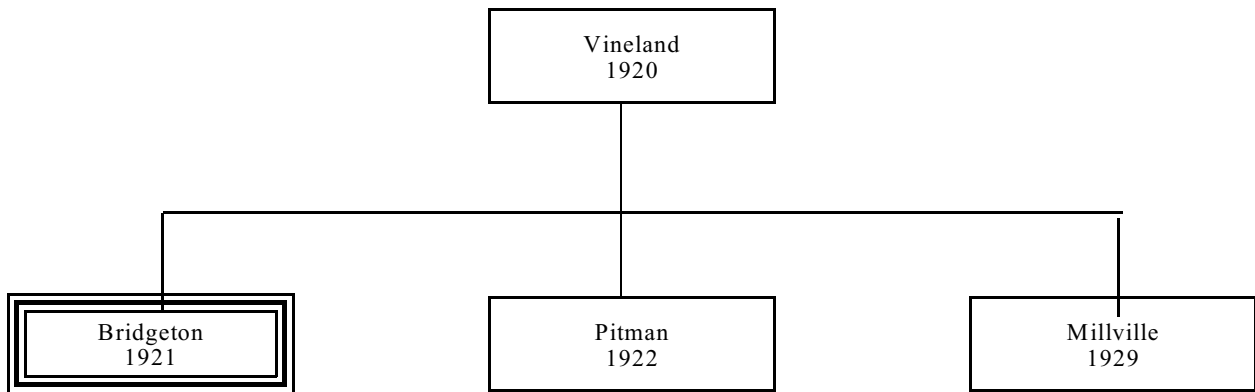


Chapter 4

Rotary Club of Bridgeton, N.J.



75th Anniversary History of District 764

Bridgeton, NJ

Chapter 4

Organized	May 18, 1921	Meets :	Thursdays at 12:10 pin at
Chartered	September 1, 1921	Charter No. - 981	Cohanzick Country Club
Sponsored By	Vineland		Fairton Rd.,
Clubs Sponsored	Salem		Bridgeton, NJ 08302 (609) 455-2122

Charter Members

1921-22	Joseph W. Powell	1956-57	George A. Johnson
1922-23	Henry H. Fithian	1957-58	Francis H. Sharp, Sr.
1923-24	Thomas Martin	1958-59	Joseph C. Lamb
1924-25	Jacob Jones	1959-60	John A. Cowan
1925-26	Millard F. Sewall	1960-61	Michael Doody
1926-27	Frank Esibill	1961-62	Keron D. Chance
1927-28	Roy Felmev	1962-63	Thomas G. Roberts
1.928-29	Enos Paullin	1963-64	George J. Geisinger
1929-30	Henry Marshall	1964-65	Sherwood A. MacPherson
1930-31	Joseph H. Simpson	1965-66	George H. Mecouch
1931-32	Wilbert M. Bacon	1966-67	Robert C. Belleville, IV
1932-33	Dwight B. Babbitt	1967-68	J. Elmer Mulford
1933-34	Henry S. Sharp	1968-69	Kenneth P. Riley
1934-35	Newlan B. Watson	1969-70	William F. Cassidy
1935-36	James S. Holland	1970-71	Jonathan Moore
1936-37	Robeson McAllister, Jr.	1971-72	Lawrence A. Caldwell
1937-38	Victor Morvay	1972-73	Warren C. Lummis, Jr.
1938-39	William J. Meyers	1973-74	Robert A. Woodruff
1939-40	Leigh M. Lott	1974-75	D. Allen Thompson
1940-41	George J. Woodruff	1975-76	Robert N. DeRemer (Died in Office)
1941-42	Frank O'Neill	1976-77	J. Alan Woodruff
1942-43	Herbert W. Letts, PDG	1977-78	Thomas C. Lane, IV
1943-44	Robeson McAllister, Sr.	1978-79	Arthur Feinstein
1944-45	Rulon D. Brooks, Sr.	1.979-80	James P. Crilley
1945-46	J. Wesley Hambleton	1980-81	Harry L. Holfelder
1946-47	Edward S. Rider	1981-82	James H. Ogilvie
1947-48	E. Russell Ashley	1982-83	Ronald C. Angrabe
1948-49	David S. Blew, II	1983-84	Doyle E. Owens, Jr.
1949-50	Paul Alger	1984-85	Harry R. Dare, III
1950-51	Frank M. Shapiro	1985-86	Samuel W. Feinstein
1951-52	Claude Hiles	1986-87	Frank Mastoraki
1952-53	George, E. Bass	1987-88	Frank Chiappine
1953-54	John S. Sheiry	1988-89	William D. Lomberk
1.954-55	Albertson Huber	1989-90	Glenn Welch
1955-56	Wilbur M. Runk		

