

"This Must Be Coldwater's Best Rotary Year."

THE RAZZBERRY

ISSUED BY THE COLDWATER ROTARY CLUB



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"HE PROFITS MOST WHO SERVES BEST"

JUNE 2, 1936

VOL. 2—NO. 16.

The District Conference

The Coldwater Club was rather conspicuous at the conference for the small delegation it sent. Roy Putnam, W. J. Carlyle and the Ed comprised the delegation of senior Rotarians. Roy's wife was the only Rotary-Ann and Howard Titus, son of Walt Titus, was our Junior Rotarian. Two of us were obliged to come back to Coldwater Monday night for the budget meeting of the City Council.

Muskegon did itself proud in entertaining the conference. The usual attendance is between 350 and 500. Over 600 were registered at Muskegon. The local club had given it an unusual amount of time and enthusiasm and had spent at least twice as much money as is ordinarily done in an effort to give everyone a good time.

Muskegon is comprised of three units, North Muskegon, Muskegon Heights and Muskegon proper, all of which claim to be joined in a community which they call Greater Muskegon and which comprises about seventy-five thousand people. Back in the 80's it was the greatest lumber manufacturing city in the country. When the lumber industry weaned and other lumber towns were going down with it, Muskegon developed as an industrial center and has become one of the important cities of the state. Its Rotary Club is one of the early ones. It has been organized twenty years and its number is 216.

Every detail of the conference was well worked out. Chester Wells, president of the club, Ed Bitzer, conference chairman, and their associates had overlooked nothing. When you stepped from the hotel, cars were parked in front of you everywhere, ready to take you anywhere in the city you cared to go. Accommodations on the boat and at the hotel were ample and luxurious. The sessions commenced on time and closed on time. Programs were good and well attended.

From the reports given it appears that the year just closing has been a very successful one in Rotary. One hundred thirty-four new clubs have been organized and a substantial gain in membership realized. Rotary had been growing steadily until 1931, from which time membership declined in the depression until in the last two years it has taken new impetus. In June, 1935, the peak membership of 1931 was again reached. Since that time it has steadily increased. President Ed Johnson wants to make a record of four thousand clubs before the end of the year. He has nearly fifty yet to go but may succeed.

In this district everything has gone well. There has been a net gain of one hundred eleven members and a new club at Belding. Every club has paid everything it owes to Rotary International and is out of debt. The attendance record has been the highest in years. The Ionia Club, which was formerly not particularly active, has taken on a new lease of life. It has a steady growth from thirty-three members to forty-nine members. The Belding Club is growing steadily. Its membership has increased from twenty-one to twenty-nine and it has the enthusiasm of youth. Dowagiac and Hillsdale were reported as having done outstanding work in the youth movement during the year.

No opposition developed to the election of Frank Barnes of Manistee as District Governor Nominee. His popularity with the members was very much in evidence and there is no doubt his year in Rotary will be a successful one.

(Over)

THE RAZZBERRY

The District Conference—cont'd.

The general feeling was that Raymond Dresser has been one of the successful Governors. He was popular with the delegates. His popularity with his own club was attested by the fact that forty Rotarians and Rotary-Anns from Sturgis attended the conference.

The boat ride on Lake Michigan on the S. S. South American Monday afternoon was a very enjoyable affair. It is the best boat on the lake. The weather was fine and the crowd had a wonderful time. It is to be regretted that no more of the Coldwater fellows could go.

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Conference Notes

The decorations for the Governor's Ball Monday night were very unusual. The hall was decorated with foliage, to give an outdoor effect. Cedar trees were freely used. The big Rotary Wheel, which was in evidence last year at Battle Creek, was there and with indirect lighting effects it was very beautiful. There was a promenade around the hall and a beautiful fountain changing colors capped the climax.

It was the first conference the Ed has ever attended in which Fred Whetmore of Cadillac was not chairman of the Resolutions Committee. He did not attend the conference. Perry Powers, another of Cadillac's stalwarts, was missing. Mitch Willis of St. Joe was on hand as usual, as were Past District Governors Fred Gage, Fred Sheriff, Walter Wood, Paul Bond, Herold Hunt and Bill Otto.

A good delegation went up from Hillsdale.

During the year the hotel at Boyne City closed and the Rotary Club lost its meeting place. It was equal to the occasion, however. Its members got busy, arranged for the reopening of the hotel and accomplished a useful community purpose, in addition to assuring themselves of a meeting place.

The fellows from Grand Haven made the claim that they have the best County Health Unit in the United States. How this is determined, I do not know, but it is a mark for Branch County to shoot at.

Some of the clubs reported a custom of holding a student honor banquet at the close of the school year. The purpose of this is to furnish an added incentive to high school students to obtain honor scholastic standings as well as prominence in athletics.

"W. J." took the conference very seriously. He took in everything, gave thoughtful attention to it and came home satisfied that it was well worth the trip.

It is interesting to watch the Junior Rotarians. They are a fine group of boys. They go there with a tremendous interest and desire to learn Rotary. Their presence has a steadying influence on the whole crowd. No good Rotarian but would be ashamed to have those boys see anything that would lower Rotary in their estimation.

The total membership of Rotary in the District May 15th was 1909. Average attendance for the year thus far was 84.36. Only eight clubs suffered a decrease of membership. Only two clubs stood still. The balance gained in membership.

For the year the Coldwater Club stood seventh in attendance, and held six one hundred per cent meetings. Only five clubs in the District had more one hundred per cent meetings.

The new president of the Hillsdale Club is Ken Prettie, who was over here when the Hillsdale boys entertained us with a program recently. That new president at Marshall is Sam Leggitt. At Albion it is King Cornell, who was secretary for many years.

THE RAZZBERRY

Conference Notes—cont'd.

