

THE HISTORY OF THE BELLINGHAM ROTARY CLUB, 1917 - 1981



**by
Keith A. Murray**

Occasional Paper #16
**Center for Pacific Northwest Studies
Western Washington University**

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Figure 1. Will J. Griswold, Organizer and First President

Preface

The Center for Pacific Northwest Studies is delighted to include in its series of Occasional Papers a volume written by Keith Murray, one of the Pacific Northwest's most distinguished historians, and since its inception, a member of the board of the Center.

For more than thirty years, Keith Murray was a member of the teaching faculty of Western Washington University, and for a good many of these, chairman of the Department of History. During those years, despite a very heavy teaching load, he wrote and had published three monographs, more than a dozen scholarly papers, and scores of reviews and short pieces. In 1977, Dr. Murray retired and was honored by the Trustees of the University with the title Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History. One year later, the Center honored him with a special publication, Pacific Northwest Themes: Historical Essays in Honor of Keith A. Murray.

Since that time, Keith has continued his scholarly pursuits, attending conferences, presenting papers, teaching at the University of Washington and writing reviews, encyclopedia articles and the present monograph. In the words of Professor Kent D. Richards that appeared last year in the Pacific Northwest Quarterly:

Those fortunate enough to know Keith Murray, the man, have enjoyed a memorable experience. Witty, questioning, always forthright, at times acerbic, he has been a towering force as historian and citizen. How fortunate it is that he has continued his activities since his official retirement.

No further words are needed except to say that much else is "in the works," and we hope that we may have the opportunity to publish some of them.

James W. Scott, Director

FOREWORD

In a few months the Bellingham Rotary Club will celebrate its 64th birthday. Throughout its long history the only records of Club activities and/or Club achievements have been retained in boxes in the form of Tattlers (the Club's weekly newsletter to its members), pictures, correspondence, newspaper clippings, etc.

This year the Board of Directors recognized the immediate need for some attempt to be made to document the past years to prevent this history from being lost forever. The Board also recognized that this was no small task and would require some individual or group of individuals to spend considerable time and effort if the job were to be done properly. Who could be asked?

Immediately the name of the eventual author, Keith Murray, was mentioned. Keith had twice been a member of the Bellingham Rotary Club, from September 1952 to July 1973 and again from January 1978 to the present. He had been President of the Club for the 1963-64 Rotary year and was a known historian. When approached to undertake this project, as a good Rotarian, Keith blindly accepted the challenge, not realizing the magnitude of the task which would be facing him. The results of his tireless efforts piecing together the highlights of the Club's history appear on the following pages.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and all past, present and future members of the Bellingham Rotary Club I would like to take this opportunity to express my most sincere gratitude to Keith and his committee for accepting and fulfilling an almost impossible challenge.

James W. Caldwell
President, Bellingham Rotary Club
1980-81

Acknowledgments

This short history is the result of an idea of Eldridge Carr who approached the writer a decade ago asking whether he could have a graduate student at Western Washington University write an account of the Bellingham Rotary Club. Carr had an almost complete record of Rotary activities from the time it was chartered in 1917. Since no graduate student wanted to tackle the job, it became my privilege to write it myself, after I was appointed Chairman of the Club History Committee by President James Caldwell.

A rather large committee of eleven advisers was asked to work with me, and these men have read the manuscript, corrected any obvious errors in grammar, spelling, or fact, and their valuable suggestions have been incorporated into the writing. Since no committee can write a cohesive account, without illustrating the old proverb that the camel was a horse put together by a committee, they left the actual finished copy writing to me. Any mistakes, therefore, are mine and the committee members should not be blamed for them. These men are: Roy Anderson, Eldridge Carr, Dr. Eric Johnson, George McCush, Frank C. Brooks, Dr. Donald L. Fickel, Robert Martin, Ralph Peterson, Burt Brown, Victor Hughes, and Henry Von Bargaen.

I wish particularly to thank Sandee Lindhout, the Executive Secretary of the Club, who found minutes, old newspaper clippings, and historic photographs for me which helped me to record the former times of the Club.

Finally, for the Western Washington Bureau of Faculty Research and Mrs. Jane Clark, who have prepared the manuscript for publication, an especial honorable mention is due.

Keith A. Murray
Western Washington University
1981

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter I	The Formative Years	1
Chapter II	The Depression Years	13
Chapter III	The War Years and Recovery	23
Chapter IV	The Eisenhower Years: The 1950's	31
Chapter V	The Recent Years	41
Appendix	61

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1	Will J. Griswold, Organizer and First President, Bellingham Rotary Club	iii
Figure 2	Bellingham Rotary Club, Summer 1921. Former President William Howard Taft is seated in the center of the third row	6
Figure 3	Bellingham Rotary Club, Leopold Hotel, Crystal Ballroom, Armistice Day, 1947	24
Figure 4	Paul Hanson, past president, on a Rotary Club cruise	35
Figure 5	Past president Brian Griffin in a relaxed moment .	39
Figure 6	Past president and future District Governor Curtis Cortelyou fishing	44
Figure 7	Don Buzzard, past president and past District Governor Roy Anderson, and past District Governor Win McLean, San Juan Island	48
Figure 8	Certificate of Appreciation from County Wide Ambulance, City of Bellingham	50
Figure 9	Rotary Club work party, Whatcom County Mental Health Clinic: Donald Berg and Sherry Brown .	53
Figure 10	Certificate of Appreciation, Funding of Boulevard Park, City of Bellingham, 1980 . . .	56

THE HISTORY OF THE
BELLINGHAM ROTARY CLUB

1917 - 1981

Chapter I

THE FORMATIVE YEARS

According to the Roster of the Rotary Club of Bellingham, "With thirty-one charter members, the Bellingham Rotary Club was instituted at a meeting at the Leopold Hotel on the evening of August 24, 1917." This is an interesting statement, for the records of the Club itself put the date as September 10, 1917, when a temporary Rotary organization was formed to effect a more permanent structure. At this meeting, Will J. Griswold presided, and in due time, this attorney was formally elected as the first president. Thomas B. Cole, a Customs House Broker, another of the thirty-one charter members, was elected secretary, a position he held for several years. J. B. Wahl of Wahl's Department Store was elected vice-president, and Henry Jukes of the Bellingham National Bank was elected treasurer. Not all of the charter members actually attended the first meeting, but all were part of the Club when the charter was sent to the Club on September 17.

That night, the Seattle Rotary Club acted as sponsor to the new Bellingham organization, while the Tacoma and Everett clubs sent delegations. In addition, the Vancouver Rotary Club also sent a group to help welcome Bellingham into The International Association of Rotary Clubs. Leonard Bushnell of the Seattle Club was the formal speaker at this memorable night.

The group of men who formed the nucleus of the Bellingham Club consisted of Clifford H. Barlow, of the Barlow Harness Company; Charles S. Beard of the Union Printing Company; Sabine L. Carr, insurance; W. Coston Carver, of the Bellingham Herald; A. S. Clark, of Clark Electric; Leslie R. Coffin, manager of the Puget Sound Traction Light and Power Co., the local electric utility; John R. Cole, First National Bank; Roland G. Gamwell, insurance and surety bonds; Dr. John W. Goodheart, physician; Charles R. Graham, pharmacy; Horace H. Griggs, books and stationery; Will J. Griswold, attorney; Curtis B. Harter, Harter & Wells Piano Co.; Percy E. Heal, Northwestern National Bank; Henry P. Jukes, Bellingham National Bank; Percy Livesey, real estate and insurance; E. T. Mathes (listed as a charter member, although the record notes that he joined the club on October 31), books and stationery; John F. Miller, Whatcom County Abstract Company; Cecil A. Morse, Morse Hardware Company; Alexander M. Muir, title insurance and Mayor of Bellingham; Charles F. Nolte, Bellingham National Bank; Fred P. Offerman, Red Cross Pharmacy; Benjamin F. Reno, Pacific Telephone and Telegraph manager; Dr. Charles A. Short, dentist; Henry Schupp, manager of the Leopold Hotel; Henry Thiel, Thiel and Welter, furniture; Joseph B. Wahl, department store; and Dr. Frank J. Van Kirk, eye, ear, nose and throat physician.

At the following meeting, Adolf F. Krabbe, cement manufacturer, and Charles Erholm, of the Pacific Laundry joined the club, but were not listed as charter members. The club grew very rapidly at first. By the end of October it had added five additional members, and on November 21, fifteen new members were added.

The United States had been at war with Germany and its allies for seven months by the end of November, but only a handful of service men were in Europe. Most were in training camps in the United States, and the bulk of Bellingham draftees were stationed at Camp Lewis, which was a makeshift affair located at the present site of Fort Lewis just south of Tacoma. The activities of the Rotarians, accordingly, were geared to wartime conditions. There were few outside speakers, for almost all of the club meetings were business meetings, with an occasional pep-talk by one of the Bellingham members. The various Liberty Loan drives occupied considerable time, and there were drives for reading material to be sent to soldiers and sailors in the training programs. Others made sure that there were delegations of Rotarians at the Great Northern railroad station to give a rousing sendoff to volunteers and conscripts being sent to the camps. Rotary also helped raise a \$500 fund for the Y.M.C.A. to add to other funds raised around the nation to send "Y" workers to France when the American Expeditionary Forces arrived for combat duty. Percy Livesey visited Camp Lewis and reported to the Club how the Whatcom County men were being trained. Frank Sefrit went to France on business, and the Rotary Club sent a shipment of tobacco with him for the soldiers stationed there.

Some of the other projects that took Rotary time or effort were the promotion of ferry service between Bellingham and the San Juan Islands, support for Boy Scouts, and above all else, fund raising for crippled children. At first, this latter activity meant that handicapped youngsters had to be sent to Seattle, and this continued for many years until St. Joseph's Hospital put in its own orthopedic ward. Additional projects carried out by the Club included work with the Chamber of Commerce to promote tourism, and selling War Savings Stamps and Thrift Stamps to the members.

Not everything was war-related, or project-related, however. The District Conference was held in Spokane in early February 1918, and a good delegation from Bellingham attended this inspirational and social event. The Great Northern furnished a sleeping car with accommodations for thirty and these members crossed the mountains to attend the conference. On February 25, the Club met in the evening, and invited their wives or women friends to join them. Forty-seven members and forty-five women attended, and after dinner, the secretary reported, "the rest of the evening was then given up to dancing, and finally broke up in the wee small hours of the morning, (the members) feeling that there was a lot more to Rotary than they had ever dreamed."

The Bellingham Rotary Club now included such leading citizens of Bellingham as F. K. Wood of the E. K. Wood Lumber Company; A. W. Deming, with the classification of "salt fish"; Bert Huntoon, who gave his occupation as "oyster grower"; and H. W. Buzzard, blacksmith.

On March 25, 1918, Percy Livesey created an historic moment, when he was recorded in the first of his frequent dissents from some unmemorable action of the Board of Directors. His firm, but delightful dissents became part of club tradition, and that of any other organization to which he belonged, and his pungently expressed statements continued until his death, more than fifty years later.

Throughout the spring of 1918 programs continued to be furnished largely by the club members themselves. Very little business occurred except for those actions related to war. On April 15 the Rev. James Wilson of the Fairhaven Presbyterian church and Dr. E. T. Mathes, former Principal of Bellingham Normal School and later owner of the Avalon Theater, left for France to work with the Y.M.C.A. program there. At this time, the Board voted also to have an

American flag displayed at all future club meetings, as well as a Service flag to honor Rotarians engaged in war service.

By May first 1918, there were seventy-five members of the Bellingham club. The membership voted at that time to participate as a Club in the Memorial Day parade at the end of the month. The attendance was never one hundred percent, however, for in addition to Wilson and Mathes, Paul Tripple and "Andy" Anderson went into the army and Kenneth Kuen joined the navy. In the enthusiasm for war work, three Rotarians, George Gage, J. B. Wahl, and Henry Schupp asked the Club to vote formally to demand that the City Council should "force all idle men in the city to work." There always had been vagrancy laws in effect in Bellingham, but although the minutes of the Club do not indicate the reason for this motion, it probably was related to the vigorous dissent of a small group of citizens and some aliens to what this minority saw as America's foolish involvement in a war that was not in its own interest. Some of this dissent was expressed in strikes, slowdowns, and even refusal to work at all. In any event, the Club endorsed the move, though like some other actions of the Club, nothing further was ever heard about it.

By mid-summer, a few men who had gone into war service from Bellingham were back in the city, and increasingly the programs were built around talks by these people in telling of their experiences. Among these people were Dr. William Kirkpatrick who had returned from Rumania and Siberia, and Captain Henry Darling who had been on naval patrol on the high seas. Coal mining for Bellingham as a potential major industry, trade with the Philippines, shipping from the Port of Bellingham, and Bellingham as a recreation center for the Pacific Northwest were topics also presented to the membership for their consideration.

In late August, a social night which included another dinner dance took place in the Leopold Hotel. It is interesting to note that the dance orchestra received a payment of \$21 for playing from nine p.m. until well after midnight. Since there were several members of the orchestra their individual pay must have been small, indeed.

In the fall, such long-time stalwarts as Archie Shiels and William Wetherall joined the club. Wetherall continued active for many years, and became both the official and unofficial "greeter" of visitors for decades afterward.

The fine arts were not ignored by the club during this first year. John Masfield appeared for a reading of his poetry in March. Glen Hughes and Victor Hoppe from the Normal School presented programs with a dramatic flavor. In addition, the executive of the Bellingham Central Labor Council gave a program outlining goals of unions in town, probably to counter the beliefs of some Rotarians that labor unions were somehow subversive.

Overwhelmingly, however, as one would expect from an organization composed mainly of business men, the programs dealt with opportunities available for Bellingham to build new industries. Since there was no doubt in the minds of town leaders that the War was winding down victoriously, Bellingham was going to experience tremendous growth and prosperity if only the opportunities were seized vigorously and developed for the benefit of all. For example, the Rotary Club tried to get the Ford Motor Company to locate an assembly plant in Bellingham to tap the British Columbia market. Another example was the promotion of a flax and linen industry for Whatcom County. Manufacturing of gas from the coal underlying the city was another industry targeted for local growth. J. J. Donovan of the Bloedel-Donovan Lumber

Company urged that the city grant his corporation a large waterfront area, vacating streets for the benefit of the company, which would in turn benefit Bellingham, as it certainly did for the following twenty-five years.

At the end of the year, the influenza epidemic was disturbing the routine of the Club, because from time to time on orders of the Health Department, a total quarantine immobilized Bellingham (as well as other cities of the state and nation), and the Club did not meet. As the service men began returning from Europe or American training camps, their need for employment was the most important project in the minds of Club members since the Wilson administration had no plans of any kind for adjustment from war to peace. Armenian relief was the main form of international service. During the late spring of 1919, many Rotarians were involved in what might be called Club Service, for this involved an international convention in Salt Lake City as well as two visits from the District Governor, and the District Conference in Portland. At this latter conference, Henry Jukes was seriously injured in an automobile accident, but happily he recovered quickly and was back at work by mid-April.

The Bellingham Rotarians were not unmindful of the stresses created by the lack of planning for peacetime living. A General Strike in Seattle had aroused fears of a "bolshevist" uprising. This fear was intensified by an ambitious politician, Mayor Ole Hanson of Seattle, who felt that he could possibly become President of the United States on his record of firmness against an assumed plot by radicals to overthrow the American government. He and people like him correlated the number of citizens born in Europe or Asia as being probable communists and stated that as many as five million Americans, were subversive. This measure might have applied to as many as three thousand inhabitants of Whatcom County. On the face of it, this was ridiculous, for equating radical sentiments to the number of people who had come as immigrants from Europe or Asia was simply stupid. To state that people like the sturdy Dutch farmers around Lynden, hardworking and devoutly religious, were secret "Bolshevists" did not convince anybody who knew them. The same was true of the Slavic fishermen in south Bellingham. Nevertheless, the Club voted in May to support a "detention camp" in Bellingham, though the members did not specify who was to be detained. The International convention passed a resolution against Bolshevism, but this did not excite anyone much, for not twenty thousand people in the entire nation really favored Bolshevism. Dr. Kirkpatrick spoke to the Club about the Russian revolution, but his observations were made while in Romania and Siberia, and he depended largely upon counter-revolutionary sources for his information.

Dutifully, the program committee produced anti-communist speakers, though why they needed to convince Rotarians that Bolshevism was bad is hard to understand. One speaker held that "Americanism" would solve labor problems, though he did not explain how teaching patriotism would create jobs for unemployed servicemen. Another speaker said labor was getting everything it demanded, which was patently false. He did suggest however, that when management won a strike, as it did almost every time in 1919, the managers should not take advantage of their defeated workers in the subsequent round of negotiations.

Projects of local concern were not stressed because of national and international conditions, but there were actions taken to provide for a "comfort station" on Champion Street, and to urge the upgrading of Bayview Cemetery which had been allowed to deteriorate for lack of proper maintenance. Another concern was that of access to Gooseberry Point by building a road through the

Lummi Reservation. The Rotary Club contributed \$400 to the county to purchase two small parcels of land from the Indians to complete the right-of-way for the road. This did not fail to raise an objection from some members, not as might be expected as to whether this was a legitimate use of club finances, but rather whether Indians should be compensated for their land at all.

During 1920, the third year of the club's existence, matters calmed down considerably. The nation was ready for a political and economic climate that was symbolized by the election of Warren G. Harding as president after his call for a "return to normalcy." The Bellingham Labor Council asked for Rotary cooperation in setting up a local arbitration board to avoid strikes in Whatcom County. This was to consist of two members of the Chamber of Commerce, two Rotarians, four labor council members and one "citizen" to act as chairman. This person would be selected by the other eight members. Since all Rotarians were required to become members of the Chamber of Commerce or face expulsion from the club, this meant that the four non-union representatives were likely to be members of the same organizations. The members chosen were Fred. G. Roberts, and Frank Knight. Mayor A. M. Muir was the "at large" member chosen to be chairman. Since Muir was both a Rotary and Chamber of Commerce member, his neutrality might have been suspect in a large city, but in a small town like Bellingham, the body seemed to have worked fairly well, and served as a real benefit in the community.

