

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY YEAR
OF THE
ROTARY CLUB OF WHEELING
WHEELING, W. VA.

Condensed History

May 5, 1915

May 5, 1965

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OF
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The Wheeling Club was organized through the efforts of Paul Nemeyer in 1914. Mr. Nemeyer was a prominent advertising man in Wheeling at that time. The Club was organized in February, 1915, and was instituted on May 1, 1915. The Charter Members of the Wheeling Club are as follows:

Jasper B. Baum	William B. Irvine
Theophilus F. Bayha	William F. Kennedy
H. G. Bills	Edwin O. Kizer
John H. Clarke	George J. Kossuth
Dr. Thomas F. Downing	Arthur Langhans
Herbert E. Dunlap	Dr. John H. McClure
Ward B. Elliott	Anthony J. Nager
John B. Garden	Roy B. Naylor

In early days we had a variety of programs enlivened by music and club singing. The plan of addressing members by their first names - Tom, Dick or Harry, and club singing of such songs as "Little Prairie Flower", "Old McDonald Had A. Farm" etc., etc. Dr. John McClure headed our music department before Walter Rogers came into the picture.

The Districts then were generally larger geographically speaking for Wheeling was in a district with clubs separated as far north as Erie, Pennsylvania: east Johnstown, Pennsylvania: west Zanesville, Ohio: south Bluefield, West Virginia.

Activities and Achievements

Shortly before our club was organized, World War I began in Europe, and in the period that followed many distinguished speakers appeared on the programs of Wheeling Rotary. The first World War brought on a surge of patriotic emotion that manifested itself in every phase of life - to do something patriotic was in the air, and this was right down Rotary's alley. War was declared in April, 1917 and troops were moving through Wheeling in long truck caravans by July. Wheeling Rotary became an overnight host for the boys from Wheeling moving over Route 40.

The old Stamm road-house at Wheeling Park was fitted up with dining rooms and sleeping quarters. Rotarians and their wives were on duty at all hours serving food and hot coffee. In August the first Wheeling boys were

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returning from Fort Benjamin Harrison ready to go overseas. This splendid group of Ohio Valley youth were the guests of Rotary at a memorable meeting. Governor John J. Cornwall was the speaker at what was one of the greatest talks ever given in Wheeling Rotary.

All the next year troops came rolling through over Route 40 and Rotarians were on duty every spare moment. On the old farm that is now Meadow Estates large war gardens were planted. Each evening Rotarians could be seen hoeing corn or weeding the long rows - each one feeling the satisfaction that this work was just as important as any in the army.

But all things come to an end - even war years - and on April 20, 1920 General John J. Pershing came to Wheeling - the guest of General J. Sumner Jones, who had been on Pershing's staff in France. General Pershing was Rotary's guest for a joint meeting with the Wheeling Kiwanis Club. That same year General Leonard Wood was candidate for president, and he gave an interesting talk about his years as Governor of the Phillipines. In that period there were more speakers on the move and many of them visited Rotary. Perhaps partly because radio and television were not in existence, and to be heard or seen it was necessary to appear in person. Wheeling Rotary had some very distinguished speakers in its membership - William P. Hubbard was a devoted member - an ex-Congressman and a brilliant speaker, and in his will left a sizeable sum of money for Rotary to use in boy's work, so a very useful building was erected at the Boy Scout Camp and dedicated to Mr. Hubbard by the Wheeling club.

Dr. Jacob Schwinn gave a memorable talk on the handling of crippled children, and this talk stirred the club in establishing clinics at the Ohio Valley General Hospital which proved to be one of Wheeling Rotary's greatest objectives. Archdeacon, B. M. Spurr, spoke to the club on conditions of the state prison in Moundsville, and the membership made a tour of the prison.