Bridgeton Has Kept Longstanding Commitment to Scouts

When 10 men met in the Bridgeton law office of Joseph H. Powell on Dec. 29, 1920, there were only three Rotary clubs in existence in the Southern New Jersey area: Camden, Atlantic City and Vineland. Neighboring Vineland Rotary was chartered only a month earlier, Dec. 1, 1920, and it was this event that spawned interest to start a similar club in Bridgeton.

The first written correspondence was a letter from Powell to Theodore Kausel of the Camden club, first chartered in the district, on Dec. 23.

During a combined meeting with Vineland Rotarians. May 18, 1921 at Cohanzick Country Club, Bridgeton made a firm resolve to form a club. Sen. W. Howard Sharp, a Vineland Rotarian, was among the stalwarts in the organization of the Bridgeton club; in fact, he later would make up missed meetings often in Bridgeton.

A formal resolution was drawn in Powell's office on May 20. And on Sept. 1, 1921, 15 were listed on the Charter No. 981 application as Bridgeton officially joined Rotary International in what then was the Fifth District. Powell was elected charter president.



1989-90 Bridgeton Club President Glenn Welch welcomes Nina Jarlbeck, the Mayor of Eskiltuna, Sweden to one of their club meetings

Early records, kept by charter secretary Frank Esibill, were filled with humor: "...the meeting was interrupted every now and then by the meeting throwing of ripe raspberries."

Not long after Bridgeton Rotary was chartered, a Kiwanis club also started in the city. The service organizations became friendly rivals for many years and often combined efforts for socials, meetings, civic endeavors, and sporting competition.

Bridgeton's first venture into community work was its support of Boy Scouts. The Bridgeton scouting district was in danger of financial collapse in 1921, but the Rotary spearheaded an effort to raise \$8,500 - a huge sum then - to save the organization.

The club's affiliation with scouting has continued on throughout the nearly 70 years of its existence through its financial support and its supplying of leaders at every level.

One of the highlights of the early years was one stretch of 30 connective meetings with 100 percent attendance, an obvious tribute to the dedication of the charter members.

Bridgeton has maintained meticulous records of its deep community involvement through the years - records which easily would fill a separate book.

Here is but a sampling:

1923 - Bridgeton Rotary was a major sponsor of the building of the Cumberland Hotel. Also, the club built a "Daddy's Shack" at Parvin State Park and took 152 boys on an outing to Ocean City in its support of scouting.

1926 - Helped abolish outdoor toilets in Bridgeton, set up the city garbage collection, and was active in promoting Bridgeton's Sesqui-Centennial.

1931-32 - Rotarians initiated the first Farmer's Meeting, contributed to the Chinese Relief Fund, and entered a float in the "Blossom Time" parade.

1933 - The club entertained Maj. Chester L. Fordney, one of two men who landed near Bridgeton after breaking the world altitude record.

1934 - The American Legion Civic Award was presented to the club for its work with juveniles.

1936 - The Rotary International Convention was held in Atlantic City. To help other Rotarians from getting lost, the club placed road signs from the Pennsville Ferry to Vineland. Uniforms were purchased for the High School band.

1937 - In a joint effort with Kiwanis, Rotarians petitioned the federal government to dredge the Cohansey River.

1940 - With membership increasing to 56, the club celebrated the 35th anniversary of R.I. by sponsoring a radio broadcast on WSNJ.

1941 - Won a prize for the highest attendance at the district conference.

