

# DOWNERS GROVE REPORT

VOL. XXXII. NO. 31

DOWNERS GROVE, DU PAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, JULY 30, 1915

## FIRST DAYS OF CHAUTAUQUA WERE VERY SUCCESSFUL

### Larger Audiences, Better Talent and Good Management Are Features of Second Independent Chautauqua.

The promise of the committee that this year's Chautauqua was to be greater than any that has preceded it has a ready been fulfilled, for the programs of the first few days have exceeded those of the past, and if there were to be no further numbers, the ticket holders have already received their money's worth.

That the program is being appreciated is evidenced by the large audiences. Last year's session was in the nature of an experiment, many believing that an independent Chautauqua would not be a success. An optimistic committee, knowing from last year's experience that the whole community was interested, planned large things. A new khaki tent, absolutely waterproof, nearly half again as large as the one used a year ago, was rented. This has been filled each night, and even the afternoon audiences have been surprisingly larger than heretofore. It was planned to have the opening night one of the strong numbers, and the magnificent work of the school chorus, assisted by the Downers Grove Orchestra, started the assembly with a swing that will continue to the end. The perfect attention and deportment of the young people, together with their rendering of the musical numbers, spoke volumes for the directorship of our musical supervisor, Miss Claire Zollinger. Miss Grace Lucille Towsey, accompanist, entered into the enthusiasm of Miss Zollinger, and her talent was never

more in evidence than it was Saturday night. Her natural ability, supplemented by patient, enthusiastic effort, has resulted in musical skill that did much to add to the success of the school chorus.

Downers Grove's young manhood also did much to add to the enjoyment of the audience. The orchestra was led by Mr. George Naragey, who, as a violinist, has won attention at home and in the city. Mr. Naragey's success as a musician is already assured, but it is plainly evident that he will climb still higher in his profession.

If there were any who questioned the wisdom of the committee in providing home talent for the opening night, the program of Saturday evening proved that the move was a wise one, and that there is material at home, much of which has been, and is being, developed, which is equal to that found anywhere.

The Sunday services were replete with uplift and helpfulness. Again the talent right at home was utilized. The community chorus, under the able leadership of Mrs. Mabel E. Rasweiler, another of our especially talented musicians, rendered a number of classical selections, the most noticeable being the "Hallelujah Chorus" from "The Messiah." Special solo numbers by Miss Avis Lempe, Mr. Ralph Herring and Mr. Charles Davis of Downers Grove and Mrs. John C. Taylor of Chicago were greatly appreciated. The accompanist, Miss Leslie Nash, another of our home young people of talent, was very effective and added to the success of the programs of the day. Miss Nash holds a conspicuous place as a musician, and her services are in constant demand. The committee was fortunate in securing her assistance.

The speaker for the afternoon, Abram Hale Gash, was introduced as an optimist, and his splendid oration on "The Music of Life," touched the hearts of the audience with beautiful

melody of thought and phrasing. Coming from the busy world of law, manufacture and politics, he had a message of cheer that strengthened every hearer.

The tent was filled to overflowing at night and every one came expecting good things. After the musical program mentioned above, the Rev. LeRoy Wells Warren spoke on "The Unconscious Life." He did not disappoint his hearers. Disclaiming any gifts as orator or wit he quickly proved that he was both. Unlike some lecturers, who use a few amusing stories to precede a dry talk, he used his powers of scholarship and story telling all through the lecture-sermon in such a manner as to illustrate the great truths that he brought to his audience. It is not too much to say that this was one of the best addresses ever delivered in Downers Grove. The thought was probably new to many who listened. In this day when so many are lighting for power, and there is a disposition to think that greatness must advertise itself, it is refreshing to have brought to our thought the fact that true greatness is that which is unobtrusive and humble.

As the large audience left the tent every one seemed to be talking about the sermon and its message and expressing gratefulness to our fellow townsman, L. B. Wells, uncle of Rev. Warren, for securing him for this season.

The "Children's Hour," under the management of Miss Minna Mae Lewis, is a new departure for the local Chautauqua, and is proving very popular among the boys and girls. Miss Lewis has expressed her appreciation of the fact that such a large number have gathered each day, and from their spirit when in the tent there is evident the fact that they appreciate the action of their elders in providing a "Junior Chautauqua."

The Chautauqua Preachers' Quartette made a splendid impression and brought a message, as did also the Apollo Concert Company and Mrs. Mabelle Church Van Alstyne. The preachers have been quite frequent among the talent this year and folks are more and more coming to realize that a preacher is a pretty good fellow, after all. There were some severe criticisms of the lecture striking at the weaknesses of the church by P. Marion Sims, but it was evident that the message was given in an endeavor to show the way to better work among all Christian people, unitedly fighting the common enemy of mankind, sin.

