

# JAMES WHEELER DAVIDSON

PROFILE OF A ROTARIAN

N.T. JOSEPH



## THE BOOK

JAMES WHEELER DAVIDSON is the story of a remarkable Rotarian who devoted a significant part of his life to spread the message of Rotary around the world. Along with Col. Layton Ralston he introduced Rotary in Australia and New Zealand in 1921. Commissioned by Rotary International, he started on a mission in 1928, accompanied by his wife and daughter, to organise Rotary clubs in the Middle East and the Orient. It took three years and quarter million dollars of his own money. He was held in great esteem by world Rotary leaders including Paul Harris and Ches Perry.



## The Author

N.T. JOSEPH was educated at St. Berchmans' College, Changanacherry and Loyola College, Madras. He worked in the Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India, New Delhi for ten years and left the service to take up independent business. He joined Rotary in 1956 and is a Past President of the Rotary club of Cochin, INDIA and a Paul Harris Fellow. He is an acknowledged authority on Rotary and author of **THE STORY OF ROTARY IN INDIA** released in 1972.

to lend strength to Rotary. I am sure all those going through the pages shall not only find the enriching contents stimulating but also derive immense inspiration from Jim's life.

Chandigarh: 3rd September, 1987. R.K. Saboo

## i Introduction

I have often wondered when I hear Rotary speakers address on the growth and expansion of Rotary with its membership surpassing one million in as many as 161 countries how many of us really know of the sacrifices made and the efforts put forth to create the impetus which caused Rotary to spread around the world. Rotary came up the hard way, through the work of self-sacrificing men who gave themselves unsparingly.

In THE ROTARIAN February/1947, Paul Harris in the very last article he wrote before his death, paid tributes to Rotary's early ambassadors, and singled out one or two of them as men who should be credited with having planted the seeds of Rotary far and wide, and having thus brought about the establishment of Rotary as a world-wide movement. After mentioning the one and only Ches Perry who served as Rotary's secretary from 1910 to 1942 he continued "and then there were men like James W. Davidson of Canada who with his countryman Col. J. Layton Ralston planted Rotary in the Antipodes. Later when Jim's health and strength were failing he spent three years in completing the span of the world, bringing Rotary to many more lands. After reporting to Rotary International's Board in Chicago Jim returned to Canada and died".

Sydney W. Pascall, President of Rotary International, 1931-32, visiting Rotary Clubs around the world covering Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Far East, Australia and New Zealand witnessed the result of the labours of Jim Davidson. He wrote in THE ROTARIAN July/1932" . . . and those two intrepid Rotarians, Layton Ralston and Jim Davidson who back in 1921 brought Rotary to Australia and New Zealand. More recently, as every reader of THE ROTARIAN magazine knows, Jim established a string of new clubs from the Near to the Far East. As a result, no name in Rotary of the Orient

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## DEDICATION

*This book is dedicated to Mrs. Marjory Abramson, daughter of the late James W. Davidson, who helped me by providing much of the data for compiling this volume.*

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*James Wheeler Davidson.*

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## FOREWORD

The lives of people who embarked upon great adventures are the fountainhead of eternal inspiration. The more we delve deep into their past, more we learn of the source of their inspiration and find answers to the questions, as to what motivated them? What drove them to do what they did? And when such a person is associated with a great movement having a positive bearing on the lives of the multitude, his biography becomes a guiding force.

Jim Davidson's life has been such a guiding force. He was a missionary of our times. At his own expenses, he crossed oceans and travelled to different lands to spread the message of human understanding and sow the seeds of a movement that spans the world today - the Rotary.

We in this region owe a great deal to his dedication and endeavours with which he went about spreading the message of service and fellowship.

To chronicle the travels and travails of this enterprising man, as he went about his mission of spreading Rotary in the Orient in the early 1930s, has been quite a colossal task which another dedicated and knowledgeable Rotarian, N.T. Joseph, has taken up most diligently. His earlier book on "Rotary in India" in itself is a remarkable compilation of the development of Rotary in this region for posterity and now this attempt to relive and retrace the path that Jim Davidson took during his meaningful sojourn in Asia by Rtn. Joseph is commendable. I extend my heartiest felicitations to him for his endeavours and the zeal with which he is striving

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is known better and honoured more. He has almost become a tradition, a cult . . . . . The energy of that human dynamo in the great and enervating heat of those tropical lands; the way in which he swept all who talked Rotary with him, even those hostile, into his net; answered their arguments; met their objections; removed their doubts; called them to a meeting until, as some one said, "Before we knew where we were, he informed us we were duly installed Rotarians and with a pat on our backs gave us a friendly push off on our Rotary career". Frankly I 'dip my lid' to Jim. Rotary will never have a finer, a more tireless, a more persuasive missionary"

In the seventies THE ROTARIAN published a series of articles entitled 'First Men of Rotary' of which the last was on James W. Davidson, the Marco Polo of Rotary. The article briefly describes the life and work of Jim Davidson and his great service for spreading Rotary around the world. The article concludes thus: "Jim Davidson made the twain meet for Rotary and in a way that Kipling would have approved. He encountered strong men from the other ends of the earth face to face, and in so doing, helped to diminish the differences of border, breed and birth."

I came to know of Jim Davidson and his great services to Rotary while doing research for my book THE STORY OF ROTARY IN INDIA. With the knowledge that he was a member of the Rotary club of Calgary, I wrote to the President of that club for more information on Jim Davidson. He informed me that Jim Davidson along with Col. Ralston of Halifax, Nova Scotia, was responsible for organising Rotary in Australia and New Zealand in 1921 and that Jim Davidson, accompanied by his wife Lillian and daughter Marjory, started on a historic voyage in 1928, commissioned by Rotary International, for Rotary extension in several countries in the Middle East and the Orient. In this voyage he spent about three years of his life and quarter million dollars of his own money.

I also came to know that Lillian Davidson published a series of travel articles in THE ROTARIAN describing the experiences in various countries they visited and the problems encountered by Jim in establishing Rotary in these countries. The articles were later compiled into a book under the title MAKING NEW FRIENDS. At my request Marjory made xerox copies of portions relating to India and forwarded to me. I utilised the information in writing the story of Rotary in India. I was also informed that Lillian was living with her daughter Marjory Abramson at Delta near Vancouver.

After attending the Rotary International Convention in Houston, Texas in 1972, where my book was released by the then R. I. President Elect Roy D. Hickman I made a trip to Delta to meet Lillian and Marjory. Accompanied by my wife Mary, I visited them and spent a very delightful evening reminiscing over the Davidson journeys for Rotary extension. Lillian, 92, was then in a bed-ridden condition following an auto accident but her memory was sharp. I presented her with a copy of my book and she read with interest the reference to Jim and herself in the book. She also posed for a photograph with me and my wife.

From Delta I went to Calgary and attended a meeting of the Rotary club of Calgary in August 1972. That being the time of the Stampede Festival a large number of visiting Rotarians from USA and Canada were present at the meeting. With the permission of president George Russell Harrison, I addressed the club for a few minutes mentioning that I came to Calgary on a holy pilgrimage to repay the debt of gratitude of Indian Rotarians and to offer homage to a distinguished member of that club who was responsible for early Rotary extension in India, by launching the Rotary clubs of Bombay, Delhi and Madras. I added that the seeds planted by Jim Davidson have grown up well and blossomed forth and that Rotary in India has become a great force for good. I was given a standing

ovation by the audience and president George, very much moved by my remarks on Jim Davidson, thanked me and said "hats off to you" and presented me with his cow boy hat. I still cherish that great moment. Many senior Rotarians, who knew Jim Davidson, personally, came to me and congratulated me for my address.

In 1983 during my stay in USA with my children in Wisconsin, U.S.A., I was aware that Toronto was getting ready for hosting the R.I. Convention. On being convinced that the services rendered by Jim Davidson to Rotary had not received adequate recognition I suggested that Toronto Convention was the right occasion to accord that recognition. My suggestion was followed up by two distinguished Canadian Rotarians - Aubrey Oldham of Bracebridge and Robbie Robinson of White Rock - to the Convention Chairman, Tibor P. Gregor and with the approval of R.I. President Hiroji Mukasa, the Special Recognition of James W. Davidson was included in the Convention agenda. It was my privilege to attend the Convention and witness the presentation by R.I. President Hiroji of a special plaque of appreciation to Marjory Abramson, daughter of Jim Davidson, acknowledging the great services rendered by Jim to Rotary in a very solemn ceremony.

I was in regular correspondence with Marjory. When I took up the work of updating my book on Rotary in India I contacted her again. She kindly offered to place at my disposal all the letters, reports, press cuttings, and the Davidson diaries covering their journey for Rotary. I went over to Delta in January 1987 and spent one week delving into the materials so kindly presented to me by her. I was impressed and amazed by the dedication of Jim Davidson and the high esteem in which he was held by Paul Harris and other Rotary leaders. I became aware of the magnitude of his efforts to spread Rotary and the problems he encountered in this connection in strange lands. The personality of this great Canadian Rotarian revealed in the

records and the letters of tributes influenced me profoundly and inspired me to try and tell the story of the life and work of Jim Davidson for the benefit of the many Rotarians who may not be aware of his valuable contributions to Rotary and for permanent record. I also hope that Jim's dedication to the cause of Rotary will provide inspiration for Rotarians all over the world.

In this book I would like to cover the life of Jim Davidson from his schooling in Austin, Minnesota and in a military school near Chicago, his stint with Major James Pond in New York, his North Pole expedition with Admiral Peary, his years in Formosa, his consular post which he resigned to marry Lillian, his efforts to carry Rotary to Australia and New Zealand in the company of Col. Layton Ralston, his endeavours as Hony. General Commissioner for Rotary Extension in the Near and Far East, his glorious return to Canada and his report to the Board of Directors of Rotary International, his death and funeral. Selected extracts of condolence messages received by Mrs. Davidson from Rotary leaders and Rotary clubs around the world are included. I also refer to and review the book MAKING NEW FRIENDS. Lillian's address at the Seattle Convention in 1932 TRAILING ALONG THROUGH ASIA is reproduced in full. A brief account of the Davidson Memorial service at the Detroit Convention in 1934 and the Special Recognition of Jim Davidson at Toronto Convention in 1983 are also featured. The book also contains the impressions of daughter, Marjory Abramson, of her father.

Acknowledgements: I am deeply grateful to Mrs. Marjory Abramson for placing at my disposal the entire range of materials covering Jim Davidson's travels for the promotion of Rotary, preserved in good condition by her, and helping me to sort them out and for taking copies of various letters, reports, press clippings and other relevant records. I have liberally drawn from these source materials for writing this story of Jim Davidson. I am also thank-

ful to Marjory for giving her own impression of her father for inclusion in the book. I discussed this book project with Phil Lindsey, General Secretary, Rotary International, and Willmon White, Editor of THE ROTARIAN at Evanston and I am much obliged to them for all encouragement and for providing additional information. However all views expressed in this book, except for the excerpts which have been acknowledged, are my own. My thanks are also due to Rajendra K Saboo, Past R.I. Director, Rotary International, for writing the foreword to the book.

## ii Highlights of Early Life of Jim Davidson

The eventful life of James W. Davidson was a saga of epic dimensions. The careers of few men have encompassed the scope of rugged adventure and solid accomplishment that was Jim Davidson's lot. Compared to him Marco Polo was only a commuter.

Jim was born on June 14, 1872 at Austin, a Southern Minnesotan town. When he reached school age it was soon evident that he was not destined to become a brilliant student. With one exception, he indicated a marked lack of enthusiasm for the subjects on the curriculum. Indifferent to reading, writing and arithmetic, he revelled in geography. From the earliest of his school days he was attracted by the lure of far-away places, never to become satisfied until he had visited many of them. The horizon of his aspirations was far away, across the lands and across the seas. Coast line irregularities of Asia fascinated him. Life at a military school near Chicago only honed his restlessness.

When only 18 years of age, he organised a theatre circuit of which Austin Opera House, then known as the Davidson Opera House, was a unit. Successful management of several opera bookings in the Twin Cities attracted the attention of his uncle, Major James Pond, a New York impresario, and he wired Jim to go over to New York to discuss an opening in his organisation. Jim went. Major Pond managed the tours of famous people and young Jim became acquainted with many world figures including Admiral Peary. Admiral Peary who liked the way that Davidson handled the details of his tour, selected him as a member of his 1894 polar expedition among more than 1500 applicants. The dream of far away places was being transformed into reality. So it came to pass that the man who

later was to toil on India's coral strand, spent 18 months on Greenland's icy mountains. A bothersome foot, once frozen, often reminded him of a memorable 1300 mile dogteam march over the great Ice Cap. After the expedition the relief ship brought news of the Chinese-Japanese war. Jim got friendly with a Brooklyn news paper publisher on board. A few months later James W. Davidson was a correspondent for the New York Herald in Japan.

Jim was decorated with the Order of the Rising Sun by the Emperor of Japan, in recognition of the daring deed Jim and two other men undertook to save a Formosan community from mass murder by a marauding army of defeated Chinese. After the Japanese and Chinese made peace in 1905, Davidson continued in Formosa for nine years, doing correspondent's work and learning Japanese, writing a book "Formosa, Past and Present" which is still considered a standard reference book and finally joining the American Foreign Service. The name of James W. Davidson figured from then prominently in the affairs of the Orient. He was later appointed Consul General of Shanghai where he won praise from Presidents McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt. The latter commissioned him to traverse the great province of Manchuria to secure data for the United States government. Then the government loaned his services to Russia for a six months survey of the Trans-Siberian Railway. He then suddenly resigned from the consular service. The reason was his meeting with attractive Lillian Dow of San Francisco whom he met in Kobe, Japan. They were married and, in 1907, the couple returned to North America and established residence in Calgary, Canada. Western Canada was booming and to it went the ex-theatre magnate, ex-explorer, ex-newspaper man and ex-consul. He cast his lot with the youthful city of Calgary and as a colonisation agent he prospered with it.

In 1914, Jim joined the Calgary Rotary club but for some time he was not an active member, though personally popular. He missed so many meetings

that he almost lost his membership. The transformation from an attitude of indifference to Rotary International's ambassador extraordinary must have resulted from a vision - an inspired revelation of the great possibilities of this organisation to serve as a catalyst for the bringing about of co-operation, understanding and respect among the diverse peoples of the earth. It was to this man that Rotary turned in 1921 for a companion to Col. Layton Ralston of Halifax, Nova Scotia, for organisation work in Australia and New Zealand. The two men carried the story of Rotary to Down Under. Jim became club president, district governor and in 1926 was elected Director and Vice President of Rotary International. In 1928, Rotary asked him to undertake the task of strengthening the slender chain of clubs that stretched between Europe and Japan.

Jim and Layton organised clubs at Melbourne, Sydney, Wellington and Auckland. Together these two men planted the seed of Rotary in Australasia so well that today there are about 1300 clubs and 52000 members in the two countries. Jim and Layton interviewed over 150 leading men in these two countries. All interviews were by previous appointment when possible, but not one was concluded under an hour while many of them lasted three or four hours. Only four men out of the one hundred and fifty interviewed, failed to join Rotary.

It should be remembered that the movement was not known over there and the difficulties were many. New Zealanders and Aussies had strange ideas about the Rotary. It was labelled as a radical organisation by the conservatives and a conservative movement by the radicals. It was also reported to be a strong temperance organisation, some thing that may some day deprive the Aussie of his beer. It so happened that Layton Ralston was a total abstainer. Even Jim's tastes for intoxicants were limited in variety and exceedingly moderate in desire, but because of Layton's strict adherence to his abstinence which had been noted by the

brewing interests in Australia, Jim had on occasions found it necessary to accept liquid hospitality when he would much sooner have preferred to pass it up. In later years Jim, in his humorous manner and with a twinkle in his eye, used to quote that as an example of hardship he had to suffer for Rotary.

That Jim and Layton did a swell job is now well known. As to Jim's share in that mission the following extract from the letter of Layton Ralston to Lillian Davidson on Jim's death is ample evidence. Remembering the wonderful trip on "Ventura" when Jim and he planned their attack on Australasia he wrote "It was then that I really got to know Jim and realise what consecration to a job really meant. I had started off light heartedly for a trip and more incidentally tell our friends 'Down Under' about Rotary, but he was going to carry to them something new and fine, and he was going to see that they understood what it was - and valued it - and lived it - as he did. There was no "take it or leave it" in the approach he planned. It was "take it - keep it - use it" and I learned more of Rotary in those three weeks with him on the boat than in my whole eight years' membership previously".

In 1928 when Rotary International was in dire need of some one to undertake the task of organising Rotary clubs across the continent of Asia from Europe to Japan, R.I. turned to Jim Davidson. Jim's exceptionally suitable qualifications for the task was expressed by Dr. Crawford McCullough who said "He has done a great service, how great will perhaps never be measured and with all he is the most modest man. Perhaps if Rotary had gone searching the world over, she would never have found the militant disciple that she needed for this work in the Near and Far East. There are no other fellows that I know of just like Jim Davidson; his personality is distinctly and entirely his own, and it is an odd conglomerate - seer, politician, show man, adventurer, writer, philosopher,

incorrigible youth and go-getter. And it took the whole repertoire to succeed. Indeed, I believe he succeeded where no one else could have". The journey took 32 months and during that time Jim interviewed over 2000 individuals personally, interviewed them in lands where Rotary was not known, but once again he was able to report that practically every interview was successful. His journeys in Asia alone covered 12000 miles. By the time his task was accomplished his health was failing seriously.

According to Jim, Rotary's great strength is that it has something else to keep it going, to maintain an interest aside from its main objective. There is some thing - the breaking of bread together, the possible contact with Rotarians of different nationalities, the addresses, the appeal to service - that seems to keep a Rotary club going and invariably make it a success.

One can see the reason for his doggedness in seeing his job through in this excerpt from his letter: "One wonders if the Western world realises the importance of the Middle Asia countries with their 500 million people, who are yearly becoming more articulate and who, if once united in antagonism to the white man, would possess power for harm to him which would be most serious. I sincerely believe that here is a most important field for Rotary service. .... It seems to me a duty incumbent on me to carry on".

Jim had two or three different hobbies, his pipe organ, his boat, the 'Atta Girl' and travelling circus. With Jim circuses were a passion and from his early childhood to his death, he never missed a single one that came his way. He was known to and loved by all circus folk. He would stay with them and eat with the performers and on occasions take part in the parade with them. He remained a boy at heart all his life and when the circus came to town, Jim made no effort to hide his affection for these strange people. That his feelings

were recognised and reciprocated is evident by a most unusual incident that took place a year or so after Jim passed away. One of America's largest three ring circuses was playing in Vancouver and one lovely summer's morning a large percentage of the circus personnel made their way to the Ocean View Cemetery and there on the steps of the Abbey where Jim's remains lie, held a solemn and beautiful memorial service. Soft sacred music was played by the circus band as a short service was reverently conducted. Midgets, freaks and acrobats, lion-tamers and clowns were all there, and with heads bowed, paused for a few brief moments to pay respect to the memory of a man they knew and respected.

Jim's boat, "the Atta Girl", he kept on Kootenay Lakes and those who were privileged to be guests of the Davidsons were indeed fortunate. Jim was a perfect host and he took delight in entertaining people.

Jim was passionately fond of music and was the proud owner of a very fine pipe organ. It was installed in his music room. Jim could play the instrument himself, quite well, but he also had a library of perforated rolls commonly used on player pianos. Jim's organ was equipped to play these and he would sit at the console, put on his favourite rolls or more likely his guest's favourite rolls and then manipulate the stops to his heart's content.

Reflecting over his life Jim Davidson said that the most interesting chapter of his varied life was with Admiral Peary, the most trying with the Chinese and Japanese armies, as a news correspondent, but the most satisfying the years spent for Rotary in the East.

In April 1931, Jim made his report to the Board of Directors of the Rotary International. The strain of his long voyage for Rotary and his hard work told on his health and he became a sick man. In spite of all the tender care and hospitalisation he passed on on July 18, 1933. But he has left

the impression of his dynamic personality on the minds and hearts of many people through out the world. He was loved and respected by both the great and the lowly wherever his influence penetrated.

### iii Carrying Rotary to Australasia

The idea of extending Rotary to Australia and New Zealand has been growing and shaping itself for some years in the minds of those who have concerned themselves with the growth of Rotary outside North America. There had been much correspondence with prospective Rotarians in Australia but not until the year 1921 was a definite plan of organisation worked out with the idea that the Canadian Rotary clubs should play a large part in this extension work. The plan was submitted to the Canadian Advisory Committee which with whole-hearted enthusiasm promised the support of the Canadian Rotary clubs, agreed to nominate two commissioners and share in the financial burden of the undertaking. Things began to move rapidly from this point.

On March 1, 1921 Col. Layton Ralston, President of Halifax Rotary club and James W. Davidson, Past President of Calgary Rotary club, armed with credentials from the Board of Directors of Rotary International, as Commissioners to Australia and New Zealand, commenced their long trip on this important assignment, leaving San Francisco on the steamer "Ventura".

Layton and Jim met in San Francisco for the first time. Jim wrote appreciatively about his co-worker in the ROTARIAN November/1921 as follows: "The experience of four months of close association with him proved a great privilege and will always remain a mighty pleasant memory. He worked alone in Wellington, practically so in Sydney, and the success of our trip was largely due to his efforts".

After getting acquainted with the passengers in that 21 day trip, they tried out Rotary on the passengers to find out what appeal would be most

effective. For although Rotary was well known in America and England there was hardly any knowledge of Rotary activities among people living in that remote part of the world. This experience made them appreciate the difficulties which any one fathering an unknown movement in a virgin territory is likely to encounter and realise that their task would not be an easy one. Australia then was a land plentifully supplied with clubs and organisations of many kinds - a country where out door life is appreciated to the fullest extent. Further more, to follow the Rotary principle the members should be leaders in their business or profession, meant, in cities nearing the million mark such as Sydney and Melbourne, getting in touch with leading business and professional men, well known throughout the country. Such men are invariably approached to join this or that or to assist this or that movement. They wondered what reception would two strangers from across the sea receive in the large cities in their endeavours to foist some entirely new movement on the community with only two or three weeks in each city to accomplish the task. Australia is a great continent of about the size of the United States and equal to about three-fourths the area of all Europe. From San Francisco they travelled about 7000 miles of Pacific in reaching Sydney in 21 days.

Australia is unique with its native vegetation quite different from that of other lands, its fauna certainly most distinct. Australia is even quite unlike Newzealand which is only four days distant by steamer. Australia's agricultural wealth comes largely from a comparatively narrow belt extending along its north, east and south east sides and a strip on the south west coast and in this comparatively limited territory lived Australia's five and half million people. There is but little development elsewhere. Australia was a land of great and varied resources with large exports of wool, mutton, beef and dairy products, minerals, wheat, flour and skins. Jims and Layton's plan was to organise clubs in Sydney and Melbourne and from these

centres the movement could be extended, there appearing to be some twenty cities in which Rotary could flourish.

They arrived in Sydney on March 22, one of the world's greatest commercial ports and the metropolis of Australia. The Easter holiday season was on. As it was scarcely an opportune time they decided to proceed to Melbourne and institute the first club there. Splendid letters of encouragement reached them at Sydney from many British clubs which were helpful in their efforts. Before going to Melbourne they spent two days in a hasty survey of Sydney's outstanding attractions: Sydney's wonderful harbour and zoo.

