Oneida Kiwanis Club – 80 Years of Service

Editor’s NOTE – This salute to the Oneida Kiwanis Club on its 80th Anniversary is actually a transcript of the address delivered by Oneida’s Jane Hoffman, in which she lists the highlights of the club’s community service projects and reviews the long list of club presidents through the years. Our thanks to Mrs. Hoffman for her research into the history of the Oneida Kiwanis Club and the role it has played in the history of Oneida and Scott County, as well as to the many club members and supporters who worked so diligently to obtain photographs of the club presidents. Please note that information contained in brackets was added as clarification for our readers.

– JOSETTA GRIFFITH, EDITOR

INTRODUCTION RALPH HOFFMAN – . . . Most of this crowd, I believe, remembers Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Whenever he was President of the United States, he started out in hard times . . . He started out in the middle of the Depression and he had what he called Fireside Chats. And that’s what we’re going to have here tonight. Fireside Chats. But we’re going to talk about the history of Kiwanis from way back there. Eighty years. Our speaker tonight is a longtime member of the Scott County Historical Society. She has done about three months of research – which I believe I’ve had two months of it myself. Anyhow, she has lived this stuff all these many years and she’ll tell you when she first started. I think she and Bromma (Pemberton) kind of started this thing out themselves way back then. So, please welcome my wife and unauthorized historian, Jane Hoffman.

JANE HOFFMAN – Now, all of you have a program, and if you’ll look on the back, we’re going to start with the charter members and then the past presidents. And you’ll have an idea of what’s going on and what’s said, and we’ll do as we can do best.

According to the book, Brief History of Scott County, that was written by the English Department at the Oneida High School in either ‘55 or ‘56, it says the Kiwanis Club was organized (in 1925) and the first project was the Scott County Fair. So, you can remember that the Scott County Fair is not 80 years old yet, but it will be next year. When it was formed it was made up of Kiwanians: president, vice president, secretary treasurer, and the board of directors. Today they still have the same organization, but there’s very few Kiwanians on the committees.
Other projects of Kiwanis were: buying glasses for the children, the orphanage in Beulah Heights, Ky., and a lot of you might even not know that it was there, but it was, and Kiwanis Club was very active in supporting it. Baskets and parties for the poor at Christmas, Thanksgiving, purchase playground equipment, helping to buy band uniforms, sponsoring Little League baseball, and many drives to aid the town and county. Halloween parties were a big thing back then. But times have changed, and it isn’t necessary . . . they’re taken care of otherwise. There’s been a Boy Scout troop in Oneida since 1921 that disbanded shortly after it was organized. Caldwell Terry was a member of that troop. The Kiwanis sponsored Troop 93 at the beginning of 1933, with Monroe Bell, the minister at the Methodist Church, being the first scoutmaster. He was followed by E. C. Looney, H. C. Smith, W. H. Swain, Lillard Human, Tom Gentry. And that’s where the book had quit with the writing, but we’ve had several troop leaders since then.

The “Farmer of the Year” was one of the outstanding programs for many years and we had many outstanding speakers: Tennessee governors, educators, agricultural commissioners and other men to honor our farmers and the lady farmer of the year (Arlena West). They’ve worked closely with foster children, the blind school in Nashville, and Bromma remembers going with Roy (Johnson, her first husband) to take a child down there in the early ‘50s. Boys State, in conjunction with American Legion. And when what we know as the Conservation Lake was built it was a result of most of the fellows that were in the Conservation Club being members of the Kiwanis Club. And they signed notes, with the Kiwanis Club, with, Mr. (H.F.) Cooper being the leader, to buy the property. And when it was paid off it was paid off.

The vocational projects, with the 4H clubs of the county, the FFA, or Future Farmers, and the Future Homemakers, were all three helped very much by the Kiwanis Club. When Scott County had no Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis Club along with the Lions Club, the Jaycees, the American Legion, and the American Legion Auxiliary, PTA, Eastern Star, Masons, Oddfellows, the garden clubs, and the music clubs worked together to make our county beautiful and a happy place in which to live.

An International Night was had with Lucy Shoemaker and Mrs. (Aida) Krenzle doing the meal and the program. The meal was strictly foreign foods for us and then they auctioned off (to raise money for the club) things that had been made in other countries. And that was in the 50s.

The Civic Bowl for football was one of several different things sponsored by Kiwanis, too. And the Boxing Club, which was headed by Jack Laxton, also had our support. Then, the Canoe Races in the Big South Fork River was sponsored by the Oneida Kiwanis Club and the Pine Knot, Ky. club. And that lasted for three years, because we had low water every year, and they had to portage most of the way. They had Citizenship Awards for all four high schools in the county, that being Norma, Robbins, Oneida and Huntsville. Playground equipment in South Oneida on land which was bought from Mr. Will Wright by Ralph Hoffman (until the Kiwanis Club could purchase the land). This land was sold when the Pine Creek Watershed went into
effect, but it was a nice playground for people on the other side of the track, and (for) our children that were allowed to cross the railroad due to trains. When it was sold, Tibbals Flooring Company made a lumber yard on the property. The Kiwanis Club used the proceeds from the sale of this land, with the assistance of Barna Danner Lumber Company to build the stand that the Kiwanis Club uses at the Fairgrounds today. They’ve supported the Heart Fund with everything from basketball games for both men and women. Now, those games were played with old folks playing the players of high school kids. And it went pretty heavy when you got past 40. Provided transportation and ticket for handicapped children both here and in Knoxville. Helped promote the Veterans Overpass Project on Paint Rock Road.

The Scott County Hospital grew out of much planning and thinking by Kiwanis members and other community leaders. Now, you don’t realize it but when the Hillburton Act came into being there were a few people in town that didn’t sleep, I don’t think, until they got all their qualifications and applied for that project.

The Christmas decorations, the Rescue Squad and all the departments have had help from the Kiwanis. The Library Fund, when the libraries were few and far between, were the thing the Kiwanis Club sponsored, beginning with a small library in one room in Oneida. Now, with Clinch Powell, we have libraries in Oneida, Winfield, and Huntsville, and I’m not sure whether they have a book stop in Robbins or not. They talked about it at one time.

