

**FUNERAL SERMON FOR MRS. NAOMI COMSTOCK**

Preached by Rev. Frank Pitt on March 14, 1927; Tribute to Fine Woman

Following is the sermon given at the funeral of Mrs. Naomi Comstock, Rev. Frank Pitt officiating, March 14, 1927:

We meet this afternoon in memory of a woman who occupied a unique position of leadership and influence in this community.

Mrs. Naomi Comstock was born in Fenstanton, England, on October 11, 1839, and in 1850 emigrated with her parents to this country. They crossed the Atlantic in a sailing vessel and took six weeks to make the passage. There was something about Mrs. Comstock's personality which reflected the adventure and daring of this early emigration to this country. They crossed with her the flavor of the pioneer. It was not my privilege to know her until she had passed the four score mark, but even in extreme old age it was evident that she retained the vigorous mind and spirit which kept well abreast of the times. The lines on her face spoke of strength and thought and effort. No one could meet her without becoming aware of an independence of personality which was also kindly and sympathetic. A pioneer at the beginning of her life she remained essentially a pioneer to the end.

Another unmistakable mark identifying her with this instinct of the pioneer was the responsive sweetness and simplicity of a nature which expressed itself in a passionate love of the out-of-doors and of animals. Born in an age that antedated our modern inventions she carried over into these more comfortable and sophisticated days a wholesome note of something both primitive and powerful. Whenever I saw Mrs. Comstock I thought at once of the daguerrotypes and old paintings that one sees upon the walls of those who have reason to be proud of their family tradition. The major part of the secret of that strength came from contact with nature, a secret that we of a machine-ridden age have difficulty in finding. Mrs. Comstock had found the secret of the first and acquired that serenity of outlook and peace of mind which are always the priceless treasures of those who can really see and really love the out-of-doors.

Chicago was the city to which this English emigrant family came, and it was there that Mrs. Comstock passed her girlhood and early womanhood. She took her place courageously in every good endeavor and was a member of the Englewood Presbyterian church. Over forty years ago Mrs. Comstock and her husband came to live in Ravinia.

There is much that might be said about the meaning of this couple to the community in which they were among the first to live. Mr. Comstock was a carpenter of the old fashioned type of craftsmanship, and there are men now earning their livelihood as carpenters and contractors on the North Shore who served their apprenticeship under him. A man of unusual force of character he found in his wife comradeship and a thorough sympathy in his plans. It was in the Comstock home that many projects of value to Ravinia were developed. In those early days it was a sort of community center, a common gathering place, for the few dozen families who made up its population. When Mr. Comstock passed away in 1910 his wife preserved the tradition of advice and helpfulness which had gathered around the home. To the very end of her days it remained a center for the friends who had known her from an earlier time. Many problems were brought to her, and no one ever sought her time and thought in vain.

In recent years there were two incidents in the life of the community which indicate the position which Mrs. Comstock held. When the village house was dedicated she was the one to light the first fire in the grate. When the first New Year's tea for the entire village was given she stood in the chief place in the receiving line. There were many other ways in which she received a similar acknowledgment. And this had come through the common recognition of her qualities of character.

Mrs. Comstock retained almost to the last the same clearness of mind which had always served her in more active days. For about a year she lost ground gradually as illness took a greater hold upon her aged body. Fortunately she was spared from keen suffering and accepted with fortitude and little comment a situation which she must have known had but one outcome. During these months of weariness and waiting she received the devoted attention of her sister, Mrs. Joseph Hardacre, who had shared her home since Mr. Comstock's death. Everything was done to bring comfort in this closing phase. Time, thought and effort were given freely. Mrs. Comstock's release into a finer and more beautiful dwelling-place came last Saturday morning.

We all recognize that in the passing of this woman Ravinia has lost a power that cannot be replaced. There was no one like her. Her background of experience and her assured position in the community were unique. She had a treasury of the spirit which she shared freely and of which many partook. Through those who learned to know her the secret of her influence will abide. To those of her loved ones who remain, her sister, her three

nephews and her several nieces, these friends offer a tribute of sympathy and appreciation.

