond to this monumental piece of legislation? On Tuesday, August 24, 1920, at our club’s regular meeting, just six days after the passage of the 19th amendment, our club voted to donate the sum of \$10.00 to the Kalamazoo Women’s Voters League to support their efforts. That is the equivalent of \$481 in today’s currency. Thank you Kalamazoo Rotary Club for responding so swiftly and generously to the 19th amendment.

And, Happy 94th Birthday to the 19th Amendment

August 31-September 6, 2014: The Kalamazoo Rotary Club “Goes Hollywood” to Support World War II War Bond Sales, Tuesday, September 8, 1942.

In a highly unusual move, President Merton S. Fogerty suspended the regular Tuesday noon meeting of the Kalamazoo Rotary Club. Our club met later that evening on September 8 with other Kalamazoo service clubs at the Masonic Temple, which still serves our community, located at 309 N. Rose. The reason for the evening meeting? Actor James Cagney, who had just been elected President of the Screen Actors Guild one week earlier, was touring the country promoting the sale of War Bonds. He was one of several Hollywood actors and actresses such as Mickey Rooney, Fred Astaire, Harpo Marx, Greer Garson who now devoted their time to serve their country by promoting War Bonds. The musical “Yankee Doodle Dandy” in which Cagney starred and would later receive an Oscar for Best Actor for his energetic portrayal of George M. Cohen, was released just 3 months earlier in June.

And now, James Cagney, perhaps on a slightly smaller stage within the Masonic Temple, is a guest of our club’s War Bond Committee. Cagney’s role that night was to auction off the war bonds with the help of Rotarian Smith Burnham. Rotarians attending the affair were required to purchase a war bond and dinner ticket. A total of 53 Rotarians, just less than half of our total membership attended and purchased bonds having a value of \$8,281. That is the equivalent of \$121,039 in today’s currency!

The show must go on, even during war. Thank you Rotary for so generously supporting our Country!

September 7-13, 2014: Kalamazoo Rotary Club Takes the Initiative in Planning, Endorsing and Promoting “Prosperity Week in Kalamazoo”, Tuesday, September 7, 1915.

At the weekly meeting of the Kalamazoo Rotary Club held at the Park-American Hotel on Tuesday, September 7, 1915, a motion was passed that next “Wednesday evening, September the fifteenth, was made the next meeting time of the Rotary Club at which meeting Prosperity Week was to be given all the impetus possible, the meeting to be a Prosperity Week in Kalamazoo presentation.”

What was Prosperity Week? Well, as you recall, at the San Francisco Panama-Pacific Exposition held in early 1915, Kalamazoo Day was celebrated on June 1. The Panama-Pacific Exposition, like all world’s fairs, displayed the latest scientific innovations from the U.S.A. and countries around the world. Kalamazoo’s industrial success in the local, national, and international markets made it deserving of special recognition at the exposition. Kalamazoo was an economic leader with such companies as the Kalamazoo Stove Company, the Upjohn Company, and especially its paper and celery industries. Kalamazoo's industries were to have the honor of serving as the focus for the day at this international event. Kalamazoo was one of only a small number of industrial cities its size selected for recognition at the fair.

Building upon the momentum gathered from the Panama-Pacific Exposition, Prosperity Week provided another venue, this time local, to show the world what Kalamazoo’s industrial success.

Prosperity Week, a weeklong exposition celebrating Kalamazoo's many manufacturing, agricultural and educational advantages, was held October 4-9, 1915 throughout the city. City commissioners assured the public that Prosperity Week would be the greatest celebration in the history of Kalamazoo. The following is an edited Kalamazoo Gazette newspaper article dated Saturday, September 11, 1915, explaining the impetus of Prosperity Week:

Mass Meeting Hears Plans for Oct. 4-9

Spirit of Enthusiastic Cooperation Marks Prosperity Gathering

Hundred Prominent Men Present

Commissioners Assure Auditors Greatest Celebration in History of Kalamazoo

More than 100 Kalamazoo manufacturers, retailers, and jobbers, representing the booster contingent of a corps of commissioners and committeemen selected to draw up final plans for the big Prosperity Week program to be staged here October 4-9 attended an enthusiastic business meeting and banquet held Friday evening in the Park-American hotel. The meeting marked a successful windup in the preliminary stages of preparation for the great Prosperity Week attractions.

Optimism reigned supreme and a spirit of enthusiastic co-operation dominated the meeting. Commissioners reported successful campaigns in the sale of floor space for the big "Made for You in Kalamazoo" exhibits to be held in the armory and the Knights of Pythias temple. All contracts for these shows are to be closed within the next few days. Nearly \$5,000 (approximately \$117,362 in today's currency) worth of exhibit space has already been reserved by manufacturers and retailers. In connection with the show Kalamazoo county farmers will have a mammoth exhibit of Kalamazoo grown products.

Now, we will be hearing much more about Prosperity Week in the coming weeks as this truly was Kalamazoo's Greatest Celebration in its History.

Many Feature Attractions

Prosperity Week, as announced by Commissioner Harry Allyn (Kalamazoo Rotary Club member, 1919) will be featured by an exceptionally elaborate array of "big time" attractions. A 100-mile automobile race which bids fair to repeat the sensational performance of the world's most daring speed kings at Recreation park a few weeks ago, is billed as a headliner during Prosperity week. Two Major league ball games to be played at Recreation park during the week are also being arranged. There is also a possibility of a football game being played on the Normal (Western Michigan University) field between two leading universities of the country and a field day is also being considered by the commissioners.

A brass band tournament in which all organizations of Kalamazoo county will be qualified to participate is scheduled as the main attraction for one day. Aided by the state militia there is a possibility of a Wild West show being staged. In addition to the big attractions which will draw

thousands of visitors to Kalamazoo, doll pageants, baby contests, open air movie shows, parades, exhibits, and vaudeville stunts will be staged during the week.

