

WINNETKA WEEKLY TALK

Nearly Everybody In Winnetka Reads The Talk

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NORTH SHORE WAGES NEW SKOKIE FIGHT

Prepare Fresh Arguments to Present Before Forest Preserve Commission for Preservation of Valley

FINAL HEARING MARCH 3

Skokie Preservation Association Met Yesterday to Arrange further Plans

Renewed interest in the fight by the north shore to provide for the converting of Skokie valley, the beautiful strip of wooded land and marshes on the western outskirts of Wilmette, Winnetka and Glencoe, into a Forest Preserve was the result of an announcement yesterday of a new public hearing in Chicago on Wednesday, March 3.

Close on the heels of the announcement of the hearing, which is believed to be the most important meeting for furthering the project, came the news of a special meeting yesterday of the board of directors of the Skokie Preservation association.

Will Present Final Plans

Headed by William S. Elliott, who addressed the Plan Committee of the Forest Preserve committee at the public hearing, February 18, the directors made final preparations for the presenting of their plans to the commissioners.

At the hearing to be held at 3 o'clock in the rooms of the County Commissioners, fifth floor, court house, all north shore residents who have had an opportunity to study the valley are asked to attend to present their views.

Mr. Elliott, in reference to the director's meeting yesterday, voiced the belief of the association that there is a widespread and fast-growing sentiment in favor of the Skokie valley preservation plan.

"In providing a place of recreation to the millions of people in Chicago and its suburbs in the years to come, there is probably no more beautiful and convenient a spot than Skokie valley.

"Unless prompt steps are taken to insure its preservation, the valley will lose its natural beauty as the tide of unrestricted pleasure-seekers and realty men unwittingly select it for pursuit of pleasure of business. It is the opinion of the Preservation association that the time is now or never.

New Trier Weak in Politics

"New Trier township has never proved strong in county politics and therefore this new project, fostered by hundreds of prominent men from the north shore, has aroused considerable interest and favorable comment among the county commissioners, who are working hard to prepare a great park for future generations.

"In view of the fact the commissioners are endeavoring to learn the sentiment of the people on the plan, the attendance at this public hearing on Wednesday will aid them in arriving at a decision."

Mr. Elliott said that practically all the organizations which have fostered the plan for years were prepared to again present their arguments before the commissioners.

In reference to possible opposition which might be made at the hearing, Mr. Elliott declared that since the real plans of the preservation project had been outlined, the opposition had been reduced to a few individuals.

SALESMANSHIP TO AID WELFARE DRIVE HERE

The first few days of the 1920 campaign to raise funds for the support of the Winnetka Center of the Infant Welfare society, has proved very successful, according to a report yesterday by Mrs. Lawrence Howe, 175 Chestnut street, chairman of the finance committee.

The committee, by the application of first class salesmanship arguments, has raised \$850 by personal subscription and in bringing the drive to a conclusion next week the committee expects to pass the \$3,500 mark set as a goal for the maintenance of the Chicago Commons station. The committee consists of Mrs. Robert Stevenson, Jr., Mrs. Charles P. Mordock, Mrs. Donald Dallas and Mrs. Howe.

This is the first year the local branch has endeavored to raise the funds, for Winnetka's Chicago station, which has proved invaluable in bettering living conditions in the Polish-Italian district, by direct subscription and unaided by a benefit performance

Playfield to Vote On Officers March 2

Executives for Coming Year to be elected at Annual Meeting at Community House Tuesday

The annual meeting and election of officers of the Winnetka Playfield association will be held on Tuesday, March 2, at 8 o'clock in the Community House. Recommendations of the nominating committee for officers for the coming year have been posted on the bulletin board at the house.

The following candidates, who were selected two weeks ago by the nominating committee of the association are:

President—Bowles King.
Vice President—C. E. Burkhardt.
Secretary—John Ritchie.
Treasurer—M. K. Meyer.
Director—Wallace Rumsey.
Director—E. E. Parr.
Director—Barrett Conway.

