

The Highland Park Press

HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS, THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1913

Volume 3

Number 6

RECORDS OF CITY OFFICIALS NOW CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

SAMUEL S. HOLMES MAKES INVESTIGATION OF PAST

The Following Letter to Voters of Highland Park is a Short Sketch of what Mr. Holmes Found on the City's Records
Other Interesting Comment

To the Voters of the City of Highland Park:

A certain index of the qualifications and fitness of any candidate for public office may be found in his past record. I have investigated the records, as revealed by the Public Documents of this City, of the following candidates for office on the Non-Partisan Ticket:

Robert G. Evans, candidate for Mayor; Edward A. Warren, candidate for City Clerk; and James C. Boylan, candidate for Police Magistrate.

and I feel that it is due to the citizens of Highland Park that they be given the benefit of my investigation.

Twenty-four years ago Mr. Evans was elected Alderman from the First Ward. He was re-elected for a second term and again for a third term and served in that capacity for four consecutive years. While in the Council he acted on many important Committees, chief among which was the Street and Alley Committee, of which he was chairman two years.

In 1895 he was elected Mayor of the City. In 1897 he was re-elected. In 1901 he was again called to serve the City as Mayor and for six consecutive years following he held that office. His administration marked the City's greatest development. Over \$300,000.00 was expended under his direction, yet, in every step forward Mr. Evans' characteristic conservation action and his genius for economy is apparent. The universal approval and satisfaction in which his administration of the City's affairs was held can best be judged by the following resolution passed by the City Council in 1907.

Alderman Shields introduced the following resolution, which was seconded by Alderman Denzel:

The City Council, speaking for itself, and for the citizens, wishes to express to the Honorable Robert G. Evans, the retiring Mayor, the high esteem and regard in which he is held as an efficient, honest and able public officer, and by this resolution, to be spread of record in the proceedings of the City Council, to acknowledge the great obligation which the City of Highland Park owes him for the many years of faithful and unselfish labor which he has given in its behalf.

Mr. Evans has the distinction of having held the office of Mayor of the City for a longer time than any of his predecessors. Five times has he been elected to that office, thus covering a period of ten years. This alone proves the confidence of the citizens and their satisfaction with his administration.

During his term of office the City of Highland Park has made its greatest advancement. In that time more public improvements have been made and begun than in all the previous years of the City's history. Approximately three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) has been expended for street pavement, sewers, water mains and construction of sidewalks under his supervision as President of the Board of Local Improvements. As the result, the value of real estate in Highland Park has greatly increased, and the comfort and convenience of a well built City has been given its residents.

As a presiding officer of the City Council, Mr. Evans has been a worthy example. Meetings of the Council have been conducted with dispatch and with the laudible purpose that the Aldermen should not be expected to extend their deliberations into the late hours of the night, and that business can be properly conducted without extended and useless discussions. He has always kept in view the rule, so frequently disregarded by presiding officers, that it is the duty of the Chair to preside and rule upon questions, and for the Council only to discuss such questions.

In retiring to private life, and as a private citizen, Mr. Evans has the satisfaction of knowing that his work has been well done, and that he possesses the gratitude of our citizens. The least we can do is to give him our sincere thanks and best wishes that he may live many years to see our city grow and to know that he has contributed so much to its prosperity.

The resolution was carried unanimously. Members of the Council present: James H. Shields, Joseph F. Leaming, Wm. M. Dooley, Herman Denzel, Geo. W. Turner, Henry Ditmer, Thomas Morton, Attorney Kenneth R. Smoot.

Mr. Warren, our present City Clerk, for ten years, during the period of time in which Highland Park made its greatest advancement, was alderman from the First Ward. The principal Committee on which he served was the Finance Committee. He was also elected a member of the Board of Local Improvements.

