

March 1 and 2 Are Dates Of Kingswood Junior Class Play

Jane Austin's beloved "Pride and Prejudice" has been chosen by Kingswood's junior class for dramatization on March 1 and 2. The production is under the direction of Margaret Ellen Clifford and will be given in Kingswood auditorium at 8 p. m. The cast is made up of:

Mr. Bennett; Rosemary Wilcox; Hill, Mary Harbeck; Mrs. Bennett; Mary Lou Leggett; Lady Lucas; Marie Buchbinder; Charlotte Lucas; Lucia Crane; Jane Bennet; Sally Kemp; Elizabeth Bennett; Jean MacGregor; Lydia Bennett; Elizabeth Boyne; Mr. Bingley; Jane Pickering; Mr. Darcy; Sydney-Jones; Mr. Collins; Joan Williams; Amelia, Elaine Newhall; Captain Denny; Barbara Zoder; Mr. Wickham; Phyllis Klingler; Miss Bingley; Marilyn Bygrave; Margaret Cherry Richards; Aunt Gardiner; Margie Work; Lady Catherine de Bourgh; Blenda Isabele Pitts; Polly Harkness; and Mrs. Lake, Polly Harkness.

On Friday night the Bennett sisters will be played by Julia Ellis, Shirley Walker and Elaine Newhall.

Pat McDonald and Rosemary Rice are stage managers; Marcia Helwig is handling publicity; Lucia Crane, business; Manu Snyder, secretary; Jeanne Maurer, property; Virginia Stoddard, lights; Harkness, costumes; and Polly Harkness, makeup.



Pupils of Bethel, Pa., township school watch smoldering embers of three-story school building, no doubt anticipating an unscheduled vacation. Desks behind them were only properly saved as teacher led 40 to safety.

School's Out

NEWS COPY that is submitted early for publication each week is necessarily given preference over late items. The "early bird" gets the space.

Community House Has Grown Much Since Project First Opened In 1922

By JOYCE WEBSTER RHODES

It won't be long before we will again be hearing the slogan "Keep the Heart of Birmingham Alive" and it is only normal for all of us to wonder just what that "Heart" is. We would all know that when we see and hear that slogan we are being asked to contribute to the fund which helps our Community House to keep on going its work. But how many of us know just what that work is and how it and the House itself have grown since Charles McCurdy, in 1920, first interested a group of Episcopalians in his idea of a place intended as a meeting ground for all the people of Birmingham? And how many people in this city know that the Community House is owned, not by a separate body of owners, but by the residents themselves?

Before the project was actually launched, Mrs. W. C. Harris and her group spent much of their time and effort to promote a long educational campaign and in 1922 a small frame building at the corner of Bates and Maple was remodeled and repaired. On April 28 of that year the Community House, with all of its facilities and ideas, was formally presented to the people of Birmingham.

Always a Busy Place

For five years the Community House flourished and in May, 1928, the work had completely outgrown its quarters. Mrs. Charles Shain made contacts at more than 1,100 meetings in 1927 and 1928 and the land of the present site was secured. Pledges to cover the estimated cost of the entire project, \$119,000, were made and the architects, Muehlein and Farrar, were engaged. On the sixth anniversary of the House, April 28, 1929, the cornerstone was laid. It was in December of that year, before the new house was completed, that the first Saturday night dances for the young people of the city were started in the old House. The new building was completed in March, 1930, and was dedicated the next month on the seventh anniversary of the existence of the House.

Through the Community House Association, composed of all those who have contributed one dollar, or its equivalent, during the year, the House is owned by the people of Birmingham. The Association holds one meeting a year, at which time the members of the governing board are elected and reports are heard. The board consists of 15 members, six men and nine women, elected five every year. Membership is for three years and the board elects its own officers. Vacancies, caused by death or resignation, are filled by vote of the remaining members.

It might be interesting to note the comparison in the facilities offered by the House in 1935 and in 1945. In 1935 the House offered an auditorium and stage, five smaller rooms for meetings, facilities for two kitchens and staff, an employment bureau, a thrift shop, the linen chest, clinic transportation service, emergency welfare, a depot for the Needlework Guild, and the Teachers' Shoe fund, clearing house for charitable organizations, the Thursday night family dinners, service club luncheons, Saturday night dances, maintenance of Girl and Boy Scout rooms and the Business Women's room, and the duplicate bridge tournament.

Mrs. Edith Wall, hostess of the House in 1935, stated in her report that year, "Early this year the present House was too large for the needs of this community, have certainly been refuted in experience. We are crowded to capacity all of the time, and could outgrow our usefulness with a big 'ger House and staff'."

