

WILMOT SCHOOL WORK EXHIBITED APRIL 22

The exhibit of school work held in the Wilmot school, Friday, April 22, deserves honorable mention at least. It was not work done specially for exhibition purposes but just the everyday work of the children under the instruction of their teachers. It showed splendid work on the part of both teachers and pupils, especially the posters made and books illustrating certain studies. A word of commendation is due our teachers and pupils; and the parents, for the most part felt quite satisfied with all the work done. Refreshments were served by the teachers, others assisting.

WILMOT SCHHOL ITEMS

Arbor Day was most fittingly observed at the school Friday, May 6, at two o'clock, sponsored by the P. T. A.

The children gave a playlet and sang songs suitable for the occasion under the direction of their teachers, Miss Knapp and Miss Courson.

Mr. Jesse L. Smith of Highland Park gave a very interesting talk on flowers, birds and trees, illustrated with stereopticon views. This both children and parents greatly enjoyed.

The groups then passed out to the grounds where four beautiful evergreen trees were planted in front of the school building under direction of Mr. Elmer L. Clavey. Each child received a beautiful double-flowering crab apple tree to be planted at home.

The educational value of such Arbor Day exercises cannot be over-estimated.

The next regular monthly meeting of the P.T.A. will be held at the school on Friday evening, May 20, at 8 o'clock.

This will be an important meeting and perhaps the last regular one before summer vacation. Everybody in the district should plan to be present at this time.

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARY OF PARK OFFICERS AND CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE HIGHLAND PARK EAST PARK DISTRICT

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE HIGHLAND PARK EAST PARK DISTRICT:

SECTION 1: That the salaries of the following Park Officers and employees for the fiscal year beginning June 1st, 1927, and ending May 31st, 1928, be fixed at such sum as is provided for by this Ordinance for such officer or employee for the discharge of the duties of such office, as required under the laws of the State of Illinois, and the ordinances of the East Park District of Highland Park, during the term of his office or employment, and that such officer or employee shall receive further compensation from the Highland Park East Park District for the duties of such office during the term thereof.

That the salary of the Secretary and Superintendent of Parks be and the same is hereby fixed at the sum of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) per annum.

That the salary of the Clerk be and the same is hereby fixed at the sum of One Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$1,320.00) per annum.

That the salary of the Corporation Counsel be and the same is hereby fixed at the sum of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per annum, and two per cent (2%) of the total cost of all improvements made by the special assessment confirmed by the Court and two per cent (2%) of all deficiencies in improvements made by special assessment confirmed by the Court, the cost of which is defrayed by supplemental special assessment. Said percentage to be paid out of the six per cent (6%) funds of said improvements.

That the salary of the Treasurer be and the same is hereby fixed at the sum of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per annum.

That the salary of the Chief of Police be and the same is hereby fixed at the sum of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) per annum.

SECTION 2: That the salaries provided for in Section One of this ordinance shall be due and payable in semi-monthly installments on the First and Fifteenth day of each month for the preceding half month of their services during the term of their office.

SECTION 3: That the salary of the Secretary and Superintendent, Clerk, Corporation Counsel, (except percentages on special assessments), and Treasurer, be paid out of the general fund.

SECTION 4: That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5: This ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication.

EVERETT L. MILLARD, President of the Board of Commissioners of the Highland Park East Park District

ATTEST:

EDW. M. LAING, Secretary of the Board of Commissioners of the Highland Park East Park District. Passed May 2, A.D., 1927. Approved May 5, A.D., 1927. Published May 12, A.D., 1927.



Once upon a time there was a place called Hardscrabble. It was here that a wagon road crossed the Vermilion river in the southern edge of La Salle county, Illinois. It was a hard scramble up the river bank for horses after the fording. Finally a few houses were built. Finally a few on the prairie. It looked as if the settlers would have a hard scramble to make a living.

In something of derision the people began to call the place Hardscrabble. The name seemed appropriate. It stuck. People were confident that Hardscrabble would never amount to much.