The Oneida High School and Scott High bands have benefited very much from contributions from the Kiwanis Club either for uniforms or just making trips or whatever. The Historical Society has been helped and has helped both ways with Kiwanis. It’s gone around. One will help one do something and the other will help that one. The Scott County Science Fairs have been helped by the Kiwanis. And AYSO Soccer when it first came to town had the support of the Kiwanis Club along with other organizations. The Boys and Girls Club has had nice monetary contributions from Kiwanis. Sherman Fettermen Book Scholarship Fund at Roane State Community College was started with Kiwanis and still, if you wish to help over there, they’ll be glad to accept it through that fund. The Jaycee Ballpark was built as a Jaycee undertaking but they had to have help and the Kiwanis Club came to their rescue. The lighting at that time were more than one small club could handle. The Kiwanis Club has brought many different athletic things to the county. The one furthest back that I know of was with the Independent teams in Oneida teams in Oneida and the county. They had the Harlem Globetrotters here in, I believe it was in ‘27, but it was in the ‘20s. Donkey Basketball, Fats & Lean baseball, adult local baseball and basketball teams. Now, that’s independent teams.

Devil’s Jump Dam was talked about for a long time, if you’re old enough to remember that. And when they started talking that, they dropped us from the wild rivers . . . dropped the Big South Fork from the Wild Rivers Project. John Lee West, Tom Gentry, Ralph Hoffman and Claude Terry Jr. went to Washington on that program, but think it was right well that they were defeated and that we wound up with the Big South Fork Park.
Charter Members of Oneida Kiwanis Club

B. L. Sadler  A. M. Lay  Dr. M. E. Thompson  Ronald Hail


F. M. Boyatt  W. A. Terry  Howard H. Baker, Sr.  William York  Ezra Lay

No Photos Available . . .

O. H. Anderson  Daniel M. Law  Elmon Davis
O. C. Conatser  A. J. Daniel  A. M. Cook  C. V. Smith
L. E. Richards  Harry E. Dibrell  R. S. Voiles  L. E. Smith
W. S. Condra  John T. Jenkins  J. F. Lynch  N. D. Duncan
J. T. Anderson  Ed W. Zumstein  W. E. Bond  O. D. Sanders
Two charter members of the Kiwanis have run for Governor of the state of Tennessee. Now, I know you younger ones don’t remember this. Mr. C. W. Wright ran as a Democrat and Mr. H. H. Baker ran as a Republican. We don’t see their name as governor anywhere, but we did have the privilege of having two men from the county run for governor.

They’ve sponsored cancer drives again. The first Year Parenting is a project that they’re carrying on now. In other words, they send preparations(?) for one year for new parents whose children were born at Scott County Hospital. For a full year and then every month they’ve got a new group of people on the list and another bunch drops, isn’t that right Bert (Walker)? The fingerprinting of children has been a project that they worked with and helped with Huntsville’s Firemen’s Fourth, the annual FlyIn at the Scott County Airport, and the Imagination Library, which is Dolly Parton’s project, they’re working with that very much right now.

They have made interclub meetings throughout the year and have representatives at most district, national and international meetings.

Throughout the years we have had special speakers: Howard H. Baker, Sr., John Duncan, Everett Dirkson, Howard Henry Baker, Governors Frank Clement, Buford Ellington, and Lamar Alexander, and Agricultural Commissioner Clyde York, and I don’t remember whether A. C. Clark was ever commissioner or not, but he was a good speaker for us – Albert Gore Sr., Ray Jenkins, Bill Landry, Sam Venable, Ina Hughes and when Tom Looney was to come and he got mixed up on Central Time and Eastern Time, he was late, and for once we had Rudolph Colditz for the speaker and I understand he did a first class job. Rudy would not serve as president of the Kiwanis Club, but he was one of the best workers (the club) ever had. He could do anything, and he tried to, but he did not want to serve as president.

The Kiwanis Club has met at different places through the last 80 years. A lot of you don’t know, but we had a Radio Cafe back during the 20s. They met there on Depot Street, then at the Commercial Hotel on Main Street, and at the Home Ec Department at the Oneida High School, and the Oneida Cafe, which Tom Gentry’s mother operated, and it was on Main Street; in fact, it was just about next door to this (FTSB location). And Tobe’s Restaurant, Senior Citizens (Center), and now it’s Sweet Peas. And if I’ve missed any place where they met regularly, I don’t know.

Highland Telephone and Plateau Electric both had the blessings of Oneida Kiwanis Club and had members that worked with them from the beginning. U.S. 27 Association. I know you’ve forgotten that since interstates. But they had an active group between Kentucky and Tennessee. Tobe Phillips always represented the Kiwanis Club and the county. And he could always tell you what was going on there.

Now, we’re going to begin with the charter members and any of you that are here with those families we’re going to ask you to stand and be recognized, because we feel like if it weren’t for those men we wouldn’t be here tonight. •••
The first president (1925) was Mr. D. M. Laws and he was superintendent of the Oneida Schools at that time. He was from up around Elizabethton, I think. Now, when they had the 50th anniversary of Kiwanis, I’m pretty sure his son and his wife were guests of the club.

### Oneida Kiwanis Club Presidents 1925 - 1933

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<td>H. F. Cooper</td>
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In 1926, H. F. Cooper, a merchant, from the cradle to the grave. Now, he beat Wal-Mart, he could bury you, too! And the first fair was formed in his administration. Now, I remember going to a “Daughter’s Night” at the Commercial Hotel and that dining room looked mighty big at that time. I had not started to school, but I was starting shortly. I guess . . . Bromma (Parnell), was the dining room about half the size of this (FTSB’s Social Room)? Or was it a little bigger? (Bromma Pemberton answered, “No, about half.”). About half. But, anyway, it looked to be as big as anything in Knoxville or anywhere else the day I went. And I remember seeing Thelma Louise Wright, Bert and May Thompson and maybe Vivian and Violet, Catherine Canada and Adrienne Terry. Now I know there were other people that had daughters that were there, I guess, but those are the ones that I remember. And, of course, they were all older than I was, but I felt just as big as they were that night. I guess that’s the first time I ever went anywhere with my daddy without my mother.

