

SELLING ROTARY..... AND PROPOSING A NEW MEMBER

SHOULD WE SELL ROTARY MEMBERSHIP?

NO! - Not as a commodity to be "peddle" from house to house - or even from store - or from office to office.

YES! - If by "selling" we mean presenting Rotary for what it really is - a service organization - to the community as a whole, and especially to those qualified leaders who should belong to the local Rotary club.

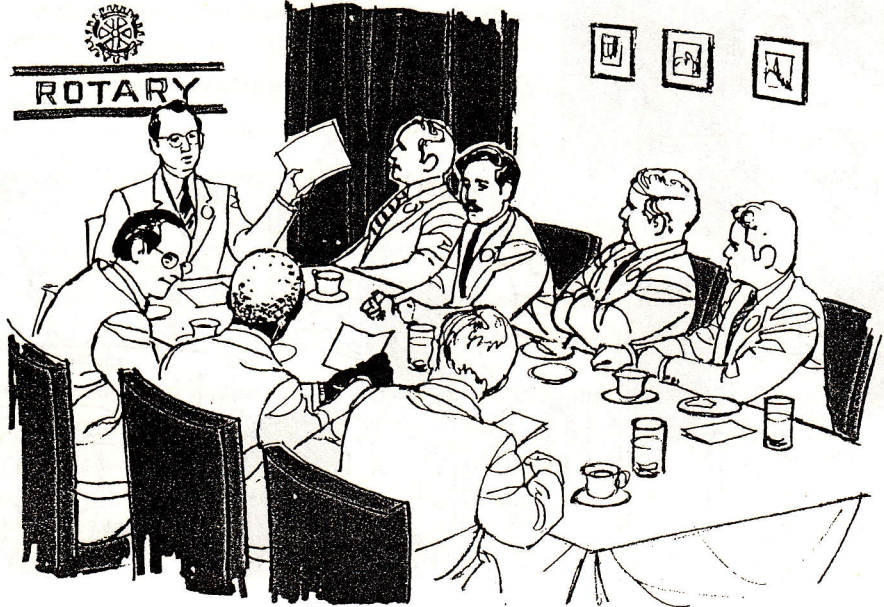
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

How many times is a good prospect for Rotary membership lost because the explanation of Rotary was entrusted to a member who was woefully uninformed?

Will a busy person be inclined to invest both time and money in a club in which members display a lack of interest - in such ways as carelessly planned programs, poor fellowship and clannishness, and lack of service objectives?



ROTARY CLUB OF KUCHING CENTRAL



Procedures for proposing and electing a new member

Every Rotarian who sponsors a new member should understand the correct procedure for proposal and election. The steps are specified in the folder "How To Propose A New Member," Appendix II; in the Recommended Rotary Club By-laws (Article XI), Appendix XI; and in the Membership Committee leaflet, Appendix VII. Here's a summary:

- The club board of directors receives the confidential written proposal submitted by the Membership Development committee or a member in good standing
- The Classifications committee is then asked to determine the accuracy of the proposed member's classification. Remember, after 1 July, 1989, that classification may represent either the principal business or professional activity of the proposed member or of the firm with which that individual is connected.
- The Membership committee is asked to evaluate the prospective member's per-

sonal eligibility and business or professional and community standing

- The board then reviews the recommendations of both committees. If they are sustained, the club secretary notifies the Rotarian who proposed the new member.
- The proposed new member is then informed and is asked to formally submit an application

The rest is routine – club members are notified (they have ten days if they wish to file written objections), the new member pays the admission fee, receives a membership card, is inducted into the club, and is subsequently given post-induction orientation.

See also "Charting Progress Of Proposed Members," Appendix XVI.

Q. Can a member's title or executive position be used to describe that individual's classification?

A. No. A classification must describe the principal and recognized activity of the institution or firm with which the member is connected or that which covers the member's principal and recognized business or professional

activity. In either case, the classification describes the activity in which the individual is involved rather than the title of the position held by the member.

Q. Are divisions of a firm considered eligible for separate classifications?

A. Yes, if the division is sufficiently independent to determine generally its own policies, and provided its activities constitute a complete service to the community—one that is recognized as a separate service.

Q. A candidate for membership in our club is a chemist in a plastics manufacturing firm. Is it true that we can now loan him a "chemistry" classification instead of "plastic manufacturing?"

A. Yes, the 1989 Council on Legislation amended the classification section of the Standard Rotary Club Constitution to enable the classification of a Rotarian who is not self-employed to reflect either the business of the individual's employer or the work that individual does for the employer.

Keys to effective committees

1. Inform committee members of agenda in advance of meeting.
 2. Contact personally those members who are to report to the meeting.
 3. Keep meetings short and to the point.
 4. Avoid unnecessary paper work.
 5. Give each person a chance to voice his opinion.
 6. Keep track of assignments and follow-up.
 7. Promptly replace members who must withdraw.
 8. Encourage members and congratulate them upon completion of tasks.
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Q. There is a retired airline pilot in our community who has never been a Rotarian but who would have lots of time for Rotary.

What classification can we loan to him?

A. There is no basis for loaning a classification to such a retired man because he is no longer "active" in his profession.

Q. We have some members whose companies have diversified and changed their main lines of business. How can their classifications be changed?

A. Article VI, Section 1(c) of the "Standard Rotary Club Constitution" provides that the club board of directors may correct or adjust the classification of any member, if circumstances warrant such an action. The member should be notified and be allowed a hearing in the matter if he so desires.

Q. We have heard "senior active" referred to as a classification. Also "past service." Is this correct?

A. No. "Senior active" and "past service" are kinds of membership - not classifications.

Q. Should our roster of filled and unfilled classifications include specialties in medicine, dentistry, and law?

A. Yes, if the practices of these professions are recognized as specialized in your community. The same could apply to other professions that have specialties.



B. GENERAL

2. Is Rotary club membership personal? Or does it represent the membership of the firm with which the members is connected?

While a classification loaned to an active member may be based on the activity of a firm, membership in a club is personal. An invitation to membership is based not only on a person being an executive or professional, but also on having good character and reputation.

3. Is a Rotarian a member of Rotary International?

No. Rotary International is an association of Rotary clubs. A Rotarian is a member of one of those member clubs.

4. Can someone who is retired be elected to Rotary club membership?

If the person has never been a Rotarian, the answer is "No." A former Rotarian who meets the qualifications for their past service or senior active membership might be able to be elected.

5. Can a member of another service organization be elected to Rotary club membership?

There is nothing in the constitutional documents that would prevent a Rotary club from electing a qualified individual to membership who was also a member of another service club. However, the Board of Directors of Rotary International does strongly discourage such a practice, as one would have to question a person's ability to devote a 100-percent effort to both clubs.

6. Is it possible to transfer one's membership from one Rotary club to another?

No. Each club has the right to determine its own members. However, a club may recommend potential candidates for membership in other Rotary clubs.

7. Can a member of a sponsoring Rotary club become a charter member of the new club?

Yes, There is nothing to prevent a Rotarian from becoming a charter member of a new club. In fact, it is desirable for a charter list to include a few members with Rotary experience. In resigning from the current club, the Rotarian does not give a specific date, but can simply state that it is effective upon the provisional club's admission into membership in R.I.

8. Can someone be a member of more than one Rotary club?

A person cannot be an active (including additional active), past service, or senior active member in more than one Rotary club. Rotarians can, however, hold honorary membership in more than one Rotary club but not in the same club in which they hold another kind of membership.

C. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP - ARTICLE V, SECTION 3

9. Must each active member's place of business be located in the club's territorial limits?

No. A member's place of business or residence must be in the club's territory, within the corporate limits of the city in which the club is located or within the territorial limits of an immediately adjoining club. The R.I. Board has ruled that a club may also admit to active membership a person whose place of business or residence is in an adjacent rural territory that is not within the territorial limits of any other Rotary club.

10. May a club bring into active membership more than one representative of a classification?

Yes. This can be done, per Article V, Section 8, of the "Standard Rotary Club Constitution," in regard to representatives of religious denominations, the news media and the diplomatic corps and, per Section 4, by additional active membership.

D. ADDITIONAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP - ARTICLE V, SECTION 4

11. Is additional active membership a kind of membership?

No. It is a type of active membership.

12. Does an additional active member have all the rights, privileges and responsibilities of an active member?

Yes, except for the right to propose an additional active member under Section 4 (a).

13. What is meant by "second additional active"?

The common example of additional active membership is someone from the same or competing firm being proposed by the holder of the classification, which is in accordance with Section 4 (a). However, there is also a way for a qualified individual to be an additional active under Section 4 (b) and this is often referred to as "second additional active." Such a member can be proposed by any member with the permission of the holder of the classification. The candidate also must have been a Rotarian in another club who lost active membership after ceasing to be employed in the classification held within that club's territory. This often is used when a Rotarian moves to a new community and the classification is filled and there is already an additional active member under 4 (a). It can also be used when a Rotarian changes jobs and would then be classified differently. In regard to this latter situation, second additional active membership is not allowed in the same club in which a Rotarian was an active member. However, the member could join another club that shares the same territory, Unlike an active member or an additional active member under 4 (a), a second additional active member must have a place of business or residence within the club's territorial limits.

E. CLASSIFICATIONS - ARTICLE VI

14. What is a classification?

It is a word or phrase that describes the principal and recognized activity of the firm with which an active (including additional active) member is connected - if self-employed, the service provided - or the principal activity of the member.

15. Is there a list of all possible classifications?

No. There has never been a list that was purported to include all possible Rotary classifications nor could there be. Each club decides what classifications are valid within its territory.

16. Is "senior active" or "past service" a classification?

No. They are kinds of Rotary club membership.

