

Linda Ervin, President
DeWitt Rotary
P. O. Box 131
DeWitt, NY 13214

June 19, 2019

Dear Linda,

Enclosed is a copy of an interview I did with my parents, Hank and Natalie Kalette, in 2006, most of which is in regard to Rotary. My dad was a long-time member, past president and district governor (1988). My mom was along-time member of the DeWitt Women or Rotary auxiliary and then was one of the first women admitted as a member to the DeWitt Club. She was historian for both for many years. I thought you would want to have this. I cannot seem to locate it on any of my current computers so I only have copies I made. Rotary was such a huge part of their lives and I thought you might like to have this.

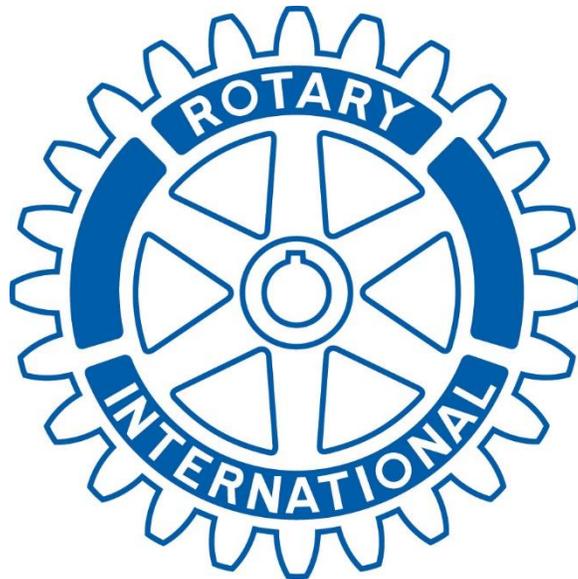
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Sincerely,

Behind the Wheel

Our Life in Rotary

By

Henry and Natalie Kalette



As told to their daughter

Linda Kalette Schottenstein

Interview #4 with Henry Irwin Kalette and Natalie Barbara Klein Kalette

April 2006 Syracuse, New York. Interviewer: Linda Kalette Schottenstein

Linda: Today is April 15, 2006. This is Linda Kalette Schottenstein interviewing Henry Irwin Kalette and Natalie Barbara Klein Kalette in Syracuse, New York. OK. This is the 4th interview that you and I have done together and this time I would like to start by asking you to tell me about your experience in rotary and how you got started and why and what your experience was and some recollections. OK. Speak!

Henry: Speak? How I joined Rotary. Well, when we moved in to the new store in Fayetteville, it wasn't new then but when we moved into our new store in Fayetteville, uh in 1958 I think it was the, this will tell me when I joined the club. No it's the other book. In 1958 when we moved out to Fayetteville, we did business with the Lincoln Bank in DeWitt and the manager of the Lincoln Bank was a Rotarian and we talked about Rotary and he agreed to try and get me in and that's how it started. I had heard about Rotary as anybody else has, driving down the street and seeing the sign on the corner that Rotary meets here but I didn't know what it was all about. And Al Dollin was the manager of the Lincoln Bank at the time and uh, he invited me to some meetings which I went to and learned about rotary at that point.

Rotary is a very unique organization. It's very large. It's world-wide. Actually now I think there are something like 129 clubs, countries that it's in. It's all throughout the world and the Name of rotary came from the fact that a man by the name of Paul Harris who was a lawyer in Chicago felt very, he felt that he did not get to know too many people in, in his profession or in Chicago and he decided with about a dozen other men to start having lunches together and uh, they met in different locations which is why the name Rotary came in to effect. They would meet in one place and then move to another for the next lunch and so forth and Rotary developed that way and spread all throughout the world. The, it was formed in 1905 so just a couple years ago it was a hundred years old. It's all volunteer work, totally volunteer. Nothing that any Rotarian does is for pay and we try to assist everybody and anybody throughout the world as best we can. It's kind of hard to say to someone now that joining rotary is helping somebody else in anther part of the world but it's true because there are clubs in every country, 129 countries I think it is throughout the world and something like, I don't know how many million Rotarians there are but, uh, they represent all classifications, all kinds of work. My work was as a furniture retailer but it could have been a doctor, it could have been a lawyer, it could have been an accountant, it could have been a clothing store retailer, it could be anything. You had to be an executive in the organization KWhich you were working at the time and uh, the reason that is was that way was so that Mr. Harris figured that that way he could get to know a lot of different people in different professions and it would spread throughout the world. He didn't anticipate that it would spread throughout

the world, but that's what has happened because it's a remarkable, remarkable organization that, as I said before volunteers to assist wherever they can and we all have done, every club has done something on an international basis. Our club personally we did what we called the Kingston Project.

