



**Some
Hartford Rotary History
'Since 1924'**

**Founded with enthusiasm,
today Rotary's contributions
are visible all around Hartford.**

2013

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The Rotary 4-Way Test

Of all the things we think, say, or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and better Friendships?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Introduction

This brief history of Rotary in Hartford Wisconsin was created for Rotarians, prospective members, community leaders, and history buffs. In it you will find traditions, quaint oddities, lessons from the past and ideas for the future.

In 1924, Hartford was a bustling “automobile city.” The Kissel Car Company¹ was booming and the entire community benefitted; later the city and Rotary in particular appreciated the benefits of a multi-industry economy.

In 1924, Rotary was young. It was founded in 1905 by Paul Harris, based on “rotating” weekly visits amongst businessmen. Harris, then a Chicago lawyer, was born in Racine. Rotary grew quickly; by 1916 Rotary had chartered clubs in other countries, and within 25 years there were Rotary Clubs in most Wisconsin cities.

In 2012, there were over 1,200,000 Rotarians in more than 34,000 Clubs around the world. Through its motto, “Service Above Self,” Rotary continues its worldwide and community service. Perhaps Rotary’s greatest accomplishment will be eradication of polio from the face of the earth (“We’re this close!”).

This history is a project of Club Historian Mike Mally, aided by John Spielmann and Dave Wolbrink. The process has provided a fascinating glimpse into the early days of Hartford Rotary.

Mike is to be commended for his dedication and persistence; it has been a pleasure working together. Everyone should note the Epilogue—this should be a living document.

–DWW

Rotary is Everywhere in Hartford

Physical Signs of Rotary's Presence

As you move about the City of Hartford, you come across landmarks that have accumulated as a result of Hartford Rotary Club's contributions to this community since 1924.

Walk along Main St. downtown and enjoy the flourishing green trees lining both sides of the street. Rotary helped finance and physically plant these in 1980. In the 90's, Rotary had a curbside tree planting program for residential neighborhoods all over town.

Continue north on the east side of the street; as you near the bridge after crossing Jackson St. there's a clock near the curb with a plaque inscribed "CENTENNIAL PARK TO THE EAST CONSTRUCTED UNDER ROTARY LEADERSHIP 1982-85." Rotary had a leading hand in developing Centennial Park with its fishing deck, jogging trail, Bridge over the Rubicon River, and fitness stations. Across the street, find another Rotary plaque just south of City Hall at the landscaped passage to the lower parking level: "MAIN STREET TREES DONATED BY HARTFORD ROTARY FOR 1980 DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION."

Turn south and go almost to the end of Main St., then turn left on Jefferson and go about a half block. On the left is the historic Chandelier Ballroom² rescued by a fund drive Rotary spearheaded in 1996. Its members signed the purchase agreement, then invested sweat equity scrubbing the interior brick, cleaning out the basement, painting, sealing up the cupola, and repairing the numerous windows. Today, the Chandelier is reliving its contribution to the community.

While you are on this side of town head southwest to the far side of Central Middle School on Cedar St. to view a large nature area and

a walk developed and marked by Rotary in 1994. Walk through it and enjoy being close to nature.

North side, south side, all around the town, there are over 20 homes built by high school carpentry class students in conjunction with Rotary's VISION³ project started in 1992. Nearly 1000 students have gained motivation as they participated in a real project. Check out the HUHS VISION link from Hartford Rotary Club's website, hartfordrotary-wi.org, for more details.

The Rotary gazebo at the Mill Pond corner of Grand and Sumner is a notable recent landmark. It was financed and built by Rotarian volunteers to celebrate Rotary International's 2005 centennial. Its design commemorates the rescue of the Chandelier Ballroom. Tarry here a while and appreciate what this community has to offer. These are all physical signs of community enhancements as a result of Rotary's presence in Hartford since 1924.

