

# Kiwanis Club of Columbia, Missouri



# Newsletter

85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition

April 3, 2007

Vol. 34, No. 7

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time.

## Special Edition In Honor Of 85 Years Of Service

Well beyond a golden anniversary but not yet a centennial event, the 85<sup>th</sup> year of the Columbia Kiwanis Club still deserves recognition and reflection. This newsletter edition is dedicated to all of those who have served our community through this club for these 85 years.

### Special Dinner Marks Founding

A special gathering is being held today marking the founding of the Columbia Kiwanis Club 85 years ago. The founding meeting of our club was held in April, 1922, and the club was chartered the following month. Tonight's meeting at Lenoir Woods carries on the proud tradition of service begun many years ago.

Tonight's events include music by the Harmony Grits, a Boonslick Chordbusters group, the reading of a Proclamation from our Mayor and Club Member, Darwin Hindman, and a special slide show marking the occasion.

We are honored and privileged tonight to be joined by the Mo-Ark District Governor, Gary L. Warner, and other Kiwanians from area clubs.

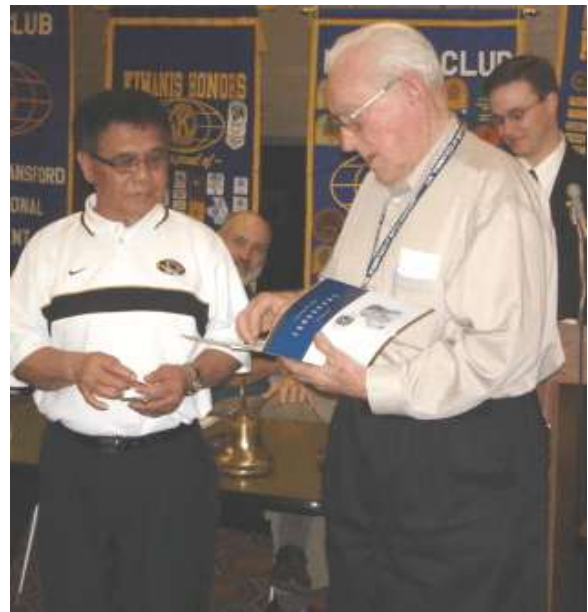
### Kiwanis – Young Children Priority One

The Columbia Club joined up with other Kiwanis clubs in the Mo-Ark District in the 1990s to reach a goal of \$257,000 for equipment and research in a Pediatric Cardiology Clinic at the University Medical Center. Aided by the pioneering work of Dr. Zuhdi Lababidi, thousands of children were helped at the Kiwanis Pediatric Cardiology Unit in the first year alone, let alone the many thousands more helped in the years since.



### David Melegrito Joins

David Melegrito was inducted into membership at our March 27 meeting. He was sponsored by Ray McClure. David was born in the Philippines and earned  
(Continued on p. 4)



### APRIL PROGRAMS

*(Paul Miller, Program Chair)*

**Apr. 3** – 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Meeting

**Apr. 10** – Dr. Alex Campbell, Professor of Rural Sociology, MU, “Immigration: An Overview”

**Apr. 17** – Dr. William Elder, Director, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis, MU, “Immigration in Missouri, mid-Missouri, and Columbia”

**Apr. 24** – Dr. Corinne Valdivia, Research Associate Professor in Agricultural Economics, MU, “Immigration issues for serving Missouri children and families”



## Jason's Thoughts

Spring is here, and celebration is in the air! At a time when we have opportunity to celebrate our 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, many of us have taken a look back at what the Columbia Kiwanis Club has accomplished over those years. For all of you who have worked diligently to make the Anniversary memorable, I thank you.

From day one, our Club has been about helping children improve and to have better lives, and to provide opportunities for our members to have fun, fellowship and develop leadership. We have gone about these tasks in various ways: awarding scholarships; citizenship awards; teacher recognition awards; community gardens; tree plantings; committee work; and club sponsoring to name but a few. Our weekly meetings not only provide focus, but also serve as a breeding ground for fellowship and ideas on how to make our community just a little bit better.

