

The Rotary Club of St. Simons Island



An Introduction

The Rotary Club of St. Simons Island was chartered with a threefold intent: to help with community projects; to be involved with the international outreach of Rotary International; and, within this framework, to promote the social interaction of members of the local club with each other and with fellow Rotarians from other clubs.

St. Simons Club has excelled in all areas of service. Weekly meetings have turned on two salient points: good meals at the King & Prince Hotel and outstanding programs on matters of significant interest to members and guests. It is noted that the King & Prince made it a policy not to serve the same meal twice in any quarter of 13 weeks. The food was delicious and the desserts superb.

Our many guests have sometimes commented on the friendliness of our club, the tasty lunch and the informative program. In addition, others have noted the beauty of our meeting room adjacent to the sea - the ocean being a stone's throw away.

With these thoughts in mind, and before we glimpse a cursory recap of these 50 years, look for a moment at the backbone of Rotary. Pat Donahoo, a Past District Governor of our district and a Past President of this club, said while "changing the guard" in our club on June 29, 1999 that few corporations could remove most of their top officers, one half the Board of Directors, and most of their committee chairs and expect to function effectively for another

year. Yet all of the Rotary Clubs worldwide do these very things every 12 months. This procedure bespeaks a deep pool of talent within each club and a sense of dedication and commitment to the ideals of Rotary. These would be hard to duplicate in any other organization.

Spend a few moments now recounting our impressive history and looking forward to our bright future.

Allen J. Berry, *editor*



Charter Program

April 13, 1950

Oglethorpe Hotel • Brunswick, Georgia

Charter Officers

William A. Way, *President*
R. William Marshall, *Vice-President*
Eugene H. Palmer, *Secretary-Treasurer*
Willard H. Backus, *Director*
Thomas J. Dickey, *Director*
Edwin Fendig, *Director*
Samuel W. Wells, *Director*

Charter Members

Willard H. Backus
William A. Cullen, Jr.
Donald A. Doyle
George H. Hall, Jr.
John H. Ringeling, Sr.
William A. Way
C. Robert West

J.R. Bankston
Fred T. Davis
Edwin Fendig
R. William Marshall
Dr. Ira G. Towson
Harry F. Weidner

Alfred A. Brockington
Thomas J. Dickey
Bennie Gentile
Eugene H. Palmer
Pat Thompson
Samuel W. Wells
A. Jarvis Wood

First Members

Charles F. Estes
D. C. McCaskill

Dr. J. T. Gillespie
Dr. Mack Simmons

Marion F. Martin
Gadi Timbes

Program

Welcome N. Clyde King - President, Brunswick Rotary Club
Toastmaster (introductions) Albert Fendig - Brunswick Rotary Club
Introduction of Speaker Clarence Dusenbury - Charter Member, Brunswick Rotary Club
Address - "Rotary" Fred Alstaetter, Savannah Rotary Club
(Governor's Special Representative at Charter Presentation to Brunswick Rotary Club, May 1, 1921)
Presentation of Charter Count D. Gibson - Governor, District 241, Rotary International
Acceptance of Charter William A. Way - President, St. Simons Rotary Club
Introduction of Members St. Simons Rotary Club William A. Way
Presentation of Gifts and Greetings
Acceptance Thomas J. Dickey - St. Simons Rotary Club
Closing The National Anthem

~
Dancing Until Midnight

Music By The Music Masters

Square Dances "Gummy" Anderson - Brunswick Rotary Club

April 18, 1950

Mr. N. Clyde King, President
Brunswick Rotary Club
Brunswick, Georgia

Dear Clyde,

As official spokesman for the St. Simons Rotary Club, I would like to express to you what I am sure every member of our Club feels — the sincerest appreciation of the generous hospitality of you and the Brunswick Rotary Club on the occasion of our Charter Banquet on Thursday evening last.

As our hosts, you and the Brunswick Rotarians overlooked no detail in making this truly a memorable time for us. Surely such an inspiring beginning in our Rotary Career will lead to even more earnest efforts on our part to be worthy members of the family of Rotary.

Also accept our warmest thanks for the handsome luncheon bell and gavel. These will be a constant reminder of the Brunswick Rotary's interest in sponsoring our Club.

Looking forward to our future association in Rotary, and with every good wish, we are,

Cordially,

William A. Way
President
St. Simons Rotary Club

WAW/mgw

LEST WE FORGET

Recently Albert Fendig, Sr., 84, of St. Simons died. Some of you may not know, but he meant much to our St. Simons Rotary Club.

Our club was chartered April 13, 1950. The Brunswick Rotary Club was our sponsor. Albert, a member of the Brunswick Club, was the District Governor's special representative, appointed to organize our club. At the time, Count D. Gibson, also a member of the Brunswick Club, was the District Governor.

Count Gibson was at one time a professor of Geology at Georgia Tech. He retired and lived on Saint Simons. He wrote a book which many of us have read, "The Sea Islands of Georgia: Their Geologic History."

The first meeting "Bo" (to his friends) Fendig held was in the evening at his home on St. Simons. Besides him and Count Gibson, Bill Way, Gene Palmer and Bill Marshall attended. This meeting was held to question the feasibility of a club on St. Simons, and if the 20 necessary charter members could be obtained.

Additional meetings were held. These sessions finally culminated in a selection of not only 20 charter members but an additional 6 members. Incidentally, the two other charter members still in the club are Bennie Gentile and Bob West.

Charter night was held at the Oglethorpe hotel in Brunswick April 13th, 1950. Clyde King, President of the Brunswick Club presided, with "Bo" as toastmaster. District Governor Count Gibson presented the charter, which was accepted by Bill Way.

Speaking of bricks for the bandstand, one with "Bo" Fendig's name on it would be very appropriate.

*By Bill Marshall
July 10, 1990*

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By Bill Marshall

July 10, 1990

Edward C. Bruce
and
Rotary Scholarship Program

Edward C. Bruce joined the Club shortly after it came into existence on April 13, 1950. He was not a charter member but was a Rotarian in the Jacksonville Club prior to coming here. His service was significant, and he was elected President, serving 1952-53. Soon after that, he was elected Treasurer and continued in that capacity for almost 35 years.

Ed ran a tight ship and returned excess money to the treasury year after year. He strongly felt these sums could be established into an account to grant scholarships for deserving students who needed help in finishing their college work. Recipients would be well along in their studies. This money would enable them to finish. The board of directors approved the concept, which became known as the St. Simons Island Rotary Foundation. Recipients would repay loans, after graduating and obtaining employment, at very low interest rates.

He continued to return money from yearly operations and the Fund grew apace. It is noted that our club enjoyed the lowest dues in our district. Our attendance was in the high 90%, and various projects were being carried along.

A report was given by A.W. "Bill" Jones, Jr. on January 26, 1965 relating to the St. Simons Island Rotary Foundation, reprinted herewith:

"Many of the new members do not know, and some of the old members may have forgotten, that there is a St. Simons Island Rotary Foundation, Incorporated. The Foundation

was organized by the St. Simons Rotary Club in August of 1961 for two primary purposes.

One, to building the Rotary Scout Building and two, to provide funds for loans to qualified students so that they may continue their college educations. The Foundation is administered by five trustees who are members of the St. Simons Island Rotary Club. One trustee is appointed each year by the President of the Club for a term of five years. The present trustees are Frank Nalls, Tom Dickey, Bill Marshall, Ed Bruce and myself. The money used for erecting the Scout Building was donated by many individuals, both within the club and outside. The Building is now a reality and is being used. I understand from Bill Marshall, the straw boss, that it has, too all intents and purposes, been completed. We still have the driveway and parking to put in, if and when funds become available.

Money for the operation of the loan division has been accumulated from savings by the various club administrations since 1955, and voted into the Foundation by the directors. There has been a small amount of money donated by individuals.

Our policy is to supplement the students' resources after all other possibilities have been exhausted. To date the most we have committed ourselves to any one student has been \$1000 per year, but this does not mean we would not go higher, if conditions warrant it. Interest does not begin to accumulate until the student has either graduated or has left school

permanently. As this time interest starts at the rate of 3% per year, and at the end of each six months period the rate increases 1% until the loan has either been paid up or a maximum of 8% per year has been reached. Repayment schedules are set up, after the student is out of school, and are calculated on the individual's ability to pay. Of the four students who have completed school with our help, three have completely repaid and one is in the process of repaying. Eight students are now in school with our assistance, and we have committed ourselves to help two more. At the present time we have loans and commitments outstanding in the amount of \$8,820.00.

