

CLUB 33 HISTORY MINUTE #29 3/4/2010

In gearing up for Rotary Club 33's Centennial in 2011, let's turn the clock back to 1916 - Club 33's fifth year of operation. Our President that year was none other than Guy Keene, "The Instigator" as he called himself as THE ROTATOR editor. Continuing to personally write THE ROTATOR'S copy, Keene eventually formed a Rotator Committee to see to its publication and distribution. San Diego was basking in the success of its 1915 Exposition in Balboa Park; so much that our club assumed responsibility for local fundraising to extend it thru 1916. Forgetting our old Los Angeles rivalries, Rotary clubs from both cities pitched in with fundraising. Prominent Los Angeles newspapermen Harrison Gray Otis and William Randolph Hearst pledged full support. The Balboa Park Exposition had brought global attention to Southern California, and both San Diego and Los Angeles benefited. 1916 also featured a number of distinguished but sometimes controversial luncheon speakers, including Charles Hatfield. He was the "Rainmaker" on whom San Diego reaped scorn for his claims to bring rain to our drought-stricken area, and then piled censure upon him for the disastrous rains and floods that followed his efforts in January that year. And that's your Club 33 History Minute.