The Kingston Project was in Kingston Jamaica and one of our members in traveling around the world for his business was in Kingston, Jamaica and he happened to sit next to a man who, in the course of conversation, wanted to know what we did as projects because it was at a Rotary club and he was making up.

That's something you should understand. Rotary has clubs throughout the world and you can get credit for going to a meeting anyplace in the world and uh, he was making up a meeting there unable to make our own meeting because attendance is a very important factor in Rotary and he was discussing what we did as a project and one of the projects we had dealt with the handicapped young children, primarily cerebral palsy children and it happened that this man with whom he talked had a daughter who was a cerebral palsy child and he was very interested therefore in what we did as a project and so we provided, with the help of people in the community, we provided equipment for the cerebral palsy clinic. We went to their place once a month and celebrated birthdays with the people that were there. And the Kingston Project was a development of this visit that Don Giancola made to the Kingston Club and when he came back to Syracuse he thought maybe we could do something to help the Kingston Clinic which at that point was nothing more than a glorified babysitting deal and they did not know what they were doing as far as helping these poor people and Don came back and talked to our board and we decided that we would attempt to help them by sending to them the chairman of the cerebral palsy clinic in Syracuse. We talked to her. Her husband was a professional baseball player and we talked to them about going to Kingston to see what they could do and they agreed to it So, we paid for their flight down to Kingston and the Kingston Rotary Club picked up their expenses while they were there, and among the many things we did was have an architect develop a new building and provide the clinic with proper equipment and we sent tot hem a lot of the equipment that they could use in their kitchen and in their physical therapy work and uh, it was a marvelous project. In fact, our club received an international award for this service and Mom and I went one year, I guess it was '88 or '89 after I was president of the club, no I was governor of the club. We decided, we were in Florida and we decided to go to Kingston and see what it was that our club had done and it was, when we arrived in Kingston by air, we were greeted by a lot of people who treated us like king and queen. We had to go through customs of course and when we were standing in line to go through customs some man walked into the room and announced "Mr. and Mrs. Kalette." (emotionally) We identified ourselves and he took us around in front of everybody and offered us drinks inside and it was quite an experience. They provided Natalie with a car, a chauffer driven car and uh, she went antiquing I guess. She went around and I attended Rotary meetings.

Natalie: Women weren't allowed then.

Hank: Yeah, in those days women weren't allowed. It was 1988 I think it was that women first came into Rotary.

N: No that was your year.

H: My year as governor but that's when women first came in.

N: No. (tape off)

H: It was in Jamaica. It was Douglas Graham. His father was one of the most wealthy men in Jamaica. He owned theaters throughout the entire island.

N: He had a handicapped child.

H: I said that before. Let's see what it was that, I'm trying to see when it was that we started the, [looking through a Rotary booklet]. It is amazing the number of things that we have done as a club. I was elected in 1988 to be District Governor and I had in those days I think it was maybe 40 clubs that I

N: It was, District 715

H: Yes, District 715. I wish I could find the spot where we went to Jamaica. Mom joined in 1991.

N: and I was the

H: Anyway Rotary, the DeWitt Rotary was chartered in 1954 but Rotary International started in 1905. The Syracuse Rotary Club was the 40th Club in the world when it was formed and the Syracuse Club is what formed our club.

Membership in Rotary was based upon classification. Paul Harris was a lawyer at the time and I don't know the other men who were involved. I can't tell you what professions they were but we all had different professions. As I said before I came in in the classification of casual furniture retail because that was our business but at that time there could have been another Rotarian who was a furniture dealer, too but a different type of furniture. So it was classifications that were part of Rotary International. Rotary was formed by Paul Harris based on the principles of 4 avenues of service. Those 4 avenues were service to the community, international, vocational and club service. Each one had its own importance in the development of Rotary. The Kingston Project I talked about obviously came under the auspices of the international service. But community

service is exactly what it is. You're doing things for the community and in our particular case we provided money and a lot of the equipment to the DeWitt Fire Department for safety features. Now they go out on service calls, fire calls, and if there's somebody that needs a physical type of thing, the fire department has machinery to take care of that person and that machinery was bought by the Rotary Club of DeWitt.

