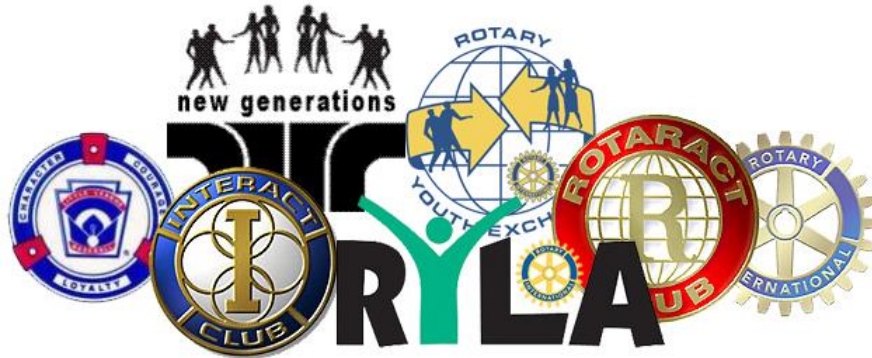


# Boys Work by Shanghai Rotary Club in 1920–1940

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

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May is the “Youth Service Month” of Rotary International designated since the Year 2015-2016. This is to replace the previous special focus “September -- New Generations Month” of which had been observed for some twenty years. Rotary International's structured programs for Youth Service are: Interact, Rotaract, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Youth Exchange, and New Generations Service Exchange, etc. The month of May is designated as “Youth Service Month” to focus on all Rotary activities that support the development of young people up to the age of 30-40.

## Initiation of the Boys Work Program in 1916

Prior to the establishment of the “Interact Club” program in 1962, Rotary’s service to the younger generations was focused on “Boys Work”. Initiation of the “Boys Work” program could be traced back to the year 1915 when a number of Rotary clubs had become actively interested in working with boys. Why boys only? Probably, Rotary was a “male only” organization before 1989. In the 1916 Convention at Cincinnati, U.S.A., a resolution was adopted calling for the appointment of a “standing committee on the subject of work among the boys.” Thus began a long and concerted Rotary interest.

In 1919 during the 10th Annual Convention of the International Association of Rotary Clubs held at Salt Lake City of the United States, Dr. Charles E. Barker, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, U.S.A., spoke on the subject: “A Father’s Responsibility to his Son.” So impressive was his presentation that it was arranged for him to Rotary clubs and public meetings sponsored by Rotary clubs. The Convention then endorsed the report submitted by the Committee on Boys Work chaired by John Dolph of Washington D.C. And as a

result of a convention resolution, “Boys Work” was declared a major activity for Rotary clubs and a Boys Work Department was established in the Secretary’s Office. Since then, the Rotary clubs world-wide were catching the vision of the opportunity which was theirs for genuine service in the field of Boys Work and increased activity was being manifested both in the organization of committees and the actual doing of work. But being keenly desirous of having all of the clubs functioning in Boys Work, International President 1919-1920 “Bert” Albert S. Adams wrote the following letter to stir to action those clubs which have not been heard from:

My Dear Friend President:

In outlying the program for the work for Rotary this year, I said:

*“Boys Work is the most appealing work, the work with greater possibilities, even undertaken by Rotary; the work that carries on year after year, and the work that gives a challenge to the best that is in us of brain and heart.”*

The Board agreed with me, and, as far as I’ve ever heard, every Club has agreed with this. I am sure that you agree with it, if you have thought it true, and that you have realized the truth of what I said. The field of boys work is so large and the opportunities for service so many that even with all the splendid agencies now at work in it, the surface is hardly scratched.

Your clubs who haven’t undertaken any work -- what are you going to do about it? We are going to push to the utmost this work and are not going to let up for one instant until every club goes in the boys work to the limit.

Walter Strong tells me that not quite forty per cent of the clubs have reported the appointment of a Boys Work Committee. Is your Club one of them? If it is, before you do another thing, appoint that committee! Then write Headquarters the name of the chairman and then get that committee on the job and every member of your Club right back of the committee.

We tackled this job with our eyes open; it wasn’t wished on us. It is the biggest and best job that we have ever tackled, and for the sake of the kids who need our help, encouragement and inspiration, for the fun and the satisfaction we, ourselves, will get out of it, and for the everlasting glory of Rotary.

Let’s go to it and out the job over one hundred per cent!

Rotarily yours,

Bert Adams, International President

(Note: Walter W. Strong – Assistant International Secretary on Boys Work)

In action, the Secretary's Office published a 《Manual of Boys Work》 (Rotary Pamphlet No.18). Reference was made to various national Boys Work organizations of several countries in which Rotary was established. The mere mention of these organizations, such as The Boy Scouts Association, furnished suggestions for Club activity.

Moreover, the Board of Directors 1920-1921 agreed: that the creation of District Boys Work Committee would tend to detract from the effectiveness of the work, and weaken the influence of Headquarters as the tendency would be for club committees to refer matters to district committees which should come to the Headquarters office of the International Committee. It also would tend to decrease the responsibility of club committees in districts, tempting them to leave the planning of their work to the district committee.

