



Paul and his Scottish Lassie

# THIRTY-NINE PIONEERS

## STARTING A GREAT MOVEMENT

### ROTARY

Richard "Titch" Harrison  
Rotary/ One Club Historian

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Finished 24 May 2010

*In 2003, soon after joining Rotary/One, “Dick” McKay, the Club President, asked me to research and author a biography of Ches Perry for the Centennial. Ches served as long time General Secretary of Rotary International. In 1944-45, Ches served as president of Rotary/One. I attended the club meetings a dozen times that year.*

*In my searching, I found the 1905 Roster deficient by half and the 1906 membership down the drain. By 1907, **Barney Arntzen**, member #26, had vastly improved the process. I found most of the missing information and plugged it into those gaps. Now, they are in the Club and Rotary International archives. (I put all the 39 members in **bold type** throughout the study.) I have added member numbers.*

*After finishing 1905 Roster, I wondered how much each member had contributed to Rotary’s success. Those thirty-nine, often lonely new comers in this big city, felt a new, small club would provide an anchor along side their occupations. Since then, Rotary has expanded to over a million of not so lonely members in thousands of cities and towns. It has become renowned for achieving good in this world.*

## ORIGINS

Chicago lawyer **Paul Harris**, on page 230 of his MY ROAD TO ROTARY, remembered “One evening I went with a professional friend to his suburban home. After dinner, as we strolled about the neighborhood, my friend greeted the various tradesmen in their stores. This reminded me of my New England village. The thought came to me why not have in big Chicago a fellowship composed of just one man in each from many different occupations, without restrictions on their politics or religion, with broad tolerance of each other’s opinions? In such a fellowship could there not be mutual helpfulness?”

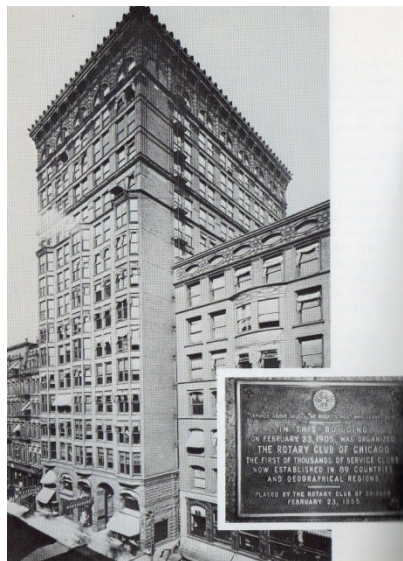
**Paul** mulled over the idea for several years. Finally, on 23 February 1905, he and his room mate, **Sylvester Schiele** ate at Madame Galli’s restaurant. There Paul broached the idea. Apparently, **Paul** and **Sylvester** had done all right financially. Many illustrious people dined at the Madame’s, such as writers Eugene Field and George Ade, comedians W.C. Field, and Raymond Hitchcock and opera stars Tito Schipa and Enrico Caruso.

What a Rotary club that would have made, if anyone could coral them. With rising enthusiasm, the two finished dinner and walked across the river to mining engineer **Gus Loehr’s** office in the Unity Building, now at 127 Dearborn St.



Madame Galli

A merchant tailor named **Hiram Shorey** was visiting. **Gus** member #3 heartily endorsed the idea. **Hiram** member #4 was only so-so. Phone calls brought in **Harry Ruggles** member #5 and **Bill Jenson** member #6 that same night. The next morning **Harry** showed up at **Paul's** office in the Unity Building, to start planning the club.



Unity Building

**Paul** in 1945 recalled that night, found on page 231, “**Sylvester Schiele**, my closest Chicago friend, and one of the three who met with me was made the first president and became a constant member. **Gustavus Loehr** and **Hiram Shorey**

were the other two **but they failed to follow through.** (my emphasis) On the other hand, **Harry Ruggles** member # 5 and **Charlie Newton** member #18 and others who were quickly added to the group with hearty zest joined in developing the project.”

**Paul’s** memory had faded somewhat over those 40 years. **Charlie** a very good worker entered one month later. **Paul** seemed to have forgotten **Bill Jenson** a moderately productive worker for Rotary. But, why over those 40 years did Paul allow the two slackers to be memorialized as founders and ignore two workers? I will bring this up again on page 12.

**Paul** continues, “At the second meeting, we selected the name. I think I suggested several, among which was Rotary. It seems to me I liked best was ‘The Conspirators’ but the crowd wouldn’t stand for that at all”. **Paul** always seemed a connoisseur of practical jokes, often as the butt. In the back, in the picture section, **Paul** nearly shows his butt.

**Paul** goes on, “In those first two years there were many developments, but the greatest of all things developed in Rotary is the idea of service we now have as Rotarians. When **F.H. Tweed** member #39 did some Rotary missionary work in New York in 1909, a man named Bradford asked him ‘Why do you spend your time and money trying to build interest in Rotary, where is the graft in this for you?’ Rotarian **Tweed** answered ‘The friends I would make in this organization would mean more than any money I could place on it.’” Bradford Bullock became the first New York President and on the organizing committee for the 1910 Rotary Association meeting.

In 1909, a newcomer Ches Perry (1908) wrote, “The San Francisco club #2 organized with Charles M. Schwab as keynote speaker. The Chicago Club has never enjoyed such a high level speaker, nor sought one as a member.” Ches should have shown more patience. And, he should not have been so dismissive of his predecessors in the club. Eventually, the club had many celebrities. For instance, the late Charles R. Walgreen Jr. held a supporting membership for 75 years. On 11 February 2007, Rotarian Chuck, at age 100, quietly relinquished his membership in Rotary/One.

