

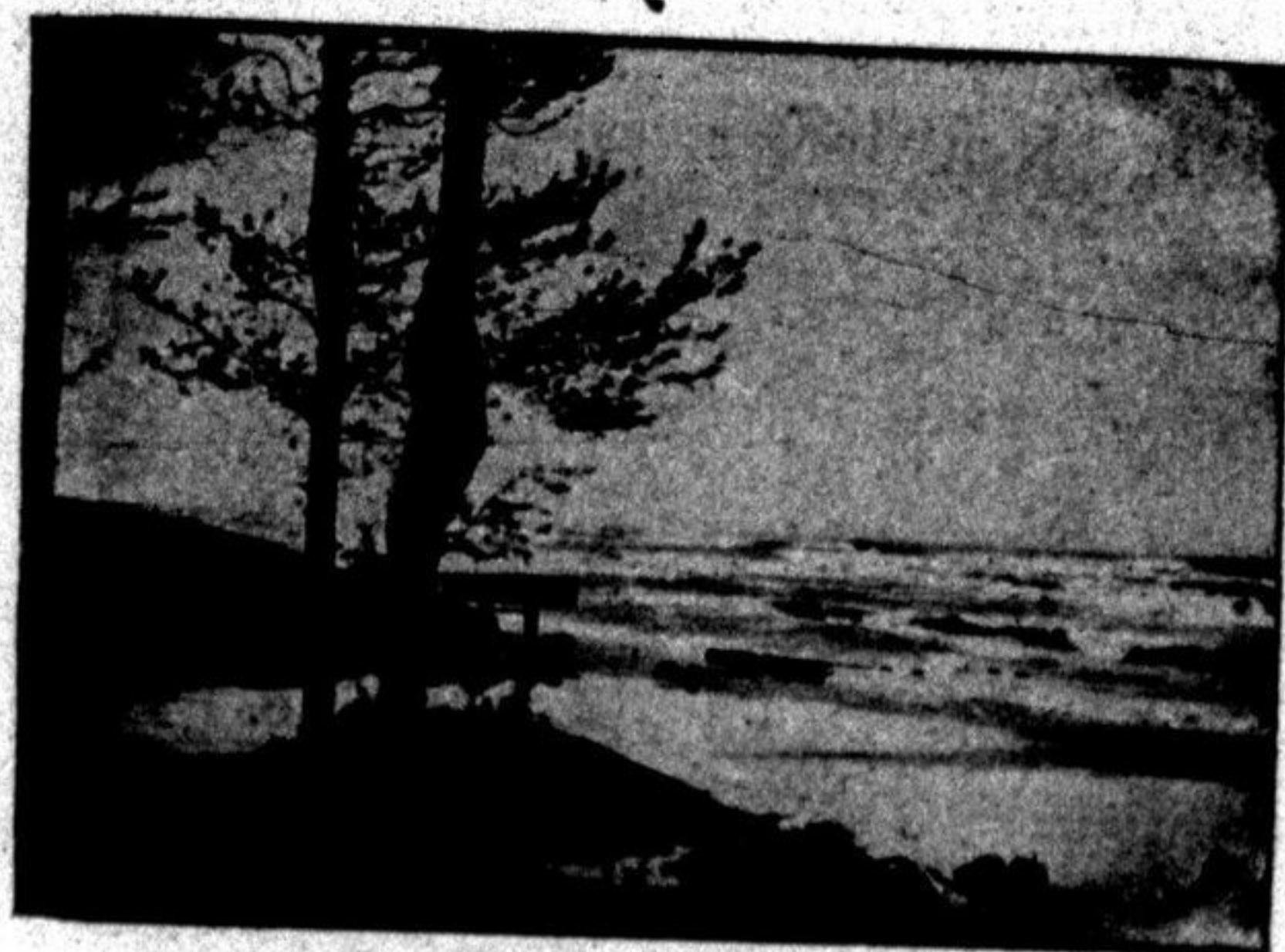
EDUCATIONAL.

As befits a residence town of the highest class, the utmost care has been given to the upbuilding of an efficient and effective public school system, which is already remarkable for its high character and the results accomplished. One of the most important features of our community is its public schools, for they, above all else, indicate and mold the character of local society. People in search of homes invariably shun those localities known to be deficient in school advantages, no matter what else they may have to recommend them. Highland Park possesses educational advantages to a remarkable degree. Our public schools have long ago reached a high state of perfection. Every modern and approved method and system of education and school architecture have been promptly passed upon and adopted by those in charge of our city and township schools. The school boards are composed of well-trained men of affairs, who are in touch with progress and who are keenly interested in the best solution of every problem which arises in school matters.

