

Happy is the lot of children whose mother puts them first. Though a bridge may be reaching on many occasions, it never spans the gap between child and mother.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART THREE

FIFTY-SECOND YEAR—NO. 6

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1929

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AMONG THE WOMEN

Mrs. Laurence Clark Sang With Chicago Symphony

By DOROTHY E. WILLIAMS
Singing is as natural as talking to Mrs. Laurence Clark, of Willets street, well known Birmingham soprano and former soloist with the Chicago Symphony orchestra.

As long as she can remember she has sung, but as in so many cases, her first musical training came on the piano. Even when she was a child of eight she used to spend five and six hours a day practicing, and she enjoyed it.

Mother Aided Her.
There was always music in her home in Evanston, Ill. Mrs. Clark's mother was an accomplished musician, and often in the evening would sit at the piano and play with accompaniment that her young daughter might sing. Even then the mother had dreams of someday hearing her daughter accomplish a singer.

So it happened that one afternoon when Mrs. Clark, then Marie White, was nearly 16, a musical friend dropped in to call and found the young girl singing to her mother's accompaniment. And that very casual call decided her career.

"Marie has a voice," the friend told Mrs. White. "Why not train it?" A few days later she saw the 16 year old girl, accompanied by her mother, appearing for a try-out at the Chicago Musical College. Teachers were enthusiastic and she was immediately taken to Herman DeVries, the instructor. So her voice work began and an interested mother saw far in the future the realization of her dream.

Life in her home continued much the same with the learning of songs sung to a mother's accompaniment. And there were concerts she attended in the city and opera.

Church Soloist
Shortly after entering the musical college she obtained her first singing position as a soloist in the Lake Forest church. "This was my first public solo and I was terrified," she said. "I longed for the floor to open and swallow me." For the first and the last time Mrs. Clark knew stage fright. It was unpleasant but it prepared her for future appearances. When the time finally came for me to appear before large audiences, singing was so natural there was no thought of it.

She had not been a pupil of DeVries long before she was awarded a scholarship to continue her work at the Chicago Musical College. She studied there for five years. They were busy years, crowded with concert recitals and work. Finally she became teacher of voice at the Illinois Woman's College, at Jacksonville, Ill., and later associate professor of voice at James Milliken University, Decatur, Ill. But in spite of her duties she kept up her concert and recital often touring and appearing in



—Photo by Arnold Studio

MRS. LAURENCE CLARK SANG

Study was continued under C. F. Champlain.

It was about this time that she married Laurence Clark and again made her home in Evanston. For a time the thoughts of a musical career were given second place, but never for a moment did she give up her musical work entirely. "Although I place a family and a home far above a career, I believe that a life can successfully encompass both," she said. "The demands of a family merely for a time subordinated thoughts of a career."

Then word came from Frederick Stock, director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, asking her to sing with the orchestra at Ravinia Park. It was the work she loved. "More than anything, I enjoy singing with an orchestra. There was so much pleasure in that first appearance that it seemed no novelty. I sang as I had been told to sing with the same naturalness that one knows in humming around the house." During that season Mrs. Clark appeared numerous times with the orchestra.

Always her work was acclaimed by the critics, with flattering words for the brilliant soprano. There was endless praise, but one person's criticism sounded above the rest. That was the praise of her mother who had dreamed of the time when her daughter would be recognized by a musical world.

Since that time she has done extensive concertizing in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and Michigan. Five years ago Mr. and Mrs. Clark moved to Birmingham. She has played a prominent part in village musical circles and is a member of the Thursday Musicale. She is also president of the First Church of Christ Scientist. She has also been a member of the Fine Arts club of Detroit. She is the mother of two sons.

OAKLAND COUNTY NEWS

Three caddies charged with stealing golf equipment from the Franklin Hills Country club were held for circuit court under bail of \$1,000 each following their arrest by county deputies. They gave their names as Edward Zowadzky, 19, and a brother, Zygmant, 17, of Hamtramck and Louis Swiska, 17, also of Hamtramck. The equipment has been recovered. Its valuation was placed at \$600.

Rev. Calvin M. Thompson, pastor of the Southfield Methodist church was pastor of that church from 1910 to 1915. The banquet will mark the start of a drive for rebuilding the church.

Omer Stickney, of Pontiac, sentenced to 90 days in jail after Blomfield Hills police found 90 gallons of moonshine whiskey in his car, was ordered released by Judge Frank Doty when he found the man was seriously ill.

The Rochester Community House observed its third birthday Monday with a program during the afternoon and evening. Success of a recent drive for funds was a factor in making the celebration enthusiastic. The afternoon was given over to children's organizations affiliated with the house.

Maxwell Shadjev is the new athletic director of the Farmington schools to succeed Erelind Brethour who will coach at Ionia in the fall.

An additional paved road from Orion to Detroit will be started at an early date, it is announced. The road starts at the Lena Harmon farms east of Orion and connects with the Dodge and Crooks roads.

J. C. Robinette, 38, of Royal Oak, was arrested as a drunk driver by Deputies Tom Stapleton and C. H. Murray. Then appeared at the station a friend, Robert Burns, who offered to bail Robinette out. But the friend had been drinking, the deputies said, so they put him in a cell with the first one arrested.

