

Drayer Chairman of Harmony Convention

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peared in WILMETTE LIFE on May 5, 1932. This article was the aftermath of a heated campaign that created much ill-feeling and left many personal grudges; but this particular campaign was only one of several similar campaigns that had preceded it. It was, so to speak, "the straw that broke the camel's back," and forcibly brought before the electorate the folly of having acrimonious campaigns for offices that pay the incumbents no salary. Furthermore, it seemed that the issues which caused so much bitterness might have been amicably and justly settled had there been some non-factional body to which the combatants could have turned.

"The plan as submitted suggested the steps to be taken to form a Perpetual Harmony convention:

Cites Procedure

"(1) A Call committee was appointed. Two impartial citizens appointed one member each of this Call committee; then withdrew, for their (the citizens') job was finished. The two members of the Call committee then selected a third member of their committee. The Call committee then requested various civic organizations to each appoint one member of another and larger committee to be known as

"(2) The Creative committee. When the members of the Creative committee were appointed and organized, the members of the Call committee had finished their job and withdrew. The Creative committee then selected four citizens from each of the thirteen precincts in the Village to constitute the convention.

"Thus you will see that a convention was created in an absolutely fair and impartial manner; a convention with only the best interests of the village at heart; a convention that was independent of its creators; a convention positively beyond suspicion of control by any one faction.

"Fortunately, the plan gave the convention a great deal of latitude in its procedure.

"For instance: The original plan provided for the withdrawal at the end of each convention year of 25 per cent of the delegates and their replacement by new delegates chosen by a Vacancy committee—none of whom should be members of the convention. The convention itself modified this portion of the plan by providing that 50 per cent of the delegates should withdraw each year. This was done in order to further preserve the non-partisan character of the convention and to eliminate any idea that the Convention of one year would or could automatically dominate or control the convention of the following year.

The convention further laid down the rule that no member of the convention should be nominated for Village office.

"The most ardent supporters of the plan will readily admit it is still subject to some desirable modifications. As I said before, fortunately each annual convention has it in its power to make such changes, in the plan as appear to be necessary. You can make your rules as you go along. There are no by-laws or constitution to hamper you. Those who are keenly interested feel that great progress has been made to date.

"So much for the history and background of this organization of which you are now 'the works.'

Heavy Responsibility

"What is your job?

"First, let me say that you have a very serious job on your hands. You have a heavy responsibility. Previous conventions have been careful to lay a good foundation and NOW it is up to you to carry on the work in the same spirit. I firmly believe that this 1935 convention holds the future of this whole plan in the hollow of its hand. You can either achieve a brilliant success or a dismal failure. I am optimistic enough to believe that you will achieve a brilliant success.

"No delegate should come into this convention with an 'axe to grind.' If anyone has come here with a prejudice, let me appeal to him to get it out of his system at once.

"Up until this year, we elected three Village trustees, a Village clerk or a Village president, and a Village treasurer each year. A new state law pro-

vides that from now on, we will elect an entire Village board every two years. In other words, there will be an election of Village officers this coming spring, 1935, and they will hold office until the spring of 1937, when there will be another Village election. There will be no election of Village officers in 1936. The new law contemplates saving the expense of an election each year. Whether the expected saving will be beneficial or not is problematical.

"The idea of a bi-ennial election makes it possible to have an entirely new Village board every two years. Personally, I do not think that is practical. It is dangerous for an entirely new board of trustees to try to pick up where an old board left off. There is too much of a chance of the new board making a mistake because of its lack of knowledge of what has gone before. It seems to me there must be a connecting link between the old board and the new board.

"You must remember that if the candidates you nominate are elected, the convention will be held accountable for the character of their administration.

"I am not attempting to tell you how to do your job, but simply pointing out some of the problems you will have to contend with."

