

they have been working off and on on the idea ever since."

During all the intervening years the club had been growing under the gentle tutelage of Presidents J. C. Owens, Dave Guyette, Nate Gibson, and Bill Moffatt, and it was figured that the job of entertaining the convention would be easy. But in 1920, when Oscar Stewart was president, led the local cohorts to Joplin, found that there were 2,500 delegates, the local Rotarians took another hitch in their courage. However, they did not falter."

"But 1921 was a time to 'try men's souls,' for when President George Wilmarth told the 3,700 Rotarians assembled at Wichita that Muskogee intended not only to entertain the 1922 convention, but to do it better than it had ever been done before — doubts crowded in."

"But with George staying on the job, even after the election of A. F. McGarr as his successor, things have been tuned up until it seems that the local convention will be reeled off without a hitch."

"The club now has 156 members, and practically every business and professional man from minister to educator, to railroading and referee in bankruptcy is represented."

Ross Burns was District Governor

District Governor Ross Burns was high in his praise of the local Rotarians for the superb manner in which they performed such an undertaking. He said, "Never have I seen such courtesy and hospitality as that extended the Seventeenth Rotary District by the civic clubs and the citizenship of Muskogee generally. Every Rotarian in the district will join with me in an expression of real appreciation for this kindly feeling on the part of Muskogeeans."

600 Motor Cars for Rotarians

Though the convention was held in the early days of the automobile, Muskogeeans furnished 600 courtesy cars to the visiting Rotarians. Boy Scouts met the trains, assisting with the luggage. All hotels were full to capacity and many citizens provided rooms in their homes. In addition, 2,500 persons were housed in "Pullman City," consisting of 100 cars.

5,000 Rotarians Capture Muskogee

The headline of the Home Edition of the Times-Democrat March 30, 1922 was 5,000 ROTARIANS CAPTURE MUSKOGEE. A subheadline was GREATEST ROTARY GATHERING EVER HELD UNDER ONE ROOF CHEERS AS GATHERING IS FORMALLY OPENED.

Santa Fe President Main Speaker

W. B. Storey, President of the Atchinson, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad, was the principal speaker at the opening session. He predicted a prosperous era and urged business to launch out with confidence. Other speakers in the various sessions were Author James Heron, Estes Snedecor, and T. J. Leahy.

Eighteen Model Luncheon Meetings

O. S. Redfield served "Ready Lunches" in 18 locations for the model luncheons. Facilities were used at St. Paul Methodist, First Methodist, First Baptist, Trinity Methodist, First Presbyterian, Central Baptist, Bethany Presbyterian, First Christian, and the Congregational Churches, Knights of Columbus Hall, Severs Hotel, Y.M.C.A., Community Center (State and Court), Shrine Temple, Moberly Club (North of the Severs), Elks Club, and Central High.

Committee Heads

President George Wilmarth had the following committees in charge of the convention: Executive Committee, W. F. Moffett, A. J. Calhoun, and E. H. Leroux; Program, N. A. Gibson; Post Office, James A. Lathim; Ladies Entertainment, R. M. (Dick) Jacks, Boy Scout, Arthur B. Tebbitts; Evening Lunch, A. C. (Si) Simon; Printing, W. L. (Bill) Askew; Baggage, Harry Lyon, Hall Construction, S. M. (Mac) McManus; Decorating, H. A. (Herb) Kroh; Stunts, Walter E. (Bobbie) Roberts; and Dance Arrangements, Jimmy Mason.

Many Special Groups

All sorts of musical and marching groups came to the convention to be on the program or participate in the parade. The Independence, Kansas Boys' Band, "A World Beater," was featured on the program. Ardmore's Rotary World and Drum Corps was a snappy looking group as was the Nowata Boys' Band, and of course, Central High's "Pride of Muskogee" (E. C. Starbuck, director), were on hand. "Musical Stunts" were put on by the Durant High School Drum Corps, the Sacophone Band of Ottawa, Kansas, and the Pittsburg, Kansas Saxophone Trio.

Who's Who in Peacock Blue

The Muskogee Membership numbered 156 and they all wore "peacock blue." Persons still in the club listed in the group are as follows: Forrest Bebb, Maurice Bebb, Jere Locke, and Harry

McManus), and Henry Ketcham (Lee Ketcham). Others to be recognized by many present day Muskogeeans are: Ed Bouldin, John Brown, Ed Creager, Charlie Dawson, Frank, and Joe Dickmann, L. W. Duncan, R. P. Harrison, Kroh, Jimmie Lathim, Fay Lynde, Ed Morton, Mack McGarr, Harry Ogden, Gene Overmeyer, Gabe P. Pegram, Bobbie Roberts, Stanley Shelor, Sim Slaughter, Sondheimer, Oscar Swan, Oscar Stewart, Alex Unger, Hulse, Bishop Thurston, Walter Towner, Ben Weeks, Harry Simon Wich, and Charlie Wright.

