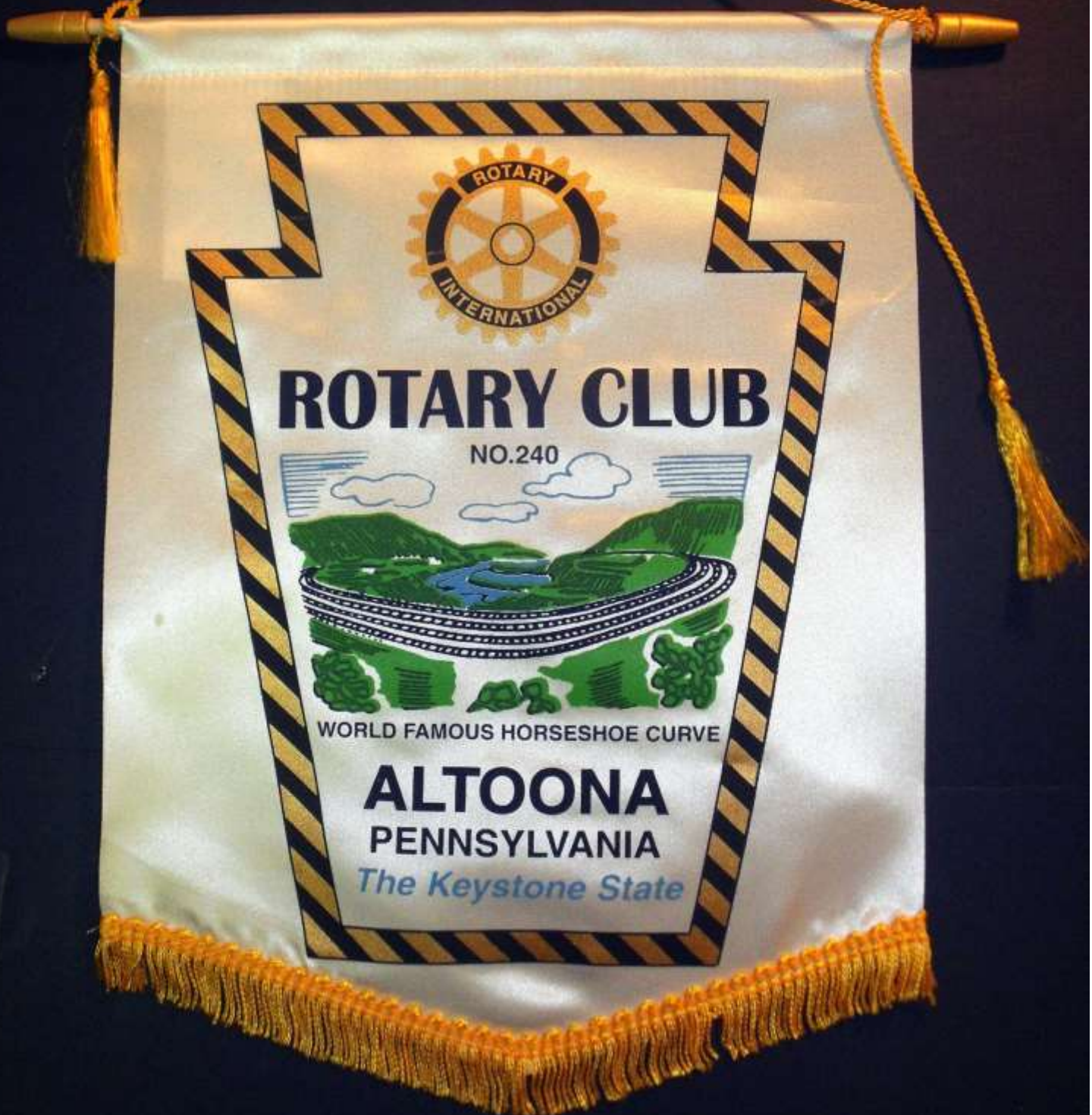


**4th HISTORY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF
ALTOONA**

1980 - 2013



*Start with
Rotary and
good things
happen.*

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The previous histories written and published for the Altoona Rotary Club are included on the CD
and online at:

www.rotaryofaltoona.org/History.htm

- ⊗ HISTORY OF ROTARY CLUB OF ALTOONA, PENNA. February 13, 1940
- ⊗ ROTARY CLUB, NO. 240, ALTOONA, PA 50TH ANNIVERSARY, May 17, 1966
- ⊗ HISTORY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF ALTOONA,
A Chronicle of Notable Events and Activities, March 1980



KEYS TO THIS HISTORY

By Dick Fruth PP

This history tells stories from mid-1979 through mid-2013. Some older stories that were not told in the earlier histories are also included. Most of the stories are told here for the first time although there are reprints from earlier histories, the RotaNote, the Altoona Mirror and other documents. These reprints are appropriately credited and explain why some stories are by persons who are now deceased.

The history is organized by year, as a log, indicating significant events in each of the presidential years. In Rotary the presidential year runs from July thru June of the following year. Interspersed within the logs are feature stories of events that are related to a President's year, and/or about the persons who are named within this log.

The RotaNote is the newsletter of the Rotary Club of Altoona. In 1956 it was a weekly publication; in 1999 it became a smaller edition and in 2007 bi-monthly. Now it can be read in digital format over the internet. Note: page 147 of this book gives you all the dates and details on RotaNote.

Abbreviations:

PP – Past President

PDG – Past District Governor

RI – Rotary International



4th HISTORY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF ALTOONA

WHY NOW?

By Dick Fruth PP

There have been three histories written about the Rotary of Altoona. The first history was written in 1940 by Clyde Cassidy, the second was in the form of the program for the 50th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Altoona in 1956. The third history was written by Ralph Mannion in 1980 with an appendix for 1981. In his year as president [2011-2012] Tim O'Brien issued a challenge to every committee to take on one project during the year. The History Committee members were Irv Seltzer, John Kazmaier and Tom Cooney. Tom did some research to see what Rotary International had on club history – he found one article from the 1950s. Tom figured that now was as good a time as any to begin this project and began recruiting people including John Beyer, John Wolf, Joe Hurd, Jennifer Knisely and me, Dick Fruth.

Someone asked Tom, “Why don’t we wait a couple of years and do this as a centennial project?” Tom replied that we needed to do this while we’re still here, tomorrow may be too late. With 35 living Past Presidents, 24 of them still members of the Club; we had lots of sources to tell the story of Rotary for the last 30 years. So this is largely the story of our time in Rotary when ‘acquaintance gave us an opportunity to be in service for others’.¹ *We strove for truthfulness & accuracy; the following is as authentic as we could make it.*

¹ Paraphrased from: Adventure in Service Rotary International © 1949, 1954, & 1960, 15th Printing 1966

THROUGH THE YEARS

Fast forward from 1916 to 1980 - the year that Ralph Mannion wrote the third history of the club, and we come to the time frame 1980 - 2013. This is the focus of 'The 4th History of the Rotary Club of Altoona'. Some stories will take us back to those earlier years, but this is predominantly the recollections of people who have been part of Altoona Rotary in the last three decades. Some Presidential years are full of many events; others highlight one very special event that affected a major change or accomplishment for our club. *Glenda Forosisky, Editor/Photographer*

Signs of Rotary's good work can be found in our area. A few finds are pictured here.

SIGNS, SIGNS, EVERYWHERE ARE SIGNS.....



EARLY HISTORY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Reprinted from the History of the Rotary Club of Altoona, 1980 by Ralph Mannion

A cogwheel emblem known worldwide from Argentina to Zambia may be seen at entrances to villages, towns and cities, announcing that Rotary meets there, working to improve the community, assist its youth, and extend friendship to fellow humans in other lands.

What is Rotary? It is the epitome of service in efforts to improve the community, help its youth, and reach out with friendship to people of alien cultures and beliefs.



Paul P. Harris

Rotary was born on February 23, 1905 in Chicago, Illinois. A young lawyer, Paul P. Harris, from Wallingford, Vermont, was lonely in the great city. To promote friendship he invited a small group of men, each of them engaged in a different form of service to the public, to gather together regularly. At first the members of the new club met in rotation at their various places of business, thus suggesting the name "Rotary".

In the 75 years since 1905 the ideas of Paul Harris and his friends have become ideals accepted by men of practically all nationalities, political and religious beliefs. As of this three-quarter century anniversary there are about 18,500 Rotary clubs and an estimated 855,000 Rotarians, in 154 counties and geographical regions. Rotary clubs everywhere have one basic ideal: the "Ideal of Service", which is thoughtfulness of and helpfulness to others.

The original members of the first Rotary club, through their business and professional contacts with men around the country, fostered the establishment of clubs in other cities. Starting slowly at first, by August 1910 there were 16 clubs dotted across the United States. That month Chicago held its first convention, with approximately 1,500 persons in attendance. "The National Association of Rotary Clubs" was organized at that convention. Later that year the organization became international with the admission of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. In 1911 clubs were begun in Ireland and Great Britain, necessitating a name change to "The International Association of Rotary Clubs". At the 1922 Convention held in Los Angeles, California the name was again changed to "Rotary International", which official designation has continued to the present.

ROTARY COMES TO ALTOONA

Also reprinted from the 2nd History of the Rotary Club of Altoona, 1980 by Ralph Mannion

New Rotary clubs were being established at an increasing pace. On March 8, 1916 the Chairman of the Extension Committee of the Rotary Club in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, B. K. Elliott, wrote to William W. Blake of the Blake Wholesale Tobacco Company, of 1011 Green Avenue, Altoona, citing the high ideals of the Rotary movement and its rapid expansion. He urged that an effort be made to assemble a group of twenty-five or thirty representative business and professional men of Altoona, and offered to bring the Pittsburgh Club's Committee to Altoona for a luncheon meeting, to explain Rotary.

'Billie' Blake, in turn asked Charles F. Anderson of the Anderson Paper and Twine Company, then located at 908 11th Avenue, to assemble a group and arrange a meeting. 'Charley' Anderson, in his turn, then wrote to B. K. Elliott, pleading inability to handle the arrangements, and advising that Elwood G. Mateer, Manager for the Bell Telephone Company, would assume the task of organization.

Allen D. Albert, President of Rotary International, acting upon the recommendation of B. K. Elliott of Pittsburgh and of the District Governor, George W. Harris, appointed Oliver Rothert Chairman of the Organizing Committee for a Rotary Club in Altoona. The Pittsburgh men came to Altoona and met with a group of local men who had expressed interest. At the meeting considerable enthusiasm was engendered toward the formation of a club.

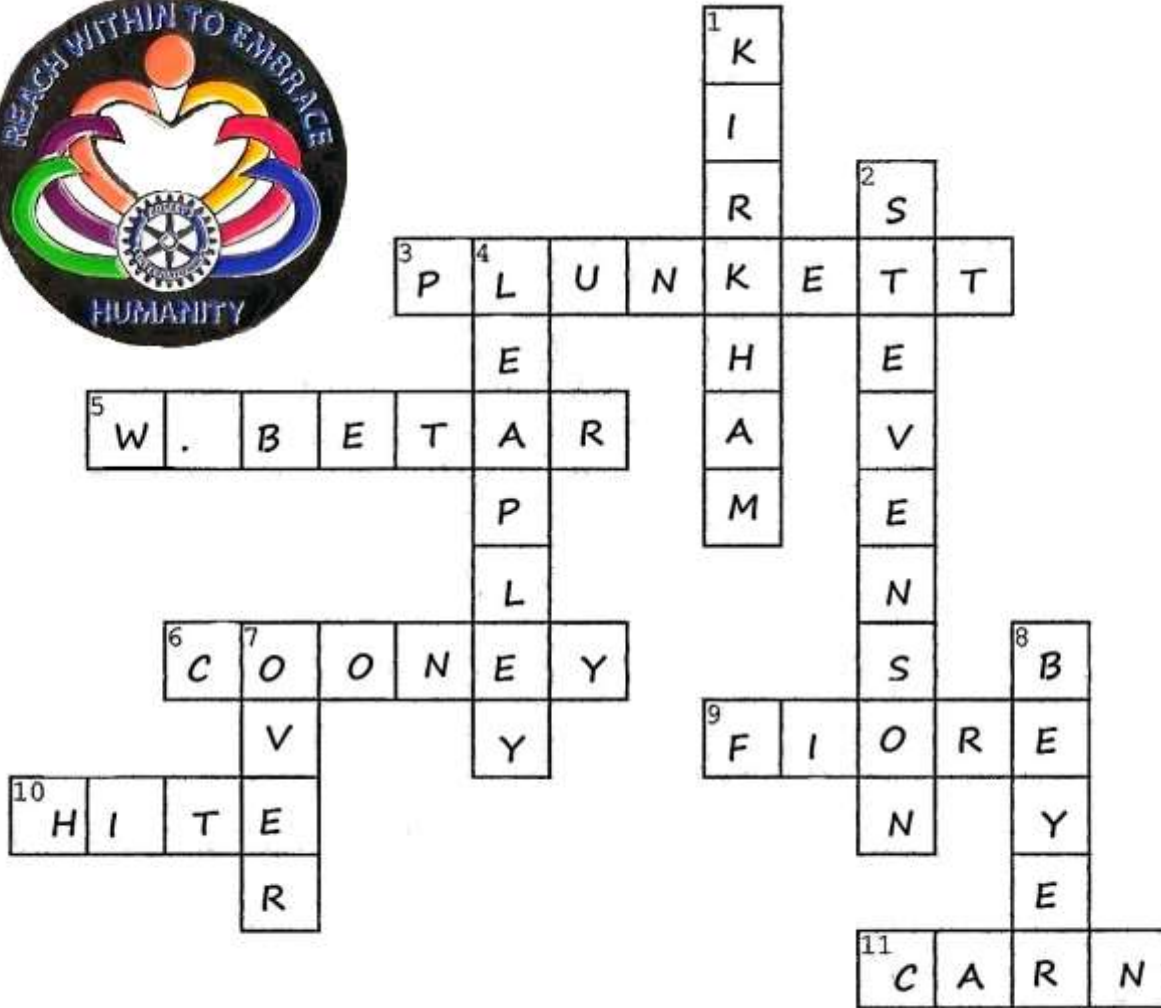
On May 16, 1916, in the **Logan House**, with thirty-six charter members present, a Charter was applied for, and the first permanent officers were elected. The application for a Charter indicated that meetings would be held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, **in the Logan House**, with dinner at 6:30.



The lobby of the Logan House Hotel
Picture courtesy of Blair County Historical Society

Editor's note: The Logan House Hotel was built in 1854 by the Pennsylvania Railroad. Dubbed "Mansion in the Wilderness," it was considered one of the grandest hotels in the country at the time. Famous visitors to the hotel included presidents Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, William Howard Taft & Mary Todd Lincoln. Sadly, the hotel was closed in 1927 and the building was demolished in 1931. It is now the site of the Altoona Post Office.

CHAPTER ONE ~ THE 1980'S



Across

- 3. 1983 - 1984
- 5. 1988 - 1989
- 6. 1979 - 1980
- 9. 1985 - 1986
- 10. 1984 - 1985
- 11. 1982 - 1983

Down

- 1. 1986 - 1987
- 2. 1981 - 1982
- 4. 1989 - 1990
- 7. 1980 - 1981
- 8. 1987 - 1988

1979 - 1980 TOM COONEY, PRESIDENT

November 1979 – Tom Cooney tells us all we'll ever need to know about the Dung Beetle.

THE DUNG BEETLE STORY

By Tom Cooney PP

One of the little personal touches of my presidency was that I took the first five minutes of the program part of the meeting for myself. This was to present what was on my mind – to enlighten, to chide but mostly to entertain.

This may not sound like much but there were times when this self-imposed task became a bit difficult. Like on a Monday evening at 11:00 pm when it was bed time and I had not found anything to fill the five minutes. As I was getting ready for bed my eye fell upon my November, 1979 copy of Scientific American Magazine. One would never expect to find anything to amuse the Rotary Club in the Scientific American but I was totally at a loss for material and in flipping through the pages I found an article on "***The Ecology of The African Dung Beetle***". It attracted my attention and I began to read.



Cartoon from the Argyle Sweater Collection.

The story is about how these beetles love large boluses of elephant dung. The beetles dig a hole 18 inches deep in the ground near the odoriferous dung mountain. They then carve out a perfect sphere of dung and using their hind legs roll this ball into the hole. Next they lay their eggs on top of the dung and cover it all over with dirt.

When the new beetles emerge from the eggs they have a built in food and moisture supply until they are able to leave the nest and forage for themselves. Researchers actually measured beetle temperatures and found that hot beetles got more dung than their cooler sisters.

I told my wife "This article is really funny". She said "Surely you are not going to talk about elephant dung after Rotarians have just finished lunch?" Well I did and it went over in a really big way. They just loved it!

Next week Jack Rea showed the club his membership document in the Scarab Society of The American Institute of Architects. Also within one or two weeks Johnny Carson on the Tonight Show did a similar skit. One has to wonder if there was a connection! He did not give me any credit.

A month later, Ed Giller upon returning from a trip to Israel presented me with two beautiful blue ceramic scarabs. After another month or so, Dr. Len Zimmerman also after visiting the Holy Land, presented me with a third scarab/dung beetle.

The scarab is considered a good luck charm over much of the world and is graphically represented in Egyptian hieroglyphics. Even so, we in America just don't seem to know much about them except of course, for the Rotary members who heard my skit and those of you reading this article.

Tom Cooney, President cont'd:

March, 1980 – In-club Recognition of Rotary's 75th Anniversary.

April 9, 1980 - The Seventy Fifth anniversary of Rotary International was celebrated by the 6 Blair County Rotary Clubs (Claysburg, Hollidaysburg, Roaring Spring, Tyrone, Martinsburg and Altoona). 324 Rotarians, *Rotary Anns* and guests attended. Governor Richard Thornburg was guest speaker.



Sen. Robert Jubelirer, Gov. Dick Thornburgh, Rotary President Tom Cooney & *Rotary Ann* - June Cooney at the 75th Anniversary Celebration
Sheraton Inn, Altoona

HOW WE CELEBRATED THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

By Tom Cooney PP

March 12, 2013

The highpoint of my presidential year was our celebration of the 75th year of the founding of Rotary International. In 1966, the year before I became a Rotarian the Club had an all-out, big time Gala to mark the Club's 50th anniversary. They put on a show complete with male hula dancers in grass skirts and coconut bras. The evening's activities are contained in the Party/Historical Brochure written and edited by Bill Canan. To view this brochure visit our website at www.rotaryofaltoona.org and click on the 1966 Club History & Golden Anniversary picture.

I missed that party but after hearing the glowing recollections for a long time I didn't believe we could duplicate or do one better than the "1966 Follies" so we needed to do something equally good but different.

As it happened, club member, Attorney Bob Jubelirer was elected to the State Senate and within a relatively short time became a strong political force on his way up the political ladder. Republican, Richard Thornburgh was elected Pennsylvania Governor in 1979. The natural consequence of this was that Thornburgh and Jubelirer became very close. Our "bash" would not include hula dancers but perhaps a party featuring the Governor and our rising Senate star would make an equally impressive evening. Bob was glad to oblige and made the arrangements.

For me, this affair was a very big deal and I insisted that it be as perfect as we could make it. I spent a lot of time at the Sheraton (now the Ramada Inn) working with the staff to install new lighting for the head table along with placement and size of the head table including a raised platform. The sound system was of major importance since my firm, Alsenco, Inc., installed public address systems. Everyone knew this so a slip-up here was not acceptable.

We invited all the Rotary Clubs of Blair County to cancel their regular weekly meeting and attend this grand event – which they did. On Saturday evening April 9, 1980 we completely filled the large ballroom with 324 Rotarians and guests. The Planning Committee and I worked out a schedule for the evening pretty much down to the minute so that we ended the entire program within 5 minutes of our estimate.

At our regular Club meetings, every time we had some political figure as a speaker the TV people got word of it and a crew of 2 to 4 would arrive and take over as they saw fit. Additionally, their appearance (meaning "dress") would be appropriate for an automobile/truck crash or filming a fire or sewer line break. Our affair called for a bit more sophistication. I just couldn't ignore this item. To ameliorate this potential hazard I called the News Director at the station to see if he

would accede to my wishes namely that: 1. their staff be more presentable in appearance and 2. They not film during the formal part of the meeting.

This guy was exceedingly put out, was very angry that I should dare to attempt to impose any conditions on their invasion of our grand party. He informed me that I didn't have to worry they would be happy not to cover our event and further that they would never again give any coverage to the Rotary Club. "Did that satisfy me"? I told him "it did indeed". I was not happy however, to have alienated anyone much less the TV people.

So Saturday April 9th, the big day, arrived and at about 3:00 pm while we were dressing the phone rang. A young lady was calling who said she represented the George H.W. Bush election campaign, they had heard about our evening affair and indicated the candidate might like to make an appearance. All I could think of was that having a presidential candidate intruding our finely tuned meeting would throw it into turmoil, totally disrupt the flow of events to say nothing of upstaging the Governor of the State of Pennsylvania.

I told the caller that I couldn't keep the candidate from coming but if he did he could not disrupt the meeting but he could say a few words while we were eating. She thanked me then hung up but I was left without knowing if Mr. Bush would make an appearance. It did wonder me how he would be able to make it to Altoona with all a candidate's baggage within about three hours. I very shortly forgot about George Bush since I had more important things to think about.

Just a few more items to tell you about:

1. The program went off without a hitch and with no George Bush.
2. Rotary District Governor and Comptroller of The Pennsylvania State University, Don Tressler was invited and he spoke of how Rotary got started in Chicago and mentioned one of Paul Harris's first projects in providing public toilets for the city. Much to the chagrin of Mr. Tressler, Altoona Mayor, Allan Hancock and others, thought that was quite funny while the DG obviously didn't appreciate the laughter.
3. While trying to be very careful during the meal – being that we were on a raised platform with full coverage of bright lights facing this large audience, in trying to cut a large red skinned potato, the potato skidded across my plate, went over the front of the table and fell to the floor. Too small a thing to worry about!
4. My final noteworthy experience of the evening was at the end of the meeting. All in attendance formed a line to shake the hand of Governor Thornburgh and Senator Jubelirer. My wife and I were standing between the Governor and the ballroom exit door. After greeting the Governor and Senator, as they proceeded from the room, the guests, seemingly without exception, stopped in front of June and I and congratulated and thanked us for the great time they had and what a good job they felt we had done.

Later in bed I was unable to fall asleep. It took a while but I began to realize that I was experiencing an emotional high. Never before or since, have I known that kind of feeling. Is this what public figures feel? Is this what keeps them going –addicted and always craving more? Perhaps after a while you begin to believe that you really are that good and thus grows the ego. By morning, however the swelling was gone.

Tom Cooney, President cont'd:

April - Bill Canan died, having had 44 years of perfect attendance

The Longest Perfect Attendance Record

In Memory of William T. Canan

July 12, 1895 - April 17, 1980

Reprinted from RotaNote 4/ 29/ 1980

The longest perfect attendance record in the Rotary Club of Altoona, 44 years, has been terminated by death, a membership dating from September 1936 to 1980. But BILL CANAN, additionally, had a much longer association with Rotary, having served as piano accompanist, while a high school teacher, for many years, beginning in 1919. Bill lived a useful and extremely busy life. He was a teacher and high school principal, a track coach, a mine clerk, an insurance agent, a Savings and Loan Secretary, President and Treasurer of the Historical Society, a cemetery Secretary, a Bakery operator, a Sunday School Teacher, Church organist and high ranking member and official in Masonic Orders. Only last month Bill Canan was named a Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary Foundation. His death creates a great void in the community.

April - Bus trip to Pittsburgh baseball game. Fans that day pictured right.

May - Carolyn Black - Miss Pennsylvania (top 10 for Miss America - talent was vocal opera) was guest speaker.

- The Club has 141 members - 86.19% average attendance for the month as compared to June 1965 - 162 members - 91.30% average attendance



L-R: Ralph Mannion, June Cooney, Renee Cooney, Bea Mannion, & Anna Cooney.

1980 – 1981 R. STANTON OVER, PRESIDENT

August 1980 – We had a gratifying turn-out of young guests last Tuesday for our Father/Son/Daughter Day. 23 boys and girls were in attendance and had the opportunity to meet their Congressman Bud Shuster.

September 1980 – We welcome new Rotarian Richard (Dick) Fruth, a partner in the architecture firm of Hayes, Large, Suckling and Fruth. Dick is sponsored by Bob Suckling.

- All members are invited to the official opening of the Railroad Museum on Sunday, Sept. 21 at 2:30PM.
- Due to lack of interest in the Club Christmas party the board has decided to forego scheduling a party for this 1980 season.

October – Congrats to Ernie Wissinger on the opening of his 2nd store in Wehnwood.

November – Rotary Parliament voted to retain male membership. An emotional 3 hour debate sought to change membership to make it possible to admit women into Rotary. RI voted it down with 60% opposed.

- Club secretary, Ralph Mannion, has given notice that he prefers to terminate his official duties at the end of this year. He will have completed 25 years as secretary and Bulletin Editor. Tom Cooney, George Stevenson and Don Carn are attempting to find another willing member to take over the duties.

December - It's official, first time ever, No Christmas party. So passes a nostalgic era!

- Thanks to Herk Betar for the donation of books to Petaling Jaya, Malaysia to help with the start of their public library. International Service in Action.
- The club attains 1,000 percent status in the Rotary Foundation.

January 1981 – With two new members, Robert Baker, DDS and Jacques Bossaeres of the Sheraton, the club membership is now at 141.

March - Recognized the 100th anniversary of Stevens Mortuary. In attendance: N. A. Stevens - Charter member of the Rotary Club of Altoona, Brothers Frank and John Stevens both past presidents of Rotary club of Altoona and Joe Stevens, III - 3rd generation Rotarian.

March 24, 1981 - Ralph Mannion Retirement Recognition Day. Ralph was Rotary Club Secretary and Editor and Publisher of the RotaNote from 1956 – 1981. He was given Honorary Membership for his 25 years of service. Wife Bea's note in part: 'as the wife of your club secretary I want to thank you for the honor and the dash of prestige we've enjoyed from this prestigious service organization.'



Ralph & Bea Mannion

April/May - Welcome new members, Dave Duncan and Joseph Hesser, also we have a proposed new member - Ed Henderson! Club membership now at 152.

May - 3 "Train" teams have been set up for the next Rotary Radio Days. All members will hopefully support their team in "The Great Train Race" to raise the needed funds to purchase a copy of Heinz Warneke's statue "The Express Mail Carrier" for the museum. Steve Sheetz is chairman this year.

July - New secretary Frank Fronauer

1981 - 1982 GEORGE W. STEVENSON JR. PRESIDENT



July 13, 1981 - Howard (Pop) Lindaman Past President and Past District Governor celebrated his 90th birthday. While serving on city Council as head of Public Works, 1954 - 1957, he was instrumental in pushing for additional water supply for the City of Altoona by establishing another reservoir. Pop's contribution to the community is great in light of the frequent droughts the city has been experiencing lately. He is retired as Music Director in the Altoona School District after 26 years of service.



Howard (Pop) Lindaman
PP & PDG

September – Our featured speakers are some local high school foot-ball coaches, Frank Rocco - Altoona Area, Tom Irwin - Bishop Guilfoyle, Harold Price - Hollidaysburg. Be the first to Penn Alto, don't pass this opportunity; you'll kick yourself on Wednesday!

- The Mishler Theatre will be having Fund Raising-Mortgage Burning Gala next month. Al Holtzinger has more info.

October – Robert H. Morse, Sr. who just returned from Thailand will speak about his experiences from living in Southeast Asia for 50 years. During WW II he spent time in the area called “The Hump” assisting downed American Airman. He has also been behind the Bamboo Curtain.

November – Elections results: Donald Carn - next President, Rev. James Plunkett - 1st VP, R. Lee Hite – 2nd VP, Frank Fronauer – Secretary, Rex Kaup – Treasurer.

December – In response to a plea, the Salvation Army Red Kettle will be placed outside the door of the meeting room on Tuesday. You are encouraged to remember those less fortunate during this holiday season.

January - 26th program will include Bill Robinson, Jim Bibby, John Candelaria and Tom Griffin of the Pittsburgh Pirates and Buc broadcaster Jim Rooker.

- Tom Cooney advises that plans are underway for the presentation of Heinz Warneke's Statue. Tentative date April 3, 1982.

April – The gifting of the Heinz Warneke statue to the Railroader's Museum

Heinz Warneke - The Sculptor Washington, DC - State College - and Two for Altoona

By Tom Cooney PP



**Heinz Warneke, Chris & John
Kazmaier**

Heinz Warneke, famed sculptor, was awarded a prestigious government contract to produce an aluminum statue honoring railroad postal workers for a new Washington, DC Post Office building completed in 1934. It was titled “The Express Mail Carrier”.

The Pennsylvania State University Nittany Lion stone figure was gifted to the University on October 24, 1942 by the class of 1940. It was the work of Heinz Warneke and stone cutter Joseph Garatti.

In May 1972 the Altoona Area High School Alumni Association unveiled the Heinz Warneke bronze Mountain Lion recognizing the school's longtime mascot.

Thanks to John Kazmaier and the connections he made in helping to secure the Altoona Mountain Lion, permission was given for the Rotary Club of Altoona to have a copy made of Warneke's "Express Mail Carrier" sculpture displayed in Washington, DC. It was then presented to the Railroaders Memorial Museum on Saturday April 3, 1982.

A very special celebration and dedication ceremony, replete with Rotary Anns and distinguished guests, was held at the Railroaders Memorial Museum. We were privileged to have Heinz Warneke and his daughter with us speaking of his works. (Note: This was prior to construction of the new museum building so the party was held in the original building.)

It may not be realized now in the age of modern transportation and distribution systems that in times past passenger trains shuttled mail across the continent in specially constructed mail cars. To speed up mail handling mailmen worked around the clock, daily, in these cars sorting mail for drop-off at towns and cities along the routes. It was a rock and roll job since all train cars constantly rock back and forth because of unevenness in the rail bed. So our statue is a tribute to those unseen, mostly unrecognized mail workers plying their trade in a box car lined with cubby holes and heaped with mail bags. It makes you wonder what happened if they didn't get it all sorted before the train arrived at a particular drop-off point? Maybe they got it on the way back or the next day?



**L - R: George Stevenson, Rotary President
& Fred Long,
R.R. Museum Board Member**

It was a very memorable evening with a great addition made to the Museum's inventory of valuable, significant historical display items. The program from the unveiling tells much more and is a nice history of all who participated that day. I, Tom Cooney, have several of the original programs and would be happy to share copies with you should you want to review it.

Editor note: the Rota Note reminds Rotarians that the cost for the evening of good food, a little libation, good fellowship and Mel Ehrin (entertainer) for only \$10.00 per person and please bring a guest. And by all reports it was quite a memorable affair.

Right is a copy of the cover of the program for the Heinz Warneke statue presentation at the Railroad Museum as the story before tells. Tom Cooney still has a handful of the originals if you would like to borrow and browse thru one someday.

The bottom picture is the base of the statue as it stands inside the museum, 1st floor between the entry and exit doors.

ROTARY CLUB OF ALTOONA, PA
Dedication Program



"THE EXPRESS MAIL CARRIER"

Sculpture in Aluminum
by HEINZ WARNEKE

Presented to:
Railroaders Memorial Museum
Altoona, PA
Saturday, April 3, 1982

The Express Mail Carrier
by Heinz Warneke
Presented to
Railroaders Memorial Museum

by Rotary Club of Altoona
April 3, 1982

George Stevenson Jr., President, cont'd:

April – We are reminded that the 19th in 1868 was the birthdate of Paul Harris, Rotary's founder.

June 1982 – STABLEX representative will talk about converting hazardous waste material into non-hazardous material and is looking into constructing a plant in Blair County.

- Congratulations to Ed Giller on a Paul Harris Fellowship for his gracious loan of the radio station for our Rotary Radio Days which by the way brought in \$8,080.00 this year. Hats off to Chairman Steve Seltzer and company!

1982 – 1983 DONALD CARN, PRESIDENT

September – John Settimio and his committee did a fantastic job on the Golf Outing, Closest to the Pin – George Bulger, Low Medalist – John Beyer, High Score – Rex Kaup

October - The Honorable John F. Lehman, Secretary of the United States Navy, was the guest speaker.



- We welcome six Japanese visitors who have arrived in Altoona to visit farms, industries, retailers and other points of interest.
- **Our R.I. President Hiroji Mukasa's** theme this year is "Mankind is One - Build Bridges of Friendship Throughout the World" which will be our focus in February during World Understanding Week.

December - The Penn Alto kitchen closed. Dutch Kitchen caters meals as Rotary Club rents Logan Room for \$500.00 per month.

January – The Semi-Annual assessment to our members for 1983 is \$1,645.00 based on 140 members at \$11.75 per member.

February – A California court ruled in favor of Rotary International in a law suit brought by the former Rotary Club of Duarte, CA. USA. The club had sought to enjoin the board of directors of RI from terminating their membership because the club had violated rules by **admitting three women members!**

Editor note: see follow up to this in the 1986-1987 stories



March – District Conference will be held at the NEWLY RENOVATED Bedford Springs Hotel next month. *Editor note: The Springs closed in 1987 and at that time the cost to restore it was estimated at 70 million dollars. I hope all are still here to see it now in 2013!*

May – Blair County enters the computer age at election time with the introduction of the punch card instead of the paper ballot. Ralph Mangus will give us a demonstration and talk about money

and manpower saved with this change. *Editor note: flash forward to the 2000 presidential election in Florida and the controversy of the 'hanging chad' ...who knew?!*

1983 – 1984 JAMES N. PLUNKETT, PRESIDENT

July 5 – the RotaNote has a brand new look, now horizontal and more information!

- Total monies brought in by all for this year's Rotary Radio Days: \$8,350.00/the goal was \$8,000. Bill Rossman was awarded a watch after he won the coin toss for selling 30 spots for Rotary Radio days. Paul DeLongis also sold 30, thus the need for the toss. But, a big thank you to **Bob Slutzker** (Chairman) who led the way with 38 spots sold but did NOT award him-self the prize.

ROTANOTE PROFILE OF ROBERT SLUTZKER – 1994

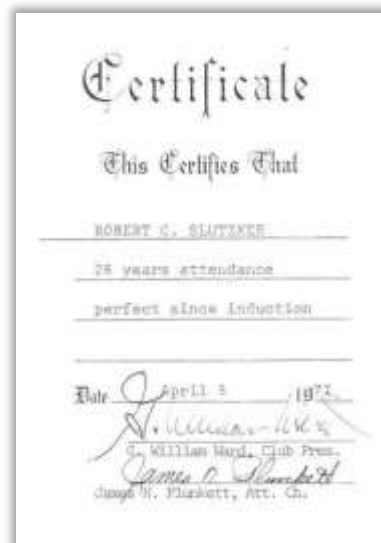
By Beatrice Mannion

Reprinted from an April 1994 RotaNote

Not quite a half century ago (1950), an eager young man was inducted into the Altoona Rotary Club. ROBERT SLUTZKER was a THIRD generation Rotarian. His grandfather, Harry Slutzker, was a Charter member; Bob's father, Archie Slutzker, was likewise a Rotarian.

Bob wore his Rotary pin with pride and found great satisfaction in Rotary activities. Until his illness, Bob, next to Ardie Dillen, **had the second highest attendance record in the club**. Bob was also very articulate in his firm belief -- that when someone cares enough to plan and contribute a Rotary program, members should also care enough, if at all possible, to stay for the program.

Besides serving on the Altoona Rotary Board of Directors, Bob attended many of the District Conferences and served as a representative to both the 1975 Montreal and 1977 San Francisco International Conventions. In 1992 Bob became a Paul Harris Fellow and an Honorary Member of the Altoona Rotary Club.



A BRIEF HISTORY...

Bob was attending Dickinson College in 1943, when he left in November for the Army Air Corps. He served his country in that capacity until February 1946. At that time he returned to Dickinson and graduated in 1948 with a B.S. in Economics. He was a member of the Beta Theta Phi

Fraternity. He also pursued studies at Oxford and Lehigh Universities and the North Carolina University.

Bob is a member of the Broad Avenue Presbyterian Church. He married Beverly Dennis who died in 1986. He is the father of four children: Cynthia, Richard, Thomas, and Beverly. There are five grandchildren.

Bob managed the Harry Slutzker & Co. and the Wm. F. Gable Contract Division. Harry Slutzker & Co. was founded by his grandfather as a notions wholesaler and was the area Maytag Distributor until 1966 when Maytag took over the distribution. Gable's Contract Division operated until 1987 when the company was incorporated and relocated as Penn Commercial Interiors Inc. (PCI). PCI and Harry Slutzker & Co. continued operation through 1986 when the firms were closed and Bob retired. Harry Slutzker & Co. had at that point served the Altoona area for nearly 100 hundred years.

IN RETROSPECT....

Perhaps you are thinking "When did I last sit at the table and enjoy the company of Bob Slutzker?" It would probably go back a couple years now and perhaps at that time you conversed more with his son, Rich, a fourth generation Rotarian, than with Bob. For slowly, but surely, Bob's genial personality was being drained by a scourge named "Alzheimer". Bob just stays silently at home now.

This story makes us think - *We take for granted a lot..... Until one day it is not.*

SPECIAL THANKS

We are most grateful to son Richard Slutzker who graciously (and not without pain) supplied this information about his father for us.

James N. Plunkett, President cont'd:

July 19, 1983 - the first "Home Edition" of the RotaNote is published and mailed home.

- Our speaker program participants this year will receive a '**Golden Spike**', a true symbol of Altoona's heritage.



August - A letter to the club from Al Holtzinger re members making a 'mad rush' to the door just as the speaker is being introduced. *Bad form and quite embarrassing.* Please leave at a less obvious time.

September – **All the names of former presidents are engraved on a ceremonial gavel**; everyone since 1916. George Stevenson was the last name we had room for, so a new one will be obtained.



October – Famed sculptor of the ‘Nittany Lion’ and the Rotary club ‘Mail Express Carrier’ statue donated by our club to the Railroad Museum has died at the age of 88. Heinz Warneke visited Altoona for our celebration and presentation of our gift to the museum in April, 1982.

November – Our club membership now stands at 140!

- A great big WELCOME to Charlie Harlow, our newest member. He was formally received back into the club on Tuesday.

Note from Jerry Sacks: Charlie Harlow was a fine man - did a lot of public service, taking people to the doctors and such. Charlie was the man who taught us that there is no comma after *One Nation* in the Pledge of Allegiance, and from that day since, Rotarians have always spoken, *One Nation Under God* – with no pause between.

