



ALBANY
ROOM
COLLECT

AROUND THE TOWN

by Edgar S. Van Olinda

50 Years a Rotarian

Felicitations to Dan Benton not to be confused with Dan But-ton, and congratulations to the Albany Rotary Club in having a member of the caliber of Mr. Benton. Last Thursday, he observed the golden anniversary of his affiliation with the local

luncheon club, having missed only one meeting in a half-century, and that absence due to illness. Dan joins the exclusive "Golden Anniversary" group, which also includes Bill Dear-styne, Art Perkins, and George M. Wiley Jr. Having been "rotating" around Albany for all the time it takes to become an octogenarian, Dan is still active as a volunteer worker for the Red Cross, St. Paul's Episcopal Church and any other organization which needs his assistance.

Although Dan never aspired to political preferment, he is an alumnus of the old "Unconditional Club" of Albany, a Republican organization which featured oilcloth capes and hats, the marchers carrying dripping torches (hence the protecting oilcloth) and paraded on the slightest provocation during the election periods. However, Dan becomes vocal once a week when he attends the Friday noon luncheon meetings of the Waldorf Country Club (at the sign of the Big Red Apple) where he presides as "speaker" of the egg sandwich legislative body, a group of prominent Albanians who are perfectly capable of settling all problems pertaining to the national, state and municipal affairs, no matter how complicated or controversial: kind of gustatory "Action Line" which knows all the answers.

Members in good standing of the small, economy size country club include barrister, Milton E. Berman, former Commissioner of Immigration; Isador Fallek, retired refrigeration engineer with the Architects Division of N.Y. State; optometrists, James Paul and Arthur Scherr; Louis Roth, CPA who shows the club how to gyp Uncle Sam at tax-paying time; Abe Wulf formerly a partner in the Wultex Clothing Co., now a gentleman who deals in all legal beverages; this writer, who doubles as publicity director of the organization, and Ray Clark, former State Trooper, who acts as sergeant-at-arms. Ray is security officer out at the Albany Airport.

The Albany Rotary Club was organized April 15, 1913, now in its 55th year. Dan joined in 1917. And if my arithmetic is correct, he has consumed 2,600 luncheons, less one, representing his one dropout as a result of illness. At the time he joined the Rotary Club, he was president of the Lithograph and Envelope Company, a printing establishment in 40-42 Beaver Street. In order to devote his time to becoming a good Samaritan, he sold out his printing equipment to work, gratuitously, for many of the hospitals and nursing homes in the Albany Area, even to the point of acting as an orderly in the Albany Hospital, and, in particular, in Pavillion F or Mosher Memorial. Certainly, Dan Benton, as becomes a good Rotarian, has "been around" as they say. The only untoward incident of his membership in the Waldorf Country Club was the noontime he presented his "Diners Card" to the cashier in payment for his usual dish of rice pudding. Even Dottie, the beautiful blonde waitress, got a kick out of that.