

**Editor's Note:** The following is a reprint of the district history compiled by PDG Charles M. "Chuck" Waltenbaugh (1970-71, Meadville) to mark January 27, 1997, which was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Rotary International's founder, Paul Harris. Please keep in mind that PDG Chuck originally typed the text on a typewriter; and for this reprint, Rotarian Diane Lacey scanned the text, adjusted the headings and spacing a bit, and made a few minor copyedits. PDG Chuck's original still exists in the three-ring binder he presented to then DG Robert J. Lawton (1996-97, New Castle).

## Honoring Legacy of Service

January 27, 1997, marks the 50th anniversary of the death of our founder, Paul Harris. To pay proper tribute to our founder, International President Luis Giay has urged all clubs to plan activities to remember Rotary's past and to honor its founder. He has encouraged Rotarians and clubs to "Build the Future Honoring Our Past."

Paul Harris launched the modern service club movement in 1905 when he organized the first Rotary meeting in Chicago. Rotary caught on quickly and Harris soon introduced the concept of community service. His vision of an organization dedicated to peace, tolerance and serving others has allowed Rotary to survive and thrive, well beyond Harris' own lifetime.

Since there was no written history of Rotary District #7280, District Governor Robert J. Lawton (New Castle) assigned the responsibility to write this history to Charles M. "Chuck" Waltenbaugh (P.D.G., 1970-71, Meadville). P.D.G. Chuck requested that all the clubs in the district write a history of their club and return it to him. Many clubs have not mailed these histories to P.D.G. Chuck.

Using the histories of the clubs that have submitted histories and securing two tapes from Glenn Rickert (P.D.G., 1938-39, Kane), which contained important information, this brief history of Rotary District #7280 is submitted to Governor Robert I. Lawton.

Respectfully submitted,

P.D.G. Charles "Chuck" M. Waltenbaugh

January 27, 1997

# **National Association of Rotary Clubs of America**

Office of the President  
1317 Unity Building  
Telephone Central 2018  
Chicago

Jan. 25th, 1912.

It would be obvious to you that the most vital consideration is the class of people whom you ask to join. Aim to secure the leading men in each line of business. Above all things make no mistakes in the banker, the printer, the lawyer, the physician, the dentist, the insurance man, and all those who will get the most direct benefit out of the club and therefore are likely to be most prominent in its activities.

Some broad lines you should sub-divide so as to secure that many more members for the Club. For example, you should have a fire insurance man, a life insurance man, an accident insurance man, perhaps a liability insurance man, and a surety bond man. The general line of insurance is broad enough to warrant such a sub-division and the case may be similar with other lines.

I should be glad indeed to answer any inquires you may have to make and give you the very advice that I can.

Wishing you great success, I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

**This letter was written by  
Founder Paul P. Harris  
to the New Castle Club  
when they were in the  
process of organizing.**

(Signed) Paul P. Harris  
President

## **The History of Rotary International: District 7280**

It is interesting to note how we have become known as District #7280. As early as 1915 this district was known as District #3 and later, prior to 1921, it was known as District #6. Then in 1922 it was changed to #33 which remained in effect until 1937 when it became #175. This lasted until 1948 when it changed to #259. In 1957 it became known as #728 and in 1991, with the more frequent usage of computers which required 4 digits, it became known as District #7280.

During the 1915-1921 era when we were known as District #3 and District #6, the district went as far south as perhaps Maryland and as far north as Montreal so it was international. The district was over 1,000 miles in length. It was not possible for a district governor to visit all the clubs in a year.

When it was decided that our district should be all in the U.S.A. and just in northwestern Pennsylvania, some clubs in Pennsylvania petitioned Rotary International to just continue as an International District as part of Canada. As an example, the Erie club did not participate in District 7280's activities. This feeling was still in existence up until the late 1960's and into the 1970's. W. Terry Powell (P.D.G., 1971-72, Wesleyville) helped a great deal to help turn this thinking around in Erie County and with the Erie club, as he helped to organize additional clubs in Erie County.

The number of members in the very few clubs was perhaps less than two hundred. As additional clubs were formed, the membership increased. We reached a high point after World War II. In the early 1950's, our average membership in Rotary District 7280 would exceed 2200. This is without the following clubs that were chartered after 1969: Rich-Mar, Linesville, Kearsarge, Presque Isle, Elk Valley, Meadville A.M., Cranberry, and Vernon. These eight clubs have helped to keep the membership at about 1900. Perhaps it is not being kind to the other 39 clubs who have not kept up their membership to the 1950 level.

In 1971, there was a membership campaign among the clubs that had 25 members or less. It was based on percentage of increase. It worked as most small clubs enjoyed an increase. The winner was Portersville/Prospect. They raffled live turkeys and made some money for their club. Lots of fun!

Up until 1964 we had no youth exchange students. Rev. Albert "Bert" Marriott (P.D.G., 1964-65, Meadville) and Dr. Jack E. Stefanick (P.D.G., 1987-88, Sharon) got this started for Rotary District #7280. The students in past years have always put on a successful program at our district conference. This program is presently being very successfully run by Chairman Larry Franklin (Greenville).

When the clubs were asked to vote on getting youth exchange started in our district, the request was made by then District Governor Bert Marriott. Bert's own club of Meadville was against getting involved. Today this is one of the strong programs in the Meadville club.

The difference between the Meadville club and P.D.G. Bert Marriott is a great strength of Rotary. It provides an example that proves that Rotarians have different opinions and because of the difference Rotary is much stronger as they are very democratic.