But, all that would not have occurred if the 1905 group had not been outstanding in its own right. With the exception of James Craig, Donald Carter and E.H. Uhl from 1906 and none from 1907 had much longevity or showed much punch.

## A TEAM OF MOVERS

Fifteen original members or 38% of the 39 were listed in Who's Who in Chicago, whatever that means. In 1905 **George Baxter, Clark Hawley, Gus Loehr, and Edward Todd** had already appeared in the publication. **Rufe Chapin, Elbert Manning and Charlie Newton** showed up in 1911. By 1917, **Bill Chamberlain, Harris Crofts, Bob Fletcher, Paul Harris, Bill Jensen and Jim Pugh** had joined the others. **Fred Tweed and Al White** entered by 1936.

In Who's Who eleven of the fifteen declared Republican as their party choice. **Bob Fletcher, Elbert Manning, Jim Pugh and Fred Tweed** left the question blank. Because of their work in Rotary, I suspect the majority belonged to the Republican Progressive branch. In 1912, the National Party vote split between conservative President Taft and the Bull Moose candidates "Teddy" Roosevelt and Senator Hiram Johnson of California. "Teddy" and Hiram belonged to the "Trust Busters"

*During 1943, I spent the year in the Bethesda Naval Hospital, because of disabling Coral Sea Battle wounds. The Navy retired me as a Lieutenant 1 July 1944. In the hospital, fellow patient Senator Hiram Johnson and I spent many hours conversing. What surprised me was his social liberalism. As Governor of California, he had tamed the Railroad Barons. I should have known.*

*The Senator's doctor limited him to a couple of cigars per day. After smoking his quota, he would ask me to see if anyone was looking. After an all clear, he would take a third cigar from his sock. Hiram passed away that year. Was it the cigars or me? Age?*

*The Shelby, Michigan Rotary Club in March 1941 gave me an Honorary membership, when I received my Navy commission. That, gave me the opportunity for meeting with numerous clubs and many Rotarians, including Paul Harris in 1944. (An aside) However, most important to me, on 6 February 1945, half an hour after attending a Rotary/One meeting, I married my wife of 65 years.(2010) The Clarksville, Tennessee Sunrise Rotary Club made me a Charter Member in 1990, where I served as Secretary and Historian. Finally, 29 October 2002, I became a member, rather than a long time visitor, in Rotary/One. Thank you Rotary.*

Let me begin this project by mapping out the contributions of the thirty-nine members for insuring the movement would succeed. They contributed at many different levels. Only one contributed nothing to the club's success. As an economist, I humbly admit that this became anecdotal rather than scientific. It only gives an estimate of individual value adding to Rotary's Dream. Much

information adds to individual member's personality rather than the "dream", so is not counted in the evaluation.

To estimate the value to the club, I used a simple point system for various activities.

President	7 points
Officer	4 "
Committee chair	3 "
Committee	2 "
Other	1 or 2 points

"Other" refers to any mention of forward moving Rotary activity. Each five years in the club rated 1 point. However, as Paul thought up the club and the Rotary Association, then pushed them to completion, should I consider fifteen points for each as adequate?

*For references, I mainly used the Club and Rotary International archives. A fair share of information bits came from "THE GOLDEN STRAND" by Oren Arnold, published by the Club in 1966 and from the David C. Forward tome 'A CENTURY OF PROGRESS' publish by Rotary International 2003. The Who's Who in Chicago from 1905 to 1937 added to the information. Candy Isaac the Rotarian Senior Regional Magazine Coordinator provided me with Paul's five volumes of Rotary travels and his biography MY ROAD TO ROTARY, which gave me more nuggets. See my HARRIS\*MEANT, sixty pages of quotes from Paul's travels, now on the Rotary/One web.*

*I received very good assistance from Jane Kenamore Rotary/One archivist, Laura Mills and Francine Keyes, archivists at Rotary International and my daughter Pamela. The last took over my research when my wheelchair could not go through the door into our new archives. The 2003-2004 Club President "Dick" McKay and the 2007-2008 President David Templin reviewed my on going writing. The eminent Rotary historian, Basil Lewis, has given me valuable proof reading help. Errors left in are my fault.*

Eleven in that pioneer group became very prominent in the Rotary movement. Seven members, 18% of the original 39, served as Club President. **Sylvester Schiele** (First), **Al White** (second), **Paul Harris** third and half of the fourth), **Harry Ruggles** (half the fourth and the fifth) before late comer "Red" Ramsey broke the spell. **H.A. Crofts** (ninth), **Rufe Chapin** (thirteenth) and **Charlie Newton** (eighteenth) ran out the string. The Paul and Harry office peculiarity is explained in due course.

Four of those club presidents became officers in the Rotary Association or

its 1912 successor Rotary International. **Paul Harris** served as the Association President in 1910 and 1911, then becoming President Emeritus for life. **Harry Ruggles** acted as Treasurer in 1910 and the Vice-president in 1912. **Rufe Chapin** became the second Treasurer in 1911, serving thirty-three years until his death in June 1945. **Sylvester Schiele** replaced **Rufe** until his own death in December the same year. .

Using the point system noted above, I have loosely ranked all 39 pioneer members. Eleven (28%), the MOVERS, spent decades active in the club. That was an almost unheard of proportion for original members continuing to move an organization for so long. .

