

JESSE LOWE SMITH DIES ON SATURDAY

(Continued from Page 1)

advice, not only in planning the present building but in making attractive the surrounding grounds.

"Recently, he became much interested in the formation of a Historical Society, which has already collected considerable material on Highland Park and its early residents.

"Recently, also, he had been doing much valuable work for the C.W.A. and had spent long hours this past winter, in helping the unemployed. His fund of sympathy for his unfortunate fellow-man seemed never to be exhausted. Truly, he wearied not in well-doing.

"In whatever capacity he served, he gave always of his best—a warm and understanding response—an eager readiness to help, wherever he could.

"As thousands of school children will testify, he was their kind and patient friend—ever ready to help them with their problems—be they large or small; the question of a future career or the identification of a bird or flower.

"He was unflinching in his encouragement of whatever might develop their character and teach them the right values of life.

"He gave, in himself, an example of high purpose and true Christian living, that has had a far-reaching effect on the steady stream of children which has passed through the schools these last 32 years. Who can calculate what it has meant to the community, as a whole?

"As dozens of his devoted teachers will testify, he was their real inspiration—consistently aiming at the best and highest.

"He called forth their most enthusiastic co-operation and loyalty. They reflected his ideals of democracy and service and so created an atmosphere, in which it was a privilege for a child to be reared. As hundreds of his fellow townsmen will testify, he was a friend to each of them—a man it was good to meet—ever radiating cheer and kindness.

"He had a merry word and a smile for everyone.

"He was a man to whom troubles were taken, with the assurance that he would find a solution. Many of his fellow-townsmen will testify that he has given generously, not only of his mature advice but also of his worldly goods.

"He gladly deprived himself, that others might be comfortable."

"He was an ardent nature-lover. His great knowledge of the outdoors was shared with young and old; no one ever left him, without being richer. He had deep appreciation of the beauty of his native land and a gift for interpreting it, to those about. He was very happy in his occasional trips westward, to the mountains and in his frequent trips to the Michigan and Indiana dunes, where he was usually accompanied by a fortunate group of the

teachers. He had always a welcome and an answer for anyone seeking information; the phrase, 'I'll ask Mr. Smith—he will know,' was very often heard.

"He found time to work on the Highland Park Tree and Parkway Commission and to be a director of the Audubon Society of Chicago, for the past 27 years, a director of the Friends of Our Native Landscape, and past president and director of the Chicago Geographic Society. Last and certainly not least was he a wonderful son and brother—to that will his splendid old mother and sisters and brothers testify.

"We will not again find his equal. He was one of those rare souls, of which this present day has great need. The combination of rugged strength and simplicity, utter modesty and self-sacrifice, great knowledge and equally great desire to share it, high ideals and high performance—not soon again will all that be fused in one personality. He not only had high ideals and principles, but stood uncompromisingly for them—firm in his conviction of right.

"We may count ourselves blessed in having had him with us, for so many years and we should realize that we can best show our profound appreciation and gratitude by carrying on with his courageous spirit and high purpose.

"He will live on in the hearts of not only his boys and girls, but of the entire community.

Dr. Louis W. Sherwin, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, delivered the following eulogy at the funeral services Tuesday afternoon:

"There are some people whose goodness is so unpretentious and whose inherent greatness is so clothed with simplicity and modesty that they, going their unadorned way in our midst, are rather taken for granted and only when we pause to think does it dawn on us how very fine they really are. There are many here today who will be thinking that this applies to this rare lover and dispenser of beauty who lived his honest unpretentious life in this community for so many years.

"But, what to say? It would be a beautiful thing just to take the sheaf of letters and telegrams that have come and quote sincere, generous and affectionate words of appreciation as they are being poured out of loving hearts. Time does not

permit that. It would be easy to speak in unbroken superlatives of his life and his work but his own simplicity would not want that. But it is difficult to think or speak of him without superlatives. The finest things to be said are now being said by each of us in his own heart as we think together of our friend.

"Jesse Lowe Smith was born in Macon, Illinois, on November 23rd, 1869, the son of the Rev. Leonard Smith and Mrs. B. A. Smith. His own father and his maternal grandfather were ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church. It does not take much imagination to see in the boy qualities that are born in an atmosphere of simple faith and gentle piety. He was one of five children—three of whom survive. His father died in 1874 when Jesse was but five years old. His beautiful mother, now in her ninety-second year survives him. As a boy he attended the schools in Macon, until when he went to Benton Harbor, Michigan. After that he attended DePauw University. Leaving college he taught for three years in the school where he first attended at Macon, then at Lexington, Illinois, for four years. This was followed by three years at Park Ridge, Illinois, where he was engaged when in 1902 he was called to Highland Park to take charge of the Elm Place School. He has lived you see in two places for an equal period. About thirty-two years in his birth-place and the same length of time in Highland Park.

"The story of his life here is the story of his work—as a teacher and friend of children. To that work he gave himself with such an intelligent completeness and loving abandon that he did his work well and impressed the children and his associates deeply. Through that work hosts of people—children and adults—have entered into an appreciation of values in character and in life that they might otherwise never have known. He lived this into peo-

ple. "And that into a large circle of people. He knew more people than many of us might think. He did more things than we could suspect. He helped more people than anyone will ever know. He had interests more wide and varied than seem possible for one man. He lost little of his force by reason of ambitions. His simplicity saved his influence in its totality for a very fine impact on life and people.

"There was a definiteness and a persistence about his convictions that you would not suspect in one so gentle unless you knew him well. That persistence was based—as one who knew him intimately and for a long period has said—upon his sense of what was right. There was a kindness in his personal relations that you find only in a person who has time for people. He was very busy but he always had time. He had time for the children. And it is not exaggeration to say that he literally poured the wealth of his rich personality into his contacts with his boys and girls, his associates, his friends, all who came to him. What one got from him was not limited or restricted by what he was willing to give but only by what one was capable of taking. He was a public spirited citizen. In him was finely manifest that thing America must recover—an interest in the community, its organized

(Continued on Page 5)

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