

What is there about war that sends a man to meet inescapable death, when that same man might flinch from the challenge that attends the mere overcoming of a bad habit?

SIXTY-THIRD YEAR—NO. 11

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1940

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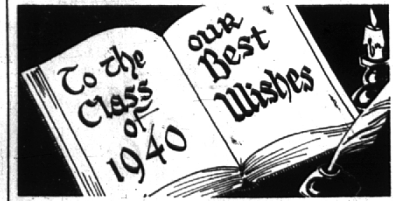
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"Tea for Two"

By NELLIE HURLEY MINIFIE

TO Mrs. Angus D. McLay the European war is a very real thing. Today's battle fields of France, Belgium and Flanders to many of us are spots on the map, vague and unreal places that are difficult to pronounce and im-

As she talked to me, pleasantly, effortlessly, she seemed almost to relive the numerous occasions spent in the Old World. She remembered small details and fitted each one picture.

The picture that I carried away with me as I walked down the flag stone steps from the McLay home on Wembleton drive, was a vivid and lasting impression that Europe in peace times is an undisturbed and beautifully serene as in times of war it is desolate and devastating.

Abroad in 1914

Mrs. McLay remembers Europe 26 years ago when war clouds suddenly burst apane raining terror and horror on a continent that was not as well prepared for the disaster as when the German juggernaut swung into Poland last September.

She recalls the picture vividly because she was traveling abroad



Mrs. McLay

marks, its beautiful cathedrals, its famous old buildings are as familiar to her as Yellowstone and Mammoth Cave are to the average American.

Nor has she forgotten Europe in peace times. As short a time as four years ago when she went abroad to travel on the continent she saw a civilization that had begun to spring up from the depths of a former degradation. She saw order restored where chaos had been before. She saw peace and security in lands that had formerly been torn asunder.

All So Familiar

And so Mrs. McLay is keenly interested in 1940's tremendous war of annihilation that is more destructive, more colossal than anything man has yet devised. It seems deathly real to her because Europe's breathlessly lovely land-

... Visits with Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills Women ...

tea that houses the soldiers with bad face wounds.

Visits Chateau

This chateau was donated, Mrs. McLay told me this week, by the American, Mrs. Hattie Strong, of Washington, whose husband returned from the war safely. To repay her debt of thankfulness she instituted this chateau for those men so badly wounded in the face that they could not return to their homes. Today these men, whose nervous systems are as impaired as their scarred faces, are cared for and work in the out of doors when they can.

Expressing a desire to visit the "Gueules Casses" and mentioning a friend that she was acquainted with Mrs. Strong, she was soon driving north from Paris to this famous home. Sighting the chateau in the distance she could scarcely believe her eyes when she saw the American girl waving calmly in a light breeze. It had been run up on the occasion of her visit.

Sitting this week, listening to Mrs. McLay's story, I held in my hand the menu of the luncheon that was served her the day she spent at the "Gueules Casses." Old and a bit faded, it bore on the back autographs of every soldier who sat at her table. Mrs. McLay also hurriedly rummaged through a desk drawer and extracted post cards showing the chateau, its many stables and surrounding terrain.

Mrs. McLay's interest in Europe's Second World War reached great heights last winter when Russia marched on Finland. The hand of a grim fate pointed and seemed almost to clutch at her before it pulled back convulsively. Although that hand pointed at Mrs. McLay it was her sister, Mimi, Pere Wijkman, who was directly involved. Mimi, Wijkman, whose husband is Swedish counselor to Finland, remained in Helsinki for the duration of the war, dodging bombs and driving through blackouts. Although her children, two and three and a half years old, were sent to relatives in Sweden immediately following the first terrific bombing of Finland, Mimi Wijkman remained in Helsinki for her husband's side.

Finn Stunned

Last word from her sister was received late in April by Mrs. McLay and the letter, she informed me, told of a Finnish nation stunned by the pull of a tidal of peasants being evacuated from the ceded areas and riding into Helsinki in carts, with only heavy mattresses to shield the riders from the bitter northern cold. Mimi Wijkman wrote of flags at half mast, of Finns walking the streets with tear stained faces, of men and women whose eyes were swollen from weeping.

As a small child, Mrs. McLay confided to me this week, her fondest dream was to marry, not a Prince Charming, but a diplomat. She still can remember the dream becoming almost unbearable when she viewed the costumes that her aunt wore to be presented at court when Mrs. McLay's uncle was a consul to Dublin. The irony is that two sisters whose day dreams

Women of B'ham Issue Approval of Civil Service

"State Civil Service by constitutional amendment is the one big issue faced this year by Michigan citizens. If 165,000 signatures to petitions can be filed at Lansing by July 1, the vote November 5 will end many political evils. The plan is wholly non-partisan," according to George D. Miller, secretary of the Oakland Citizens League.

"In 1935 Governor Fitzgerald said, 'Patronage is the most corroding influence in popular government. No administration, no matter how clean its motives may be, nor how wise its policies, can render full service to the people so long as the patronage evil exists,'" he said.

Securing Signatures

Locally the Birmingham branch of the League of Women Voters is actively engaged in securing as many signatures to these petitions as is possible before July 1. Mrs. John K. Ormond, president of the local branch, has an interesting comment on reactions to the drive.

"Occasionally, as I have been circulating petitions to put this constitutional amendment on the November ballot, I have been met with 'I never sign petitions' or 'I don't believe in petitions.' One does have to exercise care in this matter of petition signing but it so happens that the only way voters can express their approval or disapproval of certain measures is at the polls and to give them this PRIVILEGE of democracy we must have from 165,000 to 200,000 names on these petitions. Because the League of Women Voters believes that intelligent participation in government is a prime requisite for GOOD GOVERNMENT and because it believes that only with competent, qualified personnel in public office can we have good government, the League is proud to be one of these organizations circulating these petitions," she said.

Others interested in this drive have said:

Ruth Shain, chairman of International Relations Class: "It is seldom possible in politics as elsewhere to find unmixt issues, but to me the merit systems one great exception. It is one place where

nothing else should give way to our state government. The strengthening of our democratic processes at all points is now doubly important."

Margaret Essery, director on the Board, League of Women Voters: "Restoration of Civil Service in Michigan will strengthen

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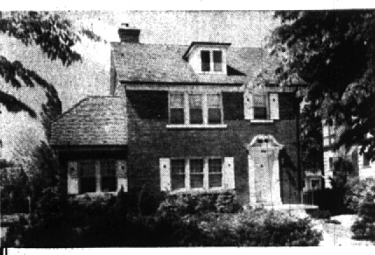
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