Daylight saving time was another matter, however. The Rotary membership greeted the proposal that this wartime measure be made permanent with scorn and even rage. There was no endorsement of the idea here, for the motion to approve was rejected in favor of one to table the matter, "because it would hurt business."

In early April, 1920, the Rotary directors offered an award for the best definition of Rotary. James Gaul, later a long-time secretary of the Club was selected winner with the following statement:

Rotary is the seed of Faith in our fellowman, Hope in our community, and Charity to all, planted in mutual understanding, cultivated by frequent intercourse, producing crops of cheerfulness, high efficiency, broader business vision, greater joy in life, and appreciation of the finer qualities in our neighbors and all mankind.

This definition has been printed in the annual roster of the Bellingham Club from that time until the present.

Charity to all was not too visible in some of the following programs, however. Speakers included politicians of widely differing viewpoints, who did not appreciate the finer qualities of all mankind. Governor Hart and his chief adviser, President Henry Suzzalo of the University of Washington, were on one side. Opposed to them was Roland Hartley of Everett, who later defeated Hart for reelection, and became Governor of Washington himself, and engineered the firing of Suzzalo from the University. Another speaker was John Gellatley of Wenatchee, who did not like either Hart or Hartley, and aspired to become Governor himself. J. J. Donovan addressed the club one day in the spring, stating his opinion that any public school teacher who joined a union should be fired out of hand! Another controversial speaker was former president William Howard Taft, who had changed from the darling of businessmen that he symbolized in 1912, to the chief advocate of the United States joining the League of



Figure 2 Bellingham Rotary Club, Summer 1921. Former President William Howard Taft is seated in the center of the third row.

Nations. His reception was cool. On the other hand, Senator Wesley Jones and Representative Lin Hadley, Bellingham attorney, received a much warmer welcome.

This interesting year, with speakers of more than local reputation, was also the year of tremendous emphasis on attendance. On December 20, the Club president announced that Bellingham was among the top ten clubs in the world for attendance of clubs with memberships between 100 and 200. For the entire year, the percentage was 93.48. At the annual Christmas party, 116 of the 120 members of the local club registered their attendance.

The enthusiasm of the Bellingham group continued into 1921. For the District Conference in Seattle, 148 from Bellingham chartered a special train to carry the delegates. By various devices of skits, songs, and sometimes by rowdy actions, the Bellingham Rotarians made their presence known.

This was the year of local concern about highway projects. "Reds" seemed to have been forgotten. Instead, Sam Hill, President of the Washington Good Roads Association and the person responsible for building the Peace Arch and establishing the international park at the Blaine border crossing, urged a comprehensive highway building plan. There certainly was need for such a program. The Old Samish road to Mount Vernon was called "a disgrace!" The future Chuckanut Drive was a narrow, gravelled road, badly in need of paving. The Mount Baker highway was practically unusable. Archie Siels made a plea that Alaska should not be neglected when it came to developing transportation facilities. There is no recorded dissent from any of these ideas, even though the local business community knew that they would cost money, and this money had to come from their taxes.

Perhaps as a reaction to the "boosterism" expressed by the Coué, the Frenchman, with his slogan, "Every Day in Every Way, I'm Getting Better and Better," the Club spent much of 1922 trying to improve Bellingham and publicize its attractions. For example in March, two thousand cut tulips were sent to the Vancouver Rotary Club to advertise the Bellingham Tulip Festival which had just been organized, and was to continue until the Depression. Bellingham Rotarian President Tony Barlow was a featured speaker at the International Conference in Los Angeles, trying to account for the spectacular record his club had established for attendance at meetings. The "Waterfront Road" to Edison was renamed "Chuckanut Drive." John A. Miller, president of the Chamber of Commerce and recent Rotary president, predicted that Bellingham would have a population of 100,000 "in the lifetime of every boy in this audience" at a father-son meeting of the Club. Once again, the Rotary Club tried to work for regular ferry service to the San Juan Islands, and a terminal of the Canadian Pacific Railroad to be located in Bellingham. That nothing came of these proposals did not matter. Like the drive to get a Ford Motor plant here, no one ever mentioned failure as a possibility, even though realities of limited profits to the companies they worked with were obvious.

At the close of the year of "boosting," the Club held a meeting at which various members made their personal guess about the future of Bellingham. The Chamber of Commerce representative had already predicted one hundred thousand by 1948, twenty-five years away. The Mayor guessed 80,000. The Superintendent of Schools predicted 60,000 with new junior high schools and a vocational-technical school as part of the educational system—a guess that was closer to the mark. Bert Huntoon supported John Miller in guessing a hundred thousand, but this was conditional upon increased tourism to the area. Tony Barlow said that Bellingham would have 85,000 with steel and iron mills, wool

and flax processing plants, and at least four new banks. Coston Carver of the Herald thought 75,000 was about right.

Nineteen twenty-three was much like the previous year. The Rotarians supported the Tulip Festival with many activities, operating "courtesy cars" for the benefit of the visitors to the city, building a float to be driven along the parade route, and planting a tulip garden inside the city limits, although the records do not say where. Otherwise the programs were of the usual kinds: promotions of different kinds, talks on European and Asian affairs, social events, and reports by politicians. Promotions included such items as the usual push for an Orcas Island ferry run via Lummi Island, another talk by Sam Hill on tourism, and an attempt to plan for a civic center somewhere along Whatcom Creek. International affairs included a speech praising Mussolini and Italian stability, the German inflation and monetary collapse, a talk opposing independence for the Philippine Islands, and two talks equating crime and the increasing use of drugs by young people with the presence of persons of Chinese and Japanese descent living on the west coast. Social events included organization of a Bellingham Rotary Club quartet, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wells, and Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Harter. This ensemble sang for the District Conference in May at Tacoma, and the Bellingham Club won the prize for having the largest delegation present. Other activities included a picnic on the 19th of July, a fancy dress ball in September, and a Christmas program in December. Since one of the major projects of the Club was care of children in need of orthopedic care, this eventually included a visit to a children's hospital and the distribution of gifts by a Rotarian dressed as Santa Claus. The political talks included another speech by Representative Lin Hadley, who deplored criticism of Congress as being "destructive." He insisted that all congressmen were working in the interests of the people!

Frank Brooks had attended the Dempsey-Gibbons fight in Shelby, Montana, on the 4th of July, 1923, and when he returned, he gave a report of that remarkable event which has become an American legend in how to foul up a community.

Another program that mirrored the attitude of the time was on the great earthquake around Tokyo Bay, where more people perished than died as the result of the two atomic bombs of World War II. The Rotary Club was asked for a contribution for relief, but voted it down. On the other hand, a handsome contribution was made to the City of Astoria, Oregon, after a disastrous fire had wiped out much of its business section. In contrast to what one might believe about Rotarians being identified with business interests alone, there were three programs designed to acquaint the Club Members with the aims and aspirations of labor unions. William M. Short, a state labor leader who had been considered a "Red" by some people in 1919, was well received when he made a plea for high wages to be paid to workers so that they could become homeowners and thus help wipe out class divisions as they joined the middle class. However, Rotarians in the 1920's still believed that "the business of America is business," as President Coolidge had proclaimed, and affirmed the rule that to become a Rotarian, a member must at the same time be a member of the Chamber of Commerce. When the membership committee proposed that the Normal School have faculty membership in addition to President Fisher, the Board decided that two teachers might become members, but they, too, must join the Chamber of Commerce.

Two memorial programs of note were presented to the Club in 1923 and 1924. John Miller, president of the Chamber of Commerce, died in May of 1923, and the Club paused to pay him an impressive tribute. He had been a Civil War

veteran, a cotton fabric manufacturer in Massachusetts, an employee of the Great Northern Railway, where he established himself as a specialist in rate making, Bellingham Rotary president, and leading citizen. The Club talked vaguely of building a memorial of some kind to him in the Sehome area, but nothing came of that proposal. In February of 1924, President Charles Fisher brought the nationally known historian, Albert Bushness Hart, to the Normal School, and also to the Rotary Club, where Hart discussed the impact of the death of Woodrow Wilson on the western world. His thesis was that since only Taft was still alive of all the men who had once been president, the job was too much for one man to carry by himself.

By the mid-1920's, club programs had drifted into a kind of routine, which might even be described as a rut. Most of the speakers expressed viewpoints that the Rotarians themselves believed in. The Rotary speakers did not approve of Socialism. Ramsey MacDonald and the British Labor Party were viewed with alarm by two speakers, although this amiable British prime minister was a pussycat compared with his Russian contemporaries. However, he created alarm among conservative business groups who took his campaign oratory seriously. Other speakers denounced zoning for Bellingham, urged tariffs on Canadian shingles, objected to state regulation of business, made an anti-Robert LaFollette campaign speech, denounced the "Bone Power Bill" that would have permitted municipalities to own and operate their own electrical systems and sell the surplus outside of the city limits, and opposed a new city charter for Bellingham.

These kinds of programs continued through 1925. New alarms were sounded oratorically about the instability of the German economy, though there is no mention of the correlation between the tremendous reparations payments the French government demanded, the French attempt to collect payments by force, and the understandable resistance of German workers toward being compelled to mine coal while being prodded by French bayonets. Taxes for 1925 collected in Bellingham were denounced as being too much of a burden for business to bear, but another speaker demanded that the allied war debts should be paid to the United States even though German reparations payments did not cover them. Taxes on French, British, or Italian businesses were, apparently quite all right. Mayor John Kellogg made two appearances before the club to appeal for a more efficient water system by joining the Lake Whatcom and Lake Padden systems. There was even a short-lived jelly manufacturing plant operating in Bellingham, which Rotarians were urged to support. There were the usual vocational talks, and the usual talks by new members. One hot potato in 1925 was provided in July when the Directors voted to have a member give an invocation before meals. Less than a month later, the Directors heard so many objections to having a prayer that they repealed their action, and no more blessings upon the Leopold Hotel food were pronounced for many years.

Another controversy was presented to the Club when Matthew Hill, at that time president of the University of Washington Alumni Association, later a distinguished justice of the Washington State Supreme Court, presented a program urging the recall of Governor Roland H. Hartley for his role in firing President Henry M. Suzzalo of the University of Washington. The Club membership listened politely to this young man, but took no action to support him and the U. of W. alumni. They were more receptive to Helge Johanson, President of the Whatcom High School student body, who was present to urge Rotarians to support the Bellingham football teams. The Club continued its support of the Children's Orthopedic Hospital, and programs informing the

membership of where the Club donations were going were frequently heard. In December 1925, the earliest "Bravo" type celebration took place, when the Rotarians held a fund-raising "white elephant" sale, which netted the charity fund the magnificent sum of \$93.00.

Nineteen twenty-six was a continuation of the two or three previous years. President Fisher of the Normal School defended city zoning as a positive step toward improving downtown Bellingham, but most Bellingham businessmen felt this to be an unwarranted intrusion into their right to "free enterprise." At the same time, they veered away from consistency when they supported tariffs on foreign agricultural products. Federal protection of farmers and business was, in their eyes, not a violation of laissez-faire.

This year, another attempt to provide ferry service to Orcas Island from Bellingham, and a cash subsidy to the U. and I. sugar company to keep them in Whatcom County (free enterprise?) became subjects for Rotary Club discussion. Similarly, the business community expressed concern about the number of chain stores coming into Bellingham, and urged public support of home-owned stores. The Rotarians did not suggest government intervention to prevent large retail establishments from coming, but clearly these small businessmen were neither willing nor able to compete equally with them, which in a totally "free enterprise" system dedicated to "survival of the fittest" would have meant that many of them could not have stayed in business.

J. J. Donovan, more consistent than some, spent one meeting in 1926 denouncing the proposal to drive a low level tunnel through the Cascade Mountains to provide an all-weather connection between the coast and the Columbia Basin. This would have required governmental funds to construct, and Donovan objected to expenditures of this nature to help an agricultural area that was marginal at best. Donovan, in fact, spoke frequently on many subjects. He was opposed to the St. Lawrence seaway as another unjustified use of public funds. Upon another occasion he paid a tribute of F. F. Handshey, a former county treasurer and Bellingham National Bank officer. He urged more roads to be built in Whatcom County. He travelled in Europe, and talked of his experiences in Belgium. (The recorder for the Rotary Club was obviously not familiar with Belgian geography, for he wrote the name of the seaport of Ostend as "Austin," Belgium.) Donovan next introduced a public relations man for the Great Northern Railway who urged a merger between the Great Northern and Northern Pacific railroads. In May 1927, Donovan's participation in Rotary affairs led to his election as President of the Club. He was an active man.

One unusual program that deserves mention was that of Gene Dennis, the "psychic" who was working as a vaudeville performer in small towns of the United States. This young woman "read the minds" of several Rotarians, and they professed themselves as being flabbergasted by the accuracy of her statements about them. She even located missing items that Rotarians had lost, though there was no follow-up to the account telling how many people found their lost possessions where Miss Dennis said they were. Another unusual program in 1927 was that of a finger-painting artist named Frank May. The Washington State College Women's Glee Club entertained the Club in the spring of 1927. The main concern of the Club this year seems to have been that the earwig pest had just made its appearance in Bellingham and Whatcom county, and no one knew what to do to destroy these insects. Several times during the year speakers proposed solutions to the problem, that fifty years later does not seem to be a problem at all.

As President of Rotary, J. J. Donovan now became an advocate of a better water system for the City than Bellingham currently enjoyed. Particularly, he urged that if Bellingham wanted to attract industries that would support large payrolls beneficial to everyone, a much greater water supply than was presently available was urgently needed. He noted that the much smaller Port Townsend had voted a million dollar bond issue to provide water for the Crown Zellerbach mill. Every taxpayer in town was charged for this water, and this timber corporation did not have to use its own capital for construction. No one asked how Mr. Donovan reconciled such a community expenditure to his well known belief in free enterprise. On more traditional ground, his programs urged oil wells in Whatcom County, declared that there were large bauxite deposits available nearby, and correctly predicted that the County would become the largest aluminum producer in the nation in the future, although this came about because of abundant electricity rather than abundant aluminum ore. He urged the Great Northern to build a new railroad station in Bellingham, which was built. He attended the usual District Conference in Longview along with many other Rotarians. All of the Club members were entertained on October 6, 1927, when John Philip Sousa, the famous band leader and composer, was the speaker. Even after his term of office ended, Mr. Donovan continued to voice his opinions frequently. In July 1928, he attacked the tax system in Washington which penalized companies for practicing conservation, and rewarded them only if they harvested every tree in sight. Of course his interest was to lower the taxes on the Bloedel-Donovan Lumber Company, but his presentation showed good thinking, and eventually his views were accepted, permitting conservation of immature timber.

Roland Gamwell, whose home on 16th Street is still a showplace, and who was well known for the beautiful roses he grew, spoke to the Club the following week, protesting the plan urged by some local citizens to put Whatcom Creek into a pipe, and filling the creek bed so that more buildings could be constructed there. Rather, Gamwell urged that the creek bed be beautified from Whatcom Falls Park to the Bay, and made into a kind of greenbelt through the central business area. He noted time and again in later years that below where the Roeder mill had stood, land had been given to the city for a park, but some earlier city council had voted to use the area as a garbage disposal site. Gamwell's vision has not been realized fifty years later, but it was through Rotarians such as he that the Maritime Heritage Park site was developed, and the landscaping of the creek bed from Cornwall Avenue to the Maritime Park became a reality.

In the fall of 1928, thoughts of the membership turned to the political campaign, since this was a presidential year. Rotary does not endorse candidates and by the nature of their occupations, many tend to vote Republican, but the program committee in this year was able to present what appears to have been unbiased information on candidates and issues. On August 27, all candidates of any party who wished to appear were welcomed and introduced to the membership. On September 10, Tony Barlow, supporting Herbert Hoover, and Dr. Jacob Smith, favoring Alfred Smith, held a debate on the merits of their candidates for the entertainment and information of the membership. The following week, J. J. Donovan again took over the program to support Scott Bullitt over Governor Hartley who was seeking re-election. Donovan was never bashful, and did not hesitate to announce his personal endorsement of every other Republican except Hartley. The Club was prohibited by its by-laws from taking any action on Donovan's suggestion. On September 24, again Donovan

spoke to the club. In a talk that would have sounded current in the election of 1980, the lumberman spoke on the importance of states rights in the face of the increasing growth of the federal government. Once again on October 1, Donovan addressed the Club on the importance of having an adequate harbor for the fishing fleet. He insisted that the time was short to put in the proper facilities or the fishing fleet would go elsewhere. His concluding suggestion was that a boat harbor should be built at the mouth of Squilicum Creek rather than at the foot of Taylor Avenue, which was the place the boats were moored in 1928.

Some of the other Rotary speakers were not as accurate in their predictions as "J. J." seems to have been. For instance, a Louis Muench predicted that by 1950, Germany would be the model democracy of Europe. "J. J." urged the Rotary Club to go on record as favoring the Kellogg-Briande Pact which would have outlawed war "as an instrument of national policy." The Club did so, and the "model democracy" described by Mr. Muench was the first to violate it, under Herr Hitler, less than ten years later.

The Secretary recorded a prediction by Mr. Larrabee, which in the light of subsequent events showed that even members were not immune from tremendous errors. Larrabee noted the rapidly rising listed values of stocks, and predicted great prosperity for the nation in the subsequent years.

Donovan continued to express his opinions to the Club at frequent intervals during the spring of 1929. In fact, he spoke so frequently that Peter Snyder, the mortician, began making responses to "J. J." in his humorous way, and Donovan was not offended.

The year seemed to be the same as the dozen previous ones. Hindsight tells us that the nation was heading into disaster, but the Rotarians were not aware of it. Dr. Will Kirkpatrick became president on April 1929, and whether it was symbolic or not, this meeting was informed that he came in on National Egg Week. He did not "lay an egg" as president, but the American economic system certainly did.

Rotary was very important to most of the membership. For instance, in mid-May, T. F. Doan, who had had perfect attendance for ten and a half years, became very ill. The morning of the Rotary meeting, he checked into the Leopold Hotel, and as the meeting was called to order by President Kirkpatrick, Doan had himself carried into the meeting room in a wheel chair, his attendance was counted, and he then retired to his bed upstairs.

