

Witnesses Insist Waterworks Would Slash Property Values

Shawnee Club Concludes Case; Village to Begin Defense Presentation Monday

Editor's note: Other detailed information regarding testimony in the case of the Shawnee Country club vs. the Village of Wilmette in the suit brought by the club to prevent the building of the municipal waterworks plant now in course of construction on the beach at the foot of Lake avenue, will be found in the June 15 issue of WILMETTE LIFE.

Resumption of hearings before Master in Chancery Julius H. Miner last Thursday morning in the case of Shawnee Country club vs. Village of Wilmette found Frank J. Scheidenhelm, 804 Forest avenue, treasurer of the Wilmette Park board, still on the witness stand. But not for long, however. In the parlance of the baseball reporters, attorneys for the Village pitched him four "balls" in the form of perfunctory questions, giving him a base and permitting him to "die" at first. These questions pertained to ownership of park property, when acquired, etc., and to a small garage maintained by the Park board on its property adjacent to Washington avenue.

From this point on former Senator Charles S. Deneen of counsel for the Shawnee club took a more active part in the proceedings suggesting questions, offering objections, tossing occasional caustic comments and otherwise sticking pins into opposing counsel.

Sees Property Values Cut

George F. Iliff, 924 Linden avenue, was the next witness, his testimony consuming the balance of the session. Mr. Iliff qualified as a real estate expert by recounting his experience as appraiser for the Chicago Real Estate board, South Park commissioners and many others, asserting, however, that he was not an authority on north shore values. In response to questions Mr. Iliff testified that the waterworks would depreciate real estate values in the immediate vicinity 40 per cent, the injury declining with the increase of distance from the plant until a point would be reached at which it would have no effect. His opinion was based, he said, upon the injection of a commercial enterprise into the neighborhood, which would necessarily detract from its exclusive residential character. He stressed the point that the natural beauty of the beach, expanse of sand, unbroken line of bluff and shrubbery were inestimable assets to the people of the village, and that these features were being destroyed by the construction of the water plant. Under sharp cross-examination he maintained his position, reiterating again and again that the beach would be ruined if the waterworks construction continues.

Hear N. U. Land Expert

The Friday session was almost entirely consumed by the testimony of George S. Dalgety of Evanston, assistant business manager of Northwestern university having direct charge of its real estate interests. He also qualified as an expert in real estate by recounting a long list of appraisals, experience in negotiating leases, sales, etc. Mr. Dalgety testified that he had lived in Wilmette from 1921 until 1923, and was familiar with the neighborhood of the beach and the Shawnee club. Responding to a question as to what features contributed to the desirability of a neighborhood for residential purposes he said: "Light, air, view, general char-

acter of improvements and the uses to which properties are put." Enlarging upon this theme he continued: "It is an established principle that any element which definitely changes the character of a section will have the effect of raising or lowering property values according to the beneficial or detrimental nature of the element injected. Anything of a commercial aspect always lowers values in a residential section," he said, adding with emphasis that "it is impossible to establish any commercial enterprise in a residential section without injury to property values, both improved and unimproved, in any town or city. 'Lake front and beach,' he asserted, 'are the greatest assets that a residential community can have.'

Asked if the location of the waterworks on the Wilmette beach would affect property values in that vicinity he answered: "Yes. It will depreciate values from 30 per cent to practical ruin."

Calls Club Essential

Cross-examination elicited from Mr. Dalgety the information that Northwestern university now owns vacant property east of Michigan avenue at the northern limits of the village. He was asked to describe the location of the Evanston waterworks and the surrounding locality, the purpose evidently being to show that property values had not been lowered

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Car Runs Amuck; Reposes in Worthen Store Window

A new coupe driven by Charles L. Kelly, 1025 Sheridan road, jumped the curb and crashed through two large plate glass windows at Worthen's department store, 1148 Wilmette avenue, Tuesday night at about 8:30 o'clock. As Mr. Kelly, who had parked his car in front of the store, was starting to back away from the curb another car approached. When Mr. Kelly, because of the approach of the other car, attempted to go forward instead of backward, his car suddenly ran up over the curb and through the display windows. Mr. Kelly attributed the accident to the fact that he had not yet become accustomed to using the free wheeling with which his car is equipped. He escaped uninjured, and his car was only slightly damaged.

ATTENDING CONVENTION

Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Hoffmann, 512 Ridge avenue, and Mr. and Mrs. August C. Pearson, Jr., 3115 Park place, have motored to Washington D. C. for the Optimist club's convention. Mr. Hoffmann is a delegate and Mr. Pearson is an alternate from the Wilmette chapter. They will all be home on Sunday.

ECONOMY SHOP NEEDS

The call for baby beds at the Economy Shop is constant but this week it is a specialized request. A new father has been prowling about the Shop hunting for a bassinet. A very new baby will soon be home from the hospital and there is no safe and suitable place to park His Royal Smallness. Is there, perhaps, an idle bassinet somewhere that could be put to work for this young man? May we have it?

