

**FINE SPEAKING
FEATURE OF COM-
MUNITY PICNIC**

(Continued from Page 1)

soil in which they may take root, the past has lost its meaning along with its reality, and the future is merely a misty chaos into which we may blindly plunge and be submerged and annihilated.

"It is because I believe the real light may still be seen between the great trees of the people's forests that I am grateful for the establishment of the forest preserves. When a man from the city, who owns no land, who is a tenant at the will of a grasping landlord, walks along the lanes of the people's land he must see the light. He must see what the light illumines.

"Memories of the great past will come back into the mind again. The freeman standing on his own doorstep will be contrasted with the tenant opening the door to his landlord. Visions of a garden or a field over which one has all the rights of sovereignty will make very dreary the reality of a yard in the rear of an apartment building. Discontent will inevitably follow, but it will be discontent from which great content will come. It is not merely giving expression to an idle fancy to say that the forest preserves by revealing the pleasure that may be derived from public ownership of land may induce those who have abandoned their land to come back again and by regaining their land regain their proud eminence as American freemen."

As an intermission the bugler off in the forest gave the calls of the army as he had learned them in years of service in the U. S.

F. J. Littleford, supervisor from Downers Grove, one of the members of the Forest Preserve Committee of that Board and chairman of the committee which had the community picnic in charge, read a paper on the Forest Preserve in Cook and DuPage counties.

Mr. Littleford's remarks, in part, follow:

"Many of you are familiar with the organization campaign, and hard work that made this forest preserve district a reality. For those who are not familiar with the movement I will say that a law was passed by the legislature several years ago giving any district containing one or more villages or cities and having one or more natural forests the power by certain legal procedure and the vote of the people to incorporate as a forest preserve district.

"Cook county availed itself of the privilege of this act almost at once and today has about 25,000 acres purchased. They surely have gone at it whole heartedly and are taking the steps they should to preserve some of nature, not only for the present generation, but the generations yet unborn. This country is yet very young and still there is very little of natural scenery and beauty hereabouts unmarred by man. Our forests are heritages of the past, they are the products of a hundred years of growth, they cannot be produced in a few years. Parks can be produced in a few years, but only at enormous cost, and they cannot take the place of natural forests. Since we of this generation and time have had the pleasure and health building opportunity of roaming in natural forests, what are we going to do to insure this privilege to our children and the children yet unborn? When we stop to consider about it at all we see that it is a most solemn duty that we owe our descendants; where will there be any forests even forty or fifty years from today unless preserved now?"

The fact remains that we are only the second county in the state to have forest preserves. May there be more of them. Under our plan of organization the County Board of Supervisors compose the Forest Preserve Board.

The board has four preserves bought and is buying the fifth. The first preserve bought you are doubtless familiar with, is on Roosevelt Road just west of York Road about two miles south of Elmhurst; this is an 80-acre tract. The preserve acquired was 70 acres just south of West Chicago along the west branch of the DuPage River. This is a splendid preserve combining as it does a fine stream with the woods and rolling ground. Just last week an additional purchase of 40 acres was made there. This ground was bought from an old gentleman named Mr. Bolles. When the contract was drawn up he turned around and put up a certified check for \$1,000 toward a dam to be put in this summer so as to provide a boating and swimming place. The work will be started soon and when it is done West Chicago and vicinity is certainly going to have a beautiful and most inviting preserve.

The third purchase was made at Bloomingdale a few miles north of Glen Ellyn. There 40 acres were purchased.

The fourth purchase was made here, where a tract of 80 acres was acquired, and it is second to none.

When we first took up the matter with the county board, their finances were low, and, too, they thought the price would be too high. But by seizing the opportunity before these grounds were all sold for subdivision purposes, by hard work, the co-operation of our local banks, we found after the smoke of battle cleared away that we had an 80-acre preserve and at a cost of only \$16,000. Let me say in this connection that I believe Mr. Field made a very generous price to us on this ground because it was going to be used as a preserve. When your local committee went into see the Field Estate it was our good fortune to meet Mr. Field III personally, and we certainly did not let the opportunity slip to put our proposition right up to him.