The program chairman scheduled a program in mid-June presented by the Lummi Indians. Joe Hillaire, a Lummi leader, talked about Indian anthropology, and ended his talk with a demonstration of Indian culture, and made a plea for more native American leadership in matters concerning Indians, and less governmental dictation. As a demonstration of the insensitivity of white opinion to Indian aspirations, the Herald reporter chose to ignore Hillaire's request for native input to their own decisions, and the headline for the Rotary meeting said only, "War Dance Given." There was, of course, no war dance given at all, but since the readers knew only of war dances, this is what they got.

The irrepressible Donovan was heard from once more on August 25, when he made a plea for more school funds to upgrade Bellingham education. Superintendent of Schools Wiedman and Dean Frederick Bolton of the University of Washington School of Education presented a comprehensive plan for the future of Bellingham schools. First, they proposed that both Whatcom and Fairhaven High Schools be converted to Junior High Schools, and that one new Junior High be built later, as it was when Shuksan was constructed. There should be a new, single high school built in a central location. Roeder should be converted into an

elementary school. Sehome, Franklin, and Lincoln elementary schools should be closed, and a new grade school in the area should be built. Years later, the Carl Cozier school was built, and most Bellingham citizens don't know where the three grade schools mentioned stood, for all three schools were later closed and demolished. This was prediction of the future at its finest.

On October 7, the Rotary Club moved across the lobby and met for the first time in the Crystal Ballroom of the Leopold Hotel, and continued to do so for the following forty-nine years. The District Governor came that month to congratulate the Club on its handsome new meeting place, and John Pierce, hotel manager, basked in the warmth of official approval.

At the end of the month came the event that ended the era of general approval of the American system as it had operated, and of the Republican Party domination of American politics for many years. The Stock Market Crash at October's end affected the nation and Bellingham far more directly than had the assassination of an Archduke in Serbia in 1914, but both events changed the 20th Century. To read the accounts of the Bellingham Rotary Club meetings, and its official minutes, Rotarians did not know that the debacle had occurred. Mayor Kellogg was the speaker at the Club meeting immediately after the crash, and he didn't mention it. He gave a short "State of the City" address, and presented candidates for city office, who urged Rotarians to vote for them in short campaign speeches. One aspirant for City Attorney proposed annexation of areas north of Squalicum Creek in what is now known as the Birchwood District. He also denounced zoning ordinances as a threat to free enterprise, and said anyone should be allowed to build any kind of structure he wanted to any time he wanted to do so. Unfortunately for him, the disaster in New York ruined such freedoms for a long, long time.

As the first dozen years ended, one may note that until 1924 all but one of the presidents of the Club had been charter members and Dr. Tony Barlow had joined almost immediately after it was formed. These men were:

Will Griswold, 1917-18
John A. Miller, 1918-19
Henry P. Jukes, 1919-20
Thomas B. Cole, 1920-21
Dr. Tony M. Barlow, 1921-22
Cecil A. Morse, 1922-23
Charles S. Beard, 1923-24.

For the balance of the twelve years between the Club Charter and the Depression, the Club Presidents were:

Rev. J. C. Harrison, 1924-25
Dr. Jacob S. Smith, 1925-26
Byron L. Jones, 1926-27
J. J. Donovan, 1927-28
J. W. Timpson, 1928-29
William D. Kirkpatrick, 1929-30.

none of whom had been charter members.

Chapter II

THE DEPRESSION YEARS

The winter of 1929-30 did not seem too much different from other winters in Bellingham. The days were gloomy, and rain fell from the grey clouds frequently. Businessmen were aware of the painful adjustments taking place among their suppliers and customers, but not much more so than in previous years. News that automobile manufacturers of luxury cars, such as the Packard Motor Co., were laying off hundreds of employees was received without much alarm, for it was believed that this was naturally what manufacturers did when they couldn't sell their product during a temporary downturn in business.

It was not until February 17, 1930 that in a Rotary meeting, Cecil Morse made the first recorded mention of the Depression and how it was increasing in scope every week. His solution was the classic one taught in all schools of business at the time—business must reduced fixed costs for a while until the return of prosperity. Morse gave no remedy for a long-term depression, for he had no thought that this one would go on and on and on, for almost twelve years.

Instead of facing up to the crash, the programs of Rotary were very traditional. There were exchange meetings with the Kiwanis Club. There was a program given by the Vancouver, B.C. Club. Dr. Kirkpatrick gave a program on cortisone as a miracle treatment for a wide number of ills, and predicted that it well might become the long-sought cure for cancer. The zoning issue was presented pro and con, on separate Mondays. The anti-zoning speaker used the standard argument, but did it well. He conceded that ancient Athens looked better than Bellingham in 1930, but insisted that zoning would "straightjacket" the city. "You can't build an Athens without payrolls," he concluded. In this connection, the highly vocal Donovan conceded a loss of markets to Japan, but said the Russians were selling lumber to the Japanese while Bloedel-Donovan was not because the Japanese disliked the United States immigration policy. "Give them a quota" urged "J. J." The usual football coach from the University of Washington talked. Tourism would give a new industry to Bellingham, said another speaker.

By fall, the reality of the Depression was obvious. Robert Welsh of the Bellingham Canning Company finally admitted that unemployment in Bellingham and in the county had to be faced. He said that everyone had to find work before the Depression would stop. He did not say how this was to be done. Another speaker said that independence for the Philippines was a "must" if the United States was to keep good relations with southeast Asia. Whether this generosity was tied to the proposed tariff on foreign sugar, the reporter of the speech did not say. The Avalon Theater put sound into its equipment, and one program, after it was installed, was a presentation for Rotarians and Kiwanians of old newsreels, World War I photographs, and early animation with sound. This was a new development, and when businesses got into trouble in the Depression, the Avalon and its competitors did well, because they had tried something new. Rotary made a small contribution to the Community Chest, the predecessor of the United Way, to help Bellingham reach its quota, for gifts were not coming in

as expected. In addition, Rotary also made a gift of \$180 to buy milk for destitute children, which increasingly became the charity of choice for many Rotarians.

In this year, on March 3, 1930, Sabine Carr died suddenly. His son, Hugh Eldridge Carr, although still a student at the University of Washington, was elected to Club membership in November. Since "Brick" is still a member of the Club, he has the distinction of being the dean of the membership in the 1980's. During his fifty year affiliation with Bellingham Rotary, he has served as Club Secretary, and is also a Paul Harris Fellow. The Directors in 1930 made no mistake when they loaned Eldridge the classification of "Insurance."

Foreign affairs occupied the Club to some degree, but no one's thinking was changed much by the programs presented to alert the members to events overseas. Maurice Hindus, the distinguished author, urged diplomatic recognition of the regime controlling the Soviet Union, which had been in power for thirteen years, but Dr. Kirkpatrick took the podium to express a strong dissent. Albert Johnson, architect of the immigration bill based on "national origins," defended his bill, including exclusion of Asiatics, and urged even more restrictive measures to keep non-Americans out of the country. The Club heard a missionary expelled from India by the British government (for her open support of Gandhi) explain the philosophy of passive resistance to the Rotarians. One speaker had the courage to advocate United States membership in the World Court, in what was probably the peak period of "isolationism" for the nation.

As the election approached, the hottest issue in 1930 was that of the initiative known as the District Power Bill. This would allow a public body to set up a P.U.D. to buy or produce power as a municipal agency and sell it directly to consumers without going through a private distribution system. The program chairman invited an advocate of P.U.D. enabling legislation to present his views to the Club. At the end of the speech, J. J. Donovan got to his feet to register his opposition to the proposed measure. A special speaker also came to the club later to give reasons why private power was superior to public power. As a chilling portent of political things to come, the voters did not listen to the Rotarians, but passed the bill by an overwhelming margin.

By January, 1931, when the statement for club dues went out, the resignations began coming in. Most members were able to pay their dues, but a small, yet increasing number were unable to do so. The local Red Cross was out of funds for general disaster relief, and the Rotary made a small gift to help them until hard times ended. One speaker declared that the Depression would end as soon as the forces of "supply and demand" took over. He did not say what to do if supplies piled up because those who demanded them could not raise the price of the product. Lin Hadley suggested universal military service would end the unemployment of youth.

President Charles Fisher of the Normal School reported on the economy of Europe at an early meeting in January, and he said that the European situation was so bad they could not buy American goods, so the supply and demand solution would not work as an answer to the problem of how to sell goods that consumers could not afford.

Localism was evident when the Red Cross came to the Rotary Club with a plea for help. Continuously, the leaders in politics and business resisted demands that the government help with the massive welfare needs of the unemployed by claiming local charities were the way for Americans to solve "temporary" difficulties. Rotary, at least, was already deeply committed to the milk fund and community chest, orthopedic services for crippled children and various kinds of

boys clubs. Now, with this newest cry for help in aiding victims of the mid-western drought, which in a few months created the dust bowl made famous by Steinbeck's Grapes of Wrath, J. J. Donovan got to his feet to move a negative response from Rotary. If Rotary had any extra money to give, he said, it should be given to the local mission for destitute men. Nevertheless, when both Campfire and Red Cross agencies made a community-wide drive for funds to keep going, Rotarians contributed as individuals, and a program giving information about the needs of community agencies was cordially received. When it became time for the annual dinner dance, the membership voted to do away with the dance, save the money that would have gone to the orchestra, and contribute the amount to the milk fund, whose monies were always in danger of running out.

Economic events elsewhere brought about a revolution in Peru, although this was no novelty. Peru had experienced frequent revolutions. Unfortunately, the new government repudiated all debts, most of which were owned by American banks and private individual investors. As a result, the stock market took another beating, and the economic outlook in this country grew more gloomy. In the middle of this mini-crisis, Joe Kindall gave a talk on the Russian 5-Year Plan, proposed by Dictator Joseph Stalin. J.J. Donovan, as was his custom, made his own brief analysis of the talk, and spent most of his time denouncing the Russians because they, like the Peruvians, had repudiated their debts. These Russian debts incurred by the Czarist government that the Bolsheviks had overturned, had never been paid, nor have they been paid yet. To Donovan this was an international crime. Later in the summer, Donovan made an interesting proposal. Since the Depression was increasing in its seriousness, then businesses should raise their prices, he suggested, so that their profit margins would be larger, and this would cause an inflationary trend that would counteract the deflation of 1931! He was not asked how people who could not pay the current prices could pay higher ones, nor did he suggest how this economic legerdemain could work.

Equally amazing was one program which was presented to show that the Depression was actually a benefit to America, because it would build character! A more practical program, but one equally futile, was put on by the members of the Bellingham Club themselves, at which time several gave their own private ideas about what could be done to ease the plunge toward apparent disaster.

It seemed in this bad year that one thing followed another. Rotary had scheduled a program at the Mount Baker Lodge for the District Assembly on August 7 and 8, but the lodge burned two days before the Assembly was to meet. As if this weren't enough, all of the decorations burned as well, and the Club didn't even have a flag left to place at the speaker's table!

During the summer and fall, The Rotary speakers moved from reality to fantasy land. Donovan seemed to have some understanding of the current flood of disaster when he warned two full years before Hitler became chancellor of Germany that this man could lead the world into catastrophe. He also continued to make confident assertions that the Depression was over. Lin Hadley, making one of his last appearances as congressman from the second district, made a ringing denunciation of free trade, and stated that the Smoot-Hawley Tariff had nothing whatever to do with the Depression, although we know now that it had brought international trade almost to a complete standstill. This is a considerable departure from a 1980 release by the Bellingham Chamber of Commerce which seemed to have learned its lesson from the bitter days of the 1930's:

The United States economy depends upon the successful functioning of an open international trading system. We have to trade to live....

One third of United States corporate profits derive from international activities. Exports of goods and services contribute around \$200 billion to our gross national product. Imports mean jobs too. Two thirds of our imports are essential raw materials....

C. F. Larrabee returned from a trip to Germany, and while he did not praise Hitler, he said the Germans had "a prosperous look." Larrabee disapproved of unemployment insurance. J. J. Herb, President of the local Pacific Coast Paper Mills, took some comfort in the fact that Americans were at least better off than the poor in Asiatic countries. A man named Paige returned from a business trip to the east and reported that things were looking up there. All that was needed to end the Depression, said one speaker, was better salesmanship.

When the Japanese made the first move which began their slide into the World War II, by invading Manchuria, a speaker said that Manchurians were better off under the Japanese than they would be under their own Chinese overlords. Perhaps they were, for Chinese local government had been terrible for two or three decades, but such expressions of approval by the governing class in the United States encouraged Japan, and they continued their imperialistic program in the belief that no one in North America seriously opposed them. In February 1932, however, back to back speakers considered the Manchurian crisis—one describing the Japanese as "outlaws," the other defended its expansionism.

Now Donovan took another curious position. He attacked the Navy League, which had presented a program in October, 1931 demanding bigger and better appropriations, and Donovan said their demands were shortsighted and greedy. It certainly appears that "J. J." didn't mind antagonizing people.

One thing the Rotarians seemed to agree on was that government was wasteful and costly. John Gellatley of Wenatchee, now campaigning vigorously for Governor, demanded that state governmental expenditures had to be cut. A Seattle hardware man denounced both the Skagit and Cedar River projects of the municipal government of Seattle as examples of government waste.

By mid-June, "J. J." announced that Hoover's moratorium on the payment of allied war debts from World War I, was a good move, and it was only a matter of time until the Depression would end. "The tide has turned," he declared. On a more realistic note, a speaker appealed for Rotary contributions to Whatcom County relief, since the state and national governments insisted that caring for the destitute was a matter for local charity, and not a function of government.

Donovan did not always come away unscathed from his pronouncements. In September, Frank N. Brooks took him on for his attacks on the American Legion and the Navy League, saying that the American economy needed government appropriations for military preparations. Since the military is a non-productive enterprise, Brooks seemed not to have explained the semantic difference between expenditures for defense and welfare for its unemployed. He did deplore the routing of the "bonus army" in Washington at the President's orders, but did not back down from his position that federal money for the war and navy departments was justified, as probably it was in the light of Hitler's rise, and the Japanese invasion of China. Brooks did not censure President Hoover himself, however.

When Whatcom County was offered an opportunity to organize a Public Utility District in the election of 1932, the Rotary Club speakers mirrored the values of most of its 1932 members, that this was a bad thing. Edwin Selvin, the extremely conservative editor of the Seattle Business Chronicle was brought in to denounce P.U.D.s in general. Judge Kellogg came a week before the election to campaign against it, but his Rotary audience was not made up of any powerful group of socialists, so he gained few votes here.

Rotary did not react to the Republican disaster in November 1932, except to put on a program based around the popular musical show, "Of Thee I Sing," which spoofed the Roosevelt campaign. In this show John Nance Garner, the salty Texan, was cast as the silly Throttlebottom, a role which scarcely fit him.

When 1933 arrived, Henry Heal admitted in the first program of the year, that there was still a Depression. Nevertheless, speakers continued to denounce "radical legislation" to end it. Industrial insurance and public power were both opposed by members of the Club.

When the new administration in the nation's capital took over, however, the climate changed. Rotarians were told that the Bank Holiday proclamation of Roosevelt's first week was the right move. Heal gave his opinion that the Federal Deposit Insurance program was sound. The Civilian Conservation Corps was noted with approval. Another speaker said the Washington State Legislature had turned out to be much better than he had first feared. There was a program on the N.R.A. and its business "codes." Prohibition was debated and most Rotarians seemed to agree that it had to go. All of these were New Deal measures, of course, and the Rotarians were demonstrating a flexibility that spoke well for its membership. Once in a while, however, a speaker denounced Roosevelt and deficit spending.

Two visiting clergymen speaking of the growing international scene held widely differing views of the European situation, and that in itself showed confusion. Now Hitler was in power in Germany, and a Vancouver minister blamed France and its extreme demands for Reparations as being responsible. A local pastor, John R. Macartney, expressed his admiration for Mussolini, implying that perhaps what Europe needed was what it eventually got—control by a series of interlocking fascist dictatorships. A Methodist church official gave a different opinion, saying that imperialism along 19th century lines was dead, and American business had better recognize it.

In the city election of 1933, the first time since Roosevelt became president, the voters expressed themselves on local issues. The Republican city administration was completely wiped out with the exception of Harold Stevenson who was city comptroller. Rotary, of course, was not responsible for the Depression, but in the minds of many unemployed non-Rotarians, they were so much identified with the "establishment" that their prestige took a slump during 1933, the worst year of the Depression.

The new city administration did not distinguish itself with its wise decisions. Early in February, nine policemen and nine firemen were laid off and one fire station was closed to save public funds. In all, \$13,000 was cut from the city budget by these moves. The insurance companies thereupon raised premiums for Bellingham in an amount that totalled \$40,000 a year. This false economy that cost so much to a Depression-injured city was duly noted by the Rotary Club.

Two out-of-town speakers gave programs about world affairs in the Spring of 1934 which were above average. A speaker from New Westminster urged a greater use of the talents and energies of the young people who had been very hard hit by the Depression. He cited the fascists of Germany and Italy, as well

as the dictatorship of Chiang Kai-Shek in China as having successfully harnessed their young people. (It is doubtful whether he envisioned the Hitler Youth movement, however.) Reno Odlin, a young Tacoma banker, gave a masterly talk, tracing the straight line from World War I, to the Depression and Nazi-ism, Fascism, Communism, Japanese militarism, and other ideologies. He then changed gears and attacked the Roosevelt program, obviously borrowing heavily from the current book called "The New Deal in Old Rome," which showed parallels between the New Deal and the program of Diocletian which led eventually to the collapse of Rome. Since Rome survived almost three hundred years after Diocletian, however, his analogy fell somewhat flat!

The theme of many speakers continued that the Depression was almost over. Again and again, travelers returned with optimistic reports of "better business conditions" in the east.

Unfortunately, the Rotarians of the Depression Era refused to face the fact that theirs was a different world from what they had grown to believe was fixed forever. In the face of catastrophically declining fish runs and the failure of the hatchery program, the Bellingham club voted to retain fish traps and disapproved of "Initiative #77" which was adopted the next year and which banned them. The speakers that Rotary listened to unanimously deplored Seattle City Light's program to dam the Skagit River for electrical production, saying that there would never be enough demand for this power. It was not until 1938 that the Club endorsed the idea of federal grants to create employment for the number of jobless workers in Bellingham that had grown so large that Bellingham was one of the most "depressed" cities in the entire state.

