

When 1989-90 District 764 Governor Herbert A. Budd, Jr. announced that he had an ambitious project for his year, he wasn't kidding.

The project: to publish the definitive history of what currently comprises District 764, from the organization of Districts in 1915 to the charter of the Woodbury Rotary Breakfast Club, the district's 65th club, in conjunction with the Budd-Mike Kittis Changeover Dinner 75 years later.



Budd's idea was both unique and admirable.

It was unique because not many would attempt a project of such magnitude, especially since it seemed likely, to all involved that 100 percent of the clubs was a potential problem. But it was admirable it had never been attempted in the district, after was the 75th anniversary year. And Budd, who has an unparalleled zest for the rich history of Rotary at, all levels, would try to produce one of the first such publican in Rotary International annals. Besides Budd's fierce dedication to the project, other components, were needed. One, he needed the cooperation of the clubs. two, he needed a had his computer expert, Bryan Racey, in-house at his family business complex in Deptford. A talented young man with an incredible work ethic and unflappable disposition, Racey became, the key figure in putting the book together. Though previously-untrained in the work, he somehow became a design expert, The layout of the book an epic of Rotary epics, is essentially Bryan's. How Bryan did it, between. his other duties as Budd's Administrative Assistant and his priority work with the company is both a mystery and a marvel. Then Budd hired Bob Shryock, a fellow 'Woodbury Rotarian, to do the bulk of the writing and reporting. Shryock is a long time journalist with a penchant for producing a lot of copy in a hurry.

A key ingredient was that Racey and Shryock developed both a friendship and a common desire to get the project done. As impossible as it seemed during what actually was an 18-month haul. But the most important element was club cooperation.

When the project was first announced, a high percentage of district clubs liked the idea and agreed to pitch in to help. A small minority said either they had no information, had no one to collect it, or, in just one or two cases, had no interest.

Happily, some attitudes changed along the way and this book reflects it. There is some history included in these all 65 clubs, and if Budd, Racey and Shryock were betting on that reality 12 months ago they would have lost.

Shryock at one point was convinced the book would wind up with only 56 or 57 histories, There simply was no movement from some clubs.

We appreciate sincerely the efforts of the clubs,

Some of them went out of their way to do exceptional 'jobs. Some had excellent data to begin with and merely needed to put it order. Some were written so well that Shryock needed to make only minor revisions.

Some had to reconstruct history from scrapbooks and bits and pieces. Some sent scrapbooks and said, "You do it

Some clubs suffered loss of records and memorabilia in restaurant fires and had to start all over again.

Some of the histories in this book are long and amazingly complete. Others are much shorter and very sketchy. But the bottom line is that every club is represented. It's a tribute not only to Budd for sticking by his guns with a project that some told him was outrageously unrealistic, and to Racey and Shryock for being the workhorses, but to all clubs In the district for agreeing that it was worthwhile and assigning a historian or other representative to get us the information.

It sometimes seemed to be a project that had a life of its own and would wear down those charged with executing it,

But it got done.

Herb Budd has his history, The Rotarians of District 764 have their own sequel to War and Peace. But, we don't know if we're, ready to try again in the year 2015.

--BOB, SHIRYOCK, EDITOR