Wheeling Rotary members have always been active in the work, as individuals in all charitable, cultural and character building organization work. While Rotary does not engage in any particular political or religious campaign, yet individual Rotarians are always found active in such endeavors as Community Fund Campaigns: Boy Scout work: Girl Scout work: Oglebay Park and Wheeling Park work: Oglebay Institute: Christmas parties were formerly given to orphanages: play-ground work: outdoors wildlife league work: in

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short every worthwhile endeavor to make our community a better place in which to live, labor and rear families.

From year to year the club has cooperated in countless ways with the executives of the boy scouts to aid summer outings of camp life etc.

On the International front Wheeling Rotary membership contributed 200 per cent to the Rotary Foundation Fellowships. This program inaugurated in 1947 for the promotion of international understanding has made possible awards to students from countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, South and Central America and the Islands of the Pacific. One of our own sons, Donald Rush McVeigh, was the winner of an award that enabled him to spend over a year in study and travel in France and other parts of Europe.

As to vocational service our membership volunteered and rendered great service to the entire district.

Rotary Extension

The Rotary Club of Wheeling has been active and instrumental during its existence in carrying the message of Rotary to other communities within the confines of our own district, and in 1919 sponsored and aided in the formation of the Rotary Club of Moundsville.

In 1955 we helped to organize the Rotary Club of Weirton. In addition our membership has encouraged and aided in developing clubs outside our own district -- in eastern Ohio, St Clairsville, Flushing, Bridgeport and Martins Ferry.

W. F. Kennedy (always with a smile), one of our members, was the founder and editor of the LUBRICATOR, our club publication. Throughout the many years he was known as our most devoted and useful member. For many years, past president, W. F. Kennedy wrote nearly all of the obituaries when our members died. No one anywhere ever wrote better tributes.

Walter Rogers was the founder and director of our Orchestra, begun in March, 1919. Edwin M. Steckel, music director, became a member October 14, 1922. Ed was a gifted musician. As head of Oglebay Institute, he was able to bring us a multitude of top notch programs.

Eleanor Steber, Wheeling's member of the Metropolitan Opera Company, was made an honorary member of the Wheeling Rotary, perhaps the only lady member of Rotary International.

From the LUBRICATOR

A long time ago at one of our meetings, a Bum, and I really mean a Bum, came walking into the meeting and began to make a speech. He wore ragged

clothes, a coat with turned up collar. He said that W. B. Irvine of the National Bank paid his help almost nothings; that Frank Scroggins of the White Swan Laundry paid his girls starvation wages; Ed. Wagner of the Edward Wagner Wholesale Company paid his help next to nothing and forced them to take part of their earnings in groceries and sow belly. By this time some of the members were almost frothing at the mouth: cries of "throw him out" were heard and it began to look as if we were in for a lot of trouble. Suddenly our impromptu speaker pulled off his coat, turned it inside-out: put it back on showing a white collar and tie. He then told us that was the kind of talk being indulged in on every street corner all over America and that it was high time that business people tell the truth about what was really going on among workmen and that business men should tell their side of the story. Of course we know this was many long years ago.

In 1940 our orchestra consisted of the following members: Walter Rogers, Director: Dan Steinger, Robert Luke, Ben Exley III, George Neuhardt, William Weistadt, Carl Masser, Wendel Hand, Vance Hand and Ed Parker. George Kossuth would often come forward and hit up the drums to "beat the band" when the drummer boy was unable to be present. Today the Orchestra, although much smaller than in former years, still carries on under the baton of Dan Steiniger. The Orchestra members are Dan Steiniger, Logan Daugherty, William Weistadt and Albert Scherrer. Dan Steiniger has missed only one meeting in 42 years. In 1935 Dr. John H. McClure and his two sons, Dr. James S. McClure and "Bo" McClure, were members of the Orchestra.

