

# THE MIDLAND LOG



## MIDLAND ROTARY CLUB

Celebrating 75 Years of Service Above Self  
1920 – 1995

A Journal  
of the  
Midland County Historical Society  
of the  
Midland Center for the Arts, Inc.  
Spring 1995

# THE MIDLAND LOG

## Spring 1995

Issue edited by Cindy Newman

The Midland County Historical Society is a non-profit educational organization serving in the Midland area since 1952. It is dedicated to fostering appreciation and understanding of early Midland through archives and exhibits at the Midland Center for the Arts, as well as the Herbert H. Dow Historical Museum, Bradley Home Museum and Carriage House maintained in Emerson Park. For membership information, call 517-835-7401.

**Cover picture:** When the Midland Rotary Club marked its 50th anniversary (1970), Delbert Huber (left), of St. Louis, Michigan, district governor of Rotary International, came to Midland to present a recognition certificate and to honor the club's charter members. Others (from left), all charter members, are: Earl W. Bennett, Frank Thompson, and Dexter K. Reinhart. Thompson had had perfect attendance at Rotary meetings for the 50 years.

*Photo credit: Midland Daily News*

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preservation of local history by the  
MIDLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## A Rotary Spotlight On: The 26 Charter Members of April 1, 1920

Edward W. Austin	Clarence H. Macomber
Edwin O. Barstow	L. G. Morell
Joseph E. Bayliss	Russell McCann
Earl W. Bennett	Douglas G. Mode
William Roy Crissey	D. Arthur Newland
Oscar C. Diehl	Clifford G. Olmstead
Herbert H. Dow	Albert Reinhart
Rollin Gordon	Dexter K. Reinhart
William J. Hale	William E. Ryan
Frank L. Hardy	Charles J. Strosacker
Ray Hart	Frank Thompson
Ralph Hyde	John A. Whitman
Lawrence "Bud" Lee	George Yocum



## Midland Rotary Club's Founding Fathers

by Ned Brandt

Midland's first men's service clubs began to sprout during World War I. In those years, Midland's population doubled—from 2,527 in 1910 to 4,455 in 1916 and 5,483 in 1920—as wartime production at The Dow Chemical Company boomed. The Dow payroll stood at 400 at the beginning of the war, climbed to 1,200 a year later, and by the end of the war had zoomed to 3,000 a year, at least 90 percent of their production going to the war effort, Herbert Dow estimated.

The town was hard pressed to keep up; nothing in the community was big enough for its new population. There was not enough housing, not enough restaurants, not enough water, not enough churches, not enough anything. Midland, people said, had gotten "too big for its britches".

It was also during this period that The Dow Chemical Company emerged as the No. 1 economic force in the community. Up to this time, the old lumbering and mercantile interests were still dominant. Midland began to be identified as a "company town". And Herbert Dow, without having sought it, emerged as the town's leading citizen.

During this growth period, especially during 1917 and 1918, it became popular for small groups of leading citizens to meet, often over lunch, to discuss the town's critical problems. Many of these meetings were attended by Herbert Dow or his chief lieutenants. There was usually no formal agenda, and they were off the record, an effort by busy people to communicate, to gather information and opinions, perhaps arrive at a consensus concerning the community's problems. Sometimes Dow and one or two of his

staff would meet with a few townspeople over lunch in the new Dow Cafeteria behind the company's headquarters building, a wartime addition to help feed the influx of new employees.

The Midland Men's Club, which flourished in 1915 and 1916, was the first formal men's service organization in the city, and while it was short-lived and unsuccessful, it became the fore-



## A Rotary Spotlight On: A Meeting That Made News

by Ned Brandt

Probably the most widely publicized meeting of the Midland Rotary Club in its first 75 years was the meeting of May 18, 1933. On that date, the club was addressed by Jean Piccard, the Belgian balloonist, who stopped in Midland on his way to Chicago and the Chicago World's Fair, where he was about to attempt a new altitude record, ballooning into the stratosphere.

The "gondola" for the Piccard balloon flight was being made in Midland, of Dow magnesium, and he visited the town to check on its progress and consult about the details. Willard Dow proposed he tell the Rotary Club about his plans, and he introduced Piccard at the meeting.

Piccard told the club about the upcoming attempt at a new world's record and said that either he or his twin brother, Auguste, would fly from the Fair in early July accompanied by a crack U.S. Navy pilot, Lieut. Cmdr. T. G. W. (Tex) Settle.