Benefits Go Beyond the Tangible

Many of Hartford Rotary's benefits are intangible, including thousands of dollars given every year for student scholarships, hosting foreign students and sending students abroad, student support at seminars and summer camps, post prom parties, and group exchanges. In addition, Rotary supports community and charitable organizations such as the Hartford Memorial Hospital, Schauer Arts and Activities Center, Wisconsin Automotive Museum and most recently the Boys and Girls Club of Hartford and the Food Pantry from donations to the Enchantment in the Park Christmas light display, to name a few.

For example, during the 2011-12 Rotary year, donations provided water filters for Haiti, support for Hartford Police purchase of a drug-seeking dog, the memorial bike ride, Shop With a Cop, Nova Services, West Side Park Lights, USO, Relay for Life, and more, for a total of \$15,638.

Hartford Rotary's involvement internationally has been remarkably significant. Members have traveled (and continue to make trips) to Guatemala to provide clean water systems in several remote villages, contributed financially and hands-on with the world-wide effort to eradicate polio, contributed to shelter packages for Haitian earthquake victims, helped start and continue to send volunteer dental and interpreter personnel to a Guatemala medical mission. In 1987 Rotary volunteers remodeled a senior citizen care center in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico.

Over the past 30 years, Hartford Rotary has participated in hosting five foreign Group Study Exchange groups from around the world⁴.

The First 50 Years – 1924-1974

In the evening of March 11, 1924, nineteen years after Paul Harris started Rotary in Chicago, and twelve years after the International Association of Rotary Clubs (now Rotary International) was formed, a group of Hartford businessmen met at the Central Hotel (Vogelsang's)⁵. A delegation from Beaver Dam Rotary, Hartford's sponsoring club, was present to help Hartford get started. A committee of W.L. Kissel, E.W. Sawyer and A.A. Hauser was appointed to draw up a set of by-laws; it helped that they could draw upon Beaver Dam's by-laws.

A motion defining the Hartford Rotary Club service area as encompassing the City and Town of Hartford was approved. Meeting time was Thursday noon, with members contributing \$10 to cover the weekly luncheon costs for the next 3 months.⁶ It is noted that Rotary membership is occupation-oriented to assure a network of expertise for the benefit of the community. One important purpose of Rotary was, and is, to support high ethical standards in business.

The first regular meeting of Hartford Rotary was held Thursday noon, March 20. The meeting was opened by singing “America” and a prayer by Father Hartmann. After lunch and a number of songs, they adjourned at 1:30.

The official Charter Meeting, April 24, 1924, was a grand affair, beginning in the afternoon with the American Legion Band providing music on Main Street, then leading a parade that included representatives from Milwaukee, Madison, Waupun, Waukesha, Ripon, and Beaver Dam. During the formal meeting, District Governor “Sleuth” Parker, Madison, presented the charter and Beaver Dam, the official sponsor, presented the Rotary emblem. The evening celebration featured the music of Tony Ohlinger of Waukesha⁷.

Reviewing the interests and endeavors of the early Hartford Rotarians gives us a feel for the exuberance and excitement of the growing city in the first half of the 20th century.

Enthusiastic Beginnings: 1924-1930

In the 1920's the automobile began its dominance of transportation and influenced some early Rotary activities. Hartford Rotary had a Public Works Committee, chaired by Dr. J. Greg Hoffmann, the function of which was to discuss public affairs and make presentations to the City Council. This they did in 1928, asking the City to restrict business owners and employees from “taking up space” by parking on Main Street. Another time they requested a “stop-and-go” light at Main and Sumner.

In September, 1924 Dr. Raymond Klink and Harold Westenberger motored to the International Rotary meeting in Toronto, Canada, driving a brown (Kissel?) roadster, leaving Friday and arriving on Monday. They were impressed by the 10,000 delegates and guests from 27 countries. They toured Montreal, Niagara Falls and other sites. On the way home through Chicago, while driving leisurely

with the top down on Chicago's Milwaukee Ave, they were suddenly confronted by two policemen with guns drawn. It seems that some characters in a similar vehicle were shooting up the town. After explaining themselves and displaying their Rotary banners they were allowed on their way, completing a trip of over 3200 miles.