Let us pray: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we are grateful for the strength that comes to us in this life. We thank thee for the life of this woman who touched the lives of others at so many points and who expressed a nobility of purpose and an understanding of those whom she met. We ask that now thou will give comfort to those who mourn her passing and that the heritage which she has left may be taken up and treasured. And now may the grace of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, abide and be with us now and forever more, Amen.

The above portion of the sermon was preceded by several appropriate quotations from the scriptures.

**INTERESTING REPORT OF YELLOW CAB CO.**

Tells Large Number of Passengers Carried and Big Mileage Covered

A very interesting report has just been made by the manager of the Highland Park Yellow Cab Co. to the directors of the company. Complete records have been kept since the organization of that company in Highland Park and some of the records are as follows: miles traveled, 1925, 155,501; miles traveled, 1926, 172,028. Passengers carried, 1925, 69,222; 1927, 87,706.

Over \$14,000 was paid to drivers as commission and bonus for the year 1926. Over \$4,000 worth of gasoline was consumed. Not at any time were there less than 16 men employed by this organization. We believe this an unusual statement for an organization in a city of the size of Highland Park and a very interesting one. Approximately 60 calls are received daily requesting the correct time. Various requests for information of different types are furnished daily and about \$1,500 worth of lost articles have been returned to their owners during the past year. The business has increased over 11 per cent which is ahead of the normal increase of population of Highland Park. Yellow Cab operates its own garage and furnishes washing service. Cabs are washed thoroughly every night and kept in condition by a mechanic schooled especially on Yellow Cabs.

**MISSIONARY SOCIETY TO HOLD BAKE SALE**

The Missionary Society of the Bethany Evangelical is holding a bake sale all day Saturday in the Public Service display room on St. Johns avenue. Everybody welcome.

**MOTORIST HAS NARROW ESCAPE IN ACCIDENT**

D. H. Friedenbergh of Chicago had a narrow escape on South Green Bay road the other day when a Nash car driven by another Chicago man hooked the Ford's hub in passing and hurled it into a light pole, breaking the pole off short. The taut wires lifted the pole for a moment and then it swiped the Ford as it descended. Fortunately nobody was hurt. It was a close call, police report.

Now that the politicians have mostly gone home, President Coolidge may not think it necessary to take down the old barn lantern and set over every night to see if the treasury is well locked up.

**NATURE TALKS FOR GROWN-UPS PLANNED**

Jesse L. Smith Assisted by Mr. Leech to Present Series; Begin March 29

The Elm Place P.T.A. announces a series of three nature talks for grown-ups to be given at Elm Place school by Jesse L. Smith, assisted by Mr. Bert S. Leech, instructor in science. Anyone who is interested in a simple discussion of natural history happenings in Highland Park and vicinity is cordially invited to attend. There is no admission fee. The talks will be illustrated with lantern slides and with specimens and exhibits. Each talk will be more or less of a unit in itself and one may attend any or all of them as he sees fit.

The first talk will be given on Tuesday evening, March 29, and the other talks on successive Tuesday evenings. The subject for the first talk will be "The Awakening of Spring" and will include such topics as the earlier spring flowers, catkins and pollen grains, winter birds and the first arrivals, and some time will be given to the recommendation of a list of nature books useful in the home. Succeeding talks will have to do with the migration of birds thru and into this area, characteristic spring and summer flowers, local insect pests, etc.

The formal programs will begin at 8 o'clock but those who come earlier will have the use of microscopes and specimens. Meet in the science room in the intermediate building.

**DEERFIELD CAGERS ARE INVITED TO BIG MEET**

Asked to Participate in National Tournament at University of Chicago

Deerfield-Shields high school basketball team, which came within two points of winning the district tourney two weeks ago, having given New Trier, the winners, a stiff battle, with a 21 to 19 score, have been recognized as one of the leading high school cage teams of the state by an invitation to participate in the annual National Basketball tournament to be held at Bartlett gymnasium, March 29 to April 4, under the auspices of Chicago university. State champion teams, champion teams of city and suburban leagues have been invited from all over the country, including Alaska, and many of the best high school quintets in the country will be on the floor during the meet. Deerfield-Shields team feels honored in having been included for the first time among the teams asked to take part in this big annual tourney. Last year 38 out of the 48 states were represented at the tournament.

