

ROTARY CLUB OF GLENS FALLS RECORDS: A Guide to the Collection

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Repository:** Crandall Public Library
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,
Glens Falls, NY.
- Creator:** Rotary Club of Glens Falls (Glens Falls, N.Y.)
- Title:** Rotary Club of Glens Falls Records.
- Dates:** 1924-2000.
- Abstract:** The records of the Rotary Club of Glens Falls, founded in 1922, consist of minutes of the Board of Directors, financial records, membership rosters, newsletters, correspondence, newspaper clippings on the history of the Club along with obituaries and scrapbooks documenting its activities and membership. The records document the numerous civic, educational, and philanthropic projects of the Club, as well as its administration.
- Quantity:** 9 cubic feet (8 cartons, 3 document boxes, 1 binder, 1 box)
- Identification Number:** Archives & Manuscripts: Organizations

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

The first Rotary Club was founded in Chicago in 1905. Its purpose was to bring business acquaintances together for fellowship and to promote the business interests of its members. Rotary rapidly evolved to emphasize service to the community. The objectives of Rotary were known as the four avenues of service: to club, to community, to vocation, and international service. The clubs brought in members according to a classification system to allow only one representative from each category of business, or profession, to create a membership reflecting a cross-section of the business community.

Rotary clubs were organized in many cities across the U.S. By 1910 there were 16 Rotary clubs with 1,500 registered members. The first annual Rotary convention was held in Chicago in August 1910. Rotary became international in 1911. In 1912 the International Association of Rotary Clubs was formed. Rotary clubs are united under the motto, "Service Above Self." In 1922 the name of the organization became Rotary International.

In the early 1920s there were Rotary clubs in Albany and in Troy. Prominent local businessmen established the Glens Falls Club in 1922. The founding members met with Dwight Marvin, editor of the *Troy Record* and a member of the Troy Rotary Club. Frank W. Smally was elected first Rotary Club President at a meeting on April 13, 1922 at the Glens Falls Insurance Company. The first regular meeting was on April 27, 1922 at the YMCA. The club charter was presented to the members on May 1, 1922. Membership quickly rose to over 100 businessmen. Women were not admitted to the club until 1987.

The Rotary Club of Glens Falls served both the Town of Queensbury and the City of Glens Falls. Meetings were weekly and held during the lunch hour. For many years the club met at the Queensbury Hotel. Each meeting featured a speaker. Rotarians communicated their news through the weekly newsletter summarizing the previous meeting's actions and the speaker's remarks. The first news editor was Russell M. Carson, followed in 1926 by William B. Curtis. In 1966 the *Weekly Letter* was re-named *The Fall-out*. In 1987 the newsletter was named *Sparks*. In 1989 it became known as *The Rotary News* and finally in 1991 *Spinouts*.

The club gave several annual awards. The Glens Falls Rotarians honored their members, beginning in 1966, by presenting one member with the Charter Day Award for distinguished service either to the local community, or through international service. In 1993 the Glens Falls Rotary established the Rotarian of the Year Award for a member who had contributed time and effort to the club. The Citizen of the Year Award was given to a non-member who exemplified the Rotary ideals of service to mankind and to community.

The Rotary was involved in numerous civic, educational, and philanthropic projects. The first sustained community service effort was the Buddy Club in 1922. A Rotarian was matched to a local youth who received a pool pass to the YMCA, free lunch, and a

movie ticket. Rotarians also sponsored an annual Christmas party for underprivileged children. The Buddy Club evolved into the Youth Committee that sponsored sports events such as cross country skiing, and the annual fishing derby at Crandall Pond.

The club made monetary bequests to many community organizations, including: the Boy and Girl Scouts, YMCA, the Youth Center, the Little League, the Association of Retarded Children, Junior Basketball, the Fresh Air Fund. The Glens Falls Rotary raised money for an education fund to assist local high school students with low cost education loans. In 1993 the fund was incorporated into the Rotary Club of Glens Falls Foundation. The fund was capped at \$50,000, with \$5,000 available annually to help students with school loans.

