

George L. Treadwell

Shanghai Rotary Club – Charter Member 1919
Club Secretary 1919-1920
The *PAGODA* Editor – 1919-1920



George L. Treadwell “Tread” began his Rotary career in 1919 as a charter member and first Club Secretary of the first Rotary Club in China – The Rotary Club of Shanghai (上海扶輪社). The first editor of *《The Rotary Pagoda》* -- weekly news publication by The Shanghai Rotary Club since 1919, Tread was a native of Massachusetts, U.S.A., and was assistant manager of the Chinese American Publishing Company in Shanghai.

After one year with The Rotary Club of Shanghai, Tread returned to the United States and started his Chicago Rotary Club service in August 1920. He became the Club’s Secretary on 1 July 1921. So, Tread had taken two times of the “First” – Club Secretary of the “First Club in China” and “First Club in The World”.

During his service in Chicago, Tread originated and promoted three Rotary business-relations conferences. He was originator of the book *《Rotary?》* – a scientific and objective survey of Rotary made by University of Chicago experts, and brought the youth-hostel movement to Chicago.

Tread retired in mid of 1947 after serving the Rotary Club of Chicago, Illinois, as Executive Secretary for nearly 27 years – a unique record among full-time career secretaries – has been made an honorary life member of the Career Secretaries Group of Rotary International, an unofficial organization of Rotary club secretaries. James B. Pond, editor of *《Program》*, the magazine of the American platform, paid tribute to him in the October 1947 Issue, saying, “It is pretty much as if all of a sudden the Statue of Liberty resigned from New York Harbor and went off on a holiday.”

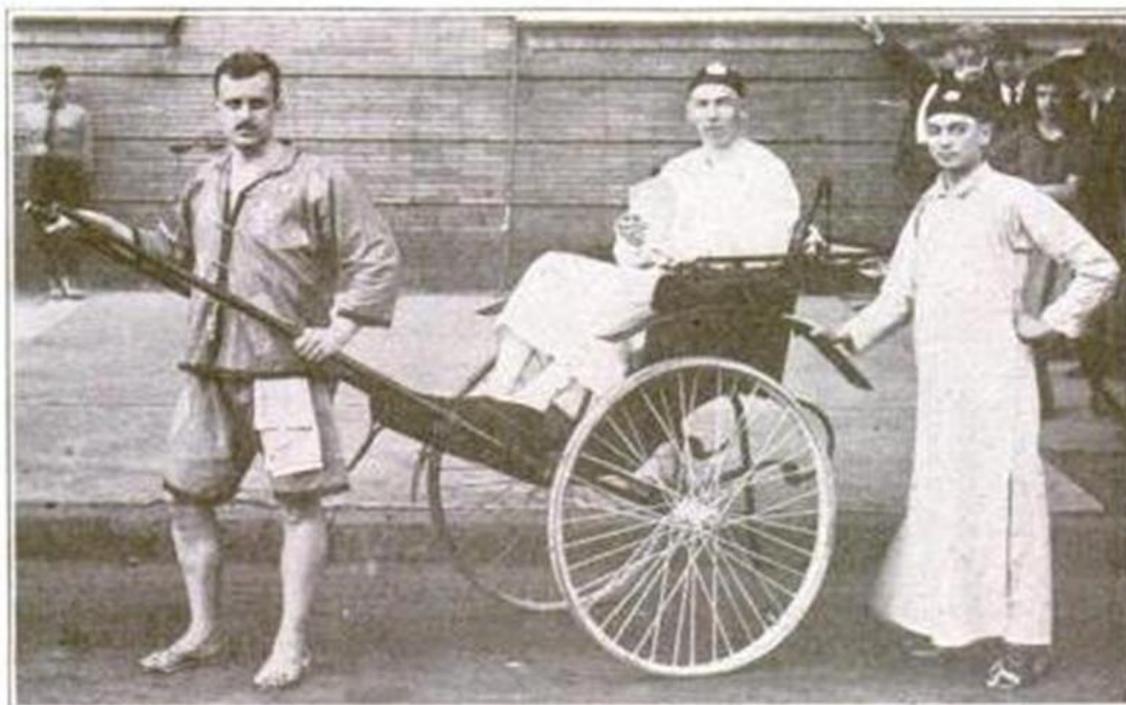
From the archives, several photos of George L. Treadwell were found... ..