The district governor is normally nominated by his or her club. Often there are more than one nominated. The District Nominating Committee selects the stronger, and this district governor is then elected at the International Conference. The person is known as District #7280 nominee.

The District #7280 is governed by the district governor, serving as chairman of an Advisory Board, which includes all past district governors who are current members of Rotary and who reside in the district. Note that their function is that only of an Advisory Board. The serving Governor makes the decisions and operates the district. His term is for only one year.

The outline for the Advisory Board to follow is known as a codification.

At this point it is important to make it known that some of the early clubs were formed and were helped be organized by clubs outside of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. As an example, the Erie club was assisted with its organization by the Rotarians from Buffalo, New York. This club was chartered January 1, 1914.

The first Rotary club outside the U.S.A. was formed in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

We understand that there were clubs chartered before Erie, but at this time information has not been sent to P.D.G. Chuck. These clubs were in the neighborhood of New Castle, Pennsylvania.

## **Glennis Rickert Remembers**

P.D.G. Glennis Rickert served the District in 1938-1939. He is the oldest governor still living [as of 1997]. The district number then was 175. Glennis was born in 1895. He has been a great positive force in our district as he joined the Kane Rotary club in 1932. He was elected president of the Kane club in 1936.

When he was governor in 1938-1939, he wrote to R.I to ask if someone from Evanston could attend his conference which was being held in New Castle on May 9 and 10, 1939. Glennis specifically asked if Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary, could attend the conference. He was shocked and pleased to receive a letter back that Paul Harris would attend. More on Paul Harris's visit to the New Castle Conference later.

In 1932, the district was very international. Starting in the south at Baltimore and running north to Montreal, it was not possible for the governor to visit all clubs in the district in his year [??] as Governor George Barber informed Glennis he would be the first to visit all clubs. It is not known if he completed this obligation.

In the early days it was common to have an attendance contest between clubs. Glennis states the losing club had to furnish a program for all the clubs in the contest.

Even in the early days there were five clubs in McKean County. But there was very little interplay between clubs. That was one of the reasons for Glennis getting someone from R.I. to attend the District 175 Conference. Since Paul Harris attended the conference, the attendance was very great... many hundreds.

The conference was broken down to what Glennis calls sections. Many came by train as Paul Harris did from Pittsburgh to New Castle.

The conference brought great unity among the clubs. Glennis's conference was very successful. This was Glennis's object in the beginning. There isn't any doubt that the fact that Paul Harris attended was a great help.

A little of Glennis's assessment of the founder of Rotary, Paul Harris, since he had him at his conference and met him in California earlier: Glennis states that Paul Harris was a slightly built man, somewhat stooped. He had a great love of nature. At the California Training Meeting, a large tree was planted in his honor. Many clubs are doing this now, too, in the Spring of 1997 or as near to Founder Day as possible.

Paul Harris informed Glennis that he would sit in all the meetings. He would make a statement when necessary. He also made a formal speech. When all the Rotary leaders marched into the ball room, Glennis's daughter was escorted by Mr. Harris. She was thrilled. Paul put her at ease at once. Today she still remembers.

This is a very short outline of our founder by P.D.G. Glennis Rickert. Much of the material for this outline is from the V.C.R. tape loaned to me by the Erie club and the tape gotten for me by Bill Kaschube, who interviewed Glennis.

This brief outline does not do justice to a great man and a humanitarian.

### **QUOTES FROM P.D.G. GLENNIS RICKERT**

Glennis Rickert has always been known for his statements on Rotary and mankind. The following quotes are just a few of the statements from this very colorful man.

- (1) "I haven't found a Rotarian that I didn't like. Knowing the Rotarians has been a great joy."
- (2) "I just can't express my feelings for all the Rotarians I have contacts with. I am what you (Kane Rotarians) have made."
- (3) About the scholarship named for him in 1996: "I feel the scholarship should have been named 'The Kane Rotarian Scholarship.'"
- (4) "The greatest thing about Rotary is that it 'unifies men of goodwill.'"
- (5) "Rotary has found a way to utilize the faculties of men and women for society in general."
- (6) "The strength of Rotary is in its growing, not just a place where old men meet and eat."
- (7) On dealing fairly with individuals: "Many of today's codes in business were started by Rotarians."
- (8) Where Rotary no longer existed, due to World War II, and was forced out: "Rotary was so good that the bad didn't want us."

## **International Service**

### ***Dr. Bill Coulter***

Dr. Bill Coulter of the Kane club went to Palawan in the Philippines. Bill requested to go to Palawan so that he could treat the refugee's teeth. When Bill got there, there were 5000 refugees. When he left a month later, there were 15,000.

Bill is just one of many Rotarians from District 7280 who have given at least a month of service to mankind in the world. His service to the Philippines was in April 1989. Bill was presented the Health, Hunger and Humanity Award by Rotary International. He made another trip in 1993.

He didn't just give his talents and time to the Philippines. In February 1994, Bill and his wife, Peg, went to Guatemala to treat a tribe of 60,000 Quiche' Indians.

Again in June 1995, Peg and Bill went to Kenya, Africa to treat five tribes who never had known about dentistry or local anesthetic. He extracted 1136 teeth, filled 6 and sealed 2.

What an example of service above self!

### ***Dr. George R. Hart (P.D.G., 1995-96, New Wilmington)***

Dr. George R. Hart of the New Wilmington club served abroad during the years 1991, 1993, and 1994 at Viveux Forto, St. Lucia Sisters of Mercy. He also served as Governor of Rotary District 7280 for the years 1995 and 1996. In the States he worked with the Navajo Indians Hospital for a month. He took care of as many as 10 to 12 patients a day. During his stay abroad and in the United States he took care of the needs of eye, nose and throat problems.

