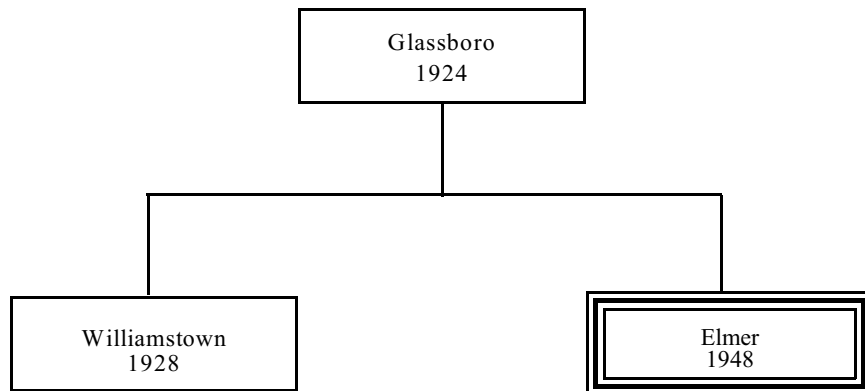


Chapter 32

Rotary Club of Elmer, N.J.



75th Anniversary History of District 764

Elmer, NJ

Chapter 32

Organized	January 6, 1948	Meets	Tuesdays a 6:30 pm at
Chartered	February 2, 1948		Elmer United Meth. Church
Sponsored By	Glassboro		19 S. Main St.,
			Elmer, NJ 08318
			(609) 358-7491

OFFICE	NAME OF MEMBER
President	Harold E. Shimp
Vice President	Byron R. Downer
Secretary	Earle H. Sloan
Treasurer	Edwin E. Foote
Director	D.C. Christy
Director	R.D. Cookingham
Director	Preston S. Foster
	C. Robert Brown
	G.A. Davies
	Walter J. Downer
	Thomas Gardner
	Norman Gaskill
	Edward J. Grassman
	William B. Hendrickson
	Everett M. Hitchner
	Evan S. Prickett
	W. Frank Riley
	Stanley Ward
	William H. Ward
	Asa Wiltsee

Foster, Shimp Attendance Marks Epitomizes the Elmer Spirit

The unabashed spirit of the Elmer Rotary Club was exemplified no stronger than by charter members Preston S. Foster and Harold E. Shimp, who, prior to their deaths in 1981 and 1984, respectively, had maintained perfect attendance records totaling 69 years.

The Elmer club was chartered Feb. 2, 1948, not long after a group of local business and professional men met with District 764 Governor Edgar F. Bunce and Special Representative W. Russell Sturgess, whose own Glassboro Rotary became Elmer's sponsor.

Elected as charter Elmer officers were Harold E. Shimp, president; Byron R. Downer, vice president; Earle H. Sloan, secretary; Edwin E. Foote, treasurer; and Walter J. Downer, sergeant-at-arms. They presided at charter night activities March 9, 1948 at Daretown School.

Weekly dinner meetings during the early years were held at the Colonial Inn on Route 40, and then the Odd Fellows Hall in Elmer. But after the women of Elmer Methodist Church began serving the meals in the early 1950s, Elmer Rotary had found a permanent home. That homespun warmth has proven to be an essential ingredient in the long-standing success and camaraderie of the club.

Perhaps Elmer's most challenging and most visible project among many has been its long-standing commitment to the youngsters of the Elmer area through Little League baseball. During his tenure as president in



Elmer Rotarians prepare to salute the flag before a club meeting in 1989.

1955-56, the late Oakford Schalick, Sr. placed Ed (Mr. Baseball) Foote in charge of a committee to investigate the feasibility of a Little League field in borough park. The grading and importing of dirt were accomplished with the assistance of nearby townships and Rotary friends. Today, Elmer Rotary is proud of its "Rotary Field" and continues to support maintenance and

improvements. Elmer is considered a state-of-the-arts facility which has hosted many tournaments because of its immaculate condition. The best news is this: In 1988 alone, seven leagues, 37 teams, and 523 youngsters played ball on Rotary Field.