Wisconsin Rotary District 13 was comprised of 27 clubs from La-Crosse, north to Tomah, and south to Kenosha. One hundred Hartford Rotarians and guests attended the 1925 District Conference in Appleton. Highway 15, now 41, was hard-surfaced. In 1926, once again 100 from Hartford attended the Conference in LaCrosse. Hard-surfaced Highway 60 ended in Columbus. All roads west from there were "all weather" dirt or gravel.

In August, 1927, the Executive Conference of District 13 was hosted in Hartford. Executive representatives of the 27 clubs attended the meetings and stayed at Gonring's Resort on Cedar Lake. Visitors commented on "what a jewel" the Hartford area was.

The Public Works Committee also campaigned to procure and improve the swimming hole east of town (the Mill Pond). With attention to the advances of modern life, the Club hosted a speaker on "modern sewage treatment," toured the phone company where Rotarians noted the "bell girls" (operators) with approval, and were "amazed" at the complexity of the operation.

The Rotary International President from Texas addressed the club in March 1929. "Hardboiled Glen" Thistlewaite, brought from Northwestern U. to coach the U. of Wisconsin-Madison football team spoke, as a guest of Rotary, to a crowd of over 100 including the first boys' high school basketball team. Another speaker in 1929 talked about air mail service.

An early project was to give a bouquet of flowers to a "worthy" citizen who was ill. No definition of "worthy" was noted. Three

high school senior boys per week were invited to meetings beginning in '29. There was a close working relationship with the schools especially with "Boys Work" (detail not available) that seemed to be a Rotary District-wide program. One of four Boy Scout troops in the area was sponsored by the club.

Needy Children's Christmas parties for boys and girls of the area were held in the high school gym in late 20's; 125 to 150 attended. Each member chipped in \$5 for the project and Rotarian couples distributed gifts and served the guests. A few years later "needy" was dropped from the name. Dr. Greg Hoffmann informed the membership of the need and value of vaccinations for various maladies and recommended an annual physical exam

Meetings were cut short if the World Series was on the radio. Golf outings home and away were frequent. Bill Kissel often hosted the members for golf at Chenequa Golf Club. He reported annually on his experiences at the New York Auto Show, noting that the Kissel car attracted much attention. Members volunteered to pick stones from the fairways of the new Hartford Golf Club on a day in May, 1928.

The 1930's – A More Cautious Mood

Rotary activities of the early 30's were dominated by the effects of the Great Depression. Quarterly dues were reduced from \$17.50 to \$15.50, and further dropped a few years later to \$7.50.

In December 1930, the children's Christmas party was dropped and each member donated \$5 to the city's unemployment and relief committee to be distributed for food and clothing. Nearly \$900 was collected throughout the area for this Christmas Cheer Fund.

Meal charges were reduced to \$0.50 and any shortfall made up from the treasury. Membership dropped to 25, golf outings were cut back, no one attended the District Conference, members with

dues in arrears increased, and even the singing ceased for a couple of years. The tradition, from the first days of the Club, of presenting a flower to a member on his birthday, also ceased.

There were programs about unemployment, unemployment insurance, and the rising cost of government. A Pittsburgh Rotary Club sent a letter to all clubs suggesting that each buy a bushel of wheat to reduce the surplus. The standing committees prescribed by Rotary International's Four Avenues of Service: Club, Vocational, International, and Community Service, were initiated in July, 1930.

For most of the 30's, meetings were at the Schwartz Ballroom. When the facility was renovated by Rotary in 1996, a Rotary emblem was found painted on a beam above the false ceiling in the Fireside Room.

As the Depression wound down, the programs of the 30's reflected the direction of the economy, technology and foreign affairs. The Club voted to petition the Governor of Wisconsin to "Introduce and enact laws to establish, direct, and maintain a State Police System." At least 194 guests, including non-Rotarian businessmen, attended a program featuring the High School Debate Team's topic, "Should Chain Stores be Encouraged?"

