

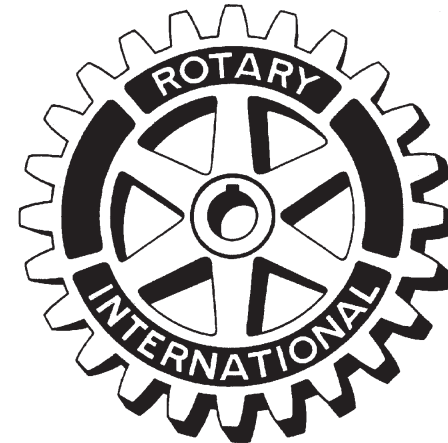
Addendum: January 27, 2006

**Presidents of the Rotary Club of Parker/Greenville East**

**First 50 Years**

|         |                        |         |                        |
|---------|------------------------|---------|------------------------|
| 1955-56 | James A. Merchant      | 1981-82 | Dewey Lemmons          |
| 1956-57 | Frank O'Steen          | 1982-83 | Bobby J. Lister        |
| 1957-58 | James G. Collier, Jr.  | 1983-84 | Marion W. Fore, Jr.    |
| 1958-59 | Grady Ballard          | 1984-85 | Arthur Williams        |
| 1959-60 | Ed Lawhorn             | 1985-86 | Virgil L. Balliew      |
| 1960-61 | Harold Kay             | 1986-87 | Robert P. MacRae       |
| 1961-62 | Allen Lowdermilk       | 1987-88 | Paul L. Metz           |
| 1962-63 | Chester H. Holmes, Sr. | 1988-89 | Michael J. Metz        |
| 1963-64 | Ansel C. Owens         | 1989-90 | Michael J. Metz        |
| 1964-65 | J. Lewis Rhodes        | 1990-91 | Robert J. Hoffman      |
| 1965-66 | Henry Lee              | 1991-92 | William L. Lawless     |
| 1966-67 | Wilson "Bo" Tomlinson  | 1992-93 | Chester H. Holmes, Jr. |
| 1967-68 | William B. Denton, Sr. | 1993-94 | Steve Bryant           |
| 1968-69 | Herbert C. Granger     | 1994-95 | Sue Harper Poss        |
| 1969-70 | Gene N. Norville       | 1995-96 | Robert M. Pitts        |
| 1970-71 | Lawton B. Fleming      | 1996-97 | Walter Jacobs          |
| 1971-72 | L. Pierson Price       | 1997-98 | Charles Pickelsimer    |
| 1972-73 | Chester H. Holmes, Sr. | 1998-99 | Lyman Campbell         |
| 1973-74 | William Denton, Jr.    | 1999-00 | Edward Sternberg       |
| 1974-75 | Charles Elliott        | 2000-01 | David McMurray         |
| 1975-76 | David Hill             | 2001-02 | Dennis Brown           |
| 1976-77 | Clemmon "Nick" Smith   | 2002-03 | Ashley Nutley          |
| 1977-78 | Bobby E. Foister       | 2003-04 | Norman Belk            |
| 1978-79 | L. Pierson Price       | 2004-05 | Wesley Wilbanks        |
| 1979-80 | William Denton, Jr.    | 2005-06 | Bill Hartzell          |
| 1980-81 | William Denton, Jr.    |         |                        |

*Celebrating 50 Years of Service*



**Rotary Club of Parker**  
**Jan. 27, 1956 - June 30, 1993**

**Rotary Club of Greenville East**  
**July 1, 1993 - Jan. 27, 2006**

At this point, it is appropriate to list all Club Presidents that have served:

|         |                        |           |                        |
|---------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| 1955-56 | James A. Merchant      | 1979-80   | William Denton, Jr.    |
| 1956-57 | Frank O'Steen          | 1980-81   | William Denton, Jr.    |
| 1957-58 | James G. Collier, Jr.  | 1981-82   | Dewey Lemmons          |
| 1958-59 | Grady Ballard          | 1982-83   | Bobby J. Lister        |
| 1959-60 | Ed Lawhorn             | 1983-84   | Marion W. Fore, Jr.    |
| 1960-61 | Harold Kay             | 1984-85   | Arthur Williams        |
| 1961-62 | Allen Lowdermilk       | 1985-86   | Virgil L. Balliew      |
| 1962-63 | Chester H. Holmes, Sr. | 1986-87   | Robert P. MacRae       |
| 1963-64 | Ansel C. Owens         | 1987-88   | Paul L. Metz           |
| 1964-65 | J. Lewis Rhodes        | 1988-89   | Michael J. Metz        |
| 1965-66 | Henry Lee              | 1989 -90  | Michael J. Metz        |
| 1966-67 | Wilson "Bo" Tomlinson  | 1990-91   | Robert J. Hoffman      |
| 1967-68 | William B. Denton, Sr. | 1991 -92  | William L. Lawless     |
| 1968-69 | Herbert C. Granger     | 1992 -93  | Chester H. Holmes, Jr. |
| 1969-70 | Gene N. Norville       | 1993 -94  | Steve Bryant           |
| 1970-71 | Lawton B. Fleming      | 1994 -95  | Sue Harper Poss        |
| 1971-72 | L. Pierson Price       | 1995 -96  | Robert M. Pitts        |
| 1972-73 | Chester H. Holmes, Sr. | 1996 -97  | Walter Jacobs          |
| 1973-74 | William Denton, Jr.    | 1997 -98  | Charles Pickelsimer    |
| 1974-75 | Charles Elliott        | 1998 -99  | Lyman Campbell         |
| 1975-76 | David Hill             | 1999-2000 | Edward Sternberg       |
| 1976-77 | Clemmon "Nick" Smith   | 2000 -01  | David McMurray         |
| 1977-78 | Bobby E. Foister       | 2001-02   | Dennis Brown           |
| 1978-79 | L. Pierson Price       |           |                        |

Included here are histories of our club written in 1961, 1966 and 2000 compiled by PDG Sue Harper Poss upon the occasion of the club's **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

No effort was made to correct spelling, grammar or sentence structure.