Dr. Harry Hall and George Kossuth were on a business trip on the National Road east. They were returning through Frostburg, Maryland where they saw a man standing on a curb with a Kaiser Wilhelm mustache. It was World War I days before America became involved. Americans were getting all "het up" against the Germans. Dr. Hall was driving the car and after passing the man on the corner, Hall turned the car at the next intersection without saying anything to Kossuth and drove back to the man with the mustachio; stopped the car stepped out, and going over to the man gave the mustache quite a twist, saying he never did like the Kaiser. Hall and kossuth drove back to Wheeling without finding out what the man said or how he felt.

In July 29, 1924 issue, in a write-up of our Robert M. Brown, tailor of Brown Bros.: "No Wheeling Fair or Horse Show would be attractive without Bobby Brown in the saddle." How true this was, I remember it well, and your historian is pleased to add this encomium in verse -

Bobby Brown sat in the saddle
 As straight as a ram rod
 Like a Southern Colonel
 With a pointed beard
 "The observed of all the observers"
 The one and the only one
 Sure to be cheered.

Six members still living, with the longest record of membership are as follows:-

Glenn D. Simerall -- became a member -- April 24, 1917
 Kent B. Hall -- became a member -- October 20, 1920
 Mark H. Kennedy -- became a member -- November 11, 1924
 Ernest K. Hoge -- became a member -- September 17, 1927
 Maurice W. Moore -- became a member -- May 7, 1929
 Chester G. McGhee-- became a member -- December 23, 1930

For many years Chester McGhee and Maurice Moore have been giving a lot of their time each Saturday to the Association of Blind Bowlers. Russell Clarke is the Chairman of the Blind Bowlers Association and Maurice Moore is on the Board of Directors of the Seeing Hand, Inc. These two men have accompanied the Blind Bowlers to contests in Pittsburgh, New York, Buffalo, St. Louis, Columbus, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Chicago, Philadelphia and will go this year to Washington, D. C.

S. Kendrick Guernsey, President of Rotary International, 1947-48 visited our club March 5, 1948.

For a number of years so many of our members had their offices in the Hawley Building that they became known as the "Hawley Building Gang". When together at club meetings, they frequently were noisy and sometimes almost unruly. However, they were jolly good fellows and because of that we always managed to forgive their pranks. Incidentally, even today they do, upon occasion, come bustin' out loud with some witticism and all is right jolly.

For many years the members born in July were responsible for the program for one meeting in July. These July members were known as Juliars. Perhaps some of the best known and highly honored members were Uncle George Lutz, Colonel George Mathison, Roy Naylor and Clancy McVeigh. All through the 1930's we looked forward to these meetings. They were packed full of fun and good fellowship.

Wheeling Rotarians who have been District Governors through the years are as follows:

Joseph R. Naylor	1922-23
Herbert E. Dunlap	1928-29
Harry L. Ice	1948-49
J. Clair Jarvis	1965-66

British American Ambulance Corps.

In the early days of World War II, before America became involved there was a great need for ambulances in England. Bill Hall headed a committee of Wheeling Rotarians to secure ambulances. He and his committee, without spending a cent, did the job with might and main. They did not stop with one ambulance, they secured three, and what is more, each ambulance was fully equipped. Russell Clarke furnished the paper, without cost, and Glenn Simerall did the printing free of charge.

Victory Garden Announcement -- March 23, 1943

Mr. W. A. Fritz, Chairman of the Leaders Committee of Victory Gardens, requests the following announcement at all civic clubs.

"There is a distinct need for leaders in the Victory Garden movement. A leader who will receive special instructions in the rudiments of gardening and who will have put in his possession all the information available about gardening, various available sites, information about how to secure seeds, and also how to get help in plowing etc.

Also, anyone having any plots available for gardening which he is not going to use himself and which he is willing to have gardened please get in touch with Gus Walker."

H. A. Greene, President.

For several years we contributed as individuals upward of a total of \$1,000.00 to finance the Christmas Caravan. Presents were taken to approximately 250 boys and girls living in seven local orphanages. Jim Hawley and Court Smith always were among the members who worked on this project.

Rotarians have always been leaders in yearly Community Fund Campaigns.

