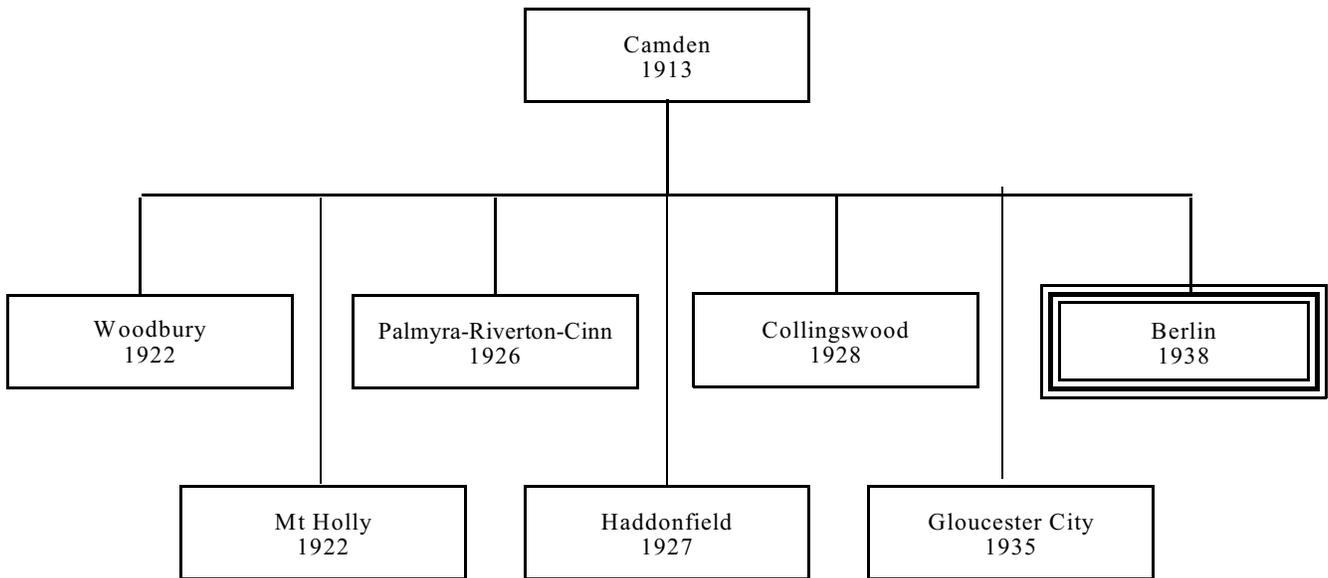


Chapter 22

Rotary Club of Berlin, N.J.



75th Anniversary History of District 764

Berlin, NJ

Chapter 22

Organized	January 17, 1938	Meets : Mondays at 6:30 pin at
Chartered	January 27, 1938 Charter No. -4563	Pallas Diner,
Sponsored By	Camden	Berlin Circle (Rt. 73),
Clubs Sponsored	Hammonton, Stratford-Lindenwold, Voorhees Township, Waterford Township	Berlin, NJ 08009 (609) 767-5061

Charter Members

OFFICE	NAME OF MEMBER
President	Michael A. Tierno
Vice President	Curtis W. Henry
Secretary	Thaddeus A. Smith
Treasurer	Clarence E. Walker
Director	William B. Knight
Director	Frank O. Stem
	Charles S. Ackley
	Oran H. Clark
	William A. Daniels
	Lucien P. Fleche
	Joseph R. Hunter
	John R. Kittinger
	Robert J. Lauber
	John H. Lippincott
	Samuel H. McCulley
	Harvey J. Piper
	Hugo von der Tann
	Claus H. Wulf



In attendance at Berlin Rotary's 38th Annual Over 70's Christmas-Chanukah Party on December 23, 1989 are (left to right) : Berlin President Tony DeCicco; DG Herb Budd, Jr; Ms. Senior New Jersey, Marie Ross; and Club Chairman Oattie Grimmie.

Berlin Had Perfect Attendance for the Entire Year of 1963-64

Berlin Rotary Club, highly active and intensely involved in its community for more than 50 years, can in part thank the persistence of some members of the Camden club for its start. Through the leadership of Camden Past President LeRoy Goodwin beginning in 1936, a group of Berlin businessmen forged ahead to charter their club despite the nagging economic problems still present because of the Great Depression.

Berlin held its first meeting Jan. 17, 1938 at the Old Tavern, and received its charter from Rotary International Feb. 28. There were 18 charter members, with Michael A. Tierno installed as the first president.

The new club quickly asserted itself as a community leader in its fledgling year by sponsoring sporting events for the children of Berlin at the annual Fourth of July celebration at Berlin Park.

Sign of the times: Membership fees in '38 were \$15 annually and there was a 65-cent charge for meals. The club held its first ladies' night on Feb. 5, 1940, to begin a decade when civic activities helped members forget the tribulations of World War 11. During the '40s, the club began awarding \$50 to a boy and a girl in the high school; published "Bolin Spokes," its first newsletter; initiated an employment exchange; hired two full-time instructors for its "Youth Summer Camp Program"; established the "Inter-Community Civic Association" whose many projects included a Halloween parade, Santa's arrival, and Fourth of July parade; and began decorating Main Street with Christmas lights.

Some serious fines were instituted in 1952. Each Rotarian was assessed a 10-cent fine for entering a meeting after the bell.

On Feb. 11, 1952, the club held its 15th anniversary party at Silver Lake Inn at a cost of \$6 per person.

Berlin Rotary's guest at its July 18, 1955 meeting was Rita Dunning, who represented the club on its Fourth of July float and won the beauty contest. Today, she is Mrs. Rita Batten, wife of Rotarian Joe Batten, borough police chief.

