

**TESTIMONIAL
DINNER**

TO

Russell Bare Garver



**ELDON INN
ROARING SPRING, PENNSYLVANIA
JANUARY 27, 1948**

TESTIMONIAL DINNER COMMITTEE

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DALE W. DETWILER

LEWIS F. GARBER

IVAN E. CARVER

WALTER A. HITE

R. DONALD LORENZ

A. D. MINGLE

JERMAIN B. PORTER

REV. H. Q. RHODES

J. RAY SMITH

HOMER I. SMITH

REV. HARRY C. STENGER, Jr.



RUSSELL BARE GARVER

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A Brief Biography

THE gathering, tonight, of representative citizens of Roaring Spring and vicinity is a testimonial to the public spirit and altruistic service, already extending over much more than half a lifetime, of Russell Bare Garver. It has, however, a broader and more intimate significance, for to the individuals involved, the element of personal friendship over a period of many years is at least as strong a factor in this demonstration as is the appreciation of the outstanding service of our guest. We are extending to him not only the thanks of grateful beneficiaries of long public service, but the assurance of warm personal friendship to a well-liked fellow citizen. It is fitting that we record here some of the outstanding facts of his life.

Russell Bare Garver was born at Roaring Spring, Blair County, Pennsylvania, December 27, 1892, a son of Abraham Lincoln Garver, M. D., and Ella (Bare) Garver. His paternal grandparents were Benjamin and Barbara Garver, and his maternal grandparents were Daniel Mathias Bare and Sarah (Eby) Bare. Mr. Bare was chiefly responsible for the founding of all the principal industries of Roaring Spring, and during his lifetime was the "first citizen" of the borough. Dr. Garver was a graduate of Jefferson Medical School, of Philadelphia, and actively practiced medicine in Roaring Spring until he assumed the general managership of the Roaring Spring Blank Book Company in 1891. Both Mr. Bare and Dr. Garver were among the original signatories of the Roaring Spring Borough Charter, and both served in high offices in the Borough during its early days.

Our guest began his education in the public schools of Roaring Spring, passed through all the grades, and graduated from the Roaring Spring High School with the Class of 1908, ranking first in scholarship. On April 24, 1908, he took part in the Keller Oratorical Contest, held in the Church of God, Roaring Spring, and was awarded first prize, the Keller medal, by the judges. At the Commencement exercises, held in the Lutheran church, Roaring Spring, April 28, 1908, he delivered the Valedictory oration.

In the fall of 1908, Russell entered The Tome School, at Port Deposit, Maryland, from which he graduated, cum laude, in June, 1911. He matriculated at Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts, in September, 1911, and graduated, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and with first honors in chemistry, in 1915. At Williams he was a member of Beta Theta Pi college fraternity.

After his graduation from Williams college, Mr. Garver worked for three years as a chemist for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company at the laboratories in the test department building, Altoona, Pennsylvania. In 1918 he became associated with the Roaring Spring Blank Book Company, and in 1920 (following the death of his father), he was elected secretary of that company. In 1929, he became secretary-treasurer and general manager of the company, which positions he continues to occupy. In addition to his affiliation with the Roaring Spring Blank Book Company, Mr. Garver is vice president and director of The Planing Mill Company, Inc., of Roaring Spring, vice president and director of Roaring Spring Bank, a member of the board of directors of The D. M. Bare Paper Company, Roaring Spring, and a Trustee of The Nason Hospital, Roaring Spring.

In the service of the public, Mr. Garver has been active in many fields. In 1916 he was one of the organizers of the Roaring Spring Athletic Association, Inc., and has served ever since as a director and vice president. He was among the founders and a director of the Roaring Spring Building and Loan Association, and is a charter member and past president of the Rotary Club of Roaring Spring. For many years he has

PROGRAM

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Toastmaster.....R. Donald Lorenz

“America”.....Led by Rev. Harry C. Stenger, Jr.