The club celebrated its  
50th anniversary  
on January 27, 2006  
at the Palmetto Expo Center  
in Greenville, SC.

During the above time span, forty-two (42) members have served as President, with four (4) having served multiple terms. It should also be noted that thirteen (13) past presidents are currently active, with two (2) more on medical leave. Nine (9) past presidents are deceased. With many new, younger members coming into the Club in recent years, and continuing strong leadership, a great future is anticipated for the Greenville East Rotary Club. We have deep respect and appreciation for those who preceded us, and now look to the future.

Pierson Price  
Historian -1999 -2000

The new Parker Rotary Club was only nine (9) years old when one of its dynamic members became District Governor of Rotary District 775. (Note: The district later was changed to 7750.) Chester H. Holmes, Sr. had served as Club President in 1962-63. He was elected as Governor-Elect in 1964-65 and District Governor in 1965-66.

In October, 1990, our Club inducted its first woman member. For most of R.I.'s existence, women were not eligible to become members. Sue Harper Poss became not only the first woman in the Parker/Greenville East organization, but in 1999-2000 Rotary year, became the first woman Governor of District 7750.

The Greenville East Club is justifiably proud of both Chester H. Holmes, Sr. and Sue Harper Poss.

The Parker/Greenville East Rotary Club has always been very community oriented. In the early 70's, the Club donated money to the Greenville County Recreation Commission to build a fence around the baseball field at Westside Park.

Our most notable event for many years has been the Rotary Night of Music held at Furman University. This event was created to encourage young people in several area high and middle schools to pursue their dreams in the musical arts. Many scholarships have been awarded to deserving students over the years.

The Club has been fortunate to have excellent programs from the beginning. For many years one of our senior members, Herb Granger, was a member and Chairman of the Greenville County Delegation to the South Carolina Legislature. During this time, and after his retirement, Herb was able to bring to us governors, lieutenant governors, congressmen, and many other elected officials - even when they were not running for re-election. Leadership has also been an important factor during the history of the Club. Strong presidents and supporting officers have been a trademark. The decade of the '90s saw a period of more aggressive activity in both community and international participation. This trend is continuing into the new Millennium.

*Written in 1961*

## **HISTORY OF THE PARKER ROTARY CLUB**

The History of Rotary in Greenville, S.C. goes back many, many years. The Rotary Club of Greenville is one of the oldest clubs in the South and indeed finds itself deep in the history of Rotary.

With the expansion and growth of metropolitan Greenville, the Rotary Club of Greenville has sponsored other clubs, has relinquished territory to those clubs, and has appropriately become the honored "Mother Club of Greenville." The North Greenville Rotary Club was its first; the Parker Rotary Club was its second; and now Pleasantburg Rotary Club is its third. Greenville city has indeed become a "Rotary City and Parker Rotary Club is proud to be associated with its past history and to be permitted to work with the "Mother Club" and "Associate Clubs" to make this City - this County - this State - this United States - this Continent - this World - a better - place in which to live and work together. The Ideal of "Service above Self" has long been practiced by great Rotarians and Citizens of Greenville, and this Ideal will continue to be exercised - Rotary will grow as it has in the past.

## **HOW IT BEGAN**

The initial step in organizing THE PARKER ROTARY CLUB was taken in the Rotary Year 1954-1955. Jacque F. Norman, President of the Rotary Club of Greenville, appointed a special committee to study the feasibility of organizing a Rotary Club in the West Greenville Area. The following were appointed to this Committee: Edward F. Bahon - Chairman; L. P. Hollis, G. Heyward Mahon, Jr., William R. Poole; and Sapp Funderburk.

Since this Committee was appointed on April 5, 1955, they did not complete the necessary studies in time for a definite report to be made during the presidency of Jacque Norman. Sapp Funderburk succeeded Jacque Norman as President, and one of his first acts was to request the original committee to continue its study. The Committee completed its task within a few months, and on December 20, 1955, The Rotary Club of Greenville adopted a resolution relinquishing territory for the organizing of the new Rotary club to be known as Parker District Rotary Club. The name "Parker District Rotary Club" was changed in January 1956 - the "District" being dropped, and the official name of the club became "PARKER ROTARY CLUB."

The Charter Membership was completed on January 6, 1956, and in a "newsletter" to all members of the club on Feb. 3, 1956, these words were printed:

"The Rotary Club of Parker . . . is now a full -fledged Rotary Club with a Charter."

Of the 24 Charter Members, 13 as of this date are active members of the Club. Frank O'Steen, the second President of the Club, and having been elected to the office of Vice-president three times, has been awarded a "Rotary Plaque" for five years of perfect attendance. Frank is still making history as a great Rotarian.

## CHARTER MEMBERS

(With Classifications)

1. Frank Anderson - (Motor Freight Transportation) Manager - J. P. Stevens Co.
2. Charles Alvin Barker - (Ice Manufacturing) -- Manager - Crossfield Ice Plant
3. Earl B. Bowlin - (Refined Oil Retailing) Owner - Earl Bowlin ESSO Service Center
4. James Alexander Brown, Jr. - (Mechanical Refrigerator Distributing) Owner - Piedmont Equipment Co.
5. William Thornton Bruce - (Education Public Schools) Administration - Greenville County Schools
6. Ray Brooks Carter - (Automobile Retailing) Partner - D. B. Carter Used Cars
7. James Vincent Cely - (Lumber Retailing) Vice President - Cely Brothers Lumber Company
8. James G. Collier, Jr., - (Cotton Goods Mfg.) Personnel Director - Woodside Mills
9. Billy Joe Dodson - (Industrial & Household Chemical Manufacturing) - Advertising Manager - Texize Chemicals, Inc.
10. William Eugene Garrison - (Broadcasting Station Service, Radio & T. V.) - Engineer - WFBC Radio & T. V.
11. Wayman H. Garren, Jr. - (Insurance Casualty) - Branch Manager - R. V. Chandler & Co.
12. Paul Evans Hunt - (Tire Dealer - Retailing) Owner - Hunt's Service -
13. Richard Joy Irwin - (Electroplating Services) Co-owner - Carolina Plating & Stamping Co.
14. William Marshall Kay, Jr. - (Restaurants) Owner - Kay's Drive-In
15. Edward Lawhorn - (Drugs - Retailing) Partner - Community Drug Store
16. Allen Martin Lowdermilk - (Laundries) Owner - White Swan Laundry & Cleaners
17. Stewart W. Maltby - (Grinding Services) Owner - Industrial Grinding Co.
18. James Adelbert Merchant - (Christianity-Protestantism) Pastor-in -charge - Woodside-Berea Methodist Church
19. William Francis McCollum - (Groceries - Retailing) Owner - White Horse Grocery
20. Frank Thacker O'Steen - (Textile - Weaving Appliances) Treasurer - Greenville Loom Reed Co.
21. Ralph R. Peden - (Dry Goods - Retailing) Owner - Sample Department Store

