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"Tea for Two"

By NELLIE HURLEY MINIFIE

PERHAPS the woman least conscious of the place she has built for herself in her own community is Mrs. Victor R. Ogden who talked to me this week only because she didn't quite have the courage to say no to my request.

"My contribution," Mrs. Ogden told me over the telephone when we were making arrangements for this interview, "has been a small one. I have been only a small cog in a busy wheel that works for the betterment of our community. I have received no help from me. I am but one of many who have worked for improvements in this community. Please see the others—they can talk to you so much better than I."

Nevertheless I talked to Mrs. Ogden. True enough she told her story hesitantly, insisting all the time that what she had done had really been nothing, that she hadn't done a thing that any other woman wouldn't have done.

Extremely Modest
Yes, she admitted, she worked on the bond issue a number of years ago that gave her district the Pierce School. She dismissed it casually. She had been a member of that citizens' committee that had helped to organize the present Baldwin Public Library. She was on the board of directors 10 years ago when the present Community House building was erected and she is the only charter member of the Present Day club who still resides in Birmingham. All of this she told, steadfastly maintaining that she had been active in the work only because she was fortunate enough to be living in the community when these things were needed.

I had expected this modesty, however. Mrs. Ogden had been pointed out to me a short time before as a quiet, unassuming woman, highly thought of in her own community. She might hesitate to talk of the work she has done, my informant told me. Nonetheless if there is any project in which the cooperation of that southern portion of the city is needed, if Mrs. Ogden's support can be enlisted you can be certain that entire community can be counted upon. I was told.

All of this I told Mrs. Ogden when I talked to her this week, and all of this she dismissed with an embarrassed little shrug of her shoulders. "But I am only one of a number of women here," she kept insisting, "who are working for the betterment of our community. They work just as hard as I and certainly deserve a major share of the credit."

She asked me to take just one

paragraph out of this little story to tell you of her neighbors and those who have worked shoulder to shoulder with her in all the work that has been accomplished in what she kept referring to as "our little Birmingham-Bloomfield Hills." All are average citizens, she phrased it, and each just lives an ordinary, routine day. And yet without their support, without the whole-hearted cooperation of each of them her work might, she thinks, have gone for naught.

Mrs. Ogden has seen a great change in her section of Birmingham in the 17 years since she moved out here from Detroit. She remembers when there were mud walks in place of sidewalks, she remembers when the closest school was Barnum.

Today it is a different picture. Now, what then was Eco City, has its own school—the Pierce—it has the Embury Methodist Church, it has the Fellowship club for men and the Present Day club for women, it has its own library started a few years ago by the Present Day club and run by the Parents-Teachers association of the Pierce School where it is located. This Pierce School, this branch of the Baldwin Public Library, is open Thursday afternoons.

Yes, Mrs. Ogden told me, the picture has changed considerably in those 17 years. And it continues to change. It was only a few days ago that she was informed, Mrs. Ogden said, by the city that 16 lots at Emmons and Cummings streets had been purchased with the ultimate view to converting them into a park for that district.

Will Fill Need

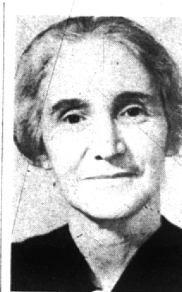
This parkway project has been a particular pet of Mrs. Ogden. It was promised to her by the city some time ago but like many promises, she believes, has taken a few years to materialize. The park, Mrs. Ogden says, will fill a definite need in her community, and although her son and daughter are both grown—Mary Grace is a student at Michigan State College and Jack is married and living in Huntington Woods—she has worked for a park in her district knowing all the time that it would be a particular boon to the children there.

Mrs. Ogden characterized herself to me as a "good joiner." She is a bulwark of the Present Day club, mentioned before, that club that the husbands laughingly call "the little group of serious thinkers." Time and time again she canvassed her section of town for the Baldwin Public Library building project and for innumerable other causes.

Born in England
An English woman by birth, she is not easily defeated. When the odds seem against her she is an indefatigable worker. That, she told me laughingly, is where her English blood comes to the foreground.

A letter from her sister-in-law in the Croydon airport district of London shows this same never-

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



Mrs. Victor R. Ogden

give-up attitude. From this letter let me quote just a few scattered sentences: "Five weeks tomorrow have not been to bed, but like nearly everybody else sleeping downstairs... We shall never forget these times as long as we live, I cannot describe it, but we come up smiling after it is over. It has been dreadfully strenuous here in the London area and three times we have had to run out to the street in the night—the houses here, you would wonder how they resist... Last Friday we had two big air battles overhead during the day, it was a sight to watch them but you have to be very careful on account of the bullets."

Toward the end of the second page the letter ends on the same casual note: "The sirens have just gone so there is a battle pending most likely. I can hear the drone of machines coming so will close for now."
That was all, no mention of fear and terror, no self pity, no hate. That letter vividly illustrates the English spirit of which we hear so much today, Mrs. Ogden thinks. And so this is Mrs. Ogden's

story, a story that she didn't want called an "interview" because, as she put it, an interview sounds too formal, it implies that the person interviewed had done something to merit the honor. "And I haven't done a thing," Mrs. Ogden still insisted.

Sewer Difficulty Debated 2 Hours

City officials and Frank J. Ortman, attorney living at 743 Harmon, Monday night debated for two hours Monday night whether the city was responsible for sewer trouble Ortman experienced in August at the same time the new Harmon sewer was being laid.

"I never had any trouble before," Ortman said, "but when the WPA went through with the new sewer, I had flooded basements. I think my line must have been cut off."
City Manager Donald C. Egbert and Engineer H. H. Corson said that Ortman had been using a private line 12 feet from the new trench and had never been connected with a public sewer. Corson insisted that the city could not be responsible for what happened in private sewers. Ortman thought otherwise and blamed the city for not connecting the sewer from his property. Officials said that Ortman had never been properly connected to a city line and was misled for that reason.

The matter was held open for questioning of the WPA foreman. **NO HUNTING-NO TRESPASSING signs for sale at Eccentric office.** —adv. 28-34*

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The low night and Sunday rates will be in effect all Thanksgiving Day... from 7 P.M. Wednesday to 4:30 A.M. Friday.
If you can't get home for a family reunion, call up and share the day's happiness by telephone!

The same reduced rates will be in effect on November 28 to points in states celebrating Thanksgiving on that date.

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BIRMINGHAM TO:	Station-to-Station	Person-to-Person
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Kalamazoo	.45	.75
Lansing	.35	.60
Marquette	.85	1.25
Saginaw	.35	.60

For rates to other points, ask "Long Distance." On calls costing 50c or more, a federal tax applies.

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