

## Other Adventures

January, 1971 –

### My life in Music

#### Experiences with the Lafayette Symphony Orchestra

The Lafayette Symphony Orchestra (LSO) came into existence in 1951. However, I don't intend to write its history. I will just recall my involvement with it. More details will be found in a paper by Eduardo Ostergren - *Remembrances of Things Past* and a history of the LSO prepared by Judith Titche for its 40th anniversary.

I never exhibited much musical ability. I don't "carry a tune" well unless I am next to a strong singer. My mother had a good singing voice, but her talent skipped over me. Ted and Jim both had considerable talent on instruments. Both played the piano quite well; Jim also played the oboe while Ted played the coronet. Dick played the accordion for a while when he was about seven or eight. But he didn't like it and eventually we relented and let him stop.

When I was 17, and had a broken hip, I discovered Country & Western music. We just called it "hill billy" music in those days. I listened regularly to the WLS National Barn Dance from Chicago. I also liked the "big band" sounds that came over the radio at night. My fondness for both kinds of music persists, but I came to enjoy more listening to classical music. I never warmed up to opera. My young adult (post high school) years were filled with "Mairzy Dotes", "Down in the Meadow in a Iddy Bidy Pool", "The Music goes Round and Round", etc. The post forties music, except for C&W, didn't penetrate my consciousness.

An unfulfilled desire was to play the guitar. Jim bought me one in 1994, but I never got around to trying to learn to play.

There were no classical music experiences in my childhood. My mother could play the piano, but we didn't have one; she played only at church. It could be that my first exposure to classical music was enroute to Europe during January of 1944 as I have related in the Chapter *Twenty-One Plus*. a string ensemble played dinner music in the Officers mess. For several years after the war, I listened to classical music on WILL (University of Illinois station in Champaign, IL) and WBAA (Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN)

In the Fall of 1970, Lou and I finally got around to attending concerts of the Lafayette Symphony Orchestra. This was largely a volunteer

group. They had a minuscule budget which, however, allowed for "importing" a minimum number of professionals to enhance the sound, especially from the strings.

I was certainly not a judge of symphony orchestras, but I enjoyed these concerts. They were given in the auditorium of Lafayette's Jefferson High School (Jeff). The facility was quite good and that helped the sound of the orchestra. The one dismaying thing about the concerts was the small number of people who attended. I suppose that was natural because of the amateur status of the players. Those who came included a few genuine music supporters and friends of the players. Except for an audience of about 600 at the Young Peoples Concert (featuring community youths) held in February, 150 to 200 listeners was the maximum at the typical concert. The Lollipop "Concert" for kids sometimes drew 1500 adults and kids and the Beer Garden drew several hundred.

After one such concert at Jeff I remarked to an engineering colleague, who was in the audience, that it was a shame that not more townspeople came to the LSO concerts. It turned out that he, Alan McDonald, was the chairman of the nominating committee for the LSO Board of Directors. I suppose so few people expressed such sentiments that Alan leaped on my interest and I, shortly thereafter, was asked if I would be willing to serve on the Board of the Lafayette Symphony, Inc. The minutes of the Board for Sunday, January 17, 1971 include: "A. McDonald, chairman of the nominating committee, reported that William Fuller had accepted a Board position...." The minutes of February 14, 1971 indicate that a slate of citizens, with my name among them, had been elected to the Board. The letter from Bob Truitt informing me of this fact was dated March 24, 1971, and announced that the next Board meeting would be in Room 84-A of the Purdue Memorial Union at 8:30 AM on April 18

As a kid growing up back in Ravenswood, I'm not sure that I even knew there were symphony orchestras – now I was on the governing body of such a group. I really knew nothing about music, beyond what I had learned in the first grade - how the words are arranged with the music in song books. It turned out that there was at least one very elementary thing to learn about the LSO! The minutes of the Board for April 18, 1971, my first meeting, listed W. Fuller as Absent. This meant that I hadn't been there and hadn't called to ask to be excused. Actually I went to the meeting that

Sunday evening at 8:30 PM. No one else was there. The problem was that the Board met at 8:30 AM. I hadn't read the notice of the meeting carefully enough and had not dreamed they met on Sunday morning. That they did, and continued to meet at that time until the late 1980s. Breakfast in Room 84A of the Purdue Memorial Union on the third Sunday of the month was a regular part of my life during those years.

