

Batavia Rotary Club History

The Batavia Rotary Club was chartered on April 12, 1938. The sponsoring club was Blanchester Rotary Club represented by Harry Snyder who liasoned with Harry Kahle of Batavia. Harry was installed as the first president of Batavia Rotary Club. The charter meeting was held at the Batavia school auditorium and the attendance was 213 consisting of Rotarians and Rotary Anns from many of the Rotary Clubs in the District. The membership of the club, as is generally the case, was made up of the community leaders - bankers, doctors, lawyers, business men, school officials, etc. all of whom operated in the local area.

[add paragraph from old history ?]

One of the early projects was the construction of a football field (located at a place currently known as Sycamore Park). Prior to its construction Batavia High School did not have a football team. As coincidence may have it the quarterback on the football team was Tim Kahle, the son of the charter president of Rotary.

The Batavia club was very family oriented. There was an annual family trip to the Reds ball game where all met at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church parking lot to ride the chartered Croswell Bus to Crosley Field. A good time was had by all and the return bus trip to Batavia was filled with much singing such as "Take Me Out to the Ball Game", the Rotary song, and other patriotic popular songs of the day.

Another annual event was the Father and Son Day. Sometimes this was a barbeque and other times it was an outing to Jackson's Lake in Mt. Carmel, a local community. The event began with dinner at the Copper Stallion Restaurant followed by a fishing tournament after dinner at Jackson's Lake which was next to the restaurant. All entrants in the tournament would be provide a wooden fishing boat with oars to navigate the boat in the lake. It was a great time.

Approximately 1952 Rotary constructed a barbeque and picnic area on the north west side of the bridge crossing the East Fork River in Batavia. Many times it was used for family picnics not only by Rotarians but also by the community.

Each year Rotary sponsored a haloween costume contest and a Community Christmas party. Originally these events were held at the Batavia school building on Broadway Street. Later it was moved to the Batavia Armory until approximately 1970. For the haloween party the contestants based on age groupings would circle around the gym in order that the Rotary judges could observe their costumes and determine winners. It was a great family event and all were given candy and other prizes.

At Easter time the Easter Egg Hunt would take place. It was held at the American Legion in Batavia. Many eggs were hidden quite well in the acres of woods there. Some eggs had

numbers written on them which corresponded to a local business which offered a prize to the lucky finder of that numbered egg. The continuation of the Easter Egg Hunt is still a hallmark of the Batavia Rotary Club today where many plastic eggs are strewn on the grass at Batavia Township Park. Families from the entire area attend this event annually.

Throughout the many years Batavia Rotary supported the Cincinnati Rotary Club's Camp Allyn which provided a recreational facility for crippled children. Camp Allyn was located in Olive Branch.