

Winnetka Weekly Talk

by
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SUBSCRIPTION \$2.00 A YEAR

All communications must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer. Articles for publication should reach the editor by Thursday noon to insure appearance in current issue.

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.

Entered at the postoffice at Winnetka, Illinois, as mail matter of the second class, under the act of March 3, 1879.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1924

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

PUT YOURSELF IN HIS PLACE

The celebrated novelist, Charles Reade, wrote an influential novel entitled "Put yourself in his place." In it he made a modern application of the Golden Rule. It's a most interesting story, so well told that the moral won't annoy you.

What brought the title of this book to our mind was the item in a recent copy of WILMETTE LIFE telling of a dinner to be given at the First Congregational Church at which the men were to act as waiters. Since the world began, almost, this privilege has been given to women. In fact, this custom of women serving has been so deeply ingrained by long unbroken usage that in many countries such as Germany and Turkey the thought of men, men of standing, waiting on women at dinner is positively repugnant, utterly impossible! But Americans, especially in Wilmette, are little for precedent.

We'd like to see the idea tried out in other places. It should be a valuable experiment were the men to stay at home, say one day a week, and do the housework, cook the meals, wash the clothes, and take care of the children. The women would go down-town to the office and transact the day's business. At first, no doubt, both home and office would suffer, but when were beginnings ever perfect? Each sex would understand the other better, and that would certainly be fine!

Then, too, why shouldn't the church janitor, once in a while, preside at a church meeting? Otherwise, how will he and others ever find out his potential executive abilities? Surely, if he is fit for something better you wouldn't want him to be a janitor all his life! Society needs more leaders.

See to it that the mediocre bank-president is given a chance to try out as a motor-man. He may be cracker-jack in that capacity. Put a pair of overalls on the teacher! The world will be minus one poor teacher and ahead one good garage mechanic.

We are against the prevailing practice of having the shoemaker stick to his last. That idea originated in China, spread to England, and never should have been allowed to come to America.

LAST LEAVES

Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote a delightfully natural and somewhat pathetic poem which he called "The Last Leaf." In it he tells of the old fathers of the community, clinging for a while like withered oak leaves to the bough and then, at intervals, fluttering to the ground to join the millions gone before. Some day, he says, he too, perhaps, will be one of these "last leaves," almost ready to leave the parent stem. And, true enough, he was one of the last to go, dying at the good old age of eighty-five.

Three of the oldest settlers on the North Shore passed away only a little while ago—Anthony May, Joseph Bauer, and George Diettrich. The youngest of the trio, Joseph Bauer, was seventy.

The oldest, George Diettrich, was ninety-five. Mr. May came to Wilmette in 1852. Mr. Diettrich came to Glencoe in his early childhood, somewhere about 1835.

For us these men are links between the present age of electricity and the aboriginal Indian. These "forefathers of the hamlet" recall the days when the North Shore was a primeval wilderness and when the howling of real wolves chilled the lonely hearts of the pioneer.

The "last leaves" are falling.

INDIAN HILL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

One of the most active and influential organizations on the North Shore is the Indian Hill Improvement association. Though holding its first meeting only a few years ago, it has now a membership of 300, which is remarkable when one considers not only its youth but also the restricted territory on which it can draw for members.

Not the least important of its activities are its social undertakings. By this means men and women living in the Indian Hill section of Winnetka have been brought closer together in the spirit of co-operation and fellowship. Neighbors have become friends. People who stood off from one another now draw nearer. The use of first names is not infrequent.

Members of the association have worked together for common benefits. The train service at Indian Hill has been improved by joint endeavor. A good-sized park has been laid out fronting the two railroads. Many other improvements have been secured.

At present the association is engaged in making investigations preliminary to the securing of further improvements in the train service of the North Western and the North Shore lines.

THE LITTLE THEATRE OF COMMUNITY HOUSE

Six moving-picture shows are now being given in Winnetka every week, two matinees and four evening shows, three on Tuesday and three on Friday. They are being given in the fine new hall of the addition to Community House. Children and grown people are having unusual opportunity not only to see first-class films but also to be entertained by singers and others.

Adults will find the evening performances more enjoyable now that the children will be excluded unless they come with older people and sit with them. The new hall is proof against fire, being built with brick walls and cement floor. The moving-picture booth, also, is thoroughly fire-proof. Opportunities for rapid exit are ample.

AT ELM AND LINDEN

The new \$80,000 business block which Gonsalves and Middleton are planning to build at Elm and Linden will be an important element in the materialization of the greater Winnetka idea. With Linden Avenue widened to the present frontage of Rapp's grocery, the Mall extending from Linden to Chestnut, and this business block and other new buildings erected, there is no reason why Winnetka should not have the finest business center of all Chicago suburbs.

THE NEW MASONIC TEMPLE

Every beautiful and useful structure is a contribution to community wealth. Every such building adds to the resources of the city or the village in which it stands.

Winnetka's Masonic temple, dedicated recently, not only has inherent worth, intrinsic merit, but it also adds to the value of Winnetka as a whole. It gives dignity and strength to the entire community.

Moreover this structure is a pledge, in a way, to the citizens of Winnetka and of the north shore that future buildings will be of similar worth.

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