Sorry I haven't more about P.D.G. George's many trips abroad and with the U.S.A. Indians, but this is just another great example of "Service Above Self."

### ***P.D.G. Terry Powell's Adventure and Success with Woung Woo Kang: 1971***

Just before Terry Powell (P.D.G., 1971-72, Wesleyville) left for the International Assembly held at Lake Placid, he got a phone call from a former associate of his concerning a young Korean man, Woung Woo Kang. The friend lived in Korea as a missionary for the Presbyterian Church.

Woung was the first blind Korean person ever to graduate from a college or university. He wanted to come to the U.S.A. to get special education to help the handicapped. Blind or handicapped people were not permitted to leave Korea. Since then District Governor-Elect Terry is blind, he was very interested in assisting this young man.

Terry met with two incoming governors to ask for help to get Woung out of Korea. They promised to help. These governors were from Korea.

Terry contacted the American Korean Foundation. They said they would help with the transportation. University of Pittsburgh said they would help Woung by giving him a scholarship because of his outstanding record of studies in Korea. They also received help from the Presbyterian Church women.

Woung arrived with a wife—they did not know he was married. The wife was a great help because she could read to him. When he graduated, his work was so outstanding he was given a Fellowship from Pitt. But he needed financial help. Terry, then Governor of District 7280, asked the district to help. They came up with \$4,400. Once again the women of the Presbyterian Church also helped. The Kangs were very active in the Presbyterian Church.

The Foundation came through with a grant of \$2,500.

Woung Woo Kang's thesis was one of the most brilliant the University of Pittsburgh had ever read.

After getting his Ph.D., Woung searched for employment. Fortunately he got a teaching position in Gary, Indiana. Later he was appointed superintendent at the school. He then joined the Rotary club. His wife was also a teacher. She taught concerns and problems of the visually handicapped.

Later, Woung was offered a position to teach in the Ph.D. department at the University of Chicago.

He became very active in the Munster, Indiana, club, and he involved them in many worthwhile programs.

Woung has been written about in *The Rotarian*. P.D.G. Terry attended a high level Rotary meeting at Goshen, Indiana, where then R.I. President Charles "Chuck" Keller (1987-88) was speaking. Terry was to present a Rotary Fellow to Woung. When a local Rotarian and farmer heard of this, he gave \$3,000 to the Foundation and made Woung's wife a Rotary Fellow as well as his two sons.

This success story can continue for many years to come. Their sons are outstanding students and will be great contributors to society. They have received many honors at their colleges.

Woung took Governor of Pennsylvania Richard Thornburg and his wife to Korea as Woung had established a learning institute for the handicapped dealing with the problems of the blind. Woung was to be honored.

This adventure with Woung Woo Kang is just one of the many successful projects that P.D.G. Terry Powell has completed.

As a personal comment, having known P.D.G. Terry for over 28 years, I never thought that being blind was a handicap, but an asset for Terry. Terry's loving wife, Jean, contributed greatly to his success in life, particularly in Rotary.

P.D.G. Terry and Dr. Kang were successful in changing the policy of one nation and the people of South Korea will benefit for many years to come. P.D.G. Terry proved that one person really can make a difference.

[7280 Past District Governors – See separate chart for this list now.]

[Group Study Exchange Recipients – See separate chart for this list now.]

## ***History of a Successful PolioPlus Campaign***

In 1986-1987, Dale Smith (Zelienople) was district governor, and part of his assignment from Rotary International, along with every other governor, was to put together a team of Rotarians to raise 120 million dollars (U.S.) in order to eliminate the wild polio virus.

Dale called on Jack Nicklas (P.D.G., 1977-78, Rich-Mar) to serve as PolioPlus Chairman. The scope of this initiative and the amount of time to organize and work this campaign over District 7280 was staggering. (We didn't know the goal at this time.) Because of the size of the effort and the large territory, P.D.G. Jack asked then District Governor Dale to appoint co-chairs. This was not what Rotary International wanted and generally not a good idea to dilute responsibility, but mindful of the governor's local knowledge, they went along with his wishes and appointed the only co-chairman of all the districts in the Rotary World.

The District Governor Dale appointed P.D.G. Jack and Trueman Mills (P.D.G., 1982-83, Clarion). Over the course of the next two plus years, the co-chairs would attend many meetings at a host of different sites over several states. Of all the meetings, the first was the one not to be forgotten. Towards the end of an all-day meeting, where the case for achieving this goal was laid out and the method for doing it was established, Trueman and Jack learned that the worldwide goal was 120 million dollars. District 7280 was being asked to raise 320,000 thousand dollars, which amounted to about ten times more than the district had ever raised for the Rotary Foundation in any given year. We were shocked, but willingly went forward to organize the district, more on faith than on our best judgment.

The organization and the campaign would spread across two district governors' terms, Dale Smith and then Jack Stefanick (1987-88, Sharon). Brad Smith (Slippery Rock) was the District Foundation Chairman, and his job was to raise money beyond the PolioPlus money for all the usual Foundation activities.

One of the key jobs was to appoint and train area coordinators and to effectively cover District 7280. We needed seven Rotarians who would give it their all in visiting clubs, training club chairman, filling out endless forms and being very supportive to two very tired and nervous co-chairmen.