with the presentation being made by their president, E. H. (Topy) Henley. All the committees were set up and chairmen appointed. Bruce Stroupe, who joined the Club shortly after its charter, became the first bulletin editor and called it "Rotating in Parker."

The Parker Club was off to a great start, but received a serious setback in August of 1956. President Jimmy Merchant announced that he was being transferred to Seneca, S. C. Reverend Merchant had been one of the driving forces in the new Club and it was feared that his loss would cause temporary problems. However, on September 3, 1956, Frank O'Steen, Vice-president, accepted the presidency and the office of vice-president was left vacant the remainder of the year. Several years later, the Parker Club experienced a similar problem when the late Dr. Bill Cook was transferred to Fountain Inn, S. C. just a few days before becoming president.

## Meeting Places

The new Club established the Ottaray Hotel in downtown Greenville as its meeting place, and Monday as the day. The time has remained consistent with one minor exception: in July 1994, the meeting time was changed from 1 :00 P.M. to 12:30 P.M. Parker Rotary Club met at the Ottaray Hotel until February 4, 1957, when the location was changed to the Greenville Hotel. In November, 1958, the Club voted to have their meeting place within the defined limits of the charter territory. The meeting was changed to Hosea's Restaurant in West Greenville.

The owner/manager of Hosea's, Mr. Hosea Merritt, was a member of the Club for many years. The Parker Rotary Club continued to meet at Hosea's until the 1978-79 year when a fire at the restaurant forced a relocation to the Sheraton Hotel (now Ramada) on Church Street. The Sheraton was our meeting place until 1980 when a move was made to the Colonial Inn on Wade Hampton Boulevard. This was an excellent location as long as the Myers family owned and operated the Inn and Restaurant. Unfortunately, the new owners allowed conditions to deteriorate. For that reason, plus the desire to again meet within territory boundaries, the Club decided to move to McGuffy's on Congaree Road.

It should be noted that the Club's name was changed in 1993 to Greenville East Rotary with a change in our charter's territory to the Eastside of Greenville.

In September, 1998, after outgrowing the meeting facilities at McGuffy's, the Club relocated to Stax's Grill on Woods Crossing Road. In February, 2000, the Club again moved to City Range & Steak House Grill due to space limitations at Stax's Grill.

## Summary of Meeting Locations:

|                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| January 1956 -February 1957  | Ottaray Hotel                  |
| February 1957 -November 1958 | Greenville Hotel               |
| November 1958 -1978          | Hosea's Restaurant             |
| 1978 - 1980                  | Sheraton Hotel                 |
| 1980 - 1996                  | Colonial Inn                   |
| 1996 - 1998                  | McGuffy's                      |
| 1998 - 2000                  | Stax's Grill                   |
| 2000 -                       | City Range & Steak House Grill |

11. Wayman H. Garren, Jr. (Insurance-Casualty) Branch Manager -R. V. Chandler & Co.
12. Paul Evans Hunt (Tire Dealer -Retailer) Owner - Hunt's Service
13. Richard J. Irwin (Electroplating) Co-owner - Carolina Plating & Stamping
14. William Marshall Kay, Jr. (Restaurants) Owner - Kay's Drive-In
15. Edward Lawhorn (Drugs/Pharmacy -Retailing) Partner - Community Drug Store
16. Allen M. Lowdermilk (Laundries) Owner - White Swan Laundry & Cleaners
17. Stewart W. Maltby (Grinding Services) Owner -Industrial Grinding Co.
18. James A. Merchant (Christianity -Protestantism) Pastor-in-charge -Woodside-Berea Methodist Church
19. William Francis McCollum (Groceries -Retailing) Owner - White Horse Grocery
20. Frank Thacker O'Steen (Textiles -Weaving Accessories) Treasurer/Co-Owner - Greenville Loom Reed
21. Ralph R. Peden (Dry Goods -Retailing) Owner - Sample Department Store
22. Erich Oscar Saurbrey (Cotton Warehouse) Superintendent - Gulf Atlantic Warehouse Co.
23. Robert P. Walters (Awning Manufacturing) Sales Manager - Ventilated Awning Corp.

### **First Officers of the Parker Rotary Club**

President - James A. Merchant  
 Vice-president -Frank T. O'Steen  
 Secretary-Treasurer - William T. Bruce  
 Sargeant-At-Arms - Richard Irwin

It should be noted that only twenty-three (23) names appear on the Charter roster rather than twenty-four (24) as announced. Obviously, one person dropped out, or resigned, before the original meeting.

*Editor's Note (2006): Reuben Heyward Ballard (Concrete Products Mfg) Ballard Concrete Company is also listed as a charter member of the club on documents filed with Rotary International. His name was omitted from the list compiled in 1961 and which was referenced for this information in 2000. Ballard appears in club records at least through 1966.*

Another interesting highlight is that thirteen (13) of the twenty-three (23) Charter members were owners, or co-owners of their businesses. Since the Charter Officers and Directors had served only six (6) months, the Parker Club voted to ask them to continue to serve the additional 1956-57 full year.