**Harry Ruggles**, member #5, (printer) ran up the largest number of points 113. Of the first couple of hundred members, he may have brought in a third. Perhaps, his most valuable inductee was Ches Perry, the long time General Secretary of Rotary International. As **Paul** stated “If I in truth be called the founder of Rotary, Ches with equal truth be called the builder of Rotary International.” **Harry** started a barbershop quartet to entertain his and other clubs. A couple time he saved the club by rising and shouting let us sing “Let Me Call You Sweetheart”. **Harry** looks like the main builder of Rotary/One. Yet, some thought **Harry** too pushy in his accomplishments. But, organizations need that.

*See the complete list of information bits for the 39 members in the Roster section.*

**Paul Harris**, member #2, (Lawyer) came in with 95 points, However, without **Paul**, Rotary would not have existed. He seemed able to select very good helpers, leaving himself available for inspiration. That gave **Harry** the opportunity to run wild. **Paul** and **Harry** shared a three year period as two presidents. A blown shtick made the usually calm **Paul** angry enough to resign from the club. He came back a few months later. He wrote the recruiting materials for **Harry**. **Harry** said that **Paul** had more ideas a minute than most have in a week. After **Paul's** stint as Rotary Association President he eased off. **Harry** continued full speed.

*Only the 1912-1912 Club President W.S. Miller (1909) served more than twelve months. To bring the Club Rotary Year in conformance with the Rotary International Year his term was extended from 1 February to 30 June 1912 extra.*

**Will Neff**, member #19, (Dentist) also came in with 95 points. His 26 years a member, lagged those above. However, he served in some leadership capacity 19 years, although, never as president. He led the summer outings, generally in **Harry's** Michigan cottage. Sometimes, the neighbors felt they had too much fun.

**Will**, also, instigated most of the fun at the meetings.

**Rufus Chapin**, member #22, (Company Secretary) with 82 points, much of it his 33 years as Rotary International Treasurer. He started the meetings in hotels. That certainly beat crowding into member's offices. In winter radiators became hot seats. **Rufe**, also, thought up "Gyrator", the club newsletter. He took the letter "G" and added "rotary" spelled backward. In 1929, he became the main sponsor of the Rotary/One history project. Much of this work came from **Rufe's** work.

**Charlie Newton**, member #18, (Insurance) built up 64 points. He stayed in Rotary 55 years, ending up in Los Angeles. Several called him the "watch dog of Rotary". He refused the presidency until 1923, when "He went energetically about cleaning up Chicago # One." Probably, over the years the members had bent rules into pretzels. **Charlie** started the luncheon club idea.

Short, roly-poly **Barney Arntzen** member #27, (Undertaker) accrued 53 points. He came naturally to his nickname "Cupid". As a very early secretary, he set up an efficient method for keeping the roster. I resurrected the missing 1905 and 1906 rosters using his 1907 and later information. Serving in several early offices and his 44 year membership brought him in with the first half dozen "MOVERS". He appears in numerous pictures, often in the foreground. Even wearing a bowler, he just barely reached **Harry Ruggles's**, **Fred Tweed's** or **Harris Croft's** shoulders.

**Harris Crofts**, member #30 (Paper and wood boxes) rated 26 points. He served as president 1913-1914. **Harris** often took part or even instigated fun and jokes. A large man, he and small **L.G. Lawrence** once, for entertainment, engaged in a boffo boxing match. **Harris** ended up carrying **L.G.** out of the room on his shoulder. He remained in the club 39 years.

**Sylvester Schiele**, member #1 (Coal dealer in 1906 Insurance) remained in the club 40 years. He rated 32. **Sylvester** served as the club's first president, therefore the premier position in the Roster. He started "Ladies Night" after the **Whites** attended a meeting prior to the opera. As an elder, Sylvester served as RI Treasurer for the last six months of his life, having taken over when **Rufe Chapin**, 33 years as RI Treasurer, had died. He was known for his charitable work and fine personality.

**Al White**, member #20 (Piano and organ manufacturer), comes in with 27 points. He was elected the second club president. In 1910, he served on the



Rotary Association organization committee. **Al** lasted 31 years in Rotary. **Bob Fletcher**, member #23 (Architect) earned 25 points. For eight years he actively participated, after that he went dormant. Bob had one of the longest lengths as a member, 52 years. **Jim Pugh**, member #34 (The Furniture Exhibition Warehouse Co.) racked up 20 points. **Jim** held several officer and committee posts, but dropped out after 14 years. He brought into the club Big Bill Thompson (*Capitalist and later Mayor*).

*In 1905, the club declared that they would have no politicians nor tavern owners. In 1913, Jim Pugh brought in member Wm. Hale Thompson as "Capitalist", perhaps a substitute for tavern owner. Shortly "Big Bill" became Chicago's Mayor. In 1915, the Rotary International Convention was held in San Francisco. The Chicago Club chartered a train to take the delegates with stops in St. Louis, Omaha and Salt Lake City. The club sent messages to clubs in the three cities to "meet 'Big Bill' at the stations." The Mayor with other friends out of town, dropped his Rotary membership in 1917. Now, we have the Chicago Mayor Daley, the Cook County President Stroger and the Illinois Secretary of State White as regular (active) members.*

Harry Ruggles 113	Paul Harris 95
Will Neff 95	Rufe Chapin 82
Charlie Newton 64	Barney Arntzen 53
Sylvester Schiele 32	Harris Crofts 26
Bob Fletcher 25	Al White 27
Jim Pugh 20	

## THE BENCH

Twelve members did not put in as much time as officers or on committees. However, seven of them stayed in the club for 22 to 45 years. That in itself gave stability to the movement.

