

Kowloon North Rotary Club Charter President Norman Garner Rolph The First Hong Kong Commissioner for Narcotics

By Herbert K. Lau (劉敬恒) (Rotary China Historian)

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Norman Garner Rolph (盧樂夫), OStJ, QPM, CPM (1921-1992), was a notable figure in the British Crown Colony Hong Kong, known for his long service in the Hong Kong Police Force and as the Colony's first Commissioner for Narcotics (禁毒專員) (8.1972 - 3.1975).

Norman served in the Hong Kong Police Force from 1946 to 1972, achieving the rank of Deputy Commissioner of Police. (The Hong Kong Police Force was granted the "Royal" prefix in 1969 until 30 June 1997. Princess Alexandra was appointed by Queen Elizabeth II to become the Commandant General of the Royal Hong Kong Police 皇家香港警察隊.)

When Norman was an Assistant Commissioner of Police in 1964, he joined the organization of a Rotary Club in the northern Kowloon Peninsula and became its first President in 1964-1965. The Rotary Club of Kowloon North (九龍北區扶輪社) was originally chartered on 2 June 1964 in the name of [Rotary Club of Tsuen Wan 荃灣扶輪社] (English speaking). Three years later during the year of 1967-1968, President Ditmar Y. M. Chang (張音曼) and the Board of Directors passed a new resolution to change the Club Name. Many proposals were made but the decision was [Kowloon North] as proposed by Stephen Sung who later became the 9th President of the Club. The proposal of the chosen name was sent through the proper channel for approval. (Nine years later in 1976, a new Rotary Club of Tsuen Wan [荃灣扶輪社], Cantonese speaking, was organized and was then admitted to Rotary International on 21 June 1976 until today.)

During the year of Norman's presidency, the first Fund Raising Campaign was a Cantonese Opera played at the open air theatre of Lai Chi Kok Amusement Park (荔園遊樂場). With the fund generously donated by Rotarians and friends, the Tsuen Wan Children's Playground (荃灣兒童遊樂場) was completed in 1965 – the first Community Service Project.



1962 年 4 月 11 日－香港警務處助理處長盧樂夫（中）和同袍合照。（一張大型合照的局部）

11 April 1962 -- Norman Garner Rolph (center), Assistant Commissioner of Hong Kong Police Force, joins the group photo with his staff members. (Portion of a large group photo)

Other than Rotary Club, Norman served the community also by joining the Hong Kong St. John Ambulance Brigade (香港聖約翰救傷隊), and became its 8th Commissioner from 1963 to 1966 (parallel with his Rotary Club presidency). Norman was the 4th Rotarian to command the Brigade. The preceding 3 Rotarians were all from the Rotary Club of Hong Kong (香港扶輪社): (1) A. D. el Arculli (夏高理) (1947-1951); (2) Kenneth Fung Ping-Fan (馮秉芬) (1953-1958); (3) Tseung Fat-Im (蔣法賢) (1958-1963).



First Commissioner for Narcotics in Hong Kong

From August 1972 until March 1975, Norman became the first Commissioner for Narcotics in Hong Kong, tasked with coordinating efforts against drug trafficking and supporting rehabilitation.

Since its establishment in 1965, Action Committee Against Narcotics (ACAN) (禁毒常務委員會) primarily consisted of government officials and representatives from NGOs. Government members included officials from departments such as the Police Department, the Medical Department, the Prisons Department, the Social Welfare Department, the Education Department, the Secretariat for Chinese Affairs, the Legal Department, and the Preventive Service. NGOs' representatives included those from the British Medical Association Hong Kong and China Branch, the Hong Kong Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society (香港釋囚協助會), The Hong Kong Chinese Medical Association (香港中華醫學會), The Hong Kong Council of Social Service (香港社會服務聯會), The Society for the Aid and

Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (香港戒毒會), The Lutheran World Federation (世界信義宗香港社會服務處), The Mental Health Association of Hong Kong (香港心理衛生會), and The Hong Kong Psychiatric Association (香港精神病學會).

In 1972, the Government appointed the first Commissioner for Narcotics to oversee anti-drug efforts. In 1973, unofficial members were included in ACAN. After several times of re-organization, the current ACAN mainly comprises unofficial members from various sectors, including social work, education, etc.

