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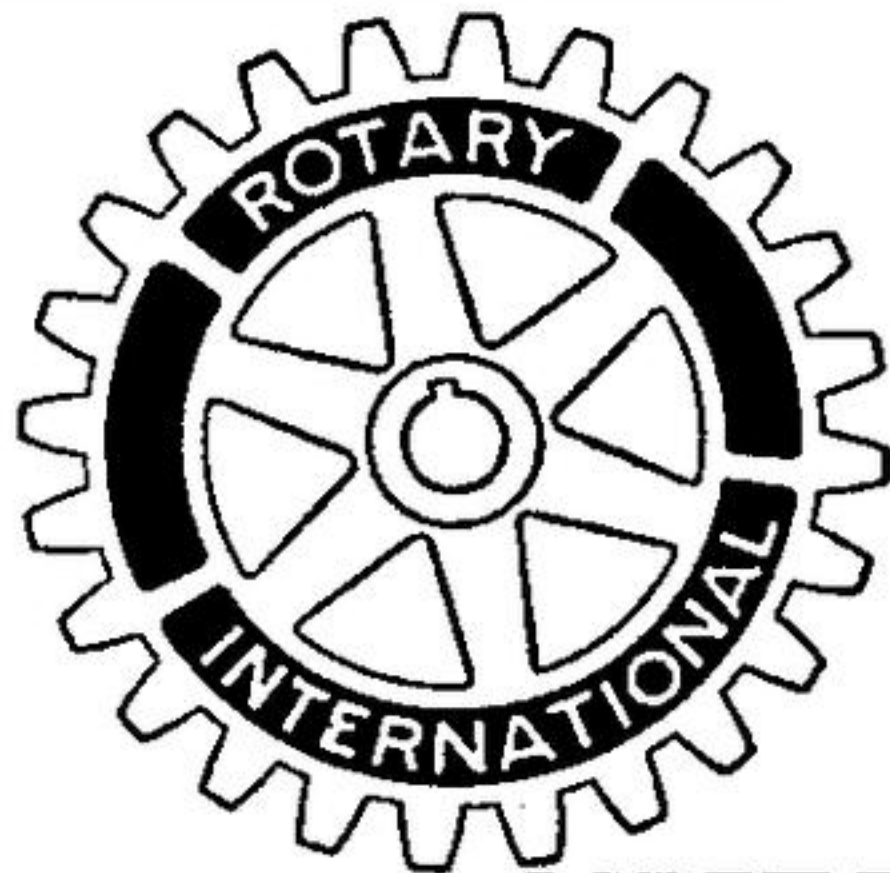
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**THE DAY
ROTARY BEGAN**

It was February 23, 1905. The automobile was still evolving cries of "Get a horse!" The airplane had yet to stay aloft for more than a few minutes, though the Wright brothers had shown a little more than a year earlier that heavier than air flight was possible.

The first motion picture theatre was soon to open in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., with a film entitled "The Great Train Robbery." The ice cream cone had just appeared on the American scene, and the first concrete cantilever bridge was being built in Manon, Iowa, U.S.A. It was the year Einstein introduced his theory of relativity, and James J. Jeffries retired as the world's heavyweight boxing champion.

In Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., on this particular February day, four men met in Room 711 of the Unity Building on Dearborn Street. They were Paul P. Harris, a lawyer; Silvester Schiele, a shoe dealer; Gustavus E. Loehr, a mining engineer; and Hiram E. Shorey, a merchant tailor. The office of "Gus" Loehr was typical of its time—a small room, not too well lighted, with a desk and four uncomfortable chairs, a coat rack in the corner, one or two pictures and an engineering chart on the wall.

They talked about an idea that Paul Harris had been pondering for five years. It was simply this: That business relations could—and should—foster friendly relations. They need not, thought Paul Harris, be a barrier to friendship.

What kind of men were these that Paul Harris had brought together? The founder of Rotary answered these questions in his book, "The Rotarian Age," saying:

"In the city by the lake, a drama was to be enacted, the importance of which could not be foreseen. The dramatic personae were men of ordinary walks of life, business and professional men.

"While lacking qualities which would have distinguished them from others of their kind, it may nevertheless be said that they were fairly representative of what in common parlance would have been termed the better element. They were all natural products of the times and subject to its usual foibles.

"All were friendly and congenial, and each represented a recognized and honorable vocation different from that of others. They had been selected without regard to religious, racial, or political differences."

As these men talked that night in Room 711, they saw even more clearly that men in business could be personal friends—and should be. In their discussions of ways to foster such business social relations, they decided, in agreement with Paul Harris, that the formation of a club might best serve their aims.

Though they didn't decide there and then to call it a Rotary club, that meeting on the night of February 23, 1905 was the first meeting of the world's first Rotary club.