Those in the best position to observe the work of Mr. Warren as Alderman, to know the results accomplished by him, to judge of his fidelity to duty, his capacity for work, and his courteous consideration for all who came in contact with him were the men who were associated and worked with him in the City Council. The City Council at that time was composed of and had as its members, such public spirited and well known men as Francis D. Everett, James H. Shields, William M. Dooley, Joseph F. Leaming, Thomas Morton, George W. Turner and John Hart. The expression of their appreciation of Mr. Warren's work appears upon the records of the City Council in a resolution of which the following is an extract:

"Resolved, that we, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Highland Park, in Council assembled, extend to our colleague, the retiring Alderman from the First Ward, Mr. E. A. Warren, our most sincere thanks and appreciation for his fidelity to the duties of his office and for the courtesy and consideration shown each member of this body under all circumstances.

"Be it further resolved that we express our earnest regrets at his retirement, feeling as we do that we thereby suffer an irreparable loss."

As City Clerk Mr. Warren has proved himself a capable and efficient public officer. It is due to Mr. Warren and to him alone, that an audit of the City's books was made. He was the first to propose the audit and the one who constantly urged the necessity for it.

During his term of office he has reduced the salary expense of the office of City Clerk, \$1544.80. This reduction was accomplished while Mr. Warren was burdened with the extra work of compiling statements of all the Special Assessment Accounts of the past ten years. The business of the City Collector's office has also been handled in the City Clerk's office without additional help.

Mr. Boylan has held the office of Police Magistrate since May 1 1912. During this time his reports of his doings as Magistrate, and his remittances to the City of fines collected by him were promptly submitted each month. In less than one year he has paid into the treasury of the City, in fines, the sum of \$806.40. This amount remitted by Mr. Boylan during the past year largely exceeds the sum total of fines remitted to the City for several years last past.

The Public Work of Mr. Evans, Mr. Warren and Mr. Boylan in the past has compelled the open approval of the men in whose judgement the citizens have implicit confidence. The records, of honest, efficient, faithful service, rendered by these men in their respective official positions should be a matter of municipal pride to every citizen of Highland Park, and because of their records in the past these men are entitled to your support at the election, Tuesday, April 15, 1913.

Very respectfully submitted,
SAMUEL S. HOLMES.

Dated Highland Park, Ill., April 10, 1913.

BUSINESS MEN TO GIVE DANCE

Association Plan Entertainment at Ravinia Casino Thursday Night

The Highland Park Business Men's Association will entertain at an informal dance at the Ravinia Park Casino on the evening of Thursday, April seventeenth at eight o'clock. Elaborate arrangements are being made to make this affair, as former entertainments given by the Association have been, a great success and a more attractive ball room cannot be found in this vicinity than the artistic Casino. The men whose entertaining ability is to be employed as members of various committees are; Messrs. O. G. St. Peter and Arthur Johnson, music; Leo Haak, William Guyot and Leo Delhaye, floor; Alfred Moses and J. A. Blomdahl, ticket. Tickets may be purchased from any business man, belonging to the Association, at fifty cents.

NEARBY NEWS ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST

WILL BUILD HIGH SCHOOL IN BENTON

Closed School at Gurnee on Account of Scarlet Fever. It is probable that Churches May be closed

Site for New Foundry
The buildings for the newly incorporated company, the North Chicago Foundry Company will be erected on the Humsey tract just south of the Briggs Chicago Machinery Company, John Rause, one of the principal promoters of the new foundry states that the building will start within the next two weeks.

Two buildings will be erected. The main foundry building will be 64 feet by 210 feet and the pattern vault 30 feet by 50 feet. The latter will be fireproof.

Will Build New High School in Benton.
By a majority of twelve votes the residents of Benton Township Tuesday voted to establish and maintain a township High School. Winthrop Harbor gave the proposition a big majority but the farmers living west of Winthrop Harbor and Zion City cut the vote down. Zion City split on the proposition, due to the fact that Wilbur Glen Voliva instructed his followers to vote down the project. The Independents of Zion voted for the township high school. The next step will be the election of school trustees after which a bond election will be held.

