

Trail-Blazers in Citizenship

(This is the title of an article appearing in the September 1945 issue of the Survey Graphic, celebrating the 25th birthday of the National League of Women Voters. It was written by Mrs. Avis D. Carlson, a free lance writer, who is a roving reporter of social experiment and progress. The following is the first of a series of articles based on Mrs. Carlson's fine portrayal of the history of the League.)

Mrs. Carlson says: "For so young an organization it has accumulated a surprising amount of tradition and achievement. In every community with a good local league, it becomes a source of disinterested information about government, a school in which women leaders are trained, a gaffly asking questions, a pressure in the direction of better government. In the local community or on Capitol Hill, it exerts an influence all out of proportion to the size of its membership.

"In twenty-five years it has pushed many a needed piece of legislation into being and then stood guard to see that the law was effectively administered, but that was probably one of its smaller achievements. Its great value has been as an instrument of political education.

Famous Firsts

"In this capacity it originated and developed a number of techniques which are coming into general use. It was, for instance, the first group to apply the method of progressive education, learning by doing, in the field of political education. It was the first to stress the importance of getting out the vote. It was the first to begin publishing the voting records of congressmen and legislators — which many groups are now demonstrating to be a good educational device. It was the first, or one of the first, to begin taking issues directly to the citizen in order to spot his emotional block. And most important of all, it was the first to organize legislative pressure solely in the public interest."

A survey of the League's beginnings shows them to be quite dramatic. The formal organization was born in Chicago at the Victory Convention of the National Woman's Suffrage association. The drama came the year before, however, in St. Louis, when the organization was torn as to what should become of it. Carrie Chapman Catt, in her rich eloquence, called for a living memorial to the memory of departed leaders, suggesting a League of Women Voters as a memorial most natural, most appropriate and most patriotic.

This was born an organization which, through the leadership of women of dynamic personality, great personal charm, and shrewd intellect, has helped women in all sections of these United States to make the transition from the idea of women first to citizens first!

Interfaith Group To Discuss "The Springfield Plan"

On Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 10 a.m., at the local "Y" on Laurel avenue, the Interfaith group will be held. The subject to be discussed that day is one that is claiming nation-wide attention and bringing encouragement to those who feel that racial tensions must be eased throughout the land. "The Springfield Plan" as it has been called, is a democratic way of placing in the grade schools children of all faiths and colors who thus learn to appreciate and understand each other. This plan was started in Springfield, Mass., two years ago and has been highly successful. Mrs. Charles Rubens, a citizen of Highland Park for the past 25 years, who is known for her civic interests, humanitarian views and cultural attainments, will address the group on this interesting project.

Informal discussion will follow, and interested members of the community are welcome to attend.

U. S. VICTORY BONDS BUY THEM . . . KEEP THEM!

PUBLIC LIBRARY CHRISTMAS DINNER

"So, now is come our joyfulest feast, Let every man be jolly;

Now all our neighbors' chimneys smoke,

And Christmas logs are burning; Their ovens they with baked meats choke.

And all their spits are turning."

George Wither.

Long before the birth of Christ the Romans celebrated a great mid-winter feast called Saturnalia. Work of every kind ceased, except cooking; gifts were exchanged and the spirit of brotherhood prevailed. Far to the north the barbarians celebrated a similar holiday called Yule.

In those times the flocks were slaughtered when winter approached because there was no way to keep the stock alive till spring. There naturally followed days of feasting and it is probable that some of the more material aspects of Christmas have come down from this pre-Christian era.

Much of our celebration centers around the Christmas table with unsuspected significance attached to many of the foods we serve. In England there is a tradition inaugurating the meal with the bringing in of a boar's head. This is a reminder of the student of Queens college, Oxford, who, attacked by a boar, on Christmas day, choked him with a copy of Aristotle and took his head back for dinner.

