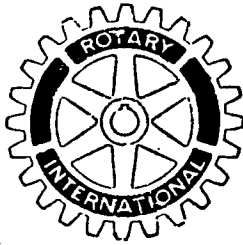


# Yucca Valley Rotary Club



**W**hen the Yucca Valley Rotary Club was being organized in 1957, it was under the joint sponsorship of the Rotary Clubs of Twentynine Palms and Yorba Linda. Its formation meeting, held at the old Wagon Wheel Restaurant on November 18, 1957, was attended by District Governor Harry Harper; Dr. J.W. Yale, president of the Yorba Linda club; and, from the Twentynine Palms club, President Moorhead, Ted Richardson, Bob Vanlahr, Earl Swain, Walt Worth, Dick Lathrop, Earl Walker and Judge John Allen.

Potential and future Yucca Valley Rotarians were Wes Yale, acting president, C.H. Jacobs, acting secretary, Terry Pausch, Roger Stine, Ollie M. Donald, Joe Freeman, Pat Thornton, Roy Caldwell, John Richards, Herb Medack, Rev. Ramsey Williams, Jack Coffman, Bill Goodwin, Allan Sears and K. T. Belcher.

The club's organization meeting was held on December 16, 1957. It received its charter on January 18, 1958. Since Wes Yale carried out most of the initial detail work in getting the club organized and on the move, it was deemed fitting that he become the first president. And when the club was chartered, it was immediately unique. It was the first time in Rotary that a father and son served simultaneously as club presidents. Wes at Yucca Valley, his son at Yorba Linda. Wes also earned some distinction by being a charter member of both clubs.

The Yucca Valley charter board included Wes Yale, president; Terry Pausch, vice president; C. H. Jacobs, secretary; Earl Deal, sgt.-at-arms; and directors Joe Freeman, Roger Stine, Wilburn Lewis and Earl Mac Donald.

Later in 1958, Terry Pausch succeeded Wes Yale as president. It was Terry's inspiration that kept the club going, gave it momentum and lent it a humanitarian touch. Early residents of Yucca Valley recollect the crusade for an ambulance and the help for a blind resident of the town. Rotarians remember the dignity with which Terry conducted the meetings, though

beset with great physical pain from an illness that was soon to claim his life.

Members who also have served as presidents are Bill Lewis, 1959; Ted Morton, 1960; Neal Groom, 1961; Ken Tornborg, 1962; Al Gilbert, 1963; Bob Nordyke, 1964; Dr. William O. Autery, Jr., 1965; Jim Riggs, 1966; Sam Loewen, 1967; Dale Harrison, 1968; Bill Edmondson, 1969; Ted Fogel, 1970; Walt Altnow, 1971; Buzz Kropf, 1972; Al LeFevre, 1973; and George Petro, 1974.

Still others have been Frank Page, 1975; George Derrington, 1976; Duck Dowell, (succeeded Phil Quayne, 1977; Al Peters, 1978; Dennis Hinde, 1979; Irl Greer, 1980; and Glen Zanella, (succeeded Jack Everett), 1981.

Under the guidance of all of these presidents, and in addition to the clubs' regular and traditional programs and projects the Yucca Valley Rotary Club engaged in many supportive and developmental community efforts.

Some of these local programs and projects included the donating of a PA System for the Yucca Valley High School Gym, furnishing a room at Hi-Desert Memorial Hospital, presenting an ever-growing number of annual scholarships to high school seniors, participating regularly in Grubstake Days and sponsoring the Whisker Contest, establishing The Yuccatarian news bulletin, inviting the club members' wives to become Rotary-Anns, donating an orthopedic high chair and other items to the Desert Hot Springs Angel View Children's Hospital, sponsoring the Interact youth service club at the

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*THE ROTARY CLUB has sponsored many civic activities. Among them was, for several years, the Children's Fishing Derby at Blue Skies Golf Club.*



high school and assisting that club's regular visits to Angel View, sponsoring Career Days at the high school, supporting the Retarded Students of the Desert Foundation, introducing the interschool "Four Way Test" public-speaking competition, donating heavily to the American Field Service Foreign Student Exchange Program, assisting in the Drug-Abuse Program, providing fish for the Youth Fish Derby at Blue Skies Country Club, sponsoring Little League teams and the Yucca Valley Swim Team, sponsoring a Girl Scout troop, putting up school-safety signs, sponsoring the Rotary Junior Varsity Basketball Tournament, building the fence around the high school campus, donating funds for high school band uniforms, sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt and building an activity marquee at the high school.

Still other club projects which have aided the community are the providing of lights for Desert Christ Park, building the shooting range at Yucca Park and sponsoring numbers of "Turkey Shoot" Contests, supporting the Heart Association Fund Drive, filling and distributing annual Christmas

baskets, contributing to the Cancer Crusade, developing the landscaping for Triangle Park and helping to clean up the town, supporting the Pioneer Pass Golf Challenge, building a service club signpost on the edge of town, repairing and contributing "The Goddess of Flight" statue by Antone Martin to the present-day Community Center, building and lighting the Welcome Sign at the west end of Yucca Valley and building a barbecue pit in the Joshua Tree park.

Focusing on its International Relations Program, the club has had direct contact with a club in Warmbad, South Africa, and also with a community in Mexico. It is also a 200% Rotary Foundation Club assisting the Foreign Students' Education program.

Under Sam Loewen and Dale Harrison the ten year old club stepped out and played an active role in the Desert Council of Rotary Clubs. But the members are especially proud of George Petro, who became the Hi-Desert's first district governor after he was demoted from his Yucca Valley Club presidency. ■

*This was an excerpt from Legacy by J. Wilson*

### ***What has the Rotary Club been up to lately?***

Since those days of old, many community projects have been accomplished by the Yucca Valley Rotary club. The Miss Yucca Valley Scholarship pageant was taken over by Rotary, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks celebration, the memorial brick project in Memorial Park (what used to be Triangle Park), projects for the Boys and Girls Club have always been at the heart of our club, The Pioneer Pass golf challenge, we sponsor several high school and junior high school students to go to leadership camps, our club hosts a Music and Speech contest for teens annually, and many miscellaneous scholarships, international projects (this year for instance, we provided 500 mosquito nets to a village for children to prevent disease) and other donations.

To find out how to be a part, talk to any Rotarian and we'd be happy to fill you in. Our Membership chairman this year is Shannon Luckino.

***Thank you for Celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with us!***

