

# The Highland Park Press

VOLUME XXIX

HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1939

NUMBER 41

## Administration By ELMORE M. MURPHY *Comments*

The "Standing Room Only" sign was out at the City Council meeting on Monday evening for the first time since the new administration took office last Spring. Where ordinarily a dozen visitors, outside of city employees and officials, is considered a fair house, there were close to a 100 citizens on hand when Mayor Ronan called the session to order.

The reason for the unusual turnout became apparent shortly after the opening of the meeting when City Clerk Musser read a petition signed by a group of West Park avenue residents asking that the council refrain from entertaining any idea of building the new incinerator on the E. A. Meyer Construction company property located on the north side of West Park avenue. After the reading of the petition the subject was not discussed any further until after official adjournment of the meeting. At this time Mayor Ronan threw the session open for general comment from the floor.

First to air his grievance was Arthur Tillman of 615 West Park avenue who stated that it was his understanding that the E. A. Meyer Construction company property had been selected as the site for the new incinerator. In no uncertain terms, Mr. Tillman outlined the objections of himself and his neighbors to such a project. His first complaint dealt with the subsequent devaluation of nearby property if the incinerator was placed in this locality. Secondly, he objected to the plant on the grounds that it would provide a breeding place for rats and other vermin. In rebuttal, Commissioner Sharp came to the rescue of the council by saying that no definite location for the incinerator had been selected and that perhaps Mr. Tillman and others present were confusing the recent bids filed by the E. A. Meyer Construction company and the Highland Park Fuel company to provide facilities for surplus dry refuse with the actual selection of an incinerator site. Mr. Sharp stated that it was definitely not the thought of either his committee nor the council to damage or lessen the value in any way of residential property. He pointed out, however, that a site for the plant must be found within the city's legal boundary limits.

Commissioner Sharp's denial that the Meyer property had been definitely selected as the incinerator's site more or less took the wind out of the sails of the embattled West Park avenue residents and the discussion from that point on followed the general lines of a pro and con forum on the operation of a modern refuse disposal plant. Mayor Ronan pointed out that in the travels of the Incinerator committee throughout northern Illinois and Wisconsin many modern and inoffensive plants were found adjacent to high class residential property. Among some of the better plants cited were, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, Kenosha, Wisconsin, Oak Park and La Grange.

Other comments from the floor were along the same vein as Mr. Tillman's, namely, that a residential neighborhood was no place to put a refuse plant. One party suggested that the refuse could be used as a fill for the contemplated Highland Park harbor, another suggested in a more or less humorous vein that the old City Hall property be reserved for this use.

The council took all objections and suggestions under advisement and both Mayor Ronan and Commissioner Sharp reiterated that nothing definitely would be done until every angle of the problem was carefully reviewed.

The council meeting, itself, was largely taken up with the disposal of routine matters. A bid of \$37,100 for the old City Hall property was placed on file by Community Service, Inc. The bid accompanied by a check for \$2,500 provided for the free use by the Fire Department of their present quarters until the city was able to move the department to a permanent location. Paul Phelps, Continued on Page 8

## Plans Progressing For Fifth Annual Christmas Party

Plans for the fifth annual Highland Park Childrens Christmas Party conducted each year by the American Legion and sponsored by the Community Chest are now being made according to Edwin Gilroy, chairman and the date and place will be announced within the next week.

Mrs. Nellie Flinn of the Social service is now compiling the list of all children in Highland Park 12 years of age or under who might be overlooked by Santa Claus and suggests in case she might accidentally omit some one that she will greatly appreciate being advised of any child who should be invited.

Mr. Gilroy states that at a recent meeting it was arranged that Mrs. Flinn assisted by Mrs. Geo. B. Prindle will be in charge of invitations, Mr. Harry Earhart will again serve as treasurer and the selection and purchasing of gifts will be done by a committee composed of Mrs. W. E. Salyard Jr. and Mrs. Edwin Gilroy of the American Legion Auxiliary, Mrs. Marvin Wallach of the Highland Park Womens club and Mrs. Arthur Raff and Mrs. Richard Parsons of the Ravinia Womens club. Henry Hansen will be in charge of the appearance of Santa Claus and H. B. Aiston will assist in general arrangements.

Commander Leslie McCaffery under whose auspices this event will be conducted announces that Miller Schreiner, Commander of the Tenth District, has promised to assist and that the American Legion committee taking part will include, Harry Earhart; vice commanders, Ed. Eitel and Wm. Logan, Bob Fiala Ajt., John Olson and Silvio Pasquesi.

## "Merrie England" Comes Again To Elm Place School

This year the eighth grade pupils of Elm Place school are once more presenting the Christmas play we know as "Christmas in Merrie England." This play, one of the oldest and most beloved of all the school's traditional activities for over twenty-five years, has become an integral part of Elm Place itself, encouraged by the evident enjoyment and interest of the parents and other patrons in Highland Park.