News reports from the meeting made headlines around the world. As it turned out, Settle flew the balloon alone when it rose from Soldiers' Field, and the flight was aborted at 5,000 ft. when a gas valve didn't function. A new altitude record was actually set by Settle a year later.

runner of the men's service clubs in Midland. Dr. Frank L. Hardy, a downtown dentist, was its president and Earl R. Stein, a young chemical engineer at Dow, was secretary. The records of the club have not survived, but it limped along for a couple of years and then with U.S. entry into the war went into dormancy, to re-emerge in 1920 as the Midland Rotary Club, with Dr. Hardy as its first president.

In the summer of 1916, the Men's Club had its first and apparently only project: it hired a young Midland High School coach and faculty member, Stephen L. Starks, to "prepare and direct a playground for the boys and young men of the City". Starks and Guy L. Shipps, freshly arrived to become director of the new Midland Community Center, spent the summer clearing and constructing a new "Midland Athletic Field". "This is the beginning of a movement which has become a part of every modern city — it trains boys in character, conduct, and citizenship," the club said in a letter to the members.

The project cost \$400, a large sum for that period, and unfortunately the club failed to raise that amount. This defeat seemed to have sent the club into rapid decline. Herbert Dow, a member, finally came to the rescue and paid Starks off for his work in December.

From such records as do exist, the Midland Men's Club "had good dinners" and "speakers who told us what the other cities are doing, and some who told us what we ought to do", but, its leaders lamented, "we did nothing".

Earl Stein, who served the city as alderman and mayor for 17 years, was deeply interested in installing the city manager type of government in Midland (he was 30 years ahead of his time), and some of the out-of-town speakers seem to have addressed this topic. Herbert Dow addressed the club in December 1915 on the



Photo by Wrights Studio

subject of "War Preparedness". It seems to have been customary for discussion of the speaker's topic to follow the talk.

At the end of the war, some of the people who had engaged in these activities began to get interested in continuing them. They seemed to be a useful way of getting at the most common problems of a city bursting at the seams. Someone — most likely suspect is Jim Graves of the Rotary Club of Saginaw, which became official sponsor of the new club — suggested the formation of a group affiliated with a rapidly growing new service club organiza-



## A Rotary Spotlight On: Rotarians and Kiwanis

The photo on the left is estimated to have been taken in the early 1930's at the Dow Cafeteria at a joint meeting of the Midland Rotary Club and the Kiwanis. Identification from the back of the photo was as follows:

**At nearest table, in left of picture, turning toward camera are:** Merle Newkirk, Stephen L. Starks, Earle R. MacLaughlin, and Dr. James P. Hickey.

**At table on the right, on near side are:** Samuel Ball, Hubert "Hoop" Fruehauf, Dr. Mark E. Thompson, John J. Schafer, Rev. Ezra Stevenson.

**Group at the end of table, against the wall, are:** Frank O'Brien, William E. Ryan, Clarence H. Macomber and Harold S. "Doc" Kendall.

**Facing camera, at table to the right are:** Dr. Joseph Sherk, Unidentified, Unidentified, William Thompson, Dr. Wilbur Towsley, Dr. Edwin O. Barstow. Others too dim to identify.

**At table to right, near window are:** Luman Bliss, Dr. W. R. Veazey, Joseph E. LeFevre, George Yocum and Father Joseph Illig.



Photo from The Rotary Archives

tion, the Rotary Club, which had been founded in Chicago in 1905. The newly-chartered Rotary Club of Bay City also encouraged the idea.

Frank Thompson, the 1923-24 president of the club, said it had been organized by Frank Hardy, Earl Bennett and James C. Graves. Jim Graves, a chemist who came to Midland in 1894 to work at the old Midland Chemical Company, had been general superintendent of Herbert Dow's plant in Midland until 1910, when he left and moved to Saginaw. There he organized the Saginaw Chemical Company, and there he first became active in Rotary. There seems to have been no ill feeling between Graves and his former associates, in spite of his leaving and setting up his own chemical company.



## A Rotary Spotlight On: Rotary Founders Honored

1955

The theme was "Founders Day" in 1955 when Rotarians, their wives and special guests met to honor the founders of the Midland Rotary Club. Of the 26 founders of the club, six attended. In photo, left to right, are: Dr. Edwin O. Barstow, Lawrence "Bud" Lee, Dr. Earl W. Bennett, Frank Thompson, Dr. Charles J. Strosacker and Dexter K. "Dek" Reinhart.

In the background of the photo is a special mounting of the original Rotary charter, the Rotary emblem and pictures from the early days of Rotary in Midland.

Highlighting the meeting were talks by each founding member about his own experiences in Rotary.





Photo from The Rotary Archives



## A Rotary Spotlight On: Rotary Picnic — Williams Cottage

1950

William H. "Bill" Williams' cottage on Wixom Lake, and neighboring cottages belonging to Jim Kendall and Jim Bandeen, were traditionally the sites of Rotary Picnics from after World War II until the early 1980's. This picture was taken at Bill Williams' cottage on July 19, 1950.

