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HARBAUGH REPLIES TO SUN EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 1)

a profitable thing for the county to farm it, and the county probably could get along with half of it. There isn't a farm in the county which can make interest on the investment where the farm land is worth \$1,500. If the county is bound to do farming in connection with its poorhouse, it might be real economy to utilize low priced land. That is the position of many Libertyville people who want the poorhouse moved so their village can expand to the north. They contend that from a farming standpoint the 155-acre tract has not been a good investment, simply because the cost of operation has been too great, and not because of any fault of the superintendent or aids. A poorhouse is different from other institutions because its inmates are either too old or invalids and therefore unable to work to any great extent, and therefore the farming they do is of little consequence. Many Libertyville people are of the opinion that if the county maintained only enough of a farm to avoid crowding in the location of the buildings it would be cheaper in the long run to buy the produce that ordinarily is being raised on the poor-farm land and let somebody else try to make a living farming \$1,500 an acre property.

Mr. Harbaugh's Letter
Follow is the letter written to the Waukegan Sun by Supervisor Harbaugh, in reply to the above editorial:
Sept. 29, 1924
"Waukegan Daily Sun,
"Waukegan, Ill.
"Gentlemen:

"Referring to your editorial in the September 26th issue of the Daily Sun on the county farm situation, please permit me to say a few words through the columns of your paper on the action taken by the county board of supervisors on the proposition of submitting to the voters of Lake county the passing of a bond issue at the November 4th election to raise the necessary funds to erect modern home buildings on the County Poor farm at Libertyville so that the dependent people of the county might be properly cared for.

"Having served on the county farm committee for nearly two years I believe that I am in a position to know something of the real needs of the institution. I was also appointed a member of a joint committee of six at the June session of the county board authorized to make a thorough investigation of the home and report the result of such investigations with recommendations to the county board at the September session.

"The joint committee met at the County farm July 9th and after a thorough investigation voted unanimously to recommend that the county board take steps immediately to replace the present old buildings with new and modern ones to properly take care of the present and future needs of the institution. They also recommended that the county board take the necessary steps to bring the matter before the voters of the county at the November 4th election and that a bond issue not exceeding \$250,000.00 be voted upon.

"The report and recommendations of the joint committee were unanimously adopted at the session. The county clerk was authorized to have a resolution properly drawn up authorizing the levying of a tax amounting to six cents per hundred dollars on the assessed valuation of the property in the county to provide the necessary funds to pay the interest and retire the bonds at maturity, the tax levied to be spread over a period of years from 1924 to 1943.

"After the board had adopted the resolution of the committee unanimously certain real estate men and others interested in the development of Libertyville presented a petition to the board requesting them to consider the selling of the County farm in order to enable the village to expand to the north west. This committee from Libertyville reported that an offer had been submitted for the purchase of the farm and asked that the board appoint a committee of three members to confer with them and to inspect different sites which they had to offer. Also to receive a proposal for the purchase of the present County farm and to report at the September 24th session. The chairman appointed Mr. H. C. W. Meyer, Mr. Wm. J. Obee and myself as such committee.

"Our committee met with the one from Libertyville Monday September 22nd and inspected nine different farms, all of which were found to be undesirable for county farm purposes. On Wednesday morning September 24th the committee from Libertyville submitted a written proposal to our committee offering to pay \$800.00 per acre for the present County farm.

"As shown by the records our committee after due consideration reported to the board that the price submitted by the Libertyville committee was entirely too low to be considered and recommended that the proposal be refused as we were of the opinion that the price offered did not represent more than one third of the real value of the property. It was the opinion of our committee that if the proposal to sell had been accepted by the board at the price submitted it would have meant a great loss to the county as they would have had to pay much more for less desirable property anywhere in the county and would have

had to sacrifice at least \$100,000.00 in improvements which they already had on the present location.

"It was the desire of our committee to co-operate with the Libertyville committee in every possible way but our foremost desire was to consider the best interest of the county and we believe we did, as our report was adopted unanimously by the board which the records will show.

"The resolution to be submitted to the voters at the November 4th election with the proposition to issue bonds not to exceed \$250,000.00 for the purpose of erecting new home buildings was then offered and read. This resolution was practically the same except as to legal form as the proposition submitted previously in the report of the joint committee appointed to investigate the necessity of erecting new buildings and it was unanimously adopted.

