

WINNETKA WEEKLY TALK

Nearly Everybody In Winnetka Reads The Talk

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TAKE STEPS TO PUT SKOKIE IN PRESERVE

Citizens Hold Two Meetings at Community House and Pass Resolutions Favoring New Plan

WOULD TAKE 1700 ACRES

Ask Park Board and Preserve Commission to Co-operate in Purchase of Large Tract

A small but interested group of Winnetka citizens braved the storm last Saturday to hear Mr. Ransom Kennicott, Cook County Forester, speak at Community House in regard to the Skokie, and to see Mr. Hofsten's charming Skokie paintings.

Mr. Kennicott spoke concerning Cook County forest preserves in general and the possibilities of the Skokie as an additional tract, in particular. One object, he said, would be the preservation of bird and animal life, which would incidentally save forests and farm crops as well, from destruction by insect pests. The strongest feature of the Skokie, however, he emphasized, is its scenic beauty.

It will not do to buy portions of the Skokie, either, Mr. Kennicott explained, it should be taken as a whole, 1600 of 1700 acres at least, and it should be done now before further encroachments are made.

Warns Against Land Grabbers. One practical way of helping the enterprise, he suggested, would be the creation of public sentiment against exorbitant prices which owners of Skokie property have already begun to put on their land. The Forest Preserve Commission, he said, is willing to pay fair and reasonable amounts.

At the conclusion of his talk Mr. Kennicott answered several questions, after which the audience passed a pleasant half-hour over their tea-cups and enjoyed again the Skokie paintings.

Fears Factory Construction. At the second Skokie meeting held on Sunday afternoon, the Assembly room of Community House was well filled. Mr. W. S. Eliot presided.

In his opening remarks Mr. Eliot spoke of the desirability of preserving the scenic beauty of the Skokie, which might disappear unless steps were taken to prevent it. He introduced Mr. Jens Jensen, who made an earnest plea that the citizens of Winnetka make strenuous efforts to have Skokie constituted a Forest Preserve. Unless this is done, he warned, it is certain to be taken up by private enterprises and cut up into sub-divisions. On the west side where the Chicago and Northwest railway freight is carried, factories are likely to be constructed, in time. It should be secured now while it can be acquired as a whole. If steps are not taken at once, he continued, our children and grand children will feel that we had not been awake to our duty. He expressed confidence that if Winnetka would make the effort the result could be accomplished.

Mrs. Otis read one of her poems, "The Skokie."

Adopt Resolutions. Mr. Eliot suggested the adoption of a resolution embodying the sentiment of the meeting. Mr. Copeland moved that the Forest Preserve Commission be advised of this public meeting and of the feeling expressed of the desirability of making Skokie a forest preserve and urging the Forest Preserve Commission to make it such a preserve to the extent of 1700 acres or more. This resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Post offered a resolution that the Park Board of Winnetka be charged with the duty of co-operating with the Forest Preserve Commission in this movement.

He also offered a resolution that the meeting endorse the plan of the Park Board to buy Wooded Island in the Skokie and adjacent 10 acres, to form a part of the Winnetka Park system, and to undertake condemnation proceedings for the land. Both resolutions were unanimously adopted and the meeting adjourned.

Drives New Essex

Jonas H. Madsen of 548 Fir street, is driving one of the new Essex cars which were the sensation of the Chicago Automobile show. The car was purchased from H. A. Schuler of L. J. Sherland company, Evanston.

Buys Dodge Car

Waiter S. Bode, 840 Ash street, purchased a Dodge car this week from the L. J. Sherland company of Evanston.

Dr. Alice Barlow-Brown Pens Letter of Acknowledgement to Winnetka for Gift Shop Donation of \$1,000

Dr. Alice Barlow-Brown has written another of her popular letters from France where she is engaged in relief work among the war refugees. This letter is in acknowledgment of the donation, at Christmas time, of \$1,000 by the Winnetka Gift Shop to help in continuing the highly important work of rebuilding the war-wrecked and half starved population of France. A copy of the letter in full as received by Mrs. Douglas Smith will interest every reader of the Talk.

Chateau Lafayette, Chavaniac, Lafayette, Haute Loire, January 8, 1919.

