

Mrs. Truax Refutes Old House Story; Tells Early History

(Continued from page 1)

tion in 1855 and ran a spur through to the brickyard at St. Johns, situated on both sides of the southern most ravine within the present Fort Sheridan confines and the lake, and there are several houses on Prairie ave. built of that brick, still standing.

About 1852, Dr. Peter Mowers moved to Highland Park from St. Johns and built a home, which is now incorporated into the house at 722 N. Green Bay rd., where his granddaughter, Mrs. Irons, now lives. That original house had hand hewn log stringers also, some of which may be seen today, in the more recently excavated cellar. Mr. Gustaf Nafe, now deceased, told me that when his family came to Highland Park, he a boy, they walked past the Mowers' house, on their way up from the station (RR) to their house. An old picture in my possession, shows the original Mowers house to be built a copy of the Nafe house, or the Nafe house a copy of Dr. Mowers as one wishes. A daughter of Mr. Mowers, Mrs. A. J. St. Peter, also gone, told me that she remembered the building of the Nafe house after they were well settled in theirs.

But it is only very recently, this summer in fact, that the oldest house within the central portion of Highland Park was torn down. In the very early 50s a small frame house was built on the corner of Central ave. and St. Johns, set back from the street, with a picket fence around the yard. Later, about the early 70s the Thompson estate built a hotel with stores under it, on that site and the little house was moved south of the large building and became a store. Still later a row of one story stores were built along St. Johns (some of which are still there) and the little house was again moved, this time to 390-392 Central ave. About 10 years ago or perhaps a little less, the top story of that house was removed, and before it was torn down it housed a barber shop and a jewelry store. The contractor for the wrecking told me that the lumber in that old house was the best that he had seen, "You can't buy lumber as good as that today" was his statement. The stringers under it, though barely a foot from the ground were sound at the core, as a sawed section showed, and had been hand hewn, from logs.

Aside from this aforementioned Turnbull house, the house belonging to Miss Edith Holmes, at 284 Park ave., now occupied by Postmaster Daniel Cobb, is perhaps the next oldest. That stood on Central ave. on the north side of the street, east of Linden ave. just about back of where it stands today on Park. The earliest occupant known today was a Captain Hammer, who did freighting on the lake, and who spent the night at home as often as he could, anchoring his boat off the shore for that period. He had a tower, now cut down, where he could see the boat at anchor, and where his family could see him coming also.

The Allen house, which stood at the head of Sheridan road where the Picchetti Grocery now stands was built during the 60s. Later it was moved across the street, added to, and now serves as part of Mrs. McCrystle's boarding house, being the western of her two houses at 347 Central ave. Mrs. Allen and her three daughters, afterwards Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Bayse, were very popular with the young engineers who came in 1869 to open up the platted streets for the Highland Park Building company. This company built many houses for sale, and most of the so-called "old" houses of the town were built by this company. Many of them have been added to, in fact, I know of none which have not been changed in some way. The late Mr. Frank Hawkins, was the representative of that company which purchased the land, and most of the land titles today only go back as far as that company.

There were long cabins which stood in several places throughout Highland Park, but of course they are gone, and perhaps there are other old houses that I do not know about. I greatly enjoy local history, and should any reader know of any building that I have omitted or mis-stated about, I am more than glad to know about it. It is a pity that so little is known about such things, and so few people care about them, that it is difficult to get authentic statements.

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Knights of Columbus Hold Picnic Sunday

A score or more of Highland Park members of Ouillette council, Knights of Columbus, are expected to attend the council's big all-day basket picnic which will take place Sunday, Aug. 24, at Schneider's Grove, Niles Center. The knights will entertain their families and invited guests at this event, the climax of a busy summer calendar.

George E. White, lecturer of Ouillette council, is head of a large committee that has completed plans for a major-sized affair. The children will parade at two o'clock, and each participant will receive a bag filled with candies and novelties. The youngsters will then engage in many races with valuable awards going to winners of first and second places in each contest.

There will be races, too, for the grownups; likewise the conventional tug-of-war and egg-throwing contests. The council's softball team, leader in the North Shore division of the K. of C. league, will meet the C. O. F. team in the first of two

games. The Hicks-Krier aggregation of Niles Center will furnish the twilight opposition.

An orchestra has been engaged to entertain the dancers on the open-air pavilion. Gate prizes and concessions are also included in the attractions.

Schneider's Grove is located on Harrison street, one-half mile east of Harms road, or a mile west of Skokie boulevard.

Deerfield Mayor Wants Larger Attendance at Board Meetings

"More interest in the affairs of the village of Deerfield" was the plea of Mayor Harry Wing at the regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees last Tuesday evening in the Masonic Temple. So few people attend the local board meetings that the trustees are discouraged. If the people are to be educated to the policies of the village fathers and want them to continue to direct the affairs of Deerfield, the people should attend the board meetings.

Mayor Wing was very discouraged as he spoke of the recent proposed fire district election. He bewailed the fact that so little interest was shown and directed that the fire department was not to go outside the limits of Deerfield, except to answer Bannockburn calls.

Fire Chief Jack Johnston was granted permission to purchase necessary repairs for the truck—a new tire and a new connection for the hose, etc.

Conrad Uchtman was appointed assistant fire chief to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Oscar Schwab.

Mayor Wing was called away early that evening so Trustee Carleton Scribner took the chair for the remainder of the session.

The water tank on the school grounds, which is not in use, is to be taken down. The Illinois Inspect-

tion Bureau is to be consulted concerning insurance rates, before action is taken.

Elm street, an industrial highway, is to be graded and 600 gallons of oil used from Central avenue to the south limits to put into good condition.

Fines in the village for June amounted to ten dollars, according to Officer McLaughlin's report. All vehicle licenses have now been purchased.

Deerfield's finances were discussed and the clerk was directed to write the Deerfield State bank concerning an illegal loan and demand repayment.

Sewer and water assessment expenses for the diagonal crossing of a road at Knollwood and Margate roads, will be paid by the owner of a new home (Burton B. McRoy) which is being built just beyond the

place where public improvements are in. The owner will stand all expenses.

The next regular meeting of the board will be held the second Tuesday evening in September. Show your support of Mayor Wing and his able staff of trustees, by being in attendance at the next meeting.

At the Bloom street viaduct on Green Bay road, you will find the store that you have been looking for. We cordially invite you to visit the Moraine Grocery.

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