



Rotary Club of Denver History 1911-2001



GRATTON E. HANCOCK
Remington Typewriters
Denver Rotary Club

Get the
Other **10**

The Rotary
Club 31
Club of Denver



Slide: 1911 - Gratton E. Hancock, a typewriter salesman with the Remington Company, founded our club. .

- This is the card he used to solicit memberships.

- Annual dues were \$6 and there were 40 charter members.
- The initial premise of Rotary was a business solicitation and networking club designed to attract the top business leaders in their respective fields of expertise but it did not take long for the focus to shift to a community service club.

1913: The club was just 2 years old and the membership swelled to 121 and name badges were adopted.

1916: Membership increased to 161 members.

- Annual dues were increased to \$15 and the initiation fee doubled from \$25 to \$50.
- Club members pledged to support fellow Rotarian and Denver Mayor Robert Speer to “work shoulder to shoulder with him in building, beautifying and enriching our city.
- Emily Griffith addressed the club and asked for the club’s cooperation in making a success of her new venture the Emily Griffith Opportunity School. She was a regular speaker thereafter.

1917: The club held its second annual banquet at the DAC.

1923: We began to assist underprivileged boys in Denver high schools to buy adequate lunches, pay carfare, and furnish shoes clothing and other items. By the early 1930’s were 127 boys in the program and each boy was assigned a Rotarian sponsor so almost every member was involved in the program.



1926 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



Slide: 1926 Our club was only 15 years old and hosted the Rotary international convention

- The theme for the convention was Sunshine and Snowballs, Denver 26. Our Rotarians contributed a total of \$80,000 to finish the financing of the new Cosmopolitan Hotel in order to have enough hotel rooms to host the convention.
- The Convention featured members of the Zuni, Navajo and Blackfoot tribes, and a performance by the Denver Municipal Band conducted by Rotarian Henry Everett Sachs.



ROTARY CLUB OF DENVER'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY



Slide: 1936 This is a picture of our 25th birthday celebration.

- When we celebrated our 75th birthday party in 1986 a gentleman by the name of Churchill Owen was still a member of our club. 50 years after this picture was taken. (Point with Laser pointer).



ROTARY CLUB OF DENVER'S 30TH BIRTHDAY PARTY



Slide: December 4 1941 This is a picture of our 30th birthday party cake cutting at the Cosmopolitan hotel in the Silver Glade Room.

- The picture was taken on December 4th –this was only three days before Pearl Harbor.



1941 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AT RED ROCKS AMPHITHEATER



Slide: 1941 Club 31 again hosted its second Rotary International Convention, which was the 32nd convention.

- This was taken at Red Rocks Park Amphitheater.
- The highlight was a concert and dedication of the new Red Rocks Theater.
- It featured a diva of the Metropolitan opera and again a performance by the Denver Municipal Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Sachs. The program was broadcast throughout the Western Hemisphere.

On June 21, 1945, J.C. Penney spoke to the club on the "Application of Christian principles in business."



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN DENVER



Slide: On December 6, 1946, This is a rendering created by Temple Buell of the proposed HQ for Rotary International to be located in Denver.

- The club viewed a film called “The Land of Your Dreams,” narrated by Lowell Thomas, depicting the advantages of Denver as a headquarters for Rotary International.
- At about the same time, former Denver resident Paul Harris stated his clear preference for his own city, Chicago over Denver. You can guess who won.

On February 13, 1947 Denver Boys, Inc. was founded as a forerunner to Denver Kids.

- Club pledges for youth work totaled \$542.50.

On May 1, 1947, Congressman Richard M. Nixon from southern California told an interesting story of his nine-man Marine team in the South Pacific.



MAE WEST



The Rotary
Club 31
Club of Denver

Slide: On August 21, 1947, “Why don’t you come up an see me sometime” Mae West attended the club’s meeting at the Cosmopolitan Hotel and announced, “This is my kind of meeting. All men and all hungry.”

On April 11, 1957, Club 31 welcomed a new member, one Armin P. Thebus, Jr. Mr. Thebus, better known as Pete, has had perfect attendance since, well, April 11, 1957. By my count that totals 49 years and 8 months. At least we know where to find Pete on Thursdays!

On December 7, 1961, 20 years after Pearl Harbor, the club held its Golden Jubilee anniversary meeting at a dinner at the Hilton. It was reported that the Denver Boys program had expended \$104,024.



1966 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



Slide: On June 16, 1966, the Rotary International convention was once again held in Denver. This was the 3rd RI convention we hosted.