A program on Rural Electrification was held. The new sewage treatment plant and the city power plant's new turbines were visited in 1935. Doc Greg Hoffman spoke on group health insurance. Speakers talked about milk pasteurization and the health risks of raw dairy products.

There was pride in the successful new local industries, as Hartford became a multi-industry city. The Club toured what now became Kissel's marine outboard motor manufacturing facility. They visited the canning factory to see soup being made, the new Kraft Cheese plant, the Hebenstriet Furniture factory and the International Stamping plant.

In 1935 a program was presented on “Government Secured Home Loans”. Dues were gradually increased: the meal cost again went to \$1.00. The Children's Party was again hosted.

Intercity Rotary meetings resumed, including a joint meeting with Milwaukee Rotary. The 150 attendees adjourned at 10:15 pm and proceeded to the Hartford depot to board their special train back to the big city. Attendance at the golf outings increased. Usually there was one meeting a month held at another city, or an evening social with the wives, or to show movies. During the first weeks of October, meetings were canceled so members could listen to the World Series.

Beginning in 1936, programs about Germany's condition, war in Europe, and China's problems with Japan are noted. A Rotarian reported on “Government Affairs in Germany” after spending two months there. A Colonel in the French Foreign Legion, addressing the Club, described that organization.

Rotary did sponsor a series of lectures by The Institute of International Understanding in 1938 and '39. Five clubs including Hartford each hosted an international speaker three times during the year. The topics reflected the concern regarding the situation in Europe and the Far East. These, and a program on the price of gold and another on inflation, showed what the local concerns were. Locally, the paving of Main Street was granted a program and the club voted to inform the city it favored gratis electricity and water for the hospital.

Projects continued to support the schools, and the Boy's Work Summer Camp received \$8.00 from each member. A Sea Scout group was supported and Neal Park addressed the group as a Sea Scout. All members were asked to attend the High School graduation ceremonies. The High School football team and Rotary had a couple of joint meetings.

The 1940's – Patriotic and Worldly

In the early 40's, meeting programs were influenced by the war. Soldiers home on leave were often guests and speakers. Joe Hauser and some of his bomber squadron flight crew were guests. Joe returned later after the war as a surviving German POW. Lighter moments occurred, such as when a certain Walter Liberace from Milwaukee entertained the group on the piano in 1940 and again in 1942.

Still active in helping the community, on September 16, 1943, Rotary initiated an airport program by the State Planning Board's Executive Director, who addressed Rotary along with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Lions as guests. An airport site search was soon started. In 1944, a Rotary committee and two state vocational educational officials met with the City Council and the Board of Education to promote vocational education courses at the high school. There was concern, even then, about whether our youth were getting enough life lessons. This led to three Rotary-sponsored lectures in town by a nationally known lecturer, Dr. Charles Barker, who spoke on "Health and Right Living," which addressed the "lack of educational facilities to teach young people about parenting."

In June, 1944, Harry Stuhldreher⁸, the quarterback member of the Four Horsemen of Notre Dame of the 1920's, was the guest speaker at a combined Rotary-Lions meeting. Mr. Stuhldreher was the Athletic Director at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

In the mid 40's, some of the exciting topics of the time were addressed. For example, air conditioning and its potential for general use, atomic energy, cold storage, and the frozen food business were some of the meeting program topics. An expert spoke on fluoridation of city drinking water with members of the pertinent City Council Committee as guests. A program on psychological

testing and its place in industry and business was presented by a consultant psychologist. The risks and benefits of psychological assessments and how the armed forces used screening tests were noted. Members were given a test and the results privately released at a follow-up meeting.

The 1950's -- Modernization

Though there is an absence of information available until late in the 1950's, it was evident that sources of funds beyond donations and dues from members would be needed. There were reminders to the members in the weekly Bulletin to "pay up". Dues were \$20 per member per quarter; \$19.50 of this paid for the meals (\$1.50 per meal). International dues were \$8.00 annually, plus \$2.00 for the District Convention and \$2.00 for International Students in the District. This left a \$10.00 per member annual deficit. No wonder the Treasurer was so aggressive. A turkey shoot was tried as a fund raiser in September of 1958 and '59 but dropped due to lack of success.