C.W. Wright was editor of the *Scott County News*. The Wrights had stayed in Huntsville with the school in Huntsville and even lived in the dormitory before they came over to be with the *Scott County News*. And both had taught over there. But the *Scott County News* was a great thing for
us and Mr. Wright meant an awful lot for Kiwanis Now this was in 1927 when he was president.

In 1928, E. C. Terry, Chester, a banker with the first National Bank was the president. He was very active in the Scott County Fair and served as manager, or secretary, or whatever, as long as he was able. He was also very active in the Boy Scouts. He was one man, that when his grandson was old enough to be a scout, that took up scouting when no young man would. He did everything that had to be done. And Allen was very fortunate to have a grandfather to be a father to him, since he had lost his father in World War II.

In 1929, Mr. A.M.Cook. He was a contractor that lived here, and he built the high school building that was torn down, that now the elementary middle school stands where it was. And that building had a nice auditorium in it, too, and it was used.

When Bromma (Pemberton) came to Oneida to stay with an aunt and uncle at the Commercial Hotel, she had the privilege during that year to wait tables and serve the Kiwanis. So, she’s been a server of Kiwanis since 1929.

In 1930, A.M.Lay, a furniture merchant, was president of the club. And he served as secretary in 1927. Now, Mr. Lay was a businessman and he meant for you to do business. About the time he retired, he took over managing the Kiwanis stand at the Fair. And he ran it to make money. And it did. He served us with many nice pot lucks on the lake, before the cabin was built and afterwards. And we’ve all enjoyed that very much. Now, I made a mistake. I meant to have people stand up. Is Mr. Lay the first one who has a child here? Tom (Gentry), you were Mr. Wright’s son-in-law, but, Jack (Lay), stand up. So, we’ve got a Lion with us.

In 1931, Mr. B. L. Sadler with first National Bank in Oneida was president. He wasn’t here too much longer here after that until he went to first National Bank in Harriman. But we stayed friends through the years and as long as Charlie and Ruth lived there was always some of us who had the privilege of being with them. But now that family’s down to grandchildren or greatgrandchildren.

In 1932, Mr. W. S. Condra came here. He was with Pearson’s Hardwood Flooring. He and Mrs. Condra were Ma and Pa to all the young people from the time they moved here in about 1923, until they either died or . . . I can’t remember which one died first but then the other one left and moved to Middle Tennessee where they had family. But they furnished dances in their living room, cards at night, and entertained all ages at any time they could go. And if you rang their doorbell as a little fellow that had run off they were glad to see you and called your mother and told her you were there.

In 1933, Dr. M. E. Thompson, that’s Bob’s grandfather. Where are you, Bob (Thompson)? Would you stand up please? Bob’s grandfather was a real family doctor. He made house calls, he was a friend to everybody on the street, he took good care of you, told you all kinds of
good stories. . . And, if you had typhoid at your house, he made you do this and the others do that. But we lived through a hard epidemic of typhoid back years ago and Dr. Thompson and Dr. Phillips—who was not a Kiwanian—really made house calls and really kept up with them. Jack (Lay), wasn’t your mother—No, it was everybody but you and your daddy, wasn’t it? ("I was too mean," Jack responded) Oh, was that it? But anyway, it was everybody but Jack and his daddy that had typhoid. At our house, Jumby (Claude W. Terry, Jr.) was the only one that did, so we just had to be careful. While he was president, the Boy Scout Troop 93 began meeting and it is still intact. He was also chairman of the Independent School Board for years and that’s where the football field here in Oneida has its name, from Dr. M. E.

Other members of the club who were charter members were Mr. O. H. Anderson, and he was with the O&W Railroad, from the surveying of the railroad until a little while after it was completed; Ezra L. Lay, a merchant with groceries at the time the Kiwanis Club was formed, but he left and built bridges and things like that, but he came back in the ‘50s and built a few houses in town and ours was one of those. Now, Bill Swain’s first wife, Marcy (Lay), that was a buddy of mine, was the daughter of Ezra, and Todd’s great-grandfather. Elmon Davis was a charter member. He was a station agent for the Southern Railroad here. Mr. O. C. Conatser was the owner of the local telephone company. Now if you all don’t think telephones have grown, we had a little sheet of paper about the size of this, it was folded over, and it had numbers on two sides. And that was the telephone directory for Oneida and Scott County. But basically, some of us can remember some of the numbers. I don’t know whether you can or not. I remember one, five was our house, and two, four was the garage. That’s the only thing I can remember. But you didn’t have to know anything but that, because all you had to do was ring and hold the receiver and the operator would say “Number, please,” and you could say I want my daddy. We had good service, for that, but we didn’t have good service for the businessmen and that’s when they got together to form Highland Telephone. Now, he has a grandson living in Florida that I learned this week, but he’s not well. So, there is one member of that family. A. J. Daniel was a banker and we can’t remember when he left or where he left or anything, but we know that his wife’s buried at the Reed Cemetery in Helenwood. Ronald Hail with Hail and Co., which was a confectionery, was a gathering place for young people. It was also . . . today, you’d call it a sports bar, because they always had a radio and . . . World Series could always be heard there. And there was very few houses in town that could take so many people, because you were on earphones. They did real well. And his son, and his wife, James Ronald, are here tonight. James Ronald would you stand, please. (He talked about remembering the phone company being in a little grey house across from first Baptist Church) So, you were here then, weren’t you? So, the next charter member was William S. Stanley. He was the postmaster at the time the Kiwanis Club was formed. And we called him Uncle Billy. He wasn’t kin to the whole town, but we all called him Uncle Billy. Now, to you younger people, he was the grandfather to Donna Stanley Jeffers. Dr. M. F. Boyatt, was a general practitioner. Now, you all don’t think much about going to Crossroads, but that’s where he was from. He was one of the best doctors that we’ve had. He was a good enough
doctor that he had, they called it TB of the bone then, I don’t know what they call it now, but every time a bone would crack in his body he would call Dr. M. E. and he kept a perfect record of everything that occurred in his life, from the time he was bedfast until the time that he died. And we don’t have many people that do things like that today. But he kept very close contact with Dr. M. E. Thompson. He also had the only windmill that I remember in Oneida. If any of you know anything about north town and they had a windmill, Dr. Boyatt was who put that windmill there. C. V. Smith, a general merchant, and that was Virgil and I thought maybe Sylvia (Billingsley) would be here, that would be a great uncle of hers. And L. E. Richards. We don’t know anything about what he did, but we do know he lived in the duplex that was made from the old school building when the high school building and the grade school building was built with the auditorium in 1920 was done away with and it was a two-family house. He lived in one side and Earl Watters lived in the other side. Harry B. Dibbrell was a pharmacist at Cooper’s Drug Store. He was a charter member. R. S. Voiles was with the Southern Railroad. He started out as a clerk. He was in the tower at Robbins, and then he was station agent in Robbins before he retired. L. E. Smith. Now the ones of you that remember Miss Edith (Smith), that was her father. He was with the Tennessee Railroad. And we called him Capt. Smith. And H. H. Cannada. Now we have Robert Carl (Cannada) and his family with us tonight. And he was with Verduin Lumber Co. And he moved up here from Glenmary with the lumber company there, if I remember correctly. And he was secretary of the club in 26 and 27. (Recognized the five members of the Cannada family present).

