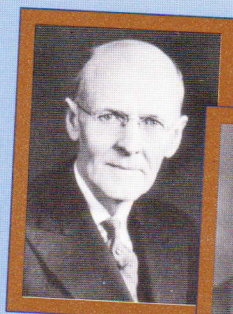


# Diamond Anniversary of THE ROTARY CLUB OF WOODLAND

## *75 Years of History*





# A HISTORY OF THE 75 YEARS OF THE WOODLAND ROTARY CLUB, WRITTEN FOR ITS DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY DINNER

## INTRODUCTION

First off, let me apologize right here and now. No slights or slams were intended toward anyone, and if you find any offense, error or omission, it was not on purpose. There are many to thank for the material, which by the way, became abundant for several time periods. So much became available that the problem was not a lack of information, but more a problem of limiting the final product to fit within the constraints of our time and budget.

The initial idea of a written history was cooked up by Bob Griffith. He had been storing the club's old records, check ledgers, receipts, some historical bits and pieces, plus his own scrap album from when he was President. He added all of this to the stuff his Dad had saved as President years before. Having sold his building, Bob asked me if I would take over the job of storing the stuff and one thing led to another. We presented the idea of a written history to President Roger, who liked it and felt it would be an ideal addition to the 75th Anniversary Celebration scheduled for April 3rd, 2001. A small committee was formed to figure out exactly what we had and what we wanted to do with it. Finally it became apparent that someone needed to just dig in and put all the information into some combined form. Once it was discovered what we had, we would also know what we lacked. The easiest and most straightforward method was to start writing from the beginning, building a chronological history, step by step, member by member, year by year to the present, filling in as much as possible in between; a kind of bridge spanning the years. At first we didn't even know for sure who the last twenty-four Presidents were, but eventually a cumbersome, yet still incomplete 50,000 word draft was developed. Despite the unfinished state and late

date, it was decided on February 14th to kind of start all over by taking parts of the draft and creating a more compact version in a subject format, with one third the words and more photos, fitting the final product to the original concept and budget. With little time left, it was hard to cut out the many little sketches or whole stories of great members who contributed so much to Rotary over the years. Hopefully there will be time and effort available in the future to create a more deserving history, by say 2026, our 100th anniversary? The initial draft of the original chronology has been preserved and is available to those wishing to read a more detailed history.

A sincere thank you goes to all the people who helped in this project, especially to Bob Griffith and all you other Past Presidents who lent us your scrap albums. Peter Faye and Bob Tamblyn saved all their Splinters from the time they joined the club, providing a great resource. And to all the writers of The Splinter, you deserve a tremendous hand for having put into such vivid print, all the life, spirit, humor and turmoil that brews weekly into the rich stew we call a Rotary meeting. And of course, the Splinter's main rival, the Daily Democrat, deserves every bit of our appreciation for its unfailing support and willingness to share with its readers the world of the Woodland Rotary during the years of the club's existence; and in the bargain giving us another great reservoir of club history.

*Steve Venables,  
Project Chairman*



## THE BEGINNING

Rotary was founded in 1905 in Chicago by Paul Harris and three buddies who would rotate among their places of business for lunch. The second club was formed in San Francisco just three years later, but Rotary took a long time to reach Woodland. According to Don Huff, Sr., who joined the club a year after its founding, Woodland had its share of

store, and on sunny days in 1925, Harry would stand outside his store front, selling the concept to anyone he thought might be a qualified prospect. Arthur Huston, Sr. and Judge Gaddis joined in and eventually twenty-two merchants and business professionals signed on.

The Woodland Rotary Club came into being on the evening of April 29, 1926, when the first members met at the Board of Trade Room in the basement of the Yolo County Courthouse. They established an initiation fee of \$25 with yearly dues in the same amount, and set Tuesday as the meeting day. The boundary of the club was described as all of Yolo County north of a line running east-west through Plainfield.

Harry S. Summers became the first elected President of the club, with Judge E. E. Gaddis as Vice-President, J. D. Harling as Treasurer, Bruce Brubaker as Secretary, and E. A. Boyd, Lawrence Stephens and George N. Merritt as Directors.

The following were the charter members, with their professions (when known) noted: William (Bill) H. Boyce, plumbing; Bruce Brubaker, auditing; Dr. William (Bill) J. Blevins, Sr., medicine; Daryle Blevins, confectionery;

E.A. Boyd, Dodge automobile dealer; Henry Elberg, dentistry; Judge E. E. Gaddis, law; J. E. Harbinson, medicine; William (Bill)

M. Hyman, education; Arthur C. Huston, Sr., attorney; Julius Kraft, undertaker; Ed Leake, postmaster; Jesse F. Laurence, stationery; C. M.



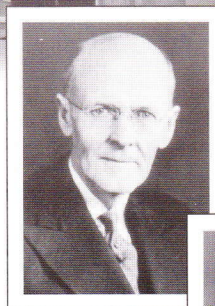
Main Street, Woodland, about 1925-26.

lodges and fraternal organizations, and the Yolo Fliers Club was pioneering interest in golf and airplanes, but the concept of Rotary was not yet understood. Woodland was only a little country community with maybe 3500 people, and its business

district stretched just a few blocks on Main Street from where Buzz Landis has his Ford Dealership today to the Krellenworks where Julius Kraft once had his mortuary. Somehow, Harry Summers, a partner in Dickey & Summers' men's clothing store, came up with the idea that Woodland needed a Rotary Club. His store was located between the Porter Building entrance and Wirth's Furniture

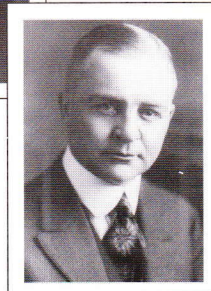


In 1956 this photo appeared in the Daily Democrat commemorating the club's 30th anniversary. Shown are seven of the charter members, plus the district governor who presented the original charter to the club. L to R: Tom Bridges (a former district governor, who was shown 30 years earlier on the front cover of the Charter Night program), Ed Leake, Dr. Henry Elberg, Bill Boyce, O.D. Payne, Julius Kraft, Harry Traynham and E.A. (Gene) Boyd.



Above: Paul Harris, founder of Rotary.

Right: Harry Summers, founder and first president of the Woodland Rotary Club.





Harrison; Joseph F. Holmes; J.D. Harling; Earl L. Younger, building; Kenneth McGregor, pure bred cattle; George N. Merritt, banking; C. D. Payne, jewelry; Bill Risdale, real estate; Lawrence Stephens, banking; Harry Summers, men's furnishings; Orville D. (Harry) Traynham, music; and F. W. Wells.

## THE CHARTER NIGHT

The Charter Night was held on July 9th, 1926, as a banquet at the Parish Hall of the Catholic Church and was catered by the Del Mar. Two hundred and thirty-five people attended. After the sumptuous dinner there was dancing. Charter # 2300 was presented to the club and was accepted by President Harry S. Summers. Mr. Thomas Bridges, a past Governor of the District, was the main speaker of the evening and laid emphasis on building up "the spirit of friendliness and helpfulness." Judge E. E. Gaddis

responded for President Harry; Deming MacLise spoke for the Davis Club and presented on their behalf a "handsome gavel;" George McLen, for the North

Sacramento Club, presented an American flag; Carl Lamus, for the Sacramento Club, presented a framed copy of the Club

Code of Ethics; and Joseph H. Stephens, President of the Sacramento Club, was chairman of the evening. Representatives of other clubs, including Corning, Gridley, Marysville, Red Bluff, Colusa, Auburn, and Lincoln, were present.

Some of those who participated in the program were Mrs. Fred Wilkins, pianist; Sammy

Alexander's orchestra, which played the latest "syncopated" music and Miss Sue Dee Cummins (later wife of Frank L. Morris, Jr.) vocalist and her sister Elizabeth, pianist. "The talented daughters of Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Cummins were exquisite and won the plaudits of the assemblage." Chairman President Joe Stephens started the Charity Fund with \$5 and collected a total of \$90.

## THE LOCATIONS

The first luncheon was held May 4, 1926, at the Davanis Grill (forerunner of the Del Monte Grill) in an upstairs banquet room. Luncheons were then moved to the Del

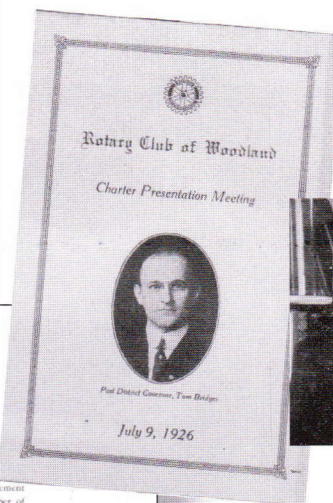
Mar Cafe. In 1927, several of the meetings were devoted to learning about the new Hotel Woodland then under construction; and with its opening, the club relocated its meetings to the hotel's banquet room starting November 13, 1928.

The club met there continuously for nearly forty-five years, but by 1973, with over 120

members, there were constant complaints about how crowded the banquet facilities at the hotel had become. The Splinter began calling it the "Elbow



Above: The club's charter. Right: In this late 1930's photo of Main Street, you can see the Del Monte Cafe to the right of center. Many of the club's first meetings during the 1920s took place in the banquet room upstairs.



Charter Night program with photo of District Governor Tom Bridges (top left), and Tom (top right) 30 years later, in April 1956.





Room" or "Shoulder Room." Ye Olde Hilltopper wrote, "What other group could laugh at everyone having to stand the full length of the table to allow one more member to be seated simultaneously, shoulder to shoulder, synchronizing their breathing so everyone could fit." Tables were rearranged and the Splinter noted that "Clyde Sinclair and Andy Andreozzi arrived late, expecting the usual situation, (but were) pleasantly surprised. It seems the tight quarters had been wearing the bluing off their barrels."

In May of 1973, a special Ladies' Day Luncheon was held at the Elks Club. At that meeting, President Art Larson announced that the Elks' banquet room had precisely 3.7 times as much

space per member as offered in the Hotel Woodland and members could now look forward to the Elks Club as their new meeting place. Soon some of the old-timers complained that it was hard to hear in the new situation, sitting so far from the podium, and asked that the speaker system be turned up. The Mayor of Tinkerville, reporting in the Splinter, said that "Ed Statler still eats with his elbows at his sides, a habit picked up from the last location."

By March 1974 the writers of the Splinter were complaining again that the "club seems to have lost something" in the move to ample room and delicious food. Before, under cramped conditions and noisy meetings, there was more grumpiness and fines were more and heavier. The Splinter editorialized that members were now filled with too much satiety.

After five years at the Elks, the club moved again, this time on November 20th, 1979, to the Corkwood Lounge in the bowling alley, where it remained for 18 years. But eventually the facilities became a little worn, there was trouble with the heating and air, and the club sometimes had to share the banquet room with another simultaneous meeting just on the other side of the dividing screen. A general sentiment developed that maybe it was time to move again. When Don Smith was President,

attempts were made to find a new location, and finally, when George Berrettoni was President in 1997, the long sought move was made to Cracchiolo's meeting hall, complete with catered service from their market next door.

The last newsletter of 1998 started off with "The Nomadic



Above: Woodland Rotary met in the Hotel Woodland from 1928-1973.

Right: The club photo taken in the spring of 1935 in back of the Hotel Woodland.





Rotary Club... met for the last time at Cracchiolo's. Next week we will meet at the Hotel Woodland. Everything comes full circle in one's life and such it is with Woodland Rotary. Years before this scribe's existence, the Hotel hosted our weekly meetings. I am sure there will be a few ghosts looking down upon us at our first meeting. Bill Conner is still lobbying for a second term as President, and all of the departed pillar table are shaking their collective heads over the goings on. Rest assured, fellow Rotarians, one day we will be in the same position, creatively criticizing those 'wet behind the ears' Rotarians."

## THE ERAS

### PROHIBITION

The club was founded during a prosperous time, during what became known as the Prohibition Era. Alcohol was illegal, but this didn't stop the local Rotarians from having a good time. Dr. Homer Woolsey told of a Rotary cocktail party held at the Elks Club in 1929 where the current President, Bill Boyce, took charge of the punch bowl by mixing in some 120-proof Yolo County corn liquor. Apparently nobody objected and the recollection was that "a good time was had by all, including Rev. John Evans."

### THE DEPRESSION

At first, the club was unaffected by the stock market crash in 1929, but it is evident that the economy was on everyone's mind. One of the club's speakers in late 1929 was attorney Arthur Eddy, considered in the club records as "one of Woodland's most astute citizens of all times," who advised the club that the country was never more sound and the drop in the financial condition benefited rather than harmed industry.

