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EARL WIGHT ADMINISTRATION, 1948-1949

Earl Wight, first president of North Fresno Rotary Club, was born February 25, 1891, in Ohio and completed his elementary and high school education at Bowling Green. He moved to California in 1910 to attend Pomona College, receiving a B. L. degree in 1914. After teaching in Glendale High School he returned to the University of California at Berkeley where he served as a teacher in physical education and pursued his graduate study, receiving his Masters degree in 1921. He was married to Emily Wood on November 6, 1915, and they have one son, John Galen Wight. Earl came to Fresno State College in 1924, served as head of the physical education department until 1947 when he became administrative assistant to the president. He was a member of the Masonic Order, Sigma Chi, UC honor societies of Golden Bear and Winged Helmet, and a member of the FSC chapter of Blue Key. During his membership in the original Fresno Rotary Club he served on the Board of Directors. Earl was an active golfer, traveler, woodworker and served in many community activities. He died July 29, 1973, after a short illness.

North Fresno Rotary operated as a provisional club between August 5 and November 18 when it was formally presented its charter. The first meeting of the Board of Directors was held on August 3, completing its compliment of officers with the election of Earl Gearhart, vice-president; Ward Glazebrook, treasurer; and Dr. Everett Keyes, sergeant-at-arms. Lawrence Hamilton had previously been selected as secretary. Initiation fee for new members entering after the charter group was set at \$25, with the annual dues \$24, payable in quarterly installments of \$6. Luncheons were \$1.29.

Jack Warren was named chairman of Club Service; Earl Gearhart, chairman Vocational Service; Robert Forkner, Community Service; with Karl Lewis heading the International Service committee.

The first community service project of the new club was the construction and installation of 50 "Protect our Children" signs to be posted in major traffic areas of the Fig Garden residential district. (County authorities later declared them 'illegal' and they had to be removed.) This was the first opportunity for club members to work side by side in a community project and greatly promoted better acquaintance with one another, and actual installation was begun later in 1949.

A budget of \$2,244 for the year ending June, 1949, was approved by the Board of Directors. During the year there were 3 resignations and 15 new members added. Bill Bradley is the only remaining member of this first group of new members. Borders Restaurant at 1447 N. Van Ness was selected as the first regular meeting place and price of the luncheon was soon raised to \$1.40. Total admission cost for new members was set at \$45 to include the cost of the club roster, Rotary pin, and dues for the first quarter. Fines were seldom more than \$1 and often not more than fifty cents.

President-elect Everett Keyes attended the District Conference in Santa Barbara in April, and Earl Wight attended the International Convention held in New York.