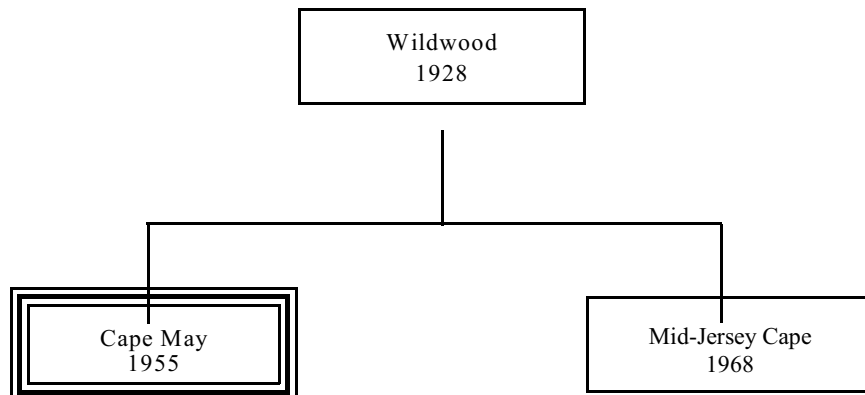


Chapter 39

Rotary Club of Cape May, N.J.



Chartered	June 2, 1955	Meets : Tuesdays at 12:15 pm at Coast Guard Officer's Club, U.S.C.G. Training Center, Cape May, NJ 08204 (609) 884-6900
Sponsored By	Wildwood	
Clubs Sponsored	Lower Township	

Presidents

1955-56	Robert Fuller	1972-73	Thomas Jowett
1956-57	Samuel Kahn	1973-74	Richard Northrup
1957-58	Andreas Kelly	1974-75	Arthur Doran & Andrew Lindsay
1958-59	Roland White	1975-76	David Lofts
1959-60	Thomas Binns	1976-77	Raymond Otter
1960-61	Everett King	1977-78	Gary Playford
1961-62	Carl Records	1978-79	Harry Gibbons
1962-63	Melvin Bouboulis	1979-80	John Sudak
1963-64	Richard Barab	1980-81	Charles Hathaway
1964-65	Edward Miller	1981-82	Edward Hayden
1965-66	James Clark	1982-83	Joseph Roth
1966-67	Richard Nece	1983-84	Marvin Morrell
1967-68	Harry Collier	1985-87	Eugene Davids
1968-69	Thomas Hand	1987-88	J. Richard Ferry
1969-70	Joel Rastrelli	1988-89	Edward Kuzma
1970-71	Howard Bethel	1989-90	Michael Dunwoody
1971-72	Claude Brown		

Small But Enthusiastic Trademark of Cape May Rotary Club

Sponsored by neighboring Wildwood, the Cape May Rotary Club was chartered June 2, 1955 with hotel owner Robert Fuller holding the distinction of serving as president of a charter group of 23. The club has had 158 men on its membership roster in its 35-year history, 10 of them Paul Harris Fellows, and currently is trying to boost its rolls from a total of 13. Howard Bethel, president in 1970-71, is the lone active charter member.

Although it never has had a large membership, Cape May Rotary has been enthusiastically involved in a wide range of community activities and historically has focused its efforts on helping the youth of the community. Income has been generated from numerous fund-raising events, two in particular: The annual scholarship dinner and the annual fish fry. Monies raised are for the support of Little League, 4-H, RYLA, Rotary Foundation, employee recognition awards, and many other local projects.

In the early days of Cape May Rotary's existence, meetings were held at noon at the Washington Inn.

During the late 1950s, Cape May quickly took an active role in the community through its sponsorship of a Little League team. In '56, 50 Rotarians from district four clubs, including Cape May, flew to Cuba for a joint meeting with the Havana Rotary.

Meetings shifted to Community Center in '57 and to Congress Hall in '58, when the inaugural Scholarship Dance was held.

The year 1959 was a busy one. The first two scholarships were awarded for \$250 each; the annual fete for high school honor students was held; Rotary's float captured first prize in a parade celebrating the 350th anniversary of the founding of Cape May; and members heard Robert Kennedy as guest speaker at a Rotary convention in Atlantic City.

Rotary Anns were organized by Cape May Rotary in '61, when meetings switched to Carroll Villa. Also that year, a throng of 1,200 attended the club's scholarship dance despite hurricane warnings. Not surprising, perhaps, since music was provided by the Glenn Miller Orchestra,

1962: The club presented championship jackets to members of the Lower Cape May Regional track team.

1963: Rotarians from the Leystone, England club visited Cape May.

1964: Cape May Rotary brought a circus to town as a fund-raising event.

1965: Thanks to the Cape May-Lewes Ferry, the club held the first of several joint meetings with Lewes, Del. Rotarians.

1966: The scholarship was increased to \$700.

1967: Cape May switched its meeting location to the Lobster House and moved the scholarship dance to Convention Hall.