The 1921 Convention held at Edinburgh, Scotland, then adopted a report of the Committee on Boys Work, in which were included recommendations for the continuance of boys work which may be briefly summarized under these headings:

1. Getting every Rotary Club organized for boys work.
2. Promotion of an annual "Boys Week".
3. Promotion of physical education and development.
4. Conducting annual back-to-school campaigns.
5. Promotion of vocational education and guidance.
6. Encouragement of spiritual education.
7. Giving publicity to the boys' needs.
8. Strengthening the Boys Work Department.
9. Giving the personal touch -- every needy boy cared for, and every Rotarian at work in some way for the boys.

## Youth Service in China

What about Youth Service in China during those some 80 years ago? Shanghai Rotary Club President 1931-1932 Dr. Fong Foo-Sec (龐富灼博士), in his capacity as a Rotary International Director, attended the 25th Rotary International Convention 1934 at Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. He delivered a short speech on "What Rotary Clubs can do for youth -- Youth Service in China". Here below is the full text:

For about a quarter of a century, the young men and women of China have exerted a big influence in political reforms. The student movement help the Chinese people to understand their rights and ushered in a nationalism that was unknown in ancient China. Their idea are radical, though seldom communistic.

Led by some strong and progressive men and filled with vigor and enthusiasm of youth, the students contributed a large share in throwing off the corrupt Manchu rule and in

founding the Chinese Republic. Their interference in politics hindered their scholastic work. Student strikes were frequent, so that at times our educational machinery was at a standstill. They dictated who was to be the president of their college, what teachers were to be dismissed, what sort of examinations they were to have, etc. They demanded of the officials why a certain thing was done or not done. When the explanation was not satisfactory to them, they sometimes smashed up the furniture and beat up their victims.

The youths of China, though impatient with official graft and corruption, have been sacrificing for the good of their country. However, the great changes that have come over China have at times cut them loose from their moorings. The impact with Western civilization has loosened the hold that ancestral worship had on their forefathers. After centuries of segregation of the sexes, the emancipation of woman brings its perplexing problems -- the young people of today do not know where to draw the line between liberty and license. Their tendency is to give up the old, but they do not always know what to take up in its place.

Nearly three years ago, when the Japanese occupied Manchuria, the students of China took up military training of their own accord. They offered their services to the government, but the Nanking Government told them that they were not fit for the hard work at the front and that China had plenty of men trained to fight. This dampened their zeal, hence they are less noisy today. They have turned their attention to educational activities -- to editing and publishing a large number of mosquito papers and magazines.

As in other lands, the Boy Scouts movement is doing useful work in developing the youth of China, along constructive lines. The movement began in China in 1911. Today there are about 80,000 Boy Scouts with 4,000 Scoutmasters, some of our highest military officers being its sponsors. It is interesting to note that in China the girls belong to the same troops as the boys, instead of having their separate organizations as Girl Guides. The Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. are trying to influence the outlook of the young people of China through student conferences, and the Y.M.C.A. is beginning to introduce boys' camps.

A new movement, known as the "New Life" movement, is destined to have a tremendous and far-reaching influence on the Chinese people. It is not confined to youth, but applies to all classes of people. It was started by General Chiang Kai-Shek last year to supply qualities that are needed in the character of the Chinese people of today and to improve their morale. Because the movement was promoted by General Chiang with such earnestness and sincerity, the response to his appeal has been remarkably spontaneous from all parts of the country. Dr. Sun Yat-Sen taught the Chinese people that love and sincerity should be our guiding principles. Since the Japanese occupation of Manchuria in 1931, the Chinese have been forced to see that only by sincerity and unity can we cope with national calamities. The movement enjoins upon the leaders and educated classes to set an example on good manners and cleanliness. It teaches the people to be considerate of

each other and to control themselves in the interest of the nation.

China at present is ruled by the Kuomintang, which is the political party in power. Any movement that is not in accord with Kuomintang principles is not allowed to function. This is why we do not hear much of the activities of the students nowadays. The students are under better control, resulting in better work being done in our colleges and universities.

Our national athletic meet was held at Nanking last autumn, when new records were made in almost every event. The meet showed that our young people have made such improvements in athletics that China has decided to send a team to the next Olympic Games. The youth of China are being subjected to stricter discipline than they have been for more than two decades. This has resulted in a saner outlook and improved morale.

## Shanghai Rotary Club in Boys Work commencing 1920

The Rotary Club of Shanghai in China, though only one year old, responded quickly the call of Boys Work and action immediately in 1920. Collected below are some of the records of Boys Work by the Club from 1921 to 1940.

### ■ [ *THE ROTARIAN* ] January 1921

#### The Big Brother Idea Takes Root in Shanghai, China

The Shanghai Rotary Club's 'Big Brother' Committee is at last an accomplished fact, and a sigh of relief ascends to the high heavens! Thus said an announcement in a recent number of the 《*Rotary Pagoda*》, the weekly publication of the Rotary Club of Shanghai, and thereby hangs a tale. Some time ago Hal Norman, the editor of the 《*Pagoda*》, saw a real opportunity to do something in Boys Work -- something for bigger boys -- and laid it before his club. The story is best told in the words of his proposal to his fellow members.

