

'Youth Hub' Overcomes Barrier of Tongues:

Rotarians' Daughters Have Own Language



Detroit Times Photo
John Waris, 23, of Helsinki, Finland, learning to play the ukulele. His teacher is Bev Burns, 17, of Oklahoma.



Detroit Times Photo
Maria Marin, 20, of Mexico, and Joan Thayer, 15, of 225 Eason, Highland Park, using a Spanish-English dictionary to overcome the Rotary convention lingo mysteries.

Gestures Aid 'Conversation'

By IRMENGARD FOHRT

Maria Marin, 20, of Mexico, and Joan Thayer, 15, of Highland Park, can give any interested adults a good lesson in international good will.

Daughters of Rotarians attending Rotary International's convention here, they met each other at the convention's headquarters in the Statler Hotel and struck up a sudden friendship.

This was surprising indeed because Maria speaks no English and Joan no Spanish.

But that didn't stop them. With the ingenuity of youth Joan went out and bought a simplified Spanish-English dictionary and, armed with this common meeting ground, they sat down in the Statler's Parlor A, converted for the convention into the "Youth Hub," for a fine chat.

MIXTURE OF GESTURES

The conversation was an elaborate mixture of gestures, pointed fingers and single words hunted up in the dictionary. But when Joan noticed Maria tapping her feet in time to the music pouring from a phonograph, Joan asked:

"Do you play the piano?"

She hunted up the Spanish word for piano, worked her fingers back and forth in imitation of piano playing and got Maria to go over to the piano and play a couple of Mexican folk tunes.

Jubilantly Joan remarked:

"Gee, this is easy. I don't see why you couldn't talk to people from any country."

2 GIRLS FROM CUBA

She had occasion to put her experience into the form of good advice for two Cuban girls, Maria Sabates Belizon, 18, of Camaguey, Cuba, and Ana Dumois Gomez, 18, of Banes, Cuba—who had come to the convention with their fathers.

Miss Belizon, who speaks some English, explained that her friend Ana, a pretty, tiny brunette, didn't want to go to the dance for Rotary youth tomorrow because she couldn't find any Spanish speaking boys to dance with and didn't know any English herself. Joan advised:

"Tell her to go anyway. All she has to know is "yes" and "no" so she can accept dances."

'YOUTH HUB' ACTIVITIES

The activities in the "Youth Hub" would delight any school teacher who wants to promote in her pupils—understanding among her pupils.

With delegates from some 50 foreign nations attending Rotary's 41st annual convention, more than a dozen foreign Rotarians brought their children along.

The "Youth Hub," supervised by Detroit Rotarian Frank Grady, brings these youngsters together.

There seems to be no difficulty in understanding either languages or national habits.

Beverly Burns, 17, of Oklahoma City, was giving John Waris, 23, of Helsinki, Finland, some quick musical lessons on the ukelele.

COMES FROM CAIRO

Two good looking American youths were all eyes for a vivacious Egyptian miss, Gulnat Djeddaoul, daughter of a Cairo lawyer, as she explained in perfect English how she had learned to do the Charleston in a year as an exchange student at Occidental College in California.

Another group listened with wide-eyed interest as Anne Cecilia Helen Karunaratne, 19, of Klang, Malaya, said in the English she learned in a Singapore convent:

"The Communists are really vicious in the interior parts of Malaya. We wouldn't dare take a train when we left home because they derail so many trains. We took an airplane instead. Often you hear of the Communists coming out of the jungles and killing people."

To keep the Rotarians' sons and daughters entertained while their fathers attend convention sessions special activities have been planned for the young people, including yacht rides from the Detroit Yacht Club, a tour of Greenfield Village today and the dance tomorrow.



Detroit Times Photo
Outgoing President Percy Hodgson (rear), of Pawtucket, R. I., introducing Rotary's new prexy, Arthur G. Legueux, of Quebec, to the throng at Masonic Temple.