Melbourne was the temporary capital of Australia and was substantially built with plenty of fine buildings. It had many well kept parks with luxuriant flowers and trees. Some publicity in the local press relative to their mission brought several enquiries and they possessed a number of letters of introduction. They first made careful enquiries regarding the standing of various prospects, for a false step at the inception would have been disastrous in later interesting the right type of members. The first calls were made on Sir John Monash, Commander-in-chief of the Australian forces during the War, Frank Tate, State Director of Education and Prof. Osborne of Melbourne University. They also had calls from E.R. Peacock and Sydney Stott, both of whom were familiar with Rotary and received an encouraging note from E. Fred Ryall who also had heard of the movement. Another person on whom they called was J.A. Boyd, president of the Chamber of Commerce, who offered his assistance. Meanwhile D.H. Ross, Canadian Trade Commissioner and Thomas Sammons, U.S. Consul General, who had been a member of Shanghai Rotary club were also interested. On April 7, they brought together as guests at luncheon the real pioneers of the first Rotary club of Australia. Prof. W.A. Osborne, J.A. Boyd, Harry B. Lee, H.W. Osborne, E.R. Peacock, D.H. Ross, Fred Ryall, Sydney Stott,

Sir Robert Gibson, Harold Clapp and Ernest O'Sullivan. Those present had already heard the story of Rotary but the luncheon provided the opportunity of further developing the idea and the Melbourne gentlemen to individually express their interest. The success of Rotary in Australia seemed assured. Meanwhile they received a cable from Ches Perry to see Mr. Harold Clapp, Chairman, State Board of Railway Commissioners, who during his stay in Columbus, Ohio, was a member of the club there. He introduced to them Sir Robert Gibson, Coal Controller, who later arranged for them to meet six leading manufacturers representing different lines. The Melbourne organisation luncheon was held on April 21 at Scott's Hotel in which 32 charter members, all of whom had been individually solicited participated in this, the first Rotary meeting to be held in Australia. They were all outstanding men in the big city in their business or profession and covered a wide range of classifications. Layton and Jim adopted the policy from start of placing before each gentleman the obligation in Rotary in detail and these responsibilities appealed to these gentlemen in Australia and New Zealand strongly. The preliminary and permanent organisation meetings were combined. Professor Osborne, President of the Professional Board of Melbourne University, because of his undoubted qualities of mind and heart and his great interest in Rotary was elected the first president and Harold Clapp accepted the office of Vice President. Fred Ryall was named treasurer and Walter A. Drummond was appointed secretary at a later date. Walter was among the first Australians to enquire of Rotary International regarding the possibility of organising Rotary in his homeland.

A few days later Layton went on to Sydney to commence operation there and Jim Davidson went to the hospital. Jim was able to brief the club about the duties of various committees, the procedure to be followed in the election of members and other details. It also gave him an opportunity of developing a close friendship with Dr. Julian

Smith, his Physician. The doctor refused to take any payment for his service.

Layton carried strong letters from Melbourne Rotarians to good prospects in Sydney and thus the work there was much facilitated. Sir Henry Braddon, Sir T. Edgeworth David, Claude Reading, Frederick G. Sargood, William Vicars and Major A.J. Arnot all attended at Layton's invitation, a luncheon on May 5th. The inaugural luncheon was held on May 16th at which 33 charter members were present. Sir Henry was elected president, Prof. Arthur E. Mills, vice president and B.R. Gelling, hony. secretary. The Melbourne Rotary club had sent three of their members to represent it and Rtn. Reginald J. Coombes of Calcutta, India was also present.

Layton then went on to Wellington, New Zealand, arriving there on May 23rd. Jim stayed on in Sydney to assist the new officers in getting the club under way. He again spent some time in the hospital and proceeded to Auckland. As their time was limited they decided to work separately in these two, the largest New Zealand cities. These were the logical points from which Rotary would later spread.

There is a common misconception that Australia and New Zealand closely resemble each other in appearance and that the people would be identical in speech and customs. In reality one would be struck by the great difference in the scenery and topography. The people generally use an accent and pronunciation quite different. New Zealand is an independent dominion with no governmental affiliation with Australia, in any respect. The two countries are 1200 miles apart.

New Zealand consists of the Northern Island and the South Island both volcanic in formation, and a small one still further south called Stewart Island. The plains and downs of New Zealand are extremely rich. The outstanding natural feature of South Island

is the mountain range known as Southern Alps above which dozens of peaks stand out prominently including Mount Cook, reaching a height of 12349 ft. Dairying sheep and stock raising and fruit growing are among the important industries. Wellington, situated at the South end of North Island is the capital city and an important shipping port.

In both the cities Layton and Jim Davidson followed the same procedure of organisation as in Australia. Layton made his first calls in Wellington with such success that on May 27th, less than a week after his arrival, he was able to bring together at a preliminary luncheon the following group of representative citizens: James H.B. Contes, D.H. Ewen, A.F. Harper, J.B. Mac Ewan, W.H. Morton, Alex F. Roberts, C.C. Odlin and W.D. Stewart. Charles C. Odlin who had been entertained by the Rotary clubs of Vancouver and Seattle spoke to his fellows convincingly of his impressions of Rotary. An organising committee was formed. The inaugural luncheon was held at the YMCA building on 7th June and 33 charter members were present. Alex F. Roberts was selected as President, Charles C. Odlin secretary and Ernest W. Hunt treasurer. A native Maori, obtained by the club, presented Layton with a 'mere' (native weapon) in commemoration of Rotary in New Zealand.

Auckland is in the Northern part of New Zealand and is the largest city in New Zealand. It is an important shipping and distribution centre and is picturesquely located. Jim reached Auckland on May 30th. A cable from Ches Perry intimated that George Fowlds, a late minister of education, would be interested in organising a club in Auckland. He was a highly respected member of the community and was familiar with Rotary clubs in USA. He had obtained literature from International headquarters, was most enthusiastic and at an informal meeting had discussed Rotary with a number of friends. Charles Rhodes, an outstanding business man also rendered invaluable aid. Others who attended a preliminary organising committee were:

Prof. Segar R.A. Laidlow, H.T. Merritt and W.B. Leyland. After two enthusiastic meetings with this committee, to save time, an invitation was issued in the names of the committee to 48 leading business and professional men who had been selected as most desirable representatives of their respective vocations, and their names were all mentioned in the notice of invitation so that each might know the class of men who were asked to participate. In the meantime Jim had personal conferences, as many as time would allow, with prospects given in the list so that on June 2nd when the luncheon was held 20 of the 42 who attended had already accepted the Rotary idea. Jim spoke during the luncheon explaining the ideals and purposes of Rotary and answered questions. At the close of the luncheon 40 of the 42 present announced their desire to become members. Finally at the inaugural luncheon on June 13 there were fifty charter members. George Fowlds was selected President, Charles Rhodes, Vice President, Harry T. Merritt secretary and V.J. Larner treasurer.

In considering the appeal which Rotary made, the outstanding feature that they most frequently referred to was the advantages of international membership. They all appreciated and were glad of the power of Rotary to promote friendly relations between all parts of the English speaking world. On June 15th they sailed for home, arriving July 4th in Vancouver. Layton and Davidson went to Australia, naturally strong advocates of Rotary. They returned quite inspired by what they had learnt thereof its true worth. Rotary was never subjected to a greater test. With no previous knowledge of the movement, with no pressure from friends already members, as occurs in countries where Rotary is established - therefore with no special desire to give it welcome, Rotary was presented to 150 leading men in the two countries and not found wanting.

## iv Rotary Extension - The Middle East

On August 23, 1928 the Duchess of Athol sailed from Montreal. On board were James W. Davidson, his wife, Lillian Dow Davidson and their daughter, Marjory. Hon. General Commissioner of Rotary International, Jim Davidson, and his family were starting on mission for Rotary extension lasting for nearly three years, a journey that was to remake the map of Rotary.

**TURKEY:** Constantinople, now officially known as Istanbul, was their first objective and it was reached by train from Paris. Turkey was being transformed by the great reforms initiated by Mustapha Kemal. The dress of the people changed. The fez was gone for good. The old complicated Arabic was replaced by the Roman alphabet. The Turkish woman, rushed out of the harem and the veil was no longer seen. The new Turkish woman, intelligent and progressive, knew how to dress smartly. They parade the streets, go to the movies, dance at the cabarets and do generally as girls do in Western countries anywhere. Jim's first task was to obtain official approval for Rotary. An official permit was required and without it no definite advance could be made. He decided to meet the Minister of the Interior, stationed at Angora, the new capital. He went there with most impressive documents, including a letter of introduction from the Turkish embassy in Washington, statements about Rotary of two kings, three presidents, five or six premiers, a dozen cabinet ministers and an appealing letter from a former Hungarian minister of finance. He presented them to His Excellency Shukri Kaya Bey, a genial, cultured gentleman speaking English fluently. He asked many questions which Jim answered to his satisfaction. He then went over Jim's list of a dozen Turks, marking the ones he recommended to help with

the movement.

He spoke in a friendly way and assured him that he would assist in any manner to bring Rotary to Turkey. Jim went back to Istanbul and for six weeks worked hard making calls and holding meetings. In his heart he knew that Rotary would be an ideal medium for bringing about the much needed contact with the outside world, that Turkey might be better understood. Jim succeeded in interesting a group of Turkish gentlemen, had many pleasant meetings with them but could not go ahead with the actual organisation as the necessary government permit had not come and secondly as Turks do not like to rush things through. With the knowledge that many countries were on his itinerary he had to move. However he made some splendid friendships while in Constantinople including Sherif Bey, Prefect of Police. He finally but reluctantly felt obliged to say farewell to his new Turkish friends but promised to return to finish the organisation work if the permit was soon granted.

The Turks felt that they have been treated badly by many western nations and by many western people in the past who wearing the mask of friendship but ever intent on exploiting them in one way or another. Jim went with the belief that he made Rotary well known among the people, that it is being favourably talked about by the people and the press and that he has laid a good foundation for future efforts.

**ATHENS:** Their next stop was Athens. On arrival in the city, Jim, as a Rotary starting point, called upon both the British and American Ministers. He was concentrating mainly on the natives so that the new club when formed will have greater influence. The first call was on Venizelos, at that time the Prime Minister of Greece. He was most friendly and he expressed his interest in Rotary. He went over the list of names and was satisfied that the list contained both Royalists and Venizelists. The Royalists were composed of capable

aristocrats, members of the very best families of Greece and have a strong following.

The Venizelists, some times referred to as Republicans, are made up largely of professional and business men, but many of them came from some of the outstanding Grecian families and as a political party dominated the situation. Jim formed a committee of seven Greek gentlemen to help him with the organisation. At the first luncheon 32 were present. Jim felt proud of Rotary at the first committee meeting as two men - Petrocochino and Dragoumis - hostile to each other and who have not spoken for many years got together, smiled and shook hands and talked in a friendly way. In addition to the hostility between the Royalists and the Venizelists there was the financial situation. The siesta habit was mentioned as one of the obstacles to a Rotary luncheon. Nearly everyone is accustomed to lunch at home followed by an afternoon nap. The stores were closed and the city was asleep until 3 P.M. and many gave this as predicting failure. However the organisation meeting was held on December 14, 1928 with Spiro Loverdo, who was a rare combination of culture and business acumen and President of the Banque Populaire, one of Athen's leading financial institutions, as president. Greece after thirteen years of almost continuous warfare was faced with a serious problem of one million five hundred thousand Greek refugees, or one-fourth of her total population cast upon her shores. However the Greek people themselves came valiantly to the rescue.

**EGYPT:** Jim and family then proceeded to Egypt by ship to Alexandria and from there by train to Cairo. On arrival there Jim contacted Mr. Martin and Mr. Todd who had long been awaiting his arrival and were ready for the official organisation meeting. Cairo is an important point for Rotary being the logical centre for Rotary in Egypt, Palestine, Syria and Iraq. For several years it had been the hope of Rotary International to see Rotary in Cairo and more than one attempt was made for its formation.

Because of the holiday season being on Jim had difficulty in getting in touch with prospects. On January 2, 1929 however, he was able to hold an official organisation meeting with R. Clare Martin, Manager of Shell Oil Company as president and W.R. Todd of Thomas Cook and Son as Hony Secretary. There were 22 charter members. Subsequently the club grew steadily with 35 members representing 14 different nationalities. The Cairo club is especially interesting for perhaps in no other in Rotary has so international a membership. Jim considered other possible prospects of Egypt for Rotary were Alexandria, Port Said, Tanta, Mansura, Assuit and Assuan.

**JERUSALEM:** It is a twelve hour journey from Cairo to Jerusalem by train against 2 1/2 hours by air. As the passage by air was booked solid for one full month they went by train. Dr. Edward Wicher, a member of the Rotary club of San Anselmo, California, with whom Jim had previous correspondence was there and in six or seven months of his stay had done some fine spade work preparatory to organising a Rotary club in Jerusalem. After some ten days of intensive work, Dr. Wicher and Jim succeeded in establishing a club and hold the organisation meeting on January 22. There were many problems. Business and professional men were almost non-existent. While there was a considerable British community the members of it were nearly all confined to government service. Trade was in the hands of bazaar type of Arab, Syrian or illiterate Jew, men not at all suitable for Rotary. The club was started with one to two Jews and Arabs and some two dozen influential men with British officials predominating.

Rotary is particularly suited to play a helpful role where there are race antagonisms. It shocks no faith for all religions are equally welcome within its portals. There are no secrets, no mysterious rites, to raise doubts in the minds of non-Rotarians. There can be no withholding of official approval since Rotary stands for loyalty, law and order.

It excludes political controversy from its proceedings and permits no propoganda except for the development of good citizenship. Its great objective is simplicity itself, understandable to all men - tolerance, appreciation and cooperation all compressed into one short word: good will. What a splendid banner to emblazon to a suffering world, all but torn asunder by racial, national, and religious controversy. J.W. Crowfoot, a British archeologist, was the first president and Vladimer Wolfson, the first secretary. The members felt it necessary, unfortunately, to have a vacation during the summer months of great heat when most of the membership is on leave. The Jerusalem club had an overrepresentation of British, mostly in government service, thus violating the 10% principle of classification. Jim was convinced that the first priority was extension of Rotary throughout the world. He felt that classification rules of Rotary are important and advisable where they can be carried out. If, however, to obtain an entrance of Rotary into a new country it is necessary to deviate slightly from the rules in connection with the 10% clause, the deviation should be permitted. However, he hesitated to do it in Bagdad until a clear ruling was available from the Board of Rotary International. Other city prospects for Rotary in Palestine were Jaffa, Haifa and Tel Aviv.

**SYRIA:** After the establishment of the Rotary club of Jerusalem Jim and party left for Damascus via Beyrout (spelled Beirut) by motor car. A cold rain was falling which soon turned to snow. They spent the night at the historical town of Nazerath and motored to Beyrout the next morning via Tiberias, on the Sea of Gallilee. In Syria, under French Mandate, the bulk of the population was of Arabic origin and Arabic was the prevailing language. Syria is essentially an agricultural country. Many are engaged in cattle and sheep breeding. The French efforts in modernising the cities, introducing law and order, establishing sanitary conditions, improving educational facilities and providing medical facilities did not meet with appreciation

by natives. Much antagonism existed among the natives who wanted to get Syria rid of the French. In a club in Beyroust or Damascus the membership must be largely French but it may be difficult to induce the French to organise clubs in both these cities.

While in Paris, Jim met a French Rotarian, George Schneeberger, who had important business connections in Syria. Jim's stay in Damascus was short. The European population, being small outside of the military, a club can exist there only with large number of natives. Jim suggested Schneeberger should be induced to take the initiative. On January 27th Jim and party left by a large six wheeler motor bus for continuous drive from Damascus of 28 hours, night and day, across the great North Arabian desert, 530 miles to Bagdad, and a short cut to India.

**BAGDAD:** In Jim's files were letters from Bagdad from an English automobile distributor and an English railway engineer. With the British as masters in Iraq with Bagdad, a city of 250,000 people and the most important point over the large part of Asia extending from Palestine to India, Jim decided to make a survey. He found that there were some forty or more suitable Europeans who could comply with the classification rules and that there were a sufficient number of educated Arabs and other natives who could be added to make a club eventually of 50 or 60 members. He came to the conclusion that it would be unwise to organise there because of the lack of permanency in the British occupation and the difficulties of transportation. The British who supervise Iraq by mandate had already announced their intention to withdraw in 1932 their authority under the mandate. Rotary calls completed they had one full day to spare before leaving for Basrah to take the boat to India. They decided to spend it in a motor trip to the Bible cities of Kish and Babylon, unmindful of the imminent storm on way.

## v India and Ceylon

**BOMBAY:** On the sixth day of sea travel from Presian Gulf, Jim and party reached Bombay anchoring opposite "Gateway of India". Bombay is actually India in miniature. This great commercial city, one of the largest cotton mill centres in the world, like a gigantic magnet drew to itself an amazing variety of human beings. There were clear divisions in the city's population: Hindus, Mohammedans, Parsees and British. Jim's arrival in Bombay was at an unfortunate time. The Hindu-Muslim riot was in full swing when they landed. A portion of the city was held by soldiers. Mills were closed down, hundreds of shops had their shutters down. Business was almost at a stand still.

The Calcutta Rotary club has been in existence for nine years without being able to add to Rotary in India. Jim also knew of three futile efforts to organise Rotary in Bombay. As an objective, Jim thought of starting clubs in Bombay, Delhi and Madras which, with Calcutta and Lahore already in existence, could cover the east, west, north and south and at the capital. Educated Indians familiar and interested in methods and mechanics of western organisations were limited and insufficient to enable a club to be formed exclusively in Indian communities. So he looked to the cities containing Europeans for a requisite number of classifications. He formed a provisional committee of three well known men: Sir Leslie Hudson, Sir Reginald Spence and Mr. E.G. Pearson. There was a universal desire among British members to bring Indians into the club.

The selection of the latter was not an easy matter. Some they wanted in were without classifications and others were away from the town. One Indian, a prominent Parsee and member of Indian legislature, Sir Phiroz Sethna, was brought in. It was

feared there would be considerable difficulty in bringing together Indians of different religions and castes whose customs in regard to food were often at distinct variance. In reality, however, the Western educated Indian who would be suitable for Rotary membership is generally prepared for compromise. There were classification problems aplenty. It would be only natural that a list made to cover vocations in Western country would fail to include many classifications which exist in Middle Asia. The system of managing agency prevalent in India, clubs many lines of business in a firm. This problem can be overcome by allotting the most prominent line. There was also the difficulty of weekly meetings during the period of great heat. Temperatures of 116 to 120 Farenheit are not uncommon. Many go to hill stations during summer. When Jim mentioned the weekly luncheon, the prospect told that if he joined he would'nt think of attending during the hot spell. Others spoke of the necessity of the club having a summer vacation. But Jim did not worry about this as he was confident that once they join and as their interest develops their view will change. He persisted in his efforts and on March 19, 1929, the club came into existence with 38 of the leading business and professional men of the city as charter members. Mr. C.N. Moberly, Manager of the Bombay Tramways, accepted the presidency; D.S. Burn, Manager of India's largest railways, vice presidency and H.G. Sale, Manager of the Henley Company, the hony. secretary. The members were heads of great firms in the city, men known throughout India and possessing great influence.

**DELHI:** The journey from Bombay to Delhi by train was of 24 hour duration. Soon after their arrival in Bombay telegrams arrived from the existing clubs in Calcutta and Lahore, breathing that hearty good fellowship that is well known in Rotary. On the way to Delhi they spent a fascinating day in Agra visiting the Fort and the Taj Mahal. At Delhi they received an invitation for lunch from the Viceregal lodge. Delhi was short of classifications.

Delhi being the capital, to leave it out of the list of Rotary clubs was not to be thought of. At Delhi the commercial and professional community aside from government officials, is very small. The trouble with taking in government members is that they move upto Simla, the summer capital, at the close of March and do not return to Delhi again until November. However, Jim had 28 signed up and the organisation meeting was held at Maiden's Hotel on April 6, 1929. R.T.H. Mackenzie, Manager of Burmah Shell Oil Co., was elected President.

**LAHORE:** Jim found Lahore club, established in February 1927, as a result of the work of J.F. Mitchell who was Commissioner for India at that time, functioning splendidly. He was pleased to find there, so keen and enthusiastic Rotarians, men second to none in their knowledge of classifications and other club procedure. The Lahore club had done much useful work in the community and had over fifty members. He felt that Rotary could not possess men with greater interest in Rotary than W.J. Campbell, president and D. May Arindell, secretary at the time of his visit. During the motor trip to Simla they also visited the interesting pink city of Jaipur and Amber, the old and then deserted capital of Rajputana, with its well preserved palaces and great fort. They also enjoyed an elephant ride.

Before going to Calcutta they witnessed the ceremony of enthronement of the 9 year old Maharajah of Bharatpur. Feeling the need of a respite from the energy-sapped heat, they utilised the week end to visit the hill station of Darjeeling.

**CALCUTTA:** The president of Calcutta club, A.F.M. Abdul Ali, gave a garden party in their honour. The Rotary club of Calcutta awakened in Jim both pride and amazement. Coming into existence in 1920, it was the only club between the English Channel and the China Sea. Jim was the first Rotary International's official visitor. He found happy atmosphere and good fellowship prevailing between European and Indian members. The club also had

rendered many services to the community. He was glad to find some thirty Indians among the membership and as president a man of culture and courtesy. The Watson brothers of the Statesman, well beloved by Calcutta Rotarians, gave generously of their time and energy. Jim also mentioned "an enthusiastic, exceedingly well informed Indian member, Nitish C. Laharry, who served the club faithfully for many years in many capacities such as secretary, treasurer, editor of 'Chaka' the club's exceptionally fine weekly magazine, and on various committees".

**MADRAS:** Jim left Calcutta for Madras by train on April 23rd. Madras city located on the southeast coast of India, is the third largest city of India and capital of Madras presidency. Madras is the birth place of British India. The British contact with India dates back to the 17th Century. In 1639, a settlement was established at Fort St. George. The British adventurers, representatives of the original East India Company, led a heroic existence, surrounded by foes from within and without. They fought Portuguese, Dutch and French, had enemies in England and were in conflict with native Moguls and Marathas.

Two days after his arrival, Jim had the first committee meeting. The members constituted a most influential group: C.E. Wood of Parry and Co., H.E.P. Hearson of Bombay Company, K. Ray of Binny & Co., J.W. Macfarlane of South India Export Co., and F.E. James of UPASI. The usual procedure with luncheon meetings for the committee was followed. The club organisation meeting was held at dinner at Connemara Hotel on May 10. Of the 30 charter members, all except three, were present. G.G. Armstrong, Chairman of the Port Trust was the president. F.E. James, vice president, W.H. Luker of Addison & Co., treasurer and Morton Chance of Spencer & Co. hon. secretary. The club was distinctly high class, the equal of the Bombay club.

Work in Madras was most trying for Jim, working continuously in a temperature ranging between 100 and 108 FH. He decided to go to Ooty. On the way to Ooty they halted at Bangalore for two days as guests of Major Gorden Loch, Acting British Political Agent. With a club established in each of the main geographical divisions of India, Jim felt further extension should now be carried out by local Rotarians. The five clubs that exist firmly established Rotary in India.

