



Fairfield Museum and History Center Library  
370 Beach Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824

### **Manuscript Finding Aid**

Title: Fairfield Rotary Club. Records

Collection #: Ms B86

Dates: 1939-

Size of collection: 2.8 linear feet (2 cartons, 2 boxes)

Accession number: L1997.16, L1997; L2010.10

Donor: Fairfield Rotary Club and Alan D. Loeser; other donors

Restrictions: None

Processed by: Barbara Austen

Date: June 1997; added to July 2010

#### Biographical/historical note:

Rotary International is an organization devoted to encouraging and fostering the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise. It encourages the development of acquaintances, promotes high ethical business and professional standards, encourages the application of the service ideal by every Rotarian, and promotes the advancement of international understanding.

The Fairfield Rotary Club was founded in 1939 with eighteen charter members. Charter Night was held June 26, 1939 at the Greenfield Hill County Club. The club meets weekly at an area restaurant; the site has changed several times over the past years. Each meeting includes a program on a different topic of interest. Since its founding, membership in the Club has increased from the original 18 to 36 in 1944, 82 in 1962, to 100 in 1989. The first women were admitted to membership in 1987.

One of the purposes of the Club is to develop programs to further the Rotary International goals of vocational and international service. Programs have included hosting

foreign visitors, sponsoring summer youth exchanges abroad, and granting vocational and fellowship scholarships local students. The Club also holds fund raising events in order to make charitable contributions to local organizations. The Fairfield Rotary Foundation, organized in 1965, is the primary fund raising arm of the Club. One of their most popular events is the Foundation Golf Tournament. Donations have been given to the YMCA, Community Chest, Rehabilitation Center, Bridgeport Hospital, the Senior Citizen Center, and the police, among others. Members of the Club also provide community service.

This material was collected and stored at the Fairfield Public Library by Town Librarian and Rotary Club member Bruce Kershner. Additional materials were gathered by William J. Clarke who was an active member of the club and served in various offices, including president. The records of Alan D. Loeser, president from 1981-1982, are also included in this material although it represents a separate donation.

#### Scope and content note:

The records of the Fairfield Rotary Club include administrative records, newsletters, membership material, programming material, photographs, and the records of two individuals who served in various offices. Committee minutes and financial, officers and committee reports, 1943-1990 are organized in Series A in chronological order; the most complete records are from 1943-1949. Membership records include lists of members and officers, rosters, committee appointments, and applications, 1940-1990. Series C consists of correspondence, 1939-1992, including letters of welcome from other clubs to the newly formed Fairfield club, 1939, and a censure from the Office of Censorship about printing a serviceman's unit in the Club's newsletter, 1944.

The Club's newsletter, "The Dummer" is arranged chronologically in Series D. This is the most complete series in the collection, dating from 1939 to 1998, along with an almost complete series of the "Service Dummer," 1943-1946 which provided news of home to over 200 Fairfield men and women in active service during World War II between 1941-1946.

Meeting programs and memos about upcoming meetings, 1939-1993, are organized in Series E. Flyers, programs, correspondence, and photographs of special programs are arranged in Series F. The programs include Group Study exchanges with India and Philippines, 1977, 1980; and a history of the club, 1989, written for its 50th anniversary. This series also includes records of the Information Committee which was responsible for publications and publicity, 1959-1974.

Series G consists of records of the Rotary Foundation, from its founding in 1965 to 1989. Legal documents include articles of incorporation and by-laws changes. Information on scholarships and grants from 1965-1979, are complemented by proposals submitted to the Foundation for grants in 1989. The following two series represent the activities of two members of the Fairfield Rotary Club. William J. Clarke (1915-1997) who served as president of the club in 1960, also worked on youth programs, fund raising, and secured speakers for

regular meetings. He collected correspondence, program flyers, and his own working papers and donated them to the club for their archives, probably in the 1990s. Alan D. Loeser's notebook of material document his year as club president, 1981-82. The materials were removed from the loose leaf binder according to the subject divisions he had made. All of the correspondence, speeches, minutes, news releases, and published information was kept in the original reverse chronological order. Series L covers the Walter J. Dunn Papers, a member since 1972. His papers consist largely membership materials (1980, 1995-2001) and pamphlets and flyers on activities of the Rotary Club in the late 1990s.

Series J consists of photographs, some taken by William J. Clarke, along with press releases and newspaper clippings announcing Fairfield Rotary Club projects and activities, 1971-1989, and awards given to the club, 1976-1986. The final series contains directories, handbooks and manuals published by Rotary International for use in the individual clubs, 1958-1989.

