

SAN MARINO ROTARY CLUB
President John McDonald's Year
1957-58

Pierre's Restaurant was the meeting place for San Marino Rotary for many years, but during the club year 1957-58 we were forced to make a change. Actually, the restaurant had changed name and management in the closing days of 1956, and was known as the Riviera, but it was still at the same spot on Huntington Drive, (Pierre's Restaurant) and had been the regular meeting-place for San Marino Rotary as long as most of the members could remember. When the management of the restaurant decided to suspend operations, the Club was forced to find a new home in a hurry. Bob Moore of the Marino House offered his facilities and the Club accepted.

Our district was re-divided and redesignated, and in 1957-58 we found ourselves celebrating our first year in a new district -- 530. District Governor Art Withrow adopted as a slogan "Watch Rotary Grow with Five Three Oh" and his year was as successful as his slogan. Governor Art invoked some fine print in Rotary's Manual of Procedure, and took an unusual but highly successful step. He subdivided District 530 into zones, and appointed a District Governor's Representative for each zone. John Clay was selected as one of these "Assistant District Governors" which was a great honor for John, and also a great deal of hard work. His zone did not include San Marino, but while we missed John, we had Fred Tempes from Pasadena as the Governor's Representative for our zone, and no one could ask for more good assistance and counsel than we got from Fred. The club kidded both Fred and John about being enrolled in a school for future District Governors.

District 530 had its first annual convention at Las Vegas, and drew a good attendance among the San Marinans. In addition to the usual plenary sessions and Las Vegas type extra-curricular activities, the convention was entertained by John Clay and his San Marino Crocketteers, aliàs the Grandma's Lye Soap Quintet, in a stirring (blood-curdling?) rendition of "With a Little Bit of Luck". Mr Fair Lady would never have recognized it. Excerpt:

"Our Governor says we must resist temptation
And give up dice and other forms of sin.
Our Governor says we must resist temptation BUT --
 With a little bit of luck,
 With a little bit of luck,
When temptation comes we'll give right in!"

San Marino Rotary was honored with a request to act as Host Club for the District Assembly at the Huntington Hotel on May 1, 1958. Ed Brewster acted as Assembly Manager for the District, and John Woodforde was the Chairman of the San Marino Host Club Committee. With two organizers as efficient and tireless as Woody and Ed, and with Governor Art giving a heavy injection of his Rotary "Sparkle", the assembly did a fine job of indoctrination on the 1958-59 officers. It also demoted Governor Art in a blaze of gunfire, complete with bullets made out of Kleenex. San Marino is proud to have served as host for the first assembly of District 530.

Our Rancho Los Amigos project had become so well established and so comprehensive that it was felt that the Club should attempt a change of orientation toward the program. The Rancho Committee attempted to make the program self-sustaining, with the idea that the club would then be able to develop another Community Service project as a new outlet for its resources and energies. During the year a great deal of progress was made toward the establishment of the new basis that is necessary for this change.

This was also the year that a President of San Marino Rotary Club needed to go outside the limits of the United States for advice on Rotary Problems. President John's alleged uncle from Loch Fraemar Nr Tweediemoral, Scotland, wrote President John on matters of importance, especially those items pertaining to money. A copy of Uncle Angus' letter may be of interest.

Dear "John",

I see ye've changed Ian to John and if the change has made more money for ye, it's reasonable. But, like as not it's only made money making easier.

Aye laddie and it's good to see another McDonald at a Rotary Club's helm again... Ye'll recollect I served at Tweediemoral back in '32 or maybe '35. Remember now, it's your sworn duty to extract the idle money from the breeks-pockets of the members. Idle money is a turrible thing, boy, but in a Rotarian it's downright sinful.

And when, sure as Doomsday, the committee chairmen have lapsed back into slumber - say about mid-autum - ye must remember your forbear Gory McDonald and with a "Up the McDonalds!" chivvy em 'round a bit. This ye can repeat as needed, but if ye have to do it twice, ye're no the Scot I think y'are.

Since the McMillan lad took over the Government in Lunnon and put the squeeze on petrol, a great peace has descended on the Highlands. (Some say 'tis the only constructive thing they've done at Westminster in living memory!)

The roar of the char-a-bancs has passed from the glen and the empty gingerbeer bottles from the roadside. For which all men give praise exceptin' Geordie Buchanan down at the "Belt and Sporrán". 'Tis true the publicans and their ilk have been wounded where it hurts a Scot the most.

Travellin' men tell of the bright coloured shirts the California lads are wearing the noo, without even havin' the decency to tuck 'em into their breeks! But then folk who insist on driving on the wrong side of the road can surely be expected to have another eccentricity or two.

Your Aunt Jean joins me in wishing a memorable year for you, Ian McDonald.

Affect'ly yours, Uncle Angus

Editor's Note: Please ask John McDonald and Art Rees to explain the following: One highlight of John's year was "The Great Removal Sale" which took place at the McDonald Camera Shop while John was in Switzerland.