**Bill Jenson**, member #6 (Real estate & renting) remained a member for 32 years. He also served in more offices and committees than the rest of the bench. He came in with 15 points. Dr. **Clark Hawley** (Ear, Nose, Throat) started the project aiding cripple children, which continues to this day. **Clark** also had 15 points. **Fred Tweed** member # 39 (Glass signs) also earned 15 points. With Paul,

he helped organize the New York club. In 1906, he brought in Don Carter, known as the Father of Community Service. **Fred** served only once as an officer.

**Montague Bear** member #12 (Engraver) put in 32 years and held only one officer post. He designed the first Rotary emblem. **Monty**, too, ran up 15 points. Dr, **George Baxter** member # 13 (Oculist) stayed in 45 years, but never served as an officer or committee member receiving 11 points. **Rufe Chapin** called the doctor a 'builder", but did not say why or in what.

. **Max Wolff** member # 24 (Chief Deputy Clerk of the Criminal Court) helped write the first Rotary constitution. He remained a member for 22 years, but never held an office. That gave him 10 points. **William Chamberlain** member #31 (Photographic Supplies) twice served as an officer in his 9 years with the club. He also received 10 points.

I hesitated putting five more members on the BENCH rather than as SPECTATORS. Although, minor players, they did add some to very early Rotary bulk. **J.P. Sullivan** member # 7 (Painting and Decorating) with 9 points continued as a member for 33 years. However, he never held an office or on a committee. **J.J. Comstock** member # 14 (Commission Hardware) lasted as a member only 6 years. In 1906, he served as Vice President. **George Baxter** called him a builder for the first 5 years. He earned an 8.

**Arthur Irwin** member # 15 lasted 8 years. In 1907 he served as Treasurer. He had 6 points. **L.C. Lawrence** member # 38 (Cheese Wholesale Dealer) spent 25 years as a member without serving in any leadership capacity. He garnered 7 points. **A.H.A. Mortimore** member # 10 (Pure Food Company) dropped out in 1907, then came back in 1912 for another 10. He brought in **Rufe Chapin** and suggested singing to Harry Ruggles. He was only a 5 pointer.

Bill Jenson 15	Clark Hawley 15
Fred Tweed 15	Monty Bear 15
George Baxter 11	W. Chamberlain 10
Max Wolff 10	J.P. Sullivan 9
J.J. Comstock 8	L.C. Lawrence 7
Arthur Irwin 6	A.H.A Mortimore 5

## SPECTATORS

Fourteen members received 0, 1 or 2 points. First let us pursue the two pointers. **Elbert Manning** member # 11 (Tea, Coffee and Spices) stayed 12 years and **B. Schutte member #25** ( Wholesale Jobber in Watches) had a 10 year run. **Chas Weil** member #17 (Rulling and Binding) spent 8 years in the club. **Gus Loehr** member # 3 (Mining Engineering) remained a member 6 years. **Paul** called **Gus** a counselor. **J.J. Murphy** member #16 (Dairyman), referred to as a builder, stuck it out for 6 years. The last two were barely two pointers.

Nine members placed in the single point group. **E.W. Todd** member # 21 (Hay and Grain), **L.S. Tunison** member #26 (Life Insurance), **W.R. Todd** member # 28 (Union Club Livery) and **L.P. Holland** member # 36 (Carpenter and Builder) stayed half a dozen years. **Alex DeWitte** member # 32 (Soda Water) and **Harry Gilmore** member #33 (Boxing and Physical Development) remained 5 years. **H.H. Horr** member #40 (Laundry Machinery) left after 4 years. **Hiram Shorey** and **A.D. Rehn** member #29 had only a 3 year passages.

**O.C. Gaylord** member #8 (Tailor) garnered **zero** points for his 2 years in the club. Rotary just did not fit the cloth for O.C.

### Two Points

Gus Loehr  
E.M. Manning  
B. Schuette  
Chas. Weil  
J.J. Murphy

### One Point

L.P. Holland  
E.W. Todd  
W.R. Todd  
J.S. Tunison  
Alex DeWitte  
Harry Gilmore  
H.H. Horr  
Hiram Shorey  
Harold Stone

Now, that we have seen the rough ranking of the entire 39, we can return to the question on the six or four on that 23 February 1905. On page 4 above, **Paul** mentioned Harry Ruggles as an early inductee, but had forgotten Bill Jenson. Then, he said **Gus Loehr** and **Hiram Shorey** contributed very little. My ratings gave Harry 113 points, **Bill** 14 points, **Gus** 2 and Hiram only 1. I have not found

when the well known picture came about. Had **Paul** grown hazy about the true story? Or some other reason? Obviously, the popular picture had been staged according to a plan. However, Gus and **Hiram** had not hung around to have pictures in the rosters. **Harry** stayed 54 years and **Bill** 32.



Sylvester Schiele      Paul Harris      Hiram Shorey      Gus Loehr



Harry Ruggles



Bill Jenson

The photo below shows 7 members at “Comely Bank” in 1927 who called themselves PIONEER VETERANS. Apparently, this designated 1905 member that had stayed in the club for 22 years. Those pictured from the left were **Bob Fletcher, Monty Bear, Harry Ruggles, Paul Harris, Sylvester Schiele, Barney Arntzen, and Rufe Chapin.**

Another 12 would have qualified. They include **Doc Baxter, Fred Tweed, Al White, Harris Crofts, Clark Hawley, Bill Jenson, J L. Lawrence, Will Neff, Charlie Newton, J.P. Sullivan, and Arthur Irwin.** **Max Wolff** just barely qualified with 22 years as member

Rotary International has purchased Comely Bank. It will become a museum available for Rotary affairs.



