

"Attendance is the Price of Membership"

bubble, or a toy balloon which bursts upon the least strain. Unfortunately, with some the Rotary spirit is used like cosmetics, a surface adornment which may be wiped off at any time, and not the rose color of health which pigments the very blood-cells. Sad days are indeed ahead of Rotary, if a Club is so stiff with dignity that a Rotary scribe dare not 'kid' it for some foible or fixed idea without being lynched in public print. We leave it to the impartial judgment of those who have no political axe to grind to decide as to which of the two clubs acted in an un-Rotarian spirit.

—Rotarygrams—

Rotary's Problems

The major Rotary problems to be considered by the Vienna convention are those of administering an international organization with units in more than sixty countries. There are now about 2,500 Rotary clubs in the United States and one thousand in other countries. The question of extending greater representation to these other clubs in both organized and unorganized areas, on the international board of directors, and in other administrative ways, is to be presented in several resolutions.

Under the leadership of Almon E. Roth of Stanford University, California, the President of Rotary International, the conduct of Rotary's business and educational affairs this year has been even more thoroughly internationalized than hitherto. The chairman and the majority of the members of the committee in charge of the Vienna convention are Europeans. The chairman is Sydney Pascall of London, one of the leading British sugar confectionery manufacturers.

"Rotary is conducting a great experiment," said President Roth, "in operating an international organization which includes more countries than there are in the League of Nations. If we do nothing else, we have given to the world this lesson in international cooperation. We have shown that it is possible for the nations of the world to get together for a friendly settlement of their differences of viewpoint and customs.

"We do not pretend that we are going to put an end to war, just because we encourage and foster the development of international understanding and goodwill but we do feel that this comparatively small group of 155,000 Rotarians is making a valuable contribution to the harmony of the world, through the thousands of friendly contacts established between the citizens of more than sixty nations in just such gatherings as the Vienna convention next June. We are trying to set the world an example of cooperation and fellowship.

ROTARYGRAMS OF BEAUMONT



WEEKLY BULLETIN

Membership Secretary Phone 932

Vol. IX Beaumont, Texas, April 29, 1931 No. 17

This Ought To Make It Okay

Editor of the Rotarygram,

Dear Editor:

I am suffering some chagrin and more embarrassment that the Port Arthur Rotary club takes umbrage at an article in the issue of last week and I sincerely apologize for having imbroiled our club in a controversial matter. If this is lese majeste please accept my regrets.

The reference was in a spirit of humor and not animosity. Perhaps like Bill Shakespeare, they think "comparisons are odious" and the back-wash of this wave of resentment would indicate the musk rankles in their nostrils like the odor of pole-cat.

It's hard to insult a golf player but it seems they take their bridge serious. Maybe somebody trumped their ace or their bid was too high. I have tried to span a few things myself and got my cantilever caught.

Like the kleptomaniac that was being tried for theft, in a "moment of abstraction" I took too much liberty, or the Will Hays of your organization was too busy floating a bond issue to properly censor the article.

Anyway I feel there are members of the Port Arthur Club too good sports to interpret the reference as a doubtful stigma of a breach of etiquette or ethical turpitude, and the reaction to the others will be in a spirit of jocularly.

Of course, if you don't think you are going to look well in a punctured pelt, or the babbitt in your bearings is going to be run out, maybe we can stiffen up the consistency of the unction to immunize you from this imbroglio.

Very respectfully, yours

(Double) Check.

April 24th, 1931.

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Boys Will Be Boys

Boys haven't changed. They are still about as bad, just about as good as when we inked the flaxen "pigtales" of the girl at the desk in front, or sheepishly carried to mother a tiger-lily bouquet from the woods. And boys still like to chum around with other boys. They are incurable little gangsters—as they always have been.

No, boys haven't changed, but fortunately, we adults have. We no longer say "Thou shalt not" to that gang impulse. We accept it. We encourage it. We try intelligently to supply an outlet for its normal expression through such organizations as Boy Scouts, 4H, Boys' Clubs, Highlanders, and Sea Scouts. And, if we are sincere, we shall take an active part in making Boy's Week, April 25 to May 2, a community vote of encouragement and confidence for those to whom we commit the care of our sons.

The old idea of making bad boys into good men was to "nip in the bud" with rigid discipline their wrong doing. The new idea is so to fill the youngsters' waking hours with adventurous activities that it seems natural to do those things which more experienced elders know make for wholesome citizenship.—The Rotarian.

A Painful Incident

By Samuel Rosinger

Upon first thought I intended to treat lightly the strange action of the Port Arthur Rotary Club in passing a formal resolution of condemnation against the facetious chatter of Chester in his entertaining "Slants," written in such a happy, humorous vein. I had made up my mind to ignore with dignified silence, the inability of Rotarians in our neighboring city to recognize the good-natured banter of our Rotarygrams' "columnist," who is Will Rogers and George Ade rolled into one. Upon further consideration, however, I find that the action of the Port Arthur Rotary Club merits a far more serious reflection than appears on the surface. For this hasty resolution of condemnation, with its attendant press publicity, shows, that in, alas only too many instances, how nominal and fictitious is the much vaunted Rotary friendship and fellowship, so greatly stressed in and out of the Club.

If, for lack of familiarity with literary styles, the Port Arthur Rotarians took Chester's jocular remarks seriously, had they been actuated by a true Rotary spirit, they could have instructed their Secretary to ask the president of the Beaumont Club, not for an apology, as was suggested by a modest member of the Port Arthur Club, for there was no offence committed or meant, but for an EXPLANATION. Such a procedure would have settled the misunderstanding amicably, and obviated the unedifying spectacle of airing an insignificant family squabble in public print.

The unwarranted action of the Port Arthur Rotary Club certainly came with ill grace after the Beaumont Rotary Club lent its whole-hearted cooperation towards making of the District Conference an unqualified success. In the very same number of the Rotarygrams that contained the publicly pilloried article, there appeared an ecomium of Port Arthur Rotarians, penned by this writer. In addition to the printed praise, this writer addressed a warm personal letter to the president of the Port Arthur Rotary Club, in which he paid sincere tribute to the Port Arthur Rotarians for the splendid manner in which they had put over the District Conference, as well as for the personal courtesies he had been accorded.

After the Beaumont Club had given such a fine demonstration of its friendship and fellowship, it could rightly expect a hearing at least, before being raked over the hot coals of public censure and denunciation.

This painful incident shows how volatile and evanescent is the stuff called Rotary spirit. With some it is hardly more than an iridescent soap