Secretary Sam has been furnished with a copy of the last audit and those who wish more detail about the finances should see him. Of course this all sounds good and it is good, but it would be much better if we had more to work with, both in the form of money and qualified students to help. We look to you, the members of the Rotary Club, for assistance.

Now I would like to read portions of two letters which we received, unsolicited, and which I believe indicate the worth of the Foundation. The first letter, in part, states: 'I want to thank you men for granting me the \$500 loan to finish up at the University of Georgia. I can't say that the loan was the only thing that got me through college, but had I not had the loan I would probably still be trying to finish up, by working a quarter and going to school a quarter. Without the loan I probably wouldn't be married or be a rated pilot in the Air Force.

Without the loan I may have had to just give up the idea of a college degree. Actually that loan was much more than a simple \$500 loan. It was what I call an open door to opportunity, because without it I wouldn't be where I am now. Thank you very much and if I can ever be of service, please don't hesitate to call on me.'

The second letter, in part, states: 'I am sorry I haven't written sooner but we are just now getting settled. To be truthful, I don't know how to thank the Rotary. How do you thank someone for giving you an education, enabling you to get married, allowing my wife and I to look forward to our first child, assured we can afford it and giving me a future. Let me say this: I and my wife want to thank the Rotary from the bottom of our hearts. If anyone should doubt the merits of a Rotary School loan let him review my case. Had I not received the loan I probably would be a draftsman with little future, but I am an industrial engineer with a fairly large company with a great future ahead of me. Thanks to Rotary. I would also like to personally thank you, Mr. Bruce.'

I think these letters show much better than I can the good that the St. Simons Rotary Club is doing through the Foundation."



Ed Bruce enjoying a Rotary dinner



June 21, 1983: Program devoted to recognition of Ed Bruce as longtime treasurer of Rotary

Early Activities

E. M. (Buddy) Culver was President of Rotary Club of St. Simons Island in 1964-65. He and Rotarian A. C. Oliver had cabins on the river at Valona with adjoining docks. Some monthly meetings of the directors and officers were held at Buddy's camp. Dinner was served and former President Brooks Haisten furnished steaks which were cooked on the grill.

I (*the editor*) had been elected to the Rotary Board in the fall of 1964, starting my term February 1965. I had not yet been up to the cabin. The week before my first meeting I got a telephone call from Sam Wells, former President. He wanted to know if I was going to the meeting up at Buddy Culver's place. Then he added that he and Nelson Neill, a director, would like to have me go with them. They knew the way, and they would pick me up at our house.

Then he noted that I had recently been elected Deacon Chairman of the First Baptist Church, taking past Rotary President Julian Flexer's place in that position. I told him all of this was true. As an aside, he added, "And I suppose you don't drink?" I confirmed that, and then we got to the heart of the matter. Sam said they planned to have a "drink or two," adding I could drive home, take them home and leave their car at my house. So we did that; a fine time was had by all, and the food was great.

Over next door in A.C.'s camp, there was an impromptu ping pong tournament going

on. The acknowledged champion of the club was Powell Schell, but he was not there.

When we had a "meeting" and it was time to leave, we helped clean up, thanked our hosts and started toward the Island down US 17 after leaving Highway 99. There was no question that my two were not able to take the wheel going back. I heard one of them say that they had almost a quart of Buddy's best - and he did have the best. Soon I realized they had taken it all right, but the fine spirit was in their stomachs and not a flask.

I drove them home - they had stopped singing by the time we got back; I was glad we didn't take my car. I got to their respective houses and took them in, waiting until each wife answered the door. She knew just what to do. I rolled down the window to air out the car and went home unscathed.

Another time, a tidal pool developed on the Yacht Club driveway on the right side of the road. Nelson Niall, always the practical joker, thought a "Lake Olsen" sign would dress up the entrance. This pool had a bottom of deep mud. The water was less than six inches deep. A flat-bottomed boat was floated and a line tied to the transom. A participant boarded with a long pole and oar, got to the other side and pushed the skiff onto the bank. The "Lake Olsen" sign was staked on the soft land and hammered in. Then the man on the side holding the rope pulled the boat off and across the pool, which was about 60' long and

40' wide. All evidence was removed from the scene.

"Bubba" Olsen came back from his trip and, driving into the yard, never saw the sign. All employees knew about the prank but said nothing. A few days later, "Bubba" noticed the sign, rushed back to the office and made inquiries. Meanwhile, boaters renting dock space were chuckling over the matter. It was ludicrous. Olaf asked some men working for him to take it down. They worked half a day without success. So he asked Nelson Niall who advised he would try but he was too heavy to float over. Then he got the same boat and guy to come back, but it took a week to get him there; meanwhile, Bubba frothed and fumed.

Various Rotarians other than A. C. Oliver and Buddy Culver had camps where they went on weekends. The William Strothers had the "Ivanhoe" on the rice plantation on the Satilla River just north of Woodbine. Many a good time was had there. S. O. Jenkins had a camp on his island where he had many gatherings even though he was not a Rotarian. I. W. Bush, Dr. Mack Simmons, Billie Backus, Sam Cofer and Gene Palmer all had camps where they used to play cards, fish and hunt. All but two of those men are now past Presidents. Ed Bruce had many informal cookouts at his house.

The informality and close friendships formed in those days have continued on down through the decades. Those of us who gather here today are recipients of this genial spirit.



Ladies Night - January 1959

Elsie Davidson Goodwillie, who passed away on December 26, 1984, was a valuable adjunct to producing our Rotary Spray weekly. She edited, typed and duplicated the Spray for over 30 years. When we posted the Spray to each Rotary home, it was done before the weekend following the Tuesday meeting each week without fail.

Frequently, she had to call the monthly Rotary Club Reporter and help him get up the synopsis or recap of the meeting. She was not hesitant to do this - the reporter couldn't help but be charmed by her sweet demeanor and helping spirit. So together they got the job done.

She and her husband, Walter, owned a motel called "The Ship House" right in the sand on East Beach. Later, this configuration of the beach changed, and the sand eroded all the way up to this structure which was vacated and later torn down. Walter passed away, but she kept on with her Rotary endeavor. When she passed away, Rotary lost a true friend. The 1985-86 scrapbook was dedicated to her memory through the effort of Bill May, President for that year.

Sports Activities

The Club has two sports teams - one golf and the other tennis. Organization of players does not occur until just before a match. In tennis there has been only one match per year - a challenge game with the Brunswick Rotary Club. The golf people play one or perhaps another, making two.

Here are the champions of the golf match, including four past presidents - *(left to right)* Brooks Haisten, Jack Hanley, Jack Welch and Bill Marshall with Bill McDougall *(second from right)*.

The tennis bunch is comprised of more players. We have never had the same team twice. The team below is from Oct. 1983 and includes some of the Brunswick players as well. It is noted with some pride that St. Simons has only lost one match during the years - the others were all wins!



Personal Glimpses

taken from past issues of the "Spray"

Allen Berry

In 1955, I started in the insurance business in Charlottesville, VA, then moved to Macon, Georgia and, finally, to St. Simons Island in 1959. We have been here ever since, enjoying the beauty of the ocean and the Golden Isles with the other fortunate people who make St. Simons Island their home.

Before coming here, I had gotten through WWII in the European Theatre of Operations, graduated from the University of Virginia with an MA in Economics and married my wife Jean in 1949. We have four living children, all of whom are grown, successful and a blessing to our lives.

Back in 1964, in a Rotary meeting at the King & Prince, I was sitting with Buddy Culver, a former President of our club and Mack Simmons, a physician, lamenting my lack of exercise and my aching back (did it ever ache). Mack, who knew my medical history, told me to get some regular vigorous exercise, and Buddy suggested tennis. Mack added that if I chose to play golf, I would need to carry my own bag and run between the holes. So I started playing tennis and have not had another back pain. I managed to play tennis 3-4 times per week, work my claims business faithfully, and enjoy Island life.

We sold our insurance agency in 1984, and, since that time, I have been handling insurance claims and taking mission trips through our Church. If you really want to see other parts of the world as they are, go with a missionary. We have visited 12 countries and worked in eight. Missionaries are doing a fine job and have a life more fulfilling than I thought possible. They serve through a number of denominations. For example, in Nairobi, Kenya, we stayed at the Methodist Guest House; in Jamaica, we stayed at a Catholic school for Nuns, and in Sweden, various Christians with kind hearts opened their homes to us.

These trips are planned through the efforts of our fellow Rotarian, Calder Kinney, who carefully organizes each trip coordinating things so that all works out well.

All these endeavors blend well to make a fulfilling life in a beautiful spot in the world.