The heroes of District 7280 were Jack Fatica (Erie), who handled the eight clubs in the Erie area; William E. "Bill" Yeager (P.D.G., 1975-76, Warren), who handled the seven clubs of the northeast part of our district; Ron Seidel (Clarion), who took care of seven clubs in the eastern part of the district; William H. Taft (P.D.G., 1984-85, Titusville), who handled the eight clubs in the middle of our district; Bill Lavin (Sharon), who handled the eight clubs of the western part of

the district; Dale Pinkerton (P.D.G., 1997-98, Butler) and Chris Abernethy (Rich-Mar), who handled the southern eight clubs in the district.

These seven men worked long and hard and were very successful in their efforts. Not enough good things can be said about their efforts. We all found a new definition of the word “meeting” and faced so many deadlines that after a while you were numb. We got great support from our past district governors. In fact, some felt slighted that they weren’t asked to serve as area coordinators and many served as their club chairmen. The truth be known, we got great support from all the Rotarians in District 7280.

At the district conference in West Middlesex in May of 1988, P.D.G. Trueman and P.D.G. Jack (Nicklas) stood before the conference and announced that District 7280—whose goal was \$320,000—had raised \$739,278. About a month later at the international convention in Philadelphia, Rotarians cheered when the 120 million dollar goal was achieved by a multiple of two.

### ***Vocational Technical School in The Philippines***

Charles M. “Chuck” Waltenbaugh (P.D.G., 1970-71) attended the 1970 International Assembly held at Lake Placid. Then District Governor-Elect Chuck met Dr. Sabine “Benny” Santo’s of the Philippines. Benny explained that there was a great need for hand tools at his Vocational Technical School. This was the making of a lasting friendship between P.D.G. Chuck and Benny as well as the possibility of a great international project.

Bill Blank (P.D.G., 1978-79, Ellwood City) was the International Chairman for the years 1970-71 for District 7280. The need was presented to P.D.G. Bill, and he and his committee got well organized and collected money for the school from almost all of the clubs and purchased hand tools at cost from Channellock, Inc. The name of the project came to be known as “Tools for Benny.”

The money raised was in excess of \$3,500 from the clubs. The value of these tools was in excess of \$5,000. This was one of the many successful international projects of Rotary District #7280.

### ***Earthquake in Peru***

Also in 1970-71, an earthquake hit Peru. District 7280 raised \$1200 and sent it to Peru to help the involved Rotary clubs in Peru.

### ***Haiti Project*** [slightly out of order from P.D.G. Chuck’s original]

District 7280 has been involved over a period of 15 years with the community in Gonaives, Haiti called Eben-Ezer. We have been a good neighbor to this community. We have constructed a school building, provided resources for water development, met emergency needs, helped transport goods from the U.S., and assisted in the development of the Christian University of Haiti. In January 1996, a team of university students, from Slippery Rock University, led by

Dr. Henry “Hank” Anna (DG, 2006-07, Slippery Rock) spent 3 weeks at Christian University in government classes.

At that time, we were able to be involved in community projects and to deliver a computer with CD-ROM capability. Pierre Rudolphe Henry, Office of International Cooperation, Eben-Ezer Mission, has expressed extreme thanks and pleasure in this service. We, in the district, have also been in communication with Pastor Morrisset, of Eben-Ezer Mission.

Pastor Morrisset has expressed a desire for some assistance from Rotary in a poultry project. Buildings are already in place for a broiler project, but there are needs for repairs, chicks, meal, and most especially a truck. District 7280 would like to raise \$10,000 for this project, and plans to also apply for matching grant monies from Rotary International. We will oversee and monitor the project.

The chicken farm will provide jobs, food, and an income to many people. These poor people make less than \$500 a year. They are without a doubt the poorest people in our hemisphere. Our assistance will certainly improve the welfare of these people. Rotary is an international organization and we do make a difference.

## **RYLA in District 7280: Dream and Fulfillment**

The dream was held by Trueman Mills (Clarion), a man of great energy and enthusiasm, who in 1982-83 became governor of District 7280. Learning about a youth leadership program that Rotary International had developed, he resolved that during his term the district should institute such an enterprise.

Then Governor Trueman turned to the right person to make his dream a reality. Philip A. “Phil” Lewis (New Wilmington) was the person he asked to head a district committee to formulate plans and implement them to have a Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) seminar for a week in the summer of 1983. Phil, a man of considerable organizational skills and a master of detail, had his work, nevertheless, cut out for him. Basic decisions had to be made with regard to where the program should be held, who might be in direct charge, what curriculum to have, how to arrange a balance between work and recreation, where to find speakers, how to finance the venture, how to recruit young people and decide how many to have, and so many more questions to be answered also.

To be sure, much help was available. Rotary International provided detailed guidelines. Since the program began in 1971, RI had had time in subsequent years to ensure a smooth operation. The objectives were carefully spelled out by RI: (1) “To further demonstrate Rotary’s respect and concern for youth; (2) To encourage and assist selected youth leaders and potential leaders in methods of responsible and effective voluntary youth leadership by providing them with a training experience; (3) To encourage continued and stronger leadership of youth by youth; (4) To publicly recognize the high qualities of many young people who are rendering service to their communities as youth leaders.” These well stated goals and the means of attaining them as written were one thing, however; the task of turning something on paper into a successful on-going activity was something else.

The process of turning dream into reality in District 7280 moved along smoothly. A committee comprised of Rotarians from various parts of the district was a great help; nevertheless, the brunt of any committee’s work ordinarily falls on the chairman, and Phil Lewis had to give a great deal of himself to the project. Because he was dean of the College at Westminster College, it was relatively easy for the committee to decide that a college campus—in this case, Westminster College—should be the location for the seminar. For such an operation, in fact, college facilities were ideal. Dining and sleeping accommodations, as well as classrooms and a potential pool of speakers, were all at hand. Not least in importance was the presence of a variety of recreational resources.