Now, in 1959, John Lee West was president of the club. And he’s the only charter member that wasn’t president early on. He was a lawyer, a teacher, an attorney general, superintendent of schools. He served as secretary of the Kiwanis in 1925, and he was a Lieutenant Governor in 1960. If any of you remember him, he was on crutches, he had lost a leg in his youth, but he could hop as fast as most people could run. We learned that when we were in the seventh grade. John T. Jenkins was another charter member and we don’t know anything about him. J. F. Lynch was a Methodist Church preacher in 1925. And N. D. Duncan, we don’t know who that is either. W. C. Terry, which was my father and Jumby’s father, was mayor of Oneida at the time the club was formed and started the dealership known as Terry Motor Co. He was very interested in getting the fair organized and he was also very interested in getting the hospital started. But he had a heart attack and died while they were grading for the hospital and didn’t see it finished, but he sure spent many an hour working to get things going for it. J. T. Anderson was with the O&W Railroad and he was the son of the O. H. Anderson that we mentioned before. W. A. Terry was with coal and farming and he was the father of Chester Terry and they were one of two where the father and son were both charter members of the club. Edward W. Zumstein came up here from Wartburg and he had the Gay Picture Show, as it was known, and it was right down here on this parking lot. And I had just learned to read enough to stay up with pictures when they went to talkies. W. E. Bond was also a charter member and we don’t have much on him, but Tom (Gentry) and I both remember where he lived. He lived where Nancy Kate Beets
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J. B. Carson, Jr. 1937
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grew up and he had a son named Frank (Bond) that was the age of Tom’s brother, Frank. But that’s all we can tell you about him. Dr. O. D. Sanders was a dentist. Now, he’s not the Dr. Sanders that you all think about. He was his older brother. And then Howard H Baker was a lawyer, later Congressman, and was the father of Howard Henry (Baker). So that’s another father and son that turned out to Kiwanians together. Howard Henry (Baker), you want to stand up and let them see who’s here? William York was the father of the Bill York that we all knew that was on the Bataan Death March in World War II. Well he was his father. Mr. York was in the law, but he was also Clerk & Master. Bill, when he came home, he worked, he did different things. He was Trustee of the county, he worked for the first National Bank, he was postmaster in Huntsville, but the most outstanding thing to me was what a nice life that he lived after he came back having served such a horrible experience as he did during World War II. I remember Mrs. York telling us at a sewing for the American Red Cross that Bill received a Red Cross package that she always felt like saved his life. And that she didn’t miss a day that we sewed in Oneida that she wasn’t right here sewing.

Now, the first president of the Kiwanis that was not a charter member was Arnold Colditz, and that was in 1934. He was an automobile dealer. And he did the Kiwanis bulletin for many years. I found some of the old bulletins. And they were gossipy good news. I’m going to give you the
example of one that sort of stuck in my eye that I copied because I wanted to show it to Ralph. It says, Ralph and Jane Hoffman had quite an exciting time so far this week. On Monday, about 5 p.m., had a new Chevrolet convertible stolen from the front of the store. But on Tuesday they again became the proud parents of a three-and-a-half-year-old girl to be known by the name of Margaret Colleen (Terry). We wish to them happiness with this venture. He was also manager of the fair for many years, on the board, and he worked but he let Rudy (Colditz) do most of it.

In 1935 and ‘38, Sam Blair . . . Now, Nancy’s (Blair) here . . . she had red hair as a little girl, but she has reason for her (gray hair) besides age. Sam was with the Tennessee Railroad. He was secretary of the club in ‘33 and ‘34, again in 41 and 42. He was active in anything Kiwanis decided to do. And he could always put you in your place if you did something wrong. (“Amen,” responded Nancy Blair)

In 1936, C. Evans Looney, Ag Agent and scoutmaster, did a lot more work than most agents with farmers. He was not in the office very much, but if somebody had trouble on their farm delivering a calf or taking care of shoeing a horse or something like that, Mr. Looney was out helping them. So, you remember things like that about certain people. And when he was scoutmaster, his wife was girl scoutmaster. So, we learned a lot from them.

In 1937, James B. Carson, Jr., a merchant, was president. And Gene (Carson) called to say that he was sorry that he and (his brother) James B. (Carson) couldn’t be here, but it was impossible.

In 1939, Luther Smith, vocational agriculture teacher, was a faithful fair worker in different departments. Milton called to say that he was sorry, but he had a business meeting tonight and could not be here.

