

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

# THE RAZZBERRY

ISSUED BY THE COLDWATER ROTARY CLUB



"HE PROFITS MOST WHO SERVES BEST"



MAY 19, 1936

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## *A Suggestion From Quincy*

The Ed received a suggestion from the Quincy Club last week which may well be passed on to Rotary International. It is this.

Both Quincy and Bronson organized Lions Clubs a few years ago but they were not very successful. In a short time the Bronson Club surrendered its charter. Some time later the Quincy Club did the same. In both towns, however, there was a field for a luncheon club. In Quincy the club was continued and now functions successfully as an independent.

The trouble was the financial requirements of affiliation with a general organization. In both towns it is recognized that such affiliation is desirable. The fellows in Quincy feel that there should be some concession in financial requirements in small towns.

Doubtless this matter has been given thorough consideration by the Board of Directors of R. I. There are obvious objections to it but there are also cogent reasons why it should be done.

The suggestion at Quincy was that in towns of 2,000 or under, Rotary units be permitted as affiliating with a nearby Rotary Club but without the requirement of a charter fee and with reduced requirement of contribution to the general fund of R. I. The affiliate club would be considered as belonging to the parent club, would no doubt meet with it on unusual occasions, such as Ladies' Nights, but the regular weekly luncheons would be held separately. Perhaps there should be but one Board of Directors for the entire organization. If that were true, members of affiliate clubs should be eligible to membership on the Board of Directors.

Such a plan would work out wonderfully well in Branch County. If Bronson, Quincy and Union were to organize clubs of that character, it would result in much closer contacts among representative men of the four centers of population in the county than has ever been true in the past. A solidarity of interest and unity of action would be encouraged which would mean much in its development.

Rotary teaches such solidarity of interest. A good Rotarian realizes that instead of profiting by the misfortunes of our neighbors, we are injured by them. Anything which benefits our neighbors redounds to our advantage. The same thing is true of communities. A county is never advantaged by rivalry and distrust among its communities. It is impossible to sit at table with men from another community without realizing that they are the same kind of good fellows and actuated by the same motives that you find in your community.

Rotary has for years been pressing development in small towns but with indifferent success. A relaxation of the requirements along the lines indicated would tremendously increase its influence and its usefulness.

It is a well known fact that clubs in small communities develop a better Rotary spirit than in large cities. The same would be true to a still greater degree if the rules were so liberalized as to permit of the general extension of Rotary into still smaller communities. Such an extension would doubtless involve a slight relaxation in the classification requirements. There are many angles to consider and many things to work out. It seems to me, however, that the result to be gained thoroughly justifies a careful consideration of the proposal. I suggest that the Coldwater Club advance the idea at the District Conference and undertake to obtain district endorsement for it.



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## *Around the State*

(From the Governor's Monthly Letter)

BATTLE CREEK—Fred Gage, Past District Governor, has recently been elected to serve his twenty-second consecutive year as Secretary of his club.

SOO, MICH.—recently completed it's annual Boy Scout drive which is one of the big features of this Club.

ST. JOE-BENTON HARBOR—has it all over the rest of us because they were entertained at their regular meeting by the Blossom Queens.

ALBION—put on an annual International Service meeting by having several college men in costumes representing seven different foreign countries, each speaking in the language of the country he represented, bringing greetings to the Albion Club.

—X—

Coldwater's attendance record for April was 94.29%. That is good but there were many other clubs which had a good record, with the result that we were tenth from the top. The clubs which beat us were Hastings, Allegan, Greenville, Vicksburg, Ionia, Canadian Soo, Charlotte, Zeeland and Cheboygan. The clubs whose record is below eighty are Lansing, St. Joseph-Benton Harbor, Jackson, Albion, Kalamazoo, Muskegon and last of all Grand Rapids. It will be noted that none of the clubs which beat us have over sixty members and but two of the low clubs have less than sixty members. The lowest club in attendance is the largest one. Coldwater's membership is given in the report as thirty-eight. If that number is correct, our membership has declined greatly.

—X—

The biographical editor has resigned. He says the difficulty in getting cooperation from the fellows is too great. Whether the members in other towns kick in easier or the editor pushes harder is not known. Anyway his place will not be filled and the department will be closed, thus effecting a considerable saving in salaries.

—X—

## *Coldwater Boy Tells All*

We copy an autobiography from the Charlotte Rotary Mirror of May 4th, however, because it is that of a Coldwater boy.

"Was born Nov. 18, 1890, two miles east of Coldwater and as a result of my birth, one wind-broken horse was developed by Old Dr. Wilson who beat the stork by an eyelash. Started school in the woods at Williamsburg, Michigan, ten miles east of Traverse City, walking 1 1-2 miles to school through the woods. Two years later our family moved back to Coldwater. There and in Toledo, Ohio, I spent the rest of my school days. At the age of eighteen I entered the funeral work at Coldwater, later entering an embalming school in Chicago. After graduating I continued the same line of work there for two years, just a stone's throw from where the "old cow" kicked over the lantern that started the Chicago fire. In 1915 I again returned to Coldwater and in the month of roses married a school ma'am, Allie Grice. We now have five sons and one daughter. Came to Charlotte seven years ago after being in business at Tekonsha twelve years and expect to stay here the rest of our lives."