One of the feature events of the week has been titled "Ford Day." It is expected that hundreds of Ford Motor car owners will take part in a big parade. Representatives of the Ford Motor Car company at Detroit will be here to head the cavalcade. The famous Ford band of 250 pieces will also come to Kalamazoo to take part in the celebration. A Ford family picnic will be held in Bronson park at noon at which time Henry Ford is booked to deliver an address.

Following the announcement of the general program for Prosperity Week, representative business men of the city expressed their views of the possibilities and advantages to be gained by manufacturers and retailers in assuming an active part in the big progressive movement. George Pulfer (first Kalamazoo Rotary Club President, 1915-1918) acted in the capacity of toastmaster.

Among those who addressed the meeting were H. E. Johnson (Kalamazoo Rotary Club member, 1915), Jacob Kindleberger (Kalamazoo Rotary Club member, 1915), W. O. Jones, Jason Woodman, O. B. Haas, Harry Allyn (Kalamazoo Rotary Club member, 1919), C. Allen Fox (Kalamazoo Rotary member, 1916), Col. P. L. Abbey, William H. Smith, Geo. P. Wigginton (Kalamazoo Rotary Club Charter Member, 1915), Ezra Levias, Earl Kettle (Kalamazoo Rotary Club member, 1915), and Elton R. Eaton. The last two speakers representing Kalamazoo's daily papers promised local support to Prosperity Week and in spreading broadcast the possibilities, advantages and opportunities to be enjoyed in Kalamazoo.

Celery growers of Kalamazoo and vicinity have expressed a desire to play an important part in the Prosperity Week program. Mass meetings of the celery growers are being arranged and it has been decided to present passengers at all depots in the city with a stalk of Kalamazoo celery contained in an attractive wrapper. The souvenirs will be given away to visitors during the week and Kalamazoo will receive nation-wide publicity through the efforts of the men in charge of the big Prosperity Week program

September 14-20, 2014: Special Kalamazoo Rotary Club Wednesday night meeting supporting Prosperity Week in Kalamazoo is reported in the Kalamazoo Gazette.

On Thursday, September 16, 1915, the Kalamazoo Gazette featured the following article on the Kalamazoo Rotary Club's special Wednesday night meeting enthusiastically endorsing Prosperity Week in Kalamazoo. Now, what is important to understand is that in September of 1915, the club was less than six months old and had perhaps 15 members. Here is the complete text of complete article:

Rotarians Enthused on Prosperity Idea

Club Votes to Take Exhibition Space in Armory At Meeting Last Night

“All existing records for pepper and enthusiasm were broken last night at the big special meeting of the Kalamazoo Rotary Club held at the Park-American hotel to discuss Prosperity Week. From start to finish the members were strong in their full endorsement of the plans for the big week of October 4 to 9.

Roytary President George B. Pulfer fired the first gun by giving his personal endorsement and support to the project. He was closely followed by Harry Allyn (Kalamazoo Rotary Club member, 1919) who outlined the general plan for Kalamazoo’s biggest week. The commissioners who were specially invited guests for the evening all talked in their turn. C. A Fox (Kalamazoo Rotary Club member, 1916) made a report of what space had been sold. His report was received enthusiastically. Harry Georgia gave a detailed report of just what had been accomplished by his commission in regard to decorations, parades and contests. R. E. Keller (Kalamazoo Rotary Club member, 1916) remarked on the progress that had been made by his commission in arranging for exhibition space, concessions and the entertainment to be staged by public schools. Fred Appledorn (Kalamazoo Rotary Club member, 1917) told of the unprecedented attitude of the farmers toward Prosperity Week and just what they were trying to do. O. B. Towne (Kalamazoo Rotary Club member, 1915) explained in detail the plans and progress that had been made to date by his committees in arranging and staging the Poster and Better Babies contests, as well as the big doll’s pageant which will be put on by the school children of the parochial and public schools. F. H. Pulfer (Kalamazoo Rotary Club member, 1922) outlined the general plans of the of the publicity committee and showed just what they are doing to place Kalamazoo before the general public.

Just how high the enthusiasm reached may best be judged by the fact that at the end of the meeting the Rotary club voted to sign up for a space in the Armory exhibiting hall. In this space will be placed the business cards of all members of the local Rotary club.

With such organizations as this club taking the initiative in helping the general movement along, there is no doubt but that Prosperity Week will be an even greater success than the commissioners ever dreamed of in their preliminary outline.

(Spoken with emphasis) Too much credit cannot be given the Kalamazoo Rotary club for their endorsement and for the enthusiasm that was displayed last night.”

Thank you Kalamazoo Rotary for providing the leadership, spirit and enthusiasm that has helped make this city a better place to live.

September 21-27, 2014: Brother of the Kalamazoo Rotary President and Future Rotary Member Writes Article in the Kalamazoo Gazette Explaining the Importance of Prosperity Week, September 18, 1915.

Last week we heard about the vital and enthusiastic role our young club played in organizing and promoting Prosperity Week. This week we will hear about the Kalamazoo Advantage. Now, I am not talking about our world famous effort to assist Kalamazoo public high school graduates enter Michigan colleges and universities, I am talking about the Kalamazoo Advantage, 1915 style. Yes, the term “Kalamazoo Advantage” was first coined in 1915 to communicate the commercial, educational, industrial advantages Kalamazoo had over other cities.

F. Harold Pulfer (Kalamazoo Rotary Club member, 1922) and brother of George B. Pulfer (Kalamazoo Rotary Club Charter Member, 1915) and our first president from 1915-18, wrote a newspaper article explaining the importance of Prosperity Week to Kalamazoo and Southwest Michigan. The following is that article as it appeared in the Saturday, September 18, 1915 edition of the Kalamazoo Gazette:

What Prosperity Week Movement Means to City

Man Who is Making City's Coming Celebration Known Throughout United States Outlines Oct. 4 to 9 Plans

What the Panama-Pacific exposition is to San Francisco, and what the World's Fair was to Chicago, Prosperity Week will be to Kalamazoo.

