

3/27/2002

KIWANIS CLUB OF PULLMAN

ESTABLISHED MARCH 27, 1922

Forty six years after the town of Pullman was established, the first service club "Kiwanis" was formed. The name Kiwanis is a word coined from an Indian term, meaning "self expression" or "to make oneself known". The Kiwanis organization began in 1917 and by 1922 over 700 clubs had been established in the United States. A survey in Pullman was done to see if the club was needed in our city. This was sponsored by the Spokane Kiwanis Club. When the club was organized there were some fears that it would seriously affect, if not destroy, the Chamber of Commerce established in 1910. To meet this concern it was decided that any member of Kiwanis who discontinued his chamber membership, would automatically forfeit is Kiwanis membership. This served to allay the fears and it was never necessary to enforce this regulation. In the past 80 years of service 17 Kiwanis Presidents have also served as Chamber Presidents. Over 30 Kiwanis members have been a Chamber President.

In 1922 the population of Pullman and Washington State College were both at 2200. Nick Gentry was Mayor, and E.O. Holland was President of the College. The Pullman Herald was published by William Goodyear and Karl P. Allen was the news editor. Mr. Holland, Mr. Goodyear and Mr. Allen were all charter members of the Kiwanis Club.

On March 24, 1922, a temporary organization was formed with the following officers:

- President: Thomas Neill
- Vice President: Herbert Kimbrough
- Secretary: Stanton Hall
- Treasurer: J. N. Scott
- Directors: Thomas Neill, H. Kimbrough, Stanton Hall, J. N. Scott, Dr. L. G. Kimzey, J. N. Emerson, Reverend C.N. Curtis, H. W. Cordell, L. H. Folger, Robert Neill, Dr. A.E. Hudson, Dr. M. J. Beistel, D. C. Downen, J. W. Robinson, F. E. Sanger, William Goodyear, Robert L. Jenner and George Fairchild.

Quoting from the Pullman Herald the following statement " A Kiwanis Club is composed of representative business and professional men of the city in which it is located and according to it's constitution may not have more than two members from any classification in that city. Its object is to disseminate principles of fair dealing and practices and the observance of the "Golden Rule", in private, civic, social and business life. Through its weekly lunch meetings a spirit of co-operation, good fellowship and fraternalism is developed among its members, while the science of business building and community development is part of its program".

The official charter of the club is March 27, 1922. The presentation of the charter was made on Saturday, May 27, 1922. Kiwanians from all over the Pacific Northwest came for the banquet and presentation. The charter was presented by Louis O. Barr, of Tacoma, Kiwanis District Governor for the Pacific Northwest Region. The charter was presented to the new permanent President of the club, Mr. Frank Sanger an attorney in Pullman. The following officers were appointed:

- President: Frank Sanger
- Vice President: Herbert Kimbrough

Secretary: Stanton J. Hall
Treasurer: J.N. Scott
Board of Directors: E.A. Archer, M.J. Beistel, J. N. Emerson, William Goodyear, D.D. Kimball, Logan G. Kimzey, Robert Neill, and Thomas Neill, District Board.

There were 54 Charter Members of the club. (Attachment One). The Pullman Herald reported that there was closed to 100% attendance for the first weekly meeting of Kiwanis held Monday April 3, 1922 at the Robinson's café. H. L. Hathaway won the attendance prize. In those days four missed meetings of unexcused absence and membership was dropped. Members were also fined if they did not use the nickname for each club member. The first committees were formed and included Program, Reception, Attendance, House, Finance, Education, Publicity, Intercity Relations, Public Affairs, Business Methods, Classification and Grievance. At the April 25th meeting the following resolution was read and accepted by the membership.

"Whereas, The Columbia Basin project is of national importance, the financial benefits of which will extend to all parts of the United States, and is therefore worthy of the backing of every Kiwanis Club in the country. Therefore be it resolved by the Kiwanis Club of Pullman, that the educational committee of this club take such action deemed proper to bring this great project to the attention of all Kiwanis Clubs". At that same meeting Carl Mordhurst of the College Market won the attendance prize , a golf club present by J.N. Emerson.

