

the Rotary Heritage & History International Fellowship suggests

Preserving the President's House as one of your club's Centennial Projects



Mid-40's photograph of Paul Harris in front of *Comely Bank*, as he called his home in the Morgan Park section of Chicago.



J. B. Hayford's painting of *Comely Bank*, the home of Rotary Founder Paul P. Harris, was presented to the Rotary Club of Chicago December 24, 1957.

Bulldoze or save *Paul Harris home?*

Current owners of the hilltop home built in 1912 by Paul Harris recently honored a promise to notify *RHHIF* if they ever decided to sell *Comely Bank*. Anticipating it would come on the market sooner or later the Paul & Jean Harris Home Foundation, *PJHHF*, had been formed with the approval of Rotary International. *PJHHF* hired a real estate appraiser who calculated the current fair market value at \$561,687. To preempt sale to someone who might bulldoze our Founder's home and replace it with a modern mansion on this large wooded lot with an attractive view, *PJHHF* paid a nonrefundable \$1000 deposit on an option to purchase the property for \$550,000. This option gives *PJHHF* until September 1, 2004 to acquire *Comely Bank* with funds from Harris Home Foundation Sponsoring Clubs and donations from interested individual Rotarians. If every Rotary club within a 4 hour drive donated \$2000, funds left over after purchasing the home would restore it to its early 1900's appearance, build in modern conveniences required to convert the building from a single family residence into a public gathering place (museum) including compliance with ADA code, with a small contingency fund left over for future maintenance.

Hang your club banner (foot-tall size exchanged with visiting Rotarians) on the Sponsoring Clubs wall in the home of Paul Harris as your Centennial Project. Sign up on the back of this page or email questions to *PJHHF* Chair James Alden at: jalden@mei.net

It's now or never — shall we save the home of Paul Harris or let it disappear?