**Back Row (L to R):** Arthur Young, Sheldon Heath, Billie Gronemeyer, Howard Reece, Bill Loose, Stephen Starks, Leonard Poznak, Charles J. "Stro" Strosacker, James Ross, J. Donald Hanawalt, David H. Jones, Thomas J. Powers.

**Second Row from Back (L to R):** Harold "Pappy" Knowles, Alison Armstrong, Wilbur Towsley, Bud Whitman, Chester Kennedy, Roy Barringer, Norris Coalwell, Albert Wenzel, Arthur Griswold, Walter Seeburger.

**Third Row from Back (L to R):** Harold "Doc" Kendall, Clare Schwegler, Carl Branson, Roy Crissey, Ralph Bowers, Olie Blessing, Carl Gerstacker, E. W. "Deke" Bradley, Robert Ferries, Oscar "Ockie" Diehl.

**Front Row (L to R):** Paul Stegeman, Dexter "Dek" Reinhart, Ernest Britton, Hugh Morris, Dick Rogers, Cecil DeRemer, William H. "Bill" Williams.



## A Rotary Spotlight On: Calvin A. "Tink" Campbell

(December 5, 1902 – April 20, 1988)

### A Rotarian to Remember

by Ned Arbury

During one's life, you meet many kinds of people who achieve considerable success, not only in accomplishments, but who were unique individuals. Individuals who had wit, humor, and dedication to what they were doing. One such person was Calvin A. "Tink" Campbell of Midland — a neighbor and fellow Rotarian.

He was born in Bay City, Michigan, on December 15, 1902. He moved to Indian River and



*Photo from the Dow Archives*

Cheboygan, where he attended primary and secondary schools.

Formal education consisted of his receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering from the University of Michigan. Later, he earned a Master of Science degree in Engineering Administration from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1928, he earned a Doctor of Law degree from Harvard Law School. In addition, he received honorary degrees from Ferris State University and Saginaw Valley State University.

He left the Legal Department of General Motors corporation in 1935 when he moved to Midland to head the Legal Department at The Dow Chemical Company. He was elected to the Board of Directors at Dow in 1948, followed by becoming Secretary, Vice President, and a member of the Executive Committee and Finance Committee. He was one

*Continued on next page*

These organizing, or chartering, officers were Dr. Frank L. Hardy, famous later on as Midland's "shooting dentist", who became the club's first president; Joseph E. Bayliss, a general assistant to Herbert Dow with the title of assistant superintendent, who became the first vice president; Earl W. Bennett, then assistant

"TINK" *Continued from previous page*

of Dow's best legal minds until his retirement from Dow in 1967.

He was active in community activities, including heading the fund-raising drive for the original Midland Hospital Center and serving in a leadership role in raising funds for the Midland Center for the Arts.

He was always challenging fellow Rotarians, especially me, of any statements made—even when I gave the invocation. At one meeting, I credited the prayer to Alexander Hamilton. I had just finished the invocation when Tink challenged me from across the room. He stated that to his knowledge, Hamilton never wrote a prayer. I responded that Tink should know, because he must have been there with Hamilton.

Further, I purchased two used cars from him. During a trial drive, he talked continuously and rather loudly so that I did not get a chance to listen to the engine. I

agreed to take the car. Two days later, I discovered a 2 1/2 inch hole in the left front fender that someone had tried to cover up with oil cloth and black paint. I reported this to him, and he said that he did not know how that happened. The resulting replacement of the fender cost me \$750. But, it did not affect our relationship.

On March 31, 1949, Tink was aboard a plane with Dr. and Mrs. Willard Dow, former President of Dow. The group was flying to Boston to hear Winston Churchill speak. Tragically, the plane crashed during a forced landing near London, Ontario. Both the Dows and Alta Campbell, Tink's wife, were killed. Tink walked away from the crash with a broken heel and a broken heart. But his wit and humor remained as strong as ever. For all who knew Tink, he truly was a Rotarian to remember.



secretary and assistant treasurer of Dow (and a future board chairman), who became secretary; and Douglas G. Mode, partner in the Mode and Gordon's men's clothing store on Main Street, who became treasurer. Also members of the first board were the sergeant at arms, Lawrence W. (Bud) Lee, a partner in his family's wholesale produce business, E.J. Lee & Company; and two directors, William E. (Will) Ryan, proprietor of the Ryan Store, a five-and-dime on Main Street, and D. Arthur (Art) Newland, manager of the Brown Lumber Company.

