

Originality and Beauty Shown at Legion Masque

Joseph Byerly and Mabel Bessler, in Colonial Costumes, Win First Prize—Hopkins a Judge.

Originality and beauty were represented in the costumes of many of the 125 couples attending the Valentine masque ball given by the American Legion in the Burgess-Nash ballroom Saturday.

Prize winners in three classes were picked out by four judges, Mrs. Myrtle Mason, Dr. Emelia H. Brandt, Earl Gaddis and City Commissioner John Hopkins.

In the beauty class Joseph Byerly and Mabel Bessler in colonial costumes, won first, a \$7,500 accident policy from the Foster-Barker insurance company, and a \$1,000 policy given by Thomas Kelly of the Travelers insurance company.

In the comic class, Mrs. L. E. Litchfield and Mrs. J. P. Stodden, dressed as hoboes, won first, receiving a \$25 credit at the Schmoller and Mueller company and 10 pounds of candy.

Rose Tanner is second. Rose Tanner won second in the beauty class and received a dress pattern and \$5 credit at a silk shop.

Miss Sidney and Sumner Stebbins won second in the original class and were given a handbag and a fountain bag.

Chinese Boys Sing. Second in the comical class, H. R. Weinberg and G. C. Chizum, won a box of cigars and a dozen pictures.

Home in Exclusive District Is Looted

Residence of C. G. Smith Is Robbed of \$1,000 in Silverware and Jewelry.

The home of C. G. Smith, president of the Northwestern Life insurance company, 114 South Fifty-first avenue in the West Farnam district, was ransacked by burglars yesterday and more than \$1,000 worth of silverware, articles of jewelry and \$23 in cash stolen.

Hearings in Stillman Case Postponed Week

Omaha Bee Inmate Wrote. Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Feb. 12.—Hearing on the application of Mrs. Anne U. Stillman for \$6,960 additional funds with which to continue her efforts to obtain evidence in the suit for divorce brought by her husband, James A. Stillman, was postponed for one week by Supreme Court Justice Morschauser.

The postponement was granted counsel for the banker with the positive understanding that the court would not tolerate further delay.

Man, 66, Takes Poison by Error; Will Recover

Charles Kruger, 66, 420 North Seventeenth street, narrowly escaped death yesterday shortly after noon, when by accident he swallowed poison instead of medicine he had been taking.

Police Surgeon Kinyoun gave emergency treatment and said Kruger would recover.

Desler Commercial Club Will Hold Open Meeting. Desler, Neb., Feb. 12.—(Special)—There will be an open meeting of the Desler Commercial club in the opera house Tuesday evening, February 4.

Henry Behring, fire chief, will tell what he learned at the recent state meeting of volunteer firemen.

Henry Sittler, the mayor, will explain the cost of the sewer system now nearing completion and give figures of the town's bonded indebtedness.

L. R. Brooks, representing the civic improvement league of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, will give facts and figures on paving.

Saturated with a chemical preparation that changes color with the weather, a lapel button that serves as a personal barometer has been patented.

Dog Hill Paragrafts

By George Bingham. Poke Eazley today was showing his friends a suit of clothes he had had for 11 years, and they are still as good as new.



Sidney Hocks would like for the public to join him in a movement which would do away with the legs on eating tables, as every time he goes to a big dinner he has nowhere to put his knees, and he cannot eat without them.

Salem Barlow passed through our vicinity today with a bundle tied up in his handkerchief. Sid Hocks holed and asked him if he was moving.

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Junior Endeavor Groups in Contest

Five Societies Are Joint Winners of Banner for 100 Per Cent Attendance.

The banner offered by the Omaha Christian Endeavor society for the junior society having 100 per cent attendance at the junior rally at First Central Congregational church yesterday afternoon was won jointly by five junior societies.

It was announced at the rally that the annual county fair will be held May 19 and 20, and the district convention June 23 to 25.

Corns?

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Lad Crossing Street Struck by Motor Car

Solly Oaten, 5, of 1618 North Twenty-fifth street, suffered severe



bruises about the head and face when he was struck by an automobile while crossing the street at Twenty-fourth and Franklin streets about 2 yesterday.

Two Seized With Fatal Attacks of Epilepsy

Epilepsy proved fatal to two persons in Omaha yesterday, death resulting almost instantly in both cases.

Miss Susie Paulsen, 38, living with Mrs. A. F. Daley, 2556 Harney street, suffered a severe stroke early yesterday morning.

Robert Davis, 30, laborer, 1212 South Seventeenth street, died suddenly yesterday morning in his home when seized with an attack.

"ONWARD... OMAHA"



Civic Bodies and Civic Progress

VICTOR S. YARROS, in The Survey.