Thus far the members of the club have indicated entire satisfaction with the committee as no other candidates have been offered since the nomination committee made its choice. Reports will be read of the activities of the club and its committees during the year. That the club is in good financial shape is shown in the recent report of Darrell Boyd, chairman of the Finance committee, that more than \$1000 has already been collected through letters sent out last fall and the committee is now working hard to add \$2000 more the sum, which will be used in securing a 9 hole addition to the course.

Alfred Horsman, secretary of the club, in notices sent to the members, urges an early turnout of the men this spring. The notice adds that new members will be welcomed. The registration fee for the coming year will be \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for those under 16.

NO PANIC IN AMERICA FORGAN ASSURES CLUB

Credit System Will Save U. S. from Crash says David R. Forgan to Winnetka Men's Club

Declaring that a panic in the United States resulting from unsettled conditions or financial upsets was very unlikely at this time, David R. Forgan, financier and president of the National City Bank of Chicago, reassured those members of the Winnetka Men's club who have entertained thoughts of a general crash of the money market.

He was the speaker at last Tuesday evening's dinner held at the Community House. His subject was "Credit". He said:

"The danger of a panic at this time is extremely unlikely. The fundamental cause of a panic is due to the breakdown of our credit system. There was a time when our credit was none too sound but with the establishment of the Federal Reserve system there is little likelihood of its cracking. It was this system which saved the war.

"Credit," said Mr. Forgan, "is comparatively new. It means that you buy, and buy. And pay by and by."

The financier's address summed up in: Deposits in any bank are merely credit; success is measured by money; the H. C. of L. will soon recede to nearly normal; the Federal Reserve System is a Republican invention but the Democratic party get the credit for it; the kaiser and his crowd of swelled heads brought about the war; U. S. credit saved it; character will be the biggest asset during the reconstruction period; labor is down to earth once more after three knockouts, to wit: the police strike in Boston, Gary's victory in the U. S. steel strike and the recent coal strike.

Mr. Forgan began his entertaining address with a number of humorous Scotch stories.

Action to change the meeting nights of the club so they would not conflict with those of the Winnetka Post of the American Legion was ruled unnecessary as the next meeting night would not conflict.

BOOKS FOR LENTEN SEASON

The Winnetka Public Library has received a list of appropriate books for Lenten reading. Each year there is a great demand for entertaining as well as profitable reading matter at the local library and to aid the residents in the selection of books which embrace both qualities, Rev. E. Ashley Gerhard prepared the list which was carefully selected. Already a number of the recommended books have become popular.

WINNETKA SCHOOL ASS'N. ORGANIZED

New Organization Result of Petitions Circulated for Three Eight-grade Schools—Elect Officers and Directors

NO DANGER FROM FLOODS

Windses and Marsh Say West Elm Street Site Is Three Feet Above High Water

At a meeting of citizens held at the New Trier High school Thursday night the Winnetka School association was formed. The purpose of the association, as stated at the meeting, it to promote interest among the citizens of Winnetka in the educational problems of the community. The association desires the best from the school system that can be expected and thoroughly believes that through the assistance of the citizens in the study of school problems a better and wider understanding will result.

Officers of the association are: President, Walter E. Shoemaker; Vice President, Mrs. Frank Fulton; Treasurer, Charles N. Ascheim and Secretary, John E. Lutz. The directors are: S. C. Hancock, Leonard H. Roach, C. S. Jackson, Arthur F. Klein and Sherman Orwig.

The forming of the association is a result of a petition which was circulated and signed by a great many residents of the village asking the Board of Education to establish three eight-grade schools in the village instead of consolidating the higher grades in the proposed West Elm street school. A vigorous campaign of survey and study of the school problems is to be made immediately. A committee will be appointed to do this work and present plans. At the meeting Samuel Hallet Greeley spoke of the impossibility of the West Elm street site saying that the building could never be built until the Skokie had been drained.

