

Winnetka Weekly Talk

by
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Resolutions of condolence, cards of thanks, obituary, poetry, notices of entertainments or other affairs where an admittance charge will be made or a collection taken, will be charged at regular advertising rates.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1923

*Depress the Tracks.
Give the Business Men Fair Play.
Build a New Village Hall.
Enforce the Traffic Laws.
Build the Truck Road.*

"IMPUTE GOOD MOTIVES!"

When you don't know why a person does something is it not usually best to believe that he does it with a good purpose in mind? Somebody pays you a compliment. You wonder why. Under ordinary condition, impute to him a good motive. Don't think that he does it merely for the effect on you or that he is expecting a compliment from you in return.

As you very well know, Christmas is coming! You will receive unexpected gifts, on time or later. You may think that these gifts were given to you for the express purpose of getting some favor from you in return. Perish that unworthy thought! Believe that the giving was prompted by motives of sincere good-will.

What harm can come from imputing good motives when you are ignorant of the true motives? Will the people thus treated take a mean advantage of your confidence? No. Such a response is rare, to say the most. What good can, and does, come from taking this generous attitude? Well, in the first place you will be cultivating in yourself a virtue, an habitual attitude of good-will towards your fellows, a virtue which will go far towards remedying existent evils.

Impute Good Motives!

THE USE OF GIVING

From our earliest years we have been taught to believe that it is more blessed to give than to receive. We take for granted the truth of the assertion. Probably most of us believe that he who gets is not so happy as he who gives.

But may not this statement be the shrewd invention of other people, whose object is to get us to give generously to them? May it not be a cunning scheme, part of a larger plan to drown the individual and save the group?

No. Such an idea is preposterous. It is a proven fact that giving produces more happiness in the giver than getting does. The assertion has stood the trying test of at least nineteen centuries filled with countless experiences.

Getting, without giving, is a narrow thing. The self, to be healthy, craves expansion. The soul must extend itself in order to grow. Vital energy must be exercised.

For this expansion, this growth, there is no season so suitable as Christmas time.

HOLIDAYS!

"Another holiday! No sooner do I get my work going along in good shape than along comes another holiday and spoils it all!"

Poor fellow! We're sorry for him. Lots of others just like him. Can't see any use in having holidays. Interrupts work.

Maybe that's just why holidays and vacations are of use. They interrupt work. They make us stop our regular activities. They keep us from setting too much value on our own importance ap-

plying ourselves too closely to our jobs. If we kept on working continuously we soon come to believe that OUR work was of tremendous importance, that if it ceased the world would suffer a great loss. But vacations—empty times—come in and show us, if we are open-minded, that our work can stop for a while without harm being done to the universe.

Are you going to the evening session of N. T. H. S. and see how your young son or daughter studies and recites? No matter how much you think you know about them already, you will have a most enlightening experience. Sorry that we are not able to give you the date of this evening session.

COMMUNITY OR INDIVIDUAL?

It is maintained by many that the individual does not exist for the sake of the community but that on the contrary the community exists for the sake of the individual. The person that holds this view insists that the community is the means and that the good of the individual is the end-in-view.

The individualist objects to the laying of emphasis on the exhortation, "Do something for your community." He believes that too much has been said about the duty of helping one's country and too little about helping one's self. He finds it is almost universally assumed that the man himself is worth little.

No sooner does he move into a new neighborhood than he is attacked on all sides by the question, "What are you planning to do for the community of which you have just become a member?" On the evening of his first day in his new home a delegation from the village church waits upon him and informs him that his church-expense quota is one hundred dollars or some other definite amount.

By social forces on all sides he is made to feel that he will be highly unpopular unless he puts the community first and himself second. He sees that the man who serves the community is admired, applauded, praised.

All this irritates him. It looks to him as if the so-called "community" were an abstraction, which when analyzed he sees to be merely a more or less incoherent combination of individuals. Why should he subordinate a real living man like himself to a figment of imagination like the "community?"

He prefers to think of himself as the center, to think of society as an abstraction. He finds more sense and satisfaction in thinking and acting as a social individual than as a member of a community.

LIGHTS AT NIGHT

"Say, young fellow, you better carry a light if you don't want to get killed!"

