

School Leaders Rejoice Upon Dedication of Assembly Hall

Villagers Hear Inspiring Messages at Horace Mann School Ceremonies

EDITOR'S NOTE: Two inspiring addresses featured last Saturday's dedication ceremonies held in Horace Mann school in observance of the formal opening of the new auditorium and class rooms recently constructed in a general enlargement at the central grade school. Since many citizens were unable to attend the dedication, WINNETKA TALK takes pleasure in presenting herewith copies of the talks given by Ernest S. Ballard, president of the Winnetka Board of Education, and Carleton W. Washburne, superintendent of Winnetka schools. The talks preceded a pageant presented by the children of the school, under direction of Miss Douglass Whitehead, supervisor of dramatics in the public schools.

Recounts History

BY ERNEST S. BALLARD
(President, Board of Education)

My family circle includes a doll, now nearing the mature age of ten years, which during a checkered career has had several new heads and at least two new bodies. Yesterday she returned from her latest visit to the doll hospital as fresh as the morning dew and she now looks forward to a long, happy and useful career.

In many ways this suggests the history of this school. The story commences quite far back as time is measured in Winnetka. Prior to 1890 there was no separate board of education and the schools were run directly by the village. Portions of the Village hall, itself a private school in earlier days, were used for this purpose. About 1890 a separate board of education was organized and took over the schools but this was a change in form rather than in substance for the Village hall continued to be used as the school house for another 15 years, under an arrangement by which the board of education paid nothing for it except the cost of janitor service.

Built In 1899

By 1899 the school had overflowed from the Village hall into the library and both buildings were so congested that some new provision had to be made and, accordingly, the original Horace Mann school was built in that year, consisting of three class rooms and the assembly hall and housing four teachers and about 120 children. That original unit is the north end of the present building. About the same number of children continued to be housed in the Village hall and the total enrollment, including the small Columbia school in Hubbard Woods, was at that time 270 pupils.

Village Vs. School Board

In view of the present cordial and friendly relations between the village administration and the school board, it is difficult to imagine friction in that quarter, but the fact is that friction did develop in 1903 when the village served notice on the board that it could not continue to use the Village hall for school purposes without paying rent. The board, with that passion for economy which characterizes school boards everywhere, rebelled at this suggestion and immediately laid its plans to enlarge Horace Mann to a point where it would house all of the children. The project met a temporary set-back when the bids were received and proved to be more than twice as high as the bond issue that had been authorized but the board, under the leadership of Mr. Morris Greeley who was then president, devoted its best efforts to a solution of the difficulty and finally got the bids far enough down and the bond issue far enough up so that the first addition was built in 1904. As a result of this the school housed ten teachers and about 300 children, representing a very large proportion of the total school population of that date.

Heart-Breaking Congestion

The next high spot in the chronicle, or perhaps I should say low spot, occurred during the years immediately following the war when this school went through a period of heart-breaking congestion. In order to meet the situation temporarily the lower grades were all put on half sessions, an additional room was obtained by cutting the assembly in two, another additional room was obtained by partitioning off part of the corridor and another by building one in the basement. In addition to this the school overflowed both into the Parish House and the Library. At that time both a grade school and a junior high school, for the entire village were taken care of in this building. That situation of course came to an end with the completion and use of the new Skokie school and since that time we have not been outgrowing our clothes quite as rapidly as was formerly the case.

The latest enlargement of this building, which is the occasion for our gathering here tonight, consists in the addi-

tion of this very pleasing and adequate auditorium and two new class rooms, one of which was made available by the vacation of the old assembly hall and the other of which was provided about a year ago by converting a former superintendent's office into a class room. The building now houses 17 teachers and 427 pupils and represents a very substantial and busy unit by comparison with the modest beginning of 1899.

Complete Renovation

In connection with the new construction we have rebuilt the entire heating and ventilating system and redecorated the building throughout. As a result no one connected with this school, teachers, parents or pupils, need feel in the slightest degree apologetic for it. Our physical plant here is today the equal of anything in the village and, like the lady whom I mentioned at the opening of my remarks, it now looks forward to a long, happy and useful career. It is almost at the exact center of population of the village and may be expected to do yeoman service for a long period to come.

In behalf of the board I welcome all of you to the school in its new garb—teachers, parents and pupils, and express the hope that you may find as much satisfaction and pride in its daily use as the board has felt in being able to provide it.