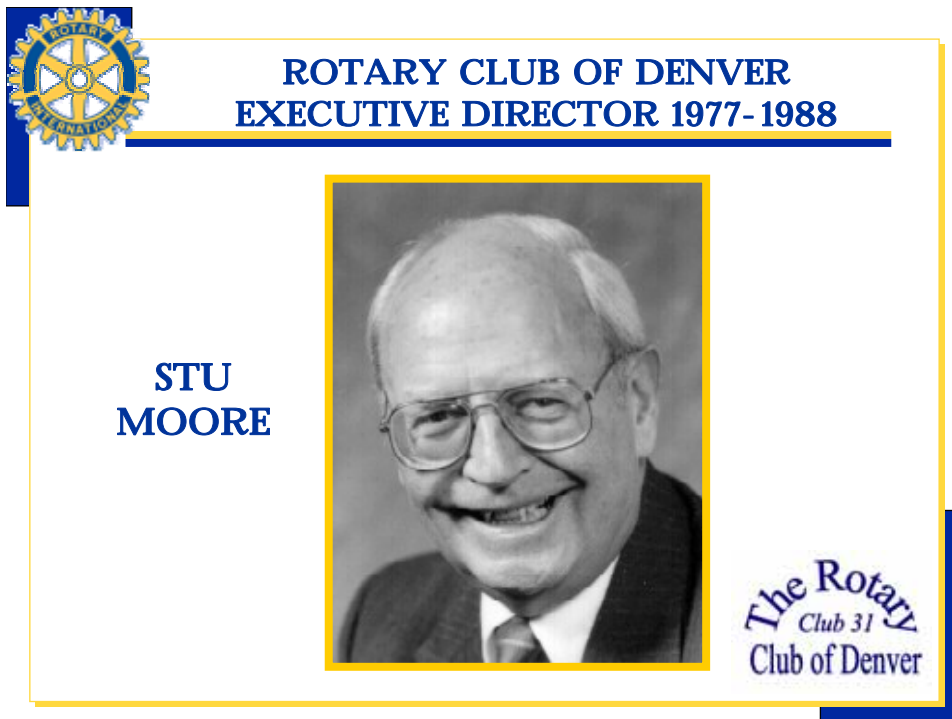
- The convention featured U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Britain's Lord Caradon, as well as Koshare Indian dances, and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.
- There was also a performance by the Central City Opera orchestra led by; you guessed it, Denver Rotarian Henry Sachs. In a welcoming editorial, the Denver Post said, "Denver is a somewhat more genteel city than when Paul Harris worked here. We just don't shoot crystals off the chandeliers any more when we get enthusiastic over visitors."

The Denver Rotary Club Foundation was established in 1969 and by 1977 had an endowment of only \$32,000 over the 9-year period. Then, former president and District Governor Grant Wilkins stepped in with his concept of an Artists of America show as a source of funding for the Denver Rotary Club Foundation.

- Largely as a result of that event, by 1986, our 75th anniversary, the Foundation had assets of over \$1,250,000 this was achieved over the next 9-year period.

On October 22, 1987, the club kicked off its campaign to raise \$500,000 for RI's PolioPlus effort to immunize the world's children against polio and other diseases. President Dave Fleming administered the oral vaccine to his two-month old grandson at the podium.

On July 9, 1987, the membership voted overwhelmingly (by a 96% affirmative vote) to admit women members.



SLIDE: Stu Moore Retired as Executive Director having served 11 club presidents from 1977 – 1988. Stu is here today.

On April 12, 1990, the club formed a committee headed by Roger Kinney to spark the effort to bring major league baseball to Denver.

As of the Club's 80th birthday in 1991, Denver Boys, Inc. had mentored 2,159 boys, Denver Girls, Inc. had served 695 girls, and Denver Rotarians had contributed combined funds of over \$1 million dollars to those programs. We had also contributed \$938,683 to the RI Foundation, and our own Foundation had a

present net worth of over \$2 million and had made charitable contributions of nearly a million dollars.

In large part thanks to the inspiration and effort of Jim Wilkins, the enormously successful Branch Rickey Award fundraiser was kicked off in 1991. The first recipient of the Award, in 1992, was Dave Winfield. The award recognizes community service by an individual involved in major league baseball. Denver Kids has benefited enormously from the proceeds of the banquet and its silent auction.

On April 16, 1995, the magnificent Polio Plus Monument was unveiled on the 16th Street Mall.

On June 29, 1995, Jean Jones, Executive Director of the Girl Scouts Mile Hi Council, became the club's first woman president.

On July 31, 1998, it was reported that Club 31 spearheaded a project with Project HOPE to bring medical aid worth \$2.2 million to twelve hospitals in Vladivostok Russia.

And finally, on June 1, 2001, six-time winner of the National Sportswriter of the Year Award Rick Reilly thoroughly entertained the club.