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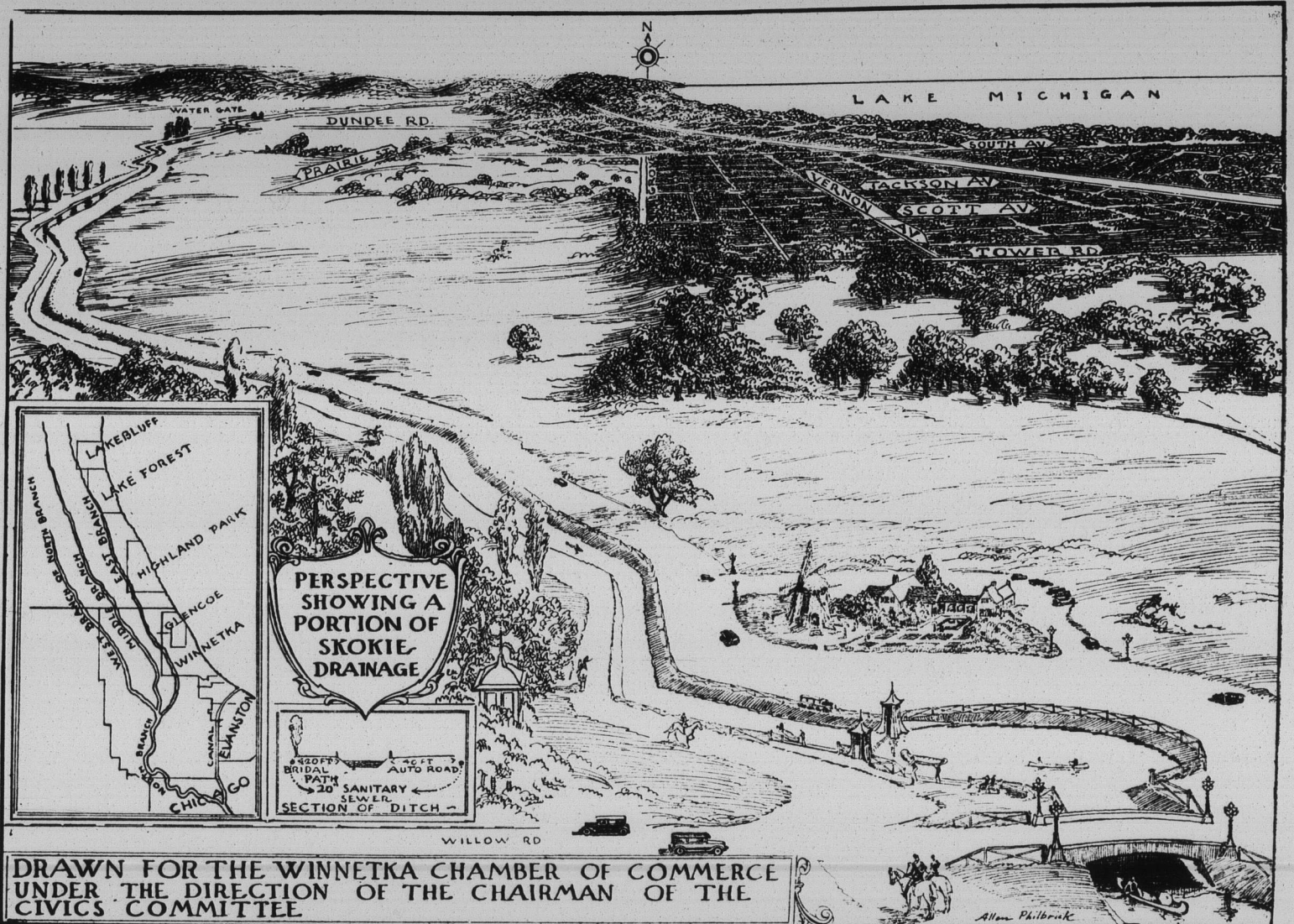
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619 DAVIS ST.
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Another Step in Skokie Region Plan



DRAWN FOR THE WINNETKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
CIVICS COMMITTEE

Editor's note: The following is the second of a series of articles on various plans which, over the period of 25 years, have been suggested for the improvement of the Skokie valley region now a part of the government reforestation and reclamation program. The sketch appearing herewith is one which was under consideration by the Winnetka Chamber of Commerce in 1927. The first of the series appeared in a recent issue of this paper and related to plans designed in 1909, with a view to having them incorporated with those of the Chicago Regional Planning association, then just being formulated.

In the interest of the proposed drainage of the Skokie valley, the Civic committee of the Winnetka Chamber of Commerce (of which George Park was the chairman) has received letters, telephone messages, schemes and sketches. Nature lovers, of whom there are many, are protesting against encroachment

upon the primal beauty of the valley. One would suppose from the protestations that the stream in the valley was a brook of clear water, when as a matter of fact, it is only a sewage disposal plant, without any scientific attention.

Prepare Attractive Design

Not being pleased with merely drawing the attention of the citizens of the north shore to the unhealthy condition of the valley, the Chamber of Commerce has had prepared an artist's sketch, including a cross-section of a possible improvement of the region. This is designed to combine in one comprehensive scheme the features of utility and beauty.

Property owners, who have invested, will make improvements. Few of them will sacrifice to preserve the beauty of the valley. They are now improving by damming and installing pumps, and

contemplate building cement dikes, with electrical ejectors, which will only increase the flooding of the basements in homes built too near the valley.

Practical Solution

To discourage individual improvements, the Chamber of Commerce shows in a sketch, a practical solution of a vexing question that has troubled the minds of the residents of the north shore for twenty years.

The Chamber of Commerce has as its first interest the beautification of the valley and the preservation of the health of the community, which can only be accomplished by drainage so planned by scientific engineering. The plan calls for a stream of clear water, of sufficient depth at all seasons, to permit a boat to play on its surface. Gates will automatically open in times of flood. The sanitary sewer on the east of the boulevard and west of the bridge path, indicated in the accompanying design, will be taken care of by the Sanitary district. The stream will be flanked by a broad concrete boulevard and a bridge path, and the bank improved with trees and shrubs, the entire improvement costing no more than the planting of a first-class sub-division. The cost can be taken care of by the land benefitted and the improvement will be only a fraction of the enhanced value of the land favored by this unique solution of the Skokie Valley improvement.

Seen As Feasible

The civic committee of the Chamber of Commerce can conceive of no more feasible improvement that affords such an opportunity for utility, combined with natural advantages, where art and engineering will not clash.

The improvement as sketched, indicates a cultural scheme the like of which is nowhere to be seen, in this vicinity, or elsewhere.

The opportunity to accomplish this project invites the combined efforts of all north shore citizens, as well as the north shore Chambers of Commerce.

Mrs. George Jones, 318 Oxford road, Kenilworth, was luncheon hostess to the Thursday bridge club December 21.

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