

*50th Anniversary
Edition*

THE FLOTARIAN



1921-1971

50th Anniversary Edition

To Our Visitors:

We are delighted that you have come our way in this the fiftieth year of our existence and we take pleasure in giving you this souvenir of our past.

As we start on our second fifty years, it is appropriate that we take a fresh look at what we have been and make a new commitment to what we hope to be. This special edition of the Flotarian is only the recorded highlights of what we have been. We hope you, as a visitor, will find some of them interesting. Our members should find in them evidence of a rich heritage of service above self in this community. Also, in the years ahead we hope they take from these pages inspiration to have the perspective of time and the grace of humor. The perspective of time is important. Instant change may be dramatic and exciting but time and patience are required to craft and forge constructive and responsible change. After each "NOW" generation has become a "THEN" generation, Rotary will continue—as it always has—constantly changing, too quickly for some, too slowly for others. That perspective which incorporates the past as well as the future must attend all of our deliberations.

Unless we have the grace of humor, an obsessive seriousness will dominate our lives and work and deprive us of any joy and happiness in our life together. If we are to survive and promote the principles of Rotary in the world that is to be, we must surely cherish the gift of laughter. It is the catalyst that welds our serious purposes together and expresses our joy in community.

Commitment to an organization's goals is necessary if it is to be clothed in a fabric which will stand the test of time and emerge stronger. To Rotary's goal of service above self, we hereby recommit our energies and abilities as we start this second fifty years.

W. R. CUNNINGHAM
Chairman, Semi-Centennial

Officers and Directors



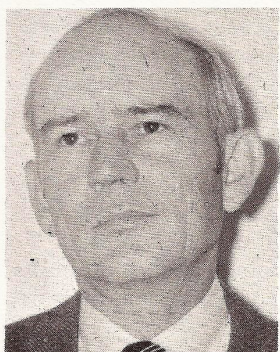
S. U. Hardie
President
Chm. Board of Directors



