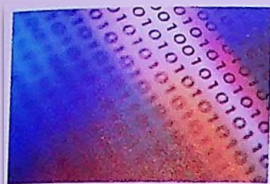


CHAMPAIGN ROTARY CLUB



THE STORY

1916 - 2001





CHAMPAIGN ROTARY CLUB

THE STORY

1916 - 2001

CHAMPAIGN ROTARY CLUB: THE STORY, 1916-2001

Copyright © 2001 by the Rotary Club of Champaign

All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the Rotary Club of Champaign, Illinois.

Published by the Rotary Club of Champaign, Illinois, USA

ISBN 0-9717095-1-3

The Rotary Club of Champaign gratefully acknowledges the generosity of Royce Wagner, Inc., in providing the cover design and illustration.

Book Design by Peter T. Tomaras

Printed and bound in the USA by UpClose Marketing & Printing Co.,
Champaign, Illinois

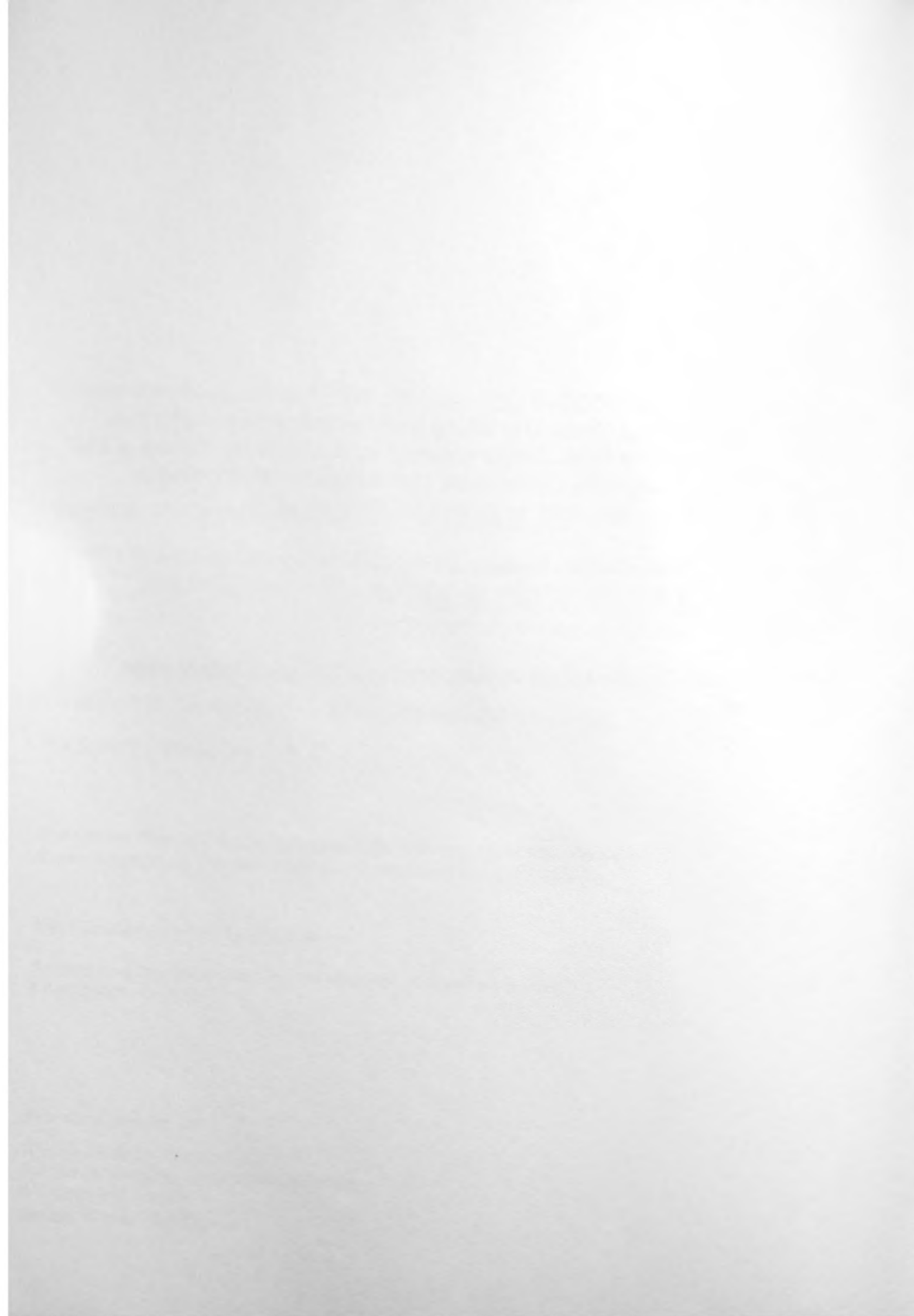
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Rotary Club of Champaign
Arthur J. Skelton, Executive Secretary
5 Greenfield Court
Savoy, IL 61874-9756

Champaign Rotary Club: The Story incorporates two books in a single volume. The first, *Steps Going Up: A Selective History of the Champaign Rotary Club*, was first published in 1988, and is reprinted here as the first segment of this volume.

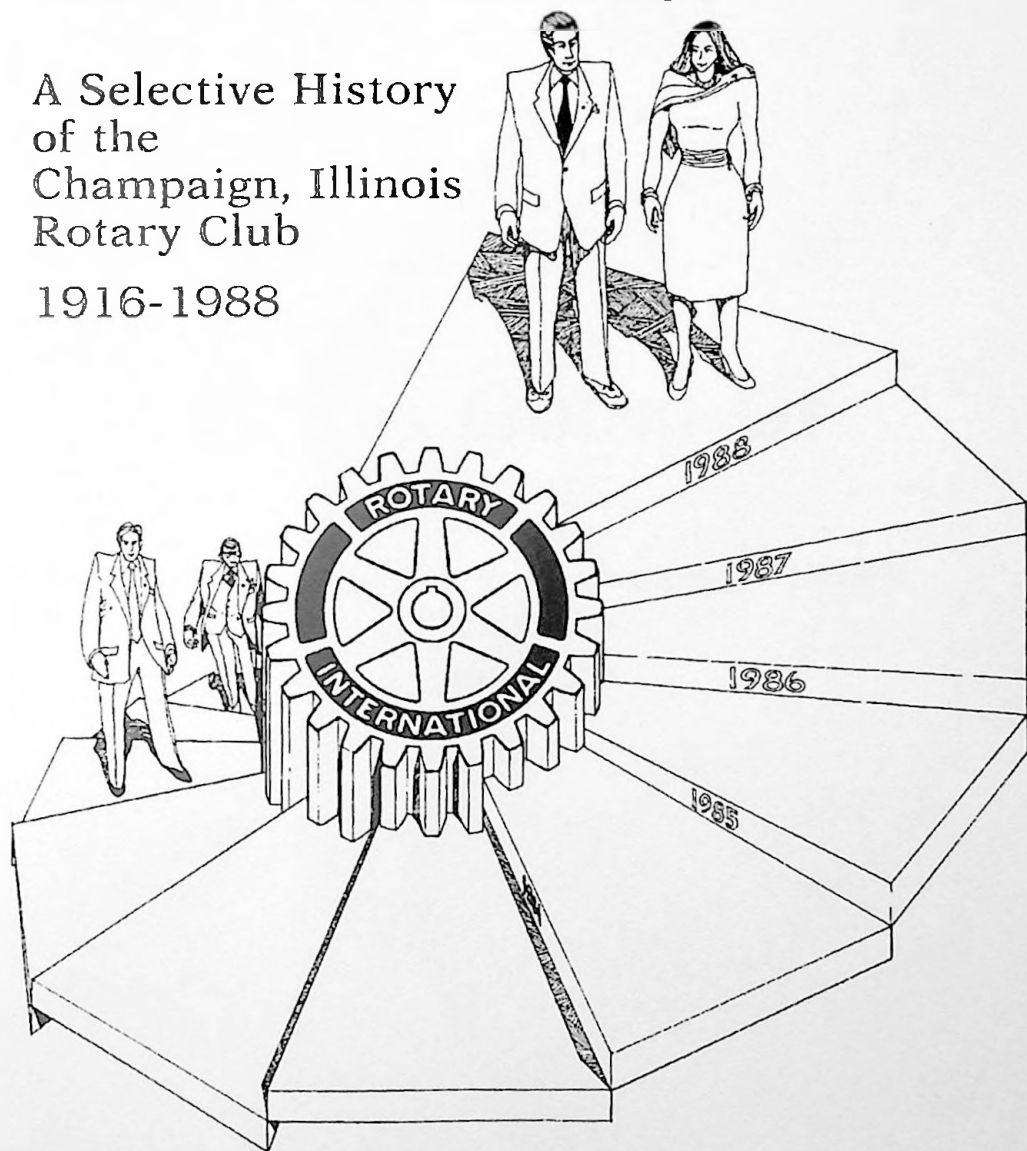
The second, *Champaign Rotary Club: The Story Continues, 1988-2001*, is first published as the second segment of this volume.

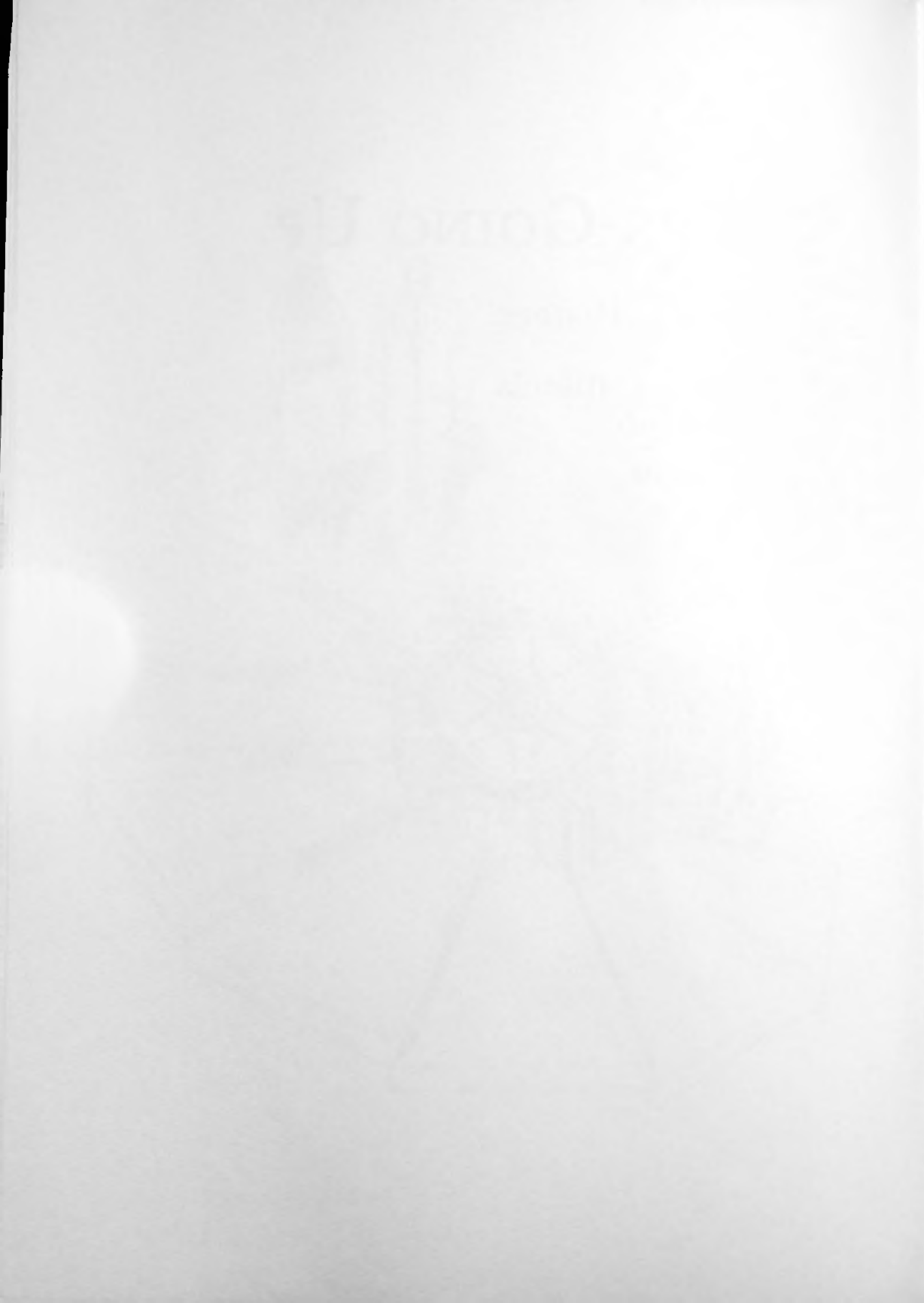
Because both books stand alone, each is independently page numbered.



STEPS GOING UP

A Selective History
of the
Champaign, Illinois
Rotary Club
1916-1988





STEPS GOING UP

A Selective History of the Champaign, Illinois
Rotary Club

1916 — 1988

Copyright © by the Champaign, IL Rotary Club, 1988
All rights reserved.

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 88-92397

Cover design and art by Raymond H. Lytle.

Book design by Peter T. Tomaras

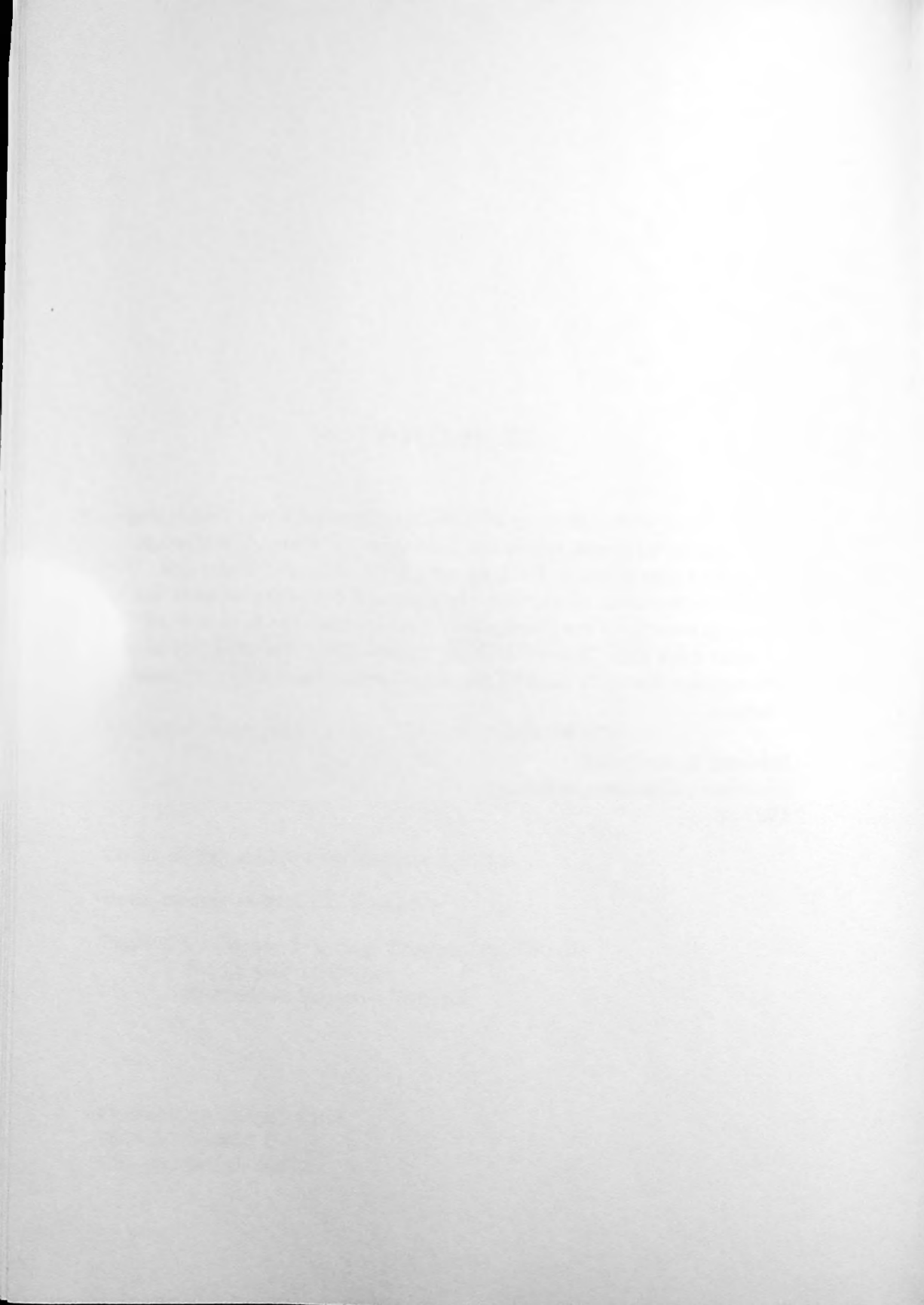
Printed by Crouse Printing, Champaign, Illinois
Set in Aster typeface.
Printed on Mohawk Vellum.

Champaign Rotary Club
1809 McDonald Dr.
Champaign, IL 61821

DEDICATION

The problem with a history of a living organization is that it stops the day it goes to press, while the members of the organization go on to make more history. Still, as new generations of Rotarians broaden the horizons of service, they should be aware of what the previous generations accomplished in their time. On behalf of all those who have gone before, it is my privilege to dedicate this legacy of Champaign Rotary's past to the men and women who represent our future.

— Edward E. Roderick
President, Champaign Rotary
1987-88



INTRODUCTION & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This history of the Champaign Rotary Club is a chronicle of the work of Rotary International as exemplified by one of its most outstanding clubs. Compiled by Matthew Kaufman, a gifted young writer, it records the unselfish efforts of a thousand men of good will who, since 1917, have labored to improve the quality of life in their community, in the nation, and around the world.

— Oscar Dodson, Historian
Champaign, Illinois Rotary Club

Most of the information for this history comes from the extensive files of the Champaign Rotary Club, largely consisting of issues of *The Fizz*, the weekly Club newsletter, dating back to the early 1930s. Original material from times prior is scarce. A fire at the Bailey & Himes store in 1926 destroyed most of the Club's records of its first decade, and only sketchy records appear to have been kept for several years following the fire.

That situation was remedied during the Depression when former Club President Fred Turner began his four decades as Club Historian. In addition to keeping records, Turner secured a federal grant with which he hired a graduate student to piece together newspaper accounts of the missing years' activities. This probably makes Champaign Rotary the only Rotary club to have its archives compiled with the help of the U.S. Government.

First among those I wish to thank for assisting in this project is Dean Turner's successor as Club Historian, Rear Admiral Oscar Dodson. His recall, perspective and flair for the appropriate anecdote have done much to bring this history to life. After my departure from the community, Peter Tomaras and Bill Krahling spearheaded a select editing committee which expanded and fine-tuned my draft into its final form.

I extend my gratitude to that committee, and also to: present Club President Bud Roderick and the Board of Directors for funding the project; Club President-Elect Cal Owens for furnishing production facilities; the many Rotarians and others too numerous to name who have contributed their thoughts and feelings concerning Rotary; and last, but not least, Claude V. Cook, my grandfather, for support well above and beyond any call of duty.

— Matthew Kaufman
April, 1988

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
530 SOUTH EAST ASIAN AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60607-7070
TEL: 773/936-5000 FAX: 773/936-5001

PROFESSOR
DR. [Name]
[Address]
[City, State, Zip]

Dear Professor [Name]:
I am writing to you regarding the [topic] of your recent paper, [Title]. I have read your paper with great interest and found it to be a very interesting and informative contribution to the field of [field]. I am particularly impressed by your discussion of [specific point].

I am sure that your work will be of great value to the scientific community and I am looking forward to seeing it published. I am also interested in your work on [other topic] and would like to know more about it. I am sure that your research will continue to make significant contributions to the field of [field].

I am sure that your work will be of great value to the scientific community and I am looking forward to seeing it published. I am also interested in your work on [other topic] and would like to know more about it. I am sure that your research will continue to make significant contributions to the field of [field].

I am sure that your work will be of great value to the scientific community and I am looking forward to seeing it published. I am also interested in your work on [other topic] and would like to know more about it. I am sure that your research will continue to make significant contributions to the field of [field].

THE FOUNDING OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

It was February 23, 1905.¹

The automobile was still evoking cries of "Get a horse!" The Wright brothers had shown that heavier-than-air flight was possible, though the airplane had so far stayed aloft for only minutes. The first motion picture theater was soon to open in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with a film entitled "The Great Train Robbery." The first concrete cantilever bridge was under construction in Marion, Iowa. Later that year Albert Einstein would introduce his theory of relativity, and James J. Jeffries would retire as the world's heavyweight boxing champion.

On this February day, the skies over Chicago, Illinois, were fair; winds were southerly at 17 miles per hour, and the temperature averaged 36 degrees Fahrenheit. The sun set at 5:33, and the moon had not yet risen as Paul Percival Harris, a young lawyer, walked to the Unity Building on Dearborn Street to what would be the first Rotary club meeting.

If he carried a newspaper under his arm that mid-winter evening, the two-cent journal would have informed him of a Russo-English dispute over North Sea fishing; that 75 arrests had been made in Chicago for violation of an anti-expectoration ordinance; that the Agra diamond was auctioned at Christie's in London for \$25,000; and that Count von Baudissin had eloped with a Berlin shopgirl. It would have cost Paul Harris another two cents to mail a first-class letter to a friend in one of the 45 United States; for five cents he could have sent a letter to Europe — by surface mail, of course.

In room 711 of the Unity Building, Harris met with three other men. They were Silvester Schiele, a coal dealer; Gustavus E. Loehr, a mining engineer; and Hiram E. Shorey, a merchant tailor. The office of Gus Loehr was typical of its time — a small room, dimly lit, with a desk and four uncomfortable chairs, a coat rack in the

¹ This chapter is substantially compiled from Rotary International's pamphlet, "The Day Rotary Began," and from an article in the February, 1975 issue of *The Rotarian* magazine entitled "1905: The Way it Was," by Charles W. Pratt. It concludes with a current overview of Rotary.

corner, one or two pictures and an engineering chart on the wall. The men talked about an idea that Paul Harris had been pondering for five years: that business dealings need not be a barrier to friendship. That, in fact, they could — and should — foster friendly relations.

*Paul Harris,
Founder of Rotary*



What kind of men had Harris brought together? The founder of Rotary answered this question in his book, *This Rotarian Age*:

In the city by the lake, a drama was to be enacted, the importance of which could not be foreseen. The *dramatis personnae* were men from ordinary walks of life; business and professional men.

While lacking qualities which would have distinguished them from others of their kind, it may nevertheless be said that they were representative of what in common parlance would have been termed "the better element." They were all natural products of the times and subject to typical frailties. All were friendly and congenial, and each represented a recognized and honorable vocation different from that of the others [thereby establishing, intentionally or not, Rotary's unique classification system for membership]. They had been selected without regard to religious, racial or political differences.

As these men talked that night, they saw ever more clearly that men in business could be personal friends — and should be. In their discussions of ways to foster such business-social relations, they decided that the formation of a club might best suit their aims. Though they didn't decide then and there what to call their fledgling club, that meeting on the night of February 23, 1905, was in fact the first meeting of the world's first Rotary club.

The next day a fifth member joined the group, having been invited by Paul Harris. He was Harry Ruggles, a printer. Ruggles, in turn, interested a real estate dealer named Will Jenson.

It was Ruggles who, at an early meeting, jumped on a chair and shouted, "Let's sing!" His infectious enthusiasm for singing made the Rotary Club of Chicago the forerunner of the many Rotary clubs which today include singing as part of their weekly programs.

Soon after Ruggles and Jenson came in, the organization of the new Club was completed at a meeting in Schiele's office. Schiele emerged as president, Jenson as corresponding secretary, Shorey as recording secretary, and Ruggles as treasurer. Paul Harris modestly declined office in the new Club at that time. In fact, not until 1907 was Harris elected president of the Rotary Club of Chicago.

The name "Rotary" was chosen at one of the early meetings, its proposer being Paul Harris, who pointed out that the word aptly conveyed the original intent of the members to meet in rotation at their various places of business.

With the name decided upon, Montague M. Bear, an engraver who had joined the Club, thought it was time to have an emblem. He came up with a sketch of a plain wagon wheel, a rotating wheel that won full approval. Today, Monty Bear's wheel, though much changed in design, has more than a million descendants in the form of the familiar cogwheel pins on the lapels of Rotarians throughout the world.

The first printed roster of the Rotary Club of Chicago had 19 members; at the end of 1905 there were 30. Paul Harris later wrote of these first members:

There were no drones in the 1905 group. Everyone was interested and busy. Practically every member contributed one or more serviceable ideas. Several of these ideas are in operation today; for example, the mid-day meeting, the practice of using photographs in rosters, the presentation of papers on vocational service subjects, and many others.

So began Rotary in the pioneer city of Chicago. Certainly no Rotarian of 1905 ever dreamed that the idea set in motion in that Chicago office would someday be accepted by men around the world.

Five years after Rotary's birth there were 16 clubs and approximately 1,500 Rotarians. The organization became international with the formation of a club in Winnipeg, Canada, in 1910. The first Rotary Convention took place in Chicago's Congress Hotel in August of 1910. The National Association of Rotary Clubs was organized at that time with all 16 clubs in membership. The following year clubs were organized in Ireland and England, and Rotary was on its way to becoming global. In 1912, the name was changed to International Association of Rotary Clubs.

In 1916 the first Rotary club in Ibero-America was functioning in Havana, Cuba, and in 1919 the first in Asia in Manila, The Philippines. In 1921 the first Rotary clubs were established on three other continents: Madrid, Spain, in Europe; Johannesburg, Union of South Africa, in Africa; and Melbourne in Australia. The less cumbersome name Rotary International (RI) was adopted in 1922.

The foundation upon which the whole Rotary edifice rests is known as the Object (or program) of Rotary. There were six "Objects" until 1935, when the Mexico City Convention of Rotary International adopted four. In 1951, the RI Convention at Atlantic City, New Jersey, streamlined the stated purpose of the organization into a single Object with four parts.

The Object of Rotary reflects Rotary's "golden rule," which is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise. In particular, Rotarians are asked to encourage and foster:

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

These tenets were further enhanced by the adoption of the 4-Way Test, developed in 1954-55 by RI President Herbert J. Taylor. It can be applied to the work of Rotary through the Four Avenues of Service: Club Service, Community Service, Vocational Service, and International Service. Beyond that, Rotarians are asked to apply this 4-Way Test to everything they think, say or do:

1. Is it the Truth?
2. Is it Fair to All Concerned?
3. Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships?
4. Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned?

It was after World War II, and the death of Paul Harris in 1947, that the Rotary Foundation became the vehicle through which Rotarians funded major programs in international service. The four principal Foundation activities are Study-Abroad Scholarships,

²Modified in 1987 to include women.

Group Study Exchange, the 3-H Program (Health, Hunger and Humanity), and Special Grants.

The Foundation carefully selects and administers programs throughout the world and, as this history goes to press, its most ambitious program yet has raised \$220 million to immunize all the world's children against polio.

Today Rotary spans six continents with clubs in 162 countries and geographical regions, and has more than one million members.



THE FOUNDING OF CHAMPAIGN ROTARY

By the fall of 1916 a series of crises was commanding the attention of most people. In the United States, citizens were slowly recovering from their outrage over the raid on Columbus, New Mexico, by Mexican bandit Pancho Villa, and over the sinking off Ireland of the *Lusitania* with the loss of 1,198 lives, including 139 Americans. Huge banner headlines in the Urbana *Daily Courier* told of the battles of the Great War. Newspaper readers were both horrified and fascinated by accounts of heavy casualties in the three-month battle of the Somme, and of the great naval engagement between the British Grand Fleet and the German High Seas Fleet off Jutland.

In the year 1916 the X-ray and stainless steel were invented. With radio and television still in the future, Americans read such authors as Thomas Hardy, Joseph Conrad, Rudyard Kipling, and the "pornographic" D.H. Lawrence. Many were mystified by the artist Pablo Picasso and his new school of Cubism. In November President Woodrow Wilson won a second term; in December David Lloyd George formed a new British war cabinet, and Rasputin was assassinated in Tsarist Russia.

Champaign-Urbana citizens flocked to the department stores for pre-Christmas purchases. F.K. Robeson Company offered three pairs of ladies' silk hose "in a pretty box" for \$1.00 and gloves for men and boys at from \$.50 to \$6.00 a pair. J.M. Kaufman sold men's silk shirts for \$4.50, while Lowenstern-Meis announced ladies' coats for \$9.75 to \$19.50. W.L. Lewis & Company advertised "Dear Santa, Please Bring Me A Rocking Horse" — \$4.75 to \$9.50. According to the *Courier*, the Salvation Army bell-ringing campaign got off to a good start with the collection of \$32.20 on December 10.

Four silent movies played at the Orpheum Theatre: "Solomon's Return," "The Wop and the Cop," "A Carnival of Comedy," and "The Hat Maniac." On Saturday the theater offered a special feature — "Fraternity Boys and Girls, 25 singing, dancing, captivating collegians." The price of admission was 20 to 30 cents.

In the fourth week of a revival at the First Methodist Church, the pastor warned that parishioners could not be sure of salvation. Busey State Bank offered membership in its Christmas Club and Taxpayers' Club. News from Washington indicated that penny postage was assured and that the Prohibition bill was under debate in the House. Meanwhile, the *Courier's* competitor, the *Champaign Daily News*, announced a reception to view its modern plant. Visitors would receive "unique souvenirs" and enjoy an "especially engaged orchestra."

With all that going on as 1916 wound down, understandably little notice was paid to a local event that occurred on Saturday, December 11. On that day some 30 members of the Danville Rotary Club traveled to Champaign by interurban electric railway and met at the Beardsley Hotel with 24 local business and civic leaders who there formed the new Champaign Rotary Club.

This was not the first attempt to form a Rotary club in Champaign. In 1914, one of those leaders, Frank Amsbary, Sr., contacted the International Association of Rotary Clubs in Chicago concerning the possibility of establishing a club in Champaign. He was told by one Chesley Perry that it was impractical to organize clubs in towns as small as Champaign (23,000 citizens at the time), due to petty personal jealousies which were likely to arise among members.

Two years later, however, Frank Clark, who would become the Club's first president, went to Indiana to talk with District Governor Frank Manley, after which Clark was able to convince Mr. Perry of the feasibility of a Rotary club in this community.

District Governor Manley and Deputy Governor Dr. E.B. Cooley of the sponsoring Danville Club attended that inaugural meeting. To the latter, especially, goes credit for much of the organizational work. Notwithstanding the presence of those officials, formal recognition of the Champaign Rotary Club did not come until February 1, 1917, when the International Association of Rotary Clubs granted its charter. But in fact, if not on paper, Champaign Rotary was born on December 11, 1916.

These were the charter members of Champaign Rotary, listed with nicknames and classifications or occupations:

F.C. Amsbary (Frank)
Vice-Pres.,
Champaign-Urbana Water Co.

B.L. Kirk (Bon)
Attorney

A.M. Burke (Art)
Pres., Citizens State Bank

H.F. Chester (Frank)
Chester Transfer Co.

O.F. Clark (Frank)
Dist. Mgr., Central Union
Telephone Co.

Albert Eisner Sr.
Pres., Eisner Wholesale
Grocery Co.

George A. Farrar
Partner, Farrar & Quinlan
Commission Merchants

B.F. Harris (Ben)
Pres., First National Bank

D.E. Harris (Del)
Confectioner

C.B. Hatch Jr. (Charlie)
Pres., Beardsley Hotel Co.

Harry Herrick
Partner, Herrick Auto Supply Co.

A.E. Huckins (Al)
Mgr., Sheldon Brick Co.

J.M. Kaufman (Jake)
J.M. Kaufman Retail Clothing

C.A. Kiler (Charlie)
Retail Furniture

J.W. Lawder (Jack)
Bus. Mgr., Champaign
Daily Gazette

Louis Mittendorf (Lou)
Undertaker

B.C. Nelson (Bert)
Partner, A.S. Nelson & Sons
Retail Grocers

W.W. Paul (Billy)
Retail Shoes

Charles M. Pearson (Charlie)
Sec.-Tres., Flanigan-Pearson
Printing Company

George E. Ramey (Bud)
Architect

E.S. Scott (Ed)
Mgr., Harris-Dillavou Coal Co.

J.P. Sledge (Jimmie)
Grain Dealer

T.E. Smith (Tom)
Pres., Smith & Co. — Ice

F.L. Stamey (Frank)
Broker

A.E. Wuesteman (Albert)
Jeweler

The initial officers and directors were:

President — O.F. Clark
Vice-President — C.M. Pearson
Secretary — B.L. Kirk
Treasurer — A.E. Wuesteman
Sergeant-at-Arms — A.Eisner Sr.

Directors — B.F. Harris
F.C. Amsbary
J.P. Sledge
A.E. Huckins
G.A. Farrar



THE EARLY YEARS

Fifty years after the Club was founded, Frank Clark sat in his Fort Myers, Florida, home and recalled the obstacles he faced as Champaign Rotary's first president. "At this time we were in the middle of World War I. The prospects who would make the best Rotarians were very busy and felt they could not spare the time to help get a new Rotary club under way."

*O. F. (Frank) Clark,
Club's first president,
1916-17*



Champaign Rotary did not have the luxury of waiting until the end of the war to bolster its membership. Within months, it was put to its first test. On the afternoon of Saturday, May 25, 1917, a tornado devastated the city of Mattoon, killing 80 people and destroying 500 homes over an area 33 blocks long and 2 to 3 blocks wide.

Frank Clark summoned Rotarians to an emergency meeting in his telephone company office. They quickly made plans to send an Illinois Central relief train to Mattoon. Within three hours the train was underway, bearing doctors (including J.C. Dallenbach, who would later become a Champaign Rotarian), nurses, policemen, food, blankets, tents, clothing and medical supplies. The train stopped briefly in Tolono, Tuscola and Arcola to pick up additional relief personnel and reached the disaster scene at 8:30 p.m. — just five hours after the tornado struck. This was the first help to reach Mattoon. The train stayed through late Sunday afternoon and subsequently additional relief was sent.

That rapid reaction to a crisis typified the Club's early years. L.B. King, who became the third president, once recalled: "We tried to

run everything in Champaign. We were the only service club then, and we thought it was our duty to take the lead in every new project." Such an attitude would prevail throughout and, for a time, after World War I. King noted that later, as other service clubs were formed and welfare activities were put on a permanent, organized basis, "we decided our place was to help, but not necessarily to run everything."

*Louis B. King,
Club president—1919-1920*



At the time, however, there was work to be done and Rotary, as the only existing service club, had to do it. Much of the work was related to the war, especially under the only two-term president in Club history, Albert Eisner Sr., whose tenure ran from June 1, 1917, to May 31, 1919. A major project was raising money for the Liberty Bond drives. After one particularly inspiring address in which Eisner warned that Champaign was in danger of failing to meet its allotment, the 65 members present pledged \$37,850 within five minutes and then went right on with the scheduled program. Despite Frank Clark's apprehensions about the absence of the "best prospects," those members present more than made up the difference.

Among other war-related activities, Rotary directed Champaign boys and girls in starting victory gardens, pushed Red Cross drives, voted \$500 to the United War Works campaign, named a committee to start a roll of Champaign County veterans, and contributed generously to mess funds of batteries overseas. A typical paragraph of a Rotary summary of activities read:

We gave \$300 to Battery F. Cooperated with the Chamber of Commerce in raising a \$1,000 Mess Fund for Company M and Battery B, giving \$200 to the Fund. We gave \$100 to the first Red Cross War Fund and \$50 to the second Red Cross War Fund. We furnished and installed the school safety signs at a cost of \$125, making a total of \$775.

Some other achievements were: 1st, we induced the City Commissioners to keep the water running in the West Side Park fountain; 2nd, we sent a committee to Rantoul in the interest of the first Liberty Bond Drive; 3rd, we conducted the only patriotic meeting in the city on the 4th of July, and paid all the expenses of same; 4th, we assured the success of the Hessel Boulevard project on the south edge of the city by selling during one afternoon 28 lots; 5th, assisted in putting over the second and third Liberty Bond campaigns.

Even after World War I ended, its effects were still reflected in Rotary activities. During the war, the Club had frequently invited U.S. and allied soldiers as guests; afterwards it cheered returned soldiers at meetings, endorsed public works to furnish veterans with jobs, and started a loan fund for returning soldiers unable to find work. It adopted two French war orphans, paying the bill by assessments levied against Club members on their birthdays, and collected more than \$4,000 in drives for European and Jewish relief funds.

The postwar period saw students returning en masse to the University of Illinois, and with that influx a serious housing shortage developed. This, too, became a Club priority. Members canvassed the whole city west of Neil Street, finding rooms for 325 students and temporary quarters for between 125 and 150 others.

Many of Champaign Rotary's early activities were different in nature from those it would soon take up. War emergencies requiring immediate response tended to predominate in the first years. The need to deal with crises would not altogether vanish with the signing of the Armistice, but the emphasis would shift to more long-term projects. Remarkably, the Club was able to begin some such projects even while WWI absorbed most of its energies, and many more were to follow.

To write about every community service activity in which Champaign Rotary has engaged throughout its history would be virtually impossible. This is not only because records are incomplete, but also because of the sheer number of projects. However, we include a good representation of those activities, since the measure of any service club is the sum and substance of its work.

Of course, groups of individuals do not accomplish good works without strong and energetic leadership. The following poetic tribute to one of Champaign Rotary's early leaders points up both

the quality of his leadership and the spirit of Champaign Rotary in its early years:

TO ALBERT EISNER

On the occasion of his reelection as president of the
Champaign Rotary Club
May 27, 1918

President Albert, won't you be good enough to let me have
the floor;
Doc Wuesteman can ring that clock of his if I turn out to be
a bore;
But I have a little message from the boys who sit 'round
here,
Which they think is kind of timely, so let me have your ear.
It's just a simple message — and here's the gist thereof:
To bring to your attention the affection—nay—the love
In which they hold you, Albert—it can hardly be
expressed—
For of all the boys of Rotary, Albert Eisner is the best!

We think we have a classy bunch, there's Harris, Del, and
Frank and Newt;
Jake Kaufman is a live one, Charley Pearson is a beaut;
There's Thomas Smith and Edward Scott, each one a
crackerjack;
There's A.M. Burke and Arthur Walls, there are no flies on
Bilder's back;
Ed Swigart is a man to tie to, you'll all agree, I guess;
Doc Bennett's a handy man to have when comes a time of
stress;
There's Marcus Mead and Louis King who stays home now
at night;
There's Chet Brownell and Leslie Glenn, there's Adams and
Jim White.
And these are just a sample, there's no need to give the
rest—
For of all the boys of Rotary, Albert Eisner is the best!
You have been our inspiration, Albert, your example has
impressed
Upon our minds the law of service, "He profits most who
serves the best";
You have taught us how to labor, not for one but each for
all;
You have marshalled us to answer when has come the
nation's call;
You have taught us love of country, we have seen your
eyelids well
When you've spoken of the boys who cross to stop that
Prussian hell!

And I want to tell you, Albert, another year this night—
When, we hope, that war is ended—ended as it must
be—RIGHT—

We pray that rich in honor, safe and sound and glorified,
A certain young lieutenant will sit proudly by your side!
And as your son we'll gladly do him honor as our guest—
For of all the boys of Rotary, Albert Eisner is the best!

So here's looking at you, Albert, here's health to you and
yours;

Here's promise of a fruitful year, here's friendship that
endures;

Here's a pledge of faithful service from every mother's
son—

When Albert Eisner asks us, 'tis as good as it were done!
Now when you go to Kansas City, Albert, that's a big and
rapid town,

You might forget your name and address as you wander up
and down;

We want to say to Rotary, "This fine upstanding gent
Is Albert Eisner of Champaign, a damn good president!"
So when you go to Kansas City, wear THIS upon your
breast—

It indicates—of all the boys of Rotary, Albert Eisner is the
best!

—L.M. Tobin

Albert Eisner obviously led Champaign Rotary onto a fast track,
setting a high standard of achievement and service for future
generations of Champaign Rotarians—including four more
outstanding members named Eisner.



*Albert Eisner, the Club's only
2-term president—1917-1919*

*O. B. Dobbins,
Club president—1927-28*



*C. D. "Chet" Brownell,
Club president—1928-29*

*W. E. C. "Cass" Clifford,
Club president—1930-31*



*C. M. Pearson,
Club president—1938-39*

PROGRAM

Invocation

Group Singing—Led by IRVING L. PETERSON

ROBERT EISNER, *Pianist*

“Such Business As There Is”

CHAS. BAILEY, *President*

Vocal Solo—Selected

BURTON C. HURN

Address—“David Kinley and Wider Horizons”

P. J. KOLN, *Past District Governor*

Vocal Solo—Selected

MRS. LLOYD MOEY

Address—“David Kinley As We Know Him”

O. B. DOMINS

Response

DAVID KINLEY, *President of University of Illinois*

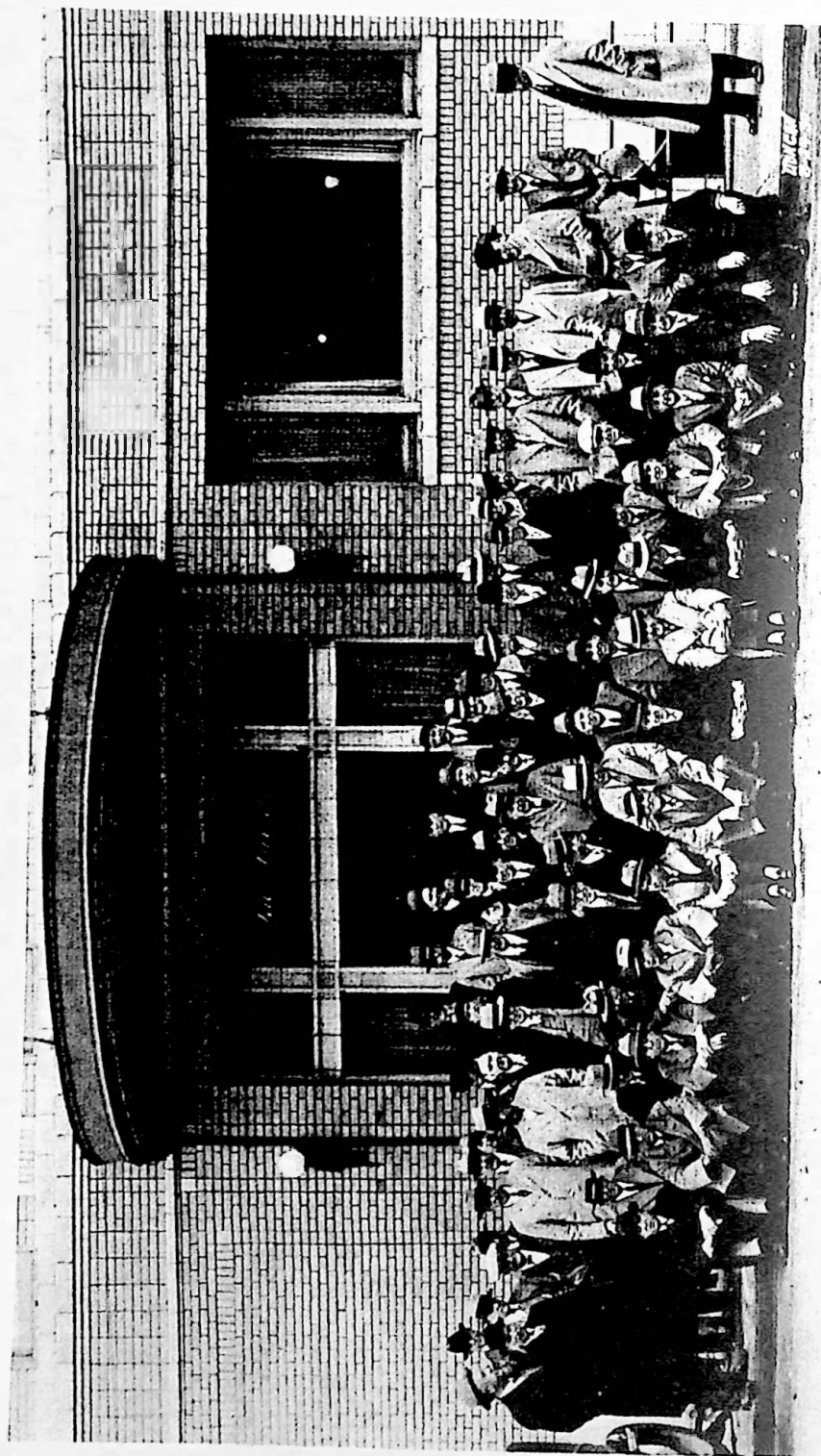
Benediction

DAVID KINLEY

President of the University of Illinois



An honored citizen, a seasoned scholar, an efficient administrator, a beloved friend and loyal Rotarian.



Champaign "Cosa Nostra" of 1930, outside Inman Hotel.

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES: COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sometime in the 1950s, before he became Club president but during his service as editor of *The Fizz*, the Club bulletin, Dean McCumber coined the term "W.G.R.C." and applied it to Champaign Rotary. Noting that the Chicago *Tribune* called its radio station WGN (for "World's Greatest Newspaper"), McCumber suggested — partly in humorous hyperbole and partly in pride — that Champaign Rotary become "World's Greatest Rotary Club."

The epithet, tightened later to WGRC, lives on in the Club's consciousness, held out, if anything, as an incentive. The record indicates that, through providing financial support and the personal involvement of its members, Champaign Rotary has lived up to its WGRC billing — if not, perhaps, as the "world's greatest," at least as the first, and still the foremost, service club in the community.

The Club's general policy on community service has not been to adopt specific projects for long-term support. Rather, the Club has preferred to step in with seed money (sometimes substantial) to help worthy causes or organizations get off the ground. Support may continue at some level for a time thereafter, but it is not the Club's intent to provide all nor most of the funding for even the worthiest causes.

This policy has enabled Champaign Rotary to give life to many community dreams, to give them the impetus and the status to carry their efforts forward. In this way, Champaign Rotary spreads its resources over a wider spectrum of community service projects, while still reserving the option to jump in with major or repeated support to selected efforts or organizations.

It's appropriate to point out that financial support, while extremely important, is only one way that Rotarians serve their community. Equally important is the leadership that individual Rotarians have consistently provided as campaign leaders, founders, officers, and members of boards of directors. Examples of extraordinary leadership in this regard by Champaign Rotarians are simply too numerous to document, other than to include a

sprinkling of names as we examine projects and activities in which the Club has been significantly involved.

COMMUNITY CHEST, UNITED FUND, AND UNITED WAY

As early as the 1920s, Champaign Rotarians saw that there were so many worthy local organizations in need of funding that citizens were hard-pressed to keep them straight. In 1923, Champaign Rotary helped launch an effort to gather the fundraising drives of many groups under one umbrella. Known as the Community Chest, this combined fundraising effort included such organizations as Family Welfare, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, Well Baby Clinic, etc. Rotarian P.W. Wright was its first campaign chairman, and he was followed by 16 more Rotarians as chairmen through the Chest's first 30 years.

In 1953, in a drive separate from the Community Chest, Champaign Rotarians Ben Harris and Dwyer Murphy originated the United Health & Welfare drive to consolidate the solicitations being conducted by national health organizations such as the Heart Fund, the Cancer Fund, the Red Cross, and the March of Dimes.

In 1957, these two major fundraising activities were combined as the United Fund of Champaign County, which in turn became the United Way of Champaign County in 1971. In 1943-44, with Rotarians Rooney Stipes as chairman and Lyle Gallivan as executive director, the Community Chest raised a record \$148,330. This sum was not topped until the Community Chest and the United Health and Welfare combined to raise \$213,056 as the United Fund in 1957-58. Since then the annual goals have steadily and dramatically increased to a high of \$1,600,000 in 1987.

Through 1988 two dozen Champaign Rotarians have served the United Fund/Way as presidents or campaign chairmen. Champaign Rotarian Jack Coyle served as executive director from 1960 until 1977, then passed the reins to Rotarian Dave Lawrence. During Lawrence's 11-year tenure, annual goals grew by more than \$1 million.

The consolidation of many campaigns into one, due in large part to the persistence and leadership of individual Rotarians, was a push both for efficiency and for the right of public-spirited citizens to select the organizations most worthy of support and to shoulder that responsibility. Today United Way funding embraces the needs of 32 worthy organizations. Champaign Rotary's role in this major community effort is merely an extension of the Object of Rotary.

HOSPITAL DRIVES

Apart from the Mattoon tornado response and World War I-related activities, the first recorded public service project of Champaign Rotary involved Burnham City Hospital. On October 14, 1918, the Club pledged \$400 to Burnham to assist in furnishing a new nurses home across the street from the Hospital. That contribution was a small forerunner of what was to come. In 1920, responding to a plea for a diagnostic laboratory and X-ray equipment, the Club contributed financial and leadership support to Burnham's public campaign to raise \$75,000. Over the years, Rotary has continued to help Burnham Hospital. For example, in 1950 the Club donated \$5,000 to a Burnham drive which was used to completely equip a room in the hospital's then-newest addition.

Nor has Champaign Rotary slighted Mercy Hospital. In 1960, Bob Eisner Jr. and Oscar Koehnemann co-chaired the fund drive for the first major addition to Mercy Hospital. Many of the division chairmen of this drive, which raised \$500,000, were Rotarians.

The major drives are noteworthy, but no more so than the less-publicized boosts that Rotary continues to give all community hospitals. One example is a \$5,000 donation in 1987 to Mercy to purchase 10 Lifeline units which are provided to needy persons in precarious health who live alone. The Lifeline units enable them to signal the Hospital for emergency assistance by pressing a button.

BOY SCOUTS & GIRL SCOUTS

Of all the beneficiaries of Champaign Rotary's backing, the Scouting movement — particularly the Boy Scouts — is one of the most prominent. As early as 1919, when Scouting was just starting in this community, Rotarians were involved in getting it off the ground. The level of that involvement is reflected by this summary of newspaper stories from those early years:

June 3, 1919: B.F. Harris announced that the Club had subscribed \$950 for the local Scout movement, a 100% subscription.

July 8, 1920: W.E. Ernst asked for volunteers with cars to bring the Boy Scouts back from camp in two weeks.

July 2, 1921: Whit Wright asked for cars to take Scouts to camp.

March 6, 1922: Boy Scout movement given new impetus today when 200 Rotarians and Kiwanians met in a joint luncheon. Generous pledges wiped out the deficit of \$1,500.

October 22, 1923: A Girl Scout asked the Club for help in organization's fund drive.

February 9, 1925: Scout Ward Dillavou administered the Scout oath to members of the Club at the meeting devoted to boys and Scout work.

April 20, 1925: Scout Lester Leutwiler spoke about his trip to the International Scouting Jamboree in Copenhagen.¹

June 2, 1926: Next Club meeting to be held at the Boy Scout Camp near Clinton. A special train will take the club.

"You may help turn a potential Dillinger into a Lincoln," declared *The Fizz* in urging contributions. In the 1920s the Club gave seed money to both Boy Scout and Girl Scout camps, and in 1933, the depression notwithstanding, Rotarians donated \$1,000 to help purchase the land for the Boy Scouts' Camp Drake. This camp was to become one of Champaign Rotary's major projects over the next several decades. The Club frequently funded maintenance and improvements, including the purchase of canoes and cabins, and helped fund the construction of considerably larger items such as a swimming pool, several rustic bridges, a winter cabin, and a clubhouse.

Rotary has regularly sponsored Scout troops and for a time made an annual pilgrimage to Camp Drake. Numerous Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts unable to afford camp have been sponsored by the Club, and Boy and Girl Scouts have often shown their gratitude by presenting programs at Club meetings. A sample of the affection with which Rotarians view Scouting is found in a 1945 *Fizz* which notes of a Club-sponsored troop: "Out of a membership of 29 fellows, only six have dads at home. By far the greatest percent of the dads are in the service. Does this give anyone any ideas?"

Apparently it did, and through the years many Rotarians have given their time and effort to serve as Scout leaders and as officers of the local Arrowhead Council. Boy Scout Executive Directors have also been Rotarians, including Fritz Freund in the 1970s and Ray Blackwell and Bob Rydell in the 1980s.

OTHER YOUTH PROJECTS

Champaign Rotary has always emphasized activities benefiting youth, dating back at least to the Club's Father and Son Night on February 11, 1918. Several youth projects dealt with handicapped children. In 1923, for instance, money was raised to buy braces for crippled children. This project attracted the attention of *The*

¹Leutwiler later became the first Chief Illiniwek at the University of Illinois, and went on to become vice president of the Pet Milk Company.

Rotarian, the magazine of Rotary International, which cited it as a fine example of Rotary community service.

In the 1930s Champaign Rotarians provided some \$1,200 to purchase glasses for needy children. On the recommendations of a school nurse, doctors in the Club did the professional ophthalmology at no charge and serviced between 200 and 250 children. Champaign County later took over this project.



*Charles W. Bailey,
Club president—1929–30*

When C.W. Bailey, Champaign Rotary president for 1929-30, reported on activities during his year in office at the 1930 District Convention, he focused entirely on youth work:

During the past year the Champaign Rotary Club has assisted, with the Urbana Rotary Club, in purchases for the Cunningham [Children's] Home. It has assisted in furnishing milk and crackers for some of our public school children, and it has been furnishing transportation for a crippled boy who attends one of our schools. At Christmastime the Champaign Club, with I.M. Bilderback as committee chairman, gave a Christmas party to the children of Champaign and also collected and distributed about 2,000 toys to the children. [Many of these toys had been broken, and were repaired by one interested Club member.] A.C. Gonsier, chairman of our boys' work committee, has had the parole of one boy from our city court for one year.

Late in 1938 *The Fizz* announced: "About 200 elementary school children in Champaign suffer from some form of speech defect — stammering, stuttering, etc." Part-time speech correction classes were necessary, but funding was not available. Champaign Rotarians furnished the funding for the start-up of such classes, and in 1939 an instructor from the UI speech department began teaching them. Rotary had to nurse the program through a rocky start; the

Champaign Board of Education took over funding a year after it began, but within another year had to drop it again for lack of money. The Club stepped back in, furnishing funding until the Board was able to sustain the program on a permanent basis.

Among the other youth projects undertaken prior to World War II were: sponsorship of an ice rink; sending boys to the Boys State Commission camp in Springfield, where they were tutored in government at the township, county, state and national levels; establishment of youth hostels; and support of a day care nursery for black children whose fathers and mothers were both employed.

Another project, according to *The Fizz* in 1938, called

for some Rotarians as individuals to offer their services to boys of high school age or thereabouts to advise them with regard to schooling, work, and the solution of some of their social problems as they are encountered. These boys are not delinquent young men but underprivileged in that they lack the availability of older men to advise them on the road to good citizenship.

This foreshadowed other programs, such as Vocational Service, Big Brothers, and Volunteers for Youth, that would in later years receive attention from Rotarians.

As this account was being prepared, it is interesting to note how history repeats itself. In 1980 Champaign Rotary made a donation for School Medical Screening. A few years later, the Club began sending hearing-impaired children to a special educational summer camp in Aspen, Colorado. And following a March 9, 1988, presentation by the assistant director of Cunningham Home, which still provides "an environment to physically, mentally and emotionally protect young people who have necessarily been removed from their natural homes," the Club by voice vote pledged funds for a needed diagnostic center at Cunningham. Money from two months' accumulation in the "early-leavers" and charity funds was earmarked for this cause.

The investment of time and money is not the only way Champaign Rotary serves youth. In an era which constantly focuses attention on the pejorative side of the news, outstanding young citizens deserve recognition for doing things right. Starting in the 1970s, the Club has made a practice of honoring "Students of the Month" from Central and Centennial high schools. Each month during the school year, three seniors from each school are introduced to the Club at a regular luncheon meeting. The students are selected by faculty as

outstanding in academics, athletics, or activities, and their achievements and aspirations are read aloud.

In short, what early emerged as a particular Rotary concern — our youth — remains so today and undoubtedly always will.

THE YMCA

Upon his death in 1926, Senator William B. McKinley (who was an honorary Rotarian) left \$100,000 to build a YMCA in Champaign and another \$100,000 to endow it. The community was slow about building it, but the Club spent a good part of the next decade urging its construction. "This community," a 1934 *Fizz* pointed out during the throes of the depression, "will not be back to a healthy and prosperous state until men are at work — this means improvements in the building game and NEW BUILDING — men, women, boys and girls will have their part in the Modern Y Program."

The YMCA Board of Directors included many Rotarians, as did its membership committee. When the additional funds needed to buy a lot, construct a building, and equip it were raised in 1937, it is no surprise that Champaign Rotary played a big part in that drive. In recognition of its contributions, Rotary was invited to become the first service club to meet at the new YMCA building on September 19, 1938. And, when the Y undertook its first membership drive, Club members were also in the forefront of this campaign, which exceeded its goal.

It is interesting to recall the atmosphere that prevailed in those years. The Rev. A. Ray Cartlidge, Rotarian and chairman of the YMCA enrollment campaign, said in 1940 that many people, caught between the depression and an oncoming World War, "are in serious doubt about the future of civilization," and that its preservation could come "only through the development of individual character, spiritual strength, and bodily health."

*A. Ray Cartlidge,
Club president—1945-46*



A positive force at any time, the Y was then especially encouraging to people who were apprehensive about what tomorrow might bring. When Rev. Cartlidge later reported that in its first two years the Y had served some 2,700 people (approximately three-fourths of them under 21 years old), but that its attendance in 1939 had totalled nearly 90,000 and was fast on the rise, many in the area took heart at the aid they could receive in molding their children into what Cartlidge called "splendid citizens for the future." Aside from helping with fund drives, Rotary purchased numerous memberships in the Y for needy children.

Rotarians continue to play lead roles in the progress and activities of the McKinley YMCA. Kyle Robeson headed a drive in the 1970s that raised substantial funds for facility upgrading, including a new pool. And as this history goes to press, Clarence Thompson, 1964-65 Club president, and Phyllis Robeson, Kyle's wife, are co-chairing the Y's largest-ever capital funds drive. The goal is \$750,000. And the last three Executive Directors of the Y have been Rotarians: Frank Burns beginning in 1957, Dick Knieriem from 1975, and Tom Feller since 1982.

THE SALVATION ARMY AND CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

If any organization has received the continuous support of Champaign Rotary, it is the Salvation Army. The earliest record of a Rotary contribution goes back to a newspaper report on May 28, 1919, when E.S. Swigart announced that the Rotary team assisting the Salvation Army canvass had collected some \$2,000. Since then, the club has consistently helped out when prompted by items such as this good-natured reminder from a 1940 *Fizz*:

Look over your wardrobe, the basement, the attic, March 9th or 10th. Ask mamma whether it will be all right if you wrap up that old suit, coat, bathrobe, the sox you got for Christmas that are too small or too loud; take them to the office with you Monday, March 11th. The Salvation Army will be there. Or if the first enthusiasm of married life has worn off and you have never disposed of the double bed replaced by twin beds, the Army will send a truck; they will pick up anything — newspapers, magazines, coat-hangers, the old baby buggy — and put it to good use. Don't forget it.

Contributions have boosted a number of Salvation Army projects. Many have been youth-oriented: uniforms, tennis shoes, and equipment for boys' teams using the Salvation Army gym; instruments for the Salvation Army Youth Band. Others have been

more general in nature, such as clothing collections and the purchase of an organ.

Champaign Rotary's support of the Salvation Army is an outgrowth of earlier Christmas-oriented community projects, one of which involved contributions to the Family Welfare Society, known today as the Family Service Agency. From the early 1930s and into the 1950s, Margaret Tobin (wife of Rotarian Mike Tobin) was a fixture at the Rotary Christmas banquet, where she addressed the members on the value of their Family Welfare contributions. Rotarians furnished needy children with sweaters, dresses, coats, jackets, mittens, caps, pants, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toys and books — items most people take for granted.

For the children, however, they made a great difference. Mrs. Tobin liked to describe the careful thought that went into distribution of the clothing, in particular. "It means for these boys and girls," she once said, "the difference between looking like the other children around them in school, and the hated feeling of wearing someone's cast-off clothing." As the functions of Mrs. Tobin's group were increasingly handled through the United Fund, Rotary's Christmastime focus shifted more to the Salvation Army.

Out of all its activities, Rotary may be most visible to the general public through its participation in the annual Salvation Army Christmas bell-ringing collections. On one Monday each December, Champaign Rotarians fan out across the city, standing on street corners outside stores and banks to accept donations for the needy. Ironically, there was a time when Rotary almost cancelled this activity.

In the late 1960s, Rotary's participation in the bell-ringing campaign began to falter. Its collections were falling off, and many members were avoiding it altogether. The 1968 Rotary Board debated the advisability of continuing "as it would appear this has become a drag on attendance and the Club is losing interest after a considerable period of participation." The decision was postponed until after the Club election. The new Board voted to continue and, while collections were low in 1969, they have since skyrocketed to a high of more than \$9,000 in 1986.

A major portion of the collections comes from checks and cash turned in at the regular meeting on bell-ringing day. Such spontaneous collections expanded through the 1960s and early 1970s thanks to Santa Claus, portrayed in full costume by 1951-52 Club President Bill Everitt. No member could refuse to give something when collared by Santa Claus. Apart from this, the Club continues

to field multiple teams whose members spend no less than an hour outside ringing bells in whatever wintry conditions the day presents.

The bell-ringing campaign has become something of a friendly contest between service clubs, as Champaign Rotary competes with other area Rotary clubs, Kiwanis, and Lions. WGRC invariably wins this contest, but the Salvation Army emerges the real winner. Recent coordinators of the effort have been Terry Davis, Bob Cochran, and John Elder.

At least the last five Salvation Army commanders have been Champaign Rotarians, dating to Brigadier Bill Kyle in the 1960s. He was followed by Major Ray Wert, Captain Ray Briggs, Captain Steve Hedgren and, beginning in 1987, Captain Ralph Bukiewicz. Meanwhile the Salvation Army Board has consistently enjoyed the leadership of Champaign Rotarians.

Some years ago Art Lewis headed a successful fund drive for the Community Center addition to the Salvation Army Church on Prospect Avenue. 1987 marked the launching of an \$800,000 capital drive to fund the acquisition and remodeling of a new Men's Center on University Avenue. Tod Dawson, 1984-85 Club president, was then serving as chairman of the Salvation Army Advisory Board, and John Elder served as campaign chairman. Rolland Kelley succeeded Tod as Advisory Board chairman in 1988.

THE WORLD WAR II YEARS

"By a decree of the National Socialist Party in Germany," announced an October, 1937, *Fizz*, "all Rotary clubs in Germany are resigning from Rotary International and disbanding."

Though not a political advocacy organization, Rotary has never been popular with totalitarian governments. In 1938 Italy also abolished Rotary as "incompatible with fascism," and Imperial Japan followed in 1940 — a "clean sweep" of Rotary and its altruistic objectives by the Axis.

Rotary does not exist in the Soviet Union or anywhere else behind the Iron Curtain. For that matter, Spain's Generalissimo Franco also ordered a halt to service clubs in 1940, and it was only in 1977, following Franco's death, that Rotary returned to Madrid, where it had first taken root on the European continent.

At the onset of World War II, Rotary clubs, like most nations, tried to adopt a neutral stance. In September, 1939, the RI President stated:

We feel that Rotary clubs should not become involved in international politics, should not become propagandists for or against any cause of national or international concern . . . [nor] instruct their members as to what position they ought to take on controversial national and international subjects. Members should express their convictions not as Rotarians but as patriotic citizens. Rotary has an important role to play in a troubled world, just as the Red Cross has its role, and neither organization can step out of its role without endangering both its effectiveness and its existence.

Around the same time *The Fizz* reflected the isolationist mood of most of the country, commenting on one speaker's presentation by saying:

Prospects for our ultimate neutrality — the question biggest in most minds — were rather gloomily presented. May we add the thought that before we can hope to stay out, we must believe we can. If "eventually" becomes an accepted concept, "now" is simple.

Nevertheless, the Club became actively involved in war-related humanitarian activities. From 1939 through 1941 Champaign Rotarians donated to relief funds for war victims in such places as China, Finland, and Greece, and worked for such groups as the U.S. Committee for the Care of European Children.

Then came Pearl Harbor, and isolationism gave way to a new tone:

President Bill Lee has appointed D.C. Dobbins [Congressman and honorary Rotarian], chairman, Bert Eisner, and Nels Noble as a Defense Committee from our Club. They have been authorized by the directors to represent and act for the Club in any matter that may pertain to the cooperation and participation of the Club in the National Defense Program. Representatives of all civic organizations have been asked to meet December 16th, at the University YMCA, by the Civilian Defense Administration.

For the duration, as during its first two years, Champaign Rotary's activities focused on war work, although the Club continued to promote a number of projects unrelated to the war effort. One of the major home-front projects was the purchase of War Bonds, which members pursued with zeal; another entailed volunteer work every Monday evening, packing shipments of clothing to stricken areas overseas.

In addition, Champaign Rotary contributed a number of men from its ranks to the armed forces. Frequently a list of their names would be printed in *The Fizz*, and, as they fought overseas, their colleagues on the home front sent them morale-boosting letters, gifts, and special in-service editions of *The Fizz*. A typical in-service issue described a Ladies' Night at Rotary:

The Mural Room of the Tilden Hall took on a brighter appearance with the pastel Easter dresses. The speakers' table was in the usual spot, the tables were extended east and west across the room. The service was prompt — ham with sweet potatoes, green peas, lettuce and tomato salad (in a separate dish) and apple pie.

Toastmaster Cliff Northcott made many humorous comments, most directed to the ladies. "These beautiful women must have really been in love to change their names for these Rotarians." He defined the word courtship as "a man running after a woman until she catches him." He also told the story about the woman who went to the banker and said she wanted to buy some War Bonds. She told him she had saved some money for a divorce, but decided she could live with her husband better than with Hitler.

*Rev. H. C. Northcott,
Club president—1931-32*



Thousands of miles from their homes and families, the men at war relished the chance to correspond with old friends. "With Eddie Jacquin's *News-Gazette*, *The Fizz* and letters, you would be surprised how well it's possible to keep close to all that you are doing on the home front," wrote then-Major Russell Cone, recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, on September 2, 1943. He went on:

In case you read the Keith Wheeler articles in the *Gazette*, he was riding with me on the trip in which he described a raid on Kiska. We liked the idea of having him along — not only because he was a swell fellow, but to let the folks at home know firsthand some of the problems we've had to contend with. It's been pretty tough, but we're out to do this job or else, no holds barred. If the plain unadulterated guts and smart headwork my boys have put out are any criterion, and I know they are, there can only be one eventual result and that favorable to us all.

I can tell you some firsthand generalities on the weather we've flown in. The day Wheeler was along was a perfect example. Normally we speak of ceilings on these missions in terms of tens of feet [above the surface] instead of hundreds or thousands. Several times my men have told me (afterwards) that they lost me visually but followed the wash of my propellers on the water.

Again I want to thank all the gang for their wonderful cards and letters. We *need* their moral support. At the end of a weary day, I get them out again and they pick me up.



*Russell A. Cone,
Club president—1949-50*

Another Club member, Wally Mulliken, summed up the feelings of many a serviceman. From Australia on April 12, 1943, he wrote:

As I sit here in the tropical night writing I feel in a way that things in Champaign shouldn't be awfully far away — but they are. Just now the boys in my 3rd Platoon finished singing "God Bless America." Even the toughest of them have an awfully soft spot for home . . . I sure was glad to hear Russ Cone got home for a leave. I've got around twenty days accumulated leave stored up now, and if we can lick the enemy in short order, which I sincerely hope, I sure would love to indulge it by using it up in Champaign.

Fortunately, all of the Champaign Rotarians who fought in the Second World War returned alive.



*Wallace Mulliken
Club president—1958-59*

*George E. Ramey,
Club president—1939-40*



*Ray C. Sparks,
Club president—1940-41*

*William H. "Bill" Lee,
Club president—1941-42*



*Charles E. "Chilly" Bowen,
Club president—1943-44*

POST-WAR PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

THE COSMOPOLITAN CLUB

In 1946 Harry Millard, 1923-24 Club president and one of the most energetic men ever to serve in Champaign Rotary, launched a campaign for statewide Rotary support of an international house for foreign students at the University of Illinois. The Cosmopolitan Club had existed for 32 years, serving as a center for the activities of international students from a wide variety of countries. But by 1946 the house in which it was based was old and dilapidated. Selling the old house would raise only some of the funding needed to purchase and furnish a new one.

Millard saw the project as a prime opportunity to put the words of Rotary's fourth Object—"the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace"—into practice. He began by soliciting backing from the Champaign and Urbana clubs; then he and Champaign's president, Ray Cartlidge, attended every Rotary district convention in Illinois to speak on behalf of the Cosmopolitan Club. This extraordinary effort raised the necessary money, and the new house was acquired.

That was not the end of Champaign Rotary's involvement with the Cosmopolitan Club. Again in 1969, to make way for construction of the Psychology Building, the international house was forced to move. It did so with the help of Rotary and individual Rotarians, among many others. And as recently as 1985, when higher attendance at international suppers combined with the wear and tear of time necessitated refurnishing, Rotarians contributed a variety of furniture.

The Cosmopolitan Club remains very active today. For most of its post-war history, its board of directors has included Rotarians, including Champaign's Tod Dawson, who at press time continued to serve as Cosmo's resource link to the community at large.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND VOCATIONAL SERVICE

Beginning in 1956, Champaign Rotary has provided scholarships to local high school students for higher education in the Champaign vicinity. The first was granted to a Champaign High School senior

specifically for one year at the University of Illinois. Subsequently the emphasis shifted to scholarships for students enrolled in vocational programs.

The change came about in 1977, when the Rotary Youth Scholarship Committee noted that "there are few scholarships available for crafts and trade programs. Those that are available are sponsored by trade unions, and the typical recipients are children of trade union members."

Parkland Community College, under the leadership of its founding president, Champaign Rotarian William Staerkel, filled the vocational gap in higher education. The Club inaugurated the Fred H. Turner Vocational Scholarships, with a commitment to fund six in any given year.¹ Generally they are split between first-year and second-year students in Parkland's two-year associate degree programs, but during the years that the National Academy of Arts offered its vocational/professional program in Champaign, Rotary awarded scholarships to two of its deserving students.

The Club's Vocational Service Committee has at times offered young people practical experience in the working world. Individual efforts and occasional Club projects in this area have taken place since the early years of Champaign Rotary, but it was not until 1972 that the Club geared up for a more concentrated program.

"To many of us spawned in the Depression years," the Committee told Club members, "bread and butter matters overrode considerations of job satisfaction. But today, job satisfaction is equated with individual fulfillment and is deemed especially vital to young people. The need to know the total span of opportunity becomes crucial when viewed in this light and the frustration . . . derives in large measure from lack of knowledge concerning the societal needs which your profession or business fulfills. This is abundantly corroborated by career guidance counselors from all levels of education."

The Cooperative Vocational Guidance Program set out to provide counseling to Champaign's high school youth, and the Club enthusiastically embraced the project. More than 50 members made time in their schedules to lend a hand. Some gave hours of counseling to students in their business offices. Others spent parts of days letting youngsters shadow them while they worked, so they could see firsthand what particular vocations entail on a daily basis. Still others allowed students to work with them as assistants,

¹Readers will note that the scholarships memorialize the Club's dynamic president of 1932-33, whose name appears in several places in this chronicle.

sometimes with pay, other times without, but always with the opportunity to gain valuable experience.

This excellent vocational service program did not continue into the 1980s, but has been succeeded by another. Rotarians play a substantial role in Parkland College's Career Day. For an entire day and evening, business and professional people staff desks in Parkland Center, each desk representing a specific career or job field. Students from high schools throughout the Parkland district arrive by the busload to discuss career opportunities with people actively employed in a wide diversity of fields. Individuals of all ages who are contemplating vocational education also take advantage of this excellent chance to learn about the working world.

VOLUNTEER ILLINI PROJECTS (VIP)

Of all the impressive programs Champaign Rotary has fostered or supported, VIP ranks near the top. It began in the early 1960s under the name of Illini House as a tutoring program. Some 50 UI students and some staff instructed potential high school dropouts—especially minorities, whose dropout rate was then receiving national attention—in basic reading, writing and arithmetic. For the first few years individual Rotarians supported the activity, and then the Club became VIP's principal backer. In 1965, in addition to a grant of \$1,500, Rotary helped VIP find and furnish a facility and paid the rent, too.

Practically overnight, VIP recruited more than 300 student volunteers and rapidly expanded into other areas. Today, between 800 and 1,000 students devote more than 60,000 hours a year to such activities as: working with the mentally retarded, the emotionally disturbed, and the developmentally handicapped; aiding teachers in daycare centers; serving as companions to children, recommended to VIP by social workers, and also to the elderly in nursing homes; collecting blood donations; corresponding with and visiting inmates of state correctional facilities; and conducting many other projects, including an expanded version of the original tutoring program.

VIP has won national acclaim and numerous awards. In 1983 VIP became one of 20 groups—out of 2,000 nominees nationwide—to receive a President's Volunteer Action Award. VIP was the only university organization so honored, and its leaders were invited to a White House luncheon with President Reagan.

Although no longer VIP's chief sponsor, Champaign Rotary has remained a supporter all the way. When VIP first incorporated as a non-profit organization, its five-member board included four

Rotarians. One of them, Chuck Petry, was described by Dean Gaylord Hatch, VIP faculty adviser, as the ramrod of the group's initial fundraising efforts. Succeeding Petry, Bill Everitt was for many years the program's most ardent promoter, frequently soliciting donations from individual Rotarians or the Club at large.

One of the Club's key contributions came in 1972-73 when Champaign and Urbana Rotary combined to deliver \$3,900 to VIP for the purchase of a 12-passenger bus. In subsequent years individual Rotarians gave money for the vehicle's gas and maintenance. When a replacement van was needed in 1977, WGRC provided \$1,500, and individual Rotarians contributed their time to the fundraising effort.

Through years that were troubled for many young Americans, VIP has always done a great deal to repudiate the notion that the present generation has gone astray. Against the background of student riots in 1970, the Lane Bryant Volunteer Awards Committee said it this way:

The citizens of this community witnessed a mass demonstration of student activism stemming from the campus of the University of Illinois. And they were delighted. This demonstration followed a unique protocol. Students turned out by the hundreds, but not to strike or picket. Their protest was against the ravages of despair and apathy. Their weapons: energy, sensitivity, and involvement. They poured into homes for the mentally retarded and the aged and into the community's poorer sections . . . VIP provides the essential link between the socially conscious student and the man, woman or child who awaits assistance.

Indeed, at a time when there was much talk of a generation gap, programs like VIP proved to be a link with youth for many of Rotary's older members. Two decades after VIP began, its large membership flies in the face of negative characterizations of today's younger generation. Its enthusiastic participants represent the finest examples of the types of citizens Rotary's youth work seeks to produce.

BOYS CLUB AND BIG BROTHERS

While Rotary's focus on youth has always included groups such as Boy Scouts and 4-H, the 1960s and 1970s saw the Club's youth activities take on new dimensions. Rising levels of crime and delinquency spurred concern that youth activities ought to target

those young people whose backgrounds made them more likely candidates for getting into trouble with the law—if they hadn't already.

A 1968 *Fizz* noted that one survey had shown more than 700 local juveniles had been "in contact" with the police, including 331 repeat offenders. That had been a major inspiration for the Champaign-Urbana Don Moyer Boys Club, which opened in 1967 with 100 boys as members, "to provide positive activities instead of ones leading to crime."

Champaign Rotary's early support was substantial in both dollars and leadership. As the Club's directors noted after a \$1,000 gift in 1969: "This decision was made because the Boys Club is still in its fledgling period and our total membership appears to be very anxious for its complete success." The Boys Club programs were directed particularly at younger children, stressing not the rehabilitation of those already committing crimes, but rather the prevention of beginnings down that road. Early facilities included rooms for electronics, radio, weightlifting, arts and crafts, photography, woodworking, pool and other games; others have since been added. Rotary's ongoing contributions helped to purchase a Boys Club bus in 1973, among other items.

Rotarian Paul Kent was an important motivator behind the organization of the Boys Club, as were Rotarians Clarence Thompson and Hal Dawson. Rotarians have continuously served on the Boys Club board of directors, with the work of Carl Greenstein being particularly noteworthy. The first executive director of the Boys Club was Rotarian Dave Lawrence; when Dave moved to the United Way in 1977, he was succeeded by Rotarian Jim Forrest. In 1988 Champaign Rotarians joined Kiwanians in a special solicitation drive for the Boys Club.

Apart from the establishment of the Boys Club, concern over juvenile delinquency brought new attention to Big Brothers of America, a national organization chartered in 1946. "A fatherless boy encounters an adult male and realizes the kind of man he might want to be. This is a primary goal of Big Brothers of America," said the Champaign County Big Brothers Association in a 1972 statement of its mission.

A BBA branch was established in Champaign, with the assistance of groups such as Rotary. Committed to the support of many other programs, Champaign Rotary was unable to take on Big Brothers as a long-term project. Yet at the start, when Big Brothers needed substantial help to get off the ground, the Club was there. It raised

more than \$2,000 in 1972 and another \$1,200 the following year. In combination with donations from other clubs, that aid helped sustain Big Brothers of Champaign County until it was able to secure other support. This is typical of the way Champaign Rotary helps worthy organizations get started.

