POPE PARK CLUB HOUSE IS OPENED

1-27-20

Many Children Enjoyed Pictures and Lolypop Party Last Night.

Pope Park Club House was officially opened last night when about 200 children gathered to attend a lollypop party and stereopticon exhibition, under the direction of S. Wales Dixon, supervisor of recreation. The club house is on the city tennis courts, and the children enjoyed themselves immensely at last night's entertainment. The pictures were views taken from the city parks, and several popular songs were sung during the evening. This is the first year that such a club house has been in operation, and there is no doubt of its success.

The house-mother is Miss Clara A. Pausch, who was manager of "Camp Courant" last summer. At last night's affair, several of the youngsters were anxious of knowing whether or not "Camp Courant," was to have another trip in 1920. The kiddies were told that the camp was certainly going to be on the map once more.

The Pope Park Club House will be open daily from 10 a. m. to 5:30 p. m., and on the following evenings, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 7:30 o'clock. These evenings are for men and women of the neighborhood as a rest, play or party house. Men and women employed in nearby shops are invited to bring their lunches to the house during the noon hour, each day, and to enjoy all the privileges of the house. Children can go afternoons just after school and all day Saturdays, and the young people of the neighborhood may use the house on Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights, there being rooms for their games, so as not to interfere with the older people present.

There are games for the children, aids, checkers and books for the men and women, and a victrola may be used at all times, as it was last night when it was faithfully grinding out canned music from the opening to the close.

TREES IN POPE PARK DESTROYED

SUPERINTENDENT PARKER TELLS OF VANDALISM THERE.

Damage Done Far Greater Than in Any Other Park.

SETTEES AND LAMPS ARE BROKEN EVERY EVENING.

The March meeting of the park board brought out some talk as to vandalism in Pope Park and also produced a statement by Superintendent of Parks George A. Parker as to the wanton destruction of trees there. After Miss A. W. Moore asked for treatment for the decaying or hollow trees, Superintendent Parker was ordered to make an investigation of the condition of the trees in the park and he now has men engaged in that work.

It has not been completed as yet, but yesterday Mr. Parker said that he had had returns as to 112 trees near the tennis court and 1,179 in the grove, and that the work has not yet been carried south of Park street. He said that Miss Moore's statement as to the condition of the trees was pretty conservative and he felt that he should probably present a worse one, as he expected to find more hollow trees than she did. Superintendent Parker says that no trees have been set out on Pope Park since 1910 and no more are likely to be until the park people can find some way of protecting property, as at present the vandalism there probably equals that committed in all the rest of the parks combined.

By way of illustration he said that in 1910 the department set a triple planting along the lines of Park terrace, the growth nearest the walk being of shrubs, the next of hemlocks and the third of maples. The planting was between 1,000 and 1,100 feet long and the whole work is now a wreck. The shrubs were torn up; either to be taken home and set out or tossed about the streets for the pure love of destroying. Boys ruined the hemlocks by climbing toward the tops of the trees and then trying to swing across from one to the other, until the young trees were broken off and ruined. The maples were disposed of, by boys, too, apparently. The smooth, gray bark of the young trees was peeled off with jackknives and the trees, being girdled, died. Under those circumstances Mr. Parker says there seems little use in setting more trees.

Mr. Parker said that he could excuse a good deal of the work which is done by the smaller boys, it being very human for a boy to use a jackknife when opportunity offers, but a good deal of the trouble in Pope Park is the work of adults. Mr. Parker said that the number of park benches smashed averaged three per night through the summer, high spirited frequenters of the park raising the settees high above their heads and smashing them down on rocks or against tree trunks. Mr. Parker has also in his office one souvenir of an unavoidable accident, which consists of the trunk of a spruce, about three inches through, which was broken off level with the frozen ground when a double ripper carrying a party of eight struck it. The eight got off the sled almost immediately, but it was too late to save the tree.

Mr. Parker said that he did not mourn over the loss of this tree, becuase it was evidently an accident, but he did find the wanton destruction of trees, lights and settees a trifle discouraging, inasmuch as it seems to meet with the approval of some of the persons who live in the neighborhood. He cited the instance of the latest tree burning on the park, when men who were watching it refused to let boys notify the fire department, while the neighbors refused to allow the park employees to draw water with which to extinguish the fire.