January – A big Rotary Welcome to Dr. Dennis Murray as he moves into the position of Superintendent of the AAHS system. *Editor note: Dr. Murray retired from this position in 2013.*

February – We’ve tried the buffet, visited the Jaffa, spent 2 weeks at Gulifty’s, we’ll vote on the 26th as to where to have our meetings. And in March, the vote showed ‘Our club voted to stay at the Penn Alto Logan Room for the foreseeable future!’

March/April – Notes and quotes from James Plunkett, President:

‘I have been most careful during my year as president to keep from using much material that was ‘preacher’ type. If I read the historical information correctly, I am the first Protestant minister to ever have been elected president of this club. I become the minister of a church in Buchanan, MI in May and thus my early departure as President of Rotary.

The major goal for my year, that I could not reach, was a foreign exchange student, but ours did not work out. But I am happy to report that Dave Duncan and Lee Hite will have an exchange student for the school year 84-85. Although this is extra work, and can have its tribulations, this is such an important part of the international thrust of Rotary and this club must be regularly involved in the program’..... It has been a genuine pleasure to be associated with the Rotary Club of Altoona. I think Jim Kasun has given a new twist to Secretaries day, Bill Rossman has one of the best organized and I hope successful rotary Radio Day Programs scheduled, and finally we are happy to report that both our outgoing and incoming exchange students seem to be on schedule and promise to enrich this club in the future.

Thanks, President Jim

1984 – 1985 R. LEE HITE, PRESIDENT

April – Lee Hite becomes president 2 months early due to Jim Plunkett's move to Michigan.



May - The District Governor's letter for May indicates that Altoona's attendance for April placed the club in **1st place among all the District Clubs** of 50 or more members, and in 7th place among all the clubs of all sizes.

June – Whatever happened to “Rotation” among the table seatings? In the interests of Rotary we should learn to know all of our fellow members, not just a small clique at one table.

July – Congrats to President Lee Hite on his reception of the “Young Executive Award” from the National Association of Electrical Distributors.

- Rotarian John Hemphill, at 95 years of age, is planning a reunion of his Altoona High School Class of 1908. The class had the distinction of being the first class to graduate from the old Brown Stone building. (Note: John died at 101 years of age and had 21 years of perfect attendance.)
- Congrats to PP Tom Cooney on his election as Treasurer of Family and Children Services and to new member Pete Starr selected as Chief of Police by Mayor David Jannetta.
- Of the 7 new appointees to the **Penn State Altoona Campus** Advisory Board – 6 are Rotarians (Don Devorris, Ed Giller, Lee Hite, Joe Orr, Steve Sheetz and John Wolf).

Editor note: Read the following for a great story regarding the campus and the Rotarian whose family helped create it!

ROTA NOTE PROFILE OF E. RAYMOND SMITH

By Beatrice Mannion

Reprinted from the RotaNote August 1984

'SMITTIE' - The problem is how to condense what could be a two volume bio, into a one page story. Just take the first letter of his name ·S· and up comes those '5' words - Social, Smart, Secretary of Altoona Rotary, and only the Second to carry the name E. Raymond Smith!

Smittie was born four score years ago on the 11th of January. His father, E. Raymond was a pharmacist who owned and operated three area drug stores--in Juniata, 11th Street and Broad Avenue and 24th Street.

Smittie started to school when he was five years old and without benefit of Kindergarten or nursery school skipped the first grade; later he also passed from 5th to 7th grade. No wonder when he graduated from high school at 16 he had designs on becoming a brain surgeon! He graduated from Bucknell College, and by that time had decided to follow in his father's footsteps.

He went to the Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. There, he finished a four year program in three years! He went into the pharmacy business with his father and when his father died in 1945, Smittie was now owner and operator of three drug stores and LOVED HIS PROFESSION!

In 1941 Smittie married Pauline Isenberg and they were the proud parents of two daughters--now Gail Austin of Altoona and Wendy Knight of Alexandria, Va.

Smittie was sponsored into Rotary in 1952 by Art Pollock. With a perfect attendance for seven years, Smittie reluctantly had to resign when his work schedule including Valley View Pharmacy, could not accommodate his Rotary activities. But he resumed his membership in 1981 and was later elected secretary. Has he made a difference in Rotary membership? Definitely so and for a very, very important reason! Just scan the luncheon meeting and you will realize how. Smittie sponsored the very first woman to the Altoona Rotary Club when he helped unlock the door for Christine Bettwy and thus many others to follow.



Smittie has many great memories of his years in Rotary and especially the Christmas parties at the Penn Alto. No one ever forgets the special boxes of Russell Stover candy each child received from none other than Smittie.

Smittie also contributed LOTS OF TIME to Rotary when for instance two different years he was Program Chairman. That meant he was responsible for each and every program for that year - 52 in all - PLUS the Christmas Party - A lot of work!

There's something else you should know about Smittie.

Do you remember **Ivyside Park**: which boasted the largest concrete swimming pool in the world? The park was owned by E. Raymond Smith and son Smittie helped dig and lay the concrete for that pool!



In later years, Smittie's widowed mother was approached by Bob Eiche and Ted Holtzinger (both Rotarians) who wanted to purchase the park with a new venture in mind - A Penn State branch Campus! - What did she want for those 40 acres in Juniata Gap they asked? Well, rather than sell it to night club operators hungry to buy the park, Mrs. Smith decided to DONATE this prize property and help satisfy the hunger for education. All the visionaries (Eiche and Holtzinger) had to pay was \$36,000 in property taxes. The rest is history, a great ongoing history of Penn State - Altoona!

In recent years, after his wife's death in 1980, Smittie married Helen Hess. They are enjoying retirement in their cozy Whenwood home. Even so, as Rotary Secretary, Smittie is involved in the many activities of the club, such as the Rotary Swim Program, Radio Day, Basketball Tournament, Youth Exchange Program and don't forget the week-to-week bookwork as Secretary! ROTARY THANKS YOU SMITTIE!

R. Lee Hite, President cont'd:

August – President Lee Hite sends a letter to *RotaryAnn* naming a committee of women to compose a newsletter called '*RotaryAnn Ritings*' to inform all *Anns* of important events, goings-on and dates involving Rotarians and their families and to get all wives more active with the club. The committee members are Jan Andrews, Jane Hite, Bea Mannion, Naomi Reed, Dede Kazmaier and Peg Smith.

Editor note: Rotary Ann is the nickname given to the wives (both named Ann) of 2 Rotary group leaders on the way to a convention in Houston, TX in 1915. One was from LA, CA and the other, Philadelphia, PA. Both Anns got the title that stuck and was used for many years to refer to Rotarian's wives, who could not be members, but played a very important part in Rotary.



ROTARYANN RECIPE EXCHANGE 1986

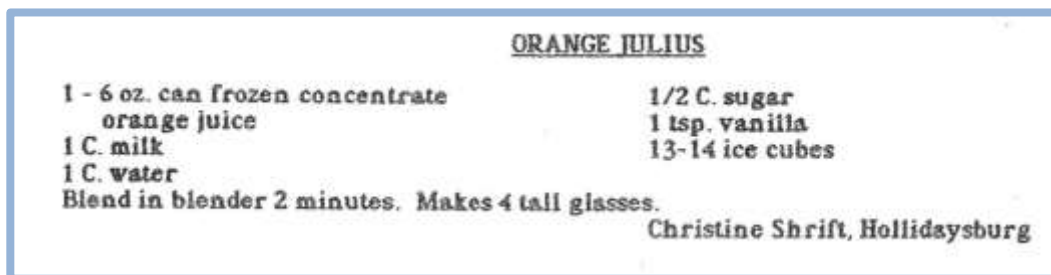
By Beatrice and Marea Mannion

In the years before women became members of Rotary, Rotary club spouses (Rotary Ann's), family and friends of Rotary members participated and contributed many activities including the writing of a Rotary recipe book.

One of them was published as a three ring notebook in May 1986. It was edited and coordinated by **Christine Shrift** with assistance from Lois Price of Duncansville who did all the typing and book assembly.

The Rotary Ann Recipe Exchange included a comprehensive array of favorite, special recipes from Rotary Ann's and also some Rotary members from all over the district and well beyond Altoona, Hollidaysburg, Martinsburg, Tyrone, Bedford, Chambersburg, Clearfield, Curwensville, Lewistown, Coudersport, Coalport/Irvona, Frostburg, Pleasant Gap Williamsport, Hagerstown and Hancock are just a few of the clubs represented in the comprehensive book. It was divided into Appetizers, Entrees, favorite desserts and District Youth Exchange International recipes.

Recipes from the Altoona club included Luella Carn's Raisin Bran Muffins, Monster Cookies, and Taco Salad, Christine Shrift's Zucchini Pancakes and **Orange Julius**, Ann Wolf's Chicken Tetrazzini and Chocolate Chiffon Pie, Dorothy Krauss' Salmon Bisque and Dried Beef Spread and Curry Dip, Florine Fiore's Antipasto salad and Jim Dandy cookies, Dorothy Krauss' Chocolate Float Delight, and Bea Mannion's Quick, Easy and Good Meatball casserole and Date and Nut cake.



A special section at the end included District Youth Exchange recipes including some from Australia, Ecuador, South Africa, Belgium, Mexico and Belgium.

Lee Hite, President, cont'd:

September – PP Bob Smith (1971 – 1972) has been honored by Penn State University with Emeritus Status for 'Long and Distinguished Service with the Altoona Campus'. Bob served 44 years as Associate Professor of Economics, Advisement, Continuing Education, and much more.

- Beginning this year, the Rotary Foundation will award up to ten grants a year of \$10,000 each, to selected higher education faculty members to teach for six to ten months in developing countries other than their own. The fields taught must have international applications in areas of economic, political, social or cultural studies.

October – John Wolf, Chairman of the Membership Development Committee sent a letter encouraging new member recruitment. At this time we have: Active – 73, Senior Active – 65, total 138. Average length of membership in club is 27 years.

- Congrats to Steve Sheetz on his election as President of Sheetz, Inc.



November – A letter from Carl E. Hill, Governor District 735 after his visit to our club says in part: Thank you for your excellent planning for the best club assembly in District 735. My impression is that the strong tradition of Rotary Service in Altoona is being continued and enhanced by the

present leadership. I appreciate your involvement in the planning for **Dr. Canseco's** visit on December 3.

*December 3, 1984 - **Dr. Carlos Canseco**, Rotary International President, visits Altoona; in nearly 69 years, no sitting president of Rotary International has ever visited this immediate area. This was a great honor to Altoona and District 735. 735 Rotarians and guests attended a gala reception at the Jaffa Mosque.*



*Editor note: **Carlos Canseco** graduated from UNAM with a doctorate in medicine and specialized in allergology at the Northwestern University and in clinic immunology at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania.*

In 1950 he joined Rotary International and chaired it worldwide in 1984. As president of Rotary he launched an international campaign to eradicate polio by using an aerosol vaccination he co-developed with Albert Sabin in 1982. Courtesy Wikipedia

December cont'd – the Altoona Mirror, on the occasion of PP **Joe Maddock's** Paul Harris Fellowship, printed a well-deserved special salute to Joe on his long record of outstanding educational service to the youth of the Altoona Community.

ROTANOTE PROFILE OF JOE MADDOCKS

By Beatrice & Marea Mannion

Who's the oldest and longest-time inducted member of the Altoona Rotary Club?

- First clue: He's now an honorary member....
- Second Clue: He was Rotary's President in 1942-43....
- Third Clue: In 1984 he became a Paul Harris Fellow!

Some of you know the answer, but what you and many fellow Rotarians may not know are the truly outstanding details in the life of a man this community and Altoona Rotary is honored to call one of its own.

In his own words JOSEPH N. MADDOCKS says" I hold Rotary very high as a very important influence in my life." And he adds; "There's three things that are important in my life ... the church. Rotary and Masonry and they are all very, very beneficial." Now confined

to his home on Ruskin Drive, a very sharp and affable Joseph Maddocks is a joy to interview as he reflects on his wonderful Rotary friends and memories and on some of his own career, accomplishments as one of the area's outstanding leaders in secondary education.

Born in Roaring Springs in 1899, the son of Daniel and Junie Maddocks; Joe graduated from Altoona High in 1917. Went on to Juniata College and then earned a B.A from Penn State (then called Pennsylvania State College). He received an M.A. at Columbia University and pursued Doctoral studies both at the University of Pittsburgh and Pa. State College. And although Joe focused all of his academic work on architectural engineering, the great depression meant his career was about to take a dramatic turn in yet another direction, a very fortunate turn for Altoona and thousands of young people growing up here.

The year was 1922 and on June 6th Joe made an important lifetime commitment, marrying Margareta L. Howard. But jobs were scarce and local engineering firms "couldn't pay a living wage". Then Joe's father, a foreman in the car shops, heard from School Board President William Eberle that a math teacher was desperately needed at Altoona High School. Joe could certainly fill that bill temporarily and so it was that Joe Maddocks began his first job in secondary education, teaching 6 classes, each averaging 40 students!

It didn't take long for others to see this young man's talent and potential and before long he was running the entire night school at AHS--enrollment 2,000! From there the sky was the limit. In 1929 Joe became AHS Assistant Principal--only 8 years after he began what would go on to become an extraordinary career in Altoona secondary education.

It was 1936 when Joe crossed the street to take his first -top dog- job as Principal at Roosevelt Jr. High School. This was also a memorable year because of Joe's sponsorship into a local service organization which would play such a vital role in all aspects of his life then and now. AHS Principal and Rotarian Levi Gilbert proposed Joe Maddocks to the Altoona Rotary Club where Joe would later become a Paul Harris Fellow and Rotary's President in 1942-43.

Joe's credentials in Rotary and everything he did is a Who's Who list! Shortly after his entry into Rotary he became Principal at Altoona Senior High School. He would spend the next 27 years as the school principal, became president of The Altoona Education Association, and was School Superintendent for a period. "The youngsters at Altoona High School in those days were marvelous to deal with says Maddocks and I had a wonderful faculty." Maddocks says' he always stressed "character education" as part of the overall educational process at Altoona High School. He was also a member of many other local organizations including the church, Masonry, Y.M.C.A. and the Scout Council.

Reflecting on Rotary, Joe Maddocks says he has thoroughly enjoyed Rotary and still reads with much interest, all the happenings. He says Paul Hileman regularly visits him. He also reminisces about the "old days" coming early to weekly luncheons at the Penn Alto and enjoying pleasant talks with early arrivers such as Dick Bartholomew, Tom Colantino and Secretary Mannion. He especially remembers the annual Rotary Christmas party between Christmas and New Years when families would be together and would vie for the biggest family turnout (with families like the Holtzingers, Stevens, Wolfs and others usually the winners). And the party was never complete without Dr. Fred Miller's "delicious" apples. Joe's daughter Deka Ann (Maddocks) Smith now shares his home in Altoona.

Even though Joe never got to pursue that architectural engineering background, has he any regrets? "None" says Maddocks. With so much on his list of achievements Joe Maddocks lives the values of Rotary to the fullest. It embraces humanitarian services, high ethical standards, and helping build goodwill and peace in the world!



Dick Bartholomew, Joe Maddocks & Tom Cooney

R. Lee Hite, President cont'd:

January 1985 - The club Board of Directors has reluctantly decided to return our Exchange Student from Denmark to her homeland due to an unsatisfactory attitude. Several years ago it was almost necessary to return a Canadian Exchange Student home and further back, a boy from Brazil had to be sent home due to extreme home sickness as he had apparently come here unwillingly. It's unfortunate that Altoona has had these 3 different situations but it isn't the norm; we've had many wonderful Exchange Students over the years.



STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

By Tom Cooney PP

The year was 1976 and since I was chairman of the International Youth Project it fell to me to find Rotarians who would be willing to host the incoming exchange student.

We knew in advance that it would be a young lady from Alberta, Canada. With a fair amount of effort I was able to line up three families for the task; each to have a three months stint.

In due course Joy Ann arrived, moved into her first new home and for a few weeks all seemed to be going well. Then there were rumblings that perhaps there was some amount of incompatibility. I attempted to find out what the problem was but was not able to get a concrete determination of the exact nature of things. Shortly, I was told that perhaps it would be best if she moved to another home; this well short of the anticipated three months stay agreed upon.

Joy was moved to the second home and once again in a very short time I was requested to move her, which I did. By now I was really worried that there appeared to be big trouble in "River City". Two homes down in about six weeks. I had trouble finding three homes, where would I find others to replace those and I was still in the dark about why these families are having such trouble?

Finally, with no alternative available I moved Joy into the third home and sure enough within about two weeks I was given an emphatic ultimatum that come next week she would be gone.

Now I was really in a panic but this time I insisted on finding out just what was this girl doing that was so bad? Joy was a big girl, was tall for her age and you might say, robust. The exchange home was her playground and she was far from shy. When the phone rang she bounded to get there first as if there was a prize for the winner. To say the least she was uninhibited and I'm afraid the exchange parents considered her to be a visiting dignitary rather than a rambunctious kid and failed to lay the law down, put her in her place and let her know how life was to proceed in their home. They apparently also figured that they had not signed on to run a correction facility and consequently just couldn't cope.

What was I to do now? One week to find a fourth home; impossible! At the next club meeting I made an impassioned plea but to no avail. After the meeting John Anderson came to me and said "You know Tom I have a rest home and if no one will take her and if she must move, I have a room for her there". Well, at least I had an out but it wasn't a very great alternative.

I was just about to tell Joy to pack up for a move to the rest home when out of the blue Bob Smith called and said "I have found a home for Joy. Bob and his Rotary Ann, Peg were members of the Christ Second Lutheran Church in Altoona and they had mentioned our dilemma to the Pastor. Pastor Jack Emswiler and his wife, Maizie agreed to take her. I explained the nature of the problems we had experienced with Joy. Jack said, "Don't worry, we will handle this" and handle it they did.

Joy lived with the Emswilers for 6 or 7 months to the end of the school year and they all got along just fine. Joy graduated from the Altoona Area High School in the spring of 1977. Her Mother arrived for graduation ceremonies and then took her home.

In conversation, her mother apologized saying that she realized Joy was immature for her age but she thought the exchange program would help her to grow up – which I believe it did. Later we got a letter from Alberta and Mother explained that Joy was in the process of repeating the 12th grade.

All's Well That Ends Well!

Epilogue:

Most Club members may never realize the debt of gratitude that we owe to the Emswilers but those of us who were intimately involved in the exchange program will always have a very warm spot in our hearts for their contribution. Thank you very much Jack and Maizie.

Lee Hite, President cont'd:

January – Congratulations to John Kazmaier newly elected president of the Altoona Area Chamber of Commerce.

February – Three possible projects were presented to the Club for support from the Rotary Radio Day fund. Chris Gable spoke about the Mishler Theatre, John Beyer told of plans for the Art Center to be established at the Altoona Center and Dave Andrews presented incipient plans for a Basketball Tournament which might be sponsored by the Club during the Christmas season. We decided to put it to a vote by ballot.

March – Doctor Elwood Stitzel, one of our longest membership Rotarians, has died. He became an Altoona Rotarian in April 1938 and served faithfully for 47 years.

April – Ladies Night to honor our Rotary Anns at the Calvin House was a beautiful success, Chairman Harry Kirkham and his committee deserves kudos for the enjoyable evening.

May - It's been decided that the Rotary Club will sponsor the Basketball Tournament during the Christmas season.

June - Rotary Radio Day fund raising hits a new high of \$11,010.00. Thanks to Dick Fruth and his committee. The proceeds will be distributed thus: 50% to 'Complete the Altoona Campus', 25% in furtherance of the Club's long running Crippled Swim Program and 25% for other selected charities.

1985 - 1986 S. FRANK FIORE, PRESIDENT

December 27 & 28, 1985 - Rotary Holiday Basketball Tournament is initiated by efforts of Chairman Dave Andrews and his committee. Profits are to be used to help various youth sports activities in the area.

Rotary Basketball Tournament

By Rich Johnston

From 1985 until 2000, the Rotary Club held a holiday basketball tournament at the Altoona Field House spearheaded by Attorney Dave Andrews. This tournament attracted teams from California, Texas, Virginia, Tennessee & numerous other states. It was not unusual for sell-out crowds on cold snowy nights between Christmas & New Years.

ESPN sent a young reporter, Chris Fowler, to cover the event in 1988. The biggest rivalry was between Altoona & Shelbyville, Tennessee girl's teams who were ranked #1 and #2 in the nation in 1989.

In 1989, part of the Holiday Basketball Committee made a trip to Shelbyville, Tennessee to promote the tournament.



Pictured L - R: Jim Lane of the Altoona Mirror, Larry McAleer, Richard Johnston, & James Bomar, Jr. - 1979-80 Rotary Int. Pres. from Shelbyville, Tenn., Al Holsinger & Dave Andrews

January 22, 1986 - Death of Howard "Pop" Lindaman; Past President 1945 – 1946 and Past District Governor 1958 – 1959 with 54 years of Rotary service.

MY VIEW OF THE ALTOONA ROTARY CLUB

By Frank Fiore



Although the club has changed over the years, still the basic constitution and bylaws remain near the same. Probably, the largest change is when women were admitted to the club. Allowing up to ten percent new members in the same classification was also a sizable change. (Altoona Club, by law, allows five percent)

What is a service club? Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions. These clubs have their individual aims to help community and international problems and to make the world a better place to live. However, all clubs have had the change of how we live in America, where the mothers as well as the dad are out in the work place resulting in less time to belong to clubs. Therefore, clubs are suffering from lack of membership.

Picture- Frank at WALY Radio for Radio Rally days. 2012

Rotary has one big difference over the other clubs and that it's a classification club. Some Rotary International Rotarians and local Rotarian's want to believe that we're strictly a benevolent club, they're mistaken. Many Rotarian's receive personal business from other Rotarians through their classification.

The Altoona Rotary members enjoy great fellowship to the extent of staying as members for as long as 60 years. There are seven Rotary clubs in Blair County and each club has its own personality. Altoona is the largest and most formal. It's a necessity to be more formal or the club would not have enough time to complete the meeting. The Altoona club with 110 to 150 members gives an opportunity to have better programs and draws more members with the same goal of serving our community, national, and international through our own professions and businesses.

I was sponsored into the club, in 1971, by Tom Cooney whom I am ever so thankful. Tom and I were involved in other business clubs and are good friends. I had the honor of being President in 1985-86. I followed Lee Hite as president and was very appreciative for the guidance he gave me. I found out what a brilliant leader he is and helped me to carry on with all aspects of the large task

of being president of the Altoona Rotary Club. I gave the job everything I possibly could.... time from my business and used all the advice from the officers and board members. Our meetings were jam packed with programs, new member installations, and etc.

One meeting I looked out over our club members and I thought to myself what a bunch of stuffed shirts we have become! I decided to lighten things up a little. When I was installing new members I had them go to the Paul Harris Fellow banners and bow before them. That brought a lot of fun laughs to the meeting. Our current president, Tim O'Brien, has lightened the club to make it a fun meeting and accomplishing all the rotary business. *I think he'll go down as one of our greatest presidents.*

The rotary club has given me a lot of fulfillment in my life and it has to be the same with my fellow members otherwise, they would not still be members. I'm in awe of members who still participate and are people with very, very successful careers with little time to spare.

The club having different programs, such as Christmas choral groups from the local schools had an influence in my personal family. My granddaughter sang a solo in the program and so happened a Rotarian approached her and indicated that he may be able to get her some grants to go to Susquehanna University. This all happened, her degree was in music teaching. Jessica is the choral music director/teacher at our local junior high school. She also, met her husband at the university and now has three children.

Being a Rotarian can be beneficial just by acquaintance.

My "niche" in the club as the 'orientator' of new members has been my job for about 30 years. I take this very seriously because it gives the new member an understanding what rotary is all about and gives him or her good reason to belong to the club as a long term member.

Many years ago new members were given information in a large group, in the evening which was staged about once a year. It was decided this was very impersonal and didn't provide the new member with proper information. I began a more personal orientation with one and as many as three members for one hour prior to a meeting and usually right before their induction. I formulated a folder which we go through word for word during the orientation and the folder is theirs for future reference. The information includes brief history (Paul Harris), District 7350, Club Business, Four Basic Avenues of Service, general meeting procedure, dues and lunches, attendance, international basic activities, club community activities, other special projects, and expectations of new members. Included in the folder is a roster book, a new membership application, a copy of the Star Program, Map of 7350 District, a copy of a dues statement, dress code guidelines and a DVD of "This is Rotary". I continually ask for updates on changes or new information from the president and the board.

1986-1989

By John Beyer PP

Important events during these three years include women becoming eligible for membership in the club and The Polio Plus campaign. This era was also sadly highlighted by a number of notable Rotarian deaths. The following highlights are from RotaNote editions: 1986 – 89.

1986 – 1987 HARRY R. KIRKHAM, PRESIDENT

July - A banner year for the Rotary Radio Day fund drive; total collected \$12,000 which is \$1,000 over goal said R/R Day Chairman Dick Powell.

- *July* **World renowned musician Paul Winter** pictured here, son of Rotarian Paul Winter and nephew of charter member Art Winter, Presented a musical program for the Rotary Club.
- Annual Family picnic will be held at Ernie Wissinger's estate on July 27th. We will have fun, games and great food.



August - Frank Fiore was recognized for his new-member recruiting efforts. There were so many new members inducted just before the end of his presidential year that the printing of the new roster had to be delayed. There were 21 new members during his presidential year (1985), 6 in the month of June alone. *Great job Frank.*

September - John Hemphill honored! Attorney Bert Leopold read an article from a prestigious attorney's magazine that noted that at age 97 John was still practicing law every day. John was probably one of the oldest practicing attorneys in the United States. He had 100% attendance for 23 years.

October - Charles N. (Charley) Cohn, Paul Harris Fellow, was born Dec. 27, 1896 and died October 1, 1986. He was an outstanding civic and business leader. He was inducted into the club in March of 1926 and is believed to have held, at the time, the longest tenure. He served as a distinguished member for 60 years and 7 months.

- Richard W. (Dick) Replogle, PHF, was born July 14, 1910 and died October 7, 1986. Dick joined the club in June 1943, his membership lasted 43 years and 5 months during which time he had 100% attendance until the incidence of his illness.
- Joint meeting with the Navy League was held with Admiral Chambers speaking, honoring the Navy's 211th birthday.

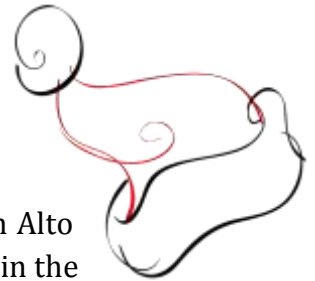
December - John W. (Jack) Moody, Jr. PP 1959/60 born Jan. 8, 1916 died Nov. 27, 1986. Being inducted into the Club in 1937 he was a 49 year member. Jack was employed for 51 years as a chemist with the Pennsylvania Railroad, working in the Test Department.

- Robert L. (Bob) Hite was born April 14, 1917 and died December 5, 1986. Bob was inducted September 1947 and was a member for 39 years and 2 months. He was the second generation of Rotary having followed his father Park S. Hite and is followed by his son R. Lee Hite.
- *December* - **Rotary Family Christmas Party was in the Penn Alto Logan Room.** Children ages 6 to 12 - \$4.00, adults - \$7.00. 100 children and adults attended.

ANNUAL ROTARY CHRISTMAS PARTY

By Marea Mannion

Every year, the annual Rotary Christmas Party at the Logan Room of the Penn Alto Hotel was a huge and highly anticipated tradition. Memories of grand parties in the 50's, 60's and 70's and even beyond bring to mind the many wonderful Rotarians and their families who have made Rotary and Altoona what it is today. The grand display of banners, and the beautiful room with its amazing architecture, chandeliers, and mirrors was a room of wonderment for small Rotary children.



Long time Rotary member and dentist Dr. Fred Miller and later Dr. Cablan Azar set the health tone for the annual gathering with their traditional passing out of beautiful delicious apples to each and every table and especially to the children attending the big event.

The apples were designed to counteract the passing out boxes of delicious Russell Stover candies from E. Raymond Smith to each and every child during the Christmas Party entry and appearance of Santa Claus.

The annual party at the Logan Room was, for a long time, held at noon on the Tuesday between Christmas and New Year. Later it was changed to other dates or times. The Calvin House, Blairmont Club, and other locations were used in the late 80's and 90's.

When the big holiday parties were at their height, the Logan Room was packed with Rotary families and it often appeared that the families were competing to see which one could bring the largest contingent of children and grandchildren. The Holtzinger and Wissinger tables were among those that always sported large groups of family members at these parties.

Children and family members dressed in holiday attire and every Rotarian introduced their family members and guests.

The climax of the party (at least for the children) was the appearance of Santa Claus (sometimes a Rotarian) and the annual magician act. The sounds of chairs moving and scraping across the floor and children scrambling for that front-row seat by the Logan Room stage, is something one never forgets if you were a Rotary child. (In my case-Marea Mannion -- my father Ralph bragged that I never once missed a Rotary Christmas Party from the time I was born until I finally moved away to my first on-air television news job in Cincinnati. But even then, I always tried to come back if possible and be there for this tradition.)

The Rotary Party, the singing of carols, the magician and the big Santa Appearance, was one that children and Rotary families really looked forward to. It was a simpler time in some respects, with a captive children's audience without distractions from today's cell phones or other devices.

Again, it was a tradition that was very memorable to scores of Rotary families.

Harry R. Kirkham, President cont'd:

January '87 - Headed by Dave Andrews, the Holiday Basketball Tournament was a spectacular success.

- We sadly note the passage of Edward B. Felty, born September 2, 1899 and died in Florida January 20, 1987. Ed was a member for 39 years and will be remembered as an innovative banker. He was Chairman of the Board, President and CEO with the Central Trust Company, Altoona Central Bank and Trust Company and later Mid-State Bank. He always had time to talk with a young, new aspiring entrepreneur.

February - John Beyer has been elected Chairman of the Blair County Branch of the Pennsylvania Economy League. John is also Vice Chair of Keystone Financial Inc., Chairman of the Advisory Board of the PSU Altoona Campus and Treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce. Now that is Service Above Self!

March - Club Vice President Bert Leopold has been appointed by Governor Casey to fill a current vacancy on the Blair County Court. This means that two Rotarians now serve on the Court of Common Pleas, 24th District, Blair County. The Honorable Thomas G. Peoples, Jr. serves as President Judge.

April - Past President Clair Burket has played "**America**" on the piano for our meetings perhaps 1,300 times over 26 years. That speaks for itself. This song is also known as '**My Country, Tis of Thee**'.

**My country, 'tis of Thee,
Sweet Land of Liberty, Of thee I sing.....**

June - The annual meeting of incoming and outgoing Club Boards will meet this week at the Spruce Creek Rod & Gun Club.

- Pete Hart gave the Club a pep talk about enjoying visits with other Rotary Clubs. 'You may visit another club even if you don't need a make-up.'

1987 - 1988 JOHN BEYER, PRESIDENT

July - John Beyer, President, sets three goals. 1st - reach our Polio Plus contribution level, 2nd - bring about an orderly process to admitting women into membership and 3rd - strive for a reasonable and realizable increase in net membership.

August - Judge Bertram (Bert) Leopold, PHF, Club Vice President, was born July 20, 1940 and died July 27, 1987. He was inducted in November 1971. His sudden and untimely death came shortly after being sworn in as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Blair County, on March 30, 1987 by President Judge Thomas G. Peoples, Jr., who was also a Club member.

September 8 - **Bill Parsons** was recognized for his standing in the National Championship of Tennis for players over the age of 71. *Editor note: Bill died in 2010 and his obit tells a great story of an exceptional man.*

September 29 - Chairperson David Ward initiated Rotary International worldwide 'Polio Plus Campaign' to Altoona Rotarians. \$85,035.00 was pledged with 50 members giving \$1,000.00 making them eligible for Paul Harris Fellowships.

William K. 'Bill' Parsons

Dec. 7, 1917 - May 6, 2010

William K. "Bill" Parsons, 92, of Altoona died Thursday evening.

He was born in Altoona, son of the late Thomas Chester and Helen (Kantner) Parsons.

Surviving are three daughters: Virginia Cryar of St. Petersburg, Fla., Georgia Parsons and husband, Stan Raszklewicz, of St. Petersburg, Fla. and Joan Kuraitis (Vito) of Bettendorf, Iowa; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; a sister, Frances P. Britsch of Euclid, Ohio; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 38 years, Florence Gable Parsons, and his wife of 25 years, Marjorie Reid Parsons; a brother, Thomas C. Parsons; and a sister, Helen P. Basler.

Mr. Parsons was a 1936 graduate of Altoona High School. After graduation, he attended Duke University where he played basketball and tennis, serving as captain of both sports teams and graduated in 1940.

Bill retired as a commander in the U.S. Navy, having served in the Pacific during World War II. After graduating from Duke University, he entered the real estate and insurance business with his father and brother, Tom, known as Parsons Agency. He held a Pennsylvania broker's license for both real estate and insurance. Bill was twice president of the Blair County Board of Realtors, president of the



Parsons



Veteran

Altoona Chapter of the Society of Residential Appraisers, senior vice president of the Pennsylvania Realtors Association and Pennsylvania Realtor of the Year in 1975.

Bill was a lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church in Altoona, serving as an elder and deacon for many years. He was a member and past director of the Altoona Area Chamber of Commerce and director of the Columbia Savings & Loan Association, now known as C&G Savings Bank. He was a Rotarian, a Paul Harris Fellow, a member of the Free & Accepted Masons, including the Jaffa Shrine and a 50-year member of the Valley of Altoona Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite.

Bill and his brother, Tom, held national badminton rankings, having been ranked fourth in the United States in 1960. He was better known for his tennis accomplishments, having won more than 560 tournaments with rankings in the Middle States Lawn & Tennis Association. He held the Blair County tennis title for 37 consecutive years.

At the age of 55, Bill was ranked third nationally in the 55 and older age category and fifth in the 60 and older

group, as well as being ranked No. 1 in the Middle States Division. His other victories at that time included championships in the Canadian National Tournament for those 60 and older and the St. Thomas Open Tournament in the Virgin Islands.

By the age of 70, Bill was ranked in the Top 5 in the United States in tennis and was chosen to play on the Crawford Cup team for five years. Tournaments were held in various locations throughout the world, including Hungary, Yugoslavia, Austria, Switzerland and Australia. In 1989 and 1990, Bill was ranked No. 1 in the world in tennis for men, 70 and older. In that category, Bill won the International Tennis Federation tournaments and European championships. In 1988, Bill was inducted into the Blair County Sports Hall of Fame, with tennis legend Bobby Riggs having the honor of presenting him.

The Polio Plus Campaign

By Dave Ward



Rotary International's Polio-Plus worldwide campaign was the most ambitious project in the history of the organization. Polio-Plus's purpose was to eradicate polio across the world, and do so in our lifetime, by raising funds to purchase polio vaccine for children in impoverished countries. I am not sure how I got tagged to be chair, but I believe John Beyer, club President of Altoona Rotary at the time was to thank. The years were 1987-1988.

At the time, I didn't have a clue as to what I was being asked to do. A club goal to raise \$28,635 was given us and we were off and running. Some of the club veterans agreed to join a few of the newbie's and form a campaign committee.

The campaign began slowly with small donations. The problem was that early contributions set the expectation for the remainder of the club members. There were definitely anxious moments as the club's goal, campaign timeline, and actual contribution levels were reported weekly.

Rotary Internationals helped by preparing a fundraising and education guide. Scripted slide shows were presented, and at one meeting, we even rolled in a VCR tape.

I'm not sure when the inflection point occurred, but something very positive began happening in early 1988. I believe the Paul Harris Fellow recognition award became the impetus the campaign needed. A policy was adopted that \$1,000 donations towards the Polio-Plus campaign qualified the donor to name a Paul Harris Fellow of his or her choosing. Now the fundraising took on a new life. Rotarians had their checkbooks out and were bestowing Paul Harris awards upon themselves and others. Some Rotarians even made a pact between themselves - agreeing to mutually exchange Paul Harris Fellowship's, all for the good of Polio-Plus. I was fortunate as well, my father, G. William Ward, made it possible through his contribution for me to join the ranks of Paul Harris.

In the end, against a goal of \$28,635, the Altoona Rotary Club membership answered the call by contributing \$85,035 for such a worthwhile cause. The final statistics looked like this: 160 Rotarians had been contacted and 149 responded with their contributions. Fifty Rotarians contributed \$1,000 or more, and 42 new Paul Harris Fellows were named. The Altoona Rotary club was the number one club in our District for Polio-Plus.

Polio-Plus officially came to a close and the good that the club created was remembered for years following the campaign. Club members honored their contribution pledges and new Paul Harris Fellows received their well-deserved recognition.

October - Tom Cooney - PP, read a commendation recognizing PP Clyde Yon for 25 years of dedication to the Rotary Swim Program for the Handicapped. Even though Clyde had a committee it was nevertheless a 'one man job.'

- Four candidates for membership have been proposed they are: Jacquelyn Anne Sutton by Thomas Cooney, Dolly Ickes by Stephen Sheetz, Christine Bettwy by E. Raymond Smith and Rev. Morton Talbot by Donald Carn. All were subsequently elected to membership in November.

NO 'HISTORIC' FIRST WOMAN IN THE ROTARY CLUB OF ALTOONA



By John R. Beyer PP

The subject of women membership in Rotary Clubs first came up in 1950 when the Rotary Club of India recommended the removal of the word "male" from the Standard Rotary Club Constitution and Bylaws to the Rotary International (RI) Council on Legislation. This was followed in 1964 by the Rotary Club of Ceylon, now, Sri Lanka, with the same request, and was again voted down. The first U.S. Club to make a women membership proposal was in 1972. In 1977 a Brazilian Club proposed women to be admitted as honorary members. That same year the Rotary Club of Durante, CA inducted a woman, Sylvia Whitlock, into membership in violation of the RI Constitution. In March of 1978 RI removed the California club from its membership. Their charter was later reinstated in 1986 and Sylvia Whitlock became the first woman Club President in 1987.

