

THE RAZZBERRY

ISSUED BY THE COLDWATER ROTARY CLUB



"HE PROFITS MOST WHO SERVES BEST"

SEPT. 7, 1937

VOL. 3—NO. 13

THE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

The big recent Rotary activity is the District Assembly at Cadillac, August 22-24. The Cadillac Club took the occasion seriously and certainly extended itself to make it a success. Red McKnight and the Ed and their wives went up Sunday evening and took in the first day's session.

The get-together meeting at the Country Club Sunday evening was well worked out and very enjoyable. The games and stunts were interesting and amusing. The greater part of the crowd was there that evening, the distance from most clubs being so great that it was impractical to start Monday morning. Quincy was represented by Elwyn Bodley and his wife. Bronson was not represented.

On the Monday program Frank Barnes talked about Rotary Extension and a report was given of various towns which are considered Rotary territory. Work has been done in the past year toward the establishment of clubs in the following towns: Blind River, Ontario; Harbor Springs; Leslie; Lake View; Three Rivers; Plainwell; Otsego; Rockford; Reed City; Shelby; Benzonia; Beulah; Nashville; Grand Ledge; Cassopolis; Fremont; Newago; St. Ignace; Hart and Mason.

The reports on most of these places were quite discouraging. Some of them may succeed in forming clubs this year but the majority appear to be rather hopeless. Denny Clancy reports on Reading, however, and seems optimistic over the prospect of success. Rotary in this vicinity would be substantially strengthened by a club there. The Coldwater and Quincy clubs can be of substantial assistance to Denny and should neglect no opportunity to help him. Any of the fellows who have friends in Reading should boost.

Stub Bemer, Superintendent of Schools at St. Johns, gave an especially interesting talk on International Service. He gave many practical suggestions for a conscientious effort in each club to further the fourth object of Rotary. Some of them will be mentioned in the notes which follow this article.

The most amusing feature of the assembly was the talk of Don Harrington, President of the Albion club, on Club Publications. He was to be followed by Walter Wood of Niles, Past District Governor, whose subject was the Rotary Magazine.

Harrington, however, had prepared his address before he knew that he was limited to local publications and devoted most of it to the Rotarian. After he learned about Wood's talk, he said it was too late to change his speech. He had prepared it from material furnished by R. I. and went over the same ground Walter intended to cover. The result was the latter had nothing left to talk about. He spent five or ten minutes in a very laughable explanation of his predicament. Harrington himself had talked quite humorously and the whole incident brought roars of laughter from the crowd.

Kim Sigler handled the Assembly well. He presided with dignity in attaining a sustained interest throughout.

Walter Wood's talk was really funny. It brought out a humorous vein in him which no one had suspected. It was one of the best speeches he ever made.

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The Assembly sessions were held in the Elks Temple, a splendid and conveniently located building. The guests were housed at the Northwood Hotel.

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Among the Past District Governors present were Fred Gage, Fred Hill, Frank Barnes, Ray Dresser and Bill Otto. Bill made a fine talk at the luncheon Monday noon. Both he and Frank Barnes attended the convention at Nice this summer.

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Joe Grant, President of the Battle Creek club, made an impassioned plea for greater Rotary activity in bringing about fair trade laws and practices. It was well received but in our opinion is based upon a mis-conception of the function of Rotary. If Rotary were ever to allow itself to enter the legislative field, it would be in constant trouble. It could not avoid advocating controversial measures which would lead to feeling among its members. Then too such a precedent would encourage every member who had a pet project to undertake to enlist Rotary in the fight for it. Just as much ill will would be engendered by what it refused to do as by what it did do. It is probable the organization could not survive such a mistaken policy.

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One of the International Service suggestions of Stub Bemer was that a good sized delegation from clubs of this district visit some Canadian club as a gesture of good will. That would not be a difficult thing for Coldwater to do, especially if there happened to be a ball game at Detroit.

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Another suggestion was the exchange of letters with one or more foreign clubs.

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Another was that each member of a club contribute a dollar and that a dollar each be sent to as many clubs all over the world as there are members of the local club. This dollar would be sent with the request that some trinket be purchased with it representative of the industries of the town, and sent back here.

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Someone suggested that such letter be accompanied by an article representative of our local industries.

Another suggestion that each Past President present the club with some flag. In the case of Coldwater this would result in quite a collection of flags.

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Still another—a map of the world marked to show the extension of Rotary might be hung in the club room.

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The above were by no means all the suggestions, most of which were eminently practical.

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Incidentally the trip with Red and his wife was very delightful.

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Someone at the Assembly well said: "Every member is a cog in the Rotary Wheel but unlike most machinery the cogs do not wear out but become better with use".

