

# 75th Anniversary ROTARYGRAMS



**ROTARY CLUB OF BEAUMONT**  
Club # 72  
Organized: February 26, 1913  
Volume LXXV, No. 35

7:30 P.M.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1988

HILTON HOTEL, BEAUMONT, TEXAS

## THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

BRUCE IRVINE

The Rotary Club of Beaumont will celebrate its 75th Birthday on Friday, February 26, 1988. Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Hilton's International Ballroom, Rotarians will enjoy an evening with delicious food and drink, two orchestras for dancing and a brief Birthday program.

President Ray Riley, all Past Presidents and Chairman Tony Chauveaux and his Birthday Party Committee are in charge of arrangements.

The cost of the Black Tie Celebration is \$37.50 per person or \$75.00 per couple. Rotarians and guests are welcome.

## THIS WEEKS'S PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, 12:00 NOON

FEBRUARY 24, 1988

SPRING STYLE SHOW

by

GUS MAYER

## HISTORY OF HISTORIES

ROBERT J. ROBERTSON

This special 75th Anniversary issue of **Rotarygrams** has been expanded to include an updated history of our Club. Organized on a topical basis and concentrating on the last twenty-five years, this history supplements five previous histories prepared by Rotarians. Fortunately, these earlier renditions survived the hotel fire of 1982 and are on file in the Rotary office.

'Who's Who and Why' was compiled in 1930 by early club secretary Marshall Muse. 'Club History, 1913-1954' was edited by Wendell Ward, the Club's unofficial historian. 'The Big Days Before Dignity' was written and presented by Herf Weinert in 1957. In 1963, Wendell Ward did the job again, this time with 'Golden Anniversary Club History, 1913-1963'. The same year Chick Dollinger produced 'How Rotary Came to Beaumont, 1913-1923', a compilation of stories gleaned from the Beaumont Enterprise and Journal.

Following the story of our Club from birth to vigorous manhood, these previous histories give an interesting picture of our lively and colorful past. Also, they bear witness to the generations of Rotarians who have espoused the ideals of Rotary, enjoyed the fun and fellowship, and worked for civic improvement.

Writers in this issue of **Rotarygrams** appreciate work done by earlier club historians, especially Muse, Ward, Weinert and Dollinger. Also the writers are grateful for having learned more about our club. The editor thanks the writers for their work, apologizes for abuse of their material, and regrets any error or omission. The editor and writers are indebted to Margaret Cherb and Jo Culbertson for their valuable assistance.

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## HOW ROTARY CAME TO BEAUMONT

ROBERT J. ROBERTSON

The story of how our Rotary Club was founded was well told by Ed Emerson, our first president. Writing in the Beaumont Enterprise

in 1915, Emerson credited the formation of the Beaumont club to the persistent efforts of Robert Cornell, President of the Houston Rotary Club.

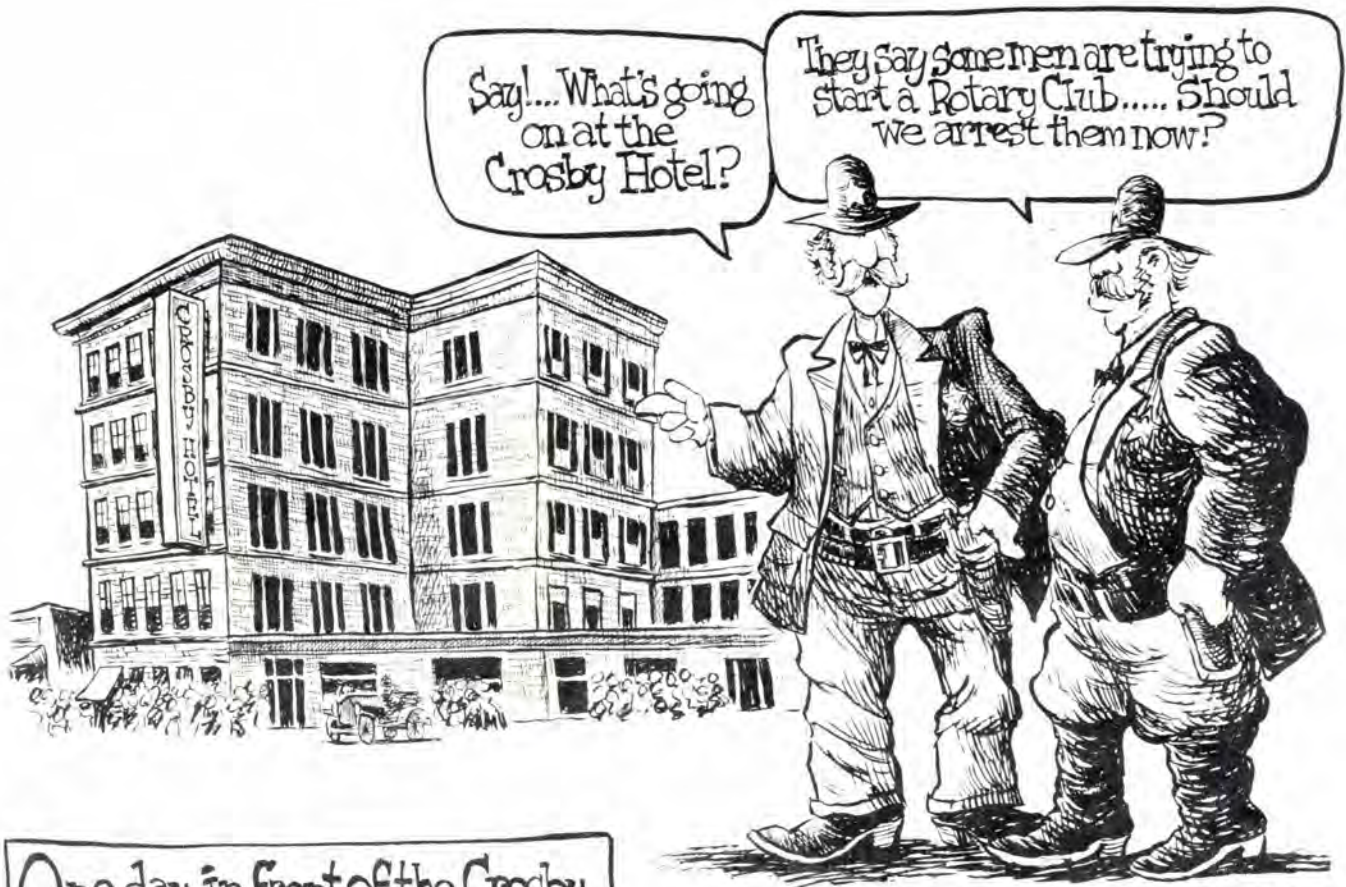
In January, 1913, Cornell invited Emerson, manager of Beaumont Electric Light and Power Company, and Jim Mapes, Business Manager of the Beaumont Enterprise, to attend a meeting of the Houston Rotary Club. Indifferent to the idea of bringing Rotary to Beaumont, Emerson and Mapes reluctantly made the trip to Houston.

After meeting Emerson and Mapes at the train depot and giving them a tour of Houston, Cornell escorted them to the Bender Hotel. Up to that point, Emerson confessed, he was not interested in Rotary. But, he reported, 'the minute we walked in to the banquet room and found some 150 businessmen sitting there at their tables chatting so you could hardly hear yourself think, I was impressed greatly. However, that was nothing as compared to my impressions later on as I listened to the different talks which were given by several of the Houston club members.'

Emerson and Mapes may have been favorably impressed but they made no move to organize a club in Beaumont. Again, Robert Cornell of Houston took the initiative.

'On February 25, 1913,' Emerson recalled, 'I received a telephone call from Cornell at Houston asking if he might come over to Beaumont bringing with him R. Stanley of Wichita, Kansas, International Vice President of the Rotary organization. I told him I doubted very much if Beaumont was ready for a Rotary club, but Cornell as usual, insisted, promising that he only wanted to have Stanley explain his ideal of Rotary to a few of us. The next morning I called on Charles Emmer,





One day in front of the Crosby Hotel in downtown Beaumont  
 FEBRUARY 26, 1913

JERRY  
 COURTESY OF  
 BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE

Marshall Muse, Will Keith, Marshall Walker, Jim Mapes and Jim Edwards, and asked if they would be at the Crosby Hotel that noon to meet Cornell and Stanley and told them for what purpose. There was absolutely no enthusiasm in a single one of us, but we met as promised and sat down to dinner without having the least idea that we were on the eve of starting such a movement in Beaumont as it has turned out to be. Hardly knowing what had happened the Beaumont Rotary Club was formed that noon.'

Speaking with a pride and confidence derived from having served as president in 1913, 1914, and 1915, Emerson reported a membership of 114 and gave expression to well known Rotary ideals of community service.

'The one idea which is being emphasized above all others is the opportunity and obligation of businessmen to be of service to their community. Rotary believes that every man owes an obligation to his

generation and to his community. . . . the Beaumont Rotary Club will always be ready to assist if not take the lead in everything that pertains to the best interest of . . . Beaumont'.

A year after writing his story, Emerson was dead but the Rotary Club he helped organize lived and prospered. Always attracting many of Beaumont's leading citizens, the Club remained committed to the precepts of Rotary, especially to the ideal of service to the community. Also, from the beginning, members of the Club enjoyed the weekly luncheons, the regular sharing of food, fellowship and programs.

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## GENERATIONS

DON STREATER

Jim Edwards was one of the seven men who organized the Rotary Club of Beaumont in 1913, and it was a solid foundation they build for us.

If Jim were to come into the Rotary office today and ask Margaret to let him peruse the membership roster, he would peruse along and come to the home of his favorite son, Lum. And after he perused a bit more, he'd say, 'Golly, and here's a couple of grandchildren, Martin and Lum, Jr.' Because there they'd be. Just one of the numerous multi-generations of Rotarians.

Dozens of father-son members, plus a few three- and four-generation families. It shows Rotarians bring up their children, grandchildren and even great grandchildren properly.

Jonny and Bo Weinbaum can look



back to their great grandfather, H.A. Perlstein, who was an early Rotarian. So was their grandfather, Charles Weinbaum (the elder), and today they can look across the dining room and see their father, Charles Weinbaum (the younger elder). Surely a treat for them.

There is the Oxford family, Hubert, Hubert, Jr., and now Hubert, III.

The Lambs, going back to Tom Lamb, then Kelsey and next Tom, Jr., and Payton, and now Tom, III, the fourth generation.

Also stacking up three deep are Roy Steinhagen, Harvey Steinhagen, Mark Steinhagen, Harvey Steinhagen, Roy Nelson, Harvey Steinhagen, and B.A. 'Barnie' Steinhagen.

W.P.H. McFaddin, son Perry, and now Jim. Blakey Locke, Charles Locke and David. H.B. Funchess, his son Bascom and the third generation banner bearer, Hank.

The three Shepherd brothers were Albert, Harry and W.P., the family now represented by Smythe.

D.C. Procter's boys, Winston and Doak, Jr., and Doak's son, Beau.