17. What is meant by "major and minor classifications"?

It used to be a common practice, which many clubs still use, to give a classification where the first word states the principal field of endeavor and then a word or phrase describing the firm's specialty within the field. For example, "Medicine-Dermatology" would be given to someone who is self-employed or works in a firm that deals solely with treating skin diseases. In many clubs, the classification now used would simply be "Dermatology."

18. Can a senior active's former classification be changed if the member changes occupations?

No. A former classification is that classification that a Rotarian had upon ceasing to be an active member. It does not change after that.

19. What is the appropriate wording of a classification for a priest in charge of the local Russian Orthodox Church?

"Religion," "Russian Orthodox Churches," "Christianity-Orthodoxy," etc. are all acceptable terminologies for a classification. The exact wording is up to each club, as long as it describes the activity of the institution. Such classifications as "priest," "pastor," "clergy," "minister," etc. are also proper.

20. Is "Mortgage Banking" the appropriate classification for a bank officer in charge of the mortgage department?

Yes. According to an enactment adopted by the 1989 Council on Legislation, this bank officer could hold either the classification of "Mortgage Banking," which describes the member's principal activity, or "Commercial Banking," which describes the principal activity of the member's firm.

21. Can more than one classification be created for an extremely large and diverse corporation or institution?

Yes. If a corporation has distinctly separate divisions that act virtually independently of each other, the R.I. Board considers it proper for a club to establish a classification for each such division. For example, a large university contains a school of medicine, a business school and law school. Each school grants its own degrees and sets most of its own policies. It would then be proper for a classification to be established for each school within the university, plus a classification of "University Administration" to be loaned to one of the executives that oversees all of those school. It would not be appropriate for a classification to be established for the various departments within those schools. This example can be applied to conglomerates and other very large corporations, but not to businesses such as a local bank or law firm.

22. What is the "Ten Percent Rule"?

The Board of Directors of R.I. suggests (requires on the charter lists of new clubs) that a club's membership should be balanced, so that no one business interest dominates. Therefore, it established the "10 Percent Rule," which means not more than 10 percent of the classifications in any club should be in any one related field, such as education, law, insurance, government, etc.

F. PAST SERVICE MEMBERSHIP - ARTICLE V, SECTION 6

23. What is the purpose of past service membership?

It provides a way for many active members who retire prior to being qualified for senior active membership to continue their club membership.

24. Can past service membership be given to any retired individual?

No. The only people who can be elected to past service membership are former active members who have lost active membership because of retirement or who have lost their classification through no fault of their own and are either 55 years of age or older or have been active members of one of more clubs for three or more years.

25. Can a senior active member be elected to past service membership upon retirement?

No. A person who becomes senior active can never again be an active or past service member in any Rotary club.

26. Can a past service member hold office in the club?

Yes. Past service members have all of the privileges, rights and responsibilities that active members have except that they do not have a classification and cannot propose additional active members under Section 4 (a).

G. SENIOR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP - ARTICLE V, SECTION 5

27. Can a person elect not to become senior active?

No. Senior active membership is automatic for all active and past service members that qualify.

Passing on the gift: the 'Milk for Mexico' project

BY THOMAS deMAAR

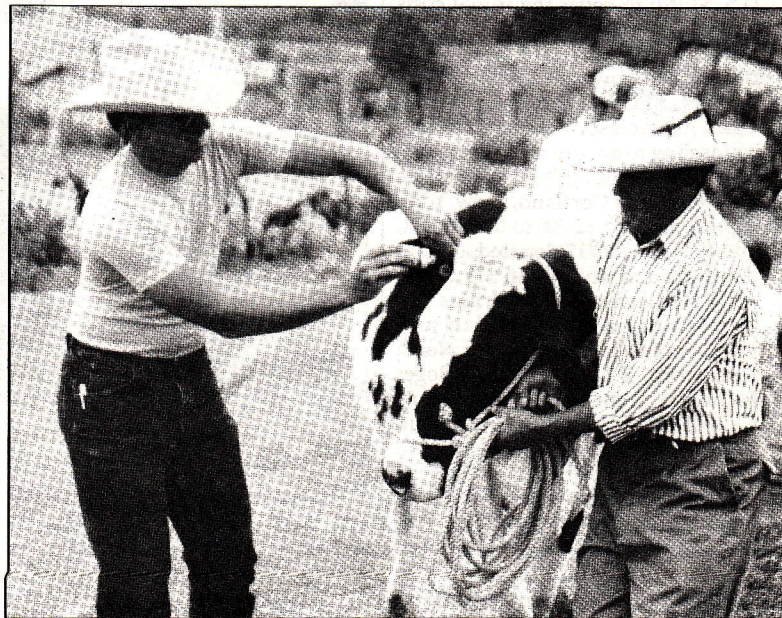
It is morning in Tejaro, Mexico, and the grandson of Adán Chávez is knocking on my door, begging me to come immediately. His family's heifer recently bore a female calf after a string of bulls, but he says this morning the calf looks ready to die. After waiting such a long time, they don't want to lose her.

When I arrive at the Chávez farm, my examination shows the calf is indeed sick, suffering from acute diarrhea that has caused severe dehydration, leaving it near death. Treatment with antibiotics, vitamins, anti-shock medicine, and intravenous fluids needs to be immediate and aggressive.

Adán Chávez is a little skeptical—the medications are going to cost him 30,000 pesos (U.S. \$10), the equivalent of 38 litres (10 gallons) of milk, or one day's production from two of his 10 cows. But I assure him the animal has a good chance of recovery, and that he should not risk losing a calf that would not only cost 100,000 pesos (U.S. \$34) to replace, but may one day produce another dairy cow. I treat the animal, then head off to the rest of my day, promising to stop back that evening.

After several years of working in the U.S. as a veterinarian who treats farm animals, I was asked to serve as a technical advisor on a project called "Milk for Mexico," a joint effort of Rotary clubs and districts in the U.S. and Mexico, The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International, and Heifer Project International (HPI) of Little Rock, Arkansas, U.S.A.

A primary Rotary goal is community service. "Milk for Mexico" achieves that goal by supplying food through sensible agriculture and cattle raising. It entails importing 100 registered, high-producing pregnant Holstein cows from the U.S. and distributing them to specially selected farmers in the city of Morelia and surrounding villages such as Tejaro. Participating farmers are selected based on their need, experience, and



Dr. Tom deMaar, technical director of the Milk for Mexico project, applies tick powder to a reluctant heifer's ear, a task made simpler with the assistance of its owner.

ability to properly care for the cows.

One of the program's guidelines, taken from HPI, is "passing on the gift." The farmers agree to care for the cow until she produces a female calf. When this calf becomes pregnant, it is passed on to another needy farmer, who accepts it under the same agreement—thus forming a continuous chain. When each farmer delivers the pregnant heifer (a female cow not previously bred), he then becomes the owner of its mother. In the meantime, the farmer is allowed to keep all of the milk produced by the cow, and also any bull (male) calves. My job is to teach the farmers new ways to care for their animals.

Milk for Mexico began in May 1985, when Dr. Moisés Beutelspacher, a veterinarian and member of the Rotary Club of Morelia, invited fellow Rotarian and veterinarian Dr. William Cadwallader, Jr., to stay at his home during a SACAMA zone institute. Bill Cadwallader is currently an R.I. director.

During a discussion around the kitchen table, the two talked about a

project in which both Mexican and U.S. Rotarians could help remedy the Morelia region's lack of milk production, and also improve local farmers' economic resources. One idea was to bring in a U.S. veterinarian to instruct local farmers on the care and raising of their cows.

When Bill returned home, he discussed the idea with other Rotarians. He eventually was encouraged to contact Edward C. Hall, then a governor-nominee from R.I. District 791 (Massachusetts, U.S.A.) about the possibility of sending cows as well as a veterinarian.

Ed had previously worked on projects in partnership with HPI, which for the past 45 years has helped to provide animals to needy farmers. Because there was also a "U.S. Dairy Termination" program underway at the time, many high-grade cows were scheduled to be slaughtered. HPI was trying to obtain and ship as many cows as possible to needy farmers and was anxious to work with Rotary.

Edmundo Peimbert, then gover-

nor of District 416 (Mexico), played a key role in enlisting the support of Rotary clubs in the Morelia area. Besides organizing a district pledge of U.S. \$1,920 to cover the initial costs for housing a veterinarian, he set up a committee to plan the transportation of the cows and selection of farmers. Moisés Beutelspacher provided his professional guidance and counseling to ensure objectives were met. Meanwhile, Bill Cadwallader's Rotary club of Cortland, New York, U.S.A., pledged \$2,000 to the project, and his District 717 donated a Foundation reward unit worth \$11,500.

Ed Hall contacted Rotarians Jim Armstrong, a veterinarian and member of the Rotary club of North Kingstown, R.I., U.S.A., and Roger Nicholson, a member of the Rotary Club of East Hartford, Connecticut, both of whom previously had worked with HPI. The three approached Rotarians in their own and neighboring districts, (D-791, 789, 795, and 787) raising the total amount collected to \$43,000; the project participants then applied for and received a Special Matching Grant from the Foundation, along with a donation-in-kind of U.S. \$2,500 from the Mexican government for covering cost of transporting the animals.

At the same time, HPI was busy locating, purchasing, breeding, and transporting the heifers to its holding farm in Rutland, Massachusetts, U.S.A. Here they were carefully inspected, immunized, and quarantined before shipment. In August 1987, the New England Rotarians gathered to see the cows loaded and started on their 6,400-kilometre (4,000-mile) journey to Morelia.

Moisés and other Mexican Rotarians picked up the cows at the U.S. border and brought them to Morelia, where they distributed the animals to excited farmers and their families. Moisés and the Morelia Rotarians supervised the project for over a year until December 1988, when I arrived in a truck loaded with medicines and other material donated by Rotarians in Cortland, New York.