Aside from attending meetings the minutes don't show, and I don't remember, taking an active part during that first year on the Board. In 1972 I was chairman of the Box Office Committee. The Minutes of March 19, 1972 state that I presented a plan for free tickets to symphony performances. That policy statement is lost, but the idea was to increase interest in the Symphony by strategic distribution of free tickets. The minutes of the April 16, 1972 meeting relate that the policy "was accepted and will be implemented next year."

The minutes of that meeting also include mention of a new Board member who had been a long time orchestra member and who was to be very important in the future of the Corporation – Paul Van Cleef. Paul came onto the Board, in an ex-officio capacity, as Business Manager of the Orchestra. He was recommended for this position by the Players Advisory Committee to replace Marshall Howenstein, who was retiring.

A retired Air Force Colonel, Paul became "Mr. Everything" for the organization. He worked with Maestro Renato Pacini (Mr. Pacini was concert master of the Indianapolis Symphony who commuted to Lafayette every Monday evening for rehearsals and to conduct concerts) to arrange the schedule of concerts. Paul "set up" for rehearsals and concerts, including the monumental work of the Beer Garden; made scheduling arrangements with the schools (the orchestra rehearsed and gave performance in school facilities) and a host of other things. We worked very closely together during the period when I was most involved as president of the Board, but Paul did most of the physical work.

At the April 15, 1973, meeting of the Board I was nominated to be President and began this obligation in May. My fellow officers were: George Hughes, VP; Allan Keller, Treasurer; Roberta Deagan, Secretary. The budget for the organization was about \$14,000 per year.

On September 14, 1973, Allan Keller died suddenly. When the Board met two days later, I was asked to prepare an obituary and memo-

rial resolution. Because of Allan's contributions to the orchestra there was great interest in creating some ongoing memorial to him. A Memorial Fund was established and the April, 1973, Concert was dedicated to his memory. However, something more was needed. After a series of evening meetings at our home on Carrolton Boulevard, an ad hoc committee proposed that the Young People's Concert be changed to The Allan Keller Memorial Award Concert – A concert for Young People. A fund capital of \$14,000 was to be sought so that a scholarship of at least \$600 could be presented to a young performer starting in February of 1975. This report was adopted at the March, 1974 meeting of the Board. At the Spring Concert on April 30, 1974, I read, to the audience, a Memorial Resolution and announced the establishment of the "Allan Keller Memorial Award Concert – A Concert for Young People" which was to be given in February each year.

With Allan Keller's death, Paul Van Cleef took on another major responsibility, that of being Treasurer for the Corporation.

One of our major goals was to build the audience. Roberta Deagan was a major factor in these operations. She became Chair of the Publicity Committee in 1975 and came up with wonderful ideas: billboards, getting announcements of our programs included in the bills mailed by Culligan, getting local industries to feature the symphony in their in-house news letters, the idea of giving industries free tickets to distribute to employees and the great lapel pin – "Its Your Symphony" – that we all purchased. Roberta organized, on September 3, 1975, a Media lunch at the Lafayette Country Club. In addition to members of the media, Mayors Dienhart (West Lafayette) and Riehle (Lafayette) were in attendance.

In 1975 the Board of Directors of the Lafayette Symphony Orchestra, Inc., prepared to celebrate the first quarter century of existence of the Orchestra. As they did, I asked them to think of what should the second twenty-five years bring. From these discussions, I began, with the Board, to formulate what was called THE DREAM.

It was clear that any dream of expansion would have to be accompanied with increased fund-raising. The Lafayette Symphony Guild had been created to aid in the support of the symphony and to promote music in the community. from a variety of activities, the Guild typically raised \$400 or \$500 per year toward the symphony's financial needs. One of the pleasures of the president of the LSO was to address the Guild at their

Spring meeting. In 1976 that meeting was held in the newly opened YWCA building on 6th Street. At that meeting I challenged them to raise \$2,000 toward the symphony's support for the next years. After a few gasps of disbelief, they did it! The Guild has gone on to be a major support source for the LSO.

One Symphony Guild fund-raising project was a collage of sketches, by local artist Millie Breen, of various orchestra sections with "Patch" in conducting mode and his back to the audience. That was the quintessential "Patch;" known to most of the community only from the back!

Another such project which continued for many years was "Blossom Sales." Tickets were sold which could be redeemed at Bennett's Nursery for gardening items and plants. Bennett' allowed the guild to retain 20% of the proceeds.

