

25 Feb. 1944

The News Letter

No. 16 — 1943-44

To Club Presidents and Secretaries



From the R. I. Secretariat (Central Office)
35 E. Wacker Dr., Chicago 1, Ill., U. S. A.

Havana's Generosity

1,000,000 cigars
10,000,000 cigarettes
100,000 pounds of candy
160,000 chocolate bars
10,000 records of Cuban
rhumba music

were sent by the Rotary Club of Havana, Cuba, to allied soldiers fighting on the world's battlefronts.

These gifts were made possible by the campaign initiated by the Rotary club last September for money to buy Christmas gifts for allied soldiers, which raised \$125,000.

Last August, Havana Rotarians, in cooperation with several other organizations, sent American soldiers on Guadalcanal ten tons of Cuban candy.

Empire Services Club

Since November, 1939, when the Rotary Club of Grimsby and Cleethorpes, England, opened its Empire Services Club, the doors of this canteen have never been closed for a single day. Since that date over a million cups of tea and coffee and 800,000 light meals have been served to the soldier guests. The club provides innocent amusement, companionship under the best conditions, and, above all, an atmosphere of home and friendship. It is staffed entirely by volunteer workers.

Since last July, the Rotary club has invited four American servicemen to the club luncheon each week. Many of the guests have been Rotarians and sons of Rotarians.

Now

5,137 Rotary Clubs
218,500 Rotarians

(Of these 53 clubs with 1,600 members in war-affected countries are inactive)

84 New Clubs in 20 Countries

Since July 1, 1943

Brazil leads all countries (outside the United States of America) with 14 new clubs thus far this Rotary year.

活生之慶重

You Slog Through Mud...

for a mile downhill from our broadcasting station to Victory House in Chungking—a former Chinese club, now a hotel. Furnishings are very modest—you sit on little stools at a T-shaped table with the 43 members. You meet military men, mission representatives, business men, diplomatic corpsmen, professional men.

The luncheon is modest—soup, a meatball with an egg atop, potatoes, and a waffle for dessert. The cost—only eighty dollars! (A good dinner costs several times that price.)

The president, a member of the British Embassy and a resident of China for many years, introduces visiting Rotarians. Rotary club flags are on either side of him. One reads "Singapore Rotary Club," the other, "Hankow Rotary Club." These cities are in enemy-occupied territory—but their Rotary banners are ready to go back with the coming of Victory.

The secretary announces a gift of \$1,500 in U.S. currency from the Rotary Club of Philadelphia, Penna., U.S.A., as a gift to Chungking's needy—a sum that will realize some 45,000 Chinese dollars.

The president rises and says "Inasmuch as this is American Thanksgiving, let us sing 'America the Beautiful'." We do, thinking of those so many thousands of miles from us back home. We Americans are asked to sing a song of ours and we answer with a song dedicated to Chungking—"It Ain't Gonna Rain No More"—which, by the way, it is always doing.

It is a difficult life here—mud—lack of running water—lightless nights—difficult communications—threats of bombing—but Chungking carries on!

Taken from a letter from Geo. Grim, Jr., honorary member of the Rotary Club of Jersey City, New Jersey, U.S.A., to his home club, describing a typical meeting of the Rotary Club of Chungking.

活生之慶重

Today's Service Story

In this issue of the News Letter is a description of Calgary's Boys Town Club which is doing a great job in helping to decrease juvenile delinquency in Calgary.

While Calgary Rotary has made the Boys Town Club possible, one man is largely responsible for its unprecedented success. He is Hiram Coulter, employed by the Rotary Club to run Boys Town Club. He is a man not only trained to work with boys, but one who dearly loves that work. As soon as he took charge of the project, it took on new life—more boys joined, new activities were added. He now has 200 boys under his leadership, boys of many nationalities, races, and religions. Night after night he can be found at the club, working diligently for the welfare of his boys.

"Hi" Coulter is not only helping boys who might otherwise never know the joy of wholesome and cooperative effort in work and play—he is building for the future.

Phil

Rotarians Entertain Children of P. O. W.

Some 1,500 children, whose fathers are prisoners of war, were guests of the Rotary Club of Edinburgh, Scotland, at a pantomime performance of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears." The management contributed the use of the theatre and all artists and staff volunteered their services. As a special treat, arrangements were made with the Red Cross to release 2,000 bars of chocolate to the children.

Plans were made at this performance to put on another show for the benefit of the fathers of these 1,500 children, with the intention of sending a special parcel to each Edinburgh father in captivity.

£116 for the Red Cross

Seventeen Rotarians of Port Elizabeth, South Africa, recently spent Saturday morning on Main Street soliciting funds for the Red Cross. Their work was well done, for they collected £116.