

Spokes of Rotary

And now we find the SPOKES hold more than just the ROTARY WHEEL together. Evidence: By popular ballot through the medium of the CITIZENS PRESS ten outstanding citizens for 1937 have been chosen. Five of these are either ROTARIANS or ROTARYANNES. . . . The charm and graciousness of LORENE POLLOCK BINGMAN linger in a gathering even after she has stolen silently away to grace another with her scintillating wit and to add lustre to it with her warm, penetrating intellect. Cheerfulness and understanding are her handmaidens who serve her humbly and joyously wherever she goes. CP chose wisely when MRS. BINGMAN was advanced as one of Beaumont's leaders in the social and civic life of the community. . . . And now comes CHARLES LATHAM BABCOCK. He may be short on steps but he's plenty long on dynamity, and there's no end to the extent of his perspicacity. Now, CHARLIE, that ought to hold you for awhile. The same goes for CHARLES WEINBAUM whose name was linked with the other CHARLES by CP in its poll. There's something indescribable about CHARLES WEINBAUM'S stamina and ability that sets him apart from the common herd. Gross misunderstanding of the qualities that go to make up greatness would have been evident had his name been omitted from the select ten. . . . And someone would certainly have slipped his trolley had WALTER MATTHEW CASEY been number eleven. He has only been back with us for a comparatively short time, but has entrenched himself like a beaver. In fact he has some of the characteristics of that little animal. And what with being an Irishman, he's hard to beat. He is enriching not only the city with his talents but also ROTARY. That's right, WALTER, we'll be calling on you soon. Thanks. . . . Already we have written of LEWIS BARCLAY HERRING, JR. and it is a distinct pleasure to find his name among the ten. L. B. has a faculty for following through and it is just that faculty that has, no doubt, won him his honor. . . . And so it is that ROTARY scores 50 points out of a possible 100. . . . We went close without saying that the "able young barrister" mentioned in last week's ROTARYGRAMS is EWELL STRONG, this week to be "bowed into the presence of the Supreme Court in Washington". We hope it is an off day for decisions. . . .

The Hub.

Rotarygrams

Something to think about: Lufkin Rotary Club, with an attendance of 88.14% for the last meeting in December, yet had an average for the month of 95.34%. They must have had pretty good attendance at the other meetings. Why can't we make a comparable showing?

ROTARYGRAMS

OF BEAUMONT
WEEKLY BULLETIN



Membership Secretary, Phone 932

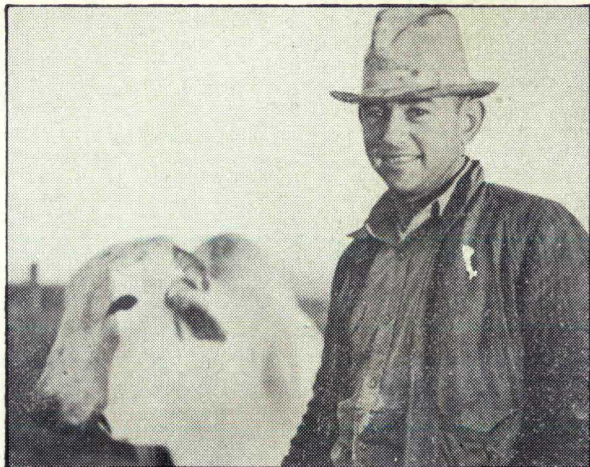
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Slants at the Meeting

William Thomas (Chesterfield) Kenna, Rotary's own distinguished salt and pepper barrister, former pedagogue, and preacher's boy, taught the boys a lesson and preached them a sermon on the aptly alliterative subject, "Pleasant, Polite People Produce Profits." Snow Arthur, Vocational Service Chairman, gave Tom a grandiloquent introduction as "The Sage of the Redlands", "The Piney Woods Philosopher", and a few more high-sounding titles, in the manner of an oldtime Southern politician nominating a candidate for constable. Whereupon the genial Judge proceeded to justify the introduction by giving us a typical Will Rogers combination of wit, humor, and homely philosophy, which kept the boys chuckling throughout his talk, and gave them something to take away with them and apply in their own lives. Incidentally it may be mentioned that Tom has another telephone story which the censors deleted from his oration, but which you may induce him to tell you privately. His talk to the club covered the subject of vocational service through courtesy in personal contacts in correspondence, and in the use of the telephone, but he overlooked "automobile manners", a point where many of us are at fault. Bad manners on the part of your truck drivers can create more ill will for your firm than most of us realize.