E.G. Edson, the man the Edson Hotel was named for, his son, Ed, and Ed's boy, Ed III. J.J. Nathan's grandson Jerry is frequently heard in our hallowed halls; John W. Newton has a son and grandson promptly paying their dues, John Jr., and John No. 3.

John Dollinger's sons, Chick and Gator — or C.R. and F.O. if you prefer formality — are amongst us, and there are I.D. Robertson and son Robert; R.F. DuBois and son Bob; W.J. Crawford and son Walter; Herman Weber and Chester; Benny Hughes and Benny Hughes.

There is Raymond Hawa and son John; Joe Bob Kinsel and Joe Bob Jr.; George Schaumburg and George Jr.; the Wheats, D. Pat, D. Pat Jr. and David.

There is an Irwin Feray, Jr., in our Club. Irwin Feray, Sr., was the longtime pre-Lorice and pre-Margaret secretary.

The trickle-down process has kept families in Rotary for years. J.F. 'Fuzzy' Roane to Ken Ruddy, Clarence Holland to Bob Lee.

Lee is a good family name. There

are Norman, Rex, Shung-Man Kurt, and a couple of Roberts. Norman says Rex is his father, but Rex says not.

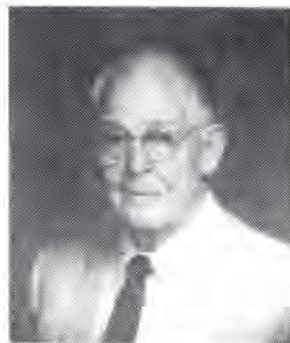


GEORGE ADAMS  
54 Years



FRANK WHITE  
52 Years

In terms of multigeneration names, George Adams, Chick Dollinger, Peel Allison and Frank White qualify on a 'do-it-yourself' basis, all having been members for over fifty years, longer than many father-son teams.



PEEL ALLISON  
50 Years

Also qualifying in a special category are the Alters — Nelson, Dennis, Brian and Wendi, the only family with four current members, which demonstrates strong dues paying ability.



C.R. DOLLINGER  
50 Years

The day will undoubtedly come when one of our members will nudge the luncheon companion and murmur, 'My mother was a Rotarian.' 'That's nothing, dear,' will be the response, 'so was my grandmother.'

But that will be a few years from now.

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## MEMBERSHIP

MARTIN BROUSSARD

On February 26, 1913, when Messrs. Emerson, Emmer, Muse, Keith, Walker, Mapes and Edwards gathered to form a new Rotary Club, they hoped the Club would grow. And grow it did! In 1915, a mere two years into its existence, the Club reached 100 members. By 1937 it had reached 200 and in 1954 it reached 300. In 1987, the Club reached 400 members and is currently holding at 423, thus making the Rotary Club of Beaumont among the largest in the world.

With increasing membership has come new strengths and opportunities. In 1973 when Jerry Nathan's membership development committee pushed our numbers up to 350, our Club was admitted to an elite Large Clubs group. Meeting annually, this association conducts valuable training sessions for incoming presidents. Brought back from one of those training sessions in 1975 by Robert Robertson was the idea for the New Men's Club, an indoctrination program designed to speed the integration of new

members into our membership.

In addition to growing in numbers, the Club has become more diverse. A milestone in reaching that diversity occurred on May 23, 1972, when the Club's first two black members were approved by the Board for membership. Joe E. Bryant, Jr., principal of Odom Junior High School, was proposed by Ed Dix and Elmo Williard, attorney, was proposed by Bill Deevy. The speaker that week was Federal Judge Joe Fisher who spoke on the topic *'The Challenge of Change'* and stated that *'change is inevitable, but should not be viewed with alarm.'*

Seeing most of this growth and diversity firsthand has been George T. Adams. Admitted into the Club on April 24, 1934, George holds the longest tenure of any member of our Club, almost 54 years. Others boasting more than 50 years of membership are Chick Dollinger, Peel Allison and Frank White. The shortest membership on record was held by Gordon Baxter who lasted one week.

When George Adams was asked what advice he would give new members coming into the Club today, he predictably responded, *'Remember that you only get as much out of the Club as you put in.'*

A person could not come up with a better man or a better personality to have the longest membership than George Adams. His positive attitude and outgoing personality, linked with his shiny pate and ever present bow ties, have always kept George on the brink of showmanship every Wednesday at noon.

When asked what the most unusual thing that has happened during his membership, George said without question, *'Admitting women as members!'* We assume George was referring to August 26, 1987. That was the day Margaret Cherb, our Executive Director for the previous 21 years, was admitted as our Club's first female member. Now our membership includes more than a dozen women.

Foreshadowing Margaret's admission was a 1978 straw vote by our Club overwhelmingly approving the admission of female members. In that year, the Duarte, California, Rotary Club admitted three women. Since this was contrary to the Rotary International Charter, Rotary informed Duarte that if the women weren't removed from the ranks, the Club's charter would be revoked. The charter was indeed revoked and the Duarte Club filed suit. The California Supreme Court upheld the lower court's ruling that the Club could admit female members and in 1987 the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the California Court's ruling. In June of 1987 the Rotary International Board stated that it would abide by the ruling in the United States.

Even with the 1978 straw vote, Margaret wondered if our Club's Board shared the general membership's enthusiasm. According to Margaret, *'President Ray Riley, President-Elect Larry Beaulieu, Past President Wilton White, Vice President Dan Hallmark and Secretary Warren Goehring were noticeably absent the Wednesday my admission was announced. Why the only one left to make the report was Jerry Nathan!'* While Jerry failed to state that Margaret's admission was subject to the membership's comment within ten days, it really didn't matter. As Charles Turco said, *'We weren't going to say a word.'*

Like our nation, the Rotary Club of Beaumont has changed greatly in the last 75 years. From 75 we have become more than 400. With no membership barriers as to race, sex or religion, we are a truly American Rotary Club, proud of our past, eager for our future.

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## EXTENSION

BILL CABLE

Sharing of Rotary with others through organization of new clubs in nearby communities is an old and rewarding custom of our Club. As early as 1915 we sponsored the Port Arthur Rotary Club which, in turn, gave birth to clubs in Groves, Nederland and North Port Arthur. The process has gone on for years. If counting like proud parents, our club claims 8 children, 10 grandchildren and several great grandchildren. Adding together all the members of all those clubs, we claim offsprings well in excess of 1,000; not bad for somebody only 75 years old.

Our Family Tree shows the results.



Port Arthur, 1915  
Groves, 1955  
Nederland, 1961  
North Port Arthur, 1961



Lake Charles, 1916  
Crowley, 1920  
Jennings, 1920  
Welsh, 1936  
Kinder, 1938  
DeRidder, 1922  
Sulphur, 1936  
Vinton, 1936  
Westlake, 1958



Orange, 1919  
Vidor, 1974  
Bridge City, 1974



Nacogdoches, 1921  
Liberty, 1925  
Jasper, 1953  
South Park, 1951  
West Beaumont, 1952  
Port Neches, 1953

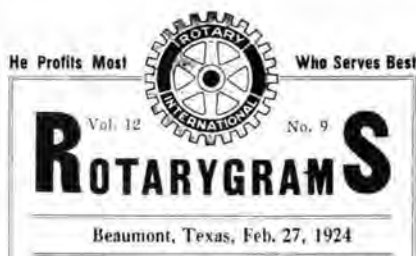


**Rotarygrams** was not always the slick publication you see today and it was not always called by that name. In 1951, George Morgan, Sr., gathered our Club's earliest publications and sealed them in plastic. Although the plastic warped during the fire at our Red Carpet office, it did protect these documents dated in the 1918-1925 era.

The earliest such issue, dated June 26, 1918, was the **Weekly Bulletin**, a simple letter stating that there would be no meeting that week because the Dining Room of the Crosby House was needed for the War Saving Stamp Committees. This was deemed a more worthy cause. Subsequent issues were one page letters which told of that week's program and contained various announcements about conventions, etc. One of their major problems was members who arrived at 12:45 instead of the proper meeting time of 12:15. Today they leave at 12:45.

The next publication was called simply **Rotary Club**. Although the lone issue was undated, it is thought to have been published between March 6th and June 30, 1919. It looks very much like a Baptist church bulletin.

**The Rotator**, Volume A, No. 1, was published September 17, 1919, but the name did not last long as **RotaryGrams** was being published by December of that year. The one surviving issue of **The Rotator** is very entertaining with jokes and conundrums poking fun at the members of the club. One joke involved Hymie Perlstein who shot a screech owl while on a pheasant hunting trip with Hard Boiled Oxford. Like Hymie said, 'When I eat a bird, I eat its meat; I ain't particular what kind of voice it's got.' Several of the jokes involved booze; so during prohibition this subject was perhaps more near and dear to their hearts than in our more health conscious period.



The **Rotarygrams** for the year 1919-25 era were folded the same as we have today, but they consisted of only one page instead of two. However, they made full use of the space by injecting a lot of humor with one-liners being popular. A number of them were familiar because President Wilton White used them as 'Thoughts for Today.'

In addition to these earlier issues, the Rotary office has fifty-two bound volumes of **Rotarygrams** giving a colorful, sometimes amusing history of our Club. Among the features appearing from time to time have been guest editorials. On August 26, 1981, an anonymous and farsighted Rotarian wrote to the editor as follows:

*Deer Editor:*

*Since you sed that all errors in spelling and grammer you wood correctt, I am happy to right this here editorial for you.*

*I think we should allow broads in our club. Then instead of sleeping thru the programs we cud talk and flirt thru them. I ain't got nuthin against Pres. Jo Bob (actually he'd a pretty decent guy for a club president), but it would be nicer to look at some tall female tipe than he. Then we woodn't need some pore little girl suferen as a sweethart. The famale members would keep the cruddy speakers from telling cruddy jokes. I know sum peeple will object because we ain't got no handle for a guy whose wife is a Rotarian, but that ain't a big deel. We could call those guys Rotaryjobobs or even Rotaryjerrys - but that last wood be a cruddy thing to do. Anyway I wish you wood bring this up to the bored. You can remind Winebahlm and Bruesard that even Texas A&M has broads in it. So why shudn't Rotary?*

*I wood have typed this, but when I tipe I make a bunch of errors in speling*

*and grammer and I don't wanna make yous work to hard correckting.*

*I know you will print this becorse you ain't had nothing good in the Rotarygrams since you told us Rufus Mills' birthday.*

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## MOVING AROUND

JAY JOHNSON

Each week when the members of Beaumont Rotary gather for their meeting in the Beaumont Hilton, it seems so natural to greet fellow members and guests in front of the button boards before going into the International Ballroom for luncheon, fellowship and program. Even the newest red-buttoned member emerges from his or her orientation session understanding that each week Rotary meets on Wednesday noon at the Hilton.

But it has always not been so. In our seventy-five year history, we have moved five times, always seeking comfortable meeting places for our growing membership.