My dear Mrs. Smith:— Several days ago I received your good letter, with check for one thousand dollars for which, in the name of the refugees, I thank you and all the workers in the Gift Shop. You all have been very wonderful in your continued interest in my work and the result of your efforts, no matter where sent or disposed of, has not been in vain.

Sees Duty in New Field. I wanted the Winnetka people to keep up their interest in the Winnetka dispensaries as long as they could. While it was a disappointment not to go back to that work it has proven better that I came to this neglected and most needed section of France. Here where the mountain air can assist in building up the youth of France we have been able to do constructive work.

My work has not been entirely with the A. F. F. W., however, they gave the dispensary and physician services to the French Heroes Lafayette Memorial fund, whose work is to continue after the war as a permanent memorial to General Lafayette.

During the summer assistance has been given the colonies of girls and boys sent here from the war zone. Later fifty orphan boys were adopted.

This work has been carried on with great difficulty in a nearly ruined chateau four miles from the railroad, with a bad road and difficult transportation.

American Army to Rescue. Thanks to the American army help has been given in the way of a Ford light truck—which has brought the provisions in to feed this colony. During the summer 82 boys were taken care of in this chateau, as Paris, in September, was still in the region of air raids.

An old convent was rented in La Puy to take care of many boys during the winter, also a chateau near La Puy was given to the committee to use for a year to house the little ones. Here are 24 boys from 4 to 8 years of age. Soon there will be 40. At the convent there are 55 of the larger boys all of whom attend a school one half hour's walk from the convent.

Perform Many Operations. I appealed to the hospital center at Clermont to lend me a specialist for a day or two to operate on tonsils. Through the commanding officer I not only obtained the specialist but all of the assistants. I gathered from the Chateau Chadrac, La Puy and here at Chateau, opened the preventorium, arranged an emergency operating room, had stoves and beds put up and everything necessary installed to care for these little ones. Thirty-two were operated upon in two days. This morning we finished the last boy. Everything went off very nicely. Every boy was just as fine as he could be.

I have only one nurse, a Mrs. Pidgeon, an English woman trained in New York and a French Infirmerie, so that we all have been kept very, very busy; but I feel very happy tonight that these boys who have been in such need of the operation, have had it and now have a better opportunity for growth. On Monday when we began our work the weather was fine and warm, like a spring day. On the following day, after a blow and rain, it began to snow until now there is a foot of snow on the ground which makes it very difficult for us to get about.

Interest Makes Hard Work Easy. The Preventorium is ten minutes walk from the chateau and everything must be carried over there, but everyone works with an interest that makes hard work easy.

The American Fund for French Wounded closed their dispensary work here at the end of the year, withdrawing a nurse, Ford car and chauffeur, who had been here since September 28. This made it possible

for me to do work in a larger area. As physicians here are "few and far between" it is difficult for me to give up this work which is of truly missionary character. I have been here so long that people look upon me as permanent.

The construction work with the boys and the work connected with the "Petite Maternite" fill a very great need and are both most necessary. Every day brings me a telegram or telephone message begging me to go over and see some one, very sick, frequently at a great distance. This morning early a man came with his horse and two-wheeled cart to take me to see a sick boy in a nearby village. I could not go then but went in the afternoon.

Employment is Scarce. My days are so very full I have little time for reading or writing but I am thankful that I can be of some service to these people. There are many refugees here from the north, obliged to stay as they have nothing to return to. Unfortunately there is only very little to be obtained in the way of work.

I have been able to clothe the children with the many things made in Winnetka and other towns and sent by the American Fund.

One day I found a refugee family, all sick with the La Grippe, the mother very sick, with a young baby six weeks old. I bundled them all in the car and brought them to the Cure's, having received his consent to do so and then with the help of his housekeeper we nursed them all back to health.

Child Mortality High. The mortality of the babies is a serious situation here. The peasant mothers, of necessity, have to get up within two or three days after confinement to take care of the household. As a consequence they lose their milk, the baby is placed on a bottle, regardless of the strength of the milk or care of the bottle, and in a few days sickens and dies, unless he develops a resistance and proves a "survival of the fittest." In our treatment I have been able to keep the mothers in bed longer so that they may retain their milk and the babies have a better start. The birth rate in this Commune has more than doubled since I came to Chavaniac.