**CEYLON:** The organisation of a Rotary Club in Colombo presented no special difficulties. There on July 5th, at the Galle Face Hotel the Rotary Club of Colombo came into existence with 64 charter members. Col. T.Y. Wright, head of one of the largest trading concerns and a most popular man, became the first president and A.G. Woosman a most capable secretary.

## vi South East Asia and Far East

**THAYETMYO:** The Rotary International had reports from Calcutta that the Thayetmyo Rotary club has been in existence for some time. Mr. W.L. Barretto, the president was eager to meet Jim. Mr. Barretto was the Deputy British Commissioner and the ranking official in Thayetmyo. Jim found there a cheery British social club, still maintained meticulously with a high regard for its constitution and by-laws. But there were just six members. They had no place to meet. It became therefore necessary to purchase a building. They had a fair understanding of their Rotary obligations. They were interested to carry out the aims and objects of the movement and were convinced that Rotary could be of much assistance to the community. On July 17, 1929 the inaugural dinner was held with 29 charter members. Barretto was installed president, Candict vice president, U.Ba Thin, secretary.

**MANDALAY:** Jim's next objectives for Rotary possibilities were Mandalay and Bhamo. On reaching Mandalay he called on the British District Commissioner and discussed the subject of Rotary with him. He attended a meeting of the Chinese and Burmans. But when they found that the club would not help business they departed. After a hasty inspection Jim could decide that Bhamo regardless of its importance was a poor Rotary possibility.

**RANGOON:** They then returned to Rangoon, the capital of Burmah and one of the great commercial centres of Asia. He called first on His Excellency Sir Charles Innes, the Governor, and then at his suggestion on Sir Benjamin Heald, the Chief Justice, both of whom expressed a willingness to assist. But there were disappointments. After working for a week he thought seriously of packing up and departing. But as time passed interest began to

build up. On September 2, 1929 a large group met at an organisation meeting at the Grand Hotel and Rotary became an established fact. The club had among its members the leaders of business and profession, officials, engineers and scientists, a true cross section of the community. C.F. Grant, Chairman of the development board was elected president, J. Davidson, Accountant General, vice president, W.E. Heath, hony. secretary and G.B. Hall treasurer. The club charter was presented by H.E. Sir Charles Innes, then Governor of Burmah at a meeting with guests numbered over 200.

The Rangoon Times, in an article published on February 6, 1930, dealt in detail on the objects of Rotary as they applied to the Rangoon Rotary Club.

**MALAYA:** Bountifully supplied with extensive waterways, Malaya has a very fertile soil. The main products are tin and rubber. Beautiful Kuala Lumpur is the capital and the largest city in the FMS. Jim looked forward to his arrival in FMS. Firstly a group of representative men in Kuala Lumpur had decided on forming an organisation free from racial and religious barriers, on what would tend to unite several races. The history of the Rotary movement in Malaya should be linked with the name of L.D. Gammons of Kuala Lumpur. He had visited many Rotary clubs and his father was a Rotarian in Portsmouth, England. Gammons was convinced that a Rotary club could promote racial harmony. Steps were taken to provide a membership evenly balanced between Europeans and Asiatics. Rotary literature was obtained and a provisional club of 25 members was formed and the fact reported to Rotary International. Jim was instructed to complete the organisation on arrival in Malaya. On September 27, the organisation meeting was held. H.E. Sir William Peel, Governor of Hong Kong, and his highness the Sultan of Selangor attended. Sir Hugh Clifford the High Commissioner of FMS, had accepted honorary membership in the club. Chu Kia Peng was elected president,

A.F. Richards, vice president and L.D. Gammons, hony. secretary. There was wide press coverage in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

**SERAMBEN, IPOH AND KLANG:** While working in Kuala Lumpur Jim organised clubs in Ipoh and Klang, clubs with O.E. Venables as president of the former and Dr. W. Ansley-Young as president of the latter. Rotarians of Malaya were interested in an alteration in the classification system along unique lines. Feeling that the mission of their club was the development of friendship among various racial groups, they desired to take in members not alone on a basis of difference in vocation but on a difference in race as well. Thus they had as members a Chinese, Indian and a European Barrister. Jim was sympathetic to this idea. Rotary in addition to helping the Asiatic to an international mind is able to do an equally important work among the Europeans in building up their interests in other racial groups. On the basis of conditions obtaining in Malaya, Jim appealed to Rotary International to broaden the rules and procedures to cover racial groups classification, summer vocation in hot countries and maximum limit of 50 charter members.

**SINGAPORE:** Owing to a most bitter editorial attack on Rotary in the leading news paper, 'Straits Times', by its editor, Seabridge, Jim had a most difficult task here. A former Calcutta Rotarian who had been appointed Honorary Special Commissioner of Rotary came to Singapore to live. He was editor of one of the leading news papers and from all accounts made a very sincere but futile effort to start a club there. There were two previous efforts in the case by two Rotarians from Great Britain. On the top of it Jim and family all came down with illness atonce, Mrs. Davidson with malarial fever, Marjory with an infection from an insect bite obtained in Bagdad and Jim with dongue fever. Jim called on Seabridge and endeavoured to convince him in a very friendly way that he was unfair and inaccurate.

Singapore stands at the cross roads of the worlds, as evidenced by the huge array of ships from the ends of the earth which ride at anchor in the great landlocked harbour of Singapore. The name Raffles might almost be a synonym for Singapore, so constantly was it heard there. Singapore is 27 miles long by half as many miles wide. It is the Asian half-way house between Europe and America, the gateway to the very extensive Dutch East Indies, the turining point of the steamers to Australia. Jim who had the introduction letters to the Governor presented them to Mr. John Scott, Colonial Secretary, acting Governor and found him most kind and considerate. The next day Jim and family were invited to luncheon at the Govt. House. He formed a little advisory committee consisting of R.J. Farrer, president of the municipality, Dr. A.L. Hoops, principal medical officer, and Harold Fairburn, Inspector General of Police. On June 6 at Raffles Hotel the club was organised with 71 charter members of which 62 attended the dinner. In obtaining them Jim made 200 calls on men in their offices. The club represented the pick of officials, of business and professional men, including 11 of the leading Chinese. Roland Braddel, an outstanding barrister, was elected president, Dato S.Q. Wong, vice president, G.W.W. Ker, hony. secretary and J.A. Clarke, chartered accountant was the treasurer. Rotary in Singapore and elsewhere in British Malaya is doing wonderful work in cementing the Oriental and Occidental races in a common cause, the welfare of Malaya.

**MALACCA:** On June 22, Jim and party left Singapore by car to Malacca. The organisation meeting was scheduled for 24th. The Malaya driver was proceeding at a reckless speed regardless of frequent warnings. At about 10.30 P.M. just following a long run through the jungle he came suddenly to a right angle turn and was going too fast to accomplish it. The car ran off the road, smashed into a metal telegraph pole and turned turtle over a mud hole with all the four underneath. Fortunately it occurred in front of four or five Malay houses

and instantly people came to the rescue. Getting another car they proceeded to Malacca and were admitted to the hospital. The organisation meeting had to be postponed from June 24 to July 8. On July 8, Malacca Rotary club, with 60 charter members, came into existence. They were British and Chinese. Mention may be made of Dr. A.E. Bell, bank manager and Loh Kim Swi, a prominent Chinese and E.G. Martin.

**PENANG:** Assisted by the British Resident Councillor, E.W.F. Gilman, who was a member of the Kuala Lumpur Rotary Club, a strong group of 70 charter members, representing Chinese, Malays and Indians brought Rotary into existence on August 20, 1930 with P.M. Robinson as its first president. Rotary was thus firmly established in Malaya, Singapore, Penang and Malacca in the Straits Settlements and Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh, Seramban and Klang in the Federated Malay States.

**BALI:** During Christmas and New Year Jim and family took a holiday to spend a few days in Bali, the jewel of the South Seas. Although the Dutch possessed the island of Bali since 1908, they have remained in the background and Balinese were governing themselves. In Bali father stays home, does the house work, feeds and minds the baby and it is the mother who goes out into the highways and byways carrying on the business. The mother also handles all the money. Cock-fighting is the chief occupation and past time of the male folk. Balinese are also keenly interested in dance and music. This was a good change for Mrs. Davidson who was recovering from her illness. Jim also had an attack of fever.

**JAVA:** The island of Java in its 668 miles of length had 125 volcanoes, 14 of which were still active. If this some times meant destruction in limited areas, it also meant prosperity, for because of the volcanic soil Java is a fat land where growth is luxuriant. Sugar, rice and rubber are the main crops. Rotary organisation work was in full swing

at Batavia and Bandoeng when Jim received a cable about the arrival of former International President Guy Gundaker and his wife Ann. A reception was arranged for the party by the kind intercession of the Dutch Governor, P.B.W. Van Gesseler Verschuur, a member of the Djokjakarta club to witness a Serimpi dance at the court of H.H. the Sultan of Djokjakarta. Another reception was also arranged by H.H. Prince Pakoe Alam. Java was not a virgin field for Rotary extension. G.Jh. Westenenk who was president of the Hague club in 1927 had organised two splendid clubs there - Soerabaya and Djokjakarta. Jim was greatly pleased with the friendliness and hospitality extended to him by Naval Com.A. Vos, then president of Soerabaya club and Ir. J. Slim, president of Djokjakarta club. There was strong caste feeling in Java among the Dutch which convinced Jim of the difficulty of organising clubs with a truly representative membership. Social distinctions were maintained there very rigidly. Although this did not apply to Javanese, as educated Javanese are rarely in business and only a very small number was available. In the Djokjakarta club they were giving attention to the development of friendship among the different racial groups. The clubs were in a healthy condition providing many talks on Rotary subjects and developing an appreciation of community obligations.

**BATAVIA:** Jim began work at Batavia, where four previous efforts to organise had been made. Few cities, have quite so many different groups, definite and exclusive as Batavia. Sir Josiah Crosby, the British Consul General and the Governor General were very helpful. The club was organised on March 18, 1930 with 70 members including 8 Javanese and 3 Chinese. The Batavia club is truly a cross section of the community. With many members the idea of mixed membership appealed strongly. A. Praasterink, banker and a former member of Soerabaya club, was elected president, Raden Adapati Aria Achmad Djajadiningrat, Vice president, Jhr. Quarles von Ufford, hony. secretary and C.A.de Vries, treasurer.

**BANDOENG:** The organisation luncheon of Bandoeng club was held on March 19 at the Concordia club. It has a fine representative membership of 45 including 2 Javanese and 2 Chinese. Dr. Philippi, a former military officer, was president, Prof. Dr. H. Westra vice president, Ir.A.C. de Jongh and J.A.C. de Kock van Leeuwen joint secretaries, and P.F. Van den Berg treasurer. Guy Gundaker and his wife participated in the two organisation meetings. They also attended the meetings of Djokjakarta and Soerabaya clubs.

**MALANG:** Following Bandoeng, Jim started work in Malang. He met a fine group of men, thirty in number, to form the membership. The organisation meeting was held on March 27 at Hotel Splendid attended by President Col. Vos and a member of Soerabaya club, President Col. H.G. Van Viersen, vice president A.F. Franken, hony. secretary Jan Wijsman and treasurer J.C.D. Van den Bussche.

**SEMARANG:** Three previous efforts had failed. The organisation meeting was held on April 14, at Hotel de Pavilion, with a charter membership of 38 including three prominent Chinese. President, A.J.W. Vorster of the Railways, vice president, W.C. Vander Zwaan, legal advisor and hony. secretary H.A.A.C. Reijners, of sugar company; treasurer J.C. Van Waveren, a banker. In addition to the organisation work in Java Jim held several meetings with officers and directors of the old clubs. Having completed the objective in Java with a club in every important centre, Jim proceeded by steamer to Sumatra.

**MEDAN:** With the energetic assistance of a small committee, Jim was able to arrange the organisation meeting of the Rotary club of Medan on May 1st with 47 charter members, representing a fine group of official, business and professional men at Hotel de Boer. The Sultan's son, the Crown Prince, was a member. The officers were all outstanding men: president, Dr. J.G. Geerlings, high court judge, vice president, A.A. Aberson, an attorney, hony.

secretary, J. Reuvers, government secretary and treasurer, J.H.H. Schuurman, a banker. Two other prospects where clubs could be established at a later date would be Padang and Palembang. F.E. James was expected to visit Malaya and possibly Java and Sumatra in September or October. Jim was convinced of Rotary's opportunity in Middle Asia to develop better understanding between various national and ricial groups.

**BANGKOK:** 'Venice of the East'. Seeing a report in a book on Siam about the existence of a Rotary club in Bangkok, not authorised by R.I., Secretary Perry wrote to a person whose name the author suggested as a source of information and received a reply that there was no Rotary club. The person addressed was the secretary of Union club. Jim contacted this person. He was informed that a group of Europeans, members of the Union Club, a social club, were holding dinner meetings every month with addresses and they were styling themselves as Rotarians. A prominent British barrister, R.D. Atkinson, was the president. But interest was not sustained and the club petered out. Jim called on the British and American ministers and several princes holding high offices. In a week he got together the organising committee. His intention was to organise a club with Siamese members predominating with support of Europeans. But Siamese do not take kindly to business. Thus outside government and professions there were very few who qualify. In this work the three princes - Purachatra, Bidga and Dhani - gave Jim splendid help. Finally on September 17, 1930 after a great deal of work, the Bangkok club came into existence. President was H.R.H. Prince Purachatra. He was well informed on Rotary as he was on every subject. Vice President, R.D. Atkinson, Hony. secretary, F.S. Williams, American Trade Secretary and Luang Thavil, treasurer. The club had 70 members from 14 nationalities. Jim and family visited a magnificent religious shrine, the great temple of Angkor Wat in a lost city said to have housed a million souls.

**INDO CHINA:** French Indo China is made up of five states: Cambodia, Annam, Tong King, Laos and Cochin China. Indo China is one of the great rice growing regions of the world. Jim had instructions to make a Rotary survey of these important French-Chinese possessions. So he came around with letters of introductions from the Minister of Colonies in Paris to the French Governor General of Hanoi and also to the French Governor of Cochin China. Commencing work at Saigon, Jim met the Governor who suggested to operate through Martini, president of the Chamber of Commerce. But he was away at Hanoi. The journey to Hanoi was very tiring. Hanoi was the capital of French Indo China. Jim met M. Martini but he was not very enthusiastic about Rotary in Saigon. The French colonists believe that they have made great sacrifices to develop Asiatic colonial possessions and any benefit should go to the French. This policy kept Saigon very exclusive and trade and professions were limited to the French. There was very little in the spirit of Rotary to appeal. The only way is that interest be created by a French Rotarian. The French men in the East are skeptical of being able to bring about a blend of nationalities. The cities in Tong King that are Rotary possibilities were Hanoi and Haiphong.

**HONG KONG:** Jim was happy to be engaged in organising a club in Hong Kong although there were many previous efforts which failed, as he had lived in that area thirteen years, including nine in Formosa. The new Governor of Hong Kong, Sir William Peel had come from Kuala Lumpur and had attended the inauguration meeting there. Jim explained to Sir William that the gentlemen he wished to meet were such as would be representative of the official business and professional community and include representative Chinese. He believed that the greater service that Rotary can render in the Asiatic communities is that of developing friendship among different races and nationalities resident there, so often antagonistic toward each other, and he felt that if Rotary rendered no other

service it would be worth while.

Among the eight letters of introduction received from the Governor three were to representative Chinese. They were a fine type, cultured, advanced and capable. Regardless of pleasant features, the organisation of the Hong Kong club was a difficult task. The inaugural dinner was held on December 8 with over 80 present including guests. The press was considerate and commented that never before had there been brought together in Hong Kong a group representative of so many different vocations - officials, businessmen, educationalists, engineers, scientists, important men in their respective lines and representing both European and Chinese communities. Hong Kong Daily Express gave a four column coverage of the enthusiastic inaugural meeting announcing that Rotary comes to Hong Kong - New Epoch in Local Social Institutions. The report covered in detail the speech made by Jim elaborating on the ideals of Rotary and Rotarian's duty. The paper also commented impressively editorially under the title 'Rotary Arrives'. The President, Sir William Hornell, head of the Hong Kong University characterised Jim Davidson as more than a man - he is a sort of torrent, a force. Hon. Dr. S.W. Tso was elected vice president, and LFC Bellamy and B. Wong Tape as joint secretaries and N.J. Perrin, treasurer. Hong Kong was the last city on Jim's program of club extension. With it Rotary was now a world wide organisation for practically every city of importance from Mediterranean to the China Sea and the Pacific had its Rotary club. From then on Jim's duty was to make official calls on existing clubs in the Philippines, North China, Manchuria, Korea and Japan and to interest such clubs in extending Rotary to the smaller communities in their vicinity.

**SHANGHAI:** Jim was pleased to observe the fine Shanghai Rotary club in action. Among its membership of 175 were many nationalities, including a considerable group of Chinese. A brilliant and delightful Chinese, Dr. Fong See, was president in 1931-32.

The Chinese were most likeable and enthusiastic over Rotary. Jim felt that Rotary was achieving its greatest usefulness by bringing together in close friendship men of different races and nationalities. He had meetings with different officers, with the directors and with individuals. One of the objects of his visit was to induce the club to carry on extension work. Shanghai club was organised in 1919. Following his departure they organised Hangchow and Canton. Thus there were in China clubs in Shanghai, Peiping, Tientsin, Hangchow, Canton and in Hong Kong.

**MANCHURIA:** Rotary club of Mukden entertained Jim and family at a Sukiaki tiffin. It is cooked at the table which makes it doubly appetising. Mukden was a successful and enthusiastic club of some 30 members consisting largely of Japanese with some American and British representation. It was sponsored by Darien Rotary club with a Japanese membership of 43. Darien club also was responsible for establishing Rotary in Harbin. Harbin had 25 members, including 2 Russians, one Englishman and the balance Japanese. The club met weekly at Hotel Moderne. Harbin seemed to the visitor more Russian than Chinese, the city being an important terminal of the Trans-Siberian Railway. Harbin is the leading industrial city in Manchuria.

**THE PHILIPPINES:** Rotary made its first great jump from the country of its birth to Asia in 1919. The Rotary club of Manila was founded by Rotarian Roger Pinneo of Seattle, Washington together with L.J. Lambert, its first president. It was followed a few months later by Shanghai, Calcutta and Tokyo, these four clubs remaining lonely outposts for a considerable period. The Manila club meets at a very attractive place at luncheon, Manila Hotel, on the water front in a beautiful garden abounding in palms and flowering shrubs. The members, some 115 in number, provide evidence of good fellowship combined with a seriousness of purpose and the club has rendered substantial service to the community. The membership is largely American but

there are several Filipinos, men of culture. Sam Gaches, president, was head of the largest retail establishments in Manila. Other city prospects for Rotary were Cebu, Iloilo, and Zambanga where Manila Rotarians made one or two unsuccessful efforts for Rotary extension.

**FORMOSA:** Jim received a great welcome at Formosa and unforgettable courtesy and kindness during the entire period of his stay there. After a great space of time, Jim's years of work in Formosa and his book remained still fresh in the minds of many people. Jim and family were guests of government and were escorted by rail and car wherever they went. Jim was pleased to see a successful Rotary club at Taihoku. He met a group of prominent business men and professionals and addressed them on Rotary preparing the way to the Japanese District Governor Yoneyama of Tokyo in March 1931 to organise a club with 33 members with a noted educationist, Prof. Tan Shidehara as president.

**KOREA:** Jim was given a reception by the Rotary club of Keijo, established in 1927. Viscount Saito who served Korea as Governor General must be given credit for much of the progress made in Korea and was also responsible for the introduction of Rotary in Korea. The club had 50 members and was a most efficient organisation.

**JAPAN:** Rotary was first introduced in Japan at Tokyo in March 1920, by K. Fukushima, who had been a member of Dallas, Texas club. Walter L. Johnstone, past president of Shanghai club also rendered assistance. Umekichi Yoneyama, financier, for years with Mitsui Co. was responsible for the spread of Rotary in Japan. His influence throughout Japan, his delightful personality and his enthusiasm for Rotary were irresistible and Rotary International owes much to him. He served as president, governor of his district and was on International committee and was an R.I. Director. Tokyo club had 156 members with an attendance average of 85%. Jim felt

Tokyo, in all respects, to be one of the finest clubs. Also Tokyo club bulletin, issued in English by Rotarian Kitashima (Kitty) was highly rated. In addition to Tokyo, other successful clubs were Osaka, Kobe, Yokohama, Kyoto, Nagoya, Hiroshima, also Keijo, Korea and Taihoku, Formosa.

## vii. Welcome Home for Travelling Envoy

James W. Davidson, Lillian and Marjory returned to Vancouver in March 1931 after their historic voyage to the Orient for Rotary extension which lasted two and half years. The Rotary club of Vancouver organised an inter-cities meet to welcome and honour them. Members of clubs through out West joined in offering warm welcome to Jim and party. Ches Perry, Secretary of Rotary International, travelled all the way from Chicago to participate in the function.

Letters of appreciation poured in from many Rotary leaders including Paul Harris, Founder of Rotary. For historical interest I give on next page a photostat copy of his letter dated March 17, 1931.

Theodore A. Torgenson, R.I. Director 1930-31, recalled his serving as club president when Jim was Governor of District Four and mentioned that he followed with more than ordinary interest Jim's work in the Levant and the Far East for the past three years. He added that no one was better equipped for the heavy task assigned by Rotary International than Jim in view of his long stay in the Far East and experience in establishing Rotary in Australia and New Zealand. He added "You have succeeded beyond all expectations. Largely through your efforts, Rotary now actually encircles the world. You have given most generously of heart and mind and time and have made an important contribution to the advancement of world good will. Rotary is deeply indebted to you, Mrs. Davidson and Marjory".

Will Taylor, R.I. Director 1930-31, of Springfield, Illinois, USA wrote "You must be very happy as

# ROTAIY INTERNATIONAL

211 WEST WACKER DRIVE, CHICAGO, U.S.A.

70, BARRHOFFSTRASSE, ZURICH, SWITZERLAND - 20, ROOSEVELT STREET (STRAND), LONDON, W.E.C., ENGLAND

CABLE ADDRESS: ROTARY

"SERVICE ABOVE SELF"



"HE PROFITS MOST WHO SERVES BEST"

SECRETARIAT

(CENTRAL OFFICE)

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

MEMBER

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, U.S.A.

MEMBER

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, U.S.A.

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WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, U.S.A.

MEMBER

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, U.S.A.

MEMBER

THEODORE A. TORGER

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, U.S.A.

MEMBER

CHEBLEY R. PERRY

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, U.S.A.

MEMBER

RUFUS F. CHAMBERLAIN

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, U.S.A.

MEMBER

James W. Davidson, Esq.

Greetings!

The Orient has bid you and your remarkable family a fond farewell; the Occident now welcomes you all with outstretched arms — Welcome, thrice welcome home.

We are all, in a measure, creatures of destiny. Destiny has treated you with great kindness, Jim. It has been your destiny to introduce Occident to Orient, Orient to Occident.

Rotary takes the Golden Rule, an Oriental concept, and gives it Occidental interpretation and thereby provides a bond of better understanding. When tolerance gains ascendancy over intolerance, understanding will soon follow, to the immeasurable advantage of civilisation old and of civilisation new. Eastern culture is as much needed in the West as modern enthusiasm and idealism is needed in the East. Both civilisations can be enriched by the interchange of ideas and of ideals.