The next day, a fifth member joined the group, having been invited to do so by Paul Harris. He was Harry Ruggles, a painter. He, in turn, introduced a real estate dealer named Will Jensen.

It was Ruggles who, at an early meeting one evening, jumped on a chair and shouted, "Let's sing!" He liked to sing and it was his infectious enthusiasm for it that started the Rotary Club of Chicago in its way as the fore runner of the many Rotary clubs which today make singing part of their weekly program.

Soon after Ruggles and Jensen came in, the organization of the new club was completed a meeting in Schiele's office. The first president was Schiele, with Jensen as corresponding secretary, Shorey as recording secretary and Ruggles as treasurer.

Paul Harris modestly declined to accept any office in the new club at that time. In fact, it was not until 1907 that Harris was elected president of the Rotary Club of Chicago.

The name "Rotary" was chosen at one of the early meetings, its proposer being Paul Harris, who pointed out that the word aptly conveyed the original plan of the members to meet in "rotation" at various places of business.

With the name decided upon, Montague M. Bear, an engraver who had joined the club, thought it was time to have an emblem. He came up with a sketch of a plan wagon wheel, a rotating symbol that won full approval. Today, "Mottly" Bear's wheel, though much changed in design, has hundreds of thousands of descendants in the form of the familiar cog wheel emblem on the lapels of Rotarians across the world.

The first printed roster of the Rotary Club of Chicago had 19 members, but at the end of 1905 there were 30 members. Paul Harris later wrote of these first members:

"There were no drones in the 1905 group. Everyone was interested and busy. Practically every member contributed one or more serviceable ideas. Several of these ideas are in operation today, for example, the mid day meeting, the practice of using photographs in rosters, the presentation of papers on vocational service subjects, and many others."

So began Rotary in the early 1900's in the pioneer town of Chicago. Certainly, no Rotarian of 1905 ever dreamed that the idea set in motion in that Chicago office would some day be accepted by men around the world.

Five years after Rotary's birth there were 16 Rotary clubs and approximately 1,500 Rotarians. Within that same period, the organization became international with the formation of a club in Winnipeg, Canada in 1910.

The first Rotary convention was held in the Congress Hotel of Chicago in August of 1910. The National Association of Rotary Clubs was organized at that time with all 16 clubs in membership.

The following year, clubs were organized in Ireland and England, and Rotary was on its global way. In 1912, the name was changed to International Association of Rotary Clubs.

In 1916, the first Rotary club in Ibero America was functioning in Havana, Cuba, in 1919, the first in Asia in Manila, Philippines, in 1927, the first in continental Europe in Madrid, Spain, in 1921, the first in Africa in Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa, and in 1921, the first in Australia in Melbourne. The name Rotary International was adopted in 1922.

Today, Rotary spans six continents with clubs in 150 countries and geographical regions.

**Georgetown Club formed
in 1955**

The Georgetown club was founded in 1955 and is one of 25 clubs in Rotary's District 707 covering Metropolitan Toronto and adjacent areas of Southern Ontario. It is one of 408 such districts around the world and one of the largest and most active, with some 3,500 members. Les Faltycky of the Toronto Armour Heights Club is the current District Governor.

District 707's history dates back to 1912 with formation of the original Toronto Club only seven years after the world's first Rotary formation in Chicago in 1905. Other clubs followed Toronto's lead quickly, including the following as some of the pioneers: Guelph, Oshawa and Belleville, all in 1920; Cobourg in 1921; Port Hope and Trenton in 1922; Bowmanville in 1924; Weston in 1929; Etobicoke in 1930; Whitby in 1932; Orangeville in 1934; and Shelburne in 1938.

The remaining 42 clubs all followed during and after the Second World War, including several new groups since 1980.

Membership in Rotary is by nomination as a representative of each particular professional or business category. Members are always pleased to provide further details on request.



It's been a long time since this Rotary Club Minstrel Show shot. 1961 is the most popular guess. Any Rotarian out there recognize who's who in black face?

**A brief history of Rotary service
for the disabled**

Today there are between 450 and 500 million disabled persons and some 500,000 Rotarians.

What's the connection? Well over a third of the 20,000 Rotary clubs in 157 lands are currently engaged in projects benefiting the disabled. The scope of these projects ranges from an orthopedic laboratory in San Cristobal, Venezuela, to a million-dollar rehabilitation centre near Auckland, New Zealand.

The connection is one of long standing. Rotary service to the disabled spans more than 80 years. The first recorded Rotary club project for the disabled occurred in 1913 when Rotarians in Syracuse, New York, U.S.A., initiated a health-improvement program for crippled children.

In 1920, under the leadership of Rotarian Edgar F. Allen, the Rotary clubs in Ohio, U.S.A., formed the Ohio Society for Crippled Children. The Ohio plan worked so well that in 1921, Allen formed the National Society for Crippled Children. With Rotary founder Paul Harris as chairman of its board of directors, the national society used its Rotary contacts to set up state societies throughout the United States. Allen said of these early efforts that "each time you become the means whereby a crippled child can be made well and freed from a life of dependency to a life of self support, you unconsciously transform your life, and get the real joy of living which comes from service."