I have found the people here most appreciative of all that America is doing for them. Sometimes there are instances otherwise but it is not general. During the summer and fall they brought me presents of butter, cheese, eggs, pigeons, etc. Now that it is colder it is impossible.

Food Restrictions Remain. The food restrictions are still on but, thanks to an American Commissary that was closing, we were enabled to buy sufficient food for the boys. They have learned to eat oatmeal for breakfast, and like it. We hope that they will have stronger teeth. When you realize that their principal food has been a watery soup and bread you will not wonder that they show faulty nutrition.

We have some boys who were prisoners in Germany for three years who are pitiful objects, but of promise. There are many who are not as fortunate as these in being fed. One little boy wrote his mother that he wished he could be here to have some of the good things to eat.

Again thanking you, and all of the workers of the Gift Shop for all of your good work, believe me,

most sincerely,
Alice Barlow-Brown.

MEN'S CLUB MEMBERS HEAR AMERICAN ACE AT DINNER

Members of the Winnetka Men's club and their friends enjoyed a real treat Tuesday evening when Captain Reed Landis, Fourth American Ace, was the guest of honor and speaker.

Of course there was the dinner before the evening's program which, needless to say, was well attended.

Captain Landis thrilled the men with his accounts of the sky battles with the Hun flyers. It was one of the best meetings of the club of the current season.

Boiler Accident at School

Owing to a breakdown in the heating system at the Horace Mann school this week the pupils enjoyed a brief vacation.

Mrs. M. H. Leiber, 988 Elm street, is taking orders for the rug cleaning for the Winnetka Woman's club, until Mrs. Arthur Barrett's return.

CHURCHES MAKE RELIGIOUS SURVEY OF THIS SECTION

A Religious survey of Winnetka and the southern parts of Glencoe is to be undertaken Sunday afternoon, March 2. If it proves impossible to complete it that day it will continue into the following week. The purpose of this survey is to get a record of the church affiliations and preferences of every person living in the area named. The work is being undertaken by the Congregational church but is being done in the broadest possible spirit of service to the whole community and the results will be put at the disposal of every church in the community and every agency that can use them for the common good. It therefore seems justifiable to request the help of everybody in making the canvass a success and the work of the canvassers easy. New families are continually moving into town. Sometimes in spite of the hospitality of the Village such families are overlooked. The churches of Winnetka desire to serve everybody to the limit of their ability. Please help them by helping this survey.

ICEMEN TRIP LIGHTLY ON BALLROOM FLOOR

If you had chanced into the ball room of the Winnetka Woman's club Wednesday evening you might have met bang up with your icemen. Instead of the customary "tongs" you would have discovered a tastefully engraved dance program with the miniature pencil dangling at the end of a silk cord. In place of the flannel shirt and waterproof suit you would have witnessed a transformation that would make a styleshop advertisement look like a comic supplement.

Yes, Sir! The ice men of Winnetka are weary of being considered the rough and tumble sort so they planned and schemed to put over a "one night stand" that would make Winnetka's formal affairs look like a news boys' picnic at White City.

The ball was given by the employees of the North Shore Distilled Water Ice company and was the first annual dance given by the organization. It was pronounced a decided success.

At the Woman's Club

Resolutions Passed Indorsing the League of Nations

The regular meeting of the Winnetka Woman's club was held Thursday, February 20, the president, Mrs. Carrie Prouty, presiding. Several announcements and reports were made which were of interest to the community.

Mrs. Porter presented the following resolution which was unanimously carried:

"We, the members of the Winnetka Woman's club, representing 475 citizens, pledge our support to the President of the United States in urging that a League of Nations, with the United States as a member, shall be made an essential part of the peace treaty."

Mrs. Porter also announced a meeting to be held under the auspices of the Woman's club, on the evening of March 7. At this meeting, to which everyone is invited, Judge Hugo Pam will give a talk on the League of Nations.