Bud Lee was to be an active Rotarian for more than 70 years, living on into the 1990's, and became the last surviving charter member of the Midland Rotary Club. He was involved in establishment of the Mt. Pleasant Rotary Club in 1938. He died December 22, 1991, at the age of 97.

The International Association of Rotary Clubs issued a charter to the new club on April 1, 1920, and the chartering officers, all of whom had played key roles in the formation of the club, automatically became the officers for the first year.

The sense of humor and light-hearted banter which characterized the new club were already evident in the applications filed by the 24 charter members who filled out membership forms between January 3 and March 3, 1920, when the rolls closed and the formal application for affiliation with Rotary was filed. Herbert Dow gave his profession as "horticulturist (orchardist)"; E.O. Barstow, a Dow vice president and the "Father of magnesium", applied under the category "Social Service", noting that he was the secretary of the Midland Community Center; Charles J. Strosacker, another Dow vice president, the "Father of Saran", proudly listed his profession as "capitalist"; Oscar C. (Ockie) Diehl, a Dow sales executive, applied as a real estate man—he was secretary of the Park Realty Company, developers of East and West Park Drives. Roy Crissey, proprietor of the Midland Republican newspaper, applied as a sav-

ings and loan man—he was an officer of a Main Street savings and loan association.

The sergeant at arms had the task of enforcing club rules. Calling a fellow Rotarian by other than his first name was an infraction for which the sergeant at arms automatically collected a fine—a quarter or half dollar. A rule could be passed by resolution of the membership, and this sometimes smacked of whimsy. Frank Thompson remembered that when he was sergeant at arms, John Schafer and Ed Barstow were fined 50 cents each for wearing straw hats out of season.

In one of the first actions, the club voted to "meet on Thursday of each week at 12:15 Eastern Standard Time at the Dow Cafeteria". Seventy-five years later this has not changed radically; the club now meets at noon on Thursday each week at the Midland Country Club.

One of the critical problems in establishing the club was that in 1920 no restaurant in the city could handle a group of this size in a private room. Herbert Dow, told of this, invited the club to meet at the new Dow Cafeteria. This solved the problem for the new club and paved the way for its successful formation.

Herbert Dow became a lifelong booster of the Midland Rotary Club, although he always declined to become an officer. (It should be noted that in December 1919, a few weeks before the Rotary Club was organized in his office, he had become the first president of the Midland Chapter of the American Chemical Society, which was forming at the same time.) He was a frequent speaker during the 10 years he was a member (he died in 1930), and he liked to give the club a regular review of what was happening at "The Dow".

In August 1923, Herbert Dow gave what amounted to his "classification" talk to the club, in which he reminisced about his



## A Rotary Spotlight On: A Rotarian Remembers

by Judge Henry Hart

(Son of Charter Member Ray Hart)

Milton LeFevre and I were in 1928 the first Rotary Exchange Students.

Milton came over to our public school in the ninth grade after having passed the first eight grades in Catholic School. We public school regulars hazed these "outlanders" to some extent, but some of the girls were attractive, and Milton had total control of a five-passenger Ford touring car. He and I quickly became fast friends, the perk being that in the evening I could ride around in the back seat of his car with my arm around a girl, if, of course, we were home by 9 o'clock.

One day, Frank O'Brien, Rotary song leader, and Frank Thompson, Rotary icon, asked us if we could go to Detroit with them to a Rotary meeting. We said we had to go to school, and they said they had fixed it up with John J. Schafer, Superintendent.

So we said "Sure"—anything to get out of school.

On the appointed day we were picked up at 8 a.m. and were "Outward Bound!" We had lunch at the Statler Hotel and were told to go to our meeting room while they went to theirs. In our room, there were a lot of boys our age and they got up and told stuff about what the Rotary Clubs did for the good of youth in their clubs while Milt and I sat glued to our seats.

We got back in Frank's car and left Detroit, stopping out Woodward at the Wigwam Cafe. This was famous for being built like an Indian wigwam and for a day or two we had bragging rights at school.

That night in bed, I started thinking about the purpose of all this and thought of the other kids telling of what the Rotary Club

*Continued on next page*

35 years of association with Midland. He told the club that when he first came to Midland in the summer of 1888, it appeared to be a prosperous town. Main Street was paved with cedar blocks and was shaded from end to end with fairly large trees. The leading businessman in town was John Larkin, who had built the Larkin block a few years before and lived in an old-fashioned frame house on Main Street "surrounded with practically all varieties of flowering shrubs that will grow in this climate". "Some of the original Larkin shrubbery is now on my place," he noted.

