



Club member Malcolm Haven, left, is pictured at a project of the local Community Foundation, which was started with seed funding from the Club. (Photo provided by the Coastal Community Foundation.)

# The 1970s: Sowing more seeds of goodwill

Amy Jenkins, contributing editor

## Overview

In the 1970s, members increased their participation in civic affairs. Not only did the club have more than 200 members for the first time, but the members worked on a variety of community service projects.

Most notably, the Club seeded the start of the Trident Community Foundation, now called the Coastal Community Foundation, with a \$9,000 grant. Since then, the Foundation has grown to a \$100 million organization.

The Club also sponsored a billboard campaign to make people aware of the values of the Four-Way Test. It also was key in forming a new Mount Pleasant club.

After more than 50 years of meeting at the Francis Marion Hotel, the Club moved to the Colony House.

## Membership

The Club gained 48 members over the decade. It started with 167 members and ended with 215 members following big membership drives by presidents Ted Stern and Jerry Nuss, among others.

## Projects and community service

In addition to seeding the Community Foundation and the billboard campaign, club members helped buy an ambulance for a Brazilian project, contributed to relief efforts in Pakistan and bought books for third-world countries. They also celebrated the Club's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Rotary International's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## Notable speakers

Club members were fortunate to hear from dozens of top-notch speakers throughout the decade including: U.S. Sens. Fritz Hollings and Strom Thurmond, Congressmen Byron Dorn and Mendel Davis, Gov. Jim Edwards, former U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk, and former astronaut and airlines chief Frank Borman. At one meeting, members listened to a College of Charleston professor give a talk entitled "The Gentle Art of Swearing."

## 1970–71: Club makes several donations

During the course of this year, President Franz Witte Jr. invited the members of the board and the chairmen of all the committees to his home for a delightful evening. The purpose was to outline the year's program of events.

As a result of hard planning, the programs each week were diversified. During the year, six members of the Club presented programs. Military leaders were speakers on eight occasions. Eight politicians told what they had accomplished or would do. There were 10 presentations on education. Business leaders spoke to the Club on eight occasions. Rotary topics were covered during five programs. Ladies were invited to participate in four events, but less than 10 percent of the wives attended.

The *Keyway* was exceptionally good with Ben Miller and Phil Garges contributing as editors. Eric MacInnes succeeded in getting Rotarians to contribute to the blood bank and to staff the kettles for the Salvation Army.

The Club donated \$375 to purchase films for the Police Department. Other giving included a generous donation for the Pakistan Relief Fund. The Club also purchased an ambulance for Brazil as a World Community Project. A contribution of \$1,000, which was a result of a presentation by John Orvin, was used to purchase books to help third-world nations.

A highlight of the year was having 100 youngsters from Cleveland perform 10 selections for entertainment at the Club.

These youths raised over \$10,000 to pay their own expenses for the trip.

The Club was saddened by the deaths of past presidents C. Bissell Jenkins and Fred McDonald. Witte presented a Distinguished Service Award Plaque to John Seabrook for his devoted and unselfish service to the community. He also presented a similar plaque to James G. Sherrer, who served as chairman of the Student Loan Committee from 1929 to 1971.

Start: 167 members. End: 164 members.

## 1971–72: Club hears from variety of speakers

Noted speakers this year included Red Parker on Citadel football, a White House correspondent for the Mutual Broadcasting Company, the assistant Secretary of the Navy, and the assistant Secretary of Defense. Palmer Gaillard, having just been re-elected as Charleston's mayor for a fourth consecutive term, predicted "Charleston County will and must have consolidated government." Paul Cobb, the assistant engineer for the South Carolina Highway Department, said the James Island Bridge would probably be a reality in three to five years.

The Club's Hudson Edwards served as district governor this year. When he made his official visit to the Club in December, members were asked "to laugh at his jokes, this time."

President Buddy Smith awarded the Rotary Distinguished Service Award to Charlie Palmer and started the "Policeman of the Quarter/Year" Awards.

The *Keyway* printed excellent summaries of the first 50 years of the Club. A brief synopsis of each year's highlights, starting in 1920, was written by Club historian J. Rucker Newbery.

The Rotary International Convention was in Houston, Texas, and the president attended. The District golf tournament was in Myrtle Beach, and the District Conference was in Charleston at the Mills Hyatt House. Because Hudson suffered a heart attack just prior to the conference, past District Governor Jimmy Bagwell stepped in to run a splendid conference.

