



SAN MARINO ROTARY CLUB
President Percy L. Cowherd's Year
1945-46

When I was asked to write about Percy Cowherd's Year as President of the San Marino Rotary Club my first reaction was, "That's impossible. I wasn't here!" On further reflection I decided I would be happy to write a little about Percy Cowherd, even though I am not familiar with all of the events of Percy's Presidential Year.

I have some rather scant notes of the affairs of Rotary in '45-46. I read, with considerable nostalgia, the list of directors consisting of Dr. P. Martin Baker; Cedric Scott, Sr., John Barton, Percy Cowherd, Art Skaer, Burford Wright, George Gantus, and Dave Fiscus. Of that group, only George Gantus is still with us.

I note that special attention was given to the Thursday, August 16, 1945 meeting, as that was the first meeting after 1939 in which we had not been at war. The notes which I have, also refer to the two Christmas parties; one before Christmas devoted to the meaning of Christmas and one after Christmas; a happy gettogether of the members.

Aside from his year as president of Rotary I would like to make a few comments about Percy Cowherd as a fine citizen of San Marino. I became well acquainted with Percy because of my interest in the construction business and the real estate business in San Marino. I was always impressed when I went to his office. He was always business like. He had an impressive array of reference books on real estate on his desk.

In those early years the Huntington Land Company had its office in Los Angeles and Percy Cowherd was agent for all of their sub-division property in San Marino. I doubt if many people today realize how vital to the development of San Marino and what a terrific influence the Huntington Land Company and Percy Cowherd were. They passed on all house plans, enforced reasonable restrictions and developed our community a little at a time in an orderly manner. Had it not been for their careful planning and supervision, San Marino would be a far different community; certainly not the one we have so many reasons to be proud of. I always found Percy Cowherd friendly, considerate, helpful and completely honest. I admired him greatly.

Respectfully submitted,

L. E. Shepard, Charter Member

San Marino's long-time secretary, Dave Fiscus, was appointed to this office by our club; he has served succeeding presidents. His fairness and his ability to resolve opposing views, his memory for details, and his keen insight into our Rotary problems have made his service to the club outstanding. Perhaps this was one of President Percy's greatest achievements in his year.

President Percy's club objective was "To promote a keener interest among our members in the aims and objects of Rotary."

Rotarians in service of the U. S. A. on leave of absence were: J. W. Bridges, D. D. Gordon, Lt. Thomas M. Hammond, Kirby Lesh, Capt. L. E. Shepard, Frank N. Ellis, Lt. Donald W. Davis.

PATTERNS

It was the consensus of opinion that the club support the John Tracy Clinic, the Hazel Hurst Foundation and the Boy Scouts of America.

Evidently, the secretary was the recipient of too many fines. The August 1945 Rotoscope carried an open letter to Rotarians and Rotaryannes.

"Presumably it is the duty of the secretary of an organization to keep records, record the minutes of the governing body, and to handle such business and correspondence as may properly come before the club. Obviously, after last week's meeting, your secretary has a misconception of his duties and the above is not a true statement. He would like to have his duties well defined because he can not afford to pay a steep fine each week for doing all the work around the joint. In the future it will be appreciated if any correspondence with the club, especially from our charming ladies, will be addressed to Percival Leon (the lion) Cowherd, President and Worshipped Master of All he Surveys. If you must write the secretary, please enclose a dollar bill with your communication.

Signed, the Secretary"

PEACE

Thursday, August 16, 1945 was the first time the Club had met since its inception in 1939 when all the world had been at peace.

George Gantus, chairman of International Service, sponsored a drive to get 100% subscription to Revista Rotaria.

The District 107 spring conference was held at the Ambassador Hotel April 28-29-30.

Support was given to the Braille Institute.

NEW MEMBERS

New members this year were Dick Kirkpatrick, Joe Cariffe, Tom Beal, Tom Batson, and John Clay. Of these five new members, two, Batson and Clay, later became Presidents of the Club.

VARIETY

This year the Club had two Christmas parties, the first program in the true spirit of Christmas. The following week the Club had "Rowdy Day" when the Club had its Seventh Annual Christmas Party, providing an opportunity for all to let their hair down and relax. (Who has hair?)