

Paul P. Harris
Founder of
Rotary International
1868-1947



Tributes to Paul P. Harris

As had nothing before, the passing of Paul Harris has moved the men who call themselves Rotarians. Hardly had the sad word been released before telegrams, cablegrams, and letters began to flood Rotary's headquarters in Chicago. To speak for all, we have asked four men—two current leaders and two who worked with Paul many years—here to record their tributes to the modest man who founded Rotary.—Ebs.

From Richard C. Hedke

President of Rotary International and long-time friend of Paul Harris; chemical and dyestuffs distributor, Detroit, Michigan.

THE story of the life of Paul Harris is the story of man at his best.

Conquering obstacles which rose before him, Paul Harris attained the heights of worth-while living. Woven into the very warp and woof of his character was his devotion to high ideals. There burned within the man the spirit of friendliness and kindness.

Many have been warmed and cheered by this great man. The example which he has given us for noble living reached its climax in his love and devotion to his "Scottish lassie," Jean. Never has there been an example of finer companionship and more successful marriage than that which they gave to the world.

We are grateful to Paul Harris for conceiving and for organizing Rotary International. It is the finest flowering of the great ideas and ideals that activated his life. Rotary has its world-wide importance today because of what Paul gave to it. Rotary came from his compelling conviction that men in business and profession could be and should be friends. He needs no monument of marble or stone to mark his life, for he has given to the world an organization whose members shall cherish his memory in love undying. Our day needs desperately to learn again

the lessons of friendship. To answer this need and to honor its Founder, we shall do all in our power to carry the Rotary spirit of friendliness and the high principles of service and helpfulness to all the world.

The passing of Paul Harris leaves a void in our midst which never can be filled. Edwin Markham, the American poet, speaks of the passing of Abraham Lincoln as the falling of a mighty tree which leaves an empty place against the sky. There is an empty place within our hearts because of the passing of this dear friend. The utter simplicity, the gallant purpose, and the complete consecration which he gave to life shall ever be an example for us to ascend the steep pathways of more noble living. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, in *The Builders*, expressed well the challenge that comes to us from the life of Paul Harris:

*Let us do our work well,
Both the unseen and the seen;
Make the house where gods may dwell
Beautiful, entire, and clean.*

*Else our lives are incomplete,
Standing in these walls of time,
Broken stairways, where the feet
Stumble, as they seek to climb.*

*Build today, then, strong and sure,
With a firm and ample base;
And ascending and secure
Shall tomorrow find its place.*

*Thus alone can we attain
To those turrets, where the eye
Sees the world as one vast plain,
And one boundless reach of sky.*

From T. A. Warren

Immediate Past President of Rotary International; distinguished educator, Bournemouth, England.

I, A SON of England, stand in a privileged place. By the accident of circumstances, I represent tens of thousands of men from all the way across the great Eastern Hemisphere.

We for whom I speak come from China, from India, from the islands of the Pacific, from Aus-

tralia, from New Zealand, Africa, the countries of the Middle East, Europe, Great Britain and Ireland, and many other countries. We differ in color, creed, and culture; but we stand united as the faithful followers of the leader who has now set out on the greatest of all his journeys in search of the Peace. This time he will find it. He will find it eternally—so well and so nobly has he served.

Few there are—few there ever could be—who might so translate inspired vision into courageous action as to recruit men from almost every nation for a mission demanding absolute selflessness and sacrifice. Yet that is what Paul Harris did. He prayed, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," and away into the uttermost parts of the earth he strove—and strove successfully—to bring that prayer into better and wider effect. And all of us from the north and the south, the east and the west, are bettered for having come within the shining influence of that fine American citizen.

We sorrow for our dear Jean. We wish for her the peaceful contentment of happy retrospect when once the first sharp pangs of temporary parting are assuaged.

For our leader we cannot really mourn. We sorely feel his loss, and pay him homage and give thanks for the immense influence that he has had upon us.

But Paul Harris is not dead. His





Illustrations by Albert H. Winkler

spirit lives on. It abides everywhere. It is woven into the very fiber of other men's lives. As we take leave of his mortal self, we rededicate ourselves to the never-ending task he has inspired and bequeathed to those who will assuredly follow his paths down the years to come.

May God, in His all-providing mercy, grant eternal peace to this great soul.

From Glenn C. Mead

Second President of Rotary International, 1912-13; attorney, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

I FIRST met Paul Harris in Chicago in the Summer of 1911 when I joined the Chicago delegation to attend the second Annual Convention of Rotary Clubs to be held in Portland, Oregon. We were joined in Minneapolis by delegates from that city and travelled overland on the "Soo Pacific" via the Soo Line and Canadian Pacific Railway. Paul was a good traveller and good company all the way; his duties and responsibilities as the first President of the newly formed Association in no way interfered with his sociability and good humor, and that was characteristic of him throughout his life.