The Rotary Banner was given to the Club by the North Greenville Rotary Club,

22. Erich Oscar Sauerbrey - (Cotton Warehouse) Superintendent - Gulf Atlantic Warehouse Co.
23. Robert Pleasant Walters - (Awning Manufacturing) Sales Manager - Ventilated Awning Corp.

*Editor's Note (2006): Reuben Heyward Ballard (Concrete Products Mfg) Ballard Concrete Company is also listed as a charter member of the club on documents filed with Rotary International. His name was omitted from this list compiled in 1961.*

### **FIRST OFFICERS OF THE PARKER ROTARY CLUB**

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| President            | James A. Merchant |
| Vice-president       | Frank T. O'Steen  |
| Secretary -Treasurer | William T. Bruce  |
| Sargeant-at-Arms     | Dick Irwin        |

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Ray Carter       | Paul Hunt |
| Allen Lowdermilk | Jim Cely  |

The working mechanism of the newly formed club began to take full control now. The "Rotary Banner" was given to the Club by the North Greenville Rotary Club - the presentation being made by the President of the North Greenville Rotary Club, E.H. (Topyy) Henley. The various committees were set up and the committee chairmen were appointed.

Bruce Stroupe, Bulletin Editor, edited the first bulletin on July 16, 1956, and called it "Rotating in Parker." Bill Bruce, Secretary, had his hands full - ordering and obtaining all the necessary papers and materials for the new Club, as well as keeping up with all dues, the Club funds, and incidentals. The Club, now moving determinedly, was dealt a hard blow in August of 1956. The President, Jimmy Merchant, announced that he was being transferred to Seneca, S. C. Jimmy had been one of the pulsating forces that helped the Club move with such determination. The loss of this truly fine Rotarian was accepted, however, by the Club, and on September 3rd, Frank O'Steen accepted the office of the Presidency. It was then agreed by all members that the office of Vice-President would be left open until election time since the President automatically becomes Vice-president in the succeeding year as President. The same officers who were elected in January 1956 to fill the second half term of Rotary year 1955-1956, were re-elected in June to fill a full term for the Rotary year 1956-1957.

## MEETING PLACES

The New Club established the Ottaray Hotel as its meeting place and met there every Monday, at 1:00 p.m., until February 4th, 1957. At a previous meeting (January 18<sup>th</sup>), the club had voted to change the meeting place from the Ottaray Hotel to the Greenville Hotel. The Club met at the Greenville Hotel until November 1958. At that time the Club voted to have its meeting place within the defined limits of its territory. The meeting was then changed to Hosea's Restaurant in West Greenville. Hosea's Restaurant is still the meeting place - each Monday at 1:00 p.m.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND EVENTS

When the Parker Rotary Club was organized in 1956, a Charter Night Supper was held at Monaview School. Dr. C. C. Norton, from the Rotary Club of Spartanburg, was guest speaker. This proved to be a very successful event, not only financially to the Club, but Rotariarially to each member. A most looked-forward to yearly event is the "Ladies Night" - Program and entertainment with enriching Rotary fellowship. This night is growing to mean more to the Rotarians and Rotary Anns alike. A "Father-Son" night has been observed by the Club the past three years. The first "a Father-Son Supper" was held at Eppes Eating Place. For the past two years the Club has been invited by Grady Ballard and Ed Lawhorn to their provisional grounds and recreational facilities. These were truly "Father-Son Fellowship Outings" with enjoyment of recreation and eats. Memories will linger long with both Rotarian and Son.

Steak Suppers have also been in order - ordered and paid for by the losing team - in membership drives, attendance, etc. One of the highlights of the Club history was the memorable "Donkey Basketball Game." Most of the members will remember the challenge by the Parker Kiwanis Club and the game that was certainly a duel to the finish - not so much to the making of points, but in riding the donkeys. Paul Hunt proved to be the star acrobatic rider of the evening - clearing his donkey's head as its rear came up, then sailing through the air and making a three -point landing on his head. Maybe the donkey was trying to ring the basket!!! Grady Ballard was the coach - he sent the donkeys in and helped the players off. The proceeds from this game went to help complete the "West Greenville Recreation Center" project which was underway at this time.

## PROGRAMS

The weekly programs of the Parker Rotary Club have been typical to those of any local club. The past few years have brought new ideas, new thoughts, new outlooks; and therefore more "varied interest" programs. Programs from a local level, or from an international level, or back to the Club level - have been studied and presented with - much care and considered work. Dick Irwin; Jim Collier; Grady Ballard; Harold Kay; Lewis Rhodes and Chester Holmes have used individuals and combined ingenuity in presenting programs of constructive and informative values - programs involving specialized people and specific subjects that help us, as club members, keep up with the ever moving developments and problems of our Country and World.

## HISTORY OF PARKER/GRENVILLE EAST ROTARY CLUB

Compiled by Pierson Price

2000

In the true spirit of sharing Rotary with others, the Greenville Rotary Club began looking into establishing a club in Greenville's west side. The Rotary year was 1954-55 and Mr. Jacque F. Norman was president of the Greenville Club. The following members were appointed to the Feasibility Study Committee: L. P. Hollis; G. Heyward Mahon, Jr.; William H. Poole and Sapp Funderburk. Timing of the committee appointment did not allow the committee to complete its work during Mr. Norman's presidency. He was succeeded by Mr. Funderburk, who made one of his first official acts the request for the committee to complete its work.

Within a few months the task was completed, and on December 20, 1955 the Rotary Club of Greenville adopted a resolution relinquishing territory for the organizing of a club to be known as Parker District Rotary Club. In January 1956, the word "District" was dropped from the name and the official name became "Parker Rotary Club."

The Charter Membership was completed on January 6, 1956, with twenty-four (24) members, and the members of both clubs were advised in a Newsletter of February 3, 1956 that "the Rotary Club of Parker is now a full-fledged Rotary Club with a Charter." It should be noted that Parker was the second club formed by the Greenville Club, with North Greenville Rotary being the first.