Pinch-hitter Kyle again knocked a home run, and Lawrence Galewsky presented the guests and visiting Rotarians as well as young Edwin himself could have done,—which is praise enough for anyone.

—Bill.



HOWARD

Joseph Howard Stagg — Rice Farming

* * *

Born near Elton, Louisiana, in Evanegline Parish, March 23, 1905, and having finished the local school nearby, Howard went to Lake Charles to attend Business College. He graduated there in 1923 and the following year came to Texas with a herd of cattle, pasturing them between Stowell and Anahuac.

After he and his partner had sold the cattle, Howard, instead of returning to Louisiana, decided to stay in Texas and went to work for Frank Bond, a rice farmer in business with Joe E. Broussard, for \$15.00 a month and his board and lodging. Four years later just after the spring plowing had been finished, Bond contracted the measles and died leaving his wife and children with only the few old mules, a tractor and plow, and no money to carry on the work.

Howard went to see Rotarian Joe and made him a proposition that, since he had already plowed the land, he would undertake to put in the crop and harvest it if Joe would advance him \$10 per month for the tractor. And further, that he would repay Mrs. Bond for the plowed land, the teams and tractor, and repay the advances after all expenses of the crop had been paid. Making the proverbial Alger lad look like a piker, Howard made a very good crop that year and was able to pay all of the above and have a surplus left to carry on the business from there for himself. As Rotarian Joe put it; ".....that is how Stagg got his start from a farm hand, who was willing to work and had the initiative to get in harness and stay in it". Needless to say, since that first crop Howard has been ringing the bell consistently each year until now he has a modern home on the Houston highway 9 miles west of Beau-

mont, a herd of blooded cattle including several Brahma bulls (one of which you see in the above shot at the feeding trough), and owns some 250 acres of the adjoining land.

For years his hobbies have been fishing, baseball, and hunting of all varieties. According to an intimate friend he has been trying to kill a buck for the past four or five years and has yet to bag one, but says he is going again the opening day of 1938 season.

He married Miss Irene Highsmith, of Honey Island, in 1935.

He joined the Club August 11th, 1937.

Congratulations on your success, Howard, we are glad to have you with us!

—Eldo.

Rotarygrams

This scribe took his life in his hands and attended Friday night the meeting of the program chairmen for the coming six months. A thing that impressed me particularly was that one chairman had made notations of the special holidays, birthdays, etc. falling on or near the meeting dates, so that any chairman desiring to put on appropriate programs might have the information. Everybody present had a good time, and there was a proper amount of hilarity, but there was manifest a determination to give the club for the next six months at least as good programs as those we have had in the half-year just past. In spite of some things that may have been said in ROTARYGRAMS, we think that is a high mark to shoot at.

Rotarygrams

While the inclusion of several of its members among the First Ten Citizens selected by the Citizen-Press and its committee is naturally gratifying to the Beaumont Rotary Club, no selection in the list will bring forth more wholehearted approbation among the individuals composing this club than that of Carl Bingman's lovely wife. Her graciousness and charm, her willingness to serve at all times, her ability to gain cooperation and get things done, in addition to her talents as a speaker and writer, have endeared her to Rotarians even more than to the general public of Beaumont.

Rotarygrams

President Maurice Duperry of Rotary International is to be the principal speaker at the San Antonio Club's Institute of International Understanding on the night of January 27th. This will be his only stop in the southwest during his visit to the United States for the January Board meeting, and the San Antonio club is expressing the wish that other clubs in the Lone Star State will join with them in paying him honor. It is hoped that the train bearing this distinguished visitor will pass through Beaumont at an hour when our club, or a delegation from it, can extend him our greetings and good wishes.