Windses and Marsh have shown that the building site is three feet above the high water mark of the Skokie. In the following letter to Mr. Bell they show the result of their investigation: Mr. Laird Bell,

Winnetka, Ill.
Relative to the flood conditions in connection with the Elm street school site, we have taken elevations over the entire tract between Elm street on the north and Oak street on the south, Glendale on the east and Lake street on the west. We have from this survey made the Topographical Plat which was delivered to you yesterday, upon which we have also shown the sewers and water main.

During the heavy floods of the spring of 1919 the water reached an elevation of approximately 41.0 feet above Village Datum. You will note on the topographical plat that the 41.0 foot contour is approximately the east line extended of Berkeley avenue, and that the ground rises gradually toward the east end of the block where it reaches an elevation of 44.0 feet or three feet above high water.

Windses and Marsh.
"This should effectually dispose of the idea that the site for the new school is not suitable for building," said Mr. Bell. "The flood line mentioned in Mr. Marsh's letter is 475 feet from the east end of the property, and two or three hundred feet from the probable site of the building. Drainage of the foundations and boiler rooms is an entirely simple engineering matter.

"And it must be understood that this is the flood line of the unusual flood that even covered the Indian Hill links in many places. But even that flood lasted only a few days. There is no reason why the playground should not dry off as least as quickly as the links. Deep ditching and tiling will, as the experience of the Park Board shows, accomplish a great deal."

NOTICE

The office of the Winnetka Weekly Talk is now located at 556 Center Street with Mr. George F. Gonsalves.

School Officials to Help Citizens

Superintendent and Board President Will Ask for Discussion of Problems at Meeting Monday Night

Residents of Winnetka in the neighborhood of the Horace Mann school are planning to turn out in full force at the school building on Monday night, March 1, following an announcement that a vitally important meeting, dealing with the problems now causing considerable comment in school circles, will be held at 8 o'clock. The meeting is under the auspices of the Parent-Teacher association, of which Mrs. Frank Crawford is president. Superintendent of Schools C. W. Washburne will present the three most important problems of the school system:

1. Individual promotion throughout the schools.
2. Departmental work in the seventh and eighth grades.
3. The new school.

Mr. Laird Bell, president of the Board of Education, will present the views of the board on the various projects and both he and Superintendent Washburne have requested that those at the meeting who wish to be enlightened on the details of the plans, present their queries to the speakers. It is hoped to hold a frank discussion on all matters pertaining to the Winnetka schools in order that the sentiment and desires of both citizens and school officials may be more thoroughly understood.

BREAK GROUND FOR NEW \$40,000 BUSINESS BLOCK

Another building of the Georgian type of architecture which predominates the famed business section of Lake Forest, is to be erected in Winnetka by G. L. Zick, proprietor of the Zick Dry Goods store at 803 Elm street.

A temporary permit for the erection of the 2-story brick structure, to cost about \$40,000, has been issued by Superintendent of Public Works W. A. Gibbon and the first ground was broken yesterday. The ground floor will be divided to provide business quarters for two tenants. The upper floor will contain four attractive apartments and the front of the building will be of white stone. According to George F. Gonsalves, building contractor, the new structure, which is expected to be ready for occupancy before June 1, will be one of the handsomest in the village.

The site of the store and apartment building is west of Mr. Zick's present location and is separated from the M. K. Meyer bank building at 791 Elm street by an alley.

The transfer of the property by Mr. Meyer to Mr. Zick was recently made for a consideration of approximately \$10,000.

Due to the unfortunate fact that that it was found necessary to make several changes in the architectural plans, to comply with the building ordinance, only a temporary permit could be secured, but another is expected to be given within a few days. The architect is Chester Walcott of Winnetka.

N-C-4 HERO TELLS OF EXPERIENCES ON TRIP

More than 150 members of the Winnetka Post of the American Legion, gathered at their bi-monthly meeting at the Winnetka Woman's club, heard first hand the experiences of James L. Breese, Jr., engineer on the N-C-4 when it made its famous trans-Atlantic flight. Breese, who is a resident of the village left Princeton university during the war to enlist in the navy from where he was transferred into the aviation service.