One major consideration was the selection of the right person to be the on-site administrator of the seminar. Should he/she be a mature professional trained in youth leadership? One might expect such a qualification; but, in this matter, Lewis gambled in seeking out a young man, Zane Gizzi, then a Westminster College senior, who had never done this kind of thing before. The gamble paid off handsomely, however. Zane proved to be the right person for the job and remained with the program until 1993. Even though he lacked experience, he had many strengths. These included his own record as a leader in his college years and as an outstanding student. He was also a young man of the highest character. Moreover, working with young people as a high

school teacher was the career he had prepared for, even though he was later sidetracked into admissions work, first at Xavier University and then at Westminster. When Phil first approached Zane about the position, he was reluctant to accept. "I wasn't going to at first," he told a RYLA interviewer some years later, "The amount of work involved scared me." But he did agree and, at an early stage, joined the District committee that worked out details.

Zane proved to be a charismatic leader. His boundless enthusiasm and love of young people quickly communicated themselves to the participants and elicited a positive response that made the week an exciting learning experience. "Zane had the entire group of strangers friends within minutes," wrote an awardee in 1986. His staff of eight, recruited from upper-class college students and recent graduates, contributed much also to the infectious serendipity radiating out from Zane. Parents and visitors attending the final Friday night meeting were amazed at the emotional cathartic feeling shared by Awardees and staff at parting. For most, if not all, the week proved to be an especially memorable experience.

The curriculum for the week, as planned by Lewis and his committee, was a mix, centering, of course, around the leadership theme. Leadership required good public speaking; a specialist needed to cover that subject. Conducting public meetings required the knowledge of procedural rules, and that subject had to be addressed. Outstanding leaders in various fields—business, medicine, law, government, college administration, and such—should be asked to share their wisdom. And asked they were. Rotarians throughout the District offered a wealth of talent to draw from. Rick Deer (Rich-Mar), for example, spoke year after year on "The Leader as an Effective Communicator." W. Terry Powell (P.D.G., 1971-72, Wesleyville) spoke on "Government and Social Work." Westminster and nearby colleges were another good source. Dr. Gary Lilly, Westminster sociologist, for example, spoke on "The Individual and the Organization." Congressman Tom Ridge, later Governor of Pennsylvania, is an example of outside speakers who made themselves available as well. Such speakers received only token honoraria for their services, and many refused even that.

Lectures and discussions filled the morning hours and spilled over into the early afternoon. The rest of the afternoon was devoted to projects and recreation. Projects like preparing a newspaper, engaging in choir practice, or organizing a band took up part of the time. Major forms of recreation included swimming and volleyball. The evening hours featured such social activities as dancing, watching a movie, or a bonfire by the campus lake. One tradition that emerged, not fully appreciated by Zane, was his being thrown by the students into Britain Lake.

The cost per student was kept low through the cooperation of the College and the willingness of Zane and his staff to work for nominal amounts. Secretarial service was also subsidized by the College whose president was an honorary member of the New Wilmington club. In spite of these concessions that kept the rates low someone still had to pay the bills. The District Committee decided to ask clubs to provide full scholarships for two to four students per club. Therefore, 47 club presidents and clubs had to be turned into integral parts of the new endeavor. Not only money was involved in this procedure. Each club was expected to recruit and screen young people and see that they got to and from the meeting place. With so many people brought into the system it was evident to then District Governor Trueman and the RYLA committee in 1983

that they would have to put forth considerable effort to explain what RYLA was and obtain the support and cooperation of club leaders and club members throughout the district.

While much time was devoted to this task, some clubs, not easily convinced of the value of RYLA, did not support it the first year. Many other clubs, however, reacted enthusiastically as demonstrated on the day of registration, June 19, 1983, when 57 awardees showed up escorted by parents or Rotarians. These youngsters proved to be the cream of the crop of juniors going into their senior year from high schools throughout much of northwestern Pennsylvania. All of the careful planning had paid off. The first RYLA seminar was well received. One participant, Karen McGill, called it “a very rewarding experience.”

For the most part the years after 1983 followed the pattern set the first time. When the pioneer seminar was so successful more clubs chose to participate in succeeding years, and the news spread among students that the opportunity was a golden one. But, of course, some problems were bound to arise. Some clubs insisted they could not afford to pay for the scholarships, and some clubs were careless in carrying out proper recruitment procedures. Sometimes young people who had accepted scholarships failed to show up on the designated day, or cancelled out at the last moment with excuses that they had found a job or were going on a vacation with their parents. Another kind of problem was with the Internal Revenue Service, which seemed unable to understand that the seminar was a shoe-string, nonprofit venture and which kept trying to extract taxes from it.

One minor crisis arose on the top level in 1984 when Phil Lewis retired from his position at Westminster College and moved out of the area. At that time, he had supervised the program for two years and had done an outstanding job. Upon his resignation, however, the dean of student affairs at Westminster and fellow Rotarian, Gerry Boone, agreed to take over as chairman of the committee. Gerry proved to be an excellent successor, but he was not to remain long in that role. In his second year, he became acting president of the college and felt it necessary to resign as chairman. In 1987, he asked another member of the New Wilmington club, Dr. Delber McKee, professor of history at Westminster, to replace him. The district endorsed this new appointment, and Delber served for two years. In 1989, another chairman followed from the New Wilmington club, Dr. Robert Thomas, vice president and dean of student affairs at Westminster, who served in 1989 and 1990. Thomas found it necessary to resign after two years, and then Trueman Mills (P.D.G., 1982-83, Clarion) accepted the position of chairman, even though his home in Clarion was over an hour away from the center of activity; he remained in that position for three years: 1991, 1992, and 1993. After that the New Wilmington club once more supplied a chairman: Dr. Lee Ahlum (P.D.G., 2002-03), superintendent of Wilmington Area Public Schools. Lee continued in that post in 1994, 1995, 1996, and agreed to stay on in 1997—the longest stint up to that time. Looking back over this record, one quickly realizes the New Wilmington club contributed a great deal of leadership to the RYLA enterprise.

