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BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

January 3, 2005

**This Week's Program**  
**Alex Nadeson – BSU Foreign Student Recruitment**  
**Next Week's Program**  
**Dr. Natalie Roholt – Melanoma Monday**

**Important Dates to Remember**

Chicago, USA – *Rotary International Conference*  
(Centennial Celebration) – June 18-25, 2005  
*Annual Goodwill Conference*, February 4-6, 2005  
Winnipeg, Manitoba – See President Warren for Details

**Visiting Rotarians**

Steve DeKrey, Hong Kong  
Veronka DeKrey, Hong Kong

**Playhouse Update**

First Saturday construction date will be January 8 at 9:00 a.m. at Mark Shough's garage. Contact Scott Turn if you are interested in helping with construction or coordinating ticket sales.

**Clean out Your Closets Rotarians!**

The Boys & Girls Club of Bemidji is in need of new or gently used skates for their recently added ice rink. They are also in need of outdoor winter clothing for the children, including hats, mittens, boots, etc. Contact Ted Will or drop your donations off at the Boys & Girls Club located on 15<sup>th</sup> street.

**January Birthdays**

Al Bontrager	Jan 4
Mark Dickinson	Jan 5
Penny Echternach	Jan 17
Shelly Geerdes	Jan 5
Michael Kelsey	Jan 25
Terry Matson	Jan 12
Cy Murphy	Jan 27
Gayle Quistgard	Jan 17
Sandy Runnigen	Jan 19
Al Schmidt	Jan 20

**Did You Know That January is Rotary Awareness Month?**

Share with us what it means to be a Rotarian, or fun historical facts of our Bemidji Club! I would love to publish your comments. Contact Amy Saeland [amy.saeland@meritcare.com](mailto:amy.saeland@meritcare.com)

**The National Rotarian – A Look Back!**

Source: [www.rotaryhistoryfellowship.org](http://www.rotaryhistoryfellowship.org)

The first issue of The National Rotarian was published in January 1911. This 12-page tabloid was considered the best way to distribute an essay written by Rotary founder Paul Harris. The essay was titled, "Rational Rotarianism." In 1912, by action of the R.I. Convention, the name of the magazine was changed to *The Rotarian*.

**Doug Rudman**

In point of fact, when Paul Percy Harris lay his head down for the final time on 27 January 1947, the February 1947 issue of *The Rotarian* not only had been printed, but also was the mailer, ready to be labeled and sent to the Postal Service. So, when Rotarians around the world began to receive their copies, what they found was an issue with a color picture of Saguro cactus on the cover, and the obligatory anniversary message from Harris on the inside. Many didn't even know that Paul P. Harris had attended his last meeting, or that the issue of *The Rotarian* that they had just received contained the last writings of Paul Harris.

Some wouldn't find out of the passing of Harris until they received the following month's issue, a memorial to Harris, and most never knew that they had held a copy of Harris' last writings.

**The Rotarian – February 1947**

(Anniversary message by Paul P. Harris as we acknowledge the anniversary of his death January 1947)

"It was unselfish men who made the movement what it is," says the Founder in this anniversary message.

By Paul P. Harris  
Founder and President Emeritus of Rotary International

Glancing back through my anniversary messages of the past, it seemed to me that I had covered every inch of the ground; that I had told everything I knew. Then the thought came to me that I had omitted the question Rotarians most frequently ask me: "When you founded Rotary, did you think that it would come to anything like this?"

My answer to that question is, "No." My thoughts on that day 42 years ago this month when the first Club first met, were far from any such thing.

There was no inspired beginning. Young businessmen, mostly from the country, came in response to my call. Unacquainted with city life, we gathered together to help and befriend each other. We looked forward to meetings as a traveler in a desert looks forward to oases. We banished "Mister" and used first names. Silvester Schiele suggested photographs in our roster and the reading of papers on our respective businesses. Harry Ruggles contributed Club singing.

My plan for our Club provided that only one member of each business or profession would be eligible for membership. We would thus be able to enjoy the fellowship and also to help each other in our respective vocations. The Club grew by leaps and bounds, and representatives of different nationalities, religions, and political faiths came in. Complete tolerance prevailed. Our peace and tranquility soon burst their bounds, however. We ceased to be content with isolationism and began Community Service, built upon the rock of fellowship and goodwill, and that foundation has never been shaken. Rotary became known as a beneficial influence in the city of Chicago.

Almost contemporaneously, I started a campaign for Rotary Clubs in other cities. Most of the membership considered it a vagary beyond the bounds of reason. So, I went forward alone, but with the sympathy of all. It is a matter of history how Club Number Two was organized in San Francisco, how Rotary went across the Canadian border to Winnipeg and eventually across the sea to the British Isles, where it became an influence throughout the length and breadth of Britain. Cuba came in, and, eventually, Rotary spanned the world.

Rotary came up the hard way, through the work of self-sacrificing men who gave of themselves unsparingly. Now it continues on its miracle-working way. Its fellowship causes men to take up their beds (ill advisedly sometimes, I think) and walk, rather than break their attendance at Rotary meetings.

However, Rotary does yeoman service in countless other ways as well. Note how it is spreading knowledge of the United Nations, wherein civilization itself is at stake. How could Rotary do otherwise? The delegates are assembled to promote international understanding and goodwill. This is the very heart's core of Rotary teaching. Rotarians were members of 20 delegations and chairman of seven of them at the San Francisco meeting of the United Nations. More power, more power to you, my beloved Rotary! It must be remembered that 1905, the year of Rotary's birth, was not far removed from the horse-and-buggy days. And now we are in the age of the airplane, and the split atom, and still Rotary keeps up.

No, Mr. Rotarian, I did not in 1905 foresee a worldwide movement of 6,000 Clubs and 300,000 men. When a man plants an unpromising sapling in the early springtime, can he be sure that someday here will grow a mighty tree? Does he not have to reckon on rain and sun, and the smile of Providence? Once he sees the first bud, ah, then he can begin to dream of shade.

(Original message was edited to fit our newsletter. Please go to [www.rotaryhistoryfellowship.org/library/rotarian/harris.htm](http://www.rotaryhistoryfellowship.org/library/rotarian/harris.htm) for complete article.)