

## CHARTER PRESENTED TUESDAY TO ROTARY CLUB OF FRANKLIN

Presentation Made by Governor David Clark of 58th District—W. R. C. (Dick) Smith of Atlanta Made Principle Address—Franklin Ladies Take Part.

Tuesday night was one of inspiration and one destined to mean much to the future of Franklin and Macon county, for on this night a goodly number of Rotarians from Waynesville, Atlanta and Charlotte came to town to take part in the presentation of the charter from the Rotary International to the Rotary Club of Franklin. The exercises took place at Rogers' Hall where an excellent banquet was served to approximately 50 Rotarians, their wives and friends.

Mrs. Smith Harris and Mrs. Devereaux Rice rendered beautiful vocal solos and both were enthusiastically encored. During the meal, such as has made Rogers Hall famous throughout the Southland, many Rotary songs were sung by the entire assembly.

David Clark, of Charlotte, governor of the 58th Rotary District, presided and at the conclusion of the meal introduced W. R. C. (Dick) Smith, of Atlanta, who made the principal address of the evening. His speech was listened to with rapt attention and was a great inspiration to those present, particularly to those who were just becoming members of Rotary International. That the public of this section may learn something of the aims and teaching of Rotary Mr. Smith's speech in part follows: Governor Dave and Gentlemen of the Franklin Rotary Club:

It is with a deep sense of gratitude to Governor Dave Clark that I stand before you this evening. I think he has paid me one of the most delicate compliments I have ever received. Here in this county, where for nearly a quarter of a century—to me the greatest playground in this wonderful nation of ours—where summer after summer, I have spent many happy vacations; he has given me the very wonderful privilege of attempting to express some of those motives, precepts, and ideas which have in a large measure guided my life and my actions since the good year 1914, when through the gracious action of one of my friends in Atlanta, I became a member of the Atlanta Rotary Club. And further, I have a peculiarly selfish pleasure in coming here tonight and seeing the Franklin Rotary. Instituted for it means to me the privilege of better maintaining my summer attendance record in Rotary than has been possible for some years. Most of you, Franklin Rotarians know that I have a camp less than fifteen miles from here and with that magnificent State Highway No. 28 now half completed, it will be no matter of forty or fifty minutes on any Wednesday I happen to be there to run over and attend your meetings so, not only am I interested in the inception of this club, but I hope a beneficent Providence may grant me many years to observe and watch your growth and progress, and it will be, I predict now, a record of growth and progress because, knowing you as I do, I can safely say that the type of manhood and citizenship embracing this club, is a type that having once "set its hand to the plow" in any good and worthy purpose, will not turn back and that it is a good and worthy purpose you now believe, or this audience would not be gathered here tonight. As the years flow by you will of your own knowledge know, indeed, that it is great to be a Rotarian.

Now Governor Dave in a letter to me a few days ago, told me I was to have about 20 minutes on the program tonight, and that he would like for me to talk about the old fashion, "old time religion" of Rotary, some of those old fundamentals grounded on the rock the Fathers of Rotary set up nearly a quarter of a century ago. So first of all, you young members of Rotary here in Franklin would undoubtedly be interested in my interpretation of what I think Rotary is. Undoubtedly in the preliminaries which have attended the organization of this club, much educational literature has been handed you and you have seen definitions of Rotary and have probably accepted some one of them as a definition satisfactory to you. I have long since discarded practically all of the ideal slogans that have been handed down by the orators and the Idealists. I have long since swept into the gutter the "feathers and flowers" of emotional Rotary. For me, there has come through the years, an appreciation and belief, if you please, that Rotary is so substantial, so solid, so firmly grounded as one particular thing that I have accepted that one thing as my definition and explanation of Rotary. It is not of course original with me and I am happy

that, many other thinking men, active in Rotary's affairs, have accepted the same thing. It is this:

"Rotary is a philosophy of life, made militant and practical." Just let me repeat that once more to emphasize it: "Rotary is a philosophy of life made militant and practical." Our minds run back through the decades and centuries, those of us at least who are students of history, and we recall the story of the "Philosopher's Stone" and we think of the old time philosopher as a man bound up within himself, a dreamer, and idealist, who saw things as "they ought to be" but who took no practical steps whatsoever to make them that way. We looked upon him as a learned sage, sometimes a hermit or recluse. He thought large thoughts. He envisioned great things, but he very seldom painted his picture so that the rest of the world could comprehend it. Not often did he mould the cogs for the wheels, or attach the lever or fit the bars to this dream machine of his into an actual working entity so that it might benefit the rest of the world of mankind. As I said, he was a philosopher who was content merely to write the rules of his theory without caring whether they became practically applied or not.