E. B. Norton
Vice President
Director



John Hatfield
Sec.-Treas., Director



C. W. Riley
Sergeant-at-Arms



Horace Raffield
Sergeant-at-Arms

Officers and Directors



William R. Calhoun
Director

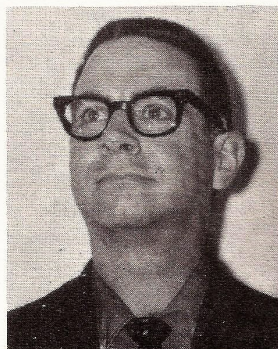


Robert O. Cox
Director

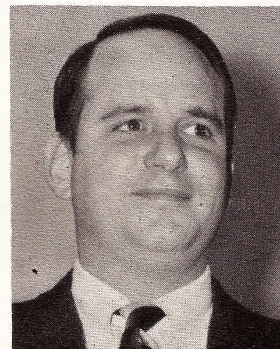


Rufus Hibbett
Song Director

Mrs. LeRoy Doster, Accompanist



William Paxton
Director



U. O. Redd III
Director

MEMBERSHIP
FLORENCE ROTARY CLUB

January, 1971

Adams, R. Leslie	Koonce, Robert E.
Allen, Turner	Lewis, Russell
Baggs, R. E.	Matthews, Walter, Jr.
Baker, Luther	McBride, Robert
Baker, William	McGill, John D.
Blanke, Bob	McGough, Thomas W.
Boehm, Robert	Meeks, James, Jr.
Booream, Howard	Miree, Aubrey S.
Bower, Byron	Mitchell, Lyman
Bower, Byron IV	Mitchell, W. H., Jr.
Brown, Temple	Moore, Charles
Burts, T. Eugene	Moore, Fred
Butler, Wm. C.	Nance, Julian
Calhoun, William	Nicholas, Glen
Cheney, Wilder H.	Northington, Allen
Compton, Richard M.	Norton, E. B.
Cook, Bill	Novak, Roy
Cooper, Charles C.	Opler, Jack
Cox, Robert	Ott, Charles
Craig, Ben, Jr.	Parker, Richard
Cunningham, W. R.	Patterson, Donald
Darby, A. J., Jr.	Patton, Wesley
Darby, Kenneth	Patton, W. E., III
Doss, Wilford	Paxton, William
Doster, LeRoy	Petree, John
Evans, Paul A.	Raffield, Horace
Foote, Wilson	Redd, Robert
Freeman, James	Redd, Uhland, III
Gibney, Harvey	Richard, Grady
Griffin, Robert	Richards, Nolan
Hackworth, L. T.	Riley, C. W.
Hammell, Rick	Rogers, Tom, Jr.
Hardie, Sam, Jr.	Rose, Ralph
Hatfield, John	Schuessler, Thomas W.
Hayes, Eugene	Sevier, J. Rollins
Hibbett, Rufus	Smith, C. Ray
Holloway, Robert D.	Smith, Malcolm
Howard, William	Smith, Thomas
Hutchinson, John	Springer, Horace
Jackson, C. Hewlett	Stegall, Robert H.
Jackson, Earl E.	Tallman, Dan C.
Jeter, James	Thompson, James K.
Johnson, James H.	Thompson W. D.
Johnson, Lloyd	Trent, Earl
Johnson, Lloyd, Jr.	White, Frank
Keener, Leon	Wiggins, Carl
Keister, O. B.	Wilcoxson, Neil
Kidd, Robert L.	Worley, Jack
King, Madding, Jr.	Zumwalt, James
Kirk, George	Johnson, R. T. S.
Koob, William L., Jr.	Honorary

An Early Roster (1926)

Ashcraft, Cyrus W.—“Cy”	Asphalt Mining
Barker, M. F.—“Mary Ann”	Gen. Agt. Life Ins.
Barnett, Geo. W.—“George”	Asso. H. A. Bradshaw
Bender, Bertio V.—“BVD”	Dis. Mgr. Fertilizer Co.
Bradshaw, Henry A.—“Little Hen”	Corp. Attorney
Callaway, Wm. J.—“Bill”	Phys.—Internal Med.
Campbell, A. C.—“Dad”	Auto Accessories
Campbell, James S.—“Jim”	Retail Furniture
Campbell, Ambrose B.—“Cy”	Pro. Fl. Times-News
Chisholm, W. R.—“Bill”	Dentist
Conner, W. H.—“Bill”	Real Estate
Darby, Albert—“Al”	Retail Hardware
Deal, Earnest L.—“Square Deal”	Farm Ext. Agent
Ezell, Foster—“Teddy”	Ladies Ready-to-Wear
Fitzwater, James M.—“Fits”	Paving Contractor
Glaister, Arthur H.—“Bags”	Bacteriologist
Hackworth, Oscar C.—“Ocie”	Banker
Harlan, Sam C.—“Sam”	Mfgr. Farm Wagons
Hill, Phillip B.—“Pee-Bee”	Blue Printing
Hollingsworth, David W.—“Parson”	Minister
Holmberg, Wilding	Retail Grocer
Hughston, Jno. L.—“Jno.”	Asso., W. H. Mitchell
Jackson, A. A.—“Double A”	Surgeon
Jackson, A. E.—“Earl”	Fire Insurance
Johnson, R. T. S.—“Simp”	Casualty Insurance
Karr, David A.—“Pullman”	Electrical Supplies
Lucas, Emerson—“Luke”	Mdse. Broker
McFarland, Wm. F.—“Bill”	Coal Dealer
Meade, R. Ed.—“Bishop”	Civil Engineer
Mitchell, Wm. H.—“Bill”	Atty.—Gen. Practice
Moore, Fred—“Fred”	Cotton Mills
Morris, J. Emory—“Slim”	Tire Service Station
Olim, Maurice—“Milo”	Wholesale Grocer
Osborn, Fred W.—“Icy”	Ice Manufacturer
Parker, C. L.—“Blue Bottle”	Milk Distributor
Redd, Uhland O.—“Stucco”	Retail Lumber
Rogers, Thomas M.—“Tom”	Retail Dry Goods
Rogers, Ben A.—“Ben”	Assoc., T. M. Rogers
Rosenbaum, Louis—“Rosie”	Theatre Prop.
Smith, Richard—“Dick”	Abstractor
Southall, James M.—“Mort”	Retail Drugs
Striplin, Melvin M.—“Strip”	Farmer
Welchel, H. E.	Houshold Elec. Appliances
Wiggins, Herman S.—“Gin”	Wholesale Feed
Williams, Wm. L.—“Billio”	Industrial Bank
Willingham, Henry J.—“Hen”	Ed. Teacher Trng.