In 1940, Dr. B. F. Sanders, a dentist, became president of Kiwanis. And he worked with the young people from the Methodist Church their young people formed, had a club, and it might have been part of their league, I don’t know. But, anyway, we called it the “young people” . . . what was it called, Bromma? Do you remember? The young people that put that bulletin out? Okay, Bill (Swain) thought of it – “Young Adult Fellowship.” And we all worked with it, made contributions and all. But Dr. Sanders would have a meeting at his cabin up on top of the hill and we’d have good eating and take up a collection and then next night we’d all work to get the bulletin put out to be mailed for that week to the servicemen as we got their names. I can’t tell you how many we fixed at a time, but if you all know what it was to cut a stencil, run it through a machine, make mistakes and have to start over, we got one out every week. Some of them never did get them and others got theirs all along. Paul Roy, do you remember hearing your daddy talking about them? (“I found one the other day,” Roy said in response.) Oh, did you? I think every young person that could. The ones, like Helen Shoemaker and Evie (Jeffers) that had children, they got their mothers or their mothers-in-law, or somebody to keep their children, and we all met at Mrs. Kirby Phillips, or we met at Bill Proctor’s house, when she couldn’t find somebody to keep her little boy. And
we got those things out once a week. And we were proud to do it. And I do know from letters from some of the boys how much they appreciated it.

From ‘35 to ‘38, the Home Economics Department served the Kiwanis their meals. You all can’t guess what we were working for – the first electric stove in the Home Ec Department. And we made it. But they helped us with nice little things besides what we made on the meal. But it was hard work, and it took that long to get the electric stove. Then, the building burned in the ‘40s and, of course, the stove was gone.

In 1941, J. D. Mitchell was president, and he had the Five to Five Store and it started out over on this side of the street and then it moved on the other side, and then he sold it and moved out of town. But it was something to keep up with.

In 1942, Bill Proctor was the express agent in Oneida. And we had a night train that was supposed to leave Knoxville at 10 o’clock, but I was over there in school through this time, and most of the time we left Knoxville about two in the morning. Because they picked up freight, express and everything else on The Carolina Special. And then they stopped in Harriman and let the ones that were going to Nashville get on the Tennessee Central with their junk, pick up the stuff from the Tennessee Central. We came on to Oakdale. We dropped everything off in Oakdale but the ones that were coming on north. And when we got here, sometimes it was daylight. But most of the time it was still dark, and Bill Proctor was nice enough, to tell our daddy that they didn’t know what time the train would be here, to leave a car key and he’d see that we got home. And if daddy forgot to leave the car key, or Chester Terry did, Bill took us home. We might have to stay an hour waiting for him to get the express in the depot, but we got home in time to get up.

In 1943, Gene McDonald was an automobile dealer. They had the Ford agency, his father had it from the beginning. Then Gene had it and it changed hands. Gene later had a used car lot. If you all will remember, he always had the best, cleanest cars going. And then one time Tiny Caldwell had worked all day on the car and it went down the road and he turned around to a man and said, “It would look better than this if Tiny had a worked harder.” So, you can imagine how Tiny felt.

In 1944, Kirby Phillips was a merchant, had a furniture store and his father stayed in the store. And he was also in lumber. Now, his granddaughter is married to Arnie Deweese and that’s as near as we’ve got anybody here from Kirby Phillips’ family. Arnie, we’re glad to have you.

In 1945, Walter Fowler was superintendent of the Oneida Schools. Now, several of the Kiwanis Club members have gone to school to him or under his leadership, taught or they taught with him. W.O. (West) went to school to him, I know. And Jumby (Claude W. Terry, Jr.) did, unless he’d already gone to CMA when he came. But there’s several of you would have known Mr. Fowler. Jack (Lay), you went to school to him, didn’t you? Well, I taught under him. So, we’ve all done a good job with him. Now, he and Mrs. Fowler had no children and they’re both dead.
In 1946, Dan B. Walker, Bert’s daddy, Bert (Walker), stand up please. The Texaco dealer, and he was also chairman of the Ration Board. Now the reason I remember that, I had to have tires and gas to get from here to Mountain City to teach. Well, Dan was who I had to go see. And all we were asking for was recapped tires, which we got, and enough gas to drive to Mountain City. And then, up there, I got a “B” Stamp and that was it. But Dan was Lt. Gov. in 1948. Now, here’s the outstanding thing about Dan Walker: If any of you have been secretary of anything, you know it’s a job. Well, Dan was secretary of this club from 1949 to 1964. Now that’s on record.

In 1947, Howard D. Jeffers, a teacher, a basketball coach, an auditor for the Tennessee Railroad, and he was introduced into the Hall of Fame in basketball at LMU along with his brother, Jake (Jeffers). Evelyn (Jeffers) was not able to come tonight, but Nola (Lay, her daughter) called to talk a little bit.

1948 was Bernard Chitwood. He was with Verdun Lumber Co. at the time he went into Kiwanis. In 1949, Dr. M. F. Frasier, a general medical practitioner. He was company doctor for Ritter Lumber Co. and he lived in New River. And then he moved to Huntsville and then to Oneida. And he built his office and an apartment to live in where Harold Jeffers has his office and house now.
In 1950, Lillard Human was president. Lillard was a mail carrier, a collector of antiques, Boy Scout leader. And he took a Boy Scout group . . . . Now, this is according to Edwin (Human) . . . He took a group of Boy Scouts on an overnight hike. He called it a Daniel Boone Hike. They were to take no provisions and they wound up at the Jake Hawk’s place down on the river . . . you all know where that is. A place to camp overnight. They would take no provisions. There they were. Tired, hungry and they didn’t know what they were going to do – they hadn’t seen anything to kill to eat, they hadn’t found anything. About that time, (H.F.) Cooper drove up in a car with hot dogs and the whole works. And not only that, he had breakfast for them, too. But that Edwin, was one of the outstanding things that he remembered the Scouts when his daddy in it.

In 1951, Robert B. Lay, Bob, was with the first Trust & Savings Bank, and he was the son of Arlie Lay, a charter member. And that year the changed the way they were going to do Christmas Baskets. So, the Kiwanis was to do 50 and deliver them. And Brother Warner, at the Methodist Church, said that he would see that they were delivered if the members of Kiwanis or their children would deliver them. So, the twins of Howard (Jeffers), that’s Lloyd (Jeffers) and Roger (Jeffers), Edwin Human and Jack Phillips, that’s Tobe’s son, delivered 50 Christmas Baskets one day. And he (Edwin) said that was the hardest job he ever had in his life, was getting all of that done.

