

DOWNERS GROVE REPORTER

VOL. XXXVIII. NO. 12

DOWNERS GROVE, DU PAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS. FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 1921

WHOLE NO. 1937

PROPOSITION TO ANNEX WESTMONT GROWS IN FAVOR

Those With the Vision of a Greater Downers Grove are Backing the Plan.

In the past two or three weeks there has been much talk of the proposed annexation of Westmont to the Village of Downers Grove along with other territory which naturally belongs within the confines of the corporation limits.

Those who have the vision of a greater Downers Grove are backing the plan, hoping that it can be carried through to a successful conclusion. The real estate firm handling the new subdivision at Westmont are desirous of incorporating but are withheld from their desire by the fact that it is necessary to have 500 inhabitants before the state can issue the proper papers. They are now figuring on being annexed to an already incorporated municipality. If Downers Grove does not get busy and back the plan it is almost certain that Hinsdale will, and our boundaries run much closer to the subdivision. Then, too, there is the new drainage district which is certain to carry and which includes all the territory proposed to be annexed to the village.

At the present time the eastern boundary of Downers Grove is Fairview avenue, better known as the East Grove road. The territory to be included in the addition would be from a point east of the Westmont depot, the north boundary the Plank road and the west the present village limits. This would bring into the village that part lying between Chicago avenue and the Plank road immediately north of town, which should have been part of the corporation long ago.

One of the principle objections to the proposed enlarging of the village is the extension of electric lines to meet the demands for service which would flood the village. This could be done with a bond issue very easily as the larger territory would give the village a chance to materially increase its bonded indebtedness which it cannot do at present. In case this could not be handled in this way, some other solution to the problem would no doubt present itself. The present electric plant is already getting too small for the growing needs of the community and there is always left the alternative of selling the plant to a company which can furnish us unlimited light and power at a rate which would be cheaper than under municipal management.

The connecting up of the sewers would be taken care of by the proposed drainage district and as for sidewalks, pavements, and water mains, if those who have property in this district desire them, it would be very easy to spread a special assessment which would take care of this.

Can your imagination go ahead a matter of eight to ten years to a greater Downers Grove with three railroad stations within its confines? With a business district near each station and the population of the town numbering about 10,000?

There is absolutely no question but that the opening of the new Union Station in Chicago in the near future will have a wonderful influence on the growth of the suburbs along the Burlington. It was the opening of the Northwestern station which doubled the population along that road in the north part of the county and history will repeat itself here. Downers Grove cannot afford to let the question of the annexation of this territory die without looking into the many merits and the few demerits of the plan.

Dr. John M. Tutt Will Lecture On Christian Science

The lecture will be delivered in the Curtiss Theatre, Sunday, April 17th at 3:30 p. m. under the auspices of First Church of Christ, Scientist of Downers Grove, Illinois.

Dr. Tutt is a member of the Board of Lectureship of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts.

BUT FEW VOTES CAST AT TOWNSHIP ELECTION

R. D. Blakey, New Justice of Peace, Makes Some Promises to Lovers.

The cost to Downers Grove township for the election held on Tuesday was approximately \$2.00 a vote. Very few took advantage of the fact that there was an election to cast their ballots the election boards sitting around all day waiting for business to come to them, but very little did.

R. D. Blakey of Saratoga avenue, a newly elected Justice of the Peace for Downers Grove, has made one post election promise which should prove popular with those about to marry. Judge Blakey says that he is going to bring down the High Cost of Living and will marry free of charge any and all couples who come before him with the proper credentials. "Besides," said Blakey, "I'll present them with an elaborately engraved certificate, certifying to the fact that the knot has been tied in due and regular form to hang upon the walls of their home, should they be lucky enough to find one."

Nothing could be fairer than this and we anticipate a rush of business to Judge Blakey's office as soon as the papers arrive which make him qualified to cry, "Hear ye, hear ye, this court is about to open for the solemnization of marriage."

FINAL MUSICAL EXTENSION DATE CHANGED TO MAY 3

Miss Margery Maxwell Chicago Grand Opera Star, Unable to be Here April 19th.

The local committee in charge of the Community Entertainment Course announces that the date of the last number in the Musical Extension Series has been changed from April 19th to Tuesday evening, May 3d.

Miss Margery Maxwell, the principal star for the last entertainment in the series, has been retained by the Chicago Grand Opera Association for the month of April in addition to her original contract which would have closed her season's work with the last of March. This meant that the local committee must either postpone the date of the entertainment here or accept a substitute. They postponed the date to May 3d, believing that the community will prefer a later date to being deprived of the privilege of hearing this famous young star right at home.

FRANKENFIELD STARTS FURNACE SELLING CAMPAIGN

First Broadside in an Advertising Series Appears on Page Two This Week.

The first broadside in an intensive advertising campaign for the selling of Round Oak Furnaces by J. H. Frankenfield will be found on page two this week.

This is the kind of copy and space which cannot help helping Mr. Frankenfield sell these heating plants. It is the second one which he has run, the one last year enabling him to dispose of more than a carload of these furnaces.