Even the standard American Christmas dinner of turkey and plum pudding is supposed to have a deep significance but if this is true it seems clearer to the palate than to the brain. However, the mince pie which is one of our favorite Christmas desserts supposedly commemorates in its mixture of oriental ingredients the offerings made by the wise men of the East.

Be that as it may, we in America look forward to the Christmas turkey with its stuffing and cranberry sauce. There are many variations of stuffing and America's Cook Book (New York Herald-Tribune) gives recipes for many kinds which will prove good to the palate: celery, chestnut, corn, sage, dill pickle, savory, cranberry, nut-prune, vegetable, onion, wild rice, potato and several others.

In the Home Book of Christmas (Becker) there is a famous recipe for plum pudding said to have been in the possession of the Royal family from the days of George I, and named for him. Its ingredients are: finely shredded suet, Demarra sugar, raisins, plums, candied citron peel, and mixed spice. After mixing, this pudding must stand for twelve hours in a cool place, then it is put in buttered molds, tied down with a cloth and boiled for eight hours.

Indeed, Christmas is a day of feasting! It is also a day of love, kindness, generosity and good will.

The Highland Park public library has many interesting books on the customs and traditions of Christmas which make interesting reading at this time of the year. There is also a large selection of cook books to help with the planning of the Christmas dinner.

Redeemer Church Christmas Program

The Christmas season at Redeemer Lutheran church, 587 W. Central, will begin with a Sunday school presentation of the Christ-child's birth on Sunday, Dec. 23, at 3:30 in the assembly hall.

There will be a gift distribution immediately after the program. Carroll Snyder of the Sunday school staff, who has planned the Sunday school Christmas activities together with the teachers, will direct the presentation.

On Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at 7:30, the "Tiny Tots" vesper service will be held in the church. There will be a gift distribution for the children after the service.

Christmas morning, Dec. 25, at 8, the early morning worship will be held. New Year's Eve, at 8, a Holy Communion New Year's Eve service has been arranged.

Phone Service Open to American Occupation Zone in Germany

To enable GIs in Germany to talk with their homes, 15 telephone men crossed the Atlantic by plane last week-end and are now in Europe to establish commercial overseas radiotelephone facilities between eight German cities in the American Zone of Occupation and the United States. It is hoped to have this service, which is being established at the request and with the cooperation of the U. S. army, available before Christmas. Initially, service will be on a one-way basis from Germany to this country.

Calls from the occupation zone will be handled at first only at a single center in each German city served, limited to three minutes, and probably booked several days in advance. The rate for calls to any point in the United States will be \$12.

Calls placed from the American Zone of Occupation in Germany will be subject to the regulations of the theater command and initially will be restricted to military personnel.

In connection with restorations and recent extensions of Bell system radiotelephone service, new rates about fifty per cent lower than pre-war charges have been introduced to most countries. In general, a three-minute conversation between New York and European, Pacific, and most South American points now costs \$12 and even less to Hawaii, the Caribbean area, Central America and northern South America.

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Y. W. C. A. NEWS

Gifts Sent to Holland In charge of Mrs. Theodore Osborne, the Y.W.C.A. has initiated for this month the collection of gifts to be sent to Holland. Groups such as the Women's club and the churches are cooperating in this project. Gifts especially welcome are warm clothing, vitamins, toilet articles, thread, etc. Four or five boxes have already been collected. The gifts will be sent to the national Y.W.C.A. headquarters in New York to be shipped by them in space allotted for such shipments.

Paul Laurence Dunbar Club Formed at the Y.W.C.A.

A new club, named for the poet, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, has been organized at the Y.W.C.A., to meet the first Tuesday of each month. It is a social club for young women. Mrs. J. O. Clarke is the leader. Officers elected are: president, Mrs. Fanny Buchanan; secretary, Mrs. Louise Woodridge; treasurer, Mrs. Pauline Hulett; program chairman, Mrs. Margaret Myrick.

Last Chance

Your contribution to Mrs. Gabe Joseph, chairman of ways and means committee of the Sisterhood of North Shore Congregation Israel, care of Temple, Glencoe, will insure your invitation to the special Sisterhood afternoon Monday, Dec. 17, at the Temple.