Perhaps the major element of the DREAM was that of acquiring a resident conductor for the orchestra. Maestro Renato Pacini, who had been conductor of the orchestra for 20 years (1958-1978), was a good musician, fascinating in terms of his past contacts and the stories he could tell about them, and was an easy going conductor, but he lived in Indianapolis and drove to Lafayette on Monday nights for rehearsals and on Sunday afternoons for concerts. He was not a presence so far as Lafayette society was concerned.

Some Board members and some players regularly met at Bruno's after rehearsals for beer and pizza and to be regaled by Patch's stories of music personalities. Though outside the pale as a musician, I regularly attended rehearsals and went with the crowd for Pizza.

The DREAM stated:

"For the musical development and professionalization of the orchestra as well as to improve its impact on the community, it is important that one of the goals of the orchestra be the acquisition of a resident Conductor and Music Director. The presence of such an individual would contribute to the growth of the orchestra in many ways. Through the development of personal relationships with community leaders, additional support, both emotional and financial would be forthcoming to the orchestra. Such an individual would give a focal point for the direction of effort to those who not only wish to support the orchestra, but who want to make a philosophical impact on its development. The conductor and music director residing in the community would be a source of leadership and inspiration to the

multitudes whose efforts will be necessary to bring all the goals of the development of the orchestra to fruition."

Because the LSO's financial base would not support a full time resident Conductor and Music Director, I approached Dean Robert L. Ringel of Purdue's School of Science, Education and Humanities (SEH) with an idea. The idea was that SEH would jointly hire our successful candidate to offer courses in Music Appreciation and Music Theory. Dean Ringel and Music Department chair Ronald R. Kidd agreed that their teaching mission needed a part-time person to meet additional teaching requirements. Thus a "town and gown" collaboration worked to the best interests of both groups. Dean Ringel appointed Professor Kidd to be the schools representative on the search committee. Naturally, we had to work with Dean Ringel and Professor Kidd to assure that Purdue's equal opportunity guidelines, which we also subscribed to, were met.

With this help, it was determined that we should seek a full-time conductor who lived in Lafayette. Advertisements were placed in various trade journals. These and notices to music schools produced nearly 40 application from outstanding candidates. Twelve candidates were invited to come to Lafayette for interviews; six were selected to be guest conductors for the 1977-78 season. Questionnaires determined the reaction of players and audience to the candidates. All excellent, one stood out among the others - Eduardo Ostergren. Eduardo became the Lafayette Symphony's resident conductor. A separate history is necessary to chronicle the ways in which Dr. Ostergren fulfilled and exceeded the expectations of the DREAM. (A separate document contains Dr. Ostergren's recollections of this period as told to me via audio tape in 1998.)

Ostergren was a very enterprising person. He was not content to merely apply for the job and wait for our response. One afternoon I received a call from him. He was in town, (ostensibly) returning from Chicago, and could he come to our office to meet briefly with some of the management and Board of Directors? I suggested Bruno's and asked several players and Board members to join us. All of those who came to that meeting were immediately captivated by Eduardo's charisma and intellectual breadth. Many wanted to call off the search at once and appoint him to the job. For the reasons outlined above, I could not approve that.

Whether the trip to Chicago really occurred or not is irrelevant. The fact is that Eduardo

called himself to our attention in a most enterprising way. Eduardo later revealed that we didn't understand why I didn't invite him to meet with us in our office. As he put it, he "discovered that we had no office, no staff and very little money."

This collaboration between the LSO and SEH continued for some five years during which the LSO's resources grew to the point where the full salary could be borne by the LSO.

The lack of presence epitomized by a commuting conductor was only one of the problems we faced in 1975. The orchestra rehearsed in a variety of places – Lafayette's Sunnyside Junior High School and West Lafayette's Kingston Junior High School and High School. Concerts were usually given in Lafayette's Jefferson High School. The latter was an excellent facility but our use of it was marred by the fact that we could not set our schedule until the school's use needs had been determined and scheduled. This problem was addressed by the DREAM as follows.

"No statement of the goals of the orchestra could be complete without recognizing one of the greatest problems currently faced by the orchestra and also one of the most difficult to overcome. That goal is the funding and construction of a Center for the Performing Arts. A definite goal of providing a building for this purpose should be set to be completed within ten years. Both the possibility of constructing a new structure designed especially for the purpose and the conversion, possibly as a contribution of the owner, of one of several large building currently vacant or being vacated in downtown Lafayette should be considered. It is quite possible that support could be secured from the civil government of Lafayette as part of its program to maintain the downtown area. This phase of the program must be coordinated with other performing groups in the area."

