

# LOCAL TEACHERS BECOME AUTHORS

Miss Douglass Whitehead Pens "The Forest Court," an Interesting Operetta

## A PRETTY FAIRY TALE

Willard Beatty Writes Work on Stage Craft

Two books by Winnetka teachers have recently come on the market—"The Forest Court," an operetta by Douglass Whitehead in collaboration with her sister, with music by Grant-Schaefer, and "The Shepherdess and the Chimney Sweep" by Willard Beatty in collaboration with Lucy A. Cuddy and Mary McCauley. Miss Whitehead's book is published by the Arthur P. Schmidt company in New York, Mr. Beatty's by Rand McNally in Chicago.

"The Forest Court" is Miss Whitehead's second published operetta, her first being "The Stolen Flower Queen." The new operetta is a fairy play. The story runs as follows:

"Tommy and his friends are on a picnic playing games in the woods. Tommy, all boy, like thousands of Tommies, muddies the spring, switches off flower tops, pulls up a baby tree, and breaks branches. Some one proposes to climb a hill. Tommy remains and falls asleep. Fairies mischievously plot to teach him a lesson by casting a spell and showing him what harm thoughtless pranks mean to Forest Folk. Tommy is tried in the Forest Court, Judge Owl presiding. He is about to be sentenced when the Rabbit and Tortoise bring word of a past good deed Tommy had done in saving a butterfly caught in a spider web. The butterfly proved to be Silver Wings, messenger of the Fairy Queen, freed from the net of an enchanter. Tommy is pardoned, and

the Forest Folk hold revels and rejoice over their new friend, Tommy."

### Ideal Child's Operetta

The operetta is full of life and fun. The songs are child-like and attractive. You find, for instance, nice nonsense verse like this, sung by the Tortoise as he leans upon one of the owls, and slowly moves his head from side to side:

"O, the little bird that sings  
Has a useful pair of wings,  
And then he has some feet with little toes,  
And the creepy centipede, he has all the legs he needs,  
But the Tortoise has to crawl where e'er he goes.  
If the flowers pay their rents,  
It is just in perfume scents  
And snakes can wiggle waggle anywhere,  
And the monkey has a tail, he can hang upon a nail,  
But the Tortoise has a heavy load to bear."

Mr. Beatty's part in "The Shepherdess and the Chimney Sweep" is stage craft. The introduction to this book is written by Frederick Burk, President of the San Francisco State Teachers' college. Mr. Beatty, Miss Whitehead and Mr. Washburne all were formerly members of Burk's faculty. Concerning Mr. Beatty's part in "The Shepherdess and the Chimney Sweep" Frederick Burk writes:

### A True Artist

"Mr. Willard Beatty is a stern-appearing Puritan of upright heart, and to look at him you would never suspect that he is a man with a secret, consuming vice. But he has one. It is art—the stagecraftmanship of Make-Believe. Give him four boards, a bolt of cheese cloth, a pot of paint, two bright tin dishpans, and five tallow

candle stumps and he will fashion the most wonderful stage effects ever seen upon land or sea. The true secret of his art is that he make believes his stage, and the spectators see, in Make-Believe, scenes which are not there at all. The scenery is only in people's minds. Once a photographer took a photograph of one of Mr. Beatty's triumphs of stage effects, and all that was there was the drop curtain down and covered with plain white cheese cloth without a line of any kind upon it. And what are the dish pans, paint, and candle stumps for? Oh, they are just suggestions which he carries across the stage to stimulate the imagination of the spectators.

"You will see by this that Mr. Beatty has reached the bedrock of all true art. It shows, too, what art is, because we can now realize that all art should be what it is in the Land of Make-Believe—a means whereby each human mind builds within it what it most truly desires. And that is Life. Probably if a photographer should take a picture of your mind, my mind, his mind, and her mind, we should find them, one and all, indistinguishable blank-gray drop curtains upon which, by proper training in Make-Believe, Experience paints. And this is life too.

"Ready there? All set—lift the curtain!"

