

**A Brief History of Lionism
in Connecticut
1922-1983**

Lions Clubs of District 23-C



Chapter 6

Chapter 6

CLUBS OF DISTRICT 23C

Bolton Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships, hearing research, furniture for the library, LCIF, CLERF (\$2,300 over six years), an impedance audiometer for the Bolton Elementary School (\$1,600), various emergency needs and many other local causes.

Service projects included assisting the local athletic club in conducting a five-mile road race and helping the Parent-Teacher Organization and the Women's Club construct a playscape at the Bolton Elementary School.

A major civic project was constructing a pavilion in Indian Notch Park in Bolton. The club was only two years old when the project was selected in 1979. Members were hesitant to undertake an effort of this size but after much careful planning they decided to go ahead. They imposed two restrictions on themselves; 1) They would not go into debt but would build piece by piece as they raised money, and 2) would build it themselves.

Fortunately, their membership included men with special talents and resources. Lion Alan Wiedie drew up architectural plans early in 1978. Lion Timothy Brahaney put the plans in working form and agreed to oversee construction.

Lion Ernie Reed took care of sight preparation and excavation. Lion Jack Schlaefter had the concrete footing and floor poured by the fall of 1979. The club raised enough money to buy the steel for posts and roof supports by the spring of 1980. Although steel was much more expensive than wood, the Bolton Lions wanted to make this structure as vandal-proof as possible and make it to last a lifetime.

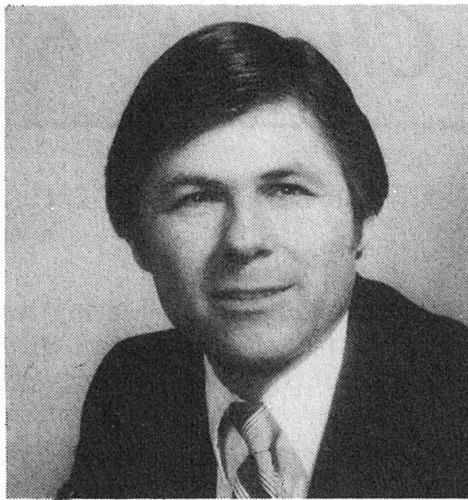
Money was collected for the roof by the fall of 1980. Lion Wayne England was very helpful in securing the material. In early November over 90 percent of the club's members took part in a work weekend and completed the roof. Grading and seeding were done the following spring, a task made easy by Lion Art Steel and his equipment.

Although water and electricity had not yet been provided, the club turned the pavilion over to the town at a dedication ceremony on May 31, 1981. The club provided a chicken barbeque for the occasion which was attended by the Selectmen who declared it "Lions Day" in Bolton. Also present were many dignitaries and townspeople. Lion President Loren Otter ably presided over the dedication.

The following year the Bolton Lions were able to provide water and electricity for the building. The men responsible were Lions Dave and Charlie Minicucci. Final grading and seeding were done by members under the direction of Lion Jack Witham.

The Bolton Lions feel that this project was responsible in the early years for pulling the club together and making it a stable unit. Today, every Bolton Lion who drives into the park and sees the Lions insignia at the peak of the building feels a sense of pride in having done something for the community.

Fundraisers were raffles, food chances, light bulb sales, chicken barbecues combined with tag sales, a concession stand at the Bolton road races, a fried dough booth at the Hebron Fair and a dance.



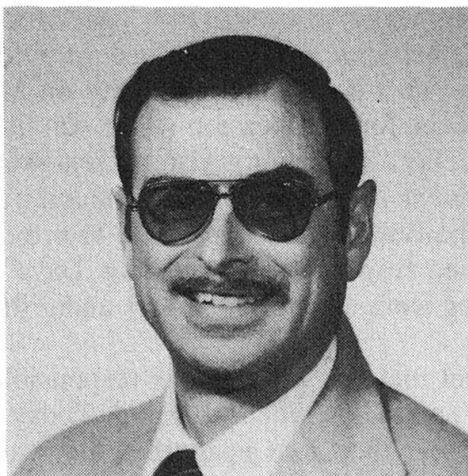
Lawrence A. Converse III, Bolton Lions Club

The Bolton Lions Club honors two of its members: Lawrence Converse and Loren H. Otter.

The Bolton Lions Club was chartered in March, 1976 and Lawrence A. Converse III was elected as its first president. He held the position through June, 1977 and ably directed the new club through its tenuous first year. In subsequent years he continued to be influential in developing and executing plans for the club's most ambitious project—construction of a pavilion in a newly developed town park. Participation in Lionism extended beyond the Bolton Club when he was appointed Zone Chairman, 1982-1983.

Larry was born September 10, 1942, in Manchester, Connecticut. He moved to Bolton 10 years later with wife Joan and daughters, Kim and Lori. He has been a successful contractor for 18 years.

Lion Larry graduated from Manchester High School and attended the University of Connecticut and the University of Hartford. A past company commander in the National Guard, he is chairman of the Bolton Republican Town Committee. He was elected to a first term as a Bolton selectman in 1983. Involvement in town affairs has included membership in the Bolton Volunteer Fire Department, the Bolton Zoning Commission and the Building Code Board of Appeals.



Loren H. Otter, Bolton Lions Club

Charter member Lion Loren H. Otter was raised in Southeastern Michigan and moved to Bolton 16 years ago where he now resides with his wife Elaine.

Loren graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering and received a Master of Science degree from the Hartford Graduate Center. For 23 years he has been employed in the engineering department at the United Technologies Corporation Fuel Cell Operations in South Windsor, Connecticut. He was elected as an alternate on the Bolton Planning Commission in 1983.

Lion Loren has been a real asset to the Bolton Lions Club. He was elected Secretary in 1977 and, except for the year when he served as President, 1980-1981, he has held the office of secretary ever since. His horizons within Lionism broadened in the year when he was appointed Zone Chairman of Zone 10, Region IV by District Governor Bill Allen in 1983-1984.

Loren has been an active participant in every project undertaken by the Bolton Lions.

Canterbury Lions Club

Annual contributions for charity in recent years averaged \$2,000.

Contributions went towards: eyeglasses, scholarships, clothing for needy children, Camp Hemlocks, sponsoring of Boy and Girl Scouts, an audiometer and a Braille typewriter for the high school, basketball backboards and nets for the high school, bookshelves and large print books for the library, a ping pong table for the Central Connecticut Association for Retarded Citizens and tires for senior citizens van. Also, donations were made to the Heart Fund, CLERF, LCIF-CARE and hearing conservation.

Service activities are pancake breakfasts and Christmas baskets for the needy, organizing and conducting children's games at the annual Fourth of July celebration and serving lunches at the geriatric clinic.

Civic activities included constructing tennis and basketball courts for the high school over a period of three years and donating a recording resuscitator to the fire department.

Fundraisers were pancake breakfasts, Christmas wreath sales, flower sales, food booths, an Easter dance, a musical variety show, sale of dinner coupon books, a community calendar, antique shows and an arts and crafts show. The most successful was a food booth at the Hebron Fair which netted \$2,200.

Clinton Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships (\$1,000 per year), large print books for the library, Clinton flood relief, CLERF and other causes.

A service activity was an Easter egg hunt for grade school children.

Civic projects were constructing a town beach pavilion, helping to landscape town properties and donating to the Clinton Ambulance Association.

Fundraisers were a pizza booth at the Clinton Blue Fish Festival and a raffle.

Colchester Lions Club

The Colchester Lions contributions to charity over the past five years 1979 through 1983 totaled \$25,000.

Contributions went towards: academic scholarships, music scholarships for gifted students, eye examinations and eyeglasses, band uniforms for Bacon Academy and Central Middle School, Little League, Midget and Pony Football Leagues, American Legion Boys State, Camp Hemlocks Easter Seal Outdoor Education Center, sponsorship of the American Legion baseball team, Colchester/Canada Youth Exchange, Lung Association Christmas Seals, large print



Lion President Eric Jacobson presenting gift to Lion James Hughes, moving to Georgia after retiring from teaching in Colchester school system. Seated in dark jacket is PDG Joe Pescatello, June 1883 Installation Banquet.

books for the Cragin Memorial Library, Colchester Historical Society, Colchester arts group, Christmas baskets for the needy, CLERF and LCIF.

Service activities were a Halloween party for children, annual sports nights for the high school coaches, carol sings and gifts for the retarded at Mansfield Training Center and helping at the annual health exposition.

Civic activities included developing and maintaining the town skating pond, installing a commuter bus shelter in conjunction with an Eagle Scout project, installing a drinking fountain in the Colchester recreation field, placing a bench at the Senior Center and another in the town park and the annual Christmas tree lighting on the town green.

Fundraisers were an annual bazaar (annual profit \$5,000 to \$6,000) and pancake breakfasts.

The Colchester Lions honor their two Past District Governors, John W. Damm who was also the Charter President, and Stephen Steg.