1942 - Membership jumped again, to 63, as Bridgeton purchased Defense Bonds and led a large local defense rally. The club also erected the Roll of Honor and placed a service flag at the Cumberland Hotel.

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Chapter 4

1945 - Presented a typewriter and sewing machine to the England Army Hospital in Atlantic City. In support of growing interest in the building of the Delaware River Bridge, Rotary hosted a meeting which was attended by 250. 1948 - Received a certificate for service to Cumberland County during, the 200th anniversary celebration. 1953 - Purchased three beds for Bridgeton Hospital, pledged \$1,000 to the hospital building fund, and gave equipment to the fire and rescue squad.

1956 - Sent an exchange student to Germany and held a Salute to Bridgeton luncheon.

1957 - Bridgeton Rotarian Herbert W. Letts was elected governor of District 764.

1958 - Served as the host club for the district conference in Atlantic City. Conference entertainment included music by the Cumbrian Singers, who were led by Bridgeton Rotarian George Woodruff. With the induction of Alan Woodruff, who had been a Student Rotarian, membership reached 100 for the first time.

1959 - A testimonial dinner was held for Earl Hummel, who was retiring as club secretary after 30 years. 1962 - Built Peace Garden in Bridgeton City Park, donated a sailboat to the YMCA for its summer program, purchased trash cans for the city, and collected 110,000 books for Uganda.

1964 - 91 Rotarians attended a regular club meeting at the New York World's Fair.

1968 - Bridgeton Rotary held its first fund-raising club auction.

1969 - Sponsored Project Concern in Appalachia, and sent two immigrants to Trenton to study government. 1974 - Donated funds for a hospital in the Solomon Islands.

1976 - Myron H. Bacon, with 44 years of perfect attendance, became the club's first Paul Harris Fellow. Received a district award for its club bulletin and public relations program.

1977 - Sponsored a Harvard Glee Club concert. It was the club's only U.S. tour stop not held in a major city. 19

80 - Was sponsor of a concert by the South Jersey Symphony Orchestra, first of its kind in the area.

1981 - Raised over \$5,200 at a spaghetti dinner for Italian earthquake relief, largest donation by any district club. Hosted Gov. Brendan Byrne when he signed a bill during a regular Rotary meeting to help the ailing oyster industry. The big year included a 60th anniversary celebration.

1985 - Raised \$2,066 for the benefit of Mexican Earthquake Relief.

1986- The club was among the major sponsors of the Bridgeton Tricentennial, donated more than \$5,000 to the cause, and donated the time capsule at Riverfront Park which is to be opened in 2086.

1988 - Returned meetings to the Cohanzick Country Club and held Ladies Night at Philadelphia's Riverfront Theater. Hosted two busloads of Rotarians and their wives who were attending the R.I. convention in Philadelphia.

Today, the club entertains Student Rotarians, from both Bridgeton and Cumberland high schools; sponsors an exchange student; participates in the RYLA as well as in scouting, Little League sponsorship, annual scholarship awards, and in a plethora of other community programs and projects.

Bridgeton Rotary is proud that since it was chartered in 1921 no major activity in the Bridgeton area has taken place without some level of club support.

Charter Members

OFFICE	NAME OF MEMBER	CLASSIFICATION
President	Joseph Powell	Lawyer
Vice President	Thomas F. Martin	Mgr.-Dyeing & Finishing Co.
Secretary	Frank E. Esibill	Hardware-Retail
Treasurer	Harry W. Eno	Telephone Service
	Henry H. Fithian	Secretary-Chamber of Commerce
	Robert E. Fithian	Groceries-Retail
	Frank M. Hankins	Lumber Dealer
	Harry H. Hankins	Can-house Manager
	Jacob B. Jones	Supt. Gas Light Company
	Clayton W. McPherson	Undertaker
	Bloomfield H. Minch	Bank Officer
	Millard F. Sewall	Surgeon
	Isaac L. Shoemaker	Mgr.-Glass Manufacturing Co.
	John F. Stiles	Department Store
	Howard L. Tyler	Newspaper Editor