

Timely Topics

By Samuel Rosinger

At a luncheon attended by one hundred civic and social workers, and at a mass meeting of five hundred citizens, the Beaumont Peace Council made its initial bow. The chief aim of this organization is to prevent our country from being drawn into the inevitable European war by the craftiness of diplomacy and cupidity of death merchants. While it endorses preparedness for defense, it opposes excessive military appropriations. It believes that war is not an act of God, but a man-made evil, which can be removed by education and the cultivation of goodwill and co-operation among the nations. The Peace Council is in full accord with the sixth object of Rotary, and Rotarians who have their code of ethics not only hanging on the wall of their office, but also engraved upon the tablets of their heart, ought to take a leading part in the invaluable work of the Peace Council.

During the feverish Forward Movement which is being staged in our community, I wonder why no mention whatsoever is made of the age-old railroad crossing problem that still constitutes one of the most formidable stumbling blocks to the healthy growth of our city. What a pity that the arduous labors of the Committee of Seven in behalf of the solution of this problem were nullified by a small opposition, notwithstanding that the committee's plan had received the endorsement of the whole city by a large majority of votes. No town that has its main business street blocked by mile-long, slowly creeping freight trains, could possibly expect to make satisfactory progress. At a time when the government spends millions on most preposterous projects, an appropriation for the solution of this pressing problem could perhaps still be secured, if a united community would use the full weight of its influence on the proper authorities.

If the truth must be told, I, for one, am as sick and tired of the hyper-publicity accorded the G-men in the press and the cinema, as I am of the over-features of crime in general, in these two most valuable media of information, education and entertainment. On the whole, state and local police are no less efficient in the performance of their all-around duties, as the government men in their specialized work. Only, the former have no powerful press bureau behind them to exploit their feats. I still claim that the press and movie assign too much and too prominent place to the seamy side of life. After all, these two public agencies ought to aspire to maintain a higher standard than a circus in which the freak tent is featured most conspicuously. The positive side of life is full of news value; only, one has to dip below the surface to find it, for pearls do not float on the top of the water, nor does precious ore protrude from the mountain side.

ROTARYGRAMS

OF BEAUMONT



WEEKLY BULLETIN

Membership Secretary, Phone 932

Vol. IX Beaumont, Texas, May 20, 1936 No. 43

Slants at the Meeting

We might as well become inured to Centennial blasts for we are apt to experience many of them during the early part of Summer '36.

However, we offer no apologies for the ballyhoo last week but rather commend it. We learned a lot and it was a loyal gesture for good Texans.

If we could sling the ebony fluid like that guy could the spoken word it would immediately become a major task to stifle this journalistic yen of ours.

If as the speaker suggested 'A glance at the list of exhibitors was like reading a page from the Blue Book of Industry' we are prone to the conclusion that his control over English was the prototype for Christmas trees on wild wells.

He handled himself well and his subject better. Any speaker that can take a dry commercial subject and rivet the attention of his audience for twenty minutes on it, has genius.

We are not so tepid about this centennial fiesta . . . in fact, voted against it for fear some political group "in moments of abstraction" might upset the treasury.

Harry Gordon said the last time he threw Temerity in the ditch and stalked before you it was in the capacity of "a ham actor" and now he's not an "actor".

Unless chilled air is going to be shot into the decorated salon we are fearful of the impending battle between buzz fans and microphone. Last week the Rose Room had her ailerons damaged and her struts loosened in this acoustic conflict.

Check.

OFFICERS

WILL F. GRAHAM.....	President
J. F. ROANE.....	Vice-President
PRESTON B. DOTY.....	Treasurer
IRWIN J. FERAY.....	Secretary

DIRECTORS

I. J. FERAY—T. H. Mastin & Co.
CHAS. TERRELL—Gulf States Utilities Co.
KEITH HOTCHKISS—Pipkin & Brulin Co.
KELSEY LAMB—Lamb Printing & Stationery Co.
C. S. DICKENS—Magnolia Petroleum Co.
TOM WALKER—Gulf States Utilities Co.
W. F. GRAHAM—White House Dry Goods Co.
J. F. ROANE—Beaumont Motor Company
LEO NEY—Rupert Cox Auto Supply Co.
C. A. EASLEY—Beaumont Building Material Co.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

T. S. Reed's classification has been changed to **Past Service** instead of **Grocery Distributing**.

Si Ivers has been elected to membership with classification of **Gas Service**. Si is the immediate past-president of Jacksonville, Texas, club.

New Classifications:

Grocery Distributing
Industrial Banking

—R—

What About The Schools?

Beaumont has just concluded a great thought survey. It was one of the most commendable, most fruitful projects that this community has ever undertaken. The writer attended one of the discussions and read the several accounts of what took place in the others.

There was much thinking as usual about material Beaumont—how to bring in more people, make more wealth,—“build bigger barns”. But throughout this entire great thought survey more than 90% of the thinking was directed towards realizing a bigger and better material Beaumont and less than 10% was directed at realizing a bigger and better mental Beaumont—much about how to make money and not so much about how to make men.

What took place is a fine illustration of what has been taking place all over America ever since the World War—the over-development of the material world coupled closely with the under-development of the mental world. It is exactly this thing that has got us into the mess through which we have been passing for the last five years.

Fellow Rotarians, there are two paths ahead, one of which we must take or disaster will continue to

dog our footsteps. (1) We must cease to invent and place in the hands of the masses so many and such powerful instruments of industrial and social freedom; or, if we insist on such a course, (2) We must give these masses sufficient mental training (education) to know how to handle these instruments of freedom without human disaster.

America, in the past, has been thing-minded because our frontier was a material frontier—we faced an opportunity of things. America, in the future, must become human-minded because we are facing a new frontier of humans as well as things. Somehow, if we would not perish, we must put humanity above property.

Moral—Revise education to carry out what is implied in the statements above, so that mental development will keep up with and properly control material development. Support our churches, social agencies and schools.

Mike Moore.

—R—

Building and Loan Associations

Building and Loan Associations have long been an established institution among Anglo-Saxon and other people. Some writers trace their origin as far back as 200 B.C. The first association in the United States was organized January 3, 1831, at Frankport, Pennsylvania, now a part of Philadelphia, but the idea generally was introduced into this country from England, where they are known as “Building Societies”. The fundamental purpose was to encourage habits of thrift, with home ownership as its ultimate goal;—to make funds available to the man of limited capital for the buying or building of a home on a basis of payment within his means. The Building and Loan savings plan makes it possible to invest small sums regularly and obtain thereon the best possible return, commensurate with safety and reasonable availability.

In this State, associations are under the supervision of the State Banking Department, and operate under special charter and laws. They are generally local in character, as to control and operations. Over seven billion dollars is invested in such institutions in this country. Their record for safety and service is unsurpassed by any other form of investment. Building and Loan Associations now have a “Federal Reserve System”, so to speak, of their own, through the creation of the Home Loan Bank System, consisting of twelve regional banks, the capital stock of which is owned by the U. S. Treasury and Building and Loan Association members. The general plan of loans has been revised from time to time to meet changing conditions, so that associations may continue to be the mainstay of home financing.

W. O. Wahrmond.