In telling of the terrific strain to which the crew were subjected, Breese paid high tribute to the masterful executive abilities of Commanding Officer Read.

ONLY A RUMOR

A rumor was circulated about town the first part of the week that the Village had purchased the Vollmann property on Elm and Linden streets. This is not true. The Council has been considering in a preliminary way the carrying out of the recommendations of the Winnetka Plan commission which calls for the erection of a new village hall on Linden street between Elm and Oak streets. A conference with Mr. Vollmann regarding the purchase of his property has been held, but no definite action has been taken.

BIG BUILDING BOOM ENRICHES TOWNSHIP

Statistics of North Shore Towns Reveal \$1,893,574 Invested in Erection of Hundreds of Beautiful Homes Here

PROSPERITY HELD REASON

Officials Attribute Influx of Home-seekers to Prosperity from the War

That the trend of the home-seeking population of Chicago toward the north shore suburbs is gaining in leaps and bounds is shown by figures gathered yesterday by New Trier Township Assessor George R. Harbaugh.

The estimated costs of improvements, erected or in the process of erection, as represented by the building permits issued in the towns of Wilmette, Kenilworth, Winnetka and Glencoe, amount to approximately \$1,893,574.

Although these figures indicate an unprecedented boom in both the volume and higher prices of the building industry, they do not completely represent the tremendous building "bug" which has come into vogue since the settlement of the strike last fall.

Eleven Months Building

The permits which furnish the basis of the statistics were issued from April 1, 1919, to February 20, 1920. But before the strike settlement, according to officials of the four villages, the building industry was practically at a standstill.

Since February 20, permits have been issued which would swell the total to nearly \$2,000,000.

An instance of the flourishing industry:

W. A. Gibbon, superintendent of public works in Winnetka on Wednesday afternoon issued permits for 4 residences of \$15,000 each. Another permit for a \$50,000 building was asked as Mr. Gibbon was leaving his office at the Village hall.

Winnetka Leads

According to the assessor's figures, Winnetka and Wilmette have an even break on the volume of improvements. But the former forges ahead by the quality of the homes. The figures are:

Winnetka\$790,490
Glencoe 292,175
Wilmette 709,489

In addition to permits for building since February 20, which represent thousands of dollars, there can also be added to the figures the cost of more than a score of beautiful residences under construction on property not under jurisdiction of any of the four villages.

Kenilworth buildings under construction are not as numerous as in her rival towns, but they are of more costly structure. The volume of the industry in Glencoe is five times more than in Kenilworth yet the estimated cost approximate only \$100,000 more.

The impetuous rush of people with costly home plans and bulging pocket books is attributed by Assessor Harbaugh to the re-creation from inactivity during the war period. He declared also that part of the demand could be traced to unexcelled prosperity, the north shore quietude appealing to their conception of a true home atmosphere.

The news is also reassuring to the various taxing bodies of the township, each body receiving a certain percentage of the permit funds.

Although a large portion of the homes under construction are of moderate cost, many being cottages and bungalows, a glimpse over the permit lists of the four villages shows scores of homes ranging from \$12,000 to \$50,000.

Some of the higher priced homes in Wilmette with the names of their owner or builder, value and address follow:

Dr. A. Bertling, 315 Washington street, \$14,000.
T. Hartman, 1303 Sheridan road, \$16,000.
T. H. Copeland, 930 Chestnut street, \$20,000.
H. N. Claggett, 425 Lake street, \$18,000.
August F. Hallman, 800 Sheridan road, \$17,000.
A. W. Levy, 826 Chestnut street, \$14,000.
K. R. Beak, 343 Washington street, \$16,000.
D. Camell, 1525 Spencer avenue, \$25,000.
H. W. Allen, 803 Chestnut street, \$18,000.

Alterations on the Wilmette State