

**History**  
of the  
**757th District**  
**Rotary International**



1987 Edition

by

*J. Carl Coiner*

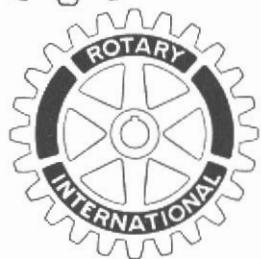
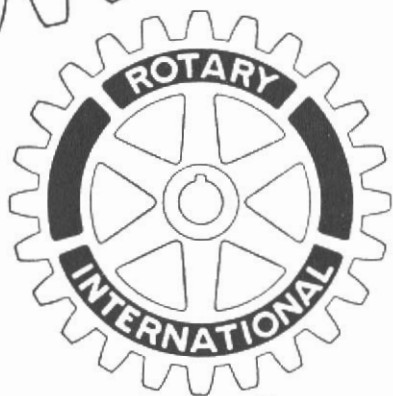
## **Official Rotary Mottoes**

*“Service Above Self”*

*“He Profits Most Who Serves Best”*

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# Introduction

Prior to 1980 Hensel Eckman of the Pulaski, Virginia Rotary Club, edited five editions of our Rotary District History. These were published at five year intervals of 1945-1950, 1955-1960, and 1965, thus covering a twenty year span.

The next fifteen year period was covered by J. Carl Coiner of the Woodstock, Virginia Club, which brought it up to 1980.

The present edition will bridge the 1980 through June 1987 period, and thus bring it up to date.

We include a table of contents which will give our readers a sketch of the various subjects and individuals covered in the up-dated history.

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## About the Author

J. Carl Coiner, the editor of the 1980 and 1987 editions of our present Rotary District 757 History, was born near Fishersville, Virginia in Augusta County. He graduated from both Fishersville and Robert E. Lee High School of Staunton.

He was both a 4-H Club and Future Farmers of America member.

In 1932 he entered Virginia Tech at Blacksburg, Virginia where he graduated in 1936. His was the first class to graduate in Burruss Hall, a large auditorium which seated over three thousand people. His degree was in Animal Husbandry now referred to as Animal Science. During the fall of 1936 he taught school at New Hope, covering the subjects of Chemistry, Science, Biology and History.

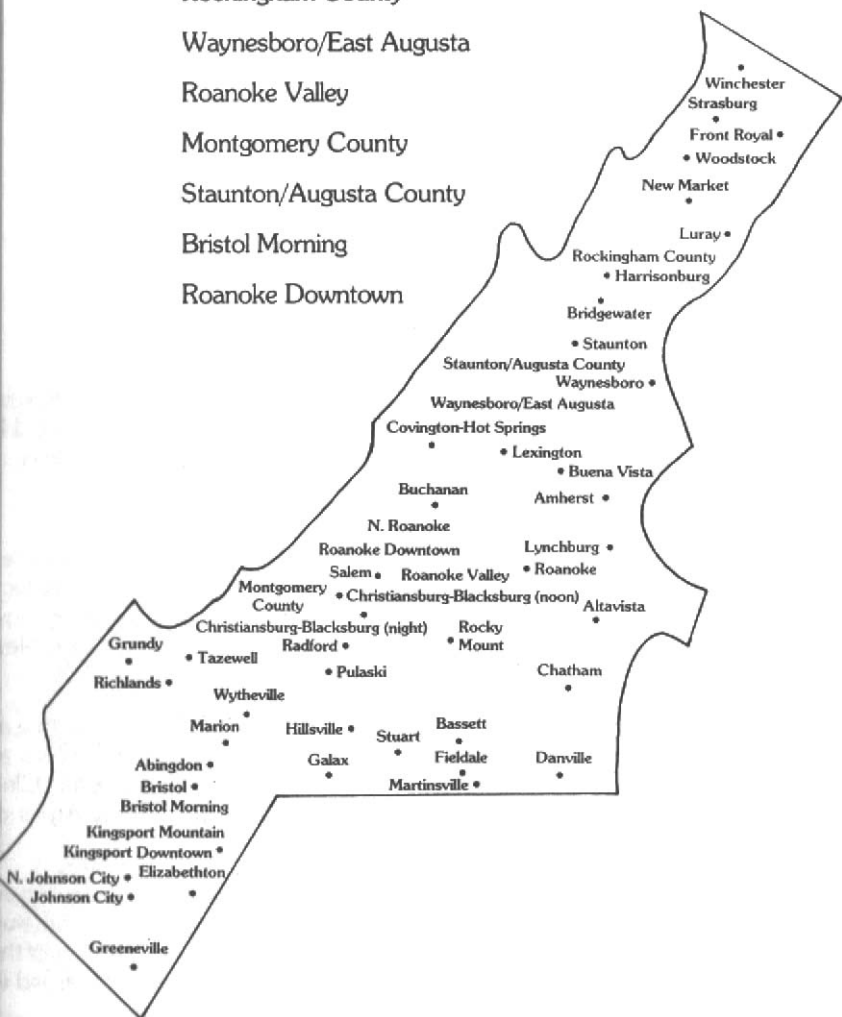
On January 1, 1937 he joined the Virginia Agricultural Extension Service as an Assistant County Agricultural Agent. He also served nearly two years as part-time agent in Frederick County, supervising and administering the 4-H Club program as his major activity. Later he became the full-time County Agent of Shenandoah County.

He joined the Woodstock, Virginia Rotary Club in 1941 and has now achieved a 46-year perfect attendance record, having never missed a meeting or a make-up meeting of his Club. His Rotary Club has weekly meetings. He is a member of the St. James Lutheran Church, located near Fishersville, Virginia. He is married to the former Pauline M. Dick of Winchester, Virginia.

