

A CENTURY OF SERVICE



A NEW CENTURY OF SUCCESS

THE ROTARY CLUB OF HOUMA
84TH ANNIVERSARY
NOVEMBER 1, 2005
A COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY



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Paul Harris The Founder of Rotary International



Paul P. Harris was the founder of Rotary. He was born in Racine, Wisconsin, U.S.A. on April 19, 1868. He received the bachelor of physical culture and LL.D. degrees from the University of Vermont and the LL.B. degree from the University of Iowa. He received an honorary Ph.D. in 1933 from the University of Vermont. The Boy Scouts of America gave him the Silver Buffalo Award, and he was decorated by the governments of Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France and Peru.

He worked as a newspaper reporter, a business college teacher, a stock company actor and as a cowboy. He traveled extensively as a salesman for a marble and granite concern in the U.S.A. and Europe. These varied experiences broadened his vision and were of material assistance in the early extension of Rotary.

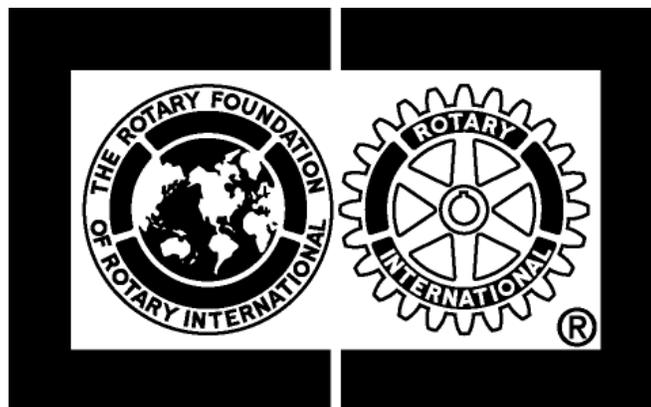
In 1896, Paul Harris went to Chicago to practice law. In 1900, after dinner with a lawyer in a residential section of Chicago. Paul Harris was impressed by the fact that his friend stopped at several stores and shops in the neighborhood and introduced him to the proprietors, who were his friends. This experience caused him to wonder why he couldn't make social friends out of at least some of his law clients -- and he resolved to organize a club which would band together a group of representative business and professional men in friendship and fellowship.

By 1905, he had formulated a definite philosophy of business relations. Talking it over with three of his law clients -- Silvester Schiele, a coal merchant, Gustavus Loehr, a mining engineer, and Hiram Shorey, a merchant tailor-- he decided to organize with them the club which he had been planning since 1900. On February 23, 1905, they held the first club meeting, and the nucleus was formed for the thousands of Rotary clubs which were later organized throughout the world. Paul Harris named the new club "Rotary" because the members met in rotation in their various places of business. This met with general approval and club membership grew rapidly. Almost every member had come to Chicago from a small town and in the Rotary club they found an opportunity for the intimate acquaintanceships of their boyhood days. When Paul Harris became president of the club in its third year he strove to extend Rotary to other cities because he was convinced that the Rotary Club could be developed into an important service movement.

The second Rotary club was founded in San Francisco in 1908. Other clubs were organized until, in 1910, when there were 16 clubs, it was decided that they should be united into an organization which would extend the movement to other cities and serve as a clearing house for the exchange of ideas among the clubs. Representatives from the clubs met in Chicago in August, 1910, and organized the National Association of Rotary Clubs. When clubs were formed in Canada and Great Britain, the name was changed, in 1912, to the International Association of Rotary Clubs. In 1922, the name was shortened to Rotary International. Paul Harris was the first president of the National Association and the first president of the International Association.

When he passed away on January 27, 1947, he was president emeritus of Rotary International.

While Paul Harris devoted much of his time to Rotary, he was also prominent in civic and professional work. He was the first chairman of the board of the National Society for Crippled Children and Adults in the U. S. A. and the International Society for Crippled Children. He was a member of the board of managers the Chicago Bar Association and its representative at the International Congress of Law at the Hague and he was a committee member of the American Bar Association.





Rotary International

Rotary's first day and the years that followed...



February 23, 1905 The airplane had yet to stay aloft more than a few minutes The first motion picture theater had not yet opened. Norway and Sweden were peacefully terminating their union. On this particular day, a Chicago lawyer, Paul P. Harris, called three friends to a meeting. What he had in mind was a club that would kindle fellowship among members of the business community. It was an idea that grew from his desire to find within the large city the kind of friendly spirit that he knew in the villages where he had grown up. The four businessmen didn't decide then and there to call themselves a Rotary club, but their get-together was, in fact, the first meeting of the world's first Rotary club. As they continued to meet, adding others to the group, they rotated their meetings among the members' places of business, hence the name. Soon after the club name was agreed upon, one of the new members suggested a wagon wheel design as the club emblem. It was the precursor of the familiar cogwheel emblem now worn by Rotarians around the world. By the end of 1905, the club had 30 members.

The second Rotary club was formed in 1908 half a continent away from Chicago in San Francisco, California. It was a much shorter leap across San Francisco Bay to Oakland, California, where the third club was formed. Others followed in Seattle, Washington, Los Angeles, California, and New York City, New York. Rotary became international in 1910 when a club was formed in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. By 1921 the organization was represented on every continent, and the name Rotary International was adopted in 1922.

What is now The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International grew from a small endowment fund started in 1917. It became the Rotary Foundation in 1928 but grew only modestly until 1947 when it received a number of gifts in memory of Paul Harris upon his death on Jan. 27 of that year. Accelerated growth in recent years has made it a major source of activities to provide humanitarian assistance, to enhance education and promote international understanding and peace. Since 1917, contributions to the foundation have totaled \$824.3 million including \$61.7 million in 1994-95. -

A major source of the Foundation's recent growth, and of Rotary's increasing membership, has been the burgeoning of the Rotary movement in Asia. Also growing is the number of new Rotary clubs in countries formerly in the Communist-governed bloc of eastern Europe. Countries where there were no Rotary clubs in 1987 now have more than 220.

Among programs that Rotary has undertaken in recent years, the largest is PolioPlus, whose goal is the eradication of the disease polio throughout the world. To achieve that goal, Rotary is working in coalition with the World Health Organization, UNICEF the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Task Force for Child Survival and Development, supplying funds for vaccine purchase and manpower for polio immunization campaigns in polio-endemic countries. If the disease is eradicated by the year 2005, the achievement will be certified in time for Rotary to celebrate the 100th anniversary of its birth in a polio-free world.



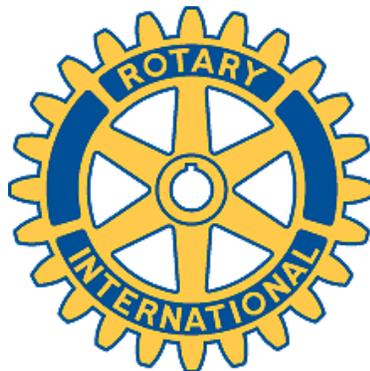
The Rotary Emblem



Rotary's early emblem was a simple wagon wheel (in motion with dust) It was designed in 1905 by Montague M Bear, a member of the Rotary Club of Chicago who was an engraver. He designed the emblem to represent both civilization and movement. Most of the early Rotary clubs adopted the wheel in one form or another.

In 1922, the organization decided to create and preserve an emblem for the exclusive use of all Rotarians, and the following year, the present emblem, a gearwheel with 24 cogs and six spokes, was adopted. A keyway was added to signify the usefulness of the gearwheel. An official description of the emblem was adopted at the 1929 International Convention. Royal blue and gold were chosen as the official Rotary colors and the flag of Rotary was designated as a white field with the emblem emblazoned in its center. The emblem, worn as a lapel pin, now identifies Rotarians around the world.

The Rotary emblem is a trademark owned by Rotary International and is protected throughout the world by the international association. The emblem is a registered trademark in more than 30 countries to date.





The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary can be considered the foundation stone on which the Rotary house was built. This brief statement, 106 words in its current *form*, is a key element of the Rotary International Constitution. It states the essential purpose of the organization--“to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise’ -- and then lists four areas by which this “ideal of service” can be fostered. They are: through the development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service~ the promotion of high ethical standards in business and professions; through service in one’s personal, business and community life; and the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace.

This articulation of Rotary ideals began with the first constitution of 1906 which had three objects: promotion of business interests, promotion of good fellowship and the advancement of the best interests of the community. By 1910 there were five objects in the statement and by 1915, there were six. The document went through several further revisions until a final revision in 1951 which made it a single “Object” which is manifested in four separate ways. The “ideal of service” is the key phrase, expressing an attitude of being a thoughtful and helpful person in all of one’s endeavors.

The complete text of the Object reads:

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

First. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

Second. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian’s occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

Third. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian’s personal, business, and community life;

Fourth. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.



The Four Way Test



One of the most widely printed and quoted statements of business ethics in the world is the Rotary 4-Way Test. It was created by Rotarian Herbert J Taylor in 1932 when he was asked to take charge of a company that was facing bankruptcy. Taylor looked for a way to save the struggling company mired in depression-caused financial difficulties. He drew up a 24-word code of ethics for all employees to follow in their business and professional lives. The 4-Way Test became the guide for sales, production, advertising and all relations with dealers and customers, and the survival of the company is credited to this simple philosophy.

Herb Taylor became president of Rotary International in 1954-55. The 4-Way Test was adopted by Rotary in 1943 and has been translated into more than a hundred languages and published in thousands of ways.

The test which we recite at all meeting and by which we conduct ourselves and business is:

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the **Truth**?
2. Is it **Fair** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **Goodwill** and **Better Friendships**?
4. Will it be **Beneficial** to all concerned?

SERVICE ABOVE SELF



HE PROFITS MOST WHO SERVES BEST

This Certifies that the Rotary Club of
Houma, Louisiana, U. S. A.

having been duly organized and having agreed, through its officers and members, to be bound by the Constitution and By-Laws of Rotary International, which agreement is evidenced by the acceptance of this certificate, is now a duly admitted member of

Rotary International

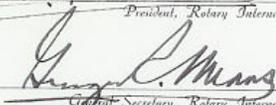
and is entitled to all the rights and privileges of such membership.

In witness whereof the seal of Rotary International is hereto affixed and the signatures of its officers, duly authorized, are subscribed hereto this **twenty-first** day of **March** Anno Domini 19 **60**.

(Original charter No. 1020 issued 1 November, 1921,
signed by Crawford C. McCullough, President, and
Chesley R. Perry, Secretary.)




Crawford C. McCullough
President, Rotary International


Chesley R. Perry
Secretary, Rotary International

FOUNDERS of THE HOUMA ROTARY CLUB

The Rotary Club of Houma, was organized on October 20, 1921, and admitted to membership in Rotary International on November 1, 1921. The fledgling club was sponsored by the Rotary Club of New Orleans, Louisiana. The District Governor at the time was Carl Faust and the special representative was Benjamin C. Brown.

When the club was chartered it's number totaled seventeen including the officers of the club. The original charter lists them as follows:

President: L. F L Jastremski (Owner of Pelican Lake Canning Co., Houma Ice Co., Model Dairy, Fraise Standard Drug Store, Bank President People's Bank & Trust Co. and other interest.)

Vice President: Calvin Wurzlów (Attorney and Mayor of the City of Houma)

Secretary: T.B. Easton (Editor & Publisher of Houma Courier)

Treasurer: Charles A. Ledet (C.E.O. of Terrebonne Bank & Trust) Insurance

Sergeant at Arms: D M Kilpatrick (Ford Dealer)

Members

S.P. Achee (Owner - Achee's Bakery)

H.L. Bourgeois (Superintendent -Terrebonne Parish Schools)

William Cenac (Oyster Factory Owner and Operator)

J E Clayton (Secretary - Chamber of Commerce)

H.A. Cook (Lumberman and owner of Houma Cypress Co.)

Ernest Dupont (Wholesale Grocer and Mayor, City of Houma)

Baker Smith (Civil Engineer and Surveyor)

H St. Martin (Medical Doctor and School Board President)

X. A. St. Martin (Owner Indian Ridge Canning Co.)

J. H. Thatcher (Owner and Innkeeper Thatcher Hotel, Terrebonne Gas Co.)

W. E. Thibodaux (Farmer and Banker)

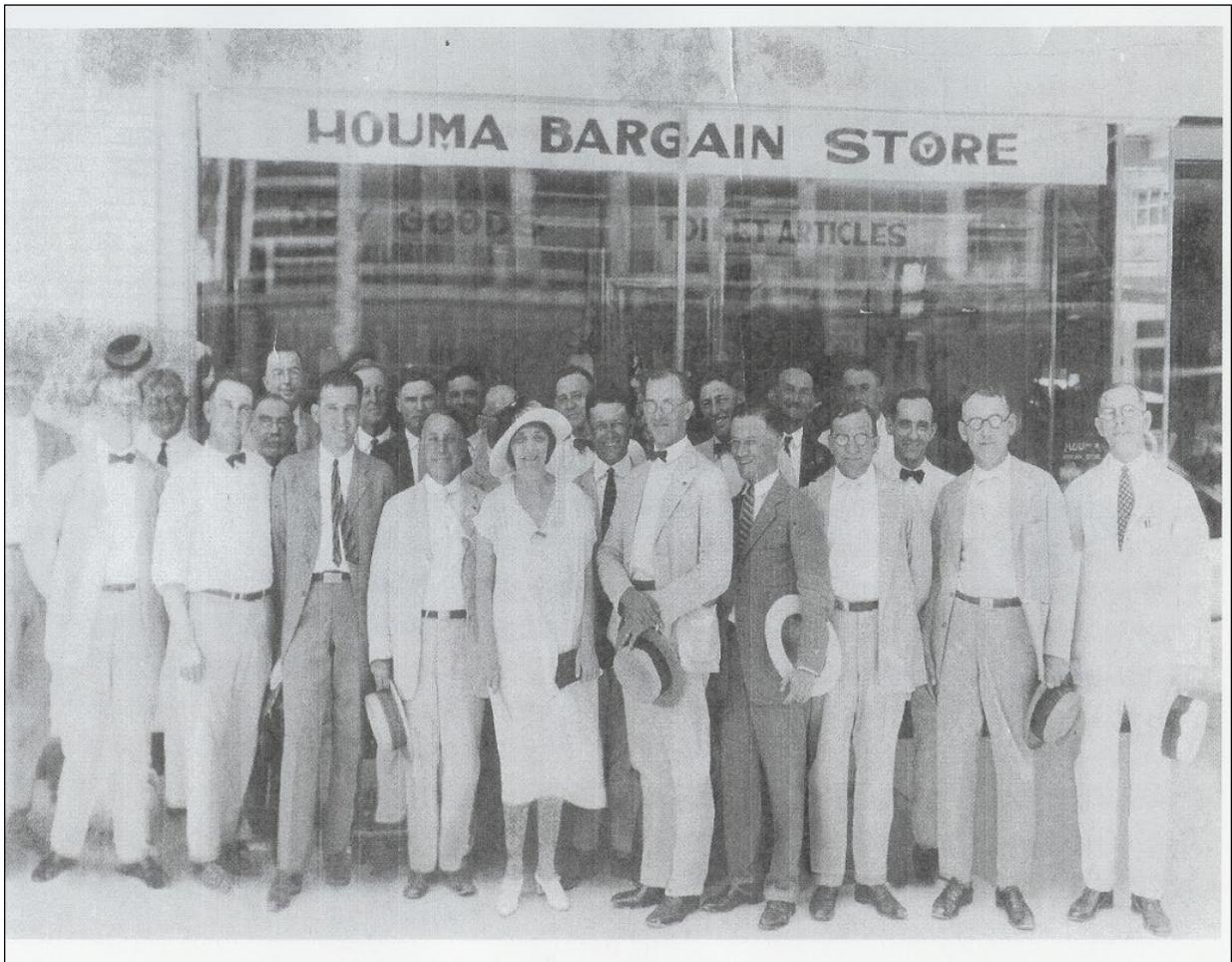
Julius Dupont (General Manager Dupont Store and Influential in State Politics)

New Clubs

This was the beginning of a new era in the Bayou Country of South Louisiana as far as service clubs went, and these seventeen men were the community leaders of their time. As the years progressed the Houma Rotary Club did help to bring others into the organization by sponsoring new clubs to continue with the good works of Rotary International.

Some of the clubs sponsored were:

Thibodaux Rotary Club (Co-sponsored with Plaquemine, La. Club)	May 21, 1936
Morgan City Rotary Club	December 21, 1936
Lockport Rotary Club	May 21, 1941
LaRose Rotary Club (Sponsored and organized existed five years)	1971-1972
Houma-Terrebonne Rotary Club	June 15, 1979



OUTSTANDING BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LEADERS OF TERREBONNE

Outstanding Business and Professional Leaders of Terrebonne during the 1920's gathered for this photo following a meeting of the Houma Rotary Club on July 29, 1925. At this time, the club held its luncheon meetings at the Elks' home. The background is identified easily as the Houma Bargain Store. Going from left to right those able to be identified are: Tris Easton, publisher of The Houma Courier; H. L. Bourgeois, public school administrator; Morris Joseph, merchant; Joseph Richard, County Agent; S. P. Achee, baker; J. Louis Watkins, attorney; Dr. R. W. Collins, physician; Dr. W. B. Comeaux, dentist; Harry Hellier, real estate; Dr. R. L. Zelenka, dentist; Dr. H. P. St. Martin, physician; Ernest Dupont, merchant; Allen Ellender, attorney; T. E. Wright, attorney; Floyd Bourg, insurance; Claude Ellender, attorney; W. L. Blanchard, railroad agent; Julius Dupont, merchant; C. A. Ledet, insurance and Louis J. Derbes, accountant. Photograph was supplied by Robert Dupont, identification was made by Messrs Watkins, Comeaux, Zelenka and Wright. This information was obtained from article published in The Terrebonne Press, Houma, La. on Tuesday, January 24, 1967.

Milestones in The Houma Rotary Club History

1921-1922 **President J. H. Jastremski** **Secretary T. B. Easton**
Rotarians were successful in having Dr. George Arceneaux, County Agent moved to Terrebonne Parish. Dr. George Arceneaux became a Rotarian nine months after our club was chartered.

1922-1923 **President Calvin Wurzlow** **Secretary Henry L. Bourgeois**

1923-1924 **President T. B. Easton** **Secretary Julius Dupont**

1924-1925 **President Henry L. Bourgeois** **Secretary William L. Blanchard**

1925-1926 **President Julius Dupont** **Secretary Louis J. Derbes**

1926-1927 **President William L. Blanchard** **Secretary J. Louis Watkins**
1. Assistance to area high school athletic teams and 2. Sponsored rural - urban meetings

1927-1928 **President Louis J. Derbes** **Secretary G. Richard**
Gave assistance in the formation of the Houma Community Chorus.

1928-1929 **President J. Louis Watkins** **Secretary Eugene Dumez**
1. The Houma Rotary Club sponsored the formation and provided leadership for the Boy Scout program in Houma and Terrebonne parish under the direction of Judge Robert B. Butler, who was the father to our Robert Butler, III, of the Houma Rotary Club. The club has always been active in Fund Campaigns for both Boy and Girl Scouts during this period of our history. 2. Gibson Autin, Sr., our Rotarian, organized the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, first as a merchants's organization and then as our chamber of commerce. Gibson Autin was president of the Chamber from 1928 to 1935. The life story of Gibson Autin is very colorful, a story of a man with little education who founded Autin Packing Co. with no money during very depressing economic times. Mr. Autin would start down the bayou in his meat cart, stopping at a farm, he would talk a farmer into letting him butcher an animal on the spot giving the farmer a part of the butchered meat in payment of the animal. Mr. Autin would then continue down the bayou selling the meat, and then he would start the process over at another farm. Son, Arnold Autin and grandson Donel Autin are both members of our Rotary Club.

1929-1930 **President Harry Hellier** **Secretary Eugene Dumez**
Conducted school competition contest. Worked on problem of male juvenile delinquency in community.

1930-1931 **President Charles A. Ledet** **Secretary Eugene Dumez**
Developed emergency relief fund. Donated funds to parish work fund.

1931-1932 **President Ernest Dupont** **Secretary Morris A. Lottinger**

1932-1933 **President Allen J. Ellender** **Secretary Morris A. Lottinger**

Cooperated with the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce in locating a site for a new U. S. Post Office Building. Worked toward the dredging of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

1933-1934 President George Arceneaux Secretary Morris A. Lottinger

1. Sponsored Boy Scouts of America with Rotarian Stephen T. Kenney; and 2. Established the first Rural Recreation District in the United States. Steve Kenney resigned his scouting position to become the first director of Terrebonne Rural Recreation District, the first program of its kind in the United States.

1934-1935 President Madison L. Funderburk Secretary Morris A. Lottinger

M. L. Funderburk moved to Terrebonne Parish as a school teacher in Bourg, La. He organized the Bourg State Bank in Bourg, La. – the predecessor to The First National Bank in Houma. He was a member of The Terrebonne Police Jury and Finance Committee Chairman. Initiated a movement to develop a deep water Channel to the Gulf of Mexico.

1935-1936 President Morris A. Lottinger Secretary J. Louis Watkins

Morris A. Lottinger was elected to La. House of Representatives, became Speaker of The House. He was elected District Judge.

1936-1937 President Robert B. Butler Secretary Thomas B. Holcombe

1. Co-sponsored with the Rotary Club of Plaquemine a new Rotary Club of Thibodaux, Chartered May 21, 1936, 2. The club also sponsored the formation and chartering of the Rotary Club of Morgan City on December 21, 1936.

1937-1938 President Gardiner L. Tucker Secretary Thomas B. Holcombe

1938- 1939 President Gordon Y. Millet Secretary Thomas B. Holcombe

1. Provided a subscription to “The Rotarian” magazine for school and public libraries, 2. Annual contribution to Houma’s Boy Scout fund; 3. Presented trophy to winner of Softball League; 4. Promoted the sale of football game tickets in parish schools and 5. Cooperated with the Terrebonne Parish School Board in regard to vocation education.

1939-1940 President L. E. Lapeyrouse Secretary Thomas B. Holcombe

1. Established a new library and 2. Worked to complete of Harmon Park Playground.

1940-1941 President Raoul C. Touns Secretary Thomas B. Holcombe

1941-1942 President Leon Gary Secretary Roosevelt R. Danby

1. The Houma Rotary Club was the outstanding leader in the sale of United States War Bonds 2. Our President Leon Gary as Mayor of The City of Houma, provided leadership for our City to grow.

1942-1943 President Dave Norman Secretary M. J. Andrepont

1. The Houma Rotary Club sponsored the formation and chartering of the Rotary Club of Lockport under the leadership of Dr. Guy Jones, its first president and 2. The Houma

Rotary Club was foremost in sponsoring the sale of United State War Savings Bonds, Red Cross activities and salvage campaigns during the World War II years of 1941-1944.

1943-1944 President Thomas Holcombe Secretary Aubin Buquet
Our Rotary President, Thomas Holcombe was President Terrebonne Police Jury for many years and was a strong supporter of children activities. Tom served as Santa Claus for Terrebonne Parish Recreation Program for many years.

1944-1945 President Gibson Autin Secretary Aubin Buquet
The Houma Rotary Club provided leadership and sponsored the development of the first Rural Recreation Program in the United States, embracing recreational activities for rural people of all ages. Dr. George Arceneaux was the person who did the work necessary to develop this recreation program and he was instrumental in hiring its first paid director Stephen T. Kenney.

1945-1946 President Robert B. Butler Secretary Aubin Buquet
Rotary Club sponsored the formation and President Robert B. Butler provided the leadership for the Terrebonne Parish Boy Scout Program. Our Rotary Club continued to support fund campaigns for both Boy and Girl Scouts.

1946-1947 President A. Dupre Vaeth Secretary Aubin Buquet
Celebrated Houma Rotary Club's 25th Anniversary.

1947-1948 President Clyde L. LeBlanc Secretary Aubin Buquet

1948-1949 President Victor A. Maurin Secretary Aubin Buquet
1. Our Rotary Club sponsored seasonal programs for little and handicapped children and 2. As president, Vie organized a carnival club and was the Captain

1949-1950 President John B. Gordon Secretary Stephen T. Kenney
1. Steve Kenney was elected as club secretary of our Rotary Club and remained club secretary for 31 continuous years from this date; 2. Began correspondence with foreign countries in efforts to build world fellowship; 3. Worked on traffic safety studies in local community and 4. Our President John B. Gordon as owner of The Terrebonne Press promoted "The Terrebonne Press's Most Useful Citizen Award.

1950-1951 President Gibson Stevenson Secretary Stephen T. Kenney
Our Rotary President Gibson Stevenson served as Santa Claus on the local radio representing Terrebonne Parish Recreation Program for many years.

1951-1952 President Christian L. Olivier Secretary Stephen T. Kenney
During this period The Houma Rotary Club was a PEOPLE CLUB with outstanding members like: Steve Kenney (Longtime Secretary - Treasurer); Wells Long (Electrical engineer); William Ziegler (Shell Distributor); A. Dupre Vaeth (Chevrolet Dealer); Vic Maurin (Theatre Manager & Avid Legionnaire); George Arceneaux, Jr. (Rotary District 620 Governor & Rotary International Vice-President); Robert Dupont (New York Life Insurance Agent); David "Shorty" Norman (Druggist); Philip Caillouet (Terrebonne Ice Co.); Lloyd Autin (Autin Packing Co.); Seymour Dalsheimer (Electrical Supply Co.); E. R. T. Marquette (CPA & Tax Advisor) and L. E. Laperouse (Automobile Dealer & Service Station Owner)

1952-1953 President L. Philip Caillouet Secretary Stephen T. Kenney

1953-1954 President Hayes J. Whitney Secretary Stephen T. Kenney
1. Participated in crippled children program and infantile paralysis program and
2. Sponsored Louisiana Girls State.

1954-1955 President John C. Pittman Secretary Stephen T. Kenney
1. Worked on getting further governmental support for Sugar Cane Experimental Station in Houma; 2. Awarded Miss Genevieve Marmande (Wathen) to one of the first Rotary Foundation Fellowship Award-- Scholarships which enabled her to spend a year in Grenoble, France at the University of Grenoble where she majored in French language; 3. Sponsored Blood Donation Program and 4. First International service program initiated.

1955-1956 President William R. Ziegler Secretary Stephen T. Kenney
1. Worked on "Fact Finding Survey of Terrebonne Parish" directed by Tulane University and 2. Under leadership of President William R. Ziegler, The Houma Rotary Club packaged and mailed literature featuring The City of Houma and The Parish of Terrebonne to thirty-two foreign countries.

1956-1957 President Russell M. Ramp Secretary Stephen T. Kenney
Hosted first Competitor Relations day.

1957-1958 President Claude B. Duval Secretary Stephen T. Kenney
Worked jointly with other civic groups in providing blood donations, and financial support of Boy Scouts, Red Cross, and other civic endeavors.

1958-1959 President Stanwood Duval Secretary Stephen T. Kenney
Furnished information from other international Rotary clubs about their nations.

1959-1960 President Lee Webb Secretary Stephen T. Kenney
The Houma Rotary Club hosted their first District Conference. Sterling "Buck" Gladden District Governor.

1960-1961 President Arnold A. Autin Secretary Stephen T. Kenney
1. Houma Rotary Club sponsored a program to have a tunnel under the Intracoastal Canal

to join Houma's Eastside with Westside using a large number of Rotarians to serve at our East Park and Main Street Bridges asking all automobile passengers to sign the partition in favor of needed tunnel and 2. Through the efforts of Rotarian Colonel William R. Ziegler and his Rotary Ann, Mrs. Azalie Ziegler, the club worked through the State of Louisiana Department of Health and Public Welfare to organize and open the Terrebonne Guidance Center. The initial location was in a wooden dwelling in the first block of Gabasse Street in Houma. The office was equipped with surplus used office furniture loaned by Terrebonne Parish School Board and Rotary Ann Azalie personally was its first staff worker. The Terrebonne Regional Mental Health Center on Legion Avenue in Houma had its beginnings due to this Rotary sponsorship and now serves all of Terrebonne Parish.

1961-1962 President Hartwell A. Lewis Secretary Stephen T. Kenney

1. The Houma Rotary Club actively promoted the construction of the Houma Tunnel under the Intracoastal Waterway which was dedicated in 1965; 2. Rotarian Vic Maurin lead our members conducting The Annual Red Cross Financial Drive; 3. Established "Career Day" with Rotarians representing various professions and businesses visited high schools informing students how to prepare for career opportunities and 4. Community Service -The Houma Rotary Club Members were the major support of The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce.

1962-1963 President Seymour Dalsheimer Secretary Stephen T. Kenney

1. The club distributed auto bumper stickers with a school safety slogan to encourage safe driving and 2. Reorganized The Houma Rotary Club from a "meet-to-eat-club" to a club following Rotary International Rules on attendance at meetings and functioning committees.

1963-1964 President Edward Guidry Secretary Stephen T. Kenney

Promoted the concept of Little Theatre and community concerts for Houma.

1964-1965 President L. Lloyd LeBlanc Secretary Stephen T. Kenney

Worked with other community resources in an effort to promote saving fresh water lakes.

1965-1966 President A. J. Buquet Secretary Stephen T. Kenney

Two oak trees were planted one near the Houma Municipal Auditorium on Verret St. and the other dedicated as the Houma-Thibodaux Rotary Club Friendship Tree on the grounds of Terrebonne General Hospital in Houma.

1966-1967 President George Arceneaux, J Secretary Stephen T. Kenney

1967-1968 President Henry F. Brien Secretary Stephen T. Kenney

1968-1969 President Harry A. Mey Secretary Stephen T. Kenney

1. Developed a Flood Relief Fund and for the Rotary Club of Florence, Italy to aid Flood sufferers from a river flood; 2. Planted oak tree on grounds of Terrebonne General Hospital; 3. Sponsored the Boy Scout Jamboree; 4. Rotary Foundation Study Groups from Belgium, England, Wales, Australia and New Zealand visited Houma; 5. The young businessmen presented very interesting and informative programs to our club during their visits; 6. A high school senior was invited to attend the meetings as a Junior Rotarian. Students were rotated among the local high schools from week to week and The Houma Rotary Club is co-sponsor with The Thibodaux Rotary Club the Rotaract Club at Nicholls State University at Thibodaux, Louisiana

1969-1970 President William L. Manning Secretary Stephen T. Kenney
Sent assistance to victims of Hurricane Camille.

1970-1971 President Wells Long Secretary Stephen T. Kenney
The Houma Rotary Club was Host Club for District 6200 Conference on May 1 - 2, 1970.

1971-1972 President D. H. Weidenbacher Secretary Stephen T. Kenney
1 .A member of the Houma Rotary Club, the Honorable George Arceneaux, Jr. served as District Governor for District 620 during the 1971-72 Rotary Year; 2. We celebrated our 50th Rotary Year. Hartwell A. Lewis Chairman minted doubloons in silver, bronze and aluminum. The sale of the silver and bronze doubloons netted enough funds to purchase 10,000 aluminum doubloons, these aluminum doubloons were given out at the Rotary international Meeting in Houston. George Arceneaux, Jr.'s name was engraved on the doubloons. At our installation banquet George told of his last visit to Mexico City Rotary Club. There a Rotarian came up to him and presented him with a doubloon he received in Houston. Robert McCormick gave the majority of the doubloons to visitors in Houston. Several years ago at an installation banquet, Hartwell A. Lewis as Master of Ceremonies presented to the widow of Robert McCormick a numbered Silver doubloon as a remembrance of their work in distributing doubloons at the Houston affair (See *Dr. George Arceneaux 's talk at our 50th Year Banquet which is included in this booklet*); 3. Sponsored C. Mark Duthu as a team member of Group Study Exchange to Sweden. This experience inspired Mark to become a member of The Houma Rotary Club; 4. Started instructions to all new Rotarians on the meaning of The Rotary Wheel and why a "keyway" was later inserted; 5. Houma Rotary President Don Weidenbacher and George Arceneaux sponsored the LaRose Rotary Club that existed five years and 6. Install Rotary Signs on Highway 90 on eastside and westside of Houma.

1972-1973 President James J. Buquet, Jr. Secretary Stephen T. Kenney
President Buquet states: "The Houma Rotary Club enjoyed a very quiet and uneventful

year. With sixty active members, I served with many distinguished men, Steve Kenney, Treasurer; Stanwood Duval; Robert McCormick; Arnold Autin; R. W. Long; George Arceneaux; A. J. Buquet; and Colonel William R. Ziegler. Not active in extra-curricular activities however we enjoyed top quality programs with excellent fellowship especially at our annual Bar-B-Que.

1973-1974 President A. Jerome Cain Secretary Stephen T. Kenney

1974-1975 President Robert H. Marmande Secretary Stephen T. Kenney

1975-1976 President Carroll O. Mckey, Jr. Secretary Stephen T. Kenney

1. District 620 Conference was in Baton Rouge, La. with District Governor Puna Easton in charge; 2. Rotary International Convention was in New Orleans June 13-17, 1976 — Hospitality Room was managed by The Houma Rotary Club; 3. Steve Kenny Treasurer from the Depression Era held strict control over our club's finances and affairs; 4. Houma Rotary Club Membership — our members were a wonderful group of men who were outstanding leaders in our community. While our club did not have many club projects, its members as outstanding leaders performed many community services within their circles of influence and 5. Bob Dill and Don Weidenbacker were most supportive of our club resulting in a membership increase to 76. Installation banquet's cost was \$4.00.

1976-1977 President William Ziegler, Jr. Secretary Stephen T. Kenney

1977-1978 President Bernard B. Saxon, Jr. Secretary Stephen T. Kenney

1. Members of the Houma Rotary Club are certified members of the Terrebonne General Hospital Blood Bank. This program was accomplished under the leadership of President Dickie Turner and must be renewed each year. Coverage extends to each Rotarian in the club and his dependents and 2. The Houma Runners Club sponsored by the Houma Rotary Club under the leadership of Dr. William T. Summerlin, it was open to the public.

