

# News of the North Shore Clubs

## Cornelia Skinner Coming to Club

**Woman's Club of Wilmette to  
Hear Original Repertoire of  
Daughter of Noted Actor**

Cornelia Otis Skinner comes to the Woman's club of Wilmette Wednesday to sway the imagination of her afternoon audience until it lives with her in her little dramas of life and love and tragedy that leave a stage at first empty, no longer barren. Adroitly she evolves her character, her atmosphere, her plot. One minute her hearers laugh uproariously at the woman who is having her hair bobbed, the next one is horrified at the latent tragedy she unrolls in sunny, warm, wind-swept Barbadoes, again one smiles at the American tourist lying on her back in the Sistine chapel the better to see the ceiling. She plays on one's moods, and carries one with her in the realm of fancy.

Miss Skinner's talent is the heritage from an author mother and an actor father, the former, Maud Durbin, the latter, Otis Skinner.

In the space of a single season Cornelia Otis Skinner has stepped from the legitimate stage and has become one of the foremost of our American entertainers. Almost instantaneously her unique gift for holding and amusing her audience singlehanded was recognized. She was acclaimed a great genius.

Every line of Miss Skinner's sketches is her own. Yet these are not Miss Skinner's only creative work, for her writings have found their way into such magazines as Scribner's, Life, The Literary Review, the Theatre Arts Magazine, and others, and Otis Skinner produced and appeared in one of her full-length plays, "Captain Fury."

Miss Skinner's training has from the beginning fitted her for her career. She attended both the Baldwin school at Bryn Mawr and Bryn Mawr college. She then went to Paris, studying, as she puts it, "a little at the Sorbonne, and a great deal for the stage." Her professor was Dehelly of the Comedie Francaise, and she also studied under Jean Hervé, another sociétaire of the comedie. For modern stage she trained with the famous Jacques Copeau at the Theatre du Vieux Colombier. In America she has had four years' experience in New York and on the road. During these years she has been writing her character sketches and presenting them first formally, then professionally. The gift to create imaginary people is rare, and possessed of that gift Miss Skinner has turned as a logical development to the entertainment field rather than continue in the theater.

Her program will commence at 2, following the 1 o'clock luncheon.

The morning session will be given over to a talk by J. S. Mendenhall of Peacock's, who will give one of his interesting lectures on "Rock Crystal," which he will illustrate with charming examples of this glassware.

The usual dramatic reading just before luncheon will be omitted Wednesday.

### GROUP TO ELECT OFFICERS

The senior group of the Mary Virginia Ellet Cabell society, Children of the American Revolution, meets this afternoon at 3 o'clock, at the home of Florence Mitchell, 1009 Oakwood avenue. At this meeting the officers for 1928 will be elected and the plans made for the coming year.

## Speaker at Woman's Club Tells About Facist Movement

BY R. L. P.

The growth of the fascist movement in Italy, and the rise of a blacksmith's son to the rank of prime minister and each of the seven members of his own cabinet, was thrillingly told at the Wilmette club meeting on Wednesday, January 11, by Tom Skeyhill, an Australian soldier who has spent the last fifteen years of his life adventuring around Europe, fighting the Turks at the Dardanelles, getting mixed up in the Red revolution in Russia and occasionally finding a few revolutions in other countries to be joined with gusto.

Mr. Skeyhill told the story of the "black shirts" as if he were unfolding a colorful breath-taking novel by Sabatini written around a remarkable personality, Benito Mussolini, "Il Duce," "The Chief," who comes from the soil and has been rocketed to the high position he now holds. He described Mussolini as a supreme realist, a man who knows how to wait and plan and who carries out his plan in the sweeping gestures of middle ages, imbuing his men with the sense of the romantic by tickling their love for the old Roman days when the immortal Julius lived.

Primarily, said Mr. Skeyhill, the black shirts were organized to fight the Reds, bolshevism in Italy. Mussolini traveled about Italy organizing ex-soldiers, youths, and business men into groups called "fascies." He resurrected the old Roman legionnaire salute, and clothed the fascisti in black shirts, which do not seem to get dirty, and which make the Italians very picturesque. They pledged absolute allegiance to "Il Duce," dedicating their lives and their fortunes to save the country. They swept through Italy like a cleansing gale, going over the heads of the politicians and using direct action. They broke up Red groups by administering a quart of castor oil, an old Roman punishment, to traitors, and restored law and order. They finally organized as a political party, but about six years ago withdrew, because of crooked elections.

Mussolini's spectacular and romantic rise from then on, the enforced resignation of the controlling political party of Rome, and the installation of Mussolini backed by thousands of black-shirted men, was glowingly told by Mr. Skeyhill. "Italy," he said, "has sold her soul to Mussolini." It has gone back to the middle ages, and some day must return.

In telling of the democracy Italy had before Mussolini came into power, Mr. Skeyhill said Italy lost the democracy because when the citizens had the power to vote they did not use it. Those who did, elected crooked politicians and did not respect laws that were made. In concluding, he said, speaking of Australia and the United States, "My country and your country have a democracy. Let us take warning."

