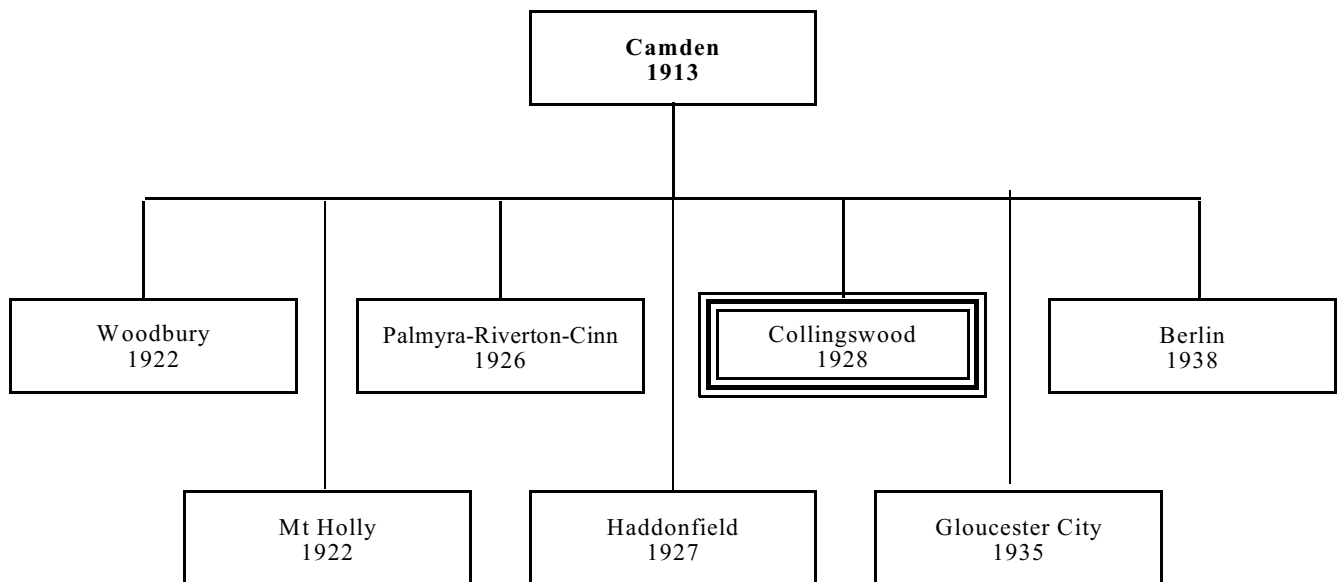


Chapter 18

Rotary Club of Collingswood, N.J.



75th Anniversary History of District 764

Collingswood, NJ

Chapter 18

Organized	February 24, 1928	Meets : Wednesdays at 12:15 pm at
Chartered	March 27, 1928 Charter No. - 2803	Compton's Log Cabin
Sponsored By	Camden	Cuthbert Blvd.,
Clubs Sponsored	Audubon-Haddon Twp.-Oaklyn, Pennsauken-Merchantville, Cherry Hill	Westmont, NJ 08108 (609) 858-1000

Presidents

1928-29	Edward B. Rogers	1959-60	Albert L. Sayre
1929-30	Edward Sheldon	1960-61	Paul C. Withers
1930-31	John B. Ritter	1961-62	Albert Horst
1931-32	Ivan Hagadorn	1962-63	David W. Nichols, Jr.
1932-33	Severn Tyler	1963-64	Donald Christ
1933-34	William Russell	1964-65	Paul Quintavalle
1934-35	Walter Henderson	1965-66	Raymond Boerner
1935-36	Eric Osterle	1966-67	John Swartz
1936-37	Walter Marshall	1967-68	Carl Robinson
1937-38	Melvin Burr	1968-69	H. Richard King
1938-39	Fred Van Istendal, Sr.	1969-70	Ordiner G. Cramer
1939-40	Howard Mohrfeld	1970-71	John L. Wurster
1940-41	Elton Albeck	1971-72	George F. Flack
1941-42	Allen Robinson	1972-73	Philip E. Worth
1942-43	E.T. Seaman	1973-74	J. Kenneth Crane
1943-44	Rodman Collings	1974-75	G. Harold Hozey
1944-45	Robert Dill	1975-76	Donald Robertson, Jr.
1945-46	Homar Pearson	1976-77	Karl P. Suelke
1946-47	Thomas Vernon	1977-78	Wayne Roberts
1947-48	R. Cooper Brown	1978-79	Robert J. Colacicco
1948-49	Howard Field	1979-80	John V. Field
1949-50	Edmund D. Bowman	1980-81	Richard G. Mohrfeld
1950-51	Joseph Haik	1981-82	William J. Carey
1951-52	Thomas Milnamow, III	1982-83	Arthur A. Mangano
1952-53	Robert Bauer	1983-84	Richard H. Rowe
1953-54	Arthur E. Armitage, Jr.	1984-85	David L. Finnegan
1954-55	Paul B. Goss	1985-86	Walter L. Drapinski
1955-56	Philip H. Embree	1986-87	Michael G. Brennan
1956-57	Clarence Faulkner	1987-88	Arthur D. Tucker
1957-58	J. Russell Taylor	1989-90	Timothy Crouse
1958-59	Donald G. Robertson. Sr.		