1978-1979 President Richard E. Turner Secretary Stephen T. Kenney

1. The Houma Rotary Club sponsored the organization and chartering on June 15, 1979 of the Rotary Club of Houma-Terrebonne in Houma. Its first president was Mr. Kenneth Watkins. Our Rotarian. Wells Long served as the District Governor's Special Representative during the provisional period of the club's existence and 2. President Richard E. Turner furnished the leadership to organize the "Certified Members of Terrebonne General Hospital Blood Bank. Members of The Houma Rotary Club became "Certified Members" extending coverage to each Rotarian and his dependents.

1979-1980 President Alva J. Eschete Secretary Stephen T. Kenney

1. Most effective Public Relations Program resulting in many newspaper articles with pictures communicating to the public the many activities of The Houma Rotary Club; 2.

During the Installation Banquet, Past President Seymour Dalsheimer, who is retiring to another community, was honored for outstanding service; 3. Rotarian Dick Torbert was selected Rotary District 620 Governor's representative to lead the District 620 Group Study Exchange Team of six District members to Sydney Australia and 4. Sponsored a luncheon to kickoff United Way's General Campaign. Rotarian Dr. William Summerlin, Chairman YMCA Organizing Committee, challenged Rotarians to pledge donations for each mile he could run during the New Orleans to Houma run. Jude offered encouragement all the way.

1980-1981 President Richard R. Torbert Secretary William J. Brown, IV
Houma hosted the District 6200 Conference, attended by over 600 Rotarians.

1981-1982 President John M. Knife Secretary James H. Claudet
Stanley T. McCaffrey, president of Rotary International, visited Houma. The Houma Rotary Club hosted a dinner with the Thibodaux Rotary Club, attended by more than 600 Rotarians from District 620.

1982-1983 President Jude Laperouse Secretary Henry M. Breaux
Rotary International President Hireji Mukasa and his wife, Kivoko of Japan visited The Houma Rotary Club as a personal courtesy to our late friend, then Rotary International Vice President George Arceneaux. Accompanying them were R. I. Board Member Raja Saboo and his wife Usha. While in Houma, President Mukasa participated in the ground breaking ceremonies for the Houma-Terrebonne Family YMCA. We honored him at a banquet at the Holiday Inn and visited an oil rig by helicopter. We began activities which culminated in the establishment of the YMCA. We sponsored a car raffle donating the proceeds to the YMCA as seed money and Rotarian Dr. Bill Summerlin performed his fund-raising run from New Orleans to Houma on the 4th of July.

1983-1984 President Claude E. Bergeron Secretary Donel C. Autin
1. The Houma Rotary Club was recognized on the district level for its Wednesday in December program attended by District Governor Bob Stander and 2. Dr. George Arceneaux, a Rotarian since 1922, nine months after our club received its charter, was installed a Honorary Member.

1984-1985 President James H. Claudet Secretary Richard J. Ennis
1. Raised a little over \$10,000 for the funding of the Doug Stire Memorial Fund, in memory of Rotarian Doug Stire, who died of hypothermia while duck hunting on Christmas Eve. The Memorial Fund establishes survival courses for resident sportsmen.

1985-1986 President William B. Bisland Secretary Richard J. Ennis
1. Houma Rotary Club hosted District 6200 District Conference; 2. Began "Rotarian of the Year Award" later was renamed "Robert McCormick Award"; 3. First female proposed for

membership and Participated in United Way and YMCA Drives in the midst of an “Economic Oilfield Depression”.

1986-1987 President Donel C. Autin Secretary J. Warren Cooke
Conducted a “Car-Raffle” as part of Polio-Plus Fund-Raising Campaign.

1987-1988 President Richard J. Ennis Secretary William R. Foster
1. The Houma Rotary Club raised over \$10,000 to be donated to the Rotary Foundation for Polio Plus to help with the international eradication of this catastrophic disease.

1988-1989 President J. Warren Cooke Secretary C. Mark Duthu
PUT LIFE INTO ROTARY — YOUR LIFE - 1. Rotary District 620 Governor Jack W. Shirley’s motto was an inspiration to our club; 2. Entertained Group Study Exchange Team — Team Leader PP K C Hong -- Team Members Hong Kok Cheong, Lee Ling Kong, Low Chee Soon, Shandra Dass, Soma Sundram and Ramachel Vam Manimuhtu — from Rotary District 330 (Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore) April 1 — May 6, 1989 - District Governor Dr. N. Ganesan PJK; 3. Our members attended Rotary District 620 Assembly in Baton Rouge, La. Guest Speaker -George Arceneaux, Jr. Houma Rotary; 4. Polio Plus Campaign raised \$16,000; 5. Assisted in establishing a YMCA in Belize and 6. Our club donated \$1,500 to Rotary Foundation.

1989-1990 President Joseph P. Mayet Secretary Kenneth Trahan
1. The Houma Rotary Club started planning to participate in the Southdown Marketplace at the request of Dr. Allen Ellender and Ray Dill, Southdown Board Members. Southdown began offering foods items like hamburgers, jambalaya and soft drinks. Since Jude Lapeyrouse had handled the soft drinks at the Vandebilt High School Festivals, his father-in-law, Ray Dill drafted him to perform a similar task for the museum. In the Fall of 1990 The Houma Rotary Club started 15 years of worthwhile “Community Service” operating the “Coke Booth” netting over \$80,000 for Southdown Museum’s upkeep and expenses through the efforts of a lot of our dedicated members; 2. Rotarian Greg Whitney was chosen to be the Group Study Exchange Team Leader to District 456 in Minas Gerais, Brazil; 3. Christmas Party at TARC for retarded children with Santa arriving by helicopter to distribute gifts and 4. Conducted a “Blood Drive”.

1990-1991 President William R. Foster Secretary Gregory Whitney
1. The Houma Rotary Club made club history when Brenda Fauchaux became our first female Rotarian. Brenda is our president 2003-2004. 2. The Houma Rotary Club established a Hospice Tape Library to serve homebound hospice care patients in Terrebonne Parish; 3. Doug Stire Memorial Fund changed to provide \$1,000 each year for a scholarship to Nicholls State University for Terrebonne Parish residents. 4. The Houma

great Santa; 3. Finishing the origination of The Terrebonne Excellence for Education and partially funding start-up funds; 4. Southdown Market Place - both fall and spring - Rotarians staffing the "Coke Booth" donating profits to Southdown Museum and 5. Presentation of Roland Thibodaux Award for Outstanding Bus Driver of the year. Many things made my presidency unforgettable, some funny, some sad. As I was installed and stepped up to the podium to make acceptance speech, I had a very bad gall bladder attack scaring everybody.

1994-1995 President Darryl Christen Secretary Robert Butler, Jr.

1. Rotarian William "Billy" Foster is chosen District Governor Nominee for District 6200 for the Rotary year 1997-1998; 2. Houma Rotary Club received the Presidential Citation for Balanced Club Achievement; 3. A new club computer us forward into the electronic age. Our slower computer was donated to the Little Theatre for their office use; 4. Christmas at TARC with Santa distributing gifts; 5. Tree Planting Ceremony — an "Oak Seeding" given at Rotary District 6200 Conference was planted during a "Special Ceremony" and 6. Staffed Southdown Marketplace's "Rotary Coke Booth" for the benefit of Southdown Museum.

1995-1996 President Travis Lavigne, Jr. Secretary John H. Laing

1. Club received the Presidential Citation for Balanced Club Achievement; 2. Houma Rotary Club's Rotary Foundation Program was reorganized by eleven Rotarians; began regular informational Rotary Foundation Programs at Meetings and Regularly sending letters encouraging our members to become Sustaining Members or Rotary Fellows or Rotary Multiple Fellows or Rotary Foundation Benefactors. This Rotary Foundation Reorganization in The Houma Rotary Club resulted in increased Foundation Membership -- (see our list of members); 3. Christmas Party for retarded children at TARC with Santa arriving by helicopter distributing gifts; 4. Entertained Group Study Exchange Group; 5. Staffed the "Coke Booth" at "Spring Market Place and Fall Market Place" for the benefit of Southdown Plantation Museum and 6. District Governor Tony Malbrough at a District Conference announced an award would be given to the Rotary Club with the most members wearing their Rotary Pins during his club visit. The Houma Rotary Club won the award with 100 %

1996-1997 President Robert Butler, III Secretary Barry J. Landry

1. Houma Rotary Club received the Presidential Citation for Balanced Club Achievement; 2. On September 11, 1998 Celebrated Christian Louis Olivier, Jr.'s 50th year in Rotary with a ceremony with many plaques presented by many community leaders and 3. On November 1, 1996 celebrated Houma Rotary Club' 75th Anniversary with Herb Brown, Past President, Rotary International as guest speaker and a "Special Presentation" by Jay Brown, District Governor 6200. Rotary International

1997-1998 President Patrick Barry Landry Secretary Lisa Ferrell

1. With our William Robert Foster, Jr. as District Governor, The Houma Rotary Club hosted the 35th Rotary District Conference 6200 "Big Fun on the Bayou". Our members performed above and beyond the call-of-duty hosting this conference; 2. Hosted GSE Team from District 1430 (Finland) Team Leader Niko Niemie, 3. Initiated a program to send a weekly FAX to all members on the morning of the weekly meeting that contained information concerning the program for the meeting. This was to encourage participation and encourage members to bring guests that may have an interest in the speaker or their topics. It also served to get the bulletin out to members who were unable to attend the meeting; 4. Barry introduced "humor" into the meetings to stimulate members to "lighten up" and have fun at our meetings, as well as be informed to the most serious side of our community; 5. Donated a TV-VCR Player with a library of VHS Tapes for Hospice patients; 6. Participated in "Southdown Marketplace Spring & Fall" selling "Cokes" donating the money to Southdown Museum; 7. Christmas at TARC with Santa arriving by Helicopter, 8. Donations to Rotary Charities and Rotary's Bulletin "News Wheel" received an outstanding award due to efforts of Editor Lisa Ferrell.

1998-1999 President Darrin Guidry Secretary Ron Gautreaux

"THEME FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS" 1. Houma Rotary Club sent its first representative to Camp RYLA in 1998; 2. Participated in Rotary District Conference "Le Festival De Rotarie" in New Iberia; 3. Rotarian Jodie Tueton was selected as team leader of the Group Study Exchange to Australia in April 1999; 4. Raised over \$7,000 to purchase medical supplies for the victims of "Hurricane Mitch" in Guatemala; 5. Adopted the Angel Tree Program; 6. A Joint Installation Banquet was held between The Houma Rotary Club and The Houma-Terrebonne Rotary Club, 7. Sponsored Christmas for Terrebonne Association of Retarded Citizens, 8. Continued to furnish Rotarians to operate "Coke Booth" at Southdown Marketplace to raise fund for "Southdown Museum" and 9. Enjoyed hosting a "group of crazy Australian Group Study Exchange Members" who delighted the group by singing "Waltzing Matilda" along with a wonderfully entertaining evening at the Jolly Inn Dance Hall.

1999-2000 President Lisa Ferrell Secretary Melvin Camp

Lisa said, "Being president was the best year of my life". 1. Project Angel Tree provided Christmas Gifts for 40 children of prison inmates in the Houma/Thibodaux area; 2. Developed the "A-Bear" Teddy Bear Drive, all club members brought teddy bears to be donated to the Center for Abused Children; 3. Conducted a successful canned food drive the coincided with the Women's Expo.; 4. Began to establish the "Ron Gautreaux Scholarship Fund" after Ron's death, 5. Rotary's Christmas Party for retarded children at TARC; 6. Staffed the "Coke Booth" at "Spring Market Place and Fall Market Place for the benefit of Southdown Plantation Museum; and 7. Conducted "Reading Programs" for children in Terrebonne Parish Schools.

2000-2001 President Melvin Camp Secretary Paul Weyl

1. Conducted a successful "Food Bank Drive"; 2. Staffed the "Coke Booth" at "Spring

1926	1927	William L. Blanchard	J. Louis Watkins
1927	1928	Louis J. Derbes	Joseph G. Richard
1928	1929	J. Louis Watkins	Eugene Dumez
1929	1930	Harry Hellier	Eugene Dumez
1930	1931	Charles A. Ledet	Eugene Dumez
1931	1932	Ernest Dupont	Morris A. Lottinger
1932	1933	Allen J. Ellender	Morris A. Lottinger
1933	1934	George Arceneaux	Morris A. Lottinger
1934	1935	Madison L. Funderburk	Morris A. Lottinger
1935	1936	Morris A. Lottinger	J. Louis Watkins
1936	1937	Robert B. Butler	Thomas B. Holcombe
1937	1938	Gardiner L. Tucker	Thomas B. Holcombe
1938	1939	.Gordon Y. Millet	Thomas B. Holcombe
1939	1940	Lewellyn E. Lapeyrouse	Thomas B. Holcombe
1940	1941	Raoul C. Toups	Thomas B. Holcombe
1941	1942	Leon Gary	Roosevelt R. Dan by
1942	1943	Dave Norman	M. J. Andrepont
1943	1944	Thomas Holcombe	Aubin Buguet
1944	1945	Gibson Autin	Aubin Buguet
1945	1946	Robert B. Butler	Aubin Buguet
1946	1947	A. Dupre Vaeth	Aubin Buguet
1947	1948	Clyde L. LeBlanc	Aubin Buguet
1948	1949	Victor A. Maunn	Aubin Buguet
1949	1950	John B. Gordon	Stephen T. Kenney
1950	1951	Gibson Stevenson	Stephen T. Kenney
1951	1952	Christian L. Olivier	Stephen T. Kenney
1952	1953	L. Philip Caillouet	Stephen T. Kenney
1953	1954	Hayes J. Whitney	Stephen T. Kenney
1954	1955	John C. Pittman	Stephen 1. Kenney
1955	1956	William Ziegler	Stephen T. Kenney
1956	1957	Russell M. Ramp	Stephen T. Kenney
1957	1958	Claude B. Duval	Stephen T. Kenney
1958	1959	Stanwood Duval	Stephen T. Kenney
1959	1960	Lee Webb	Stephen T. Kenney
1960	1961	Arnold. A. Autin	Stephen T. Kenney
1961	1962	Hartwell Lewis	Stephen T. Kenney
1962	1963	Seymour Dalsheimer	Stephen 1. Kenney
1963	1964	Edward Guidry	Stephen T. Kenney
1964	1965	L. Lloyd LeBlanc	Stephen T. Kenney
1965	1966	A. J. Buquet	Stephen T. Kenney
1966	1967	George Arceneaux, Jr.	Stephen T. Kenney
1967	1968	Henry F. Brien	Stephen T. Kenney
1968	1969	Harry A. Mey	Stephen T. Kenney
1969	1970	William L. Manning	Stephen T. Kenney
1970	1971	Wells Long	Stephen T. Kenney
1971	1972	Donald H. Weidenbacher	Stephen T. Kenney

1972	1973	James J. Buquet, Jr.	Stephen T. Kenney
1973	1974	A. Jerome Cain	Stephen 1. Kenney
1974	1975	Robert H. Marmande	Stephen 1. Kenney
1975	1976	Carroll O. Mickey, Jr.	Stephen 1. Kenney
1976	1977	William Ziegler, Jr.	Stephen T. Kenney
1977	1978	Bernard B. Saxon, Jr.	Stephen T. Kenney
1978	1979	Richard E. Turner	Stephen T. Kenney
1979	1980	Ala J. Esthete	Stephen T. Kenney
1980	1981	Richard R. Torbert	William J. Brown, IV
1981	1982	John M. Knife	James H. Claudet
1982	1983	Jude Lapeyrouse	Henry M. Breaux
1983	1984	Claude E. Bergeron	Donel C. Autin
1984	1985	James H. Claudet	Richard J. Ennis
1985	1986	William B. Bisland	Richard J. Ennis
1986	1987	Donel C. Autin	Warren Cooke
1987	1988	Richard J. Ennis	William R. Foster
1988	1989	J. Warren Cooke	C. Mark Duthu
1989	1990	Joseph P. Mayet	Kenneth Trahan
1990	1991	William R. Foster	Gregory Whitney Sr.
1991	1992	Kenneth Trahan	Miles Forrest
1992	1993	Miles Forrest	Darryl K. Christen
1993	1994	Gregory A. Whitney, Sr.	Travis Lavigne, Jr.
1994	1995	Darryl Christen	Robert Butler, Jr.
1995	1996	Travis Lavigne, Jr.	John H. Laing
1996	1997	Robert Butler, III	Barry J. Landry
1997	1998	Barry Landry	Lisa Ferrell
1998	1999	Darrin Guidry	Ron Gautreaux
1999	2000	Lisa Ferrell	Melvin Camp
2000	2001	Melvin Camp	Paul Weyl
2001	2002	Jodie Teuton	Brenda Faucheux
2002	2003	Danny Doiron	Dale Thompson
2003	2004	Brenda Faucheux	Louis Watkins
2004	2005	Dale Thompson	Timothy McNabb

THE HOUMA ROTARY CLUB

<u>President:</u>	<u>Vice President:</u>	<u>Secretary:</u>	<u>Treasurer:</u>
Brenda Faucheux	Dale Thompson	J. Louis Watkins, III	Timothy McNabb
Recording Secretary: Brenda Faucheux		Sergeant at Arms: Warren Cooke	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Warren Cooke	Alva Eschete	L. J. Folsie	Darrin Guidry
Tom Hassel	Tony Herques	Travis Lavigne	Chester Morrison
Clarence Williams		William Foster, Director Emeritus	

Accident Investigation Gregory Whitney	MEMBERS Advertising Darrin Guidry	Aerial Environmental L. Howard Barker
Air Conditioning Dale Thompson, Jr.	Architect Houston Lirette, Jr	Attorney-Civil Robert Butler
Attorney-Criminal Bradley Doyle	Attorney-Domestic J. Louis Watkins, III	Attorney-Real Estate Darryl Christen
Automobile Dealer Jodie Teuton	Bank Administration Mark Folse	Banking L. J. Folse
Banking-Commercial Louis Routier	Banking-Consumer Warren Cooke	Banking-Investments Dixon Lewis
Beer Distributor J. J. Buquet	Beer Distributor James Buquet, Jr.	Broker-Real Estate Carroll Parr
Collection Agency—Owner Alva Eschete	Computer Systems Timothy McNabb	Contractor-Electrical Dale Thompson
Convention Services Clarency Williams	CPA Claude Bergeron	Dairy George Clark
Dentistry Herb Alexander	Dentistry-Crowns Tom Tyler	Education-Administration Brenda Faucheux
Education-Administration Travis Lavigne	Employment Services Janice Toepfer	Engine Machining Pete Konos
Ex Dir-Education Foundation Yolanda Trahan	Ex Dir-United Way Alina Merlos	Exporter Julio Archila
Finance Hartwell A. Lewis	Food Services Anthony Herques	Gen Mgr-Dept Store Christian Oliver, Jr.
Geology Roy Banker	Home Health Care Barry Landry	Human Resources Dir Kathleen Theriot

Insurance-Casualty

Dalton LeBlanc

Insurance-Life

John Hassel

Investment Securities

John Harrison

Jeweler

Greg Fakier

Jeweler

Paul Weyl

Licensed Massage Th

William Bisland

Lumber Retail

Chester Morrison

Machinery & Equipment

Elward Brady

Manufacturing-Plastics

Jerry Baker

Music Retail

Daniel Doiron

Newspaper Publishing

Miles Forrest

Office Furniture Retail

Chris Haydel

Orthodontics

Michael Engeron

Pest Control

William Foster

Radio Broadcasting

Melanie Hotard

Realtor

Sandra Guidroz

Roofing Contractor

Jude Laperouse

Scouting

D. Todd Mulford

Sports Team Gen Mgr.