With the backing of the Board, Paul Van Cleef and I began a discussion with the local management of Lafayette Theater and the Mars Theater for long term or occasional rental of these facilities. The Lafayette had no stage, so several rows of seats would have had to be removed to provide one. The Mars had a stage, built originally for use by vaudeville acts.

Did our interest promote what followed? I don't know that anyone has followed up on this with the principals in subsequent actions. Shortly after these inquiries by Paul and me, Mr. Irving Long, a resident of Louisville, Kentucky, who

owned both Lafayette Theater and the Mars Theater contributed the latter to the city of Lafayette. After some internal machinations about the wisdom of the city taking on this responsibility, Mayor James F. Riehle found ways to accept and maintain it. I shudder to think that the site might have become a parking lot – one of the proposals made at that time. The Mars was renamed "The Long Center For The Performing Arts." Those who see what it has become in the beginning of the 21st Century, must appreciate the wisdom and daring of Jim Riehle's actions.

Both Mayor Jim Riehle and Dean Bob Ringel provided crucial steps in the development of the LSO! A history of the Long Center would include many other personal contributions to what has become a jewel in the crown of the City of Lafayette.

Until its twenty-fifth year the LSO's Season typically consisted of three or four concerts. Another part of the DREAM was to build upon the existence of a resident conductor to increase this.

"In order to increase the community's awareness of the orchestra, more orchestral events should be scheduled. These need not be full orchestra events. Some of them could be chamber-type groups such as now perform in the orchestra's chamber music program offered in the Spring. These events should be included in the announcement of the Symphony's Season and be included in season ticket pricing policy. In total, it is desirable for the orchestra, or subsets of it, to offer the annual Biergarten and a Season of at least five or six concerts."

In 1980, in a report to the LSO Board of Directors, I wrote:

"Under the leadership of Dr. Ostergren the Concert Season has been extended to approximately one concert a month. This is a remarkable achievement for a community orchestra. An interspersed chamber music series attempted for two years proved to be too demanding but ensemble playing as at the Lafayette Symphony Guild's Soiree has increased. It is, indeed, no longer possible for the community to forget the existence of the Orchestra between concerts."

Another aspect of the DREAM had to do with adding to the "spice of life" for both the Orchestra and the audience. As the DREAM put it:

"A steady stream of visiting performers should appear on the stage of the Lafayette Symphony Orchestra. Initially, these should be young professionals and outstanding ad-

vanced students in music schools. Guest conductors should also appear regularly with the orchestra.”

Some of this was put into operation immediately. In 1975-76 Maestro Pacini’s friend and Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra pianist Dorothy Munger performed Rhapsody in Blue and, following a suggestion of Roberta Deagan, NBC’s Lew Wood was engaged to give the narration for Copeland’s Lincoln Portrait. The next year, under a commission from the Lafayette Symphony Guild, Grant Fletcher wrote and conducted “Celebration of Times Past” and David Greenhoe from Ball State University performed on the trumpet.

1977-78 saw the beginning of the new period with conductor candidates Charles Heiden, Donald Lawhead, Eduardo Ostergren, and Charles Bontrager leading the orchestra. Maestro Pacini having resigned, Thomas Dick was appointed interim conductor for the other two concerts that year and did preparation rehearsals.

Ostergren was the immediate favorite by all who met him – even before he conducted the orchestra. Most of the Board and the orchestra members wanted to call of the search and hire him. I felt that rules of “Equal Opportunity Employer” required us to allow all the candidates to have their chance. Since we were also partnering with Purdue’s school of Humanities, we had to be aware of their position. Throughout the year Ostergren, aware of the support he had in the community, importuned me about the position. Later he facetiously described me a “hard hearted”, but he knew I was only following the rules. We have remained good friends through all the following years.

1978-79 opened the Ostergren era. Guest performers were Carol Byer, Soprano and Laurence Shapiro, Violin. The Shapiro concert was the first time the LSO played in the Long Center for the Performing Arts. Maestro Ostergren describes the circumstances attending this concert in his *Remembrances*.

A final phase of the Dream came to fruition only much later:

“Provide a minimum wage to all members of the orchestra for rehearsal and performance time. Even at the rate of the federal minimum wage standard, this will be difficult to achieve in one year. Phases could include payment for actual performances next year. Performance pay plus a flat rate for participating in a fixed percentage of rehearsals the second year and full pay at some minimum level for rehearsals

and performance three years from now.