When I take a look at the history books, go to conventions, and talk to the other members who have lived many years of that history, a strong sense of pride overwhelms me. I hope that it overwhelms you too.

*Jason*

## History, Naturally, A Featured Theme

Anniversaries are quite naturally a time to reflect and remember the activities and accomplishments and people who have brought us to this point of celebration.

Ye Editor has drawn on previous histories of the club and called on some of our long-standing members to help relate some of this information.

## Early Community Projects By The Club

By William H. Taft

Since its founding the Columbia Kiwanis Club has stressed service and looked for opportunities to assist those of our community in need. Many of these early projects involved what the late Prof. James E. Smith, Jr., called the "Green Space Around Columbia."

The first project after the club started in 1922 involved the planting of trees and shrubs on the campus of the then recently completed Boone County Hospital, what is today the northwest side of the area. A "Tree Planting Day" was held April 13, 1923. Each member was responsible for planting at least one of the 68 elm trees there. Many shrubs, too, were planted.

Unfortunately, years later Dutch elm disease took many of the trees and new parking areas and building expansions took care of the other plantings.

The Ellis Fischel Cancer Hospital, the old airport and Douglass School also received Kiwanis-planted trees and shrubs. The club cooperated with the Columbia Garden Club to grow a "Therapy Garden" at Ellis Fischel. Kiwanians provided the funds and some of the bed preparations and a person to cultivate the flowers. The ladies harvested the flowers and greens and prepared bouquets for patients.

The club provided gardens for the unemployed during the Great Depression of the Thirties and, later, planted beautiful Bradford Pear trees along the front circular drive at Oak Towers on North Garth. Unfortunately, an ice storm a few years later destroyed them.

A project that helps many Columbians today began as the Club's proposal to the City to designate the 20 acres south of Russell Boulevard School as Kiwanis Park to preserve the native trees. In 1961 and 1968 two shelter houses were built by the Kiwanis clubs in the city at a cost of \$6,000. Money for this project came mostly from the annual Kiwanis Pancake Day receipts – money from local residents was put back into projects that would benefit them.



The park shelter to the west was dedicated to C. K. Odor, a

long-time Kiwanian and record ticket sales person for Pancake Day for many years. The shelter to the east was dedicated to T.J. Talbert and M. Foster Thurston, long-time club members and community leaders.

Throughout the year Kiwanis Park is used by many groups in the community and each fall the Columbia Kiwanis Club holds a meeting there as a type of re-dedication of this project.

A review of the club's 85 years reveals many other varied projects, all designed to provide help in some fashion to those in need within the community. As the times have changed, so have these projects. In more recent years the emphasis of our projects has shifted to helping the young children in our community.

## **A Few Club Remembrances**

By Bill Crawford

For years Kiwanian Warren Connor played Santa Claus at the University of Missouri Crippled Children's Hospital. A large number of members participated along with him to pass out gifts and be Santa's helpers. It was very touching and rewarding to be able to help the children this way.

Member Tom Talbert, MU Horticulturalist, decided to run for the District Lieutenant Governor's position. For weeks he brought bushels of apples to Kiwanis club meetings. It worked. He won the election and was an outstanding Lieutenant Governor. (He also served as District Governor).

We have a tradition of outstanding programs and fascinating speakers, including John Phillip Souza, Jo Garagiola, and James Cash Penney.

In 1948, the club provided a trip for 200 Sixth graders in Columbia to visit the St. Louis Zoo and take in a Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus.

Some projects seemed a little far out, like sponsoring a Sea Scouts group here 1,000 miles away from the nearest salt water. It was, however, a successful venture utilizing local lakes and "The Lake."

## **Meeting places, Plans**

By William H. Taft

From the founding of the first Kiwanis service organization in 1918 member clubs have traditionally opened each meeting with the singing of "America" followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a member's prayer.

And from the beginning Kiwanians have practiced the group's original object, to apply "The Golden Rule to our modern everyday life as well as business life." Each club around the world seeks "to be of aid in the church, the city government, or chamber of commerce." Clubs, however, usually avoid controversies, recommending members make their own decisions.

Throughout its 85 years of community service the Columbia Kiwanis Club has served in numerous ways. Through its weekly programs thousands of speakers have told of multiple concerns and issues—from the political to the religious and from the serious to the humorous.