As noted before the week took on a routine appearance after the first year; and, despite the changes in district chairmen, the continuation of Zane Gizzi as on-site director preserved continuity in the program. The year 1993, however, brought an end to the tenure of Zane, who accepted a position at Elizabethtown College and moved away. Chairman Lee faced a serious personnel problem, but a young woman on Zane’s staff, Stacy Wagner, looked promising as a

successor and was appointed to take his place. Stacy, a charming and vivacious elementary school teacher, proved an excellent choice. Lee found her to be responsible and capable and able to sustain the high quality of leadership set by her predecessor. In 1996 she was still serving, even though she had become Mrs. Gallagher by that time, and she consented to do the same in 1997.

Another difficult problem occurred during Lee's tenure, which turned out to be more troubled than the others. Not only did he have to find a replace—merit for Gizzi, he was informed in 1995 by Westminster that it would have to cut out its summer programs for that year to install elaborate technical electronic equipment throughout the campus. Rather abruptly RYLA had lost its home base, and to find another location on such short notice was a major challenge. Fortunately for Lee, Grove City College consented to host the seminar. Nevertheless, extra time and many minor headaches were unavoidable in making the shift. Lee found Grove City more than willing, to do what it could to smooth the transition; and this, no doubt, helped save him from having stomach ulcers by the end of the summer. The outcome was satisfactory, and in 1996 the seminar could be moved back to Westminster.

The District owed much more than it realized to Lee for his resilience and problem-solving ability. His willingness to serve as chairman for a fourth year into 1997, despite the time and responsibility involved, demonstrated his commitment to the Rotary motto "Service above Self." One measure of his competence and the diligence of his committee lay in enrollment figures as they moved upwards: 84 in 1994, 91 in 1995, and 95 in 1996, representing 43 of 46 clubs—the highest in both enrollment and club representation to that date. Quite clearly the clubs in the District had ceased to question that RYLA was, in the words of P.D.G. Terry Powell, "one of the best things our district has done."

Mention should be made of a distinctive feature of the program: the college scholarship of \$500, awarded each year to the outstanding member of the group. The Awardees themselves vote for one of their number to receive this recognition. While the money may seem a token amount, the award itself pays tribute to some unusual individual. Those receiving this honor have probably deserved more public acclaim from the District than has been granted to them. The clubs that sponsored them also deserve recognition; perhaps these oversights will be corrected in future years. It would be interesting to trace the future careers of these young people to see whether their potential as noted at an early age has been followed by a record of distinction in adult years.

Some attention should be paid to the role of the staff in the operation. Each year Zane and then Stacy recruited eight young men and women of ability and high character to help for the week. In working with so many high spirited young people, and being with them 24 hours a day for the period, they had a grueling job, but they performed their work well. It was a tribute to both them and the Awardees that no serious scandal or questionable behavior ever marred the record of the week. The nature of their position turned them into role models, and interaction between them and the participants resulted in mutual respect and affection. "What we found, one staff member in 1983 commented, "were talented, motivated, and dynamic individuals who, more importantly, united to form a close-knit, supportive network which encouraged and pushed each individual to his limits." Staff members were surely indelibly marked by the experiences of the week and learned much about themselves as well as how to deal with others.

Perhaps it is regrettable that more minority students were not included in the numbers; there were some, however. More women than men seemed to emerge from the selection process. The cost of the RYLA scholarships climbed steadily over the years. Originally the week's charge was \$150. By 1996 the amount had risen to \$225. But that figure was still a bargain.

By 1996 the program had been in effect 14 years. What had it accomplished? That kind of thing is so hard to measure. What District 7280 did know was that it had brought together for one week a group of outstanding young people and had offered them leadership training and opportunities to learn from each other. While one week is not a long one in a person's life, even one week can make a significant difference. Over the 14 years the District had touched the lives of more than 1,000 youths. For those individuals at an impressionable age Rotarians had reason to believe they had made a positive impact that would reverberate outward into many communities over many years and—in many constructive ways.

Delber L. McKee  
Rotary Club of New Wilmington  
8/12/96

## **Youth Exchange**

The Governor serving in 1964-1965 was Dr. Albert Marriott (Meadville). Prior to this Dr. Marriott had become interested in Youth Exchange for both girls and boys. A vote was taken by the clubs to decide if the district was interested and they were. Dr. Marriott secured the help of Dr. Jack E. Stefanick (P.D.G., 1987-88, Sharon). Both put in many hours of work to get this program started. Consequently, it is one of the most successful programs in the district.

It is not possible to know at this time how many hundreds of young students have taken advantage of this program. We are most fortunate that not very many students have had to be sent home and this is true of our students going abroad. It is not certain at this time, but the officers of District 7280 think we have sent students to all the countries of the world.

In addition to Jack's supervising this program in our country, he has arranged for the students to have an annual U.S.A. tour. This starts at the East Coast and goes to the Pacific Ocean. This, too, is a most successful program with thousands of students having participated.

