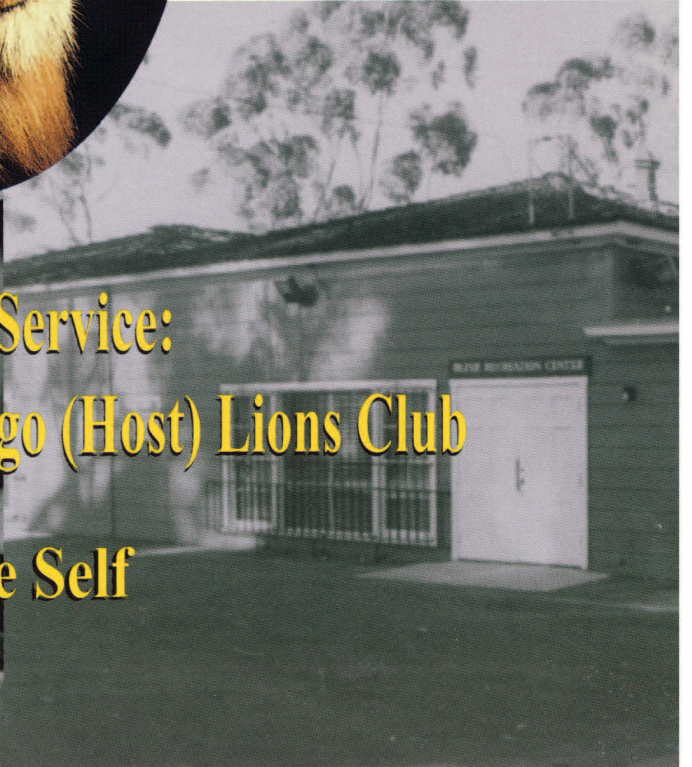
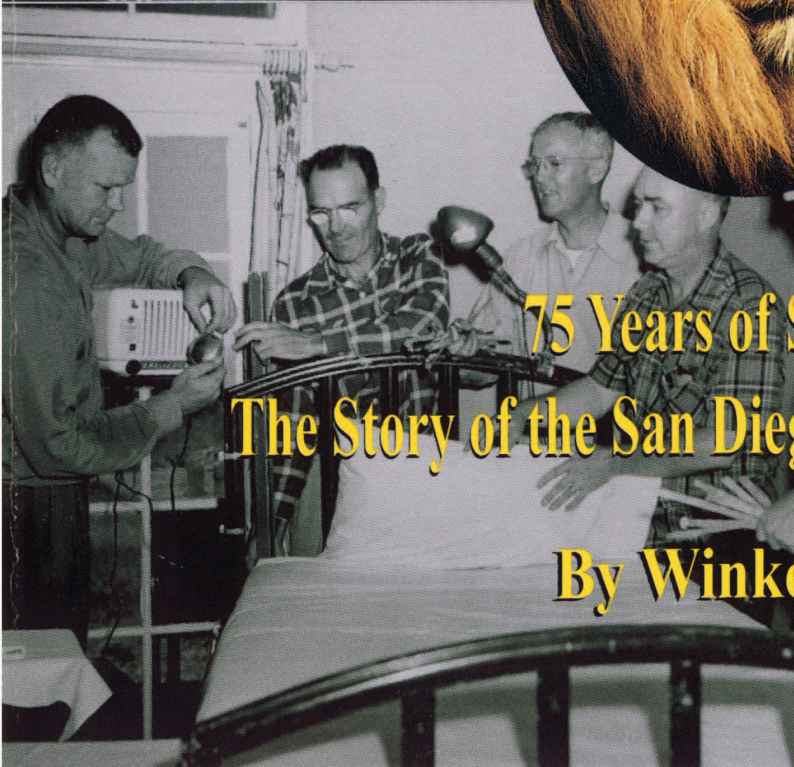
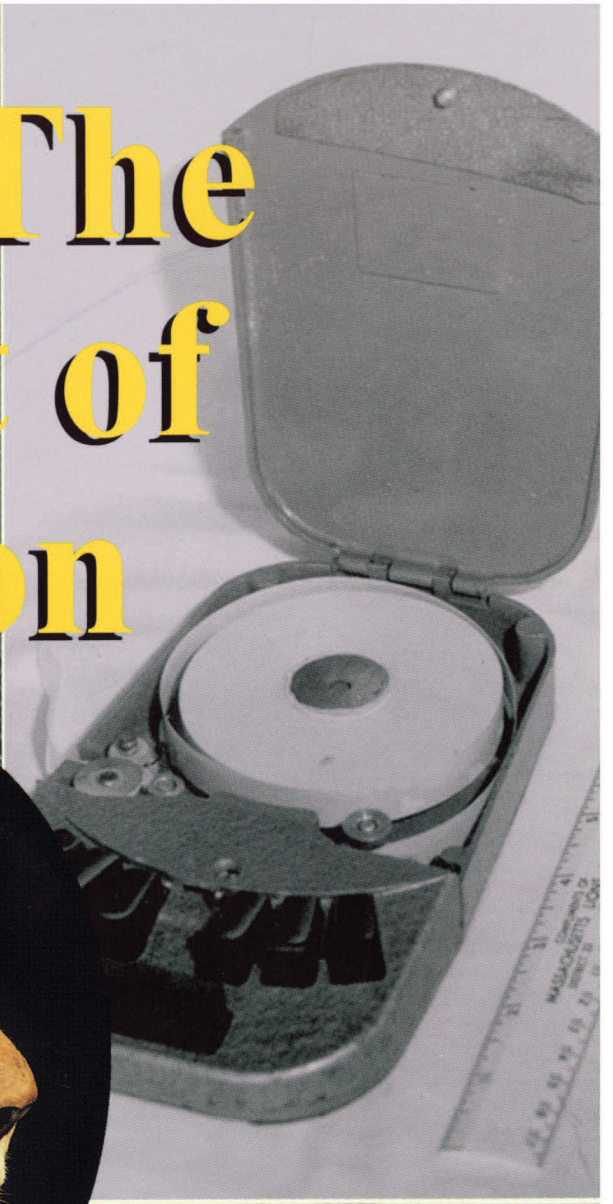
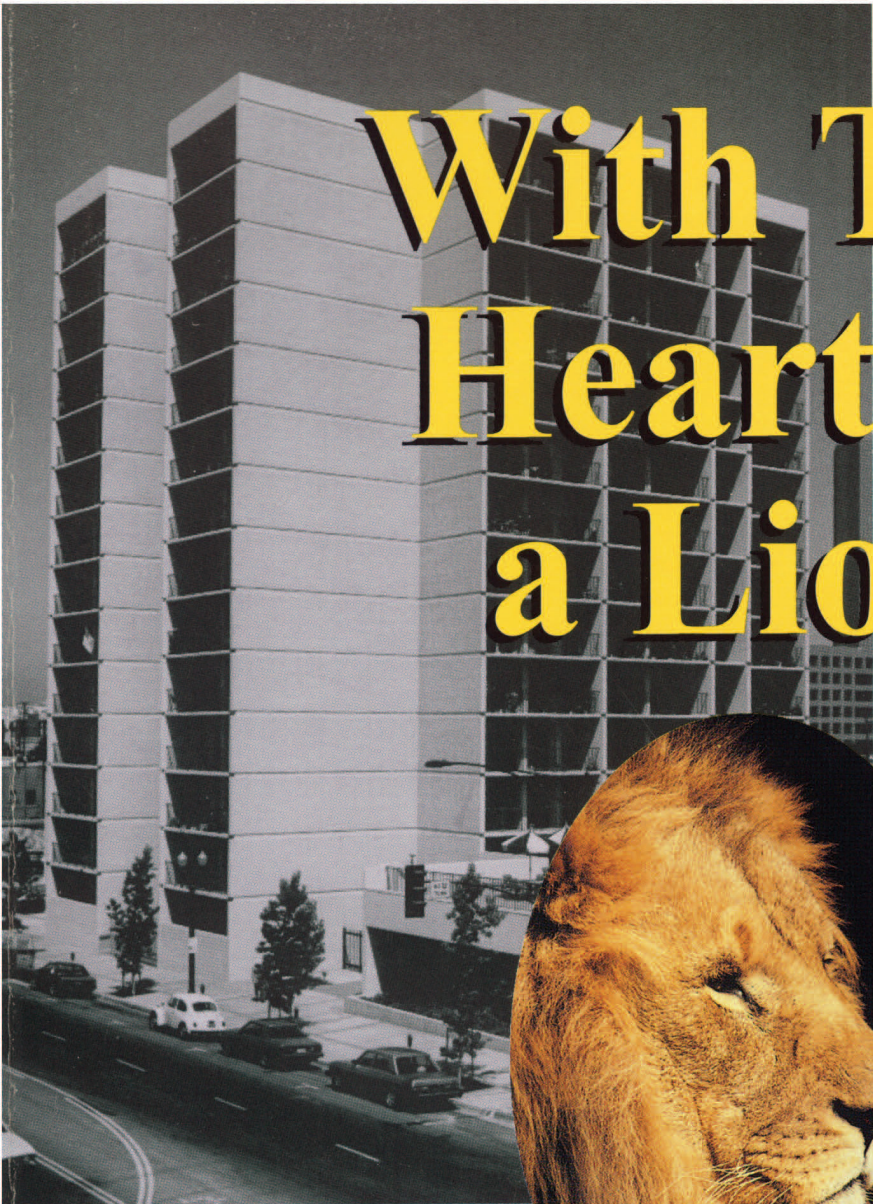


With The Heart of a Lion



75 Years of Service:
The Story of the San Diego (Host) Lions Club

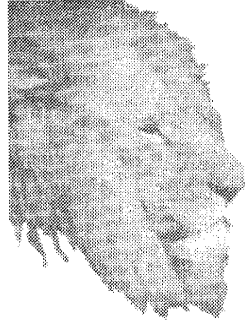
By Winke Self



With The Heart Of A Lion

*75 Years of Service:
The Story of The San Diego
(Host) Lions Club*

By Winke Self



*To Ruel Liggett and Marsh Malone,
whose dedication to preserving the past
helped make this volume possible.*

*The author wishes to acknowledge the contributions of
the following San Diego Lions:*

Ann Boeker
Les Earnest
Wig Fletcher
David Herring
Buck Hubbard
Jim Kelly
Ruel Liggett
Terry Loftus
Marsh Malone
Victoria Wierig
Jack Wyatt

Their contributions to this work were invaluable.



Welcome to the Story of the San Diego (Host) Lions Club 4

About the Book and Its Author 5

In the Beginning 7

The Roaring Twenties 10

The Depression 14

The Forties: A World at War 21

The Fifties: Prosperity at Home, a Cold War Abroad 28

The Sixties: The Times They are a Changin' 37

The Seventies: And the Beat Gets Stronger 47

The Eighties: A Decade of Achievement, a Decade of Change 58

The Nineties: On to the Millennium 69

The Welfare Foundation of The Lions Club of San Diego 80

The Promotion of the Braille Writer 83

Affiliate Organizations of the San Diego Lions Club

Boys & Girls Foundation 85

Blind Recreation Center 86

Lion's Community Manor 88

San Diego Center for the Blind (and Vision Impaired) 89

San Diego Association for Retarded Citizens 90

Deaf Endowment Board 91

Share A Vision 91

Lions Club Meeting Places 92

Charter Members 93

Members, 1996-1997 93

Military Members, 1940 though 1946 94

Index 95



Welcome to The Story of The San Diego (Host) Lions Club

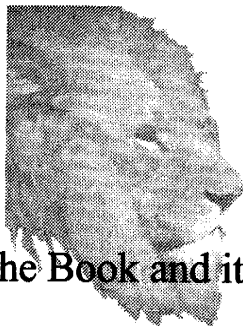
By C. David Herring
President 1996-1997

It is with great honor and pride that we present this history of our 75 years as San Diego Lions. The story is a magnificent pageant of accomplishment by a succession of individuals who joined together to pursue large and small goals. This is not a history of past achievements but a developing chronicle of service to the community.

As long as people care about others and have a desire to put meaning in their lives, there will be service to others. As you read the story of the San Diego Lions Club, you not only will read about major accomplishments and acts of kindness to others, but you will also read about a group having fun while serving. This combination is one of the things that sets a service club apart from other charitable groups.

The story of the San Diego Lions Club continues to grow with our city. While it reflects the history of its time to some degree, it also differs significantly because despite the changes in society, the dream of service to others has remained constant. Through the hard times of the Twenties, the depression of the Thirties, the difficulties of the war years, the complacency of the Fifties, the self-centered Sixties and the "me" generation of the Eighties, there has always been a core of individuals who kept their eyes on the more important vision of service to their community.

In this history there are strong and important leaders who have led the way on our major projects, however there were no projects that could have been accomplished without the consistent work and dedication of the membership. While the leaders may show the way, the membership makes it happen. In the service club, there is little room for the "I" or the "me" because the very essence of the club's accomplishments has been the "we" of the membership joining together for the larger purpose of service to the community needs.



About the Book and its Author

This book was started 50 years ago when Ruel Liggett, a charter member, wrote so eloquently about our first 25 years, and each member donated money to create the first history. It was continued by Marsh Malone, our Club's historian, who preserved our heritage for the next 50 years by carefully documenting our events. This work, along with the countless records of the Club, were then reviewed and synthesized by current members of our Club into a series of articles. Finally, our author, Winke Self, took all of this material, added her own research to it and wove it all into the professional narrative we now have.

Ms. Self, a member of one of San Diego's most prominent publishing families and once a successful participant in the Lions High School speech competition, has used her talents and insights into Lionism to create this book.

As we approach our next 75 years, someone else will pick up the task of telling our story, just as our generation and each succeeding one will pick up the vision of service and fun.

As you read this book, you will appreciate the dedication of the members who kept the Club alive and improved the lives of those around them.

C. David Herring
President 1996-1997

LIONS CLUB EDITION OF THE SUN

The San Diego Sun



FILED NO. 11517

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1922

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

LIONS CLUB WILL RECEIVE SAN DIEGO CHARTER TONIGHT

THE YESTER ORGANIZATION OF BUSINESS MEN WILL HOLD BANQUET AT GRANT HOTEL

LEADER OF THE business men who will be present tonight at the banquet of the new Lions club at the Grant hotel, will be Frank H. Papp, president of the organization. The banquet will be held at 8 o'clock and will be a most enjoyable affair. The Lions club is a new organization and will be the first of its kind in San Diego. The club is organized for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the community and for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the members of the club.

The banquet will be held at the Grant hotel and will be a most enjoyable affair. The Lions club is a new organization and will be the first of its kind in San Diego. The club is organized for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the community and for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the members of the club.

OFFICERS OF SAN DIEGO LIONS



HISTORY AND GROWTH OF LIONS; SERVICE IS ONE OBJECT OF ORGANIZATION

THE BRANCH OFFICE of the International Association of Lions Clubs in San Diego, California, is a new organization which has been organized for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the community and for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the members of the club.

The International Association of Lions Clubs is a service organization which has been organized for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the community and for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the members of the club.

LIONISM IS TOLD HERE

THE BRANCH OFFICE of the International Association of Lions Clubs in San Diego, California, is a new organization which has been organized for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the community and for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the members of the club.

The International Association of Lions Clubs is a service organization which has been organized for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the community and for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the members of the club.

MESSAGE OF LIONS' PRESIDENT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SAN DIEGO LIONS CLUB:

It is my privilege to address you on this important occasion. The Lions Club is a service organization which has been organized for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the community and for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the members of the club.

The International Association of Lions Clubs is a service organization which has been organized for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the community and for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the members of the club.

LIONS WELCOMED BY KIWANIS CLUB

THE KIWANIS CLUB of San Diego, California, has given a warm and cordial welcome to the new Lions Club. The Kiwanis Club is a service organization which has been organized for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the community and for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the members of the club.

The International Association of Lions Clubs is a service organization which has been organized for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the community and for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the members of the club.

NEWS FROM ROTARIAN CHIEF

THE ROTARIAN CLUB of San Diego, California, has given a warm and cordial welcome to the new Lions Club. The Rotarian Club is a service organization which has been organized for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the community and for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the members of the club.

The International Association of Lions Clubs is a service organization which has been organized for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the community and for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the members of the club.

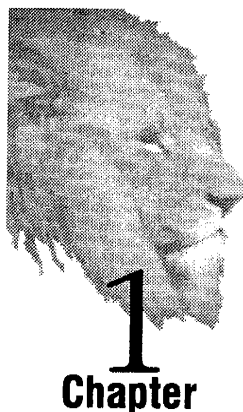
OBJECTS OF THE LIONS

To promote the welfare and happiness of all mankind and to promote the welfare of the members of the club.

To promote the welfare and happiness of all mankind and to promote the welfare of the members of the club.

To promote the welfare and happiness of all mankind and to promote the welfare of the members of the club.

On April 8, 1922, the day the San Diego (Host) Lions Club received its charter, a special edition of the San Diego Sun celebrated the occasion with photographs of the charter officers and a full page of stories about the new club.



In The Beginning

Standing on the corner of Fourth and Market in downtown San Diego, looking north, you'll see an impressive 14-story building. Its name? Lions Community Manor. Its purpose? To provide low-cost housing to San Diego's elderly and disabled. Standing there, in the shadow of this building, constructed by the sheer perseverance of a remarkable group of men and women, it's hard to imagine a time when the San Diego (Host) Lions Club was not a substantial presence in San Diego. But 75 years ago, it was only an idea — not even a very popular one at that.

It all began with Phineas Packard, proprietor of Arts & Crafts Press. He was convinced that what San Diego needed was a youthful organization, vigorous and vital, an organization that knew how to work hard and play hard — and do both at the same time. Another service organization? In a town that boasted a population of no more than 75,000? The idea didn't meet with spontaneous enthusiasm. Didn't San Diego already have two thriving service clubs? Was there really room for one more?

Packard started his campaign of persuasion on a sultry summer day, August 21, 1921. He invited 11 San Diego businessmen to lunch at the San Diego Hotel and started selling the idea of the new service club to them. At first, they were skeptical but his vision and enthusiasm were contagious. And soon Packard had convinced those 11 men to share his vision: J. W. Arrasmith, wholesale tire dealer; Willard E. Coburn, machine shop proprietor; Clarence A. Liitt, tire repairman; Al E. Lambla, garage owner; Ruel Liggett, lawyer; H. W. Merkley, mortician; Wilbur C. Merritt, plumber; J. Frank Munro, electrical supplies; Frank H. Page, Realtor; Julius Sturz, merchant tailor; and Jess F. Zwiener, electrical contractor.

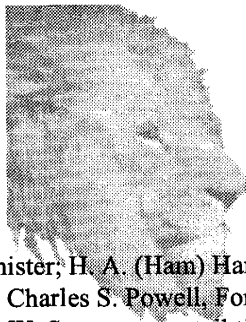
At that first lunch they discussed the possibility of affiliating with a relatively young international organization called the Lions Club. It was an appealing idea, and they resolved to contact the Los Angeles Lions Club for help.

They met again on a Saturday evening, September 2, 1921, for dinner in the ballroom of the U. S. Grant Hotel, and many of them brought guests. The Lions Club of Los Angeles sent four speakers, and the Long Beach club sent two representatives. The members then resolved to meet again on the following Monday, with the proviso that only those who wished to join the new Club should attend.

Monday's meeting was strictly for business. It took place in the evening at the storeroom of J. W. Arrasmith, Fisk Tire Dealer, located on the northeast corner of Second and B streets. There were no refreshments, but there was enthusiasm. Six new prospects joined the original 12: the Reverend Charles L.



Phinnie Packard, charter member and first president, was the motivating force behind the formation of the San Diego Lions.



(Sky) Barnes, Episcopal minister; H. A. (Ham) Hamer, artist and designer; Charles J. Holliday, banker; Charles S. Powell, Ford dealer; Howard B. Shryock, auto repairman; T. W. Stevenson, retail tire dealer. It was moved and unanimously resolved to form the Lions Club of San Diego. Phinnie Packard was chosen as President and Clar Liitt as Secretary-Treasurer. The members numbered 18.

Following that organizational meeting, no time was lost in going forward with Club activities. On Thursday of the same week, September 29, the first formal meeting of the San Diego Lions Club took place at the San Diego Hotel. Seventeen of the members attended. Frank Munro, of the Coast Electric Company, was named Good Fellowship Chairman, and a one-sheet program, titled "Jungle Breeze," appeared at each place around the table. In one corner, it bore the notation, "volume one, number one." Modestly tucked away in a lower corner was the name of the printer, Arts and Crafts Press. Below the program was an advertisement that in hindsight seems prophetic:

"I feel honored to have an 'ad' in the first number of the Lions Club Program. Since I joined the Club I feel a new purpose in life. I am going to do all I can in helping the Club reach its aim. I feel, along with you men, there is nothing that can stop us. We will put our shoulders to the wheel; and on we go!

To the success of the Lions Club.

Your Humble Member,
Julius L. Sturz"

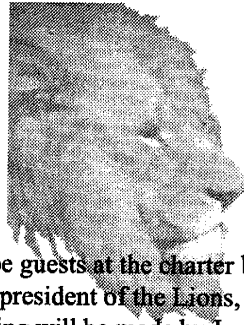
The new Club grew lustily, but there were growing pains. Like the promoter-organizer, who claimed he was sent from Lions Club headquarters, and specialized in passing bad checks. After that experience, the Club decided to do its own promoting. Every member made a consistent effort to bring a guest to each club luncheon. An emphasis was placed on creating entertaining and instructive programs. Speakers that first year included Ed Fletcher, the father of Willis (Wig) Fletcher, who would become one of the Lions' most active and productive members. The legendary Kate Sessions also addressed the club, as did C.C. Young, the Lieutenant Governor of California. And Frank L. Allen, Deputy District Governor of Lions International, traveled to San Diego to take the podium at San Diego's youngest service club.

New members joined, but the Club treasury was still in the red. So, it was determined that the good fellowship chairman at each meeting would, until solvency was achieved, pay all program expenses out of his own pocket. It was a decision that helped the Club survive and grow.

And, finally, having reached the requisite 50 members, the new Club was eligible to receive its charter from Lions International. The day was April 8, 1922, and the setting was the ballroom of the U.S. Grant Hotel. Special editions of the *San Diego Sun* and the *San Diego Tribune* celebrated the presentation of the Lions Club charter. In large print, in the first column of the first page of the *Sun*, appeared the following account:

"Close to 60 roaring cubs are about to be graduated into full fledged Lions here tonight. The big affair comes off at the Grant Hotel at 6 p.m. when the Local Lions Club, San Diego's newest business men's organization, will receive its charter.

"It will be a gala event, with handsome eats, stirring speeches and a general good time on tap. Several hundred visiting Lions from other parts of the



Southland are expected to be guests at the charter banquet. Jess Robinson, of Oakland, past international president of the Lions, will present the charter.

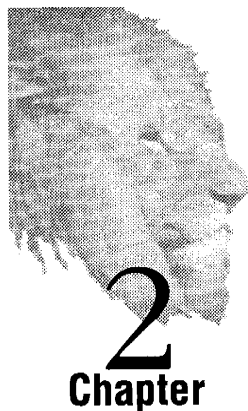
“The address of the evening will be made by Irving Mitchell, prominent Los Angeles resident, who will speak on ‘Service.’

“There will be other events galore, with Lion roars littering up the evening at stated periods. It looks like a ‘roaring time’ for all concerned.

“The Lions are San Diego’s newest club. It is an organization of business men pledged to throw their influence and their help toward all good and worthy in and about and for San Diego.”

The same edition carried photographs of the charter officers of the new Club: Phineas Packard, President; Frank Page, Vice-President; Clarence Liitt, Secretary-Treasurer; T. W. Stevenson, Lion Tamer; Al Lambla, Tailtwister; and Frank Munro, Ruel Liggett, Charles Holliday and J. W. Arrasmith, Directors.

It was official. San Diego had its first Lions Club. And as the postwar depression gave way to the Roaring Twenties, this young Club began to make its presence felt in San Diego.



The Roaring Twenties

Under the leadership of its first president, Phinnie Packard, who held office from September 1, 1921 to July 1, 1922, the Club grew steadily, setting the pattern for the years to come. Luncheon meetings were usually held at the Hotel San Diego, and cost a scant 50 cents a meal. The Tailtwister, wielding the bell-ringing cornpopper created by Al Lambla — the same one used today — seldom collected a fine greater than 10 cents. A casual tone was set, with each member using a nickname — a tradition that still continues. Each Good Fellowship Chairman was expected to procure and develop his own program, including speaker. The members learned Lionism, and enthusiastically attended their first Lions Club convention at Santa Ana.

The Club was too new and beset with its own growing pains to allow extensive civic or welfare activity, but it established the Good Samaritan Fund, helped the deserving and needy at Christmas time, both directly and through the medium of its “sky-pilot,” the Rev. Charles “Sky” Barnes, and helped with the Red Cross and Children’s Home drives for financial support.

It was the year San Diego County’s population topped 100,000. The U.S. Navy dedicated a hospital in Balboa Park. And the nation watched as two Italian anarchists, named Sacco and Vanzetti, were convicted of armed robbery.

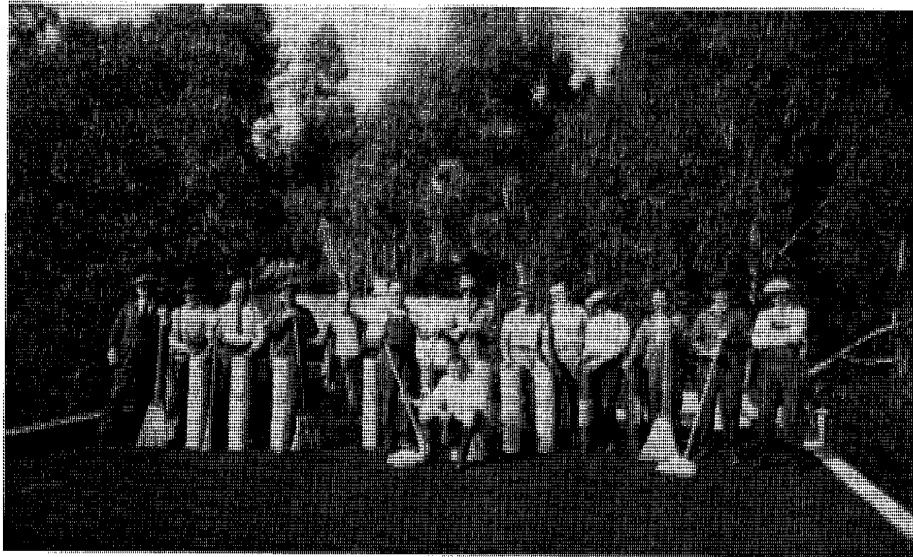
And San Diego began to know that it had a Lions Club.

By the next year, the Lions Club was beginning to take an even more active role in the community. The second president, Howard Worth, who served a year and a half, had a flair for publicity. The Club conducted the dedication exercises for the new lions’ den at the zoo and took a prominent part in the fund-raising campaign for the projected Army and Navy YMCA. There were flashy new uniforms for district conventions and civic parades. And, as a chairman of the Chamber of Commerce’s military affairs committee, Worth conceived the idea of sponsoring Navy and other military programs and of inviting prominent local commanders to accept honorary memberships.

By the time Worth laid down the gavel, runaway inflation had hit Germany, Mussolini had risen to power and Hitler was writing *Mein Kampf*. Two lieutenants, Oakley Kelly and John Macready, had made the first nonstop transcontinental flight from New York to San Diego, in a record 26 hours and 50 minutes. The first electric railway line was opened to Mission Beach and La Jolla.

And in San Diego County there was no one who had not heard of the San Diego Lions Club.

It took the Lions’ third president, Charles J. Holliday, an officer at the Southern Trust and Commerce Bank, to lead the Club out of the red and onto sound financial footing. The Club made a concerted drive for new members. It



In 1924, the Lions went to work putting a new roof on Girl Scout Headquarters in Balboa Park. As Ruel Liggett put it, "The roof was well tarred, but so were the Lions."

was 1924, and membership had become desirable; the Club was able to double the initiation fee and materially increase the dues. One earmark of success was that the secretary's duties had become burdensome enough to require the hiring of a professional.

The tradition of service continued. The Club built a new roof on Girl Scout headquarters in Balboa Park. As Ruel Liggett put it in the 25th Anniversary history, "The roof was well tarred, but so were the Lions." The other focus of 1924 was the constant and enthusiastic preparation for the big Lions Club convention to be held in San Diego the following June. That it was the most successful convention of its time was due to the spadework of Holliday and his committees.

On the national front, the Republicans ruled as Calvin Coolidge was overwhelmingly elected President. Leopold and Loeb were convicted of the "thrill killing" of young Bobby Franks. And in the ring, Jack Dempsey was king.

In 1925, City Auditor Lee Moody held the gavel for six months, accomplishing much in a short term. He led the Lions into the political arena, and the Club took a leading role in the movement for clean and efficient city government. Speakers included a host of civic leaders and officials anxious to expound on such city problems as water, police administration and tax efficiency. It was largely due to the earnest solicitation of the Lions Club, finally backed by the Chamber of Commerce, that the city council appointed a water authority and employed special legal talent for the development of the city's vital water system.

It was also the year of the District Convention. And what a convention it was! Practically unaided by outside help, the San Diego Lions staged the best-attended Lions Club Convention of those early years. There was no building in San Diego large enough for it, and so the Club arranged to take over the Exposition buildings in Balboa Park. No hotel or restaurant in the city had enough dishes and silverware to supply the banquet table, and so the Club restaurateur, Denny Dinnison, cooked and served the banquet and the club itself bought the necessary supplies. More than 1,200 people poured into San Diego for the convention and it was an unmitigated success. And the reputation of the San Diego Lions club spread far and wide.

By 1925, the Roaring Twenties were in full swing, and the wave of prosperity was riding high. The Club was growing steadily. Druggist Claire Ferris was elected the Club's fifth president in July, and he instituted a new practice of



having luncheon meetings held at the businesses of various members.

During Ferris' term, nearly 75 percent of the San Diego Lions took part in a state-long motorcade to San Francisco for the International Convention of Lions Clubs. The parade started in San Diego with 10 cars, gathering strength in Santa Ana, Whittier and intervening points. In Los Angeles, the numbers swelled, and the California Highway Patrol provided escort to Bakersfield, complete with lights and sirens. After lunch, the Lions took off for Fresno, where they spent the night, roaring into San Francisco the following morning.

It was also the year that Helen Keller threw down the gauntlet to Lions International in Cedar Point, Ohio, issuing an urgent plea to Lions everywhere become the "Knights of the Blind." Moved and stirred by her speech, the Lions rose in a thunderous ovation. It was a challenge those Lions in the audience — and Lions everywhere — answered with enthusiasm and dedication. Service to the blind was to become one of the hallmarks of Lionism. And that was to be especially true of the San Diego Host Club.

It's hard to believe this was the same year a young teacher named John Scopes was fined for teaching evolution to Tennessee students. Hitler published the first volume of *Mein Kampf*. And on the West Coast, Ryan Airlines estab-

lished the first regular passenger air service in the United States between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The next year — while Francis Buckle served as the sixth president — saw the organization of the North Park Lions. The Host Club met every Thursday at noon at the Cafe Cabrillo. The members lent their services to the children of the Helping Hand Home and the Boys and Girls Aid Society, driving them to the Buckeye Ranch in El Cajon for Children's Grape Day. At Christmas, the Club decided to forgo its annual holiday party and donate the money

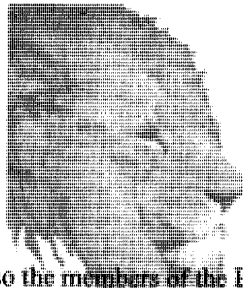


Cafe Cabrillo, owned by Lion Maurice Bernardini, was the home of the San Diego Lions from 1924 to 1933. In the 25th Anniversary book, Ruel Liggett said, "We who met there can still drool in fond remembrance of those luncheons served to us by Maurice."

for food, clothing and toys for needy families.

As the North Park Lions were getting off the ground, Hindenburg was elected president of the German Republic. Gertrude Ederle became the first woman to swim the English Channel, and Gene Tunney defeated Jack Dempsey. In San Diego, radio station KFSD (now KOGO) began broadcasting from the U.S. Grant Hotel, and the Fine Arts Gallery (now the San Diego Museum of Art) opened in Balboa Park.

When Frank Munro took over in 1927, the San Diego Lions embarked seriously on its commitment to aid to the blind. The members helped the Braille Club during Community Week for the Blind, donated chairs to the



facility, and hosted a party so the members of the Braille Club could hear a broadcast by Helen Keller. At the same time, the den helped organize a day nursery, and built a fence around the grounds to keep the children safe. The Club raised funds for a Girl Scout camp in the backcountry, and started taking underprivileged kids to the country for grape-salvage picnics. At Christmas, more than 35 needy families were helped out by generous gifts from the Lions.

And it was also the year that a speaker entertained the members with a step-by-step account of Lindbergh's amazing journey from San Diego to Paris, including his historic nonstop flight across the Atlantic in May of that year. And there was another first that year. *The Jazz Singer*, the first talking motion picture, headed for the nation's movie houses.

H. W. Merkley, mortician, took over in July 1928, a year that marked the end of an era. That last year of national prosperity, the Club reached a peak of membership and financial affluence that was not to be matched during the dark days of the Great Depression that were to follow.

The Club launched itself more seriously than ever before on projects of community welfare, fostering the Junior Lions Club, initiating legislation on behalf of the blind, and purchasing a campsite for the Girl Scouts. With shovels, picks and plumber's tools in hand, the Lions headed for the campsite for a complete overhaul. The Club also pitched itself into the Community Chest drive, with resoundingly successful results — more than \$25,000 was raised. And it found the time and money to find and buy braille books for the public library.

On a lighter note, this was the year the infamous “electric chairs” appeared. Ruel Liggett recalls the scene at Merkley's installation: “During the banquet, the chairman of the evening called for all men to stand up who were willing to donate a hundred dollars apiece to the cornpopper, whereupon Doug Young, Frank Lantry, Les Gould and Herman Ripe jumped with wild yells, clutching at their posteriors.” Though effective fund-raisers, the chairs were finally “de-electrified” in 1938 at the behest of the Board of Directors.

In San Diego, Ira C. Copley purchased the *San Diego Union* and the *Evening Tribune*. Lindbergh Field was dedicated. And in November, Herbert Hoover was elected President of the United States. The nation was about to enter some of its darkest days.



Mortuary owner H.W. Merkley was the eighth president of the San Diego Lions, serving from 1928 to 1929. Upon his death, the Welfare Foundation received a substantial bequest from his estate.