When the seven original members first met at the Crosby House in February of 1913, the meeting room was not given any special name. By the end of the decade, however, it was the Pershing Room which hosted the weekly meetings of Rotary even as the members resolved to urge the city to build a larger hotel. But for almost ten years regular Rotary meetings were held in the Crosby House, the premier hotel of the boom and post-boom days in Beaumont. But it could get crowded, when, even after the Great War in 1919, one meeting had to be put off so the Savings Stamp Committee could meet on important 'war time' business. While in the happy days before the war Rotary met with rather loose commitment to the word regular, special arrangements put summer night meetings on a river excursion with music and dancing, or on other festive moments as in the summer of 1914 the meeting moved

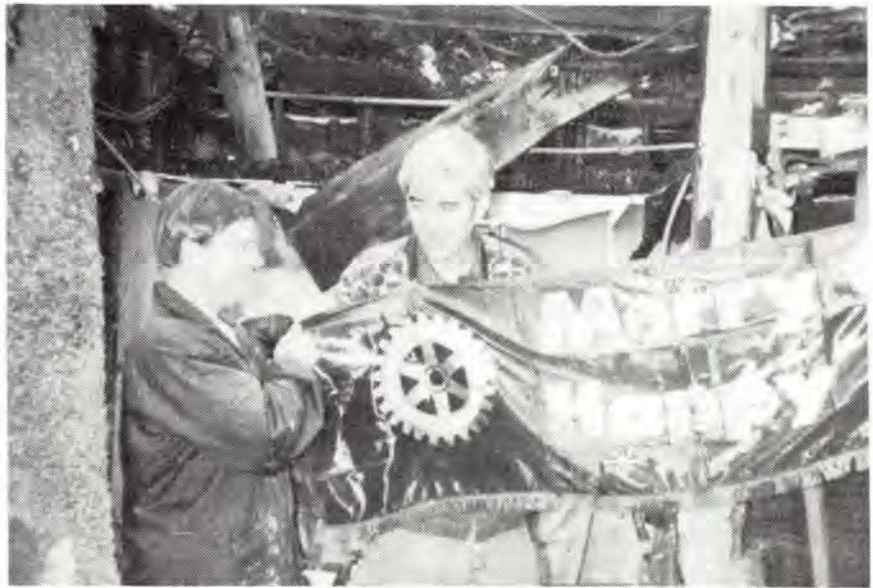


to the Country Club and was followed by two innings of baseball. That must have been a great summer, because the very next week the club meeting moved to the Imperial Theatre for a box lunch and movie. While Germany was moving to march on Russia, it did not seem to bother Rotary. Any visitor trying to find the meeting place the following week would have to go down to the river when the club members and their wives went fishing and ended the evening with a barbecue and watermelon feast. In retrospect this was America's last summer of innocence and the young Rotary Club of Beaumont was in the spirit of the day.

Perhaps it is in the nature of younger clubs, or a characteristic derived from the informality of their small number and closer fellowship, but in the earliest years it was often a question of 'if' more than 'where' meetings were held. In May of 1915 meetings were not held for two weeks so members could prepare for the minstrel show. A year later the meeting was suspended in respect for the death of the club's first president, Ed Emerson. Even the city closed down Rotary meetings, along with movies, war worker meetings, and the Chamber of Commerce, during the Influenza Ban which was lifted on November 3, 1918.

Peace, prosperity and normalcy turned the corner when the quarter-million dollar hotel that Rotary supported by resolution in 1916 opened in the Hotel Beaumont in 1922. The beautiful Rose Room of the hotel in the very heart of the city was the meeting place for Beaumont Rotary from that opening day in 1922 to the sad departure in August, 1966. For forty-four years Rotary and the Rose Room of the Hotel Beaumont lived together — through a second oil boom with Rotarian Frank Yount — through depression days that gave birth to the club's unique whistle tradition — through a second world war, local riot and martial law, the atomic age and Korea. It all seemed so permanent.

Only after the commercial life of the expanded city moved to the new



FUTURE PRESIDENTS RAY RILEY AND CARROLL BROUSSARD

## ASH WEDNESDAY, 1982



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARGARET, LOOKING FOR HER DESK . . .

shopping centers beyond the drive-in movies, only then Rotary moved the 'down town club' north to the new Ridgewood Motor Hotel on the city's super highway IH-10. Now here indeed was the comfort of driving access and convenient parking. Why there were even tables equipped with special receivers for older members with a hearing problem. Other members were not lucky enough to not have to hear everything the speakers wanted to say about inflation, and socialism's path to communism. The club had visited the Rose Room for a great Sixtieth Anniversary program and birthday cake in

February of 1973 but the move to the Ridgewood on August 24, 1966, lasted until September 1, 1971.

When the Beaumont Rotary Club moved to the Red Carpet Inn, the progress of IH-10 led the way west and there was even room to drive 'General Ken Ruddy's Swan Song Jeep' right through the double doors at the service entry end of the expanded dining room (at this point nearly asphyxiating the entire club).

Ironically this fourth Rotary 'home' was subject to change on Ash Wednesday — March 24, 1982. The Red Carpet had burned; the Rotary Office had burned.



Photographs of all the past presidents were destroyed along with much of the club records. Rotarians and Margaret recovered the wet and smoking remains and moved them to the Petroleum Building where President Joe Bob Kinsel, Jr., arranged new offices. It was the first and only time, since 1936 when President Fuzzy Roane opened our first office in Hotel Beaumont, that our Rotary office was not located in the hotel where we held our weekly meetings.

In the meantime, Rotarians, like victims of the hurricanes, took refuge in the most available public facility. In this case the city had recently build a new Civic Center and for a brief three months with catered meals, the club 'camped out' three blocks from the old Rose Room while leadership negotiated with the management of the recently opened Sheraton Hotel.

When the Rotary Club moved into the Sheraton Hotel, it was June 30, 1982. After two years and five months, the club moved out.

That brought the club's last, or at least most recent, move to the Beaumont Hilton's International Ballroom. The Rotary Office was moved to the mezzanine of the hotel where new and recently expanded offices have space enough for an assistant to Margaret, a position ably filled by Mrs. Jo Culbertson.

On Friday evening, February 26, 1988, when Rotarians gather at the Hilton to celebrate their 75th birthday, they will need to be alert. Perhaps, just perhaps, lurking in the shadows of the ballroom will be Rotarians from earlier days, old friends who just came from the Crosby or the Hotel Beaumont, or the Ridgewood, Red Carpet, or Sheraton, former comrades of Rotary who come to wish us well.

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## ROTARY PROFESSIONALS

RAYMOND HAWK

If you have been a member of our Club for a decade or so, you might think Margaret Cherb, our Executive Director-Secretary-Fellow Rotarian, has always been in charge. Not so; before Margaret was Lorice. Lorice Beular Thomas.

In 1954, when I was invited to join the Club, Lorice was in charge. In those days, things were different. We met in the Rose Room of Hotel Beaumont and our membership was made up of men in their late forties and up - way up. Tobacco smoke always hung in the Rose Room and gray heads outnumbered all others by a wide margin. The Executive Secretary was as much in demand as she is today. Lorice was one of those impeccably dressed career women who knew everyone in Beaumont who WAS someone, and if you had an idea you would like to join Rotary you had better forget it unless you were known to this grand lady. I'm sure there were exceptions - but I never knew of one.

Lorice was hired in 1947 by President Chick Dollinger on a half time basis, but soon she was working twelve hours a day. For twenty years she gave it her all. For two decades she guided the course of our Club, monitoring all lines of service - club, vocational, international and community.

On Wednesdays Lorice was always at her 'second' desk at the entrance to the Rose Room at the end of 'Peacock Alley', the long hallway leading to the room, by eleven thirty, making sure all was in order - checking with the headwaiter, Simon, placing name cards at the head table, and taking care of hundred other little things. Meals were served covered and hot and Lorice had her special plate brought in and dined while the program was being presented.

The Rotary Office was at 209 Hotel Beaumont on the mezzanine of the hotel, and it was as impeccable and organized as Lorice. I really believed she asked Rotarian Bob Schieble, the hotel manager, to change the carpet every time it had the slightest spot.

During Lorice's reign the inevitable happened. She and Rotarian John Thomas began having their lunch together at the meetings. They fell in love and on October 28, 1964, were married. Rotarian The Reverend Charles Wyatt-Brown tied the knot. Lorice kept secretarying until she decided it was later than you think and decided to retire . . . That's when Rotarian Jack Dahmer stepped up and told us about his sister-in-law in Dallas who wanted to move to Beaumont and who might be, just maybe, what Lorice had been to the Club.

And so Margaret Cherb came to Beaumont. On February 1, 1967, President J.O. Croke made the right decision and we got Margaret - wide-eyed, enthusiastic and determined to be every bit as good - if not better - than the only previous Executive Secretary of the Club ever had. If you thought she was going to be on the phone every hour asking Lorice what, how, and when, you were wrong. She was going to do it her way . . . and you all know the results . . . WOW!

For over twenty years, Margaret has been the heart and soul of our Club. She has caused us to dream and dare, to grow and prosper. With Margaret's help we are what we are, the Rotary Club of Beaumont, one of the best anywhere.

And Margaret, excuse me, Rotarian Margaret, is still today a bubbly, cooperative, and wise as the first day I met her in the Rotary office. Promoted to Executive Director in 1980 in the presidency of Jerry Nathan, Margaret became our first female member. What else could be more right and logical. Margaret knows more Rotary than Paul Harris and there's no checking the book - it's all from memory.

And here we are celebrating 75 years of Beaumont Rotary - and in all those years, only 2 Executive Secretaries. Unfortunately, Lorice is gone but thankfully Margaret is still with us. From all of us to both of you, we say. . . **THANK YOU!**





## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

JOHN PRESTON

Alex Broussard, past president of our club and our current District Governor, is part of Beaumont Rotary's long history of leadership in Rotary International. The Beaumont club was the 72nd Rotary Club to be organized and in its first full year, the Club made its presence known with 100% attendance at the national convention. The convention was held that year, 1915, in Houston's Rice Hotel where our Club hosted a rice luncheon which promoted Beaumont as the Rice Growing Capitol of the Nation.

Four years after the founding of Beaumont Rotary, Mr. T. S. Reed was the first member to be elected to an office of Rotary International. He served as District Governor for the 1918-1919 term. Others serving in the key post of District Governor have been:

T.S. Reed, Dist.18	1918-19
W. Saenger, Dist.48	1926-27
K.T. Hotchkiss, Dist.48	1935-36
B.H. Hughes, Dist.130	1947-48
K. Lamb, Dist.190	1951-52
P.T. Peyton, Dist.591	1957-58
G.B. Morgan, Dist.591	1961-62
F.E. White, Dist.591	1973-74
A. Broussard, Dist.591	1987-88

The District Governor is the only Rotary International officer in each

district. The official link between the individual clubs and the President and Board of Directors of Rotary International, he is responsible for the District Assembly and District Conference.

Another District official from our Club is Rufus Mills, a member famous among our ranks as an energetic, ever ready sergeant-of-arms. For 1987-88 Rufus is serving as the Governor's Representative.

One of our members, Benny Hughes, Sr., progressed by the rank of District Governor to enter the inner circles of Rotary International. Having served as District Governor for the 1947-48 term, he was elected a Director of Rotary International in 1953 and served as 3rd Vice President until 1955. He was asked to consider the presidency of Rotary International but illness in his family forced him to decline the offer.