By 1931 programs included one given by Eugene Stowe, supporting the theme that "Hard times are more Mental than Actual."

Ken Brown remembers going to Rotary meetings as a boy with his Dad during this period, and says the fines used to be 10 cents. Lest you think that's nothing, just look at the following statistics. In 1938, the population of the United States was 131,028,000, a 3-bedroom home cost \$3,850, the average annual

income was \$2,163, a new Ford cost \$680, a gallon of gas cost 19 cents, a loaf of bread 8 cents and a gallon of milk 48 cents.

In 1954 Jim Kyle wrote jokingly about when he was President in 1934-35. "Our year really should have been an easy one, as those in charge of our national affairs seemed to feel that every citizen needed guidance of some sort, so we had with us the R.R.A., P.W.A., W.P.A., A.A.A., C.C.C., S.E.R.A., S.R.A., and on down the alphabet. One looks back with wonder and thinks 'Was it really that bad?'"

Only those who experienced this era can tell you how bad it was for them. Some years were considered great, as demonstrated by a number of new members, but during at least one Depression era year, only one new member joined the Woodland club.

### THE WAR YEARS

The first mention of anything pertaining to the war was in December 1940 when Julian Arnold, former United States attaché to both China and Japan, spoke to the club about the situation in the Far East. Then in March 1941, Walter Baker, President of the Woodland Rotary Club, attended a special dinner honoring Thomas Kunibe, the second



*Charter member  
Harry Traynham  
in his military  
uniform, 1943.*

Japanese-American from Woodland to be drafted into the army. The October 1940 edition of the national Rotary magazine revealed that the "Rotary Clubs in Japan are Disbanded."

In early 1941, the national magazine announced "The Rotary Spirit Lives... former Rotarians from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Netherlands and



France, who are now in London, have formed an inter-allied Rotary fellowship." In April 1941, Rabbi Goldburg of Sacramento addressed the club about his experiences in the Far East the previous summer,



Above:  
Woodland  
Rotary,  
1941.

Right:  
Rotary  
golf,  
1942.



and declared "the Japanese are not as strong as they pretend to be." In May, the national magazine reported that "2,000 or more women and children were transported to Durban (South Africa) from the Near and Middle East, to be quartered here... the Rotary Club undertook to meet these people on arrival, shepherd them to the hotels and boarding houses, and thereafter help them with their various problems."

Woodland Rotary experienced a dramatic growth in membership in the forties, with the the number of members approaching a record fifty. Then the war broke out and nearly 15% of the members were called into the service of Uncle Sam.

In July 1942, the bulletin announced that the club's latest project was in operation and represented "Service Above Self." Rotarians placed a shelter at

Main and East Streets which offered traveling service men protection from sun in the summer and rain in the winter as they waited for someone to stop and give them a lift. Andy Paulen designed the shelter and President Everette took care of the decorating. The bulletin went on to explain that service men were not allowed to stand on the highway and give the old thumb, but it was okay for anyone to ask them to hop in, "so bear in mind whenever you are leaving town and have room to spare, GIVE A SERVICE MAN A RIDE. They'll be waiting in the Rotary Shelter."

By 1943 the bulletin was filled with references to the war. Baby announcements were made to sound like war productions. For example, when Oscar Graeser came to the meeting with a smile on his face and a big box of cigars under his arm, the bulletin announced the following:

THE GRAESER PRODUCTION COMPANY  
SUTTER MATERNITY HOSPITAL,  
SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA

THE 1943 GRAESER "BABY GIRL"  
MODEL No. 2 "CHRISTIE"

OSCAR GRAESER,  
DESIGNER AND CHIEF ENGINEER,  
DOROTHY GRAESER,  
PRODUCTION MANAGER,  
DR. BILL BLEVINS, SR.  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

MODEL RELEASED JANUARY 14TH, 1943  
TWO LUNG POWER, FREE SQUEALING,  
STREAMLINE BODY.

7 lb., 3 oz. CHASSIS, ECONOMICAL FEED,  
WATER COOLED, EXHAUST,  
CHANGEABLE SEAT COVER.

Diversionsary jokes were frequent and were made about such topics as the shortages and rationing:

A lovely young lady of fashion,  
Loved a soldier so handsome and dashin'  
Said the haughty young miss  
As she gave him a kiss,  
Here's one thing the bureaus can't ration.



But references to the war and its affects were also very serious, including the following warning in the bulletin, "We must do better... we can't keep kidding ourselves. It's later and worse than we think.

"This country has never been beaten in all its 166 years. JAPAN HAS NEVER BEEN BEATEN IN ITS 2000 YEARS.

"They can't get at us, we're 3000 miles away. JAPAN GOT TO BURMA 3600 MILES AWAY AND CONQUERED IT.

"Anyway we're pouring it out of our factories. BUT GERMANY HAS BEEN DOING JUST THAT FOR 10 YEARS AND AT A FASTER RATE PER MAN THAN WE HAVE YET REACHED.

"But I can't give up my rights. NO! OUR SOLDIERS HAVE. MOST MANAGERS HAVE, ALMOST ALL OWNERS HAVE.

"And unless EVERYONE gives up EVERY right that slows war production, the Jap and German will TAKE your rights, everyone of them FOREVER."

Rotarians worked on war efforts; writing letters to young men in the service, sending letters to Rotarians in Brazil in a campaign effort to promote goodwill with our neighbor to the south, standing watch at the city's ground observation post and on the night patrol, and working on many committees. Special war service committees were appointed and the club had war bond sales at the second meeting of every month.

### THE COLD WAR YEARS

In the 1930s, the club heard programs such as the one by Dr. Louis Patmont, pastor of the Christian Church of Santa Rosa, who had recently returned from Russia. After describing to the club the deplorable conditions of life there, he cautioned about Communism and its spread in the United States by "paid propagandists."

In 1956, Rotarians were told at a luncheon of "new heavy bombers... the B52, (capable of flying) from the interior of the U.S. to Moscow and returning without refueling." Other speakers told Rotarians how lucky Americans were and the club gave financial help to foreign students at UC Davis

"with the object to encourage and foster the advancement of international good will and understanding."

Fifty members of the Rotary Club of Woodland traveled by bus to Travis Air Force Base as guests of the base commander. A meeting and luncheon were held in the Officers' Club, following which, Rotarians inspected B-36s and the famous F-102s.

Theme parties were especially popular during this time. In 1958, a "ladies' night" done up as a



*Main Street, Woodland, in 1952.*

Hawaiian Luau was held at the fairgrounds. Members and ladies came dressed in Hawaiian attire, and everyone was given fresh flower leis. Suigee Pig and Okulihau Orange Duck were the menu entrees, with Hawaiian Paradise Punch the featured drink, and fresh Hawaiian pineapples the dessert. Guests were seated on grass mats around tables (which were actually just wooden boxes rising a few inches from the floor) covered with tapa cloth.

The programs during this time were featured by the Daily Democrat as newsworthy events. A reporter and photographer were sent to each weekly meeting, resulting in large articles with one or two prominent photos. Harold Douglass said, "We could hardly ask for more in the way of public information."

### THE VIETNAM YEARS

In the guns-and-butter era of the Johnson administration there was little reference early on to



the war, but times were changing. Parties were as popular as ever. In 1966, a new reporter to The Splinter wrote "Rotarians invited their wives to 'Une Soirée de Gala à Paris.'" This new reporter called himself André Pierre Hiatteaux, and renamed the party "Paris a go go nite." He wrote that the "usual cauldron (which has become a club tradition) was in the center of the hall and filled with an iced blend that kept a continual crowd around its brim. Those who could be persuaded to leave the punch bowl greatly enjoyed the meal." Apparent personalities of the evening included John Soderstrom, who bumped into the wall twice while inspecting the girlie photos; Reg Paulsen, who busily attended the punch bowl all evening, constantly adding and sampling ingredients; Bill Blevins, who put on his version of the Hawaiian War Dance; George Daly, who demonstrated why he had been an official Arthur Murray franchised dance studio operator; and Ernie Zebal, who got his money's worth by roving from table to table consuming unclaimed salads.

In 1970, the Rotary Board of Directors authorized funds to be donated for the purchase of the Opera House, bringing total funds available for this purpose to \$4000.

Thirty-five club members were invited, but only 17 actually took a bus field trip to Beale Air Force Base to look at the Strategic Air Command bombers. Lunch was held in the Officers' Club and the food "was excellent." Having been ticketed, counted and tagged, the Rotarians viewed parked B-52s and saw a film of the SR-71 Blackbird. They then saw the Blackbird and a special command exhibition of its remarkable performance. Included was a take off in which the aircraft was already beyond the sound barrier before ever leaving the ground. Ye Olde Hiatte had warned those who could not attend that they would be required to visit a round table at the hotel "where Buzz Landis would explain the new 30 day Ford warranty."

One program during 1972 was presented by a law student from UC Davis, who shared the viewpoint that it was all right to disrupt the daily activities of others if there is a point you want to make; and if you are arrested, your rights to freedom of political expression are being violated. From the comments regarding questions following this

speech, one can guess that not everyone agreed with him.

### **WATERGATE, PRE AND POST**

Inflation was setting in and annual dues had been increased to \$35.00. President Chip Northup's theme for 1973 was "A Time for Action." He immediately took action by increasing the cost of meals by 25 cents, to an even \$3.00.

Hair styles were growing longer and Northup commented that he often felt like he was presiding at the Last Supper. A gasoline shortage was affecting everyone by November 1973, and the speed limit was lowered to 55 mph.

The Star Spangled Banner was the weekly song of the day and the Communist countries were still a major concern. Fred Center told the club about his trip through Russia and said that all of the hotel rooms were bugged. In one hotel he found a lump under the rug. Suspecting a microphone, Fred rolled the rug back. Under the rug was a brass cap, which he unscrewed. Under the brass cap was a nut that Fred unscrewed and threw out the window. Then he screwed the brass cap in place and rolled the rug back. Later Fred heard that the chandelier had fallen off the ceiling in the apartment below. (Although reported in the Splinter as fact, this was more typically a joke as evidenced by the following story.) Fred reported that while he was in Russia an automobile race was held in Moscow — an American Ford and a Russian Moskvich were the only two cars entered. The Ford won easily. Without mentioning how many cars competed, Pravda reported "The Soviet Moskvich placed second while the American auto came in next to last."

### **THE PEACEFUL YEARS**

This was the time in the club's history that major projects became a possibility and good humor in the Splinter reached new heights, spearheaded by Editor Al Hiatt. In 1977, the International Convention was held in San Francisco. Herb Caen headed up his daily column in the Chronicle with "Good Morning, Rotarians!... and welcome to San Francisco. 49 square miles and not one of them square." Fifteen thousand members of Rotary International met at the Civic Auditorium in a five-day convention. Commenting on the prospect of



allowing women to join Rotary, the new President from Australia said "The time is not ripe for it. The great majority of Rotary wives agree. I don't think there is a division of opinions." He went on to predict that "it might change in 5, 10 or 15 years." He named the "more traditional Latin countries and perhaps Japan as areas opposed to women members."

### THE GOLDEN YEARS

No one knows exactly when this era started, since it was just now made up for this article, but it did occur. Somewhere around 1985 the dues were

over the parking lot), gas was 99 cents a gallon, a one lb. loaf of bread was 72 cents, and milk retailed for \$2.02 a gallon.

The club started the year of 1989 with \$30,000 in the bank and a paid membership roster of 126 all male members. Meetings were still at the Corkwood Lounge, fines were in the three dollar range, and steak was served every other week (referred to at least once in the Splinter as grizzled beef steak and cold fries), and dues were \$100 a year.

In October of that year San Francisco suffered a severe earthquake. The World Series was being

fought at Candlestick Park when it struck and Tim Pettit, George Berrettoni and Gordon Nixon came back with horror

### Peanuts



By Charles M. Schulz

Above: It's big news! Women can join Rotary now!

Right: Kevin Haarberg being serenaded at Christmas party by Rotary women.

\$75.00 a year, and the club was running out of money. About all it had left was a nest egg of \$20,000 and unless the members came up with more gifts, the scheduled auction would have to be canceled. The auction wasn't cancelled and netted \$4000 in badly needed funds to pay the club's bills.

From then on the financial problem abated and by 1986 the club was able to increase its scholarship award from a flat \$1000 to a thousand dollars a year for four years. By 1987, the club was up to 123 members, and despite the October stock market collapse and the focus of raising \$36,000 from the club for Polio Plus, the club was strong enough to install six bus stop benches, organize and act as the master of ceremony to the "Build a House in a Day Project" and host 500 senior citizens to a free barbecue.