THE CARROLL ADDITION COMMUNITY CENTER

The Community Center of the Carroll Addition exists partly because of Rotary contributions of time and resources. The Carroll Addition is an area of low-income families—many of Appalachian origins—located northeast of Urbana. Its social problems were described by the Community Center's Board of Trustees as "all too typical for an area of this type . . . low economic base, inadequate health care, high delinquency rate, numerous school dropouts, and limited recreational activities."

By 1972 a number of programs had already been lined up for the Center then under construction, including Boy and Girl Scouting, tutoring by VIP, after-school recreation programs, the County Health Nurse, Teen Club, Women's Auxiliary, 4-H, and family nights. A great deal of volunteer work had been done by Carroll's residents and by concerned citizens from the outside. Financial problems, however, had dogged the project and funding sources dried up before its completion.

Enter Champaign Rotary. As announced in the March 20, 1972, *Fizz*:

The Board of Directors has authorized a contribution of \$500 to the Carroll Addition Community Center. The Center is nearing completion, but there is a need for additional material in the amount of \$1,065, plus labor and expertise to complete the project.

The Board appointed Bernie Dunn to act as the Club's coordinator on the project and to solicit materials, labor and expertise from Club members. Bernie will list the types of labor expertise and materials needed in *The Fizz* and will then work with various Club members to get the job done. Urbana Rotary will share in this with us.

The materials needed ranged from concrete to food for workers, from plumbing to electrical wiring. By definition, Rotary includes men from a wide variety of occupations, and was ideally suited to respond. Barely two months after issuing a call to arms, Dunn announced the completion of the building. On May 29, a number of Champaign Rotarians had the pleasure of seeing the fruits of their

labor when they attended the open house of the Carroll Addition Community Center.

THE FREE ENTERPRISE PROJECT

In 1976, Club President James Acheson appointed Dave Downey to head a new committee entitled Free Enterprise, with this charge: "Offer the students and faculty of the Champaign schools the expertise of members of our club on the Free Enterprise System."

*James S. Acheson,
Club president—1976-77*



"Because of strange ideas being expounded in schools today about the magic of the marketplace, operation of a business and the nature of economics," Acheson and other Rotarians felt that an educational program was needed—for *teachers*. As UI Professor Larry Metcalf, long associated with the Joint Council for Economics Education, pointed out (summarized by *The Fizz*):

It is interesting that economics is usually not taught in high schools—except in more affluent areas and, even then, just in the senior year—but is lightly included in social studies courses, taught by those who have earned social science certification without ever having had to take an economics course.

Thus, the free enterprise system—a key to our way of life—and the interplay of government, education, business and labor, are largely unknown by those who are in the preparatory stage for assuming leadership roles.

The idea caught on and for the next several years many Champaign teachers attended classes (funded by the Joint Council) which were developed and taught largely by Champaign Rotarians. Prominent among those teachers were UI Professor of Economics Don Kemmerer, Bill Froom, Walt Lewis, Dick Foley, and Clarence Thompson. Lectures such as "The Economic Costs of Inflation" and "Money Management" typified the practical nature of the program. Rotarian Bill Staerkel provided classroom space at Parkland College.

The Free Enterprise Committee is actually a hybrid, starting off under Youth Service and later making its way to Vocational Service. While teachers were a key target, the Club's emphasis on youth never faded. Club members visited schools to speak on free-enterprise economics to children as young as fifth-graders. Moreover, the Club conducted essay contests, in which entrants wrote about specific visits to their classes by free enterprise speakers. For several years, winners of the annual essay contests read their winning essays to the WGRC membership at a regular club meeting.

As an example, here are excerpts from a 1983 winner, Liesa Benn, a senior at Champaign Central High School:

The free enterprise system views man as a pleasure-seeker and incorporates this idea into the work ethic. The work ethic encourages a person to work more than would be necessary to satisfy basic needs for survival. As a result, we develop savings which we re-invest, resulting in growth and a higher standard of living.

The private and public sectors work together to provide opportunity for man in the marketplace. Government encourages competition to prevent monopolies that would upset the market. Competition ensures fair wages, prices, and profits. This encourages businesses to be efficient and to produce better products at lower prices. Competition also protects the consumer from paying for necessities at horrendous prices.

Once we establish these two sectors in society, future growth is possible. Growth is achieved through productivity . . . [measured by] the number of units produced per unit of labor . . . Manipulation of land, labor, capital and management may provide for greater savings and increased profit. This, too, means growth.

Growth . . . is a prerequisite for additional personal freedom . . . The opportunity for Americans to achieve a higher standard of living is what the United States is all about.

Though less active in the late 1980s than in its first several years, the Free Enterprise Committee is still appointed annually. The charge has evolved to: "Communicate to the students and faculty of the Champaign schools the benefits of the free enterprise system and the importance of its preservation."

INTERACT AND ROTARACT

Rotary International's long history of working with boys and girls

preceded its inauguration in 1962 of Interact, conceived by a committee of five Rotarians of different nationalities. Interact is actually a service club for young people of secondary-school age, who work under the guidance of a supervising Rotary club on a variety of community (and even international) projects.

In 1988 there were 5,567 Interact Clubs in 85 countries, and in 1978, thanks to the efforts of Rotarians Stu Clark and Dick Knieriem, Champaign Rotary became the first club in Rotary District 649 to establish an Interact Club. With the cooperation of principal Al Davis and Interact's first faculty sponsor, Rick Romero, Centennial High became the correspondent school. Jim Forrest served as WGRC's Interact chairman in 1981-83, and then Tom Cornell stepped in for the next four years.

*Tom Cornell
Rotarian of the Year
1985-86*



It was during Cornell's tenure that girl student leaders, members of the Senior Council, began helping Interactors with their projects. Cornell wanted to include the girls under the Interact banner, but Principal Davis thought it best to maintain a separation of powers, so to speak. Cornell then came up with the name Interserve for the participating girls. Stu Jenkins and Kate Foster became faculty sponsors of the companion clubs.

It's interesting that girl student leaders, fully as committed to the concept of service as boys, beat Rotary International to the punch in transcending the gender barrier. Though under two names, the two groups at Centennial functioned as one until 1988, when Davis agreed to Interact as the sole name for a unified group.

Interactors serve as advisers to incoming freshmen and assist with the orientation of foreign exchange students. They hold an annual chili supper to raise funds for a freshman dance and an annual dance-a-thon to raise money for the local Special Olympics. Each year, Rotary sends two Interactors to the Youth World Affairs Seminar in Whitewater, Wisconsin.

Since 1986 the Interactors have selected a teacher at Centennial to receive the Eugene H. Mellon Award. This award, named for the

long-time Unit 4 Schools Superintendent and Champaign Rotarian, recognizes teaching excellence.

At least once a year the Interactors (undoubtedly future service club members) are introduced to WGRC at a regular meeting, and their officers report on their activities.

Rotaract was organized by Rotary International in 1968 to bring the service club concept to older youth (ages 18–28), and more than 5,500 active chapters quickly sprang up in 112 countries around the world. It is in the United States, including District 649, that Rotaract lags. The exception, once again, is Champaign Rotary, which succeeded in establishing, in conjunction with Urbana Rotary, a Rotaract Club at the University of Illinois in 1985.

Rotarian Robin Herron, UI Dean of the College of Applied Life Sciences, got the ball rolling, and Gary Wackerlin took over the following year. Rotaract might be seen as a breeding ground for the next generation of Rotarians. But unlike the membership of a normal Rotary Club, or even an Interact Club, few members of the UI Rotaract Club have roots in the local community and so their Club lacks needed continuity.

Nevertheless, these young people embraced the concept of service. Projects undertaken included: reading for the blind; volunteering at the UI Rehabilitation-Education Center, as well as at local nursing homes where they helped patients with such tasks as writing Christmas cards; helping the Champaign Park District with cleanup and other projects; helping international students adjust to campus surroundings; and assisting with campus solicitation for PolioPlus, a major Rotary project (see page 59).

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

1983–84 Club President Ron Kiddoo and President-Elect Tod Dawson appointed Gary Wackerlin to head a committee that would get a Junior Achievement program going at one of the two Champaign high schools. Junior Achievement is an independent activity begun in 1919 as a program to introduce young people to the free enterprise system through the hands-on experience of operating small companies. Today it serves more than one million young people in more than a thousand communities.

With the aid of his eventual successor, Kip Pope, and the characteristic cooperation of the School's administration, Wackerlin formed a Junior Achievement company at Centennial High in the spring of 1985. Pope later succeeded in introducing Junior Achievement at Central High, as well. As of the spring of 1988, few Rotary-sponsored youth projects were on sounder footing. The

companies have averaged 18 student participants, and the Centennial company boasted 36, including girls and minorities, in 1988. Based on the enthusiastic response of students and business faculty to Junior Achievement, Champaign Unit 4 School leaders have approved in concept the change of Junior Achievement to a daytime, in-school activity, and also its expansion to middle and grade schools.

Important support to Junior Achievement in terms of sponsors and dollars has come from several Rotarians through their firms: Rolland Kelley, Bank of Illinois; Al Anderson, Illinois Power; Joe Garrett, Colwell Systems, Inc.; and Bob Wallace, Champaign National Bank.

The enthusiastic acceptance of Junior Achievement in the two high schools is particularly gratifying to Champaign Rotary, in light of its commitment to find ways to convey to young people the advantages of the free enterprise system.

ROTARY HILL, WGRC, INC., AND ACTION AUCTION

The largest single community service project undertaken by Champaign Rotary in its first 60 years was the construction of the Rotary Hill picnic pavilion, completed in 1977. For many years, there had existed in Lake of the Woods Park, Mahomet, a spot known as Rotary Hill. This name dated back to 1957, when Lake of the Woods was first being developed.

There is no better place to mention the inspirational work of Rotarian Hi Gelvin, who during his terms as president of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District, almost single-handedly brought about the creation of Lake of the Woods, the county's finest multi-use park. In the process, he apparently received enough help from various Rotarians to motivate him to designate a wooded knoll, set well back from main park roads, as Rotary Hill. He placed a \$25 wooden sign on the spot, which was promptly forgotten by just about everyone.

For the next 20 years, Rotary's connection to the Hill existed only through that sign. The area was secluded, rough and undeveloped. But one Rotarian, Art Skelton, remembered and began to remind each new Club administration of the potential for community service at Rotary Hill. 1975-76 Club President Tom Morgan took enough interest in the site to schedule a Board of Directors meeting there to have a close-up look at the area. They concluded that Rotary Hill was the ideal project to arouse the interest and participation of the Club and the community.

For it was "a unique site," as Rotarian Harrison Phillips later said:

A heavily wooded peninsula extending into the golf course with natural prairie grasses and a single entrance road, it is an ideal spot for family reunions, open-air conferences, Rotary parties, company picnics, naturalist lectures, or a base camp for cross-country skiing. The Forest Preserve District has a great demand for these kinds of activities; they need Rotary Hill developed.

But it was to take time. Architecture Professor Walt Lewis, a member of WGRC's Project Planning Committee, asked his class to design a picnic ground for the area, including a pavilion. In late 1975 the student projects were displayed at a regular Club luncheon meeting. The displays evoked great excitement and, though no single design was accepted in all its aspects, the Board had received the impetus it needed to vote \$15,000 for construction materials for the Rotary Hill Pavilion (\$5,000 per year for three years). The Forest Preserve District would provide the labor.

Harrison Phillips, in the first year of his 1976-80 tenure as chairman of the Rotary Hill Committee, said: "The Rotary Hill Project is local, real, and tangible. It will promote human fellowship and Rotary's identity." True, but a financial commitment of this size threatened to occlude the Club's support of all other projects, large and small. The only solution was to mount an unprecedented fundraising effort. But in what form?

Harrison Phillips
Rotary Hill chairman

[Photo courtesy of The News-Gazette]



Bill Kuhne provided the idea—an auction—and 1976-77 Club President Jim Acheson appointed Don Moyer Jr. to run the Club's first "Action Auction," to be held on June 4, 1977. The goal was to raise \$15,000 for Rotary Hill, and Moyer's 10-man Acquisitions Committee acquired donated items to auction with a total value well beyond that. The question: Would anyone actually bid for them?

It's worth listing some of the 67 auction items (55 donated by club

members) that were creatively described in that first Action Auction catalog:

- *Parties — A Champagne Breakfast for 20; a New England Lobster and Clambake; a Cocktail Buffet for 24; and a Cocktail & Hors d'Oeuvres party for 200 guests staged at the purchaser's home by 14 young Rotarians and their wives.
- *Real Estate — Use of a cottage at Lake of the Woods, Ontario; use of condos at Vero Beach, Lake Tahoe, Tarpon Springs or Breckenridge; a week at a resort in Durango; plus yours to buy—a 10-acre tract of timberland in Michigan.
- *Rides — From the sublime to the ridiculous: in Garcia's Flying Tomato balloon, or on a Ringling Bros. elephant from the circus train's railhead to the Assembly Hall.
- *Commodities — A freezer full of beef, a whole hog butchered and packaged, Smithfield hams, and \$500 worth of Illinois grain to trade or hold.
- *Services — From a quail hunt to piano lessons; from a new deck to a new driveway or fireplace; from dry cleaning to an eye exam and glasses; from tax service to a commission-less real estate transaction; to TV and radio advertising.
- *Travel — Trips to Stanford for the UI football game, to Busch Stadium (a box) to see the Cardinals; 300 miles anywhere in your own chartered bus; or a six-person golf weekend at Point of Woods, complete with meals, green fees, and hospitality room.
- *Products — Antiques, art and crystal, jewelry, a shopping spree, and others too numerous to mention.

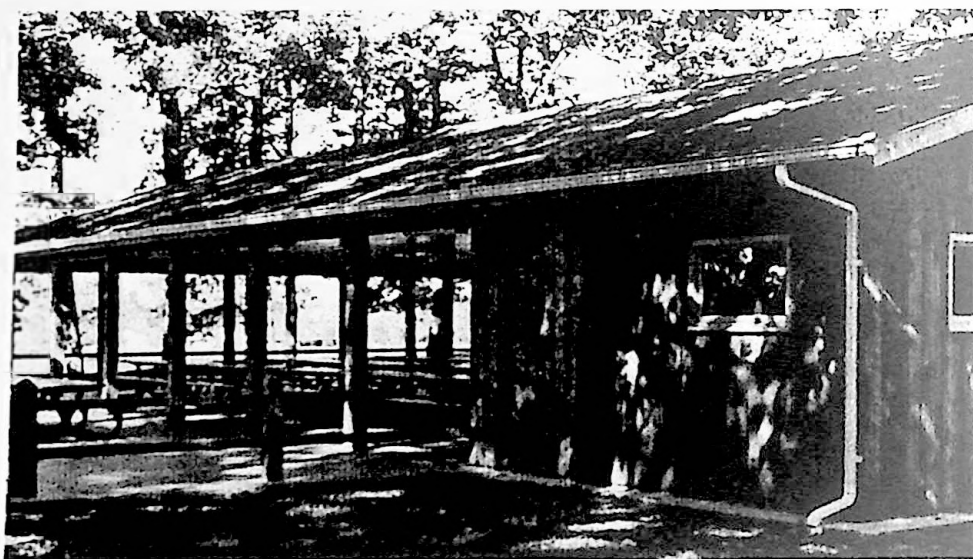
When the bidding came to an end that fine June evening in 1977, the Action Auction revenues totalled an unbelievable \$32,000. That

covered not only the entire cost of the pavilion, but also several other projects, including the first three of what became the Fred H. Turner Vocational Scholarships—these to Parkland College, Illinois Commercial College, and the National Academy of Arts.

Needless to say, this inaugural Action Auction set the precedent for what became a regular Club event, held every third year. The first four Action Auctions all attained revenues of \$30,000-plus, comprising the major portion of funding available for all Rotary projects.



Forest Preserve Director Ron Pennock and keynote speaker David D. Henry at dedication of Rotary Hill Pavilion.



Rotary Hill Pavilion from Southeast.

DEDICATED BY THE
CHAMPAIGN ROTARY CLUB

IN THE TRADITION OF ROTARY
SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY THIS
PAVILION IS PRESENTED TO THE
PEOPLE OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

OCTOBER 16 1977

Bronze plate at Rotary Hill Pavilion.



1977-78 Club President Frank Keck speaks at dedication ceremony of Rotary Hill Pavilion.

The sudden infusion of this amount of money might have had tax ramifications but, as though in anticipation of a dramatic increase in project monies, the Club had formed its own non-profit foundation in October, 1976.

WGRC, Inc. was established to receive and administer tax-exempt contributions under section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code. Its members are the Club members, but its Board of Directors, which normally includes several former Club presidents, is elected and operates independently of the Club Board.

Major project funding thus undergoes a three-tiered examination. The Project Planning Committee makes prioritized recommendations to the Club Board of Directors, which makes its award decisions. Those awards must then be approved by WGRC, Inc. before funds are dispensed.

The sum of all these related events elevated the Club to a new plateau in community service. The Board and its standing Project Planning Committee, able to forecast revenues based on the Action Auction and growing individual donations because of WGRC, Inc., could now look beyond the current year's budget. Previously, any expenditures of more than several hundred dollars required a special appeal to the Club. Now the Committee could consider more and larger potential projects in much greater detail and could operate on a more business-like basis.

With the funds raised, Don Moyer Jr., now chairman of a special Rotary Hill Board, got things moving. Four months later, on Sunday, October 16, 1977, a dedication ceremony took place at the completed, 3,000 square-foot Rotary Hill Pavilion. Among those making remarks was David Dodds Henry, University of Illinois President Emeritus and honorary Rotarian. A time capsule was sealed—not to be opened until 2077 by the Champaign Rotary president. It included a record of Club activities in 1977, newspapers, magazines, and photographs.

*Don Moyer, Jr.
Club president—1978-79*



Also included were letters of greeting from District 649 Governor Herbert Heaton—a Champaign Rotarian, appropriately enough—and from Club President Frank Keck. The contents of the capsule, noted Club Historian Oscar Dodson, would be read in the next century “with keen interest by citizens of Illinois and with deep emotion by the great-grandchildren of members of Champaign Rotary.”

At the Rotary District 649 Conference in Normal that year, the Rotary Hill project won top honors in the community project competition. Rotary has continued its involvement with Rotary Hill, funding such improvements as playground equipment, and holding its annual Rotary Corn Roast at the site. More importantly, in the 10 years since the Pavilion opened, more than 50,000 area citizens have made use of its facilities.

It is nothing short of remarkable, when we consider the pleasure brought by the pavilion, the enthusiasm its construction inspired among Rotarians, and the great new source of project funding spawned by the auction, to remember that it all started with the vision of Hi Gelvin, and one small \$25 sign bearing the name of Rotary.

THE DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES CENTER (DSC)

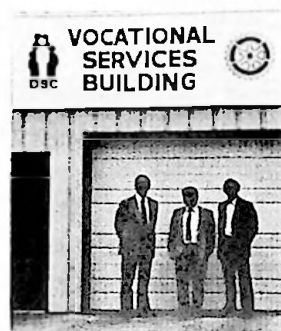
Because it became the largest single WGRC community investment, one final project merits special mention: the Rotary Vocational Service Building at the Developmental Services Center. DSC provides vocational training and employment for developmentally disabled individuals in Champaign and Ford Counties. In 1986 it was serving more than 1,000 clients annually; about 350 were pre-school children, and the rest were educable adults. DSC's goal is to make its clients as independent as possible—to make them “tax payers rather than tax receivers.” To that end, DSC clients learn and pursue such skills as printing, packaging, janitorial services, and concrete-product fabrication.

DSC's support comes from state, federal and private sources. With federal funding diminishing due to automatic cuts mandated by the Gramm-Rudman Bill, DSC looked to other possible sources of funds to expand their facility and, thereby, their client capacity. Rotarians serving on the DSC board of directors submitted the remodeling of a garage on the premises to a training/operations facility as a possible community project for Champaign Rotary. After extensive WGRC committee review, the DSC project was selected as the major focus of the 1986 Action Auction.

Anticipating another \$30,000 success at the Auction, 1985-86 Club President Leonard Flynn committed that amount, not to remodel the

old garage, but to build in its place an entirely new building which could be adapted to a variety of vocational training missions. In turn, DSC agreed to come up with the balance of funds needed for the expanded project.

Standing outside new Rotary Vocational Services Building at Developmental Services Center: 1985-86 President Len Flynn, 1986-87 President Ken Gunji, Project Planning Committee Chairman Bill Brunkow.



The Auction succeeded, and a new building now faces Bradley Avenue bearing the Rotary Wheel emblem and the words, Vocational Services Building. It was initially used for hand-cleaning and detailing of automobiles for both local dealers and private individuals. After several DSC clients were trained and placed in regular jobs of this nature, the building was converted for training clients in assembly-line work in cooperation with Kraft-Humko training programs.

In 1988, Dale Morrissey, DSC's Executive Director, became a member of Champaign Rotary.

OTHER SERVICE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

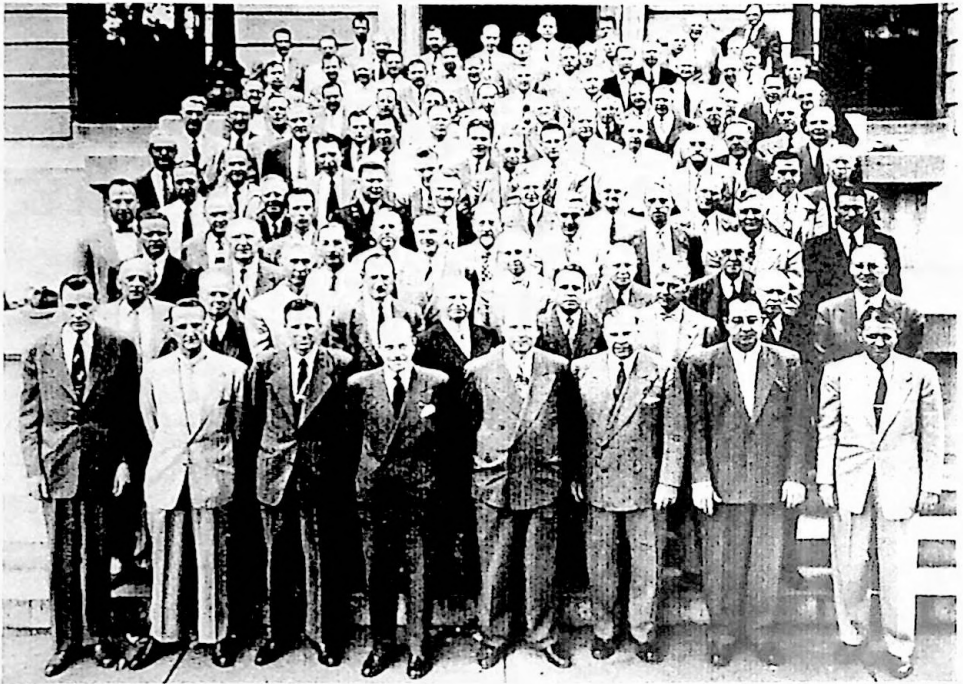
The preceding overview of Champaign Rotary's projects obviously omits many, some of which have been significant. For example, another project Champaign Rotary did solely on its own was to construct, at a cost of \$1,500, a two-mile physical fitness trail in Centennial Park with 20 exercise stations. And Club members dependably throw their support to worthy projects of other organizations, such as the annual bike-a-thon staged by Champaign West Rotary on behalf of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee.

To catalogue all the Club's activities is infeasible, both because of the sheer volume of them and because of inadequate records. Some are simply difficult to categorize, such as the fire engine Champaign Rotary bought for the city in the 1920s, or iron lung funding in the days that polio afflicted our young people, or the generous support always forthcoming in response to epidemics and natural disasters that strike people in all parts of the world.

It seems appropriate, however, to list—arbitrarily and with no attempt at completeness—some of the organizations and projects not mentioned elsewhere which the Club has in some way helped:

AFROTC children's basketball clinic
Arbor Day tree planting
Boneyard Creek improvement
Champaign 4th of July Freedom Celebration
C-U Symphony Children's Program
Champaign-Urbana Youth Council
Christie Clinic PACT (Parents & Children Together)
Circus tickets for County Nursing Home residents
Council for Interracial Projects
Courteous Driving Campaign
Downtown Senior Citizens Center—pottery kiln
Goodwill Industries
Illini Glee Club ("Singing Illini") good will tour to Belgium
and Switzerland
Jerry Traylor (cerebral palsy victim running cross-country
to fund recreation for elderly and handicapped)
Meals on Wheels
National Academy of Arts
Operation Snowball (teen drug counseling and support)
Proposed parking and traffic solutions
Tot-Lot Nursery School
UI Black Chorus
UI Gizz Kids (wheelchair athletics)
Urban League
USO
Wilber Mansion—Champaign County Historical Society
Willard Airport Beautification Project
William M. Staerkel Planetarium at Parkland College

To glance over such a list begs the question: what would the local community be like without the work of Champaign Rotarians? But to ask the question is to realize how fortunate it is that it need not be answered.



Club picture of October 2, 1950, on steps of Masonic Temple.

First row, left to right: Club Directors Cannon, Thompson, C.A., and Mulliken, President Harris, B.F. III, Vice President Everitt, Secretary Daniel, Treasurer Hodges, Director White.

Second row: Past Presidents King, Millard, Peterson, Turner, F.H., Kiler, Jacquin, Ramey, G.E., McClure, Cartledge.

Third row: Past Presidents Amsbary, Hagan, Sullivan and Cone; Stouffer, Riley, Morrissey.

Fourth row: Murphy, F.D., Jr., Murphy, F.D., Sr., Pope, Beaty, Dallenbach, Koehnemann, Tuxhorn, Robb, Healy.

Fifth row: Hunt, Burwash, Hatch, Andrews, Gallivan, Jorgensen, Skelton, M.B., Weller.

Sixth row: Thomas, Nogel, Kariher, Cunningham, Peach, Willis, Harris, N.M.

Seventh row: Bresee, H.R., Mellon, Whetzel, Peck, Wise, Kuhne, C.F., Graham, Burke.

Eighth row: McConnell, Wiese, Hecker, Bacon, Dickerson, Knappenberger, Huxtable.

Ninth row: Ford, Price, Vance, Bash, Lewis, A., Grindley, Noble, Davis, Delbridge, Higgins.

Row 9½ center: Strong, Thomasson, Dillavou, Campbell.

Tenth row: Kelley, S., Parkhill, T.D., Mills, Dawson, Julian, Skelton, A., Clegg, Kent, McClelland.

Eleventh row: Eisner, R., Jr., Greenstein, Rice, Ryder, Chester, Bryan, Murphy, L.W.

Twelfth row: O'Neil, Overshiner, Hansen, Hudelson, Legg, Nelson, Bresee, P.D., Eisner, A.

Top row: Brownell, Younger, McCumber, Petry, C.A., Sr., Gillingham.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE ABSENT WHEN THE PICTURE WAS TAKEN:

Atkinson, Boulware, Bowen, Bunn, Capel, Clifford, Colwell, Corcoran, Corazza, Davis, W.C., Eisner, R., Ekbohm, Fletcher, Gelvin, H.E., Gelvin, P.D., Griftnier, Harding, Heffernan, Hindsley, Hudson, Hurd, Johnson, Kelley, R.L., Kemmerer, Kuhne, R., Lewis, H., McCarthy, Magdsick, Mayes, Meaney, Mittendorf, Monier, Parkhill, W., Peterman, Petry, C.A., Jr., Powell, Ramey, F., Reed, Shapland, Shaver, Stipes, Thompson, E., Turner, I., Vincent.



Club Board 1954: seated from left: Vice-President Les Bryan, President Stew Daniels, Secretary Morry Hecker; standing from left: Directors Art Skellon, Dean McCumber, Phil Gelvin.



INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROJECTS— THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

It is impossible to follow Rotarians along the Avenue of International Service without knowing about The Rotary Foundation, established in 1947 with this objective:

The furthering of understanding and friendly relations between people of different nations through the fostering of tangible and effective projects of a philanthropic, charitable, educational, or other eleemosynary nature.

Rotarians participate in international service by being donors to The Rotary Foundation, and by involving themselves in the Foundation's major activities and programs: Scholarships for a year of study abroad, Group Study Exchange, Special Grants, and the 3-H Program (Health, Hunger and Humanity).

To encourage contributions to the Foundation, Rotary International promulgated a formula for measuring club participation: any club which has contributed \$10 per member to the Foundation earns "100% club" status. To clubs which had always concentrated on community-based programs, that first 100% level was the hardest to attain. But thanks to the persistence of Club president Bob Eisner Sr., Champaign Rotary had the distinction of becoming the first Rotary club in the world to attain the 100% plateau, delivering a \$1,130 check to the Foundation on April 2, 1945.

*Robert Eisner, Sr.,
Club president—1944-45*



It is interesting that, among the many WGRC Rotary Foundation Committee chairmen, Bob Eisner Jr. served with special distinction in 1977–80, and Robert Eisner III has done likewise since 1985. The fact that three succeeding generations of Eisners have distinguished themselves as Champaign Rotarians would be particularly gratifying to Albert Eisner Sr.

Contributions to the Foundation built slowly until 1957, when a new individual recognition program really got the ball rolling. Anyone—Rotarian or otherwise—who contributes \$1,000 to the Foundation is designated a Paul Harris Fellow. Entering the 1988–89 Rotary year, Champaign Rotary proudly boasted 152 Paul Harris Fellows, including friends and relatives of Rotarians. The Club also had 136 Paul Harris Sustaining Members—people who had contributed at least \$100 toward their declared \$1,000 goal.

As this history went to press, Champaign Rotary was an 8900% member of the Foundation, and that based on more than twice as many members as in 1945. When the Club attains the 10,000% plateau, that will represent total contributions to the Foundation equivalent to \$1,000 for each member. At that time, while not every member will be a Paul Harris Fellow, each will be part of a remarkable Paul Harris “fellowship.”

The Club's donations to the Rotary Foundation, now well into six figures, go to support Rotary's international service activities. Consider that Champaign Rotary's Foundation support, substantial though it is, has been matched or exceeded by many Rotary Clubs throughout the world, particularly those in Japan. Through the Rotary Foundation, then, Rotarians have truly become a worldwide community dedicated to service—a major force for the good of mankind.

International Service has a dual mission. Through its Rotary Scholars and Group Study Exchange teams, Rotary builds two-way bridges of understanding throughout the world. Scholarship recipients are the very top young people, the future leaders of their nations, who act as cultural ambassadors while learning about their host countries. In the Scholarship and GSE programs, as well as in other exchanges fostered but not funded by Rotary, *people* are the focus.

In contrast, although it takes the volunteered services of many people, *money* is the key in Rotary's Special Grants and in its 3-H Program. Already the Foundation's accomplishments in alleviating human suffering and improving the quality of life are significant, **but** the plans from now into the next century are wonderful to contemplate. Rotarians reading this history in 2005, for example,

should be able to look back with pride and satisfaction over the part they, as individuals and as members of Champaign Rotary, have played in some marvelous good works throughout the world.

Not the least of these achievements will be PolioPlus.

POLIOPLUS

1978 was a landmark year in terms of the 3-H Program. Enjoying an influx of special donations tied to the upcoming 75th Anniversary of Rotary (1980), the Foundation urged the RI Board of Directors to involve Rotary in the World Health Organization's program to immunize the world's children against the six major childhood diseases: polio, measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, tuberculosis, and tetanus.

But by 1982, the Foundation Board saw that the resources of 3-H were small in comparison to the need; only 10 percent of the developing world's children had been immunized against the worst killer andcrippler, polio. The Foundation launched "Polio 2005," a crusade to eradicate polio by the year of Rotary's 100th anniversary. The long-term plan involved purchasing vaccines, providing refrigerators and other "cold chain" facilities, and organizing teams of experts and Rotarians to plan and carry out national immunization programs. But soon even this plan was reevaluated. If money could be raised, why stretch the campaign out to 2005?

And thus, in 1985, came PolioPlus: the Foundation's commitment to raise \$120 million in just *five years*. This sum was calculated to be that needed to protect all newborn children in the world by administering three doses of oral vaccine (cost: four cents per dose) in their first year of life. Never before had Rotary International asked its clubs to raise a specific amount of money—by any means—and the RF took two more years to gear up for this unprecedented effort.

Walter Maddocks, a past Rotary district governor in Great Britain now living in Kentucky, agreed to direct the international campaign. The 1987–88 Rotary year was selected as "the year" when the clubs would be asked to raise the entire amount in cash or pledges. To serve as examples to clubs around the world, Maddocks and his campaign organization selected 10 "Model Clubs" to conduct their campaigns in early 1987.

Enter Champaign Rotary. Out of the blue, Champaign was one of those chosen from among 22,576 Rotary clubs to be a Model Club. It was handed a goal of \$120,000—.1% of Rotary's total goal.

Champaign Rotary doesn't back away from challenges, but this was a tall order. Never before had the Club individually solicited its members. Furthermore, the timing was bad; the United Way drive was just concluded, and several other major capital campaigns were about to begin—headed, of course, by Champaign Rotarians.

Club President Ken Gunji asked Scott Anderson, 1963–64 Club president, to head WGRC's Model Club PolioPlus drive. Anderson quickly organized a committee and addressed the Club. "Will we be WGRC, ha-ha? Or will we be WGRC—you betcha!?" he challenged. Anderson translated the dollar goal into human terms. "We're not out to win laurels," he said, "we're immunizing children. \$120,000 will immunize one million children." And then he added: "That's our official goal. But my *personal* goal for this club is \$160,000."



*Scott Anderson
addresses 1978
District Conference*

The audience visibly swooned. There were grumblings, excuses, criticisms. But the drive received a boost when Anderson got Walter Maddocks to address the Club. "I was asked to give up five years of my life for PolioPlus," Maddocks said, "and I didn't want to. But in the end my wife helped me out. 'This is too important,' she said, 'to say no.'"

The show opened locally without benefit of a dress rehearsal. A couple of actors withdrew, others were out of town. "What do you think?" the fundraising consultant privately asked Anderson's committee. "Can you guys raise \$120,000?" The answer came without hesitation: "This Club has never fallen short of any goal it sets for itself."

Nor did it this time. Within weeks, Champaign Rotarians achieved their goal. Not the Foundation's \$120,000—Scott Anderson's \$160,000. There were small pledges and there were large ones, but one Rotarian and his wife merit special mention. To help leverage the drive to its goal, Dick and Anne Tryon pledged to match each \$4



Dick and Anne Tryon



donated with \$1 of their own—up to \$25,000. This extraordinary challenge set the tone, and before long, the Tryons were gratified to fill out their pledge for the full \$25,000.

PolioPlus was a remarkable example of how Champaign Rotary takes "Service Above Self" beyond the sphere of its own community. As a May, 1987, *Fizz* put it: "They'll never shake our hands or congratulate WGRC, but somewhere 1,250,000 children will be grateful."

That estimate was low. As of June, 1988, WGRC's PolioPlus drive had passed \$200,000. The Club can always be proud that their officers and a great many individual members saw the Model Club mantle not as an incoming mortar round to be ducked, but as an honor and a challenge to measure up to. WGRC's dedication to international and world community service through the Rotary Foundation means more than 1,750,000 children will grow up free from the ravages of polio.¹

ROTARY SCHOLARS

Aside from its classification system for membership, one of the signal distinctions of Rotary is the extraordinary breadth of its international programs. Its Scholarship program considerably exceeds the Rhodes Scholarships, for example, both in numbers of scholars and in the diversity of countries in which they study. Rotary sends abroad not only outstanding graduate students, but also teachers of the handicapped, aspiring journalists, and vocational and secondary school teachers. Awardees invariably emerge from their experiences with new respect for Rotary, both at home and abroad.

¹In a moving ceremony at the June, 1988, Rotary International Convention in Philadelphia, Walter Maddocks announced that PolioPlus contributions worldwide had reached not \$120 million, but \$220 million—\$119 million from the United States alone.

Each year, based on their annual contributions to the Rotary Foundation, Rotary districts qualify to select candidates for scholarships. Several applicants sponsored by Champaign Rotary have been chosen by the district screening committee, and have gone to such places as Germany, Italy, Israel and England.

In 1949-50, Champaign-sponsored Howard Shuman spent a year in England at Oxford University. While there, he became only the third American to be elected to the Oxford Union, training ground for members of Parliament. *Time* magazine commented:

Oxford had never seen anything quite like Shuman . . . never had it seen anyone rise in debate garbed in an American lumberman's jacket and red baseball cap and self-billed as "the original public schoolboy"—from the schools of Morrison, Ill.

While at Oxford, Shuman debated British Prime Minister Clement Attlee and also French Prime Minister Georges Bidault. He finished his degree at Oxford and later became an administrative assistant, first to U.S. Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois, and then to Senator William Proxmire of Wisconsin. While working for Proxmire, Shuman selected the recipients of the Senator's famous "Golden Fleece" awards for misuses of taxpayers' money.

Rotary Scholars may not, by rule, be related to Rotarians, but Howard Shuman was certainly an unofficial offspring of Champaign Rotary. He attended Morrison High School under future Champaign Rotarians Gene Mellon and Bob Wright, and took English from a



*Don L. Kemmerer,
Club president—1952-53*

teacher named Mary who became Mrs. Bob Wright. And at the U of I, he was a graduate student under 1952-53 Club President Don Kemmerer.

The international stature of the University of Illinois attracts many Rotary Scholars from abroad. In an average year, Champaign and Urbana Rotarians serve as counselors to five or more (12 in

1987-88) of these international students. The students, who come from literally dozens of countries, stay on campus and their expenses are paid by the Foundation; but counselors are their surrogate parents and include them in club meetings and other events whenever possible.

GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE

GSE is a reciprocal exchange of teams between Rotary districts. If District 649 sends a team to Austria (as in 1988), the following year an Austrian team will return the visit. Since in many ways Champaign-Urbana is the hub of District 649, the visiting teams always spend several days in the community, stay at Rotarian homes, and make a presentation about their country to a regular Club meeting.

Like Rotary Scholars, members of Group Study Exchange Teams cannot be Rotarians or relatives of Rotarians. The team leader, however, is a Rotarian selected by the district governor. Champaign Rotary has provided two GSE leaders: Tod Dawson led the 1974 team to District 255 in Australia, and Ken Gunji led the 1984 team to District 258 in Japan.

*Thomas O. "Tod" Dawson,
Club president—1984-85*



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE

Another activity which scatters young people about the globe is International Youth Exchange (IYE). This is not strictly a Foundation activity because Rotary provides only the vehicle, not the funding. This program involves the exchange of young people (mostly of high school age) between countries essentially on a district-to-district basis. The exchange can be of individuals or groups of students, for a full school year or for periods of two to several weeks. Travel and maintenance costs are paid by parents, but the receiving district must provide host families for each young person. While abroad the students live as members of their host families, attending school where the exchange is sufficiently lengthy.

International Youth Exchange began in 1939, and WGRC hosted an occasional student from abroad in the 1960s; but as late as 1973, District 649 was little involved. That year, thanks to the adventurous spirit of 16-year-old Phyllis Perkins, Champaign Rotary exported its



Typically heterogeneous group of IYE students—"outbounds," "inbounds," and "rebounds"—at district conference in mid-1970s. At left in checkerboard slacks: Champaign's Phyl Perkins.

first-ever school-year youth exchange "guinea pig"—to Australia. There was no functioning exchange mechanism at either district or regional level, so Club member Peter Tomaras arranged the exchange on a club-to-club basis through personal correspondence.

The next January, Peter Robson of Lithgow, Australia, began his reciprocal year in Champaign. Soon after, the Champaign Club sent three young ladies to Brazil for a vacation-period exchange and, by the late 1970s, District 649 had established the most active district IYE program in the country, with 400 outbounders in 1988 alone. Many hundreds of local young people have expanded geographical and cultural horizons as guests in Rotary homes in Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy and Mexico.

SISTER CLUB PROGRAM

Yet another form of international exchange is club-to-club through the voluntary Sister Club program. At the suggestion of Kimiko Gunji, wife of Rotarian Ken, Champaign Rotary established a Sister Club relationship with the Rotary club of Yanai, Japan, Kimiko's hometown. The first Champaign Rotarian to visit the Yanai Club was none other than Scott Anderson (yes, he of PolioPlus). Yanai is a

small city in Yamaguchi Prefecture on the Inland Sea in Western Honshu. Since none of Yanai's 50 Rotarians spoke English, a Rotary scholar from Japan gave Scott an intensive briefing in Japanese before he departed.

Communication remained a problem, but not a barrier to Anderson's royal reception by Yanai Rotarians. He bore gifts



One of Club's earliest IYE students, Miguel Ortega Chaurand of Mexico, flanked by host Carl Greenstein (left), 1974-75 Club President Peter Tomaras, and Oscar Dodson.

representative of Illinois, including a coal ball (lump of petrified coal) and a leaf nodule (leaf fossil petrified in stone). But by far the most "pop-ular" was some Jiffy Pop popcorn—which Anderson proceeded to pop at the Rotary meeting, creating a sensation among the Yanai members, none of whom had ever experienced this phenomenon.

Anderson's hosts sent him home with fifty fans (Japanese symbols of love) and, upon his return, Scott had American Home Foods send 50 packages of Jiffy Pop to Yanai. But the Sister Club experience produced more than popcorn exchanges.

At the February 23, 1981 meeting of Champaign Rotary, Scott Anderson presented 28 pieces of colorful artwork by elementary school students of Yanai, sent in observation of World Understanding Week. Three students from each of the ten Champaign elementary schools received the Japanese artwork to display in their schools. In April, Anderson returned to the Yanai Club and delivered artwork from Champaign's students, who included a letter with each picture giving a brief biographical sketch and inviting an exchange in correspondence.

Champaign Rotary further strengthened ties to its sister club when Ken Gunji scheduled a visit to Yanai Rotary on the itinerary of the 1984 District 649 Group Study Exchange team which he led to Japan.

STUDY ABROAD FOR THE DISABLED

The Champaign-Yanai art exchange was the latest of several mentions Champaign Rotary and its members have received in *The Rotarian*. But never was WGRC more prominently recognized in Rotary's international magazine than in September, 1976. The lead story that month was an account of a prototype international project brought about through the cooperation of several organizations, one being Champaign Rotary. The project was a 1975 study-abroad program for physically handicapped students.

When L'Institut Franco-Scandinave in Aix-en-Provence, France—a branch of the University of Stockholm—was seeking qualified handicapped students to form a pilot group for a foreign study program, all referrals led to Dr. Timothy Nugent of the renowned Rehabilitation-Education Center at the University of Illinois. Nugent had the disabled students; Champaign Rotary's World Community Service Committee was looking for new ways to export some unique local expertise in the name of international service.

When Nugent and Dr. Erik Mortensen of the L'Institut outlined their proposed project at a Club meeting, WGRC launched a drive which raised more than \$4,000 toward the students' expenses. 1974-75 Club President Peter Tomaras wrote to the presidents of two Rotary Clubs in the Aix-en-Provence district, asking for help on that end. The response from the French presidents was typically Rotarian, and the nine students—six of them with severe disabilities—boarded an Air France flight in Chicago for 15 weeks abroad.

The students returned enthusiastic about their experience. They had done as much teaching as learning, however, because no institution in the world has handicapped facilities to match those developed at the University of Illinois. They taught their hosts at the L'Institut about ramps, shower seats, and handrails by the toilets and beds, as well as about architectural barriers to locomotion and buses with hydraulic lifts.

They taught the French Rotarians something, as well. "I would like to say that this group has given us a lesson," wrote one of the host Rotary presidents. And the lesson was, "It's ability—not disability—that counts."

The editor of *The Rotarian* asked Tomaras to submit a 1200-word

article about the project. In addition to relating the story, Tomaras' article proposed that Rotary create a special class of scholarships for disabled students, bringing together small groups at Aix or equivalent institutions throughout the world. The study-abroad experience should embrace all kinds of students, Tomaras suggested, "and should be world-wide in scope as befits Rotary Foundation programs."

So far, international study for the disabled remains a good idea whose time is yet to come. At least, Champaign Rotary and the UI Rehab Center have shown the world the way.

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS BUREAU

The dependable presence at the University of Illinois of Rotary Scholars from other lands provides a special pool of speakers who can provide interesting programs to Rotary clubs throughout the district. Rotary Scholarships carry ambassadorial responsibilities to host districts; after all, they are funded by the Rotary Foundation. The students are usually more than willing to speak; the problem is getting them to and from distant clubs.

Soon after the first Scholars appeared at the UI, Champaign Rotary appointed a committee whose sole charge was driving foreign students to other Rotary clubs around the district for speaking engagements. The Club advertised its willingness to perform this service, and outlying clubs have taken advantage of it. Don Kemmerer recalls that during two years in the early 1950s, his committee logged more than 500,000 miles ferrying speakers.

As more Americans traveled abroad, the thirst for information about other countries slaked. The International Speakers Bureau Committee continued to be named until the 1986-87 Rotary year, when its duties were incorporated in the charge of the International Hospitality Committee.

OTHER INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

As with community service, it is not feasible to write about all the international service projects Champaign Rotarians have embraced. For example, World Community Service in RI officially began in 1962, and one of its arms is the Matched Districts and Clubs Program. The Matched Club Program brings together clubs seeking assistance for specific projects with clubs which are in a position to provide that assistance. It differs in concept from the more recent Sister Club program which promotes cultural exchanges between clubs of equivalent resources.

WGRC has always appointed a World Community Service Committee, whose basic charge is to look into projects through the Matched Club program. Not many "matches" have been made, but Committee Chairman Bob Prath made 1987 an exemplary year by responding to appeals from two foreign clubs with special needs.

The first involved the Rotary Club of Bogota, Colombia, which asked help in acquiring a much-needed operating microscope for an eye clinic. Committeeman Vic Feldman arranged for a Zeiss microscope suitable for ocular microsurgery to be sent from West Germany to Bogota. Zeiss donated the instrument, but delivery would cost \$2,000. A request at a luncheon meeting for \$10 from each Club member garnered the needed funds in a matter of seconds.

The other, spearheaded by Prath himself, involved completely equipping three little league baseball teams in The Philippines.¹ WGRC, Inc. provided \$4,000 to cover the cost of uniforms and other accouterments, and Prath—a U.S. Navy Captain—arranged for "special delivery" channels.

These are examples—good works that are always there for the doing. From time to time more urgent needs arise, such as from the devastation of natural disasters. Along with Rotary Clubs throughout the world, Champaign Rotary has typically done its part in such cases.

¹In cooperation with the San Pablo South Rotary Club.

INSIDE ROTARY: INTERNATIONAL, DISTRICT AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

As one might assume from its selection as a PolioPlus Model Club, Champaign Rotary has always maintained an outstanding record of participation with Rotary International. Since it was chartered, the Club has been represented at each annual International Convention.

Moreover, several presidents of Rotary International have addressed Champaign Rotary. In the early years, the Club was visited three times in four years by RI presidents. The first was occasioned by an event which was both an honor and a tragedy in the Club's history. In June of 1920, Champaign Rotary put forth B. F. Harris as a candidate for the RI presidency. Whether or not he might have won that position will never be known; Harris soon fell seriously ill and could neither campaign energetically nor attend that year's convention in Atlantic City. By December he was dead.

Estes Snedikor, the man who won the presidency, addressed the Club on October 16. He paid eloquent tribute to Harris, who was too ill to attend, and asked that the basket of flowers from the banquet table be delivered to a ward of a local hospital as a small tribute to the deeds of B. F. Harris.

On November 4, 1922, RI President Raymond M. Havens attended the inter-city meet (a precursor of the annual district convention) hosted by Champaign Rotary; and on November 10, 1923, RI President Guy Gundaker addressed the Club during another inter-city meeting. The fact that RI Headquarters was, and is, in Evanston—and that the geographic scope of Rotary was far smaller in those years—made possible such frequent appearances by RI presidents.

As Rotary spread throughout the world and as more efficient transportation facilitated travel to locations further from Evanston, a visit from an RI president became a rarity for any Club. Even so, Champaign and Urbana Rotary were jointly addressed by RI President Charles Wheeler on September 21, 1943. And on December 13, 1978, RI President W. Jack Davis spoke to Champaign Rotary. Urbana Rotary was invited to attend, as well. Davis was

accompanied by Herb Pigman, who would later become RI General Secretary.

But the visiting speaker who made November 23, 1942, one of the most outstanding dates in Champaign Rotary history was not a sitting RI president. On that date, RI founder Paul Harris made the trek to Champaign, accompanied by his old friend and co-founder, Silvester Schiele, Rotary's first president. Unfortunately, records that might reveal what Paul Harris said to Champaign Rotary do not exist.

Other prominent RI-connected guests have included: RI Past President Bob Hill (1935); RI Directors Clifford Randall (1952) of Milwaukee and Adan Vargas (1958) of Callao, Peru; and Carlos Mendez (1968) of the RI Secretariat, Ibero-American division.

Champaign Rotary has gained attention in *The Rotarian* on several occasions in addition to the article on the disabled study-abroad project. Fred Turner was a frequent contributor of articles to the magazine; David Kinley was published in a 1935 magazine debate over whether there were too many students in college. Incidentally, University of Illinois buildings named for Turner and Kinley (in addition to Bill Everitt and David Dodds Henry) attest to their stature in American education.



*Fred H. Turner,
Club president—1932–33*

Through its many international programs, Rotary's goal of international understanding is served by bringing together some of the best representatives of any culture—Rotarians themselves. A 1953 *Fizz* reflected a Club member's impressions of good will and cooperation at an RI Convention in Paris in this way: "Maybe they should throw away the UN and put in Rotary—its business and professional people could do a darn sight better."

A bit simplistic, perhaps, but a thought echoed by RI President Charles C. Keller at the First Rotary Peace Forum in 1988, as he quoted former U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower: "The people of the world want peace so badly, that someday the governments are going to have to get out of the way." Certainly, there is ever-

increasing reason to perceive Rotary as an authentic force for peace and understanding. It was also Eisenhower who said, "Rotary is the golden cord on the banner of international understanding."

DISTRICT

On the district level Champaign Rotary has always been a leader. The Club has produced five district governors: James M. White, 1923-24; Edwin Jacquin, 1937-38; Arthur J. Skelton, 1959-60; Herbert F. Heaton, 1977-78; and Robert Eisner Jr., 1982-83. In addition, District Governor Will C. Robb (Maywood) later became a Champaign Rotarian.



Club's 5th district governor, Bobby Eisner, Jr., addresses 1983 District 649 Conference at The Chancellor.

[Photo courtesy of The News-Gazette]

Although both jobs demand a heavy investment of time and a genuine commitment to Rotary, the job of district governor differs substantially from that of club president. Bobby Eisner saw it in this way:

As president of the Club, maybe one-fourth of my time was consumed by Rotary and three-fourths by my own business. A *good* president should devote at least that much time. As district governor, I spent perhaps half a year at district work, with an especially heavy concentration in the first two or three months. The governor must travel throughout the district, meeting with all the clubs in the early months of his administration.

Once you're elected district governor, you become a representative first of Rotary International, and only incidentally of your home club. In many ways, you must divorce yourself from your club, because you're actually the head of all clubs in the district. You must visit with their officers and directors, and persuade them to pursue whatever it is that the RI President would like to see accomplished that year.

When you're president of a club, you have a whole board of directors and a framework of committees working for you, and you *run* that club. When you're district governor,

you have just a secretary and a treasurer. And you can only recommend things to the various clubs; you can't force them to do anything. I will say that while I was governor, perhaps 38 clubs did a good job, and six or seven of those were *outstanding*. By the same token, there were seven or eight which did absolutely nothing.

Champaign Rotary has been represented at every District 649 Conference ever held, with Club members frequently presenting seminars or program segments. WGRC has hosted many district conferences. The records, admittedly incomplete, show that Champaign hosted the conferences of 1933, 1940, 1950, 1965, 1974, 1978, and 1983. The last two followed the more recent tradition whereby the conference takes place in the home city of the incumbent district governor, if hotel facilities are adequate.

There is no set district policy as to awards that a governor may present to deserving clubs, but Champaign Rotary has received more than its share—especially of awards or citations for outstanding community and international service projects. One of the high points in Champaign Rotary's district history came in 1974, when the Club hosted the District Conference and also received recognition as "The Outstanding Club of District 649" for 1973-74. The award was based on an announced evaluation of clubs in the Four Avenues of Service.

This incentive by district governors continued for a few years, though it was discounted the very next year when the district governor privately told the Champaign Rotary president: "Well, clearly your Club is the outstanding club again, but we thought it best to give the award to the next-best club, so the other fellows won't get discouraged and lose interest." A hollow reward, perhaps; but the fact remains that Rotarians do good works in the spirit of service, not for prizes or laurels.

An equally humorous development in the "outstanding club" contest at the culmination of a Rotary year came some time thereafter. Champaign's members, responding to the organizational skills of a particularly active president, had reached new plateaus of service in terms of both funds raised and good works. This Club president then proved he was human as well as extraordinary by forgetting to submit the Club's well-documented application for the judging.

WGRC has also been a leader in expanding the opportunity of Rotary to other towns in the district. Champaign Rotary has sponsored no less than a dozen new clubs: Gibson City, Gilman,



District Governor Kurt Schmidt (Urbana) presents Outstanding Club 1973-74 banner to Champaign President Bernie Dunn.



1978 District Conference Luncheon at Ramada Inn. At table in forefront, from left: Joe and Laverne Smith; future (1983-84) District Governor Arlan McPherson of Urbana and his wife; Past District Governor (1974-75) Virgil Judge of Mattoon and his wife; Art and Audrey Skelton; Kyle and Phyllis Robeson.



Conference Chairman Dwyer Murphy addresses 1978 District 649 Conference at Champaign Ramada Inn.



Past President Guy Duker (1962-63) leads singing at 1978 District Conference luncheon. Foreground: future District Governor Steve Bellinger of Decatur and Art Skelton. At speaker's table: Bernie Render, Jane (Mrs. Dwyer) Murphy, Joe Smith.

Lincoln, Monticello, Oakland, Piper City, Rantoul, Tuscola, Villa Grove, Urbana, Champaign West, and (in conjunction with Urbana and Champaign West in 1987) Champaign-Urbana Sunrise. People involved know the considerable personal investment necessary to getting new clubs off the ground.



At Feb. 14, 1979 chartering ceremony of Champaign West Rotary Club: Champaign Rotary sponsors Dick Foley (left) and Frank Keck (right) present bell, gavel and lectern to Champaign West officers John Remsen, secretary, and Randy Moore, president.

[Photo courtesy of The News-Gazette]

LOCAL

Establishing new clubs in communities of this size is always subject to debate. As early as 1973, a district governor was pressuring Champaign Rotary to split off a percentage of its membership as a nucleus for a second Champaign club. A new club in any district is a feather in the cap of a governor, but WGRC's leadership looked askance upon the idea of incubating a new club by reducing the size—and the strength—of Champaign Rotary. The Club directors refused to do it in that way; there was too much pride and tradition involved.

However, with membership hovering around 225 members, Champaign Rotary was the largest club in the district; many members felt it could grow no further without surrendering the level of personal familiarity and fellowship so valued by most

Rotarians. Hence, in 1978, in a decision that proved to be timely and well-advised, the Champaign West Club was chartered—with the sponsorship of, but no members from, WGRC.

It is too early to predict whether the newest club, C-U Sunrise, will thrive. Certainly Champaign West did, quickly growing to more than 100 members and undertaking ambitious service projects. As a breakfast club, C-U Sunrise offers the opportunity of Rotary to persons whose schedules do not permit them to attend luncheon meetings. The attendance requirements for Rotarians are stringent, but Champaign-Urbana Rotarians of 1988 enjoy an ideal situation. They can receive credit by attending the weekly meeting of any of the four local clubs which convene on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at noon, and on Thursday morning. Most important, there is now room in Rotary for a higher percentage of the energetic, service-minded leaders of the community.

INSIDE WGRC

The most universally-shared experience for Rotarians is that which Paul Harris originally intended: the personal friendships enhanced through committee work, traditions, and shared projects, but most of all through weekly meetings and programs. In the beginning Champaign Rotary held its Monday noon meetings at the Beardsley Hotel. Within less than two years, however, the Club was alternating its meetings between the Inman Hotel in the winter and the Champaign Country Club in the summer. These were pre-air-conditioning times, and only in the spacious Country Club could a large group of men find room to breathe on sweltering days. That arrangement continued until the Club moved to the Hotel Tilden Hall in 1939, and then in 1965, to the Ramada Inn (renamed The Chancellor in 1984).

Staples of the meeting have always included: food, which has varied in quality over the years, as Rotarians will tell you; singing, likewise of variable quality; and humor, with jokes delivered in some cases with great style and in other cases with great courage. Certain individuals, particularly presidents armed with control of the rostrum, have been known to add a few characteristic wrinkles.

*William L. Everitt,
Club president—1951-52*



Bill Everitt, even in his eighties, was willing to stand on his head at the drop of a hat, and made a habit of showing up in a Santa suit at Christmastime, especially on Salvation Army bell-ringing day. Scott Anderson performed physics experiments from the podium, some which fizzled (as experiments will) and some which had electrifying effect. Ben Harris III started the "Christmas Tie Contest" which continued for many years.



*Ben F. Harris, III,
Club president—1950-51*

Until his untimely accidental death, Wally Mulliken delivered weekly one-minute lessons in the history of Champaign. Carl Greenstein was lightning-quick with a quip, and Dick Foley wore (out) the same jacket every Monday. Ron Kiddoo heckled Ken Gunji, apparently not anticipating that three years hence, Gunji would become president and relish his revenge. Whether president or not, Bobby Eisner Jr. heckled everyone—Morry Hecker in particular.

As Rotarian Bill Bash put it, "In my 39 years in the Club, the special events, the fun, and the fellowship have made my membership enjoyable as much as all the good works we've done."

Part of the fun has often been—not always intentionally—the after-lunch singing. Many Rotarians have subjected themselves to the barbs of the Club's music critics as they have played or waved their arms to lead songs; some of them have undeniably benefited from such vulnerable visibility by springing onto the Board of Directors and into other positions of leadership.

If there's been a storied musical duo, it was pianist Bob Eisner Sr. and songleader Irv Peterson. Long-time members say that these two were often the main show. The 1980s musical tandem—the unflappable Jim LeGrand backed by the talented Dave Thies at the piano (a physician and an attorney, respectively)—had finished, as this history was published, their sixth year of what will probably be remembered as the musical dynasty of the latter half of the century.

Rotarians derive a mix of information and fellowship from their meetings. Thanks both to the presence of the University of Illinois and to the size and composition of the Club, Champaign Rotarians have enjoyed many extraordinary speakers at weekly meetings. Champaign Rotarians become spoiled by consistently excellent programs and, when making up, often find that programs of other clubs leave much to be desired. Indeed, Champaign Rotarians are frequently asked to speak at other clubs, sometimes on the spot. For that matter, some of the most enlightening and best-delivered programs have been presented by members of the Club, whose

classifications span so wide a spectrum of careers and experiences.

The membership always responds well to in-house speakers. As Rooney Stipes once said, "My idea on interesting programs would be to hear Hi Gelvin talk about his cap and gown company. Or have Frank Murphy speak on insurance, or Quin Kiler take us on a trip through a furniture factory."

*Oscar Dodson and Ralph
Duffy share fellowship
at 1983 District 649
Conference dinner.*



THE VISITING SPEAKERS

Paul Harris himself (November 23, 1942) deserves top billing among the thousands of visiting speakers who have addressed Champaign Rotary. However, over the years a number of other prominent individuals have appeared on the program. One of the earliest was the exquisitely-named Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis on July 9, 1917, in whose speech "the private banks, loan sharks, and slackers were mercilessly flayed." Three years later, Landis became the first commissioner of baseball.

November 24, 1919, brought another prestigious guest—Sgt. Alvin York. The humble soldier's WWI exploits, including his single-handed capture of more than 100 German soldiers, would later be extolled on film by Gary Cooper. York appeared on behalf of the York Foundation for Education in Tennessee, and he paid tribute to Rotary in a speech cut short because, as his assistant explained, it was necessary to preserve his voice for the many speeches he was scheduled to give.

Other celebrities to have visited the Club include: player-manager Lou Boudreau of the Cleveland Indians (a UI alumnus), and St. Louis Cardinal relief pitcher Al Hrabosky; UI physicist and two-time Nobel Prize-winner John Bardeen, co-inventor of the transistor; nationally-syndicated columnist Godfrey Sperling of the *Christian Science Monitor*; author/film critic Roger Ebert, a former Rotary Scholar to South Africa sponsored by Urbana Rotary; and General Motors Chairman Thomas Murphy.

Presidents of the University of Illinois who have spoken to

Champaign Rotary include David Kinley, Arthur Cutts Willard, George Stoddard, Lloyd Morey, David Dodds Henry, John Corbally, and Stanley Ikenberry. UI presidents have always accepted honorary membership in Rotary, and a few, such as Kinley and Henry, have been active members of the Club.

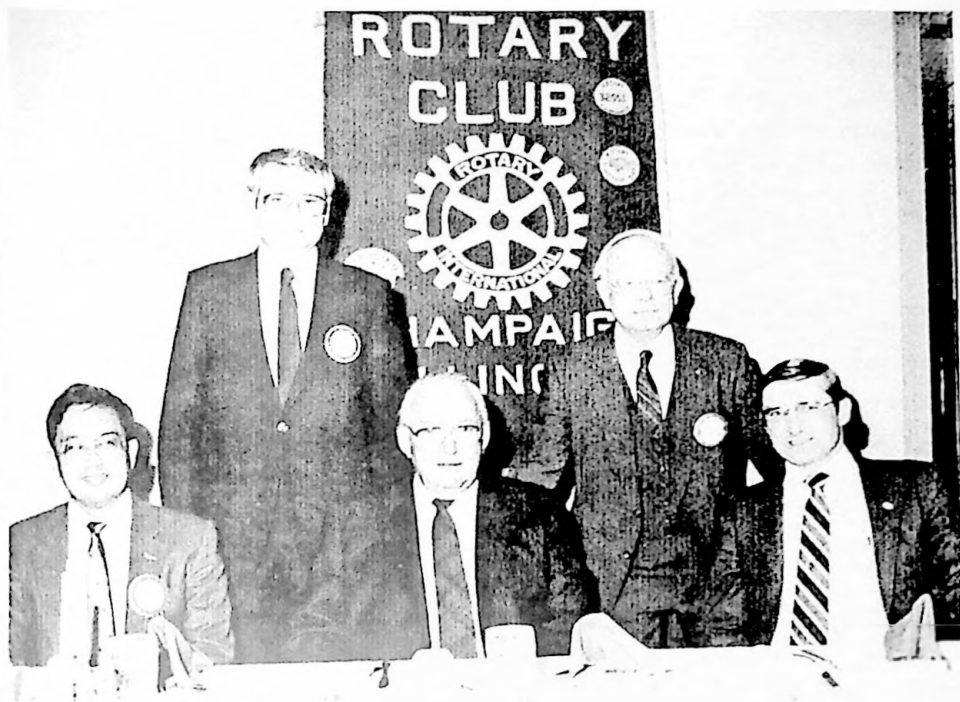
Many people seeking support for some cause that stands to benefit the community, the state, the nation, or mankind in general make it a point to appear before Champaign Rotary. This inevitably includes politicians of state and federal rank. In 1977, Governor Jim Thompson delivered his first "state of the economy" message to Champaign Rotary. Secretaries of State Paul Powell, Michael Howlett, Alan Dixon (later U.S. Senator from Illinois) and Jim Edgar all addressed the Club, as did U.S. Congressmen D.C. Dobbins, Evan Howell, William Springer, Edward Madigan, and Terry Bruce. Springer and Dobbins were Champaign Rotarians.

Virgil Wikoff, Everett "Nub" Peters, and Club member Ora Dillavou are on the list of state legislators who have appeared. Among other political figures have been U.S. Treasury Secretary Joseph Barr; U.S. Representative Mike Monroney of Oklahoma; Senator Joseph Ball of Minnesota; and Senator Harrison "Jack" Schmitt of New Mexico, a former astronaut.

Of the many high-ranking officers of the armed forces who have spoken to the club, the most prominent was 4-star Admiral James B. Busey IV, Vice Chief of U.S. Naval Operations. The address of Admiral Busey, who graduated from Urbana High School and the University of Illinois, was the catalyst for the first-ever combined meeting of all Rotary and Kiwanis clubs in the twin cities. The luncheon event took place at the UI Assembly Hall, coordinated by Assembly Hall Director and Club member Tom Parkinson.

The Club also pulled off a coup of sorts when it snared U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng to address a special Club dinner meeting on March 16, 1987. At the time Lyng was touring on behalf of the new farm bill, and each Rotarian was urged to bring a central Illinois farmer as his guest. Augmented by Rotarians from other local clubs and from Monticello, Tuscola, Villa Grove and Rantoul, a crowd of 650 jammed The Chancellor's Midwest Ballroom for the occasion. Bob Wendt chaired "Farmer's Night," and Dick Burwash introduced Congressman Terry Bruce who introduced Secretary Lyng.

The University of Illinois has always been a magnet, not just for students from abroad, but for visiting professors from other countries. For quite a few years in the post-WWII period it was the



"Farmer's Night" at Rotary, March 16, 1987. Seated at center is U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng, flanked by Champaign Rotary President Ken Gunji (left) and Illinois Director of Agriculture Larry Werries. Standing are Rotarians Bob Wendt (left), event chairman, and Dick Burwash.

habit of Champaign Rotary to invite some of the more renowned professors to address the club.

In 1980, Rotary International's 75th anniversary year, Club President William Kuhne decided to commemorate the February occasion with an appropriate banquet. While Champaign Rotary's policy is not to pay speakers, an exception was made in the name of the celebration, and the committee secured David Frost, British humorist and television talk-show host. Frost had become famous in America through his wide-ranging TV interviews with Richard Nixon, and he contributed to a memorable evening for a large crowd of Champaign and Urbana Rotarians and their wives.

Other frequent speakers are: the commanding generals of Chanute Air Force Base; coaches of various UI teams; and other prominent sports figures, such as Sharon Rahn Hedrick, the world's preeminent woman wheelchair athlete, and Bonnie Blair, Olympic speedskating gold medalist. When Blair visited on May 2, 1988, President Bud Roderick made her the Club's first female honorary member.

*Edward E. "Bud" Roderick,
Club president—1987-88*



The following *Fizz* excerpts further speak to the diversity and caliber of speakers Champaign Rotarians are privileged to hear:

July 29, 1946: Linc Williston of the *New-Gazette* gave us some extremely interesting inside dope on the atomic bombing of Japan. As he was one of those who both selected the targets and briefed the crews for their missions, Linc was well qualified to tell us what happened. We learned, for instance, that the second raid, instead of being on its primary objective, was actually on its secondary one. That was a fact which was not generally known. . . .

June 30, 1947: For U.S. economists, the office of president of the American Economic Association is one of the highest honors. Among his other accomplishments our speaker last Monday is the current president of said organization—Mr. Paul Douglas of the University of Chicago, the Marines, etc. Truly a remarkable man. . . .

October 5, 1953: Leonard Hicks' talk on "Don't Let Tomorrow Tire You Today" was quite a scintillating one capable of provoking some serious thought. Amidst his jokes, which for the most part were quite good, he mixed the aphorisms he has collected over the past forty years or so when he was Harry Houdini's assistant. . . .

May 16, 1955: Britain's views of the unification of Germany were ably summed up in last week's meeting by Consul General Robert W. Mason, headquartered in Chicago, who emphasized that there is a real effort to make it come about despite considerable difficulty. . . .

April 19, 1965: John Cribbet, Professor of Law at the University of Illinois [later Dean of the College of Law, and then Chancellor of the Urbana Campus] spoke on "Condominium—Home Ownership for Megalopolis". . . .

May 18, 1987: When it comes to electronics and the auto industry, we're already close to 2001. That's the observation of J. Bruce Cristal, GM Hughes Corporation Director of Public Affairs . . . Imagine all the world's communications being carried on a single optic fiber. The capability is close at hand as are many more things that would have sounded like far-out science fiction a few years back. . . .

The nature of the weekly programs has varied through the years, of course. Both World Wars were major topics of interest in their time, as was the Depression. Not surprisingly, almost no one chose to speak on Vietnam. In the 1960s and 1970s, a greater emphasis was placed on youth work and generational relations. And for the last decade, programs have reflected an increased focus on projects and problem-solving which characterize the thrust of the Club as a whole.

For all the importance of the educational portion of the program, however, fellowship remains a large part of Rotary. In Champaign Rotary's 50th anniversary year, Frank Stamey, who with Frank Clark was one of the two living charter members, recalled:

Rotary was the best thing that ever happened to businessmen in Champaign. You know how little cliques are formed . . . [and there is] too much formality in many ways among men. But Danville came in with a rush, greeting Champaign members without the formality of "mister" preceding the name . . . just Tom, Dick, Harry, Bill and so on. Really took most of us by surprise, but it loosened up the men and gave all of us a freer feeling.

Rotary International's initial reservations about a club in Champaign—that jealousies would arise—proved to be unfounded. It might also have been expected that here, as in some other university towns, a split might occur between business and professional men on one side and professional academics on the other. But no such separation of "town and gown" is evident in Champaign Rotary. Most members avoid sitting with the same few cronies each week. By and large they circulate, often making it a point to chat with unfamiliar members. Guy Duker, 1962–63 Club president, probably speaks for many Rotarians: "Many times I've wished that the program hadn't come on so I could have gone on with the conversation."

ANNUAL TRADITIONS

Probably the event of longest standing which Champaign Rotary stages is the annual University of Illinois football banquet, honoring the team at the conclusion of the season. The history of this venerable tradition actually predates that of the Club. The first banquet was hosted in 1901 by J.M. (Jake) Kaufman, owner of a clothing store, and C.B. (Charlie) Hatch, owner of the Beardsley Hotel where the fete took place. These two civic leaders continued to host the banquet through 1918. Meanwhile, they had become

charter members of Champaign Rotary, to which they turned over the hosting of the banquet in 1919, "relinquishing the privilege," as the 1926 program stated, "so that the dinner might become in larger measure representative of the pride of the city of Champaign in the achievements of the Fighting Illini."

Those early banquets featured some of the big names in Fighting Illini annals. One was George Huff, who played with the first UI football squad in 1890, coached briefly, and later, as director of athletics, presided over some of the UI's most distinguished athletic achievements and the building of Memorial Stadium. Huff was, not surprisingly, a Champaign Rotarian. Another prominent figure was Bob Zuppke, whose tenure as coach spanned an incredible (by today's standards) three decades (1913-1941) and seven conference championships. Zuppke was also a member of Champaign Rotary.



George Huff



Bob Zuppke

Yet another immortal figure was Red Grange, the Galloping Ghost, to this day one of the most dynamic players in football history. Subsequent years have featured men of the caliber of Ray Eliot, who coached from 1942 through 1959, winning Rose Bowl games in 1947 and 1952.

Apart from the banquet, the football and basketball coaches speak to the Club at the outset of each season, previewing their personnel and expectations. In 1949 WDWS Station Manager and Rotarian Larry Stewart began broadcasting this annual "Pigskin Preview" live on his station. Eventually he began recording it for later



TM



illini FIGHTING

65th Annual Football Banquet



Champaign Rotary Club
December 5, 1983 Ramada Inn

broadcast, carried over a statewide network. The practice was discontinued in the 1970s. In the present decade, the football banquet is taped and replayed over cable television for the general public.

One traditional event which no longer takes place, for obvious reasons, is the dinner for veterans of the Civil War. In early times these affairs drew sizable numbers of guests. A printed program from May 4, 1926, lists 31 veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic attending a Memorial Day luncheon featuring Civil War songs and a 21-gun salute. This tradition continued through 1938, but by 1940 the Club had conceded, as a *Fizz* announced, "time has taken its toll, and the one or two representatives who might yet be found in the community would not have the strength to carry them through the day."

Two other annual events that got their start within the first few years of the Club's existence survive today. Just three months after its founding, the Club invited members' wives to the first Rotary Ann' Ladies' Night party on February 12, 1917. While this event has not always been scheduled near Valentine's Day, Rotary Ann Committees have continued to organize one or more events each year. Rather than dances or parties, such events during the 1970s and 1980s have usually been planned around a play or symphony performance.

On July 16, 1919, the first Rotary Picnic was held, an event which has evolved into the annual Corn Roast. According to Rotary records:

The picnic held at the home of State Senator and Mrs. Henry Menzo Dunlap . . . was a great success. 160 were present. Ray Sparks, L. B. King, and M. L. Hecker were among the participants in races. Bert Eisner won the horseshoe pitching contest, Burnham Harris, second. C. A. Kiler also participated. Herbert Johnson and Roger Zombro were captains of the baseball teams. Zombro's team lost. Bert Nelson's defeated J. M. Kaufman's. Ed Swigart was umpire. John Stipes knocked the only home run.

Today the Corn Roast may be the most eagerly-awaited event of the year. On a Monday evening in July, when Dick Burwash's special sweet corn varieties are ready for eating, Rotarians descend on Rotary Hill like a swarm of bees. The corn, picked early in the morning at the peak of sweetness, has been soaking in a tank of cold

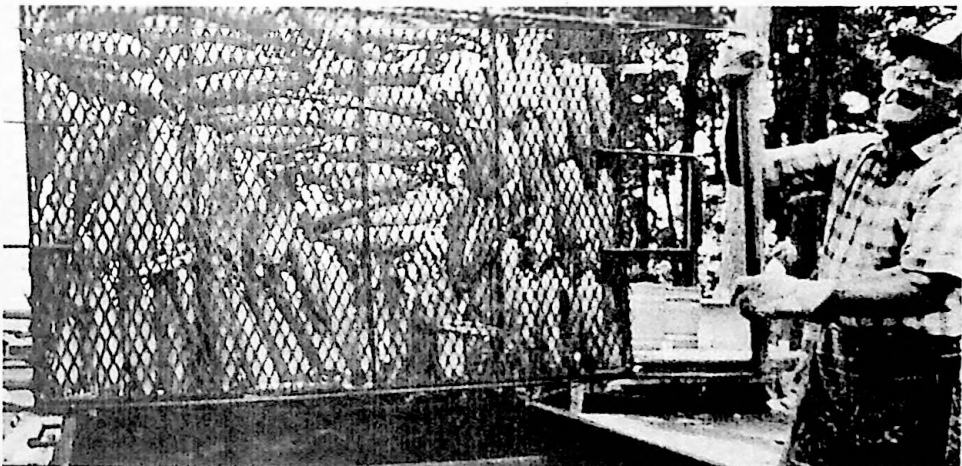
'Generic name for a Rotarian's wife, likely to disappear from the vernacular with the admission to membership of women.

water. Then it's roasted (with steaming effect) over the glowing coals of an open-pit barbecue. Members and their guests "belly-up" and, with ample dosage of butter, salt and pepper, make pigs of themselves. Today's Rotarians do not play ball or pitch horseshoes; all energy goes into corn-consuming. No one has calculated the average number of ears consumed per eater, but it's generally acknowledged to be one too many.

A "tradition" which periodically languishes has come back stronger than ever in the 1980s—the Christmas Program. With the leadership of Ray Blackwell, Champaign Rotary becomes an extended family at a regular Monday meeting in December. The Chancellor sets aside a large room to accommodate the many wives



Enjoying the 1958 Corn Roast: J.C. Dallenbach, John Mittendorf, Maurie Skelton, "Nogie" Nogle, Irv Turner.



Dick Burwash wrestles a rack of sweet corn over the charcoal pit at the 1986 Corn Roast.

and children who join Rotary for a celebration complete with entertainment, singing of carols, and Santa Claus with gifts for all the children.

THE FIZZ

The Club newsletter has always been a key ingredient of Champaign Rotary, keeping the members up to date on Club projects, on the meetings, and on one another's activities and accomplishments. Although *The Fizz* was first published on September 8, 1919, the oldest surviving issue dates back only to 1926. But in a 1942 issue, the first editor, Edwin Filson, recalls the newsletter's origins:

Lou King and I attended the president and secretary's conference at Bloomington, Illinois, presided over by Jim Craig of Chicago, District Governor of Illinois. Among other things Jim strongly emphasized the importance of a weekly publication in each club. Coming home, Lou and I talked it over and decided to publish one in the Champaign Club. In fact, we became so interested that Lou lost his way and we found ourselves at Holder instead of LeRoy.

The next week I sent out a notice of the meeting with a few statements on a postal card to all the members. In two or three weeks, it had grown to an ordinary-sized bulletin. In those days, the executive committee of the local Club met at Cooper's Cafeteria each Friday noon and the bulletin and the name for it was discussed.

Father Richard (Dick) Flynn, pastor of St. Mary's Church, then a member of the Board, suggested *The Fizz*,² and Harry Millard took it over and made a real bulletin out of it. For years it was printed on different colored heavy paper about six inches wide and a foot long. Because of its peculiar name, it was known far and wide and received considerable publicity.

Harry Millard's 10-year stint as editor was considerably longer than the norm for most of his successors. He was an extraordinarily energetic man, even by Rotary standards, and *The Fizz* tone of the 1920s and early 1930s was characterized by a good deal of cheerleading to urge members to throw themselves into projects. That was Millard's natural approach and, when the Depression hit, the tone became still more urgent—appropriately so, since the Club had suffered a depression of its own and membership had dropped some 20–25%. For 1932–33, President Fred Turner announced a goal

²A word-play on the lively essence of champagne.