The Depression

Jake Weinberger was not yet Judge Weinberger when he was unanimously elected president of the Club in July of 1929. Before he got accustomed to the feel of the gavel, the Depression settled over the nation. And the Lions Club, like every other institution, felt it keenly. It was no easy task to stimulate

attendance, replace resigned members, encourage the payment of dues and hold cheerful meetings in the face of the pervasive pessimism that followed in the wake of the Wall Street crash. But Weinberger persevered, and the Lions Club forged ahead.

There were old-clothes drives for the poor and picnics for orphanage children. Weinberger's interest in education — he was at the time president of the city's school board — set the tone for a number of the Lions service projects. They helped the Parent-Teachers Association care for underprivileged children, financed the advertising for American Education Week, and supplied graduation outfits for needy high school graduates.

At the meetings, held at the Cabrillo Cafe on Sixth Street, Weinberger put special emphasis on the importance of visiting and becoming better acquainted with other Lions clubs in the district. And at the same time, San Diego's own Ray L. Riley served as president of Lions International.

In San Diego, it was the 160th anniversary of the founding of Mission San Diego. To celebrate, the city dedicated Presidio Park and the Serra Museum. Downtown, the \$1.8 million Fox Theatre opened its doors.

The Club entered the new decade with 77 members on the roster — a net growth of 25 members in eight years. In 1930, the initiation fee was \$25, and dues were \$10 a quarter — figures that represented the boom economy of the Twenties. All that was about to change.

When Charles (Boy) Wincote took the gavel in July 1930, Americans had no idea the "business recession" they were experiencing would become a paralyzing world-wide depression. However, the effects were beginning to be felt. In 1931, the Club reduced its dues to \$8 a quarter, and initiation fees were lowered to \$10. The cost for lunch went down to 65 cents. A poignant note in the October Board of Directors minutes indicates the Club wanted the Tailtwister "to be more lenient on fines."

And yet, the spirit of service continued. The Club found the means to provide underprivileged children with streetcar passes, eye examinations, medical treatments and glasses. They came up with the funds for graduation dresses for needy senior high girls and donated liberally to the Luther Burbank School for the undernourished and to the Camp Fire Girls' camp. They bought steel cots and mattresses for the Rescue Mission and collected canned goods and clothing



Charter member Judge Jacob Weinberger, pictured here in 1929 during his term as president of the club.



for the poor at Christmas.

Throughout the year, the Depression took its toll on the membership. But Wincote and his inner circle of active members worked hard to replace them. And the Club managed to remain active in District and International Lions Club affairs, even finding \$35 to entertain the District Governor.

As San Diegans wrestled with the economic downturn, Germany experienced its own great financial crash, and the Nazis started gaining ground. Closer to home, construction began on both the Boulder Dam and the San Diego Civic Center. The City of San Diego's population reached nearly 150,000.

Frank Young became president in July 1931. The lunch meetings were held at the old Cabrillo Cafe, operated by Lion Maurice Bernardini. In his 25th anniversary memoir, Ruel Liggett remembers those days: "We who met there can still drool in fond remembrance of those luncheons served to us by Maurice, for in those sunny days there was no rationing, no meat shortage, no lack of butter, enough for a second or even a third helping. And you couldn't eat a whole dollar's worth, even if you tried."

Unemployment hit record highs. By January of 1932, seven million Americans were out of work. But the San Diego Lions Club held onto its membership — in fact, the group added 32 new members during Young's tenure.

Melvin Jones, founder of the International Association of Lions Clubs, made his first visit to the San Diego club in 1932, drawing a large crowd, including Rotarians and Kiwanians, who were invited for his appearance. The Lions Club of Peoria, Illinois, developed and produced the white cane with red tip for the blind. Lions clubs across the country got involved with the project, and the San Diego club committed itself to providing a cane for every blind person in the city.

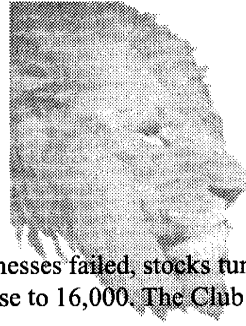
The Club also managed to supply fonts for the Braille Club, to collect old clothes and shoes for the needy, and to sponsor Boy Scout Troop #50. For Mother's Day, the members took up a collection for flowers to be sent to every Lion's mother — and made up the shortfall. The same month, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly the Atlantic solo.

In June, the original 400-pound Gilmore Lion — advertising mascot for Gilmore Gasoline — made a personal appearance at the San Diego Host Club. One can't help but wonder what he thought when the human Lions started roaring.

It was the year San Diego adopted a new charter, authorizing a city manager form of government. And the new San Diego State College campus was dedicated. It was also the year Harold Urey discovered heavy hydrogen, and Al Capone was sentenced to prison for tax evasion.

It was during George M. Crawford's term as president that the nation hit





bottom. Banks closed, businesses failed, stocks tumbled. In San Diego, the ranks of the unemployed rose to 16,000. The Club lost members, but it stayed on its feet.

Despite hard times, the Lions raised funds for the Girl Scouts, the Braille Club, the Salvation Army and the Children's Home, as well as initiating a campaign to oppose a legislative bill calling for the closing of the State School for the Blind.

And there were lighter moments. In April, the Club sponsored a spring dinner dance at the La Mesa Country Club. Dinner was 75 cents a person. In August 1933, world-famous banjo player Eddy Peabody made an appearance at the Host Club. Downtown Rotary and Kiwanis were invited, and the audience numbered more than 300.

And there was the time the Boy Scouts of Troop #50 were allowed to use the Girl Scout Camp. A note in the minutes indicates the boys did such damage to the camp, the Lions felt responsible — after all, Troop #50 was sponsored by the downtown Lions. So the board authorized a \$100 donation for the labor and materials needed to restore the camp to its previous condition.

As Franklin Delano Roosevelt entered the White House, the Lions noticed a change in their own ranks. For the first time in its history, the Club had a sizeable number of Democrats.

In San Diego, a new industry was born when Consolidated Aircraft moved here from Buffalo, New York. The whole nation was shocked when Charles Lindbergh's young son was kidnapped. And across the Atlantic, Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany. Little did the Lions — or anyone else — realize what impact that would have on all their lives.

By the time Roy Noval was installed as president in July 1933, there was a New Deal in the land, and hopes were high that the worst of the depression was over. President Roy led the Lions out of the doldrums and brought the membership back to normal.

It was during this year the Hillcrest Lions Club was chartered. Like the North Park Club, it organized quickly. In 1934, the San Diego, North Park and Hillcrest clubs established a monthly meeting of the officers and directors to share ideas and coordinate projects among the three clubs.

The Club's primary commitment continued to be aid to the blind. In November 1933, the State of California inaugurated a program called "See What the Blind Can Do." The Lions took an active role in promoting the program in San Diego. Kickoff festivities included an organ concert in Balboa Park, a fund-raising dance and card party at the Broadway Pier building, and an exhibit and sale of products made by the blind at the Crystal Palace.

The Club's dedication to aiding the blind was a major focus all decade,



When the Lions Clubs were all-male, the de-installation stag party was a raucous annual event. Pictured here in the *San Diego Union* is the entertainment for the 1934 stag party.



setting a trend that has continued to this day. Sponsorship of the Braille Club — the forerunner of the San Diego Blind Recreation Center — was an ongoing commitment. For instance, the Lions took responsibility for maintaining and repairing all “Talking Machines” in San Diego County for one year, as well as repairing books at the “Talking Book Library.”

But the Lions’ service to the blind was only part of the picture. The Club continued to support the Boy Scouts and also took over fund-raising for the Community Chest. When Long Beach was rocked by a devastating earthquake in March 1933, the San Diego Lions were there with money, clothing, blankets and personal assistance.

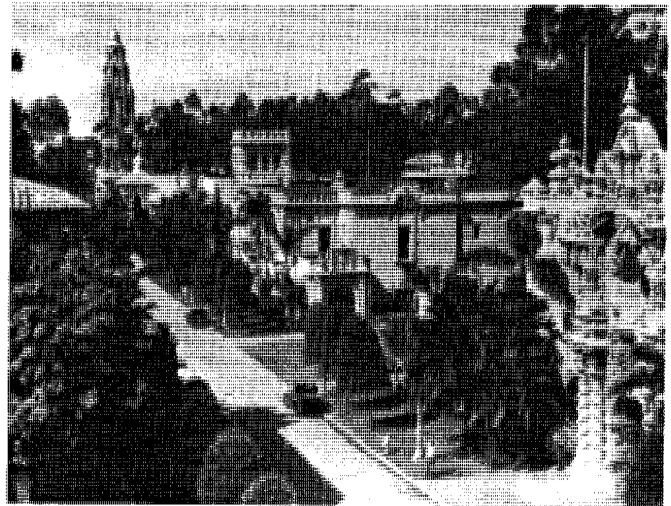
At one of the last meetings presided over by Novak, Dr. Frank B. Gigliotti addressed the Lions upon the subject of “Mussolini and the Cooperative State.” Ironically, no one had spoken about Hitler. In those innocent days, he seemed far less important than Mussolini.

But all was not serious business at the Club. One newspaper account gave a rousing picture of lunch at the Lions: “When something pleases them, they give a roar about it — like a lion ... Have you heard their official roar? Here it is ... ‘Roo-aaarr, Lions! Roo-aaarr, Lions! Bite ‘em! Bite ‘em! Bite ‘em!’ Imagine a hundred business men standing on chairs around a luncheon table yelling that at the top of their voices and you get an idea of Lion enthusiasm. They roar at every opportunity — when a member gets a promotion in his business, when a member announces a new baby in his family, when a club committee reports the amount of money raised for this or that Lion-favored charity; anything calling for enthusiastic outbursts sets the den howling.”

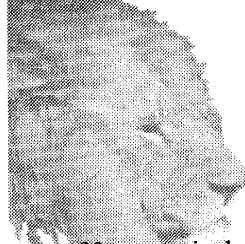
From July 1934 to July 1935, Wilber (Bill) Larrabee was in the president’s seat. It was the year of the California Pacific International Exposition in San Diego, and the Lions were enthusiastically involved, committing more than 90 percent of their membership to the Expo’s fund-raising efforts.

Following up on the last year’s “See What the Blind Can Do” project, the Club rented a storefront for displaying and selling the crafts made by San Diego’s blind. The Club continued supporting both the Boy Scouts and the Community Chest. And the Lions began a tradition of taking youngsters from the San Diego Children’s Home and other orphanages to Bonita’s annual “Grape Gathering Festival.”

The old “inner circle” of the Boy Wincote days gave way to Larrabee’s exclusive clique, known in Club circles as “The Functioneers.” And it was a year for memorable speakers. At one meeting, then Colonel Joe Stilwell, U.S. Army, was the featured speaker. At another, the Club hosted the ranking officers of the U.S. Navy on their return from an East



Balboa Park, spruced up for the 1935 California Pacific International Exposition. More than 90 percent of the San Diego Lions’ membership committed itself to the Expo’s fund-raising efforts.



Coast cruise. All in all, there were 80 guests, including the mayor, the city manager, a U.S. congressman, all of the city council, 10 admirals, a host of captains and a Marine Corps general. Local radio station KFSD broadcast the meeting live.

To keep things lively, the Club hired a musician at the rate of \$5 a meeting to play during the lunch course.

But all was not rosy. Larrabee insisted on an audit of the Club's books, and the news jolted the membership. Due to errors in bookkeeping, there was a substantial financial deficit. The members responded immediately and overwhelmingly: They voluntarily and unanimously increased their own dues and started an energetic drive for new members.

It was also the year that the San Diego Club hosted its second District Convention — and it was another resounding success. The business sessions were held at the old Savoy at Third and C streets. And since there was no ballroom in the city large enough to hold the crowd for the Governor's Ball, it was held at the Broadway Municipal Pier. In a dramatic gesture of good-will, the Navy ships in the harbor turned on a barrage of searchlights, lighting the sky with a brilliant display.

And while Americans struggled to maintain hope and optimism in the face of the Depression, Hitler became Fuhrer of Germany. As Ruel Liggett put it, "He defied the world, and we thought he was funny!"

In 1935, Verne Sutherland took over. The San Diego Lions joined with the Downtown Rotary, Kiwanis and Exchange Clubs to erect signs at the entries to the city, listing meeting times and places. Politics were heating up, and the Board minutes reflect the times: It was moved and approved that the program committee chair keep political speakers in line, confining them to an educational approach only.



The Indoor Sports Club, a recreational facility for the disabled, has enjoyed the generous support of the San Diego Lions since the Thirties.

Continuing its efforts on behalf of the blind, the San Diego, North Park and Hillcrest clubs joined together to cosponsor a concert featuring soprano Mary Cook Coward. The proceeds were used for printing and distributing a volume in braille, titled "Book on Harmony."

In 1936, the Club undertook one of its most ambitious efforts: raising \$3,500 for the construction of a swimming pool at the Girl Scout camp near Julian.

As Sutherland fulfilled his term, Consolidated Aircraft dedicated a new plant at Lindbergh Field. To the north, the Golden Gate Bridge was completed. Mussolini invaded Ethiopia, and the Germans occupied the Rhineland.

When Leslie (Les) Gould took office in July 1936, his motto was members —



more and better members. And he proceeded to go after them with such gusto, enrollment grew beyond all expectations, topping the 100 mark.

His efforts were so startlingly successful, Lions International took notice, recognizing the Club with a set of flags and Gould with a ring signifying him as outstanding Lions president of the year.

Service also kept pace, with efforts on behalf of the blind, the Girl Scouts, crippled children and the needy. The Club joined with the American Legion to sponsor a Safe Driving Program, spearheaded by race driver Barney Ohlfield. And during the same year, they made a substantial contribution to the Red Cross for flood relief.

Though essentially a nonpolitical organization, the Lions did take stands on issues they felt affected the well-being of the community. In 1937, the Club sent a wire to the Governor of California in support of Assembly Bill 2708, which would establish a blind workshop in San Diego — and lobbied for his signature on the bill.

But the Lions also believed in playing as hard as they worked. And in 1937, the San Diego Club sponsored the first Interclub Golf Tournament for all San Diego service clubs. Fifteen clubs participated and the Lions provided the perpetual trophy.

It's also interesting to note that there was a Stag Committee — an earmark of a club that was exclusively male — which staged “smokers” for the members. How times have changed!

As Gould's gavel banged, Edward VIII abdicated his throne for “the woman I love.” War broke out between Japan and China. And Joe Louis became boxing champion of the world.

A change in the rules lengthened Wilbur Kelley's presidency to 18 months. Taking up the gavel in July 1937, he didn't lay it down until the end of 1938.

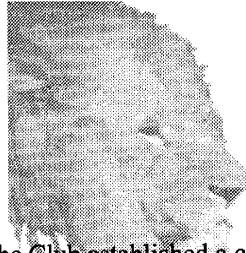
As part of the Club's work on behalf of a new organization known as “Prosperity Builders” — an organization founded by a cooperative effort among service and civic clubs and designed to promote San Diego business — the Lions launched a new concept called “networking” in 1938. The idea was to encourage members to do business with other members.

The fee for lunch was raised to 75 cents — with a three-cent override to cover the cost of guest's meals. But money was still a sore subject and a new requirement was added the same year: a credit check for each prospective new member.

In February, the downtown Lions moved their meeting place from the U.S. Grant Hotel to the San Diego Club. And the following year, radio station KGB installed permanent remote broadcasting equipment in order to air the Lions program live each week. As Jack Wyatt remarked, “We were pretty big stuff in those days, but then they didn't have radio talk shows then.”

Despite the credit checks and tight money, service was still the main focus of the Lions. The Club increased its aid to the Indoor Sports Club, an organization of physically handicapped persons. Each Lion “adopted” a member of the Indoor Sports Club, providing the disabled child with support in the form of anonymous gifts, cards and minor financial assistance throughout the year. It was an alliance that was to continue long after the Thirties ended.

In cooperation with the Hillcrest and North Park clubs, the Host Club sponsored a series of five concerts for the benefit of young artists and the



Crippled Childrens Fund. The Club established a committee to help in the expansion of the Salvation Army's "Door of Hope" project. That year, the members built an enclosed porch on the Door of Hope's home for unwed mothers.

At the same time, the Club managed to send 10 members to the Lions International Convention in San Francisco.

During Kelley's term, the Lion wives decided to form a group of their own and the Lionesses were born. Ruel Liggett captures the flavor of the era in his 25th anniversary history: "If there is as much to this Lionism stuff as you say there is, said our good-looking better halves, then we're going to have some, too ... Once or twice a year they flutter in on a Lions Club luncheon and put on a program for us. They really know how to preside. The seams of their stockings are straight, just as they should be, and their hats are on crooked, just as they are supposed to be, and, jointly and severally, we love 'em."

Amelia Earhart was lost somewhere over the Pacific, and Hitler was marching into Austria.

In 1939, the gavel passed to Milton P. Sessions, and the spirit of service continued to flourish. In February, the Club adopted a plan, initiated by the District, that required each member to ante up 30 cents a year which was used to acquire a Seeing Eye dog for a worthy blind applicant.

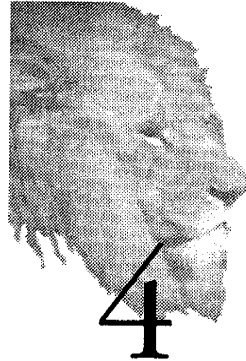
The Club joined ranks with North Park and Hillcrest once again to sell advertising and promote the opening of professional baseball in San Diego. The Padres had joined the Pacific Coast Baseball League, and the project netted a cool \$100.

In 1939, the fourth local Lions club was formed in Coronado. The San Diego Club remained active in District affairs — but also prudent. The Board minutes spell it out: "Moved and passed to appropriate \$3.90 for pro-rata share of present for District Governor. Motion made and passed to send letter to the District Finance Committee regard favoring District Governor's present, but no present for the District Governor's wife."

At the end of the year, the Club purchased its first liability insurance policy and its first workers' compensation policy — both almost undoubtedly the result of the influence of new member Wig Fletcher, a man who was to help define the concept of service to both community and club. And in December, a committee was appointed to establish a special account to handle charitable funds in compliance with IRS rules under a Board of Trustees. Though the Lions Welfare Foundation wasn't officially established until 1944, this was undoubtedly the first step toward founding that charitable trust which endures — and flourishes — to this day.

In a speech that foreshadowed the dark days ahead, J. Gordon Harrell, former editor and publisher of the *China Daily Herald*, recounted the brutality of the Japanese forces as they invaded China.

A continent away, Hitler invaded Poland and World War II began. The Soviet-Nazi Pact was signed; and Winston Churchill took the helm in Britain.



Chapter

The Forties: A World at War

Insurance man Hubert H. Martin took the reins in January of 1940. His first challenge was the restlessness and lack of interest in Club affairs displayed by a sizeable number of members — probably a result of the excitement and growing apprehension over the war in Europe. Using his diplomatic skills, Martin brought the Club back in line, and membership increased by 10 percent. Not surprisingly, one of the most popular topics for speakers was the growing world conflict.

The charity and welfare activities of the Club continued apace. The Lions purchased 24 red-tipped canes and distributed them to the blind. They repaired “talking books,” contributed to the Seeing Eye dog pool for District 4E and took a membership in the Braille Club. They purchased furniture for the Indoor Sports Club, raised money for the San Diego Public Library building fund and gathered books for military camp libraries.

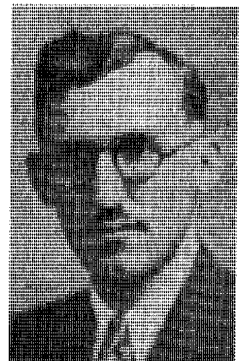
Martin was the Club’s delegate to the International Lions Club Convention in Havana, Cuba. And the San Diego Club, welcoming Lions from Coronado, Hillcrest, North Park, El Centro, Imperial and Calipatria, hosted Lions founder Melvin Jones once again.

This was apparently the first year the Club sponsored a student in the Student Speakers Contest. The contest would become a yearly event, and it would have a profound effect on the lives of those young people lucky enough to participate. Several generations of students were given the tools to face an audience — and the courage and skills they gained would last their whole lives.

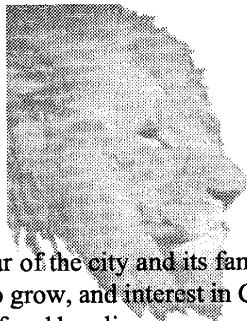
The clouds of war hovered ever darker over Europe. Germany invaded the Low Countries, France surrendered, the German-Italian-Japanese Pact was signed. And, here at home, U.S. draft boards opened their doors.

It was January 1941 — the beginning of the last year of peace at home — and Charles Dunmore was installed as president. Naturally, the war in Europe was on everyone’s mind, and much brass and gold braid appeared behind the head table and speaker’s stand. The Club took a lively interest in military affairs, and joined the general welcome accorded by the citizens of San Diego to the fast-growing military establishments in the community. In March, the Lions participated in the “Bookcase to Barracks” drive for recruits, and held an off-site meeting at the Naval Training Station.

Notwithstanding these absorbing interests, the long-established charitable projects were not forgotten. Aid to the blind and to the Indoor Sports Club continued. But the war also demanded attention. An aluminum drive was held to benefit the U.S.O. And in October, the Club hosted 30 enlisted men from Camp



Hote Houghtaling, pictured here in 1947, celebrated 67 years with the San Diego Lions in 1997.



Elliott, taking them on a tour of the city and its famous zoo.

Membership continued to grow, and interest in Club sport activities was revived — especially in golf and bowling.

And Club member Mike Morrow was honored by the City of San Diego and American Legion Post 6 for his work with a boys' team that won the Junior World Series. A special game was played at Lane Field to raise the money for a new car for Morrow, to honor his dedication.

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, and everything changed. The United States was at war. The Nazis had already commenced their drive on Russia. And in Coronado, the Naval Air Station started training pilots.

Jess Zwiener, installed in January of 1942, was the last of the charter members of the Club to take over the top spot. With war raging on two continents and in the South Pacific, the membership dwindled and it took extraordinary work by the directors and committee chairs to keep the Club's community efforts alive. But succeed they did! The club raised \$2,500 for the newborn nursery at the Salvation Army's Door of Hope home for unwed mothers. And the Club's first war bond drive netted \$3,175 in five minutes. Spearheaded by Charles Holliday, it was the first of eight such drives between 1942 and 1945 — drives that ultimately raised more than \$4 million! (In 1944, the Pearl Harbor Day drive brought in a one-day record of \$658,755!)

Besides money, the Lions collected magazines, books and athletic equipment for the local military bases and raised money for matches for departing troops. Efforts on behalf of the blind and the Indoor Sports Club continued as well. At one memorable meeting, San Diegan Joe Dryer contributed \$350 for a Seeing Eye dog.

The Club also hosted Lions International President Edward H.

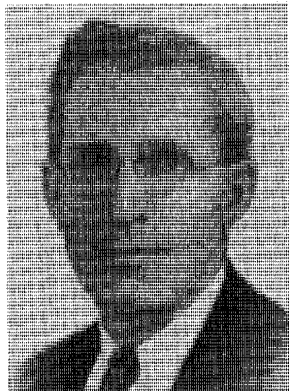
Payne.

As he lay down his gavel, Zwiener rose in the ranks to District Governor of this Lions Club District.

In that eventful year, Bataan and Corregidor fell, the Battle of Midway occurred, Guadalcanal was invaded by the Marines, and the American Army landed successfully in North Africa. And locally, the Navy acquired 125,000 acres north of San Diego for a new training facility. Named for Colonel Joseph Pendleton, the camp would become the largest Marine Corps training camp west of the Mississippi.

In January 1943, newspaperman Nelson Roberts was installed as president and he led the Club in an all-out war effort. The first war bond drive of the year netted \$55,125 in January. In April, the Shark Bond Drive brought in \$277,000, and in September, the total was \$223,500! Besides the bond drive, the Club also raised money for cigarettes and magazines to be sent to U.S. servicemen, donated equipment to the Colored Troops Recreation Hall in El Cajon as well as material to the Red Cross recreation room at Balboa Naval Hospital. Other charities were not forgotten: \$1,800 was raised for the nursery at the Door of Hope.

On the podium that year was celebrated United Press International correspondent Bob Miller, who was with the first wave of Marines landing at Guadalcanal. A month later, Lieutenant Colonel Evans F. Carlson, leader of the famous Carlson Raiders, held the Club riveted as he described the raid on



Jess Zwiener, charter member, pictured here in 1947.



Makin Island.

On the home front, the Club decided to incorporate — a plan that came to fruition the next year — and began work in earnest on the trust that was to become the Welfare Foundation of the Lions Club of San Diego. But life at the Lions was not all work. The Club participated in the Inter-Club Golf Tournament and the Inter-Service Bowling League.

The war began to take a turn for the better. Mussolini was arrested, the Nazis gave up in North Africa, the Americans landed at Salerno, and the Japanese quit the Aleutians and suffered naval defeats in the South Pacific. At home, Consolidated Aircraft of San Diego merged with Vultee Aircraft of Downey, and the new company, known as Convair, joined San Diego's other aircraft companies, Ryan Aeronautical and Solar Aircraft, to make San Diego one of the nation's premier aviation centers.

Headed by founder Reuben H. Fleet, Convair built large Navy seaplanes, the PBY Catalina and the PB2Y Coronado, but was most famous for designing the B-24 Liberator bomber. During the peak of the war, Convair produced 253 B-24s a month — building a total of 6,724. More than 75,000 San Diegans were employed by the aircraft industry — over half by Convair alone.

S. Ernest Davis, branch manager of America's best known dime store, became president in January 1944. Though it was difficult to persuade Davis to take the time, Hube Martin wisecracked that once he was persuaded, it was "Woolworth it." The Club was experiencing the strain of the war, and membership and attendance were off. Davis and his committees offset the losses with new members and held contests to stimulate attendance. Their efforts were so successful, the Host Club received a handsome plaque from Lions International for snaring top honors in the District membership contest.

The War Bond Drive continued with resounding results — \$295,000 was collected by February, another \$167,000 in July, and Pearl Harbor Day netted a Club record, \$658,775. Smaller contributions to the war effort were also made — cases of cigarettes to overseas servicemen and 1,000 Christmas cards for the use of the men in Balboa Naval Hospital. The longtime welfare activities — the blind, the needy, the Indoor Sports Club — were effectively maintained.

The Club incorporated itself, and the first steps toward establishing the Lions Club Welfare Foundation were taken. The first goal of the Foundation, approved by unanimous vote of the membership, was to raise \$50,000 for "The Benefit and Rehabilitation of Blinded Servicemen."

Locally, the Host Club sponsored new Lions clubs in La Jolla and Escondido. Internationally, the tide was turning in the Allies favor. In June, the Allied Forces landed in Normandy. In the Pacific Theater, MacArthur returned to the Philippines, and the Japanese Navy, in tatters, retreated to its home waters.

Dr. Benjamin F. Sherman received the gavel from retiring president Ernie Davis in January of 1945. In his inaugural address he quoted the remark, "A laughing America can never be defeated." He gave the Club a year of corny chuckles — a much-needed antidote to the seriousness of the times.

The War Bond Drive was still producing phenomenal results. In June, the



Charles Holliday was the man behind the phenomenal war bond drive that raised more than \$4 million for the war effort.



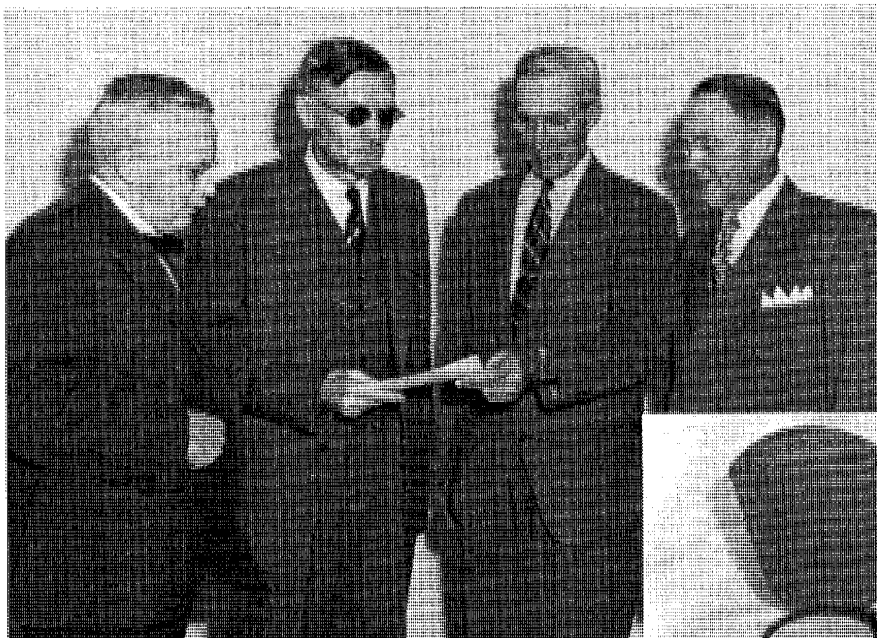
Club raised \$1,780,000. The last drive in November netted \$553,000. The grand total, raised between 1942 and 1945, was a staggering \$4,009,600! In May, the Germans were defeated, and by August, the Japanese had surrendered. The war was over, and a new era of peace and prosperity was just around the proverbial corner.

And one of the most important projects ever undertaken by the Club came to fruition: the Banks Pocket Braille Writer. Hailed as the "greatest humanitarian invention of a century," the pocket writer was a breakthrough of monumental proportions. Armed with the writer, a trained blind person could write at speeds up to 130 words per minute. Nothing like it had ever been seen before. And that it was manufactured and distributed was due exclusively to the efforts of the men of the San Diego Lions Club. Sherman's earlier contacts with the inventor, Dr. Alfred Banks, finally bore fruit in the year of his presidency when Nels Roberts brought from New York the good news that IBM had determined to manufacture the device on a cooperative, nonprofit basis.

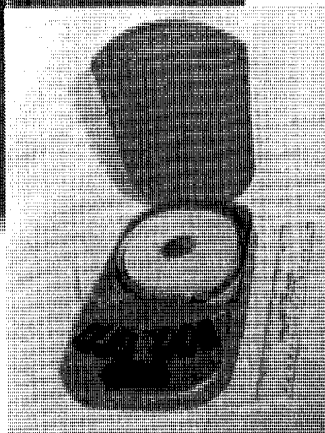
Other charitable efforts were not abandoned. The Club contributed substantially to the building Fund of the Indoor Sports Club, and purchased a lifetime membership in the Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children. Fifty-five boys from the San Diego Boys Club were sent to summer camp. The Club continued its aid to servicemen in its "buddy-bed" project, with members taking turns to provide shelter to returning soldiers. For the U.N. Relief and Rehabilitation Program, the Lions collected 1,302 pounds of clothing. And \$131 was raised

for the March of Dimes. A dance at Pacific Square netted \$3,700 for the new Welfare Fund.

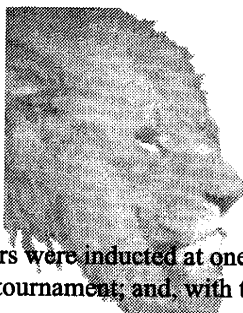
The longtime rule of "one member per business classification" was beginning



Fred Pearson, one of the early recipients of a Banks Pocket Braille Writer (second from left) is pictured with Dr. Alfred Banks (far left), inventor of the Braille Writer, and San Diego Lions Jess Zwerner and Frank Gibson.



Hailed as the "greatest humanitarian invention of a century," the Banks Pocket Braille Writer allowed a blind person to write at great speeds. The miraculous little machine was manufactured and distributed world-wide solely because of the efforts of the San Diego Lions Club.



to bend. Eleven new members were inducted at one meeting. The Club defeated the Kiwanians in a bowling tournament; and, with the help of its star golfers — Jess Zwiener, Boy Wincote, Ed Klenke and Ernie Davis — took the perpetual club trophy in the Inter-Club Golf Tournament.

At one memorable meeting, a Captain Holzinger, U.S.N., read citations and presented Bronze Stars to two heroes of the Okinawa campaign. And the Club gave a military dance in honor of member General Holland M. Smith and his fellow Marine officers.

Members began returning from the war — 40 had been in military service, others had served in the Red Cross and other nonmilitary support groups. Five had lost their lives. As Japan surrendered and the war came to an end, membership roles swelled back to normal. The population of the City of San Diego had surpassed 300,000, and the Lions were growing right along with it.

As Americans celebrated the beginning of peace, they found themselves mourning the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the President who had lead them successfully through the Depression and the war.

Perry Metcalf, garage and auto-park proprietor, known to all Lions as “Park with Perry,” picked up the gavel in January of 1946. An organizational whiz, Metcalf revamped the Club’s committee structure into a smooth operating system and oversaw a complete rewriting of the Club’s constitution and by-laws. His purpose was more than mere efficiency. Metcalf believed that participation in the Lions Club — or any other service club — was developed in direct proportion to the small-group activities undertaken by its members. He was right: Membership soared to an unprecedented peak of 190, and attendance was well above average.

Working out the bugs and overcoming the obstacles to the manufacture of the Pocket Braille Writer took precedence in 1946. And the Club was rewarded on the last meeting day of Metcalf’s presidency when the first shipment of Writers arrived from the factory. The Club made a symbolic presentation of one of these little machines to Bob Linderfelt, a blinded veteran of Corregidor. The rest of the shipment was sent immediately to schools and needy veterans. And Dr. Banks, inventor of the Writer, was made an honorary member of the Lions.

The Club raised \$500 to start a Lions scholarship at San Diego State College, continued support for the Indoor Sports Club and the Blind Club, provided landscaping for the Door of Hope, money for downtown Christmas decoration and postage to mail the Aztec military alumni

newsletter. An enterprising arrangement to sponsor the Clyde Beatty Circus netted the Welfare Foundation a little more than \$9,000.

1946 was a year of growth for Lions clubs everywhere. Lions International



The camera caught a young Wig Fletcher, the fund-raising genius behind the drives to build the Boys & Girls Aid Society’s Cottonwood facility, the Lions Workshop and Lions Community Manor, at Lions Night at Lane Field in the late Forties.



added 6,000 new members and 500 new clubs. The San Diego Host Club had become the sixth-largest in its district. Initiation fees were raised from the wartime figure of \$15 to \$25, and annual dues were increased to \$40.

Nationally, the country was making the change from war to peace. It was a year of labor unrest and strikes, and a general dismay at the recalcitrance of Russia in international affairs. Americans didn't realize their next dose of war would be served up cold.