Past Presidents and Secretaries

PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	DATE
Henry J. Willingham*	M. F. Barker	1921-22
A. A. Jackson**	R. T. S. Johnson	1922-23
A. W. Darby*	William Sparks	1923-24
O. C. Hackworth*	W. H. Conner	1924-25
W. J. Calloway*	M. F. Barker	1925-26
Earnest L. Deal*	U. O. Redd	1926-27
Thomas M. Rogers*	W. L. Williams	1927-28
D. W. Hollingsworth*	W. L. Williams	1928-29
Marian F. Barker*	W. L. Williams	1929-30
Uhland O. Redd*	W. L. Williams	1930-31
R. H. Jackson**	W. L. Williams	1931-32
P. B. Hill*	W. L. Williams	1932-33
H. Grady Richards	W. L. Williams	1933-34
B. A. Rogers*	W. L. Williams	1934-35
Louis Rosenbaum*	W. L. Williams	1935-36
R. T. S. Johnson	W. L. Williams	1936-37
Fred Osborn**	W. L. Williams	1937-38
T. T. Hackworth*	W. L. Williams	1938-39
J. A. Keller*	W. L. Williams	1939-40
A. L. Maples*	W. L. Williams	1940-41
W. O. Perritt**	W. L. Williams	1941-42
Homer L. Reeder*	W. L. Williams	1942-43
Fred Moore	W. L. Williams	1943-44
Henry A. Bradshaw*	W. L. Williams	1944-45
L. H. Taylor**	W. L. Williams	1945-46
C. Hewlett Jackson	Fred Bitters	1946-47
Thomas McGough (6 mo.)		
Frank Crow (6 mo.)**	Fred Bitters	1947-48
Mims Rogers**	Fred Bitters	1948-49
Tom Braly, Jr.*	Fred Bitters	1949-50
Grady Arnett*	Fred Bitters	1950-51
Thomas M. Rogers, Jr.	Fred Bitters	1951-52
Robert Griffin	Fred Bitters	1952-53
Russell Lewis	Fred Bitters	1953-54
Fred Bitters**	Rufus Hibbett	1954-55
Rufus Hibbett	Vann Nealans	1955-56
Edward Smoot**	Vann Nealans	1956-57
Thomas Schuessler	Fred Bitters	1957-58
John Hatfield	Fred Bitters	1958-59
W. H. Mitchell, Jr.	Fred Bitters	1959-60
LeRoy Doster	Fred Bitters	1960-61
Turner Allen	Fred Bitters	1961-62
Phillip M. Herm*	Fred Bitters	1962-63
Allen Northington	John Hatfield	1963-64
J. Rollins Sevier	John Hatfield	1964-65
W. David Thompson	John Hatfield	1965-66
Ben H. Craig, Jr.	John Hatfield	1966-67
James K. Thompson	John Hatfield	1967-68
W. Rutland Cunningham	John Hatfield	1968-69
Robert O. Cox	John Hatfield	1969-70
Sam U. Hardie	John Hatfield	1970-71

* —Deceased

** —No longer in club

20 Past Presidents still in club

A Short History of Florence Rotary Club

From the first meeting of January 12, 1921, and the charter meeting of March 22, 1921, the Florence Rotary Club has had a steady growth, although fraught with minor and major changes. Its history parallels somewhat that of the community it serves and of the capability of its members to render the service for which Rotarians are universally known.

The past 50 years of the club can be divided into four rather distinct periods. The first period, from 1921 to 1927, was one of rapid growth as the enthusiasm of its members seethed; this is further demonstrated by the selection of minutes attached. From 1928 to 1933, the second period was characterized by a sharp decline in membership that is traced to the economic conditions of the era. Beginning in 1933, there was a long period of steady growth that symbolizes a club attaining a measure of maturity and of balance in the four avenues of service. A slower rate of growth began in 1963, the fourth period, that was due primarily to two factors: the diminishing number of unfilled classifications and the shortage of places capable of accommodating an ever-increasing membership. The number of new members each year has varied from 1 to 17 in considerable irregularity, but with a slight overall increasing tendency.