Travis Carrell

Stock Broker

James Gueydan

Tax Consultant

Frank Kolwe

Tire Industry

Carroll McKey

Travel Agent

Joseph Mayet

The Robert McCormick Award

Many Rotarians receive honors outside of The Houma Rotary Club, however, a highly prestigious award for Rotarians comes *from* within The club itself. The Robert McCormick Award for The Outstanding Rotarian of The Year is that award. The award was named for our own long time Sergeant at Arms, Robert McCormick, and is presented to The Rotarian who has shown The dedication and leadership that typifies The ideals of Rotary International, The Houma Rotary Club, and every Rotarian who wears The Rotary emblem. **The winners of this prestigious honor have been:**

1982 - William Bisland, Jr.

1983 - Richard Torbert

1984 - Donel Autin

1985 - Robert McCormick

1986 - Jude Laperouse

1987 - Alva Eschete

1988 - Wells Long

1989 - George Arceneaux, Jr.

1990 - Open

1991 - Christian Olivier, Jr.

1992 - Hartwell A. Lewis

1993 - William Foster

1994 - Warren Cooke

1995 - Gregory Whitney

1996 Brenda Fauchaux

1997 – Travis Lavigne
2000 – Lisa Ferrell
2003 – Darrin Guidry

1998 – Ronald Gautreaux
2001 – Daniel Doiron

1999 – Ken Trahan
202 – J. J. Buquet

ATTENDANCE

Rotary International has always stressed the importance of members being present to provide service. During the last installation of officers we followed our long tradition of awarding perfect attendance pins to those club members who have strived to excel through their attendance at functions. They were:

FOUR YEARS
George Clark

FIVE YEARS
Daniel Doiron

EIGHT YEARS
Greg Whitney

NINE YEARS
Brenda Fauchoux
William Foster

TEN YEARS
Barry Landry

ELEVEN YEARS
Miles Forrest

TWELVE YEARS
Darryl Christen

EIGHTEEN YEARS
Joe Paul Mayet

TWENTY-ONE YEARS
William Bisland

TWENTY-THREE YEARS
Warren Cooke

PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS

Annually, The Rotary Foundation sponsors numerous international undertakings that help develop world fellowship, understanding through education, and health programs aimed at developing nations. In support of The Foundation, Rotarians become Paul Harris sustaining members by pledging \$100 per year toward becoming a Paul Harris Fellow. Upon contributing \$1000 to The Rotary Foundation, Rotarians and / or their designees become Paul Harris Fellows. The following is a listing of The Houma Rotary Club's Paul Harris Fellows:

Robert E. Ackerman

Jill Arceneaux

Judge George Arceneaux

Mary Arceneaux
Julio E. Archila
L. Howard Barker
William B. Bisland, Sr.
Sinclair Buquet
Dylan Christen
Mona Martin Christen
Jerome Daigle
Trudy Doiron
Robert J. Dill, III
Felicie Eschete
Miles Forrest
Alyce Foster
Brenda Gautreaux
Darrin W. Guidry
Robert Johnson
Frank R. Kolwe
Steve Kuiper
Susan Laperouse
Amanda Clair Lavigne
Dalton LeBlanc
Hartwell A. Lewis
Reuben J. Martin
Robert A. McCormick
Scott Oliphant
Lynette Hebert Olivier
Pete H. Rhymes
Les Ryder
Jodie Teuton
Kenneth J. Trahan
Tom Tyler
Fabian Whitney
William R. Ziegler, Jr

Dr. George Arceneaux, Sr.
Donel Autin
Kathleen Noel Bergeron
James J. Buquet, Jr.
Robert Butler
Darryl Christen
Robin Cooke
Arthur Doiron
Seymour Daisheimer
Richard J. Ennis
Brenda M. Faucheux
William Foster, Jr.
Annette Foster
Ronald J. Gautreaux
John C. Harrison
Stephen T. Kenney
Marcello Konos
Patrick Barry Landry
Jude Lapeyrouse
Kathleen M. Lavigne
Kelli Ann Leidenheimer
Raymond Wells Long
Joseph P. Mayet
Carroll D. McKey, Jr.
Victoria Oliphant
William W. Parker
Beverly Rhymes
W. Roger Sawyer
Dale Thompson
Yolanda V. Trahan
Paul J. Weyl
Thomas Whitney

Robert M Arceneaux
Roy H. Baker
Claude Bergeron
James J. Buquet, III
Guy Cannata
Louis M. Christen
Warren Cooke
Daniel Doiron
Mrs. Seymour Dalsheimer
Alva J. Eschete
L. J. Folse
Aimee L. Foster
Gertie Foster
J. E. Gueydan
J. Thomas Hansell
Frank R. Kolwe, Jr.
Pete G. Konos
Dorothy Autry Landry
F. Travis Lavigne, Jr.
Lara Lyn Lavigne-Ross
Dixon R. Lewis
Edmond R. T. Marquette
Stephanie Boyd Mayet
Chester F. Morrison
L. C. Olivier
Carroll J. Parr
Cary Michael Rizzo
Mrs. Avemell Z. Scott
Richard Torbert
Richard E. Turner
Gregory A. Whitney
William R. Ziegler

OUR SERVICE LEADERS

Recently Rotary International has utilized the theme “Service Above *Self*” as the President’s Theme and Challenge for Rotary Members throughout the world. In the Houma Rotary Club we are proud to have had members who not only led our club but were outstanding leaders of our local community and our country.

Locally, the most important form of recognition for community service outside the Houma Rotary Club is The Courier’s Most Useful Citizen Award. This is presented each year by The Courier on the basis of a public nomination and selection by a committee of prominent citizens. The Houma Rotary Club is proud to have so many recipients of this honor among our ranks.

Recipients of The Most Useful Citizen that were Houma Rotary Club Members were:

1946 Vic Maurin
 1951 Philip L. (Zaillouet
 1954 Gibson Autin, Sr.
 1962 M. L. Funderburk
 1971 Steve Kenney, Sr.
 1974 Rev. Jerome Cain
 1978 George Arceneaux, Jr.
 1980 Edward Gaidry
 1984 Christian "Buster" Olivier, Jr.
 2000 Hartwell A. Lewis

1949 C. R. Patterson, Sr.
 1952 Gibson Stevenson
 1958 Conrad Picou, Sr.
 1969 George Fakier
 1972 Clyde Leblanc
 1976 Stanwood Duval, Sr.
 1979 Claude B. Duval
 1983 Jimmy Buquet
 1987 Jude Laperouse

The Houma Rotary Club was responsible for the formation and growth of The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce. A Rotarian would attend a Board of Directors meeting of The Chamber on Tuesday, then on Wednesday attend The Houma Rotary Club Meeting to discover the same people were at both meetings.

The main organization in the parish for the promotion of business locally is The Chamber of Commerce. The members of The Houma Rotary Club that have also President of The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce are:

Gibson Autin, Sr.
 Tom Holcombe
 L. P. Caillouet
 A. Dupre Vaeth
 Arnold Autin
 Claude Duval
 William Ziegler
 George Arceneaux, Jr.
 Allen Lottinger
 A. J. Buquet
 Calvin Burleigh
 L. J. Poise
 Claude E. Bergeron
 Jerome C. Daigle
 R. H. Marmande

Julius Dupont
 J. B. Chauvin
 C. R. Patterson, Sr.
 Everett Richaud
 L. E. Lapeyrouse
 John Gordon
 John Braud
 James Buquet, Jr.
 W. L. Manning
 E. S. Gaidry
 Seymour Daisheimer
 James E. Gueydan
 Emmett P. Futch
 John H. Laing





ROTARY CHRISTMAS at SEC

SCHOOL for EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

MISSION

Help each student develop to the fullest of his/her potential in both mental and physical needs.

Bring mentally and physically challenged students up to the success level to be mainstreamed or included in classes at their neighborhood schools.

The Houma Rotary Club started Christmas Parties for mental and physically challenged students at Terrebonne Association for Retarded Citizens years ago. Santa would arrive in a helicopter to distribute gifts. In 1990, The Terrebonne Parish School District incorporated the TARC Students into The School for Exceptional Children. The Houma Rotary Club continued Christmas Parties for these children.

These photographs best describes the students reaction to Santa Distributing Christmas Gifts.

ROTARY CHRISTMAS at SEC





1991 GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE TEAM VISIT

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Rotary International description: The Group Study Exchange (GSE) program of The Rotary Foundation is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for young business and professional men and women between the ages 25 and 40 and in the early years of their professional lives. The program provides travel grants for teams to exchange visits between paired areas in different countries. For four to six weeks, team members experience the host country's institutions and ways of life, observe their own vocations as practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships and exchange ideas.

GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE

BY Alva Eschete

In 1974 five years after Alva Eschete became a Rotarian, The Houma Rotary Club appointed him to be our representative on The Rotary District 620 Group Study Exchange Committee. Meetings were on a Saturday at University of South Louisiana in Lafayette with large meeting room to interview the applicants and Group Leader Prospect. It was the responsibility of this committee to select a Rotarian Group Leader and five young men meeting certain criteria to form the team. It was the committee's responsibility to coordinate the visiting team's itinerary for each club avoid duplication. The district published a directory, with names, pictures and biographical information of the visiting team members along with important pertinent data so the location of the team could be known at all times.

In 1979-1980, President Alva Eschete had the privilege of having Richard (Dick) Torbert selected as Group Leader for a Group Study Exchange with Australia which departed from the Baton Rouge Airport.

Alva continued to represent The Houma Rotary Club on the Group Study Exchange Committee serving as Chairman of the District Group Study Exchange Committee under District Governor Orleans Pitre. Alva's greatest enjoyment serving on The District 620 Group Study Exchange Committee was the opportunity to forge friendships with members of the committee from other clubs.

Due to a problem, The Yucatan District Governor canceled The Group Study Exchange visits between District 620 and Yucatan District.

April 1 - May 6, 1989, entertained Group Study Exchange Team from Rotary District 330 (Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore). Team Leader PP K C Hong: team members: Hong Kok Cheong; Lee Ling Kong; Low Chee Soon; Shandra Dass; Soma Sundram and Ramachel Vam Manimuhtu representing Rotary District 330 — District Governor Dr. N. Ganesan, PJK. This was an educational activity of the Rotary Foundation, offering a unique person-to-person opportunity for the promotion of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world.

GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE

Gregory A. Whitney

District 6200 has always been a donator to The Rotary Foundation and has always met the goal for Foundation Donations. The Houma Rotary Club through Rotary District 6200 participated in the Group Study Exchange Program from the beginning.

In 1990 Rotarian Gregory A. Whitney was selected out-of-a-field-of-one” to be the team leader to Brazil (Minas Gerais - District 456) beginning a fourteen year “GSE Career” in Houma Rotary Club and Rotary District 6200 committees until this date. Serving as a committee member; assistant chair to district committee; district chairman; district team trainer and club chairman.

In the years past The Houma Rotary Club has sent members as the team leaders to far away places as Australia (Dick Torbert); Brazil (Greg Whitney) and Australia (Jodie Teuton). Again in 2003, The Houma Rotary Club sent Greg Whitney as a repeat team leader to Brazil in our pairing with District 4590. Our club has also sponsored numerous candidates for team members and has had several fortunate enough to be accepted as team members to return sharing their experiences with members of our club.

While having people go on exchange trips is important our club members who could not experience an actual trip played an important role in the program. Every year our members open their homes and hearts to host exchange members from many far away places. This important role has given international goodwill with a “bayou touch” to all, provided stories for those participants to this day, even many years after the travel has finished.

The Houma Rotary Club has participated in another way in the program by providing committee members and chairs for the District 6200 Group Study Exchange Committee, who organizes and manages this educational program for the Foundation. From the early days through the service of Rotarians Dick Torbert; Alva Eschete; Greg Whitney and Jodie Teuton our club has had a presence on the committee helping to mold, direct and observe The Group Study Exchange thrive in District 6200 and in The Houma Rotary Club.



GREG WHITNEY, TEAM LEADER WITH TEAM TO BRAZIL DISTRICT 4590

TERREBONNE FOUNDATION for ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE in PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Terrebonne Foundation for Academic Excellence in Public Education (the Foundation), is a Louisiana non-profit corporation with IRS 501©)(3) status. The Foundation's purpose is to positively affect academic achievement and to fundamentally improve education for students in the Terrebonne Parish Public School System.



Kenneth Trahan, President Houma Rotary Club devoted most of 1991-1992 to the establishment of The Terrebonne Foundation for Academic Excellence in Public Education. The Houma Rotary Club's monetary contribution of \$15,000 was the catalyst for receiving a \$7,500 grant from the Community Coffee Foundation. This seed money began the endowment which now exceeds \$800,000 and growing, in 2003 a \$35,000 donation from Doug Stire and Ron Gautreaux Rotary Trust Funds. Our donation, plus the members of The Houma Rotary Club who have served on the foundation's board and lead the Financial Campaign established a funding source which will benefit public education in Terrebonne Parish for generations to come.

The Foundation's Directors personally believe that the Foundation, through the efforts of concerned parents, community members and teachers at the grass roots level, has the greatest potential to make a direct impact on successful student learning. The success of our public school students is one of the most important determinants of quality of life for our community.

THE FOUNDATION MISSION IS:

1. To involve the community in the education of our children.
 2. To stimulate the learning of our children so that they may become responsible citizens capable of competing in a global economy.
 3. To provide the teacher with resources that encourages creativity in the classroom.
- To this end, the Foundation is working to establish an endowed fund, The Academic Excellence Fund. The income earned from such fund, together with matching funds from the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education ("BESE"), will be used to award Mini-Teacher Grants (up to \$1,000.00) and School Impact Grants (up to \$5,000.00) to public school teachers and schools.

As a Houma Rotary Club Member Ken Trahan was a Charter Board Member, Past President and continues to serve as a member of the Foundation Board of Directors. Currently, Houma Rotary Club Members serve as officers and board members: James E. Gueydan, Foundation Board President; James J. Buquet, III, Foundation Vice-President; James J. Buquet, Jr., Campaign Chairman; Board Members are L. J. Folse, Dale Thompson and Yolanda Trahan, Foundation Executive Director, and Ex Officio Board Member. (Former Houma Rotary Club Member, Daniel J. Walker was a Foundation Charter Board Member, Past President and continues to serve as a board member). Houma Rotary Club Members are benefactors to the Academic Excellence Fund at every level. The Houma Rotary Club has contributed to the Foundation as a Grant Sponsor.



SOUTHDOWN MARKET PLACE

The Houma Rotary Club began participation in the Southdown Marketplace in the Fall of 1990 at the request of Dr. Allen Ellender and Ray Dill, Southdown Board Members. Southdown began offering food items like hamburgers, jambalaya and soft drinks. Since Jude Lapeyrouse had handled the soft drinks at the Vandebilt High School Festivals, his father-in-law, Ray Dill, drafted him to perform a similar task for the museum.

The Houma Rotary Club is now in the 15th year of performing this worthwhile community project. We have netted over \$70,000 over the years for Southdown Museum's upkeep and expenses through the efforts of our dedicated Rotary Members.



