

The Downers Grove Reporter

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C. H. STAATS, Editor

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BOOST!—Don't Knock

COMMUNICATIONS

Downers Grove, Ill., June 29th, 1915.
To the Editor of the Downers Grove Reporter:

In your issue of June 18th, appeared a lengthy statement signed by the former Village Attorney G. H. Bunge, in which he recites certain conditions for which myself and my associates on the Board of Trustees are criticized.

I have no desire to advertise Village troubles in the paper, and it is with considerable degree of hesitancy that I make this reply to his communication. I deem it my duty, however, to try and correct some of the false inferences that might be drawn from his statement.

I agree with Mr. Bunge's statement concerning the conscientious performance of duties of the former treasurer Mr. J. W. Rogers. I never have nor do I now say that anyone connected with the administration of the Village finances in the past knowingly or willfully did anything wrong.

Certain practices, however, that have been followed have resulted in bringing about a serious shortage in the Special Assessment fund. Among them has been the practice of paying bonds, and interest on bonds where there has been insufficient collection made, which practice has resulted in a total overdraft of \$27,196.23.

One of the causes which led to this overdraft was forfeitures and tax certificates which amount approximately to \$10,830.38, and the failure of the Village to provide for the payment of public benefits and public property to the amount of approximately \$4,500.00.

I find, from the Village records, that Mr. Bunge's resignation was read and accepted on May 6th, 1912, and it would appear that that was the time that he retired from office instead of "1911" as he states. I went into office in April, 1913, and at that time I did not pretend to know any more about Special Assessments than the average

tax payer knows, in fact I had no experience with that phase of municipal affairs except to pay Special Assessments. A good many things confronted the Board with the beginning of my administration which absorbed my attention for the greater part of the first year.

When the Treasurer's annual statement on April 1st, 1914, was presented, there appeared to be a considerable cash balance on hand, enough, as I supposed, would be sufficient with the delinquent taxes that would be collected by August 1st, to take care of the bonds payable at that time.

When the funds in the former treasurer's hands were turned over to the present Village Treasurer the amount turned over to him was \$1,982.80. If anyone knew previous to this time that shortages might be expected, as Mr. Bunge intimates, no word of warning or notice was given to me nor to any of those connected with the Board so far as I know. I then ascertained that there was in the course of collection over \$14,000.00, that is to say that about this amount had not been paid to our Local Collector and had been returned delinquent to the County Collector. The County Collector had a return to us later on of approximately \$9,800.00, and his statement showed forfeitures amounting to over \$4,300.00.

We then had less than \$12,000.00 in the Special Assessment Fund with which to pay over \$23,000.00 of interest and bonds due in August. I immediately began a personal investigation as to the cause of the shortage. I found that from July 31st, 1905, to March 18th, 1912, there had been confirmed Special Assessments from Special Assessment No. 8 to and including No. 48, for the total amount of \$460,647.03 and there had been issued in bonds and vouchers, against this total assessment, \$421,007.71 issued to contractors. I find there had been transferred from the Special Assessment Fund to the General Fund, prior to the year 1912, a total of \$13,105.86, and of this amount \$781.11 was transferred from installments against which

bonds were issued, and the balance was transferred from the first installment. This was absolutely wrong unless returned to the Special Assessment Fund.

Of all this amount there was transferred to the Water and Light Fund, \$2,371.03; Street and Alley, \$1,000.00; Public Benefits and tax against Public property, \$4,859.45; for General Corporate Purposes, \$4,875.38. It will be noted that Public Benefits have apparently been paid out of funds transferred from the Special Assessment Funds to the General Funds instead of annual appropriations for this purpose.

I might say that if the total amount which had been transferred from the Special Assessment Fund to the General Fund of this Village was in the Special Assessment Fund today, we would not be confronted with legal difficulties in meeting bonds outstanding and due, providing the Village had levied annually to pay its assessments for public benefits.

It is my understanding that the Village is not liable for forfeitures. They become liens however, against the particular property and no doubt sooner or later will be paid, and until paid will cloud the title of the particular property.

The law provides that Villages may use 6 per cent of the amount of the assessment for expenses, but I find that none of the assessments has been kept down to this amount, but on the contrary, go as high as 8 per cent to 10 per cent. In fact, I find that the engineer received 5 per cent of the contract price, and that a total was paid for Attorney's Fees of \$9,999.99.