The Rotarians who now serve [in 1997] on the District 7280 Youth Exchange Committee are as follows:

Chairperson	Larry Franklin, Greenville
Counselor	Dr. John E. Stefanick, PDG, PHE, Sharon
Outbound Students	John Sample, PHF, Grove City
Inbound Students	David MacHarg, PHF, Sharon

## **History of Golf Fellowship: District 7280 and District 1010**

Rotarians in District 7280 have an opportunity to be part of a program only found in one other district in the world. Golfers of all abilities may apply to participate in a golf exchange with Rotarians from District 1010 located in Scotland.

Two programs are available for exchange. The first, the Jackson-Christy Porridge Bowl and Dipper Competition, is a one-on-one competition between a Rotarian from each district. The representative from District 7280 is the winner of the qualifying tournament held each spring at our District Convention. The competition alternates between Scotland and Pennsylvania, and will be held in Pennsylvania in May 1997.

The second competition involves a larger group and also alternates between the two districts. Eight couples travel to the host country to spend 2 weeks as the guests of Rotarians there. Each couple stays with three different hosts in three hosting communities. The Rotarian golfers have varied golf competitions almost every day of the visit, finishing with “THE TOURNAMENT,” which is 8 match-play pairs competing to win the trophy for their home District. While the golfers are “toiling” on the golf course, the spouses are having enjoyable days touring, shopping, and developing friendships that often continue long after the visit has ended. The evenings are spent getting to know the hosts better, sometimes quietly as two couples together or, more often, at wonderful parties.

The team for the Couples Exchange is NOT created by “earning” a spot through a golf competition. Any Rotarian in good standing who plays golf is eligible. Golfers with handicaps from 3 to 36 have gone on this tour. Participating in the tour is a several year commitment, however. Not only do the couples travel to Scotland, but they also need to be available to host a Scottish couple for 5 days in August. Couples must host once, but are encouraged to host twice. Some Pennsylvania couples have enjoyed the program so much that they have hosted 4 or 5 times. One couple even hosted 3 times prior to traveling to Scotland and is hoping to have a chance to host again! While in Pennsylvania, the Scots usually spend 5 days with each of three hosts. Efforts are made to have a southern, a central, and a northern stop within the district.

If you would be interested in becoming a part of the Couples Golf Exchange, now is a great time to begin thinking about hosting next year. Economically, this is a wonderful way to visit Scotland. As a host one is responsible for all the costs of entertaining a Scottish couple for 5 days, including golf, admission fees and meals. However, when it is your turn to go to Scotland, your only expenses are transportation, clothes, and gifts for the hosts. Not only does it spread the cost of the trip over several years, but one could never travel and do the things planned in Scotland for the amount of money an American Rotarian spends in this program! Although everyone who’s been involved always starts out thinking, “this is too good to be true,” participants quickly become believers.

The Couples Exchange builds lasting international friendships, shows guests “the best” of each area they visit, and provides opportunities for challenging golf, good food and LOTS of fun—all at a reasonable price.

The 8-man Scottish team from District 1010 in Scotland will be playing their match for the trophy at the Meadville Country Club on August 7, 1997.

Today Rotary International has an international golf tournament and the outline for this is patterned after what we have done for many years in Rotary District 7280. Also, the U.S.A. has broken off into several groups and they have district golf tournaments in various areas throughout the U.S.A. following the Rotary District 7280 and 1010 outlines.

During Rotary year 1997/1998 we will have a golf scramble at the Meadville Country Club on September 13, 1997. Last summer when we attempted this and it was rained out we had 18 teams of 4 members each from various clubs of the district. The objective of this scramble is to raise money for The Foundation and have great Rotary fellowship. There will be between \$350 and \$400 of prizes awarded for various achievements. These prizes have been donated by the Meadville club as well as merchants in the Meadville area. Consequently there is no cost to Rotary District #7280 for the above mentioned prizes.

[District 7280 – Rotary Foundation Awardees – See separate chart for this list now.]

## **Fundraising Methods Used by Clubs in District 7280**

Radio Day, Spaghetti Dinners, Blue Grass Concerts, Wheel Spinning, Tickets sold for H.S. Dance, Pancake Suppers, Sold Red Stamp Books, Sold Christmas Bulbs, Beef Dinner for Youth, Chicken Bar-B-Q, White Elephant Sales, Hole-in-One Contest, Cheese and Sausage Sales, Side Sales, Blood Test Analysis, Student Loan raising funds for worthy students, Fruit Cake Sales, Brown Bag Dinners, Apple Sales, Assign \$100 to each member for Polio Plus, Chili Supper, Sold Christmas Trees, Horse Show, Rose Sales, Booth at Fair, Sold Hot Sausage and Kielbasi, Glass recycling, Annual Circus, Radio Auction, Sports Banquet, Individual Pledge over Three Years, and Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army at Christmas.

Space does not permit listing the many fund raising methods used by the clubs in District 7280, but this is one reason Rotary flourishes in Northwestern Pennsylvania. It can be concluded from our history of the District, if a need is worthy, the funds will be raised somehow. The range of dollars raised is from a few (\$25 or less) to that of many thousands, depending on the need and the type of project.

[Brief History of Some of the Clubs in District #7280 – See P.D.G. Chuck’s original binder for histories and pictures of the following clubs: Sheffield, Evans City, Sharon, Franklin, Titusville, Bradford, Greenville, Butler, Meadville, Ellwood City, Grove City, Vernon, Warren, Erie, Meadville AM, New Castle, Clarion, Sandy Lake, Slippery Rock, Kearsarge, Portersville/Prospect, Bessemer, Linesville, and Cranberry Township.]