In 1980 the RI Board of Directors along with India, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom proposed an enactment to remove from the RI Constitution and Bylaws all reference to members as male persons. In 1983 a law suit filed by the Rotary Club of Durante in the CA Superior Court found in favor of RI. Then in 1986 the CA Court of Appeals reversed the lower court ruling. The CA Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal and it was then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

On May 4, 1987 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Rotary Clubs may not exclude women as members. This ruling was two months before I was inducted as President of the Rotary Club of Altoona. Our board of directors had already agreed to abide by the court ruling, none the less; there were those both on the board and from the membership that expressed a reluctance to do so. Several stated they would resign when the first woman was inducted. This sentiment was partly brought about after Jackie Sutton, Executive Director of Family Children Services who had been invited to speak at a weekly meeting in early 1986 to talk about her agency. In her closing she used the occasion to rebuke and admonish our club for not having women members. Her remarks ultimately led to our board deciding that we should not have one single female known as

the “*first woman*” member. It was directed that any proposals for women members be held until there were 3 or more proposed and that these be voted on as a group and not individually insuring simultaneous membership. The proposed were listed in the Rota Note on October 20, 1987 for objections. There being none, the group was inducted on November 10, 1987. The women were: Christina Bettwy proposed by E. Raymond Smith. Her classification was Uniform Sales, her company was Uniform Gallery; Dolly H. Ickes, proposed by Steve Sheetz. Her classification was Cable Communications, her company was Warner Cable, now Atlantic Broadband; Jacquelyn Anne Sutton, proposed by Tom Cooney and her classification was Counseling & Residential Services; her company was Family & Children Services. A 4th member to be inducted that day was the Reverend Morton P. Talbott, proposed by Don Carn. His classification was Religion-Lutheran. His church was Simpson-Temple United Parish.

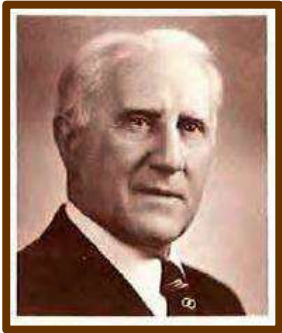
During the remainder of my Rotary years the club inducted 6 other women; Sylvia H. Schraff and her husband John J. Schraff, in December 1987, were both proposed by Don Snyder. They became the first husband/wife duo to be inducted. The Rota Note at the time proclaimed ‘it as an historic event.’ Jan E. Andrews in Jan.1988 was proposed by Bill Parsons. Jan’s husband Dave was a member. Dave’s father Paul was inducted along with Jan to make it a father, son/wife first. Jeane V. Singer was proposed in January by Steve Seltzer. Claire B. Hiller, also in Jan., was proposed by John Kazmaier. Marilyn Goldberg, in March 1988, was proposed by Dr. Fred Petrunak. Bonnie Zimmerman, wife of member Dr. Leonard Zimmerman, June 1988, was proposed by Steve Seltzer. Of those nine women only Christina Bettwy remains a member. Over the years I have heard some of our members refer to each one of these women being named as the first woman inducted into the Rotary Club of Altoona!

In November 1988 the RI Council on Legislation voted to eliminate the requirement that membership is limited to men. *Women were then welcomed into Rotary Clubs worldwide for the first time and it became the watershed moment in the history of Rotary.*

As a special note, *none of those members that had indicated they would resign after women were admitted did so.* As best I can determine only one older protesting member resigned a year afterwards, but in his case there may have been other reasons.

In hind sight, I am pleased we took the steps we did to overcome the opposition of women in Rotary, which today is a non-issue as we have 20 women members and have had five women serve as Club Presidents, the first being Jeanne L. Hanlin 1998-1999.

John Beyer, President cont'd:



October 1987 - Paul T. Winter, Sr. pictured here. PP 1955/56 was born September 27, 1887 and died October 18, 1987. He was inducted October 1936 having been sponsored by his brother Arthur E. Winter, Charter Member, PDG and PP 1926/27. The meeting concluded with his *Rotary Ann*, Beulah presenting Paul Sr. with a Paul Harris Fellowship the exact same day as their 50th wedding anniversary. Paul Sr. was the club's first Centenarian and a 51 year member.

December - The first husband and wife were inducted into membership. They are John and Sylvia Schraff.

- Eddie Henderson reports 101 people attended the Family Holiday Party. 29 adults, 46 children ages 6 to 12 and 26 children under age 6.
- Total club membership is now 161.

April - Dave Andrews announced that the Basketball Committee has decided to conduct an eight team all-girl tournament this year.

- Dick Fruth reported 159 essays were received in the Annual Essay Contest.
- Secretary Ralph Mannion complains that while our attendance figures were 85% and we are in first place in the district of over 51 clubs, this is not good in comparison to what we used to be able to brag about.

June - The new podium donated in 1987 by the Altoona Career and Technology School is still used today, 31 years later.

July - President John Beyer announced that there were 24 new members during his presidential year. This was the largest one year increase since the Club's charter year of 1916.



- Rotary Radio Day hit a new high of \$12,595.00!
- Herk Betar assumes Club Presidency.

This fun story from the Altoona Mirror dated 2/7/1980.

Darth, the Altoona police dog nipped Altoona High School Principal Walter (Herk) Betar, ripping his coat. Friday, **Mayor Hancock presented Mr. Betar** with a new coat. **Officer Robert Stirk and Darth** watched. Now, everyone is smiling, even the dog!

1988 - 1989 HERK BETAR, PRESIDENT

September – The newly formed Altoona Sunrise Rotary Club has been meeting at 7:15AM at the Fountain Motel.

October – Bill Rossman has been invited to the White House to accept the Presidential Citation for Private Sector Initiatives for Mid-State Bank from President Reagan.

December – A campaign is underway in the District for the State to issue Rotary Emblem Auto License plates. A great way to get the emblem in the public eye.

February - Allegheny Twp. Fire Police began directing traffic at the close of meetings on Plank Road at the exit from the Calvin House parking lot.



March 1989 – **Ralph Mannion**, one of the most highly regarded members of the Club, has passed away.

RALPH MANNION AND ALTOONA ROTARY

By Marea Mannion

Rotary in the Mannion household on Avalon Road has been a way of life for as long as we can remember. Through the years when my father, Ralph Mannion was Rotary Secretary, the daily and weekly duties of that role were ever-present. And there were really wonderful memories of the traditional Rotary Christmas parties.

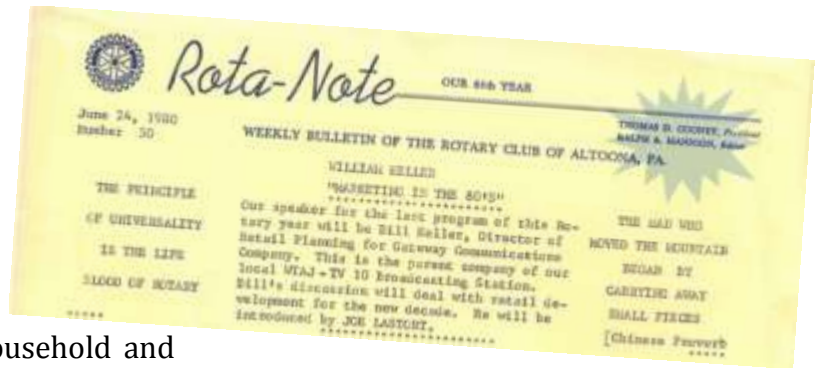
Every week for many years, Ralph Mannion published the Rota Note--the weekly Rotary bulletin. It was written, designed, and printed out of his office on the second floor of the Mannion home on Avalon Road. The office served a dual purpose: Rotary duties as Secretary of the club and as a senior agent for New York Life Insurance.

It's hard to every forget the weekly, rhythmic, whishing sound and distinctive smell of ink coming from the mimeograph machine that filtered downstairs each week when the Rota Note was in production. For years, that Mimeograph was used each and every week to publish the Rota Note bulletin and get it out in the mail on deadline. Metal plates bore the names of Rotary members and their addresses, and stacked, bright blue cardboard boxes were always on hand, filled with fresh new Rota Note paper on which the bulletin would be printed. At the Holidays, it was sent out on sea foam Green Rota Note paper!

Ralph wrote and typed the various bulletin articles on a manual and then eventually an electric typewriter owned by the club. Wife Bea Mannion (current honorary Rotarian and club pianist) assisted each week with typing, layout, or other duties including compilation of weekly club absences and make-ups, listing of birthdays, and the writing of a clever quips and quotes of the week and fun cartoon icons that were placed somewhere between the various sections of the publication.

It was a long and detailed process each week on that mimeograph which was a common technology in the 60's and 70's for printing in small quantities for club or church bulletins. It was basically a low-cost printing press.

Later on when high quality copy machines became cost-efficient, (70's and 80's) the **Rota Note** was **obviously typed up** in the Mannion household and sent out for photocopying and mailing.



One of the biggest tasks for publication of the weekly Rota Note was to have an accurate accounting of the absentees from the weekly meeting, and then a complete listing of the make-ups. When the Altoona Rotary club had a very large membership, the compilation of make-ups was sometimes a daunting task. Attendance was strictly enforced by Club Secretary Mannion and members had to make up all missed meeting or face the three strikes and you're out rule.



Starting the day after each Tuesday meeting at the Logan Room in the Penn Alto Hotel, the **heavy black rotary-dial phone** began to ring in the Mannion household. So many names (too many to include everyone really) past and present called with their make-ups. Thus, over the years scores of Altoona Rotarians became common household names at the Mannion residence.

Long-time Rotary names that one recalls over the years included Howard "Pop" Lindaman, Fred Miller, Frank Smith, Lou Walton, Lou Holtzinger, Stan Over, Paul Winter, Jack Moody, Frank Smith, Lee Hite, Clair Burket, Nathan Kaber, Frank Stevens, Tom Colantino, Alex Notopoulos, Clyde Yon, Ardie and John Dillen, Bill Parsons, Howard Pfeffer, Art Pollock, Ernie and Don Wissinger, John Wolf, Irv Seltzer, Bill Ward, Don Carn, Walter Oswalt, Joe Maddocks, Duane Reed, John Beyer, Tom Cooney, Frank Fiore, E. Raymond Smith (Smitty) and so many others who remain as active Rotary members today, were

among the scores of busy Rotarians who called to add items to the bulletin, or to make sure their names were listed on the makeups list at other clubs in the region, nation, or around the world. Others such as the club treasurer or president would also call to add other items to the bulletin such as upcoming programs, notes on District Governor meetings, or details of an upcoming event sponsored by the club.

That same black Bell telephone rotary-style phone (not to be confused with Rotary itself) is still connected and functional on the first floor of the Mannion household because of its sentimental past, but also for its very loud, distinctive ring, quality voice transmission and heavy receiver which seems and feels somehow comforting in a world of lightweight plastic alternatives and tiny smart phones.

ROTARY CUBBY HOLE.....Everything Rotary was stored in the Rotary Cubby on the second floor of the Mannion home. It was one of several storage cubbies on the second floor. But this one was specifically designed as the Rotary cubby hole.

There were boxes and boxes of Rota Note paper, ink, and address plates for the publication. Other boxes and files contained copies (archives) of past Rotary bulletins. There were also small boxes of special gifts for visiting Rotary speakers, attendance files, newspaper clips and photos from District Governors meetings at Hershey or other locations, old Rotary badges, and special miniature banner holders used for special events or district Governor meetings.

The Rotary Cubby was a very functional storage location and also provided a place of wonderment and exploration for the Mannion Rotary family children.

Herk Betar, President cont'd:

March - Congrats to Ernie and Ruth Wissinger on opening their 5th market in Bellemead.

May - \$7,000.00 of the Holiday Basketball Tournament proceeds were distributed to 12 youth sports organizations of the area

June - Past President Don Carn was installed as the District Governor of District 735. As District Governor, Don visited each club in the District completing his tour, as dictated by tradition, at his 'home club' on November 2nd.

1989 – 1992

By Dick Fruth PP

These next four years tell of visitors from Pakistan, Vietnam and Venezuela. You'll also read about a very memorable event, the move from intown Altoona to our present meeting site at the Calvin House.

1989 – 1990 L. EUGENE LEAPLEY, PRESIDENT

August – Larry Strunk, 1989 – 1990 District Governor, had his visit last Tuesday. He was presented with the Altoona Key to the City – the Golden Spike.

October - The Group Study Exchange team from Pakistan arrived in Altoona on Tuesday afternoon and stayed through Friday morning. During their stay the team visited the Altoona Area Vocational Technical School, the Railroaders' Museum, Mount Aloysius College, the Horseshoe Curve and the Portage Railroad/Lemon House. The team presented a program about their home at a joint meeting with the Sunrise Club on Thursday.

December 19, 1989 - We received an update note from the Vietnam family we sponsored in 1975. Tom and June Cooney were such an important part of this event as you will read here.

IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE WAR IN VIETNAM OUR CLUB SPONSORED A REFUGEE FAMILY

By Thomas Cooney PP

In 1975 the North Vietnamese Communists were able to overrun the Free Democratic South of the country and President Ford declared an end to the war. This left thousands of refugees stranded between the forces of hatred and violence, fearful of their lives. Many of these people were brought to this country by the United States Government and were dispatched to various distribution centers across the country. In Pennsylvania a contingent was received at Fort Indiantown Gap Army Depot located near Harrisburg.

Pleas went out to organizations across the state for help in finding adoptive sponsors for individual and family groups. Our Rotary District 0735 was one such organization. Luke Rhoads, Director of Lutheran Social Ministries and a club member was involved and recommended to our Board member Ed Giller that the Club consider sponsoring a family. Ed brought the matter to the Board and in the minutes of June 4, 1975 Secretary Ralph Mannion reported: "Ed Giller reported on a possible Vietnamese family (being sponsored by the club). Information is not complete as to size of family, skills, abilities, etc. Ed will keep in touch".

The next mention I find is in the 1980 History dated July 1975. "The Club sponsored the relocation in Altoona of a Vietnamese family. Rentals, furniture and food were subsidized. Work was found for the husband, and educational arrangements made. Clyde Yon, Tom Cooney, Ed Giller and Jack Ray, among others gave much time and assistance to the project. Cost to the Club was over \$3,000".



Board Minutes of May 5, 1976: "Jack Ray reported that Phouc had been laid off by International – Harvester. Phouc, we discovered, had gone to Detroit, we thought in search of work but he returned shortly. According to Secretary Ralph, at this point he was drawing \$92.00 per week unemployment compensation which could, presumably continue for 65 weeks. In fact we never knew if he had ever applied for or received compensation payments. The last mention of the family in the Board Minutes of June 9, 1976 is as follows: "Jack Ray reported on the Vietnamese family sponsorship. A meeting had been held with the family about 2 months ago. They understood that the Club was to be out of the picture as of June 1976. Several members of the committee have been trying to get Phouc employment. Ian Harrower suggested that perhaps a letter should be sent to the family reiterating the finality of the sponsorship."

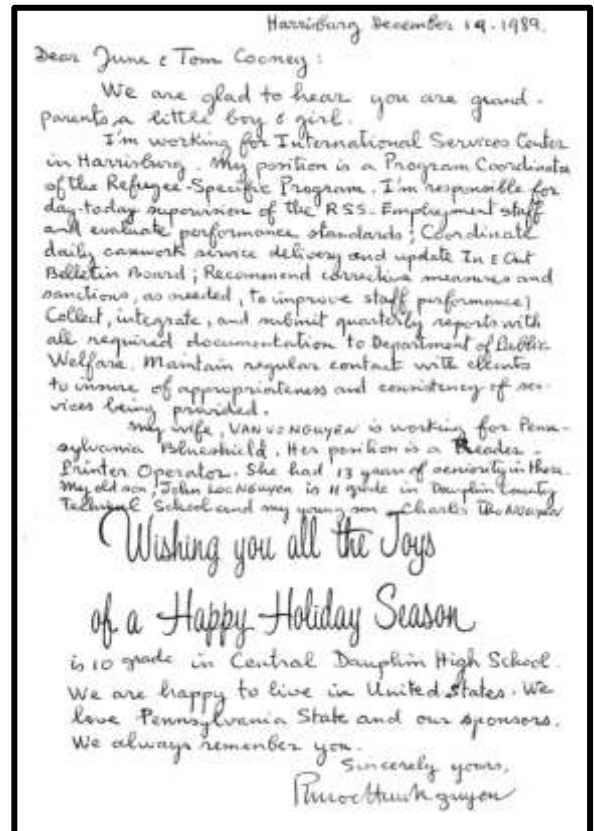
Next thing we became aware of was that Phouc had purchased a car and was enjoying his new freedom. Within a few weeks they pulled up stakes and moved to Harrisburg where there were many more Vietnamese families and consequently their comfort zone was much greater. In Altoona they were very much alone. Their departure was very unceremonious. I can't remember any kind of goodbye party.

Regardless of what we went through together, I must say no one could have been more grateful than the Phouc family. Every year, and it is now 36 years later, and they are still sending us cards at Christmas time, sometimes with family information and sometimes with pictures. Phouc bought a nice home and seemed to be prospering. This letter written inside a Christmas

card tells of the work experience of both he and Van. I was very impressed with how well the letter

was written and the level of work that both he and Van have been doing. You may note the thankfulness for our help getting them started in America. They never have forgotten. It does make the effort worthwhile. Phouc died of cancer August 26 1998 in Harrisburg. He was born April 29, 1936.

Phouc's son Charles (Tho) married a girl of Cambodian ancestry "Sathy" and they now have a son named "Camdin." Last summer Charles sent my wife and me a large box of frozen Omaha Steaks just to show their appreciation for when they came to this country. They have expressed a desire to come to Altoona to see us next summer.



L. Eugene Leapley, President cont'd:

March – Art Pollock and his family presented a Paul Harris Award to E. Raymond Smith. A long overdue debt to Smitty.

April – Today we vote on The Penn Alto Hotel or The Calvin House for our future Rotary meetings.

HOW THE ROTANOTE EVOLVES

By Donald Carn, PP, PDG and the editor of the RotaNote

May 1990

In order for you to understand how the Rota- Note evolves, we decided to print this weekly birth of the' RotaNote. The editor receives the speaker and the subject for each week from the program chair of the month, by the third week of the month before, that way the subject of the week (Today) and the next week can be published each week Wednesday (some- where between 7:00 AM and 2:00 PM). Smittie [*editor's note: Smittie was E. Raymond Smith, club secretary*] gives the editor the absentees and the make ups for the week; new proposals; new members; any address changes to be passed on to Karen; and for the first week of the month, the birthdays. Then the editor puts in anything that the members have given him (he wishes they would offer more) and fills the rest in with items he thinks might be of interest from the Governor's Newsletter and THE ROTARIAN magazine. He gives all this information to Lu, who puts it on a Macintosh SE (using PageMaker software) and adds the little quips at the top and sometimes others, to fill out the page (Of course any mistakes that are made are hers!). She then prints it off on an Apple ImageWriter LQ. Lu tries to have this done no later than 3:30 P.M. because of commitments that she has several Wednesday evenings. Karen Burket picks it up at our house about 6 P.M. Wednesday evening to take to the Hite Co. Thursday morning to run the copies; takes it home to fold, label, and stamp; and then to the post office to mail. You hopefully receive it on Friday or at the latest Saturday. Hope this answers some of the questions concerning the printing and the mailing of the weekly bulletin. (Of course this week would be different; Smittie could not get the absentees to us until Thursday morning!) PLEASE BRING INFORMATION TO ROTARY OR CONTACT THE EDITOR ON TUESDAYS WITH ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE INCLUDED IN THE ROTANOTE.

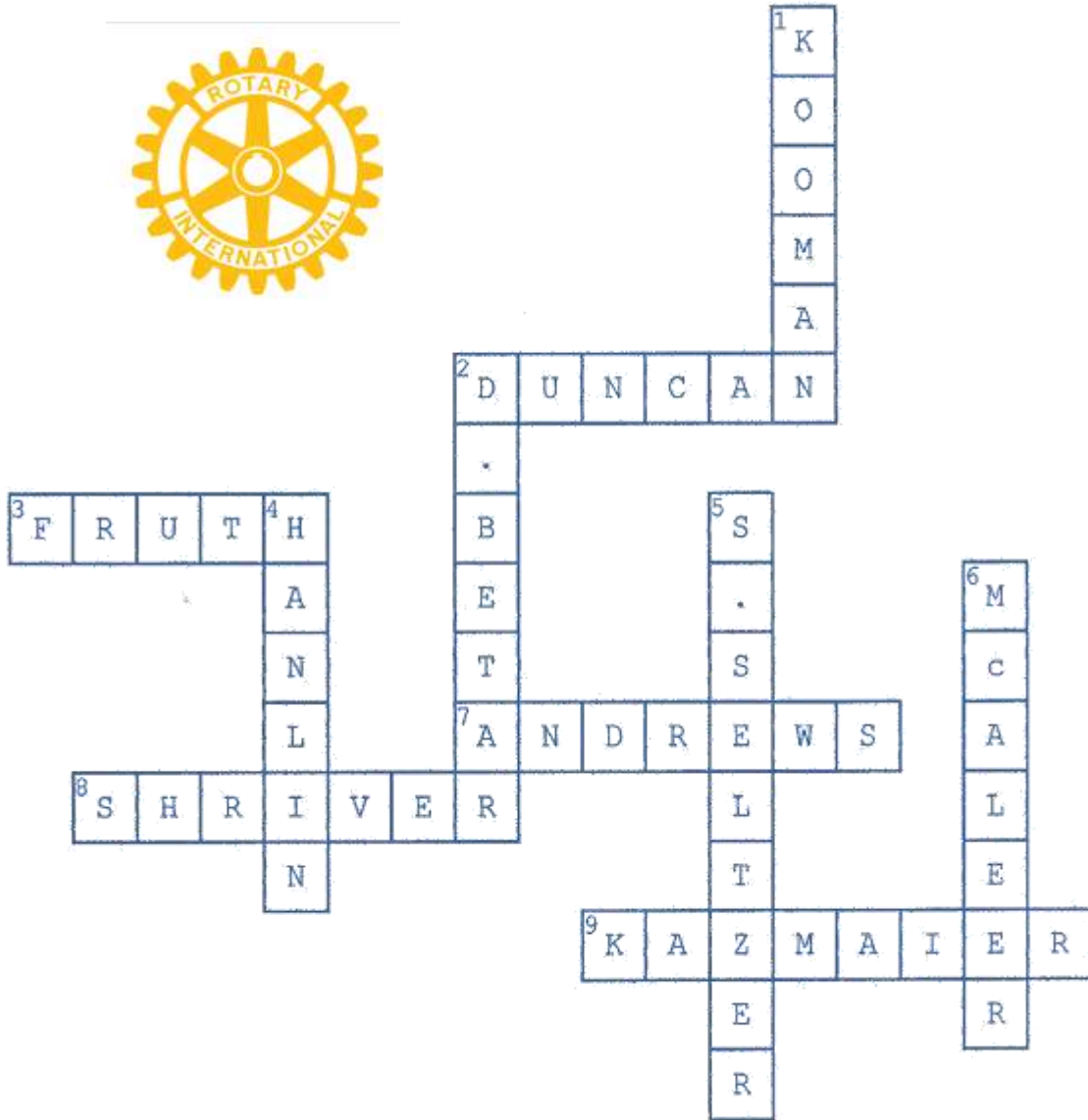
L. Eugene Leapley, President cont'd:

June 1990 – Ilissa Zimmerman-Glass's membership – this is Altoona Rotary's first Father, Mother Daughter combination.

- Don Carn's installation as District Governor for 1990 – 1991 is scheduled for June 30th
- Dave Armstrong will take over the RotaNote beginning next week.

Bea Mannion is made an Honorary Member with all privileges for her assistance to Ralph with Rota Note duties for so many years.

CHAPTER TWO ~ THE 1990'S



Across

- 2. 1993 - 1994
- 3. 1990 - 1991
- 7. 1992 - 1993
- 8. 1996 - 1997
- 9. 1991 - 1992

Down

- 1. 1997 - 1998
- 2. 1995 - 1996
- 4. 1998 - 1999
- 5. 1999 - 2000
- 6. 1994 - 1995

1990-1991 J. RICHARD FRUTH, PRESIDENT

When Do You Say No to the Governor?



By Dick Fruth PP

I joined Rotary in 1980. Early on I learned that one of the unwritten rules of the Altoona club was that elected officials were a welcomed program except during the election cycle when they become politicians who are not welcomed at our Club. Twenty years ago the election period was in the Fall for general elections and in the spring for primaries for those officials who had a primary challenge.

In my Presidential year, 1990-91, I was faced with a test of the no politician rule. In the Fall I got a call from one of the senior members of the Club who wanted to have the program cleared on such and such a date so that former Gov. Dick Thornburg could speak to the club. The assumption was that I would of course say yes without a second thought. However, since Gov. Thornburg was running for US Senate and remembering the rule, I said that it would have to be approved by the Board of Directors and that I would call a special meeting on the next Tuesday to get a decision. This was not a welcomed reply but had to be accepted by the caller.

So I called the special meeting of the Board at the conclusion of the regular meeting and presented the request that Gov. Thornburg wanted to speak at our meeting. I pointed out that this was the election season and that in the past we have not had politicians as the program during elections. I wasn't sure how the Board would act and was surprised when with little discussion all members agreed that we should not extend an invitation to be the speaker.

Little did I know that just ten years earlier, then Gov. Dick Thornburg was invited and accepted to be the speaker at our County meeting of Rotary Clubs to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Rotary International.

PS. Today we are in continuous election cycles for Federal office and near continuous political seasons for some state office holders. In 2007 or 2008 I was chairing a committee to secure a series of speakers on infrastructure. I asked a member of the Board to see if our congressman, Bill Shuster, would come and speak to us on the Federal government's role rebuilding our infrastructure. This was well out of the old traditional election season but the President of the club vetoed the idea and I had to have the invitation withdrawn. It is sad that we can't have our federal election officials speak to the club and equally sad that we now live in a 12 month a year election cycle.

Dick Fruth, President cont'd:

November - Congressman Bud Shuster gave an update on the Washington scene, touching on the budget, taxes, and the Middle East.

Editor note: This was also the year Bud was the major force for the proposed highway route I-99, now known as the Bud Shuster Highway. This was the first Interstate Highway number to be written into law rather than to be assigned in the normal progression of numbers. The number was specified by Representative Bud Shuster, who said that the standard spur numbering was not "catchy"; instead, I-99 was named after a street car, No. 99, which took people from Shuster's hometown of Glassport to McKeesport.



- There were 30 years of past Club presidents on the old plaque so a new plaque was purchased with Gene Leapley as the first past president on it.

December - The Holiday Basketball Tournament featured a snow storm for the visiting teams from Florida and the state of Washington.

- The Annual Holiday Party was held in the Ramada Ballroom with 170 Rotarians, spouses, children and Santa Claus in attendance.

February - The Spouses Event Committee organized a bus trip to Pittsburgh to see "Grand Hotel" at the Benedum Center and dinner in the Grand Concourse Restaurant in Station Square.

- Janice Wilson, General Manager of the Altoona Symphony Orchestra and Rotary Foundation Fellowship Scholar Alumni, spoke on her year in London as a Foundation Scholar in 1983-84, studying voice at the Royal College
- We were looking for the 16mm film compiled by Dr. Fred Miller for the 50th Anniversary in 1966.
- Who presides at the meeting when the president, president-elect, vice-president and immediate past president are all absent? Go back to the next available past president or Herk Betar who presided at the Feb. 5 meeting.

March - Dr. Lawrence Cronin presented a program on how Saddam Hussein conducted the affairs of Iraq since 1980 and his logic that resulted in the invasion of Kuwait.

April - 79th District Assemblyman, Rick Geist, spoke on his trip to Russia for an international rail transportation conference and the hospitality of the Russian people.

May - Valley View Home staff displayed the special geriatric chair purchased with funds allocated from Rotary Radio Day. Miss Mary Smith, a 35 year resident of the home, thanked the club for their gift and received a standing ovation from the club members.

THE MOVE TO THE CALVIN HOUSE

By Dick Fruth



The first meetings of the Club were at the Logan House at 6:30 PM. The meeting time was changed to noon in 1919 and then in the summer of 1926, the meeting location was changed to the new **Penn Alto Hotel** in the Logan Ballroom.

In the 1980s, when I joined the club, the venue was still at the **Penn Alto** in the elegant Logan Room with its high ceiling, chandeliers and raised platform placed on the long side of the ballroom. The wide mezzanine lobby provided ample room for coats and registration with access from the lobby stairs or the elevator. The only issue was parking but members learned where they could get the best spots early [like 25 cent parking behind Tom and Joe's] or the location of likely spaces if you were a little late.

The first indication that we might be forced into finding a new location for meetings came at the end of 1983 when the **Penn Alto** kitchen closed. The Dutch Kitchen agreed to cater meals at the hotel and we continued to meet in downtown Altoona.

The problem with meeting in downtown Altoona was a combination of parking and the lack of suitable meeting rooms. It was obvious to the club Board of Directors that a move out of downtown would be traumatic but could become necessary. As the service and situation deteriorated at the Hotel the Board appointed an Ad Hoc committee to identify possible alternative venues.

In the summer of 1989, the Hotel owners informed the club that repairs would leave the hotel without a kitchen and the Club needed to find a temporary location until that work was completed. No time frame was given for this temporary move. On September 12, effective October 3, 1989, the Club voted 'by a sizable majority' to 'temporarily' move to the Calvin House on Plank Road, Allegheny Township outside of the city and school district boundary. In the following

eighteen months there were many inquiries as to when the club would be moving back to the Penn Alto Hotel.

A month later on October 17 the RotaNote reported that “There still seems to be much confusion concerning the move to the Calvin House. The Penn Alto Hotel requested that we meet somewhere else while they tear out and remodel the Logan Room and the adjoining kitchen, when this remodeling is completed, the Ad Hoc Committee will review the situation and we will once again decide where we would like to meet.”



From the Rota Note dated 1/7/1975 “What the Heck is a Media Center”?

Pictured here, our club meeting in the Penn Alto Logan Room with guest speaker Maxine Rhodes, Director of the Altoona Library Media Center located in the Penn Alto Hotel, 1st floor. She and two of her staff will demonstrate how Audio-Visual hard and software are utilized in today’s television production and viewing. We will then view a 1934 W. C. Field’s film, “The Old Fashioned Way” in which Fields plays a character called ‘The Great McGonigal’.

Some of our club members in attendance (approximately 45 pictured here) are in part listed: Pop Lindaman, Paul Winter, Dr. Clair Burket, Dr. Jim Heimbach, Maxine Rhodes, Ernie Wissinger, Ralph Mannion – Club Secretary, Bob Donahue – Club Treasurer, Jim Sheetz, Gene Leapley, Bob Pennington, Joe Maddocks, John Stevens, Bob Suckling, Bob Slutzker, Rabbi Nate Kaber, Stan Over, Jack Moody, Dr. Bob Shaheen, Leonard Hite, Ted Holtzinger, George Prindible, Clyde Yon, Dick Bartholomew, John Hemphill.

On April 17, 1990 a vote was taken on whether or not to return to The Hotel Penn Alto with 64 members voting to return and 70 members to continue meeting at the Calvin House. (134 members)

The April 24, 1990 issue of the RotaNote included this article about meeting locations: ‘It was asked last week, if we had to meet within the territorial limits of our club. According to the MANUAL OF PROCEDURE, page 20, MEETING PLACES – “Each club is autonomous in determining

its place of meeting. However, as each active, senior active or past service member of a Rotary Club is entitled to attend the meeting of any other Rotary Club, it is expected that each club will meet in a place where any member of any Rotary Club in the world can attend its meeting.”

A year later, in May of 1991, the Board decided to give the old hotel a three week trial with a new caterer to see if the members were interested in returning to downtown Altoona. After the trial run the club resumed meeting at the Calvin House and a vote of the members was taken on May 28. The June 11th, 1991 RotaNote announced that the result of the meeting place vote was ‘that all future meetings will be held at the Calvin House’. Thus about two years from the original move to the Calvin House, this third location became permanent.

One of the questions in moving from downtown Altoona was how many members we would lose because of the distance from their place of business. The Club Directory in 1989 had 65 members with a business address in the vicinity of downtown Altoona or north of the downtown; in 1992 the Club Directory had approximately 84 members in the same locations.

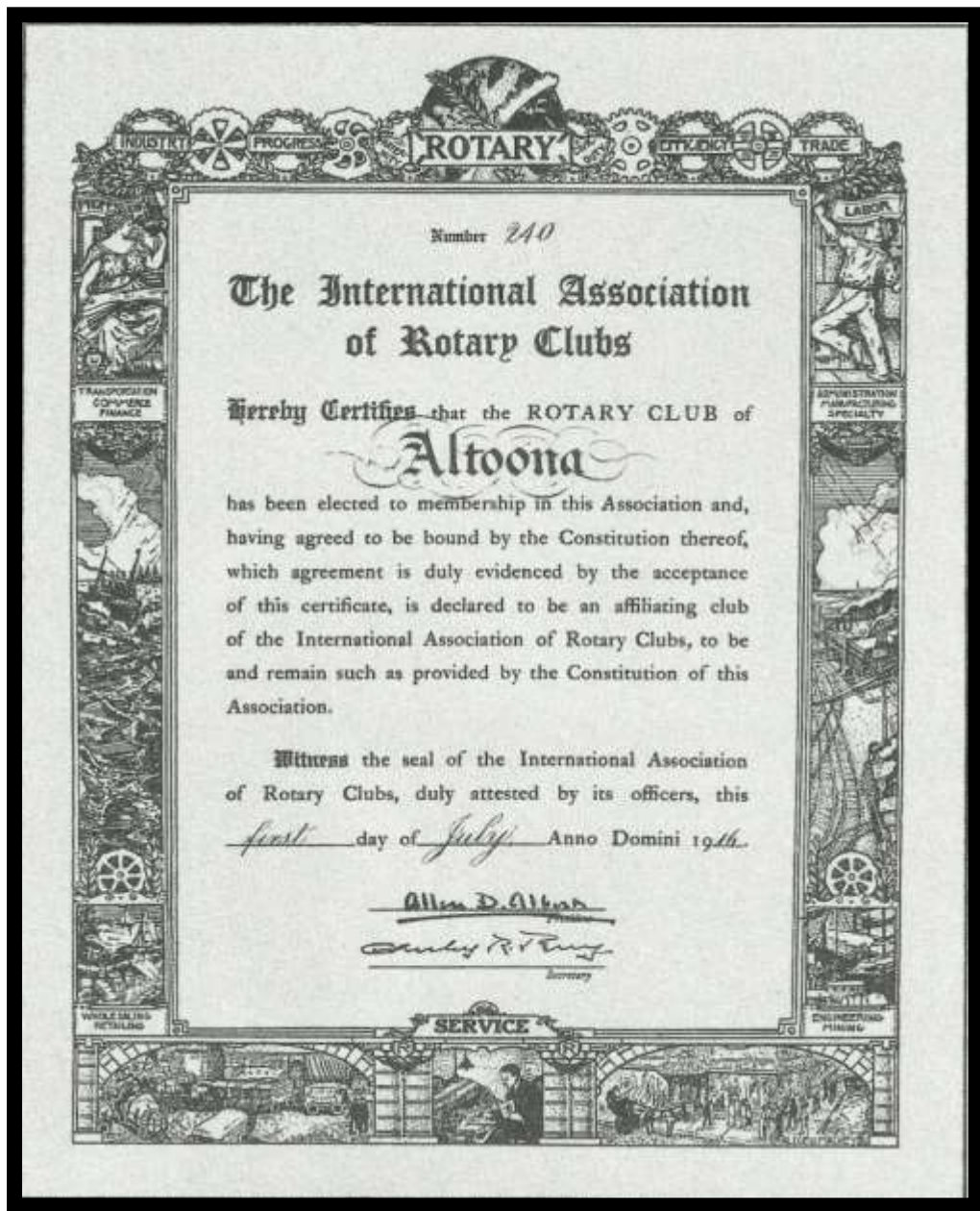
Dick Fruth, President cont’d:

June - Traffic control for exiting the Calvin House parking lot to Plank Road will now be provided by Hennaman Detective Agency.

July - An increase in the dues was approved by \$10.00 per quarter.



A thank you note from Bea Mannion: “In all my wildest dreams, it never occurred to me that someday I might belong to Rotary. Me an honorary member!!! Yes, I’m crying—and can’t think of anything more to say now except THANKS with all my heart.”



During the move from the Penn Alto the original 1916 charter was found. PP Gene Leapley had the document framed and PP Dick Fruth presented it to Calvin House manager, Denny Helsel for display in our meeting room. Today, the Charter along with other Rotary memorabilia is displayed in the southwest corner of the meeting room next to the entrance to the kitchen.

1991 – 1992 JOHN KAZMAIER, PRESIDENT

July - Elastic holders were provided for female Rotarians wearing name badges that previously had been designed to fit on men's suit pockets.

- Bulk mail was used for the first time to distribute the weekly "RotaNote". Rotarians were asked to double check their mailing addresses as returned newsletters will cost 29 cents each.

August - Marty Kooman reported on the work of the International Youth Project Committee including presentations by Brandi Rice, out-going exchange student and Dayana Figarella our resident exchange student for the previous year from Venezuela.

President John Kazmaier distributed the first ever 'Photo Roster' of club members. The pocket size Photo Roster was still in use in 2013. Earlier Roster's had included club member information without the pictures.

September - \$5,000 from Rotary Radio Day was presented to Rotarian Claire Hiller to be used for the Altoona "Y" Teen Center.

November - President John, reported that through make ups at other clubs, all but three members were in attendance on an election day; a continuation of a long standing tradition of the club.

- Three Paul Harris Fellow Awards were presented at the November 14 meeting as part of Rotary Foundation Month and the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Rotary Foundation. Awards were presented to Past President Gene Leapley, President-elect Dave Andrews and club member Bernie Kron.
- Craig Bonebrake, District Manager of the Social Security Administration, spoke on the Social Security system. He reported that the system is set up to be ready for the maturing "Baby Boomers" who will begin to retire in 2010, with a surplus of 1.4 trillion dollars forecast for the year 2000, and a surplus of 10 trillion by 2005. *[Where did all the money go?]*

January 1992 - A pathologist from West Virginia University presented on "The Impacts of AIDS on Dentistry". There are 10 million positive HIV carriers in the world with 1 to 1.5 million in the USA.



- A district governor commented on the future of Rotary with so few young members joining.

February - Michael Roche talked about the 500 KV west to east transmission line produced by G.P.U. and in *March* - Art Shriver discussed the background and function of SCORE.

May - Tom Cooney did a brief talk on his 1979 presentation about the more than 2,000 species of dung beetles in all parts of the world. Our members, who heard it then, still, after 31 years, remember the story. That's nice!

John Kazmaier, President cont'd:

June 1992 - Walter Costlow gave an intriguing look at life on Lake Conemaugh before the devastating 1889 Johnstown flood.

