

INGS

ST

IVE

GT

K

TY

1826

1826

Official Record of the Proceedings
OF THE
BOARD OF FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSIONERS

For the Forest Preserve District of
Cook County, in the State of Illinois

FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 1926
AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1926
(FISCAL YEAR 1926)

ANTON J. CERMAK.
PRESIDENT.

WILLIAM J. GORMLEY.
SECRETARY.

Yeas: Commissioner Bemis, Fitzgerald, Goodnow, Kavanagh, Miller, Pelka, Penfield, Peterson, Ryan, Whealan—10.

Nays: None.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
PUBLIC SERVICE**

May 17, 1926

To the Honorable, the President,
and Members of the Board of Forest
Preserve Commissioners of Cook County

Gentlemen: Your Committee on Public Service, to whom were referred sundry matters having had the same under advisement, begs leave to report as follows:

Section 1

Your Committee has considered Communication No. 3057 from Mr. A. H. Loula, Supt. of Efficiency, recommending that barn at 107th and Keane Ave., Palos, and old farm house and barns located at 143rd and Harlem Ave., be wrecked, and concurs in his recommendation that these old buildings be wrecked.

Section 2

Your Committee has considered the following report on Communication No. 3039 reading as follows:

"April 30, 1926

To the Honorable, the Chairman and
Members of the Committee on Public
Service, of the Forest Preserve District
of Cook County.

In the matter of Edgebrook Manor Betterment Association in regards to Caldwell Avenue, in Edgebrook.

City of Chicago installed a sewer last Fall, and the road has not been shaped up, contractor who constructed the sewer will have to replace the road.

Respectfully,

E. J. FLAVIN,
Chief Engineer."

and recommends that the contractor be instructed to see that this road is placed in proper condition.

Section 3

Your Committee has considered the following recommendation from Chief Engineer Flavin:

"May 17, 1926

To the Honorable, the Chairman, and
Members of the Committee on Public
Service of the Forest Preserve
District of Cook County.

Gentlemen: I have been requested to report and make recommendations on the construc-

tion of a sewer which is planned by the City of Chicago, to be laid on Lynch Ave., and Indian Road, from Laramie Ave., to Lillard Ave.

This proposed improvement is in Caldwell's Preserve.

In my opinion this assessment is not to exceed \$1500.00 and is very reasonable, and should be confirmed.

Respectfully

E. J. FLAVIN,
Chief Engineer."

and concurs in the recommendation of the Chief Engineer, on this improvement.

Section 4

Your Committee has considered the following report from Chief Engineer Flavin:

"May 14, 1926.

To the Honorable, the Chairman and
Members of the Committee on Public
Service, of the Forest Preserve District.

I have been instructed to report on the communication from the Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company, in regard to filling at Halsted St., and the Little Calumet River.

I find that we could use most of this filling at our holdings at Halsted and Little Calumet River, as the land is very low, for about one hundred feet, south of the River.

This filling could be used to good advantage provided it is done under proper supervision of the Forest Preserve District.

Respectfully,

E. J. FLAVIN,
Chief Engineer."

and recommends that the filling be done, under the proper supervision.

Section 5

Your Committee recommends that the North wing of the Salt Creek Dam about 40 feet be extended and built about 30 lin. ft. of roadway in order to protect Salt Creek Dam at this point, as per recommendation of the Chief Engineer.

Section 6

Your Committee recommends that the following requisitions be referred to Assistant Forester L. W. Maclean, and that he be authorized and directed to issue orders immediately upon the approval of this Board.

No. 2230, 2233, 2235, 2237, 2241, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257.

Section 7

Your Committee recommends that a log cabin be erected by the Forest Preserve District south of 95th St. Palos (at Lake) for the Forges Post Legion, and that a Log Cabin

the Village and dedicate this land for the opening of streets in said Village.

Referred to the Committee on Public Service.

No. 3129—From President Cermak, transmitting communication from Albert J. Gallistel Chairman Executive Committee of the East Side Chamber of Commerce, with reference to the entrances into the Forest Preserves at 114th Street.

Referred to the Committee on Public Service.

No. 3130—From President Cermak, transmitting communication from Jerome J. Klapla, of the Chicago Aeronautical Service, to lease the Lomax Property at Irving Park Blvd., and Thatcher Road, which they are now using, as an air port.

Referred to the Committee on Public Service.

No. 3131—From Marie, Lydia and Clara M. Dietz, by Paul M. Dietz, submitting 3 acres in Section 11-42-12 Northfield.