WORKING & GIVING

As a bridge player Dr. Finch is one of our leading—well you know his classification.

L. B. Souder's first question after coming to from a major operation last week was "What's the score."

Yes dear Tad we are with you all the way old man.

THE FAMILY WELFARE
THE BOY SCOUTS
THE GIRL SCOUTS
THE RED CROSS
THE HUMANE SOCIETY
THE ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS
SOCIETY
THE SALVATION ARMY
THE UNIVERSITY Y. M. C. A.
THE R. R. Y. M. C. A.

These organizations comprise the list in the COMMUNITY CHEST ASSOCIATION.

YOU were asked to give to every one of them—every one made a campaign in these Twin Cities.

YOU were asked to help work on these campaigns or would eventually have been asked to work.

It is Now One Drive for the Entire Year.
Their Accounts Are Audited Each Year.
Their Budgets Are Carefully Analyzed.
There Is No Duplication of Effort.
You Are Asked to Give Once.
You Are Asked to Work Once.

ARE YOU READY TO DO YOUR PART?

See you Monday noon,

Rotarily yours,

Harry J. Millard.

P. S.—

DUES ARE PAST DUE

A typical page from a "Millard Fizz".

of finishing his term with no fewer members than at the start of it, and he finished with one more. That turned the tide, and the ensuing years saw a resurgence of membership.



*Harry J. Millard,
Club president—1923–24*

As the tenor of Club meetings changes with each president, the style of *The Fizz* changes with successive editors. To be sure, it has remained a cheerleader over the decades, applauding members for honors received, emphasizing news about projects, and reminding members of the obligations of good Rotarians, to wit this exhortation from a 1938 issue:

A ROTARIAN SERVES HIS CLUB BY:

- being present at meetings
- participating in their fellowship
- taking part in their programs
- assisting in welcoming new members
- serving on committees
- serving as an officer
- paying his dues
- representing the club in community service
- attending conferences, other clubs, assemblies
- assisting in organization of new clubs

But *The Fizz* also took on a friendlier, more sociable aspect. Editor Forrest (Woody) Colwell, responding to criticism in 1940, laid out the bulletin's philosophy:

With all respect to Governor Lew . . . we like the name *Fizz* and wouldn't change—for less than five dollars, anyway. We were somewhat concerned at his comment that there is nothing frothy about the sheet. Life, your staff feels, is full of a number of things, but the things that seem to lurk behind every bush nowadays are mostly cold facts, and we must have some escape. Among other tokens of civilization that it may be up to America to guard is the light touch. Heaven help us if we begin to take ourselves too seriously—we'll be "heiling" in no time. We doubt there is much whimsy in England today."

The Fizz has, generally, continued to reflect that philosophy. Each *Fizz* era sports its form of tongue-in-cheek wit, but mainly the bulletin represents Champaign as one special cog in Rotary's world-wide wheel. It reports on Rotary affairs on local, district and international levels; on issues of the day; on programs upcoming as well as on those just concluded; personal notes about members and their families; short bios of new members and brief recaps of minutes of board meetings; and announcements pertaining to specific committees or the club as a whole. Many district awards attest to how well Champaign's club bulletin does its job.

No complete record of *Fizz* editors exists, but in addition to the three mentioned above, the list includes Eddie Jacquin, Royal McClelland, Dean McCumber, Herb Heaton, Chuck Petry, Terry Davis, Lott Thomas, Harry Bird, Don Radcliffe, Norm Ritchie, and William Krahling. However good Millard and others may have been, it will be a long time before somebody serves longer or better than Bill Krahling, and he who has written so much about so many merits a bit of ink himself.



William D. Krahling

Krahling came to Champaign in 1970, joined Rotary in 1972, and on July 3 of that year, put out his first *Fizz* as co-editor with Norm Ritchie. He soon assumed major responsibility for writing and editing *The Fizz*, and in 1976 was named editor when Ritchie left the city. His assistant editor for the past ten years has been Gene Oliver. It was Krahling who first began printing copy on the back of the (now) legal-sized sheet, initially for special messages, then simply for expanded news and other text. In 1986-87, he filled the back page in 47 of 52 issues (90%)—the most ever.

Krahling: "How many issues, how many words? I think I'd rather not know . . . but it's been fun."

It's nice that it's been fun for Bill, because his bulletin has certainly been fun for the hundreds of Rotarians who have received their *Fizz* like clockwork over the years—thanks to the skills and

priorities of men like Krahling and Morry Hecker, who sees to its weekly printing and mailing.

ROTARIAN PROFILES

The difficulty of describing WGRC's projects pales alongside the task of writing about its personalities. During its seven-plus decades, Champaign Rotary has attracted the community's most outstanding men to its ranks. Indeed, some suggest that every *good* community organization has a Rotarian as its founder, or its president, or as a member of its board of directors. More than one thousand men have enjoyed membership in Champaign Rotary. There is no way to measure all that they cumulatively have achieved—in Rotary activities, in charitable endeavors, in their careers, and in their families. Nor is it appropriate to select some as more worthy than others of being profiled herein.

Therefore, this collection of profiles—like the earlier list of projects, but emphatically more so—can only be an arbitrary sampling. The profiles are included because the surest way to understand Champaign Rotary is through understanding the men who have served it.

Most of the profiles below appeared, for one or another good reason at the time, in issues of *The Fizz* and are reprinted in their original form. As you read them, bear in mind the date they were written, which is given. Those written well before the retirement of their subjects do not encompass the entire careers of those men. Yet they have the marvelous quality of reflecting the context of the men and their activities while they were still active. This honors the book's guiding principle: to convey a feeling of the times—especially the older times—in which events occurred and men lived.

Other than those of past district governors, the Editorial Committee chose to omit profiles of all living Rotarians. We leave it to other chroniclers to someday record the special attributes and worthy deeds of outstanding Rotarians of today and tomorrow.

Charley Kiler (June 25, 1937):

Born in Urbana Sept. 8, 1869. Graduated Urbana High School, then University of Illinois in the class of '92 . . . In '93, ran a hotel

in Chicago during the Chicago World's Fair. Started in [furniture store] business in Champaign in 1895, just 42 years ago.

Has always been one of Champaign's most active citizens. Is a member of Sigma Chi fraternity, being one of the charter members and its first president. Has been president of the University of Illinois Alumni Association and a member of the board. Was state counselor of the Red Cross.

*Charles A. Kiler,
Club president—1934-35*



A member of the Athletic Board of Control of the University of Illinois for 32 years. A pioneer in the early movement for good roads in Illinois. Is a director of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. Has been president of the Chamber of Commerce, is a past president of Rotary, a charter member of Rotary in Champaign. Was Champaign Park Commissioner for 20 years—a member of the Library Board—in 1906 was a member of the National Immigration Commission.

Harry Clifford Northcott (December 24, 1937):

Born in Exeter, Canada. When he was three months old, he moved to Western Chicago and his boyhood days were spent in Austin, Illinois. He graduated from Evanston Academy, received his B.A. at Northwestern University, his M.A. at Northwestern University, his B.D. at Garret Biblical Institute, and studied on his Doctors at the University of Chicago. Later he received his Doctor of Divinity degree at Illinois Wesleyan. Was very active in his undergraduate days at Northwestern, for three years being on the debate team, and captain of the team his senior year. He is a member of the Wranglers fraternity.

He waived his exemption and enlisted during the World War, later to earn promotion as an officer. He has travelled extensively overseas. Was married in 1919 and has one daughter. Joined Rotary ten years ago; was president in 1931-32 and has been active in Rotary work at all times. He is a member of the Masons, a Trustee of Wesley Foundation, a Trustee of Northwestern University, and is Chairman of the Illinois Conference Commission of Citizenship. Cliff is one of our most outstanding citizens, has

been prominent in every worthwhile community activity, and is respected by every man who has had the privilege of his acquaintance. He enjoys his work so much that he feels this must be his hobby.

[After nearly a quarter-century of service to Champaign Rotary, Cliff Northcott left the city as newly-elected Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the Wisconsin Conference.]

Frank C. Amsbary Jr. (March 25, 1938):

Is carrying on the family tradition of prominence in civic affairs.

[His father was a charter member of Champaign Rotary.]

Directorships are his specialty—twice Director of Rotary, twice Director of the Chamber of Commerce, Director and Secretary of Champaign County Country Club, Director and Secretary of the Illinois Water Service; is head of the Illinois section of the American Waterworks Association and in this capacity is responsible for a convention of that organization next month in Decatur.



*Frank Amsbary, Jr.,
Club president—1946-47*

Frank was born in Champaign, graduated from the University of Illinois in 1922 with a degree in civil engineering; since the Delts have lately been enjoying all Rotary publicity, he is almost afraid to mention his fraternity, Phi Delta Theta; Theta Tau, Professional Engineering Fraternity, also claimed him.

In his spare time, Frank works with iron and wood—or in his flower garden, claiming not to know much about either, but finding pleasure in both.

Eddie Jacquin (April 8, 1938):

Has followed sports ever since fifth grade, when he was waterboy of Bradley's football and basketball teams. Sports and Rotary are meat and drink to him; he works hard, serves well at both.

Born in Peoria, April 20, 1899, he graduated from Bradley Academy, winning letters on the teams he earlier had watered, went to the University of Missouri, joined Beta Theta Pi, was

elected to Sigma Delta Chi (now an honorary journalism fraternity—Eddie says in his day anyone could belong), graduated from their famous School of Journalism in 1922. He was Business Manager and Editor of the *Lavitar*, University Annual.

*Edwin N. Jacquin, Club president—1935–36,
Club's second district governor, 1937–38*



His career in journalism started at the age of fifteen, reporting Bradley sports for the *Peoria Journal-Transcript*; his first job after graduation was with the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*. Soon the Peoria paper called him back as sports editor, a position held until the summer of 1924, when illness forced temporary retirement. On January 1, 1925, the late George Chapin, to Eddie's complete surprise, telephoned him to ask him to take the editorship of his fourth hyphenated newspaper, the *News-Gazette*.

Association with Rotary began in 1927; after valuable service as president in 1935–36, he was elected District Governor, reflecting considerable honor on our Club by his competence in that office. Two international Conventions—at Nice and Mexico City—have seen him. He edited *The Fizz* for two years, not the least of his Rotary efforts, as we can testify.

Sportswriting-Rotary-officiating-broadcasting—[all] leave little time for fishing or stamp collecting. Whatever Eddie undertakes, he does well.

Pete Peterson (July 3, 1967):

A professional landscape designer, Irving L. (Pete) Peterson has been a member of Champaign Rotary since 1920. For 30 years, he was the Club's song leader, and with Bob Eisner Sr. as accompanist made Champaign the top singing Club of the District—as witness the demand that Pete and Bob take charge of the songs at every District Conference.

Born in northern Illinois, Pete attended DeKalb Normal before coming to Champaign in 1916. He completed his studies at the U of Illinois in 1920 and taught landscaping here for 40 years.

Always a strong Rotarian, Pete was president in 1926, the same year he was married. He had a prominent part in establishing nine or ten Rotary Clubs of this District, including Tuscola, Monticello,

Urbana, Rantoul, and Lincoln. He has attended two International Rotary Conventions, Los Angeles and Denver.



*Irving L. "Pete" Peterson,
Club president—1926-27*

Now retired from teaching, he continues to practice landscaping from his home at 1408 South Prospect. Pete showed the Club what we've been missing since he retired as song leader when he and Bob performed at the 50th Anniversary Banquet in February!

Fred Turner (October 16, 1967):

Historian Fred was born in Hume, Ill., at the turn of the century, came to the Twin Cities and here won international fame as a university administrator.

Entering the U of I in 1918, he began to work for the late great Dean Thomas Arkle Clark . . . [while still] a freshman. After graduation he became Asst. Dean of Men 1922-31, Dean of Men 1931-43, Dean of Students 1943-66. After having Greek Week dedicated in his honor he stepped up to University Dean of Students and Director of the Centennial, his present dual role.

Writing and being president are his two hobbies. He headed Champaign Rotary in 1932, two years after joining. (We knew a good thing!) Since then, among other jobs, he has presided over the National Assn. of Student Personnel Administrators, Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, and now the National Interfraternity Conference, which awarded him its Gold Medal in 1955.

For 20 years he wrote articles for *The Saturday Evening Post*; he has had a department in *Banta's Greek Exchange* [for] many years; edited the *Interfraternity Research Bulletin* 1953-66, to name a few. [Also frequented the pages of *The Rotarian*; see p. 70.] He has yet to write his first book.

Fred married Elizabeth Weaver in '24 and they live at 507 West Washington in Urbana. He has been a captain on the Governor's staff in the Illinois National Guard since 1931.

Rooney Stipes (December 19, 1967):

This is a double 40th anniversary for Royal A. (Rooney) Stipes. In 1927 he received his sheepskin from the U of Ill. and joined Champaign Rotary.

It's more than 40 for Stipes Publishing Co. He started his own business as an undergraduate, and it has grown in volume ever since. Besides *Champaign Fizz*, they publish much printed matter and books for educational and general clients.

Rooney loves golf and has been Club champion several times. His other hobby is helping Illinois colleges gain in size and status. He was head of the Teachers' College Board that paved the way for DeKalb, Normal, and the others to become universities. He has also been president of Champaign and Illinois State Chambers of Commerce.

His two daughters, Mrs. Babette Bartholow and Mrs. Emily Watts, both here in Champaign, have made him a five-time grandfather. Rooney heads the Board of University Retirement System but at 62 has no thought of retiring, himself.

Rooney volunteered for service in World War II though past draft age. On leaving the enlistment office he fell down the steps, broke his leg, and that was that. He's a member of First Presbyterian Church and Delta Tau Delta, and a former Community Chest chairman.

H. I. "Hi" Gelvin (April 1, 1968, updated in 1988)

For ten years after leaving Northwestern University (where he was a Phi Gam), Harold I. Gelvin had a men's store on the U of I campus. From that modest beginning, Hi founded Collegiate Cap & Gown Co. in 1926 and served as its president until it merged with Cenco instruments in 1966. He then served ten more years as consultant for the Cap & Gown operation, one of the leading such suppliers in the world.

In 1947 he spearheaded the organization of the Champaign County Forest Preserve, and served as president until 1975. Under his leadership Lake of the Woods Park was developed at Mahomet—one of the outstanding public recreational facilities in this part of the state, complete with swimming and picnic areas, two golf courses, and public pavilions. After a fund drive by appreciative local people, the park's carillon tower was built and named "Hi Tower." Hi also endowed the botanical garden at the park in memory of his wife, Mabry, who passed away in 1971.

Hi was a past president of the Champaign Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the County Steering Committee on Parks and Open Space. He was active in Champaign Rotary since 1926, and in 1949, Hi's son, Phil, became a Champaign Rotarian. Hi was a charter member of the Community Foundation of Champaign County and the Champaign-Urbana Symphony. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Champaign.

Hi was a contributor to the Kentucky Colonels and held dear that membership and his annual trip to the Kentucky Derby with friends. He took pride in having attended 60 consecutive Derbys.

Hi always met challenge with challenge, and his death on November 18, 1984, terminated an illustrious career of leadership and involvement in civic responsibilities.

Stew Daniels (June 3, 1968):

When Stewart Daniels takes on a job, he stays with it! Joining WGRC in '34, he became Secretary in '39 and held the post until elected President 15 years later.

But this was nothing compared with his life work. Named Executive Secy. of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity in '25, he served 41 years, again topping it off by being chosen Worthy Grand Chief (Nat'l President), the post he now holds.

Stew's other presidencies include U of Ill. Alumni Association ('59-61), Campus Business Men's Assoc., College Fraternity Secretaries Assoc. and Illinois Interfraternity Alumni Assoc. He is currently Treasurer and a Director of University Federal Savings & Loan Assoc., with which ATO shares that handsome mall on Green St.

Recently Stew and Edna moved from 311 W. University, their long-time abode, to Hessel Manor Apts., 1616 Valley Road. The Daniels' have a son, Stew Jr., a daughter Marilyn, and five grandchildren.

Les Bryan (June 10, 1968):

The students of two universities selected Dr. Leslie A. Bryan as the faculty member who contributed most during the year; Syracuse in 1943; Illinois 1955. Two Presidents, Eisenhower and Kennedy, consulted him on aviation matters. He has served on the State Board of Aeronautical Advisors for 19 years, and was Illinois' Big Ten Faculty Representative for eight years.

These are but a few of the innumerable honors earned by Les; his record in Who's Who is 5 and 1/2 inches long. Joining Champaign Rotary in 1946, he was our president 1955-56. He retires this Fall as Director, Institute of Aviation and Professor of Management.

At Syracuse U, Les was a track star, Class Marshall, and a member of Zeta Psi. He then was on the faculty for over 20 years as professor of transportation and law before coming to UI in '46. In '52 he was chairman of the Community Chest, and from 1954-60 was President, Arrowhead Council of the Boy Scouts, also on regional and national boards. He is author of seven books and contributor to seven encyclopedias, including the Britannica.

Les now devotes more time to his passion for genealogy. Married 37 years, the Bryans have two sons, three granddaughters, and live at 1016 West John. They are members of First Presbyterian Church and the Champaign Country Club. If space permitted, we could tell you a lot more—about Les.

Woody Colwell (March 31, 1969):

R. Forrest Colwell was born, not in a log cabin, but in a summer cottage in Wisconsin. His nickname comes from his middle name. The "R" may stand for Rotary, as he has been a WGRC stalwart for 33 years, a past club director and vice president, and long-time *Fizz* Editor.

Woody came to town in the late 1920's to work with his uncle's firm, the Colwell Publishing Company. A 1930 U of I grad, active in Alpha Sigma Phi and ROTC, Woody went out for football but "Zup decided I had too many left feet." In 1964 Colwell Publishing acquired Twin City Printing Company, and Woody became president of R.F. Colwell Printing Corporation. He is also managing partner of the Colwell Co., which produces bookkeeping systems and appointment forms for the medical professions.

In WWII he was Publicity Chairman for six bond drives, County Chairman for another. He is a past VP of the Chamber of Commerce and United Fund; past president, Council of Social Agencies; Director, Bank of Illinois; a trustee of the Methodist Church and Illinois Wesleyan University. In the late 1960's, through the Colwell Co., Woody became a benefactor of Wesleyan.

Woody married Dorothy, daughter of former Rotary Sec. Carl Dieckmann; they have two daughters and five grandchildren—the latter being his main hobby. You never hear a knock on Woody, one of our most popular members.

[Woody Colwell's legacy to Rotary was admirably carried on by his son-in-law, Dick Tryon, referred to elsewhere in this history.]

Bill Everitt (April 14, 1969):

Officially, Bill has become Dean Emeritus of the UI College of Engineering but he continues to be active in his life's work.

A Cornell graduate, he taught there, at Michigan and Ohio State before coming to Champaign. He holds an M.S., Ph.D., and eight honorary degrees. He has served as an engineer and consultant for North Electric, A. T. & T., and numerous other firms.

He was a teen-age Marine private in WWI and Director of Operational Research for the Signal Corps in WWII.

Being president comes naturally to Bill. WGRC tapped him in '51, only six years after he joined. He has also headed the Institute of Radio Engineers, Engineers Council for Professional Development, American Soc. of Engineering Education, Associated Midwest Universities, National Academy of Engineering, and the University YMCA. Married 45 years, the Everitts have a son, two daughters and six grandchildren. Bill is an elder in McKinley Presbyterian Church. His hobbies are swimming and "do-it-yourselfing."

[Other references to Bill in the history amplify his impact on the Club.]

Frank Murphy Sr. (May 5, 1969):

One of several father-and-son combinations in Champaign Rotary, the Murphys already have a total of 57 years as members. Frank, born in Chicago in 1889, was a star pole vaulter at the U of I, being the Conference champion in 1910, tied in '11 and '12. He captained the 1912 varsity track team. That same year, he and Avery Brundage went to the Olympics in Stockholm, Sweden as the first two Olympians from the U of I. Frank won the bronze medal in the pole vault.

In WWI he was a 2nd lieutenant and instructor in the Air Corps. After that, with a bachelor's in Engineering, he became southwest Texas sales manager for Certain-teed Products. In 1923 he returned to the U of I at the request of the athletic director, George Huff, to be athletic business manager during the construction of Memorial Stadium. It was his idea, now quite common, to have the aisles in the middle of the section so that you didn't come into a large assembly at one side of the section and have to climb over everyone to reach your seat. He was concurrently ticket manager, now a separate job.

Later, Frank became an agent for Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance. He joined WGRC in 1931. Son Dwyer and daughter Dorothy (Van Nest) have presented him with seven grandchildren. Like his son, WGRC Secretary Dwyer, Frank is a member of Phi Delta Theta. He was a member of the Community Chest, later part of the United Fund, for 41 years (president in 1935-36) and served 12 years as a trustee of U-C Sanitary District. We look forward to singing happy birthday Sept. 21, when he reaches his 80th birthday.

[As a point of interest, Dwyer was himself chairman of the United Health & Welfare, later the United Fund, and has been a member for 38 years as of this writing; he also followed his dad with nine years as a trustee of the Sanitary District.]

Art Skelton (January 22, 1968):

President of Champaign Rotary '56-57, Arthur J. (for Jones) Skelton didn't just work at Rotary those two years—he's been working for WGRC and RI since 1947. He joined Rotary the same day as Chuck Petry and Scott Kelley, each one an Additional Active in his father's classification. Maurice Skelton, who originally joined Rotary in Urbana in 1927, had brought his family back to Champaign after having a drug store in Gas City, Indiana.

Art graduated from U of I during WWII in marketing. He was a member of ROTC, Scabbard & Blade, Caisson Club and Sigma Chi. Already married and a father, he joined the army and served three and one-half years. Then he went to work as a druggist and became a Rotarian.

Art's dedication to Rotary was such that in 1959, he became the Club's third District Governor. He was just 37—the third youngest District Governor in the world that year. He attended 10 straight RI Conventions, from Tokyo to Switzerland, and 13 in all—more than any other RI committee member and co-chairman. In March he'll be RI President Hodges' personal representative at a Rotary District Conference in Kentucky.



*Art Skelton, Club president 1956-57,
Club's third District 649 Governor
(1959-60), speaks at 1978
District Conference.*

Art and Audrey moved to White Heath on 11 acres of timberland two years ago—the better, perhaps to play willing hosts to the frequent international house guests whom they've befriended in the course of Art's Rotary work. They have a son, Dan, and a daughter, Kathryn. Very active in the Springfield Shrine, Art is a member of the Divan.

[Art's devotion to Rotary continued. After serving on various international committees, he was the Nominating Committee's choice to be RI director from Zone 3. In all, Art estimates he has represented RI presidents to at least 18 district conferences in this country and abroad. Appropriately, Art became the Club's first Paul Harris Fellow. He served many terms as Club Secretary, and in 1979 became Champaign Rotary's first and only Executive Secretary. He is known throughout the district as "Mr. Rotary."]

Bob Eisner Jr. (August 22, 1966):

President Bob was born in Champaign August 26, 1920, and has been a life-long resident. He graduated from Champaign High School, earned his degree at the U of I in 1942. He comes from a long line of Rotary presidents. Grandfather Albert Eisner Sr. headed the Club for two years, 1917-1919. Father Bob Sr. was president in 1944, and in that same year, Bob was married to the former Betty Robinson of Anna. They have six children.

Bob's profession is the Eisner-Murphy Insurance Agency, formed when he purchased the Goodman-Murphy Agency in 1958 after Jewel Tea acquired the Eisner Grocery Company. Until then, Bob had served Eisner Grocery in various capacities.

Bob is on the Board of Directors of the Bank of Illinois and First Federal Savings and Loan. He is president of the Mercy Hospital Advisory Board—fitting, since he and Oscar Koehnemann co-chaired the eminently successful fund drive for the first major addition to the hospital. He is a member of the First Presbyterian Church, and his social fraternity is Beta Theta Pi.

[In 1980, Bob was selected as WGRC's first Rotarian of the Year. He served in 1982-83 as the Club's fifth district governor. A year later, he established the annual Robert Eisner Jr. Award recognizing the Club's outstanding new member. In 1978, his son, Robert Eisner III, became a Champaign Rotarian—the only fourth-generation member of the Club until, in 1988, Bob's daughter, Nancy Martin, became the Club's second woman Rotarian.]

Herb Heaton (August 27, 1969):

It's his tenth anniversary for past president (1968-69) Herbert F. Heaton—he moved here from his native Hoopeston in 1959. And what a decade! Not only boss of the World's Greatest Rotary Club, but also of Faith Methodist Church Trustees, President of the UI College of Dentistry Alumni, editor of Illinois Dist. Dental Society Bulletin, advisor three years to Illinois State Dental Assistants, 1967 recipient of UI Alumni Loyalty Award—to name a few of his many honors.

Herb lettered in four sports at Hoopeston High, earned his B.S. at UI in '39, D.D.S. '41. As a captain in WWII he saw service in

*Herb Heaton, Club president 1968-69,
Club's 4th district governor 1977-78.*



England, France, Belgium, and Germany. Then came practice in Hoopeston where he was president of Rotary, Board of Education, Danville District Dental Society and Methodist Church Trustees. Whatever Herb joins, they start heatin' up the presidential chair for him!

Herb and Mary Jane have a son, Bill, and a daughter, Jane. They say good cooks always use herbs to add zest to a dish. This Herb has done it for WGRC.

[Unlike the preceding profiles, the following are not taken from *The Fizz*, but from tributes written under other circumstances. In the case of Ernie Stouffer, the salute was presented at a Club meeting to mark Ernie's 50th year of perfect Rotary attendance.]

James McLaren White (May, 1988):

James M. White was born in 1867 in Chicago and enrolled in the UI in 1886, where he became known as "King Jim." He graduated in 1890 from the College of Engineering and became an assistant in architecture, progressing to full professor of architectural engineering in 1901. He was named dean of the College of Engineering in 1906, then relinquished that position in 1907 to accept the newly created office of supervising architect.

As supervising architect, Jim had an active hand in the design or erection of most of the University buildings prior to 1933. His first important building was the old Library (now Altgeld Hall). It was followed by the Horticulture Building, the Agronomy Building, the Mechanical Engineering Laboratory, the Ceramics Building, the Vivarium, the School of Education, and Smith Music Hall, among others. He designed buildings outside the University and in other states, and also acted as consulting architect for several other universities. He was a member of the American Institute of Architects, and was made a fellow of that body late in his career.

In 1921, "King Jim" took on additional duties as superintendent of

business operations for the University, adding Saturdays and holidays to his work schedule. Still, he managed to play an active role in community affairs, serving as president of Champaign Rotary in 1921–22. Devoted to the principles of Rotary, Jim became the Club's first District 649 Governor in 1925–26. He was also president of the Champaign Chamber of Commerce, of the Illinois Union Corporation, and of the University Club—another building which he designed.



*James M. White, Club president—1921–22,
and the Club's first district governor—1925–26*

Jim married Edith Shattuck in 1899, and their daughter, Adelaide, was born in 1903. Following a bout of influenza, Jim succumbed to heart failure in 1933. His funeral took place at the White home, 804 W. University, where Jim was eulogized by several community leaders, including the following Champaign Rotarians:

"I never knew a more sincere man," said the Rev. H.C. Northcott, "I like to think of him as 'Jim the Builder,' for it typified his life."

"Jim has done more for the Champaign Rotary Club and for Rotary in this part of the state than any other man," said Irving L. Peterson. "He gave willingly of his time and energy . . . his favorite work was helping to build new clubs for Rotary. His memory will never be erased as long as the Champaign Club exists."

"What the University owes him and, through the University, the state and the country, only those can understand who have seen its physical and artistic development under his guidance," said UI President Emeritus David Kinley. "I have seen him constantly spending himself for others—for his University, his profession, and society—ever seeking to put before them ideals of life that rest upon the foundations of true culture—artistic, ethical, spiritual."

Ernie Stouffer (May 24, 1976):

Born in Decatur, Ernie graduated from the U of I with a degree in architecture in 1918. He achieved his Master's in that discipline from the U of I in 1931.

Ernie first became a Rotarian in 1925 in Streator, where he was a practicing architect. He was soon elected Club secretary. In 1930 he accepted a position as assistant supervising architect at the U of I. His superior was the University Architect [and first district governor from Champaign Rotary] James M. White. To keep his attendance perfect, Ernie made up at Champaign Rotary. With White's sponsorship, he joined the Club as an additional active in 1931.

Ernie was introduced as a new member by Club President and State Senator Cass Clifford, and he remembers H. C. Northcott followed Clifford as president. He vividly recalls UI President David Kinley and his boss, James White; both were Phi Gams, both were Scots, and both were ardent Rotarians.

Upon Professor White's death in 1933, Ernie became the University Architect. From then until his retirement in 1965, Ernie presided over all construction both on the Urbana campus and at the Medical School in Chicago. He supervised construction of such buildings as the President's House, Women's Gym, Chemical Annex, Metallurgical Addition, the Student Union, Band Building, Gregory Hall, the south addition to McKinley Hospital, and the first Men's Residence Hall Group at Fourth and Gregory.

When Ernie retired, the University of Chicago asked him to serve as its consulting architect. Ernie accepted but set his own terms. For the four years of his association with Chicago, since he did not wish to miss Champaign Rotary meetings, his work in Chicago commenced each week on Tuesday.



*Ernie Stouffer
59 years of perfect
attendance.*

Ernie has been nationally recognized in his field. In 1940 he helped to form the National Association of University Architects, and served as president of this group. Since 1924 he has been a member of the American Institute of Architecture and served as president of the Central Illinois chapter in 1937.

In maintaining his perfect Rotary attendance record, Ernie has made up at clubs from Massachusetts to California, from Washington state to Florida, driving as much as sixty miles on

occasion. He prefers small clubs where all members know each other, meetings are informal, and visitors are warmly welcomed. Once after a fifty mile drive to a club in a Mississippi logging community, the speaker failed to show, and Ernie was drafted to speak on the University of Illinois.

So let us honor Ernie Stouffer, an eminent architect, and one who stands tall in loyalty and devotion to Rotary.

[Ernie stretched his perfect attendance record to 59 years before his death in 1986 at the age of 90. His record was one of the longest ever achieved in the world of Rotary.]

Albert Austin Harding (February, 1988)

Though Aus was born in Georgetown in 1880, he spent all of his boyhood and youth in Paris, Illinois. In 1902 he enrolled in engineering at the University of Illinois and spent the rest of his life here. In 1905, as a junior in engineering, he began directing the UI band. After completing his degree, he became director and conductor of the band and held that position—never taking a leave or sabbatical—until his retirement in 1948. In those early days he directed the marching band as well as the concert bands; from 1918 to 1931 he also conducted the University orchestra.

Aus's pioneering leadership in the concert band field was acknowledged throughout the world. He believed he was the first to have his band perform letters and then moving letters on the football/baseball field, and is confident his was the first band to sing on the field (the Iowa game in 1913). John Phillips Sousa and Harding were close personal and professional friends. Sousa stayed with Harding the three times he visited the University of Illinois.

Very early in his career, Aus became a Champaign Rotarian, starting an unbroken succession of UI band directors as members of this Club. Mark Hindsley (1934), 1962-63 Club President Guy Duker (1954), and current Director of Bands Jim Keene (1985) all owe their membership to Austin.

In 1913 he married Margaret Frances Rogers, and in 1927 built his home at 710 South Elm Boulevard (in the old Harris Place subdivision), where he lived the rest of his life. On the occasion of his 68th birthday and imminent retirement, WGRC had a party honoring him for his service to Rotary, his community, and his profession.

Albert Austin Harding—a leader in his field and an exemplary Rotarian.

Dr. William M. Staerkel (March, 1988)

Bill Staerkel was the founding president of Parkland College, established in 1966. He is a native of Kansas and received his B.A.

from Bethel College. While in college he was prominent in forensics and athletics, winning state oratorical and debate honors. After college he played both professional football and baseball. In WWII he served as a lieutenant in the Navy, and was awarded the Bronze Star for valor in combat.

After receiving his doctorate from Stanford University, he served as director of educational services for Booz, Allen & Hamilton, the nation's largest diversified management consulting firm. In this capacity he directed and participated in major educational studies for school districts, colleges and universities in more than 20 states. He also was an educator and superintendent of schools in California, Kansas and Nebraska.

William M. Staerkel



In a 20-year span, Bill guided Parkland College from a scattered downtown assortment of offices and classrooms to a multi-acre campus with more than 8,000 students—one of the nation's premier community colleges. He served as chairman of the State Council of Public Community College Presidents, became the dean of Illinois Community College Presidents, and in a nationwide study conducted by Exxon Foundation, was selected as one of the nation's outstanding college presidents.

In 1967 Bill became a valued member of Champaign Rotary, heading several key committees and serving two three-year terms on the Board of Directors. He was much in demand as a speaker and delivered four memorable speeches to the Club. Bill made his last public address before his fellow Rotarians just a few days before his untimely death on December 10, 1987.

Bill served in leadership roles with other civic groups and spearheaded the Parkland Foundation's Twentieth Anniversary Fund drive, which made possible completion of Parkland's campus by the addition of a performing arts center and the largest and most advanced planetarium in downstate Illinois. In fitting tribute, the William M. Staerkel Planetarium will stand as a unique educational resource for people of all ages well into the 21st century.

CHANGING TIMES, CHANGING FACES

We could go on and on with "representative" profiles. But this sampling illustrates the diversity and the caliber of the men who have made Champaign Rotary the great club that it is.

Speaking of greatness, by 1988 the term WGRC had endured three decades as the call letters for "World's Greatest Rotary Club"—a call to members to be the best that they could be. Whether or not they have actually earned the title, Champaign Rotarians never stop trying to live up to it. Though the names and faces change, the river of fellowship and good works flows on, cutting an ever deeper and wider channel.

Beyond that, the face of the Club itself changes—slowly, but inevitably. With the 1987 Supreme Court decision that Rotary clubs in the United States may no longer exclude women from membership, Champaign Rotary, like thousands of other clubs, has entered a new era. Some members rejoice, some cringe, others accept the demise of the gender barrier with equanimity. It is fitting that, in this country at least, Rotary must reflect the course of human events—to borrow Mr. Lincoln's phrase.

Two Club members who undoubtedly prefer to be known simply as Rotarians are Champaign Rotary's first black Rotarian and its first woman Rotarian. But for them to remain nameless in this history would do a disservice to future generations of Club members. Joseph H. Smith, UI professor of English, associate vice-chancellor, and nationally-prominent Episcopalian layman, in 1967 became the community's first black Rotarian. And in no way is that the most noteworthy thing about this man.

After Joe Smith served Champaign Rotary with distinction for a dozen years, including three terms as Club Secretary, his somewhat pensive picture disappeared from the roster. Then newly appointed to the University's top academic affirmative action post, Joe communicated to the Club leadership his objections to Rotary's discriminatory policies and resigned as a matter of conscience. For his several personal and professional strengths, he was missed.

Ten years later, following the admission to membership of Bonnie Kelley, the Club's first woman Rotarian, Joe Smith returned to

Champaign Rotary. By opening its door to women, Rotary International had removed Joe's primary objection, enabling him to renew associations he greatly valued.



Bonnie Kelley "presides" over Kelley Burial Vault Co. Besides being Champaign Rotary's first woman member, Bonnie is a two-term trustee of Parkland College.

[Photo courtesy of the News-Gazette]

Bonnie Kelley was also much more than a symbol. Although she happened to be the wife of a Champaign Rotarian, as chief executive of her own business Bonnie was, as were the outstanding women who followed her into the Club, fully qualified for an open classification.

Ultimately, Rotary is not about race or gender, but about people—about voluntarism and compassion. Rotarians do not define compassion as a willingness to spend someone else's money or time or effort on putatively good works; they get out and give of themselves. In the words of 1967–68 Club President Carl Greenstein: "The members of our Club are *doers*. During my term in office, I never had anyone tell me, 'I'm too busy.' They had many other projects of their own, but as the old axiom says, 'If you want something done, ask a busy man.'"

Now that club leaders can ask busy men and busy women, Rotarians look to even broader horizons of service. We leave it to future historians to detail in what ways its service-minded members will make WGRC even greater.

Someone once wrote a eulogy to an anonymous Rotarian. It read like this:

"Everyone in the club knew him as a 100 per cent attender. For 27 years he had not missed a meeting. Every member pointed him out as the man who had attended 1,400 consecutive meetings! But what many members did not know was . . .

"That it was he who first suggested sending a young boy to the specialist to have a serious eye defect corrected, and that he made the main financial contribution. Or that he helped the dispossessed family up on the hill until they were back on their feet.

"Or that when a boys' softball team lost their playing field, he 'found' a vacant lot for them. And that when tragedy befell an unfortunate family, it was he who, with a few quiet words spoken amongst kindred spirits, opened up an entirely new world of faith and hope for these stricken ones.

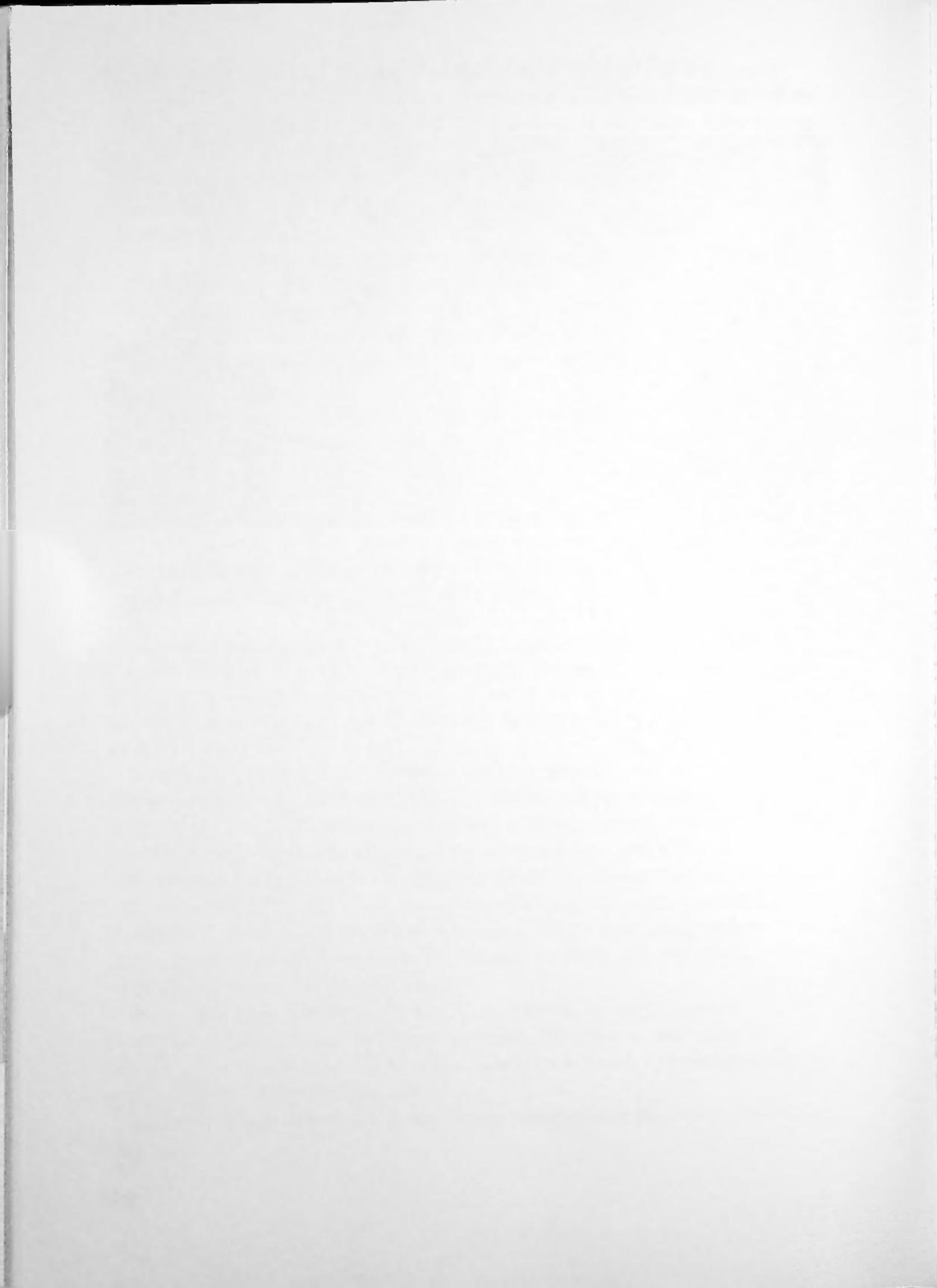
"He was never found at the head of the parade, but always somewhere on the sidelines. And when the trumpets were sounding and the cymbals clanging, he slipped down a side street and helped someone.

"The club records listed him merely as a 100-percenter for 27 years, but there was so much more . . ."

Similar tributes could be written about countless Rotarians, including quite a few from this club. Time passes and faces change, but the spirit and good works of Rotary go on.

And so does the Champaign Rotary Club: 3,710 meetings so far and climbing—steps always going up.

—15 June, 1988



APPENDIX A

CLUB OFFICERS (1916-1988)

Year	President	Vice-President/President-Elect
1916-17	O. F. Clark	C. M. Pearson
1917-18	Albert Eisner	Frank Chester
1918-19	Albert Eisner	Tom Smith
1919-20	L. B. King	C. L. Adams
1920-21	Ed S. Scott Jr.	B. E. Spalding
1921-22	James M. White	L. L. Glen
1922-23	L. L. Glen	John Prettyman
1923-24	Harry J. Millard	Jack Lawder
1924-25	B. E. Spalding	B. L. Kirk
1925-26	B. L. Kirk	I. L. Peterson
1926-27	I. L. Peterson	W. E. C. Clifford
1927-28	O. B. Dobbins	Bert Eisner
1928-29	C. D. Brownell	Chas. W. Bailey
1929-30	Chas. W. Bailey	Wm. Berryman
1930-31	W. E. C. Clifford	H. C. Northcott
1931-32	H. C. Northcott	George Huff
1932-33	Fred H. Turner	M. L. Kennedy
1933-34	M. L. Kennedy	O. B. Dobbins
1934-35	Chas. A. Kiler	R. D. Carmichael
1935-36	Edw. M. Jacquin	Frank Murphy
1936-37	J. W. Watson	M. T. McClure
1937-38	J. E. Atkinson	L. W. Murphy
1938-39	S. E. Nelson	C. M. Pearson
	C. M. Pearson	
1939-40	George E. Ramey	Will C. Robb
1940-41	Ray C. Sparks	J. H. Finch
	J. H. Finch	
1941-42	Wm. H. Lee	C. E. Bowen
1942-43	M. T. McClure	Forrest Colwell
1943-44	C. E. Bowen	Forrest Colwell
1944-45	Robert Eisner Sr.	A. Ray Cartlidge
1945-46	A. Ray Cartlidge	F. C. Amsbary Jr.
1946-47	F. C. Amsbary Jr.	Tom A. Hagan

1947-48	Tom A. Hagan	Giles Sullivan
1948-49	Giles Sullivan	Russell Cone
1949-50	Russell Cone	B. F. Harris III
1950-51	B. F. Harris III	Wm. L. Everitt
1951-52	Wm. L. Everitt	Don L. Kemmerer
1952-53	Don L. Kemmerer	C. B. Younger Jr.
1953-54	C. B. Younger Jr.	S. D. Daniels
1954-55	S. D. Daniels	L. A. Bryan
1955-56	L. A. Bryan	A. J. Skelton
1956-57	A. J. Skelton	Dean R. McCumber
1957-58	Dean R. McCumber	W. M. Mulliken
1958-59	W. M. Mulliken	W. S. Hansen
1959-60	W. S. Hansen	Robert O. Harvey
1960-61	Robert O. Harvey	J. G. Thomas
1961-62	J. G. Thomas	Guy M. Duker
1962-63	Guy M. Duker	Scott Anderson Sr.
1963-64	Scott Anderson Sr.	C. A. Thompson
1964-65	C. A. Thompson	R. H. Foley
1965-66	R. H. Foley	Robert Eisner Jr.
1966-67	Robert Eisner Jr.	Carl Greenstein
1967-68	Carl Greenstein	H. F. Heaton
1968-69	H. F. Heaton	R. C. Dickerson
1969-70	T. A. Hagan Jr.	H. S. Dawson
1970-71	H. S. Dawson	Eugene Vance
1971-72	Lott H. Thomas	Oscar H. Dodson
1972-73	Oscar H. Dodson	B. A. Dunn
1973-74	B. A. Dunn	Peter T. Tomaras
1974-75	Peter T. Tomaras	W. Thomas Morgan
1975-76	W. Thomas Morgan	James S. Acheson
1976-77	James S. Acheson	Frank Keck
1977-78	Frank Keck	Donald Moyer Jr.
1978-79	Donald Moyer Jr.	William M. Kuhne
1979-80	William M. Kuhne	David B. Lawrence
1980-81	David B. Lawrence	Richard A. Knieriem
1981-82	Richard A. Knieriem	Ronald H. Bates
1982-83	Ronald H. Bates	Ronald Kiddoo
1983-84	Ronald Kiddoo	Thomas O. Dawson
1984-85	Thomas O. Dawson	Leonard T. Flynn
1985-86	Leonard T. Flynn	Ken Gunji
1986-87	Ken Gunji	Edward E. Roderick
1987-88	Edward E. Roderick	Calvin L. Owens
1988-89	Calvin L. Owens	Dan M. Crispin

APPENDIX B

RECIPIENTS OF THE ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

1979-80	Robert Eisner Jr.
1980-81	William D. Krahling
1981-82	Ralph A. Duffy
1982-83	James S. Acheson
1983-84	Richard H. Burwash
1984-85	Donald E. Moyer Jr.
1985-86	Thomas R. Cornell
1986-87	Scott Anderson Sr. Thomas M. Good
1987-88	David C. Thies

RECIPIENTS OF THE ROBERT EISNER JR. AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING NEW ROTARIAN

1983-84	David C. Thies
1985-86	Robert P. Prath
1986-87	Anthony L. Peressini
1987-88	Monte D. Kramer

APPENDIX C

ROTARY CLUBS OF DISTRICT 649

Arthur	Litchfield
Atlanta	Marshall
Bloomington	Mattoon
Blue Mound	Metamora-Germantown Hills
Casey	Monticello
Champaign	Mt. Pulaski
Champaign West	Moweaqua
Champaign-Urbana Sunrise	Newton
Charleston	Nokomis
Chenoa	Normal
Clinton	Pana
Cowden	Paris
Danville	Paxton
Danville South	Piper City
Decatur	Pontiac
Decatur Metro	Rantoul
Effingham	Roanoke
Eureka	Robinson
Fairbury	Shelbyville
Gibson City	Tuscola
Gilman	Urbana
Hillsboro	Vandalia
Hoopeston	Villa Grove
Lincoln	

INDEX

A

Acheson, James, 41, 46, 114, 115
 Action Auction, 45-48, 51
 Adams, C. L., 14, 113
 Aix-en-Provence Rotary, 66
 Alpha Sigma Phi, 100
 Alpha Tau Omega, 99
 American Institute of Architects,
 105-106
 Amsbary, Frank, Jr., 95, 113
 Amsbary, Frank, Sr., 8-9
 Anderson, Albert J., 45
 Anderson, Scott, Sr., 60, 64-65, 77,
 114-115
 Arrowhead Council, Boy Scouts, 22, 99
 Assembly Hall, 80
 Athletic Board of Control, UI, 94
 Atkinson, J. E., 113
 A. T. & T., 100
 Attlee, Clement, 62

B

Bailey & Himes, vii
 Bailey, C. W., 17, 23, 113
 Ball, Joseph, 80
 Bank of Illinois, 45, 100, 103
 Bardeen, John, 79
 Barr, Joseph, 80
 Bartholow, Babette, 98
 Bash, Bill, 78
 Bates, Ronald H., 114
 Bear, Montague, 3
 Beardsley Hotel, 8, 77, 83
 Bellinger, Steve, 74
 Benn, Liesa, 42
 Bennett, Doc, 14
 Berryman, William, 113
 Beta Theta Pi, 95, 103
 Bethel College, 107
 Bidault, Georges, 62
 Big Brothers, 24, 38-40
 Bilderback, I. M., 14, 23
 Bird, Harry, 91
 Blackwell, Ray, 22, 87
 Blair, Bonnie, 81
 Bogota, Colombia Rotary Club, 67-68
 Booz, Allen & Hamilton, 108
 Boudreau, Lou, 79
 Bowen, C. E. "Chilly", 33, 113

Boys Club, 38-39
 Boy Scouts, 20-22, 38, 40, 89, 99
 Bradley Academy, 95
 Briggs, Ray, 28
 Brownell, C. D. "Chet" Sr., 14, 16, 113
 Bruce, Terry, 80
 Brundage, Avery, 101
 Brunkow, Bill, 52
 Bryan, Les, 55, 99, 114
 Bukiewicz, Ralph, 21
 Burke, A. M., 9, 14
 Burnham Hospital, 21
 Burns, Frank, 26
 Burwash, Dick, 80-81, 86-87, 115
 Busey, James B., Admiral, 80
 Busey State Bank, 8

C

Camp Drake, 22
 Campus Businessmen's Association, 99
 Carmichael, R. D., 113
 Carroll Addition Project, 40-41
 Cartlidge, Rev. A. Ray, 25-26, 35, 113
 Cenco Instruments, 98
 Centennial High School, 24, 43-45
 Centennial Park Fitness Trail, 52
 Central High School, 24, 35, 42, 44
 Certain-teed Products, 101
 Champaign Chamber of Commerce, 94,
 95, 98, 100, 105
 Champaign Country Club, 77, 95, 100
 Champaign County Forest Preserve, 45,
 98
 Champaign *Daily News*, 8
 Champaign National Bank, 45
 C-U Sunrise Rotary Club, 75-76, 116
 Champaign West Rotary Club, 52, 75-76,
 116
 Chancellor, The, 71, 77, 80, 87
 Chanute Air Force Base, 82
 Chapin, George, 96
 Chaurand, Miguel Ortega, 65
 Chester, H. F., 9, 113
 Chicago Rotary Club, 3
Chicago Tribune, 19
 Chicago, University of, 106
 Chief Illiniwek, 22, 85
Christian Science Monitor, 80
 Christie Clinic PACT, 53
 Christie's Auction House, 1

Christmas Program, 88
 Clark, O. Frank, 8-9, 11-12, 14, 83, 113
 Clark, Stuart E., 43
 Clark, Thomas Arkle, 97
 Claus, Santa, 27, 77, 88
 Clifford, W. E. C. "Cass", 16, 106, 113
 Cochran, Robert J., 28
 Collegiate Cap & Gown, 98
 Colwell, Dorothy Dieckmann, 100
 Colwell, Forrest, 90, 100, 113
 Colwell Publishing Co., 100
 Colwell Printing Co., 100
 Colwell Systems, Inc., 45, 100
 Community Chest, 20, 89, 98-99, 101
 Community Foundation of Champaign
 County, 99
 Cone, Russell, 31, 32, 113
 Congress Hotel, 3
 Conrad, Joseph, 7
 Cook, Claude V., vii
 Cooley, E. B., 8
 Cooper, Gary, 79
 Cooper's Cafeteria, 88
 Corbally, John, 80
 Cornell, Thomas R., 43, 115
 Cornell University, 100
 Corn Roast, 51, 86-88
 Cosmopolitan Club, 35
Courier, The, 7, 8
 Coyle, Jack, 20
 Craig, Jim, 88
 Cribbet, John, 82
 Crispin, Dan M., 114
 Cristal, J. Bruce, 82
 Cunningham Home, 23, 24

D

Daily Courier, The, 7, 8
 Dallenbach, J. C., 11, 87
 Daniels, Edna, 99
 Daniels, Marilyn, 99
 Daniels, Stewart D., 55, 99, 114
 Daniels, Stewart, Jr., 99
 Danville Rotary Club, 8, 116
 Davis, Al, 43
 Davis, Ivan W., Jr., "Terry", 28, 91
 Davis, W. Jack, 69
 Dawson, Harold S., 39, 114
 Dawson, Thomas O. "Tod", 28, 35, 44, 63,
 114
 Delta Tau Delta, 98
 Developmental Services Center (DSC),
 51-52
 Dickerson, Ray C., 114
 Dieckmann, Carl, 100
 Dillavou, Ora, 80
 Dillavou, Ward, 22
 Disabled Study-Abroad Project, 65-66,
 70
 Dixon, Alan, 80
 Dobbins, D. C., 30, 80

Dobbins, O. B., 16-17, 113
 Dodson, Oscar H., vii, 51, 65, 79, 114
 Douglas, Paul, 82
 Douglas, Senator Paul, 62
 Downey, David J., 41
 Downtown Senior Citizens Center, 53
 Duffy, Ralph A., 79, 115
 Duker, Guy M., 74, 83, 107, 114
 Dunlap, Henry Menzo, 86
 Dunn, Bernard A., 40, 73, 114

E

Ernst, W. E., 21
 Ebert, Roger, 79
 Edgar, Jim, 80
 Einstein, Albert, 1
 Eisenhower, Dwight, 70-71, 99
 Eisner, Albert, Sr., 9, 12, 14-15, 58, 86,
 103, 113
 Eisner, Albert, Jr., 30, 113
 Eisner, Betty Robinson, 103
 Eisner, Robert, Sr., 17, 57, 78, 96, 103,
 113
 Eisner, Robert, Jr., 21, 58, 71, 78, 103,
 114
 Eisner, Robert, Jr. Award, 103, 115
 Eisner, Robert, III, 58, 103
 Eisner Grocery Co., 103
 Eisner-Murphy Insurance, 103
 Elder, John H., 28
 Eliot, Ray, 84
 England, Rotary in, 3
 Ernst, W. E., 21
 Everitt, William L., 27, 38, 70, 77, 100,
 113
 Exxon Foundation, 108

F

Family Welfare, 20, 27, 89
 Farrar, George A., 9
 Feldman, Victor F., 68
 Feller, Thomas J., 26
 Fellowship, Paul Harris (*see* Paul Harris)
 Filson, Edwin, 88
 Finch, J. H., Dr., 88, 113
 First Federal Savings & Loan, 103
 First Methodist Church, 8, 88, 99, 100
 First Presbyterian Church, 98, 100, 103
Fizz, The, vii, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30,
 31, 39, 40, 41, 61, 70, 82, 86, 88-93, 96,
 98, 100, 104
 Flynn, Leonard T., 51-52, 114
 Flynn, Fr. Richard, 88
 Foley, Richard H., 41, 75, 78, 114
 Football Banquet, 84-85
 Forrest, James I., 39, 43
 Four Avenues of Service, 4
 4-Way Test, 4
 4-H, 20, 40
 Franco, Francisco, 29

Free Enterprise Project, 41-42
Freund, Fritz, 22
Froom, William W., 41
Frost, David, 81

G

Garcia's, 47
Gallivan, Lyle, 20
Garret Biblical Institute, 94
Garrett, Joe, 45
Gelvin, H. I., 45, 51, 79, 98
Gelvin, Mabry, 98
Gelvin, Phil, 55, 98
Girl Scouts, 20, 21, 22, 40, 89
Gizz Kids, UI, 53
Glenn, Leslie, 14, 113
Good, Thomas M., 115
Goodman-Murphy Agency, 103
Goodwill Industries, 53
Gonsier, A. C., 23
Gramm-Rudman Bill, 51
Grange, Red, 84
Greenstein, Carl, 65, 78, 110, 114
Group Study Exchange (GSE), 5, 57-58, 63, 66
Gundaker, Guy, 69
Gunji, Ken, 52, 60, 63, 64, 66, 78, 81, 114
Gunji, Kimiko, 64

H

Hagan, Thomas A., 113
Hansen, Willard S., 114
Harding, Albert Austin, 107
Harding, Mary Frances Rogers, 107
Hardy, Thomas, 7
Harris, B. F., 9, 14, 21, 69
Harris, Ben, III, 20, 77, 78, 113
Harris, Burnham, 86
Harris, Del, 115
Harris, Paul Percival, 1, 2, 3, 4, 58, 70, 77, 79
Harris, Paul, Fellowship, 58, 103
Harvey, Robert O., 114
Hatch, C. B., 9, 83
Hatch, Gaylord, 38
Havana Cuba Rotary Club, 4
Havens, Raymond M., 69
Heaton, Bill, 104
Heaton, Herbert F., 51, 71, 91, 103-104, 114
Heaton, Jane, 104
Heaton, Mary Jane, 104
Hecker, M. L., 86
Hecker, Morris L., Jr., 55, 78, 92
Hedgren, Steve, 28
Hedrick, Sharon Rahn, 81
Henry, David Dodds, 48, 50, 80
Herrick, Harry, 9
Herron, Robin, 44
Hicks, Leonard, 82

Hill, Bob, 70
Hindsley, Mark, 107
Hitler, Adolph, 30
Hi-Tower, 98
Hoopeston High School, 103
Houdini, Harry, 82
Howell, Evan, 80
Howlett, Michael, 80
Hrabosky, Al, 79
Huckins, A. E., 9
Huff, George, 84, 101, 113
Hurd, Burton C., 17

I

Ikenberry, Stanley O., 80
Illini Glee Club, 53
Illiniwek, Chief, 22, 85
Illinois Chamber of Commerce, 94, 98
Illinois Commercial College, 48
Illinois National Guard, 97
Illinois Power Company, 45
Illinois Wesleyan University, 94, 100
Inman Hotel, 18, 77
Institut Franco-Scandinave, 66
Interact, 42-44
International Association of Rotary Clubs, 3, 8
International Speakers Bureau, 67
International Youth Exchange (IYE), 63-65
Interserve, 43
Ireland, Rotary in, 3

J

Jacquín, Eddie, 31, 71, 91, 95-96, 113
Jeffries, James J., 1
Jenkins, Stu, 43
Jenson, Will, 2, 3
Jewel Tea Co., 103
Johnson, Herbert, 86
Johannesburg, South Africa Rotary, 4
Judge, Virgil, 73
Junior Achievement, 44-45

K

Kaufman, J. M., 9, 14, 83, 86
Kaufman, J. M. (Store), 7, 9
Kaufman, Matthew, vii
Keck, Frank D., 49, 51, 75, 114
Keene, James F., 107
Keller, Charles C., 70
Kelley, Bonnie, 109, 110
Kelley, Rolland W., 28, 45
Kelley, Scott, 102
Kemmerer, Donald L., 41, 62, 67, 113
Kennedy, John F., 99
Kennedy, M. L., 113
Kent, Paul, 39
Kiddoo, Ronald L., 44, 78, 114

Kiler, C. A., 9, 86, 93-94, 113
 Kiler, Quin, 79
 King, L. B., 11, 12, 14, 86, 88, 113
 Kinley, David, 17, 70, 80, 105, 106
 Kipling, Rudyard, 7
 Kirk, B. L., 8, 113
 Kiwanis/Kiwanians, 28, 39, 80
 Knieriem, Richard A., 26, 43, 114
 Koehnemann, Oscar, 21, 103
 Kolb, P. J., 17
 Kraft/Humko, 52
 Krahling, William D., vii, 91-92, 115
 Kramer, Monte D., 115
 Kuhne, William M., 46, 81, 114
 Kyle, Bill, 28

L

Lake of the Woods Park, 45, 98
 Landis, Jdgc Kenesaw Mountain, 79
Lavitar, 96
 Lawder, J. W., 9, 113
 Lawrence, D. H., 7
 Lawrence, David B., 20, 39, 114
 Lee, William H., 30, 33, 113
 LeGrand, James E., 78
 Leutwiler, Lester, 22
 Lewis, Arthur L., 28
 Lewis, Walter H., 41, 46
 Lewis, W. L. Co., 7
 Liberty Bond Drive, 12, 13
 Lincoln, Abraham, 22, 109
 Lions Club, 28
 Lloyd George, David, 7
 Loehr, Gustavus, 1
 Lowenstern-Meis, 7
Lusitania, 7
 Lyng, Richard E., 80-81

M

Madigan, Edward, 80
 Madrid, Spain Rotary Club, 4, 29
 Maddocks, Walter, 59-61
 Manila, The Philippines Rotary, 4
 Manley, Frank, 8
 Martin, Nancy, 103
 Mason, Robert W., 82
 Masonic Temple, 54
 Massachusetts Mutual Life, 101
 Matched Club Program, 67-68
 McClelland, Royal, 91
 McClure, M. T., 113
 McCumber, Dean, 19, 55, 91, 114
 McKinley Hospital, 106
 McKinley Presbyterian Church, 101
 McKinley, Sen. William B., 25
 McKinley YMCA, 25-26
 McPherson, Arlan, 73
 McPherson, Arlan, Mrs., 73
 Mead, Marcus, 14
 Meals on Wheels, 53

Melbourne, Australia Rotary, 4
 Mellon, Eugene H., 43, 62
 Mellon, E. H. Award, 43
 Mendez, Carlos, 70
 Mercy Hospital, 21, 103
 Metcalf, Larry, 41
 Michigan, University of, 100
 Millard, Harry, 35, 88-91, 113
 "Mister Rotary", 103
 Mittendorf, John, 87
 Mittendorf, Louis, 9
 Monroney, Mike, 80
 Moore, Randy, 75
 Morey, Lloyd, 80
 Morey, Lloyd Mrs., 17
 Morgan, W. Thomas, 45, 114
 Morrissey, Dale, 52
 Mortensen, Erik, 66
 Moyer, Donald Boys Club, 39
 Moyer, Donald E., Jr., 46, 50, 114, 115
 Mulliken, Wallace, 32, 78, 114
 Murphy, F. Dwyer, 20, 74, 101
 Murphy, Frank D., 79, 101, 113
 Murphy, Jane, 74
 Murphy, L. W., 113
 Murphy, Thomas, 79

N

National Academy of Arts, 36, 48, 53
 National Association of Rotary Clubs, 3
 National Association of University
 Architects, 106
 Nelson, B. C., 9, 86, 113
News-Gazette, 31, 82, 96
 Nixon, Richard, 81
 Noble, Nels, 30
 Nogle, Harold, 87
 Northcott, Rev. H. C., 30, 31, 94-95, 105,
 106, 113
 Northwestern University, 94, 98
 Nugent, Timothy, 66

O

Object of Rotary, 4
 Ohio State University, 100
 Oliver, E. Eugene, 91
 Operation Snowball, 53
 Orpheum Theater, 7
 Owens, Calvin L., vii, 114
 Oxford University 62

P

Parkinson, Thomas P., 80
 Parkland College, 36, 37, 41, 48, 107-108
 Parkland Foundation, 108
 Paul, W. W., 9
 Pearl Harbor, 30
 Pearson, Charles M., 9, 14, 16, 113
 Pennock, Ron, 48

Peoria Journal-Transcript, 96
 Peressini, Anthony L., 115
 Perkins, Phyllis, 64
 Perry, Chesley, 8
 Peters, Everett, 80
 Peterson, Irving L., 16, 78, 96-97, 105, 113
 Pet Milk Co., 22
 Petry, Chuck, 38, 91, 102
 Phi Delta Theta, 95, 101
 Phillips, Harrison C., 46
 Picasso, Pablo, 7
 Pigman, Herbert, 70
 PolioPlus, 44, 59-61, 69
 Pope, Kip R., 44
 Powell, Paul, 80
 Prath, Robert P., 68, 115
 Pratt, Charles W., 1
 Prettyman, John, 113
 Proxmire, Sen. William, 62

R

Radcliffe, Donald E., 91
 Ramada Inn, 73, 74, 77, 85
 Ramey, George E., 9, 33, 113
 Randall, Clifford, 70
 Rasputin, Grigori, 7
 Reagan, Ronald, 37
 Red Cross, 12, 20, 29, 94
 Remsen, John, 75
 Render, Fr. Bernard, 74
 Rhodes Scholarships, 61
 Ritchie, Norman E., 91
 Robb, Will C., 71, 113
 Robeson, F. K. Co., 7
 Robeson, Kyle, 26, 73
 Robeson, Phyllis, 26, 73
 Robson, Peter, 64
 Roderick, Edward E., v, vii, 81-82, 114
 Romero, Rick, 43
Rotarian, *The*, 22-23, 66, 70, 97
 Rotary Ann, 86
 Rotary Foundation, 4, 15, 57-59, 61-63, 66-67
 Rotary Hill, 45-46, 48-51, 86
 Rotary International (RI), 4
 Rotary International Secretariat, 70
 Rotary Scholarships, 4, 57-58, 61-63, 67
 Rotary Vocational Services Building, 51-52
 Ruggles, Harry, 2, 3
 Rydell, Robert B., 22

S

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 52
 St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*, 96
 St. Mary's Church, 88
 Salvation Army, 7, 26-28, 77, 89
 San Pablo South Rotary Club, 68

Saturday Evening Post, 97
 Schiele, Silvester, 1, 3, 70
 Schmidt, Kurt, 73
 Schmitt, Harrison, 80
 Scott, Ed S., Jr., 9, 14, 113
 Shorey, Hiram, 1, 3
 Shuman, Howard, 62
 Sigma Alpha Epsilon, 97
 Sigma Chi, 94
 Sigma Delta Chi, 96
 Sister Club Program, 64-67
 Skelton, Arthur J., 45, 55, 71, 73, 74, 102, 114
 Skelton, Audrey, 73, 102
 Skelton, Dan, 102
 Skelton, Kathryn, 102
 Skelton, Maurice, 87, 102
 Sledge, J. P., 9
 Smith, Joseph H., 73, 74, 109
 Smith, Laverne, 73
 Smith, T. E., 9, 14, 113
 Snedcor, Estes, 69
 Souder, L. B., 89
 Sousa, John Phillips, 107
 Soviet Union, 29
 Spalding, B. E., 113
 Sparks, Ray C., 33, 86, 113
 Special Grants, 5, 57, 58
 Sperling, Godfrey, 79
 Springer, William L., 80
 Staerkel, William M., 36, 41, 107-108
 Staerkel, W. M. Planetarium, 53, 108
 Stamey, F. L., 9, 83
 Stanford University, 108
 Stewart, Larry, 84
 Stipes, John, 86
 Stipes Publishing Co., 98
 Stipes, Royal A. (Rooney), 20, 79, 97-98
 Stoddard, George, 80
 Stouffer, Ernest L., 105-107
 Sullivan, Giles, 113
 Swigart, Ed, 14, 26, 86
 Syracuse University, 99

T

Taylor, Herbert J., 4
 Theta Tau, 95
 Thies, David C., 78, 115
 Thomas, J. G. (Glad), 114
 Thomas, Lott H., 91, 114
 Thompson, Clarence A., 26, 39, 41, 114
 Thompson, Gov. James, 80
 3-H Program, 5, 57-59
 Tilden Hall Hotel, 30, 77
 Tobin, L. M., 15, 27
 Tobin, Margaret, 27
 Tomaras, Peter T., vii, 64-65, 66-67, 114
 Tot-Lot Nursery School, 53
 Traylor, Jerry, 53
 Tryon, Anne, 60, 61

Tryon, Richard R., Jr., 60, 61, 100
Turner, Fred H., vii, 36, 48, 70, 88, 97,
113
Turner, Irvin P., 87
Twin City Printing, 100

U

United Fund/United Way, 20, 27, 100, 101
United Health & Welfare, 20, 101
United War Works, 12
University Federal Savings & Loan, 80
UI Alumni Association, 94, 99
UI Black Chorus, 53
UI Gizz Kids, 53
UI Institute of Aviation, 99
UI Rehabilitation-Education Center, 44,
66-67
University YMCA, 30, 101, 103
Urban League, 53
Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District,
101
Urbana High School, 80
Urbana Rotary Club, 23, 35, 38, 44, 69,
75, 79, 116
USO, 53

V

Vance, Ellis E., 114
Van Nest, Dorothy, 101
Vargas, Adan, 70
Villa, Pancho, 7
Vocational Service, 4, 24, 35, 36, 42
Vocational Services Building, 51-52
Volunteer Illini Projects (VIP), 37-38, 40
Von Baudissin, Count, 1

W

Wackerlin, Gary G., 44
Wallace, Robert R., 45
Walls, Arthur, 14
Watson, J. W., 113
Watts, Emily, 98

WDWS Radio, 74
Weaver, Elizabeth, 97
Well Baby Clinic, 20
Wendt, Robert Henry, 80-81
Werries, Larry, 81
Wert, Raymond, 28
Wesley Foundation, 94
WGN Radio, 19
WGRC, 19
WGRC, Inc., 45, 50, 68
Wheeler, Charles, 69
Wheeler, Keith, 31
White, Adelaide, 105
White, Edith Shattuck, 105
White, James M., 14, 71, 104-105, 106,
113
Wikoff, Virgil C., 80
Wilber Mansion, 53
Willard Airport Beautification, 53
Willard, Arthur Cutts, 80
Williston, Link, 82
Wilson, Woodrow, 82
Winnipeg, Canada Rotary, 3
World Community Service, 65, 67
World Health Organization, 59
Wrangler's Fraternity, 94
Wright, Robert C., 62
Wright, Mary, 62
Wright, P. W. "Whit", 20, 21
Wuesteman, A. E., 9, 14

Y

Yanai Rotary Club, 64-66
YMCA (McKinely), 25-26
York, Alvin, 79
Younger, Charles B., Jr., 113-114
Youth World Affairs Seminar, 43

Z

Zeta Psi, 99
Zombro, Roger, 86
Zuppke, Bob, 84, 100

WORLD CUP

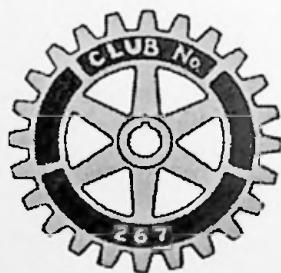
OF CHAMPIONS

1950-1954



THE WORLD

1950-1954



District 649

Zone 29

CHAMPAIGN ROTARY CLUB
THE STORY CONTINUES
1988 - 2001

A Supplement to *Steps Going Up: 1916 - 1988*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Dedication		iii
Preface		v
Introduction		vii
PART I	Updating Steps Going Up	1
PART II	The Presidents, 1988-2001	19
PART III	Principal Projects	97
PART IV	New Programs of the Rotary Foundation	115
PART V	Rotarian Profiles	135
PART VI	Whither Rotary?	155
APPENDIX I	Deceased Members, 1988-2001	163
APPENDIX II	Club Officers, 1988-2001	165
APPENDIX III	Recipients of Significant Awards, 1988-2001	167
APPENDIX IV	Editors of The Fizz, 1919-2002	169
APPENDIX V	District 6490 Rotary Clubs, 2001	171
INDEX		173

DEDICATION

"History is Philosophy teaching by examples."

— THUCYDIDES (c. 460–400 B.C.), Athenian historian

"Service is the rent that you pay for room on this earth."

— SHIRLEY CHISHOLM (b. 1924), African American politician

"A Rotarian's life is one that really counts. It is a life of commitments made and commitments kept. Mankind Is Our Business."

— RICHARD D. KING (b. 1938), RI president, 2001-2002

Champaign's oldest — and, may I say, most distinguished — service club, the Rotary Club of Champaign, will celebrate the 85th anniversary of its charter on 1 February 2002.

The history of our Club — a Rotary club steeped in tradition and committed to excellence — is filled with stories that demonstrate our strength, our dedication, and our willingness to tackle (and ability to solve) the problems of our community.

In *Steps Going Up* (1988), Edward E. (Bud) Roderick aptly dedicated "this legacy of Champaign Rotary's past to the men and women who represent our future." In keeping with this theme, it is my privilege to dedicate this latest installment of our Club's history to two distinct yet irrevocably linked groups:

(1) The hundreds of members, past and present, of the World's Greatest Rotary Club since the inaugural meeting on 11 December 1916, whose "commitments made and commitments kept" have created this history; and

(2) The quality men and women who are Rotarians, but not yet members of a Rotary club. As RI President Richard D. King observed, "They too are the business of Rotary if our organization is to reach its destiny in the 21st century."

George H. Scheetz
President, Rotary Club of Champaign
2001-2002

PREFACE

The problem with a history of a living organization is that it stops the day it goes to press, while the members of the organization go on to make more history.

—Edward E. Roderick, 1988

With those words from his dedication of *Steps Going Up*, Bud Roderick handed Champaign Rotary's historians an ongoing assignment: keep recording the accomplishments of this Club "...as new generations of Rotarians broaden the horizons of service." Since 1988, Champaign Rotarians have indeed broadened their horizons. Unquestionably, it is time to update the progress of our Club.

The challenge: should we rewrite *Steps*, incorporating 14 more years of Champaign Rotary history? That would produce a single volume covering 1916-2001, and might be a desirable solution. However, cogent arguments support the approach we have chosen — an addendum covering 1988-2001, providing (along with *Steps*) a history in two segments. Anticipating future updates, we have entitled the addendum *Champaign Rotary Club: The Story Continues, 1988-2001*. In *The Story Continues*, references to *Steps Going Up* provide essential background.

This approach has spared the writers and editors of *The Story Continues* the daunting challenge of stuffing a wealth of new information into the complete-into-itself *Steps*. We could justify neither the labor nor the expense of recreating the layout of nearly every page, especially when we envisioned how cumbersome that task would become with future updates. Since no more copies of *Steps Going Up* existed, the Club directors voted to reprint *Steps* and print *The Story Continues* in one combined book — a logistically prudent decision that should convenience both present and future members.

A last consideration justifying separate update volumes is this: what Champaign Rotary undertook 30 years ago pales in comparison to what WGRC now accomplishes.

The Story Continues stands as the more relevant paradigm, the platform from which the Club will launch its service projects in the ensuing years. We envision that other addenda will serve similarly.

INTRODUCTION

Because Champaign Rotary is intrinsically a cog in the wheel of Rotary International, we cannot portray WGRC's activities and achievements outside their primary context — the district and international framework of Rotary. The men and women of Rotary, 1.18 million strong, carry their good works over four broad Avenues of Service that reach into 163 countries – into every inhabited region of the world. The steps of Champaign Rotarians stray not from those four paths, nor can this narrative.

Week by week, year by year, Champaign Rotary (still referred to by insiders as WGRC, the World's Greatest Rotary Club) has generated a steady flow of modest achievements, highlighted here and there by something rather grand. Over 14 years the compendium of works grows unwieldy, and reducing it to a representative, yet readable chronicle becomes a process not of compilation, but of elimination. Because people breathe life into pages of words, we have included hundreds of names and faces. In so doing, we inevitably omit worthy individuals. Many members assume important Club responsibilities, serve selflessly (and sometimes invisibly), then step aside to be replaced by others. That their names appear infrequently, if at all, in *The Fizz* and this history does not diminish the benefits their work brings to people in the far-flung community of Rotary, from Champaign to Uganda.

A thorough review of records from 1988-2001 suggested organizational guideposts. We needed to correct a few errors in *Steps Going Up*; we needed to revisit the international reach of the Rotary Foundation, as well as ongoing Club projects; and we needed to describe the Club's most significant new projects and achievements. In Rotary, as with any successful organization, implementation is accomplished by the many, but vision and inspiration come from the top. Through the years, Champaign Rotary Board members have selected their presidents based on demonstrated abilities and commitment to the Object of Rotary, looking past political or social connection, town or gown, years in the community or WGRC, gender or ancestry, popularity or income level. The "character" of each July 1-June 30 Rotary year stems from the distinctive leadership style of the Club president. This annual cycle establishes a useful chronological structure that we have adopted.

Inevitably, a Club the size of Champaign Rotary loses members, each year, to death. In the course of recapping the high points of presidential years, we find no appropriate place to record these losses. With one exception, this supplement will salute our lost members by listing them in a special memorial section as Appendix I. The exception, an excerpt from an exemplary memorial resolution read to the Club and presented to the family, is included in the recapitulation of Dan Crispin's presidential term. May it honor all our departed members.

The Fizz reports what members see and hear at weekly luncheon meetings; Board of Directors minutes include memos, reports and letters from officers and

committee chairs — documents that not only disclose the quantity and quality of work occurring behind the scenes, but that reflect the human side of Club management. While the overriding mission of Rotary imparts motivation and a communion of effort to our committees, conflicts of opinion and disputes over policy arise. Generally, the service-focused, positive energy of Champaign Rotarians prevails, propelling WGRC to achievement of most of its goals.

That said, we believe that a chronicle of this nature should be more than a litany of self-congratulation. In Part VI: Whither Rotary? we examine not just winds of change, but winds that blow clouds of concern across the landscape of Rotary International and of this Club. Disquieting issues exist, and to ignore them would do a disservice to WGRC, as well as to Rotary. If we are to resolve current and impending problems, we must first acknowledge them and analyze their underlying causes.

With apologies for errors and omissions, we offer you

Champaign Rotary Club: The Story Continues, 1988-2001 – and hope you find it a worthy addition to *Steps Going Up*.

For The History and Archives Committee

Peter T. Tomaras
Club Historian and Author

William D. Krahling, Lott H. Thomas and
George H. Scheetz, Editors

Contributing Photographers: Robert A. Atkins and
Scott Anderson Jr.