Excerpted below is the Government Announcement on the appointment of Norman Garner Rolph to serve as the first Commissioner for Narcotics:



Thursday, June 29, 1972

MR. N. G. ROLPH APPOINTED COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS

The Government today announced the appointment of Mr. Norman G. Rolph, Deputy Commissioner of Police, as Hong Kong's first Commissioner for Narcotics.

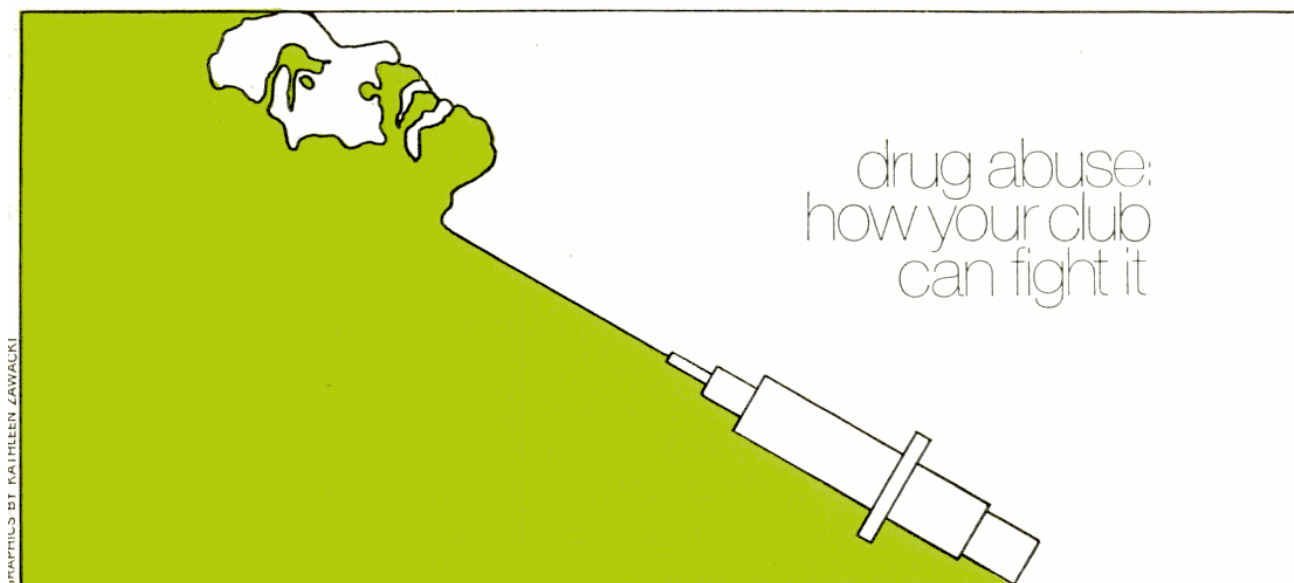
Mr. Rolph will assume his new duties in August, 1972. He has lived and worked on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories during his many years in Hong Kong and has a wide and extensive knowledge of the complex drug and crime problems.

Mr. Rolph will work in the Secretariat for Home Affairs and will be responsible to the Secretary for Home Affairs. In general terms he will have an overall co-ordinating role concerning the activities of every Government Department and the various Voluntary Agencies involved in the fight against the illicit drug traffic in all its forms, including the rehabilitation of drug addicts.

A Government spokesman said today: "Government fully recognizes that the attainment of these aims will be no easy matter and will be of a long term nature given the scope and size of the problems to be faced.

By its appointment of a Commissioner who will be able to devote his full time to these matters, Government has shown it is determined that the serious criminal and social problems connected with dangerous drugs will be tackled with the utmost vigour."

Mr. Rolph who has been in Hong Kong since January 1946 is well known to the community both in his official capacity and also as a former Commissioner of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. He is an Officer of the Most Venerable Order of St. John and holds the Queen's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and the Colonial Police Medal for Meritorious Service. He is the Founder President of the Rotary Club of Tsuen Wan, now the Rotary Club of Kowloon North. For over 15 years, he was a member of the Board of Examiners in the Chinese language.



