 Editor's note: This is one in a series of feature stories concerning organizations that benefit the Imperial area. Volunteering in a community, through organizations, is a way to pay back for the benefits that the community offers an individual.

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

People staying in the old Imperial Hotel, where Pizza Hut now stands, must have had sleepless nights back in the 1950s. That's where the Plainsman Rifle and Pistol Club used to hold target practice.

Begun in 1952 by Edgar Hathaway and Ed Burke, the club practiced on a pistol range in the basement of the Hotel.

Originally, according to present President Kim Silvester, the purpose of the club was to teach people rifle marksmanship.

He said the club was affiliated with the U.S. Army, which gave supplies to the club. The idea was "to teach youth how to shoot so they would know how if they ever got called to military service."

At one time the club had a big youth program involving about 30 youth ages 12-18 shooting .22 rifles.

Before the old horse barn at the Chase County Fairgrounds was torn down, the club had a pistol range in it.

Now, instead of shooting big bore rifles and pistols, club members shoot trap at the Robert Grams farm south of Imperial.

With about 20 members, the club also assists with the 4-H trap shooting program.

Anyone interested in becoming a member may contact Silvester at (308) 882-5344.