It does not represent a carnival, exhibition or fair promoted by outside interests, by men who expect only selfish personal gain. It is planned by the largest men in the city, men of affairs, men who are accustomed to doing things. It is being accomplished by a body who believes in absolute possibilities, men who are not mere dreamers. When such men are banded together for a common purpose, that purpose will be accomplished. The commissioners, assistant commissioners and committeemen for Kalamazoo's Prosperity Week are able, forceful and determined men, and with that co-operative spirit which has manifested itself from the very first, success is assured.

Kalamazoo's Advantage

It is not a rehabilitation, a restoration to our former rank. It is more than this and the results will be more than transient. First the city is determined to show the world just what it is that entitles her to a place in the fore rank among cities. Kalamazoo is possessed of a greater variety of successful industries than any other city of its size in the United States. Its school system is second to none. As a residential city it cannot be equaled because of its abundant advantages. Its technical facilities make it of inestimable value when considered from an industrial standpoint. Why, if we are proud of our city and its advantages, should we not proclaim them far and wide? If we are able to show them what we have to offer, this, then, is infinitely better. This we propose to do, realizing that it is necessary to outdo any previous effort ever made by any city.

Prosperity Week will be one long gala week; not only this, but it will be educational in character and each and every attraction will be the best obtainable. Now here are a few of the attractions which will be staged during the eventful week:

The grand exhibition by manufacturers, jobbers and retailers at the State Armory and in the spacious auditorium of the Knights of Pythias castle.

A band tournament consisting of bands from all parts of the country. This in itself will be well worth travelling a hundred miles to see.

A Wild West show at Recreation park, the like of which has never been seen before. This will be given by two companies of infantry from the state militia, and one troop of cavalry.

Great Farm Exhibit

The farmers exhibit will attract tillers of the soil from far and wide. An exhibit of farm products such Kalamazoo County has not been witnessed in years will be made at this time. More than six hundred dollars (\$14,083 in today's currency) in prizes will be awarded.

A better Babies contest which will show the possibilities in the improvement of our progeny will be one of the big attractions of Prosperity Week. Hundreds of little ones have already been entered.

Then there will be the one-hundred mile Automobile race, in which are entered some of the biggest men in this thrilling sport.

The baseball game planned between the Detroit Tigers and the Browns of St. Louis, or other teams of equal class, will add to the zest of those interested in the national game.

An immense School exhibit, showing the comparative work of the pupils in the schools of Kalamazoo and vicinity, are already well under way.

The Floral parade will be one of the big features which will bring thousands of people to the city. Munificent prizes will be awarded.

Mammoth Celery Exhibit

None the less attractive will be Ford Day when there will be a gathering of the owners of Ford cars from all sections of southern Michigan and northern Indiana. Prizes will be awarded for the most attractively decorated car in the Ford parade. A speech in Bronson park by one of the officers of the great Ford organization at Detroit will be an incidental feature.

A mammoth Celery exhibit is also being planned, which will illustrate one of Kalamazoo's important industries. Every train passing through Kalamazoo during Prosperity Week will have delivered to its passengers a sample bunch of Kalamazoo celery, wrapped in parchment paper, another of our city's far-famed products.

A Doll pageant, which will make a special appeal to the little people, will be one of the most interesting sights ever staged in any city. It is expected that there will take part in this over seven hundred school children. They will represent a variety of episodes in the history of Kalamazoo county, many fairy tales, nursery rhymes, various burlesques, etc., and altogether will form an attraction well worth traveling many miles to see.

The free moving picture feature films for this week will be another attraction of unusual merit. There will be displayed the Dawn of Commerce, the Dawn of Power, and the Dawn of Plenty."

Now, I for one, cannot help but be moved by the efforts of our first generation of Kalamazoo Rotary Club members and by what they accomplished for our city in planning and promoting Prosperity Week. Thank you Charter Members!

September 28-October 4, 2014: Kalamazoo Rotary Club Honors One of Its Own and One of Kalamazoo's Finest Leaders, Dwight B. Waldo, Tuesday, October 4, 1938.

It is October 4, 1938. The country is still mired in the Depression. The Munich Agreement, which permitted Nazi Germany's annexation of portions of Czechoslovakia along the country's borders, was signed only 6 days earlier. This agreement is now widely regarded as the last great act of appeasement by England and France toward Germany. World War II will begin in just 11 months.

But things are somewhat brighter in Kalamazoo. We are undergoing somewhat of a building boom. Walwood Hall (now Walwood Union) has just been completed. And ground has just been broken for the construction of Waldo Stadium, which has a budget of \$250,000, roughly \$4.2 million in today's dollars.

At our Tuesday, October 4, 1938 meeting held at the Columbia Hotel, Rotarian Dunlap Clark spoke in favor of our club purchasing a box at Waldo Stadium for the sum of \$200, which in today's currency would be approximately \$3,400. Organizations purchasing stadium boxes would have a commemorative engraved bronze plate attached to their box. It was moved by Peter Schram and seconded by George Hopkins that the matter be referred to the Board for action. After the conclusion of our regular meeting, the Board immediately met at the recently completed Walwood Hall. The board approved that the Rotary Club purchase a box in the new Waldo Stadium.

Upon hearing the news, then Western State Teachers College President Paul Sangren sent a letter to our club asking how we would like to have our bronze plate engraved. Our club responded that the lettering on our plate would simply read: In Honor of Rotarian Dwight B. Waldo.

Dr. Dwight B. Waldo was the first President of Western Michigan University. Waldo was born in Arcade, N.Y. but spent his childhood in Plainwell. Waldo was elected principal of WMU in 1904. He served as president from 1904 through 1936. When Western Michigan first opened, it was known as the Western State Normal School and later as Western State Teachers College. One of Waldo's first moves, creating a rural school department, cemented WMU as a teaching college. It was the first such department in the nation and prepared teachers to effectively educate students in rural parts of America. Waldo also firmly believed in diversity on campus, and during his tenure many females and minorities were given the opportunity to attend the college.

