

Editorial and Feature

COLUMN LEFT—

By Jay Orr

Banks in other lands are having their troubles, too! Perhaps the following example will convince you.

In Siamese banks monkeys are employed in an official capacity. It seems that there is a lot of metal money in that Far Eastern kingdom, and a bank that can't tell a counterfeit coin when it sees one is likely to end with its doors locked just like banks in the west. The result is that in many cases beside the cashier sits a monkey, trained to give each coin a good stiff bite as it comes across the counter. If the monkey's teeth leave a mark, the coin is suspect; if they do not leave a mark, all is well. This represents a considerable advance for monkeys, and a great saving on cashiers' teeth.

"Calvin Coolidge once remarked that Europe 'hired' our money. Gave it a permanent job, too," is the opinion of Dunbar's Weekly, of Phoenix, Ariz. And the News, of Buffalo, N. Y., puts it this way: "You see, our early settlers came from Europe, and none of that kind was left over there."

"Raising taxes increases demand for tax-free securities, which encourage bond issues, which increase taxes," says the Altoona (Tenn.) Tribune.

A diet expert says, "For dinner, a thin piece of underdone steak two inches by two inches should be taken." It doesn't seem to be much, but after all, it's a square meal.

The political season is over, but a good story on the "professional" politicians is always in season. Here is one recalled by the New York World-Telegram:

"I suppose it is not irreverent to say that practically all candidates receive some help in preparing their public documents. In the case of a certain mayor of New York of several years ago it was necessary not only to write the speech but to spell the longer words phonetically so that he could pronounce them. He was so dependent upon these prepared scrips that on one occasion at a patriotic banquet he astonished all listeners by declaiming, 'What we need is more of the spirit of one-seven-seven-six.'"

The meanest guy in the world—
The fellow who was deaf and never told his barber.

A recent critic has said, "Socialism would be fairer, anyway. Now all of us work for the Government, and it supports only part of us."

This critic, by the way, was a resident of Great Britain. Although taxes in this country are excessive, they are not as severe as those imposed on British taxpayers.

An Invitation—

The Highland Park Press welcomes short, sincere letters discussing matters of local importance to this city and the north shore, and will print a select few each week. Contributions, to be accepted for publication on this page, must be signed by the writer, must be short and to the point, must avoid personalities, and must reach this office by Monday noon for publication in the following issue. We reserve the right to use or reject all letters. Anonymous contributions will be ignored, regardless of their merit.

A TRIBUTE

The city of Highland Park takes its hat off (if you can visualize that!) to the members of the city fire department, who each year play Santa Claus to hundreds of poor children in this community by giving them mended and refinished toys.

If it were not for this program of the fire department, there would be no Christmas in a couple of hundred homes in Highland Park each year. There would be dozens of youngsters who would scoff at the Christmas spirit and the idea of Santa Claus. There would be a dangerous number of poor citizens in the making.

This has been prevented by the local fire fighters, who spend hours on end, collectively and individually, each December, collecting, rebuilding and refinishing, and distributing toys where they will do the most good.

HOUSE NUMBERS

Hundreds of visitors in Highland Park each year, winter and summer, are unable to find the homes of their relatives and friends, simply because they cannot locate the house numbers on certain streets in town.

There are residences in this city on which numbers are not displayed, and many others where the numbers are either obscured or too small to be seen ten feet away.

The average householder perhaps does not realize the importance of having street numbers plainly visible. This condition makes it extremely difficult for delivery people to find the right address, particularly at Christmas time, is certain to cause Santa Claus no end of trouble in the delivery of his parcels!

This condition is also particularly serious in emergency cases at night, when, frequently, physicians, police officers, telegraph messengers and even firemen, lose precious minutes looking for a number.

This is true not only in Highland Park, but all along the north shore, where many residences have a deep set-back from the street and where there are so many trees and shrubs.

The numbers in most cases do not contrast with the background sufficiently to be readily seen.

