

SAN MARINO ROTARY CLUB

President Dr. George Woodruff's Year
1952-53

The club was ably guided this year by President Dr. George Woodruff, affectionately known as "Woody". Woody is best remembered for his homespun manner and his weekly column "Words of Wisdom" in the Rotoscope.

A native of Whittier, Woody was a graduate of Pasadena High School and Oregon State College, graduating in engineering. After a stint in commercial aviation on the first Mexican air-mail run, he decided to go back to U. S. C. Medical School and eventually established his medical practice in San Marino.

The President of Rotary International for 1952-53 was Henry J. Brunner of San Francisco, who was one of the most respected and well known consulting engineers in the State of California. There were 7,500 clubs and 360,000 members in Rotary worldwide at this time.

The Rotary International Convention was held in Mexico City this year and President Wood and his Rotaryanne "Mike" were privileged to attend, with several other members and wives of the club.

The Governor for District 160 was Elmer Franzwa of San Fernando whose theme for the year was "Living Rotary". The district had 78 clubs and 5,060 members at the beginning of this Rotary year. The District Conference was held at the Huntington Hotel.

At this time, the San Marino Club had a membership of 64 and held its weekly meeting at Pierre's Restaurant on Huntington Drive, famous for Pierre and his flaming "crepes suzette". The other officers consisted of Dave Fiscus, secretary, Kirby Lesh, treasurer, Paul Kent, sergeant-at-arms, and Bert Crist, chaplain. Directors were Merwyn Ball, George Gantus, Monroe Loy, Ed Daniel, Jr., Kirby Lesh, Elder Morgan, and Hal Loynd.

Among the service activities of the club and its members during this year, the following are noteworthy: Weekly films and visits by various members to the polio and other patients at Rancho Los Amigos, which program was organized by Ted Daniel and Ed Daniel; the start of a program initiated by Larry Shepard to lend financial assistance to the Ninoshima Orphanage on an island in the Bay of Hiroshima, Japan; the support of one visa and student for the year, the initiation of a Fair Play Awards program conceived by Ben Eaton for six seniors, three boys and three girls, at San Marino High School; continued support of the Boy Scout and Explorer Scouts.

This year marked the start of the service of Winnie Howard, charming Rotaryanne of Bill Howard, as club pianist. The club was very fortunate to enjoy Winnie's presence at its weekly meetings for many years into the future.

During this year, Ted Laveson, San Marino Rotarian, was honored by receiving Sweden's Royal Order of Vasa by order of the King of Sweden. The ribbon and medal signifying Ted's knighthood was presented by Walter Danielson, Swedish Consul, at a banquet at the Hotel Statler Hilton. This was one of only ten awards given to date in the history of California.

Among the events to be remembered during the year were the wonderful Mexican Program put on by John and Edna Clay and their family for Ladies Day and the Valentine's Day Dinner Dance at Woody and Eddy's.

Four honorary members were named - Clark Bell, John Barton, Roy Denny, and Robert Shad. New members were added during the year; Roy Bolstad, Paul Briede, Fred Cropp, Aaron Driver, Dan Ellis, Carl Johnson, Paul Kidd, Charlie Martin, Everett Peterson, Dewey Seaman, and John Woodforde.



Dr. George Woodruff (The man in the Fez)