The 1905 Roster coming up next does not have all of the pictures. They started in 1909 and never were complete. I added the member numbers

## 1905 ROSTERS.

**(Barney or Cupid) Arntzen**  
Undertaker Ambulances

Member #27  
6-08-05

Bush Temple of Music  
247 N. Clark Street  
Telephone North 56

Secretary 1906, 1907, 1908  
Treasurer 1912, 1913, 1914  
Director 1910  
Committee Chair 1911

Member 44 years



As Secretary, he set up an efficient method for a working Roster in 1907. I used his work for reconstructing this and 1906 Rosters.

Pioneer Veteran

*Members brought in a body on a gurney. When Barney started to work on it, the body sat up. He seemed to be a good sport. Short, chubby "Cupid" shows up in many of the archive pictures, often beside one of the three tall members Harry Ruggles, Fred Tweed or Harris Croft..*

**Dr. GEORGE E. BAXTER**

Oculist

Member #13

3-23-05

Chicago Savings Bank Bldg.

34 Washington Street

Telephone 56

Rufe Chapin called him a builder,  
But did not say why.

Pioneer Veteran

Member 45 years

*Who's Who in Chicago*



**MONTAGUE M. BEAR**

Engraver

Member # 12

3-23-05

M.M. Bear Co.57 Washington

Telephone Central 52

Director 1910

Designed the first Rotary emblem

Pioneer Veteran

Member 32 years



*Handsome bachelor, often the butt of jokes.*

**WILLIAM A. CHAMBERLAIN**

Photographic Supplies

Member # 31

11-23-05

6100 La Salle Street

Telephone Wentworth 696

Statistician 1906

Director 1910



Member 9 years

*Who's Who in Chicago*

**RUFUS FISHER CHAPIN**  
Company Secretary

Member # 22

4-13-05

Union Trust Company

Tribune Building

Telephone Central 529 Auto 55



President 1919

Secretary 1906

Treasurer 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911

Director 1920

Committee Chair 1911, 1914, 1915

Committee 1911, 1914, 1915

Rotary International Treasurer 1911-1944

Introduced the Gyrator as Rotary backward and added a G. Wrote prose and poetry and drew cartoons for the paper.

First Rotary Round Table at Sherman House

1929 Rotary History Committee met at Rufe's house.

Recommended hotel meetings, "good advertising for Rotary".

Recommended first names or nicknames "the first step that breaks down the individual who suffers an over-plus of dignity".

Second Paul Harris Fellow (*Arch Klumph RI President first?*)

Pioneer Veteran in Chicago

Member 40 Years

*First boys work survey of the City of Chicago.*

*Liberty Loan Drive 1919*

*Nicknamed "Rough House" because he was not.*

*Who' Who in Chicago*

*At the 1915 Rotary Convention in San Francisco some members hired an actress with a squalling baby to approach bachelor Rufe. She loudly demanded money to get food for their baby. The story appeared next morning in a local newspaper.*

*At the 1923 Rotary Convention Rufe, Charlie Newton and Club President Paul Westburg introduced a resolution "The policy of Rotary to abstain from any activity or promotion of an undertaking not clearly stipulated in the Object of Rotary and that no Rotary Club shall become a member club or branch of any organization other than Rotary International."*

**J.J COMSTOCK**  
Commission Hardware

Member # 30  
3-23-05  
Dearborn Street  
Telephone Central 3761

40

Vice President 1906  
George Baxter called him a builder  
the first five years.  
Member 6 yea

**HARRIS CROFTS**  
Paper and Wood boxes

Member #31  
6-11-05  
37 N Desplaines St.  
Telephone Monroe 688



President 1913  
Director 1911  
Committee Chair 1911  
Pioneer Veteran  
Member 39 years

*Who's Who in Chicago*  
*Often members, with Harris as the instigator*  
*took part in the fun and jokes. A couple of pictures*  
*on page 30. Paul Harris, Bill Jenson and Harry Ruggles plus two members from later years*  
*show up clearly.*

**ALEXANDER A. DEWITTE**  
Company Secretary

Member # 32  
11-23-05  
The Mathews Soda Water of Chicago  
45-48-50 Thirteenth Street  
Telephone Calumet 1144

Member 5 years



**ROBERT C. FLETCHER**

Architect

Member # 23

4-13-05

171 Washington Street

Telephone Main 4710

Vice-President 1907  
Committee Chair 1912  
Pioneer Veteran  
Member 52 years  
*Who's Who in Chicago*



**O.C. GAYLORD**

Tailor

Member # 8

3-9-05

39 Dearborn Street

Telephone Central Auto 5801

Member 2 years

**HARRY GILMORE Jr.**

Boxing and Physical Development

Member # 33

11-23-05

35 Adams Street

Telephone Central 6680

Member 5 years

**PAUL HARRIS**

Lawyer

Member # 2

2-23-05

Unity Building

Telephone Central 2017 Auto 5801

President 1907, half 1908  
Committees 1912, 1913, 1916  
Originated the club 1905  
Originated Rotary Association 1910



With Fred Tweed started New York club 1909,  
made an Honorary member of that club.