Chopping of a doe's tail cost Andy Gruber, of Kipling avenue, Berkley, 60 days in jail, on a cruelty to animals charge. Gruber was charged with stealing the ani-

mal from a neighbor and chopping off its tail in an attempt to disguise it.

That Berkley might continue to have a general library, a delegation of the Women's club appeared before the village commission asking that the budget provide an appropriation of \$1,200. It had been rumored that the sum which provided for the running of a general library had been slashed from the budget. With the exception of a school reference library, the village is dependent upon the Women's club for its library.

That there shall be no dancing in Royal Oak barbecues and restaurants after midnight, 54 righteous taxpayers of that city petitioned the Royal Oak commission. They stated that "dancing after midnight causes a delinquency and degeneracy of young people." No action was taken by the city.

Royal Oak will have no band concerts this year, the appropriation being denied by the city fathers. Commissioner Anelia Forsy stated that the city was too large for such concerts with the commission it was a matter of funds.

But Royal Oak will have its first ring circus and circus parade this year. The date is given as May 29 to June 1.

Fifteen voting machines are now installed in the city of Royal Oak.

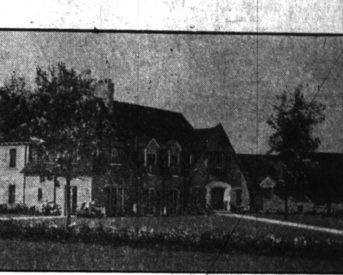
A police board is being considered by the Royal Oak Commission. A charter amendment providing such a board and regulating the conduct of the police and firemen was proposed by Carl A. Braun, president of the Metropolitan club.

TRIBUTE PAID OLYMPIC TEAM

A tribute was paid to the sportsmanship of German athletes in last summer's Olympic games by the Rev. Paul Arnold Peterson, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Pontiac, in his address before the Birmingham Exchange club Tuesday noon at the regular luncheon and meeting in the Lone Pine Inn.

The Rev. Peterson feels that the

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American team's failure to make a better showing was due in part to inadequate training quarters aboard ship on the way over and a lack of discipline. He traveled with the American team and was a spectator at the games.

"My wife is an inveterate smoker. Why, three times she's set the bed on fire with her cigarettes. Would you recommend a suit for divorce?" "Either that or a suit of asbestos pajamas."

WUE to the growth of Birmingham, the Wabek Corporation has finished and now makes available for occupancy the entire third floor of the Wabek Building. . . (This business edifice was first inspected by the public at its official opening on January Tenth, 1929, at which time its shops, recognized as the most beautiful in the Birmingham section, were the source of admiring comment. Continually since then the growing popularity of the Wabek Building has presaged a demand for space which made necessary the rapid preparation of office space above the second floor for waiting leases. . . (Centrally located on the corner of West Maple Avenue and Bates Street, Birmingham, the Wabek Building affords a convenience of strategic location surpassed by none of Birmingham's business addresses. . . (Among the recommending features are elevator service and private parking space for tenants and their customers. . . (The Wabek Building elicits the attention of those interested in locations for exclusive shops, professional offices and business organizations. . . (Your inquiry regarding space accommodations. . . or your inspection of the Wabek Building is invited

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FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric--The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

FIFTY YEARS AGO
Nine thousand baby white fish were received for distribution on Tuesday afternoon, from the State Fish Commission. The interesting and rather numerous family were entrusted to the tender care of Frank Durkee, who deposited them as follows: Gilbert Lake, 3,000; Wing Lake, 3,000; Walnut Lake, 3,000. The fish are lively little fellows about an inch long, much full of vigor and are of the persuasion commonly known as Saginaw Trout.

The Hamilton Trotting Track, of Royal Oak will be opened tomorrow.

Luther Stanley is taking the township assessment, and the solemn wail of the disconsolate dog owner is heard in the land.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
The ladies of the O. E. S. gave the gentlemen members a little surprise at their meeting Wednesday night by serving a fine supper. And the gentlemen said, "Bless the ladies."

The Automobile club, of Detroit, numbering nearly 400 members has rented John Keist's home about two miles south of our village for a club-house. Next season they will buy the entire property. Its use will be a restaurant,

lunch-house, repair shop and auto livery. Verily, we are growing right along.

Next June Miss Belle Ward will graduate from Alma college in her chosen profession kindergarten work. She has secured a life position as teacher in one of the Pontiac schools and we predict for this young teacher success beyond measure.

H'F YEARS AGO
Manager Harry Starr asked by the commission to prepare a working plan for the widening of Woodward avenue through Birmingham, to a width of 100 feet.

File petitions on annexation of four parcels of land to village, to be voted on in July election.

One hour parking ban for Woodward and Maple avenues passed by commission.

Call mass meeting to discuss wider Woodward avenue. Manager Harry Starr will present plan to make street 100 feet wide.

First Church of Christ, Scientist

Birmingham, Michigan

Announces a

FREE LECTURE

on

Christian Science

By JOHN J. FLINN, C. S. B. OF EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

Member of the Board of Lectureship of the Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, Mass.

Baldwin High School Auditorium
WEST MAPLE AVE. AND CHESTER STREET

Sunday Afternoon, May 26, 1929
AT THREE-THIRTY O'CLOCK

THE PUBLIC IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

Thursday, May 30th **Memorial Day** A Legal Holiday
Birmingham Bars Will Not Be Open For Business