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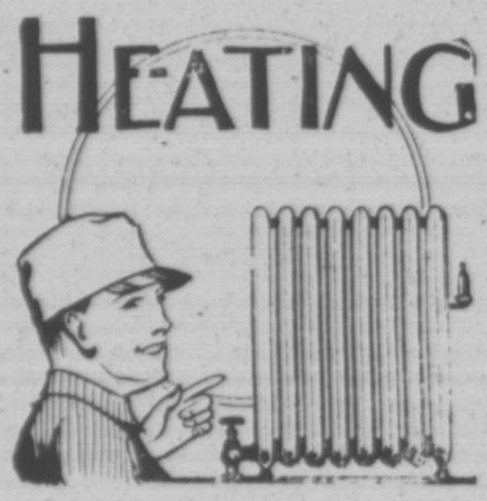

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LAY CORNER STONE OF NEW LIBRARY

(Continued from page 1)

tor. These were introduced to the audience by the master of ceremonies.

The first speaker to be presented was Mayor Benjamin F. Lewis, who spoke in part as follows:

Mayor Talks

"It is indeed gratifying that Highland Park is to have this handsome new library building to round out the city's civic center. The corner stone to be laid today is foursquare and this fact brings to mind the thought that the kind of knowledge to be gained through the contents of this library building is of that character, substantial fundamental of the type that makes for the progress of education and the upbuilding of character. Everybody will have the opportunity here to meet the great characters of history in their writings, and after all, this is the only way we can meet them and learn of them."

The mayor reflected the thought that everybody in Highland Park is pleased and gratified at the erection of this fine building for so beneficial a purpose, and he congratulated all connected with the project.

The next speaker was Miss Anna May Price, who brought the facilitations of her department upon this notable event representing a great step in advance for the benefit of the people of Highland Park.

J. B. Garnett, chairman of the building committee, formally laid the corner stone as it was hoisted into place and following his address gave a list of the contents of both the receptacle taken from the corner stone of the old building and also of the new one which was placed in the stone then laid. He spoke as follows:

Mr. Garnett's Address

"As far back as 1914 this building project has been in the minds of the library trustees. At that time Dr. P. C. Wolcott was president of the board. Already after less than 10 years the demands of our growing population and our rapidly increasing number of books had taxed the capacity of our former building. It is no reflection on the builders that this was so. At the time of its erection, our population was about 3,000, and the book capacity 10,000 volumes. In less than 10 years it had more than doubled. Now we are planning for a potential population of 30 to 50 thousand and a capacity of 75,000 volumes.

"Because of the war no further action was taken until 1920. At that time Holmes and Flinn were engaged to make sketches for an enlargement. Again in 1924 they were called upon to plan the enlargement of our former building. It was decided, however, to move our childrens department downstairs and give up our lecture room. This gave temporary relief, but in only two years our shelves were again over-crowded.

"In 1926 estimates were obtained and it was found that it would be necessary to spend $40,000 to properly enlarge. The question then arose—would it be wise to spend so much adding to an old building which could not be permanent. Expert opinion was obtained and all agreed that an entirely new building should be constructed.

"We prepared plans and in 1927 went to the council for an appropriation. At this time I wish to thank Mayor Lewis and the council for their cooperation which has made this building possible. I also thank Mr. Millard for the park board. They have aided us in acquiring our site and by improving the corner they have given us a beautiful setting for our building. I wish also to thank Mr. Edward Laing for our beautiful green grass.

"From 1926 until the present year we have been thinking and planning for this building. When we engaged Miss Hendee for our librarian we knew that she would be most valuable to us because of her special knowledge of the most modern and efficient library plans and she has been most helpful. We knew that this library must include not only the need of the present day but so far as possible it should be adjustable to conditions 25 or 30 years hence. It must serve all ages and all classes and degrees of intelligence.

"A library should be easily accessible, close to the sidewalk with few ascending steps. It must be a building which may be administered with the greatest ease and efficiency by a small staff.

"In the course of our studies we visited other libraries of recent construction. We consulted the best authorities in the country on library buildings and submitted our plans to them for criticism.

"We demanded an exterior which should be beautiful and in harmony with its surroundings but at the same time home like and inviting.

"We are satisfied that our architects, Messers Holmes & Flinn have fulfilled these requirements.

In advertising for bids and letting the contracts we were mindful of three things: (1) a contractor best qualified to follow the instructions of our architects, (2) to save as much as possible for the tax payers and (3) to keep as much as possible of this money in Highland Park.

It developed that the E. L. Archibald Co. were the low bidders and $10,000 below conservative estimates of a year previous. They were strong financially and had done many splendid things of a similar type of construction. At our request they have purchased a large portion of the building materials in Highland Park and over 50 per cent of the labor so far has come from Highland Park and Highwood.

We wish you to know that this is your building. It is not the property of the staff or the Board of Trustees. It is being built with your money; the tax payers money. If you are of Highland Park the library is yours.

We regret exceedingly the absence of our president Mrs. F. D. Everett. She has given freely of her time and ability for many years. To a great extent, her vision of the growing library needs of Highland Park has made possible this building.

"We wish to pay a tribute to those who worked so hard to obtain the funds and complete the erection of of our former building. It is beyond my power of expression to tell you how much that library has given to the readers of this community in the 25 years it served here.

"I shall read you a list of the contents of the box which was in the corner stone of that building and