

Will Social Center Solve Maid Problem For Homes Here?

The problem of providing entertainment to fill leisure time of girls employed in housework in Birmingham, as discussed by a local maid in an anonymous letter published in last week's issue of The Eccentric, is meeting with an interesting response.

An invitation to girls who wish to gather at the Community House on Thursday afternoon to inform Mrs. Julia K. Lally, hostess, contained in a second letter by the author of last week's communication. Signing herself "Tag-along," the writer suggests that interested either write or call Mrs. Lally, or write to The Eccentric.

"I have talked to Mrs. Lally, hostess at the Community House," the letter states, "and shall meet with her to talk over plans for a little fun and recreation for the maids of Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills. All you girls who are interested should write or phone Mrs. Lally at the Community House giving your names, or write to the Birmingham Eccentric. Get your letters in not later than Tuesday so that they will get in the Thursday paper.

Social Plans Suggested
"Let's put this over in a big way. We might have a radio so you girls could dance or sing. We could make scrapbooks for the Children's Hospital, learn to crochet and knit, and get acquainted with each other. After we got there, and we could have lunches there, and in the evenings bring our boy friends.

"Come on, girls! Write or phone, or call in person at the Community House, and let us know what you would like to do. I will sign my column name, Tag-along (Who wants to tag along with me?)"

Different aspects of the problem are presented in another letter signed by one who calls herself "a contented Housemaid." The difficulty many have in securing and retaining maids in Birmingham, is not due entirely to the lack of recreation, this writer feels, but rather a lack of understanding as to hours, duties and the responsibility of each toward the other. The letter follows:

Have Early Understanding
"The trouble the average woman has in keeping a maid in Birmingham is not due entirely to the recreation problem, as so many people believe. Of course, young people naturally gravitate toward a social center. If it proves attractive enough. And if not, then they either gravitate towards one that doesn't appeal to them, or they just don't gravitate.

The real trouble lies between the hiree and the hiree. Too often, young women, in interviews with prospective employers, fail to learn just what their duties will be if they are engaged, just as the employers fail to make clear exactly what they expect of the maids. The word, "Housework" is very elastic, and a girl seeking such employment should make it her business to find out just how elastic. Else she may discover that added to her conventional position of maid, will be that of a combination truck horse, nurse and social secretary, on call at all times, with no increase in pay, and an appalling number of working hours.

To work twelve or fifteen hours a day, for the same wage that should be paid for a normal day of from ten to twelve hours, especially if guests are eternally present in the home, is unambitious. The only way to ever settle this problem and stay contented in one household, is for a girl to have an understanding with her employer, before entering the service of that person. Have it decided definitely what day or days one is to have free, and discover then whether or not the maids' quarters are livable. Any girl going into home service, under such arrangements and discharging her duties efficiently will, in most cases, find that her employer is a distinct asset, a friend instead of a mere dictator.

There are exceptions, perhaps, in which cases, I'd strongly recommend a change of household scenery for the girls in question. The employer's side of the matter should be no less definite, if she expects any peace of mind and a well ordered home. No person wants her household overrun, at all times, by the numerous friends and relatives of the most recent maid she acquires. In case she has not pleasant quarters for her servants, adequate arrangements for their getting to an from a shopping center, in the event that she lives in the country; then that woman can't expect to keep good maids for long.

Consider Transportation
Many women, who value good maid service, find it no hardship to take care of this transportation problem to mutual satisfaction. With the result, that a maid stays with them over a longer period and is more able to serve them efficiently, than one not so familiar with the family requirements. A girl appreciates attractive living quarters, instead of just a graveyard of decrepit family relics. A ten cent chrome of George Washington standing up in a dinky boat, for no reason at all, would mean, if I had encountered it every time I entered my room. Neither would I go into hysterics of joy over an ornate floor lamp, that being slightly off base, affectionately collapsed on my head, every time I sat down to read the latest Dovie-Wally dope.

A group picture of Great-Grandma and Grandma Whoosit and the assorted little Whoosits would leave me null and void, if I had to comb my hair and rouge my lips, to the daily disapproval I encountered in their slightly begrudged over Plaster busts of Venetian flower vendors and lonesome

doggies would leave me as cold as yesterday's codfish. Window curtains, cleverly pinned, to hide the striae, that time has made in my surface, couldn't make me want to stay home nights. The average maid is just as human and capable of expanding graciously under the warmth of agreeable surroundings, as is the average employer. A pleasant room and bath, at the end of a strenuous day of housework, will do wonders in keeping in her work. Especially if she knows the privacy of those rooms isn't going to be invaded, ping in and out. If no provision for the receiving of a girl's friends is made, the young lady had best be told of the fact, at that first interview, else, after a week or so, she will be drifting off to another job. The average young girl is of a sociable nature and who can blame her for not wanting to entertain a young man in sub-zero weather, on the front seat of his car, parked alongside the "garage pail." Or in mild weather, either, for that matter, with the mosquitoes biting on all sides.

Bar Friends in Working Hours
Certainly she has no right to receive her friends during working hours, or any time, to give them the run of the house, whether or not her employer is absent. To make a club house of her rooms, every night in the week isn't quite "cricket," either, though it is often done. Any woman, who is considerate of her maid, certainly should get willing service, truth and loyalty from that girl. If she doesn't, then they'd both better start reading what you want.