The Colchester Lions are proud of their own song:

*Help the little children
Whose eyes may cease to see
Help all those who suffer
In our community
Accomplish acts of kindness
For the aged and the ill
God will back our efforts
If we only will*

*Choose some worthy project
And push it 'til its done
Help increase the laughter
And help to spread the fun
As our town needs progress
Let's help to foot the bill
God will back our efforts
If we only will*

Columbia Lions Club

Contributions went towards: eye examinations and eyeglasses, Cub Scouts, Boys State, Special Olympics, St. Paul's soup kitchen, Christmas baskets for the needy, Windham Memorial Hospital, the library and CLERF.

Service activities were collecting food for the needy, placing an eyeglass collection box at Bradley Memorial Hospital and giving an annual good citizenship award to a male and a female student at Porter School. An athletic award to a male and female student is also given each year. The four names are inscribed on the permanent Lions trophy at the school.

Civic activities included installing a concrete floor in the Lions Pavilion, building two horseshoe pits at the Columbia Recreation Field, planting nine maple trees on the town green, sponsoring the town's annual band concert, sponsoring jointly with the town the annual Fourth of July parade, donating an ice-rescue sled to the fire department and assisting the Columbia Historical Society in restoring a one-room school.

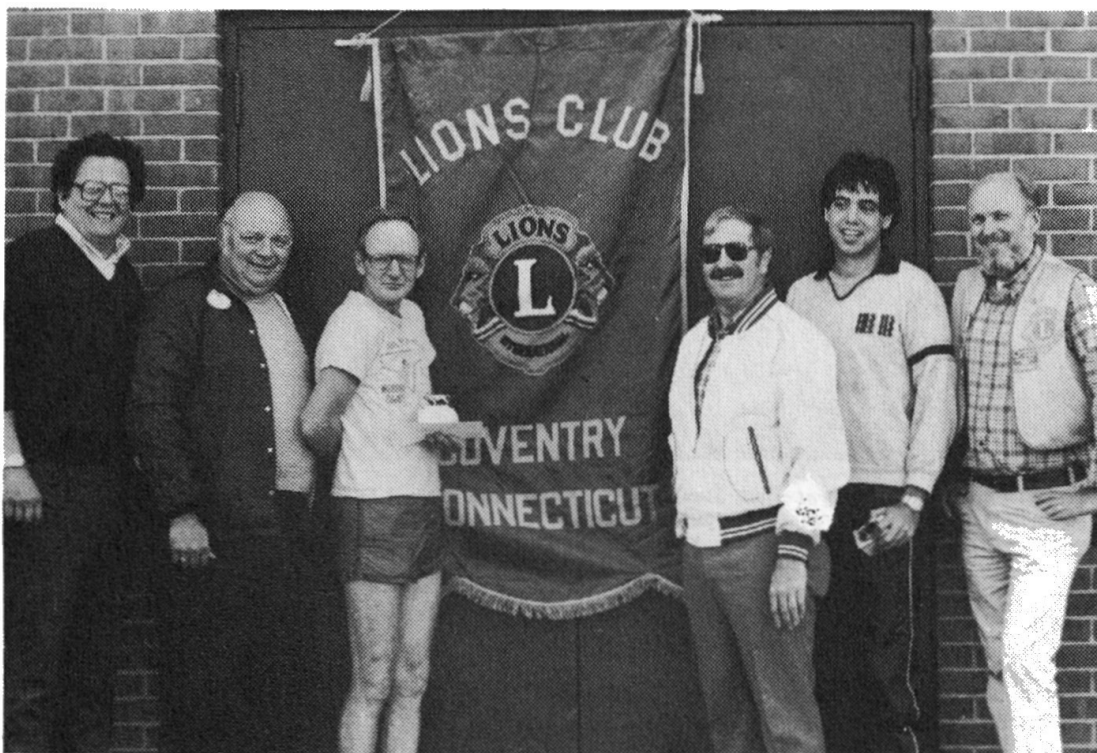
Coventry Lions Club

Contributions went towards; scholarships, Special Olympics, other community needs and CLERF.

A service activity was a Christmas party for school children in kindergarten through fourth grade.

A civic activity was installation of park benches for the elderly.

Fundraisers were an auction and a hot dog concession.



2nd Annual Vision Races—Coventry. Left to right: John Bennett, chairman, Coventry Lions Club Vision Races; Don Fuller, District 23C governor; George Maine of Canterbury, top Lions Club racer in the 10-K race; David Leete, president, Coventry Lions Club; Dan Damato of East Hartford, top Lions Club racer in the 5-K race; Bob Dixon of Hebron, zone chairman.

Cromwell Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships, Boys and Girls States, Christmas and Thanksgiving food baskets, many other local needs and CLERF.

Service activities included an after-the-ball party for graduating seniors, helping

with the Bloodmobile, working with the Drug and Alcohol Task Force and helping at the Health Fair.

A civic activity was construction of the Lions Little League Field.

Fundraisers were pancake breakfasts, french toast breakfasts, spaghetti suppers, tag sales, antique car shows and a bazaar.

The Cromwell Lions honor Fred Curtin, Past District Governor.

Danielson Lions Club

Contributions went towards: eyeglasses, Boy Scouts, raincoats for the school patrol, a down and chain marker set for the high school football team, Mansfield Training Center, large print books for the library, the Eastern Connecticut Library Association's Book-by-Mail program, the local hospital's giving appeal and CLERF.



Danielson Lions reward student effort. Standing left to right: Hollis Hooper Sr., representing the Lions; James Mazzarella, President of Lions Club; Dr. Donald Clerico, Principal of KHS; David Bardsley, representing Lions; Christopher Snell, Grade 12; Tammy Wakefield, Grade 9; Amy Peckham, Grade 10, and Kelly Lis, Grade 11.

One service activity was setting up a rest stop on Route 52 on Labor Day, 1980, and operating it from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. By 5:30 p.m. the club had given away 60 dozen doughnuts and gallons of lemonade and coffee and had to send for more supplies. Lion James Mazzarella made balloon animals and gave them to children. A state trooper from Danielson who had a large garden donated summer squash, tomatoes and cucumbers and these were given away. Many travelers made unsolicited donations, and this money was used for eyeglasses and eye research. The club believes it saved at least one life that day. A woman had been driving several hours and was near exhaustion. She could find no place to rest or obtain refreshments until she saw the Lions "Burma Shave" type signs on the turnpike.

An especially meaningful service activity of the Danielson club is the H. Wallace Crook Award. See discussion of Wallace Crook given later.

Civic activities were donations to the ambulance corps and the police department and the establishment of Lions Park.

The Park came about through the efforts of Lion Charles "Chuck" Prest. He obtained an acre of abandoned land adjacent to his home. The land included a pond, and both were overgrown. There was no record of ownership and no one could remember when taxes had been paid. The city obtained title through eminent domain and sold the plot to Chuck for one dollar in 1972.

Chuck became President of the Lions Club and worked out an agreement with the city to create the park. The Lions paid Connecticut Light and Power to install lights and the Lions provided equipment and manpower to clean up the area. The city agreed to install slides and recreation equipment. The Lions also started a \$25,000 special fund, interest from which was to be used for maintenance of the park. If for any reason the Lions Club should cease to exist, the fund is to be liquidated and the money given to the CLERF.

Fundraisers were pancake breakfasts, a beerfest, a baseball pool, a wrestling match, a spaghetti dinner, yard sales, a carnival, food concessions and a spring festival. The most successful was a yard sale which netted \$1400 in 1981.

The Danielson Club honors H. Wallace Crook. Lion Wallace was born September 22, 1910, in Attleboro, Massachusetts. He met his wife Evelyn at a resort in Lake George where they were both working. After they were married they moved to Putnam to work in the Putnam Hotel, which they bought in 1950. Wally joined the Putnam Lions Club in 1948.

The Crooks moved to Danielson in 1950, and Wally joined the Danielson Lions Club. He served as club president of the Putnam Club twice and of the Danielson Club three times. He served as District Governor of 23C in 1956. Wally received his life membership card in 1982. If every Lion did, one half as much for others as Wally Crook, our accomplishments would be far greater than they are.

Wally suffered a stroke during the summer of 1983 and passed away on December 22, 1984. The club's memorial to Wally is an annual H. Wallace Crook Award to an outstanding citizen of Danielson, man or woman. The award is presented by his widow, Evelyn, at a recognition dinner given by the Danielson Lions Club.

Another honored member of the Danielson Lions is Charles Prest who, as already noted, is responsible for the Lions Park. He was also instrumental in establishing the Wally Crook Award, along with his many other contributions to his club and to Lionism.

Deep River-Chester Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships and other local needs and CLERF. Service activities were eye screening tests for school children kindergarten through sixth grade, conducted spring and fall for 17 years, and complete Christmas dinners with dancing afterwards for approximately 250 senior citizens.

Civic activities included constructing bathhouses and toilets at Cedar Lake, erecting a large brick war memorial and donating a "jaws of life" to the Deep River Fire Company.

Fundraisers were selling Christmas trees, Easter flowers, light bulbs, hard candy at Christmas, tag sales, parking cars at the Chester Fair, a letter solicitation for sight, a harvest dance and gumball machines.

