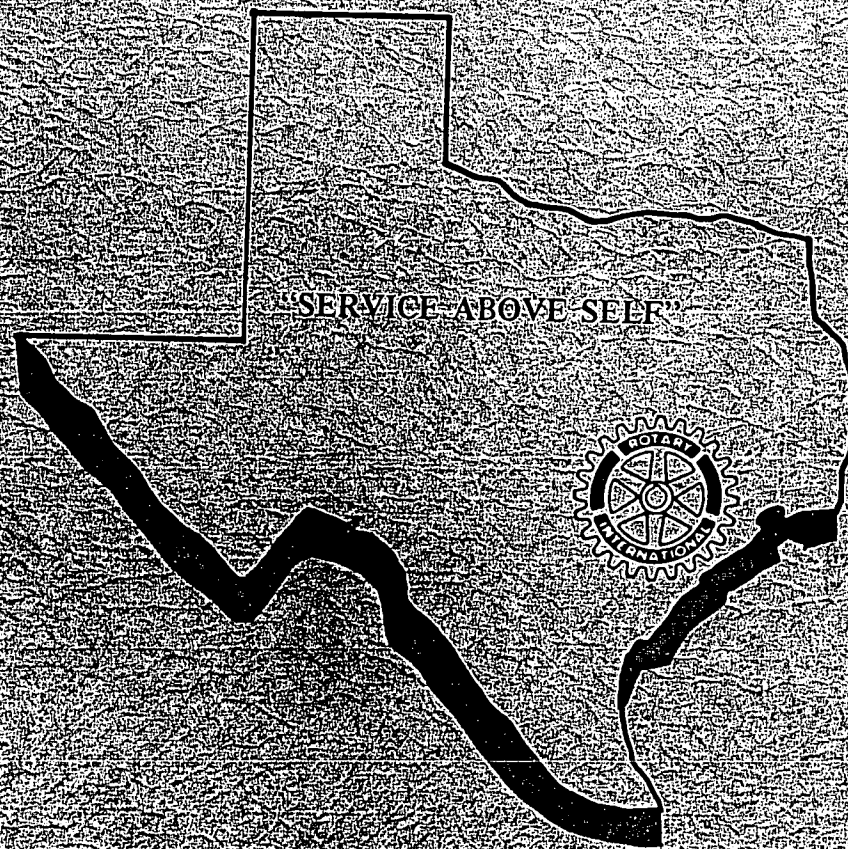


**A History Of
DISTRICT 589
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL**



**Celebrating The
Texas Sesquicentennial
1836 - 1986**

ROTARY IN TEXAS

(From the Roster of the Rotary Club of Houston - 1931)

Rotary came to Texas with the organization of Club No. 39 at Dallas in May, 1911. The second club was formed at San Antonio, June, 1912, and at Houston in August, 1912. From this date on clubs were organized rapidly in other cities of the State, until there are now 155 clubs within the borders of the State including more than 6,500 members. Two Conventions of Rotary International have been held in the State. The fifth at Houston, in 1914, and the twentieth at Dallas, in 1929.

In 1915, areas known as Districts were set up in Rotary. Texas and Louisiana formed the Twelfth District. W. H. Richardson of Austin was the first Governor. Later the State as a whole was denominated as the Eighteenth District. Elijah Coles of Houston, Lynn B. Milam of Dallas, Tom Reed, Jr., of Beaumont, H. J. Lutchter Stark of Orange and George Holmgreen of San Antonio served successively as Governors. In 1922, a few counties of the extreme western part of the State were added to the Forth-second District, those remaining being designated as the Thirteenth District, with John Singleton of Waxahachie as Governor. Following him in order as Governors came Lester W. Dawley, then of Paris, and Harry H. Rogers of San Antonio. In 1925, the number of Clubs in the District exceeded one hundred, and it was deemed advisable on account of the great distances to be traveled to divide the District into three Districts. This was done at the Galveston Conference in March 1925. (These three Districts were numere Forty-first, Forty-seventh and forty-eighth).

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Dear Rotarians:

This book is a history of our Rotary District. It has been developed in keeping with the Texas Sesquicentennial. Its purpose is to show how Rotary in District 589 has been apart of Texas History and how we have helped to make Texas a better place to live. We can be proud of Rotary, of what it stands for, and what it has accomplished.

The information contained in this book is based on information furnished us by the various clubs in the district and information that was available to the committee from club and district records. I wish to thank each Rotarian and Rotary Club who contributed to the development of this book.