A COMMUNITY COLLEGE for HOUMA Rotarian L. J. Folse Scores

A Community College for Houma has been a top priority for Rotarian L. J. Folse for many



years. Earlier efforts were met by concerns of negative impact on Nicholls University enrollment. With adoption of Louisiana's Master Plan for Higher Education in 1995, the stage was set for a successful effort. Rotarian L. J. Folse agreed to chair The Chamber Post Secondary Committee in November of 2001, a goal was set to obtain a commitment in two years. With guidance from Rotarian Travis Lavigne, Dean of the Fletcher Technical College, and from Wm. Clifford Smith, member of the Louisiana Board of Regents, the committee chose to focus exclusively on the Community College issue. A concept was advanced by the LA Technical & Community College System (LCTCS) to expand the Fletcher Campus into a Technical Community College with its

own Chancellor, reporting directly to the system president. The college must be accredited so students may transfer credits to state universities. An exhaustive effort was then completed to obtain support from stakeholders in the service area. Response was virtually 100% favorable. Meanwhile, Rotarian Ken Watkins suggested we pursue the 20.5 acre USDA facility on the corner of Civic Center Boulevard and Hwy 311 as a community college campus. The American Sugar Cane League originally donated the site to USDA, and both want to consolidate the USDA operation on Bull Run Road. The concept includes making their 3.5 acre tract on the Southeast side of Civic Center Boulevard available for a park. Both Houma Rotary clubs are interested in a park as a Rotary Centennial project. This site will be considered if it becomes available.

Rotarian Folse labored tirelessly for several years to secure approval for our Community College. Following a letter of support from the entire state legislative delegation, important actions were taken. The LCTCS Board of Supervisors in April of 2003 voted to expand the Fletcher Technical College into a Technical and Community College. It further decided to take the necessary steps to position the College to be a candidate for Southern Association of Colleges accreditation. These steps included restructuring the system to make the Houma campus independent. Rotarian Travis Lavigne was then appointed Chancellor. In addition, Congressman Tauzin, supported by Senators Breaux and Landrieu, drafted budget legislation providing \$1.5 million in "planning and design" funds to relocate USDA. This would make the present USDA facility available as an alternative campus site for the Community College if selected by the state. The Fletcher Technical campus would remain at its present location on St. Charles Street. Commissioner of Higher Education Joe Savoie and President of LCTCS Walter Bumphus project that some courses will be offered in the fall semester of 2004, just before new university standards are fully implemented. PAR projects that proper alignment of students between Community Colleges and Universities will lower average student cost and allow full funding of Universities according to formula without overall budget increases. President Bumphus formally announced the commitment for the new Technical Community College in Houma, and the appointment of Chancellor Lavigne, at the Chamber Board meeting of June 10, 2003. The lengthy process to full implementation continues.

LEADERSHIP TERREBONNE

In 1992, a small group of local business people and community leaders discussed the possibility of creating a program that would inform Terrebonne Parish residents of issues facing the area with the hope that these participants would become more active contributors to and leaders in the parish.

Rotarian Sharon Bergeron, President Terrebonne Economic Development Commission, appointed Rotarian James J. Buquet, III to chair the organizational committee. During a search for a qualified professional facilitator, Jan Gravel was interviewed. After extended discussions concerning programs requirements for Leadership Terrebonne, Jan Gravel agreed to be our facilitator on the condition we raise sufficient funds to operate for two years. Rotarian Carleton Casey and Rotarian Hartwell A. Lewis led the fund-raising campaign: Rotarian Miles Forrest secured \$2,500 from The New York Times and \$1,000 from The Houma Daily Courier; Rotarian Cathy Reid secured \$2,500 from The Louisiana Power & Light Co.; The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce donated \$1,000 and agreed to furnish office space with staff assistance after length negotiations by a group of Rotarians who were C of C members; Houma Rotary Club and The Houma Terrebonne Rotary Club



contributed and an intense fund campaign succeed in raising the necessary funds. These Rotarians were leaders who assured success for Leadership Terrebonne: Cindy Rogers; Yolanda Trahan; Paul Labat; Darryl K. Christen; Ken Trahan; Dixon Lewis; William R. Foster, Jr.; Cathy Reid; Done Autin; Alma Merlos and Dale Thompson, Jr.

The objective of Leadership Terrebonne is to assist in the development of community leaders by providing participants from diverse backgrounds with an understanding of the problems, opportunities and issues facing the community. The program will also foster the development of leadership skills and techniques in an environment that encourages the establishment of new relationships and communication networks between the participants.

Led by a professional facilitator, participants learn about featured topics from the decision-makers and agency representatives who are considered local experts during day-long sessions each month during the ten month program. Interaction is a key component to the success of Leadership Terrebonne not only between participants and featured guests, but between the participants themselves. Through creative relationship-building exercises, Leadership Terrebonne participants learn more about each other, ways they can work together for the betterment of our parish, and contributions they can make to existing community outreach activities. While a few program graduates have gone on to become elected leaders of our community, all alumni have come away from the program with leadership skills beneficial in both their professional and personal lives.

DOUG STIRE MEMORIAL FUND



Rotarian Doug Stire, a young member of The Houma Rotary Club, experienced a sudden blizzard while on a hunting trip in the Terrebonne Marshes with another Rotarian, Billy Foster. Before daybreak the pair left a landing near the end of Bayou Dularge and headed for a duck blind deep in the marshes. The pair realized it was cold, but not how cold. Their guns were frozen from the spray before they reached their blind. After a short while in their blind they realized it was just too cold, so they headed back. They traveled about 90 percent of the way back to the landing when the motor stopped. Doug started paddling while Billy kept trying to get the motor started. Somehow the boat got sideways and they swamped. The two Rotarians became separated. Billy Foster managed to survive and Doug Stire struggled to survive however he died from hypothermia.

Billy Foster, who lived through the ordeal and some other concerned hunters did something to educate people concerning the dangers of hypothermia – the excessive loss of body heat in outdoor situations. Seminars were sponsored on hypothermia and cold weather survival featuring Drs. Jack Hussey and Ted Brogman from Oschner Hospital in New Orleans – the pair are cold weather experts.

The Houma Rotary Club under the leadership of Past District Governor Billy Foster established the Doug Stire Memorial Fund. This fund provides a maximum of \$1,000 annually to a Terrebonne Student who qualifies in their Junior or Senior year at Nicholls State University.

In August 2003, twenty-four thousand dollars was transferred as an endowment for education to Terrebonne Foundation for Academic Excellence in Public Education.

UNITED WAY for SOUTH LOUISIANA

In 1978 in response to the demand from numerous community organizations for fund raising leaders, Rotarians decided to organize a United Way.

Rotarian James Gueydan, Rotarian Jerome Daigle, Rotarian Miles Forrest, Rotarian A. J. Buquet, Rotarian William Bisland, Rotarian Cary Rizzo, Rotarian Wayne J. Bruno, Rotarian James Buquet and Rotarian Arnold Autin convinced many local leaders to organize The United Way for South Louisiana.



Rotarians provided leaders for twenty-years: Rotarian James Gueydan served two one-year terms. These served as President for Two-Year Terms: Rotarian James Gueydan, Rotarian Jerome Daigle, Rotarian Arnold Autin, Rotarian Sharon Bergeron, Rotarian John Laing, Rotarian Cindy Rogers, F. Dixon Lewis, Rotarian John T. Johnson and Rotarian William Bisland.

Rotarian Claude Bergeron and Rotarian William Bisland have served long-terms as Treasurers. Rotarian Carleton Casey and Rotarian Paul Labat have served as officers and committee chairs over a twenty-year period. Rotarian Wayne J. Bruno served as first General Campaign Chair and later Rotarian James Gueydan served as General Campaign Chair. Rotarian Miles Forrest, Kenneth Trahan and Hartwell A. Lewis have served on Board of Trustees and as Vice-Presidents. Rotarian Rotarian Larry Cottle served as the second Executive Director. Many Rotarians in our "Four-Parish Area" have contributed to the success of our United Way for South Louisiana.

As the nation's leading community solutions provider, United Way invests in and activates the resources to make the greatest possible impact in communities across America. The United Way movement includes approximately 1,400 community-based United Way organizations. Each is independent, separately incorporated, and governed by local volunteers.



United Ways bring communities together to focus on the most important needs in the community -- building partnerships, forging consensus and leveraging resources to make a measurable difference.

HOUMA-TERREBONNE FAMILY YMCA

During Jude Laperouse's year 1982-1983 as president of The Houma Rotary Club, activities began to organize The Houma-Terrebonne Family YMCA.



Rotarian William T. Summerlin the organizing force became the Founding President of our YMCA. Bill and Rotarian Jude Laperouse established a friendship as they began to run together on weekends. The first executive director was Rotarian J. Thurston Martin who moved to Houma from Florida. The first office was located in a doublewide trailer located on the Barrow Street Extension. YMCA programming had to be conducted in satellite gyms and public swimming pools at the start. It was a good partnership because in many respects the public programs lacked professional expertise and commitment. The YMCA taught them how to use the facilities for the purpose intended.

Rotary International President Hireji Mukasa and his wife visited The Houma Rotary Club as a personal courtesy to our friend Rotary International Vice President George Arceneaux. While in Houma, President Mukasa participated in the ground breaking ceremonies for The Houma-Terrebonne Family YMCA.

Rotarian Jude Laperouse became YMCA President when the doors opened on the new facility in 1984 and Rotarian James Buquet became YMCA President in 1986. Other Rotarians serving as officers and board members were: Jim Claudet, Emory Davis, Don Autin, John Keife, Cary Rizzo and many who were fund raisers and supporters.

Rotarian Dr. Pete Rhymes accompanied the Rotarians who ran with Bill Summerlin and Jude Laperouse on the "July 4th 1982 fund-raiser" from New Orleans to Houma. A large amount of money was not raised, however it was a symbolic start which channeled a lot of energy into the project. Many Rotarians conducted a building-fund campaign with pledges near one million dollars.

The YMCA is dedicated to improving the quality of human life and to helping all people realize their fullest potential as children of God through development of the spirit, mind and body.

THE HALL OF FAME

While there have been many prominent persons who have served The Houma Rotary Club over The years. Many have been recognized for their contributions in the form of heroic,



Houma, La. 70361 Wednesday, May 18, 1983

YMCA dedication

Staff photo by the N. Pham

Rotary International President Hiroji Mukasa, left, and Dr. William Summerlin, YMCA president, dedicate the new YMCA at Tuesday's groundbreaking ceremony, while Mrs. Mukasa looks on.

civic, and personal deeds. Some of The prominent members who have contributed to our club's history and success and our community growth would include:

L. H. Jastremski, M.D.

The first Houma Rotary Club President 1921-22. Dr. Jastremski had many business interests He owned The Pelican Lake Canning Co. that canned shrimp and oysters with worldwide distribution; The Model Dairy; a Soft Drink Bottling Co.; The Fraise Standard Drug Store; and was President of The People's Bank & Trust Company of Houma. It is said that he ran a power line from The Houma Ice Co. plant to furnish electricity to his home across the street. His neighbors tried to have him allow them to tie on to it. He petitioned The City Council for authority to do so, however, The City Council decided to build a diesel powered generating station to serve the community. It was located in the very building now occupied by The Bayou Vue Café on Main Street.

Allen J. Ellender

Club President 1932- 1933. Allen J. Ellender, born on a sugar plantation in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, rose to become one of the most dominant men in The U.S. Senate. He served The Houma Rotary Club well.

Ellender began life in a farm family and never lost his close ties to rural Louisiana. Still, he sought a career as a lawyer and served as city attorney and district attorney before being elected to The Louisiana state legislature in 1924. Originally an opponent of Huey Long, Ellender converted to Longism after Huey was elected governor in 1928. But because he refused to condone questionable oil-leasing practices on state lands, he was bypassed as Long's state political heir in the thirties. He was elected instead to The U.S. Senate, where he served until his death in 1972.

Senator Allen Ellender of Louisiana had an extended career as a contradictory politician, a man who, though essentially a conservative, was surprisingly liberal on many issues. He supported progressive legislation in areas such as education, public housing, censorship, and The separation of church and state. He was also one of The first senators to criticize his colleague Joseph McCarthy.. During Ellender's long tenure in The Senate, in which he served under Presidents Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon, through The Great Depression, World War II, The Cold War, McCarthyism, The Korean conflict, The civil rights movement, and The Vietnam War, he was intimately involved in decisions and debates that have shaped The recent history of The country.

Leon Gary

Club President 1941-42 Native of Patoutville, La.; Petroleum Bulk Plant Dealer, Mayor of The City of Houma for four terms 1948-1964. Later served as Secretary of The Louisiana Highway Department.

Raymond Wells Long

Club President 1970-1971. A native of Marshall, Texas, Long was educated at Texas A and M University where he studied communications and chemistry. He came to Houma with Halliburton working in The oil business with electronic wireline readings. When World War II

started, he enlisted in The Navy and was sent to The Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston where he helped develop radar devices for use on aircraft. His work resulted in improved battle efficiency, particularly for The American forces in The Pacific. After The war, Long returned to Houma where he opened R.W. Long Radio and Electric Service on Barrow Street. He was a pioneer in offshore communications, developing a system for getting data sent from offshore rigs by telephone lines. Served club presidents and district governors with distinction. Indoctrination of new Rotary members was his highest call. "The Principles of Rotary" that were his guide to service, he taught with devotion. "Service Above Self and "He Profits Most Who Serves Best" were more than slogans, these were principles he lived by. Wells' "Key Way Lecture". Of all The lectures he gave to our Rotary members, this one I will always remember. When The Rotary Emblem first appeared, there was not a "Key Way"; with a "Key Way" to connect The shaft to The Rotary Wheel, The shaft could turn but not The Rotary Wheel. Each Rotary Life must have a "Key Way", to connect us to our community, so our lives of service will benefit society. But Wells had one great vice. At Rotary Meetings, he had this strong urge to associate and even to sit at a table with a group of mischievous men who were constantly playing tricks and telling stories you would never believe.

Christian "Buster" Olivier, Jr.

Club President 1951-1952. In 1946 L. E. Lapeyrouse sponsored Buster as a member of The Houma Rotary Club. Born September 3, 1911 in Bogalusa, LA. In 1950 became General Manager of A.M. & J. C. Dupont. Commander Company C 156th Infantry in 1940. Served 15 months in The European Theatre of Operation during WWII. Was wounded at Metz, France. After The war he reorganized The 1st Battalion, 156th Infantry, Louisiana National Guard and was Battalion Commander with The rank of Lt. Colonel. His WWII decorations were The Purple Heart, Silver Star, Bronze Star, ETO Campaign Ribbon, Combat Infantry Badge and Louisiana War Cross. Also The French Medaille de la Reconnaissance. Buster was elected as Alderman at Large for The City of Houma in 1948 and was reelected to serve six terms under Mayors Leon Gary, Conrad Picou, G. Leslie Broussard and Charles Davidson. Buster resigned after six terms he never lost an election. The people love Buster. President of Community Homestead Association. President of Terrebonne Historical and Cultural Society, Past President of The Young Men's Business Club, 4th Degree Member of Knights of Columbus, St. Francis de Sales Ushers Society, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Reserve Officers Association, Chairman of Parish Red Cross Drive, Member Airport Commission, Active in all levels of Boy Scout work, Lector at St. Francis de Sales Church, Vice-Chairman of The Houma Parking Authority, Terrebonne Parish 150th Anniversary Celebration Division Head 1972. Chairman of The Rotary Information - Four Way Test committee, Chairman credentials committee for two conferences, served as Sergeant-At-Arms for several district conferences. Received The "Bob McCormick Distinguished Rotarian of The Year" award and also is a Paul Harris fellow. The Houma Rotary Club declared September 11th 1996 "Buster Olivier Day" – Celebrate proudly!

Stanwood R. Duval, Sr.

Club President 1958-1959. Lifetime honorary member of The Houma Rotary Club.

Conducted first District Assembly at Houma, LA in 1958. M. Buck Gladden was District governor. He is a native of Houma, LA. He graduated from L.S.U. Served his country during World War II in The Marine Corp. Retiring as a Major. As a leader with The 4 Marine Division he landed in The first wave in The Battles of Roi-Namur (Marshall Island), Saipan, Tiiian, Iwo Jima. Received four battle stars and three President citations. Began Duval-Whitney-Stevenson, Inc. Insurance Agency. Past President of Independent Agents of Terrebonne. Member American Legion and V.F.W. Past president L.S.U. Alumni Association. One of The founders of Youth Government Day. A member of The Whiskey Pass Silver King Rodeo Association and a past president, lifetime honorary member of Board of Directors. Served 17 years on The Terrebonne Parish Parks and Recreation Board, The last 5 years as president. Participated in porch light drive for Crippled Children (polio drive) Cancer Drive, and Red Cross drive. Member of The Terrebonne Sportsman League and member of The Board of Directors. Later made 2 lifetime honorary member of board. Served for many years on The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and as chairman of its Tourist Agency Committee, and responsible for establishing The Tourist Information Center for Terrebonne Parish. Appointed as "Admiral of The Fleet" for The Terrebonne Sportsman League's 1975 Annual Fishing Rodeo. Worked with Boy Scouts. Served as a Cub Scout Master for a brief time. Received State Citation from Louisiana Recreation & Parks Association in 1976. On January 19, 1977, received The Houma Daily Courier Most Useful Citizen Award at The annual banquet of The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce held at The Houma Municipal Auditorium. On January 6, 1978, appointed by The Terrebonne Parish Police Jury to membership on The CZM Advisory Committee. On March 15, 1988, made lifetime honorary member of Board of Directors of Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce.

