

SAN MARINO ROTARY CLUB

President Ron Witter's Year  
1969-70  
(as related by Ron Witter)

During my tenure as President of the club for the period 1969-1970, the activity that stands out in my mind was the development and mailing to all residents in the city a questionnaire. This questionnaire was somewhat controversial in that it dared ask the citizens of San Marino for their thoughts on subjects heretofore considered taboo.

With the help of Joe Laschober, Stan Stevens, Don Scott, and several others, the questionnaire was developed and mailed. It asked such questions as: "Should the city consider apartment dwellings?" "Should height limits for office buildings be increased?" etc.

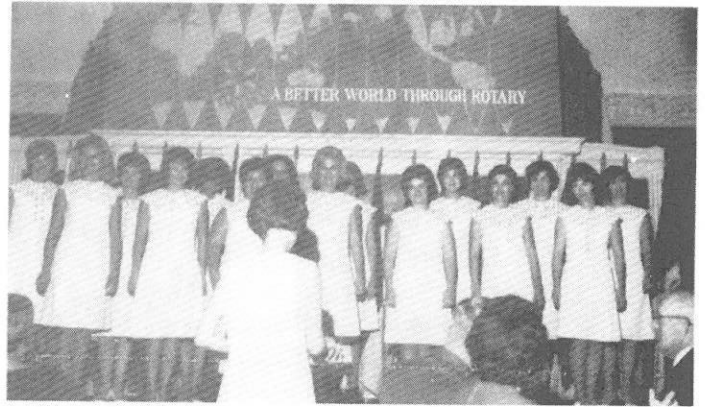
I recall Mayor Laws calling me and requesting that we not send out the questionnaire; I further recall Mac McCormick getting a little upset. I suspect they were concerned about the questions causing a stir in "sleepy hollow." Nevertheless, it went out as planned and a surprisingly high percentage of the populace responded. Comments on the response ranged from, "Mind your own business" to "Thank you for letting me express my views in these matters, I've never had the chance until now."

The purpose behind the questionnaire was to seek the opinion of the people of San Marino on subjects the city fathers would not ask. The returned responses were then to be tabulated and turned over to the city council who hopefully could use same as a guide in city government decision making. We felt it would be helpful if the city were attuned to the thinking of the people in San Marino.

Whether or not the responses ever reached the city fathers, I do not know. Nor do I know where they are today.

The questionnaire was an interesting, though controversial, project for the club to undertake, decidedly different from most Rotary Club projects.





The Skylarks



Golden Wedding Anniversary  
Roy and Melcena Denny with daughter Roberta



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