The Kiwanis Charter dinner was held on May 27, 1922 and was attended by Louis D Barr of Tacoma, the District Governor for the Pacific Northwest. Many Kiwanians from Spokane, Colfax, and Lewiston attended also. Many wives attended also and the banquet was served at 6:30 p.m. at the Armory. A large "Union Jack" flag was given as a gift from the Kiwanis Clubs of Canada. The Stars and Stripes was a gift from the Spokane Club. A. R. Metz, President of the Everett club, presented President Frank Sanger with a cow bell to assist him in keeping order. At the end of the program the floor was cleared and dancing and festivities continued until midnight.

Attendance prizes were given each week. One was a \$5.00 gold piece and another was a box of cigars. Diversity was rural versus city. The members began to work to improve Pullman and make it a better city for all. In 1924 J.N. Emerson, Bob Jenner and Al Cleveland drove Girl Scouts to Loon Lake for camping. Also juvenile delinquency was discussed as a problem. There were several Ladies Night meetings in which the wives were encourage to attend. In 1932 Kiwanis helped to build the first wading pool in town. In 1935 18 poor homes were helped at Christmas.

In 1935 members of the Kiwanis club purchased a home on College Hill. Mrs. E.L. Lanning began the Kappa Iota Phi, Circle K house as a place for young men ,who had lost one or both parents, to live and attend college. This home became the first college Kiwanis Circle K club. As many as 20 boys lived at the home and \$15 per month was charged for them to stay and attend college. A house mother also lived on the premises.

During the late 1930s and early 1940s the Globetrotters were brought to Pullman, by Doc Bohler and fund raising was done. Sometimes the winter weather made it difficult for them to get to Pullman from Spokane, but there was always a great turnout to see them. The war slowed down

the clubs activities and many members were gone from Pullman. In 1943 there were 85 members in the club. On April 30, 1943 Mr. J. N. Emerson became an International Trustee for Kiwanis. On May 15, 1945 he became the International Treasurer for Kiwanis. And he was elected International President of Kiwanis on June 12, 1943. At the end of his term as President he was on his way to the National Convention and his wife was driving him to Spokane. He became ill and she stopped in Rosalia for help. He passed away in that city and Mr. Maynard Hicks made the trip to the convention in his place. It is an honor to have had a International President from Pullman. Mr. Emerson worked very hard during his term and some said he worked himself to death. He was a charter member of the Pullman club and had over 25 years of service.

Many USO dances were sponsored during the war and Kiwanis participated in Victory Gardens to raise produce. In 1946 Kiwanis leased a building for a Youth Center. The three year lease was for \$75 per month and was located on the first floor at 922 Grand. In 1949 the Passion Play was brought to Pullman as a fundraiser. WSC finally agreed to lease Bryan Hall. Then stables were needed to house the camels and donkeys and the veterinary department did not want the exotic animals to bring disease into the stables. Finally it was decided to use the isolation barn. The animals were kept in the back on Bryan Hall during the performances which made for quite the clean-up. The Passion Plays continued to come to town during the early 1950s. Also during the 1950s the Scout House was purchased and improvements made. Robert Emerson gave funds to honor his father, J. N. Emerson. The electrician did the wiring free. The troops earned money through Christmas tree sales, and the trees were donated by Weyerhaeuser in Potlatch. The original inside finishing of the Scout House was done by Kiwanis. Also Kamiak Butte became a State Park with the support of Kiwanis. A right of way was purchased for the road into the park. Later the park became a Whitman County Park.

In the 1960s Kiwanis began their annual Pancake Feed. Forty two years later Kiwanis is still doing the Pancake Breakfast the first Saturday in December. Kiwanis also worked at Camp Easter Seal, which became Camp Roger Larson and then Camp WSU. In 1966 twelve Kiwanians put in over 100 rolls of insulation and Kiwanis donated materials such as paddle boat, girls cabins, sidewalks, dining hall floor and insulation. Also the Pullman Clean-up and Beautification programs occurred each spring with many Kiwanians clearing brush, hauling trash, planting flowers and making the city a beautiful place to visit. The swimming pool and wading pools were also funded from Kiwanis donations. Also the holiday decorations were put up each year and in 1967 the only ones out in the blizzard were Kiwanians hanging lights across Grand St. During the 1960s Kiwanis continued to provide support for the needs of children in the community and many hours of service wherever needed. In September of 1965 Mr. Leonard Young went to Glenora, Manitoba, Canada to receive a Canadian flag. This was about a 1200 mile detour for Edna and Leonard, but they had a great time with this club and were presented with the Canadian Flag. Kiwanis had a Petting Zoo and also did blood drives. They honored and recognized many achievements including, Farmer of the Year, Girls State 4-H leaders, Scouts, and children with learning disabilities.