Paul was reelected President and with others I accompanied him back directly to the starting point in Chicago. We were a small group and because of that and the Convention excitement over, the fortunate few of us had a better chance of getting acquainted with our leader and the Founder of Rotary. A year later we made

the trip to Duluth, Minnesota, by boat from Chicago. The delegations were larger and filled the ship. It was a trip long to be remembered and a happy time for Paul. At the close of the Convention he was elected President Emeritus by the grateful and appreciative delegates. From that time to the end of his life his zeal, interest, and devotion to the cause of Rotary never slackened.

I think Paul felt relieved after his two years in office and was glad to get back to his active law practice. He was an able, alert, and studious lawyer, deeply interested in his profession and the activities of the Chicago Bar Association. At Rotary Conventions he took the greatest interest in the lawyers' group meetings, and impressed his fellow barristers with his broad knowledge of the law and his earnest and sincere interest in their welfare. His legal training and experience well fitted him for grappling with the varied and difficult problems arising with the growth and expansion of Rotary.

Paul was a clear and profound thinker, as his numerous books and writings reveal. He was always genial and never too serious, so that it was a joy to meet him and converse with him no matter what the subject might be. He was well read, well informed, kept himself abreast of the times, and knew what was going on everywhere.

In personal intercourse Paul seemed always to be at his ease; he never set himself up as an oracle above and beyond his friends and fellow Rotarians—he was just one of us. We not only prized his

friendship, but wanted to see him and talk and laugh with him whenever the opportunity offered. It would be a great oversight not to realize and appreciate what a fund of good humor Paul Harris possessed; and there was never any barb in his fun and joking—it was simply the privilege and relaxation of friendly intercourse.

Many Rotarians think that the best thing about Rotary is its fine fellowship, of which Paul was a splendid type and example. But the Rotary that he founded is far more than a mere association of men and of clubs; it has become a world-wide movement based on service and goodwill among men.

Paul Harris never claimed to have founded a new philosophy; he referred to the spirit of Rotary as an ancient principle of ethics. What he did was to teach men of all nations and of all races to join together in practicing and applying it.

From Chesley R. Perry

—who during the past 40 years was closely associated with Paul Harris in the Rotary Club of Chicago and in Rotary International.

NOT far from Comely Bank, the home and garden he loved so well, many Rotarians and other friends gathered in a suburban Chicago church to do honor to Paul Harris, the inspired and far-visioned Founder of Rotary. But we who were there realized that the deep sorrow we felt was shared by hundreds of thousands of men and women around the world whose lives have been touched by forces

for good loosed by this man's ideas and ideals.

If he had consciously planned it so, he could hardly have equipped himself better for the rôle he was to play as the founder of a world-wide movement. Paul was a great traveller and started early. Born in Racine, Wisconsin, he spent his boyhood in a New England valley with his grandparents in Vermont. Then he went to an academy and to the University of Vermont, to Princeton University, to the University of Iowa.

Stirred by a desire to see the world and to know its peoples, he moved on into the Rocky Mountains, to the Pacific Coast, to Louisiana and Florida, then across the ocean to England and Scotland, to France, Italy, Germany—always paying his own way by such employment as he could find. Paul always travelled under his own steam.

A few weeks ago I sat talking with him in the dining room of his home. He was rather shaky, but still fighting the good fight. Finally he said that we must go into the other room where the ladies were. He had me give him my arm with a stiff elbow, and with the help of his cane in the other hand we went through the hallway. As we approached the doorway of the other room, he said: "Now, drop your arm, Ches, and I'll go in under my own steam." And he did so.

As Paul travelled, he not only made his pathways on the face of the earth, but he kept opening new pathways in his brain by his thinking. What he saw and what he heard he turned over and over in his mind. He realized that peo-

ple lacked understanding and goodwill, that people were strangers to one another, and he wanted to do something about it.

Finally in the gay and turbulent '90s he settled in Chicago, which for more than 50 years was to be his home. Here he began to practice law, but the mere acquisition of money was not his inspiration. He was lonesome for fellowship, for friends, for mutual helpfulness. In his office hangs a large plaque:

"He who has a thousand friends has not a friend to spare."

SO PAUL founded a club of young men who wanted to be friends, who wanted to be helpful to each other, men of different businesses and professions who except for the Chicago Rotary Club would never have known each other. He promoted rollicking good fellowship among them and a personal interest in each other's ambitions and problems. He encouraged their minds to travel in unfrequented channels of thought. He taught them to be thoughtful of and helpful to not only each other, but other people as well. He insisted that all participate in making the Club succeed, for he had the inspiration, perhaps subconsciously, that in a democratic society nothing will be truly successful without participation, active personal participation by the people. That lesson our city, our state, our nation, and the United Nations have not yet fully grasped, but Rotary continues to point the way to education, participation, understanding, goodwill, fellowship.