Dr. Leon Banov, Sr., a member on everyone's all-time, all-American humble servant list, left Charleston and the world a better place than when he came. After a lifelong crusade of bringing better health to the community, he fell victim to a traffic accident and died. Rotarians were urged that no greater or more appropriate tribute could be made to Banov than a personal resolution to drive more carefully.

Rotarians collected \$650 for the Salvation Army. A Rotary cabaret night at the Air Force Base featured hosts Tom Kennedy and his wife. It was a huge success with more than 140 people attending.

Start: 164 members. End: 158 members.

## 1972–73: Club expands by 17 members

President Ted Stern vowed to mark his year as the Club's leader by strengthening the Club, expanding the membership and filling many empty classifications. During the year, the Club had a net gain of 17 members.

The District golf tournament was held in Mount Pleasant at Snee Farm. The District Conference was in Myrtle Beach. The Rotary International Convention was held in Lausanne, Switzerland, and four Club members attended. They were: Hammond Bamberg, Hudson Edwards, Linwood Sikes and Fred Bailey III.

The Ladies Auxiliary of Charleston, known as the Rotary-Anns, became 50 years old during January 1973. Although the group's main purposes were to assist Rotarians and to promote friendly acquaintance among Rotary wives, they participated in many projects over the years. The Auxiliary assisted the March of Dimes in fund-raising, supported the Oak Grove Home and the Catholic Children's Home and gave many hours of support whenever Rotary conferences were held in Charleston.

Leon Banov, Jr., and his wife, Rita, housed an exchange student, Ms. Reto Rousa from Switzerland. Some 29 Club members automatically became Senior Active under a new ruling from Rotary International.

The Club donated \$2,000 toward a new bus for the Crippled Children's Society. Rotarian Greer Linton left for a fifth time to work for 10 days in Anguilla. By donating his surgical skills there, he effectively carried out one of the objects of Rotary, the advancement of goodwill and international understanding between peoples of the World.

Some of the Club's speakers for the year included the mayors of North Charleston and Charleston, the county manager, an Olympic Games judge and Frank Thompson of the S.C. Highway Patrol. Mr. G.G. Johns, a manager for Exxon, told Club members that, "Time has run out on America as far as oil supply is concerned." U.S. Sen. Fritz Hollings was a guest, and Tom Turnipseed, executive director of the newly formed S.C. Taxpayers Association, verbally attacked SCE&G for its proposed rate hike. He was strongly rebutted from the floor.

This was a very good year for fellowship and for increasing the Club's membership. Stern would, in later years, be awarded the Rotarian of the Year Award, and he also became district governor in 1977-78.

Start: 158 members. End: 175 members.

## 1973-74: Community Foundation gets start

President Howard Edwards started the year by requesting a new project to utilize \$9,000 in funds which had been previously earmarked for an expected increase in meal costs. The increase did not materialize, which made the money available. Jimmy Bagwell, a past district governor, headed a committee, and the result was the formation of the Trident Community Foundation. Its purpose was to provide seed money for new community projects. Although there were three years of delays in securing its federal tax-exempt status, the prognosis for the foundation to function as planned remained good.

In November, past District Governor and charter member Buddy Thornhill was given a Paul Harris Fellowship by the Club. This was the first one given by the Club and the first one in District 777.

## SPOTLIGHT: Club seeds new community foundation

In 1974, the Rotary Club of Charleston explored the idea of starting a community foundation. Following visits to other cities with local foundations, Rotarians recommended the use of \$9,000 as seed money to start a community foundation in Charleston. Its purpose was to apply the skills of community leaders to safeguard and manage charitable gifts made in perpetuity.

Today called the Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina, it is recognized as one of the best donor-oriented vehicles because of the tax advantages it offers as it meets needs not covered by existing agencies.

The initial Rotary grant was supplemented by additional grants from other foundations, some of which were substantial. Today, CCF manages more than \$104 million for community good.

Over the past 30 years, the Foundation has made more than \$33 million in grants to nonprofit organizations working in education, health, the arts, human needs, community and neighborhood development and the environment. It has helped to start several charitable agencies, such as the Interfaith Crisis Ministry, which feeds and shelters the homeless.

