

VAN OLINDA

Early Members Of Rotary Club

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THIS morning, we are turning this column over to Rotarian and first Albany president, Ben V. Smith, who has kindly allowed us to print his historical notes delivered at the 30th anniversary of the Albany club in connection with last Friday's luncheon. Ben Smith:

"Looking at that photograph that Charlie DeRouville brought to the meeting, you will notice that our club was composed of much younger men, five or six, a little



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bald maybe, none wearing eyeglasses. (No advertising, please, Ben! V. O.) How they could sing. In my mind's eye I can see and almost hear George Dugan (4th Presbyterian dominie) singing 'Where the River Shannon Flows' and 'When the Sands of the Desert Grow Cold.' "To bring to your mind some of the prominent men of that day and the activities of the early members of the club, I would like to take you back in memory to the year 1913. Woodrow Wilson was President of the United States. William Jennings Bryan was Secretary of State. We might remind Washington that Mr. Bryan favored using glass coins for money. Lt. Gov. Martin H. Glynn, a member of this club, became chief executive of the State, following the impeachment of Governor Sulzer. Alfred E. Smith was Speaker of the Assembly and the Legislature that year debated the question of longer sheets for hotel beds and individual towels for each guest. James B. McEwan, chief of the McEwan clan, which included Rotarians Bill, Bud, James and Walter, was Mayor of Albany.

"Past President Jacob Herzog, banker, was president of the board of Education; Rotarian E. Edward Jones, superintendent of schools. Past President Charlie Johnson

was superintendent of the Albany Orphan asylum. Our own Rollin Sanford was district attorney and Albany city bonds paid 4% interest. Commissioner of public safety was William Van Rensselaer Erving, at that time banned necking in Beaver park. Necking was called "spooning" in 1913. Beaver park is now Lincoln park.

"Rotarian George Todd was weather forecaster; Peter D. Kieran was president of the Chamber of Commerce. The Elks opened their new home in State street with Past President Bill Byrne as exalted ruler. Charlie Winchester was president of the Albany Baseball club, and Christy Mathewson and Ty Cobb were the baseball immortals. The Most Rev. Thomas M. A. Burke was Bishop of the Catholic diocese of Albany and appointed Rev. Father Charles, then a member of this club, pastor of St. Vincent De Paul's church. The Rt. Rev. William Crosswell Doane was bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Albany.

"Rev. William H. Hopkins was minister of the First Presbyterian and the Rev. George Dugan, pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian. Rev. Rolief Brooks, a past president, was pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal church and Rotarian Samuel H. Goldenson was rabbi of Temple Beth Emeth. Rotarian J. V. Moldenhower was minister at Westminster Presbyterian and Creighton Story, a tireless charity worker, at Trinity Episcopal.

"William J. Barnes was Republican boss, opponent of Packie McCabe and D. Cady Herrick. Bert Dytell was playing in summer stock at Harmanus Blecker hall. Open cars were used on trolley lines. Mounted police and the fire department used horses. Tojo, Hitler, Mussolini and rationing were unheard of in 1913."