Our three school buildings are examples of the best architecture of their kind. They are presided over by thorough and enthusiastic educators, who are assisted by a corps of earnest and effective teachers. The township high school is a model of its class, its results being of the highest order. A high standard of scholarship pervades every department of public school life, and our graduates are abundantly prepared for active careers, or the pursuit of higher education.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

An extended description of the aims and results of the Northwestern military academy appears in another column. In addition to this splendid school Highland Park boasts of a young ladies' boarding and day institution well known as the "Alta school" and presided over by Miss Adele Coleman. The "Sylvan Dells" boys' school, conducted by Prof. W. H. Russell, is a most praiseworthy and commendable institution. Mr. Russell is an educator of a high order and can be safely intrusted with the educational and moral training of our future presidents.



RELIGIOUS LIFE.

Churches are the foundation stone upon which is erected the enduring edifice of civilization. In respect to the strength, wealth, sincerity and devotion to good works manifested by its church-going public, the claims of our city cannot be truthfully exceeded by those of any American town of similar population. Our many church organizations are progressive, prosperous and spiritual. The total church membership is very large, embracing nearly every family. Ecclesiastical architecture has been lavishly drawn upon, and our church edifices are many, ornate and splendid. The religious life and sentiment of this community are ever strong and potent, and the results are seen in the high intellectuality, sober habits and clean lives of our people.

Our clergymen are gentlemen of high purpose, scholarly attainments and forceful utterance, and the flocks under their watchful care show by their daily lives the faith that is in them. The following are the denominations represented in Highland Park:

Trinity Episcopal church, Rev. P. C. Wolcott, rector.

St. Mary's Catholic church, Rev. J. C. Madden, pastor.

First Baptist church, W. H. Vines, pastor.

Evangelical Asso., Rev. F. M. Gingrich, pastor.

Ravinia M. E. church, Ravinia, Rev. E. J. Heathcote, pastor.

Swedish M. E. church, Rev. O. Wessling, pastor.

First United Evangelical church, Rev. A. Haefele, pastor.

Evangelical Lutheran, Zion's church.

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The city owns and conducts a splendid public library, embracing over 2,000 volumes, which are fully accessible to all residents of the town.

SOCIAL CLUBS.

A busy town socially during the season, much of this social activity is due to the successful clubs and organizations which exist in Highland Park. The most prominent of these, and a molding factor in our social life, is the Highland Park club, which includes in its membership all the moving spirits of our city—men who have achieved success in their various callings, and who are fitted to direct the social life of our town. The Highland Park club occupies a most sumptuous and convenient clubhouse and grounds, elegantly equipped with all the accessories to club life and entertainment. The ladies' auxiliary association, known as "The Ossoli," directs many elaborate and exclusive social functions.

In the club life of Highland Park old and young are generously provided for, and every department of the social, musical and athletic field is covered. There are neighborhood clubs galore, reading clubs, literary clubs,

yachting and boating clubs, dancing clubs and church clubs. The army people at Fort Sheridan are welcome guests in Highland Park, and during the winter months our city is the scene of great jubilation and gaiety. A number of retired army officers have located permanently in Highland Park, and this rapidly-augmenting colony is proving a most desirable acquisition to local society.

SCENIC CHARMS.

Mere words can do but faulty justice to the charming natural beauty of Highland Park. Lavish private expenditures have resulted in adorning nature with landscape and architectural effects of surpassing beauty and elegance. Many of our finest homes are situated upon the high bluffs overlooking Lake Michigan. Others crown the deep and picturesque ravines or border the parklike streets and avenues. This entire vicinity is covered with native forest growth of trees and shrubbery, which the hand of man has wisely preserved. The lake beaches are dotted with piers and boat houses, where yachting, boating and swimming delights lure the seeker for health, exercise and pleasure.

EARLY HISTORY.

The territory now embraced within the corporate limits of Highland Park was first purchased by the Port Clinton Land company, about 1853, and contained 1,200 acres, a portion of the ground to the northward was platted and the railroad station, soon after established by the Northwestern railroad, was called Highland Park. Aside from the erection of a few buildings no further permanent improvement was made at that time. Subsequently W. S. Gurney came into possession of the properties of the Port Clinton Land company, and in 1867 his holdings were purchased by a syndicate of Chicago business and professional men who were numbered at that time among the foremost spirits of the growing metropolis of the west. This company, incorporated as the Highland Park Building company in February, 1867, consisted of H. B. Hurd, Henry Booth, Jesse O. Norton, Edward Haskins, Henry Bartlet, W. W. Everts, C. R. Field, George L. Wrenn, R. E. Goodell and F. P. Hawkins. Of these but three, viz.: Messrs. Wrenn, Hawkins and Field, established permanent homes in Highland Park; the two former still reside here with their families. The town was designed to be a suburban home for those doing business in Chicago, who desired the freedom, charm and health of country residence within easy access of the city. At the time Highland Park was laid out there was but one other suburban town—Evanston—along the now thickly settled North Shore.

In 1868 Mr. Hawkins removed with his family to Highland Park and assumed the management of the company's interests. A new plat of the town was made by Cleveland & French with the view of making Highland Park