He also served as one of the first instructors at WMU. Waldo is credited with keeping WMU open when many government officials wanted to shut it down during the Great Depression. In addition to the school's stadium, the school's library is named in his honor.

Dwight Waldo was also a Kalamazoo Rotarian, having joined our club in 1918, three years after our founding. He would remain a member until his passing. President Waldo was a driving force within our club, his name very frequently found within our club's minutes. He would also be a frequent program speaker, informing our membership about recent developments on campus and higher education in general.

Waldo Stadium was dedicated on October 7, 1939, complete with a Western State Teachers College victory over Miami of Ohio, 6-0. Rotarian Dwight Waldo would pass away just 22 days later on October 29, 1939.

Now, we are working with Western Michigan University to determine whatever happened to this bronze plate after Waldo Stadium was renovated in 1989 and we will report back to the membership.

October 5-11, 2014: Kalamazoo Rotary Club Raises Thousands for the Boy Scouts in a New York Minute, Tuesday, October 16, 1923.

It is 1923, the early stages of the Roaring '20s'. The total federal budget is but \$3.14 billion. The unemployment rate is 2.4% and the cost of a first class stamp is \$.02. The population of Kalamazoo is 48,400. Entry into World War I brought economic expansion to Michigan but that came to an end in the 1920s'. Michigan began to suffer hard time long before the crash of 1929. The value of Michigan's agricultural products peaked in 1920, and the number of farms declined during the 1920s'. The lumber industry was hit hard. For the auto industry, the 1920s' was a period of turbulence, with frequent production slowdowns and recurring worker layoffs. As one social commentator wrote, "The Great War was followed by disillusionment, the breakdown of social and moral values, and the accumulation of the quick buck. These were the days of Prohibition and the Jazz Age. People enjoyed living, and they thought they had no serious problems.

Well, our members in 1923 must have enjoyed living and thought they had no serious problems at our regular weekly meeting on Tuesday, October 16 held at the Park-American Hotel. At that meeting, Mr. Judson P. Freeman, a Rotarian from Chicago and the Western Representative of the National Boy Scouts was the honored speaker. The meeting began with Kalamazoo Rotarian John Byrne outlining to the club what was being done to finance the Kalamazoo Boy Scouts for the year 1923-24. Rotarian Jacob Kindelberger, President of the Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Company located in Parchment, then made the motion to take a recess at this time and see how much money could be raised in the few minutes before Mr. Freeman would address the club. The club held a brief recess following remarks made by Rotarians Charlie Hays and Reverend John Dunning about what the Boy Scouts meant to Kalamazoo. Ten minutes later, Rotarian Smith Burnham introduced Mr. Freeman who, the minutes read, "gave a most wonderful talk on the Boy Scouts and what good they were doing. Everybody enjoyed Judson's talk."

Rotarian John Byrnes then reported that Rotarians had subscribed \$1,339 during the ten minute recess, an astonishing total of \$18,600 in today's currency. This amount, coupled with \$3,205 donated by our club to the Boy Scouts earlier in the month, meant that our club had donated a

total of \$4,544 to the Boy Scouts in 1923. This is a total of a staggering \$63,200 in today's currency.

Our club had a long and heartfelt relationship with the Boy Scouts and on October 16, 1923, our club showed what "Service Above Self" was all about, in a New York minute, or at least ten Kalamazoo minutes.

October 12-18, 2014: Kalamazoo High School Football Team Dressed for Success, Tuesday, October 25, 1921.

It is 1921 and our country is trying to put to rest, at least officially, World War I. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery is dedicated with the first burial on November 11. And on July 2, Congress passes a joint resolution finally declaring the official end of World War I. But in Kalamazoo in October, our club has one thing on its mind.....football. Apparently, the football jerseys (which were actually sweaters in those days) of Kalamazoo High School were in tatters, a situation that came to the attention of not only our club, but other Kalamazoo service clubs as well.

At its regular weekly meeting held at the Park-American Hotel on Tuesday, October 25, President Otis Earl allows Rotarian Bertrand Hooper to address our club. Mr. Hooper states that other Kalamazoo service clubs wished our club to join them in buying football sweaters for the high school football team. During the debate, it was determined that our club's share would be \$60, about \$800 in today's currency. A motion was made by Rotarian Bertrand and seconded by Rotarian Wiggington that this sum be appropriated as our portion. Motion carried.

We have heard stories of our club's generosity to various causes, charities, service organizations and individuals. It is heartening to know that our club cared about how our city's only high school football team presented themselves on the playing field. After all, they represented our city.

October 19-25, 2014: The Warm, Wonderful Relationship Between Our Club and Col. Joseph B. Westnedge, One of Kalamazoo's Giants, September 4, 1917, September 18, 1917, October 2, 1917 and October 15, 1918.

It is September 1917 and the country is preparing for the Great War. In Kalamazoo, the 126th Infantry, made up solely of Michigan National Guardsmen, has already undergone training at Ft. Custer and is ready to depart to Waco, Texas for additional training. The 126th Infantry, attached to the 32nd Michigan Regiment, will be one of the first American units sent overseas. Its commander is Col. Joseph B. Westnedge. Born in 1872 of an old Kalamazoo family, Westnedge first entered military life when he joined the Michigan National Guard in 1894. He later attended Kalamazoo College where, as star halfback, he led the team to an undefeated season in 1895. He later served as Captain during the Spanish-American War and then Colonel after his service on the Mexican border in 1916. In April 1917 when the United States declared war on Germany, Col. Westnedge is a manager at a Kalamazoo paper company. Answering the nation's call to arms, Westnedge remarked: "We are going, perhaps to never to return, and the parting is hard, but a call greater than any other summons us away."