The club honors Silva Ianni, Talcott Scovill, Charles Shumway, Arthur Price, Arthur Davies and Herb Jacome.

Durham Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships (\$1,000 per year), eye examinations

and eyeglasses, an eye testing machine for the schools, Boys State, support for the Red Cross blood bank, gifts and food baskets for the needy, and many other local needs including support for other nonprofit organizations. The club also donates to CLERF, LCIF and hearing conservation.

Service activities are graduation parties for eighth graders and high school seniors (total cost about \$1,000 per year). Durham and Middlefield share the same high school and the party for eighth graders helps to get them acquainted before moving on to high school.

Civic activities include donations to the fuel banks, decorating the town Christmas tree and constructing the town skating rink with the Lions doing the work.

Fundraisers were light bulb sales, a food booth at the Durham Fair, pancake breakfasts, St. Patrick's Day dinner, Family Day and a refreshment stand at the Memorial Day parades. The most successful fundraiser was the Durham Fair, 1981, which grossed \$7,128. Lions and their wives and children worked about 500 man-hours at the food booth.

The Durham Lions honor Angelo Rusconi. He joined soon after the club was founded and has had perfect attendance for 31 years. He has always been, and still is, active in all club activities and fundraisers even though he is now 81 years old. The club feels truly honored to have him as a member.

East Haddam Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships for students going into nursing education, eye examinations and eyeglasses from a Lions fund maintained in the schools for that purpose, a van for senior citizens, many other local charities, CLERF and LCIF.



Senior Citizen's Bus. Standing left to right; Bob Prchal, Bill Delehanty, Jim Mathews, Bernie Kaminski.

Service activities included a harvest party for children, an annual fishing derby for children in the town, recently expanded to include children from the Cromwell Children's Home and mentally retarded children, and annual recognition dinners for athletic and scholarship achievements of high school students. The East Haddam Lions Club has from its founding, been interested in the welfare and the achievements of children and youth and has helped them and given them encouragement.

Civic activities included erecting a flagpole in the Moodus section, constructing a building for the town beach, donating a "jaws of life" to the fire department and creating the local ambulance service. Under the leadership of President Bob Ballek, the club purchased an ambulance in 1969 and the service was in operation with Lions making up the board of directors.

Fundraisers were paper drives, sales of light bulbs, soap, brooms and Halloween candy, a chicken barbecue and an annual auction. The most successful fundraiser was a recent auction which netted \$8,300.



East Haddam Lions annual auction. The largest fund raiser in this town for many years.

The East Haddam Lions honor William J. Delehanty. He held all the club offices and served on the board of directors for seven years. He was Zone Chairman, 4 years; Deputy District Governor, 2 years; and District Governor of 23C. He was Co-chairman of the District Educational Seminar and Chairman of the Region Educational Seminar. He attended 18 Mid-Winter Conferences and 17 State Conventions. He served on many committees at State Conventions. He attended nine International Conventions and worked in the hospitality room to elect Joe McLoughlin as Lions Clubs International President. He worked on committees at other International Conventions. He received the International President's Award. Bill is a graduate of the University of Connecticut. Married with five children and four grandchildren, Bill served in the Air Force for two years during World War II. He served the Town of East Haddam as Chairman of the Board of Education, Secretary of the School Building Committee and Chairman of the Town Beach

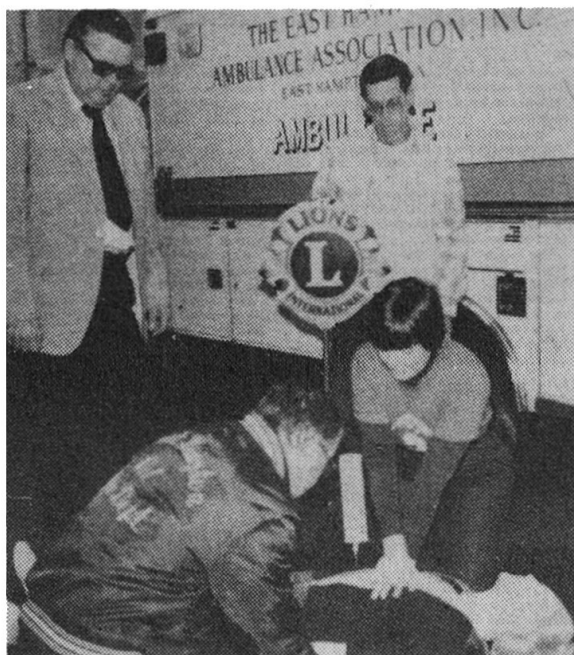
Development Committee. He was Chairman of the Cub Scout Advisory Committee, President of the Moodus Drum and Fife Corps, member of Little League, PTA, Xavier Home and School Association in Middletown and the North School Society of Hadlyme. He was a sponsor of the Connecticut Valley Pony Club and the Old Lyme and U.S. Pony Club. He is a Mason.

Bill has worked for the Southern New England Telephone Company for 30 years and is Manager of Facilities. Bill is a very busy family man, Lion and citizen.

The club also gives special mention to Ed Bishop, charter member and the club's first president.; Ed DesRosiers, charter member, Zone Chairman and Deputy District Governor; John Kromish, who serves on the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation for twelve years, and on the District Cabinet for ten years. The East Haddam Club was honored by the District Governor as the best club in the district, 1981-1982.

East Hampton Lions Club

Contributions went towards: eyeglasses, Christmas baskets and turkeys for the needy, aid to families victimized by fire, fall foliage trips for senior citizens and supplies for the school. The last included Braille books for the blind, an eye testing machine, handicapped-driving aids and recording equipment. The club also supports CLERF.



East Hampton Lion Joe Becker, standing left, observes CPR instructors demonstrating the use of the \$1100 electronic resuscitator donated to the East Hampton Fire Department.

A service activity was a Christmas party with toys for underprivileged children.

Fundraisers are food booths. The club received a donation of an old aluminum guard-post building. They converted this by hard work into a mobile kitchen with tandem wheels, and equipped it with refrigerator, pizza oven, french fryer and stainless steel interior.

Of the 25 charter members, one is still active and 10 are still living. The oldest is 84 and was a member of the Sheepshead Bay Club in Brooklyn, New York before retirement, when he transferred to the East Hampton Club.

Essex Lions Club

Contributions went towards: eye examinations and eyeglasses, an eye operation and glass eye for a patient, an eye operation and eyeglasses for another patient,

Boys State, Girls State, Boy Scouts, YMCA, large print books for the library, a wheelchair for a young victim of multiple sclerosis, for many other local needs, and to CLERF, LCIF and LGS.

Service activities are annual eye examinations in the schools, glaucoma screenings for town residents and participation in a telethon for the Middlesex Hospital. They also placed an eyeglass collection box in a town office building.

Civic activities included donations toward purchase of a Zodiac rescue boat for the fire department, a fluoride treatment at the elementary school and flood relief.

Fundraisers were a "pig roast in the park," food booths at the Essex Fair, island festivals, pancake breakfasts, an eye research fund-raising letter and sales of light bulbs and shrubs. Some of the members built a lobster pit on a trailer for cooking corn and potatoes, and steaming clams and lobsters in seaweed. These festivals are held at the Essex Island Marina.

Franklin Lions Club

The club's known contributions for charity were in excess of \$33,000, 1971-1982. The total was more, but records have been lost.

Contributions went towards: Boy Scouts, holiday parties for the elderly, annual contributions to the Senior Baseball League, many other local charities and CLERF.

Service activities were coaching both Little League and Senior League baseball teams and painting a home for an elderly couple.

The civic activities performance of the Franklin Club is exemplary. They constructed two ballfields, a playground, a field house complete with bathrooms, storage area and concession stand, and cleared an area for two tennis courts. They also built a judges stand for the horse show and dug a well. The well was contracted, but most of the other work was done by Lions, with members donating labor and such equipment as bulldozers, backhoes and trucks. The Lions paid all



Lions take a break during their job of running the horse show.

the cost of building the horse ring for the shows. The City Recreation Department shares maintenance costs. The Lions contribute toward maintenance of all these facilities. They also put a new roof on an old one-room school which is a historical building.

Fundraisers were annual horse shows, dances, auctions, tag sales and walkathons. The horse show in 1982 raised \$5,000 for the club.

Groton Lions Club

The Groton Lions Club estimates its charitable contributions at about \$12,500 over nine years.

Contributions went towards: scholarships, eyeglasses, major eye surgery for a youth, the library, a donation of \$2,400 to a hospital, various other local projects and CLERF.

Fundraisers were golf tournaments, pancake breakfasts and sales of "doughboys" at an exposition. The largest amount raised in one year was \$1,600 from the 1982 golf tournament.

Haddam Lions Club

Contributions went towards: eye examinations and eyeglasses, medical bills for an elderly person's eye operation, helping a family victimized by fire, the American Field Service and LCIF-CARE.

Fundraisers were pancake breakfasts, setback tournaments, bazaars and a golf tournament jointly with the Colchester Lions.