Referred to the Real Estate Committee.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

October 11, 1926.

To the Honorable,
The Board of Forest Preserve
Commissioners.

Gentlemen: I transmit herewith copies of speeches delivered on Sunday, September 26th at Palos Park, at the dedication of Forges Wood, and Cabin in the Forest Preserve, and suggest that they be made a matter of record, and printed in the proceedings.

Yours very truly,

ANTON J. CERMAK.

PRESIDENT CERMAK

Address of Presentation of Forges Wood and Memorial Cabin at Palos Park in the Forest Preserve, Sunday, September 26, at 2 P. M.

My brother members of Forges Post of the American Legion.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, it is my pleasure to present to your Post this memorial section and cabin in the Forest Preserve District.

I want you to know that in this presentation, we recognize the deeds of valor which emblazoned the record of the 132nd Regiment on that memorable September 26, 1918.

It is fitting that the memorial should be erected to the men who stayed over there as well as to the men who returned, and it is my belief, that in addition to those present here today participating in this presentation and dedication, there is hovering about us the spirit of those men who fell in that inferno while an attack was being

successfully carried out, but what the French Colonel who gave the order, thought was impossible.

I hope that those same spirits will hover frequently around Forges Cabin—that in your pleasures and in your ceremonies the spirit and memory of these men will have a part.

I feel that in the presentation of this memorial cabin and section of the Forest Preserve that we are but carrying out a similar intention as was emphasized when the 5 Congressional Medals of Honor were bestowed upon officers and men of the 132nd Regiment for bravery and heroic work during this engagement.

If you men of this great Post receive any pleasure and recreation out of this gift of the Cook County Forest Preserve Commissioners, you are getting only what you deserve and I believe that the entire County of Cook will join with us today in the celebration of this great event which recalls again the valor of the men of Forges Post. It is with pleasure that I, on behalf of the Board of Cook County Forest Preserve Commissioners, present to you, to your officers, to your members, this Forges Memorial Woods and Memorial Cabin of Palos Hills.

COLONEL GARRITY

Eight years ago this 132nd Infantry at Forges Wood accomplished in a few hours that which the French and Allies had been trying to do for over four years. I will leave the description of this wonderful feat to General Davis who is to follow and who commanded the Regiment in the engagement.

Love of Country and flag was the inspiration that lead those men to their heroic deeds and accomplishments, as it has in all this country's wars since Washington. The same patriotism has carried on through all these years, through the Mexican wars, the Civil war, and the Spanish war.

Teaching of the history of the historic deeds of valor in all of our previous wars, aided by the many monuments and memorials erected through out our land, has kept the fire of patriotism burning until 1918 when it emblazoned in the hearts of the men of the 132nd Infantry on the field of France at Forges Wood.

They have done their part and have done it well—they have given you and I, who were not there, a grand opportunity to keep blazing that fire of patriotism in the Youth of today and of the days to come.

We have in our land today men and organizations who would destroy our form of Government, we have lecturers in our colleges who would erase from our histories all reference to the heroic sacrifices made on the battlefield by our country's protection, and who are endeavoring to wipe out our Army and Navy, thereby leaving us without protection against attack from any enemy, either within or without our boundaries, and should not be allowed to call themselves citizens.

You, Commissioners, by your action in allocating this ground and designating it as Forges Wood in honor of the heroes of the 132nd, who made its supreme sacrifice at Forges have proven your patriotism and have done your part in encouraging the coming generations to protect that glorious flag under any and all circumstances,

for no boy can learn of your action and the heroic actions of the dead that you have honored, without feeling in his own heart what a wonderful country he is privileged to live in.

And now, Commissioners, let me on behalf of Forges Post No. 196 American Legion, thank you, and to accept Forges Wood in the interest of Patriotism and to promise you that as long as our Post lives this spot will not be neglected.

Remarks of Brigadier General John J. Garrity, in accepting on behalf of Forges Post No. 196 American Legion, the allocation of Forges Woods in the Forest Preserves at Palos Park, Illinois

Eight years ago today, the 132nd Infantry accomplished at Forges Woods in four hours that which the French and other Allies had been unable to do in four years. I will not touch further on this subject as General Davis who is to follow and who commanded the 132nd Infantry in that engagement will, no doubt, give you a more detailed account of the battle than it would be possible for me to do.

