1944

Rotary Club of Rockland, Maine: A History -- 1924-1944

Rockland Rotary Club

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ROCKLAND
ROTARY
CLUB

"Service Above Self"

NO. 1829

1924 - 1944
ROTARY CLUB
OF
ROCKLAND, MAINE
Club No. 1829 District No. 193
A HISTORY
1924 - 1944
MEETS
FRIDAY, 12:15 P. M.
HOTEL ROCKLAND
"He profits most who serves best"
Among the summer guests at the Hotel Samoset in the early 1920s were William Stark and his son, J. Lutcher Stark, Rotarians from Texas. Finding no place here to make up their Rotary attendance, they interested themselves in selling the idea of a Club to prominent citizens of Rockland. Rev. Charles A. Knickerbocker had but recently come to Rockland from Waterville where he had been a member of the Waterville Rotary Club. He was all for the idea and the eminent surgeon Walter M. Spear M. D. became interested. At the time of which we write, there was an old and well established organization in Rockland known as the City Club with its membership limited to 25. This Club invited Prof. Herbert C. Libby of Waterville, then Governor of the Eighth District, to appear and explain Rotary to its membership. As a result the City Club agreed to disband, each member being eligible to a classification in Rotary. A large majority of the Charter membership of the Rotary Club was composed of men who had been members of the City Club. Only a few City Club members did not accept membership in Rotary.

The following list of Charter members is given with the classifications stated as they were published in the Courier-Gazette the week of Nov. 21, 1924.
CHARTER MEMBERS

Alan L. Bird .............................................. Lawyer
Harold P. Blodgett ........................................ District Supt.
Ralph W. Bickford ........................................ Dentist
Edwin L. Brown .............................................. Artist
Charles H. Duff .............................................. Manufacturer
Alvin W. Foss ................................................... Physician
Frank W. Fuller ............................................. Department Store
William O. Fuller ........................................... Editor
William A. Glover ......................................... Building Contractor
J. Albert Jameson .......................................... Retail Grocer
Charles M. Kalloch ............................................ Banker
Glenn A. Lawrence ......................................... Sardine Packer
Fred L. Linekin ................................................. Garage
Horatio N. McDougall ..................................... Investment Banker
Albert C. McLoon ........................................ Whole Sale Lobster Dealer
Eugene M. O'Neil .............................................. Hotel
Arthur L. Orne .............................................. Insurance Agent
Walter S. Rounds ........................................... Minister
Homer E. Robinson ........................................... Banker
Walter M. Spear ............................................ Surgeon
Fred R. Spear .................................................. Coal Retailer
George B. Wood .............................................. Lime Manufacturer
Melvin E. Wotton ............................................ Retail Dry Goods

Note: Most of the above classifications are inaccurate. Rotarily stated they would be the name of the occupation, not of the office; for instance "Banking" not "Banker." On our charter night we had not perfected the finer points of Rotary practise.
The Rockland Club received its charter on the above date at a memorable gathering held in the Thorndike Hotel. About 160 Rotarians and “Rotary Annns” were present. The organization had been previously completed, Governor Herbert C. Libby of the 8th District being ill he was represented by Drew T. Harthorne of Waterville who presented the Charter which was accepted by Dr. Walter M. Spear. There was much singing, merriment and high grade inspirational addresses by Rev. Walter S. Rounds, Sec., Thomas B. Ashcraft of Waterville, Rev. Charles A. Knickerbocker, pastor of the local Universalist Church and past President of the Waterville Club on “What Rotary Will Do For Rockland,” Dr. Spear, and Rev. Albion D. D. of Portland. Dr. Spear acted as toast master and spoke ably on Rotary objectives in accepting the charter. These addresses were reported quite fully in The Courier-Gazette and they will repay any Rotarian who cares to inspect the files of that paper. All in all it was a great occasion, a worthy start of a movement in Rockland which has justified the high expectations there generated during the 20 years which have since elapsed.