My job is to teach the farmers new ways to care for the animals. Fernando, my assistant from the Mexican Department of Agriculture, has been working for three years to promote knowledge of artificial insemination and preventive medicine in



This family received a cow when Rotarian project supervisors determined that the animal's previous owners were not caring for it properly.

this area. Since he knows the farmers and their agricultural methods, he acts as my sounding board for introducing new technologies.

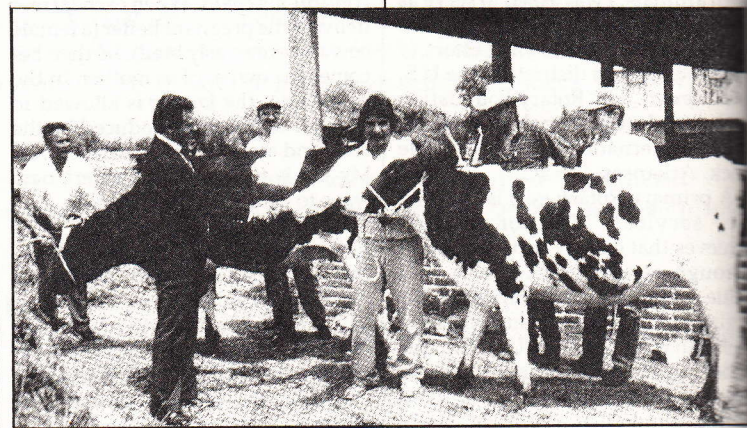
Mexican and U.S. veterinary students also have spent time with the project, lending fresh outlooks and enthusiasm. With their help, we have created projects that attempt to address all areas of dairy production and veterinary medicine. We see every meeting with the farmers as an opportunity to discuss cow nutrition, husbandry practices, and prevention of disease.

Another task is to check regularly the reproductive status of the cows. Week-old calves need to be dehorned

and ear tagged, and several here must be sprayed with insecticides to prevent ticks and lice. We use every opportunity to explain to the farmers what we are doing.

Milk for Mexico attempts to address and solve basic problems using the resources immediately available. We hope that the information we provide will, like the heifer, be passed on. The project is also a great example of cooperating cultures drawing upon the best of two types of technologies and welding them into a better system. The land around Morelia is fertile, and, with improvement, has potential for great

(continued on page 6)



As fellow Rotarians and farmers look on, Past District Governor Edmundo Peimbert (left), hands over a cow, a contract, and a handshake to farmer Salvador Aguilar.

agricultural diversity. But additional technology must still be brought to this area to provide food self-sufficiency for its people.

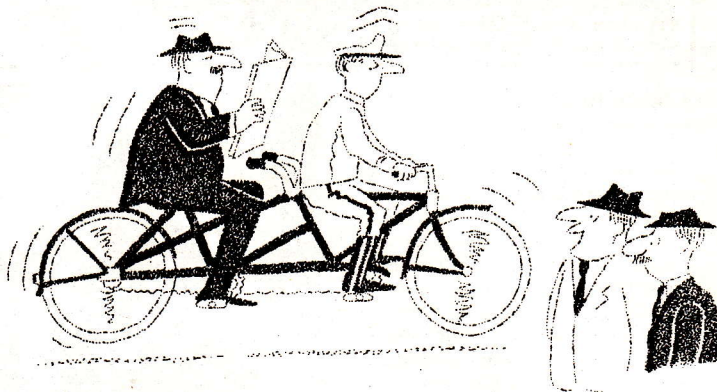
The benefits of Milk for Mexico have been diverse and numerous. Our herd has been increased by the birth of 55 new heifers; all have been passed on to new farmers and have enabled us to bring in additional farmers in a total of eight communities. Moisés also has helped the farmers to obtain bank loans to purchase pick-up trucks. This allows them to market their milk directly to the city, and thus receive a better price. We have taught farmers how to artificially inseminate their own cows, increased their awareness of infectious diseases, taught the principles of first-aid for farm animals, and effected improvements in the cows' diets.

Our combined knowledge has spread to several local veterinarians, an ever-expanding circle of Mexican veterinary students, and several communities of farmers. We also hosted four American veterinary college students, each of whom spent up to six weeks with the project.

Personally, I have grown to become a better helper while learning to be a leader. Besides communicating in another language, I have also learned to perform under difficult circumstances. I now better understand the practices and needs of medicine on both sides of the border, and feel this path will lead toward a long career of agricultural and medical exchanges.

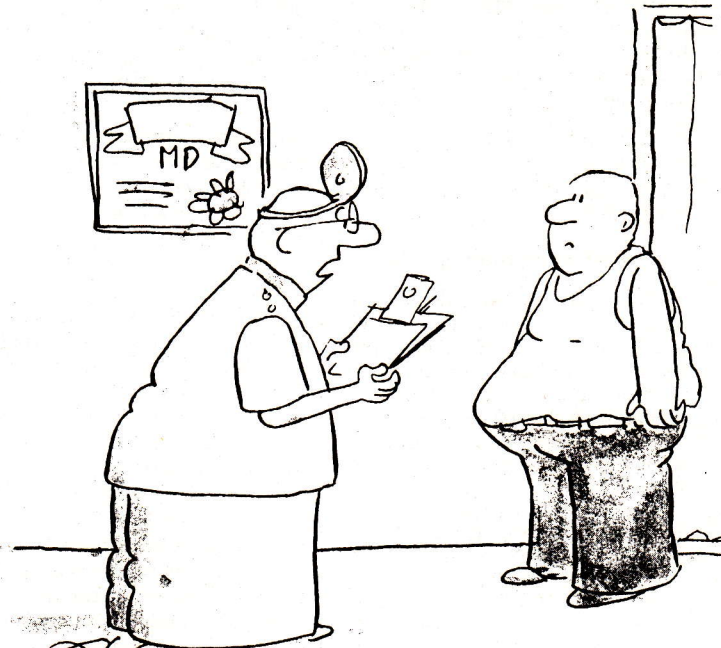
On my way home at the end of the day, I return to the Chávez farm, preparing myself for the worst. Adán Sr. is seated in a tattered wicker chair, watching his cows peacefully eating their evening meal. His oldest son is with him, and the two men have broad smiles on their faces. The calf that was near death this morning is up and about, and they tell me she aggressively consumed her ration of rehydration fluid. To show their gratitude, they have christened her *La Platera*, the "silver child."

• *Thomas deMaar, a graduate of Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts, has since returned to the U.S. He now practices at the Mt. Anthony veterinary hospital in Bennington, Vermont, U.S.A.*



hanna

"J.B.'s cost-cutting procedures have put his company way back into the black again!"



Holt

"It's important for you to stay in shape—but not that one!"

Computers for Chile's children

Rotarians of Puerto Varas, Chile, were concerned that students in public high schools would be at a disadvantage in competing for jobs with students from private high schools, since the public school students lacked computer training. Although the teachers in the public schools were trained to teach computer skills, they had no equipment.

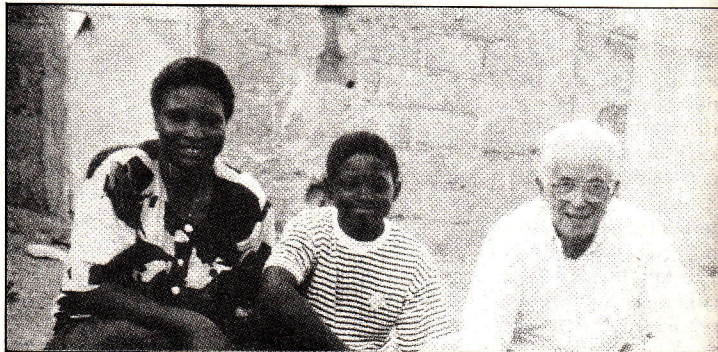
To help, the Rotary Club of Puerto Varas requested computer equipment via the World Community Service Projects Exchange List, distributed to clubs through the R.I. Secretariat. The Santa Clara club contacted the Chilean club and applied for a Special Matching Grant of \$1,850. Seven other clubs in District 517 also sponsored the project. The funds will provide computers for vocational training for students in 12 towns in Chile.

"We wanted to provide more opportunities for the school children of the less fortunate," said Ricardo Vargas B., a member of the Puerto Varas club and past governor of District 435. "Thanks to the generosity of the California clubs, we will be able to give these students the tools they need to compete with their neighbors."

A project as smooth as silk

WCS projects are not always conducted between Rotarians in developed and developing countries. World community service stems from the efforts of any Rotarians in two or more countries in support of community projects that provide material, technical, and professional assistance to those in need.

For example, S. Udaya Kumar, past governor of District 319 (India), reported a recent shipment of kanva mulberry cuttings from the Rotary Club of Bangalore Indiranagar to the Rotarians of District 245 (Egypt). The Rotarians distributed the cuttings to silk farmers in Mansura, Egypt. The mulberry leaves are used as food for silkworms, supporting a very lucrative industry.



Dick Witmer shares a quiet moment with some of his Nigerian friends.

A mission with vision

BY ROGER T. GROCE

In the sweltering late afternoon heat following a day at the 1986 R.I. Convention in Las Vegas, a weary Dick Witmer loosened his tie and settled into a seat for the bus ride back to the hotel. An equally tired John Tor-Agbidye of Gombi, Nigeria, wearing his ceremonial African robe, climbed aboard and asked if he might sit next to Dick.

It was the kind of casual international encounter that is commonplace at Rotary conventions—an unplanned meeting that leads to exciting challenges and adventures.

Dick, an insurance executive from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., learned John was a veterinarian, and invited him to visit Lancaster. Two weeks later, Dick was leading his new Rotarian friend on a tour of the Pennsylvania countryside, where Amish farmers have elevated centuries-old agricultural methods to a latter-day art form.

At dinner one night, John spoke of his country's needs and problems: the scourge of illiteracy, malnourishment, and rampaging diseases that are nearly forgotten in the West. Dick hoped that some day, as a Rotarian, he would be able to help.

