

# Wilmette Life

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## R.O.T.C. for New Trier

Fully aware that the proposal will elicit criticism, and possibly a charge of militarism, this news-magazine suggests that the time has come to establish a Reserve Officers' Training Corps at New Trier High school. The thought behind the suggestion is by no means a warlike one, but rather one of peace, with preparedness as the best guarantee against attack. The important thing, however, is to so prepare and train New Trier boys that, if ever they are called upon to participate in war, they will not only know how to protect themselves, but be qualified to take their proper places in the army machine.

New Trier already has a rifle club, and this could easily be expanded into a Reserve Officers' Training Corps, which would function under the National Defense Act, supervised by the director of Civilian Marksmanship, a government agency. Guns, ammunition and other equipment would be supplied by the government.

Objectors to the plan, whether pacifists on principle or for the purpose of keeping America unprepared to oppose invasion, should not forget that R.O.T.C. units are maintained in practically all Chicago high schools, where in some districts underprivileged boys are being trained to become officers, in event of war. In such a situation, where would our New Trier boys land? In the ranks of the rookies, carrying guns they would not know how to properly use, no knowledge of how to protect themselves, officered by men with far less qualifications than they, but fortunate in that their high schools had the foresight to prepare them to receive officers' commissions.

Let's give New Trier boys the benefit of a training that will serve them all through life, even if they never (and we hope they will not) have to go to war.

## The Right to News

Much is being said about preserving a free press, and rightly. But what about the public's right to news, uncolored by the opinions or personal interests of publishers? A free press implies, or should imply, a responsibility to present unbiased news, featured, according to recognized newspaper practice, upon its news and reader interest value.

The most important piece of news in a decade, from a local standpoint, broke Thursday of last week. It concerned the decision of United States Attorney General Frank Murphy to undertake a campaign to rid Chicago of political crookedness, graft, corruption, stolen elections, crime and

racketeering, following similar campaigns, both successful, in Kansas City and New Orleans.

The Chicago Daily News gave the story a streamer head and two and one-half columns of space in its Thursday issue, following with a front page editorial the next day. Friday morning the Chicago Daily Tribune devoted less than half a column to it, and put the story far back in the paper. It would seem that newspaper ethics would dictate that all newspapers give prominence to a story of such great importance, freighted as it is with possibilities for more sensational news to come. Readers have a vested interest in all the details connected with the story, and are asking questions as to why it was handled so differently in the two papers mentioned. "Is it," they ask, "a Daily News 'baby,' and is the Tribune so pro-city administration as to 'play down' any effort, federal or otherwise, to clean up any crookedness with which it may be charged?"

Full support of the press and the people should be given any movement to clean up the present unbearable conditions in Chicago.

## The Bicycle Hazard

Today a Winnetka boy, 13 years old, lies in a hospital with both legs broken above the knee. He was riding a bicycle on Green Bay road, a heavily traveled four-lane highway, after dark with no lights on his wheel.

A year or so ago a Wilmette boy was instantly killed, also on Green Bay road, while riding a bicycle and hitching onto a truck.

Both these boys were violating traffic regulations. Hundreds of others are doing the same thing now. It is the plain duty of parents to impose their authority upon their children and compel obedience to traffic rules.

## Christmas Seals

Through the mails in Wilmette and Winnetka, and the public schools in Kenilworth and Glencoe, as well as New Trier High school, villagers are now being afforded opportunity to purchase, and to use on all business and personal mail, those brightly colored little messengers of good health and good cheer—Christmas Seals.

This is the 33rd annual seal sale. Year after year generous people have made their purchases in ever increasing quantities, as a way to help others to a happier Christmas. Funds derived from the sale, which is conducted by the Tuberculosis Institute of Chicago and Cook county, are used to combat and check the ravages of the "great white plague" whose victims number 70,000 a year. In age these victims range from 15 to 45. It has been definitely established that tuberculosis patients can be cured if found in time. Efforts of the institute are directed toward discovering and preventing the development of the disease.

In New Trier township the work is carried on by Wilmette Health Center, an affiliate of the institute, which conducts regular chest clinics in charge of a specialist. It is this work that is supported by the local sale of Christmas seals.

Almost the middle of December and flowers still blooming on the North Shore. California and Florida papers please copy.

# News Comment

Buy Christmas Seals.

## TRIBUTE TO A DOG

"Can I ever be as good as my dog? I was homely and badly dressed and he didn't notice it. I was poor and he gladly shared his all with me. I was lonesome and he came close, looking into my eyes with devotion and joy. I was afraid and he protected me with his life. He was joyous when I was happy, sad when I was sad. He was dutiful and ever watchful for my safety. He was a German Shepherd, and the train ran over him one day. Do you wonder I am sad?—M. E., Winnetka."

With this country lending her money, Britain supplying her with war materials, and even Germany (so reported), helping her out with this and that, Finland isn't in such a tough spot. All she has to do is the fighting—and how she can fight.

This is a story of a dog, a story that will appeal to all lovers of "man's most loyal friend," especially women. The proprietor of an animal hospital on the North Shore was awakened on a recent night by a commotion near the kennels. After listening for some minutes he arose, dressed and went out to see what it was all about. He found a police dog, gaunt and emaciated, looking as though it had not had food for a month. His trained veterinarian eye, however, discovered that this was no mongrel pooch. He took the animal in, gave it food and drink and a nice warm place to sleep. Next morning the dog's appearance had improved. It was fed with the other "patients," and given the same professional attention. Perhaps the veterinary was surprised, and perhaps not, to find on the second morning that he had three strange dogs, his guest having given birth to two puppies. The mother is now in excellent physical condition, and serves as night watchman in the store of a merchant who took a fancy to her. The veterinary has not denied the truth of a report that when he first found the dog at his door she inquired for the maternity ward. But veterinarians are notoriously closemouthed on subjects touching their profession.

Events in Finland are proving that the terrible Red menace is terrible only when a couple of million of its soldiers are on parade in Red square. When they buck up against real soldiers they fade. And with them fades the menace.

The regularity with which Winnie Ruth Judd, insane murderess, escapes from the Arizona state hospital leads one to think that someone, perhaps officials, yearn to get rid of her.

On a recent evening a Wilmette man took his dog out for exercise. After the manner of all good owners, he was leading the dog by leash. But the dog, in his anxiety to stretch his legs, jerked the leash from the owner's hand and disappeared in the darkness. Nor would he pay any attention to commands to come back. After several minutes, however, he reappeared, but with his mouth closed tightly by a wire that had twisted about and cut deeply into his mouth, leaving grievous wounds. Several teeth were missing. The owner, angry beyond words, called the police, the while vowing vengeance upon the inhuman being who would so treat an innocent dog. However, the police, upon investigation, concluded that no person had committed the crime, but that someone had set a snare for rabbits, and the dog, running at top speed, had put his nose into it. The injured dog was taken to an animal hospital, where the wire was removed and his wounds treated.

North Shore stores and shops are prepared to supply just what North Shore people want for Christmas. You see, they know the North Shore.

Warning to dogs: Don't chase automobiles. We saw one doing it Saturday, and the car hit him, knocking him end over end, but without serious results. You, dog, might not be so lucky.

Looking from the bottom to the top, we are satisfied that this is a doggoned good column.

THE PHANTOM REPORTER