

WILMETTE LIFE

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All communications and contributions intended for publication must bear the name and address of the author, not necessarily for publication, but for our files. Such material must reach the editor by Tuesday noon to be in time for the current issue.

THE SUNDAY EVENING CLUB

The movement now under way, instigated by W. Frank McClure and others of the directorate, to broaden the scope of the Wilmette Sunday Evening club to cover all of New Trier township, with the sessions held at New Trier High school or some other central point, should meet with full public support. Among the advantages to be gained are a longer season and programs of superior excellence, due to an increased financial support.

During the many years of its existence the club has grown to be an institution in the community. Its value from an educational and cultural standpoint cannot be overestimated, and it is entirely proper that its influence should spread to other villages. With the opening of the season at hand, there should be no delay in completing arrangements under the proposed new plan.

FIRE PREVENTION

National Fire Prevention Week is again at hand, the dates being October 6 to 12, inclusive. The local administration and fire department are calling upon all citizens to join in the observance of the event, to the end that the number of fires may be reduced and financial loss therefrom lessened. These officials should receive the fullest cooperation from every resident and property owner in the village. While it may truthfully be said that disastrous fires here are of rare occurrence, it must not be forgotten that one of the peculiarities of such conflagrations is that they happen when least expected. Of course it is not possible to compute the savings made possible by preparedness and precaution, but we all know that "prevention is better than regret." The program for Fire Prevention Week has been arranged especially to make your property safer. The least you can do is to cooperate in such ways as the fire department may request.

THE NEUTRALITY ACT

Efforts now in progress to arrange an amicable settlement of the Italian-Ethiopian controversy are being watched with keenest interest by the American public, fearful that should these efforts come to naught and war become a reality, this country would eventually become involved. There is no question that the preponderant opinion of the country is for non-participation in any European muck, and for an attitude of strict neutrality between combatants.

The neutrality act, passed by congress in August, is looked upon by many as an effective safeguard against our being embroiled in any European conflict. But as the war clouds deepen and the opening of hostilities appears as imminently certain, a question arises as to whether the act will be helpful in maintaining neutrality, or serve only to hamper the State department in its efforts in that direction. In touching upon this subject Representative Ralph E. Church calls attention to the main provision of the act, as follows: "Upon the outbreak of war between two or more foreign countries it shall thereafter be unlawful to export arms, ammunition or implements of war from any place in the United States, or possessions of the United States, to any port of such

belligerent states, or to any neutral port for transshipment to, or for the use of, a belligerent country." It is also provided that "the President, by proclamation, shall definitely enumerate the arms, ammunition or implements of war, the export of which is prohibited."

Mr. Church points out that while the matter may seem to be clear and simple, certain questions arise which are worth considering. They may, he states, at least stimulate extensive reading in the fascinating field of international affairs and problems of neutrality. One of these questions is: "When does a state of war exist between two countries?" Mr. Church asserts that there have been several serious armed conflicts where the countries involved have made no declarations of war, and have even denied that they were at war. Under the Neutrality act the President is supposed to determine the status.

Another is: "What is to be considered as an implement of war?" Are materials and foodstuffs to be included with guns, shells, tanks, airplanes, etc.? And is the shipment of steel, copper, wheat, cotton and other products to be prohibited? Again it is the President who is to decide, says Mr. Church, and will he be able to withstand, especially in the face of an approaching election, the demands of producers of these products to eliminate them from the ban? The conclusion drawn is that there is grave danger that national politics, rather than sound international judgment, may enter into the decisions, and that sectional and personal interests rather than good national policy may prevail.

It is fervently hoped that the complications Mr. Church indicates may never come up, and that the present war clouds may be dispelled by reason and a proper consideration for the interests of the world.

THE VALUE OF FOOTBALL

To those who disparage college football and condemn it as a waste of time and money, without advantage to the student body or members of the teams, the observations of Harold "Red" Grange, for more than a decade a great star of the American gridiron, should be of interest. In an article in the current Rotarian Magazine he points out that the mental and physical discipline of college football is valuable advance preparation for a business or professional career. Viewed from that angle football becomes an important part of college training, and the time and money invested in it justified by the greater fitness of graduates for tackling the hard jobs of the business world. Mr. Grange goes on to say:

"The player learns to compete, and business today is hard competition. He learns to take nothing for granted; virtually every youth who has participated in organized athletics has, at some time or other, been beaten, or his team has been licked, because he, or they, held the opposition too lightly.