Note: Addition to the piece I wrote for the Spray a few years ago.

My Rotary service started January 24, 1961. James J. Meadows was President; Julian Flexer was Secretary and Ed Bruce, Treasurer. A contractor named Harold Bridgman was my sponsor.

My first Rotary assignment was on the Magazine Committee. I gave a short word on some interesting piece in the Rotarian for a month or so and later served as program chairman

for both Buddy Culver and Julian Flexer when each was president. Just as now, one person arranged programs for a month, and so for the Rotary year. Program director recruits the monthly chairmen.

Elected Director on February 9, 1965, I have served on the Board continuously for 35 years. The Club elected me President on March 7, 1966 for the coming Rotary year, then as usual, immediate Past President on the Board for 1967-68. Elected Secretary March 11, 1968. I continued to serve for 29 years. (It is not a popular position.) I was elected Past President on Board 1972-73. Currently, I am Club Historian - not the first one. That was Bill Marshall, architect and builder of the Scout Hut, Past President, charter member and author of "Lest We Forget - 1990." Bill kept all Rotary memorabilia in a room in the Marshall Building where he rented his own office space. It was there for about 30 years.

Elected Historian in 1997, I went to work on collecting activities for the 50 years we have been here, finishing Jan. 3, 2000.

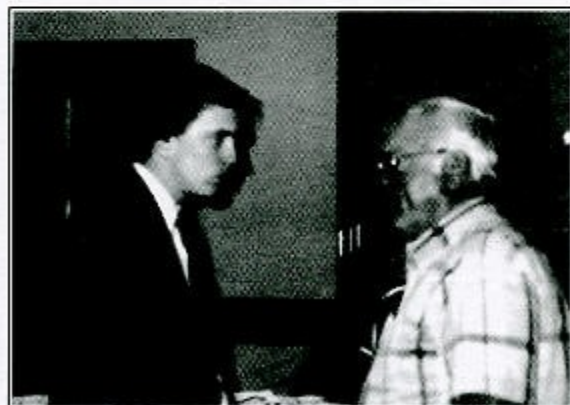
Sam Cofer

Sam Cofer has been an active member of Rotary for many years. He served as President during the 1968-69 term. He also holds the distinction of being the first Ed Bruce Fellow. He has served the community as a County Commissioner, establishing the 911 emergency system during his tenure. Sam served also on the board for the Department of Natural Resources.

One of his greatest honors was having a road named for him in appreciation for his efforts toward Blythe Island Regional Park.

Sam's son Donnie was also a member of Rotary, the first of four such father-son combinations in the club.

*Sam Cofer chats with a guest
at a 1989 Rotary Club meeting.*



Col. Robert L. Crouch, Jr.

Bob Crouch has served Rotary, his country, and his community well!!

Bob was born in Chattanooga, was raised in Middle Tennessee and attended school in that area. He received a B. S. from Middle Tennessee University and an M.A. from Peabody College. He did additional academic work at Peabody, George Washington University, and American University.

Prior to World War II, Bob taught English and History in Tennessee high schools and coached basketball and football. During the war, he was in the Army, starting out in Officers' School from which he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant. He served in various staff and command positions in infantry units and eventually as Lieutenant Colonel commanding a battalion in combat. After 28 years of service, Bob retired as a Colonel in 1969.

Bob came to Brunswick to teach Political Science and Education at the College, 1969-1981 and then was Executive Director of United Way, 1982 - 1987.

Quoting Bob verbatim, he says: "Presently retired and enjoying every day of it. Married Mary Louise in 1946 - still living together!" Bob and Mary have two sons, Robert III, living in Knoxville, and Albert of St. Simons.

It was 18 years ago that Bob became a Rotarian. He has served on the International and the Program Committees, has been on the Board of Directors, and is one of our prominent Past Presidents.

Pat Donahoo

Pat Donahoo was born in Van Buren, Arkansas and was educated in the public schools of Van Buren. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry from Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas, 1950; received Master of Science in 1952 and Ph.D. in 1956, Oklahoma State University, in Chemistry. Employed by Monsanto Chemical Company as research chemist from 1956 to 1961, he joined Griffith Laboratories, Chicago, Illinois, and worked with Griffith until 1971. During this period, he served as research scientist, laboratory manager and manager of technical marketing services. In 1971, he joined Anderson-Clayton Foods, Dallas, Texas, as Director of Retail Product Development; and in 1977, joined Rich-SeaPak Corporation, and moved to St. Simons.

A Rotarian just since 1981, Pat has really contributed! He has been Fellowship Chairman, Club Service Chairman, on the Board of Directors 83-84, 84-85, Program Chairman,

Governor's Group Representative 87-88 and was President, 1985-86.

Asked what he did when he wasn't working for SeaPak or Rotary, Pat said: "Dot and I are active birders, locally, nationally, and overseas. In addition, I'm a charter member of the Jekyll Island Big Band and am currently manager of the band. Working toward formation of a summer concert band to become active in the summer of 1989. Both Dot and I enjoy home projects including gardening and furniture refinishing."

Pat and Dot have a son and a daughter and two grandchildren.

Editor's Note: Pat has also served as a District Governor for Rotary.



E. Julian Flexer

The Rotary International Theme for 1988-1989 is: "Put Life into Rotary - Your Life." Julian Flexer is certainly a living model of that Theme! He has been Secretary of our Club (1960-1963), a Director, has served on the Membership Committee as well as the Classification Committee. He was President 1963-1964. Last, but not least, he was part of the Original Rotary Club Barbershop Quartet. Julian has been part and parcel of our club for 34 years. (From his looks and bearing, one would guess he joined Rotary when he was about 12!)

Julian was born in Brunswick. He was graduated from Glynn Academy in 1945, and served in the USAF until 1947. He attended the University of Georgia and was graduated from Georgia Tech with a Bachelor of Architecture Degree in 1951. After working in Atlanta and Chattanooga, he came back to Brunswick in 1953. He worked with Bill Marshall and Abreu and Robeson, Inc. until opening his own Architectural Firm in 1969.

In 1954, he married Frances Bruce from Homerville, Georgia who was a school teacher in Glynn County. Frances is presently Principal of St. Simons Elementary School. Julian is a member of the St. Simons First Baptist Church where he has served as a Deacon since 1956. He is a member of the Golden Isles Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and holds a Certificate from the National Council of Architectural Registration Board. He has served on

the Glynn County Board of Appeals and is a past member of the Golden Isles Track Club. For exercise, he enjoys walking, swimming, and 3 grandchildren, ages 9 months to 4 years. For "relaxation," he lists his hobbies as painting and gardening.

Julian and his lovely Rotaryann make their home at 212 Butler Avenue.

John B. Hanley

Versatile Jack was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He went to Drexel Institute of Technology from which he was graduated in 1947 with a B. S. degree in Chemical Engineering. He served in WWII in the Army Medical Department, after which he was employed by Hercules in Wilmington, Delaware. Subsequently they transferred him to our Brunswick plant.

Between 1949 and 1978, when he retired, he worked as Research and Development Engineer, Production Supervisor, and, for the final 12 years as Personnel Manager. In the twilight of his business career, he earned an M.B.A. Degree from Georgia Southern through their extension service at Brunswick College.

Since Jack's retirement (?), he has sold real estate through The Trupp-Hodnett Enterprises, acted in Dinner Theatre, and worked as a role-player at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

As active with Rotary as he has been in the business world, Jack has been Membership Chairman, Christmas Kettle Chairman, Program Chairman, Spray Chairman, and President.

Mary, Jack's engaging Rotaryann, is well known for her Dog Obedience School. They live in the Village area and both contribute much to our community.

J. Raymond Knighton

Ray grew up in Chicago. His career goals were entirely focused toward music. He holds a Ph.D. in Musicology, taught music at a college in Idaho, and even auditioned for the Met in 1946.

The music of Ray's life, however, become a symphony of service. He founded MAP International, a Christian global health organization, now located in Brunswick, in 1954 while serving as Executive Director of the Christian Medical Society. He served as president and C.E.O. of MAP until 1980 when he elected to retire. He was invited to rejoin Rotary in 1986.

Ray holds a Doctor of Laws Degree from Seattle Pacific University, and a Masters from M.S.U. Some of his awards and honors include American Medical Association Layman of the Year Award - 1971, Knight of the Great Band of Liberian Humane Order of African Redemption, Honorary Consul of Dominican Republic 1968, Comendador of the Order of Christopher Columbus, Who's Who in America. He currently (1988) serves on the Board of Directors of National Council of International Health and President of Brunswick International Seaman's House.