Your life has been an exceptional life; your experiences unusual. In this day of specialisation it is fortunate that there is diversity of experiences in the lives of Rotarians and diversity in aptitudes as well. By virtue of these diversities men have become specially qualified for different forms of service. In other words they have become skilled specialists — some in philosophy, some in management, some in finance. There can be no doubt as to your speciality. Since the day you and Layton Ralston set sail for the antipodes many years ago, you have been the great missionary of Rotary. "Go ye into the world and preach the gospel to every people" has been more than a mere phrase to you. It has been the ringing challenge of the hour.

We are all longing to see you and to hear from your own lips the wondrous story, my dear Jim. Don't turn a deaf ear to the call of others along the line who are equally anxious to hear from you, but when the time is ripe, hurry back to old number one, oh Minister Plenipotentiary, Organiser de Luxe, Missionary par excellence, Ambassador of International Goodwill.

Sincerely yours,

Paul P. Harris  
President Emeritus

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your reflective thoughts bring pictures to your mind showing the results of your great service in the cause of world-wide understanding, good will, and international peace, through the planting of the seed of Rotary in human hearts in far away countries.

It would be impossible at this time to place a value on this service of yours. All through the years yet to come people will be reaping the harvest from the seed you have sown. Stimulated by your thoughts and deeds, others will be inspired to "go forth and do thou likewise" and perhaps receive their measure or credit.

But first and foremost in the hearts and minds or Rotarians everywhere, will be your name, and your pioneering service in the cause of Rotary and its principles of human brotherhood".

I.B. Sutton, R.I. President 1928-29, wrote from Tampico, Tamps, Mexico "Happy indeed that you began your trip to organise clubs in the Levant and Orient during my year of office. I wish to extend to you this expression of my heartiest appreciation. Those of us who know you intimately realise that your remarkable success was the result of real merit and hard work combined with an irresistible personality and your unusual strength of purpose. Delightful memories will always be yours to recall the many countries and people brought into our organisation through your efforts. I know, also, that you have been enshrined in their hearts and minds for ever.

Your associates are proud of you Jim ! Your counsel and advice coming as it does from first hand knowledge and experience will always be respected and as I think of these countries in the future it will be through the eyes and ears of my friend Jim, of his wonderful helpmate Lillian, of lovely Marjory and the many details of the fascinating reports, articles, talks, and pictures which have enhanced this friendship I treasure so greatly".

Arthur H. Sapp, R.I. President 1927-28, wrote from Huntington, Indiana, USA "As the Board which worked with me in 1927 and '28 originated the plan for your pilgrimage to the Far East, I watched with tremendous interest your progress in the unselfish interest of Rotary International over a period of thirty-one months.

As compared with other historic expeditions, that which you, Lillian and Marjory have just completed stands out as of the most far reaching importance. When the history of the countries you touched is finally written the discriminating historian might in all sincerity point to the inauguration of these Rotary clubs as a turning point in the history of those countries.

You have done a tremendous service to your beloved Rotary. I hope that you may live for many years to see the fruit growing where you planted the seed.

Incidentally Clara and I were thrilled in reading all of your letters. You have a penchant for describing your experience that is admirable"

M. Eugene Newsom, R.I. President 1929-30, wrote from Durham, North Carolina, USA "Now that you are back home, after a long term of very fine service to Rotary International in overseas countries, I want to tell you that as president for the term 1929-30, and as member of the board of this year, we appreciate very keenly and very sincerely the inestimable service which you have rendered.

On account of your varying addresses, and your constant travel, it has not been easy at all times to keep in close touch with you for the past three years, but reports which have come along from you, the personal items which you have so kindly sent, and the newspaper clippings which carried accounts of your work over there, have all been a real inspiration to us.

If Rotary International had about five or six Jim

Davidsons, the work of reaching every corner of the world would be made easy, and the satisfaction coming from a job well done would be tremendous.

As the years pass, the satisfaction resulting from a tremendous service will be more apparent to you, and Rotary International will realise more fully, than it does at present, even, the bigness of the job accomplished. Let me, therefore, say to you, Jim, that in behalf of the Board of last year, I wish to thank you sincerely, and to express the hope that the years to come may afford you abiding happiness in the realisation of a work well done".

Past R.I. Director J.A. Caulder wrote from Toronto "Words fail me when I attempt to express to you my appreciation of the splendid work you have done in the interests of Rotary International. Your name will go down in Rotary history as having done more towards the development of the International side of Rotary than any other man has ever done, or will ever be able to do, because there will not be sufficient worlds left to conquer.

I am delighted that the 1930-31 Board of Directors were generous enough to include the names of the members of the two previous Boards in preparing this expression of appreciation to you, thereby permitting me to have the extreme pleasure of having my name on that document.

None of us will forget the splendid help given you in this worthy project by Mrs. Davidson and Marjory; therefore, our thanks and appreciation are also due, in no small measure, to them.

My best wish, Jim, is that you may long be spared to give still more service to Rotary, and that you may have more years to look back with pleasure on the splendid work you have done".

William H. Campbell, R.I. Director 1928-29, wrote from Rochester, NY, "As I have written to you

on several former occasions, and repeat again, Rotary as a whole will never know its obligation for all you have done. The unfortunate part of it all is that so few of us have really had sufficient contact with you to visualize not only the sacrifices you have made, but the tremendous effort necessary to accomplish such a gigantic task. The average member, reading of the birth of a new club in the Malay States for instance, gets a sort of thrill out of it, but it isn't the thrill that comes to the few who have seen you in action and studied the artistry of your persuasive powers. As this thing we all love, continues to grow and expand in every direction, it seems to me that the greatest incentive for its development, has been your own faithful plodding. May your greatest reward be in the friendship you have made, and the deep imprint of your life on all of us".

Clinton P. Anderson, R.I. President 1932-33, wrote from Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA "Although I have told you personally of my great appreciation of the work you did in the organisation of Rotary clubs in the Levant and the Orient, I feel that I want to put on paper my very sincere gratitude as an individual Rotarian, for the work which you have done to further the interests of a great organisation.

Also as a member of the Board of Directors I am even more indebted to you, for, in the eight District conferences that I have visited this year I have tried to tell the story of your work and found that it has a strong appeal to all Rotarians; in fact you have supplied me with all the "speech material" I needed, as in every conference I have tried to tell where Jim Davidson went, some of the problems he had to face, and the success which crowned his efforts.

You have done a magnificent piece of work Jim, and the mind and heart of every Rotarian respond to it. You will always have our enduring thanks".

Jim's own Rotary club of Calgary expressed its appreciation of the value of the good work done for Rotary at a banquet in the Palliser Hotel on March 27, 1931 at which members from clubs through out West joined with their wives and friends.

D.E. Black, President of the club, presented to Jim, on behalf of the club, a solid silver tray of Chippendale pattern, inscribed with a map of the area in which Jim formed clubs from Athens in the West to past Japan in the East, and including Australia and New Zealand, where he had formed four clubs in 1921. On each side of the tray was impressed the names of the places in which the clubs had been formed - 23 in the Orient and four in Australia and New Zealand. "A Chart of Achievement" was the description of the tray. Elsewhere you will find a picture of the tray.

Jim Davidson, during the banquet, gave an interesting and descriptive narration of his trip during which Lillian and Marjory were his constant companions, had travelled between 100,000 and 150,000 miles by train, air, by boat, by automobiles, by camel and by elephant. He mentioned that it was the psychological moment for Rotary's success in India declaring that the British people almost without exception were extremely anxious to work out the problem in perfect fairness to the native population.

He had called on 2200 men individually, he said, and it was a tribute to Rotary that once understood the person became interested. One lesson learnt, he said, was that there was more resemblance among men of different races than were differences. Giving an account of the club formed in Singapore, he said, there were 20 Chinese, 20 Malays and 10 Indians and others had sat down together, it being the first time they had broken bread together. The president of that club was an English barrister. He added that there was every evidence that Rotary was a round-the-world organisation.

Bruce Richardson of Winnipeg, Governor of District Four, welcomed Davidson on behalf of the District and referred to the sacrifices which had achieved such wonderful results. Welcome from the Calgary club was officially conveyed by Frank R. Erecze, Chairman of the Canadian Advisory Board, who related some of the incidents in Jim's career. Mayor Andy Davidson, in according a welcome from the city, said that he was proud of the fact that the Ambassador of Rotary should be a Calgarian.



Toronto Convention 1983 - R.I. President Hiroji Mukasa presenting Marjory the plaque of appreciation for Jim Davidson's services.



*Toronto Convention 1983 - N.T. with Marjory.*



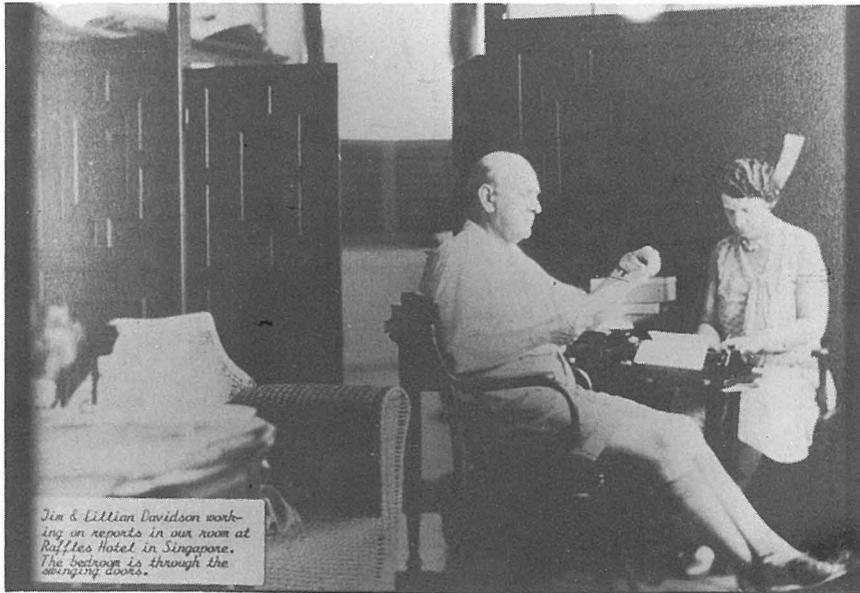
*Jim Davidson with daughter Marjory.*



*N.T. and wife Mary with Lillian Davidson at Delta - 1972.*



*Jim and Marjory with elephants in Malaya.*



*Jim & Lillian Davidson working on reports in our room at Raffles Hotel in Singapore. The bedroom is through the swinging doors.*

*Jim and Lillian working on reports at Singapore*



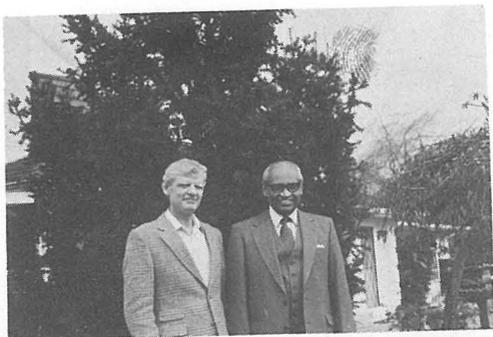
*Jim relaxing.*



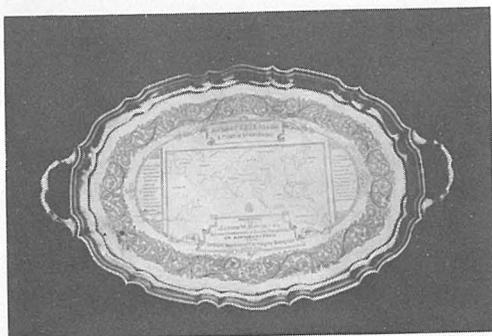
*Malay village—Davidson family under upturned car.*



*Author N.T. with Mrs. Marjory Abramson at her residence.*



*Author N.T. with Don Abramson, grandson of Jim Davidson.*



*Silver tray presented to Jim Davidson at Calgary Rotary club reception.*



*Lillian with family after presenting Jim's diary covering Polar expedition to National Archives Service.*

## viii Lillian Davidson's book MAKING NEW FRIENDS

Before starting on the mission to the Middle and Far East for Rotary extension, James Davidson was invited to contribute a series of articles to THE ROTARIAN setting forth his experiences. However, Jim declined because he wanted to give undivided attention to organisation work which would demand his entire time. But he suggested that Mrs. Davidson might be willing to contribute the articles describing their travels and experiences and having access to his reports she could quote extensively from them. The suggestion was immediately accepted by THE ROTARIAN.

Forwarding Mrs. Davidson's first story for THE ROTARIAN Jim wrote to Ches Perry: "Mrs. Davidson is a very talented student and observer, far more than I am at my age. She is a graduate of the University of California and all during our married life has been a close student, taking up one subject after another and devoting much attention to it as though it were her life work. I have never known a married woman, - I presume, of course, there are many - who without any other incentive than keen interest in a subject, has devoted as much time to study and research".

He continued that organisation work was occupying him completely and it would have been positively impossible for him to write for THE ROTARIAN. He added that this would prove a blessing as Mrs. Davidson had far more talent than he. He also requested THE ROTARIAN to preserve the plates covering the stories so that they could be compiled into a book later. He thought it would be a good idea to send a copy each to the Rotarian leaders in Asia, officers and members of the organising committees, as a token of appreciation for their kindness and he felt it would be good propaganda

among the Rotarians of the new clubs. However publication of the book was delayed owing to financial constraints. Lillian's book MAKING NEW FRIENDS was published only in 1934 after Jim's death. The educated, world travelled and gracious lady did a thorough job of writing a story on each country describing their travels and experiences. She received universal praise from the readers of THE ROTARIAN for these articles and they were reproduced in several papers and translated into many languages.

In the introduction to the book, Paul P. Harris, founder of the first Rotary club and President Emeritus of Rotary International, wrote that the Davidsons' mission for Rotary was to take them away from their home for nearly three years, - a journey that was to remake the map of Rotary. "It was a new manner of pioneering for Rotary, an experiment in organisation work involving several fundamental questions. Jim was confronted with the problem of 'selling' to business men of the Orient a brand new idea, which in a few years, had gained great headway in the Western world. Would this Rotary, born in a city of the Central Western prairies of the United States, be acceptable to peoples with racial customs and backgrounds differing from those of Occidental peoples. .... There were many disappointments and hardships, to be sure, but, on the other hand, there were experiences and adventures in friendship which far outweighed temporary discouragement. Jim Davidson's unflinching diplomacy, his enthusiasm for Rotary, and his remarkable capacity for work, carried him over many seemingly insurmountable barriers. .... Truly this volume MAKING NEW FRIENDS represents not only three years in the lives of the Davidson family, but reflected on its pages, is a life-time of adventure and journalistic experience. Both Jim and Lillian Davidson were keen observers. They missed very little of importance. They peered beneath surface condition. Their stay in certain countries - notably in Turkey - was coincident with vast political and social changes. They wrote

with understanding eyes, and hearts full of sympathy for the misfortunes of others. Their book comprises an interesting and authoritative study of peoples of the Near and Far East. Through their narrative runs a Rotary thread that gives colour to the fabric ... No one who reads this book can fail to gain a better conception of Eastern peoples and governments. Even if it had no other purpose, in that alone it would be well worthwhile".

Lillian's stories reflected a firm grasp of the history, geography, and economy of each country visited, conveying a keen observation of the people, their customs and social conditions and presented in a flawless, ornate style. I reproduce below a few extracts covering her report from diverse centres.

Describing Constantinople (Istanbul) in Turkey, the first city visited by them, she wrote "Never have I seen anything more entrancingly beautiful than the skyline of Constantinople as we approached 'chug chugging' down the Bosphorus from the 'sweet waters of Asia' in a friend's motor boat just about dusk one Sunday evening. The dying rays of a lovely rosy sunset had given place to a deep purplish blue, which like a colour wash, covered both city and sky. In my gallery of memory-pictures this, my first great Near Eastern city, will ever reveal itself as I saw it then, a symphony in blue, with innumerable ethereal minarets, soaring skyward above, rounding massive domes of mosques and fairy-tale-like white palaces lining the shore; an indelible memory-gift as the Japanese say. I wondered if in all the world there were any view more charming than this one"

About a bazaar scene in Constantinople she wrote "one curious and memory-haunting sight one constantly sees there, however, is the 'hamel', that human beast of burden, with his leather padded triangular saddle strapped to his back, on which he carries prodigious weights, such as packing boxes twice as large as himself, big pieces of furniture, machinery, building stone, large pieces of plate

glass, enormous jute sacks, even pianos, just anything and everything. Woe betide the pedestrian who fails to get out of his way for he plows along in a bee line".

Their visit coincided with vast changes initiated by Mustapha Kemal which transformed Turkey completely. Describing the change on women and youth she wrote "Turkey's flaming youth - girls and boys, young women and men and matrons - now walk down the principal streets until it seems as though one is in Paris, Berlin or Vienna. The Turkish girls are strictly upto the minute with skirts a little higher than in Paris just to show the world that they are not stopping half way. One can scarcely imagine a greater change than from the bulging full robes of the ferejeh and concealing veil to the costume of a corsetless waist and skimpy skirt - and they like it. They parade the streets, go to the movies, dance at the cabarets, and do generally as girls do in the Western countries anywhere. Even beauty contests are held and 'tag days' have their place on the calender and efficient taggers these girls make too. In the book stores one finds them interested in fashion magazines. Many of them design and make their own gowns and they dress in exceptionally good taste and look much as our girls at home".

No aspect of life was missed in Lillian's narrative. Describing Britain's role in the administration of Egypt she wrote "The part played in the past by British in the administration of Egyptian affairs has been of incalculable benefit to the country. The British took over Egypt, a bankrupt nation. They placed it on its feet and in 1922 turned the government over to the Egyptians financially sound with a surplus. They added tens of thousands of acres of arable lands by the building of dams and extension of irrigation. They gave Egypt a degree of prosperity that had not been known before. They introduced sanitation, established modern hospitals, extended education and brought law and order to all parts of the land. They placed Egypt

among the most advanced of Eastern nations and all these services they rendered without material advantage to themselves.

Recounting her experiences in India, Lillian wrote about the Parsees thus: "The Parsees are a very interesting feature of Bombay life. Four-fifths of the 100,000 Parsees in the world live in and around Bombay. These erstwhile Persians have a special talent for business; a Mida's touch that turns their ventures into gold. I believe the secret of their success lies in their adaptability. Where the finger of progress points, there they follow. The elderly men present a very dignified appearance in long frock coats and stiff black shiny head covering. The Parsee ladies flit about the streets like so many gorgeous butterflies in their dainty graceful saris. They are well educated, travelled and altogether charming, and many of them are exceptionally handsome.

We were entertained at one of the most magnificent Parsee homes in Bombay, built entirely of black marble, the spacious interior tastefully furnished with treasures gleaned from many lands. From a terrace in the rear, the ladies pointed out the Tower of Silence, adjoining their property here on the Malabar Hill, where the Parsee dead are exposed to the greediness of the great black vultures which we could see hovering in the air. The skeleton is left on a gridiron to be gradually disintegrated by the torrid sun and by the rains. Terrible as this practice may seem to the Western person, to the Parsee our method of burial, with its subsequent process of decay and defilement, is equally obnoxious".

En route to Delhi from Bombay by train they halted at Agra for a day to visit the Taj. Agra is rich in historic memories of the six great Moguls who ruled India for 180 years. Describing the Taj Mahal which she first saw from the old fort at Agra she wrote "It stirs the imagination to picture the aged and dethroned Shah Jahan, sitting in this very spot,

surrounded by every luxury, but a prisoner, nevertheless, sighing as he gazed at the white Taj, this symbol of his love, a view that could not fail to stir up in his disappointed old heart the dead ashes of his long cherished dream, that of carrying to full completion this sublime masterpiece. To his gifted mind, it would ever remain unfinished until his own black marble mausoleum stood, a fitting companion, on the opposite bank of the Jamuna River and linked to the Taj by a superb bridge. Thought of the Jasmine Tower will ever recall an exquisite memory, for within a marble flower of its doorway, a wee glass heart catches a perfect reflection of the far away Taj, making of it the daintiest of miniatures.

One of life's most perfect feasts for the eye is the etherally white Taj Mahal, aloft on its broad terrace, bathed in silvery moonlight, its matchless fairy like loveliness mirrored in the long, narrow, tree-lined pool at its feet. It left us with a hauntingly beautiful memory for it was our good fortune to see it by the light of a full moon. But at no time of the day or night could it be anything but beautiful. Even the quivering heat of midday fails to detract from its charm. The magnificent white marble cenotaph of Mumtaz Mahal, inlaid with exquisite perfection of detail, in flower designs fashioned of jade, carnelian, agate, lazuli, and onyx and surrounded by a marvellously carved and perforated, lace-like marble screen, polished and mellowed like old ivory, is a truly gorgeous jewel worthy of its casket".

Lillian's description of a Burmese girl is remarkable for its minute details. "Ma Thon was a wee thing, perhaps four and a half feet in height and her slender hips were tightly swathed in a rich soft apricot-tinted silk lungyi worn with a sheer white muslin jacket. Her small person was resplendent with many diamonds and much jewellery. Velvet sandals, a silk scraf and a brightly coloured semi-transparent parasol completed her costume".

Lillian reports the unusual situation in Bali thus: "One of Bali's chief attractions to the person from the other side of the world, far across the seas, is its unlikeness to every other land. It is the very realm of topsy-turvydom. In Bali, father stays home, does the house work, feeds and minds the baby. It is the mother who goes out into the highways and byways, carrying on the business which, by the way, she manages with remarkable shrewdness. It is mother, too, who handles all the money while father looks anxiously and expectantly up into her eyes as he begs a little money for a new dress - he just hasn't a thing to wear to the coming cock fight. And, perhaps, indulgent mama gives way for she likes to dress papa up right from his batik-covered head to the end of his gay sarong. She wears almost nothing at all - a square cloth called 'kain', brought around the waist, the ends given a simple hurried twist".

Lillian's description of government in Dutch East Indies clearly manifests her rare power of observation. "And the Dutch govern this medley with a rare skill which has come from an experience of centuries and which is made possible by a temperament well suited to the task. The Dutch are naturally a friendly people without race prejudice - hence sympathy for those they rule. They are a sturdy people, not easily excited and are inclined to think their problems through. They are modern in their methods, believe in science and its application to all their problems, therefore there are few mistakes and efficiency is the rule not the exception".

Speaking of the change that was observed in Hong Kong, Lillian was surprised at the large number of pretty, smartly dressed Chinese women she saw on the streets, compared to what she saw in the city of twenty-five years ago. "At that time it was rare to see any but coolie women, poor drab drudges, prematurely aged by hard labour and rendered still more unattractive by their dinghy, black, flapping trousers and wide, loose, clumsy

jackets, making them all look fat and shapeless. The woman always followed many paces behind her man, as custom so rigidly decreed, the wind carrying back to her the few sing-song words he cared to address her. These women of a passing age still shamble along the city roadways, their minds probably stunned at the daring of the very modern young Chinese who so boldly and defiantly oppose the enslaving dragon, Tradition".

Lillian also gave graphic accounts of the radical changes that came about in Shanghai, Manchuria, Manila, Formosa, Korea and Japan which they visited describing the people, their ways of life and the economic and social conditions.

Commenting on Lillian's article series, Paul Harris, in a letter to Jim Davidson, wrote "I want to express to Lillian through you, my appreciation of the splendid series of articles which she has been writing for THE ROTARIAN. They are little gems and Rotary essays. They are entitled to a high place in Rotariana. I had no idea how clever your good wife is".

