

This Week in Washington

By Ralph E. Church
Representative, 10th Congressional District

Chicago, Illinois, Aug. 1.—Last week we pointed out that there are signs that the administration will, if re-elected, adopt the idea of a "co-operative commonwealth" as a major part of its program. That does not mean that the co-operative system is altogether new in the United States and that co-operative societies have not had government sponsorship. The system has never been developed on a broad national scale by federal aid and supervision and made a major part of a federal program.

One cannot find an exact figure as to the number of consumers' co-operative societies in the United States at the present time and the volume of business transacted by them. The Consumers' Division of the National Emergency Council has estimated that in 1934 there were 7,000 such organizations which carried on approximately \$300,000,000 worth of business. In 1915 what is known as the Co-operative League of the United States was organized, and it has served as a unifying force for the movement.

For the benefit of those who may be entirely unfamiliar with what is meant by a consumers' co-operative, in its simplest terms it may be defined as a group of people organized to supply themselves with goods and services. They have usually had their beginning on a small scale, as when a group of neighbors or perhaps church members form a buying club, which may gradually develop to the point where they establish a store. Later there may be a series of stores.

In general, co-operative societies have risen out of hard times. Hundreds of co-operative societies were organized during the depression period of 1920-21 and during the present depression interest in them as a form of consumers' organization has been renewed.

As most of the people of our vicinity no doubt know, one of the first co-operatives established in the United States was in Waukegan, Illinois. A group of women became dissatisfied with the price of milk. They organized to purchase milk wholesale, and each member would call at the headquarters for her quota. The Co-operative Trading company of Waukegan is the modern consumer co-operative which developed out of that small organization of women.

While co-operatives exist in various forms and in various lines of endeavors, the great majority of them follow the principles formulated in 1844 when a group of English workmen at Rochdale, England, organized a consumers' co-operative. They have been known as

the Rochdale principles and are as follows:

- (1) Membership shall be unlimited.
- (2) Each member shall have one vote regardless of the amount of money invested or the number of shares of stock he holds.
- (3) Invested capital will receive interest not in excess of the prevalent legal rate of interest.
- (4) Prices shall be fixed at the current market price and the difference between this and the actual cost to the co-operative shall be returned to the members in the form of patronage dividends in proportion to each member's individual purchases.
- (5) All business shall be done for cash.

Those principles adopted by the Rochdale weavers seem to be the guiding principles in every country where the co-operative movement has spread. To be sure, there have been deviations from them, as I have found in some instances; for example, that co-operatives have been organized which will permit limited credit for the members. Moreover, there are different plans by which the consumer can purchase stock in the organization.

There is a great deal more that can be said on the subject, such as to the degree of success enjoyed by the various co-operatives organized in the United States and the distinguishing features between those that have been successful and those that have failed. In view of the increased emphasis which official Washington is placing on the "co-operative system," it can well be a subject for our personal study in order that we may be in a position to pass intelligent judgment upon what should be the role of the federal government in the development of the system in the United States.

Cyclist Should Obey All Safety Rules

Approximately 600 persons were killed and more than 18,000 were injured in bicycle accidents last year—many of them boys and girls in their teens—said Secretary of State Edward J. Hughes here today, in urging parents and teachers to cooperate with him to reduce future tragedies by impressing upon young folks who operate bicycles the need of observing the law for their own safety.

"Careful as motorists may be," said Secretary Hughes, "bicycle accidents cannot be avoided unless the cyclists themselves exercise the utmost caution."

The following safety rules, if obeyed, would virtually eliminate bicycle accidents, said Mr. Hughes:

1. Keep to the right side of the street or highway.
2. Obey all traffic laws.
3. Don't ride on the sidewalks.
4. Never travel at night without

- both a head and tail light on your bicycle.
5. Don't race.
6. Signal for all turns and stops.
7. Do not hitch to a moving vehicle.
8. Don't make a U turn in the middle of the street.
9. Brakes are just as essential on a bicycle as on a car—keep them in good working condition.
10. Don't ride anyone on your bicycle.
11. Don't try any trick riding.

