

# **Finding Aid for the Grand Rapids Rotary Club records Collection 129**

**Finding aid prepared by Warren Sauer**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

March 1991

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
<b>Creator</b>	Grand Rapids Rotary (Grand Rapids, Mich.).
<b>Title</b>	Grand Rapids Rotary Club records
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1913-1991
<b>Extent</b>	7.1 Linear feet 17 boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This collection provides an informative but selective view of the Grand Rapids Rotary Club, founded in 1913. The bulk of the material deals with the period after World War II. There are several brief historical resumes of the club's early decades. Most of the records involve limited time spans but offer valuable glimpses of the club's community activities, particularly service to children of the community, nation and world, as well as the club's internal deliberations. Extensive membership data covers most of the club's history. The collection indicates the development of the club as a prototype service organization with an expanding membership and agenda.</p>

## **Biographical/Historical note**

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Founded in 1913, Grand Rapids Rotary has included in its ranks many prominent business people and professionals. Weekly meetings provide the hub of Club activities, offering fellowship, guest speakers, and an opportunity for the exchange of ideas. Following the Rotary credo of service, the Grand Rapids Chapter has been involved in countless civic and charitable projects, including war bond drives, educational support programs, Indian Trails Camp for handicapped children, a Boy Scout camp, and PolioPlus, to cite but a few. The Club's membership has been active in numerous local, state, national and international service projects. Several members have contributed significant service to the Rotary movement. In 1988 the Club marked its 75th anniversary by publishing a commemorative volume on its history: Grand Rapids Rotary: The First 75 Years, included in this collection.

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## **Scope and Contents note**

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The bulk of the material deals with the Club's last forty years. The records have noticeable gaps, and there is little material predating 1940. Limited files including correspondence, minutes and financial records provide sampling of the Club's activities as a service organization. Membership records are quite extensive and include lists of committees and office holders. The collection includes several narratives of the Club's history, which provides a brief retrospective on the Chapter's development.

Included are constitutions, minutes, financial records, a few speeches, some correspondence, some issues of the organization's newsletter "Spokes of the Wheel", graphic materials including several with illustrations by local artists Ray Barnes & Joe Korff, a few audio visual items and a map. A small series of mostly black and white photographs include some portrait photos, such as Grand Rapids politicians of national note William Alden Smith and Arthur Vandenberg, or local African American leader Paul Phillips, while other images document club events. Long-time member President Gerald Ford is also documented among the photos, receiving an honor in the Oval Office.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department March 1991

## **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Grand Rapids Rotary Club, accession number 1988.045

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Genre(s)**

- records (documents)

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

### **Subject(s)**

- Charities -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Clubs -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

## Series I. Records, 1918-1991, n.d.

## Collection Inventory

### Series I. Records, 1918-1991, n.d.

#### Scope and Contents note

Contains records detailing the on-going activities of the club. The minutes and correspondence document more of the club's extra-ordinary projects, such as PolioPlus, Indian Trails Camp and youth education and scholarship efforts. See the Weekly newsletter "Spokes o' the Wheel", in the publications series, for evidence the weekly speakers and their topics as well as ongoing data on the club's history. The series also contains documentation of the club's interaction with both Rotary International and the Rotary District officers.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Minutes, 1966-1987.	1	1-3
Correspondence, 1955-1988.	1	4-11
		<b>Box</b>
Program Material, 1917, 1937-1991.		2
<b>Speeches</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Present & Future of GR : address by Mr. Allen D. Albert Sept. 28, 1917. (00.[1865].1 Formerly MKG91.AL1)	2	1

## National Speeches

Community Action Against Poverty in Grand Rapids : an address to GR Rotary Club, Dec. 1, 1966, by Alfred W. Hewitt, Chairman.	2	1.5
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### National Speeches