That first trip, he said, had been made principally to secure samples of Midland brines. Midland at the time had a reputation

*"REMEMBER" Continued from previous page*

did in their towns and wondered if Milt and I shouldn't have done the same for Midland. Then I wondered what we could tell. One summer the Rotarians invited us kids out to Gordon's farm to watch them play softball. We then wandered over to the ice house. Then they said we could have a sandwich and a pop. When we asked how much pop we could have, they said "all you want". Pop was five cents a bottle, but we got it free. And we knew then that the Rotarians were really good guys. Besides, we got to see Father Illig run the bases in his black kimono.

But what should Milton and I have said back at the Statler Hotel meeting? Free pop seemed to benefit only the sons of Rotarians and so was of doubtful civic value. I think the planning committee for Outward Bound students had flunked their job. It is doubtful that our silence put Midland on the map.

Milton and I did get out of school for a day and did eat in a restaurant that looked like a wigwam. But these bragging rights had a short life span with the other students in 1928.

for its bromine production, and for many years Midland had been more of a chemical-producing locality than probably any other city in Michigan. Oil of peppermint, hemlock extract, and oil of winter-green were produced in the town, in addition to bromine and salt, when he arrived.

He recalled that he had returned to Midland in the summer of 1890 and "started operations across the road from where Judge Hart now lives. Our efforts in the small plant in the west end of Main Street were not commercially successful but indicated the possibility of a profitable process," he said. In 1892, the plant was relocated to the east end of Main Street.

Many—probably too many—of the talks to the club by Herbert Dow and his colleagues in the early years concerned the tariff issue then being considered by Congress, and for which Dow was working hard with Congressman Joseph Fordney of Saginaw. The Fordney-McCumber Tariff Act finally passed Congress and was signed by President Harding in September 1922. It provided extensive tariff protection for hundreds of chemicals, and very likely extensive relief to an over-tariffed Midland Rotary Club as well.

Once a year, in the summer, Herbert Dow invited the club for a picnic at his house and gardens, and Mrs. Dow and the wives would prepare a tasty meal while the members engaged in various lawn games. Because Herbert Dow and most of the charter members loved to sing, after dinner there would be group singing of favorite old songs, sometimes until late in the evening. Out of these annual affairs has survived to this day the custom of an annual Rotary picnic, and the custom of singing old-time favorites at each meeting.

Herbert Dow's last talk to the Midland Rotary Club (and as it turned out the last formal talk of his life) was given on August 7,

1930, only two months before his death at the Mayo Clinic. He spoke of colors and the color spectrum and explained the use of the spectrum and of magnesium in flashlights for photographic use. It was new subject matter for him; he was still looking ahead.

The club met at the Dow Cafeteria for the first 15 years of its existence. When the Midland Country Club was built in the early 1930's, it moved there and has stayed there since. When the Kiwanis Club was founded in Midland (two years after the Rotary Club), Herbert Dow invited it also to meet at the Dow Cafeteria, and it met there on Thursday evenings for awhile, switching shortly to Monday evenings.

At least once a year the two clubs met for a joint meeting, and the relationship between the two groups was always one of friendly rivalry. "The most cordial feeling has always existed between (the two clubs)," Chester E. Morris, prosecuting attorney, noted in the *Midland Sun* in 1926. "No rivalry has existed except a most friendly rivalry in accomplishment and worth." Midlanders used to say that "Rotary owns the town, and the Kiwanis run the town, and the Lions roar about it". It was not entirely true, but it was usually good for a chuckle.

The early presidents of the Midland Rotary Club included some of the city's most distinguished citizens. Dr. Frank Hardy, founding president, covered himself with glory in 1937 when the Chemical Savings Bank was robbed. Clarence Macomber, another member, was wounded by the bandits in that affair. Dr. Hardy, whose dental office was upstairs over the bank, heard the commotion, left his patient in the chair and grabbed his deer rifle; leaning out his window over Main Street, he spotted the fleeing bandits and shot one of them dead. The other, Anthony Chebatoris, was caught and sentenced to hang; he was the last person to suffer capital punishment in Michigan.

Dr. Hardy was succeeded as club president by Earl W. Bennett, one of Dow's closest colleagues, a financial genius who eventually became the company's board chairman. The third president was the Midland attorney and prosecutor Ralph Hyde, one of two representatives of the legal profession in the original club — the other being Judge Ray Hart. Ralph Hyde went on to a long record of service to Rotary, and in 1950-51 he became the first Midlander to serve as District Governor for the organization. Frank Thompson of Thompson Mercantile; Clifford G. Olmstead, wholesale coal merchant; and Macomber, the bank president, were followed by Dr. Mark Thompson, another dentist; Barstow, of Dow fame; and Ed Austin, proprietor of a drug store that stood at the corner of Rodd and Main.