- Jim Barner, Altoona Hospital, gave an informative talk on the new outpatient center and parking garage to be completed November 1994.

1992 - 1994

By Tom Smith

1992 - 1993 DAVID P. ANDREWS, PRESIDENT

July - Andrew Iannacchione, executive chef at the Casino, told of his trip to Russia, Georgia and the Ukraine

August - Mark Sauer, president of the Pittsburgh Pirates, gave an informative insight into the world of the Pirates.

- Revenue sharing was discussed as well as the challenges of being in a small market.
- Dr. Victor Rizzo offered a very helpful discussion concerning "Dealing with Stress", methods of coping, etc.

September - Dr. Kathleen O'Rourke gave a valuable talk on "Support Services", changes that have taken place and the pressures and problems they are causing young people.

November - Holly Elder, exchange student in Brazil, sent a letter which was read.

January 1993 - It was announced by Dave Andrews that the holiday basketball tournament was very successful with an all-time high in attendance.

- Matthew Shields told of the search for a site in Pennsylvania to dispose of low-level radioactive waste.
- Greg Robertson from PA DER talked about the relationship between DER and the business community.
- Karen Tryniewski, a teacher at A.A.H.S., told of a recent trip with two students to Lithuania where they helped to renovate and repair a school.

February - Bharti Bnojwani, our exchange student from India, reported on her stay in Altoona. She said it took time to adjust to American food.

- Vince Nedimyer, from the Community Education Center, talked about “work place literacy”.
- Greg Peterson, from WPSX, discussed public television and its place in our community.

March - Richard Shimer outlined AARP’s proposal for health care reform.

- Frank Diccico presented on the history of Stroehmann Bakeries.



April - **Joe Paterno** spoke on the Big Ten Conference and Penn State Football to a packed house of over 240 members.

- Nelson Briles from the Pittsburgh Pirates spoke to the club.

May - Dr. Frank Meloy, from the A.A.S.D., discussed “distance learning”.

- Irv Seltzer and his son, Steve, spoke on upcoming development in the field of personal communications.

June - Peter Barton and Greg Zaborowski told of the building of the Horseshoe Curve.

1993 – 1994 DAVE DUNCAN, PRESIDENT

July - Ray Detwiler, with three musicians, performed traditional German music.

- District Governor, Harold Cordts, talked of five tiers in Rotary including membership and clubs.

August - Lou Berardinelli, assistant A.A.H.S. football coach, told of the large turnout for the football team this year.

- Ron Osmolinski of the Conrail Locomotive Shop told of the activities and outlook for the Juniata shops.

September - The football coaches from Altoona, Bishop Guilfoyle and Hollidaysburg schools gave updates on their respective programs.

October - U.S. Naval Captain Frank Fulkerson spoke on naval service for the 21st century. The program was outstanding!

- Sylvia Schraft and Dr. John Sheedy presented a timely program on “Fight the Flu”.

November – Herk Betar talked about the Rotary Foundation.



The Pittsburgh Pirates caravan visited in November with Al Martin, Steve Cook and Lanny Fratare.

December – Tom Bradley, from the A.A.S.D., told of the preparations for the P.I.A.A. State Football Playoffs at Mansion Park.

- The Rotary Club was entertained by the Altoona Area High School Jazz Band playing holiday music.

January, 1994 – Two meetings cancelled due to severe snow storm.

- Judge Jolene Kopriva told of the changes that have taken place in custody arrangements for children of divorced or separated couples.

February – Noel Feeley, from Penn State Altoona, gave an update for the 1994 season at the Allegheny Highlands Regional Theatre at Cresson Lake.

- Dr. Fred Petrunak presented an enlightening talk on refractive eye surgery which can eliminate the need to wear glasses.

March – Tom Bradley, from the A.A.S.D., presented The School Under Construction Theatre Company, who performed excerpts from “The Secret Garden” production.

Kellie Goodman, sports anchor from WTAJ TV, told of women in sports. She discussed many amusing incidents and embarrassing situations that happened while reporting in contacts with male athletes.

- Travis Harvey, our exchange student from Australia, showed slides of his homeland including his home, family, school and points of interest.

April - Don Betar explained the annual Rotary Radio Day distribution of funds. The allocation committee selects the three most worthy projects and then reps speak to the club to outline their needs.



1993 – 1994 cont'd:

May – Rotarian Peter Barton, of the Railroaders' Memorial Museum, discussed "National Tourism Awareness Week." The museum and the Horseshoe Curve bring in 100,000 visitors annually. Tourism is second in economic importance only to agriculture.

June – Tom Bradley, public relations director for the A.A.S.D., spoke on "Laying the Foundation for our Future". The "Leadership Blair County" program is designed to produce new ideas and a stronger base of community leaders.

- Wade VanLandingham reported on "Blair country's economic profile – Target market opportunities."

ALTO ROTA VUES – JUNE 1994

Reprinted from the RotaNote

As a little diversion from the Rotary Profile, in June of 1994 a few Rotarians were asked what belonging to Rotary means to them. They had some interesting answers as follows.

I have always been "service-oriented" and Rotary has opened wider opportunities for such on a local and district level. To feel that one is an active part of a world-wide community is very satisfying. Through Rotary, my circle of friends and acquaintances has become larger. I look forward to the weekly fellowship, whether at the Altoona Club or via make-ups at Hollidaysburg or Sunrise. I am proud to be part of an organization whose world-wide connections and humanitarian programs serve needs across age ranges; whose members represent wealth of professional avenues; and who professes to be guided by high ethical standards; people who care and share. I hope to someday become a Paul Harris Fellow. Suggestions: Due to the size of the club, it is difficult to meet all the members. I tried the rotating wheel. Perhaps it might be tried for new members only, so that they might meet more. The pictures in the directory-are a great help. In order for the public to know more about us, perhaps a "filler" article could be sent to the media each week stating the highlights of the programs which were presented. **Gwendolyn M. Pattillo**

I am proud to belong to an organization such as the Altoona Rotary, because of the many programs that they have that benefit the community. I have also been fortunate to make many friends over the years by belonging to Altoona Rotary and many of these people I would not have met if I did not belong to the Altoona Rotary Club. It is very nice to belong to a club that tries to do its BEST to benefit other people. **John Sullivan**

Altoona Rotarians are genuinely friendly, thoughtful and considerate. I am enjoying the varied programs, strict adherence to a time limit, and committee meetings. Rotary makes the best use of

time, and I like the infusion of fun and enjoyment into meetings. Meetings mean new contacts and opportunities to do business. Suggestions: Keep up the enthusiasm and quality activities.

Zoe Bellamy

Joining the Altoona Rotary has been one of the best decisions I have made. My only regret is not having joined earlier in my career. The best part of Rotary is the friends I have made. By sharing and talking with active members of the community, I am better able to understand Altoona's strengths and needs and thereby am better able to serve my organization. Suggestions: I believe that regular attendance should continue to be encouraged in order to maximize the benefits of the group. **Matt Kane**

EASTER RABBITS - A STORY & OPINION ABOUT ROTARY

By Tom Cooney

The Cooney kids grew up during the 1930's. That was depression time and our father worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad as did the fathers of most all of our friends. Railroad work then was, "on and off", but mostly "off". Keeping a family going was far from easy and we did without a lot of things. It was no frills living!

Somehow when Easter rolled around my mother had been able to save a little so that we children could have Easter baskets. There were jelly beans, chocolate and marshmallow eggs but the highlight was a large hard centered, coconut cream rabbit coated in thick dark chocolate and decorated with white icing. What a glorious treat – you could make it last for a week, easily. This was perhaps the most delicious candy that I can remember from my childhood.



So what's the connection to Rotary? A few years later I asked Mother where she got those wonderful Easter rabbits. "From Cassidy's" she said and I never forgot that. When I started to work on the Rotary History Project during the fall of 2011 I ran across the name of J. Clyde Cassidy which immediately brought back visions of dark chocolate Easter Rabbits. Reading further in the 1940 Club history revealed that J. Clyde was indeed a confectioner. And what do we know about him? Not a whole lot except that his father, Charles H. Cassidy was a charter member and J. Clyde was the fourth Club Secretary. He also wrote the first Club History in 1940. The wrap-up is that as a small child something very good in my life was the product of a great Altoona Rotarian – J. Clyde Cassidy. *I never knew him but I loved his rabbits!* Our Secretaries have always been the guardians of all things important to the Club.

1994 – 1995 LARRY MCALEER, PRESIDENT

July 1994 – Rosa Maria Richardson and Greg Peterson discussed the future of National Public Radio. Donald Moyer told of the impact Juniata College has had on Blair County.

August - Cara Toomey, our outgoing exchange student, told of her time in Finland and how she had to learn Finnish very quickly.

- Dave Davies talked about the future of Mercy Hospital, downsizing and diversifying services.
- Terry Wentz, the manager of Canoe Creek, Trough Creek and Warriors Mark State Parks, used slides to portray some of the activities provided, including fishing, boating and hiking at the Canoe Creek location.
- Carl Flohr, District governor, spoke on the expansion of Rotary into countries where dictatorial government had kept Rotary out in previous years.
- The club met at the **Horseshoe Curve** for a picnic lunch and received an update from Cummins McNitt which was informative and interesting.



September – Leonard Fiore, Jr. and John Radionoff discussed the Altoona Silk Mill project. The buildings were built in the 19th century and have historical significance.

October – Carl Raup, CFO of Hoss's Steak and Sea House, discussed the economic impact of Hoss's on the community.

- Captain Robert A. McCurry, of the Navy recruiting command in DC, discussed problems facing the Navy in recruiting an adequate number of enlistees that meet Navy standards.
- Rotarians visited the Conrail diesel shop or the Altoona Mirror. Both groups reported that the visits were enlightening and educational.

November – Bud Shuster was introduced and is in line to be chairman of the transportation committee. He spoke of eight changes in rules of the 104th Congress.

December – Announcements were made for the Rotary Basketball Tournaments. Shawn McCarl talked about McCarl's, Inc. and the holiday party is set for 12/16, which is a Sunday.

ROTANOTE PROFILE OF RANDY BUCHANAN

By *Beatrice Mannion*

June 1995

How many Altoona Rotarians can say they met their great grandfather? Our own Randy Buchanan had that experience. Not personally, but his aged ancestor broke the time barrier and revealed himself to his great grandson via a diary. This "come back to life" forefather was Lieutenant William Ross Glisan of "D" Company, 6th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. In his diary, he describes the daily records of the Civil War battle of Tennessee, including Chattanooga, Chickamauga and Mission Ridge - a day to day account of his service in the years 1863-64. What a great privilege to be in touch 132 years later with this special ancestor! *Editor note: I went online to the Ohio Genealogical Society and researched W. R. Glisan and there he was. Glisan, William R. 6th Regiment, Ohio Infantry. Beginning rank - Private, Ending rank - Second Lieutenant. Originally filed under William R./Glison*

Randall D. Buchanan was born in Cumberland, MD. His family moved to Altoona when he was in third grade. After attending Altoona High School for two years, he transferred and finished his junior and senior years at Mercersburg Academy. The day after graduation in 1945, Randy entered the Air Force and for two years served as a B29 gunner. When the war ended, Randy expected to go home, but was sent to the Pacific where he served on Tinian and the Philippines.

Back in civilian life, Randy attended the University of Maryland, graduating in January 1951 as a marketing major. He joined his father in the building supply business. It was in 1952 that his father, John Buchanan, a Rotarian, sponsored Randy to membership in the Altoona Club.

In 1950, Randy and Nancy Swope from Hollidaysburg were married. They are the parents of three sons and a daughter. (Bruce is a partner and CPA in an accounting firm in Washington, DE, Douglas is an estimator for "Your Building Center" in Altoona. Philip is an artist and has a very successful tattoo shop in San Diego, California. Kate lives in Eldorado, the mother of four children.)

In 1983, Randy bought Dematteis Travel Service, changing the name to Buchanan Travel Service. Randy is president of the company whose business is divided between corporate and leisure travel, specializing in group cruise promotions.

Besides traveling, Randy's hobbies include tennis, gardening, golfing and trying to be the best possible grandfather to his seven grandchildren.

Randy also has an interesting wish list. In his travels, he has noted in many countries, like Germany, Switzerland, Bermuda and Singapore, the great pride those natives take in their country. He would love to promote in America, particularly in Altoona, a vision of this pride and thus replace the uncaring attitude manifested here. Our streets and areas are cluttered with trash. Our


youth are endangered by widespread use of D and D (drugs and drink), lack of morals, peer pressures of all kinds, except integrity.

Deep down, Randy is echoing his desire to serve and thus make our sojourn here a better, cleaner and safer place to live. The mark of a true Rotarian!

20 REASONS TO JOIN ROTARY CLUB OF ALTOONA

**FRIENDSHIP
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING
INFLUENCE & BE INFLUENCED
PERSONAL GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
CITIZENSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY
CONTINUING EDUCATION
PUBLIC SPEAKING
CITIZENSHIP IN THE WORLD
ENTERTAINMENT
DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL SKILLS
CULTURAL AWARENESS
PRESTIGE
DIVERSITY IN MEMBERSHIP
OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE
FUN**

Below is a letter from Larry McAleer at the end of the year of his Presidency of the Rotary Club of Altoona.

<p>OFFICERS 1994-95</p> <p>LAWRENCE J. MCALEER <i>President</i> 802 South Carlisle Lane Altoona, PA 16602</p> <p>DONALD J. BETAR <i>President-Elect</i> 124 Allegheny Drive Holidaysburg, PA 16648</p> <p>ARTHUR D. SHRIVER <i>Vice President</i> P. O. Box 33 Bellwood, PA 16617</p> <p>E. RAYMOND SMITH <i>Secretary</i> 502 E. Woppy Avenue Altoona, PA 16601</p> <p>RICHARD J. JOHNSTON <i>Assistant Secretary</i> 110 Aldrich Avenue Altoona, PA 16602</p> <p>REX H. KAUP <i>Treasurer</i> 220 53rd Street Altoona, PA 16602</p> <p>FRANK J. BLAIR <i>Sergeant-at-Arms</i> 9 Logan Boulevard Altoona, PA 16602</p>	<h1>ROTARY CLUB</h1> <p><i>"Be a Friend"</i></p>  <p>CLUB No. 240 DISTRICT 7350</p> <h2>OF ALTOONA PENNSYLVANIA</h2> <p><i>Our 79th Year</i></p> <p>Altoona Rotary Club # 240 District 7350 "BE A FRIEND"</p>	<p>DIRECTORS</p> <p>ONE YEAR</p> <p>JAMES W. DRENNING JEANNE L. HANLIN CHARLES W. HARLOW JEANE VIGLON SINGER</p> <p>TWO YEARS</p> <p>ROBERT F. HAGEMANN GWENDOLYN M. PATTILLO CHARLES N. REEVES WILLIAM J. ROSSMAN</p>
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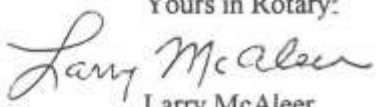
Dear Rotarians :

I can't believe an entire year has passed. It seems like only a few months ago Art Pollock was at the podium calling me "Larry of Arabia". I certainly will miss preparing each week to have an enlightening program to bring before the club. I must tell you it was a very exciting year for me. I only hope I brought some enjoyment to you in this past year.

To my fellow Officers, Board of Directors, and Committee Chairs, I thank you for all the hard work and dedication you showed in the past year to make our club better. To each member of our club who did something in the past year to make us the best club in the district, I thank you.

As I look back, some outstanding goals have been achieved. Our great yearly projects have continued. Basketball Tournament, Handicapped Swim, Rotary Radio Day, Rotary News, Paul Harris Fellows, Scholarships, Exchange program, GSE, Rota-Note, great programs, great Fellowship activities, Career Fair, to name a few. We also added some features this year. Voice Mail, Rotary Signs posted in the community, Soup Kitchen, Peru supplies and cereal, Mini Classification talks, 4-Way test, Magazine talks, Vocational Tour Day, Lunch at the Curve, Past Presidents Day. What a year.

I sincerely want to thank everyone who made this a wonderful year.

Yours in Rotary:

Larry McAleer

1995 - 1998

By Joe Hurd



Front L – R: Clyde Yon, Herk Betar, Nathan Kaber, Tom Cooney, Frank Fiore, Bob Smith, Irv Seltzer, Art Pollock, Bill Ward, Ardie Dillen
Back Row: Dave Duncan, Clair Burket, Dave Andrews, Lee Hite, Stan Over, Frank Smith, John Kazmaier, Don Carn, Ben Levine, Gene Leapley, John Beyer, John Wold

1995 – 1996 DONALD BETAR, PRESIDENT

July - President Don Betar introduced Allen Meadors, CEO of Penn State Altoona who talked about the increasing enrollment at the local campus

- The Club presented Vice-President Marty Kooman with a Paul Harris Fellowship in recognition of his work with the Youth Exchange Program.

August - Jackie Sutton presented Jeanne Hanlin with a Paul Harris Fellowship, courtesy of Ernie Wissinger.

- Dr. Michael-Gerard Moncman spoke to the Club about how to operate an effective Workers Compensation program.

September - Rotarian Leo MacCourtney hosted the Club for tours of WTAJ-TV.

October - A four-minute promotional video on the Altoona Rotary was produced by Vivicon Productions and will air on the public Access Channel.

November - Penn State University's men's and women's basketball coaches – Jerry Dunn and Rene Portland - were guest speakers at the November 14th Rotary Club meeting.

December - Pat Dandrea put out an urgent plea for additional volunteers to help with the Annual Rotary Basketball Tournament.



January 1996 - **John Kazmaier PP, left** was presented an Outstanding Service to the Arts Award by the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art.

- The Club held a “spousal dinner” in celebration of Past President’s Day.
- Lanny Frattare of the Pittsburgh Pirates spoke at the January 30th meeting and introduced Pirates players John Eriks, Paul Wagner, Kent Tekulve, Nellie Briles and Steve Blass.

February - Past President **Dave Duncan, right** was honored with a Paul Harris Fellow. *Editor Note: In 2013 Dave received his 5th PHF Sapphire!*



March - A Rotarian Magazine Contest was held and several Altoona Club members were announced as winners. They are: Art Shriver, Dr. Mary Tipton, Jerry Wayne, Dr. Turk Azar, Jerry Sacks, Rich Slutzker and Gwen Pattillo.

April - Rotarians Dave Andrews, Pat Dandrea and Larry McAleer were recognized by the Club for making the Annual Altoona Rotary Basketball Tournament such an outstanding success.

- The Club welcomed all secretaries to the Rotary’s “Secretaries Day Luncheon.”
- The Club recognized members Randy Green, Wayne Hippo, Kay Hoffman and Vicky Miranda who had recently graduated from the Blair County Chamber’s Leadership Blair County program.

May - Rotary Radio Day proceeds for 1996 were presented to **Altoona Symphony Orchestra, Child Advocates of Blair County and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Altoona.**



Blair County Head Start
a program of Child Advocates of Blair County, Inc.



Big Brothers Big Sisters



June – **Bea Mannion** was appointed as the Club’s new pianist. *Bea pictured here in May 2013, still playing the piano for Rotary meetings.*

- Federico Chavez of Costa Rica, the Club’s inbound exchange student, bid Club members a good-bye with an emotional farewell speech

1996 – 1997 ART SHRIVER, PRESIDENT

July - Art Shriver was installed as the 81st President of the Rotary Club of Altoona.

- The Rotary Family Picnic was held July 21st at Ernie Wissinger’s home.

September - The Annual Rotary Golf Outing took place on September 10th at Scotch Valley Country Club.

- The Club honored Congressman Bud Shuster with a Paul Harris Fellow

October - Longtime Rotarian **Charlie Harlow passed away and Rotarian Gwen Pattillo wrote a terrific tribute to Charlie in the RotaNote.**

IN MEMORY OF A FRIEND - CHARLES W. “CHARLIE” HARLOW 1922-1996

By Gwen Pattillo

On Wednesday, September 25, 1996, following a brief illness, Charles W Harlow, known to most of us fondly as "Charlie", closed his eyes for the last time on this earthly plane.

Born to Charles and Margaret (Cook) Harlow, in Middletown, New York on September 26, 1922; his labors here ended one day short of his 74th birthday. A sister had preceded him in death in 1974. Charlie married Joan Savage on March 31, 1956 in Newark, New Jersey and is survived by his wife, three daughters, a son, a sister, and three grandchildren.

Memorial services were held Saturday, September 28th at the First Presbyterian Church in Hollidaysburg, where Charlie was a member. Those wishing to participate in a living memorial were asked to make donations to the First Presbyterian Church Roof and Restoration Fund.

It has been said that a smile is the carnation in the buttonhole of life. Charlie filled many buttonholes. When I think of him, the picture which comes to mind is that of a warm smile emanating from a face whose twinkling eyes suggest a sense of humor projecting from a generous, sometimes impish soul. I think of a blend of such qualities as cheerfulness, enthusiasm, fair play, tact, a cheery voice which exuded warmth, and confidence, and a delight in life itself. I think of the

terms "caring, sharing and faith." The world cannot always understand one's profession of faith but it can understand service. Doctrine divides, but service unites. Albert Einstein wrote, 'What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us. What we have done for others and the world remains.

Charlie's life portrait stated "he enjoyed sharing his skills with others". What did he share with others?

- He was a member of the Blair Township Planning Board.
- He was a member of the Boy Scouts of America.
He was a volunteer with the Home Nursing Agency.
- He helped Senior Citizens with the filing of tax forms.
- He was a member of SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives), and was the dynamic coordinator of the workshops held twice a year to explain to those having a dream of owning a business the intricacies of beginning a business.
- He was a board member of the Presbyterian Home.
- He was inducted into the Altoona Rotary Club in 1983, was awarded the Paul Harris Fellow, and vigorously led the club in the singing of America the Beautiful, the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag, and the Rotary Four Way Test.

The thread running through this best reflects a Rotary motto: "Service Above Self". The greatest service one can perform is that of being a friend. Blessed are they who have the gift of making friends. It involves many things, but above all, the power of going out of one's self and appreciating whatever is noble and loving in another.

Charlie loved to work in his garden and share the fruits of his labor, but he also cultivated friendship. Goethe wrote: *"The world is so empty if one only thinks of mountains, rivers, and cities; but to know someone here and there who thinks and feels with us, and who, though distant, is close to us in spirit ... this makes the earth an inhabited garden."* Charlie was a gardener.

Charlie, an army veteran of World War II, retired as program director of the Penns Woods Council Boy Scouts of America in 1984, after 36 years of service. He exhibited the qualities of a Scout by being trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. In his life efforts he fulfilled the motto: "Be prepared", and the Boy Scout slogan, "Do a Good Turn Daily".

A few weeks ago the invocation was based on the Boy Scout Oath, "On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country to obey the Boy Scout Law to help other people at all times to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight"

Candles were lit to commemorate Charlie's life.

These candles are symbolic of aspects of Charlie's life, as I knew him:

- RED-for the zeal and élan he exhibited
- BLUE-for his stellar character via his services and the exemplification of the Four Way Test:
 - Is it the truth?
 - Is it fair to all concerned?
 - Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
 - Will it be beneficial to all concerned?
- WHITE-for his new life where he is going to brighten other lives.

We'll miss Charlie Harlow's smiling face

The faith that helped him run life's race.

We're sure that he has passed the test

And merited a well-earned rest.

Art Shriver, President cont'd:

November - Emi Ohshima of Japan was introduced to the Club as its next exchange student.

December - The Annual Rotary Holiday Party was held on December 22nd.

January 1997 - Tim Sissler was appointed to the Rotary Club's Board of Directors to replace Don Detwiler who resigned due to work-related commitments.

February - Irv Seltzer moved back to the area and immediately volunteered to host the Club's most recent exchange student – Emi Ohshima.

- Kevin McClatchey, CEO and Managing General Partner of the Pittsburgh Pirates was the guest speaker at the February 4th Rotary meeting. He explained that the new Pirates ownership had many obstacles to overcome.
- Christine Bettwy and Gene Eyer were getting plans underway for Rotary Career Day.

March - President Art Shriver announced that the Club would be meeting next week at F.L. Smithe Company in Duncansville.

April - The Club congratulated Dave Duncan of Altoona Hospital for being named Committee Person of the Year by the Altoona-Blair County Chamber

May - Eric Reichert, owner of the Altoona Rail Kings, spoke to the Club about his hopes to maintain the franchise in Altoona for many years.

June - Jay Drenning reminded Rotarians that Rotary Radio Day would take place on June 24th. As an incentive, any Rotarian selling four or more radio spots would be eligible to win a special Joe Servello print of the Juniata Shops.

1997 – 1998 J. MARTIN KOOMAN, PRESIDENT

July - The entry list for the “Bill Parsons Rotary Open” included several tennis stars from the eastern U.S.

- Jerry Sacks became the most recent Paul Harris Fellow

August - The Rotary Golf Outing drew the largest number of participants since the event began a decade ago. Don Devorris and Phil Clark were the winning team.

September - **Sister Mary Ann Dillon, President of Mount Aloysius College**, spoke to the Club on September 9th about the need of corporations to genuinely care about their employees.



October - A special presentation was made to Lee Hite for all his help in preparing and distributing the RotaNotes each week.

September - Senator Bob Jubelirer spoke to the Club about the importance of being involved in the political process. He was then presented a Paul Harris Fellowship by Lee Hite.

December - The Annual Rotary Christmas Party was held on the 21st at Seasons at Hilltop.

January 1998 - Five members of the Rotary Club – Eugene Flewelling, Bobbie Miller, Jeff Vaughn, Susan Port Simon and Don Verobish – were acknowledged as members of the Blair County Chamber’s Leadership Blair County Class.

February - President Marty Kooman reported that the Altoona Rotary Tournament, held in December raised over \$16,000.

March - Randy Feathers of the Attorney General’s Drug Task Force spoke to the Club about the need to face-up to the drug problems of the local area and to encourage young people to be responsible for their actions.

April - Jeane Singer announced that the April 21st meeting (on Secretaries Day) would pay tribute to local secretaries and she asked that members treat their secretaries to lunch at the Calvin House on that day.

May - Tony Nastasi, DeGol Corporation and Larry Savino of Mid-State Bank were welcomed as new members of the Club.

July - The Rotary Club set a goal to raise \$15,000 in the 1998 Rotary Radio Day promotion.



MEMORIES OF MY YEAR AS CLUB PRESIDENT

By Marty Kooman PP

What I remember from my year as President of the Rotary Club of Altoona in the 1997 -1998 year:

First, John Rigas was the featured speaker at the annual District Meeting that was held in Corning, New York the spring of 1997. John Rigas was the owner of the Buffalo Sabres Hockey Team and the ill-fated Adelpia Cable. For him to make the Buffalo Sabres hockey playoff game that same evening via his private jet, he gave his motivational speech before dinner, not after. His speech was well attended and everyone remained for dinner, except for the speaker.

At the time, the Rotary Club of Altoona was having a big problem with people leaving early, after the meal yet before the speaker. As incoming President, I changed the order and had the speaker speak before the meal. It was not well received, especially by some of the more seasoned members of our Club. The dissatisfaction reached a crescendo at the fourth meeting of the first month when our guest speaker, Congressman Bud Shuster, complained about the changed order of our meetings. We had very few people leave early once the schedule returned to normal the next month.

1997-1998

Notes by John Wolf

The late 90's were a time of major changes in the Rotary Club of Altoona. For the first time in the 81-year history of our club a woman was named President. Jeannie Hanlin energetic and enthusiastic approach spurred additional women to move into the Presidential roles in a short span of years.

The passing of core leaders, who devoted many years of service to Rotary, like Ernie Wissinger, Walter Lee, Alec Notopoulos, Clyde Yon, Art Pollock, and Ardie Dillen saw the club moved to a different mix of service projects involving more active participation by more club members.

ROTANOTE PROFILE OF ARDIE DILLEN

By Beatrice Mannion

The year was 1947--the place--the Logan Room of the Penn Alto Hotel. It was a typical Tuesday noon hour as dozens of area professionals and community leaders began gathering in the mezzanine to pick up their badges and exchange fellowship before the weekly meeting of the Altoona Rotary Club.

One young Rotarian was especially anxious to meet and get to know some of these people he admired and aspired to emulate. At age 26, the young Management Trainee from Reliance Savings Association had been recently inducted--thanks to sponsor Ed Felty--and his shiny new badge proudly displayed the name "ARDIE."



On this particular day as young Ardie stood near the Logan Room entrance, he spotted someone at the badge table that he greatly admired and wanted to meet. This particular Rotarian was the head at the Pennsylvania Railroad Shops and based on who he was coupled with a somewhat "stern" demeanor, the young Rotarian approached him with both respect and formality. But Ardie was in for a pleasant surprise as he greeted the elder Rotarian with "Hello Mr. Grimshaw, how are you?" Grimshaw turned around and after a slight pause, responded: "Ardie, my name is Fred. If you don't want to call me Fred in business, that's ok, but you call me Fred in here!" Forty-six years later, the Chairman of the Board of Reliance Savings Bank--ARDIE DILLEN--still remembers that "stern" lecture as though it were yesterday. In the nearly five decades since he first entered Rotary, Dillen has maintained a PERFECT ATTENDANCE record! That's approximately 528 meetings, excluding two years served in the Korean War.

Today, the Paul Harris Fellow and Rotary Past President (64-65), sits in his office at Reliance Savings, and reflects on the most important things in this life--HIS CHURCH, HIS FAMILY, AND BEING INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES INCLUDING' ROTARY. "Rotary has meant a lot," says Dillen. "I've met so many nice people not only here but all over the world, and they're all the same--nice people:'

Dillen's father John was also a Rotarian and Ardie has lots of memories of his years in the club. He especially remembers his tenure as Frank Stevens' Program Chairman in 1955. "I was in the club 8 years," says Dillen, "and I thought that was an awesome responsibility, because the program chair at that time was expected to preside at every program Introduction for the year." Dillen is also very proud of the contributions he's been able to make through other community activities. Since 1966, he has been President of Altoona Enterprises. Like belonging to Rotary, Dillen says this

work has been "A very rewarding experience to see these industries come in and grow, and then to keep young people here."

Dillen himself was born and raised in Altoona. He graduated from Altoona High School, class of 1939, attended Juniata College, and earned a Graduate Diploma from the American Savings and Loan institute. In 1943, Uncle Sam and World War II called, and Cpl. Dillen served in the U. S. Army. Later in 1950, he served two more years in the Korean Conflict.

Today, as in the past, Ardie is busy serving the community in many ways. He's a member of the First Church of the Brethren in Altoona. He also serves on many area boards including the Mercy Hospital, St. Francis College, The Altoona Campus, Altoona Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Blair County Branch of the Pennsylvania Economy League. He also serves on the boards of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh as well as the U.S. League of Savings Institutions.

Ardie and his wife Jane (Felty) have three daughters and one son and nine grandchildren. Recently they celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary! On Monday February 7th, Ardie Dillen celebrates an important milestone in his career. Reliance Savings Bank will be inducted into the Altoona-Blair County Business Hall of Fame during the Altoona-Blair County Chamber of Commerce Business Recognition and Annual Meeting. Congratulations to an outstanding community leader, family man, and someone who truly exemplifies the Rotary motto: "SERVICE ABOVE SELF." *Editor note: Ardie Dillen was born in July 29, 1921 and died August 27, 1995. A scholarship, in his name, is awarded each year to one male AAHS grad that is going to attend Penn State University.*

John Wolf notes cont'd:

At Marty Kooman's first meeting as President; Morley Cohn was presented a Paul Harris Fellow by his wife, Carole. Morley noted a long history of his family's participation in the Paul Harris program.

Altoona Rotary's first Paul Harris Fellow was Herbert Wolf (right) who was inducted in October 1968; he had been in Rotary for 25-years when he received this honor. He was also the first Rotarian in our District. Herb had a special fondness for Rotary and its high principles. He attended several international conventions and made a point to share the Altoona Banner while visiting with these Rotarians. Herb, John and Doug, three generations of Wolfs in the Altoona Rotary Club.



Highlights for August featured the Altoona Rotary Tennis Open co-sponsored by Fiore Buick/and the Rotary Club of Altoona. Don Betar served as Chairman of the tourney, which fielded the strongest group of players ever presented by the Middle States Tennis Group. Support came from a broad base of members including Dan Fiore, Bill Parsons, Ernie Wissinger, Tom Cooney, Rich

Johnston, Rex Kaup and George Foster and Tim Sissler. The event had broad coverage and was flagged a very successful program.

Following is what Don Betar himself has to say about the tennis tournament program.

NOT ALL PROJECTS WORK OUT
My story of the Altoona Rotary Tennis Tournament 1997 - 1999

I guess you could say, with several 'outstanding' tennis players in our club, we thought it would be a great idea to have a Rotary Tennis Tournament. And not just any old tennis tournament, but one that would invite some of the best tennis players along the Atlantic seaboard. After all, our golf tournaments were a huge success so why not try a tennis one.

1997 was the first tournament and we offered a payout of \$1500.00 to the first place winner. There was also consolation money for the other players. The ages were from 17 to 35 years old. Hosea DeLeon, from New York was the winner. He was a Davis Cup player for Haiti.

The second year we upped the prize money to \$4,000 for the first place winner! Martin Blackwell, who was ranked 100th in the world, won the top prize. He is now a tennis coach at American University and trains juniors for the national tournaments. He told us our tournament was so well run it could be a 'Futures Tournament' that could pull in worldwide top tennis players. But the prize money would have to be at least \$10,000 for the winner. He was talking USTA and ATP Tennis organizations. If we could get this class of player in our tournament, it would be like Altoona getting double AA baseball!

Rotary needed \$25,000 to do this kind of event. I tried but I couldn't raise the money. If we could have gotten the Altoona Rotary Tennis Tournament on the ATP schedule it would have grown and benefitted both Rotary and Altoona. The problem was, as so often in this kind of endeavor, money. So in the third year, our tennis tourney came to an end.

I was very proud to do this for two years, truly. Thanks to everyone for all the help, *you know who you are.*

Sincerely yours,

Don Betar

John Wolf notes cont'd:

Program highlights in the Fall included meeting of Rotarians and Kiwanians which was held in October 1998 at the Jaffa Mosque in conjunction with Biznet. The opportunity to tour small

business booths and to learn about goods and services related to their companies promoted a special sense of camaraderie.

Recognition by Jeannie Hanlin, President of Easter Seal Legacy Society for the many contributions made over the years by Rotarians came in the form of a plaque presentation to our President Marty Kooman. It was noted that the Ward Family Foundation had played a key role in the initial funding of this community service. Long-time member (now deceased) Clyde Yon chaired this program and devoted countless hours of service for a number of years to those needing the service of this worthwhile program provided at the swimming pool of the Altoona YMCA each Saturday morning.

December - The Rotary Basketball tournament that ran between Christmas and New Years was a highlight of top-flight entertaining action at the Altoona High field house. A substantial part of our membership helps to support this well publicized program run by Dave Andrews and Pat Dandrea and Randy Green. Well over \$100,000 was raised during the years that the club ran the program for the benefit of generating funds for local youth programs. Top ranked teams from several states and national media coverage included a feature in USA Today and ESPN.

Eighty presenters served as volunteers for the March Rotary Career Day Fair where over 500 young people attended. Christine Bettwy and Rich Slutzker served as co-chairs for this community service program.

1998 - 1999 JEANNIE HANLIN, PRESIDENT

June 1998 - Jeanne Hanlin was welcomed as the first woman President of the Rotary Club of Altoona

1998 was a year of momentous change for the Rotary Club of Altoona. For the first time in our 82-year history, we selected a woman president! Jeanie Hanlin, CEO of Easter Seals Central PA took over the gavel from outgoing President Marty Kooman on July 1. The selection of Jeannie was a very good choice because she had strong leadership skills, a gregarious personality with lots of ideas and the ability to sell them. Her administration led to four more women presidents in the next few years that followed.

One of the first initiatives of Jeannie's presidency was to start a "Brag Session" at each meeting. Members were encouraged to bring news of positive events in their personal or business matters. The idea was well received and helped fellow Rotarians to get to know interesting information and form closer relationships.

July – Rotary Radio Days netted at least \$13,000. Some highlights of Jeanie's initiative included a successful Rotary Radio Day making funds available to distribute to the Rotary Swim Program, Rotary Scholarship Fund, and other deserving groups. Jay Drenning sold 49 ads!

- Rep. Rick Geist spoke on 'Tour de Toona' and its impact on Blair County tourism and the economy.

September – The Golf tourney was a major success, 53 golfers participated.

- Club members now at 166.
- Don Betar resigned from our club recently; he was the coordinator of our Tennis Tournament.
- Dick Hallbritter passed away on 9/11/98

October – Jane Sheffield and John Turner will update us on the progress of the Allegheny Ridge State Heritage Park and our regional trail development.

- A note from the Vietnam family who we sponsored in the mid-70's stating that Phouc Nguyen, the father, had passed away in August.
- Impacting The World – in November a team of volunteers headed by Dave Barzelay will travel to Guatemala to participate in an international humanitarian project. Dave is a member of the Rotary of Seven Springs, Florida and his team will be installing a water distribution system at Mi Refugio, Guatemala. The total cost of this project is over \$40,000.00. Alan Anderson presented this story to our club and our board is supporting this project in the amount of \$500.00.
- The Rotary Club of Altoona was honored by the Easter Seal Legacy Society for the swim program. President Jeannie accepted this most prestigious award. Thanks to all involved in this wonderful program.

November – Michael Tomar will be our host at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art during our off site meeting at the museum in Altoona. This opportunity gave our members an opportunity to observe the famous **Rau collection featuring special memorabilia from the PRR archives. Photo right is from the Collection.**

- Jodi Cessna, Executive Director of Blair County Endowment will speak on how the community will benefit from the permanent trust that will help by providing a perpetual fund to aid civic and charitable projects.



December – Thanks and congrats to Vicki Mirenda and her staff for raising \$800.00 for 66 turkeys for the food bank in Altoona.

- Thanks to Rick & Cindy Karcher, Donna Hilling & Steve Seltzer on a great Christmas party. Also thanks to the staff at the Calvin House for all they do for Rotary.

January – Jeanne Singer is heading up an ‘Adopt A Highway Project’, perhaps Pinecroft Exit (I-99)

- **Vox Nova Singing Group from Mt. Aloysius did a rousing and entertaining program.**

A ROTARIAN PROGRAM CONNECTION

By Bob Baker

The Jan. 26, 1999 program was scheduled by Rotarian Bob Baker. It was a performance by the choral group VOX NOVA (the new voice) from Mt. Aloysius College of baroque and renaissance music under the direction of Nancy Rosensteel Way. It fit very nicely into the post-holiday season, but it had a very Rotary beginning.

