

Timely Topics

By Samuel Rosinger

The season dedicated to good will, finds individuals, as a whole, practising this true benevolence in their relationship to each other; but, on the other hand, it finds little of this friendly spirit in the attitude of group to group and nation to nation. Life, of course, is a struggle and conflict and opposing interests are bound to collide and create friction. Yet, with the exercise of will all differences arising between groups will be amicably settled to the benefit of all. Unfortunately, when groups are in conflict, there are always mean souls on each side who like to fish in troubled waters, and who fan the smouldering fire of strife until it breaks out in the consuming flame of warfare, and passion runs so high that reason becomes dethroned, and force and violence are looked upon as the only means whereby the conflict could be settled. If only the professional troublemakers, the agitators and all those unconscionable traffickers who foment strife among men for mercenary motives, could be corralled and isolated as the carriers of the most deadly germ of discord, peace would, indeed, reign on earth and goodwill among men. In the meantime, let each of us, in our dealings with our fellowmen, be guided by a fair spirit of give and take, of live and let live, and establish in human relationship that Divine harmony which prevails in nature and in the universe.

The "purging" butchery perpetrated by European dictators on so-called enemies of the state, who are mercilessly executed without even the semblance of a trial, is a blot of shame on the escutcheon of civilization, and democratic governments ought to publicly condemn such outrageous acts of wholesale murder. And, if the governments proper cannot take such action, let liberals in every country express their outrage and indignation against such wanton killings and against their beastly perpetrators. If democracies were guided by moral, and not material considerations, they would sever relationship with these man-hunting savages until they would learn to have a decent regard for life and liberty.

Leon Sonfield's passing on is felt by the whole community, but more especially by the civic clubs, which drew on his talents so heavily. Not only was he called upon to address these bodies on important occasions and on questions that agitated the public mind, but whenever a program committee got into a jam and needed a pinch hitter, Leon Sonfield could always be counted upon to come to its rescue. For he gave himself as freely to his fellowmen as a natural fountain that yields its refreshing waters to all who are thirsty. The Beaumont Rotary Club, in whom deceased held membership for a number of years, recalls gratefully the numerous occasions on which he inspired and enraptured the members by his brilliant oratory, and deeply feels the loss which the community at large has suffered in his demise.

ROTARYGRAMS

OF BEAUMONT



WEEKLY BULLETIN

Membership Secretary, Phone 932

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Rotary Party

*Bring "Ann" out Wednesday to this
Annual Christmas Shopping Luncheon.*

A wonderful program has been provided;
*Haunting Music . . . Beautiful Scenes
Fascinating Fairies*

Privilege of inviting additional guests is
accorded you. Bring a friend.

For every lady accompanying you bring
one present, (Not to exceed \$1.00)

—R—

RAYMOND M. HAVENS

On December the 2nd, Ray passed on to that invisible committee work which we must all take up sooner or later.

He has been a Rotarian for twenty years in Kansas City and served as president of his club.

In 1918 he was convention executive committee-man in Kansas City when the convention met there.

In 1920 he served as chairman of committee of relations between employer and employee and delivered a far reaching report in Atlantic City.

At the convention in Los Angeles 1922 he was elected president of Rotary International, and in 1923-24 he served as chairman of business methods committee; and also chairman of Convention Com. at Minneapolis in 1928.

Three past-presidents were appointed by Bob Hill to attend the funeral Dec. 4th, Kansas City, . . . Paul Harris, Russell T. Greiner and Arthur Sapp.

Many of our Rotarians will recall the delightful visit Ray and wife made to this club in 1923 and it is with deep sorrow that Rotary registers such a loss.

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KELSEY LAMB.....Vice-President
PRESTON B. DOTY.....Treasurer
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—R—

Slants at the Meeting

The two most important events in the annual routine of a Rotary Club converged on us last week . . . the Community Chest meeting and District Governor's greeting.

The Community got its chest inflated and its vaunted treasury is fatter than the Rabbi's goose. It's surfeited with the lucre of the day. In fact exceeding it's quota by a few thousand shekels. Praise Allah.

The big Guv from North Texas . . . we mean BIG, too . . . Dick Hawkins come slipping in on us with that suave manner of his and turning the Community Chest meeting into a Community Service program. Sure, that's killing two stones with one bird.

We hope to have this young pedagogue back with us before July 1st, 1935, and accord him the hospitality and recognition compatible with the office. To share time even with so important an activity as the Community Chest is taking advantage of our leader.

Dick is stressing the 6th object of Rotary,—International Relations,—even urging the sending of your Editor of Rotarygrams to the City of Mexico convention next June. A counselor of so great wisdom should not be unheeded (whispered aside in the ear of each Director).

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It has always been the policy of this Rag of Reason to recognize great merit, superior wisdom and unequaled attainments. Our Vice President has just had the unusual honor of being "The Drunkard" in this month's Little Theatre play. This seems to be a bit significant this time of year when there is so much "loose likker". Well, here's looking under the table at you, old boy.

Check.

Rice, An Important Industry

It will no doubt be interesting to know some rather startling facts about rice. Rice culture began in that dim prehistoric period before the time of records. The earliest mention of rice in history is in China. In 2800 B. C., a Chinese Emperor established a ceremonial ordinance for rice planting. In fact, in classic Chinese, the same word means "culture" and "agriculture". However, many authorities, for botanical and linguistic reasons, trace the origin of rice to a plant called "Newaree" grown in India in 3000 B. C.

Rice and food are synonymous in many languages the world over, showing that rice was one of the chief foods used in those early days before the great migrations of man began to spread out over the earth. On down through the ages, rice has played a major part in the diet of people. It was introduced into the United States in 1694. As early as 1718, rice culture was begun along the lower Mississippi in Louisiana. Since favorable soil and climatic conditions are found in only three other states, the commercial culture of rice is now limited to the three Southern States of Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas, and to the Sacramento Valley in California, with approximately a million acres planted in rice, producing ten million bags, with six and one half million bags consumed by continental United States; two and one-half million shipped to Puerto Rico and Hawaii and about one million bags exported to practically all countries of the earth, where American grown rice is recognized as the super quality rice.

Rice is said to be the world's greatest crop, exceeding either wheat or corn. It is the staple food of the greatest number of people—more than a billion. Over half the world's population eats rice three times a day as the main article of diet.

The United States has developed rice milling processes and machinery equal in efficiency to flour milling or to any other modern manufacturing process in the world. Today there are more commercial rice mills in the United States than in any other country in the world—located 27 in Louisiana; 14 in Texas, three of them in Beaumont; 10 in Arkansas; 9 in California and one in Tennessee.

These facts should prove that rice is an important American industry and that rice is an American food for American people, though in some sections of the United States greatly neglected as an article of diet. Based on cost per pound and energy derived, it is the most economical food anyone can buy. Moral: EAT MORE RICE!

Barney Steinhagen.