## ix Jim's Report to Rotary International Board of Directors

At an informal meeting of the Board of Directors of R.I. held on April 6, 1931, attended by past R.I. Presidents including Paul Harris, Jim Davidson submitted his report covering his efforts at Rotary extension in the Middle and Far East. He mentioned that there were times when he felt somewhat depressed and if he had encountered many failures he would have been inclined to give up the work. But the encouragement that he had from others, letters of success from the clubs he had started kept him going. The presence of Mrs. Davidson and Marjory also helped. He mentioned that they had saved one very fine Rotary club, Rangoon. Some men who had agreed to join and who had signed up in Jim's black book later stated that they changed their minds. He almost decided to pack up and leave. But Marjory and Mrs. Davidson could not agree. Ultimately eighty members came forward although Jim wanted to stop with fifty. It was the judgement of Marjory and Mrs. Davidson that saved the club.

Jim reported that he first went to those countries in Europe where he hoped to obtain credentials and letters of introduction that would be necessary for the success of his trip. He first went to London and obtained a great many letters from different British clubs and from there to Holland, obtained a letter from the Minister of Colonies. Then he went to Paris. At Paris he got a letter from the Minister of Colonies to the Governor of Cochin China mentioning that Rotary had been successful in France and requesting all assistance in organising a club in Saigon.

He started work in Constantinople. He worked very hard assisted by a fine group of Turks. Turkey

had changed a lot particularly the women who were living in purdah were now going about in modern dresses to the movies, cabarets and dancing. The women had obtained very good education. His efforts did not succeed in Constantinople. There no one could attempt an organisation without getting a government permit. There was a secret committee of the Peoples Party, supporting Kemal and all applications go to this committee. Although Jim went to Angora and met the Minister of Interior as he did not take into confidence the chairman of the inner committee he blocked the application and hence it took four months before it came through.

Jim proceeded to Bombay after passing through Greece, Cairo, Bagdad and Persia. He established clubs in Bombay, Delhi and Madras and also visited the clubs of Lahore and Calcutta. From there he went to Ceylon and from Ceylon to Rangoon in Burma and passed Mandalay to Bhamo. He visited the existing club of Thayetmyo. From there to F.M.S. Java and Sumatra and thence to Bangkok, Hong Kong and Canton. If he could have stayed for three weeks he could have established a club in Canton. He then went to Philippines where he was able to clear up grievances in Manila. Then he went to Formosa where previously he had spent nine years. He then proceeded to Shanghai where there existed a successful club. He also visited Tienstsin and Peiping clubs which were working satisfactorily. From there he went to Manchuria first to Mukden and then to Harbin. He went by rail to Korea and by steamer to Japan. He visited all the clubs in Japan except Nagoya. He had all praise for the Tokyo club which had all important members giving a great deal of time for Rotary. He mentioned in particular Governor Yoneyama who rendered great service to Rotary.

Many of the old clubs in China and the Philippines had an unfortunate system of prefacing nick names to first names which often led to trying ordeals. At Jim's suggestion it was agreed that the practice should be changed for a more dignified one in the

future.

In Tientsin some members left the club due to their objection to the nickname system.

In Singapore the leading newspaper 'The Strait Times' had some unkind and incorrect representation. Jim had a serious discussion with its editor. He later discovered that one of the members of the club, Clark, was chairman of the Board, who owned the newspaper, became treasurer of the new club. The unkind remarks of the newspaper ceased. In these cities English members particularly object to these nicknames.

Jim mentioned that one difficulty standing in the way of progress of Rotary in Asia was the depressed economic condition. All Asiatic commodities, including plantation products were being sold at less than cost. Most members found the cost of Rotary high.

There was a Rotary club in existence in a Japanese city operating along Rotary lines but without the classification system. He expressed the hope that Governor Yoneyama will induce the club to give up the title.

The restriction demanding 30% attendance each year of the Rotarian in his home club may affect Rotary adversely in Asia and South Africa. If it is enforced it will mean a constant loss of useful members for the reason they go on long leave home for climatic conditions. They already regard a good many of the restrictions as standing in the way of success. The difficulties, so far as Asia is concerned, are the 10% and the 60% rules. Jim felt that you cannot create successful clubs in Asia by starting with the bottom layer and then expecting to work up. Due to the caste it is absolutely essential for success that one starts with a membership of the highest type that the community affords and then works downward in order to obtain a cross-section of a community. There

was also difficulty to associate socially with retailers but Jim was able to discuss the matter and find a solution.

Regarding classification system some changes were necessary in its interpretation. Ches had, through his weekly letter, reiterated that because certain practices are in force in American and Canadian clubs, it does not necessarily mean that they all must be introduced among Rotary clubs throughout the world. Leaders in Asian countries are difficult to be convinced that weekly meetings are imperative, at least for the time being. They are expected to meet weekly and are prepared to meet weekly as soon as possible. During summer months members continually express difficulty in attending weekly meetings and in fact attendance figures are depressingly low in such meetings. Question comes up frequently as to the advisability of discontinuing meetings in May and October, the two hottest months in India. Jim felt that although this has to be discouraged they could not adopt a very arbitrary attitude in this matter. Jim mentioned that while in Madras in May, organising a club there, the heat was so intense that he had to change clothing five times during a single day.

Caste conditions are not as obstructive to the extension of Rotary in Asia as expected. The educated man in Asia, whom one would want in Rotary, was prepared to compromise on the strict observance of his religious rules. In many of these countries both pork and beef are not served to satisfy the Moslem and Hindu. At another place people were satisfied with bread and nuts. Rotary has brought together in these countries many religious groups that formerly never broke bread together. In Bangkok, in order to get in two very charming Moslems, Jim had to arrange for them to bring their own servants.

One reason for Jim's success in Rotary extension was that he called individually on each prospect in his own office where he would have the opport-

unity of raising any objections and Jim could have as good an opportunity to answer them. In this way, including return calls, Jim made over 2200 visits on men in their offices and of that number he failed to interest less than a dozen. The advantage of calling members individually rather than meeting them in a group is that if one is really antagonistic he has the opportunity of talking only to Jim and not to a group which might easily become influenced by his views. He made sure that men who do not like the idea are kept away from the prospects whom he was endeavouring to interest. In regard to natives as members, the main difficulty in many countries is not obtaining men of right standing but that very often the educated native is available in only a very few classifications, connected with professions or the government as in Java and Sumatra. In order to bring in a large number of natives so that Rotary may be given a greater opportunity to serve, Jim recommended widening classification provisions. Jim would first go to the European. If a prospect agreed to join he would ask him if he had objection to natives being brought in. In most cases there was no objection and in some cases this aspect appealed to them as they had plenty of exclusive organisations already. Jim recommended that the classification field be widened.

Occasionally one comes across a Rotarian who does not believe in the outlying clubs. They are opposed to the lone clubs scattered here and there. He said that it should be remembered that Chicago once was a lone club. So was San Francisco, Winnipeg in 1910, Dublin in 1911, London in 1911, and Paris in 1921, Melbourne and Sydney in Australia and Auckland in New Zealand and Tokyo in Japan. He asks how can we get Rotary into a country without starting the first club. Jim was convinced that a lone club in a country can get along if it is unfortunately obliged to as in the case of Calcutta for nine years. The more country in which Rotary exists the greater will be its influence as an international organisation. Jim emphasised

that in Asia, as in no other section in the world, Rotary was badly needed where it can render a great service to humanity.

The clubs in Asia were handicapped when they were tied down to a set of classification rules devised really to meet the conditions in USA, Canada and Great Britain. Jim had great admiration for the Rotary Outline of Classifications which he considers the greatest document that Rotary ever issued. But it did not cover conditions in Asia. Jim sited the case of Kuala Lumpur club in F.M.S. The club was started sincerely believing that the classification system did not mean only different vocations but meant different races engaged in the same vocation. Thus when he arrived there Jim was horrified to find a Chinese, an Indian, a Malay and a British Rotarian in the same vocation. However the more he looked into it the more he saw its possibilities. A club organised along those lines can render a service for its community far ahead of the service the present classification system provides.

A Chinese barrister, an Indian and European barrister live generally each with their own people, in distinctly different atmospheres, are thinking differently, possessing vastly different view points, are performing their work differently, and are generally serving quite distinct groups. Jim said there were vastly greater differences between the Chinese, Indian and European barrister than between the three men of one nationality, that we allow in, who are practising respectively civil, corporation and patent law. Jim felt it was quite within the spirit of classification rules to consider the Chinese barrister, the Indian barrister and the English barrister as different minor classifications. The distinction is between different racial groups, not different nationalities.

Jim suggested passing a resolution giving directors authority to waive certain provisions to handle differences existing in different parts of the world.

Jim also mentioned the need to revise Rotary literature both for extension and for information to suit all countries.

Jim said in looking for additional classifications men dealing in the particular goods of a country should be treated as a distinct category. Many different lines of business of importance in Asia are left out in the Classification Outline.

Regarding weekly meetings, Jim said that there are in Asia situations that require some concession in the early days of a club. He suggested that the organisation should go forward and charter issued on condition that the charter is liable to cancellation if the clubs are unable to meet weekly, within a certain period. In some cities where Rotary functions there are no hotels or restaurants to provide a place for weekly meetings. Had it not been for the economic depression efforts would have been taken to put up community halls. Regarding the size of clubs Jim justified starting some clubs with a membership far more than 40 or 50 charter members. Through frequent transfers, retirement and home leave, Jim felt, the club must be organised with a larger membership in Asia so as to maintain a sufficient number to operate. In hot weather the attendance at weekly meetings turn out to be too poor. Jim suggested that their custom of confining the number of charter members to 35 or some other arbitrary number was not desirable in Asia. Jim concluded that Rotary was such a wonderful organisation and can render great service to the world and it should not be handicapped by procedure that is suited to perhaps only a part of the Rotary world. You have to ask yourselves whether it will work out in Asia, in South Africa.

## x Lillian's Address at the Seattle Convention, 1932.

Bob Hill, Chairman of the Seattle Convention programme committee, learnt that Jim Davidson would not be able to be present at the Convention. He hoped that Lillian would be there and he felt an address by her would be a high point in the Convention program.

Giving a broad outline for the speech, Ches Perry wrote to Lillian suggesting that she may confine herself to expressing appreciation of the opportunity that the Davidsons had to carry the message of Rotary around the world. She could also mention that it was a trip of hardships, but at the same time it was, on the whole, an enjoyable experience. She could also refer to the way in which Rotary was being accepted in the countries they visited and their impressions on the future of Rotary in those countries. She could further refer how pleased she was in writing the travel articles for THE ROTARIAN and over the cordial reception that had been afforded them.

Introducing the speaker at the Convention, Sydney Pascall, Rotary International president, said that Mrs. Davidson had related in a most entertaining and delightful style some of the interesting experiences and these articles appeared in THE ROTARIAN. Jim's own report has been delivered before the Board of Directors. Because of Jim's illness, Mrs. Davidson has kindly consented to give them a mixture of these two narratives, the official details and the unofficial side-lights of the extension of Rotary in Southern Asia. He added that the effectiveness of Jim's visits was made infinitely greater by the presence of Mrs. Davidson and Marjory.

I give below a verbatim account of Mrs. Lillian Davidson's address: TRAILING ALONG THROUGH ASIA.

We of the Western world, no matter what our nationality, have built up a belief in our superiority, bad enough at home, but deplorable when travelling for it acts like a pin prick to others. We forget that where superiority really exists, it does not have to call attention to itself. Because they differ from our own, all too often we ridicule and condemn the manners and customs of others.

"He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her". Could there be a more ideal guide of life ? Is there any one nation, or any one race so near perfection as to be the first to cast the stone of criticism ?

Custom reconciles us to everything. If you question this, just glance through a batch of old family photographs. The ridiculous hats and stiff, ugly gowns will always bring forth a hearty laugh. And yet, these very styles were once considered the last word in smartness. But with us custom is like a lightning change artist.

Not so in Asia where custom, ancient custom, has always been law. There, habit and thought are the result of centuries. It has retarded advance, but it has to its credit veneration of one's forefathers. No longer can Asia be thought of as "The unchanging East", for the last decade has seen many changes. More and more the intellectual men and women of Asia are endeavouring to break down the dictates of custom. Among those who have radically different ways of thinking, sympathy is the one force that will level the barriers between races. Rotary, strangely enough, seems the only organised effort to bring the East and West together. Many times after an organisation meeting, both Europeans and Asiatics have told Jim, "this is the first time we have broken bread together".

One cannot travel and study as we did (we spent months in some of the countries) without being convinced that there is more likeness among the people of the world than unlikeness. Strike the right chord and the response is much the same everywhere.

The women of Asia, and I shall speak largely of them, exert perhaps more influence than is generally believed. Do not assume that the changes have been entirely confined to the male sex. The Turkish men were forced by President Kemal and his government to make startling changes, such as discarding their ancient headgear, the fez, and the replacing of the old complicated Arabic alphabet by the Roman one which was taking place during our visit. The Turkish women, on the other hand, although they had been taught for countless ages immodesty of exposing the face, voluntarily and courageously threw back their concealing veils, bound them turban-fashion about their shapely heads and for the first time in history, with faces bare, stepped out into the public streets. With velvety black eyes beneath these gauzy turbans and in Paris frocks, they were irresistible.

Human costuming is a queer thing and simply a matter of opinion. Nudity does not mean indecency. The Balinese woman, pure and chaste, bare from waste up, carries herself like a queen. The Chinese woman, on the other hand, will not expose the neck, while the Indian Muslem woman covers herself completely with a voluminous white cape containing two eye holes. What would she think, I wonder, of our backless evening gowns and wisps of bathing suits? Just a matter of custom, isn't it?

In Constantinople, or Istanbul as it should now be called in a modern Turkish home on the bluffs overlooking the beautiful blue Bosphorus, we met a group of Turkish men, members of Jim's little advisory committee, and their wives. Over the tea cups, the women plied me with questions about

Rotary. That women were not accepted caused indignation, I assure you. Government restrictions, unfortunately, prevented success in organising a club.

Many on this continent doubtless think that all Greece must be peopled by the type of Greek labourers and push stand vendors we see in our cities. The residents of Athens, undoubtedly influenced by their ancient culture, possess an appreciation of art and literature to a degree perhaps not exceeded in any other land. A prominent banker who accepted the presidency of the Rotary club of Athens, spent long morning hours at his bank that he might pass the afternoon in his library, one of the finest in Greece. Distinguished in appearance, often handsome, the women are nearly all intellectual and well informed, seldom speaking less than four languages. One little Patrician lady, member of a prominent family, remarked: "We must learn many other languages, for our country is so small no one will bother to learn from us".

It is next to impossible for the stranger to meet the Egyptian women of Cairo. When at home they remain hidden in their harem. When they appear on the street, they look much alike in their flowing black robes, their faces beneath the eyes, concealed by the black yashmak or veil, held in place by a gold nose piece. I questioned a Rotarian's wife. "O, yes," she replied "I know a number of them but entertaining them requires much preparation. When they wish to return my visit, they notify me well in advance so that I can send my men servants away for the afternoon and take good care to prevent any possibility of my husband returning home unexpectedly". The Cairo and Alexandria clubs are both international in membership.

A charming, sweet-mannered girl was Mary Salameh, daughter of a Syrian Rotarian of the Jerusalem club. Her mother was ill but Mary proved a delightful hostess. Not for anything would I have missed the afternoon Mary and I spent together plodding

over the Via Dolorosa, chatting about this ancient city. It is appalling to think of Jerusalem, the most sacred spot on earth to three great religions, as a city of hatreds and intolerance. The club Jim organised there contains Arabs, Jews, and Gentiles. Now there are clubs at Haifa and Beyrut.

To reach Bagdad we were obliged to motor six hundred miles across the North Arabian Desert. Rachel, whom we met there, was a pretty Arab girl of seventeen with modern ideas and the first of her sex to work in an office. "You don't know how terrible it is", she said to me, "for all my friends criticize me for working with men". Imagine the disgust with which women of Bagdad, who had worn their all concealing costume for thousands of years, would regard cute little Rachel with her bobbed hair, armless flapperlike dresses and glistening silk stockings. That Allah had not struck her down for her impiety would be a source of constant wonder to them.

One day she introduced me to her pretty little mother. "Your mother?" I queried for she looked little more than a girl. "Yes" said Rachel, "You see, my mother was married at thirteen and I was born when she was fourteen". Rachel showed me about with much patience until I expressed a desire to see the tomb of Zobeida, favourite wife of Haroun Al Raschid. At this she gasped, "But, Mrs. Da-veed-son, why you want to go to a cimitery? While much interest was expressed in Rotary there, Jim felt that both Bagdad and Teheran, Persia's capital, were as yet too inaccessible.

The Parsees, originally Persians, are the most successful business men in India. One well known among them, Sir Phiroz Sethna, is president of the Bombay Rotary club, one of the three Indian clubs Jim organised. The Parsee ladies, often very handsome, and exceptionally intelligent, flit about the streets like lovely butterflies in their becoming saris, for they early adopted this graceful costume

of the Hindu women. They scour the markets of Europe for rich silks, brocades, georgettes and crepes to supplement the gorgeous native silks woven with gold and silver threads. One Parsee lady showed us her assortment of saris, numbering perhaps half a hundred. The sari is a fascinating garment that never goes out of style. It is a length of material, silk for the rich, cotton for the poor, six yards in length and fortyfive inches wide which is wound several times about the hips to form a skirt, the free end being draped over one shoulder. The Parsee woman had made one change. She brings the end up over her head and custom decrees that she must never be seen with uncovered head.

The beautiful white marble home of Mr. and Mrs. Dubash Sr. is one of the show places of Bombay. Their two sons, one a Rotarian, and their wives live with them. We did so enjoy these two cultured, much travelled young women, sisters, by the way. After we had been shown over the mansion, we stepped out upon the verandah. "Over there are the Towers of Silence" said Mrs. Dubash. We could just see the tops with fluttering black forms of vultures circling above. Here is just another difference of opinion. To the Parsee our method of polluting the earth with dead bodies is just as obnoxious as their way of exposing their dead high in the sky on a gridiron, food for vultures, is to us. But there is no gainsaying the fact, it is a cleanly method.

In Calcutta we were invited by a well known Indian lawyer to the modern and stately home of himself and his brothers, one of whom was a Rotarian. My host conducted me to the zenana, or women's apartment, for his ladies were in purdah. On a couch was a very tiny baby. Whose baby is this?" I asked of a young lady of eighteen who spoke English. "My sister she replied, as she pointed to a small richly gowned young girl. She looked like a little school girl to me, so I asked "Is this her first child?" "Oh no," came the answer. She is nineteen and this her fourth child. She was married

at thirteen". Remembering that sad little face, it gave me great satisfaction to read a few months later that due to the influence of Indian women's organisations supported by many cultured Indians and by British members of the government, legislation had been passed prohibiting child marriages. A truly momentous change !

While in Delhi, we were entertained by that great Viceroy of India, Lord Irwin, and Lady Irwin. Many Indian ladies were present, which in itself was evidence of change. One of the ladies, however, was still in purdah and therefore was being served in a separate apartment into which no man was permitted to enter. These Indian women were instrumental in collecting a large sum of money for educational purposes.

In Colombo we had dinner at the home of a cultured and delightful Sinhalese gentleman, Mr. Donald Obersaker, a writer of several historical books on Ceylon. His wife, a plump, motherly little soul, greeted us dressed in her native costume, tight silk sarong and spotless white muslin basque. Like mothers everywhere, she was never so happy as when talking of her two sons who were attending Oxford. Mr. Obersaker was one of several Sinhalese whom Jim had obtained for the club.

While, in Burma, we saw much of Mathon Nyun, seventeen year old daughter of a Burmese Rotarian. The mother could speak to us only in terms of smiles, but Mathon was going to high school and spoke excellent English. She had a dainty picture, her small slender body tightly swathed in apricot silk sarong and spotless white basque, a parasol framing her head with black hair. About little Mathon was an air of gentleness and culture which many of our Western girls would do well to copy. The independent little Burmese women of the lower castes are a laughter-loving lot with keen business heads and they like to keep shop. They squat on little platforms in the big bazaars, smoking their "whacking white cheroots". There is a Rotary club

in Thayetmyo that is almost entirely Burmese in membership. The president of the important Rangoon club is U. Maung Set, a Burman, well liked by all communities. Once in Malaya, when motoring along at night on the edge of a jungle, our motor car turned turtle, pinning us beneath. Malays of the coolie class rushed to our rescue, and although they spoke no word of English, their sympathy and kindness were great. It is true that we are all missionaries for good or evil. Because of this little incident, the gentle Malaya folk will ever remain enshrined in our hearts.

In the seven clubs in British Malaya, in addition to Europeans, are many Straits-born Chinese and some Malay and Indian members. The Singapore club has grown rapidly since my husband started it. Curiously enough, it was the one in all Asia my husband had the hardest time to organise because of the editorial hostility of the leading newspaper, which evidently wanted Singapore to have the distinction of being the only city without a Rotary club. It is therefore interesting that today the Singapore club is the largest in all Asia with 168 members of some twenty different nationalities and races.

No hostess could have received us with more graciousness and charm than a Javanese Princess in Batavia. She was a relative of Prince Pakoe Alum of Djokjakarta, a Rotarian. At a glance one would set her down as a woman of unusual intellect. She had been educated at the University of Leyden, Holland, and had taken two years post graduate work at the University of London. While in London she was presented at court and showed us the beautiful batik sarong she had worn.

On one occasion in the Djokjakarta Rotary club, upon being addressed as "Your Highness" - for he was the ruler of one of the native states - Prince Pakoe Alum objected, and said, "Here, I am not 'Your Highness', but Rotarian Pakoe Alum". He appreciated the opportunity Rotary gave him

of contact not only with the Dutch but also with visiting Rotarians. His attendance is almost 100%. Some outstanding Javanese are in the seven clubs now in Java and Sumatra.

Through Royal favour we attended a Shrimpi Dance, given by the Sultan of Djokjakarta, Java in honour of a high Dutch official, a Rotarian, who was going home on leave. The great, many-pillared, audience hall, open on all sides, with its rose-strewn approach, and agleam with lights was truly a bit of a fairy land. The dance performed by eight little princesses, four of fifteen years, one of whom was the daughter of the Sultan, and four of six or seven years, was an aesthetic display of grace, refinement and perfect physical control representing early and constant training and discipline.

Bali, where we spent Christmas week, was without question the most fascinating spot in our travels. Life goes on there in the same manner it has for hundreds of years past. This picturesque little island with its million inhabitants, strangely escaped the attention of Western powers until 1906, when the Dutch took over, for it is close to Java; and they govern with as little interference with the quaint customs of the people as possible.

Bali is a paradise for women. Here the position of the sexes is just reversed. Father stays home, does the house work and feeds the babies on cocount milk while mother handles the money bags. Charlie Chaplin says Bali is the only place where he found no depression. Naturally, there would be none with Mother at the helm. She sells the produce and pockets the money, a necessary arrangement as Father is like our men folks here an inveterate gambler. Imagine the poor man meekly asking for money, and Mother, looking at him sternly in the eye, demanding, "What did you do with the ten copper cash I gave you last week?" She dolls Father up in lots of cloths to make him look pretty and wears little herself. A Rotary club there would of necessity have to be composed of women, and

Jim, man like, balked at this.