The History and Archives Committee, 2001-2002

William J. Bash Jr.
W. Frank Burns
Morris L. Hecker Jr.
William D. Krahling
Joseph H. Smith

Lott H. Thomas
Peter T. Tomaras
Richard R. Tryon Jr.
Thomas R. Woodley

PART I

Updating Steps Going Up

[Sections and page numbers refer to
Steps Going Up]

Section I: The Founding of Rotary International (p. 1)

Since its founding in 1905, the world's oldest service club has grown from 4 men in Chicago to 1.18 million men and women in nearly 30,000 clubs in 163 countries and 35 geographical areas. U.S. Rotarians currently account for a third of all members; Japan has 10.5 percent; India, 6 percent; Brazil, 4.5 percent; England, 4 percent, and Australia, 3.2 percent. First admitted in 1989, women are the fastest-growing segment of Rotary membership. There are an estimated 103,000 female Rotarians, including 2,000 club presidents.

The numbers change, of course, from moment to moment. What does not change is the Object of Rotary (p. 4), now supported by Rotary International's Mission Statement (adopted in 1992):

The mission of Rotary International is to support its member clubs in fulfilling the Object of Rotary by:

- Fostering unity among member clubs;
- Strengthening and expanding Rotary around the world;
- Communicating worldwide the work of Rotary; and
- Providing a system of international administration.

While this "just-the-facts-ma'am" version describes an enabling framework, it fails to reflect the intangible human links – the Rotary International presidents and their worldwide network of district governors – who turbo-charge the engine of Rotary and steer the various programs to ever-higher levels of achievement. The expanded statement more fully reflects Rotary:

The mission of RI is to assist Rotarians and Rotary Clubs to accomplish the Object of Rotary and, at this particular time in Rotary's development, to focus primary emphasis upon service activities by individuals and groups that enhance the quality of life and human dignity and create greater understanding among all people to advance the search for peace in the world.

The Rotary Foundation (RF), first mentioned on p. 4 and then more extensively on pp. 57-58, rates a serious update. First, we incorrectly

stated in *Steps* that the Foundation began in 1947. We should have said that, because of two World Wars and the Great Depression, *prior* to 1947 the Foundation had barely scratched the surface of its espoused mission. The actual history of RF goes like this:



Arch C. Klumph,
6th RI President

In 1917, Arch C. Klumph, Rotary's sixth president, proposed to the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta the creation of an "endowment fund for Rotary . . . for the purpose of doing good in the world in charitable, educational, and other avenues of community service."

In 1928, when the endowment fund had grown to more than \$5,000, the fund was renamed The Rotary Foundation, and it became a distinct entity within Rotary International. Five Trustees, including Klumph, were appointed to "hold, invest, manage, and administer all of its property. . . for the furtherance of the purposes of RI." Two years later, the Foundation made its first grant of \$500 to the International Society for Crippled Children. The ISCC — created by Rotarian Edgar F. "Daddy" Allen — later grew into the Easter Seals organization.

The need for promoting world peace generated great post-war interest in the Foundation and, following the death of Rotary founder Paul Harris in 1947, Rotarians around the world made gifts to the Foundation in his memory, totaling more than \$1 million by June, 1948. That same year, the first Foundation program was established: Fellowships for Advanced Study, the forerunner of today's Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships program.

In 1957, Paul Harris Recognition began for donors giving at least \$1,000 to the Foundation. By 1965 annual contributions enabled the Foundation to establish three new programs: Group Study Exchange, Awards for Technical Training, and Matching Grants. The Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) program was launched in 1978; and in 1979 the Foundation trustees approved a \$760,000 3-H Grant for a five-year immunization plan for the polio-racked Philippines.

Next came the Rotary Endowment for World Understanding and Peace. By 1985, annual contributions to the RF reached \$24 million, and PolioPlus officially became a Foundation program. The PolioPlus goal was to immunize 500 million children and help eliminate polio by the year 2000, with official certification in 2005, Rotary's 100th anniversary. [Learn of WGRC's key role in PolioPlus on pp. 59-61 in *Steps*; see p. 104 in *The Story Continues* for more.]

In 1986 came Rotary Grants for University Teachers; the first Peace Forums were held in 1987-88, leading to the establishment of Rotary Peace Programs. Then in 1989, 1963-64 RI President Carl P. Miller and his wife, Ruth, donated \$1 million to establish the Discovery Grants program. The Trustees initiated the Foundation's Permanent Fund in 1994, as a source of income to support RF programs in perpetuity.

By 1998, with contributors to the Foundation exceeding one million and annual revenues topping \$60 million, total contributions to the Foundation since its inception surpassed \$1 billion. Contributions to

the Annual Fund are invested for three years, and earnings generated pay for the all administrative, program operations and fund development costs. This cycle approach has enabled the percent of available funds actually spent on programs to grow from 78% [of funds contributed three years earlier] in 1995-96 to 98% in 1998-99.

Since 1947, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1.1 billion in humanitarian and educational grants, which are initiated and administered by local Rotary clubs and districts.

We considered this RF background necessary to full understanding of most of the significant Club and individual service projects described in pages following. Please refer to p. 115 of *The Story Continues* to learn about the Foundation's marvelous new initiatives and their impact on the quality of life and world understanding.

Section II: The Founding of Champaign Rotary (p. 7)

Section III: The Early Years (p. 11)

Section V: The WW II Years (p. 29)

[These sections in *Steps* require no updates.]

Section IV: Projects & Activities: Community Service (p. 19), and Section VI: Post-War Projects & Activities (p. 35)

[These sections in *Steps* are updated below. For projects and activities the Club and Rotary International have undertaken since 1988, see *The Story Continues*, Parts III and IV]

Community Chest/United Way (Steps, p. 20)

The pattern of support continues. In 1992, WGRC bought the United Way a computer, and Champaign Rotarians regularly serve as annual campaign leaders. All executive directors and many campaign chairmen have been members of Champaign Rotary. As an example, Gary Wackerlin was campaign chairman and James Vander Klok was in his first of five effective years as executive director in 1989 when the campaign exceeded its \$1.8 million goal by 11 percent. Tom Costello, Greg Lykins, Zelema Harris, and Dave Beckerle all served as campaign chairmen during the 1990s; Gary Wackerlin served two terms as board president, while Joe Beard and Dave Beckerle each served one term as board president.

The one significant departure from the leadership form of support came in 1997-98, when accounting irregularities resulted in a critical shortfall in funding promised to agencies. Local Rotary clubs came together to support the United Way and restore community confidence

in the institution. The clubs essentially made up the shortfall, with Champaign Rotary picking up \$20,000+ toward shortfalls for eight community agencies. Under the leadership of Rotarian William J. Kitson III, the newly-appointed executive director, the United Way recovered quickly, attaining record-breaking years in both Campaign 1999 and Campaign 2000.

Boy Scouts (Steps, p. 21)

The Prairielands Council of the Boy Scouts of America serves more than 7,400 youth in seven counties in Illinois and two counties in Indiana. After ten years of outstanding contributions both to Champaign Rotary and as Executive Director of the Prairielands Council, Bob Rydell received a promotion in BSA. His successor as executive director is the energetic Tim Manard.

The Prairielands Council has benefited, aside from ongoing leadership by Champaign Rotarians, from two Action Auctions. In 1995, a renovation of the water treatment facility at Camp Robert Drake was the primary goal of Action Auction VII. The Auction's success provided \$37,500 for the purpose, and the new facility was dedicated (to the Champaign Rotary Club) on June 15, 1996. Among the many WGRCers



Stanley J. Rankin

present were BSA Area Vice President and Council President Ken Gunji, the keynote speaker; Treasurer Steven Carter; and Executive Director Bob Rydell. Although not the lead beneficiary of Action Auction IX in 2001, Prairielands Council did receive \$8,500 for a new lawnmower to tend its extensive grounds at Camp Drake.

Champaign Rotarian Stan Rankin is widely recognized for his long-time leadership in Scouting. In fact, he sponsored all 57 Eagle Scouts of the class of 1998 at the Council's March 1999 Recognition Dinner.

McKinley YMCA (Steps, p. 25)

With the addition of a second facility, McKinley YMCA became Champaign County YMCA. The original building retains the name: McKinley Family Center. Champaign Rotary continues to support the YMCA, primarily through leadership on its Board of Directors. As far back as one can recall, executive directors of McKinley/CC YMCA have been Champaign Rotarians. Frank Burns was succeeded by Dick Knieriem; Tom Feller succeeded Dick, and Doug Lindner followed. Champaign Rotarian Wade Hampton is the present executive director.



David W. Hood

David Hood is finishing his second two-year term as president of the Board of Directors; his Board includes Champaign Rotarians Kay Machula, John Comet, and Jan Bahr. Kyle Robeson, who with his wife, Phyllis, are long-time champions of the Y, is presently vice president of the Foundation Board of Directors.

Major funding support from WGRC includes a \$5,000 project grant in 1989, \$6,000 for pool repairs in 1992, and \$5,000 for computer linking of the two facilities in 2001.

The Salvation Army (Steps, p. 26)

The Salvation Army (SA) remains the only agency to receive annual support from Champaign Rotary. The SA Advisory Board always includes WGRCers, including the following current Club members: John Ady, Larry Carney, Tod Dawson, Bernie Dunn, John Elder, Ken Gunji, Steve Hamburg, David Hood, Frank Keck, David Lawrence, Art Lewis, Bill Riley, and Art Skelton.

The tradition of Club members ringing bells during the Christmas drive continues, although in 1995 the Club Board considered discontinuing the bell-ringing and simply holding a fund-raising meeting in December. We speculate that the importance of hands-on involvement through ringing bells, and the gratification received by those who ring, overruled the fact that less than half the money raised for the SA comes from the kettles.



Major George D. Windham

In recent years, kettle collections have increased dramatically, especially since the format changed in 1998. SA Commanding Officer George Windham suggested switching the ringing period from an hour following the Monday Club meeting, to several hours, worked in shifts, on a Saturday. John Elder had already concluded that today, few people shop on weekdays. The change proved serendipitous: not only did receipts climb, but the weekend format allowed spouses, children and grandchildren to join members in ringing bells. We don't have an accurate record of each year's receipts, but we have these totals:

1989	-	\$9,100	
1991	-	\$9,694	- "A new record in caring," said SA Chairman John Elder.
1992	-	\$10,550	- "Truly WGRC!" - John Elder
1993	-	\$10,669	
1995	-	\$12,500	
1996	-	\$12,300	
1999	-	\$12,917	
2000	-	\$15,223	(late donations brought this to nearly \$16,000)

Since serving as Salvation Army Capital Fund Campaign Chairman in 1987, John Elder has headed WGRC's SA Committee more times than he can remember. In 1998, John had the pleasure of accepting on behalf of the Club's members, the Salvation Army's Outstanding Community Service Award. WGRC was the only organization to receive this award at the Army's annual meeting. For 2001, John has passed the baton to Larry Carney.



John H. Elder

Scholarships/Vocational Service (Steps, p. 35)

WGRC remains committed to raising career awareness and providing vocational scholarships. Following a 1995 study by President-Elect Jim Keene, Local Scholarship Committee Chairman Joseph Smith, and former Parkland Financial Aid Director Ken Gunji, the Club Directors revised Policy Statement # 17 of 1980 "...to provide for closer administrative relationship with the Parkland College Scholarship Committee, to add Judah Christian High School graduates to possible recipients, and to change the name to "Champaign Rotary Vocational Scholarship." Candidates are now selected by Parkland faculty and staff based on four criteria: (1) enrolled in a degree program; (2) entering the second year of the program; (3) excellent grade-point average; and (4) special relevant considerations. Despite occasional problems in identifying candidates, the program (re-energized in 1999 by President Tom Costello) is again on track. Recent recipients of the \$500 awards included students in information technology, manufacturing technology, restaurant management, automotive technology, and construction technology.

WGRC has paid continuing attention to career awareness and development. In 1994, the Club won a District Achievement Award for the High School Career Development Night developed jointly with Champaign West Rotary. And when 1995-96 Club President Jim Keene made continuing career mentoring one of his goals, Vocation Awareness Committee Chair Clarence "Tommy" Thompson swung into action. Already, in the Spring of 1995, a large number of Centennial High School students had responded to his inquiry concerning visits to area businesses. Thompson first organized two pilot trips, and their success led to many more student visits to businesses and shadowing opportunities.

In the Spring of 2000, Marc Changnon, Centennial's Education to Careers and Professions Program Coordinator, presented a program to the Club on the ECP Program. Club members approved a resolution on

Monday, June 5, 2000, commending the Board of Champaign Unit 4 School District for developing the ECP Program at Centennial, and urging that the ECP program be expanded to all high schools throughout the School District at the earliest opportunity. The Illinois Board of Education recognized the ECP Program as an innovative way to bring students to a realistic understanding of career opportunities. Support of ECP complements the Club's Career Development/Vocational Awareness mission.

Developmental Services Center (*Steps*, p. 51)

Ever since DSC was the primary recipient of Action Auction IV in 1986,¹ Champaign Rotarians have honored its mission, primarily through serving on its Board. The indefatigable Bud Roderick set the standard, serving four three-year terms in all. At DSC's 1997 annual meeting, Bud was named the Outstanding Individual in Supporting Persons with Disabilities. In addition to his long Board service, Bud's company, Chemical Maintenance, Inc., regularly employs ten or more severely disabled persons.

But Patrick Kovar is coming on strong. Pat served two full terms from 1986 through 1992, then returned to the Board in 1995. He put in two years as treasurer, then two as vice chair before serving as board president from July 1998 through June 1999. By the time Pat's Board tenure ends in 2002, he will be one year up on Bud. Tony Peressini's Board term ran 1997-2000, and Rabbi Norman Klein served five years, 1996-2001. All worked with several committees during their Board terms.



Dale A. Morrissey

In terms of funding support, DSC has received the proceeds of two monthly Rotary Cup collections (\$963); a \$2,500 grant in April 1996 for computer equipment and software; and \$1,200 in April 1998 to purchase a communication device for DSC client Ryan Stewart. In August 2001, the WGRC, Inc.² board approved a request from DSC for \$4,341 to provide software for training 60-70 individuals with disabilities to use the computer lab. Rotarian Dale Morrissey has been CEO of DSC since 1987.

Boys Club (*Steps*, p. 38)

Before an update comes a clarification as to how the Boys Club came to be. We are informed that, in 1967, Clarence Thompson, as a Boys Club National Associate Board Member, was the inspirational catalyst,

¹ See p. 52, *Steps Going Up*.

² WGRC, Inc. is Champaign Rotary's 501(c)(3) charitable organization. See p. 50, *Steps Going Up*.

bringing together Paul Kent, Don Moyer Sr., Hal Dawson, and other citizens to organize the Champaign club. According to Dave Lawrence, "the first check to hit the table was signed Thompson," and Champaign had a Boys Club.

At about the same time Rotary admitted women, the Boys Club changed its name to the Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club. Champaign Rotarians actively support the DMBGC through funding and service as directors. The Boys and Girls Club was the second recipient of Rotary Cup proceeds when that practice began in 1994. In the early 1990s, Executive Director Tim Sheahan, with considerable input from his Board and others, launched the Great American Duck Race as the DMBGC's major fund-raiser. The 2001 Duck Race netted \$80,000.

A major boost from Champaign Rotary came in 1998, when WGRC designated \$33,000 from Action Auction VIII to the DMBGC to initiate and continue a teen center. Elisabeth Barnett, DMBGC Executive Director from 1997-2001, reports: "The Teen Center is definitely a reality. The \$33,000 was key to leveraging grants from the state which were used to further develop the teen center, add daily teen-only hours, and broaden the number of programs available to teens."

The importance of the DMBGC to the youth of Champaign-Urbana cannot be overstated. On March 31, 2000, a *News-Gazette* article carried this quote from Jenell Hendrix, a 14-year-old high school freshman, named DMBGC's Youth of the Year for 2000:

I look at the club like another home. It's like a big family, except they are your friends. You can hang out with your friends here and you're going to learn something with all these programs. I learned to be a better person, not to get into conflicts, and to respect people.

All DMBGC Executive Directors have been Champaign Rotarians. Barnett was preceded by Fred Paulke, who served after Tim Sheahan. André Arrington took the reins in August, 2001. Many WGRicers have served on the DMBGC board, no less than eleven in 1997, including the president, vice president, and treasurer. Board presidents during the 1990s include Don Moyer Jr., Mark Stolkin, Dave Lawrence, and Steve Hamburg. Those four continue as Board members in 2001, along with Vice President Carl Meyer, Secretary Deloris Henry, Don Judy, and Jill Wagner. And of eight Lifetime Honorary Board Members, four are Champaign Rotarians.



David B. Lawrence

The gratification that comes from seeing positive change in young people may be what draws so many Champaign Rotarians to volunteer their time and support to the DMBGC. Dave Lawrence, whose energetic leadership as Executive

Director during the club's first ten years set it firmly on the road to success, has never stopped working with and for the DMGGC despite moving on to several new career and community service roles. In 1999, Dave was named Boys & Girls Club Volunteer of the Year for the State of Illinois. And a year later, he received the Silver Medallion for long and meritorious service to the Boys & Girls Clubs of America at the annual meeting of the DMBGC.

Interact and Rotaract (Steps, p. 42)

In Champaign's galaxy of youth-related activities, the star of Centennial High School's Interact Club shines brightest. *Steps Going Up* credits Stu Clark and Dick Knieriem for establishing WGRC's first Interact Club in 1978. Actually, the first District Interact Club started in 1967 under WGRC President Bobby Eisner. That one did not last and was later re-started at Centennial in 1978.

Steps correctly reports Centennial Principal Al Davis' approval of Interact as a co-ed group in 1988. It was in *that* year that new Champaign Rotarian Chris Moyer was named co-chair of the Interact Committee. This proved a marvelous match, because Chris continuously chaired or co-chaired that Committee until 2001-02. Under his guiding hand, Centennial Interactors have consistently over-achieved, establishing themselves as the aspiration group of their school as they unselfishly serve both school and community. Here are some of the highlights:

- 1991-92: Interact conducts or participates in 28 different service projects during year.
- 1992-93: By March 1993, club members raise \$4,000, engage in 40 service projects, and ring up 1,500 hours of service.
- 1993-94: At the April 11 Rotary Club meeting, 59 of the 60 Interactors delight Rotarians by ending their presentation in musical form (see p. 45, *The Story Continues*).
- 1995 fall: Negotiations continue for a second year with the Central High School principal about forming an Interact Club. Faculty concerns about conflict/competition with Central's Key Club ultimately doom this initiative.
- 1997 spring: Interactors describe to Rotarians their year's activities, which total an astounding 3,865 service hours, 1,000 more than any previous Interact Club. One special event: they host a mass naturalization ceremony in the school's auditorium during which, under direction of U.S. Magistrate Judge David Bernthal, 107 immigrants are naturalized. They again conclude

their presentation with a stirring rendition of their anthem, "We Are Interact."

- 1998-99: Interact participates in 38 service projects, 28 of which are off-campus community projects.

The role of Interactors at the Club's January 26, 1998 meeting is noted elsewhere, as are other special projects undertaken by Interact, such as helping with the Club's 1998 and 2001 Habitat for Humanity construction projects;

participation in WGRC's prize-winning 1998 Freedom Celebration float; and a 1999 book drive for Kathe Keck's Uganda schools project. A summary of Interact's 2000-2001 year is on p. 86.



Interactor Works Alongside
WGRCers John T. Schumacher
and Scott Moe on 1998
Habitat for Humanity House



Chris Moyer Honors Janet Ellis-
Nelson for Five Years as Interact
Sponsor

Art Skelton is "Mr. Rotary": we could properly refer to Chris Moyer as "Mr. Interact." Principally for his work with Interact, Chris was named the Club's Outstanding Rotarian for 1996-97. That slowed him not a whit, and he was praised at the January 1999 Club Board meeting, as well as on other occasions, for his ongoing work with Centennial's Interactors. Ultimately, everyone must move on, and after nearly 14 years, Chris Moyer has handed the reins of Centennial's 2001-02 Interact Club to Bob Aldridge.

Interest in service through Interact is blooming in Champaign-Urbana. Moving into the 2001-2002 Rotary Year, Urbana Rotary has established an Interact Club at University High School, and Savoy Rotary hopes to do the same at Champaign Central High School. As George Scheetz observed in the April 9, 2001, *Fizz*: "We have seen the future – and it is Interact."

WGRC's sponsorship of the Rotaract Club at the University of Illinois is also a success story. By 1990-91, Rotaract merited a committee of its own, and in stepped the energetic Brad Booton. Already named co-New Rotarian of the Year for 1989-90, Brad infused Rotaract with his brand of enthusiasm for the next three years. Pat Dorsey then assumed the reins for four effective years. Here are a few Rotaract highlights:

- August 1990: Club Director and Coordinator of Youth and Student Affairs Tom Cornell reports Rotaract is "up and running" under Brad Booton and Jerry Denen. Vocation at Work

Committee Chair Steven Carter – in cooperation with Rotaract – develops a mentoring program for UI students on course work, résumé preparation, job interviewing, and career planning. Fifteen Champaign Rotarians sign on for career counseling.

- 1992-93: Rotaract activities include support of the Orchard Downs Day Care Center and charity-oriented walks and 10-K runs.
- 1996: Club President Gary Wackerlin proposes a second Rotaract Club (as his year's key Community Service project), to be comprised of urban-based older teens and young adults. Urban problems as well as traditional service projects and fund-raising activities are to be addressed. A Community Rotaract Committee is formed to address questions of recruitment and dues, identify youth leadership, and involve others from the police department, city administration, and churches who might have an interest in working with group. The ultimate decision is that the time is not favorable to proceed with the effort.
- 1997-98: Kay Machula steps in as UI Rotaract Committee chair. Typical Rotaract service projects on Kay's watch include: cleaning up Busey Woods in Urbana; serving as chaperones at a Daddy-Daughter Valentine's Day Dance at an elementary school; sorting donated food for the Eastern Illinois Food Bank's Food for Families Program; and cooking food and cleaning at the Men's Emergency Shelter. The Community Rotaract Committee fails to establish a club.
- 2001: Denton Brown joins the District Rotaract Committee. The idea of a Community Rotaract Club, like a seed falling on fertile ground, germinates within Denton's inventive and determined brain. The Club Board waits to hear.

In late 1999, because of the strong UI presence in Urbana Rotary, Champaign Rotary leaders inquired as to the Urbana Club's interest in sponsoring Rotaract at the UI. Urbana President Chris Scherer and his Board reacted favorably, and in March 2000, a letter of transition was drawn and the Champaign Rotary Board transferred the Club's sponsorship of the Rotaract Club to Urbana Rotary.

We should point out that, in some parts of the world, Rotaract is a more important program of Rotary than Interact. Consider this example of a project of the Rotaract Overseas Program, which each year sends mixed teams of Rotaractors from Great Britain and Ireland to remote locales for two-week service projects. In 2000, they built a dormitory for the Michinji Orphanage in Malawi, a nation with an estimated 300,000 orphans whose parents have died from AIDS, malaria, and malnutrition.

As *The Story Continues* goes to press, Rotary International reports 7,292 Interact Clubs with 167,716 members in 108 countries and geographical regions, and 6,903 Rotaract Clubs with 151,900 members in 146 countries and geographical regions. We believe that, if Interact clubs competed among themselves, Centennial's Interactors would consistently finish at or near the top. Considering that the members are invariably leaders in every phase of school life, their service accomplishments – as well as their eager involvement – are truly gratifying.

A representative of Rotary International has observed: "It has been said that youth is wasted on the young, but youth is not wasted on the young who participate in Interact, Rotaract, and IYE [now RYE]." Well said. Nor is youth wasted on the participants in Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. But that's another story (see p. 107).

WGRC, Inc. and Action Auction (*Steps*, p. 45)

The men who dreamed up the first Action Auction knew not what they did. Never could they have envisioned the phenomenal success that the triennial auctions were to achieve. As mentioned in *Steps*, the first four auctions (1977, 1980, 1983, 1986) all rang up revenues in the \$30,000 to \$33,000 range, enabling the Club to fund major projects through WGRC, Inc., its 501c(3) foundation. Then in 1989, a strange thing happened. Under Chairman Larry Adams and spurred by the goal of providing \$25,000 to the City of Champaign to launch a project to beautify the main entryways to the city, Action Auction V raised \$46,895. Admirable at the time, that record lasted only until 1992.

For Action Auction VI, the Project Planning Committee recommended as lead recipient the Frances Nelson Health Center, stating this goal: "Raising funds so that FNHC can better assist thousands of people in our community who seek their basic health care from the center, not least by providing a computer operating system, hardware and software." Bill Creswell pointed out that the breadth of FNHC's services is not always known; for example, it provides health services for 1,000 foreign students and many American graduate students. Apparently people considered the FNHC a worthy recipient, because AA Chair Dave Kuhl and his Committee (with Greg Lykins as acquisitions chairman) achieved a record \$63,000 in Auction revenues.

Heads shook, gray beards were stroked: surely, some predicted, this auction bubble will burst one of these times. Indeed, with non-profit organizations throughout the community staging copy-cat auctions, how long could or should Club leaders depend on Action Auction to channel significant funds to WGRC, Inc.?

In 1995 Action Auction VII Chairman Tod Dawson faced a different challenge: the primary chunk of Auction proceeds would go not to some tangible building project or well-known cause, but to fund ideas incubating in the minds of local school teachers. The Champaign-Urbana Community Schools Foundation (CUCSF), had been born in 1988 with this mission:

To enrich its community, The Champaign-Urbana Community Schools Foundation is committed to encouraging educational initiatives and facilitating excellence in education in the public schools of Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. We seek to inspire, encourage and support the creativity of teachers and to extend the benefits of that creativity to as many children as possible.

Perhaps because CUCSF puzzled some members, Dawson's team also listed a much-needed water renovation project at the Boy Scouts' Camp Drake as a main recipient. Then Rick Stephens came up with an enhancement to the Auction itself that proved to be a booster rocket to this and ensuing auctions: the raffle of some attractive "thing." For WGRC's 7th Triennial Action Auction, the "thing" was a brand-new Harley-Davidson motorcycle, and when Stephens, in full leathers, rode the "hog" through the west door of the Chancellor Hotel's Iowa Room, smack into the middle of a Monday Club meeting, its guttural growl drowned out any doubts about the Auction's outcome. The result surpassed even the wildest expectations as revenues topped \$129,000: \$78,050 from auction lot bids; outright contributions of \$2,130; \$26,420 from the Harley raffle; and \$18,720 from 468 paying guests for dinner.

Two things helped immensely: first, the motorcycle was donated; second, the board members of the recipient agencies were encouraged to promote the Auction, and that brought in more bidders. All this resulted in a final net of \$114,392, enabling WGRC, Inc. to award \$37,500 to CUCSF, provide \$37,500 for the Camp Drake water project, and bank another \$32,000+ for worthy projects during the three years before the next Auction.

For the record: CUCSF took flight, and through March, 2001, had distributed almost \$250,000 in grants to teachers in Champaign and Urbana public schools. Here are just two recent examples of projects enabled:

Polly Hill: Multi-Media Digital Technology Lab: \$2,810

This collaborative project links 2 local businesses (WILL-TV and Springfield Graphics) and Parkland College with the students at Columbia, an alternative program for children in grades 6-12. Grant money provides a small multi-media lab in the school to enhance the students' knowledge and hands-on applications of graphics software, as well as speakers, tours and tutorials about the graphics and communications business.

Ellen S. Baranowski: Boast Academy Science and Enrichment
Project: \$1,830

The *BOAST Academy* supports at-risk grade school students, while providing hands-on lessons that build on the enthusiasm, curiosity and knowledge they already have. Children are to be matched with UI undergraduates, faculty, and Kenwood School staff; parents will be encouraged to interact on a regular basis. Over a year's time, kids in the program will be mentored, taken on trips, conduct research and demonstrate new skills through presentations and a poster session.

For 1998, Tom Good inherited the daunting task of matching Action Auction VII. President Scott Anderson Jr. didn't make it easier, making "the best Action Auction in WGRC's history" one of his "measurable goals" for the year. In July, 1994, outgoing Club President Terry Davis had introduced his successor, Tom Good, as "an excellent man."



Tom Good with Ford Escape for
Action Auction Raffle

Tom lived up to Terry's words, leading Action Auction VIII to \$128,000 in revenues – \$78,000 from the auction itself, and \$42,000 from the raffle of a Chevy Blazer (provided at dealer cost by Mark Stolkin, and half of that cost donated anonymously).

To corrupt a cliché, "the past was prelude" to the astounding success of Action Auction IX. Club President Mark Stolkin set the

example. He donated half the value of a new Ford Escape, then handed the raffle responsibility to – who else? – that excellent man, Tom Good.

The Auction hype never let up, crescendoing in May with a Kip Pope-inspired song-writing contest. Invoking the spirit of Guy Duker, no less than five WGRCers (Pope, Mark Neville, Dick Knieriem, Bob Aldridge, and Peter Tomaras) wrote Action Auction lyrics and set them to familiar tunes such as "There's No Business Like Show Business," "When the Saints Go Marchin' In," "School Days," and "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning." The songs were fine fun, but rather than slight four "lyricists" by naming one winner, we prefer to recall the Action Auction song penned by the one and only Duke of Doggerel, Guy Duker, in 1992 (the tune is obvious):

A is for the articles we'll donate,
C is for the cash we all will spend;
T's a trip to fish where they say it's great,
I's our eyes on pleasures without end.
O is for the object of this Auction,
N's now get-the-lead-out time has come.
Fill a table, if you're able, brother, & come and ha-av-ve some fun!!!

Au is for the auctioneer's exhorting,
 C is for the condo far away;
 T is for the treasures that are waiting,
 I is for this ineluctant day;
 O is opulence which we can bid on,
 N is never quit until you've won.
 Spell this out and you will know what's 1st-rate, the Happening on
 May-y-y the eighth!!!

Ineluctant??? Ah, no; only *ineluctable* (adj.) is in the dictionary. But as Lord Guy elucidated, "ineluctable did not fit the melodic rhythm, so I used my doggerel license."

With Gary Wackerlin as AA chair, Gary's wife, Karyl, arranging the dinner, Greg Cozad heading up acquisitions, Tom Good ramrodding the raffle, and Mark Stolkin applying the whip at each weekly meeting, the bubble that some kept expecting to burst simply kept expanding. And speaking of whips: if there has been one constant through all the auctions, it has been Jim Acheson. 1991-92 Club President Dave Thies made reference to Acheson as "our relentless organizer of tables" for the 75th Anniversary Banquet, and 1990-91 President Mike Martin characterized him as "unmoved by love or mercy" when it comes to pushing table sales for major Club events – such as the 1993 Sweetheart Ball. But the Action Auctions inspire Jim's best work.

The 2001 Action Auction team rounded up a record attendance of 530 and an incredible \$190,707 in total receipts. Of that, the net \$146,911 enabled full funding of the Auction Grants: \$25,000 to Crisis Nursery³ for playground equipment at its new location; \$15,000 for improvements to the Men's SAFE House⁴; \$8,500 to Prairielands Council, Boy Scouts of America, for Camp Drake grounds maintenance equipment; and \$6,750 to CASA⁵ for volunteer advocate training. The \$91,661 balance went to WGRC, Inc. to fund worthy causes over the three years between auctions.

Could this incredible auction have set one of those "never-to-be-broken" records?

Other Service Projects and Activities (Steps, p. 52)

Champaign Rotarians have involved themselves in many new projects and activities since 1988. We have chosen to touch upon dozens of Club activities within the main segment of *The Story Continues*, PART II – The Presidents, 1988-2001. The most significant new projects follow in PART III – Principal Projects. The 14 sections in Part II comprise a continuum within a continuum, reflecting the Club's service reach and the unique blend of character and leadership that each president brings

³ Crisis Nursery's mission is primary prevention of child abuse through short-term care and stabilization of the family. Services are available to any parent who temporarily cannot cope with life stress, and the Crisis Nursery can serve 12 children in residence. In addition to that safe haven for children, parents receive information, referrals, and reassurance from this addition to their support system.

⁴ SAFE = Substance Abuse Free Environment.

⁵ CASA = Court Appointed Special Advocates.

to the table. With necessary digressions to highlight the notable achievements of WGRC in both District and International activities, The Presidents and The Principal Projects take the place of two *Steps Going Up* sections: Inside Rotary (pp. 69-76),⁶ and Inside WGRC (pp. 77-92).

We chose the "presidential" format of PART II both for its chronological expediency and as recognition of the enormous portions of time and self that each Club president invests in discharging the responsibilities of the office. The presidents themselves are ever the first to deflect the spotlight, commending instead their officers, directors, committee chairmen, and individual members. In truth, Champaign Rotary is WGRC thanks to both: the individual inspiration by the few and the collaborative contributions of the many.

Section VII: International Service & The Rotary Foundation (p. 57)

[This section in *Steps* is updated in *The Story Continues*, PARTS II, III and IV.]

Section VIII: Inside Rotary (p. 69) and Section IX: Inside WGRC (p. 77)

[With the three exceptions immediately below, these sections are updated mostly in *The Story Continues*, PART II.]

Correction of error on pp. 72-73: Champaign Rotary has sponsored 11 new Rotary Clubs in the District, not 12. Charleston Rotary sponsored the Oakland Club.

The Fizz, pp. 88-92:

While *Steps Going Up* covered the history of *The Fizz* rather well, 2001-02 Club President George Scheetz (*Fizz* editor 1993-2001) has thoroughly researched our Club bulletin and we add the following information:

- The volume number covers all issue of *The Fizz* published within the Rotary year of July 1st through June 30th, beginning with Volume 1 for the 1919-20 issues. As *The Story Continues* goes to press, we are well into Volume 83. Since *The Fizz* is published weekly except for occasions when Club meetings are cancelled (federal holidays, etc.), 48-50 issues are published each year. A rough estimate suggest that more than 4,000 issues have been written and published. However, we cannot be sure that editors prior to 1950 published the newsletter every week.
- The original title was *The Champaign Fizz*, although it was often referred to as *The Fizz* in print. The title was officially changed to *The Fizz* for the 1967-68 Rotary year.

⁶ One quick update: on p. 76, *Steps Going Up* refers to C-U Sunrise Rotary with some uncertainty. Happtly, 14 years after its chartering, C-U Sunrise is thriving.

- During the period 1988-2001, *The Fizz* earned the District Achievement Award for Club Bulletin (Large Club) in 1999, 1998, 1997, 1995, 1994, and 1992.
- George has created an inventory of all extant issues of *The Fizz*, and has also compiled a complete list of *Fizz* editors. This list may be found as Appendix IV.

Addendum

For many years, possibly more than a half-century, incoming presidents of the Champaign Rotary Club have received – on loan (and with the admonishment not to lose it!) – a Rotary lapel pin with a diamond at the center of the wheel. This is known as the David Kinley president's pin. David Kinley⁷ was an active Champaign Rotarian who is mentioned several times in *Steps Going Up*. In a nutshell, on June 9, 1930, at a special Rotary banquet on the occasion of his retirement as president of the University of Illinois, the Club made Kinley an honorary member and presented him with the diamond lapel pin.

Upon Kinley's death in 1944, the pin came back to the Club and, ever since, has been worn by serving Club presidents.⁸

Section X: Rotarian Profiles (p. 93)

[This section is expanded in *The Story Continues*, PART V.]

Section XI: Changing Times, Changing Faces (p. 109)

[This section is replaced in *The Story Continues* by PART VI: Whither Rotary?]

⁷ See p. 17, *Steps*.

⁸ The earliest known reference to the pin is in the July 9, 1951 *Champaign Fizz*.

PART II

The Presidents: 1988-2001

Calvin L. Owens, 1988-89



Steps Going Up was published during Cal Owens' term and covered nothing of his remarkable year in office. The 1988-89 Rotary year began with the first-ever Rotary Float in the Champaign-Urbana July Fourth Freedom Celebration Parade. The float was built on John Edwards' farm, with the help of Champaign West Rotarians. In the same month, WGRC learned that San Pablo City, Philippines, had named one Little League team for WGRC, honoring the equipment sent the year before through the efforts of Bob Prath⁹.

1988 marked the completion of the Rotary International's Model Club PolioPlus campaign, but not of PolioPlus, the global program. You will recall that Champaign Rotary had been chosen as one of just ten Model Clubs throughout the Rotary World, and Scott Anderson Sr. responded in true "WGRC – you betcha!" fashion.¹⁰ Assigned a goal of \$120,000, WGRC pledged \$210,290 in that first year. That October, RI sent a certificate of commendation to the Club, and a PolioPlus artwork to Scott for his individual leadership. At the time, the world-wide campaign had hit \$220 million. For a current status report on the remarkable PolioPlus Project, see p. 98.

Rotary is ostensibly apolitical, but 1988-89 brought a number of events that had political implications. In September 1988, before the fall of the Berlin Wall, an Australian Group Study Exchange (GSE) team went to Warsaw. On May 16, a Rotarian urged Rotary International to suspend International Youth Exchange (IYE) activities between South Africa and other Rotarian Countries. RI did not: "Rotarians are prohibited from adopting statements with a view to exerting any corporate pressure on governments or political authorities." However, in this same year the Rotary Foundation launched its newest initiative, the Rotary Peace Forums, conceived as international conferences to examine peace-related issues, as a two-year pilot program.

In the year following the 1987 Supreme Court decision that opened Rotary to women in the United States,¹¹ women brought positive and

⁹ *Steps*, p. 68.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 67-8.

¹¹ For a broader perspective on the disappearance of gender barriers in Rotary, see *Women in Rotary*, p. 97.

far-reaching changes, both at the national and local levels. 1988-89 saw formation of the first all-women GSE teams, and the number of women members in WGRC increased from two to eight – just 3% of the total membership, but what an impact they were to make. Early in 1988, Bud Roderick proposed the Club's third woman member, Jan Bahr, who would become Champaign Rotary's first woman president (see p. 37). Bonnie Kelley, WGRC's first woman member, also became the first woman elected to the Parkland College Board of Trustees, as well as the first trustee to cast a dissenting vote on the budget. Captain Marietta Pane, a new Rotarian, set the example for her UI NROTC Cadets by rappelling down the side of Memorial Stadium.

On October 30 1988, Nina Wanchic-Eisner, administrator of Carle Pavilion (and a non-Rotarian), presented a program to the Club entitled "Drugs and the Conspiracy of Silence." Nina's key point: "The problem of substance abuse inundates the American workplace, resulting in 10 times more workdays lost, 5 times more workmen's compensation claims, and a loss in overall productivity of 25-33%. Ignoring the problem – the conspiracy of silence – does no one any good, especially the addicts."

A case could be made that Nina's talk led to two pivotal events. Three months following her hard-hitting address, sponsor John Hecker re-introduced Nina to the Club as "...the intelligent, articulate and charming" newest member of WGRC. *The Fizz* reported her introduction as "the newcomer in the sequel series, The Eisner-Hecker Legacy: Part 7, 8 or 9," because Nina was the wife of fourth-generation Rotarian Rob Eisner – a distant cousin of Morry and John Hecker. Ten years later, Nina (*sans* the Wanchic-) would step in as the second woman president of Champaign Rotary (see p. 76).

But in a more immediate response to Nina's October presentation, Cal Owens named Bill Creswell to head WGRC's first Drug Abuse (DA) Committee. In his keynote speech at the Friday Luncheon of the District 649 Conference the following June, Cal featured WGRC's Teacher Training in Drug Education, a sub-project of the DA Committee. "This program has already trained more than 25 Unit 4 teachers and counselors to identify and assist teenagers in skills to deal with peer pressure," said Owens. He then commended Bill Creswell: "Under his quiet and deliberate leadership, much has been accomplished to ameliorate this frustratingly complex and tragic problem of extraordinary dimensions." The project to train Unit 4 teachers won the District Award for best Community Service Project.

If Nina Eisner inspired Cal Owens' and Bill Creswell's Drug Abuse initiative, this was not bad for "a li'l barefoot gal from the bluegrass country around Lexington, Ky." And if y'all swallow that, stay tuned for much more on Nina Eisner, including an enduring and endearing niche she carved out in our Club's history.

In December 1988, at a cost of \$4,224, *Steps Going Up* was published, and copies were distributed to all Club members and to many former members. Said Club Historian Oscar Dodson, who directed the history effort: "Read your history and live your history...this recording of members' unselfish efforts to improve the quality of life in their community, their nation, and around the world." Peter Tomaras, who edited, expanded and fine-tuned Matt Kaufman's manuscript and oversaw the production process, said this: "I feel I've come to know people who are great Rotarians...great Americans." The Club History and its writing/editing team (Dodson, Kaufman, Tomaras, Bill Krahling and Art Skelton) would earn Outstanding Project recognition at the June District Conference.

During the year, the Club provided financial support as follows: McKinley YMCA, \$5,000; Unit 4 Drug Abuse Program, \$2,700; C-U Speed Skating Club, \$1,000; Champaign-Urbana Crimestoppers, \$2,500; Central High School sound system, \$3,500; University High School Russia Trip, \$1,000.

Of interest is this note: in February of 1988, the Club Board acted to discontinue school-year youth exchanges because of the difficulty in securing host families. But Dick and Anne Tryon agreed to host Malena Omoldi, a student from Azul, Argentina, for the 1989-90 year – even if no other host families could be found. Dividends to the both Azul and Champaign Rotary Clubs continue to accrue from that exchange.

With three months remaining in his term, President Cal delivered a "State of the Club" address to the members that stands as one of the most eloquent commentaries on Rotary the Club has ever heard. We can include but a few excerpts:

Ethical performance of one's daily obligations, personal and professional, is one of the key premises upon which Rotary was founded in 1905...There can be no greater investment in our community than that we make in our young people...We have not created or even substantially encouraged the development of the outstanding character traits of the students we honor each month, or who belong to our Interact Club. What is important is that...to these students, we represent perhaps the first positive reinforcement they receive from adults other than their teachers and parent...Rotary literally builds bridges of goodwill. Understanding the point of view of your adversary is the first step towards turning that adversary into a trusted friend. As our country is learning that it must compete in a global economy, our international scholarship programs can do nothing but help make our nation more competitive. We are losing a real opportunity if we do not take better advantage of the Rotary Scholars that are in our community every year...Rotary gives us an outstanding opportunity to interact with these people - if we so choose.

At the May 2, 1989, Club meeting, Olympic Gold Medallist Bonnie Blair was inducted as the first female Honorary Rotarian. She immediately became a Paul Harris Fellow, along with six regular Club members, while five other members added jewels to their PH pins,

including Dwyer Murphy and Dick Tryon who became WGRC's first 5-sapphire Fellows (minimum Foundation contributions of \$6,000). Tryon's challenge pledge to WGRC's PolioPlus campaign would soon propel him to a collection of diamonds and rubies.



F. Dwyer Murphy

As Cal Owens' year ended, he cited a number of WGRC accomplishments, including starting an informal "Presidents Council" that invited the four C-U area Rotary Club presidents, past presidents, and president-elects to meet and share information and coordinate projects. This was a first step toward what would be, by 2001, a functioning consortium of the leadership of Rotary Clubs in Champaign and Piatt Counties. He took pride in: 28 new Paul Harris Fellows and 19 new Sustaining Members; record Salvation Army support, and \$19,729 in funding to 14 other worthy projects; and Action Auction V, chaired by Larry Adams, that garnered \$46,895.



Brad Booton

Cal pointed to a strong class of 20 new members that had swelled the ranks of WGRC to 267 (attendance base of 215),¹² probably an all-time high. In addition to outstanding new women members, that class included Brad Booton and Jim Leffelman, who would share the Robert Eisner Jr. Award for outstanding new member, and another future Club president – Tom Costello. In introducing Tom, David Thies made reference to his reputation as a "jokemaster, toastmaster, and roastmaster," talents Costello would exhibit many times over. Thies, by the way, when named 1987-88 Rotarian of the Year, had become the first WGRCer to receive both the Eisner Award and Rotarian of the Year recognition – and this in just six years of membership. Not surprisingly, David, too, would stand before the Club as its president.

In his July, 1988 inaugural address to the Club, Cal Owens had said: "Rotary is a selfless organization, a builder and doer of good things, and asks nothing in return." Cal's year in office stood as testimony; but he also might have been speaking of his choice for 1988-89 Rotarian of the Year, Frank Keck, "who exemplifies the best of what it means to be a Rotarian," or of Art Skelton who stepped down as the Club's first executive secretary after "13 Golden Years." Happily, Art's "retirement" would be temporary.

¹² The attendance base excludes these members: honorary, emeritus, and senior active excused.

Dan M. Crispin, 1989-90



As he took up the gavel, Dan inaugurated the Crispin Awards, memento (of sometimes dubious value) presented periodically to recognize Club members for "above self" contributions. And along with stating his goals for the year, he made a unique pledge: during his term, he would join a national weight-loss organization and lose weight.

The Champaign Rotary Fourth of July Freedom Celebration float, "Champaign Rotary Helps Turn the World," featured a floral globe, a Rotary wheel, and four smaller wheels depicting the Four Avenues of Service. Mike McClellan chaired the effort, with big boosts from John Parkhill, Lin Warfel and 1988-89's outstanding corps of new members.

On July 19 the Club Board authorized \$10,000 (40% of the total cost) to bring a 2,000-year-old Egyptian mummy to the World Heritage Museum¹³ at the UI. This was the only mummy in Illinois outside of Chicago, and would be used in teaching and research by six colleges of the University. The Board also began funding Project Drug Free (PDF), a new initiative of Bill Creswell's Drug Abuse Committee, with Jefferson Middle School as a demonstration site. With 24 6th and 7th grade teachers now specially trained, the program moved to its dissemination and implementation phase. Cal Owens, director of the UI Film Service, took on the responsibility of producing a PDF video. During a WGRC-hosted PDF panel, Cal commented: "Champaign Rotary's commitment to PDF is to promote this model for local implementation and support by other Champaign-Urbana and District 649 clubs."



WGRC's 1989 Freedom Celebration Float

By September, membership had slipped from 267 to 258. No one was concerned; most considered 230-250 the optimum size range. That month, the Club authorized \$1,000 to ship medical equipment that had been acquired through the efforts of Dick Tryon to Azul, Argentina.¹⁴ Ken Gunji requested that the Club start an annual exchange with its sister club in Yanai, Japan, by hosting a Japanese student for three months, sometime in 1990-91. Each host club would fund the student's visit. The Board was hesitant to commit to the exchange unless more

¹³ Now the Spurlock Museum

¹⁴ For the full, fascinating story of the Azul-WGRC link, see p. 100.

host families could be identified. The exchange began, however, when a UI student went to Yanai in summer, 1990.¹⁵

Meanwhile, Gunji continued his deep involvement with GSE, hosting a team from Finland in October. Also that month, WGRC co-sponsored, with Urbana Rotary, the new Savoy Rotary Club, which would meet at The Windsor of Savoy. At the January 21 Charter Presentation Dinner, Past District Governor Kurt Schmidt gave special thanks to Frank Keck for his help in launching the new Club. Half of the 30 charter members were women, including Charter President Sandra Broadrick-Allen.¹⁶

District Vocational Service (VS) Chair Tom Woodley and Club Vocational Awards Chair Frank Keck established WGRC's Rotary Vocational Service Award (later simply "Vocational Award") to be presented to deserving C-U citizens at meetings throughout the year. The October 30 *Fizz* reported the criteria:

Recipients would be people (not necessarily Rotarians) who: consider their vocation to be an opportunity to serve; demonstrate faithfulness to the letter and to the spirit of the ethical codes of their vocation, the laws of our country, and the moral standard of our community; do all they can to dignify their vocation and to promote the highest ethical standards in their chosen vocation; are fair to employer, employees, associates, competitors, customers, the public, and all those with whom they have business or professional relationships; recognize the honor and respect due all occupations which are useful to society; offer vocational talents to provide opportunities for young people, to work for relief of special needs of others, and to improve the quality of life in our community.

Said Frank, "We can encourage good vocational standards by recognizing those who exemplify them." Tom, who had been recognized for outstanding contributions to Vocational Service as District VS chair, said he had joined Rotary to associate himself with people who could help him be a better person, and had been especially attracted by the emphasis on Vocational Service through Rotary's unique classification system.



Dan Crispin Honors
Tom Woodley

On November 6, Kathy Kessenich, coordinator of the Rotary Foundation's Peace Forum pilot program, addressed the Club and reported the results of the first seven Forums. Interestingly, the Toronto Forum urged Rotarians to support development of alternative energy sources, suggesting that individual clubs could initiate energy-audit and efficiency-improvement

¹⁵ For the history of the WGRC-Yanai connection, see pp. 64-66 in *Steps*.

¹⁶ Broadrick-Allen is the 2001-2002 District 6490 Governor, the first woman to hold that office.

programs. No one could have imagined that, a dozen years later, California would encounter energy shortages.

By November 27, "His Rotundness," President Crispin, was down "25 pounds and 10 inches." What we cannot describe, mainly because certain things are "ya-gotta-be-there" indescribable, is the irreverent and often self-deprecating Crispin humor. Many presidents generate fun from the podium, but few will ever be as quick with a quip as Dan Crispin. Perhaps because members wondered "what will he do or say next?" Club attendance stayed at about 84% from January to June.¹⁷



Dick Burwash and Lyle Grace
Farmer Leaders for Every Year

Club bell-ringers helped push the 1989 Salvation Army collection to a record \$9,100, and Gary Wackerlin chaired the United Way campaign over its \$1.8 million goal, an 11% increase. *The News-Gazette* named Lin Warfel 1989 Farm Leader



Lin Warfel

of the Year, citing his commitment to family, community, education (as a Parkland College Board member), church, and conservation. Lin joined previous Farm Leaders of the Year and WGRCCers Dick Burwash and Lyle Grace. In January, Champaign citizen Karl Smith, the second-generation president of Tile Specialists, Inc., became the first recipient of the Vocational Award established by Frank Keck and Tom Woodley. And through the efforts of Director Mike Martin and Kip Pope, the first Rotary International billboard went up: "Smile - Rotary Pledges a Polio-Free World."



Glad Thomas

Not every Rotary moment bring smiles. A sad aspect of researching history is recalling the passing of Club members who have been outstanding Rotarian citizens. No less than seven members (plus former-member Ben F. Harris III, Club president 1950-51), died during this Rotary Year. Of those, two had more than 50 years of service to Rotary, while Stephen Hotsinpiller had been a member just 28 weeks when he died at 42 years of age. To honor all Rotarians lost during the years documented by *The Story Continues*, consider these excerpts from the commemorative resolution prepared by

¹⁷ Attendance in the 85% range has long been the Club target.

Leonard Flynn for James G. "Glad" Thomas, who died January 17, 1990:

J. G. Thomas was a member for nearly 57 years, and served as Club president in 1961-62. His professional and civic leadership included many presidencies, including the Illinois State Bar Association, the UI Law Alumni Association, the UI Foundation Board, the University I-Men's Association, the McKinley YMCA, the Carle Foundation Board, the Community Chest, and the Champaign Chamber of Commerce. He was a respected member not only of Rotary, but of his community and profession. Glad Thomas was a doer and achiever; he lived a personal standard of conduct reflective of a true professional who never lost the common touch. He was a courtly gentleman, a trusted businessman and a loving family man.

Glad Thomas' life is a legacy and a standard to which all Rotarians may aspire. For a list of Rotarians who departed this world during the 1988-2001 period covered in *The Story Continues*, please see Appendix I on p. 163.

Chronology, rather than the cycle of life and death, prompts insertion here of the next event. On February 13, 1990, new member Nina Eisner carved out her aforementioned "enduring and endearing niche" in Club history, becoming the first Champaign Rotarian to give birth. And that's one "first" that will never be eclipsed. Only time will tell if Robert Eisner IV will someday become a fifth-generation Champaign Rotarian.



Dick Foley
Club President 1965-66

On February 19, the second WGRC Vocational Award was presented to WGRCer Dick Foley. In his nominating remarks, presenter Bill Stallman mentioned how Dick propelled his Paris high school basketball team to a state title, and then (following a U.S. Army "scholarship" in Europe), re-enrolled at the UI...

...where he starred on the 1949 Big Ten championship and Final Four team. Dick provided equivalent leadership to his church, to the Unit 4 School Board, as 1965-66 WGRC president, and throughout his long career with Felmley-Dickerson (of which he is president), including his 45-month tour as project manager of the 45-month construction of the UI Assembly Hall. Throughout, Dick has been concerned with people and principles. He believes in good relations with his employees, because that's what motivates them best.

The Board approved sponsorship of \$500 each for three hearing-impaired students to participate in Aspen Camp School for the Deaf's 1990 Summer program. A group of high school students from Corbeil,

France, visited Champaign from April 19 to May 2. This began as an exchange with Centennial High School, but the group was hosted and the project supported by WGRC. Moscow Rotary became the first service club in the USSR. Don Bresnan received a Citizen Board Member Service Award from the National Recreation and Park Association, which he had served for 12 years as a trustee. And David Thies became the Club's first "triple crown winner" by adding the Crispin Award to his Eisner New Rotarian and Rotarian of the Year Awards.

Meanwhile, Project Drug Free was rolling, with planned expansion in the 1990-91 school year to Arcola, Urbana, and Danville High Schools, and Franklin and Edison Middle Schools in addition to Jefferson. The Board authorized \$5,000 (and later another \$7,500) for production of the PDF video by WGRC's Drug Abuse Committee and Champaign's Prairie Production Group. The video would be the key information/instructional tool for program presentations to school officials, community groups, Rotary clubs, and so on. The Board also approved \$3,000 to send ten additional Unit 4 teachers for special Anti-Drug Abuse training.

For his dedicated PDF leadership, Cal Owens nominated Bill Creswell for District Rotarian of the Year. He did not receive the award, but 1990 was still a big year for Bill. He was named to the Centennial Alumni Hall of Fame at the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, where he graduated in 1948. He received the Crispin Award for "going far beyond the call of duty to the community" in chairing WGRC's Drug Abuse Committee and working with schools, community agencies and other organizations to support all worthy substance abuse initiatives, and seeking a coordinating superstructure for them.

By April 1990, WGRC contributions to the Rotary Foundation reached \$270,000 (more than 20% of District 649's cumulative total), earning a plaque from the RF as one of just 1,500 clubs (the top 7.5%) to achieve that level. The Club boasted 225 Paul Harris Fellows and 150 Paul Harris Sustaining Members, and Don Moyer Jr. was cited for achieving the Paul Harris 5-sapphire mark.¹⁸



Bill Creswell,
ROY 1989-90

At the District Conference, WGRC's Project Drug Free was chosen Best Community Service Project, and the establishment of the Club's Vocational Award was named Best Vocational Service Project. Special citations went to Bill Creswell, Frank Keck, Dave Thies (for accompaniment to all Conference events), and Terry Davis (the District treasurer and all-around

¹⁸ In August, 1989, Rotary International had 250,000 Paul Harris Fellows (Rotarians who have donated at least \$1,000 to the Foundation). It took 27 years to reach 100,000, only five more years to increase to 250,000, fueling the expansion of RI's global influence. Each additional \$1,000 contribution adds a jewel to the donor's PH pin.

governor's aide). At his final meeting, President Dan named Bill Creswell WGRC Rotarian of the Year and Nancy Eisner Martin as winner of the Eisner Award (honoring her father) as the outstanding new member "...because of her professional and Rotary leadership, including chairing the Public Relations Committee and coordinating the *Les Miserables* night out for WGRCs and spouses."

In a year of unusual attrition, membership on June 30 had fallen to 244: seven were lost to death, two had moved away, seven cited business pressures, two resigned as "disinterested," and the Club dropped three for non-attendance. But the most crucial statistic we have saved for last: as he stepped down, "His Jovial Rotundness" looked much as he had on July 1, 1989. To the question, "How much weight have you lost?" came a characteristic response: "I lost a lot. But people commented I was looking too thin, so I put some back on."

J. Michael Martin, 1990-91



As Mike Martin took the gavel, he called for increasing awareness of opportunities for community service, and improvement in member commitment and involvement. His challenge to WGRC: "Let's make a difference in the '90s," and referred to "the knife and fork Rotarians, the checkbook Rotarians, and the all-stars. We need all types, but the all-stars can be counted on for fellowship and financial support, while also giving of that most important commodity: their time." He equated this to "a tithing of time: four hours a week would be about right; could we try just two?"

He mentioned volunteering to aid Crisis Line, the local Park Districts, or the Champaign Country Forest Preserve District. He called on members to "think - and do something - about" the many homeless people, perhaps by volunteering at the Men's Winter Emergency Shelter. Mike, a CPA and former Club treasurer, asked members "to view Rotary as though we must file a 'tax return' at the end of the year. Commit a certain amount of time along the way for good works (tax estimates), so that when we audit the results at the end of the year, we won't find ourselves behind that level of involvement we should have achieved. Let's roll up our sleeves as well as reaching for our checkbooks."

The Project Drug Free video premiered at a press conference preceding the July 23 meeting. The video was also shown to the Club, then later sent to all District clubs, along with an offer from Champaign Rotary of assistance in developing similar programs.

Individual Club members continued to make news. Mal Nygren retired after 38 years in the ministry of Champaign's First Presbyterian Church, and Chuck Flynn wrote this glowing tribute in *The News-Gazette*:

Mal has had an impact on the lives of thousands of people who have heard his sermons, been comforted by hospital visitations, gladdened by a wedding ceremony, helped by quiet personal counseling.



Mal Nygren

Mal says more with fewer words than almost anyone. His succinct Sunday columns continue today, and 2001 is Mal's 16th year as assistant editor for *The Fizz*.

In other media coverage, Glen Wensch became the first Illinoisan to win the Man of the Year Award of the five-state Great Lakes Region of the Air Force Association. He also received the Distinguished Merit Award of the UI Department of Materials Science and Engineering Alumni Association.¹⁹

¹⁹ For more on Glen, see p. 126.

For 1990-91, the UI hosted 12 Rotary Scholars and four former Rotary Scholars who were continuing their study here. President Mike pointed out that this translated into 16 opportunities for International Service. Rotary International added the word "Ambassadorial" to Rotary Scholar, emphasizing their role in furthering understanding and friendly relations between people of different nations. For 1991-92, this program would fund, at an average cost exceeding \$18,000, a year of study abroad for 100 graduate students from 63 nations.

Typical of the Rotary Scholars sent abroad with the sponsorship of Champaign Rotary is Elizabeth (Brownie) Davis, who had already been the District winner of the International Teacher of the Handicapped Award when she was selected as an Ambassadorial Scholar. Of all WGRC-sponsored Scholars, Brownie proved to be the most dependable correspondent. She spoke to 25 Rotary clubs, played piano for chapel services, volunteered at a hospital during a snowstorm, typed and proofread papers in English by international students, and developed an interest in looking for the other side of a story. To fully appreciate Brownie Davis and the value of the Ambassadorial Scholar program, see p. 102.

This comment from the Rotary Basic Library certainly applies to Ambassadorial Scholars: "The chief momentum behind the growth of Rotary's youth activities comes from the satisfactions of watching young people develop a strong sense of themselves and their place in the world as they "benefit from new experiences." Scholars could be seen as an important bridge between the International Youth Exchange (IYE) for high-school students and the Group Study Exchange (GSE) for young adult professionals.

On that subject, efforts to organize the first all-woman GSE team from District 649 began in the fall of 1990. WGRCer Terry Davis and his wife, Nancy, were chosen to lead the team to Australia from April 6 to May 10, 1991. And on the subject of cultural exchanges, in the spring of 1991, the board addressed the Yanai exchange. Directors felt this Club-specific exchange competed with other short-term Rotary Exchanges, and finding host families was not easy. However, they also wanted to make the sister-club exchange work. They arranged to work with the UI Study Abroad office in selection of the UI student that would go to Japan, and in April, they voted \$2,000 to host a Yanai student to spend a month in Champaign in the summer of 1991. This exchange has continued ever since.

With the December election of Jan Bahr to lead the club for 1992-93, Champaign Rotary named its first woman to the Club presidency. Bill Krahling announced he would edit *The Fizz* through that year, his 20th. On February 25, Bill Stallman presented the WGRC Vocational Award to Bud Roderick, citing (among many others) these qualifications:

Bud is liked and respected by his CMI employees because he recognizes accomplishments with awards, provides incentives and bonuses, and encourages employee family involvement. He is liked and respected by his customers, because he serves them fairly and honestly, and supports their activities. He actively supports community organizations such as DSC and the YMCA. Bud has his own 4-point Code of Ethics - Rotary's 4-Way Test; he is fair to all regardless of race, religion, or occupation, and works to improve the quality of life in the community.



Bud Roderick Congratulated
by John Elder

More Club members received honors: *The News-Gazette* recognized Kyle and Phyllis Robeson for "...leadership in giving time and money for the betterment of the community" (land for Robeson Park and Robeson School, for example). Past WGRCers Hi Gelvin, Phil Gelvin, and Donald Lindsay were similarly cited. Dick Ensrud received the American College of Physicians, Illinois Chapter's Laureate Award as the ACP Fellow who "demonstrates commitment to excellence in medical care, education or research." Dick's accomplishments include helping organize the UI College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign. Vic Feldman was named recipient of the Allen Instructorship Award (known as the Golden Apple Award) by the 1991 graduating class of the UI College of Medicine at the Urbana campus. The award honors "that faculty member who provides distinguished instruction and represents the highest professional ideals." We include these non-Rotary awards because they illustrate how Champaign Rotarians honor the Object of Rotary in their professional and personal lives.

During 1990-91 the Club: continued its support of The Reading Group, assisting students with congenital or trauma-induced reading disabilities; funded a new \$2,500 exhaust hood at the St. Jude Catholic Worker House; and provided washer-dryer sets for new homes constructed by the City of Urbana for needy families. By March, WGRC had provided \$15,557 during the two-year experimental phase of Project Drug Free. PDF, now operated by the UI as part of a cooperative governmental effort, had been implemented with schools in Champaign, Urbana, Danville and Arcola. Three other service clubs and the Illinois Department of Public Health had come aboard to lend support.

The Club received the Service Club of Year Award from the Developmental Services Center for "enhancing the programs and services dedicated to developmentally disabled people by donating the Vocational Services Building." That building had been funded in 1986 by Action Auction IV. At the District 649 Conference, among other

awards. WGRC received the District Attendance Achievement Award for its 85% attendance. President Mike accepted the award on behalf of "our top gun attendance chair, Glen Wensch."

In May, Kyle Robeson received WGRC's Vocational Award. "He's most deserving," said Don Moyer in making the presentation, citing Kyle's extensive list of accomplishments, honors, and community-service involvements.

Kyle has many interests, but his real love is people. His love of his family (wife Phyllis, son Eric and daughter Kim) carries over to his "family" of associates. He saw to it that an associate received treatment at Mayo's for a serious problem; he makes sure that young people of promise are encouraged to continue their education. He's fair with people and always 'at the ready' to help those in need.



Kyle Robeson Congratulated
By Don Moyer and Mike Martin

On June 3, the Club's next Vocational Award honored Joe Hamburg. Presenter Carl Greenstein cited Joe's significant contributions to his vocation and his community.

Joe's aptitude for business and caring customer relations helped Garber's [dry cleaners] prosper and grow. As with his family and customers, Joe has carried on a life-long love affair with Champaign-Urbana, supporting civic activities and serving as president of Sinai Temple and B'nai B'rith. His keen awareness of the ideals of Rotary, and his daily practice of them in his vocation, are the basis for this award.



Joe Hamburg



Bill Stallman,
ROY 1990-91

Mike Martin ended his "Presidency of the Conscience" with a budget surplus, and named Bill Stallman, director-coordinator of Club meeting programs for the year, 1990-91 Rotarian of the Year. *The Story Continues* makes no evaluation of the Club and member achievements of one presidential year versus another. However, Mike Martin issued his own report card. He summarized the year as "good, but not great." He gave the Club an "A" for meetings that inspired, informed, and entertained; a "B" for awareness of opportunities for community service; and a "C" for the level of improvement over past years' involvement and commitment.

David C. Thies, 1991-92



David Thies began his year at the WGRC helm with a membership of 246 and great anticipation. "Chapter 76 in the unfolding saga of Champaign Rotary," he said, "is rich in challenges and features two major events: the Club's 75th anniversary in the fall, and Action Auction VI in the spring." One of WGRC's youngest-ever presidents, David reported on the RI Convention in Mexico City where his wife, Jodie, and their 2 1/2-month-old son, Adam, the youngest of 15,000 attending, accompanied him to every session and function.

David lauded Past RI President Carlos Canseco's Rotary Foundation report, which brought Preserve Planet Earth (PPE) into the spotlight. With the 1990s designated as the decade of the environment world-wide, Dave added the Environmental Committee (chaired by Tom Costello) to WGRC's plan of work. At the Convention, outgoing RI President Paulo Costa had asked Rotarians to "Think Globally, Act Locally," and David named Tom Good to head a task force to identify paths to improve individual Rotarians' approach to environmental challenges.

Calling for member involvement, David quoted Paulo Costa:

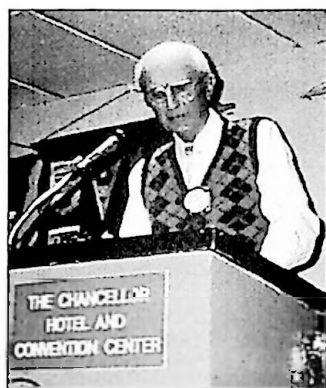
I have discovered that in the grand diversity of Rotary, there is unity. Like so many of life's most wonderful creations, Rotary is greater than the sum of its parts...just as single notes arranged in harmonious composition are transformed into beautiful symphonies...so are the individual and harmonious efforts of Rotarians transformed into Service Above Self.

He made three promises: weekly meetings would end by 1:10; new song books by year's end; and, upon the advice of Bobby Eisner, not to rename our Club West Urbana Rotary [David's law office being in Urbana]. Behind the scenes, David launched a project to place Club policies on computer, and assigned each policy to a committee or a director for review and update.

At the outset of the 1991-92 Rotary Year, District 649 became District 6490, as RI added a zero to each District's designation. David announced that the Club had passed \$300,000 in Rotary Foundation giving (ranking 58th in the world among 25,000 clubs). In August, Scott Anderson Jr. returned to Champaign Rotary after nearly four years in North Carolina; much more on Scott later. And after an astounding performance at the September 23 meeting, Guy Duker was dubbed not just "Lyricist Laureate," but "Duke of Doggerel," "Virtuoso of Versatility," and "Tyrant of the Trombone." Duker remarked that he "never let truth

get in the way of fun" when laboring on lyrics for his adaptations of popular tunes.

Just a week later, the 75th Anniversary Ball was a celebration in every sense of the word: the setting at Krannert Center; the fellowship of nearly 400 WGRChers and guests; the first-class food (by Michael's Catering); flowers and gifts; and the entertaining performance of the Chenille Sisters in the Tryon Festival Theater. RI Director Richard H. Kendall represented RI President Rajendra K. Saboo; seven Past District Governors, plus current Governor Gary Trimmell were on hand; and President Hiromasa Jinde of our Yanai, Japan, Sister Club sent greetings. And lest we forget, Guy Duker commemorated the occasion by penning "Seventy-Five Great Years," lustily rendered by those assembled to the tune of Meredith Willson's "Seventy-Six Trombones." Terry Davis headed the Anniversary Committee, with Jim Acheson (who else?) coordinating table sales, and 18 other WGRChers playing key roles. Three months to the day later, Terry Davis was elected to the Club Board of Directors.



Guy Duker,
Club President 1962-63,
As Duke of Doggerel,
September 1991

Later that fall, Cal Owens was named leader of the District 6490 Group Study Exchange to São Paulo, Brazil between March 27 and April 20, 1992. John Elder announced that the club had set "a new record in caring" with \$9,694 collected in its December Salvation Army effort. Over several months, the Directors approved \$2,025 for scholarships for the Central Illinois Children's Chorus (three \$225 scholarships annually for three years); \$6,000 to McKinley YMCA for pool repairs; a grant to the Make-a-Wish Foundation; \$5,000 to Lifeline Pilots (volunteer pilots who fly seriously ill people to receive special health procedures); and sums to the Community Day Care Center and to the United Way for a computer.

The five C-U-area Rotary clubs agreed to assist implementation of the Model Community Program for local businesses, dealing with environmental efforts such as waste prevention, elimination of toxins, and recycling. Tom Costello enlisted four or five businesses to participate, and the Club leadership endorsed the "battle cry" of environmental awareness: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Attendance Chair Glen Wensch announced the Club attendance year-to-date through March was an eye-popping 86.5%. Peter Robson, the school-year Youth Exchange student hosted by WGRCh in 1975,²⁰ visited with his wife, Lynn, staying with his original host family, Art and Bets Perkins.

²⁰ See p. 64, *Steps Going Up*

Frank Keck's Vocational Awards Committee honored two WGRCCers, Clarence Thompson in January and Mark Hindsley in April. Consider these excerpts from Jerry Johnson's nomination of Clarence:

No one more fully puts into practice Rotary's vocational service ideals...his credo is basic: "Give back more than you take out - in business, community, and life...employees are really associates; they are greatly responsible for any success you have." It's almost impossible to find a community issue about which Clarence is not well informed....He believes Rotary is at its best when taking in new people who are alert and active; he also thinks Rotary may shy away from controversial subjects...that now and then it is good for listening and learning to have debates and discussions. Clarence has the rugged individualism, loyalty and inner strength of John Wayne, and exudes the smooth savoir-faire and class of Cary Grant. He is the most loyal, trustworthy, thoughtful, compassionate and supportive person I know.



Clarence Thompson,
Club President 1964-65,
with President David Thies

No less eloquent and on the mark was Jim Keene's nomination of Mark:



Mark Hindsley

He surrounded himself with excellence...he provided guidance, motivation and professional opportunity which gained the admiration and respect of his staff...more than once, he refused a salary increase so that his staff could receive a raise. Enshrined in the National Hall of Fame of Distinguished Band Conductors...he has authored seven books and more than 45 articles on instrumental music, while his manuscript transcriptions for concert band are performed and acclaimed around the world. Mark wrote a declaration of principles for the College Band Directors National Association that was accepted, as written, by the entire membership...the declaration follows the precepts of Rotary right down the line...Mark's philosophy comes from his innate sense of high principle, fairness and honesty which is the essence of the man himself.

At an April 30 breakfast celebration of National Volunteer Week, county organizations honored and hosted 14 Champaign Rotarians: Vern Barkstall, Bob Cochran, John Doctor, Bill Gleason, Zelema Harris, Rolland Kelley, Dick Knieriem, Bill Krahling, Dale Morrissey, Kip Pope, Tim Sheahan, Dave Thies, James Vander Klok, and United Way President Gary Wackerlin.

Action Auction VI, chaired by Dave Kuhl, netted a record \$63,000, and that earned the Club the Community Service Award at the District 6490 Conference. Champaign Rotary's 14-member delegation, led by

Governor-Elect Ken Gunji, brought home many other awards: International Service for work with International Youth Exchange (Tom Good, chairman); Vocational Service for the Vocational Awards program; Highest Attendance Percentage among large clubs; Club Bulletin, for *The Fizz*; Club Service Award for the 75th Anniversary Celebration; and, to cap the avalanche of awards, Art Skelton became the Club's first inductee to the newly established District Hall of Honor.



David Kuhl,
ROY, 1991-92

At his last regular meeting as Club president, David Thies named Dave Kuhl Rotarian of Year for leading the record Action Auction effort. He announced that Art Skelton had agreed to step back into the role of executive secretary. Said Thies: "Like many predecessors, I have learned that Champaign Rotarians do not say no." He read a letter from the Rotary Club of Istanbul, Turkey, expressing congratulations on the Club's 75th anniversary, with assurance that we have 88 friends in Istanbul who wish us well. "Yet another reflection," said David, "of how Rotary transcends political and cultural boundaries."

On June 30, David presided over his final event: the Inaugural Celebration for new District Governor Ken Gunji, coordinated by Bud Roderick. The Chancellor vibrated with music and magic, but the 200-plus guests awarded their strongest applause to the man who described himself as "delighted, honored, and humble" – Ken Gunji [for more on Ken, see p. 141]. Six Past District Governors attended with their wives. Keynote speaker Rick Kendall, RI vice president, shared personal moments from his Rotary background, much of which mirrored that of Art Skelton. Gunji received the new District 6490 banner; the 649 banner now resides in a Rossville antique shop. Guy Duker's musical/lyrical creativity produced original tunes for the crowd to sing in honor of both Ken and outgoing Governor Gary Trimmell. Then Duker, Kip Pope, and the full WGRC "chorale" delivered a spirited rendition of this year's Rotary presidential song, "Real Happiness is Helping Others," by 1992-93 RI President Clifford L. Dochterman:

To be young is to swim in pools you did not dig.
To be a Rotarian is to dig pools in which you may never swim.
To be young is to dance to music you did not write.
To be a Rotarian is to write music to which you may never dance.
To be young is to sit under trees you did not plant.
To be a Rotarian is to plant trees under which you may never sit.
To be young is to seek benefits from a city you did not build;
To be a Rotarian is to build a community from which you may never benefit.
This is what Rotary is all about...

"Service Above Self, Lighting the Way...

Taking Time to Serve, Discovering a New World of Service...
Bringing Hope, Promoting World Understanding and Peace...
Building Bridges of Friendship...Looking Beyond Yourself...
Real Happiness is Helping Others."

Janice M. Bahr, 1992-93



Wrote Bill Krahling in *The Fizz*: "The Rotary Wheel turns, and up pops Janice M. Bahr, the first woman to accept the WGRC gavel, and the first UI professor to lead Champaign Rotary since Guy Duker 30 years before." WGRC's first president from the distaff branch of the Rotary family followed Champaign Sunrise's second president, Peggy Thompson, and Sandra Broadrick-Allen, Savoy Rotary's inaugural president.

Jan noted that Club members were living in "a marvelous era as the fall of the Iron Curtain allows the light of Rotary to incubate clubs in Albania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Estonia, Romania, and the Ukraine." She urged members to "expand our services and radiate this year's RI theme, 'Real Happiness is Helping Others.'" She called for continuing our environmental emphasis through participation in the joint five-club project working towards a Model Environmental Community, which had published the *Model Community Training Manual* to increase the number of local businesses practicing "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle."²¹

Jan renamed the Drug Abuse Committee the Substance Abuse Committee, charging it to develop a directory of substance abuse services and to support such local programs as DARE²² and Safe Rides for Teens. She appointed Mick Moore and Beth Beauchamp to head a new Literacy Committee charged with boosting the self-worth of individuals by helping them become productive citizens. And she appointed past Club Presidents Bud Roderick, Cal Owens, Dave Thies and Art Skelton to the first President's Advisory Committee.

Among her goals: earning a RI Presidential Citation for Balanced Club Achievement, a new award created by RI President Cliff Dochterman. To earn consideration, a club must have at least four accomplishments in each of the Four Avenues of Service. Another goal was adding 25 new members to the 240 as of July 1. Jan's Board provided report binders for all committee chairs to include mission statement, minutes as taken, and records of committee activities. These would also provide future committee chairs a historical guideline for their undertakings.

The Club's first "Madame President" launched a couple of other firsts. She set into motion the Rotary Minute, wherein chairs updated the Club on their committee's mission and progress – an excellent vehicle to ensure that service projects meeting the criteria for a Presidential Balanced Club Certificate are underway. And she inaugurated a periodic "From the Desk of the President" column in *The Fizz*, updating members on Club progress and her appreciation of their efforts.

²¹ Later in the year, WGRC's board approved a \$3,000 grant to the Central States Education Center to develop a Model Community training manual on waste reduction.

²² Drug Abuse Resistance Education

An early Club activity was WGRC's August 30 welcome picnic for the school year's Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars at the UI. Between September and year's end, the Board agreed to support the first local Make a Difference Day, and when International Youth Exchange co-chairs Tom Good and Bob Rydell asked that the Club host a full-year IYE student for 1993-94 (the first in several years for WGRC), the Directors approved. WGRC again lent its support to the Community Thanksgiving Dinner staged by members of the Urbana High School Student Senate, who served 511 senior citizens, international students, homeless people and others who would have been alone that day. The Club approved another \$2,000 grant to the C-U Community Schools Foundation's Endowment Fund, supporting special programs and initiatives by teachers.

Kicking off the second half of the year, John Elder announced a Club record \$10,550 in Salvation Army collections. By mid-year, the Club had already met the Presidential Balanced Club Citation requirements. On January 11, Bill Froom presented the WGRC Vocational Award to Eugene Mellon:



Eugene H. Mellon

Gene is enjoying his golden anniversary of WGRC membership...a good time to honor him for his golden example of service ...during Gene's 25-year tenure as superintendent of Champaign schools, his modus operandi was a firm hand in a velvet glove...he listened carefully to suggestions, then formulated a plan; those who worked with him never realized that it wasn't their very own idea...the hallmark of a great leader...His relationship with faculty and staff was legendary...He had a vision of the future of education, and was one of five people who took the first steps that resulted in Parkland College. His vocational service advice is simple: "Cooperate," and his guideline was his concern for everyone, including developmentally and physically handicapped children. When you combine intellect, motivation, acumen, warmth, and administrative know-how with a keen sense of humor, you aptly describe Gene Mellon.

Under Dean Cavey, the Project Planning Committee evaluated requests and the Club Board approved: \$1,200 to Crisis Nursery for a printer; \$1,500 to Edison Middle School for a Handicapped Listening Center (this request via the Club's former Ambassadorial Scholar Brownie Davis); and funds to cover paper charges for a February-June Rotary billboard program, with several sites donated by Kip Pope. While Kip, Dan Crispin, and Mike Martin share credit for the first Rotary billboard, President Jan inspired a joint effort of the five local Rotary Clubs that resulted in the appearance about town of several billboards promoting Rotary International.



