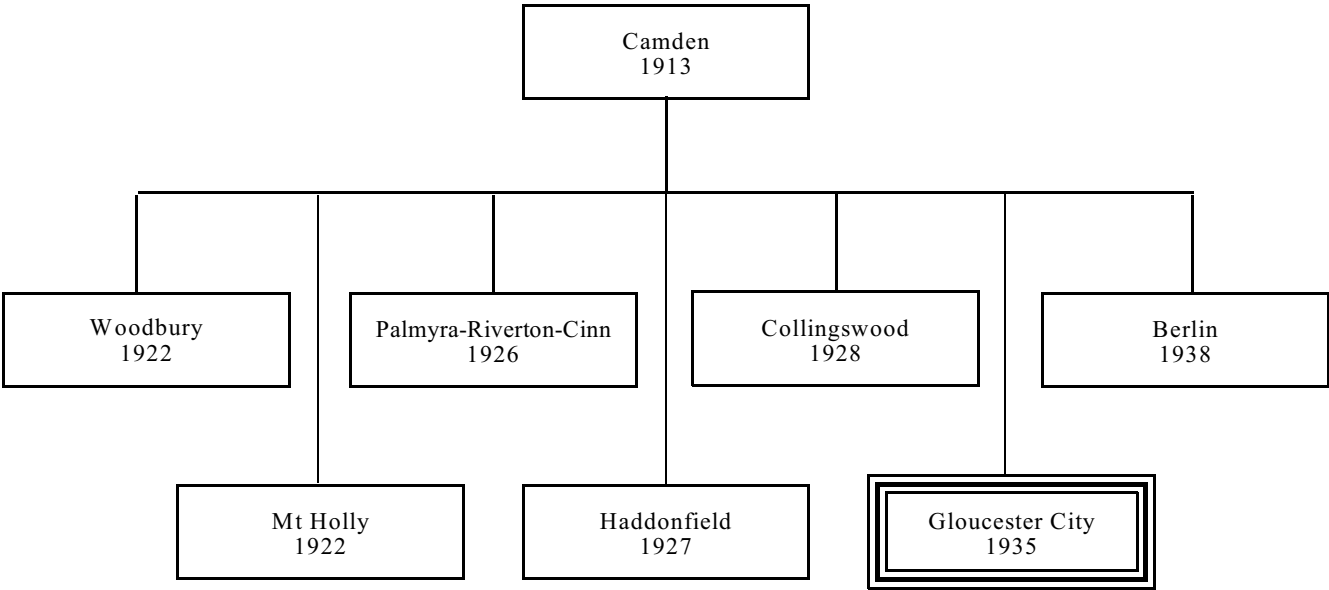


Chapter 21

Rotary Club of Gloucester City, N.J.



Organized	April 25, 1935	Meets : Wednesdays at 12:15 pm at Gloucester Inn, Rt. 130 Gloucester, NJ 08030 (609) 456-7400
Chartered	May 1.7, 1935	
Sponsored By	Camden	
Clubs Sponsored	Mt. Ephraim	

Charter Members

OFFICE	NAME OF MEMBER	CLASSIFICATION
President	Henry M. Evans	Lawyer
Vice President	Charles T. Hansard	School Administration
Secretary	Frank O. Stetser	Newspaper Reporting,
Treasurer	Raymond B. Wright	Banking
Director	John Phillips	Trucking
Director	J. Willetts Thurston	Undertaker
Director	Walter Wendt	Paper Manufacturing
	William C.A. Costello	Building Supplies
	F. Carleton Dickensheets	Lumber
	Charles C. Eppleman	Dentist
	Benjamin B. Foster, PDG	Laundering
	George A. Gieseke	Civil Engineering
	William B. Hambleton	Insurance
	Harry L. Heppe	Candy Manufacturing
	Philip Kalikman	Retail Store
	William W. Keyser	Cork Yard Manager
	John H. MacLennan	Auto Dealer
	Harold Marshall	Grocery Store
	Max Mester	Tailor
	William F. Miller	Nursery
	T. Ellis Robb	Plumbing
	Oliver J. Stetser	Newspaper Reporting
	Walter L. Wilson	Dairy

Foster, Wright Exemplify Dedication of Gloucester Rotarians

With support and encouragement from Rotarians in Woodbury and Camden, 13 business and professional men from Gloucester City decided to organize their own Rotary Club in 1935. They attended two informal meetings at the office of Frank Stetser. Then, at a third gathering, Rotary activities were outlined by Gloucester resident LeRoy Goodwin, a member of the Camden club.

Gloucester Rotary held its charter night on May 22, 1935, with about 150 attending festivities in what is now the city's police administration building. McAllister's of Philadelphia catered the dinner at a whopping \$1.50 per person.

Henry M. Evans, a prominent local attorney who would become a member of the New Jersey Assembly, was installed as charter president. Goodwin served as toastmaster and Mayor Ernest Ritchie welcomed the club to the city. The gavel and bell were presented by Camden and the charter was presented by District Governor William Schneller of Castasauqua, Pa. At the time, Gloucester was part of District 50, which included southeast Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey.