Still, in 1945, 10 years later, we are using the same House and have made more use of it than was thought possible. Useless space has been converted into working space and there are now eight, instead of five, smaller rooms for meetings. One kitchen was done away with and instead there is a snack bar in the Ranch Room. The Thrift Shop has been discontinued and there are now additional depots for the Lions Club, the Goodfellows, and the Community Fund. The Thursday night dinners were served to 30,720 people in 1945 when they were only held a start of what is now a point shortage, as compared to 13,130 people served in 1935, one year after the start of what is now a family custom. The Oakland County Girl Scout secretary's office and the office of the Veterans' Council are now in the House and, in addition, there is the YMCA room and the Teen Center.

In 1935 only 36 groups, six of them new, made use of the House. Last year 71 organizations, 28 of them new, used it and 21 different series of classes in the fields of dance, art, first aid, speech and world affairs were held there.

The majority of these services are free to the residents of the city. When charges are made they are only enough to cover expenses. Rentals are made when meetings are neither educational nor charitable and when charges have been made for the privilege of attending the events.

Scores of functions are held every year at the House—events which would have been impossible to undertake if it were not for the availability of a hall of this size. The Birmingham Musicale, the Garden Club, and many other organizations would have to limit their membership and would be unable to hold their large shows and concerts if they were forced to hold meetings at homes or to include additional expenses for the renting of other halls farther from the city.

When each one of us understands the remarkable things that are accomplished by our own Community House we cannot help but realize that this building is truly the recreational, educational, charitable and social "heart" of Birmingham.

Let's all help to keep it alive!

Lathrap Townsite News

By LILLIAN DIEDERICH

E. F. SCHAFER, 27361 Eldorado place, died Thursday, Feb. 21, in Grace hospital after a long illness. Burial was in Roseland cemetery Monday. Besides his wife, Theodora, two sons, Kent and Paul, survive.

Is Fencing Champ

Women's Club will meet at 2 o'clock Monday in the school auditorium. Harold Werman, of the Leader Dog League of Rochester, will be guest speaker of the day. Tea will follow.



Richard H. Grimm

Arch Baker of Rainbow drive, with the Export department of Norge Refrigerator, has returned home after three months' absence. His itinerary included Casa Blanca, Cairo, Johannesburg, then up the Gold Coast of South Africa; to Brazil, then Puerto Rico, where Mrs. Baker met him. The Blacks then flew to Miami and thence home. Last week end the Blacks were hosts to the friends of the week and this week they are expecting Fred Hannaman of Holland, as a guest.

Richard H. Grimm, 14, of Barnum Junior High School, is doing quite well in his favorite sport of fencing. Dick is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Karl H. Grimm, 27627 West Southfield, and has been fencing for about four years. He fences with all three weapons, foil, sabre and epee and is a member of the Amateur Fencers' League of America, Michigan division, in Detroit.

Recently he won the state novice sabre championship at the Salle de Tuscane club in Detroit, thus adding another gold medal to his trophies as a fencer.

The Birmingham lad is said to be the youngest fencer in state competition in Michigan.

GET PICTURES IN EARLY

To help those who may have reason to submit photographs to the Birmingham Eccentric for reproduction in the newspaper we offer the following suggestions:

Black and white pictures are preferred. Colored or tinted pictures should not be used. Pictures with light backgrounds are easier to reproduce than those with a black background and the picture should be clear and the lines distinct. A glossy photograph makes a clearer cut than one with a dull finish.

Pictures should be submitted one week before the issue of the paper in which they are to be used. Friday noon is the deadline! Timeliness is important in news priority and a picture is more likely to be used if it is provided at the correct time.

SOCIETY NEWS

will be in the Eccentric editorial office by five o'clock every Tuesday afternoon.

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1946 FUND CAMPAIGN

***THE WISE OLD OWL WHO SAT IN THE OAK OPENED UP HIS BEAK AND THIS IS WHAT HE SPOKE:**

"I'LL USE AN ECCENTRIC CLASSIFIED AD EVERY TIME"

WALLACE KIN AT STATE EAST LANSING—A nephew of Secretary of Commerce Henry A. Wallace—Wallace Kin (left) of Birmingham, Mich.—and his wife, Susan, are among the 2,000 war veterans enrolled at Michigan State College under the G. I. Bill of Rights. Wally was in the Navy, while Sus served in the Waves. A political career may be ahead of Wally, but he does not plan to go into politics until he is firmly established in the profession of law.

SNOW SLOWS TRAFFIC
Tuesday's snow slows traffic in and around Birmingham quite noticeably according to traffic officers of the police department. Roads and streets became slippery and, in some places, dangerous. Police report that most drivers were apparently endeavoring to drive safely.

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The Birmingham Eccentric

(*Our copy writes or says it rhymes, anyway.)