The law requires that cyclists obey all traffic controls including stop lights, said Secretary Hughes. When operated at night, bicycles must be equipped with a white light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the front of the vehicle, and with a red reflector or tail light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear.

50 Teams to Play in State Farm Tourney

Entries in the softball tournament to be held at the Illinois Farm Sports festival, Urbana, Sept. 4-5 are steadily mounting, reports the Illinois Agricultural association. To date, 50 county championship teams have entered the contest from 25 counties. Newest entries are De Kalb, Henry and LaSalle counties.

Entries include 22 adult teams, 21 4-H Club teams, and seven girls' teams. The Illinois Agricultural Mutual Insurance company—IAA subsidiary—has organized two softball teams: one of young men, the other young women.

Blanks for entries in other events to be staged at the festival will be mailed to the County Farm Bureaus within the next few days. These blanks will include horseshoe pitching, horse-pulling, tug o' war, track events, swimming events, musical and dance festival, hog calling, husband calling, chicken calling, sock darning, rolling-pin throwing and others. Individual entries should be made through the Lake County Farm Bureau.

62nd Annual Old Settler's Picnic in Chicago, August 8

The Old Settlers' Picnic committee breaks with precedent this year by setting the date of the 62nd Annual Old Settlers' Picnic on Saturday, Aug. 8, in the large picnic grove of Riverview Park.

Prior to this year, the picnic had been held on the first Monday in August, but by popular consensus of opinion of the picnicers and by the unanimous acclaim of the committee sponsoring the affair, the day was changed from Monday to Saturday. This should afford wider opportunity for the old settlers to turn out in greater numbers and enjoy in full the varied program and entertainment planned for them.

