

CLUB 33 HISTORY MINUTE #8 8/27/2009

In anticipation of Rotary Club 33's Centennial in 2011, let's turn the clock back to April, 1919; ninety years ago. Our ninth Club President, Elwyn B. "Jay" Gould took the gavel; classification Trucking & Teaming. Prez Jay introduced a wrinkle for luncheons in 1919 by pointing his finger at five Rotarians and telling each to bring a competitor in the member's own classification to the next meeting. The YMCA Building built Downtown in 1911 still had a \$150K debt hanging over its head, and Club 33 was asked to assist in raising funds to erase the debt. In typical fashion, Rotarians pitched in and within one week, the entire amount was raised. Honorary Club 33 Rotarians at the time were John D. Spreckels, Congressman Bill Kettner, and George W. Marston; all pioneers of San Diego's development. That year also, long-time ROTATOR editor Guy Keene, "The Instigator" sold his business and moved to Los Angeles. Keene had done a lot of teasing, viewing with alarm, stating opinions and "lecturing" Rotarians on club and community service, but always fairly. In 1919-1920, publishing THE ROTATOR was the Club's largest annual expense at \$658.50. And that's your Club 33 History Minute.