Dean Cavey

Another Jan Bahr initiative was the first Valentine's Day Sweetheart Ball, held at the Champaign Country Club and attended by 65 couples from WGRC and other local Rotary clubs. For this "senior senior prom" (so named by Committee Chair Bonnie Kelley), those present danced to the Parkland College Big Band, enjoyed a dessert buffet, and heard the Other Guys from UI serenade President Jan, whose birthday happens to be February 14.

On March 1, Walt Lewis presented the WGRC Vocational Award to Alan Laing, along with these blooms from his verbal bouquet:



Alan K. Laing

I discuss with my architectural ethics students universal values like honesty, integrity, fairness, compassion and trustworthiness. Alan K. Laing is the epitome of these values...an outstanding Rotarian, educator, scholar and public servant...He is a humanist in the best sense of the word...directs his efforts toward unselfish service to others...The object of intrinsic trust, he admires optimism, purpose, and commitment to improve society around us...The dining room at Clark-Lindsey Village is dedicated to Al "in grateful recognition of his leadership in the development of the Village - the epitome of what a senior-citizen residence should be." On the educational value of

travel, Al has said: "Travel ought to come before everything else for a student of human affairs...human societies cannot be understood apart from their environment, and that cannot be apprehended at second hand." Al Laing has built a lifetime of understanding wherever he has been, and we are all the richer because of it.

In April, 20 French students arrived with their three chaperones for the fourth Corbeil/Champaign exchange. The Board questioned continuing the exchange, as expenses would be \$2,000. They asked IYE Chair Tom Good to review the costs, and investigate obtaining District support. In any case, the exchange went well and President Jan commended Tom Good's work. The Club discontinued its Junior Achievement support because high schools had incorporated a major part of JA's goals into their programs. The delightful Tadesse Tamrat, UI visiting professor of African studies, was designated a Rotary Visiting Professor and invited to Club meetings for April through May. \$25,000 from the 1989 Action Auction was finally released back to WGRC, Inc. after the City of Champaign failed, despite three years of prodding, to produce a coherent written plan for beautifying the entryways to the city. Quipped an anonymous member, "If you truly seek eternal life, join a government bureau or department."

The Yanai, Japan, Rotary Club, WGRC's sister club, sent six members plus a spouse to the District 6490 Conference to honor First Family Ken and Kimiko Gunji. WGRC was among 28 District 6490

clubs qualifying for the RI Presidential Citation for Balanced Club Achievement. Because 58% of the District's clubs qualified, versus a world-wide average of just 23%, Governor Ken received a special citation for his work in encouraging this impressive showing. The Club won three District awards: Club Service for the Club roster; Public Relations for the Rotary billboards; and Club Project for involvement with the C-U Head Start Library Project. During the Conference, Champaign Rotarians hosted 51 visiting Rotarians and guests for dinner, an outstanding display of Rotary hospitality.

In her final meeting as president, Jan Bahr looked back: "Never have I experienced such support," said Jan of the entire membership, before aptly describing Rotary leadership as "...a continuum, with each president adding something." Noting more awards than ever had been given and received, she took pride in the Club's strong support of C-U's younger citizens, as well as of the "super" District Conference, chaired by Bill Stallman, in honor of (now) Past District Governor Ken Gunji. She commended Bill Krahling for his 1000+ consecutive weeks of editing *The Fizz*, and thanked retiring Club Secretary Gene Oliver for five exemplary years in that role.

She named Stephen Hamburg Rotarian of the Year, as much for his long record of service with community organizations as for his three years as a Club director. In particular, his leadership in organizing the Salvation Army's day shelter for area homeless people was cited as "a noble cause, reflecting the highest credit upon Rotary, his family, and himself." Under Steve's guidance, the shelter expanded its work beyond shelter and meals to include emotional and job counseling, health screening, and referrals for drug and alcohol treatment.



Steve Hamburg, ROY 1992-93
with Dave Lawrence

Finally, Jan presented a WGRC Meritorious Service Award to Bob Wright,²³ reading this citation written by Glen Wensch:



Coach Bob Wright

Since 1968 Bob has served Champaign Rotary with devotion and distinction. This year, with unique sensitivity towards his comrades, he has volunteered to pick up members afflicted by illness and drive them to Rotary, where he brought them their food and sometimes cut it for them. He then helped them back to the car and drove them safely home. His dedication to humanitarian service reflects the principles of Rotary and this past year's RI theme, "Real Happiness is Helping Others."

²³ With John W. Wright and John W. Wright II as 2nd and 3rd generation WGRC members, could the Wright family be setting its sights on the Eisner "dynasty?"

In one last "first," Jan became the first outgoing Club president to sing her "swan song." Her version of "Getting to Know You" emphasized how a year of work and fun deepened her knowledge and appreciation of able and supportive Club members. In response, the Club delivered a farewell serenade penned by Guy Duker and set to "Jingle Bells":

We thank you very much, for those words so eloquent.
We've all enjoyed your term, as Rot'ry president.
In just a few short years, we hope that you will say:
"Because they sang this song to me they really made my day."
Oh – Janice Bahr, Janice Bahr, Jan you are O.K.
Oh what fun we hope you've had on each no-holds-Bahred Monday.
Janice Bahr, Janice Bahr, here's our wish for you:
Take a trip, upon a ship, how about a Kruse²⁴ for two?!?

²⁴ Reference to Don Kruse, Jan's "significant other."



"The difference between mediocrity and superiority is effort...there are three types of Rotarians: those who make things happen, those who watch it happen, and those who don't know what's happening. Let '93-94 be a 'happening' year in which we, our community and our world benefit from our commitment to fellowship and service." With those opening remarks, Ivan "Terry" Davis kicked off another active Rotary year. One of the first Club

events of every Rotary year is the WGRC Corn Roast. Here is the last stanza only of Guy Duker's tribute to this tradition, set to "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning":

Dick throws a beautiful cor-rrn roast,
Food that would please a gour-mand;
He and Stu's active com-mit-tee,
Feed us the best in the land, so...
Let's give them all a big hand!!!



Dick Burwash Explains
the Difference Between
Field Corn and Sweet Corn
to "the City Folks"

District Governor Paul Luedtke (Urbana) visited early and recapped some RI numbers: more than \$30 million devoted to Health, Hunger and Humanity grant program projects; 20,600 Group Study Exchange participants; \$240 million to PolioPlus. He then posed questions: "Why should we undertake the awesome goal of attaining world peace? Because it's attainable. How can we achieve this goal? By coordinating our efforts with the 1,173,000 Rotarians throughout the world...It is the function of salt to purify and preserve, and of light to illuminate the darkness and eliminate ignorance. If we see Rotarians as the salt of the earth and the light of the world, it is our mission to preserve what is good, to purify the human condition, and to enlighten all dark corners in our world."

Guy Duker then ratified the Governor's message by leading the members in another of his songs, this one set to the tune of "Is It True What They Say About Dixie?"

Can we test all our thoughts, words and actions,
With the test that is four-square and true,
Can we carry out the ideal, at home at work at play,
Can we meet the goal before us, and will we always say:
Is it true, is it fair, is it building..
Friendship's bond, and good will, every day,
When we benefit all thru, our proven Four Way Test,
We will know, we have done our best.

On August 18, the Club's school-year IYE student arrived from Turkey, slated to stay first with Tom Good's family, then with Bob Rydell's family. Short-term IYE visitors would also be arriving during the year from Brazil and Europe. At the September 13 meeting, members and spouses were invited to an informational presentation on Rotary Youth Exchange. To encourage broader participation in hosting foreign visitors, Bob Rydell moderated a program entitled "Veteran Exchangers Tell Us Why They'd Do It Again" featuring six WGRC spouses who had hosted literally dozens of IYE students, both school-year and short-term, from many countries. Donna Anderson, Nancy Davis, Beverly Friese, Katie Good, Kathe Keck and Sheryl Rydell attested to the special gratifications derived from the experiences.



Bob Rydell

The Club provided counselors for seven of the 17 Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars at the UI, then hosted a picnic for all the scholars, counselors and families. Scott Anderson Jr., International Hospitality Committee chair, produced and mailed a flier with pictures and biographical sketches of the visiting scholars to all District 6490 clubs. Tony Peressini, Attendance Committee chair, designated September 27 as the Club's first-in-a-long-time 100% attendance day. We would say "first ever," but the Club achieved 100% attendance during Jim Acheson's 1976-77 presidency and there have doubtless been other 100% efforts along the way. This time WGRCers fell short, reaching just 94%. There was no shortfall when it came to food donations for Make a Difference Day, however, as members contributed 1,487 pounds.

Attendance hit 88% for the month of November, and a new sideline to the annual Fall Football Guessing Contest made its appearance: the small college alma mater rivalry between Tom Costello's John Carroll University Blue Streaks and Bill Krahling's Mount Union College Purple Raiders. Mount Union won, 21-0, completing another unbeaten and untied season. Three playoff wins later, the Purple Raiders captured the NCAA Division III championship. And another football note: University agencies involved with the annual UI Football Banquet requested a format change for 1994 that would open this Rotary tradition to the general public.²⁵

As the first half of the year came to a close, Bob Rydell reported continued difficulty in locating host families for IYE students. Having spoken with other local clubs, he said four of the five would join forces in supporting two inbound and two outbound students each year. But that did not solve immediate concerns. The directors urged inclusion of

²⁵ This change did not take place until 1997.

spouses in future indoctrinations of new members, with emphasis placed on the international nature of Rotary and the importance of supporting international programs.

On December 29, the Brazilian short-term students arrived and were placed throughout the District. In April, the Corbeil exchange came off well, with 15 students visiting from France and 11 American students slated for a summer trip to France. The Club hosted three Group Study Exchange team members from Italy, and sponsored a successful candidate for the GSE team to Italy – Brownie Davis (our 1990-91 Ambassadorial Scholar to England).

Salvation Army bell-ringing sparked collections to another new record, \$10,669. The Club awarded \$1,000 to the C-U Coalition for the Homeless for food transportation equipment, and participated in a District 6490 World Community Service project in Malawi, helping the project to receive a \$20,000 Rotary Foundation Matching Grant. Early in 1994, Champaign Rotary meetings went smoke-free. Whether this had anything to do with bumping year-to-date attendance (through March) to 86.6% is unknown. The Rotary billboard program featuring the Four Way Test continued, and, by listing the names of all five community Rotary Clubs, President Terry hoped to foster increased inter-club cooperation.



Jack Pollard, Dick Tryon, Tom Good
with Medical Equipment for Azul

Jack Pollard played a key role in obtaining used but highly serviceable ultra-sound diagnostic equipment from both Carle and Covenant²⁶ Hospitals to send to a pediatric hospital in Azul, Argentina identified by Dick Tryon. Jack also was instrumental in increasing public awareness of this and other Rotary community projects. Directors approved another \$1,000 for Safe

Rides for Teens, and seven Club members volunteered as adult supervisors for the program. The Board granted: \$5,000 for the new Champaign-Urbana Side by Side²⁷ playground in Urbana; \$2,750 to help Matthew House remodel a neighboring building; and \$425 to the Reading Group for a One-on-One Scholarship. Beth Beauchamp received approval of up to \$1,600 for a local literacy project, contingent on the response of cooperating clubs. Jan Bahr prepared the first new member orientation/indoctrination manual, *The Wonderful World of Rotary*, which proved most helpful to new-member sponsors and the Indoctrination Committee.

²⁶ In October 1997, Covenant Hospital became Provena Covenant Medical Center.

²⁷ This later became Prairie Play in the 130-acre Meadowbrook Park.

On April 11, 59 of 60 members of Interact delighted the Club members by presenting a musical summary of their year's accomplishments, with individuals intoning each of 15 projects and the whole group chorusing the refrain of their Interact hymn, adapted by

Doug Nelson from the original song, "We Are Family":



Centennial Interactors Sing "We Are Interact!"

We Are Interact! We'll do service for you,
We'll help you if we can! For the school and community,
We're here to take a stand! We Are Interact!

At the District 6490 Conference in Urbana, the Club won Achievement Awards that included: Club Bulletin for *The Fizz*, co-edited by Sandra Norlin and George Scheetz; Community Service for participation in the Prostate Cancer Prevention Trial; Public Relations for Terry's Rotarian of the Month program and the continuing Rotary billboard project; Club Service for Jan Bahr's new indoctrination manual; and Vocational Service for the high school career development night developed jointly with Champaign West Rotary. For the second year in a row, WGRC earned the Presidential Citation for Balanced Club Achievement. Scott Anderson Sr. became the second WGRC member inducted into the District Hall of Honor, and Steve Hamburg, WGRC's 1993 Rotarian of the Year, was named District 6490 Rotarian of the Year.



Scott Anderson, Sr.

As Terry Davis ended his presidential year, he presented the Eisner Award for outstanding new member to George Scheetz, and announced that the Rotarian of the Year Award would be shared by two deserving members: Glen Wensch, for coordinating Club Service committees, preparing applications for District Awards, and "always thinking of Rotary"; and Scott Anderson Jr., for chairing the International Hospitality Committee, creating an innovative brochure to publicize the availability of international students as program speakers, planning a successful Ambassadorial Scholar picnic, and leading the "On to Urbana" District Conference effort. He also recognized Art Skelton, Club executive secretary, "for his legendary knowledge and dedication."

Terry described the Club as "an incredible organization. He referred to an observation by Jim Simpson, long-time friend of Art Skelton and

RI President Bob Barth's personal representative to the District Conference earlier that month: "Rotary International is comprised of 10% Rotarians and 90% members of the club." Terry assessed WGRC as 51% and 49%. "This Club," he remarked, "is truly where you find Rotary. But I hope we translated some of the rhetoric about how good we think we are into a bit of humility, recognizing that there are plenty of ways we can improve to give ever greater attention to 'Service Above Self.'" In turning over the gavel to incoming Club President Tom Good, Terry then adapted a remark from 1931-32 Club President Cliff Northcott: "He's better than 'Good,' he's an excellent man. It's our job to make him great."

Thomas M. Good, 1994-95



That "excellent man," Tom Good, opened his year at the rostrum by presenting his Three Fs: Fundamentals – youth, community, and vocations; Friendship – the RI President's 1994-95 theme is simply "Be a Friend"; and Fun – "Let's have fun." He announced a new activity: The Rotary Cup, a mug placed on each luncheon table to which members contribute \$1 each week. From these collections, 75% would go to a worthy cause recommended by the Charity and Salvation Army

Committee, with the other 25% retained for special disbursements, such as emergency relief for national or international disasters. The first month's Cup went to Crisis Nursery of Champaign County, and the second to the Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club.

Tom asked Club members to consider ways to make the Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE replaced the IYE acronym) program better known in community. As of August, four local Rotary clubs (Champaign West excepted) were working together on two long-term high school exchanges: girls from Thailand and Brazil were in Champaign-Urbana, and a local boy had gone to the Netherlands. Although it was not a RYE program, Tom mentioned that the Yanai annual exchange continued, with a young lady from Japan visiting July 24-August 20.

Early on, Tom also asked members to support the District's Rotary Foundation goal by announcing special events or milestones in their lives and making a donation to RF. He announced the newly created Transportation Committee (Gene Rose, chair) that would transport members to weekly meetings as needed. During his year, Tom made recognition and awards a frequent happening. Guy Duker received his 40-year pin, and Beth Beauchamp received a certificate from the Club Awards Committee for her leadership of the Literacy Committee (for more on Beth, see p. 130).

With Tom Good as the self-proclaimed "Singing President" and Jan Bahr as Music Committee chair, the singing segment of weekly meetings was rejuvenated. Jan announced that new song books, promised three years earlier by Dave Thies, were "ready to print." Meanwhile, she organized the Rotary-Aires chorale, a changing cast of strong singers who came forward to help energize group singing. Kip Pope, who shared piano duty with Thies, gave "music lessons" and led new songs, as well as old ones with flair.

District 6490 was hosting 22 Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars at the UI, several of whom had WGRC counselors. Roger Martin, chair of the International Scholarship Services Committee, proposed two UI students as outbound ambassadors, one of whom was later selected by the District committee. By October, three school-year RYE outbounders had

been identified for 1995-96, one each from Centennial, Urbana, and Judah Christian high schools. Two inbounders would be arriving, one slated for Urbana High School and one for Centennial.

During his visit to the Club, District Governor John Hieser announced a new District program: Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA). He projected its launch for the summer of 1996 and asked for an organizational volunteer from WGRC. President Tom named Dean Cavey, Youth and Student Affairs Committee chair, to this post. Meeting attendance was excellent: 84.8% for August, 89.7% for September, and 87.8% for October. But the gradual decline in membership caused mild concern. Development and Classification Committee Chair John McGill reported on the 23 members lost during 1993-94: 12 had moved, 7 had died, 2 were terminated for poor attendance, and 2 cited business reasons.

President Tom asked Tod Dawson to head the 32-member Action Auction VII Committee. Because \$25,000 had been reclaimed from the never-accomplished city entryway project, funding was approved for two lead recipients: the Champaign-Urbana Community Schools Foundation Endowment Fund, and a renovation of the water system at Camp Drake for the Prairielands Council, Boy Scouts of America. On October 10, Don Bresnan became the latest recipient of WGRC's Vocational Award.



Don Bresnan

...for his superior service to his profession and his community. First appointed to the Champaign Playground and Recreation Board in 1959, Don became a Park District stalwart, in the forefront of the stunning growth of the district from 12 parks and no buildings to 52 parks, 11 new physical facilities, 80 flower islands, and more than 100 programs for residents of all ages. Between 1974 and 1994, the CPD has won the National Recreation and Park Association's Gold Medal twice, and made the "final four" in 14 other years.

At the November 17 Board of Directors meeting, Steve Hamburg and two Unit 4 Schools speech and language teachers demonstrated a Liberator communications device and told of the need for one to enable seven-year-old Jonathon Kerns to "really talk." On November 28, Nina Eisner, Project Planning Committee chair, updated the Club on the Liberator need. Two public funds had raised \$800; she recommended that WGRC, Inc. contribute \$1,200, and this



Steve Hamburg with
Jonathon Kerns

was approved by acclamation. She then said the device would cost \$4,000, and called for pledges from individual members toward the \$2,000 needed. Within minutes, 20 members had pledged the entire balance.

Later in the year, *The News-Gazette* featured Jonathon Kerns, the Garden Hills student using the 123-key Liberator, and the Club received a letter of thanks from the Board of Education and the staff of Champaign Community Schools for enabling the purchase of the Liberator. More important, Jonathon attended a Club meeting with his Liberator and punched in these words: "Thank you for the Liberator. It helps me talk." On December 19, Nina Eisner received a Club award for her charitable work on the Project Planning Committee and her ability to inspire generosity in giving.

President Tom presented a resolution to the Club nominating Frank Keck to be District 6490 Governor for the Rotary Year 1997-98. By resoundingly approving the resolution, Club members started the wheel turning for a history-making chapter in the story of Champaign Rotary. Club attention to substance abuse continued with a January 30 program featuring this panel, moderated by John Frothingham: Nina Eisner, administrator of the Carle Pavilion; Topper Steinman, consultant to the Illinois Institute of Dispute Resolution; Larry Wilms, executive director of the Prairie Center; and Stephen Reynolds, DARE officer, Champaign Police Department.



John Frothingham, Here
Speaking on Iwo Jima

In March, the time came to honor the Club's previously-approved pledge of \$5,000 to Prairie Play at Meadowbrook Park (formerly C-U Side by Side Playground). With all city approvals and the design finalized, volunteers were requested to help with construction of the park's unique wood recreational equipment. The Board also approved a WGRC, Inc. recommendation of \$5,000 for the Krannert Center for Performing Arts for installation of Sennheiser equipment in the Great Hall for the hearing impaired.

The first of two Piker-Artis ultra-sound scanners had been crated for shipment via air freight to Buenos Aires, from where it would be moved by truck to the pediatric hospital in Azul, Argentina. This first shipment of equipment acquired from Provena Covenant Medical Center was scheduled to arrive in March, and a second shipment was due to leave C-U by the first week of April. For a World Community Service project, the Board voted \$450 (later hiked to \$517 for exchange-rate reasons) to support a drinking water project in Bidar, India,²⁸ with the contribution

²⁸ A Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar first brought this project to the attention of District 649.



President Tom with Corbell RYE Students

being matched by other local clubs and a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant.

Kip Pope received another Club award for his contribution of three billboards promoting Rotary International, and Tom Costello was recognized for his contribution of space for inside signs on 75 C-U Mass Transit District buses. The World Affairs Seminar at University of

Wisconsin-Whitewater sent a recognition patch for our Club banner recognizing WGRC sponsorship of one or more domestic students to each of the past 16 World Affairs Seminars. In recent years, the students had been members of Interact. On the exchange front, 14 Corbeil students and two sponsors arrived from France in April, and 12 District 6490 students were to return the visit during the summer. The Group Study Exchange team from Thailand arrived in the District and, after objecting because it was initiated outside prescribed channels, the District approved a club-to-club student exchange with Azul, Argentina, arranged by Dick Tryon.

The highlight of any presidential year has to be the triennial Action Auction, and so it was in 1995. Confronted by an ambitious \$75,000 net goal, Tod Dawson's committee netted approximately \$114,392 from record receipts of \$129,235.²⁹ For the lead recipients this meant \$37,500 to the C-U Community Schools Foundation Endowment, and \$37,500 to Prairielands Council, BSA, for its Camp Drake water renovation project.



Ken Gunji,
Club President 1984-85
District Governor, 1992-93

On to the District 6490 Conference in Urbana, where WGRC won a third consecutive RI Presidential Citation for Balanced Club Achievement. Ken Gunji became the Club's third inductee into the District Hall of Honor. The Club earned five District Achievement Awards: Community Service, for the seventh triennial Action Auction; International Service, for the ongoing exchange with Corbeil, France; and Club Service for (1) development of *The Wonderful World of Rotary* new-member indoctrination manual, (2) *The Fizz*, under editor George Scheetz, and (3) WGRC leadership in the multi-club cooperative literacy project.

When the 1995 RI Council on Legislation increased RI Zones from 31 to 34 and realigned them, WGRC found itself in Area F of Zone 29. This placed the District in a zone comprised mostly of districts in southern

²⁹ See p. 13 for details.

states, with possible negative consequences for RYE efforts. A request to restore District 6490 to Zone 27 was denied. Meanwhile, the RI President named Ken Gunji to represent Area F (Districts 6460, 6490) of Zone 29 to nominate a director from the zone at the 1996 RI Convention.

At the June 19 meeting, President Tom wrapped up his year by thanking members who had enabled WGRC to surpass the District goal for RF contributions of \$33 per member by contributing \$8,944, or an average of \$40.47, to lead the District once again. He named Tod Dawson Rotarian of the Year for spurring Action Auction VII well past its goal. Doug Nelson and Ivor Emmanuel shared the Eisner Award for outstanding new member.



Tod Dawson,
Club President 1984-85
Rotarian of the Year, 1994-95

In a fitting send-off, Doug Nelson on guitar and Dave Thies at the keyboard led members in a musical farewell to President Tom, leading off with "Bye, Bye Tom" (to the tune of the Everly Brothers hit "Bye, Bye Love"), and then "Tommy B. Goode" to the tune of "Johnny B. Goode" (immortalized by Chuck Berry). As the lyrics "Go, Go, Go Tommy Go," faded, Tom quipped: "I'm going as fast as I can."

James F. Keene, 1995-96



as the ever-droll/never-dull President Jim proved himself the "Ace of Acerbity."

Jim placed emphasis on members' wearing their Rotary lapel pins. He also set an ambitious attendance goal: "95 for '95." Never had the Club attained even 90% attendance for a year. Then our purposeful, peripatetic president promptly disappeared for two weeks – off on one of his many "business" trips (never without golf clubs). President Jim would always return to the helm and guide the Club in a year of admirable accomplishments. He appointed John Ady to head the Attendance and Member Retention Committee, charging him with gaining a net four members, in order to satisfy that criterion set by RI President Herb Brown to qualify for the Presidential Citation for Balanced Club Achievement. He named Glen Wensch to chair the Transportation and Visitation Committee, which would become known as the Sunshine Committee. Glen devoted incredible energy to his new job, earning numerous commendations from the Club Board, President Jim, and his peers.



Jim Keene Prepares to "Hook" Bob Eisner



Bill Froom

A school-year Rotary Youth Exchange student arrived from Turkey in August, and one of the Ambassadorial Scholars attending the UI was from WGRC's sister-club city, Yanai, Japan. Bill Froom received the Certificate of Merit at the Illinois Community College Trustees Association convention, honoring his "present-at-the-creation" and long-term "lead godfather" roles for Parkland College. We include this particular extra-Rotary honor because WGRC's connection to Parkland College stretches back to 1967 when Bill Froom served as its founding board chairman. That board hired Bill Staerkel as Parkland's first president, and Bill immediately became a Champaign Rotarian. Ten years later came the Fred Turner Vocational Scholarships, targeting local high school graduates pursuing their education at Parkland. Ken Gunji headed both the financial aid office and the Parkland Foundation; Bonnie Kelley and Lin Warfel have followed Froom onto the Parkland

Board. Parkland's current president, Zelema Harris, became a Champaign Rotarian in 1990, and Parkland administrators Carl Meyer and Sarah Tufte are more recent WGRCCers.

On the occasion of District Governor Tim Gover's official visit, Club leaders agreed to update *Steps Going Up*, the Club History, each ten years – or in 1998 (perhaps publication in our 85th anniversary year justifies our tardiness). Governor Tim also requested long-term involvement with the District's Rotary Youth Leadership Awards initiative, so President Jim appointed Denton Brown and Frank Keck to the District RYLA Committee. Later in the fall, Ken Gunji hosted a well-attended District Foundation Workshop at Parkland College at which Gene Rose, Tom Morgan, and Roger Martin made presentations.

Lest anyone think Guy Duker had lost his lease on lyrics, here's his ode (set to "Farmer in the Dell") to new UI Women's Basketball Coach Theresa Grentz when she addressed the Club:

Hello, Theresa Grentz, hello, Theresa Grentz,
We know your coming here will make a differentz.

We hear, Theresa Grentz, you're smart and you're intentz,
And teach the rudimentz
as basic round ball sentz.

You stress obedientz, then build a good offentz.
Next comes a strong de-fentz (and use of linimentz).

Now all we ask of you, is this, Theresa Grentz:
Take this Illini team and lead the conferentz!

With attendance slipping, John Ady scheduled two 100% attendance days. The first, in November, achieved 98.59%, with 210 of the attendance base of 213 present or furnishing evidence of make-ups. Meanwhile, Rotary International extended the make-up period to 28 days (14 days prior to and 14 days after a scheduled meeting). In a departure from RI guidelines, the Club Board revised Policy 20 to give consideration for service to the Club when considering attendance credit. Ady vowed to succeed with the April 100% attendance day.

On the retention front, Development and Classification Committee Chair Peter Tomaras "cleaned up" the Club's inconsistent classification categories and compiled the first computerized membership database, including classification, birth date, and year of membership for each member. Considering that 92% of the 252 members on January 1, 1996 were 40 years of age (150 older than 50, and 100 older than 60), he asked the Board for guidance in evaluating member proposals. The Board's response: interest in Rotary is the criterion, not age.

On January 29, based on the theme, "WGRC – You Betcha!"³⁰ President Jim presented "The State of Our Union – The Rotary Club of Champaign." His outline grouped activities within the Four Avenues of Service:

- Club and Community Service: WGRC maintains 81% attendance for the year and enjoys an active program of fellowship and music. Thanks to the Action Auctions, the Club disburses \$20,000 in grants each year to community agencies, as well as \$350-\$500 per month from the Rotary Cup in discretionary gifts to local charitable causes. The Salvation Army collections hit another new record in December: \$12,500. The Club continues to support community literacy efforts through tutoring programs and resources provided to reading centers.
- Vocational Service: the Club promotes the Four Way Test with an attractive new 3'x5' banner, and continues supporting vocational awareness and career mentoring.
- Youth and Student Affairs: WGRC continues its strong vocational scholarship program, recognition of outstanding high school students, sponsorship of both Interact and Rotaract.
- International Service: with \$13,500 in Rotary Foundation giving, WGRC has already surpassed the District goal of \$33 per member (\$8,316). President Jim credited this to the unique raffle devised by James Leffelman, chair of the Foundation Relations Committee, by which he sold four \$10 tickets for \$33, each ticket qualifying for a drawing for Paul Harris Fellowships worth \$1,000 each. Tickets sold enabled PH Fellowships for two winners, Pat Dorsey and David Hood. To top it off, President Jim completed his own PH Fellowship.
- Membership Services: Jim cited the continuing excellence of *The Fizz* and the Club roster, the review and revisions of the classification structure, and the active Sunshine Committee that transports members to weekly meetings and coordinates visits to ill and infirm members and families.



Jim Leffelman

WGRC did not rest on the laurels outlined in Jim's "State of Our Union" summary. On February 26, Community Awards chair Bob Cochran presented a Community Service Award to Ellen McDowell "...for

³⁰ See p. 60, *Steps Going Up*

16 years of effective volunteer work on behalf of the St. Jude Catholic Worker House, from working in the soup kitchen to helping raise \$220,000 to acquire and completely remodel the facility." Dave Beckerle was recognized as 1995 Volunteer of the Year by the United Way of Champaign County. Among other things, Dave led the community in donations of foods for charitable events, including Interact's Annual Chili Fest

The Project Planning Committee recommended, and the Board sent on to WGRC, Inc., a request for \$3,350 from PACE³¹ for a Braille Computer. Also approved: \$4,000 to Los Trabajadores, a C-U center for migrant workers serving 800 or more Spanish-speaking U.S. citizens from the Southwestern states; and \$1,660 for a laser printer and fax machine for a local Alzheimer's support group. The Club's Matching Grant project with the Rotary Club of Bidar, Karnatka, India, to build a drinking water fountain in Bidar was completed; WGRC also supported a malaria project in Malawi.

Project Planning also approved \$3,500 to cover expenses of a nurse for Operation Rainbow, marking the Club's first tangible involvement in a project WGRC would later champion. Operation Rainbow is a local medical team that travels to the Philippines to perform cleft lip and palate surgery on indigent children. The Club directors voted to seek a sister club in the Philippines, where Carle Maxillofacial Surgeon Michael Goldwasser would again lead the Operation Rainbow team in 1996. At the Club's February 27 meeting, Dr. Goldwasser and Operating Room Nurse Regina Ross presented slides of their 1995 trip to the Philippines. Please refer to p. 106 for full information on this most special WGRC project.

At the end of February, Frank D. Keck II received the official nomination for the office of Governor of District 6490 for 1997-98. After President Jim was "in absentia" in March, he was welcomed back by "The Five Bottom-Line Reasons Why Jim Keene Has Been Absent for Two Weeks." This was the second such list conceived by Scott Anderson Jr., who was to make it a regular feature of his 1997-98 presidency. John McGill, Frank Keck, Nina Eisner, Mike Martin and Bob Wedgeworth recited the reasons:

5. He much prefers singing in Irish pubs with Gene Wicks³² to hearing the Club sing under Tom Cornell
4. Despite numerous swings during his first week away, he never heard his caddy say, "Nice shot, Jim."
3. It took longer than he anticipated to learn a second song.
2. He ran out of ways to criticize the food served at our meetings.
1. He's counting on memories fading so that we won't notice he's been using Grecian Formula while away.

³¹ Persons Assuming Control of their Environment.

³² Rotarian Gene and his wife had moved to Ireland in 1994, but returned in 1998.

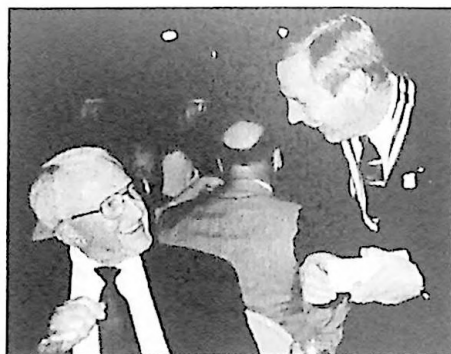
Despite uncertainty as to where President Jim might be on a given Monday, WGRC did achieve 100% attendance on April 22, its second try at a perfect attendance day. What seemed to make the difference: "encouragement" the week before by Attendance Committee chair John Ady, who appeared hooded and bearing an executioner's axe.



The Executioner (John Ady) Cometh

Meanwhile, Covenant Medical Center donated additional equipment (warming tables for newborns) for the pediatric hospital in Azul. In April, these were packed by Bud Leister for shipping to the Argentine Embassy in Washington, the first leg of their bureaucracy-complicated journey. A special April 29 Rotary Cup gathered \$1,186 for the Illini Prairie Chapter of the American Red Cross for tornado relief for hard-hit Urbana and Ogden.

In May, Jim Leffelman chaired the 1996 District Golf Outing, attracting 60 players and raising another \$1,500 for the Rotary Foundation. That WGRC's two teams finished first and third was a bonus. At the District Conference June 7-9, six WGRCers made presentations, and WGRC received a Club Service Award for Glen Wensch's Transportation and Visitation Committee, as well as the Attendance Award, thanks to John Ady. Jim Leffelman's Rotary Foundation Raffle won an International Service Award. Four Champaign Rotarians received individual awards for chair leadership at the District Committee level: Doug Nelson, World Community Service and International Exchange; Ken Gunji, District Foundation; Scott Anderson Jr., International Hospitality; and Roger Martin, International Scholarship Service. Clarence Thompson, 1992 WGRC Vocational Awardee, became the Club's fourth inductee into the District Hall of Honor, with these words excerpted from his citation:



Scott Anderson Jr. Congratulates Clarence Thompson on His Election to the District Hall of Honor

Throughout his distinguished career, Clarence has exemplified the precepts of Rotary...has quietly enhanced the quality of life for many employees...in turn, his dedicated staff has facilitated his service to

vocation and community...It's hard to end this, because Clarence Thompson simply doesn't quit. Ever concerned and caring about issues and people, ever the gentleman, Clarence's positive outlook and generosity of spirit sets an exemplary standard of citizenship. Everything he says or does is offered with sincerity, integrity and a touch of class. It is precisely this - the Thompson Touch - that we honor today by electing Clarence to the District 6490 Hall of Honor.

June 15 was proclaimed Family Day at Camp Robert Drake, and featured dedication of the new water treatment facility to "Champaign Rotary Club," which had provided \$37,500 from the 1995 Action Auction. Keynote speaker Ken Gunji, president of the Prairielands Council, reminisced on scouting and Camp Drake.



Bob Atkins

In *The Fizz*, George Scheetz described the highlight of Jim Keene's swan-song meeting in this way: "Bob Atkins presented a breath-taking, ten-minute paeon to the Rotary Club of Champaign during President Jim's term, including narration, music and 100-plus slides." Atkins' professional production featured the soaring voice of his daughter, Peggy Atkins Stuckey, and launched a new Club tradition. As if that weren't enough, Tom Cornell, Dave Thies, and the members serenaded the retiring president with Guy Duker's "For Jim Keene," set to the tune of "Till We Meet Again."

For his part, Jim remarked on the fellowship and the privilege of serving the World's Greatest Rotary Club, and cited as highlights the projects that provided medical equipment to Azul, fresh water to Bidar, and a nurse for Operation Rainbow. Among the many plaudits he passed around, Jim named Nancy Martin Rotarian of the Year for her ongoing work as Club secretary and Membership Roster Committee chair. And as Jim Keene stepped down, he also stepped up: to a two-year term as president of the National Band Association.



Nancy Martin,
ROY 1995-96 with
Past President Tom Good



One wonders if Montague Bear, who designed the Rotary emblem as a wheel in 1905, ever realized the genius of his design. Yes, the rotation of meetings gave rise to the organization's name, but the later addition of the cogs was equally prescient. Certainly with Champaign Rotary, as the rotating wheel ratchets up a new president, its momentum never slows. As Gary Wackerlin took the gavel, ongoing work and projects, such as the annual summer Yanai exchange, continued apace.

While coordinating that WGRC-specific exchange, Doug Nelson's World Community Service/International Exchange Committee began looking at the proposed re-creation of the Japan House on the UI campus. The long-standing cultural link of the Yanai-WGRC sister club relationship was to open the door to an even stronger cooperation. When he wasn't doing yeoman's work on international scholarships, Roger Martin presented the UI Japan House project to WGRC's Project Planning Committee, and Ken Gunji alerted Yanai Rotary. The ultimate result: WGRC, Inc. and the WGRC Board each provided \$2,500 towards the new Japan House, and the Yanai Rotary Club pledged an equivalent amount.



Roger Martin

Gary asked that Operation Rainbow be the Club's primary international project, and he suggested increased support in three areas: involvement of Rotary clubs in the Philippines; assistance and matching funds from Rotary International; and direct support from WGRC for the current year's trip. From its year-end surplus, the Club Board earmarked \$5,000. But Gary made a significant personal contribution, as well – his Rotary spouse, Karyl, as a volunteer on this "Mission of Mercy."³³ He also appointed John Parkhill and his Rotary spouse, Page, to the Operation Rainbow project.

Under co-chairs Jane Chiappinelli and Maria Dowd, Rotary Youth Exchange was blooming. Five families – the Denton Browns, the Chiappinellis, the David Gaffrons, the Dan Holders, and the Bob Rydells hosted inbound students. Meanwhile, District 6490 (which has oversight of RYE activities) became affiliated with the Central States RYE Consortium involving four states and Ontario. All districts must follow a set of rules and procedures, and the main thrust of the local clubs' consortium would be to help smaller clubs get involved in hosting

³³ "Mission of Mercy" was the title of a February WICD-TV presentation on Operation Rainbow. See p. 106 for the full story of WGRC's tie to Operation Rainbow

inbounders and sponsoring outbounders. The cost to the Club to host a long-term (school-year) inbound student was about \$1,200, with host parents providing room, board, and cost of meals eaten out or at school. The cost to sponsor an outbinder ran about \$180 for the sponsoring club, and \$550 for parents of the student, not including insurance. The WGRC RYE Committee was working with Urbana and C-U Sunrise Rotary Clubs to sponsor three outbounders.

At the District level, Governor Nominee Frank Keck was stirring up a stew of new activity. He launched the RI-prescribed Assistant District Governor program, and named Jan Bahr for Area 5 (Champaign, Champaign West, C-U Sunrise, Monticello, and Villa Grove Rotary Clubs). He and Denton Brown were revving the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) engine.

Starting in November, Mark Stolkin ran the Rotary Foundation raffle and raised more than \$3,000, funding Paul Harris Fellowships for three winners. Also in November, the Club sponsored its 78th UI Football Banquet, and WGRC was named the Outstanding Philanthropic Organization by the East Central Illinois Chapter of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives (NSFRE).

A mid-year audit showed that 17 (15.3%) of the Club's 111 active and additional active members were women. The 107 senior active, past service, and senior active excused members were, of course, all men. A later membership study showed induction dates to WGRC by decade: 1920s - 1; 1930s - 2; 1940s - 8; 1950s - 14; 1960s - 32; 1970s - 37; 1980s - 66; 1990s through June 30, 1997: 75. One might deduce that WGRC had consistently grown, but since its peak membership of 267 in June, 1989, the Club had been gradually shrinking. There were conflicting viewpoints as to whether that was good or bad. In any case, the Club held a successful "Rotary Guest" day, where members brought more than 35 potential Rotarian guests and introduced them to Champaign Rotary. By June, that effort had enlisted eight new members.

Project Planning Committee Chair Nina Eisner reported to the Club Board that, over the past five years, WGRC had contributed \$208,000 to local charitable causes. Her committee gained Board approval of a \$5,000 donation to A Woman's Fund to help retire the loan on its new building. At the same meeting, the Board again commended Glen Wensch and his Sunshine Committee. In the spring, Dave Kuhl's Community Awards Committee awarded a Community Service Award to Abby Hobbs. This award goes to non-Rotarians who, by activities within or service to community-related organizations, exemplify "Service Above Self" and the Four Way Test.

Jill Niles of the C-U Community Schools Foundation spoke to the membership at a Club meeting, describing the impact of the \$37,500 grant the Foundation received from Action Auction VII. President-Elect Scott Anderson, looking a year ahead, announced the 1998 Action Auction (AA VIII) goal would be a net \$125,000: \$75,000 to fund the Project Planning Committee for three years, and \$50,000 to one or more projects to benefit families, with particular focus on youth at risk.

At an April meeting, a large contingent of Interactors from Centennial High School described the various activities to which they had devoted 3,865 service hours – 1,000 more than any previous Interact Club. And on April 28, the Club achieved perfect attendance, again with orchestration by Attendance Chair John Ady. Also during April, District 6490 hosted 44 high school sophomores at its first RYLA encampment at Allerton Park's 4-H camp near Monticello. The culmination of nearly two years of planning by the District RYLA Committee, the actual leadership training program was developed by WGRC's Denton Brown.

On to the District 6490 Conference, held in Urbana. WGRC received four District awards: International Service, for Operation Rainbow; Public Relations, for WICD's coverage of Operation Rainbow; Club Service, for "The Year In Review," Bob Atkins' musical-slide presentation to President Jim Keene; and again, Club Bulletin for *The Fizz*. Ken Gunji was selected as the District's delegate to the RI Council on Legislation in 1998, and Bobby Eisner became the fifth Champaign Rotarian to enter the District Hall of Honor.

Chris Moyer was Gary's well-received choice for Rotarian of the Year, recognizing his tenth consecutive year of inspirational leadership of the Interact Committee. Two new Rotarians, Maarten Van de Guchte and K. Kay Machula, shared the Robert Eisner Jr. Award. One would think that the "Dream High," Bob Atkins' second "Paeon to the Rotary Club of Champaign" honoring President Gary's year with narration, music and 146 slides, would have been the "*grand finale*" for June. And it would have been, except for the June 30 Metropolitan Installation Banquet at which all five Metro Area Rotary Clubs installed their new presidents, and District 6490 installed its new governor: Frank D. Keck II. For more on that sound and light show (with a bit of fury mixed in), see p. 147.



K. Kay Machula
Eisner Award 1996-97

And one might think that Gary's year as president would be the high point of his service to the Club, but one might be wrong about that, too. With apologies to Douglas MacArthur, old WGRC presidents ultimately die, but seldom do they fade away. That was to prove especially true in the case of Gary Wackerlin.

Scott Anderson Jr. 1997-98



Scott stepped in as half of the fifth father-son set to serve as presidents of WGRC. The previous "tag teams" included: Albert Eisner Sr. (1917-18, 1918-19) and Robert Eisner Sr. (1944-45); Robert Eisner Sr. and Robert Eisner Jr. (1966-67); J. G. Thomas (1961-62) and Lott H. Thomas (1971-72); and Harold S. Dawson (1970-71) and Thomas O. Dawson, (1984-85). "I was in high school," Scott said, "when my father served as president. So, from an early age, I have come to know the ideals of service in Rotary and the responsibilities the leadership of the Club implies. I am deeply honored, and look forward to the challenges that lie ahead with confidence in the work ethic of our Board and the dedication of our membership."

Scott offered a verbal "Toast to Gary" for Wackerlin's leadership in 1996-97, then turned his eyes to the future. With Frank Keck serving as District 6490 Governor, Scott Anderson saw his responsibilities clearly and set ambitious goals – "Host the Governor's Installation Banquet, and, later:

- Hold the best District Conference in District history.
- Hold the best Rotary Action Auction in WGRC history.
- Have more fun at meetings.
- Promote more fellowship among members.
- Generate more fervor by, service from, and fulfillment for our members.

Each of these goals had measuring sticks, as did the seven pages of Measurable Committee Goals that Scott distributed. He also produced a three-part form and challenged members to fill out individual measurable goals for their personal participation in Rotary. The members kept one copy, and received a reminder copy back half-way through the year.

It was also a year of new ideas, starting with *The Fizz*, which changed to a vertical, tri-fold format. The idea was to provide additional space for "Rotarian Profiles" and articles entitled "Moments in Time" addressing Rotary history and Club activities. An early, well-received change involved the badges of women members. Spring-clips may work for attaching badges to men's pockets and lapels, but are less than ideal for



Women Rotarians Display Necklace Badges

women's attire. Scott equipped the badges of WGRC women with flashy new chains, converting them into necklaces.

Scott continued the practice established by Terry Davis of recognizing members with Rotarian of the Month citations, and implemented a new program of giving RI theme pins to members who exemplified the year's RI Theme: "Our Service Shows We Care: for our Club, for our Vocations, for our Youth, for our Community, for our World." Two early recipients of Scott's "Show Rotary Cares" pins were Glen Wensch, for leading the Transportation and Visitation (Sunshine) Committee, and William Kuhne, for his idea in 1977 of holding an auction to raise money for the Rotary Hill Project at Lake of Woods. That event raised \$32,000 and launched the astonishing Action Auction story.

In the vein of "more fun at meetings," Scott continued his "Bottom-Line" lists," takeoffs of David Letterman's "Top Ten" lists. A variation was this FAQ (frequently asked questions) Love and Sex Quiz, illustrated by two of the five questions:

Question: Any recommendation as to how long people should make love?"

Response by Greg Lykins: "Sure. They should make love the same way short people do."

Question: "Should you kiss with your eyes open or closed?"

Response by JoAnn Tieman: "Neither. You should kiss with your lips."

Throughout the year, Club members were exposed to many such exercises in "sharing the wisdom."

In September, Scott turned District Governor Frank Keck's official visit into a theatrical spectacle, presiding in tuxedo, top hat and Mickey Mouse ears. The Caribbean rhythms of the UI steel drum band (courtesy of Jim Keene) almost drowned out Kathe Keck's induction as a Paul Harris Fellow and the presentation to Governor Keck of a special banner by Interactors. Lending weight to the District Governor's theme, "Make It Happen," prestidigitation by "the phantasmagoric" Keith Page made improbable things happen.

Starting the year with just 214 members, Scott asked his Board to review admission policy to emphasize the need for enthusiastic young members, not just busy top-level executives. Director Doug Nelson urged getting members involved in hands-on projects as a step to better retention. The Habitat for Humanity project in the spring accomplished this to some extent. Doug also planned a social event for Ambassadorial Scholars.

With Action Auction VIII later in the year, WGRC, Inc. and Scott's board addressed optimal application of existing funds. They

immediately authorized \$5,000 for Operation Rainbow, plus additional support via District 6490, which had adopted funding medical equipment for Operation Rainbow as a primary goal. The District Rainbow Committee (Gary Wackerlin, chair) set a \$30,000 goal: \$7,500 from within the District, \$7,500 from a host Rotary club in the Philippines, and then a \$15,000 matching grant from the Rotary Foundation. The District designated RYLA as its other lead project, setting a target of \$10,000.

Typical of other WGRC, Inc. awards was \$5,660 for a wheelchair ramp at Roundhouse, a shelter for homeless youths operated by the Children's Home and Aid Society. This was also the year of a funding crisis at the United Way, and area Rotary Clubs stepped up to support UW and restore community confidence, with WGRC picking up more than \$20,000 of funding shortfalls for eight community agencies.

On October 6, Scott scheduled the regular meeting at UI Memorial Stadium, where members dined on a catered lunch, enjoyed entertainment by the Illini Pep Band, and mounted the end-zone bleachers for the first Club photograph since 1976. The Club also forsook its regular Chancellor Hotel meeting site to convene at the Krannert Art Museum and Parkland College, each meeting featuring entertainment and an educational program.

New Rotarian John Wright II ran the Rotary Foundation Raffle to help the Club meet the District goal of \$40 per member. Mount Union College, Bill Krahling's alma mater, won its second straight NCAA Division III championship, extending its win streak to 28. And for the first time, the annual Football Banquet (Phil Reed, chair) was shifted to the Illini Union and opened to additional fans, including members of Illini Pride, the Quarterback Club, and players' families. Despite the team's 0-11 record, attendance soared to an estimated 600. President Scott gave a brief statement describing the ideals and activities of Rotary, and Rotarians hosted each table.



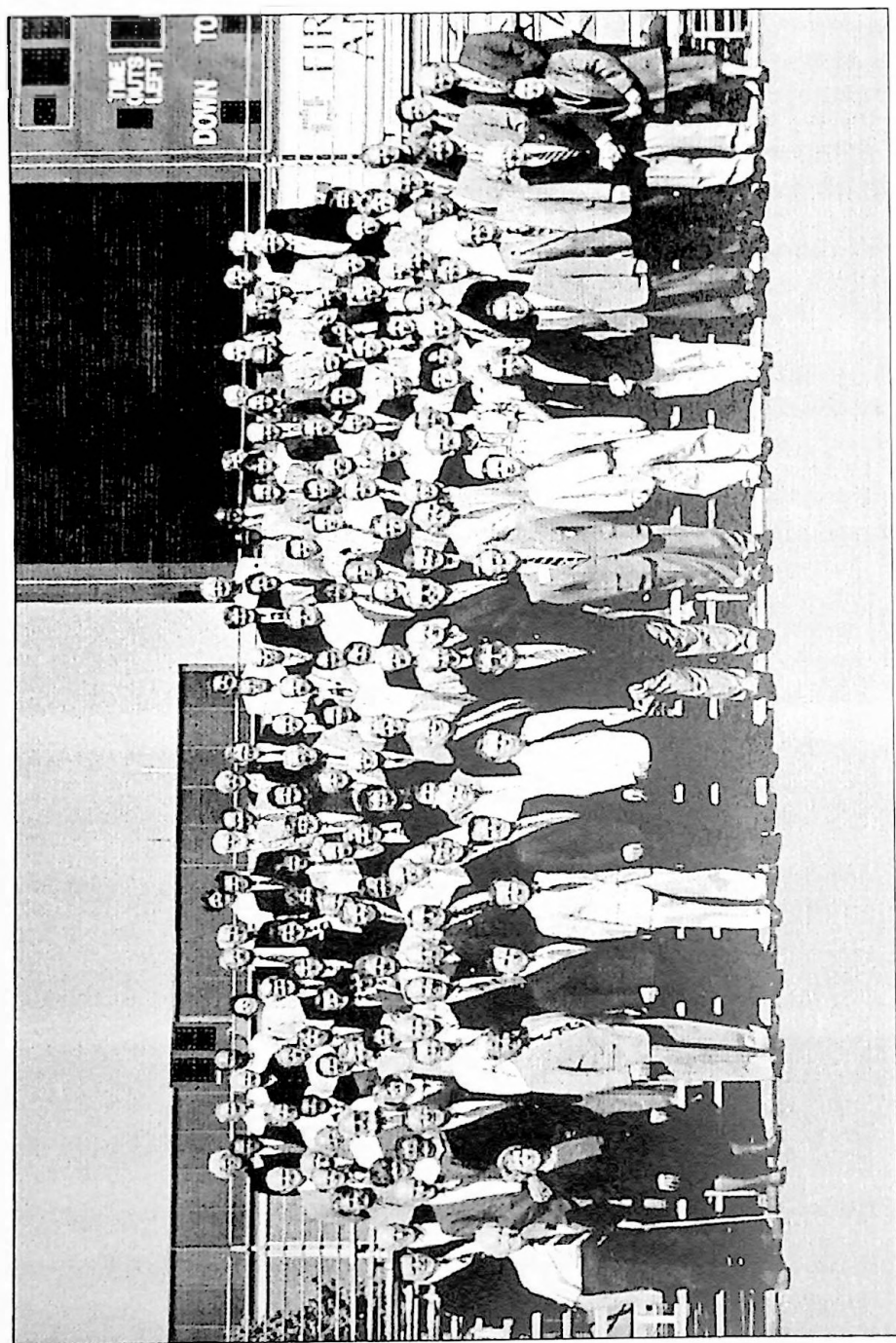
John Wright II

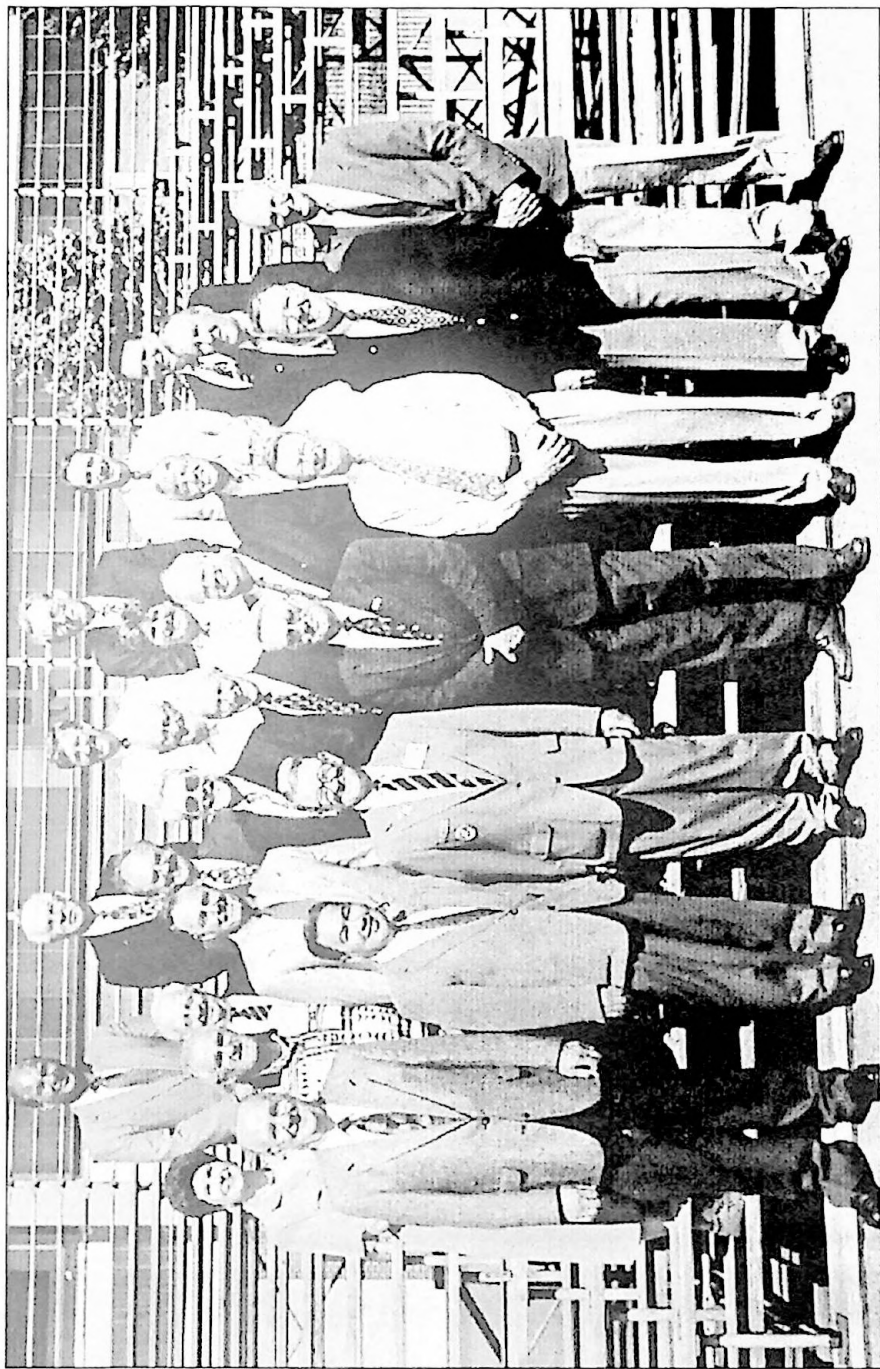
Scott asked Ed Krol to take the lead in launching a Club website.³⁴ By January, 1998, Ed was working with Denton Brown and Bruce Rogers of Savoy Rotary to set up and maintain the page, as well as a District site under Paul Luedtke's oversight. At Scott's suggestion, the Board approved purchase of a digital camera so that same-week photos could be published in *The Fizz*.³⁵

The Salvation Army drive raised a record \$12,500. In January, Doug Nelson began working on a membership database that would include

³⁴ www.rotarydistrict6490.org/champaign

³⁵ The camera was not purchased. Same-week photos have been provided by Scott.





Front Row, R-L: Lott Thomas, Bill Kuhne, Don Moyer Jr., Dave Lawrence, Frank Keck, Ken Gunji, Art Skelton
 2nd Row, R-L: Leonard Flynn, Scott Anderson Sr., Kim Keene, Dan Crispin, Terry Davis, Peter Tomaras, Jim Acheson, Tom Morgan, Jan Bahr
 3rd Row, R-L: Dick Knieriem, Tom Good, Dick Foley, Ron Kiddoo, Bobby Eisner
 Top Row, R-L: Scott Anderson Jr., Ron Bates, Dave Thars, Bud Rodenick, Gary Wackerlin

Roster information as well as family details. The January 26 Club meeting was designated "Rotary Youth Day," and was the first regular meeting in more than 30 years conducted entirely by children of Rotarians and members of the Interact Club. The "cast" included four granddaughters of Bobby Eisner Jr., plus numerous sons and daughters of other Club members. Brooke Anderson (granddaughter of Scott, daughter of Scott Jr.) chaired the meeting – as had Scott during his father's 1963-64 presidency. Kids greeted, introduced, led the pledge, and provided the entertainment. The Interactors presented their own "Bottom-Line" list: "Reasons Why Your Kids Know More Than You Do." Examples:



Brooke Anderson (2nd from left) and Friends at Rotary Youth Day

No. 6 - Everything worth knowing has occurred in the last ten years - and you missed it all when it was on MTV.

No. 4 - We're learning in high school what you learned in college.

No. 1 - Being newer, our chips are faster and our hard drives are bigger.

RYE students from Brazil and Argentina spoke; one Interactor discussed her participation in 1997 RYLA; Interactors introduced the January High School Student Merit Awardees, and they announced a joint Rotary-Interact project to install drywall at a Habitat for Humanity house. A few months later, 17 Club members, four Rotary sons, a Rotary spouse, and more than a dozen Interactors worked a combined 84 hours on three Saturdays on the drywalling project. The Club determined that one goal of the upcoming Action Auction would be a construction trailer for Habitat for Humanity.

The February 2 meeting was a sad one, as Len Flynn gave a eulogy and presented a resolution in memory of Guy M. Duker, who had passed away in January. President Scott presented the resolution to Ernestyne Duker, along with Guy's Rotary badge. Then Jan Bahr led the gathering in "Thanks for the Memory" – the song Guy had requested – with revised lyrics by (of course) Guy, himself.

At its February meeting, the Board named Nina Eisner president-elect designee. As WGRC's second woman president, Nina would preside during 1999-2000, the last full Rotary year of the 20th century. And new Literacy Committee chair Bob Wedgeworth declared his intention to investigate the possibility of eradicating functional illiteracy in the community. *The News-Gazette* expressed interest in working with WGRC on this challenge.

Although there will never be another Guy Duker, no Rotary song leader is more dynamic than District Governor Frank Keck when he leads "Smile," Rotary's "own" song. But Frank was to demonstrate a more extreme pitch of extroversion than his rousing rendition of "Smile." As the District Conference approached, David Thies (who had

responsibility for building Conference attendance) promised Club members a taste of the planned entertainment.

He introduced WGRCer Lori Tate Simon, who launched into a medley of Supremes tunes with Dave on the keyboard and Doug Nelson on guitar.

Suddenly in waltzed three "women" in sequined black dresses, wigs and heels, who began to gyrate as back up singers. It took close scrutiny to recognize these "ladies" as

President Scott, Governor Frank, and President-Elect Tom Costello. In Scott's words: "I am confident that this 'performance' evoked more hearty laughter from members than any other moment I have witnessed at Champaign Rotary." Few would disagree.



Lori Tate Simon and The "Supremes" -
Scott Anderson Jr. Cropped Out as Too Ugly

In a return to serious proceedings, Karyl Wackerlin, assisted by Page Parkhill, presented a program on Operation Rainbow's latest Philippines mission, supported for a third year by WGRC. Operation Rainbow is a legacy of Page's parents, Bill and Charlotte Johnson.³⁶ Page went along on this trip, and shared with members the emotional and spiritual aspects of her journey. WICD-TV Channel 15 produced a five-part video series on Operation Rainbow.

In April, the short-term Rotary Youth Exchange with Corbeil-Essones returned after being cancelled in 1997 because of strikes in France. John Elder presented the Salvation Army's Outstanding Community Service Award to the WGRC, the only organization to receive the award at the Army's annual meeting. Thirty-nine high school sophomores and 25 returning juniors attended the second District RYLA encampment at Allerton Park, with Rotarians from many clubs "making it happen" for District Governor Frank Keck.

The May 1-3 District 6490 Conference, organized by Denton Brown and promoted by Dave Thies, was a smashing success. The Friday evening international dinner was highlighted by the appearance of Maria Larsen de Lie, the Club's 1977 full-year exchange student from Argentina. Maria, along with the president, vice president and secretary

³⁶ Please see p. 106 for the Operation Rainbow story.



Marla Larsen de Ller

of the Azul Rotary Club, thanked WGRC and the District for supplying much-needed neo-natal equipment to their children's hospital. The Argentinians then presented the program at the May 4 WGRC meeting, where Governor Frank presented each of them with a District 6490 pin.

At the District Conference, WGRC again won the Presidential Citation for Balanced Club Achievement, and was

honored for both the highest total and highest per capita contributions to the Rotary Foundation. *The Fizz* won the best large-club newsletter award, and the Club received a District award for each avenue of service, with Rotary Youth Day receiving special attention. Jill Wagner arranged a trade show booth and put together large photographs (mostly by President Scott) of Club activities with text explanations. A final highlight was Governor Keck's presentation of the District Vocational Service Award for 1997-98 to Jim Turpin, long-time WDWS/WHMS radio station manager and "Voice of the Illini." Jim was chosen for his exemplary record of service to his profession and to his staff. As he stepped aside,



Jim Turpin on the Job

Governor Frank accepted a new job: leading the first all-teacher Group Study Exchange Team to Malaysia in the fall of 1998. This special additional District GSE team had been endowed by the late Past District Governor and RI Service Above Self Laureate, Lowell Samuel of Effingham.

Tom Good chaired Action Auction VIII to \$128,000 in revenue:

\$78,000 coming from the auction and dinner, and \$42,000 from the raffle of a Chevy LT Blazer. Four local programs shared \$52,000 in immediate grants: \$33,000 to the Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club to establish a new Teen Center;

\$10,000 to Champaign Unit 4 Schools for a handicapped-accessible playground at Marquette School;

\$6,000 to Women in Transition for playground fencing; and \$3,000 to Habitat for Humanity for a construction trailer.



Tom Good, Greg Cozad Run Auction Raffle with Tom Cornell (in spotter hat)

As he wound up his presidential year, Scott presented WGRC Four Avenues of Service Awards to John Ady (Club), Kip Pope (Vocational), Roger Martin (International), and John Elder and Thom Brown (Community). Stan Rankin received a special award for being the year's leading donor to the Rotary Foundation. Stan, a member only since 1996, may have been the quickest Paul Harris Fellow after induction ever, and within months, he would become the Club's 11th RF Benefactor.



Conference Chair
Denton Brown with
Governor Frank Keck

Tom Good³⁷ and Denton Brown shared the Rotarian of Year Award – Tom for chairing the Action Auction, and Denton for coordinating Youth and Student Affairs Committees and running the District Conference. The Eisner Award for outstanding new member also went to two people: Bob Aldridge for the Habitat for Humanity project,



Bob Aldridge and Jill Wagner,
Eisner Awardees

and Jill Wagner for co-chairing the Club Fellowship and Social Committees, as well as for her District Conference display. And to Doug Nelson, Scott presented the Rotary International Four Avenues of Service

Award, newly created by RI for demonstrated support of the Object of Rotary through participation in all Four Avenues. Doug became the first District 6490 Rotarian to receive this Award.



Doug Nelson Accepts
RI Four Avenues of Service Award

Scott commended the Club members for carrying off both the District Conference and Action Auction within a few weeks, and for expanding service in many other ways while having fun doing it. He ended his "swan song" by reading his last list himself, this one the "Top Ten Things I Will Miss Not Being President of Champaign Rotary." The only one we'll

mention is: "Dancing in Drag with Keck and Costello." At the outset of his presidency, Scott honored his father for his Rotary values, "which inspired his son." Beyond any doubt, son Scott had honored his father's values in true Anderson fashion.

³⁷ Tom Good, that "excellent man," thereby became the only two-time winner of the ROY award.

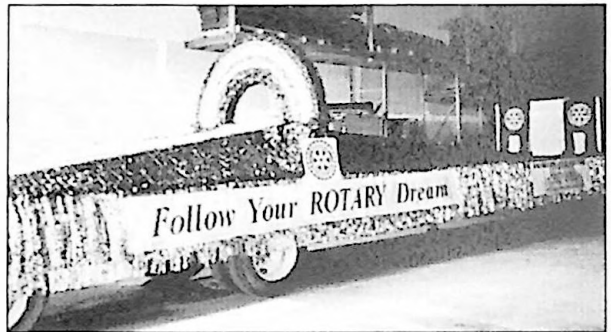


Preceded by his reputation as a toastmaster/jokemaster, Tom launched his presidency with his own "Top Ten" List: "Reasons It's Great Scott Anderson Is No Longer President." These reasons included:

- We now have a president who is used to spending other people's money.
- Bobby Eisner will not be permitted at podium.
- Club members can now look at ties bought at T J Maxx instead of Brooks Brothers.
- New president has hair color that closely resembles that of most club members.
- There will be no more "Top Ten" lists.

Tom adopted RI's theme for the year, "Follow Your Rotary Dream," for the Club and appointed three new committees: Rotary in Action, focused on community service; Web Site; and Council of Past Presidents, the latter to be periodically tapped for their input and counsel.

On July 4, the WGRC Freedom Celebration float, "Follow Your Rotary Dream," won the first-place trophy in the Non-Professionally Built Float Division, thanks to co-chairs Jill Wagner and Kay Machula, who coordinated the efforts of seven WGRCers, one Rotary spouse, Gaston Fulquet (the Club's long-term exchange student from Argentina), and three Interactors.



WGRC's 1st Place Freedom Celebration Float

Another goodwill ambassador sponsored by the Yanai Rotary Club³⁸ arrived. Akiko Takemura, a college student at Oshima National College of Maritime Technology, "couldn't believe" the flat land and endless fields, or Lake Michigan – she thought it was an ocean. One of her "cultural awareness" experiences was picking sweet corn for the Corn Roast. *The Fizz* published excerpts from her application essay:

What we read in newspapers and see on television are often bad things about countries and cultures. I would like to learn what is good about them. Problems arise from differences in values and lifestyles...to solve such problems, it is important to recognize the

³⁸ Again, see pp. 64-6 in *Steps Going Up* for the origins of the Yanai-WGRC sister-club relationship.

other person's viewpoint and try to understand each other. Therefore, I wish to travel abroad and live with people for an extended time, to really get to know them. I feel that being an exchange student will be enjoyable and helpful, and improve my understanding of the world outside of Japan. It will help me develop better communication skills and grow as an international person.



Tony Peressini

With those words, Akiko neatly summarized the concept of Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE). The summer of 1998 saw 20 outbound short-term RYE students from District 6490. On August 3, Tony Peressini presented a program describing the experiences of the Group Study Exchange team that he had led to southern Italy the previous spring. Tony, whose parents were born in Italy, had previously visited Italy and had hosted a long-term exchange student from Parma.

On September 12, under the leadership of Bob Aldridge, 16 Rotarians and spouses built 18 Dream Houses (large play houses for children). This was a District-endorsed hands-on project, and involved people from the Champaign West and Urbana Rotary clubs as well. The houses were placed with pre-schools and day care centers that had been contacted by Jill Wagner and Kay Machula, Public Relations Committee co-chairs.

Director for International Service Doug Nelson proposed Club involvement in Shelters for Underprivileged Families, a three-year pilot program of the Humanitarian Grants Programs of the Rotary Foundation. Similar to Habitat for Humanity projects, houses would be built in developing countries at a cost under \$2,000. Recipients would share in construction and maintain the houses at no cost to Rotary. Participating clubs would pick a specific geographic area and project, pair up with another district, and then apply for a Matching Grant. District Governor Jack Wilz favored the project, and Doug suggested an investment of \$1,000. The Board agreed, and Champaign Rotary became the first District 6490 club to adopt Shelters for Underprivileged Families.

Inspired by the work of Kathe Keck, WGRC chose to help Ugandan families. In 1997, Kathe had traveled to Uganda to investigate potential international service projects, and had identified a combined literacy and income-generating project for Kabale, Uganda [the complete project is described on p. 110]. On November 9, Kathe informed Club members that District 6490 had adopted her Uganda project and she asked for help in raising money that would lead to a Matching Grant from the Rotary Foundation. That help would be forthcoming. On the same day, President Tom welcomed Kathe as an Honorary member of WGRC. Showing that she did not equate "honorary" to "ceremonial," Kathe

immediately volunteered to be one of the Club's five escorts for the Children's Holiday Shop, sponsored by Crisis Nursery of Champaign County.

Ken Gunji, World Community Service/International Exchange chair, gave a Rotary Foundation report: In 1997-98, RF awarded 1,206 Ambassadorial Scholarships to students from 71 countries to study in 70 countries. The PolioPlus commitment had reached \$313 million as of June 1998; more than one billion children had received oral polio vaccine; and 160 countries reported zero cases in 1997. In 1996-97, WGRC members had contributed an average of \$48 to the RF, but the world average was \$50 per member. Gunji challenged members to raise, not lower, the world standard.



Bill Krahling and Tom Cornell
Lead the Mount Union Alma Mater

As a reward for an active half-year of Rotary service, President Tom announced that the first-ever "WGRC Holiday Social" would take place at Jillian's – with meeting make-up credit. It was undoubtedly the latter benefit that prompted so many hard-working Rotarians to march into Jillian's to take responsible steps in prevention of dehydration.

Bill Krahling's Mount Union College Purple Raiders won their third straight NCAA Division III championship, pushing their undefeated, untied streak to 42 games, including yet another victory over

President Tom's John Carroll University Blue Streaks.

Kathe Keck had asked Champaign Rotarians to bring books and school supplies to their December meetings, including the Family Holiday Party – and they did. The first "Rotary in Action" book-packing session took place on January 23 from 8 a.m. to noon, followed by a second session on February 13. Books were boxed for proper packing in trans-oceanic shipping containers.

An historic event had taken place in California on October 23, but the report did not reach Champaign Rotarians until January 18, when *The Fizz* reprinted this article from the *Rotary Times*, the Rotary District 5220 newsletter:

Rotary's Greatest Chefs Ignite Under One Roof

On October 23, four Rotarians arrived at the home of the North Stockton Rotary Club's immediate past president, Phyllis Jan Nusz, to fulfill their obligation on an item purchased at their "Action Auction" in Champaign, IL on 12 June, 1998.

Nusz, en route to the RI Convention in Indianapolis, bid on a five-course dinner for twelve prepared by the "First Families" (District 6490 Governor and First Lady Frank and Kathe Keck, and President and First Lady of the Champaign Rotary Club, Scott and Donna Anderson), at their house - or yours!

Even though Phyllis lived in Stockton, the four chefs agreed to fly to California to put on their dinner. At twilight on Saturday, October 24, twelve Rotarians and their spouses arrived at Phyllis' home in black tie and evening attire. The



Rotary Chefs Frank and Kathe Keck. Scott and Donna Anderson

special guest was Megan Boelter, the District 5220 Ambassadorial Scholar who will be studying in Uganda, Africa beginning in July, 1999.

Guests were greeted with the sound of music being played by the pianist for the evening, and

adjourned to the rumpus room for cocktails. While half the Illinois team served refreshments in their newly-acquired WGRC chef's jackets, the other half were busy at work in the kitchen. The festivities began with the guests snacking on chicken liver pâté and listening to the story of the North Stockton Rotary Club's international project, "Seeds of Hope," presented by project founder Mel Hansen. Since 1993, over 28,000 pounds of seed have been sent around the world for use by 29 Rotary clubs and 10 humanitarian organizations.

Following a champagne [or perhaps Champaign?] toast by PDG Keck, the guests moved into two dining areas and began their gourmet experience. The "First Families" dinner menu included *coquilles St. Jacques*; *salade avec* pears, walnuts, *et* Stilton; sorbet; grilled Chateaubriand, broiled tomatoes, *courgette gratinee*, mashed potatoes *avec* fresh chopped arugula; Grand Marnier® soufflé *avec crème Anglaise*; coffee *et* liqueurs; and cigars.

At the end of the 2-hour experience, the guests adjourned into the formal salon to congratulate the chefs and to listen to a presentation by First Lady Kathe Keck about her new Rotary humanitarian and literacy program in Kabale, Uganda. Guests then "paid the bill," with hostess Phyllis presenting a check for the amount of her Illinois bid (to go ultimately to the Uganda project)³⁹ and guests paying \$100 each, with that money going to Mel Hansen for "Seeds of Hope."

It was a truly inspirational evening, spent sharing and implementing the Rotary International theme: "Show Rotary Cares."

³⁹ The California trip resulted from a second bid for the chefs: the actual auction-night bid went to WGRC, Inc.

Even if words could be found, no further comment is required.

A flow of activities, sparked by ongoing Costello-Keene and Costello-Eisner repartee routines, kept Rotarians on their toes throughout the spring. On March 1 Gary Wackerlin reported that the Rotary Foundation had approved a \$15,000 Matching Grant for Operation Rainbow medical equipment. The Board approved \$2,500 to upgrade the Champaign-Urbana Symphony's computer system. April began with a second "Rotary After Hours" social, this one at Galileo's atop the University Inn. And from France, three sponsors arrived with 20 students in tow for what would be the final chapter in the Corbeil-Essones exchange.

Champaign West Rotary undertook the "Relay for Life" as a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, and Jim Acheson organized significant support for the project by WGRCers. Denton Brown orchestrated the highly successful third annual RYLA encampment at Allerton Park, with 42 sophomores and 19 returning juniors. There was also a senior RYLA reunion weekend in March.

The Community Awards Committee, chaired by Gary Wackerlin, presented Community Service Awards to five deserving individuals: Sister Beverly Ann Wilson, who devoted 47 years of caring service to Mercy Hospital/Covenant Medical Center; Sondra Libman, board member of the Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club (where she "is in the trenches," according to nominator Elisabeth Barnett), and also founder of the C-U Community Schools Foundation, the primary recipient of the 1995 Action Auction; Dannel McCollum, who served three consecutive terms as Champaign's mayor – "frugal with the city's money, but not with his time and energy"; Col. Robert C. V. Hughes who, through the Red Cross and RSVP, devoted 13 years to providing transportation for the elderly and disabled to physician appointments and shopping; and to Donald C. Carter, 29 1/2 years on the Champaign Police Department, the last seven as chief, who inaugurated community policing and raised the level of professionalism and the concept of service to people of community.



Dannel McCollum Receives Community Service Award from President Tom and Rolland Kelley

The Turner Vocational Scholarships, now called the Parkland Vocational Scholarship Awards, had not been awarded since February, 1997. President Tom restarted that engine and, at the June 14 meeting, Carl Meyer and Zelema Harris presented \$500 awards to five Parkland

students. At the District 6490 Conference, WGRC won another Presidential Citation for Balanced Club Achievement, and was the Top Club in Annual Program Giving to the Rotary Foundation.

George Scheetz' *Fizz* reported on the June 14 youth-led Club meeting as follows:

Jack Costello, son of President Tom, was in the chair and ran a tight meeting! Daniel Thies led the singing of "America the Beautiful," accompanied on the piano by his sister, Stephanie. Brent Baxter served as invocator, and Theresa Lawrence, granddaughter of Dave Lawrence, handled introductions. Kaitlyn Poor, granddaughter and niece of more Rotarians than you can even imagine, served as greeter. President Pro-tem Jack invited PDG Bob Eisner to come forward, proposed a sporting wager to benefit the Rotary Foundation, and proceeded to fleece the fully flummoxed Bobby with a clever bit of prestidigitation, to the delight of the crowd. Then Daniel and Stephanie Thies - plus the Future Rotary-Aires, comprised of Jackie and Daniel Piland, Maxwell Golema, and Christina Turino (daughter of Elisabeth Barnett) - led the gathering in a wild version of "Old Bob Toalson Had a Farm," in which cows went quack, pigs went moo, ducks went oink, and turtles went ____!



Donna Anderson.
Eisner Awardee
1998-99

At his final meeting as Club president, Tom presented: Club Service awards to Denton Brown, John Elder, Nancy Martin, and George Scheetz; Unsung Heroes Awards to James Acheson and William Stallman; and Particularly-Helpful-to-the-President Awards to Scott Anderson Jr., Duane Cole, David Janson, and Douglas Nelson. He named John Ady Rotarian of the Year, and presented



1998-99 ROY John Ady with Past
President Scott Anderson Jr.

the Eisner Award for outstanding new Rotarian to Donna Anderson. On August 2, Scott Anderson Jr. presented another marvelous slide and sound program on the highlights of Tom's year, and Bob Atkins presented Tom with a commemorative photo scrapbook.



WGRC's second woman president returned from the RI Convention in Singapore with much more than four banners and the recipe for a "dynamite Singapore Sling." In her opening remarks, she espoused an expansive and precisely defined vision of WGRC's role in the work of Rotary. She wanted to emphasize literacy and children's issues, while gaining greater community visibility to help promote the Club's service projects and increase pride in membership. Rather than initiating new programs, Nina called for a change in attitude – "a more forward-looking, flexible Rotary." Her priorities:

- Membership development: "We need to recruit and retain committed members; not enough Rotarians are committed to fellowship and service."
- Changes in orientation: "Include mentoring and other aids for new members."
- Commitment: "Get involved right away, and value your experience."
- Fellowship: "Continue our strong traditions and develop new traditions. All programs of service begin with fellowship."