# A Map of District 757 Rotary International as of July 1, 1988

New clubs since 1980:

- Kingsport Downtown
- Rockingham County
- Waynesboro/East Augusta
- Roanoke Valley
- Montgomery County
- Staunton/Augusta County
- Bristol Morning
- Roanoke Downtown

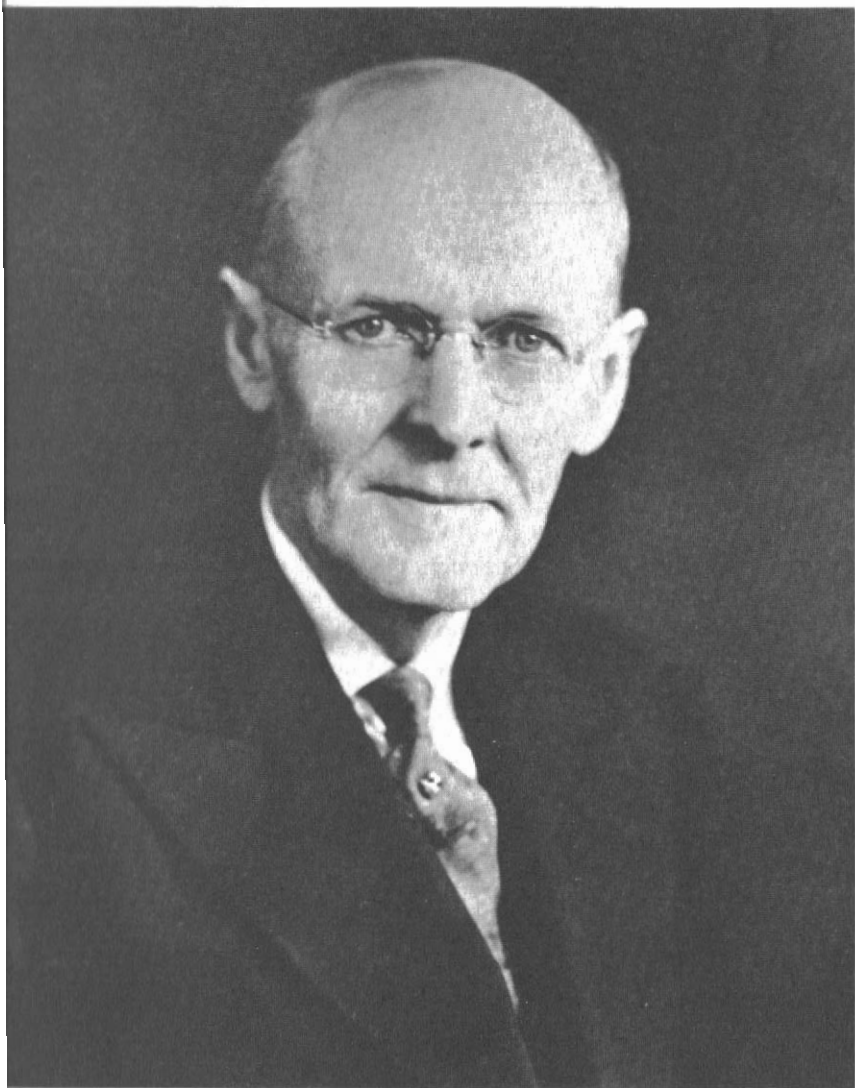


# In Memoriam

In loving memory we list the names of those Past District Governors who have passed away since the end of our last Rotary District History which was printed in 1980.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rotary Club</u>	<u>Date</u>
<i>Norman V. Geyer</i>	<i>Kingsport, Tennessee</i>	<i>October 2, 1979</i>
<i>Q. Damon Gasque</i>	<i>Front Royal, Virginia</i>	<i>March 5, 1982</i>
<i>William I. Norton</i>	<i>Johnson City, Tennessee</i>	<i>September 8, 1983</i>
<i>Ralph P. Grant</i>	<i>Kingsport, Tennessee</i>	<i>January 28, 1986</i>
<i>Yuille Holt, Jr.</i>	<i>Lynchburg, Virginia</i>	<i>May 10, 1986</i>
<i>Melvin O. Wiggins</i>	<i>Staunton, Virginia</i>	<i>December 8, 1986</i>
<i>Byron W. John</i>	<i>Roanoke, Virginia</i>	<i>July 10, 1987</i>





**PAUL P. HARRIS**

*Founder of Rotary International 1905*

*President 1910-1912*



# Dedication



**WILLIAM E. SKELTON**

It is with great satisfaction and pride that we recognize and honor William E. Skelton, by dedicating this 1980-88 update of our Rotary District 757 History to him.

Bill Skelton serves as dean emeritus of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Born in Dinwiddie County, he earned degrees at VPI and Cornell University and did post doctoral study at the University of Wisconsin.

He has been national president of Epsilon Sigma Phi, a professional organization that specializes in adult education and 4-H programs. He has served on the board of the Virginia Council on Health and Medical Care and is on the board of the S. H. Heironimus Company. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Dominion Bank in Roanoke, Virginia. He has twice received the Superior Service Award of the U.S. Government for outstanding service to people and administrative performance. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

A Rotarian since 1955, Bill Skelton is a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg. He has served Rotary International as District Governor, committee member and chairman, Director, Vice President and President. He served as Chairman of the Board of the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

# Memorable Experiences and Impressions

By William E. Skelton

The greatest experience I received during my Presidency of Rotary International was the opportunity to personally present 2040 Paul Harris recognitions. This was done in many different circumstances from large group meetings to very casual settings with only two people present. Included in this were 186 Paul Harris recognitions in District 760 in Richmond, Virginia, USA, at one meeting, 182 from the four districts in the Philippines, and 56 at my own District 757 Conference in Hot Springs, Virginia, USA.

It was an experience never to be forgotten to go to countries throughout the world to see first-hand how these funds from Paul Harris recognitions were effectively used to provide opportunities for education and international understanding through group study exchanges, scholarships and for relief from hunger and disease through the 3-H program and special grants. It was inspiring when Rotarians and non-Rotarians came forward to make a personal commitment to expand the programs by becoming a Paul Harris Fellow. It was personally exciting to find someone who spontaneously made this commitment to Share Rotary—Serve People, and to be able to pin my own pin on him or Peggy's on the lady.

In some places in the world I observed the influence of Rotarians in reducing conflicts between countries. Heads of state in a number of countries felt that Rotary could do more to help the people to have a better life than the government. In these areas of the world, governments get caught in conflicts between religious factions and Rotary does not. It was reassuring to see the importance of Rotary in these different situations.