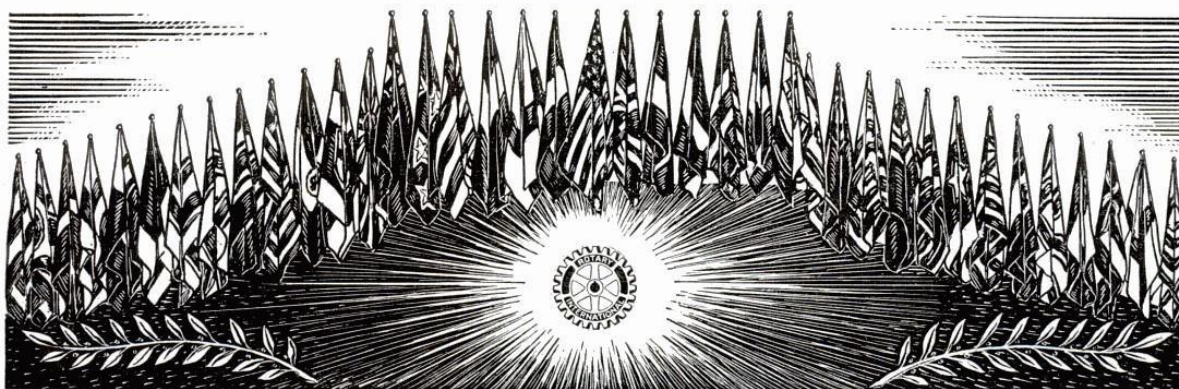
As the years went by, illness came upon Paul Harris and his ac-

tivity in the Chicago Rotary Club had to be lessened, but his interest in it never waned. When he had recovered sufficiently to resume an active participation in Rotary, he found that his child had grown into a great international movement. In fact, before he was stricken he had started his child on the road to national and international greatness. Rotarians of many lands demanded that he give something of himself to them and he did generously. His travels for Rotary took him to all the continents, and everywhere he spoke for understanding and for friendship.

Fortunately for Paul and for the Rotary movement he took unto himself a wife many years ago—Jean Thomson, his bonnie Scottish lassie. All through the years she has been his constant, faithful companion and we pay grateful tribute to her for her gracious and immeasurable contribution to the Rotary career of our distinguished leader. We hope that her sorrow and loneliness will be softened by our sympathy and by a mutual realization with us that we all should be happy that Paul at last is at rest in a peacefulness that we all hope to attain. We pray that her years on this earth may yet be many, sweetened by the memory of Paul's glorious life of service to mankind.

*He was a friend whose heart was good,
Who walked with men and understood.*

*His was a voice that spoke to cheer
And fell like music on the ear.
His was a smile men loved to see.
His was a hand that asked no fee
For friendliness or kindness done.
And now that he has journeyed on
His is a fame that never ends.
He leaves behind uncounted friends.*





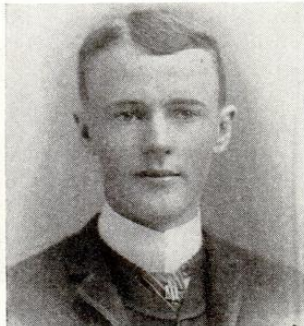
HOWARD and Pamela Harris, Paul's aged grandparents, who reared him.



PAUL'S parents, Cornelia and Geo. H. Harris. The father was a merchant.



PAUL at 3½—the photo taken in Racine just before the move to Vermont.



IT WAS '86 and Paul was a "frosch" at the "U" of Vermont. A happy year.



THE struggling young lawyer. Paul at 28 in his first year in Chicago.

Paul in Pictures

WHILE thoughtful men in 70 lands ponder the genius of the man who gave them Rotary, tens of thousands of pictures help them remember the Paul Harris the eye saw. For wherever he went in the long latter half of his life . . . whether to Shanghai or Melbourne or Nice or Minneapolis . . . there was the cameraman and there the portraitist, begging for a bit of his time. "Never," says one of them, "was there a more understanding subject. He saw my job from *my* point of view."

Perhaps that was Paul's secret: he knew the other man's mind, because at some time or other in the 79 event-packed years of his life, which ended January 27, he had looked into it, or into one like it, from close up. "Why do men act as they do?" Finding answers to that question which he had posed as a boy proved a lifetime quest.

As Wisconsin Rotarians pridefully remind you, Paul P. Harris was born in Racine April 19, 1868. At age 3, however, the scene of his infant life shifted to the village of Wallingford in the Green Mountains of Vermont, where a gentle grandmother and a patient grandfather (Paul's father's parents) began to raise him on blueberries and buckwheat cakes, Emerson and Thoreau, the *Bible* and hard work. That home and those mountains he loved—he recently completed a book about the latter—but of school he has written: "It had to be endured."

Then came Rutland High School, Black River Academy, and Vermont Academy, all in Vermont, and, after that, studies at the University of Vermont and Princeton University, and in 1891 a law degree from the University of Iowa.

Then 23 and professionally equipped,



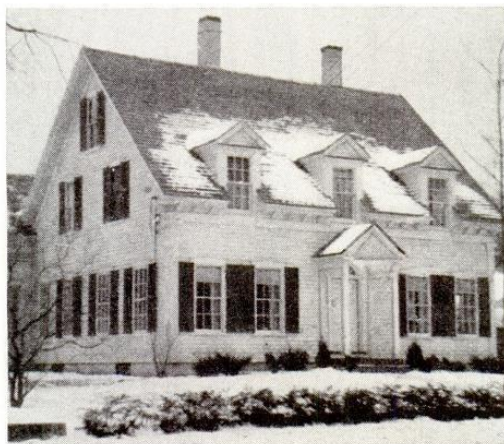
CARICATURES of himself always gave Paul Harris a chuckle. The artist in this case was a "Rio" Rotarian.

