

Winnetka Weekly Talk

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by

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1917

A Compliment to Women.

A call has been sent out to the women of America to unite their strength in the making of surgical dressings for the use of the Red Cross in France. The message which has come from Major Grayson M. P. Murphy, head of the American Red Cross commission in France, to the Red Cross headquarters of America asks for standard surgical dressings in millions. Failure of the Red Cross to supply the need would be, he says, "a serious calamity and a national disgrace."

That they will be forthcoming goes without saying, for the American women are alive to the situation and devoted to the doing of their duty to the utmost. But the question obtrudes itself, in what other line of work in which failure could mean "a serious calamity and a national disgrace," would performance be left to the voluntary service of one-half of the adult population, a large proportion of which is unable to serve, many unsympathetic, many inefficient?

It is the greatest compliment which Major Murphy could have paid the women of America, to repose such faith in their willingness to work without other compensation than the realization of the great need.

Thanksgiving for the Jackies.

Thanksgiving is essentially a family holiday. It is for this very reason that Thanksgiving spent away from home becomes one of the dreariest days of the year, no matter how much in accordance with the day the menu may be.

This year there will be many homes in which there is a vacant place on Thanksgiving. This year there will be many a boy homesick because he must spend his holiday away from friends and family, in the same conditions of work which prevail on all the other days of the year. In many cases this is unavoidable. We cannot help the men who are already gone across seas to the battle line in Europe. We cannot help those in the cantonments far away from us. But we can make Thanksgiving Day a day of pleasure to those boys at Great Lakes who are too far away from their homes to return for the day. We can open our homes to one, two, three, perhaps more boys, who otherwise would have no touch of home in their Thanksgiving. It is a kindness which will be appreciated by the jackies, an experience which will bring pleasure to the host.

WHAT OUR READERS SAY

Nov. 14th, 1917.

Editor, Winnetka Weekly Talk.

Dear Sir:

Will you permit me (in common with many others who in this moment of sharp illustration to the people of the south end of Winnetka, feel as deeply or perhaps even more so than I) the use of your columns in a contribution to the weal of many families as well as children who have to obey and take consequences not only directly opposed to their mental progress but because of it, also the vitality they need to be storing up.

I have children of my own, young and with their heads as full of notions and preoccupation as those of other children who are asked to go on along up to Horace Mann school and take care of themselves. I dread the time and have often thought of what it may mean, when in one year from now, my older boy will have to go there also, unless we get this matter immediately regulated.

No child can well go back and forth to school twice a day, under our modern high strung conditions and compete with their delicate nerves against railway crossings, electric lines and heavy and rapid vehicle traffic of all sorts:—no economic considerations may weigh against any such physical fact, and when to such conditions are added danger to life and limb of our precious children every day they are forced to go long distances to school and encounter all of these detrimental obstructions to their life and their progress, we are pretty near to committing a crime against them, if we do permit present arrangements to longer continue.

The death of the Shoemaker child is a harrowing incident not only to the bereaved family but to the entire community in the south end of Winnetka, and has made every parent of us shudder with the possibilities to our own little ones sooner or later. Has it occurred to the school board to tabulate for instance, the number of automobiles passing in Wilson avenue, any ordinary day? Ask the village engineers for the figures. I happen to know them, but this is but one danger of three principal ones so unavoidable that they are permanent and most real physical barriers to what we are attempting, in having two grades out of eight, leave Greeley school and go clear up to Horace Mann school against these impenetrable barriers. Why is it we do this, with so sufficient an equipment as the Greeley school available? Is it a matter of opinion or one of dollars and cents? If the latter, let us try right now to wipe out that consideration in an effort to say how much the life of the Shoemaker child was worth if, it can be done; and if it is a matter of opinion or expedient, may we not immediately sift down the whole matter and see whether we are right or wrong in running a split up school and taking chances against dangers and handicap.

