

WILMETTE LIFE

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TOWNS RENEW GRADE SEPARATION REQUEST

North Western Officials Willing to Confer But Give No Promise of Early Action

A conference of representatives of the four north shore villages—Glencoe, Winnetka, Kenilworth and Wilmette—was held in the office of President Sargent of the C. & N. W. railroad, Thursday, July 28, on the subject of grade elimination of that railroad through the above villages. The conference was arranged by Village Attorney Jackson of Kenilworth.

President Henry Tenney of Winnetka was called upon first by President Sargent. Judge Stephen A. Foster was then introduced by President Tenney, and presented the history of previous negotiations which were interrupted in 1923.

Want Negotiations Renewed

The villages asked that planning and negotiations concerning grade elimination, interrupted late in 1923, by change in administration of the C. & N. W., be renewed.

They stated that even if actual construction could not be started for some time, the plans should be worked out in order that the many other improvements of these growing towns, which would be dependent on or influenced by grade elimination, could be carried on with the assurance that all improvements would be in harmony. The villages further brought out that there were many time consuming details involved in the working out of plans and the carrying out of a project which could be worked out now.

Makes No Promises

President Sargent agreed to the suggestion and requests of the villages, with the reservation that the C. & N. W. was not in position to make grade elimination, and with the further understanding that he made no promises of any sort as to time when grade elimination would be started.

It was brought out in the conference that preliminary plans for grade elimination and estimates of cost had been made when negotiations were interrupted four years ago. President Sargent instructed Grade Elimination Engineer Cole to send at once revised figures of cost as planned and figured by the C. & N. W., to the chairman of the Grade Elimination committee of the villages represented. The village representatives named Mr. Tenney as chairman of such a joint committee.

Engineer Cole in speaking before the group declared that the North Western railroad does not propose to spend any money on track depression. Track depression, he pointed out, would cost approximately \$4,000,000, an expenditure, he said, that would be unfair to other communities not on the north shore but also traversed by the railroad. Track elevation was described as the most feasible form of grade elimination commensurate with available finances.

Appoint Committee

Discussion of the village representatives subsequent to the conference, pointed to the appointment of a joint co-operative committee to work actively on grade elimination and to be made

PUSH HIGHWAY PLANS

North Shore Municipal Authorities Confer With County Officials to Hasten McCormick Improvement

Representatives of the various towns of the north shore are to confer with the Highways Committee of the Cook county board of commissioners, Oscar W. Schmidt of Wilmette, chairman, Thursday afternoon, August 11, at 2 o'clock in the County building regarding plans to expedite the completion of McCormick highway from its terminus at railroad avenue, Evanston, north to the county line in Glencoe.

Next Thursday's conference is the outgrowth of a similar meeting held last week at the invitation of Chicago Motor club officials and attended by Village Trustee A. R. Gates of Glencoe, Village Attorney Elmer E. Jackson and Trustees Benson and Adair of Kenilworth, Trustee Paul A. Hoffman of Wilmette and officials of the Evanston Chamber of Commerce.

At that meeting it was learned that the North Evanston Business Men's association was enthusiastically in favor of continuing the highway through that section of Evanston while more than 200 citizens of Kenilworth attached their signatures to a petition urging that the improvement be pushed through to early completion in that community. The members of the county board also reiterated approval of the enterprise. Glencoe leaders were said to be favorable to the extension of the roadway through that village in the earliest possible time.

Wilmette has completed a large portion of its part of the highway. The Wilmette officials recently voted to grade upon the widening and repaving of Main street, the southern of the new route in that village.

Dr. Schermerhorn Is Vacation Pastor at Methodist Church

Dr. W. D. Schermerhorn will occupy the pulpit of the Wilmette Parish Methodist church Sunday morning, August 7, and the last two Sundays in August.

Dr. Schermerhorn is professor of church history at Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, and is the teacher of the Men's class of the Methodist church. He has occupied the pulpit of the local church at various times, and is extremely popular in the parish.

Dr. Horace G. Smith, pastor of the church, and his family are now enjoying a two weeks' period of rest at Montana, Lake Geneva, Wis. Dr. Smith will return to Wilmette to preach the Sunday morning sermon on August 14.

Up of citizens who were not only leaders in the community, competent to handle such a major undertaking, but who could also be expected to continue on the committee through the period of its activity, which it was agreed would be several years.

