

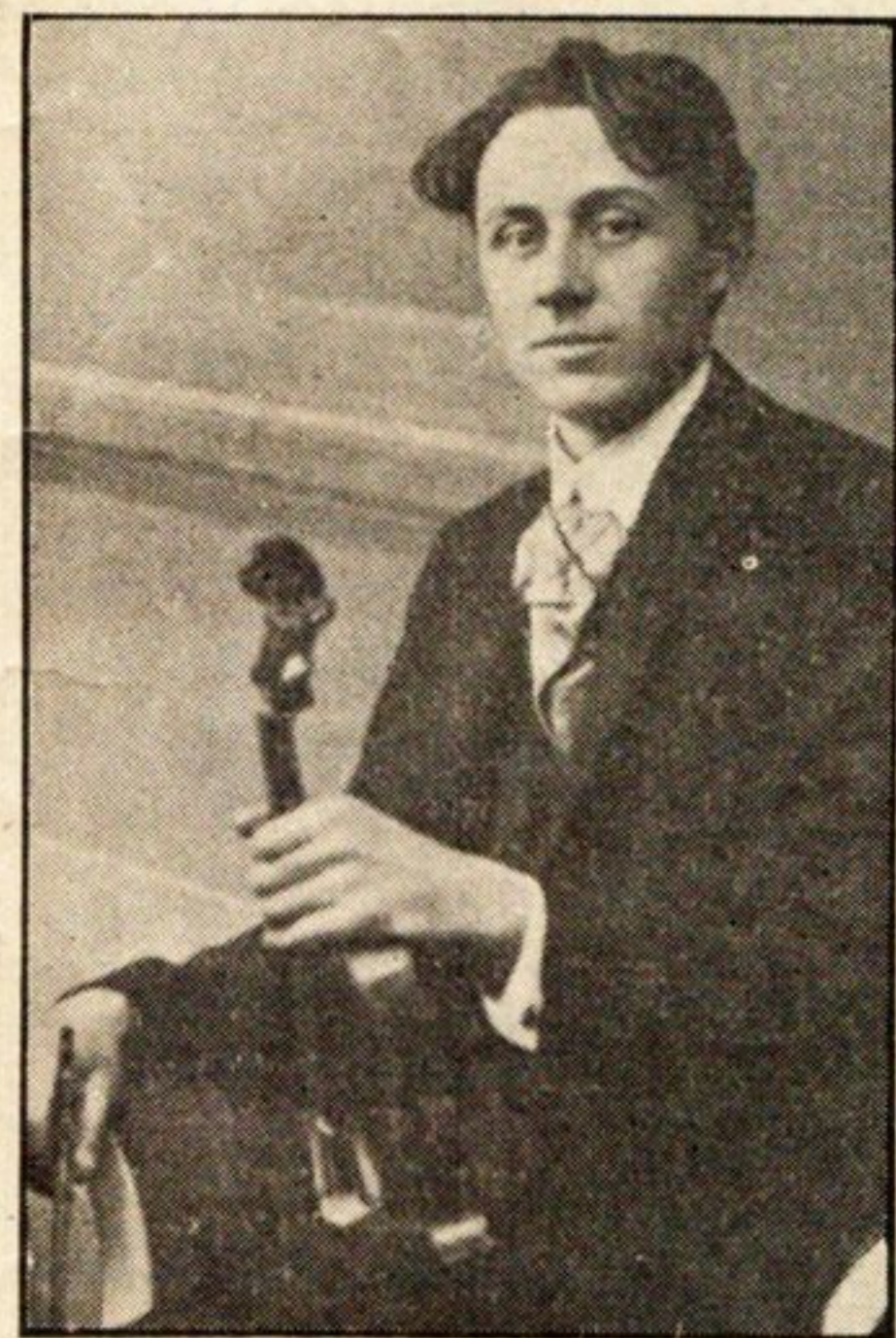
## Wilmette Violin Virtuoso Coming Home

Milan Lusk Expected from European War Zone Soon--Experiences Many and Varied--Writes Letter to Father Detailing Adventures.

Many residents of Winnetka will recall Milan Lusk, the violin virtuoso who in August, 1913, gave his farewell recital under the auspices of the Wilmette Woman's club before departing for Europe. Mr. Lusk is a graduate of the New Trier High school and has several times appeared before the Wilmette public. He has been studying and concertizing abroad since he left his home in September, 1913, and now, unless prevented by the danger of the existing submarine warfare, he expects to return to his native land early in the spring and as soon as possible arrange for his "debut."

### Plays with Great Orchestras.

While in Europe he made his home in Pisek, Bohemia, and took private lessons with the famous Sevcik, who was Kubelik's teacher. He also attended the Meisterschule in Vienna. During the war he made over forty



Milan Lusk--Wilmette's premier violin virtuoso, who has been studying in Europe past three years.

appearances in all parts of Austria. Four of his appearances were with the Prague Philharmonic Orchestra and one appearance with the Tonkuenster Orchestra in Vienna. On one occasion he played for the soldiers in the fighting zone in Galicia.