On a more happy note, the Club closed out its oldest project, "the crippled children's fund" in 1934, but continued to support local treatment for individual young people who had become affected by polio or other disabling diseases. It used its funds for small gifts to community needs, such as the Y.W.C.A., or the Red Cross, or Sea Scouts, while continuing to support relief measures such as the "milk fund," or the Community Fund drives to continue character building services in the community. As a footnote, it is interesting that in mid-July, 1937, the Club voted to reinstate a prayer at the beginning of the meeting. Perhaps the Club felt the need of Divine assistance, for its membership had declined to such a point that the Leopold was asked to provide a smaller meeting room than the Crystal Ball Room, which would also reduce the rental charged. (Almost every meeting was devoted to pushing for membership fees to be paid up.)

Fortunately for America, the spring of 1938 began to show definite signs of recovery from the Depression. The tight money policies of the banking community and the Federal Reserve System were eased somewhat, and preparations for War in Europe provided new markets for American products. The Bellingham Rotary Club did not spend much time discussing either Depression or recovery, however, for its chief activity during that spring seemed to have been trying to find a name for the news sheet that began publication at the end of January.

At first, this gossip sheet was known as "The Rotary Log," but this did not find much enthusiasm among the members. By the end of February the name had changed to "What's Its Name?" The next week, the puckish editor changed it to the "Rotary Thingamabob." In March, it appeared with two names—at first it was referred to as the "Rotary Whatcha-Ma-Collet," then for a week it appeared with a blank space where the masthead would normally appear. On March 28, it finally appeared under its present name, "The Tattler."

The first issue gave a special plug to the international convention in San Francisco which, the editor noted with whimsical delight, had for its housing chairman the warden of Alcatraz. Six Bellingham Rotarians attended this, but did not stay at the prison.

The editor also noted with considerable glee a few weeks later that Gerald Gannon of the Chamber of Commerce had been in Los Angeles and when he was induced to speak of his experiences to the Rotarians, he chose to deplore the excesses of Hollywood, referring to them as "scars." It is not quite possible to reconstruct a talk from the sketchy notes furnished by the Tattler editor, but it would appear that Jerry had attended an exhibition by a stripper and had been quite properly shocked at the lack of clothing on the young lady who performed.

The editor tried valiantly to find other juicy tidbits for the sheet, but most of the time the programs were quite dull and the activities of the club itself were traditional to the point of becoming simply routine. One program that was out of the ordinary, however, was that presented by a State Highway Patrol member, who came to the club in August and administered driver's examinations to all of the members. This was no demonstration, for the members actually took examinations that were recorded on their licenses. Another program that aroused much interest was that presented by a representative of Seattle's "Order of Cincinnatus." This was the reform group of angry young conservatives who became tired of the city government in the City of Seattle, and set about to do something about it. As a result, its leader, Arthur B. Langlie, was elected Mayor of the municipality to the dismay of the professional politicians there, and he shortly afterward became the Republican Governor of the State of Washington, serving for three terms.

Nineteen thirty-eight was a year of hope for the future in Bellingham. The City Hall was constructed this year, and opened in 1939. With the blessings of the Rotarians and Chamber of Commerce, the city officials had obtained a federal grant to provide for construction. Bellingham High School moved into its new building this year. This was also a project financed by public works funds. The Civic Music Association began to present subscription concerts in the Bellingham High School auditorium in 1938. The Bellingham Theater Guild presented a play, "Room Service," which the Rotary Club supported by selling tickets to one evening's performance, and cleared \$412.92 profit. (No one ever explained how someone got into the play for two cents!)

Records are missing for much of nineteen thirty-nine. Almost everything pointed to a gradual increase in tempo in Bellingham business activity and an equal increase in sabre rattling overseas. No one needs a review of the activities of Adolph Hitler, and his eventual occupation of Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Danzig in that fateful year, with the inauguration of the "phony war" on the Rhine river between France and Germany. Possibly most people have forgotten the Latin American political unrest of this year, however. The only notice the Rotary Club took was to cancel the international convention that had been scheduled for Rio de Janeiro after Getulio Vargas, the dictator of Brazil, announced that he had rewritten the constitution, and had placed all power into his own hands. This caused much consternation in Brazil, but Vargas eventually suppressed opposition with great violence. Therefore, instead of going to Rio, the R. I. directors decided to move the '39 Convention to Havana (that great bastion of democracy already in the firm grasp of Sergeant Fulgencio Bautista whose excesses eventually provided the excuse for Castro's leftist revolution of 1953.)

A minor revolution in Bellingham that occurred during the summer of 1939 was almost totally ignored by the official Club publication, but it caused

tremendous dissention among Club members, nevertheless. A long standing feud between the editor of the Bellingham Herald, Frank Sefrit, and the President of Western Washington College of Education, long-time Rotarian, Charles Fisher, broke into the open in late 1938. A. W. Deming, the Rev. John R. Macartney, and Dr. William Kirkpatrick joined with Sefrit to try to persuade Fisher to resign his presidency, but Fisher refused. Charges of subversion against the college president were dismissed by the college Board of Trustees in 1938, but Governor Clarence Martin sided with the anti-Fisher group, and appointed Kirkpatrick to the Board of Trustees. The newly constituted Board again tried to get Fisher to resign, but when he again refused, fired him from his position. While this was not a Rotary fight, its repercussions shook the membership badly. The spectacle of two factions fighting among themselves, both of whom had agreed to the questions "Will it build goodwill and better friendships?" and "Will it be beneficial to all concerned?" did not even approach Rotary standards. Fortunately, Dr. Fisher's successor, Dr. William Wade Haggard, who joined the Rotary Club as soon as he arrived in Bellingham and became its local president four years later, was able to quiet things down, and Rotary itself was not hurt by the "Fisher case."

On a somewhat happier note, Rotary International took strong action against the tyrannies of Hitler and Mussolini in condemning their governmental excesses. These two dictators responded by proscribing Rotary in their two countries (an action frequently taken by dictators). "Rotary and Tyranny have nothing in common," proclaimed The Tattler. One by one, as Hitler or the Japanese overran parts of the world, Rotary clubs and activities were banned by Nazi-sympathizing military and political leaders.

Meanwhile, Rotary and the local Chamber of Commerce put their main fund-raising efforts toward trying to get a new plywood plant established in the community to go along with the pulp and paper mill, and the large sawmills that again processed lumber along the waterfront after having been closed for much of the Depression. Henry Jukes announced in late December that local citizens had raised \$218,000 to help build the plant that would provide jobs for many Bellingham citizens. This kind of activity and others caused The Tattler editor to take note of how many kinds of things Rotarians did for the community exclusive of their specific Rotary activities. The list was impressive.

Horace Griggs, who outlived all other charter members, was a leader in the Boy Scout movement in northwest Washington. Jim Gaul was the inspiration for the annual Bellingham Bobby Burns banquet. Jerry Gannon was the sparkplug of the Chamber of Commerce. Local Rotarians gave strong support to the Salvation Army, the Community Chest, and the National Educational Association. Rotarians in the local churches participated in the many religious activities of these bodies, serving on official boards, singing in choirs, teaching children in Sunday School. They were active in trying to obtain new industry for the community to reduce the chronic unemployment here. Their efforts to keep the short-lived ferry run between Bellingham and the San Juan Islands in operation failed, however, when this service was discontinued in February 1940, and never re-established.

As one would expect, after Dunkerque, there was a greater and greater concern in the swiftly developing advance of totalitarian armies. An Austrian anti-Nazi, then employed at Northern State Hospital, gave the Rotarians an eye witness account of how Nazi-ism worked from one who had been there. After Pearl Harbor, he repeated his talk to warn the Bellingham Rotarians what defeat could mean. Chiang Kai-shek began to be held up for admiration as Mussolini

had been eighteen years before. Now there were no cheers for Mussolini. In May the Rotarians took on a new activity in participating actively in a fund drive for the United Service Organization, or U.S.O. as it was known during the years that followed. America was building its armed forces against the possibility of an attack from the Dictators, and the young men and women in the service needed support. Bellingham resident Karl Richards who had lived in France from 1919 to 1931 as a law student and had been a representative of the U.S. Treasury Department stationed at the United States embassy in Paris during the Fall of France in 1940 gave his own vivid accounts of what a military occupation meant to a defeated nation. By mid-summer the community knew that the time was short when the nation would soon have to choose sides and become active in stopping the Nazis.

It was clear by the late summer of 1941 that the Depression was over. The war in Europe had reached even as far as Bellingham to break the jam of consumer resistance and production cut-backs that had marked America's economy for a dozen years, and the Rotary Club membership began to grow once more. There was a corresponding drop in the number and amount of delinquent dues.

It was also clear that while they were reluctant to do so, the Bellingham business and professional community had accepted the New Deal. In late June, for example, the Seattle City Light presented a program showing construction of the municipal light and power plants on the Skagit River and the Club approved. But over everything hung the impending crisis in Europe and Asia. Walter Seppala urged the Club members in a summer program to start their changeover from peacetime production to production for defense.

Germany attacked Russia in June, 1941, and was at the gates of Moscow by December 7. The Japanese expanded their war in China, and threatened the Netherlands if the Dutch withheld oil and supplies from their Indonesian wells, which were vital to Japan's naval ambitions. By late fall everything was ready for the final explosion.

It had been a strenuous and traumatic twelve years between the stock market crash of 1929, and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Through it all the Bellingham Rotary Club had functioned, and had slowly adapted to current events. During these difficult times, the Presidents of the Club were:

Frank N. Brooks, 1930-31
Ernest F. Wells, 1931-32
Henry Heal, 1932-33
William Deming, 1933-34
Mentor M. Boney, 1934-35
Lewis B. Wallace, 1935-36
John C. Pierce, 1936-37
Conrad E. Barker, 1937-38
C. Paine Shangle, 1938-39
Hugh W. Diehl, 1939-1940
C. R. Lanphear, 1940-41

The man who was president of the Club at the time of Pearl Harbor was Louis F. Jones, 1941-42, who served until after the Japanese attack on the Aleutian Islands and Midway.



Figure 3. Bellingham Rotary Club, Leopold Hotel, Crystal Ballroom, Armistice Day 1947.
Front Row (l. to r.) Roland Gamwell, Cosrain Carver, William W. Haggard, Herbert Smith,
George Graham, Clifford Barlow, Cecil Morse, Charles Beard, William Wetherall,
Horace Griggs.
Back row: Harold Collins, Charles Castle, Steward Blythe.

Chapter III

THE WAR YEARS AND RECOVERY

Most adult Americans over fifty years of age can tell you exactly what they were doing at the moment they heard of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. Nineteen forty-one is a long time ago, but the events of that Sunday afternoon and evening are burned into the memories of those who were alive then. This event ranks with the death of Roosevelt, the assassination of President Kennedy, or the eruption of Mt. St. Helens as dates that not only have "lived in infamy" but can be used as reference points for the balance of one's life.

These were the times of news of defeat after defeat in the Pacific. They remind us of the threat of the Nazis to crush Britain, and then turn on North America if the United States and Canada did not surrender at once before it was too late. They were the days of shortages in gasoline, rubber imports, automobiles, various kinds of food including sugar, coffee, meat and butter; of a scarcity of fuel oil and shoes. Yet through it all, there was no defeatism evident to any degree within the American public, but rather a grim determination to defeat our enemies, and to make whatever sacrifices were necessary to attain that goal. It is an attitude fairly difficult to describe to younger men and women who believe the American public has always been opposed to war.

In January 1943 a short poem appeared in The Tattler which will never win any Pulitzer Prizes for excellence, but which expressed rather well the representative attitude of the Bellingham business and professional community. There is no author given, and if it were taken from another Club Bulletin, there was no credit assigned. Therefore, it may be presumed that some Bellingham Rotarian composed it.

"Everything's Under Control"

The fuel wood is scarce, the sawdust won't burn
And the coal-bin is minus the coal,
Your income is frozen,
For the Government's chosen
To put everything under control.

The coffee and tea and sugar are rationed
Foodstuffs are rising in price.
You go to your grocer
He quickly says, "No Sir!"
"We ain't got potatoes or rice."

You get Government forms—at least one a day
But sometimes they come in a shoal;
And you shudder and grunt
At each latest stunt
To keep everything under control.

But the rules are kind-hearted, they go on as they started
And leave you your pants (minus cuff),
But you'll still pay your taxes,
Or you'll find that the Axis
Will take both your pants and the cuffs.

Many of the younger Rotarians volunteered for service to their country, and a number of them joined the Naval Reserve. From time to time the Club would be favored with former members or the sons of members on leave from the Army, Navy, or Airforce, who presented the program, speaking as much as they could of conditions under which they served. The programs included such topics as the Alaska Highway construction, which was at one time proposed to run through northern Alaska, cross the Bering Strait and serve as a supply line to the hard-pressed Russian armies, who were expecting a land attack from Manchuria by the Japanese army.

For a time, The Tattler was discontinued, with the explanation that there was a shortage of fuel, although there is no record of how a gasoline shortage contributed to the demise of the bulletin. Not long after the War began, however, The Tattler reappeared. Obviously, whatever the fuel shortage problem had been was solved.

Rotarians were particularly concerned about the future of Alaska, since to Bellingham, the fighting there during the Aleutian campaign was the closest spot where hostilities resulted in the exchange of bullets fired in anger against other men. These Alaskan programs were supplemented by periodic Red Cross drives, war bond drives, U.S.O. drives, promotion of Victory Gardens, or participation in Rationing Boards or Selective Service Boards.

Since one of the traditional preoccupations of Rotary members has been planning for the future, the programs during the first years of the War frequently dealt with plans for reconstruction after the War had ended. There were jokes told such as the man who put in his order for a Model '50 automobile (in 1943) because he believed it would take that long to win the War and retool for peace. Most programs were very serious, however. One speaker tried to take the high road, urging a world-wide federation of "Free enterprise controlled somewhat by government measures." He did not specify what sort of world government he supported. One marine veteran of the "Guadal Canal" battle (as the program listed it), warned his hearers that veterans would return from this conflict different from what people remembered them as individuals, and much more demanding than veterans of previous wars had ever been. Another speaker urged that the British Commonwealth of Nations and the United States of America merge or at least form a firm alliance to control the post-war world, for what he believed was the good of the human race. Congressman Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson warned of the danger of allowing widespread unemployment of veterans at the end of this war such as had occurred in 1919. President Frank F. Warren of Whitworth College talked of Japan from personal knowledge, and also urged that India be granted independence from Great Britain before the sub-continent achieved this goal by force. Warren argued that along with political self-determination of nations and peoples, the new nations should follow economic self-determination so that the old Imperialistic patterns of domination could be ended once and for all.

These were sobering ideas, and the times themselves were depressing. Casualty figures continued to mount as news came from overseas, there was no "Second Front" in Europe, the campaign against the Japanese in the Pacific was

agonizingly slow and costly, and the Germans were clawing at the vitals of the Soviet Union. In mid-summer, however, the news grew brighter, and the Rotary Club received the news of the fall of Mussolini and the surrender of the Italian government that replaced him with delight and cheers.

Since many Rotarians owned small power boats, and were involved in night patrols out of Bellingham Bay, the Coast Guard presented many programs telling of their activities and encouraging the Club members to continue these patriotic services.

In July of 1944, the Club noted the passing of its long-time secretary, Jim Gaul, with keen regret. Jim had served the Club for twenty-one years, and had been a member almost since it had been chartered. He had suffered a heart attack in May, but seemed well on his way to recovery when he had a second and fatal attack at his home. He died just at the time that the news of the Normandy invasion had encouraged Americans to realize that victory was only a matter of time.

Unfortunately, the advice of speakers about post-war planning for peace was not accepted unanimously. At the District Conference in Victoria, the keynote speaker urged that all persons of Japanese ancestry (not just Japanese nationals) be deported at the end of the war, and received loud applause for his suggestion. Where American and Canadian oriental citizens should be deported to, he did not bother to suggest. The President of the Puget Sound Power and Light Company obviously did not believe in any "brave new world," for in a talk straight out of the 1920's, he denounced "socialistic experimentation" of public power dams and demanded that small business and laissez-faire be the order of the day in post-war America.

Prophets still were not very accurate, as one evaluates their talks. One person rated the four great powers of the post-war period as the United States, the British Commonwealth, the Soviet Union, and Chiang Kai-Shek's China in that order. He did not see the dissolution of His Majesty's empire, the death of Stalin, or the exile of Chiang with the tremendous convulsions that these brought to the world, so he could not be blamed very much for the inaccuracy of his predictions. He also asserted that Germany was preparing for World War III, and would be America's great enemy for the rest of the century. Edward Arntzen of the Western Washington College faculty did a little better, however, when he predicted that sea power would no longer dominate the political structure of the post-war world, but rather that large nations with huge land masses would control the destinies of mankind. Using a strict geo-political argument, he turned his back on Admiral Mahan, who had turned the early 20th century into a gigantic international naval race, toward the Scottish geographer, Mackinder, who had had such a profound influence on Adolph Hitler.

As the War began to grind slowly down to its inevitable end in Europe, the Club began to revert to more routine matters. The War still bulked very large in the minds of Bellingham Rotarians, however strongly they believed in ultimate victory. When a speaker describing the proposed "G. I. Bill" for returning veterans, Rotarians agreed that this kind of government activity was good. When a public relations talk by the Boeing Aircraft Company told them of the B-29 bomber, more than a year prior to its use against the Japanese homeland, Rotarians were delighted, especially when the speaker stressed that this would become the prototype of air liners in civilian use after hostilities had ended. Nicholas "Nix" Lidstone from Bellingham, a destroyer Commander in the Pacific spoke to an attentive Club about his experiences. Attorney George McCush was alleged to have beaten the gasoline shortage by strapping two bicycles to the

front and back of his car as he commuted between his home and his office. When reminded of this report, however, McCush later admitted that in light of the first one of the 4-Way Test, the story was a fabrication of the Tattler editor.