Another part of international service came from the time that there was a hospitality type of organization in Syracuse that had a lot of hospital beds and the one of the clubs that we were involved with in Tigre, Tigre Argentina. In a village called Tigre which is outside Buenos Aires, we all went to their, we went there as part of a Rotary In program known as Friendship Exchange and while we were down there, the Rotary Club of Tigre was starting to build a school and hospital and we came back and with help from this organization, I don't remember the name of the organization, Hillside I think it was. They were buying new beds for their facility and we decided to send beds to Tigre to assist them in their hospital work. And we did that through Carrier Corporation in Syracuse. Carrier had a continuous set up in Buenos Aires and they had things that they would keep shipping to Argentina and so we did send the beds through Rotary and through Carrier to FL And from there they went to Buenos Aires and it was another form of international service that we did. It was a remarkable thing. And we joined with the Fayetteville, Manlius Club in performing that part of the sending the beds down.

L: When was that?

H: Well, hold on I'm not sure when it was. I don't know if it's listed here or not. Those are just 2 of the things our club has done. For example, we developed a park called Cedar Bay Park which is along the old Erie Canal that went through Syracuse in "ancient days." We developed that and it is now a public park that is used by people all over the community.

N: We brought a bridge in from Canandaigua, an antique bridge and it was moved here and it covers the crossing of the canal.

H: Uh, let's see. We sponsored the People in Action project which started in Springfield Gardens after a fire destroyed children's Christmas presents. We have the Old Newsboys service that we do every year to raise money for the toy fund in the entire city. We sell wood that has been cut up for kindling wood. We do this for the Monarch Industry which is a group whose main purpose is to assist in the employment of handicapped children, handicapped people. They don't have to be children. I guess they started out with children but until we knew of one who was a member of our youth group at Temple and not a member of the youth group, but member of the Temple and member of the seniors group. He was 40 years old and still working with Monarch Industries. That's Syracuse. Under President Jim Robb, we sponsored a dinner for Reverend Billy Graham

who came here and uh, that was indeed a real feather in our hat. He came here to uh, perform and have a ceremony, what do you call it, a crusade but Jim knew a few people involved in the bringing him here and so he came to a dinner that we had and was designed for him. So we did that

Another thing that we did was the Gift of Life Program, Gift of Life. Under this program we brought people from all over the world to Syracuse to the Syracuse Medical Center primarily for heart problems but they would come here and uh, we provided the family, uh, the people who came with the young people who were here under the heart program, we provided them with homes that they stayed in and we got the McDonald House to take care of many of the problems that they had. So, that was another thing that we did.

Uh, we're involved in the Literacy Program in Syracuse which is Literacy, I'm trying to think what the name of it is but it was formed in Syracuse.

N: Literacy Volunteers.

H: I guess it's called Literacy Volunteers and we were involved in providing programs for them.

N: and books

H: uh, yeah and we provided them with money so they could buy books to be used in the Literacy Program.

Uh, in 1990 uh, Rotary International accepted females as Rotarians and your mother was among the first to come in in 1991. You were the second member.

N: second member. The first one dropped out so I really was the first one in 1991 and I've been a member almost 16 years now and I was their historian for 14.

H: We're very much involved in the Boy Scouts and we give a lot of money to them to perform their service. We are currently involved with providing lunches 4 times a year to the Samaritan Center. Just 2 weeks ago they served over 200 people for lunch, which is quite a deal.

N: St. Paul's Church downtown.

H: Uh. Let's see, what else can I tell you that we do?

N: We can't go anymore because we can't walk the stairs. We had to stop volunteering with that.

H: We are very much involved with exchange students, which is part of Rotary International. We have a girl or a boy either coming in to Syracuse, and generally they go to Pebble Hill School, or if we're sending them out they go to all over the world. Right now we have one girl I think in Chile but it's all over the world that we send students to. We're involved in the Habitat for Humanity which everybody knows about.

L: The kids that you send, does every club send kids or does that come through the national or international.

H: No, this is done through the Rotary International Program but

N: You have to have a person in your club who helps and we have a wonderful one.

L: You have someone here who sponsors them? **H:** No, Actually our club actually sponsors the student to go. The parents have to pay the transportation for the student.

And

for every student that goes out we have a student that comes in and it's up to us to provide them with a home and schooling and several of the members take them out and take them on trips and things like that. So, it's an organization that is, that does so many wonderful things as you can tell. Uh, let me see what else.

