

Winnetka Weekly Talk

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FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1917

The Basis of Success.

The heart of the average American boy swells and throbs at the thought of success. He creates dreams of future greatness in which he sees himself the center of an applauding multitude. He imagines himself a popular military or naval hero, or a powerful statesman swaying the nation with ringing words, or a commanding capitalist dominating the commerce of the world, or a wonderful physician, performing marvelous feats of surgery with unerring skill. He creates and recreates gigantic pinnacles of success to be attained. He feeds his imagination upon startling and impossible tales of boys who accomplish things that few men can do and—takes it out in dreaming. He takes no steps leading to an exceptional career. He disregards opportunity. He neglects that which would help him, in later life, to a realization of boyhood ambition.

Opportunity comes to few. And the few must be prepared. The career of the late General Frederick Funston, whose ability as a soldier is known to every American of the present generation, aptly illustrates how fame and exceptional success comes to one. Funston made his reputation as a leader in the profession of arms by the capture of Aguinaldo. It was a daring venture that he and his small band of volunteers undertook. A venture calling upon all the resources and skill that human being could command—the entrance into the stronghold, and capture, of a powerful rebel chieftain, surrounded by adherents ready to obey his slightest wish. Most men would have said it was impossible. Not so Funston. He had the courage, the nerve, the determination, and he made of an apparently hopeless mission a glorious success.

In ordinary life the seeker after success is not asked to risk his life. He need not risk even his health. All he need do is display grit and indomitable perseverance. He must "keep on keeping on," as the poet puts it, when others have become discouraged.

This world is filled with the "it can't be done" spirit. What is required is the "it can be done" thought and the determination to do it. Everyone can find opportunity for growth and expansion. In every line of endeavor, in every walk of life, there is a higher success that can be achieved and some one is going to reach that height. Such attainment requires a devotion to duty, a concentration of mind and persistence in the face of apparently insurmountable obstacles that few are willing to give.

Most people look over the obstacles that strew the way, they are baffled by them for a time, and then they quit. A large success means a long fight and only those who are fitted for a persistent struggle reach the goal. Success, fame or fortune are not matters of luck nor usually the reward of exceptional genius. More often merely the gift that awaits at the top of the ladder of "stick-to-it-ive-ness."

AT KANSAS CITY CONFERENCE

Professor J. R. Harper, superintendent of Wilmette's public schools, Superintendent E. N. Rhodes of the Winnetka schools and Superintendent Arthur P. Powell of Glencoe's public schools, are in attendance this week at the annual convention of public school superintendents at Kansas City. Over 6,000 educators from all parts of the country are gathered at this conference to compare notes and exchange ideas having to do with problems of an educational nature.

GAS HEARING POSTPONED

The hearing before the Public Utilities Commission on the Winnetka gas situation has been postponed for two weeks. Engineer Baehr, who has been engaged by the village to conduct an investigation into the causes for the recent stoppage of gas, has not yet submitted his report.

Mrs. Earle S. Barber of 187 Ridge avenue is spending the week in Ann Arbor, Mich.

PLAN COMMISSION IS BUSY

City Development Specialist Now Preparing Preliminary Sketches for Improvements in Winnetka.

Arrangements have been concluded with Mr. E. H. Bennett, of Chicago, to prepare "the plan of Winnetka." Mr. Bennett is the architect of the Chicago Plan Commission and is widely known as a specialist in the preparation of comprehensive plans for the development of cities and villages. He is already engaged in gathering information and data and is having preliminary sketches drawn.

Chairman Philip S. Post of the Winnetka Commission is receiving from the members expressions as to the subjects connected with the development of the village in which they are particularly interested and he will shortly announce various committees which will be charged with a special study and consideration of each of these subjects. Some of the most important matters to be considered are track depression, the establishing of through traffic routes through the village, both for automobiles generally and for heavy trucks in particular, and the creation of building zones and restrictions.

THANK WINNETKA WOMEN FOR HOSPITAL SUPPLIES

That the work of the women of Winnetka in manufacturing and forwarding bandages, comfort pillows and other hospital supplies for the use of the wounded in the French hospitals, is heartily appreciated, is evidenced by the following letter recently received by Mrs. Lowell Copeland, 180 Linden street, from the Chicago committee of the American Fund for the French Wounded.

"We have received a great many generous contributions from the good workers of Winnetka, most of which we have acknowledged by postal card. We deeply appreciate the regularity with which you have sent the pillows and surgical supplies. They are always well made and packed and it means a great deal to us to be able to depend upon you for these things. Yesterday we received another lot of compresses, comfort pillows and bandages which is only an indication of your continued and active interest.

"Thanking you warmly for your special help and cooperation, I am,

"Sincerely yours,
"Mrs. Russel Tyson."