“ONE of the principal activities of the various Rotary clubs in America and England is what is known as ‘Boys Work’. In every issue of *THE ROTARIAN* we may read accounts of the magnificent work carried on by Rotarians among boys in cities, large and small. To quote from a recent numbers: ‘Boys Work has gripped the heart of Rotary ... .. there is no limit to the service which can be rendered here ... .. no field offers a larger opportunity for service, or promises greater to more far-reaching results.’

“SO far as Shanghai and our Club are concerned, there is little or no scope for Boys Work, as the phrase is understood in America and England. Here we have practically no poor people, and thus there are no boys earning a livelihood in shops and offices, or in the streets. Nearly every boy in Shanghai lives with parents in a good home, and his moral and physical

welfare may, in most cases, be safely left to his relatives, his pastor, and his schoolmasters. But -- and now I come to the *raison d'être* of this article -- although we Shanghai Rotarians are denied the privilege of working for the uplifting of boys of more or less tender years, we have a tremendous opportunity for welfare work among the young men -- many of them little more than boys -- of this port; of being fathers, brothers, guides, philosophers and friends to the youths who, fresh from the homeland and home influences and alone.

“FEW of us who came out as more or less callow youths to the Far East, can look back through the years that have elapsed and say that we should not have been the better for a wise and helpful hand hold out to us on our arrival. Some of us may even be prepared to admit that it was the absence of friendly counsel and assistances, during the days when we were *griffins*, that resulted in foolishness, indiscretion, and even worse.

“UNDOUBTEDLY, very many of the new arrivals among the young men of the port are well taken care of outside the office by conscientious employers, or by the managers of their firms, but there are many -- far too many -- who are ‘left’ entirely to their devices once the business day is over, and who, as strangers in a strange land, must perforce make their own environment unless such a young man possesses a strong character, or has been used to fend for himself, the chances are -- well, we all know about those possibilities and probabilities, and so there is no need to enlarge up them here.

“WHAT better social activity, therefore, can we engage in, as Rotarians, than Welfare Work among young men, new arrivals in Shanghai? The scope of such work is practically unlimited, and comparatively little formal organization is necessary. Space forbids a discussion in detail of the various activities that I have in mind, and I can do no more than touch on them very briefly.

“FIRST and foremost, comes the question of accommodation for the new arrival -- the home environment that is so necessary. A private register of good homes willing to take young men, not just as paying guests, but as members of their family circles, would be comparatively easy to compile a typical case in narrative form.

“JOHN BROWN is on his way to Shanghai under contract to the China Banking Corporation. Rotarian Smith, manager of the bank advises the Welfare Committee of the Club (I would suggest a committee of at least 10, that is to say, five or more groups of two men, each representing a separate religious denomination) of Brown’s expected arrival, furnishing whatever particulars are available regarding him. He is met at the jetty by a deputation of one or two of the committee, who present credentials, and then install Brown in the temporary or permanent home they have selected for him.

“BROWN will be a guest at the next tiffin of the Rotary Club, where he will meet some among us whose duty and privilege it will be to introduce him to our family circles, and generally hold out the hand of friendship. Each member of the Welfare Committee, in particular, and as many other members of the Club as care to, would act as ‘father’ or ‘elder

brother', in the full sense of all those relationships imply, to one or more new arrivals.

"THERE are three principal types among the young men who arrive as strangers in our city:

- (a) The men who comes out here on contract;
- (b) The men who is transferred, or who comes on his own account, from another port;
- (c) The ambitious youngsters who comes out 'on spec.'

"WHILE there are many firms who properly look after their employees' comfort both in and out of the office -- all honor to them! -- on the other hand, one regrets to say that many are too prone to look upon their young men as mere machines, the monthly check being regarded as the only lubrication needed to make the wheels go round. Here, then, is one activity for the committee -- that is, *to keep in touch with employers*, not those who are members of this Club, but outside the Club as well; so closely in touch, that it will be difficult for any young man to arrive in Shanghai without his name becoming known, prior to his arrival, by the committeeman responsible for keeping the register of new arrivals. To make this register as complete as possible, regular visits to hotels will be necessary, as well as the provision of sources of information at some of the larger boarding houses.

"WHEN a young man arrives in Shanghai, he wants a home and all that word entails. In ninety-five cases out of a hundred, he will be a youngster who has heretofore led a clean life, who has looked upon Sunday as more than a day on which one merely rests from the labors of the week, more than a day to be devoted entirely to self-gratification. He will be a young man who is interested in clean sport and recreation -- the fact that he has come to reside in a 'wet' country will probably not interest him at all. In other words, he will want to lead, so far as he can, the life to which he has been used at home. He will want the pleasant companionship of those who think as he does. He will miss his mother and his sister, and will pine for the free and easy association with the other sex to which he has been accustomed. Bars, gambling for high stakes (how astonished he will be to find the business of the post held up twice every year, for three days at a time, to permit of everyone having a little flutter), Saturday night jags, visit to the trenches and places even lower in the scale, will not appeal to him, and it is up to us to see that they never do.

"IN an attempt to ensure this, the committee will take care of the new arrival, when necessary, first by *meeting him at the jetty*, and secondly, by *providing him with a home*. In order to do this, a register of houses will be kept.