Entering its seventy-sixth year, Beaumont Rotary is one of 42 clubs in District 591, in a global organization of 460 districts, 23,203 clubs 1,042,153 members.

The Beaumont Rotary Club, with its strong tradition of service on district and national levels is certain to continue to provide quality leadership to Rotary International in the next quarter century.



R.I.V.P. BENNY HUGHES AND CLUB PRESIDENT CHICK DOLLINGER

## IF YOU MISSED

JAY JOHNSON

If a Rotarian misses a weekly meeting and wants to know about the program, it is comforting to know a quick reference to the latest copy of the **Rotarygrams** will solve the problem. Reading the weekly bulletin will send the member off to the next meeting fully informed about the last program and the next.

The evolution of the weekly Rotary program, which today is often the envy of non-Rotarians because of the quality of speakers or the significance of the topics, has taken years of maturing to achieve the level of preeminence enjoyed among area civic and service organizations. While the weekly program is not the central purpose of the Rotary organization, the Chicago founders of Rotary International understood well that regular weekly meetings with meaningful programs would be essential to building a unique community organization of leaders who both could and would render true Rotary SERVICE.

Seventy-five years of **Rotarygrams** giving news about the weekly programs present a fascinating reflection of the history of the times and the men and women who shaped the heritage of the Rotary Club of Beaumont.

The Rotary program year has come to run from June to June, but the first year for Beaumont Rotary started in late February and if Ed Emerson, first president of the Club, had not served a second term, the entire sequence of calendars might have been off for the next seventy-five years. Within the first year's administration, however, a pattern of weekly programs began to develop in which today's men and women of Rotary can recognize familiar features. While recent club elections were conducted in record time, early day club meetings made an entire program out of an election or a review of budget and student loan funds or adoption of by-laws and constitution. Obviously, small clubs must do most of their organization work in the committee of the whole.



If the annual banquet, an evening meeting with the wives and a 'suitable program' held on June 11, 1913, is taken as the end of the first administration, the fifteen programs of the first year tally three for organization, one for all eighteen members to speak their views of Rotarianism, five vocational talks by members, two programs on energy the tariff issues, and one speaker from Washington, D.C., whose subject no one understood, a problem often repeated in the history of club programs. One speaker was absent and was assigned to speak on the following week. This was the first club program that took two weeks to deliver.

In the early days it was the president's duty to appoint the member to address the club at next week's meeting and a few failed to deliver. From their personal experience the member's subjects covered baking, lumber, real estate, medicine and newspapers. In the second year the appointment of programs continued with telephones, insurance and Coca Cola, but soon the system started to fail. A banker talked on baseball, which could not have been a vocational speech, and when none of the other members had a topic, the club hired an orchestra from the Kyle Theater for a concert program. By September, William Hobby spoke, probably the first of generations of 'non-political' speeches that so often come from politicians who happen to be running for election.

Especially notable in the first year was the first Christmas Party on December 10, 1913, known initially as the 'Ladies Shopping Luncheon'. The December party-program may be the oldest surviving institution of Beaumont Rotary.

As the members withdrew from the speakers stand, there emerged the dictum that a Rotarian should never be invited to address his home club except on a vocational talk. The summer of 1914 was a time of lighter programs with night meetings featuring songs of Tom J. Lamb, after-luncheon baseball games at the Country Club, or the movie house meeting with box

lunches. Yet not all was fun and games. By March of 1915 the club was listening to Dr. A.J. Price, president of the Port Arthur College. This was the first in a long march of college and university presidents speaking to Rotary to support higher education in its varied forms, especially at Lamar, A&M and Texas University. More than to Dr. Price, however, the Harbinger Award would probably belong to Helen Todd who spoke in January, 1915, to the Beaumont Rotary on the issue of votes for women and her suffrage victories in California. No man at that meeting could have guessed that in a few short years all women in America would be voting in national elections, a woman would soon be governor of the state and that in a short seventy-two years the daughters of Helen Todd's Suffragettes would be members of Beaumont Rotary.

The William Saenger's program at the beginning of the calendar year 1915, was somewhat in the tradition that newspaper editor Bob Akers would make popular sixty years later in his New Year's addresses on the news of the past and the speaker's predictions of the future, Saenger called for the abolition of the poll tax in Texas, grade separation for the railroads in downtown Beaumont, and improvement of city streets.

In March, 1915, the temptation to move the meeting time or to even suspend the meeting schedule was evident. If Branch Rickey, manager of the St. Louis Baseball Club, wanted to be the speaker on a Thursday, then the Rotary Club would just meet on Thursday. After all, some things were important. Besides, the entire meeting schedule was later suspended when the members took two weeks off to prepare for their minstrel show at the Kyle Theatre. It would take a lot of energy and time, but the Rotary Minstrels were a 'riot of fun and frolic' for the two nights of a sold out house. The money would send members to the national convention.

A year later Woodrow Wilson was still 'keeping them out of war' and Rotarians, showing little concern for

the Four Way Test and ignoring protests of the Chief of the Police, converted the minstrels into the Humbug Circus. The sixty man membership put on a 'spectacular show' for national delegate funds. The success, however, was overshadowed a week later by the death of the first president, Ed Emerson.

Between the political conventions of the summer of 1916 and the November elections, the Beaumont Rotary Club experienced two noteworthy programs in September. One featured a resolution to support the new quarter million dollar hotel project proposed for the city. In those days it would not be out of order for the club membership to 'resolve' its club support for important city projects from drainage to multi-million dollar bond issues to improve streets and other capital projects. The proposed hotel became the Hotel Beaumont which was the meeting place for Beaumont Rotary from 1922 until 1966.

The second unique program of 1916 was when each of the ninety-three members present introduced himself in the then traditional roll call and told his fellow Rotarians how he earned his first money. The immortal ghost of Horatio Alger, a fellow Chicagoan of Paul P. Harris, must have been proud of these 'first penny' accounts. Here were many of the leading capitalists of the city recounting how they first entered the grand ranks of the free enterprise system. Some members began by shoveling snow at 10 cents a day; others selling papers, blacking shoes, picking cotton, washing dishes and even 'jerking' sodas. Somewhere in this program was the harbinger of Camp Enterprise.

During the first World War, strained conditions are frequently reflected in the surviving program notes, but little direct involvement is evident. On one occasion, members did not get to meet because the Crosby's Pershing Room, was needed for an important war workers committee meeting. In the fall, 1918, meetings were canceled because of the influenza epidemic which closed all public



organization meetings. Perhaps the most noted of the war time programs was that given by the British entertainer, Sir Harry Lauder, and his Kiltie Band. Here was enthusiasts for the war to sustain Anglo-American traditions, make the world safe for democracy, entertain service men who were guests of members.

In the booming 20's, not the depressing 30's, Rotary programs revealed support of the Boy Scout movement and the 'Back to School' program. While concerned with youth and the underprivileged, Rotarians were opposed to growing government interference in the daily lives of Americans. In May, 1920, they voted a resolution against the PTA call for movie censorship. In the early 20's Connie Mack of the Philadelphia Athletics was one speaker; President Taft, then a Supreme Court Justice, was another. Local politics was being tested by the Klan and Anti-Klan conflict, but Rotary was normal enough to get away to the Gilbert Ranch, twenty-five miles west of Beaumont for an annual party of venison barbecue and Dr. Rosinger' talk for United Charities. In March, 1922, the Club voted a resolution condemning Klan vigilanteism.

The economic depression, produced programs on the lighter side. From January to June, 1932, twenty programs. Five of the programs were music or dance in theme, one was a magic show, and one a skit with the future Rotarian Charlie Weinbaum. Two of the year's programs were given to the election of 'electors' who then elected the ten club directors, who elected the president. A second 'club service' program reviewed operations of the Student Loan Fund, one of few resources available to needy students aspiring to go to College. For community development programs Rotarians heard why the YMCA had cut its budget, what were the prospects of the Beaumont Baseball team, the August plans of the YMBL, and an honors program for area football coaches with John Gray being among the honored coaches. To round out the program menu, in May an unmarried-lady speaker

gave a reading on 'husbands' and in September the **Rotarygrams** headline asked, 'Are You Discouraged?', with notes giving no clues about the subject or answer. A depression style remark at the Scout program noted that 'Character Building' was about the only thing being built in the country.

Sometime in the depression, Beaumont Rotary came of age, at least it quietly observed its twentieth anniversary. For the thirtieth birthday, there was little more than a paragraph in February of 1943.

The impact of the Second World War on Rotary programs was evident. Longer in duration, more global in scale, more intrusive in the economic life, causing rationing and shortages, taking lives, this war was more grim as reflected in program notes & the war time **Rotarygrams**. Members called to service were placed on the honorary membership list and Christmas gifts were converted to dollars for relief funds. Also, as if to lighten the load, programs of the mid-war year, 1943, included luncheon programs designed to entertain. One week a dance program from Miss Judith Sproule's ladies, the next week the first concert from the Melody Maids, the Beaumont group that would entertain service men around the world in World War II. If the programs seemed light, it was justified in the words of the secretary who captured the Rotarian's feeling as he walked back to the office early on a war-time Wednesday afternoon:

*"...we gave ourselves up to the pleasures of the moment, and forgot for a time that there was a war going on then we went back to our jobs with our minds, our bodies and our nerves pleasantly relaxed."*

Also the war brought social tensions which exploded in Beaumont in the summer of 1943 when race riots brought the city under marshal law. Reflecting the times and the experiences in a city under military control, Rotary program notes remarked with pride about the report from the Student Loan Fund which had earlier given

support to the valedictorian of black Charlton-Pollard High School. To add to the careful conclusion of the affair in which the community took no pride, the Episcopal Bishop Quinn addressed the Rotary Club of Beaumont, two days after the lift of marshal law, and he spoke on the need for 'responsible citizenship'.

A special program of the World War II years was the Memorial Day program on May 30, 1945. Under the chairmanship of Walter Casey, written and produced by Jack Neil, the program was dedicated to Rotarian sons, Charles Latham Babcock, Jr., George Edson Feray, Robert William Gary, Jr. and Carl Harold Pipkin who died in the war.

Recounting the history of the war between the allies and Hitler's Germany, Neil told the story through the recollections of an imaginary G.I. Joe, an average American soldier who had seen it all, from North Africa and Italy to France and Germany, from the victories on the Rhur and the Rhine to the horrors of Belsen and Buchenwald.

By 1953 the annual schedule and pattern of Rotary programs was seemingly determined for the next thirty to forty years. Compare the anniversary years of 1953, 1963 and 1973 as models of their respective decades and, except for the names, the parallels are striking. Of course there will be the annual Christmas party and at year end the Dad's day with the son, or in time, the father-son-daughter combination. Of thirty years of these special children-day programs, two were most memorable. One was the pictures that Bobby Robertson brought back from the African travels in December, 1962, only to be caught up by the disappointed complaint from Master Dale Broussard when 'the lions and tigers didn't growl'. And who can forget the world renowned Madam Trude Luvass and her amazing Poodle Review. The poodles were amazing less for their acrobatics than for their feeble and moth eaten appearance. After a disappointing, too brief routine, Madame and her dogs exited the ballroom. Being advised that Madam's exit meant not a pause but the end, President



Joe Bob Kinsel, Jr. snorted, 'tell her to do it again!'. Also on the subject of animals was HUGO, a live gorilla who sat at the head table and tried to go to sleep wrapped in a table cloth. Hugo, a baby gorilla come with the C.B. Greers from Houston in the 1952 program on Big Game Hunters. Hugo was not the first or last member of a Rotary audience who tried to go to sleep during a program.