One of the leading newspapers in Prague, "Narodni Politika," in August, 1916, had the following criticism:

### Worth While Criticism.

"One recalls with pleasure these beautiful performances of this young but distinguished artist, who already during the last season gave over thirty concerts for the benefit of the 'Red Cross.' The tall, slender figure of the charming young American gained for itself a general feeling of sympathy with its modest and unobtrusive appearance. In our minds we still hear the rich, full tones of the enchanting fantasy from 'Faust' (arranged by Wienawski). Another feature of his art he showed in the grand D-major concerto by Tschaikowski. Brilliant passages, chromatic double stops, clear and clean chords flowed from his instrument like beautifully polished gems."

### A Letter From War Zone.

Mr. Lusk writes home every week but letters travel sixty days or more before reaching their destination. They are censored first in Austria and then in England. Any illusion to conditions in Austria contained in the letters is obliterated by the censor. Here is one of his letters:

"Dear Parents: Most all the pupils of the Sevcik colony are gone. Some of them who happened to be of the entente nationality were interned at the beginning of the war. The professor, therefore, has plenty of time to devote to me. The other day he gave me nearly two hours' coaching on Mach's Second Sonata. There are six of these and I intend to take them all in. The professor is a fine interpreter of Bach. A few days ago First Lieutenant Hahn telegraphed from Galicia to Professor Sevcik that he should send a violinist to Biala, Galicia, to play for the 54th regiment, stationed at that place, which is two days' journey from Pisek.

### Concert for Regiment.

"The professor delegated me and so on the next morning I left Pisek and at six o'clock p. m. I was in Brun, the capital of Moravia. This city is quite rebuilt and resembles Vienna considerably. The German element is much stronger in Moravia than in Bohemia. I put up at the Bohemian hotel 'Slavie' and had a good supper. I got up at five in the morning and hurried to the railroad station. The weather

was cold and raw and I shivered uncomfortably in my raincoat. I kept pacing up and down the vestibule of the train to keep warm. Later it began to rain and when I got to Oderberg it just poured. This kept up for the rest of the day.

"I will never forget this town for I had an unpleasant experience here which for good reasons I must not relate. I am glad to say that I got out of this town with a fine of five crowns. The population around here seems to be Polish and I understand this language better than German.

### Extended Cordial Reception.

"At last I got to Biala and was cordially received by Lieutenant Hahn at the station. Getting into a carriage we were hurriedly driven to the first hotel, 'Kaiserhof.' There was a fishy smell in the hallway but everything otherwise was clean and very elegant. Below I had dinner and there met the tenor, Jenik, from Prague Opera, a fine, sociable fellow, highly talented and unaffected but in unfortunate circumstances. His main role used to be in 'Tosca' and in 'The Bartered Bride' but now since the war broke out he was called to the colors.

"Having traveled two days I felt rather tired and I turned into bed early. It stopped raining in the morning and everything seemed quite damp and sticky. The fiddle also suffered from the dampness, the strings continually breaking. In the evening had supper in the officers' mess room (here called menage). This was an unique experience. I sat at an oblong table and all around me were officers, most of them Bohemians. As their guest I partook of all the edibles, and they were very fine.

### Dines with Fighting Men.

"It was a strange sensation to be seated among all these Austrian warriors. Hahn, whom I have known well in Pisek, introduced me to all present. Friend Jenik sat next to me and we had a jolly good time. This was repeated twice a day during my stay in Biala. Officers coming late to meals had to pay twenty hellers to the Red Cross as a penalty. All kinds of jokes were kept circulating around the table, and there was a jovial time for everyone regardless of the future.

"Next morning I went to Frau Huebler's house to do some rehearsing. She is my accompanist. The people here are much more affected than in Bohemia. A good deal of bowing and flattering speeches pre-



A conception of Milan Lusk as conceived by a celebrated Prague caricaturist.

vail. I am getting acquainted with their etiquette and I think I know how to behave even to the kissing of the ladies' hands. So after making my compliments to the lady, I got started with Mrs. Huebler, who is about forty and greatly resembles a certain lady friend of mine in Wilmette. She plays the piano well but we should have rehearsed yesterday, because to read off at sight a difficult accompaniment is no easy stunt. But we had another rehearsal in the afternoon.

### Makes Hit with Soldiers.

"I was driven in an officer's carriage to the hall and came just in time to see the soldiers washing the floors of the theater. It was a mighty damp, wet day outside and added to this the moisture from this washing on the inside, the atmosphere was something fierce, as you may imagine. Nothing can be more ruinous to the virtuoso's appearance than to soak the floors before the concert. But it was too late to stop it. Heat is not so bad but such excessive moisture is a calamity.

