



Friendly Was the Word From Lille



For those who may not have been able to hear what our friend in Lille, Pierre Derchez, said to me last Tuesday, he said, in effect: That he was thrilled and delighted

to speak to us and that he felt highly honored to be chosen to represent his country in launching our Kiwanis Operation Handclasp. He had a number of his friends with him and they were all very interested. He thought we had a wonderful idea which would do much good and they all would like to cooperate with us. He wished us all success and complimented us upon our initiative.

The success of this program depends entirely upon the number who participate in it. This is not something which a committee can do for you except to set it up. On the other hand, it IS something which every Kiwanian CAN do—no sweat—as the airforce boys say. Get yourself a correspondent—get several. I promise you will find it an interesting and rewarding venture. That we are “fighting for the hearts and minds of men” has become a cold war cliché. We can make it more than that if we get there “firstest with the mostest” friendly communications to the minds of our foreign neighbors. If “taking pen in hand” can in even the smallest degree contribute to keeping some kid from tak-

Program

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1955

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“U.S.-CANADA GOODWILL WEEK”

Speaker of the Day

L. G. CHANCE

Decorated with Military Cross in World War I.
Named Secretary General of British Supply Council in 1941.
In 1942 he was named United Kingdom War Cabinet Secretariat.
Appointed First Consul General of Canada in Los Angeles in 1953.

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Chairman of the Day

JOHN JONES

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Invocation by Richard Thomas Philosophy by Alan Abels



ing a gun in hand, how can YOU fail to help? Get with it, Kiwanians—keep those typewriters rattling along. (Instead of caissons.)

Les

PS—KUDOS to the telephone company: Pat Hyndman, Norm Tolle, Cy Greaves, Vince Vinson and Art Mortensen for a really unusual program and for top follow-up

coverage on TV, radio and in the press. Bill Whitney, too.

PPS—Did you see DON HANSON stand up when the Danish Consul was introduced? What fooled me was that he stood silent. I had expected at least a Danish version, and a Swedish version of the rebel yell at that point.

PPPS—Our chorus was good, wasn't it?





Our head table Tuesday was honored to have many of the San Diego Consular Corps as their guests. Left to right: Andy Borthwick; Philip L. Gildred, Consul of Chile; Everett Weir; Pat Hyndman, Chairman of the Day; Alberto Reyes-Espindola, Consul of Mexico; President Les Gehres; Eric Wickman, Vice

Consul of Finland; Lawrence Carr, Jr.; Dora de Lanzner, representing Consul of Panama; J. Waldo Malmberg, Vice Consul of Sweden and Dean of San Diego Consul; Guillermo Echanique, representing Consul of Ecuador; and B. O. Larsen, Vice Consul of Denmark.

'OPERATION HANDCLASP'



WHAT IS IT:

"Operation Handclasp" is the central theme song of the 1955 administration of the San Diego Kiwanis Club. It was inspired by the following:

1. A major objective of Kiwanis International is to "promote peace and friendship through mutual understanding";

2. Concern over reports by Americans traveling abroad that the United States is generally disliked and distrusted by citizens of friendly foreign countries. The exceptions occur most consistently among foreigners who either have traveled in the United States or have contacts here with whom they correspond;

3. The recognized success of the "pen pal" movement among teenagers;

4. The demonstrated potency of better mutual understanding to eliminate much friction among business firms.

BACKGROUND:

"Operation Handclasp" is not confined to correspondence with foreign business executives. It will have other phases, to be launched later in the year. One application, already in operation, is for Kiwanis Clubs to

have as honored guests the presidents of other downtown service clubs, so they may gain a better understanding of Kiwanis ideals and objectives. To date, the presidents of the Rotary, and Advertising and Sales Clubs have been honored.

Another phase of "Operation Handclasp" is to feature prominent Mexican business and civic officials as guests of the Kiwanis Club. In this connection the Club is honoring our sister Republic, the Republic of Mexico, represented by Senor Reyes-Espindola, Mexican Consul, at the May 3 meeting.

To test the feasibility of promoting "pen pals" at the business executive level, some of the officers and directors of the Kiwanis Club have initiated correspondence with some European businessmen. The response was so prompt and encouraging that the entire membership is now being invited to join in the project, which later will be proposed to other Kiwanis Clubs and to Kiwanis International through the California-Nevada-Hawaii District.

Valuable Southern Neighbors

Latin America is a better customer for U. S. business than all Europe or Asia and Africa combined, Vice President Nixon declared. The south-of-the-border countries are indispensable to U. S. prosperity and security, he told the third annual conference of state governors in Washington.



Above—Les Gehres receiving new straw topper from Jo Johnson, "Miss Downtown," representing the Downtown Assn. inaugurates the beginning of Straw Hat Day.

Others in picture are "Junior" Todd, left, Eric Wickman, Vice Consul of Finland.

Below: Al Bercaw was the lucky winner in the drawing for a new straw hat.



