

Birmingham has always prided itself upon being a strictly residential community. Will it continue to remain so? Or will it allow some industry to come in and relieve mounting taxation?

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART SIX

FIFTY-FIRST YEAR—NO. 47

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1929

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FEW COURT CASES HERE

Crime Slight In Birmingham, Hills, Report Shows

Crime cases still are few in Birmingham and the Hills, reports of Justice Floyd Beck for the months of January and February show.

The number of village cases reported shows a slight decrease with six offenders for February against ten of the preceding month. Four of these were arrested in drunken charges, one being given 90 days probation and the other three paying fines of \$30 each.

Two offenders paying fines of \$10 each brought the total fines up to \$110.

Seventeen cases were reported from the Hills against 15 of last month, paying fines totaling \$322. Eight of these were found guilty of reckless driving charges and paid fines totaling \$170.

Four persons pleaded guilty to disorderly charges, one paying a fine of \$50, and two fines of \$30 each. One disorderly is serving a 30 day sentence in the Oakland county jail. Four violators of traffic signals paid fines amounting to \$37, completed the list of offenders.

During February 12 cases were heard in Justice Beck's court, with three of these bound over to circuit court and one dismissed.

Of the eight cases heard, two were for assault and battery with fines of \$10 and \$20, two for violation of the game law and one for drunken and disorderly conduct. Fourteen dollars costs on an embezzlement charge and a \$15 fine in a grand larceny case brought the fines up to \$159, reports show.

Birmingham passed a quiet month according to the report made public today by Justice Malcolm Hunt. Disorderlies topped the list of offenders with three cases reported with fines amounting to \$45. One offender paid a fine of \$10 and a fine of \$2.50 was paid for operating a vehicle without an operator's license. Fines totaled \$60.50, the report shows.

HOOVER AND CURTIS



Recent and favorite portraits of Herbert Hoover and Charles Curtis, president and vice-president, who took office at impressive ceremonies Monday in Washington.

AMONG THE WOMEN

HOSTESS STARTS EARLY IN SOCIAL WORK

By DOROTHY E. WILLIAMS

"I'll put up \$25." "Make it three." A group of school girls were betting, "Three that you don't get it, Mary."

"Three that I do. It's a go!" The Mary was Miss Mary Clark Griffith, for the past five years resident hostess of Birmingham's Community House. She was then 17 and a student at Northfield Seminary, Northfield, Mass., and the talk was all over a female high school advertisement in a New York paper.

They were a group of boarding school girls visiting older sisters in the city before leaving for their summer holidays. New York had proved so fascinating that they had begun to surreptitiously answer ads hoping to find husbands.

This particular ad was for a school girl could wish—buyer in one of Brooklyn's large shops, three months in the city and then a trip to Paris to shop for the winter stock.

Starts To N. Y. So the next day saw a school girl on her way to apply for a position as foreign buyer at her abrace, little dreaming that she would make it, but stakes were high.

No one was more surprised than Miss Griffith when she received word to report for work the following day. It was a lark to her but she liked her work. She had always enjoyed people and their lives.

Previously she had tried to secure a position as a salesgirl in a basement that she might study the working conditions for girls in the city. She told her employer of her interest and together they tried to better the working conditions of those around them.

Starts Life Work Fall came and Miss Griffith returned to school. Although she resigned her position after a few weeks' employment, she saw enough of working conditions to decide her life's work.

"The highest paid salesgirl in those days was making but \$8 a week," she said. "It is an actual fact that sometimes when they would go to the head of the line for higher pay the answer would be, 'Have you no gentlemen friends?'"

It was instances of this sort that whetted her growing interest in welfare work.

The next few years Miss Griffith spent in college, but always she followed with interest work in the social service field. Through an older sister, Mrs. George A. Moore, formerly of Birmingham, she was in constant touch with welfare activities. Mrs. Moore was connected with Christopher House in New York City and at one time was the head of Hull House in Chicago. Miss Griffith would often go as a volunteer to help her sister in her work and during the war she spent considerable time in eastern work under the Boston Red Cross.

MARY CLARK GRIFFITH

Here Five Years

Five years ago she came here as hostess for the Community House bringing with her a bit of the atmosphere of old Concord, Mass., where she lived for a time. Although a native of Warren, O., she has spent most of her life in the vicinity of Boston.

While in Concord she made the acquaintance of many interesting persons among them descendants of the Alcotts, Miss Ellen Emerson, daughter of Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Frank B. Sanborn, the abolitionist. For a year she was employed in New York City as secretary to Jean Stratton Porter. At that time the authoress was at work on "Freakies" and "The Girl of the Lombard."

More than anything Miss Griffith values her friendships with these persons.

She has done considerable camp work spending her summers at Truro, Mass., on Cape Cod. It was fortunate in knowing the Cape before it became a resorters' paradise. Miss Griffith said, "and to be able to mingle with the quaint natives before they came to rebel against the summer people. One of the highest compliments I ever received was from an old sailor, 'Why you're not one of those summer people, Miss Griffith,' he said." She now owns a summer home at Truro.

People Always Interesting Always Miss Griffith has been fascinated by people whether it be the shoppers of New York City or the simple sailor people of

Cape Cod with their yarns of old whalers. She has brought this same lively interest with her to Birmingham once more drawing about her people from all walks of life, making the Community House the nucleus of village activity.

She has worked with the House board for the past five years. During that time she has established an employment agency at the house which now has considerable patronage in the village. She has made the House the center of activity for many village organizations.

Probably her most extensive service has been in charity work which she has carried on with marked success, investigating personally any cases that come to her attention and co-operating with the village and school health departments.

Miss Griffith makes her home at the Community House on west Maple avenue.

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