Four others among the founding fathers served as president of the club: Dexter (Dek) Reinhart, auto dealer; W.R. (Roy) Crissey; Ockie Diehl; and Bud Lee, who during World War II moved to Mt. Pleasant and a position in Dow's Dowell subsidiary.

With the club's initial orientation, it is not surprising that three mayors of the town were among the early members. Judge Hart and Clarence Macomber had both been mayor of Midland before joining; John A. Whitman, one of the first to join after the club was chartered, was mayor during the early days of the club, 1921 to 1930.

Another distinguished early member was Dr. William J. Hale, Herbert Dow's son-in-law, founder of the chemurgy movement, a celebrated bon vivant and raconteur, the author of six books, and probably Midland's favorite public speaker in that period. One of Dr. Hale's well-remembered talks to Midland Rotary, in

1924, was billed as "The Art of Orthoedy". Club members looked blankly at each other when they heard this, expecting the worst. Dr. Hale explained that he had coined the word himself from the Greek "orthos" (correct or right) and "edein" (to eat); thus he said, "orthoedy typifies correct manners in eating".

"Correct dress and correct table manners have always marked the gentleman, ever since Adam donned the fig leaf and the Egyptians built a table," Dr. Hale said. The talk included an enlightening discussion of whether it is proper, in smoking a cigar after dinner, to leave the cigar band on, or take it off. (Take it off, Dr. Hale counseled, or be considered a country bumpkin.)

When he compiled notes for a club history in 1979, Ernest R. Britton, a long-time Midland school superintendent who racked up an incredible 45 years of perfect attendance at the club's meetings, pointed out that 1920 was a great year for getting things started. The first meeting of the new League of Nations was held in 1920, and the Permanent Court of International Justice was founded that year, the first Rotary Club in Japan was organized, and the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was adopted, extending the suffrage to women.

Not the least of institutions which got started in 1920, Britton said, was the Midland Rotary Club. It was Britton who, during his service as district governor, introduced the song which became the club's theme song: "Smiles". It is still sung at each meeting.

## A Rotary Spotlight On: Some Club "Firsts"

by Earl Warrick

- 1970** The decade of the seventies began with the club at 130 members. Fred Dunn was appointed as one of the five non-members to go to South Africa on a group study exchange in 1972. Fred has since become a member. This may have been our first effort in the Group Study Exchange program.
- 1971** The Midland Club supported District 631 by holding the District Conference at the Valley Plaza in Midland. This was the club's first venture in many years to put on such a conference.
- 1972** Frank Thompson was honored on the occasion of his 90th birthday. At this point he had 52 years of perfect attendance.
- 1975** This was the first year of our participation in Rotary Youth Exchange. Our first inbound student was Carrie Lawford from Australia. Our first outbound student was Debbie Misner who went to Finland.
- 1977** The Midland Rotary Foundation was chartered.
- 1980** Our club participated in the multi-district Leprosy Project of Governor Earl Warrick which raised \$57,000 for purchase of the main drug for leprosy—Rifampicin, at half price from The Dow Chemical Company, to be used in India.
- 1982** In response to an increasing concern for accidents caused by drunk drivers, the Club successfully organized the Anti-Drunk Driving Alliance of Midland or ADDAM.

ADDAM preceded the presence of the now-established Mothers Against Drunk Driving, MADD. ADDAM mobilized an alliance between the Club, the Sheriff, city police, state police, Exchange Club, Kiwanis, Lions, Optimist, and the Midland Public Schools. This community-wide education program proved to be very timely as the State of Michigan began adopting some tough new laws to combat drunk driving, and quite likely saved some lives and suffering.

- 1986** The Supreme Court decision was handed down which opened the way for women to join Rotary. Polio Plus program was launched with a goal of \$120,000 for the club, and this amount was raised. Ian Bund, former president, proposed the idea of a Leadership Midland, and the first program was organized and held at Northwood with the added sponsorship of the Midland Chamber of Commerce and the Midland Daily News.
- 1988** A Midland Morning Rotary Club was organized by a committee of Midland Rotary Club. There were 38 charter members, 10 of them women. Steve Bush was its first president. With the help of the new morning club, \$10,000 was raised for the "Adopt a Smile" program which was used to provide needed dental care for children of low income families.
- 1989** The first women joined Midland Rotary: Ruby Iwamasa, Judith Burton, Jan Albar, and Kathy Conklin.
- 1989** The Club honored its only living charter member: Lawrence W. "Bud" Lee on his 95th birthday and for his 70 years of service on 4/1/90.



## A Rotary Spotlight On: The Student Loan Fund

by R. Matt Davis

The Midland Rotary Club organized a Student Loan Committee in 1932 with a \$250 contribution by the club's Board of Directors—making this the oldest continuing committee of the Club. The original object of the Student Loan Fund was, and still is, to loan money to deserving students who need assistance financing a college education. More than 200 students have received loans.