Coal Is Found
Not long before coal was found. The vein wasn't very thick; about three feet. It was a rather hard scramble getting the coal. But mining did start and about mining a city grew on the site of Hardscrabble. Miners were the first layer of the city's citizenship.

Many foresaw that coal mining eventually piddle away — peter out. It did. But long before it did a railroad came, two, three, four, five. Today five large systems, seven lines, serve the city. It is a crossing point for steel rails and steam traffic. Why? One of those accidents, perhaps. Or may be because it just happened to be a natural junction point.

Name Is Changed
Well, in the growing the name of Hardscrabble vanished. A more dignified name was chosen — Streator. The Plumbs and the Streators were among the first developers. They date back to Hardscrabble days. The city has 18,000 people now; eighty-one per cent native born.

For many years Streator made beer bottles; millions of beer bottles. Making beer bottles has gone out of style now. Whiskey bottles are still made, and malt extract bottles, pop bottles and milk bottles.

Ever see a bottle made? Used to be that bottles were blown "by hand." By hand means with human lungs. Men didn't last long at it, four to six years as a rule. A crew of three men would blow "twenty gross" in eight-and-a-half-hours. Today it is all automatic—machinery. One machine can blow about twenty-five bottles a minute. I saw one plant with thirteen machines in it.

Glass Making
Glassmaking came to Streator because of nearby raw materials. Glass is a mixture of a certain kind of sand, sodium carbonate known in the trade as soda ash, and ground limestone. Streator's sand comes from around Ottawa, just a few miles north; limestone, ground to dust, from around Joliet. Soda ash is imported. Gas is the fuel used. Originally it was made from native Streator coal. Today southern Illinois coal is used. Coal is distilled to produce gas.

To make a bottle requires large machinery. A sort of cup made of iron, dips into the molten glass, white hot, 2600 degrees. Vacuum sucks an exact amount of this into the cup through a hole. A knife scrapes any hanging mass off smooth. The cup opens and drops away. Hanging down is the molten mass. It reddens as it cools to 2300 degrees.

A mechanical mold, two exact halves in the form of the desired bottle, now automatically closes about the hanging molten glass. Air pressure takes place of the vacuum. A bubble of air grows inside the mass. The mold opens and the bottle, glowing hot, is softly dropped into a padded trough. An endless belt, of metal, picks it up and moves it slowly toward the annealing chamber.

The bottle stands upright as it moves. The glow fades slowly, first from the top. Twenty feet away, the glow remains only at the base of the bottle. Eight hours in the annealing chamber, cooling very slowly, and the bottle is done.

Plate Glass Also
Plate glass is also made in Streator; wire glass and the fancy glass for office doors that you cannot see through. Making a big pane of glass is something like pouring a batter-cake. A long-handled scoop, holding about a mass.

The "batter" is poured upon a press, glowing hot. It goes under the press and comes out the other side a flat, oval pancake. A man runs a knife under it; a knife perhaps four feet long. The glass lifts as the knife moves, like soft candy. Into the annealing oven it goes. A few hours later, cooled slowly, it comes out. Men with glass cutters trim the edges straight and throw the waste into big vats to be remelted.

Hours of grinding bring the smooth surface to plate glass. Pieces of glass of various sizes are laid on a large revolving table perhaps forty feet in diameter. Plaster of paris is poured in at all joints. The table, a wheel, revolves. Other wheels, smaller, turn upon the surface of the glass. A man throws sand upon the wheel, occasionally wetting the surface with a hose.

Each side is ground down from an eighth to a quarter of an inch. Then comes the polishing. Rouge is used for this. The workmen tell me it is the same rouge women use. "But not so refined," they say. Perhaps a jest. At any rate, the stuff that takes the shine off a lady's nose puts the polish on plate glass.

Streator has three large glass plants, the American Bottle Co., the Thatcher Mfg. Co. and the Western

Glass Co. The Thatcher company, specializing in milk bottles, is spending \$400,000 for plant expansion.