"THIS Register of Houses, of thoroughly and conscientiously done, would, in self, be an achievement of which we might well be proud. Its preparation will involve a considerable expenditure of time and trouble, and to keep it up-to-date will be no easy task. Much spade work will be necessary but the results will be well worth the labor. While it will be the actual work of the committee to compile it, members of the Club, one and all, should 'do their bit' by affording the committee all assistance within their power. Our register -- which, needless to say, will be a private book and accessible to the committee only -- will

contain all particulars regarding homes -- homes in the real sense of the word, homes willing to accept as paying guests (which must mean members of the family circle) young men recommended by the 'Big Brother' committee of the Shanghai Rotary Club.

"THE importance of this branch of our work cannot be overstated, for if we have real homes in which to install our young friends, we shall have solved a great part of our difficulties. Unless a youngster has really vicious proclivities, a 'home from home' will go far in helping to keep him straight.

"WE shall have to deal with young men of varying religious beliefs -- Catholics, Episcopalians, Methodists, Baptists, Jews and Christian Scientists, and the home that we have to offer must be classified accordingly.

"THE committee will have to be a mine of information regarding local sport and recreation, and not only be able to put young men in the way of being able to participate in the activities of already organized institutions catering for those needs, but must as well, if called upon, make it possible for them to indulge in their *own particular hobbies and recreations if facilities are not already available.*

"THERE are many churches in Shanghai -- we must know all about them. We shall have to become as familiar with the hospitals (the inside, not the outside) as we are with the Nanking Road. We shall have young men on our list coming to us for advice and assistance -- we shall have to be worthy of their confidence, and strong to assist. We shall have some of your young friends out of employment from time to time -- we must find them new positions (it is possible than an employment bureau may have to be started). And -- and this is a big 'and' -- it is possible the committee may ask the members to furnish funds to provide and maintain a small club (one or two rooms) for such of our young friends as cannot, or should not for various reasons, belong to any of the large institutions of the port. This last requirement is doubtful, however.

"HERE, in brief, is my scheme, and I ask for it your whole-hearted support. The prime requisite in this great work is the will to serve and the purpose to achieve, with these first, success is certain to follow."

### ■ [ *THE ROTARIAN* ] July 1921

## Shanghai Rotary Club supports Scouting

Many of the clubs will recall the account of the Shanghai Big Brother Idea and the Elder Brother Idea and the Elder Brother Committee given in this January issue of *THE ROTARIAN*. The latest report is that a Boy Scout Committee has been appointed and has arranged its program. To quote the words of the report:

*"Here we have two Boy Scout organizations -- the Baden Powell and the American -- asking us directly for assistance. They are not asking us for very much -- only a few*



hours of our abundant leisure and a few dollars from our well-lined pockets.

*“The Baden Powell Boy Scouts require:*

- (a) Three men (young) to give a couple of hours a week to the boys.*
- (b) Offers from these who will act as instructors or examiners, in ambulance and first aid, boxing, nature studies, cooking, manual work (all kinds), etc. Attendance is needed only when a lecture is given and afterwards when examinations taken place, for the boys are offered badges.*
- (c) A man to train a bugle band.*
- (d) A man to teach the boys to swim.*
- (e) Cups or shields of some kind for competition among the Scouts for works of charity or usefulness not individual rewards (these they must not accept), but something that can be placed in a position of honor at troop headquarters.*
- (f) Adult members of the Association at \$5 per annum.*
- (g) A ‘live’ man to act as secretary and treasurer’ the Association has funds of \$2,500.*

*“The American Boy Scouts require:*

- (a) Personal equipment costing altogether \$150 (magnetic compass \$25, two tents \$50, cooking set \$15, carpenter’s tools \$50).*
- (b) Ten Scout uniforms at max. \$15 for those Scouts (sons of missionaries) who are too poor to buy for themselves. This should be considered a loan if so desired.*
- (c) A series of , or single talks on forestry, bird lore, wild animals of China, first aid, use of tools, natural studies, craftsmanship, etc.*
- (d) Offers from proprietors or managers of industrial plants who are willing to take Scouts through their works and explain how things are made.”*

## ■ [ THE ROTARIAN ] August 1922

### Shanghai, China (Population 1,000,000)

Secretary “Doc” Petit writes of the continued and increased interest of the Shanghai Rotarians in work for boys, although the peculiar conditions there prevent the putting on of a Boys Work program such as many other clubs taken up.

