

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"

THE FOUNDING FATHERS

Among the summer guests at the Hotel Samoset in the early 1920s were William Stark and his son, J. Lutch 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	Wholesale 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 CHARTER NIGHT, NOV. 21, 1924

The Rockland Club received its charter on the above date at a memorable gathering held in the Thorndike Hotel. About 160 Rotarians and "Rotary Anns" 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. Ashecraft 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	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer	*Directors
Nov. 1924	†Walter M. Spear	†W. O. Fuller	†W. S. Rounds	H. E. Robinson	†M. E. Wotton
Apr. 1925					†Chas M. Kallloch
1925-6	†W. M. Spear	†W. O. Fuller	†W. S. Rounds	H. E. Robinson	†M. E. Wotton
1926-7	†W. M. Spear	H. H. Blodgett	†A. P. Richardson	H. E. Robinson	†Bruce Higgs
1927-8	†R. S. Sherman	W. C. Ladd	K. B. Crle	H. E. Robinson	†C. E. Daniels
1928-9	†Jos. Emery	†W. S. Rounds	†W. A. Walker	H. E. Robinson	†P. P. Bicknell
1929-30	E. L. Brown	†E. L. Toner	L. A. Walker	H. E. Robinson	W. A. Glover
1930-1	H. E. Robinson	†M. E. Wotton	L. A. Walker	†Jos. Emery	F. L. Linekin
1931-2	A. W. Foss	†C. M. Kallloch	L. A. Walker	†M. R. Pillsbury	E. B. Crockett
1932-3	†M. E. Wotton	C. W. Sheldon	L. A. Walker	†M. R. Pillsbury	W. P. Conley
1933-4	A. L. Bird	P. P. Bicknell	L. A. Walker	A. F. McAlary	E. L. Brown
1934-5	W. P. Conley	†W. I. Ayer	L. A. Walker	A. F. McAlary	†E. C. Payson
1935-6	†J. P. Kent	C. H. Duff	L. A. Walker	C. A. Emery	†M. F. Lovejoy
1936-7	A. L. Orne	R. L. Stratton	L. A. Walker	C. A. Emery	J. R. Davis
1937-8	†N. A. Fogg	H. B. Bird	L. A. Walker	C. A. Emery	J. S. Lowe
1938-9	L. A. Walker	B. H. Nichols	J. S. Lowe	C. A. Emery	G. L. St. Clair
1939-40	J. S. Lowe	M. F. Lovejoy	K. B. Crle	J. W. Robinson	†L. K. Mansfield
1940-1	J. E. Blaisdell	A. F. McAlary	K. B. Crle	C. A. Emery	H. C. Cowan
1941-2	T. C. Stone	†L. K. Mansfield	K. B. Crle	H. C. Newbegin	T. S. Bird
1942-3	M. F. Lovejoy	L. A. Thurston	K. B. Crle	H. C. Newbegin	†A. W. Allen
1943-4	J. W. Robinson	T. S. Bird	L. A. Walker	H. C. Newbegin	R. L. Stratton
1944-5	E. B. Crockett	H. C. Cowan	L. A. Walker	H. C. Newbegin	H. P. Blodgett
					J. C. Burrows

* The President of the preceding year is a Director ex-officio. † Membership terminated by resignation or removal.
 † Deceased.

‡ M. E. Wotton was unable to carry on as President on account of illness.
 Vice President C. H. Sheldon was acting president for 11 months and 2 weeks of the year.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

As of November 21, 1944

Classification

Putnam P. Bicknell,	Granite Tool Manufacturing
Alan L. Bird,	Law, Corporation
Frederic H. Bird,	Add. Act. Canning Vegetables
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. Gurdy,	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. McAlary,	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

Augusta,	Augusta House,	Monday	6.15
Bangor,	Bangor House,	Tuesday	12.35
Belfast,	Business & Professional Women's Club,	Wednesday	12.00
Boothbay Harbor,	Rotary Club Rooms Todd Ave.	Thursday	6.30
Camden,	Wadsworth Inn,	Tuesday	12.15
Damariscotta,	Senter's Hall,	Tuesday	6.30
Gardiner,	Elks Club,	Wednesday	12.15
Lewiston,	DeWitt Hotel,	Thursday	12.00
Portland,	Falmouth Hotel,	Friday	12.15
Boston,	Hotel Statler,	Wednesday	12.30
New York,	Hotel Commodore,	Thursday	12.15

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.

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

Name and Club	District Number	Year
Herbert C. Libby, Waterville, Me.	8	1924-5
*Eaton D. Sargent, Nashua, N. H.	8	1925-6
Norman Russell, Newburyport, Mass.	38	1926-7
Sullivan L. Andrews, Lewiston-Auburn, Me.	38	1927-8
*Bernard Archibald, Houlton, Me.	38	1928-9
*David C. McIntosh, Dover, N. H.	38	1929-30
Thomas A. Sanders, Portland, Me.	38	1930-31
Edgar L. Harding, Belfast, Me.	38	1931-2
George D. Hegarty, Waterville, Me.	38	1932-3
Warren J. Moulton, Bangor, Me.	38	1933-4
Ned H. Murchie, Calais, Me.	38	1934-5
Alan L. Bird, Rockland, Me.	38	1935-6

E. Curtis Matthews, Portsmouth, N. H.	38	1936-7
*Ralph B. Redfern, Portland, Me.	193	1937-8
Percy L. Vernon, Lewiston-Auburn, Me.	193	1938-9
Harrison C. Lyseth, Augusta, Me.	193	1939-40
Harry Trust, Bangor, Me.	193	1940-1
Harlan M. Bisbee, Dover, N. H.	193	1941-2
Arthur Lagueux, Quebec, Canada	193	1942-3
Galen I. Veayo, Lewiston-Auburn, Me.	193	1943-4
Percy L. Turner, Sanford-Springvale, Me.	193	1944-5

*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.