A list of Rotarians in the nation's service included the names of Harold Stevenson, Dr. Edward K. Stimpson, Harold and Loren Wahl, Arthur Boyd, Orville Garrett, David C. Morse, Karl Oberleitner, Don King and A. W. Beeman. In addition, such men as Dr. Robert Gibb, Roy Gillespie, Dr. Eric Johnson, and Jack Templin were named in The Tattler, though most of them had not yet joined the Club.

By fall, the Club heard presentations and discussed the issues of what to do with the German War Criminals, how United States foreign policy must be redirected in the following years, and Post-War reconstruction in Italy. Other programs dealt with the problem of world illiteracy in a sophisticated future, technological world, and the immediate problem of the "buzz bombs" that were tearing the heart out of London. On a rather pessimistic note, Superintendent of Schools, Paine Shangle, predicted that the United States probably would not be willing to surrender any of its national sovereignty to a super government for the world in spite of all the sentiment toward this future goal. Veterans' problems concerned some of the Club committee during the winter. Individually, the Club members were probably more concerned with the fact that the drive into Germany had bogged down, and the Germans counter-offensive, known as "The Battle of the Bulge" had been more successful than anyone had thought possible. By spring, however, the advance into Germany was resumed, and the Rotary Club became involved in clothing drives to send to the poverty-stricken people who had survived the German occupation, whose overlords had shown no compassion for the subjugated populations, but had taken food, clothing, equipment, and factories to Germany leaving their captives destitute. Now that these had been freed from Nazi horrors, they needed the basic necessities of life.

The Club information sheet gave no recognition of the death of Roosevelt, but did spend several weeks publicizing the Conference on the International Organization that eventually became the U.N. This was held in San Francisco in April 1945. It noted with pride that forty-seven of the international delegates were Rotarians. Twenty-seven Rotarians were national representatives, eleven more were consultants, and nine others attended in various advisory roles.

While the U.N. Conference was still in session, Germany collapsed. At the Rotary meeting immediately following V-E Day in Europe, Paul Wells, the Club musician, sang, "When the Lights Go On Again, All Over the World," as a way of expressing the thanksgiving of the Club that part of the goal of complete victory over the Axis powers had been reached. At the same meeting, the Club took note of the fact that the English children who had been taken into the country, or even across the Atlantic to Canada to escape the bombing of the British cities were already being taken home to their parents or near relatives so that they could immediately resume lives as normal as possible.

As the nation braced itself for a protracted struggle against the Japanese military forces who had given almost fanatical resistance to American attempts to dislodge them from tiny islands in the Pacific, the advancing Americans had liberated Manila, and after a daring rescue had saved the lives of several hundreds of Americans held in prison camps there since 1941. One such woman came to Bellingham on June 1 to describe what life was like in an occupied land, where the enemy had won a victory, even a temporary one. It was pretty grim, and the members resolved that American must never suffer such a fate again.

In August, The Tattler gave more space to the 25th anniversary of Percy Livesey's Ferry Committee, once again promoting a regular route to the San Juan Islands, than it did to the dropping of the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima. Percy had suffered no scratches to his person during this quarter century, but there was no ferry to the San Juans, either! The Hiroshima bombing received banner headlines in the news, but its significance did not dawn on ordinary citizens. During the following days, however, when the Nagasaki bomb was dropped, and the Japanese Government surrendered, the end of the war came so suddenly that the nation was almost numb with surprise. However, the Club responded with a program which turned into a Service of Thanksgiving at the following Monday meeting.

By October, the veterans began to join the Bellingham Club and member veterans began to come to the meetings. Many programs that fall were tales of war experiences. In early November, a government speaker came to the Club and asked frankly for the opinion of the business and professional men on what the future should be for atomic power. It is frustrating that the editor of The Tattler did not give the results of the discussion. He ignored it. He did speak to the government agencies that had been created to win the war and noted that "Judging from the hints dropped by rationers and economic planners one gathers that the duration will last longer than the War."

Before the end of 1945, the Club was informed that fifty-seven European Rotary Clubs, outlawed by Hitler and his supporters, had been re-established. This was a welcome clue that the European world, at least, was crawling back toward normal existence.

Apparently with the War won, the Bellingham Rotary Club lost interest in the world around them. They spent their time trying to induce more members to attend meetings, to promoting club social events, bridge tournaments, golf games, or cruises on Bellingham Bay. Other programs were presented to urge members to attend conventions, or support the Red Cross, which almost apologetically declared that their services continued to be needed, even though the War was over. Aside from the news of the deaths of members, or the loss of Paul Harris, Rotary's founder, who died in January 1947, the Club bulletin was filled with biographies of members, fishing stories, jokes about the good scores or poor scores of its golfing members, father-and-son banquets, or occasional programs promoting Bellingham character building agencies. There seemed to be no unified programs to raise money for civic projects, or even to do more than give \$25 here or there to some special cause. However, in the spring of 1947, John Wallin, chairman of the Community Service Committee, proposed that the Club membership subscribe to a "Special Activities" fund to be used for philanthropic causes. People do not usually give money to vague or potential needs, however, and only about two-thirds of the members gave anything at all. A total of only \$1015 was either paid or pledged, but this was at least a start toward some kind of participation in civic betterment, or the growth of the potential of young men and women of the community. The Tattler again also stressed the contributions of individual Rotarians to community, state, or national groups. For example, Lawson Turcott became the first Bellingham person to serve on a United States Chamber of Commerce Committee. Louis Jones and Jim Brooks became active in American Legion affairs. Eldridge Carr, who had taken Jim Gaul's place as Club Secretary, was elected President of the Washington Association of Insurance Agents, a signal honor for a man so young.

At the same time, the International Office projected a memorial for the late Paul Harris to consist of funds to send students to advanced university

training to foreign countries, and the Rotary Foundation Fellowship program was born. A special fund raising program began in Bellingham at once, and while the Club did not reach the goal of \$10 per member for some time, by April 1948, \$850 had been forwarded to Rotary International, which moved Bellingham somewhere near 75% of its goal of each of its members subscribing.

The programs of the spring of 1948 show a dramatic shift in attitude of the directors of the Club from that which had been predominant when Rotary was organized in Bellingham. Contrasting with the debate over whether Grace should be prayed at Rotary meetings, on the Monday following Good Friday of 1948, the membership marched from the Leopold Hotel to the Avalon Theater for an interfaith Christian Holy Week service. Also contrasting with the skeptical attitude toward organized labor evinced by its members in 1919, the 1948 Club invited Dave Beck, International President of the Teamsters Union, to address the Club on the subject of unionism. Beck, however, shocked no one with any suggestions of a labor takeover of the United States economy, but sounded much like a business man himself.

There is an interesting footnote to this program. In the course of his remarks, Beck declared that everyone who belonged to a business or professional association was himself a member of a labor union. He mentioned, among others, membership in the American Medical Association. This was too much for Dr. Earl Cilley, who leaped to his feet and hotly denied that such was the case. Beck smiled blandly and refused to give an inch, while Cilley sputtered. The Club members found this exchange vastly amusing.

In this year, Rotarian Kenneth Morrison urged the Rotary Club to participate in a clothing drive for needy persons in Finland, and the response was gratifying. Finland had been a favorite European country throughout the 1930's for its regular payments on its post-World War I debts to the United States, and for its valiant defense against an overwhelming Soviet attack in 1939. Although it lost this war against unbeatable odds, and had joined the Axis under pressure from Germany, this was not held against the Finns. Like the Thai declaration of War against the United States under pressure from Japan, there was nothing the American government could do at the time to help either Finland or Thailand resist the Axis, and there were later no campaigns into these countries, and no punitive peace treaties forced on them when the War was ended.

The Finnish recipients of the clothing sent a letter of thanks to Bellingham from Kotka, and particularly to Morrison for his efforts. They noted that they had enough food to eat, but textiles, soap, and sweets were in extremely short supply. There was a severe inflation, and particularly hard hit were professional people and government clerks, as well as school teachers.

Membership continued to climb again during the immediate post-war period. An influential segment of the Rotary Club was not anxious to increase membership beyond one hundred fifteen men. A more active membership committee added twenty new classifications that would fit the Bellingham Club, and membership jumped to one hundred thirty-six in a few months. These men were cast in much the same mold as their predecessors, however, for in mid-1948, when Thomas E. Dewey was nominated for the Presidency of the United States by the Republican party convention, there were loud cheers from the membership and considerable speculation about what "President" Dewey would do when he was inaugurated!

Continuing its service to a wider community than Bellingham, two Rotary members, Earl LeValley and Jerry Gannon, were now serving actively on United Chamber of Commerce committees. One of the problems they faced was that of

an electrical energy shortage in the Pacific Northwest. Whereas in 1930 Rotarians had jeered at Skagit or Columbia River Dams as "boondoggles" and impractical monuments to the New Deal, now the citizens of this region were faced with electrical "brownouts" when selective shortages were passed around to all customers. Housewives and industries, as well as street lighting, suffered.

In the fall of 1948, The Tattler took note of the fact that J. Ward Finley, who had left Bellingham many years before, but had never transferred his membership to another Club, was still regularly making up his attendance in Salem, Oregon, or Vancouver, Washington.

Early in November, Rotarians along with their fellow Americans voted for their favorite candidates for state and federal offices. When the results were announced, they went into a state of collective shock, for Truman had won. After a gulp of embarrassment, the editor broke into poetry, and his humorous doggerel expressed, wryly, the good sportsmanship of American losers in political elections:

"He just can't lose," the pollsters claimed,
"The people's choice is Dewey!"
But Harry laughed and "Gave 'em Hell,"
And then—What happened??
PHOOEY!!

The Rotarians soon regained their balance, however, and the Club was able to participate in a Thanksgiving program on the appropriate day. The speaker was a former president of the Bellingham Club, the Rev. J. C. Harrison, now pastor of a church in Everett, and a member of the Everett Rotary Club.

At the beginning of the final year of the eventful decade of the 1940's, the Club celebrated "Cap" Erholm's twenty-third year of membership and the end of his twenty-third year of perfect attendance. This was unusual faithfulness to the attendance standards of the Club. J. Ward Finley continued to send weekly "makeup" cards to the Club office in Bellingham to maintain his record.

The most interesting thing about The Tattler during the early months of 1949 was a running feud between President Arthur Boyd and the editor who baited Rotarian Boyd by printing risqué jokes in the news sheet. At one point President Boyd demanded that the editor apologize to the Club membership, but the irrepressible Bob Heily continued to needle his friendly antagonist with bad jokes and pointless humor combined with questions to his president as to whether these jokes were clean enough to print.

In the late spring and early summer, the Club listened to Attorney Marshall Forrest present a program advocating World Federation, and later heard the sad news that Rotary had been suspended in Czechoslovakia after the Communist takeover of that unhappy nation. The good news was that Rotary had reappeared in Germany and Japan. Rotarian Jake Smith did what he could, when he "sponsored" a displaced family of Polish refugees and brought them to Bellingham where they could be absorbed into this small American city. President Truman appointed Rotarian "Swede" Anderson, a former high school football coach and commercial fisherman to the International Pacific Salmon Commission. The elevation of this Rotarian to an International body was received with approval by the Club members, even if Truman did it!

During the balance of the year, the programs were still as one might expect for a Club composed of business and professional men. The Program Committee gave a program on Big Business, which was accepted as "good." It

gave a program on government expenditures from taxes for the benefit of welfare recipients, and the consensus was that this was "bad." The membership was horrified to learn that the Territory of Alaska legislature had attempted to levy taxes on out-of-Territory industries that came there to develop or use Alaskan raw materials. This was considered "very bad." International inflation was looked upon with disfavor, but the soundness of the American dollar, and the stockpile of gold in Fort Knox, Kentucky, which was used to support the American currency was viewed with much favor. It appeared that the soundness of the American free enterprise system was assured for any length of time ahead that one cared to look.

And thus passed the decade. The War was fought and won. Communism was an unpleasant fact on the other side of the globe, but not a serious problem in America. Business was good, and was getting better. There seemed no prospect of a "primary post-war depression" such as had occurred after most previous wars. Whatcom County had opened its new court house, and the main fault people had with it was the color it was painted. Membership in the Rotary Club had reached a new high of 145 members.

Club Presidents during these years were:

Louis F. Jones, 1941-42
Harold Lant, 1942-43
William W. Haggard, 1943-44
Earle D. Griffin, 1944-45
Victor A. Hughes, 1945-46
Robert Diehl, Sr., 1946-47
George Graham 1947-48
Arthur Boyd, 1948-49
Herbert A. Smith, 1949-50

Chapter IV

THE EISENHOWER YEARS: THE 1950'S

In the mid-summer of 1950, the American public was rudely awakened to the forceable spread of international Communism when the armies of North Korea suddenly invaded the Republic of Korea in an attempt to gain the reunion of the two halves of that nation, which had been divided since the Treaty with Japan. American public opinion was outraged at this senseless violation of agreements to keep the peace, and when President Truman directed General Douglas MacArthur to strip Japan of much of its occupation army and go to the defense of the Rhee government of South Korea, there was no kind of dissent of consequence anywhere in the United States. The War dragged on for two years, but when General Dwight Eisenhower promised to "go to Korea" to end the conflict, the public accepted his leadership with enthusiasm and a landslide victory for President over his worthy opponent, Adlai Stevenson.

The suddenness of the Communist attack and the loss of more than forty thousand Americans plus hundreds of thousands of Korean lives frightened and enraged the American electorate. Fear and anger was expressed for much of the decade in the campaign to stamp out real or fancied communist threats in the United States itself, and the program to build air-raid shelters in private homes, and business establishments in the central cities, as well as building backfires against the apparent desire of the Soviet Union to set the world aflame. The ramifications of this "anti-communist crusade" even reached into the Bellingham Rotary Club. The major thrust of this movement ended after Eisenhower's election, and the death of Dictator Josef Stalin, as well as that of his American enemy, Senator Joseph McCarthy. The common sense of the average American citizen soon reasserted itself, but for a while it was a time of suspicion, fear, and strong emotions.

The Rotary Club did not seem to be particularly worked up about Communism before the Korean attack. Perhaps the most memorable moment before the North Korean invasion came when J. Ward Finley abruptly ceased sending makeup cards from distant points, and resigned from the Bellingham Club, citing dietary restrictions and poor health that made his attendance at any club impossible. The other matter worthy of mention was the annual visit to Bellingham High School at which time a young man, noted by The Tattler editor, as "Young Brian Griffin," student body president, was much in evidence, and handled himself with enough dignity and skill to arouse the admiration of the Rotary members present.

The Attendance Committee must have been very active this Korean summer, for when the District Governor paid his annual visit, he cautioned the Bellingham Rotarians not to be "more interested in attendance than service." Indeed, these were some of the best years for attendance that the Club ever had between its charter night and the present. Service projects did not suffer, however. The main problem was that there were never enough funds in the charity fund to cover all of the requests for money for worthwhile causes. For years, the Sergeant-at-Arms had passed "the charity box" and had received

contributions of ten cents each from the members present. Now, the donation for charity was raised to a quarter a week, and this helped but did not come close to meeting the needs of the community.

As President Herb Smith's term of office came to an end, there was not much new or startling to report. The highly respected "Swede" Anderson, now State Director of Fisheries, died suddenly in October 1950, as did other worthy Rotary members from time to time, but the programs and activities followed the usual routine.

By summer, however, one rather significant change was made. While it apparently was never written formally into the by-laws, by practice the program chairman appointed by the current president (but not elected by the membership) became president of the Club two years later. Thus, no Club president from that day until the present has ever been popularly elected to any other office than that of the Board of Directors.

The Attendance Committee, which had been so successful the year before, now found itself with a new problem. People came all right, but as soon as they had fulfilled the required time requirement, they began streaming out of the meeting hall. The Club poet described it in his doggerel:

Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, we boys are marching
Leaving Rotary in a bunch.
When the clock strikes one o'clock
We'll be halfway down the block
We're the guys that come to Rotary
Just for lunch!

The main projects this summer were the usual social ones. There was a golf tournament. There was a bridge tournament. There were the usual reports from District Conference, the International Convention, and the Club Assembly. The Washington Taxpayer's Association, composed mainly of business and industrial leaders, sent speakers regularly deploring the "needless expansion in government," and demanding that the taxpayers of Washington put a stop to it. Someone with prophetic gifts might have said, "You ain't seen nothing yet!" There was much travel to "the suntan circuit," with appropriate recognitions of these fortunate Rotarians when they returned to the moist surroundings of Bellingham. Football star Hugh McElheney was a guest of the Club on behalf of Emil Sick, the beer producer.

While International affairs did not seem to concern the Club very much, Frank Williston of the Far Eastern Department of the University of Washington came on one occasion to try to tell the members what Korea was like as a nation, and what was at stake in the War being fought in Asia. Elliott Aandahl made a talk on communism in China as he had observed it, and gave much enthusiastic support to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek. He did not say that he had resigned his United States State Department assignment because his activities as a former missionary in China, a Major in the United States Marines involved in activities along the Burma Road, and his skill in the Chinese language had made him suspect to the Senate Internal Security Committee, or that when he had learned that he was being investigated, he resigned immediately. He returned to Taiwan and is still there as a missionary, bitterly opposed to communism. This man, married into a Ferndale family and a Western Washington University graduate, was lost to the Foreign Service of the United States at a time that he was needed most.



Figure 4. Paul Hanson, past president, on a Rotary Club cruise.

It was this kind of situation, coupled with the over-zealous activities of a Washington State legislator named Albert Canwell, that caused Rotarian Arthur Hicks to address the club in September on the subject of "Civil Liberties." What he said was not reported in The Tattler, but the editor pronounced it "thought provoking." It must have done more than provoke thoughts, however, for suspicion among some of the members turned against Hicks himself. The atmosphere grew so foul as the weeks went by that the District Governor came to the Club in October to warn against "hysteria as a weapon against subversion," to use his words. The matter had not yet run its course, however, for in November Mr. Canwell himself, came to the Club and ended his remarks with a demand that Western Washington College be purged of subversives, leaving no doubt with anyone that he had Hicks in mind. Arthur Hicks thereupon resigned from the Club, and some of his friends did so also. Afterward Canwell was defeated for election to the office he sought in the next election, and the Korean war ended a year later. However, there was some bitterness and some shame expressed by Club members and a few outspoken sentiments of hostility toward the college community, which former Rotary President W. W. Haggard who was also President of Western found very distressing and very distasteful. Fortunately incidents of this kind have been rare in the Club history.