Ed Pierce, the president of Mt. Aloysius always invited the Rotary Club of Altoona to a dinner and men's basketball game at the school. I decided to take advantage of the offer and asked my daughter, Brenda, if she would like to go to dinner and a game. She accepted and we sat with Ed for dinner and when

Vox group top row: Tara Miller, Ryan Davis, Christopher Jancula, Corinne McFeaters, Stacey Norris.

Middle: Cesar Reyes, **Brenda Baker**, Angela Lambert

Front: Nancy Way – Director, Joanna Miller and Andy Spaeth.



dinner was over Brenda asked me, ‘Dad, how do you know the president of Mt. Aloysius College?’ I said to her, he's a Rotarian.

She investigated further and was accepted to the college the following year. A new choir, VOX NOVA, a full scholarship endeavor was started the next year, and Brenda was accepted.

She told me this one night out for dinner, and I said to order anything she wanted. Her degree is in occupational therapy and her scholarship might never have happened without a Rotary welcome by Rotarian, Ed Pierce.

Jeanne Hanlin, President cont'd:

January - Membership stands at 162 active members but a campaign to send out post cards to members with lagging attendance was initiated by the membership committee under John Beyer.

- Recognition was noted for John and Doug Wolf for the feature article on Wolf Furniture Company opening of a large new store in Harrisburg PA and for being on the cover of Home Furnishings Magazine.



February - Special recognition was noted for **Don Devorris** as Blair Sign Co. was recognized as 1998 Supplier of the year.

- Several new members are welcomed, including Jodi Cessna, Executive Director at Central Pennsylvania Community Foundation and Joe Hurd, Chair of the Blair County Chamber of Commerce and Barbara Behner, CEO Bon Secours Hospital.

March – The annual Rotary Career Fair was held on the 10th. It was well attended and a success overall.

- High honors were acknowledged for **Marci DeGol** on the recognition of her award as **Miss Keystone PA**. Marci is the daughter of Rotary member, David DeGol of DeGol Flooring.
- Bobbie Miller was named to the “Top 50 Women in Pennsylvania”.
- Doug Wolf still working on the float for the upcoming parade in May. Children needed to ride and walk wearing international costumes.



April – We’ll be sponsoring the Pinecroft Exchange - Rt. I-99 for roadside cleanup/4 times a year.

- Rotary Radio funds allocation for this year: \$4,000 for the Rotary Swim Committee, \$1,000 for High School Scholarships, 50% of the profits will go to the Blair County Stork Store, and the Community Discovery Garden and the Leap the Dips coaster will each get 25%.
- When you buy your Altoona Curve tickets you will be supporting the Leap the Dips historic coaster too.
- Bill Ward introduced Alan Anderson who spoke on Human Resources and the importance of employees to the growth of a prosperous business.
- **Dr. Art Pollock** was recognized for his perfect record of Rotary attendance for the last 47 years!!!!

ROTANOTE PROFILE OF ART POLLOCK

By Beatrice Mannion

And there isn't any service I can give which I should scorn.

For it may be just the reason God allowed me to be born.

This is a quote from Edgar A. Guest, but it could have come from the mouth of our own Rotarian, DR. ARTHUR E. POLLOCK, since his actions DO speak louder than words.

Art was born in Gallitzin, Pa.--the son of Samuel and Lena Pollock. His mother was born in England-- his father of Polish-Russian ancestry. Growing up, Art worked in his parents' general store--Pollock's Department Store. Also in this period of his life, he was a member of the Citizen's Military Training Camp, and for 15 years was also involved in Boy Scouting. After graduating from Gallitzin High School, Art enrolled in St. Francis College as a Chemistry Major. He transferred to Penn State after two years, and graduated with a Chemistry degree in 1936. HIS ACADEMIC AVERAGE WAS A PERFECT 4.0! Thus, he received the President Sparks Gold Medal for highest possible scholastic achievement! He also received a secondary degree in Public Speaking.

Following college, Art was admitted to the University of Maryland Medical School. Later, he was a resident at Mercy Hospital in Altoona.

After all these years of preparing for his life's work--the year was 1942--United States became involved in World War II, and Art volunteered his services. Also about this time Art and his bride Judy celebrated their marriage with a military 'wedding' at Fort Jackson. During the war, Art became Regimental Surgeon of the 398th Infantry of the 100th Infantry Division, in the European Theatre of France and Germany. He was now "Major" Arthur Pollock and later was the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal as well as the Combat Medical Badge.



What does he remember most about his war years? "The smell of death," says Pollock. He says that unless you were there, you would never completely understand the horrors and anguish of war, and the sacrifice endured by our service men.

In 1946 Art was back in Altoona, and began his medical practice, opening an office at 14th Avenue and 13th Street. As a General Practice Physician, he delivered hundreds of babies. He was also Medical Doctor for the Altoona School District. In 1962, Art became President of the Blair County Medical Society and for 12 years was Chairman of the Penn Medical Society's Speaker's Bureau. He received Penn State's Golden Voice of Medicine awards for two years straight!

In looking back since he began his medical practice, Art says the biggest change is "third party involvement" with the Insurance Companies who want it "their way" thus creating mountains of extra paper work. And he says things in general have certainly changed from the days when the typical office call was \$2.00 and a house call was \$3.00!

Art was inducted into Rotary in 1952, sponsored by Dr. J. Floyd Buzzard. He was elected President of The Altoona Rotary Club in 1963, and District Governor in 1968. He is also a Paul Harris Fellow! Besides Rotary, Art is also a member of the Masons, Jaffa Shrine and the Elks.

Art says "reading" was his early childhood love and this grew and expanded his knowledge and appreciation of life to the present day. It is interesting to learn about another interest of our Rotarian friend - GUNS! Although Art never hunted - he says to kill was not in his vocabulary - he became an expert marksman, winning the state "Open Sight" Championship one year.

Art's wife Judy, who passed away in 1969, was a genial and much admired Rotary Ann. She and Art were the parents of two sons--David of Pittsburgh and Steve who resides in Sunnyvale, California.

In 1990, Art married Dorothy Deters the Granddaughter of John Deters who interestingly, was a veteran of the Civil War and fought in the Battle of Gettysburg and Bull Run.

Art is now retired and he and Dorothy enjoy a leisure life in a cozy, suburban home in the Hollidaysburg area. Art is a credit not only to' Altoona Rotary, but to Rotary International and to the entire community and state, exemplifying a deep conviction to SERVICE ABOVE SELF!

Jeannie Hanlin, President cont'd:

May – Tim Curley, Penn State Athletics Director spoke on the current state of affairs of athletics at PSU. *Editor note: Who knew, at this time, what was happening on the campus, in the athletics department and the ensuing scandal that would rock Mr. Curley, the school, state and USA!*



- Congratulations to Gwen Pattillo on receiving the 1999 Athena Award! The award is presented to an individual who possess the leadership qualities and engages in mentoring and networking for the benefit of all women in Business.

June – Wendy Knight (Smitty's daughter) presented "Operation Smile". A team of surgeons travel the world doing reconstructive surgery and related health care to indigent children and young adults.

First Woman President of the Rotary Club of Altoona

By Jeanne Hanlin, PP



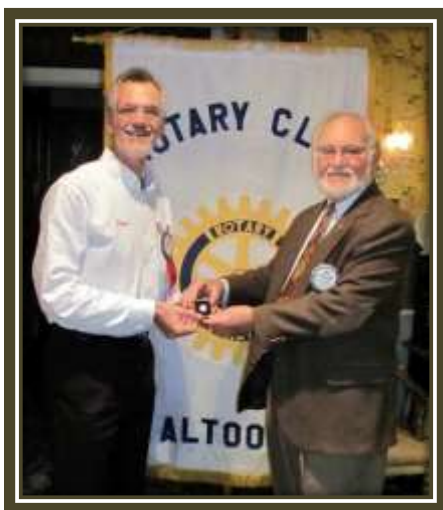
Emerson said “For the resolute and determined there is time and opportunity”. I fondly remember my opportunity to be bestowed the honor of being the first woman president in the 87 year history of the Club. It is with a humble heart I remember Steve Sheetz, Bill Ward and John Wolf approaching me with this opportunity, and also giving me their support. They had confidence in me to do the job and it was a very rewarding opportunity. It was an interesting and enjoyable year. I actually had an easy year with one exception because of all support and help everyone gave to me

Our International project in my year as President was providing medical equipment and food to an area in the Caribbean. Rotarians and the Altoona Hospital provided equipment, Ward Trucking unselfishly provided the transport to the border and from there it was to be shipped to the Caribbean. Shipping to the Caribbean ended up being the most challenging moment. It took weeks for shipment, but we finally got the shipment thru. Unfortunately the food consisted of different cereals and it all was burned and never given to the people. Customs would not allow it to go thru. The good ending to share is the equipment was delivered and hopefully lives saved as a result. It gave me a realization of how important it is to live in the United States of American.

The Programs each week were interesting, the members always supportive and even today I remain a Rotarian and serve as Treasurer of a Club equal the size of my “original” family.

I continue to consider my membership in Rotary as an opportunity to serve. I try to live my life with the guiding rules of Rotary – Is it the TRUTH, Is it FAIR to all concerned, Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS and Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned. Happy Anniversary!

Jeanne Hanlin



July 1, 1999 was induction time for President Steve Seltzer.

Past District Governor and Steve’s dad, Irv Seltzer, whose membership in Rotary dates back to 1957, had the distinction of presenting the Presidential pin to Steve as the 85th President of Rotary Club of Altoona. This is the only time that this has happened in Altoona Rotary.

1999 – 2000 STEVE SELTZER, PRESIDENT

By Steve Seltzer PP

It was my pleasure to serve as the 85th president of the Rotary Club of Altoona in 1999 and 2000. I joined Rotary in June 1978 when three “Steve’s” were inducted on the same day- Steve Lytle, Steve Sheetz, and Steve Seltzer. That was quite an induction day, and Steve Sheetz and I continue as members of our Club to this very day! My father, Irv Seltzer, was District Governor at the time of my induction and was my sponsor into Rotary. **Dad served as the 59th president of our Club and was District Governor in 1977 -1978.**

TRAVAILS OF A DISTRICT GOVERNOR

By Tom Cooney PP

District Governors are required to visit each club in their district during the year they serve – a difficult task indeed. **Irv Seltzer was District Governor** for the Rotary year of 1977/1978.

In the process of dutifully fulfilling the requirements of office he found himself one morning in a small town on the northern fringe of the district. Irv had a list of where club meetings were held but even so, he needed directions to that place. Of course, this was before the invention of the Global Positioning System (GPS) and since small towns don’t have street maps he had to find someone to ask. Going down Main Street Irv spied a barber shop – what better place to get directions?

In he went and asked “Can you please tell me where the Rotary Club meets?” The shop proprietor looked at Irv and without hesitation said “Oh, you don’t want to go there today, the District Governor’s coming!”

My exposure to Rotary goes back well before 1978. As a young child I can remember the many Rotary holiday parties in the Logan Room of the Penn Alto. I can remember the huge apples given out to members by Dr. Fred Miller. I can remember attending a **Rotaract** function at Bedford Springs with young men from the Hollidaysburg Rotary Club when I was in junior high school. I remember attending Rotary meetings as my father’s guest when I was in high school and college. I still remember “Pop” Lindaman playing the piano at the weekly meetings.



I remember when Rotary admitted only men for membership into the organization. I had the privilege of sponsoring two of the early female members to our Club - Bonnie Zimmerman and Jeane Singer when that rule was lifted. Jeane continues as a member of Rotary in State College and is active in District missions and Rotary District and Foundation events.

I really enjoyed serving as President of our Club in 1999-2000. I remember one of my first meetings I rang the bell and Bea Mannion played *My Country Tis of Thee* and when we went to say the Pledge of Allegiance there was no flag in the room. I was mortified, and quickly realized that no matter how hard you try; things don't always go as you plan. From that point forward I made it a point to make sure that the flag was present!



As part of the opening of each meeting we would recite the Rotary Four Way Test. During my term as President John Piccirillo or Frank Blair would do the weekly news. Jay Drenning chaired our annual fundraiser, Rotary Radio Day. This effort funded projects for Home Nursing Agency's Stork Club, Skills Discovery Garden, and the Leap-The-Dips Preservation Foundation. Our goal for this event was to raise \$12,000.

Ruth Longer from Hollidaysburg, PA was District Governor and Julia Brulia from the Altoona Sunrise Club served as Assistant Governor. We enjoyed our annual summer picnic at Ernie Wissinger's estate, and our annual golf outing at Scotch Valley that fall.

Dave Duncan served as Overall Program Chair for me during my term as President. Beeper and cell phone etiquette was all the buzz. Our Club joined with other local Clubs in sending a team to Russia as part of the Gift of Life program that eventually brought Vic Diola from the Philippines to Altoona for heart surgery as part of this wonderful program. I still hear from Vic a few times each year and he continues to acknowledge Rotary and our Club for saving his life.

Rotary was well represented in the Altoona Sesquicentennial Parade. The committee included Barry Kumpf, Al Holtzinger, Jeanne Hanlin, Jodi Cessna, Rick and Cindy Karcher, Jeane Singer, Harry Benjamin, Vicky Mirenda and Rich Slutzker. But the man with the plan for this parade was Rotarian Doug Wolf who pulled our project together for this event. Gene Leapley was selling tickets to the Sesquicentennial Governor's Ball.

Our Club hosted Dusa Koroom from Hungary as our exchange student this year. Rick and Cindy Karcher served as Dusa's first host family and they held a welcome event at their home so that our Club could meet this young man. Other host families included Frank and Michelle Hartye, Bobbi and Dave Miller, and Doug and Lisa Wolf.

I changed the amusing and sometimes controversial "Brag Session" asking Rotarians to "pay to participate" in order to raise \$1,000 for a Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) during my term as President.

The concept was that you could brag about something good, but the Rotarian was to “pay” for the privilege of doing so and that the money collected would fund a Paul Harris Fellow for the Rotary Foundation. By the end of the year I had reached my goal of collecting \$1,000 to fund an extra PHF that year.

We met at Chimney Rocks in August, and we did a “True and False” test many weeks to challenge Rotarian’s knowledge of Rotary. Once each month I would announce Rotary anniversaries. Nate Kaber celebrated his 44th anniversary as a member of our Club in August 1999.

We held a book drive to collect books for the Altoona Area Public Library. We were looking for non-Rotarian individuals to join the Group Study Exchange (GSE) Team that would be headed to Japan in March 2000. George Foster coordinated the GSE program for our Club this year.

Frank Fiore updated the Rotary pamphlet that included the information that the committee reviews with new members. Turk Azar and the Club History Committee worked to update the Club’s history from 1969 to 1999.

September brought the first highway clean-up event headed by President-elect Jeane Singer.

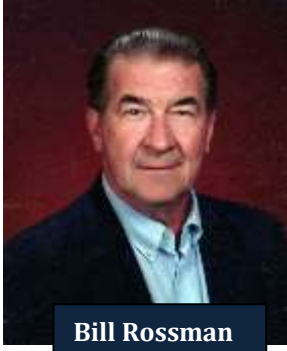
Pictured here: **Tim O’Brien** - left, and **Rich Slutzker, Chairman of the Highway Program**, on the right.



Barb Lovell made changes to the RotaNote our then weekly printed newsletter. Starting in September I would announce Rotarian’s anniversaries, not only with their spouse but also with Rotary. *I always wondered if I helped save someone’s marriage by reminding them of their upcoming anniversary.*

September also brought our golf outing at Scotch Valley. Chaired by President-Elect Jeane Singer, Len Zimmerman was the big winner at the golf dinner that evening. We welcomed back Rabbi Nate Kaber and Bea Mannion; both had been on a leave of absence due to health reasons. Our Club was 159 members strong. Gene Leapley completed the update of our banners recognizing our Paul Harris Fellows.

We were blessed to receive an anonymous donation from a member of our Club in the amount of \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation. Dick Fruth headed a committee of Rotarians to find a recipient worthy of receiving a Paul Harris Fellow from this anonymous donation.



October brought our annual flu shot campaign. **Bill Rossman** chaired the nominating committee and presented a great slate of officers to our Club for the upcoming year.

On November 30th John Kazmaier presented the first of a series of Club History reports that he and Turk Azar had prepared as they were updating the history of our Club. Earlier that month I advised the Club that after 44 years as a member Rabbi Nate Kaber would be leaving Altoona for Florida to be closer to his family. Long time Rotarian Ernie Wissinger was a resident at Outlook Pointe so many Rotarians would visit Ernie either before or after the regular meeting on Tuesday at The Calvin House

Our Club joined forces with the Society of Business Students from Penn State Altoona to present the veterans at the VA Home here in Altoona with carnations in vases with a special poem. Rotarian Alex Chen was the advisor to this group of students. Peg Smith, wife of Rotarian Bob Smith, was the author of the poem that was attached to the vase. PDG Irv Seltzer gave a brief talk to the students and the Veterans. Rotarians Dave Duncan, Diane Harshbarger, and Bob Smith along with Bob's wife Margaret and Bob's two children were also in attendance. Bob's son, Tom Smith, has been an active member of our Club for a number of years now. There were also between 60 and 70 Penn State students and faculty members in attendance who helped to deliver more than 450 flowers in vases to the Vets.

Rick Reeves, Gordon Spessard and the Public Relations Committee prepared a press release and picture that appeared in The Altoona Mirror. The article highlighted the recent donations that our Club made to the Leap the Dips, Stork Club, and Discovery Garden organization.

The annual Rotary Holiday Party was held at Seasons Restaurant on December 5th. Donna Hilling, Kay Griffin, Cynthia and Rick Karcher, and the Fellowship Activities Committee were responsible for the great time. There was cookie decorating, holiday singing by the Blair Concert Chorale, Dick Mangicarn the magician, and of course Santa was a big hit. Kay Griffin bought gifts for each child in attendance based on their gender and age.

The basketball committee did a fantastic job making sure that we had another outstanding Rotary Basketball Tournament that December. Our tournament had become known throughout the east coast as THE best tournament thanks to the efforts of so many members of our Club. It was a LOT of work, but a labor of love for those who organized and worked the tournament. Following the tournament we recognized Dave Andrews, Pat Dandrea, Richard Johnson, Vince Frank, John Beyer, Deb Dellaposta, Larry McAleer, Rex Kaup, Jay Drenning, and Randy Green with trophies for all of their hard work and for making the tournament such a success. One of the goals of the tournament was to raise funds to support youth sports in Blair County.

In January our Club presented Sister Paula DelGrosso with a Paul Harris Fellow. We were 156 members strong. George Foster was busy planning for the Group Study Exchange (GSE) Team visit from Japan that would happen in the spring. We received a thank you from the Hollidaysburg YMCA for our donation to their basketball court improvement program. This donation was made from funds earned from the Rotary Holiday Basketball Tournament. Vern Bishop made an appeal to the Club to have more members help serve lunch on Fridays at the **Soup Kitchen**.

FOOD FOR FAMILIES SOUP KITCHEN



By Sister Paula DelGrosso

July 2012

Director- SVDP Food for Families Soup Kitchen

The Altoona Rotary's assistance and help to the St. Vincent DePaul Food for Families soup kitchen dates back 20 years. The Kitchen opened in November 1991. This was the first full-time Soup Kitchen for Altoona. The Kitchen started out serving 30 to 40 people daily. The numbers gradually increased. Today we serve up to 200 people daily. As the services to those less fortunate grew over the years, so did the need for resources to provide what was needed.

The Altoona Rotary as a group and many individual members came to our aid.

One of the first things the Rotary provided was a steady volunteer program which continues to this day. This has been an opportunity for Rotarians to see firsthand our efforts to help those less fortunate. It also helps our people to see those, individuals who are more successful and more fortunate care about others. Rotarians have been a great example to all of us including our many volunteers and people we serve.

Along with providing faithful volunteers, the Altoona Rotary has consistently provided many resources to aid this Ministry.

In the early years, we needed to meet Code Inspection Mandates. One was to provide a Standard Hood for over our stoves and deep fryers. The cost was \$7000. Our resources were small. This was essential. The Altoona Rotary came through with their Radio-Thon Grant. The Rotary has provided us every year with a cash grant to supplement our food needs and the Rotary supports our annual biggest fund raiser by encouraging their members to sponsor tables.

The Rotary supports our two minor fundraisers: our Annual Chicken Barbeque and our Annual Wedding Soup Sale. The Rotary buys 100 tickets for each of these affairs.

Traditionally, the Rotary has provided \$1,000 towards purchasing Hams for our Annual Christmas give-a-way to around 400 families.

The Rotary recently started collecting new toys that we also provide to families at our Annual Christmas give-a-way.

Steve Seltzer, President cont'd:

In February Alex Chen and his class from Penn State Altoona set up the first web site for our Rotary Club. Dave Duncan's daughter, Ashley, was selected as an outbound exchange student for the coming year. Jim Rea headed up Rotary Radio Day for the Club and Rick Karcher headed up the Career Fair for the Club that year.



Of all of the committee appointments that I made as President there is one that stands out, even to this very day. I asked **John Wolf** to chair the Scholarship Committee.

The committee included Rotarians Al Holtzinger, Dr. John Hurst, Greg Murawsky, Gwen Pattillo, George Russell, Steve Sheetz, and Ray "Smittie" Smith. Prior to this year our Club had a history of awarding one or occasionally two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors. My charge to John Wolf was to lead the effort to expand our scholarship program. John accepted that challenge and he and his committee have done an exceptional job at raising funds and selecting the best individuals to receive those funds from the local schools. *Thirteen years later this committee is still one of the most active in our Club, involving virtually all of our members in their efforts along the way.*

In March we had a special speaker, US Congressman Rick Santorum. Turk Azar was instrumental in arranging for the Senator to address our Club. Just a few weeks later Turk was hurt in a major accident at his home.

April brought many events including Secretaries Day, the GSE Team visit including a welcome party at Lakemont and Blair County Ballpark, the District Conference, Kid's Day at Easter Seals, our first Highway Cleanup, and more.

In May Rotarian Barb Lovell engaged other Rotarians to serve as host families for the touring group "Up with People." Jeff Vaughn, Assistant Editor of the RotaNote, was thanked for his service. Our newsletter received a special commendation at the District Conference and Julia Brulia presented Barb Lovell with a special award for her efforts as Editor of the RotaNote.

In June the Basketball Committee completed presentations to local organizations donating over \$3,000 to youth sports in Blair County this year. Almost by accident the Club learned that Herk

Betar had been purchasing US Savings Bonds each year and donating them to students at Altoona Area High School in the name of the Rotary Club of Altoona as part of his own “scholarship” program. We thanked Herk for doing this in Rotary’s name.

How Rotarians dress for the meetings was a hot subject during my year as President. We amended our dress code and implemented “summer dress” rules for the months of June, July, and August.

At my final meeting I presented our Club with Rotary’s Four Avenues of Service Citation. This citation comes directly from Rotary International’s President and is given only to clubs who fulfill their commitments to each of Rotary’s four avenues of service. Our Club achieved its goals in all four areas and it was an honor to receive this award. Other awards that we received by our Club at the District Conference included:

- Club Service - Barb Lovell – RotaNote
- Community Service - Pat Dandrea and Dave Andrews-Holiday Basketball Tournament
- Vocational Service - Christine Bettwy, Jerry Wayne, Rich Slutzker, and Rick Karcher Career Fair

Jay Drenning hosted the joint board meeting at Spruce Creek on July 13th. This board meeting is always a favorite of the board members and symbolizes the transition from year to year.

As our incentive to build funds and awareness of the need for additional Paul Harris Fellows, A brag session will now be charged one dollar (or more).

It truly was my pleasure to serve our Club as president during 1999-2000. It was fun and rewarding, and we really made a difference in our community and in the world. And after all, isn’t that what Rotary is all about?

Steve

CHAPTER 3 ~ 2000 - 2010



Across

- 3. 2006 - 2007
- 4. 2002 - 2003
- 8. 2004 - 2005
- 9. 2005 - 2006

Down

- 1. 2000 - 2001
- 2. 2008 - 2009
- 5. 2007 - 2008
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- 7. 2009 - 2010

2000 – 2001 JEANE V. SINGER, PRESIDENT

By Alan Anderson PP

July - Jeane Singer was inducted as the 85th President of the Rotary Club of Altoona, and she thanked all of the Committee chairs for agreeing to serve. She also announced that the joint Board meeting was held at the Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club, and that our club has 156 members.

Community News

On the community front, it was **Gwendolyn Pattillo**, retired pastor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Excellence Award. Anyone who has met Gwen is spirit and outgoing personality and accomplishments.



announced that our own **Dr.** and social worker will receive the in Social Service Administrative quickly captivated by her warm we are proud of her many

Tom Cooney was honored as the Volunteer of the Year and received the Teddy Award at the annual awards dinner of the ARC of Blair County. Tom was featured in a very nice article in the Altoona Mirror. Congratulations Tom!

International News

On the international front, Steve Seltzer and family hosted a get acquainted program for our exchange student, Sandy Mirelle Uribe on September 17th. Sandy is from Mexico, and her goal is to become an English teacher when she returns.

Dave Duncan's daughter Ashley is our outgoing student to Africa.

In addition, dental equipment has been sent to Honduras thanks to one of our Rotarians. Jay Drenning was instrumental in coordinating the details of this project.

Club News

Dave Andrews awarded the Basketball Tournament proceeds to various sports/recreational organizations and announced plans for the next tournament. This annual event has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to benefit the community over the past 16 years.

Frank Blair and Jim Rea announced that nearly \$25,000 was raised this year during the Rotary Radio Day campaign. This money will be given to various community organizations through an application process.

John Wolf, Chair of the Scholarship Committee announced that we have collected \$15,000 to be awarded to graduating seniors this year.

Asst. Governor Julia Brulia was introduced and presented President Jeane and the Rotary Club of Altoona the 2000-2001 Presidential Citation. This award is for accomplishing many goals that were set for the Rotary Club in the past year. Only the top clubs internationally receive this recognition.

Incoming President Jim Rea presented Jeane with the Past President pin and plaque and she received a standing ovation from the members for her stellar year as our president.

ROTARY HISTORY 2001 TO 2004

By Tom Cooney PP

2001 – 2002 JIM REA, PRESIDENT

July 2001 - At a joint Board Meeting it was decided to raise dues to \$170.00 per year

- In charge of Highway Cleanup Carrie Seidel said that July 14th would be our next session.

August - President Jim's program is Rotary Radio Day. All players were recognized and a grand total of \$30,484.00 was raised. \$500.00 or more was received from 17 local businesses. \$250.00 or more was received from 36 organizations.

- We welcomed our exchange student, Marta Ossowska, from Wroclaw Poland. Her hosts will be Jodi and Steve Cessna, Carrie Shaner, and Wayne and Linda Hippo.
- Lee Hite was successful in obtaining a \$25,000 Ambassadorial Scholarship for John Paul Cristy.

September - Dress code will change as of this month. Jackets are required but **not ties**.

- A combined Club Golf Outing was organized by Jeane Singer and Steve Martz. Participating along with our Club were Sunrise and Hollidaysburg.



The Board donated \$5,000 to the **American Red Cross**.



October - We now have 158 members with 6 applications in progress.

- We have distributed \$6,500 to 18 area youth groups.

November - Steve Seltzer headed up a Wedding Soup Fund Raiser for Sister Paula DelGrosso. It was very successful.

- Frank Rosenhoover made a pitch to encourage members to participate in the Rotary Student Exchange Program.

December - Both Irv Seltzer and Bob Pennington are in the hospital.

- President Jim received a letter of thanks from the Altoona Symphony Orchestra for a gift of \$2,300.00.
- President Jim asked that no phone calls be made or received during the meeting. He also thanked the Calvin House Staff and presented each with a gift.

January 2002 - It is important to note that we will be emailing the RotaNote. It is expected to save about \$800.00 per year in postage.

February - Bob Smith, John Kazmaier and Bea Mannion visited E. Raymond (Smitty) Smith and his wife Helen at their new cottage at the Brethren Home complex near Martinsburg. They also visited Ernie Wissinger at Homewood where he is being cared for.

March - Deb Dellaposta needs host families for the visiting GSE Team from Argentina.

- Sunday is the Chicken Barbeque at the Soup Kitchen if you have purchased the \$6.00 ticket.
- Vern Bishop is now home after having suffered a mild heart attack and would appreciate cards.

April - Membership is now up to 165.

- John Wolf announced a goal of providing 16 - \$1,000 scholarships this year.
- Steve Seltzer was honored by President Jim with the Four Avenues of Service Citation Award.

May - Joe Hurd announced that the Chamber of Commerce will give its first Business Advocacy Award to Ernie Wissinger.

June - John Wolf spoke about the successful scholarship fund drive this year the raised \$17,050 this year.

- Jim Rea gave his leaving office program which highlighted his presidential year. With 17 new members and great participation in Rotary Radio Day, Career Fair, Scholarship Fund, Highway Cleanup and much more, Jim had without doubt, a very successful year. *Thanks Jim.*

2002 – 2003 FRANK BLAIR, PRESIDENT

July 2002 - New President Frank Blair said our membership is now 160.

- Last month's Joint Board Meeting at Spruce Creek Rod & Gun Club went very well and plans are on tap for another banner year.
- Steve Seltzer announced that Rotary exchange student Marta Ossowska has returned to her hometown Wroclaw, Poland.

August - Returns are finally in – Rotary Radio Day drive netted \$37,050. Past President Jim Rea thanked all for such a tremendous job.

September - President elect Rosenhoover opened the meeting because President Blair had an operation.

- **The Club expressed condolences to the Wissinger family on the passing of Ernie. He was surely one of a kind and will be long remembered for his great public spirit.**

ROTANOTE PROFILE OF ERNIE WISSINGER

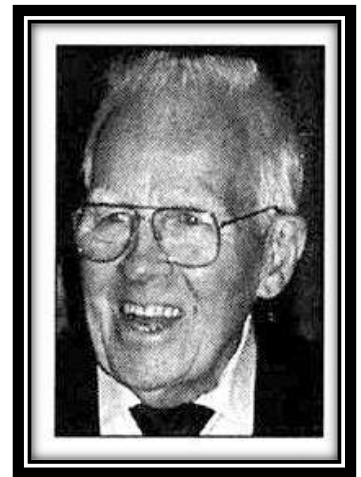
By Beatrice Mannion and Don Wissinger

Reprinted from a July 1996 RotaNote

By 1957, he was able to purchase enough land on which to build a 6,000 square foot Super Market at 31st Street. This was one of the times many people, including his own father, said that he could not compete against A&P, Acme, Shaffer's, and many other established neighborhood stores.

But as residents of Altoona and Blair County know, it was just the beginning of a very successful locally owned grocery chain. In the 1960's and 70's, Wissinger's were pioneers in SERVICE. Bus service for senior citizens, accepted all utility bills, full service restaurants, full service deli's and bakeries, garden centers, tent sales, pet shows, and many other novel marketing strategies.

At its peak, E. Wissinger, Inc. employed over 500 people and served well over 40-50 thousand customers per week in its five stores, Election to the Altoona Blair County Business Hall of Fame's first class was the high point in the life of Ernie and Ruth, son Don (who joined the business in 1969), and all Wissinger employees.



Anyone talking to Ernie about running a successful business will soon be advised to "meet people." Getting to know and understand people in all walks of life was the number one priority in Ernie's Book. He seemed to sense what people wanted in a Super Market and made the "One-stop-shop" theory a working reality. In reading about successful people, he practiced what was important in developing a healthy body and an active mind.

Ernie and Ruth had only one child, so they enjoyed the activity brought by six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Today, Ernie lives alone at his home at 58th Street and Hillside Avenue (Ruth died in 1989), where he has made a six-acre tract of land (once an old dump) into a beautiful

picnic area. It is complete with two tennis courts, a stable, a swimming pool, and two pavilions. This area hosts many organizations and family groups each year including our own Rotary Family Picnic.

Ernie became a Rotarian in 1957 at the invitation of Tom Caum. He has served on several committees and established three Paul Harris Fellows. He has been very active in many economic development committees, and served on the boards of various charitable organizations. Ernie is especially proud of his efforts-to beautify many areas around Altoona, and believes more can be done if government agencies and private worked together.

Ernie played tennis regularly until four years ago, and today (he will be ninety on July 23rd), still uses his treadmill and stationary bike every day!

This is an unusual, but true story of one of our fellow Rotarians, Ernie Wissinger, as told by his son, Don (a member of the Hollidaysburg Rotary and a frequent visitor at our club.)

Ernie is unique-as everyone knows, there will never be another one quite like him. One thing Don didn't mention, but what is generally known throughout the community, is Ernie's generosity and his commitment to "Service Above Self".

Many times in his life, Ernie was told that "it couldn't be done," During the depression years when his father's building business was slow, Ernie found employment with the A&P Tea Co. For several years Ernie, his wife Ruth, and son Don, lived within walking distance of the A&P warehouse located at 8th Ave. and 29th St.

In order for Don to enter the new Curtain Elementary School, Ernie borrowed money to buy his first home on Walnut Ave. Frank Smith (a fellow Rotarian today) processed Ernie's first mortgage.

In 1946, Ernie's mother-in-law was forced to sell her home and a grocery business. Ernie decided to take the challenge and again sought Frank Smith to borrow money. Ernie was now the proud owner of a 900 square foot grocery store. For eighteen months, he continued working at the A&P (3rd trick), also cultivating his father's orchard, and with Ruth's help, he made the store grow and prosper. Finally in 1948, he left the A&P and centered all of his energies on the store. The rest is history!

Frank Blair, President cont'd:

October - President Frank Blair is back to the podium after a recent illness and thanks go to Frank Rosenhoover for taking over in the interim.

- Lance Gottshall, Christine Bettwy's grandson, sent a thank you note for our having sent him to Washington, D.C. to attend the National Rotary Peace Conference.



November - At a joint meeting with the Navy League John Trusedale introduced the speaker, Lt. Commander Brackway.

- Ten organizations shared the \$37,000 proceeds of the Rotary Radio Day Drive. Included were Altoona Public Library, Young Life, Family Services, Blair County Arts and others.

December - **Jodi Cessna** was selected Mrs. Pennsylvania International and will be attending finals competition in Tennessee next year. **Very nice Jodi.**

- Dick Fruth gave an update on the revisions to the club bylaws. These changes will be voted on within the next 10 days.

January 2003 - The Food Committee met and decided on 4 menus – served in rotation along with a fishplate and chef salad. Meal cost will increase from \$7.25 to \$7.75.

March - Chuck Welker reported on the Wheelchair Project. We are getting the other Blair County Rotary Clubs to participate in purchasing wheelchairs for a third world country.

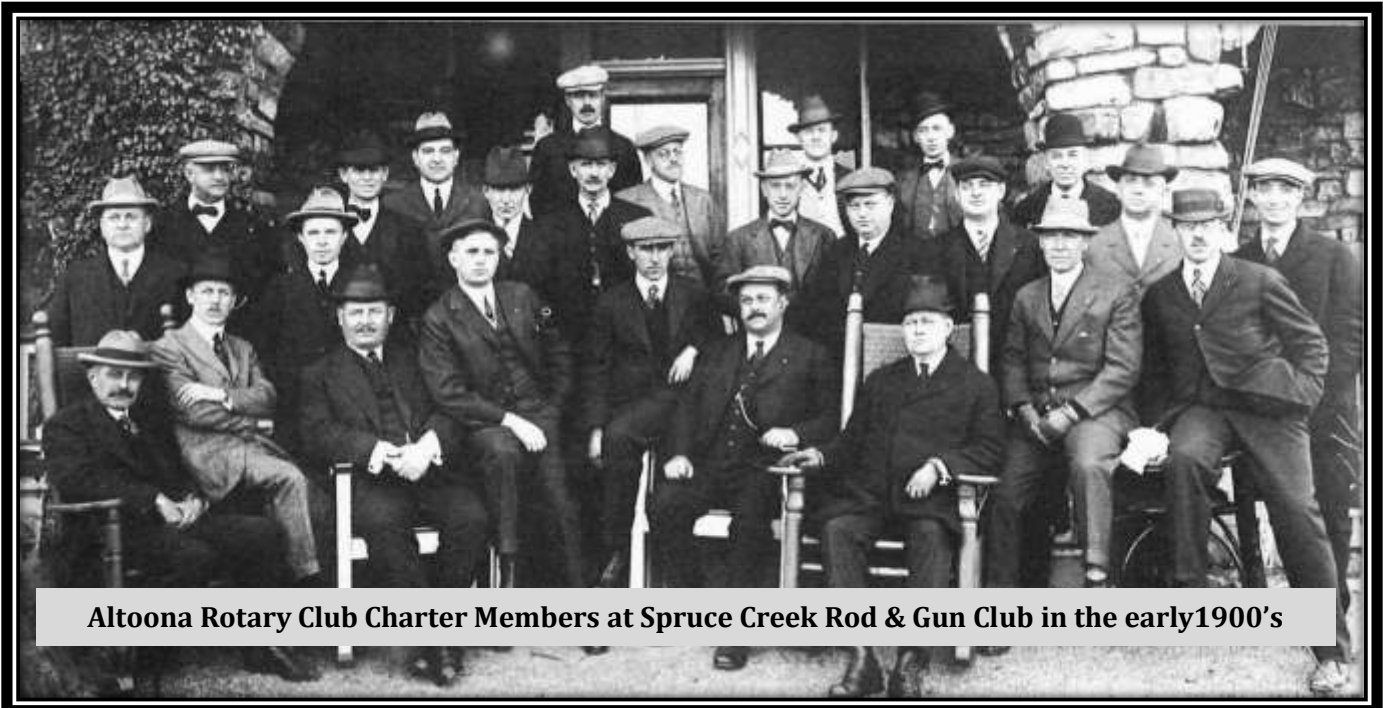
- Duane Reed bragged that he has attended the last 15 District Conferences and attended all sessions.

April - Kate Shaffer indicated that Blair County Art Foundation is in need of help with fundraising. John and Doug Wolf and WRTA will be the media sponsors for the BCAF Festival this year.



May - Plans are being made for the upcoming Rotary Scholarship Program. Sixty-six club members have donated \$20,350.00 to provide twenty \$1,000 scholarships for higher education.

June - A joint meeting of incoming and outgoing Board Members was held at the Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club. We currently have 148 members.



Altoona Rotary Club Charter Members at Spruce Creek Rod & Gun Club in the early 1900's

SPRUCE CREEK ROD & GUN CLUB NOTES

By Tom Cooney & Glenda Forosisky

Every year we read about the Altoona Rotary Club's annual meeting at the Spruce Creek Rod & Gun club, so here is a bit of history.

