

No. 1 Rotarian Pays N. C. Visit

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Arthur Lagueux, president of Rotary International, and Mrs. Lagueux were greeted by a large delegation of Charlotte and district Rotarians when they arrived at Municipal airport yesterday afternoon.

The head of the organization which has clubs in 83 countries had come from his home in Quebec, Canada, to speak to a district meeting at Lenoir Rhyne college in Hickory.

Everett C. Bierman, former district governor of the Rotary, was chairman of the welcoming party, which also included District Governor Walter Nau of Hickory, President C. W. Gilchrist of the Charlotte Rotary, Vice President William Mitchell of the Dilworth Rotary and President Les Moody of the Hickory Rotary, and a number of others.

A brisk north wind was blowing at the airport. The big, four-engined plane settled down out of a blue sky, edged in white cirrus.

As the stockily built Canadian and his wife left the plane, 80 voices of the Rotary-sponsored Charlotte Boys' Choir pealed out "God Save the King" and "Carolina in the Morning." The two visitors smiled warmly as they stood at attention.

When the choir had finished, young Tommy Hoover, dressed in full cowboy regalia, rode up on his shetland pony. "President Lagueux," he said, "on behalf of the Charlotte Boys' Choir, I present you with the choir's program." The program was engraved and dedicated to the president of Rotary International.

A broad, genial smile covered Mr. Lagueux's face. "I had a pony, too, when I was young," he told Tommy in a French Canadian accent. He recalled youthful memories as he stroked the pony's mane.

Young Cathy Gilchrist, daughter of the Charlotte Rotary president, presented Mrs. Lagueux with an orchid.

Mr. Lagueux also received a silver Boys' Choir recording from Mr. Gilchrist and a certificate of merit from the Dilworth Rotary, presented by Mr. Mitchell.

After President and Mrs. Lagueux had met all of the welcoming Rotarians, introduced by District Governor Nau, he had a minute for a pleasant chat with individual members of the Boys' Choir.

Mr. Lagueux was glad of an opportunity to put on his topcoat, but he said Charlotte weather is not nearly so severe as that in Canada.

This was not his first visit here. He recalled that he had driven through Charlotte four years ago on his way to New Orleans.

Ever since Mr. Lagueux was elected International Rotary president last summer he has been traveling almost constantly. At the present time he is filling speaking engagements in the United States and Canada. He has already made one trip to Europe this year and plans another in March.

All of the Rotary clubs in 83 countries, he said, have a common purpose — to further brotherhood and peace through the understanding of peoples.

The president of Rotary International voiced what must be the feeling of many persons when he said he shudders every time he looks at a newspaper these days.

It has been necessary recently to revoke the charters of 23 clubs in China, he explained, because the clubs were not operating according to the rules of Rotary International. There are, however, a number of clubs still in operation.

On the other hand, he pointed out, the same thing happened in Germany, Japan and Italy prior to and during World War II. But since then 29 clubs have been reopened in Japan and 25 in Germany.

Shortly after arriving, President and Mrs. Lagueux left for Hickory with District Governor Nau and Hickory Rotary President Moody. He returned to Charlotte last night and will leave at 7:30 o'clock this morning.