

Next Meeting: May 8, 2014

Guest Speaker: Charles B. Castner Title: Railroad History Expert & PR Professional Topic: *History of Railroads in Louisville* Introduced by: Barry Barker



**** OFF-SITE LOCATION ****

TARC Headquarters (Historic Union Station) 10th & Broadway

Buffet Opens: 11:30 am / Meeting Begins: 12:10 pm



Railroad history expert Charles B. Castner produced a public affairs series called "Kentucky Profiles" for WHAS radio a Louisville station that broadcast throughout the southeast United States in the early 1960s, where he worked as a producer and writer. He subsequently worked as a public relations and information officer for the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, later merged with the Seaboard Systems and CSX Transportation.

Since his retirement as Regional Manager of Corporate Communications for CSX (L&N), Castner has worked as a volunteer associate with the University of Louisville Archives and its L&N collection. The collection includes a reference file, organized alphabetically by Kentuckiana community or landmark, created by Charles Castner while producing the "Kentucky Profiles" radio

scripts. Also included are news and magazine clippings, notes, and copies of historical photographs documenting the history of the major rail and transit systems serving the Louisville area. Most of the series is organized alphabetically by the name of the transit operating companies. The photographs document trolley car operations, including interurbans, in the Louisville area. Castner also has donated over seven hundred volumes to the Rare Book department for the Charles B. Castner Collection of Railroad History. Castner has authored and co-authored several books about the L&N and several other railroads.

A Louisville native, Charlie is married to Katie, and they have two grandchildren. He has been a member of the Rotary Club of Louisville since 1984, a Paul Harris Fellow and also received the 2008-2009 Lifetime Service Award. He is an excellent jazz pianist, and can be found most every Thursday at the piano providing musical entertainment at the Rotary meetings.

<u>Pa</u> The parking lot behi	Birthday T	'a <mark>ble</mark>		
		e, please PLAN TO CARPOOL, if possible. Thank you!	Sydney Goetz	May 9
Inside this issue:		The Rotary	David Roth	May 9
			Sidonna Cox	May 10
That's Entertainment —			Paul Herrington III	May 10
New Exciting Events!	2	Program	Gordon Costley	May 12
May 1 Mtg w/ Guest Speaker John Asher	3	We are pleased to announce the 2014 graduates of the Rotary Leadership Fellows three-	Jim Watkins II	May 12
		year program, Emily Hart (at left) and Katie Hoy (at right). The Rotary Leadership Fellows Program is a unique partnership among the Landrum	Paul Gold	May 13
New Member Celebra- tion Dinner Pics! 3		family, the Rotary Club of Louisville and The University of Louisville College of Busi-	Wayne Kotcamp, M.D.	. May 14
	3	ness. The program goal is to expand and accelerate the development of community service leadership among the next generation of Louisville's businessmen and women.	Mark Rorer	May 14
Rotary DAY at the	•	View additional information about this program and its history, in addition to the impres-	Luke Schmidt	May 14
BATS — Free Tickets!	3	sive bios of Emily Hart and Katie Hoy, on our website at THIS LINK.	Please sit at the E	
Gen. Elmus Ussery Rotary Reach Out!	3	"ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR" Please identify and nominate Rotarians whose actions demon-	Table on May	γ 8. Αγ
Contact Info / Website	4	Rotarian of the Year Submit nominations before June 6. Access the form at THIS LINK.		



May 1, 2014 Rotary Meeting

The Rotary Club of Louisville convened on Thursday, May 1, 2014 at The Galt House. The meeting was called to order by Club Past President Lelan Woodmansee. The invocation was given by Luke Schmidt. Doug Myers led the pledge to the flag and also introduced the song <u>Stewball</u>, performed by Doug and the 4-Way Best Band. (Click <u>HERE</u> to see their performance on YouTube.) Bill Dunn introduced the birthday table and the four honorees who were present were honored with the singing of Happy Birthday, led by Charlie Castner on the piano.

Due to the crowded agenda, all guests were introduced as a group. Past President Lelan Woodmansee reflected on his tenure as the Club's President (2001), which included the tragic day of September 11. In spite of the horrific events in New York and Washington, the Club met two days later that week, in order not to give in to what the terrorists were truly seeking – a shutdown of the country. Also at that meeting, Club members heard Lincoln's immortal Gettysburg Address

Past President Lelan Woodmansee, John Asher, Charles Oberst, M.D., and President Randy Coe

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recited by Lelan. He also reflected on the "magic" of Rotary by describing how the Club is organized with a set of "steel" rings (and he was ably assisted by President Randy Coe).

Club member Dr. Charles Oberst then introduced our guest speaker – John Asher, Vice President of Communications for Churchill Downs. John Asher began by reflecting on his life connected to racing, including how he attended his first horse race at Churchill Downs with his parents putting him on a bus in Elizabethtown as a young man to "journey" to Louisville to visit the track. John fell in love with horse racing and has been associated with the Downs for many years. John Asher also commented on several past Derbies, including the 1957 Derby during which renowned jockey Willie Shoemaker misjudged the location of the Finish Line and ended up losing the race.

John Asher commented on several of the horses entered into this year's Derby (the 140th Run for the Roses) and also provided several stories on "Western Civilization," as lived in the infield (including the story of two patrons who were caught digging a hole in order to bury their beverages for *next year's* Derby!). Finally, John also brought the Club up to date on \$17 million in infrastructure improvements, including the recent installation of the world's largest video board. The meeting concluded with Club members reciting the Four-Way Test. — *Luke Schmidt*



Page 4



Rotary Club of Louisville, Inc.

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