

INTERESTING LETTERS

In going through the piles of paper accumulated over the years by Space Center Rotary, it was most touching to read some of the correspondence that exemplifies how the rest of the world has become aware of Space Center Rotary. Here are a few treasures.

It's too long to reproduce here, but Look through the 1971-72 folder and you'll find letters from the Houston group study exchange detailing their experiences in Australia.

In August, 1971, the following letter was sent from Santiago, Chile to Mr. President, Space Center Rotary Club::

"The Rotary Club of Santiago, Chile, has asked me to extend our sincere congratulations for the unprecedented lunar flight of Apollo IV.

Since we know that David Scott, James Irwin, and Alfred Worden belong to yhour club, I extend our congratulations to them, to your club, and especially to you and the board members of the club which again has gained an everlasting glory.

The club was nice enough to send us vitamins for the children of Chile, for which we will always be eternally grateful. During my presidency I corresponded with my friend, Gene Lindquist, and it was he who was the moving force behing the idea.

My regards and again our most cordial heart-felt congratulations.

Jorge Melendez Escobar
Past President

In the 1971-1972 folder will also be found a letter and peso bill from the Club Rotario, de La Ciudad de Mexico;

Dear Fellow Rotarian:

The Mexican Government has decided to disconinue the printing of the "One Peso" bill, to be replaced by a bronze nickel coin. Therefore, in a short period of time these bills will be out of circulation. As a token of goodwill from your fellow Rotarians of Mexico we are enclosing one of these bills, inasmuch we consider it is one of the most beautiful ever printed, so that you may keep it as a collector's piece.

Without considering this as an obligation, and if you desire to collaborate with our "Committe of Activities for Human Interest," we would appreciate you sending us in exchange any bill of American currency to increase our fund to enlarge the number of beneficiaries. This committee has been working with great success for several years taking care of the many constant cases we get of people with scarce financial resources, solving spccific problems such as rehabilitation of invalids, the purchase of differenct types of prothesis, glasses, surgical operations, ewing or knitting machines for widows, etc.

Yours in Rotary
Jaime de la Macorro, President

And yet another moving letter from the Rotary Club of Brena in Lima, Peru, enclosing a small colorful banner with two Rotary wheels, one labeled "Space USA Center", the other labeled "Brena," and on the bottom, "Lima-Peru:

July 13, 1971

Dear Rotary Friends,

On the eve of Apollo 16, which will undoubtedly bring much information on our solar system, we would like to join in congratulating the Space Center Rotary Club. We are proud that such a mission will greatly enhance our knowledge of space science.

Being a member of the Peruvian Association of Astronomy and the chairman of the International Relations Committee, I would like to extend a hand of friendship to the members of your club and especially to John Young, Thomas Mattingly, and Charles Duke. We have recently received word that the astronauts have dedicated their mission to the "goodwill that grows from the heart of the volcanic mountains of the moon." This is the same theme adopted by our President Breithol in conjunction with your space efforts.

I make use of this opportunity to wish you a successful Rotary as well as "space" year.

Carlos Lopez, Past President
Rotary Club of Brena, Peru

Another bit of Space Center Rotary history is contained in a letter from SCR to the Rotary Club of Monteros, Tucuman, Argentina:

April 21, 1972

Dear President Luis Boffano,

We are very pleased to inform you that both the Houston and Space Center Rotary clubs participated together in doing all we possibly could for six young medical graduates who arrived in Houston on April 18. The Houston club did a splendid job in arranging for meeting them at the airport, arranging for their housing and setting up a daily agenda for their entertainment and educational program. They spent considerable time at the Texas Medical Center, including their getting to watch an open-heart surgery by the world renowned heart surgeon, Dr. Denton Cooley. They were also honored and recognized by the Houston Rotary Club during the club's weekly luncheon meeting. The Space Center Club met the young men at the Houston club and brought them to the Clear Lake area where they were able to visit the Manned Spacecraft Center during all the excitement of the moon landing mission-Apollo 16. They also got to see the many beautiful residential areas and took pictures of some of the astronauts' homes. They then visited the home of Dr. and Mrs. Lionel Garcia who accompanied them to a lovely restaurant on nearby Galveston Bay for a reception and dinner. They were then returned to Houston for the night.