The Rotary Club of Charleston can be proud of its work with the Foundation because it saw a community need, fostered it and got it going. Many of the Foundation's board chairs have been Rotarians, including past presidents Howard Edwards, Malcolm Haven, Conrad Zimmerman Jr., Anita Zucker and past District Governor Ted Stern. Other Rotarians who have been chair include Tom Anderson, Bruce Murdy and Henry Blackford III. Former Rotarian and attorney Wade Logan Jr. provided legal services for many years at no cost. In 1987, former Executive Director Ruth Heffron became one of the first women members of the Club. Current CCF President Madeleine McGee is a member of the Club.

-- *Andy Brack*

Several Rotarians were invited to fly in a new C-5A Air Force transport, the world's largest plane.

Hammond Bamberg visited his ancestral home in Bamberg, Germany, when it celebrated its 1,000th birthday. Several Rotarians commented that Hammond was really not that old!

Club speakers included Congressman Byron Dorn and Congressman Mendel Davis. Club members experienced the "hoax" of the year when a man representing the Apollo space program demonstrated his "Apollo exerciser," which was a device to enhance physical fitness. He spoke 15 minutes overtime and then condescended to attempt to sell the exerciser to several Rotarians for a mere \$39. Club members wondered if this was the same exerciser advertised in sports magazines for \$24!

The Charleston and North Charleston clubs combined efforts to purchase a new bus for the Crippled Children's Center.

The District Conference was held at the Mills Hyatt House in Charleston with Saul Krawcheck as conference chairman.

Start: 175 members. End: 181 members.

## 1974–75: Club debates consolidated government

In his inaugural address, President Doug Donehue stressed the need for improving the quality of life in the Club and for strengthening the Club's role in community service.

An ambitious project was proposed to hold a public forum on consolidated government, but Club members settled for an in-house debate on the subject. Mayor John Bourne of North Charleston was opposed to this issue, and Gedney Howe, an attorney, spoke on the affirmative side. This issue was defeated at the polls later in the year.

The Club had several interesting programs on subjects ranging from pain and acupuncture to kidnapping, mine-sweeping operations in the Suez Canal, Mars and a disaster in the Great Lakes.

Joe Riley Jr. spoke about reform of the legislative process in state government. Norm Olsen, chairman of the English Department at



the College of Charleston, spoke on "The Gentle Art of Swearing." Admiral Herman Kossler told Club members about plans for a Naval Museum at Patriot's Point. One of the year's highlights was a joint meeting of all Charleston area Rotary clubs, which assembled to hear Dean Rusk, the former Secretary of State of the United States.

Under the leadership of Chief Newbery, the Club had a superb Ladies' Night event at the Charleston Air Base. Rotarian and General Tom Sadler not only was an excellent host, but he stole the show with his crooning of "I Left my Heart in San Francisco."

Donehue attended the Rotary International Convention in Minneapolis, and four Rotarians attended the District Conference in Hilton Head. At the end of his tour as president, Donehue celebrated by getting married.

Start: 181 members. End: 181 members.

## 1975–76: Rotary sponsors billboard campaign

During October, the Club placed the Four Way Test on 30 billboards throughout the county. This advertisement of Rotary's values was very effective.

The Club's speaker at the Rotary Foundation Program was Gary Nichols, a former recipient of a Rotary scholarship. Rucker Newbery became the second Paul Harris Fellow in the Club and in the District. Buddy Thornhill, the first Paul Harris Fellow in the Club and district, made the presentation.

In the final meeting of the year, Ken Johnson was awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award from the Carolina Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and Jim Bagwell, a past district governor, became the Club's third Paul Harris Fellow.

Jerry Nuss started his year as Club president on July 1, and a luncheon was held on that date at the College of Charleston. His goals were: to increase fellowship, increase enjoyment in Rotary and use Club member talent on a meaningful community benefit.

The bylaws were amended to hold the election of officers in December in accordance with Rotary International Bylaws. Sam Applegate updated the Club's bylaws and constitution. Mal Haven

and his Classification Committee updated the classification roster. The Club attempted to start a Rotaract Club, but after several meetings with College of Charleston students, there were not enough candidates to charter one.

Seven members participated in the District Golf tournament in Santee. The Club's fellowship was better than its golf. Club members also had a golf day for three local clubs, and after the golf, there was a cookout at the Country Club. Rotarians also had a luncheon for the Crippled Children's Center. Three of the children from the center, and their therapists, were guests. The Club gave \$1,100 to purchase playground equipment for the Center.