Mrs. Ballard, representative of the club at the congress held in Chicago by the League to enforce Peace, gave an interesting report of the meetings, at which ex-president William Howard Taft was a prominent figure.

Mrs. Bolte brought an appeal from the Chicago Woman's club to the women of Winnetka to support the fund which is being raised for the purpose of securing a worthy memorial for Mrs. Ella Flagg Young. Mrs. Winney has charge of the fund for this purpose in Winnetka.

Mrs. Altschuler, chairman of the Educational committee, introduced Mr. Wright, the speaker of the afternoon, who read an interesting paper on Vocational Education in the Chicago Schools.

After an hour devoted to the consideration of so many serious and important problems, the club was given a treat in the form of two selections by the New Trier Glee club, led by Mrs. Cotton.

Before adjourning for a social cup of tea, the club joined with the New Trier girls in a "Community Sing" of old and new favorites.

Confined at Home. Mrs. Spaulding Coffin, Hill road, was confined at her home early this week because of illness.

RETURNED HEROES TO SPEAK HERE SUNDAY

Army and Navy Officers Who Left Winnetka To Enter Fight, On Program at Community House

PLAN A ROYAL WELCOME

Every Citizen Is Urged To Attend Meeting To Do Honor to the Fighters

A most interesting meeting is planned for Sunday evening, March 2, at 8 o'clock, at Community House.

Winnetka men recently returned from service are to speak. For many months Winnetka has been looking forward to the time when the men who marched away would come back to us and tell us something of their experiences. The speakers Sunday evening will be Lieutenant Colonel Raymond W. Hardenbergh; First Lieutenant and Chaplain Edward Ashley Gerhard and Lieutenant G. B. Massey.

Colonel Hardenbergh was three months with the French Staff, and was with the English in the front line trenches. In August 1918, he returned to this country and was placed on the General Staff of the Headquarters of the 9th Division, at Camp Sheridan, Alabama. His up-to-date military knowledge was of great value in the organization work of the 9th Division, and won for him the confidence and admiration of officers and men throughout the camp.

Chaplain on Program

Chaplain Gerhard has been serving for several months in the great Debarbation Hospital in New York City, where the maimed and wounded soldiers are received directly from overseas. His experiences there among these thousands of men are full of interest and meaning.

Lieutenant George B. Massey of the Navy, has been engaged in some wonderful engineering feats in the Mine Laying Service in the North Sea, and has a vivid story to tell of how the waters there were protected by this dangerous work.

Everybody is asked to come and help in the welcome Sunday evening, March 2, at Community House.

WOMAN'S CLUB BOOKS EDUCATIONAL SERIES

The Winnetka Woman's club has arranged for a series of educational lectures to be held at their clubhouse every Wednesday evening beginning March 5, at 8:15 o'clock. The course as announced this week will be as follows:

March 5—Flora J. Cooke, director of the Francis W. Parker school of Chicago, will speak on "The Ideal School Community."

March 12—William J. Bogan, director of Lane Technical High school will speak on "Pre-Vocational Training."

March 19 and March 26—Miss Marietta Johnson, director of the Fairhope school, Fairhope, Alabama, will speak on "Organic Education."

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

In saying goodbye to Mr. E. N. Rhodes, superintendent of the Winnetka schools for five years, the Board of Education of Winnetka, wishes to express their appreciation of the service he has given. His knowledge of and long experience in school administration, of teaching standards and textbooks, has built up the Winnetka schools from a rather chaotic condition to a condition where we have a very sound foundation to build upon and for that we certainly wish Mr. Rhodes to receive due and proper credit always.

We feel for Mr. Rhodes every good wish for his health and happiness and the continuation of his highly important work. We should be particularly disappointed if the unusual gifts he commands should not be put to excellent use at once because this is surely a time when men of his qualifications are greatly needed in doing for other schools what he has been able to do for us.

Winnetka Board of Education.

Returns from East

Mrs. Robert Stevenson, 220 Linden street, returned this week from a sojourn in the east. Mrs. Stevenson visited New York and Boston while on her trip.

To Give Dance

The Friendship Circle of the Working Girl's club will give a dance at the Winnetka Community house next Tuesday evening at 8:30 o'clock.