### Charter Members (with classifications)

1. Frank Anderson (Motor Freight Transportation) Manager -J. P. Stevens & Co.
2. Charles A. Barker (Ice Manufacturing) Manager -Crossfield Ice Plant
3. Earl B. Bowlin (Refined Oil Retailing) Owner -Earl Bowlin Esso Service Center
4. James Alexander Brown, Jr. (Mechanical Refrigerator Distributing) Owner -Piedmont Equipment Company
5. William Thornton Bruce (Education -Public Schools) Administration - Greenville County Schools
6. Ray Brooks Carter (Automobile Retailing) Partner -D. B. Carter Used Cars
7. James Vincent Cely (Retail Lumber Dealer) Vice-president -Cely Brothers Lumber Company
8. James G. Collier, Jr. (Cotton Goods Manufacturing) Personnel Director - Woodside Mills
9. Billy Joe Dodson (Industrial & Household Chemical Manufacturing) Advertising Manager -Texize Chemicals, Inc.
10. William Eugene Garrison (Broadcasting Station Service, Radio & T.V.) Engineer -WFBC Radio & T.V.

## OFFICERS 1965-66

President: Henry Lee

Vice-president: Wilson C. Tomlinson

Secretary-Treasurer Ansel O. Tucker

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carlton Faubion            Ed Branyon

Charles Travis            Clyde Morgan

## COMMITTEES

### I. CLUB SERVICE - Carlton Faubion, Director

Attendance: Hosea Marrett, Chairman; Pete Barker

Classifications: Jim Cely, Chairman; Dick Irwin

Club Bulletins: Ansel Owens, Chairman; Roy Tomlin

Fellowship: J.C. Burdette, Chairman; Grady Ballard

Year Book & Club History: Buck Denton, Chairman; Frank Osteen

Sargent-at-Arms: Ed Lawhorn, Chairman; Herbert Granger

Magazine: Dick Irwin, Chairman

Membership: Allen Lowdermilk, Chairman; Lewis Rhodes

Program: Joe Hollingsworth, Chairman; Allen Lowdermilk

Public Relations: Lewis Rhodes, Chairman; Buck Denton

Rotary Information: Grady Ballard, Chairman, Jim Brown

### II. VOCATIONAL SERVICE - Charles Travis, Director

Buyer-Seller Relations: Heyward Ballard, Chairman; Jim Brown

Competitor Relations: Gordon Clark, Chairman

Employee-Employer Relations: Jim Collier, Chairman; J. C. Burdette

Four-Way Test: Frank Osteen, Chairman; Clyde Bryant

Occupational Information: Roy Tomlin, Chairman; Wheeler Thackston

Trade Association: Herbert Granger, Chairman; Hosea Marrett

### III. COMMUNITY SERVICE - Ed Branyon, Director

Community Safety: Lewis Rhodes, Chairman, J. E. Merchant

Interact: Ansel Owens, Chairman; Clyde Morgan, Clyde Bryant

Scholarships, Awards and Student Guests: Harold Kay, Chairman; Jim Collier

Youth and Boys and Girls Week: J.E. Merchant, Chairman; Heyward Ballard

### IV. INTERNATIONAL SERVICE - Clyde Morgan, Director

International Students Projects: Harold Kay, Chairman; Jim Cely

The Rotary Foundation: Pete Barker, Chairman; Gordon Clark

International Information: Wheeler Thackston, Chairman; Buck Denton

## WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

During the past five years many things have been undertaken and many of these have been completed. Only a few are recorded here:

First - THE CLUB: A fine fellowship has been rooted and well grounded to the citizenry of the community. A fine cooperative spirit of civic minded men who now know and hold high the ideal of "Service Above Self" has been developed. All members will hold true the saying of Paul Harris, "There is no influence more satisfying than companionship with our fellowmen and this is especially true in Rotary, because the membership is handpicked."

Second - THE COMMUNITY: The Club has taken great interest in the community welfare. Studies have been made of the community's responsibility and obligation to its "Crippled Children;" "unfortunate and homeless Children;" "Recreational facilities," etc., and from these studies came forth action.

In 1958 "the saving of a life in swimming pool or lake" was the topic, and a project of selling Life Preservers was undertaken. This project was headed by Dick Irwin. In the Rotary Year 1959-60, the Club joined with the Greenville City Recreation Committee to repair; re-construct; and resupply the West Greenville Recreation Center. The project was completed in 1960 with an approximate cost to the club of \$700.00. C. W. Cason was the man directly behind this project. As Chairman of a special committee, he worked emphatically and energetically with the City Recreation Board, the City Council and the Parker Club members - coordinating the work that should be done - and then seeing that it was done. As we now look at the West Greenville Recreation Center, which the children of this community enjoy, we look at just one of the many testimonials to a Great Rotarian in action. With C. W. on this committee was Hosea Marrett, Ralph Paden. Just after its organization, the Club sponsored a "Little League" Baseball Tournament which was held in the Woodside Park. All of the charter members will remember this league and the thrills of "Hit that ball" and "Oh, My! Another- Homer. "The boys involved were equally thrilled and the winner of the league was sent to Camp Parker for a week. This project was headed by "Jim" Collier and "Dick" Irwin.

In November 1960, a donation from the Club was made to the Greenville Rescue Mission. This donation of \$100.00 was to help purchase the children's winter shoes.

Third - VOCATIONAL: The Club is certainly interested in the High School Students and future leaders of tomorrow. Students from Carolina High School, Parker High School, and Berea High School have been invited to sit-in on regular meetings and to become acquainted with the many vocations represented. Perhaps they will be able to use some of the information that Rotary has passed to them.

In the Rotary Year 1960-61, the Club voted to give a "Parker Rotary Scholarship" to one deserving student from one of the high schools in our territory to help further their studies - at least one semester - at their college preference. Miss Jamie Cunningham, a 1960 graduate of Parker High School, was the first to receive this scholarship. She studied at the University of South Carolina.