Collingswood Interests Have Included Backing of Sports

A fire at the Collmont Diner in the early 1960s destroyed a significant portion of the records of the Collingswood Rotary Club. And since the last of the club's charter members (Oliver Billings) died in 1972, few currently on the roster have much recollection about those early years. But information pieced together still paints a picture of a club steeped in rich history and tradition which continue to flourish today.

Organized Feb. 24, 1928 and admitted to Rotary International one month later as club No. 2,803, Collingswood held its charter night April 12 that year at the American Legion Hall with 24 charter members in attendance.

Arthur H. Sapp, reigning Rotary International president, signed the Collingswood charter. Mayor Arthur Armitage, then president of the Camden Rotary Club which was the first club chartered in District 764, was the special representative of the district governor and the prime organizer of the Collingswood club. Armitage was toastmaster at the charter banquet and his presented the Rotary bell on gavel on behalf of his sponsoring Camden club.

With Dr. Edward B. Rogers serving as Collingswood's charter president, early meetings were held at Nunn's Restaurant on Haddon Ave. In ensuing years, the meetings shifted to the social room of what is now The Chemical Bank of New Jersey, the American Legion Hall, Parkview Apartments meeting room, Collmont Diner, and, since Collmont burned, Compton's Log Cabin on Cuthbert Ave. every Wednesday at noon.

Although the unfortunate fire denies specific information about some of Collingswood Rotary's early accomplishments, there is other data available to support the club's longstanding commitment to its community and other projects.

Dr. Fred Van Istendal, Sr., Collingswood's president in 1938-39, recalled a massive Rotary-sponsored project which found 40 United Nations secretaries and their families staying in private homes over a weekend. Festivities included a football game at the high school and a banquet.

In 1940, numerous well-known college sportsmen attended a club-sponsored banquet for legendary coach Howard



Collingswood 1989-90 Club President Timothy Crouse addresses the club at a meeting

(Streets) Irvine at the Walt Whitman Hotel in Camden. The highly-acclaimed Brooks-Irvine Memorial Football Club, which recognizes the accomplishments of South Jersey scholar-athletes, is named partly in Irvine's honor.

In 1960, Collingswood Rotarians collected dental instruments, equipment and text books from local dentists and packaged and sent the material to the Indonesian Dental School. To avoid overpayment at customs and anticipated transportation problems, Gov. William T. Cahill, a Collingswood resident, sent the material in a diplomatic pouch.

Collingswood Rotary was a leading force in establishing Little League baseball in the community. One of the playing fields - Al Sayre Field - was named in honor of the past president (1959-60).

Collingswood Rotarians have had a particular fondness for support of sports-related endeavors. The club provided funds for the first electric scoreboard at the high school football field which was dedicated Nov. 27, 1958 at the traditional Thanksgiving Day clash with arch-rival Woodbury. President Donald G. Robertson, Sr.'s (1958-59) committee included Howard Scarborough, Al Sayre, Paul Withers, Jim Morgan, Nick Mangano, Walt Scherneck, Al Horst, Don Christ, Tom Vernon, Dr. M. Fittipaldi, and Dr. Van Istendal.

And in yet another sports venture, Collingswood Rotary in 1970 sponsored a Harlem Globetrotters benefit basketball game that continued as a successful fund-raiser for several years.

Other special projects through the years have included: Providing funds for drapes and other furnishings at Collingswood Arms; donating a dialysis machine to a local citizen; supplying a truck to Collingswood Knights Park; donating of funds to the local library for special book projects; and supplying funds to furnish the "Collingswood Room" in a new orphanage in San Salvador.

Additionally, of course, Collingswood supports many ongoing programs and projects such as Boys and Girls State; Rotary Youth Leadership Activities (RYLA), Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the YMCA. Collingswood Rotary supports two underprivileged children in a foreign country through "Foster Parents." It also provides a free dog inoculation clinic for the community, and Christmas food baskets for local churches for distribution to the needy.