In terms of service, Nina planned a close look at our funding history, and would ask early engagement in long-range planning and setting of priorities. "A focus in recent years," she said, "is securing a bright future for children, both locally and internationally. We can do that; we're eradicating polio. We ordinary Rotarians accomplish extraordinary things." She ended with this:

That's it. No rocket science, just back to the basics and carrying on the legacy for our future. Imagine our potential impact: we can change the future of our Club, our community, and ultimately our world by pursuing RI President Carlos Ravizza's theme: "Act with Consistency, Credibility, and Continuity." The opportunity of membership is service.

Considered unusually articulate and persuasive (despite being the first president to address the members as "Y'all" and "All Y'all"),⁴⁰ Nina quickly set new standards for efficient organization. She moved Board meetings to The Chancellor at 11:00 a.m. on each third Monday with the unheard-of time limit of 45 minutes. Meeting agendas and Service Area Updates/Actions Required sheets would be circulated in advance to facilitate the "flow of communication and direction of Champaign Rotary."

⁴⁰ For Northerners: y'all is singular, all y'all is plural, all y'all's is plural possessive.

As of August, the Club leaders in perfect Rotary attendance were Bill Bash, Tom Morgan and Kyle Robeson with 30 years; Art Skelton with 23 years; and Roger Sinott and Tod Dawson with 22 years. That means they were among the 229 who attended the Annual Corn Roast at Rotary Hill in July. Hiromi Morihira arrived as the Club's ninth Yanai exchange student. Nina announced that RF Matching Grant Project No. 9643, which funded medical equipment for cleft lip and palate surgeries for indigent children in Cavite, Philippines, was completed – kudos to Gary Wackerlin and the Operation Rainbow team. The next destination for Rainbow would be Nicaragua.



President Nina Helps Dick Burwash
at 1999 Corn Roast

In October, Nina called attention to "The story behind the Four Way Test," an article by Darrell Thompson in *The Rotarian*. He wrote:

"Eloquently simple, stunning in its power, undeniable in its results, the Four Way Test offers a...positive vision in the midst of a world full of tension, confusion, and uncertainty."

Duane Cole and Pat Dorsey, Attendance Committee co-chairs, organized a successful 100% attendance day on November 15. A week later came the 81st Annual Football Banquet, co-chaired by Dana Brenner and Joe DeLuca. This third banquet at the Illini Union attracted 717 persons – yet another record. A sad, but inevitable development on the football front: Rowan College finally ended Bill Krahling's Mount Union College Purple Raiders NCAA record 54-game winning streak in a Division III semifinal game. At 120-7-1 for the decade of the 1990s, however, the Purple Raiders still owned the best record in all of college football. Also in November, PDG Frank Keck took his all-teacher GSE team to Malaysia.

The final program in November featured Alan A. Herbst, principal pastor, Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church of Champaign, and a former Rotarian. Father Herbst entitled his remarks "I Gave My Best," describing the impact of Rotarians' generosity in this way: "Rotarians, individually and collectively, give their very best to ease the debt of grief in the world." He played a CD featuring Nathan Gunn, a C-U native and UI graduate, singing "American Anthem" (subtitled "I Gave My Best to You"). The meeting was unique not only because a non-Rotarian preached Rotary to



The Reverend Alan Herbst

Rotarians, but also because Father Alan graced the occasion by contributing yet another \$1,000 to the Foundation, giving him six sapphires on his Paul Harris Fellowship pin. Introducer Alan Ryle matched Father Alan's gift, completing his own Paul Harris Fellow recognition.

In December, International Service Director Doug Nelson and the Club's International Hospitality Committee hosted a Christmas party for all UI Ambassadorial Scholars and their Rotarian hosts. Nelson also reported that the WGRC membership database he began to build in 1998 was completed.



Kathe Keck

Kathe Keck reported on the World Community Service program she had initiated in 1997 in Uganda. In an extension of Kathe's literacy/income-generating project for the people of Kabale, Past District Governor Wes Rush (Danville) raised money for a second Matching Grant to send 100 solar ovens for Kabale. Commending Kathe's leadership, President Nina announced that 139 solar ovens would soon go to Uganda, along with more equipment for Kathe's project. Soon to leave for Kabale, Kathe asked members to provide a gift in recognition of David Tindywabe's 30th anniversary of teaching the blind at Kabale, offering to match donations up to \$300. She got a single gift of \$300 to match her own, and additional contributions of \$750.

The Club's Salvation Army collections, led by 119 bell-ringers, reached \$12,917 – yes, another record. The Project Planning Committee approved awards to worthy community projects including The Reading Group, Family Service, Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU), UISES,⁴¹ and UI Wheelchair Athletics. The PolioPlus campaign sought additional donations, with \$4 per member qualifying the Club for PolioPlus Partners. WGRC raised \$1,105, or \$5.24 per member. The District 6490 goal for Rotary Foundation giving was \$45 per member, or \$9,500 for Champaign Rotary; members raised \$11,500 by the end of February.

When Frank and Kathe Keck returned from their Uganda trip, they presented a gift from the Rotary Club of Kabale: a woven basket with the inscription, "Thanks to Champaign Rotarians." Champaign Mayor Dan McCollum declared March 30 as "Glen W. Wensch Day" and presented his proclamation to Glen and his wife, Lois Anne, at Carle Arbours, where Glen now resides. Nina's Board agreed to participate with the other four area Rotary Clubs on a Habitat for Humanity House in the year 2000 to the extent of \$16,000 for materials, plus hands-on labor. WGRC sponsored two teams to support Champaign West Rotary's "Relay for Life" for the American Cancer Society. WGRC hosted the

⁴¹ University of Illinois Securities Exchange Simulation: an educational program directed by UI Assistant Professor Elisabeth Oltheten enabling Centennial H.S. students to "purchase" and track securities.

reciprocating GSE team from Malaysia. The Club sponsored two sophomores and one junior to the 2000 RYLA camp, which attracted a new record of 45 sophomores.

April also featured Marc Changnon's presentation on the Education to Careers and Professions (ECP) Program at Centennial High School. Grasping the connection of ECP to Rotary's Vocational Service avenue, Club members adopted a rare regular-meeting resolution on Monday, June 5, commending the Board of Champaign Unit 4 School District for developing the ECP program at Centennial.

Another Vocational Service-related program was "Ethical Issues in Business in a Global Community," presented by Parkland College Professor of Philosophy Donald Nolen. In honor of the occasion, two years after the passing of Guy Duker, one of Guy's compositions was sung:

"The Four Way Test" (to the tune of "Is it True What They Say About Dixie?"):

Can we test all our thoughts, words and actions
With the test that is four-square and true?
Can we carry out this ideal...at work, at home at play?
Can we keep this goal before us, and can we always say:
Is it true? Is it fair? Is it building –
Friendship's bond, and good will every day?
When we benefit all through...our proven Four Way Test
We will know we have done our best!

On May 8, in honor of President Nina (whose brother, Mike, tours with John Mellencamp), and perhaps in realization that but two months remained in Nina's presidential year, Jan Bahr, Tom Cornell, Doug Nelson (on guitar) and Dave Thies (on keyboard) led the members in a rousing rendition of "Bye, Bye Love," the 1957 hit song made popular by the Everly Brothers.



Doug Nelson, Jan Bahr, and Tom Cornell
Serenade Nina with "Bye, Bye Love"

At the District 6490 Conference in late May, Champaign Rotary won the following awards:

- Governor's Trophy for Club of the Year. WGRC became the first winner of this new award, recognizing overall achievement in all areas of service.
- International Service Achievement Award for the Uganda Project.
- Vocational Service Award for the Parkland College scholarship program

- Top Club in Total Annual Program Fund Giving to the Rotary Foundation, surpassing the District goal of \$45 per member by contributing more than \$60, boosted by ten new Paul Harris Fellows, 16 new sustaining members, and one benefactor.
- RI Presidential Citation for Balanced Club Achievement.

Jan Bahr was recognized for her work as Assistant District Governor; both Scott Anderson Jr. and Doug Nelson received the Rotary Foundation District Service Award. The frosting on WGRC's District cake was Past District Governor Frank Keck's induction into the District 6490 Hall of Honor. Worthy of note is that 1999-2000 RI President Carlos Ravizza established a District Conference Award for that conference meeting the criteria for the best conference in any zone. For Zone 29, the 2000 District 6490 Conference, under District Governor Gary Shore, was cited. That made WGRC the Club of the Year at the "Best District Conference" in a multi-state zone of 14 districts, adding luster to the leadership of Governor Shore and President Nina.



Past President Carlos Ravizza
with Art Skelton at a
District 6490 Conference

At the June 19 Club meeting, Nina convened a special forum: "The Future of the Rotary Club of Champaign." She reported that Rotary International membership declined during 1998-99, the first time this had happened since the Great Depression, and that WGRC membership had declined from 219 to 205 during the 1999-2000 year. She then broke the Club into small groups based on years of Rotary Service, for a dialogue structured around 12 questions addressing issues of membership recruitment, development, and retention. She described such issues as the main challenge facing Champaign Rotary, RI, and service clubs in general. The facilitators met the following day to evaluate the member input, and Nina promised continuing study of the problem and a future report to the members.

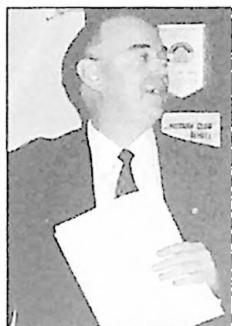
As Nina was about to deliver her year-end remarks, Tom Costello took the podium to emcee a surprise roast, ably aided by Ron Kiddoo and Bobby Eisner (Nina's father-in-law), to the poignant strains of "My Old Kentucky Home" in the background. The epithets, however, were more toast than roast. Costello congratulated Nina on "the incredible quality of your presidency," and Bobby Eisner praised her as "the second-best president we've had"—second to himself, presumably.

Nina then reprised the theme-based goals she had set coming in, commenting that the thrust of her year had been about "carrying out the legacy and traditions while taking responsibility for our future." She

gave preliminary feedback on the "Future of Champaign Rotary" meeting, and then read off a page and a half of Club achievements for 1999-2000, most of which are set forth above. She recognized Nancy Martin for serving as Club secretary since 1994, Ron Kiddoo for serving as Club treasurer since 1998, and Art Skelton for his continuing service as executive secretary. She honored Nancy J. Casey with the Robert Eisner Jr. Award for outstanding new member, and named Duane D. Cole Rotarian of the Year with these words:



Nancy Casey Accepts 1999-2000
Elsner Award From—Who Else?—
Bobby Eisner



Duane Cole,
ROY 1999-2000

Duane has ably served as chair of Attendance and Membership Retention Committee for the past two years.†He also served on the District Membership and Retention Committee. On November 15, 1999, he coordinated a highly successful Perfect Attendance Day, only the 2nd time in our history we achieved 100%.⁴² He revised our exit interview given to departing members and assisted the Board in developing the survey used in the assessment of membership satisfaction. An incoming member of the Board of Directors in the 2000-2001 Rotary year, Duane exemplifies the ideals of Rotary.

Like other WGRC past presidents, Nina would remain visible and influential. At the October 15, 2001 Club program, "Renewing Our Rotary Vows," Nina was among several past presidents who offered their thoughts. Excerpts from her comments on member involvement merit inclusion here:

Rotary nurtures our hearts and our souls (if not our wallets)...We are extraordinarily powerful in support of our initiatives...Seek service on committees that interest you...your service choices must be personally meaningful, or you will just sit here and have lunch.

⁴² Our records indicate it may have been the 3rd or 4th time.



Mark began his year with 214 members, challenging them to be pro-active as they work toward the goals of the mission statement of RI President Frank J. Devlyn: "Create Awareness and Take Action – In Our Club, In Our Community, In Our World." He specifically called for pro-activity in RI and RF programs such as PolioPlus, Literacy, Clean Water, Low-Cost Shelter, Hunger Alleviation, Preservation of Planet Earth, and At-Risk Children. He urged involvement in elimination of poverty, working partnerships with other organization, increasing the Club's per-capita Foundation goal to \$55, and support of Rotary Youth Exchange and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA). Finally, he asked for support of RI President Frank J. Devlyn's focus on ending avoidable blindness.

As though to lend weight to Mark's endorsement of his program, Frank Devlyn's schedule included a July 22 official visit at a special 5:00 p.m. meeting hosted by the six Rotary Clubs of Champaign County at the Champaign Country Club. President Devlyn's father was born in the District 6490 town of Gilman, and his roots in Central Illinois "go deep." President Mark suggested 100% attendance by WGRC members, and asked voluntary contributions to RF in support of President Devlyn's Avoidable Blindness Task Force.

On that special evening, President Mark called the meeting to order. With David Thies at the piano, PDG Frank Keck led the gathering in his dynamic rendition of "Smile," after which Mark introduced the presidents of the other host clubs. The program included many presentations, including a RF Certificate of Appreciation to Kathe Keck for the Uganda Project and 11 Paul Harris Awards, including one to Immediate Past President Nina

Eisner. The hosts presented a check for \$1,500 to President Devlyn for his Avoidable Blindness Task Force. Devlyn was the sixth Rotary International President to visit Champaign-Urbana while in office, and the first since W. Jack Davis in December, 1978.⁴³



Past President Nina Eisner, President Jennifer Shelby of C-U Sunrise, RI President Frank Devlyn, and President Mark Stolkin

⁴³ See p. 69, *Steps Going Up*.

RI President Devlyn's remarks included these edited thoughts:

As we enter a new century, our clubs, our communities, and our world have an array of problems that are not being adequately addressed. As Rotarians, we can choose to overlook these problems, or we can do something about them. I hope that as we approach Rotary's 100th Anniversary, we make it our priority to *do something*.

We have the potential to strengthen our clubs, and the credibility to generate public support and implement solutions to problems in more than 29,500 communities of the world. We also have the extensive international network to expand our humanitarian actions to all parts of the globe.

Although the International President's visit grabbed top billing, we cannot overlook an unprecedented decision by new Club President Mark who, in a bold, although characteristically brash, act, named Bobby Eisner as his "Aide de Camp," inviting him to sit at the head table throughout the year. Overcoming his self-effacing shyness, Bobby accepted the assignment.

Yoshiko Shibanaoka was the Club's latest Yanai Exchange Good Will Ambassador, and described her visit as "a precious connection for me." The local clubs' RYE Consortium dispatched a long-term student to Germany. WGRC paid the largest portion of the Consortium expenses, \$1,899, followed by Urbana, then Champaign West. The five area clubs also renewed their determination to combine efforts on a Habitat for Humanity house, now scheduled to break ground in August, 2001. Champaign Rotary's pro-rata share was set at \$20,980 in cash or goods and services. President Mark's Board also voted to participate in the District 6490 Zimbabwe Literacy Project, headed by PDG Paul Luedtke of Urbana. Scott Dahman, Club Literacy Committee chair, was named to represent WGRC.



Tom Good with Ford Escape for
Action Auction Raffle

With the RI President's visit behind him, President Mark focused early on Action Auction IX, to which he had assigned a host of committees under Gary Wackerlin. With expectations (a goal of \$135,000) higher than ever, Wackerlin needed something special. That excellent man, Tom Good, drove "something special" smack into the middle of a Monday meeting in The Chancellor's Iowa Room: a new 2001

Ford Escape. With President Mark donating 50% of the vehicle cost, Tom announced a grand raffle of the Escape to help push the Auction to new heights. Tom asked each Rotarian to buy not less than seven \$10 raffle tickets. That would cover the balance of the SUV's cost, and

members would have seven chances to win either the Escape or \$20,000.

The primary Auction recipients were selected: Crisis Nursery of Champaign County, \$25,000 for playground equipment at its new facility; Men's SAFE House, \$15,000 for capital improvements; Prairielands Council, BSA, \$8,500 for mowing equipment at Camp Robert Drake; Champaign County CASA, \$6,750 for a video training program and computer workstation. If the Auction was to net enough for these goals, as well as at least \$50,000 to fund WGRC, Inc. for the next three years, net revenues would have to reach more than \$105,000.



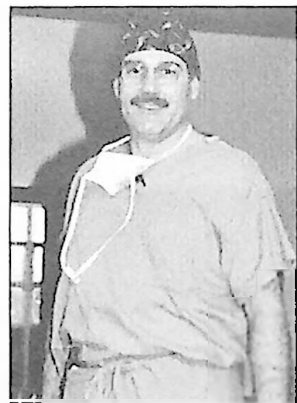
President Mark at 82nd Rotary Football Banquet with UI Tight End Josh Whitman and Assoc. Director of Athletics Terry Cole

President Mark then uttered the catch-phrase (originated by Jim Acheson) that he would repeat often during the year: "All we expect is that you donate everything you own, then come to the Auction and buy it back."

Another of Mark's priorities was a great Rotary Football Banquet, and for leadership he turned again to Dana Brenner and Joe DeLuce. This 82nd banquet hosted by Champaign Rotary, was held for the fourth year at the Illini Union, and again attracted more than 700

persons, welcomed by President Mark. WDWS radio station manager and on-air personality Stevie Jay kept things running smoothly as master of ceremonies.

Honorary WGRCer Michael S. Goldwasser presented a program on Operation Rainbow, which he has served for nine years, averaging more than 50 cleft lip/palate procedures per year. In conjunction with the surgical procedures, the volunteer teams deliver post-graduate education to host country physicians. Said Goldwasser: "I went to school all those years to be able to do things like this." Dr. Goldwasser, and others like him, are living icons of vocational service.



Dr. Michael Goldwasser

The Rotary Foundation announced that it would need another \$400 million to accomplish its goal of eradicating polio globally by 2005. Through PolioPlus Partners, a special committee of District 6490, District Rotarians continued to support the RF effort. In 1999-2000, the District raised another \$68,753. President Mark said that the target through June 30, 2001

was \$5 per Rotarian in the District, but \$26.50⁴⁴ as an original gift for any member joining since June, 1988, the initial campaign year for PolioPlus.



Santa Claus (John Frothingham)
Visits Annual Family Holiday Party.
Dan Crispin and Tom Costello
Have Also Played Santa

At the Annual Family Holiday Party on December 18, PDGs Frank Keck and Bobby Eisner presented Paul Harris Fellow Recognition to 16 members and friends of Champaign Rotary – possibly the largest group of PHFs to be awarded at one time in the history of the Club.⁴⁵ The new honorees included five daughters and three wives of WGRCCers. Rotary spouse Suzanne Aldridge was the featured entertainer. John Elder announced that bell-ringing and other donations established yet another Salvation Army Drive record of nearly \$16,000.

In early spring, President Mark Cannon, a member from 1947 until his October 23, 2000 death, left more than \$1 million, or 1/3 of his estate, in trust for WGRC, Inc. – the largest gift of any kind to the Champaign Rotary Club in its 84-year history. The principal would be held in trust, with only the interest available. Mark appointed a special committee to study just how that interest might best be used. Meanwhile, the Board voted to name the Club's Community Service Award in honor of Joseph H. Cannon.



Joseph H. Cannon

Mark's Board approved: \$1,000 to support Project Goodstart, a program launched by Scott and Annabelle Anderson to provide breakfasts for grade school children who come to school without this important meal; and \$4,341 to Developmental Services Center for the software and devices necessary to individualize computer training for clients with hearing and motor impairments, including traumatic brain injuries.

Board members also authorized \$500 for a new hands-on project, Illini Read Across America, coordinated by Literacy



Scott and Annabelle Anderson,
with Scott Jr. in June, 1998

⁴⁴ \$26.50 was the amount of the first contribution to the Rotary Foundation in 1917, from the Rotary Club of Kansas City, MO.

⁴⁵ As *The Story Continues* goes to press, WGRC boasts more than 368 Paul Harris Fellows, including at least two major donors who may wear the diamond pin (Rotary Foundation contributions of \$10,000 or more).

Committee Chair Scott Dahman. On March 3, Rotarians from WGRC, Urbana, Champaign West, and C-U Sunrise took turns reading to children at the Lincoln Square mall in Urbana. Each club had a station supplied with children's books and a rocking chair for the reader.



Jill Wagner Reads. Children Listen Raptly

WGRC's chair was later donated to the Champaign Public Library. The dollar balance after expenses went to The Reading Group. The Champaign Rotary booth also displayed photos and accounts of past RYLA camps, supplied by Denton Brown. The display attracted the interest of parents, all of whom had, or soon would have, children in high school. About 200 children visited the Champaign Rotary Club booth to

listen to stories read by Denton Brown, Jill Wagner, Terry Harter, Peter Tomaras, and Scott Dahman, plus Scott's wife, Jennifer, and Pat Shepard, Rotary spouse of Jack Shepard. Several members of Centennial's Interact Club also read and assisted at the WGRC station, and the event earned good media coverage.

On March 7, the Rotary Club of Mahomet became 53rd active Rotary club in District 6490. The Mahomet Club was sponsored by Champaign West Rotary, and WGRC presented a special gift at the charter banquet: an engraved bronze bell.

Interactors provided the program for the April 2 Club meeting. Interact President Jeff Grider ("A club that's all about service") introduced his officers and key activity leaders who reviewed highlights of the year's service projects. Interactors served as senior mentors to freshman and sponsored both a picnic and a freshman dance. They raised \$3,000 at their annual October Chili Supper and sponsored a Winter Fiesta. They rang bells for the Salvation Army and shopped for needy families – groups of three Interactors spending \$200, wrapping gifts, and delivering them to families identified by the Salvation Army. This led to their newest project, Cupid's Kitchen, which found them shopping for food, preparing meals, and delivering them to less fortunate families. The project was so successful that the Centennial Student Council adopted it. Interactor Anna Rudolphi then presented the prestigious Eugene H. Mellon Award for Excellence in Teaching to Centennial educator Scott Filkins.

At the April 16 Meeting, Doug Nelson led the members in Guy Duker's immortal version of "When IRS Eyes Are Smiling":

When IRS eyes are smiling, Sure now, watch your pocket book.
Oh, their lilt of fiendish laughter, Lets you know that you've been took!
When IRS men are happy, You just know you've made their day,
And if you run out of mo-ney, You can bet there'll be hell to pay!

Continuing its successful encampments, RYLA 2001 took place on back-to-back weekends, April 27-29 (for returning juniors and seniors) and May 4-6 for the 44 sophomores. Then on May 19, WGRC and Interact members came together for a joint dinner meeting at the Centennial High School track, site of the 2001 "Relay for Life." Participants, including cancer survivors, walked laps through the night, pushing "Relay for Life" to record revenues.



RYLA Kids Negotiate Team Challenge Course

Speaking of records, June 1 will go down in history (this one, at least!) as the date of yet another Action Auction phenomenon. All the numbers set records, beginning with the 530 members and guests who attended the marvelous evening, with dinner arrangements by Auction Chair Gary Wackerlin's wife, Karyl. Bob Scherer donated the largest auction item yet: his motor home. From the astonishing \$190,707 in total revenues, Champaign Rotary realized net proceeds of \$146,911, of which \$55,250 was earmarked for the four lead recipients. The balance of \$91,661 went to WGRC, Inc., for distribution over the next three years. More details may be found on p. 20.



George Scheetz Completes Relay For Life Leg



Past RI President and Mrs. Cliff Dochterman

The District 6490 Conference was held June 8-10 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. Springfield lies outside District 6490, but Governor Dan Thornburgh felt that the historic Lincoln sites, and a candlelight dinner at the Old State Capitol, offered a fascinating backdrop for the Conference. A special highlight: Past RI President Cliff Dochterman was the featured speaker at the Governor's Banquet. WGRC highlights were many, including a Club Service Award for "The Future of the Rotary Club of Champaign." Begun by

Nina Eisner's focus group discussions in June, 2000, and continued with the Board's planning events during 2000-2001, the project culminated with a presentation to the Club on membership recruitment and retention by Steve Carter and George Scheetz on April 30, 2001.

The Club raised \$94 per member in contributions to the Rotary Foundation, easily surpassing the District goal of \$55 and earning the award for the top club in total donations to the RF Annual Fund. Denton Brown became the sixth Champaign Rotarian to be inducted into the District Hall of Honor.

Ending his successful year as Club President, Mark cited as highlights his experiences at the RI Convention in Argentina, the "wonderful opportunity" of hosting RI President Frank Devlyn, and Action Auction IX. He praised the wealth of help and advice offered by members: "You can't stray too far from the right path, or caring input is forthcoming." As for the Auction, Mark said: "I did absolutely nothing, except talk about it. I knew I could watch – with absolute confidence – a well-oiled machine do its thing." In fact, he referred to WGRC as:

a lean, mean fighting force - a very special unit of Rotary International. If I were to choose one word that would describe this year, it would be humbling. In this self-starting, self-motivated group are unbelievably brilliant and hard-working people. The name of Rotary in this community is beautiful, and always will be. I will never forget what a privilege it has been to serve as your president, and I will never forget any of you.



Scott Dahmann, 2000-01
Eisner Award Winner

Mark distributed numerous presidential citations; then he awarded the Eisner Award for outstanding new member to Scott Dahman, and named Gary Wackerlin Rotarian of the Year for his leadership of the incredible Action Auction IX. Scott Anderson Jr.'s "Year in Review" musical slide presentation highlighted many memorable incidents from 2000-2001. Then Tom Cornell (with the debit for the lyrics going to Tom and Jef Farlow-Cornell) led the gathering in a farewell song to the tune of "Bicycle Built for Two":

Stol-kin, Stol-kin, Give me your answer, do
Did you have fun, Being our pres-i-dent
A host to RI Prexy Devlyn, An Action Auction Smash Hit
And so we too, admire you,
Not "good-by-e" Instead – "Shalom."

George H. Scheetz, 2001-2002



From the day George joined WGRC in 1992 (he had been a Rotarian in Sioux City, Iowa), he got involved. He quickly became co-editor of *The Fizz*, taking over as sole editor in June, 1994. Five years later he was elected to the Club Board of Directors, and his energetic enthusiasm propelled him to the presidency. Bob Aldridge put it best: "There are no brakes on that engine." As a harbinger of George's attention to organization, the meeting schedule for his Rotary year was distributed in early May, followed by his ten-page, single-spaced 2001-02 Committee Plan, circulated via e-mail on June 15.

The winds of change blew through the meeting hall as Champaign Rotary's 87th president stepped up. George accepted the gavel on July 2 wearing a star-spangled tie and red, white and blue top hat. That bit of levity belied George's earnest approach to the job, which he amply demonstrated through his July 9 inaugural address, built upon the 2001-2001 theme, "Mankind Is Our Business," and the four challenges to Rotary's business set forth by incoming RI President Richard D. King. Many veteran WGRCers welcomed George's speech as splendid and timely, and, at the request of members, *The Fizz* published all 3,500 words as a special addendum to the July 16 issue. We include brief excerpts:



Richard D. King,
RI President 2001-02

I share Rick King's conviction that Rotary is necessary for the future...our best days lie ahead. In nearly 200 countries and areas of the world, Rotary is poised for the greatest opportunities to do good in the world of any organization in the history of the human race. *Mankind is Our Business*; our product is service...and never before has there been such a demand for our product.

What is the business that brings us here every Monday? For Dr. Michael Goldwasser, operating on a child with cleft palate, that child is Rotary's business. In a village in India, when a Rotarian places polio vaccine on the tongue of a child, that child is Rotary's business. In our community, Rotarians encourage children to read; they are our business. In Uganda, Rotarians work to help women be self-sufficient; they are Rotary's business. In Champaign, members of five Rotary clubs volunteer to build a Habitat for Humanity house; the family that will live there is Rotary's business.

Every second of the day, Rotarians in some part of the world are helping the lame to walk, the blind to see, the deaf to hear. We clothe the naked, feed the hungry, and heal the sick. We bring hope. Who among us could not bear witness to the positive changes, the happiness, the friendships, the purpose, the nobility that has come to each of us because we are participants in the miracle that is Rotary?

George then covered the four challenges King saw to Rotary's business, beginning with declining membership, and set forth how Champaign Rotary proposed to address each of those challenges. Into the fabric of his speech he aptly wove quotes from Oliver Wendell Holmes, Past RI Presidents Richard Evans and Raja Saboo, Winston Churchill, Herbert Hoover, John Adams, and Charles Dickens, before concluding:

You can expect of your Board of Directors all that we can possibly do to support you...and enhance the World's Greatest Rotary Club and Rotary International...We will listen to your concerns and help you meet difficulties you may encounter...we will not ask anything of you that we are not prepared to do ourselves...I solicit your ideas on how to make our Club grow and prosper...no one has a monopoly on what is best for Rotary...I pledge to you the very best of which I am capable, because, like Rick King, I believe that Rotary is God's work on Earth...Let us then have no regret, no misused opportunities. As Rotarians, we are the most dedicated, competent business and professional people on earth. We can make the second century of Rotary service something never dreamed of, and because of our work, the 21st century mankind's best ever...May we proudly proclaim that, for Rotary International and the World's Greatest Rotary Club, this day and always, *Mankind Is Our Business!*



Jim Acheson

Commenting on George's speech and some of his meeting-format changes, resident Club president counsel/critic Jim Acheson opined, "Every so often you kind of feel that we *are* the World's Greatest Rotary Club. Indeed, the potential exists; the outcome depends on the extent to which members endorse and act upon George's vision. Judgment is necessarily reserved for the next volume of *The Story Continues*. But for now, the editors of this volume embrace Rick King's and George Scheetz's theme, "Mankind Is Our Business,"

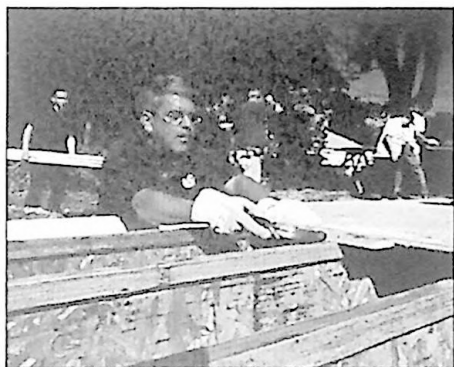
as the finest-ever thematic expression of the Object of Rotary, and have adopted its emblem for our back cover.

The first challenge cited by Presidents King and Scheetz – declining membership – carries increasing urgency for WGRC, which began the year with just 210 members, far below the peak of 267 in 1989. At the July 9 meeting, PDG Ken Gunji, the District's delegate to the Rotary International Institute in June, explained changes in Rotary's classification rules designed to help promote membership gains. Early on, Club leaders attended District and national convocations focusing on Rotary's Global Quest.⁴⁶

⁴⁶ See p. 162, *The Story Continues*.

President George instituted various changes in meeting format, starting with the singing of a different patriotic song at the outset of each meeting, rather than using only "America the Beautiful." Another change was the instituting of birthday tables, whereby on the third Monday of each month, members with birthdays in that month are asked to sit together – this to promote extension of fellowship.

Club Director Donna Anderson reminded members that WGRC's commitment to Rotary Youth Exchange continues apace with commitments to host long-term inbounder Bruno Zaffora, the fifth student from Azul, Argentina. She asked for volunteers to help provide memorable experiences for Bruno, and also for Yugi Kawamoto, the tenth Yanai student who arrived on July 14 for a month in Champaign. The August 20 meeting was attended by a school-year inbounder from France (hosted by Champaign West Rotary) and WGRC's outbounder for Belgium, Gabriel Mathy.



Don Judy In Action at the
2001 Habitat House

Meanwhile, on July 14, District Governor Sandra Broadrick-Allen (Savoy) and officials of the five local Rotary Clubs helped break ground at 1109 North Market Street in Champaign for the Rotary Habitat for Humanity project, with Bob Aldridge and Don Judy spearheading WGRC's involvement. By September 10 the walls were up, with trusses and the roof to be completed by October 10. We are happy to report that the WGRCers who pitched in to help on this home, led by coordinator of

volunteers Don Judy and the skillful John T. Schumacher, are too many to list. As Bob Aldridge commented, Champaign Rotarians "stepped up." In fact, so many hands worked together that, within four short months, the home was completed.⁴⁷ The dedication took place on November 11, and the Joe Peeples Family moved in a week before Thanksgiving, the target completion date.

This hands-on project responds to RI President King's fourth challenge – building stronger clubs; the media coverage of the event answers the second challenge – enhancing the public image of Rotary. Jeff Ford, Savoy Rotarian and executive director of Habitat for Humanity, told the Club that the summer of 2001 marked a new beginning. With WGRC providing outstanding leadership and the other local Rotary clubs joining in, Habitat now has the seed money to carry its projects for five years. Joe and Karen Peeples devoted 500 hours of "sweat equity" to their home, and will also make purchase payments. In

⁴⁷ As many as 200 Rotarians from the local clubs lent on-site assistance.

this manner, and with churches and private companies participating as well, the program will be self-perpetuating. Nine homes have been built in the past three years, four are under construction, and six are planned for the summer of 2002.

A Board review of early committee activity noted that the Literacy Committee, again chaired by Scott Dahman, planned to bolster the undersized book resources of public and school libraries in nearby smaller towns. John Wright II's Project Planning Committee began investigating worthy causes to support; a Board member suggested the Rotary Hill Pavilion at Lake of the Woods Park, site of the WGRC Corn Roast and many public and private events, could use refurbishing, perhaps as a hands-on project for Rotarian volunteers. Steve Main, Youth Committee chair, was preparing to present a plan for a radio show for youth leaders.

One special event that George's administration would focus upon would be a celebration of the 85th anniversary of the Champaign Rotary Club,⁴⁸ and to coordinate those arrangements, George named Tom Costello to head a blue-ribbon committee. As we go to press, we do not know whether RI President Rick King will accept George's invitation to be the speaker for the celebration. For 83 of Champaign Rotary's 85 years, the Corn Roast has been a traditional event, and this year's Roast at Rotary Hill in Lake of the Woods Park had added excitement. A ferocious thunderstorm, complete with high winds and nature's best fireworks display, drove corn lovers into the Pavilion for shelter. "It made for much more intimate fellowship," agreed Art Skelton and Jef Farlow-Cornell. The storm blew through, scarcely interrupting the festivities, with corn provided by Dick Burwash for the 38th consecutive year, and frothy refreshment provided by Stu Clark, also for the 38th year. To cover all contingencies, insurance was courtesy of Tod Dawson, who has handled that detail for many years as well.



Jeffrey Farlow-Cornell,
Fizz Editor 2001-02

On July 16, in introducing Sarah Tufte, the Club's newest member, President George debuted a new ceremony intended to attach more significance to a new member's induction as one way to improve member retention. Calling forward Sarah and her sponsor, Bob Aldridge, he recited:

The day a man or woman becomes a Rotarian can be the beginning of many years devoted to service and fellowship. Sarah, it is my great pleasure on behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the Rotary Club of Champaign to welcome you as a member. We welcome you not only for the fine fellowship that we will share, but also for your strong

⁴⁸ The Club's first meeting took place on December 11, 1916; the Club was chartered on February 1, 1917.

arm that will help us to carry out many projects to make our community, our country and the world a better place in which to live.

Rotary is not a political organization, but all Rotarians are vitally concerned with everything pertaining to good citizenship and the election of good men and women to public office.

Rotary is not a charitable organization, yet its activities exemplify the charity and the sacrifices that one should expect from people who believe that they have a responsibility to help others.

Rotary is not a religious organization, but it is built on those eternal principles that have served as the moral compass for people throughout the ages.

Rotary is an organization of business and professional people pledged to upholding the highest professional standards.

You, Sarah, have been chosen for membership in the Rotary Club of Champaign because your fellow members believe you to be a leader in your special line of activity and because you manifest those qualities of head and heart that fit you to interpret and impart the message of Rotary.

You are the representative of your vocation in this Club and any information of an educational value pertaining to your craft must naturally come to us through you. At the same time you become an ambassador from us to your classification, and we rely on you to carry the principles and ideals of service, which we here inspire, to those who share your profession.

We also expect you to give us the inspiration that will help us to become better Rotarians, and it is with this hope that I ask your sponsoring member, Bob Aldridge, to invest you with the distinguishing badge of a Rotarian – and I gladly offer you the right hand of Rotary fellowship.

Fellow Rotarians, it gives me great pleasure to present to you Rotarian Sarah J. Tufte, assistant director of human resources, Parkland College.

On August 30, Sarah, along with some 50 of her WGRC colleagues, joined members of C-U Sunrise Rotary at 2 Main, a newly opened refreshment emporium in downtown Champaign, for a renewal of the "Rotary After Hours" social hour started by Tom Costello in 1998. This proved an effective fellowship mixer, and members suggested that President George schedule more such opportunities.

Throughout the fall, RI President Rick King's third challenge – improving the level of training and education in Rotary clubs as a way to increase member commitment – was being met to an appreciable extent by brief background reports (the Rotary Moment on the ABCs of Rotary) each Monday on such basics as the history of the Rotary wheel emblem, the Four Way Test, and so on. And on October 15, with Jim Keene absent because of illness, Scott Anderson Jr. moderated a special program, "Renewing Our Rotary Vows," presented by several past presidents.

During her October 8 official visit, District Governor Sandra Broadrick-Allen thanked those Past District Governors in the room –

Frank Keck, Ken Gunji, Bobby Eisner and Art Skelton – for the district that they had presented her. She also praised President George for his comprehensive approach, based on the Planning Guide for Effective Rotary Clubs, to meeting RI President King's challenges, saying "I would be very proud to present the Presidential Citation to WGRC in June."



WGRC's Past District Governors: Bobby Eisner, Art Skelton, Frank Keck, and Ken Gunji

At the end of October, the East Central Illinois Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals chose the Champaign Rotary Club as the Outstanding Philanthropic Organization. President George accepted the honor at the 10th Annual Philanthropy Day⁴⁹ Awards Luncheon on November 16 at the Champaign Country Club. The record proceeds of Action Auction IX, and the Club's thoughtful distribution of those and other funds, positioned WGRC to earn this noteworthy award for a second time. The occasion was richly flavored by Rotary: the award was presented by Jeffrey Farlow-Cornell, AFP past president; Gary Wackerlin, current AFP president, had directed the Action Auction; and AFP National Assembly Representative Mark Neville had composed an Action Auction song. Champaign West Rotarian Jane Bernthal won the Outstanding Individual Fund Raiser Award for Relief for America, a project she initiated and led, with monetary and manpower support from WGRC. Other WGRCers, including Art Skelton, attended.



Steve Main Describes "Straight Talk."

At the September 24 meeting, Steve Main described the Club's newest youth project, an idea he brought from a similar project he had spearheaded as a Cumberland, MD, Rotarian a few years earlier. Champaign Rotary, along with *The News-Gazette*, would offer community youth a radio voice by sponsoring "Straight Talk" on WDWS-AM. Two students from each of 12 Champaign County high schools (including six Interactors in leadership roles), and also representatives from the Don Moyer Boys

and Girls Club, would alternate as producers on a committee that decides what subjects to discuss and how to present the subject matter. An adult committee (including five WGRCers) with backgrounds in health, education, law enforcement, and social services would provide facts and figures specific to the subject matter the students choose.

⁴⁹ The purpose of National Philanthropy Day is to recognize the tremendous impact philanthropy has on American society and to honor those who contribute their time, talents and treasures to their communities. WGRC previously won the award in 1996.

Diane Ducey, disk jockey with WHMS-FM, would host the program, mainly handling technical aspects, Main reported, "so that the teens will be free to think, listen and talk." The adults would not edit what the students talk about, other than reasonable oversight of good taste. Steve will insist that the students include someone who has lived whatever experience they will discuss. Although the on-air teens will have background information, "Straight Talk" hopes to focus more on what call-in listeners bring to it. The September 27 *News-Gazette* ran a feature article on "Straight Talk," with a color photograph of the five student producers of the September 29 program.

Working with the City of Champaign, John Orrill's Environmental Protection Committee agreed to adopt a mile of an arterial street for quarterly cleaning. Champaign Rotarians planned to perform their first cleanup on December 8, along Mattis Avenue from Kirby Avenue to Windsor Road. Other events scheduled as this active half-year wound down: a social gathering at Jillian's on December 13, and the (now) traditional Family Holiday Party on December 17, the final official Club meeting of 2001.

Before those December events, Champaign Rotary sponsored its 83rd UI Football Banquet on November 26, a vibrant celebration of the Illini's undisputed Big Ten Championship and coveted slot in the Bowl Championship Series. Kurt Kittner, who led his team to more career victories than any quarterback in UI history and earned MVP honors, carried the championship trophy as the players marched into the ballroom. Coaches lavished praise and awards on the 18 seniors who had brought the team from 0-11 in 1997 to this year's 10-1 – with the opportunity to become the first UI team in history to win 11 games. As Master of Ceremonies Jim Turpin put it, "It's been a hell of a ride." A record crowd of 824 Rotarians, fans, players, coaches, and players' families cheered not only highlight videos and Chancellor Nancy Cantor's stirring remarks, but also a Rotary Moment presented by WGRC President George Scheetz. All in all, this first banquet of the 21st Century was an historic event, worth holding the presses to include it in *The Story Continues*.

We conclude with a follow-up on "Straight Talk." For that first program on September 29, student moderators had chosen "Relationships" as the broad topic. But on September 11, the horrific terrorist attacks struck our nation and indeed, the entire community of mankind. Exigencies of thought and action in the aftermath of these tragic events superseded planned schedules and pushed aside other concerns.⁵⁰ The teens switched their subject to terrorism and its fallout, as Americans young and old looked upon their futures from a new perspective, all seeking ways to recover, to respond supportively, to act in some constructive manner.

⁵⁰ The topic of the October 27 show was "Music," and "Relationships" aired on November 24. State Representative Tom Berns and Congressman Tim Johnson both have sent letters of support for "Straight Talk."

The dismay that saddens the soul of our wounded nation renders less celebratory the holiday-season publication of *The Story Continues*. Nevertheless, we have every confidence that Rotarians of many nations will be in the forefront of international efforts to assuage the grief of those who suffer, to rebuild what has been destroyed, and to address the religious and political conflicts that lead to such unimaginable human tragedies. *The Story Continues* looks back; we cannot alter the history it reflects. With both hope and resolve, we look to a future founded upon the globally relevant principles of Rotary. Surely many Champaign Rotarians will follow avenues of service into that future, creating the history that will continue their story.

PART III: PRINCIPAL PROJECTS

Women in Rotary

We include this promised section here although the assimilation of women into a formerly all-male organization is not "a project." In fact, the opposite is true: the transition, viewed early on with apprehension by some, caused scarcely a blip on the administrative radar screens of most clubs, and "the new order" spread rapidly even to more chauvinistic nations. In the Rotary Club of Champaign, women quickly assumed positions of leadership and responsibility, adding their distinctive abilities and sensibilities to every committee and project.

Briefly, here is how and when Rotary International (RI) officially removed its gender barriers. Proposals to admit women were first made to the Council on Legislation in 1972 without success. Some years later, in defiance of RI Bylaws, the Rotary Club of Duarte, CA, admitted three women to membership. RI revoked the Club's charter, and the Duarte Rotary filed a blocking action against RI. In 1983, the California trial court ruled that Rotary's membership policies did not violate state law. But in 1986, the California Court of Appeals reversed the lower court's decision. The California Supreme Court refused to hear the case, and RI presented its appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. On May 4, 1987, the Supreme Court ruled against Rotary International, validating the Duarte Rotary Club's admission of women to membership and setting a precedent that would cause other all-male organizations in America to accept qualified women members.

In late 1988, Canada legally ended the "adult male only" rule for Rotary membership, and the January 1989 Council on Legislation in Singapore drafted an amendment to the RI Constitution and Bylaws removing the "male only" membership provision. The amendment was adopted by the RI Board of Directors as of July 1, 1989, thereby permitting any Rotary Club in the world to admit qualified women members. Also, Group Study Exchange (GSE) teams could include both men and women – initially, all men or all women. Secondly, women could be GSE team leaders. Thirdly, team leaders could be accompanied by a spouse; however, that would reduce the number of non-Rotarian professionals from five to four. Today, women make up half of the participants in the Rotary's GSE program.

By January 1990 there were 17,000 women in Rotary worldwide. During the 2000-2001 year that number had topped 103,000, including 2,000 club presidents. The first woman nominated as District Governor

was Virginia Nordby by the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor North, MI, who took office in 1995. Today, women governors oversee 20 Rotary districts. Champaign West Rotary was the first club in District 6490 to induct a woman: Dorene A. Kuffer, a public defender. She was followed by Bonnie Kelley and Nancy Martin of Champaign Rotary. WGRC's third woman member, Jan Bahr, became its first woman president in 1992-93.

Involved in all programs of Rotary, women are also recipients of services provided by Rotary clubs. The RI Board encourages Rotarians to identify the needs of women in their communities and to develop responsive projects and programs focusing on education, health, economics and self-development. *Rotary's Service to Women* pamphlet outlines recommendations made by the 1996 RI Women in Future Society Committee, suggesting ways Rotarians can address issues related to women in their communities.

To encourage clubs to focus on women's issues, the RI Board established two awards: the district-level Jean Harris Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions by individual non-Rotarian women, and the Rotary Award for the Advancement of Women, which annually recognizes one outstanding club project worldwide that advances the development and progress of women.

Rotarians interested in learning more about women and Rotary should access the website: <http://www.rotary.org/newsandinfo/downloadcenter/pdfs/682en.pdf>



Governor Frank Presents Jean Harris Award to Ruth Dobbins of Champaign

PolioPlus

Launched in 1985, the PolioPlus program remains the highest priority of Rotary International (RI) and the Rotary Foundation (RF). The Global Polio Eradication Initiative, spearheaded by the World Health Organization (WHO), RI, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, and UNICEF, has become the largest health initiative in world history. According to WHO's Director General, "Rotary's example has become the model for international public-private sector partnerships."

In June 2000, WHO announced a tracking initiative to certify the world polio-free in 2005, which coincides with Rotary International's goal to rid the world of polio by its 100th anniversary. The Americas were certified polio-free in 1994; the Western Pacific Region, including China,

by the end of 2000; and Europe is on track to be certified in 2002. But four northern states in India, countries in sub-Saharan Africa affected by conflict, and Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Afghanistan, and Pakistan need particular attention.

As of July 1, 2001, the number of polio cases worldwide had decreased 99% since 1988 when there were an estimated 350,000 cases annually. Fewer than 3,500 cases were reported in the year 2000, down by 50% over the previous 12 months. This reduction is credited to the World Health Assembly's call in 1999 to accelerate eradication efforts, including increased rounds of National Immunization Days (NIDs). More than two billion children have been immunized against polio during NIDs from 1995 to 2000. Last year, a record 550 million children under five were immunized during intensified NIDs in 82 countries. This included India, where 147 million children were vaccinated in a single day, and a synchronized effort across western and central Africa which immunized 76 million children in 17 countries.

The greatest challenge still lies ahead: reaching all children, especially those in war-torn areas; closing \$400 million funding gap; and maintaining political commitment in the face of a disappearing disease. Four central and southern African countries along the Atlantic coast will hold NIDs in a race to protect all children within their borders from polio by 2005. The Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Congo (Brazzaville) and Gabon signed a protocol committing their countries to synchronization of NIDs in July, August and September, 2001. In Angola and D.R. Congo, slow progress has been made in vaccinating the children of families fleeing the fluid front lines of the wars in those nations. Cease-fires in such nations, and now perhaps also in Afghanistan, must be negotiated to hold NIDs, and health workers face the daunting task of delivering vaccine amid collapsed health and communications infrastructure. The four countries will also organize immunization efforts with neighboring countries, targeting migrant and displaced populations, primarily the more than 250,000 Angolan refugees who have fled into Zambia. So far, funding by the RF and through the PolioPlus Partners program to these countries totals more than \$12.2 million.

By 2005, Rotary's contribution to the global polio eradication effort will be about one-half billion dollars. Just as important, millions of dollars of in-kind and personal contributions have been made by Rotarians, local Rotary clubs and districts. Rotary's unprecedented role in mobilizing ordinary citizens to help with this effort has resulted in 10 million volunteers coming on board each year. The partnerships and supportive infrastructures formed to eradicate polio have been recognized by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan as a model for addressing other health issues in the 21st Century.

Even if the media does not always recognize Rotary's contributions, we can rejoice in knowing that Rotarians have made the difference. Rotary is – and will remain – committed to seeing this humanitarian effort through to the end. Champaign Rotarians may take justifiable pride in the inspirational performance of WGRC as a Model Club in 1987-88.⁵¹

Hands Across the Americas: The Azul, Argentina, Connection

"We are grateful to have received the second ultrasound scanner, and I formally accept your donation of the three infant warming tables, all of which will be very important to our needs." This message from Dr. G. Noemi Signoretti, director of the Hospital Zonal Especializado Materno Infantil "Argentina Diego," Azul, Argentina, to the Rotary Club of Champaign, understates the remarkable exchange of people, sophisticated medical equipment, and international good will spanning nearly 30 years.

It all began "once upon a time" when Art Skelton befriended Enrique Mario Alfieri, an Argentinian student at the UI from Olavarria, a town near Azul. Advance in time to January 1977 when Dick and Anne Tryon agreed to host IYE student Maria Luisa Larsen of Azul. The Tryons – with hearts as big as their home – had already promised to host Gabrielle Sladden, another school-year inbounder from Australia. In addition to the Tryons, Maria lived with the WGRC families of Ron and Anita Bates, Frank and Kathe Keck, and Dick and Sue Knieriem. Maria returned to Argentina, married, and gave birth to three children in Azul, one of whom required special attention at the pediatric hospital.

Jump ahead again, to February 1989. The Tryons visited Maria in Argentina, and as she showed her *norteamericano* parents the wonders of the Pampas, she introduced them to their next IYE "daughter," Malena Omoldi. Malena's uncle, Dr. Oscar Omoldi, introduced them to Dr. Signoretti, then director of the Hospital Zonal Especializado Materno Infantil (specializing in pediatrics). When Dick saw nine premature infants struggling to survive in hand-fashioned masks connected to an oxygen cylinder, he knew that Rotary could find a better way. Dick reports: "I found a well-trained and determined medical staff, but an appalling lack of equipment in the neo-natal care unit. The staff knew what equipment they needed and how to use it; they just lacked the funds to acquire it."

Dick lost no time, seeking counsel from WGRC obstetricians Jack Brodsky and Carl Greenstein. They directed him to Dr. Nestor Ramirez, Mercy Hospital's neo-natal staff leader who came up with two

⁵¹ See pp. 59-60, *Steps Going Up*. And in a footnote to a footnote, Walter Maddocks, the initial executive director of PolioPlus who spoke to WGRC in March, 1987, was the featured speaker at the Charter Installation Banquet for C-U Sunrise Rotary on December 1, 1987.

incubators, surplus equipment from the Mercy-Burnham merger.⁵² The value of these machines exceeded \$120,000, but Dr. Signoretti's hospital lacked funds to pay even shipment and installation. Dick organized arrangements: President Cal Owens' Board authorized \$1,000 for expenses; and crates were constructed. Colwell Systems people prepared shipping documentation and loading. Dick persuaded the Argentine Embassy in Washington, DC, to ship the crates as diplomatic baggage – cheap, but safe shipping by boat to Buenos Aires. Rotarians from the Azul Club (District 4950) received the equipment and got it to Azul where it was installed at the hospital. In the spring of 1990, the Omoldi family came to Illinois to attend Malena's graduation from Centennial High School and to personally thank Champaign Rotarians for providing the life-saving incubators to their neo-natal clinic.

This story was far from over. In 1993, Tryon learned that Dr. Signoretti had no ultra-sound scanners, vital for pre-natal sonographic detection of cardiac and abdominal abnormalities. Tryon located a \$100,000 Picker-Artis ultrasound multi-modality scanner, but even reduced to \$34,000, the price was too high. Enter Champaign Rotarians Jack Pollard and Joe Beard, CEOs respectively of Carle Clinic Association and Covenant Medical Center. Each came up with a phased-out scanner – one Picker, one Doppler – at no charge. Rotarian Bud Leister coordinated transport in the U.S., and Azul Rotarians facilitated on the receiving end. In February, 1995, Maria Larsen de Lier welcomed Dick and Anne Tryon back to Azul in time to witness both the arrival of the first scanner and Maria's induction as the second woman member of Azul Rotary.

Another highlight of this latest Azul sojourn was the introduction of Lucila Acuña as the third IYE student outbound for Champaign. Hosted by the Tryons, Scott and Donna Anderson, and Doug and Janet Nelson, Lucila became so proficient in English that she matriculated at a Buenos Aires university that teaches exclusively in English to prepare graduates for leadership roles in government, industry and education.

Early in 1996 Dr. Ramirez, a Champaign West Rotarian, rescued from surplus inventory three infant warming tables that support newborns removed from incubators. These were shipped to the pediatric hospital in care of Dr. Signoretti. International shipping involves time, the liaison of numerous governmental agencies, and a fair amount of diplomacy. This time around proved difficult but, as Scott



Dick Tryon with Lucila Acuña

⁵² Mercy-Burnham became Covenant Medical Center which became Provena Covenant Medical Center in October, 1997.

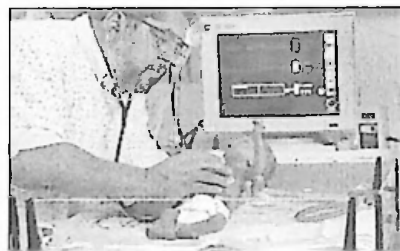
Anderson Jr. said, "This is typical of Champaign Rotary: when we perceive a need, someone figures out how to make it work."

As related elsewhere in this volume, five friends from Azul attended the 1998 District 6490 Conference and the May 4 WGRC Club meeting, at which Maria Luisa Larsen de Lier presented the program. She was accompanied by Jorge Pablo Escalante, president, Rotary Club of Azul, and his wife, Azucena Maria Esnal de Escalante; Rodolfo Piazza, Club president-elect; and Elsa Santamaria de Fernandez Lutz, Club secretary. [We note that women appear to be as important to Rotary in South America as they are here at home.] Maria said that the Champaign-Azul connection had grown into a continuing, District-to-District project. "We all thank you," she said, "for your spirit of service, for your wonderful hospitality, and for receiving our youth into your homes. You have made us feel like family and have demonstrated, once again, that the distance between us shortens when love flourishes among us."

Dick Tryon downplays his pivotal role, saying,

No big deal. It's rewarding to see what can grow from an IYE seed. Malena Omoldi has hosted us three times in Mar del Plata, and is now running her own travel agency. Maria Larsen's daughter, Belén, is now sharing her college room in Buenos Aires with our granddaughter, Charmaine, who is interning with the major Buenos Aires newspaper. From the day Art Skelton asked me to help find a host for Maria Larsen, that seed has bloomed to include three generations of our family - evidence of the beauty of the Rotary design for the exchange program. This project should be named the Arthur Skelton International Understanding Testimonial in honor of his outstanding Rotary career.

The complexities of current Argentine politics preclude shipments of more medical equipment. Nevertheless, at the 2001 District 6490 Conference, Nestor Ramirez entered the District Hall of Honor, partly in recognition of his efforts in securing neo-natal equipment for the only children's hospital serving a geographical area some 400 miles in diameter.



Dr. Nestor Ramirez

Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars

Since 1947, RI has funded 33,000 full-year study-abroad scholarships at a total cost of \$335 million. This award is intended to cover round-trip transportation, tuition, fees, room and board expenses, and some educational supplies up to \$25,000. In 1999-2000, 1,162 students from 67 sponsoring countries spent a year in 75 host nations. Many Rotarians do not know that the Rotary Foundation also sponsors

Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarships for either three or six months of intensive language study and cultural immersion in another country. Funds are provided to cover round-trip transportation, language training expenses, and home-stay living arrangements, up to \$12,000 for three months and \$19,000 for six months. Applications are considered for candidates interested in studying Arabic, English, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, and Swedish.



Brownie Davis

If the Azul Connection hints at some of the benefits of Rotary-sponsored exchanges of youths of high school age, we cannot omit one powerful illustration of the impact of the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar program. Brownie Davis was a WGRC-sponsored Rotary Scholar to England in 1990-91. Her story indicates what scholars can offer to their hosts, as much as what they can learn by living abroad. Already an award-winning teacher of the handicapped at Champaign's Carrie Busey School, Brownie wrote from England:

Thoroughly enjoying my studies in special education at Westhill College, where I am considered a "teacher fellow" with access to all the tutors, yet with the freedom to visit special schools for children with severe learning difficulties all over the country. That allows me to pursue specific interests, including autism. I have spoken on "Special Education in the U.S." at a teacher training workshop in Liverpool, and will be doing more of this. Rotary wives...have been instrumental in providing contacts in special education and I have attended an Inner Wheel luncheon at Kings Norton where the speaker's topic was "Conductive Education" a relatively new approach to special ed in England. I have addressed seven Rotary Clubs and attended the District Conference in Torquay, and am slated to address at least six more clubs. Sharing a bit of myself with Rotarians, students and educational professionals has been grand. Everyone has been "dead" wonderful, and this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Thanks to all, and I hope I can live up to the ideals of world understanding and good will that Rotary embodies.

Sincerely, Brownie Davis.

This caring, sharing ambassador discovered as much about herself as about her host nation. She learned that the backbone which emboldened her to deepen her knowledge base housed a resolute marrow of pride and patriotism. Here are excerpts from her April 1991 letter that nearly filled a *Fizz* issue:

Diary Entry, January 17, 1991

The [Gulf] war started yesterday and last night Israel was attacked by Iraqi scud missiles. It sounds pretty grim, and being American here inspires many negative jokes and comments...the students here, in particular, seem dismissive of their own country's role...but I am proud of my country, and I will not back down from this if confronted. It is difficult being in another country for an extended period...even more difficult to be away from home during a crisis, much less a war. The emotional tie to the daily mail delivery and being separated from loved ones is an experience difficult to describe...the intense loneliness you feel when communication from home has been cut off, however briefly, is one of the most profound emotions I have ever experienced.

As a Rotary Scholar and "ambassador of good will," I must keep my opinions about the war to myself...it is a very emotional subject here.. America is often misunderstood, and I do not have enough answers to win a debate. There is no flag waving here, no patriotic song on the radio to urge on the British forces, no feeling of zeal...only a job to be done, a sad one, and one that "someone else got us into." I do not believe we have sent men and women to fight and die for a worthless cause...this is not America. I believe in my countrymen, in the right of people to govern themselves, and I believe in helping someone out.

I believe in freedom, in the United Nations and the commitment to world peace. I do not believe in submitting to tyranny without a fight. Being in a foreign country has heightened my sense of patriotism. While they sing "God Save the Queen," I am singing "My Country 'tis of Thee." I miss "The National Anthem" and The Pledge of Allegiance. I miss the safety of home. In my mind, I see flashes of the Vietnam Wall, the statue of the men raising the American flag at Iwo Jima, and the rows of white markers in Arlington Cemetery. Strength, pride and courage are in those symbols, and yet so is incredible sadness.

A couple of weeks ago at a small Methodist church, we sang a hymn with a verse I had to write down. As a small ray of sunshine spread its warmth through the church window, it seemed as if the world stood still for just a moment in my heart as I sang, and longed for the woods and hills of my Georgia home:

"He reminds us every sunrise that the world is ours on lease;
For the sake of life tomorrow may our love for it increase; May
all races live together, share its riches, be at peace; May the
living God be praised!" (F. Pratt Green, 1903 -)

It is difficult to imagine that we could send out any student with a better grasp of what both America and Rotary stand for. Today her name is Brownie Kocher, and she still works in special education as an inclusion facilitator with the Hickman Mills School District in Kansas City, MO. Our thanks to Bill Krahling for recording Brownie's letters in *The Flzz*; following the events of September 11, 2001, we empathize all the more with her feelings from 10 years before.

Rotary Youth Exchange

The foregoing text includes many references to Rotary Youth Exchange (formerly International Youth Exchange), but a few words here seem in order. From the Robson-Perkins exchange highlighted in *Steps Going Up*,⁵³ through the many short-term exchanges (especially the Corbeil-Essones exchanges of the 1990s) and the Azul and Yanai connections, WGRC has deeply involved itself in this internationally honored service to youth. Incidentally, in the ensuing years, Peter Robson and Phyllis Perkins both revisited their host countries more than once; both are Paul Harris Fellows. Most recently, Phyl Perkins became a permanent resident of Australia, having married (on March 10, 2001, aboard *Commissioner II* in Sydney Harbour) Paul Stuart Hulonce, whom she first met during her IYE year.



Phyl Perkins Receives Paul Harris Recognition from Tom Costello and Peter Tomaras

Although most Rotarians understand the benefits of RYE to the inbound/outbound students, and those Rotarians who have been hosts know first-hand the rewards of that experience, the one thing that prevents more involvement in RYE by WGRC is the daunting task of finding host families. Just ask Club RYE activists Tom Good, Bob Rydell, Tony Peressini, Maria Dowd, and Donna Anderson. Our District, with the leadership of Monticello Rotarian Keith Hutson, established a tremendously active IYE program through the 1970s and 1980s. Then came a period of diminished activity, and one of Ken Gunji's goals as District Governor in 1992-93 was improving RYE participation.

While Champaign-Urbana is a marvelous community for both short- and long-term inbounders, opportunities to host young people exceed WGRC's ability to come up with host families, which means reaching out to non-Rotarian homes. Fortunately, Rotarians in many smaller clubs in the District (Hoopeston, Villa Grove and Monticello are prime examples) have opened their homes to the stream of students arriving in C-U. The newer C-U area clubs have opened still more doors; at the 1996 District Assembly, Scott Anderson Jr. reviewed how our local clubs consortium provides financial support for long-term exchanges, making possible participation by smaller clubs like Sunrise.

But finding host families remained difficult. In a frank evaluation of Champaign Rotary as the World's Greatest Rotary Club, despite extraordinary involvement by some Club members, we find that WGRC's commitment to and participation in RYE exceeds that of many Rotary clubs, but falls short of being "great."

⁵³ See p. 64, *Steps Going Up*

Operation Rainbow: Missions of Mercy



Dr. Bill and Charlotte Johnson

There is no better example of how caring people can turn personal tragedy into hope and happiness for others than Operation Rainbow. Actually, Operation Rainbow is an international organization which sends medical teams to underdeveloped countries, primarily to administer surgery to children with cleft lip/palate deformities. In Urbana, the Carle Development Foundation maintains The William S. Johnson Memorial Fund to generate money to pay for nurses to travel with Carle's Rainbow team, headed by Michael Goldwasser, D.D.S., M.D., director of oral and maxillofacial surgery, Carle Clinic Association. For 26 years, Dr. Bill Johnson was a member of Carle's department of reconstructive and plastic surgery. Dr. Johnson, a former Champaign Rotarian, died in a 1993 automobile accident along with his wife, Charlotte, the sister of WGRC's Frank Keck. He is remembered as a skilled, compassionate surgeon who cared deeply about his patients and was supportive of the nursing staff.

In January 1996, WGRC, Inc. contributed \$3,500 to the Johnson Fund in support of the nursing component of Operation Rainbow. Regina Ross, R.N., staff nurse for the operating room at Carle Foundation Hospital, was the first beneficiary of William S. Johnson funds. Later that spring, Ross assisted Dr. Goldwasser in a

presentation to Champaign Rotary, reporting on their 1995 trip to the Philippines, where the incidence of these genetic disorders is perhaps the highest in the world (one in 300 births, or twice the U.S. rate). The condition is physically and emotionally devastating. On this trip, two all-volunteer teams performed 160 surgical procedures on some 100 children. Dr. Goldwasser introduced a seven-minute film documentary, "Rainbow of Hope," which illustrated how Operation Rainbow changes the lives of the affected children and their families, as well as those of team members. Ross dedicated her trip to the memory of her sister, who died 57 years ago from complications following cleft-palate surgery.



Dr. Michael Goldwasser

Over the next four years, WGRC gave an additional \$13,500 to the Johnson Fund. In 1997, Gary Wackerlin worked with District 6490, the Manila District in the Philippines, and Rotary International to secure a Matching Grant of \$30,000 to provide medical equipment for Operation Rainbow teams. Gary's wife, Karyl, has traveled on four of these medical missions, twice with the Carle team and once each with teams from Chicago and Canada. In 1997 she helped coordinate the District partnership that led to the Matching Grant by meeting with Rotarians in the Manila area. Page Parkhill, wife of former WGRCer John, and daughter of Bill and Charlotte Johnson, has also been on two of the mission trips with the Carle team.



Karyl Wackerlin Blows Bubbles for Child Pre-Surgery

Volunteers like Karyl and Page pay their own expenses. Karyl has also done professional photography work for Operation Rainbow and for Dr. Goldwasser during surgeries. Karyl produced a video presentation on Operation Rainbow, which she shared with Champaign Rotarians when she and Page spoke to them in the spring of 1998. Karyl later appeared in the WICD-TV presentation, "Mission of Mercy - Operation Rainbow." On July 30, 2001, Karyl was inducted as an Honorary Member of Champaign Rotary.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

In 1960, Australian Districts 258 and 260 shared in establishing a committee that developed the official framework of RYLA: to train youth (ages 14-30) in character, leadership, personal development and good citizenship. These guidelines helped RYLA expand to all Rotary districts in Australia and led to RYLA's approval as an international program by the R.I. board at the 1971 RI Convention in Sydney, Australia. By 1998, RYLA had become an established program in more than half of the 521 Rotary districts worldwide. Also in 1998, then-RI President James Lacy appointed an international RYLA committee, dedicated to improving and expanding this special Rotary program to the entire world.

The District 6490 RYLA Committee needed nearly two years of planning to launch this intriguing youth program. Early organizers included WGRCers Dean Cavey, Harold Moe, Frank Keck, Gary Wackerlin, and (from April 1996) Denton Brown. Bill Schweizer from

Pontiac, the Committee chair, felt that top student leaders already receive plenty of training, so his thrust was to provide a development opportunity to "the roses that haven't yet blossomed." Schweizer needed someone to create the actual leadership training program, and that job fell to Denton.

On November 4, 1996, Denton presented to his fellow WGRCers "Rotary Youth Leadership Awards." According to *The Flizz*, he used a 5-minute District 6420 video and "a series of well-organized [what else?] remarks." Denton described RYLA as a program involving more than 9,000 young people in 25 countries each year, with these objectives: (1) to further demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth; (2) to encourage and assist selected youth leaders and potential leaders in methods of responsible and effective voluntary youth leadership by providing them with a training experience; (3) to encourage continued and stronger leadership of youth by youth; and (4) to publicly recognize



Denton Brown Receives District Hall of Honor Award from PDG Frank Keck

the high qualities of many young people who are rendering service to their communities as leaders. The camps would be educational and social programs that included leadership training, with expenses paid by sponsoring Rotary clubs.

Each District club was asked to send one student who is "a potential leader," that is, who has the qualities of a leader but who has not yet stepped forward in a leadership role. Students must be high school sophomores of either gender, and should be active

participants in school activities, church or community groups, or volunteer organizations. They should be of high moral character, willing to participate as group members, well-informed about current events, and respected by peers. Sons or daughters of Rotarians should be neither excluded nor treated preferentially. John Hecker chaired WGRC's selection committee.

The first District 6490 RYLA camp took place April 25-27, 1997, at the 4-H Memorial Camp in Allerton Park near Monticello, with 44 high school sophomores. By the following fall, Denton developed RYLA as a progressive program that would invite each class of sophomores back as juniors and seniors. He defined this objective for sophomores: to instill knowledge that students can become leaders of other young people in doing positive things. A lively mix of high-energy leadership games, guest speakers, and Team Challenge courses focused on fundamental leadership skills and teamwork. For juniors, the objective would be to build on the previous camp by taking a deeper look at the fundamentals

of leadership and making personal commitments. Problems presented would be more challenging. The objective for seniors would be to instill courage and overcome reluctance to accept challenges that involve personal risk. Sophomores and juniors would spend a full weekend at the 4-H Memorial Camp near Monticello; seniors would spend one day at the Experiential Training Course near Homer.

In Governor Frank Keck's District newsletter, Peter Tomaras described the 1998 encampment in this way:

Gloomy weather could not dampen the spirits of 64 high school sophomores and juniors who attended the RYLA encampment April 24-26...By the time the sun broke through late Sunday morning, 39 first-year and 25 second-year potential student leaders had learned about public speaking, meeting leadership, conflict resolution and decision making; had engaged in leadership games and Team Challenge courses; and had discussed career planning, responses to harassment, service project planning, and ethics and personal values.

Along the way they shared meals and songs, enjoyed Friday-night bull sessions with pizza, and Dan Crews' DJ music with dessert on Saturday evening. While Rotarians and other facilitators made RYLA '98 happen for DG Frank Keck, the participating students were the stars who made it "a happening," encountering challenges, seeking leadership attributes within themselves. They did not always come up with optimum responses, but individual and team strengths emerged.

Denton had enlisted a large group of adult leaders, many joined by their spouses, to conduct seminars and run such challenges as a desert survival scenario and two LeaderShape® Team Challenge courses. Students evaluated the encampment at 8.99 on a 10-point scale, with both classes ranking the Team Challenge courses the most valuable segments.

RYLA 1999 hosted 41 sophomores, 19 juniors, and 9 seniors. Denton tried a fall session that attracted 24 juniors and 11 seniors, then decided to return to a spring-only format, starting anew with 45

sophomores in the spring of 2000. In 2001, 22 juniors and 9 seniors attended RYLA April 27-29, followed by 44 sophomores May 4-6. While leadership training is the primary program objective, Denton also saw this "imbedded sub-objective": creating an awareness of other Rotary youth programs, such as Interact, Rotaract, and Rotary Youth Exchange.



Joan Brown Pitches In
with Denton on 1998
Dream Houses Project

Over several years of encampments, Champaign Rotarian volunteers have included Dan Crispin, Tom Costello, Harold Moe, Frank Keck, John Elder, Craig Golema, Peter Tomaras, Jean Driscoll, John Ady, Jan Bahr,

Scott Dahman, Steve Main and Nina Eisner, as well as Joan, Matthew and Connie Brown (Denton's wife, son, and daughter-in-law).

Following five years of leadership, Denton has moved on to other Rotary challenges, leaving the District RYLA program on solid ground. At the 2001 District 6490 Conference, he was inducted into the District Hall of Honor, recognizing his outstanding contributions to many District projects, including making RYLA happen.

On January 1, 2000, the Rotary International float in the Rose Bowl Parade – “Recognizing Tomorrow’s Leaders” – won the Volunteers’ Trophy for best floral design depicting the parade theme, “Fabric of America.” Ten recent RYLarians rode on the float. RI has been “floating” for more than 20 years, because, in the words of RI President Frank Devlyn, “This is one excellent way to showcase Rotary’s finest contribution to the ‘fabric of America’ (and of the world): the commitment to developing young leaders.” Twenty years ago, Rotary seldom called attention to itself. Today, increasing public awareness of Rotary is highly relevant to RI’s membership problem. People aware of Rotary’s good works may be attracted to serve through Rotary.

The Uganda Project: Matching Grant No. 10050

The Rotary Foundation’s Matching Grants for International Humanitarian Projects intend to benefit the economically disadvantaged, providing assistance that is not being met by other sources. The criteria include significant Rotarian involvement and monitoring by Rotarians of clubs/districts in two countries: one country will be the project (benefiting) country, and one will be the international sponsoring country. Since 1965, some 12,000 Matching Grants projects totaling more than \$100 million have been funded in 165 countries – 2,300 grants valued at nearly \$17 million in 2000-2001 alone.

In 1997, Kathe Keck, wife of Champaign Rotarian and then District 6490 Governor Frank, traveled to Uganda with seed money from a Carl P. Miller Discovery Grant to investigate a potential international service project. Kathe is a knitting-machine expert, and she wanted to do a third-world project. One day a woman had come to her door asking for knitting machines to take home to Uganda. The woman happened to be a Rotarian, and the rest, as Kathe says, is history – hundreds of people coming together in a humanitarian project that represents what Rotary is all about.

Kathe’s exploratory trip ultimately resulted in Matching Grant No. 10050, an exemplary illustration of how this linked-district program should work. Her recipient community was Kabale, Uganda, in District 9200, where the local Rotary club was fostering an incipient income-generating/literacy activity. Kathe knew she could teach disadvantaged women how to earn income; she also felt Champaign Rotary and District 6490 could do much to boost literacy. What she envisioned would require knitting and sewing machines, supplies (including yarn,

mosquito netting and chemicals), and literacy kits, computers, and books. The school supplies were sorely needed: she had seen 250 children in just one nursery school.



Kathe Keck Sorts Books for Uganda

Kathe first needed to sell the project to District 6490, then to the Rotary Foundation for matching funds. On November 9, 1998, she gave the Club an update: the District had adopted her Uganda project; she had \$8,000 in hand; and she needed Champaign Rotarians' help in boosting that to \$12,000 before she applied for a RF Matching Grant. Her immediate need, however, was for books and literacy packs (paper, crayons, markers, scissors, glue, etc.), and she asked WGRCCers to bring such items to Club meetings in December. These would go to

Kabale for use in nursery and primary schools, as well as village schools for adults, while some books would establish the Kabale Rotary Library.

The generous response included donations of left-over used books by Friends of the Champaign Public Library (facilitated by George Scheetz), and the first "Rotary in Action" book-packing session took place on January 23, 1999. Centennial Interactors held a book drive for Uganda schools on January 27, and, after a second packing session on February 13, Kathe sent off the first trans-oceanic shipping container of books, kits, Braille supplies, and a dozen computers. Arriving in June at the Uganda/Rwanda border, the cargo was released by customs and escorted the 90 kilometers to Kabale. Wrote James Ndomeirwe, chair of International Service for Kabale Rotary: "We admire you all for the time taken to collect and sort that big consignment. Thanks a lot for making Kabale a good place to live."



Loading Boxes of Books:
Frank Keck and Volunteers

But Kathe and others were just getting started. The second container, shipped in September, 1999, held not only kits, computers and books, but also two basketball goals donated by Porter Athletic Equipment Company, eight knitting machines, and a peanut-butter grinding machine donated anonymously in honor of late Craig Webber, a Past District Governor (PDG) from Urbana. Kathe learned that funds she had allotted for eight knitting machines were not needed. She had asked PassapAmerica, the U.S. importer of the Swiss machines, to post

an appeal on its web page under "Good Deeds," for unused mechanical machines, and twelve knitters donated machines.

A local volunteer reformatted the hard drives of donated used computers, installing Windows 3.11 and a common word-processing package. Churches, schools, club groups, and individuals collected the supplies needed for the literacy kits; Rotary clubs and other groups across the country came together to collect *more than 60,000 books*. In Missouri, an appeal by PDG Luther Thompson had residents of an entire town turning out on a cold Saturday to bring books to the town square; another PDG, Jim Gisslasen of Indiana, collected books and computers. A Rotarian trucker donated the shipping of many boxes of books collected in Stockton, CA; a book rescue league in Chicago donated wonderful primary and secondary school books, with the volunteers there packing them.

Everything had to be boxed for placement in the containers, and there were more packing sessions than Kathe can remember. Centennial Interactors, members of the UI Farm House fraternity (thanks to Tom Costello), and Rotarians from several District clubs pitched in. Rather than omit anyone, Kathe asked that we not list names. The first container was loaded at the old Keck Furniture site, the second at a store front donated by Peter Fox, a friend of Rotary. Members of the Lincoln Challenge program helped load that one. On the receiving end, once containers arrived, local Rotarians, Interactors and Rotaractors unpacked them. Books were distributed to 22 schools, and a Rotary Library was established in Kabale. Books donated by the UI School of Veterinary Medicine went to the Veterinary Medical School at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. Professor Paul Anderson, a Rotarian from Normal who had accompanied Kathe on the 1997 fact-finding trip, also donated books from his Illinois State University geography department.

Along with all the hands-on assistance, Kathe had raised enough dollars to boost the total Matching Grant 10050 to \$33,040. In December, 1999, she gave Champaign Rotarians an update, using this list of numbers:

- 50,000 books shipped.
- 650 students in Trinity High School, Kabale.
- 500 women in ten villages who are members of Kabale Ana Women's Cooperative Association.
- 30 years that David Tindwabe has taught the blind in rooms provided by Hornby High School.
- 24 computers shipped to Uganda.
- 23 members in the Rotary Club of Kabale.
- 14 knitting machines shipped to benefit the KAWCA.
- 3 volunteers (Kathe and two others) traveling to Uganda at project expense in January, 2000.
- 1 volunteer (Frank D. Keck) traveling "on his own nickel."

WGRC President Nina Eisner praised the project, and Kathe asked members to provide a gift in recognition of David Tindywabe's 30th anniversary of teaching the blind, offering to match donations up to \$300. She got a single gift of \$300 to match her own, and additional contributions of \$750.



Kathe Keck Instructs Knitting Class

Kathe made her second journey to Kabale in early 2000, accompanied by Frank, and friends Jeanne and Phil Oneacre. Jeanne and Kathe would be trainers for the knitting project, while Phil was the computer trainer. Unfortunately, although the second container (with eight needed knitting machines) had been scheduled to arrive in November, it was missing – held up by the Tanzanian government

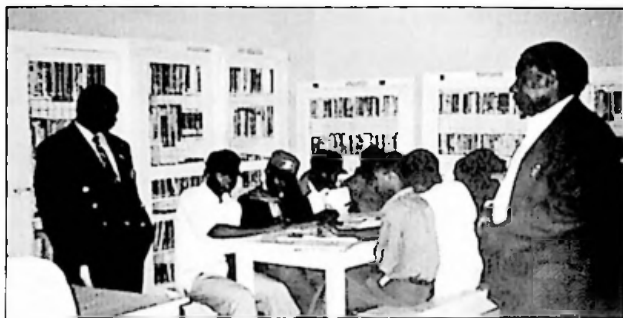
in Dar es Salaam for "overweight." Kathe had brought 4 machines and yarn on the plane, expecting 20 knitters, two from each of ten villages, for training. When 36 women showed up, Kathe and Jeanne tried to train them with the available machines. Because training proved unworkable with that many, half the women had to be sent home. Kathe and Jeanne were also teaching wives of Rotarians after the regular lessons ended at 4 p.m., and writing lesson plans at night, according to how far the ladies had progressed each day. Before leaving the U.S., Kathe had air-shipped more donated yarn and machines, and that shipment arrived just as the original yarn was at an end. When time came to leave, she had two competent trainers in place and about seven women reasonably well trained as knitters.

At the 2000 District 6490 Conference, Kathe's Uganda Project earned WGRC an International Service Achievement Award. In her final Matching Grant report to RF, Kathe outlined the future of the project, paraphrased here:

The knitting project: the women in this income-generating project remain eager to succeed; the revolving yarn fund will enable them to borrow money for yarn for their school sweater contracts, or for other items which they will sell. We left them making long sari-like garments, which are very warm and beautiful. No other machines available there can produce this kind of knitting. We determined that the only way to keep the machines from being ruined was private ownership. Women will be allowed to purchase the machines in self-formed groups, with the proceeds going into the Kabale Ana Women's Group Association to use for other income-generating projects. The Kabale Rotary Club will oversee the project. Passap in Switzerland has ceased making the machines, but PassapAmerica

donated \$34,000 worth of parts; those will be shipped with the solar ovens.

The literacy project:
the library is good as it is, but needs to become self-sustaining. The librarian is a graduate of Makerere University in Library Science. Local schools will pay for student access to books at the library. It is hard for Americans to understand the great



The Kabale Rotary Library

hunger for books; many schools in Uganda have no books at all. The book project is a huge success, as is the computer portion of the literacy project. We placed two computers in the library; one, plus a fax/copier that will arrive with another computer, will generate income from public use. A computer room is set up at a local high school, and students from the community keep the classes full; the teachers we trained will also offer classes to the community at large. Access to computers is one of the most important things we could have done for the people, because with computer knowledge one is assured of a job. Because of power fluctuations in this rural community, we will be supplying UPS units to condition and stabilize the power and prevent ruining the computers.

Update: with additional money supplied by WGRC, the second container finally made it to Kabale. PDG Wes Rush's solar oven initiative led to a second Matching Grant for District 6490 and to the shipping of a third container with 139 solar ovens. The ovens were cushioned with mattresses Urbana Rotary had donated to replace some stolen from the students at the Uganda School for the Blind. Although not part of Kathe's original grant, there was room in the container for 10 computers, more knitting machines and accessories, and the much-needed power stabilizers. Regrettably, the third container is 90 miles from Kabale, held hostage by the complexities of governmental paperwork, and delivery of the coveted ovens, in particular, is in doubt as *The Story Continues* is published.

We have necessarily omitted many of the difficulties and frustrations of this project – some overcome and others still to be resolved. To future scribes we leave the pleasure of reporting the successes and satellite projects that may spring from Kathe Keck's original vision. For now, Project Uganda ranks with Operation Rainbow as the most significant World Community Service/Matching Grant undertakings in WGRC history.⁵⁴

⁵⁴ Writes Kabale Rotarian James Ndoimelwe: "We continue to cherish your compassion for the people of Kabale."

PART IV: NEW PROGRAMS OF THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

The Rotary Foundation's 3-H Program (Health, Hunger, Humanity) has so broadened its scope and reach that we could credibly describe it with two more Hs: Harbinger of Hope. As Rotary reaches into the remotest pockets of need, extending its hand to people deprived of what we enjoy as basic rights, one can imagine that many might see in Rotary the very countenance of humanitarianism. With combined annual contributions and investment earnings reaching \$120 million per year, the Rotary Foundation is refining existing programs and enabling new ones. Briefly listing just some of these programs, although WGRC may not presently be directly involved in them, alerts caring Rotarians to the Foundation's expanding vision.⁵⁵

Children's Opportunities Grants

In 1999, 1,600 Children's Opportunities Grants were established for one year. Grants of up to \$25,000, distributed through Rotary clubs in more than 100 countries, supported projects such as care for orphans and street youths, literacy, vocational training, health care, and prevention of child abuse and child labor. In addition, a grant of \$500,000 from the Children's Opportunities Fund earnings was used to benefit, through the Red Cross, victims of the crisis in the Balkan countries, particularly children. This pioneering exercise led to the creation of the Community Assistance Program, whereby a district may spend a portion of its District Designated Funds on approved projects within its own district or nation. This is a "sea change" in the development of Foundation funding.

Preserve Planet Earth

RI launched its Preserve Planet Earth (PPE) focus in 1990 to address concerns for the global environment and sustainable development. Through PPE, Rotarians are encouraged to live environmentally-conscious lifestyles, to increase the number and diversity of environmental service projects carried out by clubs, and to promote greater awareness of the critical environmental issues affecting their communities and the planet. One outstanding example:

The Rotary Club of York, PA discovered a successful way to encourage school children to protect the health of the environment. The program,

⁵⁵ Sources for PART IV include the November 2000 Issue of *The Rotarian*, the 1998-99 and 1999-2000 Rotary Foundation Annual Report, and the Rotary International website: www.rotary.org

"The Earth and You," taught children the four R's of environmental health: Rethink, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. The hands-on nature of the program allowed the children to develop a sense of personal responsibility and the consequences of carelessly ignoring the environment.

Literacy for Bangladesh

Illiteracy is a major obstacle to economic, political and social development, and combating it has been an emphasis of Rotary International since 1986. UNESCO estimates that a quarter of the world's population is illiterate, and millions more are functionally illiterate – lacking the reading and writing skills necessary for everyday life. A 3H Grant funded a unique program in Bangladesh: facing poverty and disease in addition to illiteracy, Bengali and Australian Rotarians introduced the Concentrated Literacy Encounter (CLE) teaching method. Within a three-year period, literacy rates rose from 26 to 55 percent. Significantly, CLE teaches the teachers, ensuring a widening circle of success.

Along the Road to Health Care for Kenya

The Lokori Primary Health Care program provides people in Kenya's arid, impoverished northwest area their only access to care. A mobile medical program launched in 1993 relied upon a worn-out truck. Creative fundraising by Rotarians in Ireland, a Matching Grant, and help from Kenyan Rotarians provided a new, fully-outfitted all-terrain vehicular clinic. Twenty to 30 times a month, the specially-retrofitted vehicle and health teams make the grueling trek from the Lokori headquarters, diagnosing and treating many diseases and medical conditions.

Rotary Centers for International Studies (In Peace and Conflict Resolution)

Rotarians have long dreamed of a Rotary-sponsored university or peace institute to work proactively toward world understanding. The Rotary Centers for International Studies (RCIS) provide an unprecedented opportunity to advance the cause of peace and conflict resolution through education. The Foundation has established seven RCIS with recognized universities in diverse geographic locations, and the RF Trustees have committed \$2 million to support administration of the Rotary Centers during a six-year pilot period. The RCIS will help educate the world's future diplomats, professors, and international

agency leaders, infusing Rotary's philosophy into their policies and decisions.

In 2002-2003, the first 70 scholars will begin a master's program at these universities: International Christian University, Mitaka, Tokyo, Japan; University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia; University of Bradford, West Yorkshire, England; Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris,⁵⁶ France; Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC, USA; University of California-Berkeley, CA, USA; and Universidad del Salvador, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Commented Guillermo Makin, professor of political science at the Universidad del Salvador: "Somebody's guerilla is somebody else's freedom fighter, and a religious fanatic is to others a righteous warrior. The study of conflicts and the attempts to resolve them instructs us all."

Urban Peace

Rotary International's urban peace emphasis focuses attention on community terrorism, domestic violence, ethnic and religious intolerance, deteriorating infrastructures, lack of recreational facilities, hunger, homelessness and unemployment. Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors can demonstrate their commitment to peace by developing a project in any one of these areas. Here are examples of projects:

- "Friends Forever" began in 1986 as a joint project between the YMCA and Rotary Club of Portsmouth, NH, and the YMCA of Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland. Protestant and Catholic youth with strong leadership skills are chosen to attend a retreat in the United States where they learn to overcome the obstacles to peace which exist in their country. Upon their return to Northern Ireland, reunions are organized to help maintain and further develop the friendships formed in the United States.
- An international Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Seminar held at the University of Texas brought together 30 seniors from high schools in El Paso, TX and neighboring Juarez, Mexico. Discussion of a wide range of controversial topics, including race relations, immigration, gangs, and premarital sex, helped to promote a mutual understanding between the U.S. students and their Mexican counterparts.

Teen Suicide: Searching for Solutions

Boulder, CO, and Melbourne, Australia share a distinction beyond their relative affluence: the highest teen suicide rates in their respective nations. With flexibility extended by the RF, U.S. and Australian Rotarians established a Group Study Exchange (GSE) with teams of

⁵⁶ This university is commonly referred to as Sciences Po.

youth workers to explore new approaches and exchange ideas. Their ranks included high school teachers, social workers, YMCA staff, and coaches chosen for their dedication to understanding the issues facing young people.

The five-week learning experiences "were not all happiness, hospitality and fun," according to Stuart Williams, the Aussie team leader. One of the Australian team's school visits happened to coincide with the first anniversary of the Columbine High School tragedy. "We discussed dark, troubling issues...that were emotionally draining," remarked Williams. "But we returned home energized with new perspectives and ideas. The challenge is to use what we learned to make a difference."

In Apartheid's Aftermath

Although apartheid ended in South Africa in 1994, the boundaries between races prove hard to erase. Tennessean Jake Bohstedt, an Ambassadorial Scholar in Cape Town, saw the racial rifts and economic disparities left in apartheid's wake. He brainstormed with like-minded Paul Turner, also from Tennessee, on how to bring the children of South Africa's varied cultural backgrounds together. Jake was already volunteering at a foster home with primarily Afrikaans-speaking youths, and at another with Xhosa children, and had met children with leadership potential at both homes. They shared a language (English) but otherwise, they might have been from different countries. Jake and Paul envisioned a camp where culturally diverse children could come together in a non-threatening environment with the aim of breaking down barriers.

The two scholars launched "CaTYRPILLAR," the Cape Town Youth Rotary Programme in Learning Leadership and Responsibility that worked on three levels: through songs and games; through workshops on issues such as the environment, racism and the former apartheid system; and through community projects such as picking up trash or volunteering at a homeless shelter. In CaTYRPILLAR's first year, nearly 100 youngsters aged 12 and 13 came together, their selection based not on academics, but on whether they possessed a "special spark." Jake and Paul saw examples of CaTYRPILLAR's life-changing potential, and felt their camps would touch the lives of many more of Cape Town's future leaders.

Rotary Responds to AIDS

Rotary International supports the efforts of Rotary clubs, working with government health agencies and non-governmental organizations, to increase awareness among their membership and the broader

community about AIDS, and to undertake or support AIDS education and prevention programs. Rotarians in Georgia, which ranks eighth among the 50 U.S. states in AIDS cases, organized a panel of HIV-infected young adults to provide first-hand information about the dangers of HIV/AIDS to teenagers in local high schools.

The Interact Club of Sete Lagoas, Brazil, helped develop AIDS awareness by selling stickers with the theme of "Protect Yourself," and distributing pamphlets explaining precautions against AIDS. To help health professionals diagnose and treat HIV-infected individuals, the Rotary Club of Jakarta-Gambir, Indonesia, underwrote the costs of producing a hospital manual. In April 1997, 5,000 manuals were distributed to local hospitals, and will be adapted for public use to educate people on prevention of AIDS.

In 1996, Rotary and UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, signed a cooperative agreement to work together to save the lives of millions of young people who are at risk. One could speculate that, after a successful conclusion of PolioPlus, the Rotary Foundation might target AIDS as a primary health and humanitarian focus. Indeed, it is as a facilitator and catalyst that Rotary can best help.

**Many more Rotary Foundation initiatives may be found
in Rotary publications and on its website.**

PART V: ROTARIAN PROFILES

A Rotarian once portrayed Rotarians as "ordinary people doing extraordinary things." That fairly describes innumerable Champaign Rotarians. In fact, we could easily compose a book entitled "Profiles in Service" based solely on the contributions to other local, state and national organizations by dozens of Champaign Rotarians. We cannot include all of the many individuals who merit profiles. As just two examples: 1996-99 Club Director John Hecker has headed Champaign-Urbana Crimestoppers since 1987; Ron Kiddoo, who has run WGRC's football guessing contest for some 15 years, is in his fourth term as Club treasurer, and recently stepped down after 17 years as treasurer of the UI Alumni Association.



Tom Morgan and Marsh Berner with Host Neil Stevens of The Chancellor

Some former Club leaders, such as Roger Martin, Thom Brown, and Jim Leffelman,⁵⁷ have moved away. Those who are dependably "present" should not be overlooked: Bill Bash, Kyle Robeson, and Tom Morgan lead the way with 32 years of perfect attendance. Bill, along

with Morry Hecker and Dwyer Murphy, recently received his 50-year membership pin. Don Moyer Jr. served as secretary of WGRC, Inc. from 1983 to 1996, while Dick O'Neill handled WGRC, Inc. treasurer duties for two decades. And through more than two decades, host Don Judy did everything possible to accommodate the weekly and special-event food and facility requirements of Champaign Rotary at the Chancellor.⁵⁸

Others serve so quietly that we lack published information on them. A prime example is Nancy Martin who, for the past eight years, has assumed almost total responsibility for gathering the data, then designing and publishing the Club *Roster*. During those same eight years, Nancy has also served as Club secretary;



Ron Kiddoo



Bill Bash



Morry Hecker

⁵⁷ Jim Leffelman is now a board member of St. Louis Park Rotary in suburban Minneapolis.

⁵⁸ Don Judy retired as General Manager of the Chancellor in 2001.



Gene Oliver

for 2001-02, she is also WGRC, Inc. secretary. David Hood served six consecutive terms as Club treasurer, then a year as WGRC, Inc. president. Gene Oliver put in five years as Club secretary and 13 as assistant *Fizz* editor. Many members are even less visible as they consistently exemplify "Service Above Self." In subtitled *Steps Going Up: A Selective History of the Champaign Rotary Club*, Oscar Dodson acknowledged the impossibility of equivalent treatment for all deserving individuals. Readers should understand that the creators of *The Story Continues* have similarly faced that fact, and also that the length of the following exemplary profiles is more a function of available information than a measure of quantity and quality of service.

Janice M. Bahr: What Gender Gap?



Jan at Campinas Rotary Club, Brazil

Jan Bahr's leadership is amply described in the recap of her 1992-93 presidency of WGRC,⁵⁹ but her professional achievements are so noteworthy that we decided to include at least some of them. Jan's *curriculum vitae* were already impressive when she was proposed for Rotary in 1988: she'd been listed in several *Who's Who* books and had just received an Outstanding Alumna Award from

Viterbo College, La Crosse, WI. She was immediately appointed to the Club's International Hospitality Committee, and within a short time her work in Rotary led to her election to the WGRC Board. All the while, she has steadily added new honors and achievements to her professional résumé.

In early 1989, Jan received the UI College of Agriculture's Paul A. Funk Recognition Award, the most prestigious research award for UI faculty, for her research on improving reproductive efficiency in various species and thereby increasing food production. In 1993, she earned the H. H. Mitchell Award for excellence in graduate teaching and research in the Department of Animal Sciences, as well as election to Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. The next year ΦΚΦ honored her for Outstanding Leadership and Scholarship. Also in 1993 came the Merck Award for Achievement in Poultry Science. Next, she was inaugurated as 1993-94 president of the Society for the Study of Reproduction, comprised of 2,500 scientists. Jan was named one of 21 University

⁵⁹ See p. 37, *The Story Continues*.

Senior Scholars for 1993-96 by the UI Foundation for her pioneering research.

As though she didn't have enough going on at the UI and in WGRC, Jan became one of three community representatives on the Unit 4 School District's 5-Year Strategic Planning Committee. She has put in eight years on the Board of McKinley/Champaign County YMCA, and 11 years as a director of Provena Covenant Medical Foundation, serving as its 2001 Board chairman. Her long service with the Green Meadows Girl Scouts earned her their Woman of Distinction Award in 1996. She has been cited for her work to help finance relocation of St. Jude Catholic Worker House, and has chaired United Way divisions. A member of the UI Oratorio Society and of her church choir, Jan naturally became one of WGRC's few "singing presidents." She organized the Rotary-Aires and often leads songs at Rotary meetings.

A native of La Crosse, Jan earned her M.S. in zoology and Ph.D. in physiology at UI. She is a full professor in the departments of animal sciences and physiology. Her desk is cluttered with credentials in reproductive biology, and she has edited or written two professional journals, a book, 21 book chapters, and 84 research papers in that field. Jan has performed lead roles with every important national panel in her field (we'll throw in the recognizable acronyms: NSF, USDA, and NIH). She has served as an external examiner of the physiology department at Cornell University. Her work has attracted more than \$3 million in grants to the UI and she has presented seminars to universities and pharmaceutical firms in many countries.

If this woman tires of reproductive research, perhaps she should go into executive search. In 1987-88, her university made her chair of the Search Committee for a new vice chancellor for research and associate dean of the Graduate College. Five years later she chaired the Search Committee for UI provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. Then during 1994-95, Jan chaired the Consultative Committee to assist in the search for a UI president that resulted in the selection of James Stukel. The following year, no search committee was needed when the UI named Jan Bahr UI's associate vice chancellor for research.

Jan's remarkable balancing act continues apace: she received the 1999 "Book of Golden Deeds" award from the Exchange Club of Champaign – the 13th WGRCer to be so honored. On April 12, 1997, at a tea at the UI President's home, she received one of her most treasured awards: the UI Mothers Association Medallion of Honor, the most prestigious single award given annually by the Association. When she was feted at a banquet five days later, the presenter said: "The Mothers Association is very proud to honor a woman who is able to balance teaching, research and other University duties, and still find time to contribute to the community."

Amen, and wow! Little wonder that WGRC leaders, recognizing her active pursuit of Rotary principles in the Club and the community, nominated her to the Club Board so early in her WGRC tenure. The prospect of becoming the first woman president of Champaign Rotary in no way intimidated Jan Bahr, who is "to the manner born." As we earlier described, she discharged her responsibilities with enthusiastic aplomb and later moved into District 6490 leadership as 1997-2000 Assistant Governor, the first Rotarian chosen by Governor Frank Keck to "Make It Happen."

William H. Creswell Jr.: Rotarian and Humanitarian

Bill Creswell devoted a quarter-century to Champaign Rotary, and a lifetime to health education. We regret that Bill passed away June 28, 2001, before he could see *The Story Continues*, because he has been an exemplary initiator and "continuer" of Champaign Rotary's work. Mild of manner and unassuming, Bill was an achiever of the highest order. One of what Tom Brokaw has described as "The Greatest Generation," Bill served during World War II as a naval aviation radioman. He earned his A.B. at the University of Northern Colorado, his M.S. at UCLA, and his Ph.D. at Stanford. He served on the Northern Colorado faculty for five years, then spent four years in Washington, D.C., as a health association executive and consultant to the National Education Association for the School Health Education Study, which resulted in the development and adoption of a curriculum throughout the country.



Bill Creswell

Bill then was a professor in the UI Department of Health and Safety Education from 1962 to 1990, serving as department head 1970-1980. He held a joint appointment at UI-Chicago School of Public Health and was a visiting professor at the universities of Wisconsin, Indiana, and Colorado. He was prominent in all state and national public health organizations; had scores of publication credits including *Smoking and Health: A Report of the Surgeon General*; and at the time of his death, was in the process of updating an 11th edition of his textbook, *School Health Practice*, considered "a classic for professional training of health educators." Among his awards: the Illinois Governor's Health and Fitness Award in 1981; the American Heart Association's Service Citation for 1982-83; University of Northern Colorado's Outstanding Alumnus Hall of Fame Award, 1989; Champaign Rotary Club Rotarian of the Year for 1989-90; the Society for Public Health Education Distinguished Fellow Award, 1991; the ISOPHE Award for Outstanding Contributions to Health Education in 1995; and the Illinois Public Health Association's honored emeritus member in 1997.

As he joined Champaign Rotary in 1976, Bill said he was attracted by the international student programs, "one of the powerful forces in a world society that reaches beyond governments." Early on, he played a key role with WGRC's Vocational Committee, confirming his commitment to inter-generational, one-on-one contacts with youth. Bill was one of the first people to criticize the popular media for encouraging teen smoking; he campaigned for no-smoking policies for athletes and led a complex study to assess the extent of youth smoking. He waged a professional campaign to document differences education can make to smoking behavior among elementary and high school youth. Little wonder that 1988 WGRC President Cal Owens picked Bill as the ideal person to lead WGRC's Drug Abuse Committee and to later ramrod Project Drug Free in Champaign-Urbana schools.

Bill's greatest service to WGRC and the community was his leadership of the Drug Abuse Committee. Details of this pioneering work are found in Part II, but it bears reporting that WGRC won the 1989 District Community Service Award for Bill's project to train Unit 4 teachers in assisting teenagers to deal with peer pressure and abuse problems. This program, which earned Rotarian of the Year honors for Bill, was expanded and linked to Bill's initiative, Project Drug Free, which won a second District Community Service Award in 1990. The professionally produced Project Drug Free video premiered in July of that year and was distributed to all District clubs, along with the offer of assistance from WGRC in establishing substance abuse projects.

Asked some years later how he saw substance abuse in the future, Bill thought smoking would basically disappear, thanks to research and education showing that it is so uniformly harmful. He expected alcohol will always be with us as a hidden menace, and that most work with illegal drugs was yet to be done. Pessimistic about attacking only from the supplier perspective, Bill advocated concentration on decreasing consumer demand and providing treatment resources and programs for addicts. "There is also need to face societal matters," he said, "that help make drugs the 'substance of despair.'" He urged the Club to continue and accelerate the "Teacher Training in Drug Education" effort as an example for many more clubs. "This is too important," he said, "to leave to just our Club or Committee." At the time of his death, Bill remained active in research and writing as professor emeritus.

Characteristic of a man who cared so very much for his fellow human beings, Bill was a leader of his Community United Church of Christ. Said a colleague, "He was everything at church – moderator, head of building and grounds – he served on every committee." Bill's friends admired his thirst for education – he was as eager to learn and exchange ideas as he was to teach. He was interested in a wide range of issues, including politics, and would sometimes contact people who expressed opinions in speeches or letters to the editor.

In March 2001, Bill wrote a short apologetic letter to inform Art Skelton that he was no longer able to attend meetings. Enclosed were donations to PolioPlus and the June 1 Action Auction. And a month before he died, Bill communicated his concerns about a Rotary Scholar who was experiencing some difficulty in Barcelona. This man stayed concerned and involved until his very last day. The 1989 *Fizz* tribute to Bill Creswell concluded: "We're proudest that Bill is a prophet with honor in his own land, showing the way in 'Service Above Self' as our 1989-90 Rotarian of the Year." Nearly always smiling, Bill loved family, friends, and life itself; his very work was devoted to helping people enjoy healthier, longer lives. That work lives on, but Bill Creswell is missed.

Glen W. Wensch: He Took It Seriously



Glen Wensch

In 1984, Champaign Rotary was doing just fine, as always, when Kyle Robeson sponsored new member Glen Wensch. In short order, the perspicacious and energetic engineer began to point out where, and demonstrate how, even a good service club could do better. Glen was retired from a career of honorable and valuable service to his nation, but had plenty of service yet to give. He was quick to see what should be done and equally quick to volunteer for the job. Between 1988 and 1995, Glen Wensch ramrodded the Attendance Committee – as chair the first four years, then as a Club director with oversight of Club Service Committees. Highlighted by a District Attendance Achievement Award in 1991 (85% for the year), it's unlikely that WGRC ever experienced a period of higher attendance than during those years, because Glen took that assignment seriously.

He also took seriously his three years on the Board of Directors. Club Service, his area of oversight, also included the Club Awards Committee, which he would later chair, and Club Fellowship, which he effectively promoted. But some of his most persistently valuable input came at Board meetings; you had to be there to appreciate it. Club presidents would be clicking along only to hear – like a yank on their training collars – "Mr. President, you can't do that. That requires a motion and a second. No, you can't make the motion yourself." Or some such reminder. When Glen was present, meetings were going to be run properly, according to policy and rules of procedure. To those who scoffed at *Robert's Rules*, Glen could be as irritating as a burr in the bustle; others saw him as a welcome breath of fresh air. But beyond this, Glen competently handled many assignments of which most members were unaware, but that Club presidents appreciated. For example, more than once, Glen wrote the applications WGRC submitted

for various District awards, many of which the Club won. At the end of his 1993-94 presidential year, Terry Davis named Glen Rotarian of the Year, commending him "for always thinking of Rotary."

In the two years following his Board service, Glen chaired the Transportation and Visitation Committee, charged with providing transportation of members to weekly meetings as needed, and coordinating visits to comfort ill and disabled members and their families. The transportation part had been there; the visitation segment had not. Perhaps Glen was inspired by the work of Bob Wright on the Transportation Committee that earned a Meritorious Service Award from WGRC President Jan Bahr, for which Glen wrote the citation honoring Bob. In any event, Glen saw a need, and appointed himself to get the job accomplished. The committee quickly became known as the Sunshine Committee, and Glen's energetic pursuit of his new mission won WGRC a Club Service Achievement Award at the 1996 District 6490 Conference. Glen also received numerous commendations for his Sunshine work from WGRC Presidents Keene, Wackerlin, and Anderson.

A glance at Glen's pre-Rotary life makes it easy to understand how he could offer so much at an age that tends to excuse most people from such active involvement. He earned three degrees from the UI, including the first Ph.D. awarded in metallurgy. While a student he met UI coed Lois Anne Dallenbach. Then came Pearl Harbor, and Glen joined the (then) Army Air Corps. He married Lois in Charleston, MO, before he went off to England to fly Curtiss P-40 and P-51 fighters for the Blue Nose squadron, engaging and destroying a Messerschmitt ME -109 in his first flight over Germany.

After the war, Glen put his expertise to work as a pioneer in atomic energy at Los Alamos, NM. He continued to serve the federal government in Washington, and established reciprocal atomic energy programs with European countries. Lest we think that Glen was too serious to have fun, he admits to being an avid sailor on the Chesapeake Bay during his time in D.C. – although he undoubtedly took that seriously and did it very well, too. In retirement, Glen had his own professional corporation and became a consultant conducting energy assessments for emerging nations. He has evaluated nuclear energy installations in many countries, especially in Russia, where he has been "everywhere," including near Chernobyl when it melted down.

On the community front, Glen headed a task force studying downtown traffic patterns that recommended traffic lights at University and Chester, along with removal of the reviled Downtown Mall. His pace never slowed; he monitored city government intently and served on two campaign committees for four-term Mayor Dannel McCollum. He became active in the Air Force Association, serving as State President Kyle Robeson's secretary, and then as president himself. In fact, in

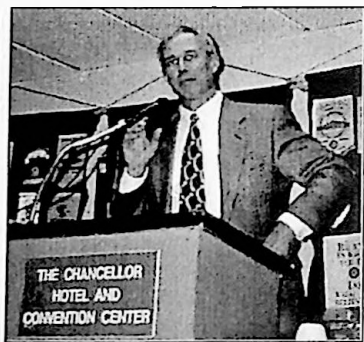
1990, Glen became the first Illinoisan to win the Man of the Year Award of the Air Force Association's five-state Great Lakes Region.

Glen served (actively, of course!) on the UI Alumni Association Board. He established the Materials Science Alumni Group and earned the Constituent Leadership Award from the UIAA. He received the Distinguished Merit Award of the UI Department of Materials Science and Engineering Alumni Association for his career in industry and government – particularly for his “unique contributions to pioneering advancements in the field of nuclear energy.”

Glen's last award came after viral encephalitis finally diminished his ability (but not his desire) to do good works. At a ceremony at Carle Arbours Nursing Home, where Glen has resided since September 1997, Champaign Mayor McCollum declared March 30, 1999, to be Glen W. Wensch Day and presented the proclamation to Glen and Lois Anne. “Glen has been a major boost to every project to which he has devoted his energies,” said McCollum, “be it his career, his community, or Rotary.”

Asked by George Scheetz (for *The Flzz's* “First Person Rotary” feature) to describe himself in one word, Glen came up with “persistent.” No argument there: Glen has been a persistent blessing and producer of good works for WGRC and people everywhere he's been. We could use more like him.

Kip R. Pope: Aesthetics & Integrity



Kip Pope

Most Club members might describe Kip Pope as affable but not effusive, friendly but quiet. But that calm public demeanor masks an athletic heart and an adventurous soul. Until *The News-Gazette* devoted most of page 1 and all of page 3 of its Sunday, July 1, 2001, edition to Kip, few recalled that he was a State high school swimming champion, a four-time Big Ten Conference champ and record-holder, and a two-time All-American; and that he was on the 1971 U.S. modern pentathlon team. Even fewer know of his fondness for swift sports cars, or that he once rode a 1966 Triumph Bonneville motorcycle across Europe, or that he enjoys downhill skiing and general aviation flying – a pastime not unanimously applauded by Janet, his wife of 32 years, Kevin (20) and Hillary (12).

For that matter, outsiders were mildly amazed when, in 1983, Kip Pope left practice with a respected Champaign law firm to run C&U

Poster Advertising, a billboard company. They didn't realize that what had motivated Kip to become an attorney was a decision he made in 1971 while on a 10-month, government-paid sojourn in Vietnam: to challenge the twin-city plan of Champaign and Urbana to ban billboards. Kip had never anticipated operating C&U Poster, although it had been the family business since 1917. But he did not concur that cities should or could, by drafting ordinances, legislate a private company out of business.

In 1976, after completing UI law school and years of research into billboard industry issues, Kip filed suit contesting the action of both Champaign and Urbana to ban billboards. Had he not prevailed, C&U Poster would have been history. Motions and counter-motions delayed the trial until 1982. Finally, in a 283-page opinion and 50-page order, the 6th Circuit ruled for Pope, invalidating the city rules on First Amendment grounds. Then Kip took over the family business. He set about not just improving the appearance of his billboards with landscaping and creative design, but also by hiding poles and blending the structures into their surroundings. "My focus on aesthetics just kind of evolved," he says: "I liked the results and got more involved as the years went by."

In fact, Kip's intelligent vision inspired a national campaign to promote billboard aesthetics, and he became not just a director of the Outdoor Advertising Association of America, but its conscience. Through individual leadership, he has set the example for aesthetic improvements in the billboard industry. Starting from his consciousness of the community impact of billboards, Kip has championed the cause of what many might once have considered an oxymoron: attractive billboards.

Recently, Kip worked again with city planners to develop new design and placement restrictions. "They've really raised the bar," Kip commented. "It will take our best work to meet the new requirements. We could argue that they've gone beyond the purview of the 1993 settlement agreement...but the changes they've made – despite my predilection against over-regulation – are probably pretty good. We have nice communities and want to keep them that way."

Says Kip's wife, Janet: "He has the most integrity of anyone I've ever known, and that integrity has always included a meticulous concern for what's right for his community and what's right for us as a family." Given Kip's gift for finding constructive common ground, it's little wonder that city officials lamented his decision this year to sell C&U Poster Advertising to an Atlanta-based sign company. Kip will serve as aesthetic consultant to the new owners and continue presentations on billboard aesthetics around the country.

We include this signboard saga because it is so reflective of Kip Pope's character. Before "win-win" became part of the business lexicon, that was Kip's approach. His court antagonists, the city attorneys, respected Kip because "he never showed personal animosity, and was quite gracious." That rings true to his Rotary friends; there is no animus in this man, certainly no pretense, no visible ego. To all he is a warm friend, a gentleman, and a gentle man. At the same time, he is a multi-faceted man of many interests and talents.

So: business sold, now what? "I'm going to try to relax, and dust off my piano," Kip said. Ah, the piano: the instrument of Kip's primary visibility within Champaign Rotary. For many years he has shared keyboard duties with David Thies, counterbalancing David's *élan* with an understated sophistication, an almost scholarly touch. To wit, this comment from a 1994 *Fizz*: "Jan Bahr led her Rotary-Aires chorale; Kip Pope gave music lessons and led new songs, as well as old ones with flair." He is both thoughtful innovator and steady hand, a dependable resource, a solid block in the foundation of Champaign Rotary.

Selfishly, Rotary leaders hope Kip included a covenant in his contract whereby the new sign moguls will, when and where possible, follow his example and provide Rotary billboards for just the paper cost. Kip donated the first – "Smile – Rotary Pledges a Polio-Free World" – in 1990. 'n 1993-94, he provided several sites for a February to June program, with WGRC President Jan Bahr enlisting the participation of other local clubs. Enabling Rotary billboards earned Kip several Club citations, and his Club Vocational Service Award for chairing the 1997-98 Four Way Test Committee indicates that he helps the Club in many ways. Kip also served as WGRC, Inc. president in 1998-99. Perhaps now that he has retired, Champaign Rotary can lean even more on Kip's quiet leadership.

Kip has visited every continent but one, and hopes soon to add Antarctica to his travel schedule. Perhaps he could do that (with tire chains?) on "Tommy Triumph," the motorcycle that also carried him 6,600 miles through the Rockies, "camping all the way." After all, at 35, the bike is younger than its easy rider. But we suspect Kip will take Janet and leave Tommy home. Says Janet: "We've had a great life together. I don't think I'd change a thing."

Neither would Kip's Rotary colleagues, who like him just as he is.

Elizabeth A. Beauchamp: Lioness of Literacy

Before any service clubs admitted women, Beth had considered challenging the exclusion. After all, she had been a successful sales executive with WICD since 1975. She had been elected to consecutive four-year terms on the Champaign City Council. From its inception



Beth Beauchamp

until 1990, she had served on the C-U Convention & Visitors Bureau Board of Advisors. Meanwhile, she was raising two sons and a daughter, all of whom became successful professionals. One can speculate as to how a community-involved career woman like Beth might have perceived male-only service organizations. At the right moment, problem solved: Rotary opened its doors, Kip Pope sponsored Beth for membership, and she quickly began to contribute.

In 1991-92, in response to a newly announced focus of Rotary International, President David Thies created the Literacy Committee and appointed new Rotarian Beth Beauchamp as a member. Rotary recognizes the huge cost of functional illiteracy in under-employment: people who lack literacy and numeracy skills cannot pull themselves out of poverty. In many ways, illiteracy is akin to a world-wide epidemic of a debilitating illness. In the United States, a surprising 20 per cent of adults read below the 5th grade level and cannot perform jobs that pay a living wage.⁶⁰

Beth became Literacy co-chair in 1993-94 and pumped life into what would be her committee "home" for the next four years. She researched literacy needs and initiatives already underway to which WGRC might link. She met with her counterparts from other C-U clubs and established a Literacy Fund run through the Champaign Rotary account. The informal group's shared mission was to build suitable reading areas in community rooms of public housing and, in due course, Beth came up with \$1,600. In conjunction with making physical improvements to the spaces, volunteers from each local club took responsibility for one of the housing complexes. WGRC developed a working relationship with the Joanne Dorsey Public Housing Complex, with a half-dozen WGRCers spending an hour a week either reading to children or helping them with reading comprehension. At the 1994 District 6490 Conference, Beth's Literacy Project won a District Achievement Award for all cooperating clubs.

Beth was always scavenging for books. During the 1994-95 year, she asked Champaign Rotarians to donate books for Make a Difference Day. Committee Member Clif Carey collected more than 300 books, and to those Beth added discounted books from Pages for All Ages Book Store, plus a donated set of *World Book Encyclopedia*. All were delivered to Dorsey Homes where, at one time, Beth had 21 volunteers reading with children.

At the January 16, 1995, Club meeting, Beth presented a program on the Literacy Committee, describing the previous summer's Literacy Project. She thanked everyone involved in the book drive where "each book touched the life of a child." She commended Gene Rose and John

⁶⁰ In 2001, the "living wage" benchmark was \$17,000 per annum.

Ady, who volunteered during the 10-week program. Gene worked with five teenagers at Dorsey Homes, and John worked with a learning-disabled first-grader at Dr. Howard School. Beth expressed her hope of expanding the program. At the 1995 District Conference, the Literacy Achievement Award went to WGRC alone.

In her enthusiasm (and possibly because of unreliable follow-through by one or two cooperating clubs) Beth exceeded her small budget for buying books in late 1995, but the Project Planning Committee quickly approved \$500 in early 1996. After a year of co-chairing, Beth turned the Literacy Committee over to Bob Wedgeworth for 1996-98. He raised the possibility of eradicating functional illiteracy in the community. *The News-Gazette* expressed some interest in working with WGRC on this, but the initiative did not fly. The Club continued to support literacy efforts through tutoring programs and contributing towards necessary resources for reading centers.

Beth next turned her attention to International Hospitality, then to International Scholarship Services. She took on the key task of chairing banquet arrangements for the 1998 Action Auction. She rejoined the Literacy Committee in 1998-99 and returned to co-chair it with Dick Ensrud in 1999-2000. That year, Beth and Dick met with Parkland College and signed on to Project READ, Parkland's adult literacy program. After 20 hours of required training they had two volunteers, one being Dick. Beth also worked on providing a book for every newborn baby in the Champaign-Urbana area, but funding for that project did not materialize. The following year Beth served on the District Literacy Committee.

On July 1, 2000, Beth began a three-year term on the Champaign Rotary Board of Directors. She oversaw Vocational Service in her first year, and has responsibility for all Community Service committees in 2001-2002. Literacy is one of those committees, and it is in good hands with Scott Dahman, who took the reins in 2000-01 and continues as chair.

Although there was no longer a direct support link from Rotary to the Reading Group, a private not-for-profit group serving children with congenital or trauma-induced reading disabilities, Beth served on that Group's 1998-2000 Board. She also served 1999-2001 on the UI Library Board and now serves on the Great Rivers Board of The Nature Conservancy. "The longer I am in Champaign Rotary," Beth commented, "the better I understand Rotary's commitment to service, and the more I value the relationships and opportunities to serve. This Club opens doors and windows to the world."

Vernon L. Barkstall: Builder of Bridges



Vern Barkstall

Because differences – of background, culture, education, age, economics, and perception – still separate people, Vern Barkstall spent his life building bridges and assisting those in need. Born in Cincinnati, Vern went through the Columbus, Ohio, public school system. After military service, he earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in education at the Ohio State University. At OSU, Vern earned five varsity letters, playing basketball with Bobby Knight and captaining the baseball team in 1958. He was a scholar-athlete and one of the first black athletes in the Big Ten to compete in two major revenue sports.

Vern married Carol Benton in Columbus in 1957 and was disappointed that his hometown high school would not hire him for the open position of teacher and coach: it was not "ready" for black faculty. He took a similar job at a Columbus junior high, but in Vern's words: "I learned early in life that racism seemed to have a life of its own which shamelessly damages the quality of life for the oppressor as well as the oppressed. I became convinced that dealing with racism was a larger calling than my first love of teaching." In 1966, Vern accepted a position as executive director of the Urban League of Champaign County. Vern continued in that position until a year before his death in 1995, building the Urban League from a token agency to the multi-million dollar organization of today.

A long-time member of American Legion Post 559 and of the NAACP, Vern was one of Champaign-Urbana's most community-involved citizens. He served on the founding committees of the Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club, the Champaign County Opportunities Industrialization Center, and the Frances Nelson Health Center.⁶¹ Vern was a charter Board member of the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce, Board member of Concerned Citizens for a Better Neighborhood, and past vice president of the Champaign-Urbana Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Vern joined Champaign Rotary in 1976 and became a Paul Harris Fellow in 1989. During the 1990s, he served on the important Development & Classification, Substance Abuse, Project Planning, and Nominating Committees. Other committee assignments for WGRC included Salvation Army, Fellowship, and World Community Service. Fellowship was a good assignment for Vern because, although he had faced many humiliating forms of racism, he had a sunny disposition and saw good in everyone. In response to Illini ribbing about his Buckeye connection, he gave as good as he got.

⁶¹ FNHC was a major recipient of Action Auction VI in 1992.

In 1992, he was honored by County organizations celebrating National Volunteer Week – one of many similar honors, because Vern spent his life volunteering above and beyond the call of his job. In December 1993, 500 people turned out to see Vern honored as Citizen of the Year by the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce. Four months later, the Illinois Community Action Association presented Vern its Martin Luther King Jr. Award.

Vern Barkstall was a beacon of hope and encouragement for disadvantaged citizens. Earnestly and tirelessly, he worked to expand opportunities for economic and housing assistance, job training, health care access, and a better life for thousands of people in need. One admirer said he could advocate for the disadvantaged without antagonizing either the black or white community. In the spring of 1994, beset by terminal illness, Vern gave his final address, a speech titled "Reflections on a Career," at the Urban League's 33rd Annual Meeting. He looked back on his entire life, although most in the audience already understood the "why" of this man. He expressed his gratitude to many who had supported his initiatives, and he pointed a finger of culpability at both blacks and whites. Mostly, he urged those present to continue the work to which he had devoted all his energies. This excerpt could be seen as Vern's personal mission statement:

Let me make my most emphatic point: so long as we allow racism and other obstacles to clutter the path to equal opportunity, society will be burdened with the necessity of doing for others that which they could well do for themselves, given fair opportunities. I am asking you all to continue down the roads to equality. Continue to support the Urban League, the Boys and Girls Club, Girls, Inc., the Frances Nelson Health Center, and other agencies serving economically disadvantaged persons. Thank you for helping me serve this community all these years. Although the road often has been bumpy, it has been a good ride. I am cognizant of the difficult road yet to travel, but am buoyed by the knowledge that a goodly number of people out there of all races want to help make Champaign County a better community.

Not long after his moving, career-capping speech, Vern left this world. His wife, Carol, and their children – Jeffrey, Lisa and Karen – can take pride in Vern's legacy: Champaign County is making strides in eliminating some kinds of discrimination. We believe he would be pleased to see the bridges now being constructed by Rotary's cooperative Habitat for Humanity project.

Long a champion of equity in public education, Vern was vocal in his condemnation of forced busing as the "answer" to integration, because "blacks bear the lion's share of the burden." Vern would be gratified to know that Tracy Parsons, his successor as Urban League president, continues the quest for "equality in education, the justice system, and job opportunities." And we believe Vern would be pleased that his name will be linked to education for decades to come through the new Barkstall Elementary School in southwest Champaign. Let us hope that

Barkstall School will stand in permanent tribute to Vern's dedication and contributions to "a better community."

David C. Thies: Passionate Rotarian



Dave in Outdoor Cabaret
(at Corn Roast)

Many Champaign Rotarians contribute their time and talents to Club and community; for most, it's an ebb and flow proposition. From his first months of membership, David Thies has contributed non-stop. That's why his name pops up so frequently in this volume, and also why he merits a few more words. David came into Rotary with what WGRC wags would consider the proverbial three strikes: working in Urbana, and being an attorney and a Democrat. With his infectious good humor, David deflated the caustic jibes like so many popped balloons, and his devotion to the Object of Rotary soon transcended all

other perceptions. Suffice it to say that no other Champaign Rotarian has been Outstanding New Member, Rotarian of the Year, and WGRC president.

Should David ever leave Champaign-Urbana – and we hope he never does – the average Champaign Rotarian would remember him most for the hundreds of times he has provided musical accompaniment and luncheon background music for regular Monday Club meetings. George Scheetz referred to his "preprandial musical entertainment" [that means: related to, or suitable for the time just before dinner]; one might visualize the freshness of a bubbling brook, its laughing, musical sounds evoked by David's flying fingers. No, even more: at special moments, David's playing expresses a *joie de vivre*, a breaking free akin to that of exuberant dolphins.

We take for granted the incredible level of talent that underlies David's keyboard interludes. The repertoire at his fingertips flows from ABBA to Zappa; he slips easily from *Phantom* to *Foreigner*. He studied with noted teacher Lester Van Tress most of his childhood; from a classical background, he got "into" jazz, and that (in David's words):

helped develop my ear so that I can hear something on the radio...and get close to sounding like I know it. Most important, though, was growing up in a family with such a wide variety of musical tastes that I heard all styles. Genetics provided me with the ear and the chops – it's all a very interesting thing and I take credit for none of it. I really do communicate through the keyboard, and I would be lost without music. Without that outlet, it would be like taking my voice away. Somehow that results in the music you hear. The members don't realize it, but it is the Club that has given me the gift of the opportunity to play. It's part of who I am."

Yes. But while we marvel at the technique that would enable him to succeed as a professional musician, there are many other excellent parts to David Thies. He readily acknowledges his wife, Jodie, and his children (Daniel, Stephanie, Michael, Adam) as some of the best parts of him; and in the Thies musical tradition, son Daniel, with his sister Stephanie on keyboard, led the singing at the June 14, 1999, Youth Day meeting of the Club.



The Late PDG Craig Webber
at 1998 District Conference

David earned his B.S. and J.D. at the UI, with a year of study in France mixed in. That year expanded his language skills and helped open his mind and heart to international students and visitors – a wonderful attribute for a Rotarian. Perhaps even as a student, David knew that Rotary was in his future. After all, his grandfather, Judge Charles Webber, was an Urbana Rotarian, as is his uncle, Carl Webber. Of course, David's other uncle, Craig Webber, was an active Past District Governor (1989-90) prior to his untimely death.

David has served his Club and District in many ways and on many occasions, and does so with obvious enjoyment and passion. We could say more, but no one needs to speak for David. Speaking for himself in his "First Person Rotary" interview, David declared these passions: "My faith, my family, my profession." Those would be the top three; clearly, there are a number of others. Asked to describe himself in one word, he said, "Well-grounded." We would add, "well-rounded" as he is the complete, and passionate, Rotarian.

Douglas W. Nelson: GSE Missionary

Doug Nelson communicates and connects in many ways, including through his talented hands. Music lessons he began at age six led to formal studies at Illinois State University and the Chicago Conservatory of Music. By the late 1970s, he was playing in various rock bands and also practicing massage therapy. The dual careers, says Doug, "were a good combination until they began pulling in opposite directions." Coming to Champaign to do background vocals for an album a friend was recording at Creative Audio Studio, he decided to stay. He joined the house band at the Ramada Inn and played six nights a week, 48 weeks a year.

Doug founded BodyWork Associates, and his reputation in the emerging field of massage therapy grew to where he could no longer pursue his music. In 1997, Doug started NMT MidWest, Inc., the



Doug Nelson

teaching/consulting arm of his business. Today NMT MidWest conducts more than 50 seminars a year and does consulting for prominent sports teams – among them the Chicago Bulls, St. Louis Rams, and New York Jets. Doug considers Kansas City Chiefs coach Dick Vermeil “truly my mentor.”

But he has another mentor, one instrumental in Doug's Rotary career. In 1992, Doug was chosen to be a member of a District 649 Group Study Exchange team that visited Japan. “To a farm kid with no travel experience,” Doug says, “that was a life-changing opportunity.” Doug was hosted in Japan by a physician who, in that brief time, “became like a father” to him. The story is too long to include, but Doug's host sent him off with a charge: he was to seek not to pay *back* a debt, but to pay it *forward*.

“That's how I got so jazzed up about Japan and Rotary exchange,” Doug explains. “It really allowed me to step out of the box, explore new vistas, and redefine my life and career.” This is a story that resonates with the many Rotarians who have found International Service to be the evolutionary avenue of the Four. “Everything changed when I returned,” Doug recalls; “no, everything was about the same, *I* had changed...mostly because of the wonderful people I met.” Within months of Doug's return, Ken Gunji sponsored him into Champaign Rotary, a youthful new member in a classification new to the Club: Physical Therapy.

That many “old guard” WGRCCers did not rush to relate to this GSE “graduate” did not deter Doug from his almost devotional pursuit of Rotary service. New members generally cut their Rotary teeth on Club committees; Doug immediately involved himself at the District level. He became a veritable GSE missionary, speaking to many clubs and doing “a ton of work for GSE.” Aside from his unusual GSE-to-Rotarian leap, Doug gained early visibility in WGRCC with the Photography and Music committees. In April 1994, Doug's “We Are Interact!” adaptation of “We Are Family” soared to the top of the Club “hit parade.” Although not many knew the extent of his District work, no one was surprised when 1994-95 Club President Tom Good presented him the Robert Eisner Jr. Award as the outstanding new Rotarian.

The following year Doug chaired the Club's World Community Service/International Exchange Committee and served on the International Hospitality Committee. He wrote a terrific youth exchange group song that, unfortunately, has been lost. He helped with the Yanai exchange, and helped bring to fruition the Japan House project in 1996-97. Meanwhile, he continued to work on the District GSE Committee, which

became an even larger responsibility when PDG Lowell Samuel's endowment funded a second District 6490 GSE team.

On July 1, 1997, Doug was elected a Director of Champaign Rotary. For the next three years he would oversee all International Service committees; but he contributed in other ways, as well. In his first months on the Board, Doug began championing more hands-on projects. In due course, along came Habitat for Humanity, Dream Houses, and the Uganda project – and Doug was there, offering his hands. Club President Scott Anderson Jr. called upon Doug's computer expertise, appointing him to the committee to create a Club website. And that January (1998), Doug began work on a membership database that he would complete in December, 1999.

In April 1998 came the deathless musical séance: WGRC's incarnation of The Supremes, described on p. 67. No one will claim credit for this "event," but Doug was on guitar and also on Dave Thies' committee to promote attendance at the upcoming District Conference, so we have our suspicions. Fortunately, "The Supremes" did not appear at the District Conference, or else the first-ever Four Avenues of Service Award, newly created by Rotary for demonstrated support of the Object of Rotary through participation in all Four Avenues, might not have been presented to – Doug Nelson.

After his Board term ended, Doug became active with the Ambassadorial Scholar and Youth Exchange Committees, and, at the 2000 District Conference, he received the Rotary Foundation District Service Award, an RI award issued at the discretion of the District Governor for service to the Rotary Foundation. For 2001-2002, Doug will work with the 85th Anniversary and World Community Service committees.

Yes, Doug has a life outside of Rotary. In 1994 he married Janet Ellis ("the best thing ever to happen to me"), and Janet soon joined Doug in his "paying-forward" Rotary work. She and Doug have hosted 12 RYE students, three for more than a month, including two from Azul. But Janet, a collaborative consultant at Centennial High School, made her own significant Rotary mark: for five years she devoted at least 15 hours each school-term week as Interact sponsor. Her tireless "Service Above Self" resulted in the 1998 recognition of Janet Ellis-Nelson as an Honorary Champaign Rotarian.

"Janet and I are a team," Doug avers. That makes the Nelsons a team within a team within a still greater team: they are a special blessing as WGRC missionaries for Rotary International.

Denton R. Brown: He Makes It Happen



Denton with PDG Tim Gover
of Charleston

Denton Brown embraced the Object of Rotary the day he joined WGRC in 1990. But then, service comes naturally to a man who served 25 years in the U.S. Army, attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel and earning the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal (3 awards), the Bronze Star, and the Army Commendation Medal (3 awards). He forged an impressive record in personnel management and training, project management, and financial management in addition to overseas assignments that included 18

months in Vietnam. He came to Champaign as deputy commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL), and his final assignment was as professor and department head of military science, Army ROTC, University of Illinois. Following retirement from the Army, Denton chose to stay in Champaign (and with Rotary!), taking a position as associate director, administrative affairs, for UI's School of Chemical Science.

His organizational and management skills were quickly recognized and he moved to the UI National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) as associate director for finance and administration. In 1999 he became NCSA's associate director for strategic planning. Among several key contributions to NCSA, Denton is credited with recovering more than \$5 million in funds which had been "lost" through sloppy accounting over a period of ten years. He led the creation of the budget package that enabled NCSA to be selected as one of two national sites for \$35 million in annual funding from the National Science Foundation; and played a lead role in the design and management of the expansion of NCSA's new supercomputer building, breaking ground in 2001.

Denton recently took up a new challenge. The UI is replacing all of its business and financial software, including the UFAS accounting system currently used on all three campuses. The new Oracle-based system allows a wide range of utility in the management of the University. The conversion process will take four years and employ 200 people at its peak. Denton is leading teams (with members from all three campuses) under the finance group: Grants and Contracts, and Fixed Assets.

Club President David Thies immediately tabbed Denton for the 1992 Action Auction Committee that set a new revenue record. That same

year, Denton helped boost the 1992 Salvation Army Committee that raised a record \$10,550. But Denton really began to roll in 1993-94, being named chair of the Rotary International Exchange Committee, with responsibility for GSE and all adult exchanges and hosting. He also served on the important Project Planning Committee. For 1994-95, Denton chaired the Club's PolioPlus Committee and served on the Corn Roast and Action Auction committees.

From his first year in Rotary, Denton began attending District 6490 conferences and has yet to miss one. His visibility led DG John Hieser to choose him to help launch a District Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) program. During two years of planning, the development of the leadership training program (the heart of RYLA) fell to him. It is fair to say he became a key organizer and ramrod not just of one of our District's finest programs, but probably of one of Rotary's best RYLA programs. The RYLA story appears on p. 107.

Meanwhile, Denton's Rotary-focused energy and ability resulted in his being named to the Champaign Rotary Board of Directors for a three-year term beginning 1996-97. He was named coordinator of the Vocational Service committees, which now gave him involvement and experience in all four avenues of Rotary service. During the 1997-98 year, Denton chaired DG Frank Keck's inaugural banquet, which went so well that Frank named Denton to chair his 1998 District Conference. Denton appointed Joan, his wife and RYLA colleague, Conference secretary and coordinator of spousal programs. That Conference proved to be outstanding, with 204 Rotarians from 39 clubs attending and a total registration of 409. Denton has been a conference advisor to two other district governors and has presented at several District Assemblies and at PETS (President-Elect Training Seminars).

More recently, Denton became one of WGRC's most active supporters of the District's Uganda project initiated by Kathe Keck, never missing a session to sort and pack books or knitting machines for shipment. In DG Frank Keck's words: "Denton has never refused to help or accept a job when asked. He is a model Rotarian who acts with interest, knowledge, competence, and enthusiasm in all undertakings." Apparently Club President Scott Anderson Jr. agreed, naming Denton 1997-98 Rotarian of the Year.

In 1998-99, Denton's final year on the Champaign Rotary Board, he continued as coordinator of the five Youth and Student Affairs committees. For the 1999-2000 Rotary Year, Denton chaired the Student Recognition and RYLA committees, and also served on the Corn Roast, Rotaract, and Salvation Army committees. He directed his final District RYLA camps in April and May 2001 while co-chairing the Program Committee for Action Auction IX. Considering his career work load, that Denton Brown can dedicate so much of himself to Rotary

clearly defines the qualifications that earned his induction into the District 6490 Hall of Honor at the 2001 District 6490 Conference.

Although he planned to step away from District responsibilities for 2001-2002, Denton has joined the District Rotaract Committee. That's like throwing kindling on the embers of a dying fire. Meanwhile, he remains one of WGRC's busiest members. He has already helped stage the 83rd Corn Roast and is on the committee for the Club's 85th Anniversary Celebration. Several times over the years, on the occasion of Veterans' Day, Denton has eloquently reminded Champaign Rotarians that all members of society (not just Rotarians) owe a debt to past and present members of our Armed Forces for their contributions to our freedom and to world peace. Denton is past president of the local chapter of the Society of American Military Engineers and president of the local Retired Officers Association. Denton's facility for organizing and directing adult colleagues in two careers is matched by his ability to engage and awaken young people to what leadership can mean to their future. As an anonymous wag noted, not many individuals can span generations by leading both teenagers and "doddering, tired, old officers."

Somehow Denton finds time to take interest in fishing, camping, and woodworking, and serving on the Building and Grounds committee of St. Peter's United Church of Christ. Denton and Joan⁶² have raised two sons, Adam and Matthew. Could it be that Denton's ease in relating to youth stems from his sincere interest in – and love for – children, and his appreciation of their role in shaping the future of the world? We welcome this chance to salute Denton Brown, the latest of an honored list of former ROTC, NROTC and AFROTC commandants who have chosen Champaign Rotary and, upon retirement, Champaign-Urbana.⁶³

Ken Gunji: A Rotarian's Rotarian



Ken Gunji

That Ken Gunji's name appeared more than any other in *Steps Going Up* is no accident. Ken immerses himself in Rotary, and his fascinating life merits more attention. Although he was born in Los Angeles, Ken became an "accidental exile" when his family took him on a visit to Japan prior to December 7, 1941. He returned to the U.S. in 1949, attended high school, and in 1953 became the first Japanese-American in Chicago to attain Eagle Scout rank. He earned his B.S. and M.S. at the University of Illinois; he was commissioned and served two years on active duty with the U.S. Army, retiring 25

⁶² In October, 2001 Joan Brown, a consistent participant in the work of WGRC, received Paul Harris Recognition.

⁶³ That list includes current WGRCers Tom Woodley (Colonel, USA) and John Orrill (Captain, USN).

years later from the Illinois National Guard with the rank of lieutenant colonel. After active duty, he worked in student services for the University of Illinois and Parkland College for 32 years.

In 1966, Ken returned to Japan to fulfill a request of his deceased father and, through relatives, began a two-year pen-pal correspondence with a young Japanese woman named Kimiko. Her letters drew Ken back to Japan, and, within two weeks of meeting Kimiko, he married her. With daughters Tricia and Jennifer, they will celebrate their 33rd anniversary during the 2001-2002 Rotary year. Ken joined Champaign Rotary in 1976, and *Steps Going Up* details his more significant contributions. For WGRC, he has been sergeant-at-arms, secretary, and Board member before serving as WGRC President in 1986-87. Not mentioned is that the final guest speaker in Ken's presidential year was UI Professor Jan Bahr. Five years later, Jan, as the new WGRC president, stood by as District 6490 inducted Ken as its 1992-93 governor. Included in Ken's remarks:

In 5,000 years of world history, only 202 years have been free of war. Rotary is committed to the attainment of lasting world peace. With the Iron Curtain melted away, and once-remote areas now just hours away, we must make our truly small world fit for our children, by working for RI's programs to promote peace, eliminate hunger and illiteracy, and preserve Planet Earth. We are all on the front line.

Ken's involvement in District service began with his leading the Group Study Exchange team to Japan in 1984, and includes heading the GSE and Foundation Committees, as well as many other responsibilities. He represented the District at the triennial RI Council on Legislation in 1998 at New Delhi, India. Ken has attended eight RI Conventions, and represented RI President Glen Kinross at the District 5840 Conference in Del Rio, Texas. For 1998-99, Ken became just the second Champaign Rotarian to receive the Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service. The seven other District 6490 recipients, all Past District Governors, are: Kurt Schmidt, Paul Luedtke, and Craig Webber, all of Urbana; Steve Bellinger, Virgil Judge, and Wes Rush; and Mr. Rotary, Art Skelton. Ken was a District 6490 delegate to the Rotary International Institute in 2001 and is currently serving as the Zone Coordinator for the World Community Service Task Force for RI President Richard King.

Here are excerpts from Ken's comments on serving as DG:

The district governor is an officer of RI. His first obligation is to lead the district, and his opportunity to participate with his home club diminishes greatly. A district governor must visit every club in the district as soon as possible to convey the message of the RI president, as well as his or her personal goals for the district. Each club president has his or her own

ideas as to what they hope to accomplish in their presidential year. This is the DG's challenge: to unify efforts so that all clubs work not just towards their own objectives, but also towards mutual goals established by the RI president.

During my year, one of my goals was to have every club work toward earning the Balanced Club Presidential Citation. My job was to suggest modifications of some club projects so that they would meet the requirements of the Presidential Citation program.

Each year, more is demanded of the district governor. In 1992-93 I managed to work full time and still carry out my responsibilities as DG, using accumulated vacation time and working after hours. Ten years later, I do not see how anyone can successfully achieve all that is required of the DG while maintaining equally successful business or professional endeavors. I doff my hat to those who currently serve, and will serve in the future, as district governors.

Ken's life outside of Rotary has also been committed to "Service Above Self." He has long been an active volunteer leader for the Boy Scouts of America, serving as president of the Prairielands Council and as area vice president. Recipient of the Silver Beaver Award from the local BSA council, he was presented the Silver Antelope Award by the National Council of BSA – the second member of WGRC to be so honored for "meritorious service to youth" (the first being the late Les Bryan, 1955-56 WGRC president). Ken has also chaired the Board of the Octave Chanute Aerospace Museum Foundation.

Elsewhere in *The Story Continues* he is credited for initiating the ongoing exchange of college students between WGRC and the Yanai Rotary Club. Ken and Kimiko have been consistent leaders in strengthening that sister club relationship. In January, 1998 Ken presented a program to the Yanai Club in (according to *The Fizz*) "Gunjish – an exotic blend of English and Japanese." And he attended Yanai Rotary's 40th Anniversary Celebration on March 20, 2001. On this Japan trip, Ken also spoke to the Rotary Clubs of Jure, Ono, and Tokyo-Koto.

When asked to describe himself in one word for the "First Person Rotary" feature in *The Fizz*, Ken said, "Dedicated...to what I believe in." As he stepped down at the end of his year as district governor, Ken enunciated some of his beliefs in congratulating District and Club leaders:

Some people feel that they would rather see their gifts used locally than to give to the Rotary Foundation which they erroneously believe uses most of its funds for the people of other countries. This is far from the truth. Under the Share Program, 60% of undesignated contributions to the Foundation are available to our District to choose how the money is spent. This year, you have planted trees, helped people to read, provided food for the hungry, cleaned our

highways, built homes for the homeless, assisted people with AIDS, took time to serve, brought hope, built bridges of friendship, looked beyond yourselves....You are Rotarians and not just members of Rotary.

Frank D. Keck II: Rotarian of the 1990s



Frank D. Keck II

Frank Keck joined Champaign Rotary before he was 30 years old and, for the next dozen years, was not especially visible. But within him lurked the leadership qualities of a former quarterback, Air Force captain, and golf champion. At a District Conference in the early 1970s, Frank became intrigued with Rotary International's programs and wanted to get involved. He volunteered to host two Brazilian short-term exchange students in 1974 and began to live his early Rotary motto: "Participate. When you're asked to do something in Rotary, say 'yes' even if it means delegating other things."

On track to become the Club's leader, Frank was perceived as businesslike and sincere, but acknowledges he had some "rough edges" and lacked self-confidence. He credits Dale Carnegie training for empowering him to do "a better job" as WGRC president in 1977-78. That year he presided at the dedication of the Rotary Hill Pavilion, WGRC's largest community service project to date. With funds left over, he initiated the idea that became the Fred H. Turner Vocational Scholarships. By then he had involved his entire family in Rotary, especially through Rotary Youth Exchange. Over several years Frank and Kathe hosted 15 inbound RYE students in their home, and all four of their own children became outbounders: Kimberly to Australia, Lucy to Italy, Frank III to England, and Tom to France and Mexico.

Frank did not rest on his presidential laurels. In 1978 he worked with Dick Foley and Art Skelton to sponsor the Champaign West Rotary Club. He stayed involved with District affairs and in 1987, worked with Art and Urbana Rotarian Ron Hermann to sponsor C-U Sunrise Rotary. At Savoy Rotary's Installation Banquet in January 1990, Past District Governor Kurt Schmidt commended Frank for his help in creating that new Club. The same year, Frank was chairing WGRC's Four Way Test Committee, co-chairing the Vocational Service Committee, chairing the Membership Development Committee, and also working on the *Roster*, Rotary Youth Exchange, and Rural-Urban Affairs – *seven* committees.

Commented Frank: "I want to grow – to learn and do something new each year in Rotary." In naming Frank Champaign Rotary's Rotarian of

the Year, Club President Cal Owens said: "ROY Frank Keck exemplifies the best of what it means to be a Rotarian." *The Fizz* added, "Frank puts into practice RI President Royce Abbey's theme for 1988-89: 'Put Life into Rotary - Your Life!'" Frank was also named District 6490 Rotarian of the Year in May, and recognition only inspired him to do more. Working with District Vocational Service Chair and WGRCer Tom Woodley, Frank established Champaign Rotary's Vocational Awards for deserving community citizens.⁶⁴ At the 1990 District Conference, this was named Best Vocational Service Project, with a special citation to Frank, who continued to chair the Club's Vocational Awards Committee for five more years.

Ever since he inherited a large box of assorted club flags in his presidential year, Frank has been organizing them onto felt banners to display at meetings. He buys flannel and gets it hemmed, then adds one-inch wood dowels and gold nylon rope. He drills holes through the ends of the dowel and strings the rope through. Then he lays the banner flat, places the flags - 40 to 50 per banner - and glues them in place. He numbers each banner and records the identification of the flags in a computerized record. "It's not a hard job, fun, and doesn't require much time," Frank says. Right - whatever you say, Frank. Some 1,600 flags later, WGRC's flagmaster recently completed the Club's 37th display banner.

On November 28, 1994, WGRC members approved a resolution presented by President Tom Good nominating Frank to be Governor of District 6490 for 1997-98. The resolution asserted that Frank had "willingness and ability, physically and otherwise, to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the office of District Governor." And how! In February 1995, the District approved the nomination, and Frank floored his Rotary accelerator. A key assignment came when Club President Jim Keene assigned Frank and Denton Brown to the District 6490 RYLA Committee. Frank would chair both the District RYLA and Vocational committees several times. He continued helping organize new Rotary clubs, including Coles County Sunrise, and in 1996 received a personalized certificate from RI President Herbert G. Brown for sponsoring new Rotarians during the year. In July 1996, he was recognized by District Governor Bill Jones for creating commemorative T-shirts from the handprints of that year's Rotary exchange students.

In 1995, Rotary International had prescribed an Assistant District Governor program. With nothing happening by 1996, Governor Nominee Frank Keck got that idea off the launching pad within 90 days. He announced his ADG plan to all District club presidents in September and soon divided the District into 10 areas, naming Jan Bahr ADG for Area 5 (Champaign, Champaign West, C-U Sunrise, Monticello, and Villa Grove Rotary clubs). On February 22, 1997, Frank convened the first-

⁶⁴ See Part II, The Presidents, for the Award criteria (p. 24) and the 15 recipients through 1999.

ever District 6490 Assistant Governor Orientation. His "Mission Possible" invitations alerted the ten ADGs to what lay ahead. We can picture all ADGs except Jan Bahr (who already knew) thinking, "Uh-oh, now what are we in for?"

By the time he convened his President-Elect Training Seminar (PETS) in March 1997, FDK had his District 6490 Mission Statement for 1997-98:

To build enthusiasm for Rotary service at local, district and international levels through communicating and sharing goals and information involving every member.



Frank Leads "Smile," with Feeling

Frank's PETS drew 40 presidents-elect, six vice presidents-elect, six ADGs, and 10 PDGs! Those gathered soon realized that every convocation during FDK's year would be a motivational production. Frank Keck III, FDK's son, kicked off the assembly as though it were a Chicago Bulls home game, calling forth the training team individually as theme music rang out. FDK then led the Pledge of Allegiance and his rousing trademark rendition of "Smile." We can't include all the

highlights, but one was a video in which incoming RI President Glen Kinross presented his theme for the year: "Show Rotary Cares."

FDK, Frank III, Governor Bill Jones, PDG Paul Luedtke and other presenters kept the enthusiasm flowing through training sessions that focused on leadership, Rotary information, and problem-solving skills. At one point Frank III divided the assembly into five groups and gave each a practical Rotary problem to address, such as poor attendance, club aging and low on energy, etc.. The groups brainstormed, then shared their solutions - five for each problem. At the end of the PETS, FDK endorsed the "Show Rotary Cares" theme for District 6490, and added his mottos: "You Can Make a Difference," and "Make it Happen!"



Frank Keck with Frank III and Kathie

With now-characteristic optimism and enthusiasm, Frank carried his message to May's District Assembly in Bloomington, emphasizing that a positive, forward-looking attitude and knowledge are all-important to club leaders, and that personal contact – eye to eye – is the way to "Make It Happen." As he did throughout his year as Governor Nominee and then District Governor, Frank called on Champaign Rotarians to lead plenary sessions and make presentations – especially Ken Gunji, Jan Bahr, Chris Moyer, and Denton Brown.

Even with all this prelude, few could have anticipated the palpable energy of FDK's June 30 Installation Banquet, held at Champaign's Chancellor Hotel & Convention Center. Entitled "A Celebration Honoring People Who Care," the banquet was a Rotary extravaganza. The Prairie Ensemble provided background music for the social hour, and WGRC's Tom Costello mastered the ceremonies. Guests included Interactors and members of two outbound GSE teams.

FDK chose Charles E. Laine, PDG of District 6760, as his highly entertaining main speaker. Karyl Wackerlin presented her video on Operation Rainbow and announced that WGRC and other District 6490 clubs had teamed with District 3810 in the Philippines to qualify for a \$15,000 Matching Grant from Rotary International. Denton Brown outlined the objectives and success of the District RYLA program, and PDG Ken Gunji talked about Rotary Youth Exchange. Frank and Kathe Keck presented a contribution to both Operation Rainbow and RYLA in honor of Charles and Doris Laine.

PDG Paul Luedtke then installed not only FDK as District Governor, but five Rotarians as club presidents: Scott Anderson Jr. (Champaign), Jeanne Larson (C-U Sunrise), Bruce Knight (Champaign West), Bruce Rogers (Savoy), and Samuel Banks (Urbana). Governor Frank outlined some of his 13 quantifiable goals for the year: (1) increase District membership by 8%; (2) feed the hungry, perhaps by following the "Food for the Hungry" drive led by Mattoon Rotary; (3) help lift people out of poverty and illiteracy; and (4) protect children from abuse and neglect. He cited 5 Cs – Caring, Commitment, and Communication could turn Conviction into Conduct – and called on club presidents to identify and address the most serious problems in their community. He challenged all 50 clubs to get publicity on their activities six times during the year: that would equal 300 positive statements about what Rotary is doing. "If Rotary takes leadership," he said, "others will join in. Ask people, eye to eye, 'Will you help?' The answer will be 'Yes.' *That* is the way to Make It Happen."

Then Frank asked all Rotarians present to rise, open the sealed envelopes they had received upon arrival, and join with him in reading the italicized print (thoughts of RI President Glen Kinross) which included:

*A world half starving will never be a world at peace
A world half sick will never be a world at peace
A world half illiterate will never be a world at peace
A world of prejudice and intolerance, mistrust and ignorance,
will never be a world at peace*

The moving evening then concluded with the song "Let There Be Peace on Earth" led by Doug Nelson with David Thies on the keyboard.

We would say, "Wow!" but a full year of FDK's infectious vitality lay ahead. In less than three months, Frank communicated his inspirational message to all 50 District 6490 clubs, coaching Rotarians on how to "Make It Happen." With all his administrative duties and personal appearances,⁶⁵ another important pot was boiling behind the scenes: First Lady Kathe Keck's literacy and income-producing project for Kabale, Uganda. Frank found time to help with enlisting District support and then the paperwork involved with obtaining a Matching Grant. Kathe and Frank had taken to heart the words of RI President Glen Kinross: "Unless we address the needs of people around the world, we are wasting our time on all those other great things we do because the first responsibility of the world is to care for...families who are starving and have nowhere to go in life."

During Frank's year, with volunteers from Champaign and Savoy, the District website was made to happen. So were two new Interact clubs in Nokomis and Robinson, joining Champaign (Centennial), Pontiac, Urbana (University High), Normal and Lincoln. Two 16-year-old graduates of the 1997 RYLA camp were the sparks that led to the chartering of Nokomis Interact. Also, the Paris and Tuscola Rotary clubs celebrated their 75th anniversaries during the year. As his year wound down, FDK confidently handed responsibility for making the "best-ever" District Conference happen to Denton Brown, David Thies, and Scott Anderson Jr. Scott was already WGRC president, of course; David was District Club secretary and on three other WGRC committees; and Denton was merely in charge of RYLA and all WGRC Youth programs.

Although Denton was in between a successful RYLA encampment and the Club's Action Auction, Governor Frank's District Conference was a smash. Friday featured club activities and projects in the morning, and District programs in the afternoon. The evening's International Dinner at the Octave Chanute Aerospace Museum in Rantoul had "Freedom and World Peace" as its theme and was highlighted by the appearance of Maria Larsen de Lier, the Club's 1977 exchange student from Azul, Argentina. Along with the president, vice president and secretary of the Azul Rotary Club, Maria thanked WGRC

⁶⁵ Let us not forget his appearances in drag as back-up singer – see p. 67.

and the District for supplying much-needed neo-natal equipment to their children's hospital.

Saturday morning's programs focused on the Rotary Foundation and Youth programs, including GSE, Ambassadorial Scholars, Interact and Rotaract, RYLA, and RYE. The Governor's Banquet was highlighted by presentation of major Rotary awards, including the Four Avenues of Service Award to Doug Nelson and a District Vocational Service Award to Jim Turpin. No less than 35 Champaign Rotarians and spouses played active roles as presenters or facilitators. At the outset of his year, WGRC President Scott Anderson had envisioned the best Conference in District history, and he may well have been a prophet. Total registration hit 409: 234 Rotarians from 39 clubs and 103 spouses; 37 outbound/inbound RYE students; and assorted Ambassadorial Scholars, GSE members, RYLA graduates, Interactors and Rotaractors, Rantoul hosts, and guests. FDK had come in like a ravenous, roaring lion, and was going out a proud and gratified king of beasts.



Tom Morgan Models Sgt.-at-Arms Sash

But even out of office, Frank was still on the prowl. An endowment by the late PDG Lowell Samuel of Effingham, had authorized a second GSE Team for District 6490. As specified by Lowell, this team was comprised of teachers, with representatives from an elementary school, a high school, a community college, and the UI Extension Service. The all-female team went that fall to District 3310, Malaysia, where Lowell had led a team in 1967, and Frank D. Keck was chosen to lead it, accompanied by Kathe. They returned with 11 flags

and a sergeant-at-arms sash Frank presented to WGRC Sergeants-at-Arms Tom Morgan and Marshall Berner.

On November 18, 1998, District 6490 welcomed the Rotary Club of Arcola as its 51st club, and recognized the organizational efforts of FDK. Same story with the Forsyth Rotary Club, chartered in the year 2000. Near the end of that year, Frank and Kathe undertook a new personal project: building a new house at Bonita Springs, FL. They retain their Champaign home, however, both because they have roots here, and probably because Frank won't disengage himself from Rotary involvement. For 2001-02, he continues as WGRC's Flag Committee chair and serves on the Foundation and Public Relations committees; he chairs the District's RYLA Committee and serves on the World Community Service and GSE committees.

Meanwhile, Frank has maintained his two business ventures, Go Promotions and Fit-Rite Golf, his custom golf-club enterprise. Frank holds the designation of Class A Clubmaker by the Professional Golf Clubmakers' Society. Other priorities have limited opportunities for Frank to keep his own game up to par, however, and that's unfortunate. The former UI golf letterman is a local links legend: he won the Twin City Golf Tourney four times in three different decades, and added the TC Seniors crown in 1990. He was club champ at Champaign Country Club four times, and is the only person to have won the Twin City, the UI Open, and the Lake of the Woods Open in the same year (1955). That year he toured the CCC in a course-record 64.

The next year he played in the Belgian and German opens as an amateur, and in 1957 played the Belgian, German and British opens. In 1963 his medal 69 at the Central Illinois Country Club Tourney earned him the privilege of playing an exhibition at Savoy with the new Western Open champ – Arnold Palmer. All this comes as no surprise to those who know Frank as an all-around athlete. As a hard-nosed senior quarterback taking snaps from the equally hard-nosed Jim Acheson, Frank led the Champaign Central Maroons to an 8-1 record and the Big 12 Conference title. Ski trips have taken him to France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Canada, Italy, and three western states. With all that, asked to pick his top accomplishment, Frank's answer comes quickly: "The best thing I ever did was to marry Kathe Porter."

At the 2000 District 6490 Conference, PDG Frank Keck II was inducted into the District Hall of Honor. Let the accomplishments cited above speak eloquently in justification of what Frank has meant to Rotary. But the truest expression of what Rotary means to Frank was elicited at a quiet interview in early 2001. Referring to the Uganda project, Frank said: "The library...it's so gratifying...it's a wonderful feeling to share...and have people appreciate it. And they do, so very much."

Perhaps as much, Frank, as Rotarians of your Club and your District appreciate you.

Arthur J. Skelton: Rotarian of the 20th Century

The profile of Arthur Jones Skelton on p. 102 of *Steps Going Up*, updated from a 1968 issue of *The Flizz*, illustrates why Rotarians throughout District 6490 refer to Art as "Mr. Rotary." We profile Art in *The Story Continues* as well because, as we begin the new millennium in service to and through Rotary, Art continues to outshine most of the 1,180,000 stars in the firmament of Rotary International. If WGRC kept a record book, Art would be the leader in more categories than anyone

else. For all of his 54 years in Rotary, he has been our constant, our rock. And right there with him has been his faithful redhead, Audrey.