CHILDREN on drugs. Ugly thought. Ugly problem, for many communities. And a problem that countless Rotary Clubs around the globe are beginning to reckon with. This issue of *THE ROTARIAN* contains several features on Rotary's war on drug abuse (see pages 36-41). Here are some "inside tips" from Clubs that have found successful ways of dealing with drug problems:

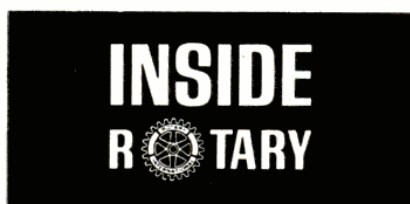
- What better equipment for "kicking" a drug habit than a healthy pair of bare feet! That's the symbol the Rotary Club of Mountain View, California, chose for its community-wide **Stamp Out Drugs Together** campaign. The carefully planned program was kept quiet until launch-time. Then an avalanche of publicity, all of it incorporating the barefoot motif, hit the community from many directions. A constant reminder of the effort: the more than 2,000 barefoot tracks stamped on pedestrian walkways, sidewalks, and school entrances.

- **Project Renaissance** is the hopeful title given by the Rotary Club of Westport, Connecticut, to its anti-drug effort, which offers a telephone "hot line" and other help to addicts and potential addicts.

- **NEAR** (Narcotics Education and Research) is the acronym of the drug education program of the Rotary Clubs of the Antelope Valley in

California. Spearheaded by the Rotary Club of Lancaster, NEAR is a three-year project which will cost a total of \$384,000. It provides various kinds of drug education and help, including a treatment center on the grounds of a local hospital.

- **Because We Care** is both reason for and title of the extensive drug education program launched by the



Rotary Club of Canfield, Ohio. The Club printed and distributed an eight-page, full-color, illustrated brochure, which has been described by one physician as "the very best material" he has seen on the subject of drug abuse.

- One issue of the bulletin of the new (April, 1972) Rotary Club of The Entrance, N.S.W., Australia, contained a four-page feature devoted to drug education. It was prepared with the cooperation of the National Drug Information Service.

- Alarmed by the apparently drug-induced rise in the crime rate in their city, Rotarians of Richmond, Virginia, donated more than \$11,000 in support of a methadone treatment program at the Medical College of

Virginia's Adolescent Clinic. In so doing, the Club made possible a grant of \$77,000 from the Division of Crime and Justice in Washington, D. C.

- A similar "shot in the arm" was given to the Toledo, Ohio, Area Program on Drug Abuse by the Rotary Club of Toledo, which contributed \$25,000 from its Good Fellowship Foundation.

- A colorful, illustrated brochure has been distributed by the Westgate Rotary Club of San Jose, California, to the 2,100 fifth and sixth grade students in the local school districts. Members of the Club's Youth Projects Committee have also attended seminars qualifying them as speakers to civic and parent-teacher groups.

These are brief samples of the many fine anti-drug abuse programs supported by Rotary Clubs. For more information about any of them, you may wish to contact the individual Clubs. Consult your Official Directory for addresses. You can also consult the Annual Index to *THE ROTARIAN* for the past several years to find reports of other Club drug control projects. If your Index collection is incomplete, you may order copies from the Secretariat of R.I. in Evanston. At the same time, you will want to order R.I. Community Service pamphlet No. 611: **Drug Abuse: Ways to Confront the Dilemma.**

WHAT YOU ARE DOING ABOUT IT...

Here's how two courageous Rotarians
launched powerful anti-drug warfare.

FLORRIE FISHER'S shocking story has been duplicated too many times, in too many families, too many communities, say Rotarians around the world—and more and more Clubs, and individual Rotarians, are doing something about it . . .