Other elements of the program pattern evolved in the last forty years are the fancy swan song shows, film shows from the Southwest Football Conference, two to three visits from university presidents, an annual accounting from the mayor or the city manager on the state of city affairs, the annual visit from the District Governor, the current head of the Texas Prison System, the head of the highway department, one to three politicians who are not running for office and need to give non-political speeches, and the New Year's talk from the Enterprise editor or publisher.

Also appearing among these 'regular' elements have been musical and theatrical programs which draw from the music and drama talent of area schools and colleges.

Outside the pattern and reflecting a variety of interests were Chamber of Commerce President Ben Rogers who called in 1962 for school district consolidation, a goose caller, and a Cajun humorist. In 1972 John Gray spoke on 'Lamar University, Our Greatest Instrument for Progress in Southeast Texas'. Other speakers were visiting mayors and bankers and local leaders who advocated building a new civic center. There were the speakers announcing the new 'pay-television', a major medical center in Houston, declining business in downtown Beaumont, a new seminary, expanded air service from Beaumont, automation in banking and school district unification. Also, we had speakers about advantages of a nuclear reactor for generating electricity, when gas and oil fuels are not available. Added to these programs, was the annual alert on drugs and the narcotics crisis.

Great enjoyment was received in travel programs delivered by members after going to international conventions and professional meetings around the globe. Monsignor Kirwin opened the program schedule in July of 1952 talking on 'Materialism', and other travel programs during the year included Germany, England,

Australia, Brazil, Korea, India, Japan and the Philippines. By the model year of the 60's the travel programs at the Rotary meetings touched Bulgaria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Austria, Dakar/Africa, Cuba and Pakistan. Also Washington, D.C. with Bob Akers report 'Not Quiet on the Potomac'. When the travel adventures became the more common experience the frequency among programs dropped off and in the 70's only John Wesley Hardt got to talk about his trip to South America in a program titled, 'Social Aspects of the Four Way Test'. In the 80's a memorable program was Warren Goehringer's report on his trip to China.

In seventy-five years the quality, sophistication and educational value of the weekly Rotary meeting have changed and improved. In the same respect, the Rotary Club itself, and the community from which the club is drawn, have changed and some may say improved.

On April 2, 1913, the subject of the Rotary program was 'lumber'. Sixty years later the subject was lumber, this time in the the last program before Peter Wells' Swan Song the late Ralph Ramos spoke on the 'Hundred Years of the Lumber Industry in Texas'. It can be our sincerest hope that in the next twenty-five years as the Rotary Club of Beaumont prepares to observe its century of service, some part of the year's programs can be reserved for the lumber industry and all the other vocations that have been part of our heritage and have contributed to the weekly programs of Rotary.

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ROTARYANNS AT A PAST CLUB BIRTHDAY PARTY.

L TO R: BETTY WELLS, SYBILLE AKERS, GARNETTE PITTS, LOIS STRONG (HEIDRICK), MARIAN LAMB, HELEN GRIFFIN, OWETA BETTS, BONNIE WHITE, VELMA HUNT.





## ROTARY SOFTBALL TEAM WILL NOT MOVE TO PHOENIX

CHUCK MABRY



Citing 'Tradition' as the main reason, Coach Fred Kristiansen has announced that the Rotary Softball Team will not be following the St. Louis Cardinals in their move to Phoenix, Arizona, next year.

To offset declining attendance, however, a 30% increase in ticket prices is a very real possibility. Smythe 'Spike' Shepherd, hard-hitting out-fielder from the 1940's teams, has suggested that a raffle be held at the end of the season. All ticket stubs would be placed in a tub, or a coffee cup if more appropriate, and drawings would be held for prizes.

'Besides the tradition aspect,' argues former manager Walter Mayer, 'where else would a team that has been playing together since 1925 be competitive?'

Actually, there was a Rotary baseball team in 1923-25. But it's not really the same players today. We just play like it sometimes. And Charlie Weinbaum does not know the daddy of a single player from that 1923 era. But his daddy was a standout on that team.

The Rotary softball team of the early 40's included Hubert Oxford, Sr., and Smythe Shepherd in the outfield. Smitty Walden at first base, George Adams at second base, and Tom Galaway at third. No one can remember who the shortstop was . . . probably for the same reason as why no one can remember who the 1987 shortstop was. It changed every game.

Randolph Reed established a dubious tradition when he broke a leg sliding into third. In recent years, Bob Burns and Jim Tarbett, manager of the 1982 team, have obligingly contributed to that tradition.

Spencer Blain, team manager in the 40's, had two pitchers, Snow Arthur and a fast baller named Coach Raymond Alford. The story goes that Alford was so fast that no one wanted to be the catcher; so they invited a 15 year old kid named Weinbaum to join the team on the one condition that he agree to be the catcher. The 1940's team played in a Service Club league against the Lions and Kiwanis and Round Towners. Games were held at the Fairgrounds, and after the games the team, except for the Weinbaum kid and his football Coach Alford, would adjourn to 'Aunt Chlo's' which was in the building with Rao's Bakery, to consume some beverage.

'Now that's a nice tradition,' chortled Bill Munro, upon learning that piece of history. 'Just like our teams today go to Mr. Gatti's for pitchers and pizza after the games.' 'Mr. Gatti's?' chimed in Robert Thompson, arguing for the move to Arizona, 'Does Phoenix have a Mr. Gatti's?'

The tradition of fellowship as an important part of The Rotary Softball Team was reestablished in 1980 by Coach Bill Taylor, the 'Father of Modern Rotary Softball' and by Jerry Nathan, the 'Soul of Modern Rotary Softball'. Ah, the fellowship! Smooth-as-glass shortstop Bob Burns remembers the team would gather at Federico's Mexican Restaurant for a few pitchers. During the guitarist's break, unnamed players would borrow his stage and sing wonderful songs. Pretty soon we would be the only patrons. When Federico's closed, the team moved its after-the-game fellowship to Gatti's. And now Gatti's has closed . . . hmmm . . . maybe the team will be asked to move?

The 1980 team was perhaps a leading indicator of things to come. For example, Sonny Sherman and Maury Meyers were in the same

lineup and Maury would hit cleanup but he would only play once a week!

Allan May is especially remembered from those teams in the early 80's. His spirited play caused us all to play a little harder. There seemed no limit to his energy; he invariably changed uniform after the Rotary game and played a second game for his church team.

Rumor has it that 'Soul' Nathan expected that a Rotary Softball team would be a lucrative producer of many trophies and that he was disappointed. Recorded history does not substantiate this rumor since all of the Rotary Softball Trophies were burned in the fire at the Red Carpet. The only definite fact is that the team most certainly did win a trophy in 1987.

In 1981 Coach Chuck Mabry issued a challenge to all other Rotary Clubs in our district. Only Port Arthur responded and our team won by 30 runs and its 'District 591 Champion' title has been unchallenged since that game.

During the Coaching era of Jim Tarbett and Jay Eisen, veteran players Dan Aran, Ivan Barry, Tommy LeBlanc, Charlie Fant, Joe Peters, Bill Hickman, and Mike Mabry retired and new players Brian and Dennis Alter, Neal Baker, Broocks Osborne, Ben Hicks, Richard Jaffe, Rob Kirkland, David Moore, Bob Pollard and others came forward to fill their cleats.

When the final votes over the Phoenix matter were counted, perhaps the most important factor was, where else could our team get so much respect? 'Kid' Weinbaum summed it up with the observation, 'When we go to shake hands after the game, they always say to me, 'nice game, sir''.

The aged team doesn't win 'em all, but it always has a good time . . . with tradition.





## TEXAS ENERGY MUSEUM

WILL & ROSINE WILSON



Beaumont's new Texas Energy Museum is the outgrowth of Rotary's 20 years campaign to commemorate Spindletop and recognize Spindletop and recognize the oil industry.

In 1965, Beaumont Rotarians were interested in 'doing something about Spindletop', to celebrate the great oil gusher of 1901 and honor the oil industry which took root in Beaumont. Will Wilson was Rotary President and his Rotaryann, Rosine McFaddin Wilson, was Chairman of the Jefferson County Historical Survey Committee. Mrs. Wilson spoke to our Club about the historical importance of Spindletop. The same subject was developed by another speaker, James A. Clark, co-author of the book Spindletop, who proposed creation of an amusement park 'which would rival Disneyland', including replicas of Gladys City and the Lucas Gusher. The Rotary Club authorized and underwrote a feasibility study by Belden and Associates of Dallas.

Will Wilson was succeeded by Gene Ohmstede as President of Rotary, and was appointed chairman of the Spindletop Steering Committee. W.W. Ward was appointed chairman of the historical committee and authorized to proceed with a campaign to collect items of historical interest for a museum for Beaumont and Southeast Texas. Other members of the historical committee were Ben Woodhead, Bruce Broussard, Jim McFaddin, Mark Steinhagen, Don Streater, Ray Ward and Peter Wells.

The Spindletop Steering Committee revived the dormant Lucas Gusher Monument

Association in March of 1966 by having the only surviving member of the original Association, Scott W. Myers, appoint Will Wilson and John Thomas to fill the vacancies. In July of 1966, the Association was enlarged and officers elected: Will Wilson, President; W.W. Ward, Vice President; John B. Thomas, Secretary-Treasurer, and board members Scott Myers, I.F. Betts and John Green. Plans were announced to rehabilitate the grounds of the monument, maintain some of the early relics on the grounds, and to locate other relics.

In these early days the actual museum work was done by W.W. Ward and John and Lorice Thomas. These three, Wendell, John and Lorice, working almost alone, collected artifacts and operated the fledging museum.

John Thomas, a land lawyer for Sun Oil Company, persuaded Sun Oil to donate its \$500,000 geophysical laboratory building to the Lucas Gusher Monument Association. A gala dinner held to honor Sun Oil for its gift was attended by Kingsley V. Schroeder, A Sun Vice President, and by special guests House Speaker Gus Mutscher and Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes, who were the speakers.

On January 6, 1971, the Rotary Club again had a program devoted to Spindletop, with Kenneth Montague, President of Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association, as speaker. It was announced also that the museum was open in the Sun Geophysical Building, and that the film "Spindletop," a segment of the former television series hosted by Walter Cronkite, "You Are There," was available for viewing.

With the backing of Lt. Gov. Barnes and Speaker Mutscher, a bill was passed by the Legislature in 1971 appropriating \$750,000 to the Spindletop Museum and designating it an official state museum, but this item was vetoed by Governor Preston Smith, thus delaying the project.