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
A Father's Responsibility to His son : an address by Charles E. Barker (Dr. of Hygiene and Physical Culture. June 19, 1919. C. 1921. Rotary Intl. c. 1 Housed with ephemera; c. 2 Formerly M176.B24 00.[1507].1	2	1.75
A Mother's Responsibility to Her Daughter : an address / by Charles E. Barker : delivered at Convention Hall, Rochester, N.Y. Chicago : Rotary Intl., c. 1921. Pamphlet No. 30. Formerly M176.B24m 00.[1506].1	2	1.75
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Program planning files	2	2-4
John Collins Roast Document Feb. 27, 1964.	2	5
Financial Statements, 1960-1987.	2	6-12
Youth Projects, 1957-1980, n.d.	3	1-7
District and International Affairs, 1918-1979.	3	8-12
District and International Affairs, 1918-1979.	4	1-2
Miscellaneous, 1960-1988, n.d.	4	3-8

## Series II. Publications

Constitution, 1930-1984, n.d. See also By-laws found with the History materials at 129-9.12.7	4	9
<b>Series II. Publications</b>		
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
This series was added in Jan. 2002, to better document the newsletter & ancillary publications of this organization. Several issues of "Spokes o' the Wheel" were removed from the "Records" series above; many issues are still absent from the collection. Other publications may still be scattered in other folders throughout the collection. See also the Miscellaneous Series, for publications created by the National or International headquarters.		
<b>"Spokes o' the Wheel" G.R. Rotary Club newsletters</b>		<b>Box</b> 14
		<b>Box</b>
v. 2, no. 3, Jan./Feb. 1929. Includes Ray Barnes caricatures "Rotarians All" Some Others below also include Barnes illustrations.		14
v. 1, no. 3, Mar. 1928		14
Special Edition Honoring Charles W. Garfield, Mar. 14, 1929 + Plus a second back page of that edition containing the "Roster" section. [00.[4088].2 Revised 1/5/2006]		14
V. 4, no. 1, June, 1930. See also two issues called Grand Rapids Rotary Wheel Extras. v. 4, Mar. 31, 1932 and Apr. 21, 1932		14
V. 6, no. 2, Nov. 1932		14



**“Spokes o’ the Wheel” G.R. Rotary Club newsletters**

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V. 6, no. 5, Feb. 1933		14
V. 6, no. 6, Mar. 1933		14
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Sept. 1951 (2)	14	1
Mar. 25 and Apr. 1, 1965 (2)	14	2
Nov. 2, 1972 (1)	14	3
July-Dec. 1979 (26)	14	3
Jan.-July 1980 (31)	14	4
Sept. 27-Dec. 27, 1990 (14)	14	5
Jan.-June 1991 (24)	14	6
July-Dec. 1991 (26)	14	7
Jan.-June 1992 (26)	14	8
July-Dec. 1992 (27)	14	9
Jan.-June 1993 (25)	14	10

**Series III. Membership, 1913-1986, n.d.**

July-Dec. 1993 (25)	14	11
Jan.-June 1994 (x)	14.5	1
July-Dec. 1994 (x)	14.5	2
Jan.-June 1995 (x)	14.5	3
July-Dec. 1995 (x)	14.5	4
Jan.-June 1996 (x)	14.5	5
July-Dec. 1996 (x)	14.5	6
Jan.-June 1997 (x)	14.5	7

**Series III. Membership, 1913-1986, n.d.****Scope and Contents note**

Series details membership of the club over the years, their classification and length of membership. In addition the material notes the changing classification definition made necessary by changing times.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Specific Listings, 1913-1970, n.d.	5	1-5
Officers, 1913-1969.	5	6

**Rosters, 1918-1959.**

Classification, 1967-1970, n.d.	5	7
Committees, 1945-1981.	5	8-11
Elections, 1930-1985, n.d.	5	12-13
Applications, 1960-1982, n.d.	6	1-8
<b>Rosters, 1918-1959.</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1918 (in small black notebook)	7	1
1928	7	1
1930	7	2
1931	7	2
1932	7	2
1934	7	2
1936	7	2
1937	7	2