Paul charted a course many men set but few sail. He would see this old world ere he settled down to work in it. He would take five years for it!

When, four years and eight months later, he hung up his lawyer's shingle in Chicago, he could look back on exciting days as a news reporter, raisin packer, and teacher in California . . . actor and cowboy in Colorado . . . hotel clerk and marble salesman in Florida . . . stock-boy on cattle boats crossing the Atlantic . . . commercial traveller in Continental Europe and Britain and Ireland.

How on the night of February 23, 1905, Paul Harris called three of his young Chicago business friends together for the first meeting of the first Rotary Club is a story too well known to be repeated here. How he went on to become first President of what we now call Rotary International, how he and his bonnie Scottish wife, Jean, toured the world, making many new friends, are also familiar.

But what is clearest of all is that this man of quiet manner and never robust physique had some power to make men drop their prejudices, get together, and then work for the general good. "I would have you as a fire," said Marcus Aurelius, "into which everything thrown turns to brightness." There are many who say Paul Harris was such a fire.



THE CENTER of Paul's merry, prank-filled boyhood, this was the old home of his grandparents in Wallingford, Vt.



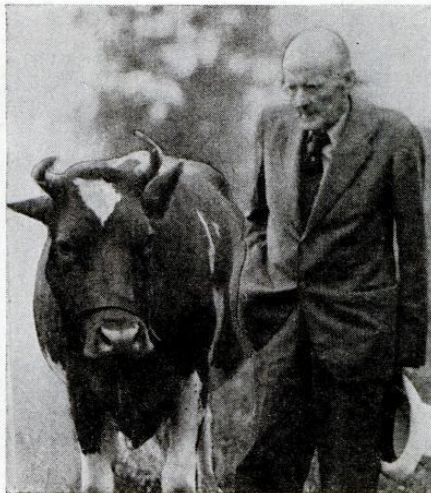
PAUL'S grammar school in Wallingford. Still standing, it is visited as a Rotary shrine by many who tour Vermont.



FOOTBALL was rugged—no helmets or pads—when Paul made the freshman "eleven" at the "U" of Vermont in '85. He is second from left, head turned.



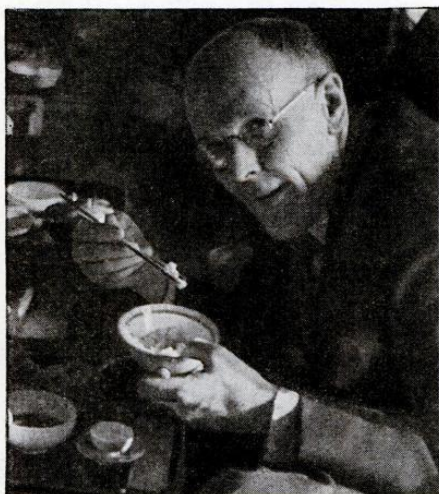
ALWAYS eager for fresh experiences, Paul went up in a World War I plane—and posed for this photo.



ONCE a country boy—always. On a New Hampshire trip Paul took time to admire this champion cow.



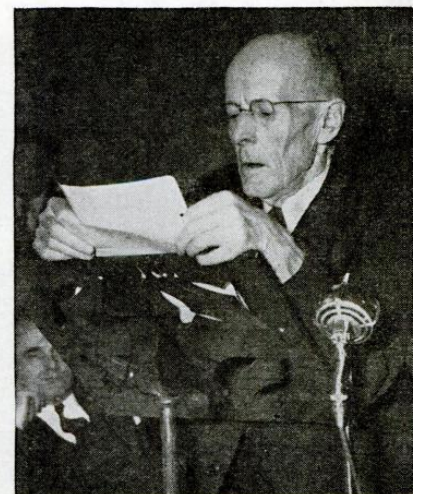
AT 70 Paul set out to learn painting—and did! He is seen at an exhibit of his oils.



DELIGHTING in local customs, Paul found chopsticks convenient on a Pacific trip in the '30s.



STOCKING his bird feeders was one of Paul's daily chores—and he knew the winged diners intimately.



FEW MEN have been in longer demand as a speaker, and beyond his limits he obliged.