Oglebay Institute was formed in 1930 by a group of Civic minded Wheelingites. In 1943 ten of our Rotarians were members of the Institute Board and up to 1943 the Institute had a total of three presidents all of whom were Rotarians.

The Frank J. Gaus Baseball Story

Rotarian, Frank J. Gaus, "The Candy Kid", played short-stop on the

Baltimore Orioles when John McGraw was manager. This was the same John McGraw, who later went on to fame and fortune as the manager of the New York Giants. One day Frank got a signal from McGraw to bunt. Instead of bunting Frank hit a home run. On pay day his pay was \$25.00 short. When he asked McGraw about it, he was told it was a penalty for disobedience on the day he was told to bunt. On the very next month he found his full pay plus \$25.00 in his pay envelope. When he asked McGraw about it, he was told it was a gift for the day the past month Frank tripped a runner from second to third base causing the runner to be put out.

Now I don't know much about baseball, but I think it was rather strange that no one saw Frank pull his tripping stunt except McGraw. Perhaps Stan Couling can enlighten me.

Quite a number of Wheeling Rotarians attended the District Conference being held in Erie, Pennsylvania, long years ago. Frank Scroggins of the White Swan Laundry, was introduced to the conference as the Rotarian who had come "clean" from Wheeling.

In Erie we were taken in a bus for a trip through the Hammermill Paper Company. In passing through the downtown area, we saw men with dianer pails on street corners. Frequently we were stopped for the traffic light to change. Clyde Short would lean out of the window and proceed to ask why they didn't go to work. His conversation sounded something like this, "Hey, you big bum, why don't you go to work instead of loafing on the street corner. What do you think I am paying you for?". Invariably the men so addressed were too startled to make a reply. However, one man recovered his equilibrium and very quickly told Clyde to go to -- you know where.

Tribute to Walter Rogers ~ September 4, 1945

Walter Rogers, Impresario - Wheeling Rotary Orchestra

Today ushers in our first September meeting of 1945 and with it the return of Walter Rogers and his boys of the Orchestra. We welcome them and append the following lines in tribute.

There is something lacking
 From the meeting every week
 During the month of August
 And of this we want to speak.
 So listen while we tell you
 For you have sensed it too,
 The thing is serious brother,

There's something we must do.
 It's Walter Roger's music
 That we need so very much
 When August days are with us --
 We miss his magic touch.
 The meetings all lack lustre --
 Are never up to par
 During the month of August
 (Who can say they are?)
 Well there's this to do about it
 To bring them back to par
 We'll take the month of August
 Right off the Calendar.

G.D.S.

From the LUBRICATOR - May 18, 1943 - Rotary Club - Short Biographical Sketch

Tribute to William Florence Kennedy
 If you think some praise is due him
 If with pleasure you are viewing
 Any work a man is doing
 If you like him or you love him --
 Tell him now.

William Florence Kennedy is one of Wheeling's most useful and best loved citizens. Thorough, dependable and courageous in all that he does. Energetic in deed, dynamic - in action, forceful and inspiring in leadership, kindly and considerate in his contacts. A student, a thinker, a doer of worth-while deeds; a champion of the right, an unyielding enemy of wrong. A foeman worthy of any man's steel in the fray, yet magnanimous withal.

A ready wit, a facile and gifted writer, and a speaker of note. Recognizes the foibles and weaknesses of his fellow man yet views the passing parade with an understanding heart. Charitable, generous - an ever present help in time of need.

Here's to you Smiling Bill Kennedy, we consider it a privilege to know you and to be one of your contemporaries. May your days be long upon the earth.

G.D.S.

Honor Roll - Rotarians serving with the Armed Forces - World War II - 3/13/45

George G. Bailey

Emmett W. McCorkle, Jr.

David A. Burt, Jr.

Joseph R. Naylor, Jr.