L: You ring bells for the Salvation Army?

H: Yeah, we ring bells for the Salvation Army every year and that's another thing that we did. We provided a tree at Shoppingtown that had the names of young people who want certain things for Christmas and they couldn't get them.

N: There was an 80 year old woman. Yeah, mostly children but there were people of all ages and we tried the wherewithal that anybody who wanted to give a gift could come and take a name off that tree and we did it with our own kids, our own grandchildren to show them that not everybody is lucky.

N: We did it with Josh and Zach.

L: You still do that?

H: Yeah we still do that. Well, we don't do it anymore ourselves but the tree is there.

N: We can't do it anymore. We've had to stop volunteering.

H: But as you can tell from the number of things that we do we are a very active club in assisting people from all over the world.

L: What was the process to get in to - like you said...

H: Al Dollin

L: What happens when somebody...

H: Well you are given an indoctrination to explain what the Rotary, what the classification system is and how you are selected. You just can't say you want to become a Rotarian. Somebody has to sponsor you and I was sponsored by Al Dollin of Lincoln Bank. Herb, my brother Herb became a Kiwanian and he was sponsored by Walter Hurst who was the manger of the bank at the time too. Walt Hurst and Al Dollin were the 2 managers of the bank and so Herb became a Kiwanian but never became involved as much as I became involved as a Rotarian. Today is 2006 and I've been a member since remember since 1958 and I've never missed a meeting. One of the things about Rotary is you must attend, you have an opportunity to attend Rotary meetings throughout the world

and you get credit for it and Ive been a member since 1958 and never missed a meeting. Any place in the world that we were on trips or something like that we would make up. For example we just came back from Florida and we made up at a place in Deerfield no Deer Creek, what's the name of it?

N: What?

H: The name of the town that we made up our Rotary meetings.

N: Deerfield Beach

H: Deerfield Beach

L: As I recall you had a heart attack and managed to go the meeting on Monday be back for the next Monday.

H: That's right (chuckle) You had to, you have now 2 weeks before you're going to miss a meeting and 2 weeks after the meeting to make up to get credit for fir it, but when I first started my series of many years of active, of going to meetings you had to make up one week before and one week after. So, if you know you're going to miss a meeting you can make it up in advance. If you're sick one day you have the following seven days to make it up. So, we made up in Mexico, in Israel, in Paris and in England and in Guatemala and you name it all over and you're welcomed wherever you are.

N: New Zealand and Australia

H: Yeah, New Zealand and Australia and wherever we went you can make up a meeting because there is a Rotary Club there and you meet some remarkable people who are dedicated the same as we are and we found that we made friends all over the world and uh, we would visit the clubs and they members would visit us and we'd have visitors from Argentina and New Zealand, Australia. Well, we've had visitors from all over. A few of them have been in our house but our Club has accepted that. The important thing about Rotary, though, is you are constantly doing things for other people. Service above self is the motto and he who serves, he serves best, I can't remember it, but service above self is the important thing. And it's exactly what it says.. It's the motto and it is exactly what is done. Yop are always doing something for somebody else.

L: Was the Rotary 4 Way Test...

H: The Rotary 4 Way Test is the things we do, Think and do. It was formed by a man who owned a factory in Indiana I think it was, a factory that manufactured pots and pans I think it was, a well-known brand and he felt that he wasn't getting enough out of his people working for him and so he developed this 4 Way Test to make them realize how important it is that they do these things and it is the motto of Rotary right now. We live by thel Way Test which is all the things we think and do. I don't want to miss... Is it the truth? Is it fair to all people involved? Will it build good will and better friendship? and Will it be beneficial to all concerned? That's the ^ Way Test of the things we think and do.

N: ..And so does everyone else there wherever you may go and there's a big banner of it at every club in the world.

L: Do you remember the name of the company?

H: Uh, it's a well known company. Uh, a well- known company that makes pots and pans and is still in business I can't think of the name of.

L: When did Rotary become involved in the Polio Plus Program?