And so, in its relation to business, philosophy for ages was a latent and a dead thing. A few men knew the rules and methods of the betterment of the world of business but fewer still applied them. And then one day in a great city up yonder on the lakes, a lonely, friendship seeking young attorney had a dream, a vision. He has since said that his dream was larger than he knew, that his vision did not encompass all which was to happen, but enough of it was born in his brain at that time to cause him—surely a philosopher of his day and time—to go just a step farther than had ever been gone before and to put into practical, militant, active effect, some of the things he dreamed, sufficient at least to actuate him to dip his brush in the pigment and spread it upon the canvass so that the eyes of other men might see and recognize, and believe in his philosophy, and go out and paint other pictures and dream still greater dreams and then make those dreams come true.

What is this philosophy of life made militant and practical, that Paul Harris gave us? I am not a very old man. I can still remember less than a quarter of a century ago, when business was looked down upon by most of the world, when the butcher, the baker, and the candle-stick maker, had not yet emerged from that semi obscurity of traditional deceit, when "Caveat Emptor" (Let the Buyer Beware) was the more or less unwritten policy of the business world, and where service beyond the contract was never expected or given. And into such condition of affairs came this thing called "Rotary." It was applied and practiced and incredibly, it worked.

You will read in your Rotary Code of Ethics, and I hope you will read it until it is impressed upon your consciousness like the Ten Commandments on the Tablets of Stone, that you are to consider your vocation worthy and as affording you a distinct opportunity to serve society, and in the second paragraph, a realization that you are a business man, ambitious to succeed, but that you are first an ethical man and that you want no success that is not founded on the highest justice and morality. My friends, no greater thing was ever written or spoken in the 2,000 years that have elapsed since the Great Master enunciated the Golden Rule.

So for the first time in ages, the business men of America began, under Rotary, to put into militant practical application, a philosophy of life. They began to unreservedly trust each other, to believe in each other to believe the best of each other and as the years crept by, those of them who followed the unrolling of the scroll of this great philosophy discovered another and greater principle, and after a while someone gave voice to the belief that "he profits most who serves best." That slogan was the great discovery that the average, everyday business man could as I said a while ago, give service beyond his contract, give measure beyond the requirements of the letter of the law, and still find greater profit than he ever had before. This led, somewhat later, to an application of these principles beyond and outside a man's own personal business or vocation. Those of Ro-

tary who had practiced these precepts and observed these ethics in their business and profession, to them, there came a still greater awakening and that was the fact that they were very vitally concerned with what took place outside of their business. As representatives and ambassadors of their business and professions in their Rotary Club, they found that it was necessary to see that the level of all business and profession: be raised, that it was not enough for them alone to know and practice principles of success and happiness but that they must carry the message to others in their vocations and professions so that the business world would also realize—whether they wore the badge of Rotary on their lapel or not—that it was virtually and vitally true that any man profits most who serves best!

Then there came another application of this great philosophy of life and it's the second slogan of Rotary today, "Service before Self" and I really like it better than Rotary's original slogan for in "Service before Self" it seems to me that we are applying the broadest possible principle of this philosophy. Not selfishly within our own vocations and professions, but in every possible way it makes us see our brothers' troubles, it makes us see our community's lack, it makes us see our civic slackness, it makes us see the opportunity of putting our shoulders to the wheel in every good and worthy cause for the betterment of our community, it makes us more keenly value that heritage which the fathers of this great republic bestowed upon us when with an indomitable spirit that struck like flint on steel a spark which ignited the spirit of freedom in the hearts of a mighty people, they constituted a government in which all men would be free and equal before the law, and I believe Rotary has been a great influence in the last quarter of a century that has done more than any other one thing to revive and rededicate this immortal principle, for Rotarians put their civic duty first and foremost in all their actions of life. They are constantly struggling, against tremendous odds often-times to be sure, to uphold and support better government.