In 1988 the population of the US was now 245,900,000. A 3-bedroom home cost \$78,843, the average annual income was \$29,896, a new Ford cost \$10,323 (Gary had a Jaguar which leaked oil all



stories. Afloat on the bay were George Kiser, who didn't feel a thing, and Carl Rush, who was tied at the dock when it turned to rubber.

Momentous news was the April 1990 proposal for membership of Carla Sue Dittmann, VP/Mgr., Bank of America. She was to become the first woman to join the Woodland Club. In the Splinter announcement, her gender was erroneously reported when it said, "His name is now being submitted to the Membership at Large, and, if no objections are received in ten days from this date, he will



automatically be declared elected to membership.” Her proposal was republished in the next edition to correct this undeliberate first-ever error by a Splinter staff member. Once Carla became a member, to comply with non-gender bias and the claim that her last name might be sexist, it was suggested that she change it to “Dittperson.”

The December program was presented by a colonel from Travis AFB who gave some insights into the airlift program being carried out for Desert Shield in the Persian Gulf. In February of 1991, Stan Atkinson of local TV fame spoke of “On the Road to Baghdad.”

During the early 1990’s the club’s membership was hovering around 120 when the idea came up to sponsor a breakfast club. It celebrated its charter night on August 19th, 1993. Many of the luncheon club members transferred to the new club, but by the end of 2000, President Marc Ullrich and Sunrise President Greg Stille proclaimed Rotary Awareness Month with a joint full page ad in the Democrat, modestly trumpeting just a few of the organization’s local accomplishments as well as International’s Polio Plus program. The names of 150 active Woodland Rotarians from both clubs appeared at the bottom of the ad.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

Some of the founders’ first concerns centered around the question “what could the club do for the community?” They thought about doing something for the boys of Woodland, and they urged the city fathers to put up street signs. Interest was shown in the National Guard, in which Hoe Holmes represented Rotary, but not much happened at first. In 1928, President Boyce advised that community projects were started, but the results were “zero.” Service to youth was attempted, but when parents questioned who would provide insurance when transporting boys to camp: “zero.” International Service was also without success.

An attempt was made to obtain an overhead crossing at the “Mullen Crossing” of the Southern Pacific, with Judge Gaddis spearheading the committee; an attempt was made to divert the truck traffic from Main Street to Race-Track Road (Kentucky Avenue). Neither attempt was successful.

In 1929, the club finally found success by creating the “Orange Peel” scholarships for Woodland High School. The first winners were Elsie Storz and Julius Bauman. That year a program was put on at a luncheon by the “Pioneer” Club of the YMCA

*Right: Over the years, many lovely young ladies represented the club in the Yolo County Sugar Queen Pageant. Lori Jane Kemp, 1976. Below: The club’s 50th Anniversary “Major Project,” Rotary Park.*



*Above: The playground in John Ferns Park—built with the help of Rotarians.*

during which Stew Cranston and Bobbie Jones fought a two-round boxing match. Secretary L.R. Bigelow thanked the Rotary Club for sponsoring Boys’ Night, and for the efforts by individual members of the club in supporting several boys’ and girls’ organizations. On March 5, 1929, the first “Cub Scout” troop in Woodland was formed and the Rotary Club helped out in its creation.

At one luncheon, 65 scouts were guests, and



amongst those participating were little Ken Leake who "asked the blessing." Agitation for a Scout Cabin was in action, and soon action took place, spearheaded by Bill Crawford.



Left: John Kimzey and Don Smith. Rotary benches were placed throughout Woodland at bus stops. Below: Bob Watt and Carl Rodegerdts working at the Rotary Oktoberfest, 1994.



In 1935 it was noted that one of the fundamentals of Rotary is that Rotarians should not make a big noise sponsoring various movements, but that they should be good civic-minded citizens

During Art Larson's term (1972-73), the club managed to set aside \$6,000 for the 50th Anniversary Project, which was not yet decided upon. During Chip Northup's term, a Major Projects Committee was created to figure how to finance and build a year-round picnic facility for community groups. In December 1973, Gary Wirth presented a preliminary sketch of the Rotary Park Project. Construction began at the site in May 1974, and Pres. Oliver's demotion night was held there at the end of June, giving everyone a good look at the project.

Of this park, M. O. Santoni, President of the 40th District Agricultural Association stated, "In all of the California fairs, nowhere have we found a project such as yours, undertaken by a service club. We believe that this is the only project of its kind. It will set an example for service clubs in the 75 cities in which the fairs are located."

The facility, familiar to every living Woodland Rotarian, contains 50 tables and benches, a barbecue building, a food preparation area, stove, refrigerator and a number of other features. It was completed at a cost of \$18,900, with more than \$12,000 coming personally from Rotary members in addition to their donated services.

For about five years, between 1988 and 1992, the club purchased dozens of bus stop benches and placed them throughout the community. In the early 1990s, the club donated significant funds to the



Above: Freeman Park Gazebo. Right: The plaque at Rotary Court.



and take their part as individuals. At this time Homer Woolsey was head of the Public League in Yolo County, Ernie Zebal was President of the Soft Ball League, Brad Weaver was the President of the Red Cross and Frank Morris Sr. was the President of the Woodland Chamber of Commerce.



adult literacy program, and under "Head Smart Chairman" Tom Vale, launched a major community campaign to distribute a thousand protective bicycle helmets at cost or free to needy children who didn't already have them.

In 1992, the club built the Rotary Court adjacent to the Opera House and just off Heritage Plaza as a major undertaking.

Another major undertaking was the club's Oktoberfest at Heritage Plaza, under Marc Ullrich's command. It was a huge event with a paid attendance of 2000 adults, where the club lost \$700 on food, made \$3700 on the bar, \$1400 on soda, \$2700 on the carnival and \$1500 on the crafts booths. Total revenues were \$32,000, but unfortunately, expenses were even greater at \$42,000, making for a loss of \$10,000. As luck would have it, the club's raffle generated \$10,000, making it a break-even episode. Marc, who put in a lot of time and energy, was highly commended for this exercise in futility. The bottom line... no more Woodland Oktoberfests unless another organization wanted to be the sponsor.

In 1997 Wim van Muyden's wife Pauly spearheaded Project Play with a goal of redoing the playgrounds at the John Ferns Park. The Woodland Rotary Club contributed \$10,000 to start the project, and together with the Sunrise Rotary Club, the City of Woodland, and countless citizens, over \$120,000 was ultimately raised to complete the project in record time. Besides money, incalculable hours of "sweat equity" were also donated by Rotarians from both clubs.

The approval of the Freeman Park Gazebo came during Ray Poarch's reign in 1994. Despite an optimistic start, this project lasted nearly six years, and predictions of its completion got to be kind of a joke. But with the fine direction of Karl Fisher and others such as Marc Faye, Gary Wegener and a number of club members who were willing to spend part of the weekend sawing, pounding nails or painting, the project was finished and dedicated. In the year 2000, Rotary District 5160 presented the Rotary Club of Woodland with the Community Involvement Award for the Gazebo, and the Excellence Award for Outstanding Community Service.

Other recent community service projects were directed at alternative education programs for "at-risk youth." Rotarians donated \$9000 to Yolo County Schools, plus another \$1700 to Cache Creek High School. And, when the fairgrounds needed a paved walkway suitable for the handicapped from Rotary Park to the restrooms, the club financed the project and helped with the labor. About three years ago, the Woodland Rotarians bought hundreds of quality hard-bound keepsake dictionaries and distributed them to every 3rd grader in every school in Woodland.

### INTER-CLUB VISITS

While the club was still in formation, the Woodland Clinic and its physicians hosted a joint luncheon in the hallway of the 3rd floor for the Lions and Rotary Clubs at it's "new" hospital building (now the Woodland Skilled Nursing Facility).

The club's first joint meeting with another Rotary club was held on October 28, 1927, with the Davis club. Harold Hopkins reported on the International Rotary Conference which was held in Ostend, Belgium.

In 1929, the San Francisco club asked their country cousin, Woodland Rotary, to put on a program "country style." Luther DuBois headed up the delegation which showed up at the Palace Hotel's main dining room with 8 cows, 2 bulls, 1 jackass and a live skunk. "The boys in the first six rows started to move out in a hurry until our boys assured them that the skunk had been deodorized. However, someone had substituted *another* skunk who "was all there and ready for business." Fortunately, the skunk was completely paralyzed by all the commotion and failed to spray.

On the evening of January 26, 1931, a meeting was held in conjunction with the Davis, Sacramento, Dixon, Colusa and Chico clubs, gathering an attendance of 150 at the Hotel Woodland. On March 3rd, the Forum of Service Clubs of Yolo County was held in Knights Landing and was attended by 300. California's Governor James Rolph was the main speaker and the guest of honor was Albert Einstein, who devoted the day to "his personal get-up and discoursed most intelligently on Relativity in



his best German-English vocabulary.”

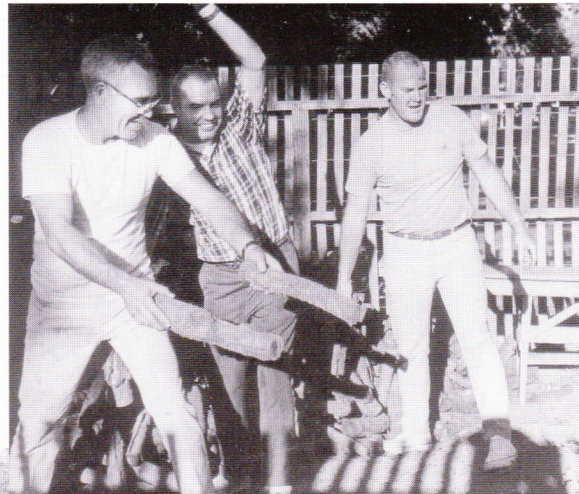
Throughout its history, the Woodland club has shared meetings with other clubs, particularly those of Davis, Sacramento, Dixon, Winters and Colusa. For years it was an annual tradition to meet with Winters in Woodland, where the clubs would hold an auction of donated items, and raise several hundred dollars, split evenly, for scholarship funds.

Another tradition has been the annual meeting with the Colusa club, first at Bill and Kathy's, then at the 19th hole of their golf course, and most notoriously at the Graninger Ranch. One year when Don Huff Jr. was the Woodland club's President, the club held an auction night which attracted 160 people and raised big bucks. One of the items, won by Peter Faye, was a pie in the face of Colusa President Dick Meyer, assumedly donated by President Meyer. Unfortunately, Peter was unable to attend the joint meeting with Colusa, which had been stipulated as the only occasion when it could be conveyed, so President Don personally delivered the pie (in the face) to Dick on Peter's behalf. One wonders if Dick knew anything about this. It was later reported in the *Splinter* that "President Don is hopeful that he won't have to make up at Colusa this year. He understands that there is a 'Pie Contract' out on him."

## THE BARBECUE

The annual Rotary Barbecue at the Yolo County Fair was founded in 1949. Back then the fair had few vendors who could offer families a meal, so the Fair Committee asked the Woodland Rotary Club if they would organize a barbecue. It was an instant hit and became one of the club's biggest sources of revenue; plus it was the one annual event that all members were expected to participate in without excuse. By 1952 a crowd of 3000 customers was anticipated. The price was \$1.25 a plate for adults and 75 cents for children. 1,500 pounds of steer beef was served along with 60

cases of canned beer (at 25 cents each), and 100 cases of Pepsi and other soft drinks were kept cool with 3000 pounds of ice. 12 crates of lettuce were hand mixed with 75 pounds of onions, romaine, endive, tomatoes, bell peppers, green onions, and



*Left: In the old days, Dick Hoppin (center) and other Rotarians tossed wood into the BBQ pit. Below: The Woodland Rotary BBQ.*



radishes. The salad dressing was obtained from Romeo Berrettoni. A post-event note by a salad chairman to future Rotarians says, "Don't use the slicing machine... it squeezes too much water out of the lettuce... makes the salad soggy and dilutes the dressing until there is no taste."

By 1957, it took 15 members just to man the beans and rolls committee alone. The meat committee obtained and cooked 1,600 pounds of



beef, using 5 tiers of almond wood. The selling price per plate was still \$1.25, but children under 12 were now free when accompanied by their parents. The profit for that year was \$417.07, or about 10% of the club's annual income.