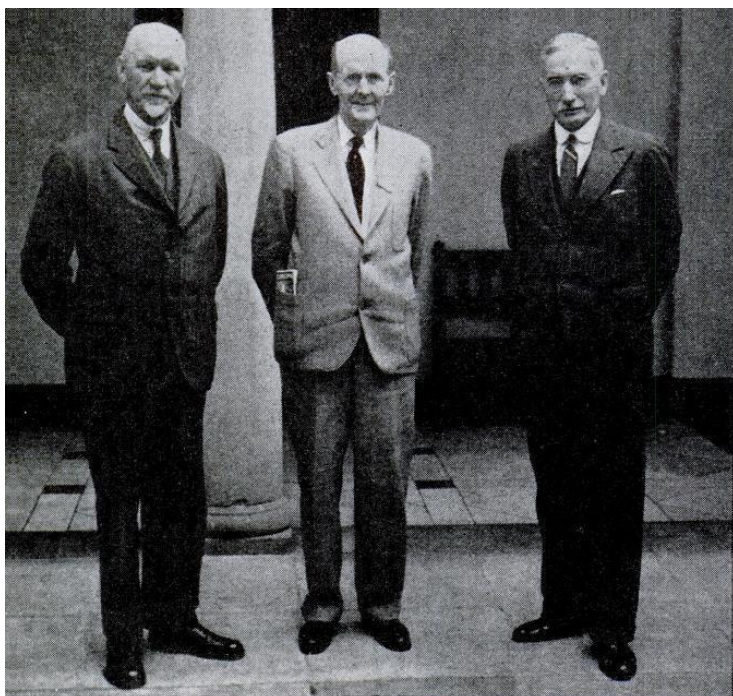


Photo: © Alkersdyk, Capetown

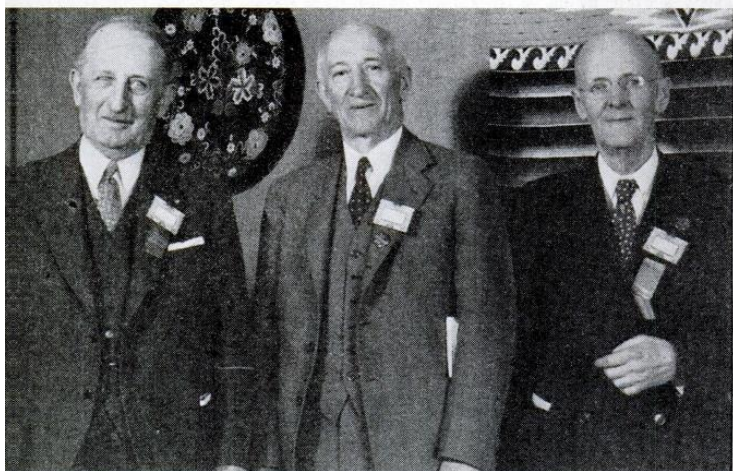
ALWAYS welcome everywhere, Paul Harris is seen here with South Africa's great soldier-statesmen J. C. Smuts (left) and J. B. M. Hertzog during a tour in 1934.



NOW and then Paul would slip out for a visit to his beloved Green Mountains in Vermont, and look up people like Cousin Herman Vaughan.



"IF I WAS the architect," Paul has written, "Chesley R. Perry was the builder." Seen with Paul, "Ches" was Rotary's Secretary from 1910-42.



REUNIONS Paul loved . . . and this one brought together Rotary's first three Presidents—Paul, Glenn C. Mead (center), and Russell F. Greiner—in Mexico City in 1935.



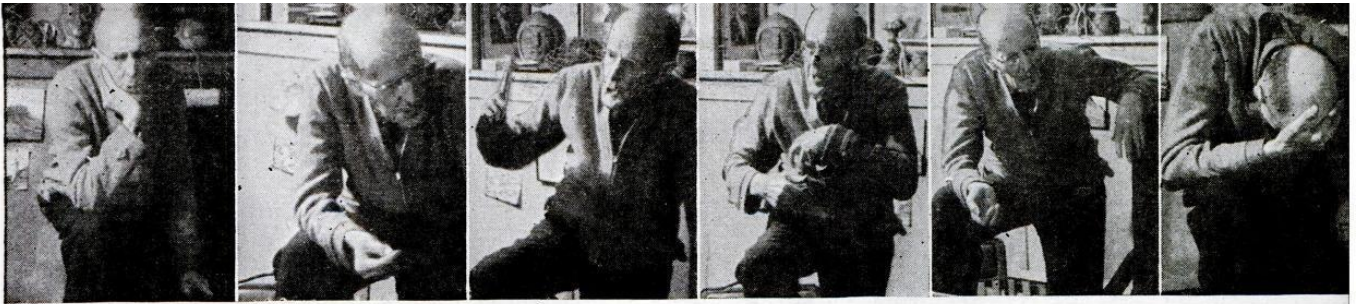
A BIT of fun in Tasmania in '35. Hearing the HARRISES say they'd never been robbed in 40 years in Chicago, Rotarians faked this holdup.



PAUL'S goodwill trees flourish round the globe. Planting them in ceremonies like this, he left them as reminders that world friendship, too, must grow.



ALWAYS "game," Paul gleefully accepted a rôle in this Danish Rotary play, he being the long-tressed beauty. It happened in Copenhagen.



FULL of stories he had gleaned in far fields, Paul told them masterfully. This series of candid photos was taken as he spun a yarn for some friends.

Friends... Home

HE WHO has a thousand friends has not a friend to spare.

Plaques bearing that motto hung on the walls of Paul Harris' trophy-crowded office and his home discussion room. And Paul had those friends—but by the tens of thousands in scores of countries.