In May, the Lucas Gusher was designated as a National Historic Monument. In November, 1967, the

members of the McFaddin, Wiess and Kyle Families donated eight acres of land across Spindletop Drive from the monument for use as a museum site. The presentation was made by J.L.C. McFaddin to Will Wilson.

The Rotary Club spent \$4,750 in landscaping around the monument, rebuilding the old wooden derrick and placing signs.

In January 1968, Will Wilson announced to the Rotary Club that the architectural firm of Pitts, Phelps, White and Saxe had been retained to begin the preliminary planning for a museum about Spindletop and the petroleum industry. Encouraging was the news that Lamar College would be involved in the project.

State Senator D. Roy Harrington introduced a bill in 1969 to create the Spindletop Memorial Museum. The aim was to enable Lamar State College of Technology to create and administer the museum.

On Wednesday, March 26, 1969, Alex Broussard, President of Rotary, presented a check from Rotary of \$7,500 toward the museum.

On Friday, January 24, 1975, the Lucas Gusher Monument Association deeded to Lamar University the Sun Oil Company Geophysics Building and Land. Funds derived from the sale of this building were to be earmarked for the future museum.

In March, 1975, Vic Roger's Bicentennial Commission initiated a drive to raise funds for reconstruction of Gladys City, a project that would honor Spindletop. On January 10, 1976, the Boomtown replica was officially opened by Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe. Late in the year, First Lady Betty Ford, wife of President Gerald Ford, visited Gladys City.

In the fall of 1977, the Spindletop Monument was moved for the second time, this time to a location on the Lamar University campus. Lamar University had acquired a former school building and converted it into a temporary museum for the Spindletop artifacts. The new museum was officially opened on April 8, 1978.



Calvin Smith, a Rotarian, was the First Director of the Spindletop Museum, giving the Museum its first professional Director. Upon his departure, the Museum was headed by David Hartman.

In April, 1987, Lamar University and the City of Beaumont discussed relocation of Spindletop Museum to a downtown site. Among those involved were Chancellor George McLaughlin, President Bill Franklin, Will Wilson, all Rotarians, and Rosine Wilson. At the same time, Mrs. Wilson uncovered the possibility of acquiring the Eddie Chiles-Western Company Oil Museum of Fort Worth. Working with Mayor Maury Meyers, also a Rotarian, Will and Rosine Wilson, Lamar officials, and others quickly negotiated the consolidation of the Chiles-Western Museum with the Spindletop Museum in Beaumont. Thus the Texas Energy Museum was born.

Pledges in excess of \$1,000,000 have been secured. The Chiles-Western Collection has been moved to Beaumont. Architects are drawing plans for renovation of the Szafir Building in downtown Beaumont.



The opening of the Texas Energy Museum, scheduled for the fall of 1988, will be the fulfillment of Rotary's dream to "Do something about Spindletop." All are grateful to the many people who worked to make the Spindletop dream come true.

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## ROTARY CHRISTMAS PARTY

JOHN PRESTON

Only ten months from now, in December, 1988, Beaumont Rotary will celebrate its 75th Annual Christmas Party, one of our oldest traditions.

In 1913, the year the club was chartered, the members hosted a Christmas Luncheon honoring the Rotaryans. The event was held on December 10th at the Crosby Hotel and was called the Christmas Shoppers' Luncheon.

In 1918, due to a flu epidemic, the luncheon was postponed twice and finally combined with a club birthday party in February, 1919. It is obvious the Rotaryans were not willing to be canceled, epidemic or no epidemic.

The next year, 1919, an evening party was scheduled in place of the Christmas Shoppers' Luncheon. There was a jazz band to provide the entertainment and attendance climbed to 108 Rotarians and 112 guests.

During the mid 30's, the cost of the party was \$213. but in 1942, only \$22.75 was spent on the party in deference to the nationwide war effort.

Also, World War II times were special Christmas cards sent in 1943 to 22 members of the Club who were serving in the armed forces and had been granted honorary membership 'for the duration.' Among those listed were Dr. F. Peel Allison, Walter Crawford, Edward Edson, Llewelyn Pitts, Randolph Reed and Frank White. In the Christmas cards, Beaumont Rotarians wished their comrades good health, good fortune, victory, peace and a safe return home.

Over the years the Christmas party has been held in many places including the Crosby and Beaumont Hotels, the Beaumont Club, Trinity Methodist Church, the Mary and John Gray Library, and the current location, the Beaumont Country Club.

The Christmas tradition has been expanded to combine fellowship with service. Currently, each



Rotarian brings a toy to the Christmas luncheon and these toys are distributed to underprivileged children. Rotarians have traditionally manned The Salvation Army Christmas kettles every year, this job now being handled by the New Men's Club. The widows of Rotarians are invited to the luncheon and are escorted by current members. Poinsettia plants, traditionally used as decorations, are taken by Rotarians to elderly people who are unable to leave their homes. Inspirational speakers remind members of the higher meaning of Christmas and set the tone for the coming year of service and fellowship.

In recent years a highlight of the Christmas luncheon has been the Rotary Christmas Chorus. The Chorus was created in 1975 under the leadership of Robert Robertson, Bill Phillips, Joe Bob Kinsel and Joe Carlucci.

Under the skilled conducting of Maestro Carlucci, the chorus makes up for its lack of skill and talent with enthusiasm and volume. Notable as soloists have been Clem Webb, tenor; Bill Phillips, chimes; Ed Dix, chimes; and Jerry Nathan, Jingling bells. The appearance of the chorus is breathlessly awaited each year, at least by members of the chorus.





## THE IDEALS OF ROTARY

BROCK BRENTLINGER

(AS REVEALED IN THE ANNALS OF  
THE ROTARY CLUB OF BEAUMONT)

Discovering one's roots seems to be the up-to-date thing to do these days. Rotarians, too, need to become familiar with their past.

But how do you inform a Rotarian about the longtime ideals of Rotary. I could recite the number of programs we have had over the years on the Four-Way Test, or the number of times the Rotary Code of Ethics has been printed in the **Rotarygrams**, but such would not be interesting.

I can best illustrate our Club's interest in business and professional ethics by recalling some of the thoughts and antics of one of this Club's most powerful and expressive personalities in the past, Rabbi Sam Rosinger.

Rosinger's influence on the Beaumont Rotary Club, and in fact on the entire community of Beaumont, was long lived, from 1910 to 1960. What a delight it must have been to have known that man, and to have been at Rotary meetings during the 1930-31 Rotary year when he was president.

Rabbi Rosinger used the **Rotarygrams**, especially during the year he was president, to call his fellow Rotarians to the altar of high ethical conduct almost weekly. Note the power and persuasive rhetoric in admonitions such as: *'I pity you from the bottom of my heart, if your absorption in your daily petty tasks makes you impervious to all that exquisite beauty in which a bountiful God had robed nature at this season of the year...'* and *'Our democracy in order that it endure, will have to be established, not on cruel competition, but on cordial cooperation, not on fortune derived from speculative profit, but on the fair reward of productive labor.'*

Frequently, Rabbi Rosinger departed from purely ethical themes to the cultivation of love and sentiment within his fellow Rotarians: *'We dads (they were a little behind times in the 30's) love our sons, but we dote on our daughters.'*

*We brag about our boys, but the pride we take in our girls is too chaste to be aired, therefore we cherish it in the chamber of our hearts.'*

I mentioned above of the antics of the Rabbi. He was incensed after one Rotary meeting when his audience obviously failed both him and the speaker of the day. His pen was sharp and probing in the next issue of the **Rotarygrams**:

*One of the functions of the Rotary Club ought to be the discussions of pros and cons of the vexing and burning problems of the day . . . The membership, however, has not the breadth of view and the intellectual curiosity to hear both sides of a question . . . At public meetings, especially when the program consists of speaking, every person of breeding will endeavor to maintain silence and pay attention to the speaker*

*. . . But when there are boons in the audience who either engage in disturbing chatter, and even pick themselves up and leave the room unceremoniously in the midst of a program, they embarrass the speaker and drive him to desperation. Our club, unfortunately, is not free of such rude behavior.'*

What would be the result should President Ray attempt such admonition today through the pages of the **Rotarygrams**?

Rabbi Sam even went so far as to chide a fellow Rotary Club, in this instance Port Arthur, as a result of a resolution they passed which in Rosinger's judgment showed a lack of a sense of humor: *'Sad days are indeed ahead of Rotary, if a Club is so stiff with dignity that Rotary scribe dare not 'kid' it.'*

One of the Rabbi's most inspirational statements about Rotary came several years later in 1943 as he participated in a program extolling the values of Rotary membership. At that time he said: *'You will find as the years pass that Rotary will mean to you indeed what you profess today, the ideals for which it stands and the association of whole-hearted cooperative, open-minded, broad-minded men . . . who will give you the 'glad hand' and with that glad hand will be the throbbing of a warm heart.'*

Rabbi Sam Rosinger, I believe, speaks for a number of grand men who have been a part of this club. Men for whom Rotary has meant much more than a mid-day handshake and a program, men who had strong convictions about ethics and standards in their businesses and professions, but who also sharpened those same standards as a result of membership in Rotary and who undoubtedly influenced a host of fellow Rotarians over the years through their words in Rotary and their lives on the streets of Beaumont.

Today, perhaps more than ever before, we need to listen again to the works of the Sam Rosingers and re-dedicate ourselves to Rotary as an ideal and not simply a mid-week luncheon.

Remember, Service Above Self.  
He Profits Most Who Serves Best.  
And the Four Way Test:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

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## COMMUNITY SERVICE

JOHN QUIGLEY

While Community Service Chairman Bernard Giarratano and his committee are evaluating various prospective projects, they can reflect on our Club's growing record of service to Beaumont. Through the years, as our Club has grown larger and stronger, we have become more able in money and manpower to take on important projects of civic improvement. Also, with our creation and funding of our Beaumont Rotary Foundation, we have had the means to accomplish projects of larger scope.



In earlier years Rotary brought the Boy Scouts of America to Beaumont, installed a locomotive at Central Park, donated dental equipment to the charity hospital, sponsored a 'Back to School' program, created and managed the Student Loan Fund, sponsored the Babe Zaharias Women's Professional Golf Tournament, and contributed to countless worthwhile programs to improve Beaumont.

A community beautification project for almost 20 years was Arbor Day, an annual rite when oak trees were planted in city parks and Lamar campus in memory of deceased Rotarians.

Last Year Chuck Mason was the inspirational and physical leader of the numerous members who helped make a reality out of Bernard Giarratano's dream of adding much needed space to the Family Violence Center.

During the presidency of Joe Bob Kinsel, Jr., (1981-82), Danny Wheat headed the Babe Zaharias jogging track project, while the late Ron Fittz coordinated the addition of playground equipment at the same site.

John Neild was President in 1978-79 when downtown wheelchair ramps were constructed with Jim Budd as our chairman and Tommy Polk providing advice and encouragement.

Marvin Gordy directed the construction of Jacob's Park, a neighborhood park in Beaumont's south end. Arthur Berry led the effort to build a greenhouse for patients at Schlesinger's Geriatric Center.

