

SAN MARINO ROTARY CLUB
President John Barton's Year
1939-40

The Rotary Club of San Marino was indeed fortunate in the selection of John Barton as its first President. In fact, he was selected three times as President; first, as temporary President, then from the incorporation in April, 1939, to the end of the first Rotary year on June 30. He was elected as the first full term President for the 1939-40 Rotary year.

Following the usual growing pains, the twenty four Charter Members soon found a place for their activities in the community. A Boy Scout troop was sponsored and a committee was appointed to help coordinate the activities for the San Marino float in the Tournament of Roses. The maximum luncheon charge at the Huntington Hotel was \$1. Phil Lovejoy, Secretary of Rotary International, wrote: "The Rotary Club of San Marino exemplifies the fact that a Rotary Club improves the community it serves.

The minutes of May include an authorization to buy a "kitty" for the Rotary Club. This item has long since disappeared, but the practice of levying fines, for which it was purchased and for which it was to be used, continues to be with us.

Augst 14 Minutes. "ROTOSCOPE is born." After months of discussion and research, it was finally suggested by Donn Thomas that the official voice of the club be "ROTOSCOPE." On motion of Scott and seconded by Lauderbaugh, the name became official. Volume I, No. 1, of this publication appeared on December 14, 1939. Merle Scott, the editor, signed his editorial on Page 1 as "Merle - the goat." A quick perusal of this edition reveals the boys carried their enthusiasm for fun onto the golf course. The article remarked that Clarence Fetterman "provided the sensation of the day when he hit an explosive ball tied up for him by Tom." Mention was also made that "The Wet Pants Brigade will meet next week to discuss ways and means of suppressing the activities of one Harry Ginn."

Rotary signs were erected; one on the south side of Huntington Drive at Granada Avenue and one on the north side of Huntington Drive at San Gabriel Boulevard, where they still remain.

Rotary Club approved resolution to bring about changing the name of the City Park to "Lacy Park" in honor of Mrs. William H. Lacy, the former wife of the city's distinguished mayor, who recently passed away.

Thomas A. Hammond was elected President for Rotary Year 1940-41.

NEW MEMBERSBen Parker, Ted Daniell, and James Cassidy.

CHIT CHAT

The writer uncovered the official "San Marino Rotary Song: written by Donn H. Thomas." Words read:

1st Verse - There is a place where men do meet
A place where friends and cronies eat.
Where all your cares are put away
And fellowship shall rule the day.
With Doctor, Banker, Business men
And all the rest who have the yen.

Chorus: We sing in praise of Rotary
Of fellowship and jollity
Oh - San Marino Rotary
Long may thy banner proudly wave
In token of thy creed so true, so true
To God we lend support, the world to save
Oh - San Marino Rotary
Together we will sing for you.

2nd Verse - The festive board we gather round
And hear the Savants wise expound.
For salted drink or wetter chair
Uproarious laughter and despair.
We joke and jeer our dearest friends
And forth with try to make amends.

Chorus: Repeat



John Barton

The first report from the San Marino Rotary Club to the Governor of District 107, August 29, 1939, listed twenty seven members.

FROM HERE

John A. Barton writes of his years as President of the club:

"The closing highlight was my demotion at Huntington Hotel, preceded by a social hour at my home. Everyone seemed determined that I should be floated out of office. The indignities I suffered at the hands of my brother Rotarians will always be remembered. They were truly unselfish in their haste to remove me from office.

We cannot turn back the years, but we can enjoy our memories of pleasant events in our lives; and one of the fondest memories I shall always have will be the fellowship I enjoyed with my brother Rotarians in the first year of San Marino Rotary."

A great man cast a shadow which extends into infinity. Who can foresee those it may touch. The indescribable vision and appreciation for the potential philosophy of Rotary was only starting to penetrate the San Marino Rotarians consciousness.

Did the vaccination of the "Rotary Germ" take? Was the "rosy future" predicted by Laura Bee significant? A visit to our club today will give the answer to both of these questions a resounding YES! Letters from Gregory W. Melaven, R.I. Secretariat-Central Office, and Otto W. Nelson, Governor, District 107, R.I. also answered YES!