



KANSAS GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

W. L. BYRNE
VICE PRESIDENT - MARKETING

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I'm going to devote this "Log" to a resume of the grand reunion we had in Washington. I wish every one of the Crew could have been there to share in it's benign influence from the first invocation to the benediction at it's end.

I'm using the letterheads our mate Bill Byrne sent me to use, which I wasn't able to use until now and even though he retired just a month or so ago, I thought I ought to use them anyway. Thanks Bill.

The "Crew" reunion - 1973

Friday noon we boarded the TWA plane to Washington, D. C., arriving at 3:30, took a cab to the Statler-Hilton and already saw some of the "Crew" there and others arriving. At 6:30 we all gathered at the Decatur House - that well preserved historic home a block from the White House, where we had the buffet reception. It was such a delightful occasion in such a historic setting. Every one going to Washington should make it a point to visit this fine old home in which President Martin Van Buren, Henry Clay, and other famed men lived and which is now preserved for us to enjoy.

Saturday morning in the Senate Room at the Statler, Bill Press, the 1973 chairman, introduced Carroll Bouchard of the JCI Secretariat, who in turn introduced to us the new Secretary-General of JCI Ivan Bumstead, who gave us so much interesting facts about the international organization. Then Gary McNaught of the USJC staff introduced to us the USJC President, Sam Wimer, who told us so much of the activities and growth of our national organization. After hearing from these two reports all of us who through the years contributed time and talent to the Jaycee movement, felt we had built a firm foundation on which these present leaders are building so well.

Then after a coffee break we were delighted to listen to the excellent talks by Morgan Doughton, Andre Le'Tendre, and Henry Kearns, all past USJC Presidents.

After this interesting and rewarding session, we adjourned to the "Club" for a delicious luncheon at which former Governor George Romney made an impassioned speech about his concern for the future of our country and what we can do about preserving it. He was given a standing ovation. The Governor was introduced by Past USJC President, Dick Headlee, who did a superb job doing it.

After the luncheon we assembled again in the Senate Room. Pat Gorman presided and called upon Mark Matthews, the 1940-41 USJC President, to give highlights of his year, which he did and then called upon Tom Reid, who was Executive Vice President during the regime of several USJC Presidents and he recalled so many incidents of the years while in that office. He was followed by Dain Domich, 1953-54 USJC President, who after his term suffered a paralytic stroke which incapacitated him for two years, but he has made a great recovery and all gave him a standing ovation when he concluded his talk.

With all the talent present one by one gave interesting talks - Chuck Shearer, Bob Ladd, George Pagonis, Dick Headlee, Dick Wood, Tom Donnelly, Walt Wieseman, Frank Vanderlip, and our guest from Japan. To add to the overseas flavor, we had an overseas telephone talk with Norris Nelson, who called from Oslo, Norway and a telegram from Mel Mutuc of the Philippines. It was quite a session, which we all enjoyed.

Then the "Virginia delegation" invited all to come to their room before our evening session.

Saturday evening was the dinner-dance at the Army-Navy Club and this was enjoyed to the fullest. It is at these annual dinner-dances that the Jaycee Alumnus Award of the year is presented and this time it went to Governor Wendell Ford of Kentucky. Governor Ford was unable to attend but sent a lengthy telegram explaining that only a most important duty to perform kept him from attending. I accepted it for him and the award was forwarded to him.


It was at this annual affair, too, that the next year's Chairman was announced and Phil Knox was selected. He gave a fine acceptance speech and praised Bill Press for the fine program we were enjoying and hoped to continue the same fine work of all the past Chairmen who made these reunions such worthwhile occasions.

Then on Sunday morning we had the "Fellowship Session" in the South American Room, which was a most inspiring session. Tom Donnelly played a key role in it and Douglas Coe, who is associated with Louis Cramp at Fellowship House, gave a brilliant sermon which touched all of us. At the close of the session we were all asked to form a line bordering all four walls of the room holding hands and listening quietly to the benediction, all of us united in one band of fellowship. It was truly a spiritual ecstasy we will long remember. Thus ended a most enjoyable reunion.

It was good to see how the "generation gap" was bridged so well at the reunion and how much the present Jaycees paid homage to the pioneers of the Jaycee movement. We need both the wisdom of the pioneers and the enthusiasm of the following generations and I'm glad that the younger mates appreciate this, for as Henry Ford once said,

"If you take all the experience and judgment of men over fifty out of the world, there wouldn't be enough left to run it."

Cordially,



John H. Armbruster
Keeper of the Log