It seems that Kim Sigler will not have the field to himself for District Governor next year. The Ion'a Rotogram states that Foss Eldred is a candidate and has the solid backing of the Charlotte Club.

It is a sign of health in Rotary when two such able men (lawyers both) as Kim Sigler and Foss Eldred aspire to leadership in the district.

Carl Horn of Dowagiac was twice candidate for Governor. He failed not because of lack of qualifications for it but because someone else had more votes. He did not lose interest in Rotary, however, but has done an outstanding piece of work this year, which has received recognition outside as well as inside Rotary. The Detroit and Chicago papers have carried articles concerning it as have the Christian Science Monitor as well as other papers of general circulation. It is a high school course in economic adjustments, which will be described at greater length in our next issue. Carl should not be forgotten as gubernatorial timber.

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Ed Solicits Exchanges

We have added to our exchange the Rotary Voice of Toronto, Ontario, edited by W. R. Johnston. It is a printed publication issued weekly—somewhat larger than the Razzberry but with space occupied by commercial advertising, which reduces the news and editorial space to a smaller compass than ours. It is a fine paper, both in mechanical construction and contents.

The Ed has solicited exchanges from the clubs of London, England, Tokyo, Japan, Shanghai, China, Manila, Philippine Islands, Vancouver, B. C., Canada, Honolulu, Hawaii, Berlin, Germany and Paris, France. Most of the publications are in English. Two of them, however are not. The Ed expects to be able to decipher the Berlin publication but will have to refer the French sheet to a better scholar. Material from so wide a space should enrich the Razzberry. It certainly needs enrichment. Some of these papers contain only club announcements and things of no outside interest. Others are sources of news and editorial comment generally.

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The big source of interest in Rotary now is the Atlantic City convention. No one from the local club is planning to go. Indications are that the district will be well represented however.

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The Charlotte Mirror refers to a club project which is not definitely described but which appears to be a very thoughtful thing. We gather that the club recently entertained a number of blind persons in the community and presented each with a white cane. The idea was that if all blind persons carried white canes, motorists would know when a person crossing the street ahead of them was blind and would use extra precaution. This suggestion is worthy of general adoption. It is respectfully referred to the community service committee.

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The Toronto Voice announces that for the next two weeks it will contain the misspelled names of one Toronto Rotarian. A Rotarian merchant offers a TEK tooth brush to each Rotarian who detects the mistake. That would be too easy in a small club but the idea is worth development. We may start something.

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Rufus Osborn is an annual visitor to the club. No one who comes here is more welcome. The club is proud of his program and his contribution to the moral health of the world.

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In Harry Schneider's talk last Tuesday he told the percentage of feeble-minded persons in the state and nation but didn't give statistics as to the percentage in Rotary Clubs. It might be well for him to make a survey.

THE RAZZBERRY

The "Outpost" Proposal

Mr. Hugh W. Clarke
Secretary, The Rotary Club
Coldwater, Michigan
Dear Secretary Clarke:

Chicago, May 26, 1936

"A SUGGESTION FROM QUINCY"

That's an interesting editorial on the front page of "The Razzberry" for 19 May. Doubtless, yesterday, or maybe the day before, the question has been up for discussion in the district conference. Nevertheless, just on the chance that it wasn't discussed there, undoubtedly this note will call to notice of the members of your club the resolution which has been put forward by the Rotary Club of Winnipeg, Canada, for action at the Atlantic City convention.

This is the so-called "Outpost Resolution". It seeks to provide for almost exactly the sort of arrangement as that advocated in "The Razzberry" for making it possible to extend Rotary to towns where a full-fledged Rotary club can not be maintained.

The board of directors, in discussing the general idea, felt that there would be distinct necessity for drawing a very clear line between the kind of community that would be eligible for an outpost of a Rotary club and the kind of community that would be expected to form a full-fledged Rotary club if it formed anything. This line of demarcation is likely to be determined by the fact that the minimum number of charter members allowed in a club applying for membership in Rotary International is fifteen. That means that if a community can reasonably be expected to support a successful Rotary club of fifteen or more members authority would not be granted for forming an outpost there. Population is not a criterion. The real criteria are the diversity of classifications in the community and the characteristics of the leading men in those classifications.

It was interesting to note in the editorial in "The Razzberry" the statement that "Rotary has for years been pressing development in small towns but with indifferent success". That may or may not be accurate, depending on what is understood by "small towns". As you will see from the enclosed folder (page 2) 14½ per cent of all the Rotary clubs in the USCNB are in towns under 2,000. The 1930 census of the U. S. A. shows over 6,000 communities having more than 1,000 inhabitants. With fewer than 2,700 Rotary clubs in the U. S. A. we have still a long ways to go before we approach anything like saturation.

My kindest regards to ye editor,

Sincerely,

Russell V. Williams,

Assistant Secretary.

Russell V. Williams, Rotary Secretariat,
35 E. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois.

Thursday, May 28, 1936

My Dear Russ:

A SUGGESTION FROM QUINCY.

Hugh Clarke has handed me yours of the 26th inst.

I see from it more clearly than before the ramifications of the question involved. I favor the Rotary outpost proposal of the Winnipeg club. I suggest, however, that outpost is not a happy choice of names. Members in small towns are particularly sensitive and would hardly wish to have their affiliate club called an outpost. It would suggest to them that they were on the frontier of civilization.

I also feel that the financial obligations for an outpost should be liberalized somewhat. That could safely be left to action of the board of directors, which could also arrange for meetings in small centers.

It is my understanding that in a small outpost club affiliated with a regular club, no charter fee would be required.

The matter was not discussed at our District Conference but I hope it will be given full discussion at Atlantic City. I am sorry I cannot be there to take part in it.

Yours truly,

W. Glenn Cowell.