On January 4, 1947, Carl W. Williams, Civil Service Commissioner and credit bureau operator, was installed as twenty-sixth president of the Club. The group had reached its 25th birthday, and celebrations were in order. To commemorate the occasion, the Club assessed each member \$7.50 for a written history, which was handsomely produced by charter member Ruel Liggett. The history of the Club and interviews with first President Phinnie Packard and current President Williams were broadcast on April 1. And the festivities continued with a rousing party on April 12, attended by Lions International First Vice President Fred Smith, who came down from Ventura, and members of the sponsoring Los Angeles club.

In the midst of the hoopla, the original motto — "We Serve" — was not forgotten. Eleven performances of the Black Hills Passion Play netted \$4,000 for the Welfare Foundation. The Indoor Sports Club, White Cane Week, the Boys Club, the Boy Scouts, the anti-tuberculosis fund and the Salvation Army Christmas program were all recipients of the Lions' largess.

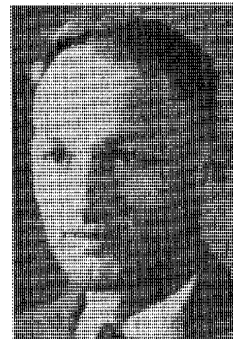
And this was the year the Banks Braille Writer was demonstrated at the Lions International Convention. At home, the Sight Conservation Committee, chaired by Dr. Anthony Moran, started plans to construct a recreational facility for the blind. Moran, a former member of the Braille Club who had regained his sight after being legally blind for 10 years, devoted his energies to this project and opened up participation district-wide. It took three years of fund-raising before the project bore fruit.

Reaching hands across the border, the Host Club participated in chartering a new den in Ensenada, Mexico. At home, the commanding officers of the Marine base and Balboa Naval Hospital were invited to become guest members. El Cajon formed its own Lions club. The Host Club had become celebrated enough to warrant one local broadcasting company

requesting the rights to air each weekly meeting. For reasons that aren't spelled out, the Club decided to decline.

The United States, frightened by the specter of communism, turned its energies to containment, through the Truman Doctrine. At the same time, the Marshall Plan was adopted — to aid the war-ravaged countries of Europe.

In 1948, County Supervisor Frank Gibson took the gavel. Under the able leadership of Tony Moran, fund-raising efforts for the Blind Recreation Center



Ruel Liggett, charter member, produced the witty and eloquent 25th Anniversary book for the San Diego Lions.



In 1947, a youngster plays Tailtwister, wielding the cornpopper, while President Carl Williams obliges with a donation. Williams was later instrumental in helping raise funds for the Boys & Girls Aid Society's new home at Cottonwood.



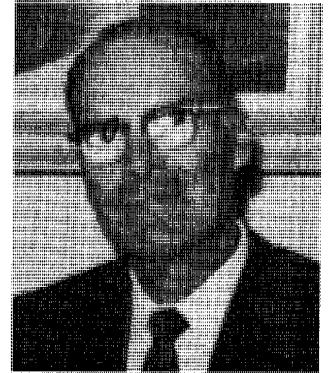
took off with the sale of Blind Seals, netting more than \$7,000 for the project. The Host Club negotiated a 15-year lease (with the option to renew for another 15 years) with the City of San Diego for a site at the southeast corner of Upas and Indiana streets in Balboa Park. The cost for building was estimated at \$20,000. On October 31, Lions International President Eugene Briggs turned the first shovel of dirt — and the Blind Recreation Center was on the way to becoming a reality.

Before he passed away in May, Lion Charles Holliday, the genius fund-raiser behind the phenomenal War Bond Drive, spearheaded one more successful campaign. He led the membership to raise more than \$19,000 for the Community Chest Drive. Distribution of the Braille Writer continued, and the membership also donated 1,000 bicycle safety signals to the Junior Traffic Control.

Back at the Club, Lions were experiencing some problems with support staff. A new male executive secretary was hired and he turned out to be an alcoholic who forged checks — shades of the professional membership recruiter of years past! Lion Carl Williams came to the rescue. His personal secretary, Elizabeth Hunter, was hired as executive secretary — and it was a happy relationship that lasted for years.

Newly elected Lions International President Fred Smith, who was appointed by the President of the United States to be part of a committee of 200 in support of the Marshall Plan, visited the San Diego club. And Club members traveled across the border for an installation party at the Tijuana Lions.

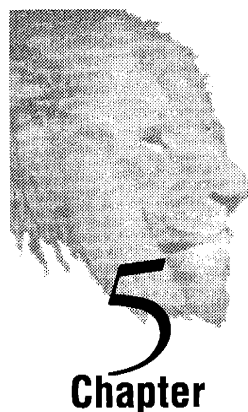
On the international scene, the new nation of Israel was formed, the Communists seized power in Czechoslovakia, and Gandhi was assassinated in New Delhi. In the United States, accused spy Alger Hiss was indicted on perjury charges.



Dr. Anthony Moran was legally blind for 10 years before he recovered his sight. After he did, he poured his energies into raising the funds to create the Blind Recreation Center. His dream was realized in 1949 when the Center was dedicated.



Lions International President Eugene Briggs (holding the shovel) officiated at the October 1948 groundbreaking for the Blind Recreation Center. Fellow Lions (from left, second man) Jess Zwiener, Tony Moran, Perry Metcalf and Frank Gibson join the celebration. The woman in the center is Evonne Erik, the first chairman of the Blind Recreation Center. The man on the far left is unidentified.



The Fifties: Prosperity at Home, A Cold War Abroad

An amendment to the by-laws, bringing the San Diego club's fiscal year into alignment with Lions International, lengthened the term of attorney H. Pitts Mack's presidency to 18 months — from January 1949 to June 1950.

The Sight Conservation Committee continued its aggressive fund-raising efforts, mailing Blind Seals to 100,000 San Diego residents. The drives netted \$14,000. On May 8, 1949, the Blind Recreation Center, which cost a total of \$30,000, was dedicated. Soon after, members of the Host Club met with members of seven other Lions clubs at the Center to observe the activities. The Center incorporated and started offering classes in braille, leather work, weaving and other crafts, as well as dances and other social activities.

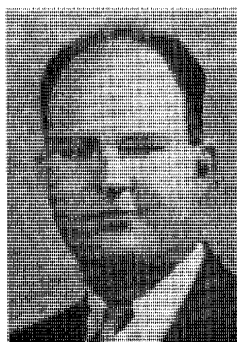
The new Model 6 Braille Writer was produced by IBM, and plans were made to exchange the new machines for the old. The Welfare Foundation mailed a check to IBM for \$11,000 to cover the costs. Contributions to the Boys Club, the Indoor Sports Club, White Cane Week and camperships for blind children continued, as did donations to individuals in need. President Mack was an active member of the Service Clubs Presidents Council, which was advocating a unified yearly charity drive through United Way. The Club endorsed the plan.

Lionism was growing so rapidly both in memberships and clubs, District 4E-1 was divided in two — a north and a south district, with each presided over by its own governor. The San Diego Club, which had long served the entire region through its own office, could no longer sustain the burden and a regional office was created. The *Jungle Breeze*, which had served the region, was henceforth published weekly for the Host Club only.

Lions District 4 held its convention once again in San Diego. And members of the Host Club attended a charter party for the new Lemon Grove Lions. Hard work by the Club attendance committee brought weekly attendance up from an anemic 59 percent to a healthy 80 percent. And there was an ongoing discussion about the status of retired members. The result was a decision that retired membership should not exceed five percent of the total membership.

Meanwhile, in the world at large, NATO was formed, West Germany was created, the Communist People's Republic of China was proclaimed by Mao Tse-tung, and the Korean War started. And here at home, San Diegans saw their first television broadcast.

In June 1950, Robert J. Sullivan took the gavel. Membership had topped 200, and dues were raised from \$40 to \$45. Lunch prices also climbed from \$1.25 to \$1.50. And, at the same time, Lions International alerted the Club that all members — guest and honorary included — must pay entry fees and annual



Bob Sullivan, pictured in 1947, was president of the Club from July 1950 to 1951, and was honored posthumously in 1997 for his more than 50 years of service — and 55 years of perfect attendance — at the downtown Lions.



dues. The amounts were set at \$3 and \$12, respectively.

New Lions clubs were springing up all over the county. An Adams Avenue club was started, sponsored by the East San Diego Lions and the North Park club, and the Host Club investigated the possibility of a new den on Point Loma. In November, the new San Ysidro Lions held its charter night at the Hotel San Diego.

The San Diego Club undertook a new project in 1951 — the first Mike Morrow High School Baseball Tournament. Teams from San Diego and out of town competed, and La Jolla High took the championship. The trophy was presented at a dinner at the Army and Navy YMCA, with members of the Padres on hand for the festivities. That first year the tournament was a break-even proposition for the Host Club, and notes from the time indicate the members' sincere hope other local dens would participate in the future.

The Welfare Foundation sponsored the Clyde Beatty Circus once again and took in more than \$3,700. Donations continued to the Vauclain Home for Men, County Hospital, the Salvation Army, the Boys Club, the Blood Bank, the Community Safety Program and the Home Tutor Program for bedridden children.

And at one memorable meeting, Florence Chadwick, record-breaking swimmer of the English Channel, was the guest of honor.

The headlines that year told of an assassination attempt on President Truman, the U.S. development of the hydrogen bomb, and the \$3 million Brink's robbery in Boston. In March, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were sentenced to death for passing atomic secrets to the Soviets. In San Diego, the population topped 334,000.

George T. Dutton became the Club's thirtieth president in July 1951. The membership totaled 231, induction fees were raised to \$35, and the Club's budget for the year was \$11,725. The spirit of service continued to snowball.

The Welfare Foundation realized a profit in excess of \$4,000 from another successful year of sponsoring the Clyde Beatty Circus. The Club also took over the Barnum & Bailey Circus for three days and — due to generous gifts from the members — made it possible for more than 300 needy children from the Boys Club, the Crippled Children's Home, Neighborhood House, Nazareth Home, Anthony Home and the Salvation Army to see the circus.

The Club mobilized for the Community Chest Drive and obtained \$81,000 in pledges! The Welfare Foundation bought \$10,000 worth of radios with pillow receivers for County Hospital. Thirty-five white canes, equipped with new reflecting tape for night safety, were distributed to the blind. The Boys & Girls Committee underwrote camperships for needy sixth graders and high school



In the early Fifties, the Welfare Foundation bought radios with pillow receivers for the county's hospitals. Here, (from left) Lions Burt Collins, Tony Moran, Wig Fletcher and Jim Hervey assist the Superintendent of La Mesa Hospital (second from right) with the installation.



students. And donations and sponsorships for the Red Cross Blood Bank, the Indoor Sports Club, the Boys Club, the Salvation Army and the Student Speakers Contest continued.

One weekend, members formed a volunteer committee to paint the Blind Recreation Center. The City of San Diego provided the scaffolding, and the Lions did the work — while munching hot dogs, quaffing beer and listening to the World Series.

In April, a special 30th Charter Anniversary celebration was held, honoring the seven charter members still alive and active in the Club. Luther Mack, a charter member of the sponsoring Los Angeles club, was the featured speaker. In Vista and Fletcher Hills, new dens received their charters.

It was the year the Japanese Peace Treaty was finally signed in San Francisco. George VI of England died, and Elizabeth II ascended the throne. And at home, there was a truly world-changing event — color television was introduced.

Willis (Wig) Fletcher took up the gavel in July 1952. The son of San Diego pioneer Ed Fletcher, Wig was a vital community leader of longstanding.

Club membership continued to grow — it was recorded at 244 — and so did

the Club budget, which came in at \$11,900. Fletcher and District Governor Dwight Stanford attended the Lions International Convention in Mexico City, and were inspired to embark on a new project by a speech made by the Secretary of National Defense of the Philippines. As a result of the speech, Lions District 4 decided to raise funds to supply used farm equipment and tools to farmers in the Philippines. On a touching note of irony, Ed Yarborough — who, along with his wife, had been a prisoner in the Philippines during World War II — chaired the fund-raising effort. The district pledged \$5,000, and the Club raised \$1,200.

Inspired by his trip to Mexico, Fletcher decided he and other Lions should learn Spanish. So he organized a class for Lions and their spouses through the San



The San Diego Lions celebrated their 30th anniversary in April 1952. Phinnie Packard cuts the cake, as George Dutton (to his left) watches. On Packard's right are Charles ("Boy") Wincote, Ruel Liggett, H.W. Merkley and Jess Zwiener. In front of the table are (from left) Jacob Weinberger, Harvey Ball and J. Stury. The others are unidentified.

Diego Adult Education Department.

Service continued to grow. Donations were raised for the Blood Bank, the Salvation Army, the Traffic Safety Council, the Enchanted Hills Camp for the Blind, County Hospital, the Indoor Sports Club and the Salvation Army Camp fund.

The Ladies Day Christmas party was a rousing success that year. It was held in the banquet hall of the San Diego Athletic Club, and there were more than 300 in attendance. Lion Nate Baranov — long the Santa of the Lions Club — provided a generous array of gifts for the drawing, including radios, silver service, jewel boxes, pearls and wristwatches.



The annual High School Baseball Tournament was growing year by year, and other local Lions clubs had started to donate manpower and money to the project. In 1953, 24 teams entered, and San Diego High took the trophy — which had been named the Mike Morrow Memorial Trophy in honor of the Lion who had organized and chaired the tourney at the beginning.

In April, tragedy struck charter member and first president Phinnie Packard. Arts & Crafts Press was destroyed by fire. Packard had just received the contract to print the telephone Yellow Pages, and the fire was a devastating blow. But he was so admired in the community, his competitors raced to help out, offering him the use of their facilities at night until he was able to rebuild Arts & Crafts. It's hard to imagine that kind of loving cooperation among business competitors today, but it was a magnificent testament to a man who had contributed so much to his city.

On a lighter note, the *Jungle Breeze* featured a weekly "Korn Popper Kwiz" with questions like, "Give at least four qualifications necessary for naturalization," or "Where were the first English settlements?" The Tailtwister would randomly select a member to answer the question, and if he failed, he had to ante up for the popper.

The programs that year were entertaining, with the Starlight singers performing at one lunch and the Bonham Brothers band at another. Attendance soared — and 99 members received recognition for perfect attendance!

The Club team also took the championship of the County Council Golf Tournament from the Hillcrest team in a play-off.

When Jess Zwiener presented Wig Fletcher with his past president's pin, he said, "This has been one of the greatest years for our club, for never have we had the devotion to any president that Wig has enjoyed."

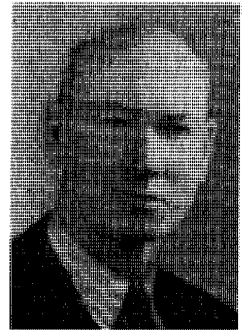
It was also a memorable year for the nation and the world. Dwight D. Eisenhower became President, and Stalin died. Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were executed, and Joseph McCarthy was leading his witch hunt. And halfway across the globe, Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norkay scaled Mount Everest.

William Sample Jr., American Airlines agent for San Diego, became the thirty-second president in July 1953. Membership continued to rise, topping 250. The Club had grown to the point where it was now the eighteenth largest club in Lions International!

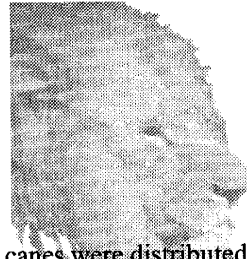
The Mike Morrow High School Baseball Tournament was in its fourth year and continuing to thrive. Twenty-four teams from Southern California and Arizona competed, and nearly 440 people gathered for the trophy banquet. The players were guests of the San Diego Padres for a Pacific Coast League game, and treated to a trip to the zoo. Lions from all over the county — 1,100 strong — gathered to watch the final tournament game, which was followed by a professional game between San Diego and Portland.

The players were housed, without charge, at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot and the tournament costs of approximately \$2,700 were covered by entry fees, Lions club sponsorships and ticket sales to "Lions' Night at the Ball Park."

The Welfare Foundation continued its good works, and sponsored two circuses — the Ringling Brothers in August and the Clyde Beatty the following January. The Club kept up donations to various camperships, County Hospital, the San Diego Big Sister League, the Jobs for Youth Program, the Boys Clubs,



Mike Morrow, the popular San Diego High athletic director, was the inspiration behind the annual baseball tournament that bears his name.



the blind (five dozen white canes were distributed), and the San Diego Hostettes for its monthly dances for Naval Training Center recruits. The board voted to sponsor the Foundation for Political Education for a year — a discussion group that had been of great interest to many of the members the year before.

In June, the new Boy Scout swimming pool at Cuyamaca was dedicated — a facility made possible by pledges totaling \$3,000 from local Lions clubs.

And in the midst of these larger projects, smaller gestures were not forgotten. Club notes indicate the Lions made a gift of an electric train to a young “spastic” boy whose father had deserted the family and sold his train. The spirit of service, great and small, was thriving at the Host Club!

In February, the den hosted the All-Eleventh Naval District Football Team, with their coaches and commanding officers, for a special ceremony. The Breitbard Athletic Foundation presented awards to the all-stars, and a local television station broadcast the event. The Lions themselves were on the receiving end when the Indoor Sports Club presented the den with a beautifully framed award celebrating the Club’s ongoing commitment to Sports Club’s members.

In May, the members chartered a plane, and 21 of them took off for Catalina and the Lions District 4 Convention. And in June, the nation took note of Lions International when the *Christian Science Monitor* wrote a full-page story on the clubs.

On the world front, the Korean armistice was signed, and Moscow announced it had exploded a hydrogen bomb. The U.S. Supreme Court banned segregation in the public schools in the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* case, and the Senate was dominated by the Army-McCarthy hearings. The United States launched the first atomic submarine, *Nautilus*, and the French military outpost at Dien Bien Phu fell to the Vietminh army.

Jerry W. Rudrauff became president in July 1954. Membership grew to 255 and the budget topped \$13,000 for the year. Lions clubs were springing up all over the county — in Del Mar, College Center and Clairemont.

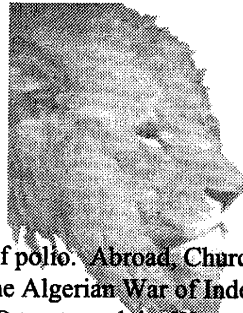
Good works were growing right along with the Club. The Sight Conservation committee sponsored a monthly “Swim for the Blind” at the YWCA. The Club donated \$400 for Christmas gifts for needy patients at County Hospital and the Vauclain Home and took 25 coin-operated radios out of storage, repaired them, and gave them to Children’s Hospital. More than \$500 was given to the San Diego County Youth Baseball Council to assist in building new diamonds for young baseball players.

The Mike Morrow Baseball Tournament entered its fifth year, and the championship was played as the first game of a double header at Lane Field.

Lion John Warlick was appointed by the mayor as chairman of the city’s anti-litter campaign. And Lions created a film library on traffic safety for the San Diego Traffic Council. The Welfare Foundation sponsored the Clyde Beatty Circus once again and took in more than \$6,000.

In January, Lions International Third Vice President Edward Berry was the featured speaker at Lions International Night, held at the House of Hospitality in Balboa Park. Lions from all over the county gathered for the event. And the Host Club was honored as winner of the Division K attendance contest for Lions International 1954-55.

Dr. Jonas Salk captured the headlines when he started inoculating children



against the deadly disease of polio. Abroad, Churchill resigned, West Germany became a sovereign state, the Algerian War of Independence against France started, and both the SEATO treaty and the Warsaw Pact were signed.

Marshall Malone, manager of Western Union in San Diego, took the gavel in July 1955. Membership dropped slightly — from 255 to 250, but the spirit of service was still growing.

In August, the Del Mar Racetrack declared the 22nd as San Diego Lions Day and gave the Club 500 free tickets; the membership chartered a bus. In September, the den invited 15 new teachers at San Diego High to attend a meeting and get better acquainted with the community. The next month, White Cane Day was celebrated statewide. The Lions sold small white cane pins on the street and donated the proceeds to the Blind Recreation Center.

The Citizenship Committee purchased 200 antiqued copies of the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States and donated 100 of them to city schools. The others were sold to the membership for \$1 each. The project proved so popular, the Club purchased copies for all public and private schools in the county.

The new Girls Club of San Diego was trying to raise funds to build a clubhouse, and the Host Club contributed to the effort, while also keeping up contributions to the Indoor Sports Club, the Salvation Army, the Mike Morrow Baseball Tournament, the Junior Golf Tournament and needy camperships. San Diego High School's championship football team was also on the receiving end of Lion largesse when the Club helped them purchase football jackets. And 500 needy kids were treated to a day of entertainment when the Welfare Foundation once again sponsored the Clyde Beatty Circus.

The den was instrumental in raising more than \$35,000 to send the Bonham Brothers Boys Band to Mexico City and to the Lions International convention in Miami. Band director Jules Jacques, a member of the Host Club, came home with third place honors. And the Club captured fourth place in the international attendance contest.

In the South, a young Martin Luther King Jr. led a boycott of the Montgomery, Alabama, bus system. The military was finally desegregated. Nikita Khrushchev came to power in the Soviet Union and denounced Stalin. And in Bikini Atoll, the first aerial hydrogen bomb was tested.

In 1956, David Thompson was sworn in as president. It was the Club's thirty-fifth anniversary, and the members celebrated in September at a formal dinner-dance at the El Cortez where Club organizer and first president Phinnie Packard was honored with a diamond tie bar and cufflinks.

Packard had first envisioned a club where the members could work hard and play hard — and his vision survived and thrived. Lions and their wives were treated to an afternoon at the races by the Del Mar Turf Club and one race was designated the "San Diego Lions Handicap." The winner was crowned by Thompson. The Club sponsored the San Diego County Lions Golf Tournament at Flying Hills, but, alas, the Fletcher Hills club took the trophy. But Lion Lynn McLean fared better at the annual President's Cup Golf tourney where he won the playoff.

The Club spread its service wings and enthusiastically endorsed a new YMCA program for youngsters. The Y organized junior high school boys clubs to assist in the transition to high school. The members of these clubs were



selected by the principal and coach and had to maintain a high scholastic average. The Lions anted up the \$500 — as well as personal participation in various activities — for the Memorial Junior High Club. In the years to come, the den would sponsor two more.

The Chamber of Commerce Armed Services Committee also beseeched the Lions for help with a new program to reward outstanding Marines. Ten were selected to receive a free weekend at the El Cortez Hotel, courtesy of the Hotel Association, and the Lions, along with other service clubs, provided the activities and entertainment.

The Welfare Foundation made an interest-free \$2,000 loan to the Sheltered Workshops for the purchase of special equipment for the disabled workers. And there were smaller gestures, as well. The Club bought a prosthetic limb for one woman. This relatively inexpensive gift — \$135 — enabled her to get out of her wheelchair and off the welfare rolls. The den donated a television to Hillcrest Receiving Home, and County Hospital was once again the recipient of \$500 from the Lions for Christmas gifts for needy patients. And one man, both blind and deaf, was gifted with a hearing aid.

The Club joined with other district Lions to send the Bonham Brothers Boys Band to the International Lions convention parade in San Francisco.

Membership declined to 244 in December, but was back up to 258 by June. But the cost of dinners at the San Diego Athletic Club was rising, too, from \$2.50 to \$3.50, and luncheons were up to \$1.75. The district designation was changed by Lions International from 4-E to 4-L-4.

On the world front, Egypt took control of the Suez Canal, and the anti-Communist revolt in Hungary was crushed by Soviet tanks. And in San Diego, the University of California proposed building a campus in La Jolla.

In 1957, Geerd Von Hegerhorst became the Club's 36th president, and membership was at 254. International Lions suggested the den sponsor a breakfast Lions Club in downtown San Diego, and the Host Club enthusiastically agreed. The new club, called the Silvergate Lions, claimed 16 charter members and met at 7:30 a.m. every Wednesday at the U.S. Grant. They received their charter in March 1958.

In October, the Host Club decided to buyout three performances of "The Rivalry" at the Russ Auditorium, netting a profit of more than \$3,000. The annual Christmas party was held at the U.S. Grant, and an incredible array of gifts was provided by Lion Nate Baranov. Sadly, he had to tell fellow Lions that this was the last year he could provide the gifts.

The Board of Trustees of the Welfare Foundation established a \$2,000 student loan fund for small loans, and advanced \$500 to San Diego State. To keep the Welfare Foundation amply funded, members raised \$1,500 for its coffers. For the second year in a row, the Club sponsored the Memorial Junior High Club to the tune of \$500. And the Lions agreed to fund the Scout Craft Center at the proposed new Boy Scout camp near Warner's Ranch. The project cost \$6,000 and was paid out at \$2,000 a year for three years.

A small 8-year-old boy at the Sunshine School received a new wheelchair courtesy of the Club. And County Hospital and the blind continued to benefit from the Lions' generosity.

The 8th annual Baseball Tournament was cancelled for the first time because of rain. But the days were bright when District 4 Lions converged on San Diego



for their annual convention. The Club hosted the Governor's Dinner-Dance, and 1,200 attended.

The world was changing rapidly. The Russians launched sputnik, the first earth-orbiting satellite, and the Space Age was born. A new era in race relations began when President Eisenhower ordered federal troops to Little Rock, Arkansas, to protect black students at Central High School. And the first Atlas missile built in San Diego was successfully test-fired.

In 1958, attorney Charles D. Holliday took the gavel, and membership was a healthy 264. The Club continued to concentrate on its charitable works, working on a budget of \$13,300.

San Diego had formed a sister-city relationship with Yokohama, Japan, and two of the Japanese representatives who attended the ceremonies here were Lions. They brought mementos to the Club, including a Lions pennant from Yokohama. Embarrassed that they had no pennants to present the Japanese Lions, the members immediately ordered 36. The Club did present its Japanese counterparts with two Braille Writers to be used in Yokohama.

The Welfare Foundation decided to experiment with buying out the Old Globe Theatre for one night for each production of its season. The experiment was only partially successful — the Club had trouble selling out the house for each of the productions. So a new tack was taken, and the Club decided to sell individual tickets to the shows. The result was more satisfying, and enriched the Foundation's coffers by \$2,554.

The Lions' good works continued, and the list of community beneficiaries kept growing. They included the Blind Recreation Center, the Boys Club, the Indoor Sports Club, Junior Achievement, the Mike Morrow Baseball Tournament, Parents of Blind and Partially Blind Children, the San Diego High School Citizenship Award, the Student Loan Fund, the Student Speakers Contest and the YMCA Junior High Boys Club.

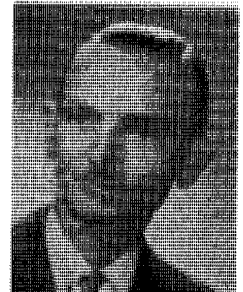
But among these institutional gifts, individuals were never forgotten. Two San Diego State men who had been past winners in the Lions' Students Speakers Contest were now on the college debate team. They were \$65 short of the money they needed to fly to an inter-collegiate debate in Hawaii. The den came up with the money, and the men won.

These gestures, both large and small, that make a difference in people's lives, show the true spirit of Lionism!

District 4-L-4 once again held its convention in San Diego, and the Club's own David Thompson was elected District Governor for 1959-60. The attendance committee did a particularly outstanding job this year, and attendance was at a remarkable 82 percent. Unfortunately, membership did not fare as well, and by the end of the year, the Club had lost a net total of 20 members.

In France, Charles de Gaulle came to power, and in Cuba, a young revolutionary named Fidel Castro unseated ruling dictator Juan Batista. In the United States, the Saint Lawrence Seaway opened, and ocean ships could now reach the Midwest. And, in San Diego, the city council approved a zoning change that would spell the end of the verdant greenbelt known as Mission Valley.

Colin Stillwagen took the gavel in July 1959, for what was to prove a fateful year. Club membership was projected to be a healthy 275, but reality proved the



Colin ("Cas") Stillwagen became president in July 1959 and later spearheaded the fund-raising efforts for the Boys & Girls Aid Society.



projections overly optimistic. The reasons for the decline were several — but basically they came down to location, location, location.

The San Diego Athletic Club was purportedly going out of business, and the Lions were forced to look elsewhere. After checking out several possibilities, Stillwagen settled on the El Cortez. It proved to be the wrong decision.

The El Cortez promised office space for \$50 a month, and room for board and committee meetings. But the office was in disarray, and the secretary quit. The office space needed new furniture, and the Welfare Foundation was unhappy with the choice of file cabinets — a choice which required changing all the file folders. And there was more. The general membership dubbed the climb up to the El Cortez “Cardiac Hill.” Attendance collapsed, and the membership dropped to 222 — down 42 members in two years.

That wasn’t all. With the reduction in revenue and the unbudgeted cost of furniture and equipment, the Club’s checking account went into the red. It was necessary to borrow \$3,000 from the Welfare Foundation to close out the year.

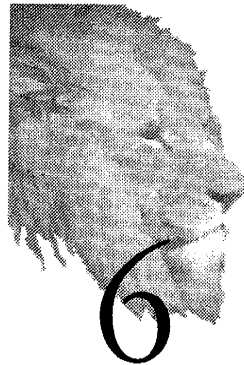
But there were bright moments. And even with a lean budget, the Lions’ generosity grew. The Club donated \$2,300 to the Indoor Sports Club for a new patio to its clubhouse. Camperships for blind and handicapped students were not forgotten. And one young woman was helped to finish her college education by gifts from the Welfare Foundation and individual members. What the members couldn’t raise, they solicited from outside sources. The Memorial Junior High Boys Club wasn’t forgotten, and neither were County Hospital and the Salvation Army Christmas Fund.

And, heralding a new social era, for the first time in the Club’s history, there was a contribution to Project Nalline, a drug abuse program.

The Welfare Foundation promoted “The Gay Fifties,” a play at the Russ Auditorium, and grossed \$7,846. After expenses of \$5,605, the Foundation netted a profit of \$2,241.

And, largely due to the efforts of the Club, the City of San Diego won the “Top Big City Award” for improvements to its traffic courts.

In international events, it was an eventful year. An American U-2 spy plane, piloted by Francis Gary Powers, was shot down over the Soviet Union, and Khrushchev cancelled the Paris Summit conference because of the incident. Powers was tried and sentenced to 10 years in prison (though he was freed two years later in a spy exchange). Nazi murderer Adolf Eichmann was captured by the Israelis. Communist China and the Soviet Union split over ideological conflicts. And in Cuba, the new Communist government started seizing U.S. assets.



Chapter

The Sixties: The Times They Are a Changin’

Raymond Hummell took the office of president in July 1960, and the overriding topic was membership. How to stop the hemorrhaging that reached such startling proportions when the Club moved to “Cardiac Hill”? Discussions centered on involving the members in more committee work, increasing the number of social activities and cajoling “borderline” attendees to get to meetings, rather than cancelling their memberships. But the problem of location remained. Morale was low and so was the membership.

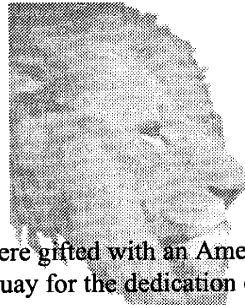
The turnaround started in November, when the Club sent a formal request to the San Diego Athletic Club to move the meetings back to its old haunt. Apparently, the rumors of the Athletic Club’s demise were exaggerated, and the San Diego Lions were delighted. A Clubwide vote in December was resoundingly affirmative, and the move was made.

Still struggling with low membership and lean budgets, the den continued its charitable efforts. The Welfare Foundation advanced the London Lions \$4,500 to tool the new Banks Braille Writers and underwrote the \$2,000 salary for an instructor for retarded children at the Child Development Center in Mission Valley. The Indoor Sports Club received \$1,500 to regrade and pave its parking lot. The high school boys at Rancho del Campo correctional facility were able to play football after the Club and the Foundation paid \$560 for liability insurance. The National Society for the Prevention of Blindness was given \$500 to train volunteers to give eye exams to pre-school children. And \$1,000 went to purchase a portrait of Archie Moore to hang in the Hall of Champions.

The Y Club at Memorial Junior High was funded, the County Hospital and Salvation Army Christmas funds were remembered, and the Club helped one young lady attend the national Camp Fire Girls Convention in New York. Five students were given a financial boost to help pay their way to Japan for the Youth Exchange program. Care’s Operation Friendship received \$200, and the drug project film “To Live Again” was underwritten by the Foundation. And one youngster, a victim of cancer of the tibia, was gifted with an artificial limb through the generosity of the Lions and the Lionesses.

The Club took over the Old Globe for two nights to raise funds — the plays were *The Mousetrap* and *Picnic* — and netted about \$1,500. One-hundred-fifty Lions and their significant others attended Lions Day at the Races, and the Welfare Foundation’s coffers were enriched by \$825.

More than 500 high school boys competed in the Mike Morrow Baseball Tournament, and hopes were high that the annual competition would continue to grow. In memory of Lion Ernie Davis, the Club purchased a large, permanent golf trophy and small replicas to be given to individual winners of the annual tourneys.



The new Poway Lions were gifted with an American flag, and members trekked out to Camp Mataguay for the dedication of the new Scout Craft Center, funded by the Club. A joint meeting with the Rotary Club and the San Diego Council of the Navy League was addressed by Admiral Arleigh Burke, USN. Twenty officers from the Anti-submarine Warfare School were guests at one lunch meeting.

Dues went up \$10 to \$55 a year, and each member was encouraged to contribute \$12 a year — through the Club's Buck a Month program — to the Welfare Foundation. With the move back to the Athletic Club, spirits were rising and the membership stayed steady.

It was an eventful year nationally and internationally. At his inauguration, a young President John F. Kennedy spoke eloquently of the torch being passed to a new generation. And he could have been reciting the goals of Lionism when he said, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." In April, the Soviet Union launched cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin into space, and the United States launched the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion. And in May, Alan Shepherd became the first American in space.

In July 1961, the torch was passed to a new generation at the San Diego Lions Club, as well. Charter President Phinnie Packard watched with pride as his son, Lee, took the gavel on July 1. A scant 20 days later, Phinnie Packard died. The Club mourned his loss and contributed more than \$800 to the Welfare Foundation in his name.

In September, six sons and daughters of Lions gave the Club a report on their six weeks in Japan, partially funded by the membership. That same month, the annual fall dinner dance was held at the La Jolla Country Club, and the cost per person, including cocktails, was a mere \$6.50. How times have changed!

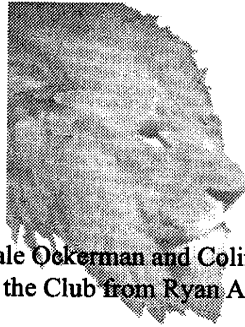
The spirit of service continued to grow. The Welfare Foundation decided once again to underwrite the \$2,000 teacher's salary at the Child Development Center and continued the \$560 liability insurance for the students at Rancho del Campo. The Blind Recreation Center received \$500, as did the Y Club at Memorial Junior High.