Fourth - INTERNATIONAL: The Club has pushed to become a 200% Club in Rotary Foundation. In fact, at this writing, the Club is a 230% Club- well underway to becoming a 300% Club. The members feel that by contributing to the support of the Rotary Foundation and maintaining an active interest in its activities, they are personally and collectively furthering the development of international good will and peace. Rotary fellows from our own District have given us satisfying and inspiring information of their studies and stay in other Countries. W. Laurens Walker, III, from Spartanburg, S. C. studied at the University of London; Marianna Jacobsen, a Rotary Fellow from Norway, studied at Winthrop College; and Johanna Elizabeth (Hanneli) Lucas, a Rotary Fellow from Freiburg, Germany, a student at Furman University. These have contributed many points of interest and valued information which helps us to understand their way of life and their problems, and their desire to find the same international good will and peace.

The Club early recognized the importance of the Rotary International Convention, and the first President, Jim Merchant, was sent to the convention held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mac Patton, Secretary-Treasurer in the year 195\_, was sent to the Convention held in Dallas, Texas. In 1959, Ed Lawhorn, President of the Club, was sent as a delegate to the Rotary International Convention held in New York, New York. Also C. W. Cason was sent as a delegate. In 1960, the Club sent both the President of the Club, Harold Kay, and the Secretary, Ansel Owens, to the Convention at Miami Beach, Florida. In every report from all of these conventions came a true feeling of international friendship and a true desire for international peace, understanding and good will. At the writing of this history (1961), our District - Director (District 775), E. H. (Topy) Henley, and his Rotary Ann Melba, are in Japan attending the Rotary International Convention being held this year in Tokyo.

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

*January 1956 - June 30, 1956*

Pres. - James A. Merchant

V. Pres. - Frank T. O'Steen

Sec. -Tress. - William T. Bruce

Sargeant-At-Arms - Dick Irwin

Program Chmn. - Jim Collier

### DIRECTORS

Allen Lowdermilk

Paul Hunt

Jim Cely

Ray Carter

*July 1, 1956 - June 30, 1957*

THE SAME OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS WERE ELECTED TO SERVE A FULL ROTARY YEAR. Frank O'Steen became President when Jim Merchant left in September. No Vice-president was elected.

The Tri -Hi Interact Club has made considerable progress. It has grown to such an extent that we are in the process of establishing an Interact Club at each of the three high schools, Berea, Carolina and Parker.

As in the past we sent high school students to Boys State in Charleston and Girls State in Columbia.

Our club project chairman, Herb Granger, and his committee have done a lot of work and set the ball rolling to a possible branch of the Greenville County Library and a YMCA branch to be located in the Parker District, our club's area. At this time they have done all possible and the final results will not be known until a little later.

In the past years we have joined other clubs in Greenville in putting out a combined club year book. This year we have launched out on our own and are producing our own loose leaf book with a page for each member. It will also contain club history and by-laws. Buck is chairman of this committee.

It is the practice of our club to send the incoming president to Rotary Conventions when held in a reasonable distance from Greenville. This year we sent our incoming president, Beau Tomlinson, to Denver, Colorado to the Convention. He went with our own District Governor, Chester Holmes.

We presented Chester Holmes, one of our members, and also District Governor, with a Captains Chair with his name and year of office inscribed on it. We had the chair for the entire year and District Governor Chester could not sit in it until presented to him at the end of the year. The first visitor who came to our club each Monday sat in the chair at the head of the table. We had a special register book for each to sign and comment, which was given to Chester along with the chair.

We gave District Governor, Chester, two engraved Rotary Shields --one to hang in our meeting hall and one for his home. Also, for the first time we gave our president an engraved Rotary Shield.

All officers and committee chairmen have done an outstanding job, and we believe we have one of the best clubs in the District. The support of each and every member is greatly appreciated and the contribution he made to the success of the Parker Club.

The success and memories of Rotary year 1965-1966 are dedicated to Ansel O. Tucker the best secretary-treasurer to be found anywhere.. .and a real Rotarian.

## PARKER ROTARY CLUB HISTORY 1965 -1966

President: Henry Lee  
Vice President: Wilson C. Tomlinson  
Secretary-Treasurer: Ansel O. Tucker

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carlton Faubion            Ed Branyon  
Charles Travis            Clyde Morgan

Chester Holmes took office as District Governor of District 775 on July 1st, 1965.

We sponsored sale of American Flags to members at cost.

Perfect attendance tabs were given to over 50% of our members for the past year.

The family picnic was held at Echo Valley Park and about 75 of our Rotary family attended.

We subscribed to "Revista Rotaria" and sent it to all local high schools where Spanish was taught.

Pete Barker did an outstanding job with donations to Rotary Foundation putting Parker Rotary Club in the 600% Club, the one in District 775 with 600%.

Donations to local children's charities were made.

We celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with nine of ten presidents being present.

We were very successful in contacting our matched club in Greece and mailed them material about our club, city, and state and have received correspondence and material from them.

Ladies night was observed and most all the secretaries and presidents of the local clubs in Greenville were present.

The District Conference was held here in Greenville and we had the largest attendance of any club in the district percentage-wise.

Father and son night was held at Grady and Edward Lawhorn's home and we had some 42 in attendance.

After 10 years of trying, the club was successful in getting a member, Pierson Price, who could play the piano, and a piano at our meeting place. Credit for this goes to Lewis Rhodes and Hosea Marrett.

Attendance for this year has been very good and at no time did we fall below the first 10 clubs in the district.

We established a fellowship committee and J. C. Burdette did an outstanding job in telling of the health and happiness, birthdays, promotions and appointments of the various members. We presented each member with a birthday cake and sang Happy Birthday to them.

Our program chairman, Joe Hollingsworth, did a very job presenting us with interesting programs covering the four Rotary avenues of service.

