

# WILMETTE LIFE

PUBLISHED THURSDAYS BY

LLOYD HOLLISTER INC.

1232-1236 CENTRAL AVENUE, WILMETTE, ILLINOIS  
Telephone WILMETTE 4300

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.

## ABSENTEE VOTING

The primary election to be held on April 12 is much too important for any voter to neglect or to deliberately refrain from exercising his right of franchise, even though he may be outside the confines of the county on the date of election. He may still vote by making application to the County Clerk, County building, Chicago, in person if in the county, or by mail if outside, not less than 5 days previous to April 12.

There is much talk that the primary plan of nominating candidates for public office has not resulted in the choice of better qualified candidates, as the voters had been led to believe before the law was adopted. Not all of the blame can, however, be attached to the law itself. The voters must bear a large share of the responsibility because of their lack of interest in the primary election. Too many fail to express their choice of candidates, feeling that if bad candidates succeed in the primary they can be defeated in the ensuing election. Such reasoning is a fatal mistake, and as a logical result a great many very bad candidates win in the elections as well as in the primaries, and thus bad government is established or continued.

The citizen who really wants to insure that the best qualified men and women are to run the affairs of his government will not neglect to vote in the primary. Even then his problem is not easy of solution, for many men and women without even a hint of fitness for the offices they seek enter the primaries, and it often transpires that whomsoever the voter casts his ballot for is bound to be a bad choice. That is true in respect of some offices in the coming primary, but there is nothing that can be done about it. The inefficient are bound to receive nominations, and subsequent election.

The plain truth is that so long as the primary law remains as it is, and voters are compelled to permit a party label to be attached to them, the primary will not measure up to the expectations of its creators and supporters, nor will discreditable political machines be prevented from winning nominations for their favorites.

This, however, does not excuse the voter of negligence in failing to vote in the primary. It is his solemn duty to go to the polls and register his preference—even if it be for the lesser of two evils.

## THE STATE SENATORSHIP

Local interest in the April 12 primaries is centering around the candidacies for state senator from the 7th senatorial district, which includes New Trier, especially on the Republican side, in which an exceedingly hot contest is developing between Frank E. Foster of Harvey, present member of the house of representatives, and Arthur J. Bidwill of River Forest, contenders for the seat now occupied by Charles F. Baumrucker of River Forest, Democrat.

The office is one of the most important which the voters of the district will be called upon to fill, and for that reason great care should be exercised in selecting the candidates at the primary.

Mr. Bidwill was the Republican candidate in 1934. Arthur Huebsch of Brookfield, then senator,

died a few days before the primary, and Bidwill won the nomination. In the November election of that year he apparently won by the narrow margin of 149 votes, and his election was certified. He took his seat, but Mr. Baumrucker, the Democratic candidate, instituted a contest. Five months later Bidwill was unseated by the senate, without a recount of the ballots. Unquestionably the senate's action was illegal, and constituted a most glaring exhibition of ruthless machine politics. As a result no one now knows whether Bidwill or Baumrucker was elected. It goes without saying that the ballots should have been recounted and the winner declared.

In 1936 Mr. Bidwill won the Republican nomination for state auditor, but was overwhelmed in the second Roosevelt landslide. In that campaign his bid for election was based largely upon the "rotten deal" he had received at the hands of the senate. Indications are that his present canvass for the nomination is being conducted along the same line.

While there is no disputing the fact that Mr. Bidwill was unfairly and even illegally unseated, voters are advised that that fact does not constitute acceptable qualifications for the office of state senator. Personal affronts or personal grudges are not convincing evidence of political sagacity, or of the ability to render a high quality of service to the district. Mr. Bidwill should confine himself to effective proof of statesmanship.

Mr. Foster is completing his eighth year as representative, foregoing practically certain re-nomination to stand for the nomination to the upper house. His record has been a creditable one, and his long service has given him a clear insight into the workings of the assembly. He knows his way about, and stands well with the lower house. Experience in any line of public service, and especially in legislation, should receive the most careful consideration of voters.

On the Democratic side Ralph E. Sinsheimer of Winnetka, is seeking the nomination over Charles F. Baumrucker of River Forest, the present senator, who is said to have the backing of the regular Democratic party organization. He has not made an impressive record, although he has supported and worked ardently for some very good measures. Mr. Sinsheimer has, of course, had no opportunity to show his stature as a legislator, but should prove to be a decided improvement.