In the 1970s the club continued to serve the community. Kiwanis started a gumball machine contract in 1942 and by 1976 over \$7600 had been raised. Kiwanis participated in Voter Registration Drives, House Numbers at the curb, Career Days. Sponsorship of church directories in newspaper, prayer breakfasts, tapes for the blind. Also worked with children with learning disabilities, Scouts, Camper Roger Larsen, petting zoos, outdoor youth camp, Career Days and

Safeguard against Crime. Work was continued to improve the Scout House, the Epton House remodel, walk path at Camp Roger Larsen, and Convalescent Center landscaping and sidewalks. The pancake breakfasts continued and Kiwanis also continued to sponsor the Egg Hunt. Also Kiwanians continued to help with the holiday day lights in downtown Pullman. In 1979 Kiwanis began working with Washington State University and started the football parking program with about 50 Kiwanians per game to man the parking lots and direct the sports fans to their proper parking area. This parking became a great fund raiser for the club and continues to support many of the programs and grants given back to the community.

In 1972 the Club celebrated it's 50th anniversary. Mr. Harold Smart was President and the banquet was well attended by members, wives and former members of the club. The former presidents were all contacted and many of them sent remembrances back to be read to the club. Also at the dinner the first Pullman Key Club, High schoolers, began and the charter was signed.

During the 1980s the club continued to serve in the community. Many of the same programs that were supported during the 1970's continued. Kiwanis also donated equipment to the hospital worked at the K House, Pullman Civic Trust and Riverpark project, Law Enforcement Camp, Pullman cemetery sign, and weight lifting room at the high school. Kiwanis also manned salmon barbeques at WSU, worked with Pullman Child Welfare on the Sharing Tree and food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas, Fishing Derby, and Epton and Hughes Houses clean-up and repair. In 1986 many of the Kiwanis clubs across the United States started to admit women to their membership. After much debate and numerous votes at the national level, Kiwanis approved women for membership. The Pullman Club had admitted Mrs. Ella Letterman Lanning as an honorary member back on August 29, 1938. In 1985 a Kiwanianne Club for women was started. On October 15, 1987 several women were invited to join the club. Linda Hardesty, Betty Frederickson, Susie Hardy Gormsen, Dorothy (Rubottom) Wiley, Kay Straight, Janice Hirsch and Linda Mittelhammer. Betty Fredericson served as the first local president in 1989-1990. Since then six women have served at the local level.

In the 1990s the club continued the tradition of serving the community. Also the pancake breakfasts and football parking continued as fundraisers for the club. Kiwanis started a special emphasis program called "Priority One" which emphasize young children from birth to 5 years. The local club started a layette program to furnish complete layettes to any parents with a new baby that might have the need.

In 1996 the local club celebrated Dr. William Butts, Alvin Law and Leonard Young Day to honor each of them serving over 50 years in the local club. Mr. Maynard Hicks had also been honored for his 50 years. Today both Allen Stevens Sr has 53 years and Mr. Rod Bertramson has 52 years in the local club.

In 1997 the club celebrated it's 75th year. President Brad Vonhof, Lt. Governor James Haugen and District Governor Bill McVay presided over the local banuquet and celebration. Sue Waller spent six months compiling the local records and presenting a program about the 75 years of the local club. Sue and Gene and Freda Semingson went to Spokane on March 26, 1997 and videotaped an interview with Mr. James Roberts, the last surviving charter member from the club.