Representatives from Wilmette at the meeting were Trustee Paul A. Hoffman and C. E. Drayer.

Women Voters Make Plans for Busiest Season in History

"The coming year promises to be a very proud and interesting one for the Wilmette League of Women Voters," Mrs. Shelby M. Singleton, the new president announced at a meeting of the board at the home of Mrs. C. F. Evans last Monday morning.

"The National league has urged that each local league have a representative attend the meetings of the County board, the Forest Preserve, and the Board of Education. They also urge that members visit the county institutions. And we will have a representative at the regular meetings of our village trustees," Mrs. Singleton stated.

If the foregoing program is carried out, the regular meetings of the Wilmette league, where these reports will be discussed, should prove highly interesting and instructive. These meetings will be held at ten o'clock, the first Thursday morning of every month, at the Village hall.

Mrs. L. L. Reynolds, vice-president, stated that the citizenship classes held last year were very successful, and plans are being made for another series this coming year.

"Someone recently said that the biggest triumph of uselessness was a good book without a reader. Franchise without intelligence should be added to the statement. Membership in the league will make available in a non-partisan and unbiased way, all political activities of our village, county, state, and country," reads a league announcement.

"Let us show our appreciation of the league's efforts by hearty cooperation and an increased membership," the statement concluded.

Retain Highway Expert to Inspect Paving Jobs Here

H. H. Sherer, New Trier township highway commissioner and former village manager at Glencoe, has been retained by the Village of Wilmette to inspect paving jobs underway and in prospect in the village. Mr. Sherer assumed his new duties this week and will be on hand to observe the street paving in the southwest section of Wilmette, familiarly known as "Oklahoma," contract for which was let this week by the Village board of local improvements.

COMING—A NEW FEATURE

Next week's issue of Wilmette Life will contain a Real Estate and Building news section, a new monthly feature that will henceforth appear on the first issue in each month. This section will contain a wealth of interesting facts pertaining to north shore real estate and building activity as well as a fund of information relating to general conditions in those fields. Real estate and building enterprise is one of the most important accurate indicators of community progress and the Real Estate and Building section, prepared by experts, should, by reason of that fact, claim the interest of every reader of Wilmette Life.

AWARD CONTRACTS FOR PAVING, LIGHT SYSTEMS

Improvements in Southwest Area and Indian Hill Estates Aggregate \$108,000

Contracts for street paving and street lighting improvements aggregating an expenditure of more than \$100,000 were awarded at the session of the Wilmette Village board of local improvements Tuesday night of this week.

Paul Reschke, Winnetka paving contractor, was the successful bidder for the job of paving a system of streets in the southwest section of the village, familiarly known as "Oklahoma" in the days before extensive building activity converted a forlorn area into a splendid residence neighborhood. Mr. Reschke's bid for the work totaled \$54,379.10. Streets included in the improvement are within the area lying southerly from Wilmette avenue to Isabella street and west from and including 16th street to Ridge road.

Mr. Reschke also was the successful bidder for the contract to pave the first alley north of Forest avenue from Wilmette avenue to Twelfth street. The contract price was \$6,379.64.

A. M. Ryckoff, who installed the Wilmette street lighting system three years ago, was the successful bidder for the contract to install a system of ornamental street lights in the Indian Hill Estates area. The amount of the bid was \$47,988.64.

The awarding of the street lighting contract was followed by the appointment of A. J. Radcliffe as electrical engineer for the village to supervise the installation, and the subsequent appointment of W. J. Shiley, village electrician, as inspector.

Work on both of these extensive improvements is to begin immediately, it was stated.

Merchants Arrange to Convert Streets Into "White Way"

Wilmette's business centers will soon rival the "great white ways" of other communities if a suggestion made at last Monday's meeting of the Wilmette Chamber of Commerce bears fruit.

The suggestion in point invites all store and shop owners to keep their window displays brilliantly lighted through the evening hours and as late as 10:30 o'clock at which time 'tis said by the night owls in the community, the local missions of the law carefully roll up the sidewalks for the night.

"A well-lighted street is a busy street," is the sense of a communication sent out to the merchants by the Chamber this week.

Rev. W. E. McCormack, associate minister of the First Congregational church will occupy the pulpit at the morning service at the church Sunday, August 7. His sermon subject will be "The Hidden Kingdom."