Three years later, as a district-governor nominee (of District 739) at the 1989 International Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona, Dick had an op-

portunity to meet his Nigerian counterpart, Chief Williams Adjekughele of District 912. (Chief Williams had a letter for Dick from his old friend John.)

Chief Williams and Dick worked together to organize an international service project during their year as governors (1989-90). Chief Williams reported a desperate need for ophthalmologists and medical supplies. Dick later learned that cataracts are a very common eye ailment that lead to obscured vision and eventually blindness if not treated. In Nigeria—Africa's most populous country—cataracts strike five times as many people as in the U.S., and 99 percent go untreated.

Unfortunately, few Nigerians can turn to professional help. In one region of R.I. District 912, for example, four ophthalmologists serve a population of 15 million.

Many cataract victims rely on medicine men to perform ancient methods of removal. Using a thorn, the medicine men puncture the eye behind the iris in a procedure known as "couching." They then pierce the lens and try to push the cataract back into the vitreous cavity. This method fails 90 percent of the time, and the eye is totally lost. Yet for most of the people in this country that is one-and-a-half times the size of Texas, it remains the meager but only hope of ever seeing again.

Dick hoped to shed some light by

helping with an eye surgery project. In February 1990, he assembled a volunteer medical team of six Rotarians (all of whom paid their own expenses) and three non-Rotarians to go to Nigeria. The Rotarians included Drs. Albert Alley and Erwin K. Wenner of Lebanon, Pennsylvania; Dr. Richard Alley (Albert's brother), an internist and professor from Kingston, Pennsylvania; William Ebinger of Rochester, Minnesota; Dr. Milam S. Cotten of Hat-

tiesburg, Mississippi; and Dr. Julio Martinez of Navojoa, Sonora, Mexico. The non-Rotarian volunteers were optician Frank Johannesen and operating room nurses Joy Putt and Eileen Geiss, all of Pennsylvania.

Dick Witmer and his team (called the "Vision Mission") were prepared to set up an entire eye surgical center virtually from scratch. They had packed 908 kilograms (2,000 pounds) of equipment and supplies in 125 boxes. They brought everything they

might possibly need: sutures, drugs, microscopes, even voltage regulators and surge suppressers. Most of the supplies, valued at U.S. \$400,000, were donated by local U.S. pharmaceutical firms, equipment suppliers, and medical foundations. "It is amazing what people will give you if you simply ask," says Dick.

The team had three goals: to treat indigent blind patients; to train local surgeons in removing cataracts (and leave them the necessary tools to continue the work); and to conduct an independent medical clinic.

Chief Williams suggested the team travel to Jos, a city in eastern Nigeria, where they would be assisted by Rotarian George Obikili, chief ophthalmologist at Jos University Hospital. The Americans were greeted enthusiastically on the airport runway by 30 Jos Rotarians.

Chief Williams, George Obikili, and the Jos Rotarians had worked tirelessly to prepare for this moment. During the previous few weeks, they had screened thousands of eye surgery candidates, selecting the neediest, most urgent cases for immediate treatment.

Stretching their work late into the nights, the team performed 130 cataract operations in a two-week period on patients of all ages, including 10 babies. More important, they laid the foundation for their work to continue. They also gave patients and their families a new perspective on Americans and, perhaps, on Rotary itself.

"It's the warmest feeling in the world to walk through a hospital ward and have people look at you through eyes that had been blind, sometimes for as long as 20 years," says Dick.

He would always have a clear vision of his trip to Nigeria, and remember how it all began—on a bus ride with a Nigerian Rotarian in Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S.A., in 1986.

● Roger T. Groce, a manufacturer of security identification systems, is a member of the Rotary Club of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

A mission continues at home

Dick Witmer's aid to Nigeria didn't end when he left the country. During a meeting there of the Rotary Club of Mubi, he met Gabriel Olla, a Rotarian whose nine-year-old son, Felix, had suffered a severe head injury after being hit by an automobile at the age of five.

Although Felix was taken to a hospital, his skull was improperly repaired in a crudely performed operation. Part of his brain protruded from his forehead, covered only by a thin layer of skin. This left the child vulnerable to infections or any accidental blows to the head. Gabriel was starting to give up hope. He asked Dick and his team of surgeons if they could do anything to help his son.

Dick knew that the delicate neurosurgery needed to treat the boy would be difficult with the limited facilities in Nigeria. He promised to seek aid upon his return to the U.S.—and quickly found it.

Physicians at Lancaster General Hospital volunteered their services, including leading neurosurgeon Dr. James Peter Argires, plastic surgeon Dr. John Schantz, anesthesiologist Dr. Scott F. Stieber, and radiologist Dr. P. Noel Connaughton.

One of the main problems was contacting Gabriel with the good news. Correspondence with Nigeria, arduous even under the best of circumstances, was repeatedly blocked because of an attempted coup. Phone lines were jammed and telex messages went undelivered. Dick finally managed to reach his Rotarian friend in late April 1990, and made arrangements for Gabriel and Felix to travel to New York's JFK International Air-



Dick with Felix after his delicate neurosurgery—and before corrective plastic surgery to repair his eye.

port. At JFK, father and son were greeted and taken to Lancaster.

A week later, Felix underwent a five-hour operation at Lancaster General Hospital. He and his father remained as the special guests of the Witmer family for five weeks. They returned safely to Nigeria in June.

Although Felix is out of danger, he still bears the scars of the original accident. At a meeting of the Lancaster Rotary Club, Gabriel said, "You see the scars and may feel sorry for him. But those scars are only the history of what happened. For us, history is not important. What is important is that my son now has a future.

"I don't think my language will permit me to describe my gladness. You have solved my problems. God will solve yours."

—R.G.

A tough Chicago priest adopts Thailand's poor

by Cary Silver

Father Ray's kids

Father Ray Brennan takes them all—the blind, the deaf, the crippled, the homeless, the unwanted. They are Thailand's outcasts—victims of a society that has few resources for the disabled, objects of pity who are helpless to determine their own fate.

The children are usually referred to Father Ray by the local authorities or abandoned by weary parents who can no longer cope; sometimes babies are simply dropped off at his doorstep. Many of the children have twisted or mangled limbs—others have no hands or feet at all. Some of the deformities have been caused by complications at birth; others by disease or accidents.

One young man, for example, was the target of a stray bullet at the Cambodian border; he is paralyzed from the waist down. Another child, his legs withered by polio, was rescued from a life of begging in the streets of Bangkok. A shy young girl, who is hearing impaired, was ostracized by her village and then abandoned by her parents. Another boy still bears the scars from hydrochloric acid thrown in his face by his brother.

All of these children, each with a tragic past, have found a home with Father Ray, a Catholic priest in the Redemptorist order. "In this part of the world, it's a harder life," he explains. "Some children are rejected by parents who think a handicap is a curse on the family. Others are abandoned or abused, and run away from home. None of them ever thought they would be anything but a burden to their families."

In Thailand, disabled children of poor families are often relegated to society's lowliest positions—collecting garbage for re-sale, selling lottery tickets, or begging in the streets. They rarely, if ever, have a chance for an education or to pursue a

meaningful occupation.

But Father Ray has made a new life possible. Near the bustling beach resort of Pattaya, 137 kilometres (85 miles) southeast of Bangkok, he has built a complex of schools for the blind, the deaf, and the disabled. He offers vocational courses in computer operations and electronics repair. He also runs an orphanage, whose residents range from a month old to age 22.

Father Ray affectionately refers to all 256 as "my kids." "I often think of the words under the Statue of Liberty," says Father Ray. "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses . . . ' because those are the people I take care of."

No needy child is turned away. "We always have room," the priest says emphatically. "We always *make* room."

Father Ray is a towering presence in the young peoples' lives—both physically and spiritually. He is a burly man with a gruff demeanor, but his deep-set eyes reveal an amused twinkle. Despite his espousal of the "tough love" ethic, he is always there to listen and lend a guiding hand. "They fear and respect me as a parent," he says. "I love them, and they love me."

He is renowned among Thailand's clergy for his clever wit, kinetic energy, and ceaseless efforts to help his kids. When he is not at the seemingly endless (to him) succession of meetings with clergymen, prospective donors, local service agencies, adoptive parents, and myriad authorities, he is with the children—night and day. As he strolls through the orphanage, they swarm over him like ants, hungry for affection.

Father Ray, a former member and past president of the Rotary Club of Pattaya, admits that he could not have accomplished his many goals without Rotary's help. (He is no

longer a member due to meeting time conflicts.) "Rotarians have given me not only financial support, but also moral support," he says.

It was more by accident than design that Father Ray ended up in Pattaya more than 20 years ago. A missionary from Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., he came to Pattaya to replace another priest who was ill. At that time, Pattaya was a small dusty town surrounded by farms. But as the local businesses and tourist trade expanded, so did the needs of the local people. In 1973, Father Ray started an orphanage because "if I didn't do it, no one else would." He never dreamed it would become the stepping stone to so many other projects.

With the help of two Pattaya Rotarians, Father Ray obtained a loan to help finance the orphanage. Over the years, the Rotary Club of Pattaya has donated both funds and supplies to the various projects.



A second club, the Rotary Club of Jomtien-Pattaya, was chartered in 1987. One of its members, Ron Hogston, retired from British Airways after 34 years. He has found a new career as a volunteer English teacher at Father Ray's school for the disabled. Since the school's computer programs are in English and many business executives in Bangkok and Pattaya speak English, it is vital that the students have some understanding of the language.

For Ron, his first try at teaching has been very gratifying. "You can't take on all the problems of a country, so you just do your small part—it does make a difference."