Haddam and Killingworth Lions raised \$8000 for 15-year-old Richard Kempter paralyzed from a tobogganing accident. In this 1983 photo left to right; Bob Lucheme, "The Peoples' Attorney," WFSB-TV; President Stanley Bates, Killingworth Lions; Haddam 1st Selectman Mark Lundgren; State Senator Kenneth Hampton; Manager Michael Ledisky, Nashville II; Richard Kempter; President Lorenzo Vallera, Haddam Lions; Elsa Kempter, John Kempter.

Hebron Lions Club

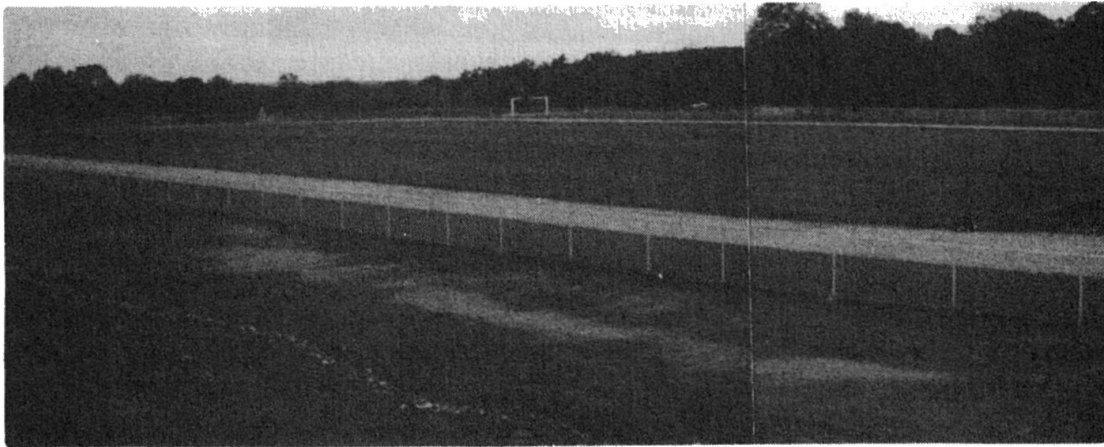
The Hebron Lions contributed over \$42,000 to charity over 11 years, 1972-1983.

Contributions went towards: scholarships, eye examinations and eyeglasses, eye testing and hearing testing equipment for the schools, a special class for a deaf

student, a sculpture class, Girls State, Boys State, Camp Hemlocks, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Little League, Pony League, girls track team, the Hebron high school band, a United Nations trip for elementary pupils, a drug program, Mansfield Training Center, Lions Youth Exchange, Christmas baskets, a wheelchair, a senior citizens van, an ear drill for Windham Memorial Hospital, the Douglas Library, American Field Service, the Salvation Army and other local needs. Also, donations were made regularly to CLERF and to LCIF.

Service activities included bingo games for senior citizens, a plant show for senior citizens, helping with the Easter Seals bike a thon, transporting residents of the Mansfield Training Center to the Hebron Fair and constructing a track and soccer field at RHAM High School. The field was a two-year project. The Hebron and Marlborough Lions Clubs each contributed \$5,000 for materials, and the school contributed \$30,000, a cash outlay of \$40,000. Hebron Lion Ernest Reed donated the use of all equipment used on the project. When completed, the field was worth \$100,000.

Civic activities were sponsoring and working on town cleanup days and donating to the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department.



The Hebron Lions' contribution for renovation of the track and field at RHAM High School was hundreds of manhours. Monetary contributions and equipment donated by Reed Construction.

Fundraisers were letter campaigns, road races, food booths, beerfests, a Ponies of America Show, chicken barbecues, a bluegrass festival, auto shows, Lions Days and the Hebron Fair (See Chapter VII).

The Hebron Lions Club gives special thanks to five outstanding members: Lions Raymond Burt, Wilbur M. Dennis, Everett Clark, Ernest Reed and Ramon Campbell.

Ray Burt, Charter President, provided the leadership to establish the Hebron Lions Fair. An electrician, he has helped at all of these fairs and that kind of service cannot be praised too highly. He retired from Pratt and Whitney in 1977 after 38 years with that company. A First Selectman of Hebron he also has given much of himself to the community.

Lion Wilbur M. Dennis had held every club office and was Zone Chairman, Deputy District Governor and District Governor of 23C, 1977-1978. He was Superintendent of the Hebron Harvest Fair, 1971-1975; Superintendent of concessions at the Fair in 1982; and President of the Association of Connecticut Fairs in 1983. Wilbur was made a Melvin Jones Fellow in 1983, which indicates the high



Wilbur Dennis, Hebron

regard in which he is held throughout Lionism. Wilbur was born at Annapolis, Maryland July 9, 1910, and married his wife, Mineola, May 3, 1942. He is now retired, living in Florida, where he still remains active in Lionism.

Lion Everett Clark has been an outstanding Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer for five terms and is still on the job. His dedication, cooperation and excellent performance has made the task easier for many district governors.

Ernest Reed served three terms as Zone Chairman. As noted, he donated all heavy equipment for construction of the RHAM High School track and soccer field. Much of the equipment used on sight preparation and landscaping of the Hebron Lions fairgrounds was also donated by Lion Reed.

Lion Ramon Campbell served four years on the District 23C Cabinet and one year on the State Council. Lion Ramon also served as assistant chairman of the Hebron Lions Fair and is fair advisor. He is the Club Historian and contributed all the information for his club's entry in the Lions history.

Killingworth Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships, eyeglasses, youth baseball, the Society for Prevention of Blindness and the town library. (Also, see photo under Haddam Lions Club)

Service activities were Easter egg hunts and sight conservation projects.

Civic activities were contributions to the town welfare fund and to the Killingworth Ambulance Association, a town Christmas tree lighting with carol singing and working on the town's recreation fields.

Fundraisers were their food trailer booths at the Durham Fair, raffles, a turkey shoot, an annual jazz festival, car shows, air shows and a St. Patrick's Day dance. In 1983, the food booth at the Durham Fair raised about \$2,500.

The club honors Charles Smith, Charter Member, Past President and current Secretary. Charlie has been a tireless worker on projects, membership, leadership and the welfare of the club.

Lebanon Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships, eye examinations and eyeglasses, Boys State, Girls State, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, girls softball team, elementary school band awards, high school band awards, a wheelchair for an elementary school pupil, the Lebanon Community Chorus, large print books for the library, donations to the Windham Community Hospital, CLERF and LCIF.

A service activity was a Halloween party for the children of Lebanon.

A civic activity is support of the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department.

Fundraisers were horse shows, auctions, food booths, beerfests, a polkafest, raffles, Christmas tree and light bulb sales, a road race and the Lebanon Country Fair (see Chapter VII).

The Lebanon Lions Club honors one of its two remaining charter members, Lion Edward O. Clark. Ed is Past President of the club, served 12 years on the Cabinet of District 23C, six years as Zone Chairman, three years as Deputy District Governor and three years as Education Chairman.

Lion Ed was the prime mover in starting the Lebanon Lions Fair and has served as its superintendent for 25 years. In 24 years of actual operation the fair has never failed to make a profit. After four years as a district fair it earned the classification of a major fair from the Association of Connecticut Fairs. To Lion Ed goes much of the credit for this remarkable achievement and consequently for much of the club's success.

Ledyard Lions Club

Contributions went towards: Scholarships (\$1,000 per year for five years, increased to \$1,500 per year for the past seven years), eye examinations and eyeglasses, sponsorship of a girls softball team, Girl Scouts, assistance to the wife and children of a deceased member (\$25 weekly for two years), and air transportation to the West Coast and other expenses for a kidney transplant victim (totalling \$2,500). Also, other contributions went for a TV set for a disabled person, assistance for a leukemia victim, the Family Service Association, Oak Hill School for the Blind and Handicapped, CLERF, LCIF, Diabetes Awareness, FIDELCO, hearing conservation and other causes. The Ledyard Lions are pleased that their action in helping the kidney transplant patient led directly to the establishment of a fund for such emergencies by the town.

Service activities included taking children Christmas shopping and giving them money for toys and other things, taking needy families Christmas shopping (contributing for this \$1,137 total), donating and installing a water heater for a needy family, installing smoke alarms for a number of senior citizens and co-hosting a Service Person of the Month award and banquet.

Civic activities included high school improvements and improvement of the city track for road races.

Fundraisers were weekly bingo games, pancake breakfasts, annual auctions and a food wagon used as a food booth at fairs.

The Ledyard Lions honor Morris Smith, Past Deputy District Governor, Lion of the year, and a great Lion every year. Lion Morris built the food wagon, but this was only one of his contributions to the success of the Ledyard Lions Club.

Lyme-Old Lyme Lions Club

Contributions went towards: Lions Memorial scholarships, eye examinations and eyeglasses, hearing tests, Lions Memorial gifts to Lyme Youth services, equip-

ment for four farm league soccer teams, large print books for the library, the YMCA building fund, bookcases for a Lyme-Old Lyme elderly housing complex, an annual fall foliage trip for senior citizens, LCIF and CLERF.