Honor Roll -- cont'd

James H. Chapman	Lee C. Paull, Jr.
Herbert Dieckmann	John D. Phillips
Harry B. Erickson	George L. Reymann
Ben Exley III	Henry S. Schrader
Homer W. Fish	Jess W. Speidel, Jr.
Howard W. Friedrichs	Howard E. Welt

Officers and Terms of Service

	President	Secretary	Service
	Paul W. Nemeyer	John J. Minkemyer	Provisional
1.	Charles J. Hunter	Paul N. Nemeyer	1915-16
2.	William E. Hare	"	1916-17
3.	James W. Ewing	W. H. Smith	1917-18
4.	Joseph R. Naylor	Will J. Frankston	1918-19
5.	Dr. Thomas F. Downing	"	1919-20
6.	Will J. Frankston	Myron J. Keith	1920-21
7.	Dr. Harry M. Hall	"	1921-22
8.	Jasper B. Baum	Arch L. Metzner	1922-23
9.	Wm. F. Kennedy	Charles E. Wemple	1923-24
10.	A. Singleton Paull	Ernest W. Fickes	1924-25
11.	John H. McClure	Charles E. Wemple	1925-26
12.	Herbert E. Dunlap	"	1926-27
13.	George J. Kossuth	Ward C. Elliott	1927-28
14.	Arch L. Metzner	John J. Mathison	1928-29
15.	Clancy H. McVeigh	"	1929-30
16.	D. Clyde Short	"	1930-31
17.	A. J. Nager	"	1931-32
18.	T. F. Bayha	"	1932-33
19.	A. B. Brooks	"	1933-34
20.	Mark H. Kennedy	"	1934-35
21.	George J. Eberts	"	1935-36
22.	John O. Tucker	"	1936-37
23.	Roy B. Naylor	"	1937-38
24.	Kent B. Hall	"	1938-39
25.	John D. Phillips	"	1939-40

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Officers and Terms of Service cont'd

26.	Henry S. Schrader	John J. Mathison	1940-41
27.	William M. Hall	"	1941-42
28.	James H. Hawley	"	1942-43
29.	James O. (Toby) Pearson	"	1943-44
30.	Augustus G. Givens	"	1944-45
31.	Irvin J. Koehline	"	1945-46
32.	Michael A. Greene	"	1946-47
33.	Andrew R. Birney	Clancy H. McVeigh	1947-48
34.	David A. Burt, Jr.	"	1948-49
35.	John W. Cochran	"	1949-50
36.	Basil G. Lockhart	"	1950-51
37.	W. Carroll Thorn	"	1951-52
38.	George G. Bailey	"	1952-53
39.	Carl H. Ritter	"	1953-54
40.	Richard R. Robinson	"	1954-55
41.	Arthur E. Junkins	"	1955-56
42.	John C. Bashow	Robert L. Delaney	1956-57
43.	John B. Garden	"	1957-58
44.	Courtland V. Smith	"	1958-59
45.	David S. Butler	"	1959-60
46.	Kurt Fox	"	1960-61
47.	Charles J. Kaiser	"	1961-62
48.	J. Clair Jarvis	"	1962-63
49.	Arden D. Wilson	"	1963-64
50.	Daniel F. Shields	"	1964-65
51.	Brooks Wigginton	"	1965-66

During Rotary years 1915-1917 Wheeling Club was in District # 7

" " " 1918-1921 " " " " # 6

" " " 1922-1936 " " " " # 24

" " " 1937-1948 " " " " #185

" " " 1949-1955 " " " " #273

" " " 1955-1957 " " " " #753

Now I am able to talk longer, but don't blame it on me. I am ready, willing and able, but limited by the powers that be.

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The story has less than half been told
There was so much I wanted to say
I declare it would have taken
The whole of an eight hour day.

Through the years there were so many
Who deserve some commendation
But because I was given my orders
I kept it in condensation.

Perhaps sometime in the future
We can take a week off some day
And tell a lot more of our history
Because there's so much more to say.

Glenn D. Simerall

May 1, 1965