Mr. Bunge states that his connection with the Board ceased in 1911, and that the Village records show that up to that time a very few overdrafts existed, but that before leaving office he saw that proper resolutions were passed replacing such amounts as had been borrowed from various assessments. The facts are:

Mr. Bunge resigned on May 6th, 1912, and that on December 30th, 1911, the records show a total overdraft of \$14,454.12, only \$2,573.76 of which had been made up by transfers from the General Fund, or a total net overdraft, that the books now show existed on December 30th, 1911, of \$11,880.36.

Mr. Bunge makes complaint that the Board has been delinquent in its duty in failing to levy a Supplemental Assessment where delinquent taxes have accrued. As Mr. Bunge knows, the section of the Statute which he quoted in his communication is to the effect that where property is delinquent a Supplemental Assessment may be levied against such delinquent property within five years of the time of the confirmation of the assessment. I find that the time limit for the Supplemental Assessment for delinquent property had expired on all the assessments from No. 8 to No. 21 inclusive prior to Mr. Bunge's leaving office. A further reason why Supplemental Assessments have not been attempted is because in most of our assessments, with the exception of two or three, there was sufficient levy made to pay the legal expenses and the bonds issued if the money had remained in the fund. My view is that the property owner would have a sufficient defence, in case enough money had been levied and collected together with the forfeitures, to pay the legal 6 per cent expense and the contract price of the improvement.

In conclusion I wish to state that the facts as set forth in this communication may be ascertained by an inspection of the books in the office of the Treasurer and Village Clerk.

ANSON BACKUS,
Village President.

Editor of Reporter.

Dear Sir—A good opportunity for a public spirited man with a little money. What our town needs is a place to swim. As it is a large number of boys go down to Lisle and swim in an old hole in the river down there. Some go up to the brick yards and swim in stagnant water and the rest long for a good place to swim. Last summer about twelve or fourteen boys went down to Naperville almost every Sunday afternoon to swim in a deep, dangerous quarry. Now if we had a good place to swim

here it would not only give those who are swimming in "mud holes" a place to swim but it would be a benefit to the town. A swimming tank is not impossible. A good tank about 90 feet long and 30 feet wide could be built and enclosed and a lot on which to have it purchased and all for about \$2,000 to \$2,500. Now if such a tank were built and run upon a business basis it could be made to pay about 10 per cent on the investment. This along with the benefit which it would give to the town ought to be enough to induce someone to take it up.

If there is any such person please notify the Reporter office for particulars and see for yourself.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS INSTALL OFFICERS.

Three lodges of the Knights of Pythias held a joint installation of officers July 7 in the hall of Maple Grove lodge in this village.

The installing officer was Henry F. Legenhausen, D. G. C., who inducted the newly elected officials of Maple Grove Lodge, Downers Grove; Juniata Lodge, of Hinsdale, and Goodman Lodge, of La Grange, into office.

The following officers were installed by D. G. C. H. F. Legenhausen: Maple Grove Lodge 529, of Downers Grove:

- C. C. S. E. Jones.
- V. C. W. W. Barry.
- Prelate, L. L. Chevallier.
- M. of W. C. R. Caldwell.
- M. of A. Wm. P. Lehman.
- I. G. Fred Heinke.
- O. G. Chas. Bertolin.
- Juniata Lodge 374, of Hinsdale.
- C. C. Walter Davidson.
- V. C. Lloyd C. Harner.
- Prelate, Walter Luthin.
- M. of W. B. A. Beltz.
- M. of A. Fred Dude.
- J. G. Henry Dude.
- O. G. Harry Barton.
- Goodman Lodge 705, of La Grange.
- C. C. Otto Schroeder.
- V. C. Guy Richardson.
- Prelate, George Cushing.
- M. of W. H. Widen.
- M. of A. Ed. Bluder.
- O. G. Carl Holmes.

About 50 members were present. The hall was decorated with cut flowers and American flags. Buffet lunch was served and a good time was enjoyed.

THE PARCELS POST MAN.

Like Atlas, his load is a back-breaking one.

As he trudges along with his pack. Or you'd think that old Santa had come down too soon.

With his presents all piled on his back.

They can still load him down to the very last straw.

Like an Orient-bound caravan.