In 1969, Al Hiatt wrote "This annual event of all-out effort on behalf of charity ran



smoothly, like always. There is always enough continuity of membership on the various committees to insure that every task is completed on time—in fact, it doesn't make much difference if the President is there or not, except that he is constantly being asked to get out of the way. The meat committee, as usual, worked all night and because of long experience, came out exactly even on the liquid provisions provided for the long vigil. Dick Hoppin showed a surprising aptitude for organization and got things accomplished with a minimum amount of talking, which is decidedly unusual for an attorney. The business acumen of the beans and roll committee should be recognized for having the foresight to purchase 10 day old rolls at a great price reduction. The salad and tomato committee functioned efficiently with the only

casualty being the chairman, Martin Cabalzar, who cut his finger during the first 20 minutes, which allowed him reduced duties for the rest of the day."

In 1973 there was a meat shortage and the barbecue was in jeopardy unless a supply could be

found. George Willis, the Rotary BBQ Chairman, claimed the club had a plan, and sure enough, just a couple of days prior to the scheduled event, the club outbid all others and won a 1,005 lb. steer at the F.F.A. auction for 77 cents a pound. With slimmer portions than usual, the club had enough left over to have a picnic luncheon meeting at the fairgrounds in honor of

District Governor Buck Mauzy's visit. The extra meat was used up along with chili beans and salad.

By the mid-1980s the number of meals being served had dropped off, so altering the menu was tried.

Chicken kabobs were added and different recipes were tried with the meat. In 1986, George Berrettoni captained the bean preparation committee, possibly for the first and last time. Unfortunately, under the direction of George, the beans that year were served under-cooked and were best described as "crunchy." By the late 1990s, the club had given up cooking real beans and had resorted to buying large cans of the precooked kind. But for awhile everything was prepared from scratch.

In 1989, to insure a profit for the annual event, Carl Rodegerdts proposed a scheme so simple that



Left: Bruce Ahlquist (center) being trained in the fine art of BBQ tomato preparation by master Al Hiatt, long-time editor of *The Splinter*.

Top: Peter Faye serves at the Rotary BBQ.

Right: Fred Center, on the left, and Past District Governor Jess Vickery.





only a Stanford dentist could have devised it. Each member would be required to buy five tickets at \$5 each, and each member who was unable to share in the work would contribute an additional \$20. Eighty-five Rotarians actually showed up for duty and the affair's profit bounced back to about \$3000.

In 1996, Tabb Randolph announced that the Rotary Barbecue at the fair was highly profitable. In 1997, Tom Schwarzgruber announced that the club netted nearly \$4000 from the affair, whereupon Tabb Randolph dipped into his own pocket to make it an even \$4000.

After the 2000 Barbecue, the board voted to discontinue the event since there was no longer a real public demand or need due to increased competition from "for profit" vendors and dwindling support from members.

### THE SENIOR BARBECUE

Started about 1982, the first Rotary Senior Barbecue was covered by the Daily Democrat in a complimentary article. It led off with, "Never perhaps in Woodland's history has there been such an assembly of senior citizens as great as the one which turned out Tuesday. Despite the huge size of the crowd, Rotarians seemed more organized than ever in serving all the older folks who showed up, with unbelievable speed and rare, good humor."



*Top: Rotarians work through their own lunch to serve seniors a great BBQ.*

*Right: The Senior BBQ in 1992. Note the long line in the background.*

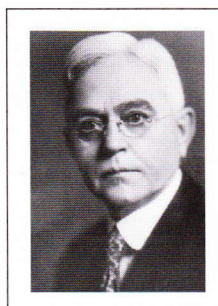


In May 1991, Harry Traynham, the last surviving Charter member, was seen looking really great as part of the sell out crowd chowing down on sauced chicken, mixed fruit and a bun.

In 1997, Committee Chairperson Mary Ann Trongo estimated that between 550 and 600 seniors attended the free Rotary BBQ, held in the Home Arts Building rather than outside due to rain.

This continues to be a very popular annual community event.

### THE PRESIDENTS



*Judge Gaddis, the club's 2nd president.*

This should be more than just a list of the Past Presidents. Each made his own mark on the club and deserves to have his story told. Unfortunately, there is neither enough room nor background material to do each of them justice here. In the unfinished, longer version of this history, you'll find a lot more about most of the Past Presidents and their year in

office, when, as Judge Gaddis said upon becoming President, they tried to keep the club "on a high plane and elevate it a trifle."

The very first President was Harry Summers (1926-27).

The second was Judge E. E. Gaddis (1927-28), who was installed at the Elks Club Banquet Hall. When he was demoted the club gave him a Rotary Wheel pin studded with diamonds.

On July 2, 1928, "The old order gave place to the new" when William Boyce (1928-29) was installed as President.

Don Huff (1929-30), who had joined the club in 1927, was installed



Right: Everett Griffith, Woodland Rotary Club President, 1942-43.

Below: In 1952, Cal beat Stanford. Price Hoppin, Les Means, Bill Duffy and Reg Paulsen pretend to mourn over the coffin of a Stanford player.



as President on April 2nd. The "Bells of St. Mary" became the theme song of the year.

The gavel was turned over to Luther DuBois (1930-31) on July 22, 1930.

Julius H. Kraft (1931-32) installed his "Gold Committee" at his first meeting.

C. Ed. Berry (1932-33) was installed as the new President, but only after both outgoing and incoming Presidents were subjected to a severe set of questions.

Brad C. Weaver (1933-34) was installed a little

early so that Past President Berry could leave for the International Convention being held in Boston. New members that year included Eugene Laugenour, Jess Vickery and Homer Woolsey.

James V. Kyle (1934-35) presided over every single meeting of his term except for one, when Dr. Homer Woolsey arranged to have all the Rotary Anns show up as unannounced guests and had them conduct the meeting

Frank L. Morris, Sr. (1935-36) was the owner of Crystal Dairy and joined the club after his son, Les Morris.

John McNeur (1936-37).

Ernest Brown (1937-38) was the father of Ken Brown.

Sidney N. Epperson (1938-39) owned the Oldsmobile, Cadillac agency, which was on the northwest corner of College and Court Streets, and was the forerunner of Jamisons out on East Main. The theme song for the year was "Ferdinand the Bull."

Dr. J. Homer Woolsey (1939-40) wrote a history of the club's first four years and delivered it as a program to entertain and educate the members. We still have a copy, which was used as the beginning of this history.

Walter Baker (1940-41) came up with the idea of compiling a scrap book of the President's year and presenting it as a memento at the end of the term. His scrap album is the most complete record of a single early year. Walter distributed "crying towels" to members when he was demoted.

Taken in 1951.  
Past Woodland Rotary Club presidents.

Front row, L-R: Eyvind Faye, James Kyle, Dr. Robert Burns, Everett Griffith, Frank Morris Sr., Bill Duffy, Don Huff Sr., Ernest Zebal, and Walter Baker.  
Back row, L-R: Jess Vickery, Warren Norton, Eugene Laugenour, Julius Kraft, Luther DuBois, Dr. Donnel Fisher, and Sidney Epperson.





Eugene T. Laugenour (1941-42). The club grew to 51 members during his term (from fewer than 40 a few years earlier), and they again visited the San Francisco Club to put on a dairy cow demonstration.

Everette E. Griffith (1942-43) was the father of three future Rotary club Presidents, Bob and Bill Griffith of Woodland, and their brother, Everette, who belonged to another club. Everette Sr. saved many of his club BULLETins, creating a great Woodland Rotary historical resource of his era.

Ernest H. Zebal (1943-44). When the Nominating Committee called him, they said, "You have been selected as the goat for next year, nothing to fret about and nothing to lose your hair over." Zebal took on the job and was noted for wearing a tie the entire year, but never before or since. The BULLETin said that Ernest moved to Woodland in 1931 and organized Woodland's first night baseball league in 1934.

M. Elmer Jones (1944-45).

William W. Conner (1945-46) was not a tall man, but quite the dapper dresser, given to light-colored seersucker suits, bow ties, a flower in his lapel and white shoes. And if he didn't wear an 1890's style straw hat and spats, he should have. Bill ran for reelection as club President perennially.

Dr. Donnel C. Fisher (1946-47). In 1929 Donnel graduated from dentistry school, opened his office in the Porter Building, joined the Woodland Rotary



Ken Brown and Doc Burns (right) around the club's traditional punch bowl.

Club and married his wife Ima. For the rest of his 60-some years he maintained perfect attendance. On his 80th birthday, he stood in the back of the meeting room and said, "My 70s have been good years for me, but I'm not looking forward to my 80s." Just a few weeks later he missed his first meeting when he died, having achieved an astonishing Rotary attendance record.

Eyvind M. Faye (1947-48) started off his year, but somewhere around October was struck down with polio encephalitis, and took nearly 18 months to recover.

The club called upon Warren D. Norton (1947-48) to step in and cover the remainder of Eyvind Faye's presidency.

Jesse M. Vickery (1948-49) owned Corner Drug and was the father of Woodland Rotary President Tom Vickery. Jesse was the first member of the



Top: Woodland Rotarians honored their children at a 1955 luncheon. Shown here is Oliver Northup with his flock. L-R: Kathy, 8; John and Jim, 4-1/2, twins; and Bill, 6-1/2.

Bottom: Mike Griffin, Woodland Hi grad who made it to the NY Yankees, is introduced by Dale Lackey with Bob Blake to the right.



Don McNary speaking at the 50th Anniversary celebration.



Woodland Club to become a District Governor.

Dr. Robert A. Burns (1949-50) is alive and well, and living along California's north coast. Several years after he was President, he reported that the new hospital on Gibson Road had 360 piles driven to a depth of 60 feet, and that the hospital was about 10% finished. In a letter to the Splinter's editor, Dr. Homer Woolsey pointed out that, "Bob Burns is an excellent urologist, but is obviously no authority on piles. Even Bob should know that nobody has three hundred and sixty piles and that they aren't cured by driving them sixty feet into the ground."

William J. Duffy, Jr. (1950-51) graduated from UC Davis in 1916 and was selected as the recipient of the first distinguished alumni award to be presented by that institution.

Francis DuBois, (1951-52) was the son of Rotarian Luther DuBois and taught at Woodland High School from 1922 until his retirement in 1951. In 1950 the school named its new baseball field for him.

Regnar Paulsen (1952-53) first visited the club in 1931 as part of a group of Woodland High School students debating the adoption by the United States of a 23-month calendar.

Frank Leslie Morris, Jr. (1953-54) is the son of member Frank Morris. Les joined the club in 1927 and says that he was asked mainly because he could play the piano well enough to hack out the Star Spangled Banner. He married Sue Dee Cummings who had entertained at Charter Night.

Ralph P. Lyons (1954-55).

J. D. "Jake" Musgrove, Jr. (1955-56). The club has his scrap book which contains numerous

newspaper clippings of the year's events, guest speakers, a photo of the college-age children of Rotarians (including Ashley Payne and Billy Adams, future club members), and the news that the Rotary Club of Winters held their Charter Night on February 16, 1956 and were presented with a Rotary bell and gavel by the Woodland Club.

Roy T. Jones (1956-57) had Jack Weaver as his Treasurer and Stuart Waite as his Secretary. Many members had thought that Roy Jones was the originator of the "water on the chair" business, but Bill Boyce confirmed that this antic used to go on

in the club long before Roy ever joined.

Kenneth Brown (1957-58) had been in Rotary since 1947. He wrote in 1965, "I was born in Woodland in 1915, attended Woodland High School, spent two years at Sacramento Junior College and two years at UC Berkeley. I served with Uncle Sam's finest during World War II, the Infantry, and had all expenses paid while visiting the 'garden spots' of the Pacific—the Aleutian Islands, the Philippines, Okinawa, and Hawaii, where my



Top: Mr & Mrs. Prune King. Left: Art Larson taking his chances spinning the "Scooter Shooter," 1979. Bottom: Don Huff Jr. on the right shares a dinner with fellow Rotarians and their Rotary Anns.





headquarters were at Waikiki Beach. I have a wonderful wife, Barbara, and two sons, and I think my attendance record is a lot better than yours."

At his demotion, Les Means (1958-59) was "arrested" by whistle blowing policemen who revealed that Mad Man Means' initials, "E. L.," actually stood for "Earl Long." Despite a valiant "he's as nutty as a fruitcake" defense by Attorney Frank Gardner, photos subsequently appeared in the

Ira A. Resch (1961-62) joined the club in 1949 with the classification of sugar beet manufacturing (and you thought they grew in the ground). After his term he retired to Palm Desert.

Fred Center (1962-63) remained a member of the club right up to his death on June 2, 1988, at the age of 95. He always sat at the pillar table with his buddies and would unabashedly ask loudly, "WHAT'D HE SAY?" whenever he felt the

President or other speaker failed to project well enough for his aged ears, sometimes at an awkward moment. After he was President, Fred served by handling the group's flags, rostrum and other meeting paraphernalia. He also compiled a scrapbook each year to be presented to the outgoing President and was the 12th Woodland Rotarian to be named a Harris Fellow.