The play is not only fascinating in itself; the source material upon which it is based possesses an interesting story of its own.

During Washington Irving's sojourn in England in the early part of the nineteenth century, he was especially impressed by two manorial estates, Ashton Hall and Barborough Hall, and the observance of Christmas ceremonials and customs he witnessed there. These two estates became the models from which he developed the "Bracebridge Hall" he describes in his Sketch-Book. It is apparent from old records that, at one time, a family named Bracebridge actually did own and inhabit Ashton Hall. However, it finally passed out of their hands, and was opened to the public in Queen Victoria's reign as a part of the museum of the city of Birmingham.

The Squire Bracebridge of the Sketch-Book is, according to records of the period, a prototype of the jovial and wealthy Squire Rodes, an English country gentleman.

In the play, as well as in Washington's Irving's sketches, Squire Bracebridge prided himself upon reviving the old games and holiday observances of bygone ages in his country's history. During the Christmas season, Bracebridge Hall was the scene of merry revels. At that time the Squire voluntarily resigned his position as head of the household in favor of the traditional Lord of Misrule. This captain of mischief was chosen by the servants from among their own number, crowned with great solemnity, and obeyed with mock loyalty throughout the revels. The festivities were conducted conformably to ancient usage. The Yule log and the Christmas candle were lighted; antique clothes-presses yielded relics of bygone finery for the Morris dancers; old dances were revived; and the ancient Mummer's play was presented. These revels were concluded with the ceremony of serving up the boar's head and the singing of "The Wassail Song."

Although "Christmas in Merrie England" is basically molded upon the Sketch-Book story, there have been many changes in its content during the years it has been presented, as well as many original additions to the chronicled festivities of the holiday season.

## West Ridge Club Presents Comedy Saturday Evening

The West Ridge Dramatic club is very happy to present for Highland Parkers and their friends the



CARL CHRISTIANSON  
delightful comedy "The Whole Town's Talking" on next Saturday evening.

This farce, written by John Emerson and Anita Loos, enjoyed a long



DOROTHY DUNHAM  
run on Broadway several seasons ago and has since been a favorite with amateur groups.

It's wholesome fun and clever repartee can't fail to furnish many a laugh and an evening of real entertainment. The plan of Mr. "Fix-it" Simmons to marry his lovely daughter Ethel to his sincere but unromantic business partner, Chet Binney, brings about many amusing situations with hilarious and surprising results.

Under the direction of Mr. Joe Shippen of Glencoe, the cast is working very hard this last week of rehearsals to perfect the show and it promises in every way to be a production worthy of their efforts. The cast consists of the following characters:

Chet Binney ..... Carl Christianson  
Mr. Simmons ..... John Robinson  
Mrs. Simmons ..... Edith Flynn  
Ethel Simmons ..... Dorothy Dunham  
Lila and Sally .....  
Leta Lythe ..... Buntee Harter and Ann Jennings  
Roger Shields ..... Wally Hatcher  
Donald Swift ..... Ben Bruce  
Annie, the maid ..... Vernon Fox  
Sadie Bloom ..... Joell Fox  
Taxi driver ..... Ruthie Gould  
Remember the time and the place, the Highland Park High School auditorium at 8:30 on Saturday evening, Dec. 9. Plan to be there to see and hear just why the "whole town's talking."

## Ravinia Guarantors Receive 1939 Refund

Two hundred seventy-five guarantors of the 1939 Ravinia Music festival Tuesday received checks for 50 per cent of their contribution from Percy B. Eckhart, chairman of the Ravinia Festival association. Mr. Eckhart announces that the summer concerts by the Chicago Symphony orchestra have been put on a more permanent basis as the result of a new agreement with Mrs. Louis Eckstein, who each year donates the use of the park. Mrs. Eckstein has promised that the park will be donated for at least five years. A record attendance of 68,682 persons heard 24 concerts last summer. All members of the association have been re-elected.

## New Transmission Line Being Laid by Public Service Co.

The Public Service company is laying a new transmission line underground along Central avenue, from the Skokie highway to the station in this city. This will not eliminate the overhead wires, which are known as distribution lines.

## Mayor Ronan Urges Traffic Safety During December

December is usually the worst month of the year for traffic safety. The death rate in the final month is one-third higher than the average for all months. Bad weather and more hours of darkness combine with the rush and geniality of the holiday season to bring tragedy instead of Christmas joy into thousands of American homes.

The National Safety Council is asking our help in a nation-wide drive to reduce the heavy year-end traffic toll.

I, as Mayor, knowing that every resident of this city is not only willing but eager to join in every effort to save human life, call upon every man, woman and child to be extra careful in walking and driving so that there will be no tragedy in any of our homes and make this Christmas truly a happy one.