Foreign Affairs of a different kind than the Korean War were presented by an Iranian graduate student from the University of Washington who told the Rotarians of the situation in his country when the regularly elected leader of the Iranians was ousted by a coup and the man later called "The Shah" became ruler. He knew nothing of American C.I.A. involvement but prophesied that there would be much trouble in the world and even for America because of this deed. International Oil Cartels were his villains, but the Rotarians thought that Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh was a dupe of the Russians, and when he nationalized the Abadan refineries this was proof of his communist leanings. Thus, in their view the whole world was seen to be in the toils of a communist plot, assuming that Americans looked at all major events through anti-communist-tinted spectacles. Bellingham Rotarians were no different from anyone else.

Perhaps the President of Lewis and Clark College, Dr. U. G. Dubach, expressed the theme for these uneasy times when he said, "The next twenty-five years are going to be great if they don't kill me." Unfortunately thousands were losing their lives in Korea, and Americans didn't like that.

Programs by eye witnesses to Korean activities began to be heard at the noon meetings. Many of these had colored slides of what they had seen and heard, but they did not seem too well organized, and the Club members became frankly bored at the familiar pictures of tiny, grey haired men bowed under enormous piles of firewood that those peasants were transporting on their backs. One Rotarian was heard to say after such a presentation, "I don't care if I never see another picture of 'papa-san.'"

Two tragedies marred the summer of 1952. In May most of the family of Edward Jukes and several of his friends simply disappeared on a routine sailing cruise to Orcas Island. Almost no trace of their ship was found, and only the body of Ed Jukes was recovered. No trace of the other persons aboard was ever found. Two of the Jukes daughters survived because they did not go with the rest of the family. In July the wives of two Rotarians, Evelyn Shull and Winifred McGowen, died of polio, only a few months before the Salk vaccine was available for general use.

On a more positive note, in November the Mobil Oil Company announced that it had decided to locate its new west coast refinery in Whatcom County. With the arrival of this refinery, Whatcom County changed from a rural area with lumber and fishing related industries to an increasingly important industrial site. It has never again been the same.

Club-wise, the members were pleased when Henry Heal was elected District Governor of the region extending from Alaska to Everett. This was the first time a member of the Bellingham Club had been honored in this manner.

Like the perennial problem of ferry service to the San Juan Islands, the question of what to do about the shrinking salmon catch in Pacific waters came up again and again in Rotary meetings. When James Crutchfield from the University of Washington and a leading exponent of scientific management and harvesting of the fish came to the Club, he coupled his remarks with the plea that the United States also think of other countries that depended on seafood for their meagre diets. The editor of The Tattler duly reported Crutchfield's remarks, but strongly disagreed with the idea that the United States should consider the needs of other Pacific peoples. "Competition was the American Way," he wrote in an editorial. An unidentified Rotarian, in a letter to the editor, agreed that it was, but said this was not necessarily the right attitude, for he gave the opinion that the "me first" attitude was what had ruined Germany, Austria, and China.

When the administration of the Club ended in July, a new editor and president took over the management, along with the continued service of Eldridge Carr as Secretary and Ray Lehn as Treasurer. For two months the new editor, Derond DeWeese, reported banalities. Lew Wallace continued to complain about the "veal birds" that the Leopold Hotel served at lunch. Wallace, who owned the Chevrolet agency, also complained jokingly, when the hotel placed a Nash Rambler in the lobby for general inspection, rather than a new model Chevrolet. Conrad Barker was chided regularly for financial shenanigans, such as the time he put a peso in the box instead of the usual quarter, or the time he placed "I.O.U.'s" in the slot instead of coin, or even the time he put in a rubber dollar instead of a Federal Reserve Note. Naturally, there was a great deal of humorous complaint when the price of lunches increased to \$1.25 a week, and much talk of inflation and the decline of the American dollar.

In the fall, things picked up somewhat, however. The Tattler reported in early October 1953 of a program disaster. This does not happen often, but when a program is terrible, people remember it, and no one more so than the Program Chairman. Editor DeWeese devoted a half a column to the disaster, this year, and counted the number of noddors (6), sleepers (10), and those who stayed awake but dropped their Rotary buttons on the floor (9). The speaker was supposed to talk about the Florist Telephone Delivery Association, but no one remembered what he said, for his presentation was very poor.

Since the Korean War was now over, the analysts took over. Frank Williston returned to speak on what Korea would be like with a permanent division between northern and southern halves. A speaker from India shocked the Club members by bluntly stating that "American had lost the Korean War," and that Asians had all been astonished, for they thought America invincible. He concluded that never again could the United States expect respect from the Asian peoples. Thus our citizens should be prepared for years of defiance, insults, and even physical attacks on our peoples and our properties on that continent.

Bellingham's ruffled feelings were soothed somewhat when a delegation of West Germans came to this city to study how a small urban community provided jobs and government for its inhabitants. If people came from six thousand miles away to study us, we must have something to offer the world, the Club members thought.

A year before his campaign for reelection to congress, the second district representative, Republican Jack Westland, gave a "non-political" talk to the Rotarians. DeWeese found this quite ironical, and wondered how any congressman could be non-political.

He did not do as well, however, when he denounced an article in The Rotarian magazine which suggested that Senator McCarthy's methods were not the best way to combat communism. DeWeese believed that McCarthy had shaken the tree and "hundreds of spies" had fallen out. The following week, he wrote, "my head is bloody," for people had stopped him on the street to tell him they disapproved of his use of the Rotary news sheet for his own forum. However, he quickly bounced back, for when a speaker from the United World Federalists spoke in favor of an international army with disarmament of national military forces, the editor strongly disagreed with the idea of either disarmament or an international army.

Early in January 1954, the Club lost two of its valued, older members when Dr. Will Kirkpatrick and Asa S. Clark died within a week of each other. Both had been faithful and hard working Rotarians for more than thirty years in the Bellingham Club.

This year the International Service Committee seems to have been very active, for the Program Chairman introduced talks on the United Nations in Kashmir, on the future of Japanese industry, and a man introduced then simply as the Reverend Fred S. Gartner made his first appearance before the Club talking on "Israel." Another talk was given by a former marine and C.I.A. member who talked on Cambodia and Viet Nam. This was the year the French lost their struggle to retain control of these countries, and probably marked the beginnings of American involvement there.

In September, however, the members heard a highly significant program on the domestic front when the Boeing Company sent a public relations person to Bellingham to announce the beginning of jet aircraft, and to describe the early 707 planes.

As the half-way point in this quiet decade came and went, perhaps the most dramatic event occurred without any fanfare, when Casper Erholm dropped from the ranks of those who had maintained one hundred percent attendance for over a quarter of a century. As age and ill health overcame him, Erholm missed more and more frequently until finally he found he had to resign from the Club.

Nineteen fifty-five was also the Golden Anniversary Year of Rotary International, and a highly successful banquet took place at the Leopold Hotel where the living charter members presented the program. A third event of note for 1955 was the attendance contest between Bellingham and New Westminster held in November. The two Clubs were very close to one another until Al Peters, a Bellingham Rotarian who travelled extensively, sent a makeup card from Istanbul, Turkey, and the American Club defeated the Canadian Club by a fraction of one percent for the month. Both Clubs were above the ninety-five percent attendance mark for four consecutive meetings, which was the highest Bellingham had ever reached for several years.

Obviously, this year had not been a very exciting one.

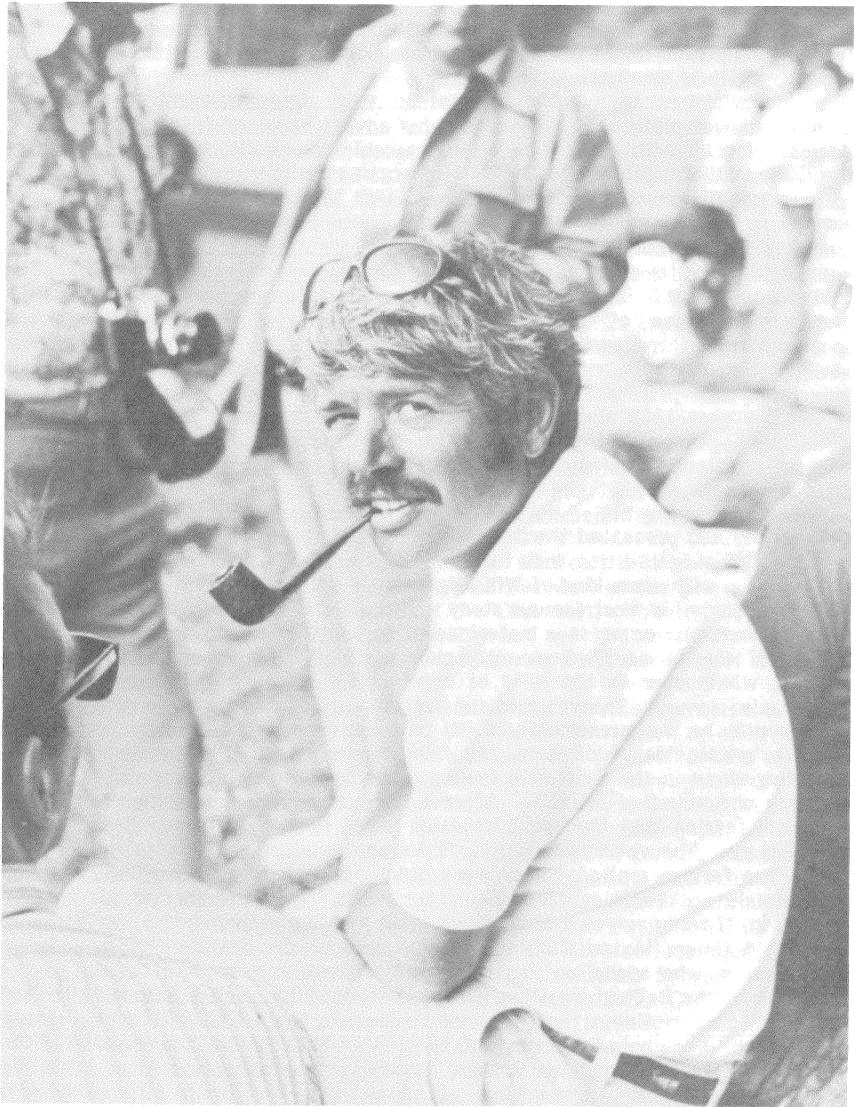


Figure 5. Past president Brian Griffin in a relaxed moment.

Nineteen fifty-six was a little different, however. International events captured the attention of the world with the Hungarian uprising against the Soviet occupation forces, war in the middle east between Egypt and Israel, and an attack on the Suez Canal by the British and French, which created tremendous international tension. Rotarians were informed about both affairs by people who knew about the situation.

In addition, they were entertained when Dr. William Fisher, a local dentist, showed pictures and recounted his adventures elephant hunting in West Africa. Harold Philbrick also began his valuable community service on behalf of the Civic Athletic Field, and The Tattler began a series of semi-humorous, semi-serious attacks on the Pacific Northwest Bell telephone company for its poor service in the community of Bellingham. These continued until the telephone company took notice, transferred its manager, installed dial telephones, built a new facility for its equipment, and presented a public relations program at the Club to quiet the irritated business community. Attorney Richard Fleeson, who had written some of the anti-telephone material, in a gesture of good sportsmanship, introduced the program with gracious compliments about the new relationship between the Bell people and Whatcom County users of their service.

The year 1958 also had some high and low moments. This was the year the Club began presenting a gift of "a local product," usually either canned salmon, or "tissue" (toilet paper) to the Rotarian who had travelled the farthest from his home to visit the Bellingham Club. Logger Hugh Galbraith, whose physical appearance belied his education and intelligence, frequently introduced the visitors and presented the person "furtherist" from home with his gift. This became almost a tradition with the Club, especially when Galbraith preceded his presentation with some kind of Will Rogers-type joke or observation.

Probably his most famous story was that of the very old and tired looking dairy farmer who came to a veterinarian to ask what could be done about the prize bull the farmer had recently purchased. The bull seemed to have no interest whatsoever in the herd of cows in the pasture with him, which the farmer also owned. The vet told the farmer not to worry, but to give some of the red pills he was prescribing to the bull and then let nature take its course. After a suitable lapse of time, the farmer was gratified to see many calves cavorting about in the field with their mothers, while the bull chewed his cud in a sleepy and satisfied manner. After a time, however, the farmer ran out of pills, and fearing that the calf population might drop, he returned to the doctor to get more. The veterinarian said, "I don't remember what kind of pills I gave you." The farmer replied, "They were red." "Why, most of my pills I prescribe for animals are red," snorted the vet. "Well," said the farmer after some hesitation, "I can give you a clue. They taste just like cinnamon!"

Old timers in the Club will also remember the occasion when a visitor from France who spoke no English at all wished to present a banner to the President of the Bellingham Club. In the awkward silence that followed the confession by the President that he knew no French, Hugh Galbraith spoke up and said, "Maybe I can help." He came to the podium, interpreted the remarks of the Frenchman, and in faultless French, responded to the presentation with the acceptance of the Bellingham Club. It transpired when people later asked him how he had learned that language, since he had spent most of his life in Deming, that he had been given the option of attending a University in France before he returned to Whatcom County after his World War I military service had ended, and he took advantage of the offer as his personal G.I. Bill. He returned home

more than a year after the Armistice, in consequence, but he had learned French in the meantime.

Mentor Boney became the second Bellingham Rotarian to be elected District Governor. He assumed this office and responsibility in 1958.

Nineteen fifty-eight was memorable for two programs. Perhaps the worst entertainment in terms of quality in the history of the Club marked the low point of January. A "monologist," highly recommended by other Rotary Clubs, was invited to appear at the noon lunch. When the program was over, the members sat in almost stunned silence, the program was so poor. The Tattler editor made wise-cracks about it well into the summer. One Rotarian was heard to say, "If Billy Graham had been speaking, the program would not be remembered as long as this one will be." The funniest part, and about the only funny part, was the expression on President David Morse's face, when he tried to be polite, and made an effort to compliment the entertainer at the conclusion of the debacle.

The second memorable program was two months later, when the Reverend Thomas Gill, Bishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle appeared before the Club to give an Easter meditation. This was judged as superb by the members, and President Morse convulsed the membership when he said, after the applause had ceased, "Bishop Gill, I couldn't help thinking as I sat here, that you would have made a fine Baptist!"

Another attendance contest took place this year, this time between Bellingham and Everett. Bellingham won. On one red letter day in April, the Bellingham Club had only one absence, and checked in at 99.33%. This mark had never been exceeded, and has never been matched since. Conrad Barker, the iconoclast, thought that too much had been made of attendance. Accordingly he organized a "50% Club" to honor any member who only attended half of the meetings a year. He placed his own name at the head of the list, although in actuality he attended almost every time the Club met. This high attendance record was made when the Club membership had reached an all time high as well. At the end of Morse's administration, there were 164 members of the Club, the second largest in the District.

The administration of David Morse's successor, Orville Garrett, was noted in American culture by the hula hoop and the "sack" dress, worn by chic women, both young and old. This most unattractive of garments inspired dozens of wise-cracks and sour jokes which appeared in various Tattlers throughout the year. The editor seemed also to have an appreciative eye for young ladies, and when one of the Rotary guests was young and feminine, the editor couldn't resist commenting. Barbara Larsen, daughter of Rotarian Arnold Larsen, was the first girl he mentioned in the Club publication. Miss Larsen was a real beauty, and a talented singer in addition. The Club pianist Tillie Freeberg brought her daughter, Thyra, to the Club one noon, and this blonde Scandinavian girl also received appreciative kudos from the editor. In his more serious moments, the editor noted that 1958 was the Year of International Service, and the Geophysical Year, as well as the year the Seattle World's Fair, "Century 21," was tooling up for public viewing. It was scheduled to open in the spring of 1962.

In keeping with these themes, the Club heard programs on Antarctica, Latin America, South Africa, England and the Henley Regatta, two programs on Russia, and one on the international space satellite program. Two university students spoke on the Rotary Foundation—Lou Ann Mergler who had been a Fellow in Europe, and Donald Cole, a University of Washington student who was being sponsored by the Bellingham Club for an overseas study grant. President Garrett also unveiled the program of Rotary Overseas Travel Awards, known as

ROTA, and proposed that Bellingham send a young man overseas in the near future. In due time, Robert Brand, a local school teacher did go to Sweden for a few weeks of intensive study of that land, although on a different Rotary program.

In later meetings, the Club heard from a young man from Lebanon, of the meaning of the Cuban revolution, of Berlin and West Germany, Argentina, and somewhat removed from international business or geography, a musical presentation by the Don Cossack Choir.

This group of Russian fugitives from the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917 had recruited other Russian emigres to form a choir and was brought to Bellingham to raise money for the Parks Department and the building at the Civic Field, a central athletic facility for the town. Harold Philbrick, a Bellingham Rotarian, was the leading spirit in the effort to get a decent place to play outdoor sports.

Nineteen fifty-nine was also the year made memorable by Vern Hale's "new member" talk. This was accepted as the all-time best introduction talk by those who heard him. This man was a genuine humorist, who made a tremendous to-do over his chicken business. Almost as funny was the presentation of Professor Donald Clark of the University of Washington School of Forestry, who regaled the Club about his Cannon Hunters Association of Seattle. A quick rereading of the name of this organization shows that the initials spell CHAOS, and so it proved to be. Clark, who was also a freelance writer, convulsed the members with his tale of the expedition to recover the non-existent cannon from John Jacob Astor's ship, Tonquin, lost in British Columbia waters a hundred fifty years previously. The B.C. bureaucracy became very stuffy about this, until they realized they were being victimized by a practical joke, and almost had collective apoplexy about the whole affair. The good story teller, Clark, had the Rotarians laughing heartily with him over his tweeking of the nose of officialdom.