In 1952, Howard Henry Baker – who is probably the most famous member of the group – was president of the club. He was the son of a charter member, Mr. Howard Baker, Sr. He was a lawyer and, in the Senate, and you all know what else he’s done. But, Howard Henry, stand up again. Bill Swain, would you stand up for the time you served in that year? Now he really did serve an awful lot of time when Howard Henry couldn’t be there.

Then, he (Bill Swain) was president in 1953. He was with Swain Lumber Co., then first National Bank. Now he was a son-in-law of a charter member. And we had many happy meetings along the creek in his yard in Helenwood. We had some good food. Lot of it was potluck, but a lot of it was chicken and so forth that people that knew what they were doing did. That year, we had 48 members in Kiwanis. Now, that’s the only year I could find the exact number they had. Now, if you all think – this is in 1953 – Now, those weren’t just members that came ever once in a while. They worked, and they attended. Everybody that’s a child of a Kiwanian know that the older members attended. And they worked.

In 1954, Mr. Charles Tibbals, from Tibbals Flooring Co., was the president. He and his brother had bought Pearson’s Hardwood Flooring with the intent to build prefab houses. Now, Mr. Tibbals’ house as it was originally built, and the little house next door were the sample models of what they were going to have, along with flooring. But, then as they developed Hartco and this that and the other, why the houses were stopped. And we’ve been known as Hartco more than we’ve been anything else. Now we’re supposed to remember to call it Armstrong.
Oneida Kiwanis Club Presidents 1952 - 1965

Howard Baker 1952
W. H. Swain 1953
Charles Tibbals 1954
William Cooper 1955
Roy Johnson 1956
Everett Danner 1957
Tom Gentry 1958
John Lee West 1959
Dr. Roy McDonald 1960
H. H. Huffines 1961
George Terry 1962
Ralph Hoffman 1963
Oneida Kiwanis Club Presidents 1952 - 1965

In 1955, William Cooper of Cooper Woodworking, and he was instrumental in gas wells, was president of the club. Now, Bill had a good window and a good door business, but he enjoyed hunting and fishing more. But if you want to see houses that were built in the 50s in this area, you’ll find that most of the doors and most of the windows were built just a block next door. We’ve had them at our house ever since then.

In 1956, Roy Johnson, superintendent of Tibbals Flooring Co., was the president. And in that year, this club received its first national award. He and Bromma (Johnson) worked hard to keep the club very active by attending both district and national meetings and working hard with the community.

In 1957, Everett Danner, Danner’s Mill and farming. And he was very interested in later years to see that we had soccer fields So, he went to an auction and saw some stuff that would be well to drain fields and so forth where they thought they might buy to put the soccer fields. So, he bought all this stuff and had it brought home. But we didn’t build soccer fields there. So, I don’t know who he gave it to or who he sold it to. But we built soccer fields over here at the park. And we’ll talk more about that later.

In 1958, Tom Gentry was president. He worked for the Tennessee Railroad. He was the son-in-law of Mr. C. W. Wright. He was active in Boy Scouts and other youth projects. He was fair manager and on the Fair Board . . . most of your adult life, weren’t you Tom? (“I was,” he responded) That’s what I thought. Now, we’ve already talked about . . . Tom, stand up.

In 1960, Dr. Roy McDonald, a surgeon, returned to the county of his birth, when the Scott County Hospital opened. He was born over at Roberta . . . now, you all know where Roberta is. If you don’t know, that’s where Norma Mabe lives. In that vicinity. And Brown’s Pond. But anyway, that’s where Roy started his life. The Key Club was begun in that year at Oneida, and Ronnie Jeffers was the first president, and Charles Max Newport was the second. Now, Jerry, I would like for you and the first two presidents to stand please. And we have other members of the Key Club that have held offices and I would like for them to stand too, please. Christy (Harness), I know you were president, weren’t you?
In 1961, H. H. Huffines, county agriculture agent, came up here from Wartburg, and he’d been a Kiwanian there, so he kept being a Kiwanian here. And we enjoyed having “Huff” as long as he lived.

In 1962, George Terry, from Terry Motor Co. and Ben Franklin, the son of a charter member, W. C. Terry, was president.

In 1963, Ralph Hoffman, Western Auto dealer, son-in-law of charter member W. C. Terry, fair manager and on the (Fair) board, and in charge of fruit cake sales as far as I know for about the last 20 years.

In 1964, Ernest Billingsley was president. He was in lumber and farming. And, now, this didn’t happen this year, but it did happen and I’m going to tell it. He and Everett Danner, Harold Brewster furnished the machinery and they worked hard to build a soccer field in the park. Now, most Kiwanians did about what I did, pick up a few rocks or something like that, but they worked until the thing was done. Now, they’re using it more for little fellows and I think they’ve got it to where it’s about three fields, isn’t it Mike (Swain)? Also, it will be shown a little later, there’s a picture over here taken from a newspaper that Bromma had saved. That was the 50th birthday of Kiwanis and Ernest and Bromma were cutting the cake.

In ‘65, Earl Lockin was president. He was retired from Berea College. And I don’t know exactly, I think he was industrial arts teacher. Am I not right on that W.O (West)? Anyway, he worked very much with the people who that were interested in art, and his wife worked with them, too. And there’s many people that can lead and do things that they could not have done otherwise if the Lockins had not come back here to live. The first canoe race was started by the Oneida Kiwanis Club and the Pine Knot, Ky. club on July 4, beginning at Leatherwood Bridge and ended at Devil’s Jump. Five hours and thirty-seven minutes and fifty-four seconds, the first canoe went to Devil’s Jump, the finish line. There was interest from nine states, but they walked about half of the way.

In 1966, Clifford Scott, Presbyterian Church preacher, was this . . . and we had another canoe race. Now, I don’t have the times on that, but they walked also.

And in 1967, Claude Terry, Jr. from Terry Motor Co., the son of W. C. Terry, was the president. Well, let me see, have I missed anybody standing up that I meant to? Jumby, I guess you and your gang might as well stand up. Claude the third, stand up. Patricia (Walls). Fayrene (Terry). Oh, did we miss Ernest (Billingsley)? I don’t know where you are now. . . we’ll get to Danny (Billingsley) in a minute. The last canoe race was run in this year, in this ‘67 year. Now Tom Gentry’s got a book that I had to swear to take care of and give it back to him (looks around under podium, etc.) Well, I may not. Who’s got it? (Finds it under her notes (with Ralph’s help) and holds it high for the crowd to see.) This is the national Kiwanis magazine that was put out and it’s got wonderful pictures of the race and a good writeup and it tells all this stuff about how they had to walk. But, if we’d had good water, or a dam ahead of it we’d still be having
these canoe races. But it was the only one east of the Mississippi at that time. Now, they’ve got them in Maryland. And they’ve got a dam to send the water down to them.