Other highlights of the past include the election of E. L. (Square) Deal as district governor in 1928-29, and the attainment of 100% Rotary Foundation contributions in 1960, 200% in 1965, and 300% in 1970. David Steiner Nichols was successfully sponsored for a Foundation fellowship in 1965-66 for a year of graduate study in German at the University of Saar, and Herbert Harris, III was our contribution to the district Group Study Exchange team to Tasmania-Australia in 1968. Henry A. Bradshaw, D. W. Hollingsworth, Homer L. Reeder, and R. T. S. Johnson were elected honorary members in 1952, 1965, 1965, and 1968, respectively, to recognize outstanding and distinctive service to the community and to the spirit of Rotary. The club also played major roles in organization of Rotary Clubs in Decatur in 1927-28 and in Russellville in 1960-61.

Our first president was Henry J. Willingham, president of Florence State Normal School, and our current vice-president is his successor, E. B. Norton, president of Florence State University. The administration of Rotary in Florence, however, has been distributed among the various professions and businesses to reflect our obligation to the community we serve.

JOHN HATFIELD
Secretary

In the fifty year history of the Florence Rotary Club, there have been only two men who have had the regular job of "transferring the gavel" every year when a new administration comes in. The first was a charter member, Dr. D. W. Hollingsworth, who was a member of the club until his death in 1965. The second is Turner Allen who has done the job in recent years. Here is a short version of his "Philosophy of the Florence Rotary Club:"

**Philosophy
of the
Florence Rotary Club**

The Florence Rotary Club is but one of thousands of Rotary clubs located in cities and towns throughout the world. All of them have been established and function on Rotary's basic principles of service and according to Rotary's unique classification system of membership. Through its regular meetings the Florence club provides opportunities for association, fellowship, and informational programs. As an organization it provides support for a number of projects in service, ranging from regular financial support of the Rotary Foundation's International Scholarship program to irregular and temporary commitments of support for occasional community needs. But for most of its civic and humanitarian services, the Florence Rotary Club, unlike many other local service organizations, functions through its members rather than through specific club projects. This is in the nature and purpose of the classification system of membership. This is the real key to Rotary. Rotary membership is made up of the selected leaders of most of the community's major business and professional enterprises, men who are in positions of importance, influence, and responsibility. They are expected to apply the principles of "service above self" to the conduct of those enterprises, to their daily lives, and to the needs of the community. Consequently, while you will not find the Florence Rotary Club operating as a club in numerous community projects, you will find Florence Rotarians in the vanguard of leadership and support of virtually every worthwhile community activity, whether it be the United Fund, YMCA, Boy and Girl Scouts, mental health facilities, recreational developments, the bloodmobile, or the many humanitarian and charitable causes. Individuals joined by a common principle in service—this is what Rotary is all about. This is what being a Rotarian means.

TURNER ALLEN

**Minutes from the Florence Rotary Club
Files of Days Gone By**

January 12, 1921

On the evening of January 12th, the following business men of Florence were invited to meet with Joe Bradley, President of the Rotary Club of Huntsville, Alabama, at the Reeder Hotel, for the purpose of organizing a Rotary Club of Florence; Prentiss Blackwell, Henry A. Bradshaw, William H. Conner, Ambrose B. Camper, Albert W. Darby, David Wills Hollingsworth, Oscar C. Hackworth, Samuel C. Harlan, Aristides E. Jackson, Robert T. S. Johnson, William H. Mitchell, Alan McRae, Herman Nadler, Thomas M. Rogers, Winfield K. Sharp, Jr., James M. Southall, Joe Sonnenfield, Henry J. Willingham, Marion F. Barker.

The following officers were elected: Directors, Dr. H. J. Willingham, O. C. Hackworth, W. H. Mitchell, H. A. Bradshaw, T. M. Rogers; President, Dr. H. J. Willingham; Vice President, T. M. Rogers; Secretary, M. F. Barker; Treasurer, R. T. S. Johnson; Sergeant at Arms, Herman Nadler.

After deciding upon Thursday of each week at noon as the permanent weekly luncheon hour, adjournment was had until Thursday, February 3rd.

* * *

Attached to the first Minutes was a very cordial resolution passed by the Florence Exchange Club extending greetings to the new Rotary Club.

