

beginnings

"Beginnings are important. They represent aspiration and a hope, often a brave one, for development and growth. They become an idea - in action. Sometimes the idea lives and flourishes, because it contains a life-germ which is vital, valuable and enduring.

Such is Rotary, born of the desire for fellowship in men's hearts, branching and blossoming into avenues of service. Putting "service above self" Rotary has grown into the great organisation of today"

Arnold Bennett *Rotary in Queensland. An Historical Survey*
Boolarong Publications, Brisbane, 1980 p.1

the first rotary meeting

"The first Rotary meeting was held in a typical business office - a small room, not too well lighted, with a desk and three or four uncomfortable chairs, a coat rack in the corner, one or two pictures and an engineering chart on the wall.

"It was the office of Gus Loehr, a mining engineer, and Gus had just welcomed a visitor - a merchant tailor named Hiram Shorey. Hiram took one of the straight-backed chairs, and he and Gus began to talk - first, casual conversation about the usual topics, but their talk soon drifted to the idea which a lawyer friend had been discussing for several months.

The lawyer's name was Paul Harris and he had an idea about a new kind of club. They would discuss it again tonight, for Gus and Hiram were waiting for two more visitors - Silvester Schiele, a coal dealer, and Paul Harris himself.

"Presently these two men entered the room. They remarked they had just eaten an excellent dinner and then Paul began to unfold his idea for a new club. He explained that it would be a good thing if a group of business men could get together periodically to get better acquainted. Thus Rotary was born on 23 February, 1905."

Adventure In Service
Rotary International, 1974, pp26, 27, 28