

HISTORY
of
SAN MARINO ROTARY CLUB

The following pages relate an intimate chronicle of our own Rotary Club from its birth to the present. In the intervening thirty seven years, remarkable changes have taken place. It would be the valued opinion of the writer that there will never be a "last history" written of our club.

In compiling this history, the writer has striven to give not only the statistical data but some of the amusing and some of the gracious events occurring during the existence of our club. To the outsider, these may seem trivial and unimportant. These incidents herein related, have contributed much to our success as a Rotary Club and have helped in developing good fellowship in our club and in forming many life-long friendships.

All of the living Past Presidents have written a brief outline of "their years." In doing this, many things have been discovered which otherwise might have been overlooked.

The Rotary Club of San Marino was granted official membership in Rotary International as of the Twelfth Day of April, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty Nine. The Official Charter reads as follows:

This Certifies That The Rotary Club of

SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA

having been duly organized and have agreed, through its officers and members, to be bound by the Constitution and By-laws of Rotary International which agreement is evidenced by the acceptance of this certificate, is now a duly admitted member of

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
Club No. 5010

and is entitled to all the rights and privileges of such membership

In Witness Whereof the seal of Rotary International is hereto affixed and the signature of its officers, duly authorized, are subscribed hereto this twelfth day of April, Anno Domini 1939.

President G. C. Hager

Secretary C. H. King

Recommended by

District Governor V. C. Gates

HISTORY (continued)

This story will attempt to commemorate thirty seven individual years of Rotary in San Marino. It will strive to capture the spirit of each of the past years of our club, and to picture these by Rotary years. This will be a story of San Marino Rotarians working together, always striving to discover their responsibilities to each other - applying the principle of the ideals of Rotary. These ideals are:

THE OBJECTS OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

1. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
2. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
3. The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business, and community life;
4. The advancement of international understanding, good will, and peace through a world of fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service.

IN THE BEGINNING

The night of February 3, 1939, found an air of anticipation among the small group of several business and professional men of San Marino, who met in the home of Lawrence E. Shepard, 1390 Lorain Road, in San Marino. These men: John A. Barton, Martin I. Scott, Guy Lauderbaugh, Thomas Hammond, Lawrence E. Shepard, Don Thomas, Joseph E. Dunn, E. S. Helsdorf, Harold A. Barnett, John P. Hoffman, J. Buford Wright, and J. W. Bridges, talked of many incidents. Representatives from the Alhambra Rotary Club had been invited to this meeting. Those in attendance were: Leo F. Schrupf, Roy Campbell, Brad Bradford, Clarence Batz, John Metcalf, and William Clark. Roy Campbell from Alhambra discussed with the group representing San Marino, the ideals of Rotary, its background and the necessary procedure for the formation of a new club in San Marino. He explained it would be a good thing if a group of business and professional men could get together and become a part of the great movement of Rotary. Thus Rotary was born in San Marino.

John Barton was, in fact, President three different times. First, when Martin Scott moved that John Barton be elected temporary President. He was then elected the first President and served from the incorporation date in April, 1939, to the end of the Rotary year, June 30. John was elected as the first full term President for the 1939-40 Rotary year.

First President John, described the meeting at Larry Shepard's in this way:

HISTORY (continued)

"Roy Campbell and Leo Schrupf of the Alhambra Rotary Club successfully vaccinated us with the 'Rotary Germ' and needless to say, 'It Took'."

Within a few weeks, other friends and acquaintances had been drawn into the Rotary circle of these early members. The second meeting was Friday, February 10, 1939, at the Huntington Hotel in Pasadena. Motion was made by Guy Lauderbaugh that meetings be held each Thursday at 12:10 noon at the Huntington Hotel. This was seconded by D. D. Gordon and carried. While the place of meeting has moved, the day and time of the meeting has not varied from that day.

By ballot, 7 Directors were elected:

John Barton
Guy Lauderbaugh
Elmer Neher
Lawrence Shepard
Martin Scott
John Hoffman
Randall Kerr

On completion of election of the Board of Directors, a general ballot was taken and John Barton elected President. The By-laws were to be written to provide that once each year, 7 directors shall be elected from a general election within the club, and from these 7, one shall be elected President by general vote of the club. The President, in turn, shall appoint the Secretary and Treasurer.

President Barton appointed Martin Scott as Secretary and Lawrence Shepard as Treasurer. Larry became one of the hardest working Rotarians in the club, later holding most of the important offices and was elected President of the club 1951-52.

John Hoffman was appointed chairman of the By-laws committee. Throughout the ensuing years of this club, his name pops up as the leader in developing sound policies for the direction of the club. San Marino Rotary Club owes much to John for his untiring efforts, especially in the formative years.