## Rosters, 1918-1959.

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1938 (2)	7	2
1940	7	3
1943	7	3
1944 (2)	7	3
1946	7	3
1947	7	3
1948 (Feb. and Sept)	7	3
1949 (c. 2 from Coll. 082 added 2/10/2004 1986.028)	7	3
1950 (2)	7	4
1951 (2)	7	4
1952 (2)	7	4
1953 (2)	7	4
1955 (2)	7	4
1956 (2)	7	5

**Series IV. History, 1913-1990, n.d.**

1957 (2)	7	5
1958 (2)	7	5
1959 (2)	7	5
		<b>Box</b>
Rosters, 1961 (2), 1963 (2), 1965 (2), 1970 (2, 1 from 2000.103), 1979 (inc.), 1983 (2), 1986 (inc.)		8
Rosters, 1989, 1993, 1994, 1996/97 [2000.103 added 11/28/2000]		8
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
New Member biographies and directory updates [2000.103]	8.5	1
Dist. 629o Attendance Report, ca. 1992	8.5	2

**Series IV. History, 1913-1990, n.d.****Scope and Contents note**

Since the organization of the club, its various members have attempted to preserve items considered important to the club. These include two histories, one chronological and the other narrative, data on neighboring clubs, the club's anniversaries, its work to support the building of Indian Trails camp, and data on the celebration for Al Hammer's long-term service as the club's secretary. The series also contains a concerted effort from 1988-1990 by the club to document its history, which resulted in a published book. These materials contain newspaper photocopies and survey questionnaires, which helped, fill some of the gaps in the records.

**Box**                      **Folder**

## Series IV. History, 1913-1990, n.d.

Narratives, 1913-1982, including Reminiscences of Rotary Twenty-Rive Years Ago / Glenn R. Chamberlain, Feb. 10, 1938.	9	1
Narratives, 1913-1982	9	2
Narratives, 1913-1982	9	3
Narratives, 1913-1982	9	4
Narratives, 1913-1989	9	5
Narratives, 1913-1982	9	6
Other Clubs, 1947-1988. The Fourth Object in Action for Rotarians : the Grand Rapids Plan. Ca. 1949.	9	7
Other Clubs, Correspondence	9	8
Other clubs, ephemera, including GR West, Muskegon, Lowell	9	9
Japanese Sister Club, 1983-1989	9	10
Anniversaries, 1938-1963	9	11
Program, menu, list of officers: GR Rotary Club, Fiftieth (50th) Anniversary Dinner Meeting. May 15, 1963. c. 1, c. 2 00.[2250].2	9	11.5
Miscellaneous, 1913-1981, n.d.	9	12

## Graphics (20)

Eighteenth District Rotary Conference, G.R. Apr. 7-8, 1924. c. 1, c. 2 00. [2250].1	9	12.5
<b>Graphics (20)</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Charlie Barker / NECO, Barnes	9	12.6
Chairman, Charlie Powers. [Fight in ring graphic]	9	12.6
“After-Dinner Sport Games and Dancing on the Terrace. "Bill" Jack, invitation to the “House that Jack Built”. [Aug. 27, 1924]	9	12.6
18th District rotary Conference, Grand Rapids “Let’s Go! / KORFF. Includes Minstrel Show, and other scenes.	9	12.6
Rotarians and Ladies, come on over. June 25, 1925. “Pa” Wurzburg. / Ray Barnes	9	12.6
William Jennings Bryan ... Korff [after 1925]	9	12.6
Chicago is stealing Lake Michigan! {Charles Powers caricature; mailer} / NECO. [After 1925]	9	12.6
Wm. K. Braash. / KORFF. [mailer, after 1925]	9	12.6
Thursday Afternoon, Sept. 12, [1929] ... Golf Tournament ... / Ray Barnes. [Caricatures of Charlie Dickey, et al]	9	12.6