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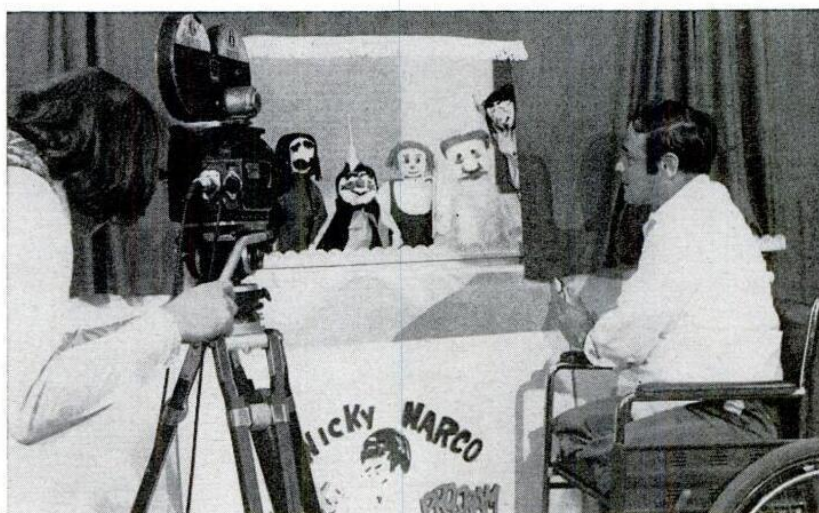
Rotarian Thomas J. Wilson beamed broadly as he read the laboriously scrawled letter from an 8-year-old: "You don't ever have to worry about me using drugs," it said. "I don't want to be a Loser Louie."

"Loser Louie" is a character from a puppet show, *Nicky Narco*, created by Tom Wilson of Manchester Township, New Jersey, and his wife, Noelia. Their goal: to dramatize the appalling effects of drug abuse. Nicky narrates the show, which features the unfortunate Louie, along with his new-found friends, Mr. Grass, Peter Pill, Speedy Trip, L. S. Dee, Sloppy Syringe, and ultimately, Mr. Death. It also stars Winner Wally, the smart, sports-minded youngster who evades all these disastrous friendships.

The show is designed to reach elementary school children, up to the sixth grade. "And it works," says Tom. "If we can save only a few kids, it's worth it."

Tom Wilson knows all about suffering. Badly wounded in the Korean conflict, Tom is too disabled to work at a regular job. But he lives comfortably on his government pension, and volunteers his services for four hours each day as public relations director for the police department. It was here that he got the idea for the narcotics prevention program. Tom's wife works in a hospital and she, too, is familiar with drug problems.

The Wilsons spent eight months preparing *Nicky Narco*. Tom designed and built the puppets and created



Nicky Narco coloring books to distribute after each performance. With the help of their 20-year-old daughter and some friends, the Wilsons built a stage and recorded a stereo tape complete with background music.

The show's fame spread quickly. Already popular in New Jersey, it is now being shown in neighboring states. Last year, Tom filmed the production (see photo) and hopes to attract an audience nationwide. The profits will be used to produce an animated film about Nicky and his dubious "friends."

In addition to his puppetry and police work, busy Tom Wilson is an active Rotarian, a charter member of the two-year-old Club of Lakehurst-Manchester, New Jersey.

—GARY H. DECKELNICK

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A handsome young pharmacist named Lowell Harris, a member of the Rotary Club of Dade City, Florida, is one of the most sought-after speakers in western Florida, thanks

to his frontier work with young drug abusers. Lowell, a 1967 Jaycee (Junior Chamber of Commerce) Young Man of the Year, began by creating a pamphlet, *No Secret*, into which he poured much of his professional knowledge of drug effects. The local school board purchased a movie film, *Pits of Despair*, to help him with public school presentations. Soon the youngsters themselves began to come to him for help and advice.

Recently Lowell joined with the Florida State Attorney and other Florida citizens to help reach a larger group of young people through an organization called PAR (Parental Awareness and Responsibility). PAR employs a "hot line" which received 47 calls in its first three weeks of operation. The calls are kept confidential, an important factor in their success.

"The key," says Lowell Harris, "is education—of both parents and youngsters. Most parents don't realize that drug use starts at home."