With every good wish from the members of our Club to the members of your Club, I remain,

Gene Lindquist, Past President, SCR

And finally, these absolute gems of letters from Dr. Harry Suprun, Chairman, International Service Committee, Naharyia, Israel--July 11 and 31, 1971:

"Earlier this month a team of Phillipine anthropologists discovered a tribe of approximately 100 people living in total seclusion for centuries on the isle of Mindaneo south of the Phillipines. The tribe is known as the Tasadai and have been living and leading a life similar to that of the Stone Age of the prehistoric era. It has been officially announced that the tribe has no knowledge of rice, wheat, salt, sugar or pottery and has no outlet to the sea. This singular human tribe is apparently the only group of people on the face of the earth not cognizant of the use of tobacco, and their only tools consist of stones and bamboo canes. They feed on wild game and vegetation.

Yesterday, July 10th, 1971, witnessed the beginning of man's fourth and most daring lunar assault, namely the Apollo 15 astronautical journey to the moon with its lunar module Falcon's descent to the touchdown area in the Sea of Rains. The particularly complex landscape chosen this time on the lunar surface to be explored, consists of a lunar sea of once molten lava, an Alpine ridge called the Appenines, a deep serpentine Rille or gorge and a surrounding area of smaller mounds and craters. This lunar crust could supply terrestrial scientists and geologists with possible new clues to the origin of the moon itself and to the birth of the entire solar system. In their words, a "giant leap" into space only to explore and possibly uncover the secrets of our good Mother Earth.

However the above two events may seem extremely antipodal in space and time, yet it appears that both share a great deal in the sense that modern man has made giant strides in the technological progress in order to learn and acquaint himself with the very beginning and possible creation of the universe. Thus, from a philosophical point of view it appears that man's life and destiny are cyclical in the same sense that in the evolution of mankind on earth the direction of development is toward a higher technological standard of living, continuously striving to reach the highest possible level, yet not losing sight of the everlasting affinity to study and explore the very beginnings of life on this planet and others to come. This natural trend has received its fullest expression in the aforementioned historic events.

In honor and commemoration of these outstanding human feats and universal achievements we deemed it most appropriate to toast your esteemed Rotary Club during our weekly meeting on Sunday, July 24, 1971, for your cities have in fact served a central pillar of the foundation upon which present-day mankind can rest and use as a lever for future constructive evolution and development against a background of increased international good will, peace, and a far better understanding amongst nations."

On July 31, 1971, Dr. Suprun wrote about his town, Nahariya. "The site of our town dates back in history to some 4,000 years ago when the early Canaanites built a temple of fertility on the seashore some 100 metres from our present swimming pool. Two thousand years later the Roman "Via Maris" was constructed, passing through the future Nahariyz. The Crusaders too left their imprint, building one of their castles to the north of the town, at a place which was called "Castel Imbaart" and which was known already during Phoenician times as Ch'sly. Today the "Achslly" Mediterranean Club is well known internationally. 10 kilometres to the south is the town of Acco, derived from the Crusaders' name "St. Jean d'Acre."

In modern times our town appears on the map as a small agricultural settlement established some 35 years ago. Today, as a thriving sea-side resort of over 25,000 inhabitants, Nahariya has firmly established herself as one of the beautiful towns of our country. Thirty-four hotels and recreation homes dot the town; a beautiful beach and pool form the centre of attraction during the summer months, and from Nahariya the tourist can conveniently see the rest of the Galilee. Its holy places, Kibbutzim, Druza and Moslem villages, sites of interest to the historian, archaeologist and plain lover of nature.

Our main industries are an asbestos-cement plant employing about 600 workers, a textile spinning and dyeing industry, a dairy-product and ice-cream plant, a modern expanding hard-tool factory and a number of various smaller factories and workshops. In addition Nahariya is the site of a well-equipped regional hospital.

In agriculture we produce milk, beef-cattle, poultry, eggs and vegetables. Citrus fruit and avocado are grown for export and of late roses and carnations which are sent to the markets of Europe.

This then is our town. Our Rotary Club was chartered in 1957 and today comprises 46 members representing Nahariya's agriculture, industry, medical profession, education and general services.

Greetings and Good Wishes,

Dr. Harry Suprun