

CLUB 33 HISTORY MINUTE #16 10/29/2009

In anticipation of Rotary Club 33's Centennial in 2011, let's turn the clock back to 1914; 95 years ago. The 4th Club President to take the gavel was Homer Sumption; classification Cement Pipe. One of Club 33 major community projects that year was the donation of materials for the construction of the Broadway Pier. Even in those early years, our Club attracted a constant flow of distinguished luncheon speakers. Charles Fairbanks; former VP under President Roosevelt spoke to our group, as well as our own honorary member D.C. Collier, Director-General of the Panama-California Exposition. We also heard Lieutenant Muller of the Army Aviation Corps outlining the need for a year-round Army Flying School in our area. Early in 1914, San Diego "city fathers" declared the first "Straw Hat Day" complete with a parade down Broadway. Photos were taken for promotional purposes in eastern cities boasting "snow-free" winters in this Western paradise. Out of a total of 80 active dues-paying San Diego Rotarians, 70 turned out and marched as a unit in the Parade, straw hats and all. When the Straw Hat Parade was held the following winter, Prez Homer fined each absent member fifteen cents. And that's your Club 33 History Minute.