Signed:
F. T. Appleby
H. L. Reeder
H. M. Simpson

* * *

February 3, 1921

A letter was read from International headquarters notifying the club that our charter had been issued and would be delivered at an early date—"An interesting talk was made by Sam Harlan on what he manufactures—Florence Wagons."

(Editor's note: our first program.)

* * *

March 10, 1921

Mr. Ashcraft made a talk on the representative of the Negro race sent here to make a personal investigation on why work on Wilson Dam was being discontinued.

Mr. Hollingsworth reported for committee on unemployment. The papers are running ads asking the people to phone in any employment they may

have to offer, and some jobs have been secured, but the situation is not yet relieved. It was recommended that a committee of business men, called "Do it now," be appointed to look up jobs, and the original committee was continued, having power to enlist other members of the Rotary club.

(Editor's note: We get involved in the problems of the community.)

* * *

March 17, 1921

An interesting and inspiring talk was made by Dr. Hollingsworth on "Why I Am A Preacher."

The President read a letter from District Governor Dick Smith asking the club to arrange for him to come over Tuesday night, March 22nd, to deliver the charter . . .

Motion was made and carried that we invite by telegraph the delegates from Gadsden, Huntsville, Birmingham and Sheffield to be with us on this occasion.

(Editor's note: It is assumed that we got the charter, but the minutes have been lost that recorded the fact.)

* * *

April 21, 1921

At 12:30 the President turned the meeting over to the Chairman for the day, Albert Darby, who introduced Tom Rogers, who made a splendid talk on "Why Florence is Proud of My Business," giving the history of the development of his business since its establishment in 1894.

A fake telegram was read, announcing the consummation of a deal between the American Cyanamid Company and our government, by which the above Company agreed to take over and operate Nitrate Plant No. 2. Much excitement and discussion were created, but the club lost its enthusiasm, when it became known that this good news had originated in the imaginative brain of the program committee.

(Editor's Note: The program committee was certainly frisky in those days.)

The matter of changing the meeting day from Thursday to Monday was discussed and laid on the table for consideration until next Thursday, when it is to be put before the club for a vote.

(Editor's Note: The next minutes we have are May 23rd and the meeting time is recorded on Monday. So far as we know, the day of meeting has never changed since then though the place of meeting has changed several times from Hotel Reeder, to Hotel Negley to Davidson's Cafe, to Hotel Reeder to Holiday Inn to Hotel Reeder to Holiday Inn.

May 16, 1921

Cyrus W. Ashcraft presented to the club the fact that the community has been approached on the subject of organizing a Klu Klux Klan, expressing himself as being doubtful of the wisdom of such action on the part of the community. The matter was discussed and it was found to be the unanimous opinion of those present, including the visitors, that we do not need an organization of this kind in the community, so it was decided that we will discourage its organization and activity.

(Editor's note: Look out there boys, you might get involved in politics.)

* * *

May 23, 1921

A number of visitors were present.

These gentlemen were in the city for the purpose of investigating the merits and progress of Wilson Dam, sent here by the Miss. Valley Waterway Association, and from here will go to Washington to place the result of their investigation before our legislative bodies. Each of them made very encouraging remarks in regard to the possibilities of the Dam and expresses an opinion that the work would be resumed within a short time.

* * *

June 6, 1921

The probability of bringing the Chautauqua back to Florence next year was discussed by the club and it was agreed that the club should give endorsement to its return, contributing its moral support, but not willing to assume any part of the responsibility of the guarantee required by the Chautauqua people.

(Editor's note: Well, we never were a fund raising organization.)

* * *

July 11, 1921

A few minutes of fun was furnished by the program committee, consisting of a visit and speeches by three celebrities: Dr. Willingham impersonating Henry Ford, Louis Rosenbaum, Jack Dempsey and Henry Bradshaw, Clara Kimball Young.

(Editor's note: There goes that program committee again.)

* * *

August 8, 1921

Cyrus W. Ashcraft, who has just returned from a trip in behalf of the Tennessee River Improvement Association, which included visits to Bir-

mingham, Memphis and Nashville, reported that Birmingham has agreed to raise \$5000.00, Memphis will contribute \$3000.00 and Nashville \$5000.00. All of the cities are agreed that Ford is the logical man to take over the Muscle Shoals proposition and promised their support in securing proper legislation for the completion of the work.