Oneida Kiwanis Club Presidents 1966 - 1979

Claude Terry, Jr.
1967

Don Stansberry JR.
1968

Lew Moore
1969

Bert Walker
1970 & 1995

Tom Deweese
1971

Leo Billingsley
1972

No Photo Available
Clifton Scott
1966

Ben Draughn
1973

Roy D. Sexton
1974 & 1984

W. O. West, Jr.
1975

George Taylor
1976

Chester Sexton
1977
In 1968, Don Stansberry, a lawyer with the Baker law firm, was president.

And, in 1969, Lew Moore, with Arvin Industries, an engineer, was president. Now, Mr. Moore really knew what he was talking about. When he told you something was wrong, usually was wrong. When he told you something was right it was done right. But one time he bought some tires from us and he came in and said, ‘Something’s wrong with these tires.’ So, we changed, put new tires on, he came back, still the tires. Well, when he got home and got to looking around, when his car was undercoated they had put the undercoating on some of the stuff that didn’t let it ride right. So, he came back and told us. So, there’s not many people that would do that.

In 1970 and in 1995, Bert Walker with the Brimstone Land Co., the official song leader of the club, Lt. Governor in 1979, Boy Scout leader and a diligent worker for the club . . . Bert, would you stand, please?

In 1971, Tom DeWeese, a businessman, a good worker as he knew how to do so many things that need to be done –and we were always breaking something –but Tom could always figure out a way to fix it. Violet (Dewese). would you and Arnie (Dewese) would you stand, please?

Leo Billingsley (1972), a brother of Ernest, a good worker, and we enjoyed having him very much . . . and we thought Sylvia and Don (Billingsley) might be here tonight but they’re not here and we’re sorry.

In 1973, and Ben Draughn’s not here and he was coming, was president of Kiwanis. He worked with the first Trust & Savings Bank for several years. And he was a good cook, and we all enjoyed a lot of his meals.

In 1974 and 1984, Roy Denver Sexton, a retired military fellow, a lawyer. He had pushed “Farmer of the Year” in 1984 and they had an attendance of 225. Now that’s hard to think of in Scott County, but they did. And, in 1974 in his period of service, the Senior Citizens were chartered up here at the Scott County Senior Citizens where that new building is now.
In 1975, W. O. West, Jr., a teacher, a chemist, Lt. Governor from 2002, 2003 and 2004, so
now he’s been on the road a whole lot. He was secretary often and we could not have not had this
meeting tonight if he hadn’t helped us. W. O. would you and Shirley stand, please? Now, when
this young man was a freshman in high school, I kept the roll for that class. So, he’s got a whole
lot to remember.

In 1976, Chester Sexton, a barber. Now, he made house calls. If you had somebody sick at your
house, he come cut their hair, shave them. And, if a woman needed a permanent, I guess he gave it
to them, because he was qualified. He was too early for a male beauty operator in Scott
County, so he stuck to barbering. But he donated time on his day off on Wednesday to go to the
Scott County Hospital to cut hair and shave people. When the Oneida Nursing Home opened, he
did the same thing there. When Huntsville Manor opened, he’s done the same thing there. And,
if I’m not mistaken, it’s been just about a year since Chester’s decided he’s gone just all he can
go. Isn’t that right, Chester? Chester, would you stand, please? Now I call that a volunteer.

In 1977, George Taylor, with Tibbals Flooring Co., was president of the club.

McGraw stated) BF Goodrich. Alright, Paul came with BF Goodrich. Then he was with Tibbals
Flooring Co. He’s been with first National Bank. And he’s also been a Lt. Governor. Now did
I get that right? Would you all stand, please?

Someday we’re going to have this in a form that we’ll know what a history lesson is.

In 1979, Lawton Jeffers, with Southern Railroad and Terry Motor Co., was president of the
club. He also served several years as secretary and he did a first-class job. Jo (Newport) and
Ronnie (Jeffers) (2 of his children) are both here. Would you all stand, please? Now, they’re like
children to me, still. As we saw their mother through World War II and they were little – Butch
(Eddie Jeffers) was even smaller – but we had a good time.

Oneida Kiwanis Club Presidents 1980 - 1994

Chuck Ellis
1980

Chuck Boonstra
1981

Harold August
1982

Dan Billinsley
1983
Oneida Kiwanis Club Presidents 1980 - 1994

Amon Voiles 1985
Douglas Voss 1986
Forrest Terry 1987
Dwain Huffines 1988
Mike Douglas 1989
Curtis Marcum 1990
Charles May 1991
No photo Available
Victor Nelson 1992
Tom Wade 1993
James Yancey 1994

In 1980, Charles, or Chuck, Ellis, with the Farm Bureau, was president of the club. He told me last week that he was sorry, but he had to be in North Carolina this week. But we want to remember one thing: He was a topnotch Kiwanian. He worked for the programs and he worked to work.

In 1981, Chuck Boonstra, of the Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, was the president.

In 1982, Harold August, the physical therapist at the Scott County Hospital, was president. Now, I don’t know whether you know it or not, but he did an awful lot of good for an awful lot of people with what equipment they had. And he was a scoutmaster, too, wasn’t he? Ralph, write that down.
In 1983, Danny Billingsley, of Billingsley’s Mill . . . Would you stand, Danny, please? Pat, you can stand with him, too. Now he’s the son or Ernest and Celia (Billingsley). But in his year, that’s when AYSO Soccer began in Scott County. And as to my knowledge, Ronnie (Jeffers) was one of the first qualified referees, and Mike (Swain) is now, so we’ve got it going good with this group.

In ‘84 it was Roy Sexton. In ‘85, Amon Voiles, a funeral director, was president of the club.

