

Municipal Column

Edited by the Village Manager

Water Rates

At the next meeting of the Village Council to be held on Tuesday, December 21, the evening will be devoted to a consideration of the financial requirements of the water department, involving a possible increase in the rate for water consumption in the village. The Council desires to announce that any citizens who may be interested in this matter will be welcome and will have an opportunity to learn of the reasons which render the consideration of the matter important at this time.

It may be briefly stated that the electric and water departments of the village during the past few years have been on a firm financial basis, the earnings being adequate to cover cost of operation with a proper allowance for depreciation, and yield such extensions and improvements as a reserve sufficient to provide for continually are necessary in order to keep the village properties in condition to render good service.

In spite of very unusual increases in cost of operation, particularly in the price of coal and other supplies, the electric department has been able to meet the increases by introducing numerous operating economies, which will make it unnecessary to change the electric rates at this time. The water department, however, was burdened with a deficit until 1917, and because of increased costs, is not able at present rates to accumulate the necessary surplus to provide for necessary improvements.

In the spring of 1918, at a special referendum election, the village authorized the construction of a filtration plant to give us a safe and palatable water supply under the plan that the \$90,000 bond issue required should be financed out of the earnings of the water department rather than from general taxation. Under the costs for coal, etc., which obtained at that time, it seemed possible to accomplish this result at the present rates. Costs, however, have advanced from 100% to 300% in the last two years, and in order to carry forward the filtration project, and also to provide other improvements in the water department necessary to keep pace with the growth of the village, additional revenue must be derived.

It is believed that the citizens of the village are deeply interested in keeping the municipal utilities on a firm and business-like basis, a disregard of which has resulted in the failure of many enterprises in municipal ownership. In order that this may be brought about, the rates charged for service must be adequate to cover the actual cost of rendering such service. The water rate in Winnetka, namely 15c per thousand gallons is the same today as it was in 1900. Furthermore, the rate in Winnetka is lower than in any other north shore suburb.

The rate schedule under consideration by the Council provides for an increase for the present rate of 15c per thousand gallons to 20c per thousand gallons. It is estimated that this increase will enable the village to finance the construction of the filtration plant without an additional bond issue, and will be sufficient to cover the increased cost of supplying filtered water when the plant is completed, providing present costs for fuel and other items return to a normal level.

The bacteriological reports of the analysis of our water supply, namely Lake Michigan, show the importance of pushing the construction of the filtration plant as rapidly as possible. The tests of the water are received from the lake during the past few weeks have shown continuously a very high contamination. This condition is corrected by the liberal use of liquid chlorine at the plant, but such treatment is unreliable because of the rapid fluctuations in the condition of the lake water.

The Council is now pushing as rapidly as possible the construction of a roadway to the recently acquired filtration plant site and plans to build the necessary shore protection work during the winter, so that the construction of the plant proper may go forward in the spring.

Police Department

The report of the Police department for the month of November shows that 16 arrests were made during the month, 2 burglaries were committed, no losses being sustained, with one arrest for burglary; stolen property to the value of \$2,415 was recovered, 2 accidents occurred, one of which resulted in drowning, 2 stolen cars were recovered, 2 bicycles were recovered, 12 buildings were found unlocked at night, 1 disturbance was suppressed, 1 lost child was restored and 27 street lights were reported out.

The foregoing brief record of activity shows the utter falsity of certain statements appearing in a Chicago newspaper which has become incensed at the Chief of police for refusing to give out information to reporters who, either because of incompetence or deliberate intent,

falsify and garble the facts in order to furnish sensational news for the general public.

It is to be hoped that no Winnetka resident will be misled by the statements printed in the newspaper referred to, and to any citizen interested in the truth or falsity of such statements the records of the Police department will at all times be found open.

Fire Department

The report of the Fire department for November shows that but four calls were received during the month, none of which resulted in serious damage.

During the month the department began a systematic inspection of oil burning furnaces recently installed in several residences about the village.

INDIANS COPE FLAG IN INDOOR LEAGUE

Take Honors in First "Season's" Play; Dodgers Trounce Reds in Close Thriller

The Indians cinched the gonfalon in the Winnetka Indoor league at Community House Wednesday evening, when they trounced the Cubs, 18-10, after the Bruins had acquired a lead in the opening frames. The Reds were eliminated from the race when the Dodgers handed them a heart-breaking 11-8 defeat. The Reds were the only team possessing a chance to finish with high honors and their best prospect was a possible tie with the Indians, which they had an opportunity to acquire had they captured this week's battle and followed it by drubbing the leaders next week.

Cazel Explodes

The story of the first defeat is uneventful, Nash Cazel hurled good ball for the Cubs for two innings and then "went up in the air." Harry Anderson occupied the mound in the closing innings, but his opponents had a commanding lead which was impossible to overcome. "Kink" Bailey hurled a fair game and managed to keep in the lead after his team-mates drove in six runs in the third stanza.

