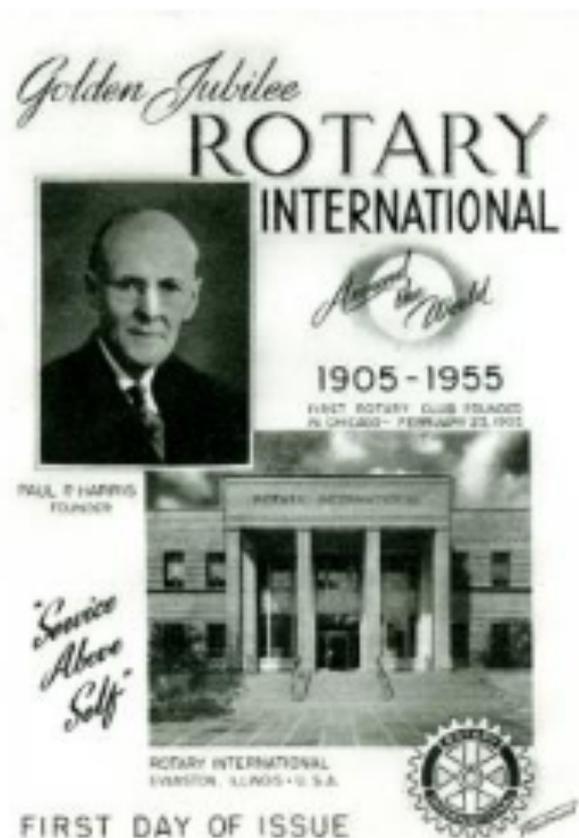


1954-1955 Charles W Baker

In 1954, the favourite film for the year was: White Christmas, a musical with Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney and Vera Ellen. The favourite song for the year was: "Little Things Mean a Lot"



In 1954-55, the President of the Rotary Club was Charles (Chas) W. Baker. Chas's goal for the year was to honour the 50th Anniversary of Rotary in Bendigo. Consequently, President Chas wanted the Club to not only celebrate this occasion, but undertake programs that would benefit the community into the future to commemorate this important event.

President Chas asked IPP Robert Trethewey to assist him with the Golden Anniversary. A night meeting was organized with every Past President being invited to attend. Past Presidents that had left the Club: Davies, Pederick, Levy, Long, Draper and Oscar Flight Snr. all made a special effort to attend.

According to reports, good fellowship prevailed. Special Guest, Past D.G Eric Stinton, suitably addressed the special occasion.



The second goal of President Baker was to hold a White Elephant Auction to raise significant funds for the Club. Members combed Bendigo for suitable goods.

Local businesses offered their support by offering to provide the transport and personnel to collect the goods for the Auction.

Don Dungey, son of P.P Dungey, very kindly offered to be the auctioneer at the event. Remarkably, 252 Pounds was raised from the auction.



President Chas wanted the funds collected to be distributed in the future in the form of scholarships. Consequently, recipients of the scholarships would be reminded of the importance of the Golden Anniversary of Rotary International.

Another project that was held during the year was a Motor Show. The Club had been supporting a Bendigo creche for some time. 650 Pounds was raised from the event.

This year's funds from the Show ensured a creche would begin to be built. Every member contributed to the success of the Motor Show.



President Baker and the Board authorised the purchase of 50 new mattresses for the Axedale Camp. The overall cost to the Club was 250 Pounds.

During the year, 60 children, with special needs, were transported by Rotarians to a picnic at the Camp.

Inner Wheel provided all the refreshments for the day.



Members during the year enjoyed a variety of speakers. For example, H J Van Vioten spoke about the Resistance movement in Holland. P.G Law informed members about Australia's Antarctica Territory. And Rabbi Sanga spoke about: "Life Means This to Me."

One meeting, to check whether members read the newsletter, President Chas instructed the Sergeant at Arms to fine every member that was not wearing their name badge on the right side of the body. President Chas had instructed all members to do this in the previous newsletter!

Other highlights during the year:

- Letters and booklets about Bendigo were sent to 12 other countries to ensure Rotary links were kept throughout the world.
- An employer/employee luncheon was organised to listen to an address by Arthur Storey.
- A survey was conducted to gauge future employment prospects for youth in Bendigo. President Chas felt such a survey would lead to establishing a Youth Advisory Committee. Sadly, the response to the survey was not good.
- A Ladies Night was held at the Shamrock