

IN MEMORIAM

George Harry Shepherd

The life of a good man is like a polished diamond; its many facets reflect light in every direction.

Few men who passed from our community into the Great Beyond received such a generous meed of sincere tribute as has been bestowed upon the blessed memory of Harry Shepherd. He was eulogized profusely and eloquently as a business leader, civic worker, family man, companion and friend. Like the diligent sower of the Psalms, he bore home, as the fruit of his labors, abundant sheaves of the love and esteem of his fellow men.

I knew Harry from an angle at which his generous soul revealed itself in the full light of its innate goodness. When the first unit of the T. B. Hospital opened, the institution had no facilities whatsoever for taking care of its laundry, nor had it the means wherewith to purchase any equipment for home washing. Though assured by medical authorities that the laundry used by the patients would be thoroughly disinfected by germicidal chemicals, and thus rendered more harmless than the average family wash, the laundrymen, moved by superstitious fear and an apprehension of a possible loss of business, refused to handle the laundry of the hospital. Harry Shepherd was the only one who placed humanitarian considerations above business risks, and accepted the hospital laundry without any hesitation. Later on the Board of the Hospital was importuned by the other laundrymen to divide the business with them.

Before the establishment of the Community Chest, the institution that carried the heaviest burden of social service work was the United Charities. Harry served on the Board of this organization for a long period of years indefatigably, leading many of its annual campaigns and giving it of his time and talent unstintedly. I was intimately associated with him in the work of this institution, and I know that he solved numerous cases of destitution by giving the head or a member of the needy family employment in his establishment.

In his big smiling blue eyes the goodness of Heaven was reflected and his heart was a lyre, the strings of which vibrated with warm sympathy to the tenderest touch of human sorrow. When a man of such noble character passes away at the meridian of his usefulness, we realize the truth voiced by the poet;

"Cold in the dust this perished heart may lie,
But that which warmed it once shall never die.
That spark unburied in its mortal frame
With living light, eternal, and the same."

Samuel Rosinger.

ROTARYGRAMS

OF BEAUMONT



WEEKLY BULLETIN

Membership Secretary, Phone 932

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Slants at the Meeting

Once again we had that annual adulatory recognition of scholastic supremacy. Even callow youth is susceptible to a little flattery, and we are converts to the theory that it is better to have dulcet words shoved at us here in life than sprayed with a lot of sweet smelling nasturtiums in death.

This was a fine array of youth and the Rotary ceremonies ought to be an inspiration to the recipients, and if the four addresses by the speakers were indices of their outlook then we may judge the future to be roseate from their point of view.

Whether these young Americans becomes Demosthenes, Socrates or Diabetes is no concern of ours but what we are vitally interested in now is doing our duty to them at THIS TIME either by precept or example.

This is the first time this function has passed into the hands of another than our beloved Rabbi and it was a queer quirk of Fate that flung the torch into the keeping of another faith . . . the old Georgia Campbellite adherence.

But Tom did himself proud; the student justice; and the Club service, and so we doff our hats to his masterful and suave manner of handling the program.

* * * *

And didn't our old friend Carl Dickens bring along the boys with the big mugs . . . chalices not physiognomies—that Magnolia safety squad. They are the lads that put brakes on accidents and make life more endurable for friend and family.

The company should be justly proud of this group who have distinguished themselves for meritorious service, and Carl is to be congratulated on adding this unique feature.

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The members in the rear of the room were laying wagers that a player-piano was the accompanist

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to the violin soloist; and even some thought the violin strains came from Joe Clemmons theatre.

Well, we have been befuzzled, hoodwinked and deceived so often by the Movies that we were willing to accept their dictum until curiosity prompted us to investigate and we found a little black-haired man emerging from behind the piano—after the audience had moved—and we knew darn well Obscurity had cursed another artist.

Check.

—R—

LOANS AND INVESTMENTS

Keeping abreast of the times is as necessary in the making of loans as in any other business endeavor. New plans for loaning money to home purchasers will result in great benefit to us all. High interest rates have gone the way of the horse and buggy, and justly so. The new way of including the taxes, interest, insurance and reduction of principal in one monthly payment will safeguard the interest of the borrower and the lender as well. Loaning institutions can and are rendering a great service. Home owners are happier—they make better citizens. Every right-thinking person expects and wants to pay a reasonable tax for the many conveniences and protection to life, health and property afforded through his city government. Investors should be content with lower interest return and the safer security. Real Estate is being more readily sold. Obsolete dwellings and business property can now be modernized and the capital is at our command at reasonable interest rates. Many

opportunities are open in Beaumont now for investment of money safely upon real estate security. If your dwelling has modern conveniences there is a tenant or a buyer ready for it now. Let's put property in repair—abreast of the times.

J. V. Brock.

—R—

OPEN DISCUSSION

The General Program Committee read, with a great deal of interest, the comments of Brother Joe Clemmons in last week's Rotarygram with reference to the lack of facilities for presenting musical and dance programs. We heartily agree with everything he said and, following the old American custom of nominating for chairman of a project the one who has the audacity to speak up in the meeting, we offer his name in nomination and hope that he will accept—and, more important, do something about it. Perhaps his suggestion should be followed up and attended to by the General Program Committee, but in our weak and exhausted condition we do not feel the strength to tackle it and do justice to the undertaking.

For the Beaumont Rotary Club these facilities are, in our opinion, doubly desirable. To those of us who have an opportunity to give our programs some thought and study their reactions on the membership, soon come to the realization that our members come to the club to be entertained in "seated-tea" style. When the program is built around one of Rotary's objects, or a heavy subject is discussed by a speaker not endowed with some degree of showmanship, it is amusing to watch the shifting and twisting of those near the front and the ducking-out of those in the rear.

It does not come within our jurisdiction to change that situation and, it might be added, it would not be the unanimous desire of this committee to try it, if it did. But, be that as it may, in any club there should be a variety of programs, including the kind in question, and the facilities should be available to present them to the best advantage in fairness to the artists, the committee and the club.

Kyle Wheelus.