

Playground System Now 21 Years Old

Coordinated Program Set Up Under Joint Auspices of Village Governing Boards

Early in 1926, the various official boards of the village appointed a special committee from their several members to investigate the problem of coordinating the recreational facilities of the village into one integrated recreational program.

Members of this committee included J. C. Capen, chairman, Enoch Steen, representing the school board, Henry Fowler of the park board, Ira Reynolds of the village plan commission, and John Steffens of the playground trustees. Earl E. Orner, president of the village at that time, and Herbert B. Mulford, president of the school board then, gave strong support to this committee.

Following recommendations of this special committee, it was voted at the village election of April 30, 1926, to set up a recreation board with a maximum taxing authority of one and one-third mills under the State Playground act. Such a board was constituted with the late John Clark Baker as its first chairman, and began operation with a tax of $\frac{3}{4}$ mill.

Subsequently the board in 1926, appointed Daniel Davis, head of the department of physical education in the Terre Haute schools, as its first director of recreation. Mr. Davis served in this capacity until his death in July, 1944, when he was succeeded by Howard F. Copp, who was recently succeeded by Russell Perry of Aurora, Ill., present director.

The chief activities of the recreation board have been the organized intra-village sports activities and the winter and summer playground programs. The park board retained control of the beach which has always been divorced from the recreation board's activities since it has been a source of revenue to the park district.

The recreation board has co-operated with success and amity with the village, park, and school boards in the attempt to co-ordinate the recreational sources of the school playgrounds and gymnasias, the village green (owned by the village) and the two larger parks, Washington and Vattman.

In its earlier years the tax revenue of the recreation board, along with occasional fees and with yearly grants from the Community Golf course revenues, was sufficient to maintain a fairly representative recreation program. Its declining tax revenues in the early '30's along with diminution of revenues from the golf course were bolstered up temporarily by the use of W.P.A. employees—both laborers and program workers—until the W.P.A. was discontinued.

The recreation board had financed the ice skating programs until in 1942-1943, when it was necessary to make a nominal charge to build and maintain the ice rinks. About \$1,200 was raised from these ticket sales, which along with sums donated by the village, school, and park

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LAST REUNION—Men who served in Company "D", Illinois Reserve Militia (the "Home Guard") during the First World war, held one of their last reunions in 1925. William Lehle took this photograph.

Odd Fellows Lodge Named in Honor of Andrew T. Sherman

The Odd Fellows lodge was instituted in Wilmette in McDaniel hall (then located on West Railroad avenue) on October 26, 1899, as New Trier lodge, No. 892, I.O.O.F., with the following charter members: Edward P. Jones, Max L. Levit, Samuel C. Sexauer, Herbert A. Eadie, Henry A. Crane, Jonas Bierwert, Enos W. Raff, Frank H. Drury, the Rev. Frank C. Brandt, and George Rasmussen.

The first officers of the lodge were: Samuel C. Sexauer, noble grand; Enos W. Raff, vice-grand; Jonas Bierwert, secretary; Frank H. Drury, treasurer. They were installed on the same date by the following installing officers: Deputy Grand Master, William Stacy; Grand Warden, A. T. Sherman, both of Evanston lodge; Grand Secretary, Brother Meisner, of South Park lodge; Grand Treasurer, J. T. Hubert, of Cook county lodge; and Grand Marshal, Joseph Parks, of Evanston lodge.

Immediately following the institutional ceremonies, and the election and installation of officers, William J. Schatz, Charles H. Rush (who started and published for many years Wilmette's earlier newspaper, The Local News), G. S. Millar, W. E. Hunnewell, J. B. Young, J. McDaniel, G. W. Cady, L. A. Perreault, Robert Steele, H. D. Skelton, Fred Reford, J. O. Brosard, Dr. John Segsworth and Charles Rosenberg were elected to membership and given the initiatory degree.

Named for Sherman

Because A. T. Sherman was held in such high esteem by the local order, it was the unanimous wish of the charter members that the lodge be named A. T. Sherman lodge. They were informed, however, that it was contrary to the laws of the order to name a lodge after a living brother, so New Trier lodge was retained until after Mr. Sherman's death in 1901, when it was officially changed to A. T. Sherman lodge, on March 14 of that year.