At our Tuesday September 4, 1917 meeting, one month before the Michigan 32nd Regiment departed for Waco, Texas, on the motion of Charles B. Hays, duly supported, Resolved: That Col. Joseph B. Westnedge, of the 32nd Michigan Regiment, be elected to honorary membership in our organization. Motion carried unanimously. Our club was just beginning to honor this man.

Two weeks later at our Tuesday, September 18, 1917 meeting, George Wigginton made the announcement that a new Buick automobile, costing \$850, had been placed aboard the train carrying our 32nd Regiment to Waco, Texas and was to be presented to our honorary member, Col. Joseph B. Westnedge, as an act of appreciation of the service he is rendering his country during these trying times and to assist him in performing this service. Mr. Wigginton stated that the club would receive credit for the gift as he was assured the club would raise the necessary funds from our membership.

Two weeks later at our regular Tuesday, October 2, 1917 meeting, Herbert Johnson reported that \$500 had been raised for the automobile and that there were still 35 members who had not yet responded. One month later, the full \$850 had been raised from our membership.

The 32nd Division arrived in France in March, 1918. Because of their effectiveness and power of the 32nd, they began to pick up nicknames. The 32nd began to be called the "Red Arrow Army", signifying that the division shot through every line the enemy put before it. Its battle flag would become that Red Arrow.....sound familiar? They also got a nickname from the French – "Les Terribles" due to their unwavering spirit. After the 2nd Battle of The Marne, U.S. troops including the 126th infantry were sent to the Argonne forest in what would be the largest American effort in the war. The 126th infantry broke the German Hindenberg Line and became the first Americans to set foot on German soil in May, 1918. Over eight days of fighting, the 3,376 men of the 126th suffered 882 casualties.

News of the heroics of the Col. Westnedge led 126th filtered back to Kalamazoo. At our regular Tuesday October 15, 1918, Rotarian Fred Appledorn presented a motion: "Resolved: That a committee of five be appointed to take with our City Commissioners the matter of having one of our streets named "Westnedge Avenue" in honor and recognition of the splendid work done by our fellow member in France." The motion was carried unanimously.

Twenty two days later, on November 6, 1918, Westnedge was ordered to be hospitalized after contracting tonsillitis, which may have been triggered by poison gas. Twenty days later, on November 26, 1918, just 15 days after the war had ended, Colonel Westnedge died from complications of tonsillitis and pericarditis, the inflammation of the muscles that hold the heart in place. He was buried in Nantes, France, but his body was later brought back to Kalamazoo two years later and reburied at Riverside Cemetery

Local mourning for "Colonel Joe" was widespread; thousands of people lined the streets for his funeral procession. Throughout the war, Col. Joe was enormously popular with his troops as he was always concerned with their well-being. Westnedge led as an equal, not taking advantage of his rank. On one occasion, Westnedge sat in a shell hole for 11 hours to personally set up telegraph equipment. He was awarded the French Croix De Guerre and the American Distinguished Service Cross.

In 1920 the City acted upon our resolution and renamed West Street “Westnedge Avenue” honoring both Col. Westnedge and his brother Richard who preceded him in death in the Spanish-American War. The City also renamed the old cemetery on West Street “Joseph B. Westnedge Park.”

Rotarian Col. Joe did not live to see Westnedge Ave. nor the park that bears his name. But, I am thankful that he did get to experience the warmth, fellowship and generosity of his and our Rotary Club.

So, the next time you are driving on Westnedge Ave., first remember, and then tell the rest of the story about what our club did for Col. Joe; an honorary club membership, a new automobile, and a resolution for the naming of a Kalamazoo street in his honor just 42 days before he passed. Better yet, think about what Col. Joe did for us and what he said upon answering his country’s call to arms: We are going, perhaps never to return, and the parting is hard, but a call greater than any other summons us away.” Service Above Self.

October 26-Nov. 1, 2014: Our Club Responds to an International Plea for Help, Tuesday, October 24, 1916.

It is the autumn of 1916 and the world is at war. Our country is not yet officially engaged in the great conflict but unofficially our nation’s sympathy rest with the European democracies and their friends. The level of casualties of the Great War are cataclysmic. Field hospitals, aid stations, and behind the lines hospital are at first ill-equipped to handle the wounded, have now simply been overwhelmed. In response, governments and health care organizations are pleading for help in any form.

At our regular Tuesday, October 24, 1916 meeting at the Park-American Hotel, it was moved and seconded to send Sir. Edmund Walker, Treasurer of the British Red Cross Committee at Toronto, Canada, the sum of \$25.00 (approximately \$550 in today’s currency) in response to an appeal from this Society for aid. The motion carried. Our club, barely a year and half old, responded, perhaps knowing that one day in the near future our country would be fighting alongside those European democracies, responded. Service Above Self.

November 2-8, 2014: Watching Election Returns the Old Fashioned Way, Tuesday, November 7, 1916.

The month of November has always been a busy month for our club. Much of our energies were devoted to preparing for charitable work for the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. But this Rotary moment is bound up in another American November tradition, elections.

It is November 1916 and the Great War is into its third year with stalemate on both land and sea. Our country will not yet join this conflict for six more months, April 1917. Most eyes of the world are cast upon the events in Europe. But on Tuesday, November 7, 1916, the eyes of the nation are on the 1916 elections! I know we are all so glad that last Tuesday’s elections are over and we can return to far lighter postal deliveries and hopefully more civility from our elected

officials. But apparently, our club, especially armed with the latest in technology, could not wait until the following day to read the election results from our city's two newspapers. For on the evening of Tuesday, November 7, 1916, our club held an open meeting at the Park-American Hotel during which the election returns were received over the Western Union wire and also by a special telephone service by the courtesy of Rotarian Emmet Platt. According to the minutes of this meeting: "A buffet luncheon was served during the evening. A good crowd of Rotarians, their wives and friends attended."