The Jomtien-Pattaya club is also initiating a youngster-mentorship program called "Give us a Chance." In return for supporting a student, the sponsor receives the young person's photograph, letters, and progress reports. "We want this to be a more personal link between the donor and the child—not just a pas-

Members of the Rotary Club of Jomtien-Pattaya enjoy signing and smiling with children at the school for the deaf. Left to right: Rotarians Danny Simpson, Ron Hogston, and Niels Colov, 1989-90 club president.



Left: Father Ray with one of his "kids," who was stricken by polio at the age of two: "I want them to have a life they can be proud of."



Graduates of the computer and electronics courses have a 100-percent job placement rate—a remarkable statistic by any country's standards.

sive act of giving money," explains Ron.

In addition, the Jomtien-Pattaya Rotary club is sponsoring a project to raise funds to modernize the computer and electronics equipment at the Handicapped School.

The largest contributor to Father Ray's projects has been a Rotary

club thousands of miles away in Rønne, Denmark. The club has been instrumental, along with the Rotary Club of Fulham, England, in supporting the school for the deaf. Members from both clubs have made periodic visits to Thailand to see the projects firsthand.

In 1988, the two clubs received a Special Grant of U.S. \$50,000 from The Rotary Foundation of R.I. to launch Father Ray's most recent venture—the school for the blind. The priest admits, "At the time, I didn't know much about caring for or teaching the visually impaired. It was—as the saying goes—the blind leading the blind."

Today, it is the only school for the blind in southern Thailand. A group of 160 Rotarians and their wives from England and Denmark were on hand for the school's opening, where they presented Father Ray with Paul Harris Fellow recognition.

The Rønne and Fulham Rotary clubs have embarked on several innovative fundraisers to support the project, including a spectacular air show in Denmark and the marketing of wine under a Rotary label in England. In addition, Rotary clubs in the U.S. and Australia have contributed to the schools.

The Pattaya Rotarians encourage visiting Rotarians to see Father

(continued on page 58)

● Cary Silver is an assistant editor of THE ROTARIAN.

Ray's projects for themselves. The guests are always touched by the affection of the orphans and deaf children, who cling to them and want to be held.

Father Ray is perhaps most proud of the vocational school for the handicapped. He relates a particularly poignant story of one boy who desperately wanted to enroll in the electronics course. Unfortunately, the young man suffered from a severe deformity—he had no feet and the full use of only one arm. "When I interviewed him, I tried to tell him in the nicest possible way that he could not be accepted into the electronics school, because he would have problems lifting the amplifiers and handling the radio equipment."

Upon hearing this, the boy was crestfallen. He stood straight up on the stumps of his legs and pleaded, "Father, look at me. I am so ugly that wherever I go . . . people move away from me out of repulsion.

"If you do not take me into your school, I will probably kill myself, since I cannot stand it any longer."

It was not the rejection he could no longer bear, but his own uselessness. Father Ray was so moved that he gave the boy a chance. Today, he is a successful radio and television repairman.

Father Ray has taken kids off the streets—and against all odds—made each of them a success story. The graduates of the computer and electronics courses have a remarkable job placement rate of 100 percent. Rotarians have played a key role in helping to place some of these students. One member of the Jomtien-Pattaya club, Bill Burbridge, hired a student to operate the computer in his scuba shop.

Father Ray remarks, "My goal is not to change the world—I can't do that. But I will have succeeded if I can teach them just enough to hold their heads high, to earn their own rice, to have a life they can be proud of."

Perhaps the spirit of the school was best exemplified at Thailand's

Special Olympics held last year at Bangkok's national stadium. Father Ray's kids entered the events, despite a lack of training and the proper equipment.

"I really felt sorry for one of our guys in the wheelchair race," recalls Father Ray, shaking his head. "I remember him looking at his old, rusty wheelchair and then at his competitors' shiny, chrome-plated machines. The poor kid—he didn't have a chance."

Yet to the priest's astonishment—and everyone else's—the student not only won the event, but crossed the finish line with a commanding lead. Father Ray's students also went on to win a bronze medal in the wheelchair race, and gold medals in two badminton events. The students were interviewed on national Thai television and written up in the press.

"There was a big lump in my throat," Father Ray admits. "But I didn't want to show it . . . I didn't want to give myself away as an old softie."

Will this tough Chicago priest ever move on? "I still have too much to do," he says, giving an exuberant bear hug to a pair of young deaf girls who sign, "I love you."

After returning the sign, he says with a smile, "Thailand is my home now—and these are my kids." ●

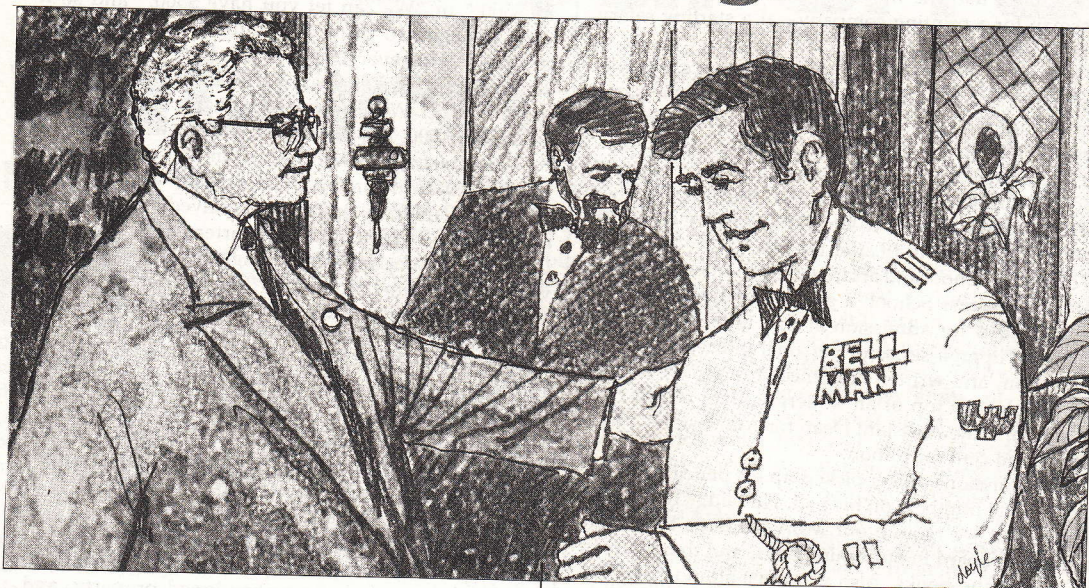
To contact Father Ray Brennan, write the Pattaya Orphanage, P.O. Box 15, Pattaya City, Chonburi, 20150 Thailand. For more information on the "Give us a Chance" project, contact the Rotary Club of Jomtien-Pattaya, 596/2 Soi 13, Pattaya, 20260 Thailand.

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE ON PAGE 2

The shortest one I heard of had just one word: "Come." It was carved in crayon by a six-year-old to his grandmother . . . the laziest . . . was from . . . summer camp, quoted here in its entirety: "Dear Mom and Dad. Can't think of anything to write. Love, Joe."

Rotarians made a big difference in one man's life with . . .

A gift of encouragement



by William B. Seiniger

It was a week after Labor Day, in September 1939. I was working as a bellhop at a summer hotel in New Hampshire, U.S.A. I should have been entering my senior year at Boston University. I *should* have been, but it looked as though I wouldn't make it. This was the Depression. The tips had been poor and my summer earnings were not enough to pay the tuition. I don't remember how much the tuition was, but I lacked \$250.

I remember so well that particular day at the old Sunset Hill House on Sugar Hill, New Hampshire. Autumn was already starting to turn a few of the leaves and a bright sun shone down on the mountains. Ordinarily the hotel would have closed the day after Labor Day. That year, however, the Rotary Club of Boston had booked a week-long meeting at the hotel and I stood out on the long veranda talking with one of the guests, a member of the Rotary club.

As we talked, I asked him just what Rotary was and what the clubs did. He spoke with great enthusiasm, telling me how the Boston club had set up a loan fund for students trying to enter college. His lips hadn't finished framing that sentence before I told him I was just what his club was looking for.

I no longer remember his name, and I wish I could. The gentleman told me he would speak to the club

president, Daniel Marsh. He told me to contact him as soon as I returned to Boston at the end of the week. The club had an office in the Hotel Statler office building. I returned home a few days later than I had planned, and my mother told me "a man from the Rotary club" called and left his telephone number.

I called immediately. It was Daniel Marsh, asking why I hadn't been in to see him. Within 20 minutes I was in his office. I may have walked over, but I think I ran all the way. He told me that he had already met with the loan fund committee and he had a check for me for \$250. He then told me the club had only one condition on the loan.

A student obtaining a loan had to take out a \$1,000 insurance policy with the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company and keep up the premiums while the loan was outstanding. The company always paid its dividends, even in the Depression. The dividends were to be assigned to the Boston club to repay the loan. When the loan was repaid, I could keep up the policy or drop it. In those days and at my young age, the monthly premiums amounted to very little. I registered the next day.

Upon graduation, I decided I would go back to work at the hotel for one more season. The tips in the summer of 1940 were better. When fall rolled around I had saved several hundred dollars.

Upon returning to Boston that fall, I walked into the Rotary club office and handed the president my

check for \$250. He seemed stunned. He said, "But the insurance policy is paying your loan. You don't have to repay it yourself, just keep up the premiums."

But I had a Depression mentality. Being in debt was like having a sword hanging over my head. I handed back the check and told him I wanted to pay off my debt while I had the money. I had found a job as a salesman for a printing company—at a starting salary of \$15 a week.

Then came Pearl Harbor, and everyone's life was changed drastically. Nothing would ever be the same again. Things began moving with dizzying speed. I tried to enlist in the Air Corps, as it was called then, but was turned down on my physical. I then heard of an opportunity to enter the Harvard Business School's MBA program. It was to be the last MBA class the school would have until after the war.