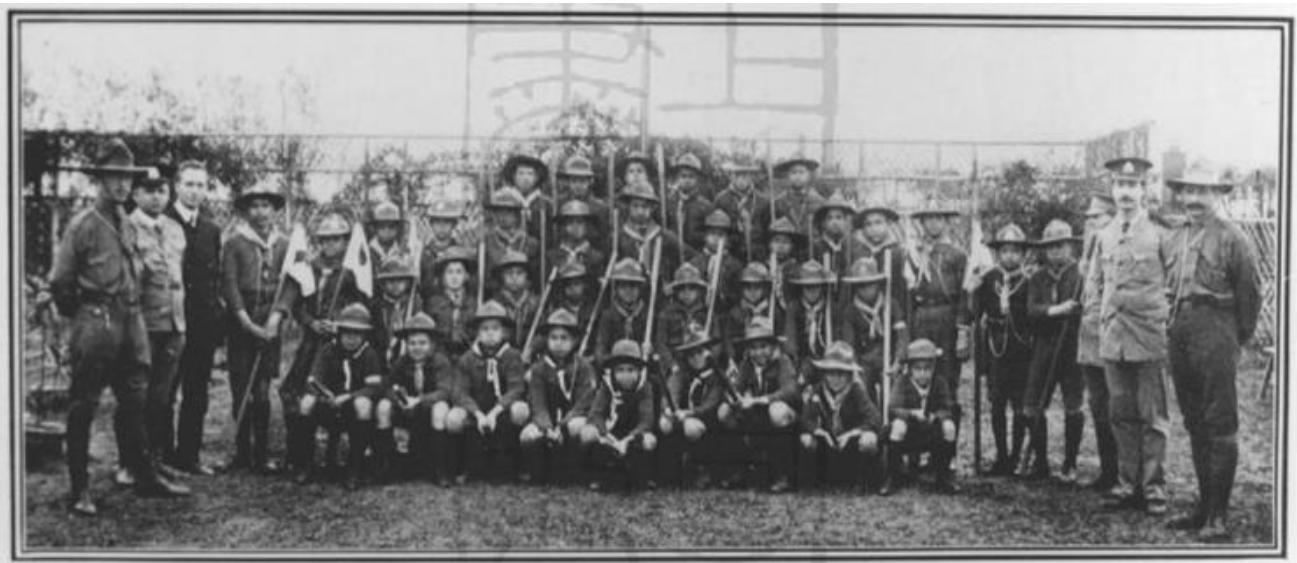
“Doc” reports that the Club entertained forty-two of the students in the institution for the Chinese Blind, with nine of the teachers, by taking them for an automobile ride and giving them as their guests at a dinner. The Rotarians were well repaid by witnessing the happiness of the blind students and by privileged to enjoy a program put on by them.

The Shanghai Rotarians some time ago provided a handsome shield to be presented annually to the Shanghai Scout troop excelling in Scout work. The competition for this shield was greatly stimulated the interest of the Boy Scouts in their troop work.

■ [ *THE ROTARIAN* ] September 1922



The Rotary Club of Shanghai entertained the Boy Scouts at tiffin, and to this way the value of the Scout Movement was impressed on many who would otherwise have remained ignorant with Scout activities. That the tiffin brought results was convinced when one visitor offered the Scouts the use of forty acres for a camp at a rental of \$1 a year, and another promised that he and nineteen friends would each contribute from \$200 to \$1,000 to the Scouts funds. The Shanghai Club also offered a trophy shield for the Scout troops to compete for in a stunt program.



*British Boy Scouts Troop in the Shanghai International Settlement*

### ■ [ *THE ROTARIAN* ] *October 1922*

Bell tents donated by the Rotary Club were used by the American Boy Scouts of Shanghai when they spent their holidays in Wusih. The Rotarians also presented the Scouts with a full equipment of tools, benches, etc., valued at \$250.

### ■ [ *THE ROTARIAN* ] *April 1926*

#### Study Conditions of Hospitals and Special Schools

A special committee of Shanghai Rotary is making an investigation to see what the Club can do to help the school for the blind; the orthopedic hospital, child health; Boy Scouts and Girl Guides; and the Russian school. The committee has made various recommendations and Club action will doubtless be forthcoming in the near future.

### ■ [ *THE ROTARIAN* ] *February 1927*

#### Boys Work in China

The chairman of Boys Work Committee of local Rotary Club reports another successful International Hobby Show for boys. The exhibition was held on the 12th and the 13th of November and was followed by a father-and-son banquet on the 18th at which time the winning patrols of the Boy Scouts of Shanghai, an international group, were the guests of the Rotarians. The president of the Club presented a Rotary shield to the winner in the Scout's Jamboree.

### ■ [ *THE ROTARIAN* ] *May 1927*

#### College Matches Club with Student Aid

An interesting outcome resulted from the request of Shanghai Rotarians that Topeka, Kansas, Rotary would present the Shanghai Club's check forwarded to Mr. Wright, a bursary student attending Washburn College. The check was duly presented, Topeka Rotarians learned something of China, and the college trustees were so impressed by the idea that they voted to present a similar amount to Ernest Shih, a Chinese student at Washburn who is making an enviable record, and further to match any assistance given by the Shanghai Club to some students coming from the American School in Shanghai by equal help to some Chinese students in Washburn.

The first hobby show held here was brought to a very successful conclusion and Shanghai Rotary, which promoted the affair, has hope of including such an exhibit in the program for each Boys Week. The 264 exhibits were classified under pets, handwork, and

collection. There were only 8 pets exhibited and the handwork section had about 150 entries. Some of the most interesting exhibits were made by blind boys, wicker-work, knitted sweaters, bead-work, sewing, etc. Several art students sent in beautiful pictures and colored embroidery. One of the Rotarians, Cheyuen Foon King, is an expert in carving bamboo fans and the arm-rest used by Chinese writers; another, Yinson Lee, has a collection of coins some of which date back to 1500 B.C. Both had exhibits and the son of Rotarian Lee also exhibited a collection of some fifty kinds of silver dollars which had circulated in China during the past thirty years.