There are many attractive, yet inexpensive, numbers available which stand out prominently, and in some cities and villages there is a uniform system of house numbering in which the plain, legible type of house number has been adopted with satisfactory results.

EARLY SHOPPING

For several weeks now the Highland Park Press has been urging citizens of this and neighboring communities to "Shop and Mail Early for Christmas."

This advice is sincerely intended for the guidance of the local residents, for the following good reasons:

1.—By shopping early, you get the "pick" of the stores' goods.

2.—By shopping early you avoid congested conditions immediately before Christmas, which bring with them situations of danger, such as crushes in packed stores, bad traffic on crowded, slippery streets, and danger of robbery.

3.—By mailing early, your gifts are more likely to reach their destinations on time and in good condition, and you distribute the extra heavy load more evenly on Uncle Sam's postal employees.

Because some residents in the Deerfield-Shields high school district have been under the impression that the school paid for the dancing lessons given to students every Wednesday. Miss Buzard, of the school faculty, has announced that the money has been provided from the proceeds of *Student Stunts*. "The money that goes for these dancing lessons," she says, "therefore is really made by the students themselves."

FLY-BY-NIGHT STORES

The Christmas season each year brings to north shore communities several temporary new stores, designed to lure the hurried shopper, cater to his wishes for one short month, then fade back again unto unlit vacancies.

These are the fly-by-night shops that crop up during the Yuletide season, profitable to no one and distinctly harmful to the local communities.

These shops make very little profit and at best their success is highly speculative. These fly-by-night shops have no background of experience, nor record of obligations to meet.

These temporary merchants are gold seekers, who rush to the site of a new strike, hoping that some share of the hidden gold will not have been found by the pioneer discoverer.

The fly-by-night store should be avoided. Do your Christmas shopping with the established merchant, who is a constructive force in your community.

WHAT OF IT?—

By Eddy Smith

Views and opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of this newspaper. Signed inquiries and contributions must be addressed to "What of It?" care of Highland Park Press.

If whistling the theme-song of a show on the way out is any criterion of a successful musical comedy—then the Ruger-Hammer production *At Madame Delgay's* well deserves that classification. It was a good show but the wrong audience. The gag went away over their heads. Outstanding player . . . Theodore Fischer as Schultz . . . Scenery very professional. Costumes and gowns were marvelous but never saw a gloomier looking group of girls on the North Shore . . . one of them almost smiled.

Cecil "Rasputin" Nestic, dapper soda jerker at Mac's, has announced his intention of building a new type circular all glass restaurant at the World's Fair in '33. The two story structure (both stories rotating in opposite directions) to be located two miles out in the lake, and will be reached by either speed boat or airplane. Here's the idea—if the speed boat or airplane doesn't make you sick the revolving restaurant surely will—so you won't be eating very much. "Rasputin" also has several other ideas . . .

Mr. August Fisher of this city has just returned from a short hunting trip. He brought back two very fine ducks . . . and only 19c a pound!

If you think Highland Park isn't the best police-patrolled city on the north shore just try taking a walk about two or three o'clock in the morning. There seems to be a squad car for every other block. Wonder how it will be when they get their short wave radios—if they get them.

Do you know . . .

. . . That Highland Park has more little theatre groups than any other city on the north shore . . . that there is about \$9,000 still to be books at the public library . . . That a well known amateur little theatre organization which a metropolitan columnist recently designated as the outstanding dramatic group in Chicago suburbs is about to go on the rocks because the men folks want more plays while the women want more social life . . . that there is about \$9,000 still to be raised by the local relief organization; send check to Mr. Nay, care of City Hall . . . that "Smitty" the barber cleans the snow away from the front of his establishment before any other business man. He almost catches it on the way down . . . That Mr. Edward L. Seese of Bannockburn was sworn in as a member of the high school board of education at a special meeting December 7, and that more interest was shown in the last high school election than in any district election in the past several years . . .

"What of It?"