Luncheon at 12:30. Dramatic reading by Ann Birk Kuper, of the Broadway hit, "The Late George Apley."

Five generous, lovely door prizes.

Do mail your check now, if you have not already done so.

Mrs. Charles Melvin, Publicity Chm.

Sonja Henie at Chicago Stadium in 1946 Hollywood Ice Revue

Lovely Sonja Henie, Queen of the Ice, returns for her annual Christmas visit to Chicago with an all new 1946 Hollywood Ice Revue. Miss Henie and a cast of 200 talented skaters, appear in 23 nightly performances at the Chicago Stadium, starting Christmas night, December 25, and running through Jan. 17. There will be no performance New Year's night, Jan. 1. The lavish production of 22 episodes costs upwards of \$250,000 and is presented by Arthur M. Wirtz.

The spectacle is in 22 episodes, featured by many lavish, colorful and gorgeously costumed production numbers, in which Miss Henie appears on six different occasions and is on the ice surface at least 50 per cent of the running time in the course of the performance.

Many of the huge settings are of such magnitude as to require revolving double stage, an innovation that avoids waits by having the following scenes ready immediately at the conclusion of its predecessor.

Miss Henie first appears as the "Queen of Hearts" in the Hearts Are Trump number and later returns in the same production to dance the "Sweetheart Waltz" with Lt. Geary Steffen, recently discharged from the United States army.

Sonja makes her second appearance in the revue "Island Fantasy," which features a new routine of Hawaiian dances on skates, including her specialty, the hula, which proved so popular on one of Sonja's previous tours.

One of the highlights of the

spectacle which has been completed at a cost of more than \$250,000, is the finale of the first half of the show "The Land of the Midnight Sun," a Norwegian number, in which Miss Henie appears as the "Snow Maiden," and does an adagio dance on the silvery blades with Gene Theisloff. Miss Henie next appears in "Pan Americana," in a solo, doing the best Latin-American dance numbers, topped by the samba.

Sonja's travels in the revue then take her to far-off India, in the Durbar number, with another picturesque background. In this, Sonja appears with Gene Theisloff. And still on another occasion Sonja is highlighted in a pair number dancing routine with Lt. Steffen in a scene called "Superlative."

During the lighter moments in the show such featured performers as Comedian Freddie Trenkler, the Bouncing Ball of the Ice, appears in three scenes, one of them with four accomplices, in the Fire Brigade. Charles Slagle, who cuts many ice capers on stilted skates, also appears several times.

Jack Pfeiffer, formerly musical director of 20th Century Fox and International Pictures, is conducting the orchestra. The choreography and staging is by Catherine Littlefield, former premiere ballerina of the Chicago and Philadelphia opera companies. Arthur M. Wirtz is executive producer, and William H. Burke is production director and general manager of the show.

Contentment is a pearl of great price, and whoever procures it at the expense of ten thousand desires, makes a wise and happy purchase. —Balguy.

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How will you have YOUR VENISON STEAK?

Just after the close of the Civil War farseeing officials of the Chicago and North Western had a happy thought — "Why not serve meals on the Overland Route journey from Chicago to San Francisco?"

Up to that time a cross-country train ride was high adventure, and operating transcontinental dining cars was con-

sidered out of the question. But the cars were built, richly ornate and splendidly lighted by ceiling-suspended oil lamps.

And the menus were a gourmet's delight! A choice of plover, quail, pheasant, snipe and even venison steak was offered!



Dining habits of Americans have changed since the late 1860s. No longer do tables groan under a large variety of rich food. Instead, simplicity and comfort mark America's dining habits. Today "North Western" diners serve the finest food in the land, deliciously prepared. Dining cars are wide-windowed and luxurious, with an atmosphere conducive to good living. Next time you go "North Western" you'll find that the diners accent the pleasure of train travel.

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