"I think we have one of the finest preserves in the county and as far as accessibility is concerned we have it. We now have a perpetual park of 80 acres within walking distance of the town.

"Preserve No. 5 is at Fullersburg; 70 acres will be acquired there. Most of it is already contracted for, but the owners of two or three small pieces have held out and it is maybe necessary to bring condemnation proceedings to acquire them. This tract is the old picnic ground dear to many of us. It lies along Salt creek west of Grane's Mill. Salt creek is dried out now and the place does not look like it used to when it provided much boat riding, skating and swimming, but cheer up the good old days are coming back. A new dam will be put in and the boating, etc., will be better than ever.

"Now a word as to the cost of these wonderful acquisitions. We have paid \$200 per acre right straight through so far. I think the county is making a wonderful investment. Where is there an investment that will pay higher returns? To be true, we are not putting it into something that we can eat, or wear, or ride in or on, but we are putting it into something that will pay big dividends in health, education and democracy. If democracy is to endure, among other things we need are more of the natural playgrounds as antidotes to the breaking down of health, morals and ethics by the artificiality of the times.

"When the cost of these preserves are prorated the amount per person is almost negligible.

"The assessed valuation of all property in this county last year was nearly \$28,000,000. The forest preserve tax is two-thirds of one-tenth of one per cent on the assessed valuation. The total amount raised last year was about \$20,000 for the whole county. Downers Grove township has an assessed valuation of about \$4,600,000 and consequently would raise about \$3,000 per year for this purpose. I do not know of the exact population of the township, but have guessed it at 12,000. If it is, the rate per person would be only 25 cents per person per year. Then the results are worth it, are they not? Then let's boost the idea and make the most of our opportunities."

Howard P. Jones, who needs no introduction to Downers Grove readers, was the next speaker. He knows the flora and fauna of that tract of woods as well, if not better, than anyone who makes their home in this vicinity. He has lived at the edge of that bit of forest since a wee chap, has played there, picked flowers and chased birds, besides swimming in the "Barker."

Mr. Jones' talk was very interesting. He has the faculty of making any subject he touches interesting.

Part of the talk is reproduced below: Our Forest Preserve is traversed by three principal roads, the Grassy Path, the Wagon Track and the Shady Way, together with countless paths and by-ways, running in all directions.

Access to it from the village is from Maple avenue down the Wagon Track and from Gilbert avenue by the Shady Way.

Virtually all the varied flora of Illinois is represented in our Forest Preserve, the prairie trees, the crab and the hawthorn; the forest growths, the oak, the poplar, the linden, the ash, the hickory, the walnut, the maples and the elms and of flowers there is no end from early spring to late fall and even in winter the red berries of the haws, the scarlet rose — and the flaming seeds of the Indian turnip and the red of the Solomon seal sometimes stand out above the snow, while the green brier does its best to make up for the absence of pines and firs.

Let us walk down the Wagon Track from the south gateway and explore the reserve. The Wagon Track wanders along lined on either side for several rods of half clearing by wild crab apple trees and hawthorn, which in spring are masses of pink and white and through the hot days of summer look serenely cool.

Among the hawthorns stand oaks and maples and presently the track is all but lost in a close growing forest. The path slopes to the north and beneath the trees grow flowers, some familiar and some unusual. Pursuing the way slowly, each glance resting

on some new beauty, we shortly observe a break in the dense woods and the Wagon Track crosses the Grassy Path. To the right we look up the vista of the Grassy Path and see the pond called The Barker, fringed with sedges and ringed round with stately trees. To the left lies the elm swamp, where the roots submerged in spring form curious mounds at the base of the towering trees. Before us opens the entrance to the Shady Way, and we proceed down a gentle slope into shade so dense that noon day is almost twilight and late afternoon is almost darkness. Here on either side the trees cluster. Most of them are maples, the hard or sugar maple of Vermont and pancake fame, with here and there an oak, an ash and an occasional walnut. The trees here grow so close together that there is no room for branches to catch the sunshine and the trunks go straight and bare, twenty, thirty or forty feet till they find room and sunlight in which to expand their foliage. Down the dim aisles to left and right can be seen giants of the woodland, those sturdy pioneers, oaks and maples, veterans of many years, looking down calmly on their smaller younger neighbors.