HOLIDAY DANCE

The Kenilworth club will sponsor a Christmas dance for young people of high school age on Saturday evening, December 15, at the club. Bob McCloud's orchestra with Carleton (Buzz) Ross directing, will furnish the music for dancing. Mrs. Tom Dix, who is in charge of arrangements, is being assisted by Mary Barrett, Lucie Dix, Arend Knoop and John Sprenger.

"Bunt" Krafthefer, 901 Oakwood avenue, did not return home for his Thanksgiving vacation as he had spent the previous week-end with his family.

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Mr. and Mrs. Reed Whitney (Virginia Bixby) formerly of Shawnee club, have leased the Charles Klotz home at 550 Ridge avenue, Kenilworth for the winter.

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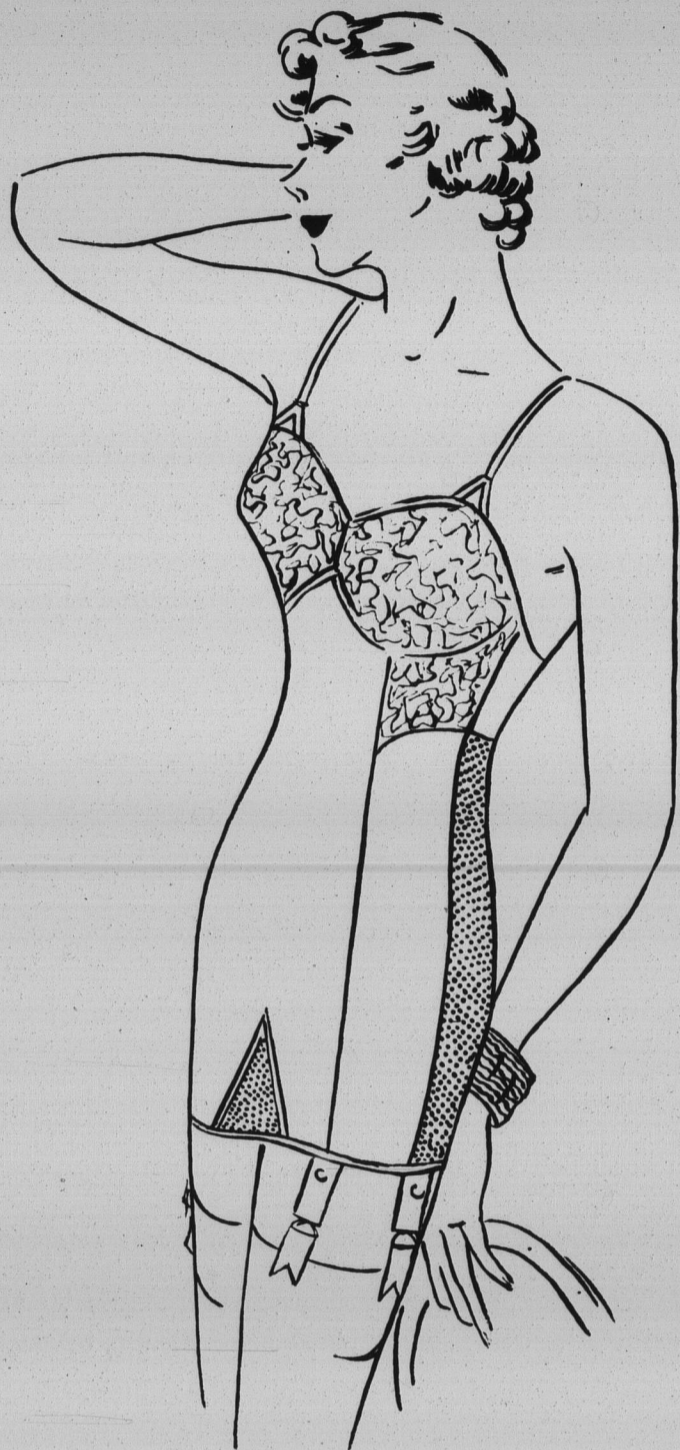
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