During the period of 1932-1942, 14 loans were approved for a total of \$3,000. The next eight years, the loan fund was inactive, and the money was invested in savings bonds. In 1952, the bonds were cashed and the Club allocated \$500 per year until 1960 when the amount was increased to \$750 per year. At this time, the loan fund was the largest item in the club's budget.

In 1961, Mr. G.A. Currie, Sr. willed 200 shares of Dow stock to the student loan fund. Because of this gift, the club no longer had to subsidize the fund. Today, the fund has grown to more than 1,900 shares of Dow stock.

One recipient of an early loan of \$250 later became a director of The Dow Chemical Company. In 1968, he gave Dow stock (now 600 shares) for scholarships to high school seniors for their first college year. Today, the Club awards three \$800 W. Dixon Scholarships annually.

In 1986, a scholarship was created in memory of Calvin A. (Tink) Campbell and was named the C.A.Campbell-Midland Rotary Club Scholarship. Funded by member donations, this is an \$800 per year scholarship.

## A Rotary Spotlight On: Swimming, Anyone?

by Hugh Starks

The City of Midland in the 1920's had a public swimming site on the Tittabawassee River, just upstream from the Currie Parkway (old M-20) bridge. Besides the obvious perils that some swimmers would jump off the top girders of the bridge, the "beach" itself left much to be desired.

After a series of tragic drownings in 1927/28, our then club president, E. O. Barstow, appointed Bud Lee to lead a committee to plan for the construction of a public outdoor swimming pool. Club member Herbert H. Dow donated \$8,000 as seed money for the project.

The Club purchased a parcel of land on the southeast side of Rodd Street between East Collins and Nelson Street. This site became the location of the City's Central Park, and it included the pool, built in the mid-1930's, and the bandshell.

It is not clear how our land became a city park, nor do we have an accurate description of the parcel. However, it may be that the present Midland Community Center and the Civic Arena and pool utilize some or all of this remarkably far-sighted acquisition.

## A Rotary Spotlight On: The Pancake Supper

by Earl Warrick

The first pancake supper was held as a fundraiser in September 1972 in the First United Methodist Church on Main Street. Members cooked the cakes on grills in the kitchen of the church. The space was limited and the output slow. A long line of people waiting to be served grew to outside the church.

The second pancake supper was held the following year at Central Intermediate school cafeteria with professional help in cooking the cakes. No supper was held in 1974 as we shifted to February 1975. The third supper was held in Central Intermediate Cafeteria. One more supper was held in Central, but in 1977 the supper shifted to the Dow High School cafeteria where it has been ever since. Six grills were used to keep up with the demand.

A little controversy occurred in 1981 when the Fire Marshal objected to having so many propane tanks for the grills in the building, so Arthur Fisher, Bill to most Rotarians, devised a plastic film shelter which he and his helpers built and erected on the outside adjacent to the side door of the cafeteria. This shelter is erected and taken down after every pancake supper.

Roughly 90 percent of the members help in putting on the supper, and in recent times more than 2,000 customers have been served. The members sell or give away 5,000 tickets, so not all are used. The club makes over \$10,000 each year which goes to support youth activities in Midland, including Youth Exchange and Camp Rotary.

February 23, 1995  
Rotary Pancake Supper



Left to Right: Bruce Grant,  
Michael Shea, and Bill Gold.



Karl Tomion and Ruby Iwamasa



Shirley Clowers



Jim Ayre

## A Rotary Spotlight On: 1993-94 Club Highlights

by Cindy Newman

- As of July 1, 1994, there were 181 members. The Club recognized 31 members who represented 148 years of cumulative perfect attendance.
- The Community Needs Committee distributed \$9,000 to 16 civic organizations:
  - Volunteers for Recycling
  - Midland Preschool Centers, Inc.
  - The Salvation Army Share Program
  - Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network
  - Community Christmas Closet
  - Greendale Happy Diners
  - Operation Fun
  - Midland Safe Biking Coalition
  - Ten Sixteen Home
  - Shelter House
  - Special Olympics
  - Togetherness Time Totes
  - MidMichigan Visiting Nurse Support Service Lifeline
  - Eagle Village
  - American Red Cross
  - Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail
- Thirteen young leaders from four area high schools (Bullock Creek, H.H. Dow, Meridian, and Midland) were sponsored for Rotary Leadership Camp. Participants, over four days, were exposed to speakers, leadership skills, and, in general, elements of successful living. Camp facilities include a trading post, rifle and archery ranges, swimming, boating, canoeing, hiking, rappelling, orienteering, and other outdoor activities. Camp Rotary

is eight miles north of Clare, on 1,100 acres of beautiful woods and Beebe Lake.

