

Perk Butler was thoughtful enough to pass on to us a very interesting fish story, as contained in a letter from Everett Hill, of Oklahoma City, which relates to the origination of our Student Loan Fund. This letter is as follows:

"My dear 'Perk':

Thanks for your interesting letter of November 26th. All the information desired was found and it has proven quite inspiring.

This fund was started from a fishing expedition as a guest of Ed Stedman in August or September of 1924. It happened that I hooked a big 375 pound Jew Fish and Ed kept it in his freezer at his plant. It was to have been shipped to Oklahoma City but the weather being hot it was thought inadvisable, so then decided to have the fish sold. Ed asked what to do with the money, and I suggested that the amount received, namely \$20.00, be used to start a Rotary Educational Loan Fund. This was done and therefore the contribution stands in my name, when it rightly belongs to the fish.

So you see a Jew Fish has been indirectly responsible for educating or helping to educate 82 students, and the hook which pulled that fish in has reached out a long way and the 'harvest' has been bountiful.

I wish to congratulate you and the club on the fine way you have handled the fund and the results accomplished.

I know of no better 'fish story' than this one.

By the way I have a picture of the huge fish as it hangs, or rather hung, in Ed's storage room. Ed is also in the picture.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes of the season and thanking you again for the time you gave to answer my inquiry, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Everett."

• Rotarygrams •

Today, while the Rotary Anns are at lunch with us, is a good time to call the attention of your own Rotary Ann to the contest being staged by THE ROTARIAN, as announced in the December issue, page 49. A prize of \$75.00 is being offered for the best story of 1000 words or less, titled "Why I'm Going to Cleveland" for Rotary's 1939 Convention; with \$50.00 for the next best. Of course, she is going to insist on going with you, anyway, and if she can get this extra money to spend, she will enjoy the trip that much more—and may make the burden lighter on you!

ROTARYGRAMS

OF BEAUMONT
WEEKLY BULLETIN



Let's stay on the alkaline side!

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Slants at the Meeting

Perhaps the surest way for anyone to get "in bad" with the Beaumont Rotary Club, is to give himself the airs of a Big Shot. But when one who is really a 21-gun salute comes in our midst and gives himself no airs at all, but shows himself to be a genuine, worthwhile personality, this club really takes him to its heart. And this was the case with Elliott Roosevelt last week. He didn't demand attention and acquiescence in his views because he is the son of F. D. R. In fact, his talk on "Greek Mythology" (the subject assigned him by Tim Whitehurst) was enlivened by many facetious allusions to his "revered male parent", some of whose policies he apparently knew were not altogether popular with a great many of his business men auditors. Typically American was the glee with which he quoted the current jibe at the New Deal, though not claiming to endorse it in full. You remember the story about the four "isms" abroad in the land today: Socialism, where you have two cows and give one to your neighbor; Communism, where you give both the cows to the State and the State gives you back some milk; Fascism, where you keep both cows, milk them, give all the milk to the State and the State sells you some of the milk; New-Dealism, where you kill one of the cows, milk the other one, and throw the milk down the drain pipe. Equally refreshing was his reference to the (probably mythical) 14th century ancestor, uncovered by F. D. R.'s genealogical research, who was hanged as a horse-thief.

Aside from the impression made on Beaumont Rotarians by this young man's personality, and the evident sincerity of his regard for Texas and for Texans, the club members applauded the soundness of his economic views and his aversion to "crack-pot" philosophies and methods such as advocated by the "Ham-and-Eggs" and "Thirty Dollars Every Thursday" politicians in this and other states. The profits sys-

tem, he agrees with us, is the best yet devised for bringing about progress and development, and he holds that, as long as we keep the profits system on a fair basis, and make everybody, from the bottom to the top of the economic heap, pay his proportionate share of the taxes, our State will continue to go forward, not only from an agricultural standpoint, but also from an industrial standpoint and a social and educational standpoint.