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AUGUST ACTIVITIES

The month started with the boat trip, which was a fine Rotary activity. It served to vary the ordinary picnic idea which has grown somewhat monotonous. A lake picnic is attended by many members and their wives from a sense of duty. There must be something novel about our entertainment to keep it enjoyable. We have in mind a scheme for next summer which will be entirely different from anything we have yet done.

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The program at the luncheon that same week was a discussion of the Youth Movement which is being undertaken as a district activity. If successful it will be a new and distinctive activity in which this district will blaze the trail.

The picnic at the shack took the next meeting. George Vail said that was his idea of a good time. We have yet to hear of any member who did not enjoy himself. This is an activity which does not need to be changed. It could well be an annual event. All the members would enjoy an annual outing when he was free to put on his old clothes and lounge around in the congenial company of his fellow Rotarians.

Two weeks ago Paul Winger's talk on the Miami Injuns was wonderfully interesting. Paul himself made a hit with the club. He is a fine, upstanding type of young Rotarian. He took so good naturedly the Ed's boner which compelled him to come the second time to give his talk and had such a winning smile that the whole club fell for him.

The last meeting of the month was devoted to International Service. Dr. Foo's talk was so interesting and instructive that it rounded out the month's activities in wonderful style. His success as an American physician illustrates the broad base of similarity in the whole human race. The Chinese and Aryans are about as different as can be imagined, yet he comes here and successfully adapts himself to American customs and becomes conspicuously successful in competition with what we smugly believe advanced race.

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By no means the least important of the month's activities was the capable manner in which the club handled the strike situation at the last meeting.

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Since Dan Hodgman, the third members of the August committee, was not available, Sonny Bauer and the Ed have had more than their share of grief with five meetings, besides the lake trip.

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The program committee for September is Roy Newberry, Rex Kiess and Mort Olds.

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The Secretary's News Letter for last week contains President Duperrey's message to the clubs. It is a cordial invitation to cooperate in making Rotary better than ever before and a pledge of his best efforts to that end.

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The 35th District is no more. It started as a part of the 9th district, then became the 18th, which became top heavy and was split into the 23rd and 35th. The number has been changed to 151. Just what made the redistricting necessary is not known but the Board of Directors doubtless had adequate reason for it.

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The new membership committee should function. There are several people in the community who ought to belong to Rotary.

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We now have on our exchange list the Eastern Rotary Wheel, which is quite a pretentious magazine. It was formerly 'The Chaka' and is the official organ of District No. 89, comprising the Rotary Clubs of Ahmedabad - Amritsar - Bangalore - Baroda - Bombay - Calcutta - Cochin - Colombo - Jamshedpur - Karachi - Lahore - Madras - Poona - Rangoon - Sholapur and Thayetmyo. It is published in Bombay. The Governor of the district is Honorable Sir Phiroze Sethna.

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The June number contains the speech on 'Rotary and a Crippled Child' given at the International Convention at Nice by Paul King, who is now President of the International Society for Crippled Children.

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The 4H Club Fair is not a Rotary project but any Rotarian who is not boosting it with contributions of money or time or service of some kind is not fulfilling the ideal of Rotary Service.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

At the 1933 (Boston) Rotary Convention, the delegates from the clubs adopted an amendment to the standard club constitution reading as follows:

Honorary membership shall terminate on the first day of July next after the date of election, provided, however, that the Board of Directors in their discretion may, by resolution, continue such honorary membership from year to year thereafter. Such honorary membership may be continued by the Board although the person so elected has ceased to reside within or to be definitely associated with the territorial limits of the club.

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Governor Kim's first monthly communication is a formal letter written from a very intimate and friendly standpoint. He says to the club presidents:

"I hope this year you will 'put something on the ball' and make it the best year that Rotary has ever enjoyed in your Club. See to it that your programs are good and give your committee chairmen something to do, and remember that your job is to be a leader."

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Earnest Giesecke left Honolulu Monday noon, August 9th, had lunch with friends in San Francisco, Tuesday, August 10th and breakfast with his brother in Denver, Colorado Wednesday, August 11th at 8:30.

HONOLULU ROTOGRAM

What a small world!

Coldwater is getting the reputation of being a live club. It is no small task to rise about the inertia of life. Age breeds inactivity. We have been able recently to put over a number of unusual things—the Minstrel Show, the trip to Hillsdale with it, installation of the Quincy Club, the crowning of King Red, the picnic at the shack, the boat trip, last week's sit down strike. None of these were accomplished without some resistance but all were well worth while. Combined they give character to the club. It does not break any record but can be said without immodesty to be a good club and a useful institution in the community.*