Fundraisers were annual antique shows, annual appeals letters, a food booth at fairs and catering the annual Wood Carvers Show from the club's own renovated food trailer.

Mansfield Lions Club

In one year, 1983, the Mansfield Lions contributed about \$12,500 to worthy causes.

Contributions over the years went towards: eye examinations and eyeglasses, annual gifts to Boy and Girl Scouts, Mansfield Community Council camperships, support of various youth groups in town, sponsorship of a baseball team, youth exchanges, Salvation Army, Red Cross, the Mansfield State Training School Foundation, Covenant Soup Kitchen, Windham Community Memorial Hospital (\$6,000 in 1983), various gifts to the Mansfield Senior Center, LCIF, CLERF and other causes.

A service activity is the annual citizenship award.

Civic activities were support of the Mansfield Recreation Department and of the Mansfield Recreation Park.

The Mansfield Club honors Ellsworth E. Weeks, an outstanding Lion who has done much for the club.

Middlefield Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships and many other local needs, American Field Service, CLERF and LCIF.

Service activities included Easter egg hunts, Halloween parties, eighth grade dinner dances co-sponsored with the Durham Lions Club, high school graduation parties, hosting Special Olympics and helping Channel 20 with the Easter Seal Telethon.

Civic activities were repairing the public address system for the Parks and Recreation Department, preparing the skating pond for winter, working on many community improvement projects and donating \$10,000 to the Mystic Community Center for construction and operating expenses.

Fundraisers were annual carnivals with raffles, annual fishing derby and a booth at the Durham Fairs.

Middletown Lions Club

The Middletown Lions Club contributed over \$15,000 to various needs over 11 years, 1972-1983.

Contributions went towards: eye examinations and eyeglasses, a visual enlarger for the school system, uniforms and equipment for the Blues Fife and Drum Corps, the YMCA, the Russell Library, Middlesex Memorial Hospital, a new car for the Visiting Nurses Association, a new station wagon for the Red Cross, and a van for the Middletown Association for Retarded Children. The club donated \$3,000 to the Girl Scouts toward building a dam and creating a swimming pool with boating facilities at their camp in Hebron. They also gave six aluminum canoes to the Boy Scouts and two sewing machines to the Long River Village Center. The club always supports State and International Lions' projects.

A continuing service project is the "After-the-Ball" dance for graduating seniors. It begins after the prom and lasts until morning. The function was started

by Lions Thomas Moore and Sebastian Mazzotta in cooperation with the Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools, high school principals, senior class advisors, and the class president. The function is supervised by Lions and their wives, assisted by school personnel. Another service project was the start of the Big Brother program in Middletown in 1961, the first one in Connecticut. It was started by Lion Bernie Fields with a \$500 contribution by the club. The Middletown Lions also man check points at walk a thons and sponsor walkers who have no other sponsors.

A civic project was the creation of a small park and picnic area along the river front on formerly unsightly and neglected land. With \$2,600 of club money, and "with much sweat and many blisters," the Lions completed the park and turned it over to the city in June 1963. Lion President Frank Williams presided at the ceremonies, though the project was developed during the presidency of Stephen Kayser and under the chairmanship of Thomas Wilcox.

Fundraisers were annual pecan sales, circuses and food booths at regattas.

The Middletown club passes along to others one means they use to increase membership. The Lions and their wives plan sight seeing trips. A Lion and his wife invite a prospective member and his wife to join them. By mingling during an interesting trip the prospective member and his wife get to know everyone. Those who later join the club tend to remain and become active Lions.

Montville Lions Club

The Montville Lions contributed more than \$45,000 to charity over 11 years, 1972-1983.

Contributions went towards: eyeglasses, sponsorship of a Little League team, sponsoring a girl to Girls State, eye testing machines for the schools, youth exchanges, the annual Montville Lions Service Award of \$500 to two high school seniors, extractions and false teeth for a youth, other local needs, CLERF and LCIF.

Service activities included helping to move three elderly couples into senior housing, donating and installing an air conditioner in the housing recreation room, donating and installing two air conditioners in the Senior Center, constructing a storage building at an elderly housing complex, giving Christmas parties for 150 handicapped persons and helping at many health clinics.

Civic activities included installing lights at the Montville High School football field, constructing stage and dressing rooms at Camp Oakdale Pavilion at a cost of \$8,000 and building a community center for the camp. The club did original remodeling of a Senior Citizens Hall including donation of tables and chairs. They helped move a historical home and made donations to the Montville Fire Department.

Fundraisers were raffles, pancake breakfasts, Christmas tree sales, seal campaigns, the Thames River Raft Race and the Montville Harvest Festival. The largest sum raised at any one event was \$9,000 at the 1980 Montville Harvest Festival.

Mystic Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships, eyeglasses, hearing aids, the Mystic Community Center, L&M Hospital, the Mystic-Noank Library, CLERF and other charities.

Service activities were placing Braille menus in restaurants and painting the house of a terminally ill former member of the club.

Civic activities were installing benches around the town and repairing and painting the old Community Center.

A service activity, jointly with the Pawcatuck Lions, was providing transportation for the needy to attend health fairs with Lions participation in the activity.

A major civic donation was \$10,000 to the Mystic Community Center for construction and operating expenses.

Fundraisers were Monte Carlo Nights, annual beerfests, selling clams at the Mystic outdoor art shows and an annual golf tournament. One beerfest raised \$7,000.

New London Lions Club

Contributions went towards: eyeglasses, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Little League, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, the Southeastern Center for the Blind, the local soup kitchen, surgical treatment for a young girl at Mayo Clinic and many other local needs. The club also contributes to CLERF, LCIF and hearing conservation.

Service projects included constructing a Lions Cabin at Camp Wakenah Boy Scout Camp in 1972 and another building at the camp in 1982, distributing toys to underprivileged children at Christmas, repairing and replacing parts of a 75-foot-long wooden walk for the handicapped, building a handicapped ramp at a private home, giving beach parties and Christmas parties for the blind and sponsoring a Service Man of the Month award.

A civic activity was installing benches and five fireplaces at the city pier.

Major fundraisers are the annual (since 1951) New London Flower Show and pancake breakfasts.

The New London club honors Past International Director Joseph L. Raub. Director Joe is known throughout the state and in Lions Clubs International for his many contributions to Lionism. The club also honors their other District 23C Governor, Ernest Kopec.



International Lions President Ebb Grindstaff is shown presenting an International Lions certificate to Lion Ed Neilan, New London Lions President at the 60th anniversary banquet held January 26th, 1983 (L-R) Mrs. Grindstaff, Lion Ed Neilan, International President Grindstaff.

Niantic Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships, eye examinations and eyeglasses, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Little League and Babe Ruth League, Oak Hill School for the Blind and Retarded, a movie projector for the high school, the East Lyme Fuel Bank, Christmas baskets, Easter seals, an audiometer for the Seaside Regional Center for the Retarded, a family fitness course, Lawrence Memorial Hospital and other local needs. Also, the club supported LCIF, CLERF and hearing conservation.

Service activities included giving a Halloween party for the town children, giving a luncheon for the Babe Ruth League, doing traffic control for the East Lyme marathon, helping with the road race and participating in the Memorial Day parades.

Civic projects included donating \$400 for city trash containers, constructing the Flanders School playscape (20 man days), constructing the Lottie B. Haines School playscape (60 man days), constructing rest rooms in the Hole-in-the-Wall Theater (150 man days) and grounds cleanup at the Smith Harris House historical building (120 man days). The club also held a town cleanup day, constructed a baseball backstop, donated \$17,000 to build the town pavilion and participated in the Memorial Day parade.

The Smith Harris project involved clearing the grounds of about 100 trees, poison ivy, poison sumac, briars and brush. Lions bought the wood and turned the money back to the Smith Harris Foundation. The Lions also put in 300 feet (500 plants) of privet hedge. The expense to the club was \$424 plus the \$350 turned back for the wood. Labor costs were not counted.

Fundraisers were lobster festivals, a mail campaign for the blind, pancake breakfasts, raffles and Lions Day solicitations.

The club honors its two District Governors, Ernest Hopkins, 1954, and William K. Allen, 1983. Both have been outstanding Lions at all levels of leadership.

North Stonington Lions Club

Contributions went towards: eyeglasses, Braille watches, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, the teenage recreation center, Little League, Christmas baskets, an electronic scoreboard for the school gym at a cost of \$1,800, aid to fire victims and other local needs. Also, the club supported CLERF and LCIF.

A service project is an annual dinner for senior citizens.

A civic project is participation in the town parade.

The largest sum from a fundraiser was \$3,100 at the 1983 horse show.

Norwich Lions Club

Contributions to charity over 11 years, 1972-1983, amounted to \$129,000. This reflected an increase from \$5,000 in 1972 to \$20,000 in 1983.

Contributions went towards: eye examinations and eyeglasses (\$12,000 over the 11 years), Backus Hospital for an operating apparatus and for an argon laser beam and to many other local needs. Contributions to CLERF over the same period totaled \$30,350.