This was also the year the "monologist" appeared at the Vancouver, B.C. Club with predictable results and dismay. The Tattler editor reported the disaster soberly, and concluded, "How it could happen to two clubs only fifty miles apart is unbelievable."

Editor Stan Beard of The Tattler chose Barney Stewart and Keith Murray as his next victims. These were acting Club song leaders in the absence of the ailing Paul Wells, and Beard feuded with them for months about the poor quality of their songleading.

Things were very quiet during the following year. There was considerable flurry at the time the Leopold Hotel raised the price of lunch from \$1.25 a meal to \$1.50, with many dire predictions of where inflation was taking us all. Older members noted that early president John Miller would always say, "Don't forget to leave a nickel on the table for the girls," as an indication of how inexpensive it was to eat at the hotel in 1918. Actually, however, the waitresses got more this way than they did in later years when the standard tip was one dollar once a year. A regularly attending Rotarian at a nickle a week for fifty meetings would leave the "girls" \$2.50 a year in 1918, and in 1980, with inflation pushing costs up by a multiple of five to six times, the tips do not average a dollar a member a year.

The next year, President Dick Fleeson suggested programs that would make the members "think." His program chairman was pleased to oblige, so early in the summer, Professor Riepe of the University of North Dakota challenged the concept of Foreign Aid, while in due time, Professor Robert Simpson who had been a Peace Corps worker in Afghanistan before coming to

Western Washington College defended Foreign Aid strenuously. A member of Western's Speech Department denounced American television as a "wasteland" while T.V. magnate, Rotarian Rogan Jones, vehemently denounced the denunciation. A speaker presented a program labeled, "Why Latin Americans Don't Like Us," and there was no rebuttal for this one, and a speaker from the Philippine Islands, possessing the unbelievable name of Benito Mussolini Bautista speaking to the Club, turned to President Fleeson and demanded seventy-three million dollars damages for American artillery fire damage during the Battle of Manila in 1945.

Otherwise, The Tattler editor had to spend his ink jeering at the "history lessons" administered by the President who would ask obscure questions of the members, chosen at random, who would then pay a fine if they could not answer a question such as "What happened on May 8, 1915 off the coast of Ireland?" (ans.: The Lusitania was sunk.) His favorite question, used week after week was, "How do you spell Khrushchev?" Since not a single Rotarian got all the "h's" in the right places, the charity box was enriched handsomely, week after week.

Under Fleeson's administration, the Children's Committee, which had been in existence under one name or another since the Club had received its charter, began to branch out, and started modest fund-raising drives to help the Bellingham School District build the Redwood School, a program for mentally handicapped youngsters.

Programs to remember in later months certainly would include the visit of Gracie Hanson to Bellingham as the first presentation of George Knowles. This short, unglamorous woman was presenting a "girlie" show in Seattle at the Seattle World's Fair, which in that rather middle class city was considered shocking. She didn't bring any of her glamour girls with her, but she did describe the "Morton Follies" that she had put on in the P.T.A. for that small logging and farming community, which she claimed got her run out of town. After this talk, it was hard for Knowles to come up with anything to top it.

Early in 1963, the Museum of History and Art caught fire, and except for efficient work of the fire department next door, would have been destroyed. The Rotary Club sponsored the total restoration of the building, and gave "seed money" of over \$500 the first week, which mounted to almost \$1200 before the campaign closed. This "seed money" was used to raise nearly half a million additional dollars to make this structure the pride of northwest Washington, and the cultural center for the whole county. The parts played by Rotarians Ben Hagen and Rogan Jones have rarely been appreciated, but in due time the entire city got behind the effort to preserve this unusually fine Victorian structure.

As the Fall of 1963 began to turn toward winter, slowly it came to the Club members that this was again a new age. The programs themselves spoke to this, and although Rotarians acted as though things couldn't possibly be any different in Bellingham from what they had been, the perspective of time shows that such was not the case. There were the usual programs of travel slides, including one tiger hunt in India, but there were more serious programs on such subjects as preparation for racial integration in Bellingham, or new methods of treating mental illness which would well lead to the closing of the Northern State Hospital in Sedro-Woolley (which it did shortly afterward), or a study of the future of the Port of Bellingham, which was being expanded dramatically in non-traditional ways.

On November 19, Past President Richard Fleeson read the Gettysburg Address to the membership to commemorate Lincoln's presentation of the speech

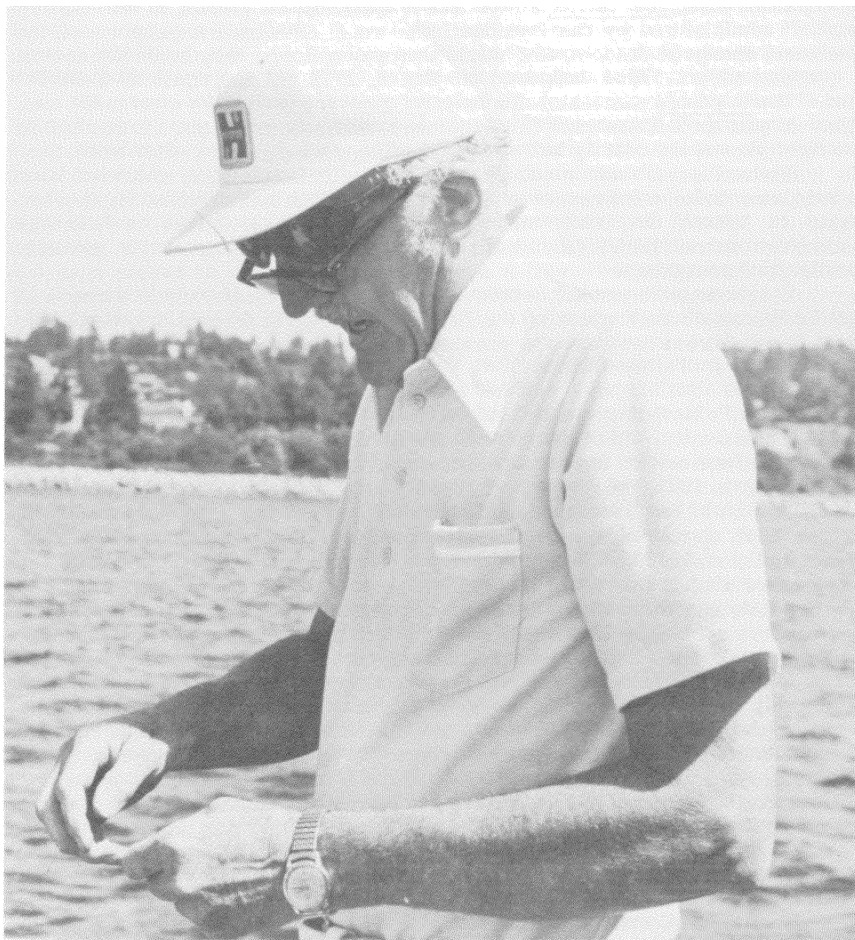


Figure 6. Past president and future District Governor Curtis Cortelyou fishing.

by this first of our murdered presidents exactly a century before. Three days later, on November 22, the current American President, John Kennedy, was himself assassinated in Dallas, and the country was never the same after this senseless act.

The Bellingham Club President immediately received a telegram from District Governor Russell Richards which read:

ON BEHALF OF ALL BRITISH COLUMBIAN ROTARIANS I
EXPRESS MY DEEP SORROW OF THE TRAGIC DEATH OF JOHN
FITZGERALD KENNEDY, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

This telegram symbolized the fact that the Age of Eisenhower and a contented, prosperous and peaceful America had come to an end. Violence, war, protest, and exposed corruption became an unfortunate fact of life. On this sad note, the present era of contemporary America was ushered in.

Presidents of the Bellingham Club during the interim between the Korean War and the death of Kennedy were:

Dr. Ralph G. Sharninghouse, 1950-51
F. J. Herb, 1951-52
D. K. Ireland, 1952-53
Harold C. Philbrick, 1953-54
Robert Heily, 1954-55
F. Humphrey Griggs, 1955-56
H. Mogens Krabbe, 1956-57
David C. Morse, 1957-58
Orville M. Garrett, 1958-59
Ed Ludwigson, 1959-60
Robert Schnoor, 1960-61
Richard Fleeson, 1961-62
Curtis Cortelyou, 1962-63
Keith Murray, 1963-64

Chapter V

THE RECENT YEARS

Probably the people living at any time think the days through which they are living have problems different from or greater than those that have affected people in times past. Americans since 1964 have a feeling that they are living in days of great jeopardy for our nation and for our way of life. As they look back they see the assassinations of Martin Luther King and the Kennedy brothers, or the attempts on the lives of Governor Wallace of Alabama or Presidents Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan as something new in the political life of our country. The outcome of the Korean War gave little satisfaction to Americans, and the Viet Nam conflict in which thousands of Americans gave their lives for nothing at all, has left a sour taste in the mouths of all our citizens.

Since the Bellingham Rotary Club was made from the business and professional men of Bellingham, it is unreasonable to expect that their thoughts, actions, and emotions would be much different from that of the general public in the Pacific Northwest. They reacted to the oil shortage in 1973 with dismay and eventually with rage at the oil cartel, known as OPEC, without reducing their driving speed or gasoline consumption very markedly. They watched the growing national debt with great unease, yet were unwilling for the most part to refuse any of the government grants and programs that were largely responsible for the mounting deficits year after year. They believed in "progress," yet their economic views were those of the 1920's. All of these controls were reflected in most of the programs and projects of the Club during the ten years after Lyndon Johnson succeeded to the Presidency of the United States.

Speakers with different points of view did appear before the membership, however. For international affairs, Benad Avital, Consul for Israel in the western states, spoke of the search for peace in the middle east. A business forecaster told the Rotary members that they might well become accustomed to the thought of shopping malls, discount houses, and widespread use of vending machines even in Bellingham. A speaker from Boeing Aircraft spoke of space exploration and the future for satellites and space probes, and how they could be used for the good of the human race. Air pollution in the Puget Sound towns and cities was something most people thought impossible, but a speaker reminded his hearers that changes for the worse were coming in this area, as well as in California cities.

The Alaska earthquake of 1964 brought a break in predictions for the future as well as a generous and immediate response from the Bellingham Rotarians. By the second week in April, Club members had contributed \$1525 in cash to be sent to the Kodiak Rotary Club to be used in any way it saw fit.

The Columbia River treaty with Canada, the coming of Intalco Aluminum, the completion of the North Cross State Highway with the certain consequences in new jobs and increase of Whatcom County population took the attention of Club members on other occasions. Another subject that brought new ideas to Bellingham had to do with kidney dialysis, which was entirely new to medicine in the early 1960's.



Figure 7. Don Buzzard, past president and past District Governor Roy Anderson, and past District Governor Win McLean, San Juan Island.

As the decade went on, more and more programs were devoted to affairs in Viet Nam. At first this country was simply an exotic area in southeast Asia that few had visited, and some had never heard of. Then programs told how the war would end victoriously in a few months with new strategies. In February 1966, a speaker told of the politics of the former French possession, and how nationalism, anti-colonialism, and communism got mixed into a witches brew largely through the ineptitude of the French colonial administration, which their counterparts in the United States had accepted without much question.

On the lighter side, Hugh Galbraith, the rollicking gentleman from Acme, became such a fixture that he took three programs within two years, telling of his travels, complete with numerous hilarious anecdotes. He and Bill Payette made a trip to New Zealand in the spring of 1964, and Hugh himself went to Ireland that fall. In the winter of 1966, Galbraith again entertained the Club with an account of "Christmas in Acme" in the pioneer days. Somewhat later in the decade, he also told of the Mount Baker Marathons of the 1910-1912 period, when there were no roads up the Nooksack valley, yet there was a race from downtown Bellingham to the summit of Mount Baker and return, using any means of transportation possible, but the race was mostly on foot, running or climbing. Hugh's father had been a winner one year, with later Rotarian Hugh Diehl transporting him by automobile as far as they could find tracks through the forests.

The College on the Hill presented a program by its President, Harvey Bunke, telling of plans to build a multiplicity of academic structures around the old Campus School playfield, which was to be bricked over and used as an open space. Thus, the idea of "Red Square" was born. Bunke predicted eventual university status, and an enrollment of 15,000 students. Members of the Rotary Club were skeptical of his predictions, but were pleased at the building program, which would be a great blessing to the local construction industry.

At the end of 1966 another Boeing Corporation spokesman unveiled the "747" program to the awestruck murmurs of the Club membership. He projected a slide on the screen showing a prototype Boeing 747 and an old Boeing 707 against the backdrop of Mount Rainier, showing how greatly the later plane dwarfed the first of the Boeing jets built a decade earlier, and the members were able to grasp how fast the aircraft industry was advancing technologically.

In 1967 Brian Griffin and Al Levin presented an entirely different program. Their dream was of a renovated downtown Bellingham, complete with pedestrian malls, trees planted along the sidewalks, places for people to sit and talk, and new stores built and maintained. This, in Griffin's words, was not to be just a "patchup job," but to save the area. No one seemed to take the two men seriously, although the first element, offstreet parking, did come along in the form of the Parkade, which does not seem to have been highly successful. Their program did create enough comment, however, that it became the subject of the Rotary Firesides of 1968, which seemed to reach the general conclusion that numbers of jobs were no longer as important as the kinds of jobs that came to Bellingham.

The inevitable changes in membership came about in these years as much as they had occurred at the very beginning. Along with the 50th Anniversary party celebration of the Bellingham Rotary Club was the sad realization of the loss of some of the long-time stalwarts of the club. In the winter of 1967-68 Percy Livesey, charter member, finally closed his business. He died shortly afterward. Dr. Ed Stimpson died in October, 1968. Senator Ernest Lennert died in April 1968. In 1972, Horace Griggs, the last surviving charter member, died. These men were impossible to replace.



Figure 8. Certificate of Appreciation from County Wide Ambulance, City of Bellingham.

The monotonous reports of \$50 here or \$150 there, taken from the "charity fund" for special worthwhile projects in the city were not impressive to the people of Bellingham who might ask a Rotary member, "What does your club do?" Amid a plethora of football, crew, and basketball coaches that appeared regularly on the programs, Robert Diehl, Jr., proposed in 1968 that a major project to be built in the Birchwood district with Rotary generated funds and muscles in conjunction with the special education facility of the Bellingham School District now known as the Redwood School. In the following months, Diehl organized work crews and after a considerable time, the Club had a project of which it could be justly proud. This structure completed in 1972 honoring the late Dr. Edgar Doll, was the first large accomplishment for Community Service by the Rotarians of Bellingham. Altogether Rotarians contributed \$26,000 plus their labor for this building.

October 1969 was also memorable as the time when Admiral and Chamber of Commerce Executive Nichols Lidstone, began his campaign to have the music committee put out the round, "Scotland's Burning," for the membership to sing. He finally offered to make a contribution to the charity box if his tongue-in-cheek proposal was accepted. This running gag went on for years until finally in March 1981 his pleas to sing "Scotland's Burning" were heeded, and he duly contributed the \$10 to the special activities fund.

In the spring of 1970, the Viet Nam War had blossomed from a "police action" into a full-scale war with casualty reports in the daily newspapers. There were several programs on Cambodia, Laos, college protests, drug abuse, the need for military efficiency and national defense, the value of the American Legion, and even a program of World War II reminiscences.

Bellingham was fortunate in that the local College administration and its responsible student officers were both working together to keep any ugly incidents from taking place, such as the papers were reporting on other college and university campuses. There were no riots at Western Washington. There were several protests and demonstrations over the killings of students in Ohio and Mississippi, a sit-in on the I-5 Freeway, and two or three illegal parades in downtown Bellingham (illegal because no permits had been issued), but that was all.

Even these activities were viewed with disfavor by Rotarians. The pity was that at no time between 1969 and the Watergate scandals that engulfed the national administration in 1973, did Bellingham Rotarians ever hear a presentation of the student's side of the issue.

Fortunately, the war ended early in 1974, and while it was utter disaster for the peoples of Southeast Asia, the healing process in the United States began almost immediately.

The records of the Bellingham Rotary Club for most of the 1970's, regretably are mislaid for the years 1971 to 1978, but these recent years are fresh in the memories of most of the current membership. The main problem with having no materials to draw from is having to be accurate in dates, or fearing to miss some important activity or failing to recognize the contribution of some outstanding member of the Club, the Community, or the international scene.

This was the decade of the shift from tiny contributions to the special funds through fines and the traditional "quarter in the charity box" to several major fund raising projects and money in the bank for significant community causes. The most successful of these fund-raising affairs has been the BRAVO auction and dinner held each fall, beginning in 1972. Sums ranging from \$10,000 to \$14,000 have been realized from these affairs each year.

The list of donations must be incomplete, as a result of the misplaced records, but various emergency ambulance equipment purchases were made with Rotary money. Another was the Rotary "Van" donated to the local Y.M.C.A. for use in transporting young people to various activities in the town of Bellingham and throughout the county. Four thousand dollars was donated to the Northwest Kidney Center to be applied toward the purchase of a dialysis machine for use of Bellingham patients. Under the excellent leadership of Dr. Donald (Jim) Fickel, the waterfront park below the Boulevard extending from the Fairhaven Historic District to the former gas plant was developed as a Rotary idea. The Bellingham Parks Department was able to obtain other money from grants and public funds to finish the work, but the "seed money" that got the work started was the \$17,750 provided by the Rotarians. The park was named "Boulevard Park" but a vista point atop the old gas storage tank has been identified as the Rotary contribution to the improvement of Bellingham.

Another project that the Rotarians worked with during the 1970's was that of Rotary Exchanges whereby some of Bellingham's high school young people were sent abroad to learn the language and culture of different countries, and high school youth came to Bellingham, not necessarily from the same nations that our visitors represented. Various Rotarians were involved in this worthwhile activity. Most foreign students stayed for a complete school year, and three or four Rotarians took them into their homes for eight to ten weeks apiece, adopting them for a time as one of their own children. Young citizens of India, Argentina, Japan, Mexico, Australia, and New Zealand and other nations were accordingly exposed to our community. Over \$8,000 were invested in this project.