Needy boys were able to go to camp through the generosity of the Boys & Girls Committee. And one man was able to start supporting his family because the Lions Club outfitted him with the arm braces he needed to be able to run his own phone answering service. The Sight Conservation Committee made sure those who couldn't afford them got glasses, and County Hospital's Christmas Fund was not forgotten. And, of course, the year wouldn't be complete without the annual boat ride for the disabled.

Fund-raising efforts included a raffle, White Cane Days, and a presentation of the Broadway play *The Best Man*.

The Club celebrated its 40th anniversary in April and Lions International President Per Stahl was the guest of honor. Four charter members were there to celebrate as well: Ruel Liggett, Julius Sturz, Jacob Weinberger and Jess Zwiener.

More than 350 people attended a testimonial lunch for Lion Bert Strand, who had recently retired as Sheriff of San Diego County. And in April, the club hosted 15 senior foreign officers of the Anti-Submarine Warfare School. It was a memorable meeting, not only because of guest speaker Dr. William Rust of Cal Western University, but also because Lions and Ryan employees Bill



Wagner, Bill Brotherton, Dale Ockerman and Colin Stillwagen presented a whopping \$30,000 check to the Club from Ryan Aeronautical for the Tri-Hospital Building fund.

Attendance climbed, and it was a great year for visitations: Uptown, Oceanside, Peninsula, College Center, Bostonia, Silvergate and Palm Springs were all on the itinerary.

And the Club won the Eric Davis Memorial Trophy at the District 4-L-4 convention golf tourney.

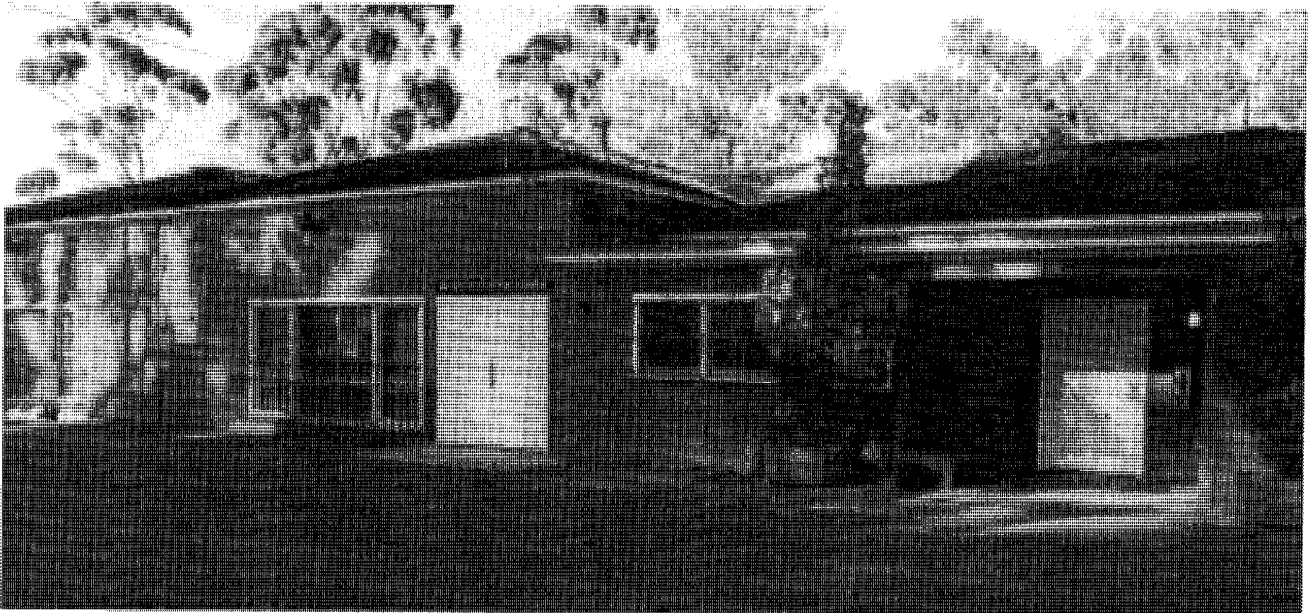
It was a memorable year worldwide. In July, Virgil (Gus) Grissom became the second American in space, and in August, the East Germans erected the Berlin Wall. In February, John Glenn became the first American to orbit Earth. The Cold War was icier than ever, and the space race was heating up. And San Diego welcomed the Chargers to town.

H. Ed Yarborough became the Club's 41st president in July 1962. His sharp wit kept the meetings lively and the members entertained. Membership was climbing once again, and so was the spirit of service.

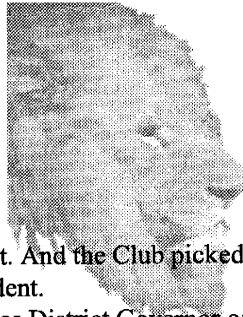
This was the year the Club decided to sponsor the Lions Eye Bank and pledged \$7,900 to the bank to purchase a photocoagulator. Another \$3,000 was raised for the Blind Recreation Center Building Fund. The Foundation once again picked up the \$2,000 tab for a teacher for retarded children as well as the liability insurance at Rancho del Campo.

The Y Club at Memorial Junior High continued to receive the financial blessings of the Foundation, as did Big Brothers and the County Hospital Christmas fund. The boat ride for the members of the Indoor Sports Club celebrated its 20th year, and Japanese exchange students were handsomely entertained on their visit to San Diego.

One young woman, a cancer victim, was gifted with a blender by the Club to



The Blind Recreation Center in Balboa Park was built in 1949 because of the dedication of Dr. Anthony Moran and the San Diego Lions, who raised the funds to make it a reality. Today, the Club is raising money for a complete renovation of the facility.



help with her restrictive diet. And the Club picked up all medical bills for a young Cuban exchange student.

Lion Bill Sample served as District Governor of District 4, and Geerd Von Hegerhorst was Deputy District Governor. The District Convention was held in Brawley, and 37 San Diego Lions attended.

Lion Howard (Red) Yeager, Vice Admiral USN, was honored at a testimonial lunch given by the Club, the San Diego Council of the Navy League and the San Diego Chamber of Commerce. Yeager, who was Commanding Officer of the Amphibious Force of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, was a member of the San Diego Lions for only a year before he was transferred to the Great Lakes as Commandant of the 9th Naval District. Before he left, Yeager — who had a soft spot in his heart for all Lions because his hometown club had helped raise the scholarship that enabled him to accept an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy — gave the Club a brass Navy bell that was used to clang the meeting to order every week. A scant four years later, Yeager was killed in a fire while trying to save his invalid wife, Jean. The bell has served as a memorial to Yeager ever since.

Longtime Lion Les Gould passed away, but not before he received the Grand Master Key for sponsoring 63 members into the Club.

It was the first year the Club hosted a Father & Son Banquet. And Rotary beat the Host Club in golf once again. Not surprising, according to Wig Fletcher, because “older men have more time to practice.”

It was an eventful year for San Diego with the opening of the prestigious Salk Institute on Torrey Pines Mesa and the founding here of the world-wide health organization Project Concern. And the world held its breath as Khrushchev and Kennedy went eyeball to eyeball over the Cuban Missile Crisis.

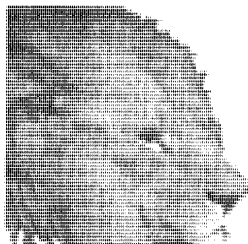
As A. Claude Woods took the gavel in July 1963, Club membership had grown to a healthy 248. It was to prove a landmark year for the Club in more ways than membership. On November 4, the Lions Sight Preservation Clinic — now known as the Lions Optometric Vision Clinic — opened its doors for the first time.

Under the direction of Dr. Robert Lewis, the Sight Conservation Committee had been working on this expansion to the Blind Recreation Center facilities for more than a year. Staffed by San Diego optometrists who donated their time, the clinic provided — and continues to provide to this day — free eye exams and glasses to those who aren't able to afford them. It is a beautiful example of Lionism in action.

More than 200 people enjoyed the annual boat ride for the Indoor Sports Club. And one blind man whose possessions were destroyed by fire was helped back on his feet by donations from the den.

In August, the Lions finally beat the Rotarians in golf — 39 to 33! And that same month, Walter Zitlau, then vice president of San Diego Gas & Electric Company, outlined for Club members the new plans for a nuclear reactor at San Onofre. Sea World was near to opening its doors in San Diego — and the Lions had a hand in it. Ten firms owned by San Diego Lions produced the majority of the materials used in the construction of the huge marine park.

And in October, the four charter members still living — Ruel Liggett, Julius Sturz, Jacob Weinberger and Jess Zwiener — were honored at a very special meeting.



It was a year Americans will never forget. On November 22, President John F. Kennedy was gunned down in Dallas. A new era of American politics had begun. And the world would never be quite the same again.

In July 1964, John Leppert took the gavel and oversaw the Club's move back to the U.S. Grant Hotel after a 26-year absence. The move must have agreed with the membership because attendance soared to an average 85 percent per meeting! And 29 new members were inducted during the year.

The Welfare Foundation established itself as a separate charitable trust, and the spirit of giving was on the rise. An average of 20 Braille Writers a month were shipped to the needy blind all over the world. Underprivileged boys and girls were given camperships and swimming lessons, the Club pledged \$300 toward the salary of an instructor at the tuberculosis ward at County Hospital, and the Salvation Army and County Hospital Christmas funds were generously remembered. The U.S. Navy's Project Handclasp was the beneficiary of the Lions' largesse, as was the California-Nevada Disaster Fund, the Phil Swing Memorial Fund, the Tijuana Boys Club Home and the Mission Lions Charity Project for Mexico.

Nine new teachers were hosted by the Club at one lunch meeting, and at another, Francoise Gilot — former companion of Pablo Picasso, recent bride to Jonas Salk and an artist in her own right — was the featured speaker. Jack Noble spoke on the subject of Mission Bay and stated that without the Lions — and specifically Lion Les Earnest who was so instrumental in its planning — there would be no Mission Bay in San Diego.

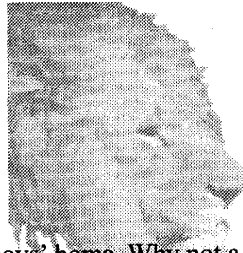
The Club sponsored the new Rancho Bernardo Lions den and celebrated the 27th birthday of the Lionesses. And during the same year, the Host Club prepared its successful bid to bring the District 4 Convention to San Diego.

With more than two-thirds of the Lions roaring "yea," the Club embarked on a solid partnership with the Boys & Girls Aid Society in its plans for a new facility in a new location. Facing the condemnation of its existing facilities, the Society had mounted a fund-raising effort. But it had fallen woefully short, and the Lions came to the rescue. It was a partnership that was to produce another stellar example of Lionism in action. A new live-in complex in Sweetwater Valley that would come to be known as Cottonwood Center would grow to accommodate more than 50 troubled teenagers and help them work their way back to happy and productive lives. It was another instance where action was deemed more important than publicity — a hallmark of the Host Club in all its charitable endeavors.

It was a momentous decision and one that entailed an amendment to the Declaration of Trust of the Welfare Foundation. Heretofore, the Foundation had adopted as its



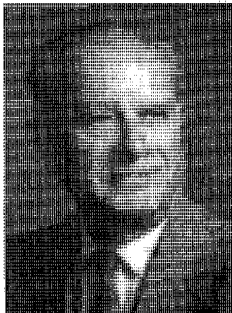
In 1965, the San Diego Lions embarked on a massive fund-raising effort on behalf of the Boys & Girls Aid Society and embarked on a long-term partnership with the organization. The result was the construction of the Cottonwood Center for troubled youth in East County. Today, the Center is a full psychiatric facility for children and teenagers.



primary goal building of a boys' home. Why not a home that would help both boys and girls? More than the required two-thirds of the membership voted to amend the trust and in the spring, the Boys & Girls Aid Society amended its articles of incorporation to grant the downtown Lions a majority on its board. They would never be sorry.

It was an eventful year for all Americans. Lyndon B. Johnson was the President of the United States. The Civil Rights Movement was gaining steam. The Warren Commission decided that Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone in assassinating President Kennedy. Halfway across the globe, Americans were becoming embroiled in what would turn into the most divisive foreign war in the history of the republic. And in San Diego, the University of California opened its 1,000-acre campus to its first class of undergraduates.

In July 1965, Les Earnest took the gavel in what was to be one of the most important years of the Club's life. Fund-raising for the Boys & Girls Aid Society took off. The Welfare Foundation pledged \$50,000 and the 240 downtown Lions, led by Colin Stillwagen and Carl Williams, rallied the community and raised another \$120,000. A benefit pre-season football game between the San Diego Chargers and the Oakland Raiders raised a record \$23,446. The Society would have its new home! It was truly a remarkable feat.



Les Earnest served as president in 1965, the year the Club raised the money to build Cottonwood Academy. Earnest achieved Pioneer status in 1991, and in 1997, he was honored for more than 50 years of outstanding service to the downtown Lions Club.

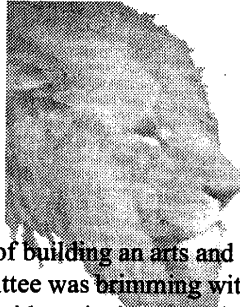
Wig Fletcher located, and with Stillwagen's help, purchased a 27-acre site in Sweetwater Valley for the center for \$50,000. At the dedication, the Society's program noted: "The crisis that prevailed might have been fatal to the society, but for a meeting between the society and the Welfare Foundation of the Lions Club of San Diego." The Lions had made possible the only live-in facility for troubled teens in the county. A rambling complex comprising five cheerful cottages, an administration building, a dispensary, a central dining hall and classrooms, Cottonwood offered hope to kids who had no where else to turn. And the downtown Lions had made it possible.

For most clubs, it would have been enough for one year. But not for the downtown Lions. They continued to generously support the Y Clubs at Memorial and Dana Junior High Schools, the Big Brothers, the Mental Health Association, the Red Cross, the County Hospital Christmas fund, the Boys Clubs, and, of course, the Sight Preservation Clinic.

A young attorney named Pete Wilson addressed the Club on the topic of "One Man, One Vote." And 17 Miss America contestants were the special guests at one luncheon. Though no figures have been found, it's a likely guess that attendance was high that day!

In the nation, headlines trumpeted a new social program called Medicare. Blacks rioted in Watts, and a massive power outage crippled the Northeast. And in a Houston hospital, Michael de Bakey implanted the first artificial human heart.

In July 1966, Richard Mitchell became president of the Club. Only weeks later, the Boys & Girls Aid Society moved into its new home. The Club and the Welfare Foundation continued to dote on this new project. The television reception at Cottonwood was corrected by a donation from the Tailtwister fund, and the Foundation made sure new concrete paths were laid, appropriate signage was placed and a social worker hired. Las Patronas, a local charitable organization, earmarked \$7,500 for a new pool. And the Lions launched a study



to determine the feasibility of building an arts and crafts center at Cottonwood.

The Boys & Girls Committee was brimming with plans for the teens at Cottonwood, including boat rides, picnics, zoo trips, ballgames and community service. And all Lions were urged to get involved with the Boys & Girls Aid Society.

In January 1967, the District Convention brought more than 5,000 Lions to San Diego. Sadly, the club lost charter member Ruel Liggett.

The Club and the Foundation continued to support two junior high Y clubs, as well the Sight Preservation Clinic, the Youth Exchange program and the Phil Swing Fund. The annual boat ride for the handicapped was not forsaken, and \$200 was sent to the Tijuana Lions Club to help that city's fire victims. County Hospital was taken over by UCSD, so the \$250 that annually went to its Christmas fund was given, instead, to the Boys & Girls Aid Society for Christmas gifts. And needy local college students were helped by a donation to Dollars for Scholars.

In April, the Club celebrated its 45th anniversary — in conjunction with Lions International's 50th Golden Anniversary — at the Charter Night Dinner. More than 400 Lions attended. The next month, Club member David Thompson was nominated to run for the office of International Director at the District 4-L-6 convention in Oceanside.

At their monthly meetings, downtown Lions were entertained and informed on a wide variety of topics — from "Why ZIP Codes?" to "The Fighting Man in Vietnam." More and more programs were focused on the escalating conflict in Southeast Asia. But there were lighter moments, too. Sixteen Mrs. America contestants — following on the heels of the previous year's Miss Americas — were honored guests at one lunch. Needless to say, the *Breeze* was full of politically incorrect verbiage on that occasion!

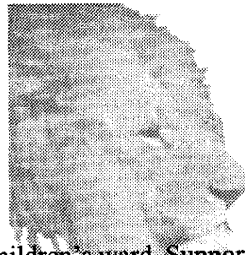
And in June, the Lions were given a personal tour of San Diego's new \$27 million stadium in Mission Valley.

Americans were shocked when three astronauts — Gus Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chaffee — were killed when their Apollo space capsule caught fire during a simulated launch. Israel and the Arabs went to war, and six days later, Israel emerged the victor. And Red China exploded its first hydrogen bomb.

The Vietnam War was escalating as Robert McCuen took the gavel in July, 1967, and the Club found itself increasingly involved in the conflict. One of the first charitable efforts of the year was a joint project between the Host Club and the Midway Lions to supply tuberculosis pills for the Hrey Tribesmen in the Quang Ngai province, where the disease afflicted one of every three people. It was also the year "Operation Welcome" took off, a citywide service club effort, that brought Club members down to the docks to welcome home returning servicemen.

Cottonwood also claimed the Lions' attention, both financially and personally. A Lionshare program was initiated, where members went to the Academy to speak to the kids about their professions. Plans for a new recreation building and carport continued, with the Welfare Foundation voting to loan the Boys & Girls Aid Society \$60,000 to underwrite the expenses. Lion Colin Stillwagen donated \$3,000 personally.

The Y Clubs at Memorial and Roosevelt Junior High Schools were provided for again, and University Hospital received \$100 toward a new jungle gym for



the emotionally disturbed children's ward. Support for the Sight Preservation Clinic continued, as did grants to individuals who needed help. One young blind student received \$200 to help defray his college expenses, another was given a tape recorder, a third received braille lessons, and a blind Scout was gifted with a braille handbook, all thanks to the Host Club.

Needy kids were sent to camp, Project Concern was remembered, and so was CARE. The Logan Heights Boys Club received \$100, and the students at Cottonwood were treated to the USO/Bob Hope Show. The annual boat ride for the handicapped was a big success, and the Mike Morrow Baseball Tournament celebrated its 18th year.

A benefit hockey game raised about \$500 for the club, and a night at the Old Globe — the play was *Barefoot in the Park* — brought in more than \$600. The sale of the Merkley Mortuary, a bequest from charter member H.W. Merkley, eventually yielded nearly \$200,000 for the Welfare Foundation.

The Rancho Bernardo Lions club composed and published a song celebrating the Lions. The Host Club purchased 50 records and put them up for sale at Thearle's Music, with the proceeds aimed, of course, for charity.

A joint meeting with the Kiwanis was billed as a "Love In," and the new members' party had a psychedelic theme — a sure sign of the times. And in October, the meeting was cancelled because the World Series was being telecast in color for the very first time.

The *Jungle Breeze* published a poignant piece on the Sight Preservation Clinic, detailing just what it meant to the people treated there. "Doctor Bob Lewis tells with much emotion about one little girl seven years old that he fitted with her first pair of glasses and for the first time in her life she was able to see the world. She had never seen birds before, had never really seen what her mother's face looked like. Prior to that time everything was blurred."

For America, it was a critical year. Detroit erupted into racial violence. Thurgood Marshall was sworn in as the first African-American Supreme Court Justice. North Korea seized the *USS Pueblo* and held 83 American sailors hostage. Lyndon Johnson announced he would not seek a second term, and only days later Martin Luther King was assassinated in Memphis. Two months later, Bobby Kennedy was felled in Los Angeles by a bullet fired by Sirhan Sirhan. It was a year no one will forget.

Just weeks before the Chicago police turned their nightsticks on the demonstrators outside the Democratic National Convention, Glenn Zick took the office of president of the San Diego Lions Club. Operation Welcome continued, with the Lions in charge of meeting returning troopships during October and May.

A joint meeting of the Lions, Kiwanis and Rotary clubs kicked off the United Community Services campaign. The *Breeze* noted, "A local singing? group, The Union Gap, started off the campaign with a check for \$1,000." The question mark was the editor's. Later, that same group would enjoy national fame as Gary Puckett and the Union Gap.

The Tailtwister had a field day when Miss World contestants visited the Club. The *Breeze* wrote, "The Lions gaggled to their hearts content and acting Tailtwister Leppert collected a record amount of fines in record time."

The Lions continued their dedication to Cottonwood. The new Craft-Hobby Recreational Center was completed, and the Welfare Foundation made sure new



draperies and furniture were in place. A grant from the Sears Foundation provided machinery for the new woodshop.

The Sight Preservation Clinic was remodeled and the new quarters were dedicated. Lion Nick Nicholls built shelves for the craft supplies at the Blind Recreation Center. The Indoor Sports Club was given an enthusiastic reply when it requested the Lions provide an advisory committee to aid the Sports Club's board of directors.

The Sight Conservation Committee and Education Committee put in more than 400 manhours of work helping set up a NASA-sponsored educational exhibit for the blind at the Aerospace Museum. During its six-week stay in San Diego, the exhibit drew more than 400 blind people and 150 sighted people.

The Lions unsuccessfully petitioned the San Diego Transit Authority to issue free bus passes to the blind. Undaunted, they lobbied local business to find employment opportunities for the blind.

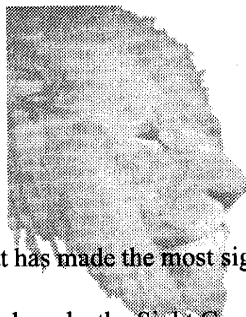
The Mount Miguel Marching Band made it to the Rose Parade because of the Boys & Girls Committee. And once again, the Welfare Foundation supported two junior high school Y clubs. The Neighborhood Beautification project was given a helping hand, as was the Mayor's Council for Youth Opportunity. Needy youngsters went to camp, Project Concern in Tijuana was able to provide eyeglasses for the poor, and the Serra Mesa Bobby Sox League was sponsored for a year. A controversial project called The In Betweens received a grant from the Lions — after much discussion — to hire a seminary student. Located in Ocean Beach, the In Betweens was dedicated to helping kids relate to “the establishment.”

The changing times were reflected in the Lions programs, where mail-order guns and “The Revolting Student” were two of the pressing topics. To observe the anniversary of Martin Luther King's assassination, the Club hosted John Johnson of the Urban League who discussed race relations — and tensions — in San Diego. On a personal note, the relationship between exercise and heart disease was explored in one informative talk.

In a national article on “The Movers and Shakers of the Community,” author Theodore Landphair noted that Lions were the world's largest service organization, with 870,000 members. He went on to say, “Rotary, the saying goes, owns the town, Kiwanis runs it, and Lions enjoy it.” The San Diego Lions certainly knew how to enjoy the town, but they also went out of their way to make sure others had that opportunity, too.

While the Lions worked to make life a little easier for others, Czechoslovakia was invaded by the Soviet Union, and Richard Nixon was elected the 37th President of the United States. San Diego celebrated its 200th birthday, and was jubilant when the minor-league Padres became a National League expansion team. The Coronado Bay Bridge opened to traffic. The ferries across the bay were gone, and it was the end of an era.

Just weeks after Emil Bob Scharff took office as president of the San Diego Lions, Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. As Americans turned their eyes heavenward, the Lions cheered but kept theirs fixed on those who couldn't look up. The Sight Preservation Clinic had doubled its patient load during the year and the Lions rose to the challenge with double the funding. The Club was recognized when the Clinic received the Paul Yarwood Memorial Award — the highest honor bestowed by the California Optometric Association — which



goes to the organization that has made the most significant contribution to vision care in the state.

Not content to sit on their laurels, the Sight Conservation Committee drew up plans to create the first Braille Trail in San Diego, with hopes that it could be located in Balboa Park.

The Welfare Foundation donated \$1,000 toward the capital drive of the San Diego County Association of Retarded Children, and continued to support two Y clubs at local junior highs. It also took over the sponsorship of a baseball team at San Diego High, formerly sponsored by the American Legion. The Cottonwood Auxiliary raised more than \$3,500, which it put toward the creation of a chapel/quiet room at Cottonwood for family visits and studying.

The creation of a group home for girls who had graduated from Cottonwood and had nowhere to go became a priority — and the Welfare Foundation agreed to underwrite a \$40,000 loan for the purpose.

The victims of hurricanes in Louisiana and Mississippi were remembered, and the Boys & Girls Committee joined the Community Campership Council in order to facilitate donations for needy kids. Operation Welcome continued, but the turnout to welcome the troops back was waning.

The Lions Club incorporated as a nonprofit corporation. And involving new members was a topic of hot concern — as it still is. Plans included having each new member give a “Who Am I?” talk to the Club, having a roster photo taken, serving as a greeter at three meetings, visiting Cottonwood and the Sight Preservation Clinic and attending various board and committee meetings.

A chill went through all members — new and old — when the sacred cornpopper was nearly lost. An overzealous janitor at the Grant threw the beloved contraption in the trash, and the Club swung into action, posting reward notices at the hotel. Made 49 years earlier by Al Lambla, the Club’s first Taittwister, the cornpopper was an invaluable part of the den’s history, and its loss even made Neil Morgan’s column. Luckily, it was recovered and still serves today.

The Lions were treated to an interesting array of programs during the year, including a talk by Sheldon Campbell on the proposed new “San Pasqual wild animal park.” Foment on the campuses was addressed by UCSD Chancellor William McGill and UCSD professor Paul Saltman. And foment of a different sort was the order of the day when coach Don Coryell talked about the winning Aztec football team.

The San Diego police gave an informative talk and demonstration on “The Dope Problem of San Diego.” The *Jungle Breeze* wrote afterward, “Lt. LaMotte concluded the program by lighting a torch to the weed [marijuana] so we would be able to detect the odor if it should be present in our own homes. A number of Lions were seen after the meeting hovering over the burning weed for an inordinate period of time.”

Meanwhile, despite Nixon’s election, the war in Vietnam raged on and so did the battle over our involvement at home. In May, four students at Kent State were gunned down by National Guardsmen during an anti-war demonstration.



Chapter

The Seventies: And The Beat Gets Stronger

As the Club entered the Seventies, it trained its sights on the largest project of its history: the building of Lions Community Manor, a multi-story facility downtown for low-income and disabled residents. But as the decade opened, and Stan Gizienski took the gavel, the Manor was still a distant dream that would take more than a decade to realize.

The year saw the Lions increase their support for the Sight Preservation Clinic while also funding the Y Community Clubs at Einstein and Roosevelt junior high schools, establishing a revolving fund for Big Brothers and underwriting the Children's Dental Health Clinic. The American Legion baseball team at San Diego High was sponsored for another year. The Community Campership Council was gifted with \$600, and the Daily Living Skills Institute was pledged another \$600 for the following summer. A new outreach program in South America, Amigos de las Americas, received \$1,100 to send two qualified students to serve as medical volunteers in rural villages.

The Peruvian disaster relief fund was on the list of worthy beneficiaries, as was the District 4L-6 Youth Exchange program and Operation Welcome for the ships returning from Vietnam. Needy individuals were never forgotten. One woman received the plane fare so she could pick up her Seeing Eye dog. Another blind student received a tape recorder, and a crippled woman's insurance premium was picked up by the Club. In all, nearly \$1,500 went to individuals with special needs.

Fund-raising efforts ranged from the White Cane Days to a Rockets basketball game to a night at the Old Globe. To support an Easter Seals drive, the members pledged to pay a penny a pound. As Julie Downing later remarked, "I wonder if the Lions were truly on the honor system for this one?"

Lunches at the U.S. Grant increased from \$2.75 to \$3.25, and Club members started looking around for better accommodations. The classification system for membership was alternately criticized as too restrictive and too liberal, setting off a decade-long debate over its viability. And the San Diego Blood Bank started encouraging the Lions to use their donated blood within a year or lose credit for it — a new twist on the old axiom use-it-or-lose-it.

Wig Fletcher was elected President of the Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Aid Society, and 12 Lions were installed on the board.

The Lions were entertained and engaged by a program provocatively titled "The Space Shuttle — Fact Not Fantasy," as well as by discussions of "Cigarettes and Advertising — The Real Issues" and "Pollution and the Automobile." And all downtown Lions were particularly fascinated by a new vision for a beautiful downtown with a "new Horton's Plaza." As the *Breeze* put it, "As we are all aware, the area south of Broadway would be improved by almost



anything which could be done to it."

The Vietnam War continued and so did the anti-war demonstrations. It was a year of upheaval and unrest, culminating in the march on the Pentagon a year after the shootings at Kent State. In a landmark decision, the Supreme Court ruled that busing could be ordered to achieve racial balance. And San Diego, with a population of nearly 700,000, became California's second-largest city.

In July, 1971, Ray Schroeder became president and, during his year in office, the downtown Lions celebrated their 50th anniversary and took the first concrete steps toward realizing the dream that would become the reality of Lions Community Manor.

The spirit of service was particularly strong this year as the Lions undertook another major project for the Boys & Girls Aid Society — buying a group home for girls who had graduated from Cottonwood and had nowhere else to go. The Welfare Foundation advanced \$12,520 for the purchase, and Wig Fletcher found a house at 30th and Hawthorne. A grant of \$1,000 was made to San Diego State to be used in a five-year study to track the progress of the students who had left Cottonwood. And, for the second year in a row, the Club underwrote a summer work/study program at Cottonwood.

Three Y Community Clubs were sponsored this year, instead of the two the Club had been underwriting, and the Sight Preservation Clinic remained one of the Club's enduring commitments. The Children's Dental Health Clinic was supported again, and the Club sponsored the American Legion baseball team at San Diego High once again. Henceforth, the team was known as the Lions Club of San Diego (Host) Team.

The student loan funds the Club had set up in 1958 at San Diego State, University of San Diego and USIU had continued to be successfully self-sustaining and the Club responded favorably when the San Diego City Colleges applied for a \$1,500 grant for their own student loan funds. Big Brothers received \$1,000 to continue its program of vocational and psychological testing and tutoring. And, once again, Amigos de las Americas was deemed a worthy cause. The Foundation granted another \$1,500 to assist in a public immunization program in Central America.

One young woman, crippled by polio, received a grant of \$2,400 to do post-graduate cancer research at Sharp Hospital. Her father, touched by the spirit of independence the grant gave his daughter, secretly sent a check in the same amount to the Welfare Foundation. His only caveat was that his daughter never know — and that the check be used to help another student with disabilities achieve that same sense of autonomy.

The Youth Exchange program, the Blind Recreation Center, Operation Welcome and needy children who wanted to go to camp were all beneficiaries of the Lions' largess. A Padres game, a night at the Old Globe, a Rockets game, White Cane Days and raffle were successful fund-raisers. As they had been for years, the boat ride for the handicapped and the Mike Morrow Baseball Tournament were highlights of the year.

In April, the Club celebrated its 50th anniversary. Lions Wendall Stewart and Leonard J. Zanville presented an historical narrative and past International Director Dwight Stanford was the guest speaker.

In June, the Club took the first formal steps toward building Lions Community Manor when it formed a nonprofit corporation known as the Lions Commu-



nity Service Corporation. Tom Chapman headed the new corporation as president, and was joined on the board by Lions Roger Martin, Ken Marshall, Capt. Jack Graham, Ray Schroeder, Roy Houtz, Leon Anville, Fred Weitzen and Alex McDonald.

It was an eventful year for the nation and the world. In February 1972, Richard Nixon made his historic visit to what was then called Red China. Governor George Wallace was shot at a political rally in Maryland. In June, five men were arrested for trying to bug the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee at the Watergate Hotel in Washington, D.C. And San Diego was smarting from the GOP's last-minute decision to move its national convention from our city to Miami. To bolster local spirits, Mayor Pete Wilson declared an "America's Finest City Week," a tradition that endures to this day.

As Alex McDonald took office in July 1972, the nation was just hearing about a place called Watergate. By the time he stepped down, the luxury condominiums would be synonymous with the most compelling government scandal in the history of the Republic.

The Lion Hi-Rise project, as Lions Community Manor was called, was stalled when the U.S. government froze all HUD funding for 18 months. But the Lions did not give up hope. They kept the Lion Community Service Corporation alive, put Jack Falkenberg & Associates on retainer, and waited for the day when the funds would flow again.

In the meantime, the net of service was spread wide this year. The Foundation donated \$12,000 for a down payment on a group home for boys who had graduated from Cottonwood, following up on the successful purchase of the girls' group home the year before. A work/study program for the students at Cottonwood was funded to the tune of \$1,350. And a donation of \$300 from San Diego Consolidated for furnishings for the new group home was matched by the Welfare Foundation.

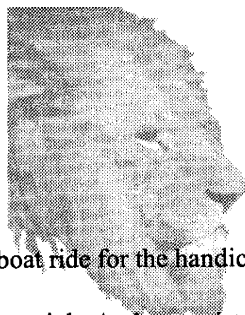
The Sight Preservation Clinic, two Community Y Clubs, the Children's Dental Health Clinic, the Community Campership Council and the Lions summer baseball team at San Diego High were all sponsored once again. The Lions supported another summer's work by the Amigos de las Americas program, and allocated \$500 to the Home of Guiding Hands for a fund to compensate student work at the home. Ten deserving boys received memberships to the YMCA courtesy of the downtown den.

Another donation helped San Diego State purchase two vans for handicapped students. The escalating drug problem was addressed in a donation to Crash, Inc., a rehabilitation program. The San Diego Eye Bank received \$200 to aid those who needed laser treatments. And earthquake victims in Nicaragua were not forgotten.

Since 1948, the Club had negotiated the lease between the City of San Diego and the Blind Recreation Center. The Lions watched proudly as the center decided it was time to negotiate with the city directly. Helping people to help themselves is the spirit and soul of Lions service — and it was particularly gratifying to see it work.

The Buck a Month program was finally retired, and in its place was the new Pledge to Serve. Ninety-three percent of the Club participated, and the coffers of the Welfare Foundation were enriched by \$14,000.

The social pace and fund-raising activities of the Club continued with White Cane Days, a benefit hockey game, a night at the Old Globe, the Big Raffle, Jai



Alai in Tijuana, the annual boat ride for the handicapped and the popular Mike Morrow Baseball tourney.