## Alcyon Presents "Drums," Technicolor Film, Saturday

Stirring adventure on India's Northwest frontier is being served this Saturday to the patrons of the Alcyon, where the thrilling technicolor production "Drums" featuring Sabu, the small Indian sensation of "Elephant Boy" fame along with Raymond Massey and Valerie Hobson. Sabu is even more charming than in "Elephant Boy" as the little Indian prince of A. E. W. Mason's story.

With a cast headed by such outstanding players as Victor McLaglen, Brian Aherne and June Lang, and a story of stirring adventure and rich romance, "Captain Fury" will be presented on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday at the Alcyon. This film has been produced with the accent on action and characterization, and to much praise cannot be given for the direction of the story.

The most fascinating family that ever strolled across a silver screen will be at the Alcyon next week Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. So run over and welcome the Charmig Carletons in the gay comedy romance, "The Young in Heart," starring Janet Gaynor, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., and Paulette Goddard, with Roland Young and Billie Burke heading one of the grandest supporting casts ever assembled.

## North Shore Line Increases Service in New Schedule

The Chicago North Shore and Milwaukee railroad—the North Shore Line—began operation of several additional trains Sunday, December 3, providing improved service between Chicago and north shore communities.

Under the schedule now in effect a new limited train, northbound, leaves Adams and Wabash station in Chicago at 6:30 p.m., daily except Sunday, and an express leaves at 7 p.m., daily, both running to Waukegan. New local trains operating daily except Sunday to Highwood leave Chicago at 8:45, 4:15 and 6:15. All travel the Shore Line route.

Southbound, a new train leaves Highwood at 4:53 a.m., daily except Sunday, over the Shore Line route. Another leaves Edison court, Waukegan, at 7:30 a.m., except Sunday, by the Skokie Valley route.

## Ravinia Garden Club to Hear Talk on Christmas Greens

The Ravinia Garden Club will hold its December meeting at the home of Mrs. Mary Helms at 2524 North Deere Park drive on Friday, December 8, at 2 o'clock. Mrs. Mahlon Bradley will talk on Christmas Greens, and will demonstrate a festive arrangement as she talks.

Members are urged to be present. The new by-laws, which were revised at a special meeting of the club, will be presented.

Because it is essential that the club meet in homes, a new provision has been adopted to limit the number. There will be no guests except prospective members and out of town guests.

## Stores to Remain Open Evenings For Christmas Shoppers

The Retail committee of the Highland Park Chamber of Commerce announces that in order to facilitate holiday shopping the local business houses will remain open evenings until 9 p.m., beginning with Thursday, December 14, continuing through Saturday, December 23.

## Community Service, Inc. Bids For Old City Hall Property

### League of Women Voters Announce Field Trip Dec. 11

Mrs. A. A. Carpenter, of Chicago, member of the State Board of the Illinois League of Women Voters, and Mrs. Wendell Green, organizer of the Douglas League of colored women and prominent in inter-racial organizations, are the two guest speakers who will tell new members of the Highland Park League of Women Voters "What Belonging to the League Means to Me," at a tea party being held at the home of Mrs. Bernard Nath Friday afternoon. Mrs. Maurice Pollack, member of the Highland Park League, will also be on the program.

The tea party is being given by the executive members of the Highland Park League in honor of the thirty-three new members who have recently joined the League. The hostesses are Mrs. J. Sigurd Johnson, president of the League; Mrs. Jay Glidden, treasurer; Mrs. Philip Ringer, program chairman; Mrs. Douglas Boyd, secretary, and Mrs. Lee Supple, membership chairman. Mrs. Marc Law, Mrs. Robert Walker and Mrs. Bernard Nath are the hospitality committee.

Mrs. Monroe Ottenheimer, chairman of the Department of Government and Education, announces a field trip on Monday, December 11, to which any member of the League is welcome to join. The tour will be in the nature of a visit to one-room, one-teacher schools within a ten mile radius of Highland Park. The group will be assigned different schools and will meet together later to compare notes. Those who are able to devote the afternoon also will visit a consolidated high school. Members will be given outlines with suggestions as to what kinds of things to look for. The department is particularly interested in the physical facilities of the schoolhouses, water, sanitation, heat, etc., and what recreational facilities are provided. The League does not concern itself with the educational curriculum. Anyone interested in joining the excursion is asked to get in touch with Mrs. Ottenheimer, H.P. 3986.

Mrs. Philip Ringer, program chairman, has announced that Mr. Joel Hunter, executive secretary of the United Charities, has consented to discuss "Relief" at the January meeting of the League.

A study class on Child Delinquency led by Mrs. V. M. Bridle, chairman of the Department of Government and Child Welfare, had its first meeting in the Historical room of the Public Library Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock.

