



Elmer E. Hartwig

Kiwanis Club of Royal Oak



ROYAL OAK, MICHIGAN

Francis X. O'Brien, President
James C. Johnson, First Vice President
Paul R. Gilleran, Secretary
Daniel Sawicki, Treasurer
September 26, 1974

In 1927 Elmer E. Hartwig was in the group that organized our Royal Oak Kiwanis Club. He was on the membership committee and the club grew very rapidly into a community leader.

Early in 1930 the "Great Depression" reduced the roster to 14 men. But each one was either an officer or committee chairman who determined to keep Kiwanis alive in Royal Oak.

Business improved in 1932 and we expanded by organizing a club in Ferndale. Elmer's job was to help them enlist new members.

In 1933 he served as second vice president in charge of all of our committees. In 1934 he became first vice president and was responsible for our weekly meeting programs. During that year we took in 40 new members.

In 1935 he was promoted to president. We had to limit our membership to 60 men for lack of more dining and meeting facilities. With some of his close friends in Rochester, he organized a club there which was completed in early 1936. We rented a swimming pool and taught about 50 children how to swim. We created a book which we called the "Goodwill Ambassador" and started it crossing and re-crossing the Canadian Border, thus promoting international inter-club meetings. We raised most of our welfare money by sponsoring a football game between Birmingham and Royal Oak High Schools. At the end of the year, we were awarded the District Achievement Banner.

In 1951 he chaired the committee which organized the Berkley club. And later, as our historian, wrote the Royal Oak Kiwanis data that was printed in the Michigan District history book.

In 1957 he served Division 5 as its Lt. Governor and several local clubs won District awards under his leadership.

In 1967 our club gave him our "Distinguished Service Award" for his work on committees in Royal Oak and the District.

On August 16, 1973, we held an "Elmer Hartwig Day" and with a large group of oldtimers present, presented him with an honorary membership in appreciation for all of his past services.

During his last 42 years as an active member, he maintained perfect attendance.

Today, as part of our program for installing new officers, we named him as our "Distinguished Kiwanian".