



Repairs have begun at the home of Paul Harris

"I went to Comely Bank earlier today and scraped paint off most of the windows and washed some of the windows. I also planted 36 spring bulbs in the front yard. I will go back tomorrow and hopefully get the handrails in the front of the house reinstalled on the new front steps," reads a typical email message from Past District Governor Fred Otto. In addition to negotiating and recording our **Comely Bank** real estate contract, Fred and his son Jonathan and foster son Mark Lyons are making household repairs, repainting, clearing out undergrowth around trees, planting flowers in the yard, and generally sprucing things up. Here is part of Fred's itemized summary of his recent activity: "We cut down one dead tree, cut a dead limb off of a tree next to the driveway, and cut out a diseased mulberry tree which had a cancerous growth in one of the large limbs, had several dead limbs in each of the two trunks of the mulberry tree. If one looks at the trunks one can still see the dead center of the tree on both of the two trunks that may have been one trunk at one time that had been split. We also cut out a lot of the buckthorn in the front of the house and the weed tree saplings under two inches. This was done to allow more sunshine in the area where Paul and Jean Harris had a flagstone peace garden when they lived there. We can still see flagstone layers in many places. This spring we will power wash the flagstone to make it more pronounced and then remove dirt and decayed vegetation from the flagstone. Paul and Jean Harris planted trees and evergreens in the peace garden in honor of various Rotarians who visited them." -- Frederick J. Otto

Go to: www.comelybank.org for more photos of the Harris home

Don Knapp restores a Japanese lantern Paul Harris treasured

Paul Harris was photographed (left, below) pointing out a stone lantern thought to have been a gift from Rotarians in Japan. Mr. and Mrs. John Huck, who bought the home after Paul Harris died in 1947, were so fond of the lantern that they took it to their new house when they sold the Harris Home in 1974.

In connection with our purchase of the Harris Home and our preparations to make it look as it did when Paul and Jean entertained Rotarians, PDG Don Knapp of D-6450 (center photo) persuaded Mrs. Huck to donate the lantern to the Paul & Jean Harris Home Foundation for display in its original location at

Comely Bank. Perhaps someone reading this article will tell us the story of this treasured gift to Rotary's founder. PDG Basil Lewis (D1270) reports that in 1930 Prince Tokugawa, the son of the Shogun Tokugawa from Nagoya, visited Paul and Jean at Comely Bank. Paul and Jean toured the Far East including Japan and Shanghai in 1935. While in Osaka, Paul received a bust of himself from Umekichi Yoneyama who in 1920 had organized the first Japanese Rotary Club in Tokyo. District Governor Shozo Murata shipped the bust to Chicago. (DG Murata was president of the Osaka Steamship Company.)

If you can add information to the story of the lantern please tell Jack Mayo (check the top of page 2 for the newsletter editor's postal address.)

Compiling the history of Rotary is a team effort.