### JUNIOR ARTS SALON MEETS

The regular meeting of the Junior Allied Arts Salon will be held Sunday, January 22, from 3 until 8, at the home of its president, Frances Maydelle Rochlitz, 215 Harbor street, Glencoe. The guests of honor on this occasion will be Mme. Anna Balatka, pianist, of the Balatka School of Music in Chicago, and Miss Leila Peterson of the same school, a dramatic reader.

## On Club Program



"A charming personality, a great entertainer," writes a critic of Cornelia Otis Skinner, daughter of the eminent actor, who comes to the Woman's club of Wilmette next Wednesday afternoon offering a repertoire of her original character sketches. This will be one of the outstanding events of the club's year.

## School of Foreign Affairs Drawing Large Audiences

The Thursday evening sessions of the School of Foreign Affairs now being conducted in Evanston under the auspices of a group of women's clubs, are proving to be of intense interest in educational circles. Afternoon sessions are followed by a dinner and evening program, and the school is in session in the First Methodist church of Evanston. Each week some subject of national importance in some foreign relations is discussed. The first Thursday was given over to the consideration and survey of Nicaragua and the Central American political situation. Thursday of last week the discussion was on Russia, with one of the dinner speakers, Carleton Washburne, superintendent of the Winnetka Public schools, and a recent visitor in Russia. This past week "Disarmament" and the Borah and Kapper resolutions were considered. The school will close with its sessions next Thursday devoted to lectures on "Immigration."

Mrs. U. S. Grant of Evanston has been in charge of arrangements.

A large number of north shore residents has been in attendance at each week's session.

## Sewing at Club Today for Mary Bartelme Home

The Mary Bartelme home for girls who come under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile court is benefiting by the sewing done at the Wilmette Woman's club this month. Again today all Wilmette women who are interested in doing their bit for purposes philanthropic are invited by the philanthropy department of the club, under whose auspices the bi-monthly sewing days are held, to gather together at 10 o'clock at the clubhouse and spend the day sewing and visiting with their friends and newcomers to the village.

A luncheon is served at noon, to which school children may come. Mrs. A. E. Klunder is chairman of the sewing for the month of January.

## Garden Club Tells of Plans for Show

**Wilmette Garden Club to Participate in Second Annual Garden and Flower Show**

(Contributed by Wilmette Garden Club)

At the luncheon given Thursday, January 12, by John A. Servas at the Hotel Sherman to the presidents of the forty-five garden clubs in Illinois and to the board of the Garden Club of Illinois, Mrs. W. G. Mitchell, president of the Wilmette Garden club, and Mrs. C. D. Ewer, recording secretary of the Garden Club of Illinois, were present from Wilmette. One third of the forty-five clubs have joined the state garden club since April 12, 1927, when it was founded, the others are charter members. The garden club movement is growing rapidly.

Mr. Servas, a talented north shore artist, is the manager of the Chicago Garden and Flower show, which will hold its second annual exhibit March 24-April 1, at the Hotel Sherman. Mrs. Frederick Fisher of Lake Bluff, president of the Garden Club of Illinois, had charge of the meeting following the luncheon, during which the part that the garden clubs will play in this season's exhibit was discussed. It will be a larger and even more interesting part than last year's.

The model house and grounds exhibit in particular, will call forth the greatest talent each club possesses. Besides this entry, each club will have a shadow box flower picture; a luncheon table for six, set at a moderate price, none to exceed one hundred dollars; and an arrangement of branches of seed pods, buds, or any natural growth other than flowers, in a container. This last exhibit is open to anyone, club member or not. Besides these entries for the clubs, there is a special garden exhibit of an educational nature which only a part of the clubs is entering. We are glad to say that our club will have an entry in this.

Mrs. David Cooke, a charter member of our club and our first president, will be our representative at the Flower show. The names of the members of her committee will be made public soon.

The clubs voted to have a tea room, set in a lovely garden, this year, where the members of the garden clubs will act as hostesses and help serve. The proceeds of the tea room will be devoted to special lectures for the garden clubs.

The Wilmette Garden club plans to have a Wilmette day on Wednesday of the week of the show, March 28, and to have a luncheon at 1 o'clock in one of the rooms of the hotel for the Wilmette people who plan to be present that day.

A beautiful flower show is being held this week and next at the Garfield Park conservatory featuring cyclamen and primrose plants.

### MERRILL LECTURE MONDAY

The second of the series of lectures on current literature and events given by Mrs. Anthony French Merrill at the Woman's club of Wilmette occurs Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The subject Mrs. Merrill will dwell upon will be "A New Study." The lecture hour is 2 o'clock.

The Southern Woman's club of Chicago is planning what it considers one of the largest and best evening entertainments ever given, Thursday, January 26, in the Red ballroom of the Hotel La Salle. A cabaret dinner dance will celebrate the evening.