

Winnetka Weekly Talk

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FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 1919

The Fourth Of July

The Fourth of July is just three weeks away.

The anniversary of the establishment of the independence of the United States is a day that has peculiar significance in this year which is seeing so many nationalities added to the list of those that govern themselves and dispense the business of their own public institutions.

This is Independence year for many people and it makes a demand upon us of the United States that other years have not held, the celebration of the birthday of our nation in a way that shall signify the appreciation of the American people of that liberty that our forefathers wrung from the mother country that these new nations of Europe may be able to place a valuation upon their own independence that is commensurate with its importance.

Since the celebration of the first peace day, that premature expression of joy for the return of peace to the earth, on through the reception of the various returning bodies of our troops, the American people have learned to voice a fervor of patriotism that it would have been impossible to arouse before our liberties were threatened and our honor questioned.

The celebration of Independence day this year ought to be made to typify this new appreciation of what it means to be an American, what it means to belong to a free and independent nation, what it means to have fought for and won the respect of all other nations, and to have it known throughout the world that America stands for all that is right, and just and honorable in international dealing.

The temptation will be to resort to noisemaking as an expression of patriotism, to the explosion of fireworks of all varieties, to the observance of the nation's birthday after the old fashion which carried with it a long list of casualties, dead and wounded.

This Village has in the past had and enforced very strict regulations as to the method of celebration of the Fourth of July. There should be no letting down of the bars this year but rather an insistence upon the safe and sane Fourth and such ceremonies as will be consistent with the dignity of the occasion and commensurate with the meaning of the day which is being commemorated.

The Trackless Trolley

It hasn't been so long ago that faith in the horseless carriage was at an exceedingly low ebb. It was only the visionary who believed that the streets of the city would sometime be crowded by vehicles driven by an unseen force. Today new wonders are happening everyday, new applications made of old principles, new laws applied to old problems.

There is no need for the people of the twentieth century to doubt any wonderful invention. When we may telephone without wires, send messages across the sea without other medium than the air, when we have conquered the realm of the skies for traffic, when we have learned how to travel beneath the waves, there is no reason to suppose that anything is impossible.

The trackless trolley car is one of the innovations that ought to mean a vast increase in the comfort of

Superintendent Washburne Explains Changes in Arrangement of School Classes Next Year

Temporarily there will be a seventh grade at Greeley school next year, and eighth grade at Skokie school. This was the decision of the Winnetka Board of education at its meeting last Wednesday evening, on the recommendation of Superintendent C. W. Washburne.

"Why will there not be an eighth grade at the Greeley school?" Mr. Washburne was asked yesterday by a representative of the "Weekly Talk."

"Because there is no room for it. At Skokie we had two unused rooms besides the assembly hall, and while these rooms were originally designed for manual training and domestic science, the pressure for space has forced us to use them temporarily for grades. The only available room at Greeley is the assembly hall, so we could only put one more grade in at Greeley school."

"Do you expect to have a seventh and eighth grade permanently located in either the Skokie or Greeley schools?"

Decentralization Fatal
"Decidedly not," Mr. Washburne answered. "Nothing could be more disastrous than to de-centralize our departmental work in seventh and eighth grades. The remarkably fine work in art, domestic science, and manual training, which you recently saw exhibited at the Horace Mann school, has only been possible because the work has been centralized. It stands to reason that better teachers and equipment for specialized work can be secured by centralizing them all in one building. All over the United States the movement to give seventh and eighth grade children a wide variety of subject matter with first-class equipment and specialized teachers has been gaining headway. This can only be done by housing the seventh and eighth grades from several lower-grade schools in one building especially adapted to this departmental type of work."

Centralized Work Success
"We have had centralized work at the Horace Mann school this year. The results have been highly satisfactory. After next year we expect to have all departmental work for the upper grades centralized in the new school on west Elm street."

"If centralized work at Horace Mann school has been so satisfactory this last year why are you changing it for next year?"

Room is Lacking
"We haven't enough room for it next year in Horace Mann," Mr. Washburne replied. "There is to be

the people of the districts through which the public street conveyance must pass, for a trolley that operates noiselessly would be a boon to residents grown partially accustomed to, but not tolerant of, the noise of the worn car wheel and the track grown loose at the points of junction of rail to rail.

And the trackless trolley is simple enough to recommend itself to any community. Well-worn jokes about equipping the street cars with pneumatic tires will no longer be jokes. For it has been done and can be done wherever there is sufficient public sentiment demanding it to bring it about. Several New England towns are trying out the trackless trolley. There will be reason to rejoice when the improvement moves westward and is utilized to relieve the superabundance of noise with which our western cities are afflicted.

