



—Times Staff Photo

ROTARY HEAD HONORED—President Arthur Lagueux of Quebec City, head of Rotary International, was guest of honor at an international Rotary meeting Thursday evening at the Hotel Woodruff. Those in the picture, from left to right, are: Ralph Wiber, Ogdensburg, district gov-

ernor of Rotary district 250, who introduced the international president, President Lagueux, Alvie M. Edwards, general chairman for the gathering, and a past president, and Clarence E. Scott, president of the Watertown club.

President of Rotary Lauds Service Group

Arthur Lagueux, Quebec, Speaks at Large Dinner Meeting in This City.

Rotarians from all sections of New York state and neighboring Canada assembled here Thursday evening to honor Arthur Lagueux of Quebec City, president of Rotary International, who was the guest speaker at an international Rotary gathering held at the Hotel Woodruff. There were 250 members of the service organization and guests present at the gathering, making it one of the largest service club dinner meetings that has been held here.

District governors, past district governors, international committee members and Rotarians gathered to hear International President Lagueux laud the great work that Rotary is doing in the international situation. He emphasized that Rotary clubs are being formed in countries throughout Europe and in Asia. He admitted that they had been unable to penetrate behind the Iron Curtain, but Mr. Lagueux did express the opinion and belief that eventually their presence would be felt in the Communist countries and they would be of great benefit in bringing about a better world understanding.

Rotarians from 34 clubs were present to greet the international president of the service organization. Clubs represented were Greene, Aurora, Cahoes, Webster, Horton, Potsdam, Rome, Canandaigua, Oswego, Adams, Schenectady, Stanford, Utica, Carthage, Ithaca, Skaneateles, Rochester, Syracuse, Red Creek, Alexandria, Binghamton, Clayton, Palmyra, North Syracuse and Watertown, all in New York state, and Renfrew, Ont., Ottawa, Ont., Quebec City, Que., Aylmer, Que., Napanee, Ont., Manawakee, Que., Hull, Que., and Montreal, Que.

District governors and past district governors who were presented to the assemblage by Harry J. Yoder, past president of the Wa-

tertowntown club and a past district governor, were: Vernon Hyatt, governor of District 251; George Taylor, governor of District 253; Irvin Perry, District 253; Tom Vickers, District 253; George Cummings, District 253; Clarence Williams, District 253; John Brownell, District 250; Harry Banks, District 250; S. George Webb, District 250, and John O'Connor, District 253, all past district governors. Albert P. Bantham of Schenectady, chairman of the Rotary Extension committee, U. S. C. B., was also presented by Mr. Yoder.

Ralph Wiber of Ogdensburg, governor of Rotary District 250, introduced President Lagueux. The district governor praised President Lagueux for the work he is doing in re-establishing Rotary in many countries where charters were suspended and clubs became inactive during the war years.

The service that Rotary extends to mankind and throughout the world was emphasized by President Lagueux. He said Rotary is a timely organization because it has kept pace with the ever-changing pattern of world events.

"Rotary can be expressed in one word—service," said Mr. Lagueux. "It gives service to mankind, service to humanity, service wherever it is needed and in whatever form is required to meet the needs of the problem at hand. More than that it is service that is given freely and ungrudgingly, service that extends above and beyond the thought of mere self."

The international president said that Rotary is timely because of "what we are and because of who we are." He pointed out that the chain of more than 7,000 Rotary clubs encircling the world—clubs with more than 343,000 members who are of many races, speak many tongues, of many religious beliefs and many shades of political thought—are held together by a bond of fellowship and a unity of purpose that bridges the gulf between our ideals and our inherited prejudices.

"In a world hardened by centuries of selfish practices, Rotary

comes with the simple but vital principle of service," said Mr. Lagueux. "A principle as intangible as the atom, but also as powerful. To a sophisticated world, Rotary says with emphasis and without shame that our code and our business faith is 'He profits most who serves best.'"

Mr. Lagueux told how Rotarians have been well trained in the field of applied kindness. He said no Rotarian begrudges the work that is done in that field. He said that by doing deeds of kindness in one's home community it is certain to produce happy results on a world-wide scale.

"Finally we come to the even broader field of opportunity in Rotary-international service," said President Lagueux. "The world has grown so much smaller and the problems of the world have become so inter-twined with our daily lives that no longer can any Rotary club or any Rotarian say that international relations are something which he can afford to leave to the diplomats of the world. Such problems are a part and parcel of his everyday life—his life and that of his children. We have always given our support to the United Nations, but the problems that confront the United Nations will never be solved by diplomats alone. They will only be solved by the full force of an informed and enlightened public opinion."

In his opening remarks, President Lagueux thanked the Watertown club and its members for arranging such a gathering. He also expressed words of appreciation over Rotarians traveling from distant points to attend.

Ray Brunet of Hull, Que., past district governor of District 250, thanked the International president for his speech and also for his coming here at this particular time of the season. Mr. Brunet, speaking in a decided French-Canadian dialect, recalled his visit here and in a humorous manner told of the meeting arranged for his official visit. He then called upon Mr. Yoder to present two gifts to International President Lagueux.

A beautiful oil painting of the short international span of the Thousand Islands bridge, which was done by John Biggers of Washington, D. C., a brother of

Rotarian Paul Biggers, was presented to Mr. Lagueux. The picture is painted looking north across the rift span toward the Canadian customs. It shows the Rotary International plaque erected on the American side of the span. Mr. Yoder explained the picture was a gift from the 250th district.

A leather bound edition of the book, "150 Years of Watertown," written by Harry F. Landon, managing editor of the Watertown Daily Times, was presented to President Lagueux on behalf of the Watertown club. The book was bound in light blue leather with a gold encrusted Rotary emblem on the cover and also in gold leaf was printed, Watertown Rotary club to President Arthur Lagueux, 1950. A special front page with the United States flag and the Canadian flag embossed upon it added to the beauty of the book. There was also a personally autographed message to Mr. Lagueux written by Mr. Landon, the author, on the front page. Mr. Landon, a guest at the dinner, was introduced by Mr. Yoder.

During the evening, chorus singing was led by Gilbert Macfarlane, club song leader and Herbert Hewetson, secretary of the Montreal club. They were accompanied by Past President Charles A. Reilly.

President Clarence E. Scott, who presided, and gave words of welcome to the visiting Rotarians and other guests, introduced Miss Lucette Rouchaud, local soprano, who sang several songs in French in honor of the International president. She was accompanied by Mrs. Orrel A. York. The invocation was given by Rev. Harold C. Johns, pastor of the first Baptist church. A roast beef dinner was served under the direction of L. M. Boyer, resident manager of the Hotel Woodruff.