Robert A. McCormick

Club Sergeant at Arms for many years. He was a native of New Orleans. Bob McCormick came to Houma as a timekeeper for his brother's construction company that was paving a section of U.S. 90 through Houma down Main Street, out Lafayette Street toward Morgan City, in The 1930s. He was later employed in The Postal Service in Houma and ultimately became Postmaster of The Houma Post Office. As Sergeant at Arms for our Rotary Club, Bob enthusiastically greeted all visitors, introduced them to The Club President and escorted them to a table where he introduced The visitor to members seated there. He attended a Rotary International convention in Houston. Texas with George Arceneaux, Jr. and helped distribute 10,000 doubloons marked for The 50th Anniversary of The Houma Rotary Club and George Arceneaux as our District Governor. George related that in later visits to foreign countries, Rotarians would display their doubloon received at The Houston convention. After Bob passed away The Club created The Bob McCormick Award for Outstanding Club Service in his honor. This award is given annually at The President's Inaugura1 *Banquet*.

Hartwell A. Lewis

Club President 1961-1962. Rotary Paul Harris Fellow and recipient of The Bob McCormick Distinguished Rotarian Award. Born March 18, 1927 on a rice farm between Abbeville and

Kaplan, LA. He served his country as a civilian clerk in U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and in U.S. Naval Reserve. A graduate of University of Southwest Louisiana served Burroughs Corporation as an Accounting Machine Salesman until becoming an insurance executive in Houma until he formed Capital for Terrebonne, Inc. and is its sole stockholder. Hartwell served as Chairman "Buster Olivier Day Committee" September 11, 1996. He coordinated efforts to have September 11, 1996 declared as "Buster Olivier Day" by Governor Mike Foster and Terrebonne Parish Council. Since his record was long, a booklet was prepared for all members and guests. He served as Master-of-Ceremonies at many Rotary functions these many years. Conducted "Memorial Rotary Services" for Dr. George Arceneaux, Honorary Member; A. J. Buquet; Judge George Arceneaux and Wells Raymond Long. Member Houma Rotary Club 50th Anniversary Committee. Recommended to our Rotary Club to vote Dr. George Arceneaux who became a Rotarian in 1921 (almost a Charter Member) as an Honorary Member. He was The principal speaker at our ~ Anniversary giving us an insight into our "Charter Members" and their experiences. He is an active board member for United Way for South Louisiana and Chairman "Planned Giving and Endowments Committee", an active board member for Terrebonne General Medical Center and Chairman for The finance committee. A member for Leadership Terrebonne, Inc. and Chairman Fund Raising Committee. An active member of Board of Directors for Houma--Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce also Past-President and Past Chairman Economic Development Committee. He is Past Treasurer for First United Methodist Church and Past-Chairman of The Administrative Board on two different occasions, Old Testament student/teacher, and Past-President Methodist Men. He is a past member with Terrebonne Historical & Cultural Society, Inc. He is past president for Louisiana Association of Insurance Agents, Terrebonne Independent Agents, Tri-Parish Life Underwriters, and Bayou Board of Realtors, The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council for South Louisiana, and Houma Golf Club. He is Past-Chairman Private Industry Council and past-member Terrebonne Economic Development District Commission. He is a Past Advisory Board Member at Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, Texas. He received "The Terrebonne's Most Useful Citizen Award in 2000".

Stephen T. Kenney

When The Houma Rotary Club sponsored the formation and provided leadership for the Boy Scout program in Houma and Terrebonne Parish under the direction of Rotarian Judge Robert B. Butler, Steve as selected Scout Director. Organized The Terrebonne Parish Recreation system program and served as Director of that system for many years. He served thirty one years, 1949-1980 as Secretary-Treasurer of our Club.

James J. Buquet, Jr.

Club President 1972-1973. A native of Terrebonne Parish, he is an example of The Rotary Ideal of Service. He attended L.S.U. and served as a U.S. Army Officer in Korea during The Korean Conflict. He formed The Buquet Distributing Co. In 1953 and is also

associated with many other business interests.

He is a member of The State Chamber of Commerce, Houma, Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce in which he was on The Board of Directors for The past 20 years and President from 1967-1969. He has served on various committees through the years. Mr. Buquet has served very honorably in many organizations throughout his years in Terrebonne Parish. In almost all of his endeavors and service he has been chosen as The organizations leader. Some of The organizations that have benefitted from his service have been American Legion, YMCA, Terrebonne General Hospital, Terrebonne Historical Society, American Red Cross, Terrebonne Arts, mc, Muscular Dystrophy, Century Club, Cerebral Palsey, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and The Multiple Sclerosis Foundation. Mr. Buquet helped organize The Charles H. Shedd School for Dyslexia in Terrebonne Parish and served as President for four years.

He is presently an active member of The St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church Parish. He headed The drive for The air conditioning of St. Francis School and The completion of The Youth center. He has been a member of The Knights of Columbus since 1955 and is a Fourth Degree Knight. He received The "Recognition Award" in 1977. He was presented The "The Order of St. Louis Award" for outstanding service. He was commended by The Archbishop as a "Good Steward". He was The General Chairman of The St. Louis Cathedral Restoration Program and was also General Chairman of The St. Francis de Sales restoration program in 1977. He has served on The Building Committee for The Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. He was School Board President for Vandebilt Catholic High School from 1983-84 and served as School Board Member from 1980-84. He is a member of The Terrier Club, serving as a board member in 1982-83. Mr. Buquet has served as Chairman of The Vandebilt "Autunm Festival" which serves as a principal fund-raiser. He serves on The Five-Year Chairmanship Vandebilt "Strategy for Progress" committee.

He has received "The Terrebonne 's Most Useful Citizen Award in 1983". He was inducted into Nicholls State University's Chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma. In 1985 Nicholls State Alumni Association awarded Mr. Buquet its Honorary Alumnus Award. In 1986 Nicholls State awarded its "Harvey Peltier Award" to Mr. Buquet. In 1987 Mr. Buquet was presented The "Alumni Federation Corporate Mark of Honor".

Robert B. Butler

In 1928 under the leadership of Judge Butler The Houma Rotary sponsored the Boy Scout Program in Houma and Terrebonne Parish. Club President 1936-37, Teacher, Lawyer, Judge of The 17th Judicial District Court. He is the Grandfather of our Club Past President Robert B. Butler, III.

William R "Billy" Foster, Jr.

President 1990-1991, District Governor Elect 1997. Native of New Orleans, Louisiana. Parishioner, St. Francis de Sales Cathedral. Served on The St. Francis de Sales School Board and "Raise The Roof committee. A graduate of Nicholls State University, he is The

President of Terminx Pest Control, Inc. of Houma (1989 -present).

A member of The Houma Rotary Club since December 5, 1979. Served on Board of Directors, 1984-present — currently Director Emeritus. Served as Chairman of each of the “Four Avenues of Service”, served as Treasurer, Secretary, 2nd Vice President; 1st Vice President and President 1990-1991 Avenue of CLUB SERVICE served as chairman of the following committees: Magazine; Program; Fellowship; Public Relations; Rotary Information; Membership; Attendance; Classification; Crisis Action; Roster and Robert McCormick Distinguished Rotarian Award. AVENUE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE served as chairman of the following committees: Handicapped; Rotoract; Student Guest; Blood Program; Roland Thibodaux Award and Doug Stire Memorial. AVENUE of VOCATIONAL SERVICE served as chairman of the following committees: Employer/Employee Relations and the Four Way Test. AVENUE of INTERNATIONAL SERVICE served as chairman of the following committees: G.S.E.; Paul Harris and Rotary Foundation. 1987-1988 Raised over \$16,000 for the Polio Plus Project. 1984 Established the Doug Stire Memorial Fund — raised \$15,000 for Hunter Safety Programs. Memorial was later directed to fund Nicholls State University Scholarship. 1981-82 raised \$15,000 to purchase property for newly formed YMCA to build new facility. 1981-85 became a Paul Harris Fellow — currently a 5 Stone Paul Harris Fellow & Benefactor. 1992-93 Received The Robert McCormick Distinguished Rotarian Award in recognition of dedicated service to The Houma Rotary Club. 1998-99 Became a charter member of the Bequest Society of the Rotary Foundation — 3 stone level.

District Service: served as Area Representative for District Governors: John Gates; Ken Uffman and Tony Malbrough. Attended every District Conference and District Assembly the past 18 years. Served on Hurricane Andrew Disaster Committee; District Advisory Committee 1998-99; District Leadership Planning Committee 1998-99 - 1999-00; District Nominating Committee 1998-99 - 1999-00; Rotary Foundation District Chairman 2000-01; Representative to the Rotary International Council on Legislation 2001; Chairman District By-laws Committee 2001-03 and District Trainer 2002-04.

Rotary International Service: Served as District Governor 1997-98; aide to Director Ron Burton at Zone Institute 1998 - 1999; North American Affairs Committee, RI 1999-00; Presidents Representative (Carlo Ravizza) to District 6900; Zone Coordination of Membership Development 2000-01; Round Table Discussion Leader at Presidential Conference, Miami, Fl - 2000; Chairman Entertainment Committee for Zone Inst. Lafayette, La.; Zone Coordinator for Community Service (RCC) 2001-02; member Rotary Open World Committee 2002-03; International Training Leader at Anaheim Assembly 2003 and Training Leader for Texas President Elect Training Sessions 2003.

George Arceneaux, Jr.

The members of The Houma Rotary Club remembers the life of The Honorable George Arceneaux, Jr.

All around the world, the news of George’s death cast a dark shadow of sorrow into People’s hearts, especially members of Rotary International who adopted him as their own.

George traveled “The Rotary Four Avenues of Service”, he lived Rotary’s Moto ‘Service Above Self’. The following is part of his “Service Record”: President Houma Rotary Club, 1966-1967. District 620, Governor 1971-72. Rotary International Vice-President 1991. Chairman Council on Legislation (Rotary’s Parliament) 1992. Life-long native of Houma; attended Houma Elementary School, Houma Junior High School, being graduated in 1945; Valedictorian high school graduating class. Attended University of Southwestern Louisiana 1946-47; graduated with B.A. Degree in Journalism 1949. During college was Junior Editor of LSU Yearbook. The Gumbo, and News Editor of The Daily Reveille, LSU newspaper. Delegate National Convention Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalistic fraternity; member of Theta Xi, social fraternity, and Samurai inter Fraternity organization. During college was employed during summers as newscasters and news editor radio station KCIL, Houma, Louisiana. Employed general reporter Times-Picayune New Orleans, Louisiana 1950. Entered U.S. Army 1950; assigned to 335th Military Intelligence Service Company, attended enlisted Intelligence School, Fort Riley, Kansas; Principal Military Occupational Specialty Intelligence Analyst, assigned headquarters, Second Army, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. Discharged U.S. Army, December 1951. Employed January, 1952, as Legislative Assistant to Senator Allen Ellender of Louisiana; became Administrative Assistant to Senator Ellender November, 1957. During period in Washington attended The American University Law School and graduated with Bachelor of Laws Degree June, 1957. While in Law School received Delta Theta Phi award for excellence in scholarship 1955, 1956, 1957; elected to Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges 1956-57. Has served as member of Board of Directors Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce since 1963; member executive committee 1964-71; Chairman Industrial Committee, Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce 1963-64. Past President Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, 1966, Past President—Houma Rotary Club; served as Chairman 1970 Rotary District 620 Conference. Has served as Chairman of various committees of Houma Rotary Club, including 1967 Group Study Exchange Committee. Elected District Governor of Rotary for year 1971-72. Was appointed a member of The Houma-Terrebonne Regional Planning Commission 1963 for a six-year term; elected first Chairman of The Commission 1963, re-elected 1964 and each succeeding year. Reappointed to Commission 1969 and re-elected Chairman. Served as City Attorney for The City of Houma 1970 thru March 1, 1971. Member Official Board of First Methodist Church, Houma, Louisiana 1960-64; Chairman of The Official Board, First Methodist Church, 1963; delegate to Louisiana Annual Conference, Methodist Church, 1962-63; Member of Board, Macdonnel Methodist Center (Children’s Home), Houma, Louisiana; member Advisory Council, Dulac Community Center. Has served as Secretary-Treasurer, Vice-President and President, Terrebonne Parish Bar Association. United States District Judge for The eastern District of Louisiana from September 28, 1979 until his untimely death.



Presiding with firm good humor, Chairman George Arceneaux, Jr. strikes the adjournment bell on the 1992 Council on Legislation after four days of deliberations.

AN ADVENTURE IN SERVICE

In 1921, a few farsighted citizens were aware of the need for an organization that would bring together a cross-section of professional and business men to create good will and improve public relations among the different groups in Houma, Louisiana. On November 1, 1921, The Houma Rotary Club was issued a charter by Rotary International.

SERVICE IS THE BEST MEASURE OF A ROTARIAN

Dr. George Arceneaux

The newly formed Houma Rotary Club supported the move to establish County Agent work in Terrebonne Parish. Dr. George Arceneaux was taken to a meeting and informally introduced as a new Rotarian — that's how it was done in "those days". Served as Houma Rotary Club President 1933-34; sewed the Boy Scout movement and founded the Terrebonne Parish Recreation Program.

As a county agent he taught local farmers how to raise Irish Potatoes and also introduced "truck farming". Beyond raising carrots, turnips, onions, and many other vegetables, truck farming involved getting the produce to the French Market in New Orleans.

Dr. Arceneaux was a pioneer in the development of new varieties of sugar cane. He formerly headed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's sugar cane breeding program, played a significant role in the restoration of the ailing Louisiana sugar industry by developing improved varieties of sugar cane. Among his important contributions were planning and assisting in implementing a national program of sugar cane research for the Mexican government; a study of sugar cane production in Vietnam and making plans to modernize that system; and a study on feasibility of domestic sugar cane culture for Israel.

Dr. Arceneaux was a past president of the American Society of Sugarcane Technologists. In 1929 he represented the U.S. government at the third congress of the International Society of Sugarcane Technologists and remained active in the group until his death at age 91. He received a doctorate from Cornell University based, in part, on his original sugar research.

On October 26, 1971, at the 50th Anniversary of the Houma Rotary Club, Dr. George Arceneaux was the principal speaker. Read his speech to have a better understanding of the members of our newly formed Rotary Club.

In 1983, having relocated to Houma, Louisiana, Dr. George Arceneaux being our nearest Charter Club Member and have set an example of how a Rotarian should travel Rotary's Four Avenues of Service

In 1983, Dr. George Arceneaux as installed as a Honorary Member of The Houma Rotary Club. This distinguished gentlemen is an outstanding example of a Rotarian who has lived up to the highest ideals of Rotary. Indeed, there may be few Rotarians anywhere who have fulfilled the Four Avenues of Service as exemplarily as he.





SPEECH OF DR. GEORGE ARCENEUX
At the 50th Anniversary of the Houma Rotary Club



It is a great pleasure indeed to meet once more with this club on such a memorable occasion I do appreciate being asked to participate in the program. We oldsters of another generation take great delight in talking about the 'good old days'. It is nice of you youngsters to want to listen to us. It so happened that the Rotary Club had supported the move to establish County Agent work in the parish. I was taken to the meeting and introduced as a new member of the club. That's how informal we were in those days. It was in September 1922, eleven months after the club was organized. My primary assignment as County Agent was to teach farmers how to raise and market Irish potatoes, turnips and other truck crops to replace sugarcane which had been nearly wiped out by mosaic and other diseases. Eventually I wound up as superintendent of the local experimental station to develop new varieties of sugarcane so that farmers could go back to the old crop. Since then, interest has shifted again, this time from sugarcane fields to oil fields.

I would like to picture for you conditions as they were here 50 years ago. Houma was a progressive, and I might add totally delightful village of about 3,000 souls. We were in the infancy of the automobile age and traveled mostly over dirt roads that were not infrequently impassable. I recall that, when I drove up here in my Model T. Ford, car, we had to be barged in the bayou along one section of U.S. 90 to the west in order to miss the worst mud holes. During the flu epidemic of 1918 roads were so bad that doctors were unable to reach many seriously ill patients. Our good doctors are making extremely good use of the same roads now covered with concrete slabs to make their patients come to air-conditioned offices in Houma.

The record shows that 17 charter members participate in organizing the Houma Rotary Club. In those days we did not have a large field of vocations to draw from. Good members had to be recruited where we could find them and some times this led to problems of classification. I recall that we had quite a number of gasoline distributors, and our solution was to classification one under gasoline another under kerosene and another under wholesaler of rubber tires, etc. I don't recall that we ever had a dealer in spark plugs. We also had an over-supply of lawyers. We could classification' one under criminal law another under civil law, and then we ran into problems. We even had to downgrade one to Notary Public.

