

ROTARY GOLDEN ROUND TABLE

"The Golden Year"

(First program in the series)

ANNCR: Radio Station _____ is happy to cooperate with the Rotary Club of _____ in bringing you the Rotary Golden Theatre, the first in a series of stimulating programs commemorating the Golden Anniversary of the founding of the first Rotary Club. Each week at this time, we shall present a transcribed dramatization of some phase of community interest, followed by an informal round table discussion by members of the Rotary Club of _____, dealing with the subject as it applies specifically to our own community. Today, we have asked three Rotarians to tell us something about the Rotary organization, which plays such an important role in the life of our own community. They are:

Mr. A _____, _____ (identification) _____;
Mr. B _____, _____ (identification) _____;
and Mr. C _____, _____ (identification) _____.

Mr. A, in the dramatized portion of this program, we have just heard something about the founding of the Rotary organization and its present world-wide scope. Won't you begin our discussion by telling us about the plans Rotary has made for its Golden Anniversary observance?

MR. A: Yes, I'll be glad to, Mr. _____. The first Rotary Club was founded in Chicago on the 23rd of February, so all Rotary Clubs are beginning their Golden Anniversary celebration on that date. In 89 countries this week there will be special premiere showings of a motion picture, "The Great Adventure", produced in Hollywood and starring Edward Arnold, which depicts Rotary activities around the world. A number of countries (Australia, Belgium, Cuba, The Dominican Republic, Egypt, Nicaragua, Panama, The Philippines and the U.S.A.) are honoring Rotary with special postage stamps commemorating the Golden Anniversary. There will be other special events throughout the world, and the celebration will be climaxed by Rotary's Golden Anniversary Convention, which is to be held in Chicago the latter part of May.

ANNCR: Is a delegation of Rotarians from _____ (city) _____ planning to attend this Convention?

MR. A: By all means! We expect some _____ Rotarians and their wives from _____ to join the 20,000 in attendance at Rotary's Golden Anniversary Convention. We're looking forward to meeting delegates from most of the 89 countries in which there are Rotary Clubs.

ANNCR: It sounds to me as though Rotary is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in grand style all around the world. Mr. B, what do you think it is about Rotary that has made it such an international organization whose program is accepted by men of practically all nationalities?

MR. B: Well, I would say that it is because Rotary's one basic objective is the IDEAL OF SERVICE, which simply means being thoughtful of and helpful to others at all times. Even though our fellow Rotarians on all of the six continents differ widely in language, customs and historical background, we are all alike in one respect -- in our devotion to the Rotary ideal of service.

ANNCR: Mr. A, do you want to enlarge on that statement?

MR. A: Yes, Mr. _____, I would like to add that Rotary Clubs around the world work for those things which bring people together and they avoid all those things which tend to set up barriers between people. Rotary is not a secret association. It does not seek to supplant or to interfere with any religious or political organization. It assumes that its program of service is in accord with all religions, and it does not concern itself with a Rotarian's politics.

ANNCR: With so many languages and differing economic, political and religious concepts represented in the 89 countries in which there are Rotary Clubs, Mr. C, is it possible for Rotary to have any unified program of activities?

MR. C: Indeed it is. The Rotary program of service can be readily adapted to any country in the free world. It is really friendship and understanding in action -- that is, applying them to the everyday lives of individuals. Rotary activities in every country are based on the same general objectives as those of our Rotary Club here in _____.

ANNCR: You say that Rotary can function effectively in any country of the free world -- does that mean there are no Rotary Clubs behind the iron curtain?

MR. C: That's correct, Mr. _____. Let me read a statement adopted by the Board of Directors of Rotary International on this subject: "Rotary International has declared unequivocally for the liberty of the individual, for freedom of thought, speech and assembly, freedom of worship and freedom

MR. C: (CONT.) from persecution. It is obvious that everything for which Rotary International stands is the very antithesis of communism." This statement also asserted that where freedom, justice, truth, sanctity of the pledged word and respect for human rights do not exist, Rotary and the ideal for which it stands cannot survive.

ANNCR: That's certainly a straightforward stand on the subject of communism. Now, Mr. A, what are some of the activities in which these thousands of Rotary Clubs around the world engage?

MR. A: There are literally thousands of activities, Mr. _____, but, in general terms, Rotary Clubs develop friendship and fellowship among business and professional men, they sponsor many different kinds of community-betterment activities -- they work for the promotion of high standards in business and professional practices -- and they contribute in many ways toward the advancement of international understanding, good will and peace. Rotary activities vary with individual community needs. In our magazine, "The Rotarian," I have been reading recently about a Rotary Club in India "adopting" a nearby destitute village -- a school being built for a leprosy settlement in Singapore -- housing provided for refugees in West Germany -- a dental clinic in Colombia -- courtesy contests in South Africa -- the donation of a blood transfusion unit in New Zealand -- a camp for crippled children in New York -- providing Braille typewriters for the blind in Japan. The list of activities could go on and on.

