VAN GORDON IS AMERICA'S OWN

Prima Donna of Chicago Matzenauer. Opera Company Succeeded Without Prestige

SINGS HERE APRIL 14

Ilse Forster Also on Local Program

of the Chicago Opera company, who soon to be forgotten. The critics con-will be heard in recital at the Skokie fessed themselves amazed. The singschool, Winnetka, on the evening of er's youth, intsead of being a detri-Saturday, April 14, is the young ment, had proved her greatest asset. American contralto who leaped into | She was heard last season not only stardom almost in a single night by as Brunhilde but as Kundry in "Parher spectacular performance of Brun- sifal," the Spring Fay in "The Snow hilde in "The Valkyrie," several sea- Maiden," and Amneris in "Aida." sons ago.

Less than twenty years ago she was a long-legged little girl in pinafores. taking part in church entertainments in the town of Morning Sun, O., and rather shocking the congregation by operatic heights without the prestige of a foreign name or a European reputation

Feared for Her Future

Today she is proclaimed a second blowing kisses to the deacon. Nordica, and the most beautiful Brunhilde on the stage. A Junoesque beauty, it has been said of her that she "looks as if she were the first cousin of a princess." But what is more, she has proved that one can rise to

As a young girl, she sang in the church choir at Camden, O., and when she left for Cincinnati to study music, and, if possible, to become a "play actress," the neighbors all predicted a bad end for her.

It was while singing the contralto role in the big missionary pageant, "Darkness and Light" in Cincinnati that Maestro Campanini heard her and engaged her for the Chicago Opera company, where she made her debut as Amneris in "Aida" and was understudy for Mme. Schumann-Heink.

Miss Van Gordon has been with the company ever since, and is still, in

point of years, its youngest member. will be Ilse Forster, who will sing Mrs. Winthrop Girling of Glencoe; role of Brunhilde.

The critics, however, shook their heads. Here was a role that only a few of the great artists had attempt-

critics. "She will never last out the Raggedy Ann, performance." They attended the opera with misgivings.

Captures Opera Critics

Now that Cyrena's day had arrived, the home folks forgot their prejudices, and attended in a body. The curtain rose on the second act. A golden voice rang out in the famous war cry. The house reechoed with applause.

Miss Van Gordon fitted into the role as if she had been born for it. The picture she made silhouetted against Cyrena Van Gordon, prima donna her snow-white steed was one not

On the program with her Saturday

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Her great opportunity came after the some charming songs in costume; Mrs. F. H. Copeland of Brown Gables, war when Wagnerian opera was re- Harold Ayres, violin virtuoso; and Winnetka; Mrs. Charles M. Higginvived, and she was selected for the Alma Putnam and Stella O'Neal, ac- son of Kenilworth, and Mrs. Joseph companists.

Gives Children's Songs

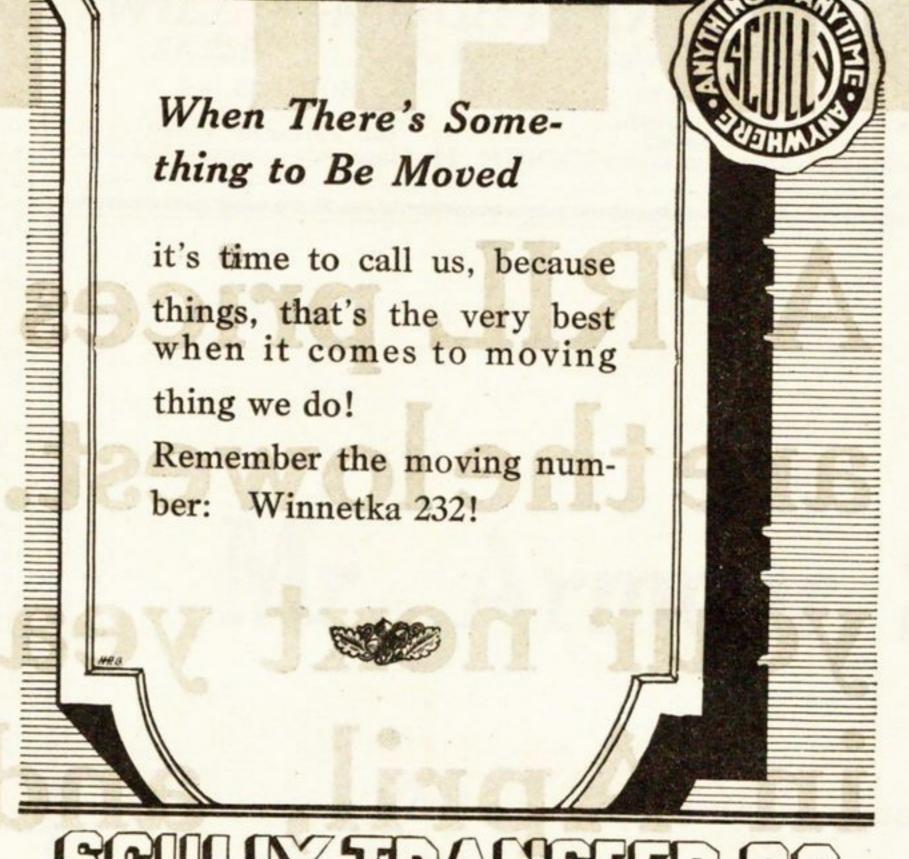
ed, among them Nordica, Gadski, and a program of children's songs, ap- netka; the Renneckr Drug Co., Wil-"Her youth is against her," said the onial maid, Daffy-Down-Dilly, and macy, and A. E. Clyde's, Glencoe.