Ray enjoys traveling extensively in the developing world and just last November he and his lovely Rotaryann Beth visited Christian hospitals and churches served by MAP in India.

Ray and Beth have been married 45 years (neither looks it), have four children and nine grandchildren.

Bill Marshall

Bill Marshall was born in Hamilton, Canada. He spent most of his childhood in the Berkshires at Adams, Massachusetts in the western part of the state. He came South in 1936 right after graduating from Cornell University with a degree in Architecture.

After working with several local firms, Bill opened his own architect's office. His practice was interrupted by the war, at which time he entered the Navy as an officer. After indoctrination at Princeton University, he served at various bases on the West coast, most of which were in the San Francisco area.

He is a charter member of our club and has served as President, Vice President, Director, and on a jillion committees. His pet project, he says, was the Rotary Scout Building.

He and his lovely Rotaryann, Mae, have lived in Brunswick and on St. Simons. They now reside on 6th Street on Sea Island.

Bill has been down here 40 years, 38 of which as a member of Rotary.

Wesley Springhorn

Our club has many illustrious members, one of whom is a Rotary Club Past President and a Rotary District Governor, Wes Springhorn.

Wes grew up in Blue Point, Long Island, New York.

Quoting verbatim from his answer to our inquiry, Wes says: "Was a better athlete than

scholar, took five years to get out of High School, but was a four-letter man. Our basketball team (Patchogue High School) was runner-up for the New York State High School Championship 1925. I was All-State Center." He spent three months in prep school, then joined his family in its laundry-dry cleaning/linen rental business. The company prospered under Wes's direction and became the largest of its kind in Suffolk County.

Wes became President of their local trade association, then President of the state association, eventually a Director of the American Institute of Laundering.

Wes joined Rotary in 1935 and was elected President of the Patchogue Club for 1946-47. He became its Secretary 1948-56 and was made District Governor for 1956-57. What a career in Rotary, over 53 years! Wes says he "has enjoyed most every minute of it."

This guy - of whom we can all be proud - is ever quick with a witty retort. He ended his interview saying: "My hobbies are shooting quail, walking, golf memories."

Asides
taken from past issues of the "Spray"

from Rotary Spray - September 27, 1966

MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE: St. Simons moved up from sixth place in July to fourth place in August. These figures will interest you:

As of August 31, 1966:

<u>Club</u>	<u>Membership</u>	<u>Average Attendance</u>
Millen	48	99.48%
Thomson	66	97.34%
Jefferson	32	94.38%
St. Simons Island	97	94.15%

from Rotary Spray - January 31, 1967

The Governor's letter discloses that as of the end of December, 1966, St. Simons Rotary ranked sixth in attendance in the District with a percentage of 94.39%. We were the only Club in the top ten whose membership exceeds 75.

from Rotary Spray - August 10, 1976

Membership Attendance Report for June 1976 - District 692. St. Simons rated tenth with an average attendance of 88.80%. District Average is 80.75%. Couldn't we do just a little better!??

from Rotary Spray - March 8, 1977

This is the official ten-day notice that the Directors of the Club have authorized to be submitted to the Membership of the Club on Tuesday, March 22, 1977, a proposed Amendment to Article V, Section 2 of the Club By-Laws, raising the Annual Dues from \$196. to \$220. effective April 1, 1977, to be paid at the rate of \$55. per quarter.

from Rotary Spray - March 15, 1977

Increase in dues from \$49. to \$55. per quarter was discussed as necessary to balance our operating budget. (Jack Hanley denied using it as a salary increase!) Even at \$55. per quarter, we're the lowest in our District. Motion made and passed to empower Board of Directors to request the raise.

from Rotary Spray - August 19, 1997

CLARIFICATION OF GIL THARP'S BEQUEST: Gil donated \$150,000 to the Permanent Fund of Rotary International Foundation in 1995. The residual of his estate - \$430,000 will go to the St. Simons Rotary Foundation.

from Rotary Spray - January 24, 1978

LADIES' NIGHT: Don't forget Ladies Night, Bennie's Red Barn, Tuesday evening, January 31st. Social Hour 7-8 p.m. Dinner 8:00 p.m. If you plan to attend and have not signed up, please call Ed Bruce 638-3115. Also let him know how you want your steak cooked. The Club pays for the Rotarian and his Rotaryann. The cost per guest is \$9.50.

from Rotary Spray - February 28, 1989

Olin Henry does it again! At Bath and Racquet Club, Sarasota, FL., Feb. 10th - "85 and Over" Tennis Tournament - Finalist in singles and doubles. Olin advises that he lost in singles, but won in double, where one of his opponents was the man who beat him in singles. Good going, Olin, and congratulations. This club is proud of you!

from Rotary Spray - May 23, 1989

Gordon Strother has replaced Bill Marshall as Curator for the Rotary Archives. Bill has been overseeing this club service for over 30 years. At the last Ladies' Night, Gordon displayed a collection of banners, scrapbooks, trophies, etc., which was greatly enjoyed by many who attended the function. *(Editor's note: Gordon Strother gave the Rotary Archives to Carl Bystrom and I picked them up from Carl.)*

from Rotary Spray - June 27, 1989

Ed Bruce has resigned as a member of the board of directors of the Rotary Foundation after over 30 years of dedicated service. He will be replaced by Jay Robinson, a past president of our club. A special thanks to Ed and our congratulations to Jay.

We will miss Dr. Bill Humphries who will be moving to Virginia after 12 1/2 years in our club. Bill originally joined Rotary in Front Royal, Virginia in 1951 and achieved 25 years of perfect attendance. While in our club, Bill leaves a true legacy - 10 members he brought in - our gratitude and best wishes go with Bill - God speed.

Thanks! A special thanks to Donnie Cofer for a very successful BBQ outing at the Casino on June 13. Thanks also to erstwhile assistants Tom Sayer, Bernie Swafford, Don Varnadoe and Gordon Strother.

Sea Scouts

Shortly after the Rotary Club of St. Simons Island was constituted, some of the members felt we should sponsor a Rotary Scout troop. This was seconded by those who had young sons. Such a troop was formed meeting at a local church on the Island.

Subsequently, the District Scout executive gave us a talk at the Tuesday meeting and broached the idea of adding a troop of Sea Scouts. He pointed out that we lived on an Island and both the ideas were worth considering. One of our Rotarians was Olaf Olsen who, with his father, owned and operated the Olsen Yacht Yard & Marine Railway down near the wooden causeway bridge leading to Brunswick.

The Scout Executive's talk kindled enthusiasm. The troop was formed with "Bubba" Olsen the first Scoutmaster. Eventually, about 28 boys from Brunswick and St. Simons joined the Rotary Sea Scouts of St. Simons Island.

They had a "Scout Hut" - an old building leased down by the local St. Simons Island airport. They met weekly - Bubba Olsen, with help from other members of our club, painted an outline of a 26' boat on the floor of the meeting hall and did other things to give the hall a nautical flair. For example, knot boards were put on the wall so the scouts could learn how to tie knots used by sailors.

The boat was named the "Endeavor." The club had two crews - the Starboard (right)

and the Port (left) sides. The boys learned seamanship, tides, winds, safety measures, how to tie knots and the rules of the road.

The local chapter of the Sea Scouts received a boost when Quealy Walker, present Rotarian Bill Walker's dad (Rotarian), and Red Ringling were given an excess 26' Navy lifeboat, pointed on both ends and fitted for a diesel engine. Bubba Olsen had an engine or got one, made repairs and fitted the vessel with same.

"Red" Ringling, a charter member of the club, was most interested and helped with the Sea Scouts, and his son, Hank, was in the troop.