The world held its breath as eight Arab terrorists invaded the Olympic Village in Munich and 11 Israeli athletes were killed. And, in the spring, H.R. Haldeman, John Ehrlichman and John Dean were the first to leave the Nixon administration as Watergate heated up to a roiling boil.

Jim Jones became president in July 1973. It was a year for changes — some happy, some sad. Name changes were in the air. The Sight Preservation Clinic became the Lions Optometric Vision Clinic. And Cottonwood Academy officially became Cottonwood Center.

In December 1973, Mike Morrow passed away. And the Club lost its two last charter members — Jess Zwiener and Judge Jacob Weinberger — on the same day, May 22, 1974. It was truly the end of an era.

But the spirit of service ran high. The Special Olympics were added to the long list of donations which included the Optometric Clinic, Crash, Inc., the Children's Dental Health Clinic, the Y Community Clubs, the Boys & Girls Aid Society, the Lions baseball team and the Community Campership program.

Through Lions International, the Club contributed money for the Pakistan flood victims. And the autistic children at Los Ninos Remedial School received a Phonic ear because of the generosity of the Club.

Meanwhile, back at the den, the membership committee suggested new members be required to wear the "old horsecollar" badge — to "inspire" them to earn their permanent badges faster. But all was not serious business. One downtown Lion reputedly lifted the gavel from the Peninsula Lions Club. The ransom? A visit from Peninsula to downtown. After the ransom was paid, the gavel was returned unharmed. And the membership was heard to grumble when the Ladies Day program happened to be on diamonds.

The energy crisis, pollution, unrest in Ireland, massage parlors, satellite meteorology and downtown redevelopment were topics that commanded the Lions' attention. The local press singled out the Mike Morrow Baseball tournament for praise and called it a mecca for Southern California scouts.

It was an eventful year for Lions International, which passed the one million mark in membership. And it was a eventful year for the world, as well. One war ended and another began. The Vietnam war was finally over, and the Yom Kippur war erupted in the Middle East. Vice President Spiro Agnew resigned in disgrace, pleading no contest to tax evasion. Nixon fired Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox and Deputy Attorney General William French Smith in what was dubbed "The Saturday Night Massacre," prompting Attorney General Elliot Richardson to resign. A few months later, heiress Patty Hearst was kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army.

Just weeks before the U.S. House of Representatives adopted three articles of impeachment against President Richard Nixon, Dor Turnbull took the gavel of the San Diego (Host) Lions Club. HUD funding for the proposed Manor was still stalled — though the Community Service Corporation continued to meet — so the Club and Foundation turned its attention to other charitable causes.

The Optometric Vision Clinic was, as always, high on the priority list. And two Y Community Clubs continued for another year because of the generosity of the den. The work/study program at Cottonwood received the green light again, as did the San Diego High Lions Baseball team and the District Youth



Exchange program.

The Chicano Athletic Association was able to pay its liability insurance thanks to the downtown Lions. The ALS Foundation was gifted with two electronic page turners, at approximately \$300 each. Two needy women received preventative dental care, the Cedar Community Center got a new television, and the Pacific Beach Community Clinic received a blood pressure unit thanks to the Lions.

Members of the Club took brushes and pails in hand and joined other metropolitan Lions in repainting the Blind Recreation Center, with paint paid for by the downtown Lions. Meals on Wheels received more than \$1,000, and \$250 was earmarked for the San Diego County Mentally Retarded Association for T-shirts for their annual track meet.

The Mike Morrow Baseball Tournament celebrated its 25th year with 500 players from 32 high schools participating. Twelve other Lions clubs in the area supported the tourney with money and manpower, but it had grown so big, President Turnbull and Les Earnest spoke to the District 4L-6 Convention about forming a standing district committee to handle the tournament in the future.

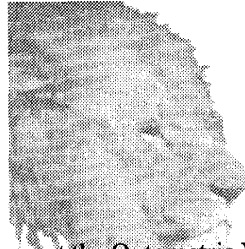
Board members volunteered to present informal seminars at local high schools on career opportunities. The weekly luncheon programs explored a wide variety of topics, including "The Changing Roles of Men and Women in Business Today," "School Security in San Diego," "TM...A Businessman's Answer to Stress?" A young Bill Kolender talked about Community Oriented Policing. Margó St. James, the founder of C.O.Y.O.T.E., a labor union for prostitutes, was the provocative speaker at one very interesting lunch. And Airport Manager Bud McDonald explored the topic that never dies in San Diego: "Lindbergh Field — Adequate or Obsolete?"

One particularly fascinating program may have sounded more like science fiction than legitimate prediction. A professor from the University of Massachusetts spoke of "A Brain for Planet Earth" in which he envisioned a worldwide computer network that would "allow people all over the Earth to share ideas, information and problem-solving techniques." Imagine that.

In the nation, the headlines were full of Watergate. Richard Nixon resigned, Gerald Ford became President and pardoned his predecessor. A few months later, the first of the Watergate conspirators started going to prison.

Dr. Fred Arnold assumed the reins of the Club in July 1975. Hopes were high as HUD opened up the application process for funds once again. The Lions put together the materials on the proposed high-rise and applied. They were bitterly disappointed when the bid was rejected. But the drive to build Lions Community Manor was more powerful than their disappointment. The Community Service Corporation regrouped and decided its chances for success were stronger if it owned the land it hoped to build on, so the group started looking seriously for an appropriate property.

Meanwhile, the spirit of service ran high. The Foundation okayed \$6,000 for the preparation plans for the construction of a new \$200,000 workshop for the San Diego Association for the Retarded at 30th and Market Streets. The San Diego Center for Children was given \$3,500 for new furnishings. The Chicano Health Center got \$750 for new equipment, and the Hallelujah Corporation, a nonprofit group which trained the retarded to work in the food service business, received \$400 from the Club.



The Lions continued to support the Optometric Vision Clinic, two Y Community Clubs, the San Diego High Lions Baseball Team, the Youth Exchange program, Meals on Wheels, the Community Campership Council and the boat ride for the handicapped. Ten SCA Receivers — that allow the blind to receive special programs in which volunteers read newspapers and magazines aloud — were bought by the Club. Another donation helped send blind children to the Blind Olympics in Canada. Here at home, the Lions threw their support behind the San Diego Olympics for the Retarded.

The earthquake in Guatemala brought out a roaring response and more than \$400 was donated to help the victims.

Bringing new members fully into the activities of the den continued to be a concern. Liantamer Bill Villarino suggested the Club needed a special indoctrination ceremony that stressed the responsibilities of membership. Meanwhile, lunch at the Grant rose to \$4.25.

Fund-raising and social activities continued apace with the White Cane Drive, a benefit Padres game, Super Bowl Sunday Brunch, the Razzle Dazzle Raffle, tennis and golf tournaments, the Mike Morrow Baseball tourney, the Trophy Dinner Dance, a Copper Canyon trip and much more. The lunch programs were as varied as always, with a debate between Mayoral candidates Pete Wilson and Lee Hubbard, talks on the malpractice crisis and, once again, the airport. The Club hosted Jane Fonda for a particularly memorable program in which she campaigned for her husband, Tom Hayden, in his bid for the United States Senate.

Under the masterful guidance of Wig Fletcher, the Pledge To Serve program was enjoying more than 94 percent participation and raising thousands for the Welfare Foundation each year.

The nation gasped as President Gerald Ford narrowly escaped not one but two assassination attempts. The United States and the Soviet Union attempted a link-up in space. And in San Diego, Mayor Pete Wilson announced a dramatic redevelopment plan for downtown. It might be said he was following the downtown Lions' lead.

Gene Hargraves took office in July 1976. With the application to HUD still on hold, the Lions threw themselves into another building project: a workshop for the retarded in downtown San Diego. The Welfare Foundation donated \$50,000 — with the voting support of the whole Club — toward the building fund. The Club members individually pledged another \$50,000. And under the guidance of that extraordinary fund-raiser, Wig Fletcher, the Club raised from the public the additional \$210,000 needed for construction.

Support for the Optometric Vision Clinic was as strong as ever. In addition to the normal \$1,200 a year, the Lions anted up another \$1,000 for remodeling and new equipment. Another \$2,500 went to the San Diego County Service Center for inventory at its store for the blind. KPBS got \$500 for special radio receivers for the blind so more non-sighted people could have access to its special reading programs. And five members donated their time to clean up at the Blind Recreation Center, underscoring another key point of Lionism — it isn't always about money.

The Boys & Girls Aid Society was gifted with a \$3,000 fence to surround the pool at Cottonwood. A new program for behavior modification at Rancho del Rayo High School was supported by the Club to the tune of \$700. Another \$600 went, as usual, to the Community Campership Council. University Hospital received money for food for its nursery and enough to cover the cost of a



carousel projector. The Community Youth Association needed new tires, and the Lions were there. The Bridge, a home for runaways, received a new television, and Meals on Wheels got nearly \$800 worth of new equipment. More than 150 people enjoyed the annual boat ride for the handicapped and the Club, as always, picked up the \$300 tab.

A disastrous hurricane in La Paz, Mexico, brought out the Lion spirit. Six tons of clothing were collected by the Club and sent on with an additional \$800 in aid.

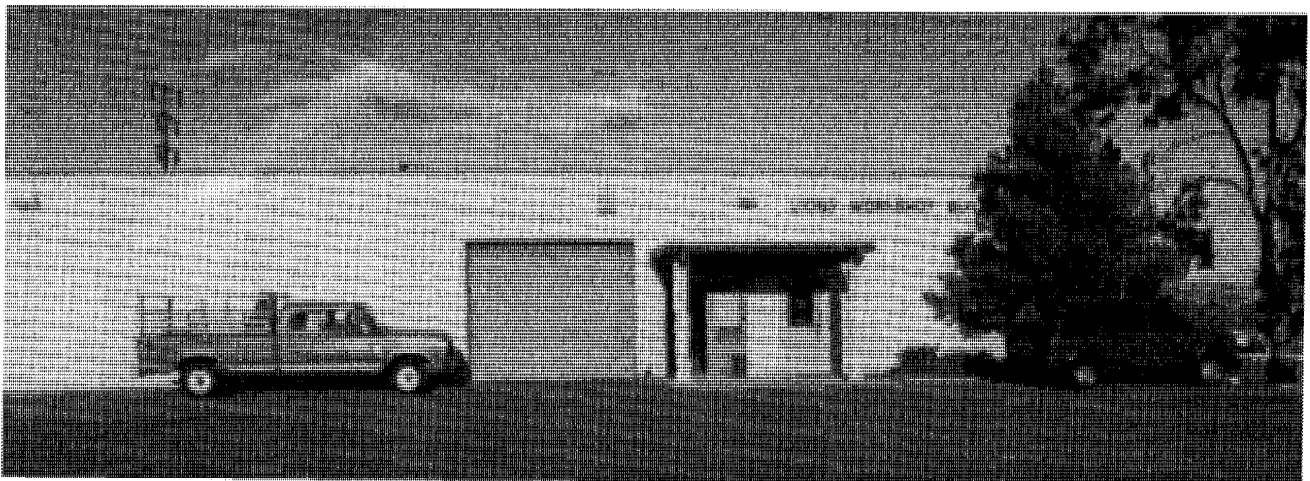
Meanwhile, back at the den, there were new rumblings. Though still distant, they heralded sweeping changes that would profoundly alter the Lions in the next decade. Lion Bill Villarino was mandated by Pacific Telephone to write a letter to the Lions indirectly accusing the Club of discrimination against women and minorities. President Hargraves and Lion David Hunter responded. Minorities were represented, they claimed, and women could not join the Club because Lions Clubs and Lions International were private organizations restricted to "businessmen" and their rights as such were protected under the both the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. It would take another decade before the Lions finally succumbed to the inevitable and invited women to join.

Representation issues of a different sort were also on the Lions' minds this year. The Club realized that seven percent of the membership was attorneys. Worse, there was no representation from San Diego's five leading industries — tourism, fishing, hotels, aerospace and the military.

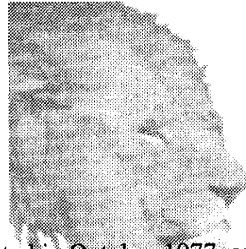
But all was not serious business at the den. The usual fund-raising and social activities were both profitable and enjoyable.

And on the national level, Lions saw one of their own elected President of the United States. Jimmy Carter had joined the Plains, Georgia, Lions in 1953, serving as president of his club during 1957-58 and as district governor in 1968-69.

Shortly after Stu Stewart took the reins of the Club in July 1977, the Lions got the sad news that HUD had once again rejected their application for Lions Community Manor. However, the application was returned with the proviso that new funds would soon be available. The Lions kept the faith and in the meantime poured their energies into the new workshop under construction for the San Diego County Association for the Retarded.



In 1977, the San Diego Lions undertook a fund-raising drive for the Association of Retarded Citizens, spearheaded by Wig Fletcher, to build Lions Workshop, a facility where San Diego's retarded citizens could learn productive skills.



The building was completed in October 1977, and President Stewart was the master of ceremonies at the dedication — a ceremony that brought out 500 people. The 1,800-square-foot workshop provided space for more than 100 retarded citizens to learn the job skills that would help them become productive citizens. It was a substantial achievement for San Diego — and one that would not have been possible without the downtown Lions.

The Lions' largesse touched many other San Diegans as well. The Club donated \$1,000 to the Mid-City Senior Enterprises to help establish a grocery shopping service for seniors. The Indoor Sports Club, a group that provided activities for the disabled, was helped with its renovation plans by a \$1,300 contribution from the Club. Meals on Wheels was able to start a new route because of the \$1,005 the Club pledged.

The behavior modification program at Rancho del Rayo continued for another year, and the children cared for at University Hospital were fed while their parents received medical care because of the Lions' generosity. The Optometric Vision Clinic was supported once again, as were the Community Campership Council and the District Youth Exchange. The Boy Scouts received \$1,000 for capital improvements to their Explorer Base at Camp Mataguay. The Junior Olympics were remembered. The Cedar Community Mental Health Services got a donation toward a new van. And a crafts program at My House for former drug addicts and ex-offenders was given the green light by the Club.

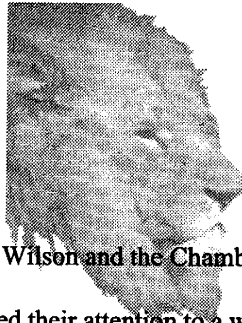
Lunches at the U.S. Grant averaged \$4.50 a person, and the programs featured everything from the new development at La Costa to cooking tips "for the male chef" from local chef George Munger. During one speech, new Channel 39 anchor man Paul Bloom noted Taitwister George Saadeh filling the compopper and wittily remarked, "We have something like that in New York, except we call them muggers."

As the Lions passed another productive year, leadership in China changed hands. The Gang of Four was expelled and Deng Xiaoping became prime minister. Former Italian premier Aldo Moro was kidnapped and slain. In California, Proposition 13 slashed property taxes by more than 60 percent. And San Diego was shocked when the world-famous Old Globe Theatre was destroyed by fire.

Jack Wyatt assumed the presidency of the club in July 1978. The Club boasted a robust membership of 228 and, as the year started, meetings were still being held on Thursdays at the U.S. Grant. However, the hotel decided to roust the Lions in favor of the Rotarians, sparking what the newspapers dubbed "The Service Club Feud." The Lions moved their meetings to Tuesdays, where they've remained ever since.

Work on Lions Community Manor continued and hopes ran high that this would be the year HUD would come through with the funding. Tom Chapman, working hand in glove with architect Hal Sadler and attorney Alex McDonald, met with the Centre City Development Corporation to see if the Lions could acquire the site bordered by G Street and Market Street between Third and Fourth for their high-rise building. CCDC approved the idea and the accord between the Lions and the downtown development corporation drew the attention of the *San Diego Tribune*, which lauded the decision in an editorial.

The Lions decided to apply to HUD once again, requesting \$6 million in funding. Accompanying the application were the *Tribune* editorial and support-



ive letters from Mayor Pete Wilson and the Chamber of Commerce. Now all the Lions could do was wait.

As they waited, they turned their attention to a wide variety of other worthy causes. The new workshop for the retarded needed a noise abatement wall. The Lions picked up the \$1,000 tab. Mid-City Senior Services received \$825 for a telephone answering service. The Behavior Modification program at Rancho del Rayo was supported for the third year in a row, and the Playcenter at University Hospital once again received \$300 for snacks for the underprivileged children in its care. Meals on Wheels started up another new route thanks to the Lions, and the San Diego Center for Children received more than \$2,100 to refurbish one of its group homes.

The Optometric Vision Clinic was sponsored for another year, and numerous needy kids went to camp because of the Lions. The Mental Health Association received \$1,200 for training films, and \$200 went to Project Scoop, to feed the elderly. The Blind Recreation Center was remembered, so was KPBS' reading service. And poor children were given new clothes through Operation Schoolbell.

At their Tuesday meetings, Lions heard from an interesting assortment of speakers on a wide array of topics. From domestic terrorism to the new cardiovascular stress tests, from offshore oil drilling to cults, from nuclear energy to drug abuse in professional football, the Lions were kept abreast of the world around them.

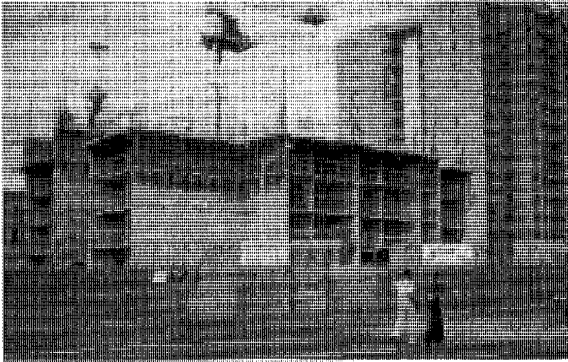
Bringing new members into the activities of the den was still a hot topic and a retention committee was formed for that purpose. Across the country, Lions Roger Martin and John Netterblad completed the Boston Marathon. And President Wyatt was honored at a recruit training parade at the Naval Training Center.

The world mourned the death of two Popes, and saw the first Polish Pope ascend the Papal throne. After a 13-day conference at Camp David, Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin signed a Middle Eastern peace accord. Only months later, Iran erupted in revolution, driving the Shah into exile and catapulting the Ayatollah Khomeini into power. President Carter and Premier Brezhnev signed the Salt II agreements, and the United States gave a collective shudder as radioactivity was released into the air from the nuclear power plant at Three Mile Island.

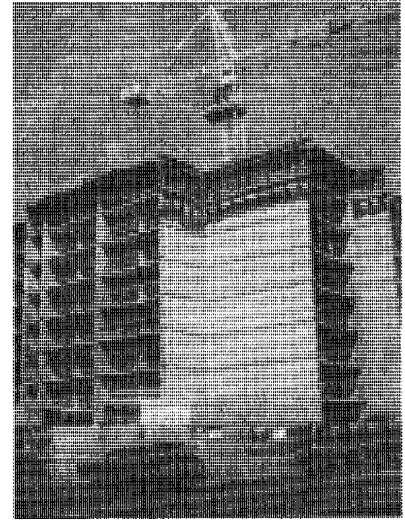
Bud Bramwell took office in July 1979, and it was under his leadership that the Lions finally received the go-ahead from HUD to start construction of Lions Community Manor. But not before there was considerable nail-biting. Letters from Congressmen Lionel Van Deerlin, Bob Wilson and Clair Burgener supported the complicated application, prepared by Falkenberg & Associates and Club secretary Mary Ann Blackstock. This time it worked. HUD came through with \$5.4 million.

Originally, the Centre City Development Corporation wanted to lease out the land the Manor now stands on to the Club, but Wig Fletcher held out for purchase — and won. Tucker, Sadler & Associates were confirmed as the architects. Harold Kvaas and G.L. Cory signed on as contractors — agreeing to work on a fixed fee and donate a share of those fees for unanticipated extras.

The Lions faced opposition from some quarters. Downtown businessmen weren't all together happy about the plans for low-income housing on the site.



The dream of building Lions Community Manor was born in 1969, but it took more than a decade of work before the dream was realized. HUD funding came through in 1979, and ground was broken in 1980. The high-rise, which provides low-income housing for the elderly and disabled, as well as a Community Room and Lions offices, was officially opened in 1981.

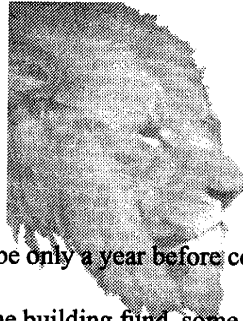


They would have preferred luxury condominiums. But the Lions persevered, deciding to include plans for a Community Service Center in their plans. The center would provide a place for residents of the Manor to meet, as well as other community groups. In addition, the space would include room for the Lions Club offices.

HUD, however, was not willing to underwrite the costs for the center. So Wig Fletcher put on his fund-raising cap once again and set out to drum up an extra \$300,000. Pledge to Serve turned into Pledge to Build. Individuals from the Club contributed \$50,000 and the Welfare Foundation matched the sum. Another \$200,000 was raised from the community at large. The total cost of the Manor project -- which included the 128-apartment complex, the separate Community Room and Lions headquarters -- was \$7,500,000. The mortgage was to be paid back over a 40-year period.

At the same time, the First Congregational Church of San Diego, which had merged with the Mission Hills church, was tearing down its edifice at Sixth and A. But the congregation was looking for some way to memorialize the downtown church. Club secretary Mary Ann Blackstock heard about the desire and called Wig Fletcher, who had attended Sunday School at the very same church as a child. Fletcher, Tom Chapman and Alex McDonald paid a visit to the congregation. By the time they had finished describing Lions Community Manor, the members of the church had anted up \$85,000 toward its construction and donated the stained glass windows that now adorn the Community Room. Another ecclesiastical touch was added when the builders salvaged the doors from the Catholic Chapel which once occupied the site of Lions Community Manor and installed them as the new front doors.

With help both heavenly and mundane, the pieces of the puzzle were finally



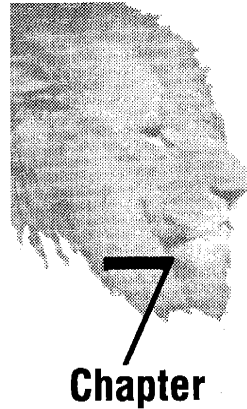
falling into place. It would be only a year before construction would start on the project.

With such emphasis on the building fund, some Lions were worried that their other charitable causes would be lost in the zeal for Lions Manor. But financial projections made it clear that there was no need for worry. The Optometric Clinic continued to receive its generous support from the Club and the Foundation. The handicapped were taken on the annual boat ride, the grant to University Hospital's Playcenter was actually increased, and the Behavior Modification program at Rancho del Rayo was underwritten for another year. Needy children were sent to camp, and Meals on Wheels was given another handsome grant.

Lunch programs featured a fascinating array of speakers on topics as compelling as the crisis in the Persian Gulf to the buildup of tensions in Nicaragua and El Salvador. Taxes and the economy were popular topics, and the Lions learned about ship-building and the tuna industry in their hometown. But all was not serious business. Local sportscasters Jerry Coleman and Ted Leitner were popular draws, and the Club enjoyed selections from Lerner and Lowe, sung by the University of San Diego Musical Theatre.

Club activities continued apace, with White Cane Days, the Razzle Dazzle Raffle, the Mike Morrow Baseball Tourney, the New Members Picnic, a Halloween Costume Party and trips to an Aztec game and the Coronado Playhouse. It was a year of high energy and high hopes. The Lions were finally realizing a dream they'd had for nearly a decade!

On the world front, the United States watched in outrage as Iranian militants took over the U.S. Embassy in Teheran and held 52 Americans hostage. It was to be the death knell for Jimmy Carter's presidency.



Chapter

The Eighties: A Decade of Achievement, a Decade of Change

Dan Hunter took the gavel in July 1980, as fund-raising for Lions Community Manor continued at a steady clip. The Pledge to Build program, spearheaded by Wig Fletcher, was drawing substantial contributions from the members. By the end of the year, the drive would raise more than \$35,000. And the community was responding as well. Home Federal Savings contributed \$30,000 to the building fund. San Diego Federal added \$25,000. The Fletcher Foundations contributed another \$15,000, the Pratt Foundation gave \$12,500. Geerd Von Hegerhorst donated \$5,000, and contractors Cory & Kvaas contributed \$4,500.

On October 13, Lion Lee Hubbard served as master of ceremonies at the official ground breaking for Lions Community Manor. Mayor Pete Wilson addressed the crowd, which included Congressmen Lionel Van Deerlin and Clair Burgener, the members of Centre City Development Corporation and the city council. Strangely enough, no one from the print media attended, despite the fact that more than 40 press releases were sent out. However, the event wasn't entirely ignored. Television crews were on hand as the downtown Lions celebrated the official start of their most significant project yet.

Without doubt, the building fund took center stage this year. But those other community organizations and individuals who had come to count on the Lions' largesse were not forgotten. As always, the Optometric Vision Clinic was high on the priority list. The Boys & Girls Aid Society was gifted with more than \$5,000 for new carpeting — the first donation requested by the Society in more than six years.

The Community Service Center for the Disabled received more than \$1,000 for a wheelchair repair kit. Nearly \$2,000 went to the Mid-City Senior Enterprises for phone service and to support the shopping assistance program. Handicapped adults were treated to a harbor cruise once again, and the Club also took emotionally disturbed children for a day's boat ride. Luther Towers, a senior citizen facility, got a new pool table thanks to the Lions, and the Behavior Modification program at Rancho del Rayo was supported for another year.

The Community Campership Council received a generous check for \$1,500. Operation Schoolbell, which provided clothes for needy school kids, was not forgotten, nor was the KPBS Radio Reading Service, the District Youth Exchange program or the University Hospital Playcenter. Senior Adult Services got a new Croy letter machine, and the District 4L-6 Hearing project received a generous grant toward a new diagnostic hearing van.

The U.S. Grant, so long the setting of the Lions' luncheon meetings, closed its doors for remodeling, and the Lions set out to find a new "home." They settled on the Hotel San Diego, which would serve as their meeting place until the Manor was finished.



Lunch programs were as eclectic as always. By topics as diverse as adjusting to life after being held hostage to the exciting plans for a new San Diego Convention Center, the Lions were kept up-to-date on what was happening in their town and their world. Political candidates Ross Tharp and Larry Kapiloff debated to a full house, as did Lucille Moore and Paul Fordham. The plans for the new Tijuana Trolley were outlined, and the Lions entertained Miss Rodeo USA.

While the Lions were being educated and entertained, construction on Lions Community Manor was moving ahead of schedule. On May 22, 1981, a special “topping out” ceremony for the Manor was held in the new Community Room. Nearly 100 Lions and guests attended this first gathering at the Center, and construction crews were there to join in the celebration. It was truly a year to remember.

It was the year San Diego reached a population of 875,000 and dedicated the San Diego Trolley, opening the first line of its innovative light-rail transit system.

The United States was jubilant as the 52 hostages were released from Iran just days before Ronald Reagan took the oath of office as the 40th President of the Republic. The Lions joined all Americans in prayer when Reagan was shot and wounded in an assassination attempt. And later that year, John Lennon was gunned down outside his home in New York City.

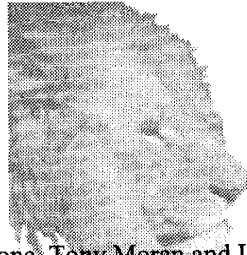
Don Gilman took the reins in July 1981, and excitement over the impending opening of Lions Manor was running high. The first 10-K and 2-mile Family Run, sponsored by the Lions, the Padres and Coors beer, was held less than two weeks later. Under the able guidance of Roger Martin, Al Gabbs and Wes Barrett — and with the invaluable help of Bob Goggin and Bill Burroughs — the first run was a success. Turnout was a healthy 2,468, and the race netted more than \$4,000 for the Manor.

By August, applications for residency at the Manor were pouring in, and a drawing was held to determine who would be interviewed. Caught up in the enthusiasm, Lions volunteered to help with the interviewing process. Mayor Pete Wilson praised the project and the downtown Lions, saying, “This is an absolutely marvelous thing you have done for the people of San Diego.”

The lottery for tenants was held September 2 and 250 names were selected. The Lions got a “sneak preview” tour of the Manor on September 19, and by October, the Manor board was meeting in its new accommodations. All rooms were rented, and the Lions swung into action to welcome the new residents. Geerd Von Hegerhorst donated a piano, Dave Corbett gave a color television,



From 1981 to 1992, the Lions sponsored an annual 10-K Run. Over those 11 years, the run netted more than \$50,000 for the Welfare Foundation and provided a rousing good time for the membership.



Bud Bramwell, Marsh Malone, Tony Moran and Ian Lloyd gave paintings for the walls, and Werner Dieckmann donated plants. Jan Wilkerson provided a bed for a tenant who didn't have one. The Club assembled scores of care packages and rallied to provide the trappings for a plentiful Thanksgiving feast for Manor residents as well as a bountiful Christmas.

San Diego Office Supply donated \$12,000 worth of new furniture for the Lions new offices at the Manor; the Welfare Foundation kicked in another \$1,000. Wig Fletcher took it upon himself to hire a preacher to conduct vespers in the Community Room for the Manor residents. The dedication of Lions Community Manor took place on February 6, 1981, and was celebrated by more than 400 Lions and their guests.

But even amidst all the excitement over the Manor, the Lions made sure to honor their other commitments. The Mid-City Senior Enterprises shopping assistance program was funded once again. The Optometric Vision Clinic was supported handsomely, and the Behavior Modification program at Rancho del Rayo continued, thanks to the Lions. Meals on Wheels, the Youth Exchange Program and the harbor cruise for the disabled were all on the agenda. The Boys & Girls Aid Society received \$5,700 for a new lawn mower.

Individuals with special needs — from hearing aids to tape recorders — were not forgotten. And three deaf children were sent to Camp Wilderness.

The luncheon programs were exciting and diverse. George Deukmejian, then California's attorney general, discussed the state's homicide rate. Navy Commander Ralph Martin described how a Navy ship was commissioned. And in January, the Club was regaled by tales from the den's 20 living Tailtwisters, with Club historian Marsh Malone adding a brief history of the Twisters. On a more scholarly note, the Lions heard about the history of Japanese and United States trade, San Diego's dying tuna industry and the impact of women on the workplace.

In April, the Club took to the water to celebrate 60 years of service. Cruising Mission Bay aboard the Bahia Belle, more than 100 Lions looked back to the days when 12 San Diego businessmen went to lunch and launched San Diego's first Lions club.

It was an exciting year for all San Diegans as Mayor Pete Wilson presided over the groundbreaking for the new downtown Horton Plaza retail redevelopment project. Downtown was coming alive, and the Lions were one of the first organizations to realize it and bank on it.

It was the year the Supreme Court welcomed its first woman Justice — though the Lions clubs and other service organizations had yet to open their doors to women. It was also the year the nation's air traffic controllers went on strike and were promptly fired by President Reagan. And in the Southern Hemisphere, Britain and Argentina fought over control of a little known group of islands called the Falklands.

Walt Millar was the first Club president to be installed at the new Lions Manor. From July 1982, on, the Tuesday luncheon meetings were held in the grand new setting of the Community Room. At that first meeting, the feelings ran high — a mix of pride, exhilaration and accomplishment. The San Diego Lions finally had a home of their own — and one that served not only the Club but also the community. It was a glorious and hard-won achievement that truly embodied the spirit of Lionism. Every member of the downtown den had



something to roar about that day.

That July also saw the Club mount its second 10-K Run at the stadium. It was a complicated project, demanding the combined skills of a host of Lions — and the formation of its own special committee — but the run served not only to bring money into the coffers of the Welfare Foundation but also to bring the Club together in a team effort. Over the next decade, the 10-K Runs would net nearly \$50,000 for the Foundation.

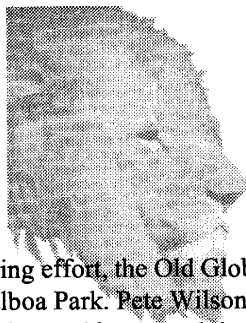
The Lions are not ones to sit on their laurels. So the Club turned its attention — so focused for the past nine years on the building of Lions Manor — back on the other worthy causes that vied for its attention and its generosity. The Boys & Girls Aid Society needed roof repairs at Cottonwood, and the Lions were there with \$12,400. Mid-City Senior Enterprises needed a new phone service, and the Lions came through. The Manor residents got hearing aids. Once again, the Club underwrote the services of a librarian for the Blind Recreation Center. Rancho del Rayo's behavior modification program was on the agenda again, as was University Hospital's Playcenter. There were Christmas gifts for the needy at Neighborhood House thanks to the Lions, and the stove at the Indian Growth Center was rewired. Deaf children went to Camp Wilderness, and KPBS was able to send a blind announcer to the Rose Parade because of the downtown den.

When the Community Service Center for the Disabled needed to outfit its vans with hydraulic lifts, the Lions provided the means. There were radio receivers bought for the hearing impaired and clothes for poverty-stricken school children. And 20 lucky youngsters were able to have their tattoos removed through a generous grant to University Hospital. Even those in need in the Philippines were touched by the San Diego Lions who helped finance Mobile Optometric Clinics half-way across the world.

The Lions were recognized by the Central City Association when it selected Lions Manor to receive the 1982 Downtown Improvement Award. All around the new structure, the once-neglected streets of San Diego's Gaslamp Quarter were coming alive with new restaurants, jazz clubs, shops, galleries and businesses. Real estate in California was booming — and San Diego was no exception. As 1982 came to a close, the economy was booming and so was Lions International. There were 35,785 clubs in 155 nations, boasting a worldwide membership of 1,336,558.

As always, the Lions enjoyed a wide range of topics and a lively group of speakers at their Tuesday meetings. The upcoming mayoral election sparked heated political debates between candidates Roger Hedgecock and Maureen O'Connor. Civil Rights Commissioner Clarence Pendleton spoke about race relations, and Ernest Hahn described the exciting new Horton Plaza redevelopment. Padres broadcaster Dave Campbell talked about player acquisition, including the new star first baseman, Steve Garvey. Whether a new San Diego Convention Center should be built was a hot topic, as was the proposed bullet train link between San Diego and Los Angeles.

The Boys & Girls Aid Society celebrated its 80th anniversary. In January 1983, Club Secretary Mary Ann Blackstone left the post she'd held so ably for 20 years. Victoria Wierig signed on as the new Executive Director and continues to hold the post today. And Lions mourned the passing of Lee Hubbard, founder of L.R. Hubbard Construction Company and a member of the Host Club since 1961.