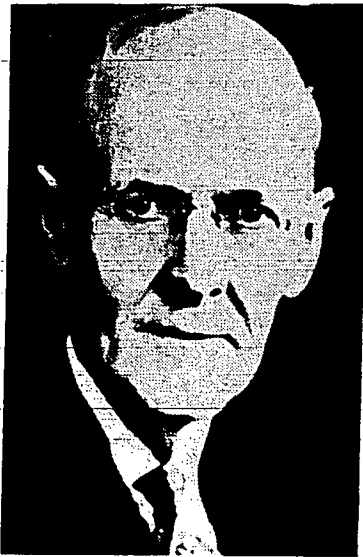
Your district committee spent many long hours in developing this book. I wish to thank each of the committee members who worked so hard to make the book possible. My special thanks to Leslie Walker Jr. who edited the book.

Sincerely,

Bryce C. Sanford, Chairman

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bryce C. Sanford, Chairman	El Campo Club
Leslie L. Walker Jr., Editor	Harrisburg Club
Bill Detlefsen	West Houston Club
Douglas Vaughn	Heights Club
Allen Montgomery	Houston Club
Jim Carrell	Central Houston Club
Murff C. McCullen	Pasadena Club
Ray Potter, Governor 1985-86	Memorial-Spring Branch
Walt Lackey, Governor 1986-87	Pearland Club



PAUL P. HARRIS
Founder of Rotary

Paul P. Harris was born in Racine, Wisconsin, U.S.A. on 19 April 1868, he was separated from his parents at the age of three to live with his grandparents in Wallingford, Vermont. A carefree boyhood filled with scrapes that he loved to recall was followed by successive academic trials at the universities of Vermont, Princeton, and finally Iowa where he received a degree in law. Instead of settling down to practice however, Paul embarked on five years of travel financed entirely by his own efforts. He worked as a newspaper reporter, fruitpicker, cowboy and in many other occupations. Four times he crossed the Atlantic Ocean as a hand on cattleboats. Often he knew homelessness, hunger and hardship, yet also knew the blessings of friendship. So with confidence born of survival he decided to live his life in Chicago.

His practice of law was not easily started and for several years he had very few clients. He lived meagerly, but worst of all he missed the friendships he had known in his New England village. He was reminded of them one evening as he strolled with a professional acquaintance in a Chicago neighborhood adjacent to Evanston, site of the present headquarters building of Rotary International. Noting the greetings by name given by various tradesmen at their stores, "The thought came to me, why not in big Chicago have a fellowship composed of just one man from each of many different occupations.... In such a fellowship could there not be mutual helpfulness?"

Tributes to this vision of international service came at the death of Paul Harris in 1947 when an outpouring of memorial contributions enabled The Rotary Foundation to launch its Graduate Fellowship program. Today, individual contributors of \$1000 are designated "Paul Harris Fellows."

Paul, summing up "the why and the when of Rotary: there could not have been the Rotary that exists today had it not been for the friendships of boyhood, college and business days." The classification principle of membership was Paul's reaction to the struggle for existence in Chicago and the worldwide viewpoint was the natural consequence of his five years wandering in many lands.

Ed Cadman is a Medical Doctor, a native of Wenatchee, Washington, and a graduate of the University of Washington and of Columbia University School of Medicine. In addition to membership in the state and national medical societies, Ed is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. His specialty is orthopedics.

He became a Rotarian in 1955, as a member of the Rotary Club of Wenatchee. He has served as president of that club, as district governor, consultative group member, committee member, International Assembly instructor, director and vice-president of Rotary International



EDWARD F. CADMAN, M.D.
President, Rotary International, 1985-86

"Mat" Caparas is a practicing attorney from Manila, Philippines. Born in Cuyapo, Philippines, he is a graduate of the University of the Philippines in Quezon City, and of Harvard Law School.

Mat is a member and former director of the Philippine Bar Association, and a charter member of the Arbitration Association of the Philippines. He is also a member of the State Bar of California. He was a member of the Philippine Constitutional Convention.

A Rotarian since 1959, he is a member of the Rotary Club of Manila, and past president of the Rotary Club of Caloocan. He has served as district governor, consultative group and committee member, and in a number of capacities, including the presidency, of the Rotary Foundation.