The Shady Way is a well beaten road which a sudden shower will change into a miniature torrent. It winds about and presently skirts a deep hollow in which great trees grow. It is a reminder of the glacial age when Downers Grove and the surrounding country was covered many feet deep with ice, which as it melted left deposits of gravel. This hollow was the resting place of a vast block of clear ice, which when it melted left no deposit of gravel as did its dirty neighbors.

Here the Shady Way turns sharply to the right and descends to a delapidated bridge spanning what once was the Roaring St. Joe, but is now a muddy ditch. May we hope that the new sanitary district will restore this stream to its pristine beauty.

The Shady Way branches below the bridge, one spur leads to the east border of the Preserve and the village property just west of the gravel pit. The other spur wanders along beside the creek and loses itself in the old gravel pit near the railroad tracks.

The Rev. Phelps then filled his part of the program with an eloquent address on the connection between the dedication of this beauty spot and the world war. He called attention to the many gallant young men who had gone forth from villages like ours and had not returned. He said how appropriate it was that these trees which had lived for years and would continue to live for many more, should be living monuments to the brave boys who had not returned from Flanders' Fields.

As Mr. Phelps finished, the sad, sweet strains of "Taps," coming it seemed from some eerie spot, blown perhaps from fairy trumpets, were heard, and it was a fitting climax to the speaking.

The speaking program was closed when the Rev. Gilbert H. Newland gave the benediction. All of the concessions of the day were in the hands of the Downers Grove fire department. The races, a list of which is printed below, were participated in by many.

Boys, 6 years: Richard McAllister, first, khaki cover-all, H. E. McAllister & Co.; Robert Dicke, second, \$1, Emil Hoehn.

Girls, 6 years: Dorothy Morris, first, bottle perfume, Zindt's Pharmacy; Flossobell Cline, second, \$1, C. Penner.

Boys, 10 years: James Heinke, first, \$1, C. F. Schmidt; Richard Hillard, second, \$1, Philip Mochel.

Girls, 10 years: Florence Wander, first, bottle perfume, Jules Zindt; Elinore Singleterry, second, \$2 box candy, Downers Grove Candy Kitchen.

Boys, 15 years: Fremont Plambeck, first, khaki union-all, John Nash; Ernst Andrus, second, \$1, Harry Sutter.

Girls, 15 years: Elinore Laung, first, bottle perfume, Siebert & Norris; Martha Stoops, second, box candy, Bertlin & Siebert.

Free for all men: C. Fitzpatrick, first, \$3 shirt, Vic Tholin; Frank Story, second, suit cleaned, J. Mazza. Young ladies: Marion Fitzpatrick, first, \$5 gold piece, Lord Lumber Co.; June Beideman, second, \$2.50 gold piece, Lord Lumber Co.

Married men: Fred Curtiss, first, \$1.50 in trade, Fred Mochel; second, box cigars, J. L. Swearingen.

Married ladies: Mrs. Elmer Uhlhorn, first, aluminum percolator, Mertz & Mochel; Mrs. Wm. Bollon, second, one pair silk hose, Lehman & Michel.

Three-legged race: Frederick Kalor, first, fishing reel, J. D. Gillespie & Co.; Henry Schindler, second, electric flash light, D. G. Electric Shop; Harry Johnson, third, white shoes, Morris Shoe Store; Fremont Plambeck, third, \$1.50 in trade, Emrich Bros.

Fat men: George Gash, first, \$2.50 in trade, L. Klein; Jim Raby, second, California ham, Stewart Burns.

Free for all ladies: Marion Fitzpatrick, first, special cake, Baker's Bakery; Mrs. Elmer Uhlhorn, second, special cake, Ross Bakery.

The soft drink stand, the "babies," the wheel, and later in the evening the dancing, all had their devotees.

Box and basket lunches were unpacked and parties and families gathered around, partaking of the good things "mother" had packed for the occasion.