The first Honors Banquet was held in 1959 at Redeemer Lutheran church with the top academic 10% of each class invited. Dr. J. Martin Klotsche, the first Chancellor of U.W-Milwaukee, was the speaker. The post-prom parties, designed to keep the kids off the roads, continued. Members and their wives served food while the music played, with the party often lasting to 3:00 am. They were so successful that more students showed up than attended the prom.

The annual softball game with the Lions held on the golf club grounds, with a barrel of beer at stake, was a tradition from the 40's and on into the 80's.

Each decade had its emphasis. The 1920's stressed meeting attendance, socializing, advancing city development and displaying Hartford to the Rotary District. The 1930's emphasized surviving

the depression, helping the less fortunate and expanding educational systems' horizons. The 1940's, after getting through the war, fostered local industrial pride and youth support. Good meeting attendance and make-ups were always important. Membership numbers were not a problem. The 1950's were marked by a chronic shortage of funds. Fund raising events were being discussed more and more as were dues increases. The projects were more elaborate such as the post-prom party and High School Honors Banquet.

The 1960's – Fundraising's Beginnings

Then came the 60's. Business obligations increased, membership dropped. Fund raising projects were a necessity as projects could no longer be supported by member donations and dues. The first Rotary Auction, in September 1960, brought in \$416.

One of the more popular good will events, which went back to soon after the club was founded, was entertaining veterans from Wood VA Hospital. (Initially, this included some from the Civil War.) This evolved into an annual picnic with disabled veterans brought out from Wood for the day at either a Pike Lake cottage or a city park.

Active socialization continued with intercity social gatherings usually about once a quarter, sometimes with the wives. An annual District bowling tournament and a local Christmas dinner and dance party were regular well-attended events. A group of seven newspaper men from Egypt was hosted and entertained for several days by the club in November 1961. This was organized privately and was not sanctioned by Rotary International. For a second year, the Rotary Christmas Parade float featured a live deer, which was a big hit when it visited the grade schools the following day.

The Rotary Brat Fry was initiated in 1962 as the main fund-raiser and made \$475 the first year. Through the 60's the Club Bulletin

was bimonthly and stressed attendance and quality meeting programs. Meetings lasted an hour and a half, occasionally running longer. The first Rotary road signs were placed at all the highways leading into Hartford in 1963. The club worked with the high school AFS to arrange for a foreign student guest hosted by member families. The first student was from Denmark and the \$700 cost required donations from members to supplement the treasury.

The Solid 1970's

The 70's saw the Club get on a more solid financial footing. For example, by 1974 the annual Brat Fry, with its games, beer tent and live dance music, became a community Sunday in the park and netted \$1457. A press box was built above the stands at the football field by Rotary at a cost of \$1500 and dedicated Oct. 16, 1970. Years later new stands were installed and the press box replaced.

The Hartford Rotary Club expanded its activities considerably in the 70's. The availability of regular meeting bulletins, minutes of Board meetings and budgets in the 70's provided insights into the activities. Meals cost \$2.35. The meeting routine continued to include a Junior Rotarian (selected High School student), which was expanded to two students in '76.

Instead of receiving a birthday flower as in the 20's, 30's and 40's, and instead of bringing a cake as a \$.25 raffle prize in the 60's, a bottle of liquor was the expected raffle donation from each member on his birthday. A motion to expel any member whose dues were delinquent more than 60 days was passed. Attendance continued to be emphasized although the availability of make-ups at a "round table," which replaced a canceled regular meeting, was a service to visiting Rotarians but not members. Yellow blazer jackets were a reward for one year of perfect attendance. (If you ever saw one, it could well have the opposite effect.)