It is encouraging to observe the expansion of our humanitarian programs to improve the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves. To observe Rotarians and their wives in third world countries working so hard with limited resources to help the sick and needy impressed me as to the importance of Rotary. It was rewarding to observe Rotarians working hard as volunteers to help people in need to have a better life.

The response of Rotarians to the 1983-84 International Theme—*Share Rotary—Serve People*—with specific goals and objectives resulted in the highest increase on record to that date in membership, new clubs, Paul Harris Fellows and contributions to the Rotary Foundation. This increase in resources translated into more programs of assistance throughout the world.

It was helpful to have a supportive wife and one that could converse with ladies throughout the Rotary world as to how they could advance projects of

Rotary. Wives of Rotarians throughout the world work actively to support their husbands and it was a rewarding experience to observe their support.

I came to the conclusion that people throughout the world have the same goals for a better life as we do in District 757. The only difference is that large populations in the third world countries are struggling for survival. They do not know where food, clothing, shelter and health care assistance will come from for the next 24 hours. Compound this with the very poor or no education, and it produces a situation impossible to comprehend unless you have seen these conditions in person.

Until these conditions are greatly improved, there can not be world understanding and peace. For this reason, we need to complete our Polio Plus project to immunize the children of the world and continue our world leadership role in helping to meet humanitarian needs.

Peggy and I visited nearly 100 countries and now we have friends throughout the world. We were honored to represent District 757 during my year, 1983-84, as President of Rotary International and appreciate the support we received from the people of our district.

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# The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the **Truth**?
2. Is it **Fair** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **Goodwill** and **Better Friendships**?
4. Will it be **Beneficial** to all concerned?

By  
Herbert J. Taylor\*  
R.I. President 1954-55

# The Object of Rotary

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

**First.** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

**Second.** High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

**Third.** The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business and community life;

**Fourth.** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service.

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## Rotary Vital Statistics

According to the June 1988 issue of *The Rotarian*, there are 23,446 Rotary Clubs with a membership of 1,049,331 in 460 districts and 162 countries and geographical regions.

Also, there are 5,613 Rotaract clubs with a membership of 112,260 in 112 countries; and 5,606 Interact clubs with a membership of 123,332 in 85 countries.

In 1987-88 an estimated 10,000 young people will participate in Rotary Youth Exchange programs.

New Paul Harris Fellows since 1 July 1987: 27,721. Grand total of Paul Harris Fellows: 204,232.

Total contributions to The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International, excluding Polio Plus, since 1 July 1987: U.S. \$8.6 million.

# Club Statistics

Charter Number	Club	Date of Organization	Date of Admission	Sponsor
123	Roanoke, VA	1914, Apr. 17	1914, June 1	Richmond
298	Johnson City, TN	1916, Oct. 20	1917, June 1	Nashville
280	Lynchburg, VA	1917, Feb. 3	1917, March 1	Roanoke
328	Bristol, VA-TN	1917, Aug. 13	1917, Oct. 1	Roanoke
611	Danville, VA	1920, Jan. 20	1920, Feb. 1	Lynchburg
765	Pulaski, VA	1920, May 1	1920, Sept. 1	Roanoke
759	Staunton, VA	1920, June 11	1920, Aug. 1	Richmond
797	Greeneville, TN	1920, Oct. 12	1920, Dec. 1	Johnson City
793	Covington- Hot Springs, VA	1920, Nov. 12	1920, Dec. 1	Richmond
890	Harrisonburg, VA	1921, Mar. 21	1921, Apr. 1	Staunton
1012	Winchester, VA	1921, Oct. 13	1921, Nov. 1	Harrisonburg
1062	Lexington, VA	1921, Nov. 1	1922, Feb. 1	Lynchburg
1191	Buena Vista, VA	1922, Apr. 28	1922, May 1	Lexington
1377	Radford, VA	1923, Jan. 26	1923, Mar. 14	Roanoke
1410	Christiansburg- Blacksburg, VA (Night)	1923, Apr. 9	1923, Apr. 23	Roanoke
1547	Kingsport, TN	1923, Oct. 17	1923, Nov. 6	Johnson City
1558	Abingdon, VA	1923, Oct. 18	1923, Nov. 23	Bristol
1785	Galax, VA	1924, Apr. 21	1924, May 24	Pulaski
1761	Bedford, VA	1924, Apr. 29	1924, May 10	Lynchburg
1892	Waynesboro, VA	1924, Dec. 12	1925, Jan. 20	Staunton
1888	Wytheville, VA	1924, Dec. 31	1925, Jan. 15	Pulaski
1918	Woodstock, VA	1925, Jan. 28	1925, Feb. 20	Harrisonburg
2242	Elizabethton, TN	1926, Jan. 19	1926, Feb. 6	Johnson City
2266	Luray, VA	1926, Jan. 25	1926, Mar. 4	Harrisonburg
2329	Front Royal, VA	1926, Mar. 30	1926, Apr. 16	Winchester
2531	New Market, VA	1927, Mar. 17	1927, Apr. 3	Woodstock
2595	Tazewell, VA	1927, Apr. 12	1927, May 21	Abingdon
2851	Marion, VA	1928, Apr. 3	1928, Apr. 24	Abingdon
2903	Martinsville, VA	1928, May 2	1928, June 8	Roanoke
576	Strasburg, VA	1933, Apr. 21	1933, May 11	Winchester
3783	Richlands, VA	1935, Mar. 5	1935, Mar. 27	Tazewell
4755	Bridgewater, VA	1938, May 26	1938, June 13	Harrisonburg
4808	Hillsville, VA	1938, July 21	1938, Aug. 8	Galax
4859	Mountain City, TN	1938, Oct. 17	1938, Oct. 24	Elizabethton
4873	Buchanan, VA	1938, Oct. 28	1938, Nov. 7	Lexington

