



**Exchange Founder
Charles A Berkey**

The first Exchange Club was organized by Mr. Charles A. Berkey, a wholesale jeweler from Detroit, MI in 1911. Mr. Berkey was a member of an organization of Detroit business and professional people that had been meeting informally as the Boosters Club, which began in 1896. He used the spirit and principles of that group into the formal organization of the first Exchange Club.

The first meeting took place on March 27, 1911, with Mr. Berkey and 12 associates, this would eventually grow to become a major national service club.

Mr. Berkey was born on a farm in Ebensburg Pa. on March 28, 1870. The Berkey family moved to Cassopolis, MI in 1875. While living in Cassopolis Mr. Berkey learned the jewelers trade and left Cassopolis in 1889 to finish his apprenticeship in Chicago. For the next several years he worked as a salesman in Detroit and Chicago before returning to Detroit to establish himself permanently. He married Eva Lois Reid of Oxford, MI in 1897 and had three children, Charles Reid, Jean and Stanton Mahan. In 1900 he established the Berkey Manufacturing Company. The firm became a well known supplier of organizational jewelry. Mr. Berkey participated in many ventures for the betterment of Detroit. He was in the Masonic organization and was a 33rd degree Mason.

Mr. Berkey was active in the Exchange organization throughout his life, he was know to many members through his attendance at the national and state conventions and through articles he contributed to the national publication, THE EXCHANGITE.

Berkey served as President of Exchange Club of Detroit from 1912-1913, he also served as the first national president when the Exchange Club was formed in August of 1917.

Without any thought of this organization ever becoming of great national significance, the first Exchange Club was launched, "The idea of most importance to us," he said, "was that we should take only member in whom we could place implicit confidence, who lived up to the old-fashioned idea of truth and integrity, in their relationships with one another."

On September 30, 1942 Mr. Berkey passed away of a heart attack, his dedication to community service lives on in the hundreds of Exchange clubs across America.

**Yours In Exchange
Maureen Tobin
MDEC President Elect.**