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Suburbs of Chicago in Midst of Great Building Program

Chicago suburbs are in the midst of a highly propitious building program, bespeaking in many of the neighboring towns active building conditions. Twenty-eight of the principal suburbs made a 34 percent gain in building construction volume in January as against the opening month of 1927. These suburbs recorded official permits totalling \$7,247,535 for January as against \$5,386,280 for January last year.

Phenomenal gains were made in many suburbs, according to the building survey department of S. W. Straus & Co. Whiting, Indiana, led all others with an increase of 10,435 percent in January. Glen Ellyn made an increase of 2047 percent, with a total of \$253,400 for this January as against \$11,800 for January a year ago. Hammond made a January gain of 1069 percent, LaGrange a gain of 481 percent, Lake Forest a gain of 225 percent, Oak Park a gain of 146 percent and Berwyn a gain of 181 percent. Evanston made a gain of 63 percent.

Other suburbs making January gains, together with their percentages, were: Blue Island 18 percent, Chicago Heights 105 percent, Elgin 45 percent, Park Ridge 111 percent, Waukegan 80 percent, Wilmette 21 percent and Winnetka 97 percent.

Losses were sustained in the following suburbs in the January comparison: Aurora, Cicero, Des Plaines, Forest Park, Glencoe, Harvey, Highland Park, Joliet, Maywood, Niles Center, Wheaton, East Chicago and Gary.

Two significant things can be pointed out regarding the figures, according to the report. One is that the gains both in volume and instances, outnumber the losses. The second point is that the suburbs are apparently continuing the pace set by the tremendous development last year.

California Acts to End Value Lowering "Freaks"

Architectural control, power to act against the lowering of values in a neighborhood through the erection of architectural monstrosities and disharmonies, is an interesting feature of the California Act. The Act enables cities to put practically every action relating to the physical structure of the city, whether new layout or corrective measure, into the jurisdiction of an official city planning commission of nine members whose determinations can be overruled only by four votes out of five of the city council.

REALTORS ENGAGE IN SPORTS

Members of North Shore Real Estate Board enjoyed a Bowling and Kelly Pool Tournament at Glenview Recreation, Waukegan road south of Glenview road, on Monday evening.

ILLINOIS CLUBWOMEN TO WORK IN HOME CAMPAIGN

Will Support Educational Plan Designed to Influence Recognition by Government

Club women throughout Illinois will support a national educational campaign designed to influence the government to recognize home-making as an occupation and include it in the next United States census. Mrs. Walter W. Seymour, president of the Illinois Federation of Women's clubs, has just announced. The campaign is to be part of a better homes movement now being conducted by the federation's well-equipped home committee and supported by 100,000 club women affiliated with the federation.

Back of a home survey made by club women all over the United States, as well as in Illinois, is the hope that when the next federal census is taken, the government will list as home-makers all women engaged in keeping house for their families and will make an official survey of home equipment such as was just made by the club women.

Work Started in Many Towns

In 153 urban and rural communities in Illinois, the club women began with the town itself and reported whether or not it has a public water supply, public sewer system, central station electricity, gas service and regular collection of garbage and trash.

The survey in the home was begun where the woman spends most of her working hours—the kitchen. Is there a kitchen sink?—running water?—gas for cooking?—running hot water?—a telephone?—These were the leading questions. Next came inquiry as to electric equipment—lights, irons, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, flat-work ironers, sewing machines, cook stoves and refrigerators.

Then there were inquiries as to whether the home is equipped with a flush toilet, central heating plant and whether coal,—oil— or gas fired. The club women also included in their survey the use in homes of pianos, phonographs, radio sets and automobiles, all of these being regarded as indicative of the standard of living.

U. of Illinois Assisting

Co-operation of the Home Economics Extension Service of the University of Illinois has been secured. The findings of the university specialists are available for use in the campaign.

"I regard this movement," said Mrs. John D. Sherman, president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the national organization, "as a most important measure to rivet the attention of women upon the tremendous fact that home-making is a profession—a career, if you please—wherein every woman's success is reflected in the nation's well-being."

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