## **An Observation**

May 15, 1997

When Governor Bob Lawton gave me the assignment to compile the history of Rotary District 7280, I had some concern as to the value of putting on paper a history of Districts 3, 6, 33, 175, 259 and 728 and now 7280. However, as I started to receive the material from the clubs, I soon realized what a great history our district has and what a loss it would be if we did not have some of it in writing for future Rotarians to add to as the Rotary movement will continue in northwestern Pennsylvania. We are a positive force in our many communities, and this has been true for over 85 years.

If this history had not been written, we would not have a brief history from Glennis Rickert (P.D.G., 1938-39, Kane) that I chose to call "Glennis Rickert Remembers." This writing does not begin to do justice to P.D.G. Glennis and his contributions to Rotary in northwestern Pennsylvania. Nor does it adequately show his great sense of humor. However, it does provide the reader a snapshot in words of this wonderful Rotarian.

The inspiring letter from Founder Paul P. Harris to the first club in our district encourage[s] them to apply for membership in what was then known as the National Association of Rotary Clubs of America.

Space does not permit us to mention all of our success stories as we Rotarians in northwestern Pennsylvania practice "Service Above Self." I trust that at some time in the future all past district governors will take time to read some of these histories. I would like to call your attention to the following: Glennis Rickert Remembers; Dr. Bill Coulter and Dr. George R. Hart (in the caring for those in need in foreign countries); P.D.G. Terry Powell's adventure and success with Dr. Woung Woo Kang; History of a Successful Polio Plus Campaign, chaired by Jack Nicklas (P.D.G., 1977-78, Rich-Mar) and Trueman Mills (P.D.G., 1982-83, Clarion); The RYLA Dream and Fulfillment, chaired by P.D.G. Trueman Mills; the great success of our Youth Exchange Program, which was started by Rev. Albert "Bert" Marriott (P.D.G., 1964-65, Meadville) and Dr. Jack E. Stefanick (P.D.G., 1987-88, Sharon).

Again space does not permit listing all of our acknowledgments but what a great history of Service Above Self we are leaving for those who will follow. This brief history could serve as an aid for many officers of Rotary District 7280.

To date we have only received 22 club histories. We will try to get additional ones during Rotary year 1997-1998.

P.D.G. Charles M. Waltenbaugh  
1970-1971

***Editor's Note:*** *Page intentionally blank.*

[Letterhead]

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May 25, 2000

Charles M. Waltenbaugh  
P. O. Box 99  
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Dear Chuck:

As the historian for Rotary District 7280, you wanted to record my contacts with your District through the years. Your District has had a number of visits from Past Presidents of Rotary International, including Paul Harris, when he served as representative of the President at the Conference of Glennis Rickert in 1938, I believe.

My first visit to your District was in 1966 at the Oil City Conference, when I served as the representative of Rotary President Sput Teenstra. At that time, I was a member of the Constitution and By-Laws of Rotary International.

That was a memorable experience for several reasons. It was my first Rotary assignment to another District and I am sure I prepared for it very carefully and I am also sure I was very nervous. But you were a hospitable bunch and I remember that it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

The second reason that it stands out in my mind is that Mary Lou and I met John and Carol Chiprean. I remember this occasion for two reasons. Mary Lou took an immediate liking to Carol and they went off on the women's program and that left John and me to spend some time together. He was being urged by some of his Rotary friends to run for district governor, and, being an extraordinarily humble man, he had some doubts about his ability to act in that capacity. I tried to encourage him because it was clear to me that he was a completely committed and dedicated Rotarian and I also noted that his fellow Rotarians had enormous respect to him.

The outcome of that encounter is that John did serve as Governor of District 728 with distinction.

Charles M. Waltenbaugh

Page 2

May 25, 2000

After that, John and Carol and Mary Lou and I began traveling in Rotary to Zone Institutes and International Conventions. I remember particularly our trip to Lausanne, Switzerland, for the Convention and it was memorable indeed.

But perhaps even more memorable were our trips to the Zone Institutes for Past District Governors. District 728 had developed a tradition of traveling together as a group and sometimes they would have as many as 26 or 28 PDG's and spouses at a Zone Institute. Mary Lou and I got folded into that tradition on a number of occasions and had a marvelous time. They were a merry bunch.

On at least two occasions, I came back to the Rotary District Conferences of District 728, once at the Sheraton Inn in Cranberry Township and most recently at the Franklin Inn at Franklin in the year 2000. On both occasions, I was asked to give the keynote address. It afforded me another opportunity to visit with my friends from Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Finally, there were numerous occasions when I had the opportunity to visit Clubs in District 728. I remember coming to the Butler Club in 1986 when I was the President Elect of Rotary and had the privilege of conferring a Paul Harris medal on Carol when she was surprised by her husband, P.D.G. John Chiprean, with this recognition. We were back at the Butler Rotary Club to celebrate John Chiprean's 50 years in Rotary, and more recently, we visited with that Club on its 80th anniversary. But there were other meetings, at the 75th anniversary of Kane, at least one meeting at the Sharon Rotary Club, a meeting at Presque Isle Rotary, another at Cranberry Township, and most recently the chartering of the Cranberry Township Breakfast Club.

All of these opportunities and fellowship have given me a great opportunity to get to know not just the leadership, but the Rotarians of District 728, and to enjoy their company.

In fact, I guess you might say that I carried it to extremes. My wife having died in 1990 and John Chiprean having died in 1995, Carol Chiprean and I were married on November 5, 1999, and because she is an Honorary Member of the Butler Rotary Club, I feel that I have been elevated to at least the position of a Rotary Partner in District 7280.

Chuck, it has been a good trip, and I look forward to many more years of good fellowship with the Rotarians of your District.

Ever sincerely,  
Charles C. Keller