In Siam through the kindness of Prince Purachatra, president of the Bangkok Rotary club, we were invited to the palace to a private cinema exhibition. The king and members of the Royal family are keen about moving pictures. A gorgeous chair had been placed for his comfort but, after a few moments he walked back to the platform on which his brother Prince Purachatra, also an enthusiast, was operating the projector, and made a running comment upon the pictures as they appeared upon the screen for they were his own. One word about Prince Purachatra. We talk of Western energy and Eastern idolence. This prince is a whirlwind of energy. Never have we met anyone like him. The Bangkok Rotary club, including five princes as active members is largely Siamese. The king, a most efficient ruler, was a recent speaker.

"You can't bring different Asiatics together in a club. Differences in caste and religion will not permit of it", Jim was informed over and over again. "Can" is the only word Jim will recognize in extension work. In Bangkok were two Moslems, important in business, fine, desirable men. "We would like to join, Mr. Davidson," they said, "but you know we cannot eat food prepared by non-believers". "Why, that's simple," Jim replied, "bring your own servant, let him prepare your food and serve you". And at the inaugural meeting, among the dozen or more nationalities making up the membership, were these two smiling Moslems, a Moslem servant behind their chairs. In other paces, Jim got over the difficulty of certain conflicting religions by not having either beef or pork served at the Rotary luncheon. He can see no reason for not making concessions when necessary.

Rotary luncheon in Malaya would look strange to you. You would note a variety in dress with some at the table wearing hats, for with the Moslem, it would be an act of discourtesy to appear among friends uncovered, while with the others

it would be equally discourteous to wear a hat.

The cute, bob haired, often pretty Chinese women of Hong Kong and Shanghai in their attractive costumes of silk or brocade - a compromise between European and Chinese styles - are now frequently seen on the streets, in the theatre or on the dance floor, with their Chinese husbands or male friends, often handsome men, and generally in European clothes. A few years ago a Chinese woman and man never appeared together in public. The woman walked several paces behind if on the street. There are many Chinese members of the six clubs now in China. Dr. Fong See, a talented Chinese, is president of the Shanghai club, and Dr. Tso, one of the leaders in the Chinese community, is the incoming president of the Hong Kong club. Chinese are available in many classifications.

The gentle, dignified, sweet little ladies of Japan, I am thankful to say, still cling to their kimonos for they are delightfully picturesque in them. Baroness Togo, lovely wife of the president of the Tokyo Rotary club, her arms filled with flowers, was at the station early in the morning to greet us. There were many opportunities to meet the other Rotary ladies, including a Japanese Geisha party, arranged by the Rotary Governor Yoneyama at the exclusive Maple Leaf club. Jim unfortunately was too ill to go, but my daughter and I enjoyed it immensely. I relished every Japanese dish, even the raw fish. Perhaps you are horrified at the suggestion of raw fish, yet you eat raw oysters, and, if the same seasoning is used they taste much the same.

One day while visiting at the home of a Japanese Rotarian in Kyoto, the engaging young daughter came in. She has recently returned from New York where she had been visiting a married sister and was dressed in chic European sports clothes. She expressed the hope of coming to Canada soon, so I told her she must come to see us. "Will your mother be with you?" I asked. She threw an arm

affectionately about her sweet, refined little mother, a woman possibly fifty-five, and laughingly asked, "Well, now Mrs. Davidson, I ask you why should I take such an old, old lady with me?" It sounded very modern to me.

We did find many changes in Japan. The business district of the big cities especially Tokyo, with large modern blocks and motor car congestion might be one of a dozen or more cities in the United States. The nine Rotary clubs in Japan, like our clubs here, are largely of native membership. The Japanese take to Rotary readily, have large attendance averages and maintain a high degree of efficiency. They can fill almost every classification with their own people.

Now, the lesson in all this mingling with Turks, Egyptians, Arabs, Persians, Indian Moslems, Hindus, Burmese, Javanese, Siamese, Chinese and Japanese and European residents in the East - my husband made some 2200 calls on them in all - is that, with each nationality, one finds some virtues that we and the others lack. No nation and no race has a monopoly of all that is good and desirable. None a monopoly of all the defects. If an Asiatic looks strange and eccentric to us, you may rest assured that we appear in the same light to him. If he irritates us, we irritate him to the same degree, only he is generally too courteous to show it. We of the West in our interracial contacts, are often lacking in the good manners that many Asiatics possess.

Unfortunately, in many countries in Asia the educated Asiatic is available in very few classifications. Jim favours a widening of the classification rules that a larger number of desirable nationals in the East may be available for Rotary.

Jim sends this message to you. Nowhere in the world can Rotary render a greater service than in Asia, where so much racial antagonism exists. Rotary is badly needed there. Do not encourage

unnecessary and crippling rules. Simplify rather than complicate your procedure.

"Oh, East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet" has been dinned into the ears of the world since Kipling penned those lines in 1889. They say the devil can cite scripture for his purpose. Likewise, those quoting the memorable passage seldom bother to finish the verse which has an especial significance for you Rotarians gathered at this Convention:

"But there is neither East nor West, nor border,  
nor breed, nor birth,  
"When two strong men stand to face though they  
come from the ends of the earth".

President Pascall, concluding the session said: "We have read with appreciation the written word, but the spoken word we heard this morning outweighs it all with its charm. We are deeply grateful to Mrs. Davidson for her delightful address, and we receive Jim's message in terms which I can cordially endorse with my recent experience, with great gratitude, and send back through Mrs. Davidson to Jim our cordial greeting to him and our best wishes for good health. He also introduced Marjory to the audience.

## xi Rotary's Homage to a Leader

The strain of Jim Davidson's journey and hard work under adverse conditions in Asia sapped his energy and undermined his health. In spite of all the tender care and nursing by Lillian and Marjory Jim passed away on July 18, 1933 after a valiant struggle. The sad news was immediately relayed by telegrams and letters by Ches Perry, Secretary of Rotary International, to the four corners of the Rotary world. International press also gave wide coverage of the news.

Condolence messages poured in by telegrams and letters from Rotary leaders of many lands and from Rotary clubs around the world and from personal friends of the Davidsons. I give below selected extracts of the messages as they are too numerous to be included in full. These messages reveal the various facets of Jim's character and career. They are reproduced as they are so that the force of their appeal may not be diluted.

GUY AND ANN GUNDAKER, R.I. President 1923-24

What can I say to you dear people to let you know how deeply Guy and I feel about Jim's passing. A martyr to Rotary is what he will always be to us. You have struggled so valiently to be all in all and to bring him back to health that it seems cruel to have him pass in his prime. If there is now or ever shall be anything be it great or small that Guy or I can do, please let us know. The happy memories of our few days together will always be one of life's hill tops for us. Our dearest and best to you both.

SIR CHARLES A. MANDER, PRESIDENT RIBI  
1929-30

I was only privileged to meet him on one occasion,

when we were starting off on our return home last June, but I will always recollect with pleasure that brief talk which we had, which gave an insight into his type and qualities, and convinced me that Rotary International chose well when they deputed him to undertake his great task in the Eastern hemisphere. We shall always feel that in laying the foundation stone for the Rotary movement in the Eastern regions, he performed one of the most outstanding acts of service for the movement and in so doing forfeited his life.

SYDNEY W. PASCALL, R.I. PRESIDENT 1931-32

Jim's passing has brought me much sadness. Although I had not met him very often our friendship goes back a long way now and it is one of my very valued possessions, for I feel that nothing can take it away.

I was happy to follow in your footsteps in the East, and was a great debtor, benefitting by the fine atmosphere you had created. No one, who has not had the advantage that I have of visiting Jim's clubs, can have the least conception of the great work he did, and of the handicaps amid which he laboured. His work in the East and earlier in Australia and New Zealand was unique. I doubt if any other man I know could have done it and I am constantly filled with that admiration for him on its account. But it was the man himself who gripped me, the work was merely his outward expression. I have rarely, if ever, made a friend who left a stronger impression upon me.

ARCH C. KLUMPH, R.I. PRESIDENT 1916-17

I know no words of mine can lighten your load but still you may get just a little comfort in knowing how many people loved and honoured Jim and at the same time are sympathising with you.

I spent many years on the Foreign Extension Committee with Jim as you probably know. It was a

pleasure and privilege to know him, and the services which you and he rendered to Rotary during the two years abroad were one of the greatest contributions to the organisation by any one.

ARTHUR H. SAPP R.I. PRESIDENT 1927-28

Since Los Angeles Convention I have known Jim more or less intimately. I recall following that Convention visiting you and him at your home in the company of Vivian Carter and a number of other Rotarians.

Jim's "unconquerable soul" will travel on in the remarkable achievements of his life.

JOHN NELSON R.I. PRESIDENT 1933-34

Jim was an institution in Rotary, as well as one of its most beloved figures. The first he earned by his incalculable service to Rotary everywhere. The second he just naturally won by his winsome character. He cannot be replaced in Rotary, any more than he can in your own life. I count it a privilege to have known him and to have been treated by him as a friend. If any thing can compensate you for your loss it must be the thousands of messages, unspoken as well as spoken, which must be coming to you through the ether as well as the mail, from those who prized his comradeship and who admired and loved the man.

RAYMOND M. HAVENS R.I. PRESIDENT 1922-23

I have gone back over many Rotary experiences since reading the notice of Jim's passing and I recall with a tremendous amount of pleasure the many contacts I personally had with him. All I can say is that I extend to you my very sincerest sympathy, in which Gladys joins me.

I know that your fortitude and your great love for Jim, and the sympathy of his many friends

and their expressions given to you by the hundreds will help you bear up in your present trouble.

CLINTON P. ANDERSON R.I. PRESIDENT 1932-33

Of course you realise better than most people how well I knew Jim and how much I thought of him. I think one of the finest things he ever said to me came up at the time I visited you in Vancouver after the Seattle Convention. He remarked that from his stand point he was as well satisfied to have me be President, Rotary International, as to hold the position himself because he knew how sympathetic I was toward the work he had done in the Orient and the Levant, and that I would do my best to carry out his thoughts and plans.

Many things will be written to you praising the accomplishments of Jim in the establishment of Rotary in Australia and New Zealand on his first trip as a missionary for the movement, and also in praise of the wonderful devotion to the cause which he displayed on the trip which you all made together.

He was one of the most interesting characters I have ever met, one of the most sacrificing missionaries our movement ever had, and as fine a friend as a man could ask. There will be few who will miss him more than I will.

FRANK L. MULHOLLAND R.I. PRESIDENT 1914-15

The news of Jim's passing will be received with sorrow by thousands of his friends scattered throughout the world. You and Marjory are fortunate in a way in that you can look back into the past and bring up so many beautiful memories of your cooperation with Jim when he was living his eventful and helpful life. Time can never erase these pleasant memories, and perhaps out of them you will find consolation that very few women left as you have been left have been privileged to enjoy.

WILL R. MANNIER JR. R.I. PRESIDENT 1936-37

Jim and Will have always at Rotary gatherings, been room mates. They were District Governors together. He writes: When I received word that Jim was gone, Tom List, the incumbent Governor of New Zealand, was visiting me here in Nashville; and the news of Jim's passing cast a shadow over us both. I recounted to Tom all the many intimate details of my association with Jim and Tom told me many stories of what Jim's Rotary work in New Zealand had meant to men in those islands and of the respect and affection in which Jim was held there.

Of all the men I have known, I believe that Jim's life was the fullest and most abundant; and that I know must be a consolation to you and Marjory as it is to me. When I think of all the good come to the far places of the world through Jim, I feel that you and Marjory and I, as well as Jim himself, must be content.

NITISH C. LAHARRY R.I. PRESIDENT 1962-63

It was from Doug Howland I managed to get your address and I am hastening to say how terribly grieved I feel about our irreparable loss. Dear old Jim was one of God's best and accordingly it has pleased Him to take him away from us so early. I can easily realise how you and Marjory must be feeling his loss. One of the my most treasured possessions is the photograph which was taken during your visit to Calcutta.

G. FRED BIRKS, SYDNEY, NSW AUSTRALIA

The two men I loved in Rotary and felt very close to were Jim and Charles Rhodes and now there is a great blank in my life so you will know how I can sympathise with you and Marjory.

Today at the Sydney club luncheon President John Duncan paid a great tribute to Jim and yourself.

E.W. FRAZER, TOKYO

I do wish to pay my tribute of love, admiration and respect to the memory of your husband whom I have counted as one of my ideals of men and a good friend. I will remember the days he spent at our house in Yokohama when he came up from Formosa. His cheery and optimistic soul was an inspiration and the circle of friends has literally gone around the world. He is being missed by every Rotarian, and his memory will long endure.

EDWIN ROBINSON SECOND VICE PRESIDENT, R.I.

It was a terrible shock to learn of your sad loss. In common with many thousands of Rotarians throughout the world, I had come to look upon Jim as the finest Roman of them all and his passing has left not only Rotary but the world, a poorer place. I just wanted to tell you how we grieve with you and to assure you and Marjory our deepest sympathy.

WALTER MALCOLM, BELFAST NORTHERN IRELAND

At this time you will want the sympathy and thoughts of all your friends to support you in your grief. I don't know if Jim's call was altogether unexpected but no matter you will feel deeply his leaving you. And this is just to let you know I mourn with you and hoping you may not find the burden greater than you can bear.

H. SINDING LARSEN, GOVERNOR 67 DISTRICT, OSLO, NORWAY

Norwegian Rotary participate in your mourning over the passing away of your husband, fellow Rotarian, James W. Davidson.

Happy the man who can leave after a long day of good Rotary work.

HOSEF STEFAN, ROTARY CLUB OF KUNTA HORA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA

It has been a sad surprise to read about Jim Davidson's having left you and the big Rotary family for ever. We, Rotarians of Kunta Hora, have spent many a pleasant half-hour in reading your interesting articles about far away countries, where your husband and you were doing so much successful work for Rotary. He thus built the most beautiful monument for himself, wherever Rotarians will meet.

CLARENCE E. KERR

In the passing of your dear husband I felt that I have lost a very valued friend. I know, only too well, just how your heart is aching for only those who have been at the cross of sorrow can fully sympathise. Mr. Davidson's life was lived for others and the dear wife and daughter. We have our memories for the years to come which will help over the rough roads all must travel. May our Father be with you in your great sorrow.

JEAN CAVENDISH, MANCHESTER

Mr. Davidson will be greatly missed by us all and we both feel that we have lost a real friend. Letters are not much use but this does indeed take our real sympathy to you both. We had a very interesting trip home with hope some day to do it all again when we shall hope to see you and Marjory. With kindest regards to you both from us both.

DAVID J. SPINETTO, BUENOS AIRES

Even when I had not the pleasure to know personally Mr. Davidson, it was well known for Rotarians throughout the world his great enthusiasm and service for the extension of Rotary and his ideal of good will, tolerance and international amity.

KLANG AND COAST ROTARY CLUB, KLANG,  
SELANGOR, F.M.S.

Before the tea commenced the President asked all members and guests to stand for a few moments in honour of the late Mr. James Davidson, the Rotarian International Commissioner who was mainly responsible for the formation of the Klang and Coast Rotary club. To Mrs. Davidson and her daughter we offer our most heart felt sympathy. Jim Davidson was a mighty force in Rotary and Rotary has lost one of its best sons in dear Jim.

A.L. HERPS, MELACCA

It seems as yesterday since you three, with Singapore as your head quarters, were doing such wonderful work in Malaya, the Dutch East Indies and Siam. We know that it was the strain of those years in India and the Far East that led to your beloved husband's physical breakdown.

We here and many thousands elsewhere, who were led by his teaching and example to do less for self and more for others, are determined that his passing early in the cause of Rotary will make us better Rotarians with more service before self.

P. GNARLER AND UFFORD, JAVA, DUTCH EAST  
INDIES

My husband and I both want to say how very much we feel for you and your daughter in the sad loss you have sustained. I know what a devoted two you were and therefore it must be a great blank in your lives. We had been far away from home on a trip and only just heard of this yesterday. I hope my letter will reach you safely. We are leaving Java at the end of the year and going back to Holland for good I suppose. We send you both our sincere sympathy once again.

MURIEL GAMMONS, KUALA LAMPUR

We are both terribly sorry to hear of your sad news and would like to send our sincerest sympathy to you and Marjory in your great sorrow.

C.G. SAVAGE GORDON NSW AUSTRALIA

Though your dear one has been called from this life, his work and influence will never die and may you gain great help from the fact that your husband's life was one of service for his fellow men and he has now been called to his reward.

I look back upon the short stay I had with you good people and count it an honour and privilege to have made acquaintance of such dear people. The time I spent with you was of the happiest I experienced in my splendid trip to your beautiful country and will ever bring back to me pleasant memories.

HARPER JOY, SPOKANE

What a beautiful service that was for dear old Jim. The beautiful chapel looked with flowers, the pipe organ playing Handelo Largo and the singer who rendered Peace alone made it a great service. The world will not soon forget Jim - our Jim. It was a mighty sad duty but I feel sure Jim's great work in the vale of tears will live on - for many years and that his influence in this world for good will not soon be forgotten. I only have one regret about Jim and that is the fact that I did not know him sooner. His sunny smile - will - be on my mind for ever.

ELY E. PALMERS

I felt certain that he would be with us for a long time and continue to play an important role in the promotion of a better understanding between the various peoples of the world to whom he was, as his memory will always be, such an inspiration.

I realise how inadequate mere words are at such a time, but I do want to offer Mrs. Palmers' and my condolences to you and Marjory.

#### RUDOLPH BRUCE

My heart goes out to you and Marjory in heart felt sympathy this sad, sad day. The tragic news has given a great shock. I know how devoted you all were to one another and can realise what his passing will mean to you. May a merciful Providence help to sustain and comfort you dear Mrs. Davidson. At least you have the memory of a great and unselfish citizen to comfort for surely he did great service in promoting a spirit of fellowship throughout the world. He atleast has not lived in vain and he has left behind him an enduring monument in the hearts of the peoples of many lands. It was kind of you inviting me to act as an honorary pall bearer. My poor eyes make it difficult to travel alone and Mrs. Bruce was unable to come at such short notice. I should have wished to pay my last respects to one for whom I had a great admiration and whose friendship was so much valued by me.

#### BUNNY, LOY AND THE GIRLS, CALGARY

Jim was a wonderful chap. We who were privileged to call him friend feel that the intimacies we enjoyed with him were indeed privileges. To know him, to share in his experiences, to have had close personal contact is a thing we have all prized and valued. How much greater an experience Lillian to have lived with him like you have.

As we grow older we live in the past, in memories and Lillian what a glorious record to think of is that of Jim's activities. All over the world his name will be revered, honoured and remembered. It is comforting I am sure to know that you have done everything that is humanly possible. There are no regrets, you have done all and more than any friend, or any wife and companion could do.

#### EDWARD WICKER, JERUSALEM

I shall never forget my happy association with Jim Davidson in those days when the Jerusalem club was coming into being. I greatly admired the fine tact and courtesy he showed towards divergent groups of people in Jerusalem. And I recall with joy our weeks together around the walls of the new Jerusalem, which is above. I am sure that this good fellowship must carry on to the life that lies beyond death.

#### SAM REAT, AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE, CALGARY

It was my great privilege to express to you all the onerous and delicate service rendered to Rotary International by dear Jim - and he sacrificed his life to Rotary.

An expression of the loss to the world of Rotary International would be impossible to indite.

#### JOHN T. SYMES, LOCK PORT NY

Never in all my life did I feel more helpless. I don't know what to say. You know how my family and I loved Jim. You know what wonderful times he and I had together and later how delighted we were to have had the privilege of travelling together. Jim was a wonderful man, as you all know. He was genuine, true and loyal. He was thoroughly devoted to the best there is in life. In fact, I have always felt that he gave more than anyone else I know to Rotary and yet it seemed to be his joy.

#### HARRY HERTZBERG, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

In our small organisation of Circus Fans he will be sincerely mourned and, of course, Rotary has lost one of its greatest members. I feel personally that I have lost a dear friend.

NEAL JONES, LOS ANGELES RECORD, L.A.

We just learned of the terribly sad news. It is a tremendous shock to us. We learned to love Jim and hoped to have him for many years. I should have written him again after the visit of the circus here, but do hope he received that letter o.k. Please accept our sympathy.

GRAHAM HALL, NASHVILLE, TEN

No one can contemplate the service Jim rendered to make relations happier throughout the world without experiencing gratitude, reverence for the life of such a man, and the fact that you shared in his accomplishments should sustain you.

SYED J. HARBUTT, AUCKLAND ROTARY CLUB, NEW ZEALAND

As the founder of this and other New Zealand Rotary clubs, his memory remains ever-green with our old members and there are many members in the club who counted him a personal friend. Your husband's many intimate friends in Auckland and throughout New Zealand, are grieving with you in your great loss. Truly Rotary has suffered a severe loss in one whose activities exemplified to the full its motto 'service before self'

HUGH BRYAN, DISTRICT GOVERNOR, 55TH DISTRICT, NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA

You will have received many tributes, I know, from those who had the privilege of your late husband's friendship and the gift of his affection and how great was that affection I learnt when I was at Victoria and at Seattle last year, where I had the good fortune to hear you, who has known his worth more intimately than any one, speak of his work for Rotary and for the world.

DUG HOLLAND WRITING FROM SHANGHAI

My memory of Jim is a very treasured one and his kindness to me has been so great, it's a terrible thing to feel that his cheery smile will not be there to greet me when I get home.

His life was such a full one and his energy and valuable contribution to Rotary has been so much appreciated. He has left a lot of friends who speak so warmly of him and who cherish such fond memories of him. Every where I meet men who enquired and were so glad to get news of him.

W.B. DARKER GOVERNOR 76TH DISTRICT, AUSTRALIA writing from SAN FRANCISCO.

Mr. Stewart just notified me of your great loss by the death of your beloved husband and I desire on behalf of the Rotary clubs of Australia to tender their sincere sympathy.

A.G. BOSMAN, LEIDEN, HOLLAND

I have taken before me the little card you sent us one Xmas day with the little picture taken in your music room, with the pipe organ in the background; the picture was so nice and clear and a good portrait was taken of you all.

ANNIE RHODES, NEW ZEALAND

I have just heard of the passing of your dear husband after his long illness. Words cannot express all I feel for you having passed through the same great loss myself, a few months ago.

STANLEY LEVERTON, LONDON NW1

He was a great man and a fine gentleman. I count it as one of my own life's privileges that I knew him and could call him a friend. It is no empty

statement to say that he gave his life for Rotary as the two years tour in the East definitely took its toll on his health. I shall always marvel at the way that the three of you dear people stood up to it.

#### WILFRID ANDREWS, SITTINGBOURNE, ENGLAND

I have met him on a number of occasions, but I suppose I could not be called one of his intimate friends in Rotary. I was, however, a constant admirer of his great service to our movement, and one cannot help but feel that the recent sad event is in no small measure attributable to the industry and devotion which he displayed in that great tour of Rotary enterprise which he engaged in the Levant and the Far East.

The great success of the Rotary movement is in no small measure attributable to the vast amount of voluntary service which has been contributed to us from all quarters - contributions that have arisen from the inbred desire existent in most men to display and to receive friendship from all their fellow human beings. To some comes the great privilege of being pioneers in this cause - such a privilege was afforded to your husband; he embraced it with all the enthusiasm and great ability which was his to command. His great effort undoubtedly left its mark upon his physical resources, and now you are called upon to suffer his loss, but he has built a monument of gratitude amongst the many, who through his influence have joined our ranks.