Service is an especially strong commitment of the Norwich club. A unique project is the Light House for the Blind. A number of blind persons are transported, fed and entertained twice per month. Another project is the annual Christmas party for the blind. Also, the club transports the handicapped to the Lions Gallery of the Senses at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford. Still another project is a summer picnic for the visually handicapped.

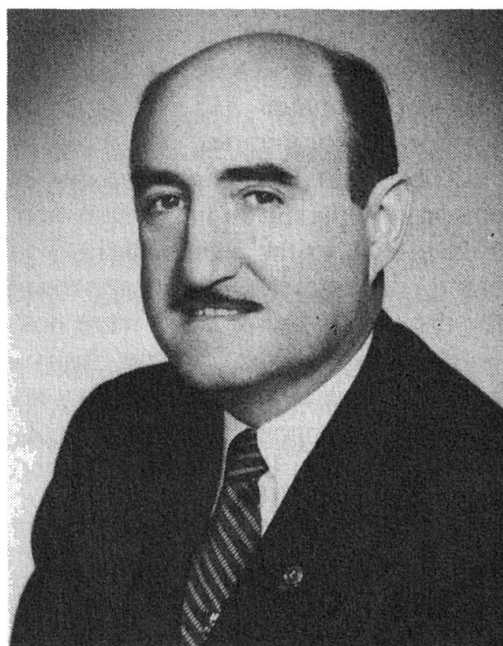
Through the efforts of the Norwich Lions a resident of the town was given the gift of sight in 1983. Mrs. Murray had been blind for 14 years because of diseased corneas. The club communicated with eye banks in Boston and New York. Finally, transplants were available and members of the club transported Mrs. Murray to New York for the successful operation. Later, she was a guest at a club meeting. In thanking them, her opening remark was "You do not know what it means to see your children again after 14 years."

A civic project was the donation of two rescue boats for the town harbor.

Fundraisers included raffles, pancake breakfasts, a letter fund drive for sight, scrap drives and bingo games. The largest sum grossed in one year was \$25,000 from the bingo games in 1981.

The club honors, and is honored by, its Past District Governors: T. Joseph Puza, 1951; Alexander Abraham, 1958; William F. O'Neil, 1962; Alfio Urbinati, 1967; and Mario Gualtieri, 1978.

Alfio C. Urbinati has served as Governor of District 23C, as Secretary for his District under four governors, and as State Council Chairman. He took part in organizing the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation and his club contributed the first \$500 to start the Foundation. Lion Al established 226 clubs throughout New England while serving as special representative of Lions Clubs International. He has 43 years perfect attendance, holds the Key of Nations Award, many achievement awards and is a life member.



Alfio C. Urbinati

The Norwich Lions sponsored three other clubs: Willimantic, 1941; Pawcatuck, 1950; and Montville, 1958.

Old Saybrook Lions Club

Contributions went towards: Old Saybrook Public Library, Kathleen Goodwin Grammar School, Old Saybrook Family Aid and CLERF.

Service activities were delivering books and magazines to Middlesex Memorial Hospital, driving senior citizens to hospitals and shopping centers, participating in the Old Saybrook Health Day, conducting an Easter egg hunt and sponsoring an annual road race.

A civic activity is participation in the town's Memorial Day parade.

Fundraisers were clambakes, annual antique shows, annual bowling tournaments, raffles, light bulb sales and a direct-mail appeal.

The club honors Jack Watson, a dedicated Lion, Past President and founder of the Westbrook Lioness Club.

Pawcatuck Lions Club

The Pawcatuck Lions estimate their total charitable contributions over 11 years, 1972-1983, at \$35,000.

Contributions went towards: scholarships, eye examinations and eyeglasses, eye operations, retarded citizens, cerebral palsy, a wheelchair for an amputee, a pneumatic chair for a paraplegic, Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets every year, other local needs, LCIF and CLERF.

Service activities were awards for high school athletes, meals for senior citizens, dinners for softball and track teams and coaching Little League.

A civic activity was planting a spruce tree in the center of town. The tree is still there after 30 years. The club also built a playground for the town.

Fundraisers were paper drives, pancake breakfasts, a golf tournament, an auction, a miniature golf course night, light bulb sales, a bazaar, a tennis tournament, a food sale, an Italian fest, beerfests, a circus, a card party, a bloody mary breakfast, a bloody mary brunch, fruitcake sales, food booths, a grocery bingo game and steak fries. The most successful was a beerfest in 1983 which grossed \$13,500.

The Pawcatuck Lions honor their three District Governors, Thomas Shakley, George MacKnight, and Joseph A. Pescatello. They also honor their two living charter members, Joseph Tudisco and Toffre Deib. Both have perfect attendance and both are life members of Lions Clubs International. Joseph was the first newsletter editor and has been on the club's board of directors since the beginning. He served as treasurer for seven years and as financial secretary for five years. He also chaired many committees. Toffre was treasurer for 13 years. He is now club advisor. The club also honors Deputy District Governor Angelo Miceli, Zone Chairman Frank Italiano and Lion Bill McGaw.

Plainfield Lions Club

Contributions went towards: eye examinations and eyeglasses, help in constructing an addition to the medical center (the club pledged \$41,000), Vials for Life, other local needs and CLERF.

A service activity was providing traffic guards for a road race.

A civic activity was support of the fire department.



Groundbreaking ceremony for the Plainfield Lions' \$50,000 wing to the Plainfield Medical Center, 1983. Left shovel are Lions co-chairman left to right Paul Delmonico and Henry Daley. Right shovel left to right, Lion President Rudy Suprenant and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Medical Center Harry Denison.

Fundraisers were auctions, pancake breakfasts, light bulb sales, food booths at the Wauregan cycle track and at Las Vegas Nights, and their own food trailer at the Danielson Festival and at the Brooklyn and Hebron Fairs.

The club honors their Past District Governor Theodore Coolidge, Past LCIF Chairman Clem Matteau, Past CLERF Chairman Robert Quintal and Past Zone Chairmen Henry Daley and Leo Keith.

Pomfret Lions Club

In three years, 1980 through 1982, the Pomfret Lions donated approximately \$14,000 to worthy causes.

Contributions went towards: scholarships, many youth activities (over \$1,200 per year), toys for handicapped children at the Dempsey Regional Center, the Day Kimball Hospital for rocking chairs in the birthing room, cheerleader equipment for the Pomfret school, food baskets for the needy, the Historical Society, the opera and other local needs. Also, the club supported LCIF and CLERF.

Service activities were annual Pomfret Man-of-the-Year awards, donation of a plaque to veterans of the Vietnam and Korean wars at a town ceremony and Santa housecalls with toys and gifts.

A civic project is donations to the fire department.

Fundraisers were chicken barbecues, a Pomfret anniversary dance, sale of Christmas trees, eye research mailings and a follies review.

The Pomfret Lions honor their first president, Thomas Hanley. He was born in Pomfret in 1902 and died September 29, 1976.



Thomas Hanley, Pomfret Lion

Tom was a lifelong resident of Pomfret and served as a rural letter carrier for 51 years until his retirement in 1971. In addition to being the club's first president, he remained an active Lion throughout his life. He served in almost every club office and chaired many important committees.

Tom was a member of the Cargill Council Knights of Columbus, a life member of the Putnam Lodge of Elks 574, a member of the Holy Name Society and a Trustee of the Holy Trinity Church in Pomfret for 18 years.

When anyone thinks of Lions in Pomfret, they think of Tom Hanley.

Portland Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships, eye examinations and eyeglasses, Little League, Cub Scouts, the school band, Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets, Heart and Cancer Associations, United Fund and CLERF.

Service activities were Easter egg hunts and setting up a lifeline for senior citizens.

A civic activity was constructing a field house for the town athletic field.

The major fundraiser is the Portland Lions Fair (see Chapter VII).

The club honors its two District Governors, Joseph Amato and Frank DiStefano.

Putnam Lions Club

Charitable contributions went towards: Boy Scouts, the local hospital, many other local needs and CLERF.

A civic activity is support of the Putnam-Pomfret Ambulance Service.

Fundraisers include golf tournaments, sponsoring the New England Yankee power boat races, a Glen Miller Band concert and operating a food booth at the Woodstock Fair.

The Putnam Lions honor Past President and oldest active member, L. Gerold "Jerry" LaPointe. He joined the club in 1953, four years after it was founded. He has been active in all club activities. He was instrumental in founding the Volunteer Ambulance Association which now serves the Towns of Putnam and Pomfret. Governor John N. Dempsey recalled that when he was Mayor of Putnam the town would not vote money for an ambulance. The Lions raised \$10,000 and bought one.

As one of the founders of the Ambulance Association in 1954, Jerry remained dedicated to the service and was a member of the board of directors continuously until 1983. He stepped down as president of the association in 1983 after serving in that office seven years.

The Lions support the association every year (\$500 to \$1,000 each year), and the Lions emblem appears on all its vehicles.

Jerry distinguished himself not only as a Lion, but as a citizen. He and his wife, Beatrice, operate LaPointe's Jewelers in Putnam and Danielson.