And for those friends the latch-string was always out at Comely Bank, the home in the woods so carefully kept by Paul and his Scottish lass Jean, whom he wed in 1910.

Decorations and honors in great number came to Paul—among them the Chicago Merit Award of his own Rotary Club conferred upon him just a year ago—and all these he cherished . . . but as he himself once put it: "Of life's charms, what is comparable with friendship?"



"T'WAS a reunion in 1943 of Rotarians who'd joined the first Rotary Club in its first year, and in the parting handshake were (left to right) Silvester Schiele, "Monty" Bear, Paul, "Barney" Arntzen, "Rufe" Chapin, Harry Ruggles, and "Bob" Fletcher. Only Harry and Bob survive . . . (Below) Paul and Jean as you might have seen them any afternoon at Comely Bank.



Paul P. Harris visited Shanghai and Hong Kong in 1935

By Herbert K. Lau (劉敬恒) (Rotary China Historian)

23 February 2015



Paul P. Harris greeted Dr. Fong Foo-Sec (鄭富灼博士) of Shanghai Rotary Club, China, at the 25th Rotary International Convention, 25-29 June 1934, Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. Fong was the Club President in 1931-1932. Though had not the chance to serve as a district governor, he was appointed by R.I. a director in 1933-1934, concurrently the China's representative to participate in the Inaugural Council on Legislation of R. I. in 1934.

“Rotary has satisfactorily demonstrated the fact that friendship can easily hurdle national and religious boundary lines.” ~~ Paul P. Harris, Founder, 1935

FEBRUARY is the anniversary month of Rotary. The February in 1935 was the 30th Anniversary which was very remarkable to the 2 Rotary clubs in Shanghai and Hong Kong, respectively, because they had the visits of the most distinguished guests: Rotary International President Emeritus Paul P. Harris and Mrs. Harris, together with President 1934-1935 “Bob” Robert L. Hill and Mrs. Hill. Bob was the Alumni Director of the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, U.S.A. However, these 2 oriental cities were not their final destinations, but were 2 stopovers of their journey to attend the 5th Pacific Regional Conference held in Manila of The Philippines. Originally, Shanghai was the designated host city elected at the 4th Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, 1932. But the host club was later changed to Manila, perhaps, due to the political and social environment was not so favourable then in Shanghai.

The Voyage

The voyage of the two couples was on board the ocean liner “President Coolidge” sailing along this sea route: (United States) San Francisco == (Hawaii) Honolulu == (Japan) Yokohama--Tokyo--Kyoto--Osaka--Kobe == (China) Shanghai == British Crown Colony Hong Kong == (The Philippines) Manila.

Following the January 1935 Board Meeting of Rotary International in Chicago, President Hill returned to Columbia from whence he and Mrs. Hill departed on January 22. They visited Rotary clubs en-route. At San Francisco they had a tremendously fine meeting of some 1,500 to 1,800 persons present. Bob met Governor George W. Olinger of the 7th District and Mrs. Olinger, Director Tsunejiro Miyaoka (宮岡恒次郎), Rotarian and Mrs. Ralph F. Walker of Chicago, and all en-route to Manila. Bob also had the pleasure of having the company from San Francisco to Manila of President Emeritus Paul P. Harris and Mrs. Harris who were en-route to attend the Rotary Conference in Australia and to visit clubs there and also in New Zealand.

On board the “President Coolidge” they met George A. Fitch (費吳生), President 1930-1931 of Shanghai Rotary Club (上海扶輪社), who was accompanied by his wife Geraldine and two sons. George gave the world leaders an insight into Rotary activities in China. Bob and Paul held many conferences with George between San Francisco and Shanghai.

For seventeen days of the sailing, they had the roughest sort of sea and weather and it was said by the captain to be the roughest Pacific crossing in all of his sea-faring experience. The first call was at Honolulu, Hawaii. Honolulu Rotary Club President Rev. Edward Tanner Brown, Rotarian George Armitage, and others greeted the guests who were practically showered and smothered with leis, all made of the most beautiful flowers of the Hawaiian Islands.



1935 – A-lo-ha! Welcome at Honolulu, Hawaii --- (L-R) #1. Mrs. Jane Harris; #2. Paul P. Harris; #6. Mrs. Hill; #8. President Robert L. Hill; #5. (back row) George Ashmore Fitch with his 2 sons standing at the front

After a typical Hawaiian dinner with typical Hawaiian food, music and dancing, i.e. “hula” dancing, hosted by the Honolulu Rotarians, the next day they visited the Governor of Honolulu and paid courtesy calls to prominent officials of the Hawaiian Islands. Then they sailed for Yokohama, Japan, where the arrival on February 9 – a full day late, due to encountering typhoon, hurricane. Accompanying from Honolulu were also two fine Rotarians of that Club, Charles R. Frazier and Rev. John P. Erdman, who stayed all the way through the Manila Conference.

Upon arrival in Yokohama, the group were met by Everett Frazar of the Tokyo Club, Shun Mizushima (水島俊), and others. The group had morning tea with the Yokohama Rotary Club, then went by rail to Tokyo, spent the day there. In Tokyo, Paul planted a Tree of Friendship in the garden of the Imperial Hotel. The next day, the group went by rail and motor to visit clubs in Kyoto, Osaka and Kobe and in each place they enjoyed an inter-city meeting.