"That National Health Program" will be the subject of a forum held by the Cook County League of Women Voters at the Palmer House on Saturday, December 9, at 12:30. Dr. Martha M. Elliot, assistant chief of the Children's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor, will be the speaker. This luncheon meeting, arranged by Mrs. Walter T. Fisher, of Winnetka, program chairman, and Mrs. Mitchell Dawson chairman of the Department of Government and Economic Welfare, inaugurates a program of study of the problem of public health which will be continued in a series of study groups to be held monthly. Luncheon reservations should be sent to the League office, 225 North Michigan avenue.

## Annual Meeting Of Chamber Next Tuesday Evening

The annual dinner and election of officers of the Highland Park Chamber of Commerce will be held Tuesday evening at 6:30 o'clock at Hill's Tea Room on N. Sheridan road.

The officers selected by the nominating committee are: President, Robert G. Anspach; vice-president, Leonard W. Nieter; directors (two years), Paul R. Branch, Cyril Duffy, W. Raymond Grant.

There will be no speaker at this meeting, but a very entertaining program consisting of a four piece orchestra, a musical monologue, a real barber shop quartet, and a prominent young baritone will be presented.

All of these performers have been secured from the Highland Park High school, and each is truly an outstanding act which deserves the entire membership's encouragement.

### If Accepted Will Solve Local Fire Station Problem

After attempting for many years to find the best solution of an adequate building and location for a Community Center, the trustees of Community Service Inc. submitted a cash offer of \$37,100 for the city property at Green Bay road and Central avenue, to the City Council last Monday evening. On the opening of the sealed proposals by Mayor Frank J. Ronan the above bid was the highest bid. One other proposition was submitted by Paul Phelps, requesting sixty day postponement of consideration of any bids until a definite bid could be made.

The Council filed the tenders received for public inspection and it is expected to take final action next Monday evening.

At the City Council meeting last Monday several of the women were present who originally raised the \$60,000 fund now held by Community Service Inc. in trust for recreational use by the community. Among these were Mrs. Tom R. Wyles, Mrs. O. L. Olesen and Mrs. Thomas Marks. "At last," said Mrs. Wyles, "our dream of twenty years is coming true—a useful attractive Community Center in the heart of Highland Park."

Renslow P. Sherer, president, and J. B. Garnett, vice president of Community Service Inc. made the following statement at the conclusion of the meeting: "Our bid of \$37,100 is above the recently appraised value of \$37,000, which is certainly a liberal figure. The city gets much needed cash, can construct a new fire station for a part of this sum on the Green Bay road property they hold and have the balance for other use. The citizens by this purchase will retain in their hands through the Community Center valuable property for use by all the Community. It is an ideal place for a Community Center because of its central location, and has adequate parking facilities.

"We are ready and anxious to get started at once to put the present building in shape for use this winter, and are confident that in the not far distant future a large gymnasium, adjoining and in architectural conformity with the old City Hall, can be financed."

George Scheuchpnflug (Mr. X), who is secretary and director of Community Service activities, gave further details of the plan: "The present old City hall and fire station lend themselves surprisingly well as a first unit of the suggested Highland Park Community and Civic Center.

"We plan an attractive lounge and large game room on the first floor and possibly handicraft and hobby rooms that will be well equipped. On the second floor the old Assembly Room lends itself well to many purposes, such as: clubroom activities, dances and small group gatherings, table tennis club, lectures and civic meetings, community parties, badminton court, etc. After the Fire Department moves to its new proposed quarters the second floor could be converted into game rooms, a studio for drama and art clubs and similar activities. Possibly the first floor could be converted to handball or similar games court.

"Later a large gym structure, 70 by 100 feet, will fit perfectly with the present facilities."

## Dr. A. Eustace Haydon to Be Heard Dec. 13 by Ravinia Women

Comparisons are not odious, and religion is much too interesting to be outlawed from discussion when the speaker is Dr. A. Eustace Haydon. The subject "Comparative Religion," on which he will address the meeting of the Ravinia Women's club on December 13, is one which he is exceptionally qualified to present, for it is in this field that he has gained distinction as a lecturer, author and member of the faculty of the University of Chicago.

Those who, in the past, have heard Dr. Haydon lecture or who have read his books, best known of which is "Quest of the Ages," will particularly welcome the opportunity to hear him next Wednesday. The meeting, which will be held at the Ravinia Village House, will commence at 2:30. Guests are especially invited, and although no such material inducement is necessary, tea will be served after the program.

**WANTED:**  
Toys for distribution to needy children in our community. Please give them to us early that they may be renovated and ready for distribution through the Highland Park Social Service by the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Community Service assisting. Santa Claus has promised to accompany the truck as last year. Call or deliver to Highland Park Social Service, Old City Hall, or Tel. 4000.