KIWANIS CLUB OF PULLMAN SERVICE TO COMMUNITY 80 YEARS

IN THE LAST 80 YEARS THE CLUBS HAS PROVIDED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AS FOLLOWS;

GIRL AND BOY SCOUTS
MEDICAL/DENTAL ASSISTANCE TO POOR
BENEFIT BASKETBALL GAMES/GLOBETROTTERS
USO DANCES
SCOUT HOUSE PURCHASE/REMODEL
DANCE RECITALS
CITY CLEAN-UP 7 BEAUTIFICATION
SWIMMING/WADING POOLS
PLAY DAY CELEBRATION
SPARKY FIRE PREVENTION
BIG BROTHER
HOUSE NUMBER PAINTING
CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES
CAREER DAYS
HANDICAP PARKING SIGNS
GIRLS AND BOYS STATE
SHARING TREE/ TOY DRIVES
BATTING CAGE HIGH SCHOOL
SAFEGUARD AGAINST CRIME
PRAYER BREAKFAST
NATIONAL LENTIL FESTIVAL
PRIORITY ONE PROGRAMS
BABY LAYETTES FOR NEWBORNS
MY FAMILY AND ME PROGRAM
COUGAR PLAZA
LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT OF THE MONTH
ECLIPSE (ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL)
FIRST CIRCLE K CLUB

FUNDRAISERS
GUMBALL MACHINES 1942
DANCE RECITALS
YARD SALES (1996)
CRAFT SALES

BASKETBALL PARKING
FOOTBALL PARKING

PULLMAN 1ST WADING POOL
RED CROSS PARTICIPATION
VICTORY GARDENS WORLD WAR II
PASSION PLAY
KAMIAK BUTTE STATE/COUNTY PARK
CAMPER EASTER SEAL/LARSEN/WSU
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
PETTING ZOOS
EPTON HOUSE
GRIZZLY PARK SCOUTS/CAMPFIRE GIRLS
VOCATION GUIDANCE PROGRAMS
BLOOD DRIVES
FARMER OF THE YEAR
CHURCH DIRECTORIES NEWSPAPERS
CONVALESCENT CENTER LANDSCAPE
HOBY HUGH O'BRIEN LEADERSHIP CAMP
FOOTBALL LIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL
FOOD BANK
KOINOMA HOUSE
COMMUNITY BUILDING LUNCHEONS
WEIGHT LIFTING ROOM HIGH SCHOOL
READING PROGRAM HEAD START
HOSPITAL PACKETS FOR NEWBORNS
WASHINGTON STATE GAMES
NEILL PUBLIC LIBRARY
CIVIC TRUST RIVERPARK
DRUG/ALCOHOL PREVENTION

BASKETBALL BENEFIT GAMES
PANCAKE BREAKFASTS (1959) 42 YEARS
GOLF TOURNAMENTS (1999)

IODINE DEFICIENCY DISORDER
WORLD WIDE TETANUS

ASSISTANCE TO POOR
HOLIDAY BASKETS/TOYS
LOCAL AIR SQUADRON SUPPORT
YOUTH COMMUNITY CENTER
YOUTH CAMPS
CONFERENCE ROOM LIBRARY
WHEEL CHAIRS
HONOR 4-H LEADERS
HUGHES HOUSE
SCHOOL PATROL JACKETS
SERVICE CLUB SIGNS
TAPES FOR BLIND
EGG HUNTS (1970)
NEWSPAPERS FOR HOSPITAL
CONVAL. CENTER SIDEWALKS
PULLMAN CHILD WELFARE
BASEBALL BLEACHERS HIGH SCHOOL
HIGH SCHOOL SUPERSTARS
HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT
DIVERSITY LUNCHEON
LAW ENFORCEMENT CAMP
PARENTING VIDEOS
FAMILY NIGHT AT CAC
SPECIAL OLYMPICS
BILL CHIPMAN TRAIL
FISHING DERBY
CROWWALK
PULLMAN JUNIOR MISS

PASSION PLAY
FOOTBALL PARKING (1979)
SALMON BARBEQUES

Kiwanis Park Downtown

STUFF THE BUS

YARD SALES

CROW WALK

REGAY FOR LIFE

COMMUNITY LUNCHEONS

STUDENT OF THE MONTH LMS

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

WINDOW REPLACEMENT PROGRAM GLADISH

BLOOD DRIVES

SCOUT HOUSE 1990

JR OLYMPICS TRACK MEET 1990

YOUNG CHILDREN PRIORITY ONE (PRENATAL THROUGH AGE 5)