Dunbar's White Hussars made a bit immediately. After their prelude Wednesday afternoon the audience applauded long and vigorously in an endeavor to secure an encore. In spite of the rain the tent has been filled, and the spirit of optimism and "boosterism" has never been more in evidence.

The closing days promise to be great ones. The Dixie Jubilee Singers always "make good" and those who heard them last year, together with those who have heard from others of the splendid program they rendered, will probably overflow the tent. When they were engaged, it was with the understanding that they had a full new program for this year, so a treat is anticipated.

An exhibition by the children was on the program for Saturday afternoon, but for several reasons, prominent among them the fact that all of Miss Lewis' costumes were burned recently, arrangements were made with her to give her reading of the book "Within the Law" instead.

On Sunday at both the afternoon and evening sessions the Community Choral Society and Jenkin Lloyd Jones are on the program, and there is no question but that the day will be one of the best of the week.

## FIREMEN'S TOURNAMENT.

The Downers Grove fire department attended the firemen's tournament at Blue Island on Tuesday, fourteen members being present. Some of the boys were disappointed because they did not get one of the prizes. They however, received favorable mention all along the line of march, but Ottawa, Chicago Heights and some of the other towns were presented with 40 to 50 men and a band. These departments are all sent to the tournaments by the cities or villages paying their expenses and the local boys have to pay their own and cannot afford to pay for a band and other necessary apparatus to take part in the track meets to make a showing.

## EASTLAND VICTIMS BURIED.

William T. Sykes of Oak Park, a member of Lakeside Lodge 733, A. F. & A. M., his son fourteen and daughter eight, were among the victims of the Eastland disaster, and were buried by the lodge at 5:30 p. m. Tuesday at Mt. Auburn cemetery. Capt. Parker, a member of the lodge, carried the three Great Lights.

Bro. Sykes lost his life while trying to save his children. His wife and mother were rescued from the wreck and were able to attend the funeral. Lakeside also performed the same sad duty for another member by burying his wife at Oakland at 11 a. m. the same day.

Of all sad words  
Of the sad refrain,  
The saddest are those:  
No Game.  
Rain.

## LOCAL PEOPLE PASSENGERS ON EASTLAND SAVED

### Tell Thrilling Stories of Experiences as Huge Steamer Sank With Load of Human Freight

The Eastland disaster, which levied its toll of dead on many of the western suburbs, claimed no victims in Downers Grove, although a number of the residents of the village were on the ill-fated boat and had narrow escapes from death.

A. B. Nielson of Forest avenue was on the upper deck of the vessel when she careened. He climbed on to the rail, and as the ship settled jumped into the water. As he swam away from the boat he took with him a 12-year-old boy and carried him to safety. The boy's father and two brothers were drowned, but the mother was saved.

Mr. Nielson then returned to the boat and aided in pulling out fifteen girls from a cabin of the ship.

"I shall never forget the experiences of that day," he said. "When the ship began to list I thought little of it, but when the slope of the deck became dangerous I knew it could not right itself. The scene after the boat overturned was awful; it seemed as if there were thousands in the water. Even more terrible was the scene at the Second Regiment Armory, where the long, silent rows of dead were laid and we tried to identify them. Five men in my department are gone."

Albert Kosmoski, an employe of the Western Electric Company, who lives at the Belmont depot, told a dramatic story of his escape. His story follows:

"I was on the lower deck on the river side checking my suit cases when the moment to start arrived. I noticed a decided list to port, but did not think it was anything out of the ordinary, as I am sailor enough to know that the large crowd on that ship can make a steamer list one way or the other. Then a girl who was standing near me commenced to slide down the deck toward the rail. I stopped her and helped her get her balance and still did not think of any disaster.

"It was not until it was almost impossible to keep my own footing that I realized that something was wrong; the water then was nearly up to the rail. I threw my two suit cases over the side of the boat (just why I don't know) and started to climb the rapidly rising deck to the starboard side. The ship had tilted so much by this time that I could not climb the deck, and I found it necessary to cling to the stair rail and use the supports which were nearly vertical, as one would use a ladder. As I climbed I could look down and see that dark water just at my heels. I managed to keep just ahead of it, and the thought uppermost in my mind was I must keep ahead of that water; I must, I must, and I did. When the boat had settled I was at the gangway, where the gang plank had been drawn in just a few minutes before the fatal turning.

"I was on the side of the ship soon after it had stopped turning and did my best in the work of rescue. I helped pull several women through the cabin windows and the portholes. I will never forget this experience as long as I live."