M. A. T. CAPARAS
President, Rotary International, 1986-87

DISTRICT 589 OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AN HISTORICAL SKETCH

At a time when Rotary International can claim its one-millionth member and nearly 22,000 clubs, it is difficult to think of a time when there were less than five thousand members and fifty clubs comprising the entire world of Rotary. Yet, such was the case when the Rotary Club of Houston was founded, on November 1, 1912, and received charter No. 53, of the National Association of Rotary Clubs. Today, the Rotary Club Houston is the largest club and one of the oldest clubs in Rotary.

Any consideration of the history of the present District 589 of Rotary International, or of any aspect of Rotary in all of South Texas, for that matter, must begin with full appreciation of the enduring leadership of the Rotary Club of Houston. It is unfortunate that no formal history of that club has yet been written. It is to be hoped that the production of such a history will be a major goal of the club as it approaches its Diamond Jubilee.

According to the 1985-1986 Roster of District 589, ten of the fifty-four clubs of the district list the Rotary Club of Houston as their sponsor, and we may take any one of those ten and develop an interesting kind of geneology. Pasadena, the second largest club in the district, has sponsored six clubs. Harrisburg has sponsored four; several clubs have sponsored two or three. It may well be that every club in the district is a lineal descendent of the Rotary Club of Houston.

Despite the fact that it has been the principal factor in the growth of Rotary in this area, the Rotary Club of Houston has not assumed a role of dominance. As might be expected, in the first thirty-five years of its existence - from 1916, when Rotary first grouped clubs into district - until the immediate post-war years, the Houston club furnished most of the District Governors. However, since the creation of the present District 589, in 1956, the Houston club has furnished only

seven men for that office. Nevertheless, the Rotary Club of Houston, by reason of its age, its size and its prestige, continues to be the bench mark for all Rotary activity in this part of Texas.

What we know today as District 589 has been variously numbered and variously constituted. In 1950, for example, it included forty-three clubs in the area from Orange to Weimar and from Galveston to Nacogdoches, and was then District 190. Prior to that it had been numbered 12, 18 and 47. In 1955, the number of clubs in the Houston area having increased, the district lines were re-drawn and the district was given the present designation of District 589. The first Governor of the newly constituted district was W. H. "Bill" Avery, a member of the Houston Club.

Incidentally, the only man ever to be District Governor without first having been president of his club was Walter Jenkins, long-time International song-leader, and later to become president of the Houston Club.

Of the fifty-four club presently comprising District 589, as shown in the 1985-1986 Information Directory, thirty-six have been organized since the end of World War II. The number by decades is shown below:

1945-1950	8
1951-1960	8
1961-1970	9
1971-1980	5
1981-present	6

The six clubs organized from 1981 to the present have all been in expanding areas of Houston, generally in the southwest to northwest portions of the city. No club has been organized in any municipality outside Houston since the Rotary Club of Sweeny was organized in June of 1980. Since Rotary is now represented in almost every municipal area of sufficient size to sustain a club, and no municipalities outside Houston and Pasadena are of sufficient size to sustain two clubs, this would seem to suggest that opportunities for future development are limited, and that the prospects for future

growth of the district are dependent upon future growth of the Houston metropolitan area.

As might be expected, the range of club size is very great. The Houston club has 930 members; Palacios has fifteen. The latter club would seem to prove that growth alone is not an adequate index to the viability of a club. Palacios was chartered in 1934. Thirty-five years ago the membership was about thirty-five, but neither gain nor loss seems to alter the determination of the club to make Rotary known in that town.

Pasadena has proved that a community does not need to be a metropolis to sustain two Rotary Clubs of good size. The growth of the city of Pasadena proved to be such that in early 1967, the Rotary Club of Pasadena sponsored the Rotary Club of South Pasadena. In 1986, Pasadena has 215 members; South Pasadena has 115. In addition, the Rotary Club of Greater South Houston, with forty members, has met only a few miles from Pasadena since 1950.

Based on the 1985-86 Information Directory, the clubs and their sizes appear as follows:

100 or more	11
76-100	7
51-75	9
26-50	21
25 or less	6

Of the 27 clubs in the latter two categories, at least five have been organized since 1980 and may be considered to be still in the primary growth stage. Several of the clubs in the 76-100 category have membership in the nineties, so that at any time during the Rotary year membership in any one of them may exceed one hundred.

The age of a Rotary Club is not necessarily a factor in club growth. As evidence of this fact we may consider two adjacent clubs: Pasadena and Harrisburg. In 1950 Pasadena had ninety members. Today there are 215. Harrisburg in 1950 reported