

WILMETTE LIFE

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AMERICANS ALL

Appalling as are the unprecedented floods which have swept down the Ohio, Mississippi and other rivers, wreaking death, destruction and disease upon the helpless residents of hundreds of cities and towns and farms, they have served to once more demonstrate the predominant characteristic of the American people, which is generosity to fellow men in distress. No sooner had the seriousness of the situation been flashed from one end of the country to the other than relief organizations sprung into action to meet it and do what might be done to lessen its magnitude and give relief to the victims.

The record of the flood is already a record of almost superhuman physical exertion, of personal sacrifice, of the outpouring from every city, town and hamlet of money, food, clothing, bedding and other things required to save life and afford comfort to those whose homes were carried away, with all their belongings. No finer or more splendid answer has ever been given to the age-old question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" It was given, too, without any loss of time in discussion, without quibbling or evasion, and in such generous spirit that one's pride in being an American is increased a thousandfold.

Right here at home the tragedy has given a practical demonstration of the value of the American Red Cross, and its preparedness for instant action whenever and wherever the need arises. Under the direction of its local chairmen, Elmer D. Becker for Wilmette; Miss Doris Fraser for Kenilworth; Mrs. Willoughby Walling for Winnetka, and Mrs. Harry Holloway for Glencoe, the work of collecting money and supplies was inaugurated within a few hours after instructions were received from the Chicago district office. The response was spontaneous and generous beyond expectation. It was not a question with anyone as to whether he should give, but how much he could give. Checks and cash flowed in; closets were hurriedly searched for anything in the way of clothing and other needed articles, and these were rushed to concentration points and sent by trucks to the Chicago office of the Red Cross. Every citizen of the north shore can be proud of this prompt response to the call for help.

The mobilization of man-power at the points of greatest disaster was most inspiring. Red Cross field officials and nurses by the thousands responded on the instant. The United States army was quickly on the move. The Coast guard made instantaneous response with boats and other equipment. Emergency hospitals were prepared. Relief stations were set up for the distribution of food and clothing. Camps were established where refugees might be made comfortable and guarded against disease. In short, everything possible for man to do to alleviate suffering, prevent the destruction of property and save life was done with speed and precision.

What is not now and probably never will be known are the instances of personal heroism on the part of flood victims themselves, and by those residents of the devastated areas fortunate enough to be in position to render assistance to others. What of these that can be gathered and written will make thrilling reading.

A NORTH SHORE PROJECT

The proposed improvement of Wilmette's lake front park, in conjunction with long needed improvements to Wilmette harbor, as announced last week by the Wilmette Park District board, is of intense interest to the entire north shore. Especially is this true of that part of the plan pertaining to the harbor. When consideration is given to the fact that at Wilmette harbor is located the only United States coast guard station between Chicago and Kenosha, Wisconsin, it will readily be seen that benefits and advantages accruing from its enlargement and improvement cannot be limited to the one municipality.

Cooperating with the Park board in preliminary negotiations and plans is the Sheridan Shore Yacht club, the membership of which includes citizens of practically all towns from Evanston to Lake Forest. This organization has been actively seeking a site for a permanent clubhouse home, preferably adjacent to the harbor. But any investment in this direction, it is stated, depends upon adequate harbor facilities, and while this might be achieved through dredging the present harbor, future needs demand an extension of the harbor area. Efforts to enlist the interest and financial aid of the War department or Works Progress administration have been renewed, and the matter of approval and financing is now being discussed with the proper federal authorities. That something must very soon be done with the harbor is generally recognized. Sand washed in from the lake has filled the harbor to such an extent that the Coast guard cannot launch its largest boats, a condition that may at any time result in great loss of life through some lake disaster. The time to remedy that situation is now, before tragedy rides the waves.

The improvement proposed by the Park board, while it appears to be ambitious, is really not as costly as one might think. For one reason, the Park board has a large quantity of materials on hand, and as the labor, which is reported to constitute about 90 per cent of the total cost, is to be supplied by the Works Progress administration, the entire development should be completed without any addition to the tax rate.