The First Ever China's Delegation to Rotary Convention in 1920

In the year of 1920, Shanghai has over two million population, of which 30,000 were foreigners. When Shanghai Rotary Club was only 8 months old in June 1920, out of the 60 members, the Club was represented by four of its "live wires", travelled over 12,000 miles, to the 11th Annual Convention of the International Association of Rotary Clubs (former name of Rotary International) held at Atlantic City, New Jersey, U.S.A.

They were: (1) George L. Treadwell, the Club Secretary, chief delegate; (2) Dennie Doyle, city editor of the 《China Press》 (大陸報), Shanghai -- the largest American Daily newspaper in the Far East, was the alternate delegate. He was former sporting and city editor of the Manila 《Daily Bulletin》 ; (3) E. O. Baker was a native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, U.S.A. He was grocery salesman for the Connell Brothers and treasurer of the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai. He was also a delegate to the National Foreign Trade Convention in San Francisco; (4) George R. Coleman, alternate, was a Jerseyite. He was former foreign manager of the S. S. White Dental Company, Philadelphia, U.S.A., and the then eastern district manager of the Gaston, Williams & Wigmore, Inc., classification "Dental Supplies". It was a proud moment when these four delegates from the Far East entered the Convention Hall waving the flag of the Republic of China.

Here is the photo taken at the Atlantic City Convention. The delegation was in Mandarin costume. In this photo, Tread is seen on the left inside the rickshaw traces.



George Treadwell in the traces; Dennie Doyle in the 'rickshaw—all Shanghai delegates to the Convention at Atlantic City

The 11th Annual International Rotary Convention opened in the Monday evening of 21 June 1920 with an inspiring and spectacular "Rotary Pageant" directed by Raymond M. Havens, International Sergeant-at-Arms with a large corps of assistants. Although 8 p.m. was the time scheduled on the program for the assembly and seating of delegates from the United States, hundreds of Rotarians and their ladies began wending their way toward the Convention Hall at the end of the Steel Pier as early as 7 p.m. so that when the time came for the pageant the Conventional Hall was packed with practically two thousand people, standing in the side aisles, in the back of the hall, and on the outside on the Steel Pier. Overseas delegates entering the hall in the order in which their respective countries became affiliated in Rotary, were in this procession: Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Hawaii, Cuba, Porto Rico, Uruguay, The Philippine Islands, China, Panama and Argentina.

According to the Proceedings of the 11th Annual Convention, part of the Opening Session referring China's delegation was like this (*quoted*):

President Albert S. Adams:

We have a delegation here this evening that has traveled farther than any delegation that ever came to a Rotary Convention. There are four men representing the Rotary Club of Shanghai. (Applause) And I am taking the word of the Shanghai «Rotary Pagoda» for the statement: "Twelve thousand miles from Shanghai to Atlantic City." (Applause) I am to ask Rotarian Treadwell to respond in a few words for the delegation from Shanghai.

(Applause)

(Rotarian Dennie Doyle, one of the delegates from Shanghai stepped up the platform in response to an invitation from Rotarian George L. Treadwell, chairman of the Shanghai delegation and former secretary of the Rotary Club of Shanghai.)

Rotarian George L. Treadwell (Shanghai, China):

Mr. President, ladies and fellow Rotarians:

When Rotarian Tom Knight of the Du Pont Company went back Westfield, New York, just before leaving for China, he met there, among many others, an old lady who had known him since he was a small boy.

"Tom," she said, "I hear you are going to China, on what mission?"

"Du Pont," said Tom.

"Strange," she said, "I ever heard of that mission but I know you will do lots of good, Tom."

(Laughter)

Few of you here tonight knew much of Rotary's mission to China, but you know it will do lots of good, because it is Rotary, and because Rotary means service -- forward-looking, upward-looking, militant service. We have come 12,000 miles to tell you of Rotary's mission to China, to tell you about a club that is the Rotary League of Nations in miniature.

Shanghai Rotary Club is in an international settlement, so-called, the only internationally governed settlement in the world, with a municipal council composed this year of eight British, one American, and one Japanese. The next higher governing power is the consular body, composed of the consuls and the consul-generals of various nationalities residing in the settlement; thus, by being on foreign soil, internationally

administered, it is readily seen that practically every question of public or private interest that comes up affects all nationalities.