GROWTH OF VILLAGE MAKES NECESSARY NEW SCHOOL ROOMS

The increase in Winnetka population has necessitated the adding of two new grades to the school system next year. Skokie school is to have a new primary room to consist of first and second grade children. There are 51 children in the present first grade at Skokie. Most of these will be going on into second. The anticipated enrollment for first grade next year in the Skokie school is about 50 children, making a total of 100 first and second grade children in that school next year. This necessitates three instead of two teachers for the lower two grades. The manual training room at Skokie will be finished up and made over into a primary room to accommodate this extra class.

The new fourth grade is to be at Horace Mann school. Two full sized third grade classes at Horace Mann school are being promoted. And since there is now only one fourth grade, it becomes necessary to establish a new class room to take care of the promoted children.

The above arrangement, on recommendation of the superintendent of schools, was passed by the Board of Education at its monthly meeting last Wednesday evening.

a new fourth grade added to the grades already in Horace Mann to accommodate the two third grades that are being promoted this year. There is not a nook or cranny in the Horace Mann school for this new fourth grade under present arrangements. Even as it is, the assembly hall has been broken up into class rooms, the upper corridor has been partitioned off to make a science room, and classes are being held in the basement and in the attic, as well as the kindergarten being in the Episcopal rectory. Obviously, therefore, without some drastic re-arrangement we cannot take care of the new fourth grade in the Horace Mann school. All children will still go to Horace Mann school, however, for manual training, science and domestic science, even this next year.

Schools Overcrowded
"You see, our real difficulty is that we are extremely hampered for want of space. Even with the new arrangement for next year, the Horace Mann kindergarten will have to be held at the rectory. The assembly halls of all the schools will be used for classes, and the housing arrangements will not be satisfactory. We are in desperate need of the proposed new building on west Elm street. It is hoped that next fall we can raise the necessary \$200,000 to erect a beautiful Victory Memorial school on the west Elm street lot already owned by the school board."

"When the new school is built, will you abandon the Horace Mann school," Mr. Washburne was asked. "Far from it. We need the Horace Mann school in addition to the new school. The plan is rather to use the Skokie, Greeley and Horace Mann schools for the first five or six grades, and to use the new school first of all as a departmental school for seventh and eighth grades from all three districts. Then as the population in the western part of Winnetka increases, rooms for the lower grades can be added under the plan as needed."

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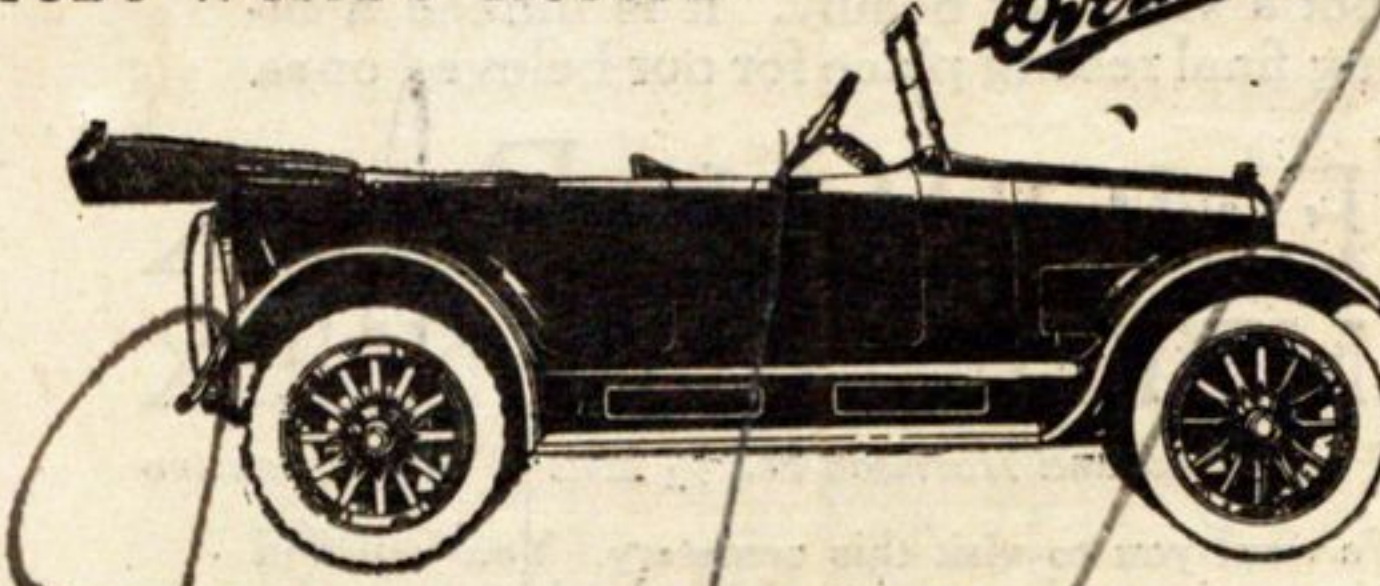
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