James Adams (1963-64) sold real estate from his office on Main Street, next to the Hotel Woodland and died of a heart attack while still a relatively young man, about 1970.

Harold Douglass (1964-65) was a well known educator. When the "new" high school was built at North West Street and Beamer, the old high school campus was converted into Woodland's second Junior Hi, and renamed in his honor.

Robert Griffith (1965-66) was introduced by Al Hiatt in the Splinter: "HAIL TO THE NEW CHIEF. A brief look into Bob's background will reveal why he is outstandingly qualified for this high office. One of Pres. Bob's first successes was in the field of research. Because of his unique ability to get people to respond with candid answers to frank questions, he rapidly rose to the position of captain for a Kinsey Foundation interview team. A later success of Bob's was when he added a new dimension to drugstore retailing by hiding the pills in the cotton stuffed into the prescription bottles. This gave the customer a spirit of adventure and anticipation

Right: Dr. Dean Winn at his demotion. Bill Rose, back center, always wore a rose bud in his lapel.

Bottom: Clyde Sinclair, Carl Rodegerdts and Ray Poarch.



Democrat showing Les as a dethroned "culprit" placed in stocks.

Stuart B. Waite (1959-60) was the Yolo County Fair Manager and served as club Secretary for 11 years.

Dr. William Blevins (1960-61) was the son of charter member Dr. William J. Blevins, Sr. His daughter was briefly a member of the club in the late 1990s. When members were called upon to acknowledge their birthdays, many proudly announced that they were "Blevins Babies."



instead of the rather dull technique used by Howard Gregg of putting the pills in the bottom and then stuffing the cotton so far down that it can't be reached without the aid of forceps."

Howard Gregg (1966-67) was the co-owner of Corner Drug and had gone to work with Jess Vickery in January 1934.

Roy "Wrong Way" Riegels (1967-68) is probably the most famous (or infamous) name to ever come out of Woodland. His story has been repeated many times, and even today on every January 1st when you're watching the Rose Bowl game, you may be lucky enough to see an old 1929 film clip of Roy, running the wrong way. His story is so interesting a separate section was created for it in the longer version of this history.

Frank "Coot" Gardner (1968-69) was written about by the Splinter, "...his disarming charm and enthusiastic freshness belie that hidden streak of conservatism in his nature. Today, who but the most rugged conservatives still uses a fountain pen as Frank does? Under his leadership we have all enjoyed Rotary. True to the command of the International President, he has seen to it that we have developed "club spirit" through "participation."

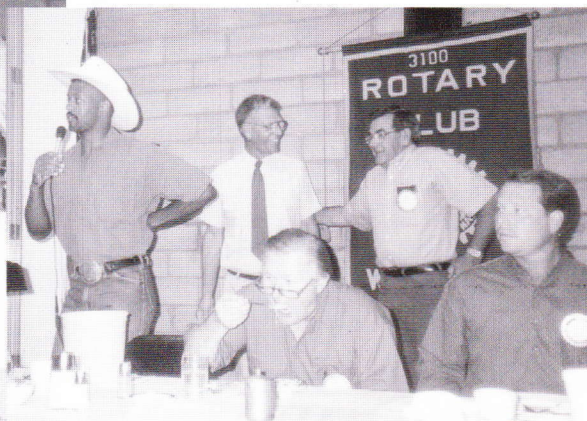
William Griffith (1969-70) was the son of President Everette, and brother of Bob. The youth of the time were protesting in a number of ways. Some girls resorted to going topless and young men



Left: President John Wallis reads his part of the Bartles & James commercial with actor and program speaker for the day, Pat Kimmerling, who was in the "real" commercial.

Center: Member Bryan Riley talks of his experiences as a bull rider.

Bottom: President Bob Moeller to serve time until bailed out by his friends in the name of charity.



streaked through events sans clothes for a thrill or to shock onlookers. The Splinter reported, "President Bill asked Oliver Northup to

give his views on a new Anti-Nudity Law designed to thwart these activities. After careful consideration, Oliver came through with the profound statement that he felt nudity will definitely have a place in our law. Because Bill seemed so interested in this anti-nudity problem, Les Means started a fund to pay Bill's way to the Kat Patch. President Bill persisted and asked if anyone had any new leads on the mystery picture called 'The Thing.' Ed Day rose and confessed his part in 'The Thing,' which caused Bill to wish he hadn't brought it up at all."

Jack Weaver (1970-71) was a third generation banker whom the Splinter nicknamed "Moose."



Jack wrote of himself, "I was not your average-size schoolboy, having reached six feet and 200 pounds in my 12th year. I remember in 1925, at the age of nine, being turned away from both the Turlock Plunge and the Fox Theatre, then pedaling home to get notes from my mother certifying that I really was entitled to the admission prices for 12 and under." Jack was fond of opening each meeting with a joke, which became a hallmark of his administration, and Ye Olde Hiatte stated that they often "brought great groans of anguish from the long suffering audience."

During Frank Heard's term (1971-72), the club donated 20 benches to the fairgrounds and the National Anthem was sung at every meeting.

At the beginning of Art Larson's term (1972-73), the bell turned up missing and he was immediately dubbed a "No-Bell" prize winner. He moved the meeting to the Elks Club and set up a fund for the 50th anniversary project which was still three years away. Bill Griffith told members he was already preparing a historical summary for that anniversary.

Oliver "Chip" Northup (1973-74) used his influence as City Attorney to have the noon whistle blow 6 times to herald his inauguration day. Chip, a member of the Crawdads, created the club's first Major Projects Committee. Annual dues were increased for the first time, from \$25 to \$35.

Dale Lacky (1974-75) was principal of Woodland High School for years. To improve the Woodland club, Pres. Dale asked visiting Rotarians

to rate it on a 10 point scale, judging on hospitality to visitors, the program, the fellowship, the smoothness of the meeting, conduct of the members, the food, the convenience of the meeting place, the efficiency of the service, and their enjoyment of the visit. Because of runaway inflation, dues were again raised after just a year to \$50.

Don McNary (1975-76) was President when the club completed the Rotary Park and celebrated its 50th anniversary by producing a 16-page special addition tabloid to the Daily Democrat. The cost of the tabloid was paid entirely by the club.

Marc Faye (1976-77), the Prune King, never went to high school, he went to Choate. He then went to Stanford, served as a lieutenant in the Air Force at the end of the Korean War, and then became a Pomologist at UC Davis. Also a member of the Crawdads, in February 1981 Marc was

appointed as Deputy Director of Agriculture for the State of California. The event that characterized Marc's year occurred when two bus loads of Rotarians from all corners of the earth tried coming to Woodland. In an otherwise brilliant career, this event was apparently a disaster.

Dr. Dean Jeldon, DDS, was

elected President for the 1977-78 term, but shortly after the first meeting found that his schedule simply wouldn't allow him enough time to do a proper job, so he resigned.

Eyvind Faye (1977-78), who had been unable to complete his own term in 1947-48 due to his hospitalization and subsequent long recovery, was



Woodland Rotary Presidents. Back row, L-R: Jim Nolan, Roger Kohlmeier, George Berrettoni, Bob Moeller, Scott Johnston, Marc Ullrich, Bob Dorris, Dr. Wim van Muyden, Charlie Rayl, Ray Poarch. Front row, L-R: Gary Wirth, Bob Seney, Dr. Don Smith, Frank Gardner, Don Huff Jr., Peter Faye, Ron Maraviov, Dr. Carl Rodegerdts.



approached by the board and asked if he would fill in for Dean. He graciously agreed. Hence, Eyvind was technically the only member to ever serve two terms as the Woodland Club President.

Peter Faye (1978-79) became the third Faye in a row to hold the presidential post. His daughter summed up the feelings of a lot of people when she wrote for his demotion, "You are a shining star among men! Congratulations on a fabulous year of Rotary work. We all love you." Peter challenged Herb Chandler and the club to five 100% days during his regime, and became only the second Woodland Rotarian besides Jesse Vickery to move up the ranks to District Governor.

Dr. Robert Blake (1979-80), dentist, started his year by promising to commit three to four hours a week in an effort to help improve the club. He established written goals and worked to achieve them. He succeeded in moving the luncheons to the Corkwood Lounge and created the Scooter Shooter to solve the early leaver problem. Personally, he was well known for his love of golf and was considered the club expert.

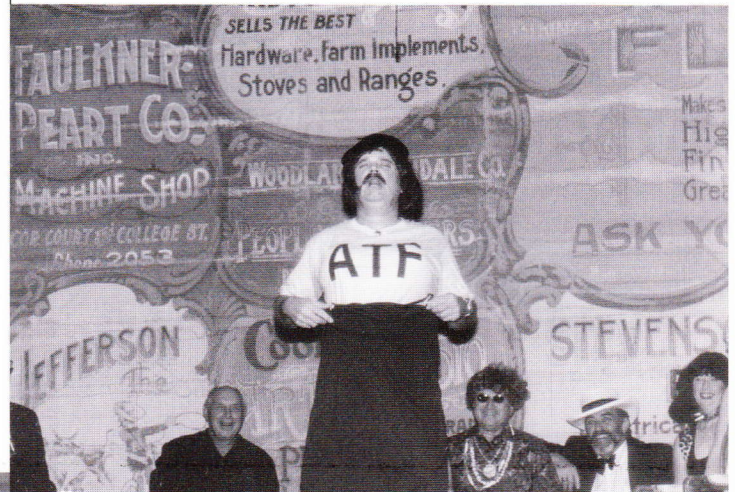
Don Huff Jr. (1980-81). His father had been President of the club in 1929-30. Young Don became affectionately known by writers of the *Splinter* as the "Silver Fox" and Al Hiatt teased him about his hair, claiming he "powdered" it. Fred Center presented Don with a new gavel; the old one was then retired with a brief ceremony, it being a 1961 model originally presented by Emil Kraft.

Robert Seney (1981-82), also known as "Digger Seney," or "Boothill Bob." These were terms of endearment from The *Splinter* staff who knew that Bob was one of their own. In fact, they often just referred to him as "our great" President.

William O. Rose (1982-83), attorney. Bill's goals for his year in office included the appointment of a new committee called "Recognitions and Fines." He wanted 15 to 20 new members, more interaction with the Sacramento Rotary Club, two new Paul Harris fellows, the completion of the previous year's "major project," and a new "major project." The club assisted the ladies in forming an

"Inner Wheel" club during his term.

Tom (Pills) Vickery (1983-84) was the son of Jesse Vickery, Past President and Past District Governor. His was a fun year, marked with



Top: President Marc Ulrich demonstrates his abilities at the 2000 club talent show.



Left: Charlie Rayl and Bob Seney. Most of the club members wore cowboy hats on Charlie's first day as President.

shenanigans, belly dancers, the surprise appearance of the sheriff with a brace of deputies, a coup d'état, and the recognition of those who were harassed and fined the most throughout the year.

Dr. John Soderstrom (1984-85). The grim reaper claimed three of our most distinguished Rotarians during his term. Eyvind Marcus Faye (President 1947-48 and 1977-78), Roy T. Jones (President 1956-57), and Sebastian (Doc) Campos, the club's long time Treasurer. At the end of his year, John exclaimed, "Whoopee! Hooray! It's my last official meeting as the President of Woodland Rotary." Members responded jovially with the same exclamations.

Ron Maraviov (1985-86), fairgrounds manager.



His first announcement was that birthdays and anniversaries would still continue to be recognized, but no one would have to pay for this recognition since the costs were now automatically included in the annual membership fee. Ron had been brought into the club by his predecessor, Stu Waite, and became famous for having come from Hayfork.

Carl Rodegerdts (1986-87) is a dentist, a pigeon fancier and a sheep herder. If there was ever an uncomfortable moment for a club President, he had it. When the District Governor visited, the club put on its most dignified face and even had some of the wives present for this most revered occasion. Just as Carl was trying to introduce the Governor, he was interrupted by a guest Rotarian from Idaho who wanted to tell a joke, which turned out to be raunchy. Rather than laughter, what followed was dumfounded silence from the captive, red-faced audience and Carl was left totally speechless. Later the man was arrested and served some time in jail for allegedly passing bad checks in several Woodland businesses, using Ray Poarch's name as a reference. It's generally believed the guy was not really a Rotarian.