I called the school and arranged for an interview. The Harvard Business School, a graduate school, used no graduate tests for admission at that time. Everything depended upon a series of personal interviews, one's application, and written references from fairly important people. On top of an undergraduate record that did not thrill the Assistant Dean for Admissions, I had not one red cent for tuition.

The admissions officer picked up his pencil and hurriedly wrote numbers on his pad. He said, "You live in Boston, but we require our MBA students to live on campus, to board in our dining halls, and then there is the tuition and books. Also you must attend class and all functions in a business suit, white shirt, and tie, at all times. For the two years, that will come to \$3,500. Can you raise the money?"

He might as well have asked me if I thought I could raise the money to buy Rockefeller Center in New York City. There was nothing rational I could say, so I said, "I don't know how, but I believe I can."

He replied, "You know, I believe you can! There are only three weeks to registration days. If you can raise the money in time and your references live up to my expectations, we'll admit you to the MBA program."

As I walked out the door, the only source of money I could think of was the Rotary Club of Boston. Perhaps I could get another \$250 loan, since I now felt I had a good credit standing with them. That was an awful long way from \$3,500—but it would be \$250 more than I had.

I called the current club president with my story and asked for another \$250. At first, I was greatly disappointed. I was told the club's funds were limited to helping undergraduate students. But two days later the club president was on the phone again. "Come on back," he said. "I've contacted the loan committee members and they agree the country needs people with the kind of training you will be getting at Harvard."

Again I ran, not walked, to the club's office. Said the president, "Here's your check for \$250. In the meantime, I've had a list typed up of a number of other or-

ganizations in the city that might let you have some money toward that \$3,500. However, it's up to you to call on them and see whether you can convince any of them to lend you any money. Good luck."

I started at the top of the list, walking from one end of Boston's downtown section to the other. In every case, the answer was, "Well, we can let you have \$300," or "We can let you have \$500," and so it went. I began to think I was the world's greatest fundraiser. However, I soon realized my mentor in the Rotary club had called every one of these organizations and set me up. Within a week I had checks totaling my required \$3,500. On the appointed day, I entered the Harvard Business School. As soon as I graduated, I went into the army in the Quartermaster Corps. I went to Officer Candidate School and received a commission as a second lieutenant. The Quartermaster General's Office in Washington was looking for "officers with advanced management training," and I served a year and a half in the Pacific, India, and Burma. Before the war ended, I was able to repay all of the \$3,500.

After the war, like many others, I returned to civilian life, married, and started my career. This is not meant to be an autobiography, but my experience with the Rotary Club of Boston didn't end there. In 1980, I retired from a management consulting firm in Washington, D.C. My wife and I moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, where I am still active in business.

In the spring of 1988, an uncle living in Boston phoned me. He said, "Your name is in the *Boston Globe* on a list of people having abandoned property, and there is a telephone number for you to call."

I couldn't remember having abandoned any property. I called the number and found it was the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company. I had kept up the \$1,000 insurance policy for some 10 years after getting out of the service. Then, for some reason, I forgot about it and let it lapse, or so I thought. The company representative told me the policy's dividends kept on accumulating and paying the premiums automatically, but since I had moved around so much, Massachusetts Mutual lost track of me long ago. A few weeks later, I received a substantial check.

This is not meant to be a story of great success or what a smart boy I am. It is a story of how some Rotarians, and a few others, produced long-term results. The money the Boston Rotary Club provided me was great, but it wasn't the money that was so significant in my life. It was the encouragement they gave me and the confidence they showed in a youngster who, at the time, didn't have much to go on. You might say, a little encouragement—a little show of confidence at the right time—can go a long way. Over 50 years so far. ©

• William Seiniger is a businessman in Charlotte, North Carolina, U.S.A. This article is adapted from a speech he gave to the Rotary Club of Mint Hill-Matthews, North Carolina.



dicade that the truth is directly contrary to your belief. In developing countries, parents see children as a necessity to help do the work to support the family and as a form of old-age insurance. When parents face the possible loss of children to polio or to the other diseases, or when they consider the burden of a

crippled child who can contribute nothing to the family support, they are likely to have *more* children, not fewer. So in a Third World context, a high incidence of polio actually *contributes* to overpopulation—it does not reduce it.”

These are the answers I am tempted to give. But after thoughtful con-

sideration, I feel it might be better to respond to the doubters with some compelling words written many years ago by the English poet John Donne. Donne, looking far down the corridors of time, must have foreseen the interwoven complexities of our 20th-century world, for he wrote:

“No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main . . . any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.”

I would hope that every Rotarian will hear the echoes of those figurative bells in his own inner consciousness. In the next few months, each of us is going to be asked to make a personal decision about our support of PolioPlus. We can, of course, choose to do nothing. Or we can choose to spend “our” money on “our” people in “our” town. And if that is our decision, there will be 125,000 fewer mouths to feed over the next five years and more than a million maimed bodies that someone will have to care for and support as long as they live. And we will have to live with that knowledge.

Frankly, I don’t think that we in Rotary need all those terrible numbers to lead us to the right decision. When I think about my own personal PolioPlus contribution, my thoughts cannot help but revert to that one little boy whose name is Jackie. I think about how much this bright, beautiful child means to me and how fervently I want a good future for him. And I feel an empathy for all the other little Jakies of the world—and their parents—that knows no bounds. I don’t need anything else to guide me in my decision.

Rotary has made a commitment, a promise to the children of the world. Each Rotarian is being asked to join in that commitment and in that promise. If you will do this, then we shall surely accomplish our dream and our goal in PolioPlus—that very soon the children of every land will be able to live and laugh and run and play, unthreatened by the wretched disease, poliomyelitis. ●

● C. Eugene (Gene) Neal, a member of the Rotary Club of Fairfield, Texas, U.S.A., is one of 11 international coordinators for the PolioPlus Program.

THESE ROTARIANS

A Rotarian's noble work garners a Nobel nomination

BY JOHN ADAMS

For almost a decade now, Dr. Jordan Phillips, a member of the Rotary Club of Downey, California, U.S.A., has been sending medical books to the Peoples Republic of China, to replenish those burned and destroyed by the Red Guards during the Cultural Revolution. To acknowledge Dr. Phillips's work, the Chinese Ministry of Public Health nominated him for the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize, a rare honor for a private citizen of any country.

method and equipment were the talk of the Chinese medical world.

Laparoscopy is the insertion of a tiny tube through which a doctor sees. It often takes the place of long and complicated exploratory operations. Dr. Phillips pioneered the technique in the field of gynecology. Although laparoscopy has been applied to many fields of medicine, the technique was unknown to the Chinese.

Like the wandering scholars who carried their wisdom west from Byzantium after the fall of that empire, Dr. Phillips found himself the bearer of great knowledge to a new land.

He quickly learned how much damage the Cultural Revolution had caused. "I'd ask to see the library of

Not content to act as a mere "postman," he has made 35 trips to China to oversee the vast project he began in 1979—the most recent visit was in October. He has also organized an international medical team to travel and teach at hospitals and medical schools throughout China.

Although he did not become the Peace Prize laureate—that honor went to the United Nations Peace-keeping Forces—Dr. Phillips continues his pursuit of international understanding. And he's still a hero in China.

• John Adams is Downey city editor for the News Tribune, where a version of this article first appeared. The newspaper serves Downey and other California cities.

MARY ZOE PHILLIPS



Nobel Peace Prize nominee Rotarian Jordan Phillips of California, U.S.A. (left), presents a medical textbook to Dr. Wu Hsien-Chung, president of Tianjin Medical University in The Peoples Republic of China (see item).

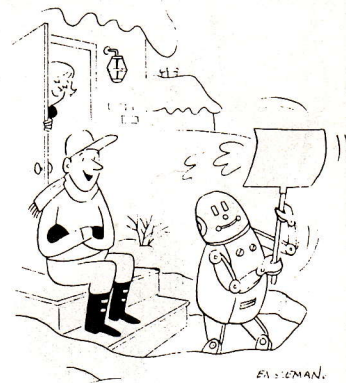
It all started in January 1979. Dr. Phillips, a specialist in gynecological laparoscopies, was lecturing in South Korea when he heard the news that China had just "normalized" relations with the U.S. "Why not be one of the first Americans to visit China?" he asked himself, then proceeded to do just that.

When he arrived on the mainland, he told the officials who greeted him that he still had all his lecture notes and slides with him. When he reached the next city on his tour, 30 physicians were waiting to meet him. Before the first trip was over, Dr. Phillips had performed the first laparostomy ever in China. His

the medical school I was visiting, only to be told that it had been burned down," he says.

It got him thinking.

Soon Dr. Phillips was sending medical books by the ton to China. In 1981, he founded the nonprofit corporation called Medical Books for China, and sent a letter to 1,200 U.S. medical libraries, asking them to contribute any books they could spare. Today, Dr. Phillips—with the help of many friends and the Downey Rotary Club—has shipped more than 1.2 million books to China. He has also collected and sent hundreds of video and audio tapes, and pathology slides.



"You don't know how long I've waited for this day!"

POLIOPLUS REPORT

The global war on polio

In Geneva, Switzerland, a small group of international experts in immunization gathered last September at the headquarters of the World Health Organization (WHO) to review a newly drafted, 21-page document. Its title presented a challenge as lofty as the nearby snow-capped peak of Mont Blanc: "A Plan of Action for Global Poliomyelitis Eradication by the Year 2000."

Some in the group, who came from nine nations, were veterans of the campaign which rid the world of smallpox 10 years ago. Their chairman was the man who led the global smallpox eradication team, Dr. D.A. Henderson, dean of the School of Public Health and Hygiene

at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A. Dr. Henderson also serves as an expert consultant to Rotary's PolioPlus program.