Superintendent Parker said he felt that one occasion of the deviltry is, perhaps, that there is nothing else to do there at times and the people justify the truth of Dr. Watts's hymn that "Satan always finds some work for idle hands to do." When the tennis courts and other summer attractions open on the park the vandalism sinks to its lowest ebb, and Mr. Parker feels that if the park was developed to its utmost as a recreation spot there would be a great deal less trouble. Now, men remain there orderly enough until the policemen leave at 10 p. m. and then the lights and settees suffer. A certain spirit of daring seems to be back of the boys, as they run to a safe distance when they see a park employee and then shout profane or filthy remarks at him. It appears evident that the park needs several policemen with durable nightsticks and some spanking apparatus on the side.

In the matter of vandalism Bushnell Park approaches the nearest to zero, its publicity being its salvation probably. It would be difficult for any one to cut down a tree on Bushnell Park or transplant pansies or tulips without detection. Elizabeth Park, which is very fully developed as a recreation spot, suffers but little through the season, while Riverside Park comes next. In speaking of Riverside Park Mr. Parker says that, though it lies near the quarter inhabited by the foreign speaking element, surprising little damage is done. The people, he says, were brought up under a ruler where a blow on the head or worse was likely to follow anything of the sort. When a tree is cut down on Riverside Park, he said, it is not through a desire for deviltry but through a desire for the wood. The things which the park men there have to look out for are indignant men who go there to fight it out or drunken men who go there to sleep off the effects of their drink.

In Goodwin Park the caretakers have trouble enough to keep them busy, but very little in the way of vandalism is attempted until the season for Christmas trees come and then a watchman is kept night and day in the nursery of evergreens in the southwestern corner of the park. Last December a watch was kept in the same way in Pope Park with the result that but one tree was stolen from the park and that was taken about 2 o'clock one morning. Just how the park authorities will work out their problem at Pope Park remains to be seen. At present the problem does not appear to be a source of pride to the people who live in that neighborhood.

---

tone is of course so great that it would be absurd even to compare it with last year's concerts. The woodwinds are especially favored by the new shell, as are the deeper strings. The greatest gain would seem to be in the distinctness with which the individual instrumental voices and timbres can be heard—an improvement in fidelity to instrumental character.

Yesterday's program was an ambitious one for the Civic Symphony Orchestra, presenting the overture to the "Marriage of Figaro" by Mozart, the harp concerto by Zabel and Cesar Franck's Symphony in D Minor.

The Mozart score is one of the most delicate trifles in all the literature emanating from this composer. It requires the lightest tone qualities, high clarity, brillance of coloring, deftness, humor and verse, mostly to be worked up and out by the strings. Some of this could not but help escape so young an orchestra as the Civic, but in the main they dealt with it very pleasantly. The most easily made improvement might be achieved by heightening the extraordinarily vivid crescendo which comes shortly before the close of the work.

Harp literature, as far as the average concertgoer meets with it, is something of a rarity. Mr. de Stefano's choice of the Zabel Concerto held in itself thereore bfoth interest and novelty. The work turned out to be an amiable and well-woven score, offering the romantic, the idyllic and the festive in its three movements.

Most of all it presented the harp as a more vigorous, substantial and versatile instrument than it sometimes would seem to be. Throughout the major part of the work, [illegible]m and orchestra are heard in performance, the harp taking [illegible]ch like the part borne by the pianoforte in concerti for that instrument—certainly not becoming the instrument for embellishment and embroidery that it is often made to be. Mr. de Stefano gave a first rate performance, even though crowded considerably by the orchestra. His playing of the long passage of solo figuration toward the conclusion of the work was especially notable. His audience gave him most enthusiastic response.

In approaching the Franck Symphony, the Civic Orchestra again displayed courage and ambition. Mr. Coniglione interpreted closely after the most customarily heard pattern and did quite well with its general thematic outline and tonal contours. There was a general feeling of rigidity above it however, and at times a slowness which tended to devitalize. More orchestra color would not be amiss, especially from the brasses, which were quite on the pale side, and more vitality from the first strings.

Now that the shell has been provided to build up the orchestral acoustics, decided steps must be taken to prevent this advantage from being negated by noises in the park. Children need quieting, which may necessitate refusing admission to troupes of youngsters from six to 10 years, who without supervision by adults caused considerable annoyance yesterday. Roller-skating is another disturbance that can be eliminated. Whether anything can be done to keep airplanes from cruising over the area as they did continually, is another question.