H: 1988, the year I was governor was the year that Rotary International became involved wftH polio. It is a remarkable program called Polio Plus and there, we raised world-wide something like 240 million dollars. Every club regardless of its size raised money and when I was governor we had our international meeting at Philadelphia and it was in a building that had a walkway around the circumi8jft&5EflIt was a very thrilling afternoon as reports from all over the world came in and you heard the new clubs giving money as they could and the total was added each time, each second and the goal was 120 million dollars throughout the world and tat this meeting in Philadelphia it was announced that

we raised that we raised over 220 million dollars and it was thrilling how you heard that little clubs and sometimes new clubs would give money well beyond their means, that it was amazing the way the little clubs gave money to the Polio Plus drive and you must remember that the Polio Plus Drive was there to eradicate polio throughout the world by 2005. It is now 2006 and we have learned that polio has been declared eliminated in 80 to 90 % of the world. Some countries still have signs of it like Nigeria for some reason. They still have it The problem that Polio Plus ran into is that many countries declared that rotary had developed a some sort.. .The problem was that the little clubs, some of the little countries in Africa believed that Rotary was trying to poison them by use of the polio serums that they had and it was of course it was not rue, but the thrilling part of it was as they announced the total amount that was raised in Philadelphia that all of a sudden the total was announced ant he balloons came down from the ceiling and the Mummies were there parading in their costumes and their bands. It was a remarkable thrilling example of what could b e done by simple people throughout the world, raising money to eliminate a deadly disease. It was 20 million.

L: Were you an officer? (I meant delegate)

H: I was governor at the time.

L: So did you, but when it came to your club..

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H: Our club gave money, too!

L: But did you announce it?

H: No, no not the individual clubs that announced it but the districts. Our district was 715 and when that was announced how much we gave as a district and just a thrilling thing that could be done and that was just one of the marvelous things that Rotary International did.

L: Was this in conjunction with the U.N. because they rarely give credit to Rotary.

H: They never give credit to Rotary, but the U.N has

N: The UN gets all the credit and they never correct anybody.

H: Rotary International does not care that the World Health Organization gets all the credit.

N: But they should.

H: They should but the money comes from Rotary.

L: Are they the sole contributor. That's their project?

H: That's their project at the time, was Polio Plus that's right. Now there's a Polio Plus Plus Drive on because they've found that there are many people who had polio and thought they were out of it who they are now discovering that it is recurring. As a matter of fact, three or four of the governors in our district, past governors of our district, had polio (as children) and they are now getting recurring examples of it. So, this is one of the great things that Rotary has done.

L: When we turned it off before you were talking about the building?

H: There was a rim. There was a big auditorium and there was a balcony all the way around and we had different Rotary Districts were seated in that balcony and they had different countries and that's how it, the money was announced they had and then the money, when they announced the total amount which was well beyond what they had originally planned, that's when the balloons came down and the excitement started.

N: Everyone was hugging everyone and the lights went on as the different countries made their announcements. It was thrilling.

H: We had as entertainment a group of former polio victims from Korea and we all thought how sad it is that this polio drive had not been done prior to allow for them to be saved, but it was just remarkable.

L: And this was what year?

H: 1988. Now what more can I tell you about Rotary? The gift of Life Program I mentioned before but we brought many heart patients, young people primarily with heart problems and they came to Syracuse and this was done apparently throughout the United States but in Syracuse we had it where the doctors performed bono their services and it was up to clubs to support the program by entertaining the parents of heart victims and the Ronald McDpnald House provided the wherewithal that the parents had and the students had. The students, of course, were in the hospital but they housed the parents, and that was another great program.

N: We brought the boy who was older and you and I bought him a present, a 17 year old boy who came with his father, Dad and I always whet up to see them and try to help them and we brought him a radio transistor so he would have music because he couldn't

understand so he would have music that was on the radio and the television and that was our gift to him And there was a Russian girl who Dad talked to his translator with while I did sketching with her drawing pictures and she and I got along beautifully. The 2 of them were conversing on the side. But we went up to help them as much as we could.

H: Alright. Much of the money that comes from a club, comes from their fundraisers and the DeWitt Rotary Club, of course, it's our Pancake Day which is so remarkable that we have I don't now how many years this has been. Uh, 2005 is our 51st year as a Pancake Day.

N: This year is our 52nd

H: ...and we will serve probably 3000 people during the day and we raise all of our funds or a good share of our funds through the Pancake Day and again this is why we give so much money all the money goes to the community. Every cent that we raise goes to the community and when we have an extra project outside the community the money comes from the Pancake Day and also comes from private additional funds we raise, well, what's it called Natalie?

N: Happy Dollars

H: Happy Dollars that happen every meeting.

