

CRUISING ALONG 1980-1990

It seemed that the club was pretty much in a rut when it started the third decade of service. Not that it was an insignificant routine. The auction was producing about \$3,000 to \$4,000 per year. A steady

stream of exchange students injected an international awareness into club meetings. The club followed a practice of awarding Paul Harris Fellowships to selected members, usually past presidents. Scholarships were awarded regularly to graduates of Siuslaw High School. Annual grants amounting to about \$5000 were being made to the Boy Scouts, Christmas Baskets, and other projects

Community and World Events 1980-1990

Florence population grew from 4411 to 5171.

Vote to expand Western Lane Hospital defeated.

Wood products industries struggling.

New jetty dedicated. 1986

Space Shuttle Challenger explodes. -1986

Highway 101 widened through town. 1987

US adopts first trillion-dollar budget. 1987
stock market breaks 2000 level.

Community raises over \$1,000,000 for new Hospital.

Berlin Wall falls. 1989

New Library completed. 1990

European Economic Community is born.

In the mid-eighties, the club sponsored a water safety class. The club bulletin reported in August of 1984 that 36 kids participated over a two-week period. "The thrust of the program was to educate kids and their parents in water safety in an

effort to prevent accidental drowning." There was one paid instructor and six volunteer aides. There were more applicants than could be included. High insurance costs caused the club to drop the program after a couple of years.

The District Governor, Charles Wiper, Jr., returned his expense check to the club after his visit suggesting that the club to start a Paul Harris sustaining membership effort use it. Up until this point, all Paul Harris Fellowships in the club had been presented as an honor. This prompted the club to emphasizing the importance of supporting the Rotary Foundation.

A contest was held to design a new cover for the newsletter. Judy Duval of Swisshome and a teacher in the Mapleton Schools won the contest. Unfortunately, it was later learned that the Rotary logo could not be combined with other elements. The club's unique design had to be abandoned. So a new format for the bulletin was adopted that included advertising.

In April of 1985, the club celebrated its 25th anniversary with a banquet held at the Elks Club. As part of the program, Cliff Emery gave an antidotal history of the club. District Governor, Charles Wiper, was present to congratulate the club and give the major address.

The community Thanksgiving dinner fell on hard times and was rescued by sponsorship by the Rotary Club. This support continued for several years.

Rotary Events
1980-1990

Club membership jumps from 52 to 72.

Club adopts \$4,000 goal for Polio Plus.

Beginning of Reef Project.

Jane Fraese first women member of club. 1988

Sustaining Paul Harris memberships increase support for Rotary Foundation.

Auction goes big time in 1989. Income triples.

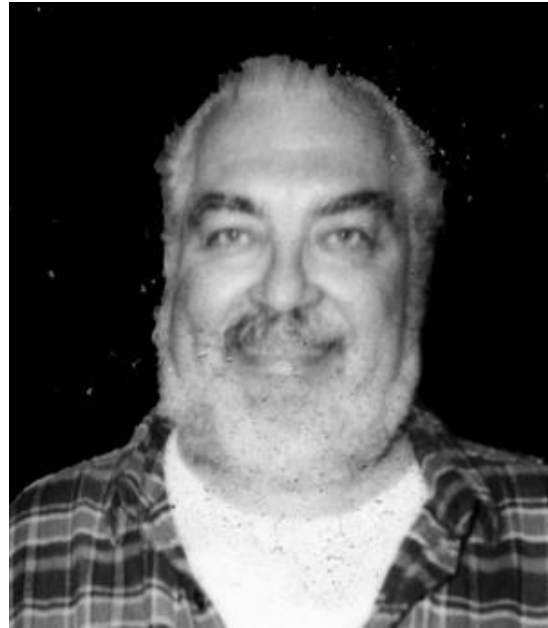
Tom Grove and Craig McMicken sold to highest bidder as "pooper scoopers" in Rhody parade in 1989 auction.

Florence hosts 1990 District Conference May of 1990.

Increase number of scholarships from three to nine. Mapleton added.

When Howard Ragan completed his term as president, the club had another first by nominating him for district governor. He did not win, however.

The minutes of December 1986 contain a casual reference that Jerry Sandmann "gave a report on the artificial reef committee's progress." This is the first mention of this project that was to occupy the attention of the club over the next dozen years. It apparently originated in the Community Service of which Jerry chaired. It was not included as a possibility a few months earlier when a committee sought to identify a major project for the club.



It seems as if the club just accepted the task of establishing an artificial reef off the coast slightly north of Florence. Increasing the possibilities for bottom fishing and, therefore, attracting fishermen to the area made the project attractive, but the obstacles would be many. The papers for the reef were officially approved in May of 1990. (See Community Service section for more information.)

During Dave Clark's term, Rotary International launched one of its most ambitious projects: the eradication of Polio from the face of the earth. This mammoth effort called for Rotary clubs world wide to raise \$120 million.



