

# Our House Supplement of The Birmingham Eccentric

## Village Players Add To Interest

By Carol Higgins Farrar.

With the organization of the Village Players, in March, 1924, a group of people interested in the study of dramatic effort was brought together. Although the Village Players use a Community House for their performances, it is an independent organization, with an enthusiastic membership limited only by the capacity of the Community House Assembly room. It has a long waiting list of villagers who desire of joining the ranks of the workers. For a worker each member must be; it is not historically necessary that he be drafted for service in scene painting or shifting or daubing; property men, duty, costume designer, electrician, or any of the multitudinous jobs entailed in the production of the musical drama.

The first production was "Oliphant Down," "Maker of Dreams" with George M. Reilly, M. Rolfe C. Spinning, and Mr. Forbes Hascall as the cast, given the last of March, 1924. The stage set, in black and white, was designed by Mrs. John J. Gaffill and executed by Mr. Loren T. Robinson and Mr. Spinning. In April, Al Weeks, "\$90.00," an uproarious farce, was performed by Mr. E. A. Gaffill, Mr. G. E. Goff, and Mr. Loren T. Robinson. The first offering of the fall was in October, "The Bank Account," by Howard Brock, an excellent bit of acting by Mrs. G. M. Dwehly and Mr. F. F. Woodruff, supported by Mrs. G. E. Goff. The play was directed by Mr. W. G. Fellows.

The November program provided "Light," with "The Hanging" directed from the story by W. G. Jacobs, featuring Mrs. G. E. Goff, Mrs. Thomas Murray, Mr. Loren T. Robinson in Cockney roles; and with Mrs. E. W. Reilly and Mrs. Harold Middleton giving a most pleasing performance in "Columbus," by Colin Campbell.

The holiday season necessitated a suspension of activities during December, but on January 15, "Trifles," Susan Glaspell's splendid one act play was given by Mr. James D. Farrar, Mr. Rolfe C. Spinning, and Mr. Loren T. Robinson, followed by "Nettie," a farce by George M. Reilly, which Mrs. Leitch, Mrs. Jack Burkman, Mr. Herbert Zerbe, Mr. Loren G. Stauch and Mr. Treder took part. The February program was comprised of "The Return of David Gull," by Mr. E. W. Reilly, Mr. A. C. Litter and Mr. Waldo F. Frees, by Stanley Houston, and "Trifles," by Susan Glaspell. The splendid one act play was given by Mr. James D. Farrar, Mr. Rolfe C. Spinning, and Mr. Loren T. Robinson, followed by "Nettie," a farce by George M. Reilly, which Mrs. Leitch, Mrs. Jack Burkman, Mr. Herbert Zerbe, Mr. Loren G. Stauch and Mr. Treder took part.

## To The Birmingham Community House

Oh, Happy House on Maple Road, You've come to be the glad abode Of all those things that make life fair— Those better things that all may share; If so they wish—and thus, you build A unified and friendly guild, Whose work for good spreads out among Our people all—the old and young!

You seem to stand for all that's good, And build for common Brotherhood! You cater not to class nor creed, But lend a hand to all who need. The helping hand when life is hard, And for your help, ask no reward. Thus, Happy House, to us you give A worthy creed by which to live!

So, little House, to you we sing, And friendly hearts to you we bring! For, in your rooms we grow to be A unified community. With creeds and factions thrust aside! Long may your doors be open wide To all that's good, and real and true! Oh, Happy House, we sing to you! April 10th, 1925.—CHARLES S. KINNISON.

## House Is Open To Various Groups

By Florence Baker White

In the World of Business our Community House would be highly commended for clearing the way for our Public may come together to discuss and crystallize its numerous and varied interests. Whether it be a well organized association or a temporary committee, any group may find in the Community House a place for discussion of education, religion, hygiene, music, business, or other subjects. Now that we have so many subjects not belonging in school auditoriums as well as in liberal art schools, the Community House, granting the use of school buildings as community centers. What place shall the Community House take in the future? At Bates and Maple?