Rotarian acted as judges of the exhibits and certificates were printed in English or Chinese according to the language employed by the exhibitor on his entry form. First, second and third prizes were awarded in the various classes and those winning the equivalent of two firsts were entertained at a Rotary tiffin on Father-and-Son day. There were four such winners, two boys, one Chinese, one English; and two girls, one Japanese, and one English. The Japanese girl won most points.

#### ■ [ *THE ROTARIAN* ] *February 1928*

### Philadelphia Presents Scholarship for Shanghai

Each year Shanghai Rotarians offer a scholarship of two hundred and fifty dollars for that graduating member of the Shanghai American School who is adjudged the best all-round boy. This year the Rotary Club of Philadelphia received a check from the Shanghai Rotary Club drawn to the order of a freshman in Haverford College. Accordingly the Rotary Club invited the winner to a meeting where the presentation was made by the Chairman of the Student Loan Fund Committee.

#### ■ [ *THE ROTARIAN* ] *November 1929*

### Fund Aids Students to Attend School Overseas

For eight years the Rotary Club here maintained a scholarship at valued \$500 to assist students of Shanghai-American School to attend college in the United States. In the eight years nine scholarships were awarded, as one year the Scholarship Committee found it impossible to discriminate between two final candidates for the award, so an extra scholarship of \$500 was established for that year. Recently, the Club decided to abandon the scholarship, and devoted the fund to ameliorate distress in the community, but several members felt the scholarships should not be allowed to lapse, and thus it will be continued by private subscription during the coming year.

■ [ *THE ROTARIAN* ] August 1932

### Educate Russian Urchins

The Rotary Club of Shanghai has been instrumentally in raising \$17,000 to be applied to a \$60,000 school building for poor Russian children in this city. A picturesque ceremony of breaking the ground for the new building was held on May 15. It is hoped that the additional fund will be raised so that the building can be completed by the first quarter of next year. The school has been in operation for several years in temporary headquarters, and is now educating 153 children.

■ [ *THE ROTARIAN* ] January 1933

### Aid Russian Children

The Rotary Club of Shanghai recently donated \$200 to a fund for poor Russian children in Harbin, Manchuria.

■ [ *THE ROTARIAN* ] February 1933

### \$500 for School

A Rotary golf tournament recently held by Shanghai Rotarians netted more than \$500 for the building fund of the Russian School, at which the Rotary Club is actively interested.

■ [ *THE ROTARIAN* ] September 1933

### More Boys Work

The Shanghai Rotary Club has assigned \$650 in its Boys Work Committee to carry on its summer camp work.

■ [ *THE ROTARIAN* ] October 1933

### To Raise \$50,000

Members of the Shanghai Rotary Club have launched a campaign to raise \$50,000 for the establishment of a crippled children's hospital.

■ [ *THE ROTARIAN* ] November 1935

### Ten Courses, Sweets, and Magic

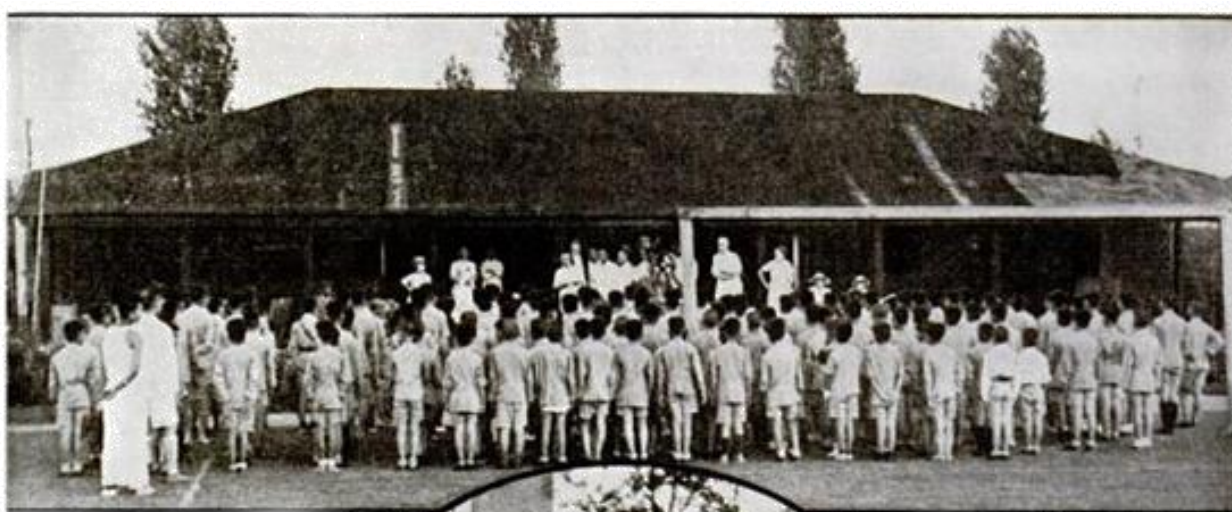
Over 150 boys from the Shanghai Benevolent Industrial Institute attended the first

boys' picnic sponsored by the Shanghai Rotary Club. Useful prizes such as clothing and toilet articles were given in the games. Two Chinese conjurors provided entertainment during a 10-course Chinese dinner, and, as a parting gift, each boy returned home with hands loaded with fruit and sweets.