It is a common experience in many movements to suffer a period of depression as an anticlimax to the surge of enthusiasm generated at the time of organization. Membership frequently drops to a hard core who some how must struggle and see the thing through. The Houma Rotary Club was no exception. What might be called our struggle for survival came during the early thirties at the bottom of the great depression. Our membership dropped drastically, and at times the going was rough. We were fortunate in having an active group of Rotary Anns. In moments of candor my wife confessed to me that freedom from the kitchen on Rotary Day was no small consideration, but in all seriousness and sincerity it must be said that our Rotary Anns went far beyond the call of duty in keeping the club going.

Our ladies nights were always delightful occasions. We could not afford lavish spreads, but tasty salads and desserts from the home kitchens somehow transmuted ordinary restaurant menus into real banquets.

During one of these difficult years our President was Allen Ellender and I served as his program chairman. Individual members took turns at arranging for the program and we tried to inspire members to provide more interesting programs with a contest. At the end of each meeting the program was graded by each member in a secret ballot. The system worked well until some of the grades reached a few of the guest speakers. I don't recommend the scheme.

Incidentally, it is a matter of pride to us that our Past President Allen Ellender is now President Pro. Temp. of the Senate and as such is the number 3 man in the U.S. Presidential succession.

I think we all realize that you cannot have a good Rotary Club without fellowship. We were never short of that commodity. We liked each other and spiced it all with a generous measure of horse play, mutual ribbing, tall tales and other trivialities that are the sum and substance of good club spirit.

Tall tales remind me of the "Houmala incident" that delighted us in an age when folks were less sophisticated. Louis Derbes and Henry Bourgeois attended one of the international gatherings. It was when men were still wearing hats and delegates were given hat-bands for club identification. In some way Houma, LA on their hat bands was run together to read "Houmala" and everyone wanted to know where "Houmala" was. If you knew Louis and Henry, you know that they were not short on imagination. Hournala as everyone should know was an Island in the South Pacific where all sorts of wonderful things happened to people. The tales they told them there were reported to us and kept on growing with new embellishments. "Houmala" became a by-word for a tall tale that no sane person could quite believe.

Houma, like other towns of that era had its share of religious bigotry and sectarian polarization. The Rotary spirit of fellowship and friendliness went a long way toward breaking down religious barriers and fostering better understanding long before the word ecumenical was added to our vocabulary.

The spirit of Rotary friendliness and understanding reached beyond our Town and Parish. Because we could meet on friendly grounds under the aegis of Rotary we learned to cooperate with people in neighboring towns on issues of regional importance. I recall that we planted a live oak tree in one of our parks which we called the tree of Rotary friendship to commemorate the spirit of cooperation and friendly relations generated between Houma and Thibodaux through our Rotary clubs.

During the late thirties and early forties a good many Rotary clubs were being organized in the British Isles and some people there were wondering what it was all about. George Bernard Shaw, the arch cynic of the century, had something to say about it. "Where is Rotary asked and then answered his own question-"Rotary," he said, "is going to lunch." The sarcasm of Shaw became to us, and I am sure to other clubs as well, a sort of a challenge to follow through on aspects of Rotary beyond our own little club.

This Rotary club has participated in many worthwhile movements and we believe with sincerity that our efforts have contributed. Their share in making Houma a better place in which to live. That is not to say that you will find a Rotary tag on everything worth while that has been accomplished here. As a matter of fact, our community service has been predicated on the conviction that it is much more important to get something done than to get credit for it. And the best way to get something done is to get the whole community and not just the Rotary Club behind it. For instance, I am sure that very few people know that the public recreation movement here that has attracted national attention has its origin at a program in this club. As a follow-up of that program we invited each important organization of the Parish to appoint a delegate to what became the Terrebonne Recreation Council. From then on, the movement became the responsibility of the council on which of course the Rotary Club was duly represented.

As another illustration of our pioneering I would like to cite our early interest in the preservation of the French language in Louisiana. The club conducted a survey of spoken French in representative schools of Southern Louisiana and from results of that study we were able to show that the French language had persisted only through the negative influence of isolation and to predict that ability to speak French would disappear from this area unless something positive were done about it. Results were published in one of our school journals and we sent a strong resolution to the State Board of Education. In response, to our suggestion, conversational French was introduced temporarily in elementary schools of Houma, but we felt, at the time that ours was a very faint "voice in the wilderness".

Now we hear a lot about the preservation of French in Louisiana. A state supported organization with strong political overtones seems to be principally concerned with drumming up local interest and arranging for international contacts. We are not saying that activities of "CODOFIL" have no place in the overall picture, but we can only repeat the advice we gave the State Board of Education 30 years ago. If you really want to preserve the French language in Louisiana you should introduce the teaching of French in elementary school now while a good many teachers still speak the language and are qualified to teach it.

We recognized the importance of international service but in the old days we did not have opportunities now available for club and member participation. We did have quite a few foreign visitors to the experiment station and these gave us some stimulating contacts. I recall one friendly and interesting visitor from the Island of Mauritius who was persuaded to address the club in French. He was amazed that so many of us understood French and spoke it fluently.

I remember also when members of this club responded generously to an appeal from Rotary International for funds to help restore medical libraries in Europe after World War 11. Back volumes of American medical journals were provided for a group of Dutch doctors who could not other wise obtain them under existing exchange restriction.

In a very real sense, I feel that international service is at once the challenge and the greatest opportunity of Rotary. Ideals of Rotary which embody so much of what America stands for are conveyed at the level of man to man without the trappings and disadvantages of international diplomacy. To be sure a Rotary Club in Mexico, Wales, Japan or South Africa will not be a carbon copy of the one in Houma or New Orleans. We may differ in culture, institutions, traditions, and ways of doing things, but the central precept of Rotary-service above self-will always mean the same thing regardless of the language in which it is spoken.

Rotary will be misunderstood, and perhaps in some cases misapplied but for each failure there will be hundreds of cases where it is working and hitting the mark. I saw a Rotary Club in Mexico lose its charter because it had been converted into a political machine. I saw one die in Egypt a few years ago. It occurred at a University town where I was on a Fulbright Lectureship. It is true that their activities were harassed by the Nasser government but the club died largely because the wrong people had gotten into it. Quite a few years ago I happened to be in a city whose national government was not our best friend in the world. I saw a group of Rotarians entering their banquet hall. They had assembled elsewhere and were marching by band music. The air-.The Stars and Stripes Forever. Perhaps the title of the composition did not mean anything to many of them—it was good marching music—~but again, maybe it did. To me, it was one of the most moving experiences of my life.

To summarize briefly-we Houma Rotarians of an age gone by had a lot of fun, fellowship, and many pleasant associations in our club. But above all, we did our best to live up to what Rotary expected of us besides just “going to lunch”.

GEORGE ARCENEUX

[Delivered at Houma, La., October 26, 1971, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Houma Rotary Club.]

CHRISTIAN LOUIS OLIVIER, JR.

Fifty-nine years ago something happened in Houma that will be recorded as one of the major happenings in the history of Terrebonne Parish and The Houma Rotary Club —L. E. Lapeyrouse sponsored “Buster” as a member of The Houma Rotary Club. The story of Buster Olivier’s Rotary Life, his origin, growth and influence is a story that had to be told. This was Hartwell A. Lewis’ most difficult task - to tell the whole story of this quiet humble man. The Houma Rotary Club proudly celebrated Christian Louis Olivier, Jr.’s 50th year in Rotary declaring September 11, 1996 as Buster Olivier Day. A booklet was printed, please read the following copy.

MILITARY: Buster joined Company. “C” 150th Infantry, Louisiana National Guard February 1930. Retired as Lt. Col. Infantry March 1958. Served on Active Duty during World War II from November 25, 1940 through January 31, 1946. Suffered severe wounds in France, received treatment in Paris - shipped to England for more extensive medical treatment. Upon recovery, he was sent to Paris to manage The Grand Hotel a “R&R” program. De-activated as Colonel; assisted reorganization of Louisiana National Guard after World War II— C. O. 1st 156th Infantry. Retired in 1959.

During the past five decades, Buster Olivier has been a caring, concerned and service-oriented Houma Citizen, apparently carefully budgeting his schedules and energy to include time for family and employer, as well as volunteer hours serving the Houma-Terrebonne Community. A careful study of the cumulative year-in year-out record tells quite a story: over forty years of Reserve and Active Military Service; a member of the Reserve Officers Association; VFW; American Legion; twenty-four years as an elected city official serving under four different mayoral administrations; Chairman of several successful parish Red Cross Drives; active working with youth through Scouting; an active participant in his church as a member of the Parish Council, Usher Society, Knights of Columbus a Lector; a current member and past president of the YMBC; past president of The Houma Rotary Club; member of the Chamber of Commerce; the Airport Commission and Vice-Chairman of the Houma Parking Authority.

Interesting note: With the induction of Robert Arceneaux into The Houma Rotary Club, Buster then had served with three generations of Arceneaux —1. Served with Dr. George Arceneaux, a pioneer of our club; 2. Then with Judge George Arceneaux, Jr, who served as Rotary International Vice-President and was in line to be Rotary International President and 3. Then with Robert who was just beginning his “Adventure in Rotary”.

In his quiet, unassuming, but effective and efficient manner, “Buster” as he is affectionately called by family and friends, turned some of his retirement time to the task of guiding the Terrebonne Historical and Cultural Society as its president. Building upon good foundation forged by previous Terrebonne Historical and Cultural Society Leaders, Buster presided over the monthly board meetings, spent considerable time carrying out decisions made on upkeep, repair, committee operations concerning The Southdown Museum. Other Museum Volunteers found Buster to be a “real gentleman”, a pleasant and cooperative leader and colleague in volunteerism, who accomplishes a great deal with minimum commotion.



THE HOUMA ROTARY CLUB

Proudly Celebrates

CHRISTIAN LOUIS OLIVIER, JR.'s

50th YEAR in ROTARY



DECLARING

SEPTEMBER 11, 1996

As

BUSTER OLIVIER DAY

**CHRISTIAN LOUIS OLIVER, JR.
The Houma Rotary Club
September 11, 1996
Buster Olivier Day**

AN ADVENTURE IN SERVICE

Exactly fifty years ago something happened in Houma that will be recorded as one of the major happenings in the history of Terrebonne Parish and The Houma Rotary Club--- L. E. Lapeyrouse sponsored Buster as a member of The Houma Rotary Club. The story of Buster Olivier's Rotary Life, his origin, growth and influence is a story that must be told. This is my most difficult task — to tell the whole story of this quiet humble man.

For sometime before this event occurred, a few farsighted citizens were aware of the need for an organization that would bring together a cross-section of professional and business men to create good will and improve public relations among the different groups.

It has often been said that Rotary consists only of old men who meet once a week to sing, eat, and take a nap. Nothing could be further from the truth in The Houma Rotary Club.

SERVICE IS THE BEST MEASURE OF A ROTARIAN

For the last fifty years The Houma Rotary Club with the leadership of Buster Olivier have been involved in and sometime had complete responsibility for the successful completion of many projects and community improvements.

To fully understand Buster's leadership development through Rotary it is very important we understand what type of community Houma was in 1946. In 1946 Houma Louisiana was a very small town with its businesses concentrated along Main Street between Barrow Street and Railroad Avenue. Bayou Terrebonne was navigable to Railroad Avenue. Houma Ice Company, located at the foot of Church Street, supplied fishing boats with ice, water and groceries. Autin Packing Company, with its large payroll, was located one block south of Main Street and one block west of Lafayette Street. Duplantis Bus Service used the streets around Terrebonne Parish Court House as its in-town depot. These buses traveled down our many bayous bringing shoppers into the midst of our downtown merchants. Citizens from around Terrebonne Parish could come to Houma to conduct business at the court house and within an easy walk shop at all our Main Street Stores. The United States Post Office was located on Main Street directly across from our court house. Railway Express operated on the railway at the corner of Main Street and the railroad providing truck delivery to area businesses. Just a few blocks north of Park Avenue to the Six Foot Ditch was our City Dump with all its pests and odors. Much of the area of our present City of Houma was sugar cane fields which supplies the Sugar Mill on Little Bayou Black close to our present museum. During "Grinding Season", farm tractors would pull carts filled to overflow onto our highways on their way to the "Sugar Mill" depositing mud which became very slippery when wet. Large trucks filled to overflow with sugar cane created traffic hazards by being slow moving and dropping sugar cane on the highway.

In 1946 when Buster became a Rotarian, the Rotary Members were mostly business and professional men from the Main Street Area. With the post office as an early morning meeting place, each Rotarian would make many contacts with each other every day of the year.

When The Houma Rotary Club started meeting at Booty's Country Club a great distance from Main Street, Bob Dupont would drive to Dupont Department Store for Buster Olivier, Vie Maurin would walk over from The Park Theater, Shorty Norman would walk across Barrow Street, E. R. T. Marquette would walk over from Roussell Street and any other Rotarians in the area would pile in. One day as I arrive early for our Wednesday Rotary Meeting, I heard this loud 'babble", then Bob Dupont's car appeared filled to over capacity with Rotarians, all seats were filled with additional men on their backs with feet dangling out the windows. All were talking at the same time, everyone discussing a different subject and all shouting for attention. These Rotarians experienced a rare fellowship I envy.

VOCATIONAL SERVICE

Service was Buster Olivier's business, his life contains many practical examples of how the Rotary Ideal of Service was made to work in everyday business and professional life. Every Rotarian interest in vocational service should study the life of our most honored member.

Buster's business career began with South Coast Corporation in Houma as an office worker then rising through the ranks to Stores Division Manager.

HOUMA'S FOUR CORNERS

The very heart of business life was on the crossroads of U. S. Highway 90 (Barrow Street) and Main Street. On the southwest corner was A. M. & J. C. Dupont, Inc.; on the northwest corner was The SeaBreeze Restaurant; on the northeast corner was The Greyhound Bus Depot with a covered tunnel from Main Street to Barrow Street and on the southeast corner was The Barrow Drug Store.

Main Street was the most important street in Terrebonne Parish since U. S. Highway 90 was almost impassable due to neglect during World War II. To follow a bus or heavy truck during our wet season was dangerous. As the heavy vehicles sped along, the concrete moved causing muddy water to shoot up into the air covering your windshield. To make repairs the highway department set up barricades at the worse spots which meant driving was like an obstacle course. If it was not absolutely necessary no one wanted to travel to Houma. A trip from New Orleans to Houma could take two and a half hours depending on the traffic. The railroad provided the best transportation for goods and materials.

In April 1950 Buster began as General Manager for A. M. & J. C. Dupont, Inc. This was the largest hill service department store in Terrebonne Parish. The Grocery Department was

hill service, a housewife could telephone her grocery order to a clerk of her choice who would personally package the requested items then have the order delivered in one of the twenty-eight trucks with instructions to the driver to remember to put the meat in the icebox since the lady would not be at home. A housewife could elect to come into the store, sit herself on a stool at the counter and place her order to a clerk who would display and item for her approval, then pack the items in boxes and either deliver to her home in one of the twenty-eight delivery trucks or personally carry the boxes to her car. There was a complete Hardware Department, Dry Goods Department, Ladies Department and a Men's Department. The buses would bring customers to downtown in from every part of Terrebonne Parish.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Buster enlisted in Company C Infantry, Louisiana National Guard on February 18, 1928, he was promoted through the ranks, appointed 2nd Lt, First Lt. and Captain by November 25, 1940. He Commanded Company C Infantry inducting this unit to Federal Service to Camp Blanding, Florida in 1940. Served 15 months in European Theatre of Operations (ETO) during World War II; saw action at Metz, France, where he was wounded, evacuated to Paris then to England.

Once the wounds healed, Buster was reassigned to SHAEF Headquarters for duty as commander and American Representative to the AEF Clubs (Paris, Brussels, Rheims and Frankfurt. The Grand Hotel in Paris was his new command, there were 300 beds to be used as R & R for soldiers taken from the war front. The men were battle weary arriving needing baths, shaves, haircuts and clean clothes. The men then disappeared for three days, returning "Paris Weary" needing baths, shaves, rest and hostesses to write letters to their mothers and loved ones. The soldiers then returned to the war front and three hundred other battle weary soldiers were sent for Buster's R & R care.

Buster reorganized the 1st Battalion, 156th Infantry, Louisiana National Guard after the war; was Battalion Commander with rank of Lt Colonel; resigned from National Guard Service in 1959. **WWII DECORATIONS:** Purple Heart, Silver Star, Bronze Star, ETO Campaign Ribbon, Combat Infantry Badge, and Louisiana War Cross. **FOREIGN DECORATIONS:** French Medaille de la Reconnaissance.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

City of Houma: Was elected as Alderman at Large for the City of Houma in 1948 and was reelected to serve six terms under Mayors Leon Gary, Conrad Picou, G. Leslie Broussard and Charles Davidson. Buster resigned after six terms — he never lost an election. The people love Bust

COMMUNITY HOMESTEAD ASSOCIATION

In 1946 Buster was invited by Mr. Jasper K. Wright, the Secretary (and founder) of the association to serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

President, Mr. William L. Blanchard died in 1954. Buster was elected President of the Association, then elected Chairman of the Board. Brunnie Bisland was elected president.

