

Let's Take a Look

By

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(Special to The Highland Park Press)

HIGHLAND PARK'S MAYORAL CANDIDATES

Meet Bob Walker

"Bob Walker is a real executive and he knows how to get along with people."

That's the opinion I gathered from representative Highland Parkers about Robert F. Walker.

Bob Walker is 63 years young. He has more pep than a man 40 years younger. And should he be



elected mayor, the writer feels certain Mr. Walker will meet the challenge squarely and perform well.

Born in Springfield, his life has been interesting, packed with ambition, highly productive in his chosen field of advertising.

WORKED WHEN 15 . . .

He went to work when he was 15. And he worked steadily until he retired in January, 1945.

His first job was with Sp... Co. He earned six dollars a week, which didn't go far even in those days. Those were long days for the youth, who was being buffeted by a very real world.

To keep his mind off home, he read, met many people and made many friends.

"I realized early in life how important it is to get along with people; to understand them; to work with them; to see and understand their characteristics; to study the ways of successful people," he told the PRESS.

CONFIRMED OPTIMIST . . .

"I'm a confirmed optimist," he continued. "I've always been. And I hope I'll always be that way. I like to meet life with a YES!"

Like most men, Bob Walker had several jobs in his early days.

One day when still a young man he met a man who changed his life. That man was a Chicago advertising executive. He took a liking to young Bob and told him he should be a salesman; that he was a born salesman.

After initial success in the difficult selling game, Bob Walker decided he wanted to sell and sell for the rest of his life.

HANDLES PEOPLE WELL . . .

Now everyone knows that a good salesman must know how to handle people.

Bob Walker's success in selling conclusively proves that he knows how to get along with people, the first requirement of a man in public office who must diplomatically work with all groups.

When still a young man, Bob Walker went to work for the Curtis Publishing Co. — the No. 1 company for aspiring advertising men. He did well with Curtis, selling leading accounts. He had nine men working with him at that time.

HAS OWN BUSINESS . . .

After World War I Bob Walker was eager to get into his own business.

In July, 1922, he went into partnership with another man and started an advertising agency. His partner died in 1925 and Mr. Walker took over the business, naming it the R. F. Walker Advertising Agency. He had 19 people on his staff and his agency handled all advertising for Montgomery Ward, Continental Steel and other leading U. S. companies.

Then the depression came. And also a call. A call from the Jewel Tea Co. (Continued in column 3)

Meet Bob Patton

"You'll like Bob Patton because he's so natural."

That's what I was told by many Highland Parkers when they knew I was preparing to interview Mr. Patton for the PRESS.

Bob Patton IS natural. I know that now, after talking with him, his wife, Sue Buckley



Patton, and his son, Richard, in their large, comfortable old red house at the foot of Prospect avenue.

Bob Patton's father, one of Highland Park's first settlers and president of the school board back in 1903, established his home here in 1893. And the Pattons have lived there ever since.

Bob Patton was graduated from Elm Place school. Then, after being graduated from Lake Forest academy, he attended Amherst college where he won his degree. Later he took post graduate work at Northwestern's School of Commerce.

IS CAMPING ENTHUSIAST . . .

It was Elm Place's Jessie L. Smith who instilled in young Bob Patton the love for nature, the love for birds, flowers and the great outdoors.

"I'd rather go out camping than do most anything else," Mr. Patton told me.

"I've camped from Maine to Alaska, in all seasons of the year, anywhere from five days to five weeks at a time. It's good to get out with nature; to see her at work; to appreciate how truly great she is. . . to be aware that she is everything fine and wonderful," he said.

RETIREES EARLY . . .

And that's one of the reasons Bob Patton retired at such an early age — he's 51. He was interested in other things than "chasing money." He wanted time for "traveling, camping, fishing, with opportunity, to serve his community."

So, back in 1939, he retired. And although he's not in active business, he's aware of today's business problems and fully aware of the challenge ahead for Americans in these unpredictable atomic years.

