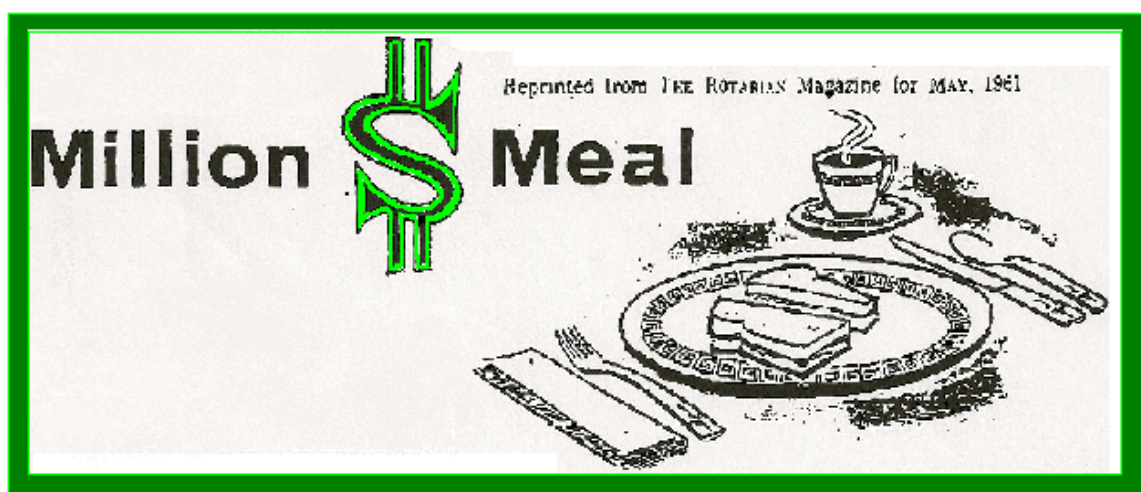


...WITH A PASSION FOR FEEDING THE HUNGRY

This month's Issue:

Excerpts from an article in the *Rotarian* in May 1961



The "Million-Dollar Meal" is a million-dollar idea for raising funds for the Foundation.

In Randolph, Massachusetts, there's a box manufacturer named Chester E. Claff, who is getting a lot of letters these days...letters in German, Spanish, French, and English- like those shown in fragments above-letters in Japanese, Greek, and other languages. All are talking about something called the "Million-Dollar Meal."

Have you heard of it? Here's the story:

Chet Claff is Governor of Rotary District 795, an area comprising 47 Rotary Clubs in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. One of the Massachusetts Clubs-Stoughton-observed Rotary Foundation Week in 1959 by having an "austerity luncheon." For a meager meal-a sandwich and coffee-Stoughton Rotarians paid \$2, their regular luncheon cost. They named it the "Paul Harris Memorial Meal"(after Rotary's late Founder) and contributed the money saved on the luncheon to The Rotary Foundation.

To test potential world-wide response to his plan, Governor Claff described it in a letter to the Governors of all of Rotary's 267 Districts, suggesting that they explain it to their Clubs "if you believe the plan has merit."

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Million \$ Meal

Cont'd...

“At the conclusion of my talks to the Clubs,” he recalls, “motions were made by enthusiastic members for endorsement of the plan. Every Club adopted it with the understanding that the Meal idea was not a substitute for any other method already in use for raising funds for The Rotary Foundation.”

To give their eat-less luncheons added zest, some of the Clubs in District 795 saved additional money by putting their own members to work as waiters. All tips left for these waiters-for-a-day went into the Clubs’ contribution to The Rotary Foundation. One Club held its “Million-Dollar Meal” at a member’s home, the event being described as an affair “knee-deep in friendship, fellowship, and Rotary.”

The climax of these District-wide meals came not in the District itself, but in Evanston, Illinois, at the Central Office of Rotary International. There Chet Claff presented 47 checks, one for each Club in his District, to J. Edd McLaughlin, Rotary’s President [from Ralls, Texas].

In accepting the checks for The Rotary Foundation, President McLaughlin congratulated Governor Claff and the Rotarians of his District, saying, “At each of the 47 Million-Dollar Meals held in your District, Rotarians involved themselves personally in contributing to The Rotary Foundation by going without a regular luncheon. A small sacrifice, but still a personal one. Men do that only for something they believe in.”

Is your Club planning a Million-Dollar Meal? You may get up hungry, but, as Chet says, “you’ll feel like a million.”