



The Highland Park Press



NUMBER 6

HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS, THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1919

VOLUME 9

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CITIZENS OF HIGHLAND PARK

UNDERSIGNED WOULD POSTPONE VOTE ON COLISEUM

They Believe That the Successful Establishment of Such a Center Would Require More Study and Knowledge of the Requirements Than Now Exists.

To the Citizens of Highland Park: Practically all of the people in Highland Park would be in favor of having a Community House, if properly organized and financed. We believe, however, that for the sake of the ultimate success of the project, and for its proper organization in relation to the needs of the city, studied as a whole, the people should vote NO in the April 15 election, on the plan for establishing a Community House, under the Coliseum Act, by municipal taxation.

Under the Coliseum Act, a tax levy of not to exceed three mills is permitted for the establishment of a coliseum, and thereafter an annual tax for maintenance of not to exceed one mill on the dollar or assessed valuation. The assessed valuation of the City of Highland Park is \$2,455,722. The three mill for the establishment would amount to \$7,367.16 and the one mill tax for maintenance, \$2,455.72.

Such a Community House, with land, building and equipment, would cost at least \$125,000. The maintenance would probably cost at least \$1,000 a year. It is therefore obvious that the establishment tax and the maintenance tax would be wholly inadequate for their purpose. The directors of the Community House could borrow money thereon and issue bonds secured by a mortgage drawing interest at not to exceed 5%, if the statute permitting this is valid, which is doubtful. Such bonds would not be salable on the market at more than 50% of the value of the property, or say an issue of \$3,683.58, allowing a total investment for purchase of land and construction, of \$110,507.4. There is no provision for additional maintenance, and there can be little revenue for the use of the building.

To build and operate the community House, private subscriptions would be necessary to a large amount for the establishment, and yearly subscriptions thereafter for the deficit in operation and maintenance. No subscription has as yet been started to cover either of these points, and before they were relied upon as a basis

for starting the institution by a municipal tax, it would seem that a thorough campaign should be made to find out whether the backers and others can raise the large amount necessary at the outset and each year thereafter. This will not be easy, judging from experience with the Hospital.

The city, as a whole, has now \$30,000 of bonds outstanding, and a margin of bonding power of \$92,000, owing to the splendid administration of its finances. Even if this general bonding power could be legally used, which does not seem to be the purpose of the act, it would be most improvident for the City Council to use any or all of it for the aid of the Community House, in view of the general needs of the city for bridges and other construction work, and because this power should be reserved for general contingencies and emergencies that must necessarily arise from time to time.

Outside of the inadequate financial plan that exists at present, the successful establishment of such a center would seem to require more study and knowledge of the requirements than now exists. The successful institution of Winnetka has been a gradual growth. If we had a good head of a temporary institution, such as Winnetka has had in Dr. Davies, gradually extending and developing the service to different classes of use, we could in a year or two determine much better what shape the final institution should take, and it would seem desirable to start the project in this way, with a strong committee to study the matter thoroughly and report.

Although as much in favor of a proper community center as anyone, we therefore respectfully recommend a negative vote on the proposition of establishing a municipal coliseum or Community House at the April 15 election.

WALTER E. CARR.
GEORGE A. SCHOFIELD.
FRANK G. GARDNER.
JOHN V. NORCROSS.
JULIUS ZIMMER.
HERMAN DENZEL.

RAIMUND MUSICAL CO. AT BARTLETT'S TONIGHT

Evelyn Nesbit Thaw in "In Her Mistake," Wednesday, Friday "A Fool's Paradise"

Bartlett Theatre, Highwood will present the following program next week: Tonight, Raimund Musical Comedy presents "Up Town Flats", also Mutt and Jeff; Sunday, Gladys Brockwell in "The Moral Law", also Tom Mix in a roaring two reel western comedy; Tuesday, Pearl White in "The Lightning Raiders," war review, Pathe comedy and cartoon picture; Wednesday, Evelyn Nesbit Thaw in "In Her Mistake," a six reel drama; Thursday, Raimund Musical Comedy company, also Bessie Barriscale in "The Reward" and Mutt and Jeff; Friday, Christine Mayo in a six reel drama entitled "A Fool's Paradise"; Saturday, Eddie Polo in "The Lure of the Circus, Universal Telegram, also Charlie Chaplin in "The Masked Men of the Slums."

TEAMSTERS STRIKE FOR INCREASE IN WAGES

Deliveries of coal and building material are tied up in Highland Park as the result of a teamsters strike which went into effect Tuesday.