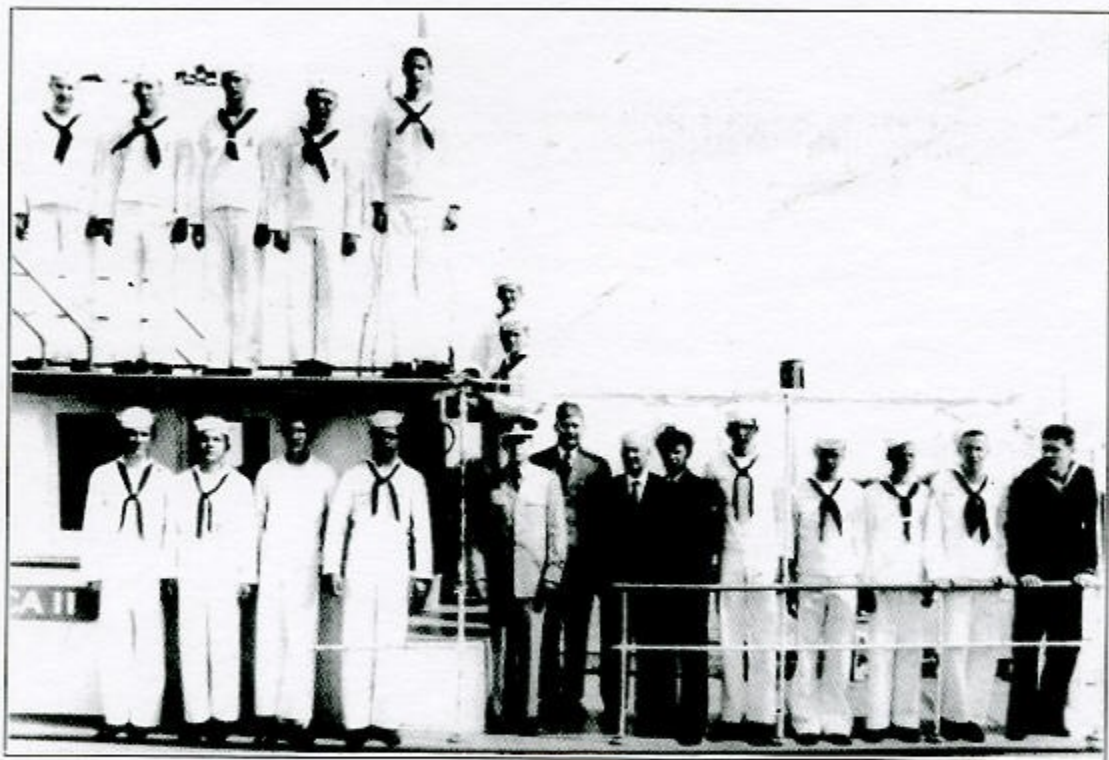
Putting theory to work on the water, camping trips were arranged and they proceeded to the various barrier islands, i.e., Jekyll, Big & Little Cumberland, Little St. Simons, Sapelo, part of St. Simons, Blackbeard Island, et al.

Subsequently a movie company came into the Okefenokee area to make a film starring Walter Brennan called "Swamp Water." When the picture was finished, the film managers gave excess lumber to the Scouts. With permission of the authorities, the scouts built a dock on Billy's Island. The dock, I am told, is still there. Getting lumber to Billy's Island, located somewhere in the vastness of Okefenokee, presented a problem. The "Endeavor" was employed to go up the St. Mary's River into some canals in the swamp and, finally, to Billy's

Island. Bill "Butch" Walker was operating the craft with great care. The Scouts had overloaded the boat, leaving only a few inches of freeboard. There are no waves in the swamp and there was sufficient depth to float the "Endeavor," even with the overload.

Bill "Butch" Walker cut the engine and glided to what he hoped would be a simple landing with other troop members on shore ready to haul the boat up on the beach. However, when the "Endeavor" hit the beach, ever so slowly and ground to a halt, the back wave swamped the life boat coming in over the sides sinking the same. It didn't have far to go down, and nothing was lost.

Help was received from multiple sources including several long time residents of St. Simons Island. A group of these were members of the Sea Scouts or their leaders. Bubba Olsen was their leader for a number of years, later assisted by Dr. Dave Schaffer. Some members of the organizations who were especially helpful were Bill Cullens, Red Ringling, Jr., Bob West, Jr., Jim Gash and Bill Walker. I am grateful for their willingness to assist and give me the benefit of their knowledge and memories.



Rotary Sea Scouts aboard the *Frederica II*: (top left) Bob West, Mike Way, Billy Cullens, Fred Pilgrim, Ed Hummel; (ladder) Havilland, Toppy Harned; (bottom row, from left) Joe Harrell, Butch Bryan, Hank Ringling, Charlie O'Dell, Dave Schaffer, Scout Executive R. B. Maxwell, Frank Nalls, Bubba Olsen, Earl Hartridge, Johnny Kent, Jimmy Tucker, Jimmy Gash and Pat O'Hagen.

Scout Hut

from the Spray, April 28, 1964

Impressive ceremonies marked the official dedication of St. Simons Rotarians' handsome new Scout Building today.

The dreams and plans of Bill Marshall who created and designed the layout for the new building came to fruition as Rotarians and guests from many places enjoyed the luncheon planned by fellow Rotarian Bennie Gentile's Red Barn, in the Scout Building. In Bennie's absence (and his many friends will be glad to know he is doing very well in the hospital, but has to remain there a few more days), brother Frank took over and did a magnificent job with the able assistance of Alfonza and Alvin. Congratulations!

"We want to dedicate this building for God and country," Bill Marshall said as he presented Frank Nalls, Chairman of the Rotary Foundation, with a large pasteboard key with the inscription "SERVICE ABOVE SELF." Bill said: "We had originally planned this for a flag raising ceremony but, due to the inclement weather, we are holding it inside the building."

Program Committee Chairman Allen Berry outlined the history of the building. Allen pointed out that the Scout Building Committee was appointed in 1958 by Edwin Fendig, Jr., who was then President of the Club. The idea of the new building originated from the fact that the Sea Scouts, sponsored by St. Simons Rotary Club, were required to find a new meet-

ing place. It was also pointed out that other Scout Troops on the Island had no adequate place to meet.

Various sites were investigated and the one that met the requirements was found at the present location on Demere Road, a tract 400 x 800 ft., adjoining McKinnon Airport. Approval of the County Commissioner was received and later the approval of the FAA, given in March 1959. Upon final approval in March of 1961, a Fund Raising Campaign was started and a brochure describing the project was prepared and distributed. It was pointed out that people were generous on the project of scouting. A ground-breaking ceremony was held March 20, 1962, and at that time Bennie Gentile served an outdoor luncheon on the grounds and donated the proceeds to the Building Fund.

The major part of labor and materials for the building has been donated. We would like to mention here that there were so many who gave of their time and money and labor, limited space in today's Spray prevents us from giving a complete list. Please watch for this in a subsequent issue as we want everyone's efforts to be acknowledged and openly appreciated.

Representing Explorer Scout Troop No. 206 were Frank Veloski, and John Lunsford who blew a very colorful assembly. They were introduced by Rotarian Jimmy Bankston who is very active in Scout work. The Girl Scouts were represented by Debbie Soles of St. Simons.

Bubba Olsen, former member of our Club, was a guest of Nelson Niall. He was formerly, for five years, a Scout Master. Okefenokee Council and Scout Executives present included Gunnar H. Nelson, Norman Stevens, Chief Salter, Scout Master of Troop 227 of St. Simons, and Ed Bunkley of Brunswick.

T.V. and Radio coverage for the event were given by Joan Bius, Channel 4, Rupert Chastain, Channel 12, both Jacksonville; Eddie Wade, W.G.I.G., and Carleton Morrison, W.M.O.G., both Brunswick.

Another visitor was Vince McCollum who created the model of the Scout Building which has been used on a number of occasions to raise funds for the building. Among guests of the Rotarians was Lenny McDonald, son of Rotarian J.R. McDonald, who has just completed four years in the Marine Corps. Also Ernie Parker of Jacksonville, guest of Billy Backus.

Present of the Scout Building Committee members besides Bill Marshall were Tom Dickey, Jr., and Chairmen of the following Committees: MATERIALS: Buddy Culver; PUBLICITY: Bennie Gentile; FUND RAISING: Bill Jones, Jr.; SITE: Brooks Haisten. Other Committee members were Frank Nalls, A.C. Oliver, Bill Strother and Gil Tharp.

Several Rotarians were serving as Scout masters and leading a troop normally meeting

in a church on the Island. The feeling grew that the Rotary Club could build a Scout Hut. In 1958, as this feeling infused the members, Edwin Fendig, Jr., then serving as President, appointed the Scout Building Committee with Wm. R. Marshall as Chairman. We bought land through Tom Dickey by swap, Bill Marshall acted as architect and Buddy Culver donated the heating and air conditioning unit.

Thus the Rotary Scout Hut became a community service project by the club. Bill Marshall, charter member, was an architect and drew the plans. Bill had completed his term as Club President ('54-'55) and Tom Dickey also a charter member, had succeeded him ('55-'56). Tom contacted the Glynn County Commission and through the Airport Commission gained agreement to swap a piece of land for another piece on Demere Road by the East Beach Causeway. Here then was to be the site of the Scout Hut.

The project was carried on largely by volunteers supervised by architect Bill Marshall. Gifts were solicited for materials from club members and interested members of the community. Others donated their labor to assist in the construction. Through this joint effort the building was built. Buddy Culver donated the heating and air conditioning unit. Many donations were received.