During the presidency of Jerry Nathan, the Club initiated Rotary Trade Fairs, one day exhibitions featuring the products and services of Beaumont business and industry. Trade Fair Chairmen from 1981 to 1984 were Charles Glass, Bill Faucett, Bill Jefferson and John Morgan.

As detailed in more complete stories elsewhere, the Club founded a youth leadership program known as Camp Enterprise and nurtured the Spindleop Museum and the Lucas Gusher Monument

Association, now parts of the new Texas Energy Museum.

Seventy-five years ago when this Rotary Club was formed, Ed. S. Emerson was elected president. Writing in 1915, he said, "Rotary believes that every man owes an obligation to his generation and to his community." For Emerson, community service was an obligation and an opportunity. For us the message is unchanged.

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#### **BEAUMONT ROTARY FOUNDATION, INC.**

JOHN QUIGLEY

The Beaumont Rotary Foundation, organized in 1973, is our main source of funds for community service projects. Now having assets of almost \$200,000, the Foundation was formed by Rotarians Ken Ruddy, Peter Wells, Tom Lamb, Elvis Mason, Mark Steinhagen and Robert Robertson. Of the six, Ken Ruddy probably deserves more credit since it was mostly his idea. *'There were two primary reasons for wanting to develop a Beaumont Rotary Foundation,'* Ken said after a recent Rotary meeting. *'For one thing, we needed a reliable method of funding local community projects and,'* Ken continued, *'I noticed we were sending a lot of money to the International Foundation, which is fine, but there were a lot of needs left unfulfilled here in Beaumont.'*

Ken explained that for years a new community projects committee was appointed each year, and, once a project was chosen, it usually required another project to raise money to accomplish the first one. By the time the money was raised, it was often time for a new community projects committee to take over and then both momentum and efficiency were lost.

On February 21, 1973, Ken met with Peter Wells to propose the idea of a foundation. Two days later, Wells submitted proposed articles of incorporation for the new organization. During the summer of 1973, Ken Ruddy was named the first president of the Beaumont Rotary Foundation.

In early 1974, Ruddy, Steinhagen, Robertson and Wells met to discuss bylaws of the new organization and, shortly thereafter, Wells was able to report to the Board that the Internal Revenue Service approved the Foundation as a charitable organization to which contributions would be deductible on individual income tax returns. The IRS application and various other legal matters were handled by Wells' associate, John Quigley, a young lawyer who 5 years later joined our club.

Bill Deevy also deserves credit. He was Projects Committee Chairman during the 1972-73 Rotary year and suggested that the club needed more continuity in its community service projects. Also in that year, Deevy's fund raising project was a tennis tournament held at the Beaumont Country Club. Upon formation of the Foundation, a golf tournament was added to the tennis competition, this creating the popular Rotary Sports Invitational event, a pay and play affair with proceeds to the Foundation. This first fund raising event netted approximately \$5,000 for the fledgling foundation and Rotarian H.F. Tyrrell promptly added to the foundation with a contribution of bonds.

From modest beginnings, the Foundation has grown to almost \$200,000 in less than 14 years. Members have contributed to the Foundation using various methods, including regular semi-annual donations, memorial contributions, special gifts, and participation in the Rotary Sports Invitational events. Persons who donate \$1,000 or more are recognized in the Beaumont Rotary Hall of Honor. Persons so honored are Harry F. Tyrrell, Sr., George B. Morgan, Sr., Velsicol Chemical, Mark Steinhagen and Mrs. Eleanor Weinbaum.



Another source of Foundation funds has been special events like the Gigantic Garage Sale organized during the presidency of Jerry Nathan. Bill Jefferson was Chairman and Jerry's Rotaryann Iris Nathan worked as hard as President Jerry talked. All manner of things, clothes, furniture, even a car, were donated and sold to the public. Proceeds of \$11,737 were given to the Foundation.

Another memorable fund raiser was the 'tennis grudge match' between the noble champion of the then all-male Rotary Club, Marvin Gordy, and that spirited representative of the still all female Junior League, Marsha Elmore. An accomplished tennis player, Marsha challenged Marvin to defend the honor of Rotary, a la Billie Jean King vs Bobby Riggs.

Concerned because our champion appeared to be a little out of shape for the match, Robert Douds, Robert Robertson and

others put Marvin on a strict training regimen. Every day, they drilled him. The intense training resulted in some improvement in Marvin's tennis skills but gave him such a bad case of shin splints that he was unable to walk. A physician was brought into the fray and he was able to prescribe medication which he felt would ease the problem. Marvin checked with his personal physician about the medication and he found it was the self-same prescription which is administered to ailing race horses that had to run. He declined the medication and bravely went forward.

With an ambulance standing nearby, our champion Marvin took the court against the redoubtable Marsha. Initially the match was even but Marsha struck Marvin with a ball, causing serious injury and forcing him to retire. There is little talk of a rematch.

Another curious event occurring

at one of our tennis tournaments was the 'rigor mortis' attack suffered by Rotarian Glen Guillet, M.D. An enthusiastic if not talented player, Guillet played hard, too hard, in the hot September sun. Soon he was discovered prostrate in the shade alongside the tennis court. Paralyzed in body but not mind, he coolly instructed fellow Rotarians how to load him onto a handy sheet of plywood and lift him gently into the bed of a pickup truck. On the wild ride to the hospital, he explained, 'It's nothing, boys, just an episode of electrolyte depletion.'

With accounting expertise from Hank Funchess and investment management from Executive Director Margaret Cherb, the Foundation has already exceeded the dreams of its founders, funding numerous community projects which are chronicled elsewhere in these pages.

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## CE88

### CAMP ENTERPRISE

ROBERT SWERDLOW



Camp Enterprise 88, scheduled for April 29-30, May 1, 1988, is the seventh in a series of youth leadership programs dedicated to the free enterprise system.

The beginning was in 1980-81 when President Jerry Nathan arranged for Tulsa Rotarian James Saied to visit our Club and explain the purpose of a Camp Enterprise youth program which was being sponsored by various Rotary clubs. Saied reported Camp Enterprise was a three day retreat involving Rotarians and high school student leaders. The purpose was to discuss various aspects of the free enterprise system, including capitalism, management and employee relations, government regulations and social problems and opportunities.

Our Club embraced the program and President Jerry Nathan and

Bernard Giarratano, our first Camp Enterprise General Chairman, staged the first camp in the Spring of 1981. Forty-five students and many Rotarians attended the first encampment at Camp Wildurr. The success of the first Camp has led to a continuing commitment on the part of our club.

The General Chairmen of CAMP ENTERPRISE have been:

- 1981 - Bernard Giarratano
- 1982 - cancelled due to the fire at the Red Carpet
- 1983 - Charles Glass
- 1984 - Bill Jefferson
- 1985 - Larry Beaumont
- 1986 - Les Daniels
- 1987 - Bo Weinbaum
- 1988 - Robert Swerdlow

From humble beginnings at Camps Wildurr and Victory, CAMP ENTERPRISE now is held at the East Texas Christian Center in

Lumberton. This facility, formerly the St. Vincent DePaul Seminary, provides an ideal setting for CAMP ENTERPRISE.

Students participate in debates, business simulations, labor-management negotiations, speakers and other program and recreational endeavors. CAMP ENTERPRISE 88 expects 100 students, sponsored fully by individuals, companies and other Rotary Clubs in District 591. In addition to the twenty college counselors from Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity at Lamar University, there are about 130 Rotarians who, through their volunteer efforts, make CAMP ENTERPRISE a success.

CAMP ENTERPRISE has become a vehicle through which students become more informed and responsible adults. The Rotary Club of Beaumont prides itself in sponsoring this worthwhile cause.



## INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

MARTIN BROUSSARD

The next International Convention, symbolic of Rotary's commitment to international peace and goodwill, is scheduled for Philadelphia in 1988. Among those who will be attending are President Elect Larry Beaulieu, his Rotaryann Nancy, and Executive Director Margaret Cherb. They will be a part of Beaumont Rotary's continuing interest in the field of International Service.

Our Club's International projects have included: assisting Lamar University foreign students; hosting group study exchange teams; distributing Rotary Spanish language magazine 'Revista Rotaria'; sponsoring Rotary International Fellows for Study Abroad; writing letters of greetings to newly formed clubs throughout the world; entertaining foreign visitors; exchanging gifts and speakers with the Mexico City Rotary Club; encouraging West Indian trade; supporting Norwegian teachers studying in America; sending disaster relief to Honolulu after the Pearl Harbor attack and to Mexico City after the earthquake.

Our major international project during the last few years has been the establishment of an official Sister City relationship between Beaumont and Beppu City, Japan.



Working with Beaumont officials, Rotarians helped initiate and negotiate the international agreement joining our city with Beppu City. Early in 1984 a five-

member Japanese delegation visited Beaumont to formalize the relationship. In May of 1984, a twelve-member delegation from Beaumont, headed up by Chairman Robert Swerdlow, visited Beppu City. In October of 1985, 15 Japanese delegates representing education, industry and tourism visited Beaumont. Hopefully our exchange of people and ideas with Beppu City will result in mutual long-term development of tourism, trade and natural resources.

International Service traditionally means participation in the annual International Conventions. Our Club is one of the few that has sent a delegation to the International Convention each year since formation. Typical of our delegates was President Ray Riley who reported his trip to the convention in Munich, Germany had been nothing but 'work, work, work'.

In 1936, two delegates were sent by the Club to the International convention at Atlantic City. They sent the following telegram to the Club:

*'Greetings President Will and members. Your delegates are not going to take a walk, they ride. And if the convention adopts a new plank, we still insist it be in the Boardwalk, where opportunities are met, felt and embraced. For better representation mail additional funds. For more complete details consult your daily paper.'* (signed) Chuck (Easley) and Fuzzy (Roane)

We should be proud of our past delegates for such sacrifice and hard work!

For years the Club has given support to orphans in foreign lands. Currently the Club sends aid to orphan, Robert Briel, at the SOS--Kinderdorf Wienerwald in Hinterbruhl, Austria. Robert is the third orphan sponsored by the Club. Executive Director Margaret Cherb had the privilege of visiting the SOS-Kinderdorf in 1973 and met our second adoptee, Dietmar Ziegler. Margaret recalls vividly the genuine hospitality shown to her by Dietmar and his housemother and how excited Dietmar was when Margaret gave him, compliments of President Ken Ruddy, an 'American

football', the only one in the village!