## CLUB STATISTICS (Continued)

Charter Number	Club	Date of Organization	Date of Admission	Sponsor
4886	Stuart, VA	1938, Nov. 2	1938, Nov. 21	Martinsville
4975	Chatham, VA	1939, Mar. 2	1939, Mar. 15	Danville
5005	Altavista, VA	1939, Apr. 6	1939, Apr. 11	Lynchburg
5021	Amherst, VA	1939, Apr. 17	1939, May 1	Blackstone
5461	Grundy, VA	1941, Dec. 8	1942, Jan. 5	Welch, WV
5575	Bassett, VA	1943, Jan. 7	1943, Jan. 14	Martinsville
6191	Fieldale, VA	1946, Feb. 11	1946, Feb. 25	Martinsville
7399	Salem, VA	1949, Nov. 11	1949, Dec. 5	Roanoke
7401	Williamson Road, Roanoke, VA	1949, Nov. 17	1949, Dec. 5	Roanoke
None	Rocky Mount, VA	1951, July 9	1951, Aug. 9	Roanoke
None	Fort Hill, Lynchburg, VA	1963, Feb. 27	1963, Apr. 8	Lynchburg
None	N. Johnson City, TN	1968, Dec. 9	1969, Feb. 25	Johnson City
None	Christiansburg- Blacksburg, VA (Noon)	1979, Jan. 25	1979, Feb. 15	Christiansburg- Blacksburg (Night)

*Note: Rotary International discontinued and no longer issues club charter numbers. The Williamson Road Club is now called North Roanoke. The Rotary Clubs of Mt. Jackson, Va., Shenandoah-Elkton, Va., and Gate City, Va., no longer exist as they surrendered their charters primarily because of food catering difficulties.*

### New Clubs in District 757 Since 1980

Kingsport Downtown	1983, Nov. 15
Rockingham County	1985, Oct. 5
Waynesboro/East Augusta	1985, Nov. 15
Roanoke Valley	1986, Jan. 18
Mongtomery County	1986, Apr. 12
Staunton/Augusta County	1986, Apr. 19
Bristol Morning	1986, June 20
Roanoke Downtown	1986, Nov. 19

*Note: Fort Hill relinquished its Charter in April 1986.*

**District 757 has a net gain of seven clubs since 1980.**

# Reach Out to Haiti

## HAITI PROJECT BRIEF HISTORY

"Reach Out to Haiti", an interdistrict project began in 1979 when District 757 and 760 agreed to join forces in a hands-on international project.

The project developed a two-fold purpose: Placement of volunteers where their services were most needed; Development of a Rotary Center in St. Marc, Haiti to provide vocational training through a vocational school and employment opportunity for graduates. Simultaneously, the center would make available medical and related services to Haitian residents of the St. Marc area.

The center was to be built on eight acres of land owned by a non-profit Haitian corporation, which was the location of a primitive vocational school and a very small clinic building. They were being operated by a native Haitian, Antoine Alexis, a U.S. trained Baptist minister.

With a \$20,000 grant from the Rotary Foundation and funds raised by District 757 and 760 and a lot of hard work by Rotarians the Center building was dedicated, November, 1980. Unfortunately, just a few months after the dedication of the center, Antoine Alexis died suddenly, leaving the center without leadership.

In order to salvage Rotary's investment, the interdistrict Reach Out to Haiti committee stepped in to administer the Rotary Center. The committee hired Polly Saben, of Roanoke, Virginia, a social worker to be the on-site manager. The committee was most fortunate to have Polly step in so quickly.

After Polly's one year commitment the committee hired Serge Camell, a recent graduate of an engineering school. Serge, whose education was supported by the Port-au-Prince Rotary had been recommended by the club.

In 1984, Les and Betty Powers of Clinton, Tenn., volunteered for a two-year commitment to manage the center. They also agreed to serve without compensation. With the combined leadership of Les and Betty and Serge the project flourished.

The project was in such good shape by the Spring of 1986, Governor Elect Bob Fleming of 760 and James Shircliff of 757, felt it was time for the project to stand on its own.

With the thoughts of the incoming governors in mind, Reach Out to Haiti, Inc., was formed to carry on the project.

Similar resolutions were passed by Districts 757 and 760 turning the project over to Reach Out to Haiti, Inc. Also, by resolutions passed by both districts Rotary Clubs were urged to continue both financially and otherwise support the project.

Thus Rotary Clubs and individuals are still asked to contribute financially and continue to send volunteers to the center.

# Rotary Foundation Scholarship Program

The Rotary Foundation's Scholarship Program is a major Rotary Investment to further international understanding. Since 1947, more than U.S. \$103 million have underwritten the study abroad of more than 15,500 scholars from over 110 nations! The Foundation awarded 1,250 scholarships for 1986-87. Accordingly, an extensive publicity effort should be made by clubs and districts to highlight the Foundation's achievement and build added public recognition and support needed for greater success. There is also significant value in using this opportunity to share with the public Rotary's commitment to build a more peaceful world.

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## District Rotary Foundation Educational Award Program

The District 757 Rotary Foundation Scholarship selection committee has announced these choices for scholarships in the 1982-83 school year:

### **Graduate Scholarships**

Steve Douglas McClintock

Laura Elizabeth Bowie

*Alternates are Nancy Grace Aaron and Anne Venable Edmunds*

### **Teacher of the Handicapped Scholarship** (*Competitive among Districts*)

Nina Jane Pratt

### **Journalism Scholarship** (*Competitive among Districts*)

Kenneth Dawson Smith

During the 1985-86 Rotary year the following young people participated in the Scholarship program:

Susan H. Chitwood, Pulaski, Virginia

Sharon L. Fralin, Lexington, Virginia

John F. Hoffmeyer, Luray, Virginia

Karen E. Pletcher, Strasburg, Virginia

Mary M. Shaffer, Lexington, Virginia



# Polio Plus Report

*From the June 1988 Rotarian*

Polio eradication—the dream is becoming a reality.

Rotary International estimates that over 100 million children in developing countries have been immunized against polio through its Polio Plus Program. According to World Health Organization calculations, about 500,000 cases of this crippling disease have been prevented, some 50,000 of which would have killed the young victims.

The estimate is based on the fact that Rotary's program has delivered more than 402 million doses of polio vaccine to the governments of developing countries for ongoing immunization.