**"BUILD —
by Faith, Service, Loyalty"**

A Job for "Operation Handclasp"

Newsweek of May 2, 1955, comments on their president and editorial board chairman's report after a 'round the world trip as follows:

"Among the unpleasanter truths that Mr. Muir encountered was the fact that American foreign policy is widely misunderstood. 'This was especially true,' he says, 'in countries like India and Indonesia.' People in these countries have the impression, Mr. Muir reports, that their former colonial overlords, Britain, France, Holland, are about to be replaced by a new colossus—the United States. And the main reason we are not successful in straightening them out is the barrage of conflicting statements that emanates from Washington. 'The people of Asia,' Mr. Muir says, 'are bewildered by the succession of voices—those of the Administration, members of Congress, and various unauthorized Armed Forces spokesmen—that reach them from the U.S. espousing apparently contradictory viewpoints.'

"Mr. Muir feels it is the mission of magazines like Newsweek to correct such misapprehensions—to cut through the morass of partisan charges and countercharges and to report the true trend of responsible thinking in Washington and elsewhere. That, as always, will be our basic goal, and we hope you will continue to approve it."

Kiwanis also feels it is the responsibility of business executives to help wipe out some of the misunderstanding of our aims and philosophy—that while Americans have more freedom to gripe and expound their conflicting views than do citizens of almost any other land, it does not mean that there is a lack of unity.

Be a Kiwanis Lobbyist for AB 303

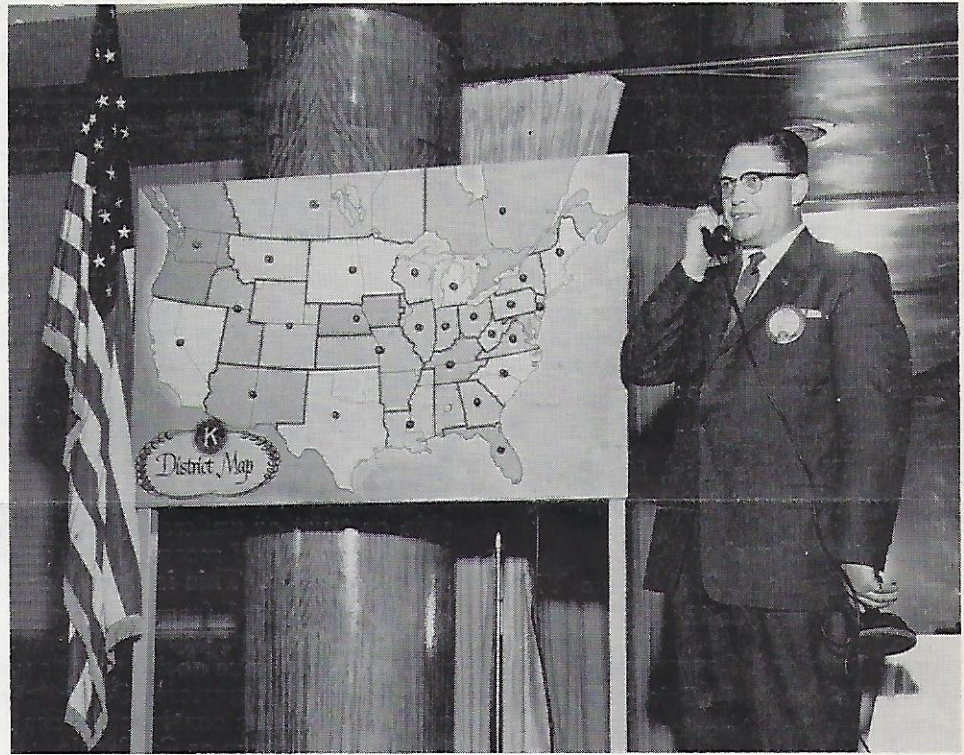
Our club has a bill in the legislature. It is AB 303, introduced at our request by Assemblymen Luckel, Hegland and Schrade. As amended, it now reads:

"An act to add Section 3832 to the Elections Code, relating to election supplies.

"The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

"Section 1. Section 3832 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

FRANCE CALLING!



President Les Gehres talking to Pierre Derchez of Lille, France, in a dramatic trans Atlantic telephone call which started the ball to rolling for OPERATION HANDCLASP.

"3832. Each ballot shall have a perforated section which shall bear the same number as appears on the stub and a statement 'I've Voted, Have You?' which shall be torn off by the inspector and handed to the voter."

Our bill comes before the Committee on Elections and Reapportionment, Chairman Charles Conrad (of Los Angeles) on Tuesday, May 10th, at 3 p.m. We have asked the Sacramento Kiwanis to appear in its support. YOU know anybody in the legislature—or anybody in the Los Angeles area who can influence (properly, of course) Legislators? Then send them a card urging passage of AB 303. Think of it—if our AB 303 becomes law, THE SAN DIEGO KIWANIS CLUB has put a Ballot Battalion tag on practically every voter in California! That's BIG!

Lotsa Chewing Gum



Chairman "Chic" Holloway of the Gum Machine Committee handed check in amount of \$97.76 for our club's share from the gum machines for April.

