

## Highland Park News-Letter

Published every Saturday at Highland Park, Illinois

By the

Sheridan Road Publishing Company

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Entered at the Post Office, Highland Park, Ill., as  
second class matter.

Subscription Price \$1.50 a Year. 5 Cents the Copy

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1905

### Little Journeys

I.

Ravinia Park.

**D**WELLERS in the suburbs of large cities are often confronted by the problem of social activity and pleasures; and this has come to be one of the most serious drawbacks to suburban residence by those to whom a life without social privileges is as a world without hope. But the people of the North Shore have no longer just cause to bemoan their loss. The problem has been solved for them.

beautiful. The wide-spreading lawns, level as a floor, with trees, now bare and sighing from the blast of wintry winds, but whose cool shadows in summer protect one from the fierce heat of the August sun. In the center of the landscape rises the stately theater, flanked on either side by the Casino and Stadium.

The Stadium is the home of the North Shore sports. Here the most fiercely contested baseball matches are played amid the plaudits of admiring factions. The warriors of the football field choose this of all sports on the North Shore for the supreme struggle. In winter it has no rival as a hockey rink, and is daily thronged with skating lads and lassies.

The great stand will seat more than 2,000 people, and has been filled many times by the beauty and chivalry of the North Shore. Beneath the stand are refreshment booths and toilet rooms, which in winter serve as warming rooms for the skaters.



RAVINIA THEATRE

the Stadium and the theater. On entering one encounters a homelike atmosphere, indefinable but not the less recognizable. Large, easy arm chairs invite rest and comfort. The hickory logs, snapping and crackling in the big open fireplace, cast flickering shadows on the dull red walls, lending cheer by their presence. The declining sun sends blue and gold and yellow shafts athwart the little round tables, and over the light-footed waiters darting hither and thither.

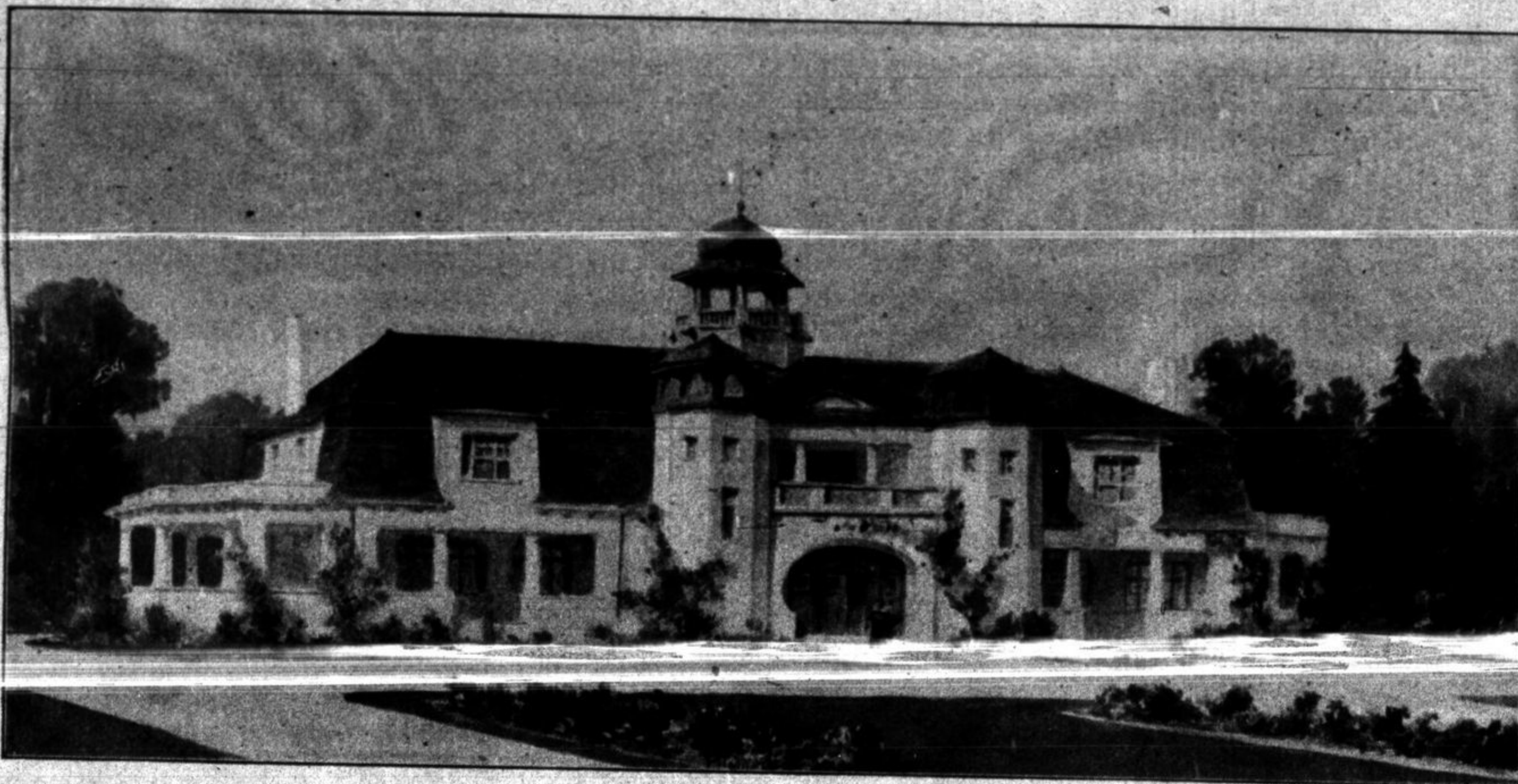
The cuisine is under the capable management of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Welsh, and is all that the most epicurean might desire. One's every wish is anticipated. Can it be wondered that many a merry party seeks the hospitality of the Casino?