**REGULAR MEETING OF LEGION POST**

The regular meeting of Dumaresq Spencer post of the American Legion will be held this evening in Witten hall. A large attendance of members is urged, as matters of importance are to be considered.

**FIREMEN HAVE FEW CALLS DURING WEEK**

A chimney burning out on the Griffith building on Central avenue called out the fire department last Friday evening, and a couple of woods fires gave them runs during this week. No damage resulted, it was reported.

**PAUL HUTCHINSON AT SUNDAY EVENING CLUB**

Managing Editor of Christian Century to Speak on "Meaning of Uprising in China"

Paul Hutchinson, managing editor of the Christian Century, will be the speaker for the Sunday Evening Club on March 27. The subject of his talk is "The Meaning of the Uprising in China." This will be the last meeting of the club for this year.

Mr. Hutchinson, who has lived in China for five years, knows well the character of the Chinese people, their aspiration and their disappointments. He is a fluent speaker and presents in a graphic way the changing conditions in China.

Miss Tetzina, concert singer from Vienna, who has been studying music in this country for a year and a half, will give a number of songs. Critics commend here excellent interpretation of songs. Mr. Dinkeloo will have charge of the community singing at the first of the program as usual.

A large audience was fascinated by the poetic and colorful talk given by Dhan Gopal Mukerji last Sunday evening. Swiftly and deftly drawn pictures, surprising bits of humor, and a revelation of the thought of the Old and New East made up one of the finest talks heard by the Sunday Evening club this year. Mrs. Thomas Wilder's violin solos were part of this successful program.

**FRANCE HAS ALIBI DISARMAMENT PLAN**

The French government, in rejecting the Coolidge plan for further disarmament bases its action on the fact that there is already a proposal for general disarmament before the League of Nations and that France does not want to do anything along this line which might embarrass the international body at Geneva is almost pathetic.

It is not entirely convincing however because it is so recent. During the past few years France has not always been so concerned over the welfare of the league and has taken many international steps which seemed to ignore that august body.

The truth of the matter is that the French government knows as well as every other government knows, that the disarmament proposals made before the league have but little if any chance of bearing fruit. When they delegates met at Geneva they were not even able to agree on what should constitute armament, let alone adopt any plan which would tend to cut down military establishments.

The meeting ended in disappointment with the belief of the delegates present that little if anything could be accomplished through a general program in which there were so many conflicting national interests.

If anything further is ever done in the way of disarmament it will be by doing a little at a time, as the American plan proposes. The French reply, however, simply goes to prove that European diplomacy has lost none of its hypocrisy or its sidestepping qualities.

However, even if nothing comes of the President's plan, it will have served one worthy purpose in showing to the world how much buncombe there is in all the European talk about disarmament. Some of our own fond internationalists have been disposed to blame Uncle Sam for the world's failure to disarm. Now the blame is about to be placed in Europe where it belongs.

After the farmers have had their crop surpluses marketed by the government, the newspaper writers might see if the government would dispose of their unsalable manuscripts.

After the parents have permitted a boy to steal fruit from the neighborhood for some years, it excites surprise when he holds up someone on a dark night and extracts five dollars from him.

So-called celluloid collars are made of cotton the same way as any starched collar, practically the only difference being that the nitrocellulose collar is stiffened with pyroxylin, also made of cotton, while the other is stiffened with starch.

The reason tire cement evaporates so quickly if exposed to the air is because it is liquified with ether — a highly volatile liquid which turns into vapor with very little encouragement.

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Fresh PINEAPPLES each	39c	ASPARAGUS large bunch	35c
Fresh FIGS pound	25c	New CARROTS 3 large bunches	25c
COMB HONEY per comb	25c	Iceberg Head LETTUCE solid, 3 large heads	25c
Jonquils, fresh CUT FLOWERS 2 large bunches	35c	Fresh GREEN or WAX BEANS per lb.	29c
Extra Large GRAPEFRUIT (over 2 lbs. each) 2 for	29c	EGGS — Strictly Fresh the dozen	27c
Fancy Ripe Strawberries at Lowest Prices			
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