(Editor's note: Ford came so near getting Wilson Dam that the Daily Paper put out an extra edition and a little tongue tied newspaper boy went up the street hollering, "Wextra, Wextra, Fords gits de Dam.")

* * *

August 16, 1921

(Editor's note: Here comes that program committee again.)

The program committee had arranged a surprise for the Rotarians in that the Rotary Anns had been invited, "unbeknownest" to any but the committee, and, after the Rotarians were seated in the dining room, the Rotary Anns filed across from the Princess theatre, where they had assembled and the surprise was complete, at least to the two members who were on the program with papers on "How I Fool My Wife"—the President, Henry Willingham and Ed Meade. These gentlemen did their best to "side-step" from their paper, but were voted down, unanimously and vociferously.

The President claimed that he had prepared two papers, thus, with his nimbleness of mind, preparing the way to leave out much of the "smartness" of his speech, which it might not have been well for Mrs. Willingham to hear. Ed Meade, however, set forth his methods from a massive document which he held in his hand, refreshing himself from a suspicious bottle, which he took from his hip pocket, from time to time to keep his courage up. He was much applauded.

Henry Bradshaw was chairman for the evening, Dr. Willingham having been disqualified by the above mentioned unanimous vote.

A big feature of the program was the splendid music by Mrs. W. M. Paxton and J. Fred Johnson, and the Jazz Quartette, composed of Misses Lorraine and Hermine Baldrige, J. Emory Morris and Ernest Darby. Mr. Darby's monologue jazz solo, to his own accompaniment also made a hit.

One of the other surprises of the evening was Mrs. Meade's response to her husband's address, in which she confided, in a guarded way, to the other ladies the secret of "How I Fool My Husband."

(Editor's note: Enough of old minutes—This should give us a good idea of how it was in our early days.)

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR FLORENCE ROTARY CLUB 1970-71

CLUB SERVICE

Director
E. B. Norton

Attendance

James Jeter, Chm.
C. H. Jackson
Charles Cooper

Classification

Tom Schuessler, Chm.
Rollins Sevier
Wesley Patton

Club Bulletin

John Hatfield, Chm.
Richard Compton
E. E. Jackson

Fellowship

O. B. Keister, Chm.
Bob Blanke
William Howard
Leon Keener
John D. McGill, Jr.
Howard Booream
James Boehm
Byron Bower
Richard Parker
C. Ray Smith
Glen Nicholas
Roy Novak

Magazine

Grady Richards, Chm.
Thomas McGough

Membership

Tom Rogers, Chm.
W. D. Thompson
Fred Moore

Music

Rufus Hibbett
Mrs. LeRoy Doster

Public Relations

Robert Holloway, Chm.
Richard Hammell
Luther Baker
Jack Worley

Program

James Thompson, Chm.
Robert Boehm
Wilder Cheney
LeRoy Doster
Robert Holloway
Robert Kidd
James Meeks
Jack Opler
William Paxton
Horace Springer
Neil Wilcoxson
Leslie Adams
L. T. Hackworth

Rotary Information

Turner Allen, Chm.
Ben Craig

Sergeant-at-Arms

Horace Raffield
C. W. Riley

Semi-Centennial

W. R. Cunningham, Chm.

A. J. Darby, Jr.
Thomas Smith
Julian Nance

Rotary Ann

Don Patterson, Chm.
U. O. Redd, III
Byron Bower, IV
George Kirk

Athletics

Malcolm Marsh, Chm.
Wilson Foote
James Zumwalt

VOCATIONAL SERVICE

Director

Herbert Reamey
John D. Petree
Charles R. Ott
Robert L. Kidd
Aubrey Miree
Madding King, Jr.
Dan Tallman
R. E. Baggs
William Butler
Malcolm Smith
Paul Evans
Robert Stegall

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Director

Don Burchfield
William Mitchell
Robert McBride
Ralph Rose
W. E. Patton, III
Frank White
John Hutchinson
William Baker
Allen Northington
Robert Griffin
Kenneth Darby
Walter Matthews

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Director

William Calhoun
Nolan Richards
James Freeman
Earle Trent
Russell Lewis
William Koob, Jr.
Lyman Mitchell
Lloyd Johnson
Bill Cook
Eugene Hayes
Eugene Burts
Wilford Doss
Charles Moore