The Community Homestead was a twenty-five million dollar institution in 1992 when it merged with Teche Federal Savings Bank of Franklin, La. Which had assets of two hundred million dollars. The merger resulted in a strong new capital to support home buying in Terrebonne. Buster said, "The best of times were when we located our new office building on Barrow Street in the mid 70's and managed to survive the "1980's Oil Bust" to become a part of Tech Federal Savings Bank in the 1990's".

TERREBONNE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SOCIETY

Christian L. "Buster" Olivier as president of the Terrebonne Historical and Cultural Society accomplished many improvements in our museum. Since retirement from the business community was his plan, Buster devoted hill-time without financial compensation to the operation of our Southdown Plantation. The people of Terrebonne were most fortunate to have a person of this caliber will to devote his life to this thankless vocation. Buster is truly a "Man-for-all-Seasons"

He was at the museum when volunteers needed him; to open the house for the day or to close up late at night and after functions. In the middle of the night the burglar or fire alarms would go off requiring him to return to turn them off.

Buster has presided over more than 200 board meetings and should be awarded a Doctorate Degree in diplomacy for calming the turbulent waters people of good faith create when they manage volunteers of great numbers and varied talents. It has been said on many times, "Buster can walk on water".

Buster has been the Master of Ceremonies for all the events held at the Museum for the past 14 years, and always accompanied by the lovely Mrs. Lynette Olivier. He has worked more than 20 hind raising Market Day Festivals and that is a major accomplishment. The volunteers were always given credit for the outstanding tasks performed keeping his "Jewel" alive in our parish.

Some of the major accomplishments, financed by private donations, that have come to pass in his years at the helm. Public restrooms for visitors; the front steps and entry repaired; both side porches along with the front and back porches completely rebuilt The "Servants Quarters", with its tremendous historic value was about to be lost forever. It is

now completely renovated. A storage shed was added to the facility and another storage shed has been enlarged and refurbished enabling equipment for Market Place to survive. Exhibits have been added, including a native American room. He is now working on something dear to his heart, the Sugar Industry Room. These exhibits are created with volunteer help. There was tree clearing, tree planting, yard equipment, house repairs and a multitude of other projects.

His untiring effort made it possible for the Museum to purchase approximately eight additional acres of land, which guarantees that the Historical Society will have the ability to expand and avoid having unwanted neighbors too close, will go down as his greatest achievement. His plans are not to rest on his achievements, he is looking forward to a giant pavilion on the grounds that will allow public functions of all types, especially for our young people, to be held in a clean and moral atmosphere.

Christian L. Olivier found this adventure in service a source of considerable personal satisfaction, a source of great inspiration, a never-ending challenge. His quest for a fuller and more meaningful life in terms of service to others, motivated and executed without thought of personal gain, expressed in positive and constructive action.

THE HOUMA-TERREBONNE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Buster was a member of The Board of Directors of The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce. One of the many projects Buster provided leadership was Youth Government Day, a program that continues to this day. This is to introduce high school students into the workings of government. Stanwood Duval will provide you with hours of discussion on Buster's leadership in Youth Government Day and its effectiveness.

Many Rotarians were active and provided leadership to The Chamber, in fact there was times a person could hardly tell whether one was at a Rotary Club Meeting or a Chamber Board of Director's Meeting. The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce was reorganized by Rotarian Gibson Autin, Sr. and many Rotarians served as presidents:

Gibson Autin, Sr.	John Braud	Julius Dupont
George Arceneaux, Jr.	Tom Holcombe	James Buquet, Jr.
J. E. Chauvin	Allen Lottinger	L. P. Caillouet
W. L. Manning	C. R. Patterson, Sr.	A. J. Buquet
A. Dupre Vaeth	E. S. Gaidry	Everett Richaud
Calvin Burleigh	Arnold Autin	Seymour Dalsheimer
L. E. Lapeyrouse	L. J. Folse	Claude Duval
James E. Gueydan	John Gordon	Claude E. Bergeron
William Ziegler	Emmett P. Fetch	

Past President of the Young Men's Business Club.
4th Degree Member of Knights of Columbus
St. Francis de Sales Ushers Society

American Legion
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Reserve Officers Association

Chairman of Parish Red Cross Drive, Member Airport Commission, Active in all levels of Boy Scout work, Lector at St. Francis de Sales Church, Vice-Chairman of the Houma Parking Authority. Terrebonne Parish 150th Anniversary Celebration — Division Head 1972

CLUB SERVICE

Our Rotary Club is an association of representative business and professional people of the community who have accepted the Ideal of Service as the real basis for attaining success and happiness in personal, business and community life.

Buster performed many Club Service Duties to assure the successful administration of The Houma Rotary Club: he was present at our meetings, participated in its fellowship, took part in many programs, served on many committees, elected to the Board of Directors in 1951, elected president The Houma Rotary Club 1951-1952, recognized in 1991 as the “Bob McCormick Distinguished Rotarian of the Year Award” and paid his dues. He represented our club in outside activities:

informing non-Rotarians as to the Object of Rotary, speaking at other Rotary functions, attending district conferences, assisting in organizing new Rotary clubs. His services won the respect and confidence of all his fellow Rotarians for these fifty years.

EDUCATE NEW ROTARIANS

Dispense Rotary Knowledge
Presentation of Paul Harris Award by Billy Foster
Presentation of Newspaper Presentation --- Framed by Lisa Ferrell

ADVENTURE IN SERVICE. Buster found this adventure a source of considerable personal satisfaction, a source of great inspiration, a never-ending challenge. His quest for a fuller and more meaningful life in terms of service to others, motivated and executed without thought of personal gain, expressed in positive and constructive action, the spirit of Rotary is defined in this way:

“The spirit of Rotary is the very essence of its soul. It is invisible, intangible, indefinable, but it is the realist thing about Rotary. It changes casual contacts into glowing friendships; transforms dull duties into inspiring privileges.”

“Where the spirit of Rotary is, there is liberty. It sets us free from the bondage of prejudice

and bigotry, and binds us all together in ties of understanding and brotherhood.”

“The spirit of Rotary is like the gentle rain from Heaven. It cleans away selfishness, melts down the barriers that separate men, dissolves discords into harmonies, changes competition into cooperation, reveals the beauty of life and the inherent nobilities of every man.” Canon Allan P. Shatford

Christian Louis Olivier, Jr.’s life began on September 3, 1911 in *Bogalusa, Louisiana; son of Christian Louis Olivier, and Ida Augusta Druschke Olivier*; one of six children --- brothers, Maurice Herbert Olivier (deceased), Sidney James Olivier, and Charles Druschke Olivier, Sr. (deceased); sisters are Marguerite Ida Olivier Powell and Marie Louise Olivier Jackson.

Buster was reared in New Orleans; attended Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic School, then McDonough #3 Public School and St. Aloysius College, graduating in 1928.

Married Lynette Hebert on January 23, 1936; their five children are Mrs. Rochelle Olivier Dumez, Christian Olivier, III, Mrs Marie Lynette Olivier Rhodes, Jacques C. Olivier, and Richard P. Olivier. They have been blessed with twelve grandchildren.

FIFTY YEARS A ROTARIAN’S WIFE: When asked what was it like to be a Rotarian’s wife for fifty years, Mrs. Lynette Olivier replied, “It was wonderful, I did not have to prepare lunch on Wednesdays for fifty years.”

The members of our Houma Rotary Club have contributed outstanding service to our community in many fields. The evidence is the vast number who have been recognized as “Outstanding Citizens of the Year” Award:

Vic Maurin	Everett Richaud	C. R. Patterson, Sr.
Philip Caillouet	Gibson Stevenson	Gibson Autin
M. L. Funderburk	Willard Ellender	Ernest Ellender
Steve Kenney	Clyde LeBlanc	Rev. Jerome Caine
Fred Newman	Stanwood Duval	George Arcenau, Jr.
Claude Duval	Ed Guidry	James Buquet
C. L. “Buster” Olivier	Jude Lapeyrouse	

People who’ve made a study of the life of Buster Olivier all agree there’s much to study!

History
of
The Houma Rotary Club
Program Presented by
Christian Louis Olivier, Jr.

November 1, 1999

Madam President, Visitors and my Fellow Rotarians:

We are all aware that Rotary began in Chicago, Illinois when Paul Harris conceived the idea in 1905. It is a remarkable fact that his idea traveled, only sixteen years later, to a little community of less than 3,000 citizens by November 1, 1921 when our Rotary Club was chartered. A club is about people and I will tell you something about the seventeen Charter Members who banded together to create our club.

I was privileged to have met or known of all these Charter Members except one. The Chartering President was a Mr. L. H. Jastremski who had many business interests in Houma. He owned and operated the Pelican Lake Canning Company which canned shrimp and oysters and The Houma Ice Company which were located together on the bayou side of Park Avenue between the Lafayette and Barrow Street bridges. He owned a drug store and was president of a bank. It is said of him, that he ran a power line from his Ice Plant to his home across the street to serve it with electric power. His neighbors asked him to allow them power, whereon he joined them to petition the City Government for electric power. The Houma City Council then decided to build a diesel powered generating station to serve the town. It was located in the building now occupied by the Bayou Vue Café on Main Street.

Vice President: Mr. Calvin Wurzlow, an attorney and Mayor of the City of Houma

Secretary: Mr. Tris B. Easton, Editor and Publisher of the Houma Courier — a weekly

Treasurer: Mr. Charles A. Ledet, CEO of the Terrebonne Bank and Insurance Agent

Sergeant-at-Arms: Mr. D. M. Kilpatrick, Ford Automobile Dealer and later General Manager of the Georgia Sugar Refinery and Sugar Plantation at Matthews, La.

MEMBERS

Mr. S. P. Achee, owner Achee's Bakery

Mr. H. L. Bourgeois, Superintendent of Terrebonne Parish School System

Mr. William Cenac, owner Cenac's Oyster Factory located also on the Bayou side of Park Avenue below the Barrow Street Bridge.

Mr. J. E. Clayton, Secretary of the Chamber of commerce. He apparently moved away before I came to Houma.

Mr. Herman A. Cook, a Lumberman, owner of the Houma Cypress Co.

Mr. Baker Smith, Civil Engineer & Surveyor, the father of Mr. Clifford Smith of T. Baker & Sons.

Dr. H. P. St. Martin, a Medical Doctor and President of the Terrebonne Parish School Board for many years.

Mr. Xavier St. Martin, owner of the Indian Ridge Canning Co. located at Boudreaux Canal.

Mr. J. H. Thatcher, owner and operator of The Thatcher Hotel (presently the executive office building of The Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government) and builder of the

Terrebonne Gas Co. That brought natural gas from shallow gas wells at Montegut.

Mr. Wiley E. Thibodaux, sugar farmer on Bayou Blue and a banker.

Mr. Julius Dupont, General Manager of Dupont's Department Store and influential in State Politics during the Huey P. Long Governorship.

Mr. Ernest Dupont, one time Mayor of the City of Houma and Manager of the Dupont Wholesale Grocery Company

Our Rotary Club Membership through the years has a long list of celebrities who served our club; Rotary International; The City of Houma; Terrebonne Parish; The State of Louisiana and yes, The United States Government with honor and distinction.

The most outstanding Rotarian was our 1966 Past President, George Arceneaux, Jr. He served as 1971 District Governor of our Rotary District and 1991 Vice-President of Rotary International.

We have in our midst at this time the Honorable Billy Foster who served as 1990 Club President and as 1997 District Governor.

Our 1933 Past President Mr. Allen J. Ellender served as Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives in the 1930's and was elected to the United States Senate in 1936 where he served and was elected for thirty-six more years, ending his career as President Pro Tem of the Senate and the third man in line for the Presidency of the United States.

Our 1926 Past President was Honorable Morris A. Lottinger who served in the state legislature and became Speaker of the House in 1948-49-50.

Our Past President of 1941 was the Honorable Leon Gary who became Mayor of the City of Houma in 1948 and served for sixteen years.

Our 1957 Past President Honorable Claude Duval served in the Louisiana Senate with distinction.

And right in our midst we have the Honorable Elward Brady who served in the Louisiana House of Representatives.

Our Houma Rotary Club sponsored four other neighboring clubs. In 1936 we and the Plaquemine Rotary Club sponsored the Thibodaux Rotary Club. Again in 1936 we sponsored The Rotary Club in Morgan City. In 1941 we sponsored The Rotary Club Lockport. Then in 1979 we sponsored The Houma-Terrebonne Rotary Club.

Our Club has four on going projects that are certainly worth of mention:

ROLAND THIBODEAUX AWARD FOR SAFE DRIVING

Roland Thibodaux was a young Louisiana State Trooper who served as Safety Director for Troop C. He did his work with the schools of the area, and presented his program to our Rotary on one occasion. He died an untimely death shortly thereafter.

The Directors of The Houma Rotary Club created this Safety Award in his memory to recognize one "Outstanding Terrebonne Parish School Bus Driver" each year. School authorities designate the Awardee and a Rotarian attends a banquet to present the Award. The Honoree is then invited to attend and be presented to our Rotary Club.

THE ROBERT MCCORMICK AWARD

Bob McCormick came to Houma as a timekeeper for a paving contractor who was paving streets in Houma. He met and married a local lady, went to work for the U. S. Postal Service and became Postmaster of the Houma Post Office. When Bob was invited to become a Rotarian, he served as Sergeant-at-Arms for our club. He would station himself near the entrance of the dining hall so as to greet every visitor and introduce them to our president, then accompany them to their seat and introduce them to the tablemates. Bob's outstanding service to our Club caused our Directors to create The Robert McCormick Award to honor a Club Rotarian each year for "Outstanding Club Service"

DOUG STIRE MEMORIAL FUND

Doug Stire was a young member of our Club who went on a hunting trip in the Terrebonne Marshes and got caught in a sudden blizzard. He died from hypothermia trying to get back to his home. The Houma Rotary Club under the leadership of Billy Foster established this Memorial Fund. It provides a maximum of \$1,000 annually to a Terrebonne Student who qualifies in their junior or senior year at Nicholls State University.

TERREBONNE FOUNDATION FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Houma Rotary Club under the leadership of 1991 Past President Kenneth Trahan provided seed money to create this Foundation. The Foundation has a goal of Two Million Dollars from the earning grants will be made to Terrebonne Parish School Teachers with creative plans to improve education methods or facilities in our Parish Schools. The target date for such grant applications will be the school year beginning in 2001.

My fellow Rotarians, you have patiently endured this message covering some of our past achievements and on-going projects. You and I were invited by another Rotarian to join what I believe to be a very select group of business people. You are "The Cream of the Crop".

Many thanks for your support and patience, as I wish each of you a very happy 78th Rotary Anniversary.

Tris Easton

H. L. Bourgeois

Morris Joseph

Joseph Richard

S. P. Achee

J. Louis Watkins, Sr

Dr. R. W. Collins

Dr. Walter Comeaux

Harry Hellier

Allen Ellender

Elward Wright

Floyd Bourg

Claude Ellender

Bill Blanchard

Julius Dupont

C. A. Ledet

A. J. Caillouet

MA BARGAIN STORE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The history of The Houma Rotary Club has been the lives of outstanding Rotarians traveling "Rotary's Four Avenues of Service".

"The Houma Courier's Award for Terrebonne's Most Useful Citizen" has been received by many Houma Rotarians. Since 1982, each year the highly prestigious "The Robert McCormick Award for The Outstanding Rotarian of the Year" is presented during "Installation Ceremony". Our members have supported "The Rotary Foundation"

All living Past-Presidents have recorded the successes during their year as president in the "Milestones in Houma Rotary Club History"

Rotarian Warren Cooke furnished a copy of our Club Charter and a Rotary Foundation Certificate of R. I. Vice-President George Arceneaux's support of "The PolioPlus Program".

Rotarian Christian "Buster" Olivier for his many years of service and his memory of those years. His memory of those years was apparent during his program on Houma Rotary Club's History November 1, 1999, he states he knew all Charter Members except one. A copy of his program is included. Given a copy of the original photograph of our 1925 Rotary Club, "Buster" identified many of these Rotarians. "Buster" read my history presentation, edited my text and presented historical information missing. Thank you!

PHOTOGRAPHS

Mr. Ray Dill, former Publisher of The Houma Courier, furnished the original photograph of our 1925 Houma Rotary Club. This photograph given to him by Rotarian Robert Dupont was torn and in poor condition, Rotarian Darrin Guidry using a computer restored it. Mary Arceneaux, widow of R.I. Vice-President George Arceneaux, Jr., furnished an excellent photograph of George conducting a Rotary International Legislative Council Meeting and one of Dr. George Arceneaux, a member since 1921.

These Rotarians have contributed photographs: Buster Olivier; J. J. Buquet, III; Jude Laperouse; Agnes Chauvin; Yolanda Trahan; Greg Whitney; Annette Foster; Timothy McNabb and Dale Thompson.

I will be eternally grateful to Phebe Reasoner for her outstanding formatting work on this text. Phebe Reasoner is an associate of our Past President Donel Autin, Houston, Tex.

Rotarian Dale Thompson, 2004-2005 President Elect, selected me to compile this history. Starting with The Rotary Club of Houma Commemorative History prepared for our 75th Anniversary, a long process involving all living Past Presidents plus many Rotarians made this history possible. Rotarians this history is only a glimpse, many successes of our Past Rotarians will remain silent since their contributions were never recorded. Our shame!