Charter membership of the San Marino Rotary Club was closed as of February 16, 1939. Twenty four men had become Charter Members of Rotary Club of San Marino, Number 5010. Those twenty four were:

CHARTER MEMBERS

Barnett, Harold A.	Civil Engineering
Barton, John A.	Banking
Bindewald, Dr. Godfrey	Dentistry
Bridges, J. W.	Cleaning and Dyeing
Collins, Frank W.	Newspaper Publishing
Cowherd, Percy L.	Real Estate
Epperson, Dr. J. Gordon	Osteopathy
Fetterman, Clarence W.	Fruit & Vegetable Retailing
Gantus, George M.	Groceries Retailing
Ginn, Harry A.	Flowers Retailing
Gordon, D. D.	Travel Agency
Hammond, Thomas M.	Investment Counsel

HISTORY (continued)

CHARTER MEMBERS
(continued)

Hanson, Dr. O. H.	Physician
Hoffman, John P.	Attorney
Hopkins, F. Perry	Fire and Auto Insurance
Kerr, E. Randall	Accounting Service
Lauderbaugh, Guy	Jewelry Retailing
Neher, Elmer C.	Education-Public Schools
Schreyer, Curtis T.	Drugs Retailing
Scott, Martin L.	Life Insurance
Scott, Merle L.	Past Service
Shepard, L. E.	Building Construction
Stevens, Hamilton J.	Funeral Directing
Thomas, Donn	Home Furnishings Retailing

Officers of the Rotary Club of San Marino when Chartered were:

President	John A. Barton
Vice President	Elmer C. Neher
Secretary	Martin I. Scott
Treasurer	L. E. Shepard

E. Randall Kerr Guy Lauderbaugh Thomas M. Hammond

Rotary International notified San Marino Rotary Club that their club would be Rotary Club number 5010 of Rotary International, and that all attendance records would start on April 13, 1939. Under date of April 14, 1939, the following letter was written by President, Rotary International, George C. Hager, and was addressed to:

Mr. John A. Barton, President
Mr. Martin I. Scott, Secretary
The Rotary Club of San Marino, California

My Dear Fellow Rotarians:

By means of this letter, I desire to extend greetings and good wishes to all members of your club and to tell you how pleased I am that the Rotary Club of San Marino is now a member of our great world-wide organization.

The admission to membership in Rotary International of the Rotary Club of San Marino as club No. 5010 not only brings the Rotary Club and San Marino into international contact with communities in more than eighty countries and/or geographical regions where Rotary Clubs have been previously organized, but makes your members a part of an international fellowship of more than 200,000 men of many different races, nationalities, and religions.

As President of Rotary International, on behalf of all of its member clubs, I desire to congratulate you upon your admission to membership in Rotary International and to wish the Rotary Club of San Marino, its officers and members,

HISTORY (continued)

the same joy in community, vocational and international service which the pre-existing clubs and other Rotarians of the world have found through Rotary.

May I ask you to study Rotary and to take Rotary Seriously? I hope, too, you will constantly extend the influence of Rotary both by seeking to include in your club a representative, of Rotary character and temperament, from every worthy business and profession in your community, and by endeavoring to organize a Rotary club in some near-by community.

With all good wishes, I am
Cordially and Rotarily
George C. Hager
President

The club entered into a general discussion concerning the formal presentation of the Charter. Larry Shepard moved, seconded by Scott, that Charter Nite be made a Ladies Nite and the wives of Rotarians be invited, and that an entertainment committee be appointed by President Barton consisting of Clarence Fetterman, Guy Lauderbaugh, and D. D. Gordon. What a party this was!! Dave Fiscus has recalled the most famous incident of this party. Dave's story of President Barton's introduction of the District Governor Otto Nelson and Mrs. Nelson and the incoming District Governor, Jimmy Ingham, and Mrs. Ingham bears repeating. This priceless story of the famous introduction, according to Dave went as follows:

"John Barton, that lovable, energetic, cheerful, practical-joking Manager of the Security First National Bank, was the first President of our Rotary Club. Indeed, he was President three different times.

First, when the group was trying to get organized for the formation of a Rotary Club, John was the leader. Then, when the club was finally chartered, he became the first President and served a bob-tailed term from the incorporation date in April, 1939, to the end of the Rotary year on June 30. Then, he was elected to another full term for the 1939-40 year. He went out of office as President on June 30, 1940.

John's demise was accomplished at a demotion party held at the Huntington Hotel. It was a very gala occasion and many guests and Rotary dignitaries were present. After being at the helm of San Marino Rotary for almost two years, John was prepared to accept his demotion in the spirit of a man having done a difficult job well and he was determined that the occasion would be one of great good cheer and kind words and deeds for everyone.

He was off with a rush in the early evening when he and Molly went to a cocktail party at Perry Hopkins' before going to the hotel. Many of the club were there and Perry served Manhattans in highball glasses. Even the uninitiated can imagine the tremendous charge of love and affection and enthusiasm for all of mankind which was generated in Johnny.

HISTORY (continued)

Arriving at the hotel, he and Molly greeted approximately one hundred fifty people who had come to honor him and the incoming President, Tommy Hammond. John, being President, was of course the presiding officer. Among the distinguished guests were District Governor Otto Nelson and Mrs. Nelson and the incoming District Governor, Jimmy Ingham and Mrs. Ingham.