To date, The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International has approved U.S. \$77.7 million for Polio Plus projects in 67 nations to protect 417 million children. At a meeting of the Task Force for Child Survival held in Talloires, France, on 10-12 March, 1988, world health experts agreed that global eradication of polio is feasible by the turn of the century. According to WHO, the combined efforts of international agencies, national governments, and the private sector have raised polio immunization levels tenfold in developing nations—from less than five percent in 1977 to just over 50 percent in 1987.

Dr. D. A. Henderson, who directed WHO's successful smallpox eradication campaign, says that the support of voluntary organizations like Rotary makes an enormous difference in global immunization efforts.

"We have one important difference in polio eradication that we didn't have with smallpox," says Dr. Henderson. "We have the involvement of Rotary International. It's a unique situation to have this group working with the health establishment. They help solve problems of mobilizing interest, of delivering vaccines, of reporting cases, and so forth. They're proving to be enormously valuable. I wish we had had them with smallpox eradication."

## DISTRICT 757 POLIO PLUS CAMPAIGN 1987-88

*James V. Shircliff, Campaign Chairman*  
*P. Howard Massey, Jr., District Governor*

Rotary International's Polio Plus Campaign is the largest and most unanimous project in the history of any civic organization. Polio Plus will raise over \$120 million to immunize the children of the world against polio and five other childhood diseases that account for one fourth of all the childhood deaths in the developing countries.

Polio strikes 500,000 victims a year and by vaccinating over 100 million children, Rotary will effectively eliminate polio as a threat to the life and dignity of children around the world.

District 757 was assigned a share of the total project of \$565,505, but the clubs in the district acting individually set their own goals totaling \$716,272.

Not only is this the largest project in Rotary's history, but many people feel it is the best thing Rotary has ever done. Our district will have raised more money, funded more Paul Harris Fellows, generated more goodwill, tapped new found resources, and expanded our horizons more because of Polio Plus than any project since our founding.

The District Polio Plus Campaign leadership team consisted of the following:

James V. Shircliff, *Chairman*, Lynchburg  
James C. Helton, *Vice-Chairman*, Kingsport

*Area Coordinators*

Kenneth L. Garman, Woodstock  
John C. Sease, Harrisonburg  
Oscar Heuberger, Waynesboro  
Joe L. Clark, Lynchburg  
Roy Conner, Danville  
J. Randolph Joyce, Sr., Fieldale  
Heth T. Thomas, Roanoke  
William R. "Bob" Sullins, Blacksburg  
Dana H. Chamberlain, Marion  
Harold L. McGlothlin, Tazewell  
Phillip D. McFarland, Bristol  
Richard M. Gendron, Kingsport



*According to James C. Shircliff, as of the end of June 1988,  
District 757 has raised over \$790,000.00 for Polio Plus—  
\$200,000.00 more than their quota.*

# Group Study Exchange

The Group Study Exchange program enables teams of business and professional men in different countries to exchange visits of several weeks to develop international friendships and learn new ideas, ways of life, and business or professional practices. Over a two-year period, each of two paired Rotary districts in different parts of the world sends and receives a team that visits notable governmental, educational and cultural institutions. The Rotary Foundation pays travel expenses, and team members are lodged in the homes of Rotarians in the host district. With the exception of the leader, team members are non-Rotarians.

## GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The following is a summary of groups participating in the Group Study Exchange program since 1980:

### 1980-81

A five member Group Study Exchange Team from District 757 was sent to visit District 234 in Sweden.

The team members were:

Trent Crew  
Alex Jones  
Ken Reed  
Ken Schoff  
Gregory Case

A. Z. Howard, *team leader and Governor's representative*

### 1981-82

A Swedish Group Study Team was officially welcomed at 10:30 A.M. Monday, August 17, 1981 at the Tri-City Airport in Tennessee, by J. S. Staley, District 757 GSE Chairman, Governor Peter Sabau Jr. and his Rotary Ann Margaret.

### 1982-83

The five member Group Study Exchange team from District 234 in Sweden arrived in District 757 on August 15, 1982.

The team members were:

Bo Reinhold Andersson, 34, *a business manager from Arvika*  
Mats-Roland Bjornsson, 30, *a hospital physicist in Orebro*  
Rolf van Dalen, 33, *a deputy office manager from Karlstad*  
Ola Per Persson, 27, *a farmer from Emtervik*  
Mats Goran Salomonsson, 31, *a controller from Vasteras*  
Karl Gosta Joborn, 49, *the team leader and a high school administrator, who is a member of the Vasteras Rotary Club*

### 1983-84

Group Study Exchange team from District 118, Wales and England, arrived in District 757 April 14, 1984.

The team members were:

John Gallenders, *Sub Postmaster and Store Owner*  
Christopher Hopwood, *Assistant Director, Local Rural Council*  
Kevin Smith, *Secondary School Teacher (History)*  
William Thompson, *Insurance Executive*  
Timothy Woolley, *Police Detective Sergeant*

Rotarian H. Alf Wright, *Team Leader, retired Oil Company Personnel Executive*

Two reserves were selected:

Tony Brinyard, *Bank Executive*  
John Davies, *Youth Training Officer*

### 1984-85

A Group Study Exchange team from District 757 visited Wales and England during May & June, 1985.

The team members were:

Frederick W. Harmon, *Tazewell, Virginia*  
Lief Aagaard, Jr., *Amherst, Virginia*  
John H. Crowgy, III, *Wytheville, Virginia*  
Robert A. Martin, *Blacksburg, Virginia*  
Peter Sils, *Lexington, Virginia*

### 1985-86

Group Study Exchange team from New South Wales, Australia, District 965, arrived in District 757 on April 19, 1986. They left on May 31, 1986.

The team members were:

Graeme Fleming, *Banaba, NSW, a shire clerk*  
Robert Towler, *Quirindi, NSW, a district soil conservationist*  
John Treloar of Tamworth, *NSW, retail manager of the family business*  
John Coulton, *Gravesend, NSW, farmer and grazier*  
Ron Craggs, *Wanchope, NSW, electrical engineer*  
Brian Riordan, *Curlewis, NSW, farmer and grazier, team leader*

### 1986-87

Group Study Exchange team from District 935, South Africa, visited District 757 from September 27 to November 8, 1986.

