

## Personalities to Remember

Kiwanis is an international organization with each constituent part closely associated and affiliated with every other branch of the organization. No local unit or Division or District operates independently. Just as a strong personality in a local club strengthens the entire unit, so also the strength of a local club gives energy and vitality to the Division, the District, and to the International organization.

In like manner the local club gains strength and leadership from its close affiliation with the larger units. Accordingly, the story of a District, or of two adjacent Districts — such as we have in Iowa — cannot be written without giving due recognition to a large number of personalities who have helped to make the District strong. First and foremost in this group are the District Governors.

Since the larger part of the Illinois-Eastern Iowa District lies in Illinois, and since many of the larger clubs of the District are in Illinois, the Governor of the District has usually been an Illinois resident. However, five Iowans have been elected as Governors of the Illinois-Eastern Iowa District — two from Clinton, and one each from Davenport, Burlington, and Dubuque.

In the Nebraska-Iowa District, which embraces the larger part of both of these states, twenty-two Iowans have held the office of District Governor. Four were residents of Des Moines; Cedar Rapids and Council Bluffs each supplied three, while Algona, Grinnell, and Webster City furnished two each. Cherokee, Mason City, Polk City, Sioux City, Storm Lake, and Waterloo are each credited with one District Governor.

Two Iowans now hold key positions in the Nebraska-Iowa District. These are W. L. "Tiny" Cassell of Ames, newly elected District Governor for 1961, and Byrnard L. Smith of Spirit Lake, Secretary-Treasurer of the Nebraska-Iowa District and Editor of the District Bulletin.

It is to be noted, too, that Nebraskans have frequently become Governors or other District or International officials and as such they have contributed much to the growth and development of Kiwanis in Iowa. One of the leaders in this group was the late Curry Watson of Lincoln, who was for many years District Secretary and an inspiration to all Kiwanians. Other residents of Nebraska who have been very helpful in the Iowa area are Harry Spencer, former District Governor; Donald I. Parker, present International Trustee; and Asa A. Wolfe, present District Governor. To these men, and to many others, Iowa Kiwanians are deeply indebted.

It is always a rewarding experience for one to

attend a Kiwanis International or District Convention. He becomes acquainted with Kiwanis International Representatives — men of poise, dignity, and honor. He associates closely with District officers and develops a warm comradeship with local Kiwanis enthusiasts. Incidentally, he meets some very charming and delightful "Kweens," for in Kiwanis the ladies play an important role in the social activities of the club.

International and District Conventions operate on a close schedule, with addresses by International and District Representatives, with the making of reports, the discussion of the various committee and club activities, the judging of contests, the awarding of prizes, trophies and awards, and a planning of future activities.

At these meetings, too, there are luncheons, dinners, and banquets where enthusiastic Kiwanians gather to renew old friendships and to meet new friends. All in all, Kiwanis conventions are designed to bring together leading personalities of like minds, that they may gain knowledge and inspiration for the work of building that lies before them.

It is to be noted, however, that Kiwanis is basically and essentially a local community building agency. Its real mission is that of building at the local level. Strong individuals on the "home team" count for victory all along the line.

It is in the local club that one comes to know

the true meaning and worth of Kiwanis. It is there that committee assignments are developed and community projects explored. It is in the local club that lasting friendships are made, and personalities are evaluated.

Kiwanis affords unusual opportunity for men of all ages to meet together. The young Kiwanian may note the serenity and wisdom which the elderly gentleman sitting beside him displays, while the senior citizen may note that his station in life may be improved by friendly associations with youth. Thus youth and age mingling at Kiwanis luncheons may well enrich the lives of both groups.

In Iowa with its rich farming area, and its flourishing cities and towns, the development of friendly relations between town and country is important. Farmers are frequently members of Kiwanis. If not members, they may well be invited as guests to discuss problems of mutual interest. Kiwanis accordingly has not only an opportunity, but a responsibility in promoting good public relations throughout the community.

In several of the Iowa Kiwanis Clubs — in cities in which colleges or universities are located — there is a "Town and Gown" division. In Iowa City — the site of the State University of Iowa — this division is much in evidence and is found to be mutually beneficial. In this situation the president of Kiwanis one year is a representative of the

business and professional men, and the vice-president is from the University personnel. The next year the vice-president becomes president, giving the leadership to a University man, and a new vice-president is elected to represent the professional group. Thus, an equitable balance is preserved and a mutually friendly relationship is maintained.

One of the benefits of membership in Kiwanis is the opportunity to associate with leading business, professional, agricultural, and institutional men of the community. In addition, many of the Iowa Kiwanis clubs were founded and promoted by men who have passed on, but our memory of them still lingers, and we would now and again pause to pay tribute to such men, who lived "above the fog in public labor and in private thinking." A list of such men would include the names of farmers, doctors, lawyers, teachers, ministers, university professors and deans, business executives, judges, mayors, state legislators, and United States congressmen.

Kiwanis is widely known for its strength, its personalities, and its leadership. Kiwanis believes in, and acts upon the basic principles of the Golden Rule. Therein lies its strength and its ability to render community service.