N: From the newspaper, from the kindling wood sale,

L: *What's the newspaper sale?*

H: Well, we join other organizations selling newspapers for the toy fund -1 mentioned that - for the toy fund. Then of course we raise funds

N: for the children who

H: I'm trying to think of the name of it

N: Michael Sager is one of them, uh, well it's for handicapped people of all ages. Let's see what else we do? The bulleting board at the corner of Genesee St and Erie Blvd, that was purchased and developed by the Rotary Club of De Witt. That's just the bulletin board is what we donate to the community. We provide funds for the equipment for the Fire Department. I told you that. Manlius Pebble Hill School acts as a host of our international students who come. They go to school at Manlius Pebble Hill School. The Fire Dept is the recipient of many wonderful pieces of equipment that we provided.

L: How has the membership changed?

H: Oh.. .not a great deal. When I was president in '66 I think it was, we had about 85 members and right now we have about a hundred members, but there is a difference. We now have many in the club as do many rotary clubs, and they are wonderful. They are great additions to our club. If it weren't for many women in the club we would not be doing what we do so it must give credit to that. We give to Habitat for Humanity. We provide funds for that and we provide funds for the humanitarian awards that we give. The women or Rotary dissolved in 1900

L: 1900?

H: 2000, (chuckle) but they had in their treasury about \$900 and that was all turned over and added to the Pancake dollars so we purchased many things. We purchased a computer system for the DeWitt Library. Actually we have done so many things it's almost too many to enumerate.

L: When the Women of Rotary was dissolved, did most of them come in to Rotary?

H: No, no, but we got their money and then it was allowed, Rotary International allowed women to join Rotary. In the year 2000 we raised money for a matching grant with RI to aid in the development for a special school in Argentina. In 2001 we also gave to Habitat for Humanity and in 2001, we voted to give to the DeWitt Police Department with a gift of a defibulator a portable machine to be carried by police cars to assist for heart attacks. In 2003, there's a question of this, the DeWitt Women of Rotary dissolved (reading from a booklet) and turned over their funds to the DeWitt Library –

L: that's what Mom says is wrong.

H: We gave new chairs to the Samaritan Center.

L: So, you were talking about membership a little bit.

H: Well, membership is about 100 members. Right now as of April of 2006 our club is down to 88 members. This is because of the fact that many people move away or with the downgrading of many companies, our members were unable to continue their membership in some of the companies, rather were downgrading as I said.

L: Wait, if someone is an executive and then they are no longer an executive do they lose their membership?

H: Well, not everybody that's an executive was a member. Not every member was an executive. This changed after a while when we found, when we found people who would become good members of the club, so some of the members, we reached about a hundred but right now 88 is the number we have in the club.

N: Three members died this year.

H: With members who died, pass on and uh, are not replaced because of the companies that they were in no longer were active in the community. This is the way it's been but the club has always been very community oriented. We give so much of our time and money to assist organizations in the community and it's a wonderful organization to be very proud of and we are very proud of it.

L: Is it harder to get people to join now?

H: Sometimes it is because it's first of all, a member has to be willing to give up roughly 2 hours at lunch because by the time you start a meeting and have a program, by the time you leave your place of business and get back to it, not every organization is willing to give that much time to Rotary and this is a problem with Rotary and Kiwanis and all the rest of the service organizations. The R Club of DeWitt has always been extremely active and community oriented and it's a pleasure to be a member of the Club. We are very proud of the fact that we are members of the Club and through my own sake I have, I think it's, 46 years of perfect attendance. That's a long time and we have just taken in as a member the new minister of DeWitt Community Church who when he became a member in Albany was a minister and he was the governor as I was. He was the governor the same year I was. He's now a member of our club.

L: That's nice!

H: Yup it is very nice, And that's about the extent of it. Rotary is continually doing for other people and our club is continually working with community organizations that need help and we give it, both volunteering as workers and giving money for projects.

L: You personally brought in

H: Oh, I've personally brought in several members, yeah, and several members who have

been presidents of the club, one in particular who I know would have been a governor because he was such an active man. He moved away,. He's now in Gigg Harbor, Washington. He yvas formerly with Bristol Meyers and he's now out there and has just been elected to the Board of Directors of the Rotary club of Gigg Harbor. He's Stan Leibenberg. He's a...

N: Veterinarian

H: Veterinarian. So I don't know how much more I can tell you. We are very proud of the fact that both of us are in the club and we'll be working with Pancake Day in a couple of weeks and that money will go to further implement our projects.

L: You used to flip pancakes.

H: Oh yeah. I won't flip now. Now I can't stand up so now we will sit and take tickets but we will be there .We will be organizing and working with the rest of the members.