## No. 13 Doesn't Bother Police When It's Fines

Thirteen arrests for violation of the speed laws and two for disorderly conduct sums up Sunday police activities in the village during the week. Those who have appeared and paid fines for speeding are: A. Youngberg, Evanston; Walter Collins, Evanston; Mrs. E. D. Weil, Glencoe; Frank Underhill, Evanston; G. A. Nelson, Glencoe; Charles Higgins, Chicago; Edith Dalstrom, Chicago; William Wilson, Evanston; Arthur Suther, Chicago; Guy Green, Chicago; Eugene Harks, Chicago; John J. Mulvanny, Northbrook; Louis Scherer, Evanston.

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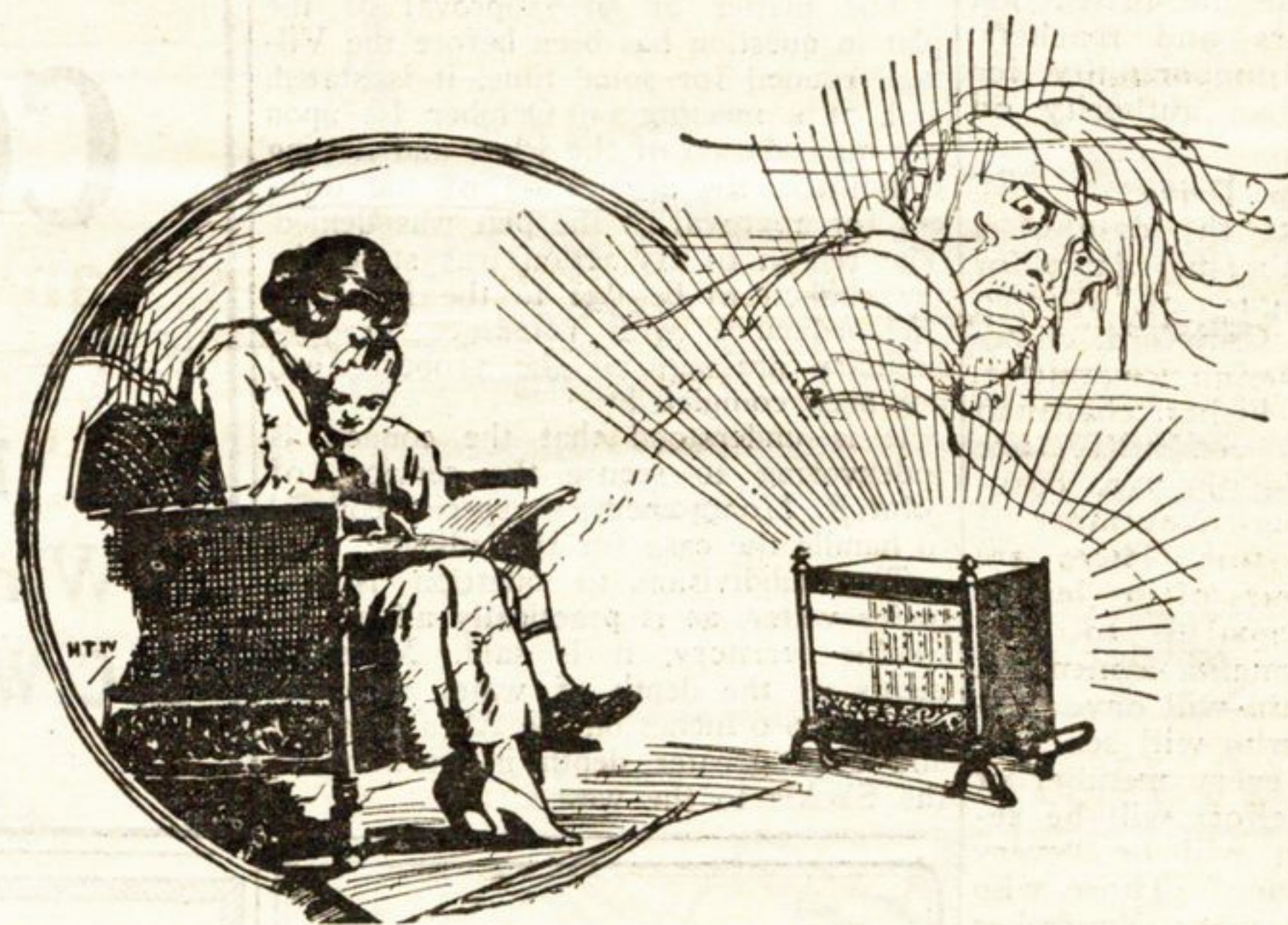
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