"A defeat engendered by over-confidence is a sound lesson, valuable long after the game has been forgotten by the fans. The player learns not to underestimate the capacity of others. And I believe that any business man who reads this will agree that good, healthy respect for the other fellow's ability is a fundamental of business success."

"Red," who since his college days has reaped a golden reward as a professional gridiron player, cites another real advantage of college football, for later use in life, in the training which a boy gets out of the game. That is the knowledge that accomplishment depends greatly upon organized effort by a group.

"Development of that kind of spirit has practical value. A boy learns to gear his own ability in with the abilities of others. In the case of a line-man he may get little newspaper credit. But his is the satisfaction of a good job well done and the appreciation of his coach and teammates; to him that is ample repayment for everything.

"College football," he continues, "has been called a character builder. I amend that by saying it develops character, if the character is there. It does develop one important trait: gameness! It is a sport of smashing impacts and continuous, hard body contacts, between boys of unequal size and strength. So hard and fierce is the competition today that the player is frequently up against boys who are bigger and stronger. But he learns to fight back, to stay in there trying, striving to win.

"If he learns never to quit, against the toughest going, then I maintain he has received from football something which can't be measured in dollars and cents—and he is the big winner! I do not refer merely to physical courage but to mental courage, or a combination of both."

NEWS-COMMENT

That was a rather impressive appeal put on the air Sunday night for the Chicago charity fund. But north shore residents should exercise self-control enough to save a portion of their budgets for local Community Chest drives.

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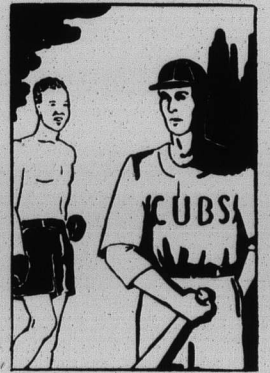
Another milk strike is threatened, and more truckloads of milk will be dumped into the gutter while thousands of children are hungry. We think the great need of America is a goat in every home. Might even run for president next year on that platform.

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Someone is always taking the joy out of life. A fellow who had nothing better to do has discovered that we pay 53 separate and distinct taxes on one loaf of bread. And now we cannot eat bread, because the taxes choke us. Wish he hadn't told us about it.

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Readers who have contracted the habit of looking to this column for those uncanny and infallible forecasts of the outcome of sporting events that lead them to the big money, are just now living on the fat of the land. Because why? Because we told them, in that Baer-Louis thing, to string along with the dark boy to win inside of five rounds. And every last one of them cashed in. Then, didn't we tell them to lay it on the line for the Cubs to win the National league pennant? We did. And now just look at the big bulge in their pockets, representing real dough. For those who have scoffed at our ability to accurately forecast results, we proffer another opportunity to be on the winning end. The Cubs to take the World Series. Don't make the mistake of trailing with the Tigers. How do we do it? We don't know, dearie. It's a gift.



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The President said to industry Monday: "I've spent you back to prosperity. Now it's up to you to stay there."

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We are sorry for Felix Waitkus, the Chicago boy who undertook to fly from that city to Kaunas, Lithuania, and cracked up in Ireland. But what a wonderful place in which to crack up.

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Bandy-Bandy, the Brookfield zoo snake, has been captured. That's a load off our mind. Now we know it was a real snake.

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A Kansas farmer was ordered by the AAA commissars to burn two stacks of oats which it was charged he had raised illegally. And during the first half of this year America imported 10,000,000 bushels of oats. Does it make sense?

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More than 7,500 colored citizens of Detroit experienced an irresistible urge to attend divine service Sunday morning. Among them was Joe Louis.

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Charles S. Grant and L. Vandergrift Lee, both blood relatives of the civil war generals, are freshman roommates at Dartmouth college. Betcha if they get into a fight it'll be a hummer.

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Machine-gun bandits raided a Chicago bank Monday and shot five innocent persons. The "brains" of the gang and the "tiger girl" have not been apprehended or even identified. Looked like the work of rank amateurs—except for the shooting.

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How soon are the fallen great forgotten. A news report states that Utah could muster only 400 persons at a memorial for Huey Long.

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The time to call for a preacher is before you are dead. Afterward he can't do much for you.

THE PHANTOM REPORTER.