“Provide the orchestra with salaried first chairs in, say, first and second violins, violas and cellos. The salaried individuals would have two prime responsibilities. One of these would be the artistic development of their sections. The other would be to form the Lafayette String Quartet. Details to be worked out would include the salary required for these positions. For example, it could be expected that such individuals would support them themselves through their symphony salaries, through fees charged for performances as the Lafayette String Quartet, through contracts to perform in public and parochial schools, and through the offering of lessons to community music students. Many brilliant and talented students are being graduated from our nation’s music schools. Some talent is already available in our community. From a combination of these, it should be possible within four or five years to fund and staff this program. Depending on the availability of personnel, other chamber-type groups might be substituted for the strict string quartet concept.”

I served as president from 1973 through 1980. The Board argued that only I knew all that we were trying to do with the DREAM and it was my responsibility to stay as president. I also found it enjoyable and challenging. However, by 1980 I was deeply involved in a reorganization of Purdue University’s campus at Michigan City – Purdue University, North Central. This responsibility forced me to reduce my volunteer activity and I declined to serve longer as president. So I was not in a position to push for the fulfillment of these last elements of the DREAM. From time to time until 1998, I served on the Board of Directors, but my involvement and impact was not that of those earlier years.

The DREAM did not occupy all of my time in that period. In 1975 I proposed the creation of a “pin” to recognize player’s service time in the orchestra. The proposal was to have a jewelry manufacturer create a die to strike pins in the form of the symphony logo. These were to be of different metals depending on the years of service. C.B. Dyer of Indianapolis was contacted and agreed to make the pins and preserve the dies so that the required number of pins could be ordered year by year.

This project cost me \$35 for a mistake on my part. I drove up to Dyer’s and found the

whole block available for parking. Unfortunately, I didn't notice the signs that restricted parking at that time of day to provide for "rush hour" traffic. When I came out by car was gone! It had been towed to an impound lot. I had to pay a fine and a towing fee to get my car back.

Dr. Loraine Edwards handled the record keeping and ordering of the pins for most of the intervening years of the operation of this program.

Also, while I was president of the LSO, Inc., I represented the LSO in discussions with other arts groups which lead to formation of the Tippecanoe Arts Federation (TAF). The idea was to have a "United Way" approach to funding for the arts. TAF has proved to be great success.

I was also a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Lafayette Symphony Foundation. The creation of the Foundation was the idea of Mr. Tom McCaw.

Mere words cannot express the satisfaction I feel when I see a "full house" in the beautifully refurbished Long Center, see that the budget of the symphony exceeds \$300,000 per year, note the assets of the Foundation and the Chairs that have been underwritten by gifts to that organization, and the Tippecanoe Arts Federation occupying the old Wells Library and providing a umbrella for a multitude of arts groups. Did our 1975 DREAM start all this?

## **My life as a Rotarian**

### **The Lafayette Rotary Club**

After PNC (See *My Life on the Road*) and no longer associated with the LSO, I felt out of touch with the community. Therefore, when Professors Harold Michaels and D. Richard Smith approached me about joining the Lafayette Rotary Club, I was ready. I joined in 1984 – my date of initiation being April 3, 1984.

I served in various capacities, including Board membership, and was President in 1991-1992.

Under a policy instituted early in 1980s, the club paid for the travel of the President and President Elect to the Annual Convention. Under this aegis Tom Moran and I attended the Convention in Portland, Oregon. Much of Lou's later foot problems resulted from the extensive walking we did in connection with that meeting.

The Club provided Craig Irvine and me trips to the International Convention in Mexico City. Both were inspirational experiences. The plenary sessions in Mexico City were held in a grand new meeting hall built to resemble one of the pyramids which lie near the city. Mexico City, on the other

hand, leaves much to be desired from the standpoint of breathing. Also, persistent settling of the foundations of buildings gave a constant air of impending doom.

For me, the highlight of 1991-1992 was gaining approval from the Board to study the need for an extension club, that is, a new Rotary Club in Tippecanoe county.

The Rotary Club of Lafayette, Indiana, USA was formed in 1915 as RI's 222nd club. It was founded with 14 members and had grown to almost 300 members by 1992. Older members state that it was never the intent to grow to this size. They claimed that the intent was to sponsor a new club when the membership reached 100. Apparently, this did not occur. Several votes on the question of forming a new club during the years 1984 to 1990 failed to gain a majority. Several concerns were voiced as reasons for maintaining the status quo. Most prominent concerns were that there would polarization between the clubs based on age, on town/gown, on geography and, especially, that the Rotary Club of Lafayette would no longer be THE ROTARY CLUB OF LAFAYETTE.