L: Let me ask Mom a couple questions.

H: Go ahead!

L: You started as De Witt Women of Rotary.

N: I was a past president.

L: Did you start as soon as Dad joined or when did Women of Rotary start?

N: Oh, that I couldn't tell you. It was before Dad and I started. It was part of the Syracuse group, too. I have no idea when they started but it ended. And to me there's an error in there (booklet) because the money that was given by the Women of Rotary couldn't have been given in 2001 because I was a member [of Rotary] in 1991 because they had already dissolved at that time so I became a regular Rotarian instead of a Woman of Rotary so that has to be corrected, that date.

L: So, talk a little bit about being in DeWitt Women of Rotary and then the transition.

N: Well, we used to do Thanksgiving baskets. We used to do all kinds of things. We went to Van Dyne Hospital. That's where I gave half my costume jewelry for gifts for the Bingo parties that we used to play with the patients there. That was one of our projects.

L: How many members did you have.

N: Oh, I don't know we must have had 35/40 members when it was full Strength.

L: Where did you meet?

N: Oh, we used to meet in different churches, sometimes the DeWitt Community Church, different places.

L: And you were historian for that?

N: No, I was not historian for that. I was historian when I became a member of the regular Rotary of DeWitt. I took on being their historian which they'd never had before and I did it for 14 years and then I quit and they've never had a historian since, just like the temple has never had a historian [since I left].

L: So, you were president of DeWitt Women of Rotary,

N: I can't recall when but I was. We had a wonderful group of women. Sometimes we met at people's houses, like Ruth Ann Wiseman. Her husband was a doctor and member of the Rotary Club and she and I were officers together. We would meet like at her home or someone else who had big house but we did a lot of projects in the community with Thanksgiving baskets and things of that sort.

L: When women were allowed to become members...

N: I was asked to become a member.

L: How did you feel about that?

N: Well, I thought it was about time that they had women. I thought it was along overdue situation because in many countries, women aren't even allowed to attend a meeting. When we went on our trip to Argentina, women were not welcome in those years so I didn't go with Dad to his luncheon meeting.

L: Did you meet with any resistance in the DeWitt Club?

N: Oh, yes. Dad's friend who used to do all our car work, what was his name hank?

H: Tony Debottes

N: Oh, Tony Debottes. He left the club because women were accepted.

L: Really?

N: Yep and he's a friend but he didn't want women and so he left but other than that we didn't have much resistance and once they became members they were so outstanding that without them the club wouldn't be what it is today. They do wonderful work [sometimes] twice as much as the men and they do it with great ability and enthusiasm. One woman left the club not on her own initiative .She was our program chairman. She took a job with Syracuse University and they wouldn't give her the time off on Mondays to go to a meeting so she had to resign and she was outstanding. She didn't want to leave. She didn't die, she didn't change alliances, she just wasn't allowed by her boss at Syracuse to take the time off on a Monday. That was a great loss.

L: Do you remember her name?

N: Yep. Lisa Moore. It was a shame.

L: Is she still working at Syracuse?

N: I don't know if she's still working at Syracuse but I know she had to leave our club.. She was outstanding and she was a great loss to us.

L: How many women do you have in the Club right now?

N: What about 18, Hank, probably?

H: Must have, 10-15.

N: Well look in the book. You'll see pictures. You can count the women, but they've all been outstanding. When Jim Robb used to run the Samaritan Center where we volunteered at St. Paul's Church, he gave it up and a woman took over and she's been doing twice as good job as anyone would do, outstanding.

L: What were some of your experiences on the district level and the national and international level?

N: Nothing more than Dad's except that we were always very welcomed because he was a past governor so we were always singled out as special whenever we went to a district conference all the governors are introduced and their wives but now we can't go anymore 'cause Dad can't do the walking so we don't go anymore but we've always been welcomed royally.

L: You were at that convention in Philadelphia?

N: Oh, it was the most exciting thing I've ever attended, the fact that so much money was raised even by the poorest nations and as the lights went on in the various parts of the balcony everybody became more emotionally involved and everybody was in tears and hugging each other when the thing was over. I've never been to a more emotional gathering where everybody was so thrilled they had raised such unbelievable funds from some of even the poorest nations in the world, but sadly, we really haven't eradicated polio for many reasons, one because they don't trust our serum as not being something to poison their children

H: 12, there are 12 women in Rotary.

