Here's What was Happening When Tal Joined Rotary

1. Unemployment had dropped to 2.6%, inflation was a modest 1.92%, and the average household income was $3,400.00. The average cost of a new home was $9,050.00, the average cost of a new car was $1,700.00, and a gallon of gas averaged 20 cents. Consumerism was on the rise, and Americans were enjoying "a standard of living that no other country could approach." Three out of five American families owned a car, two out of three families had a telephone, and one in three families had a television. Fast food restaurants like McDonald's and KFC were growing in popularity.
2. In the November election, Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected president of the United States by defeating Democrat Adlai Stevenson. Eisenhower received 442 electoral votes and 33,778,693 popular votes to Stevenson's 89 electoral votes and 27,314,992 popular votes.
3. The U.S. detonated the first thermonuclear bomb at Enewetak Island in the Pacific Ocean.
4. The Korean War went into its third year, and there were nearly three million American soldiers stationed in Korea.
5. In the 1950s, polio was one of the most feared diseases in the U.S., and "had become one of the most serious communicable diseases among children." NPR tells us that in 1952 alone, "nearly 60,000 children were infected with the virus; thousands were paralyzed, and more than 3,000 died. Hospitals set up special units with iron lung machines to keep polio victims alive. Rich kids as well as poor were left paralyzed."
6. Queen Elizabeth II succeeded King George VI to the British throne, and was proclaimed Queen of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms, including Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.
7. The Detroit Lions were the NFL champions, the Detroit Red Wings were the Stanley Cup champs, and the New York Yankees won the World Series. The U.S. Standardization Board cleared the way for MLB player Stan Musial to get a salary increase to $85,000. Baseball legend Mickey Mantle hit his first career grand slam, and the Boston Braves played their last game at Braves Field before moving to Milwaukee.
8. Sun Records, an independent American record label, was founded by producer Sam Phillips in Memphis, Tennessee. It was the first record label to feature artists like Elvis Presley, Charlie Rich, Roy Orbison, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Johnny Cash.
9. British engineer Maurice Olley of General Motors began to design the Corvette. (By the way, the first Corvette came off the assembly line in Flint, Michigan on June 30, 1953.)
10. The *Today Show*—television's first magazine-format program—premiered on NBC. Other shows that debuted in 1952 were *Dragnet*, *I've Got a Secret*, and *The Jackie Gleason Show* (aka *The Honeymooners*).