

Highland Park News-Letter

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Announcement

The result of the prize story competition was very gratifying to the editor of the NEWS-LETTER, bringing forth, as it did, so many stories of excellent merit.

Each story was submitted under a number, so that the judge did not know the names of any of the competitors. When, by a process of elimination the number of available stories was reduced to three or four, the task of the judge was then truly a hard one.

But it is with pleasure that we publish the prize winning story, "Rody, my Soldier Boy" by Miss Althea Willmann, feeling sure that our readers will take as much pleasure in its perusal as we did.

It was hardly to be expected that a member of the freshman class would capture the prize this time, but several students in English I. submitted very creditable stories. It was decided, in view of this, that one story from that class should be published, because of its merit, and because of the encouragement which it may give this class in future contests. So it is that we publish this week the clever little story by Cecil Vail, "The Uninvited Guest."

The prize for the essay on Thanksgiving was awarded to Harley H. Hartmann of Lake Forest, and his essay appears on this page.

Thanksgiving in the Army

An order of General Lee, suspending all duties in the army of Northern Virginia, save those of necessity, on the day appointed by the President for thanksgiving and pray, is as follows:

"In obedience to the proclamation of the president of the confederate states, setting apart Friday, the 27th day of March, as a day of fasting and prayer for the nation, all duties will be suspended on that day in the Army of Northern Virginia, except such as are necessary for its safety and subsistence. Religious services, appropriate to the occasion, will be performed by the chaplains in their respective regiments.

"Soldiers! No portion of our people have greater cause to be thankful to Almighty God than yourselves. He has preserved your lives amidst countless dangers; He has given you fortitude under hardships, and courage in the shock of battle; He has cheered you by the example and by the deeds of your martyred comrades; He has enabled you to defend your country successfully against the assaults of a powerful oppressor. Devoutly thankful for signal mercies, let us bow before the Lord of Hosts and join our hearts with millions in our land in prayer, that he will continue His merciful protection over our cause; that he will scatter our enemies and set at naught their evil designs, and that He will graciously restore to our beloved country the blessings of peace and security."

R. E. LEE, General.

Ravinia Park

Those who failed to attend the Thomas Orchestra concert at Ravinia Park Monday evening of this week, missed a musical treat, the equal of which has never visited the North Shore, with the possible exception of the Damrosch concerts in the open air pavilion last summer. Nearly every one along the North shore knows the Thomas Orchestra, but a frequent attendance at the concerts in Orchestra Hall in Chicago entails much discomfort and weariness. Now that the Orchestra is to be at Ravinia Park, however, the concerts are within reach of all lovers of the best music, both as regards distance and price.

Every performer in the Orchestra is an artist, and the conductor, Mr. Frederick Stock, has a magnetic method well calculated to bring forth the best efforts of the musicians and at the same time interpret the phrasing of the selections to the audience.

The Theatre last Monday evening was well filled with an appreciative audience of music lovers, who were held spellbound throughout the programme of five numbers. If there was one number on the programme that was more enjoyed than the others, that one was Tschaiakowsky's well known Sixth Symphony, his "Swan Song" "Pathetique." Although this work is often rendered in part, it is seldom that one has the opportunity to enjoy uninterruptedly the entire work in four movements. The depth of feeling shown in the work carries the listener with it from the light some joyousness of the second movement, to the utter, desolate despair of the finale. The genius of the composer of such a symphony is approached only by the conductor and orchestra giving such a marvellous rendition as that of Monday evening.

The next concert in the series will be given at Ravinia Theatre on Monday evening, Dec. 4th, with the following programme:

Overture, Der Freischutz Von Weber.
Symphony, C. Minor, No. 5 Beethoven.

INTERMISSION

Overture, Sappho Goldmark.
Italian Serenade Hugo Wolf.
Variations—Suite Op. 55 Tschaiakowsky.

The sale of season tickets has been extended until December 1st.

