Rotary Club of Palgrave?s Weekly Rotary Minute

By Doug Nicholson

In 1905, a lonely lawyer named Paul Harris called together three business associates, who shared similar backgrounds, for an evening meeting.

That night they decided to form a club where they could meet and deal with one another in friendship and trust.

Paul, Silvester Schiele, Gustavus Loehr and Hiram Shorey wanted their new Rotary Club to be unlike any other, where members could find respite from the strains of big city business at meetings, where fellowship and fun took them back to their childhood days. Service to their community, their customers, their employees, their children and families gathered such momentum that Rotary became known as the first ?service club.?

The Rotary Club of Chicago grew to 200 members in three years and many were so proud of what they had created that they wrote to friends in other cities and Rotary grew.

Rotary is not an organization of heroes. It is composed of men and women who chose to serve for the privilege of doing so rather than for personal accolades. The geared Rotary wheel appears throughout the world on millions of lapel pins, flags, jewellery, and has appeared on huge billboards as well as postage stamps in more than 100 nations. It symbolizes action and a million members working together to make the world a better place.

The ideal of service is needed as much today as it was 106 years ago. Rotarians are so very close to the goal of eradicating polio through polio plus, but we cannot take a break and rest with self-satisfaction as the opportunities for service have never been greater and it is hard to imagine Rotary ever not being needed.

To quote Nobel Peace Prize recipient Albert Schweitzer, an Honorary Rotarian, ?I don't know what your destiny will be. But this I do know: the only ones among you who will ever be truly happy are those who have sought and found how to serve others.?

Please visit www.rotaryclubofpalgrave.com for more information on our Club and all the wonderful ways you could get involved.