

## SAN MARINO ROTARY CLUB

President Joseph W. Lewis' Year  
1988-1989

The year was special, because it was our Club's Golden Anniversary!

The power of Fellowship was emphasized by president Joe as the force which kept Rotarians working together—especially at the Club level. He chose to eliminate the traditional "Head Table" at our weekly meetings to bring the program chairman, the speaker and himself in closer contact with other members sitting at our regular round tables.

The Rotary year started with a Community Service project for the City's 4th of July parade. A new Rotarian, Debbie Lowrey, chaired the event, with Larry Goodreau organizing and Herb Worcester judging entries.

District Governor Joe McMullin paid his "official visit" in August. His afternoon meeting with officers, directors, committee chairmen and "Yearlings"—during which Club goals for each Avenue of Service were discussed—was followed by dinner with spouses at the Old Mill. In his after-dinner talk, he stated, "Your Club has an excellent history of significant service through Rotary and has produced a long line of fine Rotarians."

New member orientation took place at a cocktail party for "Yearlings", officers, directors and spouses at the president's home.

The Group Study Exchange team from the Philippines was welcomed by a full bus load of Rotarians from our Club at a District dinner party at Griswald's Restaurant.

This year the Club undertook a new project—"Self Help" for underdeveloped countries. Based upon a description of foreign aid through "micro-enterprise loans", given by a speaker the previous year, president Joe assigned Merrill Francis the task of raising \$2500 to fund a "Village Bank", which could provide small revolving loan funds for working capital. Proceeds from his successful one-evening fundraiser (a pot luck gourmet dessert party) were carried by Ken Veronda to Huehuetenango, Guatemala, to help them establish their first "Village Bank". It is hoped that this idea will spawn other banks, which will ultimately become models of self-sufficient capitalism. (Note: This concept was endorsed and described in the ROTARIAN of October 1988 under the title, "Banking on the Poor".)

On February 9, 1989, over 100 high school senior students spent the day participating in "Career Connection" (formerly known as "Operation Shadow") with visits to businesses and professionals of their choice to view careers in action. A total of 21 professional and business people participated.

Our annual fundraiser for Youth Charities, "Run For Fun", rounded up 425 runners, with enough sponsors to net \$1670 for High School athletics.

Our Paul Harris Luncheon was held at the Annandale Country Club with an overflow crowd. Two outstanding citizens of San Marino were named Honorary Paul Harris Fellows. Attorney James Hutter, chairman and long-time member of the Planning Commission, and athlete-actor-sports announcer Merlin Olsen, active leader of youth activities and school support, were honored with Club contributions of \$1000 in each name.

Rotary Foundation support has been a long-time prime financial goal of the Club. In fact, we had just received notice that we were the sixth highest Club in the world in Foundation support! During this year, under chairman Jack Morlan, we had contributed \$40,500 as of March 31. Chairman Jack challenges the members to make it a record of \$50,000 for your 50th year. Super salesmen Bill Steele, Berk Johnston, Merrill Francis and Barbara Bice asked for 10 minutes of meeting time, during which they raised another \$10,000 to put our year's Foundation giving at over \$50,000!



Celebrating our club's Fiftieth Anniversary on April 13 was a focal point for much of the year. Harold Scott, president of our "Mother Club", Alhambra, participated in the planning and decorating, and co-hosted the program. Our own PDG, John Clay, served as General Chairman. The invitation list included 25 PDG's of our District, 125 former members of the San Marino Club, including our only living charter member, George Gantus, 75 non-Rotarian Paul Harris Fellows, 4 local Rotary International Scholars, 5 elected state and federal officials, as well as 50 current members from Alhambra and 100 from San Marino. Interact Club members from San Marino High School served as waiters for the luncheon. A special guest of President Joe was Mrs. "Edd" Norwood, widow of a distinguished past president of San Marino who became our District's first Governor. Our featured speaker, Kevin O'Connell of radio and TV fame, brought us an outstandingly memorable talk.

Attendance was excellent, with early arrivers engaging in countless reminiscences provided by our past presidents, and a carefully preserved movie film, covering earlier days of Rotary in San Marino, supplied by chairman John Clay. At the conclusion of the program, which included a humorous sketch of the Club's bygone softball team, the party was proclaimed by several PDG's to have been the best Rotary Anniversary party they had ever attended! (Note: A video-tape of this entire program is in our Archives).

A well attended and very successful District Conference was held in Las Vegas. Awards we received were: First Places for International Service, Vocational Services and Club Bulletin, and Third Place for Community Service—all in all a fitting conclusion to our "Golden Year"!