Streator has built its growth, too, upon its shales and clays. The Streator Brick Co. manufactures 115,000 bricks a day and is preparing to double its capacity. It specializes in face brick; is the inventor of a special brand, "bokay" brick, different from any other. It has shipped this brick to such distant points as Buenos Aires. Shipments are now going forward to Miami, Fla. The freight to Miami is \$2 a thousand more than the cost of the brick.

Other Products
Drain tile and sewer pipe are other clay products made in Streator.

Another notable industry in Streator is raising flowers and foods under glass. Streator has three flourishing greenhouses producing flowers; others specializing in tomatoes, asparagus and cucumbers.

As I travel from city to city in this work of "Re-Discovering Illinois" I seek stories of men who think. I am looking for men who do things in different ways — and prosper. I seek to pass these stories on for the good they will do.

In Streator I found such a man. He is Edward C. Kline. He has invented a moveable greenhouse. It is a long, low building, very light in weight. He specializes in asparagus. He raises

it under these moveable greenhouses, marketing it in the winter.

Mr. Kline has studied asparagus. He is the first man to inoculate asparagus against rust. He puts as much as \$200 worth of fertilizer on a single acre in a single year. His asparagus goes to a specialized epicurean market.

It would seem that fertilizing so heavily would be needless in a district which is the center of the finest farming land in the world. But asparagus is a rather strange plant. It must grow very swiftly to be at its best. Mr. Kline says that he feels his asparagus beds are the richest land in the world.

Cucumber Specials
In writing the story of Streator I must say something of Omar Fanning. He raises cucumbers. Another specialist. At first his source of revenue was from the cucumbers he shipped. Then he got to experimenting beginning, in his kitchen.

Out of that has grown a factory. He makes pickles and relishes. He is now preparing to double the size of the plant. Streator is in the midst of considerable development. Sewer building under way will cost nearly \$1,000,000. Proposed water developments will come to about \$300,000. The Streator Telephone Co. is completing a \$180,000 expansion program.

I have mentioned glass and bottles, coal, clay and greenhouse products as Streator's most notable money-getting factors. But Streator has a considerable variety of other products. Among them are auto bodies and bumpers, banana crates, canned goods, clothing, farm lighting plants, sign writing pens, radium clock dials, railroad cars, washing machines, etc.

That is a background of industries that guarantees for the future. Towns with few industries sometimes suffer. What is here has developed out of the region's natural resources since the 1860's.

The city was named after Dr. W. L. Streator. He never lived here. His home was Cleveland, O. But he headed the Vermilion Coal company which opened the mining development that started the city. Col. Ralph Plumb was the active founder of the city. He saw to it that the city was named after his chief. The Plumbs still live in Streator, the family foremost in social and business life.

Excavators at Jerusalem have dug up a stone ball shot by a Roman catapult. Who knows? Maybe a thousand years hence some explorer from Mars will dig up a baseball which was knocked out of the park by Babe Ruth.

ART INSTITUTE GETS VERY CURIOUS LETTER

A curious letter was received at the Art Institute of Chicago the other day from an artist in Germany who undoubtedly thought that all he had to do was to draw a draft on the Institute and thus sell his work off-hand. The writer says: "I take the liberty to enclose three original etchings on glass negatives. (They arrived broken into fragments.) I very respectfully beg you will buy these for ten thousand dollars. Also please confer upon me the title of an American Doctor, honoris causa. If these wishes be granted I pledge myself to work for you further for nothing. I also have three oil paintings which I shall send you after you have remitted the money. Please cable the ten thousand dollars."

The W.C.T.U. will hold a meeting at the Bungalow Evangelical church Tuesday, May 17, at two o'clock.

Three important questions must be decided at this meeting. Every member take notice and be present. Visitors invited.

De-luxe airplanes with buffets and bars will be put on between London and Paris. Our idea of no place to take a drink is in an aeroplane.

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