Patriotism, Love of Flag and Country was the inspiration that carried the men in that wonderful accomplishment as it has in all our Country's Wars since the days of Washington.

History as has been taught in our schools aided by the many battle monuments and memorials throughout our land is responsible for this great patriotic spirit in our American soldiers and you, County Commissioners of Cook County by your allocation of this beautiful piece of ground with log cabin, well and flag pole to carry Old Glory, have done your bit in promoting patriotism in hearts of the youths of today and the days to come; for what boy can visit this beautiful spot dedicated to those who made the supreme sacrifice at Forges France without feeling in his heart a desire to emulate those whose memory is glorified by your actions.

Men and Organizations today would tear down our form of Government and so called Peace Organizations would wipe out our Army and Navy and teachers in many of our Colleges erase from our text books all reference to the heroic deeds of our American Soldiers in every War of this Country, such are not fit to be called citizens for who can say that conditions in this World today would permit this or any other Country to expect safety from attack either from within or without, just because we were unprepared and unable to defend ourselves.

And now, President Cermak, and County Commissioners in behalf of Forges Post No. 196, American Legion, I want to thank you for this elegant log cabin, flag pole, well and allocation of land in the interest of patriotism and to promise you that in so long as Forges Post continues to exist this spot will not be neglected.

**GENERAL ABEL DAVIS
Forges Woods, Palos Park, Illinois**

This is a solemn gathering to commemorate the initial stage of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the turning point to victory in the World War, and particularly to note the part which the 132nd Infantry played in that important engagement.

Eight years ago, on the 26th day of September, 1918, the Allied Nations launched this epoch making offensive, the line of attack reaching from the River Meuse to the North Sea. The 132nd Infantry was the pivot for the general advance which was to swing to the North and drive the enemy off the West bank of the Meuse. For two weeks prior to the attack, the 132nd Infantry took up the front line trenches of the famous battlefields at Dead Men's Hill in front of Verdun. The officers and men of the 132nd, sons of Illinois, relieved the 408th French Infantry Regiment and for two weeks preceding the Meuse-Argonne Offensive stood watch over the approach to the city of Verdun, where a million lives were given to stop the advance of the enemy.

When the order reached me as the Colonel of the regiment, that we would leave our trenches at Dead Men's Hill and attack the enemy in front of us, I was reminded of my first inspection of the Sector made with the Colonel of the 408th French Infantry. He was explaining our defences as well as those of the enemy. As we were standing in an observation post, looking across the river, he said "An advance in this direction by either side is impossible. The Germans tried it and failed. We shall possibly never try it ourselves. Any movement against the enemy would have to be from the East side of the Meuse. We are on the west bank. The River Forges, the barbed wire entanglements, which have been going through a process of improvements on both sides for the last three years, the machine gun nests on the edge of Forges Woods and the whole scheme of the German defence would make an attack by us quite impossible". When the attack order reached us, it provided for what the gallant French Colonel considered quite impossible: to hop over the top, cross the Forges River, attack the enemy in the Woods, capture the town of Forges, swing around to the East, and establish a line of approximately 2000 meters in length on the west bank of the Meuse.

Courage, determination, bravery expressed in a conviction that life in naught compared to the glory and honor of the flag under which our men fought, accomplished the very task which the French Colonel assured me was unattainable. Within five hours after we started, we crossed the River Forges, captured the Woods, and what remained of the City of Forges, drove the enemy across the river and began digging in to hold the line on the banks of the Meuse. This glorious accomplishment called for sacrifice. Sixteen dead and seventy-five wounded was the toll exacted.

While the first day of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive is the outstanding event responsible for our presence today, this—the Forges Woods in Palos Park and the Forges Memorial Cabin which we are dedicating today, shall remind us not only of those whom we lost on the memorable September 26, but also of our 300 heroic comrades of the regiment lost in the conflict and laid to rest beneath the soil of France, and 1500 others, who came back with us wounded, maimed, distracted incapacitated temporarily or permanently, to take their places at the tasks which were theirs before the war. Those of us who survived unharmed shall ever cherish the memory of our dead. Shall ever hold out a hand of comradeship to those with whom we fought. And we shall

ever be proud of the opportunity which was ours to fight under our Nation's colors. Sacred are the names of the dead and the living who formed the great American Army.