#### HERIBERTO P. COATES, COMMISSIONER GENERAL FOR S.AMERICA, MONTIVIDEO, URUGUAY

Our friendship dated back to the days when we both carried the Rotary idealism to distant southern continents. It was the joyful experience of my last year's lengthy tour of countries to have had a short spell with Jim in your city; and is a memory

to cherish as one travels West thinking of those one hopes to meet 'on the other side'.

#### W.H. LOVERING, HAMILTON ROTARY CLUB

It was my good fortune to have worked with Jim while I was Chairman of the Canadian Advisory Committee. We were together in Quebec - he has been a lovely guest at my home - and my memories of convention meetings and chummy talks will always remain with me. I know what a loss he is to Rotary.

#### EDWARD UNWIN, INTERNATIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE, LONDON DISTRICT

Please accept my sincere sympathy in your great loss. He will be greatly missed by thousands of Rotarians throughout the world. He leaves behind him a record of achievement and his memory will always remain green in the annals of Rotary International.

#### RUSSEL V. WILLIAMS

Jim was a man that any body would have been proud to call a friend. I did feel that he was a friend of mine.

The immediate sense of loss is so keen as to seem to overshadow every thing else. Jim does live on, though, for all of us who knew him well. Nothing can take away our admiration for his devotion to any cause that he took up, for his loyalty and high mindedness. Jim lives on in the work he did, and of course it is in the field of Rotary that I knew his work best. There he built a monument to himself in which you and Marjory can take more than a little pride because of your close association with it.

#### PRESIDENT, ROTARY CLUB OF RANGOON

This club is one of those founded by your husband

on his Eastern trip and most of the present members have pleasant memories of his strong and kindly personality, and we have our own part in the widespread sorrow which his death will occasion.

#### THEODORE TORGESUN, ESTEVAN, SASK

I will remember the first time that I saw Jim after his return from the Orient. As your boat arrived at Vancouver I realised that his strength had been sapped, but it was not until long afterward that I really understood how much Jim has given of his health in making his unparalleled contribution to Rotary.

#### ART MCGUIRE, CALGARY

I had become somewhat used to his 'going' from our midst in the latter years but always happy in the thought he was doing big things but would soon be back to afford us the opportunity to grasp his hand, see his smile, listen to his infectious chuckle and again lay our offerings of deep appreciation for what he was doing for the 'other fellows'. The other fellows! Such was his life and joy and there is no doubt his life was shortened by the carrying out of his ideals. I do not expect to meet his like in the span of life which may be in front of me.

#### E.P. SCARLETT, CALGARY

During the short period in which it was my privilege to know Mr. Davidson I was constantly aware of the splendid way in which he saluted life and of the aura of friendship which surrounded him.

The memory of his achievements and the knowledge of the esteem in which he will live in the minds of his friends will I hope be a source of consolation and deep pride to you.

#### A.G. ELLIS, BANGKOK

Some very nice things were said about Mr. Davidson at our Rotary meeting today, the first since we heard the sad news and they were all meant, as he made a host of friends here in the East. Resolutions were adopted.

#### A.B. JORDAN, MALAYA

It may help you to know how much all who came into contact with Jim in Malaya feel for you in your grief. All of us in the Rotary clubs in Malaya feel that when Jim passed on we lost a dear friend, one of the outstanding men amongst those we have known. I need not stress to you the nobility of his character, his devotion to great and good causes, his self-sacrifice, his determined personality. We are all tremendously grateful to him for bringing the torch of Rotary to Malaya and thus, inter alia, showing us one way of improving the relations amongst the various peoples of this polyglot land.

#### KENNETH MAC KENZIE, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Your husband's name will always be held in affection in Rotary in New Zealand as in so many other regions of the world. He was one of the heroes of Rotary the more so for his last great odyssey in Asia.

One of the happiest recollections of my wife and myself is the wonderful week we spent in Calgary in 1925 when you and Jim showed us so much kindness and made our stay there unforgettable.

#### S. KENDRICK GUERNSEY, R.I. PRESIDENT 1947-48

First let me say that you and Jim always have been among our most treasured friends. We will never forget the most intimate details of your

delightful visit with us many years ago.... In New Zealand and Australia we ran across Jim's track so many times it was almost like meeting him again. And how well he and Layton Ralston builded. I am most appreciative, and all of Rotary should be eternally grateful that these two men laid the foundations of Rotary in those dominions as they did.

You no doubt recall that they started at the top rather than at the bottom in establishing Rotary clubs. And that wise practice has paid great dividends. The clubs in those two countries are among the strongest in all Rotary, and I say without fear of contradiction that Rotarians there practice Rotary more intently and intensively than in any other area of the Rotary world...

I wish I knew this year where I could find another man such as Jim to carry Rotary to some other areas where it is so desparately needed. It takes a particular type of gentleman to carry the message as Jim did and plant it firmly and make it grow. A paid organiser can't do it, nor can a man of ordinary ability....

L.L. LAWLER, CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS,  
SINGAPORE

Mr. Davidson was a very well respected man, and whenever I visit the various clubs in these parts, I nearly always hear some complimentary reference to himself as a man and to his work as a Rotarian. As you know, it was through his splendid efforts that our clubs were established throughout the East.

HENRY JAMES GUTHRIE, DUNEDIN, N.Z.

You have indeed lost a good mate and Rotary as a whole has also lost a wonderful supporter. You have, however, left the memory of the wonderfully

interesting time of your life that you two have spent together.

BEN R. GELLING, DISTRICT GOVERNOR, SYDNEY  
AUSTRALIA

To show how well known Jim's name is in Australia, I have just received advice from the Bundaberg club in North Queensland that the Directors passed a vote of condolence with the family.

Although he was with us here for only about a week, and part of his time he was laid up in bed, it is remarkable what a gracious memory Jim left behind him. He was such a lovable fellow, and somehow he had the gift of making every one feel towards him as a personal friend. President John Duncan of Sydney club very graciously honoured Jim's memory at the weekly meeting on tuesday last.

COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMERCE, SHANGHAI

At the meeting following the receipt of the sad message we the members of Shanghai Rotary club stood in silent meditation out of respect to the memory of Jim Davidson. Yes, he made a great impression upon our members as he did on men wherever he went. He was one of those magnetic personalities who wins and holds friends easily. I presume I am one of the few residents here who knew him so intimately....

EARL S. BEESON, ROTARY CLUB OF McMINVILLE,  
OREGON

It was my privilege to represent our club and the Willamette Valley at your home coming in Vancouver two years ago where I learned to love and respect that wonderful man who has passed on. Although he has gone from among us his message, his good will, his fellowship, his abundance of vitality will live for ever; for as long as Rotary is teaching

what it is today, the monument of Jim Davidson's influence and personality will be one of the pillar stones of that work.

W.A. OSBORNE, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE,  
AUSTRALIA

The months that have passed have not lessened the feeling of loss and I am still incapable of realising that so dynamic a personality could really cease to exist. I had an opportunity at Melbourne Rotary club of uttering an appreciation and voicing our sense of loss but I did not succeed as well as I should have liked.

ELIZABETH B. PRICE, VANCOUVER

Words are pretty poor comfort, but they are our only media through which we can let you know that we have been thinking of you both in these dark hours. A fine tribute in CALGARY ALBERTAN expresses the high respect and regard your late husband had in Calgary "a good life lived - a good fight fought"... I can only close with those comforting words. "To live in the hearts of those we have left behind is never to die"

RENA V. McCUTCHEON, VANCOUVER

You will never know what a marvellous inspiration it has been for me to come in contact with your family. The courage with which you carried your heavy burden made my worries look so trivial and your kindness and thoughtfulness restored my faith in humanity. The memories you must have of your life with Mr. Davidson will be wells of consolation to you.

J.H. HANNA, SECRETARY, CALGARY BOARD OF  
TRADE

The council of the Board adopted unanimously a resolution of condolence.

It was my privilege to know Jim for many years, and I have happy recollections of trips we made together some year ago to promote tourist traffic. He was a great companion and seemed to have friends wherever we went, who were delighted to see him again.

ANDREW DAVIDSON, MAYOR, CALGARY

It was my good fortune to be acquainted with your husband ever since his arrival in Calgary and he was a man I admired very much. I know that mere words fail to assuage your grief and wish to assure you, not only personally, but as Mayor of the City of Calgary that Jim's passing is much regretted by his legion of friends here.

W.R. SMALE, PRESIDENT, ROTARY CLUB OF EAST  
LONDON, SOUTH AFRICA

The name of Jim Davidson is known to all Rotarians on account of the wonderful work which he did for the movement all over the world, and that work will stand as his monument among Rotarians of all time.

JAMES S. AYRE, ROTARY CLUB OF ST. JOHN'S  
NEW FOUNDLAND

Jim's sterling character is well known to all Rotarians. I was greatly interested in following the tour that you and your daughter made with him in the East. His loss to you must be a severe one, as it is to Rotary International, but I know that you will have the sympathy of thousands who knew and learned to love him.

CHARLES HERBERT WRIGHT, SECRETARY, ROTARY  
CLUB OF MERCED

It has never been my privilege to personally know Jim Davidson, but I have followed him with very great interest during the past eight or ten years. He certainly has left a legacy to all Rotary.

GLYNDON, H. CROCKER, CORTLAND NY

Your great consolation will come from that Higher Power whose plan your husband so courageously carried on and kept alive by action. We in Rotary have come to think of Jim as a great Rotarian, exemplifying as he did a life of service because he came to his fellow men as a servant to and not a master of. He is leaving behind a great heritage of wealth, world-wide friendship, truly and fully earned.

LOUIS E. STEINMANN, ANTWERP, BELGIUM

I need not repeat to you how great is the admiration of every Rotarian for the man who gave his best to Rotary and who always truly applied our motto "service before self". His name will always stand out in letters of gold in the annals of Rotary.

ERNEST W. DUNBAR, R.I. DIRECTOR, CAMBRIDGE MASSACHUSETTS

While I have never met him face to face, still it has been a privilege to know him and of his commendable contributions to Rotary and through Rotary to humanity.

Ever will his life of usefulness, his sacrifice of time and health be an inspiration to me. No words that one can write adequately express the esteem in which Jim is held by Rotarians and thousands of others.

H.H. MANNY, SEATTLE

I know what Jim did for the world in making it a better place to live and his influence will be felt, for a long time. God gives us certain qualities for definite reasons, and Jim was richly endowed. But best of all, he used his, as it was intended he should, and demonstrated love, kindness and happiness every where.

LELAND D.CASE, THE ROTARIAN, CHICAGO

I should like to add my own words to the many you have received attesting to Jim's true greatness. Indeed, ever since I heard him report to the Board of Directors on his Far Eastern mission, he was been one of my own personal heroes. Surely, few men in this generation have packed more adventure, honour, and human helpfulness into their lives than he.

ROBERT E. HEUN, RICHMOND, INDIANA

Jim Davidson was one of the finest men I have ever known and as we had much in common, due to the years we both spent in the Orient and our service in Rotary together, my affection reached the point of more than friendship.....

As you have personally shared practically all of Jim's experiences in Rotary, in addition to your home life, you are going to have a splendid memory of your good husband. It is only in the feeling that he has left behind him thousands of friends and a splendid record of achievement, that will compensate you in any measure of your loss.

ED. SIMPSON, PRESIDENT, MONTEREY ROTARY CLUB

As a Rotarian and one who realised the worth of Jim to Rotary and humanity, I wish to say for the Monterey Rotary club and myself that we share your sorrow. Rotary owes a debt of gratitude to the memory of Jim and to you also, for what you have done for Rotary. You spoke for Jim in such a nice way at the meeting of Rotary International in Seattle. It is fine to have lived and to be missed by the ones close to you, but what a fine thing it is to have lived and been loved and remembered by thousands for something worth while that was wonderfully well done. We know by the mark Jim left that he has been on earth.

W.C. NICHOLS, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN

Jim was a prominent man of international repute - a man beloved by all and especially by his intimate friends and his departure is a great blow and loss to both Canada and USA. He was always thoughtful, kind and tolerant and had a smile for everyone - a splendid example for others to follow.

LAWRENCE S. AKERS, MEMPHIS, TENN.

One of the keenest pangs of sorrow that has ever come into my life was today when I received a letter from Rotary International telling me of the passing of Jim. Next to Paul Harris himself, Jim was indeed one of the most beloved Rotarians in the world. His passing leaves a void in the hearts of literally thousands of lovers of life in its highest and noblest aspect, for Jim was a living example of all that is good and true in man.

JOEL E. FERRIS, SPOKANE

No one has crossed my path in life who has left such an impression and memory of true friendship. His varied qualities, great natural ability, generous nature and the good accomplished, will enshrine his memory in all parts of the world in the minds of thousands of friends.

A.O. MAC RAE, VANCOUVER

Few men will be more missed than your highly esteemed husband. I found him most attractive because he was a genuine cosmopolitan with such wide interest and so well informed. Our world can ill spare such broadminded men with such international appreciation.

LEONARD, SPOKANE

The gentle hand of time will heal the wound, Lillian - but the wonderful memories you have of the

many happy years you and Jim had together will ever be fresh and green in your memory.

I am proud to have been one of Jim's friends. His noble, unselfish soul, his simple kindness, his loving nature, has been wonderful to know.

ALLEN STREET, OKLAHOMA CITY

Nothing that I know of lately has touched me like his going, because as you know I have been associated with him for a good many years in Rotary. Those of us who have been in it a long time loved Jim like no one else.

Jim's memory and name will live for a good many years because he has touched so many people down life's high way and has been so helpful to them that they will not soon forget him. I know of no one individual who has done as much for humanity as Jim Davidson and I am sure you and Marjory have a sympathetic, fond and proud memory to carry with you.

PRESIDENT, ROTARY CLUB OF CALGARY

Jim meant so much to the Rotary club of Calgary and to Rotary all over the world that the shock of his passing has stunned us and just at first our own sense of loss predominates, but you will understand, I am sure, that deeper than our own selfishness we are conscious of the loveliness of Jim's life and how much he meant to you and Marjory.

We are sending a few flowers in loving memory of this club and his smile will always live in our hearts and again assure you of our deepest sympathy and love.

E.C. BOHMAN, ROTARY CLUB OF CAMPBELL-FORD, ONT.

Rotary as a whole has lost one of its finest members and indefatigable worker - a loss more poignant

because of the great record he has left behind in the establishment of so many clubs throughout the Orient, and in those countries where caste, language and religion form almost insurmountable barriers.

SYDNEY B. Mc MICHAEL, TORONTO

Many Rotarians knew Jim much better than I did, many for various reasons were closer to him. None, however, appreciated more than myself the service rendered by Jim in establishing Rotary in Australia and New Zealand and in his trip of recent years on the same mission. This work of Jim's in which you so ably assisted, will remain as long as Rotary shall endure as a movement to a man who incorporated in his daily life Rotary's motto 'service above self'

A.J. HUTCHINSON, AUCKLAND, N.Z.

It is not very long since I had a letter from Jim which was quite cheerful. Ever since he was over here I have been in close touch with him. Every year, two or three or more letters have passed between us. When I met him at his home at Calgary on that visit I made to the Convention at Toronto, I realised what a charming person he was. The more I got to know him by personal contact and by mail, the more I realised that he was one of the type of men that is needed in the world today.

STANLEY McLEOD

In the passing of James Wheeler Davidson, the dynamic heart of a world force was stilled. Brave and patient in suffering - with a sweet smile lighting his last consciousness, he fearlessly fared forth on his greatest adventure.

His conception of service was cast in a heroic mould. The sky lines of far countries were to Jim as familiar as the hills of home. His measure of man was based on the gold within his heart rather

than on material wealth and position. In his works the spiritual qualities of mankind were paramount regardless of colour, caste, race or creed.

Such unselfish sacrifice commands the reverent respect and tribute of all Rotarians - statesmen and nation builders - world wide.

His place is with the truly great. It remains with future generations to chronicle the links in the golden chain of world peace and international understanding which he so ably wove. His vineyard was the earth and his labour the fellowship of mankind.

WHO WAS WHO IN CANADA

In the publication "WHO WAS WHO IN CANADA" sponsored by the Trans-Canada Press there is a biographical note on Jim Davidson which was provided by Crawford C. McCullough, Rotary International President, 1921-22.

James Wheeler Davidson personified the spirit of youth to a greater degree than any other man whom I have known. His interest in and love of life was all inclusive - people, things, ideals and ideas. Every thing that he did was charged with enthusiasm. Every thing that he did was done with simplicity and directness. The sensitive sympathy of the man was outstanding, so he attracted people to him and held them. This, too, was the basis of his consummate powers of salesmanship. He sold an idea because with all his heart he believed in it and with perception, persistence and tact pressed his sale to conclusion.

He was a great showman. By that I mean he recognised the value of showmanship and used it liberally, effectively and with a vast zest of personal enjoyment. He loved a circus because circus is three-ringed action, movement, surprise upon surprise, skill, daring and danger. A circus with its audience was life with its laughter and its thrills and its tragedies. He liked to hear the the bands

play and see the flags fly and he loved to be in the procession, not conspicuously at its head, but in it self-abandoned with the other folks.

The unknown was for him a constant challenge to action and discovery. Strange people were only strange because he had not yet met them or lived in their environment. Strange places were to be explored and known and understood; so while courage was one of his outstanding traits, he was conscious of it. To explore was to dare.

He was a big man physically, but with no aspect of physical power; a large head with fine, open features, big mouth and grey eyes set on broad shoulders slightly stooped; quick in movement with a rather hesitant voice, with laughter in his eyes and a smile that came and went but never went for long. He was a figure of a man who would be singled out in any group anywhere with the question, "who is the big man?"

He loved life, he loved people and things and places, above all, he made friends and cherished them and they him. He did constructive things which endure. His chief bequest was his idealism and his intense humanness.

#### VANCOUVER CLUB BULLETIN

There was an excellent tribute in the bulletin of Vancouver Rotary club to its Honorary Member, Jim Davidson, which is reproduced below:

## xii Requiem for a Hero

W.G. Swan, President of the Rotary club of Vancouver, in a circular letter addressed to Rotary clubs in that area, appealed to all to make every effort to attend the funeral of Jim Davidson at the Canadian Memorial Church on July 22, 1933. He said "Jim was one of Rotary's most outstanding and best known members and his work for Rotary was such that we, as members, enjoy contacts with many parts of the world which have become possible only through the late Jim's efforts. In paying a last tribute, by attending this funeral, we carry the thoughts and expressions of many thousands who are not able to be present but who, would like to be represented". There was excellent response to the appeal.

The funeral service was led by Rev. H.H. Bingham, a personal friend of Jim Davidson and a former colleague of his at the Calgary Rotary club and at that time a member of the Rotary club of Toronto. In a very impressive speech, Rev. Bingham described the high points in the life and work of Jim Davidson. He said "In the passing of James Wheeler Davidson we have lost in this country, in my judgement, no ordinary citizen. He was a many-sided man; he was an international figure. There was nothing provincial in his outlook upon life. His vision of life, and his interests could never be confined to any parochial boundaries. Our friend, whom we delighted to call "Jim Davidson", thought in world terms. This is revealed in all the great ventures of his life, and, as you know, those ventures are many. He seemed always to have a hunger for the horizons of life. The thing that seemed intangible was to him a constant challenge to his conquering spirit. It was this urge that led him on in his Polar expedition with Peary; it was this same urge which led him later to Japan as a war

correspondent during the Chinese-Japanese war. He never rushed heedlessly into these big adventures. Men who seek to conquer the intangible in any sphere and who are the real pathfinders of life are not thoughtless, impulsive men. They are men conscious of the dangers; they count the cost, with quite confidence, with calm courage; they set out upon a life of achievement.

Now this calm calculating thoroughness, this mastery of detail, which those who worked with him in Rotary knew so well, that genius for organizing both fact and men, were all evidenced in the life of Jim Davidson. Those qualities of life were evident in his responsible position as United States Consul in Formosa, and his book on "Formosa, Its Past and Present", is surely an authoritative and monumental work on that country, revealing literary talent, and a patient research of eight years, that he finally might unfold to the world the life of that little land where he served his country.

It was these same qualities which made him a world figure in Rotary; his insight into human need, and his many contacts with leaders of thought and action convinced him that the principles of Rotary were universal principles that would meet the need and hunger of the human heart. He thoroughly believed in the gospel of fellowship and service. He knew that these principles would make a real contribution to international well-being, and this helped to form the urge which sent him on his last great adventure to introduce Rotary to the Near East and the Orient as he had so successfully inaugurated it, with Layton Ralston, in Australia and New Zealand. Those who know of his work in this field, in which his wife took so great a part, know how well he succeeded".

Rev. Bingham then recalled his visits to Athens and Cairo where he witnessed the Rotary clubs initiated by Jim working in excellent spirit of fellowship. He continued "I am perfectly sure we

shall not begin to appreciate the tremendous task that Rotary International gave to this man when they sent him forth to the Near East and the Orient, to seek to bring so many diverse tongues and religions together in the bonds of Rotary fellowship.

The last personal message I received from our departed friend was from Jerusalem. His letter to me, from a heart full of concern, and I felt, also full of grief over the spirit of religious strife, division and hatred that seemed to be so evident in that so-called Holy City, a city over which Christ himself wept, where he laid down his life for our redemption. I think I discerned at that time an undercurrent in that letter, real hunger in the heart of Jim Davidson, that religion might come to express itself with a united front and in the spirit of good will and mutual understanding.

Into the sanctities of his home life I shall not enter at this time. We shall leave those sacred and happy memories with those that so vitally shared his life and his love, and who have been so sorely bereft at this hour. Let it be said, however, that while a world traveler he was a home lover, a lover of wife and family; a lover of art and music; a lover of friends, and a gracious host. We commend to the comforting and consoling grace of our Heavenly Father the dear ones who knew the inner sphere of his life, and who so deeply mourn with us his departure".

## VANCOUVER, CANADA



JIM DAVIDSON

Rotary International has suffered a great loss in the passing of Jim Davidson. This Club, too, has lost a contact with a man who has been granted honorary membership amongst us.

Jim was born in Austin, Minnesota. From there he went to New York and entered the employ of Major Pond, a well known manager of operas, lectures and theatrical productions.

He joined Commander Peary in a North Pole expedition, on which he spent eighteen months. On his return he was appointed War Correspondent for the New York Herald in the Chinese-Japanese War; and spent three months with the Chinese Forces and two years with the Japanese Army. He was later decorated by the Emperor of Japan with the Order of the Rising Sun, being one of the few Westerners to receive this honor.

He spent considerable time in Formosa, and in the nine years on that island wrote what is considered the best book on "Formosa—Past and Present."

Several years were spent in the Russian Communication Service in Siberia and Manchuria. Later he was appointed U. S. Consul in the latter country, and finally was appointed Consul-General in Shanghai.

After thirteen years in the government service, he resigned and moved to Canada, first to Winnipeg and later to Calgary where he became interested in the lumber business, and also engaged in colonization work.

He had a hobby in circuses and organized a Circus Fan Association here in Vancouver. The fairs and inlets of our coast gave him an opportunity to satisfy his appetite for yachting. He filled many months with travel up and down the coast.

Jim was a Charter Member of the Calgary Rotary Club, later serving as president, and following this office, he served the district as Governor. This was a stepping stone to the offices of International

Director of Canada to Rotary International and First Vice-President of Rotary International.

