

School Catechism for Illinois Has Much Information

Supt. Carleton Washburne, of the Winnetka Public schools, has been notified that in response to numerous requests for information concerning the school system of Illinois, the Illinois State Teachers association has just issued a "Public School Catechism for Illinois." It is a 16 page pamphlet of 60 questions and answers prepared by the research department from official reports in the office of the superintendent of public instruction and other authentic sources. Its purposes are to furnish correct information concerning the common schools, to promote an understanding of their problems, and to create an interest in the solution of those problems.

The members of the I. S. T. A. realize that the public school system is a state institution belonging to the people, paid for by the people, and controlled by officials elected by the people. They know also that the changes and improvements necessary in the system from time to time must be guided by correct and authentic information concerning the system. The catechism is designed to impart such information. It will be found useful by parent-teacher associations, women's clubs, chambers of commerce, the members of civic organizations, and all other individuals and organizations interested in the proper development of our public schools.

Sample Questions

Here are a few samples of the questions and answers given:

- Q. How many pupils are in the Illinois public common schools?
- A. Kindergartens 59,628
- Elementary schools 1,046,755
- High schools 251,255

Total enrollment, (1927) ..1,357,638

Q. How rapidly has the high school enrollment increased?

A. During the last 27 years the high school enrollment has increased 548% although the general population of the State has increased but 45%. The high school enrollment in 1900 was 38,758; in 1910, 63,302; in 1920, 127,821; and in 1927 251,255.

Q. How many school districts are there in Illinois?

A. Illinois has 116 consolidated districts; nearly 500 township and community high schools; 106 two-year high schools; 171 three-year high schools; 682 four-year high schools; 10,142 one-room country schools; total number of districts, unit system and otherwise, 11,971. Illinois has more districts and more one-room schools than any other state in the Union.

Q. What is being done in various states to encourage the abandonment of small schools?

A. Twelve states aid in building consolidated school buildings by giving funds or by lending money at reasonable rates of interest.

Special bonuses to encourage consolidation are awarded in 17 states.

Twenty-five states grant specific aid in financing transportation of school children.

Seventeen states have set specific distances beyond which children must be furnished with transportation.

The mandatory closing of schools of small attendance is provided for in 12 states.

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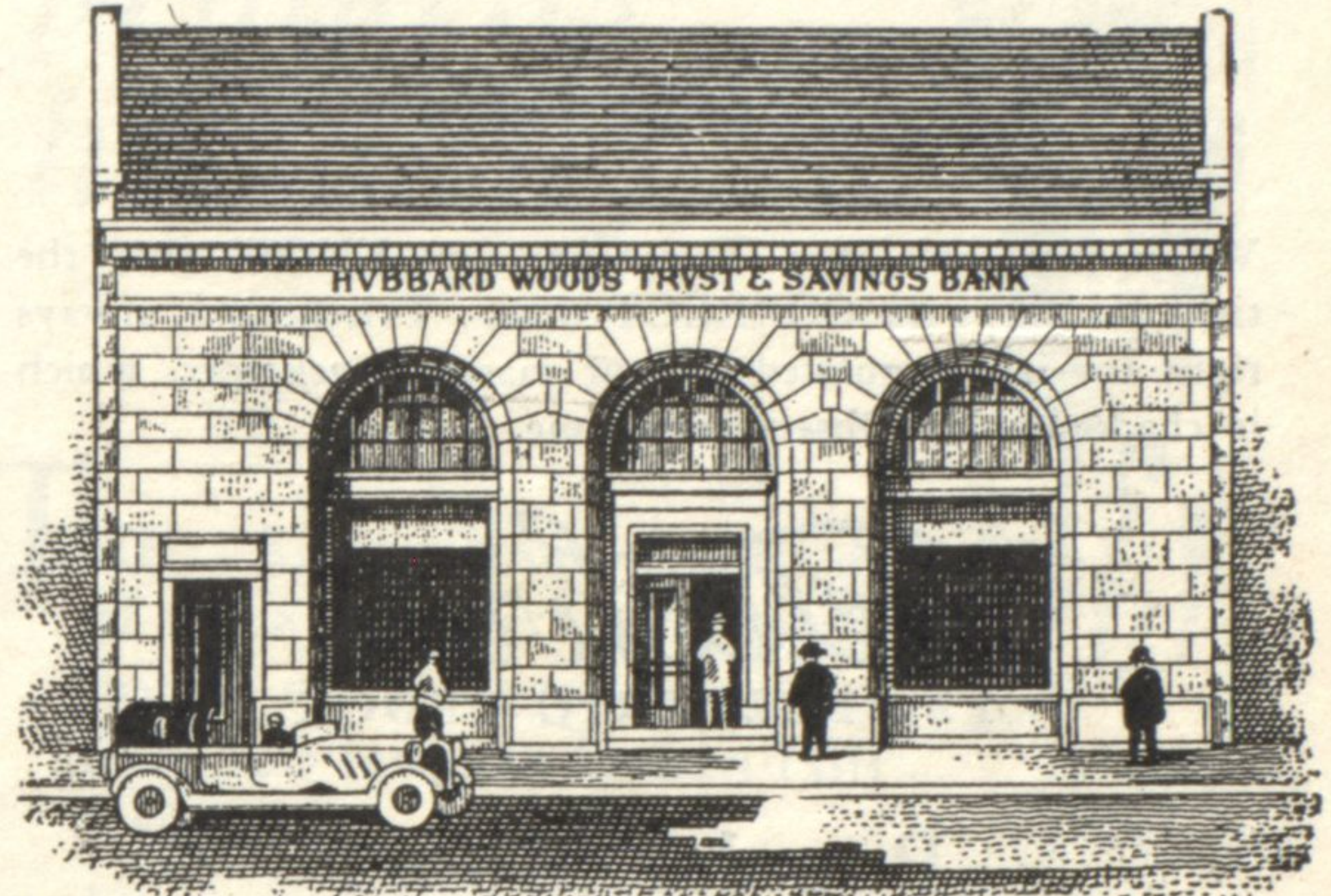
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The Yule Lane Holiday Shops

The Yule Lane Holiday Shops will open in Community House on Tuesday, December fourth at one-thirty, and continue through Wednesday, December fifth.