Invocation.....Rev. H. Q. Rhodes

DINNER

Introduction of the Speaker.....R. Donald Lorenz

Address.....Honorable J. Calvin Lang, Jr.
District Attorney of Blair County

Presentation of Gift and Testimonial-Dinner Book.....
.....R. Donald Lorenz

Response.....Russell Bare Garver

“Auld Lang Syne”....Led by Rev. Harry C. Stenger, Jr.

Benediction.....Rev. H. Q. Rhodes

M E N U

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Chilled Tomato Juice Cocktail

Celery

Radishes

Olives

Roast Young Tom Turkey

Filling

Giblet Gravy

Cranberry Sauce

Cream Whipped Potatoes

Corn Pudding

Dinner Rolls

Bran Muffins

Mixed Vegetable Salad

Fresh Cherry Crumb Pie

Coffee

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taken part in the activities of the Roaring Spring Chamber of Commerce. In 1921 he was elected to the Roaring Spring Borough Council and thereafter served continuously for a period of twenty-six years. As chairman of the finance committee and as President of Council, he was largely responsible for completion of public works costing more than a million dollars, while at the same time paying off more than one-half of the bonded debt of the borough and completely liquidating the councilmanic and floating debt. Privately, he and his associates have been liberal financial supporters of every meritorious local project, and have paid the major portion of the cost of our magnificent athletic field with its splendid lighting and modern facilities and equipment. Very recently they have placed in the hands of the directors of the Roaring Spring School District the sum of fifteen hundred dollars to cover the total cost of purchase and installation of an electric score board at the athletic field.

Due to physical disability, Mr. Garver was barred from active military service in World War I, but, as a civilian, he was active in Liberty Loan Drives and in various positions in support of the war effort. During the second World War he served as a member and as Chairman of Blair County Selective Service Board Number 1, and as a member of the Roaring Spring-Taylor Township Civilian Defense Council.

In 1937, Mr. Garver devoted many months of intensive effort toward the preparation for the Roaring Spring Golden Anniversary Celebration which was held August 22 to 28, inclusive, of that year, and which was an outstanding success. He served as one of the committee chairmen, and wrote the "History of Roaring Spring" which appeared in the Souvenir Program. In addition to his work, he, with other members of his family, contributed upwards of one-third of the huge financial cost of the celebration.

In addition to the organizations already mentioned, Mr. Garver is a charter member of the Second Presbyterian Church of Altoona, a member of the "John Heuston" Sunday School Class of Trinity Methodist Church, of Roaring Spring, which in 1948 will celebrate its fiftieth year of existence; a member of the various Masonic orders, including Jaffa Temple, Altoona, 32nd degree Mason of the Pittsburgh Consistory; a member of the Union League, Philadelphia; The Pennsylvania Society, New York; Blair County Chapter, Society of the Sons of the American Revolution; Maryland Yacht Club, Baltimore, Maryland; Annapolis Yacht Club, Annapolis, Maryland; Penn Athletic Club, Philadelphia; and charter member of Blairmont Club, Hollidaysburg, Penna. In politics, he is a Republican, and has been active in support of his party, but has never sought election to office, other than as a member of the Borough Council.

Mr. Garver married Elizabeth Beck, daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. W. F. Beck, of Lakemont, Altoona, Pennsylvania, on June 28, 1919. To this union three daughters have been born: Nancy Jane, a graduate of Swarthmore College, and now the wife of Robert R. Hoover, and residing at No. 257 Main Street, Roaring Spring; Lois Ann, a student at Juniata College, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania; and Elizabeth Bare, a student at The George School, George School, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The Garver home is located No. 701 Spang Street, Roaring Spring, Pennsylvania. In addition to members of his immediate family, near relatives of Mr. Garver, all of whom are prominently identified with Roaring Spring, are his aunts, sisters of his mother, Mrs. Clara S. Bobb, of Roaring Spring, and Mrs. Anna Bare Eldon, of Northampton, Massachusetts; his brother, Ivan Edison Garver, of Roaring Spring; and his sister, Vera Elizabeth, wife of Homer I. Smith, Esq., of Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania.