In case you were wondering, after a hard-fought contest, incumbent Democratic President Woodrow Wilson defeated Republican Supreme Court Justice Charles Evan Hughes by nearly 600,000 votes in the popular vote and secured a narrow Electoral College margin by winning several swing states by razor-thin margins.

And in our state, Republican Albert Edison Sleeper (I kid you not!) awoke lethargic Michigan voters and defeated Democrat Edwin F. Street to become Michigan's 29th governor.

November 9-15, 2014: We have two Rotary moments for this week.

First, President of Rotary International Speaks at the 50th-Golden Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo, Friday, November 13, 1964, County Center, now known as the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds.

The theme of our 50th anniversary celebration of the Kalamazoo Rotary Club was "Hat's off, then, to the past.....but Coats off to the future!"

The agenda for that evening's celebration was:

The Star Spangled Banner

Invocation.....Rotarian Thomas Wylie

Dinner

Show Boat Melodies.....Rotary Club of Vicksburg

Introductions.....Henry L. Rohs, President

Introduction of the President of Rotary International.....District Governor Donald Doubleday

"Pictures in the Hallway".....Charles W. Pettengill

Charles W. Pettengill was the fourth International President to visit our club during his time in office. The others were A. Z. Baker, of Cleveland (1955-56), Tom Warren, of England, (1944-45), Frank L. Mulholland of Toledo (1914-15).

And, as you all know, our incoming International President will be speaking to us next year at our 100th anniversary celebration!

And second, due to the outbreak of Spanish flu after World War I, our club cancelled five meetings during October, November and December of 1919, to help stem the infection.

The influenza outbreak of 1918-1919 began its widespread destruction in September of 1918. Before the outbreak was over, more than twenty-five percent of the United States population became ill. The influenza outbreak killed approximately fifty million people worldwide and is considered to be the “world’s worst pandemic” since the onset of written history. This disease outbreak, spread by the massive movements of troops worldwide after the war, killed more people than the Great War itself.

Like most of the United States, the influenza outbreak hit Kalamazoo in September of 1918. Although the *Kalamazoo Gazette* had been following the national stories (including infection outbreaks in Chicago and New York), it is not until the September 25, 1918 edition that it began to publish about local fear of the pandemic. The article discussed that with 40,000 soldiers stationed at Camp Custer, keeping infection out of the camp was almost impossible. The article also discussed the steps that Camp Custer officials were taking in order to avoid infection.

Despite these efforts, Camp Custer and the Kalamazoo area were unable to avoid mass flu infection. On September 30, 1918, the *Kalamazoo Gazette* announced that the city had been struck hard with the flu. The article stated that there was no recorded number of outbreaks, but that the city estimates that around 5% of the population (or 2,500 people) were infected. Medical officials warned that the only way to prevent oneself from obtaining the disease is to avoid those who are infected. Along with this, those infected should refrain from social gatherings and should be confined to bed. On October 3, 1918, the *Kalamazoo Gazette* announced that 4,000 men were infected at Camp Custer. As a result of the rapid spread of the infection, the camp and the city was forced to cancel all social activities (athletics, singing and theater productions, trips to town and church, etc.) in order to focus on fighting the flu.

By the time the epidemic has run its course (April 1919), 4,026 cases of influenza had been reported in Kalamazoo including 126 deaths.

November 16-22, 2014: First, Our club Prepares For the Triumphant Return of One of Its Own, Tuesday, November 19, 1918, and Second, Our Club Prepares To March En Masse For the Armistice Day Celebration, Tuesday, November 4, 1919.

Today we have a follow-up story on Honorary Rotarian Col. Joe Westnedge. As you recall, our club had a very close relationship with Joe Westnedge, one of the giants of this community. At our regular meeting on Tuesday, November 19, 1918, 8 days after an armistice was declared effectively ending the Great War, a Rotary club committee was created to consider plans for a suitable welcome for our fellow member Col. Joe Westnedge and his boys upon their return from Germany. Tragically, Col. Joe passed away 7 days later. Given the state of communications at that time, it is highly unlikely Col. Westnedge ever heard of our plans for his triumphant return.

Less than a year later, our club discussed city’s plans for the first official Armistice Day Celebration and parade. At our regular meeting at the Park-American Hotel on Tuesday, November 4, 1919, our club discussed the city’s plans for the Armistice Day Celebration and,

after considerable discussion a number of motions with amendments were made and seconded. Finally a motion was passed to have our club represented in the parade with a float and with all members marching in a body carried. It is important to note that the motion to have all of our membership march was not an empty gesture. For two weeks later, 6 of our membership were fined 10 cents each for failing to not march in the parade.

November 23-29, 2014: Our Club Partners With the Kiwanis Club To Create Camp Roto-Kiwan,
Tuesday, November 25, 1919.

As you know, our club had a warm relationship with the Boy Scouts in our early days. On Tuesday, November 25, 1919, our club had an unusual joint evening meeting with the Kalamazoo Kiwanis Club at the Park-American Hotel. Rotarian Rev. John presided over this dual meeting. Mr. A. S. Burrows, a local Boy Scout executive, gave an update on the work the 400 Kalamazoo Boy Scouts had done for the community. He and local scoutmaster Dan Beard said that in order to carry on the work of the 400 boys, a total of \$5,000 (\$68,600 in today's currency) annually would be required. At this meeting, over \$15,000 was pledged over the next three years by members of both clubs to enlarge the work and increase the enrollment of Boy Scouts in Kalamazoo. One year later, a portion of this money was used to purchase the initial 10 acres at Bass Lake to establish Camp Roto-Kiwan. The camp, located on Texas Drive in Western Kalamazoo County still thrives and now consists of 200 acres and provides programming in such diverse fields as aquatics, shooting sports, ecology conservation and outdoor photography.

Purchasing Christmas Gifts For the Boys at Lake Farm for Boys, Our Club's First Charity,
Tuesday, November 23, 1920.

