



KIWANIS and ROTARY NEWS



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KIWANIANS GET THEIR CHARTER

In the biggest meeting and the most enjoyable time in the history of the local Kiwanis Club at the Joffre Hotel last Friday evening at 8:30 o'clock District Governor W. B. Merriman of Greensboro delivered the charter and made a most remarkable address to the members of the club and their wives, daughters and sweethearts.

The program was opened by the singing of "America" by the entire body. Invocation was offered by Rev. C. R. Cody, pastor of the Episcopal church. Beautiful music was furnished by Mr. Ed B. Lee, pianist, and Mr. Fay Eford, violinist. Mayor J. C. M. Vann extended greetings in his characteristic manner and said that three times since he has been mayor of the city he has been called upon to deliver the address of welcome, first to a negro conference, second on that memorable night when Marshal Foch paid Monroe a visit and the third time to this magnificent body of Kiwanians, their wives, daughters and sweethearts, and that this is the most pleasant of them all.

The response was given to the address of welcome by Dr. W. H. Frazier, president of Queens College, Charlotte. He said that the unselfish manner in which men of all walks of life are rendering service in the flooded districts of the West ought to be a lesson to Kiwanians as to their duty to humanity—that the purpose of Kiwanis is to develop a feeling of duty and opportunity among its members to give back to the city and community in which they live some of the good things they get out of it—service that will not only build material things, but that will work for the uplift of society.

At the close of Dr. Frazier's address, Mrs. J. W. Sewell sang a beautiful solo in a masterful manner and it was greatly enjoyed by all present.

In his presentation of the charter Governor Merriman said that there are now thirty-one Kiwanis clubs in North Carolina, more than in the entire Dominion of Canada, and that a Kiwanis Club is a credit and an asset to any community. He stated that there are more than 750 clubs in the United States and Canada with a total membership of over 70,000 business and professional men.

At this juncture the Biddle Quintet, a group of colored singers from Biddle University, Charlotte, who had been giving a concert in the court house, entered the spacious dining room of the Joffre and rendered several selections that brought down the house. Among the selections was "Witness for my Lord," one they have sung for the Pathe Phonograph folks.

The charter was accepted by Mr. W. B. Love, who, in a few well chosen words, said that while the Monroe club has been organized only a short time, it has bound together splendid fellows who have heretofore had good individual conceptions of life, but who have not known what it is to present a solid organized front, but that now they will endeavor to put into practice the real spirit of Kiwanis and to build, not simply material things, but to help strengthen the physical, moral and spiritual life of the town and community, in recognizing the fact and presenting in an organized way real service to humanity. He said we have caught the vision and we take men of recognized ability and we pledge our honor, our esteem and our efforts to the Governor who has tonight presented us our charter.

Short and spicy speeches were also made by Dr. Moore from Charlotte, Mr. Thompson from Gastonia, Mr. Foll from Concord, and a gentleman from Lenoir.

A drawing contest for a five-pound box of candy furnished by the Union Drug Company was conducted for the benefit of the ladies and Mrs. John English drew the lucky number. Small boxes of candy and tiny bottles of toilet water were given each lady present. They were also furnished by the Union Drug Company.

Beautiful solos were sung by W. H. Neal of Charlotte, with Mrs. Heath Nisbet, also of Charlotte, accompanist.

Mr. F. G. Henderson, vice president of the local Rotary Club, was present and extended the support and co-operation of his club. He stated that both the Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs in Monroe are green and ignorant, but that if we weren't green we couldn't grow and that if we weren't ignorant we couldn't learn.

A telegram of congratulations was read from headquarters in Chicago and everybody joined in singing, "Good-Night Ladies."

THE GREAT SPIRIT OF ROTARY

The local Rotary club recently fostered a most noteworthy cause—that of inducing the boys and girls to stay in school until their education is completed, so far as schools and colleges are concerned.

The reception given the graduating class of boys in the Monroe High School by the Rotary club a few weeks ago greatly inspired these young men and they are speaking in high terms of the Rotarians and the inspiration received from them is going to be productive of much good. The real Rotary spirit in regard to business life is beautifully set forth in the following article taken from "The Rotarian":

The one condition or power upon which business depends for its continued life is faith. Co-dependence of faith and business morality is just as evident in the personal relationship of employer and employee as in any other business relationship. In the employer-employee relation, we usually think of business morality in terms of personal integrity. If employees lack faith in an employer as a man, all his striving to gain their united and frank cooperation is futile. If he fails to inspire faith in his methods, and faith in his organization, he may be doing worse than failing to enlist the whole-hearted support of his employees—he may be, and probably is—tearing down their faith in employers generally. Likewise, if his system of distributing the fruits of their work does not command the faith of his employees the employer is destroying faith in our general scheme of business and industry.

Outside the business family, is the public and its faith in the individual business. The public's faith in a house, its work, or its merchandise, is the same qua non in the life of that institution. Every line of business and industry has in its history numerous instances of the certain doom that follows evasion of this fundamental.

Business operates the world around on an all-inclusive credit system. Here again we find faith essential. The faith of one individual in another is the ultimate, real basis of credit. And the faith of the public in an industrial or commercial institution is necessary if the latter is to succeed. The usefulness of any money, whether metal, redeemable paper, or fiat, depends upon the people's faith in its value, which is something more than mere acceptance of money as a medium of exchange. Here, at the very pivot of our industrial and commercial system, faith is the power that holds fast the pivot bearing, the foundation of this system, which is business or commercial morality. Remove this faith and we have the cataclysmic condition of eastern Europe today, where the foundation—business morality—has given way. Individual or group action which destroys faith in our structure of industry and commerce is ever the result of a lapse of business morality. We cannot separate faith and business morality.

Rotary long ago set for itself a task when it determined to have a part in improving the tone of business morality and establishing it upon an ever higher plane. No matter how large or small Rotary's part in this work may be, the carrying out of her purpose is the work of individuals and through them the work of trade and professional groups. It is a work in which Rotary's success will be great or small, according to the determination and moral courage of those who have accepted the principles and objects of Rotary.

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