

Sam Solinsky has not employed Rotarygrams to serve as his press agent, but he sat at the same table with us recently, and was good enough to pass on the following poem which appeared in the Service Bulletin of the Business Men's Protective Association of El Paso.

*I watched them tearing a building down—  
A gang of men in a busy town.*

*With a ho-beave-bo, and a lusty yell,  
They swung a beam, and a building fell.*

*I asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled,  
As the men you'd hire if you had to build?"*

*He gave a laugh and said, "No, indeed,  
Just common labor is all I need;*

*I can easily wreck in a day or two,  
What builders have taken a year to do."*

*And I thought to myself, as I went my way,  
Which of these roles have I tried to play?*

*Am I a builder who works with care,  
Measuring life by the rule and square?*

*Am I shaping my needs by a well-made plan,  
Patiently doing the best that I can?*

*Or am I a wrecker who walks the town,  
Content with the labor of tearing down?*

• Rotarygrams •

The South Texas State Fair has come and gone, and, as usual, Joy Nite was a big success. All honor to Judge Deutser and Howard Gardner, but did you notice that the Joy Nite Committee, outside of the Judge, looked like one of our old time Rotary Birthday Party committees, with Keith Hotchkiss, Kelsey Lamb, Waldo Wilson, and Harry Longe comprising its membership? And did you notice that the winner of the grand prize was the beautiful and charming Wynona Southwell Pickett, daughter of one of our youngest-looking Rotarians? Johnny Southwell now has added cause to be proud, and you must pardon him if his chest seems to stick out a little further than usual for the next few weeks.

• Rotarygrams •

#### HELIUM FOR HUMANITY

You've heard of helium—the second-lightest gas. You know it is the only safe gas for inflating dirigibles, and it has other uses. Once its use was limited by prohibitive costs. Now it is extracted from the United States Government's wells in our own state of Texas at only two cents a cubic foot. What this reduction in the cost of this rare gas will mean to humanity is clearly explained by George W. Gray in the November ROTARIAN.

# ROTARYGRAMS

OF BEAUMONT  
WEEKLY BULLETIN



Membership Secretary, Phone 932

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## *Slants at the Meeting*

No advocate of "Collective Security" is Beeman Strong, no believer in "peace at any price", no imitator of an ostrich hiding his head in the sand, but a real, honest-to-God American, filled with American idealism mixed with American realism, and his Armistice Day message to Beaumont Rotarians was one in which few Americans can find anything with which to quarrel. Perhaps the first Roosevelt—the good old virile American he-man, T. R.—came closer than any other to expressing in a few words the counsel which Beeman gave us, when he said, "Speak softly, and carry a big stick." The good judge need not have apologized for lack of preparation, for his words stirred the hearts and minds of his listeners as have few addresses heard in our club within the memory of this writer. Besides, as was said concerning another judge on an occasion when he had delivered an unusually fine address on short notice, "he had been preparing that speech for over fifty years", by living the kind of life he has lived, by being the kind of thoughtful, loyal, patriotic citizen he is, and devoting himself to unselfish service for his country and his fellow man. Beeman Strong realizes that our nation does not seek additional territory from anyone, that we will never be an aggressor nation, that we covet only the privilege of conducting our own affairs without molesting others or being molested by them. And yet he sees clearly that in a world where dictators rule and take what they can, our only salvation lies in being prepared to defend ourselves. While decrying the ex-

penditure of enormous sums for armaments instead of amelioration of human suffering and elimination of human ignorance, he sees no hope of this nation's being permitted to fulfill its high destiny as the developer and disseminator of democratic ideals, unless we forget our religious, sociological, and other factional differences and straightway provide ourselves with a real two-ocean navy, an airforce greater than all those which may be massed against us, and, in short, every possible preparation to make our borders impregnable against all assault. It is a gloomy picture, of course, but probably no gloomier than that which confronted our forefathers in their endeavor to carve a great civilization out of the wilderness. And with such leaders as Beeman Strong, and others of like mind with him, we have faith to believe that Right shall yet triumph over Might, Democracy over Dictatorship.

Good as the rest of the program was, Judge Strong's address would have been outstanding in any circumstances, and our enthusiasm about it has caused us to use up most of our space in talking about it. However, you will have noted that Joe Evans (Prof. Josef Evans in highbrow circles) again proved his versatility and his efficiency. He is the only Committee Chairman we know of who can actually secure cooperation from his committee—and we know that at least one member of that committee did know one number on the program. Lamar College again contributed greatly to our enjoyment with its male quartet, accompanied by Ray Lighthall's charming daughter. Louis Gordon, soon to be 13 years old, is always a favorite with the Beaumont Rotary Club, and his rendition of two original piano compositions more than justified the praise which Joe gave him in advance. And as for Tom Walker's singing—well, you can take Lawrence Tibbett, Nelson Eddy, Walter Jenkins, or anybody else you choose, and I'd still prefer Tom's singing of "A Lad in Khaki". Tom is the irrefutable answer to any argument that male musicians are necessarily sissies, or temperamental, or one-sided, impractical, or inefficient. May his tribe increase!

• Rotarygrams •

Visit Labrador and you will see a land, not of ice and isolation, but of sturdy people, scenic beauty, great resources. This is the verdict of Sir Wilfred Grenfell, who had gone up and down its coast for 46 years, establishing medical and social service. In the November ROTARIAN he tells about this "sportsman's paradise"—this region free of hay fever, divorces, drunkenness, and endemic diseases.

Apparently the boys must have been reading Harry A. Mutchmor's article in the November ROTARIAN, "Don't Be Afraid To Applaud". At any rate, no participant in last week's program, from Joe Evans up or down, had any room for doubt as to whether the Beaumont Rotary Club was enjoying his performance. Certainly this reviewer's account of the meeting, found elsewhere in this sheet, is not one bit more enthusiastic than was the reception accorded it by the club members on presentation. Charlie Babcock was so impressed that he wrote us a letter on the subject, parts of which we have embodied in our own comments, without even giving him credit. But we must quote you his closing paragraph, to illustrate how "misery loves company" and "hope springs eternal in the human breast". He says: "I hope that there will be a day when the Bible Plan and the Double Shuffle will meet on Thanksgiving Day to decide the Southwestern Conference Championship". So do I, but I don't have the same hope about the result of that game as Charlie does.

• Rotarygrams •

Seab Lewis sends us some more clippings, which are intensely interesting, one of which we reproduce here:

"The French, they are a thrifty race. Wherefore the editors of the *Journal des Practiciens* recently shed bitter editorial tears.

"They had been checking the books of France's social insurance. Receipts from 1930 through 1936, they found, were 21 billion francs. Sick, death, and maternity claims totaled seven billion francs. Subtracting expenses, a three and one half billion franc surplus remained.—Or should have remained. The question asked dolefully by the *Journal's* editors was:

"What has become of the money?"

"Sadder still was the answer. Large sums, it was revealed, had been lent to politicians. They dabbled in low-cost-housing. So great were the losses that followed that treasury officials had to intervene.

"A touching business, monsieur le docteur, n'es-ce pas?"

And there MAY be a lesson tucked away somewhere in that item for Uncle Sam.

• Rotarygrams •

While E. H. Green was not a member of Rotary at the time of his death, he was for many years a valued member of this organization, and hosts of Rotarians will join his other friends in extending heartfelt sympathy to his loved ones.