Gary Wirth (1987-88), architect. Three weeks after taking office, the Splinter Editorial Board acclaimed on a 3-2 vote that "Gary was the greatest Woodland Rotary Club President since the 86-87 term of Carl Rodegerdts." His year was dominated from start to finish by Polio Plus fund-raising. The Club's obligation was \$36,000 over three years, but with Gary's focus the club was able to complete the financial program within a single year.

Dr. Dean F. Winn (1988-89) fought inflation by



*L-R: Dr. Jim McGibbon and his wife Susie, President Roger Kohlmeier and his wife Judy, and Dr. George Burger.*

reducing fines back to \$2.00. His board funded additional bus stop benches, two vocational scholarships, and contributions to "Friday Night Live" (a local youth activity held Friday evenings) and the "Make a Wish" Foundation.

Robert B. Moeller (1989-90), rancher, had difficulty in pronouncing some people's names, particularly Mike Carotenuto's. Bob always unintentionally murdered "Carotenuto" to the comical delight of everyone except Mike. Hence the term "Moeller Mouth" found its way into the club's vernacular. By the end of Bob's year, besides numerous other accomplishments, including accepting the first woman member, the club built the Rotary Court at the Opera House Plaza for \$35,000 and still ended up with \$32,000 in the bank.

John (Hot Air) Wallis (1990-91) had little control over his first meeting. Nothing went right for him. He dropped his mike, ignored visiting Rotarians and guests, and fined George Berrettoni just because it seemed like the thing to do. John passed out committee assignments whereupon it was pointed out that the Splinter staff had been dropped from the sheet, and that he could therefore expect a damn thin history book come the next demotion.

Donald L. Smith, Ph.D. (1991-92), plant scientist. The accomplishment that Don is most proud of was the establishment of the Woodland Rotary Endowment fund with a mission to accumulate at least a six figure capitalization. The fund is now known as the Rotary Club of Woodland Foundation. Don also established a committee, co-chaired by Marc Faye and Cap Thomson, to include more singing in the weekly meetings, and introduced the weekly mini-autobiographies to help achieve the goal of his adopted theme of getting "To Know Your Community Better."

Dr. Wim Van Muyen (1992-93). Never has the club had a President with as many endearing nicknames as Wim. He, at various times, answered to "Pres. Doogie," "Old Icy Fingers," "Cool Hand Wim," "The Inducer" and "Wim Van Doogie." Wim has a sly sense of humor and occasionally greeted a member at the door and saying, "You're looking good. Who is your embalmer?" Al Hiatt wrote, "When Wim started his term he was walking with the aid of a cane. This was reported as being caused



by hip joint surgery. From usually reliable sources we are told that it was caused by an injury. Ever the hot dogger, Wim was performing the delivery of twins while being observed by a visiting class of med students from U.C.D. Wim attempted to execute a fast one-man double play by delivering each twin without changing his fielding stance. A wet floor proved to be his downfall."

Jim Nolan (1993-94), lawyer, added an international flavor to the club. He was born in Dublin and married his wife in Turkey. But he was actually pretty local, having graduated from Sacramento High School and Hastings. Throughout his year he supported the formation of the Sunrise Club and coaxed members to "Believe in What You Do; Do What You Believe In."

Ray (Mr. Excitement) Poarch (1994-95), appliance and furniture dealer, marked his year with the theme and plea "Be a Friend," which he used liberally, especially after some sour joke or hefty fine. Ray and his brother owned the Western Auto Store and during this time they ran a TV commercial where Ray was jumping up and down on a Spring Air mattress. After explaining that they took credit cards or offered an extended payment plan, his brother hollers, "Hey, Ray, do we take cash?" and Ray's answering line was "We sure do!" in a high and slow, half-musical drawl, one word per bounce. It was hokey, but friends secretly enjoyed the ad and made fun of Ray's small screen performance for months.

Charles Rayl (1995-96), banker, and his wife, Marilyn, attended the International Rotary Convention in Nice, France, which he said "was the highlight of my year." During his year the club sponsored the Oktoberfest and continued the work on the Gazebo.

Bob Dorris (1996-97), cattleman. He started his year as President by proclaiming, "It's 12:30; I'm supposed to ring the bell." And thus his first words were recorded. At his demotion, Kevin Haarberg thought it was only right to give up his title of the "Rotary Male Chauvinist" to President Bob, and Bob Seney presented him with an iron representation of his year. It was a small hand-forged statue of Dorris holding onto the tail of a wild horse and being pulled in the direction of a cactus.

George Berrettoni (1997-98), former owner of Romey's Liquor, begged everyone to show up for his first meeting. He claims he wasn't fooled in the least when only a few members filled the long, nearly empty luncheon tables of the Corkwood on his first Tuesday. Everyone else milled around in the bowling alley parking lot until about fifteen minutes after the hour, and then came in singing "For he's a jolly good fellow." George introduced Trivia Tuesday and lost the bell. In August he lost control of the meeting to Frank Gardner, who, together with the club's Past Presidents, presented George with a new bell.

Scott Johnston (1998-99), CPA. On his first day, Scott allowed Frank Gardner to wrest the mike from him, followed by a Burger King-crowning episode which destroyed Scott's normal, confident manner, at least for a day. Scott replaced Trivial Tuesday with "Rotary Rocks," and every week he would fire up his boombox and challenge a table to "name the artist performing that tune." The Splinter took to calling him "Tunes," and claimed that his meetings ran like a well oiled machine, admitting, that except for his bell ringing skills, he was doing a tolerable job.

Marc Ullrich, (1999-00) CPA. From the moment Pres. Marcus returned from the International Conference and took control, members knew that his ambition for the club's millennium year was without bounds. He wanted the club to do and accomplish everything, to be a better club than all others, and go where no club had gone before. By the end of his term, the club had received the Presidential Citation, signed by Carlo Ravizza, Rotary International President.

Roger Kohlmeier (2000-01), former President of the Bank of Woodland/BP Bank, is the current President of the Rotary Club of Woodland—the jury is still out on his term.

## THE SPLINTER

The very first edition of the predecessor of the Splinter, "Vol. 1, No. 1," was published in November of 1940 without a name. "Dedicated to Blossom" was imprinted on the cover. Blossom may have been a mascot. Inside, the newsletter reported that the club was giving a graduate of Woodland



High School a \$50 college scholarship. It also noted that "we want more singing."

The cover of the Woodland Rotary Club BULLETIN says "Meets every Tuesday noon - Hotel Woodland." By 1956 it had lost its emphasis on the first four letters, having become a pretty serious publication, mostly just reporting future programs, lists of attendance, and announcements of new members. A joke was slipped in occasionally. Here's one that Chuck Maltese should love: "Study in mixed emotions: The man who saw his mother-in-law go over the cliff in his new Cadillac convertible."

In order to tie in with Woodland's "City of Trees" motto, in 1960 the name of the bulletin was changed to "The Splinter." Somewhere around 1965 Al Hiatt joined the Splinter staff and soon became its editor. In one of his first articles, Al wrote that Dale Lacky was photographed for the

Club No. 2360  
District 516  
Organized April 29, 1926  
Meets Hotel Woodland  
Tuesdays 12:15



# The SPLINTER



June 8, 1971

Rotary Club of Woodland

## THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Your humble correspondent is substituting for editor Bob Seney who has gone to Yuba City to investigate the importance of a do-it-yourself cemetery fad that has hit the Sutter County area. If this fad catches on, Bob may have to take up a sideline.

It was like old times in having Smitty back wielding the baton accompanied by the suave rhythmic styling of Harold. Bill Griffith asked the blessing.

Bob Wilson introduced 4 visiting Rotarians from Davis and 4 from Dixon, most of whom are regulars. Dean Jelden introduced his father from southern California who, paradoxically, is quite a distinguished looking person.

Gary Wirth introduced new member Carl Rodegerdts. Carl is of the dental profession and, in all fairness, it must be reported that he does not have the furtive appearance that one has come to associate with this profession. Carl's Rotaryann is June and they have two children.

Frank Gardner returned from Sydney, Australia (it's coot season there, now) and gave a report on the convention which he viewed on a black and white T.V. set at a local pub. Frank was fined for using his high school graduation picture when his picture was published in the paper for having been appointed City Attorney of the City of Winters (the pay isn't so much but he gets coot shooting privileges on the city sewage pond).

Dave Wharton announced the following winners of the golf tournament:

closest hole: 1st, Ira Resch; 2nd, Bob Moeller; 3rd, Bill Duffy;  
4th, Gary Wirth  
most birdies: Doc Campos; most pars: Milt Lee & Gary Wirth  
most strokes one hole: Jim Allee; least strokes one hole: Doc Campos  
most total strokes front nine: Dick Stevens; ditto back nine: Bob Moeller  
least strokes front nine: Dean Griffith; ditto back nine: Gary Wirth  
most strokes for 18 holes: Dick Stevens; most balls out of bounds:  
Paul Hart; poorest counter: Doc Campos  
most holes with same total strokes: Dick Stevens  
best dressed golfer: Marc Faye; most courteous golfer: Bill Duffy  
golfer most likely to succeed on a professional tour: Carl Claassen  
golfer with lowest net score: Bob Griffith & Milt Lee  
golfer with lowest gross score: Gary Wirth & Milt Lee  
two-man team championship: Dean Griffith & Milt Lee  
four-man team championship: Dean Griffith, Doc Campos, Jim Allee, &  
Marc Faye  
golfer with highest blood alcohol score: Dave Wharton

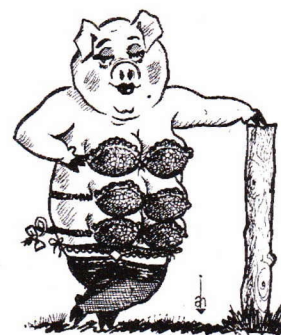
Pres. Moose reminded us that the District Assembly will be held in Davis on June 19.

Howard Gregg related that Benny Canepa had received a traffic ticket from new member Ray Andreozzi for jaywalking (he was rolling a garbage can) across Main Street.

New Member, Jim Allee, gave a vocational talk on being a Boy Scout District Executive which proved to be quite informative.

Pres. Moose presented the speaker which turned out to be none other than our own much revered Hank Stone. The title of the talk was "It Used To Be \_\_\_\_." This compared the "good old days" under Herbert Hoover of which Art Larson is so proud with the plight of modern day agriculture.

Ye Olde Hiatte



Maraviov cleans up the F.F.A. livestock auction



Sacramento Bee on the bridge of a destroyer in the Port of Sacramento. Al claims to have interviewed him shortly afterwards and reported that "Dale continued to take Dramamine pills during the interview, explaining that the shipping canal was indeed a nasty bit of water to navigate and could only be compared to the dreaded, treacherous straits crossing at Elkhorn."

Most attempts at seriousness by him or the other writers were soon abandoned in favor of irreverence. To protect themselves, writers took on pen names to mildly shield their identity. Al became "Ye Olde Hiatte" and Bob Seney became "Ye Olde Hilltopper." At one of the meetings in the 1990s, Al and Bob were called upon to tell of their experiences throughout the past 20-some years as reporters for the Splinter. The funniest things were the retaliations of some of the people who got ribbed by the editors: Benny Canepa dumping garbage on Al's plate and Frank Gardner serving both Hiatt and Seney frozen Coot for their Rotary meal.

Writers brought up the point that because of such dedication to duty and unbiased meticulous reporting, the Splinter staff is deserving of a reward and should be excused from having to attend all Rotary social functions.

Ye Ole Hiatte covered the fines report with: "Roy Riegels paid for recent publicity and the fact that he is laying the keel for a new fertilizer emporium. The architecture will reflect the usual Riegels' philosophy—rear door will face the street." They made fun of everyone, especially the President in power. But they nearly met their match with Peter Faye. They had a hard time finding his weak spot—prunes—but finally starting referring to him as the "Chairman of the Committee to ban Ex Lax," and the "sworn enemy of Serutan." Al reported in the last Splinter of the fiscal year, "Dr. Kevin Ryan presented a program illustrated by slides of three dimensional scanning by X-rays which produces a 3-dimensional image. This is done with the help of a computer that will make 90,000 calculations in 120 seconds. Pres. Pete has assessed its possible application to agricultural problems by doing a trial run on prunes in an effort to establish a purgative power parameter."

In 1979 Ye Olde Hilltopper reported that the Splinter staff held a special luncheon of their own and "among the many topics of discussion were quality control, spelling, drainage, soil compaction and the advantage of the bow over the traditional flintlock. There being no further discussion, the meeting was concluded at 1:00 pm."

