

# Wilmette Life

Published every Thursday by  
LLOYD HOLLISTER INC.

1232-36 CENTRAL AVENUE, WILMETTE, ILLINOIS  
Telephone Wilmette 4300

MEMBER OF CHICAGO SUBURBAN QUALITY GROUP  
1016-18 Willoughby Tower, Chicago. Central 3355

FIVE CENTS A COPY : TWO DOLLARS A YEAR

News material must reach editor by Tuesday noon.  
Contributions should bear author's name, required  
for reference and not necessarily for publication.

NOVEMBER 23, 1939

## A Fine Reward

People of material mind who hold that all the compensation that comes from public service is contained in pay checks, overlook the fact that "the good men do lives after them." Drab indeed must be that life which comes to its close with knowledge that the service it has rendered to fellow-men has been commensurate with the monetary remuneration received and no more. No person was ever sincerely mourned who left to the world nothing but money, or who did not earn more than he ever received.

Just now New Trier villagers are holding in grateful memory two public servants whose final accounts have been rendered and whose records may now be fairly judged. Reference is to the late Mrs. Mabel B. Arnold, who for twenty-six years served the High school as secretary to its board, and the late William S. Brown, an instructor in its manual training department for almost as long a period. The service of both was characterized by loyalty to the institution, fidelity to duty, faith in the student body and a broad, progressive view of an adequate educational program.

If they knew, or could have known, the high esteem in which they were held, who could say that they would not have considered it a finer reward than any monetary compensation?

## Be Thankful Anyway

If you are of the opinion that Thanksgiving Day is this year a bit out of kilter because a Presidential proclamation has changed the time-honored date of its observance, try to get yourself into the spirit of the event and be thankful in spite of resentment over something you cannot help. There are a great many things for which you should gratefully thank Divine Providence on the date designated, as well as on every other day.

The United States is still at peace with every country in the world, and that is something for which we may all be thankful, even if we are dubious about it remaining at peace.

In spite of the many thongs of regimentation with which we have been bound in the past six years, we are still freer than any other people on earth, live in greater comfort, have more of the luxuries and pleasures, and may still eat what we want for breakfast without asking the permission of any bureaucrat.

We are being showered with propaganda intended to draw us into the war, but we can be especially thankful that we are in-

telligent enough to recognize it and courageous enough to tell them that it is not our "roughhouse" and that they can fight their own war and good luck to them.

There are other things, too, for which we should be continuously thankful, among them the natural beauty of our village, our fine and considerate neighbors, our schools and churches and other cultural institutions. Also the fact that, in a period when graft and thievery abound, our own municipal affairs are directed by honest and loyal officials whose integrity is above reproach and who serve with no desire for personal gain.

For these things, O Lord, make us truly thankful every day of the year.

## Nip and Tuck

At the end of nine months of this year of 1939, according to figures of the National Safety Council, a reduction of a skimpy two per cent in traffic fatalities had been chalked up on the scoreboard. In an ordinary year this would indicate that the reduction would develop into an increase, what with the advent of cold weather, sleet, ice, snow and low visibility. But this year is different. Over half of November is gone, and still the usual hazards of opening winter have not occurred. It seems that the lead over Death might be maintained, but the toe-hold is too narrow to expect a decrease upon which the country might congratulate itself. It will be nip and tuck if we keep even.

In spite of all the time and effort devoted to education of drivers in caution and sanity, no appreciable gain has been made. It is rather discouraging, in fact, so much so that one wonders whether the endeavor is worth while. The doubt comes that the public is anxious to be educated. Drivers look back upon the gruesome record of other years, laugh a derisive and defiant laugh, step on the accelerator and plunge headlong into danger, with the Grim Reaper sitting at their side, grinning.

## Confidence

Confidence is the foundation upon which rests all the relationships of life, from those between individuals to those between governments. Confidence is simply faith, the belief of one that another will do exactly what he says he will do. In this connection, the reputation of the individual or governmental group has a large bearing.

It is notable that in the present European disruption expressed lack of confidence of the involved governments in the pledged words of each other is outstanding, and is put forward as an obstacle to the just and honorable settlement of the differences at a conference table.

As in the case of an individual who, over a period of time, has made for himself a reputation for failure to keep his word, governments must have acquired that same reputation by repeated violations of treaties or pledges otherwise given, and by such dishonest acts have destroyed the only foundation upon which amicable relations can be maintained. Distrust is not created by fulfillment of obligations by either men or governments, but by repudiation of them.

For hundreds and hundreds of years European governments have broken treaties when that suited their purposes. Wars might be averted if they would try being honest with each other.

# News Comment

A new Trier village official telephoned the office that he would not be in until late, as he "had sat up all night with neuralgia." "Who is she?" queried the alert switchboard operator.

Among the other things of which we have become extremely weary is the giant panda recently added to the Brookfield zoo by a metropolitan newspaper. The publicity has been too long sustained.

A Chicago alderman refers sarcastically to that city's "Queen Anne front and Mary Ann back." The comparison well fits many another town.

"Dere hain't no jestic in de law," complained a colored woman when the judge awarded her husband a divorce and custody of the children. "Dem hain't his chillun nohow." Her plaint will no doubt be echoed by a Massachusetts man who has just been fined \$50 for belting his son-in-law on the head with a stick of stovewood because he would not stop jitterbug dancing in the house. It certainly looks like a miscarriage of justice, all right.

It is reported that a Herring has been drawn across the trail of third term opponents who themselves want a first term.

The old saying that "you can't send a corporation to jail" has been given support by a verdict in a federal court. Four General Motors companies were found guilty of violation of the Sherman anti-trust law, but the officials of the corporations were found not guilty. The Sherman law, you may remember, was suspended by the government in the palmy days of NRA in order to compel industry to set up trusts. As someone has remarked, it's a queer world.

Europe's war has degenerated from the advertised "world's greatest tragedy" to a comedy that is just now giving the world a laugh instead of starting its tears. One wonders what effect the ridicule that is being heaped upon him will have on Herr Hitler.

The Dies committee is now holding hearings in Chicago to discover if Communists are powerful in the steel, farm implement and packing industries. Doesn't "if" seem superfluous?

The people of Williamsville, Ill., have balked at observing Thanksgiving on November 23, and will eat turkey on the 30th. The annual Christmas seal sale, which ordinarily opens on Thanksgiving day, will open on the 30th. The earlier date made preparation impossible.

If news value gauges the prominence of headlines Thursday's grist, for one paper at least, ran like this: Release of Al Capone, arrival of the panda in Chicago and the death of Associate Justice Pierce Butler.

Speaking of war, the one between glass and paper milk bottles in the Chicago area is reaching major proportions.

It requires some visual dexterity for the men to read the papers these days and not see the advertisements, but if they are wise they will accomplish the feat. Nothing much in 'em but fur coats.

So! Niles Center is tired of being Niles Center and has reached the firm determination to become some other place. A contest is soon to be staged to select its new name. Reason: They don't like the "Niles" part because a neighboring village is called Niles. They don't like the "Center" because it is too provincial. Hence the search for a modern, euphonious municipal title.

An I.Q. test run as a daily feature in a Chicago paper contained this: "A butler entered the bathroom and found the lady of the house in her bath. What should he have said?" The approved answer was, "O, excuse me, sir!" Neat, what?

And now the turkey!

THE PHANTOM REPORTER