The team members were:

Johan Nesor, *Cape Town, Republic of South Africa*  
Nazir Alli, *Cape Town, Republic of South Africa*  
Ross Sparks, *Cape Town, Republic of South Africa*  
Bill Stephens, *Cape Town, Republic of South Africa*  
John Lawrence, *Cape Town, Republic of South Africa*  
Robert Blake, *team leader*

## 1986-87

Group Study Exchange team from District 380, The Philippines, arrived in District 757 from April 10 to May 17, 1987.

The team was composed of the following members:

Ma. Corazon K. Imperial  
Ms. Ditas G. Litonjua  
Marithess Medina  
Geny Evangelista  
Ernesto Zshornack, *team leader*  
Emma Javier Zshornack, *team leader's wife*

A team from District 757 visited District 965 in Australia early in 1987. A team also visited the Philippines in 1987.

## Paul Harris Fellows

A Paul Harris Fellow is anyone in whose name a contribution of \$1,000.00 has been made to the Rotary Foundation. This contribution may be made by a club, a friend, or by the individual concerned.

As of July 1, 1987, District 757 had a total of 771 Paul Harris Fellows.

During the 1986-87 Rotary year, District 757 contributed \$154,000.00 to the Rotary Foundation.

As of July 1, 1987, Rotary International had a total of 168,350 Paul Harris Fellows.

## District 757 Governors

We continue our historical account of District 757 of Rotary International, picking up where we left off with the 1980 edition, which brought us through the administration of District Governor R. Tate Alexander who served during the 1979-80 term. Those serving since then are:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Residence</b>
1980-81	Henderson Graham	Marion, Virginia
1981-82	Peter Sabau, Jr.	Luray, Virginia
1982-83	J. Douglas McAlister	Blacksburg, Virginia
1983-84	Maurice M. Kessler	Roanoke, Virginia
1984-85	Harold T. Cothran	Altavista, Virginia
1985-86	Edgar C. Hatcher	Bristol, Tennessee
1986-87	James V. Shircliff	Lynchburg, Virginia

### **Governor 1987-88**

1987-88	P. Howard Massey	Blacksburg, Virginia
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### **Governor Nominee**

1988-89	Charles L. Seay	Kingsport, Tennessee
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The "State of the District" address given to the council serves as the best source of documented accomplishment or highlights for 1982-83. The following represents a selected listing of district accomplishments.

*Youth Leadership Seminar*—The District Youth Leadership Seminar was placed on a solid base with a **511%** increase in attendance over the previous year.

*Youth Exchange*—District efforts in our youth exchange efforts were rejuvenated with a **900%** increase over the previous year's efforts.

*District Committees*—Membership on district committees were **totally** reorganized. Committees were placed on staggered three-year terms to provide for a more stable system.

*Foundation*—Reversed the negative trend of involvement on the Foundation to one of **positive growth** thanks to a special committee of past governors. **More** Paul Harris fellowships were awarded at the Homestead than had been generated during the entire previous year.

*Foundation Scholarships*—District moved from a negative balance the previous year to **four** graduate scholarships in the local university. Combined with promotion of our own in district applicants, we had a most **successful** year.

*Group Study Exchange*—We **reactivated** a void part of our activities which had produced an absence from our district participation.

*3-H*—We applied and received **\$175,000** for the **3-H** activities of the Roanoke Club in Kisumii, **Kenya**.

*Haiti*—Continued with **renewed vigor** the district commitment to the Haiti project. Highlights included increased funding, Eastern flight discounts, and an official visit by District Governor to Haiti to stress **accountability**.

*District Assembly*—District Assembly conducted its most successful record to date with over **90%** of the clubs participating.

*Membership Development*—Under the leadership of a new District Membership Development team reversed the previous year's negative rate into a **positive growth rate**.

*Matched District*—Established and implemented a RI, matched district effort between the **Island of Mauritius, Africa** and 12 of our clubs.

*District Conference*—Reversed a negative trend with a **27% increase** in District Conference participation over the previous year.

*Club Visits*—In addition to conducting official club visits, **reactivated** additional visit concept which had fell delinquent. Conducted **29** ribbon cutting, ladies night, and or special events.

In summary, 1982-83 will be remembered by clubs in the District as a period when basic strategic planning guidelines were applied to the important business of

Rotary. A period when team efforts by the Council of Governors and club officers rallied together to face and overcome serious challenges. A period in which numerical success was gained but more important a sound foundation for the future was laid by the active involvement of club and district officers.

## **1983-1984—Maurice Kessler, North Roanoke Rotary Club**

### *Highlights of Rotary Year 1983-84 in District 757*



William E. Skelton, a member of the Christiansburg-Blacksburg Rotary Club, served as President of Rotary International. President Skelton made his first official visit as President to the Tazewell Rotary Club on Friday, July 1, 1983.

P.D.G. William I. Norton, Johnson City, Tennessee, died September 8, 1983.

The Kingsport and Abingdon clubs celebrated their 60th anniversaries. The Kingsport Downtown Rotary Club held their charter night on November 15, 1983.

Group Study team from District 118, Wales and England, arrived on Saturday, April 14, 1984.

Sixteen clubs received a Presidential Citation for outstanding accomplishments in furthering the theme of "Share Rotary - Serve People".

President Skelton and Peggy returned for the District Conference at The Homestead.

## **1984-1985—Harold T. Cothran, Altavista, Virginia**



For the first time in many years, if not the first time ever, District 757 had more than 3000 members at the end of the Rotary year.

The "Reach Out to Haiti" Project had one of its best years. Many of our clubs made generous contributions to the project, and a great many Rotarians and Non-Rotarians visited Haiti.

Dave Coffey of the Kingsport, Tenn., Club volunteered to serve as administrator for the project, without pay. This move relieved PDG Allan Kelly of most of the heavy load he had been carrying for some six years. Through Dave and Sam Wiles, also of the Kingsport Club, Les

and Betty Powers of Clinton, Tenn., volunteered their services to go to St. Marc, Haiti, and supervise the "Reach Out to Haiti" operation for two years. Through their dedication to the project, a great deal has been achieved that could not have been done without them.

