

"THE MAN FROM PLAINS"
From THE LION

Where's Plains, Georgia? It takes a mighty big map of the state to find it. Towns with a population of 683 are easily overlooked by map-makers, and when asked, few people in the United States even know it existed, much less able to pinpoint it on an atlas. But that was a little over a year ago. On January 20, 1977, all 683 citizens of this southern Georgia town were in one of two places-- in front of their TV sets or in Washington, D.C. Their friend, their neighbor, the town's favorite son and most famous resident, James Earl Carter, Jr., was being sworn in as the 39th President of the United States.

Today, Plains enjoys equal billing with any world metropolis. Tourists, reporters, and television crews at times outnumber the residents. Plains is, beyond a doubt, on the map.

Not only can the people of Plains claim Jimmy Carter as one of "their own", Lions around the world can salute him as a fellow member. President Carter has been a member of the Plains Lions Club for over 23 years, and served in a number of Club and District capacities, including that of District Governor. President Carter attended Georgia Southwestern College and Georgia Tech before enrolling at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, in 1943.

He graduated in 1946, 59th in a class of 820, and for the next seven years served aboard a number of ships, among them a nuclear submarine. He was discharged and returned to Plains in 1953 upon the death of his father.

That same year he joined the Plains Lions Club and was soon serving as bulletin editor and as a member of the activities committee. He was President of his club in 1957-58 and during his term the club finished paying for a community swimming pool. The future United States President began taking a more active interest in district affairs, and in 1968-69 served as District Governor of 18-C. He was a 100% District Governor and chairman of his Multiple District council. He completed his year by attending the 1969 International Convention in Tokyo, Japan. President Carter also sponsored four members, including his brother Billy, who is still an active Lion. The President and his son, Chip, are still members of the club.

President Carter combined his community activities and his business ventures as a peanut farmer with a meteoric career as a public servant. He became a State Senator in 1962 and in 1970 was elected Governor of the State of Georgia.

Early in 1976, Jimmy Carter was virtually unknown outside his home state. His campaign for the Presidency was at first greeted by--Jimmy who? But Jimmy Carter went to the people, and listened to their needs. Soon, the man from tiny Plains, Georgia, began gaining momentum. His campaign, as the political pundits are fond of saying, caught fire. He won primary after primary, and by the time the gavel opened the

Democratic National Convention in New York, he was the obvious choice for the nomination.

It was a proud moment on January 20 when Jimmy Carter took the oath of office from United States Chief Justice Warren Burger--a proud moment for his life, Rosalynn; his sons, Jack, 29; Chip, 26; and Jeff, 24; his daughter, Amy, 9 and his mother, Lillian. The White House is a long way from the streets of Plains where, as a boy, the President sold peanuts and hot dogs. To carry out his responsibilities as Chief Executive, he will need to draw on every leadership quality he learned in community service as a Lion and as a deacon of the Plains Baptist Church, as a naval officer and in the Georgia Legislature and State House. In this task, he has the prayers and best wishes of the Lions of the world.

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION
MELVIN JONES FELLOW AWARD

On March 31, 1979, 138 Georgia Lions and Lionesses were guests of Lion U.S. President Jimmy Carter and wife Rosalynn at a coffee in the State Dining Room in the White House. President Carter has been a Lion for many years and is a Past District Governor of District 18-C.

During the ceremony that followed, President Carter was presented the Lions Clubs International and Lions International Foundation Plaque inscribed as follows: "Melvin Jones Fellow, presented to Jimmy Carter, for dedicated humanitarian services by Lions International Foundation. Ralph A. Lynam, President 1978-79 of Lions Clubs International and Joseph M. McLaughlin, President of Lions International Foundation."

This was sponsored by the Georgia Past District Governors Association.

Plaques were also presented by the Georgia Past District Governors Association to both President Carter and Lioness Rosalynn and appropriate responses were made by each. The plaque to Lion Jimmy Carter read: "PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER-- who gives his brilliant best to his country and in appreciation for his stand on human rights to all people worldwide." The plaque to Rosalynn read: "FIRST LADY ROSALYNN CARTER--who gives devoted service to her family and her nation and for promoting greater harmony and better understanding between peoples of the world."*

Lion Robert Young, Franklin, Georgia and President of the Georgia Past District Governors presented the plaques.

