

### VIKINGS OF MIDDLE WEST LECTURE TOPIC

#### O. E. Rolvaag Gives Woman's Club Interesting Picture of Norse in U. S.

On November 19, at the Highland Park Woman's club Mr. O. E. Rolvaag gave to his audience a history of the Norwegian immigration movement to, and settlement in America. The first permanent settlement in America was made in 1833 by Cleng Pierson. An entire settlement had been made by him eight years previously on the shores of Lake Ontario. This proved not to be the Promised Land. The summer of 1833 made a pilgrimage in search of better soil and climatic conditions. He finally located his new kingdom about one quarter of a mile southwest of the little town of Norway in La Salle county, Illinois.

#### Tells Marvellous Story

Late in the fall he returned to the little colony on Lake Ontario. The story he told was so marvelous that by far the greater number concluded to pull up stakes and move to Illinois the following summer. Thus the first colony of Norwegians was established in the middle west. Many others were to follow. No other country, has, in proportion to its population sent so many immigrants to American citizens of Norwegian descent as there are people in Norway.

This coming of the Norwegians to America is typical of the history of the Mississippi Valley. The spirit which has made it possible to populate in 96 years this vast wilderness is best expressed in the words of Mr. Rolvaag, "In this trackless wildness was suddenly unloosed the thousand-year hunger of the poor after human happiness — and that's how it was done."

#### A Great Migration

Mankind had previously witnessed great migrations, but never one comparable with that of the nineteenth century. The magic word "America"

held a strange enchantment and cast a spell among the nations of Northern Europe. The people came to do mighty deeds and to build for greater human happiness.

This vast wilderness could never have been peopled in so short a time had it not been for the Romantic movement which burst into flames about this time in Northern Europe. This movement gave great impetus to the westward movement.

The story of Snowshoe Thompson, perhaps, best portrays the spirit of these Vikings. After coming to America when 24 years old and fishing as a prospector for gold and as a farmer, he answered an advertisement of the authorities of California for someone to carry the mail back and forth across the Sierras during the winter. He was the only applicant for a job which it seemed, no fool, however crazy, would care to tackle. The distance which he had to traverse was ninety miles. The whole region was in inhospitable, wilderness with not a single habitation. This journey took him five days. For 20 winters he never failed to make this trip. On his journeys he saved the life of many a man who had tried to cross the wilderness and lost his way.

These Vikings were just common folk. In earthly belongings poor, but they had never known serfdom. Because of this spirit of freedom that dwelt in them, they wanted land. They became landowners in greater proportion than the immigrants of any other nationality. They were also deeply religious and as in the Fatherland they made in America the church the center around which their lives moved.

They were also among the first to push on westward to Iowa when the settlements in LaSalle county, Illinois and in southern Wisconsin were filled to overflowing.

### Telephone Building Is Being Remodelled

W. J. Brown, local contractor, has the contract for the remodeling of the Bell Telephone company's Highland Park building on St. John's avenue, and work on the job has been started. The alterations will affect the building from basement to third floor and are being made to afford additional space for operations and equipment. The business offices of the telephone company have been removed to the new Sher-Park building, on Sheridan road at Park avenue.

### Miss Helen Watson Is Winner of Scholarship

Miss Helen Watson of this city has recently won a scholarship in composition from the Juilliard Musical Foundation of New York. Out of the sixty-two new scholarships awarded this year by the Juilliard school only two were issued in the field of composition, so the honor for her is even greater. Miss Watson is head of the Musical Theory department of North Central college and a member of the faculty of the American Conservatory of Music, Chicago.

Football training is great seasoning for the fellow who expects to take his meals at the down town cafeterias after he leaves college.

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SATURDAY, NOV. 23 Matinee and Eve

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AN ALL-TALKING COMEDY DRAMA  
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Sound News Comedy



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SATURDAY, NOV. 30  
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also FRIDAY, NOV. 29

## Richard Dix in The Love Doctor

June Collyer, Morgan Farley, blonde Miriam Seegar, supporting the dashing Dick. An uproarious farce from the stage play, "The Boomerang"