"Subsequent to the unanimous adoption of the report and prior to the offering of the resolution certain members of the board joined together to defeat the resolution and the records show that the resolution was defeated by a motion to table it, and the records also show by whom it was defeated.

"We believe that in such a case as this the people should be given an opportunity to express themselves through the ballot box and that this privilege should not be denied them.

"The investigating committee reported to the board that the present County farm buildings were unsafe and unsanitary, being unsafe on account of its being impossible to provide proper fire protection and escapes. Should a fire break out at the institution there would no doubt be great loss of life. Should such a disaster occur the responsibility would be on the county board and they should be severely criticized by permitting such existing conditions, while if the question had been submitted to the people the responsibility would have been placed upon them.

"In answer to that part of your editorial wherein you claim that high priced land such as the present County farm is too valuable to pay the interest on the investment for farm purposes will say that we agree with you absolutely and had the Libertyville committee offered a price consistent with the value of the farm the committee would have recommended the sale but such was not the case. It would be poor economy in our judgment to sell the farm for such a ridiculously low price as they offered and then to put the money back into land with no improvements or buildings whatever.

"Referring to your suggestion that a smaller farm on account of cost of

operation and the inability of the inmates being unable to assist in the work on account of being old people we beg to disagree with you. We believe that the farm should not be smaller than at the present time, because under the present efficient management of the superintendent there is only one man on the payroll. There is hardly a male inmate unable to help at some kind of work. They are so organized at the present time that the superintendent does all the work with the help of the inmates and one hired man, besides looking after all other details in connection with the institution. At the present time the farm supplies nearly everything in the way of produce besides milk and butter and both fresh and salt meats.

"We believe that the county board made a great mistake in not submitting to the voters at the November 4th election this proposition, and unless they reconsider their action it is certain that the people of Libertyville will have to endure the unsightly buildings that now occupy the present site for some time to come, whereas had the Libertyville committee given their assistance making it possible to submit the proposition to the people no doubt there might have been new buildings on the present site which would be a credit to the county and to which the Libertyville people might well point with pride.

"Yours very truly,
Charles Harbaugh, Asst. Supervisor, E. Deerfield."

EVANSTON WOMAN COP SHARPSHOOTER

Scores 292 Out of Possible 400
In Contest with Revolver;
Others Also

One of Evanston's policemen has qualified as a sharpshooter. The officer, Mrs. Georgiana Juul, showed that her revolver is more to be feared by crooks than those of many of her fellow officers, when she shot on the local range. The law enforcer scored 292 out of a possible 400.

Eight Evanston policemen have qualified as experts, 14 as sharpshooters and 7 as marksmen. The experts receive an increase in pay of \$3 a month, the sharpshooters \$2 and the marksmen \$1.

Though the salaries of public officials are called far too low, the great majority are usually willing to accept re-election.

People who delayed taking their baths on account of the danger of getting cold, are now assured that the weather makes it reasonably safe.

Advertise in this paper that prices are dropping and see how fast the public will drop in.

Some scientist should explain the nature of the magnetic attraction that draws the kids' baseballs through a kitchen window, though they throw them in a wholly different direction.

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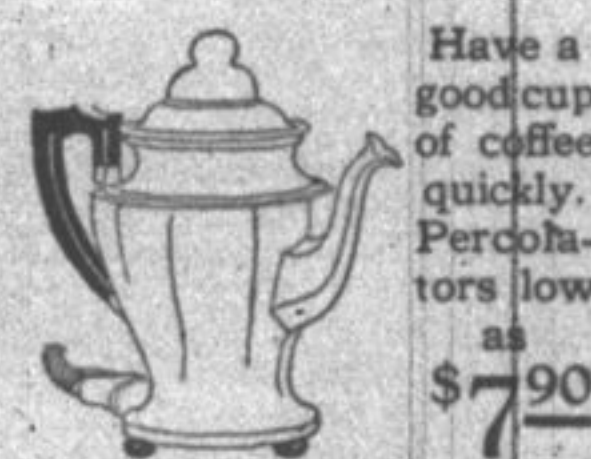
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