The first question Shanghai Rotary faced, therefore, was what shall be our objects and membership, in view of this situation? And, although composed for the most part of Americans, we decided promptly to waive purely selfish, national considerations, and make the Shanghai Club a common meeting ground for members to be selected from various nationalities. So we formed our Rotary League of Nations, and we dedicated it -- from the points of view of community and Rotary interest -- to the fostering and maintenance of better international relations in China. We decided to sit down with other fellow and "swap" troubles, and get his point of view, and vice versa, so that we could better serve the municipality. That is why, when we came down the aisle tonight, we could carry not one flag; that is why the flag we did carry bears the words, "Rotary's International Club", and that is Shanghai Rotary's principal message to you here tonight: We want to visualize to you Rotary's international ideal, and the Shanghai Rotary Club represents those ideals, we believe, in miniature.

Shanghai Rotary has also another object: We want to see native Rotary clubs in China, plenty of them, and we look upon our club, therefore, as a nucleus, in its Chinese membership, of those who will be sent out later to form these native clubs, after we have created them a knowledge and understanding of Rotary. Give Rotary to other nations, yes, but give it carefully.

And now, having told you something of our make-up and aims, we come here tonight to catch and absorb, in so far as we can, that intangible, but infiltrating spirit that is Rotary, and that is spreading to all parts of the world. Rotary tonight can be truly said to cover a dominion on which the sun will never set, a dominion earth, working shoulder to shoulder through Rotary, to make for better international understanding, and for a better world to live and work in Rotary is an international, and universal force, and its foreign extension deserves the best moral and material support you, individually and collectively, can give it. (Applause)



Tread's Life in Chicago

(1) Spring 1922



(Photo) The Rotary Club of Santiago de Cuba presented a beautiful Cuban flag to International Association of Rotary Clubs at a luncheon of the Rotary Club of Chicago. (L-R) Mack Olsen, former Vice-President, International Rotary; Paul P. Harris, President Emeritus, International Rotary, and founder of the first Rotary Club; Fernando Bridat, Cuban Vice-Consul, Chicago; Erm J. Phillips, President, Rotary Club of Chicago; George L. Treadwell, Secretary, Rotary Club of Chicago; and Chesley R. Perry, Secretary-General, International Rotary.

A beautiful silk flag, emblem of the Republic of Cuba, was presented to International Association of Rotary Clubs at a luncheon of the Rotary Club of Chicago. Rotarian Mack Olsen, Past President of the Rotary Club of Des Moines, Iowa, U.S.A., and former Vice-President of International Rotary, presented the flag in behalf of the Rotarians of Santiago de Cuba. The luncheon – one of the largest in then history of Chicago Rotary – was attended by several distinguished guests, among them Col. Tobert R. McCormick, one of the co-editors of the *«Chicago Tribute»*, and Senor Fernando Bridat, Cuban Vice-Consul, of

Chicago. In making the presentation, Rotarian Olsen called attention to the prestige that Rotary had gained in Cuba.

(2) February 1933



Honoring 6 veterans. Front row (L-R) Elmer E. Wilt, A. M. Ramsay, Gordon M. Proudfoot, Chesley R. Perry, John J. Miller, W. Frank Krohn – Chicago Rotary Club’s class of 1908. Back row: Allen H. Bagg, 3rd Vice-President, Rotary International; Frank Weedon, 25-year Secretary, Syracuse (N.Y.) Rotary Club; President Emeritus Paul Harris; Clinton P. Anderson, President, Rotary International; and George C. Hager and George L. Treadwell, President and Secretary, respectively, of Chicago Rotary Club.

This photo was taken in 1933 when The Rotary Club of Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., honored 6 verterans for their 25 years in Rotary. Because Attorney Paul Harris happened to be in Chicago in 1905 when he conceived the idea of a club holding “rotating” meetings at the homes or offices of its members, that Chicago Rotary Club has become No.1 of Rotary

International. Because it was a custom of the Club to present veteran-membership badges to its twenty-five-year men, six survivors of the class of 1908 – W. Frank Krohn, John J. Miller, Gordon M. Proudfoot, A. M. Ramsay, Elmer E. Wilt, and Chesley R. Perry – were so honored at the weekly luncheon on 14 February 1933.

And because the last named individual happened to be the “one and only” secretary of Rotary International, the occasion took on unique significance to Rotary everywhere. Founder Paul Harris was present; and so were President Clinton P. Anderson, Third Vice-President Allen H. Bagg, and three past international presidents, Russell F. Greiner, Dr. Allen D. Albert, and Arch D. Klumph. The reason why was explained by President Anderson, “Rotary International has one of its objects the dignifying by each Rotarian of his profession. Today we are to honor Chelsey R. Perry, not because of the contribution he has made to Rotary, but because he has exemplified fully the Fifth Object of Rotary. He has had a profession, and has dignified it.”

