

Winnetka Weekly Talk

ISSUED SATURDAY OF EACH WEEK

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SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1923

HIKING TO ST. LOUIS

When we were younger we used to go on long hikes. It was so long ago that we never "hiked;" we just plain "walked." The word "hiked" has come in since those golden days of long ago.

We walked from South Haven, Michigan, to Benton Harbor and back again. The distance varies from thirty to fifty miles or thereabouts. We walked to Benton Harbor along country roads and returned by way of the lake shore.

We started out with vim and enthusiasm, our hearts in tune with the spirit of Whitman's lines:

Afoot and light-hearted,
I take to the open road,
Healthy, free, the world before me,
The long brown path before me
Leading wherever I choose.
Henceforth I ask not good-fortune,

I myself am good-fortune,
Strong and content I travel
The open road.

But it was not long before the soles of our feet began to burn, and blisters developed. The poor muscles began to complain, to protest against the unwonted use. We tramped on, however, finally reaching South Haven. Having engaged a room at a convenient boarding house, we bathed the aching members and soothed our ardent soles. We napped a little, I believe.

The hour for the return came. Well do I remember the heaviness of our feet and the soreness of our muscles. As has been said, we returned via the beach. Only by sheer perseverance, by lifting and dropping one leg after another, did we finally arrive at South Haven.

But it was a wonderful experience to talk about, and we made the most of it. We hope that the Wilmette Scouts who are hiking to St. Louis will live to tell the tale.

ENEMIES OF SOCIETY

Have you ever seen a man on a train after having read a newspaper deliberately drop it in the aisle? Having done with it, let it slip down on the floor of the aisle to be stepped on, kicked at, cursed at, by passengers on leaving the car? We all have seen such human beings who have slid back into a bygone stage of evolution, proving to observers that man is related to the small-brained orang-outang.

Such a man is the husband of the woman who in her limousine runs down pedestrians on the public highway. "Why don't people look where they're going? O dear, this is very annoying! Let's not wait any longer. To the club, James." Thomas Meighan's film presentation of "Man-slaughter" shows just such a woman.

This man and this woman do not represent a very large group. But such people are met often enough to justify consideration. Other individuals of like traits are the man who spits on the sidewalk or on the floor of the smoking car; the person who coughs or sneezes generously; the people behind you in the movie theater who read the

story aloud; the non-essential citizen who, looking over your shoulder, reads your paper; the well, there are numberless other specimens of this disagreeable family.

Let's be sure that we're not social offenders.

THE RED CARNATION

Conductor O'Brien, director of the destinies of the 7:45, is a cheerful gentleman.

He always wears a red carnation.

He enters the front door of the forward car at 7:42, his object being inspection of the passengers, whom he regards as personal friends and charges. "Good-morning, gentlemen!" This salute delivered, he steps briskly down the aisle exchanging remarks, witty and familiar, with his fellow-travelers. His onward passage brings everybody up to a higher level of good-feeling. The day is well begun.

We are grateful to him, not so much for his greeting as for the lesson on the value of cheerfulness. We don't know just why he is so gay; it may be his habit. But whatever the cause he sets us all a fine example.

It's a habit that can be formed by daily practice. Practice of the "day by day" formula will not cure a cold, but it certainly will reform a grouch.

Look your enemy in the face, say a bright "Good morning!" to him, and before many days you'll be inviting him out to lunch. The biggest thing in all education is the formation of a happy disposition.

"How d'ye do?" is not a question. It's an exercise. When we say it we are learning a good lesson, establishing a habit that will reform the world. The same way with "Goodbye!". We don't mean "God be with you!" We are learning an attitude that will make living together a delightful adventure.

We know a man who, on principle, will never employ a sour-natured applicant. Or if by mistake he does engage a lemon, and later discovers his mistake, he at once gets rid of the offender. He is like Julius Caesar, who wanted men about him that were well-disposed, fat and slept nights; not ill-natured Cassius. If there were more employers of this sort business would go better.

Long life to the cheerful fellow!

BOYS AND GIRLS AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

While it will always be true that the young can learn only through experience, still many dangers to be avoided and good roads to success can be pointed out to them by older people. The girls and boys must, indeed, do their own traveling, but older people can give them suggestions for saving time and trouble. But profiting by suggestions demands open-mindedness in youth and wisdom in elders. If advice is given but not taken it had better not been given.

We trust that the words spoken to the boys and girls at the Hi-Y conference in Evanston fell on fruitful soil. We also trust that the men and women spoke as those who remember the needs and desires of their younger days.

It inspires one to recount the influences exerted on the North Shore to help boys and girls grow up into good, vigorous manhood and womanhood. The destroying agencies have tremendous strength, and we men and women must help our children win the upper heights.

We are sincerely grateful to the Hi-Y movement for the great work it has done and is doing.

Here's a chance to get a home at what will probably be a low rent. J. W. Scott is going to build a couple of one-story bath houses. Whether J. W. will rent them to you is another story. That makes two.

One of the most appreciated departments of the Modern Church is the Kindergarten where the children are taken care of while the mothers attend the church services.

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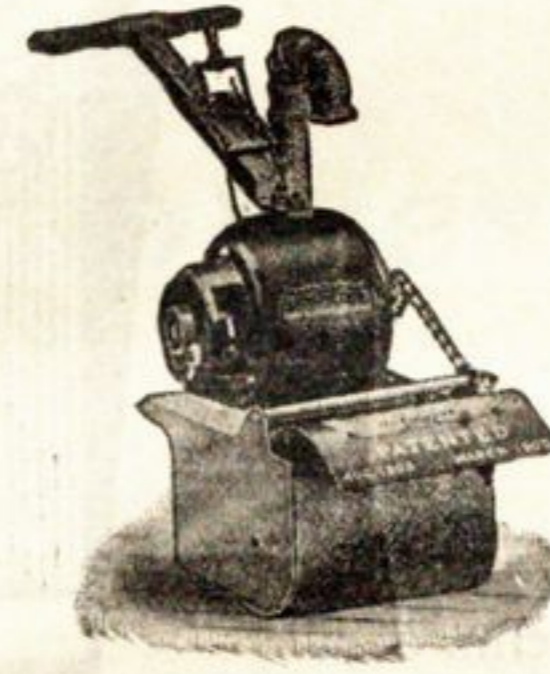
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