

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

# THE RAZZBERRY

ISSUED BY THE COLDWATER ROTARY CLUB



"HE PROFITS MOST WHO SERVES BEST"

JANUARY 21, 1936

VOL. 2—NO. 7

## *The Niles Meeting*

President Ed Johnson's meeting at Niles was a very successful affair. It was well attended, the splendid dining room of the Four Flags Hotel being filled with Rotarians from Niles, South Bend, St. Jo-Benton Harbor, Dowagiac, Sturgis, Coldwater, Charlotte, and other clubs. The Dowagiac club made the occasion its regular meeting and was present almost 100%.

President Johnson is a fine fellow. He is not experienced as a public speaker but he gave a very interesting talk which was essentially a report of Rotary activities during his administration. We repeat below a few interesting items of his talk.

He was convention chairman last year and had charge of the convention at Mexico City. He described the pressure brought to bear on Rotary International to cancel its Mexican appointment for the convention because of the persecution of the church by the Mexican government and the decision of the Board of Directors that because Rotary is non-political and non-religious in its constitution the meeting would not constitute either an endorsement or a criticism of the Mexican government and that the convention should be held in Mexico City as planned.

He said that during the week of the International Assembly and just a few days prior to the convention international President Nelson, past President Tom Sutton, Secretary Ches Perry, and himself had an appointment with President Cardenas to arrange for the opening of the convention by the President. The appointment was for 7 P. M. When they arrived at the president's palace they were informed the president had undertaken to reach them to postpone the conference because of an unexpected cabinet meeting and they were obliged to wait until 9 o'clock to meet the President.

Later they learned that the President at that meeting had asked for and received the resignation of the entire cabinet and was then and until after the closing of the convention the entire Mexican government. He said it was currently understood that the presence of large numbers of Rotarians from all over the world was the only thing that prevented a bloody revolution in Mexico at that time.

He also described the regional conference last September and the pressure brought to bear to prevent the holding of that conference in Italy lest it should be considered an endorsement of Italy's action, coming just on the eve of the declaration of war against Ethiopia.

Again the Board of Directors said that because of the non-political character of Rotary no notice should be taken of the action of the Italian government. The conference was held with representatives from northern Africa, Asia Minor, Egypt, and most European countries present, the total attendance being 1500.

He told an interesting story of the club in Alexandria, Egypt, when the Italo-Ethiopian war started. The club, about 60% of the members of which was British and Italian, ceased to meet. Shortly after that agitation was begun for resumption of its activities and the club voted on it. The British and Italian members voted solidly to resume meetings. Members of other nationalities voted against it, fearing friction between the British and Italians. Meetings were resumed, however, and have been

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### *The Niles Meeting—continued*

carried on without friction. The British and Italian members have shown the utmost consideration for each other.

He said the Rotary Club of Venice has recently passed a resolution showing that its national sentiment is much stronger than its Rotary allegiance because the resolution bitterly derides the 52 nations applying sanctions and particularly the British.

An interesting fact about Rotary in Italy is the R. I. has always stood for Rotary Italiano there. Pressure from Rotary International has failed to induce Italian clubs to adopt the usual designation. In the last month, however, Italian clubs have voted to change the designation to Rotary International. This is an evident attempt on their part to obtain sympathetic affiliation from the Rotary Clubs of other nations.

Italian Rotarians have to pass a rigid test of membership because each candidate must have the affirmative vote, not only of his own club, but of all clubs in Italy.

What President Ed lacked as a speech maker, first assistant secretary, Phil Lovejoy, supplied. He gave a very eloquent and vigorous address on the subject 'Dawn or Sunset.' He concluded that Rotary International is at the dawn of its mission rather than its sunset. He said there are now 3901 clubs covering practically all of the countries and geographical areas in the world. When the depression came on there were approximately 150,000 members. That gradually declined to 142,000 but the last year has been coming back there being at this time 164,473 members. He told of some of the problems of the Secretariat, many of which were very amusing.

Coldwater's old friend, Walter Wood, acted as toastmaster. He carried the program off very happily and successfully.

President Mooney, Roy Putnam, John Hardy, Red McKnight, and the Ed were the Coldwater representatives there.

Phil Lovejoy gave an interesting illustration of the almost infinite period covered by the history of the world. He told of an obelisk 250 feet in height and said if you were to place a penny on top of the obelisk and a postage stamp on top of the penny and consider the whole column as representing the span of the world's history, the penny would represent roughly the length of man's inhabitation of it and the postage stamp the period of civilization.

A striking statement that he quoted from Henry Ford is "No task is big if you divide it into small jobs."