- The Club hosted two inbound Youth Exchange students: Jean-Paul Oosterwijck (Belgium) and Ana Carolina Pederneiras (Brazil). Outbound students were Mara Hamilton (to Norway) and Kim Beckett (to Brazil).
- A total of seven students benefitted from various loan and scholarship options offered by the Club. Two students received loans from the Student Loan Fund—one for \$3,000 and one for \$6,000. Three \$800 Bill Dixon Scholarships were given. One \$800 C. A. Campbell-Midland Rotary Club Scholarship was given.
- The Rotary International Vocational Service Award was presented to four individuals from the community who have demonstrated exceptional accomplishments in their vocations and have used their vocational skills extensively for the betterment of the community. Recipients were: Donna T. Morris, Judge of Probate; Donna J. Roberts, Secretary and Assistant General Counsel, The Dow Chemical Company; Arthur J. "Bill" Fisher, President, Fisher Contracting; and Art LeTourneau, Assistant Director of Midland Gladwin Community Mental Health Services.
- The E. R. Britton Award appointee for 1993-95 was Patrick Daly of H. H. Dow High School. Purpose of the fund is to establish an endowed humanities chair for the improvement of the educational process. It fosters creativity, promotes critical thinking skills for students, and enhances professional growth of teachers. Daly received a \$2,000 stipend and \$300 for supplies for two years.
- With the exchange of Rotary Banners by visitors to various clubs, the Club now has 410 banners representing 37 states in the U.S. and 45 countries.

## A Rotary Spotlight On: Club Presidents

### 1920 through 1929

1920	Frank L. Hardy
1921	Earl W. Bennett
1922	Ralph J. Hyde
1923	Frank Thompson
1924	Clifford Olmstead
1925	Clarence H. Macomber
1926	Mark Thompson
1927	Edwin O. Barstow
1928	Edward W. Austin
1929	Dexter K. Reinhart

### 1930 through 1939

1930	William Roy Crissey
1931	Harold S. Kendall
1932	Donald L. Gibb
1933	Paul Stegeman
1934	William Thompson
1935	Stephen L. Starks
1936	Oscar C. Diehl
1937	Karl B. Robertson
1938	Joseph H. Sherk
1939	John J. Schafer

### 1940 through 1949

1940	J. William Britton
1941	LeRoy C. Stewart
1942	Lawrence W. Lee
1943	Don McDonald
1944	Harold T. Knowles
1945	Calvin A. Campbell
1946	E. W. Bradley
1947	Orren I. Bandeen
1948	Richard D. Freeman
1949	Carl A. Gerstacker

### 1950 through 1959

1950	Sheldon B. Heath
1951	Ernest R. Britton
1952	Ralph H. Bower
1953	William H. Williams
1954	Robert T. Ferries
1955	Alison Armstrong
1956	Thomas Powers
1957	Arthur M. Griswold
1958	Leo Bliss
1959	Don D. Irish

### 1960 through 1969

1960	Leonard Poznak
1961	Gilbert A. Currie, Jr.
1962	Olin D. Blessing
1963	Robert T. Blackhurst
1964	Robert B. Bennett
1965	Henry Hart
1966	Harold Gordon
1967	Luman A. Bliss
1968	Morgan L. Gibbs
1969	Paul Meeske

### 1970 through 1979

1970	Stuart S. Branson
1971	Albert T. Maasberg
1972	James A. Kendall
1973	William H. Meier
1974	James M. Scovic
1975	Donald B. Carlsen
1976	Earl L. Warrick
1977	J. William Hedelund
1978	W. Brock Neely
1979	Frank Gerace

### 1980 through 1989

1980	Louis C. Rubens
1981	William D. Betts
1982	Linneaus C. Dorman
1983	James M. Pauli
1984	Ian Bund
1985	Bruce M. Groom
1986	M. Anderson Rapp
1987	Lawrence P. Jackson
1988	Roger Gohrband
1989	Thomas O. Gibson

### 1990 through 1995

1990	Jim Brozzo
1991	Willard B. Hunter
1992	James H. Waring
1993	Peter Hasbrook
1994	Charles W. Leach
1995	Roger E. Schmidt



In active roles at the February 23, 1995, annual Rotary Pancake Supper were Luman A. Bliss, Rotary President for 1967, and Charles W. Leach, Rotary President for 1994-1995. Bliss has led the Club's weekly sing for more than 40 years and has 45 years of perfect attendance.

## **A Rotary Spotlight On: District Governors from Midland**

1950-51    Ralph Hyde  
1974-75    Ernest R. Britton  
1980-81    Earl L. Warrick  
1991-92    M. Anderson Rapp