After a massive fund-raising effort, the Old Globe Theatre opened its new three-theater complex in Balboa Park. Pete Wilson became the first San Diegan elected to the U.S. Senate. The world mourned the death of Princess Grace of Monaco. The first artificial heart was implanted, and the space shuttle *Challenger* soared into space for the first time. And Sally Ride became the first female astronaut from the United States to head for the stars.

Dave Spisak took the gavel in July 1983, the second president to be installed at Lions Manor. With the Manor completed, the Lions were looking forward to their next big project. But before they could settle on what that would be, there were plenty of smaller projects that needed funding.

The Boys & Girls Aid Society was in dire need of a new roof for Cottonwood, and the Welfare Foundation anted up the \$26,000 necessary. The Child Abuse Foundation needed camera equipment to document its cases, and the Lions provided it. Meals on Wheels was given the wherewithal to purchase five telephone answering machines, and the Mid-City Senior Enterprises' shopping assistance and shared housing programs were supported once again. The Blind Recreation Center received funding for its librarian again, and the Playcenter at UCSD Medical Center was supported as well.

The Club sponsored the "Tips on Tape" program at UCSD which provided crime and fire prevention tips for the hearing impaired. The Optometric Clinic was, of course, a priority, as was the harbor cruise for the handicapped. The residents of Lions Manor were treated to a splendid Thanksgiving dinner and gifted with tickets to the Gaslamp Quarter Theatre. The needy children served through the San Diego Youth and Community Services Neighborhood Outreach program had a joyous Christmas thanks to a generous donation from the Club. The behavior modification program at Rancho del Rayo continued for another year. Three deaf children enjoyed summer camp at Camp Wilderness because of the Lions' concern. University Hospital's "Parents Who Care" program was on the agenda, as was the District Youth Exchange program.

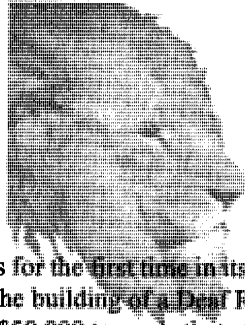
The Club decided building a Deaf Recreation Center should be the Lions' next big project and planned to launch a two-year Pledge to Hear.

The year's first luncheon speaker was Dr. Thomas Payzant, San Diego Superintendent of Schools, addressing the city's educational challenges. Mayor Roger Hedgecock was next on the podium. And the programs continued with lively debates on off-shore oil drilling and the proposed new Convention Center. The Love Boat's new berth at San Diego's B Street Pier was celebrated, the problems of San Diego's growing homeless population were explored, and the Lions heard about San Diego's bid to host the Super Bowl.

The Padres were hot, and Steve Garvey drew the largest crowd of any speaker that year.

Across the country, San Diegan Dennis Conner became the first American to lose the America's Cup, and the Cup left its home at the New York Yacht Club and headed for Perth, Australia. In the Philippines, Benigno Aquino was assassinated. The Soviets shot down a South Korean jetliner, and terrorists blew up 237 United States Marines in Beirut. Before the year was out, Reagan had withdrawn the Marines from the peacekeeping forces in Lebanon.

Pennant fever in San Diego was rising as Bill Villarino took the reins of leadership in July 1984. The Padres were on their way to capturing their first — and only — National League Pennant, and in a few short months, San Diego



would host the World Series for the first time in its history.

The Lions committed to the building of a Deaf Recreation Center with a resounding vote to allocate \$50,000 towards that effort. An old building, the Fire Alarm Station in Balboa Park, was found and the Lions decided it would be the perfect candidate for conversion. Pledge to Serve became Pledge to Hear — and the fund-raising efforts, spearheaded by Lions Rick Bellows and Rich Albrecht, gathered steam.

Changes were in the air, and the Lions knew it, as they formed a long-range planning committee to explore the idea of female membership.

Horton Plaza, the festively hued \$140 million cornerstone of downtown redevelopment, opened for business, and the downtown Lions membership committee trained its sights on the new business owners.

Meanwhile, the spirit of service was richly in evidence, as the Lions turned their attentions to a host of worthy causes that needed their support. The Boys & Girls Aid Society received a new air-conditioning system. The kitchens at St. Vincent de Paul needed a new stove, and the Lions came through. Arrow Services Center got two new refrigerators to help with its food service training for the retarded, and Cedar Community Center received a new computer system. The Manor was gifted with a motorized wheelchair for use of the residents. The Optometric Vision Clinic, the Blind Recreation Center, Rancho del Rayo and Mid-City Senior Enterprises were all remembered. And a sizeable grant to San Diego high schools was used to provide diabetic testing equipment.

The San Diego Rescue Mission got more than \$2,000 for coffee urns, Project Alpha of San Diego, a program for the homeless, got a new micro-computer, and the Crime Victims fund received a new typewriter — all thanks to the generosity of the downtown Lions. Several needy San Diego children had their teeth repaired at the Children's Dental Health Clinic, and numerous others went to summer camp and received Christmas gifts.

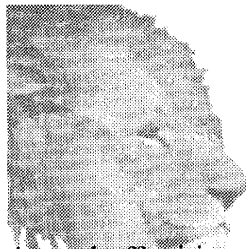
The downtown den mourned the death of Earle Sheffield, but the coffers of the Welfare Foundation were enriched by a substantial bequest from his estate.

The Lions heard Dennis Conner outline his plans for recapturing the America's Cup, and the ballot proposal for a new state lottery was hotly debated. The Los Angeles Olympics were in the news, and the director of production outlined the opening and closing ceremonies to an attentive luncheon meeting. Men's liberation was discussed, as well as how pollsters predict elections. And Don Bauder drew a large crowd to hear the inside story of San Diego scamster J. David Dominelli and his "Golden Girl," Nancy Hoover.

The Club raised funds with the 10-K run, White Cane Days, the Mike Morrow Baseball Tourney, the Razzle Dazzle Raffle, as well as benefit nights at the Lawrence Welk Dinner Theater and the Gaslamp Quarter Theatre. Downtown San Diego was on roll, and membership in the den was climbing. The economy was looking good, and so were the Lions.

President Reagan was reelected with a resounding majority, and in the Soviet Union, a man named Mikhail Gorbachev came to power.

Excitement over downtown redevelopment was running high as Dan Gibbs assumed the presidency in July 1985. Membership reached 232. And the members kicked off the year with three programs on the "Downtown Explosion," highlighting the Gaslamp Quarter, the Meridian, and Horton Plaza. Once-sleepy San Diego was on the fast track, and the enthusiasm was contagious.



The Pledge to Hear campaign took off, raising more than \$25,000, and plans for the Deaf Recreation Center were moving ahead. Impressed by the Club's dedication, the city declared March 17, 1986, as "Lions Club of San Diego Deaf Recreation Center Day."

The Boys & Girls Aid Society needed to refurbish one of its group homes, and the Lions came through with more than \$12,000. When the Children's Museum expanded, the Lions underwrote the creation of a \$6,500 birthday and presentation room, dubbed "The Lion's Den." The Logan Heights Family Center received more than \$2,500 for a tympanometer to test for ear diseases. The Association of Retarded Citizens needed new furniture for one of its group homes, and the Lions were there. St. Vincent de Paul was gifted with five new beds. And joining the war on drugs, the downtown den authorized \$1,000 for printing "membership cards" for youngsters who Say No to Drugs.

San Diego Crime Stoppers, Mid-City Senior Enterprises, the Optometric Clinic, the Blind Recreation Center, Deaf Community Services, Cedar Community Center, Meals on Wheels, Rancho del Rayo, the District Youth Exchange, the San Diego Mental Health Association and the City Campership programs were all recipients of the Lions' largesse.

The Club was entertained and educated by two mayoral debates between Maureen O'Connor and Bill Cleator. And they heard about the Victims' Rights Movement, energy alternatives, immigration reform and the Latin American debt. The downtown Club played host to more than 2,500 Lions from California and Nevada as 67th annual District 4 Convention converged on San Diego.

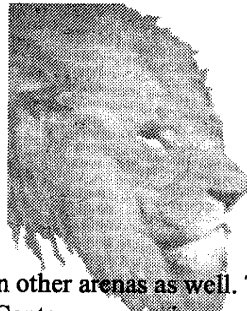
The Club also sponsored the "Holiday Bowl Kick-Off Luncheon" at the Town & Country Hotel, providing fun for the membership and excellent exposure for the den.

It was the year the Lions Clubs International Foundation committed \$500,000 to expand its youth program, Lions-Quest Skills for Adolescence — a curriculum for 10- to 14-year olds, designed to help them build self-esteem and combat drug use.

It was a year of exhilarating highs and mind-numbing lows. Reagan and Gorbachev met for their first summit. Two scientific teams reported finding the virus that caused AIDS. Then the world was stunned when the space shuttle *Challenger* exploded after launch, killing all aboard, including school teacher Christa McAuliffe. There was a collective shudder around the globe when the nuclear power plant at Chernobyl experienced a meltdown. And more than 25,000 were killed when an 8.1 temblor shook Mexico City.

Seymour Ratner took the gavel in July 1986, for a year that was to see tremendous changes in all service clubs. The women were about to storm the all-male halls. Anticipating the Supreme Court's decision in the discrimination case mounted against Rotary International, Lions International issued this statement: "It is the considered position of the Executive committee that a decision by any Lions Club in the United States of America granting membership to a woman should be upheld and encouraged."

The San Diego Club decided it needed to be ready to move quickly to "draft the very best women members available." Shortly thereafter, Jessica Lewis, Jean Liuzzi, Judy Stolpe and Jo Hunter were approved for membership. At that moment, it must have been hard for the old members to envision that a little more than a decade later, the San Diego Lions would be installing their first



woman president.

It was a year of changes in other arenas as well. The long-held dream of building a Deaf Recreation Center was running aground. First, the Lions discovered the Fire Alarm Station was full of asbestos, and the cost of removing it would be prohibitive. Second, they were unable to develop an organization within the deaf community that would undertake the running of the center. And third, fund-raising interest in the community wasn't as high as the Lions hoped. With regret, they finally abandoned the project. In its place, the Lions created a Deaf Endowment Fund that was able to underwrite a number of substantial programs and projects for the hearing impaired, as well as attending to the individual needs of scores of deaf people.

The Lions poured their energies and funds into a host of other worthy causes. They anted up more than \$10,000 for a van for the Office of Education to use in its "Friday Night Live" program against drug abuse. The Metro Storefront, an organization that helped homeless youth, got more than \$5,000 for equipment. The Association of Retarded Citizens was able to build a new patio at one of its group homes because of the Lions. The Service Center for the Blind received more than \$1,600 for a TV print enlarger. Mid-City Senior Enterprises, Rancho del Rayo, the Optometric Clinic, Neighborhood Outreach, Crash Inc., the Blind Recreation Center, KPBS Radio Reading Service, Camp Wilderness, University Hospital's Playcenter, Bayside Settlement House and the Senior Community Center were all touched by the Lions' generosity.

And one young Mexican man was outfitted with a prosthetic leg because the Lions cared.

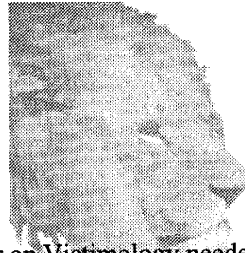
The Lions hosted Mayor Maureen O'Connor and Police Chief Bill Kolender. San Diego Opera was the topic when Ian Campbell spoke, and Dr. Mark Green outlined new strategies for combating cancer. Alfons Heck spoke compellingly about his days as a Nazi youth, and Les Land looked forward to the San Diego Super Bowl, scheduled for 1988.

Half a world away, San Diegan Dennis Conner routed the Aussies and claimed the America's Cup for its new home at the San Diego Yacht Club. And closer to home, President Reagan found himself embroiled in the Iran-Contra scandal

Chuck Austin took office in July, 1987, and the Club wasted no time in presenting the money collected for the Deaf Recreation Center to the San Diego Community Foundation "on behalf of and for the use" of the deaf and hearing impaired. By the time all the monies were totalled, the sum came to an impressive \$90,000.

With Pledge to Hear now history, the Club stepped up its contributions to scores of other community causes. The largest single donation was an unrestricted gift of \$10,000 to San Diego Crime Stoppers — the largest the organization had ever received. The Camp Wilderness Development Fund came in for a \$5,000 grant. The Boys & Girls Mental Health Centers (formerly the Boys & Girls Aid Society) needed four water heaters for its group homes, and the Lions came through with \$4,000. The Children's Coalition for Car Safety received 55 car seats from the downtown den, and Home Start, a child abuse prevention program, got a new computer. When the San Diego Service Center for the Blind was robbed, the Lions were there with \$1,000 to offset the theft.

The Blind Recreation Center, the Optometric Vision Clinic, Senior Community Services, Rancho del Rayo, and the Boys Clubs were all on the agenda.



When the California Center on Victimology needed brochures, the Lions produced the necessary \$1,400. County Health Services and the Neighborhood Outreach program were able to give Christmas gifts to scores of needy children because of the Lions. And the residents at Lions Manor enjoyed a filling Thanksgiving dinner, as well as tickets to the Gaslamp Quarter Theatre — thanks to the downtown den.

The Community Campership Council, Camp Wilderness camperships and Canine Companions were not forgotten. And one young man received a cochlear implant due to the generosity of the Club.

San Diego was gearing up for both the Super Bowl and the America's Cup — and both topics were on the Lions' program agenda. The Club was treated to a particularly acrimonious exchange when Mike Aguirre and Bob Filner, both running for city council, debated in front of the membership. The Club also heard from Lucy Killea, Lionel Van Deerlin, architect Rob Quigley, Father Joe Carroll and Larry Himmel. From tax revenues to opera, from the Clean Air Act to AIDS, from the Symphony to euthanasia, the Lions were keeping on top of the world around them.

But all was not serious business. The downtown den made the top of Tom Blair's column when some old habits died hard. To wit: "Jessica Lewis, [one of] the first women member[s] of the downtown Lions Club, attended her first board of directors meeting the other night at Fairouz, the Greek restaurant on Midway. Alas, one old Lion, unthinking, hired a belly dancer for the evening's entertainment. But Jessica was a good Joe. After the performance, she applauded politely, then tucked a dollar bill into the dancer's coin-girdle."

It was the year San Diego hosted its first Super Bowl. And in Washington, Ollie North, John Poindexter and George Shultz were called to testify in the Iran-Contra hearings.

George Saadeh took the reins in July 1988. While the membership looked for its next big project, the Club kept busy supporting a wide range of causes.

A hefty \$7,500 was doled out to the County Mental Health Auxiliary towards the purchase of a van. Home Start needed another computer, and the Lions came through. The Metro Storefront was in want of a washer, dryer and vacuum, and the Lions anted up \$1,500. Another \$6,000 was earmarked for the Camp Wilderness Development project, and \$5,000 went to Senior Community Services for a new telephone system.

Needy parents who couldn't afford car seats for their infants were helped by the Lions. Rancho del Rayo, the Optometric Vision Clinic, the Blind Recreation Center, Mid-City Senior Enterprises and Meals on Wheels were all supported once again. The Alpha Project for the Homeless was gifted with a \$900 camcorder, Valencia Park Elementary School got playground equipment, and Parents Active for Vision received a generous donation to help with supplies for vision screening. The Community Service Center for the Disabled, Neighborhood Outreach and the San Diego Housing Commission were helped by the Club, as were needy children who wanted to go to camp.

Violence touched the lives of the Lions this year. Lion Bob Mengar was wounded, with two other San Diegans, in a drive-by shooting on Market Street, moments after he left a Tuesday lunch program in November featuring Steve Garvey. Lion Bob had stayed behind a few moments to chat with Garvey and former San Diego Charger — and new Lions member — Kellen Winslow, who was inducted that same day. Mengar was wounded in the calf and suffered two



broken bones between his ankle and knee. Quoted in the newspaper, Mengar claimed, "I didn't know that both bones were broken. I ran across the street."

Luckily, Mengar was on the mend and the programs for the rest of the year did not end with a bang. Instead, the Lions learned about the outlook for San Diego schools and how to combat terrorism, debated no-fault insurance and growth management, got a peak at San Diego's growing skyline and the plans for a new Olympic Training Center, and were entertained by Denise Yamada, Kellen Winslow, former Charger Ron Mix, the Padres' Jack McKeon and Hudson & Bauer. At one particularly touching meeting, Kim Fletcher hosted a tribute to his uncle, Wig.

It was the year Dennis Conner answered Kiwi Michael Fay's renegade challenge by taking a 60-foot catamaran to the water, handily defeating Fay's 133-foot "Big Boat." Wags dubbed the one-sided America's Cup race "The Coma Off Point Loma."

The country elected George Bush as President. A terrorist bomb exploded a Pan-Am 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland. The *Exxon Valdez* ran aground, ruptured and sent 11 million gallons of crude oil into Alaska's Prince William Sound. And tens of thousands of Chinese students took to the streets to demand democracy. Thousands were killed as troops quelled the demonstrations.

Terry Loftus took up the gavel in July 1989, and was at the helm when the club decided on its next major project: the renovation of the Blind Recreation Center. Always willing to put their money where their mouths were, the Lions immediately pledged \$125,000 as seed money for the project.

The Association for Retarded Citizens was also looking to build a warehouse, and the Club came through first with \$10,000 seed money, then followed that up later in the year with a whopping \$115,000 pledge.

The San Diego Service Center for the Blind received \$12,000 for a new computer system. And that was followed by another \$2,200 for a talking computer for the center. Home Start received in excess of \$4,000 for equipment for its child abuse prevention programs. Valencia Park School received more than \$4,700 to construct two basketball hoops, a slide and a ball wall. And St. Paul's Manor and Health Center got more than \$2,000 for its computer needs.

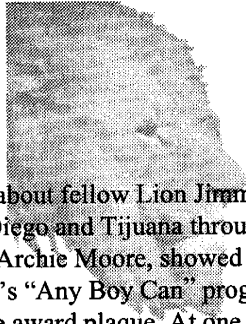
The Optometric Clinic, the Service Center for the Disabled, Mid-City Senior Enterprises, Neighborhood Outreach, the San Diego State Disabled Student Services, the Senior Community Center, the Joan Kroc Center for the Homeless, KPBS Radio Reading Service, the Comfort Trucker Bear Foundation and the San Diego Housing Commission were all recipients of the Lions' generosity.

The Pledge to Serve campaign raised more than \$29,000 from the Club for the Welfare Foundation's coffers.

The San Diego Lions contributed to the Lions-Quest program, and honored President Loftus with its first Melvin Jones Fellowship by donating a \$1,000 to the Lions International SightFirst program, an ambitious project aimed at eradicating curable blindness around the globe.

Individuals with special needs were not forgotten, and neither were the Manor residents. It was a year especially marked by the downtown den's generosity of spirit.

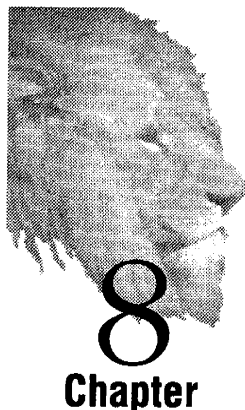
Club historian Marsh Malone, 98 "and one-half" years old, was the subject of an entertaining profile in the *San Diego Union*. And the den was entertained by a array of lunch speakers, including Herb Cawthorne, Ernest Hahn, Dan Pegg, Danuta, Marti Emerald, Don Bauder, Marty Levin and Police Chief Bob



Burgreen. The Lions heard about fellow Lion Jimmy Carter's plans to build homes for the poor in San Diego and Tijuana through Habitat for Humanity. Billy Moore, son of champ Archie Moore, showed highlights of his father's career and discussed Moore's "Any Boy Can" program, which netted the former champion the Club's service award plaque. At one sizzling meeting, Sheriff John Duffy lashed out at the media and received a standing ovation.

And Lion Wig Fletcher, who so richly deserved it, was named Mr. San Diego.

It was the year the once hotly debated new Convention Center finally opened its doors. It was also the year Congress voted to bail out the savings and loan industry. Colin Powell became the first African-American Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Hurricane Hugo devastated the Carolina coast, and San Francisco was hit by an earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale. The Berlin Wall came tumbling down, and the Cold War would never be quite the same again.



The Nineties: On to The Millennium

John Witt took the helm in July 1990, the first president of the new decade. The Lions kept their sights trained on the renovation of the Blind Recreation Center, and, at the same time, continued to spread their spirit through the community at large. A scant month after Witt took office, Iraq invaded Kuwait, and the stage was set for another war in the Middle East. Before the year was out, American troops would be heading for the Persian Gulf.

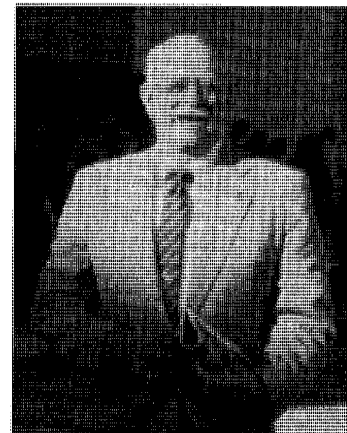
Meanwhile, the downtown den turned its focus closer to home. The California Center on Victimology needed a new computer, and the Host Club joined with the North Park Lions to foot the bill. Hillcrest Receiving Home's new nursery was gifted with six new Lazy Boy rockers. Meals on Wheels was funded for another year, and St. Paul's Manor received more than \$2,000 for a new refrigerator. The Club anted up more than \$7,000 for a video library at Deaf Community Services and contributed \$1,500 toward an alcohol rehabilitation program for the hearing impaired.

Mid-City Senior Enterprises was funded for another year, as was the Optometric Vision Clinic. The den contributed to the Lions Southern California Eye Clinic, and sent a substantial \$2,600 to Lions International's new SightFirst program. The Calexico club received a donation toward its new Lions Eye Clinic. And the San Diego Service Center for the Blind was given more than \$2,000 for its needs.

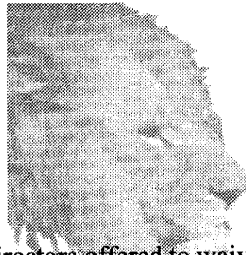
Foster Grandparents got a new laser printer, and Senior Community Services received more than \$4,000 to repair its dishwasher. The Dr. Barry Jones Scholarship Fund was enriched by \$2,000. The Blind Recreation Center had a librarian for another year, thanks to the Lions. And Home Start, the Community Congress of San Diego, Rancho del Rayo, the Gingerbread Day Center, the Service Center for the Disabled, the Association of Retarded Citizens, the Youth Exchange program, the Center for Parent Involvement in Education, Parent Care, and the Boys & Girls Club all came in for substantial contributions. Responding to the war in the Middle East, the Club remembered our fighting men and women with the donation of \$1,000 for a wide-screen television for the Military Service Center.

The San Diego Zoo was celebrating its 75th anniversary, and the Lions sponsored a walk-around character, named Dr. Harry Lion, to roam the grounds of the Zoo, promoting goodwill.

Membership was a strong 251, but the Club wanted to keep growing. As an



Jack Wyatt, who served as president of the club in 1978, was one of the chairmen of the Boys & Girls Aid Society fund drive. In 1997, Wyatt was the motivating force behind the formation of the Lions/PAL summer camp, for which Channel 10 honored him with a Community Leadership Award.



experiment, the Board of Directors offered to waive the dues of any member who sponsored five or more paid new members. Getting the word out on the Club was an important goal, and to that end, the board enthusiastically endorsed the idea of a new marketing video, to be produced by Lion Terry Williams and her husband, Bob Gardner.

Jack Wyatt and John Witt were named Melvin Jones Fellows, and Bob Sullivan was recognized for 50 years of perfect attendance. Cas Stillwagen and Geerd Von Hegerhorst were nominated for a Life Memberships, and Hote Houghtaling's 90th birthday and 60 years with the club were celebrated at a special lunch in February. Les Earnest achieved Pioneer status, and was nominated by the Club for 1991's Mr. San Diego award.

A new District newsletter, *The Roaring Times*, was launched, and Molly Cartmill was named editor.

The year included a host of interesting speakers, including Peter Navarro, Ken Kramer, the Symphony's Executive Director Wes Brustad, Hollywood producer and Padres managing partner Tom Werner, the Opera's Karen Keltner, and the zoo's lovely ambassador of goodwill, Joan Embry. Neil Morgan, Gerald Warren, Reid Carroll, and Chargers defensive back Gil Byrd all took the podium during the year, as did Assistant Police Chief Norm Stamper, Chamber of Commerce president Lee Grissom, and Chief Probation Officer Cecil Steppe.

At one particularly moving meeting, the Club heard from Lieutenant Colonel Clifford Acree, who had been shot down and taken prisoner early in the Gulf War. The overflow crowd greeted Acree with a standing ovation.

The U.N. forces made quick work of the Iraqi army, ending Desert Storm in a little less than three weeks. At home, San Diegan Pete Wilson was elected Governor of the State of California. And an African-American named Rodney King was beaten viciously by Los Angeles police officers — and the brutality was caught on videotape.

Milt Love took the gavel in July 1991, and membership was a robust 263. Word came soon after that the City of San Diego had approved the Blind Recreation Center renovation project. Dan Larsen and George Saadeh agreed to chair the fund-raising efforts and set their sights on raising \$2 million. By January \$300,000 was already committed. Rich Albrecht reported that the architect hired for the project was meeting with all concerned parties and incorporating all ideas into his plans. All systems were go.

The previous year's experimental membership program was a success, and the Board voted to renew it — waiving next year's dues for any member who brought in five new members.

While fund-raising continued for the Blind Recreation Center, the Club turned its attentions to a host of other worthy causes. The San Diego Service Center needed a new mini-bus, and the Club donated \$16,000, then added another \$5,800 to fund a Low Vision Library.

The Club enthusiastically voted to continue its partnership with Valencia Park School, and came up with nearly \$4,000 to fund a Lions-Quest program at the school. St. Paul's Manor received \$2,800 to fund a tray-line distribution system. Elder Help (formerly Mid-City Senior Enterprises) was gifted with \$2,000 for audio/visual equipment, and Literacy Volunteers of America received a \$2,000 overhead projector. There was a new studio cassette and



splice finder eraser for KPBS Radio Reading Service. Christian Social Concern's AIDS Hospice received a new copier, and Senior Assisted Fire Education got the wherewithal to put fire alarms in a number of households. The Blind Recreation Center got library services for another year, and Canine Companions for Independence received a new computer, thanks to the Club.

And one lonely elderly man was able to keep his cat because the Lions paid the security deposit on his apartment.

Rancho del Rayo, Neighborhood Outreach, the Southern California Lions Eye Institute, the Optometric Vision Clinic, Senior Community Services, the USO and the Alexander Graham Bell Junior High Science Olympiad were all sponsored. The Gaslamp Quarter Theatre's Youth Onstage program was given a new computer, and the Club purchased two concrete slabs at the Camp Fire Council's new Balboa Park campsite. A hefty sum helped the Association of Retarded Citizens furnish one of its group homes. And the Assistive Listening Device Program at San Diego State University was underwritten to the tune of \$3,000.

The Club's commitment to Lion International's SightFirst program was handsomely remembered, and Chuck Austin, Wig Fletcher, George Saadeh and Les Earnest were all named Melvin Jones Fellows.

The luncheon programs were as varied and interesting as always. Frankie Laine wowed an overflow crowd in December and enlisted the Lions' aid in his "old shoes" program for the Salvation Army. The Padres' Dick Freeman looked forward to the San Diego 1992 All-Star Game. New Zealander Michael Fay discussed his ill-fated "Big Boat" and the upcoming America's Cup race, and Ron Hahn talked about the proposed new downtown sports arena. Mental illness, sexual harassment in the workplace, criminal law, hazardous waste disposal, clean air legislation and the Border Patrol were among the topics covered in depth.

And the Club celebrated its 70th anniversary with a smashing party at the Doubletree Inn.

It was the year Russia saw its first freely elected president take office. A little-known law professor named Anita Hill accused Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of sexual harassment in emotion-charged hearings before the Senate. And four Los Angeles police officers were acquitted in the brutal beating of Rodney King, setting off a racial firestorm in L.A.

Charlie King took the reins in July 1992. Fund-raising for the Blind Recreation Center continued, and the Club was delighted when Lions Clubs International Foundation came through with \$50,000. The Trustees of the Welfare Foundation voted immediately to match the LCIF grant.

The Association of Retarded Citizens also came in for a substantial grant from the Lions. The Club donated \$115,000 to renovate a training workshop on Linda Vista Road, and Lion Walter Collins donated the design work. Another \$8,000 went to ARC toward the purchase of a new van.

The Club put its shoulder behind Lion-Quest, approving more than \$5,000 to train 18 teachers of grades 3 and 4. The partnership with Valencia Park School continued, and the Club footed the \$2,600 bill to help sponsor six sports teams in the Police Athletic League Program. The Blind Recreation Center retained its librarian for another year and also received \$4,500 from the downtown den to be used to help purchase a used bus.



Senior Community Centers needed new magnetic door openers, and the Lions were there with the cash. County Mental Health Auxiliary got a substantial contribution toward a storage trailer, and Home Start was gifted with a two-way observation mirror — a vital piece of equipment for its child abuse prevention programs. Elder Help got a new overhead projector and VCR. Project Talk received \$1,000 worth of play equipment for its waiting room. St. Paul's Manor got a new computer, and the Lions purchased needed audio/visual equipment for Foster Grandparents.

The Club increased its commitment to the Lions Optometric Vision Clinic, sponsored the Blind Recreation Center's Braille Rally, supported the Gain Teen Parent Program, underwrote the behavior modification program at Rancho del Rayo for another year, and threw a big holiday party for San Diego Youth & Community Services. The City College Lions Scholarship Fund — which helped the sight-impaired purchase books — was handsomely supported, as was Voices for Children. The Southern California Lions Eye Institute, Comfort Trucker Bears, the MD-4 Disaster Fund and the Martin Luther King Breakfast were also on the agenda.

One young man was able to go to the Paralympic Games in Barcelona, and John Fose, a disabled swimmer, was given the means to travel to the National Championships. A young blind woman received a guide dog, another received specialized software, and yet another, a prosthetic eye.

The Club contributed a \$1,000 to SightFirst and named Tony Moran, the motive force behind the original Blind Recreation Center, a Melvin Jones Fellow. Moran was also nominated for a Life Membership, and the Board voted to name the annual White Cane Day that year "Tony Moran Day." Moran, who had been blind himself, underwent a dramatic restoration of his eyesight. And after that, he dedicated himself to those with vision problems — raising the funds for the original Blind Recreation Center and promoting the distribution of the Banks Braille Writer.

It was the last year the Lions sponsored the 10-K Run.

From street gangs to health care reform, the Lions were elucidated on a wide variety of topics at their Tuesday meetings. Peter Navarro and Susan Golding squared off for a mayoral debate, and former Congressman Bob Wilson gave a behind-the-scenes look at life in Washington, D.C. Rolodex Madame Karen Wilkening took the podium, and so did Roger Hedgecock, Bill Holland, Jerry Coleman, Don Bauder, Murray Galinson and Norm Stamper.

It had been five years since the first woman was admitted to the downtown den, and the count had risen to 36 members — and growing.

And Frankie Laine was inducted as an honorary member.

Bill Clinton was elected President of the United States. In Waco, Texas, the FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms stormed the stronghold of the Branch Davidians, and the cult went up in flames.

Jerry Hutter took the gavel in July 1993, for a year that saw the downtown den spread its largesse to scores of worthy beneficiaries. Sandy McBrayer's school for homeless teens, The Place, received \$5,000 from the Club. McBrayer, who was named 1994's California Teacher of the Year, was also one of the year's most riveting speakers.

The Center for the Blind was gifted with a \$4,500 Arkenclone system, and the Blind Recreation Center got more than \$2,000 for a new copier. St. Paul's



Manor needed two electric beds, and the Lions came through. Meals on Wheels got a new computer, and so did the San Diego Alliance for the Mentally Ill and Elder Help. Captions for Kids received \$1,755 for 13 closed-caption decoders. More than \$5,500 was pledged to send needy and hearing impaired children to camp. And the book fund at City College and the Dr. Barry Jones Scholarship at San Diego State both were given substantial grants.

Support for the Lions Optometric Vision Clinic continued, as did donations to the Southern California Lions Eye Institute. The Blind Recreation Center's Braille Rally was underwritten for another year. And the Club handsomely supported Lions International's SightFirst program, naming Dor Turnbull as the year's Melvin Jones Fellow.

The Armed Services YMCA received \$1,000 for Christmas boxes, and the children at the Leukemia Society and the Comprehensive Health Center enjoyed holiday parties because of the Lions.

Rancho del Rayo was underwritten again, as was the Gain Teen Parent Program. The Senior Community Center was gifted with 12 new tables. And the Club decided to sponsor the Athenaeum Music program for one elementary school. They also collected old eyeglasses and donated them to the Naval Medical Center for Operation Stand Down.

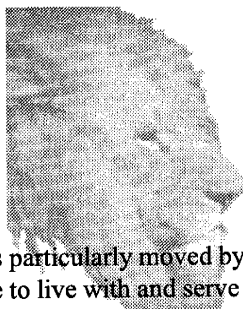
One young woman, a quadriplegic, was trying to set up her own law practice. Working with the Pacific Beach Lions, the downtown Club purchased voice-activated software for her use and donated it to the Access Center. John Fose, the disabled swimmer who had competed nationally the year before, was awarded travel expenses once again to the National Championships. And several blind and hearing impaired students received hearing aids, books, specialized software and computers, thanks to the Club.

The den decided to join forces with the Padres for a special fund-raising Fireworks Jamboree. The members sponsored a biergarten to raise funds at the downtown Stick Ball Tourney and Car Show. The ever-popular Mike Morrow Baseball tourney netted more than \$4,000. And Pledge to Serve raised more than \$23,000. "A Nite at the Gulls" — a benefit hockey game — offered a chance to win a new Buick. Even though no one was able to land a paper airplane in the car windows and win the car, the fund-raiser brought out lots of Lions for a night of fun.

Once again, membership was a hot topic — especially how to make new members feel a part of the Club. To that end, a new mentor program was launched, with a Board member assigned to every new member of the Club. It was also the year the Club reinstated the office of chaplain.

The Club was entertained and informed by a host of speakers, including Congressman Bob Filner, La Jolla Playhouse Managing Director Terry Dwyer, Ballard Smith, Don Bauder, and Irwin Jacobs, the genius behind Qualcomm. NAFTA was debated, and how to stop welfare fraud was examined. Chuck Nichols previewed the upcoming America's Cup races, and City Attorney Casey Gwinn took a hard look at domestic violence. Dr. Vert Mooney, a UCSD professor of medicine, offered entertaining tips on how to get rid of that pain in your back, and Karen Wilkening updated the Club on her year.

