

## VOTERS LEAGUE HAS INTERESTING MEETING

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ceedings. This consists in nearly every state of from 3 to 7 people elected, or chosen by the governor. In Illinois, the commission is chosen by the governor for a four year term, with a salary of \$7,000 for commissioners, and \$5,000 for assistant commissioners. They meet once a month, usually in Springfield, and are limited in the amount they may spend. They are supposed to see that the public utilities give adequate service at a reasonable rate to the consumer, and at a reasonable return to the investors.

Mrs. Pollack stated that the states have jurisdiction only over local companies, and that only the state company can furnish utility in that state. Consequently, when a larger company takes over a smaller one, the smaller must be retained as an operating company in order to legally serve the state. The holding company is usually inter-state in nature so that the state commission has no jurisdiction over it. There is now no body with complete jurisdiction. Senator Norris has proposed an amendment giving the federal government a new body for that purpose.

State commissions are political in nature, Mrs. Pollack stated, and often handle the public utilities with "kid gloves." The findings of the commission are subject to review by court, but the public utility with its tremendous backing may appeal to the court at a great advantage.

### Difference of Opinion

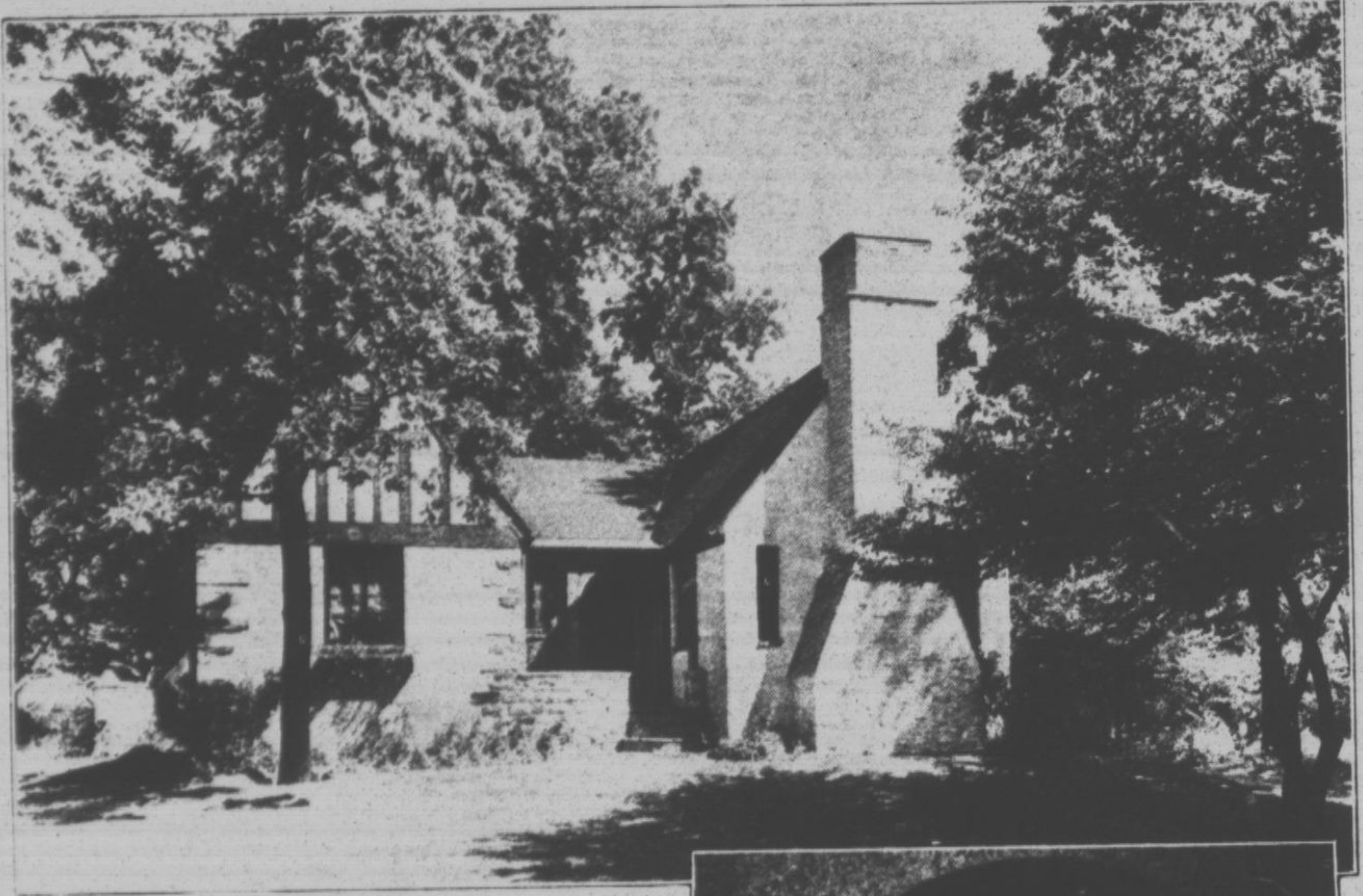
There is a difference of opinion concerning the value of public utility property. Most courts and commissions rule that the utility may charge what would be a suitable return on the reproduction cost. Massachusetts insists on the original cost as does also the Federal Power commission; which means returns based on the actual investment.