College scholarships were introduced in 1970, two at \$500 each and \$500 for a technical school award. There were also annual journalism and music scholarships. An Interact Club⁹ was formed at the high school; though it initially was fairly active, interest waned and it only lasted a few years. A Badger Boys State appointee was supported annually, a practice begun in 1946.

The beef project was started in 1970. The Club purchased a calf with blue-ribbon potential and selected a student applicant to raise it, and then show it at the County Fair. The proceeds from auctioning the steer, usually to a restaurant for a premium price, after the \$250 expenses reclaimed for Rotary, was given to the student for their education. (After a particularly successful auction of several thousand dollars, a city-slicker Rotarian member suggested in all seriousness, “Don’t eat it; breed it!”) This project continued until ‘74, when auction interest waned.

There was a co-sponsorship of the Fairest of the Fair in ‘74. Hartford Rotary pledged \$10,000 to the hospital for expansion in 1973.

Fireside¹⁰ meetings for new member orientation began in ‘75. A Paul Harris Fellowship was given to a deserving member chosen by a selection committee from Club nominations. Dr. Greg Hoffman received the first Club Paul Harris Award in 1976. The World Affairs Seminar, featuring national and international speakers and held at U.W Whitewater, began in 1977. Hartford Rotary initially sent three students and continued to send students in subsequent years. By 2012, nine hundred foreign and American students attended this District event.

Two surviving charter members, Bill Kissel and Dr. Greg Hoffman, celebrated their 93rd and 94th birthdays, in 1972 and 1975 respectively. In 1977 the roster included 56 members. The routine was for potential members to be proposed and Board endorsed before the individual was invited to join.

International activities picked up. Three men from Hartford, established in their professions, were chosen to participate in Group Study Exchanges: Tony Schmidt to Sweden in '71, Tom Sackett to Australia in '73, and Carl Hulbert to the Philippines in '76.

Hartford has hosted numerous foreign students through Rotary International's Student Exchange Program¹¹ over the past 40 years. Several local students have spent a year abroad as outbound exchange students.

Fund raising projects continued to enhance income. The Brat Fry netted \$1796 in '75. A Fine Arts Series of four events per year began in 1975. A brat food stand at the Hartford Air Show started in 1975 and lasted a few years. The Rotary Auction waned and was discontinued in the late 70's (only to be revived for several years in the 90's as a dinner auction with costume themes such as Mardi Gras).

One of the signs of a vibrant and successful community is how active and involved the service clubs are. This is well demonstrated in Hartford by the presence and activities of the Hartford Rotary Club. Over the years this organization has promoted civil, social, technological and educational advances in this community and internationally for the well-being of all.

The 39 Recent Years – 1975-2013

For Hartford Rotary's more recent accomplishments, please refer to the section entitled "Rotary is Everywhere in Hartford" at the beginning of this booklet. Perhaps more will be added about the last years of the 20th century in a later edition (see Epilogue).

Epilogue

The title of this club history is meaningful when it says “Some” Hartford Rotary History. It is a survey of what has transpired since 1924 when the Club was chartered. The availability of meeting and Board of Director minutes in the Rotary archives and articles from the Hartford Press, later the Hartford Times, then the Times Press, archived in the Hartford History Room at the library, were of great help providing information.

Deciding which stories, anecdotes and events to include was based on how well they reflected the times, and which ones gave a better insight to circumstances and life over the long history of Rotary in Hartford. One can sense the more relaxed life-style of the earlier years when the members were owner-managers versus the 60’s onward to today with most members answering to a higher corporate authority and yielding to more intense business competition.

This document should be regarded as just a start, a ‘first time around’, with expansion, clarification, and more detail in later editions possible, if anyone is so inclined. Perhaps selections from the many historic pictures will be added. The resources will still be available.

Much more, though interesting, had to be left out for the sake of brevity, consistency and getting the finished product to the membership in a reasonable time. There were gaps in available resources, e.g., none from 1963 to 1970, and limited records in the 50’s, which may have made this presentation a bit uneven.