In 1991, I proposed the idea of having a "breakfast division" of our club. Under this plan, we would not form a new club, but those who wished an alternate opportunity would meet at a time and place approved by the Board and that attendance at such meeting would fulfill RI's attendance requirements, This idea came to the attention of District Governor Frank Bove (Marion Club), who asked Kenneth Keene (District Governor 1993-94, Lebanon Club), Chair of the District Club Extension Committee to advise us. After consultation, he advised us that such a procedure would not be possible within the *intent* of the rules of RI.

Somewhat belligerently, I suggested, based on certain recent court rulings (e.g., that Clubs could not be ejected for admitting women), that I wasn't sure they could stop us. Ken asked, quite reasonably, if I really wanted to go that far? I didn't.

In June, 1992, following continuing discussions about club extension, the Board of Directors voted to authorize me as President, to appoint a committee to study the question. In the past, no committee had fully investigated the ramifications of second club in Lafayette. There had merely been discussion and votes at regular meetings of the club. The Board established several ground rules: If a new club were formed, it should meet at different time, preferably AM; it should

have the same dues; be involved in our Foundation, but without controlling interest; maintain a 50/50 ratio of town/gown; restrict transfers to the new club. Shrinkage of our club and age and town/gown polarization were of great concern.

With this authority, I appointed myself as chair of The Committee to Study Club Extension. Others on the committee were W.N. Hatfield, D.L. Heman, E.A. Holm, J.C. Irvine, D.A. Landgrebe, H.L. Michael and T.F. Moran. Following the lessons I had learned on the University Senate, my committee and I thoroughly researched every kind of concern that had been brought forward, by contacting other clubs that had sponsored such growth. This committee reported favorably on the need and prospects for a new club in September, 1992, during the tenure as club President of J. Craig Irvine. Subsequent actions, lead to the chartering of the Rotary Club of Lafayette, Daybreak, in June, 1993.

### **My life in international activities.**

#### **The Partners of the Americas**

As I related in *Our Foreign Travels*, our 1986 trip to Brazil in pursuit of Halley's Comet brought us into an inter-continental volunteer organization, **The Partners of the Americas**. This organization had been founded in 1964 as a people-to-people arm of JFK's Alliance for Progress. There sixty partnerships involving states or parts of states joined with corresponding entities is South Americas, Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean. Indiana was allied with Rio Grande do Sul, the southernmost state in Brazil.

Partners works across borders building understanding and promoting economic and civil development to improve the lives of people. Exchanges are made possible to allow for exchanges of ideas in project areas including agriculture and natural resources, civil society and governance. youth and children, etc.

I immediately became active in Partners and by 1988 was elected president of the Indiana Chapter. Among the numerous travel grants available through this organization was one which allowed the corresponding presidents to travel in alternate years to the Partner state. In 1988 I made such a trip to Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Using our financing, Lou accompanied me. See *Our Foreign Travels*.

An outstanding woman named Carmem Engert was my counterpart in Rio Grande do Sul. She was retired as office manager of a major development bank. Her father had been a federal

Senator; one brother and architect and builder and another a priest. She was in position to gain access to all sorts of functionaries. Lou and I and Carmem became good friends.

Carmem arranged an extensive itinerary of visits in many cities in Rio Grande do Sul including several mayors and other civil officials. Our goal was to discover what kinds of projects our exchanges might focus on. Our visits included universities in Santa Maria, Porto Alegre, Ijuí, Passo Fundo, Sinos River Valley and the Pontifical university in Porto Alegre. In all we met with about 100 persons on this fact finding trip. My detailed report of this trip was printed in the Indiana Partners newsletter for May/June, 1988. Copies of the newsletters from this period may be found in the Ball State University Library. This was a wonderful experience for me and gave me many friends with whom I am still in contact.

In May, 1989, in connection with the Silver Anniversary of the Partners of the Americas, we traveled to Brazil again. This time as part of group. Sallie Dell Lee arranged the itinerary which included a chartered bus tour of several cities in Rio Grande do Sul and the famous Iguacu Falls. The tour group consisted of: Austin Babrow, Paul and Helen Dell, Nancy Eberhart, Bill and Lou Fuller, Jim Fuller, Nancy Hughes, Kathleen Johnston, Tim Palmer, Gerald and Jean Ries, Norma Singley, and, of course, the tour organizer, Sallie Dell Lee.