The Rotarian initiative became international in 1927 when Rotary clubs in the province of Ontario, Canada, established the Ontario Society for Crippled Children and the International Society for Crippled Children was formed. Rotary clubs in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Bermuda, Holland and Belgium joined the effort. This process has continued over the years around the globe. The international society evolved into Rehabilitation International with member organizations in more than 60 nations.

As with Rehabilitation International, Rotary traditionally initiates and establishes a facility or organization to meet a need and then turns the job over to others to administer on an ongoing basis, often with continuing Rotary support. The needs are many, the support is comprehensive. In every area of the world there is a facility or program established and supported by Rotarians, a school for deaf children in Changmai, Thailand, a hostel for retarded adults in Tasmania, Australia, a vocational school for the disabled in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Rotary sponsored employment programs include "DEED" (Dedicated to Equal Employment of the Disabled) in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., and the sheltered employment program for the mentally retarded in Salisbury, Zimbabwe. The West Nassau, Bahamas, Rotary club purchased an entire ceramics business for the handicapped in their city.

To function freely in society, the disabled often need special services. In Japan, the Rotary Club of Sasebo South sponsors a beauty culture course for deaf mutes. A major outpatient facility for the disabled is being co-sponsored by Rotarians in Hong Kong in Germany, the Rotary Club of Hof, Bavaria, furnished and equipped two apartments, each of which is home for six handicapped people and a social worker.

Rotary "handicamps" are a unique approach to service to the disabled. Developed first in Norway in 1916, they are now being established by Rotarians in other European nations. The camps bring together disabled and able-bodied from several nations to learn not only of other countries, but also of the dignity and potential of each participant.

Jean Pierre de France was paralysed in a 1917 accident and had difficulty adjusting to his handicap before accepting an invitation to "Handicamp Norway 1978." After the camp, Jean Pierre commented: "Now I am accepting my handicap. I have learned that you can take part in so many things even if you are in a wheelchair. The stay here has given me so much, and I am looking forward to coming home to try it out. Something has changed within me."

Rotarian Sir John Wilson, director of the society, described the camps: "Very early in the morning Rotary eye specialists arrive... The cataract operations start immediately... The operating days are long, hot, exhausting. Ten days later the bandages are removed, and then you see the miracle of sight restored. A mother sees her child again. An old man looks out on the hills. A child is startled by the first shock of light."

Synthetic of the collective interest of Rotarians worldwide in helping the disabled is one of the scholarship programs of The Rotary Foundation, which promotes international understanding through its educational and charitable programs. Since 1913, the Foundation has awarded more than 700 scholarships for study abroad to the teachers of the handicapped. The scholars not only enhance their professional skills, but also promote friendly relations among peoples of different nations.

One scholar, Paulo R. C. Alcantara of Sao Paulo, Brazil, said of the program: "There is no doubt, my stay in the United States of America developed my own perspectives in the field of special education. Now, I feel confident to better handle handicapped students, as well as to help improve the teaching programs already implemented in many schools in Brazil."

The Foundation has also provided grants for many Rotary projects for the disabled. Rotarians of Japan co-sponsored a grant to pay travel expenses for disabled persons from 20 nations to the International Ablelympic, a vocational skill contest for the disabled held October 1981, in Tokyo, Japan.

The Foundation's newest activity is the Grants for the Health, Hunger, and Humanity (GHH) Program. One of that program's major emphases is to support the efforts of the World Health Organization and others worldwide to eradicate polio and all other vaccine-preventable diseases. On 29 September, 1979, Rotary initiated a five-year nationwide immunization program in the Philippines to protect that island nation's children against Polio myelitis. Rotary International is providing the vaccines and local Rotarians are assisting the Philippine Ministry of Health to administer and promote the program. Some six million children will be vaccinated by 1985. Through this and other immunization projects in Costa Rica, Bolivia, India, Zaire, and the Sudan, Rotary seeks to prevent disability.

The connection between the world's 450-500 million disabled persons and 900,000 Rotarians is Rotary's ongoing efforts to enable disabled persons to participate fully and equally in our world. Most Rotarians involved in this work would agree with Rotarian Allen who wrote in 1921: "I am a debtor to Rotary for the opportunity."

Shits and comedy patter on former Rotary Club shows were re-enacted at the Rotary 25th anniversary celebration in 1960.

Here Gerry Peace, Bob Burns, (reading his lines pasted in his hat) and Ross Norton give out in a song and patter routine.

Here Gerry Peace, Bob Burns, (reading his lines pasted in his hat) and Ross Norton give out in a song and patter routine.

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