After the devastating Northridge earthquake in Los Angeles, the downtown Lions learned how to protect themselves in the event of a large temblor in San Diego.



And the membership was particularly moved by a presentation by Sister Antonia, the nun who chose to live with and serve the inmates at Tijuana's La Mesa prison. Her appearance spurred the den to send a contribution to her charity, Friends of the Poor.

Mayor Susan Golding and a civic delegation launched a bid to host the 1996 Republican Convention in San Diego. Congress passed the North American Free Trade Agreement, and President Clinton signed the Brady Bill into law. And O.J. Simpson was arrested for the murder of his wife, Nicole, and Ron Goldman. Little did anyone know this case would rivet the United States — and divide it along racial lines — for nearly three years.

Hugh Stone picked up the gavel in July 1994. Estimates on the Blind Recreation Center's renovation project were running near \$2.2 million, and Wig Fletcher, Cliff Underwood and John McColl spearheaded the Club's fund-raising efforts, freeing the membership to turn its attentions to a multitude of other worthy causes.

There was an emphasis on youth and education this year. The partnership with Valencia Park School continued to be an important commitment, and the den sponsored a \$2,000 Athenaeum Musical Program, as well as classes conducted by the Natural History Museum. Lafayette Elementary received more than \$2,500 for playground equipment and closed-caption devices. Three students at Ray Kroc Middle School were able to travel to Washington, D.C., because of the Lions, and the school got a new computer system to help hearing impaired students develop their reading and speech skills. The students at Mark Twain Junior/Senior High School were treated to a \$2,000 graduation lunch, courtesy of the Club. The Girl Scouts Outreach program was sponsored at an area school. And the book fund at City College was enriched by \$1,000.

More than \$4,700 was committed to various campership programs, including the Community Campership Council, Camp Wilderness and Camp Anytown. All told, 29 youngsters went to camp this year because of the concern and the generosity of the downtown Lions. And the Camp Fire Boys & Girls received a new dishwasher and sterilizer — an outlay of more than \$3,400.

The Club underwrote \$2,400 worth of bus tokens for the homeless teens served by the Youth and Community Services Storefront. The Logan Heights Branch of the Boys & Girls Club received a generous grant. The District Youth Exchange program was

supported for another year. And the behavior modification program at Rancho del Rayo was not forgotten.

Meals on Wheels was gifted with 10 food carriers, Accessible San Diego received a new phone service, and Parent Care got a new computer. The Lions anted up for a new copier for Elder Help, a mechanical door at the Access Center, and an electric bed for St. Paul's Manor. KPBS' Radio Reading Service received a handsome donation for 10 radio receivers. The residents at St. Vincent de Paul were treated to lunch, and the George Glenner Alzheimer's



Executive Director Victoria Wierig and President Dave Herring at work in the Lions offices.



Family Center got new carpeting. Christian Social Concerns was given more than \$1,700 for new equipment. And the San Diego Armed Services YMCA got a \$1,000 donation toward its Holiday Food and Toy drive.

Support for the Lions Optometric Vision Clinic remained strong. The Blind Recreation Center got a new cellular telephone system for its vans, and the Braille Rally was sponsored for another year. The Southern California Lions Eye Institute was also remembered.

And a number of individuals received the help they needed — from wheelchairs to hearing aids to closed-circuit television readers.

The coffers of the Welfare Foundation were enriched by an exceedingly generous bequest from the estate of Bill Casper that would, when all was told, amount to more than \$600,000.

The Trustees approved a renovation package for the Community Room at Lions Manor, and donated the old furniture to the Blind Recreation Center. And they agreed to spearhead a fund-raising drive to buy a fire truck for the Lions Club of Tijuana. Les Earnest took the lead, locating a truck and contacting other Lions clubs in the area for support. The Welfare Foundation matched the \$1,000 the Community Services Committee raised, and the effort took on steam.

Dr. Ed Houghtaling celebrated 65 years with the downtown Lions. And the Club mourned the passing of Tony Moran, the man who led the fund-raising drive to build the Blind Recreation Center.

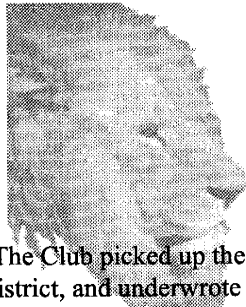
Dr. Edith Eva Eger, an Auschwitz survivor, riveted the Club with her description of life in a concentration camp. Mayor Susan Golding gave a frank appraisal of San Diego's problems and strengths, and James Strathes, Resident ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms) Agent, gave an insightful look at Waco. Attorney Paul Pflingst, School Superintendent Bertha Pendleton, former U.S. Attorney Peter Nunez, homeless advocate Father Joe Carroll, Judge Larry Stirling, SDSU President Dr. Thomas Day, and U.S. Attorney Allen Bersin all took the podium during the year, informing the Club on a wide variety of issues. And former San Diego Chargers placekicker Rolf Benirschke gave a moving account of his own bouts with illness and his daughter's, and his involvement with United Way.

It was the year the World Series was cancelled when baseball owners voted to end the season. Former President Ronald Reagan was revealed to have Alzheimer's disease. The nation went into shock as a terrorist bomb blew up the Oklahoma City Federal Building, killing scores of Americans. And the trial of O.J. Simpson was played out daily on America's television sets.

Rick Bellows took over the presidency in July 1995, for a year that saw the Club's commitment to community grow even stronger. In particular, the Club's dedication to youth and to local schools continued to increase.

The Valencia Park School received a \$5,000 pledge toward a new canopy for its outdoor lunch area. The Athenaeum Musical Program and the Natural History Museum classes were underwritten again, as well as a special series of performances by the Malashock Dance Company. And the Kid Power University Program was given a shot in the arm. Mark Twain Junior/Senior High School was gifted with caps and gowns for graduation, and the tab for the annual senior lunch was picked up by the downtown den. In addition, the Club sponsored training for two of Twain's teachers at the Lions-Quest program.

La Mesa Middle School received an interactive computer system to help



hearing impaired children. The Club picked up the cost of vision screening for the Lemon Grove School District, and underwrote the Classroom Edition of the Wall Street Journal for area schools. City College was given a language master, and the book fund was enriched by \$1,000. And the Dr. Barry Jones Scholarship fund at San Diego State received \$1,200 from the Club.

Camp Fire got a hefty grant of more than \$3,300 for a leadership program aimed at helping 300 elementary school children avoid gangs and drugs.

More than \$11,000 was committed to campership programs, including the Community Campership Council, the Outdoor Education Campership Fund, Camp Wilderness, the Police Athletic League, and Camp AnyTown. The behavior modification program at Rancho del Rayo was underwritten again, and the Club contributed two court sponsorships to the Police Athletic League. And the District Youth Exchange program was supported for another year.

With the goal of helping to curb teen violence, the Club committed \$5,000 to the Tariq Khamisa Foundation to help finance a video. The local group was founded to honor the memory of a young San Diego teenager who was gunned down while delivering a pizza.

Service to the blind, as always, remained high on the Lions' priority list. The Club donated more than \$11,000 to the Service Center for the Blind to help it acquire a van. Guide Dogs of the Desert got \$5,000 toward the purchase of a van. The Lions Optometric Vision Clinic needed a new computer system, and the Lions were there. The Club matched a \$2,700 grant from the North Park Lions to KPBS Radio Reading Service for new cabinets. And the Blind Recreation Center's Fun Fest and annual picnic were sponsored again. The Southern California Lions Eye Institute was supported for another year.

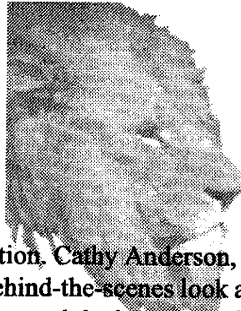
Lion Al Gabbs was named the year's Melvin Jones Fellow.

A host of other worthy causes commanded the Club's attention, as well. The YMCA Battered Women's Shelter got \$2,000 for a jungle gym and lawn furniture for its facility. Meals on Wheels received 10 new thermal food carriers. Foster Grandparents was gifted with a new computer, and St. Paul's Manor received the funding for seven new wheelchairs. Project Needs Festival of the Arts was underwritten by a generous \$3,500 grant, and the George Glenner Alzheimer's Family Center received \$2,000 to help defray the costs of care for needy victims of that devastating disease.

Project Hope needed a new VCR and television, as well as teacher resource books, and the Lions came through. The San Diego State Communicative Disorder Clinic was given \$2,000 for hearing devices. The annual holiday drive at the Armed Services YMCA was supported once again, and four families received Christmas gifts through the Metro Good Neighbor Center, thanks to the Lions. The Club also decided to underwrite the printing of the San Diego Downtown Directory of Services, a resource book aimed at San Diego's homeless. The residents of the Manor enjoyed a lovely Thanksgiving and a merry Christmas, thanks to the generosity of the downtown den.

And more than \$7,000 was set aside for individuals with special needs — from hearing aids to a baby crier for a young, deaf mother.

The Club was entertained and informed by a diverse group of speakers. The Padres' Larry Lucchino talked about the changes to expect under the club's new ownership. *Union-Tribune* feature writer Ozzie Roberts gave an engaging look at growing up in Harlem, and Dr. Howard Wayne looked at the problems with



conventional cardiac evaluation. Cathy Anderson, Director of the San Diego Film Commission, gave a behind-the-scenes look at Hollywood movies being filmed in San Diego and discussed the impact on the local economy. Downtown Partnership's Ron Oliver previewed new urban redevelopment projects, and Marsha Sewell took the membership step by step through her renovation of the Gaslamp Quarter's Yuma Building, complete with resident ghost. From telemarketing scams to the dangers of militia groups, the Lions were kept abreast of current events.

The *Union-Tribune* covered the Blind Recreation Center's renovation project, and trumpeted the Lions' ongoing involvement with the Center.

In San Diego, it was the year Dennis Conner lost the America's Cup to New Zealand. And Susan Golding announced plans to expand Jack Murphy Stadium. It was a decision that would create a political firestorm a year later.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzak Rabin was assassinated at a peace rally. And, after three hours of deliberation, the jury found O.J. Simpson not guilty of murder. The reaction — from outrage to exhilaration — showed America was deeply divided along racial lines.

On June 29, 1996, C. David Herring was installed as president for the Club's 75th anniversary year. Under Herring's leadership, it was a year in which the downtown Lions looked back over their 75 years of service to San Diego with satisfaction, and, at the same time, looked forward to the next decades of growth and dedication.

The commitment to community continued to flourish. Perhaps the proudest achievement was the new Lions/PAL summer camp for at-risk youth — the brainstorm of Lion Jack Wyatt. Inspired by a television show he saw detailing New York's PAL (Police Athletic League) summer camp gang-diversion program, Wyatt and Lion Jack Hook — both of whom serve on the local board of the Police Athletic League — came up with the idea of holding a similar camp here. Lion Kathleen Baldwin, who is Executive Director of Camp Fire Boys & Girls, suggested the use of Camp Wolahi — ironically, a site donated to Camp Fire by Ed and Mary Fletcher, Wig Fletcher's parents.

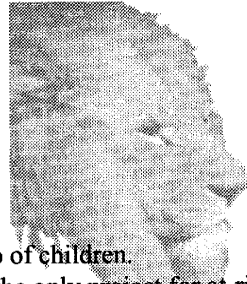
To launch the program, the Lions joined San Diego Regional PAL and the Boys & Girls Foundation to raise the \$22,000 necessary to host 84 children between the ages of 11 and 12 for a two-week stay. Then they asked various police agencies to submit the names of potential campers. Not content to merely fund the program, a number of downtown Lions, including Wig Fletcher, Les Earnest, Pete Gallagher and Pat Rolfe, trekked out to Camp Wolahi and formed personal relationships with the streetwise youngsters.

The experiment was an unmitigated success. Channel 10 was so impressed by the Lions' achievement, they singled out Jack Wyatt for its Community Leadership Award — which he received at a touching ceremony at Lions Manor, attended by a number of the campers. The Lions, excited by the first year's results, have voted to make the PAL Camp an affiliate organization of the Club, ensuring an ongoing relationship for years to come.

The plans for next year are already under way, with a goal to increase the two-week camp to three weeks. And to provide a continuing relationship with the youngsters, the Lions hope to bring this year's campers back next year to



67-year member Hote Houghtaling at the 1996-97 Installation Dinner.



interact with the new group of children.

The PAL program isn't the only project for at-risk youth the Lions have spearheaded this year. A new relationship with the Rancho del Campo Juvenile facility is also in the works. This year, the Lions donated the money for a new sound system for one of the dorms at the detention center. Next year, they're hoping to expand their commitment even further. The dream? To build a greenhouse for these 16- to 18-year-old offenders to learn the sorts of skills that can translate into job opportunities once they're back in society.

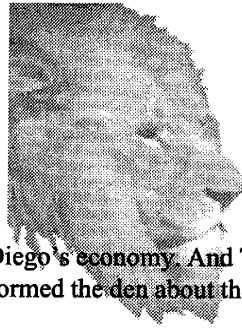
The Lions' largesse has, of course, encompassed far more than these two programs. The agencies that depend on the den's contributions have not gone wanting. San Diego Cares received a new computer. The Blind Recreation Center's picnic, Braille Rally and Fun Fest were remembered. A new District surgery project in Nicaragua was given a \$1,000 grant toward a microscope. There was new equipment for the Optometric Vision Clinic, a new telephone system for Elder Help, and a stage curtain for the San Diego High School Foundation. The relationships with Valencia Park School and Mark Twain Junior/Senior High School continued.

Project Needs, the Southern California Lions Eye Institute, the Armed Services YMCA, the Community Campership Council, Homestart and the District Youth Exchange were all supported.

The Club has also embarked on a new and richer relationship with the residents of Lions Manor. To celebrate the 15th anniversary of the building, the Club hosted the residents, for the first time, at a special luncheon. President Herring, inspired by the success of that meeting, suggested a special Christmas program for the Manor residents, where they were entertained by the Children's Choir of San Diego. To make the season even more meaningful, Lion Al Gabbs was brought out of retirement to design special holiday decorations for the Manor. For the first time, the Manor was all decked out for the holidays. Warmed by the reception these two events received, the Lions Manor Board of Directors has voted to hold at least two events for Manor residents each year.

This was also the year the Club entered the computer age with a vengeance. Dave Herring oversaw the computerization of all club records and accounts, and Steve McNabb established a Web site for the downtown den, which yielded touching and surprising results. One woman, whose father had just gone blind, saw the Lions' Web page and contacted Herring. He was able to put her in touch with the agencies that can help her father adjust to life without sight. And the Club is in possession of a new banner from a Lions Club in Finland — just because the Finns were browsing the Net and located the San Diego Club's home page.

It was an exciting year for programs and community involvement. The Club sponsored a popcorn booth at Street Scene, the popular Gaslap Quarter music festival. And the lunch meetings saw a stellar array of speakers on topics as compelling and wide-ranging as juvenile justice, the summer's Republican Convention in San Diego, the debate over handguns, workers' compensation and air safety. At one highly entertaining gathering, former CIA officer Darryl Thibault delved into the intriguing world of corporate espionage and Mexican drug cartels. At another, the Lions took a hard look at domestic violence — the causes and the cures. Higher education was the topic when Robert Dynes, Chancellor of UCSD, and new SDSU President Stephen Weber took the podium. Don Bauder, *San Diego Union-Tribune* financial editor, gave a



definite thumbs up to San Diego's economy. And Tom Page, President of San Diego Gas and Electric, informed the den about the ins and outs of coming utility deregulation.

At one particularly moving meeting, the Lions saw the Tariq Khamisa Foundation video on youth violence they had helped make possible with a generous grant.

In February, members of the old Lioness Club — which hadn't held a regular meeting since 1984 — came together once again to celebrate their long affiliation with the Host Club.

The members were saddened when somebody made off with the brass bell bestowed on the club by member Howard (Red) Yeager, Vice Admiral, United States Navy. The bell, which served as a memorial to Yeager, had rung each meeting to order for more than 33 years, and was sorely missed. Buck Hubbard came to the rescue, however, producing the brass bell that once belonged to the now defunct 20-30 Club, a bachelors' group.

On a happier note, the Club was particularly proud when the video created by Terry Williams and Bob Gardner walked off with first-place honors at Lions International for the best Lions video produced anywhere in the world. Williams and Gardner presented their \$500 prize to the Club.

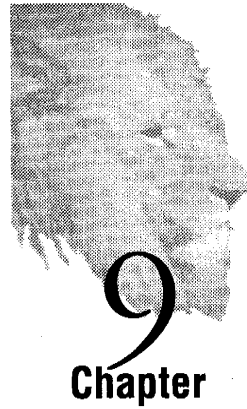
In April, the Lions, their mates and their friends — 350 strong — converged on the Hotel Del Coronado for a night to remember. Co-chaired by Betty Hubbard and her son, Buck, the Diamond Anniversary Ball was an elegant and exciting evening. The night began with a cocktail party in the patio garden. Celebrants were then piped into the Grand Ballroom by the stirring bagpipes of the Highland Scottish Pipers. The Ballroom was splendidly decked out, and while the Bill Green Orchestra played, Lions could reminisce at a stunning historical photo display that chronicled 75 years of service — and fun.

Hosted by Tom Blair, the program was dedicated to honoring four of the Club's most illustrious members — Les Earnest, Hote Houghtaling, Wig Fletcher, and Bob Sullivan. Earnest, Houghtaling and Fletcher were given standing ovations, and Sullivan's son, Robert, accepted the award for his late father. Kay Fukushima, past Lions District Director, was the keynote speaker. And Assemblyman Howard Wayne presented the group with a proclamation honoring the Club's 75 years of service.

The Mayor of San Diego proclaimed the day officially Lions Day. And congratulations were received from President Bill Clinton and Governor Pete Wilson. Twenty-five past presidents of the Club were in attendance, and joined in the merry-making. It was truly the high point of a remarkable year.

As the San Diego Lions look back on their 75 year history, they should feel immense pride in their accomplishments. San Diego would not be the place it is today without their quiet and selfless dedication. But, in true Lion spirit, the Club is looking forward. What is their role in the 21st century? What are the challenges they must meet?

David Herring, echoing the original charter of the Welfare Foundation, put it this way: "The Club will evolve with society, and we have laid the groundwork for that. We will continue to try to meet the needs that government has not addressed, to fill in the gap, to try to be where no one else is." Pausing for a moment, he summed it up: "Service clubs, like the Lions, give us the opportunity to light a candle instead of cursing the darkness."



The Welfare Foundation of The Lions Club of San Diego

By Les Earnest

The Welfare Foundation of the Lions Club of San Diego came into being on April 13, 1944, after the Lions Club of San Diego, chartered in 1922, had incorporated, then passed on its amendment to its constitution and by-laws, allowing the establishment of the Welfare Foundation.

Early in the life of Lions International, Helen Keller had appealed to the young organization to adopt aid to the blind as its major program. As a result, the original purpose of the Welfare Foundation was for the care and rehabilitation of blind servicemen. However, about this time, the G.I. Bill of Rights was passed, which provided exactly such care, making the Foundation's principal objective obsolete. So the first Board of Directors, elected on June 8, 1944, immediately set out to redefine the Declaration of Trust agreement as follows:

"Whereas the said club has as one of its major objectives the promotion of the welfare of humanity and particularly of the blind, it is now desirous of accumulating a trust fund to be used for the purpose of aiding unfortunate people and particularly those unaided and untouched by existing agencies."

In 1955, the Welfare Foundation was further defined "to provide for a long-range plan for the establishment and support of a home for boys from broken homes or improper environments." In February 1965, the Welfare Foundation was further amended to allow us to support the Boys & Girls Aid Society as a major charitable contribution.

Since 1944, the San Diego Welfare Foundation has made substantial contributions to San Diego's blind, deaf, mentally ill and disadvantaged.

Our first major project was the development, manufacture and distribution of the Banks Pocket Braille Writer for the blind. With the help of IBM and other Lions Clubs around the world, more than 6,500 of these ingenious pocket machines were made available to the visually impaired.

We financed the construction of the Blind Recreation Center in Balboa Park and turned the center over to the blind of San Diego County. This structure was built through the cooperation of Lions Clubs throughout San Diego County. It provided a social, rehabilitation and business center for the visually impaired people of this community.

This building is now more than 45 years old, and we are in the process of raising funds for a \$2 million replacement.

In 1963, the Lions Sight Preservation Clinic was organized by the Lions Welfare Foundation and the Optometric Association. Located in the Blind Recreation Center, the Clinic, now known as the Lions Optometric Vision Clinic, provides eye testing and glasses for patients who have no other means



of assistance. Most individuals are referred to the Clinic by school nurses, Salvation Army, Goodwill Industries, etc.

Loans have been made to the visually impaired to assist them in starting businesses in order to become self-supporting.

Funds were also placed at four colleges and universities in the San Diego area to provide short-term loans to students.

In 1965, Fred Morrison, Executive Director of United Way, requested the Welfare Foundation through Wig Fletcher to assume responsibility for re-organizing the Boys & Girls Aid Society, which was in financial trouble. The old facilities near Mercy Hospital were obsolete. We purchased a new 27-acre site near Cottonwood Country Club and constructed a new facility to house 52 emotionally disturbed boys and girls, ages 12 through 18. The center also provided classrooms, craft rooms, a swimming pool and other recreational facilities. The Foundation donated \$50,000. Jack Wyatt and Wig Fletcher spearheaded the fund-raising campaign, raising another \$50,000 from Club members and the balance from the community at large.

We later purchased two houses near 30th and Hawthorne to serve as interim housing for boys and girls who had graduated from the Cottonwood facility and were moving back into society.

In 1977, under the chairmanship of Wig Fletcher, we raised \$210,000 for the construction of a new plant for the San Diego Association for the Retarded, where they could do constructive work.

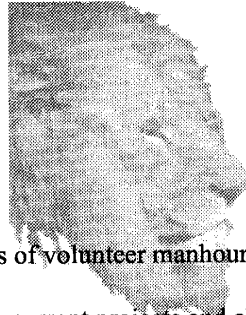
We undertook a project to raise funds to convert the old Fire Alarm Station in Balboa Park into a deaf recreation center. We encountered two problems. First, we found the inside of the building had been treated with asbestos, and the cost of removing this proved to be prohibitive. Second, we were unable to develop an organization of the deaf which could assume the operation of the facility in the manner the blind had done with their building.

We raised \$90,000, which we deposited in the San Diego Community Foundation to serve as a trust fund for the deaf. The annual earnings are allotted to projects for the deaf by a committee composed of Lions and members of the deaf community.

We constantly support the following types of projects:

- Indoor Sports Club
- Camperships
- YMCA
- YWCA
- Camp Fire Boys & Girls
- Meals on Wheels
- Crime Stoppers
- The Mike Morrow High School Spring Baseball Tournament
- KPBS special radios for the blind
- The sight-impaired
- The hearing-impaired
- Handicapped of any kind
- The homeless
- Foreign student exchange

The purpose of the Welfare Foundation is not only to raise funds for worthy community projects, but also to provide advice and assistance in the operation



of such projects. Thousands of volunteer manhours have been provided by our members.

Funds raised are used for current projects and also are accumulated in a trust fund for periodic major projects. How do we come up with the necessary dollars? Originally members were asked to pledge a Buck a Month. These funds went into the trust. Now annual membership pledges, under the Pledge to Serve program, are substantially more. All of our members are expected to pledge what they can afford.

The very first fund-raiser for the Welfare Foundation was a big band dance at Pacific Square Ballroom. The use of the hall and the services of the band were donated. For several years we bought the San Diego performances of the Clyde Beatty Circus when it came to town. We sold the tickets and received half of the profit. This was a major undertaking, although one year we lost about \$2,300. Several years we purchased theatrical performances and sold the tickets.

At the time we were providing a new home for the Boys & Girls Aid Society, the Chargers agreed to have a benefit game for the project. The *Union-Tribune* publicized it, and the Lions sold the tickets. We raised \$23,446.42.

We have held many raffles. For the last several years we have held a major raffle for our youth programs.

The annual White Cane drive all goes to charity. The 10-K run proved to be a lot of work but was a good revenue producer for several years.

When Fred Orton became a member of our Club he took on the project of selling Entertainment books. He has sold more than all of the rest of the Club members combined. This is a rewarding project.

Several of our former members have left us substantial sums in their wills. H.W. Merkley left us one third of his estate, a total of \$300,000. Shef Sheffield left us \$200,000, a substantial sum to be used for renovating the Lions' meeting room. Bill Casper remembered us with a gift of more than \$600,000. Wig Fletcher gave us \$25,000 worth of San Diego Trust stock, which when sold by the Foundation yielded more than \$100,000. Several other large gifts have been made which were limited to aid for the blind. All funds are kept in a special brokerage account which now totals \$2,000,000 and yields annual interest revenues of \$30,000 per year.



Promotion of The Braille Writer

By Les Earnest

It all began back in 1945, when Ben Sherman was president of the San Diego (Host) Lions Club. Dr. Howard Ball was on the Sight Conservation Committee, and he heard of Dr. Alfred E. Banks and his marvelous invention, the Braille Writer. Howard told the committee all about it, and he and fellow committee-man, Father Kirk, called upon Dr. Banks to see the device demonstrated. Shortly thereafter, a demonstration was made before the entire Club on a Thursday.

The Banks Pocket Braille Writer enabled a blind person to write at great speed. Someone skilled in its use could write braille shorthand at 130 words a minute. The machine was small and light, weighing approximately eighteen ounces — small enough to carry in a man's pocket or a woman's purse. It contained six keys and a space bar, and its cover lifted to reveal a roll of narrow paper tape. When the keys were struck, braille letters were embossed on the tape.

Our Club tried to promote the machine before the Zone Council and at the District Convention and, finally, for Lions International at Chicago. We met with spontaneous enthusiasm in California but with marked indifference at general headquarters.

And so it became clear to our Club that if the Braille Writer were to become a Lions Club project, our own den would have to do the promotion. That was a substantial undertaking. It involved the whole field of development, including stimulation of interest in the device, getting it manufactured, advertising it and supervising its distribution. It was a challenge, and we accepted it.

Lion Nelson Roberts was our guiding genius in the promotion of the Braille Writer. He first became interested as a member of the Sight Conservation Committee. He conferred further with Dr. Banks, obtained photographs and specific descriptions of the little machine and then wrote reams of correspondence to International Business Machines in New York. Having finally gained the interest of Thomas J. Watson, president of IBM, Nels went in person New York and conferred with the company. He was successful.

In 1945, an agreement was reached with IBM to debug the machine, produce tools and dies, and then manufacture the Braille Writer on a non-profit basis. IBM even agreed to absorb the \$50,000 cost of design and tooling. The actual production and handling cost was \$18 each.

Dr. Banks' one stipulation was that the machines could not be sold for more than \$5, and that distribution had to be made through a Lions Club in the area where the blind person lived. This gave each Lions Club an opportunity to assist the blind in its community by underwriting the \$13 balance on the cost of each



machine.

The first Banks Pocket Braille Writer was delivered in December 1946. The first 1,000 writers were contributed by IBM to blind veterans. Approximately 3,000 writers were distributed the first year. IBM also donated \$15,000 to the project.

In 1948, we furnished a Banks Pocket Braille Writer to Helen Keller, who took it with her on a trip to China.

Time and much use of these writers proved that improvements were needed. Dr. Banks resumed work on the writer, collaborating with IBM on a new design. IBM retooled The Model 4 Banks Pocket Braille Writer and produced the Model 7. Most of the earlier models were replaced by the new Model 7.

IBM continued producing thousands of writers until about 1952. They charged us just \$11 each to produce them, which was below cost. These writers were distributed to every state in the Union and to 26 other countries.

After 1952, we turned to other manufacturers, asking them to produce the machine. However, the output was not satisfactory. And so, when in 1960, the London Lions (Host) Club asked if we would permit them to manufacture the machine, we agreed and loaned them \$4,500 to get started.

The London firm experienced difficulties. By 1968, the price for a writer had gone up to (U.S.) \$26.

By this time, small tape recorders were vastly improved. And so, around 1968, after a long and distinguished life, the Banks Pocket Braille Writer was discontinued.



Affiliate Organizations of The San Diego Lions Club

Boys & Girls Foundation

By Terry Loftus and Les Earnest

Starting in 1902, a group of citizens was formed to provide care for children who were wards of the court. This group, named the Boys & Girls Aid Society, had a board of directors composed mainly of elderly women.

By 1964, the children were housed in an old Army barracks located on Third Avenue, north of Mercy Hospital. Most of them attended Roosevelt Junior High School. Their support came from the combined efforts of San Diego County and the United Way. The United Way was concerned that the board of the Boys & Girls Aid Society lacked the necessary financial management skills to run the foundation correctly. Fred Morrison, executive director of United Way, approached Wig Fletcher with his concerns and the request that the San Diego Lions Club provide members from our Club to serve on the board of the Boys & Girls Aid Society. They were not asking the Club to assume full financial responsibility for the Society, but to lend our expertise to its operations. We agreed. The Society modified its by-laws to call for a majority of Lions on its board. The by-laws of the San Diego Lions Welfare Foundation stated we could sponsor a boy's club. The Club voted to amend the by-laws so the Club could sponsor a boys and girls facility.

The living conditions at the boys and girls home were so poor that we decided to find a larger site and better accommodations. The creation of the new facility was due in large part to the individual efforts of former Club presidents Wig Fletcher, Cas Stillwagen and Carl Williams.

In the beginning, Cas, who had just resigned from his position as comptroller and treasurer of Ryan Aircraft, devoted his efforts to the financing of the agency project. Through a \$50,000 pledge from the Welfare Foundation, added to another \$50,000 to \$60,000 donated by Club members, Cas managed to negotiate a loan with the Bank of America for \$300,000, guaranteed by the club.

Meanwhile, Wig found the Cottonwood property, consisting of 26 1/2 acres, located adjacent to the Rancho San Diego Golf Course (formerly the Cottonwood Golf Course) on Steele Canyon Road in East County. With the proceeds from the sale of the old facility and some of the proceeds of the loan Cas had negotiated, Wig came up with the \$50,000 necessary to purchase the land. The new 52-bed facility was designed and constructed entirely by Club members. It was named Cottonwood Academy. Over the years, the Club devoted time, managerial expertise and another \$150,000, which provided a swimming pool, recreation room, watering system and, in 1988, a new roof.



By 1971, more facilities were needed. Wig Fletcher found a house near Hawthorne and 30th that could serve as a group home for girls who had graduated from Cottonwood Academy and had nowhere else to go. The Welfare Foundation advanced \$12,500 for this purchase.

In 1972, the Foundation donated another \$12,000 for a down payment on a group home for boys who had graduated from Cottonwood, following up on the successful purchase of the girls' home the year before.

The agency experienced many changes over the years, driven by economics and shifting public philosophies concerning the care of mentally disturbed children. By 1988, it had evolved from housing for mildly disturbed boys and girls to a full adolescent psychiatric facility. The land loan had been paid off, and the value of the property was estimated at between \$2.9 to \$3.8 million. However, the costs of care and legislative compliance had risen astronomically, and the facility still could service only 52 clients. Faced with so many children needing help in so many ways, the Boys & Girls Aid Society refocused. In 1992, the agency shut down.

After considerable study and investigation of the needs of the community, the agency renamed itself the Boys & Girls Foundation. Today, the Foundation acts as landlord for the Cottonwood facility, which presently is managed and operated by New Alternatives. The present clientele include mentally disturbed children from the ages of 4 to 10. Rentals, contributions and investment income permit the Foundation to provide a wide range of grant relief to the 11- to 18-year-old members, including such projects as the City Heights VIVA! YOUTH project, administered through the San Diego Youth and Community Services, and the PAL program managed by the San Diego Police Department. The Foundation was also able to provide partial funding for a distinguished KPBS television documentary about homeless teenagers. And it continues to provide grants to the Cottonwood facility, such as providing for another new roof.

Blind Recreation Center

By Les Earnest

In 1947, the Sight Conservation Committee, chaired by Anthony Moran initiated a major project to construct a recreational facility for the blind and sight-impaired citizens of the San Diego Community. Dr. Moran was a former member of the Braille Club and had recently regained his sight after being legally blind for 10 years. The Braille Club had attempted to construct a similar facility for 20 years without success. The Lions Club took on the Braille Club project and opened participation Districtwide.

Tony Moran, together with members of the Sight Committee, devoted the next three years to funding the project by selling Blind Seals. Sending out more than 100,000 letter requests for donations, the drive netted \$7,000. Lion Al Frank contributed another \$5,000 and the Club's Welfare Foundation, which had sponsored and developed the Banks Pocket Braille Writer, underwrote the balance of the project.

A site was finally selected at the northern edge of Balboa Park at the corner of Indiana and Upas streets. City Attorney Jean DuPaul, City Manager Fred Rhodes and City Councilman Charles Wincote, all of whom were Club members, secured an agreement for the Lions Club to lease park land for a Blind Recreation Center. The city and the Lions entered into a 15-year lease from



1948 through 1963.

Construction of the site was undertaken by the cooperative efforts of numerous members: Stan Burne drew up the plans, Jess Zwiener, Zwiener Electric, acted a electrical contractor, Harry McGahey, San Diego Lumber Company, provided the lumber, and Bob Sullivan, Sullivan Hardwood Lumber Company, provided oak flooring. The building was to be made of natural redwood and contain a 200-seat auditorium, a hobby room and a kitchen.

Groundbreaking was October 8, 1948. In attendance were the International President, who turned the first spadeful of dirt, the District Governor and Club President Marsh Malone. The building was completed and dedicated on May 8, 1949. All vision-impaired individuals in the greater metropolitan area were invited to attend a meeting to incorporate the Blind Recreation Center. A 501 c3 tax-exempt corporation, the Blind Recreation Center has by-laws that provide for four Lions to serve on the board of directors. At least one of these must be from the San Diego (Host) Lions Club.

Since the dedication of the Center, all blind groups in the city have free use of the premises. One such non-Lion group was the Braille Transcribers Guild, which transcribed books into braille and read book onto tape. This group raised the money to refurbish the basement of the facility. They occupied space at the Center until 1996, when they disbanded.

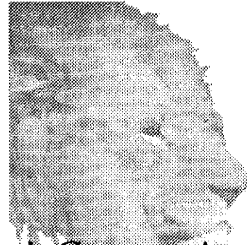
In 1961, it was obvious that the building was no longer large enough to meet the growing needs of San Diego's blind community. It was decided that the Lions should undertake a major expansion. But the 15-year lease was due to expire in less than two years. Before these improvements could be made, it was necessary to ask the city for a major lease extension. Permission was granted and a new 16-year lease, which ran through June 30, 1978, was issued.