The itinerary for this trip included:  
two days in Porto Alegre - a restored theater, art museum, Governor's Palace and other exposures to Brazilian culture.

two days in Gramado, Canela (German); Caxias do Sul (Italian) absorbing these cultures  
Passo Fundo a historic city and Soledade (Gem stone area)

Ijuí for two days including a visit to the Mission of São Miguel - similar to the California mission and a large agricultural cooperative.

one and a half days in the scenic mountain town of Santa Maria

the same time in far western Alegrete where we visited a huge abbatoire, a huge ranch (estância and again enjoyed Gaúcho cultural events.

We returned to Porto Alegre for a night of partying and presenting 25 year plaques to Carmem and Dante Campana before departing for a couple of days at Iguacu Falls.

We concluded our Brazilian stay with four days in São Paulo. There our group went different ways. Lou and I spent the time getting familiar

with that gigantic city as guest of Eduardo and Oride Ostergren (parents of our symphony conductor) before reassembling for our return flight to the U.S.

In November, 1990, the Governor of the State of Rio Grande do Sul awarded me the “Medalha do Gaúcho” which is something like Indiana’s “Sagmore of the Wabash.” The date on the Brazilian certificate is *Treze de novembro de mil novecentos e noventa* (13 November 1990). (See Page 259)

In November/December of 1991 the Partners Annual Convention was held in Salvador in the state of Bahia. The venue was the ocean front five-star Hotel Meridien. In addition to convention activities, we toured this city which was founded in the 16th century by the Portuguese and was once the capitol of what became Brazil. 95% of the inhabitants are of African descent.

In the January, 1992 issue of the Indiana Partners newsletter I recounted a number of these experiences including several gastronomic adventures. We will always remember the beautifully laid, under-the-stars dinner at Hotel Quatro Rodas because of the unbelievable deluge that interrupted the meal.

After the convention our Hoosier group flew to Belo Horizonte and were bussed to the mountain jewel Ouro Preto. Built on a series of hills, the lack of industry has allowed the white stucco of the buildings, especially the churches, to remain a pristine white. Ouro Preto was the home of the early Brazilian revolutionary called Tiradentes. The area is rich in history for mining and art. We visited nearby Congonhas and Marianas to absorb some of this and to visit a gold mine.

Another bus ride, two VARIG flights and we were in Porto Alegre for a couple of days. During this interlude we, along with other Americans in the area, had a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner at the residence of Roger and Harriet McGuire, the U.S. Consul in Porto Alegre.

Many of us continued by bus to Ijuívia Lajeado and Soledade. In the latter two cities stops for gem stones emptied our wallets and enriched the local economy. In Ijuí Lou and I stayed with João Antonio and Rosanne Stucky. She had been our guest in Lafayette when she visited the U.S. on a nursing project. Ijuí is largely an Italian community and our fare reflected that.

There is little planned development in the area. The Stucky’s elegant home is surrounded by very ordinary houses, some of which might almost be called “shacks.” Again the kind of security they must deal with was evident. I wanted

to take a picture of the house. One of the sons accompanied me; carefully relocking the door and an outside gate while I took the picture from the adjacent street. We then re-entered, repeating the unlocking and relocking process,

After Ijuíwe traveled to Algrete. Lou and I and another couple were hosted by Carmem’s brother Raul and his wife Renato. Again the full story is told in the February/March, 1992 newsletter to be found in the Ball State archive.

In 1992 I didn’t travel, but did call on Partners’ friends to help with a trip I planned, but couldn’t complete, for a group of Lafayette friends. Read more in this in *Our Foreign Travels*.

In November, 1993, the Annual Convention of the Partners was held in San José, Costa Rica. A group from Indiana, including: Jim Fuller, Ann Grove, Sallie Dell Lee, Norma Singley, Nancy Hughes and Lou and I went to this meeting. We toured a banana plantation, and some volcanic sites.

An unpleasant experience, with one amusing sideline occurred. Lou had the misfortune to contract influenza which forced us to miss the annual banquet. I went to the hotel desk to seek medical help. They had a doctor on call. He diagnosed Lou’s problem and invited me to go out to his car with him. There, he opened the car’s trunk to expose a huge plastic bag such as one might use to put out a week’s trash. The bag was filled with tablets, capsules, etc. He rummaged through this pile and chose some pill for her and prescribed the way the pills should be taken. Such are the experiences of becoming ill away from home. Apparently, the medicine worked, as she was OK the next day.