(3) 1940



1940 - Rotary Business Conference in Chicago - Candid-Camera shot of some of the leaders: (left to right) George L. Treadwell, Secretary, Chicago Rotary Club; National Secretary James B. Carey, of the CIO, Dr. A. P. Haake, Managing Director of The National Association of Furniture Manufacturers; and Richard E. Vernor, of the Chicago Rotary Club, presiding officer.

(4) Spring 1943 – 26 Rotary Clubs in China honored by Chicago Rotary Club



Madame Chiang Kai-Shek accepts a tribute in honor of the 26 Rotary clubs in her nation, China, from Chicago Rotarians. Presenting it is Edwin B. Moran, Club President, with Jasper S. King, Chicago Rotarian who designed the hand-illuminated scroll in Occidental calligraphy, behind the Madame. With them are Rotarian Walter C. James, Chinese Community Committee head; International Secretary Philip Lovejoy; and George L. Treadwell, first Secretary of China's first Rotary Club in Shanghai, now Chicago Rotary Club Secretary.

In tribute to China's First Lady and in honor of her nation's 26 Rotary clubs, the Rotary Club of Chicago presented Madam Chiang Kai-Shek (中華民國蔣中正總統夫人宋美齡女士) with a testimonial during her visit to Chicago. Presentation of the hand-illuminated, engrossed calligraph on parchment was made in her hotel suite. It was read as follows:

In 1784 began the friendship of our two peoples. In 1867 Anson D. Burlingame, retiring American Minister to China, was appointed by the Emperor a co-Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from China to the outer world.

Throughout this 158 years we, the people of the United States, have formed an abiding affection for the people of your country, have shared their trials and tribulations, have served them through trade and the Christian missions, and have been their ally in war and commerce and humanitarian deeds through floods and famine, the exchange of

students and now in our joint struggle for victory, for freedom versus slavery.

We are admired the peaceful aims and beneficent culture of your great people. No peoples in all history have had such mutual goodwill, esteem, and affection as have ours in their long and happy associations. We are now sharing increasingly in a struggle that our people at last recognised as our own and as the struggle of men of goodwill everywhere, as well as of China. We see with growing attitude and deepening understanding the cheerful, painful sacrifices of your people and their extraordinary fortitude and grim determination in the face of cruel, carefully planned aggression.

To you, as a symbol and living spirit of these things, as the first lady of China and the wife of its indomitable military leader, as the gracious Christian daughter of a Christian Chinese missionary and the embodiment of the enlightened and humane cultures of our two countries, as the adopted daughter of American educational institutions – we pay signal honor and tribute. Recalling that China has long held in high aesthetic regard and reverence the art of Chinese calligraphy, we have chosen to present this token in the medium of the arts of Occidental calligraphy (written with ink made in China) and illuminating design as they are being carried on in our country in the swift-moving, machine and power driven, violently torn 20th Century.

We welcome you to Chicago, the birthplace of Rotary. In behalf of the 720 members of our Founder Club of all clubs of its type, and in tribute also to our 26 sister Rotary clubs in China, we wish Godspeed to you, your husband, and your people, and pray for our joint efforts towards victory for “peace on earth, goodwill towards men”.

Previously, the Rotary Club of Chicago presented Madame Chiang – “the symbol of the Chinese-American Friendship” – with a bouquet of plum blossoms, which was sent to her in New York. And in honor of her forthcoming visit to Chicago, the Chicago Rotary Club had earlier sent a check for US\$300 to the local chapter of the American Red Cross, asking it to allocate the funds to Red Cross activities in China.

On 18 February 1943, Madame Chiang delivered a speech before the House and the Senate appealing to the United States Congress to provide aid for the China Nationalists in their struggle against Japan and the Chinese Communists. That was the first Chinese national and the second woman to address both houses of the United States Congress. The next day in her *《My Day》* column, Mrs. Roosevelt (wife of the U. S. President) wrote about the address: “The speech by Madame Chiang was not only an interesting occasion, but quite unique. It marked the recognition of a woman who, through her own personality and her own service, has achieved a place in the world, not merely as the wife of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, but as a representative of her people.”

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