In 1912 made Honorary President Emeritus  
of International Association for life. *"I retired from  
active service."* (My emphasis) The Association  
lasted only two years. With Winnipeg, it became Rotary International.

Started 9 clubs

Formed Executive Committee that lunched daily,  
later called Ways and Means Committee

In 1908, incorporated the club to protect the name.

Made 5 world trips for Rotary 1928 to 1937. See HARRIS\*MEANT in the  
Rotary/One Internet, under my name.

Paul wrote the Rotary recruiting materials for Harry to print.

The Houston Chronicle in 1919 wrote that Paul organized a club where men paid to do  
good.

Pioneer Veteran

Member 42 years

*First Chairman "International Society for Crippled Children (Easter Seals) an offshoot  
of a Chicago club project.*

*Harry Ruggles said Paul enjoyed practical jokes. A Danish club dressed him as a local  
maiden. In New Zealand a club pulled a gangster holdup. He liked them. However, one event  
irked him big time. In 1908, a small group decided to roast president Paul. Before Charlie  
Newton could end it, several not in the shtick, got abusive. Paul abruptly resigned and walked  
out. He came back within a few months. With all that free time, he planned the Rotary  
Association.*

*Harry said Paul had more ideas in a minute than most have in a week. The two spent  
hours on Rotary's good.*

*Ches Perry said "Paul had as many sides as a centipede has legs." He just naturally  
liked people. Paul became the "Angel Guardian, the missionary, the Broadcast of the Spirit of  
Rotary national and international". The one time I talked with Paul in a 1944 club meeting, he  
seemed very interested in even this 27 year old. He asked me how Rotarians were treating the  
military and about my battle experience. Then, he introduced me to everyone at the table. I can  
still remember the questioning by Herb Taylor and Herb Angster.*

### **Dr. CLARK W. HAWLEY**

Ear, Nose, Throat

Member # 9

3-9-05

Chicago Savings Bank Building

Cor. State & Madison

Telephone Central 2508



Committee 1911  
Pushed aid to crippled children  
In 1913, a member to RI International  
Service Committee  
Brought up in a meeting the "horse donation".  
In the files I have found three versions.  
Pioneer Veteran  
Member 35 years  
*Who's Who in Chicago*

**L. P. HOLLAND**  
Carpenter & Builder

Member # 36  
1-11-06  
2957 Parnell Ave.  
Telephone Yards 7445

Member 6 years

**H.H. HERR**  
Treasurer

Member #40  
1-25-06  
Sinclair Laundry Machinery Co.  
60 N. Clinton Street  
Telephone Main 562

Member 6 years

**ARTHUR B. IRWIN**  
Laundry

Member # 15  
3-23-05  
Standard Laundry Co.  
1818 Wabash  
Telephone Calumet 494

Corresponding secretary 1905  
Committee 1912, 1915  
Pioneer Veteran

Member 32 years

*Who's Who in Chicago*

**WILLIAM JENSON**  
Real Estate & Renting

Member # 6  
2-23-05  
Regelin, Jenson & Co.  
105 Washington Street  
Telephone Central 3283 Auto 5285



Corresponding Secretary  
Committee 1912, 1915  
Pioneer Veteran  
Member 32 years

*Who's Who in Chicago*

**L. G. LAWRENCE**  
Cheese Wholesale Dealer

Member # 38  
1-11-06  
121 Plymouth Court  
Telephone Harrison 6101  
Pioneer Veteran  
Member 25 years

*Involve in the jokes.  
The boffo fisticuffs between him and Croft.*

**GUSTAVUS H. LOEHR**  
Mining Engineer

Member # 3  
2-23-05  
711 Unity Building  
Telephone Central 1356

Called "A wise counselor".  
Member 6 years

*Paul called Gus "a stormy petrol, vehement, impetuous,  
domineering in one breath, then calm, docile, lovable in the next."*

*Who's Who in Chicago*  
*Out of town much of the time.*

**ELBERT N. MANNING**  
Tea, Coffee and Spices

Member #11  
3-13-05  
The E.M. Manning Co.  
635-637-639 Clybourn Ave.  
Telephone North 1865

Member 12 years

*Who's Who in Chicago*

**A.H.A. MORTIMORE**  
Food

Member # 10  
3-9-05  
Mortimore Pure Food Co.  
67 Washington Street  
Telephone Central 1981

Brought in Rufe Chapin  
Suggested Harry Ruggles lead singing.  
Member 12 years

*Dropped out 1907 then came back 1912*  
*Sigmund Spaeth, the famous music critic,*  
*said Rotary started mass singing at meetings.*

**J.J. MURPHY**  
Dairyman

Member # 16  
3-23-05  
Murphy & Co.  
45 Peck Street  
Telephone Harrison 1892

George Baxter called him a "builder"  
Member 6 years

**Dr. WILL R. NEFF**  
Dentist

Member #19  
3-23-05  
1112 Republic Building  
Telephone Harrison 1892



Statistician 1907  
Financial Secretary 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913,  
1916, 1917, 1919, 1920.  
Director 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1922,  
1923, 1924.

Committee Chair 1916  
Committee 1916  
Led the summer outings,  
instigated much of the fun.

Appointed official greeter 1916. He did such a good job, they held the year's largest meeting in his honor.

Pioneer Veteran  
Member 26 years

*Pointed out that Harry Ruggles saved the club twice..*

**CHARLES A. NEWTON**  
Insurance

Member # 18  
3-23-05  
159 La Salle Street  
Telephone Central 1129



President 1924  
Director 1911  
Committee Chair 1911, 1914, 1917, 1920.  
Committee 1912, 1913, 1917, 1920.  
Accepted office of President 1923-24.

“He went energetically about cleaning up Chicago No. 1” Called the “Watchdog of the constitution.”

Started the luncheon club idea.  
Started the New Orleans club

With Rufe Chapin and club 1922-23 president Paul Westburg wrote an addition to the Policy of Rotary.

With Paul Harris and Max Wolff wrote the first club constitution.

After a couple of club embarrassments, insisted all resolutions should go to the Board first.

Pioneer Veteran  
Member 55 years.

*In 1913 donated a 3' silver bowling trophy. In the archives 1966. Where is it now?  
Moved to Los Angeles as "Pioneer Veteran".*

**JAMES A. PUGH**  
Furniture

Member # 34  
12-14-05  
The Furniture Exhibition Warehouse Co.  
1411 Michigan Ave.  
Telephone Calumet 2030

Vice-president 1908  
Committee Vice-Chair 1914  
Committee 1912, 1913, 1915, 1917.  
Member 14 years



*Who's Who in Chicago*  
*In 1913 brought in Wm. Hale Thompson*  
*(Capitalist) later mayor Jim served as Big Bill's*  
*campaign manger.*

**A. D. REHN**  
Foundry Sec'y and Tres.

Member # 29  
6-8-05  
Phoenix Foundry Co.  
Telephone Canal 605

Member 3 years

**HARRY RUGGLES**  
Printer

Member # 5  
2-23-05  
H. L. Ruggles & Co.  
506-600 S. Jefferson Street

Telephone Central 1120 Auto 6477  
President half 1908, 1909  
Vice-President 1912, 1913  
Treasurer 1905  
Registrar 1907, 1906.  
Director 1910  
RA Treasurer 1910  
RI Director 1912



Brought in the most members.  
A member reported, that he brought in one-third of the first 200.

Saved the club twice by calling for singing, when some members became too testy. Charlie Newton reported that a guest in 1907 started to tell an off-color story. Harry jumped up shouting "Let's sing Let Me Call You Sweetheart". Another time when too much controversy erupted during an election of officers, he did the same thing.,

Brought in Indianapolis and Peoria clubs.

Organize a barbershop quartet to sing at meetings in other clubs.

Rufe Chapin said "Harry was as active in 1942 in his love for Rotary as he was in 1905"

Printed the Gyrator gratis.

Issued the first weekly bulletin.

In 1955, Harry came back from California to lead the singing at the 50 year anniversary as Pioneer Veteran. Ten California clubs declared him an Honorary member.

Pioneer Veteran

Member 54 years

*Harry's Michigan cottage provided the locale of many of the club's convivial occasions. Some neighbors complained of their obsessive exuberance. Someone accused them of parading in their pajamas. However, that did not seem anything near universal. Nearby Dowagiac organized one of the very early small town clubs. When Rotary started it ran mainly to large cities. Tacoma, Washington somehow snuck in as # 8. In 1911, Salt Lake City had to use imaginative population counting to come in as # 24.*

*Harry was "troubled by the poverty and despair in Chicago. Paul Harris as recorded in my HARRIS\*MEANT on the Rotary/One web has a lot to say on this matter. Harry also brought in Ches Perry in 1908, whom Paul called "the builder of Rotary International."*

## SYLVESTER SCHIELE

Coal

Member #1  
2-23-05  
Schiele Bros. Coal Co  
1245 State Street  
Telephone South 195  
Later went into insurance





First president 1905  
Vice-chair Committee 1917  
Committee 1912,1916  
Started Ladies Night. He got the idea  
when the Whites had opera tickets, Mrs. White  
attended the meeting.  
RI Treasurer 12 June 1945- 17 December 1945.  
Gave the first paper on member occupation.  
In 1930s, used his office as clearinghouse  
for Charity before the committee took over.  
Pioneer veteran  
Member 40 years

*Roomed with Paul Harris at the time they started Rotary. After each married in 1909,  
Sylvester and Jessie, Paul and Jean became an inseparable foursome. They also lived as  
neighbors.*

*Sylvester became very interested in boys work.*

*Served in Cuba during the Spanish-American War.*

*His headstone states: "Cofounder With Paul Harris of Rotary International."*

### **B. SCHUETTE**

Wholesale Jobber in Watches

Member # 25  
4-13-05  
1114 Heyworth Building  
Central Auto 5062



Member 10 years

### **HIRAM SHOREY**

Tailor

Member # 4 & 35  
2-23-05 & 1-11-06  
404 Bedford Building  
215 Dearborn Street  
Telephone Harrison 2630

Member 1 year

*Left for good 1907*

*Elected Secretary 1905, but did not serve*

*Often out of town , because of mother's illness.*

**HAROLD R. STONE**  
Lumber

Member # 37  
1-11-06  
Mgr. Stone & stone Co.  
517 Railroad Exchange  
Telephone Harrison 1584

Member 3 yeas

**J.P. SULLIVAN**  
Painting & Decorating

Sullivan & Langston Co.  
308 Thirty First Street  
Telephone Douglas 1080



Pointed out that “stunts-jokes-fun-fellowship  
held the boys together.”

Pioneer Veteran  
Member 33 years

**EDWARD W. TODD**  
Hay and Grain

Member # 21  
3-23-05  
1315 Wabash Ave.  
Telephone Calumet 32

Member 6 years

*Who's Who in Chicago*

**W. R. TODD**  
Livery

Member # 28  
6-8-05  
Union Club Livery Co.  
333-337 N. Clark Street  
Telephone North 58

Member 6 years

**J. S. TUNISON**  
Life Insurance

Member # 26  
5-10-05  
424 Marquette Building  
Telephone Central 4043

Member 6 years

**FREDERICK H. TWEED**  
Signs

Member # 39  
1-11-06  
Tweed & Rau Glass Signs  
298-300 Wabash Ave.  
Telephone Monroe 1370

Director 1910

With Paul Harris brought in  
New York and Minneapolis clubs  
In 1906, brought in to the club  
Don Carter, known as the Father  
of Community Service.

Pioneer Veteran

Member 32 years

*Who's Who in Chicago*



**CHAS P. WEIL**  
Rulling and Binding

Member # 17  
3-23-05  
Weil Bros. & Co.  
Telephone Harrison 246

Member 8 years



**ALBERT L. WHITE**  
Piano and Organ Manufacturer

Member # 20  
3-23-05  
315 Wentworth Avenue  
Telephone Wentworth 1053

President 1906

Committee Chair 1911  
Committee 1911, 1912, 1916.  
Rotary Association Committee 1911  
Pioneer Veteran  
Member 31 years

*Dropped 1907, reentered 1908  
Who's Who in Chicago*



**MAX L. WOLFF**  
Criminal Court

Member # 24  
3-23-05

Chief Deputy Clerk of the Criminal Court  
Criminal Court Building  
Michigan and Dearborn Streets  
Telephone Central 4870

Committee Chair 1920  
Committee 1920  
With Paul Harris and Charlie Newton  
wrote the first club constitution.  
Pioneer Veteran  
Member 22 years



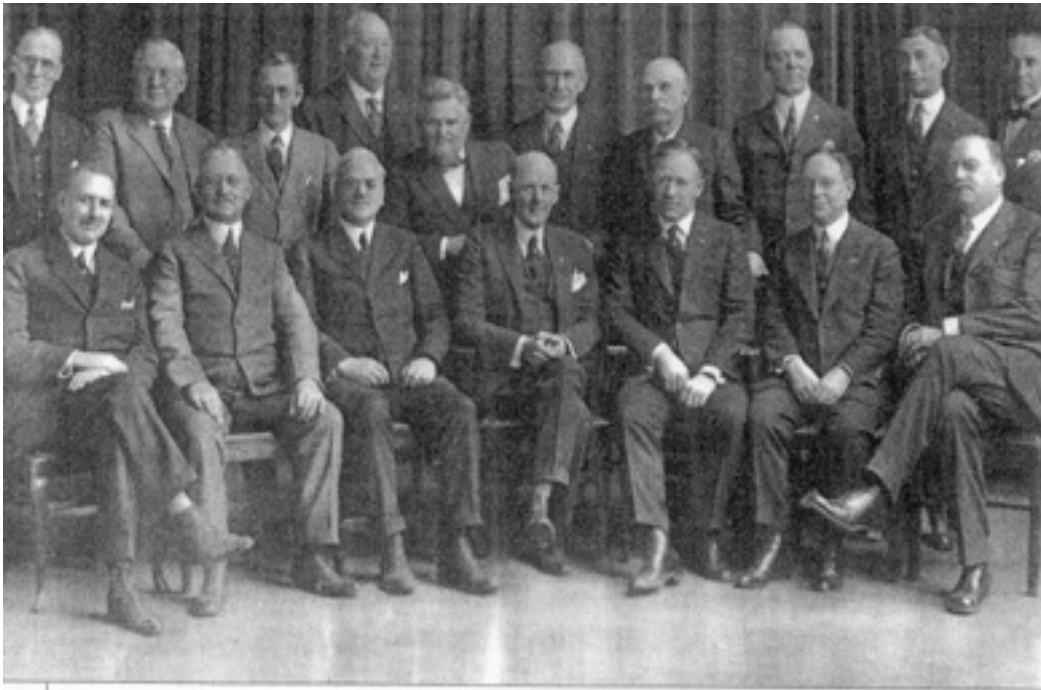
*By 1911 he had changed to President Commonwealth Laundry Co. 516-518 43<sup>rd</sup> St.*

## PICTURES

*The picture below shows fifteen 1905 inductees and two interlopers. Charles Schneider had a good excuse. He joined 8 February, the club had shortened the first year from 23 February 1906 to 31 January 1906. That held until 1911, when they extended the year to 1 July 1912. It brought the club in line with the Rotary Association and later Rotary International..*

*Max Goldenburg had no excuse. He became a member 9 January 1908. That occurred in the club's third year. He appeared in at least one other picture as a Pioneer.*

*Two long time members **George Baxter** 45 years and **Montaque Bear** 32 years were absent. Each had dropped out for a few years, then returning long term.*



ROTARIANS OF 1905 GATHER AT THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CHICAGO CONVENTION. FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT: RUFUS CHAPIN, ALBERT L. WHITE, SILVESTER SCHIELE, PAUL HARRIS, HARRY RUGGLES, CHARLES A. NEWTON, HARRY A. CROFTS. BACK ROW: WILLIAM JENSEN, JOHN P. SULLIVAN, L.G. LAWRENCE, FRED H. TWEED, BERNARD E. ARNTZEN, ROBERT C. FLETCHER, CLARK W. HAWLEY, CHARLES SCHNEIDER, MAX GOLDENBERG, WILL R. NEFF.

FUN AND FROLIC AT HARRY'S COTTAGE

