Motto: ‘Friend Of The Boy’ – A friend of the ‘boy,” the motto of the Lafayette Optimist Club is appropriate for this group of 10:cal men who have given much of their time in helping the boys of Lafayette.

Optimist clubs are international, being found in the United States and Canada. There are more than 1,900 Optimist clubs with a membership of over 75,000. Optimist Clubs got their start in Buffalo, N. Y. in 1911 with the idea spreading to all parts of the nation and by 1929, over 200 chapters were in existence.

The Optimist can be identified with “National Youth Appreciation Week” which was established to honor the American youth striving to grow into citizens of the future. The idea was originated by a group of North Carolina businessmen and met with such success that it was turned over to Optimist International for organization-wide emphasis. Youth Appreciation Week is Nov. 14, to 20.

Optimist International sponsors an annual oratorical contest which starts on the club level with the winners going to district, regional, and on to national competition where a college scholarship is first prize. In Lafayette, each city school selects a qualified boy to compete in the contest. The winner is judged and selected by a panel of qualified men who are not Optimists. Lafayette has had its participants go as far as regional.

Scholarships

The local club sponsors each year two College scholarships to deserving boys from Lafayette through funds derived from the annual sale of Christmas trees. The first boy to ever receive one of these scholarships is presently teaching at Carencro High School. This award is not only provided for scholastic excellence but to a boy who might not otherwise be able to attend college for lack of money.

Scout Troops

Local Optimist sponsor what is known as the “Family of Scouting” which includes a Cub Pack, Scout Troop, and an Explorer Post. These three branches of Scouting are located at Cathedral High and are made up mostly of its students.

Boys from age 8 to 18 may participate in the various scouting programs such as meetings, camp- ing, field trips, canoeing and advancement through accomplishment.

Many items are furnished such as tents, wood working tools, merit badges and some uniforms to boys that otherwise could not afford these things.

Optimist Club

Several years ago, the Optimist decided to organize a special club for the boys in order that they might see what it was like to belong to a civic club. The boys noted to call the club “Junior Optimist Club.” This club has its own President, Vice President, Secretary, sergeant – at – arms, and an executive board.

The second idea was to try to stimulate interest in developing good character, loyalty to parents and country, devotion to school and school work. It gives the boys an opportunity for community service and to create a general “Op-