The District Conference at The Homestead had an attendance of 529. Our Zones 4 and 10 Rotary International Director-elect Roberto Valentin of Puerto Rico, was the official Representative of Rotary International President Carlos Canseco. Immediate Past President of Rotary International Bill Skelton, was present, and he and Roberto presented 54 Paul Harris Fellow Awards.

On March 26th, a presentation of a Fiftieth Anniversary Award was made to the Richlands Rotary Club.

On June 15th, an award for having achieved one of the ten highest plateaus of giving to The Rotary Foundation was presented to The Pulaski Rotary Club. This was an award from Rotary International.

Contributions for the year to The Rotary Foundation, from District 757, amounted to \$74,718, which brought the district to the 3100% plateau. Total Paul Harris Fellow Awards for the year was 73.

## **1985-1986—Edgar C. Hatcher, Bristol, Tennessee**

"Polio 2005", Rotary International's long term commitment to eradicate polio by the year 2005, was inaugurated (later named "Polio Plus") with James C. Helton of Kingsport, District Chairman.

On July 25, 1986 the Rotary Club of Rockingham County became our 50th club with all 24 charter members becoming sustaining members of the Rotary Foundation. District Extension Committee members were Tate Alexander, Chairman, Sid Mason and Charlie Seay.



On September 18, the Rotary Club of Waynesboro-East Augusta County became the 51st club.

October 4-5—the Youth Leadership Seminar was held in Blacksburg with over 100 in attendance; Co-chairmen David Crockett and Kermit Lowry, Jr. of Bristol.

October 5th was Charter Night for Rockingham County Rotary Club and received Club Charter.

November 5th the Rotary Club of Roanoke Valley became the 52nd club.

November 15th was Charter Night for the Waynesboro-East Augusta County Club and received Club Charter.



November 16th five Rotary Scholars were named: Susan H. Chitwood, Pulaski; Sharon L. Fralin, Lexington; John F. Hoffmeyer, Luray; Karen E. Pletcher, Strasburg; Mary M. Shaffer, Lexington.

November 22nd Front Royal Rotary Club named 12 Paul Harris Fellows, awarded by Rotary International Past President Bill Skelton and District Governor Ed Hatcher.

November 23rd—"Reach Out to Haiti" Board of Directors met in Salem.

December 15th, P. Howard Massey, Jr., named District Governor Nominee for 1987-88.

January 2, 1986, The Rotary Club of Staunton-Augusta County became 53rd club.

January 18, 1986, Rotary Club of Roanoke Valley received official Charter from Governor.

January 28, 1986, PDG Ralph P. Grant died.

February 18, 1986, the Rotary Club of Montgomery County became the 54th club.

March 21-23—District Conference, PDG Sid Mason and PDG Tate Alexander given "Key Man" Award by Rotary International President Ed Cadman.

April 12, Rotary club of Montgomery County received Club Charter from Governor at Charter Night.

April 19, Rotary Club of Staunton-Augusta County received Club Charter from Governor at Charter Night.

April 19, Group Study Exchange Team from District 965, New South Wales, Australia arrives in District. Plans have been finalized for GSE with District 380 The Philippines and District 935 South Africa.

In May 1985-86 "Letters For Peace" winner David Norris of Haymarket, Virginia, sponsored by the Front Royal Club, was named.

May 10, 1986, PDG Yuille Holt, Jr. died.

May 10, 1986, District Assembly and Club Leadership Seminar was held in Salem.

District Youth Exchange Chairman, Ned Pöyser, reactivates Youth Exchange in the District.

June 6, 1986, the Rotary Club of Bristol, Va.-Tenn. (Morning) became the 55th club in District 757. On June 20, 1986, they received Club Charter from Governor at Charter Night.

District 757 contributed \$103,000.00 to The Rotary Foundation, assuring the District five reward units for 1987-88, plus one Group Study Exchange.

## 1986-1987—James V. Shircliff, Lynchburg, Virginia



Visited 54 clubs by November 11th; the new Roanoke Downtown Club was chartered in November 1986 bringing our total to 55 clubs; hosted and sent three Group Study Exchange Teams to Australia, South Africa, and the Philippines, led by GSE Chairman Ed Hatcher.

Had an excellent District Assembly and Club Leadership Seminar at the Roanoke Marriott with the largest single day attendance ever for such an event; kicked off the Polio Plus campaign headed by Jim Helton, asking for "a dollar-a-week" from every member in the District to support Polio Plus and the Rotary Foundation; published an all new comprehensive pocket-sized District Directory; new design for the Governor's Monthly Newsletter, stationery, program covers, and other publications.

Allan Kelly elected Director of Zones 4 and 10; new growth targeted by Membership Development Chairman Ed Norris; District total membership exceeds 3300; update of the District History was inaugurated by Carl Coiner; held a Youth Leadership Training Conference chaired by Henderson Graham; committee formed to study future District Conference locations headed by Doug McAlister; Maurice Kessler, the first official District Secretary, took office July 1, 1986.

Started District 757 Governor's Awards to recognize outstanding club performance in a variety of areas; supported each club's effort to win a Presidential Citation by coordinating the requirements with the District Goals for the year. "Reach Out to Haiti, Inc." formed to perpetuate the project; Public Relations efforts encouraged by Chairman, Ray Tamkin.

The 1987 District Conference, hosted by the Lynchburg Club and headed by Conference Chairman Bill Whelan, was favored with high attendance; beautiful weather; spectacular entertainment from the Sounds of Liberty, the Uncalled 4, the Bath County High School Band, and Rob Coles—the fifth great grandson of Thomas Jefferson; excellent speeches by Robert M. O'Neil, the President of University of Virginia, Clifford L. Dochterman, Past Rotary International Vice President and Rotary International President's Representative, and Herbert G. Brown, national chairman of Polio Plus; a beautiful fashion show, prizes, both dinners in the main dining room, cooking demonstration, cosmetic surgery seminar, and an Oriental Rug Seminar; and a complete change in the schedule and locations of events, all combined to make for what many thought was one of the best District Conferences ever!