Rotary Hall

A place to hold such a gathering in those days posed a problem which was solved by assessing each Muskogeean \$100 and S. M. (Mac) McManus constructing Rotary Hall, the bleachers and the home plate area of the ball park. Not only it serve as a meeting place for the formal sessions but was a room in which the 5,000 persons were fed 2,500 fried chicken "new Eskimo Pie" and coffee under the direction of Si Simon the Boy Scouts. Paper cups were new and had to be brought from Pueblo, Colorado. Rotary Hall was used the night before convention to permit Muskogee citizens to hear a concert over a new phenomenon, radio. Judge Ben Lindsay, the noted jurist from Denver, Colorado, gave a lecture the night following the convention (Saturday), and a citywide church service was held on Sunday night after which the hall was dismantled and the material salvaged.

Mardi Gras A Big Event

The big entertainment on the first night was a mammoth Mardi Gras at the fairgrounds. Incessant rain did not stop them. Tons of sawdust was hauled and distributed over the mud, and bridges were built over the worst places with 200 persons working all night under the direction of President George Wilmarth.

Everyone Cooperated

Everyone helped the Rotarians entertain the visitors. They threatened to "steal A. D. Peabody," President of the Lions Club, as "no one had done more hard work for the success of this convention than has Mr. Peabody." The Chamber of Commerce cooperated to the fullest extent, and citizens at large helped in every way possible. The facilities of the Y. M. C. A. were offered to all visitors. The Girl Scouts, under the direction of Miss Wilson, sacked 15,000 bags of confetti, and "there were two on every corner."

Boy Scouts Were Indispensable

President Wilmarth said that "the convention could not have been held without the help of the Boy Scouts." They responded "300 strong, all in uniform." They met the trains, carrying luggage; they directed traffic; they acted as guides; they helped in the post office; they operated a free checkroom "without making a single mistake;" they helped served the big chicken dinner and served as K.P.'s; they operated a first aid station; and they were hosts to scores of visiting Scouts and Scouters from all over the area. A tent headquarters was set up south of the Severs. The following Scoutmasters were on duty: W. H. Cunningham, H. S. Von Unwerth, J. A. Anderson, C. K. Davis, Reyburn Fearnside, H. A. Fitts, A. L. Smith, R. B. Butts, J. R. Stewart, J. L. Edwards, R. H. Eakins, G. O. Bicknell, and R. L. Wagner. The following Scouts were praised for participating "above the call of duty:" Preston Jones, Camp Bonds, John Bond, Robert Butz, Solon Bower, John and Frank Dickmann, Benton Fabian, Rector Fitts, Nate Gibson, Floyd Harrower, Jack Land, Brady Loftin, Arthur McGarr, Charles Haskell, A. W. Smalley, Jr., James Stewart, Erie Swartzel, Albert Von Unwerth, Robert Neimann, and C. A. Montgomery.

The Closing Session

A "big variety and stunt show" was the finale of the convention. Reverend Blackman, the "fighting parson" of Chanute, Kansas spoke on the relationships between parents and children. George Thatcher Guernsey Jr., of Independence, Kansas was elected district governor to replace Ross Burns of Joplin, Missouri. Thus closed a mammoth district convention fifty years ago with the returning Rotarians very loud in their praise as to the manner in which Muskogee Rotarians treated them, all proclaiming it to be the "best yet."



Ross Burns
District Governor
Of Rotary Club

Bail Jumping Charge Dismissed

A felony count of bail jumping was made in Muskogee Court against Glee Brown, 27, of Tulsa, dismissed.

Brown was accused to show up on a court date on drunkenness. He was released from jail on bond posted by Jan Jordan Bonding Company.

Jeff L. Wainwright Gets Engineer License

STILLWATER — Jeff L. Wainwright is among the seven seniors in the Oklahoma University College of Engineering honored by being receive the Saint Francis Award. The awards, much coveted by low students, are the highest an engineer can receive.

Harold Raley

Harold Raley has been indicted in Muskogee for failure to return property, a felony.

Raley is accused of stealing nine pairs of trousers from Advance Dry Goods February 2 and 3.

A warrant has been issued for his arrest.

DR. PEALE

OKLAHOMA CITY — Dr. Norman Vinson will speak May 3 at the Oklahoma City Sales Executives Club, author of 16 books, "The Power of the Word," which has been translated into 33 languages.