

WILMETTE LIFE

PUBLISHED THURSDAYS BY
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 1232-1236 CENTRAL AVENUE, WILMETTE, ILLINOIS
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MEMBER OF
 CHICAGO SUBURBAN QUALITY GROUP
 Chicago Offices — 1016-1018 WILLOUGHBY TOWER
 Telephone CENTRAL 3355

SUBSCRIPTION: \$2 PER YEAR SINGLE COPIES 5 CENTS

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.

CHRISTMAS GIVING

With the Thanksgiving turkey disposed of and the return of mental and physical normalcy, attention will be centered on the annual orgy of Christmas gift buying and giving. Long lists will be made out of articles required to bring yuletide joy to all members of the immediate family, near relatives and friends. Why not make it a point this year to include people whom you have never known and probably never will know?

In practically every family, especially where there are growing children, there is to be found innumerable articles long unused that would be veritable Godsend to other families not financially able to purchase things sorely needed. Such articles need not be restricted to children, for many an adult is without even the necessities of comfortable life, to say nothing of luxuries.

Toys and outgrown clothing now littering the attic or crowding the closets would meet a need of other children less fortunate than yours. Discarded clothing for both men and women could be put to useful purpose if placed in the proper hands. Chairs, desks, tables and other pieces of furniture would go a long way toward filling vacant spots in many a home. A picture, long unhung, would brighten rooms where pictures are now unknown. Rugs, drapes, curtains, bedding—ever so many things you have replaced and will not again use are urgent needs in less pretentious homes. Prepare now, while there is plenty of time, to put these usable articles into circulation.

Officials of various village, church and other charitable agencies will be glad to call for whatever you have to give, and see that it gets into needy and appreciative hands. By cooperating you will do much to make this a real Christmas, not only in your own home, but in homes that seldom experience one.

DO YOU QUALIFY?

The National Safety council has worked out a definition of a safe driver—read carefully and see how near you come to filling the bill:

- He is alert.
- He is sober.
- He stays in line.
- He doesn't speed.
- He drives carefully.
- He observes traffic signals.
- He plays fair with other drivers.
- He slows down when approaching schools.
- He knows his signals and always uses them.
- He shows full consideration to pedestrians.
- He knows the road ahead is clear before he passes other cars.
- He is always prepared for emergencies on the road.

What is your score? How many of these twelve qualifications do you possess? See if you can't be a safe driver and help reduce traffic accidents.

IT MUST STOP

What appears to be an almost wholesale official jail delivery has been revealed in the opera-

tions of the pardon and parole board. There is small wonder that the public mind is agitated, and that law abiding citizens are asking where protection to life and property is to come from if desperate criminals, gun-men, bandits, robbers, holdup men, automobile thieves and others are thus to be turned loose upon the community to ply their unholy business. An inordinate number of these gentry are gaining liberty after serving only a fraction of their sentences, and the respectable elements of society want to know why.

The situation offers small incentive to crime detecting agencies to put forth their best efforts. Police departments and detective bureaus turn up the criminal; the state's attorney's office prepares the case; the jury convicts on the evidence, and the court imposes a sentence fitting the crime. And then, after a few months, a couple of members of the pardon and parole board nullify all that these agencies have done by turning the convict back onto society, often without any warning that might enable it to protect itself against other criminal acts.

A complete revision of the state penal and parole systems must be made in order to rectify the abuses now so prevalent. It is reported that several bills will be presented at the next session of the legislature to correct existing faults. Revision should also be made of the penal code to permit judges to impose sentences that mean what they say. And the pardon and parole board, if it is continued, should be required to serve public notice, through the press and to the office of the state's attorney, when the application of any convict is to be considered by it. Secrecy is the one thing not needed or required in the hearing of applications for parole. It does not serve to shield the reputation of the applicant, for he is already known as a convicted criminal. Its only accomplishment is harm to the public, and the public is about "fed up" on it. The practice of secret paroles must stop.

EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

Often when we hear discussions about how governments are competing with private businesses, we say: "What of it? That doesn't affect me. I'm not in business." Let's see about that.

In the first place, 40,000,000 insurance policies are now in effect. The people who hold those policies pay premiums on them. The insurance companies invest the premium money so they can pay the interest they promise. Government competition with private business narrows and eventually eliminates the field in which insurance companies may invest.

Second, there are 9,000,000 security holders in this country. Their money is invested in private businesses. If the government competes with them, the investments are jeopardized.

Third, no big government business has ever been run on a self-sustaining basis. They all lose money, and the losses must be made up out of tax collections. The more the government goes into business, the bigger the losses and the heavier the taxes. The government debt incurred by operation of railroads during the war is still being paid off. The postoffice is cited as a good illustration of how the government can run a big business successfully. Yet, year after year it piles up losses.

Fourth, there are 4,000,000 business owners, principal investors, company executives and the like, who would have to seek some other means of support if the government took over their businesses.

Fifth, history shows that any strong movement toward government entry into the field of private business must eventually mean operation of all businesses—even the retail and wholesale trades. There are 10,000,000 American people in the retail and wholesale business who would be adversely affected if the government took over their businesses.

Government competition does affect each and every one of us, whether we be taxpayers, investors, insurance holders or business owners.

NEWS-COMMENT

There is one thing that every person, however lacking in this world's goods, can do to help tuberculosis sufferers. That is to buy Christmas seals. * * *

Budapest supplies the world's champion optimist. A doctor of that city engaged to fight nine separate and distinct duels on the same day. For his sake we hope he arranged to fight the last one first. * * *

Chicago police have been instructed by the superintendent to keep their hands out of their pockets while on duty. Why don't he make them keep their hands out of other people's pockets? * * *

"Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today," reads an old proverb and a wise one. An expectant mother went shopping for baby clothes the other day and returned home with both the clothes and the baby. * * *

In our humble way we join with American Legionnaires in a sorrowful goodbye to Mme. Ernestine Schumann-Heink. What a royal title was hers — "Mother of the American Legion!" And in what fine spirit of loyalty to America did she so splendidly earn it! To few mothers did the late war mean so much as to her. With a son in the American army fighting another son in the German army, great indeed must have been the pull at her heartstrings. Yet this woman was so great in soul and so heroic in spirit that she maintained through



it all an even balance of maternal affection for her boys, while extending full allegiance to her adopted country. The world and America were fortunate in having Mme. Schumann-Heink, and doubly fortunate that in the last few days before she disappeared she penned those lines in which she declared that "war is the greatest curse on earth"—lines that will add luster to her fame, and which should be engrossed and hung in the quarters of every American Legion Post in the land. "Mother of the American Legion," we salute you! * * *

Every time Mussolini barks "Woof! Woof!" the British lion emits yowls of fear, according to a news commentator. Maybe. But wait until the lion gets ready and see how he yowls then. * * *

In resigning from the official New Deal family, Wrecks Tugwell, who in the short space of three years has wrecked several hundred million of the taxpayers' dollars, is alleged to have said something like this: "I have finished the job. I have made America over. I have rolled down my sleeves. Now I am going to join hands with the 'economic royalists' whom I have been so roundly abusing, and make myself some easy money." There's consistency for you. Is it that Wrecks has come to the conclusion that making over Americans is an impossible job, or doesn't he believe the stuff he has been preaching? * * *

In South Bend, Ind., strikers not only claim the right to remain in the plant, but insist upon the company keeping up steam so they can be comfortable. Next they will want the president of the company to kiss each one of them good night. * * *

Cook county Democratic officials are getting jittery because financial ruin stares them in the face, and they urge that every penny due in taxes be collected. Three weeks ago they were unconvinced that there is such a thing as financial ruin. * * *

So Buddy Rogers has stolen "America's sweetheart!" Mary may have to defend a lot of suits for breach of promise.

THE PHANTOM REPORTER.