The Club held a Super Christmas Program with "The Amazing Ed Dunhill" as a performing magician. There were many children and grandchildren of Rotarians in attendance.

Ladies' Night was held during February at the Air Base. Club members enjoyed a splendid meal and a show by the Charleston Opera Company. Three door prizes, each a \$150 trip to the District Conference, were awarded. The District Conference was held during April in Hilton Head. Seventeen members were there to witness the nomination of Ted Stern as the district governor for 1977-78.

During May, the Club had a visit from Kimo the Klown, who toured 50 states spreading joy and happiness to hospital patients, senior citizens and crippled children. The Club also hosted 20 high school students on Youth Exchange Day. After lunch, each of these students "shadowed" a Rotarian in his job and was able to observe and ask questions related to his/her field of interest.

Club members had a joint meeting during June with five other Clubs in the area to hear S.C. Gov. Jim Edwards speak.

Outstanding speakers for the year included Edwards, U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond, Charleston Mayor Palmer Gaillard, incoming Mayor Joe Riley, Jr., and Port Director Don Welch. During one program, the Charleston Youth Symphony performed.

Jim Scherrer, who had led the Student Loan Program for over 40 years, died. The Club had a net gain of 16 members, with 27 new members inducted and 11 leaving or dying.

Start: 181 members. End: 197 members.

## 1976–77: Members help start Mt. Pleasant club

Past District Governor Jimmy Bagwell was appointed a special representative by District Governor James Hackler to start a new club in Mount Pleasant. Jimmy's assistant was past President Jerry Nuss. With the help of many of the Charleston Club's members, the Mount Pleasant Club was chartered June 24, 1977.

President Jimmy Stuckey urged members to enjoy Rotary and the fellowship of Rotary, learn more about the institution of Rotary and provide more service through Rotary.

In keeping with these goals, the Club had many informative programs throughout the year. One of the first was an excellent presentation on downtown revitalization from a member of the consulting firm studying the problem. Dr. Albert Sabin, the father of the vaccine to prevent polio, spoke to Club members about the nation's policy to inoculate the American public against Swine flu. He said the decision was based on a possibility, not a probability, and therefore he was against the policy.

The Club also had a program on Spoleto, the new arts festival that would make its home in Charleston, starting in May 1977. Stuckey started a Stag Night, an oyster roast which furthered fellowship in the Club.

In separate ceremonies during the year, past President and past District Governor Hudson Edwards, and past President David McAlister became Paul Harris Fellows.

An area-wide joint meeting of five Rotary Clubs was held. The speaker was Frank Borman, a former astronaut and current president of Eastern Air Lines. He gave an inspirational speech on free enterprise.

Rotarian John Conroy, the police chief of Charleston, was named Policeman of the Decade for his outstanding performance of duty during the past 10 years.

Past President Ted Stern, also the president of the College of Charleston, was named as the Rotarian of the Year for his many civic and community services, which included the chairmanship of the newly created Spoleto Festival in Charleston.

Start: 197 members. End: 202 members.

## 1977–78: Club moves locations after 50 years

This was the year of the big move in the location of the Club's meetings. After having held meetings at the Francis Marion Hotel for more than 50 years, the Club moved to the Colony House. The decision was not lightly made or taken, but after years of a declining quality of food service, the directors unanimously approved the move.

With membership now exceeding 200, President Al Steinberg emphasized the need to become better acquainted with all members of the Club. It was obvious from the start that Steinberg took his post very seriously, as he stressed acquaintance at every opportunity.

During August, the Club hosted 16 young men, aged 14-16 years, from various countries all over the world. They had been attending Camp Rising Sun in New York City, and then they were guests in various members' homes for about a week. Their activities and visits during the week were coordinated superbly by Jack Bevan and his committee.

In a special ceremony, Bachman Smith Sr., 90 years young, became a Paul Harris Fellow. Later in the year, John Seabrook and Harold Butt were also presented with fellowships.

The Club had many excellent programs. Roy Hoffman, admiral of the Navy Base, sponsored an excellent National Youth Week program, and guests included representative youths from about 15 of the notable youth groups in Charleston. Sunit Pathak from India gave an outstanding speech on international understanding and received a standing ovation for his performance.