Albert Cheney.

—X—

President Ed Johnson is shooting at a mark of four thousand clubs before the end of the Rotary year. There are now 3950 clubs. We will probably reach his goal. There are at present approximately 112,000 Rotarians in the United States and 56,000 outside. Thus Rotary is two-thirds national. This ratio is gradually changing. The time will probably come when it will be fifty-fifty.

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### *Words of Wisdom*

The following words of wisdom from Sky Marshall's St. Johns Rotary Spirit are worthy of reproduction.

Someone or some group has to start things.

If things are not started they are never finished.

Every worthwhile thing we have in St. Johns—we mean EVERY one—was started by some person who had vision.

Also, and MORE IMPORTANT, the things that were STARTED and ACCOMPLISHED had behind them a number of men and women who WERE NOT AFRAID. They had the GUTS to follow through.

None of us has much use for men, or women, who continually START things and never FINISH them.

Now get this — THE DEPRESSION IS OVER.

Yes, what we mean, the depression IS over.

If it isn't, it merely exists in the MINDS of people.

How about your mind? Are you still fearful, tim'id, fraidy-cat, tightwad, or name your own poison?

A city is NOT a bank. The only money that a city has is money that belongs to the people who live in that city. Money is nothing but paper and junk—UNLESS IT IS USED.

The Rotary Club can, if it will—if it is not too timid and afraid, or indifferent—exert its influence toward the accomplishment of some worthwhile things in this town.

—x—

### *Candidate for Governor*



Frank Barues, of Manistee, is probably the only candidate for District Governor at the next District conference.

He is a former president of this club, is an energetic worker and a very fine fellow. The northland is entitled to recognition this year. Kim Sigler of Hastings, and perhaps one or two others have ambitions to be governor but all have deferred.



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### *The Coming District Conference*

A recent issue of the St. Johns Rotary Spirit states that Muskegon is making unusual effort to assure the success of the coming District Conference. It is spending about three times as much as has ever been spent before in arrangements for it. It will unquestionably be an enjoyable and worth while event.

The entertainment features of a conference are all right. It is important that the Rotary-Anns be provided with entertainment which makes it attractive to them to go. The responsibility for Rotary work is not on them but it is fine for them to become acquainted with Rotary-Anns from all over the District. Fellowship among Rotarians themselves is promoted by a reasonable amount of entertainment.

It must not be forgotten, however, that the District Conference has a more serious purpose than mere entertainment. A factor which has contributed as much as anything to the success of Rotary International is its well work out scheme of meetings. It starts with the weekly meeting of the club and goes on through the various steps of directors meeting, club assembly, district conference, district assembly, international convention, international assembly with side lines of regional conferences. All of these meetings have a function in the organization. They result in a cohesiveness and centralization of energy which gives Rotary an important and well recognized world influence.

At the District Conference time is usually given for a boat ride, golf game or such entertainment as the members desire. The entertainment, however, should not be allowed to interfere with the time devoted to meetings.

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An attendance trophy will be awarded to the club having the largest attendance at the conference. The plan is to consider both number of members and mileage in making the award. If mileage were not considered the nearby clubs would always win the trophy.

—X—

Dr. Amos O. Squire will be the principal speaker at the conference. He is also one of the principal speakers at the convention at Atlantic City. He speaks both Monday morning and Tuesday noon at Muskegon and is said to be a first class speaker. He is a director of R. I.

—X—

Clarence M. Bemer of St. Johns has charge of the conference of Junior Rotarians at Muskegon. It is estimated there will be about forty of these young men there. The Junior Rotarian movement has proven very successful.

—X—

The Juniors will be housed at the Oxidental Hotel. Both the boat and the hotel will be available to Rotarians. After our experience in Manistee, the Ed intends to stop at the hotel.

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### *Band Uniforms Needed*

The Voice of Sturgis Rotary says that money is being raised to send the local high school band to Cleveland to the national band contest. Their band went to St. Louis one year. The fact that it is striving for national honors must be a tremendous stimulus to good work.

The Coldwater band is in bad shape now so far as uniforms are concerned. Mrs. J. A. Thomas, President of the Parent-Teachers Association, is inaugurating a campaign to raise the expense of procuring new uniforms. The cost is estimated to be approximately \$1000.00. It is a worth while project. The high school band is the best solution of the problem we have ever had. It supplies band music much more cheaply and it is more easily available than any adult civic organization. The Chamber of Commerce and local civic organizations, like the Rotary Club, should fall in line and give this project every assistance.