Now let me come back to the homely side of Rotary. Just because I have taken a few minutes to enunciate and, I hope, to clarify some of these principles of the philosophy of life, please do not think it is not a practical, livable, and everyday thing. Why Rotary is as fine and comfortable as an old shoe! It's something you get so accustomed to wearing you miss it when you take it off—if you are ever able to take it off—and if you get Rotary right you can't lose it.

I think I have learned something in the Atlanta Rotary Club about the under-educated down there and the under-privileged. When I saw bankers, capitalists, big business men, captains of industry, shuck off their coats and get busy tagging dolls, sorting out shoes, bags of candy and nuts, and selecting warm caps, underwear, and all kinds of nice things for the Christmas baskets for those little fellows who hadn't had a chance and wouldn't eat and sleep comfortably unless men like those Rotarian friends of mine did look out for them, I began to say to myself: "Well who are you anyhow? You are no better and probably not as good as those men who are doing the job, and whose stuff is this that you have been accumulating all these years? You think it's yours, don't you? Well it isn't. It belongs to God Almighty in the first place. To be sure He may have given you the brain and the industry to have accumulated a few worldly goods but haven't you forgotten that along with it goes a tremendous responsibility, that after all you are only a custodian of this stuff, and you will not only be judged in the final analysis on how you got it but also what you did with it, and if you stick it away in some darn place somewhere, a safety deposit vault, and gloat and exult as you see it grow—dollar by dollar—aren't you afraid the good God is going to take it away suddenly and put it into hands where it will be better administered and where the little tots who haven't had the chance you have had will get a crack at it without your consent and knowledge? Wouldn't it be a heap sight better to do the gracious thing and dispense it yourself where it will do the greatest good and get a little kick out of the reaction that comes to you when you see the happy faces of these children? And how about the boy and the girl struggling to get a little education, fighting just for a chance to be someone in this great America? Going to step on their necks and keep them down? Or disregard them entirely? How come you get that way? You can't do it and be a Rotarian. Let's forget about the Christian part of it and stick to the word Rotarian. In the first place, it isn't good business in any community to have a great number of indigent poor, that is No. 1. It isn't a safe thing in any com-

munity to have an overwhelming majority of ignorant and illiterate people. That is the most dangerous thing that could happen to your business or mine. The more educated, analytical, clear-thinking minds you have in a community, people who know what they are doing and why they are doing it, the quicker you will have a rich and prosperous community. If I could take out an insurance policy for the United States of America protecting it against ignorance, which includes crime and disease as well, I would start a campaign tomorrow to raise funds and never stop work till I got the premium. It would be good business!

Well fellows, these are some things I learned way back yonder in the days when the Atlanta Rotary Club only had about fifty or sixty members. I got to know my fellow-man. The nitimacy, the good fellowship, the friendship, the first hand knowledge, was a priceless thing, and you will find it so right here in Franklin. Misunderstandings arise of course. You will worry about the price cutter in your community, you will worry about the narrow-minded fellow who cannot see further than his own counter. He will get your goat lots of times. All right, that is good for you if you take it the right way and apply this philosophy of life we have been talking about tonight. Don't get mad at him, go talk it over with him in a friendly way and keep your temper, just try to kindly show him that every time he does something irregular or unethical in his business or vocation, he is making the entire public suspect all of you as being a bunch of crooks.