November is the month we turn our thoughts to not only Thanksgiving but also to Christmas, Hanukkah and other religious holidays. Our club is no exception. As some of you know, our club's very first charity was Lake Farm for Boys, the rural orphanage established in 1907 which now serves another mission in helping the area's troubled youth under the name of Lakeside for Children. You will learn more about Lake Farm for Boys at another meeting. And as you might expect, this being our club's first charity, we took a very active and generous role in the care of the children. Our minutes are replete with instances of the varying ways we helped build, expand and maintain the Lake Farm and provided for the children. The following reading is just one those instances. At our regular meeting held on Tuesday, November 23, 1920, Rotarian George Wiggington made a motion which was seconded and carried, that the our club donate \$50 (\$600 in today's currency) for the purpose of buying Christmas gifts for the boys at Lake Farm. Another example of Service and Charity Above Self.

November 30-December 6, 2014: Our Club's First Christmas Celebration, Forget the
Entertainment, Let's Go Pick Up the Children! Tuesday, November 28, 1915.

For decades our club held a grand holiday dinner and ball during the last week of December for our members and their families. These events involved dinner at either the Park-American or

Columbia hotels, and dancing with music provided by one several local orchestras. We were only 7 months old when our club planned the first of these grand affairs. Our founders must have realized they were setting precedent with each of their “first” undertakings in those early years of our history. Future leaders would certainly take note and learn. In reading our early minutes, one cannot help but feel that our founders wanted to make the right decisions to show our city what the principles of Rotary were all about.

And so it was at our first Christmas celebration, 99 years ago next month. At our regular meeting on Tuesday, November 24, 1915 at the Park-American Hotel, it was decided that instead of having entertainment for the members and their families at the December 28 dinner and ball, that all members feeling so inclined could make a donation to our club’s Christmas fund for a Christmas tree and gifts for the poor and needy children. The motion was duly seconded. A total of 20 Rotarians from our roster of 46 each made a \$5.00 dollar donation, a total of \$100, or \$2,400 in today’s currency. So on the evening of December 28, 1915, a Christmas tree was placed at the Park-American Hotel and the gifts for the poor and needy children were laid under the tree. These children were brought to the hotel by our membership, attended dinner, opened their gifts and were returned home. Our club continued to celebrate Christmas in this manner for decades, always providing for the poor and needy. Service and Charity Above Self.

December 7-13, 2014: Our Club Take Center Stage, Literally, and On Our Own Stage, Monday, December 6, 1999

Our Club Take Center Stage, Literally, and On Our Own Stage, Monday, December 6, 1999

In 1991, our club made a commitment to leave a significant legacy in the form of a physical facility in downtown Kalamazoo by the year 2000. This was to be our Millennial Project. Under the leadership of then club President Gale Arnet, the 21st Century Project Committee was formed to develop a process that would identify a project, solicit funding, and gather community input and support. Its ultimate goal was the implementation of a project that would benefit the community and downtown as well as to carry the name of Kalamazoo Rotary. Community solicitations for worthy projects elicited five specific proposals.

At our regular meeting on Monday, December 8, 1997, Rotarian Arnet announced with great fanfare that the committee had selected a submission by the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo for a permanent performance stage in Bronson Park, Kalamazoo’s historic town square. Its official name was to be the Kalamazoo Rotary Stage in Bronson Park.

The final project budget was \$818,000; \$550,000 raised through the support of local foundations, businesses, and individuals, \$100,000 from our club’s charitable foundation, and \$168,000 from individual Rotary members to build an endowment for the long-term maintenance of the stage. Our club recognized the importance of this endowment fund. Rotarian A. W. Betts said the club was committed to seeing that stage “is something that we can be proud of this whole next century.” Rotarian Betts was certainly correct, and we will hear more about our stage endowment fund later in the meeting.

After two years of planning and construction, all was ready. Almost exactly 15 years ago today, Monday, December 6, 1999, while seemingly half of the world was wrapped up in potential Y2K

issues, our club held an unusual outdoor meeting, in Bronson Park, for the official dedication of our stage, our Millennial gift to our community.

Our gift was certainly well received by both the community and our state. In May of 2000, Michigan Secretary of State the State Candice Miller selected our club as one of 14 Michigan Week Award winners for “giving generously of their time, talents and hearts to improve their communities – they typify what is best about Michigan.” I might add that it also typifies what is best about Rotary.

At the rear of the stage facing South Westnedge Ave. is a donor plaque. On this plaque are the names of several very familiar local businesses and foundations that provided much of the funding for our stage.

But there are also the names of nine (9) Rotarians who made significant financial contributions.

Five of the 9 are:

Robert P. Kitteredge, club president from 1975-76

William J. Maze Jr. club president from 1997-98, who through his presidency oversaw concept approvals by City and County commissions, dozens of public input sessions, and approved the pre-design recommendations regarding site selection and character.

Fred B. Miller, club president, 1980-81, who passed away in 2000

Richard B. Sanford, and

James S. Ware.

The remaining four (4) Rotarians who made significant financial contributions are hopefully in attendance today. As I call your names will you please stand up and will everyone hold their applause to the end.

Lowell B. “Jerry” Mason, Jr.

Betty Upjohn Mason, whose donation was in the name of fellow Rotarian Burton Upjohn,

Charles and Joan VanZoeren, and

Thell M. Woods and Miriam Downey, whose donation was made In Celebration of Their Marriage.

Service Above Self!

December 14-20, 2014: A Collection Of Rotary Club December Charitable Holiday Moments, Monday, December 15, 2014. _

In reading thousands of pages of our club’s minutes, one quickly grasps certain re-occurring themes and events that marked our early history. December, to no one’s surprise, was our busiest

charitable month of the year. In looking at our first 30 years, our club always performed the following four (4) charitable acts in December:

1. As we heard two weeks ago, we always gave a Christmas party for poor and needy children at a downtown hotel complete with dinner, a Christmas tree and gifts.
2. We always provided gifts for the boys at Lake Farm, our club's first charity,
3. We always provided Christmas baskets for widows and orphans, which we will hear more of next week, and
4. We always made a large donation to the Cribside Society of Kalamazoo, another one of our earliest charities, who cared for physically disabled children by providing free beds for these children at Bronson Hospital.