Dave Clark



John Stone

Later this figure increased to \$500 million. Dave accepted a goal of \$4,000 for Florence, but it became the responsibility of his successor, John Stone, to complete the task. The project proved to be one of the most successful preventive medicine programs ever conducted.



When the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against the Junior Chamber of Commerce's membership policy of "men only", Rotary International took the initiative to admit women. Before the final approval by RI a straw vote taken locally. It indicated a reluctance to make the change. Once the policy had been adopted, however, the club complied. The first woman received into membership was Jane Fraese. The year was 1988.

Dick Whitmore proposed that the club sponsor an incoming

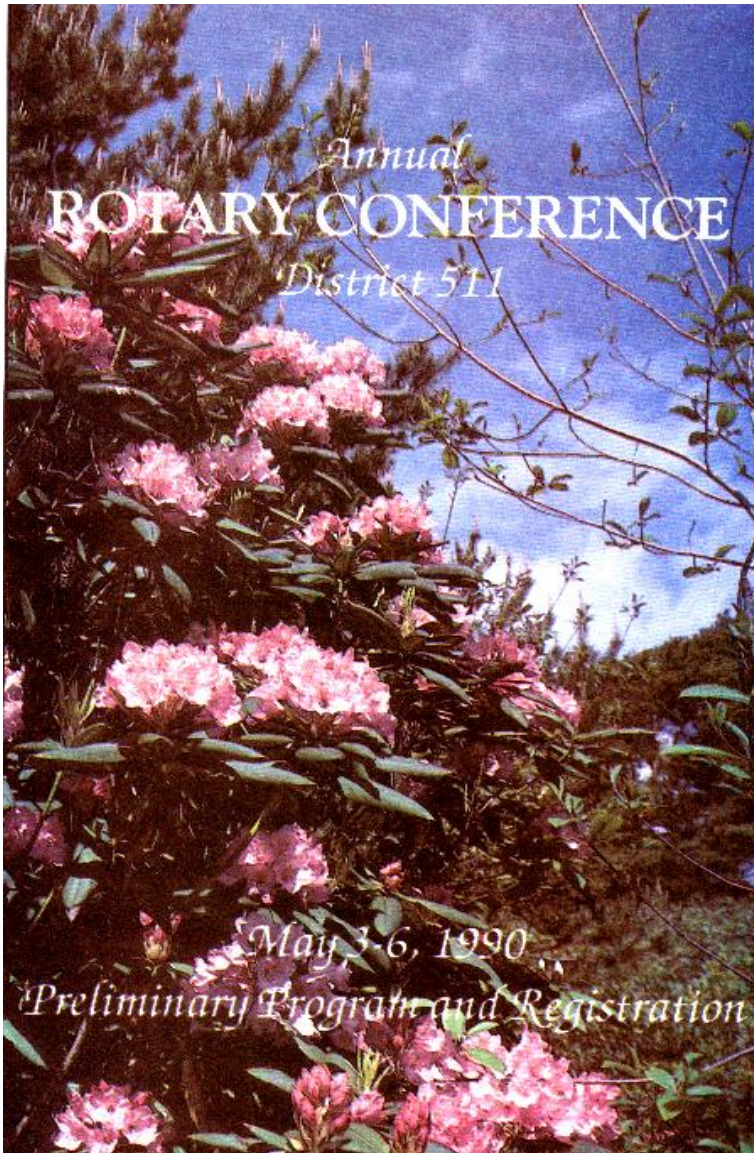
Jane Fraese

high school senior to the World Affairs Seminar, a Rotary project held annually

at Whitewater, WI. The club, one of only a few in our district adopted the idea, which has become a tradition. The first student selected to attend in 1989 was Tiffani Bennett.

Rick Yecny broke a fifteen-year drought when he represented Florence on a district GSE team. He traveled to Finland in 1989.

The club in 1990 began feeding hotdogs, chips, and sodas to all members of high school band members marching in the Rhody parade. Utilizing the facilities at Peterson Field, the club provides this free lunch to between 300 and 450 students each year.



Rick Yecny

The decade ended with a bang in 1990 when the club again hosted the district conference. All of the town's facilities were stretched, as were the members of the club. Craig Micken chaired the arrangements committee involving most of the membership. A golf match started the event. Members of the club invited visiting Rotarians for an evening of "home hospitality," providing dinner. Housing was arranged for some

70-exchange students. Entertainment included trips to Sea Lions Caves; Sand Dunes Frontier and guided beach walks. Shuttle transportation between various motels and the Elks Club where the meetings were held, proved to be a major problem. The Governor's Banquet crowded 500 people into the Middle School gym. But it was a great success. The club was operating at full throttle.

Additional Pictures



Cruising Along--Draft: September 15, 2000

1984 Auction