Rotary teamwork was required on Sept. 21, '55 when the club held its meeting at Capt. Stares' Restaurant in Atlantic City after a trip to the race track. On the return trip to Larry's Motel, the bus broke down in Egg Harbor at 11:30 p.m. and members had to get out and push it out of the way until a replacement bus arrived—al 2:30 a.m.

In '57, the club held two "austerity" dinners in an effort to boost the treasury. One meal consisted of a bowl of bean soup, crackers, a cold ham and lettuce sandwich, and lots of coffee.

On April 9, 1958, Berlin sponsored the new Hammonton Rotary. A crowd of 462 attended at Lillian on the Lake in Hammonton.

Berlin had the highest attendance of any district club at the 1958 conference in Atlantic City, and won the district attendance award for the second year in succession.

Also during '58, a club project was the installation of playground equipment at the New Jersey State Hospital at Ancora.

Berlin also hosted its fifth consecutive Christmas party for folks 70 and older, with 46 attending.

In 1963, Berlin had a role in a memorable community project, "Berlin to Berlin." Sam Silverman represented Rotary on a tour of six European cities including Berlin, where city officials were presented a plaque from Berlin, N.J., U.S.A.

On Feb. 23, 1963, the club celebrated its 25th anniversary. Among, the more than 100 in attendance were representatives of the two clubs Berlin sponsored, Hammonton and Stratford-Lindenwold (1962).

During 1963-64, Berlin Rotary was recognized for a unique achievement. It became the first club in district history to have 100 percent attendance for an entire year. President Joe Matthews purchased a black Angus bull and promised to keep him fed until any member missed a meeting. That member, in turn, would have to assume the feeding process. Charlie Louderback named the bull "Bolin T Bone."

The club held its first "Suit Club" as a fund-raiser in 1965-66. Berlin Rotary in 1967-68 donated \$1,000 to get the ball rolling for a \$10,000 drive for the purchase of an y rolling ambulance. The club displayed its eagerness to support the youth of the community in 1968-69 when it started its student guest program for Eastern and Edgewood students, and also appointed an awards committee to present savings bonds L7 It~

and cash awards to high school and grammar school students.

Among '68 successes was a circus to raise funds for the ambulance.

In '70, Rotary donated \$ 1,000 for a Paul Harris Fellow in honor of Neo, S. (Mr. Rotary) Serinis, whose 30-year membership including the presidency in 1947 and then 26 years as secretary. He also edited the club's membership books. Neo, died in '73. In 1976-77, the club established a scholarship to assist local students, and also hosted its first foreign exchange student, Brazilian Raquel Cesar.

The club's annual car raffle netted \$3,300 in 1977. That same year, Rotary helped the borough celebrate its 50th anniversary by sponsoring a beer stand, and Eastern graduate Nancy Veas was awarded the Neo Serinis Music Scholarship Award. Also, Berlin's District Governor Thurston (Ski) von der Tann held a picnic to host 40 involved with the Rotary Youth Exchange Summer Program.

Berlin hosted the district conference at the Downingtown Inn in 1978.

Joe Levin chaired a jog-a-thon to benefit the Canuso Foundation for Leukemia in 1979.

PDG von der Tann received the Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service in 1985. Ski also was appointed acting district secretary to replace Dr. Charles C. Larsen, Jr., a devoted Rotarian who died Feb. 28 after 35 years of perfect attendance in Berlin.

On July 12, 1986, Berlin Rotary helped dedicate an electronic scoreboard to the Berlin Township Athletic Association for use at Berlin Township School Park. The scoreboard was president Bob Womer's community project for the year.

The February 1987 district newsletter reported that Berlin, a long-time attendance pacesetter, again ranked No. 1.

An Oct. 19, 1987 flea market at Berlin Farmers Market netted \$910 in two days.

Presidents

1938-39	Michael A. Tierno	1964-65	Richard C. Compton
1939-39	Frank O. Stein	1965-66	Charles J. Louderback
1939-41	Oran H. Clark	1966-67	Thurston von der Tann, PDG
1941-42	Clarence E. Walker	1967-68	Emanuel E. McBride
1942-43	Harry R. Fleming	1968-69	Joseph V. Alibrando
1943-44	Charles S. Ackley	1969-70	George H. Weitzman
1944-45	William A. Daniels	1970-71	Samuel M. Silverman
1945-46	Samuel H. McCulley	1971-72	Martin Krasovetz
1946-47	William C. Cook	1972-73	Joseph A. Lange
1947-48	Neo S. Serinis	1973-74	Richard F. Boppel
1948-49	William M. Langer	1974-75	Harry C. Norcross
1949-50	Lewis A. Silverman	1975-76	Albert W. Anderson
1950-51	Nicholas Benevento, Jr.	1976-77	John J. Williams
1951-52	James Knight, Sr.	1977-78	Nicholas A. Iuliano
1952-53	Arthur J. Grimmie	1978-79	Joseph L. Batten
1953-54	Lawrence Van Horn	1979-80	James Knight, Jr.
1954-55	Fred R. Sharp	1980-81	Richard Snyder
1955-56	Douglas Hasbrouck	1981-82	Joseph Levin
1956-57	Armand Ravelli	1982-83	John W. Brown
1957-58	Charles C. Larsen	1983-84	Seymour J. Gorin
1958-59	S. Walton DePuy	1984-85	Craig S. Larsen
1959-60	Jerome J. Dougherty	1985-86	Robert C. Womer
1960-61	Harry Cohen	1986-87	Joseph T. Schaffer, Jr.
1961-62	W. Gordon Hannaway	1987-88	Mark von der Tann
1962-63	S. Samuel Lichtman	1988-89	William A. Hoffman
1963-64	Joseph H. Matthews	1989-90	Anthony DeCicco