### Officers

*July 1, 1957 - June 30, 1958*

Pres. - J. G. Collier Jr.  
V. Pres. - Frank T. O'Steen  
Sec. - Treas. - Bruce W. Stroupe  
Sargeant-At-Arms - Grady Ballard

*July 1, 1958 - June 30, 1959*

Pres. - Grady Ballard  
Vice-Pres. - J. G. Collier, Jr.  
Sec. - Treas. - Mac Patton  
Sargeant-At-Arms - Paul Hunt  
Program Chairman - Dick Irwin

*July 1, 1959 - June 30, 1960*

Pres. - Ed Lawhorn  
Vice-Pres. - Grady Ballard  
Sec. -Treas. - Mac Patton  
Sargeant-At-Arms - Jim Collier  
Program Chairman - Harold Kay

*July 1, 1960 - June 30, 1961*

Pres. - Harold Kay  
Vice-Pres. - Ed Lawhorn  
Sec. -Tress. - Ansel Owens  
Sargeant-At-Arms - Jim Collier  
Program Ch. - J. Lewis Rhodes

*July 1, 1961 - June 30, 1962*

President - Allen Lowdermilk  
Vice-Pres. - Harold Kay  
Sec. -Tress. - Ansel Owens  
Sargeant-At-Arms - R. V. Chandler  
Program Chairman - Chester Holmes

### Directors

Ray B. Carter  
J. V. Cely  
Paul Hunt  
Allen Lowdermilk

C. W. Cason  
Ed Lawhorn  
Ernest Gossett  
Allen Lowdermilk

Pete Barker  
Buck Denton  
Dick Irwin  
Ansel Owens

Chester Holmes  
Hosea Marrett  
Earl Bowlin  
Henry Lee

Joe Lemire  
Jim Brown  
Ansel Tucker

## DISTRICT GOVERNORS - DISTRICT 775

### IN THE PARKER ROTARY CLUB'S HISTORY.

| <i>Rotary<br/>Year</i> | <i>District<br/>Governor</i> | <i>Home<br/>Club</i>       |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1954-55                | William B. Poole             | Greenville Rotary Club     |
| 1955-56                | Ben Hatcher                  | Gaffney Rotary Club        |
| 1956-57                | Martin Teague                | Laurens Rotary Club        |
| 1957-58                | Sam M. Smith                 | Rotary Club of Greenwood   |
| 1958-59                | C. C. Norton                 | Rotary Club of Spartanburg |
| 1959-60                | John T. Bregar               | Rotary Club of Seneca      |
| 1960-61                | E. H. (Topy) Henley          | N. Greenville Rotary Club  |
| 1961-62                | Neil Tuesdell                | Rotary Club of Newberry    |

### LEADERS IN ROTARY FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTIONS

|                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Frank O'Steen ...600%   | Ed Lawhorn...500%    |
| Allen Lowdermilk...600% | Harold Kay...500%    |
| Henry Lee...500%        | Hosea Marrett...500% |
| Pete Barker...500%      |                      |

Respectfully submitted:  
History Committee:  
Jim Collier - Ansel Owens

A five year history of the PARKER ROTARY CLUB was published and dedicated to Mr. Frank O'Steen. Mr. O'Steen, a charter member of the Parker Rotary Club, was past president of the club, vice-president for three terms, and has had 100% attendance for the past five years.

This history was also printed in memory of Rotarian C. W. Cason who deceased February 1959. He had served as vice president of the Parker Rotary Club for 3 terms and had maintained 100% attendance for 5 years

each year was well attended and enjoyed by every-one. The father and son night program that has been hosted by Ed and Grady Ballard for these several years had its usual good reception with plenty of fishing, swimming, ball playing and plenty of food by Hosea.

District Governor Charlie went all out to have the best District Conference ever in District 775 and he did. The Parker Club was instrumental in many phases of that conference held in Asheville, North Carolina at the Grove Park Inn. Parker Club brought home two fine honors. One plaque for best club bulletin and one trophy for best conference attendance.

We also felt the high honor of having one of our own members, Chester Holmes, elected District Governor 775 for 1965-1966. An honor that does not come around to a small club very often.

1964-65 was a good year for Parker Rotary, thanks to a Club effort.

## **PARKER ROTARY CLUB HISTORY 1964 -1965**

President: J. Lewis Rhodes  
Vice-president: Ansel C. Owens  
Secretary-Treasurer: Ansel Tucker

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Henry M. Lee                      Gordon M. Clark  
William Buck                      Oscar Sauerbrey

Under the fine leadership of district Governor Charlie Bell the Parker Rotary Club as many other Clubs in District 775, had one of their finest years.

The year had a good start sending President elect Lewis to the Rotary International Convention in Toronto, Canada where the inspiration received there reflected through the club for the year followed.

To mention in detail all of the outstanding events of the year and every member that played such an important part in the successful year would be impossible and even after trying someone would be left out.

Therefore for the history of the club some of the highlights of the year will be recorded and those achievements will be recognized as a club effort.

Parker Rotary had the privilege of having the first zone representative. A new office created District Governor Charlie Bell and he appointed Past President Ansel Owens to fill the important post as his personal representative to the various clubs in district 775.

This was the first honor of the year to come to the Parker Club. One close behind that was a carry over from the year before. A project President Ansel Owens and now Zone Representative, Greenville Area had its first Interact Club. Out of the efforts of Ansel and his fine committee the Tri -Hi Interact Club was organized and its membership came from the three high schools in the Parker Rotary Club area. They are Parker, Berea and Carolina High Schools.

This was also the second charter issued in South Carolina and the Tri-Hi Charter is dated March 30, 1965. The Parker Club received the 500 per cent Rotary Foundation award certificate. Only one other club in the state can boast of this record.

It was also during this year we saw a club constitution change. This change was made in order to elect a vice-president each year to give him the benefit of a year's training.

We also had a net increase in membership of four members and a fine attendance record of about 96%.