Perhaps it is the Civic League which keeps open house at some time or another, for the public place to hear matters pertaining to village or county government; or it may be the Religious Community House, organized for its members. Possibly the Women's Literary Society is bringing a speaker on music to the Community House. The University Women are publicizing certain problems of the "pre-choir" school. Teachers, leaders, and merchants may mingle here when a committee brings a speaker on the drama. The Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Business Women may listen to leaders in their field. The local government, teachers, merchants may mingle here when a committee brings a speaker on the drama. The Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Business Women may listen to leaders in their field. The local government, teachers, merchants may mingle here when a committee brings a speaker on the drama.

## "Community House Is The Agent of Exemplary Community Spirit"—Gore

By Russell Gore

The geographical unit which Birmingham transcends geography. Such a community of homes as this is a spiritual entity.

Consider what has caused Birmingham to grow. Not because, certainly. Our business is limited to that which can secure the community efficiently. We have no industrial magnet to draw population from the other side of the city. What then is responsible for Birmingham's leap forward in population, importance and general desirability as a place to live?

Is it not that we of Birmingham are bound together by a common ideal? It is a place, the billboards tell us, where children thrive. Why are they here? Why are they here where we are trying to provide a pleasant, safe and friendly environment for young and old alike. We are attempting to found homes free from dirt and noise. We are co-operating with our school authorities in providing educational facilities which are the highest standard. We have the ideal of clean government, superior to petty bickering and personal animosity. Now that we have the physical surroundings which nature provided we are trying to create a better life for all. Birmingham is merely back yard. Birmingham is reaching for beauty in environment, for a better life, for a gentleness and courtesy in its contacts. We wish a community where children may grow up happily and safely, a community in which the noblest influences will be prevalent.

We desire which we share is community spirit. The Community House, for which funds are now being raised, is the agent of this spirit to which we have dedicated ourselves. It is a practical exemplification of this spirit. It incarnates the neighborhood spirit of Birmingham, the focal point and distributing center for the spirit of kindness, friendship and helpfulness which animates us as individuals.

When Birmingham was smaller the men and women in it met and built a community policy on a firm basis of personal knowledge of each other. We were a mob and not a community. We acquired community spirit through the personal acquaintance with the people who lived about us. We had a center to which the latest friendships in each one of us may turn. We were a mob and not a community. We acquired community spirit through the personal acquaintance with the people who lived about us. We had a center to which the latest friendships in each one of us may turn.

## Why the Community House Asks and Does Merit Your Support

By Ruth Edger Shain

In view of the fact that the Community House is about to ask the people for their support for another year, it seems fair to ask the above question and to expect an answer to it.

A few years ago an epidemic of organizing swept over the country. Men were the leaders but women fell into line with societies of their own. Whatever the merits or demerits of this dual movement club-wad, one result is beginning to be evident—the public mind is being educated. The fact that men, women and children spend less time at home than ever before—that is, in the home as a place of refuge, is a fact of the day. The fact that men, women and children spend less time at home than ever before—that is, in the home as a place of refuge, is a fact of the day.

## All Days Are Interesting Ones At Village Community House

By Mary Clark Griffith

All days are interesting at the Village Community House, but there are a few that stand out as red letter days because of their varied and amusing incidents.

On one particular day at about 6:45 a.m. I heard a violent rattling at the front door. Upon investigating, I heard Mr. Hanna calling, "Miss Griffith, I can't unlock this door! What can be the matter?" Mr. Hanna is our good friend and caretaker. Going downstairs I found the door double locked and after letting him in I returned for another nap.

At 7:30 I was startled at the persistent ringing of the telephone. "Can it be fire?" I thought. No. Not at all—only a police officer from a neighboring town wanting to know if I took children to board. After some difficulty in making him understand that I had not yet taken over that branch of work, I decided it might be easier and more restful to stay up and prepare for the day's struggle.

## Building Committee Is Planning Future House Developments

By Katherine Williams

Since the Community House Board has plans under way for the organization of a building or finance committee to deal with the imminent necessity for a new Community House, the features of such a building might well be considered.

It is understood that the planning of a building will include the provisions of such a committee as well as the question of financing it. Birmingham is the ideal location for a large, well equipped Community House. It is a small and rapidly growing village with many different groups of people and a good many children. Birmingham needs a center for its interests and activities of the present time; the immediate future will bring added interests and groups.