The call for a general walkout was ordered after the employers had refused to grant an increase in wages from \$25 a week for a nine hour day to \$27 a week for an eight hour day. The strike affects every coal and building material yard in Highland Park, also both lumber yards. There are about fifty-five men involved in the strike.

WALLACE REID IN "ROARING ROAD" SAT.

Tuesday, Billie Rhodes in "Hoop-La" Also a Mutual Comedy and "The Lightning Raider"

The following pictures will be shown at Pearl Theatre next week: Sunday, Dustin Farnum in "A Man in the Open," Famous Players Pictograph, also a Vitagraph comedy; Monday, Edith Storey in "As the Sun Went Down," Tom Mix and Pathe comedy, also Dustin Farnum in "A Bond Film; Tuesday Billie Rhodes in "Hoop-La," Pearl White in "The Lightning Raider," Mutual comedy; Wednesday, Marion Davis in "The Belle of New York," Pathe News, Christie Comedy; Thursday, Gaby Deslys in "Infatuation," Pathe News, Universal comedy, also Mack Sennett and a Bond film; Friday, Lila Lee in "Puppy Love," "The Lure of the Circus," Mutt and Jeff, also Charlie Chaplin in a Bond film; Saturday, Wallace Reid in "Roaring Road, Burton Holmes Travelogue, Mack Sennett comedy, Matinee at 2:30.

REV. KEAGLE PREACHES FIRST SERMON SUNDAY

Rev. J. H. Keagle preached his first sermon at the First United Evangelical Church last Sunday. Rev. Keagle comes from the church at Naperville where he has served for the past three years. The pastor with his family moved here early part of the week and are occupying the manse. Rev. and Mrs. Unangst left last Friday for Dixon, Ill., where he is pastor of Grace Church.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION TUESDAY, APRIL 15TH

No Opposition for Mayor and Commissioners. Contest for Police Magistrate

Highland Park will hold an unusual municipal election on next Tuesday, April 15. For the second time, Samuel M. Hastings is running for mayor without opposition. The same is true of Commissioners Willits, Huber and Bahr. A new man, Frank L. Cheney, is also running without opposition.

In fact, the only contest at the coming election is for the office of police magistrate, the candidates being James Duffy and John Conrad.

The election is unusual because there is on the ballot a question to be decided by popular vote: namely, whether or not Highland Park will build a municipal coliseum.

Both men and women can vote on this important question, in fact women can vote for all the city offices except that of police magistrate.

"FT. SHERIDAN RECALL" MAKES ITS APPEARANCE

Newspaper Written, Edited, and Published by Army Men at the Post

"The Fort Sheridan Recall," the newspaper written and edited and published by army men, made its first appearance Monday.

The paper, as it says itself, went to its own birthday party Monday night at the home of Mrs. Frederick D. Countiss, 1550 North State Parkway, chairman of the Recall committee.

There was an auction of the first issue off the presses. It brought one thousand dollars and Julius Schwill got the paper. It will be turned over to the Chicago Historical society. Charles W. Folds was the auctioneer. He tried a new system. You paid what you bid whether you got the paper or not.

Emil C. Wetten presided at the party. Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, and Col. R. R. McCormick, one of the publishers of the Chicago Tribune were the speakers.

The first issue of the Recall is a twelve page, seven column affair, well written and well edited. It opens a campaign for 30,000 subscriptions in Chicago, and J. Odgen Armour is described as the first Chicago subscriber.

The profits of the paper will be devoted to "soldier betterment and morale work under military supervision."

STAINER'S CRUCIFIXION AT TRINITY CHURCH

To Be Given by Combined Chorus of Trinity Church and the Church of the Holy Spirit

The combined efforts of Trinity Church and the Church of the Holy Spirit, Lake Forest, are to give a performance of Stainer's Cantata, "The Crucifixion," in Trinity Church, Palm Sunday afternoon, April 13, at four o'clock, and in Lake Forest on Good Friday evening at eight o'clock.

The principal soprano parts will be taken by Miss Burmeister, Miss Farnam and Miss Tale, contralto by Mrs. Sherman and Mrs. Riddle, tenor by Mr. Arthur Craft and Dr. Newhall and baritone, Mr. Ranous and Mr. Herrick. In addition there will be a large chorus.

The Crucifixion is the most beautiful and impressive of all the Lenten cantatas and this promises to be an unusually fine performance. A cordial invitation is extended to all music lovers to be present.

