

DOWNERS GROVE WELCOMES 1920 WITH WHISTLES

Church Bells Ring Out Tidings That The Old Year Had Died and New One Was Here

Downers Grove gave little 1920 a right royal welcome at 12:01 a. m. yesterday morning. The predominant noise making devices heard above all others were the whistles.

One in particular, an electric siren, which Henry Dicke chief of the fire department had installed especially for the occasion, was heard for miles around.

Added to the screech of this was the fire whistle the signals of engines in the yards and church bells where watch night services were being held. Firearms, horns and in fact anything capable of making a noise were used by local people.

New Whistle Excites Curiosity
The electric siren, which was blown early in the evening to give it a try out, excited the curiosity of all who did not know it was going to be blown.

It is an alarm device which Henry Dicke, Chief of the local Fire Department hopes to get the village to install. The manufacturers claim it's sound carries four miles and as our present whistle cannot be heard very well when a strong wind is blowing, Mr. Dicke is going to recommend the installation of a new one.

Annual Firemen's Masquerade
Many dancers attended the annual masquerade of the Downers Grove Fire Department held in Dicke's hall.

Until after eleven the stunts of the masquerader's kept the spectators in an uproar of mirth. The many pleasing and varied costumes of the dancers gave the judges a hard job when it came to picking out the prize winners.

Those chosen were:
Best Group, \$10.00, donated by the Fire Department, Red Cross Girls the Misses Elsie Fischel, Grace Haumeser and Mae Leibundguth.

Best Dressed Lady, \$2.20 Silk Hose, donated by Lehmann & Michel Mrs. Edward Landorf.

Best Dressed Gent, \$3.00 Muffler, donated by V. Tholin, Wm. Borman.

Farmer, \$3.50 Overshoes donated by Morris Shoe Store, J. H. Karsten.

Farmer's Wife, \$4.50 Carving Set, donated by Mertz & Moehel Mrs. H. C. Dicke.

Clown, \$2.50 Shirt donated by Lehmann & Michel, George Daugherty.

Tramp, Box Cigars donated by Bertolin & Siebert, F. Karsten.

Flower Girl; Bottle Perfume; donated by Zindt's Pharmacy, Mrs. W. G. Bollow.

Negro, Pipe, donated by J. L. Swearingen, Lester Barry.

Jew; 3 pounds of Coffee; donated by Emrich Bros., Lydia Hogrefe.

Clown Girl, \$2.00 Jardinere donated by J. D. Gillespie & Co. Miss Lillian Wander.

Japanese Girl; Silk Hose donated by McAllister's Mrs. James Gregory.

Dude; Necktie; donated by J. W. Nash; O. E. Fritsch of Naperville.

Comical Man; \$2.00 Cash donated by E. Hoehn; Edward Landorf.

Comical Lady; Box Chocolates; donated by Wm. Bollow; Mrs. Henry Tank.

Smallest Girl; Box Writing Paper; donated by Puffer Pharmacy; Frances Weinhold.

Fat Man; Box Cigars; donated by Phil. Moehel; Ed. Karish.

Fat Lady; \$2.00 Theatre Tickets; donated by the Dicke Theatre; Mrs. Lester Gerwig.

The music for the evening was furnished by the Downers Grove Jazz Boys who are making a reputation for themselves playing at local dances.

HONORS WERE WITH BARNUM

Fellow Diner Who Thought to Have Joke on Showman Found the Tables Turned.

Turning the joke back on the other fellow was a great stunt for Barnum, the circus king, and recalls an episode of his tour of England.

One day he met a man named Anderson who was a magician and billed himself as "The Wizard of the North." Anderson lured Barnum to a dinner at which both were strangers, and thinking to have a little fun, introduced Barnum to the assemblage as "The Wizard of the North."

Not the least taken aback, Barnum gracefully acknowledged the introduction, and bowing to the assemblage said:

"Ladies and gentlemen, as you know, 'The Wizard of the North' gives his first show Monday night and as you are now a my friends, I would like to have you accept passes to see the opening performance," and he began writing passes as fast as he could.

Anderson stood it as long as he could, but finally, with visions of having to do his first show to a deadhead audience, he finally weakened and confessed.

LOCAL MEN ELECTED TO PLACE ON SCOUT BOARD

District Council Met at La Grange on Monday Evening For the Annual Session

The annual meeting for the election of officers reports of committees and so forth of the West Suburban District, Boy Scout Councils was held at LaGrange, Monday evening December 29th.

Among the officers elected were: C. T. Lamb, Hinsdale, President. F. N. Davis, Downers Grove, Vice-President.

H. S. Paine, Downers Grove, Auditor. E. H. Huntington, Jr., Downers Grove, Member of the District Council.

It was the largest and most enthusiastic meeting ever held in the district and seems to indicate that the men along the "Q" now have the welfare of the boys at heart.

The general inspection of all the Downers Grove troops which was designated for January 5th has been postponed on account of the inability of Scout Executive Barnes to be present. A subsequent date will be announced.

