

Rolla Lions Club Started in 1935 With 21 Members, 75 years later there are 146 Members

There were 21 members in the Rolla Lions Club on April 13, 1935, the day that Charles L. Woods, the club's first president, accepted the charter of the club from Dr. C.W.A. spies, the district governor for Missouri Lions Club.

The club met at noon Thursdays at the Sinclair Pennant Hotel. The 21 charter members were:

Emery W. Allison attorney; Dr. W.H. Breuer, obstetrician; G.W. Castleman, auto dealer; E.W. Carlton, structural engineer; F.E. Dennie, mathematician; Rex M. Faulkner, druggist; R.E. Schuman, tourist cottages owner; Cecil Herrman, lumberman; the Reverend O. V. Jackson, pastor; L.L. Lewis, theater owner; Victor Langenberg, auto dealer; C.S. McDaniels, caner; Dr. A. Sidney McFarland, surgeon; Eugene E. Northern, attorney; Ted Schweer, telephone company manager; Dr. J. E. Smith, oculist; Virgil X. Smith, hardware man; Walter Stubblefield, hotel owner; Charles Tucker, dairyman; Ted Williams, shoe store owner, and Col. Charles L. Woods, editor.

President Woods pledged to the citizens of Rolla that the Lions Club was founded to perpetuate in men's hearts a love of their native land and to talk and strive for honesty in business, cooperation, reciprocity, civic betterment and municipal growth.

Two thousand and ten marks the 75th anniversary of the club and the 146 members will continue to make Rolla a better place in which to live, to work, to play, to pray and prosper just as President Woods pledged on April 13, 1935.

What has the Lions Club done for the community?

In the last 75 years the Rolla Lions Club has spent well over \$1,000,000 and tens of thousands of man-hours of labor have been given freely by the members and their friends in support of its many activities.

From the beginning the club has been active in giving to the community.

The first major project was to purchase \$2,300 worth of uniforms for the Rolla High School Band. The second project was to help organize and support the Rolla Free Public Library. The Lions bought \$700 worth of books, purchased shelving and paid the salary of the librarian for two years, 1938 and 1939.

Between 1939 and 1943 the club bought \$200 worth of books for the library. In 1946, the Rolla Lions Club provided \$1,600 worth of additional furniture and \$1,500 in books for the library.

In 1937, the Lions built the little house for the Girl Scouts for \$1,600 for materials plus many hours of labor by the Lions members.

For the first 12 years of the club, members hosted annual Christmas parties and movies for 1,200 children each year.

The Lions sponsored their first Easter egg hunt in 1940 and continue to hold the annual hunt with hundreds of children turning out each year.

The land on which the Phelps County Regional Medical Center now stands was provided by the Rolla Lions Club. So were many pieces of medical equipment. Members of the club furnished a room in the hospital.

In 1974-1976 the Lions donated over \$8,500 for furnishings and a new \$6,000 operating microscope for eye surgery.

The Rolla Lions Club built the Lions Club Memorial Stadium for the Rolla High School at a cost of \$2,100.

The Rolla Lions Club furnished the playground equipment for the various city parks in 1942 and continued to recondition and buy additional equipment until Rolla voted a park tax and appointed a city park board to operate the city parks.

The Rolla lions Club established a Missouri School of Mines (now S&T) Student Loan Fund. This fund was used by S&T to make emergency loans to students.

The Rolla Lions Club has also provided several scholarships to S&T students. Other projects include college scholarships for high school students, SMILE parties for senior citizens' groups, the CPR program, participation in the Khoury League and the Rolla Community Track.

In recent years the club has made major renovations to the Lions Club Park including paving all roads, building new pavilions, remodeling the den, adding new playground equipment, a fire training facility, a soccer facility and is presently completing an 18 hole disc golf course in the south and southwest portion of the park.

These are but a few of the many worthwhile projects made possible by the Rolla Lions Club through the generous support of its fund-raising events by the people of Rolla.