Outline History of the Winnetka Village Improvement Association

BY WILLIAM A. OTIS

The destruction of supposedly all the early official records of the Village Improvement association, by the burning of the home of Mr. Willoughby G. Walling in 1919, necessitated the starting of entirely new books and files. In order, three trees! and information, even if informal in character, as to the activities of the Society up to the present, it was suggested at several other though rather isolated, that an outline history, which might be points in the town, as well as upon one inserted in the new records, should be or two beautiful properties, almost esstroyed records.

to the unearthing of a few old and for- of planting, very little was done. A Feeble Beginning

amount of possible improvement at Win-netka was so enormous that evidently the average citizen was aghast and simply numerous loose boards; and a little later amount of possible improvement at Windid nothing. There were, however, a occasional kerosene lamps served to make few choice souls who had, if not much evident the night's blackness, while all enthusiasm for so-called improvements, yet a certain kind of civic pride. They evidently foresaw future beauty. A pub- sides, that were not by any means to be lic spirited man, Mr. Peck, early gave ignored.

the Common to the Village, and the authorities had it carefully surrounded by a board fence—probably to protect it gradually. As far as known, such a thing from the stray cow. The majority of the as civic adornment, other than the plantinhabitants, however, began with few and simple improvements. But they fortunately chose mostly the fundamentally such move it was due entirely to individimportant scheme of all, and the one ual and isolated initiative. which, as a matter of fact, has been the backbone of the present Association's policy;—viz., tree planting. These men loved trees, although they probably would way station, which was a small wooden have been ashamed to put it in these affair on the west side of the track, and words, but appreciating their future north of Elm Street, became so dilapidatbeauty, they certainly planted them gen- ed and shabby that even Winnetkans,

The glory of east Elm street, that most plain, and a movement was started among beautiful of Winnetka's thoroughfares, is a few of the residents to agitate for a due almost entirely to the actual manual labor and real generosity of "Old Joe" sherlock—one of those characters most picturesque, when viewed at a distance. He, indeed, owned considerable property and Mr. James H. Miller was elected the and Mr. James H. Miller was elected the He, indeed, owned considerable property and Mr. James H. Miller was elected the then, at what is now Sheridan Road. To first President, Mr. Hunt modestly rego out west of the track and grub up fusing to be a candidate. This was the small Elms, and tote them on his back, to plant in front of his own possessions, and largely due to the efforts of Mr. Hunt, was possibly not so very unusual, but to take the time and expend the energy to plant both sides of the whole street

from the Railroad east, is well worthy of honor and appreciation, especially when one considers and compares this attitude with that of about 150 lot owners now in Winnetka, who cannot find the time to do this even for their own parkway, requiring on an average only about

Tree Planting Movement

There was a similar tree planting move ever, from these thoroughfares, and the In attempting to do this, inquiries lead foresight of private owners, in the lines

gotten minutes of meetings at the very As seems inherent in the very air of beginning of the Association's existence, which in some inexplicable way had never gotten into the regular archives of the Society, and so had escaped destruction. The town, the people were then, as now, apparently quite well satisfied with themselves, and their surroundings. At that period of self-satisfaction and content Valuable as these are, they, however, are only limited in number, and do not in any way touch upon full tweny intervening years of useful activity, so the notes always and sewers, as well as all ready outlined, forming this sketch, were other changes. In fact, everything along completed from the best information at the so-called line of "improvements" that hand, especially with the aid of the new would destroy the country-like character light obtained from the resurrected rec- of the town, and rapidly increase the ords, in the thought that thus, the entire life of the Association would be covered.

A Feeble Beginning

A Feeble Beginning

A Feeble Beginning verely frowned upon. There was a four As a small Village in the sixties, the board fence, as already spoken of, around occasional kerosene lamps served to make roads were dusty or muddy, according to season, and all had deep ditches at the

conservative as they were, began to com-

ing, to which the notables of the Railway suggested. Company were also invited, was held in the new station under the auspices of the Improvement association.

Birth of Civic Pride The success of the association in ob-

ably seconded by Mrs. Bertha Mandel Incidentally it should be noted that an taining the station started a new feeling ably seconded by Mrs. Bertha Mandel de Windt, this scheme of a new Station was successfully carried through, and the present attractive brick building was exercised by the Railroad, so that on Thursday evening, December 19, 1896, a Village day evening, December 19, 1896, a Village glorification and dedication of the building, to which the notables of the Railway in great death of the station started a new feeling for civic pride, and although it was, of course, not permissible for outsiders to criticize Winnetka in the least, yet an era of home criticism started that showed there was ample work to be done in the lacking the memorial tablet frequently suggested. that much of this work was seriously taken in hand, and much accomplished. (To be continued next week.)

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Springfield, Ill.-State department of health rules in regard to quarentraing must be obeyed by the persons quarantined, under a ruling of the state supreme court which adjourned the February term here.

The decision was handed down in the case of Mrs. Jennie Baramore, owner of a rooming house in Chicago, who was found to have typhoid bacilli and placed under quarantine.

She brought habeas corpus proceedings in the supreme court against John Dill Robertson, then health commissioner of Chicago, and Dr. Bundeson, the assistant health commissioner, to effect her release on the ground that she did not have the typhoid bacilli and that the authorities had no right to quarantine her.

The supree court, however, ordered that she be remanded to quar-



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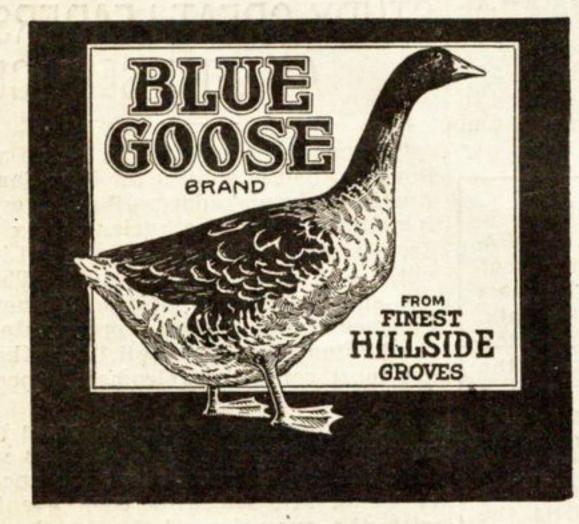
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