In Shanghai

The schedule was to sail from Shanghai on 12 February 1935, but on account of the rough weather the steamer was one day late. This did not alter the arrangements previously made by the Shanghai Rotary Club in giving a wonderful dinner reception at the Astor House Hotel (禮查飯店) to all the Rotary delegates, men and women, passing through Shanghai---18 from the United States and Hawaii; 16 from Japan; 4 from Hangchow (杭州); 4 from Nanking (南京); 1 from Peiping (北平); 2 from Tientsin (天津); 1 from Tsinan (濟南); and 1 from Tsingtao (青島).

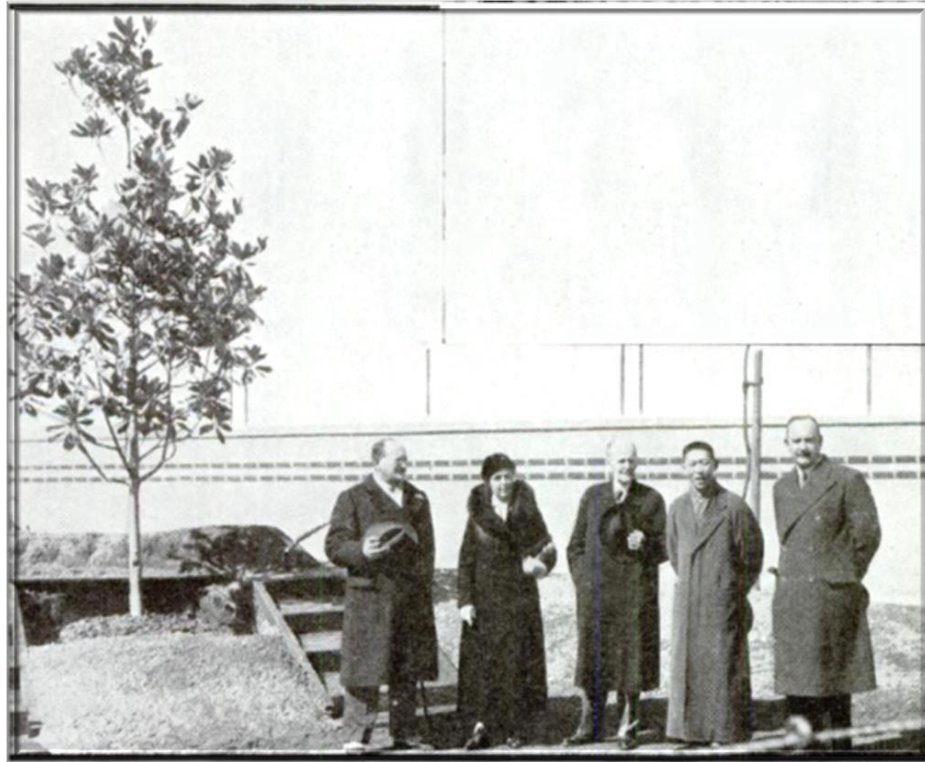
All guests had a great evening in Shanghai where they were greeted by the 2 Rotary International Honorary Commissioners for China, Hong Kong & The Philippines -- “Peter” Ernest F. Harris and Dr. Chengting T. Wang (王正廷博士). There was also Past R.I. Director Dr. Fong Foo-Sec (龐富灼博士). All three gentlemen were from Shanghai Rotary Club of whom Club President Percy Chu (朱博泉) was accompanying.

Regular luncheon meeting at the Metropole Hotel (都城飯店) was held on the next day noon so as to give the Rotarians of the China clubs an opportunity to get acquainted with the Founder of Rotary, Paul Harris, and the President of Rotary International, Robert Hill. The meeting was conducted by President Percy Chu. Both Paul and Bob gave some very impressive speeches. The meeting was well attended. In addition to the Shanghai Rotarians with multi-nationalities represented, there was a great number of visiting Rotarians and their families.

Before the luncheon meeting, all were invited to the Kiaochow Road Park (膠州路公園) where a Friendship Tree was planted by Paul Harris in the presence of Honorary Rotarian Harry Edward Arnhold, Chairman of the Shanghai Municipal Council (上海公共租界工部局), as well as many distinguished residents of Shanghai International Settlement. In fact, Paul Harris planted a lot of trees on his trip. He made the planting of a tree a Rotary custom. He had set out “Trees of Friendship” all over the world. These “friendship trees” on the global continents would stand for decades and speak with living tongues of peace on earth, goodwill to men.

Today, the Kiaochow Road (膠州路) was already renamed as Changping Road (昌平路), and the Park was already transformed into Shanghai Federation of Trade Unions Jing'an District Workers' Stadium, No. 888 Changping Road (昌平路 888 號, 上海市總工會靜安區工人體育館).

