

Timely Topics

By Samuel Rosinger

This scribbler has a piece of land abutting on the Old Spanish Trail. A few years ago he was asked to deed a strip for the purpose of widening this national highway. He signed some kind of an agreement, which stipulated that the deed would be valid only if all the right of way along the line could be secured and the widening would actually be effected. The County Commissioners for reasons best known to themselves, turned down the state's offer to widen the road, and the provisional deal entered into with me fell through. As a taxpayer, I am anxious to know why the building of that by-pass between the Voth road and College extension should be of greater importance than the widening of a much-travelled United States Highway, a project which the State Highway Commission and the public has advocated for many years. Secondly, in buying the right of way for this cutoff, why did the commissioners purchase each strip outright and not condition it upon the acquisition of the whole right of way. To hand out eighty thousand dollars of the taxpayers money without taking this common sense precaution shows a woeful lack of business sagacity in the administration of public funds.

One who is blessed with an esthetic sense takes keen delight in viewing the artistic modern fronts which so many of our business buildings have been installing. The old town can well stand a good deal of beautification, not only downtown but also in the residential section. According to press notices, Little Rock instituted a half price rate for water used to sprinkle lawns and gardens. Our municipal water plant could well afford to imitate this example, and encourage residents to keep their lawns green and trim and cultivate flowers even during the Summer heat. Beauty pays, and if by concerted effort of the citizenship, Beaumont would be converted into a beauty spot, she would probably attract by her irresistible charm even those elusive industries which thus far have chosen more enterprising, wideawake and progressive communities.

I love hilarious, rib-rocking and side-splitting comedies. They clean my soul of the sediments of sorrow more than any other form of amusement. But since Will Rogers is gone, and Charlie Chaplin and W. C. Fields have ceased to produce, the comic movies instead of tickling my funny bone, draw out my mouth in a rhinoceros yawn. Apparently, it takes more brain power to produce a comedy than a lugubrious melodrama.

ROTARYGRAMS

OF BEAUMONT



WEEKLY BULLETIN

Membership Secretary, Phone 932

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Slants at the Meeting

Dear Check:

I looked for you at the Rotary meeting today, but understand you had to see a man about a dog. Because of your interest in these gatherings, I thought you might be interested in this one.

Roland Jones was chairman of the program and Lum Edwards was vice chairman. But Roland was away (maybe another man and another dog) and Lum took it over. When he put in his appearance before the mike, quite a number of the boys thought he was going to tell a funny story. He did.

Ed Blackburn, last year's president of the Houston Rotary club, and Walter Jenkins, were the central attraction, and I know you will be surprised to learn that Walter did not come to sing. Ed told us of his travels from the time he left New York on the SS. "REX" and his bus trip down through the French and Italian Riviera, retracing his steps to the north somewhat through Switzerland and Paris, over to London, and then home. While telling of all this, I felt that it would have been nice to be with him and his party—he was so descriptive. Our old friend Walter then took up the Rotary end of the International Convention at Nice, France, beginning at New York where he joined the International President's official party and I can truthfully say that I enjoyed his talk as much as I do his voice. So altogether we had a good account of the International Convention, and while Roland Jones and Lum Edwards were given credit for having produced this interesting meeting—boy, the lowdown on it is that Pete McChesney called them up and told them to report!

I'll be seein' you.

Rotarily yours,

HAP FABER.

The Rotarygram

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A Munificent Response

A few weeks since one of the most tragic events happened near the City of Beaumont and which required quick thinking, quick action and quick help. This writer was one of a committee to solicit aid in the crisis, and today he testifies to the magnanimous spirit of our people and still proclaims the greatest of all virtues is CHARITY. No questions asked, no publicity sought and no reward expected; but to each of these contributors there must be an immeasurable satisfaction with the revelation that a shattered hope has been restored, a broken bone mended or a human life saved. God; what more can a man want than to do good like this.

Out of 42 responses, 20 of them came from Rotarians and they will recognize this acknowledgment after reading to-day's ROTARYGRAM. The other 22 will be sent marked copies.

—R—

—C. A. E.

"You don't seem to have any notorious spots here," said an inquiring tourist to the native guide. "In the last village we stopped at they showed us a place where a man had lain in wait for his rival in love and attacked him with a fiendish gusto."

The guide had never heard of this remarkable crime, but his professional jealousy was aroused.

"That is quite true, sir," he unblushingly bore witness. "But you, perhaps, are not aware that the villain afterwards made his escape in this direction, and you are now standing on the very spot where he threw away the fiendish gusto with which he made the attack."

Perhaps the policy of this SHEET appeared at times to have been fraught with a little acrimony, particularly in comments on the programs as well as scraping the bones of some local issues; but we think it has been free of the petty animosities that brand it as despicable.

There being two 'radicals' on the editorial staff, it naturally follows that the preponderance of material would savor of brutal frankness and uncurbed thought occasionally.

Controversial subjects are almost inevitable as the very warp and woof of our lives are made up of them. The International magazine fosters them in debates; fortunately being able to give both sides in a single issue of the publication due to its size.

Politics have been a nightmare to some as provocative of enmity but that attitude is passing because when viewed from a dispassionate standpoint and discussed with frankness good has always accrued. The very bloodstream of this nation is fed by politics. We eschew sharply drawn party lines, but even they are becoming reconciled to national issues rather than to strict adherence of their groups.

As for religion that is unalterably TABOO. Why, we wouldn't even discuss that with our undertaker. We have sense enough to know that we don't anything about it and stupid enough to think that nobody else knows anything about it. All religions are good, some just better than others.

NOW that we've laid down a few cardinal principles WHAT we think don't cajole yourself into the belief that we are going to sit idly by and let some nincompoop flaunt into our olifactory cavities the skunky-aroma of a putrid program without assertive steps.

—R—

Hebdomadal Question

"In selling merchandise, is it your policy to sell that which has the best value for your customer or the longest profit for you?"

—R—

"Did my father leave an order with you this morning for a load of wood?" asked a young lady of a well known planing mill man.

"I don't know, miss," he replied, "there was a gentleman in who said to deliver a load to a driver who would call and said it was Mr. Zell."

"Yes, thank you," she said, "I'm Gladys Zell," she replied.

"Oh, yes, of course," he replied; "so'm I."