In Columbia the initial Kiwanis group met at the Daniel Boone Tavern on 7th and Broadway. Then for a short time at the Chimney Corner. The Broadmore

Inn at 10th and Broadway and the Colonial Tea Room followed as club venues. The Harris Café on South Ninth, established in 1923, was the meeting place for a time.

In more recent times Kiwanians have met at the Tiger Hotel ball room, briefly at the Harvest Moon on 10th Street, and then at the Boone Tavern on Walnut. Currently, the group meets at Stephens College.

The Tiger Hotel ball room no doubt holds the record for attendance in numbers of members and years there. At that time there was only one Kiwanis group in the city, with membership in excess of a hundred.

The Tiger's ball room, long the center for famous gatherings, was an ideal choice. Long tables were pushed together for closer conversation. For many months roast beef was the weekly meat. Old-timer Bill Waxler explained: "When you go home after the luncheon your wife wants to know what you had so she could prepare the supper without duplication. If we always had roast beef this saved her meal planning time."

Music has always played a role in Kiwanis gatherings. The Columbia Club was fortunate in having many University members. One, Herb Gould, from the voice department, lead the group singing, with another faculty member at the piano. Herb's voice was so outstanding that many members preferred to let him sing solo rather than "mess it up" with other Kiwanians participating.

Weekly gatherings tend to be joyful events, a time to greet your friends, to meet newcomers and to hear what's what in the world today. And with such gatherings there was often difficulty in getting everyone to quiet down, so Dr. Bill Carpenter of the College of Education, would pound on the table and yell "Quiet," and everyone knew better than to talk after that forceful signal, probably also heard by walkers on Eighth Street below.

Kiwanians have always been a mixed group. During the group's early years in Columbia the presidency was alternated between the academics and the business leaders, a practice no longer used. Originally for men only, it was the first local service club to admit women. Five women have served as presidents in recent years.

Our 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary is a great time to also mention our latest project helping the children of our community, a partnership with the Nora Stewart Daycare Center.

### April Birthdays:

- Apr. 6 – Howard Ashley
- Apr. 14 – Tom Adams
- Apr. 21 – Betsy Happel
- Apr. 28 – Jason Simmons
- Apr. 30 – Darwin Hindman

### April Anniversaries:

- Apr. 8 – Ray & Jean McClure
- Apr. 14 – Bill & Zella Spicer
- Apr. 18 – Bob & Adalene Treese
- Apr. 19 – Bob & Mary Lu Parks
- Apr. 20 – Gene & Pat Gerke
- Apr. 29 – Bill & Nicole Reilly



### Melegrito (cont'd from p. 1)

an AB degree in Sociology from Northeast Missouri State University (now Truman University) in 1967. He moved to Columbia soon after.

David retired from work in the Registration Department at University Hospitals and Clinics. His wife, Elma, was also in the medical field, being one of the first nurses recruited from the Phillipines to work in the United States. David and Elma have three boys. He also has a brother and two sisters, one of whom is running for Governor of a Kiwanis district in New York.

David sings in the choir at Missouri United Methodist Church and is the President of the Philippine Association of Mid-Missouri. He enjoys gardening, tennis, and being with his grandkids.

Welcome, David, to the Columbia Kiwanis Club.

### 55<sup>th</sup> Pancake Day

It's probably safe to say that the combined Kiwanis Clubs in Columbia have flipped and served close to 400,000 pancakes by now in all of our 55 years of Pancake Days. Though it will be a few weeks before the final numbers are in on the March 24th event just completed, it's also safe to say that all involved had a great time.



*"Balloon Man" Gail Banks, Golden K Club, with the kids (Photo by Lory Rugulo)*

### Columbia Kiwanis Club

Jason Simmons, President  
(573) 819-9449 (Cell)

Ivan Sander, Immediate Past-President

James "Ernie" Lee, Secretary  
(573) 445-2369 (H)

Meets Tuesdays at noon

Stephens College Stamper Commons, Broadway  
& College.

Visit our website @

<http://columbia.kiwanis.missouri.org>