Thomas Dickey, under direction of the Rotary Club Board of Directors, incorporated the

Rotary Club of St. Simons. It could then be an eleemosynary institution and gifts it received could be held deductible by the tax authorities. As a member of an acclaimed law firm headed by "Boo" Fendig, founder of St. Simons Island club for Rotary Brunswick, Tom drew up the first bylaws of the Club which were used until the 1990's.

GLYNN COUNTY PLANNING BOARD	
NOT TO BE USED WITHOUT THE WRITTEN APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF ROADS AND REVENUE OF GLYNN COUNTY, GEORGIA.	
Owner	ST. SIMONS ROTARY CLUB.
Construction	Boys Scout Hut
Location	DEMERE RD.
Permission Granted For	Boys Scout Bldg.
Permit No.	10,401
Date Issued	Aug 13-62
PAID \$.	<i>[Signature]</i>
GLYNN COUNTY, GA.	<i>[Signature]</i> BUILDING INSPECTOR SECRETARY
Property Owner is notified that, in addition to restrictions of Glynn County Zoning Ordinance, use of this property is subject to any other restrictions imposed by previous owners.	
POST THIS CARD IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE	

Gil Tharp

Gil Tharp was a long-time Rotarian when I joined the Club in 1961, having joined in 1953. His regular function was starting the singing with "America" at every meeting. He did that for 33 years.

Further, he was the photographer on the Islands for many years also. He was called to so many functions including weddings that he was kept busy. He took most of the Rotary photos - formal and at cookouts and other functions. He was also a fine gentleman.

When I would return from an overseas venture, Gil would ask me all about it. Most of the time he had been there with his wife and help me pronounce the difficult names of some places. The river on which the Taj Majal in India is built is an example.

Gil was born in Louisville, Kentucky March 2, 1911. Gil's first sound was probably a melodious note emphasized with arms waving as if directing a welcoming chorus! Let's read in his own words (*written in 1988*) Gil's interesting recounting of how his life has developed!

"I was born and educated in Kentucky. My first venture into the business world was Civil Engineering with the Kentucky Utilities Co. The market crash and the ensuing depression period curtailed that tangent! Then, I went on the road as a professional musician playing the Big Band Era of the 30's and 40's. Made music from Miami to Maine - Texas to Chicago and points in between. Came Pearl Harbor, I joined the Navy and after "Boot Camp"

went to the Pacific with a draft of Navy musicians including: Artie Shaw, Claude Thornhill, et al. I fought WW2 with a clarinet in the Admiral's band of the 14th Naval District at Pearl Harbor. Was discharged from the Navy in 1945 and shortly after joined the orchestra at The Cloister. During my tenure there, I started a reverse of vocation and avocation, pursuing a career as a Professional Photographer. That lasted about 29 years.

"About 9 years ago, I retired and put myself out to pasture on the golf course - and started again playing music, this time in the Jekyll Island Big Dance Band.

"I've led 'America' for this club for the past 33 years (Gil has been a Rotarian for 35 years), and directed the music for my church congregation for 40 years.

"Avid travelers, my (late) wife and I have traveled on five continents, including Australia and New Zealand. I've 'made up' at Rotary Clubs all over the world, from Tokyo to Tel Aviv.

"Last, but not least - to me - I'm a Kentucky Colonel."

Colonel - and Paul Harris Fellow - Tharp, we salute you!!!

UPDATE OF THARP BEQUEST

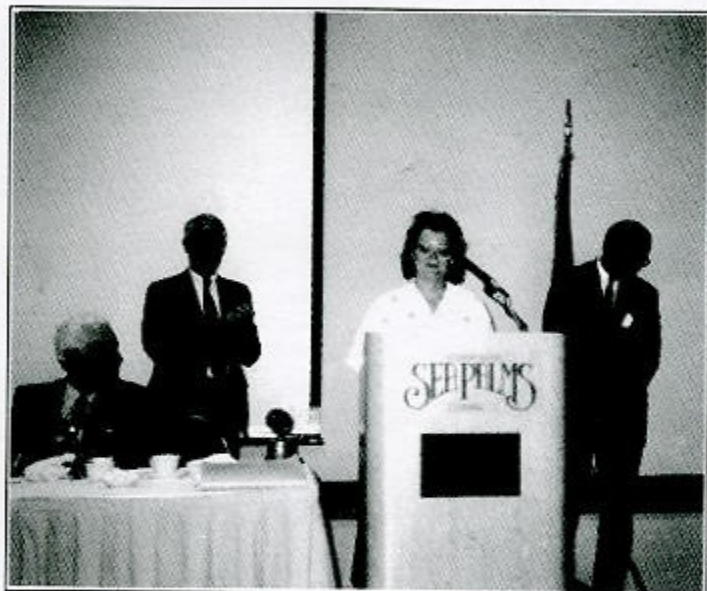
by Pat Donahoo

Gil's 1995 donation of over \$150,000 will allow our district to name a Gil Tharp Scholar every one to two years, depending on the income.

Through Gil's benevolence, his belief in Rotary and his great interest in the education of young people, Rotary International Foundation will have in excess of \$430,000 which will be invested to generate funds for scholarships to be given in Gil's name.

Our individual believed in Rotary and in Education. Think what could be done if each of us made a portion of the commitment that Gil made. Think what can be done through our own foundation and, on a much broader scale, what can be done through the Rotary Foundation. Think what it means to be a Paul Harris Fellow, or a sustaining member, think what it means to give to our own foundation and lastly, think of the far reaching implications of a gift to the permanent fund of Rotary which will generate income for the many programs of the Rotary Foundation for the rest of our lives.

Gil exemplified "Service Above Self." We should all reflect on the meaning of the generosity of this man!



Gil Tharp (seated) listens as a Rotary Student at Georgia Southern gave a brief rundown on her life in Germany.

Polio Plus

The eradication of polio is a priority of the highest order of Rotary International. By the year 2005, Rotary centennial, Rotarians' contributions to the global polio eradication effort will exceed \$425 million.

Of even greater significance has been the extensive volunteer army mobilized by Rotary International, numbering in the hundreds of thousands, providing support to clinics or mobilizing their communities for immunization, surveillance, and other polio eradication activities. To date, 119 nations around the world have benefited from PolioPlus grants, and since the PolioPlus Program began in 1985, more than one billion children have received oral polio vaccine as a result of the efforts of Rotary International, its Foundation, and our partners. As of June 1998, Rotary has committed more than \$313 million for global polio eradication. 1997-98 expenditures: \$46.4 million. 160 countries reported zero cases of polio in 1997 — up from 86 in 1985, when PolioPlus began.

PolioPlus Partners is a program that allows Rotarians to participate in the polio eradication effort by contributing to specific social mobilization and surveillance activities in polio-endemic countries. As such, it also supplements the funds available to complete the eradication of polio. The program allows Rotarians in polio-free countries to walk side by side with Rotarians in polio-endemic countries who are actively working in their cities and villages to find children who need to be immunized, bring them vaccine and educate their parents, and

to find children who may be infected with the virus. As of 30 June 1998, 1,200 clubs in 248 districts have participated in 105 PolioPlus Partners projects, supporting National Immunization Days and polio virus labs around the world.

Our club set up a committee under Edgar Smith (President '90-'91) and Treasurer Bud Bryde. A goal was established of \$33,000 - a sizeable sum for the St. Simons Club. The records reflect that we made and actually exceeded this goal by a small amount.

Many members participated in the giving - almost 100% in fact. The sums they gave were credited toward becoming a Paul Harris Fellow themselves.

Flag Program

The St. Simons Island Rotary Club Flag Program was started by Rotarian Calvin F. Paynter in April 1996. The purpose was to promote patriotism and to display the United States Flag, the symbol of our country.

Cal Paynter's patriotism was forged in the crucible of combat in Italy with the 86th Infantry Division, all volunteer warriors forming a Ski Division. Among Cal Paynter's Decorations is the Purple Heart. Cal was in business as an executive with Nestlé Foods and retired from that company.

At the time he started this program, he was serving as Treasurer of the Club. He served from 1986 to 1997 doing a creditable job.

Cal noted a decline in the display of our Flag on St. Simons Island for special days since the time of the Iranian Hostages Crisis when large numbers of Islanders flew "Old Glory."

Various sizes of quality United States flags plus flag poles of several lengths are stock. Larger flags and Georgia state flags are included in the inventory. All are purchased from a quality manufacturer, the Collegeville Flag & Banner Company. This is an American company located in Pennsylvania not more than six miles from Valley Forge.

