



the wheel 

Covina Rotary Club - District 5300 - Chartered March 8, 1923

February 12, 2015 Issue #26 Editor: Andrew McIntyre



This Week: FunRun – Catherine Nichols will present this year’s details on the FunRun. The FunRun is one of our Club’s signature events and raises money for our teacher mini-grants, and other charitable activities during the year. We need **“YOUR”** input and thoughts.

LAST WEEK: Dr. Michel Habakuk & the Field of Valor – Dr. Habakuk relived his amazing real life Cinderella story. From the time he was 8 years old, living on his own because of his father’s infidelity, to his educational journey, medical accomplishments, kidnapping and fleeing from his home country of Haiti to become a U.S. Citizen, joining the Navy, and finally becoming a Board Certified physician in the States! It was an amazing program. If you missed it, sorry for you.

NEXT WEEK: The Club is dark. Members are encouraged to attend Jim Speer’s Celebration of Life, Friday, February 20, 2015, here at SHCC 11:00-2:00

Happy Birthday Rotary International
PART II Rotary History

THE BIRTH OF ROTARY: After setting up his law practice in Chicago, Harris gathered several business

associates to discuss the idea of forming an organization for local professionals. On 23 February 1905 Harris, Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, and Hiram Shorey gathered at Loehr’s office in Room 711 of the Unity Building in downtown Chicago. This was the first Rotary club meeting.



In February 1907, Harris was elected the third president of the Rotary Club of Chicago, a position he held until the fall of 1908. During his presidency, he formed the Executive Committee, later called the Ways and Means Committee, which met during lunch and was open to any member. The noon meeting was the foundation for Rotary's tradition of club luncheon meetings.

Toward the end of his club presidency, Harris worked to expand Rotary beyond Chicago. Some club members resisted, not wanting to take on the additional financial burden. But Harris persisted and by 1910 Rotary had expanded to several other major U.S. cities. (LA was the 5th club)

Harris recognized the need to form an executive board of directors and a national association. In August 1910 Rotarians held their first national convention in Chicago, where the 16 existing clubs unified as the National

Association of Rotary Clubs. The new association unanimously elected Harris as its president. At the end of his second term, Harris resigned, citing ill health and the demands of his professional practice and personal life. He was elected president emeritus by convention action, a title he held until his death. In the mid-1920s Harris became actively involved in Rotary again, attending conventions and visiting clubs throughout the world.

Life with Jean

Harris met Jean Thomson, Scottish-born daughter of John and Ann Younson Thomson, during an outdoor excursion of what would later become the Prairie Club.

They married on 2 July 1910 in Chicago. In 1912 they purchased a house on Longwood Drive in Morgan Park, a suburb of Chicago. The Harrises named their house Comely Bank after the street in Edinburgh where Jean had lived as a child. They entertained friends from Chicago and around the world

The couple had no children and Jean joined Harris on his visits to Rotary clubs around the world. After Harris died, Jean briefly continued to live at Comely Bank. She later sold the house and returned to her native Edinburgh, where she died in 1963.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- February 18 – Covina Rotary Board Mtg
- February 19 – Club Dark
- February 20 – Jim Speer’s Celebration of Life 11:00 SHCC
- February 20-21 PETS (Presidents Elect Training Seminar)
- February 23 – Rotary International’s 110th birthday
- February 25 – Membership meeting Azo Vino 5:00
- February 26 – 4way speech contest
- March 3 – Dan Stover Music Contest
- March 14 – District 5300 Peace Conference
- March 21 – Fun Run
- April 11 – District Assembly
- April 17 – 18 RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards)