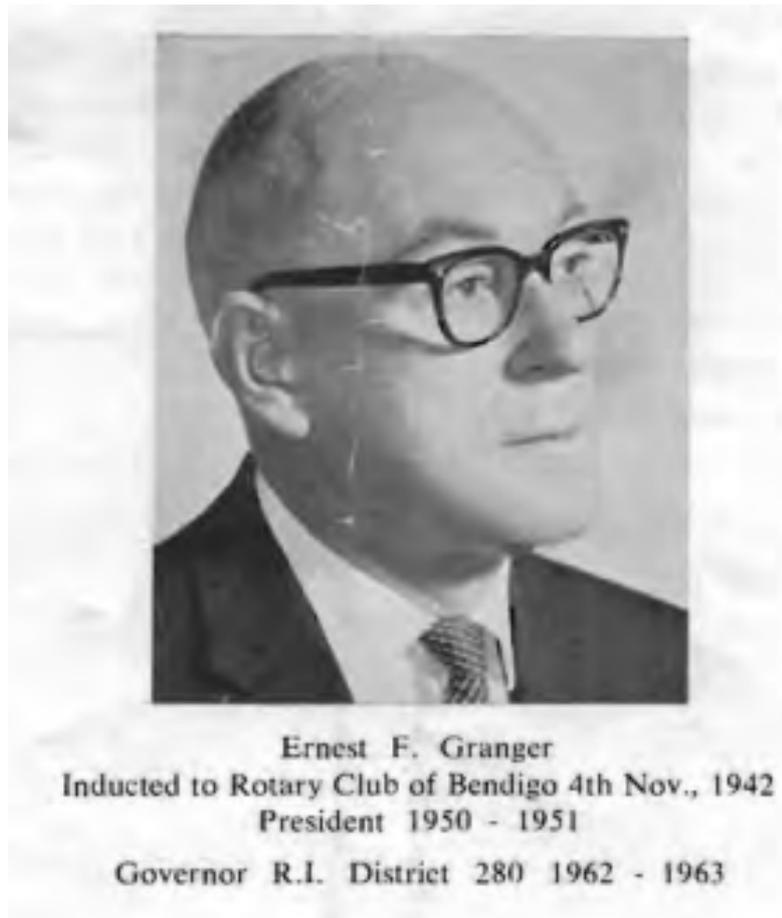


1950-1951 Earnest F Granger

The most popular film in 1950 was Cinderella. The favourite song in Australia for the year was Bing Crosby and the Andrew Sisters singing Quicksilver.



In the Club's 25th Anniversary year, Earnest Granger became the President of the Rotary Club of Bendigo. His immediate focus was on tackling poor attendance from a number of Rotarians. Consequently, due to poor attendance, a number of Rotarians memberships were cancelled. On a positive note, with members now pressured to attend regularly, relationships improved.



After receiving a 500 pound Government Grant to assist with maintenance costs for the Camp, President Ernest and his committee did not hesitate to make some improvements.

A building was erected to serve as an office, sleeping quarters and first-aid post. All existing huts were lined with masonite dades. The kitchen and mess hall were made bird proof with fine mesh wire netting. A lockable, large cupboard was also constructed in the kitchen to keep kitchen equipment secure.

Two iron tanks were erected to supply more drinking water. The new tanks (purchased in the last Rotary year) meant that the Camp had close to 6,000 gallons of clean water available. As a result, the hot and cold water was extended to provide more showers.

President Ernest and the committee undertook regular inspections of the Camp during the year and found it was now in excellent condition.



Most Presidents look closely at undertaking new projects and President Ernest was no different. Funds were made available for the purchase of white sticks (canes) for the local Blind Auxilary to provide people with that were blind. Twelve people in the Bendigo District benefited from the program.

During President Ernest's year the program itself was reviewed as an excellent program; however, the recommendation was that it would grow extensively with better advertising and having local contacts in the District to promote the project.



At the time, Vocation tended to be one of the most important areas of Rotary service. A lot of time was devoted to talks at Meetings focusing on looking at how employer and employee relationships could be improved. Given apprentices were now not attending night classes for their specific training, a special night was held for members to visit the School of Mines and become better acquainted with the evening courses they had.

Interestingly, many members in the Club had felt apprentices were often wasting their leisure time at night and could be undertaking courses at night to benefit their future employment opportunities.

The Club also contributed funds to supply and provide an operator to show a series of 'talkie' films for the purpose of assisting various local employer/employee organizations in the community. For example, trade groups, the Grocers Association and on a trial basis, the dental training fraternity.

The Club also provided prizes for the School of Mines with the awards they presented in the District.

Not only did the Club continue to show films at the Base Hospital, but four members raised an incredible amount (at the time) of 136 pounds to pay for specially designed Invalid chairs for the Benovelent Home for the Aged.

The Club had now been in existence for 25 years. Sadly during the Club's first significant anniversary year, the Club's first President, Ernest Mort Vains, passed away during the year, along with Ted Haynes.



On a positive note, one of the Club's members, George Lansell, received a Knighthood to become Sir George Lansell. Sir George received the Knighthood in recognition of his extensive community work, particularly with Returned Services men and women.

Bendigo Rotarians at their weekly luncheon yesterday paid a fitting tribute to their loyal member and past president, Rotarian E. M. Vains, by observing two minutes' silence at the commencement of their function.

Club president (Rotarian W. F. Granger) said Mr. Vains had been a charter member of the Bendigo club and had given grand service from 1926 up till the time of his death.

"Rotarian Vains gave loyal and full service to the club he loved, and we as a club and Rotary as a whole are great losers by his passing," said Rotarian Granger.

Mr. Vains had given the whole of his lifetime to public service, said Rotarian Granger, being a member of the Bendigo City Council from 1922-26 and Mayor in 1924-25.

"Not only do we mourn the passing of a great Rotarian, but a man who held a great love for the British Empire. He was one of the greatest Britishers I have known. Bendigo has lost a great citizen whose memory should be an inspiration to others," said Granger.