Closed School at Gurnee
As a result of two cases of scarlet fever that have developed already and the fact that the pupils in one of the rooms of the three-room school were exposed, the public school at Gurnee will be closed next Monday and will be kept closed until all danger of a general epidemic is over. The community is considerably exercised over the matter and there are reports even to the effect that the church may also be closed. If other cases of the fever should result, it is probable the school will be closed several weeks.

YOUNG MEN'S CLUB ENTERTAIN

Michigan, Yale and Princeton Tied for First Place With Nine Points each. Michigan Took the Pie

The entertainment given at the Young Men's Club Rooms, on Friday evening, April fourth in the form of a College tournament proved a grand success. Representatives from the largest colleges including Chicago, Michigan, Illinois, Yale, Northwestern, Wisconsin, Princeton and Harvard were in the field and many close and spirited contests took place. There were four contests in progress all the time in various parts of the field. Michigan, Princeton and Yale tied for first place with nine points each and in the eliminating contest, Michigan took the pie. Michigan was represented by Messrs. John Conrad, Arthur Mierhoff and Milton Tilman. The members present just had a grand all around good time and are asking, "When are we going to have another?"

TO BUILD NEW HIGHLAND PARK HOTEL

R. G. Evans will Erect new Hotel and Stores on Central Avenue

The Highland Park Hotel, a building owned by Mr. R. G. Evans and one of the old landmarks of this city which has been remodeled a number of times is to be completely demolished and in its place will spring up an absolutely up to date hotel with a stone frontage and containing about twenty-five rooms. The entire east and north ground floor will be occupied by the Charles Warren Dry Goods Store with the exception of the restaurant which will be under a separate management from the hotel and run on the European plan. The proprietor, Mr. Byron J. Stevens and his family will occupy a north front apartment on the second floor, and separate from the hotel. The hotel rooms will have every convenience and modern improvements throughout. The main entrances to the building will be situated at the east and north and the entire will be called the R. G. Evans Block.

WAUKEGAN MAN FATALLY INJURED

Accident at Blodgett's result of Stealing a Ride is Statement of Crew
Andrew Erickson, 722 May St. Waukegan is lying at the point of death at the Jane McAllister hospital as the result of a fall from a freight train Thursday evening at the Blodgett station on the Northwestern railroad.
He fell from the train while it was running 20 miles an hour. His left arm was cut off above the elbow, his skull was fractured and he suffered other internal injuries.

OPINION REGARDING NEW SCHOOL SITE

PRINCIPAL SMITH PRESENTS ARGUMENT

Interests of School Children to be Best Served by Centralization of School Facilities

By way of reference to preceding articles relating to the situation in District 107, it may be repeated that the District has two school sites which it has owned since 1876, the one at Elm Place and the other known as the Port Clinton site, and that the purchase of a third site, the so-called Sheehan site, has lately been authorized.

Now the possession of two sites and the purchase of a third do not solve the problems of the districts. The Board of Education can not build a school house until the voters authorize the borrowing of the necessary funds and formally designate the site upon which the building is to be erected. The purchase of the Sheehan site does not of necessity involve the erection of a building there at this time. At the election on February 15 but two points were at issue, the selection of one of two specified sites and the acceptance or rejection of an appropriate bond issue with which to purchase the site selected. The question of the location of a new building and the issue of bonds for the erection of a building did not come up, however much it was in the minds of those who voted at the election. There must be yet another election, this time to specify where a building is to be erected and to authorize the necessary issue of bonds. At this election the voters may decide to authorize the erection of a building on the Sheehan site. They are equally free to decide in favor of either of the other sites owned by the district and thus put an additional building either on the Elm Place grounds or on those of the Port Clinton School.

The election of February 15 was indicative in that no site received a majority of all the votes cast as the law requires. The subsequent action of the Board of Education alone made the election decisive for the choice automatically devolved upon its members and they chose the Sheehan site because it had received a favoring plurality vote. The election was very disappointing in that barely a third of the voters of District 107 appeared at the polls and the returns of the election showed that less than a fourth of the voters of the district had expressed a preference for a school site.