In ‘86 Doug Goss with Food City was president of the club.

Skeet? (Forrest Terry, 1987) where are you? I’ve got down self-employed because I couldn’t remember just where you were working when you went into Kiwanis. Were you at Ben Franklin or the drug store, or where? (Terry: “No, we owned the business Chinquapin then.”) Well, you all had Chinquapin. So, I had it right, then. Would you stand up with Pat (Terry), please?

In 1988, Dwain Huffines, came to Oneida to be with his father during his sickness, and he was president of the club. That’s H. H. Huffines’ son. And that’s all I can tell you about him.

In 1989, Mike Douglas, a social worker with the Tennessee Department of whatever, was president of the club. Well, it changes names all along.

1990, Curtis Marcum, a retired military man, Scott County’s Veterans Officer, and has maintained the fair stand for so many years that I don’t know what you would do if you said he couldn’t be there next year. But he’s certainly done a good job.

In 1991, Charlie May. Stand, please, Charlies, you and May. They owned and managed Galloway Motel and have volunteered with the Food Bank ever since it started. Now, that’s another volunteer. So, you all just remember that.

1992 was Victor Nelson’s year, but I don’t know . . . I might have known him, but I can’t remember him . . . I didn’t find any records of that year.

In 1993, it was Tom Wade, and I don’t have anything on that. (Someone in the audience: “He was pastor of the Presbyterian Church) Tom was pastor, okay. Ralph, put Wade at Presbyterian Church.

In 1994, James Yancey, with Webb Hardware and Terry Motor Co., was president of the club. And he did the secretary work for a while. And he was certainly good at selling fruit cakes.

Now, Bert (Walker) was in ‘95, so we’ve already done that.

In 1996, Mike Douglas, retired military, now airport manager, was president of the club. And at that time, he was running . . . I don’t know whether you’d call it an art gallery, or what, but it was up here in the old Webb (Hardware) building. (Someone in audience: “Chinquapin.”) Did he buy Chinquapin from Skeet (Forrest Terry)? Okay. So now then, see, you all are keeping us straight.
In 1997, Tom Rozman, the Wal-Mart manager, was president of the club. And we thought they were going to be able to be here tonight, but they’re not.

In 1998, Todd Swain. Now Todd’s got a record that most of us don’t have. His great-grandfather was a charter member of this club. His grandfather was president of this club. And, Mike (Swain, Todd’s father) we missed you. Todd would you stand, please?

But he’s got the best history of any of us.
In 1999, Dr. Neil Aldridge, a chiropractor, was president. But he didn’t serve all year because he couldn’t hear what was going on. So, Keith Hines, the president-elect for the next year, finished that year. But I don’t know where he is or what he’s doing, and I can’t remember whether he came here with the air bags or with Tibbals. (Someone in the audience: “ABC” (American Bag Corp.)) ABC? Okay, (turning to Ralph) That’s air bags. ABC.

In 2001 Ray Linville came here with Fruehauf (truck trailer manufacturing plant) and now he’s up at Wal-Mart ‘cause he said he just couldn’t leave here.

(She overlooked or failed to mention 2002 Kiwanis president Robert Rettig)

In 2003, Chuck Valentine, and I don’t know what he did.

In 2004, David Wilkerson, was president, and he was with the Scott County Hospital, isn’t that right?

In 2005, Phillip Jones, with American Express Financial Advisor (now Ameriprise) and they’ve changed their name . . . he has served his term. And, I guess that the big thing we had in his year was when we had a happy come home for Howard Henry (Baker) when Nancy (Baker’s wife) was gone to take care of her stuff in Canada . . . in Kansas, and didn’t get to be here with us.

First, I want to say Paul Roy had to quit Kiwanis because they started putting the papers out for Thursday delivery instead of Friday and he couldn’t work both places. And he has helped me an awful lot. In fact, I couldn’t do a lot of things if it wasn’t for Paul. He keeps me straight and furnishes things for me through the Historical Society or through the Kiwanis or whatever. And you all just remember, that he served as secretary. Now, anybody that’s been secretary of any organization knows that’s a job. (Roy: “Especially under Paul McGraw!”)

Now, I think if you all will look at these lists on the back you’ll see that we’ve covered each name. This might not be a good thing, but it’s a history lesson. Now, I never taught history. I always liked it, but I never taught it. But if you all want to work on history for the Kiwanis Club, you’re welcome. And the files need a lot of work on them, because the files are upside down. But we’d glad to have you and we’ll get more on it, because we would really like to have a history of this club before it’s a hundred years old. Thank you very much for your attention. First, I want to thank Bromma, Paul Roy, Ralph, Jumby and . . . somebody else helped me get this stuff up, Tom, and then I’ve got a good coach over here, see he’s helping me, too. But that’s what it takes . . . Now, we want to give a good hand to Mrs. (Opal) Anderson for a good meal that’s a copy of something in 1925.

AFTERWORD RALPH HOFFMAN – She always said that I never let her talk. I think she caught up. But I’ve got to have a little say. (He then told a lawyer joke to dismiss the audience).
Kiwanis Pancake Day

At least once each year, and sometimes more often if the need arises, the Oneida Kiwanis Club holds “Pancake Day.” Invariably, the Pancake Day proceeds are earmarked for a specific purpose, and normally (depending only on the weather), it’s a big success, as it seems everyone loves a pancake breakfast with sausage and either milk or coffee. The first Pancake Day sponsored by the Oneida Kiwanis Club was held on the Ben Franklin (now Oneida Public Library) parking lot in downtown Oneida, as had been suggested by club member George Terry. The cooking was done in the Kiwanis trailer which was parked out front and customers ate their meals inside the as yet unfinished Ben Franklin store building. The most successful Pancake Day the club ever had was at the Fairgrounds, where they raised money for the little Cotton girl’s liver transplant operation. The club always had good results with its fund-raiser when they parked the trailer on Main Street in Oneida and patrons got their meal and took it inside the C.C. Newport Community Room of First Trust & Savings Bank to eat. The Oneida Kiwanis Club’s Annual Pancake Day is still held at the Kiwanis booth at the Scott County Fairgrounds on the Saturday before Memorial Day.