Another “cliff hanger” occurred on this trip, when American Airlines pilots went on strike. Most of us were flying on that carrier. We wondered how we would get home. The Partners travel agent’s (*Da Lara Travel Associates*) staff worked all night and rescheduled all of us on appropriate flights. There were still long lines to be dealt with at the airport.

In Dallas we put Lou in a wheel chair, as she was still weak from her illness. Our Sky Cap was able to take Lou and me around the long Customs line for quicker processing. Unfortunately, we didn’t think of keeping Jim and Ann with us. As a result they had a long wait and, running at top speed, were barely able to make our plane. We did make it home without further ado.

April, 1994, I made another Presidential visit to our companion chapter in Rio Grande do Sul.

In November of that year, eleven Gaúchos visited Indiana in a return trip to our 1989 visit there.

I had arranged with Partners' members around the state, including Lafayette, to provide hosting for the visitors. We had so often enjoyed Gaúcho hospitality that it was pleasure to reciprocate! Lou and I had rented a large van for the occasion and drove them to an area occupied by Amish people in northern Indiana. We spent two nights in a local b& B owned by friends of xxx, whom we knew through our church. They had lived there earlier as he practiced veterinary medicine in the area. Our Gaúcho did what they could to infuse money into the local economy.

We also took them for nights in a state park before turning them over to other Partners.



*Pictured left to right Lisete Dias, Ana Maria Leite, Megg Pedrosa, Lori Englert, Stela Matos, Carmem Englert, Regina Alcantra, Lori Keller, Bea Englert, and Jorge Englert.*

A noticeable feature in the above photo is the paucity of luggage. Efficient packers? Not at all; the only luggage which arrived with our visitors was what they carried on board. So, a first stop enroute to Lafayette was at a K-Mart for personal items that couldn't wait for the airline to find and get their luggage to them.

In November, 1994, following the Gaúcho's departure, Jim and I drove to Atlanta for the Annual Meeting of the Partners of the Americas. Enroute, we spent a night with Holy's family in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

While at the meeting I suffered a heart attack. Lou felt that she must come to Atlanta to be with me. In the end Ted came, too, and the four of us celebrated Thanksgiving there.

In November, 1997, I attended the Partners Convention in Buenos Aires, Argentina. At this meeting I was elected to a three year term on the International Board of the Partners of the Americas. I often wish I could remember what I said in my "campaign" speech. People who were there often congratulate me for it. Apparently, I didn't take myself too seriously by giving a light-hearted

speech.



*I'm seventh from the right, standing.*

*President Bill Reese is third from the right.*

Actually, my winning the position was automatic and a fluke. An ongoing Board member had been widely expected to stand for a second term. Because of her popularity, she was expected to win. My standing was just for practice for the next time around. However, my expected opponent decided to stand for the treasurer's position instead of the board, but this information was not noted in time for any other person to run for the position; I was, therefore the only candidate.

After winning the seat, I had another of those "Lawton" moments. That is, I had taken on a new responsibility effecting a hemispheric organization. I was concerned about delivering what I had promised.

During the Convention, I stayed at the Kapinski Hotel Libertador, a top notch hotel with topnotch prices. After the Convention, I moved for a night to the Carsson Hotel for one night. That's where the rest of the Rio Grande do Sul delegation was staying. That included: Carmem Englert, Yvonne Dreux and Lisete Dias. From Indiana, Sallie Dell Lee, Norma Singley, Nancy Hughes and Kathleen Johnston attended.

After the meeting, I flew back to Porto Alegre where I stayed with Carmem in her apartment. I spent a week there conferring with many RS partners in an attempt to trace the lasting effects of Partners. With Carmem Englert's assistance, I met with Robert Issler (past President of RS Partners), Claudio Ribeiro (who had performed in Indiana with Partners help),

There is always a lot of socializing and eating on these trips. The second night in Porto Alegre, Jorge and Lori Englert came by with Zygmunt Strzep (a Polish Organist living in Germany) to take Carmem and me to dinner at Beir Klause, Rua Dr. Timéteo, 890. A delightful little bit of Germany transplanted in Brazil.

A high light of this visit was Thanksgiving dinner at Carmem Englert's apartment. My Gaúchos friends came very close to the dinner I might have had at home. It was a surprise and a most memorable occasion.

In 2001 I stood for re-election to the board for a second term. I had competition this time, but had become somewhat well-known and was re-elected easily.