

LIGHT WONDER ORGAN COMING

Skokie First School to See Famed "Clavilux" in Action

PRONOUNCED NEW ART

Georgous Color Effects Enrapture Critics

For the first time since Thomas Wilfred startled the theatrical world with his noted light organ, the "Clavilux," he will present the exochal instrument in an American school when he fills an engagement in the Kuppenheimer Memorial auditorium at Skokie school, Saturday, February 23. Direct from a sensational tour of the nation's best theaters, Wilfred has consented to come to Winnetka after negotiations of several weeks between his manager, Miss Rachel B. Kinsolving and W. W. Beatty, principal of the Skokie school.

"I am convinced that Wilfred's invention marks the opening of a new field in the art world," Mr. Beatty says. "I believe that it will completely revolutionize the science of theatrical lighting from which it originated. We are unusually fortunate to secure his concert for Winnetka."

Deluge of Color

Through an arrangement of lights and shadows, controlled by the organist, the "clavilux" throws upon the screen a beautiful deluge of colors, brilliant, pale, soft, radiant, glittering, melting, ever-changing, which are said to fascinate the eyes of the spectators.

Describing the instrument the Theatre Arts magazine says:

"You sit within the darkened theatre before the space in which the light will play. There is a complete silence; and presently you become aware of a proscenium opening. Impalpable forms appear on the sides; they are pale, almost white, they move in a slow, waving rhythm like soft curtains; you see one alone and you see others moving in it and through it and beyond it. A faint blue fades into depths between these forms; and then suddenly in the center of it far away a crimson appears. It has no form; it radiates from its own depths, and is the image of nothing but crimson and its power. And then it sweeps up into soft lines; it is drawn upward as if we saw the paradise with spirits rising; it is like a robe swept upward into paradise; it is gone. At the lower end the same form appears and another with it, seen through it, then others; they are white now; the crimson comes into varying rhythms at the sides; those long robe-like forms draw upward again; pause, hover, return, change to amethyst on blue to gold, to fire."

"Impossible to Describe"

Like all other criticisms this one ends with the admission that "what we see is impossible to describe." One art cannot describe another; words cannot describe the "clavilux." It must be seen.

Sponsors of the instrument describe it as follows:

"The 'clavilux' is the first instrument to make possible the development of light as a fine art. Though resembling a pipe organ it plays in color instead of tone. On a white screen in a darkened hall, beautiful color forms appear, assuming ever changing shapes, with one exquisite hue melting into another, glowing into vividness and fading away. Beautiful intangible figures of light, receding into nothing, then bursting back in glorious waves of color. The varia-

tion of shape and color bring as much enchantment to the sense of vision as music does to the sense of hearing. The "clavilux" is played with stops and keys, and from written music, or the performer may extemporize.

The "clavilux" has been seen by hundreds of thousands in the Eastern cities, in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Buffalo, and at the Baltimore Festival of Light was seen by 100,000 at one time. It was presented in Cleveland seven times in one season. It has been called "the marvel of the age," and Thomas Wilfred, the inventor hailed as a genius and the pioneer of a new Art. The Drama League has named him as one of ten persons who have done the most for the theatre in America. Among those who saw a "clavilux" recital in Chicago and are most enthusiastic about it are Frederick Stock, Georgio Polacco, John Alden Carpenter, and well known writers, artists, musicians and scientists.

"Some day we may have such an instrument to play with at Skokie school," predicts Mr. Beatty. "It is not at all impossible that the future will see them indispensable for entertainment and instruction."

Definite plans have not been arranged but Wilfred will probably give a concert in the afternoon for the school children, exclusively and another in the evening for the public. On his trip to the north shore he will appear at only one other town, namely, Evanston.

Charles Wylie, Former Winnetkan, Passes Away

Stricken with heart trouble, Mr. Charles Wylie, a pioneer of Winnetka who knew the village when it consisted of a dozen houses, died at his home in Milwaukee Tuesday, according to word received by Winnetka relatives. A Masonic funeral was held Friday afternoon and burial was in Milwaukee.

Grinnell Wylie, of 898 Elm street, Winnetka, is one of the three sons surviving him. He also leaves three daugh-

ters and a brother, Allen Wylie, formerly of Winnetka, but now living in Minnesota.

Twenty-six years ago Mr. Wylie, with Elmer E. Adams, Winnetka postmaster, and other pioneers came to Winnetka, then a small hamlet in its swaddling clothes. They built homes on Spruce street and devoted their energies toward building up the community. Six years later Mr. Wylie moved to Milwaukee where he resided until the time of his death.

Davies Organizes Boys' Club; Invite Members

A club for Winnetka boys ranging from 9 to 12 years in age, or just under Scout age, is being organized at Community House by director J. W. F. Davies.

The club meeting is every Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock in Community House and interested mothers of boys of the age indicated are requested to send them to the club meeting.

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