Yet he never complains but he smiles through it all.

Does the good-natured parcels post man.

There are parrots and dogs and a few sample bricks.

A baby, a venison roast.

A dozen cut roses, a limburger cheese.

All sent C. O. D., parcels post.

A ham and a hatbox, a live rattlesnake.

A pudding, a sixteen-inch fan.

But he smiles through it all as he trudges along.

Does the good-natured parcels post man.

ADVERTISED LETTERS.

Letters advertised below will be sent to the Dead Letter office on July 30, if not called for prior to that date.

- Geo. Baleswicz, card, Chicago.
- Clara Gabriel, card, Chicago.
- Jan Henajitte, letter, Chicago.
- Walter McNeane, card, Alton.
- Irene F. Royce, letter, Shawnee, Colo.

BERT C. WHITE.

How to Win.

This is an age of specialization, my boy, and the only men who succeed in a big way are those who pick out some particular line of work and live with it until they get to know more about it than most other fellows. Concentration, consistent and persistent effort in one direction is the surest road to success. You'll never win in a big way—except, accidentally—if you scatter your energies.—Leslie's.

THE LAKE VIEW CONSERVATORY

Chicago, Illinois
MARY BOWER, President
Three blocks from Wilson Avenue Bathing Beach
North-East Corner Wilson & Kenmore Avenues—2nd Floor
Piano—Vocal and Dramatic Art Departments
SUMMER TERM CLASSES IN MOTION PICTURE ACTING
Commercial Art, French Conversation and Harmony now being organized

Buy Your Life Insurance

At Less than One-half Old Line Rates

- Age 25 \$8.75 per \$1000
- Age 35 \$12.25 per \$1000
- Age 15 to 55 in proportion

Call or write Illinois Bankers Life, 648 Insurance Exchange Building, Chicago, Illinois

Millions of Insurance carried with us by satisfied Policy Holders in Illinois

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING



TUTORING AND GOVERNESS WORK by the hour. Marie G. Downer (graduate kindergarten). Phone 34-R. 7-2-1p

TO RENT—CLARENDON HILLS: 8 rooms, large porch, hot water, bath, gas, garage, terraced lawn, fruit, garden. Rental \$27.50. Address Reporter.

LOST—GOLD NECKLACE, WITH CORAL pendant; very old pattern; lost either on way of or grounds of Fireman's picnic. Reward; return to 182 N. Highland Ave.

WANTED—A GIRL FOR LAUNDRY work—Apply Downers Grove Laundry.

EXPERIENCED HOUSEKEEPER AND cook wants situation in small family. No washing. Wages \$8.00 every Saturday night. Good treatment expected. Address "Chas." care Downers Grove, Ill. 7-2-2p.

FOR SALE—AT T. E. BROOKS' STORE, age Warehouse, 1 bed, 2 desks, 2 desks, 3 lawnmowers, 3 pianos, 1 sewing machine, stoves, 1 safe, 1 table (extension). Telephone 186.

NURSING WANTED—BY COMPLETELY responsible lady. Phone 168-W-1, P. O. Box 22, R. F. D. No. 3. 7-2-2p

FOR SALE—EXPRESS WAGON IN first-class condition, capacity 1 ton; reasonable. S. Engelschall, Lisle, Ill., Box 2.

ROOMS FOR RENT—TWO FURNISHED, good location; all modern conveniences. Address 92 Gilbert Ave., phone 191-R. 6-25-3p

FOR SALE—NEW TWO-STORY HOUSE, six rooms and bath; everything up to date; lot 20x122 feet; chicken house and fruit trees. Price \$2,500. Open for inspection. 3 Linscott Ave. H. Jory. 6-25-3p

LAWN MOWERS SHARPENED AND repaired. G. H. Ware, 128 N. Main St. Phone 125-W. 11-c

HALLER'S REAL ESTATE NEWS

Seven-room house, bath, stove heat, cement basement, lot 5x150. Price \$2,500.

Six-room house on north side, steam heat, all up-to-date, hardwood floors. This house is in good repair and well built. Location one of the best. Price \$1,500. Make offer.

Six-room bungalow, new, best street in town, extra large lot, barn. Price \$1,200. Make offer.

Seven-room house, steam heat, oak floors down stairs, bath, lot 100x122. Price too low to put in figures. Ask me about a real bargain. This property can be bought on your own terms. Act quick.