Let us do it, and do it now. A very large number of people are to be served and the number will be very much larger in another year. Let us correct the experiment which has been made. No one can tell of course that the Shoemaker accident would not have some day occurred had all the grades been at Greeley, but it would at least have been a minimized possibility. It was perhaps due also to the regrettable narrowness of Wilson street, and this, too, must be remedied without delay or compromise and without regard to any one or two private interests. The public is to be served; let it be served; but, by all means let the Greeley school now be made to take care of the full eight grades. No compromise with safety nor with mental progress under the conditions most ideal to them! Let us have serious thought and immediate adjustment if that is to be. One child is worth more than everything else, even the convenience of all of them is not to be passed by any longer. In the mean time, another matter, at least until Wilson street is widened:—let bicycles be kept entirely off Wilson street; better to be bumped off the walk than send any boy or girl under sixteen or eighteen into the street and be killed. Let us invite to be done, all that can be reasonably done.

Respectfully,
P. I. JOHANSEN.

Chicago, Ill., Nov. 14, 1917.

To the Board of Education,
Winnetka, Illinois.

Gentlemen:

Can it be that our School Board deprives us of a school complete with all grades, because of the want of money? Or is it some reason not so easily described? Greeley school is built to take care of all the grades,

and the community is more than anxious to do their part to establish all grades in this school. Cannot we have some action on this at once, and bring to an end this primitive manner of sending our children to school?

In order not to further deceive any prospective buyer of property in this village, by the display of a large, modern school building, I would suggest that each real estate operator doing business in Winnetka be compelled to make a clear statement to each prospective customer for this village, of the exact condition of the schools and to continue doing so until these conditions are remedied.

Yours respectfully,

FRANK D. DUNCAN.

170 Woodland Avenue,
Winnetka, Illinois.

An Answer.

November 22, 1917.

Editor, Winnetka Weekly Talk.

Dear Sir:

There are two reasons why eight grades cannot be conducted at the Greeley school:

1. The financial limitations of the school board are such as to make it impossible for us to establish 5th and 6th grades at the Greeley school at the present time. Ways and means to overcome our financial disability in so far as the building of additional rooms is concerned have been given thorough consideration for a considerable time, and a committee is now at work in an effort to relieve the situation. A concrete plan by which our difficulties may be overcome will be submitted to the citizens for their approval as soon as possible.

2. A reply to the second question which Mr. Duncan asks is, as he suggests, more difficult to state, but the school board has from time to time attempted to make this situation clear to the public and is at all times ready to make this explanation again when it is called for. The congested district of Winnetka is centered around the Horace Mann school and we must furnish school facilities for young children within easy walking distance. For this reason all available class-rooms at the Horace Mann school are used for grades below and including the sixth grade. On account of this situation it has been necessary to ask the 7th and 8th grade children who are able to walk longer

distances and travel on the cars to go to the Greeley school. The district around Greeley school is more sparsely settled and the number of children in the 5th and 6th grades is small. This makes it absolutely

necessary to use these extra rooms to take care of our one hundred forty 7th and 8th grade children from the entire village.

In the north end of the village the

(Continued on page 3)

DO YOU WANT TO EXCHANGE your Property, your Home, your Vacant for Chicago, Wilmette, Kenilworth, Winnetka or Evanston or do you want to Rent a Home. Do you want a Loan or Insurance or buy a Home, if so let us know. Fill out this blank and mail to us.

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The New Postal Regulations

make it necessary to place 3c postage on all first-class mail matter enclosed in an envelope for delivery outside the city in which it is mailed, while all first-class mail matter for delivery within the city of mailing may still be sent for 2c.

That means—Mr. Business Man—that your mail clerk must scan each address on your mail before placing the proper amount of postage on the envelope—a rather tedious operation and a costly one as well.

Why not use two colors of envelopes, one for city correspondence and bills, and the other for mail matter to go outside the city, and thus REDUCE THE TIME AND EXPENSE of handling your mail.

We can furnish you envelopes of all kinds in a variety of colors.

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