· Patronesses of the festival include Mrs. Clarence A. Burley of Winnetka; Mrs. William C. Boyden of Winnetka;

J. Siddall of Wilmette.

A limited number of reserved seat In the morning, Miss Forster, assist- tickets for both recitals are now on ed by Anne Branyan, reader, will give sale at the Winnetka Pharmacy, Winpearing as a Chinese princess, a Col- mette; the Hubbard Woods Phar-

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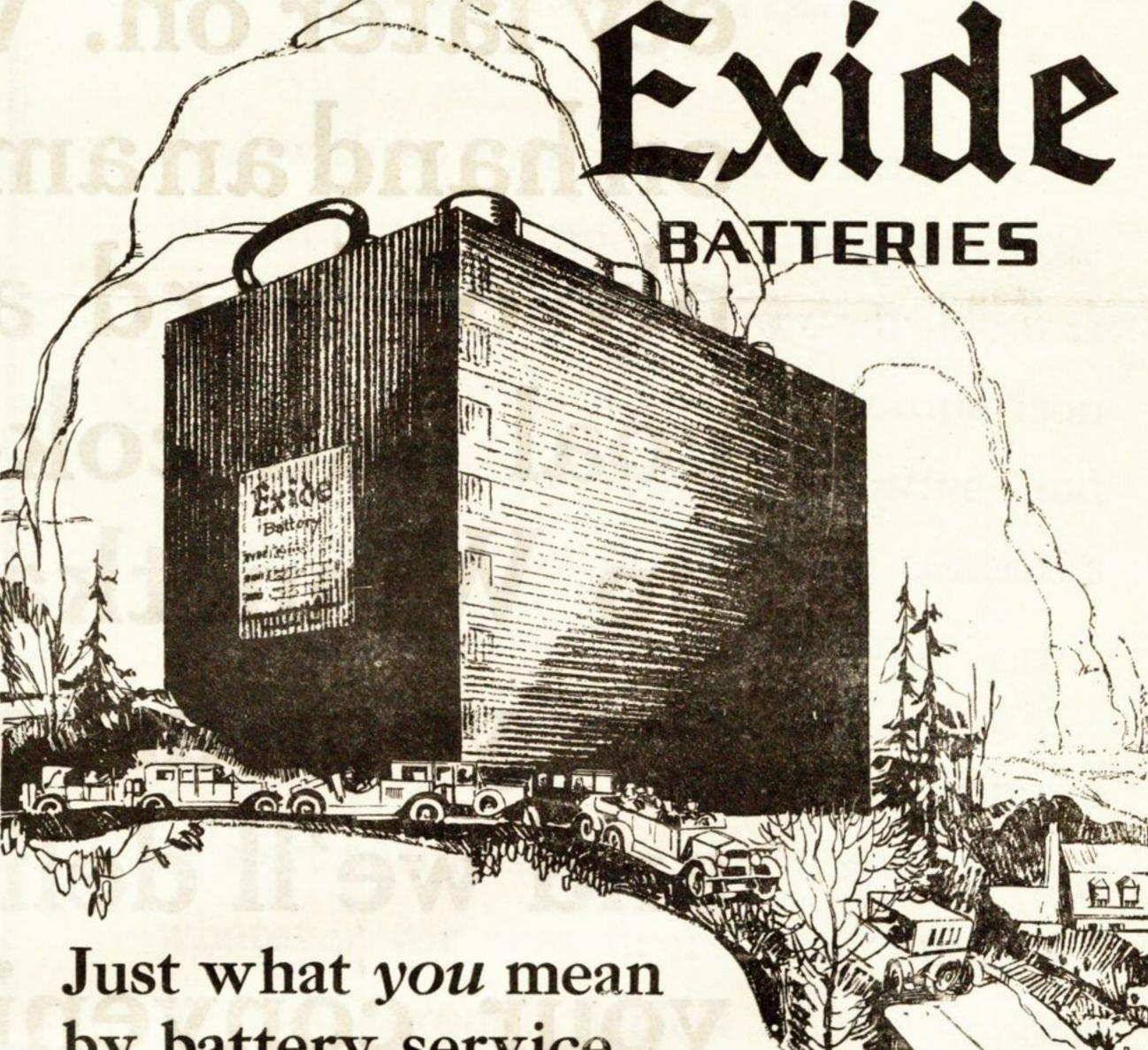
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