Rotary took the lead in 1964 in a community effort to improve City Park in downtown Glens Falls. The Rotarians assisted in improving the Luzerne Road city dump, which was graded, soil added, trees planted and closed in 1979. Rotary gave a handicapped access ramp to a local museum, sponsored hazardous waste clean up days, and Rotarians have helped collect for the Salvation Army at Christmas.

Source: *The Diamond in the Rough: 75 years of History of the Glens Falls Rotary Club, 1922-1997*, by Fred A.

Carvin. See also Rotary International Web Site: www.rotary.org

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS

The records of the Rotary Club of Glens Falls describe the club in Glens Falls (1920-1985), the Rotary District Offices (255th, 256th, and 719th Districts, ca.1960-1981), and the international organization (1946-1972). The bulk of the records describe the administration and activities of the Rotary Club of Glens Falls. The district and international records consist of documents collected at conventions and publications.

The Glens Falls club records consist of minutes (1924-1989, and 1995), correspondence between club officers and the membership; membership rosters (1920's – 1996), newsletters, financial records (1940's-1980's), photographs, newspaper clippings (many saved as scrapbooks) about club events and obituaries, a speakers bureau publication, along with publications about the history of the international club, and the Glens Falls club: *The Diamond in the Rough: 75 Years of History of the Glens Falls Rotary*, by Fred A. Carvin, and *Rotary: Fifty Years of Service, 1905-1955*.

The records of the Glens Falls Club describe the administration of the club, its membership, weekly speakers, and community service activities from 1924 to 1985, in particular the Rotary Education Fund. The membership rosters and files of obituaries are extensive, providing a full description of the professional life of the members and a cross section of the Glens Falls business community. A nearly complete series of newsletters is preserved in the club records. The concerns and interests of the members are best documented in the weekly newsletters. Each newsletter included a summary of the featured speaker's topic for that week. Some editorial comments reflect the ideas of the newsletter editor. The correspondence files and board minutes describe the routine business of adding new members and accepting the resignation of older members. Newspaper clippings on the history of the organization, along with obituaries, and scrapbooks supplement the written histories in the collection. Also included are records, 1980-1981, of Stephen Burgos, President of the Rotary Club of Glens Falls.

The records of the Glens Falls Rotary are useful for researchers interested in the business community in Glens Falls, in particular, the community service activities of the club. The speakers and the membership represented both local business, as well as not-for-profit organizations in the Glens Falls and Queensbury areas.

Related material about the Glens Falls Rotary is in the Arthur Irving Papers at the Center for Folklife.

PROVENANCE NOTE

William Curtis, Secretary of the Glens Falls Rotary, collected early newsletters and newspaper articles 1926-1948.

INDEX TERMS

Topics: Clubs—New York (State)—Glens Falls.
Charities—New York (State)—Glens Falls.
Children—New York (State)—Glens Falls.
Civic improvement—New York (State)—Glens Falls.
Education—New York (State)—Glens Falls.
Youth—New York (State)—Glens Falls.

Places: Glens Falls (N.Y.)—History—Sources.
Queensbury (N.Y.)—History—Sources.

Organizations: Rotary International.
Rotary Club of Glens Falls (Glens Falls, N.Y.)

Important People: Burgos, Stephen.
Curtis, William.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Rotary Club of Glens Falls, Records,
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: 1996-036, 1997-030, 2001-074.

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Albert W. Fowler, Katherine P. Chansky, and Lillian Beswick.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

Box 1

Membership rosters, 1925, 1932-1997. (missing 1940-1941).
Tenth Anniversary Meeting and Souvenir Roster, 1932.
20th Anniversary Meeting and Souvenir Roster, 1942.
25th Anniversary Program, 1947.
Golden Anniversary Program, 1972.
District Records: 255th District
 Conference Programs, 1950, 1951, 1953-1956.
 Rotary Pioneers, Districts 255 and 256, 1953.
District Records: 719th District
 Conference Programs, 1958, 1960-1961, 1963, 1965, 1966, 1968-1974,
 1978, 1983.
 Pioneers, 1962.
 Directory, 1972-1973, 1974-1982.
Miscellaneous material.