Related to this project was that of the Rotary Foundation. Two students from Bellingham attended university or graduate school in overseas programs. Ann Cilley (later Mrs. Paul Hanson) studied at the University of Tubingen, Germany, and about twenty years later Jeff Kronenberg studied at the Hebrew University in Israel. For many years the Club had to depend on the University of British Columbia or the University of Washington for foreign students to present to the Club members, but during the 1970's, students from overseas came to Western Washington University on Rotary Foundation Fellowships.

Rotary International changed some of their operating procedures as the decade neared its close, allowing two clubs to be formed in the same geographic area, to avoid one club growing to be too large. A Club known as Whatcom North was chartered in Ferndale to include men from not only Bellingham, but also Ferndale, Lynden, and Blaine and county residents who had not had an opportunity to join Rotary in Bellingham because their classifications were already loaned. In 1980-81, a second local Club was approved by a vote of 92-42 taken at a regular meeting of the parent Club, and this should be chartered sometime during the summer of 1981 as the Bellingham Bay Rotary Club.

In 1979 the Leopold Hotel, which had been the location of every Rotary meeting since the Club was chartered in 1917, was sold to a corporation which closed the Crystal Ballroom for renovation, and Rotary shifted its base of operations to the Bellingham Elks Club on the Squalicum Parkway. The last day that Rotary met at the Leopold the Club paid tribute to George Knowles, Past President of the Bellingham Club and owner of a large share of the hotel property which had been sold. Mr. Knowles was given a standing ovation as the Club members sang "Auld Lang Syne" in honor of the hotel.

Another Rotarian honored for service to the Community was Gordon L. Carter who retired from his position as Superintendent of Schools after many years in this position. The Gordon L. Carter Conservation Site was dedicated in

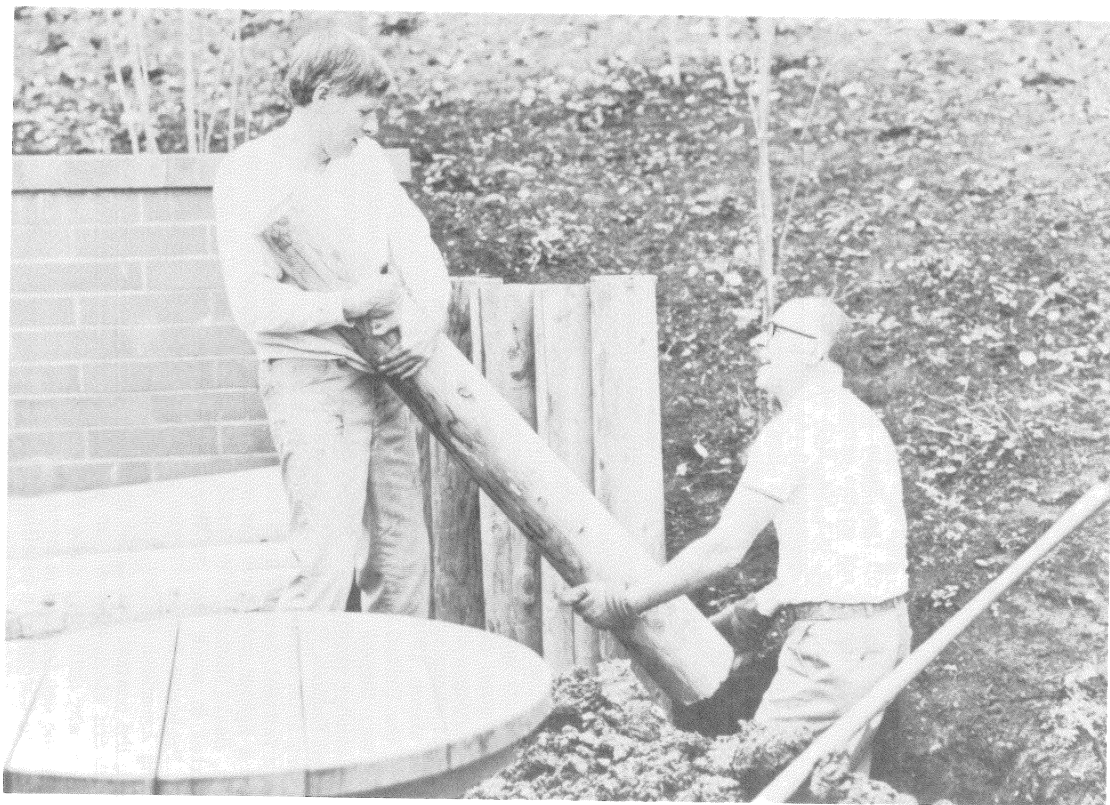


Figure 9. Rotary Club work party, Whatcom County Mental Health Clinic: Donald Berg and Sherry Brown.

his honor in June 1979, and the Rotary Club was represented at the dedication. Carter was also recognized at a regular meeting for this signal honor.

Programs during the 1970's were much the same as they had been for the previous seventy years. There were the inevitable travelogues, complete with slides. There was a parade of athletic coaches from various sports organizations in western Washington. The high school choirs gave annual concerts to the Rotarians. There were the Rotary cruises every year, and the annual Christmas and Valentine's Day meetings. The various public relations people from industry were given a chance to make their pitch, telling about a business or industry—a gesture toward the Vocational Service area of Rotary. From time to time, however, an outstanding program was made memorable by being different from the usual run of the mill.

For example, there was the double feature in 1976 when the two candidates for Governor of the State of Washington appeared before the Bellingham Club, although not on the same day. Both Dixie Lee Ray and John Spellman ended as Governor, but Ms. Ray was elected first. Another example was when Second District Congressman, Al Swift, presented briefly and lucidly the complexities of the Northwest Regional Power Bill in 1980. A third excellent program was the presentation of the Health, Hunger, and Humanity program of Rotary International, providing for direct assistance of local clubs to unfortunate people in poverty stricken lands. The Bellingham Rotary Club responded to the appeal from Rotary International with an allocation of something over \$1500. There was also the day when Eldridge "Brick" Carr celebrated his fiftieth anniversary of joining the Bellingham Rotary Club, and the waitresses brought in a huge birthday cake for him to cut. Carr had served for most of this time as Secretary of the Club, replacing James Gaul after Gaul's death.

Slowly the times began to change the outlook of Club members. Those who believed in the inherent superiority of European culture found the youthful Exchange students had much to offer from other cultures. Many Rotarians travelled to far corners of the earth, and found that it was pleasant and exciting to speak the languages of people who knew little or no English. Perhaps the best illustration of changing times was the introduction of Valery Latishev as a new member in March 1978. This Soviet citizen, a genuine Communist, was the manager of the United States-U.S.S.R. Marine Resources Corporation in Bellingham, and was loaned the classification of Seafood Processing-International. When Mr. Latishev received his Rotary pin, he responded in earnest, though heavily accented English, "I will try to be a 'goot' Rotarian." One member was overheard to say afterward, "I'll bet Joe Stalin is turning over in his grave." Latishev remained a faithful member until his organization moved to the Seattle area.

On a lighter note were the weird seating arrangements made by Program Chairman, David Nichols, who would invite members to sit at the head table that were related in some way to the subject of the speaker's remarks. On one occasion, Professor Herbert Taylor of W.W.U. spoke on changing styles of facial hair during American history, and Nichols had the Club member with the blackest beard, the neatest beard, the reddest beard, and other such categories on the stage, but one clean shaven man was there, too. None of the members could quite figure why until they made the connection with his name, Charles Beard.

No one can forget the invocations given by Fred Gartner which sometimes came close to becoming a briefing of the heavenly hosts about current events on earth.

During the decade of the '70's the Bellingham Rotarians became more conscious of ways to honor some of their long-time members. This was through

the use of the Paul Harris Fellowships. Harris had organized Rotary in Chicago in 1905, and after his death, clubs could honor someone by paying \$1000 into the International Fellowship fund. Thus, by 1980 Bellingham had honored eleven such persons, and most of these had been in the recent past. These included: Roy Anderson, Past President of Bellingham Rotary, and who also served as Governor of District 504 in 1974-1975; Frank C. (Jim) Brooks, Past President; Eldridge Carr, long-time Secretary of the Bellingham Club; George Graham, Past President (this fellowship was a gift of the Whatcom-North Rotary Club); Robert Moles, Sr., was also honored by the Whatcom-North Club; F. J. Herb, Past President; Robert C. Diehl, Past President; John Hou, a member of the Vancouver Club, and also Past District Governor; Earl LeValley, deceased, a civic worker and effective administrator of the Hamilton Fund, a private charity in Bellingham; Dick Metcalf, a member of Whatcom North, and its Past President, but a former member of Bellingham's Club; David Morse, Past President; and Harold Wahl, deceased, an artist of distinction, and a business man of integrity. On May 11, 1981, the names of Victor A. Hughes and Hal G. Arnason, Jr., were added to the list of Paul Harris Fellows. Both men were past presidents of the Bellingham Club, and civic leaders of the community.

Curtis Cortelyou of the Bellingham Rotary Club will serve District #504 as Governor in the year 1982-83. His name will be added to those of Harry Heal, Mentor Boney and Roy Anderson who have held this position in earlier times.

There can be no conclusion to a history of this kind. Rotary is not only a luncheon club, or a service club, but also an idea about men from different walks of life getting to know each other by talking together, working on common projects together, eating together, playing games together, or socializing with their families together. It is presumed to be composed of leaders in each profession as well as men of high character. Yet the motto is "Service Above Self" and its end result is expressed in the saying, "He profits most who serves the best." This is not too far from the goal expressed in the scriptural injunction, "Who would be the greatest among you, let him be the servant of all."

At the end of this chapter of the continuing story of the Bellingham Rotary Club, we should also pause to pay tribute to those men who have served as Presidents during the past fifteen years:

George Knowles, 1964-65
Roy Anderson, 1965-66
Gordon Hayes, 1966-67
Brian Griffin, 1967-68
Vincent O. Burns, 1968-69
Alfred Levin, 1969-70
Harold Arneson II, 1970-71
Frank C. Brooks, 1971-72
Robert Gibb, 1972-73
Peter Gaasland, 1973-74
Robert Diehl, Jr., 1974-75
Paul Hanson, 1975-76
Millard Hodges, 1976-77
Robert Morse, 1977-78
Warren Bestwick, 1978-79
Herbert Ershig, 1979-80
James Caldwell, 1980-81

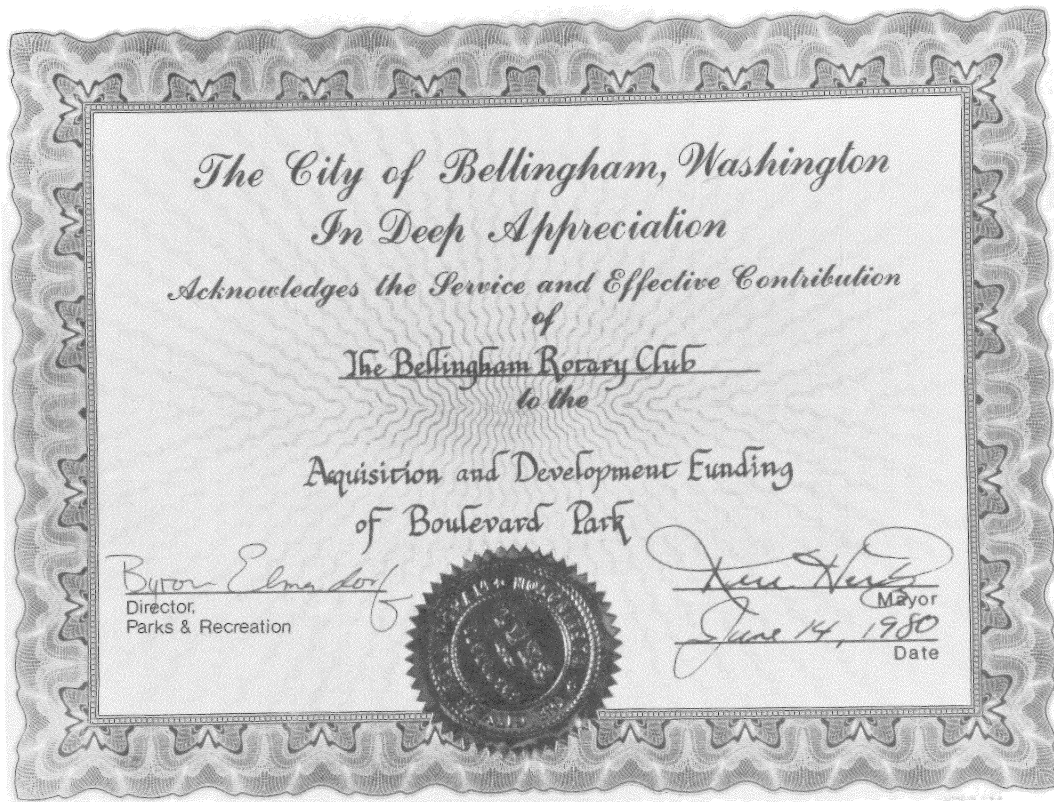


Figure 10. Certificate of Appreciation, Funding of Boulevard Park, City of Bellingham, 1980.

And they in turn will be followed shortly by worthy successors such as David Nichols, Larry Johanson, and James Roberts. So shall it ever be.

Sources

The material used for this account consisted of many bound volumes of Club minutes, Minutes of the Board of Directors of the Bellingham Rotary Club, all handwritten or typed by the early Secretaries, as well as several volumes of newspaper clippings from the Bellingham Herald with occasional items clipped from the Bellingham Reveille, and the Bellingham American. These are found in the files located in the Bellingham Elks Club, where the Rotary records are presently located. In addition, there are several programs of anniversary banquets and certificates of appreciation to the Club for projects which have benefitted some local organization. A number of photographs are also located in these files.

After The Tattler, the weekly news sheet of the Club, began to be published, no more club minutes were written. Most of The Tattler files are also complete, except for two or three gaps of a year or so. (For a Club that is nearly sixty-five years old, this sense of history maintained by the various Club Secretaries is to be commended.)

The balance of the sources are not written, but consist of reminiscences of Club members who would tell me anecdotes from their own memory when they learned that I was writing the Club story. Several of these came from J. Harold Stevenson.

APPENDIX

BELLINGHAM ROTARY CLUB

331

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

1917 - 18

1967 - 68

Facsimile of portions of the
Golden Anniversary Program

CHARTER MEMBERS

Clifford H. Barlow	Roland G. Gamwell	Cecil A. Morse
C. S. Beard	Dr. J. W. Goodheart	A. M. Muir
Sabine L. Carr	C. R. Graham	C. F. Nolte
W. Coston Carver	Horace H. Griggs	Fred P. Offerman
A. S. Clark	Will J. Griswold	B. F. Reno
L. R. Coffin	C. B. Harter	Henry Schupp
John R. Cole	P. E. Healy	Dr. C. A. Short
Thomas B. Cole	Henry P. Jukes	Henry Thiel
T. F. Doan	Percy Livesey	Dr. F. J. Van Kirk
George E. Gage	E. T. Mathes	J. B. Wahl
	John F. Miller	

President	Will J. Griswold
Vice President	J. B. Wahl
Secretary	Thomas P. Cole
Treasurer	Henry P. Jukes

The First Weekly meeting was held in the Leopold Hotel on Monday, September 17, 1917

PAST PRESIDENTS

Will Griswold	Harold Lant
John A. Miller	William Haggard
Henry P. Jukes	Earle D. Griffin
Thomas B. Cole	Victor A. Hughes
Dr. Tony M. Barlow	Robert Diehl
Cecil A. Morse	George Graham
Charles S. Beard	Arthur Boyd
Rev. J. C. Harrison	Herbert A. Smith
Dr. Jacob S. Smith	Dr. Ralph G. Sharninghouse
Byron L. Jones	F. J. Herb
J. J. Donovan	D. K. Ireland
J. W. Timpson	Harold C. Philbrick
Dr. Wm. D. Kirkpatrick	Robert Heily
Frank N. Brooks	H. Humphrey Griggs
Ernest F. Wells	H. Mogens Krabbe
Henry Heal	David C. Morse
William Deming	Orville M. Garrett
Mentor M. Boney	Ed Ludwigson
Lewis B. Wallace	Robert Schnoor
John C. Pierce	Richard Fleeson
Conrad E. Barker	Curt Cortelyou
C. Paine Shangle	Keith Murray
Hugh W. Diehl	George Knowles
C. R. Lanphear	Roy Anderson
Louis F. Jones	Gordon Hayes

A BIT OF HISTORY

The Leopold Hotel was the place.

August 24, 1917 was the date.

The occasion? Organization of Bellingham's first service club.

A half century has gone by and tonight the Rotary Club gathers for its Golden Anniversary banquet to commemorate that historic event which brought the fellowship and ideals of Rotary International to this community 50 years ago.

All but three of those thirty-one charter members who banded together under the motto of Service Above Self have passed on. But for Horace Griggs, Henry Jukes and Percy Livesey, that first banquet marked the start of more than 50 years in Rotary.

Jukes was the first treasurer of the club. The president and moving spirit in bringing Rotary to Bellingham was attorney Will J. Griswold. J. B. Wahl was vice president of club number 331 of an organization founded in Chicago only twelve years before but already numbering 30,000 members. Tom Cole was secretary.

Seattle Rotary was the sponsoring club, and Tacoma and Everett also sent large delegations to the banquet that Friday evening. Their presidents told their new Rotary colleagues in Bellingham of the "camaraderie and fellowship, the trust and friendship" they would experience, and spoke of "the pep behind it that puts a proposition through."

The charter was received in September and the club officially took its place in the worldwide ranks of Rotary International.

It was the year America entered World War I, and the club's first projects were keyed to supporting the men in uniform. Later, the emphasis was placed on youth activities, and for many years Rotary helped support the orthopedic ward at St. Joseph's Hospital. Service to youth remains a major activity.

So now we are embarked on our second Fifty Years. Bellingham will be dramatically changed in the Twenty-First Century, but it is safe to predict that when the members of the club gather to celebrate its Hundreth Anniversary, there will be no change in those ideals and fellowship that inspired that first banquet and have helped make this a better community over the intervening years.

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