Unfortunately, the tree planted by Paul Harris was no longer survived. (*REMARKS: In his memoir, Paul Harris mentioned that he planted a tree in "Gordon Park". That was a "mistake" in his memory because there had never been a park or garden in Shanghai named "Gordon".*)



February 1935 in Shanghai -- Group photo after the Friendship Tree Planting by Paul Harris (L-R) Harry Edward Arnhold (Chairman of the Shanghai Municipal Council); Mrs. Jean T. Harris; Rotary's Founder Paul P. Harris; Percy Chu 朱博泉 (Shanghai Rotary Club President 1934-1935); Ernest F. Harris (R.I. Honorary Commissioner for China, Hong Kong, Philippines 1933-1935; Shanghai Rotary Club President 1932-1933)

In Hong Kong

Fourteen Shanghai Rotarians joined the delegates of the China clubs, and then all departed Shanghai in the afternoon of 13 February 1935. On board the steamer "President Coolidge", there were about fourteen members from the United States and Honolulu besides Founder Paul Harris and President Bob Hill and their wives, and about sixteen members from the Japan clubs.

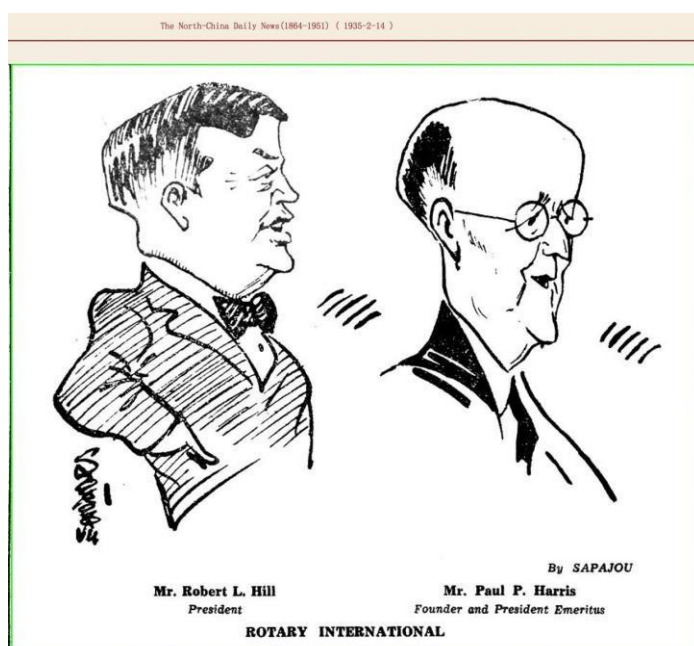
From Shanghai to Hong Kong, the weather was marvelous and the sea was very calm. Every passenger on board the steamer was naturally a good sailor. Deck games, Mah-jong, dances, movies, tea and cocktail parties were in full swing both day and night. Everybody was having a wonderful time.

When reached Hong Kong, they picked up five Rotarians from the Amoy (廈門) Club, five from Canton (廣州), one from Foochow (福州), and eight from Hong Kong (香港), making a total of forty-six members and their families from all the China clubs. Out of the twelve clubs in China with the

exception of the Hankow (漢口) Club, eleven clubs were represented at the 5th Pacific Regional Conference, which included was an excellent record.

When in Hong Kong, a special program was prepared by the Hong Kong Rotary Club (香港扶輪社) for the delegates. They were taken for a ride around the Island and wound up with a tea party at The Hong Kong Hotel (香港大酒店), where Founder Paul Harris and President Bob Hill again addressed Rotarians and guests. On the other hand, both Paul and Bob garnered much helpful information relative to Rotary in Hong Kong.

The steamer left Hong Kong at 9 p.m. on 15 February 1935. Paul and Bob were accompanied by representatives of every club in China and Hong Kong, with one exception. In the morning of February 16 at ten o'clock, Rotarians of the China clubs met President Bob Hill informally in the writing room of the "President Coolidge" to discuss certain problems confronting the China clubs. The agenda was prepared by Honorary Commissioner "Peter" Harris from replies received to a previous questionnaire sent out by him, containing the following items: club dues, classification, translation of Rotary literature into Chinese and possible appointment of a District Governor. Every item was thoroughly discussed by the members with President Bob, who in closing the interview with a most sympathetic and inspiring talk hinted that no hard and fast rule was attached to the classification list, and that some elasticity was permissible to meet particular cases. With regard to the appointment of a District Governor, Bob emphasized that the only logical outcome of the position was the formation of a District, and surely the time had arrived to study seriously this question in the light of the progress wished for and expected of the clubs in this part of the world. This proposal was brought back to Chicago. In the first Board Meeting of Rotary International 1935-1936, it was resolved that the 15 clubs located in 3 countries: The Republic of China, the British Crown Colony Hong Kong, and The Philippine Islands (United States Protectorate) would be granted to form a new district---the 81st District with effect from 1 October 1935. Dr. Chengting T. Wang (*Career Diplomat*) was elected the first Governor.





Aerial view of the Hong Kong Central District at the Victoria Harbour Front -- 1935

The huge tallest building (lower left) was The Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank (香港上海滙豐銀行)



Shanghai International Settlement as in 1935