Four months earlier, the 166 member nations of WHO voted unanimously to set the target: to eradicate polio by the year 2000. The dramatic resolution was made possible by many factors, including Rotary's unprecedented support and UNICEF's massive commitment to immunization. In addition, the WHO-sponsored Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) assists developing nations in providing vaccines against all six childhood diseases—measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, tetanus, tuberculosis, and polio.

EPI Director Dr. Ralph "Rafe" Henderson started to prepare the draft plan within weeks of the WHO resolution. For two days in September, the group, which included Herbert Pigman, director of the Ro-

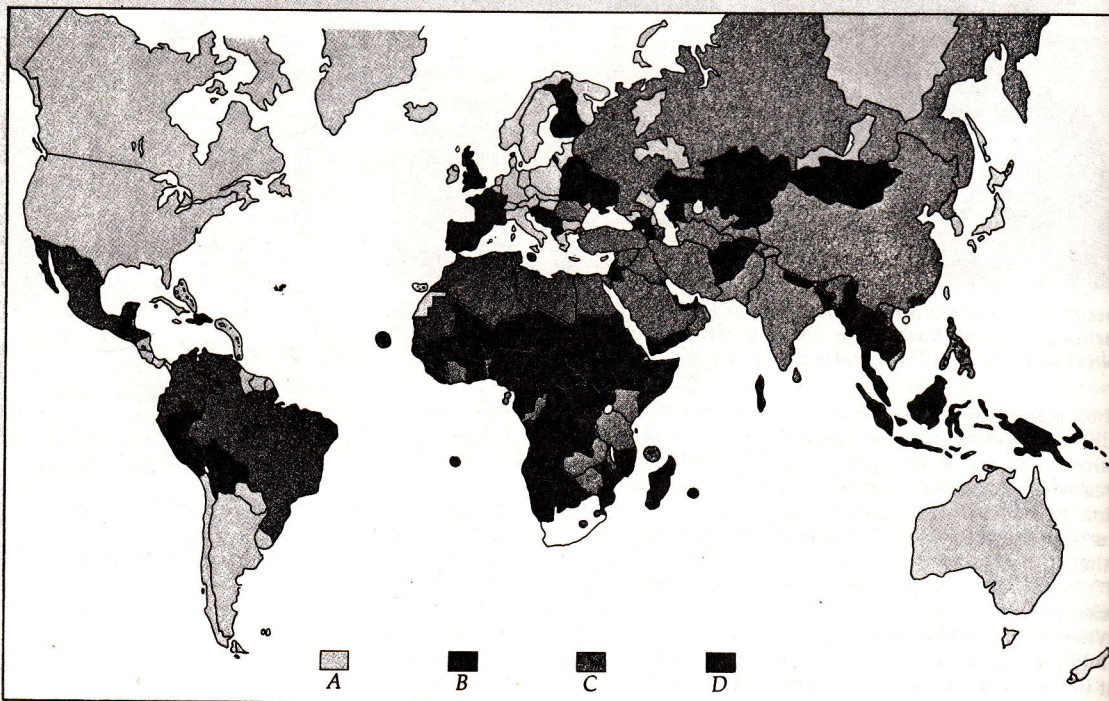
tary International Immunization Task Force (and former R.I. general secretary), discussed and debated the strategies to be employed during the next 12 years on the march toward a polio-free world.

A tough battle ahead

What are the prospects of eradicating polio? After all, the effort to eradicate malaria failed. On the other hand, the smallpox campaign succeeded, but it took over 20 years and cost U.S. \$300 million.

Eradicating polio will be a tough, prolonged, and expensive battle, according to Task Force Director Pigman. But it can be done, because polio has an Achilles heel: The virus cannot survive long outside a human host. If sufficient numbers of children are immunized and if coverage is sustained, the transmission of the disease can be interrupted and eventually the virus will die.

"There are great technical as well



The global war on polio: Depicted are 164 countries and geographical regions. Group A (yellow): Countries that have reported zero indigenous cases due to wild polio virus in the last three years and have immunization coverage of greater than 80 percent. Group B (green): Less than 10 cases per year for the last three years. Group C (blue): More than 10 cases per year, with coverage over 50 percent. Group D (red): More than 10 cases per year or unknown, with coverage less than 50 percent or unknown. Countries with no color: statistics unknown. Three out of four people live in countries shown in the red and blue categories. Statistics as of August 1988. (Source: World Health Organization)

as social problems to be overcome," says Herb, "but the world is launching the battle from a position much stronger than that which existed in 1958 at the start of the smallpox campaign."

Today, health experts have several advantages. First, developing nations show a growing capacity to deliver vaccine. More than 50 percent of the developing world's 117 million newborns already are receiving the third dose of polio or DPT vaccine, and 70 percent are getting at least one dose. Fifteen years ago, less than one child in 20 was being immunized. Second, the WHO resolution will spur greater political commitment, funds, and international cooperation. Third, the goal of polio eradication can become an engine that drives EPI progress.

By the year 2000, health leaders expect to see, along with polio eradication, massive reductions in the incidence of measles, whooping cough, and diphtheria, and the possible elimination of tetanus among newborns. Currently these six childhood diseases kill or disable seven million children each year.

Rotary's success in raising U.S. \$230 million dollars in cash and pledges for PolioPlus has had a major impact on the health programs of many developing countries. Herb explains, "For a private organization to marshal such massive financial support—and to back it up with voluntary manpower and leadership of the private sector—is viewed by national health leaders as an incredible achievement.

"And this appreciation goes all the way down the line. A rural health worker in West Africa told me, 'You cannot realize what a boost it gives us to have Rotarians working side by side with us.'"

Rotarians' generous response to PolioPlus—more than \$100 million over goal—assures that the original goal of PolioPlus, to provide polio vaccine for five years to newborns of the developing world, will be met. Moreover, the extra funds will enable Rotary to help eradicate the disease.

"The world has taken a giant step in its commitment to eradication," Herb reports. "If this can be achieved, polio can eventually be stopped, as was the case with smallpox."

Launching the plan

The World Health Organization's global eradication plan has three stages. By 1990 the principal goals are to:

1) Increase national capacities to report polio cases and coverage on a "district" basis (a geopolitical subdivision ranging up to a few million in population). This enables nations to pinpoint where their immunization programs need strengthening.

2) Assure that all countries use a polio vaccine that meets WHO requirements.

3) Establish a cooperative network of regional laboratories with the ability to isolate and type polio virus and differentiate vaccine-like virus from wild polio virus.

4) Introduce training courses and materials for health workers that will result in better surveillance (case detection) and reporting systems, vaccine potency testing, and serological (blood) tests for polio immunity.

5) Define the most effective polio outbreak control procedures, review current oral polio vaccine (OPV) formulations, and review possible combined use of inactivated and oral vaccines.

6) Establish regional advisory bodies to review progress and to coordinate support from UN agencies, governments, and private and non-governmental groups.

The goals for 1995 seek to stop polio transmission in European and Western Pacific regions, and to certify formally its eradication in the Americas. In addition, health experts envision that polio-free nations and zones will be achieved in Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean, and the Southeast Asian regions.

By the year 2000, the plan envisages no cases of clinical poliomyelitis associated with wild polio virus; eradication of the virus; and the start of certification.

What is the total price tag for polio eradication? The cost cannot easily be separated from the costs of the EPI program, which covers not only polio, but the five other childhood diseases.

Currently, WHO estimates that it costs about U.S. \$10, on average, for each child to be fully immunized against the six childhood diseases. That adds up to \$500 million a year

at the present coverage levels (50 percent of newborns).

The developing nations themselves provide about 80 percent of their EPI costs at present. As coverage increases, however, many poor nations will need more aid. The special costs incurred by WHO to eradicate polio will total an estimated minimum of \$155 million during the period 1989-2000. (This amount is over and above the ongoing support to EPI from all sources, including Rotary's contribution.) Most of this will be invested in expert help to nations which lack the technical capacities to achieve the goal.

Rotary's leadership role

To help launch the global eradication plan, the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International in November 1988, allocated U.S. \$5.331 million, for the next six years, to fund a team of technical experts. They will be recruited immediately to help nations develop the technical abilities needed to achieve the goal of eradication. The Rotary Foundation will enter into a contractual agreement with WHO to identify and deploy these experts.

EPI Director Rafe Henderson describes the trustee action as "a tremendous act of leadership in behalf of this cause." When nations adopted the polio eradication goal, he says, the money was not pledged to carry it out. Until governments could act, the program would suffer delays of up to two years. Now, spurred on by Rotary's leadership, work can begin immediately.

The technical experts will also assist Rotarians in developing countries in their work to increase coverage, overcome logistical problems of vaccine delivery; and improve surveillance.

At their November meeting, the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation also approved new PolioPlus grants of U.S. \$12,495,760, bringing Rotary's commitment of funds for the eradication of polio to a total of \$98,318,210.

Nine new names were added to the PolioPlus list of countries receiving Rotary's help to purchase polio vaccine and to mobilize public support for immunization. Grants were also awarded to eight countries already on the list for additional

funds to further their polio eradication efforts. Most of these second and third grants went to nations in the Western Hemisphere where the goal is eradication by 1990.

First-time grants were awarded to Algeria, Egypt, Guyana, Mauritania, Namibia, and a grouping of four Western Pacific island nations—Fiji, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Western Samoa. Among these grants, the largest is for Egypt—\$2.56 million.

The eight nations receiving grants for additional funds are Bangladesh, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Paraguay.

Mopping up

At present, one region, the Americas, is driving hard for polio eradication by 1990. Polio cases—or the absence of them—are now being reported on a weekly basis from each nation to the headquarters of the Pan American Health Organization, (PAHO/WHO) located in Washington, D.C.

Only 12 countries are still reporting polio cases in this region. Of the 13,296 *municipios* (districts) in these 12 nations, the polio cases are confined to less than one percent; two thirds of these are in urban areas.