Meetings are held in the historic clubhouse and associated outbuildings located in Huntingdon County, PA. The clubhouse was built in 1905, and consists of a 2 1/2-story main section with a 2-story ell. It is constructed of local fieldstone and lumber. The building is in the Colonial Revival style. Also on the property is a stone generator building (1906-1908), ice house, and a garage- carriage house (1908-1909) with a long shed addition (1920s). The club was founded by prominent businessmen primarily from Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Ben Levine, Rotarian, is listed with 22 members who have made exceptional contributions to the welfare of the Rod & Gun Club. Ben Levine Jr., Clifford Hayes and Thomas Murphy supervised a 1980's refurbishing of the clubhouse.



Picture by Larry McMillen

Early members used to take the train from Altoona to the village of Spruce Creek and then a horse drawn carriage took them to the club.

Some words from the club history 2003: 'The clubhouse has been a cherished retreat for its members. Many have enjoyed its ambiance over the past century.'

Jimmy Carter, Dwight D. Eisenhower, George Bush, just to name a few, have spent time here and enjoyed fishing in the surrounding streams.

It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1991

Frank Blair, President cont'd:

- Left-over funds from previous basketball tournaments will be used for a \$1,000 scholarship to the Blair County Hall of Fame.
- President Frank Blair thanked the club for its support during his Presidential year especially during the times when he was ill.

2003- 2004 FRANK ROSENHOOVER, PRESIDENT

July 2003 - Deb Dellaposta gave a report on Rotary Radio Day. The goal was \$39,500 and \$41,000 was raised. Deb thanked co-chairs Jay Drenning, Past President Jim Rea, Past President Frank Blair and President Frank Rosenhoover. Also significant was the contribution of Carol Logan and Forever Broadcasting. Team captains and d-jays were also recognized and thanked.

- President Frank reported 113 Rotarians and their families from District 7350 attended the Rotary picnic at Lakemont Park on July 13th.

August - The wife of PDG Art Pollock passed away and cards and prayers will be appreciated by Art who is now living in the Allegheny Lutheran Home in Hollidaysburg.

September - There was a unanimous vote to extend Honorary Membership to PDG Art Pollock.

- The Golf Tournament was held this past Thursday.

October - Congrats to Tim Holtz our newest member.

- A joint meeting with the Navy League was held.
- Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame Rotarians were congratulated viz., Pat Savage, Frank Fiore, Dan Duggan, Herk Betar and Sharon Fasenmyer.
- This month's RotaNote lists 18 organizations requesting Rotary Radio Day funds totaling \$33,386.

November - The Rotary Christmas Party will be held December 21st at the Calvin House.

- A Board Meeting was held this month and it was agreed to give the Bedford Sunrise Rotary Club some startup money.
- Irv Seltzer did a eulogy for Dr. Art Pollock at the meeting. Art's passing saddens us all.

December - Six organizations received Rotary Radio Day funding.

- Thanks to Larry Detwiler and the AAHS Jazz Band for performing this past Tuesday at the meeting.
- Kate Shaffer became our newest Paul Harris Fellow recipient. She was not expecting this honor and was momentarily speechless.
- The Christmas Party organized by Jeane Singer, Jeane Hanlin and Diane Hershberger was a great success.

January 2004 - E. Raymond (Smitty) Smith was welcomed back on his 90th birthday.

- Rotary International will celebrate its 100th year on February 23, 2004.
- Update on dress code: Continue business casual but please no jeans.
- Jerry Hymes received his second Paul Harris Fellowship. Congratulations Jerry.

February - Doug Wolf was honored with a Paul Harris Fellowship. Now three Wolfs have received this award.

March - The 18th will be Career Fair Day. We need 12 to 15 ushers, please help.

- Steve Sheetz announced that the Scholarship Committee has set a goal of \$21,000 for this year's drive.
- Bea Mannion received special recognition for her dedication to the club and for also celebrating her 90th birthday. And she still doesn't wear glasses!
- President Frank also commended Frank Fiore for his years of effort orientating new members into the ways of Rotary.

April - The Board meeting will be held at 7:45 a.m. at Friendly's Restaurant.

- President Frank Rosenhoover thanked Chairman Alan Anderson for a great job with the Career Fair this year.
- The Club was saddened by the passing of Gwen Pattillo's husband Bob. Additionally our prayers go out to Tim Holtz on the recent passing of his teenage son.
- George Foster, Rotary Radio Day Chair announced the drive will begin 27 June. Our goal this year is \$40,450 with excess funds applied to the Centennial Project.
- John Wolf announced that 25 students from three area schools will be receiving \$1,000 scholarships.

May - District 7350 Deep Creek District Convention. The club pays your attendance fee.

- Donna Hilling's nephew was killed in Iraq. All are much saddened.
- Dave Andrews introduced newest member Bill Kech, Manager at Boise/OfficeMax.
- Lori Berger of Make a Wish Foundation gave a mini classification talk.
- Congratulations to Steve Sheetz for being honored by the Blair County Chamber of Commerce with the 2004 Lifetime Achievement Award for Business Advocacy.

June - Irv Seltzer PDG has written a letter to all members as he is concerned that we have not had more interest in attendance at some of our Rotary functions, such as the District Conference and District Meetings. These meetings are not just meant for the officers of the club, but an opportunity to find out what is happening in Rotary and our District 7350.

- Turk Azar spoke about Dr. Miller, who sponsored him into the club in 1966, the 50th Anniversary of Rotary International.
- Our thoughts and prayers were with Peter Hart who recently underwent heart surgery. He is doing well and returned this week. Nice to see you back, Peter.
- This month is President Frank Rosenhoover's "Last Stand". His year has now been completed and we must say he did it with flair, aplomb, poise, self-confidence and cool composure. All marks of a great leader and as a parting gesture he left us with these fun facts:

Did You Know?

"It's going to cost us an arm and a leg" – In the olden days when you wanted to have a portrait painted the more of the clothes that were painted, the more expensive the portrait would be. If you wanted an arm, it would be more expensive. And so forth.

"Three dog night" – When it is cold like in Alaska, you sleep with the dogs to keep warm, and on the coldest night of the year, it takes three dogs to keep you warm.



2004-2007

By Alan Anderson PP

2004 – 2005 DEBRA DELLAPOSTA, PRESIDENT

Debra J. Dellaposta was inducted as the 89th President of the Rotary Club of Altoona, and she challenged the members to make this Rotary centennial year a great one. The theme for this year is “Celebrate Rotary”, and Deb reminded us that this club has a lot to celebrate.

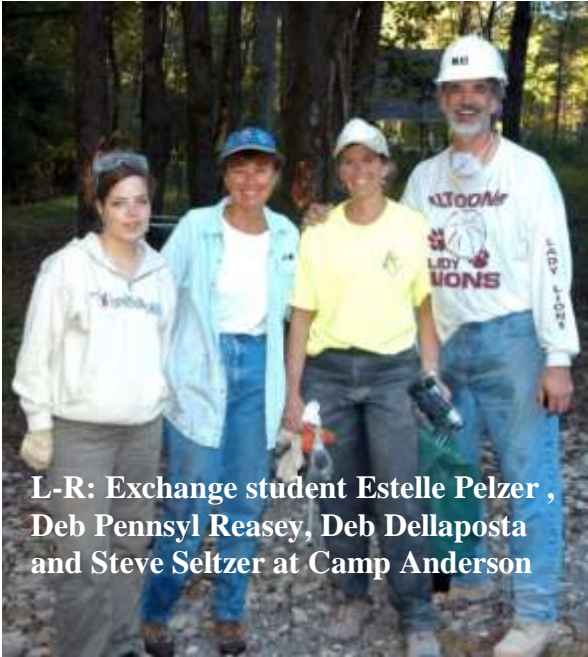
On the international front, our club was pleased to receive a visit from Marta, our Polish exchange student from a couple of years ago, and we met **Estelle Pelzer** (pictured right), **this year’s exchange student who is visiting us from France**. Estelle will be hosted by Jodi and Scott Cessna, George and Katie Foster, and Ann and Frank Rosenhoover.



Gwen Pattillo was recognized as the honoree of the 2004 John Riley Human Relations Service Award at a dinner held at the Ramada Inn, Altoona. This award is presented to an individual who has performed outstanding service to our community through personal efforts by enhancing the dignity and worth of its citizens. Gwen was employed at Family and Children’s Services of Blair County, having retired in 1990 after 35 years of service. She has served on numerous boards and fraternal organizations and has given many years of dedicated service to each of them. Gwen epitomizes the Rotary motto: Service above Self, and is most deserving of this award. In addition, Gwen is our song-leader extraordinaire, and she adds a wonderful exuberance to our meetings with her contagious enthusiasm.

Vice President Joe Stevens reported that we raised \$27,775 for Rotary Radio Day as we wrap up another campaign. Joe reported that 78% of our members participated in this important fundraiser. The proceeds will provide money for a variety of programs that benefit the local community.

John Wolf announced that the Scholarship Committee has raised \$20,000. The committee will be reviewing 28 applications from 3 area schools to determine the winners.



L-R: Exchange student Estelle Pelzer ,
Deb Pennsylv Reasey, Deb Dellaposta
and Steve Seltzer at Camp Anderson

As part of the Centennial Celebration for Rotary, our club joined together with the Rotary Club of Altoona – Sunrise, and the Rotary Club of Tyrone to complete a major service project at **Camp Anderson**, a Boy Scouts of American facility located in northern Blair County. This project created a handicapped accessible campsite consisting of 7 concrete slabs on grade and a wheelchair-passable path to the shower house and pavilion. It also included the replacement of the VanScoyoc Run footbridge so that it would accommodate two wheel chairs passing side by side.

In addition, vital upgrades were made to the existing pavilion building and shower house. This was a major undertaking that required a significant commitment of time, sweat, and money to fund and accomplish all the work that was completed.

Editor note: From an article on the Laurel Highlands Council Outdoor Adventure website: Camp Freedom, a barrier free tent campsite that meets all ADA, for use by people of all ability levels (made possible by the Altoona Rotary, Altoona Sunrise Rotary and Tyrone Rotary Clubs).

Deb gave her farewell speech and told us that all of her goals were met during her term as President. In fact, during President Deb’s year our club was recognized at the District Conference with the most awards of any club. She indicated that she attended the Rotary International Conference in Chicago and was amazed to share this experience with 41,000 other Rotarians from around the world.

2005 – 2006 GEORGE FOSTER, PRESIDENT

President George Foster began his term by thanking past District Governor Irv Seltzer for providing his always capable assistance in swearing in the newly elected officers of the 2005-06 Rotary year.

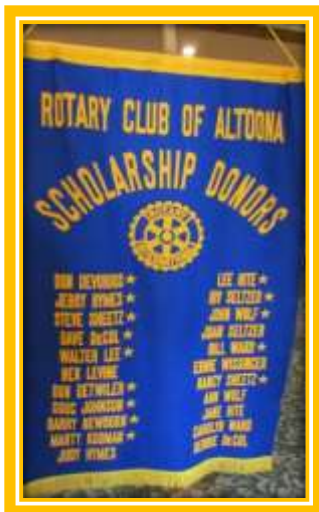
On the international front, at our August 16th meeting, Jodi Cessna introduced our new incoming exchange student, Florencia Sanchez who is joining us from Sgo del Eestero, Argentina. Jodi and her husband Scott are taking the lead on hosting Florencia for a portion of her stay

District Governor Jack Murray spoke at our meeting on September 13th and emphasized that literacy and water projects are a major focus of Rotary International this year. He also noted that

Jeane Singer from our club is leading a project to distribute hearing aids in the Dominican Republic this year that received a matching grant from Rotary International.

On the home front, funds from Rotary Radio Day were distributed to the following organizations: St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Store, Blair Concert Chorale, Blair Co. Miracle League Baseball Field, Altoona Public Library, First Book of Blair County, YWCA “Mommy and Me” Program, ARC – Reach out to Young Families, Altoona Community Theatre – summer programs, Blair Co, Arts Foundation – family programs, Allegheny Lutheran Ministries Day Care Center, and Easter Seals.

Vice President Alan Anderson reported that the annual Rotary Career Fair was held at the Jaffa Mosque on March 16th. This event brings approximately 600 juniors from eight area high schools together with nearly 100 presenters representing a variety of occupations. The goal is to help these students gain a more realistic perspective about career options as they are able to sign up for three sessions in advance. Many of the presenters are Rotarians from our club as well as other clubs in the area. Judging from the enthusiasm expressed by the students and presenters alike, this event was a great success.

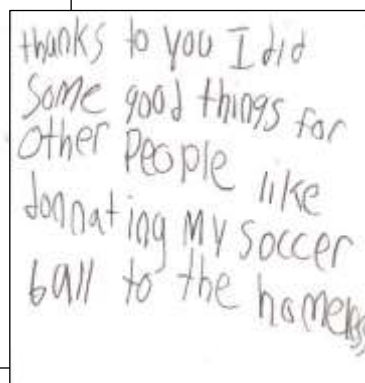
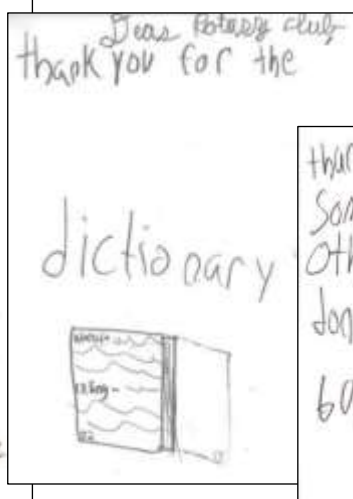


During our April 25th meeting, Scholarship Committee Chair Bill Kech announced that the **Scholarship Program raised over \$28,000 this year from pledges by 93 Rotarians from our club.**

This is a new record for our club, but more importantly, will provide scholarships to 28 students from area schools.

President George reported that the District Governor’s Dictionary Project was completed with the distribution of dictionaries to area third graders. This project has been well-received by both students and area educators.

THIS NOTE FROM A VERY GRATEFUL CHILD



During his farewell remarks, President George thanked all Rotarians for a good year. He showed a PowerPoint presentation on the Faces of the Rotary Club of Altoona. He also congratulated the Club on receiving the **Rotary Presidential Citation** for all the community service we'd done.

Editor note: This note from the Rotary International Awards web page. Clubs that are growing stronger, creating positive change in our communities, and enhancing our public image deserve recognition. The Presidential Citation is one way to acknowledge their work.



2006 – 2007 JOSEPH STEVENS III, PRESIDENT

Incoming President Joe Stevens III was inducted as the 90th President of the Rotary Club of Altoona and thanked outgoing President George Foster for his assistance during the transition. He also thanked the club and recognized his family's legacy in the life of the Rotary Club of Altoona, with three great uncles and a great-grandfather having served as President of the club.

In August, Rotary District 7350 Governor Jerry Friedman from State College presented a program on the theme for Rotary this year called "Lead the Way". Jerry spoke on the importance of the Rotary Foundation throughout the world and the people that are helped because of the money that Rotary raises for the Foundation.

On the international front, a team led by Jeane Singer presented a summary of their trip to Belize where they were on a hearing aid mission. They shared their experience, which was one that they characterized as "life changing" because of the reaction and response of the residents. The team included Deb Dellaposta, Kristin Cantrell, Carol Logan, and Jen Mallad.

Their host club for the trip was the Orange Walk Rotary club, which has a total of 15 members, two of which are women.

THE 2006 BELIZE HEARING AID PROJECT

By Carol Logan

The Rotary Club of Orange Walk, Belize is the little club with the big heart. It's our twin club, and in our effort to learn more about these Rotarians, we accepted their invitation of a friendship exchange. Past President of our club, Deb Dellaposta, encouraged Rotary Club of Altoona (PA) members to sign up for the trip to Belize. As a devoted traveler, I volunteered immediately.



L-R: Jennifer Mallad, Carol Logan, Kristin Cantrell, Jeane Singer, Deb Dellaposta

Who wouldn't want to go to Belize (Caribbean coastal country with a nice warm climate!)? Six of us made the commitment...Deb Dellaposta, Jennifer Mallad, Kristin Cantrell...and hubby Steve...Jeane Singer, and me, and all six of us were to embark on a phenomenal journey.

Jeane Singer (pictured right) has her PhD in Audiology. Hearing is her passion. What began as a few days in Belize to share ideas and have some fun turned into something awesome...a mission to share the gift of hearing. With 125 hearing aids, batteries, and equipment filling our carry-on bags, we arrived in Belize on September 28th.



Orange Walk Rotarians greeted us on arrival, fed us, housed us, partied with us, escorted us and accepted us warmly as Twin Club representatives and fellow Rotarians. Even better, this club of 15 organized and publicized our hearing event and graciously volunteered time and resources to aid this mission. Pre-registration was not required, so we had no idea what to expect. But as we arrived at the Orange Walk Educational Center on Friday, September 29th, we found a standing-room-only crowd waiting for hearing examinations.

We...Altoona and Orange Walk Rotarians...spent two days testing, fitting, adjusting, medicating, and whatever was necessary to help improve hearing in this wonderful community. Speaking for my own club members, I can guarantee that our lives have been altered by this experience. As we accepted the gratitude of those we helped, we knew that we had received the bigger gift...the privilege of seeing smiles on the faces of those hearing for the first time, and the thrill of knowing that we had made a difference in their lives. We had witnessed the love and concern of their families and the elation that followed. We had been part of the many little miracles that took place on two days in Orange Walk, Belize, and we will never forget how our selflessness has brought so much happiness. We are indebted to our Rotary clubs, to God and to each other for providing such a truly remarkable experience.

Joe Stevens III, President cont'd:

President Joe announced that Rotary District 7350 is starting a new project called "Shoes for Nicaragua". Rotarians will be collecting new or gently used children's or adult shoes for Nicaraguan people.

On the local front, at our meeting on February 20th, Mike Fiore, Randy Feathers, and Phil Devorris presented a program on "**Operation Our Town**". The focus of this organization is to address the



drug problem in Blair County. It is being spearheaded by business leaders and will facilitate partnerships to address treatment, targeted law enforcement and prosecution, and education. It is expected that \$1M will be raised for this effort, which will fund these initiatives to reduce the supply and demand for drugs.



March - Past President George Foster was the Moderator of the Rotary 4-way Speech Contest. Judges were Charlie Wilson and Linda Friedman from the State College Club, and Deb Weakland from our Club. Pat Savage and John Beyer were the co-chairs of this contest which presented awards to Altoona High School students Angelina Hale, Erica Thompson, and Sarah Milliron.

May - Bill Kech, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee reported that a total of twenty-five \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to students of Altoona High School, Bishop Guilfoyle High School, and the Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center. This brings the total awarded to \$165,000 since the inception of the program.

Alan Anderson was inducted as the new President. He recognized outgoing President Joe Stevens for an exceptional year of service in which the Rotary Club of Altoona received an award as the Rotary District 7350 Club of the Year at the District Conference. Joe thanked all of the members for their many contributions during his year as President.

2007-2011

By Tom Cooney PP

It should be noted that during these four years the RotaNote was published bimonthly.

2007 – 2008 ALAN ANDERSON, PRESIDENT

President Alan announced the theme for the year as “Rotary Shares” and he explained that it means service above self and that we share time, talent and fortune. “Our success in Rotary is directly linked to the willingness of our members to share their resources.”

Former member, Altoona Mayor, Wayne Hippo spoke about our Sister City St. Polten, Austria and he introduced Dusty Kunstbeck and wife Tina who represented Altoona in a race in St. Polten.

August - A goal of \$30,000 was announced for this year’s Rotary Radio Days.

September - Randy Green announced that \$20,000 was raised for Rotary Radio Days. Thanks to Carol Logan and Forever Broadcasting for air time.

October - Tim O’Brien and “The Mosta” Dellaposta provided the first of a very entertaining series of skits designed to aid in membership recruitment.

November - Ward Trucking has been recognized by a national polling company as the best in the USA in their category of LTL trucking.

- Eight new members were proposed at the meeting of the Board. Later, Jim Rea reported 17 new members to date.

December - Randy Green presented Radio Rotary Days checks to 13 representatives of area charities.

January, 2008 - President Alan and Jim Rea presented awards to those who won the new membership campaign. Sixteen new members joined the club.

- Frank Rosenhoover and President Alan attended Rotary training for Presidents of Rotary Clubs.

March - President Alan announced that the Career Fair will be held at the Jaffa on March 13th.

- New members Joy Weidel, John Carry, Erin Matusick and Ryan Mackey were inducted into the Club.

May - \$1,000 scholarships were made to twenty six high school students from the following schools: Altoona Area High School, Bishop Guilfoyle and Greater Altoona Career & Technology. Bill Kech thanked all who participated in the program.

June - President Alan Anderson's farewell address: we added 22 new members, retained all of our core service projects, added \$10,000 funding for Rotary Radio Days to support Operation Our Town (our local community effort to eliminate drug pushers).

2008 – 2009 FRANK ROSENHOOVER, PRESIDENT (AGAIN)

July 2008 - PP & PDG Irv Seltzer presented Alan Anderson with his Past President's pin and Alan pinned Frank Rosenhoover with his President's pin. Good luck to Frank in the coming year.

August - It was noted last year's Rotary Radio Days netted \$27,745. This year we would like to achieve the goal of \$30,000. President elect Pat Savage conducted the meeting while President Frank was in Texas visiting family.



***September* - Highway cleanup will be held Oct 11 at the Pincroft Exit of I - 99 at 8.00 am.**

- The Rotary Radio Days netted only half of the goal, perhaps since it was held in September this year instead of the regular time in June.
- Jodi Cessna bragged about John Kazmaier who will be the recipient of the Kiwanis Club's Distinguished Citizen Award which will be presented at an awards dinner.

October - Lee Hite's son-in-law, Scott Lawhead has been named President of the Hite Company. Peter Hart, Chairman of SCORE, Alleghenies Chapter, has turned his chairmanship over to Jerry Sacks.

- Mountain Research will be on the premiere broadcast of "Your Interactive Media Works" TV show.

November - At the Board Meeting it was agreed to send termination notices to some people this week along with notices of late payment. *It is important to have a commitment to Rotary and to honor that commitment.*

- Thirteen awards were made to deserving charities from the Rotary Radio Days funds totaling \$17,200.



December - **Rabbi Nathan Kaber** has passed away. Nate served as Rabbi at Temple Beth Israel for many years. Nate also served as President of our club from July 1, 1960 - June 1961 then again in October 1961 - June 30, 1962 when Club President Bruce Denniston passed away unexpectedly. Rabbi Kaber was 94 years old.

- Tim O'Brien presented a program about Rotary Service which included: from Sam Britz – Soup Kitchen which we help every year – Rotary members help serve every Friday. Director Sister Paula serves over 50,000 meals in a year and this season over 300 families will be helped. Rotary furnishes hams for Thanksgiving and helps by buying soup tickets. Rotary Radio Days gives \$2,000 every year.

We now have 122 Active Rotarians. Chuck Welker has moved to Pittsburgh, Erin Matosziuk and Jerry Wayne have resigned. We will miss them.

January 2009 - Tom Cooney announced that Bill Hornung has been named President of F.L. Smithe Machine Corp. Good luck Bill.

March - From Brags: Pat Savage fills vacant Blair Twp. Seat. She now chairs the township's Water and Sewer Authority. Meanwhile, Frank Rosenhoover was elected to the PSU Altoona Advisory Board and Elected Chairman of the 16th County North Central Caucus of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party.

May - Today we presented \$12,000 in scholarships to 12 worthy High School recipients. 8 from AAHS and 4 from BGCHS.

June - Continuing with scholarship presentations, today an additional 11 students from BGCHS were each awarded \$1,000 checks. Total for this year is \$23,000. WOW.

Note: Frank Rosenhoover has now finished serving a 2nd non-concurrent term.

Thanks Frank



2009 – 2010 PATRICIA SAVAGE, PRESIDENT

July - Dick Fruth was welcomed back “crutches and all” – *he had a great fall.*

August - President Pat opened the meeting on August 4th at the new Altoona Area Junior High School. Luncheon was prepared by the cafeteria staff. Afterwards we separated into small groups for a tour of the facility. Dr. Dennis Murray gave a talk on the community impact of the new facility.

September - Rotary Radio Day teams are hard at work selling spots and it is noted that Peter Hart had a great experience on Saturday, Sept. 1st with the Tea Party in Washington, DC. It was a long day but a joyous occasion. Glad you found your way back, Pete.

October - Highway Cleanup: the Altoona High School Interact Club joined the Rotary members for a Fall ‘Annual Adopt a Highway Litter Clean Up’ at the Pinecroft Interchange of I – 99. Thanks to our club members Kate Shaffer, Steve Seltzer, Randy Green, Rich Slutzker, Bill T. Ward and Judy Ward. Thanks also to Jamie Burgstein, Altoona High School Interact Club Advisor and 12 of her club members. This event was arranged by Cletus McConville.

- Kate Shaffer announced that Radio Day netted \$21,000 or \$7,000 over last year.

November - Tim Sissler and his Bishop Guilfoyle Jr. High Girls Basketball Team won the Laurel Highlands Athletic Conference Championship. Congrats to Tim and his girls.

- Two resignations to report - Dave Andrews and Becky Willnecker.
- The club recently lost member E. Raymond Smith. Smitty was a member of our club for over 55 years; a former Secretary for 25+ years and for the past 10 years has had honorary status while he was a resident of the Morrison Cove Home. Smitty’s father was the former owner of the land that became the Altoona Campus of the Pennsylvania State University. Smitty was a good person and will be missed by friends.

December - **In this RotaNote Frank Fiore is shown in a picture from a 1977 Rotary Christmas party, holding his 2 year old granddaughter, Jessica. Pictured right...**

Later, Jessica was part of the Hollidaysburg High School Choral Group and at the suggestion of Don Wissinger, studied and graduated from the Susquehanna University majoring in voice and music. She is now a music teacher, Mrs. Connell – mother of 3, at the new Altoona Area Junior High School and her husband James Connell is a guidance counselor there.



January 2010 - Entertainment was provided by The Altoona Area High School Jazz Band directed by Larry Detwiler. As always, we enjoyed the music with our lunch.

- Frank Rosenhoover announced that his daughter and her family have published a book on soccer. It is available on Amazon.com.

February - President Pat announced that the **Career Fair will be held March 25th at the Altoona Convention and Visitors Center.** (*A packed house as seen below*)



- Three new members were introduced: Robin Beck, Steve Ross and Tom Smith.

March - Congratulations to Joy Weidel who won the President's Award at the Allegheny Mountains Convention and Visitors Bureau Annual Membership Awards Dinner and also to Barry Kumpf who won the Ambassador Award. A wonderful job by great Rotarians!

April - Marty Kooman's son, Michael is pleased to present an Evening of Elegance – "April in Paris". Michael, born and raised in Altoona, wrote the original music production of this story about a young woman discovering Paris and a young man discovering Altoona. You are invited to the Calvin House for reception, dinner and show on April 23 at 7:00 pm.

May - Rotarians with *Good News*:

Doug Wolf (pictured right) and the Wolf Furniture Co. Family have announced the opening of a new store in Mechanicsburg, PA. *Congratulations!*

- On a sad note, Bill Parsons passed away this month.



June - Rotary Year End Brags: **Steve and Nancy Sheetz** have been named Philanthropists of the Year by The Pennsylvania State University for their \$3 million dollars to create an Entrepreneurial Studies Program at Penn State Altoona.

Thank you Steve and Nancy.



- Barry Kumpf has been hired as General Manager for the Blair County Convention Center. He will focus on day to day operations to bring in new business.
- Deb Dellaposta's firm **WPS**, has been named winner in a 2010 Managed Print Service Leadership Awards program.



Helping you do better business.



- **Phil Dubrow - WTAJ Your News Leader** has received two awards from the PA Association of Broadcasters for an outstanding feature on cell phone use while driving and a Breaking News award for a news report on the shootings, deaths and robbery at the Subway Restaurant on April 2009. *Congratulations Phil.*

Chapter Four 2010 – 2013



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3. 2012 - 2013

2010 – 2011 KATE SHAFFER, PRESIDENT



July - Enter Kate Shaffer and Exit Pat Savage.

- A thank you card was received from the Frank Fiore Family for placing a book in the Altoona Library in honor of the passing of his wife Florine.

August - Jodi Cessna announced the visiting Rotarians with guests. Jodi brought her husband Scott and her daughter Sami. Jodi also brought Theresa and George Medairy, the parents of Sophia, the presenter of the meeting. Jen Mallad brought Monica Dietrick as a guest. John Stuckey visited from the Hollidaysburg Club.

- Sophia, winner of Miss Teen Pennsylvania International and 1st runner up at Miss Teen International Pageant representing Pennsylvania, provided the program. She showed a power point presentation of her experience.

September - Today we learned how to use social media, Facebook, Twitter, Hootsuite, LinkedIn, Tweetdeck and more. *Believe that and I'll tell you more.*

- Gordon Spessard broke his femur. After his hospital stay he will be going to Health South.

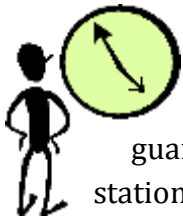
October - Moments of silence were held for Len Bettwy, husband of Christine Bettwy, and also for Mary Long, mother of Barbara Lovell.

- Under "Good News": **Jerry Sacks, pictured here, announced that he has been a Rotarian for 60 years.**



RANDOM STORIES

By Jerry Sacks



[About 1966] Helmut "Spike" Hornung told about an uncle who was sent to a Gulag in far Russia or Siberia. He had been a tool and die maker, so when the guards told him to make them a clock - LARGE - like the one in the Moscow railroad station, he replied that he knew nothing about making a clock and he had no tools. They insisted he make them a clock and provided him with a file and some scrap metal. With the file he proceeded to make all the tools he thought he would need. And he did make a clock, a large one. The guards were jubilant and proudly displayed their clock. *But they never knew that the clock he had made ran backwards!*

[Sometime in the mid '70s] During the Cold War we had a blind minister, who had visited the Soviet Union, tell us that Communism will never work - It is not natural - People want freedom. He also told of traveling on a subway (with or without his Seeing Eye dog, I don't remember) but he boarded the subway car and could hear two ladies discussing him in loud voices, "That man's blind" "No, he is not" "Yes, he is blind". This went on for several minutes until the minister could not stand it anymore so he addressed the ladies: "Yes, I'm Blind, but I'm not DEAF!"

[1978] After Rotary I walked toward 12th Avenue with John Hemphill. John must have been in his 90's at the time. He told me he used to carry the Altoona Tribune in his boyhood, in the mornings, and one morning he saw the Rothert Building (now C&G Bank) on fire and he turned in the alarm. The building suffered and was rebuilt.

[1978] I thought it would be a neat idea to sponsor a "Go To College" day for Altoona High students. Herk Betar gave me a list of nearby colleges, and somehow we secured the Jaffa, sent out the invitations, put up the tables and all that. Well I guess about 20-25 colleges attended. But I found out later the whole idea was a No, No! Such a project had to be approved by and through the area association of colleges, AND they all expected a free lunch. We did collect a fee from each one, which I guess paid for the Jaffa - BUT never would I get an idea like that again!

[About 1979] Ardie Dillen always thanked our speakers personally for their talks to our club (after the meeting) I thought that was a fine idea, and started to do that myself. But from the day that I told Ardie how kind that it was of him, he never thanked the speakers afterward!

We gave prizes to the best sales people for Rotary Radio Days; member Fred Petrunak secured a small replica of a tree decorated with breasts. (I sold these along with other "gag" gifts in our store at Logan Valley Mall.) The item was called a TiTi tree. The winner was a female, and Fred presented it to her amidst many red faces and embarrassment.



[1981] For the annual joint Navy League/Rotary meeting, I secured (with the help of Bud Shuster) a cabinet ranked official, first one who ever was a Rotary speaker, John Lehman, Secretary of the Navy. He flew in to Martinsburg (AOO) and Howdy Ellenberger drove up one of his limos to pick him up. The Secretary was accompanied by a Marine Colonel carrying the red telephone in a case. I set up front with Howdy, they sat in the back. I made small talk with the Secretary, being careful to address him as Mr. Secretary in our conversations. But Howdy (well, you had to know Howdy), turned towards John Lehman and said, "John what do you think about this or that?" I held our guest in such awe when Howdy called him by his first name that I was flabbergasted. But the Secretary loved Howdy and continued talking to him as old friend to old friend. I don't think Howdy was a Rotarian, but we did enjoy a reception for John Lehman in Fran Huber's suite at the Penn Alto,



pictures and all. Bud was not at our meeting, but Ann Eppard did the formal introduction of our speaker.

At the Penn Alto table one day we spoke of one of our members who was so Mr. Rotary that he must have worn a Rotary emblem on his underwear. I do not recall who the Rotarian was, but someone secured a woven Rotary emblem, I had it sewn onto a pair of white boxer shorts and we presented it at a meeting. *Laughs! Laughs!*



[Late 1990s] At the Calvin House our president asked for a straw poll, "Who thinks that O. J. Simpson will NOT be convicted? Two members raised their hands – me, and I can't think of his name. He was a contractor and Rick Geist's brother in law. He dropped out of Rotary shortly after. But we were the only two who had it right.

Kate Shaffer, President cont'd:

- Frank Fiore announced that Tom Cooney and his wife June celebrated 50 years of marriage. Doug Wolf and his wife Lisa have been married for 25 years.

December - President Kate announced that Frank Fiore is having quadruple heart bypass surgery Wednesday morning. Later Frank's grandson, Pat Miles told us that the surgery went well and that Frank is doing fine.

- Proceeds from **Rotary Radio Day** amounted to \$16,000. With the money raised we are able to help five organizations. The announcement was made by Bobbi Castellucci and JR DiAndrea, Co-chairs.

ROTARY RADIO DAYS

By Kate Shaffer PP

The First Rotary Radio Days was held in the spring of 1974 during Irving Seltzer's presidency. Irv approached fellow Rotarian Ed Giller, owner of WFBG Radio, about the prospect of the Club participating in the sale of advertising in order to raise much-needed capital for local community organizations. In addition, Rotarians were to take over the radio's air waves, serving in one-half hour shifts as the actual DJ's.

That first year Rotary Radio Days raised approximately \$10,000, which was then used to fund three non-profit organizations in need of our support.

The program has evolved throughout the years to become a significant source of revenue to the region's many human service and arts organizations, and has contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to sustain and improve the quality of life in our community.

Under the enthusiastic Leadership of President Jim Rea, this fund raising project was more fully embraced by all Rotarians and began to reach unprecedented goals. During President Joe Stevens' tenure, the 2007 Rotary Radio Days Project awarded \$20,000 to Operation Our Town to assist in eradicating the community's drug problem, and provided 15 community non-profit organizations with an additional \$18,000!

Now in its 38th year, this truly remarkable program has come to be recognized as an integral part of our Mission as Rotarians and it simply would not be possible without the incredible Rotary spirit and team approach demonstrated each and every year by the many, many participating Club members.

It would also have been impossible to facilitate Rotary Radio Days without the total commitment that has been received from the partnering radio stations. We owe Rotarians Bobbi Castellucci and Carol Logan and Forever Broadcasting a huge debt of gratitude.

We also thank Ed Giller, former owner of WFBG, and Irv Seltzer, Past-President & Past District Governor, for developing this truly remarkable opportunity for the Altoona Rotary Club to be of outstanding service to its community.

Rotary Radio Day Story Continues....

By Bobbi Castellucci

The Altoona Rotary club and Forever Broadcasting continue to partner with local businesses in our community to sponsor **Rotary Radio Day** as a means of offering vital support to many non-profit organizations that serve our residents.



Bobbi with Tom Smith, 2011

Some of the past years recipients include:

- American Red Cross
- Blair County Respiratory Disease
- Altoona Community Theater
- Saint Vincent De Paul Food Pantry
- Altoona Symphony Orchestra
- Quaint Corner Children's Museum
- Easter Seals of Central Pa

- Blair County Head Start
- Blair County Arts Foundation
- Altoona Public Library
- Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation
- Nehemiah Project
- Operation Our Town
- And many more.

Rotary Radio Day today is on WALY 103.9. Throughout the entire day Altoona Rotarians talk on the air about what Rotary is and what Rotarians do. They also thank the sponsors by name. 15 second ads, sold by Rotarians, run over a 2 week period on WALY 103.9 and WFBG 1290. These ads talk about what Rotary is, joining Rotary, and the different projects that Rotarians support, all tagged with the local business name that purchased the ad.



Kate Shaffer, President cont'd:

Jodi Cessna introduced Tammy Hinich co-founder of the **Zach Hinich Foundation**. Tammy and her husband started the foundation in April 2010 in memory of their son who passed away unexpectedly at age 5. The foundation seeks to help children with disabilities. Its first project is to provide playground equipment at the IU8 Longer Elementary School in Hollidaysburg that will be suitable for all children, with and without disabilities. Estimated cost is \$200,000. At a later date our club participated with Rotary Radio Day funds and **G. Bill Ward** provided a

matching grant up to \$5,000.

January 14, 2011 - Jodi Cessna, Program Chairman introduced Deb Dellaposta and Kristin Kline an audiologist who spoke on the **Belize Hearing Aid Trip** that was done on behalf of Rotary. 176 hearing aids were distributed. The value of the trip and service rendered was valued at \$200,000 but they did it at a cost of \$16,000 which was a cooperative effort of a number of clubs in our district. The 5 member team included former Altoona Club President, Jeane Singer.

THE BELIZE HEARING AID MISSION 2010 - A HUGE SUCCESS

By Jeane Singer, State College Rotary Club

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you, to everyone in District 7350 who made this incredible hearing aid mission to Belize possible. What a profound impact Rotary has made in the lives of the people of Belize. The hearing aid mission to Orange Walk, Belize was funded through a Rotary International matching grant and took place from October 21st-26th. The \$16,000 Rotary matching grant was made up of \$6,225 from the Rotary Foundation, \$3,675 - District Designated Funds, and \$5,720 from six Rotary clubs in the district (Altoona, Altoona Sunrise, Bellefonte Sunrise, Hollidaysburg, State College, and Romney).



The 5 member team consisted of, Dr. Kristen Kline-Audiologist, Joyce Putnam-Teacher, Dr. Jeane Singer-Audiologist, Dr. Dave Higgins-ENT and Asst. District Governor Deb Dellaposta.

