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1953

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NOTES FOR A HISTORY OF
THE ROTARY CLUB OF BANGOR, MAINE

1917 - 1953

by

Donald S. Higgins

Arranged by Alden F. Head

Bangor, 1953

Excerpts from the notes of Donald S. Higgins, who addressed the Bangor Rotary Club, February 24, 1953 on the occasion of the 48th anniversary of Rotary International. At the suggestion of the Board of Directors this memo becomes part of the permanent records of the club. (Copy to Bangor Public Library).

1917 - 1925

Preliminary meeting held June 4, 1917. Voted to hold weekly meetings beginning June 12. Harry Libbey elected first president, Will Nealley temporary secretary.

Twenty-six members attended first regular meeting with University of Maine trustees as guests.

Entrance fee \$5.00, annual dues \$10.00.

Harold H. (Hal) Hodge elected permanent secretary. Remained so until his death in 1943 except for the year 1936 - 37, when he was president.

Secretary instructed to collect price of luncheon from all who failed to give advance notice of absence.

Fine of 10¢ voted for late comers.

Voted to hold second meeting in the month in the evening.

Voted to offer services of club to Liberty Loan Drive.

A member dropped for non-attendance.

Rotarian Sir Harry Lauder spoke to club.

Voted to increase price of luncheon from 75¢ to \$1.00.

Harry Chapman gave talk on Bangor Fair.

R. I. asked for \$1.00 assessment per member plus \$12.50, to help defray expense of Boston Convention. Voted to pay the \$1.00 but protest the \$12.50 as outrageous.

Voted to change evening meeting back to noontime.

Theatre party organized for first ladies night.

Summer meetings held at the summer places of various members, Fred Maxfield in Winterport, and Albert Bass in Bar Harbor being among them.

Rotarian previously voted out for non-attendance readmitted and gave classification talk.

Luncheon changed from 12:45 P. M. to 1:00 P. M.

Voted to authorize the hiring of a Scout Master for the Boy Scouts Bangor area.

John Philip Sousa the speaker.

Committee appointed to talk with three members about attendance.

1925 - 1935

Fund raising drive for Eastern Maine General Hospital approved.

Charles Bartlett elected delegate to Los Angeles Convention.

Voted to protest changing Aroostook County clubs to another district. Protest withdrawn when Aroostook clubs liked the idea.

Luncheon held at Theological Seminary, W. J. Moulton spoke.

Boy Scouts gave silken American flag to club. (We still have the inscribed ferule from the staff.)

Meeting time changed to 12:35 P. M.

Admission fee raised to \$25.00, annual dues to \$25.00.

Donated \$42.00 to R.O.T.C. Bangor High School to buy rifle.

Two Rotarians raised \$400.00 to start a team in the Maine Association (Baseball).

Voted to entertain Spring Conference of the district.

Celebrated member Harold S. Boardman's appointment to presidency of U. of M.

Billy Sunday gave the program.

Joint meeting with Belfast and Old Town clubs.

Harry Rogers, R. I. president, spoke.

Charter night at Old Town.

Gregg Utterback spoke on passing of the horse.

George Otis Smith, director of U. S. Geological Survey, spoke.

Adopted tip of 10¢ per meal instead of \$5.00 annually.

Thornton Burgess spoke.

Pres. Shumway announced Navy Band Concerts.

Voted \$150.00 to Bangor Anti - T. B. Association.

Voted to eliminate selling of tickets or solicitation of club members unless approved by Board of Directors.

Musical program for Gregg Utterback upon his election to Congress.

Voted: Not opportune time to start Community Chest.

W. J. Moulton announced as candidate for District Governor.

Voted to underwrite Travelers Aid project - substantial contribution given.

Rotary sent out bulletin on Income Tax.

Committee appointed to help obtain land approaches to Washington St. bridge. Shortly after cleared the way.

First joint meeting of service clubs.

Senator Wallace White spoke.

Tipping assessment discontinued. Tip included in luncheon price.

1935 - 1945

Voted to pay admission of deserving applicant for admission to Home for Aged Men.

Voted \$150.00 for bunk house at Y.M.C.A. camp.

Sent two young people to each: Boy Scout, Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. camps.

Fish story program.

Club incorporated.

W. J. Moulton elected district governor. Installation ceremony. Carl Dennett spoke. Governor of Indiana, Paul McNutt replied.

Hod Hilton put on hobby program. George Eaton, sailing; Francis Frawley, photography; Jim Peabody, dogs; Hal Boardman, woods cooking.

Lincoln Colcord spoke.

Speaker failed to appear; names were drawn from hat and the following spoke: Boardman, Deck Smith, Paul Cloke, Head.

Voted to buy amplifier and speaker's stand. (Former now a gift to Mary Snow School)

All Souls Choir furnished Christmas music.

Community Chest established - campaign director spoke.

Governor Clark of Idaho spoke.

Voted to furnish one four-bed room in new building in Eastern Maine General Hospital.

Chief Poolaw, Princess Watawasso, and Mrs. Shea of the Penobscot tribe gave the program.

Voted \$50.00 toward monument to be placed by American Legion in Norumbega Mall.

A father, son, and daughter meeting was held.

Several members gave brief sketches of their lives.

Bangor was host club to the Spring Conference of the district.

Luncheon was at the Bangor Daily News office.

Winfield Richmond gave an outstanding program on his grand piano.

Silver Anniversary of Club with ladies present.

Another son and daughter party.

John D. Hamilton, former chairman of the Republican party, and James H. Farley, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, both in Bangor as guests of Rotarians.

1945 -- 1953

Rotary beat Kiwanis in a golf tournament.

100% meeting for District Governor Bill Linell.

One hundred fifty-five present to hear Senator Margaret Chase Smith.

Jim Peabody and Bill Beach attended the 25th anniversary of the Eastport Club, originally sponsored by our club.

Ellsworth began meetings.

Rotary was third in soft ball playoff.

Rear Admiral Carl F. Holden spoke.

Voted to participate with the Portland Club in sending food and clothing to France by trawler.

Sumner Pike spoke on Atomic Energy.

Toastmaster's Club formed. Among the members were Rotarians Coney, Boulter, Speirs and Chandler.

Roast beef at Lucerne for Ladies Night.

Christmas luncheon with ladies.