

# Sherman Garden Cooperative Apartments

A monthly publication for residents of Sherman Garden Apartments, 1856-66 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, IL

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## GARDEN ROOTS

So, what do YOU have in your storage unit? Might there be artifacts which could provide clues for a local history detective?

In 2003 Richard "Titch" Harrison (1860) was at work on a biography of Chesley Reynolds Perry, general secretary of Rotary International from 1910 to 1942. Perry had been a very private person and Harrison was having trouble finding information about him. Even living just down the street from Rotary's international headquarters wasn't a help.

But living in a "co-operative," Harrison learned a new meaning of that word. When Alan Freedman (1856) was cleaning out his storage locker prior to a move from 1856, he found four boxes which had been left there when a previous owner died. That owner was Mrs. Chesley Perry who had moved to SGA after the death of her husband in 1960.

Knowing that Jack Stevenson (1860) was a Rotarian, Freedman asked him what to do with these Rotary items. Stevenson knew that they should be given to Rotary International, but he also knew that Harrison would want to see them. So Harrison went along with him when he delivered them to International Headquarters and was amazed by their contents: pictures, documents, memoirs, even a silver platter presented to Perry in 1921! Obviously this was just what he needed to complete the biography (*The Rotary Life of Chesley Reynolds Perry*, c2005) and the missing information had been right here on the premises!



Richard Harrison, 1860 Sherman