At the proper time in the program, it had been arranged to cart Johnny in on a grocery truck as part of the demotion antics and he was then to introduce the guests, including Jimmy Ingham and Otto Nelson. He approached this very serious task with the utmost dignity, dwelling on the fine Rotary character of each District Governor, the great help and assistance each had given our baby club, and the immense respect and admiration in which he held these two outstanding pals. He went on for some time in this vein and finally arrived at the moment when Jimmy Ingham would be introduced and, as is the Rotary custom, all would stand and give him an immense hand as the incoming District Governor.

Somehow or other, right at the peak of his impassioned oration, a cloud floated across Johnny's memory and this is what actually came out:

'And now, Rotarians and Rotary Annes, I have the great honor to introduce our next District Governor, my friend and your friend, JIMMY ----- OTTO,' with which effort he relaxed gently into his chair.

Ever after, when San Marino Rotarians gathered to reminisce, the story was told and retold and John Barton was from then on affectionately known as 'Jimmy Otto'."

When San Marino Rotary Club received its Charter, May 18, the news literally spread around the world. Since the inaugural nite at the Huntington Hotel, John A. Barton, President, has been in receipt of congratulatory messages from England, Belgium, Poland, Australia, New Zealand, and various states of this country.

Laura Bee Eckhart gazed into her crystal ball and found the future of the San Marino Rotary Club quite promising. Her article in the San Marino Tribune describing her prophecy reads:

"San Marino welcomed a new organization to its fold on Thursday night with Charter Night festivities of the Rotary Club. This club has a rosy future if we dare to predict via our little crystal ball. The spirit of fellowship, friendliness, and service on the part of the twenty four Charter Members thrilled our souls as we witnessed the camaraderie."

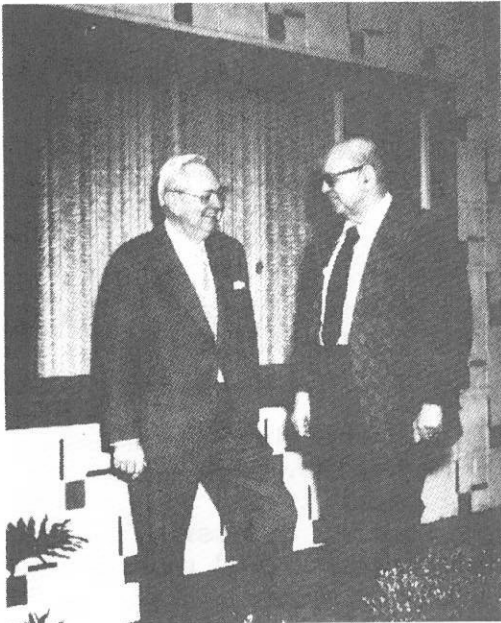
Some day, if we're properly coaxed, we'll be happy to reveal the nicknames of some of the members telling you who are 'Blue Boy', 'Donald Duck', 'Bindy', or 'Orchid'. (You'd be surprised if you knew that some of our most austere business, professional and civic leaders are represented by such names).

HISTORY (continued)

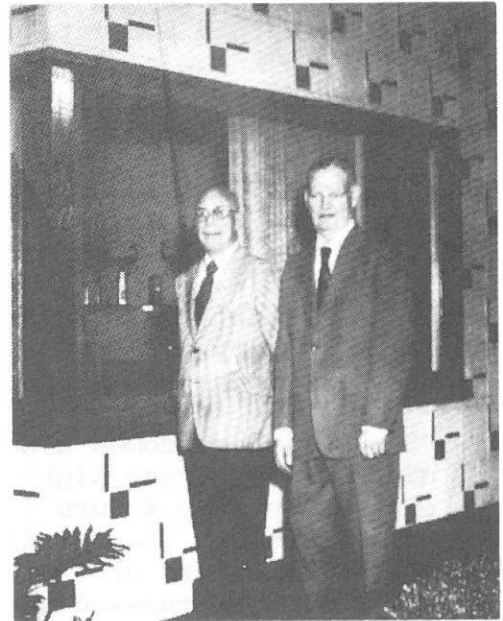
The Charter Members proceeded enthusiastically into the fascinating experience of knowing and enjoying our fellow men with a more comprehensive understanding through Rotary fellowship. As Phil Lovejoy, Secretary of Rotary International, stated "A community improves when a Rotary Club comes to town;" this has been exemplified in San Marino - so spoke the first President of the Rotary Club of San Marino.

The minutes of the April 20, 1939, meeting included this item: "on motion of Gordon and seconded by Fetterman, the Board of Trustees and officers of the San Marino Rotary Club were re-elected for the year 1939 and 1940, ending April 1, 1940. Unanimous vote was cast." Thus, it was that President John Barton came to be President of San Marino Rotary Club for the third time. Shades of Franklin D.

IN THE BEGINNING



Larry Shepard
George Gantus



Ham Stevens
John Hoffman

CHARTER MEMBERS

Picture taken in front of 1390 Lorain Road, San Marino. The house was built by Larry Shepard and the organizational meetings took place in early 1939.