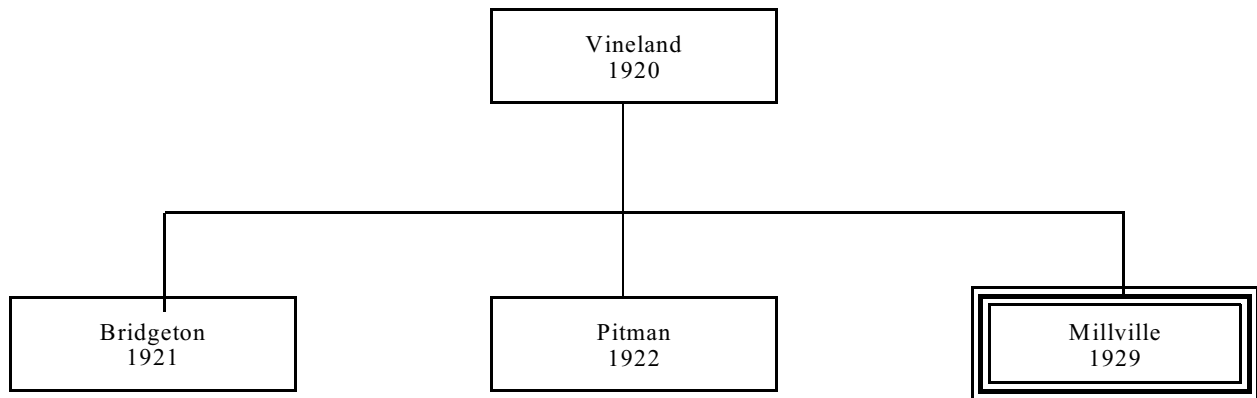


# Chapter 20

## Rotary Club of Millville, N.J.



# 75th Anniversary History of District 764

Millville, NJ

Chapter 20

Organized	May 18, 1921	Meets :	Thursdays at 12:10 pin at
Chartered	September 1, 1921 Charter No. - 981		Cohanzick Country Club
Sponsored By	Vineland		Fairton Rd.,
Clubs Sponsored	Salem		Bridgeton, NJ 08302 (609) 455-2122

## Charter Members

OFFICE	NAME OF MEMBER	
President	Yorke E. Rhoades	Reynold High Dominie Perot
	Paul Bailey	LeRoy Hinson Herb Snook
	Walter Black	Leslie Jones George Stamoran
	Russell Corson	James Jones Ernest D. Ware
	Horace B. Edwards	Henry Morrison William Wood
	Lawrence Ghagan	

## Past Presidents

1929-30	Yorke E. Rhodes	1959-60	David J. Wilkinson
1930-31	Reynold G. High	1960-61	Harry Rieck
1931-32	William Wood	1961-62	Alfred Thomas
1932-33	Lawrence Ghagan	1962-63	Joseph DiPasquale
1933-34	Charles Butcher	1963-64	Stewart Wick
1934-35	Ellison J. Perot	1964-65	Victor E. Ziegler
1935-36	Charles L. Barnett	1965-66	Lewis E. Ferguson, Jr.
1936-37	Frank Howard	1966-67	James P. O'Donnell
1937-38	George Mason	1967-68	Fred Recksteiner
1938-39	Charles M. Scull	1968-69	Michael N. Palermo
1939-40	Remington Aronoff	1969-70	Harry F. Hess
1940-41	Richard Zimmerman	1970-71	George A. Streeter
1941-42	Ernest D. Ware	1971-72	Van H. Neher
1942-43	Charles E. Gant	1972-73	Donald P. Rieck
1943-44	Harold R. Edwards	1973-74	Robert M. Ingles
1944-45	James Steelman, Sr.	1974-75	Lyman Reger
1945-46	Ned Cowgill	1975-76	Sumner N. Lippincott
1946-47	Thorston C. Hanson	1976-77	Robert F. Friant
1947-48	Herbert G. Sanders	1977-78	N. Richard Burns, Sr.
1948-49	Frank S. Hoffman	1978-79	William C. Parr, Jr.
1948-49	Andrew (Vouyoukas) Verne	1979-80	Charles S. Bennett
1949-50	John B. Sieck, Jr.	1980-81	Edwin J. Ayars
1950-51	Royston D. Engle	1981-82	Fred P. Luertzing
1951-52	Henry W. Peele, Jr.	1982-83	H. Kent Edwards
1952-53	John A. King,	1983-84	Wayne R. Sergiacomi
1953-54	William L. Gifford	1984-85	Floyd R. Morris
1954-55	Earl F. Wilson	1985-86	Robert M. Champion, Sr.
1955-56	J. Wils Hutchinson	1986-87	Maurice Shapiro
1956-57	Edward Stites	1987-88	Ted T. Oye
1957-58	Lee Defibaugh	1988-89	Gregory Reiff
1958-59	Albert K. Kenney	1989-90	Michael Valletta

