

**CLUB 33 HISTORY MINUTE #18 11/12/2009 (FOUNDER'S DAY)**

**With the coming of Rotary Club 33's Centennial in 2011, let's turn the clock back to 1911, the year of our founding. San Diego seemed a quiet place, yet on the threshold of a magnificent future in which Rotary would have a major and lasting influence. San Diego was booming; its population was about 39,500 and rising fast. Land developers began selling residential plots in Fairmont, Kensington Park and Rosecrans Park; all considered far from Downtown. So too, came automobile dealers – some of which became Club 33 Rotarians. A major San Diego issue in 1911 was the harbor and waterfront development proposal called the "Capps Plan". Gordon Gray, one of Club 33's founders and our 3<sup>rd</sup> Club President performed the role of spokesman for the Capps Plan and was instrumental in getting a municipal bond issue on the local ballot to finance the project. 1911 was also the year that plans were begun for creating the San Diego Zoo, in what only the year before had been formally renamed "Balboa Park". Also that year a Taxpayers' Association was formed by city leaders among who were Carl Heilbron, Club 33's first president, and Roscoe Hazard, our first vice-president.**

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**It was a year of organizing, building and growing, and leading citizens who sooner or later joined San Diego Rotary were in the forefront of virtually all civic projects. Finally, in 1911, the Circus came to town! In the fall of 1911, San Diego played host to the Ringling Brothers' Circus, and here's a tale to round out the story of what it was like in San Diego the year Club 33 was formed: It seems that the City Council had scheduled a visit to a Point Loma neighborhood to inspect streets and hear resident complaints, but with the Circus in town and a parade scheduled for the same day, the police department had to be out in force with a full compliment of men and equipment. The City Councilmen had to make a choice. They and the Police could not both at the same time use the City Automobile. The upshot was the Councilmen changed their schedule, and the police department sallied forth fully equipped with the town's one official motorcar. And that's your Founder's Day Club 33 History Minute.**