Cites Benefits

BY C. W. WASHBURNE
(Superintendent of Schools)

The dedication of this assembly tonight marks the fulfillment of an ideal toward which we have been working for years. Twelve years ago there was not a single adequate assembly hall in the schools. Five years ago the only assembly was that at the Hubbard Woods school—the inadequate little ones in this building and at Greeley had been made over into class rooms. Now every school in Winnetka has a large and beautiful assembly hall.

This policy has a deep root educationally. It is in the assemblies that some of the most valuable lessons of school are learned—lessons more necessary to the welfare of the race than is any amount of book knowledge.

Learn Citizenship

In the assemblies the children learn citizenship through the practice of citizenship. Here children address their fellows and plan the management of school affairs. Here their committees report. Here their officers are elected. It is the assemblies which make it possible to organize the schools as children's communities in which children may learn to play their part in the big community to which we all belong.

It is here, in the assembly hall, that we can give children an opportunity to listen to people who have a message—travelers from foreign lands, or storytellers, or people who know the birds and flowers. Here they can hear musicians and learn to appreciate music. Without a place in which all the children of the school can gather these opportunities would be lost.

Build Ideals There

And it is in this room that children can dramatize episodes from history, bits of literature, ideals, or their own fancies. It is difficult to over-estimate the value of these dramatizations. Through them are impressed vital elements in the life of the race. But above all, in preparing these dramatizations children learn to cooperate. Each child must contribute his special ability to the welfare of all. Each child must subordinate himself to the group of which he is a part.

In the pageant you are about to witness, you will see all these things: Ideals are impressed upon the children through giving expression to those ideals. Glimpses of great events in the world's story are vouchsafed to the children who depict them. And in the preparation of this pageant the children have learned that most important of all lessons—how to work together.

It is fitting that this should be a pageant of service, and that such a pageant should dedicate this hall. For the ultimate purpose of this assembly room is to prepare our children to be of service to mankind.

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Air of Mystery About Sunday Club Gathering

By J. A. H.

All the young people who are attending meetings of the Winnetka Sunday Evening club will agree that each program in recent weeks has been more and more varied and interesting. The plan to make one member responsible for each evening's program is proving very successful in that a variety of talent has been secured.

For example, the meeting of last Sunday evening consisted of dramatic readings by Mrs. George L. Cherry, formerly of Winnetka, and of a pleasing group of vocal selections by Thomas H. Ratcliffe. Mr. Ratcliffe was accompanied on the piano by Miss Marion Lasier. As the last part of the evening's program, the entire group found great enjoyment in the singing of old familiar hymns under the leadership of Mr. Ratcliffe.

Young people who are not attending these meetings are losing an opportunity that is not available in Winnetka in any other group.

The committee in charge of the program for next Sunday evening is not making an advance announcement concerning its plans. This must mean that there is a surprise in store for the club. The meeting will be held as usual at 6:30 o'clock in the Camp Fire room of Community House. Supper will be served.

Red Top Cabs Latest on Winnetka Highways

Residents living in Winnetka who have been wondering where the new, attractive Red Top cabs have come from and to whom they belong, will be interested in learning they are part of the equipment of the Black and White cab service, 552 Lincoln avenue.

There are no others like them on the north shore, the owner, William Merrill, assures us.

The Black and White cab service has also purchased the Brown and White Company, and the cabs now on hand under one management for the use of Winnetka people number 12, besides two limousines.

Alter Play Program of Horace Mann Children

Miss Elizabeth Kirchner, physical culture teacher at the Horace Mann school, announces a change in the play schedule for the school. The children will hereafter have one period of outdoor

play and one period of gymnasium work during the day. This is possible because of the recent addition of a gymnasium to the school facilities.

Mr. and Mrs. F. O. Neubacher of 792 Walden road left on Saturday for Florida.



Winnetka Congregational Church

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

9:30. THE CHURCH AT SCHOOL. Classes for All Ages. Senior boys discuss "Abraham Lincoln."

11:00. THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP. In church auditorium. Sermon, "Thinking Missions Through," Mr. Richards. Music: violin prelude, "Adoration," Borowski; quartets, "The Lord Is Great," Righini, and "Twilight and Dawn," Speaks; organ postlude, "Allegro" from Guilman's third sonata. In Rudolph Matz hall, Sermon to children, "Endure Hardness," Mr. Davies.