L. Paul Prickett has been appointed assistant scout master of troop No. 1.

National Scout Sunday will occur on February 8th. Information and aid will be given to any pastors or churches desiring to arrange for scout services or sermons.

Any citizen interested in scouting is invited to lunch with members of the district council which meets every Thursday at the Y. M. C. A. from 1 to 2 o'clock p. m.

So He Pursues 'Em.
The chap who follows the fashions is usually behind with his studies.

Cheap Traveling.
A London couple connected their two bicycles by iron cross pieces carrying a long box and thus transport the family of six, the small children in the box.

Daily Thought.
The wisest saying of all was that the only true wisdom lay in not thinking that one knew what one did not know.—Cicero.

Standard for Radium.
Scientists in Europe are trying to determine and agree upon an international standard of strength and purity for radium.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS

The Misses Dorothy Towsley and Kathryn Davis visited Miss Marie Pahl at her home in Chicago Saturday.

Miss Elma Kelly spent New Year's with Miss Maurine Marselles at her home in Chicago.

Mrs. B. E. Balczynski entertained the members of the Camp Fires Girls of which she is the guardian; at a New Year's luncheon on Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Mahoney and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Tizzard entertained at a watch night card party at the Mahoney home on Forest avenue Wednesday evening.

W. H. Beidelman and Earl Singletary attended a New Year's entertainment given by the Knight Templars at Medinah Temple Chicago on New Year's Eve. An excellent time was had by the young men.

COLD WEATHER COMES IN WITH ONE NINE TWO O

Mercury Drops Below Zero as Noise Making Devices Tell of Arrival of the New Year

Cold weather is with us again. After the sunny days and mild weather of the past two weeks, we are again enjoying (?) some of that well known brand of winter with the mercury in the thermometers anywhere from five to fifteen below zero.

The latest cold spell came in with the New Year when it was five below. This morning's record however, has yesterday beaten as it was almost fifteen below at seven o'clock. It moderated a little at nine (never getting above zero however) and at 12 o'clock it was five degrees colder than at ten.

Coming as it does after the coal strike has been settled the cold wave has not many terrors for us.

Local dealers are now getting in shipments of Illinois coal which is used almost universally in the furnaces of the village and shipments of hard coal from the east are coming in on time.

House Holds 8,000 Lodgers.
The most spacious lodging house in the world is one for pilgrims at Mecca, which accommodates 8,000 persons.

Nothing New.
"All the world's a stage," and yet some people look upon the revolving stage as a modern idea.

FIRE CALLS OUT DEPARTMENT ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

Holiday Dinners Interrupted by the Call of the Fire Whistle Yesterday Afternoon

The shrill alarm of the fire whistle interrupted many holiday dinners yesterday afternoon calling the department to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kuiper on Prince avenue and Lincoln streets. The family were just enjoying their dinner when someone smelled smoke and it was discovered that the wall between the dining room and kitchen was burning.

The fire alarm was put in and neighbors living in the vicinity started carrying out the furniture as it seemed that the blaze might be a serious one.

The prompt arrival of the firemen with a chemical soon routed the flames and the danger was over.

R. C. Briggs, who owns the house, gives the firemen all the credit "for" he says, "with the high wind that was sweeping across the prairie, the house would have burned to the ground, if quick action wasn't taken. It seemed that the whistle had just blown," he continued, "when the men arrived with the chemical."


Freaks of Nature.
A cat that barked like a dog recently exhibited at Boston tops the list of numerous freaks discovered in this country. Recently says the Detroit Free Press, a giant glow worm, 4 1/2 inches long was found in the East River mountains. When placed in the dark a gorgeous effect was produced by the luminous rings circling its body. Mammoth fruit is of frequent occurrence, but in Southgate, Bath England, a shocking case of plant over-eating was discovered. It resulted in seven dahlias growing on one stalk. This freak, scientists said, was caused by frostbite which means over-eating. White blackbirds, canaries, linnets and sparrows have been seen and exhibited. The ocean, too, gives its share of curious freaks. A double-sided flounder with both sides alike, duplicate fins and a misplaced eye, was caught some months ago.

8,000 Different Fish in the Nile.
It is believed the Nile contains a greater variety of fish than any other river in the world. An expedition sent by the British museum brought back 8,000 specimens.

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Western United Gas and Electric Company

Where Is Your Money?

Is it hidden in a sock under the mattress? Is it buried in an old tomato can under the butternut tree? Or is it safely deposited in our bank, drawing interest and establishing credit for you? Wise farmers use our bank—progressive farmers who read wisely and well, and who know how to follow the good advice they find in

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN

In the January 3 issue of the Great National Farm Weekly, J. M. Henderson, Jr., a farmer-stockman-banker of California, discusses "The Banker as a Farm Leader." We're interested in that article and a good many of the same sort to follow, and we'd like to have every farmer hereabouts follow them with us. Fifty-two big issues of this leading agricultural weekly will cost you only \$1.00, which we'll gladly charge to your account if you say so. And it will pay you to invest the dollar. We know the big coming issues will give you new ideas for your farm, and we believe they will help you to make and to save more money. Come in to see us—and subscribe today.

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