At the crucial time in the history of the world America threw its weight in the conflict to make certain that Prussian militarism, carrying its views on the point of the sabre, would not dominate the world. Great and timely was the help of America. We came when the future of the Allies was hanging by a slender thread, when as a result of the terrific onslaught of the Germans the Allied Armies were thinking in terms of hanging on rather than in terms of an offensive which would terminate the war. We came to France, full of youth, dash, valor and courage unknown in the annals of the world. Braver men never lived than the sons of this great Republic, who crossed the Atlantic to help the Allied cause. We threw ourselves into the conflict without thinking of the sacrifices to be made, nor caring for any returns in case of victory.

We are engaged today in consecrating this ground to the memory of those, living and dead, who gave themselves to the cause of humanity and for a better world.

The words of our Great Emancipator come to my mind—that the lives of those which have been given in the service of the Nation will have been given in vain unless the living dedicate themselves to a line of action which will carry forward the work begun by the honored dead. It is not my purpose to speak of America's future line of action to bring about the greatest benefit to humanity by following up the work started by the sons of America on the battlefields of France. I am asking that we follow the admonition "that we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave their last full measure of devotion". The particular kind of devotion which I would ask on this occasion, is that devotion to the determination not to sacrifice unnecessarily the lives of Americans as we have in the past whenever the youth of America unflinchingly responded to the call to arms.

Let not an iota be detracted from the glory of those who shall ever be close to our hearts by my statement that many a mother, possibly here today within the hearing of my voice, would have had the happy chance of embracing her son rather than cherish his memory as one of the heroes of the war, had we in times of peace and without any thought of entering the world conflict given every youth an opportunity to equip himself for the possible emergency of a war.

Proud indeed is every American of the accomplishment of her sons in France—and sorry indeed is each American for each life lost which might have been saved. Among those who came to us to take the place of early casualties, were men who were expected to fire effectively upon the enemy without having had an opportunity to fire a practice shot. Men were expected to take care of themselves in the face of seasoned and trained troops without having had a chance to learn the rudiments of field life.

The Pacifists do not have a monopoly on their desire for peace. It is a characteristic trait of the American Nation to live at peace with her neighbors, to be just and fair to all the peoples of the world. Speak to the men around you in this gathering who took part in all of the engagements of this famous regiment. These men, who

have seen their comrades suffer, who have seen them die—who have seen innocent children, old men and women, driven from their homes never to return to them—these men who have lived through the horrors of war, never want to see another war. And these men, who have proven their devotion to the Country's cause on the battlefields of France, will in times of peace readily give themselves to any line of action which would bring the right understanding between America and the other nations of the world to eliminate or at least reduce to a minimum the possibility of war. But the desire for peace shall not deter us from the conviction that the youth of America of today shall have an opportunity to be prepared to defend our Nation's honor and position, and without unnecessary sacrifice to be able to resist a foreign foe and to protect and defend the institutions of our great Republic for which so much precious blood has been shed, from the days of the Revolutionary War to the Armistice Day of the World War.

I have no misgivings about the future of America. As the youth of the Nation responded in the past by giving its blood that the Country might live, so it will respond again whenever that hour comes. I am pleading for the obligation which we owe to those who are growing into manhood, the future defenders of the Republic. Let us dispel the cry of the misguided, weak-kneed, vacillating, pussy-footing pacifists by insisting that every young man be given an opportunity to develop himself physically, to lift himself spiritually to a sense of responsibility to the Nation. Above all, let us insist that each young American be allowed to learn the rudiments of military life, increasing his chances of returning home as a useful patriotic citizen, rather than being left behind as a dead hero.

To this cause of fair play to the youth of America, let us dedicate ourselves on this sacred spot in the name of those who have made the supreme sacrifice and given their lives in order that this great Republic might live—for the sake of its citizens—for the sake of a better world.

FROM THE CHIEF ATTORNEY

Check Letter No. 873

Forest Preserve District of Cook County.
Law Department

Chicago, September 28th, 1926

Honorable Anton J. Cermak,
President Board of Forest Preserve
Commissioners of Cook County.

Dear Sir: On March 15th 1926, (Page 73 Proceedings), the Board authorized the purchase of the following described property, to-wit:

A part of the S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 30-42-12 situated as follows: Commencing at a point on the center line of said Section 50 rods North of its south line, thence west 40 rods, thence south 10 rods, thence E. 40 rods, thence North 10 rods to the place of beginning, and also: The E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of the S. 1-3 of lot 14 in County Clerk's Division, Sec. 30-42-12. at \$500.00 per acre.

Our Engineering department certifies 5.830 acres in the tract.