When disturbing problems arise between employer and employee the sensible course is to iron out the difficulty, at once. Pondering over real or fancied wrongs, helps neither person, in this great game of Hiring and Hiring or Coming and Going, as the case may be. A social center for girls in Birmingham engaged in household service, might perhaps be a great help in the employment situation here.

Especially if not too constantly supervised by the sponsors. After all, it should be a welcome change for a rest from looking at each other, one or two days a week. Many girls in service here might not avail themselves of the benefits of such a meeting place, because they come from other towns and look forward to renewing their friendships and interests in those centers on their days off. The number of girls, who did enjoy the advantages of such a social arrangement, would undoubtedly find the answer to the problem of what to do with their Thursdays and Sundays.

The double-feature picture policy ought to settle the question pretty neatly too, for if a girl sees both theatre offerings here a week, she won't have to worry about how to spend extra hours. After sitting through the entire program, on both her days off, she can just about make it home, if he hurries, in time to get breakfast.

The sparse number of maids who like myself, care for neither the attractions of the adjacent towns, or the social aspects of a company, as I hope, find contentment and pleasure they desire, amid the appealing surroundings of the homes in which they work, with perhaps one double-feature movie and two double-chocolate sodas to give zest to this Day Off business, each week.

"A Contented Housemaid."

Holy Name School To Offer Program

Songs, playlets and other entertainment will feature the Christmas program which pupils of Holy Name School will present this week.

A chorus will offer a selection of favorite yuletide songs featuring "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" and "A Christmas Carol." Mrs. H. Toomey, Margaret Hayes and Jerry Hans will serve as accompanists. The playlets include "Margie's Choice" and "Cinderella's Surprise." In the former Robert Foley, Jack Lynn, Ann Ledwidge, Geraldine Flynn, Vera Dayner, Donald Flynn, Charles Van Fleet and Joseph Droste take leading parts. Dolores Sternal, Adele Birrell and Teddy Mangelberg will play the roles in "Cinderella's Surprise."

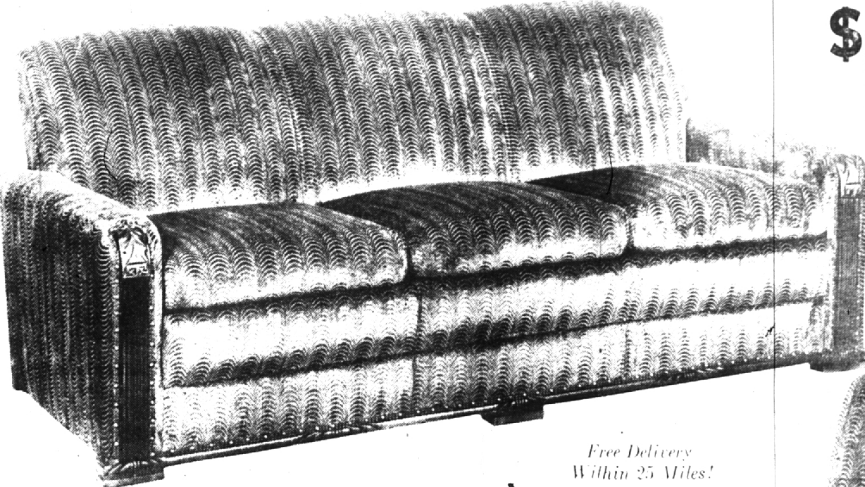
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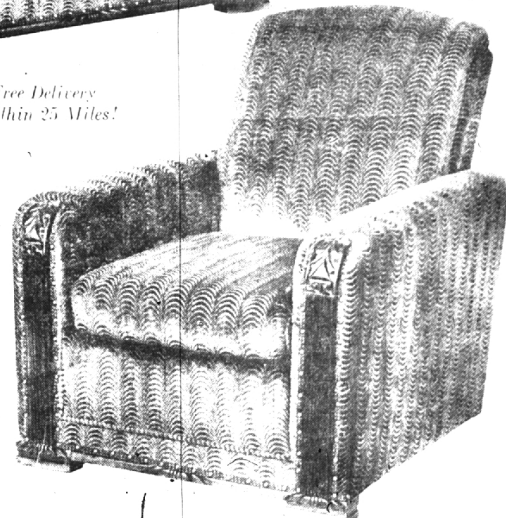


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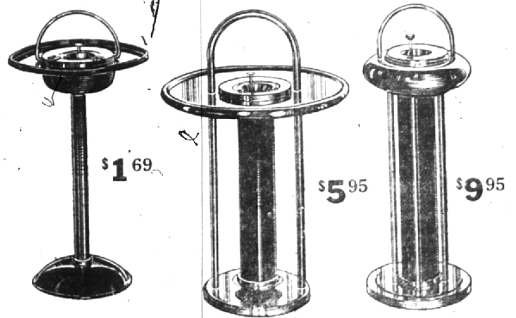
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\$39⁹⁵ \$49⁹⁵ \$59⁹⁵

A Leather Lounge Chair for His Christmas!

As there are but 25 chairs in the group—an early choice will be "smart shopping!" Next to his bed—one of these roomy luxurious chairs will be the most restful and comfortable thing imaginable. They're big—friendly—and with plenty of room for relaxation—they're leather covered—all over—welded seams instead of sewed. In a man's favorite colors—red, russet and green. Easy Terms.

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