

"Attendance is the Price of Membership"

Life's Music

By Samuel Rosinger

In that rich storehouse of ancient Jewish lore, the Talmud, the story is told of a simple reed pipe, which was treasured as a marvelous musical instrument by the Levites in the Temple at Jerusalem. It was presented to the sanctuary by a shepherd boy of the hills of Judea, who was exceptionally skillful in giving sweet and clear tones to the wind instruments he fashioned. One of the priests thought that he would improve the appearance and enhance the value of the pipe by covering it with gold. To his grievous disappointment, the gold cover changed the tone of the reed and robbed it of its rare quality.

Is this ancient story not symbolic of life? What a perfect instrument could we make of life, if, in fashioning it, we would devote our talents not to its glittering appearance, but its beautiful tone qualities. Life is never so rich and sweet as when it is simple and natural, when it impresses us, not by its material trappings and gilded coverings, but by its inner beauty, by the refinement of heart and mind and the magic power of a pleasing personality. What a pity that so few appreciate the life that finds expression not in external possessions, but inner wealth, in simple wants and sublime thoughts, in plain surroundings steeped in high culture, in a vocation which, being a labor of love, satisfies with a modest reward, and in the love and loyalty which human relationships generate in the heart of man. It is such a simple and artless and unaffected life that yields the sweetest music of happiness and the richest tones of peace and contentment on earth.

Unfortunately, so many of us imitate the unwise priest, and cover the instrument of life with gold. No sooner do we put our trust in gold than life loses its soft mellow tones, and gives forth harsh and metallic sounds. Nothing vitiates life more than the curse of gold. Nothing exerts a more baneful influence on man than the hypnotic spell of this yellow metal. It robs man of the peaceful pursuit of happiness, and plunges him into a mad scramble for its possession. It fills man with insatiable greed, so that he will sell his soul and barter his honor for it. And what does man get in return for gold? Claptrap and tinsel, which delights children, but has no value for mature minds.

Would that the sore trials and tribulations through which we are passing restore to us that heavenly music of life that is derived not from tinkling gold, but from those divine qualities which satisfy the longing heart and fill the hungry soul with good.

ROTARYGRAMS OF BEAUMONT



WEEKLY BULLETIN

Membership Secretary Phone 932

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Slants at the Meeting

This will be more of a penurious peep like you would get from a disdainful dowager through lifted lorgnettes.

Anyway the Republicans had it last week (the program) but the present regime has had us for the last three years in a pinch that would make a Scotchman's grip seem looser than a stray nut in a junk pile.

Stabilization of prices and readjustment of taxes was the dietary offering to build up our emaciated carcasses.

Of late we have been listening to seers, prophets and prognosticators on the conomic up-turn in this country and to the theories of the socialistic, communistic and bolshevistic panaceas in Russia until the old "noodle" is in gyroscopic motion like the evolutions of a young cyclone.

In the meantime we are living in the land of promissory notes, amidst the aroma of bootleg whiskey and the rattle of gangster weapons, praying to false gods, betraying our brothers, coveting their wives and high-jacking our neighbors and if this country is not in a helufer shape we will set in with you and join Leo Ney in his anti-rumor campaign.

—Check.

—Rotarygrams—

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY PARTY
Sunset Grove, Orange, Texas
February 22nd, 1932
*Eight Clubs, Eight Diversions,
Eight Hours
Ate Everything*

OFFICERS

JIM EDWARDS President
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MILLARD McMASTER—Petroleum Iron Works Co.
BARTOW COUSINS—San Jacinto Life Insurance Co.
KEITH HOTCHKISS—Pipkin & Brulin.
BARNEY STEINHAGEN—Steinhagen Rice Mill Co.
PERK BUTLER—American National Bank.
BEEMAN STRONG—Yount-Lee Oil Co.

—Rotarygrams—

The following visitors were present at last week's meeting:

Jack Dionne, Houston, Texas.
E. C. Kincade, Houston, Texas.
L. E. Thorne, Port Arthur, Texas.
Paul Murphy, Houston, Texas.
W. G. Moody, Houston, Texas.
J. W. Valentine, Houston, Texas.
V. P. Legendre, City.
C. A. Pricket, City.
J. A. Myers, Bryan, Texas.
Major Howland, New York, N. Y.
H. V. Keppers, New York, N. Y.
John A. Hawthorne, New York, N. Y.
J. Fred Engler, Houston, Texas.
J. L. Robinson, Houston, Texas.
John D. Reinstra, City.
C. T. Butler, City.
J. W. Comer, Dallas, Texas.
E. L. Boykin, City.
F. W. Shepherd, Houston, Texas.
Tobe Hahn, City.
E. L. Chaney, City.
H. P. Wolf, City.
L. G. Balmer, St. Louis, Mo.
L. J. Benckenstein, City.
Gen. J. W. Philp, Washington, D. C.

—Rotarygrams—

We wonder if bankers ever long for the return of the old days when they could glare at a depositor and ask him what he was doing in the bank, anyway.

Rotary's Founder

Paul P. Harris, founder of Rotary, was born April 19, 1868, at Racine, Wisconsin. He received his Illinois license as an Attorney and Counselor at Law in 1896 and since then he has been engaged continuously in the practice of his profession in Chicago.

After completing his law course in 1891, he spent the following five years in seeing the world and learning to know his fellows by actual contact with them under all sorts of conditions. He worked as a reporter on daily papers in San Francisco and Denver, rode the range in the cow country, picked oranges in southern Louisiana, sold marble and granite, crossed the Atlantic twice on cattle ships, and made a third trip to Europe on business.

In 1896 he felt he had gained sufficient practical knowledge to be of service to his clients and opened a law office in Chicago. He had neither friends nor relatives in Chicago. His first years as a lawyer were marked by the discouragements and struggles which are typical of beginners in his profession. He had much time for reflection and pondered much on conditions of life and business in a large city. In 1905, as a result of his study and reflections, Mr. Harris had formulated a definite philosophy of business relations. Calling together three of his friends, each of whom was engaged in a different line of business, he expounded his theory to them. This group was the nucleus of the Rotary Club of Chicago. Through the propaganda of Paul Harris, this novel organization soon had counterparts in other cities in the United States. In this extension work the acquaintances Paul Harris had made in the five years that he knocked around the country were of material assistance to him in the establishment of new clubs.

After a few years the necessity for some organization to bind these different clubs together became apparent. Thereupon, Paul Harris, Chesley R. Perry and others organized the National Association of Rotary Clubs in America in 1910. Later through the extension of the movement into Canada and Great Britain, the International Association of Rotary Clubs was formed. This later was renamed Rotary International.