

To Have Arrived Is Tragedy: This Year Must Be Even Better!

# THE RAZZBERRY

ISSUED BY THE COLDWATER ROTARY CLUB



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"HE PROFITS MOST WHO SERVES BEST"

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## CONFERENCE EDITION

### FRANK BARNES

The King is dead. Long live the King. The Rotary crown in the 35th District was transferred just one day before the crown of the British Empire. Unlike the other, however, it will be yet six weeks before the coronation takes effect.

Frank Barnes has been a good District Governor. He has given to the affairs of the district a zeal and energy seldom equalled and never surpassed. Someone at the conference, in characterizing the various District Governors, spoke of him as typifying the song, "That Great Big Rotary Smile."

Kim Sigler of Hastings, who succeeds him, is a man of few words but of real caliber. He is known in the profession as one of the outstanding lawyers of Michigan. He is an enthusiastic Rotarian. Some time ago, when the Ed was pitted against him in a hotly contested and long drawn out trial in another city, he was missing when court convened after lunch. When he showed up it was found that he had gone to still another town to make up his Rotary attendance. It is that spirit which has made the Hastings attendance record the despair of other clubs in the district.

It certainly augurs well for Rotary when a man of his character and achievements seeks the office of Governor. We bespeak for him the enthusiastic cooperation of every Rotarian in making his Rotary year an outstanding one.



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There were 535 registrations at the conference, 368 men and 167 women. In addition to this there were 66 advance registrations for which the fee was not sent and which were not taken. This is quite an embarrassment to the host club. If anyone who has planned to go to a conference finds it impossible to do so he should at once cancel his registration.

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## THE CONFERENCE AT ST. JOE

This number concerns itself exclusively with the District Conference at St. Joe. You fellows who either lack the time or the desire to attend should read it all carefully. You must inform yourself about Rotary to be a good Rotarian and the highlight of the Rotary year in the district is the annual conference.

The outstanding event of the conference was, of course, the election of a District Governor. Perhaps next in importance, so far as actual achievement is concerned, was the program of the Junior Rotarians. It is hard to over-estimate the value of the Junior Rotarian movement, both to Rotary itself and to these lads just budding into manhood. The impulse given them toward high standards of personal conduct and ambition for achievement is incalculable. The custom also has a community value. Appointment as a Junior Rotarian is a coveted honor. It is a concrete object for the better grade of boys in high school to strive for and has its influence in the lives of many boys.

Al McKewn of Detroit, one of the fifteen directors of R. I., was its representative at the conference. He spoke at the initial session Monday forenoon and also at the luncheon Tuesday. He described the meetings of the board which are held at various places in the world three times a year. They convene on Saturday or Sunday and spend a week in very active work. He said there were one hundred fifty-six people employed by Rotary, ten being in the Zurich Secretariat, eleven field representatives, a few in the eastern Secretariat, and the balance at Chicago. He described the immense volume of mail handled in Chicago, there being an average of 15,147 daily pieces.

The gain in number of clubs and members this year has been unusual. On May 9th, the total of new clubs was 257, of which Asia reported eleven, Australia six, Continental Europe twenty-nine, Great Britain seventeen, Latin America twenty-six, and the United States the greater part of the balance. He predicted that the year would close with at least two hundred ninety new clubs.

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Frank Barnes gave a brief report of district activities at the Monday forenoon session. Coldwater was given seventh place in the annual attendance record, Hastings, Charlotte, Vicksburg, Lowell and Greenville being the first five clubs in order. I do not recall the sixth club. Traverse City had the greatest increase in membership during the year having gained twelve. Its total membership is now seventy-nine.

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Ray Dresser described the amendments to the Constitution of Rotary, which are proposed and will be passed upon at Nice. One of them is designed to put the control of district funds in the hands of a committee composed of the Governor and the two immediate past Governors. Another is to allow credit for attendance at impromptu meetings of Rotarians away from home.

It frequently happens on a boat trip, fishing or hunting excursion, or other similar occasions, that a number of Rotarians are unable to preserve their attendance record without such a gathering. There are perhaps objections to it but it strikes the Ed as a very fine thing for Rotarians of different clubs to gather in such a meeting. There should, of course, be a minimum limit of attendance to prevent abuses but it certainly is worth while to encourage these meetings. The Ed has attended two such meetings, one on the Michigan Bankers excursion up the lakes and one on a Caribbean trip, both of them fine meetings.