Frankly, I do not think that the question of the location of the school has been carefully considered by the majority of the voters of the district who have no motives other than the best interests of the school children to influence their decision. One can hardly be wrong in thus thinking when it appears that no general effort has been made to obtain that knowledge of conditions which is essential before an intelligent conclusion can be reached. For this reason it seems to me that the question of the location of a building should not yet be considered as disposed of even if a new site has been purchased. Favoring as I do the centralization of school facilities at Elm Place, I will not feel disturbed at a decision of the voters to erect a west side school if it is the outcome of a due amount of inquiry and discussion and if the decision is registered by a majority instead of a small minority of the voters of the district. In arriving at this decision the question of the depreciation in value of the Sheridan Road property by increasing school facilities at Elm Place or of appreciation in value of property in some other part of Highland Park by locating a building there should receive scant consideration. The sole question is how we can best serve the interests of the school children.

Let us approach this question directly by asking, why build a school on the Sheehan site, or, more broadly, why build a west side school? Why divide the district by an arbitrary line such as that of the railroad tracks? The noteworthy argument for a west side school is that it would do away with the necessity of children crossing the railroad tracks. About one third of the children living west of the tracks go under viaducts at Laurel and Vine Avenues, but the majority cross the tracks at Central Ave. and Elm Place. Both of these crossings are now carefully guarded by two men, a tower man and a crossing man. The crossing man who has lately taken his position at Elm Street crossing was stationed there expressly to safeguard the school children. The crossing at Central Avenue has for about a year been carefully guarded by Mr. Hutter, whose conscientious service there is worthy of public acknowledgement. There is slight danger at the crossings of the Milwaukee Electric if the rules of the company are strictly observed by motormen. There

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

CITY ATTORNEY E. S. GAIL ASKS SUPPORT FOR RE-ELECTION

COMMUNICATION SIGNED BY INTERESTED CITIZENS

Asking for Support of the Independent Municipal Ticket upon the Past Records and Praising Mr. Gail's Work of the past two Years

To the Voters of Highland Park:

Municipal business should be conducted upon the same business like principles as private affairs. Notes or bonds drawn for payment in the future, whether for private or public debt must in the course of time be paid, and if no fund is provided for the payment, the result will be a default.

From 1902 to 1910, \$13,000 of local improvement bonds were drawn, duly signed by the Mayor and City Clerk, who must have known at the time they were issued, that some of the assessments were insufficient to pay the bonds drawn against them. No effort to supply these deficiencies was made by the officials who issued said bonds, and whose duty it was to provide funds to pay them at their maturity. This duty was avoided, neglected or shifted from time to time by the city attorneys and executive officers of successive administrations until finally it devolved upon this administration to take up the subject of providing funds to meet these maturing bonds. I have done my best to perform this long neglected duty as well as to discharge the other duties of my office in a business like, and legal manner.

The system of delay in the performance of duty in this regard has made possible the system of borrowing from "Peter to pay Paul", until the tax payer is awakened to the situation by two auditors at \$180,000 per year by short term general bond issues.

I have done my duty as your servant and officer promptly, fairly and without favoritism, and not as an individual.

Any departure from government according to the rules of law means special interest and privilege, with necessary gain to a few, and corresponding loss to many.

I sincerely believe in the business like methods adopted by the present administration, as the legal solution of paying local improvement bonds, now in default, and thus preventing further default and thereby establish the credit of our city.

To those of you who believe that city government must be conducted upon a strict business policy to be a financial success, I ask your support actively, and your vote at the election on April 15th.

Sincerely yours,
ERNEST S. GAIL,
City Attorney.

Mayor O'yer, and City Attorney Gail were elected upon their promise to conduct the municipal affairs along business lines. It is with satisfaction that we find their promise has been fulfilled.

Highland Park has one of the best auto fire trucks manufactured, purchased by funds subscribed by popular subscription.

The special assessment accounts have been audited and a new up-to-date system of bookkeeping adopted and in operation. Lake County had its shake up, also Waukegan, and so with Highland Park. Out of it all grows good government and security to the tax payers funds in the future.