—WILLIAM WOODS

Getting Straight

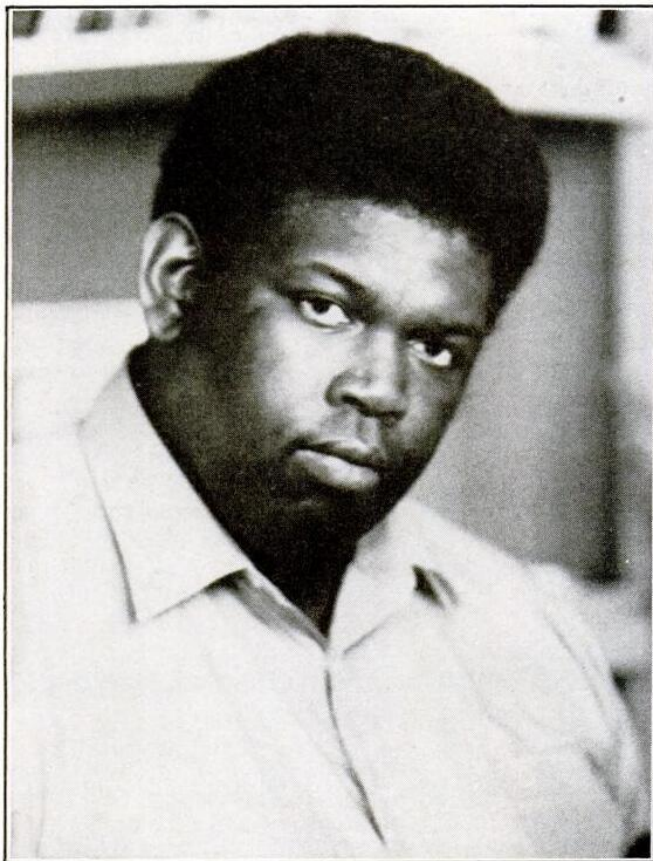
GETTING STRAIGHT," "coming down," "turning off," and "kicking the habit" are drug culture expressions Gene Dawson knows well. He spends his days—and many of his nights—with drug addicts, speed freaks, and pot-heads. Unlikely companions for a Rotarian, perhaps, but Gene's extraordinary work with them helped bring him into the fellowship of the Rotary Club of Santa Cruz, California.

Gene Dawson's uncommon classification is "Drug Counseling." He is executive director of the Drug Abuse Preventive Center, one of the most effective drug rehabilitation programs in California. Over the past five years hundreds of drug abuse victims have straightened out their lives with help from Gene's Center. Sixty per cent of those who have "graduated" from the Center are still off drugs, a comparatively high rehabilitation record.

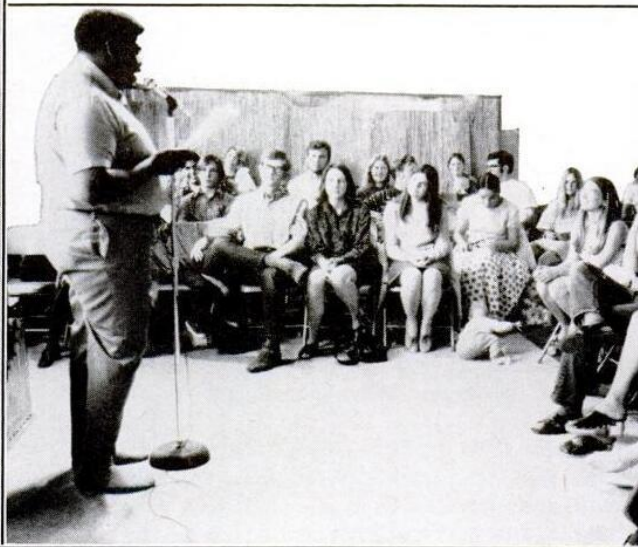
"Some of our heaviest ex-users are now holding down good jobs and leading normal lives," says Michael Gor-

don, himself one of the many former addicts on Gene's staff. "Take William Mangan. He was in jail for using and selling heroin. When he got out, he fell back into drugs, so he came to us. Now he works for a printing firm using the layout and printing skills he learned here in the Center."

Gene started the Center in 1968, but only after overcoming major obstacles. He came to Santa Cruz as a stranger—young and alone. He worked his way into the drug subculture that had first taken root among the "flower children" and hippie tribes of the Haight-Ashbury district in San Francisco. He got acquainted with addicts who relied on theft and prostitution to support their habits. His association with young drug users, even as a one-man force trying to lead them out of their illusory world, aroused the suspicions of citizens frightened by a growing drug problem. Addicts were wary of him, fearing he would report them to the police.