Box 2

Newspaper clippings about Rotary Club, 1920's-1970's
District Records: District 719 (1 folder)
District Records: District 719 -- 1960 Conference (1 folder)
District Governors meetings, 1974-1981 (1 small folder)
Stephen Borgos, President -- Files,
 Correspondence, memos, and related material received by him, 1980-
 1981 (several folders, unsorted)
Rotary International
 Conventions, 1946-1966 (only some years included)
 Rotary Facts
 Rotary International News, 1965-1972
Miscellaneous files, 1950'S (1 folder)

Box 3

Newsletters
 Weekly Letter, 1924-November, 10, 1966 (only scattered issues before
 1943).
 Glens Falls Fallout, November 14, 1966-June 12, 1975.

Box 4

Newsletters
 Glens Falls Fallout, June 19, 1975-December 3, 1987.
 Sparks, December 10, 1987-January 19, 1989.
 Rotary News, January 26, 1989-July 11, 1991.
 Spinoffs, July 18, 1991-December 29, 1994.

Box 5

Minutes (mostly of the Board of Directors), 1924-1989, and 1995.
Budgets, 1972-1991 and 1994.

Box 6

Rotary Educational Fund (providing loans to college students)
Records, 1940's-1980's (arranged alphabetically by name of student—
files concern amount lent and records of repayment).
Accountant's reports for the Fund, ca. 1960-1989.

Box 7

Correspondence, 1924-1963 (arranged chronologically).

Box 8

Correspondence, 1963-1989 (arranged chronologically).

Box 9 (Received, August, 1997)

Scrapbooks

1979-1985

1985-1988

1988-1990

Rotary: Fifty Years of Service, 1905-1955. Rotary International, 1955.
(2 copies)

Adventure in Service, Rotary International, 1949.

Fred A. Carvin. *The Diamond in the Rough: 75 Years of History of the Glens Falls Rotary Club, 1922-1997.* (also photographs and other material in folder with this publication).

Other records

Rotary Bulletins

Projects and Gifts, Glens Falls Rotary Club

Rotarian and Revista, Subscriptions

Obituary clippings

History, newspaper clippings

Pictures (3 folders)

History (3 folders)

Resolutions, minutes, etc.

3 envelopes of newspaper clippings, photographs, and miscellaneous material.

Notable Quotes

Loose-leaf notebook, 1999-2000 (received, September 2001)

Contains reports, newspaper clippings, correspondence, photograph and other documents describing activities and membership of the Glens Falls Rotary Club during 1999-2000. The volume is divided into the following sections: publicity, fundraisers, Rotary exchange with professionals and students, thank-you letters, membership, district conference and other district matters, board and committees, meetings, *Spinoffs* (newsletter), and miscellaneous.

Framed Certificates (2), 1972, 1997 (received, May 2003)

Golden anniversary certificate from Rotary International, May 1, 1972.

Recognition from Glens Falls Hospital Foundation for the Rotary Club's contribution to the Hospital's 100th Anniversary Appeal, July 28, 1997.

Boxes 1-8 -- Received, December, 1996 from Rotary Club.
Box 9 -- Received, August, 1997 from Rotary Club.