Art and Audrey were the first Paul Harris Fellows in Champaign Rotary and in District 6490. Art was the Club's first Rotary Foundation Benefactor. He served as Board secretary 1975-78; then he became Club's first executive secretary and served through 1989. He stepped aside briefly, then back in as executive secretary in 1992 and continues in that capacity, handling administrative housekeeping, recording all income and expenditures, tracking District and Rotary International dues and Foundation donations. At each Board meeting Art recaps actions taken between meetings, outlining what needs to be completed, started, or addressed.



Art and Audrey

Art does not assume the mantle of Rotary oracle; he is more the Club *consigliere*. He does not manage and rarely volunteers opinions; when the directors turn to him, he offers assessments or suggestions that spring from encyclopedic Rotary knowledge and from experience in Club and District administration that exceeds that of everyone else around the table. One year-end recognition that members can expect from every retiring Club president is his or her salute to Art Skelton. In 1989, Cal Owens honored Art for "13 golden years as WGRC's executive secretary," with Audrey on hand to share in the accolades. Cal's tribute included the following achievements:

- WGRC President, 1956-57 (youngest ever at age 34).
- District 649 Governor, 1959-60 (third-youngest in the world at age 37).
- Attendee at 13 RI Conventions (ten consecutive) from Japan to Switzerland, serving as chief assistant sergeant-at-arms three times and as assistant sergeant-at-arms ten times.
- Attendee at many International Assemblies and 13 International Institutes, with key responsibilities.
- Information Counselor for the Zone, conducting seminars in 1960-61.
- Member of international committees, including the Area F Nominating Committee for RI Director in Zone 3.
- Nominee for RI Director.
- Chair of many District 6490 committees and served as advisor to District Governors.
- RI Presidents' representative to 16 District Conferences in the U.S. and Canada, and also to RI President Bill Carter's home District in the United Kingdom.

- One of 42 first-year recipients (1973) of the Rotary Foundation Meritorious Service Citation; one of just eight in District 6490 history.
- First Champaign Rotarian to enter District 6490 Hall of Honor, 1992.
- Recipient of Rotary International Four Avenues of Service Citation, 2000.

Not surprisingly, Art has said, "Rotary has been my life." His years as executive secretary have given him "the chance to work with 23 wonderful Champaign Rotary presidents and the opportunity to know all the new members who have come into the Club."

We cannot overstate Audrey's lead role in the drama of Art's Rotary life. If Art has been at an RI Convention or a District Conference, so has Audrey. Their home has been the Champaign home to some 50-60 Rotary-related visitors – visiting Rotarians as well as many who arrive via Rotary's international exchange programs. One example is a friendship enjoyed across three decades: in April 1992, the Skelton's house guests were Marjorie and Brian Carss, a couple from the University of Queensland, Australia. Marjorie was a Rotary Fellow at the UI in 1959-60, and Art was her host counselor. Art was district governor at the time, and Marjorie accompanied him to visit every club in the District.

The Skeltons have hosted untold numbers of hospitality rooms at District Conferences. For Action Auctions I through VIII, they donated a hosted cocktail party for 50 persons. Bidders scrambled for this because Art and Audrey are the consummate host and hostess. No one has a larger collection of cook books and recipes – or can prepare them more succulently – than Audrey Skelton. She has been featured in newspapers and magazines numerous times for her culinary magic, as well as for the magical Christmas display she and Art create in their home. For decades, the most coveted invitation has been to Art and Audrey's during the Christmas season to marvel at their unparalleled array of trees, ornaments, and complete villages – treasures from around the world. Because of the chore of set-up and take-down, Art and Audrey have reluctantly decided to dispose of their Christmas regalia. Characteristically thinking first of Rotary, they donated selected pieces from their Original Snow Village (Dept. 56), the major ceramic pieces in original packaging, for Action Auction IX.

To mention all the things Art does for Rotary is not possible. Hamlet might murmur, "*hic et ubique?*" for Art is certainly "here and everywhere," helping everyone, representing WGRC long after most Rotarians would have cut back on active involvement, especially outside the Club. In April 1989, Art – accompanied by Audrey – attended Charter Presentation Night for the Danville Sunrise Rotary Club,

presenting the new Club's official club banner on behalf of WGRC. The following year, he coordinated the new Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Club's installation of officers.⁶⁶ He and Audrey hosted the hospitality hour preceding the June 1993 District Governor's Banquet for Ken Gunji. And with Ken Gunji, Art attended the 70th anniversary banquet of the Monticello Rotary Club in June 1994. You get the idea.

If Rotary is Art's life, he must have a split personality, because he leads other lives as well. There is family life: he and Audrey have been married 60 years, raised three children, and nurtured six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Not everyone knows Art is a 32nd degree Mason, a member of the Ansar Shrine at Springfield. There is also his work life – a career that threatens to enter the Guinness Book. A graduate of the UI and the Hynds School of Pharmacy (Chicago), Art has been a licensed, practicing pharmacist since 1947, both in his own business and for others. He has outlasted some pharmacies, retired from others.

Art's "retirements" remind of the "Boy Who Cried Wolf." He "retired" from Schnuck's in January 2000; less than a week later, he was back in the harness at Osco. He "retired" from Osco in February 2001, only to resurface at Wal-Mart. He "officially" retired from the practice of pharmacy in May 2001. *The News-Gazette* made quite a story of this; after all, at nearly 79 years old, Art was the senior practicing pharmacist in Champaign County. Shhhh—as we go to press, he's working part-time at Target Pharmacy. Perhaps his "First Person Rotary" responses explain: Future challenges? "Actively avoid retirement." You, in one word? "Workaholic."

Eight years ago, during his tour as manager of Schnuck's Pharmacy, the Illinois Department of Aging honored Art as the Private Sector Employee of the Year. Art had been nominated by his boss and WGRC colleague Dave Beckerle. "In addition to being Mr. Rotary, Art is known by just about everyone in town, so he might also be known as Mr. Champaign-Urbana," said Beckerle. Dave described Art as "truly an impressive individual, as well as a valued employee, with these attributes: dependability, punctuality, attendance, quality/quantity of work, community involvement, motivation, attitude, and personality."

We knew that. But wait, that's not all. Art's organizational and administrative skills are not limited to Rotary. He has served on many boards; his contributions as executive director of the Community Foundation of Champaign County were such that he is now an honorary trustee. In March, 1999 he received a plaque for 23 years of service to the Champaign Township Board of Supervisors. Within a month, he was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Village of Savoy, where he continues to serve. Whatever. Or, you know, awesome!

⁶⁶ Art's presence at the March, 2001 Charter Night of the Mahomet Rotary Club suggests that he's attended many other such events during the 1990s.

Sometimes, Art's tributes come in the form of song and verse. On January 19, 1998, President Scott Anderson called Skelton to the front. Guy Duker, who (once upon a time) had been Art's band teacher, led the members in serenading Art with "Mr. Rotary" to the tune of "John Brown's Body." On April 30, 2001, to commemorate Art and Audrey's 60th wedding anniversary and the birth of their seventh great-grandchild, John Hecker dedicated to "Mr. Rotary" a passage from Philipians. Then Doug Nelson (with David Thies on piano) led his song "I Believe in Service," the chorus of which is:

I believe in service...
That comes from the heart...
Real happiness is helping others...
Placing service above self.

David Thies summed it up in his 1992 nomination of Art for the District 6490 Hall of Honor:

I can think of few individuals more deserving of an award that honors Rotarians with a "long history of Rotary and civic service." I have experienced the richness of Art's experience as he has helped me every step of the way...even more important is the manner in which Art helps...he's unassuming and humble. His attitude is fantastic; he's constantly encouraging, especially the newer members of the Club, and is never critical or judgmental. He is an invaluable member of our Club and of the District.

Incredibly, nearly ten years after David wrote those words and long past the age when most people stagger off into retirement from work and public life, Art rolls on – an almost mythical figure. With infinite patience he observes not just the forging of Rotary history, but history repeating itself *ad infinitum* as new Club leaders address ongoing concerns and celebrate new milestones placed onto the landscape of service by thousands of WGRC hands.

If we picture 85 years of good works by Champaign Rotarians as a resplendent tapestry, how do we describe Art Skelton's contributions? The first thought might be as the golden filaments highlighting many noteworthy achievements. But no; let glitter reflect the touch of other protagonists. The contributions of Art and Audrey are the strong strands that weave myriad fibers into a coherent design, that connect and bind, that guide a thousand threads of thought and effort into the continuum of service in which we all take pride.

Art is both rudder and stabilizer to the Champaign Rotary Club, our proprietary proponent of the Object of Rotary. He is our Rotarian for All Seasons, for All Reasons. Art Skelton is WGRC's Rotarian of the 20th Century.

PART VI: WHITHER ROTARY?

Anyone who has read the first five parts of *The Story Continues* will feel confident in the future of both Rotary International and the Champaign Rotary Club. But does the individual Rotarian truly grasp his or her personal role in helping Rotary realize its tremendous potential? And while we rightfully celebrate the individual and collective achievements of those who have embellished our tradition of service, we must not be content. Challenges confront Champaign Rotary, and we cannot conceal them behind our resplendent tapestry of good works. These challenges chiefly concern membership issues: attendance, retention, involvement, and diversity.

In terms of member involvement (time and caring, not dollars), WGRC can legitimately claim improvement. More members now invest time in projects such as literacy, vocational guidance, the Uganda project, and Habitat for Humanity. At the same time, only a few members – usually the same few – bother with international visitors, be they RYE, GSE, or Ambassadorial Scholars. In 1990-91, President Mike Martin asked members to expand their community involvement, to help where there is real need. At the end of the year, he gave the Club a "C" for improvement in involvement and commitment. Ten years later, how would members grade themselves? For a candid appraisal and thoughts on how we might improve our "grade," read on.

As for attendance, Rotary International has stayed true to its conviction that absent members cannot deliver the investment of self that Rotarians must offer. The traditional 60% attendance requirement is reasonable; some feel the expanded make-up time is actually too liberal.⁶⁷ As a matter of record, WGRC's attendance has been a mark of pride. However, our one-time goal of 85% attendance receives little emphasis today. The April 2001 attendance percentage – 58.6 – may have been more aberration than trend; the percentage for July-August-September rose to 75.

While attendance can be periodically improved by concerted effort, declining membership has become the pressing concern for both Rotary International and WGRC. Consider this from RI President-Elect Richard King's address to incoming District Governors at the 2001 International Assembly:

I believe with all my heart and soul that it is Rotary's destiny to become the most important non-profit, non-government and non-religious organization in the world's history. In the words of one 20th-Century statesman, "Rotary has a rendezvous with destiny."

⁶⁷ Surely a missed meeting can be made up somewhere within 28 days – 14 prior or 14 after the miss.

Of four challenges King has outlined along that road to destiny, declining membership is the first. If RI is to expand its sphere, more minds and hands are needed, not fewer. King characterizes "Rotary's Global Quest" as "the most ambitious, far-reaching membership campaign in Rotary's history." The "Quest" relies upon the efforts of individual Rotarians to sponsor new members: no one becomes a Rotarian until asked, and it is estimated that 90% of Rotarians have never sponsored a new member. As Rotary approaches its 2005 Centennial, the words of Past RI President Robert Barth ring true: "If we want another century of Rotary, we must make Rotary attractive for young people."

For some 30 years, Champaign Rotary leaders were content with membership in the 230 to 250 range, maintaining a no-growth policy. But during the latter 1990s, membership began to slump, reflecting Rotary International's first membership decline since the Great Depression. From June 1997 through June 2000, RI membership slipped from 1,215,000 to 1,180,000. Champaign Rotary contributed to the problem, as its membership tumbled to 194 on July 30, 2001 – the lowest in decades.

On June 19, 2000, President Nina Eisner devoted the Club meeting to "The Future of Champaign Rotary," initiating a dialogue structured around 12 questions addressing issues of membership recruitment, development, and retention – issues that challenge WGRC, RI, and service clubs in general. Over ensuing months, President Mark Stolkin's Board analyzed the findings of the study groups organized by Nina. The results mostly restated what has always been known: recruitment is Step 1, and retention must begin from the day of induction. But at the March, 2001 Board meeting, Scott Anderson Jr. suggested that, when recruiting, we must ask not only "are they right for us?" but "are we right for them?"

We believe Scott has asked the crucial question. Champaign Rotary is an extraordinary organization with a traditional culture. In days past, merely murmuring "Champaign Rotary" was all it took to attract new members, and then it was their responsibility to "fit in." Today, we inhabit an impatient world. Recruitment/retention challenges also plague the business and professional sphere. Successful managers today market their organizations as inclusive workplaces, then live up to the claim by identifying and addressing the needs of individual employees. Are we Champaign Rotarians doing that?

We have seen no definitive study, but at least in WGRC, women members added far exceed the number of men who resigned over objections to women in Rotary. However, any expectation that the advent of women would solve membership concerns appears to be unsupported. Faced by a loss of 10% each year through attrition,

growing Champaign Rotary is no easy task.⁶⁸ Assuming an annual loss of 20 members, a net gain of just four members would require, on average, two new members each month. Today another factor complicates recruitment: in 1985, Champaign-Urbana had just three Rotary clubs; now, with the new Mahomet Club, six local Rotary clubs compete for the same potential members.

Changing life patterns have made a dramatic impact on interest in service clubs. Today's business and professional leaders – precisely the prospective members targeted by Rotary – are far more transient than in 1980. Companies move people up, sideways, and out: Champaign today, Omaha tomorrow. When the “movers-and-shakers” and even the “up-and-comers” aren't working, they're flying hither and yon. Two-income households find discretionary hours to be elusive. Twenty years ago, girls didn't play sports. Today we have organized activities *ad infinitum* for both girls and boys. When parents aren't playing taxi driver, they're scrambling for a precious hour of “quality time” with kids. Even the “time-saving” personal computer claims countless hours, competing with outside interests. Simply put, many people stay in a community three years or less and, because of job and family demands, have little time to become assimilated residents – let alone service-minded citizens.

Societal changes carry deeper implications. In his provocative book, *Bowling Alone*,⁶⁹ Robert D. Putnam explores the concept of “social capital,” or “community,” in terms of the declining connection of Americans to family, friends, neighbors, and social structures, and the negative impact of that phenomenon on the productivity of individuals and groups. Most Americans, Putnam argues, no longer spend much time in community organizations, despite rapid increases in education that have armed more people with the skills, resources, and interests that once fostered civic engagement. Rotarians should not shrug off this trend as generational or cyclical; rather, we must take responsibility for reversing it. Putnam says,

Leaders and activists in every sphere of American life must seek innovative ways to respond to the eroding effectiveness of the civic institutions and practices that we inherited....we need to fortify our resolve as individuals to reconnect...actions by individuals are not sufficient to restore community, but they *are* necessary.



Zelema Harris

We agree that America's social capital is eroding, and 2001-02 Club President George Scheetz and his Board are working to develop effective responses. George has appointed a Membership Development Committee and asked Chair Zelema Harris

⁶⁸ District 6490 Governor Tim Gover reported that U.S. Rotary clubs have a 19% attrition rate.

⁶⁹ Simon & Schuster, New York, 2000. Robert Putnam is Harvard University Professor of Public Policy. *Bowling Alone* references suggested by Lott Thomas.

to develop a membership strategy. Once a new member is attracted, retention becomes key. The most alarming membership losses for WGRC are members who have been on board but a short time. In part, this may reflect Robert Putnam's hypothesis:

We've stopped doing committee work, stopped serving as officers, and stopped going to meetings...in short, Americans have been dropping out in droves, not merely from political life, but from organized community life more generally.

The pressure of competing priorities has forced a half-dozen WGRCers to take leaves of absence. Also, the shift in term of membership just since the publication of *Steps Going Up* is stunning. More and more members are in and out within months, some too quickly to appear in an annual *Club Roster*. Of 36 new members inducted in 1995-96, 20 have left; half of 36 inducted in 1997-98 are already gone.

The Club has tried to address this. Jan Bahr developed her *Wonderful World of Rotary* to enhance new-member indoctrination, even though WGRC has long taken indoctrination seriously. In 1999 and 2000, the Club appointed a mentor (in addition to the sponsor) for each new member. The present judgment is that the mentor idea did not help. RI President King asked all districts to convene Membership Development and Retention Seminars; District 6490 conducted its Seminar on August 4 in Urbana. The Seminar placed much emphasis on member retention as well as improving Rotary's public perception through increased media exposure of its work. A month later, President George Scheetz attended, along with 700 Rotarians from 16 countries, the North American Presidential Conference in Salt Lake City, where membership was a primary focus.

Meanwhile, at the triennial Council on Legislation held April 21-27, 2001, in Chicago, the delegates passed what Council Chair and past RI President Cliff Dochterman called a "watershed vote." In a dramatic change to Rotary's unique classification system, "senior active" and "additional active" disappear as classifications, and clubs may induct several members in each active classification, so long as no single classification constitutes more than 10% of the total club membership. From July 1, 2001, members will retain their classifications permanently; should they retire, they will no longer be counted against the 10% limit. At the 2001 International Institute, where PDG Ken Gunji represented District 6490, the RI Directors took other steps designed to promote Rotary's Global Quest, including eased attendance requirements.

Many long-time Rotarians see these changes as controversial. That members are the primary representatives of their professions has been

one of the attractions of Rotary over, say, Kiwanis. Still, we are encouraged that Rotary is taking aggressive action on membership recruitment and retention. The specter of societal change, however, warns us that moderation of attendance and classification rules cannot bring about in individuals the necessary attitudinal change. The next volume of *The Story Continues* will record the success – or failure – of Rotary's Global Quest for membership growth.

Another, seldom-mentioned aspect of WGRC membership that raises concern is its lack of diversity. The 1988-89 Club *Roster* included, among active Rotarians (honorary and members emeriti excluded) three women, three African Americans, one Asian American, and no Latinos. We began the 2001-2002 year with 20 women, two Asian Americans, one Latino, and five African Americans.⁷⁰ While the number of women in Rotary gradually increases, racial and ethnic minority membership does not. If diversity is indeed the face of America's future, Champaign Rotary remains stuck in its past.

On the surface, the issue of gender diversity appears to be taking care of itself: the number of women Rotarians is growing, and whether Club presidents and committee leaders are men or women has no discernible effect on WGRC's service achievements. Still, many of the "in-and-out" members mentioned above are women. We overhear that the Club's essential culture remains "traditional male;" that one is expected to talk sports and "play 18" on weekends; that a woman can be invisible at a luncheon table. For that matter, some "in" women are "snobs."

"Hey, if you want to fit in, it's up to you to meet people," goes the standard advice to new members, regardless of gender. In fairness, while some newcomers readily make friends and get involved, others are dismayed by perceived slights and decide that they have better places to spend their time and money. Even non-local white males can feel alienated. Should the responsibility for "fitting in" fall solely upon the new member?

In this regard, Scott Anderson Jr.'s question, "are we right for them?" becomes key. We should not expect members 70 and 80 years of age to seek out young new members and probe for non-existent commonalities. However, in the context of social consciousness and of what Rotary International purports to stand for, some honest self-examination may be in order. There is a self-satisfied, self-perpetuating homogeneity in WGRC. Suggesting that here may offend some of Champaign Rotary's members. But the truth is that, as society has changed, the culture of WGRC has not. Overtly, we are welcoming, yet many of us are oblivious to the undertow that carries some of our catch back into the sea. When members leave, we ask them to tell us why. Most who respond praise

⁷⁰ By October 29, the number of African Americans had risen to seven.

our Club; a few allude to an unfriendly or non-inclusive climate. Perhaps we see these few as exceptions, and dismiss them as whiners who lack initiative. Do we execute the messenger? Is the mote never in our own eye?

No Champaign Rotarian would oppose the admission to membership of any qualified minority candidate. But to say that there is no racial threshold at Rotary's door reveals a lack of awareness. Mere acceptance of a member of a minority group does not guarantee a sense of welcome, let alone assimilation into the Club culture. At the same time, the assimilation threshold – and it is one of class as much as of race – is bilateral. Given the reality of social and cultural differences, many minority leaders may not perceive Rotary as an aspiration group. With few exceptions – Ken Gunji's leadership comes first to mind – WGRC has been a "white-run" club. If one has grown up feeling polarized from such organizations, one understandably looks to alternatives.

Speculation aside, this Club can claim only modest progress in attracting and retaining members of diverse racial and ethnic heritage. In a sophisticated community blessed with a renowned university and a premier college, home to large numbers of international faculty and students, this is an unacceptable situation for a Rotary Club that enjoys referring to itself as WGRC. No, it is not easy to bridge a chasm from one side only; neither is it enough to say, "Hey, the door's open if you're interested." New UI Chancellor Nancy Cantor says:

Diversity ... comes from all of us, challenges all of us, benefits all of us. Diversity is what this institution should be doing not only because it is socially responsible, but also because it is the best way to achieve our long-standing goals: excellence in education, research and public engagement.

Clarence Shelley, retiring UI associate vice chancellor, added: "She has articulated...the expectation that the faculty and administration need to make this a more welcoming and diverse place." Let us ask ourselves: should our leadership and members do more to make Champaign Rotary a more welcoming and diverse place, to better achieve our goals of service? If the answer is "probably" or even "maybe," then the challenge becomes how to create positive change.

Let these paragraphs hold up a mirror, and let us look closely. Many of us coast along in our comfort zone, content with Rotary as our principal service vehicle. World understanding is a worthy goal: we applaud fostering peace and bridging cultural gaps around the world; Rotary International has Forums and Centers dedicated to peace and conflict resolution. But there is a troubling disconnect between issues we address abroad, yet avoid at home. Rotary encourages urban peace initiatives; are we doing enough in our cities? We put aside our biases

and minister to those beset by illiteracy and poverty; but do we openly discuss confrontational societal issues within our community, or even within our Club? Rotary Scholars and RYLA participants discuss racial barriers; are WGRCCers willing to convene a forum to address local sources of conflict?

If we are genuine Rotarians, worthy of our international involvements, we can be a catalyst for dialogue to examine persistent, divisive undercurrents within our community. We serve young people well, but do we listen to them? The young sometimes see social concerns more clearly than many of us; when did we sit down with youth leaders to hear their perspectives on community concerns, or ask what worries them about their future? "Straight Talk," the new radio program godfathered by Steve Main that gives our young people a public forum, is an encouraging, commendable step in the right direction. We need to listen in.

Heterogeneity, long a cherished element in America's societal construct, is now the mainstream design. If we truly accept this, we must think and act outside our attitudinal box. Tradition is grand, but not if it generates complacency and inertia. Change, if we wish it, will be fostered not by our leaders, but by the opinions of the members at large. Organizational leaders tend to be gatekeepers of the status quo; ours must be door openers for interaction with the membership, initiating discourse and soliciting frank input. Change will not happen overnight. Perhaps we do not wish change; perhaps we are content with who and how we are. Perhaps we cannot change, even if we desire it.

Then again, perhaps we can. In the July, 2000 issue of *The Rotarian*, RI President Frank Devlyn said: "The overriding challenge that we face today is to make Rotary meaningful in the new century at all levels." This is elemental: *Rotary must be relevant in today's American society*. Promoting awareness of Rotary's good works may attract more people to Rotary. Can Champaign Rotary, with minimal diversity in its membership, make Rotary meaningful in the new century? Can our praiseworthy achievers temper satisfaction with introspection? Is mankind truly our business? As Scott Anderson Sr. so aptly put it: "Will we be WGRCC – ha-ha? Or WGRCC – you betcha!?"

Paul Harris once said, "Rotary still stands. Why and how? Because it is grounded not on fear, rivalry, and suspicion, but on the eternal and indestructible rocks of friendliness, tolerance and usefulness." He did not exaggerate. Rotarians across the world, across all lines of color and culture, embrace common values and goals. Yet within the country where Rotary was born, the perception of Rotary as "the best and brightest way" is not universal.

We are confident that the global influence of Rotary has exceeded what even the intuitive imagination of Paul Harris envisioned. We Champaign Rotarians have a remarkable record of good works and, in recent years, we have blazed new trails of service. Let us keep exploring new ways to raise the relevance of Rotary to this and successive generations of our own community's citizens. If we seek new members not only to bolster our ranks, but also to show us new directions, WGRC will continue to define benchmarks of service.

When we began this addendum to *Steps Going Up*, we might have asked: where have the steps led? As we conclude it, we are reassured that they continue upward, always along four paths, parallel and yet convergent, toward the achievement of the Object of Rotary. Let us evoke once more the words of 1988-89 Club President Cal Owens, in his March report to the Club:

We have come far. But we have, as Robert Frost wrote so eloquently, "...miles to go before we sleep." There are still children at home and abroad who are sick, hungry and without hope...still men and women without shelter or jobs. Many elders languish without proper health care, housing and, most regrettably, without anyone caring...or affording them the respect, dignity and human compassion all of us want and need.

We Rotarians will walk these miles by holding fast to fundamentals that are true while embracing things new that are good. Some will see this as building on a firm foundation: some will see it as changing with the times. We see it as both, blending the best of the old with the promise of the new, energizing WGRC's exciting and effective role in this new century.

The viewpoints expressed in Part VI reflect my thoughts, drawn from observations, research, and discussions with Rotarians past and present. These perspectives, intended to elicit reflection, do not necessarily represent the sentiments of other members of the History Committee.

— Peter T. Tomaras

APPENDIX I

Members Who Have Passed Away July 1, 1988 to November 30, 2001

Reading the names below brings home the inadequacy of such a listing. Some were Rotarians for more than half a century; all contributed to their Club, to their community, to their families. To all who knew them, their names evoke indelible memories of their achievements, of their characters. They were Champaign Rotarians, and each — to a greater or lesser extent — played his role in the continuum of the Club's history.

We list their years of membership and the month and year of their deaths.

Vernon L. Barkstall (1976-95)	October, 1995
Marshall K. Berner (1967-01)	October, 2001
Jonathan P. Booz (1981-01)	January, 1999
H. R. "Tiz" Bresee (1939-89)	August, 1989
Paul K. Bresee (1934-92)	April, 1992
Donald F. Bresnan (1972-99)	March, 1999
Jack D. Brodsky (1973-96)	March, 1996
Joseph H. Cannon (1947-00)	October, 2000
James J. Costello (1976-88)	August, 1988
V. Dale Cozad (1981-93)	November, 1993
William H. Creswell Jr. (1976-01)	June, 2001
Charles E. Curran, Jr. (1968-00)	July, 2000
Joe W. Daily (1952-95)	January, 1995
Harold S. "Hal" Dawson (1941-92)	December, 1992
Oscar H. Dodson (1950-96)	January, 1996
Guy M. Duker (1954-98)	January, 1998
Russell H. Duncan (1955-89)	December, 1989
Bruce W. Dunn (1992-93)	July, 1993
John A. Edwards (1962-99)	February, 1999
William R. Edwards (1969-99)	September, 1999
Philip M. Faucett, Jr. (1978-96)	March, 1996
Carl Greenstein (1946-2001)	March, 2001
Willard S. Hansen (1953-99)	September, 1999
Horace L. Henderson (1962-97)	February, 1997
David Dodds Henry (1955-95)	September, 1995
Mark H. Hindsley (1934-99)	October, 1999
Steven Hotsinpillar (1989-89)	November, 1989
Edward C. Jordan (1954-91)	October, 1991
William L. Julian (1949-00)	January, 2000
Donald L. Kemmerer (1941-93)	December, 1993
Louis R. Kent (1962-94)	March, 1994
Alan K. Laing (1955-93)	May, 1993
George A. Legg (1944-89)	July, 1989
Robert L. Lienhart (1977-00)	November, 2000
Don H. Livingston (1972-99)	January, 1999

Guy F. Main (1959-99)	June, 2000
George W. Mayes (1945-91)	February, 1991
King J. McCristal (1967-93)	October, 1993
Eugene H. Mellon (1943-95)	March, 1995
Richard J. Parkhill (1964-96)	January, 1996
William T. Parkhill (1928-93)	December, 1993
Thomas P. Parkinson (1967-93)	November, 1993
Arthur H. Perkins (1973-93)	June, 1993
Charles A. Petry (1947-89)	June, 1989
Robert P. Pope (1950-97)	February, 1997
William H. Rice (1947-94)	October, 1994
Stanley C. Robinson (1964-00)	April, 2000
Edward E. Roderick (1981-01)	August, 2001
John R. Scaggs (1967-90)	June, 1990
William D. Shoemaker (1989-97)	September, 1997
William L. Springer (1980-92)	September, 1992
James G. "Glad" Thomas (1933-90)	January, 1990
Albert G. Tuxhorn (1936-89)	February, 1989
Harold C. Vance (1944-96)	August, 1996
Robert C. Wright (1968-96)	November, 1996
C. Wayne Young (1969-93)	February, 1993

APPENDIX II

CLUB OFFICERS 1988-2002

Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer
1988-89	Calvin L. Owens	E. Eugene Oliver	Thomas M. Good
1989-90	Dan M. Crispin	E. Eugene Oliver	Thomas M. Good
1990-91	J. Michael Martin	E. Eugene Oliver	Thomas M. Good
1991-92	David C. Thies	E. Eugene Oliver	David W. Hood
1992-93	Janice M. Bahr	E. Eugene Oliver	David W. Hood
1993-94	Ivan W. Davis Jr.	Roger E. Martin	David W. Hood
1994-95	Thomas M. Good	Nancy Eisner Martin	David W. Hood
1995-96	James F. Keene	Nancy Eisner Martin	David W. Hood
1996-97	Gary G. Wackerlin	Nancy Eisner Martin	David W. Hood
1997-98	Scott Anderson Jr.	Nancy Eisner Martin	Richard J. Dutton
1998-99	Thomas J. Costello	Nancy Eisner Martin	Ronald L. Kiddoo
1999-00	Nina W. Eisner	Nancy Eisner Martin	Ronald L. Kiddoo
2000-01	Mark D. Stolkin	Nancy Eisner Martin	Ronald L. Kiddoo
2001-02	George H. Scheetz	Nancy Eisner Martin	Ronald L. Kiddoo

Executive Secretary

1988-89	Arthur J. Skelton	1989-92	John T. Stier
	1992-2002		Arthur J. Skelton

WGRC, INC. OFFICERS

Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer
1988-89	Thomas O. Dawson	Donald E. Moyer, Jr.	Richard J. O'Neill
1989-90	Leonard T. Flynn	Donald E. Moyer, Jr.	Richard J. O'Neill
1990-91	Ronald H. Bates	Donald E. Moyer, Jr.	Richard J. O'Neill
1991-92	David B. Lawrence	Donald E. Moyer, Jr.	Richard J. O'Neill
1992-93	Robert L. Lienhart	Donald E. Moyer, Jr.	Richard J. O'Neill
1993-94	William E. Gleason	Donald E. Moyer, Jr.	Richard J. O'Neill
1994-95	Robert J. Cochran	Donald E. Moyer, Jr.	Richard J. O'Neill
1995-96	Bonnie B. Kelley	Donald E. Moyer, Jr.	Richard J. O'Neill
1996-97	Stephen D. Hamburg	Denton R. Brown	Dean V. Cavey
1997-98	Nina W. Eisner	Patrick B. Dorsey	Mark D. Stolkin
1998-99	Kip R. Pope	Elizabeth A. Beauchamp	James S. Acheson
1999-00	Patrick B. Dorsey	Christopher S. Moyer	James S. Acheson
2000-01	David W. Hood	Gregory D. Cozad	Guy C. Hall
2001-02	Dale A. Morrissey	Nancy E. Martin	Gregory D. Cozad

DISTRICT 6490 GOVERNORS

1992-93	Ken Gunji	1997-98	Frank D. Keck II
---------	-----------	---------	------------------

APPENDIX III

Recipients of Significant Awards 1988-2001

CHAMPAIGN ROTARY CLUB

Rotarian of the Year

1988-89	Frank D. Keck II
1989-90	William H. Creswell Jr.
1990-91	William Stallman
1991-92	P. David Kuhl
1992-93	Stephen D. Hamburg
1993-94	Scott Anderson Jr., Glen W. Wensch
1994-95	Thomas O. Dawson
1995-96	Nancy E. Martin
1996-97	Christopher S. Moyer
1997-98	Denton R. Brown, Thomas M. Good
1998-99	John R. Ady
1999-00	Duane D. Cole
2000-01	Gary G. Wackerlin

Robert Eisner Jr. Award for Outstanding New Member

1988-89	Nancy E. Martin
1989-90	Bradley C. Booton, R. James Leffelman
1990-93	(not awarded)
1993-94	George H. Scheetz
1994-95	Ivor M. Emmanuel, Douglas W. Nelson
1995-96	(not awarded)
1996-97	K. Kay Machula, Maarten van de Guchte
1997-98	Robert C. Aldridge, D. Jillian Wagner
1998-99	Donna J. Anderson
1999-00	Nancy J. Casey
2000-01	Scott R. Dahman

DISTRICT 6490 AWARDS

Rotarian of the Year

1989	Frank D. Keck II
1994	Stephen D. Hamburg

Vocational Service Award

1998	James G. Turpin
------	-----------------

Hall of Honor

1992	Arthur J. Skelton
1994	Scott Anderson Sr.
1995	Ken Gunji
1996	Clarence A. Thompson
1997	Robert Eisner Jr.
2000	Frank D. Keck II
2001	Denton R. Brown

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

Four Avenues of Service Award

1998	Douglas W. Nelson
2000	Arthur J. Skelton

Rotary Foundation Meritorious Service Award

1973	Arthur J. Skelton
1999	Ken Gunji

APPENDIX IV

Editors of *The Fizz* 1919-2002

1919-20	Ed Filson, Harry J. Millard
1920-34	Harry J. Millard
1934-35	Edwin N. Jacquin
1935-37	Stewart D. Daniels
1937-38	Paul K. Bresee
1938-42	R. Forrest Colwell
1942-44	Ivan W. Davis Sr.
1944-46	Paul Corcoran
1946-47	Philip M. Faucett Jr.
1947-48	Ben F. Harris III
1948-49	Royal B. McClelland
1949-50	H. Cullen Kariher
1950-57	Dean R. McCumber
1957-58	Willard S. Hansen
1958-59	Irving D. Schwartz
1959-60	Charles E. Flynn
1960-62	Ivan W. Davis Jr.
1962-64	Herbert F. Heaton
1964-65	Lott H. Thomas
1965-66	Howard F. Babbs
1966-67	Donald M. Lindsay
1967-68	Norman E. Ritchie
1968-69	Harry L. Bird
1969-70	Richard R. Tryon Jr.
1970-72	Donald E. Radcliffe
1972-74	Norman E. Ritchie, William D. Krahling
1974-76	William D. Krahling, Norman E. Ritchie
1976-93	William D. Krahling
1993-94	Sandra K. Norlin, George H. Scheetz
1994-00	George H. Scheetz
2000-01	George H. Scheetz, Jeffrey E. Farlow-Cornell
2001-02	Jeffrey E. Farlow-Cornell

Some of the editors listed served several weeks less, or more, than indicated by the Rotary year breakdown. Sixteen editors held this demanding job for one year or less, and six for just two years. The champion, of course, is Bill Krahling, who met weekly deadlines as editor or co-editor for 20 consecutive years.

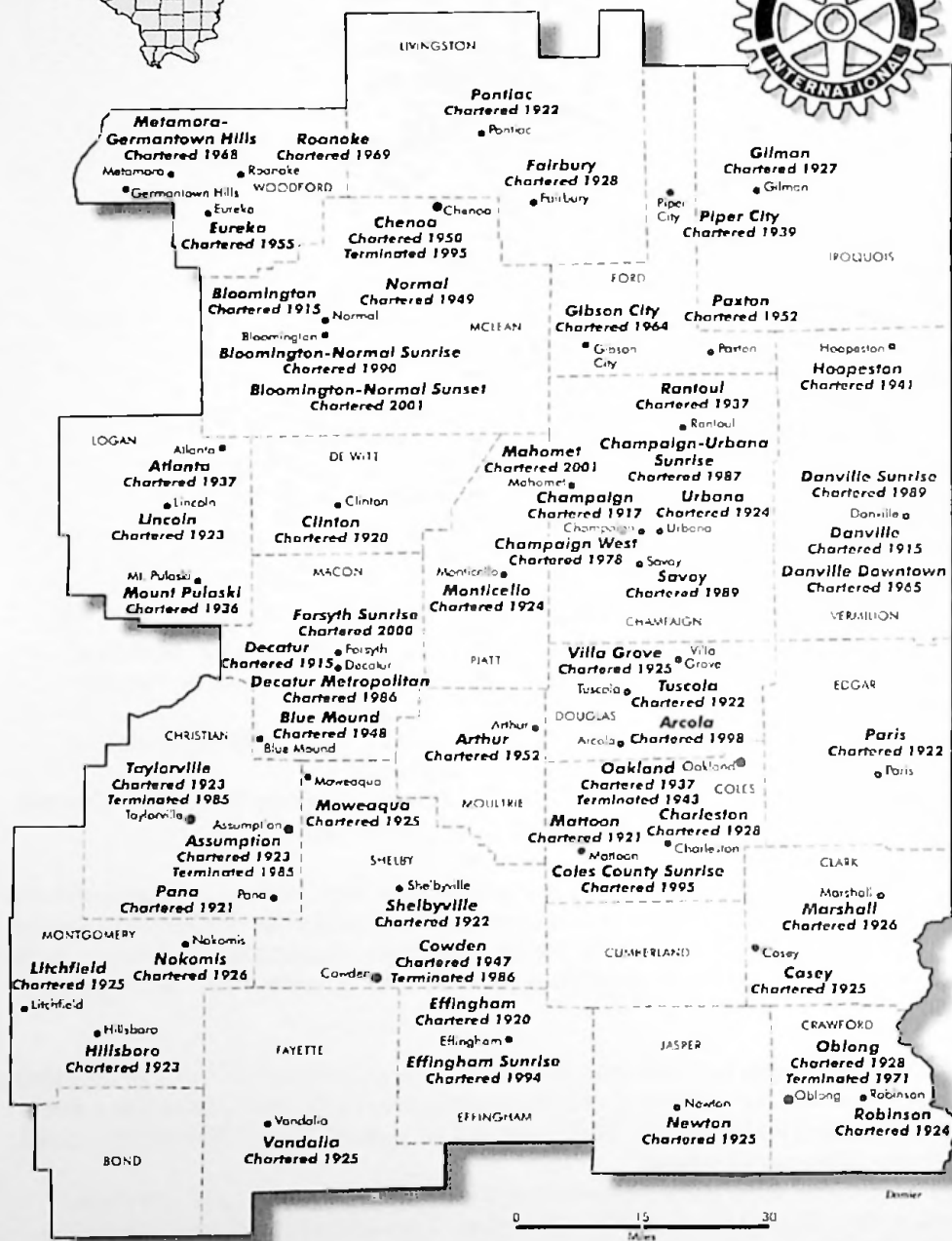
Most editors served at least one year as assistant editor. Of many members who have served as assistants to the editor, the most dedicated have been Peter T. Tomaras (18 years), Mal Nygren (16 years), Gene Oliver (13 years), and Russ Duncan (7 years).

Other members who have assisted include Pat Harmon, Alan Gardner, Chuck Petry, Morry Hecker, Tom Morgan, Don Livingston, David Dressel, Tom Rochford, and Bob Aldridge.



District 6490

East Central Illinois (USA)



APPENDIX V

District 6490 Rotary Clubs (with year of chartering)

December, 2001

Arcola Sunrise (1998)	Hoopeston (1942)
Arthur (1952)	Lincoln (1923)
Atlanta (1937)	Litchfield (1925)
Bloomington (1915)	Mahomet (2001)
Bloomington-Normal Sunrise (1990)	Marshall (1926)
Bloomington-Normal Sunset (2001)	Mattoon (1921)
Blue Mound (1948)	Metamora-Germantown Hills (1968)
Casey (1925)	Monticello (1924)
Champaign (1917)	Mount Pulaski (1926)
Champaign-Urbana Sunrise (1987)	Moweaqua (1925)
Champaign West (1978)	Newton (1925)
Charleston (1928)	Nokomis (1926)
Clinton (1920)	Normal (1949)
Coles County Sunrise (1995)	Pana (1921)
Danville (1915)	Paris (1922)
Danville Downtown (1965)	Paxton (1952)
Danville Sunrise (1989)	Piper City (1939)
Decatur (1914)	Pontiac (1922)
Decatur Metropolitan (1986)	Rantoul (1937)
Effingham (1920)	Roanoke (1969)
Effingham Sunrise (1994)	Robinson (1924)
Eureka (1955)	Savoy (1990)
Fairbury (1928)	Shelbyville (1922)
Forsyth Sunrise (2000)	Tuscola (1922)
Gibson City (1964)	Urbana (1924)
Gilman (1927)	Vandalia (1925)
Hillsboro (1923)	Villa Grove (1925)

- A Woman's Fund 59
 ABBA 135
 Abbey, Royce 144
 Acheson, James S. 15, 34, 43, 65, 74, 84, 90, 1501, 165,
 Action Auction 4, 7, 12-15, 22, 31, 33, 35, 36, 39, 39, 48, 50, 51, 54, 57, 60, 61-2, 66, 68-9, 73-4, 83-4, 87-8, 94, 126, 132, 133, 1396-40, 148, 152
 Acuña, Lucila 101
 Adams, John 90
 Adams, Larry J. 12, 22
 Ady, John R. 5, 52-3, 56, 60, 69, 75, 109, 132, 167
 Air Force Association 29, 127-8
 Aldridge, Robert C. 10, 14, 69-71, 89, 91-93, 169
 Aldridge, Suzanne 85
 Alfieri, Enrique Mario 100
 Allen, Edgar F. 2
 American Cancer Society 74, 78
 American Legion Post 559 133
 American Red Cross 56, 74, 115
 Anderson, Annabelle 85
 Anderson, Brooke 66
 Anderson, Donna J. 43, 73, 75, 91, 101, 105, 167
 Anderson, Paul 112
 Anderson, Scott Jr. 33, 43, 45, 55-6, 60, 61-70, 73, 75, 80, 85, 88, 93, 101-2, 105, 127, 138, 140, 147-9, 154, 156, 159, 165, 167
 Anderson, Scott Sr. 19, 45, 61, 65-6, 69, 85, 161, 167
 Annan, Kofi 99
 Ansar Shrine 153
 Arcola Sunrise Rotary Club 149
 Arrington, Andre 8
 Association of Fund Raising Professionals 94
 Atkins, Robert A. viii, 57, 60, 75
 Avoidable Blindness Task Force 82
 Azul, Argentina 21, 33, 44, 49-50, 56-7, 68, 91, 100-03, 105, 138, 148
 Azul Rotary Club 101-2, 148
 Babbs, Howard F. 169
 Bahr, Janice M. 5, 20, 30, 37-41, 44-5, 47, 59, 61, 65-6, 79, 80, 98, 109, 122-4, 127, 130, 142, 145-7, 158, 165
 Balanced Club Citation 37-8, 40, 45, 50, 52, 68, 75, 80, 94, 143
 Banks, Samuel 147
 Baranowski, Ellen S. 14
 Barkstall, Carol 133
 Barkstall Elementary School 134-5
 Barkstall, Jeffrey 134
 Barkstall, Karen 134
 Barkstall, Lisa 134
 Barkstall, Vernon L. 35, 133-5, 163
 Barnett, Elisabeth 7, 74-5
 Barth, Robert 46, 156
 Bash, William J. Jr. viii, 77, 121
 Bates, Anita 100
 Bates, Ronald H. 65, 100, 165
 Baxter, Brent 75
 Bear, Montague 58
 Beard, Joseph W. 3, 101
 Beauchamp, Elizabeth A. 37, 44, 47, 61, 130-32, 165
 Beckerle, David K. 3, 55, 153
 Bellinger, PDG Steve 142
 Berner, Marshall K. 121, 149, 163
 Berns, Tom 95
 Bernthal, David 9
 Bernthal, Jane 94
 Berry, Chuck 51
 Bidar, India 49, 55, 57
 Bird, Harry L. 169
 Blair-Cruikshank, Bonnie 21
 Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary 153
 B'nai B'rith 32
 BOAST Academy 14
 BodyWork Associates 136
 Boelter, Megan 73
 Bohstedt, Jake 118
 Booton, Bradley L. 10, 11, 22, 167
 Booz, Jonathan P. 163
 Bowling Alone 157
 Boy Scouts of America 4, 48, 84, 143
 Brenner, Dana M. 77, 84
 Bresee, H. R. 163
 Bresee, Paul K. 163, 169
 Bresnan, Donald F. 27, 48, 163
 Broadrick-Allen, Sandra 24, 37, 91, 93
 Brodsky, Jack D. 100, 163
 Brokaw, Tom 124
 Brown, Adam 141
 Brown, Connie 109
 Brown, Denton R. 11, 53, 58-60, 63, 67, 69, 74-5, 86, 88, 107-9, 139-41, 145, 147-8, 165, 167
 Brown, Herbert G. 52, 145
 Brown, Joan 58, 109, 140-41
 Brown, Matthew 109, 141
 Brown, Thom P. 69, 121
 Bryan, Les 143
 Burns, W. Frank viii, 4
 Burwash, Richard H. 25, 42, 77, 92
 C&U Poster Advertising 128-9
 Camp Robert Drake 4, 13, 15, 48, 50, 57, 84
 Campinas Rotary Club 122
 Cannon, Joseph H. 85, 163
 Canseco, Carlos 33, 80
 Cantor, Nancy 95, 160
 Carey, Clif 131
 Carl P. Miller Discovery Grants 2, 110
 Carle Arbours 78, 128
 Carle Clinic Association 101
 Carle Foundation Hospital 44, 106-7

Carle Pavilion 20, 49
 Carney, Larry, J. 5, 6
 Carrie Busey School 103
 Carss, Brian and Marjorie 152
 Carter, Donald C. 74
 Carter, Steven C. 11, 87
 Carter, William C. (Bill) 151
 Casey, Nancy J. 81, 167
 Cavey, Dean V. 38, 48, 107, 165
 Centers for Disease Control (CDC) 98
 Central Illinois Children's Chorus 34
 Central States Education Center 37
 Central States RYE Consortium 58
 Champaign Centennial High School 9, 12, 27, 45, 48, 60, 78, 86, 87, 138
 Champaign Central High School 9, 10, 21, 150
 Champaign Country Club 82
 Champaign County Chamber of Commerce 26, 133-4
 Champaign County YMCA 4, 31, 123
 Champaign Park District 48
 Champaign Police Department 74
 Champaign Public Library 86, 111
 Champaign Township 153
 Champaign Unit 4 School District 7, 38, 48-9, 68, 79, 123
 Champaign West Rotary Club 19, 47, 59, 70, 74, 78, 83, 86, 91, 144, 145, 147
 Chancellor Hotel & Convention Center 36, 653, 75, 83, 121, 147
 Changnon, Mark 6, 79
 Chenille Sisters 34
 Chiappinelli, Jane A. 58
 Chicago Bulls 137
 Children's Home and Aid Society 63
 Children's Opportunities Grants 115
 Chisholm, Shirley III
 Churchill, Winston 90
 Clark, Stuart E. 9, 42, 92
 Clark Lindsey Village 39
 Club Roster 40, 54, 57, 121, 144, 159
 Cochran, Robert J. 35, 54, 165
 Cole, Duane D. 75, 77, 81, 167
 Cole, Terry 84
 Colwell Systems 101
 Colwell, R. Forrest 169
 Comet, John 5
 Community Day Care Center 34
 Community Foundation of Champaign County 153
 Community United Church of Christ 125
 Corbell -Essones, France 26-7, 39, 44, 50, 67, 74, 105
 Corcoran, Paul 169
 Corn Roast 42, 70, 77, 92, 140-1
 Cornell, Thomas R. 10, 55, 57, 68, 79, 88
 Costa, Paulo 33
 Costello, Jack 75
 Costello, James J. 163
 Costello, Thomas J. 3, 6, 22, 33-4, 43, 67, 69, 70-74, 80, 92-3, 105, 109, 112, 147, 165
 Council on Legislation (RI) 60
 Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) 15, 84
 Covenant [see Provena Covenant]
 Cozad, Gregory D. 15, 68, 165
 Cozad, V. Dale 163
 Creative Audio Studio 136
 Creswell, William H. 12, 20, 27-8, 124-6, 163, 167
 Crews, Dan 109
 Crisis Nursery 15, 38, 47, 72, 84
 Crispin, Dan M. vii, 23-28, 38, 65, 165
 Crowne Plaza Hotel 87
 C-U Community Schools Foundation 13, 38, 48, 50, 60, 74
 C-U Mass Transit District 50
 C-U Sunrise Rotary Club 16, 37, 59, 86, 100, 105, 145, 147
 Cupid's Kitchen 86
 Curran, Charles E. Jr. 163
 Dahman, Jennifer 86
 Dahman, Scott R. 83, 86, 88, 92, 109, 132, 167
 Dally, Joe W. 163
 Dale Carnegie Training 144
 Daniels, Stewart D. 169
 Danville Sunrise Rotary Club 152
 DARE 37, 49
 Davis, Al 9
 Davis, Elizabeth "Brownie" 30, 38, 44, 103-4
 Davis, Ivan W. Jr. 27, 30, 34, 42-6, 62, 65, 127, 165, 169
 Davis, Ivan W. Sr. 169
 Davis, Nancy 30, 43
 Davis, W. Jack 82
 Dawson, Harold S. "Hal" 7, 61, 163
 Dawson, Thomas O. "Tod" 5, 13, 48, 50-1, 61, 77, 92, 165, 167
 DeLuce, Joseph C. Jr. 77, 84
 Denen, Gerald W. 10
 Developmental Services Center 7, 31, 85
 Devlyn, Frank J. 82-3, 88, 161
 Dickens, Charles 90
 District 5220 73
 District 649 23, 27, 31, 33
 District 6490 1, 33 and throughout
 District Hall of Honor 36, 45, 50, 56, 60, 80, 88, 110, 141, 150, 154
 Dobbins, Ruth 98
 Dochterman, Clifford L. 36-7, 87, 158
 Doctor, John E. 35
 Dodson, Oscar H. 21, 122, 163
 Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club 7, 8, 47, 68, 74, 94, 133-4
 Dorsey Homes 131-2
 Dorsey, Patrick B. 10, 54, 77, 165

- Dowd, Maria E. 61, 105
 Dr. Howard School 132
 Dream Houses 71, 109, 138
 Dressel, David L. 169
 Driscoll, Jean 109
 Duarte, CA Rotary Club 97
 Ducey, Diane 95
 Duker, Ernestyne 66
 Duker, Guy M. 14, 15, 33-4, 36-7, 41-2, 47, 53, 57, 66-7, 79, 86, 154, 163
 Duncan, Russell H. 163, 169
 Dunn, Bernard A. 5
 Dunn, Bruce W. 163
 Dutton, Richard 165
 Edison Middle School 27, 38
 Education to Careers
 Program (ECP) 6, 7, 79
 Edwards, John A. 20, 163
 Edwards, William R. 163
 Eisner, Albert Sr. 61
 Eisner, Nina W. 20, 26, 48-9, 55, 59, 66, 76-81, 82, 87, 109, 113, 156, 165
 Eisner, PDG Robert Jr. 9, 22, 33, 52, 60-1, 65-6, 70, 74-5, 80, 83, 85, 94, 137, 167
 Eisner, Robert III 19
 Eisner, Robert IV 26
 Eisner, Robert Sr. 61
 Elder, John H. 5, 6, 31, 34, 38, 67, 69, 75, 85, 109
 Ellis-Nelson, Janet L. 10, 101, 138
 Emmanuel, Ivor M. 51, 167
 Ensrud, Earl R. "Dick" 31, 132
 Escalante, Azucena Maria Esnal de 102
 Escalante, Jorge Pablo 102
 Evans, Richard 90
 Everly Brothers 51, 79
 Experiential Training Course 109
 Family Holiday Party 72, 85, 95
 Farlow-Cornell, Jeffrey 88, 92, 94, 169
 Farm House Fraternity 112
 Faucett, Philip M. Jr. 163, 169
 Feldman, Victor F. 31
 Feller, Thomas J. 4
 Filkins, Scott 86
 Filson, Ed 169
 Fit-Rite Golf 150
 Fizz, The 1, vii, 16, 29, 36-7, 45, 50, 54, 60-1, 63, 68, 70, 72, 75, 89, 103-4, 108, 122, 128, 143, 169
 Flynn, Charles E. 29, 169
 Flynn, Leonard T. 26, 65, 66, 165
 Foley, Richard H. 26, 65, 144
 Ford, Jeff 91
 Foreigner 135
 Forsyth Sunrise Rotary Club 149
 Four Avenues of Service Award (RJ) 69, 138, 149, 152
 Four Way Test 42, 44, 54, 59, 77, 79, 93
 Fox, Peter 112
 Frances Nelson Health Center 12, 133-4
 Franklin Middle School 27
 Freedom Celebration Float 10, 19, 23, 70
 Friese, Beverly 43
 Froom, William W. 38, 52
 Frost, Robert 162
 Fulquet, Gaston 70
 Gaffron, David W. 58
 Galileo's 74
 Garden Hills School 49
 Gardner, Alan S. 169
 Gelvin, H. I. 31
 Gelvin, Phil 31
 Gisslasen, PDG Jim 112
 Gleason, William E. 35, 165
 Go Promotions 150
 Goldwasser, Michael S. 55, 84, 89, 106
 Golema, Craig A. 109
 Golema, Maxwell 25
 Good, Kathryn 43
 Good, Thomas M. 14, 15, 33, 36, 38, 39, 43, 44, 46, 47-50, 57, 65, 68, 69, 83, 105, 137, 145, 165, 167
 Gover, PDG Tim 53, 139, 157
 Grace, Lyle E. 25
 Green, F. Pratt 104
 Greenstein, Carl 32, 100, 163
 Grentz, Theresa M. 53
 Grider, Jeff 86
 Great American Duck Race 7
 Group Study Exchange (GSE) 2, 19, 30, 34, 42, 44, 68, 71, 77, 79, 97, 136-137, 140, 142, 147, 149, 155
 Guinness Book of Records 153
 Gunji, Jennifer 142
 Gunji, Kimiko 39, 142
 Gunji, PDG Ken 4, 5, 6, 23, 36, 39, 40, 50, 51, 52, 53, 56, 57, 58, 60, 65, 72, 90, 94, 105, 137, 141-144, 147, 153, 158, 160, 165, 167
 Gunji, Tricia 142
 Gunn, Nathan 77
 Habitat for Humanity 10, 62, 66, 68, 69, 71, 78, 91, 134, 138, 155
 Hall, Guy C. 165
 Hamburg, Joseph 32
 Hamburg, Stephen D. 5, 7, 40, 45, 48, 165, 167
 Hamlet, Prince of Denmark 152
 Hampton, Wade 4
 Hansen, Mel 73
 Hansen, Willard S. 163
 Harmon, J. Patrick 169
 Harris, Ben F. III 28, 169
 Harris, Paul 2, 161-162
 Harris, Zelema M. 3, 35, 53, 61, 74, 157
 Harter, Terry P. 86
 Health, Hunger & Humanity (3-H)
 Program 2, 42, 115
 Heaton, PDG Herbert F. 169
 Hecker, John Z. 20, 108, 121, 154

- Hecker, Morris L. Jr. viii, 20, 121, 169
 Henderson, Horace L. 163
 Hendrix, Jenell 7
 Henry, David Dodds 163
 Henry, Deloris P. 7
 Herbst, The Rev. Alan A. 77-78
 Hermann, Ron 144
 Hieser, PDG John 48, 140
 Hill, Polly 13
 Hindsley, Mark H. 35, 163
 Hobbs, Abby 59
 Holder, Dantel E. 58
 Holmes, Oliver Wendell 90
 Hood, David W. 4, 5, 54, 122, 165
 Hoover, Herbert 90
 Hospital Zonal Especializado Materno
 Infantil 100
 Hotsinpillar, Steven 25, 163
 Hughes, Robert C. V. 74
 Hulonce, Paul Stuart 105
 Hutson, PDG Keith 105
 Hynds School of Pharmacy 153
 Illini Union 63, 77, 84
 Illinois Community Action Association 134
 Illinois National Guard Step 142
 Interact 9, 10, 11, 12, 21, 45, 54, 55, 60,
 66, 86, 87, 94, 111, 122, 138, 148
 Interact Chili Supper 55, 86
 Istanbul Rotary Club 36
 IYE - [see Rotary Youth Exchange]
 Jacquin, PDG Edwin N. 169
 Janson, David H. 75
 Japan House 58, 137
 Jay, Stevie 84
 Jean Harris Award 98
 Jefferson Middle School 23
 Jillian's 72, 95
 Jinde, Hiromasa 34
 John Carroll University 43, 72
 Johnson, Charlotte 67, 106, 107
 Johnson, Gerald P. 35
 Johnson, Tim 95
 Johnson, William S. 67, 106, 107
 Jones, PDG Bill 145
 Jordan, Edward C. 163
 Judah Christian High School 6, 48
 Judge, PDG Virgil 142
 Judy, Donald D. 7, 91, 121
 Julian, William L. 163
 Junior Achievement 39
 Jure Rotary Club 143
 Kabale Rotary Club 78, 112, 113
 Kabale Rotary Library 111, 114
 Kabale, Uganda 7, 78, 110-114, 148
 Kansas City Chiefs 137
 Kariher, H. Cullen 169
 Kaufman, Matt 21
 Kawamoto, Yuji 91
 Keck, Frank III 144, 146
 Keck, Kathe 10, 43, 62, 71-73, 78, 82,
 100, 110-114, 140, 144, 146-150
 Keck, Kimberly 144
 Keck, Lucy 144
 Keck, PDG Frank D. II 5, 22, 24-25, 27,
 35, 49, 53, 55, 59, 60, 62, 65, 67-69, 73,
 77, 78, 80, 85, 94, 97, 100, 106-107,
 109, 110, 112, 140, 144-150, 165, 167
 Keck, Tom 144
 Keene, James F. 6, 35, 52-57, 60, 62, 65,
 74, 93, 127, 145, 165
 Kelley, Bonnie B. 20, 39, 52, 61, 98, 165
 Kelley, Rolland W. 35, 74
 Kemmerer, Donald L. 163
 Kendall, Richard H. 34, 36
 Kent, Louis R. 163
 Kent, Paul 7
 Kerns, Jonathon 48, 49
 Kessenich, Kathy 24
 Kiddoo, Ronald L. 65, 80, 81, 121, 165
 King, Martin Luther Jr. 134
 King, Richard D. III, 89-91, 93, 94,
 155-156, 158
 Kinley, David 17
 Kinross, Glen W. 142, 146-148
 Kitson, William J. 4
 Kittner, Kurt 95
 Kiwanis 159
 Klein, Rabbi Norman M. 7
 Klumph, Arch C. 2
 Knieriem, Richard A. 4, 9, 14, 35, 65, 100
 Knieriem, Sue 100
 Knight, Bobby 133
 Knight, Bruce 147
 Kocher [see Davis, Brownie]
 Kovar, Patrick J. 7
 Krahling, William D. viii, 21, 30, 35, 37,
 40, 43, 63, 72, 77, 104, 169
 Krannert Art Museum 63
 Krannert Center 34, 49
 Krol, Edward M. 63
 Kruse, Donald 41
 Kuffer, Dorene A. 98
 Kuhl, P. David 12, 35, 36, 59, 167
 Kuhne, William M. 62, 65
 Lacy, James 107
 Laine, Doris 147
 Laine, PDG Charles E. 147
 Laing, Alan K. 39, 163
 Larsen de Lier, Maria Luisa 67, 100-102,
 148
 Larson, Jeanne 147
 Lawrence, David B. 5, 7, 40, 65, 165
 Lawrence, Theresa 75
 LeaderShape® Team
 Challenge Course 109
 Leffelman, R. James 22, 54, 56, 121, 167
 Legg, George A. 163
 Leister, V. B. Jr. 56, 101
 Letterman, David 62
 Lewis, Arthur L. 5

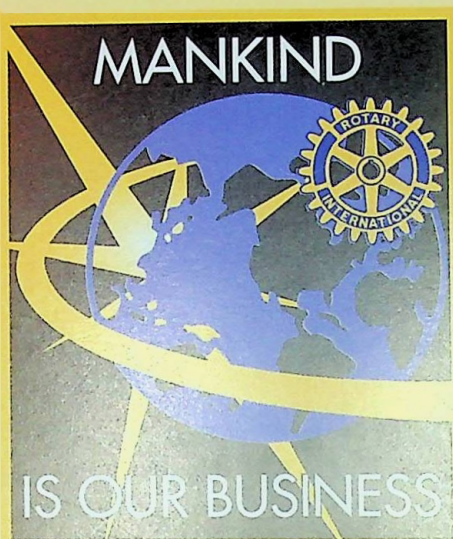
- Lewis, Walter H. 39
 Libman, Sondra 74
 Lienhart, Robert L. 163, 165
 Lifeline Pilots 34
 Lincoln Challenge 112
 Lindner, Doug 4
 Lindsay, Donald 31, 169
 Livingston, Don H. 163, 169
 Lokori Primary Health Care 116
 Los Trabajadores 55
 Luedtke, PDG Paul 42, 63, 83, 142, 146, 147
 Lutz, Elsa Santamaria de Fernandez 102
 Lykins, Gregory B. 3, 12, 62
 MacArthur, Douglas 60
 Machula, K. Kay 5, 11, 60, 61, 70, 71, 167
 Maddocks, Walter 100
 Mahomet Rotary Club 86, 153, 106
 Main, Guy F. 164
 Main, J. Steven 92, 94, 95, 109, 161
 Make a Difference Day 38, 43
 Make A Wish Foundation 34
 Makere University 112, 114
 Makin, Guillermo 117
 Manard, Timothy J. 4
 Marquette School 68
 Martin, J. Michael 15, 25, 29-32, 38, 55, 155, 165
 Martin, Nancy Elsner 28, 57, 61, 75, 81, 98, 121, 165, 167
 Martin, Roger E. 47, 53, 56, 58, 69, 121, 165
 Matching Grants 2, 50, 55, 71, 74, 77, 78, 107, 110-114, 116, 148
 Mathy, Gabriel 91
 Matthew House 44
 Mayes, George W. 164
 McClellan, Michael B. 23
 McClelland, Royal B. 169
 McCollum, Dannel 74, 78, 127-128
 McCristal, King J. 164
 McCumber, Dean R. 169
 McDowell, Ellen 54
 McGill, John E. Jr. 48, 55
 McKinley YMCA 4, 21, 26, 34
 Meadowbrook Park 44, 49
 Mellencamp, John 79
 Mellon, Eugene H. 38, 86, 164
 Men's SAFE House 15, 84
 Meyer, Carl R. 7, 53, 74
 Michael's Catering 34
 Millard, Harry J. 169
 Miller, Carl P. 2
 "Mission of Mercy" 58, 107
 Mister Rotary 10, 142, 154
 Model Club 19, 100
 Model Community Program 34, 37
 Moe, Harold 107, 109
 Moe, Scott 10
 Monticello Rotary Club 59, 105, 145, 153
 Moore, Michael W. 37
 Morgan, W. Thomas 53, 65, 77, 121, 149, 169
 Morihira, Hiromi 77
 Morrissey, Dale A. 7, 35, 165
 Mount Union College 43, 63, 72, 77
 Moyer, Christopher S. 9, 60, 147, 165, 167
 Moyer, Donald E. Jr. 7, 27, 32, 65, 121, 165
 Moyer, Donald Sr. 7
 Murphy, F. Dwyer Jr. 22, 121
 NAACP 133
 National Immunization Days (NIDs) 99
 National Philanthropy Day 59, 94
 National Society of Fund Raising Executives 59
 NCSA 139
 Ndomelrwe, James 111, 114
 Nelson, Douglas W. 45, 51, 56, 58, 62, 63, 67, 69, 71, 75, 78-80, 101, 136-138, 148, 149, 154, 167
 Neville, Mark A. 14, 94
 News-Gazette, The 7, 25, 49, 66, 94, 95, 128, 132, 153
 New York Jets 137
 Niles, Jill 60
 NMT Midwest, Inc. 136-137
 Nokomis Interact 148
 Nolen, Donald M. 79
 Nordby, Virginia 98
 Norlin, Sandra 45, 169
 North Stockton Rotary Club 73
 Northcott, Cliff 46
 Nusz, Phyllis Jan 72
 Nygren, Malcolm E. 29, 169
 Octave Chanute Aerospace Museum 143, 148
 Oliver, E. Eugene 40, 122, 165, 169
 Oltheten, Elisabeth 78
 Omboldi, Malena 21, 100, 102
 Oneacre, Jeanne 113
 Oneacre, Phil 113
 O'Neill, Richard J. 121, 165
 Ono Rotary Club 143
 Operation Rainbow 55, 57, 58, 60, 63, 67, 74, 77, 84, 106, 107, 114, 147
 Orrill, John W. 95, 141
 Osco Pharmacy 153
 Outdoor Advertising Association of America 129
 Owens, Calvin L. 19-23, 27, 34, 37, 101, 125, 145, 151, 162, 165
 PACE 55
 Page, Keith 62
 Palmer, Arnold 150
 Pane, Marietta 20
 Paris Rotary Club 148
 Parkhill, John C. 23, 58, 107
 Parkhill, Page 58, 67, 107

- Parkhill, Richard J. 164
 Parkhill, William T. 164
 Parkinson, Thomas P. 164
 Parkland College 6, 13, 20, 25, 38, 52, 53, 63, 74, 79, 132, 143
 Parkland College Big Band 39
 Parsons, J. Tracy 134
 PassapAmerica 111, 113
 Paul Harris Fellow 21, 22, 27, 54, 59, 62, 69, 78, 80, 82, 85, 105, 133, 141, 151
 Paulke, Fred 7
 Peace Forums (see Rotary Peace Forums)
 Peeples, Joe and Karen 91
 Peressini, Anthony L. 7, 43, 71, 105
 Perkins, Arthur H. 34, 164
 Perkins, Bets 34
 Perkins, Phyllis 105
 Petry, Charles A. Jr. 164, 169
 PETS 140, 146
 Piazza, Rodolfo 102
 Piland, Daniel 75
 Piland, Jackie 75
 PolioPlus 2, 19, 42, 72, 78, 82, 85, 98, 119, 126
 PolioPlus Partners 78, 84
 Pollard, John W. 44, 101
 Poor, Kaitlyn 75
 Pope, Hillary 128
 Pope, Janet 128-130
 Pope, Kevin 128
 Pope, Kip R. 14, 25, 35, 36, 38, 47, 50, 69, 128-130, 131, 165
 Pope, Robert P. 164
 Porter Athletic Equipment Company 111
 Prairie Center 49
 Prairie Play 44
 Prairie Production Group 27
 Prairielands Council, BSA 4, 15, 48, 50, 57, 84, 143
 Prath, Robert P. 19
 Preserve Planet Earth (PPE) 33, 82, 115
 Professional Golf Clubmaker's Society 150
 Project Drug Free 23, 27, 29, 31, 125
 Project Goodstart 85
 Project Read 132
 Provena Covenant Medical Center 44, 49, 56, 74, 101, 123
 Putnam, Robert D. 157-158
 Radcliffe, Donald E. 169
 Rainbow of Hope 106
 Ramirez, Nestor 100, 101
 Rankin, Stanley J. 4, 69
 Ravizza, Carlos 76, 80
 Read Across America 85
 Reading Group, The 31, 44, 78, 86, 132
 Reed, Phillip J. 63
 "Reflections on a Career" 134
 Relay for Life 74, 78, 87
 Retired Officers Association 141
 Reynolds, Stephen L. 49
 Rice, William H. 164
 Riley, William L. 5
 Ritchie, Norman E. 169
 Robert's Rules 126
 Robeson, Eric 32
 Robeson, Kim 32
 Robeson, Kyle 5, 31, 32, 77, 121, 126, 127
 Robeson, Phyllis 5, 31, 32
 Robinson Interact 148
 Robinson, Stanley C. 164
 Robson, Lynn 34
 Robson, Peter 34, 105
 Rochford, Thomas M. 169
 Roderick, Edward E. III, v, 7, 20, 30, 31, 36, 37, 164
 Rogers, Bruce 63, 147
 Rose, Gene H. 47, 53, 131
 Ross, Regina 55, 106
 Rotaract 10-12, 54, 109, 140, 141
 Rotarian, The 77, 115, 161
 Rotary After Hours 74
 Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars 2, 21, 30, 38, 43-45, 47, 49, 52, 62, 72, 73, 78, 102-104, 126, 138, 149, 155
 Rotary-Aires Chorale 47, 75, 123, 130
 Rotary Centers for International Studies 116-117
 Rotary Cup 47
 Rotary Foundation Benefactor 69, 151
 Rotary Foundation, The I, vii, 1, 2, 19, 27, 33, 47, 50, 51, 54, 56, 59, 63, 68, 71, 72, 74, 75, 77, 78, 80, 82, 84, 85, 88, 102, 110, 115-119, 142, 149
 Rotary Guest Day 59
 Rotary Hill 62, 77, 92, 144
 Rotary International 1, 2, 38, 53, 58, 138
 Rotary Peace Forums 2, 19, 24
 Rotary Peace Programs 2
 Rotary Times 72
 Rotary Youth Day 66, 68, 75, 136
 Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) 12, 19, 30, 36, 38, 43, 47, 58, 59, 66, 67, 71, 82, 83, 91, 105, 109, 138, 140, 147
 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) 12, 48, 53, 59, 60, 63, 66, 67, 74, 79, 82, 86, 87, 107-110, 117, 140, 145, 147-149, 161
 Rotary's Global Quest 90, 156, 158, 159
 Rotary's Greatest Chefs 72-73
 Roundhouse 63
 Rowan College 77
 RSVP 74
 Rudophi, Anna 86
 Rush, PDG Wesley M. 78, 114, 142
 Rydell, Robert B. 4, 38, 43, 58, 105
 Rydell, Sheryl 43
 Ryle, Alan G. 78
 Saboo, Rajendra K. 34, 90
 Safe Rides for Teens 37, 44
 Salvation Army 5, 22, 25, 34, 38, 40, 44,

- 47, 54, 63, 67, 78, 85, 86, 140
 Samuel, PDG Lowell 68, 138, 149
 Savoy Rotary Club 10, 24, 37, 63, 144, 147, 148
 Scaggs, John R. 164
 Scheetz, George H. III, 10, 16, 17, 45, 50, 57, 75, 87, 89-96, 111, 128, 135, 157-158, 165, 167, 169
 Scherer, Chris 11
 Scherer, Welby J. "Bob" 87
 Schmidt, PDG Kurt 24, 142, 144
 Schnuck's Pharmacy 153
 Schumacher, John T. 10, 91
 Schwartz, Irving D. 169
 Schweizer, Bill 107
 Sciences Po 117
 "Seeds of Hope" 73
 Sheahan, Timothy M. 7, 35
 Shelby, Jennifer 82
 Shelley, Clarence 160
 Shelters for Underprivileged Families 71
 Shepard, Jack L. 86
 Shepard, Pat 86
 Shibanaka, Yoshiko 83
 Shoemaker, William D. 164
 Shore, PDG Gary D. 80
 Signoretti, G. Noemi 100
 Simon, Lori Tate 67
 Simpson, PDG James 45
 Sinai Temple 32
 Sinott, J. Roger 77
 Skelton, Audrey 151-154
 Skelton, PDG Arthur J. 5, 10, 21, 22, 36, 37, 45, 65, 77, 80, 81, 92, 94, 100, 102, 126, 142, 144, 150-154, 165, 167
 Sladden, Gabrielle 100
 Smith, Joseph H. VIII, 6
 Smith, Karl 25
 Springer, William L. 164
 Spurlock Museum 23
 St. Jude Catholic Worker House 31, 55, 123
 St. Louis Rams 137
 St. Peter's United Church of Christ 141
 Staerkel, William M. 52
 Stallman, William E. 26, 30, 32, 40, 75, 167
 Steinman, Topper 49
 Stephens, Rick L. 13
 Stevens, Neil 121
 Stewart, Ryan 7
 Stoklin, Mark D. 7, 14, 15, 59, 82-88, 156, 165
 "Straight Talk" 94, 95, 161
 Stukel, James J. 123
 Stuckey, Peggy Atkins 57
 Supremes, The 67, 138
 Takemura, Akiko 70, 71
 Tamrat, Tadesse 39
 Target Pharmacy 153
 The Fizz (see Flizz, The)
 The Greatest Generation 124
 Thies, Adam 33, 136
 Thies, Daniel 175, 136
 Thies, David C. 15, 22, 27, 33-36, 37, 47, 51, 65, 67, 79, 82, 130, 131, 135-136, 139, 148, 154, 165
 Thies, Jodie 33, 136
 Thies, Michael 136
 Thies, Stephanie 75, 136
 Thomas, James G. 25, 26, 61, 164
 Thomas, Lott H. VIII, 61, 65, 169
 Thompson, Clarence 6, 35, 56, 57, 167
 Thompson, Darrell 77
 Thompson, PDG Luther 112
 Thompson, Peggy 37
 Thornburgh, PDG Dan 87
 Thucydides III
 Tiegan, JoAnn 61, 62
 Tindyabe, David 78, 112, 113
 Toalson, Bob 75
 Tokyo-Koto Rotary Club 143
 Tomaras, Peter T. VIII, 14, 41, 53, 65, 86, 105, 109, 162, 169
 Tommy Triumph 130
 Trimmell, PDG Gary 34, 36
 Tryon, Anne 21, 100, 101
 Tyron Festival Theater 34
 Tryon, Richard R. Jr. VIII, 21, 22, 23, 44, 50, 100, 101, 102, 169
 Tufts, Sarah 53, 92-93
 Turino, Christina 75
 Turner, Fred H. 52, 74, 144
 Turner, Paul 118
 Turpin, James G. 68, 95, 149, 167
 Tuscola Rotary Club 148
 Tuxhorn, Albert G. 164
 Uganda Project 10, 71, 73, 78, 79, 82, 89, 110-114, 138, 148, 150, 155
 UI Alumni Association 121, 128
 UI Football Banquet 43, 59, 63, 77, 84, 95
 UISES 78
 UNAIDS 119
 UNESCO 116
 Uni High Interact - Urbana 10, 21, 148
 UNICEF 98
 United Way of Champaign County 3, 4, 34, 55, 63
 Urban League of Champaign County 133-134
 Urbana High School 38, 48, 59, 70, 83, 86, 147
 Urbana Rotary Club 10, 11, 24
 Van de Guchte, Maarten 60, 167
 Van Tress, Lester 135
 Vance, Harold C. 164
 Vander Klok, James 3, 35
 Vermeil, Dick 137
 Villa Grove Rotary Club 59, 105, 145
 Village of Savoy 153

Viterbo College 122
 Vocational (Service) Award 24, 27, 30, 32,
 35, 39, 48, 145
 Wackerlin, Gary G. 3, 11, 15, 25, 35,
 58-60, 61, 63, 65, 74, 77, 83, 87, 94,
 107, 127, 165, 167
 Wackerlin, Karyl 15, 58, 67, 87, 107, 147
 Wagner, Deirdre Jillian 7, 61, 68, 69, 70,
 71, 86, 167
 Wal-Mart 153
 Wanchic, Mike 79
 Warfel, Linden A. 23, 25, 52
 WDWS-AM 68, 84
 Webber, Carl 136
 Webber, Charles 136
 Webber, PDG Craig R. 111, 136, 142
 Wedgeworth, Robert 55, 66, 132
 Wensch, Glen W. 29, 32, 34, 40, 45, 52,
 56, 59, 62, 78, 126-128, 167
 Wensch, Lois Anne 78, 127-128
 WGRC vii
 WGRC Holiday Social 72
 WGRC, Inc. 7, 12, 15, 48, 49, 55, 58, 62,
 73, 85, 87, 130, 165
 WHMS FM 68, 95
 WICD-TV 58, 60, 67, 107, 130
 Wicks, Eugene C. 55
 Williams, Stuart 118
 Willson, Meredith 34
 WILL-TV 13
 Wilms, Larry 49
 Wilson, Sister Beverly Ann 74
 Wilz, PDG Jack 71
 Windham, George D. 5
 Women in Transition 68
Wonderful World of Rotary 44, 50
 Woodley, Thomas R. viii, 24, 25, 141, 145
 World Affairs Seminar - Whitewater 50
 World Health Organization (WHO) 98
 World Heritage Museum 23
 Wright, John W. 40
 Wright, John W. II 40, 63, 92
 Wright, Robert C. 40, 127, 164
 Yanai Rotary Club 34, 39, 58, 70, 143
 Yanai, Japan 30, 47, 52, 77, 83, 91, 105,
 137, 143
 Young, C. Wayne 164
 Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) 78
 Zaffora, Bruno 91
 Zappa, Frank 135
 Zimbabwe Literacy Project 83





Cover Design

The front cover design is inspired by the current flag of the Rotary Club of Champaign, Illinois.

The Rotary Club of Champaign was started on December 11, 1916. Since 1957, it has proudly displayed a flag that is representative of its community and region. In 1999, the Champaign Club Rotary Flag was redesigned to better represent our area.

The tractor image represents our large farming community. The orange and blue represent the school colors of the University of Illinois, located in Champaign-Urbana. The golden color around the sun represents Illinois' considerable corn crop.

The three smaller pictures show the importance of academics and technology in our area. The top and bottom pictures represent the high-tech contributions of the University. The middle picture is of the Alma Mater statue located on campus.