

**A Wise Suggestion.**

That letter of our acute correspondent "N. O. M." in last week's issue contained one admirable suggestion, and hence one which commends itself to all candid sagacious citizens. It was to the effect that in planning important public improvements regard should be had not for the present only, but chiefly for the future. As a city Highland Park is less than thirty years old.

Thirty years is not long in the life of a city, and see what changes these years have witnessed. See what changes have transpired during the last ten years. A blunder is a blunder and it remains to annoy, perplex and curse us for years. It is not like a wound on a tree that heals over and disappears in a few years. Nay, it is in evidence every day, every month and every year till it is corrected, wiped out.

Look at St. Johns south for example. It was a blotch, a shame and disgrace, a municipal crime, the day it was done; is so now; will be so five, ten, twenty and fifty years hence, only growing worse and more aggravating all the time, till some day, not far hence we trust, the council will arise in its wrath and might and make it right.

Just now a new bridge is to be built across the Boynington ravine on St. Johns north. The plan was to go diagonally across the ravine and so follow the St. Johns off toward Highwood. Mr. Moore, Dr. Newman, everybody so far as we know wants the bridge to cross the ravine "straight," at right angles with the ravine, as though St. John's went right straight up into West street and so into the Fort Sheridan reservation. The extension of St. Johns may not be

built this season, but we want the bridge built right, that is built for the future.

Inside of ten years, less than half that time we think, St. Johns will be a macadamized street from McDonald's corner on Central avenue all the way up into Fort Sheridan. It will be one of the two great pleasure drives, and we think, the chief one of this north shore. Now does anyone want such a public popular boulevard to go up to that ravine, then twist out an acute angle across it, the off on that little twenty rod tangent towards Highwood, another sharp-turn, a ten rods drive and still another angle into West street? Why no; any public spirited citizen says have a fine straight boulevard right up into the military tract. Nine tenths of the traffic or thereabouts will be pleasure driving into the Fort, and those sharp short turns would be a lasting nuisance and folly. Build the bridge straight across—that is the present duty.

**"WILDWOOD."**

As everyone knows, is the new plat sold by Cashier Richard Street to Messrs. Schwab, Steeler and Leopold, on Hazel avenue, just opposite Stabbs Cottage and Pr Grays old office building. Wednesday was a rainy nasty day, but an hour was spent looking over the work. Just now everything is in a glorious state of confusion, as all the men are worked that can be to advantage.

Wildwood has a frontage on Hazel avenue of 610 feet, and far back from the street, on a circle corresponding with the street lines, stand four handsome modern and in every way up-to-date houses, and one central club house and kitchen, with servants quarters. These all stand on the north brink or edge of the ravine running up through the plat

and the kitchen stands over on the south side of the ravine at that point some thirty feet wide, and the two buildings, club house and kitchen are connected by a covered enclosed passage or hallway, giving the double building a most unique appearance. There are two dining rooms and a casino in the club house, that has a magnificent porch. There are no two structures alike save in these two respects, the interior finish of all is in brick, but stained different colors, and every house has three bath rooms, one on the first floor and two on the second, each one fitted up in the best style with the best materials.

No two houses are painted alike, but all have four coats of paint and hard wood floors in every room. Each house has a specially built bicycle room entered from the outside. Mr. Forman's cottage has a fine porch on the rear as well as in front like the others, in fact porches, windows, bathrooms and plenty of room out of doors characterizes every cottage in "Wildwood." One main driveway leads to every cottage door and a fine cement sidewalk does the same, while a regulation cement walk is laid in front of the whole territory, without waiting for the city to order it.

But the garden fully 1 1/2 acre in street surpasses in extent and completeness anything of the kind in this city. Down the main avenue of the garden is laid an inch and a quarter iron pipe with four small hydrants up and down its length so that with a fifty foot piece of hose any foot of it can be watered. Young fruit trees by the dozen and small fruits by the hundred are growing there, while peas, bush and dwarf, and other garden truck are growing lustily. Mr. Paul Rodocker, the chief gardener had two helpers all busy in getting ready for the summer campaign. The rabbits come up before his eyes and eat off bush peas and pole beans. The bushes for his peas are about four feet high, if his champions

grow like ours nothing short of six feet will answer.

We said "Wildwood" had a frontage of 610 feet. Its depth varies, Mr. Foreman's, the west lot, is 347 feet deep; Mr. Leopold's, on the extreme east is 446 feet deep, including the point which runs down to Hazel avenue bridge it is 200 feet front. But all of "Wildwood" is laid out as one lot, and when finished it will be the finest half block in the city, and all the houses are so far back from the street that no street noise or dust can disturb them, as they pass the summer evenings so pleasantly on those porches.

Thomas E. Young, a wideawake, vigorous, level headed Chicago contractor has the whole job, the Brand Brothers of this city are doing the painting, Witten & Barochardt are doing the hardwood work, and for the last two weeks Arthur St. Peters has been foreman in charge on the building.

ges and lots are owned as follows, beginning at the west end, together with the size of the lot in feet, fractions of feet are dropped:

- No. 1—Oscar G. Forman, 145x347.
- No. 2—A. C. Schwab, 100 x 361.
- No. 3—Club house, kitchen, etc., 60 x 375.
- No. 4—H. B. Steele, 105 x 397.
- No. 5—N. F. Leopold 200 x 446.

They had hoped to move into their new houses June 1st, but it will be the 15th before all will be ready. We understand there is only one baby in the entire outfit, but as a west side Park little girl said to her mother a few days ago, "rich folks can buy all the babies they want. Those elegant homes need not go without what Israel's sweet singer so aptly styled "olive plants about thy tables."

As our readers know "Wildwood" proprietors are all related by blood or marriage, so that the novel idea of one kitchen for the entire settlement, same dining house, and one casino, will not have the difficulties generally attached to such a little

community, and hence all looked to this feature of it as surely to prove a "magnificent success." If by any mischance it should fail of success no one else need truly try the experiment, for if they don't succeed no one can. But they can and will, and do so admirably that others will wish to repeat the experiment.

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