6:30. Sunday Evening Club: Camp Fire Room.

6:45. Young People's Club Neighborhood Room; leader, Margaret Stults; topic, "Why do we honor Lincoln so highly?" Recital: violins, Mrs. Brewer and Mrs. Kingery; organ, Mr. Smith. A. Adagio, Moscovski; B. Londonderry Air (Old Irish), Kreisler.

8:00. Lecture: "Abraham: a character study," Mr. Richards.

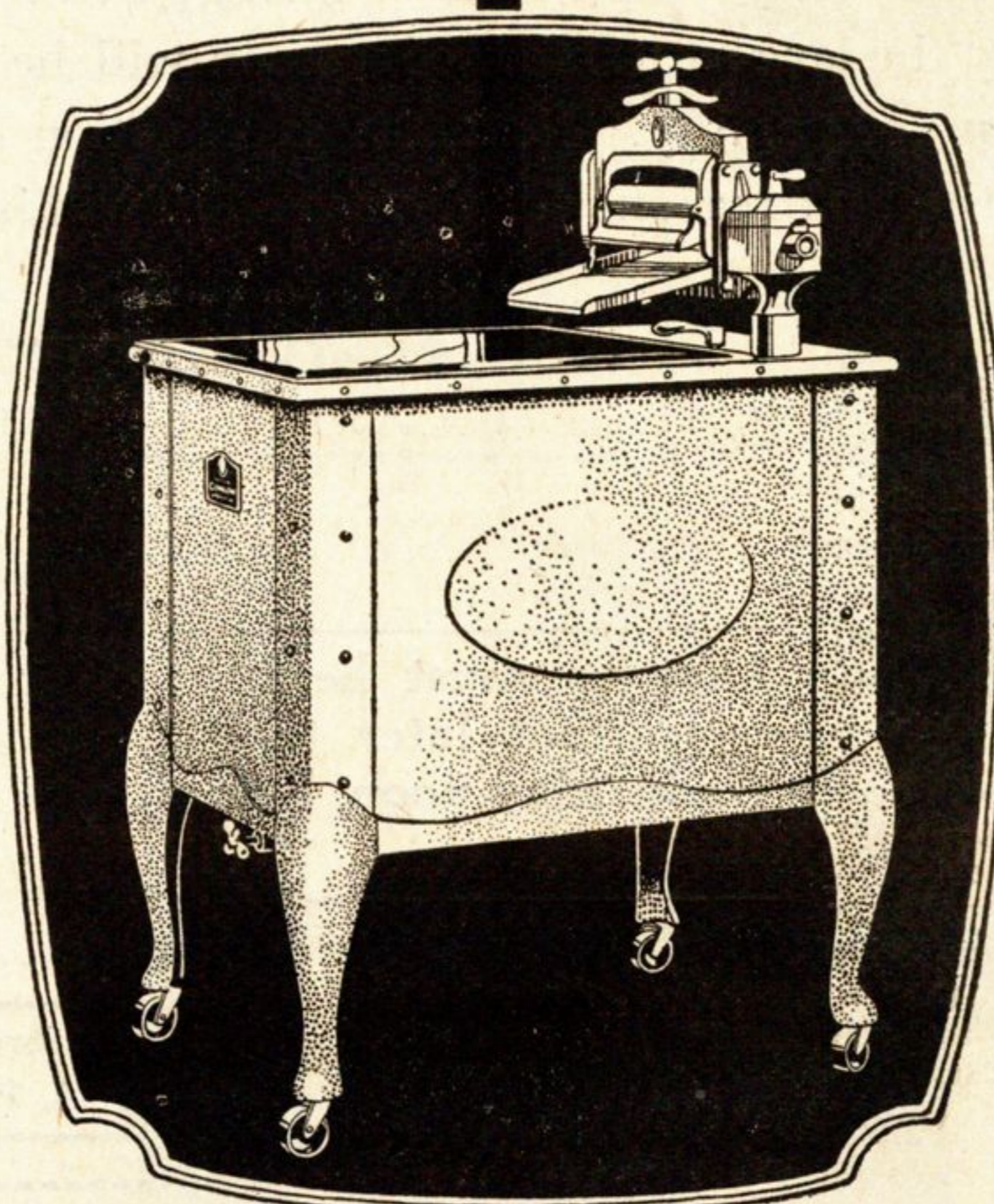
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Raymond Allyn Smith, musical director

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