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Let's Talk About Wilmette

With
Bystander

ARTICLE 8

The time has come to terminate for the present these contributions to WILMETTE LIFE. They may have had no value, but they were prompted by a purpose. In a suburban community like Wilmette, where the only vehicle for news is a weekly publication, the people get their world news, their county and state and political views and, to a large degree, all other opinion-forming information through the metropolitan dailies. It is only their strictly local news, together with a modicum of social, literary, dramatic and musical comment, that is served in the home weekly. The suburbanite is left largely without newspaper influence in catching up on belated ideas of hometown events or in forming opinions on subjects of important but strictly local significance. And of forums that can and do handle topics of civic importance ere they get into the political stage there is just as great scarcity. Certain clubs or groups do discuss some strictly local topics, but they fail to carry through to thoughtful conclusions or to endeavor to form opinion accordingly. More often they only skim the top of the subject, leaving decisions to others, or they pass resolutions on subjects that are remote enough not to hurt local feelings.

Worthy of Discussion

It has been the writer's object to indicate to readers of this paper, and to those guiding spirits in local clubs, subject matter that should have attention and thorough discussion. It has been the hope here that readers would discern the connection between a town's reputation and ama-

teur government, ill-humored political campaigns and budding political parties which one time may become machines. It is a fair surmise that the publisher of this paper has never felt a strong demand on the part of readers for opinions of civic import; it is just as good a guess that most local organizations have not felt that demand either. Nevertheless, it now should be obvious that the subjects exist, that problems need solution and that if handled when live and timely, these problems might be taken out of political fights.

Francois Villon, the great mediaeval vagabond poet and hero of the play "If I Were King," just before his untimely death wrote a literary testament, bequeathing certain ideas and memories to friends and foes.

Makes Some Bequests

With an entirely different intent the writer makes the following bequests:

To all Wilmette citizens, the consciousness of wrongdoing when not exercising their franchise on a basis of intelligence, rather than of petty partisan loyalties.

To all local, amateur government officials or aspirants to such honors, the thought that the job is important and should be approached in due humility, for even a unanimous opinion of a board of only half a dozen people can be wrong.

To all volunteer organizations in town that ever consider civic problems, the feeling of a sin of omission for not carrying through on home problems, for instance, such as the current school crisis.

To all ministers, the dawning con-

viction that all life is religion and that it is not out of place for the organized church occasionally to make it its own business to bring sharply home to congregations their sins of omission of the civic type.

To reluctant taxpayers who have deliberately fought the battle of self-interest, using the lives of others—such as little children, the contemplation of the loss of their real estate values largely of their own doing.

To public servants who have served and still struggle to serve under present tedious and exacting circumstances, some small hope that, irrespective of what their constituents think, they have done their best.

To those public-spirited people who hope to take civic issues out of politics and to bring harmony into elections, the certitude of the worthwhileness of their efforts.

Finally, to those who have a political bent, the realization that time outlives their ambitions, and that it were better to have pleasant than harsh memories.

Mrs. Maria Vernon Dies Thursday at Age of 83

Mrs. Maria S. Vernon, a resident of Wilmette for the past twenty-six years, died early Thursday morning, October 13, at her home, 339 Maple avenue. Mrs. Vernon was 83 years old and her health had been failing for the past three or four years. She was born at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., but had spent practically her entire lifetime in Chicago and vicinity.

In 1921, the year Mrs. Vernon's husband, the late John M. Vernon, died, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Mrs. Vernon is survived by two daughters, Sally W. and Marie S. Vernon, and by one son, Andrews M. Vernon. All of the survivors live in Wilmette.

The funeral services were held Saturday morning at Mrs. Vernon's late residence, 339 Maple avenue. The Rev. John G. Hindley, minister of the First Congregational church, of which Mrs. Vernon was a member, officiated. Burial took place at Rosehill cemetery.

GUESTS IN WILMETTE

Mrs. Daniel R. Brower, 720 Fifth street, had as her guests this weekend her niece, Mrs. Robert Boggs, and the latter's husband, Mrs. Boogs, the former Ruth Dockum of Wichita, Kas., has just recently been married and is on her way to South America.

PLAN HALLOWE'EN PARTY

Pupils at the Avoca school, on Ashland avenue in the northwest section of Wilmette, are making plans for a Hallowe'en party to be held on the afternoon of Monday, October 31.

TRYOUTS FOR QUARTET

Tryouts for the girls' quartet at the Highcrest school were to be held this week on Wednesday. L. Raymus Murphy, principal of the school, announced.

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