

DISTINGUISHED ROTARIAN

Dr. E. Stanton Turner

The full story of the outstanding record of Christian achievement of Stant Turner will never be adequately told. Conrado Benitez, President of the YMCA of the Philippines writes:

"and by answering the challenge of service in the Philippines and dedicating their lives to it, Stant and Mary Turner are hailed today as loyal crusaders for Christianity and Democracy, patriotic Americans whose life-long labors for Filipino Youth has earned for themselves the appellation, "TURNERS OF THE PHILIPPINES."

The highest award the Government of the Philippines can confer upon a civilian was given to Stant in June 1952 when the Award of Merit was presented in recognition of his distinguished service to the people of the Islands. It was awarded in person by President Elpidio Quirino. It read in part:

"Everett Stanton Turner, together with his wife, Mary Aborn Turner, came to the Philippines in 1915 and for 37 years thereafter has been an inspiring and challenging leader of the YMCA Movement in this country.

To Dr. Turner, now in the full Autumn of his life and looking back to many years of fruitful and meaningful service to Filipino Youth, the nation owes a great debt of gratitude."

Stant met and fell in love with Mary Aborn, a classmate, and they were married in 1914. Mary's devotion to her husband and to his work have made for an ideal partnership that has lasted through vicissitudes of life in the tropics, the dangers of war, and the ill-famed Santo Tomas Internment Camp. The Turners have two children, Stanton and Georgiana.

Stant assisted in the organization of the first four Rotary Clubs in the Philippines and served in many capacities until 1931. In later years he was accorded honorary memberships in recognition of his leadership.

Stant and Mrs. Turner were notified by the Japanese on January 5, 1942 that they must be ready in twenty minutes to leave for the prison camp of Santo Tomas. Here they spent the next three years under the most trying conditions. Twice he and Mrs. Turner were sentenced for execution. On each occasion they were saved by intervention of Philippines officials.

Much more could be written of Stant, but time and space will not permit. During his busy and fruitful life Stant has rendered service above self of the greatest value in every endeavor which he supported.

Stant was also awarded the Presidential Medal of Honor by the Philippine Republic and the Doctor of Laws, honoris causa from his Alma Mater, Grinnell College.

He is a man whose deeds speak for themselves and it is a great honor to have had E. S. (Stant) Turner as a member of the Rotary Club of San Marino.