■ [ *THE ROTARIAN* ] February 1936

### Boys Picnic

Picnic, food, and fun were supplied to 800 underprivileged boys by the Rotary Club of Shanghai, China, on a series of outings recently.



■ [ *THE ROTARIAN* ] January 1937

### Famed for Fine Parties

When you send out 100 invitations and 94 come to your party you may feel sure of your popularity. The Rotary Club of Shanghai had that experience in the last of its children's parties for the season. The poor children represented 13 different nationalities and were recommended by the Salvation Army. Roomy trucks with comfortable seats supplied by Club members transported the children, whose ages ranged from 7 to 15, to the university

campus where the party was held. There were sports with prizes for the winners, a Chinese supper, two bags of candy for each child, presents, moving pictures, and ever so many other things.

■ *[ THE ROTARIAN ] March 1937*

### Field Day for Poor Apprentices

As a grand finale to the organized recreation the Rotary Club of Shanghai had sponsored through the year for underprivileged apprentices, the Club held a sports meeting on a local school ground. To the winners of various dashes and leaps went fine prizes from the Club. In a meeting which followed the field day the boys were addresses by Shanghai Rotarians whose speeches had to be translated into Chinese so that all could understand.

■ *[ THE ROTARIAN ] April 1937*

### Their Goal -- \$40,000 for Crippled Ward

Shanghai is building a new hospital. It will serve the hundreds of families too poor to pay even 50 cents a day for hospital care. But the \$800,000 it is to cost assures that the best equipment purchasable and the best staff obtainable will be found in it. The Rotary Club of Shanghai has agreed to provide a hospital ward for crippled children which is to be housed on the top floor of the huge, beautiful structure. The Club enterprise demands that \$40,000 be raised.

■ *[ THE ROTARIAN ] September 1939*

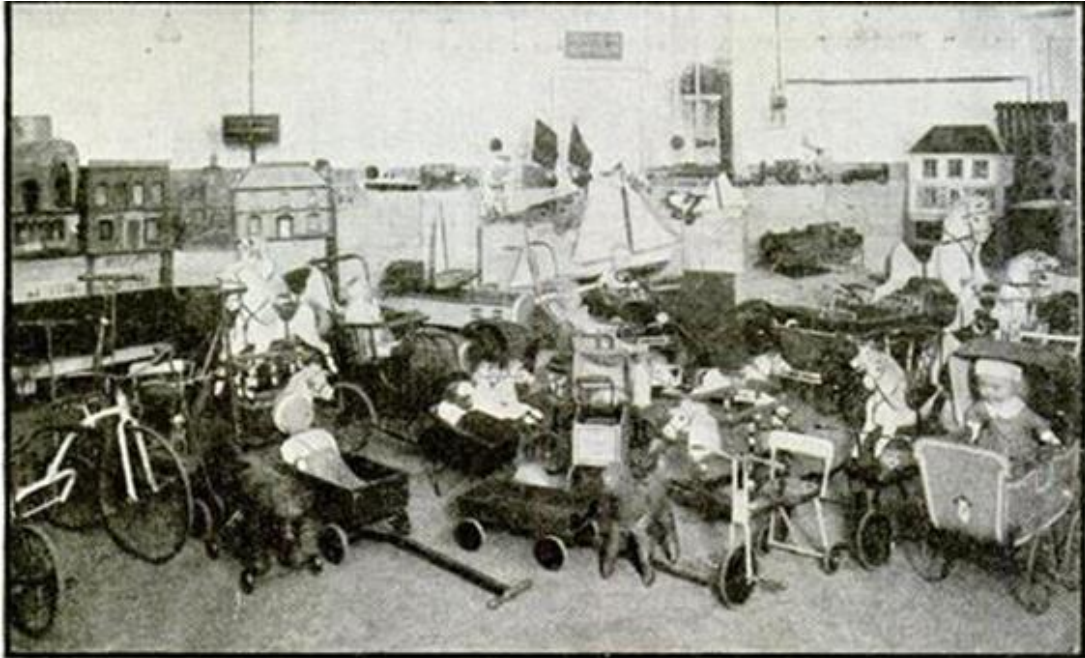
### Boys Learn Woodworking

When a group of young Russian boys completed their school course and desired to learn a practical trade, the Shanghai Rotary Club met their needs. The group was formed into a club and furnished with an instructor in manual training. Tools were purchase and the boys' enthusiasm has contributed to the success of the project.

■ *Toys Hospital 1932-1940*

In Christmas 1932, Shanghai Rotary Club initiated a gift program for children -- Project "Toys Hospital" (*see photo next page*). The Club collected thousands of discarded toys through the co-operation of local newspapers, and rehabilitated for distribution among unfortunate children of the city. Never was there a merrier institution than the "Toys Hospital" operated again in 1934 by members of Shanghai Rotary Club. Through the help

of local newspapers, discarded playthings and broken toys were gathered at various receiving depots throughout the city, then rush to the “Toys Hospital” for surgical treatment. Thus more than 5,000 toys in good condition were distributed to children in various institutions in Shanghai at Christmas time.