President and Mrs. Carter greeted each participant and discussed common interests. Following this, the Lions and Lionesses toured the White House and made a bus tour of Washington. The return flight from Washington completed a momentous day.

The \$1,000 cost of the Melvin Jones Fellow Award was paid to Lions International Foundation by the Past District Governors who also paid their personal expenses for the trip.

The following Georgia Lions are Melvin Jones Fellows: Leon Bryant, Jimmy Carter, George H. Erwin, Sr., R. Shaefer Heard, James T. Riddle, Eugene Sanders, and Edwin C. Daniel.

MEMO FOR MEMBERS
FROM THE LION

Answer for Action

District Governor Jimmy Carter (18-C, Georgia) was informed that one of his clubs planned to dispense with meetings unless there was worthwhile business to conduct. Here is his answer to the Club's president:

I have just received a copy of your membership and Activities Report in which it was stated that your Lions club has decided "to have only called meetings when something more important than eating was evident." This was a distressing statement for me to read, because it indicates that the Lions in your club see no worthwhile function for them to perform in the community.

Have all of your members, through the regular programs, become thoroughly familiar with the problems and opportunities which face the community? Have they studied and do they understand the local educational system, the welfare program, the tax structure of the county and city, the sheriff's office and other activities concerned with maintaining law and order?

Have they studied the development of your natural resources, the acquisition of all possible industry for your community, and the relationship between individual citizens and local, state and federal governments?

Is there a fully developed youth program which permits the young people of your county to take part in a wholesome and enjoyable life of recreation and community service in harmony with you and the other adults there? Is there a Leo Club so that the young leaders may begin to understand the principles of service to others in an organized and inspired manner? Have your outstanding students been recognized by you for achievement in academic work, patriotism, athletics, or other endeavors, and do they feel that they habitually have the support and approval of the adults of the community when they strive for excellence? Do you sponsor a Boy Scout, Girl Scout or Cub Scout Troop? Is your club creating better citizenship by encourage debate, essay and declamation contests about patriotism, Americanism and citizenship?

Have all of your members been indoctrinated in the principles of Lionism through programs about the International organization, Lionism in other countries, the CARE program, the efforts for world peace through Lionism, and through participation in district, state and International Conventions?

Are your members eye donors to the Lions Lighthouse Eye Bank, and have other citizens of the community been given the opportunity of insuring sight to a blind person after their death? Are all children in your schools guaranteed adequate eyesight by your Club? Has your club supported the Georgia Lions Peach Bowl Game by ticket sales, to insure a good research program to eliminate blindness in our state?

Have each of your members been given a chance each month to participate in some program, large or small, to make your community a better place to live? Have other men of your community been given a chance to become Lions and to participate in community service (which is the only purpose of Lionism)?

There are clubs in our district which are performing all of these functions and many others as a matter of routine. By staying active and having a sense of accomplishment, they thoroughly enjoy their club meetings and they are a vital force in their community. I believe very deeply that your community needs the inspiration and service that can come from you Lions there, but your own activity must originate among yourselves. Neither I nor any other person force on you a responsibility or project which you do not wish to assume.

I do hope, however, that before your club makes a final decision to cease regular meetings that you will permit me and your other district officers to come there and meet with you and the other club members--not to criticize, but simply to be of service, if possible.

Jimmy Carter # 868230

Melvin Jones Fellow; 1978-79

Council Chair; 1968-69

100% District Governor Award; 1968-69

District Governor; 1968-69

Deputy District Governor; 1959-60

Zone Chair; 1958-59

President; 1957-58

Tail Twister; 1956-57

Bulletin Editor; 1954

Joined Plains Lions Club; 12/1/1953

J. E. Carter (Father); Charter Member; Director: Plains Lions Club 2/4/1946

Carter is the only U.S. president to have lived in housing subsidized for the poor.

Carter is a key figure in the Habitat for Humanity project.