One of the most interesting and original features of the recent Chicago meetings of the American National Municipal League and of the comparatively young but vigorous and vital City Managers' association and the Civic Secretaries' association, was a very frank and sharp discussion, at a special and "intimate" session, of the question of the present status and immediate prospects of the civic bodies of the country in the light of public morals and civic progress.

The topic as presented for discussion was rather vaguely formulated, but it was made quite plain by the chairman of the meeting, Mr. Dykstra, the civic secretary of the City club of Chicago, that the object of the rather unusual session was to analyze, review, criticize, if necessary, the records of the typical civic bodies of the country and point out their defects, omissions and failures—if such there were.

Of course, there was a general and shrewd suspicion that "the fur would fly" and that many tonic but unpleasant things would be said. These conjectures and expectations were fully borne out by the addresses and discussion.

One of the speakers, George Sykes of Chicago, a veteran civic reformer, in a carefully prepared address, argued that the useful and productive life of the average American civic body is about 25 years, and that any civic organization that has reached that age needs a thorough overhauling, a searching of heart, a substantial infusion of new zeal as well as of new understanding and new sympathy with the ideas and aspirations of the community it would serve.

He declared that civic bodies, like other institutions, tended to ossification and petrification, or, at any rate, to excessive caution and conservatism; but, aside from this general proposition, he gained the necessary American civic bodies functioning today were born under social and economic conditions profoundly dissimilar to present-day conditions and were not sufficiently democratic in character.

Prof. Augustus R. Hatton, of Western Reserve university, a well known student of municipal problems and charter reforms, endorsed what Mr. Sykes and others had said and gave an impressive illustration.

In the successful campaign for a new charter for Cleveland, and for a city manager and proportional representation as the most important features of that charter, the "old" civic bodies of that city did nothing, said Prof. Hatton, to aid and encourage the new organization that had been called into being to "put over" the new charter.

And yet, when the result of the Cleveland charter election was announced in the press, civic reformers and friends of good administration all over the country rejoiced.

Another Chicago speaker briefly reviewed the activities and programs of the existing civic bodies in Chicago, commending most of them. But, as he pointed out, with hardly a single exception those programs and activities have lacked the "dramatic" quality, the appeal to the imagination of the average body of voters, the burning and compelling interest which other issues, ripe and imperative, evidently possess.

Thus it is an admirable thing to fight for legislation that does away with "interest graft"—the pocketing by officials of interest earned by public funds on deposit in the banks. To a Chicago civic body belongs the credit for the legislation that has at last put an end to a scandal and a species of theft—the conversion of public money to private or machine use by state, county and city treasurers.

Again, another civic body has fought waste and "legitimate graft" in the form of payroll padding and duplication, and has prevented an annual taxation at one time or another.

All this is good work. But, unfortunately, it enlists the interest of but small groups of citizens—if not actually of the same group under the different names and in different directions. The public at large may even approve in a passive way of this sort of civic reform. But there is little thrill in it, little inspiration. Elections are not determined by it. Cities and counties are not "swept" by undramatic issues. Spoilsmen and greedy, selfish machines are not overthrown by them.

And yet there is in Chicago, at this time, a vital and burning issue—traction—an issue which has determined elections and will continue to determine them; an issue which spoilsmen exploit and which lends itself to chicanery and humbug; an issue which overshadows all others and properly so.

The Chicago civic bodies are ignoring the essential traction issue. They dare not take a bold, progressive position concerning it. They, or most of their members, are opposed to public acquisition, ownership and operation of the elevated and surface transportation systems, and this is the solution that the majority of the voters seek and are resolved to secure.

A positive, sound, modern traction plan is necessary in Chicago. Is such a plan to be devised and presented by the civic bodies? If not, why not? Without a superior plan in opposition to the machine's plan, the voters will follow the machine in the end. They want action—relief, better service, rapid transit. Why are not the civic bodies functioning in connection with a pivotal and paramount civic and moral issue?

This was the challenge the Chicago speakers addressed to the civic bodies of Chicago. To repeat, there is nothing exceptional and anomalous about the Chicago situation. In other communities like situations exist, or are developing. Privately, active men in the civic bodies plead guilty to the faithful, well-intentioned indolence. The challenge they say, is timely and wholesome. Civic bodies must democratize themselves—take up knotty issues, face them boldly—even if members may be lost—and make sure that they live in the present, not in the past.

It would be a splendid thing if every community that is proud of the quality and number of its civic bodies should do for itself what the Chicago meeting did "nationally"—but rather superficially, or experimentally; namely, take stock locally, revalue values, apply the acid test, if there be one, to the existing civic bodies and declare the result. "Watchman, what of the night?"

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