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The greatest interest, however, centered on a proposal to have club officers elected in October and take office in January. The purpose is to give the District Governor opportunity to become acquainted with his work and to make his visits before the new officers are installed so they can get the benefit of his experience. It was discussed at some length and practically every speaker opposed it. A resolution was passed expressing the sense of the meeting against it.

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A resolution was offered increasing the per capita contribution to the District Governor's fund so as to avoid the necessity of a registration fee at the District Conference. This question is a source of much discussion and some feeling every year. It would remove a hardship and increase attendance if this fee could be eliminated. No practical way has yet been devised, however, to do so. When the Ed was District Governor, he had an enthusiasm to avoid it and called a meeting of fifteen leading Rotarians at Grand Rapids to devise ways and means to do so. This committee spent the whole day in discussion with that in view but wound up by retaining the registration fee. At this conference this year the resolution was tabled and a motion carried that the Governor appoint a committee to consider the matter and report at the next annual conference.

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Someone handed in a resolution calling upon the district to express to state officials and legislators its approval of a program of adequate financial support for schools. This resolution was turned down as should, of course, be done. If Rotary undertook to influence the political policies of government, the next step might be to oppose the packing of the Supreme Court, to advocate or condemn sit-down strikes, to endorse or oppose labor organizations. It would be but a short time until Rotary would be transformed from a common meeting ground of widely divergent minds into a hot bed of discord and strife. It would soon pass out of the picture and its great influence be lost to the world.

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No one who has never heard Fred Wetmore give a report of the resolutions committee can have any conception of the possibilities of humor and entertainment contained in so dry and prosaic an assignment. Fred is in a class by himself. He not only has a wide vocabulary and an unusual sense of humor but also the ability to make nice discriminations in the use of language. He kept the conference in an uproar of laughter for nearly a half hour without detracting from the transaction of serious business. He has been the standing chairman of the resolutions committee for a dozen years. Woe to the man who eventually has to take his place.

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Rather surprisingly this district has a vote for a member of the Canadian Advisory Committee of Rotary, which consists of about six members from different provinces of Canada. The reason is that it includes a small part of Ontario. Arthur S. Fitzgerald, Past District Governor from Windsor, was proposed and the district unanimously favored him.

Just now we are reminded of McCauley's boast of an empire, "Whose morning drum beat, following the sun and keeping company with the hours, encircles the earth with one unbroken strain of the martial airs of England."

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On behalf of the City of Lansing, Bill Otto extended an invitation to the district to hold its 1938 conference in that city. There being no other invitations, the offer was unanimously accepted. The District Assembly this year was invited to Cadillac by Leo Barnes, President of the club, to Albion by Don Harrington, and to St. Joe by a member of the club there. Since it is the function of the incoming District Governor to determine the location of the assembly, no decision was reached.

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Forty of the forty-one clubs were represented at the conference, the new Scottville club being the only one left out.

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Janice Porter, the opera star, whose programs were the highlight of the conference musically and who flew from Hollywood to be present, not only has a wonderful voice but a very charming personality. When she speaks to her audience she makes you feel that she is talking to you personally.

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Seven members of the Bronson Club were present. Donald Ward of Bronson, Bill Johnson of Quincy and Charles Wheeler of Coldwater, Junior Rotarians from their clubs, were all present and had a wonderful time. Paul Stewart, Jr., son of the chaplain of Ionia State Prison, gave a wonderful talk at the Tuesday meeting.

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Tears streamed down many a cheek when Emmett Richards, Past District Governor and Director of R. I. President of the Michigan Society for Crippled Children, introduced Donald Callender of St. Joe, who was afflicted with infantile paralysis at the age of eight months, was taken under the wing of the Rotary club at seven years, (up to which time he had never walked) had six operations and long time treatment, which was so successful that he has attended school, played football, baseball and basketball, has worked in a restaurant where he was on his feet all day, is now twenty years of age and attending school. He is a bright boy, uses very good English and displays a warmth of gratitude to Rotary which is touching.

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Bill Brown, the conference chairman, came to Coldwater at one time when the St. Joe-Benton Harbor club put on a program for us. He is a swell fellow, an enthusiastic Rotarian and did a fine job at the conference, as did all the other officials and committee chairman. The conference was unusually well entertained.

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The Chicago Rotary Club each year holds a business exposition at which the products of its members along commercial, professional and educational lines are displayed. This year it was held April 27th to 30th at the Hotel Sherman. There were twenty-five thousand visitors.

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Eggertsville—Snyder, Wahiawa—Waialua, Wuchang, Rouen, Guaymas, Navojoa, Doetinchem, Coxackie, and Nancauga are all cities with brand new Rotary clubs.