PROGRAM FORECASTS



PROGRAMS SCHEDULED

- May 10 — U. S. - Canada Goodwill Week. L. G. Chance, Canadian Consul in Los Angeles. John Jones, Chairman.
- May 17—"The Transistor." Science program by Telephone Co.
- May 24—Armed Forces Day. Bill Berry, Chairman.
- May 31—"American Foreign Policy in Europe for 1955." Dr. Enos Generales. Herb Peiffer, Chairman.
- June 7—N.A.M. Program (tentative)
- June 14—Kjell Sollid on "Socialism in Norway and the United States." Harry Malm, Chairman.
- June 21—La Mesa Kiwanis at San Diego Joint Meeting. Program by La Mesa Club.
- June 28—"This is My Land," a 20 minute film. Question period following. Jimmie Forward, Jr., Chairman.



San Diego Kiwanis Tidings



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District Committees

California-Nevada-Hawaii District Committee Chairmen are eager to help our clubs put over projects in a way to get proper credit in club ranking. I suggest that Committee Chairmen write to the following if you feel you need help in any of these six committees:

Underprivileged Child

John W. Cokley, Jr., 505 E. Live Oak St., San Gabriel, Calif.

Support of Churches

L. L. Spafford, 2891 Loma Vista Rd., Ventura, Calif.

Agriculture and Conservation

Dr. Robert R. LaBriola, 3853 W. Vernon, Los Angeles, Calif.

Boys and Girls

Dr. Winton B. Oyster, 4918 Santa Monica, San Diego, Calif.

Vocational Guidance

Logan R. Cotton, 106 Emerald, Redondo Beach, Calif.

Public and Business Affairs

Merle G. Ruh, 2624 California, Huntington Park, Calif.

From the Mail Box

4321 Ampudia St.,
San Diego 3, Calif.
April 23, 1955

Kiwanis Service Club
1177 18th Street
San Diego, Calif.
Gentlemen:

So many times in this busy life we receive the fine experiences which come to us or to our children saying little about them, seeming almost ungrateful. It has occurred to me that such might be the case if I did not write to you about my thoughts concerning the Key Club.

Our son accepted the invitation to join the group his first year at San Diego High School. He has become increasingly interested and active in the club work. This contact with the fine faculty leaders, Mr.

EDITORIAL

"OPERATION HANDCLASP"

Submitted by Pat Hyndman

For years unnumbered men have sealed a bargain and pledged their word with a handclasp. To shake another's hand is to signify friendship, trust, understanding.

It is with this connotation of the act of shaking hands that our Kiwanis Club has undertaken its "Operation Handclasp," which had its kickoff at the May 3 meeting.

The idea behind "Operation Handclasp" is not new, any more than friendship or trust or understanding are new. But our Kiwanis Club hopes that it will give NEW meaning this year because it includes a "hands across the sea" handclasp. This is how it came about and how it is planned to work:

You've heard from Americans returning from Europe and Asia that Americans are not popular abroad . . . and you've also heard and read some of the preposterous notions that some of these people have about Americans! That we're all gangsters. Or Indians. That New York and Washington comprise most of the continent, except for some far-off area of palm trees and movie stars known as California.

It's quite a different story, however, when you talk to Europeans and Asiatics who actually have visited America. Ask a GI's foreign-born wife . . . or a cousin or nephew who's staying with relatives in America. Living here, getting the feel of USA, whether in Connecticut or Cucamonga, is pretty certain to generate a different feeling toward "the land of the free . . ."

Now the how-to-do-it: Kiwanians are simply becoming "Pen Pals" of business and professional men in Europe and Asia. Through the cooperation of the "Letters Abroad" organization, the U. S. Department of State, the U. S. Department of Commerce and others, local Kiwanians are writing to industrialists, manufacturers, doctors, architects, agriculturists, educators in France, Italy, Holland, England, Switzerland, and other overseas nations, telling them about San Diego and San Diego business and family life, and suggesting similar information be sent in reply.

No sudden miracles are expected of "Operation Handclasp." But every letter that helps a non-American understand our country and our people will make communistic propoganda that much less effective. Every paragraph, every word that helps to convince these people that Americans are much like themselves—interested in their work and their families, and not "imperialistic warmongers"—will tear down one more stone in the wall of misunderstanding that separates the free countries of the world.

The directors of our Club have approved our doing the missionary work on this project and then, when it proves successful, it is hoped that it will be taken up by other Kiwanis Clubs . . . then by the districts, by Kiwanis International . . . perhaps eventually by other service clubs.

Because our club's effort will be the "proving ground," it is important that EVERY MEMBER join in. Call Paul Kingston at CY 6-6363 for the name of a man in your own profession or business and get off YOUR letter to speed "OPERATION HANDCLASP."

Warren and Mr. Petersen, the good training in "being of service" as shown them by your men's organization, and the fun of working with other boys on worth while projects has been a very rewarding experience for Willis.

Mr. Pflugh and I are very grateful to the Kiwanis members for the organization of the Key Club and the interest they have taken in the boys.

Very sincerely,
Alice Pflugh
(Mrs. Willis C. Pflugh, Sr.)