Taken all in all the community picnic was a success. Next year we will have no forest preserve to dedicate, but we might celebrate the first anniversary of the dedication of the forest preserve. Anyway, let's have another community picnic next year.

MRS. KATE WILLARD

The death of Mrs. Kate Willard, one of the old residents of DuPage County, occurred at the Eastern Star home at Macon, Illinois, Sunday evening, July third.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon, July 6th, at her old home, 114 North Main street, the officers of Vesta Chapter, No. 242, Order of the Eastern Star, officiating at the house and the Rev. Hugh M. MacWhorter, pastor of S. Andrew's Episcopal Church, taking charge at the grave. Interment was made in Bronswood cemetery, Hinsdale, at the side of her husband.

Mrs. Willard was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Gress, old settlers of the county, and was born in 1852 on the old Gress homestead near Lisle, where her parents had settled in 1844.

She was married in June 1872 to George R. Willard and moved to Downers Grove in 1894 where she has since made her home with the exception of a few years.

Mrs. Willard leaves to mourn her loss two children, Mrs. Ernest Gallup of Highland avenue and Frank A. Willard, of North Main street.

MRS. MARY BANKS

Mrs. Mary Banks, wife of Julian Banks, died at her home in East Prairie avenue, Monday, July 4th, at the age of 62 years.

Funeral services were held yesterday morning at St. Mary's Catholic Church, East Grove, solemn requiem high mass being read by Rev. Fr. J. Grezinski, pastor of the church assisted by the Rev. J. Zelezinski and R. E. Sonnenfeld.

Mrs. Banks leaves to mourn her loss a husband with whom she lived happily for more than forty years, one son, Joseph and two daughters, Josephine and Martha, besides a large number of friends. She has made her home in the Grove for twenty-seven years.

HALL—HULING

A Los Angeles wedding of interest to many in Downers Grove took place Friday evening, June 24, 1921, at 8:30 at the Bible Institute when the Rev. Franklin G. Huling, pastor of the Hoover Street Baptist Church of Los Angeles was united in marriage to Bella Maude Hall, Superintendent of Women of the Bible Institute.

A reception followed the ceremony in the parlors of the institute. The large auditorium was filled to overflowing and among those present were the following: Mrs. J. B. Huling, mother of the groom; Miss Margaret Huling and Mr. and Mrs. John Huling, all of Los Angeles; Mrs. Julia Huling Beede, of Vallejo, Cal.; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Alford, of Ontario, Cal.; Mrs. Belle Lyman Mitchell, of Long Beach, Cal.; Mrs. John Rutherford, Mrs. Docksteder, Miss Cora Blodgett, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Saunders and daughter Olive, Mr. and Mrs. Hoke, Mr. and Mrs. Clappitt, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Golsch, Mr. and Mrs. M. Pleoka.

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Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Lyman, Mrs. Angelo, Cecil Angelo, Miss Viola Clappitt, all of Los Angeles Cal., formerly of Downers Grove.

Early in September Rev. and Mrs. Huling expect to make a short visit to Downers Grove when en route to Louisville, Ky., where the groom will complete his studies.

BRUNET—NELSON

Miss Isabel Brunet and Mr. Frederick W. Nelson, both of Downers Grove, were united in matrimony at 6 o'clock last Saturday evening at the parsonage of the First Evangelical Church. The Rev. J. Alfred Nansen, pastor of the church, read the service. Both young people are well known and highly respected in this community. The happy couple will make their home at 44 North Forest avenue of this village. Many friends unite in wishing them a long and happy wedded life.

Nests of Cedar Bark.

A new idea for hen's nests, to keep insects out of them, is to make them of cedar bark. Bugs, as every housewife knows, strongly object to cedar. For this purpose the bark is shredded and the buds of the tree may be included with it.

A Hair Problem.
On the average head there are a thousand hairs to each square inch. Find out the number of square inches in your scalp and you will soon know the approximate number of hairs on it. That is, if you have a normal head of hair.

Happiness Not All.

There is in man a higher than love of happiness; he can do without happiness and instead thereof find blessedness.—Carlyle.

Suggestions in Order.

Jud Tunkins says a bird that can sing and won't sing must be made to sing—but how are you going to make it?

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