ANNCR: Those certainly are interesting projects -- but is there any one specific undertaking which all these thousands of Rotary Clubs are promoting at the present time?

MR. B: I'd like to answer that, if I may, Mr. _____, because of my special interest in that field.

ANNCR: Go right ahead, Mr. B.

MR. B: Rotary Clubs all over the world are carrying out many different kinds of service activities in their own communities, but there is one very interesting project in which all Rotary Clubs are participating. That is the program of the Rotary Foundation, which provides Fellowships for one year of advanced study abroad for outstanding graduate students, as a contribution by Rotary toward the promotion of international understanding.

ANNCR: How extensive is this program -- how many of these Fellowships have been awarded?

MR. B: In the past eight years, more than six hundred young men and women, living in fifty-seven countries throughout the world, have received these Rotary Fellowships. They have proved themselves to be effective ambassadors of good will, both in the lands in which they do their graduate work as well as in their own countries after their year of study abroad. The one hundred additional Rotary Fellowships which are being awarded for the 1955-56 school year will bring Rotary's expenditure in this particular field of international understanding to one and three-quarter million dollars.

ANNCR: This certainly seems to be a tremendously worth-while program, Mr. B.

MR. B: Indeed it is, Mr. _____. With Rotary Clubs in so many countries, the Rotary Fellow is in direct contact with Rotarians and their families during his year away from home, no matter where he is studying. He attends their Rotary meetings, visits in their homes and places of business, and travels as much as possible during his school holidays. In this way, he sees at first hand how the people of his host country live and, through these close associations, he lays the essential foundations for increased international understanding.

ANNCR: And is that the principal purpose of this program?

MR. B: One of Rotary's main objectives is the promotion of international understanding, good will and peace, and we have learned -- through many years of experience -- that personal contacts are most effective in creating friendship and understanding among peoples of different countries. These personal contacts help to overcome the prejudices and false conceptions which so often stand as barriers to peace and harmony among the nations of the world. Through these Fellowships, Rotary is trying to bring about better international relations. The program is making a tremendous impact in all of the countries involved and already many returned Rotary Fellows are in positions of responsibility in the business, professional, educational and political fields.

ANNCR: Gentlemen, it has been very interesting indeed to learn something about the international aspects of Rotary. Now, let's bring our discussion a little closer to our own community. Mr. C, won't you tell us something about the activities of the Rotary Club of _____?

MR. C: Our Rotary Club was organized by the Rotary Club of _____ back in _____. You know, Mr. _____, one of the reasons for the amazing growth of Rotary has been the enthusiasm of Rotarians like those in _____ who wanted to share with men in other communities Rotary's fellowship and its Ideal of Service. That is the way in which Rotary has spread from community to community and from country to country, without paid organizers. There are now _____ members in our Rotary Club -- all business and professional leaders in the community -- and I am proud of the part they are playing in Rotary's program of service to others. Over the years, our principal activities have been (outline some of your major accomplishments).

ANNCR: Do you have any special projects planned for Rotary's Golden Anniversary observance here in _____?

MR. C: Indeed we do, Mr. _____. All Rotary Clubs have taken on additional service projects this year to honor the founding of our organization. Here in _____, we are (describe activities).

ANNCR: All of these activities of your Rotary Club are very interesting and worthwhile.

MR. C: Yes they are, Mr. _____. I am proud of the contributions which our Rotary Club has made to these various projects, but I am even prouder of the active work which members of our Rotary Club are doing as individuals in the work of the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Chest, the Red Cross, the Boy Scouts, and many other community-wide activities. To me, one of the most important contributions which Rotary makes is the stimulation it provides Rotarians to carry out the Rotary ideal of service, as individuals, in more active participation in these organizations.

ANNCR: You know, I've never met a Rotarian who wasn't highly enthusiastic about his organization. Mr. A, what's the secret of that enthusiasm?

MR. A: It really is no secret, Mr. _____. We enjoy the close fellowship we have with each other in our Rotary Club and we are enthusiastic about the potentials of applying Rotary's Ideal of Service in all fields of endeavor.

ANNCR: Well, Mr. A, here in _____ I have seen the results of your program of service and I think that one of the secrets of Rotary's success is that it has attracted men who make that Ideal of Service work, by their intelligent application of Rotary's objectives to their own lives. Thank you, gentlemen, for giving us a better understanding of the Rotary Club

ANNCR: (CONT.) of _____ and of the international Rotary organization. I'm looking forward to the Rotary Golden Theatre each week, which will be followed by round table discussions on various phases of community interest. Next week, Rotary Golden Round Table will present a discussion of a problem in which _____ (city) is vitally interested. Our panel will consist of (name and identify panel members) -- all well qualified to discuss the subject to be presented. Be sure to be with us next week at this same time for another program presented by the Rotary Club of _____ and Station _____ as a public service.