On November 4, 1963, the Lions Sight Preservation Clinic (now known as the Lions Optometric Vision Clinic) opened its doors for the first time. Under the direction of Dr. Robert Lewis, the Sight Conservation Committee had been working on an expansion of the Blind Recreation Center facilities. Staffed by the San Diego Optometrists, who donate their time, the clinic provided — and continues to provide to this day — free eye examinations and glasses for those who aren't able to afford them. At the same time, the southern portion of the facility was enlarged to create two more rooms, one of which became the Braille and Talking Books Library. In the 1970s, three new offices were partitioned off when the Center received a state grant to provide training for the blind.

In 1978, when the second lease lapsed, the city issued the center a yearly "Preferential Non-exclusive Use and Occupancy Permit" instead of another long-term lease. The Center currently exists under that permit.

The Blind Recreation Center currently provides a full range of arts and crafts classes, educational pursuits, sports activities — including beep ball, fishing, golf putting, roller skating, swimming, tandem biking, and water skiing — and social events, including bus trips, chorus groups, dinners, dance, night walks, square dances and theater parties.

In 1991, it was again decided that the Center needed an upgrade. This time the Club, together with other Lions Clubs and community interests, has embarked on reconstruction of the entire facility. This undertaking has become known as Share-A-Vision.



Lion's Community Manor

By Terry Loftus

The idea for the Lions Community Manor began in 1969 when Club member Tom Chapman approached Falkenberg & Associates with a suggestion to involve the San Diego Lions Club in building a HUD retirement project for the blind. In 1971, the Community Service Committee began to entertain the idea of building a handicapped housing project. In the final analysis it was agreed that the project would be directed at the elderly and handicapped, rather than the blind only. In 1972, the Lions Community Service Corporation, a nonprofit corporation, was formed to guide the planning, construction and completion of the project. Members Hal Sadler, Tucker & Sadler, and Hal Kvass, Kvass Construction, were chosen as architect and general contractor, respectively. Tucker & Sadler agreed to do the architectural work for no fee if the project were not actually built, and Hal Kvaas agreed to bid the project at no cost.

In the mid-1970s Wig Fletcher and Tom Chapman began negotiations with Shapell Government Housing in conjunction with the Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC). Shapell had already completed several HUD units in the downtown area, and CCDC required additional low-income housing to be constructed in the downtown area. Through CCDC, Shapell controlled several sites in the city. In the late 1970s, the Market Street site became available and Shapell decided to contract with a nonprofit organization to build low-income housing on the site.

Eventually, Shapell selected the Lions Club and agreed to permit the Club to negotiate directly with CCDC. Originally CCDC wanted to lease the Fourth Street property to the club, but Wig Fletcher held out and obtained an outright land agreement. As part of the agreement, the Club entered into a 50-year Disposition and Development Agreement with CCDC for CCDC to purchase the land from the city and then to grant it to the Club, subject to several restrictive covenants, including a provision that the land be occupied by elderly, handicapped and those persons displaced in the downtown area due to redevelopment projects.

Concurrent with the purchase of the property, the Club, through its newly incorporated entity, applied to HUD for both mortgage money for construction and Section 8 Housing Assistance. Although there was significant competition for HUD assistance in the downtown area, once the property was in hand, HUD moved quickly to approve the project.

The Lions Community Service Corporation, doing business as the Lions Community Manor, entered into a loan agreement with HUD for the construction and operation of an apartment facility for elderly persons, which included a 40-year mortgage and a 20-year Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Contract.

After nine years of planning, construction began on September 24, 1980, for a projected cost in excess of \$7.5 million. To appease local opposition to low-income housing, the building plans included provision for a Community Service Center, which HUD would not agree to underwrite. Wig Fletcher raised money to construct the additional room which included a major community meeting room, prep-kitchen and room for an arts and crafts area so long as a small portion of the space would be reserved for a Lions Office. The Community Service Center was constructed in such a manner as to permit a second story in



the future.

At the time of commencement of construction the First Congregational Church was in the process of tearing down its downtown building at Sixth and A streets and approached CCDC as to how best to memorialize the downtown church. After some negotiation, the manor agreed to care for the stained glass windows and the church donated \$85,000 toward construction. Today the windows hang in the lobby of the manor. The doors at the southwest corner of the community service room were donated by the Catholic Church that formerly existed on the site.

Money for the construction of the community service room was raised through a public fund-raising project in the amount of \$200,000 — \$50,000 from the Welfare Foundation and, under the joint chairmanship of Jack Wyatt and Wig Fletcher, another \$50,000 from the membership. Wig Fletcher then went to the public and raised another \$200,000. When the project was finished, Hal Kvaas, of Kvaas Construction Company, forgave roughly \$200,000 in extras which had not been contemplated in the construction of the building. When all construction was completed, there was an approximate \$100,000 surplus, which was placed in a separate fund to be administered by the Welfare Foundation to provide assistance to the real property only, as well as certain amenities for the individuals living within the facility. Disposition of those funds is managed by the Club's Manor Board of Directors.

On February 6, 1982, the Lions Community Manor and Community Service Center was formally dedicated. The building is 14 stories and contains 128 units. A lottery was held to select the first tenants from the many applicants. Today there is a waiting list of two to three years. Residency requirements include that residents must be at least 62 years of age, blind or wheelchair handicapped and have an annual adjusted income of \$13,250 for one person or \$15,100 for two people.

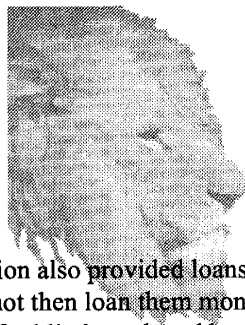
The Manor project is the result of the energies, time and support of many of the Club members. Falkenberg & Associates has provided enormous support and oversight to the project and has served as advisor, consultant and manager from the inception to the present. Forty years from its inception, the property will be owned free and clear by the Manor Board, the downtown area surrounding the site will most likely be fully upgraded and the project, which was once located in the depressed Chinatown section of town, will be worth millions of dollars.

San Diego Center For The Blind (and Vision Impaired)

By Terry Loftus

Following the construction of the Blind Recreation Center, the blind community began collecting monies for the purchase of a home for the blind to serve as a refuge for elderly and needy blind persons. By 1962, and in part due to legislative changes eliminating discrimination against blind people, a home for the blind was no longer needed nor desired.

Monies raised for the blind home were deposited into the San Diego County Foundation for the Blind to provide financial assistance for programs and agencies rendering educational services and medical equipment



for the blind. The Foundation also provided loans for the blind since commercial banks would not then loan them money. The Foundation also sponsored summer camps for blind youth and began a program for living skills for the blind.

The County Department of Rehabilitation determined that there was an urgent need for special education for the blind in the San Diego area. In 1973, the first charter program of Training of Independent Development (TID) started and operated for the next four years out of the Blind Recreation Center in Balboa Park. The Blind Recreation Center eventually proved to be too small for the TID program, and restrictions in the park lease required TID to find another facility. The search for a new location commenced under the auspices of the "San Diego County Service Center for the Blind." Later the word "County" was dropped.

Funds from the United Council, the San Diego Foundation for the Blind — both of which dissolved, leaving their entire assets to the Center — and some government funds were used to purchase the facility at its present location at 5922 El Cajon Boulevard. Once the Center was in operation, the Departments of Rehabilitation and Education came to take a more active and responsible role in its operation.

More than 80 percent of monies raised for the Center go directly for the benefits of the blind. The Center is supported by more than 200 sighted and nonsighted volunteers, who contribute approximately 19,000 hours of volunteer service to the Center a year.

The current facility has a state-of-the-art home-skills classroom and kitchen, with a daily enrollment of 25-65 students. Other programs at the facility include sewing, grooming, food/clothing/money identification, typing, braille, activities of daily living, safe use of home appliances, and cane and bus travel training. High magnification closed-circuit telereading machines are available for client usage. There is also an outreach counselor for homebound clients.

The Center is strongly supported by the San Diego/Imperial County Lions Clubs. Members of the San Diego Lions serve as members of the Board of Directors, and the Club has given more than \$41,000 in donations during the years 1990-1995. In these years alone, this Club has provided special computer equipment to be used for and by the blind, a matching fund contribution for the purchase of a new mini-van, furnished a low-vision library and provided hardware and software for the administration of the facility.

San Diego Association For Retarded Citizens

By Terry Loftus

The Club maintains a minority position on the Board of Directors of the San Diego Association for Retarded Citizens. ARC has a facility in San Diego, on Aero Drive, for the benefit of and the training of developmentally disabled citizens of the community. Private industry contracts with ARC to perform certain assemblage or packaging projects, which teaches these citizens a skill and gives them an opportunity to mainstream into the community.



In 1977, the Club took on the challenge of building a workshop and classroom, which would become known as the Lions Workshop Building. Wig Fletcher spearheaded the fund-raising. The Welfare Foundation contributed \$50,000, and Club members pledged another \$50,000. The balance of the funds, totalling nearly \$210,000, was raised from the public. October 20, 1977, was declared Lions Workshop for the Retarded Day by then-Mayor of San Diego Pete Wilson. The Club, through its Welfare Foundation, has continued to contribute to the benefit of this facility and recently pledged \$125,000 for its restoration.

Deaf Endowment Board

By Terry Loftus

There is an old building, the Old Fire Alarm Building, in Balboa Park at Marston Point, which is directly beneath the flight pattern of incoming commercial jets. The building has been unoccupied for many years. Several years ago, the Club undertook the inspection of the building and studied the feasibility of constructing a recreational facility for the deaf community. Money was raised from the Club and the community for construction and renovation.

The Club worked hands-on with the area's deaf community and the San Diego City Council, which fully endorsed the project.

After initial feasibility engineering studies were completed, however, the building was discovered to have contained large amounts of asbestos and the construction project was terminated. The funds raised for construction — \$90,000 — were deposited in the San Diego Community Fund (a \$20 million foundation) for recreational projects for the benefit of the deaf and hearing impaired.

Currently, expenditure of the interest income from these funds is overseen by the Club's Hearing Committee.

Share A Vision

By Terry Loftus

Share a Vision is a separate Board of Directors, which operates as the funding arm for the renovation of the Blind Recreation Center. This Board of Directors is made up of Club members, members from other Lions Clubs, members from other service clubs and the community in general.

Share a Vision needs to raise approximately \$2 million to complete the project. The Club, through its Welfare Foundation, has pledged \$125,000 to this renovation, the North Park Lions' Club has pledged \$100,000 and Lions International has pledged \$50,000.



Lions Club Meeting Places

By Les Earnest

For its first month of life, our Lions Club met in a small private dining room at the Hotel San Diego. When the room was eliminated by remodeling in October 1921, we moved to the basement dining room of the Waldorf Hotel, which was on Fourth Avenue on the site of the present New Plaza Hotel. From there, we proceeded to the dining room of the New Southern Hotel on Sixth Avenue, which was our home until July 1923. Our next stop was Rudder's Grill, a large restaurant formerly located in the basement of the Union Building on Broadway, where we met until May 1924. When Rudder's closed, the Club headed to the Maryland Hotel, where we met for about seven months. After the Maryland, the Cabrillo Restaurant on Sixth Avenue, operated by Club member Maurice Bernardini, served as our home until 1933.

Next, it was on to the U.S. Grant, where we met for about five years in the Gold Room. In 1938, we moved to the San Diego Athletic Club, managed by member Mack Gordon, on the southwest corner of Sixth and A streets, where we remained until 1960. In March 1960, the SDAC notified us that they were going to close. So we moved up the hill to the El Cortez Hotel at Seventh and Ash.

Lions called that site "Cardiac Hill." Members were not happy with the location — or with the food — so we persuaded the San Diego Athletic Club to take us back. And back we went on February 23, 1961.

June 29, 1964, we moved back to the U.S. Grant Hotel. There we remained until 1981 when both the San Diego Rotary Club and the San Diego Host Lions Club each wanted to hold lunch meetings on Thursday. We lost on the coin flip and moved to Hotel San Diego where we had met in our earliest days.

By this time we were building Lions Manor on Market Street between Third and Fourth. A 14-story building, the Manor has 129 housing units plus office space and a large meeting room. Some members wanted a full kitchen built next to the large meeting room. A few felt strongly that we should not be in the food business. We finally compromised by including a catering kitchen where food prepared elsewhere could be warmed and served.

The Manor was dedicated February 6, 1982, and our offices were moved from the Hotel San Diego to the new building. We continued holding our luncheons at Hotel San Diego until the fall of 1982. Finally, we selected a caterer and moved our meeting to Lions Manor. We will own this building about 2010.

Jim Anderson



Charter Members

J.W. Arrasmith
Harvey Ball
Sky Barnes
Burt Bates
Morris Brunt
Frank Buckley
Bill Card
Henry Clarke
Willard Coburn
Hugh Cooley
Frank Ehmke
F.D. Finn
Doc Geistweitz, Jr.

Bob Hagenbruch
Bert Hale
Ham Hamer
Holly Holliday
Ed Johnson
Wilbur Kelley
Chet Kempley
Theodore Kistner
Al Lamba
Ruel Liggett
Clar Liitt
Ed Lyon
Nino Marcelli

Earl McClure
Bill Merritt
H.W. Merkle
Lee Moody
Mun Munroe
Bert Neale
Gene Oates
Phinnie Packard
Frank Page
Al Reed
Walter Roberts
Charlie Robinson
Tom Russell

Dick Seol
Howard Shyrock
T.W. Stevenson
Julius Sturz
Bill Trow
Jake Weinberger
Doc Weinberger
E.L. William
Alfred Williams Jr.
Boy Wincote
Howard Worth
Jess Zwiener

Charles G. Abdelnour

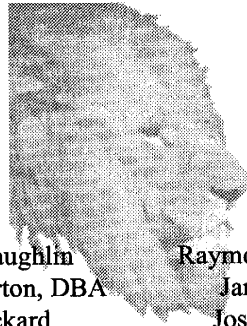
Members 1996-1997

Jabir Adamo
Richard Albrecht
Aurelio E. Alcantar
Paul B. Alexander
Ross Allford
Thomas Amantea
Dr. Johanna Appel
Frederick W. Arnold,
DVM
Thomas Atkinson
Charles Austin
Kenneth W. Baisch
Kathleen S. Baldwin
Wes Barrett
Gregory Adam Bartick
Rick G. Bellows
Walter Blazyk
Ann M. Boeker
Marjorie T. Boughton
Thomas Braden
Richard C. Bramwell
Elden C. Brazell
Richard D. Bregante
Bonnie N. Breitenstein
Daniel H. Bridge
Anne Gillespie Brown
Arthur Clinton Burdett

Andre M. Burnier, M.D.
William G. Burrows
Jill A. Carle
Molly Cartmill
John M. Chapman
Thomas H. Chapman
David H. Chevillon
William F. Ciocys
Walter Collins
Don Conner
Dan C. Cooper
Charles Covell
Alan M. Crogan
Bruce Dawson
Capt. Larry M. Dean, USN
Marcia DeRuntz
Samuel DeRuntz
Wallace C. Dieckmann
Werner C. Dieckmann
Gerald T. Doughty
Julie Ann Downing
Brooke L. Drayton
Lester E. Earnest
Frederick Eckert
Helen Elias
Eugena A. Eng

John Espy
David A. Finster
D'Artagnan Fischer
Major Murray Flagg
Edward Fletcher
Willis H. Fletcher
Ron Ford
Alden J. Fulkerson
Albert A. Gabbs
Stephen T. Gabrian
Peter L. Gallagher
Daniel H. Gibbs
Thomas Gilbert
David M. Gill
Donald O. Gillman
James E. Gordon
Frank D. Griswold
Brenton Hardy
Gilbert Harelson
Jack Hendee
C. David Herring
Margaret K. Herring
Teresa Higgins
Robert M. Hinshaw
Edward B. Houghtaling
Leon R. Hubbard III

Raymond P. Hummell Jr.
Jo Hunter-King
Jerry L. Hutter
Donald F. Hydrick
John M. Inman
James Jones
Dwayne N. Junker
William J. Karnes
John P. Kelly
James F. Kelly, Ed.D.
Ingrid M. Keyser
Charles G. King
Eileen Konicki
Daniel P. Korntved
Larry Kuntz
Harold Kvaas
Frankie Laine
Jack A. Landale Jr.
Daniel W. Larsen
John Curtis Leppert
Robert E. Lewis, OD
Jean M. Liuzzi
Terry M. Loftus
Carol Lorsch
Howard H. Lorsch
Milton H. Love



Lee J. Loventhal
 Stephen C. Lupton
 Roger Martin
 Hiroshi Matsushita
 John A. McColl
 Robert M. McCuen
 Alex C. McDonald
 Donald N. McDonald
 Charles A. McLaughlin
 Lynn C. McLean
 Stephen D. McNabb
 Sharon Mendenhall
 Robert R. Mengar
 Walter J. Millar
 Peter F. Mimmagh
 Richard C. Mitchell
 Terence Moore Jr.
 Adam Mossmer
 John Nelson
 John W. Netterblad
 W. T. Northcutt

Joanie O' Laughlin
 Frederick C. Orton, DBA
 Lee S. Packard
 Norris Padfield
 Philip R. Palisoul
 Mary J. Peshel
 Nancy Phillips
 Dr. Pam Priest
 James Purcell
 Seymour Ratner
 Wallace D. Ray
 Henry J. Reed
 James H. Reed
 Patrick W. Rolfe
 Bruce Rosen
 Randolph C. Rounds
 Jerry Rudrauff
 George Saadeh
 Phillip C. Samouris
 Frank Scarpella
 Gus A. Schmidt Jr.

Raymond F. Schroeder
 James A. Shaw
 Joseph R. Shultz
 Peter W. Singer
 Philip Smith
 R. Alan Smith
 Stanley A. Smith
 Dennis P. Smith, Ph.D.
 David J. Spisak
 Patrick Stalnaker
 Clarence G. Steadman
 Richard Stein
 Gaylord Stickney
 Lawrence Stirling
 Hewette Stone, J. PhD.
 Merle Strum
 Robert R. Supple
 Chester Tancredi, M.D.
 Carole J. Teall
 Dorwyn G. Turnbull
 William Villarino

Geerd Von Hegerhorst
 George Philip Walby
 Al Walkoe
 William M. Wallace
 James A. Watson
 Melvin Weinman
 Byron F. White
 Ramon J. White
 Harold B. Williams
 Mitchell J. Williams
 Terry Colleen Williams
 Pamela Willmoth
 David J. Wilson
 Jessica Wilson
 John W. Witt
 Randall M. Wood
 Douglas R. Woodworth
 John C. Wyatt
 H. Edward Yarborough
 Stephen A. Zapoticzny
 Col. George Adams,

Military Members

1940 though 1946

(Includes guest members as well as active members)

USMC

Capt. Jesse W. Allen, USN
 Sgt. John R. Blackett, USMC
 Rear Adm. D. W. Bagley, USN
 Vice Adm. C. A. Blakely, USN
 Commodore James E. Boak, USN
 Capt. Dave Britton, USA
 Sgt. Charles G. Cannon, USA
 Col. W. W. Davidson, USMC
 Rear Adm. Joseph DeFrees, USN
 Maj. Charles A. Dunmore, USMC
 Ens. Jim Fournier, USNR
 Ens. Wayne Grizzle, USNR
 *Capt. Henry C. Gearing, USN
 Col. Robert E. Guthrie, CAC
 Brig. Gen. F. P. Hardaway, USA

Rear Adm. S. R. Holmes, USN
 Maj. Gen. A. F. Howard, USMC
 Commodore R. S. Haggart, USN
 Col. W. C. James, USA
 Maj. Gen. Mathew Kingman, USA
 Maj. Gen. E. C. Long, USMC
 Capt. C. G. Leamy, CG
 Maj. Gen. John Marston, USMC
 Commodore Byron McCandless, USN
 *Ch. War. Harry Muns, USNR
 Capt. Riley F. McConnell
 Lt. Dewey Morrow, USNR
 Lt. Frank Nottbusch, Jr., USA
 Col. Peter H. Ottosen, USA
 Vice Adm. Jesse B. Oldendorf, USN
 Capt. Buckleigh Oxford, USMC

Capt. Henry C. Perkins, USCG
 S2/c Stanley Potter, USN
 Com. L. W. Perkins, USN
 Maj. Gen. Charles F. B. Price, USA
 *Brig. Gen. Wm. Rupertus, USMC
 Lt. Gen. Holland M. Smith, USMC
 Col. E. P. Simmonds, USMC
 Brig. Gen. J. L. Underhill, USMC
 *Maj. Gen. Wm. P. Upshur, USMC
 Maj. Gen. C. B. Vogel, USMC
 *Maj. William Van Dusen, USA
 Col. Fred B. Waters, USA
 SPG 1/c Earl P. Warren, USNR
 Y 1/c Fred Wolf, USN

*Those who gave their lives in the service of their country.



Index

A

Albrecht, Rich 63, 70
 Allen, Frank L. 8
 Anville, Leon 49
 ARC Workshop 51, 52, 53, 55
 Arnold, Dr. Fred 51
 Arrasmith, J. W. 7, 9
 Arrow Services Center 63
 Association for Retarded Citizens 51, 53,
 65, 67, 69, 71, 82
 Austin, Chuck 65, 71

B

Baldwin, Kathleen 77
 Ball, Howard 84
 Banks, Dr. Alfred E. 24, 25, 84, 85
 Banks Pocket Braille Writer 24, 25,
 26, 27, 28, 35, 37, 41, 81, 84, 85, 87
 Baranov, Nate 30
 Barnes, Charles L. (Sky) 7, 10
 Barrett, Wes 59
 Bellows, Rick 63, 75
 Bernardini, Maurice 15, 93
 Blind, projects for and aid to 12, 13, 15, 16,
 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26,
 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37,
 40, 44, 45, 47, 52, 61, 67, 72, 73,
 76, 79, 81, 84, 85, 87, 88, 90, 91
 Blackstock, Mary Ann 55, 56, 61
 Blind Recreation Center 17, 26,
 27, 28, 30, 33, 35, 38, 39, 40,
 45, 48, 49, 51, 52, 55, 61, 62,
 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 69, 70, 71,
 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 81,
 87, 88, 90, 91, 92
 Boat Ride for the Handicapped 38, 39,
 40, 43, 44, 48, 50,
 52, 53, 57, 58, 62
 Bonham Brothers Boys Band 31, 33, 34
 Boy Scouts 15, 16, 17, 26, 32, 34, 54
 Boys & Girls Aid Society 12, 41,
 42, 43, 47, 48, 50, 52, 58, 60,
 61, 62, 63, 64, 81, 82, 83, 86, 87
 Boys & Girls Clubs 69, 74
 Boys & Girls Committee 29, 38, 43, 45, 46
 Boys & Girls Foundation 77, 87
 Boys & Girls Mental Health Centers 65
 Boys Clubs 24, 26, 28, 29,
 30, 31, 35, 42, 44, 65
 Braille Club 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 21, 26
 Braille Trail 46
 Bramwell, Bud 55, 60
 Briggs, Eugene 27
 Brotherton, Bill 39
 Buckle, Francis 12
 Burne, Stan 88
 Burroughs, Bill 59

C

Camp Fire Boys & Girls 15, 37,
 71, 74, 76, 77
 Camperships 29, 31,
 33, 36, 38, 41, 44, 45, 46, 47,
 48, 49, 50, 52, 54, 55, 57, 58,
 64, 65, 66, 74, 76
 Carter, Jimmy 53, 55, 57, 68
 Cartmill, Molly 70
 Casper, Bill 83
 Chapman, Tom 49, 54, 56, 89
 Children's Dental Health Clinic 47, 48,
 49, 50, 63
 Clyde Beatty Circus 25, 29, 31, 33, 83
 Coburn, Willard E. 7

Collins, Walter 71
 Community Service Corp. 48, 50, 51, 89
 Conventions 18, 35, 41, 43, 64
 Corbett, Dave 59
 Cory, G. L. 55
 Cory & Kvaas 58
 Cottonwood Academy 41, 42,
 43, 44, 46, 48, 49, 50,
 52, 61, 62, 82, 86, 87
 Crawford, George M. 16

D

Davis, S. Ernest 23, 25, 37
 The Deaf, aid to and projects for ... 34, 58, 60,
 61, 62, 81, 82, 92
 Deaf Community Services 64, 69
 Deaf Endowment Board 3
 Deaf Endowment Fund 65
 Deaf Recreation Center 62, 63, 64, 65, 82
 Dieckmann, Werner 60
 Dinnison, Denny 11
 Downing, Julie 47
 Dunmore, Charles 21
 DuPaul, Jean 87
 Dutton, George T. 29

E

Earnest, Les 41, 42, 51,
 70, 71, 75, 77, 80, 86, 87
 Education Committee 45

F

Falkenberg & Associates 49, 55, 89, 90
 Ferris, Claire 8, 11, 12
 Fletcher, Willis (Wig) 20, 30,
 31, 40, 42, 47, 48, 52, 55, 56,
 58, 60, 67, 68, 71, 74, 77, 80,
 82, 83, 86, 87, 89, 90, 92
 Frank, Al 87
 Fukushima, Kay 80

G

Gabbs, Al 59, 76, 79
 Gallagher, Pete 77
 Gibbs, Dan 63
 Gibson, Frank 26
 Gilman, Don 59
 Girls Club 33
 Girl Scouts 13, 16, 18, 74
 Gzienski, Stan 47
 Goggin, Bob 59
 Golf 19, 22, 23, 25, 31, 33, 37, 39, 40, 52
 Gordon, Mack 93
 Gould, Les 13, 19, 40
 Graham, Capt. Jack 49

H

Hamer, H. A. (Ham) 8
 Hargraves, Gene 52, 53
 Hearing Committee 92
 Hearing impaired, aid to 62, 65,
 66, 71, 73, 74, 76
 Herring, C. David 77, 79, 80
 Holliday, Charles D. 35
 Holliday, Charles J. 8, 9, 10, 11, 22, 27
 Hook, Jack 77
 Houghtaling, Dr. Ed (Hote) 70, 75, 80
 Houtz, Roy 49
 Hubbard, Buck 79
 Hubbard, Lee 52, 58, 61
 Hummell, Raymond 37
 Hunter, Dan 58
 Hunter, David 53

Hunter, Elizabeth 27
 Hunter, Jo 64
 Hutter, Jerry 72

I

Indoor Sports Club 19, 21,
 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 30, 32,
 33, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 45, 54

J

Jacques, Jules 33
 Jones, Jim 50
 Jones, Melvin 21

K

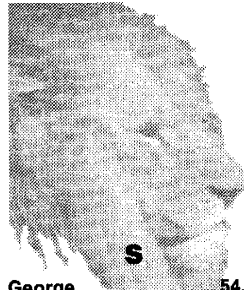
Kelley, Wilbur 19, 20
 Keller, Helen 12, 13, 81, 85
 King, Charles 71
 Klenke, Ed 25
 KPBS 52, 55, 58, 61, 65, 67, 71, 74, 76
 Kvaas, Harold 55, 89, 90

L

Lambia, Al E. 7, 9, 10, 46
 Lantry, Frank 13
 Larrabee, Wilbur 17, 18
 Larsen, Dan 70
 Lafayette Elementary School 74
 Leppert, John 41
 Lewis, Jessica 64, 66
 Lewis, Dr. Robert 40, 44, 88
 Liggett, Ruel 7, 9, 11, 13,
 15, 18, 20, 26, 38, 43
 Liitt, Clarence 7, 8, 9
 Lionesses 20, 37, 41, 79
 Lions Community Manor 3, 7, 47,
 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56,
 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 66,
 67, 75, 76, 77, 78, 89, 90, 93
 Lions Eye Bank 39
 Lions Optometric Vision Clinic 40, 42,
 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50,
 52, 54, 55, 57, 58, 60, 62, 63,
 64, 65, 66, 67, 71, 72, 73, 75,
 76, 78, 81, 88
 Lions/PAL Summer Camp 77
 Lions-Quest 64, 67, 70, 71, 75
 Lionshare 43
 Lions Workshop 91, 92
 Liuzzi, Jean 64
 Lloyd, Ian 60
 Loftus, Terry 67, 87, 89
 Love, Milt 70

M

Mack, H. Pitts 28
 Malone, Marshall 33, 60, 67, 88
 Mark Twain Junior/Senior High School 74,
 75, 78
 Marshall, Ken 49
 Martin, Hubert H. 21, 23
 Martin, Roger 49, 55, 59
 McColl, John 74
 McCuen, Robert 43
 McDonald, Alex 49, 54, 56
 McGahey, Harry 88
 McLean, Lynn 33
 McNabb, Steve 79
 Meals on Wheels 51, 52, 53, 54,
 55, 57, 60, 62, 64,
 66, 69, 73, 74, 76
 Melvin Jones Fellowships 67, 70, 71,
 72, 73, 76



Memorial Junior High Club 34, 36,
37, 38, 39, 42, 43
Mengar, Bob 66
Merkley, H. W. 7, 13, 44, 83
Merritt, Wilbur C. 7
Metcalf, Perry 25
Mike Morrow Baseball Tournament 29,
31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37,
44, 48, 51, 52, 57, 63
Millar, Walt 60
Mitchell, Richard 42
Moody, Lee 11
Moran, Anthony 26, 60, 72, 75, 87
Morrow, Mike 22, 50
Munro, J. Frank 7, 8, 9, 12

N

Netterblad, John 55
Nicholls, Nick 45
Novak, Roy 16, 17

O

Ockerman, Dale 39
Operation Welcome 43, 44, 46, 47, 48
Orton, Fred 83

P

Packard, Lee 38
Packard, Phineas (Phinnie) 7, 8, 9,
10, 26, 31, 33, 38
Page, Frank H. 7, 9
Payne, Edward H. 22
Pledge to Build 56, 58
Pledge to Hear 62, 63, 64, 65
Pledge to Serve 49, 52, 56, 63, 67, 73, 83
Powell, Charles S. 8

R

Rancho del Campo 37, 38, 39, 78
Rancho del Rayo 52, 54, 55,
57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65,
66, 69, 71, 72, 73, 74, 76
Ratner, Seymour 64
Rhodes, Fred 87
Riley, Ray L. 14
Ripe, Herman 13
Roberts, Nelson 22, 24, 84
Rolle, Pat 77
Robinson, Jess 9
Roosevelt Junior High School 43, 47
Rudrauff, Jerry W. 32

S
Saadeh, George 54, 66, 70, 71
Sadler, Hal 54, 89
Sample, William J. 31, 40
San Diego Center for the Blind 3, 72, 90
San Diego Eye Bank 49
Scharff, Emil Bob 45
Schroeder, Ray 48, 49
Service Center for the Blind 52, 65,
67, 70, 76, 91
Sessions, Milton P. 20
Share A Vision 3, 92
Shyrock, Howard B. 8
Sheffield, Earle (Shef) 63, 83
Sherman, Dr. Benjamin F. 23, 24, 84
Sight Conservation Committee 26, 28,
32, 38, 40, 45,
46, 84, 87
SightFirst 67, 71, 72, 73
Smith, Fred 26, 27
Smith, Gen. Holland M. 25
Southern California Lions Eye Institute 71,
72, 75, 76, 78
Spisak, Dave 62
Stahl, Per 38
Stanford, Dwight 48
Stevenson, T. W. 8, 9
Stewart, Wendall 48, 53, 54
Stillwagen, Colin 35, 36, 39, 42, 70, 86
Stolpe, Judy 64
Stone, Hugh 74
Strand, Bert 38
Sturz, Julius 7, 8, 38, 40
Sullivan, Robert 28, 70, 80, 88
Sutherland, Verne 18
Swing, Phil 41, 43

T

10-K Run 59, 61, 63, 83
Thompson, David 33, 35, 43
Tucker, Sadler & Associates 55
Turnbull, Dor 50, 51, 73

U

Underwood, Cliff 74

V

Valencia Park Elementary School .. 66, 67, 70,
71, 74, 75, 78
Villarino, Bill 52, 53, 62
Von Hegerhorst, Geerd 34, 40, 58, 59, 70

W

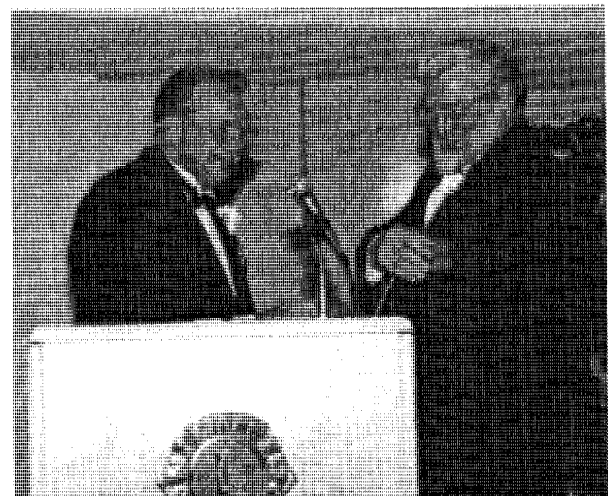
Wagner, Bill 38
War Bonds 22, 23, 27
Weinberger, Jacob 14, 38, 40, 50
Weitzen, Fred 49
Welfare Foundation 20, 23, 24,
25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 33, 34, 35,
36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 4, 43, 44,
45, 46, 48, 49, 51, 52, 56, 60,
61, 62, 63, 67, 71, 75, 80, 81,
82, 83, 86, 87, 90, 92
White Cane Days 15, 26, 28,
29, 32, 33, 38, 47, 49,
52, 57, 63, 72, 83
Wierig, Victoria 61, 74
Wilkerson, Jan 60
Williams, Carl 26, 27, 42, 86
Williams, Terry 70, 79
Wincote, Charles (Boy) 14, 15, 17, 25, 87
Winslow, Kellen 66
Witt, John 69, 70
Women Members 64
Woods, A. Claude 40
Worth, Howard 10
Wyatt, Jack 19, 54, 55, 70, 77, 82, 90

Y

Yarborough, H. Ed 30, 39
Yeager, Howard "Red" 40, 79
YMCA Junior High Boys Clubs 35, 37,
38, 39, 42, 43, 45,
46, 49, 50, 52
Young, Doug 13
Young, Frank 15

Z

Zanville, Leonard J. 48
Zweiner, Jess 7, 22, 31, 38, 40, 50, 88
Zick, Glenn 44



Dave Herring receives his President's Badge for 1996-97 from Rick Bellows, outgoing president, at the Installation Dinner.