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District Governor Elect Wells Boutell, District Governor Richard Young, Lions International, Director L. Keith Gates of Logan, Utah, Senior

Gov. Elect Russell Pedersen and Past District Governor Richard Clark, Lima, banquet toastmaster.

Local Lions go to convention

Williams County members were among the 510 persons attending the 15th Annual District 13-A Lions International Convention held in Lima, Saturday and Sunday. The group included 16 Bryan Lions, one from Pioneer, and one from Edon.

At the annual business meeting Sunday afternoon, the convention delegates elected John Wagner from Wauseon, as the junior deputy district governor for 1981-1982, and Wells Boutell, Bryan, was unanimously elevated to the post of district governor-elect. Russell Pedersen of the Lima Northside Lions club was advanced from junior to senior deputy governor.

The nomination of John Wagoner was seconded by Lion past district governor Arden (Ben) Pacey of Bryan, and culminated a campaign by Wagoner who had visited several clubs in the district during the past year, soliciting votes of the delegates in attendance at the convention. A demon-

stration typical of convention politics, preceded the election of Wagoner, with a procession through the convention by members of the Wauseon, Napoleon and Archbold Lions clubs.

A convention report presented by District Governor Richard Young, Columbus Grove, listed various activities of the district chairmen. Speaker for the Sunday evening governor's banquet was Dr. L. Keith Gates of Logan, Utah. Dr. Gates is a director of Lions International at Oak Brooks, Ill., and also president of the Utah Ophthalmological Society.

Marilyn Collmer, director of convention and visitors bureau, Lima Chamber of Commerce, gave the welcome to the Lions, and remarks were made by the Mayor of Columbus Grove.

Spaking about how Lions have affected the lives of millions all over the world, since its birth in 1917, Lion Gates reminded the Lions of the meaning of the white

cane to the blind, and the fact that the white cane was originated by the Lions clubs. He spoke about the congressional act of 1934, which required all newstands in all federal buildings, such as post offices, court buildings, would be manned by blind persons. The congressional act was instituted by Lions clubs. He also spoke about the present day activities in glaucoma testing that Lions are involved. Utah has a mobile van equipped to go into the rural sections of that state where tests can be given to people who might otherwise miss them in the more populated areas of that state.

Lions International, Gates said, is the greatest humanitarian organization in the world with its 1,300,000 members, who have donated money for eye banks, and help for the deaf persons in recent years. He stated that 94% of all eye banks in the

world, have been started and mostly funded by Lions clubs.

Bryan Lions and wives attending the convention were Senior Deputy Governor Wells Boutell, and Esther; Bryan President Ken Rychener and Pette; Bryan President-elect William Davis and Annabelle; Past District Governor Ben Pacey and Helen; Past District Governor Lewis Yohn and Wilma; Chet and Lillie Rathbun, Decatur and Donna Lacy, Gerry and Marjorie Meyer, Jim and Marilyn Hurd, Dick and Mary Horn, William and Charlene Priest, John and Doris Peak and daughters, Dick and Donna Goehler, James Masten and John Stokes. Lions Edon President Verna Fry and his wife, the Pioneer Lions President Edwin Lantz and his wife were also in attendance at the convention. The Bryan Lioness club took first place in the scrapbook contest.