As of this writing in September 1999, estimated sales are as follows:

- 725 single flags from 2' x 3' to 8' x 12'
- 350 U.S. Flag kits with poles
- 100 Georgia State flags
- 17 flag poles from 15' to 35'

Profits gleaned from this program have been used to erect and maintain commercial flag poles with lights at busy intersections on St. Simons Island, notably at Demere & Frederica Road and the St. Simons Pier. At the pier, the Club has placed a granite monument to "Honor the men and women of the Armed Forces who have served our country - past and present."

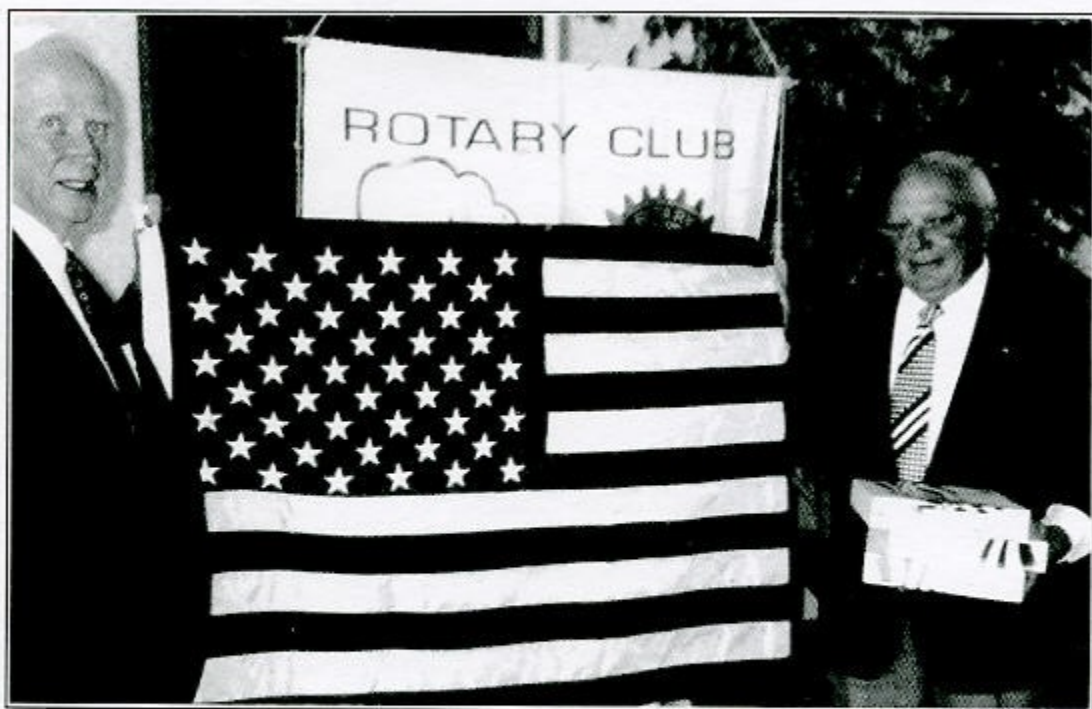
The Flag Program has also: donated the flag pole at Mallory Park Little League Complex; distributed 4,900 4" x 6" American flags at "Taps at Twilight" programs sponsored by the St. Simons Island Rotary each Memorial Day; purchased flag decorations for St. Simons Island Bandstand including an 8' x 12' American flag; paid the entire cost (\$1500) of the 1999 "Taps at Twilight" program; and donated flag kits for door prizes at District Rotary Conference.

Special recognition should be given to several retail outlets that have or still sell flags

and flag kits: Pat's Hallmark Stores (Bernie Swafford); Rarebbits & Pieces (Carolyn Byars); Frederica Bank & Trust (Rod Lueth); SunTrust (John Laws); and 19th Hole (Donnie Cofer).

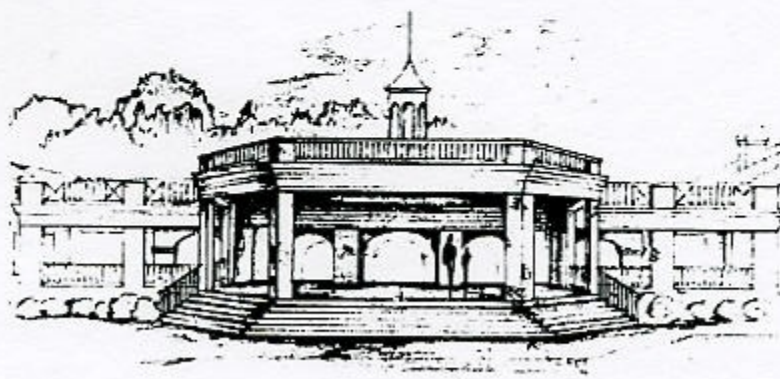
Other support in addition to Rotarians and our retail outlets has come from these major accounts - Glynn County, Glynn County School Board, Georgia Power Company, King & Prince Hotel and Advanced Auto Body.

The St. Simons Rotary Flag program has its own bank account that is audited yearly. It presently has no debt and is running a balance of over \$2500 which will be used to erect additional flag poles, pay for "Taps at Twilight" and give out thousands more 4" x 6" flags to children - those who attend the Memorial Day ceremony down by the pier. These things promote love of country in our area.



Cal Paynter (right), assisted by Bill Turbeville, holds the American flag as he spoke of the club's success promoting patriotism by increasing display of our flag.

Rotary Club Bandstand



On Tuesday afternoon, April 16, 1991 a crowd gathered to witness the official dedication of the Neptune Park's new bandstand. The bandstand's construction was conceived as a community service project by the Rotary Club of St. Simons Island. Funds were secured by the sale of bricks by the Club, each in the name of a donor made into a brick. These bricks were placed in the steps leading up to the planned structure. The cost of a brick was \$150 each.

The ceremony was festive with the bandstand being put to immediate use by the performance of the Glynn County Middle School Band. But long before this dedication took place, much work was done by a Rotary Committee set into motion by Tommy Stroud, then President of the Club.

Members of the committee who clearly worked hard were Tommy Bryan, project chairman and John Rentz, project architect - also Ted Reideburg, Duke DeMay, Wyatt Wood and Lawrence Certain. Ted Reideburg, with assistance from committee members, wrote several reports as a result of their research into similar projects of other communities such as Sheboygen, Wisconsin and a friend of Ted's from Muskegon, Michigan.

These data were a material help to our group of Rotarians laboring on this committee. Club members Sam Franklin and Dr. John Law headed up the brick sales effort and met with

support from Rotarians and members of the local community. John Laws directed fundraising for memorial gifts and local businesses who also generously responded with gifts. Memorial gifts of over \$500 will be part of a permanent plaque to be displayed in the bandstand along with a Special Gifts plaque. All of this is now mounted to view.

Although it is still possible to buy a personal brick, the project is over and paid for. About \$55,000 was raised from the sale of bricks and gifts from businesses and interested parties.

Ted Reideburg collected these records from his files and sent them to us as historical data making up part of our first 50 years as a club of St. Simons. His kindness is appreciated and helpful.

That the bandstand is an attractive addition to the Neptune Park facility is made clear by visiting the park and looking at it.

Taps at Twilight



In 1990-91, when the bandstand was being completed, Edgar Smith, current President, had an idea for its use. He got in touch with Lew Sobke, a retired Army Colonel and suggested that on Memorial Day, the Rotary sponsor a commemoration service for the service people past and present - some of whom paid the supreme sacrifice. Others were wounded, but they all had served.

Colonel Sobke, a long time Rotarian, thought the idea sound. He reasoned that although a memorial service was held at the county courthouse each year, most of downtown was closed and few folk were about because of the holiday. And few even showed up for the services. However, the village at the Pier on St. Simons Island was indeed open and people were on the beaches and visiting the village merchants, celebrating the holiday weekend.

Lew got some friends, among them Col. Bob Crouch, Gen. Fred Collins, Marion Moore, incoming president and several more to talk and study the matter. The project was cleared with the Casino Board and the Glynn County Commission.

They knew they must have good music featuring lively martial airs so they got the Glynn County Middle School band and Erma Summers to sing. Dennis Williams agreed to set up and operate the Public Address system and William A. Hammett to play taps on the bugle. Mr. Hammett and Mr. Williams have been there to do these things since the programs started

in 1991. William A. Hammett has been a director of music in Georgia school for some 20 years.

There follows a time of honoring the veterans present, also the ones that did not make it home, the "Purple Heart" recipients, some of whom are present, and the ones from each branch of service - Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines.