The Club's Ted Stern, now the district governor, urged Rotarians to inspire the youth of today by utilizing Rotary principles. It was easily one of the best speeches made by a district governor before the Club.

The Club adopted new bylaws of Rotary International pursuant to which the president-elect would first become a vice president and serve on the board for one year prior to serving as president of the Club. Earl Kraemer was the first president to be affected by this change.

Past President Jimmy Stuckey sponsored and introduced as a new member Arthur Clement Jr., who became the first African-

American member of the Club. He would be followed by two more African-American members prior to the end of the decade.

The District Conference was held at the new resort in Kiawah with the St. Andrews Club as the host and Ken Welch leading as the conference chairman. It was an outstanding conference, and Stern was presented with a Paul Harris Fellow at the close of the conference.

Start: 202 members. End: 215 members.

## 1978–79: Year highlighted by good programs

The Club had presentations during the year about the new Amoco plant and the new Alumax plant. A great program on General George Patton was held, including a narration by General Mark Clark, an honorary Club member. A controversial subject, the diversion of the Cooper River, was presented at one meeting, and there were speakers for both sides of this issue.

Earle Morris, the State of South Carolina's comptroller, told Rotarians South Carolina was in excellent financial status with a surplus of \$94 million. S.C. Gov. Jim Edwards, one of the Club's honorary members, said the state of the state was excellent.

President Richard Rieger got off to an early start by meeting with his officers and directors at an overnight stay at Camp Christopher. Past District Governor Ted Stern was awarded North Charleston Rotary Club's "Service Above Self Award."

Hudson Edwards, a past district governors and a member of the 1928 Georgia Tech football team that played in the Rose Bowl, attended the 50th reunion of the team in Atlanta. When he returned, he regaled Club members with stories of the game and also of the memorable trip by train from Atlanta to Pasadena.

Bob Russell, Jerry Nuss, George Metz and Gus Blalock became Paul Harris Fellows.

A Ladies' Night was held at Middleton Plantation, and this outdoor barbecue was an outstanding event. The District Conference was held in Hilton Head, and the Club sent 13 representatives.

Also during the year, Rotarians were saddened by the death of Rucker "Chief" Newbery, a past president, treasurer and historian

for many years. A member for 36 years, Newbery's chronicle of the Club's first 50 years is reflected throughout this book.

The Club had programs on youth activities and junior achievement and hosted 14 national merit scholar semi-finalists.

Start: 215 members. End: 211 members.

## 1979–80: Club marks 60<sup>th</sup> birthday

Rotarians marked the 60th birthday of the Club on Feb. 5, 1980. It also was the 75th birthday of Rotary International.

The Club adopted two projects to accomplish during the celebration of these anniversaries. One was to update and print the Club's history, which was undertaken by Jerry Nuss, who was designated as the Club historian. The other project was to help develop a consolidated area roster for the Rotary clubs of Charleston, North Charleston, Summerville, Mount Pleasant and St. Andrews. These projects were accomplished, and on Feb. 5, 1980, past District Governor Hudson Edwards and past President Jerry Nuss gave the Club a special 60th birthday program, which highlighted significant events of the Club's past.

The Club sent a few golfers to the District Golf Tournament in Florence, but they did not come home with the trophy. The district sent a Group Study Exchange Team to India with five outstanding young men selected from the district. Two were sponsored by the Club, one of whom, Billy Grimbball, would later become a member of the Club.

The District Conference was held by District Governor "Lambo" Schwartz, and he presented Jerry Nuss with a trophy as the Outstanding Rotarian of the District for the year 1979-80.

The Rotary Foundation had a big year. It collected over \$7,000, and the Club had three new Paul Harris Fellows: Jim Culpepper, Bill Gwynette and the late Arthur Clement Sr. The number of sustaining members grew from one to 14. Bob Russell was a very active chairman of the Foundation Committee.

There were four Rotary scholarships available to the district, and candidates sponsored by this Club won two of them. Kathryn Glaze and Mary Villeponteaux, students at the College of

Charleston, were awarded fellowships to study in Germany and England, respectively, for the 1980-81 school year.

The Club had many excellent programs, and for Ladies Night, Rotarians enjoyed a harbor cruise. Many members went to a luncheon in Columbia to celebrate Rotary's 75th birthday. This was a joint meeting with District 775, the Club's sister district in South Carolina.

Start: 211 members. End: 215 members.