In '68, '69 and '70, the club upped its scholarship from \$1,000 to \$1,250 to \$1,500. Also in '68, it co-sponsored the "New Horizons" TV show for senior citizens and was visited by a group study exchange team from Denmark. And in '69, it raised \$1,500 for the town's library fund.

In '71, the club bulletin reported that the club charter had been revoked and included the words "April Fool" in fine print. Atlantic City Rotarians missed the fine print and posted the bogus news as fact in its club bulletin.

From 72-74, Cape May Rotary's primary project was the construction of a community bandstand with Art Doran serving as committee chairman. The bandstand was dedicated July 4, 1974 and nine concerts were held the first year.

Locations for meetings were changed to the Atlas in '74, to the Seaport in '75 and to the Christian Admiral and Winchester in '76.

Also in '76, the club again boosted its scholarship, this time to two at \$1,500 each.

In '77, a mall plaque was dedicated to charter member Roland White - "Father of the Mall." White during 1958-59 served as the club's fourth president.

The scholarship dance was moved to the Golden Eagle in '79, same year Cape May Rotary began sending two high school seniors to the District 764 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program at Stockton State College. Also, the Rotarians initiated a three-year program to provide park benches in Bandstand Park and also contributed to the Lower Cape May Regional band trip to Florida.

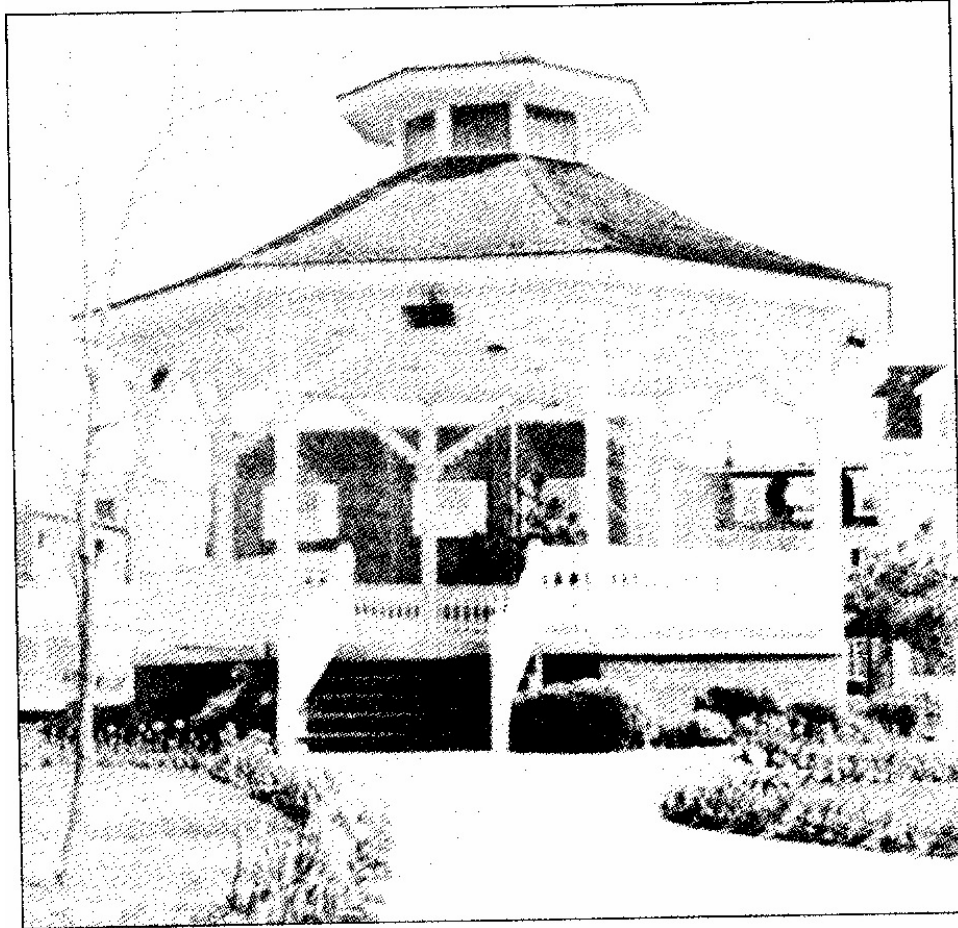
There was history made in '81: The club changed its meetings to Gold Whale and started at 6:15 p.m., first night meetings in club history. The club also started its popular July fish fry fund-raiser at the Bandstand.

In '82, the club boosted its scholarships to two at \$2,000 each. It also relocated its meetings at the Golden

Eagle and returned to its long-standing 12:15 starting times.

The club in '83 participated in a district-wide project to send books to developing African countries.

In '84, Cape May sponsored Mary Peckiconis, who studied languages in Belgium on a Paul Harris Fellows Grant. In '87, it sponsored grant-winner Jude Burkhauser who studied tapestry in Scotland.



Cape May Rotary's community bandstand, dedicated July 4, 1974.