I would like to share with you just a few of the hundreds of entries from our minutes that demonstrate our club's December generosity, and also provide some insight into the character and nature of our club.

1. On December 14, 1920, Rotarian Louis Rosenbaum donated 16 pair of pants to the boys at Lake Farm.
2. On December 30, 1919, Chairman of the Boys' Work Committee Melville Dunkley reported that Rotarians had outnumbered Kiwanis at the December 27th Boy Scout log rolling event and thanked those attending for their support in helping the boys erect a cabin at their camp.
3. On December 12, 1916, our club contributed \$50.00 to the Kalamazoo Kris Kringle Club, an arm of the Chamber of Commerce who distributed gifts to the needy.
4. On December 28, 1915, when our club was less than one year old, Rotarian Ford F. Rowe received a toast in his honor for the wonderful work which he had done during the past years in his Christmas tree and gift donations to the children of Kalamazoo.
5. On December 21, 1920, a motion was made by Rotarian Sam Van Horn that the balance remaining from the \$400 Christmas Fund be donated to the fund being raised for the starving children in Europe.
6. On December 12, 1939, Mr. Dibble of the Salvation Army appeared before the club and received a "liberal donation" by our members for the purchase and distribution of Christmas baskets.
7. And on December 13, 1938, Rotarian Jake Kindleberger, President of the Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Company, introduced Dr. Thrall of Parchment, who supplied the program for that meeting, a simple reading of Dicken's Christmas Carol.

8. And lastly, I would be remiss if I did not report this very comical moment from our past. It has nothing to do with charitable giving but has everything to do with service and it did occur in December. And, it is a true story. This could not be invented.

At our regular meeting on December 10, 1935 at Columbia Hotel, the hotel management reported right after the grapefruit course had been removed from the table, that all of the waitresses had gone on strike. Rotarian Ralph Ralston rose to his feet and said: "Well fellows, any of you who have waited tables please follow me." And he started for the kitchen followed by about 12 others. In about two minutes they came back all dressed in white and proceeded to serve the rest of the Rotarians in fine style.

Now that's what I call Service Above Self!

December 21-27, 2014: We have two readings for this week.

First, It's Time For College Football Rotary Style! Who Else Could Gather The University of Notre Dame, The University of Michigan, Western State Normal College, Kalamazoo College and Kalamazoo Central High School Under One Roof For a Great Evening of Football! Tuesday, December 6, 1921.

An evening meeting of unusual importance to our club was held at the Park-American Hotel at which time we entertained at dinner the football teams of Kalamazoo College, Western State Normal College and Central High School.

During the meal we were entertained with several selections by our orchestra (yes, our club had its own orchestra in those days) and later Mr. Loar of the Gibson Mandolin-Guitar Company played some wonderful selections on the mandolin.

Secretary Will Thoms then asked for a roll call of our guests, having them give their full name, what position they played, and their residence. He then called upon the captains and the coach of each team for a few remarks, also from President Stetson of Kalamazoo College and Principal Fisher of Central High School. Secretary Will then asked each one of the teams to give their college yell. According to the official minutes, "we heard Rah! Rah! Hold'em? Hold'em! until the very room rang."

Coach Knute Rockne of Notre Dame and Coach Fielding Yost of Michigan who are pictured above, then gave us a very entertaining talk on college football. Fielding Yost completed the evening's program by showing a moving picture of the game between Michigan and Ohio State University, which Michigan lost 14-0 in Ann Arbor.

According to the minutes, "This meeting will go down in the history of the Rotary Club as being one of an evening with real football, and with real football coaches, captains and players."

The meeting will also go down in history for its duration, it lasted 4 hours and we did not adjourn until 10:00 PM. All business of the Rotary Club was suspended that evening owing to this unusual event.

For the record, I must report the records of these teams for the year 1921:

Michigan, coached by Fielding Yost, went 5-1-1, losing to Ohio State in Ann Arbor and tying Wisconsin.

Notre Dame, coached by Knute Rockne, went 10-1, losing to Iowa and beating two Michigan colleges. They beat the Michigan State Spartans, then known as the Michigan Agricultural College Aggies 48-0 on Thanksgiving Day. And interestingly, they also beat Kalamazoo College 58-0.

Kalamazoo College went 7-2 that year, winning the MIAA conference title.

The Western Michigan Broncos, then known as the Western State Normal College Hilltoppers, coached by Bill Spaulding, finished 6-2 and beat the Notre Dame Freshman squad 7-0.

So, armed with information, enjoy the next three weeks of college football! In 1921, we did it in one evening.

And second, 50 Kalamazoo Families Receive Christmas Baskets Provided By And Delivered By Our Membership, Tuesday, December 21, 1920.

Last week we heard an all too brief summary of our club's charitable giving during the month of December. Today I wish to present some detail to one of our charitable acts, providing and delivering Christmas baskets to widows, orphans and needy families.

At our regular meeting on Tuesday, December 21, 1920, at the Park-American Hotel, Rotarians Frank Bowen, one of our founding fathers, and Sam Bickerstaff quote "made a very definite and complete announcement concerning the distribution of Christmas gifts to be made to 50 families on Friday afternoon, December 24th. Each basket, it was announced, contained:

1 chicken

1 pound of cranberries

1 can of corn

1 pound of mixed nuts

1 pound of coffee

A half pound of tea

6 oranges

1 package of dates

1 pound of butter

1 loaf of bread

1 carton of sugar

1 jar of apple butter, and

1 box of candy for each child.

Service Above Self!