But Elmer Rotary is well known throughout the district for its numerous other community activities and fund-raising events as well.

Through the tireless efforts of Blinn Bostwick, Elmer Rotary's Suit Clubs, held in a cooperative effort with Woodstown, have been a primary source of income for many years. Chicken pot pie dinners in the fall and spring and fall breakfasts have proven to be popular and are well supported by the community. There were minstrel shows in the '50s and variety shows in the '70s. Who can forget Pete Brothers in his full white dress with top hat, or Oakie Schalick, Sr.'s rendition of "Hard Hearted Hannah?" In the Bicentennial year of 1976, Elmer Rotarians went all out in their variety show production of "I Love America."

During the early club years, Elmer Rotarians treated youngsters to days of rides and fun at the old Riverview Beach Park and Centerton Park.

Elmer Rotary in 1954 built two fireplaces and provided picnic tables for public use at Rotary Park, then repaired the old fireplaces and built three new ones in the '70s. They resurfaced the tennis courts in '81.

The list is impressive: Purchased and installed air conditioner-, at Elmer Methodist Church; donated equipment for CPR training at Elmer Hospital; donated a video camera to the hospital; hosted children at an annual Christmas party; assisted in the purchase of a new stage curtain for Elmer School; purchased books and a copy machine for Elmer Public Library; presented a book depository to the library; made contributions for a day out for Salem County nursing home patients and a day in the sun for handicapped youngsters; aided Schalick High School's "Washington Close Up" program; donated a cascade system to Elmer Fire Company; presented equipment to the Elmer Ambulance Corps to coordinate with its "Jaws of Life"; gave funds to the borough for

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Christmas lighting; made a contribution to Cooper Medical Center in Camden for a new children's wing.

Besides the aforementioned projects and the ongoing purchase of eyeglasses and provisions for dental work for youngsters in need, Rotary also has offered unbending support to youth organization,, such as Boy Scouts, Girt Scouts and Boys State.

The club finds time to enjoy itself, too. There are the June ladies nights when new officers are installed. There are the September steak nights which are enjoyed not only by the members and their wives, but by the women volunteers at Elmer Methodist Church who are special guests for the evening.

In 1973, Elmer Rotarians hosted a ladies night at Centerton Golf Club to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

The litany of Elmer Rotary projects is a long Ion and impressive one. But when the Elmer club says "Service Above Self," documentation is impressive. Just ask Edwin E. Foote - 41 years later, he's still an active member.

1948-49	Harold E. Shimp	1969-70	Floyd Adams, Jr.
1949-50	Byron R. Downer	1970-71	John Wisda
1950-51	Earle H. Sloan	1971-72	Endel Mildo
1951-52	C. Robert Brown	1972-73	Frederick J. Robinson
1952-53	Franklin Bishop	1973-74	John Tice, Sr.
1953-54	Lee A. Towson	1974-75	L. Stanley Strang
1954-55	Robert T. Feters	1975-76	Jay Fisher
1955-56	Oakford Schalick, Sr.	1976-77	Harvey Schueler
1956-57	Herbert Lowe	1977-78	Theodore Myszke
1957-58	Daniel C. Christy	1978-79	Charles Roberts
1958-59	Joseph A. LaCavera	1979-80	Edgar Hathaway, Jr.
1959-60	Floyd Slentz	1980-81	Leroy Thumblert
1960-61	Glen A. 'Wentzell	1981-82	C. James Ott
1961-62	David Gidding	1982-83	James Anthony, III
1962-63	Ralph Justice	1983-84	Richard Schmidt
1963-64	Charles E. Woolman	1984-85	Robert L. Helmbrecht
1964-65	Robert Hollingsworth	1985-86	Steven Slavoff
1965-66	Alfred Holladay	1986-87	Jack Willingmyre
1966-67	Benjamin H. Foote	1987-88	John Vaughan
1967-68	Oakford Schalick, Jr.	1988-89	Frederick J_ Robinson
1968-69	Bert B. Bostwick	1989-90	Robert Paulas