The Birmingham Community House

The presentation of public services rendered by institutions in Birmingham would not be complete without mentioning the Birmingham Community House which, while not supported through a direct tax upon local property, nevertheless receives a generous annual support by voluntary subscriptions. The Community House has often been referred to as "the heart of Birmingham." It is the center of a community center for all people, for any and all types of organizations, for the young and the older people; the House performs an unusual and vital function.

The present three-story building, a picture of which you observe above, is the successor of a humble frame house that stood at the southwest corner of West Maple Avenue and Bates Street, owned by the Episcopal Church. This dwelling was where the "community house idea" was first formulated.

However, in 1920, following a successful community-wide campaign to raise funds for the present building, the House was finally opened to the public. Contributions and pledges amounting to approximately $125,000 were obtained and were used in the spring of each year, a campaign for carrying on the House's work is sponsored and carried to success by local citizens. The budget for 1930-31 was set at $125,000.

It would require several pages to tell the whole story of the Community House, but we shall content ourselves with summarizing the institution, covering the House's activities, with figures on the year 30 people used the building and the number of meetings were held. The Community House has been a center for many activities, including dances, concerts, and other social gatherings. It has also been a place for sponsored organizations to meet and conduct their activities.

The City Assessor performs such duties as the drawing of property and the levying of taxes and special assessments as are necessary to properly staff the law of the state.

The Village Players

While not supported by direct tax revenue, the Birmingham Community House is the nucleus of the Village Players, an amateur dramatic group. They have been in existence since 1924 and have been associated with the Community House since its inception. The Village Players was founded in 1924, and its first production was staged in the small auditorium in the older building formerly owned by the local bank.

History of Birmingham

Birmingham's public service institutions have a long history. The first school in the community was a one-room schoolhouse built in 1857. It was located on the corner of West Maple Avenue and Bates Street. It was later moved to its present location on Bellingham Avenue in 1863. The new building was a two-story structure with a wooden frame and a wooden shingle roof. It was later replaced by a larger brick building in 1880.

The Birmingham Public Library was founded in 1892 by a group of citizens who believed that education was the key to a better future. The library was funded through a combination of public and private donations. It was located on the corner of Grand Traverse and Travis Street.

The Birmingham Community House was founded in 1920 by a group of citizens who believed that a community center was necessary to meet the needs of the people. The house was located on the corner of West Maple Avenue and Bates Street. It was later moved to its present location on Bellingham Avenue in 1930.

Birmingham's Post Office

The Post Office is located in the center of the community, on the corner of West Maple Avenue and Bates Street. It was built in 1924 and is a typical small-town post office. It has a small lobby and a single counter where customers can purchase stamps and send mail.

The Postmaster, James A. Byrne, has served in this position for ten years. He and his staff are ready to serve the public from Monday morning through Saturday afternoon.