He goes to Chicago once a week. The management of his own business affairs still takes considerable time. When he retired he was owner and publisher of Petroleum Age, a national trade publication.

CAN DEVOTE FULL TIME . . .

He assured the PRESS that if he was elected mayor he could and he would devote his full time to a position which is getting more and more important as Highland Park continues to grow.

Bob Patton, like his father before him, has always been active in civic life.

His local activities include work on the City Planning Commission, North Shore Boy Scouts Activities committee, Red Cross Training committee and Community Chest. During the war he was also a USO worker and a member of the War Bond Organization committee.

SUPERIOR JOB . . .

Without a doubt the superior job he did as Acting Chief Defense Warden of Highland Park (Continued in column 4)

He was asked to join this great company as their vice president in charge of sales; he was also appointed a director.

FOOTE, CONE & BELDING . . .

Eager to return to advertising, he left Jewel Tea after three years and joined the Lord & Thomas advertising agency, then one of the largest and best known agencies in the world, headed by A. D. Lasker, formerly of Lake Forest.

He became vice president and an account executive. He handled some of the biggest accounts.

Later, in 1942, together with other Lord & Thomas executives, he bought out Lord & Thomas and changed its name to Foote, Cone & Belding, tops in advertising today.

He was vice president and director until retirement.

REAL EXECUTIVE . . .

Now with all this executive training, the writer believes that Bob Walker would make a fine mayor, capable of following Mayor James B. Garnett who has set a high standard for efficient leadership.

Bob Walker knows Highland Park. He is aware of the problems and he feels he can meet them with positive and constructive results.

Mr. Walker, whose career has been studded with successes, believes his greatest honor came when leading townfolk asked him to run for mayor.

DEVOTE FULL TIME . . .

He told the PRESS that if he became mayor he would devote all his time and his energy to the job.

And, truly, it is a full time duty.

An effective speaker with lots of drive and color in his speech, Bob Walker has a way of getting people to work with and for him . . . and they like to do it . . . for his manner is, at one time, pleasant, courteous, compelling and straight-forward.

His enthusiasm and optimism are catching, and those who work with him soon feel that even the most difficult job can and will be accomplished.

And it seems to the writer that enthusiasm for positive causes is essential to the makeup of a competent civic leader.

HAS TWO CHILDREN . . .

Bob Walker lives with his wife and son Bob in a comfortable home at 234 Cary avenue. He also has a daughter, Joan, who is married and residing in California.

He has served on various committees in town and was recently appointed to the executive board of the Friends of the Highland Park Public Library. At present he is secretary of Exmoor.

Highland Park is indeed fortunate to have two such fine men running for mayor.

It is not easy, nor is it possible, for the writer to say which man is the more qualified.

This I do know:

Should you Highland Parkers elect Bob Walker you will have elected an able man, a real executive and a man capable of carrying the important responsibilities as mayor of Highland Park.

Reserve Early for Woman's Club Dance

Mrs. Roland Maus, and her activities committee of the Highland Park Woman's club, urge that members make early reservations for the Spring Formal dinner dance at the club house on the evening of April 12.

Fletcher Butler's popular orchestra will provide the music. Call Mrs. Maus, H. P. 4575 or her co-chairman, Mrs. Carl Howard, H. P. 4004.

during the bleak war years trained him well for the mayoralship.

His tedious work, done without compensation, was the organization and the civilian defense of Highland Park.

And that's a big job in a town spread around like ours is.

Incidentally, his zoning plan was so effective that it was later adopted in Chicago.

As Acting Chief Defense Warden, he had to work closely with the police and fire departments, all other departments running our town and with the scores of local groups, each with its own interests.

MAKES TOWN A UNIT . . .

It was his duty to make Highland Park a unit, ready at all times to handle an emergency. And his work was with volunteers — persons who were not paid, persons who had shouldered civic responsibilities and persons who needed diplomatic direction.