Our new Gubernatorial Advisor (Perk) may have felt his ears burning a little bit (though we doubt it), when the genial commentator figuratively inserted a stiletto underneath the fifth rib of anyone who would advocate the paying of \$30 a month pension to every old person, particularly without disclosing the source for such a large amount of needed revenue. Instead, he advocates pensions along the lines of which most of us approve: payment on the basis of need, not excluding entirely old people who own a little home, and not requiring that sons and daughters, who may themselves be having a hard time, should have to assume the burden. This he feels should not produce an undue tax burden, and it seems likely that some such measure will be adopted by the next Legislature. We can all make his concluding thought our own:

"I am proud to be a Texan, and I hope that all of us will feel our responsibility to our State as we go along, as well as to ourselves."

. . . *Bill.*

• *Rotarygrams* •

We are not informed as to the exact nature of the program to be offered at the Christmas party today, but have been assured that it is going to be very fine. Since our information comes from an impeccable and unimpeachable source, we pass it on to you, and, in order that you may be able to give credit where credit is due, we here print the names of the members of the Committee to whom was assigned the responsibility of this meeting:

Perk Butler, Joe Clemmons (Sr.), Fletcher Graham III, Skeet Pitts, Johnny Southwell, Ed Stedman, Waldo Wilson; and J. Fuzzy Roane, Chairman.

• *Rotarygrams* •

Be on the lookout for the six new "pink ticket" Rotarians introduced last week by Keith Hotchkiss. Johnny Southwell, of course, is a former Rotarian come back into the fold. This journal of enlightenment has already introduced Benny Hughes about three times, and so does not mention him again. His classification is Accounting Service. The others are Bob Gary, of Edwards School, "Educating—Elementary Schools"; Carl Helbin of Beaumont City Lines, "Bus Transportation"; Newman Smith, of David Crockett Junior High School, "Educating—Junior High Schols, 2nd A."

At a time when practically every nation of the world seems gripped by an irresistible urge to seize its neighbor's property, to usurp as much of his trade and commerce as possible, to pursue a course of narrow-minded, bigoted selfishness, regardless of the fact that such a course will certainly return the world to barbarism it is fitting that we pause in the midst of our hilarious celebrations, our homage to Santa Claus, and give thought to the lowly, manger-born Babe whose birth is commemorated in the name we give to this season, Christ-mas.

More and more, as we study world conditions, do we become convinced that the continued growth of hatreds, the race between nations to find which can build the most and the biggest guns, battleships, airplanes—which can develop the most lethal and destructive poison gas—the attempt by each national leader to isolate his nation and make it self-sufficient, superlatively powerful and ruthless in its efforts to obtain its desired "place in the sun"—as we ponder these things, we become more and more convinced that the only hope for the preservation of our civilization lies in the universal adoption of the principles of love, tolerance, and brotherhood, as taught and practiced by Jesus Christ.

Rotarians are familiar with the emphasis which our organization places on the individual, seeking mass results only as they come from the promptings of the spirit of Rotary in the lives of 200,000 individual Rotarians. And it is to Jesus that the world owes this recognition of the worth and dignity of the individual. His method for the spreading of His gospel was by the winning of individuals, each of whom in turn should follow His way and tell the story to others. We cannot give that which we do not have. Therefore, this Christmas in the year of our Lord 1938, let us highly resolve that each of us individually will fill his own individual heart to overflowing with love, tolerance, brotherhood, so that the spirit of Beaumont Rotary may spread in ever widening circles, till its beneficent influence is felt from pole to pole. And thus may we truly celebrate, not merely the coming of Santa Claus, but much more the birthday of the Child whose Advent changed the course of history and whose love, I firmly believe, will yet save the world and bring about international understanding, good will, and peace. And it is in that spirit that I wish for all of you and yours a Happy Christmas and a Merry and Prosperous New Year.

. . . *Bill.*