He quoted an old lady whom he met casually as saying "Rotary brings a high and finer type of life to a community."

A number of Cassopolis fellows were there. It seemed the Dowagiac club is undertaking to carry Rotary to Cassopolis. The town already has a service club but with no outside affiliation. Asa Hadyn and the other fellows from Cassopolis must have received a good impression of this meeting.

—X—

The Hillsdale club recently had a manufacturer's day at which time they entertained as guests the manufacturers of the city. The club's Rotary quartette is getting quite a reputation. It recently broadcast over Station WOWO, Fort Wayne.

—X—

The magazine "The Rotarian" is twenty-five years old this month.

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### *The Embodiment of Empire*

The sympathy of the Coldwater club is extended to the Canadian Soo Club in the loss of its sovereign. Bob Sharer's suggestion last Tuesday was timely and thoughtful.

In the toppling of thrones which followed the world war and the general tendency to treat the members of former ruling families as jokes the dignity of the English king has kept the British throne firm on its foundation.

King George held the affection of all his dominions in remarkable degree. He had little actual power but tremendous influence. To his people he was the concrete embodiment of the Empire. The wisdom of the British system is called sharply to mind by his death. Without the throne, England might easily be in the situation in which Germany, Italy and other continental countries now find themselves.

The good will of the world goes out to King Edward. The success of his reign means much to its peace and prosperity.

—x—

### *The Razzberry Suggests*

The Razzberry wants to make a suggestion to the president.

Mrs. Bess Milnes performs a peculiar function in the community. It is practically impossible to hold a local theatrical without her assistance. Many a hit has been made by a local performer for which she is responsible, though the credit goes to someone else.

She does her work very willingly and graciously and seeks no recognition of it. The community owes her a debt of gratitude for service performed in a true rotary spirit.

The club could easily do something to make her work more effective. Almost every family has some bit of old fashioned clothing, jewelry or other article which would make a good theatrical property. If all of these were collected and placed in her charge and those who desire contribute to a fund for the purchase of cosmetics, wigs and other make-up articles, it would be a useful service on the part of the club.

We nominate Florence Kiess, Alice Frankhauser and John Walker as a committee for that purpose.

—x—

The anniversary of the organization of Rotary is February 23. In his current monthly letter the District Governor suggests that the club meeting nearest that date be devoted to the subject, "International Friendship." Doubtless the February program committee will adopt his suggestion.

—x—

J. A. Crabtree, British Director of R. I., recently died and Hugh Galloway of England has been elected to succeed him. The new director spoke to several clubs in our district last spring.

—x—

The Manistee club announces that it expects to have a candidate for District Governor next year in the person of Frank Barnes. He has been mentioned in the Razzberry several times as a probable candidate. He was President of the Manistee club in 1930-31 and engineered the District Conference, which was held there very successfully.

The northern clubs have felt for some time that they were entitled to the honor. Their claim seems to be generally recognized. Frank Barnes is a very fine fellow and would make a good governor.

*John's unity*

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## Fourteenth On List

The Coldwater club just escaped going into the second division in attendance in December. Its percentage was 90.26 and it stood fourteenth in the list. This is the lowest it has been in some time. The Ionia club which is usually way down was second with Zealand, a new club, third and Charlotte, which usually has a rather spotty attendance record, fourth. The new clubs at Belding and Lowell both outranked Coldwater.

—X—

Both the news letter from the Secretariat and the Governor's Monthly Letter are beginning to stress the Atlantic City convention which is to be held June 22 to June 26.

At a recent meeting the Board of Directors chose London, England, for the 1937 convention.

—X—

The newly elected Rotary clubs are none of them in the United States. They include Chincha, Peru, Limoges, France, Zlin, Czechoslovakia, and Lwow, Poland.

—X—

Congratulations are in order for 'W. J.' Carlyle. His administration of the Homer Furnace plant has resulted in a conspicuous success. He was discharged last week as receiver and the plant turned back to the company. The value of his services has been recognized by his retention as manager.

This plant means a great deal to Coldwater.

—X—

The district attendance record is improving, which speaks well for the administration of Raymond Dresser.

—X—

Bill Shulters of the Hastings club missed a meeting the latter part of December because of illness. Ordinarily such an item would not be news. The thing that makes it important is that it broke a 100% attendance record for a period of over fourteen years.

—X—

Shortly before Christmas the Holland Rotary Club put on a theatre party for approximately 970 under-privileged children in their community. It also gave a party for crippled children at which about thirty of these unfortunate youngsters were present.

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## The Coldwater Daily Reporter

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