

SAN MARINO ROTARY CLUB

President D. D. Gordon's Year
President Harold A. Barnett's Year
1941-42

This Rotary year, Tom J. Davis was elected President of Rotary International. There were 5,058 clubs in Rotary with an estimated 212,000 members. Carlos G Stratton became District Governor of 107 with 49 clubs and an estimated 2,577 members.

Those whose memories hark back to the Rotary Year 1941-42 remember this was the only time that this club has had two Presidents in one year. D. D. Gordon, first duly elected President, was granted "Temporary Honorary Membership" to work with the Department of Transportation; Harold A. Barnett was elected to fill the unexpired term as President of the club. Barney writes, "The year 1941-42 was a year of turmoil and confusion."

This was the year the meeting place was changed from the Huntington Hotel to Pierre's Restaurant, 2295 Huntington Drive, San Marino. It was also the year that World War II engulfed all mankind.

MOST REMEMBERED EVENTS

Edd Norwood developed the story of Rotary, its progress, its beauties, its struggles and its triumphs, its free and generous help to mankind and its final victory and peace. This story was pictured in a series of slides. The project required three years labor for Edd. The film became a best seller. In fact, it increased in popularity with each presentation. Clubs throughout the Country requested that Rotarian Edd give the program at their club. Thus, Rotarian Edd was to become one of the outstanding leaders in Rotary in the United States.

Tom Hammond, second president of our club, had joined the Navy and returned for a visit.

Change in By-laws: Discussion was launched concerning the proposed change of the By-laws of the Club to permit the election of our president from the membership at large, rather than as has been the custom in the past of electing from the Board of Directors.

A membership proposal for David Fiscus, California Water and Telephone Company, was presented for consideration. Barney's impromptu comment of this event was "At that time, who cared who Dave Fiscus was?"

Two items in the minutes of Tuesday, March 24, 1942 read: "...Board of Directors granted Ben Parker Temporary Honorary Membership due to his being in the service of his Country; and ...President D. D. Gordon be granted Temporary Honorary Membership since his duties in the office of Transportation (Government) makes it impossible for him to continue actively in membership. Motion carried."

What happened to the minutes approving Barney as President of our club is a deep dark secret.

Christmas Party: This party will be recalled with a kind of nostalgia by

those who attended. Barney and George Gantus were selected as co-administrators of the hilarious Christmas celebration on December 18. From the festive balloon hats and the beautiful presents received by all, to the two receptacles labeled "this is" and "this ain't", the stage settings were all calculated to produce a state of enthusiasm most effectively. Sky pilot Baker's halo was a masterful touch. Ham Stevens and his water gun started the main riot, and Clarence Fetterman finished it. Yes, this was a party to remember!

During these early years, ROTOSCOPES were donated to the club as compliments of the members.

Minutes of the Board of Directors for April 14, 1942 carried a short notation that "Barney made an appointment." The next indication that Barney was President can be found in minutes of June 9, which gave a vote of thanks to Barnett for acting as President for the balance of D.D.'s term. One further comment was discovered which indicated the strong arm policy pursued by Barney during his term in office. It mentioned that, "Barney was plenty hot in the first try at the gavel. Me thinks this fellow is going to wield a mean repartee when he gets fully underway."

Larry Shepard was granted Temporary Honorary Membership. Larry became a Captain in the U.S. Army Engineers at Hobbs, New Mexico.

NEW MEMBERS

Members new in 1941-42 were Martin Baker, Rea Eaton, Charles Roberts, David Fiscus and Don W. Davis.

THE YEAR THAT HAD TWO - TWO PRESIDENTS IN ONE YEAR

Barney could never be satisfied with less. Why should he be in this year of turmoil and confusion! His wit and humor is refreshing and always welcome, especially in a period of our history engulfed in a war of survival. This is the year, unique in our Rotary club, when two past presidents may be honored. Well done D.D. and Barney!



D.D. Gordon



Harold A. Barnett