

# Highland Park News.

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NO 4

## SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT.

Thursday will be a memorable occasion with scores, besides the nineteen young men and women who graduated on that occasion from our grammar school. In the first place the evening was beautiful, inviting people out from their homes. Hence the crowd was unprecedented in this city. The auditorium will seat about 425, but these were only a minor portion of the crowd. The room was packed, then the hallway was jammed and way down the stairway as far as people could hear, to say nothing about seeing, while scores were turned away who could not get near the doors. It settled the question that the Parkites are a theatre loving people, very like folks everywhere else, we opine. Of course the nineteen graduates' circle of friends would make a respectable audience, but there is no denying the fact that this modern style of public school exercises, instead of learned, labored essays and orations by boys and girls in their early teens, is immensely popular and deservedly so in its essential features.

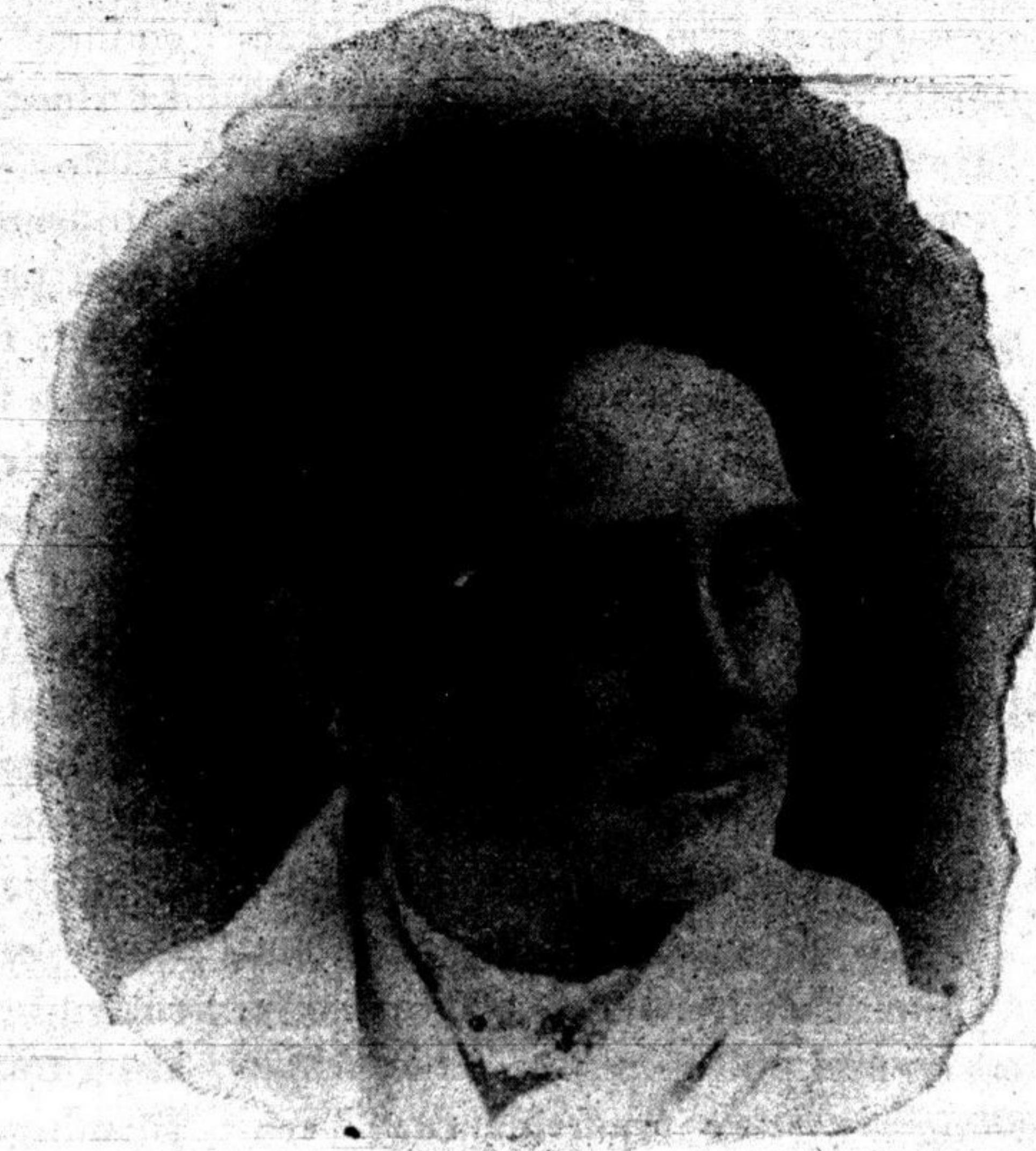
The program, as may be seen, was a full one, and yet with all the talent on hand it could not well have been shortened. Pastor Johnson acted as chaplain. Young John P. Bubb of the Fort Sheridan military post, read an excellent essay on "The Indian of Today." As the Fourth Infantry, with which his father is connected, has just come from the frontier, he had something fresh, interesting and up-to-date to say. Then followed the "Sunflower quartette," a decidedly original and taking sketch. The huge sunflowers were immensely comical. Miss Clark recited "Courtin'", from Lowell, and did it well, too. The musical sketch, superbly costumed, was in every re-

spect well rendered, while Miss Laura Schneider's burlesque on those folks who exhaust their energies in caring for other people's children and neglect their own, was admirable, and it came pat on the forms of our so-called local philanthropists.

Raphael's Cherubs was a beautiful tableau. The burlesque drill by about a dozen eighth grade boys was perfectly irresistible and was most admirably executed. The boys had just enough native fun and mischief in them to make it a grand success. The International Flag exercise by

has spoken more tersely, aptly and wisely than last evening.

We are not going to express our opinions and preference, but we have heard many others say that Russell Jones in "The House that Jack Built" was as complete and satisfactory a piece of acting as they ever saw in a student. His genius had full and fitting scope, and no one could have made the pathetically ludicrous features of "Our Christmas" stand out better than Laura Schneider, and if every boy could write as fresh and interesting an essay as John Bubb, people would enjoy hearing them, and Edward Maroney was not slow.



MRS. JEANNETTE W. CRAWFORD.

a class of girls was very fine. It was somewhat complicated, but in execution it was complete, and elicited unusual commendation. The Rainbow Drill was good, and a credit to the sixth grade girls who executed it.

President Francis D. Everett of the board, in well chosen words, urging the graduates to go on and complete the work so well begun, prevented the class with their diplomas. Of course the occasion confined him within certain limits, but he seldom

sound, healthy public opinion.

In next week's issue we will present to our readers a half-tone cut of the graduating class.

## FIRST GRADE.

On personal invitation of Miss Barlow we spent an hour in first grade room Thursday morning where were about 70 pupils, all as bright as June flowers. All the readings recitations and songs were admirably done. When you remember they are all little children just beginning

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