The ball room is above the dining room, and is complete and satisfying. Its capacity is almost unlimited. The mirror-like surface of the floor tempts one to trip the light fantastic toe to the sweet strains of waltz and schottische.

But the theater is the crown of all this glory. One is immediately impressed by its exterior. Broad stone terraces lead to the wide entrances, and on either side are slender pillars bearing aloft clusters of incandescents, which drive the black shadow back to the outside world. The interior is different from most of its class. Although its seating capacity is as great as most metropolitan playhouses, there are no balconies or galleries. All the seats are on the gently sloping main floor, and a generous view of the stage is possible from the

frescoing on the walls and ceilings. A simple sloping roof with great dark timbers, ungarnished save by the many-colored sky lights and pendent incandescents shedding soft light below. At the left of the orchestra is the keyboard of the big pipe organ, whose pipes may be seen on either side of the proscenium. One can feel the vibration of the heavy bass notes and tremelo, as of a gentle earthquake.

Perhaps one might secure admission to those sacred precincts, "behind the scenes." It is much like similar places in the theaters. The same tiers of dressing rooms, piles of furniture, statuary, pictures and other stage property in seemingly discouraging confusion. One can but admire the coolness and ready mind of the loftmen above operating the mighty cobweb of fly and curtain ropes.



THE CASINO

In the spring of 1903 the Chicago and Milwaukee Electric Railway, imbued with lofty philanthropic purpose, let us hope, began the work of transforming the wilderness just south of Ravinia into a garden that would bloom as the rose, bringing content and joy to the hearts and minds of those who form North Shore society. Scoffers there were, but the work progressed. Trees and shrubs disappeared as by magic, and mysterious structural forms began their rise from earth. And in the fall, lo! behold what man has done by the magic of his art.

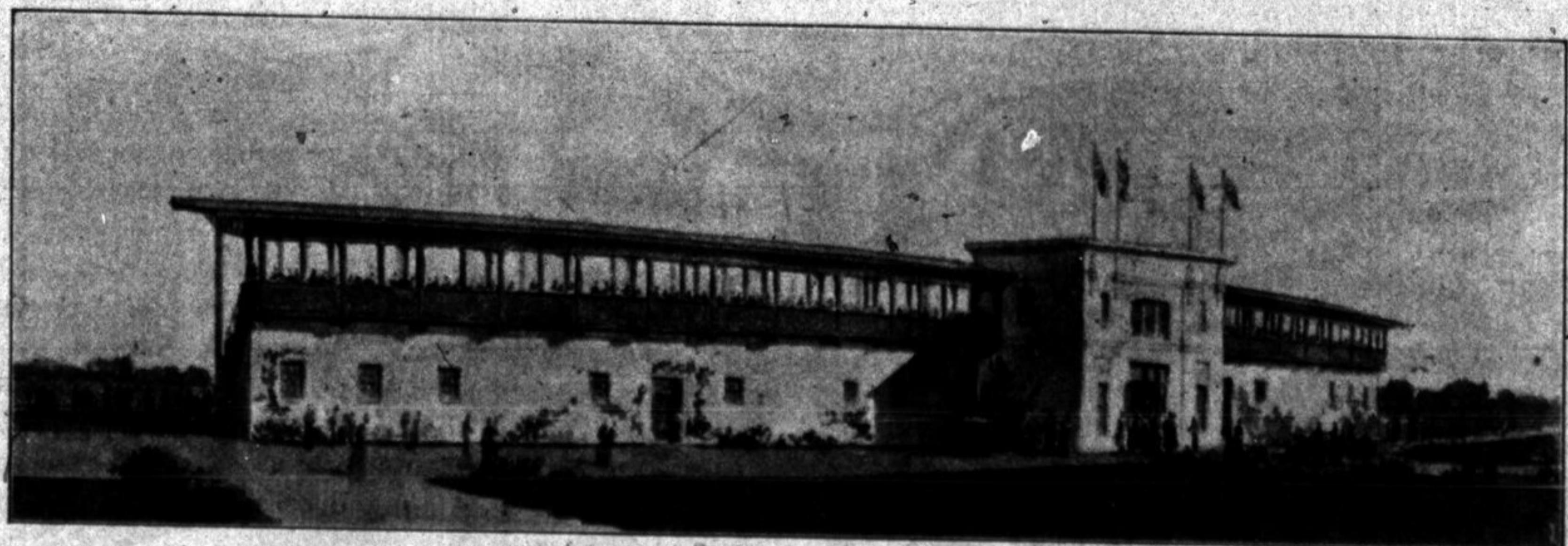
The sight which greets one on stepping from the car to the platform just outside the park is restful and inviting. A high wall stretches its battlemented crest to the northward and to the south. One would not be surprised to find a drawbridge and moat, which would be only in keeping with the appearance of the castle walls. But they are not here, and no clanging portcullis bars one's entrance to the enchanted ground.

Beyond the walls one catches glimpses of great stucco-covered buildings, imposing in appearance, but not at all forbidding.

Passing through the narrow, commonplace iron gate, beside which is the keeper's office, the park in its entirety is before one's eyes. The ground is white with snow now, but in summer it must be

Another very popular amusement feature of the park, though at some distance from the Stadium, is the toboggan slide, which is the most popular form of exercise along the North Shore this winter. The slide proper is 49 feet high and has a long coast way. A motor-driven endless chain draws the toboggan up the slide, relieving the sport of its most formidable drawback.

A card bearing the legend "Refreshments at the Casino," reminds one of the needs of the inner man. The Casino is the large, imposing building on the right of the gate. It is stucco covered, as are



THE STADIUM