"The hall was quite large, sumptuously decorated and the audience was big. I did the best I could and added two encores, but when I made glides it felt as if I was riding over soap. The fiddle was covered with dampness, but luckily I had on comparatively new strings so that no accident happened in that way. The 54th regimental orchestra had a couple of numbers and the Kapelmeister was quite elated over my playing. After the concert we sat around a while in the hall and I ate my supper ravenously. I had to be with the company and we did not disperse until 3:00 a. m.

### Takes Trip Through Trenches.

"In the afternoon of the next day I went with the lieutenant to a near-by forest called 'Zigeunerwald.' We were joined by several officers, reviewed the drilling grounds and got inside of the trenches. I got quite an idea how it looks on the battle front and from the officers, who had seen much fire, I learned a lot of what it means to be a soldier today. Later I was photographed with the officers in the trenches and will send you views as soon as possible.

"Toward seven in the evening we were back at the 'Kaiserhof.' Following a short chat after supper, I bade them good night and goodbye, for the next morning I left for Prague. On my return trip I experienced some hardships. My passport was rigidly examined before I boarded the train, and on the way food was scarce.

### Food Restrictions Enforced.

"As to the food question, I want to say that I have had some ordinary 'Kriegmeals.' Just simple, ordinary grub. War is war and one must get used to everything these sad times. Anyone eating meat on 'meatless' days is fined 100 crowns and more. Not only is one limited to bread but a limit is put on tobacco. As I do not smoke I give my share to my landlord who is an old soldier and appreciates it very much.

"Sometime ago I sent you a caricature of myself. It was published in one of the first magazines in Prague. I have a good prospect of getting a Red Cross medal. With this I close with much love.

"Yours, Milan."

## RESOLUTIONS APPROVED

National Leaders Acknowledge with Thanks Receipt of Wilmette Documents Adopted in Recent Rally.

That the resolutions presented and adopted at the patriotic rally held in Wilmette a week ago last Friday, copies of which were forwarded to Washington, struck a responsive chord in the hearts and minds of the leaders of the Nation has been demonstrated by the letters of acknowledgment received this week by Reverend Frank E. Wilson, the instigator of the rally, and prime mover in the adoption of the resolutions.

A card of thanks has been received from President Woodrow Wilson, and a letter of acknowledgment from Secretary of War Baker in which he states that "the situation to which these resolutions are addressed has, of course, been in my mind" and "these conditions can be controlled and improved, they will be kept actively in mind by those in command."

The adjutant general's office of the War Department also acknowledges receipt of the resolutions and advises that they have been carefully noted. James Hamilton Lewis, senator from Illinois, and George Edmund Foss, representative in congress from the 10th district, have also expressed their pleasure at the interest taken in National affairs by the citizens of Wilmette.

### INDOOR BALL GAME

Winnetka all-stars will play the Evanston Olympic club Saturday evening, March 3, at Community house. A good game is expected.

### PROMPT DELIVERY

The Weihe Motor Co. announces the possibility of immediate delivery of Haynes cars.

This is the first time in several years such service has been possible. This has been made possible by the fact that Mr. Weihe, always desiring to sell service besides cars, purchased a number of these beautiful cars during the week of the Auto Show, and these cars are now in storage.

Should a purchaser of a Haynes car buy at once, they will have the pleasure of using their car at once, not having to wait a month or more.—Adv.

Get an Estimate for your Spring House Decorating, from a careful and thorough mechanic, before higher prices prevail.

Phone Wilmette 909-M



A speaking likeness of Miss Moody's Boy Scout statuette, for which the artist's young nephew, Master Edwin Quinn, a top grade Boy Scout of Kansas City, Missouri, posed while on a recent visit at the Moody home on Greenwood avenue, Wilmette.

### The Man of Tomorrow.

Little Bronze Boy of the fine salute,  
Type of the man that the boy must be,  
Gather me in as a new recruit  
For the cause of the noble, the kind,  
The free.

Little Bronze Boy of the steadfast heart,  
Mute little hero of manly ways,  
Teach me the courage to live your part  
Of peace that triumphs o'er blood-  
red days.

Little Bronze Boy, there are roads to  
make  
Through the selfish tangles of hate  
and pride.  
O lead me on, though my purpose  
break,  
To find the end by my comrades'  
side.

—George E. Bowen.

### ADVERTISING PAYS CLEANERS

Returns received from a small display advertisement that ran in the Winnetka Weekly Talk, three weeks ago, has convinced the proprietors of the Six-One-Nine dry cleaning establishment that advertising pays. Twenty-two new customers were secured, repaying the Six-One-Nine people many times over the small amount invested in newspaper space.

## Special Assessment Taxes NOW DUE

Your taxes are now due and payable at my office in the village hall, down stairs, near the Ash street entrance.

Mrs. Preston, who has been collecting taxes for the past several years for the village, is in my office and will receipt for your taxes and give you all necessary information.

Much time and worry can be saved by paying taxes here.

THEODORE FLYNN

Special Assessment Tax Collector

### WATERPROOF ROBE LATEST

Waterproof lap robes for automobile drivers which remain in place should a wearer have to leave a car and walk about have been invented in England.

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Phone 484

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