In a plan called "Operation Mop-Up," Rotarians in cooperation with experts provided by PAHO and national and local health ministries

will concentrate their efforts on wiping out these last pockets of polio transmission. In November, the trustees allocated up to U.S. \$1,264,960 for the special campaign and personnel needed for "Operation Mop-Up" in nine of the 12 polio-endemic countries. Other agencies are funding the other three. In addition to Operation Mop-Up, PolioPlus funds are providing oral polio vaccine for immunization days in all 12 nations, which are part of the region's eradication strategy.

In all 79 PolioPlus grant-recipient nations, Rotarians are working on the global plan's number one priority: raising and sustaining polio vaccine coverage. In Nigeria, Rotarians promoted national immunization days in 1988, with the result that more vaccine was delivered during the country's national immunization days than during all of the previous year. In Côte d'Ivoire, Rotarians led the social mobilization efforts for the 1988 national immunization days which boosted the percentage of children receiving the third dose of oral polio vaccine to 70 percent from its previous level of 20 percent.

Rotarians are also strengthening routine programs by promoting increased use of fixed immunization posts. In India, for example, Rotarians are developing a national PolioPlus Immunization Task Force—35,000 Rotarians, spouses, and mem-

bers of Rotaract, Interact, and Rotaract Village Corps—who will help health workers reach children in slums and other underserved urban areas.

In Mexico, where national immunization days augment routine coverage, Rotarians are generating some \$5-7 million a year in services contributed from the private sector in support of immunization programs.

National workshops have been conducted in 50 nations to date.

The war on polio is gaining momentum, but is far from over (see map). Herb Pigman adds, "The battle will require real stamina on the part of Rotarians. Their sustained help will be needed long after the excitement of immunization days has passed.

"Rotarians will need to make new parents constantly aware that they must have their babies immunized. They must persuade governments to give the health sector high priority in national expenditures. And they must continue to boost the morale of health workers by working shoulder to shoulder with them."

The reward will be great: a polio-free world for the children of the next century.

PolioPlus finishes on a high note

Sixteen opera stars of international renown were featured in a PolioPlus benefit held in Vienna, Austria in September. The "Opera Stars in Concert" event was staged in the festival hall of the Vienna Music Association. Two hours of the concert were broadcast live on Austrian and German television, and portions will also air in other European countries, including Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

The singers represented a mix of talents from Austria, the Canary Islands, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, and the United States. The soloists were accompanied by a symphony orchestra directed by Anton Guadagno.

The event, co-sponsored by the PolioPlus Campaign Committees of Austria and Germany, was organized by Gerhard Perner, 26, son of Austrian R.I. Past District Governor Gunther Perner. This was one PolioPlus fundraiser that ended on an upbeat note.

NEW POLIOPLUS GRANTS (allocated in November 1988)

(Most grants provide polio vaccine to immunize nationwide for five years and support to local Rotarian efforts.)

Country Projects	Children to receive polio protection	U.S. dollars
Algeria	5,522,000	U.S. \$982,300
Egypt	10,150,000	2,560,000
Fiji	118,000	39,000
Guyana	146,000	83,000
Mauritania	544,000	311,500
Namibia	408,000	136,500
Tuvalu	2,000	2,000
Vanuatu	18,000	7,000
Western Samoa	34,000	12,000

the
4-way
test



OF THE THINGS WE THINK, SAY OR DO

1. Is it the TRUTH ?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned ?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRINEDSHIP ?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned ?

DECLARATION OF ROTARIANS IN BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS

As a Rotarian engaged in a business or profession, I am expected to:-

1. Consider my vocation to be another opportunity to serve;
2. Be faithful to the letter and to the spirit of the ethical codes of my vocation, to the laws of my country, and to the highest ethical standards in my chosen vocation.
3. Do all in my power to dignify my vocation and to promote the highest ethical standards in my chosen vocation;
4. Be fair to my employer, employees, associates, competitors, customers, the public and all those with whom I have a business or professional relationship;
5. Recognize the honor and respect due to all occupations which are useful to society;
6. Offer my vocational talents: to provide opportunities for young people, to work for the relief of the special needs of others, and to improve the quality of life in my community;
7. Adhere to honesty in my advertising and in all representations to the public concerning my business or profession;
8. Neither seek from nor grant to a fellow Rotarian a privilege or advantage not normally accorded others in a business or professional relationship.



FORMATION OF OUR KUCHING CENTRAL CLUB

CREATION

- AUG 05,85 – The Board of Directors of the “Rotary Club of Kuching” meeting at the residence of President John Chin (85/86) saw it fitting to propose and discuss the formation of a new Rotary Club in Kuching in conjunction with its Golden Jubilee (50 years) celebration in 1986. Meeting agreed that this task be undertaken by PP Lt Col Devan Pilai and PP Dr. Ong Shak Foo.

FORMATION

- APR 25,86 – 1st Interest Meeting for the formation of a “New” Rotary Club in Kuching held on Friday 5:30 PM at the Mulu Room, Holiday Inn Kuching organised by President John Chin (85/86), PP Lt Col Devan Pilai and Secretary Joseph Lim and attended by upcoming citizens from various walks of life in the State Capital.
- MAY 02,86 – 2nd Interest Meeting also at the Holiday Inn Kuching elected the PRO-TEM COMMITTEE of the PROVISIONAL CLUB.
- MAY 09,86 – 3rd Interest Meeting elected Mr. Chua Teck Kheng, Senior Agriculture Economist attached to the Agriculture Dept Sarawak – President of the new Club.
- Members voted for the weekly fellowship to be held on every Thursday 5:30 PM
 - The proposed name chosen was the “Rotary Club of Bandar Kuching”

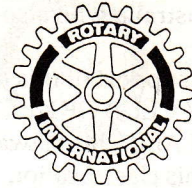
THE PROVISIONAL CLUB

- MAY 12,86 – 1st Board of Directors’ Meeting of the new club was held at the Army Officers’ Mess at Reservoir Road, Kuching attended by Club Advisors: IPP John Chin (85.86) PP Lt Col Devan Pilai and PP Dr. Ong Shak Foo.
- Meeting was informed that the Sponsoring Club – “Rotary Club of Kuching” was generally not in favour of the proposed name as it may lead to membership confusion and it was agreed that the choice of a new name be left to the members’ during the next weekly Meeting.
- MAY 15,86 – 1st Weekly Meeting to be held on Thursday 5:30 PM

- 1st Overseas Visitors: RTN Reg Stokes and Ann from the "Rotary Club of Bairnsdale" Victoria Australia who also presented their club Banner to the Club.
- After many a speech in support of this or that name, the majority voted in favour of the "ROTARY CLUB OF KUCHING CENTRAL", (PROVISIONAL)
- JUN 05,86 - Sergeant-at-Arms, RTN Ang Khim Hwa was the 1st member to introduce himself and spoke on this classification - Mathematics Education.
- JUN 19,86 - Club Banner Design incorporating the historic Borneo High Court House in Kuching by virtue of its "Central" location and symbolising the first 2 tenets of the FOURWAY TEST of ROTARY : the Pursuit of TRUTH and FAIRNESS to be undertaken by RTN Odita Ibrahim.

ESTABLISHMENT

- DEC 09,86 - Registrar of Societies Malaysia issued Certificate of Registration No. 103/86 (Sarawak) - Official Recognition of our Club by the Government.
- DEC 23,86 - Charter of our Club - Formal Recognition of our Club by Rotary International.
- 65th Club in District 330.
- FEB 20,87 - 1st Press Report of our Club appeared in the Sarawak Tribune together with a Press Picture of our Charter President.
- MAR 28,87 - 1st Ladies Night at the Residence of the Charter Secretary - RTN Michael Hii.
- APR 20,87 - P.O. Box 641 allocated to our Club by the General Post Office Kuching.
- MAY 09,87 - 1st weekly fellowship to be held on Saturday 1:00 PM at the Holiday Inn Kuching.
- JUN 26,87 - CHARTER INSTALLATION.



Rotary Club of Kuching Central Chartered Members 1986/1987

Andy Alamsysh Suharto (Andre)	Community Service Director
Ang Khim Hwa (Ang)*	Sergeant-At-Arms
Michael Chew Swee Kee*	Member
Chieng Lee Ching (Lee Ching)	President Elect
Chong Kim Lin (Kim Lin)*	Member
Chua Teck Kheng (Teck Kheng)	Chartered President
Ee Guan Teck (Guan Teck)	Honorary Treasurer
James Hii Siew Hua	Member
Michael Hii (Michael)	Honorary Secretary
Hong Boon Kheng (Boon Kheng)*	Member
Kho Kwang Chee (Kwang Chee)*	Member
Dr. Samuel Kiyui (Samuel)	Bulletin Editor
John Lee (John)*	Member
Peter Lee Kok Chiang (Peter)*	Member
Odita Ibrahim (Odi)	Youth Service Director
Francis J. Rozario (Francis)*	Member
Jacob Sagan (Jacob)	Vice President
Sim Choo Phong (Choo Phong)	Member
Sun Nan Ping*	Member
Wilford Teo Swee Ching (Wilford)	Member
Tiong Soon King (Soon King)*	International Service Director
Wong Kho Ching (Kho Ching)**	Club Service Director
Frankie Yang (Frankie)	Vocational Service Director
Patrick Yu (Patrick)	Member
Zainal Abidin Hj. Ahmad (Zainal)*	Member

* Since left the club ** readmitted

List of Past Presidents

1986/1987	CP Chua Teck Kheng	Chartered President
1987/1988	PP Chieng Lee Ching	
1988/1989	PP Jacob Dungau Sagan	
1989/1990	PP James Hii	
1990/1991	PP Frankie Yang	
1991/1992	PP Odita Ibrahim	
1992/1993	IPP Loa Djin Liang (Left in February 1993)	
	Acting President Ee Guan Teck	