## **Idea for Start of Millville Rotary Was Born in Minneapolis**

The Millville Rotary Club, chartered March 25, 1929, actually can trace its origins to Minneapolis, Minn. of all places, a year earlier. That's where Dominie Perot, a delegate to Rotary International from the Linden, N.J. Rotary, met Vineland President Ben Glover, informed him he was relocating in Millville, and asked Glover to help him start a Millville club. Vineland, of course, was steeped in South Jersey Rotary history. It was the third District 764 club chartered after Camden and Atlantic City.

Glover agreed to lend a hand, but knew the task would not be easy. Previous attempts to start a Millville club had been unsuccessful.

Glover had no difficulty figuring out where to start. He contacted Ernest B. (Ernie) Ware, a prominent local businessman and reliable civic volunteer, for a list of prospects. Ware, Glover and Perot spent considerable time during December 1928 and January 1929 hustling candidates, and on Feb. 8, 1929, the club's first official meeting was conducted at the Weatherby Hotel. Later the club switched its meetings to the Levoy Lunch, where memorable **50-cent** lunches were served Wednesdays at noon.

The Millville, Rotary Club was chartered March 25, 1929 and held its gala charter night April 17 with James Jones installed as charter president and 200 Rotarians from throughout the district in attendance.

The club held its first ladies' night at its 18th meeting. That's a popular tradition which has survived the ages.

During its first year, Millville charter Rotarians Jones and Horace Edwards requested the assistance of the U.S. government in the building of an air field in Millville. Although those efforts were unsuccessful, 13 years later, in 1942, the government constructed an air base in the city for the advance training of fighter pilots for World War II. Later, the airport was turned over to the city.

It didn't take Millville Rotarians long to become immersed in worthwhile community projects. Their first was "Strike Up the Band," which raised money to purchase new uniforms for the high school band. That expense and the steep cost to send President Jones to the Chicago convention nearly bankrupted the club.

Undaunted, Millville the following year paid charter member Larry Ghagan's expenses to Vienna as a delegate to the international convention. In a display of fiscal persistence, the note was paid off nine years later.

The Depression was particularly unkind to Millville. Businesses and factories closed. Relief was widespread among the populace. None of the club's remaining seven members could afford to pay his dues. To relieve the financial pressure from the seven, they moved their meetings to Charlie's Print Shop on Oak Street and ate their sandwiches amid the silent presses. In the 50-year history of the Millville Rotary, written for the 1979 booklet, it was succinctly observed, "Who is to say that these Rotarians did not learn more about the true fellowship of Rotary at that time than ever before or since?"

Millville nearly was forced to give up its charter because of attendance shortcomings in 1934. But somehow the club survived and added three members by the end of the year.

But survive it has, and with one of the richest histories and finest examples of community spirit in the district: An annual custom of honoring the high school basketball team; the sale of holly and annual spring dances as fundraising projects; the building of a bandstand in Ben Corson Park; the formation of the Millville Rotary Braille Guild; March of Dimes sponsorship; Chest X-Ray sponsorship; blood pressure clinics; Service Above Self awards to four high school students; funds for the construction of new wings at Millville Hospital; Little League sponsorship; participation in the Miss Holly City contest; and much, much more.

Between its charter date and its 50th anniversary in 1979, the Millville Rotary contributed more than \$35,000 to worthwhile community causes.

Millville Rotary's bulletin, "The Spur Gear," debuted in 1939 with Jim Steelman serving as first editor.

In 1945, Millville sponsored the formation of the Port Norris Club, which quickly became one of the best in the district in terms of attendance percentage.

Rotarian Robert F. Friant concluded his well-documented history of Millville Rotary in 1979 with the appropriate observation, "In addition to the above good deeds, perhaps the basic benefit to being a Rotarian is the bond of friendship and goodwill that becomes stronger every Tuesday night."