

A Kiwanian and His Hobby

[Jacob Armstrong Swisher, whose history of the Kiwanis appears herein, was born in Watseka, Illinois, in 1884. Dr. Swisher received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from the State University of Iowa. He joined the staff of the State Historical Society in 1922 as Research Associate and continued at this position until his retirement in 1950.

During his long career with the Society, Dr. Swisher wrote many books, monographs, and articles. His best known books are: *Leonard Fletcher Parker* (1927); *The American Legion in Iowa* (1929); *Robert Gordon Cousins* (1938); *Iowa — Land of Many Mills* (1940); and *Iowa — In Times of War* (1943). His contributions to the Society's quarterly numbered fully a score, including eight reviews of the work of the General Assembly. He wrote over one hundred articles in the Society's monthly magazine — THE PALIMPSEST.

Dr. Swisher did not limit his work to the Society. In those busy years he served on both the Iowa City school board and city council. He was an ardent church worker and served as state president of the Wesley Foundation Board. He has been an active Kiwanian for a dozen years.

Despite his numerous activities, Dr. Swisher believed in hobbies. His penchant for writing verse was perhaps his best known hobby. In pursuing this hobby, he did not forget the Kiwanis and all its varied activities. — THE EDITOR.]

Hobbies

Hobbies, I'm told, are rich, indeed.
With just the vitamins we need.
They give us zest from day to day,
And help to drive dull care away.

I would not venture to suggest
What type of hobby is the best.
I only state, with some reserve,
Most any hobby seems to serve.

A Hobby a Day

A hobby a day
Keeps doldrums away.
That's what I've often been told.
I think it is so
And this I well know:
A hobby or two
Will do wonders for you
And keep you young, too,
When you're old.

Kiwanis

Kiwanis is a little word,
If measured by its length,
But it becomes a mighty word,
When measured by its strength.

Kiwanis means that we should greet
Each other with a smile.
It means good cheer, to those we meet,
We think that's quite worthwhile.

Kiwanis means that we should build
The things that foster good.
Thus building, we shall surely build
A better brotherhood.

Kiwanis means that we should do
To those we meet each day,
As we would wish that they should do
To us along the way.

Kiwanis means a friendly call,
It means a better school.
It means good fellowship for all.
It means the Golden Rule.

Kiwanis is a little word,
With inspiration filled.
Its motto is the best I've heard —
Just two small words: "We Build."

We Build

We build today and every day,
In a unique and helpful way.

We build with pride and care.
We build in every way we can —
By every means that's known to man —
To make life rich and rare.

We build of wood and stone and steel.
We build with products that reveal
True strength to meet the test.
We build our homes, our churches, schools.
With pride, we use the best of tools,
That we may build the best.

We build our highways with great care,
That folks may go from here to there
With safety, grace, and ease.
We build material structures strong,
That they may stand for ages long —
Our fancies thus to please.

But more, we build not on the sands.
We build those things not made with hands.
 We build with honor bright.
We build four square our lives today.
We build by what we think and say.
 We build for peace and right.

We build our bodies strong and great.
We build our minds to contemplate
 A worthy life, well planned.
We build our social graces well.
We build our souls, that we may dwell
 In a yet richer land.

In many ways, we build with care,
That we may, with our brothers share
 The finer arts of giving.
'Tis thus we build, from day to day,
In a unique and helpful way,
 The finer arts of living.

J. A. SWISHER