## Graphics (20)

Grand Rapids Rotary Frolic and Field Day. [July 30, 1925] [Poster, was folded in quarters, now in 2 pieces. / KORFF, NECO.	9	12.6
Valentines ... Service Above Self. [Feb. 1926] / Verses by Al Hammer. Ray Barnes.	9	12.6
We Want You with Us! Pa Wurzburg. Rotary-on-to-St.Joe-Benton Harbor Special, Apr. 6-7[1926] / Ray Barnes ; Al Hammer. Locomotive theme. (2 copies)	9	12.6
Be at the Pantlind "Dock" ... [May 9, 1927] / Ray Barnes.	9	12.6
Four 3 round Amateur Boxing Bouts [Sept. 28, 1927]. / KORFF, NECO.	9	12.6
Brothers Day at Rotary [flyer] George and Leon Snyder images. / KORFF, NECO. [after 1925]	9	12.6
[ca. Jan. 1, 1940. Football theme illustration, w/o signature. Each team member is named, with his position in the club, e.g. "Mulnix, Boy's Work"	9	12.6
To Members of Grand Rapids Rotary Club ... Merry Christmas ...1945. Includes named illustrations of leaders / Ray Barnes.	9	12.6
Program. [Mar. 6, 1933] "Make it Snappy" / KORFF	9	12.6
Ad Proof. "On to Prosperity" / KORFF image. "This is one of a series of Advertisements in a widespread campaign for the restoration of	9	12.6



**Graphic ephemera (8)**

Confidence and Faith and American Prosperity / Sponsored by the City of Grand Rapids”

**Graphic ephemera (8)**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Constitution By-Laws, Mar. 1, 1917.	9	12.7
Constitution and By-Laws, Nov. 1930.	9	12.7
Rotary Annual Meeting, Minstrel Show ... Feb. 15, 1923 [flyer]	9	12.7
Are You a Rotarian? [purple Mailing card]	9	12.7
18th District Conf. All Rotarian Musical Minstrel Melange “The Gang at the Golf Club” Apr. 7, 1924.	9	12.7
A Father’s Responsibility to His son : an address by Charles E. Barker (Dr. of Hygiene and Physical Culture. June 19, 1919. C. 1921. Rotary Intl.	9	12.7
John Hutchins ... [pink mailing card, meeting notice]	9	12.7
Invitation. Dinner. “Pa” Wurzburg. Famous Rotary Minstrel Troupe. Hotel Rowe. Apr. 21, 1924. Includes 2 printed images of show.	9	12.7

**History Misc. 1920s**

**Box Folder**

## History Misc. 1930s

Indenture. Rotary Park Assoc.	9	13
clippings.	9	13
Flyer.	9	13
<b>History Misc. 1930s</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
A Character Sketch of Dr. Charles E. Barker / by Robert Lathan.	9	14
Rotary Intl. Program 1932.	9	14
Rotary Razz Review, 1934.	9	14
Inter-City Fall Frolic, 1933.	9	14
Grand Rapids Rotary Wheel. Extras.	9	14
v. 4, March 31, 1932	9	14
v. 4, April 21, 1931	9	14
<b>History Misc. 1940s</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
	9	15
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Clippings, speeches, programs, Etc.	9	15

## History Misc. 1940s

History Misc. 1950s	9	16
History Misc. 1948-1981, no date. Clippings.	9	17
		<b>Box</b>
History Project in 1988		10
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Indian Trails, 1254-1988.	10	1
Al Hammer Day, 1955.	10	2
Correspondence, 1988-1989.	10	3
Photocopies.	10	4-5
Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation, 1990.	10	6
Newspaper research.	10	7-9
Biography sheets, 1988-1989	10	10
Biography sheets, 1988-1989	10	11
Chapter drafts, 1988-1989.	10	12
Chapter drafts, 1988-1989.	10	13