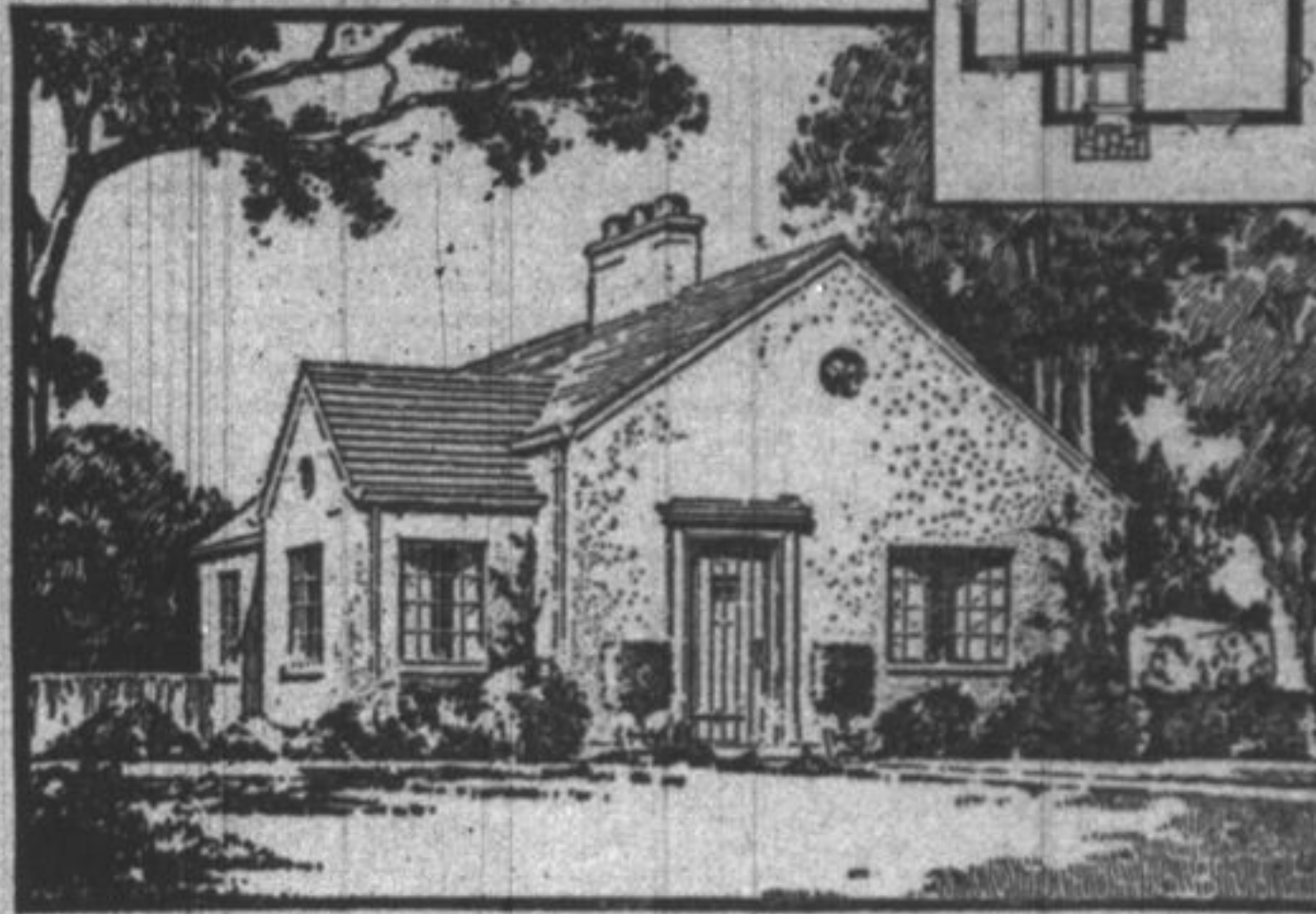
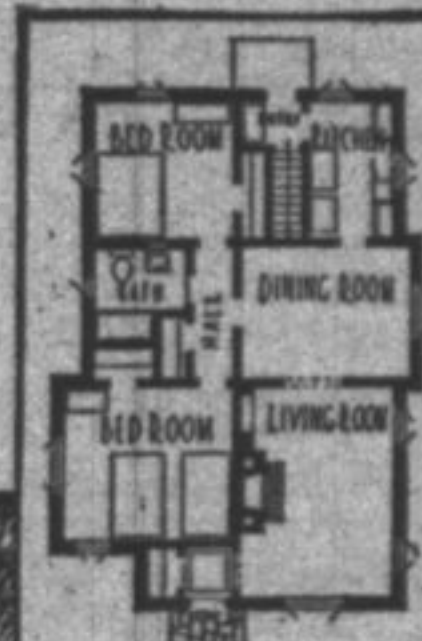
This civic event, sponsored by the Chicago Turn Gemeinde, has been held in unbroken succession for 61 years, culminating in a proclamation by Mayor Edward J. Kelly calling for city-wide observance of Old Settlers' Day on the occasion of last year's picnic.

The 62nd picnic, to be held this year on Saturday, Aug. 8, will give even a greater number of civic-minded and loyal citizens of Chicago and Cook county an opportunity to pay due homage and respect to the old settlers and pioneers who have been part and parcel of the city's growth; and incidentally enjoy a typical picnicer's day with their families and children.

Mr. L. O. Greiner, chairman of the executive committee, announces that preparations for the picnic are well under way, and include plans for the entertainment of at least ten thousand participants.

Officers of this year's executive committee include: L. O. Greiner, chairman, 5727 N. Campbell avenue, A. V. Lathomus, vice-chairman, 4309 N. Lincoln street, R. P. Stover, 2227 Farrington street, secretary; Frank Pfustler, 2730 Florence avenue, assistant secretary, A. W. Rayner, 818 N. Humphrey avenue, Oak Park, treasurer.

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taking the money the robbers was found later laying on the floor by a customer who notified Police McLaughlin. Only description could be given. He said they were about 30 years old and wore dark gray

Mare Lost on Skokie Highway

A mare belonging to W. H. of Wilmette was reported to the Highland Park police this week. The horse's color claims he tied to a tree at Skokie filling station, at the one o'clock Sunday morning. It is believed that the horse broke her neck and disappeared. She was with the initials C.B.C.

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