IN FUTURE SIGN YOUR NAME

Replying to the letter printed herewith. The columns of the Winnetka Weekly Talk are open to the readers and subscribers of this paper at all times. No communication will receive attention, however, that is not signed with the full name of the writer. This is a necessary requirement for the protection of the publishers. A communication will be published over a non-deplume only when the correct name of the writer is attached. Anonymous communications reach the waste basket.

"To the Editor:

"Will you answer through the columns of your paper why, when an article dealing with questions vital to the village people, or at least to many of them, was never published? Last week the writer sent an article in regard to the school proposition. It was not published. The writer should like to know why."

Mrs. Roger Sherman and children of 788 Lincoln avenue have left for Pasadena, Cal., on a five weeks' visit.

Mrs. E. L. Griswold of Main avenue is the guest of her brother in Detroit, Michigan.

Mrs. W. D. McKenzie of 1185 Laurel avenue will spend the week-end at Ann Arbor, Mich.

Coming Events at Community House

MOTION PICTURES

Friday, March 16.
Dorothy Gish and Owen Moore in "Betty of Greystone."

Friday, March 23.
Marguerite Clark in "Silks and Satins."

Friday, March 30.
Dorothy Gish and Owen Moore in "Susan Rocks the Boat."

SPECIAL

Friday, March 9.
The Orpheus Four, the official quartet of the Orpheus club, Los Angeles, California, winners of the International Grand Prize for Male Chorus at the Panama-Pacific Exposition, San Francisco, 1915. All tickets twenty-five cents.

Saturday, March 10.

Capt. Horace B. Wild will give his "Aerial Travelogue." Captain Wild is one of the world's famous aerial pioneers and this is an opportunity which everyone should take advantage of. Admission will be twenty-five cents.

THE PUBLIC FORUM

The following letter, addressed to the Winnetka board of education, has been sent to the editor of the Winnetka Weekly Talk, properly signed, accompanied by a request that it be published:

To the Board of Education, Winnetka, Illinois:

As a taxpayer and parent, and being much interested in the public schools of Winnetka, I take this method of bringing certain matters to your attention.

Since coming to the village about all I have heard in regard to the schools and the superintendent has been adverse criticism.

These criticisms, in the main, are as follows:

As to the discipline. Seldom, if ever, is anything effective accomplished. There seems to be lack of control, and the duty of taking action is usually delegated to someone outside the office. Lack of proper discipline takes too much time from regular work. Teachers are not properly supported and assisted. They are not backed properly in their efforts, and criticism, as a rule, is destructive rather than constructive.

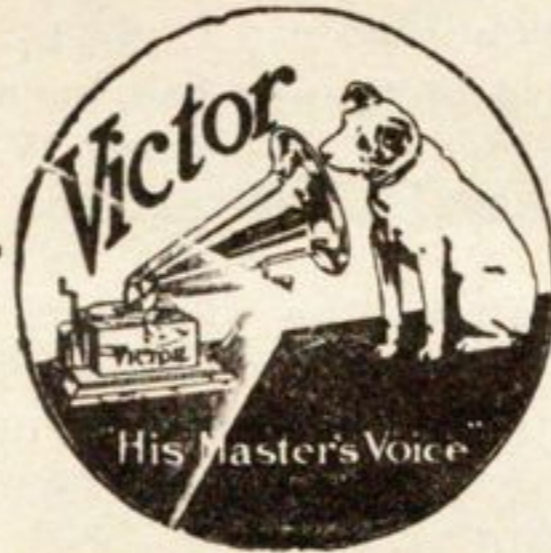
Course of Study. Is it true that fundamentals are being neglected in favor of "fol-de-rols"? Are the children being thoroughly prepared in grammar, or do they fail in languages for lack of preparation? Do other parents have to do as much teaching of arithmetic to their children as I do?

Prominent citizens say that the superintendent lacks courtesy except when it be of advantage to him; lacks power in discipline; has not the respect of parents, children and visitors; is not an important character in the community; that he is poor as an organizer; that he is deficient in knowledge as to the study courses; that he turns too much toward fads rather than fundamentals in school work. These are samples; many others might be enumerated.

Also, why do so many teachers leave each year? Why are certain teachers discharged? Why are some teachers granted salaries far in advance of others, positions being similar, experience of equal worth and tenure being of same length? Why are notices posted in various rooms denying the people the right to criticize or suggest except to the superintendent or the board of education? Is the system for the benefit of the few faddists or for the benefit of the masses, who want good, solid, practical work?

These are some of the questions that are making the people think. How will they be answered?

A Taxpayer.



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Paul Reschke, formerly foreman for the Burkitt and Wylie Construction company, has opened an office at 809 Elm street and will engage in general cement construction contracting. Mr. Reschke is an experienced cement man familiar with all branches of the work.

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