Mr. Kosmoski says he thinks more people could have been saved if they had just kept their wits about them. "After the steamer had turned and was resting on the bottom, people on her hull jumped into the water and undoubtedly many were drowned. I suppose they thought, as I did after the first shock, 'well, she'll go over now'; you see I had forgotten the shallowness of the river."

Among those who nearly participated in the tragedy were: Miss Eva Bolsby, who with Herman Cornelis arrived at the Eastland dock after the gang planks had been drawn and who saw the boat tip over; Mr. and Mrs. Philip Vix, who with Mr. and Mrs. Wm. J. McElroy went to the dock early intending to take the Eastland, but changed their minds and boarded the Roosevelt. From the deck of the Roosevelt they saw the Eastland go down and joined with others in throwing life preservers to the hapless victims in the river.

G. L. Horlick intended to take the 10 o'clock boat and so escaped the tragedy.

## MR. AND MRS. J. C. ELLIS ENTERTAIN OLD FRIENDS

Mrs. O. M. Backer of Springfield, Mass., and Mrs. M. W. Faucett of Washington, D. C., returned from the grand tour of the West, taking in the Rockies from Banff to the Grand Canyon, the Yellowstone and Glacier Parks, the Redwood forests and the two coast fairs, to say nothing of the coast cities, dropped off for a few days with their lifelong friends, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Ellis of Saratoga avenue.

The first ejaculations after the greeting on the platform at the station were, "Oh, isn't this lovely!" their second, upon seeing poster of the Chautauqua and the flags floating, "Oh, this is grand. We'll stay a week and take it all in."

## FORMER DOWNERS FOLKS PLAN CLUB.

A letter written to J. C. White from John Hawks, a former resident of the Grove, tells of a plan to form a Downers Grove Club in far western California. A picnic was held in Brookside Park, Pasadena, on July 17th, only former Downers folks being present. At this picnic plans were launched to have a permanent organization and meet along the Pacific coast at various points every three months. There are living in California at the present quite a few people whose former home was our village and this move, if it is carried through, will mean a great deal to them.

Local people visiting in the west, will arrange their plans to be present at some meeting, no doubt.

## DO NOT FORGET

There are three more nights and two more afternoons of the Independent Chautauqua. "Bob" Seeds in to lecture tonight, and what he says means something.

Tomorrow night the Dixie Jubilee Singers, and Sunday afternoon and evening Jenkin Lloyd Jones, pastor of All Souls' Church, will lecture.

## CONGREGATIONAL PHILATHEA CLASS.

The Philathea Class will meet at the home of Miss Elizabeth Strong, East Maple avenue, Friday evening, August 6th. It is hoped that each member will make an effort to be present and bring someone with her.

## CHAUTAUQUA NOTES.

The program for Friday evening includes a lecture, "How God Made the Soil Fertile" This lecture is given by Robert S. Seeds. Would B. L. T. think that "ripe" for the Line-o-type.

"Our next number is a solo, 'With Verdure Clad,' from Creation, by Mrs. John C. Taylor, Mr. Edouarde Sacerdote accompanist." Mr. Babcock announced. Some one stepped up to him with a note. Rather hurriedly, Mr. Babcock said, "This number has been changed from 'With Verdure Clad' to 'These Are They,' from 'The Holy City.'" Just back of us I heard a loud whisper: "Mamma, how do you spell 'Thezertha,' and what does it mean?"

## ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MAILS.

Arrive from East—8:35 a. m., 8:49 a. m., 11:40 a. m., 12:28 p. m., 5:00 p. m., 5:16 p. m.

Depart for East—9:07 a. m., 9:58 a. m., 1:34 p. m., 2:00 p. m., 5:33 p. m., 5:45 p. m., 7:00 p. m.

Arrive from West—6:02 a. m., 9:58 a. m., 1:24 p. m., 5:33 p. m.

Depart for West—8:49 a. m., 11:40 a. m., 5:16 p. m.

## WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST.

U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Chicago, Ill., Tuesday, July 27. Issued by the U. S. Weather Bureau, Washington, D. C., for the week beginning Wednesday, July 28, 1915.

For the Region of the Great Lakes: Overcast showery weather the first half will be followed by generally fair weather the latter half of the week. The temperatures will average near or slightly below the normal.

For the Upper Mississippi Valley and Plains States: Widely scattered showers and thunderstorms the first half and generally fair weather the latter half of the week. The temperatures will average near or below the normal.



## VACATION MONEY

If you intend taking a little vacation next summer why not begin now to set aside a small amount each pay day. You will not miss the money now but it will mean a great deal to you next summer.

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Save The Date. August 11th, Business