

One's state of mind governs one's general condition of life. Happy, indeed, are those who have learned that self-direction of mind alone guarantees happiness.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

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"Tea for Two"

By NELLIE HURLEY MINIFF

EVER since she has been old enough to get about under her own power Mrs. Katharine Atkinson has been fighting for something and just because she passed her 80th birthday Sunday she sees no reason why she should stop now.

Sitting in the place of honor next Monday when the Birmingham branch of the League of Women Voters observes the 20th birthday of the national league, a direct growth of the old suffrage movement, will be Mrs. Atkinson, who moved out from Detroit about three months ago to Harmon avenue, where she is now living in comparative quiet.

Like a Fight

Mrs. Atkinson, who this week characterized herself as the greatest joiner in the world, never needed much encouragement to find herself in the midst of a fight or at the head of a movement. As a young girl, sensitive and always a bit scared, she was the underdog's staunchest ally, she could always see the other fellow's side of the issue, she was always ready at the drop of a hat to roll up her silk sleeves and go to work.

And she really worked, Mrs. Atkinson reminded. She worked for years upon years for all kinds of causes, for every imaginable type of movement, she would work for anything that she believed in. That was the catch, she insists today. There was no limit to her energies, no limit to what she would tackle or what she could do. But she had to believe in the work. If she believed what she was doing was necessary and important a team of horses could not have held her back.

Staunch Feminist

A staunch feminist even today, Mrs. Atkinson insists there is nothing that women can't get if they combine their efforts. After working with the suffrage movement for years and finally seeing her dreams of equal voting rights for man and woman alike come true, she told me coolly and casually that women, by combining their talents and efforts can accomplish anything upon which they set their hearts.

Even peace, she thinks. Women, she insisted with an emphatic shake of her head, could bring about a permanent and lasting peace if they would only put their collective shoulders to the wheel and give a mighty shove. However, she believes that the stronger our defense the greater will be our chance for a permanent peace.

More, probably, than any other club woman in Birmingham, Mrs. Atkinson realizes the heartbreak, the disillusionment, the disappointment that will come to any woman who allies herself with a movement. She knows for most of her life has been spent in fighting for women's rights.

She realizes full well the disappointments that come to everyone before their goal is finally reached. She knows for she has had over-ripe tomatoes hurled her way, she has seen her fellow workers doused with water by unsympathetic women. The hindrances and drawbacks are nothing new to her, she knows all about them.

Never Discouraged

But never at any time was she ever discouraged. A bit downhearted, perhaps, but never discouraged. She fought with the

not just the First Lady of the United States, but the first lady of the world. Mrs. Roosevelt, she believes, has educated herself to the finest point that is humanly possible. She goes about her work effortlessly, casually, Mrs. Atkinson believes, condemning slams, defending the underprivileged and generally accomplishing an inestimable amount of good. Eleanor Roosevelt, she says, deserves the gold palm if for no other reason than that she has done away with the frothy White House entertainment.

Mrs. Atkinson has had a varied life. She is an honorary director of the League of Women Voters and is a life member of the Woman's Exchange. She was a member of the first committee for milk and bread and with Mrs. Brotherton went to Marion Ohio to interview Harding on the suffrage movement.

A frail little woman, but possessed of an amazing tenaciousness in manner and thought, Mrs. Katherine Atkinson typifies the indefatigable spirit of womanhood. Although the years have dimmed her faculties her spirit will never be conquered. She is all that remains out of the past of a special type of strong and forceful woman who have made, by their tireless efforts, the world a better place in which to live.

Architects to Talk Of Publicity At Cranbrook Meeting


Looking toward a more adequate means of informing the public about Architects' Services, a main topic of discussion before the Second Annual Mid-West Architectural Conference to be held at Cranbrook Academy of Art, Sept. 12 and 13, will be publicity, it was announced Saturday by Talmage C. Hughes, Chairman of The American Institute of Architects, Committee on Public Information.

The Architects' place in the nation's preparedness program will be discussed by Edwin Bergstrom, Institute president and Frederick W. Garber, Great Lakes representative on the preparedness committee.

Leigh Hunt of Milwaukee will lead a discussion on Unification of the Architectural Profession, while Branson V. Gamber, president of the Michigan Society of Architects will conduct a round-table session on Architectural Clinics and the small house. Members of Institute Chapters and State Societies in nine states forming the Mid-West Conference will attend the two-day session, ending with a banquet Friday evening at which Roger Allen of Grand Rapids will be toastmaster.

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There are so many things yet to be accomplished, Mrs. Atkinson tells me that she finds it hard to reconcile herself to the ravages which time has made upon her. But, she points out philosophically, there must be some good purpose in her longevity. Perhaps there are still things which she can accomplish.

Today, after all these years, she is still vitally interested in the League of Women Voters. It is her pet, she has watched its growth from infancy, she has nursed it through its first growing pains, today it is blossoming from adolescence into the first bloom of womanhood. Its work has been important and she is watching, hoping, praying that it will not stop now when the battle has just begun.

An ardent feminist, Mrs. Atkinson believes that Mrs. Roosevelt is

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