During the two very long days of clinic we saw over 412 patients, fit 176 hearing aids, and performed hundreds of hearing test and ENT exams. In addition to the ENT exam, 100 bottles of antibiotic ear drops were distributed and lots of cerumen (ear wax) was removed. Each patient that received a hearing aid also received one year's supply of batteries, ear molds, counseling, manuals and contact information.



The 16 members of the Orange Walk Rotary club were wonderful and worked as hard as the team. Besides feeding, housing, and transporting the team, they worked with us from morning to night managing the patient flow and counseling the patients on hearing aid uses.



Only through the humanitarian efforts of Rotary can so little money provide so much for so many. A conservative estimate of the costs for the goods and services we provided to the people of Belize is \$200,000. Every Rotarian in district 7350 helped to make this happen through donations to the Rotary Foundation and direct donations to the projects. What a difference your dollars made in the lives of the people in Orange Walk. You will never know them but they will certainly know Rotary. I would be happy to speak at any

clubs in the district about this mission. The pictures and video will help convey what a huge difference you made in the lives of others less fortunate.

January cont'd - Frank Fiore was home after heart bypass surgery and Tom Cooney announced that Jerry Sacks was hospitalized with a serious condition.

- President Kate wished all a happy holiday and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

February - George Foster served as MC for the Rotary Four Way Test Speech Contest program. Contestants were Altoona High students Kelsey Holmberg, Brittany Funcheon, Ethan Wilt, Miles Edminston and Michael Karamedas. First place winner was Michael Karamedas followed by Kelsey Holmberg and Miles Edminston. Michael will compete in the regional contest in April. Tanya Lucas was liaison and coach for the group.

March - Two very fine programs were presented in March thanks to the efforts of Alan Anderson. First, in the field of Rotary owned businesses, were Larry McAleer who along with his son Brian told us all about 100 year old McAleer's Plumbing and Heating Company.

- The next week Alan introduced Steve and Adam Sheetz. They spoke of the state of Sheetz. These were two very special programs. Great job Alan!
- Tom Cooney's picture was in the Altoona Mirror remembering that 10 years ago Tom was recognized as volunteer of the year by the ARC of Blair County. Congrats once again Tom.

April - President Kate announced at the board meeting that they had approved Neil Rudel as a new Rotarian. We now have 108 members.

- The Career Fair was a success. Thanks to all who helped. (Note: This RotaNote has 6 photos of the fair in action – very nice.)



May - John Forney announced that Rotarians **Arlene Dodson & Steve Rose** got engaged. They met at Rotary, fell in love and got married.

Congratulations!

May – Blair County Arts Festival ... volunteers are desperately needed. Sign-up sheets are on the tables so please sign up for a time to work. We need 60 volunteers to fulfill this obligation.

Right: Alan Anderson, BCAF Arts Festival parking lot \$ Collector 2012.



June - Marty Kooman thanked Tom Smith and Herk Betar for helping with the exchange student from Belgium who was to attend AASD but some complications arose. The student will be attending Bishop Guilfoyle. There is a need for two more host families.

- PDG Irv Seltzer presented the Presidential Citation to President Kate. He also announced that after 2012 our chapter will be merged with Chapter 7370 to become 7360.
- The program focused on distribution of scholarship awards of \$1,000 each to 9 AAHS students.

Few there are who do not recognize the good work which is done by Rotary clubs throughout the free world.

- Winston Churchill



Piano Player Plays to the BEAT

By Amy Friedenberger, reprinted from the Altoona Mirror 2010

Ever since **Beatrice Mannion** (pictured here) was voted in as an honorary member of the Altoona Rotary Club in March of 1989, she's been at the piano bench, leading the opening of each weekly meeting and demonstrating not only her devotion to the club but to music.

The 97-year-old Mannion starts out the meetings each Tuesday at the Calvin House with "America the Beautiful." She also plays "Happy Birthday to You" on the first Tuesday of the month for members' birthdays.

"I just enjoy playing for the Rotarians," she said.

Her involvement in the Rotary Club began with her husband's membership. Ralph Mannion was the secretary of the club for several decades, and according to former club president John Beyer, "he was the lifeblood of Rotary in Altoona."

"He was a real stickler on the rules of the Rotary Club," Beyer said. "Even the club presidents would consult him. I know when I was the president; I never did anything without running it by Ralph first. He was a heck of a nice guy, and his entire family supported Rotary." That included Beatrice Mannion, who helped her husband with secretarial duties, such as keeping the attendance at meetings and writing the weekly Rotary bulletins that were published out of the Mannion home. "We were a Rotary family," Beatrice Mannion's daughter, Marea, said. 'They depend on me.'

After Ralph died in 1989, the club extended an honorary membership to his wife, who was named a Paul Harris Fellow in 1997. Rotary Club secretary Richard Johnston said the award is given by the Rotary International Foundation, and voted upon by peers, for contributions to the club. "Her biggest contribution is that she is our musician," Johnston said.

Rotary Club president Kate Shaffer and Johnston said Mannion's reliability - especially at her age - impresses the club. "Some honorary members come every once in a while to touch base, but Beatrice comes every week," Shaffer said.

Not only does Mannion enjoy playing the piano, she views it as a duty. "They depend on me," she said.

Gordon Spessard, who's been a club member since 1979, often drives Mannion to and from the meetings and sits beside her at lunch.

"She's pleased to be there, and we're glad to have her," he said. Mannion had a passion for music long before her involvement in the Rotary Club.

She began taking lessons at home at the age of 7, along with her four brothers and two sisters. She studied at the Barker College of Music, then taught the organ there and gave lessons locally. She was the organist at the Sacred Heart Church of Altoona from the 1920s into the '40s, and she sometimes played at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

She worked for the Gable's Department Store during the 1930s and '40s, where she spearheaded the organization of a Gables choir that would go through the store, from floor to floor, singing Christmas carols.

Mannion still has a letter from George Gable, the son of founder William Gable that thanked her for playing at a 1937 store event.

"You were very generous to give a concert on our Moller Organ during the 53rd anniversary sale," Gable wrote in the letter. "The organ recital added much to the interest in this, the largest of our sales event in 53 years, and we heard many, many favorable comments." Gables also housed a radio station on one of its upper floors, and Mannion was invited to sing there. "Music, playing the organ and piano and singing, has been a great passion of hers - all of her life," her daughter said. "She's always been very active in the community, using her talent to contribute any way she could."

Mannion also was a leader of Girl Scout Troop 23 from 1948 into the '50s. The girl scouts sang, and Mannion accompanied them on the piano at the Blair County Home, Hollidaysburg State Hospital, churches and events. She directed the first city-wide Altoona Girl Scout Chorus, where girls earned their musician's badge, Marea Mannion said. Marea and her brother, Joel, learned the piano from Alma Leighty, a Juilliard-educated music teacher, while Beatrice taught children who lived in the Juniata Gap area from the 1950s into the '90s.

"I enjoyed learning to play," Mannion said, "so I was translating the ability to play to others." Beatrice Mannion, 97, has played piano since 1989 at the Altoona Rotary Club. Rotary Club president Kate Shaffer said Mannion's reliability, especially at her age, impresses the club. Family: Late husband, Ralph, passed away in 1989; two children, Marea, who teaches broadcast journalism at Penn State University, and Joel, a software engineer in California.

2011- 2012 TIMOTHY O'BRIEN, PRESIDENT

July - The program today was on the transition of leadership. President Kate thanked members of the club and the entire club for their support during her tenure and for their leadership in community service. The Club members rose to their feet to give her a standing ovation.

- Tim O'Brien was installed as the new President and presented his vision for the Club for 2011 - 2012. It was an inspiring presentation and members expressed enthusiasm for this vision to be all we can be to the community. A group of members met to work on a membership development plan of action.
- The club Facebook page was discussed check it out at www.facebook.com then type in *Rotary Club of Altoona*.

August - Bring a new member and we'll give them a free lunch.

- Rotary Radio day goal set at \$22,000.
- Mark your calendar for a September 20th visit at **Longer Elementary School** to see the new kid's park we played a role in building. It's for all students, including the handicapped.



September - The Growth Committee is excited about their initial success in recruiting new members.

- Judy Rosser, Executive Director of Blair County Drug and Alcohol Program Inc. presented a really good talk this month 'Dealing with Addiction' focusing on how it impacts our lives.



- **Tim welcomed writer Major Robert J. Darling** as our guest speaker. His new book and story is a part of our nation's history, one day to never be forgotten. The Major also autographed his book for our club members.

An excerpt from his book: *After Maj. Robert J. Darling organizes President Bush's trip to Florida on Sept. 10, 2001, he believes the next couple of days will be quiet. He has no idea that a war is about to begin. The next day, after terrorists crash airliners into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon, Maj. Darling rushes to the president's underground chamber at the White House. There, he takes on the task of liaison between the vice president, national security advisor and the Pentagon. He works directly with the National Command Authority, and he's in the room when Vice President Cheney orders two fighter jets to get airborne in order to shoot down United Flight 93. ~ Because of the historic nature of Maj. Darling's presentations, John and Doug Wolf arranged to have the Major return to Altoona to make a presentation to some of our local schools. Altoona Area HS, Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic HS and Penn State Altoona coordinated with*

Major Darling so that several hundred students had the opportunity to hear this in-depth report of our Nations recent history.

October – **Tom Smith and Bill Ward**, right - have collected 'lightly used clothing' for the residents of the PA Veterans Home and will continue to do this. Contributors to this participate in a weekly drawing for a \$20 Sheetz gift card. Tim O'Brien and Pat Miles were the first 2 winners.



- Congrats and thanks to Jerry Sacks - 61 years of Rotary Membership.
- Four new members have been proposed as a result of the Growth Comm. efforts. GREAT!

November – congratulations to Lee Hite on receiving an additional Paul Harris Award.

- Nov. 22nd - President Tim's program celebrating Thanksgiving and 'Time Together' was well received. We are thankful to have **Tim's recap** on how he put it all together:

In our community and in our own lives we often focus on what is lacking, on the negative. I wanted to do something during this Thanksgiving season to remind our club members that we have so much to be thankful for. So, I asked the members of our Club to take a moment and send me a note on what they were thankful for.

I truly wondered if getting personal with all of these professional people would be a good plan. Well, I received dozens of notes, some short phrases, others long paragraphs expressing what our Rotarians were thankful for in their lives. I then joined these words with pictures of Rotary members at our events and some other general pictures and produced a video, using some of my friends and family for the voices. I wanted to maintain confidentiality for the notes I received, so using non-Rotarian voices would enable the viewers to stay focused on the message, rather than the personalities.

I want to thank all who participated in this exercise for me; it was really encouraging that we have such a humble and thankful organization as we strive to have a positive impact on our community. We truly have a team that gives out of thankful hearts – not from duty.

Sincerely, *Tim O'Brien*

- New members were inducted: Linda Schreiber – ReMax Realty and Brandon Traficante – Traficante Chiropractic.

December – Dick Fruth and Tom Cooney presented a program on the Club History they want to have done this year and how we ALL can help. *Editor Note: It took over 2 years to finish the history. But well worth the effort as you can see.*

- The holiday party was a great success and we collected many presents to deliver to the St. Vincent DePaul Society for needy children.
- **We gave a standing ovation to Dr. John Hurst on his 99th birthday on December 8th. Unfortunately, that was the last birthday he celebrated.**

Respected Rotary member, doctor dies

BY WALT FRANK

wfrank@altoonamirror.com

The Altoona Rotary Club and the area medical profession lost one of its most respected members with the passing of Dr. John W. Hurst.

Hurst, 99, of The Winds at Mattern Orchard, Duncansville, died Tuesday.

"He was a wonderful guy and was very quiet. He was very professional and was very well respected," Rotarian Jerry Sacks of Altoona said. "Some people called him Jack, but we called him Doc."

Club President Jodi Cessna said Hurst was a very sweet man.

"I had to tell the club about him yesterday, and I got very emotional. We were looking forward to celebrating his 100th birthday in December," Cessna



Hurst

remembered when he was 12, Hurst treated his injured shoulder.

"I hurt my shoulder lifting a wagon tongue. He came into the office on Saturday and treated my shoulder, and I have never had a problem with it since then," said Ward, whose father William W. Ward was a friend of Hurst. "That was an indication of what kind of a guy he was. He was very compassionate."

Rotarian Irving Seltzer of Altoona called Hurst "a good guy." "John was a man of great

said. "He loved being part of the Rotary club. He always wanted to be involved in any way he could."

Rotarian G. William Ward of Hollidaysburg

stature but very quiet. He was a very regular attender at the Rotary meetings and very interested in the programs of Rotary," Seltzer said.

Hurst was named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Foundation in 1997, Seltzer said.

Hurst was a board-certified physician in Blair County for more than 50 years. Specializing in radiology, he founded Blair Radiologic Associates, serving Altoona, Nason, Spangler, Bedford and Tyrone hospitals as well as his own practice.

He also established the radiology department of Mercy Hospital, Altoona, and served as the radiologist for the Pennsylvania Railroad for many years. He was one of the original members and owners of the Blair Medical Center in Altoona.



- An interesting program was presented by our Exchange Student **Naomi Pire** from Belgium, (presently staying with the Kooman's). She showed a

video on her Belgium customs, specialties and her family. Naomi displayed her poise, charisma and her sense of humor as well as her appreciation for America and Altoona.

She encouraged Rotary families to help their own children to broaden their horizons throughout the exchange program. She is attending Bishop Guilfoyle High School now.

"He was a grand old guy, he was very caring. He loved being a physician. He lived life to the fullest, he really did. He loved his career," his daughter Elizabeth Hurst said.

Bob Donaldson of Hollidaysburg provided transportation for Hurst for the past ten years.

"Doc was very independent. I took him to the supermarket and his doctors appointments," Donaldson said. "When we went to the store, he did his own shopping. He was something else."

Donaldson also said Hurst was a very religious man.

"He was a very alert stu-

dent of the Bible. When he was at the Lutheran Home, he would ride his motorized scooter to church even in the winter," Donaldson said.

Hurst also had a love for music.

"He had a recording studio in his home. He would write and record songs and play them at the Heidelberg [Country Club], and people would dance to his music," Ward said.

Mirror Staff Writer Walt Frank is at 946-7467.

Naomi has been an exchange student since the age of 13 and this is her first year in America. "I have become so much more independent here," she said. "It's been a great experience."

January – New member Patty Burlingame, principal at Altoona High School was presented to the club.

- The club's program series on family business continued with a presentation from The Hite Co. which included family, Scott Lawhead and Katie Brouse. The Hite Company is now in its 62nd Year.
- Dave Duncan, Rex Kaup & John Wolf were recognized for their continued support of the **Paul Harris Foundation**.

INFLATION AND THE PAUL HARRIS FELLOWSHIP

A Commentary by: Dick Fruth PP and Tom Cooney PP

Feb. 27, 2012



In the 1940 edition of our Club history there appears a list of contributions the Club made to "worthwhile projects". Contributions range from \$5 to \$10 to a few in the range of \$500.00; however, there is a listing of \$22,650 to the Boy Scouts of America.

Considering that \$500 was a very major gift at the time, \$22,650 was absolutely an astounding sum.

On November 14, 1919 a scouting executive, H. B. Cordon of Harrisburg, PA spoke to the Club and the members agreed to organize a drive to raise funds to bring scouting to our area.

Realizing that there has been a great deal of inflation since 1919, we decided to calculate the current day equivalent of \$22,650. Turns out at this writing in the amount is \$296,747 which blows one's mind!

Working with this concept we got to wondering about the Paul Harris Fellowship Program. Our first contributor was John Wolf's father, Herb in 1967. Using the same thinking one would like to know, considering only inflation, what would be the current value of Herb's \$1,000 contribution?

It would take \$6,786 to have the same purchasing power impact as the 1967 contribution, or working backwards, a thousand dollar contribution today, in 1967 terms has a value of \$147. This represents a loss of 85.3%.

One can see that as time goes by, the effective value of the Paul Harris Program is on a drastic downhill slide and we feel the Rotary International Board should take action very soon to remedy the situation. We have thought of a number of changes that could be made to update the contribution plan, but, the RI Board will, no doubt, develop its own approach. We feel sure that a creative remedial effort will put our Paul Harris Gift Giving Program back on track.

Tim O'Brien, President cont'd:

February – Arlene Dodson welcomed an extensive guest list on Guest day. President Tim said we are at 111 members now.

March – Six AAHS students competed by posing a particular dilemma and demonstrating how it measured up to the Rotary Four Way Test. **The winners were (right): Anna Bistline, Nathan Baker and Rachel McIntosh.**



The 4-Way Test considers the following questions in respect to thinking, saying or doing:

- **Is it the truth?**
- **Is it fair to all concerned?**
- **Will it build goodwill and better friendships?**
- **Will it be beneficial to all concerned?**

May – The district conference was held at Charles Town, WV. Our club was awarded The Presidents Citation and The Change Maker awards.



June – John Kazmaier will be recognized as distinguished alum by AAHS and was recognized by the Club as well.

- Steve Hesel of Altoona Community Theater introduced the cast of 'Oklahoma' who performed for us.
- President Tim presented Jerry Sacks with a plaque for 60 years of Rotary Service. Good Show Jerry.

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

By Mahlon Fiscel and Jim Rea

Summer 2012

The Rotary Club of Altoona exceeded two new achievements in this year's current campaign.

For the first time in the history of this clubs program (started under the direction of Past President Steve Seltzer in his term of service 1999-2000 and chaired by John Wolf) the Rotary Club of Altoona awarded a record 28 students, a total of \$28,000 to top students of three local high schools.

With students representing **Altoona Area High School, Bishop Guilfoyle High School and Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center** our club's awards have now exceeded the \$250,000 mark in helping over 270 students move towards their goals of continuing their post high school education.

Another remarkable achievement attained by our club in this year's campaign was the 100% participation of every member of our club as a donor to this year's program. The gifts came from all 109 members of the club and ranged from \$25 to \$1,000.

Mahlon Fiscel and Jim Rea serve as Co-Chairmen of a committee consisting of thirteen dedicated members spurring exceptional commitment from every Rotarian in the club. This group is listed below.

Bob Baker Herk Betar Arlene Dodson Lee Hite Jerry Hymes Rex Kaup
Bill Kech Frank Rosenhoover George Russell
Steve Sheetz Tim Sissler Bill Ward John Wolf

The Rotary Club of Altoona has compiled an outstanding record of assisting students who are chosen for rigorous standards in their scholastic achievement and service to the community.

*Editor Note: We must highlight the exemplary support and efforts of **Cindy Cornmesser** for this program. Cindy is the Executive Assistant to the Chairman at Wolf Furniture Enterprises and received a Paul Harris Fellow in 2009 – 2010.*

The class of 2012 pictured here.

Right: **Altoona Area High School & Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center top students. 2012**



Left: **Bishop Guilfoyle High School top students. 2012**

Rotary Manners

By Tom Cooney

During the early 1970's I was involved in committee work and had to call the homes of Rotarians during the evening hours. Over and over I was really impressed with the courteous way the children of Rotarians answered the telephone.

"Hello, this is the Miller's, Bobby speaking. Can I help you?" Man that was a cut above and I determined that my kids would be so trained. It didn't take long and soon the two older boys were answering the phone as they were taught.

One late afternoon I called home from our business and second son Timothy, who often needed to test the limits, answered "LO". I said "Hold on Timothy we do not answer the phone like that; please try again". He said "Hello Cooney's, Timothy speaking - can I help you"? I said "Yes, that's very good; now let me talk to your mother".

He said "Whom shall I say is calling"?!

2012 – 2013 JODI CESSNA, PRESIDENT

By Tom Cooney PP

July 2012 - Jodi Cessna was installed as the 97th President of the Altoona Rotary Club along with the other Officers and Board Members.

- A Paul Harris Fellowship was awarded to John Schraff.
- It was noted that Rotary District 7350 has been changed and merged to form District 7360.
- **Joe Fagnani and seeing-eye dog, Emma** (pictured right) were featured in an article in the Altoona Mirror regarding attending jury duty.



August - Dick Fruth reported on the progress of the History project. We now have more than 50 stories/ articles. Dick also asked for help in summarizing RotaNotes for the years 2001/2004.

- Current census: 116 members.
- New members were inducted: Gary Stubbs – Walgreens, Mandy Celesnik – Mountain Research and Chris Michelone - McQuaide Balasko Law Offices.

September - The Club met at the Sheetz Kitchen in the Claysburg Industrial Park. Lunch with drinks and dessert was provided by Sheetz and was followed up by a facility tour. Very impressive! *Thanks Steve.*

October - Lightly used clothing is being collected for the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home, G. Bill Ward in charge.

- Rich Slutzker’s Highway Clean Up still going strong.



L – R: Rich Slutzker, Deb Dellaposta, Margie Navarro, Jodi Cessna & Pat Miles

November - There will be a combined Rotary Holiday Party at the Casino, Dec. 6th. Cost is \$16.95.

- New members inducted: Lisa Hann-Family Services Inc., replacing Mahlon Fiscel whose last day is today.

***December* - Thanks to the efforts of President Jodi, we had a float in the citywide Spirit of Christmas Parade.**

January - Three major Rotary International donors were recognized. To qualify you must give a minimum of \$10,000. They are Irv Seltzer, Steve Seltzer and John Wolf.

February - Deb Dellaposta and Doug Wolf were listed among the top 100 Blair County business people.

- The second (or third) meeting on the subject of Marcellus Shale was presented by Mountain Research.
- It should be noted that Joe Fagnani has been Program Chairman for the entire year. Certainly a major undertaking. Thanks very much Joe.
- On the 26th we had a field trip with lunch & a tour in downtown Penn State Altoona. The program was presented by member Dr. Lori Bechtel-Wherry.

March - The regional Four Way Test Speech Contest will be held April 4th at Comfort Suites – I-99 Pinecroft Exit. The Club competition was previously held as a regular meeting program.

April - \$30,000 was raised this year for the Scholarship Fund Drive. Since the start of the program \$300,000 has been raised solely from members.

- New member Reverend Robert Boyar was inducted. Bob is Pastor of the Ward Avenue Presbyterian Church. Welcome Bob!
- **Another year and Joe Stevens distributed another 600 dictionaries to area third graders. Great Project!**

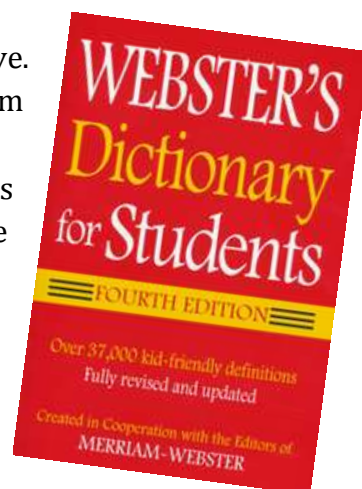
May - Thanks to all who helped at the Blair County Arts Festival, especially George Foster, Bill Kech and Margie Navarro.

- \$1,000 scholarship awards were made to each of 16 students from the Altoona Area High School and Greater Altoona Carrier and Technology Center and 14 students from Bishop Guilfoyle High School. Congrats Students and best wishes for successful careers.

June - It has been reported that this year 85 Rotarians contributed to the \$30,000 scholarship funding.

July - The 98th installation of officers and board members was conducted as has happened 97 times in the past. Now it is Bobbi Castellucci's turn at the Presidency. *Good luck Bobbi.*

- Congratulations to Paul Harris Fellows: Deb Dellaposta received two sapphires, Dave Duncan received his 5th Sapphire and Jason Ebersole received his Paul Harris Fellowship.
- Jodi recapped her presidential year and thanked all who helped her. Thank you Jodi for standing at the helm of the Rotary Ship during a successful year. Your contribution is much appreciated.



'DURING LUNCH' - A STORY ABOUT EMMERT B. BEEGLE

By Tom Cooney PP

This happened in my early days as a Rotarian.

In 1972 we purchased our home on Avalon Road. The back lot came equipped with a concrete fire ring like the ones in the state parks. However, our ring had seen better days and soon crumbled to the point of being unusable.

During lunch one Tuesday I happened to be sitting next to Emmert Beagle who was associated with the New Enterprise Stone and Lime Company; he was a member of the family of current member Don Detwiler. I said "Emmert do you folks make fire rings?" He said "Yes we do". "What will it take to get one", I asked. All he said was "Give me your address". Next day while I was at work a large NESL truck stopped at our house and dropped off a 250 pound reinforced concrete fire ring complete without a bill.

No one had ever done anything like that for me before. I didn't even know Emmert all that well and I certainly had no reason to expect such a favor. This was just one of the things that made me appreciate the closeness between Rotarians and the value of Rotary. I will never forget Emmert.

Rotary Name

The name "Rotary" originated with the practice of rotating meeting sites among members' places of business. That tradition remains an excellent way for Rotarians to share their vocations with their club.

CHAPTER FIVE

THE REST OF THE STORIES FACTS AND LISTS



ALTOONA ROTARY'S PLACE IN THE ROTARY DISTRICTS

By Dick Fruth PP

Over the years Altoona Rotary Club No. 240 has been included in nine different Districts. These districts are as follows: No. 3 until 1918; No. 5 until 1922; No. 34 until 1939; No. 180 until 1945; No. 178 until 1949; No. 264 until 1957; and No. 735 until 1991. That year all districts were renumbered by Rotary International to accommodate the growth of Rotary around the world. District 735 became District 7350. In 2012 District 7350 merged with District 7370 and we became part of District 7360. Along with Hagerstown, MD, we are the oldest clubs in the new District. **Altoona Rotary has supplied 5 District Governors** as follows:



Arthur E. Winter [1930-31]

Howard W. Lindaman [1958-59]

Arthur E. Pollock [1968-69]

Irving Seltzer [1977-78]

Donald L. Carn [1990-91]

PAST PRESIDENTS REFLECTIONS OVER THE GENERATIONS

By Tim O'Brien PP

September 2013

The Rotary Club of Altoona is a wonderful organization that has had such incredible impact over so many years. In those years many fine individuals have served in many crucial roles to enable us to make a difference in our community. The role of Club President has been held by nearly 100 individuals, all who entered the role realizing that the responsibilities were overwhelming and far beyond the capabilities of just one person.

With this please take a moment and enjoy these comments and reflections from six of our past presidents. They represent multiple generations in our Club and yet the values and desires to serve fellow Rotarians and the community was a consistent thread.

Frank Fiore (1985-86) recalled his role as President as a chance to grow under the leadership of past presidents. He realized how incredibly important the role the Rotary played in the community but still had insight to not allow us to take ourselves too seriously. When introducing new members, with tongue in cheek, he would have them bow to the Paul Harris Fellow banners that surround the meeting room.

Tim O'Brien (2011-12) was very humbled to serve in the role and realized it was the incredible team of people that made Rotary function and have impact. Tim believed his role was to create energy and momentum and then get out of the way. He realized the caliber of the people in the room and recalled, "If you give the Club a vision to make a difference, and then allow folks to work together – great things will happen!"

Pat Savage (2009-10) Like all the past presidents, Pat served the community with a very clear understanding of the importance Rotary had played and would play in the lives of individuals and organizations. Pat said, "Serving as president of the Altoona Rotary Club was an honor because I had the opportunity to serve our community with such dedicated community leaders."

Each president brings with them a unique insight and sensitivity.

Dick Fruth (1990-91) realized that the speakers we brought into the Club meetings were incredibly important to the growth and retention of members in the Club. His gracious manner and caring personality came through as he always made a point to mention something the speaker had said after the conclusion of the speakers' presentation when adjourning the meetings.

Probably one of the most significant happenings in the history of Rotary was the year women were invited to join what had been an all men's meeting. Not only did our awareness to so many needs become elevated but we helped impact the careers and the development of so many great women.

Jeanne Hanlin (1998-90) was the first women president and recalls fondly, "I was the first woman president but never felt any pressure or lack of support from the members. Many members came up and offered their support and help in any way they could. John Wolf, Steve Sheetz and Bill Ward were my mentors and always there to help, guide and advise. I always enjoy being the "pioneer", so being the first woman president was indeed an honor for me."

The consistent word from so many of the past presidents was "honor" and I wanted to reflect for a moment why that phrase was so very apparent. Each president realized that the quality of the people they were called to lead and manage was daunting. To look into the room and see business leaders and very prominent men and women of the community looking to the one with the gavel was very humbling. Thank you all the presidents of the Rotary Club of Altoona. Your leadership during your year was part of the foundation that has been prepared for the next one hundred years to build upon.



PAST PRESIDENTS 1916 – 2013

*Frank Hastings	1916-1917	*Thomas Colantino	1966-1967
*J. Porter McWilliams	1917-1918	*Frank S. Smith	1967-1968
*Oliver Rotherth	1918-1919	*Robert F. Hare, Jr.	1968-1969
*John C. Nugent	1919-1920	*L. Clair Burket	1969-1970
*Herbert J. Seeds	1920-1921	*Edward R. Brown	1970-1971
*Charles E. Torrance	1921-1922	*Robert L. Smith	1971-1972
*Harry L. Johnston	1922-1923	*Alexander A. Notopoulos	1972-1973
*Charles L. Salyards	1923-1924	+Irving Seltzer	1973-1974
*J. D. Findley	1924-1925	*Donald R. Beers	1974-1975
*William F. Sellers	1925-1926	*Clyde E. Yon	1975-1976
*+Arthur E. Winter	1926-1927	G. William Ward	1976-1977
*Charles H. Cassidy	1927-1928	Benjamin I. Levine, Jr.	1977-1978
*Hon. Thomas C. Hare	1928-1929	John J. Wolf	1978-1979
*Charles E. Maloy	1929-1930	Thomas D. Cooney	1979-1980
*N. Augustine Stevens	1930-1931	R. Stanton Over	1980-1981
*Robert E. Laramy	1931-1932	George W. Stevenson, Jr.	1981-1982
*H. Foster Bollinger	1932-1933	*+Donald L. Carn	1982-1983
*Fred D. Miller	1933-1934	James N. Plunkett	1983-1984
*J. Clyde Cassidy	1934-1935	R. Lee Hite	1984-1985
*Robert F. Hare, Sr.	1935-1936	S. Frank Fiore	1985-1986
*Levi Gilbert	1936-1937	*Harry R. Kirkham	1986-1987
*John E. Sheep	1937-1938	John R. Beyer	1987-1988
*George F. Sheraw	1938-1939	Walter Betar	1988-1989
*J. Floyd Buzzard	1939-1940	L. Eugene Leapley	1989-1990
*Paul H. Faris	1940-1941	J. Richard Fruth	1990-1991
*John C. Calhoun	1941-1942	John P. Kazmaier	1991-1992
*Joseph N. Maddocks	1942-1943	David P. Andrews	1992-1993
*William H. Haller	1943-1944	David J. Duncan	1993-1994
*+Howard W. Lindaman	1944-1945	Lawrence J. McAleer	1994-1995
*Norman R. Snively	1945-1946	Donald J. Betar	1995-1996
*Frederick G. Grimshaw	1946-1947	Arthur D. Shriver	1996-1997
*Msgr. Patrick D. Harkins	1947-1948	J. Martin Kooman	1997-1998
*Edward M. Fleming	1948-1949	Jeanne L. Hanlin	1998-1999
*John H. Dillen	1949-1950	Steven S. Seltzer	1999-2000
*Thomas L. Caum	1950-1951	Jeane V. Singer	2000-2001
*George W. Brisbin	1951-1952	James P. Rea	2001-2002
*James S. Taylor, Sr.	1952-1953	Frank Blair	2002-2003
*William McVicker	1953-1954	Frank W. Rosenhoover	2003-2004
*Francis A. Stevens	1954-1955	Debra J. Dellaposta	2004-2005
*Paul T. Winter	1955-1956	George Foster	2005-2006
*Robert E. Eiche	1956-1957	Joseph J. Stevens, III	2006-2007
*George C. Kelchner, Jr.	1957-1958	Alan D. Anderson	2007-2008
*Louis Walton, Jr.	1958-1959	Frank W. Rosenhoover	2008-2009
*John W. Moody, Jr.	1959-1960	Patricia Savage	2009-2010
*Nathan Kaber	1960-1961	Katherine Shaffer	2010-2011
*Bruce Denniston	1961-Oct. 2, 1961	Timothy O'Brien	2011-2012
*Nathan Kaber	Oct. 3, 1961-1962	Jodi Cessna	2012-2013
*Arthur E. Pollock	1963-1964		
*Ardie J. Dillen	1964-1965		
*John N. Stevens	1965-1966		

***Deceased**
+Past District Governor

A MISSING MOVIE MYSTERY

While working on this Altoona Rotary history I encountered a number of club members who told me that over the years, since 1966, they have wondered what happened to a movie made of that very special evening titled 'Rotary Golden Anniversary'.



The consensus was that the film was **locked in a safe** in the Altoona home of 'Rotary Ann' Dauby Oswalt. Dauby had written and directed the anniversary performance and her husband, Walter Oswalt, had filmed it all.

The story continued that the key to the safe was lost. Offers had been made to Dauby to bring a lock smith to her home to open the safe and retrieve the film, but this had yet to happen.

So many current members of the Altoona Rotary club were at the event and some remember seeing the film years ago and now really, really want to see it again and relive that great evening. I learned who was president of the club in 1966 and found that he still had family in the Altoona area.

So I got in touch with Joe Stevens and he helped me set up a visit with his aunt Gerry Stevens, whose husband John had been president of the club in 1966. She loaned me a Peoples Gas publication that featured that night with pictures and a story. She also told me I should call her friend Dauby and talk to her about the event and the missing film.



So, I did just that and was invited to visit. I took a few tools with me, with Dauby's permission, just in case we needed to do some safe cracking! But,

when I arrived she had found a key ring with many keys on it and sure enough, the 3rd one I tried opened the locks on the small black cabinet. It was indeed full of tins and boxes of Super Eight movies and a splicer and some other editing tools. We got so excited as I started pulling out each and reading the titles...*Graduation, many vacation sites, Army, special family events*, but alas.....no 'Rotary Golden Anniversary' film.



The letdown lasted only moments for us as **Dauby led me upstairs and told me stories of that night and even modeled the hat she designed and wore for the show. Is this a beautiful woman or what?!** Her eyes still sparkle when she talks about that night and the fun they all had.

Dauby then showed me her prize possession from that occasion, **a little gold Oscar** that was presented to her after the event by the club members in thanks for all of her efforts. It still sits in her living room on an end table, after all of these years, this small token, still means that much to her.

My research time with Dauby did not locate the film but I'll never forget the day I met this amazing woman, a real treasure, and heard her delightful stories about the Altoona Rotary Club's Golden Evening. If you have any ideas on where this film might be, please let us know.

The mystery goes on..... *Glenda - Editor*

ROTANOTE PROFILE OF JOHN STEVENS

Reprinted from March 15, 1994

The Penn Alto Hotel was decorated inside and out to reflect Altoona Rotary's 50 years of tradition. The year was 1966. As guests arrived, each received a keepsake program with memorials, photographs, club history, dinner menu and a large photo of all 166 assembled Rotarians! Guests also watched a special pageant - Fifty Golden Years of Rotary In Altoona - as well as chorus presentations, resolutions a benediction, and a memorable evening of dancing! The Altoona Mirror covered the event and published a half page pictorial feature, describing it as - **FABULOUSLY SUCCESSFUL!**

It's no wonder John Stevens is especially proud of this celebration and of his year as Rotary President, as well as the many Rotary traditions he's continued within the Stevens family. John was actually wetted in Rotary as a child. His father, N.A. Stevens was one of the club's 35 Charter members and was president in 1930-31. John's older brother Frank was also a Rotarian and served as President in 1954-55. Frank was John's Rotary sponsor in 1949.

John proudly displays a file of mementos from his Presidential year including all the Rota Notes containing monthly club attendance records. Then attendance averaged 95 percent and a Dec. 23, 1965 letter from Sidney North of Rotary International Headquarters reads: *Attendance record is most gratifying John, and you have reason to be proud of your fine club.* John recalls many club traditions, including one in which each Rotarian selected a number before the meeting which corresponded to a certain table in the Logan Room. Rotarians thus sat at a different table each week end exchanged friendship with a lot more members on a regular basis.



Another yearly tradition was the "Ladies Night Dinner". Gerry Stevens proudly displays 8 fine china dishes given to her and all the other spouses, as a gift from Jeweler and Rotarian W.F. Sellers. Besides Rotary, John continues to enjoy a very busy with his family. He was born in Altoona, graduated from Altoona Catholic High and St. Vincent College where he majored in economics and was Senior Class President! Following graduation he enrolled in a School of Mortuary Science and joined his father and three brothers in the Stevens Mortuary. For most of his career, John has devoted seven days a week to his profession! John is also a member of the Pennsylvania Economy League, Sierra Club, Altoona Chamber of Commerce and Sacred Heart Church. His main "Hobby" is spending Quality time with his family and enjoying sports such as Penn State Football. John and Gerry Stevens are the proud parents of five grown children: Sally, John Jr., Tina, and twins Allen and Elisha.

This winter will be long remembered by many, including John as a good time to stay home! Now retired, John has enjoyed a bird-eye view of a 'Winter Wonderland' from his 2nd Avenue and 25th street home on the hill. He has a spectacular view from a favorite picture window, and wonderful past memories to endure the cold and dream of warmer sunny days, lots of blossoms and NO MORE SNOW!!

Editor note: Pictures are from the Peoples Natural Gas Co. publication, "The Voice", dated Summer 1966 on loan from Gerry Stevens at this writing 2013.

The cover of the magazine right.

Our thanks to Gerry Stevens for this very informative and fun addition to this history.





ALTOONA Rotary President John Stevens and Don Beers, Peoples Gas, reminisce at Penn-Alto event.

PICTURES FROM THE
PEOPLE'S NATURAL GAS
PUBLICATIONS
1966



PENN-ALTO Hotel ballroom was packed as Rotarians celebrated 50th birthday.

Irv Seltzer ↓



VAUDEVILLE lived again in a soft-shoe skit presented during pageant.



COLORFUL pageant produced a swinging foursome that made-teen-agers sick with envy.

A FEW REFLECTIONS FROM 50 YEARS IN ROTARY

By John Wolf PP

Rotary was introduced to our family back in the early '50's when my father would include us in the annual Christmas parties held in the Logan Room of the Penn Alto. Those Christmas parties were memorable, with magic acts and apples (courtesy of Dr. Fred Miller) for the kids and generations of families like the Stevens, Holtzingers, Harshbargers and the Wards.

My induction in Rotary came in January 1962. The club President was Rabbi Nate Kaber. Club membership was approximately 150 members. At age 24 I was the youngest member in the room by at least 5 years.

Attendance requirements were strictly enforced. The first unwritten rule was to always agree to serve in an assignment when asked.