The second game was a thriller and was won by the Dodgers because of superior defense and stronger batting in the pinches. The Reds were forced to submit to defeat as the result of poor base-running on three separate occasions, ineffective batting and errors while on the field.

The games next week will be between the Reds and Indians at 7:30 and the Dodgers and Cubs in the final struggle of the present league schedule.

CHIMNEY FIRE

The Winnetka firemen were called out Wednesday evening to extinguish a chimney fire at the residence of Francis A. Lackner, 339 Linden street.

HERE'S A SAD PLIGHT FOR A YOUTHFUL BRIDE

What would you do if on your wedding night, you suddenly discovered that the man you loved did not marry you because he loved you, but merely for your fortune?

This is the situation Bessie Barriscale finds herself in as Muriel De Koven, a beautiful young society girl in her latest production, a Robertson-Cole Special, which will be the

principal attraction at the Community House next Friday evening, December 17.

"Life's Twist," adapted to the screen by Harvey Gates from the magazine story by Thomas Edgewood, is one of the most compelling dramas Bessie Barriscale has ever played in. She plays the dual role of Muriel De Koven and Tina Pierce, a little girl of the slums.

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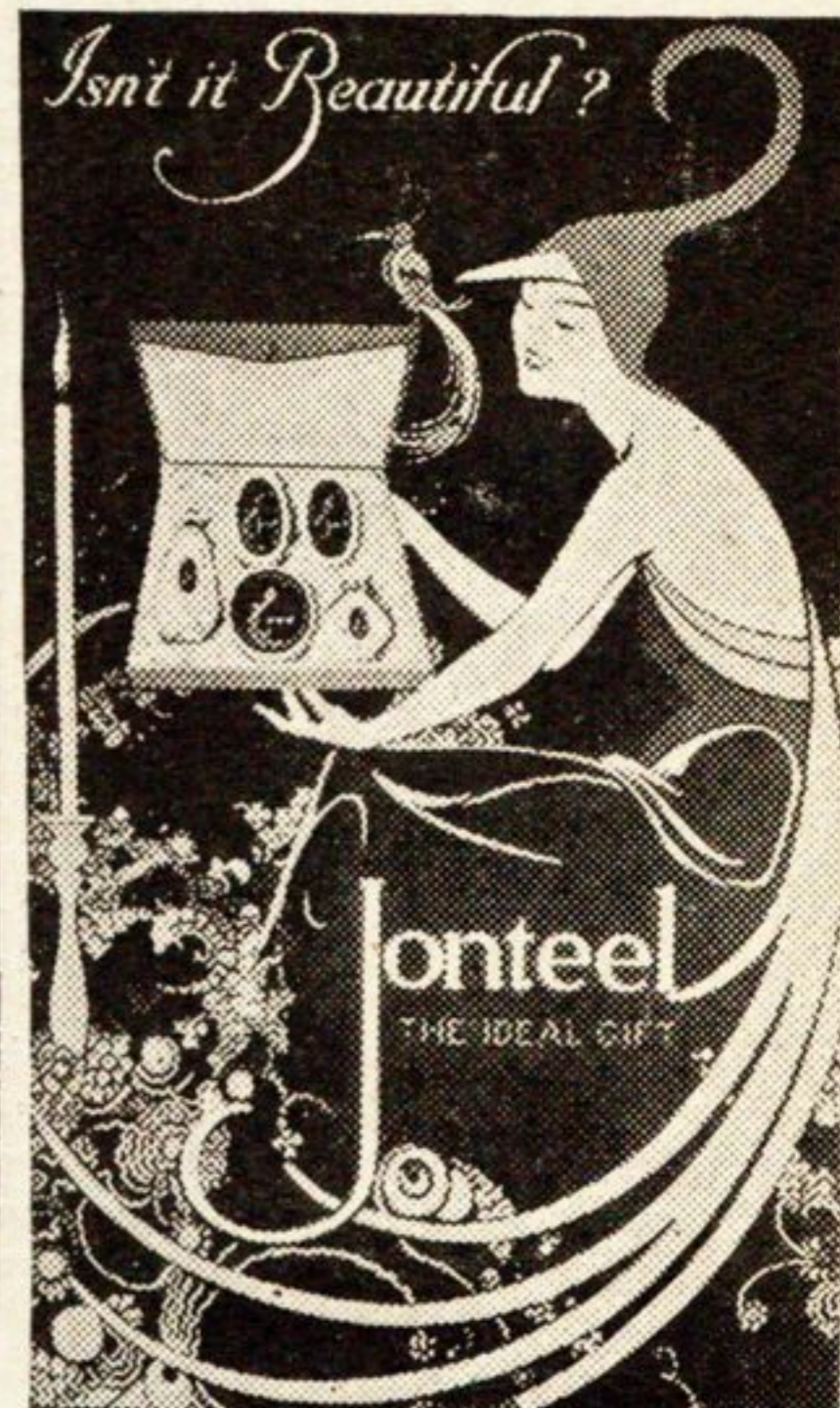
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