It was on this occasion and during the following year that the stamp of character was deeply etched upon the Club by the founding fathers. They were men of force and positive character, public spirit and dedication to service. That which they impressed upon the Club in its formative period has shaped its course all these years and seems destined to continue. There have been periods of ebb tide in these two score years but the impetus given by the strong push of these men has carried the Club on and over difficulties and dangers. The influence of the founding fathers has been evident in the care given to the choice of successors to carry on the good tradition. Let us see who they were.
Table of Officers and Directors

President
C. H. Shelton

Vice President
O. G. Carrier

Secretary
T. B. Robinson

Treasurer
A. W. Watson

Directors
O. R. L. Brackett
H. C. Neavel
J. W. Coburn
E. A. Wills
T. B. Robinson
A. W. Watson
J. R. Patterson
J. F. Bright
H. C. Neavel
T. B. Robinson
A. W. Watson
J. R. Patterson
J. F. Bright
CLUB MEMBERSHIP

As of November 21, 1944

Classification

Putnam P. Bicknell, Granite Tool Manufacturing
Alan L. Bird, Law, Corporation
Henry B. Bird, Past Service
Theodore S. Bird, Canning, Vegetables
Albert P. Blaisdell, Honorary
Joseph E. Blaisdell, Education, High School Principal
Harold P. Blodgett, Electric Light and Power Service
Walter E. Bowe, Cement Distributing
Harry Bradley, Household Furniture, retailing
I. Lawton Bray, Banking, Loan & Building
Edwin L. Brown, Artist
Gilford B. Butler, Law, Probate Court
Jerome C. Burrows, Law, General Practice
Ralph P. Conant, Men's Clothing, Distributing
Stafford M. Congdon, Resorts
Walter P. Conley, Optometry
David J. Connelly, Garment Manufacturing
Horatio C. Cowan, Ice Cream Distributing
Kennedy Crane, Department Stores
Kelley B. Crie, Hardware, retailing
Elmer B. Crockett, Variety Stores, retailing
Lloyd E. Daniels, Jewelry, retailing
J. Russell Davis, Undertaking
Charles H. Duff, Braid Manufacturing
Ray E. Eaton, Groceries, wholesale
Charles A. Emery, Real Estate Management
Alvin W. Foss, M. D., Past Service
Crosby F. French, D. V. S. Veterinary Surgery
Willard P. Gray, Meat, wholesaling
Edward F. Glover, Building Construction
William A. Glover, Honorary
Harry O. Gurley, Honorary
Edward J. Hellier, Banking, Savings
J. Albert Jameson, Groceries, retailing
Lucius E. Jones, Elec. Equip. & Supplies, Sales & Service
Walter C. Ladd, Insurance, Surety Bonding
Donald C. Leach, Add. Act. Lobster Distributing
Fred L. Linekin, Automobile, retailing
Maurice F. Lovejoy, Insurance, Marine
Seth Low, Stationery, retailing
John S. Lowe, D. D., Ministry Protestant
Robert B. Lunt, Education, Supt. of Schools
Donald A. Matheson (Lieut.), Army Air Corps
Allan F. McAiary, Municipal Water Service
Albert C. McLoon, Lobster Distributing
E. Carl Moran, Insurance, Casualty
Herbert C. Newbegin, Banking, Trust Co.
Benjamin H. Nichols, Dairying
Charles D. North, M. D., Reontgenology
Arthur L. Orne, Insurance, Fire
Sumner C. Perry, Laundry Service
Homer E. Robinson, Senior Active
Joseph W. Robinson, Banking, National
George L. St. Clair, Confectionery, Manufacturing
Charles W. Sheldon, Drugs, Retailing
Charles T. Smalley, Law, Insurance Practice
Cleveland L. Sleeper, Coal, Distributing
Thomas C. Stone, Telephone Service
Rupert L. Stratton, D.M.D., Dentistry
Leforest A. Thurston, Real Estate
Raymond E. Thurston, Orcharding
Louis A. Walker, Life Insurance
Roland G. Ware, Oil Distributing
John H. Welch, Penal Institutions, Warden
Herman J. Weisman, M. D., Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat specializing
Ralph L. Wiggin, Capital Management
George B. Wood, Past Service
Charles C. Wotton, Women's Clothing, retailing

