

## Arthur H. Swanson

Announces

The opening of a Plumbing and Heating Shop and office at 386 Central Avenue, Highland Park

Phone H. P. 268

Res. Phone  
1938

Res.  
375 Orchard Lane

Patronize the Press Advertisers

## Lincoln Market

519 Central Avenue

Phone Highland Park 3140

Swift's Premium Sliced Bacon pound.....	39c
Genuine Spring Leg of Lamb pound.....	35c
Small Lean Pork Shoulder Roast pound.....	25c
Choice Lamb Chops pound.....	35c
Lean Boiling Beef pound.....	14c
Short Leg of Milk Fed Veal pound.....	30c
Choice Native Round Steak pound.....	42c
Swift's Premium Red Hots pound.....	28c

A Demonstration on Brookfield Sausage will be held at this Store Saturday, Nov. 1. Free Balloons with every purchase.

## HARRIET VITNUM IN ADDRESS HERE

Head of N. W. Settlement Tells of Distress Prevailing Among Poor; Asks for Aid

Most of us are dimly conscious of the present unemployment situation, but a more vivid realization is needed of the acute distress now prevailing.

Miss Harriet Vittum, director of Northwestern Settlement, drew a touching picture of present conditions in a talk before the Highland Park members of the Settlement at their last meeting on October 22nd, at the home of Mrs. Everett Millard.

### Speaks Advisedly

Miss Vittum, who has been with the Northwestern Settlement for over 20 years, is in a position to know. She stated that this would be a desperate winter for hundreds of families. The abrupt change from absurdly high wages (in some cases) after the war, with the resulting "spending habit," to the present job less state, has been most demoralizing. Boys who have been out of work for perhaps three years, are organizing into gangs to take what they want by force. As Miss Vittum remarked, "self protection is nature's first law." Children who are brought regularly to the settlement for medical examination and aid, show a marked decline in health, due to poor nutrition, and bad living conditions.

### Lower Living Standards

The standards of living are rapidly lowering. Miss Vittum said that one sees great quantities of kerosene lamps for sale because the gas and electricity have been shut off in so many homes. She told of one case in which the gas was turned on again by a friend most diastrosly since the father of the family of six children took advantage of it to commit suicide. He had been out of work for months, and had absolutely no prospect of a job. He couldn't bear seeing his children's hunger any longer. These people have come to the end of all resources, Miss Vittum said, even spiritual resources.

The United Charities is doing what it can, but it is in debt, and of course cannot do everything. Self-reliant families are the ones suffering most. It is literally a question now of keeping body and soul together.

### Pleads for Aid

Miss Vittum, who has seen the improvement brought about in families of the Settlement neighborhood, pleaded for a continuance of the help and interest of Highland Park people. She told of having recently attended the 50th wedding anniversary of a Polish couple, who by frugal living and careful saving, had finally been able to buy a little home of their own outside the tenement district, with enough left over for a piano and a Ford. They attributed most of their prosperity to the Settlement influence. Many other families, however, who later started to do the same thing have now lost what little they had.

Another interesting example of settlement work is the Boys' club, composed, Miss Vittum said, of some of the toughest bullies of the neighborhood whose energies have been directed into wholesome activities. A very successful dance was recently planned and managed by these boys, with "no rough stuff allowed," and

many of them have signed up for the night school.

It is said that hundreds of girls are being driven into prostitution by present conditions. The settlement has a club of 60 girls who meet three times a week and receive encouragement and advice in their problems. There are also mothers' and fathers' clubs, some of whose members don't know where the next meal is coming from. Every evening from 6:30 to 12:30 policemen bring needy people to the settlement for help.

The settlement has tided thousands of people over many years, Miss Vittum declared, and this program must keep up. She compared the work to "getting hold of an electrode" — "one just can't let go." She hopes that efforts will be redoubled to help not only to alleviate the misery of these unfortunates, but to preserve their morale, and encourage the good fellowship so definitely established.

The Highland Park branch of the Northwestern Settlement has contributed a considerable amount during the past year in the way of children's clothing made by the members, and in money donations. The need this year is of course greater.

Mrs. Karl Meyer, who presided at the meeting, urged every member to feel a personal responsibility in helping this cause.

The officers for the coming year as named by Mrs. Meyer are as follows: Mrs. Robert Walker, chairman; Mrs. Webster Stafford, treasurer; Mrs. Renslow Sherer, secretary; Mrs. K. I. Fosdick, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Walter Rutledge, chairman of thrift shop workers; Mrs. King O'Hara, chairman of thrift shop collections, and Mrs. Benjamin F. Lewis chairman of work.

## Supreme Court Holds for Defendant in the Sears Tax Litigation

The supreme court last Saturday reversed the decision of former Circuit Judge Claire C. Edwards, in which a tax of close to \$880,000 was assessed against Mrs. Anna Sears, wife of Richard Sears founder of Sears-Roebuck, according to Press dispatches from Springfield.

In its opinion the court held that the Cook county board of review could not assess Mrs. Sears after the death of her husband as he willed his property to her and her rights then could not be disturbed.

The opinion in effect sets aside the tax assessment.

The Cook county board of review claimed \$1,703,000 as the amount of the back tax and 5 per cent as interest dating from 1912 when Mr. Sears died. The total claim was close to \$3,000,000.

### Involved Two Counties

At his death the estate settled with Lake county for certain claims for unpaid taxes on alleged hidden property. Cook county, at the same time, contended that when the deceased had been a resident of Oak park that he failed to reveal all taxable assets there.

Mr. Sears lived for years at Gages corners, near Grayslake, and owned considerable property there. For years his estate paid an enormous tax which was the largest amount to come to the county treasurer from the Town of Warren.