In Christmas 1935, Shanghai Rotarians distributed more than 8,000 toys to poor children. Marvelous in 1936, the program called for an even greater number. To increase the number of contributions, Shanghai Rotarians held a needlework and general handwork competition for children in connection with a Better Home Exhibition staged in late November. Rules called for a gift of one worn or broken toy with each entry, so that children not interested in needlework might also compete. A poster competition with the same provisions for entry was also held.

The outbreak of Second Sino-Japanese War in July 1937 made most of the cities in north and central China suffering in battles. The “Toys Hospital” project in Shanghai was still carried on, amongst many of the heavy services shouldered such as war refugees relief, wounded medical supports, etc., of which Shanghai Rotary Club was the central command depot, liaising Rotary International and the Red Cross International, for all other clubs across the country. In Christmas 1940, Restel O. Scott (American) was the Project Chair. He recorded about 6,000 toys were annually repaired by the “Toys Hospital” and were distributed.

Before Christmas 1941, the Shanghai International Settlement was stormed in by the Imperial Japanese forces due to the outbreak of the Pacific War. However, some 22 institutions were remembered by the Shanghai Rotary Club in addition to its “Toys



Hospital” which was strived to survive in the hard time. The Project was, unfortunately, not feasible to carry on in the next years because the normal Rotary services were interrupted by the Imperial Japanese military control.

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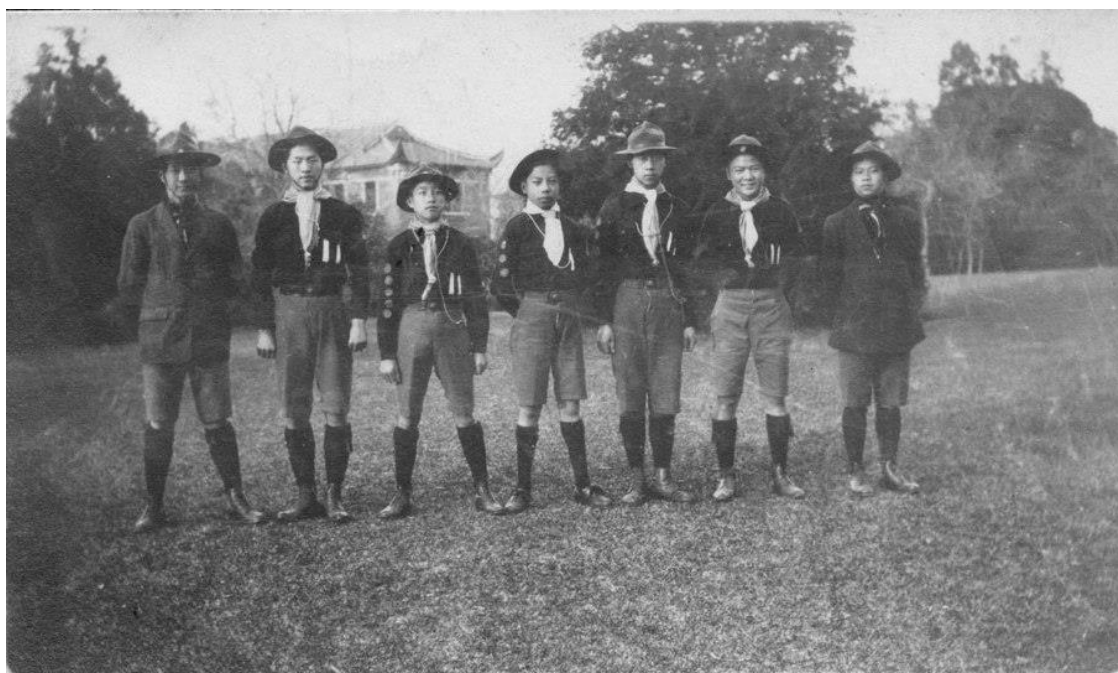
On the other hand, not only the Boys Work projects launched on Club basis. Individual Rotarians were also exemplified themselves to serve the youth in the community in connection with other organizations.

For example, the first Chinese Rotarian Tong Yuen-Chan (唐元湛) was a founder and vice-president of The Boy Scouts Association of China (中華全國童子軍協會) in 1915.

Rotarian “Sandy” A. H. Gordon (*Briton*) was a District Commissioner of the Shanghai Branch, The Boy Scouts Association of Great Britain. His classification was “Associations - Boys Work (Scouting)” in the Shanghai Rotary Club. A Club director in 1927-1928, Gordon returned to England in July 1950, and was later conferred the British Commonwealth Scouting highest award for adult leaders – The Silver Wolf.

“Gem” George Ernest Marden (馬頓), Shanghai Rotary Club President 1928-1929, moved to Hong Kong after the Pacific War, and was the President of The Boy Scouts Association, Hong Kong Branch (香港童子軍總會會長) from 1953 to 1959.

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1917 - Boy Scouts of the Middle School Section, St. John's University, Shanghai

Shanghai Rotary Club President 1945-1946 William Sung (沈嗣良) was the University President 1941-1946



*1937 – During the war against Imperial Japan’s aggression, Shanghai Boy Scouts served as voluntary first-aiders on call at the Red Cross Hospital, while Rotarian A. H. Gordon was the Scouts Commissioner, and Rotarian Dr. Chengting T. Wang was President of the National Red Cross Society of China.*