Rotarian Gene Dawson—serious, intense, assertive—is firm with former addicts living in his Drug Abuse Preventive Center, yet always understanding and helpful. A true leader, he is able to communicate with people, win their confidence, and influence them. He holds meetings regularly (below) with the residents of the Center to give assignments, hear grievances, and offer encouragement. Each person in Gene's "family" has some responsibility which creates a sense of togetherness and cooperation. As part of their rehabilitation, the residents work in stores owned by the Center, develop creative skills in craft shops, and participate in various programs to inform the public of the dangers of addictive drugs.



UNUSUAL ROTARIANS

One man's determined war against drug abuse is helping hundreds find new lives.

But Gene was determined to succeed, convinced that God had sent him on a personal mission. A nondenominational minister, he had worked for several churches in the state of Washington organizing teenage musical groups and athletic teams. His strong personality and sincerity drew young people to him. As word went out over the grapevine, an increasing number of visitors came to his small office in Santa Cruz. The good that resulted from his guidance and help came to the attention of parents and community leaders, and gradually he won public respect and support.

Santa Cruz County, recognizing the need for Gene and his work, leased a former hospital building for his Drug Abuse Preventive Center. Shortly thereafter his program began to expand. Ventura County in southern California called on him to help fight drug abuse in its communities, and Gene commuted 350 miles to set up a center in Ventura. He later established branches in the California cities of Soquel, Ojai, Santa Barbara, and Watsonville, with out-of-state affiliates in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Montesano, Washington.

Dormitories are part of each center. Residents are free to stay until they feel they are ready to make it on their own. The dormitories, converted from whatever facilities were available, are for single men only at some of the centers, but others house married couples and single women. The total number of residents has remained close to 200 during the last few years.

Many residents work in craft shops and vocational workshops, or in the stores owned by the Center. Profits from two gas stations, two used furniture stores, three secondhand clothing stores, and a religious bookstore go toward the cost of operating the Center and its branches. Most of the merchandise is donated. The Drug Abuse Preventive Center is 75 per cent self-sufficient, the rest coming from private supporters. Local Rotary Clubs are among the top contributors.

Gene has spoken to Rotary Clubs and other organizations in and outside of California. His busy schedule prevents him from accepting many invitations, but he finds other ways to widen public awareness of the dangers of drugs and to inform people of the Center's work. Teams of residents from the Center visit schools and churches to present convincing testimonials. Gene has organized a drama group and has produced two films to get his message across in workshops and seminars for community leaders and parents. Along with

fellow Rotarian John Del Conte, a petroleum products retailer who sponsored Gene in the Rotary Club, he persuaded California state officials to sanction a special high school for drug-affected students. A college in Santa Cruz offers a course which Gene formulated.

One key to success is the rehabilitated addicts on the Center staff who understand the problems and speak the language of those caught in the horror-trap of drugs. But the personal relationship Gene develops with many of the residents also profoundly influences them.

"I know just about where all my people are and what they are doing," Gene says of those who have left the Center. "They keep in touch." They remember Gene as the big man with the big heart.

Gene's ability to communicate with people in trouble stems from his youth. He knew plenty of desperate people in the ghetto where he was raised, not far from the luxurious hotels along the Florida coast. He graduated from high school in 1958 and spent three years in the U. S. Army as a medic. For a while he crisscrossed the country by railroad boxcar—listening, learning, and trying to communicate with hobos and winos.

He has come a long way. In 1970, three years after arriving as an unknown in California, Gene was chosen by the Junior Chamber of Commerce as one of the top five young men in the state. He has received other honors for his drug rehabilitation work, but his greatest reward comes each time someone leaves his Center to begin a new life. Still, he reminds, the drug abuse battle is far from won.

The Center recently acquired land in Santa Cruz where Gene hopes to build a facility to consolidate his scattered centers and to handle the increasing load of young people beset by drug problems. But first, money must be raised to finance the new building.

Gene spends much of his time on the go to raise funds for his Center, yet he is loyal to the Santa Cruz Rotary Club, which has generously supported his work. Last year he accepted the demanding job of Club Bulletin editor and undertook the task with the great energetic enthusiasm that is his personal trademark.

Gene joined Rotary because, as he puts it, "Rotary is full of let's-do-it-now men who work unselfishly for their communities and God." That description surely fits Rotarian Gene Dawson, a man of action who strives daily to combat drug abuse and rescue its victims.

—JAMES V. O'CONNOR