Now last, but no means least of all, I couldn't be a good Rotarian unless I took an active, militant interest in all civic organizations that were functioning in my town for good and worthy purposes. I found I had to be a good and active member of my Chamber of Commerce. I had to go to any job they gave me, not flaunting my Rotary colors, but simply and quietly as a good citizen and do the best job I knew how. I had to go into all the welfare agencies I had time to devote to and again, as a plain citizen do the best job I knew how. The reason I was perhaps selected for these particular missions or jobs, was frequently because I was known to be a Rotarian and somehow the word had gotten around that Rotarians were damn fools for work and awful stickers on the job, till it was finished. Well when they sound taps over me, and I have gazed for the last time upon the scenes of this earth, nothing will make me happier than to have them stick that kind of epitaph on my tomb stone, or something like this:

"He was busy all his life in every worthy enterprise and never knew when to quit till the job was done." So fellows of Franklin, my time is more than up. It has been wonderful to be here with you tonight and to have this opportunity of telling you a few of the old homely truths of Rotary, but like the school girl or boy just graduating from college, under the title of "Comencement"—that is what you are doing tonight. You are just beginning although some of you are already Rotarians at heart.

Some of you have got a hard lesson to learn but I want to promise you one thing, you are now component parts of a mighty host of business men—132,000 of them, in forty-two countries of the world, that are being actuated and motivated by this same wonderful principle and philosophy. They are finding happiness in the fellowship and friendship of Rotary. Their lives are fuller, their days are sweeter, their tranquility of soul is magnified by those associated by this common purpose, by this desire to lift

their vocations to a higher and worthier level, to build for themselves and their children happier and cleaner communities, and so you all here in Franklin will find as the months slip by, if you observe, practice and live this great philosophy of life—it is great, to be a Rotarian!

At the conclusion of Mr. Smith's address Ernest Withers, president of the Rotary Club of Waynesville, presented greetings from his club and stated that his club stood ready at all times to assist the local club in everyway possible. Mr. Withers stressed the importance of attending each meeting, saying that fellowship is the foundation of Rotary success and that without attendance fellowship is impossible. He also said that both Andrews and Sylva have been approved for organization of Rotary Clubs and that clubs will soon be established in both of these towns.

Bob Foreman, president of the Rotary Club of Atlanta, then made a few well chosen remarks stating that for many years he and his family have been spending their summers at Highlands and that he owns property there. He took occasion to compliment this section of the country very highly.

Judge Nat Townsend, who is holding superior court here and who is an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Dunn then made an excellent talk. He said that the world has come to expect Rotary Clubs everywhere to work and to accomplish much for their respective communities. He predicted that the local club would be no exception to the rule and that this entire section is destined to be greatly benefitted by reason of the existence of such a club at Franklin.

At the conclusion of Judge Townsend's talk Governor Clark, then delivered to each of the 16 charter members of the Rotary Club of Franklin the Code of Ethics of Rotary International and expressed the hope that each member would have his code framed and hung in his place of business.

Mr. Clark then went on to tell something of the growth of Rotary International in 1905 this organization was started at Chicago by four friends who met weekly for luncheon, rotating the meeting place each week—hence the name Rotary. The idea soon was taken up by Oakland, Calif., and in rapid succession other cities and countries followed until now Rotary International, said Governor Clark, has a membership of 132,000 with more than 2,700 clubs located in 42 countries of the world. Only last October a club was organized at Hamburg, Germany, at the request of clubs in France and England, these clubs believing, he said, that what Rotary International can and has done for individuals and communities, it can do for nations—that is, bring them closer together and to a better understanding of world problems.

Governor Clark then presented the charter of the local club to President Sam Franks who responded suitably on behalf of the Franklin club. On behalf of the wives of the Rotarians of Franklin, Mrs. Sam Franks, made a short though excellent talk with the promise of support and encouragement of the local Rotary Club.

The meeting then adjourned. In addition to the local Rotarians and wives the following guests were present:

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Withers, Mr. and Mrs. Fawcett Swift, Hugh J. Sloan, Ernest Hyatt and William Lumpkin, all of Waynesville; Hubert Hutcheson, W. R. C. Smith, Bob Foreman, R. M. Crumley, all of Atlanta; David Clark, of Charlotte, and Judge Nat Townsend, of Dunn, Mrs. George Jones, Miss Helen Burch, Mrs. Tessier, Miss Annie Crawford and Mrs. Gilmer Crawford, all of Franklin.

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