Good fellowship is always to be found each Monday at the Parker Club and special events during the year were to be found most enjoyable. We had our first picnic at Echo Valley that was a huge success. The ladies night that we look forward to

*Editor's Note (2006): The following was printed in the 1966 Parker Directory.*

## **PARKER ROTARY CLUB HISTORY 1962 -1963**

President: Chester H. Holmes  
Vice-president: Allen Lowdermilk  
Secretary-Treasurer: Ansel Owens

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Lewis Rhodes                      J. C. Burdette  
Ralph Peden                      Oscar Sauerbrey

During this year the entire district as well as our club had a fine year under the leadership of District Governor Bruce Cloaninger. We made our usual contribution to several worthy organizations which are forgotten since these monetary matters do not include the actual participation of the Rotarian.

One of our greatest accomplishments during 1963 was the beginning of our Student Loan Funds in Parker, Berea, and Carolina High Schools. Directed by Rotarian Harold Kay, the arrangement devised that we would contribute \$100.00 to each school fund each year over a period of five years. An additional "bonus" of \$100.00 would go to all of the schools raising \$500.00 from other sources during a given year. It is believed that this fund will be of much value to many deserving young people in the years to come.

Internally, a committee was appointed to update the By-Laws of the club and this task was completed and in order as of July 1, 1963. Attendance was near the 95% mark for the year and several "strong" new members came into the club. On a District basis our own Club Assembly was ruled successful by Governor Cloaninger. The District Assembly was held in Union on April 24 and was well attended by our club officers prior to the change of administration. John Saddler was General Chairman of the District Conference held in Greenville March 29 and 30 and the Parker Club served as one of the Host Clubs. We were well represented at the conference with over 60% of our members registered.

We closed the year with a successful Ladies Night affair and introduced the officers elect for the following year, i.e., Ansel Owens, President; Chester Holmes, and Wheeler Thackston, Secretary -Treasurer.

## **PARKER ROTARY CLUB HISTORY 1963 -1964**

President: Ansel C. Owens  
Vice-President: Chester H. Holmes  
Secretary-Treasurer: Wheeler Thackston

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Wilson C. Tomlinson     Harold B. Kay  
Henry G.. Ballard         Henry W. Castles

President Ansel, the Ninth President of Parker Rotary Club, is associated with Southern Motor Finance as Manager, and fills the classification of “Automobile – Financing.” He has a history of perfect attendance and has taken in three District Conferences and two Conventions (The Miami Convention in 1959 and the St. Louis Convention in 1963). He has served the Club as a member of the Board of Directors and as Secretary-Treasurer and has been on various committees and projects. He and his Rotary Ann Vivian have six children and live in the Welcome District.

District Governor Audley H. Ward is a Past President of the Aiken Club. He has been associated with the Clemson Extension Service for 38 years, having been a District Agent for the Clemson Extension Service for 34 years. He has been a School teacher for 50 years. He has worked faithfully with the American Cancer Society, and was presented a medal and plaque for having made the greatest contribution to cancer control in 1954. Selected as Aiken Man of the Year in 1958, he is a member of the Speakers Bureau of the State Chamber of Commerce. Audley is a Past National Vice Commander of the American Legion. He is a true Rotarian, and has expressed vividly the ideal of “Service above Self” in his life-time.

Carl P. Miller, President of Rotary International-1963-1964, from Los Angeles, California, presented at the of the year a proposed program of “Specifics” and called the Rotary Clubs around the world “11,000 launching stations” for projections into Rotary. In his report and challenge to the St. Louis Convention, he stated “We must not sit, because if we do, someone will trample on us.”

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Attendance was very good during the year - an average percentage of 93. A complete survey was made during the first part of the year by the Classification Committee -and the Membership drive began. Information was put out to club members by a very good Bulletin committee, and the bulletin was maintained throughout the year. Fellowship has been good at the Parker Club, and the Father-Son Outing on May 25th was a wonderful success. Fishing, games, swimming, hamburgers and hotdogs at Ed’s and Grady’s. Jimmy Carnes, Track Coach at Furman University, was guest speaker. Lady’s Night will long be remembered - held February 24th at “Ye Olde Fire Place.” On the program was Foreign Student Guests: Miss Jannette Nap, of the Netherlands, a student at Lander College and

sponsored by the Greenwood Club; Pierre Vierche, from Belgium, attending Furman University and sponsored by the Greenville Club; and Lennart Pellvik, of Sweden, District 775 Projects Students, attending Furman University. Also featured on the program were the “beatle-lets” - a string-stromming trio from somewhere.

In Vocational Service, various programs and committee work gave stress to a stronger Rotary Spirit in our vocations. Through programs we gained information on the Air-Base property proposals; the new Greenville Technical School, and trade association. In Community Service, the Student Loan Fund to the three high schools in our area was continued - \$100.00 each going to Berea, Carolina and Parker. Students from Parker, Carolina and Berea were sponsored to Boys State and Girls State. Miss Bertha Woodward, a student at Winthrop College (and a former student from Parker), spoke to us on Winthrop College. Three Greenville County Participants at the S. C. State League Speech Event in Columbia -Linda Collins, Vivian Sides, and Hudson Davis, all from Carolina High School received honored recognition in their specific speech class and all three came and gave a very fine program. In International Service, two fine programs were notable; Bill Poole, Greenville Club and Past District Governor, on March 9th gave a talk on “Rotary Foundation”; and John Breggar, Clemson Club, and Past District Governor, spoke on his “European Trip.” Lennard Pellvik, of Sweden, District Projects Student, gave a fine program.

### **PROJECTS**

One of the finest Club projects was the backing of the Parker High School Band in their trip to the World’s Fair. This band was one of our leading state bands, and was chosen to represent South Carolina Schools at the World’s Fair. The Parker Rotary Club contributed, in cash, \$850.00. On the International Projects bases -and in keeping with President Miller’s “Matched Club Project” - President Ansel wrote two letters to Atomi Japan, Rotary Club. No reply in letter form was received, but an “Atomi Club Banner” was received and is displayed on the Rotary Bulletin Board. Pictures were taken during the year, make into slides, and prepared to be sent to our Matched Club.