WHY DON'T YOU USE THE WANT ADS?



THEN CAME THE DELUGE



PACKED HALL GREETES LOCAL DEGREE TEAM

100 Members Present as Local Lodge Confers Rebekah Degree on Seven Candidates.

Bluebird Rebekah Lodge No. 147, I. O. O. F., of Downers Grove, journeyed to Aurora last Friday, April 1st, and conferred the Rebekah Degree upon seven candidates for Minnehaha Lodge of that city.

The I. O. O. F. Temple was packed nearly 400 members being present to witness the conferring of the degree and, according to the opinion of the Aurora staff itself, the work was superb, the drill and tableaux especially were perfection in themselves and drew rounds of applause as the exquisitely gowned ladies executed their last movement and marched from the hall.

Bluebird degree staff conferred the degree on the invitation of Minnehaha Lodge, who have been to Downers Grove several times to perform the work for this lodge. They have one of the best drilled teams in the state. About thirty-five Rebekah's left here by automobile. They were a little skeptical at first about working before such a large lodge with a newly formed staff but set to work with a determination to do themselves and the village proud, and mastered the intricate movements of the drill in the short time of but two months. That they accomplished their goal can be vouched for by those present.

After the degree an amusing comedy was presented by the members of Minnehaha, about twenty taking part. It certainly was entertaining, the company being dressed to represent a "hicktown" orchestra and acting the part to the enjoyment of the assemblage.

Delicious chicken salad, hot luncheon, cake and ice cream were served after the play.

Bluebird staff, captained by Mr. Walter H. Rogers, has been working for only a few months and have missed no opportunity to become acquainted with the drills. The men have been going without supper so as to enable the women to visit the other lodges in the vicinity and watch the regularly and rightly deserve the honors bestowed upon them at Aurora.

Drilling will be kept up during the summer and by next fall they will also have a team that can go to the Rebekah Assembly and compete with any of the prize teams. They are already assured of a reputation in the fraternal circles of Odd Fellowship in this part of the state.

WHAT IS IT — A TONIC?

Dandelions, so they say, make one of the most edible of salads. However we opine that most folks this year will leave the little pests in the ground until they blossom and will then gather a crop which, when properly cared for, will have rather more of a kick in it than even the best of salads.

LAGRANGE COUPLE HAVE NARROW ESCAPE FROM DEATH

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Buzzek Nearly Asphyxiated by Sewer Gas on Monday Evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Buzzek of LaGrange, had a narrow escape from death Monday evening. Mr. Buzzek, who is sales manager for the Aluminum Products Co., of LaGrange, arrived home from Chicago rather late Monday evening. His wife complained of a funny pain at the base of her brain but neither thinking very much of it, retired for the night.

Tuesday afternoon a business acquaintance of Mr. Buzzek's dropped into the Aluminum Co.'s office to see him and was told by the employees that he had not been down, and no one knew where he was. The man went out and an hour later came back to be told the same thing. As his business was important he a look for directions to the Buzzek home, saying that he would walk up there and see if he could find him. This was about three-thirty. Arriving at the house he tried to arouse the inmates but without avail, and there being something suspicious about the place which aroused his curiosity he went back for the village policeman. Getting back to the house the cop broke in the door, finding Mr. and Mrs. Buzzek in bed and unable to move. Mr. Buzzek was conscious of his surroundings but in a paralyzed state, his wife having in fact consciousness some time during the night.

Two doctors were called, pronounced the cause of the strange malady sewer gas and after laboring for several hours got the two to they were able to tell their story. Neither of them had detected any odor and Mr. Buzzek had had them all day, conscious of the fact that there was something wrong, straining his ears to listen for footsteps and unable to help either himself or his wife.

Both are now well over their strange experience and apparently none the worse for it.

NELS LARSON

Nels Larson, seventy years old, died at his home south of the village on Saturday, April 2d, after an illness of but a few weeks. Funeral services were held from the home at two o'clock Tuesday afternoon, April 5th, and burial was made at the West Side cemetery. Pastor Johnson of the Swedish Baptist Church, Hinsdale, of which Mr. Larson was a member, officiated.

Born at Varmland, Sweden, January 18th, 1851, Mr. Larson came to the United States in 1882 when he was twenty-one years of age. In 1892 he moved with his family to Downers Grove where he has since made his home, a respected neighbor, loved and loving husband and father. He leaves to mourn his loss, his wife, Nina M. Larson, one daughter, Eva Shelgren of LaGrange and four sons, Wm. C., of New York, Emil, Edwin J., of Downers Grove and Elmer D., of California.

ANNUAL MEETING BAPTIST CHURCH HELD MARCH 30TH

Reports Show Church in Flourishing Condition at the End of the Year.

The annual meeting of the Baptist Church was held Wednesday evening, March 30, 1921. Supper was served at 6:30 to one hundred and ten members and friends and immediately at its close Dr. A. S. Carman of the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary gave a short address.

A number who had been unable to attend the supper came in later for the business meeting which followed Dr. Carman's talk. While the tables were being cleared old time songs were sung by the assembly. Miss Dorothy Towsley gave a whistling solo, Mr. Rosenbaum a song and the male quartet sang two selections.