A new method is in operation to pay the expenses in special assessment work, lessening the temptation to divert special assessment funds.

Strict economy has been practiced throughout the administration. An ordinance regulating the operation of railroads for additional protection to life and property has been enacted and is in force. Two additional firemen are on duty at the Central Avenue and Elm Place grade crossings.

The subway at Laurel Avenue has been completed at a saving of \$3,500.00 to the tax payers.

A balance of \$6,000.00 on the new pump has been paid.

Several local improvements partly completed by the Stevens Construction company, who failed and defaulted have been completed, and the resulting litigation, terminated without loss to the property owners or the city.

City Attorney Gail has shown himself to be capable, honest and diligent in the performance of the duties of his office. He has worked hard during the two years and has a commendable record, and should be re-elected to the office at this time by the tax payers.

Mr. Hawkins, the first Mayor of Highland Park, has consented to serve the people. We all know Mr. Hawkins to be a man of ability and honest, with a ripe experience and a desire to carry forward the work so well begun.

He has resided in Highland Park since 1867, and has been closely identified with its growth. He was one of the committee first organized to establish Sheridan Road, and was active with Mr. Volney Foster and others in so doing. He has always been a large tax payer and is interested in having an economical and efficient administration. He only consented to run after repeated requests of a large number of the citizens. It is essentially a case of the office seeking the man.

Mr. Elmer T. Skidmore is a young man of promise and ability. He holds a responsible position with the Chicago Hardware Company.

The reputation and character of the above candidates in public and private life is a guarantee of an efficient, business-like administration.

We, the undersigned citizens of Highland Park heartily endorse the above candidates and request your vote and active support.

O. H. Morgan
W. H. Baldwin
Henry H. Doty
Bowen W. Schumacher
John S. Bell
John Oliver
Emil Rudolph
Gordon Buchanan
Frank C. Clark
Frank G. Gardner
Anson Morgan
C. W. Buckley
Robert Buckley
Joseph L. Leaming
Joseph Schoeninger
R. K. Buckman, Jr.
George J. McBride
Russell Mott
Nathan Corwith

NOTICE OF HIGH SCHOOL ELECTION

For the Purpose of Electing Two Members of Township High School Board of Education

On Saturday, April 12th there will be an election held at the banking rooms of the Highland Park State Bank and at the City Hall in Lake Forest and at the Town Hall in West Deerfield for the purpose of electing two members of the Township High School Board of Education.

The retiring members of the Board are Dr. Wolcott and Mr. Bowen W. Schumacher.

Mr. Schumacher declines to be a candidate for reelection and Mr. Ira J. Geer has consented to serve in his place if elected. Mr. Geer is at present a member of the Board of Education of District 107, but his term expires next week and he declines re-election.

The polls will be open at four o'clock p. m. and closed at seven o'clock p. m. of the same day.

DARKEST CHICAGO AND HER WAIFS

Illustrated Lecture Monday Evening at United Evangelical Church by Rev. H. H. Thoren D. D. of Chicago

On Monday evening, April fourteenth, Rev. H. H. Thoren D. D. will give an illustrated lecture on "Darkest Chicago and her Waifs", under the direction of The Christian Lantern Slide and Lecture Bureau of Chicago at the United Evangelical Church. One hundred original stereoscopic views giving a comprehensive idea of Chicago as the world's greatest railroad center and viewing the city by day and by night, seeing Michigan Ave., State St., and the levee, skyscrapers, department stores and places of amusement will be shown; also home life among the masses showing startling discoveries in the tenement traps, multitudes fed from garbage boxes and city dumps, an interesting study of the Jewish Ghetto, the breeding of tuberculosis, etc. Slides will also be shown of South Water Street, the greatest commission market in the world, and of South Clark Street, illustrating the course and doom of the neglected boy, and of Chicago Waifdom showing the lawless, friendless, homeless, industrious and hopeful asleep in their homes under sidewalks or in "de alley". Everybody is welcome to attend this lecture. Admission, silver offering.