

## "Christmas Mail Month"

September 15 to October 15

A paper, so entitled, is being mailed to all Rotary club presidents and secretaries in the U.S.A. It carries the announcement that the Adjutant General's Office of the Army Postal Service has designated the period of September 15 to October 15 as "Christmas mail month" for soldiers overseas, and includes rules for mailing Christmas parcels to members of the army outside continental U.S.A.

Club presidents can render a fine service to their government and to the men in the armed forces overseas by making this mailing information available, at the earliest possible date, to all club members.

## A Successful Smalltown Rotary Club

Governor Paul Hunter of the 144th district echoed the sentiments of his predecessor with these words when he visited the Rotary Club of Melrose, Wis.:

The most remarkable Rotary club I have ever heard of. Melrose is a village of only 462 people, yet it has had an active Rotary club for 15 years. The club rents two rooms over a store, using one for a kitchen and the other for meetings, charges its members fifty cents per week dues and that pays for meals, etc. When the treasury gets low, the club holds picnics, each man bringing his own food, but paying his fifty cents.

When the governor visited this club last year, he said:

Nothing but Rotary could keep a club alive under their conditions...

Answering the question as to the "weak points" in this club, the governor said:

With such a club there can be no weak points.

The Rotary Club of Melrose has grown from 16 to 19 members during the past year; it has renewed its Fourth Object subscription to "Revista Rotaria"; it conducts all war activities and war drives in the community; it sponsors the Boy Scouts and has raised money for Scouts to attend camp and has taken the boys to the camp. Surely all of this is ample proof that the smallness of a community is no bar to a successful Rotary club.

## Vacation Camp

The Rotary Club of Woodstock, New York, U.S.A., owns a vacation camp for boys and girls, which represents an investment, over the years, of seven or eight thousand dollars in land, buildings and equipment, not to mention the time spent by Woodstock Rotarians in keeping the camp in first-class condition. Last year over 450 boys and girls used the camp.

## Post-War Jobs—Work Pile

A discussion of post-war problems, by leading experts in many fields, is being broadcast over NBC every Saturday from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m., EWT. The last broadcast, scheduled for Saturday, January 1, 1944, will be by Secretary of State Cordell Hull.

The following broadcasts should be of particular interest to Rotary clubs in the U.S.A. which are developing Work Pile plans for their communities:

September 11—"Post-War Jobs: Responsibility of Business." Paul G. Hoffman, president, Studebaker Corporation, Chairman, Committee for Economic Development; DeWitt M. Emery, president, National Small Businessmen's Association of Manufacturers, and president, Thompson Products, Inc., of Cleveland.

September 18—"Post-War Jobs: Responsibility of Labor." Philip Murray, president, Congress of Industrial Organizations; George M. Harrison, vice-president, American Federation of Labor, and president, Grand Lodge of Brotherhood of Railway Clerks; A. Philip Randolph, president, International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

## Fire Prevention Week

The President of the United States and the governors of the 48 states have designated the week of October 3-9, 1943, as Fire Prevention Week. During this week an intensive and elaborate nation-wide effort will be made to educate the public in measures for fire prevention and control.

Fire has been a principal weapon of this war and it has also been one of the most destructive agents in retarding the war production program, so it is believed that fire prevention education is more important today than ever before in the history of the United States.

Many Rotary clubs throughout the U.S.A. will be cooperating with other community agencies in the observance of this week. In most communities promotional material may be obtained from the local chamber of commerce or the local fire chief. It may also be obtained from the National Fire Protection Assn., 60 Batterymarch St., Boston 10, Mass., U.S.A.

## Victory Garden

The Rotary Club of Buffalo, New York, U.S.A., is the manager of a victory garden with 60 plots available to members of the club or to outsiders. The plots were plowed, harrowed, fertilized and readied for use by the club.

## A Six Point Program

The Rotary Club of Lenoir, North Carolina, has listed the following six points as a part of its program for this current year.

1. Intensification of the Rotary Program in the community as a direct contribution to the war effort of the nation.
2. A revitalized vocational service with emphasis on the FOUR-WAY TEST.
3. Undertaking at least one new and worthwhile community project.
4. A more active presentation and discussion of post-war planning.
5. At least one "Fourth Object Subscription" to the Revista Rotaria.
6. Visit our neighbor clubs at every opportunity.

## Farm and Canning Plant Labor

The Rotary Club of Lockport, New York, U.S.A., has been doing a fine piece of community service in enlisting people (members and/or outsiders) for farm and canning plant labor.

## Beer at Rotary Meetings

From time to time the question has arisen as to whether or not the serving of beer at Rotary meetings is proper. That is a matter to be determined by each Rotary club.

Years ago a questionnaire was circulated among the clubs to ascertain the sentiment as to serving alcoholic drinks at Rotary meetings. A tabulation of the replies showed that in the majority of the clubs it was not customary to serve alcoholic drinks during the club luncheon or dinner, or for the members of the club individually to order such drinks during the luncheons or dinners.

In an assembly of club presidents, at a convention of R.I. a number of years ago, this question was discussed and it was found that a majority of those present considered it inadvisable for Rotary clubs to have alcoholic drinks at their luncheons and dinners.

Shortly thereafter the board of directors of R.I. expressed itself as of the opinion that the general sentiment among the United States clubs was against the serving of alcoholic drinks at Rotary luncheons and dinners.

While it may be said that Rotary has no official policy on this question, it can also be said that experience over a long period of time and many expressions of opinion by Rotarians have indicated, at least in countries where it is not the established custom to serve alcoholic beverages as a part of the meal, that the best interests of the movement seem to be served when alcoholic drinks are not served at Rotary meetings.