—Mrs. A. L. Grinnell, chairman.

Note: Economy Shop is conducted by the Woman's club of Wilmette.

PLAN 4TH FROLIC

George F. Scherzer of Legion Committee Directs Arrangements for Annual Community Event

Activities for every resident in Wilmette will feature the tenth annual Fourth of July program sponsored by Wilmette Post No. 46, American Legion, according to the Patriotic Celebrations committee, headed by George F. Scherzer.

Other members of this committee, now making plans for the events to be held at the Village Green, are the following: Russell Johnson, J. L. D. Walther, Charles Dahncke, Leo Hasenauer, George Leal, Paul A. Hoffman, Stephen M. Brownlee and Howard F. Dusham.

Wilmette merchants are donating the prizes to be awarded to winners of the various athletic events, all of which will be supervised by the Wilmette Playground and Recreation board, Daniel M. Davis, director.

Program suggestions by merchants and other residents of Wilmette are being welcomed by Mr. Scherzer and his committee, who state that the purpose of the athletic program is to give the children as well as the adults a glorious but sane Fourth of July.

A complete program of the day's activities will be announced in WILMETTE LIFE next week.

Public Comfort Stations in Water Works Building

The Village board this week authorized an additional expenditure of \$5,847 at the municipal water works for public comfort stations.

The board also decided to use salt glazed brick instead of ordinary face brick at the new municipal water works now under construction. The glazed brick is better in appearance and is easier to keep clean, it is explained. At its regular meeting Tuesday night the board authorized an additional expenditure of \$985 above the original contract price to pay for the new type of brick and voted to buy the brick from the Thomas Moulding company.

LIBRARIAN ON VACATION

Miss Anne L. Whitmack, librarian at the Wilmette Public library, started her month's vacation Monday of this week. She is taking a course in English history at the University of Chicago and is living at the International house.

Where Shall I Spend My Vacation?

Do you demand a resort offering the verve and dash of summer sports—or do you seek the quiet restfulness of a cabin in the pine woods?

Use our Classified columns as a guide from which to make your selection.



TIBBETT COMING TO NORTH SHORE

Famous Baritone Signed Up for Artist-Recital Series of Winnetka Music Club

The Artist-Recital series sponsored by the Winnetka Music club approaches an important mile-stone in the history of its successful years, for, with the opening of its fall concerts it begins its tenth season of presenting to north shore audiences artists who rank supreme. For this anniversary year, the program is a brilliant one, offering to music lovers of the north shore, in order named, Frederick Jagel, tenor; Bartlett-Robertson, duo pianists; Nathan Milstein, violinist; Elisabeth Rethberg, soprano; and, as a climax, Lawrence Tibbett.

Jagel Popular Here

Frederick Jagel, tenor with the Metropolitan Opera company, sang at Ravinia in its last season, and appeared in Chicago this past fall under the auspices of the Musicians' club. His program opens the Artist-Recital series.

The second concert is an innovation in the series, and is given in response to numerous requests that a two-piano program be included. Bartlett and Robertson, English pianists, are husband and wife. They stand very high in England's music world and won from Chicago critics excellent notices when they made their first appearance in the city about a year ago.

Nathan Milstein, the young violinist who has made a phenomenal record in Chicago, will give the third concert.

The names of the singers giving the fourth and fifth concerts, Rethberg and Tibbett, spell consummate artistry.

Manager Enthusiastic

The committee is able to present in its gala year, such artists as these, for three reasons. The artists, themselves, have lowered their fees. By selecting all soloists for the concert series through the same bureau a more advantageous financial arrangement was obtained. The third factor is the interest aroused in the manager himself, whom Mrs. Roland D. Whitman, chairman of the artist-recital committee, interviewed personally last spring. She called upon him, described the series, its aims, the caliber of its artists, and its success throughout its existence. He became interested in the project itself and asked her to return later in the season. When she did, the artists who are to appear this next season were proffered.

Receive Subscriptions Now

The committee is ready to receive subscriptions, and suggests, that with such artists as these to add impetus to attendance, subscribers send in their names at once. A complete sell-out is anticipated.

Mrs. Bessie Grant of the State Bank of Winnetka is in charge of reservations for the series of five concerts at the same price charged every season but last, when only four concerts were presented. Subscribers may pay one-half of the price for the course now, the other half in the fall, she points out in repeating the announcement made by the chairman at the final program this spring.

BACK FROM MOTOR TRIP

Mrs. E. L. Lange, 322 Greenleaf avenue, has returned from a fortnight's motor trip in the east in company with Mrs. Joseph Conner and Mrs. L. H. Uhlemann of Chicago. They visited Washington, New York, Boston, and the Canadian border. They attended commencement at Pine Manor, Wellesley, and brought Mrs. Conner's daughter, Lois, back with them.