Y. W. C. A. HOLDS BIG RUMMAGE SALE

Do not forget the big rummage sale which is being held in the Goldberg building at the corner of Central Avenue and Second Street for the benefit of the Y. W. C. A. today, tomorrow and Saturday of this week.

A large amount of clothing and articles of household goods has been sent in, but much more is wanted. If you give to this sale, you not only help the Y. W. C. A. funds, but you place the clothing and household goods for which you no longer have use, in homes where they will be used to the best advantage.

FIRE TRUCK MEETS WITH AN ACCIDENT

Breaks Right Front Wheel in Making Run to a Highwood Fire

While the Highland Park Fire Department was making a run to a fire on Monday afternoon, one of the front wheels of the fire truck was entirely broken off in making a turn on N. Sheridan Road. The accident was thought to be due to a defective tire which came off, allowing the front wheel to skid against the curb, breaking it off.

Another machine following closely behind picked up the firemen and three chemicals and they continued the run to the fire, which was at the William Brownlee residence on W. Highwood Ave. Only thirty seconds was lost by the accident. However the Highwood Fire Department had the fire extinguished before the arrival of our department.

A new wheel was sent for and it is probably on its way now. The condition of the truck in no way endangers the city from protection, for all the fire apparatus has been loaded onto the street department's truck which is prepared to make a run at any time.

J. W. F. DAVIES GIVES INTERESTING LECTURE

Director of Winnetka Community House Tells of Splendid Work Done There

The community house mass meeting last Friday night was attended by a large and enthusiastic audience. Unfortunately, owing to the illness of his small son, Dean Bell of Great Lakes who was advertised to speak, was unable to appear.

Mr. J. W. F. Davies, of Winnetka, however, founder and director of the Winnetka community house, was well able to occupy the entire evening with his interesting talk and his lantern slides of the Winnetka plant.

He showed boys and girls of all ages and all sizes in full enjoyment of their community club house. The Christmas festivities were especially interesting, the celebrations, according to Mr. Davies, beginning about December 5th, and lasting till after Christmas. This Christmas spirit, fostered by the inspiring influence of their leader, must be a beautiful thing indeed, since the children, one and all, have changed their former conception of the occasion from a time-for-acquiring-things, to a time-for-giving-things. It is considered now as a period of service. And the apparent happiness of the children speaks well for their philosophy.

WORD RECEIVED FROM "SANDY" MACKINNON

Is Now in Ochtendunk, Germany, With the Army of Occupation

Among the Highland Park heroes of which little has been said is Alex Mackinnon well-known to the young men of Highland Park as "Sandy," formerly houseman for Mr. Ed. V. Price of Sheridan Road.

Sandy did not wait to be drafted into the army. A native of Scotland, he volunteered as soon as America went into the war. He was assigned to the 6th Engineers Corps, was trained at University Camp, Washington, D. C., and shipped overseas early in October, 1917, and was with the American Engineers who have seen the hardest service on the other side. He was badly wounded, but after being in hospital for several weeks, was again returned to the front and saw active service at the Marne, St. Mihiel, and the hardest of fighting in the Argonne Forest. He is now in Ochtendunk, Germany, with the Army of Occupation.

In letters received from him recently he stated that he had eaten dinner at a table for the first time in six months—it was their Christmas dinner. In a letter dated Mar. 3rd, he spoke of reading in the Highland Park Press from A. Ralph and said "I have been at most of these places mentioned by Artie Ralph but never fortunate enough to run across him."

COMMUNITY HOUSE PROPOSITION UP FOR VOTE NEXT TUESDAY

FRED D. SILBER WRITES OPEN LETTER TO THE PUBLIC

If You Vote "Yes" at This Election, Your Vote Simply Means That You are in Favor of a Municipal Community House. You are Not Voting on Memorial Proposition.

Editor Highland Park Press, Highland Park, Ill.

Dear Sir: When the Community House was first suggested as a war memorial, the question of building it as a municipal enterprise was not considered at all; nor was it known at that time that there had been any discussion or consideration of a hospital memorial. In the evolution of the idea of a Community House, it has been deemed advisable to ascertain the attitude of the voters of Highland Park on the question of building a Community House under the provisions of the "Coliseum Act" and that question will be submitted to vote, as is known to everybody on April 15. In connection with a vote on the question of taxation presented, the following facts should be borne in mind:

1. Highland Park needs a Community House as a home and center for the activities of the boys and girls, the young men and women, the families, and the groups, organizations and associations that we have in our midst that require a proper home and background.

2. To expect to get such a Community House purely by voluntary subscription to a privately or separately operated enterprise, is going to take a long time and the need is pressing right now.

