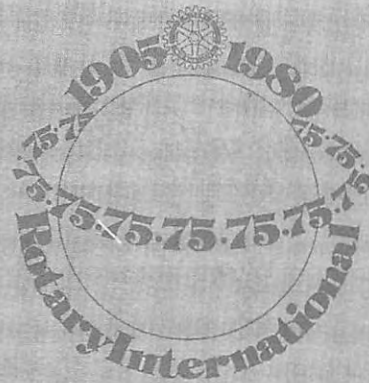




75th ANNIVERSARY
DISTRICT 620
COMMEMORATIVE
HISTORY

ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL



DISTRICT
620
75th
ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATIVE
HISTORY

COLLABORATED BY:
Bob Stander (Lafayette Rotary Club)
Wanda Brignac Ortego



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Service Above Self - He Profits Most Who Serves Best

February 23, 1980

Rotarians of District 620:

This project of our district was conceived as an opportunity to provide a benchmark of who and what we were in this 75th Anniversary year of Rotary International. Also, in the individual clubs research into and compilation of their history, it was designed to have us look at where we have been and what we have accomplished during the lifetime of each club with the hope it would provide inspiration and impetus for our charting a course for the future of greater club and member involvement in the program of Rotary and the fulfillment of *The Object of Rotary*.

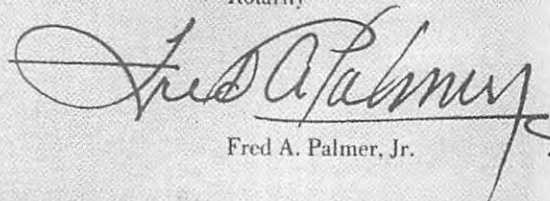
Since the perception of people is seldom on the same wave-length, it will be obvious to many that there will have been omissions of projects, efforts, and events of their club's life which perhaps should have been included. To permit full and free individual expression by those preparing the histories, there was no prescribed, standardized format for clubs to use except the limitation of space. This is not inconsistent with the philosophy of Rotary in that each club, as an autonomous entity, can pursue its own club-designed program in the four avenues of Rotary service since there is no prescribed corporated program.

It is my hope that all clubs can benefit from shared experiences and adapt as they choose those elements which will permit them to render more and better service to all humankind while creating better understanding among peoples of the world. To the extent this publication serves those purposes, it will have been a success.

We are all indebted to Rotarian Robert (Bob) A. Stander of the Rotary Club of Lafayette who, as 75th Anniversary Chairman of District 620, has tirelessly, devotedly given of his time and talents toward the publication of this history-yearbook since appointment early in 1979. The obvious frustrations of dealing with 39 clubs comprising the district to insure as uniformly possible a high quality publication was cause for lesser men to have thrown in the towel. That it may not, in some areas, measure up to the quality level he tried to achieve is not the result of lack of effort on his part, but the responsibility must be borne by the individuals of the clubs charged with preparing the material (and its quality, both for content and reproductibility) supplied him.

Use it as it was conceived. Adopt those elements of pursuit of other clubs as they may fit your own local purposes. Re-examine your own club in the light of others' experience, take a look back, and plan a better future as through Rotary we **LET SERVICE LIGHT THE WAY.**

Rotarily



Fred A. Palmer, Jr.

ABBEVILLE



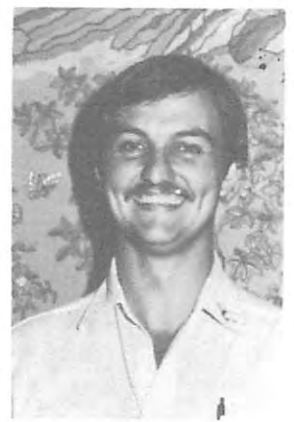
Emmett Bares



Barton Bienvenu



Roger Boynton



Dale Broussard



Daniel Broussard



Earl Broussard



Guy Broussard



Hubert Broussard



Justin Broussard



Ray Broussard



Young Broussard



Silas B. Cooper



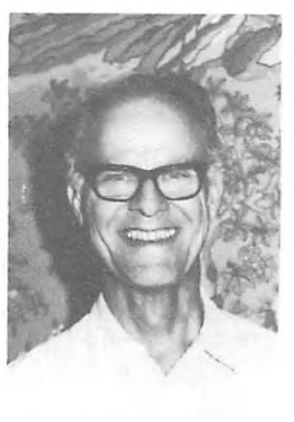
Dr. Sidney Crackower



Daniel Dartez



Frank DeGrauw



Charles Dill



Lloyd Dore, III



Noel Dragon



Curney Dronet



Richard Dubois



Dr. Donald Duhon



Rigsby Frederick



R. C. Gaspard



Celie Haydell



Paul Hebert



Robert Hollier



Frank Hunter



Lawrence Karl



Dr. Sanford Laborde



Dr. Henry Landry



Gordy Landry, Jr.



Gordy Landry, Sr.

ABBEVILLE



Jim Gerald Menard



John O'Bryan



Dr. Charles Pearson



Paul Piazza



Floyd Prejean



Kelly Richard



Sam Riche



Norman Romero



Curtis Schexnaider



Elray Schexnaider



Emery Sonnier



Chester Stansbury



Harold Suire



Charles Thompson



Dr. Harold Travasos



Gilbert Wade



Mert Zeringue

The seed responsible for the birth of the Abbeville Rotary Club was planted in 1929 when the New Iberia Club members became imbued with the missionary spirit and first approached a number of citizens of Abbeville in an effort to comply with the Rotary mandate of organizing a new club. But it was not until J. M. "Ty" Cobb of Monroe, Louisiana, became Governor of District 17 that interest was stimulated to the extent of applying for a charter in 1936. The Abbeville Club was born that year, and New Iberia was the sponsoring club.

The initial membership list indicates that 27 charter members were enrolled, representing fields in agriculture, education, banking, railroading, real estate, medicine, car dealerships, contracting, dentistry, clergy, rice milling, retail clothing, furs, law, printing, oil, government, electrical work, wholesale grocery, and sugar cane.

The first president was Felix J. Samson, an attorney, who holds the distinction of being the only president of the Abbeville club to serve two terms — 1936-1938. There are no charter members living today. The first meeting place was on the second floor of Ben Boudreaux's — a restaurant long demolished, but which was on the present site of Dupuis' Oyster House.

Although much of Rotary service of the club has been exemplified by individual efforts, the membership has initiated many projects involving the community and youth — including the "What I Want to Be and Why" Contest, throughout the high schools in Vermillion Parish (an effort to assist students determine the direction their lives will take). The club has supported youth baseball teams. Rotary's Boy Scout Troop 80 helped develop some of the fine men now adults in business and professions in this area and scattered over the country. The Abbeville Club has enthusiastically supported the District's Group Study Exchanges.

The club has elected two local Rotarians to be Paul Harris fellows. In addition, one of the club's members has held the high office of Governor of District 620.

After the establishment of a high school student exchange, a young Italian girl was brought to Abbeville for a high school year. In return, the club sent a student to Germany for a summer program.

During the summer of 1979, membership grew to 61 members. Qualifications continue to be high and representative of the community of Abbeville. While fellowship may be a hallmark of the club, it is just as true that its members possess the ability to let "service light the way," Rotary International President, James Bomar's message for 1979-80.

Frank T. Hunter
Club Historian