The Program Chairman was a key assignment; the practice in the 60's was to serve for 12 months of a President's administration. (a real challenge to have the responsibility)

My term as President was 1978-1979. My mentors were G. William Ward (1976-1977), Ben Levine (1977-1978). Tom Cooney succeeded me in 1979-1980. John Kazmaier was my Program Chairmen and did an outstanding job.

District Conferences were held each May. Presiding District Governors had the option of choosing the site, Bedford Springs Hotel was a popular destination because of geography (north/south) and size. Seven Springs Resort, Deep Creek, MD and the Nittany Lion Inn also were repeat sites.

Attendance at weekly meetings was consistently good at 83%+. Reminder cards were sent to encourage attendance. Make-ups at other clubs were encouraged as was the exchange of banners from clubs not previously visited by an Altoona Rotarian and salutations from a dozen nations and 50 states. These all made a very impressive presentation.

One consistent problem seemed to be the challenge of encouraging members to switch seating around at random tables. While attending Williamsport PA Rotary Club for a make-up meeting, I



L- R: Tom Cooney - Incoming Pres., Stan Over -1st VP, Ralph Mannion - Club Sec., John Wolf -Retiring Pres. and Rex Kaup - Treas.

observed the practice of passing out badges with large letters. Purpose was to encourage Rotarians to select a lettered badge, e.g. "R" and suggest that Rotarians sit at the tables in marked order, "R" table in order to get more members to rotate their weekly setting. Seemed to help awhile but eventually the lettered tables approach went by the wayside.

Rotary membership was a highly regarded responsibility. Altoona Rotary had the largest membership in the district. We sponsored the "new club" for Hollidaysburg around 1953. The club had a good base (approximately 50-60) and had evening meetings for easy make-up. A fun club, that was short on formality; they delighted in collecting \$1 from members whose names or photos appeared in the Altoona Mirror.

Rotary has been fortunate to have earned the reputation as the #1 Service Club in our area. Reasons include a thoughtful orderly membership policy (good mix of business and other vocation occupations), our good gender balance adds energy, the flexibility of our programs, policy on attendance and local appeal to service options.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP THRU THE YEARS

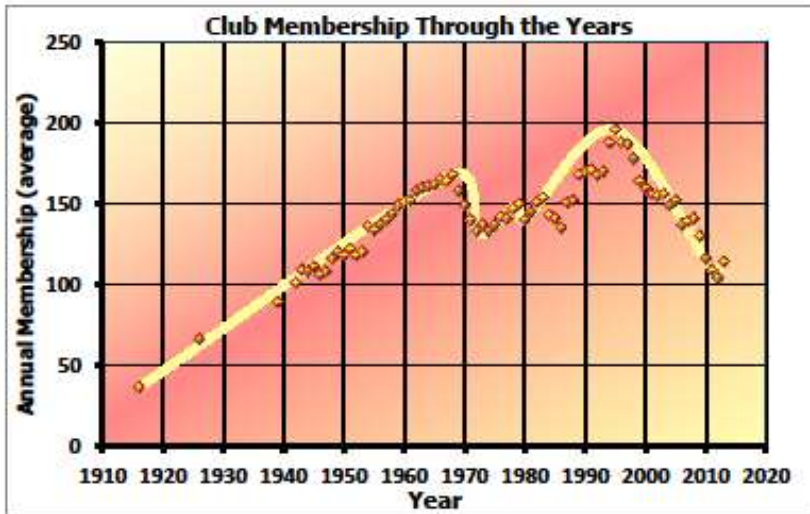
By Frank Rosenhoover PP

March 2013

Early club histories tell us that the club was started with 36 charter members in 1916 growing to 66 members by 1926. There is no historical record of membership growth from 1926-1940. The 1980 history adds that the enlargement of the classification listings by Rotary International probably enabled the membership increase from 89 members in 1939 to 140 in 1940. The membership continued to increase to 158 in 1968. Over the next 30 years the membership fluctuated from year to year from a low of 137 in 1972 to the all-time high of 196 members in 1995. Since 1995 membership has dropped by 48%. What are the causes of this decline in membership? We can speculate on some possible reasons for the rise and fall of membership over the last 60 years.

1. **Club Makeup** – to increase memberships, classifications for membership have greatly expanded to include not only CEO's and other top company managers by including division and department chiefs, at various levels of sales, communications, research and operations. This expansion was also intended to support Rotary guidelines for broad community involvement and representation.
2. **Attendance and Participation**- to ease the time commitment of new members local clubs were permitted by R.I. to establish reasonable attendance policies. The goal was also to involve more people in the various programs and activities and thus sustain the goals of Rotary.

3. **Societal Changes-** However research indicates that Americans have dramatically abandoned all types of clubs and organizations. Even participation in card clubs, churches, unions, veteran groups and fraternal groups have plummeted. The influx and expansion of technology has replaced personal involvement. Twitter, Face book, Linked-In, Google Groups and email result in fewer people seeking membership in clubs and organizations.
4. **Cost of Membership** in hard economic times coupled with increased work responsibilities deters membership. Home and family responsibilities, expanded participation in physical fitness activities and membership in professional organizations also compete with Rotary.



All of these factors have impacted the membership over the years but not nearly as dramatically as within the past 20 years. However, the consensus is that the Rotary Club of Altoona will continue to thrive and survive regardless of the issues that we face.

Graph courtesy of:
Mandy Celesnik LRS
 Environmental Scientist II
 Mountain Research, LLC

COUNTING BALLOTS WITH DAVE GLASGOW

By Tom Cooney PP

Very early in my Rotary membership (1969 or 1970), I had an unusual experience and perhaps enough time has passed so that I can now tell the story.

In those days the Nominating Committee offered two candidates for each elected position. That would be two people for each of four board positions and two for vice president, a total of ten names.

There was no voice vote at the subsequent election; it was done by ballot, except there were no printed ballots – only blank scraps of paper. They were collected and placed in a hat.

On this occasion **Dave Glasgow** was given the hat and on his way out of the Penn Alto Logan Room to the hall to count the votes, he grabbed my arm and said “let’s go”. We no sooner got outside when he asked me “Who do you want for President?” I was much taken back to say the

least. I didn't know the candidates well enough to have a strong opinion and besides it didn't seem right. We had no tally sheet, no paper to make one and no time to record a count of perhaps 150 ballots with 10 names on each. That would have been about 750 choices to tally. So we waited about 5 minutes then returned with the election results or whatever you would like to call it.

The President announced the results, no one questioned anything and the scraps of paper were thrown out. I had to wonder "Is this the way they always do it?" I didn't think so but it surely needed to be better organized than this.

Some years after Dave and I did or did not count election ballots, it came to my attention that a fellow Rotarian who I had known most of my life, we will call him Bob, was passed by three times for a Board seat because of the election process. As mentioned above two people were nominated for each position and even though Bob was an active club member who gave freely of his time for club projects he just didn't have an outgoing personality.

I felt badly for Bob, there was certainly no good reason why he should have been deprived of a seat on the Board. I felt strongly that if a person was good enough to be elected to club membership he was good enough to hold a club office. Our election process should not generate bad feelings as indeed it must have in the case of Bob and with a lot of others.

With these feelings in mind, before leaving office as Club President I was able to propose a change to the bylaws which was expressed by Secretary Ralph Mannion in the June 10, 1980 RotaNote as follows:

By voice vote, without dissent, the proposed change in the Club By-laws pertaining to nomination of Directors, was adopted at last Thursday's club meeting, June 2, 1980. Article I, Section I will now provide that at least one person shall be nominated for each of the four directors to be elected. This provision will not prevent the possibility of nominating more than 4 persons, either by the Nominating Committee, or by nomination from the floor.

Even though the wording may seem convoluted the effect has been that in the last 31 years the Nominating Committee has never proposed more than one candidate per position and no one has been nominated from the floor.

Bob passed away 10 years later never having served on the Board but I have always felt good that no one else has had to experience the feelings of rejection and unhappiness at not being able to serve even after having been nominated.

MORE ABOUT DAVE GLASGOW

By Tom Cooney PP

Dave was the son of Rotarian Joe Glasgow who owned the Kidder Peabody brokerage franchise located in the William F. Gable building. Dave was a very astute guy, about my age. He worked for his father and being in the financial business was much in the know.

I remember two predictions he made; one was that John Beyer would become President of Mid State Bank and the other was that the Sheetz boys would make it big. Needless to say – right on the mark. Dave was a good broker; he invested some of my Mother’s funds which did very well over the years.

One Saturday morning after a very heavy snow storm he stopped at my business on 29th Street and picked up a shovel and started shoveling. I asked him why he was doing that and he said “I just wanted to help you”. That was more than I expected and it surely was “**Service Above Self**”. Dave, as well as the rest of us, knew very well the Club attendance requirements so I had to laugh when I read Secretary Ralph Mannion’s words in the Board Minutes of February 2, 1977. Ralph wrote:

The Secretary read a letter from Dave Glasgow pleading unawareness that 4 consecutive absences had created a termination situation. He threw himself at the mercy of the board, which responded by granting, on motion of Beyer and Trella, a retroactive one week leave of absence for December 21, 1976.

We must keep in mind the almost religious zeal regarding enforcement of the attendance rules, remembering that W. W. Ward, President of Ward trucking Company and father of G. William Ward was summarily dismissed for missing meetings. This was serious business indeed, and the main reason for the club’s high attendance numbers during those years. Quite a far cry from today’s attendance figures with recently relaxed requirements.

When Paul Harris himself was elected as Rotary club president in 1907, he decided that serving club members’ interests wasn’t enough; there was so much more they could be doing.

At his suggestion, club members agreed to pool their resources and contribute their talents to help others.

With a new motto, “Service Above Self”, the club took on its first community project: the construction of public toilets for downtown Chicago.

www.themarkofaleader.com/library/stories



From the desk of JR DiAndrea....**SOME WIT & WISDOM**

I was inducted into the Rotary Club of Altoona in 2002. My sponsor was Frank Fiore of Fiore Furniture. He also chaired the new member orientations committee for, from what I understand, *the last 80 years or so*. He is now retired but maintains his active participation in Rotary by holding court at his table giving advice on all sorts of subjects each week.

Though I was born and raised in Altoona I had the opportunity to work in large metro markets in South Florida and throughout upstate New York. I was involved in numerous organizations in each of the communities where I worked and lived. I must say that, while not the largest group of which I've been a member, the association with the Rotary Club of Altoona has proven to be one of the most enjoyable for me. It could be due to the fact I am in service in my home town. But I'm certain that in no small part it's the members whom I have established relationships with and their commitment of service to our community that I find most fulfilling.

I've been involved in many Rotary projects over the years. But the one activity that I began doing 5-6 years ago and continue with today is reading news prior to each weeks meeting program. This is a responsibility I take very seriously. Delivering important community and national news can be a heavy task at times. But I feel what I bring to the group is a clear interpretation of what the media today spins as news stories. My in-depth research to each and every news event allows me to reveal the real story that is frequently found beneath the actual headlines and oft-expressed rhetoric that simply acts to mask the true agenda of the subject of each story. Most Rotary members count on this weekly news report and, I might humbly add, that many have thanked me for bringing the real news without colorful enhancement that might otherwise be delivered via main stream media.

I would like to personally thank and acknowledge the following members who, without their encouragement and continued enthusiasm for my weekly news reports I could not continue; Past Presidents Tom Cooney, Alan Anderson, Pat Savage, Tim O'Brien and others.

JR DiAndrea

Editor's Note: Prior to JR DiAndrea's weekly presentation of the news his predecessors most often ended their news reports with what they called a "Kicker". This was a funny take on a news event, and although it could be serious or even thought provoking it represented most usually, a light hearted, unexpected twist about a person or happening. Members looked forward to the "Kickers".

JR's take on what he calls the "real story" very often eclipses his former news presenters.

ROTANOTE EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS

By Tom Cooney PP

1. February, 1956 to July 28, 1981: Ralph A. Mannion wrote and published 1270 RotaNotes. Apparently he intended to give up the job in 1981 but realized that without the stipend the job provided he would not be able to maintain his club membership. Consequently he continued as Editor and Publisher until January 24, 1989. Ralph passed away March 6, 1989
2. January 31, 1989 to June 19, 1990: Donald L. Carn assumed duties as Editor and Publisher. On June 30, 1990 Don was installed as District Governor at Park Hills Country Club. On June 26, 1990 David J. Armstrong was added as Co-editor with Carn still listed as Editor. Don's wife Luella was also actively involved in writing and printing the RotaNote until July 16, 1991.
3. July 23, 1991 to December 5, 1995: Beatrice Mannion was listed as Assistant Editor under Don Carn.
4. December 12, 1995 to July 8, 1997: Roseanne Conrad and her firm Vivicon Productions edited and published the RotaNote with Barbara Lovell as Assistant Editor.
5. July 15, 1997 to June 22, 1999: Jeff Vaughn took over as Editor with Barbara Lovell as Assistant Editor and publishing by Barbara's family firm, Dunmire Printing Co.
6. July 6, 1999 to June 27, 2000: Barbara Lovell and Jeff Vaughn co-editors produced the new small size RotaNote with Dunmire as publisher.
7. July 18, 2000 to June 2003: Barbara Lovell – Editor. Dunmire Printing Co. - Publisher.
8. June 27, 2003 to June 8, 2004: Barbara Lovell – Editor. Jeff Vaughn – Assistant Editor, - Publisher Dunmire Printing Co.
9. June 22, 2004 to January 10 2006: Barbara Lovell – Editor, Publisher – Dunmire Printing Co.
10. January 27, 2006 to July 25, 2008: Patricia Savage – Editor, Publisher – Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries
11. August 22, 2008 to July 2, 2010: Barbara Lovell – Editor, Publisher – Dunmire Printing Co.
12. July 16, 2010 to present (2012): various members are taking notes which are published by MailPro Inc. the firm of member Tom Makowiecki.



CLUB SECRETARIES AND TREASURERS



By John Beyer PP and Dick Fruth PP

There have been eight secretaries and eight treasurers in the history of the club, but not all at the same time. When the club was organized there was a position of secretary and a position of treasurer but in the second year the positions were combined and remained that way until 1956 when once again separate offices were created.

The three longest serving club Secretaries were J. Clyde Cassidy, 15 years, Ralph A. Mannion, 25 years and our current secretary Richard J. Johnston who is approaching 20 years. Our longest serving club Treasurer is Rex Kaup who has served for 34 years and counting. The stability of these two positions has contributed greatly to the growth and prosperity of the club.

Secretaries

Treasurers

George C. Zeth	1916 to 1932*	Frank P. Beam	1916 to 1917
Frank F. Hennaman	1932 to 1938*	George C. Zeth	1917 to 1932*
Harry L. Saul	1938 to 1941*	Frank F. Hennaman	1932 to 1938*
J. Clyde Cassidy	1941 to 1956*	Harry L. Saul	1938 to 1941*
Ralph A. Mannion	1956 to 1981	J. Clyde Cassidy	1941 to 1956*
Frank M. Fronauer, Jr.	1981 to 1984	Howard W. Peffer	1956 to 1968
E. Raymond Smith	1983 to 1994	Robert F. Donahue	1968 to 1978
Richard J. Johnston	1994 to present	Rex H. Kaup	1978 to present

* The Secretary also served as Treasurer from 1917 to 1956

OUR MISSION

We provide service to others; promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

3 GENERATIONS OF HENDERSONS IN ROTARY CLUB OF ALTOONA

By Ed Henderson



When I joined the Altoona Rotary Club in April of 1980, I was one of the first third generation members of the club.

My grandfather Eddie Henderson joined the club in December of 1930. He was the president of a business founded by his father then known as Altoona Overall. At that time they manufactured clothes for railroad workers and coal miners. During World War II, the company switched production to uniforms for soldiers. After the war, my grandfather created a red backed hunting coat to help protect hunters in the woods. It was a first of its kind. The company then moved to exclusively manufacturing hunting clothes and the company was renamed Saf-T-Bak.

My father Jerry Henderson joined his father in business and became a Rotarian in January of 1955. Unfortunately my father's job required travel which prohibited him from maintaining his attendance requirements and he had to leave the club sometime in the mid 1960's.

My other grandfather, Charlie Albright, was a member of the club from April 1957 until his untimely death in November of 1963. Charlie joined his uncles in the family business Lafferty Trucking Company. The company procured, stored, and transported fresh fruits and vegetables to the A&P grocery stores in western Pennsylvania.

When I joined the club in 1980, Steve Seltzer was my sponsor. I worked for Saf-T-Bak until my family sold the company to another local manufacturer. During Saf-T-Bak's existence from 1904 through my family's ownership in the early 1990's, the company was a major employer in Altoona, averaging 350 employees during the 1960's through the early 1990's. Since that time, I have worked in various financial services, including investment sales for Mellon Bank, Trust Officer for Mid-State Bank and my current long held position as Financial Advisor with Kooman and Associates.

Editor note: Ed is a long-time member of the Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club. Formerly president of Blairmont Country Club board of directors, also volunteers with the Home Nursing Agency Bereavement Center in Altoona. He is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire and lives in Hollidaysburg with his wife, Kathy, and their son Daniel, who currently attends Harvard University.

CURRENT MEMBERS WITH ROTARIAN FATHERS

By Dick Fruth PP

<u>ROTARY MEMBER</u>	<u>PARENT</u>	<u>ROTARY CLUB</u>
John R. Beyer II	John R. Beyer	Rotary Club of Altoona
Debra Dellaposta	Vincent Dellaposta	Rotary Club -Longmeadow, MD
Donald Detwiler	Dale Detwiler	Rotary Club –Roaring Spring, PA
Donald Devorris	Mitchell Devorris	Rotary Club of Altoona
J. Richard Fruth II	J. Richard Fruth	Rotary Club - Beaver Falls, PA
Ed Henderson (Grandson of) (Grandson of)	Jerry Henderson Edgar Henderson Charlie Albright	Rotary Club of Altoona Rotary Club of Altoona Rotary Club of Altoona
Lee Hite (Grandson of)	Robert Hite Park Hite	Rotary Club of Altoona Rotary Club of Altoona
William Hornung	Helmut Hornung	Rotary Club of Altoona
John P. Kazmaier	Jack K. Kazmaier	Rotary Club of Altoona
Patrick Miles [Grandson of]	Randy Miles Sr. S. Frank Fiore	Tyrone Rotary Club Rotary Club of Altoona
Jim Rea	John [Jack] Rea	Rotary Club of Altoona
Arlene Rose [Granddaughter of]	Kermit Wright	Rotary Club of Claysburg
Steve Seltzer	Irv Seltzer	Rotary Club of Altoona
Kate Shaffer	Edward Sarp	Rotary Club of Altoona
Rich Slutzker	Robert S. [Bob] Slutzker	Rotary Club of Altoona

[Grandson of]	Archie Slutzker	Rotary Club of Altoona
[Great-grandson of]	Harry Slutzker	Rotary Club of Altoona
Tom Smith	Robert L. [Bob] Smith	Rotary Club of Altoona
Chrissey Wagner	Joseph Stowell	Hollidaysburg Rotary Club
Bill Ward	G. William Ward	Rotary Club of Altoona
Bill Ward Sr.	William W. Ward	Rotary Club of Altoona
John Wolf	Herbert T. Wolf	Rotary Club of Altoona
Doug Wolf	John Wolf	Rotary Club of Altoona



March 1, 1949 - Rotary Father and Son portrait
 From left, fathers seated, sons in back. J. Craig & Ward McLanahan, Park & Robert Hite, N.A. & Francis Stevens, William & Paul Sellers, John & Ardie Dillen



ROTARIANS IN THE BLAIR COUNTY BUSINESS HALL OF FAME

By John Beyer PP and Dick Fruth PP

February 2013

In researching this information it became very apparent that there have been Rotarians involved in many prominent companies before and/or after the date of the companies' induction into the Hall of Fame. In the first three years of the Hall of Fame 8 of the 12 honorees had members in the Rotary Club of Altoona and the other four were not from the territorial boundary of the club. As of 2012, 31 of the 83 honored businesses include Altoona Rotarians and at least four of the 31 Heritage companies had Altoona Rotary members. Following are the Hall of Fame members with connections to Altoona Rotary.



Picture from the Altoona Mirror June 1, 2008
Blair County Hall of Fame award continues to occupy a prominent space at The Hite Company as Board Chairman Lee Hite displays with pride.

YEAR COMPANY NAME

ROTARIANS - DATE OF INDUCTION

1990 Mid-State Bank

John R. Beyer 1963, John P. Kazmaier 1974,
William J. Rossman 1981, Barry W. Wright 1987

1990 Sheetz, Inc.

Stephen G. Sheetz 1978

1990	Wissinger's Market Place	Ernest E. Wissinger 1958
1991	Altoona Hospital	David J. Duncan 1981, Ira B. Kron, M.D. 1986, Jan E. Andrews 1988
1991	Hayes, Large, Suckling, Fruth & Wedge Architects	John Rea, Jr 1956, Robert M. Suckling 1973, J. Richard Fruth 1980, Rick Karcher 1992
1991	Hite Company	R. Lee Hite 1969
1992	Altoona Pipe & Steel Supply Co.	Fred A. Pechter 1956, Peter J. Hart 1984
1992	Wolf Furniture Enterprises, Inc.	John J. Wolf 1962, J. Douglas Wolf 1990
1993	WTAJ-TV 10	Charles Norman Reeves 1990
1994	Altoona Mirror	Hans Kraatz 1953, Al Holtzinger 1979, Lynda Zionts 1989, Steven Braver 1993, Ardie J. Dillen 1947, J. Harley Slagle 1987
1994	Reliance Savings Bank	Walter J. Lee, Jr. 1953
1995	W. S. Lee & Sons, Inc.	Terry L. Lingenfelter 1985, Don P. Verobish 1988, Timothy P. Sissler 1994,
1996	Central Bank	David A. DeGol 1993
1996	DeGol Organization	Sylvia H. Schraff 1987, Jeanne L. Hanlin 1990
1996	Home Nursing Agency	Donald Devorris 1971
1997	Blair Sign Company	Barry Kumpf 1995
1997	Lakemont Park	G. William Ward 1957
1997	Ward Trucking Corporation	William R. Hornung 1990
1998	F.L. Smithe Machine Company, Inc.	Donald L. Detwiler 1965
1999	New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc.	Stan Over 1962, Charles Welker 2000
2000	EADS Group	Lawrence M. Savino 1998
2002	Altoona First Savings Bank	Robert G. Shaheen, M.D. 1996
2002	Blair Medical Associates	Rex H. Kaup 1977, David L. Baumgartner 1979
2002	Young, Oakes, Brown & Co.	Patricia Savage 1996
2003	Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries	Walter Betar 1970, Sharon A. Fasenmyer 1997
2003	Altoona Area School District	Benjamin Levine, Jr. 1965
2004	Evey, Routch, Black, Dorezas, Magee & Levine, LLP	
2004	Penn State Altoona	Robert L. Smith 1963, H. George Russell 1986, William G. Cale, Jr. 2000
2007	Kopp Drug, Inc.	Morley A. Cohn 1964
2008	Family Services, Inc.	Mahlon R. Fiscel 2000, Gwendolyn M. Pattillo 1989
2011	Mountain Research, Inc.	James Rea 1991

Heritage Honorees

1990	Pennsylvania Railroad	John W. Moody, Jr. 1937, Clair I. Clugh 1948/1978, K. Duane Reed 1960
1997	Saf-T-Bak	Edgar M. Henderson 1930, Edward M. Henderson 1981
2003	Winter Music Store	Paul T. Winter 1936
2005	Robert G. Pennington	Robert G. Pennington 1965/1986

**BLAIR COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BUSINESS HALL OF FAME AWARD**

This prestigious award is given to a select group of businesses within Blair County with a history of at least 25 years in business and that have a lasting impact on commerce generated from Blair County. This award provides public recognition and education about outstanding past and present area businesses for their achievements in commerce and community development



BOWLING ALONE

An opinion by Dick Fruth PP

August 2013

I discovered the 'bowling alone' reference when reading a June 19 Wall Street Journal opinion column on regulations, democracy and volunteerism by Niall Ferguson.¹ In making his case Ferguson refers first to Alexis de Tocqueville's "Democracy in America". de Tocqueville marveled at the way Americans preferred voluntary association to government, regulation: "*Americans of all ages, all stations in life, and all types of disposition,*" he observed, "*are forever forming associations. There are not only commercial and industrial associations in which all take part, but others of a thousand different types--religious, moral, serious, futile, very general and very limited, immensely large and very minute. . . . Nothing, in my view, deserves more attention than the intellectual and moral associations in America.*"¹

Ferguson moves on to talking about the decline in volunteer groups: "*The decline of American associational life was memorably documented in Robert Putnam's seminal 1995 essay 'Bowling Alone,' which documented the exodus of Americans from bowling leagues, **Rotary clubs** & the like.*"¹

Wikipedia tells us that there are critics of Putnam's essay based on both fact and originality² but I noticed that Putnam, unlike Ferguson, never uses **Rotary** as an example.

Putnam goes at length to describe the decline of civic groups in the 70s thru the 90s, at a time when bowling was becoming more popular than ever. Thus the title: 'Bowling Alone'. In Putnam's words: "*The most whimsical yet discomfiting bit of evidence of social disengagement in contemporary America that I have discovered is this: more Americans are bowling today than ever before, but bowling in organized leagues has plummeted in the last decade or so. Between 1980 and 1993 the total number of bowlers in America increased by 10 percent, while league bowling decreased by 40 percent. (Lest this be thought a wholly trivial example, I should note that nearly 80 million Americans went bowling at least once during 1993, nearly a third more than voted in the 1994 congressional elections and roughly the same number as claim to attend church regularly.)*"³

¹ The Wall Street Journal, June 19, 2013, © 2013 Dow Jones & Company, New York

² Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, ed. J.P. Maier, trans. George Lawrence (Garden City, N.Y.: Anchor Books, 1969), 513-17.

³ Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia / Bowling Alone

This all coincided with the first decline of Altoona Rotary membership from the late 60's at 168 members to the mid 70's at 133 members. But it is in sharp contrast to the period of renewed growth from the mid 70's through the mid 90's. This history suggests to me that Altoona Rotary can grow again if [1]we recruit a new generation of leaders, [2] assimilate the new members into the community of Rotary friendship, and [3] support their service project interests (in Altoona and around the world).

Hopefully the stories in this history provide some examples and direction on how to achieve that goal and we can again use *"acquaintance to give us an opportunity to be in service for others"*.⁴

⁴ http://128.220.50.88/demo/journal_of_democracy/v006/putnam.htm

⁵ Paraphrased from: Adventure in Service Rotary International © 1949, 1954, & 1960, 15th Printing 1966

'4TH HISTORY' COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Tom Cooney PP, Co-Chairman

Dick Fruth PP, Co-Chairman

**Alan Anderson PP
Jodi Cessna PP
John Kazmaier PP
Tim O'Brien PP
Tom Smith**

**John Beyer PP
Joe Hurd
Jennifer Knisely
Irv Seltzer PP PDG
John Wolf PP**

A FINAL WORD FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

By Tom Cooney PP & Dick Fruth PP

We want all to know that we have made every effort to be as inclusive as possible. Early on we requested that our club members submit stories of their Altoona Rotary Club experience. 99% of the material submitted was included and we kept the editing to a minimum; in most cases limited to correcting obvious errors in spelling and punctuation. Some very minor edits were also done to maintain historical accuracy. We very much wish to preserve the original flavor of the individual's presentation. We hope those reading this volume 30, 40 or 50 years from now will appreciate what we did and how we felt about our Rotary experiences in the 1980s, 90s and early 2000s.

N.B. (Nota Bene). A word to future officers, board members, and other interested members. The real club history is maintained in the club newsletters, the RotaNotes. This is the source which we hope will always be continued and therefore will be available to later historians. Those reporting the weekly activity summaries for publication in the RotaNotes must realize that without reasonably complete and accurate reporting, meaningful future histories will be very difficult or impossible.

Pictures – It is sad to say but there are far too few useful pictures of our club's past activities and personalities. Club pictures should be captioned, dated and perhaps related to an item appearing in a RotaNote. Without this information pictures have little or no historic value. A consistent system for handling pictures should be used.

We would like to have found a niche in this rendition for every person who has been a member during this time period. We regret any omissions and we don't pretend to convey the idea that we think this volume is 100% in all respects but we do hope you enjoy and take pride in it.

Concerning Archiving

After the presentation of the complete 4th History of Rotary book we will spend additional time helping the Club Secretary to archive all the important material we have worked with. Thus all the RotaNotes, Rosters, Board Minutes and other original material will be carefully preserved for future use.

Thanks for reading

Thanks for your stories...



Alan Anderson
Altoona Mirror
Turk Azar
Bob Baker
Don Betar
John Beyer
Bobbi Castellucci
Mandy Celesnik
Jodi Cessna
Tom Cooney
JR DiAndrea

Amy Friedenberger, Altoona Mirror
Sister Paula DelGrosso

Frank Fiore
Mahlon Fiscel
Dick Fruth
Ed Henderson
Joe Hurd
John Kazmaier
Carol Logan
Bea Mannion
Marea Mannion
Mountain Research
Tim O'Brien
Gwen Pattillo
Jim Rea
Frank Rosenhoover
Jerry Sacks
Steve Seltzer
Kate Shaffer
Jeane Singer
Tom Smith
Dave Ward
John Wolf



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

By Tom Cooney

We find it important to give special mention and recognition to those who have significantly contributed to this volume in one way or another. They are:

1. The History Committee has methodically searched through 32 years of RotaNotes to highlight the significant happenings during each president's year. They later reviewed the completed document for suitability and correctness.

It may be worthy of note that the very first History Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, August 23, 2011 at the Calvin House after a regular meeting. The timing was very auspicious – at exactly 1:51PM EDT the room began to gyrate, the chandeliers were swinging back and forth and the three of us: John Kazmaier, Irv Seltzer, and myself experienced an earthquake here in Pennsylvania. How extraordinary is that and just what did it portend? Hopefully something “Great”, well, you dear reader, can decide!

2. Deb Dellaposta has given of her time and the resources of her company, WPS. Deb scanned the first three histories and added them to an updated club website. Her staff* worked with our Editor, Glenda Forosisky, to provide copies of our working drafts of this document in various stages of progression. This helped us to better gauge where our final efforts should be directed. They also made all of the CD copies of this history. (A very special thanks to *Maria Perehenic and the staff at WPS.)

3. Tom Makowiecki along with his son Aaron are using the facilities of their firm, Mail Pro, Inc. to print the final copies of this book. They are doing this work virtually at cost which results in a tremendous reduction in our total project expenditures.

4. McCartney's Inc. and Randy Greene for the disc donation. All discs included with each history and also for the archives came from McCartney's.

5. Glenda Forosisky, our Editor in Chief has been working with us for the best part of a year. Patiently putting together the odds and ends of the jumble we have presented her with. Glenda has years of experience most recently editing the History of the ABCD Corp. She is a computer whiz which makes up for our digital shortcomings. She always has fresh ways to do things – a joy to work with.

6. Jennifer Knisely and the folks at the Altoona Area Public Library including Karen Avery who made arrangements for us to have editorial meetings in the Alumni Room need a big

“Thank You”. Jen indicates that they may be able to scan all the RotaNotes and have them searchable. This represents a monumental task & we’ll keep you updated on this.

7. Mrs. John Stevens (Gerry) met with Glenda and told stories of her husband’s presidential year and loaned her the Peoples Gas booklet that contained pictures of our 50th Anniversary celebration, pages 139/140. She also provided the introduction to Dauby Oswalt.

8. Mrs. Walter Oswalt, Muriel (Dauby). For the last 20 years we have been looking for a 16mm movie film that was made in 1966 during the 50th Club Anniversary Celebration. In June 2013 Dauby opened her home to Glenda, our Editor in the hopes of finding the film. See page 137 for the story.

9. And last, but certainly not least, our patient wives, **Donna Fruth and June Cooney** need special recognition for their long suffering and willingness to help. Recently the Fruths went to Myrtle Beach, SC for a two week get away. During that time Dick went through the entire history to index the names of everyone in the book along with the number of times and the page numbers where they appeared – 14 pages total. At the Cooney home, **June** watched a lot of television alone and only once in a great while asked when it might all be done. She is a great proofreader and her secretarial skills have helped immensely. Without Donna and June’s help and support we would not have made it.



THIS ‘HISTORY’ OF THE ALTOONA ROTARY CLUB HAS BEEN UNDERWRITTEN IN PART BY THE FOLLOWING:

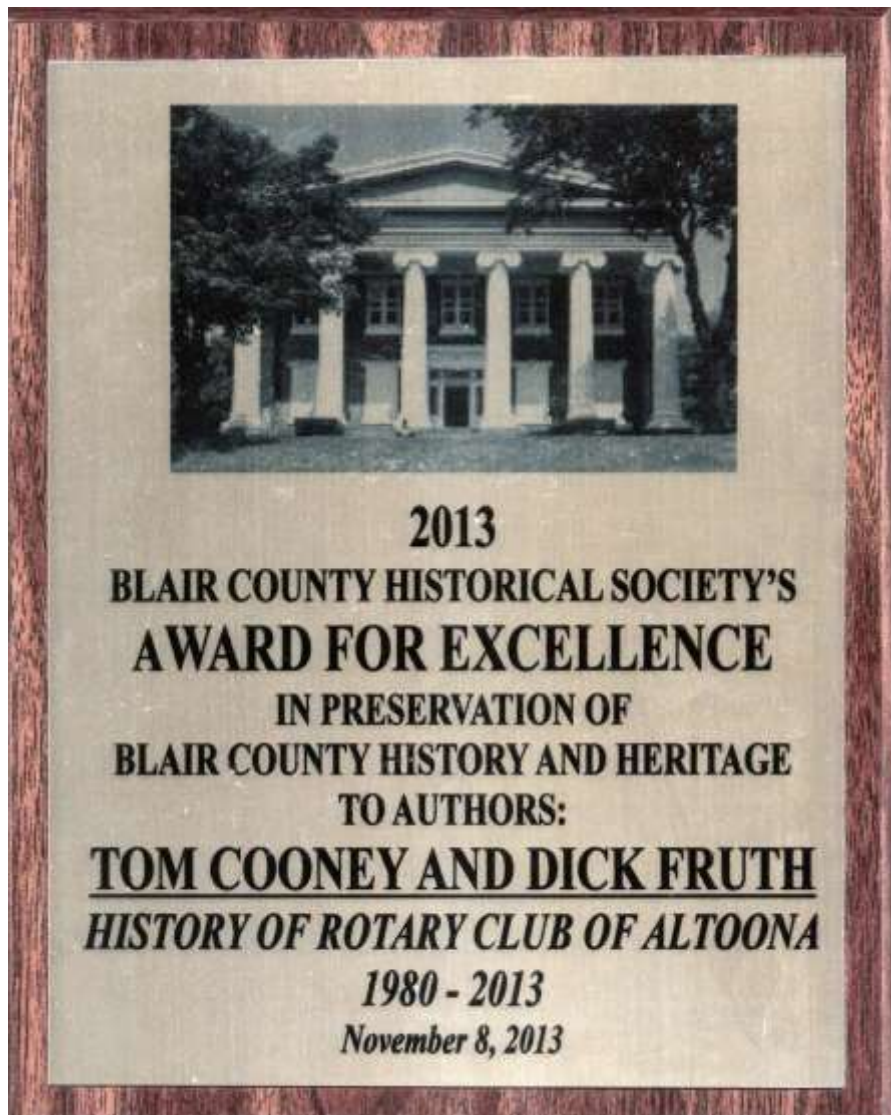
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**ALAN ANDERSON
JOHN BEYER
TOM COONEY
DAVE DUNCAN
J. RICHARD FRUTH
LEE HITE
JOHN KAZMAIER
PAT SAVAGE
STEVE SELTZER**

**WALTER BETAR
JODI CESSNA
DEB DELLAPOSTA
FRANK FIORE
RANDAL (RANDY) GREEN
REX KAUP
AARON & TOM MAKOWIECKI
IRV SELTZER
JOHN WOLF**

We are very appreciative of the Underwriter's generosity which makes the printing and distribution of this history available to all members and historical agencies at no cost thus guaranteeing the likelihood of its long term survival.

One more *special thanks* to Jodi Cessna for the nomination to the **Blair County Historical Society** for Dick's and my participation in this history project. The plaque pictured here.



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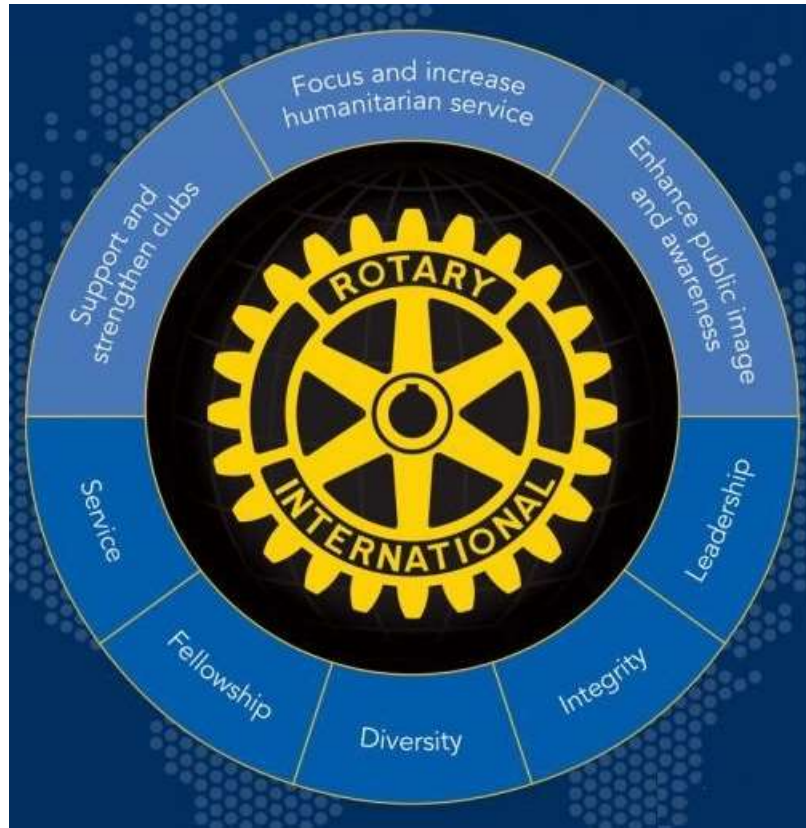
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See more at [www.rotary.org/strategic plan](http://www.rotary.org/strategic-plan)