Quaker Hill Lions Club

Contributions went towards; scholarships in honor of elementary school Principal Matilda Zepp and in honor of Neal Hoelck, eye examinations and eyeglasses, Girls Little League softball, Girls State, an audiometer for Quaker Hill Elementary school, the Waterford High School Band Boosters Club, fruit baskets for the needy at Greentree Convalescent Home, CLERF and LCIF.

A service activity was annual Christmas carol sings for shut-ins.

Civic activities included donating playground equipment and a bus shelter for the Quaker Hill Elementary School, sand boxes and barrels throughout the community for use in winter, and donations to the "Bring the Nautilus to Groton" committee.

Fundraisers were rides and amusements at Quaker Hill Days, pancake breakfasts, an omelet breakfast, a yard sale, and a carnival which grossed \$5,000.

The Quaker Hill Lions Club has the honor and distinction of enrolling the oldest new member in Connecticut Lions history. Jack Michel was inducted January 1977, at the age of 76. He died in March, 1983. The club held a memorial service for Jack.



Jack Michel after receiving his faithful Lion jacket from Quaker Hill Lions December 1981.

Rockville-Vernon Lions Club

This club is in the process of reorganizing in 1983.

Salem Lions Club

Contributions went towards: The Lions James Price Memorial Scholarships (\$2,450 as of 1983, and the club is only 10 years old), eye examinations and eyeglasses, sight conservation, partial payment for an eye-testing machine for the Salem schools, LCIF and CLERF.

Service activities include: annual Easter egg hunts, the annual Salem Lions Club Civic Award to a sixth grade and a seventh grade student who have demonstrated special attitudes of helpfulness to others, and good citizenship in class and community; and constructing hot-fluid-level detectors for the blind. About this last project the club says:

“While initial efforts were not successful, design and material changes occurred over the years. This past June (1983), following a rigorous testing and quality control program, an assembly line was set up and production began. Club members wielding soldering irons learned their right from their left and condensers from batteries. Unfortunately, a short time later, small explosions (some muffled by members hands) were heard coming from the assembly table. After more testing (and explosions), it was definitely established that a material specification problem existed. Another procurement order was filled out, and despite this minor setback, the project continues.”

Civic activities included helping to paint the Salem School, painting the Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center in Uncasville, helping to build dugouts at the baseball field, installing storage shelves in the Salem Historical Society vault, installing benches in the ball field, planting trees at the Salem Green Cemetery and cleaning out and maintaining the skating pond at the recreation field. The club installed a timer for lights and began monitoring the use of the pond in 1981. With the assistance of the town, the club completely drained and cleaned the pond, cleared the surrounding

area, and seeded it in 1983. Another civic activity was starting and maintaining the emergency food bank. The project was turned over to the Salem Nursing Association in 1979, but the club still contributes to it.

Fundraisers were scholarship dances, a Salem Community Birthday Calendar and an annual wood raffle. The Lions cut, split, stack the wood and then sell raffle tickets as their blisters permit.

Somers Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships, support for various youth athletic programs, the high school yearbook, other community projects and CLERF.

Service projects were academic awards for students, a Christmas party for senior citizens, a town Senior Citizens Day held jointly with the Rotary Club and the Knights of Columbus and a Christmas carol sing for the town.

Civic projects were participation in the four-town fire project to raise money for the fire department and supporting the fuel bank.

Fundraisers were auctions, annual antique shows, raffles and a baseball throwing booth at the Four-Town Fair.

The club honors Richard Weingartner for 33 years of dedicated service.

Stafford Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships, eye examinations and eyeglasses, Oak Hill School for the Blind, Christmas and Thanksgiving food baskets, Christmas toy baskets and other local needs.

A service project is helping at health expositions and glaucoma screenings.

Civic projects were donations to Stafford's Civic Pride Commission and a \$1,000 donation for park construction work.

Fundraisers are light bulb sales, winter carnivals, gum-ball machines and telephone book sales.

Thompson Lions Club

Total charitable giving by the Thompson Lions amounted to about \$25,000 over 11 years, 1972-1983.

Contributions went towards; scholarships, eye examinations and eyeglasses, hearing aids, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Little League, 4-H Camp, Boys and Girls State, support for the blind, the hospital, Women's Health Fund, Hawkins House, American Cancer Society, Lions Youth Exchange, CLERF, LCIF-CARE and other needs.

Service projects were annual Christmas parties for the blind, awards night dinners for basketball and cross country track teams and helping at glaucoma clinics.

A civic project was installing basketball backboards.

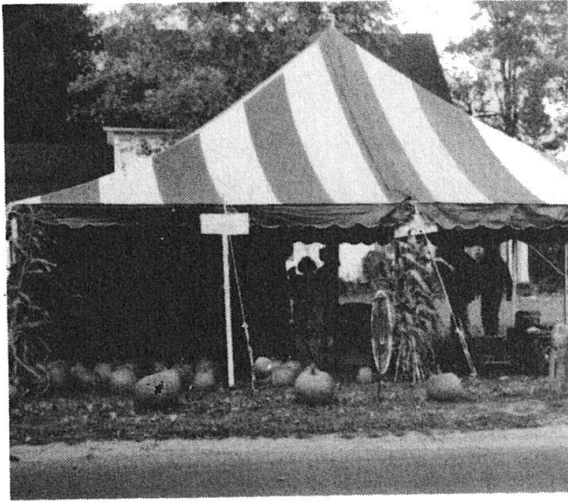
Fundraisers were light bulb and broom sales, barbecues, pancake breakfasts, raffles, card parties, food booths, dinner dances, a wine-tasting party and a Red Heads basketball game.

Tolland Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships, an Explorer post for equipment and uniforms, Little League, the Youth Wilderness School, the Playscape fund, Christmas baskets, other local needs and CLERF.

Service projects included participating in the directorships of the Tolland Youth Center and of the annual Tolland Summer Fun Day Committee, and establishing and conducting the Tolland Citizen-of-the-Year award.

Civic activities were participating with two other organizations in constructing a playscape for Parker School, kindergarten through third grade, support for the fuel bank, building and fencing the Lions Little League field for the town and contributing to its maintenance (\$10,000 to date).



Tolland Pumpkin Sale. A newly purchased tent was put to good use by the Tolland Lions in sheltering huge mounds of pumpkins which were sold in October as a fund raising activity.

Fundraisers were advertisements on the Lions' sign at the Little League field, a pumpkin sale, popcorn sales, food booths, a pancake breakfast and tent rentals.

The club honors Charter President Dave Serluco and Charter member George Tornatore who has had perfect attendance.

Waterford Lions Club

The Waterford Lions estimate their charitable giving over 11 years, 1972-1983, to be about \$55,000.

Contributions went towards: scholarships, eye examinations and eyeglasses, Boy and Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls State, Little League, large print books for the library and many other local needs. Also, they give substantial sums to CLERF, LCIF-CARE and hearing conservation. One year's contribution to CLERF alone was \$1,500 in 1980.

Fundraisers were flower sales, antique shows, raffles, pancake breakfasts, Lions' (Candy) Day and eye seal drives. One seal drive in 1983 netted \$2,500.

Willimantic Lions Club

Contributions went towards: eye examinations and eyeglasses, sight conservation, Boy Scouts, Special Olympics, United Way and many other local needs. Also, the club supports CLERF.

Service activities were annual sports banquets for men's and women's sports at Windham High School and Windham Regional Technical School, annual Christmas parties at the Mansfield Training School and bell ringing for the Salvation Army.

Fundraisers were annual pancake breakfasts, a haunted house at Halloween, paper drives, auctions, food booths at the Chamber of Commerce Fair and at an air show and, in past years, annual auto shows.

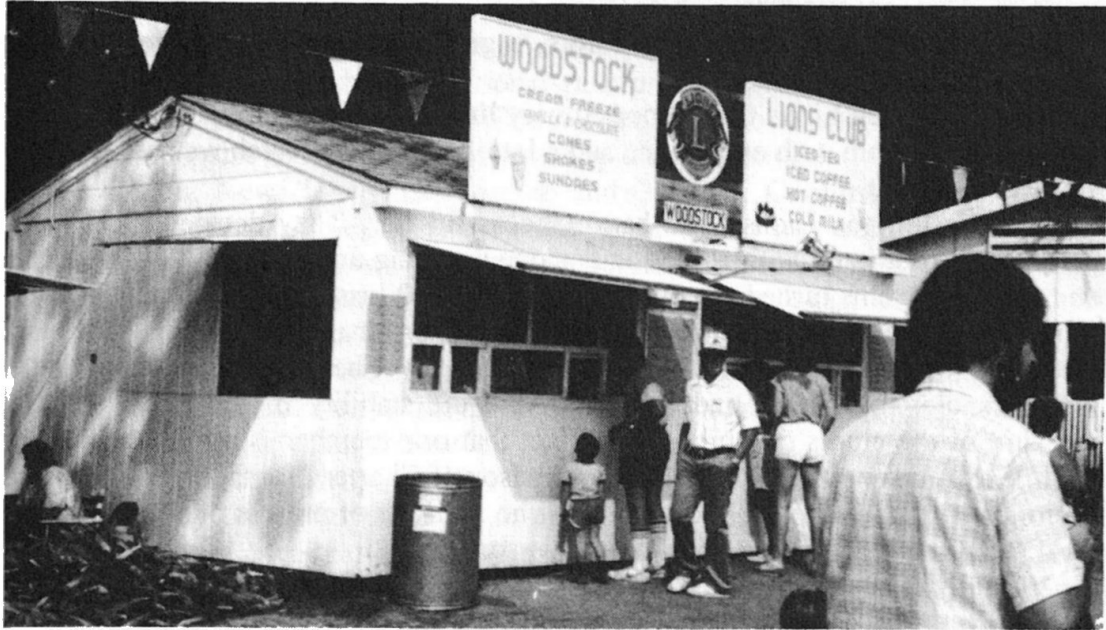
The Willimantic Lions Club honors Past District Governors Richard F. Case, Charles W. Hitchcock and James Mackey. Lion Richard rendered meritorious service with the Lions Eye Research Foundation and served as president of the Foundation. This is reported in Chapter III. All three distinguished themselves and their club with the services they performed for the Mansfield Training Center.