Mrs. Pollack spoke of the Muscle Shoals bill, stating that as long as commission regulation seems so inadequate, the League, (while not necessarily in favor of government ownership) feels that the operation of Muscle Shoals by the government would be a valuable experiment in determining rates.

Women can help, Mrs. Pollack concluded, by influencing public opinion so that pressure is brought to bear on the commissions toward securing a greater regard for the public interest.

### Propose New Ballot

Mrs. Raymond Simons who spoke next, displayed two sample ballots which were sent out with last month's Illinois Voter. One was the clumsy ballot now in use, and the other—about one-fifth the size—the proposed new form. It was a most effective demonstration. Mrs. Simons went on to explain the disadvantages of the present ballot, in which the candidates are grouped according to party. There are many unfilled columns with much waste space; errors may creep in, both in marking and counting; the ballot be easily "short-penciled" or invalidated by dishonest officials, etc.



**T**HE James J. Gathercoal home was recently exhibited in the fourth annual architectural show which was put on by the Evanston and North Shore Association of Architects at the Art Center in the Evanston Public Library January 12-31. The house was built by Frank H. Gathercoal and designed by James J. Gathercoal.

James J. Gathercoal was born in Wilmette, graduated from New Trier high school and studied architecture at the University of Illinois and abroad. He has had six years of experience as designer under Chester H. Walcott, well known throughout the country for his residential architecture. As a hobby Mr. Gathercoal has designed small houses, of which nearly one hundred have been built along the North Shore. One is now being built on Carol Court in Riverview by Frank H. Gathercoal. Another is to be started in Wilmette soon. Mrs. James J. Gathercoal was the former Miss Cleona M. Udell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul L. Udell of 147 Lakeview terrace.

The house shown in the exhibit was designed as a honeymoon cottage, and is a combination of the English cottage style and the modern. The white plaster exterior walls are backed with cinder blocks. The two story studio living room has heavily hand adzed timber rafters and bracing. The mantel is of English design treated in modern by means of a covering of tin leaf. The living room and dining room are separated by double acting oak gates. Up two steps from the dining room is a small morning room. The kitchen, two bedrooms, and bath are separated from the living part of the house by means of the entrance hall.

The house is located near the west boundary of Wilmette in King's court on Lockerbie lane in an old grove of trees including probably the largest and oldest elm on the north shore. The property is immediately surrounded by low crabs and hawthorn trees with large oaks and elms bordering them. In the back yard is a sunken garden and pool in English design. In connection with the garage is a tool room for the garden tools. The nine hole golf course surrounding the house, while of an amateur nature, is original.



### Massachusetts Ballot

The office group or Massachusetts ballot (originally introduced in Massachusetts) groups candidates according to office, with the party designated after each name. The names are shifted so that no one name appears first in all the districts. The ballot costs less, is easier to handle, and saves time. It calls for more accurate and discriminating voting. The bill has been introduced both in the State Senate and House. Mrs. Simons urged the Highland Park League to write to Springfield asking that the measure be accepted.

Mrs. Simons repeated by request a very excellent resume of other legislative measures given to the board earlier in the morning. She spoke briefly of the 8 hour a day or 48 hours a week bill for women. Women in Illinois may now work 10 hours a day

or 70 hours a week. It was not possible to incorporate one day's rest in seven in the bill because of down state objections, so 48 hours a week was agreed to by the Joint Legislative committee; the various industries to decide how they will apply it. Eighty per cent of the industries in Illinois are already operating on this basis, Mrs. Simons said, and with the present overproduction, there is no need for longer hours.

Mrs. Simons next mentioned the Motor Drivers License bill which, it is figured, would lessen accidents 30 per cent. Under this, every person 14 years of age or more, driving a motor vehicle must secure a license after an examination as to physical and mental fitness, understanding of traffic regulations and the use of a car, etc. Any license may be revoked or suspended for just cause.

### Highwood Postmaster Has Been Reappointed

H. L. East will serve a second term as postmaster at Highwood, according to an announcement made last Friday. The action was taken on the official recommendation of the Post-office department, whose records showed that Mr. East had been exceptionally efficient in office.

The re-appointment was also asked by Highwood citizens, who forwarded to Representative Chindblom a petition signed by 833 residents. Several civic clubs also joined in endorsing East.

If some of that overflowing western oil which nobody seems to want could be changed into rain and spread over the drought country it might do some good.