## HARMONY RULES

When Henry A. Gardner of Winnetka was elected New Trier township committeeman on the Republican ticket two years ago, he stated that his major efforts would be directed to restoring harmony in the Republican ranks. How well he has succeeded is evidenced by the fact that he is a candidate for reelection in the April 12 primary without opposition, and that he has the full support of an undivided party.

Mr. Gardner's self-imposed task was not an easy one. The party seemed hopelessly split because of an old feud extending over many years. Repeated defeats had resulted in raw nerves, and discord attended almost every effort to bind the party into an effective organization. However, he has smoothed out the difficulties and contentions have practically disappeared.

In this commendable achievement credit must also be given to Mr. Gardner's opponent for township committeeman two years ago, Henry Fowler of Wilmette. As soon as the votes were counted and it was known that Mr. Gardner had won by a small majority, Mr. Fowler proffered his assistance, and has had a great deal to do with bringing about the harmonious situation that now prevails. Both are to be congratulated on a citizenship that rises above petty politics.

We try desperately to keep up with Mr. Stalin's Moscow crew who are shooting the abundant life into the comrades of communism who stick their necks out, but at times it seems impossible. We can only report that a dozen or more are to join the parade to the stone wall, but by the time you read this there will probably be half a hundred more.

## NEWS-COMMENT

Turn down the gas! The political pot is boiling over! \* \* \*

In a celebration Sunday commemorating the end of the logging industry in western Pennsylvania, several people were drowned. Must have been a New Deal celebration. Only New Dealers would celebrate the end of an industry. \* \* \*

Acknowledged with no end of thanks is the following letter, dated Colorado Springs, Colorado, March 14, 1938:

"Thought the enclosed would be of interest to you. The fact that there is a Towne named Wilmette within the corporate limits of Denver, Colorado, ought to awaken interest in the Chamber of Commerce. Think of the possibilities for Wilmette Day, or any local dedicatory ceremonies when the 'Queen of the Day' or wielder of the first trowel of plaster is named Wilmette Towne. "Frank S. Polzin."

Enclosed was a clipping from the society page of the Denver Post, containing the picture of a very personable socialite named Miss Wilmette Towne, with the information that the young lady was on her way to Scarsdale, N. Y., to be a bridesmaid.

Interesting? And how! We immediately contacted the Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary club, the Optimist club and other organizations, seeking their cooperation in catching the young lady on the rebound, throwing the gates of the village wide open and making her guest of honor for as long as she might wish to linger. With police and band she shall be escorted down Green Bay road to view the last undeveloped portion of the original Ouilmette reservation; to the lake front site of the Ouilmette cabin, and to the village hall, where she can view a portrait of Archange Ouilmette, Pottawatomie Indian wife of the French explorer whose name she bears. By all means, Miss Wilmette Towne, come to Wilmette town before terminating your eastern jaunt. \* \* \*

A feature of a recent radio program was a boy 20 years old who, while not dumb, has never spoken a word. When he wants to say something he sings it. Now a South Carolina woman has undertaken to teach him to talk. Bet you he'll talk, all right. He'll have to—in self defense. \* \* \*

The prize, a hand-painted orange wood toothpick, for the best joke of the week goes to a Vox Popper who, discussing the nasty TVA mess, said that the President's "so-called browbeating of Dr. Arthur E. Morgan was, as I see it, a wise move to avert the spending of the people's money in a purely political investigation." It's just too bad that this fellow was not born long enough ago to be included in Mark Twain's "Innocents Abroad." Had he been brave enough to sign his name we would have a guardian appointed for him.

Still, the one by Speaker Bankhead, in which he said that "there is no disposition on the part of the President to avoid a congressional investigation of TVA," is a mighty close second. Maybe it should be awarded the prize. You say. \* \* \*

John L. Lewis of the CIO, says that American workers "desire not only to benefit themselves, but all other citizens of this country, by the establishment and preservation of a true democracy." The proof: The owner of a house in Evanston and a non-union painter beaten up because they were painting the former's house. Democracy? You bet! \* \* \*

Boys at Duluth, Minn., built a snow rabbit 27 feet high. They should send it to the President. He is about out of white rabbits. \* \* \*

A new kid has appeared in school at Paterson, N. J. He is Conrad Moeller, aged 80.

THE PHANTOM REPORTER.