His first connection with the International side of Rotary was in 1921 when he and Colonel Ralston went to Australia and New Zealand and formed Rotary clubs there.

This experience fitted him for his great effort in the Far East, where he, accompanied by his wife and daughter Marjorie, spent nearly three years in spreading the Rotary club idea through Asia, and filled the gaps between the Mediterranean and the Pacific with Rotary clubs. His title was Honorary General Commissioner to Asia. He did his work so well that there are no cities of importance to which Western men go between Athens and Hong Kong where there is not a Rotary club.

Jim's life was full of interest, and the great work which he did for Rotary International will live as long as Rotary lives. The loss of an honorary member of this club is a greater loss to the organization of Rotary International.

## xiii A Daughter's Impressions of Her Father

The older I get the more I realize what a very unusual person my father was. If there is such a thing as a marriage "made in heaven" my mother's and father's certainly was. They were quite different people but they complemented each other completely. They were married in October 1906. My father was 34 years and my mother 26 years old. My mother led a very sheltered life and knowing my grandmother Dow I can certainly believe it. She was living in the Palace Hotel with her parents and the youngest of her three brothers at the time of the San Francisco Fire and Earthquake in April, 1906. The family had just returned from a trip to Japan where she met my father on the boat. He was very ill with typhoid and was carried on the boat on a stretcher. My grandfather Dow happened to be standing by the gangplank at the time and he started talking to dad. The inevitable happened, and after visiting back home with his mother in Austin, Minnesota he was on his way out to San Francisco by train arriving the morning of the earthquake, 1906 to see mother. My father was always resourceful and on being told that all passengers had to get off the train in Oakland and could not under any circumstance proceed to San Francisco (which was by ferry those days) he hid between the seats and as he expected, the train proceeded down to the mole where the ferries were. He walked off the train and on to the ferry trying to look very official and rode over to San Francisco. On arrival he learned that the Palace Hotel, where mother's family was staying had burned down. Remembering that mother's eldest brother lived on Larkin Street he asked directions from passers by who were making their way down to the water front to get the ferry over to Oakland on the other side of the bay. By the

time he reached Larkin Street it was almost dark so he kept asking people for the house numbers and finally he called out the number to a group on a porch and it was mother's family.

In times of great crises and stress like that day, people seem to lose their normal ability to think clearly about where to go and what to do. So my father talked to my grandfather and the family into taking the ferry over to Oakland and finding accomodation there. By the time they got there the only immediate place they could find to stay was in a house run by a Madame. My poor straight laced grandmother must have really suffered. My father loaned my grandfather a pen and with that he started rebuilding his plant the Dow Pump and Diesel Engine Company, on a new piece of property in Alameda.

My father's adventurous previous life would certainly have conditioned him to responding quickly to any emergency and as long as I knew him he was never afraid to tackle anything, any where. Throughout our trip he wanted to see as much as possible of the real country and the native peoples as he could, so we used all kinds of transportation overland by car, bus, train, airoplane, camel elephant, sedan chairs carried on men's shoulders and walking, walking, walking. By water we took little steamers, row boats, sampans, smaller steamers and freighters, culminating with a pig boat to Hong Kong from Haipong. When things went wrong and we got left somewhere inadvertently he had great patience and would always see and enjoy the interesting part of it as well as the humorous side.

He enjoyed challenges of every sort and combined with his natural curiosity and interest in the world around him he saw as much of it as he could. One adventure was going to a little island known as Botel Tabago not too far from Japan on a Japanese Navy ship making him the first white person that the natives had ever seen. He was very intrigued

with their interest in him, wanting to feel him probably to see if his colour would come off.

While writing his book on Formosa he very often went into headhunter territory with an interpreter to talk to the natives and had a tiny tattoo on his hand put there by one of the native bands to make him a "brother". He was decorated by the Japanese with the 5th Order of the Rising Sun for his exploits during the capture of Taihoku that resulted in the Japanese taking over the city without any bloodshed. Along another line he invented and built little "machines" to measure the strength of many different fibres from plants growing there. For his book on Formosa as there were practically no other European there he learned Japanese fluently and spoke it all the time to his Japanese friends and associates, probably many in military, as he was made a lieut in the Japanese Army after Japan took over Formosa.

He was a keen fan of circuses. The very complicated and extremely efficient operation was of great interest to him. He felt it was like a small city constantly on the move. From the circus he became a great admirer of elephants. On our trip we took many pictures of elephants working, on parade and just resting or being trained by young boy mahouts.

I realise that I seem to be jumping around but I don't know how else to try to explain him to you. Really true friendship with peoples of the world and a corresponding return rapport from them was his most outstanding characteristic. While on the Peary Artic Expedition he made friends with Eskimos and was welcomed to enter their igloos, eat their food and sleep with them while on hunting trips to get meat for the dogs. When I was a teen ager my friends would come to the house and be so interested in talking to my father that I might as well have not been there.

Tolerance of cultures, of religions, and of foibles

of mankind was one of his main attributes I think. He could partake of any kind of food with any one under any circumstances and enjoy it. Religion, he felt was a person's own choice and should not be interfered with by anyone else. He felt very strongly that missionaries had no right to wreak havoc in the Poynesian Islands, as they did, in the early days. The Medical Missionaries he felt did a great deal of good without being bigots.

He never got over his love for travel, short distance, like when he decided his was going to be the first car into Lake Louise, Alberta when the road was built, as soon as the trees were cut down and dragged off he drove through the forest and was the first car in, or long distances to Australia by boat or around the world which I believe he did three times in his life time.

Humour was always just below the surface. He could see the funny side of any situation even if the joke was on him.

He was always very understanding with me and we had lots of private little jokes. He was good at drawing and when on a trip away from home, which was frequent, he always wrote to me and covered the outside of the envelope with cartoons and sketches. I have always felt that it is difficult for the children of outstanding parents because everybody expects so much of them and they live in a sort of reflected glory with the result that they don't make most of their own lives and opportunities given to them. I know I didn't.

## xiv Tribute to a Rotary Torch-bearer at Detroit Convention

At the fourth plenary session of the Rotary International convention held at Detroit, Michigan, USA, on June 28, 1934, Allen D. Albert, past president of Rotary International, paid a glowing tribute to the memory of Rotarian James W. Davidson.

Rotary International president, John Nelson, calling upon Allen D. Albert to his assignment, said: "There are hundred, yes, thousands who have rendered conspicuous service to the cause of Rotary, and their greatest reward, no doubt, has been the satisfaction of "Service above Self". It would not be in accord with the spirit of Rotary if we did not remember all who served in their own peculiar capacity to bring Rotary to its present world-wide standing and influence. But it is fitting that we should pay tribute for special reasons to the memory of one of our past vice presidents, who has gone beyond, whose service was unique. In many countries, Rotary had its beginning through the self-sacrifice and devotion of James W. Davidson of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. We have all read the account of his work on tour some two or three years ago in the service of Rotary. I, myself, have just traversed part of the ground which he broke for Rotary, where he planted our pioneer clubs. I can speak first hand of the love and loyalty that is felt by embryo Rotary in all these lands to Jim Davidson, beloved and admired in deep measure for all the opportunities of enjoying the companionship of such a genial and wonderful man".

Allen commenced his speech by defining Rotary as a movement of the love of men for their fellows. Love is not a thing to be reasoned about. It is not expressed in formulas or equations. It cannot be put into terms of contract. It is a giving. Rotary

is a movement in which men give of themselves for the help of mankind. That is what is meant by service.

When we say "he profits most who serves best" we mean that if we men of the earth will but give of our best to each other, we shall find ourselves in a world made better by our giving. The distinguishing mark of Rotary is that it combines the earning of our living and our giving to our fellows. To some it may seem a marvelous thing that a movement which has giving for its spirit should spread around the earth in the lifetime of one man. But it is no marvel. Allen recalled that the patriot Garibaldi could offer to the youth of Italy only the opportunity to give themselves for the impalpable good of a thing called as to some thing within them which was divine. It is no wonder, then, that Rotary should gather to itself generous men. It is a very copartnership of the generous.

Referring to Jim Davidson, Allen said thus: "We turn our thought today to one of whom it is warrantable to say that he spent his richest years in giving unto Rotary and through Rotary in giving unto mankind. He would be uncomfortable to hear himself spoken of as more than one in a fellowship of those who gave what they could. Of their own merits modest men are dumb. Yet we set aside this moment in the lives of thousands of us who are gathered at this Detroit Convention because we are conscious that he gave and gave abundantly and we would make such an acknowledgement of his giving that all the world might know.

He was Rotarian James Wheeler Davidson of the club of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The God who has set labour and rest as day and night to men successive called this one of his sons unto Himself on an evening in July of last year. Davidson had lived fully and that death which is the brother of sleep came to him after a career of useful business and professional life, of travel and adven-

ture such as few men have ever experienced, of giving himself in measures too deep for any but great hearts to fill.

This was a man who went with Peary to the arctic. Who was a war correspondent attached first to a Chinese and then to a Japanese army. Who became a consul of the United States in Formosa and wrote there a work on that island which is still widely read and used. Who served for a time as United States Consul General in the largest of the consular stations of his country, that at Shanghai.

Had his life ended with that service in 1903, the man Davidson would have been written down a success. But in 1906 he opened another chapter. He went to Calgary and after a time became a Canadian citizen.

When Rotary was disclosed to him there in 1914 its message of giving went straightway to his heart and the new chapter of his life became one of journeying forth to carry the ideals of Rotary from Calgary to the far places of the earth.

With Col. James Ralston of Halifax, Nova Scotia, he undertook the extension of Rotary to the British Dominions of Australia and New Zealand. That work done, he served as governor of Rotary's District Number 4 and in succession was a member of the extension committee of Rotary International, director, third vice president and chairman of the committee on international service.

His business enterprise and wide travels had accustomed Davidson to think and plan broadly. In August 1928, he and his wife and their daughter Marjory set off to fill the gap in the Rotary girdle which then extended from the Caspian to the China Sea. He had expected to spend about eight months on the mission. Instead he spent more than thirty months. From Egypt he went to Greece, to Turkey, to Palestine, to Iraq, to Syria and Persia, on to India, Ceylon, Burma, Malaysia, the Dutch East

Indies and Siam, and then the project was that he should go on to China, Manchuria, Korea, Japan and the Philippines.

More than a score of Rotary clubs represented in this convention from those countries are the fruit of his energy and enthusiasm. In certain cities the problem was to induct into Rotary self-organised clubs. In others he persuaded high government officers, even the brother of a king, to participate actively in the organisation of clubs. Here the obstruction was a rigid demarcation of society by lines of caste. Here it was aloofness of the men best able to comprehend and fulfill an ideal of giving for the good of mankind.

Adventure is to the adventurous. The Davidsons underwent hardships that might well have daunted even a Peary. On a road in Malay jungle their automobile was upset into a ditch of water from which natives rescued them and afterwards ministered unto them in thatched huts. Davidson had several fevers. His daughter was dangerously poisoned by insect bite. Every traveller knows how the next land beckons, and since the next land meant Rotary to the Davidsons their stay in the East lengthened on and on, despite the mishaps, the perils and the calls of business and home.

Is there Rotary in the ancient city of Athens? Davidson took it there. In Jerusalem, Cairo, Bombay, Delhi, Madras, Colombo, Rangoon, Thayetmyo, the Federated Malay States, Java, Sumatra, the Straits Settlements and Siam? Davidson planted it. The conditions were new. If clubs were to be stable they must be nurtured through the years. That work, the Rotary Commissioner perforce left to residents. The long endeavour to foster a better understanding among national, racial and religious groups, various and mutually aloof, of necessity must rest with their own leaders and with us of Rotary elsewhere in the world who may have the opportunity to support and fortify those leaders.

The Rotary argosy was no mere putting to coves and sailing away. A member of the faculty of the University of Melbourne has written us this acknowledgement:

"Thirteen years have passed since Davidson and Ralston founded in Melbourne the first Antipodean Rotary Club. Time in its course is taking from us one by one those who were privileged to enter into the circle of Davidson friendship and to come under the spell of his enthusiasm, but the movement he started goes on in ever increasing volume, range and energy, and his dynamic personality survives in what the future will reverence as a fitting memorial to a man guided by a great ideal".

The fairly familiar phrase "his dynamic personality" does not wholly describe Jim Davidson. Everything about him was big-body, head, brain, voice, laugh, straight look of the eyes, heart, purpose, ideal, love of Rotary. His business was big - he became an extensive owner of real estate in Canada. His faith was vast. He and Mrs. Davidson and Marjory strengthened the ties of rich family devotion by winding them about with common experience around the world, by travel, the great test of companionship, by steamers on ocean and river, by rail, automobile and aeroplane, by pushcar, camel and elephant. These conveyances bore the man Davidson to more than two thousand other men in their offices and counting rooms. Wherever they took him he was a torch-bearer, shedding the light of sympathetic understanding upon peoples of the earth newly entered into the fellowship of Rotary.

We who are the brothers in Rotary to Jim Davidson think of him in this memorial hour not as one who has gone from us so much as one who remains with us through that which he gave along with his work. In an international assembly of Rotarians we have consciousness of his presence. We knew the two who knew him best and loved him most have the same consciousness and we would that our gratitude might strengthen it.

The soft wings of peace now cover him round. But the thing that is divine in us is not confined by our death. Wherever there has been glowing generosity, radiant sympathy, a giving of self through work in our little companies of the Rotary brotherhood, those qualities shine on and on when we are gone as the stars shine in the Canadian night".

Mrs. Davidson or Marjory were not able to be present at Detroit. Rotary International president, John Nelson, reporting on the service, wrote to Mrs. Davidson: "Had it not been for the strain which it would have put on you, I would have liked very much had you been present at the service. At the appropriate time I asked the sergeants-at-arms to tile the convention and let no one enter or leave during the service. The stage was darkened. Allen Albert stepped to the reading desk, the only light being that over his manuscript, and he made his tribute to Jim in the chaste, lofty and eloquent phrasing of which he is a master. When he reached the personal reference a large picture of Jim, which had been stationed on the platform, was disclosed and the spotlight fell and remained upon it during the remainder of his talk. There was perfect silence throughout the service and, on every hand, I heard appreciative remarks upon its effective character. It really seemed for a moment as though Jim had been called back from the shawdows to mingle once more with so many to whom his memory is dear. I am especially pleased that, during my incumbency of the presidency, this inadequate but beautiful tribute was paid to him and to his work.

## xv Blue Spruce in Paul Harris's Friendship Garden

Paul Harris maintained a friendship garden of trees at his home in Morgan Park, dedicated to his friends in different parts of the world. It all started with the planting of a tree dedicated to Walter Drummond, one of the pioneers of Rotary in Australia.

When Sydney Pascall was president of Rotary International he planted a tree in the garden. Chileno Garcia of Saltillo, Mexico, planted one; Dr. Fong See of Shanghai, China, planted one; John Duncan of Madison, Wisconsin, USA planted one; also trees were planted and dedicated to Paul's friends, Johannes Martens of Oslo, Norway and Kurt Belfrage of Stockholm, Sweden.

On a trip of Europe in 1932 Paul planted trees of friendship in two cities. He also planted a tree in his garden to commemorate the planting of a tree in Berlin at the request of the Rotary club of Berlin. In this way Paul's friendship garden of trees, as a living reminder of some of his friends in distant countries, gradually grew. As he looked at those trees daily he was constantly reminded of those friends. Most of those trees were of ever-green type so that their foliage was a reminder keeping the memory of those friends ever fresh in his mind.

For some time Paul was considering planting of a tree dedicated to Jim Davidson. He wrote to Dr. Tom Manwell, a member of the Rotary club of Manistee, Michigan, about some blue spruce trees he saw there, asking him if he could go to the nursery and make a selection of the bluest blue spruce he could find which he intended to plant in his friendship garden in honour of Jim. "Doc" was only glad to comply and went atonce



### In Memory of Jim Davidson

Who was born under the Stars and Stripes  
and died under the Union Jack, a world citizen

The words "Come over into Macedonia and help us" did not fall on deaf ears. One, one only heard them, but one was enough. By his response he made them immortal.

Centuries later a similar cry rang out. "Come over into Greece, Egypt, Palestine, India, Ceylon, Burma, Malay, Batavia, Java, Siam and China and help us." Jim heard it. To him it was the sounding of a reveille. Others may have heard it but not distinctly. It is given many to hear, few to hear distinctly. Jim knew whose job it was the moment he heard the call. By every right and title it was his. Not being in the best of health, and having already won his spurs when he and Layton Ralston introduced Rotary in Australia and New Zealand, he might have considered his pioneering work done, but that would not have been Jim.

In company with his wife, Lillian Dow Davidson and their daughter Marjory, he spent three years in forging the round-the-world chain of clubs. When he returned home it was manifest that he had given more than three years--he had given his life as well. Was it by virtue of the interposition of Divine Providence that

Jim became one of us? In any event, he has come and gone and his memory will be revered by legions; his work more admired as the passage of time lends broader perspective.

In memory of Jim one beautiful October morning we planted a shapely blue spruce tree in our garden of friendship at our home in Morgan Park. Lillian and Marjory honored us on the occasion with their presence and Marjory, at our request, fastened on a limb of the tree a metal tag which we had provided. It bears the brief inscription "In memory of James W. Davidson, world citizen"

At this Christmas period Rotary may well pause in contemplation of Jim's great gift; his unswerving self-sacrificing devotion to the cause. No man could have given more.

Jim Davidson, Associate of Admiral Peary on his Polar expedition of 1894, war correspondent in the Far East, United States Consul General at Shanghai, Ambassador at large of Rotary International and friend of all men, may you rest in peace.

JEAN and PAUL HARRIS



The Tree planted in our  
"Garden of Friendship"  
in memory of Jim

to the nursery and selected the best specimen he could find.

How interested and concerned Paul was in this project is evident from the following extract of his letter to Lillian: "It is not so large as the Norway spruce that preceded it but it is far more shapely and beautifully filled out. It will eventually be a very much finer tree. Charles Marson, his son and a helper planted the tree in due course and we have been watering it ever since, so that it will be sure to stand the winter well. We shall guard it carefully and it will in due course of time be a dignified and beautiful blue spruce.... We shall see that it is carefully sprayed in the spring and are almost certain that it will live and thrive".

In a brochure, beautifully printed and circulated to Rotarians by Jean and Paul Harris, mentioning the tree dedicated to the memory of Jim Davidson, they paid glorious tribute to Jim's unswerving self-sacrificing devotion to the cause of Rotary. The brochure is reproduced in the next page.

Paul Harris continued exchange of letters with Lillian and Marjory. In a letter, written in his own hand, reproduced below, he discusses, among other things, the printing of a Christmas card with the picture of Jim Davidson for distribution among Jim's friends in Rotary.

Paul P. Harris  
PRESIDENT EMERITUS  
Rotary International

10854 Longwood Drive  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, U.S.A.

Dear Lillian & Marjory

Your two letters read and read by both of us with great pleasure. We think frequently of you and wish that we might be neighbors so that we could "drop in" on each other.

I have been tied up during the past six weeks due to an injured foot and infection but am on the mend now.

The board sits next week, then I shall be off for a meeting or two in the South and if all goes well, I shall sail for France - through England to Africa. You will go as far as England and may conclude to continue to So. Africa with me. It depends on family matters largely.

Do not think any more about the expense of the Christmas greetings. I was only too glad to send them to you. I even had to have mine printed for myself. Nearly one thousand went out. By the way, note that you have received some letters from friends in reply. I also have read some. Some of them have availed themselves of the opportunity to send us personal greetings but most all of them refer to Jim's presence and some refer mostly to Jim's own

Paul P. Harris  
PRESIDENT EMERITUS  
Rotary International

10856 Longwood Drive  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, U.S.A.

wondering if you would like to have them. I will  
gladly forward all that I can find among my correspondence  
if you care for them, please let me know soon.  
I made your reference to the printer. If you have time,  
I know that he would appreciate a word from you. He is a  
little Swiss who has a piece of art and who is trying hard to  
make a meager living. He is so faithful and takes such joy in  
his work that I try to help him. It was he who made the  
picture of our garden, he who photographed Jim's tree. He goes  
well with the delightful old gardener who landscaped our garden,  
and who so loves him.

The name of the photographer and printer is  
A. Kuehnrich, 10778 Vincennes Ave Chicago,  
He can be reached the envelope might be mailed  
every one of them, calling at my house frequently evenings  
to talk things over.

With love to both of you  
John and I

Jan-34

## xvi Davidson Recognition at Toronto Convention

In March 1983, when Toronto was getting ready for hosting the Rotary International Convention, I happened to be in USA visiting my children in Wisconsin. I felt that Toronto Convention would be a very appropriate occasion to honour the late Jim Davidson for the great services rendered and sacrifices borne by him for spreading Rotary to many countries in the Middle East and Orient. I discussed this with two distinguished Canadian Rotarians and my good friends, Past District Governor Aubrey Oldham of Bracebrige and W.F. (Robbie) Robinson of White Rock. They followed up the matter with Tibor P. Gregor, Convention Chairman, and the Rotary International. Robbie wrote in a letter addressed to Lynwood Frederickson of Rotary International "This plaque is so important at this convention as, like myself Marjory is not getting any younger, and it will probably be several years before another International Convention will be in Canada. Also that eldest son Donald is the incoming president of the Rotary club of Ladner, B.C". With the approval of Rotary International President, Hiroji Mukasa, the Special Recognition of James W. Davidson was included in the Convention agenda.

In a very solemn ceremony on June 7, 1983, at the third Plenary Session of the Convention, President Hiroji remembered the outstanding services rendered by Jim Davidson to extend Rotary and presented a plaque of appreciation to his daughter, Marjory Abramson. A photo copy of the plaque is reproduced on the next page.

It was my privilege to attend this delightful function and later to be photographed with Mr. and Mrs. John Abramson.

# Conclusion

I have attempted in these pages to narrate the story of the exceptional life of a remarkable Rotarian. Jim Davidson, who devoted a significant part of his life for the introduction of Rotary in many countries, in the early stages of its development. His conviction of its great worth led to his total commitment to spread it around the world. His was a multifaceted personality but his most valuable contribution was the promotion of understanding between peoples of different nationalities fastened together by the bond of Rotary. Rotary organisation has been singularly fortunate that his whole family could share in this noble endeavour. It is my earnest hope that the fascinating story of this dedicated Canadian Rotarian and his family will provide inspiration to Rotarians the world over for the furtherance of the ideals of service and fellowship.



## In Recognition

of

**James W. Davidson**

### Honorary General Commissioner of Rotary International

Guided by the philosophy that "Mankind is One," he is one of the finest examples in the history of Rotary of one who "Built Bridges of Friendship Throughout the World."

After helping to establish Rotary clubs in Australia and New Zealand, he, together with his wife and daughter, traveled from 1928-31 as a pioneering ambassador of goodwill for Rotary to help organize Rotary clubs in Burma, Egypt, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Israel, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

In grateful memory of the outstanding efforts of James W. Davidson to extend Rotary, this Special Presidential Recognition

is given to  
his daughter

**Marjory Abramson**

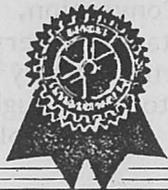
and

his grandson

**Donald Abramson**

1983-84 President

of the Rotary Club of Ladner, B.C., Canada



*Hiroji Mukasa*  
President, Rotary International

7 June, 1983