We have a ceremony of posting the colors complete with an honor guard from one of the service units stationed nearby. The Third Regular Army Division "The Rock of the Marris" is in Savannah. They held the attacking Germans in World War II, despite horrendous losses at the Marris River, a huge victory.

A speaker is introduced who speaks of appreciation to these veterans and patriotism to us all. These speakers since 1991 have included Lindsay Thomas, U.S. Congressman; Jim Thompson, Lt. Gen., U.S. Army Retired; Samuel E. Ebbesen, Lt. Gen., U.S. Army; Jack Kingston, U.S. Congressman; Michael Bowers, Attorney General, GA; Max Cleland, Senator GA (U.S.); Alfred A. Valenzuela, Brig. Gen., U.S. Army; Everett P. Pope, CMH; Paul Coverdell, Senator, GA (U.S.).

Lastly, to create poignant sentiment: lowering the large flag and sounding the bugle calls of Retreat and the wafting strains of "Taps" just as the sun sinks below the western

horizon about 8:30 p.m. Thus the name evolved "Taps at Twilight."

This format, adjusted annually, has been most effective as the number in attendance grows apace. Others have taken the leadership positions as the years come by.

These data were gathered by the Rotarians named above and Rotarian Leland Haller who is the historian of this ceremony from year to year.



Patriots of all ages watch and salute as the flag is raised.



Col. Lew Sobke



Willie Hammett plays "Taps"

Ed Bruce Fellows and Sustaining Members

Ed Bruce Fellows

Wilbur E. Becker
Jack Dinos
Jay Robinson
John E. Weitnauer, Jr.

Ralph H. Birdsong
Samuel Franklin
John L. Sullivan
In Memoriam: Olin Henry

Sam Cofer
Henry Kingdon
Kent C. Taylor

Ed Bruce Sustaining Members

Camille Adams
Michael Alderman
Gene Anglin
Allen Berry
Frank Black
Jay Blair
Sharon Bolin
Alwin Brillembourg
William Buxton
Carolyn Byars
Donnie Cofer
Fred Collins
John Cooper
Bob Crouch
Sonny Doebling
Pat Donahoo
Dennie Donnelly, III
George Dorsey
Maggie Dutton
John Edwards
Rem Johnston
Joe Garner

Rod Garrett
Helen Glenn
Ralph Goldman
Minor Harris, Jr.
Peter Henderson
Robert Heyward
William Hicks
Andrew Hunt
William Kernohan
Calder Kinney
John Laws
G. R. Lueth
Dennie McCrary
Bill McDougall
Alfred McGinnis
Mac Miller
Shelia Moody
Joe Odachowski
John Parkins
Cal Paynter
Bob Nicholson

Gerald Peck
Bob Peery
Reuel Platt
Mark Podlin
Scott Poer
Eugene Prata
Robert Rivenbark
Ralph Russell
Tom Sayer
Sam Shaw
Tom Sibley
Bess Smith
David Starr
Pasquale Storino
Rees Sumerford
Walter Swift
Hamsa Thota
Anne Tomlin
Don Varnadoe
Bill Walker
Richard Wilkins
Ray Worst

Paul Harris Fellows and Sustaining Members

Paul Harris Fellows

Gene Anglin
Wil Becker
Allen Berry
Ralph Birdsong
Bill Buxton
Sam Cofer
Barbara Cooper
Jim Cooper
Marie Dodd
Jack Dinos
Sonny Doehring
Dot Donahoo
Pat Donahoo
Julian Flexer
Sam Franklin
Ralph Goldman
Dave Hanson
Bill Hicks

Nat Johnson
Rem Johnston
Bill Keim
Henry Kingdon
John Law
Bill McDougall
Roy Mahlberg
Leslie Mattingly
Ann Nermoe
John Parkins
Mary Ellen Parkins
Cal Paynter
Reuel Platt
Scott Poer
William D. Ray
Tom Sayer
David Schaffer
Frances F. Shannon

Jim Shannon
James Shannon, III
Sam Shaw
Lew Sobke
Homer Starr
Pat Storino
Tom Stroud
Jack Sullivan
Kent Taylor
Sindhu Thota
Bill Turbeville
Don Varnadoe
Jim Wethern

IN MEMORIAM

Walter L. Berry, Jr.
Bill Bolton
Bob Crouch

Paul Harris Sustaining Members

Mike Alderman
Camille Adams
Jim Alexander
Elmer Bell
Sharon Bolin
Alwin Brillenbourg
James Chambless
Roland Daniel
Harold Dewhurst
Dennis Donnelly
Bud Dorsey
Maggie Dutton
Virgil Early
John Edwards
Beverly Fetter
Jim Fletcher
Joe Garner
Ernest Gilbert
Helen Glenn

Lee Haller
Mike Harris
Mike Hendley
Peter Henderson
Andy Hunt
Mac Johnston
Bill Kernohan
Calder Kinney
Jack Kurschner
John Laws
Rod Lueth
Henry McGrath
Jerry Mooney
Marion Moore
Gerry Peck
Bud Prata
Ralph Russell
Bob Scully
Tom Sibley

Rem Sims
Scott Slade
Bernie Swafford
Pete Swift
Jim Turner
Bill Walker
John Weitnauer
M. G. Whittle
Dick Wicker
Millie Wilcox
Dick Wilkins
Clint Winne
Larry Wood
Welbourne Wood
Skip Wright

IN MEMORIAM

Bess Smith

Through The Years

In the five decades since our Rotary Club has been in existence, many changes have taken place. Bernie Swafford of Pat's Hallmark shared "News from the Year You Were Born" for each of these decades. Thank you, Bernie!

News Headlines

- 1950: Korean War begins; free nations join together in United Nations Force. Bomb shelters built. Smokey the Bear becomes Forest Service mascot after cuddly bear cub is rescued from forest fire. Charles Schulz's comic strip *Peanuts* begins with Charlie Brown saying "Good Grief!"
- 1960: Presidential candidates John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon hold series of televised debates. Russia Krushchev pounds his shoe in anger at the United Nations. New 50-star American flag represents all 50 states. Last model of Ford Edsel rolls off assembly line.
- 1970: Apollo 13 lands safely in Pacific after near-catastrophic journey to moon. Hank Aaron & Willie Mays gets 3,000th hits. Jack Klugman and Tony Randall appear as *The Odd Couple*. The BEatles write their last songs: Let It Be and The Long and Winding Road.
- 1980: Mount St. Helens erupts; volcanic ash drifts across the country. Ronald Reagan wins Presidential election. *Who Shot J.R.?* episode on *Dallas* is most watched in television history. U.S. hockey team upsets Soviets and wins gold in Olympics.
- 1990: Iraq invades Kuwait; U.S. responds by sending several hundred thousand troops. Hershey's develops heat-resistant chocolate bar for soldiers stationed in Saudi Arabia. General Motors introduces Saturn line of cars. Hubble Space Telescope is launched. Ellis Island is reopened as museum of immigrants.

In the Oval Office

- 1950: Harry S. Truman, *President* - Alben W. Barkley, *Vice President*
- 1960: Dwight D. Eisenhower, *President* - Richard M. Nixon, *Vice President*
- 1970: Richard M. Nixon, *President* - Spiro T. Agnew, *Vice President*
- 1980: Jimmy Carter, *President* - Walter F. Mondale, *Vice President*
- 1990: George Bush, *President* - Dan Quayle, *Vice President*

At The Movies: Best Picture, Actor, Actress

1950: All About Eve - Jose Ferrer - Judy Holliday
1960: The Apartment - Burt Lancaster - Elizabeth Taylor
1970: Patton - George C. Scott - Glenda Jackson
1980: Ordinary People - Robert De Niro - Sissy Spacek
1990: Driving Miss Daisy - Daniel Day-Lewis - Jessica Tandy

Cost of Living:

Gallon of Gas, Gallon of Milk, Cost of New Car, Average Income

1950: \$.27 - \$.82 - \$1,393 - \$3,319
1960: \$.31 - \$1.04 - \$2,143 - \$5,620
1970: \$.36 - \$1.32 - \$3,579 - \$9,867
1980: \$1.19 - \$2.08 - \$6,926 - \$23,141
1990: \$1.20 - \$2.72 - \$11,835 - \$33,952

World Series

1950: New York Yankees over Phillies
1960: Pittsburgh Pirates over New York Yankees
1970: Baltimore Orioles over Cincinnati Reds
1980: Philadelphia Phillies over Kansas City Royals
1990: Cincinnati Reds over Oakland A's

On to the next half-century!