Seven-room house on the north side. Cement basement, furnace heat, laundry tubs, bath, gas and electric lights in fact everything is strictly modern, large shade trees, best neighborhood, small barn, lot 100x141. Price only \$1,100. About \$500 cash, the balance on your own time.

Eight-room house in the best of condition, south side, bath, gas, electric lights, hot water heat, large porch, faces south, lot 100x122. Price \$2,500.

Nine-room house on Maple avenue, heat, all modern, large barn, assessments paid in full. Price \$5,000. Make offer.

Seven-room house, cement basement, hot water heat, bath, gas, electric lights, oak floors on lower floor. This property is in A-1 condition. East front. Price \$4,500.

Six-room house, all modern, just newly painted; this house is only seven years old, has cement basement, furnace heat, laundry tubs, electric and gas lights, bath, in fact complete in every way; also barn and chicken house, fruit trees, grapes; lot 100x122, about ten minutes' walk to depot. Price \$2,900.

40-acre farm, large barn, deep well, about five acres of timber, fruit trees, also pump house with gas engine for pumping water, about 1 1/2 miles from depot on stone road. Price \$1,000.

Two acres land, new five-room house, fruit trees, chicken house, one mile from depot. Price \$2,000.

Seven-room house and bath, cement basement, hot water heat, small barn, fruit trees, three blocks from depot. Price \$2,500.

Don't forget I write Tornado and Fire Insurance. No earthly building has ever been or ever will be erected sufficiently strong to resist the ENERGY OF WINDSTORMS. Now is the time. Do not DELAY, BUT ACT TODAY.

SIX ROOM house, cement basement, furnace, large porch, with screens, good well, gas, lot 100x122, near corporation limits. This house is in A-1 condition. Price \$2,600; terms \$1,000.

Extra lot, north Forest Ave., water, gas and electric light, only \$250. Let me show you some Maple avenue lots if you are figuring on building this year.

Four and one-half acres of land, eight-room house, good condition, barn, chicken house, fruit trees. Must be seen to compare the price, \$5,000. Make offer.

How can you duplicate this one? Six-room house, new, cement basement, laundry tubs, furnace heat, large living room with fireplace, open stairway, up to date bathroom, two porches, paved street. Lot 60x150. Price \$3,500.

Six-room house, furnace heat, bath, house just newly painted, large barn. Lot 65x150. Price \$3,500. Easy terms.

If you are looking for acre property within one or two blocks of corporation limits ask me about easy terms.

Nine-room house, all modern, in A-1 condition, large barn, fruit trees, one of the best locations in Downers Grove. Lot 100x200. Price \$7,200.

6-room house, modern, in good condition, on best street in Downers Grove. Price, \$2,700. Make an offer.

6-room house, hot water heat, bath, chicken house, fruit trees, grapes, plenty of shade trees, paved street, north side; best of location. Lot 75x142. Price, \$3,500.

Another Bargain—7-room house, all modern, on paved street, 100x142. Price, \$3,000.

If you are looking for a bargain let me have a talk with you, and if you have a house or lot you want to sell I shall be pleased to list it.

You will find me at 35 South Main St. Telephone 113-R.

Chas Haller 35 S. Main Street Phone 113-R



VASES

Now is the time to decorate your lawn with a nice Cement Flower Vase, delivered and put up for \$7.00

H. MacPherson

Shop Phone 211-R

FRED FINK LIVERY

Carriages for Weddings, Funerals, Etc.
11 Grove St. Phone 63-J

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The largest selection and most up-to-date line of footwear in Downers Grove
A pair of stockings given free with every pair of high or low shoes every Wednesday.

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64 South Main St. Downers Grove, Illinois

Phone 241-R
MARGARET AIRD
Shampooing Scalp Treatment
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Work done at your residence
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For True Prosperity. When there is perfect sincerity when every man is true to himself when every one strives to realize what he thinks the highest rectitude—then must all things prosper.—Hester Spencer.

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66 South Main Street
Formerly Telephone Office
Sponging and Pressing
Trousers 15c Suits 40c
Suits Cleaned and Pressed
Trousers 50c Suits \$1.25
Ladies Suit or Dress Cleaned and Pressed \$1.25 and up
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