

...Kiwanis Still Serving

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The nature of rabbits being what it is, the official records reflect a growth in the numbers and note that after eight weeks, Raeford presented Laurinburg with 12 of the animals.

It was also in 1950 that The Outstanding Citizen Award was started. C.L. Thomas, Lewis Upchurch, J.L. McNeill, Robert Gatlin, Paul Dickson, Truman Austin, Harry Greene, T.B. Upchurch Jr., K.A. McDonald, W.B. Heyward and Josephine Hall were the winners during the 1950's.

Governors Kerr Scott and Luther Hodges and Secretary of State Thad Eure were among the dignitaries addressing the club during the decade.

Pancake suppers began in 1955. Recreational programs for the summer months were started and a Walking Blood Bank was held.

Plans were also started on the Raeford Civic Center, the present home of the Kiwanis Club.

1960's

The 60's got underway with Clyde Upchurch Jr. serving as president. He led a move to sponsor College Career Day, and began talks on the proper way to celebrate the county's 50th anniversary in 1961.

Raeford Kiwanians continued good works, taking on such projects as distributing pine seedlings to residents, sending scouts on jamborees, promoting an airport for Hoke County and working with the Woman's Club to build the civic center.

In addition to Upchurch, other presidents during the 1960's were: Clerk of Courts M. Donald Yates, businessman John F. Campbell and Archie Howard, textile manager John M. Manuel, Rev. Robert E. Lee Moser, farmer and real estate dealer Alfred Cole, insurance agent Avery Connell, Superintendent Donald D. Abernethy and Department of Labor official William L. Lancaster.

Among other activities during the period, Kiwanis members visited homes of welfare recipients and saw first hand the work being done by the Department of Social Services.

"J.W. Currie emerged from his former pessimistic state of mind and arose to say the finance committee had found the Club finances to be in good shape. President Fairley commended Kiwanian Currie and urged him to talk as long as his optimism held out."

University of North Carolina basketball coach spoke to the club and Benny McLeod became secretary succeeding Hinton McPhaul.

The decade of the 60's was closed out by Kiwanis when R.B. Lewis, who was the only active charter member still in the club in 1969, was presented the Legion of Honor Award for his service.

Lewis also started the 1960's off by being named Citizen of the Year. Others who received that honor during the period were: Isreal Mann, John Manuel, Neill A. McDonald, Harold Gillis, Clyde Upchurch Jr., W.L. Poole, W.T. Gibson Jr., Charles Hottel and Tom Cameron.

1970's

In 1974 the club celebrated a Golden Anniversary of service to the Hoke County community.

During those ceremonies, Benny McLeod was named Citizen of the Year. Others to join McLeod with the honor during the decade were: Mayor John K. McNeill Jr., Leonard Frahm, former Superintendent G. Raz Autry, Burlington executive Ashwell Harward, educator Jim Turlington, newspaperman Sam C. Morris, T.B. Lester Jr., Dr. Marcus Smith and Chamber of Commerce Director Earl N. Fowler.

In addition to helping the scouts and other civic activities, the club worked hard on the local Bicentennial project.

The old Kiwanis scout hut was given to the school system and restored as part of the project. Presidents during the 1970's were: school principal Lonnie Bledsoe, textile manager Frank Blue, businessman W.L. Poole Jr., school teacher Joe Jenkins, textile executive Graham Pope, school

administrator Harold Gillis, civil preparedness director Bill Niven, electronics dealer Julian King, auto dealer Younger Snead Jr. and mortician, autioneer and heavy equipment operator Frank Crumpler.

1980's

In the last three years, Kiwanians have continued with the tradition which was started in 1924 by sponsoring such projects as the Circus, which netted over \$2,000 for the Hoke County Childrens Center, and spearheading the annual Halloween Carnival which last year raised about the same amount for the schools' TMH program.

In addition the club raised and donated more than \$10,000 last year to local, state and national causes.

In recent years the club has worked under the leadership of these presidents: insurance agents Vardell Hedgpeh and A. Wilton Wood, military retiree Jim Attaway, realtor Ralph Huff and businessman John Leandro.

Tom F. McBryde was honored with the Citizen of the Year Award in 1980. C.P. Kinlaw followed in 1981 and Neill L. McFadyen received honor for 1982.

The 1983 award will be made during 60th Anniversary ceremonies being held at the Bordeaux Dinner Theatre in Fayetteville on Thursday night.

When Kiwanis was organized in Detroit in 1915, its purpose was to "promote the adoption and application of higher social, business and professional standards," and to develop "intelligent, aggressive and serviceable citizenship."

In its 60 years in Raeford, Kiwanis has met those goals and more.



Kudos for the mayor

Harold Gillis (left) presents Mayor John K. McNeill the 1970 Citizen of the Year Award along with a present of appreciation during Ladies Night activities.

Gillis served as president of the club of Kiwanis in 1975 and was named as Citizen of the Year in 1964. He is now serving as the district Lt. Governor.



They were always there

These three Kiwanians were honored for their years of attendance at meetings. Jake Austin (left) also served as president of the club and was active with the scouting program. Marion H. Gatlin (center), who is the only one of the three still active with the club, will be honored this year for perfect attendance of 40

years. Gatlin served as president of the club in 1952, which set a district record. He was the third of three Gatlin brothers to become president of Kiwanis. Robert was president in 1949 and H.L. in 1935. The late Dr. Julius F. Jordan (right) served as county commissioner and was president of Kiwanis in 1953.

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