N: 12 only? Oh, I thought we had about 18 originally

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H: Well, right now there are 12.

N: Alright 12.

L: How did the United Nations become involved?

N: Well, you see they have entree in to countries where we as Rotarians can't just go in, so they administered, the World Health Organization did help to administer the serum.

L: Did they raise any of the funds?

N: Not really. Rotary raised most of the funds. Definitely but we never got credit for it. They never mention us more than once in a while. There was a whole special in Syracuse on Polio Plus except one sentence at the very end and that is very erroneous of Rotary not to admit that they have done this wonderful job. They don't have to hide behind secrecy of doing good deeds. They should definite have blown their own horn and proudly administered the fact that they had done so much to eradicate polio. It might have made a difference in the way countries accepted it to, in my opinion, but in any case, the unfortunately even the international president of Rotary a few years ago was from Nigeria and it was his country who would not allow the serum to be given until so many

people started getting polio that they were able to convince them that it was helpful and beneficial and not something would not injure their children, but by then they'd already contracted the darn thing and they've spread it. They were almost free of it at one time and then they had it come back. It's very sad.

L: Talk about some of the trips you took with Rotary.

N: Oh, just the ones that Dad mentions, the ones we had, to NZ, Australia, to Argentina. We still communicate with these people at Christmas card time. We became dear friends. We lived with them. You see you don't just go to a country and live in a hotel. They house you and you're part of their family. Even with language barriers we were able to become dear friends.

L: You did that in...

N: Argentina, New Zealand, Australia, just wonderful. Our experience in Niece, France, when we went to the first international conference we've ever attended was simply wonderful and there Dad managed to take me to Paris which I had already so hoped to attend and I loved it. It was wonderful, to see the Louvre Museum and all those things that I had always heard about but was able to actually see, some of the great art work of the world and the people. It was very wonderful.

L: You see you keep up with, it's really your writing that's kept in touch with people.

N: Yes.

L: Talk about that.

N: Well, just that we communicate during the holidays. It's very wonderful. One of them gave us that traveling set of Rummikub who had a store. The widow of one of our friends with whom we stayed in Argentina, she writes me in Spanish but I get through to her and she gets through to me and the guides we had in Argentina who was a brilliant man took us all over. He and I communicate rather extensively at Christmas time. He's now living with his daughter because he couldn't live alone anymore but he was brilliant and was very wonderful to us.

L: You hand write all your cards.

N: Everything., crippled fingers and all. Dad doesn't do any of those.

L: You read them out loud, you read them to him when you write them.

N: Oh, of course, and of course his 94th Signal Battalion group we communicate with still, many, many of the members there who are still alive. That's another group I send cards to, to whom I send cards. I send about 150,160 cards every year.

L: Yes, that's amazing.

N: It gets to be a real chore with my hand.

L: I bet it does, but it means a lot to a lot of people.

N: Well, one of Dad's friends is now blind and his wife reads everything to him, but the fact that some of them are still living is remarkable since they were WWII veterans. They are in their 80's.

L: Well they are probably good partners like you.

N: Yup, definitely. She writes for him, you know, like I do. George Felton.

One way we raise money at Pancake Day is somebody donates a bicycle and people take chances on it and somebody wins it. That's another thing that we do sell chances on the bicycle. Is it 3 for a dollar, Hank? Whatever it is. Karen Doctor has been real active in that project.

L: Do you also do an ad book?

N: Well, this is the book where we get all these advertisement from the whole community. That's where we raise the most funds. It's not just selling pancakes. We could never do anything with just Pancake Day.

L: Who are some of the

N: I sell a whole page to Wegman's .That's the biggest ad they have.

L: That's because you have so many "boyfriends" at Wegman's (chuckle)

N: Yeah, especially the manager! But I have another half page ad that I sell to a company, and then my beauty parlor takes a third of a page. Dad sells a couple of quarter pages to the Fortino's Florists and his Ace Hardware and everybody gets different ads and we give out those books at Pancake Day but all the basic money comes from those

ads. It's not from selling a Pancake ticket. That's the least of it but that's where we raise our biggest amount of money with our project. Here, give me the book right behind you. That's just a portion of it, but that tells you. That's what the book is and we give them out at the Pancake Day. Everybody takes a book and here are the ads and all the people who've donated. That's where it all comes from basically, and then some of these companies like Dick's Sports is one of the big sponsors so they're on the outside page, but that's where we raise all our money, not by selling a few Pancake tickets.