This bit of kindly advice was given by my friend, in whose car I was speeding north on Ridge avenue an hour or two after dark. The "young fellow" was riding a bicycle along the edge of the concrete. Our search-light "spotted" him just in the nick of time. Another second, and his cycling days would probably have been ended. Even as it was he had a mighty close shave.

So far as we could judge from a hasty glance in passing, this offender was about forty; at least he was old enough to have known that he was doing a fool-hardy thing to ride on a busy highway after dark without lights.

He might have been killed; that would have been bad enough. But if he were a husband and father, think of the suffering that his carelessness would have caused! Our car might have toppled over into the roadside ditch, and the occupants seriously injured. The cars following might also have been involved and the casualty list increased.

CARRY LIGHTS AT NIGHT!

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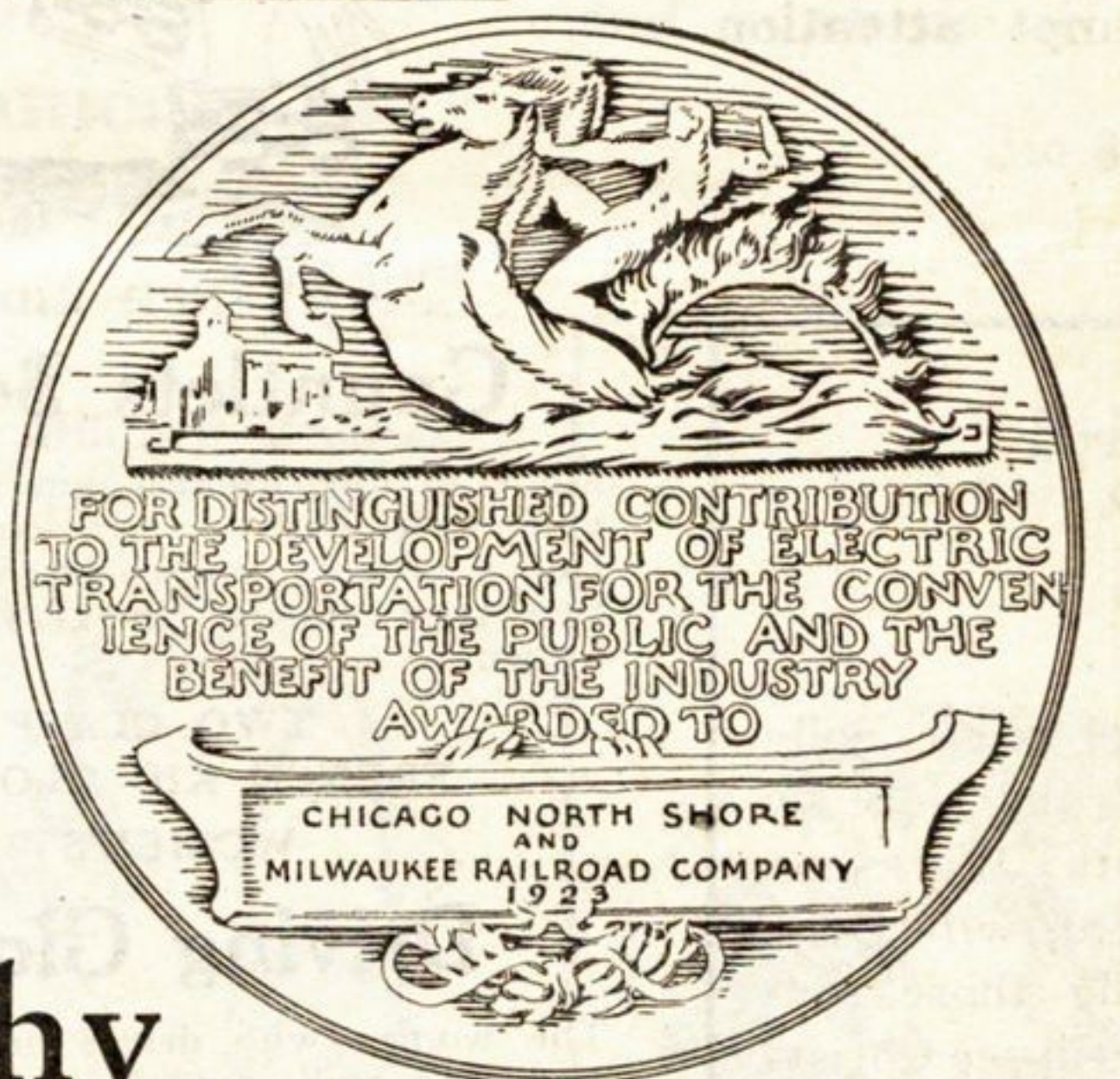
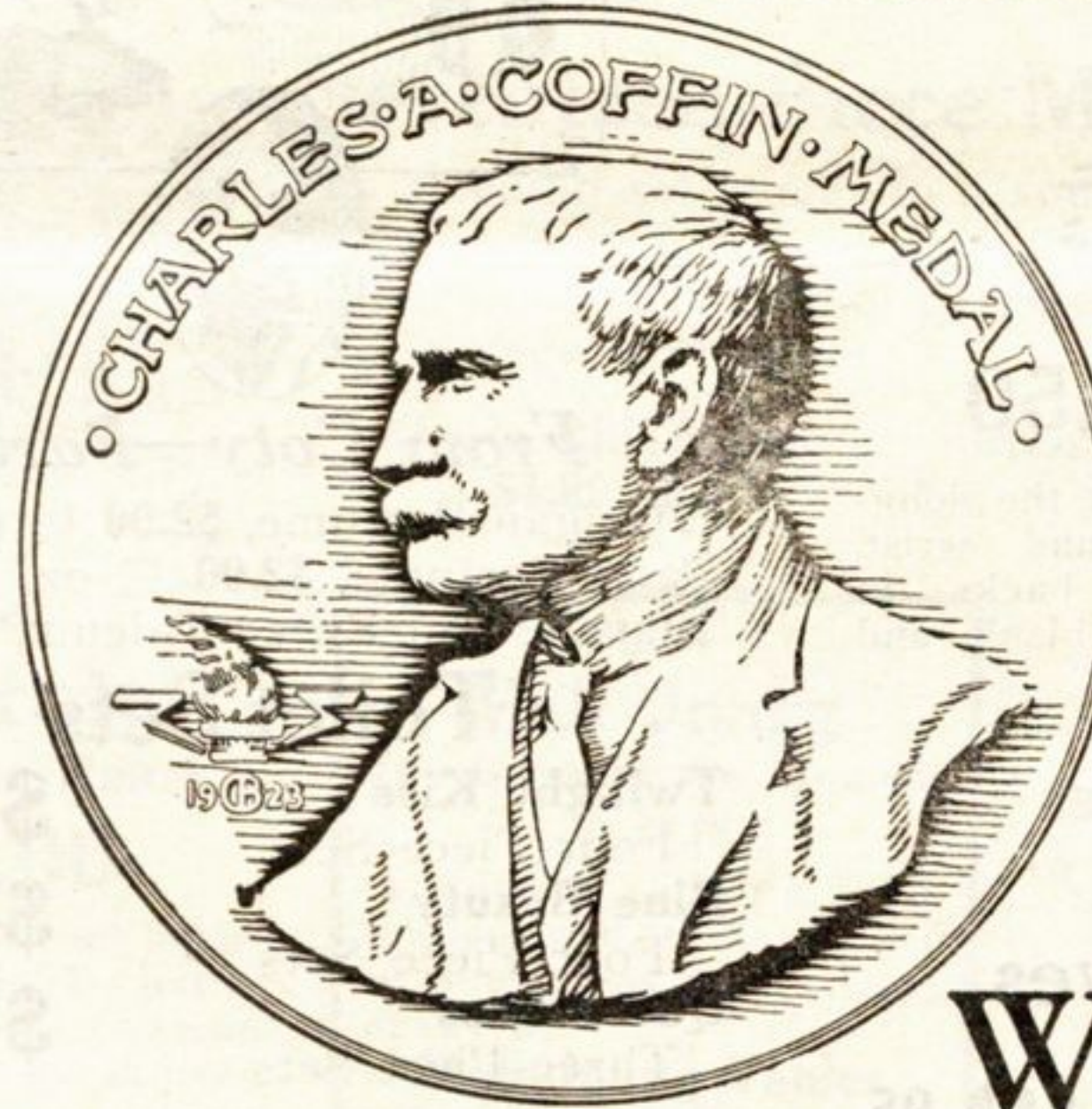
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