It is a matter for gratification that the Park board, in planning the improvements in Washington park, is taking into consideration the future development of Baha'i temple, with which it has nothing to do beyond maintaining a harmony of appearance and the providing of unobstructed views from various portions of the park.

Progress toward consummation of the plans will be watched with keenest interest, not only by those who enjoy the park and make practical use of the harbor, but by those who are concerned only with the beautification of the lake front.

THANKS

The thanks of north shore villagers are due the North Shore Property Owners association, which has just won another victory in its long continued fight to keep truck traffic off of the village streets. Recognizing that if "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," it is also the price of protecting village residential streets from the encroachments of those who would grab them for profit without consideration for property owners, the association instituted and has steadily maintained an aggressive fight to frustrate the plans of freight truck companies who are using every means and every influence to gain from the Illinois Commerce commission an order to utilize those streets as through truck routes. So far it has been successful, but the end of the battle is not yet in sight, and the efforts of the association must be continued.

Not only is the association entitled to the thanks of the north shore communities, but to their active support as well. And this means financial as well as moral support.

"Water now surrounds Cairo on all sides," read a Sunday caption. Why can't these caption writers make themselves clear? Does this one mean that there is water all around Cairo?

NEWS-COMMENT

At Sneedville, Tenn., Charlie Johns, 22, married Eunice Winstead, 9 years old, and there is no indication that anything is to be done about this robbery of the cradle. But then, what could you expect of Sneedville, Tennessee?

* * *

The International Association of Convention Bureaus is objecting to the scheme of Secretary Ickes to build a huge auditorium in Washington, where conventions may meet. Pointing out that various cities have built large auditoriums with private capital for this express purpose, they ask: "Why should Washington use federal funds for purely competitive purposes?" Answer: Because it can and is not afraid to.

* * *

A snooping (not this) reporter, legging it here and there, hither and yon, snooping people of the common, or great middle class (as differentiated from "economic royalists"), espied the emporium of a tonsorialist, sometimes profanely referred to as a barber. It being the assignment of the snooping reporter to interview such persons and relay human interest facts to his awaiting public, he barged into the place and asked the tonsorialist how he managed to live; what were his hopes, faiths, ambitions, joys, hobbies, peevs, sorrows, what not; family, home life, prospects, etc. As rapidly as he could untangle the questions the tonsorialist imparted to the snooping reporter the information that he lived by scraping faces and cutting hair; that he was married; had three children; loved his wife; owned a vine-covered cottage that is the apple of his eye; that his ambition is to make tonsorialists of the kiddies, even though one of them is a girl. Expatiating on the wife, he laid it on pretty thick. Best woman in the world; marvelous housekeeper, cook and mother; one of those womanly women whom all the world loves (the wife happened to be present). Getting down to cases, the snooping reporter inquired: "Now, of all of these wonderful possessions that are yours, which do you most highly prize, and with which would you part last?" Like a flash came the answer: "My barber shop."



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An Arkansas lawyer has been pinched by federal authorities for selling "fictitious" divorces. Really, now, how many divorces are secured honestly?

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Madam Secretary Perkins, boo-hooing like a spoiled child, expresses the opinion that President Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., of General Motors, is a mean old thing because he won't do what she said he said he would do. And Mr. Sloan, with an air of "far be it from me to contradict a lady," says the Secretary is spoofing the public. So there you have it.

* * *

After seventeen men were executed in one lot, and thirteen more are reported to have met the same fate, the official press of the Soviet Union broadcasts that "the Judas Trotzky is still loose in the world with the torch of war in hand preparing disaster and human slaughter." Who can fathom the bolshevik mind?

* * *

Tennessee scores again. Its state senate has passed a law to fine any editor who permits an untruth about any person to appear on the editorial page of his paper. And in addition, it deprives any convicted editor of doing any more editing for the rest of his life. You just can't beat Tennessee for monkey laws and such.

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Chicagoland still plays the role of sweetheart to the weather man.

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