In 1985 Al reported on a dinner at Cracchiolo's Banquet Room, and in deference to the ladies in attendance, the "coin-operated knife sharpening machines had been tastefully removed to the back room." Al went on in this edition to say, "Over the years many unfounded stories have been told about various club members and have persisted for so long that some of our newer members in all innocence may accept them at face value—always a dangerous assumption when real estate and insurance agents abound in the club. Through the meticulous and thorough research which has come to be accepted as standard for the Splinter, the following myths are laid to rest:

- Cap Thomson does not have a "hot line" to Ann Landers!
- John Kiesselback did not intern with Roto-Rooter!
- Gordon Nixon does not have a diploma displayed in his office showing that he completed a "Chuck Swift" sales course!
- Neil Fisher does not send his more difficult spinal alignment cases to Bee-Line auto alignment experts!
- John Wallis did not fly the first hot air water bed at the Hayfork Fairgrounds!
- Gordon Thurman did not leave a patient lying on bare box springs when he furnished a hospital sheet for a projection screen for a recent Rotary program!"

The next year Ye Olde Hiatte answered some letters to the editor with, "During the course of the year the Splinter office receives letters asking questions about a diverse array of subjects. We do not often get the time to answer these questions in the Splinter because of the inordinate amount of time that it takes to carefully research each answer. Space limitations require that the letters must be condensed. (These are just the replies.)

- To Gary Zurcher: Your question has been forwarded to Dr. Ruth.



- To Wim van Muyden: Our medical sources cannot confirm that chicken soup will either help or prevent the condition you describe.
- To Mark Solomon: Don McNary denies that he was ever on steroids.
- To Dean Winn: Frank Gardner claims that he does not own a cootskin coat.
- To Benny Canepa: Your problem concerning your golf game has been referred to our expert, Bob Blake. He says that your stance needs correction—you stand too close to the ball after you hit it!"

Splinter staff members were recruited to provide entertainment for the demotion parties. Al Hiatt delivered the following eulogy at President Carl Rodegerdt's demotion: "This has been the most expensive year in Rotary history. When President Carl (the dentist) said, 'Open wide,' he meant your wallet. There would be no IOUs unless accompanied by collateral, and carrying charges would be a standard 32%. However, there have been some spin-off benefits from Carl's relentless lancing of impacted wallets, such as; Jack Potter now runs an aluminum can route; Don Huff, Jr. runs a roadside fruit stand to pay off his anniversary fines... and Carl's regime has reflected current events so that when the Iran-Contra affair broke, President Carl established a Swiss bank account. Carl comes from old pioneer stock in Yolo County. His father was a member of the prestigious law firm of Rodegerdts & Means & Bartles & James." (For future readers, Bartles & James was a cheap sparkley wine advertised extensively at the time.) "And, as a good Republican, he has asked our incoming President, Gary Wirth, to review the sketches for the Reagan Memorial Library. Gary attests that the library will be big enough to house both of Ronnie's books, including the one he hasn't finished coloring yet!"

The Splinter wrote of John Kimsey, "generally regarded as the shy, undemonstrative type who rarely volunteers to speak at Rotary unless prodded. This seems to have come to an end with John having had his picture twice in the Daily Democrat in the space of about three weeks on Saturday's back page impromptu interviews at the Post Office. Each time the question of the day dealt with the Persian Gulf crisis to which John gave an ex-Marine-type

response. This in itself is good, but it now seems that John is hanging out at the Post Office every Saturday in his old Marine uniform which no longer can be fully buttoned."

They wrote about Dr. van Muyden as a respected practitioner: "Jim McGibbons, when he first arrived in Woodland to start his obstetrics practice, was greatly impressed by Wim's experience and reputation. Jim asked Wim if he had ever made a serious mistake in medical judgment. Wim answered that back in his early days of practice, that he once cured a rich widow in just three office visits. Wim said that early on he learned not to perform acupuncture on a water bed. Wim explained to Jim that at times when an obstetrician is away from the shop and without his black bag, he may in an emergency have to deliver a baby using only the tools that may be at hand. Wim once made a successful delivery using only salad tongs and a plumber's suction cup."

In 1996 the Splinter received a face lift, changing from a legal-sized colored paper with green ink to a more modern, beige, 8 1/2 x 11 inch format with brown ink, which is still in use today.

Besides the famous Al Hiatt and Ye Old Hilltopper Bob Seney, some of the other well remembered writers were called "The Mayor of Tinkerville" (Ron Maraviov), "Ye Olde Schoolmaster" (Harold Douglass), "Ex-Moneybags" (Jack Weaver), "Sir Wella" (nom de prune of Marc Faye), and "Liz the Wiz" (Zemmels). Liz is remembered not so much for what she wrote, or how long she was a member of the staff, but for how she wrote. She brought her laptop computer into the meetings and sat there tapping. By the time the meeting was ended, her work was finished. George Berrettoni is the current editor.

## ANNIVERSARIES

The club's 30th anniversary party was in 1956. The original members got together and sang to the tune of "16 Tons" how they were "old and gray, but carry on in the same old way, St. Peter don't you call us 'cause we won't go, we love the boys of Rotary so...."

In 1966, the club held a luncheon for members, their wives and special guests. One hundred and



twenty-eight attended and heard Bill Boyce give a talk on how the club was formed 40 years earlier. Before this talk many members had thought that Roy T. Jones was the originator of the "water on the chair" business, but Bill confirmed that this antic and many others used to go on in the club. Many members came away with the feeling that some of the club's past Rotarians put a little bit more fun into Rotary Hour "than we do today."

speech telling of a small copper collection cup his father had made for the club, which was necessarily replaced by a larger one as the club became more affluent and paper currency replaced coins. In 1969 the new cup disappeared only to be mysteriously found seven years later on Coot Gardner's desk. Boyce suggested that Don Fisher, who had lost it, and Coot, who had found it, were both unworthy of further trust and should be removed from any

further cup custodial privileges and be replaced by a more honorable member, namely Boyce himself. Past District Governor Bud Coulson capped the evening with a summation of the spirit of Rotary.

To celebrate the club's 50th year, a committee under Ken Brown produced a 16-page special addition tabloid to the Daily Democrat. The cover photo featured members of the club gathered around a sign heralding the recently completed Rotary Park at the fairgrounds.

In December, the club was visited by a delegation from the Sacramento Rotary Club, bearing a belated 50th anniversary gift, a beautifully hand-crafted copper charity pot.

A Daily Democrat article in February 1980 reported that 200 Rotarians from Woodland and Davis gathered at the Corkwood to mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of Rotary. Roger Gambatese, the President of the Davis Club, read a letter from the Davis Kiwanis Club saluting Rotary for being "a pioneer in the concept of community service coupled with fellowship." Davis donated \$1,500 to the Rotary Foundation for the 3-H program championed by Cliff Dochterman, former District Governor and future President of Rotary International. The 3-H Program concentrated on Health, Hunger and Humanity in an effort to help under-developed countries with special attention to the needs of children. They also presented a check for \$1,200 to help fund their pet project, a Davis public address system. Pres. Blake then announced the donation of



*The invitation for the club's 40th Anniversary Meeting.*

When the Golden Anniversary rolled around in 1976, a banquet was held at the site of the new Rotary Park, attracting more than 100 Rotarians plus their families and guests. Altogether 490 tickets at \$4.00 each were sold. The banquet offered music from Tom King and the Capitol City Jazz Band from 4pm to 6:15pm and fried chicken. 50-year pins were presented to the two surviving charter members, Bill Boyce and Harry Traynham, and a special award was presented to Dr. Donnel Fisher, who was cited for 48 years of perfect attendance. Eyvind Faye, Regnar Paulsen and Dr. Ray Nichols received Paul Harris Fellows, and Bill Boyce delivered a little



\$4,000 by the Woodland club to the Yolo County Fairgrounds to increase the seating capacity of Rotary Park. Blake said "the picnic and barbecue area seats 500, but this donation will increase that by 150 seats. It is estimated that more than 50,000 persons use Rotary Park each year."

A few days after the anniversary luncheon, the Democrat saluted the Rotary club with an editorial. "A casual visitor to a Rotary Club luncheon might gain the impression that Rotarians are frivolous luncheon-goers. Behind the scenes in committee sessions where the serious work of the service club takes place, a much different attitude and atmosphere prevails. Rotary, unlike most organizations of our day, insists upon individual interest, activity support and function attendance on the part of every member of a Rotary Club as a requisite for continued inclusion on the club's membership roster."



*Top: Kevin Brown was made to eat by himself on the floor at his demotion.*

*Right: Dr. Dean Winn was brought to his demotion at the Elks Club in an ambulance. He left in a pine box.*

*Bottom: Frank "Coot" Gardner looks on as Bob Seney presents outgoing President Bill Griffith with a token of the club's esteem, 1970.*



## THE HUMOR

Old timers said the club was always filled with fellowship, fun and good humor. When a fellow member spoke too long, he got the spinning plate treatment. If he stood too long, he was apt to get the wet seat treatment. When he became President, he

better not let the honor go to his head. And lest he forget this admonition, outgoing Presidents are never retired, they are demoted. The Demotion (retirement party), probably started in 1933 or earlier, has become an

annual tradition of both paying tribute to the President's efforts and accomplishments and a way of putting him back in his place. On that night, Presidents are judged, sentenced and sometimes hung, all to the delight of their peers and spouses. Dr. Dean Winn was even carried out of his demotion in a pine box. In the early 1960s an attempt was

made to diminish the demotion by making it a "shoddy daytime" affair. But Bob Griffith's was held at night once more, and with such success that the Splinter predicted that this "would permanently lay





to rest any future idea of ever changing it back again."

Some demotions were more elaborate than others and held in numerous locations, but the ending of the song sung at Gary Wirth's demotion pretty much sums up its spirit:

Let's raise our glass and wish him well now,  
Switch the gavel, ring the bell now.  
Presidents change on a yearly basis,  
Friendly programs, changing faces.

During the war, humor in the BULLETIN kept up the spirits of a beleaguered people. Some jokes in the Bulletin were:

"Dr. Max Waters writes to tell us about the following, which is just one of the many incidents in his busy life with Uncle Sam's army:

"Private: "I have a pain in my abdomen."

"Dr. Max: "Young man, officers have abdomens; sergeants have stomachs; you have a plain old bellyache."



Left: Part of the demotion program for Les Means. Above: Gary Wirth gets demoted.

There were shortages of many things. Here's some humor about coffee:

"Then there was the lady who fired the cook that had been with her twenty years, was practically a member of the family. Yep, fired her without a day's notice. She smelled coffee on her breath."

"Bill Conner tells us that the Sugar Rationing Program is causing a great many people to use the product of the Busy Bee. Bill tells us about one Bee who used his stinger so much he couldn't make his honey."

When Ernie Zebal was asked by the BULLETIN to supply a little autobiographical sketch so that the members would get to know the new President better, he wrote:

When God passed out brains,  
I thought he said "trains,"  
And I missed mine.  
When he handed out looks  
I thought he said "books,"  
And I didn't take any.  
When he handed out noses  
I thought he said "roses,"  
And I ordered a big red one.  
When he handed out ears  
I thought he said "beers,"  
And I ordered two short ones.  
God.....am I a mess!



Bill Boyce once shared the history of one of the club's most revered customs. It seems the week prior the Splinter reported that "Art Larson sat down in a freshly watered chair which elicited the usual reaction." Bill elaborated on this by explaining that, "Many years ago when this bathing system was first introduced, it was interesting to note the reaction of various members; young men would jump up fighting mad; older members would sit very quietly; they were not sure where the moisture came from."

Some Presidents, such as Jack Weaver, loved telling jokes and Ray Poarch made telling jokes a mandatory part of his meeting schedule. There was no better club humorist than Al Hiatt. He rarely spoke to members at large during meetings, but when he did, his wry original wit was almost always sure to elicit howls of laughter. Who else would claim he took his wife out on their anniversary evening for a fish fry at the Elk Horn Cafe, and then topped the

especially romantic night off with a cold beer at Dutch Miller's in Knight's Landing?

Many of the Presidents received affectionate nicknames such as "Coot" Gardner, "Moose" Weaver, "Hot Air" Wallis, "Dandy Don" Smith, "Wrong Way" Riegels, "Little Dynamite Don" McNary, "Digger" Seney, "Slides" Wirth, "Hayfork" Ron Maraviov, and "Icy Fingers" van Muyden.

Humor is a powerful medicine. Let's hope we never find ourselves so serious that we can't appreciate it.