3. While it is difficult to get all the money that may be necessary by taxation under the Coliseum Act, we can at least obtain a substantial start and a definite and yearly maintenance fund which may hereafter be increased by the legislature.

4. It will be absolutely necessary to supplement the funds received from taxation through private subscription and there is no reason why these private subscriptions should not be made toward a MEMORIAL Community House, if this is considered advisable hereafter by the public authorities.

5. We should have a Community House, whether it be a memorial or not. No matter what other memorial may be chosen, the Community House will itself stand as a living memorial erected by the community spirit exhibited during the war by all the people of Highland Park.

6. The trustees of the Community House, when appointed by the Mayor, will undoubtedly have the power to adopt the memorial idea in the building of the Community House and to arrange that anyone who wishes to donate money toward building or furnishing a special room, or to provide a memorial tablet to be placed in the building, can do so and thereby add to the memorial character of the building.

7. If you vote "yes" at the forthcoming election, your vote means that you are in favor of a Municipal Community House and of the small tax provided under the "Coliseum Act." You are NOT voting upon any memorial proposition in this election. The MEMORIAL question can be taken up at the proper time by the trustees of the Community House, if they consider it advisable. Your vote "yes" will have no effect whatever upon the Highland Park Memorial Association, which is now in existence and which has the power for of war memorial that that association may favor. That, however, is not a municipal enterprise. The Community House, on the other hand, is a purely municipal enterprise.

8. Likewise keep in mind that your vote "yes" does not interfere in any way with a hospital or other memorial in case it should be found advisable hereafter. A Community House has no connection with any of the other memorial projects heretofore mentioned. It stands on the same basis as a City Hall, a Public Park, a Public Play Ground, or a Public School. It is a community need, pure and simple, and the time has come when the community has a chance to obtain it, IF IT WANTS IT BADLY ENOUGH. But to get it

the voters must go to the polls and cast their votes "yes." The taxes involved in the question are insignificant. Consider against the tax question the opportunity of obtaining a centrally located, citizens' clubhouse where all of the groups and activities of the community can find a real home, and it ought to be very easy for every citizen of Highland Park to vote "YES."

Respectfully yours,
FRED D. SILBER.

MAYORALTY CAMPAIGN IN HIGHWOOD EXCITING

FRIEND OF MEYERS WRITES

Present Mayor Acting as Police, General Manager and Superintendent of Public Improvements

The mayoralty campaign in Highwood is becoming more exciting every day. John Meyers, the present mayor seeks reelection on the ground that he is not only serving the city as mayor without compensation but that he is acting as chief of police and general manager, as well as superintendent for all local and public improvements at the small salary of \$60 per month. Opposing Mr. Meyers is the People's Progressive ticket headed by Joseph Severson for mayor, whose platform is: "No salaries for city officials." The following communication from a friend of the Meyers administration states the situation as he sees it:

Editor Highland Park Press, Dear Sir:

There are many people in Highwood who believe that Mr. Meyers is the right man for the mayor's office in this city. As Mr. Meyers is an ex-soldier and drawing a pension from the U. S. Government on which he and his family can live and he having no other occupation has in his four years as mayor devoted all his time to the betterment of the city and superintending the local and public improvements.

A year ago the policeman resigned and on account of the war and scarcity of men it was hard to fill the place for a salary of \$90 a month. Mr. Meyers came very willingly and offered to act as police for \$60.00 per month and dropping his mayor's salary which was only \$100 per year. The city council accepted the offer and Mr. Meyers has without criticism been the best police that Highwood has ever had. He has kept the city respectable and clean from any and all evils that would come into a town adjacent to a military post for which he is commended by the officers in charge of Fort Sheridan and the Lake County Law and Order League and the neighboring cities. Mr. Meyers as mayor and general manager and police of the city has in addition been doing the mechanical repairs on the water mains, has been reading the meters, shoveling snow from the sidewalks and repairing and cleaning the streets and has thus been saving the taxpayers \$700.00 or \$800.00 a year on labor and police only. The city has under Meyers' administration paid up the last of Highwood's bonded indebtedness, has a handsome bank balance and has not drawn a cent from the 1918 tax levy.

It is true that many improvements planned had to be stopped last year on account of the war, but the money is in the treasury and improvements will go ahead faster than ever. The taxpayers and public spirited citizens of Highwood recognized the service of Mr. Meyers and finally induced him to run for mayor again. He is supported by the whole city

(Continued on Page 51)