A Tardy Tribute

TO THE EDITOR:—

At last the corner stone of the Carnegie Library has been laid and if the finished building is as attractive as the plans represent it, the citizens of Highland Park may well be congratulated upon possessing so fine a property.

Mr. Carnegie does not go around the country selecting one town here and another there, on which to bestow his gracious favor; but a request must come from some public spirited citizen who has influence, either directly or indirectly with Mr. Carnegie.

To whom are we indebted for our library? It is generally known that thanks are due Mrs. B. A. Fessenden for her kind efforts in procuring it. Many of her personal friends noted with keen regret, that she was forgotten, in making the program for the exercises of the corner stonelaying. Prof. Ray who first agitated the subject of a public library, was not forgotten, and it would have been unkind had he been.

What shall be said of the treatment of Mrs. Fessenden, who has made possible a building, of which we had dreamed, but hardly dared hope to possess. Give honor to whom honor is due.

A SUBSCRIBER.

WANTED:—Lady to care for baby and do light house work Sundays. Address M. this office.

Thanksgiving

By Harley H. Hartman, Lake Forest

The editor of the News-Letter does not designate whether we, of the Deerfield Township High School, in competing for the prizes, which he so generously offers, shall in our work look upon Thanksgiving from a school boy's point of view with its turkey, jam, and pumpkin pie, or from that of our elders. But as these essays are intended to please the public, and perhaps instruct it, we are undoubtedly supposed to resurrect some very dry musty facts and data, and air our little knowledge on this long since overworked subject.

Thanksgiving was not, as some people suppose, originated for the benefit of farmers and grocers during the week proceeding it, nor was it instituted for the benefit of doctors during the weeks following it, nor for the teachers and pupils who receive two extra holidays. Although these people were ignored in its establishment, Thanksgiving is of comparatively recent origin, and like most other celebrations had forerunners. The oldest of which began in the earliest Biblical times when the Jews observed a day of Thanksgiving by celebrating the Feast of the Ingathering and Tabernacles. The ancient Greeks held a festival similar to that of the Jews, and the Romans had a Thanksgiving harvest which they called Cerealia. European nations long before the Pilgrim Fathers gathered their successful harvest were in the habit of appointing special days for giving thanks for the successful accomplishment of important undertakings. England held a special Thanksgiving after the defeat of the Spanish Armada. In Holland the first anniversary of the siege of Leyden was made public Thanksgiving day.

The first Thanksgiving service held in North America was a religious ceremony conducted by an English minister named Wollfall, in the year 1857, on the shore of Newfoundland. This being perhaps the first Christian sermon, and the first celebration of the Holy Communion in North America.

The first New England Thanksgiving day, however, was rather a time of recreation than a day of religious exercises. Even in this early ceremony the school boy must have had his share for we are told that a feast was prepared for the Indians, and although the children were not allowed to attend the feast, it is only reasonable to suppose that then as today it was impossible to keep the good things out of their reach. Even the strict Puritan mothers of that time would have seen their hungry offspring stand about watching them with wondering eyes while they went about preparing things to please the palates of savages, without giving them some choice morsel. But had it come to paying out several dollars for doctor's bills it would have been a different thing, and these same mothers would have given their children some bitter herb of their own preparing. But the doctor's have, in later years, had their revenge on the school boy for coming first in this, and even today, all but the kind hearted homopathic physicians force their young patients to take pepsin in its bitterest form or to swallow some equally unpleasant dose.

Now, having considered the origin of Thanksgiving, let us see its true meaning today. Some one has defined Thanksgiving as "The music of the heart when its cords are swept by the breeze of kindness." With such a definition before us it is not difficult to see the right side of day, and appreciate its greatness. "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord for it opens our eyes to the forgotten bounties of life and the excellences in nature and our fellowmen." It is a good thing in another way for it is the payment of a debt the soul owes unto God, and bankrupt indeed is the soul that does not so much as say thanks for the blessings of life. Therefore we should all join in thanks to God on the grandest day of the whole year, Thanksgiving.