Under the guidance of Extension Chairman Tate Alexander, the new Lynchburg Morning Club was started in April; contributions to the Rotary Foundation chaired by Glover Trent, reached record levels; all of which proved the theme of Rotary President Mat Caparas, that truly "Rotary Brings Hope".

*Maurice Kessler of the North Roanoke Rotary Club, took office July 1, 1986 as the first official Secretary of District 757.*

# District Conferences

<b>Year</b>	<b>Conference City</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>District</b>
1980	Hot Springs, Virginia	March 21-23	757th
1981	Hot Springs, Virginia	March 19-22	757th
1982	Hot Springs, Virginia	March 25-28	757th
1983	Hot Springs, Virginia	March 17-20	757th
1984	Hot Springs, Virginia	March 23-25	757th
1985	Hot Springs, Virginia	March 22-24	757th
1986	Hot Springs, Virginia	March 21-23	757th
1987	Hot Springs, Virginia	March 20-22	757th

## SCHEDULED

1988	Hot Springs, Virginia	March 18-20	757th
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# District Assemblies

<b>Year</b>	<b>Assembly City</b>	<b>Date</b>
1980	Blacksburg, Virginia — Virginia Tech	May 17
1981	Blacksburg, Virginia — Virginia Tech	June 20
1982	Middletown, Virginia — Lord Fairfax Community College	May 8
1982	Wytheville, Virginia — Wytheville Community College	May 22
1983	Blacksburg, Virginia — Virginia Tech	April 16
1984	Blacksburg, Virginia — Virginia Tech	April 7
1985	Blacksburg, Virginia — Virginia Tech	April 13
1986	Roanoke, Virginia — The Roanoke Marriott	May 10
1987	Roanoke, Virginia — The Roanoke Marriott	April 25

## Zone Institutes

<b>Year</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1980	Asheville, North Carolina	November 20-23
1981	Biloxi, Mississippi	November 14-18
1982	Pine Mountain, Georgia	December 2-5
1983	Nashville, Tennessee	November 17-20
1984	Orlando, Florida	November 20-24
1985	Lexington, Kentucky	September 26-29
1986	Hilton Head Island, South Carolina	November 20-23
1987	San Juan, Puerto Rico	September 24-27

The next two Institutes are scheduled for Williamsburg, Virginia.

## Presidents of Rotary International Serving Since 1979-80

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Address When President</b>	<b>Theme for Year</b>
1980-81	Rolf Klarich	Helsinki, Helsingfors, Finland	"Take Time To Serve"
1981-82	Stanley E. McCaffrey	Stockton, California	"World Understanding Peace Through Rotary"
1982-83	Hiroji Mukasa	Nakatsu, Oita, Japan	"Mankind is One—Build Bridges of Friendship Throughout The world"
1983-84	William E. Skelton	Blacksburg, Virginia	"Share Rotary— Serve People"
1984-85	Carlos Canseco	Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico	"Discover A New World Service"
1985-86	Edward F. Cadman	Wenatchee, Washington	"You Are The Key"
1986-87	M.A.T. Caparas	Manila, Philippines	"Rotary Brings Hope"

## Presidents Elect

Date	Name	Address
1987-88	Charles C. Keller	California, Pennsylvania
1988-89	A. H. Royce	Abbey, Essendon, Vic, Australia

## General Secretaries of Rotary International Since 1978

Date	Name	Address
1978-86	Herbert A. Pigman	Evanston, Illinois
1986-	Philip H. Lindsey	Evanston, Illinois

## Conventions of Rotary International

Year	City	Date	Registration
1980	Chicago, Illinois	June 1-5	18,309
1981	Sao Paulo, Brazil	May 31-June 4	15,222
1982	Dallas, Texas	June 6-10	14,015
1983	Toronto, Canada	June 5-9	16,813
1984	Birmingham, England	June 3-6	23,466
1985	Kansas City, Missouri	May 25-29	12,930
1986	Las Vegas, Nevada	June 1-4	18,426
1987	Munich, Federal Republic of Germany	June 7-10	26,909*

## Conventions Scheduled

Year	City	Date
1988	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA	May 22-25
1989	Seoul, Korea	May 21-24
1990	Portland, Oregon, USA	May 27-30
1991	Mexico City, Mexico	May 26-29
1992	Barcelona, Spain	May 31-June 3

# In Retrospect

Thus we conclude the 1987 edition of a history of District 757 of Rotary International. Rotary has come a long way—1905-1987—a span of 82 years and District 757, with her former numerical assignments, has also covered most of this journey. We fully realize that only a narrow trail has been blazed through a vast wilderness of material and activity which our District has assembled and conducted during its existence. All could not be included. History is sometimes vague and contradictory to say the least.

In this history we have dealt mainly at the district level. Each club has accumulated a wealth of material and should compose its own history. We have tried to be as accurate as possible but hope that we may be forgiven wherein we have erred. In true Rotary fashion we have omitted titles for all Rotarians. It is always difficult to know where to draw the line with titles as most Rotarians possess a title of some nature.

Prior to 1965 we have left the material provided in Hensel Eckman's accounts intact as he wrote it.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank all who in any way have contributed material for this 1987 edition. Through your efforts we have assembled much valuable information which has become history. In our final analysis we pause to pay tribute to our pioneer Rotarians who have truly exemplified the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self." Perhaps the following poem entitled "Building a Bridge" sums it up best.

*An old man, going a lone highway,  
Came at the evening, cold and gray,  
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.*

*The old man crossed in the twilight dim,  
The sullen stream had no fear for him;  
But he turned when safe on the other side  
And built a bridge to span the tide.*

*"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,  
"You are wasting your strength with building here;  
Your journey will end with the ending day,  
You never again will pass this way;  
You've crossed the chasm deep and wide,  
Why build this bridge at eventide?"*

*The builder lifted his old gray head—  
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,  
"There followeth after me today  
A youth whose feet must pass this way;  
This chasm that has been nought to me,  
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim—  
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."*

—William Allen Dromgoole