

CHESTER TIMES – February 12, 1917 – ROTARY CLUB IS ORGANIZED – Branch of the National Association of Business Men Formed in This City

For the purpose of organizing a branch of the National Rotary Club, a representative group of local business men, gathered at the historic Washington House, Saturday evening, and took the first initial step in having this city represented in that great organization of civic and business development. The meeting was held with the approbation of the International Association of Rotary Clubs, of which the local club, becomes a branch. Dr. Augustus Koenig, president of the Philadelphia Club and E. A. Knoblach, an officer of the same club, who were authorized by the parent body to superintend the induction of the new organization in this city, gave interesting talks about the purpose of the organization and offered valuable information to the local men in making their initial plans.

Following the private dinner served on the sun porch, the speechmaking was started by the visitors in explaining Rotarian fellowship. At the present time Rotary Clubs are important factors in the civic and business development of over three hundred American cities. Especially in the western country Rotarians are doing notable work in keeping before the public the inducements their city offer.

The Philadelphians prophesied abundant success for the new organization, which is in fact but little younger than the already notable Wilmington Club. Under the chairmanship of William A. Brown, the group organized under the regulations of the National Association, and elected the following officers: Edwin D. Glauser, president; W. A. Brown, vice president; George W. Thomson, treasurer; E. Wallace Chadwick, secretary. The following were elected directors for the ensuing term: Albert R. Granger, Henry J. Klaer, Charles R. Along, R. V. Little and Robert H. McCurdy.

Arrangements were immediately made to commence the series of weekly club lunches and monthly dinners which are compulsory upon the members and which are the basis of Rotarian fellowship. At these meetings are realized the opportunities which the club affords for closer acquaintanceship and more helpful co-operation in advancing the business interests of the community.

The following took part in the organization of the club: Albert R. Granger of the Beacon Light Company; Robert H. McCurdy of the Delaware River Steel Company; John J. Buckley; R. V. Little of the New Chester Water Company; Charles R. Long of The Morning Republican and the Chester Times; T. Chalkley Palmer of the American Dyewood Company; Captain Walter A. M. Wilhelm of the Eddystone ammunition Corporation; J. A. Sim of the Sun Shipbuilding Company; E. Wallace Chadwick, Esq.; Harry Matthews of the Bell Telephone Company; George W. Thomson of the Suburban Gas Company; Francis B. Hitchcock, Richard Turner, Walter H. Craig, Henry J. Klaer of the Penn Seaboard Steel Corporation; William Allen Brown and Frank F. Davis.

Mr. Thomson was appointed to attend the annual banquet of the Philadelphia Rotary club at the Bellevue Stratford Hotel this evening as the representative of the Chester Club.

OBJECTS OF THE CLUB – The Rotary Club meets once each week for luncheon or dinner.

Membership formed on the unique plan of one active and representative man from each line of business and profession in the community.

The objects are to promote the recognition of the worthiness of all legitimate occupations and to dignify each member's occupation as affording him an opportunity to serve society.

To encourage high ethical standards in business and professions.

To increase the efficiency of each member by the development of improved ideas and business methods.

To stimulate the desire of each member to be of service to his fellow men and society in general.

To promote the scientizing of acquaintance as an opportunity for service and aid to success.

To quicken the interest of each member in the public welfare of his community and to cooperate with others in civic, social, commercial and industrial development.