## Study Of Government Aim Of Civic League

By Cecil Whalen

Monday afternoons were set aside by the first Community House Board to be used for some special civic program which would be of interest to the women of the house. The chairman was selected and a group of women was invited to meet October 1, 1925, and discuss the matter.

After several meetings it was thought advisable to form an organization for civic and philanthropic work. Officers were elected, a constitution drawn up, and a name chosen and the purpose of "The Woman's Civic League" was declared.

The members have studied and worked earnestly and the league is now steadily trying to do its best. It cooperates with other clubs and with other civic and philanthropic work. Its programs have furnished many women on the various issues involved in elections and the qualifications of prospective candidates. As far as could be ascertained, regardless of party differences.

## Welfare, Charitable Work Have Own Field

By Charles J. Shain

Because welfare and charitable work belong in a field by themselves, they should be so handled. Doing work of the very nature of the problems involved, spasmodic and unsystematic efforts toward relief, however well intentioned, do more harm than good. It becomes necessary to deal with charity as a social service policy with some continuity must be adopted in a growing village.

Reviewed logical this year to use the one organization already in existence that comprehended all social welfare work, the Community House. Its director, a competent sociologist, represents and leads the other available workers, the public spirit of the town.

## ECHOES FROM OTHER COMMUNITY HOUSES

From Winnetka

To the many folk who make up the Community House of their daily life, there is no need to try to justify the existence of the Community House. It is sufficient to secure the general of their financial, as well as moral support.

To those who have more recently come to live, or who have not touched with it, Community House serves support because it affords a place for recreation, for pleasant meetings, for young and old; because it is a civic center for numberless of the people who live in the Village; because it gives opportunity for self expression in many ways; because it gives the younger generation particularly, a spirit of fair play, respect for the rights of others, and fellowship; because it is a place of character, and cooperation in all civic interests.

## House Will Carry On Girl Reserve Move

By Gertrude Griffith Moore

The Girl Reserve which is playing such an important part in the character development of girl students of high schools and colleges, is being carried on in the Community House.

The flexibility of the Girl Reserve plan is particularly well adapted to these girls, and it is being considered, as it does, the primary demands of the school curriculum as well as the rights of the girls at home and the church to the girls' margin of free time.

Supplementing rather than substituting, these varied and important interests of one of the carefully worked out objectives of the plan which has met with such wholehearted endorsement wherever the work has been undertaken.

## Miss Mary Clark Griffith, Director Of The Community House Since Fall

Miss Mary Clark Griffith, director of the Birmingham Community House since Fall, is a woman of many talents. She is a native of Birmingham and has spent her entire life here. She is a graduate of the University of Alabama and has a degree in education. She has been in charge of the Community House since the fall of 1924. She is a woman of many talents. She is a native of Birmingham and has spent her entire life here. She is a graduate of the University of Alabama and has a degree in education. She has been in charge of the Community House since the fall of 1924.

## Birth Day Party To Picture Lawn Scene

A birthday party in a garden is being given by the Birmingham Community House on Tuesday, April 14th. The party will be given in the garden and will be a picture lawn scene. The party will be given in the garden and will be a picture lawn scene.

## Business Women Give Support To The House

To help the Birmingham Community House is good business. A community grows and prospers in proportion as the business women who have common aims and ideals, and work together to achieve them. Birmingham that contributes more definitely, or more actively, to the development of the community spirit that the Birmingham Community House.

## Miss Griffith

MISS GRIFFITH

Miss Griffith came to the Birmingham Community House October 1, 1925, after a training which included the supervision of girls' camps, study under a famous psychologist of the East, and experience as secretary to a prominent business man. She is a native of Dr. S. S. Marquis of Bloomfield Hills, and her sister, Mrs. George Albert Moore, is one of Birmingham's women. She has already made a name for herself strictly on her own merits in the hearts of the people of Birmingham.

## Busy Days May 4 To 11 On Annual Roll-Call

By Caroline Rymond

The days from May 4th to 11th, the busy days for a large group of Birmingham women, interested in the Birmingham Community House, they will be busy days. They will be busy days to renew, you'll say, and asking permission to the Community House you are among the many who have been invited to become a member of the Birmingham Community House.