With the small beginning in membership the lodge prospered until at one time it reached a total of 283 members, including many of Wilmette's and the North Shore's most prominent citizens. As the lodge grew its quarters in the McDaniel hall became too small, and after several years they moved into their present quarters in the then

Among those in the picture are, standing: Frederick Z. Favor, Lorin A. Bower, Miles McMillen, R. J. Mulvey, Robert L. F. Biesemeier, Herbert Lilly, Karl D. King, H. H. Culver, Dr. D. R. Brown, S. W. Lusted, Herwig Toeppen, G. W. Carrington.

Rear row, seated: J. Robb Harper, J. R. MacFarland, S. C. Bennett, George R. Harbaugh (Captain of Company "K", National Guard), Herbert Mackie, F. L. Miller, F. A. Bedlan, Harry Hammill, J. C. Nitz.

Second row: Dr. George D. Upson (second from left), John J. Peters, Lewis Starkel, J. M. Mills, W. G. Beyrer, Edward P. Fatch, (company clerk), Ed Kirchberg, Herbert J. Leach, Ira Jones.

Foreground: J. N. Macalister, C. Miles McDonald, G. L. Martin, Albin Carlen.

The photograph was supplied by Dr. Upson.

Barnard Thalmann Was Pioneer Farmer Here

Barnard Thalmann, a pioneer farmer of New Trier, was born in Prussia, March 23, 1836 and spent the first 11 years of his life in his native land.

He was a son of Gerhard Thalmann, who was born in the same country, July 24, 1801, made farming his life work, and died July 16, 1867.

The parents came to America in 1847, landing in New York on April 14, after 30 days spent on the voyage.

The elder Thalmann purchased 80 acres of land in section 30, New Trier township, and later added 44 acres in section 33 and there made his home until his death.

Barnard Thalmann was united in marriage with Miss Mary Feldman, September 26, 1865. She was born in Gross Point in 1848, a daughter of Joseph Feldmann, a native of Prussia, who came to this country with his parents in August, 1833.

Jones building. On June 1, 1922, this building was purchased by A. T. Sherman lodge and renamed I.O.O.F. building, located at 1211 to 1217 Wilmette avenue. The first floor accommodates four stores, while the second floor has three living apartments, two large halls and one smaller hall.

The present officers of A. T. Sherman lodge are: Nash C. Cazel, noble grand; Robert Robertson, vice-grand; Bertram B. Udell, recording secretary; George N. Mergenthaler, financial secretary; Victor W. Hill, treasurer; Henry H. Abegg, warden; and Frederick A. Radmer, deputy grand master.

"L" Took Over Old Service of C. M. & St. P.

The southeastern section of the Village of Wilmette, known as Hillville in the earlier days, was remote from transportation until the latter part of the 19th century.

In 1887, the Chicago, Evanston, and Lake Superior railway company pushed its line from Union station, Chicago, as far as Calvary cemetery, and obtained rights to build through South Evanston and Evanston. The Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul (it now has the additional title of "and Pacific") acquired the road and operated it as a local line.

Needed Terminal

In order to obtain necessary terminal space the line was extended to the Hillville area. A station was established at the Hill street (now Maple avenue) crossing and named Llewellyn park, after a nearby property owner. As stated elsewhere, the Chicago, North Shore, and Milwaukee line was built through Wilmette and into Evanston by 1899. The station at Central street, Evanston was used as the transfer point.

The Northwestern Elevated Railway company leased the right of way north of Wilson avenue from the Milwaukee road in 1907. The line south of Church street in Evanston was elevated in 1910 and that north of Church street in 1928-1932.

Came in Overnight

The elevated road, too, found it needed a terminal yard in Wilmette. Such a plan was vigorously blocked by villagers, until, late one evening in 1912, the contractors moved in a large gang of men and the project was completed before the citizens had time to organize.

The right of way is still owned by the Milwaukee road. Freight service is provided to sidings between Wilson avenue and Church street, Evanston, and the railroad's freight station is located at the latter point alongside the North Shore line's depot. South of Wilson avenue, the branch line, used for freight service only, runs in a southerly direction until it reaches the north branch of the Chicago river near Goose Island, follows the branch to its junction with the main stream and crosses to enter the yards near the Union station.

ON TWO BOARDS

Edward Corette served as village trustee from 1902 to 1906 and as a member of the board of education from 1907 to 1915. He died in 1938.