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SIXTY-THIRD YEAR—NO. 29

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1940

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"Tea for Two"

By NELLIE HURLEY MINIFIE
NO SERIES of interviews on Birmingham women would be complete without the story of Mrs. Lee A. White, who by virtue of her long residence here—its 21 years by her own admission—is a charter member of Birmingham's Old Guard. Writing of Mrs. White seems superfluous in view of her activities that have in these years made her one of the city's best known citizens.

It seems singularly unnecessary to recount these activities, for in the years that Mrs. White has made Birmingham her home she has become known to nearly all as a tireless worker interested in innumerable projects and causes, a woman who gives unstintingly of her time and experience.
Of this you already know. But this week I uncovered a new side of Mrs. White that, had I thought of it before, I would have known existed. It is her insatiable curiosity about people. She calls it her unquenchable desire to know "what makes the wheels go around."

Interested in People
She is interested in people to such an extent that were she able to relive her life she would specialize in social service work, she says. Nor is she the sole member of the White family whose interest in people and their problems is keen. Her husband, public relations director for the Detroit News, is fond of saying, "I always tell me, that his position is one type of social service. And then there is Elizabeth who is working on her master's degree in social work and to this end is doing field work at the Merrill Palmer school in downtown Detroit."

And speaking of master's degrees, Mrs. White's second son, Mr. A. from the University of Michigan and later in the same year was married. "I always tell my friends that I got two masters in one year," she laughed.
Mrs. White's own particular form of volunteer social work is the literally countless scholarships that she has been able to arrange for worthy students not only in Birmingham, but Detroit and as far away as Holly.

It started a number of years ago when one of two of Birmingham's older Girl Scouts asked her, "How can we go on to school?" She came to her for information and advice and by channels opened for Mrs. White through her connections with the University of Michigan these girls received scholarships.
It began as simply as that, she told me in recounting this first venture. These girls sent her their friends and the friends had friends who too had friends and thus her

Fr. Duncan Speaks Before Exchange
The Rev. Fr. David J. Duncan, pastor of Holy Name Catholic Church, was the speaker at the Exchange Club meeting Tuesday. Formerly a professor of public speaking for 15 years at Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit, Fr. Duncan related how he had been in Birmingham for a funeral, a baptism and a marriage before he was offered the pastorate here by Archbishop Mooney.
"I was delighted to come," he declared. "Birmingham is a beautiful city and outstanding in many ways, and it is my hope to be of service to the community."
He described briefly some of his plans for his parish, including the formation last Sunday of a new men's club at a meeting attended by 125. His talk was illustrated with numerous anecdotes and was thoroughly enjoyed by the Exchangees. Also guests for the luncheon were Father O'Reardon and Adrian Cotter. James J. Reilly, Jr., introduced the speaker.

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Young Republicans To Hear Willkie
Young Republicans of the 17th district are invited to attend a meeting Monday evening at 8 o'clock in the Community House when a broadcast by Wendell L. Willkie will be heard. Harvey Lodge, assistant prosecutor of Oakland County, will be present. Movies, entitled "Truth About Taxes" and one on "We, the People," will be shown.

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Visits with Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills Women . . .

of what the future held in store. Hindenburg was still head of the German government and although Fascist Mussolini was in control of Italy, the dictators could not really be considered a menace at that time, Mrs. White says.

Everywhere they traveled, though, there was strong prejudice against France. This was particularly true in Germany. They toured primarily through the countryside and visited small towns whenever possible. Everywhere there was a general friendliness.

Five days after the Spanish revolution they entered Spain and were amazed by the utter lack of the military. There was no sign of the upheaval that had tossed a king into exile. They drove through Spain only five days after the republic had established itself and arrived before the new government had time to manufacture flags. Sheaves of yellow straw tied with red ribbons sufficed until flags were available.

No, Mrs. White says, Europe was singularly calm that summer. Yet in the undercurrent there was a definite defeatist attitude. In central France, for instance, an Irish nun who had lived in France so long that she spoke English with a French accent, escorted them through a hospital and showed them that for each row of invalids' cots there was a row of empty beds.

These empty beds, the Sister explained, contained the unborn children of the war and when those children should have reached maturity France again would be engaged in a death struggle. That prophecy was made nine years ago.

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