Woodstock Lions Club

Contributions went towards: scholarships, Christmas toys for children, the girls' basketball team, the Woodstock National Honor Society awards program, Little League and other local needs. Ninety percent of the club's donations go to needs of the young.

Civic activities included repairing the town weather vane and donating \$2,000 to the fire department.

Fundraisers were a turkey raffle, a light bulb sale, a flea market and an ice cream booth at the Woodstock Fair. In one year the ice cream booth grossed \$5,000.



Woodstock Lions' food booth nets \$11,000 at Labor Day weekend fair of 1983. Wives and family members helped.

POSTSCRIPT TO THE CLUBS

One might think that the Lions have inherited the touch of Midas and that everything they undertake turns to gold. The following examples, even though exceptions to the Lions' usual performances, prove they do have disappointments.

East Hampton held an outing and car raffle one year. They barely covered the cost of the car even after adding receipts from the outing.

Years ago the Essex Lions Club had a member who owned a pickle factory. They got an idea that the members could raise pumpkins and can them at the pickle factory. Shortly after they canned them, the jars began to explode and the whole project ended up in the town dump.

The first food booth the Middletown club set up at the town's annual regatta was something of a disaster. They were cooking with charcoal, but hadn't planned on the rain. They managed to continue with hastily scrounged canvas and umbrellas, but created another problem—fumes and smoke. Then their chief cook slipped on the rocks and cut a gash in his leg. After several stitches at the hospital, he returned to finish the job. The project broke even only because the Lions bought the unsold food. But the club gained experience that made subsequent projects successful.

The New Britain Lions Club sponsored a celebrity show and took out insurance against rain. It rained enough to ruin the attendance, but not enough to trigger the insurance. The club lost \$7,500. Each member, and they had 75 members, loaned the club \$100.00 to make up the deficit. The club went to work and repaid the loans in one year.

The New Britain Evening Lions Club had an Easter flower sale project. They ended up figuratively eating the daisies.

The New Haven Lions Club sponsored a show, "Les Dancers Africans," at the Shubert Theater, May 2, 1970. Peace demonstrations, and tension over the trial of several Black Panthers, forced last minute cancellation of the show. The show would have let out at the time police were dispersing crowds near the theater with tear gas. The next year the club sponsored an appearance by the Marine band and were picketed by anti-war demonstrators, a group called "Veterans for Peace in Vietnam."

The Pawcatuck Lions Club reported very little revenues from their first bazaar, but they did end up with experience and a lot of equipment which was used in later successful efforts.

The Washington Lions Club had a successful fair. They decided on that experience to follow up with a spectacular one entailing an outlay of \$30,000. Rain and other problems turned the dream into an \$8,000 loss. But the members determined that the club would not go under. After a long struggle and much hard work they paid off the deficit and went on to success. The experience brought the members closer together and helped ensure the stability of the club. Another measure of the club's durability is the fact that one member is a third-generation Lion, Scott Anson, son of "Ace" and grandson of Charter Member "HB" Anson. There are presently, 1983, six members who are sons of present or former Lions. Also, the club has a father who joined his son's club.

Virtually every club can tell similar tales, some more than one, of projects that fizzled. Yet, no club has folded simply because of a fundraiser turned sour. The Lions always roll up their sleeves and dig themselves out of the holes. It is to their credit that the need to dig rarely happens, because they weigh the risks carefully before deciding on committing dollars up front or in the form of guarantees.

Other insights into personal relationships, or unusual incidents involving clubs or individuals, can be seen in stories they tell about themselves. The few incidents related below can be multiplied in genre many times over, although most clubs passed over the invitation to tell on themselves.

One of the tricks many clubs try is to steal another club's bell or banner or any property that is portable, sometimes with unexpected results. Of course the intent is to return the property later, usually with an inscription that the item was stolen on such a date by Club X. The East Hampton Club stole the New London Club's bell at the latter's 50th anniversary celebration. At the next meeting of the East Hampton Club the Sheriff showed up with a warrant for their arrest. The East Hampton Club abjectly apologized and were spared the legal consequences of their act.

The Seymour Club had a joint meeting with the Oxford Club and one of the Oxford Lions took the Seymour Club's bell. He went out to the parking lot and put it in what he thought was his own car. It happened to be one just like his, but the owner was from New Mexico. The "thief" was in quite a stew when he got home and found no bell. Fortunately, the man from New Mexico was an honest, even though surprised, gentlemen. He shipped the bell back to the Seymour Club.

Lion Frank Freer of the Bethlehem Club almost landed in jail. At a meeting of the Woodbury Club, he watched the Tail Twister store that club's equipment at the

end of the meeting. Freer then stole the entire container, so he thought. When he got home he found he had taken the restaurant's silverware.

Not all off-the-wall incidents involved larceny. On one election day, November 11, 1958, the Ridgefield Lions rang the bells of all the churches in town, every hour on the hour, to remind people to vote. Lions Paul Morganti and Bill Casey went up to the steeple of the Methodist Church and rang with such vigor they rolled the bells over on their wheels. The bells jumped their mounts and tumbled down the stairs. It cost several hundred dollars to put them back. Lion Francis Martin paid the bill.

One winter the Waterbury Club took a chartered bus to New Milford. The heater was not working. On the return trip it was so cold Lion Art Lunny (no pun) tore the advertising signs off the bus and burned them on the metal floor of the bus. Everyone enjoyed the little warmth provided except Treasurer Merwin Bronson who kept thinking about the cost of a new bus.

In 1933, Lions Clubs International gave prizes to clubs with the best attendance at the San Francisco Convention. The two leading clubs in each category of cities of comparable size were to get free round-trip transportation for one from home to the convention. New Haven, Connecticut and Oakland, California, were winners in their category. A New Haven delegate won a round trip from his home and the Oakland delegate won two ferry tickets across San Francisco Bay.

Lion N.B. Chatterton, a senior member of the New Canaan Club, holds a record of ways to travel to one convention. It is a record no one would want to challenge. The event was the 25th Annual Convention of District 23 in 1946, held in Watch Hill, Rhode Island. One of the New Canaan Lions offered to take the delegates to Watch Hill in his cabin cruiser.

Mrs. Chatterton drove "N.B." to the port where he met the other New Canaan Lions. They took a rowboat out to the cruiser. They soon got underway but the cruiser sprang a leak, and they had to ground it. Chatterton swam ashore. He then hiked two miles to a train station. There he got a train to New London. He took a bus from there to Watch Hill. Finally, he caught a taxi to the hotel where the convention was meeting.

Of course, Lions are not averse to moments of silliness, although they can never match the American Legion in staging the comedy of the unbelievable. The Pawcatuck Lions offered a circus one year as a fundraiser. Afterwards, the club presented Lion Toffre Deib with a neatly wrapped package of elephant dung. He graciously accepted the gift and used it in his tomato patch. He vows he had the biggest tomato plants in the county, without a single tomato.

The New Britain Evening Lions Club purchased a number of lapel pins depicting the south end of a northbound horse. On proper occasions they award a pin to anyone they feel deserving of such a high honor, and while the individual is being pinned they sing a ditty avowing the honoree and that part of the horse's anatomy are one and the same.

Every club has its moments of levity. It all adds up to good fellowship and a break, not only in the tensions of life, but in the serious, weighty discussions of how best to accomplish the goal of helping others.

end of the meeting. Freer then stole the entire container, so he thought. When he got home he found he had taken the restaurant's silverware.

Not all off-the-wall incidents involved larceny. On one election day, November 11, 1958, the Ridgefield Lions rang the bells of all the churches in town, every hour on the hour, to remind people to vote. Lions Paul Morganti and Bill Casey went up to the steeple of the Methodist Church and rang with such vigor they rolled the bells over on their wheels. The bells jumped their mounts and tumbled down the stairs. It cost several hundred dollars to put them back. Lion Francis Martin paid the bill.

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