

## 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 post office at Winnetka, Illinois, as mail matter of the second class, under the act of March 3, 1879.

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1924

*Depress the Tracks.*

*Give the Business Men Fair Play.*

*Build a New Village Hall.*

*Enforce the Traffic Laws.*

*Build the Truck Road.*

### TAKEN FOR GRANTED

A friend of ours made a trip recently to Excelsior Springs, Missouri. He rode from Kansas City to his destination, a distance of about thirty miles, on an ordinary suburban electric line. The journey took an hour and a half. The car and its furnishings were shabby and out-of-date. The road-bed was rough. The service on the car was poor. All in all, it was a most unsatisfactory trip, and he hopes he'll never be obliged to repeat it.

Compare that medieval electric system of transportation with our North Shore line. (This is not a paid advertisement.) We scarcely need call your attention to the following details except to emphasize the pre-eminence of the North Shore line among electric railroads. It maintains a fast and exact and well-filled schedule. The cars and their equipment are thoroughly modern. The road-bed is firm and even. The motormen and conductors are intelligent and considerate.

Let us recognize the difference. Let us not be numbered with those who never are, and never can be, satisfied. As we expect others to be grateful to us let us be grateful to others and not take too many things for granted.

### "U. S. V. NO. 72"

The full address is "F. J. Mitten, U. S. V. Hospital, Helena, Montana."

Just the address of an American soldier, formerly a teacher in Wilmette, gassed in the war, incapacitated for active teaching, and now laid up in a Montana hospital.

It's lonely for him lying there on that hospital bed. He recalls too many times those happy working days before the war when he was teaching manual training in the Wilmette public schools. Then he thinks of those days in France and of how the gas got him. And afterwards how he came back to his teaching, how he couldn't stand the strain and at last had to give up. And then after giving up work he grew worse and finally had to go to this hospital. And he wonders after nine months of confinement why it all had to be.

Won't some of the boys, who knew Mr. Mitten as their teacher, send him a friendly message, chat with him in a letter about the old days when he and they were in school together in Wilmette? Think of how much you would enjoy a word or two from friends if you were lying there day after day like Mr. Mitten just waiting and hoping!

### N. T. P. T. A.

New Trier Parent-Teacher association was born May 9, 1924. It came into existence as the result of a plea made by Superintendent Clerk that the parents of the high school pupils actively cooperate with the school officers and teachers in the discharge of their common responsibility, namely the education of the young people.

Parents who are genuinely interested in the forming in their

children of good habits of feeling, thinking, and doing, cooperate in as close a way as the hyphenated term, "parent-teacher," indicates, with those in the school who direct the youth. Such parents help their children judiciously, give them needed encouragement and stimulation, and thus bring their children to know that their parents are truly "with" them. These parents visit the school, not so often as to become bores, but just often enough to get themselves a sincere invitation to "come again."

Fathers who are active members of a parent-teacher association, when asked what studies John is taking, know the correct answer just as certainly as they know the latest stock market report on National Biscuit or hogs. These well-informed fathers know that Mary is not doing so well in French as she might. They can converse intelligently with Mr. Clerk on the relative values of Latin and Zoology as educative agencies.

Are you a P. T. A. man—or woman?

### THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Many a village and city in this land of exceptional opportunities has no public library. Many of these communities can boast of excellent private libraries containing hundreds of literary masterpieces, but since they have no public libraries they suffer a great lack.

In such a town there are numbers of children who have no access to books and magazines and so go mentally hungry and in addition form no habit of reading. And not only the younger people, but also the older, must go without the culture that good books can give and moreover even for the amusement that books can give must find it elsewhere, very likely amid debasing surroundings.

In such a town you will see no such encouraging sight as children going regularly to the library with an armful of books and coming out of the building with another armful. You will not see either in the home or in the library children and adults sitting around the table, their minds journeying to all sorts of interesting places.

North shore towns are not in this unfortunate class. Every community has its public library, from which thousands of books are borrowed every week. Every annual library report shows surprising figures. For example almost a third of these who live in Wilmette use the Wilmette library. During the past fiscal years these people borrowed from the library 60,440 books, twice as many as they took three years ago. The report shows that by far the greatest number of books read are in the class of fiction. This is perhaps unfortunate, because there are other classes of books that are much more edifying, as for example history and economics and biography. The value of the habitual reading of fiction is slight.

Three items from the Wilmette report are instructive. Although over 60,000 volumes were read last year the total tax for maintenance was only \$6,500, which, since it did not cover expenses, had to be augmented by voluntary contributions amounting to \$1,000.

We're grateful for our PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

### "LET'S GO KITING!"

They're always doing novel things on the north shore. The latest is kiting. You make a kite—big, little, high-flying, or funny—and then on June 14 you take it to Skokie Playfield and there compete with the other kites. If your kite is the biggest, or smallest, or flies highest, or is the funniest, you get a prize. But if you're a grown man you can't compete; it's only for youngsters going to school in Winnetka. Maybe, however, you can give your son some good ideas.

# NORTH SHORE LINE

## New Awards Each Day

ON OCTOBER 11th, 1923, the North Shore Line was awarded the Coffin Medal for its distinguished contribution to transportation. That fact is widely known today. Yet there is something to tell of the months that have followed.

We feel that receiving the Medal was as much an obligation to do greater things in the future, as it was a reward for past performance. The Coffin Medal is carefully put away, as befits so valuable a prize. Yet every day, as we operate our trains over the road, we carry with us the spirit that prompted its bestowal.

Each day we receive new awards—awards of increased patronage and good will from residents of the North Shore. These substantial awards spur us on to greater accomplishments as nothing else could do.

Fast, frequent trains from the center of Milwaukee to and through Chicago's Loop to 63rd Street on the South Side serve every intermediate community.

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Elm Street

Telephone Winnetka 963

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