**CONVENIENT PLACES TO MAKE UP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Augusta,</td>
<td>Augusta House,</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>6.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangor,</td>
<td>Bangor House,</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>12.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belfast,</td>
<td>Business &amp; Professional Women's Club,</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>12.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boothbay Harbor,</td>
<td>Rotary Club Rooms Todd Ave.</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>6.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camden,</td>
<td>Wadsworth Inn,</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>12.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damariscotta,</td>
<td>Senter's Hall,</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>6.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardiner,</td>
<td>Elks Club,</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>12.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewiston,</td>
<td>DeWitt Hotel,</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland,</td>
<td>Falmouth Hotel,</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>12.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston,</td>
<td>Hotel Statler,</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>12.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York,</td>
<td>Hotel Commodore,</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>12.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DEVELOPMENT OF THE CLUB TRADITION

To the present day the Rockland Rotary Club is the lengthened shadow of its first Board of Directors and among these, towers the figure of Dr. Walter M. Spear. Dr. Spear was forthright to the point of bluntness and left no one in doubt as to where he stood or as to what was expected of him in Rotary. Immediately it became apparent that no man was big enough to become an exception to Rotary rules or to gain membership by means of influence. During the first six months the foundations of enduring traditions were laid. Some of them were of more importance than others but in the minutes of those first months we find the following:

1. The Poverty Luncheon in which the members ate a meagre meal and gave the balance to some worthy cause. At the first one they spent only four cents per capita on the meal consumed. Spartan discipline.

2. Athletic Interests: Bob Sled contest. Calisthenics in the Club. Club Bowling. In May, 1925 we challenged the 40 Club to a game of baseball. These interests later turned to golf and then disappeared entirely.

3. Rotation in seating arrangements. President Walter announced a fine of twenty five cents for members found guilty of sitting next to each other for two consecutive meetings.

4. Boys' Work: A survey of the Boys of the City was begun during this first six months. Boys' Week was observed.
5. We became a singing Club under the leadership of Phil Jones. Jimmy O'Hara's Rockland Rotary Song was sung for the first time, April 10, 1925.

6. Attendance: This tradition has held. The percentage of attendance given in Walter Rounds first report was 93.30 with two 100% meetings in a four months period.

7. Use of distinguished summer residents on our programs and appreciation of their fellowship. Already Harry Jackson was one of our "regulars." May 28, 1925 seems to be the first of a long list of programs to be given by summer residents. It was produced by D. B. Murdoch of Camden and treated of Hawaii and the pineapple industry.

8. Fun at the expense of one another.

9. Club representation at District Conferences, Assemblies and International Conventions: Homer Robinson was the first delegate to the first Convention of Rotary International held after organization of the Club. It was at Cleveland, Ohio and the Club profited much by it. There was a large delegation to the first District Conference at Portland and the first President and Secretary did not fail to attend the District Assembly.

10. High Grade Programs: Reading of the records discloses an astonishing range of subjects and evident high quality in the programs over half of which were given by Club members. Many now passed on move across these records and many still live among us and are doubtless now as able to instruct entertain and move us as they were in 1924-5.

11. The use of that efficiency implement, the Club Assembly, was begun July, 2 after a dinner in the
Thorndike Hotel. It is recorded that nine committees presented subjects for discussion, among which I note—Flowers for the sick; welcoming of strangers; City Garbage disposal; Back to School movement; Ethics of business; Rotary principles to be stressed often in the programs; Boy Scouts; etc.

12. Discipline: Strict and impartial enforcement of Rotary rules. A member was early trained to do what he was asked to do by proper authority.