It takes much patience; the rare ability of getting along with all types of people; and the use of diplomacy, packed with "pleases" and "thank you's."

GETS ALONG WITH PEOPLE . . .

Bob Patton knows how to get along with people. He had over 700 volunteer workers. And he fashioned them into an effective team, willing to cooperate, prepared to do their job and do it well.

A mayor in a town like Highland Park must be able to get along with all civic departments, all racial and religious groups, all fraternal organizations.

This is not easy.

But Bob Patton has had especially fine training in the delicate art of getting along well with the varied folk in our fine town.

His are kept him out of active duty in World War II. (He served in the Navy in World War I.) So, in addition to his defense duties, he served as a volunteer instructor for the Navy, training officer candidates in piloting, dead reckoning and celestial navigation.

MODEST YET FRANK . . .

Although a modest man, yet a frank person who doesn't pull his punches, Bob Patton is proudest of his work as Navy instructor.

Back in January, 1942, he knew nothing of celestial navigation. But in August, 1942, he was graduated from Navy school with the second highest grade — 98.3 — among the 2000 men whom he later helped teach.

Yes, Bob Patton is a leader. And I sincerely believe Highland Park would gain a great deal with such a man leading.

Roycemore Palio March 26 to 28

The Roycemore Palio is an annual event, demonstrating the physical education course throughout the school. It is named for an old Italian contest in which the prize is a "palio" or banner. The primary school including nursery school, kindergarten, and the first four classes, will show their work on Wednesday, March 26, at 1:15; the lower school, forms five thru eight, on March 27 at 2 pm; the upper school on Friday, March 28, at 2 pm. Alumnae, parents, and friends are invited.

Miss Marie Hjerstad will direct the upper school palio, Miss Eleanor Dowler the lower and primary work.

In the opening and closing processions, the palio banners and class banners will be carried by girls who are officers in school and class organizations. Among the girls participating in the palio are: Miss Nancy Sproul, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Sproul of Hawthorne lane, and Miss Margaret Lacy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. K. B. Lacy of Dato avenue.

Woman's Club Presents Artists at Spring Musicales

Miss Jenska Slebos, cellist, accompanied at the piano by Miss Wanda Paul, will entertain members of the Highland Park Woman's club at their spring musicale on April 1 at 2 pm.

Born in Netherlands, and coming to the United States at the age of 12, Miss Slebos continued her study of music, under Daniel Saldenberg and Emanuel Ferenmann.

For five seasons she held the position of 1st cellist with the Illinois Symphony orchestra, and was staff cellist of NBC for two years. In the fall of 1944 she became assistant 1st cellist of Chicago Symphony orchestra, her present position. She also has done extensive solo and concert work.

Miss Paul, solo artist of last year's spring musicale at the club, is a native of Chicago, receiving her musical training here. Her advanced study was done with Rudolph Ganz, internationally known conductor, composer and pianist.

She has won numerous musical awards, among them the Stejneger Grand Piano prize awarded by Chicago musical college, Society of American Musicians Symphony award, Frederick Stock piano award, and Adult Education council piano award.

Her concert appearances include two with the Chicago Symphony orchestra; Ravinia Festival; five appearances with the Illinois Symphony; two appearances at the Grant Park summer series, with the Woman's Symphony; and with

Rudolph Ganz Symphony orchestra.

Jewish Women Plan Luncheon at Moraine

The North Shore committee of the National Council of Jewish Women will serve its plate-holders luncheon at the Moraine hotel in Highland Park on April 1 at 12:30.

A musical program will be the feature of the luncheon entertainment. Those participating will include Anne Gershon Decker, coloratura soprano, Charlotte Grossman, flutist, and Hattie Krause Levin, pianist.

Mrs. Arthur Margolis, North Shore chairman, urges all members who participated in "Council Fair," and who earned only a partial "plate," to make up the deficiency and attend the luncheon.

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