The year's reports from the various officers and societies showed a most satisfactory condition, for in spite of the fact that seven families, most of them the most faithful workers, have moved from town during the year, and the pastor's failing health compelled his resignation, the work has been carried on, all bills have been paid, and the mortgage on the parsonage cancelled and burned. The contributions for missions and benevolences were more than twice the amount given any previous year. The Woman's Society reported a busy year covering many activities both in the home church and in outside fields.

Mr. Stewart and his wife came at the beginning of the fiscal year, and entered with earnestness and enthusiasm into the work. During the summer they superintended a large and successful Vacation Bible School. However, during the winter Mr. Stewart's health failed, and it became necessary for him to retire from the active ministry. It was therefore, with much regret that farewells were said to Mr. and Mrs. Stewart. The church has been fortunate, however, in securing another pastor, who will assume charge May 1st, and is looking forward to a greater year and can still sing "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow."

REV. C. W. BURTON BROUGHT MESSAGE ON NEGRO PROBLEM

Colored Preacher Spoke to a Large Audience at Congregational Church Friday.

The audience which gathered in the Congregational Church Friday night to hear Rev. C. W. Burton, were thrilled with his message regarding the results of missions among the men and women of his race. He traced the career of boy some of them born of slaves' parents, who have become factors in the history not only of his race, but of the whole nation. The negro problem was shown to be an intense one, but the solution was shown to be through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The meeting was under the auspices of the Missionary Society of the Congregational Church. This is one of the five organizations of that church. The President, Mrs. John W. Graves, and the Treasurer, Mrs. J. M. Ziml, are to be congratulated in securing such a speaker with a great message.

TWO AUDIENCES APPLAUD "THE CHEERFUL LIAR"

Benefit for Fire Truck Makes Big Hit at Dicke's on Tuesday and Wednesday.

One of the best amateur plays ever given in the village was applauded on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings by packed houses at the Dicke Theatre. "The Cheerful Liar" was a scream from start to finish. Given under the auspices of the Vesta Juniors, partly for the benefit of the fire truck fund, it sent those who saw, home with a feeling that they had had much more than the worth of the admission price.

It was strictly an amateur presentation from the cast of characters to the setting of the stage. No professional had a voice in the staging of the comedy, and this fact makes its success the more remarkable. The costumes which the players wore were their own idea of how respective parts should be clothed. Their makeup, their gestures, voice control, and "business" used in putting the play "over," all this was but amateur work and in the final showing came not far short of being professional. The directing was done by Miss Edith Snyder and Mr. Pierce Butler, also amateurs, to whom a great deal of credit is due for the success of the play.

For the past three months those who appeared have been faithfully working at their respective parts and the appreciation of the audiences more than made up for the hard work they have been doing. I. Harbich, as a country Justice of the Peace, and the "Cheerful Liar" of the play, was a scheming man, but his plots to win a thousand dollars of Randolph Dearborn's (Charles Davis) money by gaining the consent of General Boomer (Fred Drisler) so that Dearborn could marry his daughter Flora (Lorraine Top) went awry in the last act. This was due to the stratagem of Flora, who, dressed as her cousin Bill, fooled the Judge into marrying her to Dearborn.

Mr. Harbich was a genuine country Justice, no greater praise of his work could be given. He was natural and as a schemer put over his "stories" in great style. As for Dr. Davis and Miss Top, their roles as love-sick youngsters could not be improved on. They carried out their parts to perfection, Miss Top showing by her actions that she is a natural-born actress. Making as good a boy as a girl she played both parts with a watchfulness which endeared her to the audience. Dr. Davis as the "pick up" and later real estate man, was not "forced" at all, acting natural all thru the play.

Walter Johnston in the character of Guy McGuffin, the county constable, was a riot. With his country twang and his deliberate movement, he took the house by storm every time he opened his mouth, which was pretty often. In his love scenes with Mrs. Bessie Sweetlove (Marie Olson) he acted to "hear" to perfection. As for Bessie, she was remarkable as portrayed by Miss Olson. Sweet and winsome, as only a "widow" can be, when she went to Mr. Olson really got mad, when she was supposed to and carried it off fine. As for her laughter, when that came, it was natural, nothing of the forced variety which most amateurs are prone to use.

Miss Dell Winters as Miss Lucretia Spriggins, an Illinois country school-ma'am—was one. Her costume, dating from the time of the ark, or thereabouts, was a real one which had been worn by Mrs. Jonas Foster's mother. The hoop skirt and the hat, oh that hat, drew a laugh without her speaking. And when she wildly clutched the chair at the ringing of the Judge's bell, she was really frightened. Miss Winters' part in the play was immense.

Fred P. Drisler as General Boomer surely "boomed." His rages, and he got into a regular rage in every act, were realism itself. His "get-up" as an ex-Confederate general was such that hardly anyone in the audience was able to recognize the real Fred under that white hair and them mustachios.

Appearing at odd intervals was the (Continued on Page 8)

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