ORGANIZATION OF THE RECORDS

Possible series:

Minutes
Financial Records: Budgets
Financial Records: Rotary Education Fund
Membership
Conferences
Newsletters
Correspondence
Records of President – Stephen Burgos
History
Scrapbooks
Newspaper Clippings
Photographs
Rotary Bulletins, Projects and Gifts, miscellaneous documents
Rotary International
District Records
William Curtis collection of early newsletters, history files

Possible Series

Series 1. Minutes

Minutes (mostly of the Board of Directors), 1924-1989, and 1995. **(Box 5)**

Series 2. Financial records: Budgets

Budgets, 1972-1991 and 1994. **(Box 5)**

Series 3. Financial Records: Rotary Education Fund

(Box 6)

Rotary Educational Fund (providing loans to college students)
Records, 1940's-1980's (arranged alphabetically by name of student—
files concern amount lent and records of repayment).
Accountant's reports for the Fund, ca. 1960-1989.

Series 4. Membership.

Membership rosters, 1925, 1932-1996, 2002-2003. (missing 1940-1941). **(Box 1)**

Series 5. Conferences.

(Box 1)

Tenth Anniversary Meeting and Souvenir Roster, 1932.
20th Anniversary Meeting and Souvenir Roster, 1942.
25th Anniversary Program, 1947.
Golden Anniversary Program, 1972.

Series 6. Newsletters.

(Boxes 3 and 4)

Newsletters

Weekly Letter, 1924-November, 10, 1966 (only scattered issues before 1943).

Glens Falls Fallout, November 14, 1966-June 12, 1975.

Glens Falls Fallout, June 19, 1975-December 3, 1987.

Sparks, December 10, 1987-January 19, 1989.

Rotary News, January 26, 1989-July 11, 1991.

Spinoffs, July 18, 1991-December 29, 1994.

Series 7. Correspondence.

(Boxes 7 and 8)

Correspondence, 1924-1963 (arranged chronologically).

Correspondence, 1963-1989 (arranged chronologically).

Series 8. Records of President -- Stephen Burgos

(Box 2)

Stephen Burgos, President -- Files,

Correspondence, memos, and related material received by him, 1980-1981 (several folders, unsorted)

Series 9. History. **(Box 9)**
Fred A. Carvin. *The Diamond in the Rough: 75 Years of History of the Glens Falls Rotary Club, 1922-1997.* (also photographs and other material in folder with this publication).
History, newspaper clippings
History (3 folders)

Series 10. Scrapbooks **(Oversize Box)**
Scrapbooks
1979-1985
1985-1988
1988-1990

Series 11. Newspaper clippings **(Box 2)**
Newspaper clippings about Rotary Club, 1920's-1970's
Obituary clippings **(Box 9)**

Series 12. Photographs **(Box 9)**
Pictures (3 folders)

Series 13. Miscellaneous
Miscellaneous material. **(Box 1)**
Miscellaneous files, 1950'S (1 folder) **(Box 2)**
Other records (to be sorted) **(Box 9)**
Rotary Bulletins
Projects and Gifts, Glens Falls Rotary Club
Rotarian and Revista, Subscriptions

Resolutions, minutes, etc.
3 envelopes of newspaper clippings, photographs, and miscellaneous material.
Notable Quotes

Series 14. Rotary International.

(Box 2)

Rotary International

Conventions, 1946-1966 (only some years included)

Rotary Facts

Rotary International News, 1965-1972

Rotary: Fifty Years of Service, 1905-1955. Rotary International, 1955. **(Box 9)**
(2 copies)

Adventure in Service, Rotary International, 1949.

Series 15. District records.

(Box 1)

District Records: 255th District

Conference Programs, 1950, 1951, 1953-1956.

Rotary Pioneers, Districts 255 and 256, 1953.

District Records: 719th District

Conference Programs, 1958, 1960-1961, 1963, 1965, 1966, 1968-1974,
1978, 1983.

Pioneers, 1962.

Directory, 1972-1973, 1974-1982.

District Records: District 719 (1 folder)

(Box 2)

District Records: District 719 -- 1960 Conference (1 folder)

District Governors meetings, 1974-1981 (1 small folder)

Glens Falls Rotary Club

Records

1924-1995

Scrapbooks

1979-1985

1985-1988

1988-1990