DG 1989-90 Herb Budd (left) poses with Ray Wright and PDG '58-59 Ben Foster, Gloucester Rotary's two surviving charter members at his Official Club Visit.

When the club celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1985, two charter members, PDG Benjamin B. Foster and Raymond B. Wright, were acknowledged for 50 years of service. Incredibly, Wright had perfect attendance the entire 50 years.

Club membership jumped from the charter group of 23 to 28 in the first year (Eleven of the 23 charter members would serve as club presidents). During that first year, Gloucester quickly thrust itself into community activities, its trademark through the years. The club cosponsored the first schoolboy safety patrol in Gloucester with the Automobile Club of Southern New Jersey. Rotary purchased 63 uniforms for the youngsters.

As the 50th anniversary booklet suggested, "Without doubt, Rotary had awakened a spirit of friendship and fellowship in Gloucester City."

For more than a half century now, Wednesday has been Rotary Day in Gloucester City. The longest stay was at Joe O'Neill's downtown restaurant before it was sold.

Gloucester Rotary has been a small club, with membership averaging about 30 through the years, but a highly active group with most members gladly accepting responsibility for committees and other assignments.

Although Gloucester hasn't had a permanent song leader, it is known throughout the district as a singing club and has benefited from excellent background music provided by Miriam Littman for many years.

After a program on "Breath Analysis," the club adopted as its theme song, "Show Me the Way to Go Home."

"Anyone who has the impression Rotary is a staid, stuffy organization will change his mind after visiting the Rotary Club of Gloucester City," it was written in the anniversary book.

The club has had two district governors, Dr. Marvin E. Porch in 1943-44 and Ben Foster in 1958-59. It has been a generous supporter of Rotary Foundation.

Noted for its community involvement, the club sponsored a Christmas dinner for 100 needy children the year it was chartered. The following year, 400 attended the fete. Today, the Christmas spirit is still very much alive in Gloucester Rotary. Santa distributes gifts to youngsters at an annual Christmas party.

Gloucester recognizes honors students at the two city high schools and treats them to dinner. The Henry M. Evans Memorial Scholarships are awarded annually to local high school students.

The club has sponsored an Interact Club at Gloucester High for 15 years and has sponsored a "Boys' Week" in the city. Elections are held for city office jobs and successful candidates - now girls as well as boys - go to City Hall to take part in a mock council meeting.

Gloucester Rotary participates in "Gloucester Day," sponsors a Little League team, co-sponsors "Citizen of the Year" with the Lions Club, sends boys and girls to summer camp, and has supported two children in Austria.

During World War II, the Rotary recorded messages for servicemen stationed in the area. After the war, the club messages a refugee family.

"Service Above Self" certainly applies in Gloucester Rotary.

Presidents

1935-36	Henry M. Evans	1963-64	Irving Wallis
1936-37	Charles T. Hansard	1964-65	Martin C. Cassett
1937-38	Charles C. Eppleman	1965-66	Robert F. Keenan
1938-39	Frank O. Stetser	1966-67	Arthur J. Bashes
1939-40	Wendell Sooy	1967-68	Gwen D. Wostoupal
1940-41	William W. Keyser	1968-69	Benjamin B. Foster, Jr.
1941-42	William C.A. Costello	1969-70	Richard S. Sheldon
1942-43	Benjamin B. Foster, PDG	1970-71	Thomas W. Sykes
1943-44	Marvin E. Porch, PDG	1971-72	Anthony M. Matron
1944-45	Leon M. Clair	1972-73	Louis Sarlo, Jr.
1945-46	T. Ellis Robb	1973-74	William J. Flynn
1946-47	Raymond B. Wright	1974-75	Joseph D. Young
1947-48	J. Willetts Thurston	1975-76	Frank V. Cilurso
1948-49	George A. Gieseke	1976-77	Robert J. Hogan
1949-50	Francis J. Dailey	1977-78	Ralph B. Kandle
1950-51	Thomas M. Marshall	1978-79	Thomas L. Bowe
1951-52	Lewis H. Godshall	1979-80	Edmund J. Dempsey
1952-53	Frederick G. Garwood	1980-81	Frank C. Carr
1953-54	Charles D. Foster, Jr.	1981-82	Arch M. Ritchie
1954-55	William M. Ragen	1982-83	Carmine J. Marchionne
1955-56	George W. Dickensheets	1983-84	Alfred L. Conner
1956-57	Martin P. Ragen	1984-85	Jaxon Freeman
1957-58	Arthur C. Elwell	1985-86	Ronald J. Pritchett
1958-59	William P. Etherington	1986-87	Horace S. Felton
1959-60	William F. Hambleton	1987-88	Howard W. Cretan, Jr.
1960-61	Edwin G. Beaumont	1988-89	Ronald Palcko
1961-62	Waldemar A. Funk	1989-90	Barry Herman
1962-63	John A. Graham		