## THE PROGRAMS

In the years since the Woodland Rotary Club's first meetings, its members have sat through over 3000 programs. The first few were mainly about the concept of

Rotarianism, and others were impromptu, perhaps when a speaker wasn't available. In 1929, Dean Howard of UC Davis told the club how the "Farm" was started with an investment of one and a half million dollars and now had a payroll of \$2000 a day. The Pioneer Club of the YMCA put on a two-round boxing match for the program. Members told about themselves, their vocations or their trips. Leonard Thatcher came as a young man and told of his explorations. Military men gave patriotic talks and doctors told members that half of them would die because of heart disease. Some were funny, enthralling, even great, and others were so boring many members wished they had left the meeting early or even slept.

In 1957, Rotarian Dr. Bob Burns introduced his father, John, who spoke about his experience as one of the pioneers in the development of the automobile. Mr. Burns invented and helped develop



*Left: Ray Poarch adds a little humor to the meeting. Don Smith and the guest speaker join in the laughter.*

*Bottom: A good time at a Rotary party.*





parts for the Franklin car. The Democrat quoted him as saying, "I think automatic transmissions are a godsend to women... a lot of them couldn't drive without them. But I still like a car with a stick, the way they were built before."

The 44-member girls' choir of Lee School sang Christmas carols at the December 1959 luncheon "Yule Party."

The famous Dean Snodgrass of Hastings Law School told Woodlanders about the Rule of 65 Club, which Hastings College used to pick up the top men that other universities had thrown out due to statutory senility.

A hospital administrator spoke and revealed that "Hospital costs were climbing." His examples included a man who had to be in the hospital for two days while undergoing surgery. His total bill came to \$155.00. And a boy who was

hospitalized for 31 days ran up a tab for \$1,095.00, which worked out to \$1.45 an hour. The speaker concluded to Rotary members that people should first investigate all the services that were included

in the bill before criticizing the amount.

The Daily Democrat published an article nearly every week recapping the club's program. The June 1, 1966 edition sports a photo of a young Marc Faye, with a heading that said "Laughter, Song Served Up for Rotary's Weekly Fare." It said in part,

"Marc Faye, a Winters agriculturist, picked up a handy guitar and accompanied himself as he sang his new 'hit song' titled simply 'Pollution.' The song, though excellent for Woodland-area consumption, would not make any top tune list outside Yolo County. Laughter rocked the rafters...." Former President Bob Griffith recalls that Marc's program was one of the best ever. That year, as a result of the Chamber's CUPUFUPU (clean up, pick up, fix up, paint up) campaign, Woodland was named one of the "cleanest towns in America."



Top: Congressman Vic Fazio reports to the club in 1982. President Bob Seney looks on.



Left: Collecting for lunches are, L-R, Herb Chandler and Tom Schwarzengruber.

Following his song, Marc showed a series of slides he had taken up and down the alleys of town, including spilled garbage cans and the backs of 100 year old buildings. They brought forth a hilarious



response to the obvious discrepancy of Woodland's award.

Every Rotarian knows that some of the best programs come from their own members. In 1966 one such program was delivered by Robert Seney, who told of the time he was summoned to Folsom Prison to handle a corpse. He was locked in during a jail break and subsequently had to handle three more corpses as a result of the night's action—all of this with a condemned murderer as an assistant.

Leonard Thatcher came back again to tell of his project to rebuild a church that had been destroyed by a typhoon in the South Seas. Members gave him over \$100 from their pockets. Dave Fitz, a popular member, was killed in an accident and a program was given to inform the club about the new 617,000 gallon swimming pool that would be dedicated to his memory.

Some programs were all fun. Ye Olde Hiatte reported that "John Wallis, Program Chairman-for-the-Day, introduced Al Bellini to ostensibly talk on the subject of "Title Insurance." This proved to be a stall for time until a beautiful young belly dancer appeared in appropriate costume and proceeded to devote her sensuous dance to President Tom Vickery. Neil Fisher, club chiropractor, was completely entranced with the lower lumbar mobility and declared that no further-spinal adjustments need be done. When the situation neared the conflagration stage, Pres. Tom's concentration was broken by the appearance of Sheriff Rod Graham and a brace of deputies. At this point, Sheriff Graham took over the mike and announced that the dancing girl was under age and, further, that Pres. Tom had not been licensed to conduct such an event. Needless to say, the whole improvisation turned out to be highly entertaining

and barely within the confines of being able to be reported in this family type publication. At this point Pres. Tom closed the meeting so that he could return to his office to take his blood pressure medicine."

Meetings at other locations were sometimes a program in themselves. Members came to witness the progress of a new construction, such as the Rotary Park, or the restoration of the Opera House, or to view the facilities of the Hays Truck Museum. Arranging fresh, interesting programs week after week is a big job. Sometimes they can be found nearby, such as Dr. Bob Edmondson's famous "Garbage Cans of the World" slide show, but other times speakers are willing to travel quite a ways to appear before such an astute audience. In 1985, Dr.

David Maynard, a former ambassador and professor emeritus who first went to China in 1922 to work for the Princeton Center in Peking, spoke on "A Look at China Today." With a geography much like the U.S., it has all of the products to support a modern industrial nation. He predicted that, "China is... opening its doors to trade and tourism and promises to be one of

the great powers of the world in the not too distant future."

A program chairman's nightmare is a no-show speaker. In one such event, Steve Venables thought he had a real coup when he secured a commitment from radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh to speak at 1:00pm. Rush's live production was broadcast in Sacramento in those days, and went off the air precisely at 12:00 noon, giving him plenty of time to drive to Woodland, maybe by 12:40pm. At 12:45pm Steve began to sweat a little, and more so as the clock ticked. By 1:00pm there was still no Limbaugh and Pres. Carl Rodegerdts was sweating too, staring daggers at Steve, and doing everything



"Slides" Wirth presents one of his famous programs.



possible to stretch out the club's proceedings until this controversial wordsmith arrived. At 1:10pm Rush called from Zamora. He had never been to Woodland before, must have had his brain on idle, and had just zipped right through on I-5 without noticing the turn-offs. His talk was rescheduled for a few weeks later, and delivered as the highlight program of the year.

None of the programs during Don Smith's year were more moving or memorable than that given by Captain Al Haynes, who on July 19, 1989 crash-landed his DC-10 with approximately 296 people aboard on a runway in Sioux City, Iowa. Ye Ole Hilltopper wrote: "His story of that fateful flight number 232 unfolded as he related to us the structural problems that caused loss of control over the plane; the conversations from plane to ground and back; the cooperation, respect, preparation and teamwork, not to mention the luck that brought 184 people through this afternoon nightmare with a loss of 112 lives. It would really be appreciated by the Rotarians reading this that were not in attendance for me to give a blow by blow account of his speech, but I am not capable of this so you will have to listen to someone who was in attendance... or see the movie."

President Don relates that when John Wallis learned of Capt. Haynes visit, he suggested to Don that they take him for a morning balloon ride. The Capt. was invited and delightedly accepted. That morning weather conditions at the fairgrounds were ideal and liftoff was normal, with Pilot John at the controls and Capt. Haynes and Dr. Don standing in the basket. After being airborne but a few feet, Haynes sat down. Don and John noticed but didn't say anything. At about 1000 feet Haynes stood up again. He then told them that because of the sensation of height, he had sat down because he felt that he might fall out of the basket if he didn't. Capt. Al Haynes had been flying since 1953 and had accumulated over 27,000 hours of flying time, yet he had never experienced this sensation of height before.

The award winning program for the year of 1998, possibly for the decade, was presented by Bill Cornelius, a former President of the Red Bluff

Rotary Club. It was amazing, humorous, educational and a classic Rotary-type speech. Filled with outlandish exaggerations, it had suckered in almost everyone until near the end. The entire speech is transcribed, unabridged, in the larger version of this history.

Leonard Thatcher presented club programs over a period of 54 years, but the person who has probably presented the most programs to the Woodland Rotary Club is none other than member Gary "Slides" Wirth. Always willing and available to show slides and talk about his adventures or other interests, Gary build a reputation as the quintessential "back up" program.

## THE SONGS

Somewhere around the club's 40th anniversary, the Daily Democrat's "Old Backtrailer" columnist, Charles Paynton, wrote a praising essay about the Woodland Club's history, and added "for 2,000 times they have batted their teeth—nature or store-provided—against the hard rolls, nibbled the lettuce, and carved the French fries to establish an attendance record which is the envy of all other Woodland organizations." A few paragraphs later he muses, "Rotary, which takes a leading role in so many worthwhile activities of the community... has another great achievement to its credit. By some unknown feat of magic... it gets its male members to sing... sound actually emerges from normally glued masculine lips. ...fined for almost every vice and virtue known to man, beast or the vegetable kingdom, we have yet to see a penalty imposed on a charge of failure to warble at a service club session."

Singing has always been a part of the Woodland Rotary Club. The National Anthem was sung at the very first luncheon. Within a year, Bill Crawford, Bill Boyce, Leonard Stromberg and Harry Summers had formed a quartet and entertained the members.

"Doc" Wilfred Robbins was the club's first song leader. At one meeting he schemed with several of the "Noise-singing and shouting Rotarians" to not cooperate with him in singing, whereupon he pretended to get mad, tore up the large typed sheets



of songs hanging from the wall and told all concerned that they were consigned to the lower regions. The President consoled him and told him how much the club thought of him. Robbins then flipped on the club's new lantern method sheet music projector and "songs and much merry laughter occurred."

In 1930 Donnel Fisher was appointed song leader and Les Morris was the musician. When Sid Epperson was President, the club adopted a theme song of the year. His was "Ferdinand the Bull." In the very first edition of the club bulletin, the writer said "we want more singing."

In 1959, "due to a full program at each meeting," music was deliberately kept to a minimum except for the weekly noon singing of the Star Spangled Banner.

For nearly thirty years the poor Splinter struggled to make weekly production of the same song sound fresh and exciting. In 1969 Ye Olde Hiatte wrote, "Today was ladies' day and it was evident that A.V. Smith had practiced all week for the occasion as he led us in the National Anthem." Once Marc Faye joined the club, it would sometimes sing "America" as an alternative.

After Les Morris gave up playing the piano, Harriet Vickery attended meetings to take his place.

When Les Means was demoted, his tribute was sung to him to the tune of "Poor Judd Is Dead."

Marc Faye, Cap Thomson and Oliver Northup forged a musical bond in the 1980s, creating the Crawdads trio. Serving the club, they wrote and sang songs, and in 1987 they demoted Carl Rodergerdts with a long ditty following the tune of "The Irish Washerwoman." Just



*Above: Steve Fisher shares his musical talent at a Christmas-time meeting.*

*Right: The Crawdads—Cap Thompson, Chip Northup and Marc Faye.*



prior to this night, in May 1987, they wrote their first edition of the Woodland Rotary Grace, sung to the tune of "O Tannenbaum." It went:

"For Rotary we thank thee, Lord,  
For Fellowship and ample board.  
May service to the Human race,  
Keep us ever in Thy grace. Amen"

After weeks of just humming the tune during Gary Wirth's presidency, the club finally reached a point where they could actually sing the grace. A competing grace was composed as follows, but apparently never caught on:



Rotarians are always grateful,  
Hi, Ho Diddle-um Day,  
Whenever they have got a plateful,  
Hi, Ho Diddle-um Day.  
Bless our lunches, Bless our dinners,  
Hi, Ho Diddle-um Day.  
Blessed if we'll be freeloader winners.  
Amen, Diddle-um Day.

By 1988 the Crawdads (Marc Faye, Chip Northup and Cap Thomson) provided musical entertainment at the start of each meeting, and in 1991, Don Smith officially established a committee to include more singing at each meeting. A second verse was added to the Grace and it became our official song, shared with Rotary clubs all over the place.

When the Christmas party was held in the newly restored Hotel Woodland, Steve Fisher acted as master of ceremonies and song master, leading in singing carols including "Country Roads," "Go Tell It on the Mountain," "White Christmas," "Deck the Halls," and "Silent Night."

Within the last few years, Mark Werum, Steve

Fisher and Oliver Northup would come forward with their guitars, or Marc Faye would pull out his ukulele, and lead the members in the extra song of the week. Bob "Off Key" Tamblyn is also often called upon to lead and usually does fine once he and the club manage to find the right pitch.

## MISCELLANEOUS

This section is way too small to cover all the members, guests, programs, incidents, visiting Governors and other important and interesting events that have filled the life of Woodland Rotary over 75 years. Although the club has less than a hundred or so active members now, literally hundreds and hundreds have earned the privilege to call themselves a Woodland Rotarian, contributing in a medley of ways. Thousands more have benefited directly from the Woodland Rotary Club, including students, scholars, boy scouts and girl scouts, sports teams, exchange students, charitable associations, the young and the old, and especially the community of Woodland. We hope you enjoy this booklet.





*Woodland Rotary Club members today.*