Series A. Minutes and reports, 1943-1990	Box 1
Series B. Membership Materials, 1940-1990	Box 1
Series C. Correspondence, 1939-1992	Box 1
Series D. Newsletter, "The Dummer," 1939-1993	Boxes 1-3
Series E. Meeting Programs and Memos, 1939-1993	Box 2
Series F. Special Programs, 1945-1992	Box 3
Series G. Rotary Foundation Records, 1965-1992	Box 3
Series H. William J. Clarke Papers, 1958-1979	Box 3
Series I. Alan D. Loeser Papers, 1975-1995	Box 3
Series J. Photographs and Publicity Materials, 1971-1989	Box 3
Series K. Rotary International Publications, 1958-1989	Box 3
Series L. Walter J. Dunn Papers, 1966-2001	Box 4

Box 1

Series A. Minutes and Reports, 1943-1990

Folder 1.	1943-1944
Folder 2.	1945-1946
Folder 3.	1947-1949
Folder 4.	1959-1981
Folder 5.	1988-1990

Series B. Membership Information, 1940-1990

Folder 1.	1940-1949
Folder 2.	1952-1968
Folder 3-4.	1971
Folder 5.	1980-1990

Series C. Correspondence, 1939-1992

Folder 1.	1939, 1944, 1960, 1968
Folder 2.	1970-1979
Folder 3.	1980-1992

Series D. Newsletter, "The Dummer," 1939-1998

Folder 1.	1939
Folder 2.	1940
Folder 3.	1941
Folder 4.	1942
Folder 5.	1943

Box 2

Folder 6.	1944
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Folder 45.	"Service Dummer," 1943-1946
Folder 46.	1994
Folder 47.	1995
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Folder 49.	1997
Folder 50.	1998

Box 3

Folder 51.	1998-1999
Folder 52.	2000-2003

Series E. Meeting Programs and Memos, 1939-1993

Folder 1.	Charter night, 1939
Folder 2.	1939-1993
Folder 3.	Q&A Luncheon, quiz cards, n.d.

Series F. Special Programs, 1945-1992

- Folder 1. Flyers and programs, 1945-1980
- Folder 2. Flyers and programs, 1981-1992
- Folder 3. World Community Service, 1977
- Folder 4-5. Group Study Exchange, India, 1977
- Folder 6. Group Study Exchange, Philippines, 1980
- Folder 7-9. Information Committee Records, 1959-1974
- Folder 10. History of Fairfield Rotary Club, 1989

Series G. Rotary Foundation Records, 1965-1992

- Folder 1. Legal documents, 1965, 1992
- Folder 2. Career grants information, 1965-1979
- Folder 3. Brochures, 1987
- Folder 4. Grant proposals, 1989

Series H. William J. Clarke Papers, 1958-1979

- Folder 1-2. Correspondence, flyers, by-laws, 1960-1974
- Folder 3. Lists of members, committee records, minutes, 1958-1961, 1979
- Folder 4. Club Presidents' workbook, 1959

Series I. Alan D. Loeser, President's Notebook, 1975-1995

- Folder 1. Loose material from inside front cover
- Folder 2. Directory, handbook, other published material, 1975, 1981, 1995
- Folder 3. Honor Club, Project Handicapped-aid, 1980-1981
- Folder 4. "Club Information," 1981-1982
- Folder 5. "Rotary International," 1981-1982
- Folder 6. "Board Meetings," 1981-1982
- Folder 7. "Club Meetings," 1981-1982
- Folder 8. Correspondence, 1981
- Folder 9. Correspondence, 1982
- Folder 10. "Club Plans," 1981
- Folder 11. "Dummer," 1981-1982
- Folder 12. "District Conference," 1981
- Folder 13. "News Releases," 1981-1982

Series J. Photographs and Publicity, 1971-1989

- Folder 1. Ladies' Night, 1971
- Folder 2. Scholarship award; judo demonstration, 1974
- Folder 3. Hospital Burn Unit, 1975
- Folder 4. South End Day Care, 1977
- Folder 5. Memorial Day parade float, 1983
- Folder 6. Baseball team, 1989
- Folder 7. Parade float, 1989

- Folder 8. Norm Parsells award, 22 September 1989
- Folder 9. Fencing demonstration, n.d.
- Folder 10. Clippings,
- Folder 11. Awards, 1976, 1983, 1986 (see oversize)

Series K. Rotary International Publications, 1958-1996

- Folder 1-2. Directory, handbook, manuals, 1958-1996

Series L. Walter J. Dunn Papers, 1966-2001

- Folder 1. Agendas, minutes, 1976-2001; quarterly report, ca 1989
- Folder 2. Committees, plans, 1970s-1990s
- Folder 3. Financial reports, budgets, 1977-1979
- Folder 4. Foundation, 1977-ca. 2000
- Folder 5. Membership ca. 1975-1980
- Folder 6. Membership A-L, ca. 1980
- Folder 7. Membership M-Z, ca. 1980
- Folder 8. Membership, ca. 1995-2002
- Folder 9. Pamphlets, flyers, etc. of internal activities, 1966-2005
- Folder 10. Pamphlets, flyers, etc. of activities, 1989-2002
- Folder 11. Awards, including Paul Harris Fellow, 1979-1999
- Folder 12. Norman King Parsells Fellowship, 1991-2001
- Folder 13. "Beacon," newsletter for Rotary District 7980, 1995-2000
- Folder 14. Photographs

Subject headings:

Businessmen--Conn.--Fairfield  
Fairfield (Conn.)--Clubs

Clarke, William J., 1915-1997

Loeser, Alan

Dunn, Walter J.