**Series V. Miscellaneous, 1955-1959, n.d.**

Chapter drafts, 1988-1989. "Grand Rapids Rotary: The First 75 Years, 1988."	11	1-4
<b>Series V. Miscellaneous, 1955-1959, n.d.</b>		
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
Contains publications from the national or international offices of the organization, as well as songbooks, sound recordings and a film common to the principles and actions of Rotary. Also included are graphics illustrating the history and use of the Rotary emblem, and a local street map from 1955.		
<b>National publications</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
"Seven Paths to Peace", 1959.	12	1
"Adventures in Service, n.d."	12	2
Basic Rotary Library, 1957. [7 paperbacks by topic in it's original box]		
<b>Graphics</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
"The Rotary Emblem" [1 sheet describing the historical development and symbolism of the emblem]	12	3
Stick-on Decal, Emblem	12	4

**Music**

Birthday Card, Richard W. Young, President [Example of Emblem]	12	5
“GR Rotary Club Award for Service and Leadership” [Unused Sample, Example of Emblem use]	12	6
“Objects of Rotary” [Example of Emblem, 11 x 14]	12	7
<b>Music</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Songs for the Rotary Club [multiple copies of song sheet]	12	8
“Songs for the Rotary Club” Evanston, Il. : Rotary Intl., c. 1956	12	9
<b>Maps</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
“New Map of Greater Rapids” / Fred F. Johnson, 1955.	12	10
<b>Audio Visuals</b>		
		<b>Box</b>
1 Film.		13
2 Recordings.		13

## Ephemera

## Ephemera

**Box**

Rotary ribbons.

13

**Series VI. Photographs, 1914-1988, n.d.; 0.3 cu.ft.****Scope and Contents note**

The final series presents visual evidence of the Club's membership and activities. Some of the earliest images include a 1914 picnic and the minstrel shows of the 1920s. Also detailed are the roast of John Collins and the celebration of Al Hammer's service to the Club, the movement, and the community. The images also detail the Club's interaction with its sister club in Ohmi Hachiman, Japan; images of support of handicapped children; its efforts to support young people through the Junior Rotarian program; its work at Indian Trails camp; portraits of some of the membership, and images collected to illustrate the 75 year history. Earlier photos are black & white, with several later snapshots in color.

**Box****Folder**

Collins, John roast. (9)

15

1

Executive Secretaries Conference, 1973.(1)

15

2

Hammer, Al day.(9)

15

3

Handicapped children, 1940-1949.(8)

15

4

History project photos.(23)

15

5

## Series VI. Photographs, 1914-1988, n.d.; 0.3 cu.ft.

Indian Trails Camp, 1950s.(5)	15	6
Junior Rotarians, 1952-1953.(1)	15	7
Ohmi Hachiman Sister Club.(5, color)	15	8
People. President Gerald R. Ford in Oval Office receiving on award (1)	15	9
Public Relations Committee.(1, color)	15	10
People. Groups. (16, some color)	15	11
People. Groups. (65, some color)	15	12
Picnic, 1914. (2, 1 is torn)	15	13
PolioPlus Campaign, 1988. (3, some color)	15	14
Portraits (6 proof sheets with multiple images): membership.	15	16
Roast, 1988. (15, color)	15	17
Rotary International Reception (1 proof sheet, multiple images)	15	18
Rotary Minstrel shows, 1924-1925. (4 8x10)	15	19
Negatives. (35 mm. Strips, 4 pkgs.)	15	20

## Portrait photos (13)

<b>Portrait photos (13)</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Paul Bond	15	15
Hal Child	15	15
George Ellis	15	15
Paul Goebel	15	15
Grover Good	15	15
John Hibbard	15	15
Edgar K. Orr,	15	15
Paul Phillips (African American)	15	15
William Alden Smith (U.S. Senator)	15	15
William Sprague	15	15
Alfred Swanson	15	15
Arthur H. Vandenberg (U.S. Senator)	15	15



**Portrait photos (13)**

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C. Mark Vasu.

15

15