Thanks to Dave Wolbrink and John Spielmann for their advice and commentary with special thanks to Dave for getting it into its final physical form.

Michael J. Mally M.D., February 2013
Club Historian, Rotarian since 1967

End Notes

¹ Kissel Kar Kompany was founded in 1906 and, until 1931, produced fast luxurious autos and rugged trucks, including thousands of 4-wheel drive models for the US military in WWI. The failure of Kissel dealt a long-lasting blow to Hartford's economy; the population peak in 1930 was not exceeded until decades later. William Kissel was a founding member of Hartford Rotary, was Hartford Rotary President in 1935, and the Club celebrated Bill's 93rd birthday in 1972. Today Hartford Heritage Auto Museum, a Rotary "partner", has many fine examples of the local product.

² The Schwartz Ballroom was built before 1920 by Hartford's Schwartz Brewing Co. Prohibition (from Jan. 16, 1920 to Dec. 5, 1933) undoubtedly had an effect on it. Later, it was operated for many years as Zivko's. It was purchased, through Rotary efforts, as the Chandelier in 1996. It was turned over to the Hartford Heritage Preservation Foundation.

³ "VISION," Vocational Instruction Supporting Individual Occupational Needs, was started by Hartford Rotary in 1992 in cooperation with HUHS and the Chamber of Commerce to enable carpentry students to build a house each year, designed by architecture, landscape, and interior decorating students.

⁴ Group Study Exchange, GSE, is an international grant program for business and professionals between the ages of 25 and 40 to experience 4 to 6 weeks immersed in cultural and career events as a small group in a foreign country. GSE teams are both inbound to and outbound from the US.

⁵ The Vogelsang's operated their restaurant at 141 N. Main St. into the 1970's. It is now a craft shop.

⁶ The Charter Members:

Elmo Sawyer, President	Attorney
Armin Hauser, Vice-President	Insurance
Otto Wollner, Secretary	Cheese Factory
Lee Kelly, Treasurer	Meat Market
William Kissel, Director	Automobile Mfg.
Roy Bailey, Director	Banker
J. Gregory Hoffmann, Director	Physician
Art Breitenfelt	Druggist
Andrew Esser	Retail Hardware
William J. Gehl	Monuments
Father Hartmann	Catholic Priest
Guy Chaplin	Tavern Keeper
Raymond Klink	Dentist
Norbert Lau	Food Cannery
Owen McCollow	Insurance
Harry Pelzer	Optometrist, Jeweler
E. W. Sauerherring	Real Estate
Harold Westenberger	Funeral Director, Furniture

⁷ From the official minutes in the archives: “The evening of April 24th, the Presentation of Charter meeting was held at the Armory Hall, convening at 6:30. The Legion Band rendered a delightful programme between 6 and 6:30 on the street and the club with all the visiting Rotarians headed by the band, paraded Main St. before going to the banquet. In all there were present about 100 with representatives from Milwaukee, Madison, Waupun, Beaver Dam, Waukesha, Ripon. Art Lueck of Beaver Dam presided and charter presentation was made by Gov. Sleuth Parker of Madison. There were a number of fine talks, also some good singing. The club was presented with a Rotary Emblem by the Beaver Dam Club; the third Club in the state to receive such a gift. Meeting closed at 9:30.”

⁸ Harry Stuhldreher was 5’ 7” and 151 pounds when a sophomore starter at Notre Dame under Knute Rockne in 1922.

⁹ Interact Clubs are organizations of high school students sponsored by the local Rotary club. They have their own leadership and projects, although a member of the sponsoring club attends. Interact was founded by Rotary International in 1962 and remains active throughout the world.

¹⁰ A ‘Fireside’ is an informal get-together at a member’s home that new members and spouses are encouraged to attend to meet and discuss Rotary with established members and spouses.

¹¹ Local clubs, in partnership with the International Rotary Foundation, provides organizational and financial support to students between the ages of 15 and 18 to spend a year in a foreign country, where they live with host families, attend high school and participate in Rotary meetings.