

XXXII.

BESLEY A. LEWIS, SR. ADMINISTRATION, 1979-80

The first son of a former president to succeed to that office, Besley A. Lewis, Sr. was the thirty-second president of North Fresno Rotary. His father, Karl "Pop" Lewis, was the tenth president, serving in 1957-58. "Bes" was born in Dinuba, California, November 18, 1915, but moved to Fresno at an early age and attended Fresno High School and Fresno State University, graduating in 1940. He entered the teaching profession briefly but has been in the insurance business from 1941 to the present, except for an interlude of the Great War. He served in the Army in 1942, switched to the Navy in 1943, and was honorably discharged as Lieutenant, Senior Grade. "Bes" married June Bolliger on August 10, 1940, and they have four sons - Besley Jr., Erik, Terry, and Dana. At FSU he was Captain of the track team 1939-40, and president of the Varsity "F" Society. He is a member of the Shrine, Elks, and served on the Board of Directors of the Lake Sequoia Conference of YMCA, The Fresno City YMCA, and FSU Alumni Association. He is a charter member and past president of the Y's Men 's Club, and a charter member and a two term past president of the quarterback Club, and is an Elder in the Disciples of Christ Church. For eight years he served North Fresno Rotary as an outstanding chairman of the International Foreign Student's Committee.

The term of Bes Lewis as president will always be remembered as the year the club built the three Pace Courses at Roeding Park, one for wheelchairs, one for athletes, and the other for the elderly. Controversial to some extent because the cost exceeded available funds, it was, nevertheless, a monumental accomplishment, the largest scale project ever attempted by North Fresno Rotary alone. A function of the Community Service Committee headed by Jack Curry, it was great not only because of its service to the community, but because it greatly augmented our Rotary objective in the first avenue of service, "The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service." Not since the "Protect Our Children" sign program more than thirty years ago have so many of our members given of themselves, their money, time, and professional knowledge, to complete this great project. The cost in money? Out of pocket \$48,048, a mere \$20,000 more than we had. With materials and services donated it had a project value of \$81,000, not including the blood, sweat and tears of countless hours of North Fresno Rotarians working weekends at the end of a shovel, saw or hammer at Roeding Park. True, there were some groans about the cost, but in the end most members felt that it was worth it, every penny and every blister.

Officers for the year, in addition to "Bes" and Vice-president Mike Flo, were Bob Taylor (Secretary), Dennis Hagobian (Treasurer), and Gib Rambo (Sergeant-at-Arms). Others serving on the Board of Directors were Keith Baxter (Club Service), Jack Curry (Community Service), Charles Wadhams (International Service), and Gil Johnson (Vocational Service), with Lou Herwaldt, Lou Genise, Clyde McCully, and Elton King as respective Co-chairmen.

For the second time in the history of North Fresno Rotary, the club had a District Governor in office, with Don Foppiano serving in that capacity. He was assisted in District 522 committees with Past District Governor Alan Christensen as chairman of the Rotary Foundation Committee, Gordon G. Knott as chairman of Rotary Youth Exchange, and Hamilton Knott as Extension Chairman.