In addition to the Austrian orphans, we have given aid to families whose breadwinners were in military service, helped Belgian orphans in 1919, collected and sent clothing to war torn countries in 1944, and supported European and Asiatic war brides in 1949. But according to the Enterprise of January 13, 1921, even Rotarians have their limit:

*'Mrs. W.G. Lovell, Chairman of French War Orphans Campaign, said she regretted to ask for time at a busy meeting but wished to introduce Madam LaTrashe of Lorraine, France, who would speak a few words about French orphans.'*

James L. Mapes interrupted by rising to say: *'Without any disrespect to Mrs. Lovell, I want to make a motion now that the lady not be permitted to speak. I don't doubt that the French war orphans need assistance. Mrs. Lovell has done noble work and the Rotarians have helped. But this has been going on until they think that all is required to secure help for anything is to apply at our meetings. If I am not mistaken it is one of the rules of Rotary that people selling tickets or begging not be permitted in the dining room. The war is over now and it's time those people went back to work to keep themselves.'*

Judge F.D. Minor took exception to the remark of Mr. Mapes and was on his feet before the speaker had finished. *'I move'*, he said, *'that the motion by Jim Mapes be tabled. If we fail in this appeal, I think it is time we changed the slogan of Rotary which means service.'*

At this juncture, Madam LaTrashe removed her veil, revealing the smiling countenance of Rotarian Ben Lefkowsky. *'There was not a man in the room not in on the hoax but who had been completely misled. Judge Minor stood and said that he wished to acknowledge he had been victimized.'*

Another important International Service Program is the Student Exchange Program funded by Rotary International. A number of area students, sponsored by our Club, has studied overseas. Funds for the Rotary International Fellowships are provided in part by \$1,000 donations which qualify the donor, or a person designated by

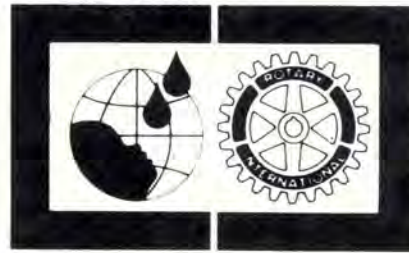


the donor, to be named a Paul Harris Fellow. Among those so honored in our club are:

- George Adams, Jr.
- O.B. Archer
- Larry Beaulieu
- Frank Betts
- James Broussard
- Alex Broussard
- Marie Broussard
- C.W. Conn, Jr.
- Harold Carpenter
- Margaret Cherb
- J.O. Crooke
- Bill Denham
- F.O. Dollinger
- Chuck Dollinger
- Jim Dunagan
- Dr. John E. Gray
- Lee Griffin
- Dr. Jerry Johnson
- Joe Bob Kinsel, Jr.
- Tom Lamb
- Kelsey Lamb
- Maurice Meyers
- Ruful Mills
- George Morgan
- Jerry Nathan
- Eber Peters
- Bill Phillips
- Clark Phippen
- Alma Polk
- Paul Prince
- Ray Riley
- Robert Robertson
- Ken Ruddy
- Jim Stokes
- Dr. Robert Swerdlow
- Mike Taylor
- Bob Telage
- Lorice Thomas
- Bill Tyrrell
- Charlie Weinbaum
- Peter Wells
- Danny Wheat
- Frank White
- Wilton White



## PolioPlus



### POLIO PLUS

TOMMY POLK

In a campaign called Polio Plus, Tommy Polk is working with District Governor Alex Broussard on a humanitarian project unprecedented in scale and consequence. Rotary International has joined the World Health Organization and UNICEF in a worldwide campaign to wipe out six childhood diseases — polio, measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, tuberculosis and tetanus. Rotary, with its membership of one million, has targeted one disease — Polio.

In our Polio Plus Campaign, from now until the R.I. Convention in May, 1988, we are challenged to provide funds to immunize all the children of the world against polio by 1990.

Polio Plus is by far the largest program Rotary International has ever undertaken. We estimate that 120 million dollars will be needed to purchase all the polio vaccine needed to complete this task. Oral polio vaccine cost 12 cents per child! The 50 cents many of us spend daily on a coke will vaccinate four children.

In addition to reduction of human suffering, the prevention of childhood diseases will help to control population growth.

According to the World Health Organization, a sharp reduction in childhood deaths would lead to a gradual reduction in the size of families. Parents must first know that their children will survive childhood diseases before adopting methods to limit the size of their family.

In answer to the Polio Plus challenge, our Board of Directors has set a minimum goal of \$25,000. Also, District Governor Alex asks each Rotarian to consider making a pledge of \$100 a year for three years. A response of this magnitude would raise \$120,000, enough to immunize 800,000 children, saving 28,000 from crippling disease and 4,000 from death.

Polk, Polio Plus Chairman for our Club and District 591, says that in the next twenty years we can save the lives of half a million children and prevent five million others from becoming crippled. We Rotarians around the world are determined to end this awful toll of suffering and waste of innocent lives. POLIO PLUS IS OUR ANSWER! IT REPRESENTS AN ENORMOUS TASK, BUT WE CAN DO IT. We have the means; we believe in the ideals of Rotary; we believe in SERVICE ABOVE SELF.







## SWAN SONGS

ROBERT ROBERTSON

When time comes for President Ray Riley to plan his Swan Song, he can draw from rich traditions left by earlier presidents. Normally presented as the last meeting of the Rotary year, the Swan Song is the outgoing president's farewell appearance, a time for reviewing past accomplishments and saying thanks to fellow Rotarians for jobs well done.

Over the years, presidents have provided a wide variety of programs, ranging in tone from serious and dignified to farcical and outrageous.

Among those choosing dignified, business-like programs were Frank White, Peter Wells, J.O. Crooke and Charles Locke. Most business-like and economical of all was Joe Bob Kinsel whose world's shortest swan song lasted only five minutes.

On a lighter note, several presidents used the musical talents of our members. Herf Weinert, while being carted away in a wheelbarrow, was serenaded by members with 'Goodbye, Old Paint', & 'Bury Me Not On The Lone Prairie'. John Gray was revived after 'bloody assassination' by tunes from Robbie Robinson's famous harmonica. Tom Lamb orchestrated a 'Major Bowes Amateur Hour'. Also adopting a musical theme was Alex Broussard, who appeared with white tie, tails and a beautiful violin on which he masterfully, thankfully, performed not one note.

Exploiting the wonders of high-tech in 1948, Chick Dollinger staged a 'live radio newscast', covering the 1913-1923 history of Rotary in Beaumont.

Setting new standards for invention, Lee Griffin spoke and sang his song while encased in a larger-than-life swan created by his Rotaryann Helen. Also breaking records, this time in scale of production, was Ken Ruddy who delivered a variety show climaxed by a military parade. Rotarians Guy Kilpatrick, Doug Steinman and Alex Broussard, costumed in pink tights and tutus, performed a ballet before being routed from the floor by marching colorguards, drumming music and an army jeep.

In the first and only joint swan song, short term presidents Elvis Mason and Robert Robertson presented 'The Watercloset Affair', a satirical skit exploiting current events and roasting the presidents. Taking a strange and entirely different course, Benny Hughes, Jr. showed the farmyard documentary film 'The Pigs', the meaning of which was deduced by only the subtlest minds.

Now famous as the victim of a double cross, Mark Steinhagen planned a program with committee members who surprised all with a performance of a secret script called 'Steinhagen—you've Been Had!'.

Seasonal themes were chosen by Robert Robertson who staged a bicentennial July Fourth Picnic and John Neild who presented 'Christmas in July'. Dressed as Santa Claus, Neild distributed appropriate gifts including a foul and squealing pig.

In the first ever 'hoax come true', Danny Wheat stunned members in 1978 by introducing the world's first female Rotarian who was played by the impressively T-Shirted Evelyn Lord, City Council woman and Rotaryann of member Sam Lord.

In the decade of the eighties, presidents have offered farcical skits produced by a gang of 'swan song professionals', assorted Rotarians of doubtful talent and dubious intent. Among those thus employed have been Jim Ivers, Jr., Bob Lee, Jr., and Lynn Harden on props, Robert Robertson, writing and directing, Peter Hyman, Tony Chauveaux and Jimmy Simmons, music. Notable as actors-writers have been Ed Dix, Marvin Gordy, Charles Turco, Boyd Wells, Joe Carlucci, Bill Phillips, Robert Swerdlow, Ray Riley, Jerry Nathan, Alex Broussard and Larry Beaulieu who will be forever famous for his many sensitive performances in the role of 'the charming Rosabelle, first queen of the Neches River Festival'.

Employing the 'professionals' and selecting satirical, topical themes, recent presidents have been thoroughly roasted. Warner Rogers was defeated for re-election in 'Convention 80'. Jerry Nathan, irrepressible and loquacious, was bound, gagged and convicted in a 'Senate Investigation'. Joe Bob Kinsel, Jr.'s nose grew longer and longer in 'The Kinsel Report', the first video swan song. Carroll Broussard, his co-star Rotaryann Pat, the telephone company and the town were roasted in 'For Whom the Bell Rings'. Charlie Weinbaum and 'his daughter Rosabelle' were barely saved from a greedy Houston developer in 'Beaumont is Okie-Dokie'. James Broussard was the scorned corpse in a genuine Irish wake called 'Goodbye Mr. Bimbo'. James Stokes was executed, almost, in 'The Courts Martial of Major Stokes'. Last year Wilton White and all were lampooned in 'Troubles at Mammoth National Bank'.





1913

**SPECIAL ROTARYGRAMS  
COMMITTEE**

1988

As the latest of Club Histories,  
this **Rotarygrams** was compiled by  
the following members:

**BROCK BRENTLINGER**  
*ROTARY ETHICS*

**BRUCE IRVINE**  
*THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM*

**JOHN QUIGLEY**  
*COMMUNITY SERVICE  
BMT. ROTARY FOUNDATION, INC.*

**MARTIN BROUSSARD**  
*INTERNATIONAL SERVICE  
MEMBERSHIP*

**JAY JOHNSON**  
*MOVING AROUND  
IF YOU MISSED*

**ROBERT J. ROBERTSON**  
*EDITOR  
HISTORY OF HISTORIES  
SWAN SONGS  
HOW ROTARY CAME TO BEAUMONT*

**BILL CABLE**  
*EXTENSION  
ARBOR DAY  
ROTARYGRAMS*

**CHUCK MABRY**  
*ROTARY SOFTBALL*

**DON STREATER**  
*GENERATIONS*

**MARGARET CHERB**  
*EDITING*

**TOMMY POLK**  
*POLIOPLUS*

**ROBERT SWERDLOW**  
*CAMP ENTERPRISE*

**RAYMOND HAWA**  
*ROTARY PROFESSIONALS*

**JOHN PRESTON**  
*ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY  
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL*

**WILL & ROSINE WILSON**  
*TEXAS ENERGY MUSEUM*



**QUIZ**

*ANONYMOUS*

1. Name the first president of Beaumont Rotary Club. Patillo Higgins. Ed Emerson. Noah Tevis
2. Name the woman who was not an Executive Secretary of Beaumont Rotary Club. Margaret Cherb. Rosabelle Wineberger. Lorice Thomas.

3. Name the president who did not stand on a coke box while presiding. Jerry Nathan. Chick Dollinger. Tom Lamb.
4. Name two Rotarians who were not members of the original seven. Ed Emerson. C.W. Emmer. Jim Mapes. Josh Allen. Marshall Muse. Lois Ann Stanton. Marshall Walker. Jim Edwards. Will Keith.

5. The Red Carpet Hotel & Rotary office burned on Ash Wednesday what year? 1972. 1982. 1962.
6. Name the hotel which was not an official Rotary meeting place: Beaumont. Crosby. Dixie. Hilton. Red Carpet. Ridgewood. Sheraton.





*"...Meet the following Wednesday,  
same time, same place."*

*M.G. Muse, Secty.*