

SAN MARINO ROTARY CLUB  
President John Clay's Year  
1949-50

Rotary's 40th Annual Convention was held in Madison Square Gardens, New York City, June 12-16, 1949. Incoming President of San Marino, John H. Clay attended with Rotary Ann Edna, son Johnny 10, and daughter Julia 9. Also in attendance were Past President Edd Norwood, Bonnie, and daughters Mary Jean and Nancy Jo; Past President Irving (Stinky) King and Etta; and Secretary David H. Fiscus and Alice.

Eck Heistand was Governor of District 160 which was later to become 160-C, the present District 530, and Percy Hodgson became President of Rotary International.

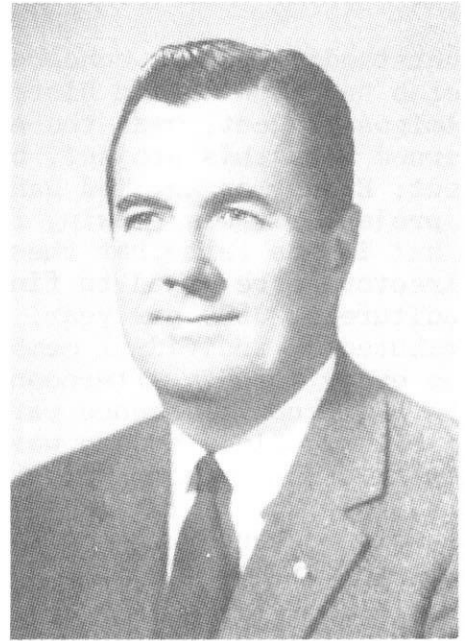
John's presidency placed emphasis on Community Service and the Family. Clark E. Bell, Mayor of San Marino, and John Barton, our first president, were made honorary members of our club. Joint meetings with neighboring clubs were held. We had a father and son day; a father and daughter day; and a ladies' day. A family picnic was held in Lacy Park, and a softball team competed with Kiwanis, Lions, City Club, and Masonic teams at Huntington School. Elder Morgan, always busy in club work, arranged a super Valentine Party. Kirby Lesh hosted a deep-sea fishing trip. Larry Shepard "hooked" a marlin, and Parker Stortz won the jackpot.

Under President John's leadership, our club sponsored Edd Norwood for District Governor to serve during the 1950-51 Rotary Year. On March 23, a special edition of the ROTOSCOPE announced his selection as the nominee for District 160 comprised of 70 clubs.

With Bert Willer as our ROTOSCOPE editor, humor ran amuck! Bert wrote his columns and signed various persons' names, some real, some fictitious. He had only been editor for three weeks when he signed Los Angeles Mayor Bowron's name to the column, and the PASADENA STAR NEWS picked it up and printed the "tongue-in-cheek" story which Bert had written and gave it prominent space with headlines quoting the Mayor as saying, "You should praise your Police Department and its activities from the housetops. (Unfortunately for Los Angeles, we were unable to keep our activities quiet.) In closing, may I thank you for the opportunity of becoming acquainted with the proper method of running a city, and I am thinking seriously of making San Marino my home. (I should be so lucky.)" When the news reached the pompous Mayor Bowron, he descended on Editor Bert in a fury. After spouting and sputtering for several days, Bowron passed it off as a joke -- which it was!

President John was convinced that members should have a greater knowledge of fellow Rotarians' vocations. He, therefore, developed the plan having members visit other places of business. A "Classification of the Week" was designated, and club members called and signed the circulating guest book at the Rotarian's place of business during the "Open House" week.

Club membership was 60, and attendance averaged well above the other 72 clubs at 96% plus. The demotion-installation party was held at the Altadena Town and Country Club. The club slogan for the year was "SERVICE IS OUR BUSINESS."



*[E-Mail from John C. Clay, Jr, grandson of John Clay Sr, PDG to the President of the San Marino Rotary Club, Isaac Hung]*

June 2, 2013

Dear Isaac,

I am the Immediate Past President of the Rotary Club of Oxnard as well as the current programs chair, web editor and Assistant Governor for District 5240, 2013-2014. I was working on our web page and decided to see what would pop up in Google as I typed fellow Rotarians names along with Rotary into the search engine. As I typed in Rotary John Clay I came across a PDF file talking about my grandfather as President of your club. I would like for you to thank the Rotarian responsible for your history project on my behalf. My father, John Clay Sr., is the son Johnny 10 in the letter. He was the President of Pasadena East, Rotary Club of Ventura and the Rotary Club of Oxnard. We are currently in the Rotary Club of Oxnard together. My older brother Jeff Kroeker is in the Rotary Club of Lake Arrowhead and my Aunt Jane, 5 at the time of the letter so she must have had a sitter, is in the Rotary Club of Alhambra. My grandfather later became the District Governor of 5300. I cannot express to you how neat it was to come across these documents and to be able to share them with my family. Some of my fondest memories growing up are attending Rotary events with my father. Mostly because I would get to leave school to attend lunch. It was exciting to learn that my Grandfather had also taken my father to Rotary events. Jack McClenahan, District Governor of 5240 2013-2014, always introduces me as the Rotarian that brings his family with him to Rotary events. He usually includes a story about how I brought my wife, an infant and toddler to a District Conference when Jack's wife Jane was District Governor. I have yet to tell him how nervous I was to bring them as I had yet to see any children at any such events. It was encouraging to see that I was not only following in my father's footsteps but also my grandfathers footsteps by including my family in my Rotary experience. On another note, I had the Managing Partner of my firm, Andrew Crowell, speak to my club last year and I learned that he was an Ambassadorial Scholar of your club in 1987-1988. It's a small world. Who knows, maybe one day I will run for District Governor. If that were to occur I would focus on incorporating family into Rotary. Again, please thank the person responsible for adding these documents to the web. I have a box in my garage of our Rotary Newsletters that date back to the end of time. It has always been on my list to scan and post these to our site. Now I have more reason to do so. [www.oxnardrotary.com](http://www.oxnardrotary.com)

John C. Clay