

Winnetka Weekly Talk

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SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1924

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

WHERE SHALL I GO?

If you find yourself without anything particular to do next Sunday evening at six and if you are young, though over high school age, and unmarried, take your best girl or boy or just yourself to the next meeting or the Sunday Evening club at Community House. The club is non-sectarian and its purpose is purely social. Get there in time for supper, which is served at six. After supper will come a social hour and then a program of some sort—a speech or music or the reading of a play.

There is need in every community for just such an organization. And Sunday evening is a good time for it to hold its meetings. Almost every young man or woman is a bit restless on Sunday evening. Young people want to be doing something; they can't stand it to be sitting around. Talking is somewhat tame for them. They like to be with their contemporaries, especially of the opposite sex.

We're glad that there's a Sunday Evening club in Winnetka.

SPONGES

In Winnetka there is an insistent rumor, fathered by some of the most prominent citizens and Lee Adams, that the park board is in the market for bids for several car-loads of sponges with which to soak up the water on the Playfield golf course. This method will no doubt mop up the course sufficiently to make it fit for play before the close of the season.

FOLK SINGING

During the war there was a great deal of community (or folk) singing. Almost every public meeting was opened with singing by the whole assembly. We needed some stimulation to pull us up to the emotional demands of those strenuous days. Singing filled the bill, and so we sang with enthusiasm "Over there" and "Keep the home fires burning" and "The long, long trail." We felt all the thrills that come from singing in unison and in harmony.

But the joyful excitement that marked the armistice celebration also marked the almost total cessation of folk singing. Since that time there has been practically no singing by large groups; audiences are now nothing but audiences, people who merely hear, surely a most inadequate participation in any activities. Our voices are going back again to their original hoarseness and we're forgetting the 101 or more "songs that everybody likes to sing."

It's all wrong! We like to sing. We want to sing. Why aren't we asked to sing? Fred Carberry, well-known leader of community sings at the Municipal Pier, says that no matter where he goes his leading of community singing meets with the heartiest co-operation. Farmers, city people, children, business men—everybody enjoys singing together.

Why shouldn't there be as much singing now as there was in war time? We need it! We enjoy it! Won't those who have charge of public meetings plan to begin the meetings with folk singing?

GOSSIPERS

The habit of spreading "bad" news about others is not uncommon. No time or group of people has been entirely free from this vice of talking more or less maliciously about others. The information which is thus passed around may be true. What we are concerned with is the too common habit of liking to point out the failings of others. When Adam in the famous apple incident put upon Eve the blame for his misdoing he set an example which has been followed ever since.

Why is it that some people enjoy indulging this habit? It seems to yield them a positive pleasure. In fact it might be truly said that scandalmongers, big and little, always like their nefarious business.

We advance our own answer to this question. May it not be that those who take such illicit pleasure in dissecting others are envious of their victims? Perhaps they themselves would like to do the very things they find so unusually reprehensible in others; but they fear the consequences. It has been said, by Macaulay, we believe, that the Puritans denounced bear-baiting not so much because of their sympathy for the bear as because they hated to see the bear baiters having such a good time. In other words they envied the baiters.

Our conclusion then is this: If scandal-spreaders would mend their own erroneous ways, set their own houses in order, they would have neither the time nor inclination to think and talk of other people's faults.

OUR SECRET AMBITION

It is our secret ambition to buy an island. Mr. Arrowood, who used to live in Wilmette, recently bought John's Island in Indian Bay near the city of Greenwich, Connecticut. Some years ago Mr. James Porter of Hubbard Woods, bought an island off the Maine coast. And a month or so back Mr. Kinney bought Big Strawberry, an island in Green Bay. As yet we own no island.

Think of owning as your very own a whole island. Recalling the definition that an island is a body of land entirely surrounded by water you will see that an island-owner has just reason for holding himself a little aloof from ordinary men. Having sole title to such a body of land he might well be pardoned for climbing to the highest point in his domain and declaiming, as he gazed on the landscape, "I am monarch of all I survey; my right there is more to deny."

If you see a great big gray automobile bus sliding past your home after midnight, you will know that a party of "night hawks" is being carried back to the wicked metropolis a dozen or so miles to the southward.

This gray auto-bus collects passengers at Madison and La Salle. At 7:30 in the evening it begins its journey towards the north shore. It follows the boulevard route until it reaches Lake avenue in Wilmette, where it turns westward and keeps on until it reaches the Garden of Allah at Waukegan road. There the hungry tourists disembark, and there they dine and dance. Round about midnight they climb aboard the bus, which retraces its way to the Loop.

It is a great privilege for toil-worn urbanites to get even a fleeting and night-covered glimpse of the celebrated north shore, and to instil into their smoke-tinged blood a gallon or two of pure suburban oxygen.

Cross crossings carefully. Always regard the other fellow as a poor driver and act accordingly. Before you cross, pause long enough to look up and down the intersecting street; look right (especially right because the driver on the right has the right of way) and left; then if all's clear, go ahead.

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