

SAN MARINO ROTARY CLUB

President Ben Eaton's Year
1953-54

During this year, the presidency of the club was in the able hands of Ben Eaton, who directed the club in his efficient and business-like manner. Ben was a member of an old-time San Marino family and came up through the San Marino school system and Stanford University and was manager of the local office of Dean Witter & Co., Stock Brokers. Ben's theme for the year was "Fellowship". The club had increased its membership to 66 and was still holding its weekly meetings at Pierre's Restaurant on Huntington Drive.

The President of Rotary International was Joaquin Cibils of Montevideo, Uruguay and the International Convention was held this year in Paris.

Rotary International had grown by this time to 7,870 clubs in 88 countries and 374,000 individual members.

Since the number of clubs and members in District 160 had grown to an unmanageable size, the district was split into three parts during this year. San Marino Rotary was now part of District 160 C with Claud Black of the Huntington Park Club as District Governor, who governed over 29 clubs and 1,850 members. The first annual Assembly of the new District 160 C was held at the Huntington Hotel with the San Marino Club taking a very active part. The District Conference for this year was held at the Hotel Last Frontier in Las Vegas.

Two social events to be remembered were the "Hat Party" with Mary Batson winning the sweepstakes award with her hat depicting the "Tale of Two Cities" and the Elk Barbecue known as "Wendell Wilson's Wienie Wost at Woody's Wittle Wigwam". The Jackson, Wyoming, Rotary Club, through the contact of Wendell Wilson, shipped the club two hind quarters of elk. The elk was pit-barbecued by Ted Laveson and "helpers" in a grapewood fire. The menu included Rocky Mountain Meat Balls, Snake River Fire Water, Custer's Last Stand Salad, Jackson Hole Barbecued Elk a la Laveson, and Strawberry Tebons.

One of President Ben's special projects was the Rotary Fair Play Award Program at the High School which awards were to be the most coveted "non-athletic" awards given to 6 outstanding senior boys and girls. Other service activities included assistance in purchasing land for a Scout camp at Idylwild, American Field Service, the continuing weekly movie film program for patients at Rancho Los Amigos, and the Hiroshima Orphanage.

An outstanding Rotarian to be remembered during this era, was our member Roy Denny, who was appointed Ambassador at Large for new District 160 C. Roy was a 44 year member of Rotary having been a member of Chicago Rotary, and was the very first "First Vice President of Rotary International, and was the founder of the Seattle Rotary Club. His wonderful hobby was the making of beautiful

prayer boxes which were donated to many charity organizations including the Orthopedic Hospital, Soldiers Home, L. A. Orphanage, and Rancho Los Amigos.

Another member long to be remembered was charter member Barney Barnett, of Boonesville, Mississippi, who was always good for a yarn and a laugh with his inimitable drawl. Barney was honored this year as President of the Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors Association of California.

During this same year, the club was first introduced to Stanton Turner who spent the greater part of his life in the Far East as General Director of the YMCA in the Philippines. Stant spoke on International Problems in the Far East and later became one of the most honored members of San Marino Rotary.

Other officers during the year were Dave Fiscus, by now becoming the club's permanent secretary, John McDonald, treasurer, Kirby Lesh, Sergeant at arms, and Aaron Driver, chaplain. Directors were Ed Daniel, John Haigh, Cal Goodrich, Bill Howard, Hal Loynd, Elder Morgan.

New members were added during the year: George Rogers, Pat Scott, Bill Martin, Birk Lefler, and Park Hubert. D. D. Gordon, Charter Member, passed away.