13. A Paid Assistant or "Executive Secretary." From the beginning it was recognized that no member could afford to give the time to the clerical work necessary to keep the Club in proper running order. The weekly bulletin, attendance records, correspondence, minutes of Directors meetings and Club Meetings as well as much other detail have been efficiently cared for by an executive secretary. Miss Worcester serving until 1929 and Mrs. Irene B. Walker from that time to date.

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RE-DISTRICTING

In 1924 when the Rockland Club was chartered, it entered the 31st district. Almost immediately the territory was re-districted and Rockland was a part of the 8th district. This lasted only a couple of years and from the Rotary year 1926-27 to 1936-37 we were included in the 38th district. At that time a further change was made to make border clubs international in their composition and we became a member of the 193d district in which we still remain. In this last change we gave up the northern Maine Clubs in exchange for Quebec. The clubs which we relinquished became members of another international district.
## LIST OF OUR DISTRICT GOVERNORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and Club</th>
<th>District Number</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Herbert C. Libby, Waterville, Me.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1924-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Eaton D. Sargent, Nashua, N. H.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1925-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norman Russell, Newburyport, Mass.</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1926-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sullivan L. Andrews, Lewiston-Auburn, Me.</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1927-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Bernard Archibald, Houlton, Me.</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1928-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*David C. McIntosh, Dover, N. H.</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1929-30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas A. Sanders, Portland, Me.</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1930-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edgar L. Harding, Belfast, Me.</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1931-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>George D. Hegarty, Waterville, Me.</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1932-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warren J. Moulton, Bangor, Me.</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1933-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ned H. Murchie, Calais, Me.</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1934-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alan L. Bird, Rockland, Me.</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1935-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. Curtis Matthews</td>
<td>1936-7</td>
<td>Portsmouth, N. H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph B. Redfern</td>
<td>1937-8</td>
<td>Portland, Me.</td>
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<td>Percy L. Vernon</td>
<td>1938-9</td>
<td>Lewiston-Auburn, Me.</td>
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<td>Harrison C. Lyseth</td>
<td>1939-40</td>
<td>Augusta, Me.</td>
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<td>Harry Trust</td>
<td>1940-1</td>
<td>Bangor, Me.</td>
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<td>Harlan M. Bisbee</td>
<td>1941-2</td>
<td>Dover, N. H.</td>
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<td>Arthur Lagueux</td>
<td>1942-3</td>
<td>Quebec, Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>Galen I. Veayo</td>
<td>1943-4</td>
<td>Lewiston-Auburn, Me.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percy L. Turner</td>
<td>1944-5</td>
<td>Sanford-Springvale, Me.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Deceased.

Space limitations do not permit us to give a detailed account of each year’s history of the past two decades. There have been periods of activity and of comparative quiet but the Club has never suffered either a boom or a slump. We have never put on a drive for membership yet our roster has remained remarkably constant. During the depression years we never dropped to less than 49 active members. Until recently, 60 members was the high mark.
For many years our average monthly attendance never sunk below 90% and only during periods of prevailing sickness has it ever done so. The quality of programs has been high. To begin to enumerate the eminent speakers who have favored us would lead to forbidden length. And yet it is often remarked that our own members give us unsurpassed programs.

Rotary education has been stressed. Much has been done by way of Community Service and for Youth. A fine spirit of fellowship and friendship has always prevailed. We have given to the District one notable administration in the person of Alan L. Bird, District Governor, 1935-6.

The Club has been represented from its own membership in 7 International Conventions.

Several splendid young men have been assisted in completing their college education and we have never lost a dollar of our loans. At the present time we have nearly $1000 in our educational revolving fund gradually accumulated from a nucleus contributed by Ernest A. Farrington, M. D., of the Haddonfield, N. J., Club, one of our “summer members” now gone up higher.

At the end of 20 years we find ourselves with our numbers and our strength the highest in our history. We face the future and its unprecedented problems with humility and courage, realizing that harder tasks and greater opportunities for service lie ahead.