

League of Women Voters Chose New Officers at Annual Meeting

Gertrude Rogerson Featured in Play Again Last Week

Gertrude Rogerson, 286 Pierce favorite hereabouts with playgoers, was again featured in a Detroit Civic Players production, the latest being "Chicago" by Maurine Watkins, presented at the Art Institute three nights last week.

Gertrude added the role of "May Sunshine," girl reporter, to a long list of characterizations which have earned her popularity with Detroit Civic Players audiences, among which were roles in "Black Sheep," "Elizabeth," "Ring Around Elizabeth," "Janie," "The Blue Bird" and "The Little Prince."

Will Sing Tuesday

Miss Suzanne der Derian, winner of the 1946 LaScala Opera Award when she was the youngest of nine finalists and recent district winner of the National Federation of Music Club's National Biennial contest, will be featured at the musical tea and fashion show to be presented at the Community House Tuesday, by the Birmingham Musicals.

The talented young lyric soprano, a senior at the University of Michigan School of Music, will sing two groups of songs in English, a French group, and the aria from the opera "Louise" accompanied by Mrs. Mildred Adams of Ann Arbor.

Miss der Derian began her musical career early and has been a featured soloist at music festivals and before music clubs throughout the state for the past four years.

Committee heads handling the affair are Mrs. Robert Watt, general chairman, Mrs. W. Lloyd Kemp, tickets, Mrs. Norman Lyle, publicity, Mrs. C. H. Maurice, tea, Mrs. Alan Loofbourrow, arrangements, Mrs. Whiting Raymond, music, and Mrs. George Finch, hostesses.

Pouring at the tea which will follow the fashion show will be Mrs. Earl Bartholomew, Mrs. Lawrence Clark, Mrs. Edgar Bailey, Mrs. Joseph de Bruin, Mrs. Donald Stator, Mrs. Eric Starford, Mrs. H. H. Gardner and Mrs. F. A. Frothero.

SOCIETY NEWS must be in the Eccentric editorial office by five o'clock every Tuesday afternoon.

New President Stresses South America's Many Needs in Talk

Mrs. F. G. Garrison was elected president of the Birmingham League of Women Voters and gave the program talk on South America Monday at the organization's annual meeting climaxed by a luncheon at the Community House.

"The roots of South America are all in the past and these roots only now begin to take on the fruit and flower of modern life; one must be patient with the people and understand this past" said Mrs. Garrison, who lived in South America for several years and has been a recent visitor there.

Painting in sweeping strokes the main outlines of the South American picture in its "stupendous" entirety before filling in specific detail relating to economic, social and political trends in Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Chile, etc., the speaker developed and repeatedly emphasized the basic historical facts to remember about the continent: the social fact of the presence of the Indian, on whose successive cultures the Spaniards built, who forms the mass of the people, living mostly under conditions of abject poverty; the economic and political fact that South America is a feudal agrarian economy, politically dominated by the powerful landowners whose huge grants go back to the time of the Spanish conquest; the racial political philosophy inherent in the idea of revolution born during the unrest and anarchy following South America's liberation from Spain.

"Last Frontier" The crying needs of this great continent, "last frontier of undeveloped wealth, resources and purchasing power" were termed by Mrs. Garrison to be: industrialization, and with it, an end to the agrarian economy and the feudal despotism of the landowners; immigration, especially into Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Brazil; education.

Education is aimed at educating the few thousands with no concern over the illiterate masses, except in Chile where slow progress is being made and has resulted in increased democracy, the speaker pointed out.

Brazil she pictured as a republic making slow political recovery from Vargas' 15 years of dictatorship, its coldest but "safe" president Dutra, so busy with the establishment of a liberal constitution that makes the legislature all-powerful that he cannot or does not do anything about terrible economic conditions in which Brazilians are suffering shortages of all kinds, in which prices are incredible and workers can buy little.

Nat True Communists Deprecating headlines that talk with people if we understand them, Americans must learn to understand South Americans better and that today's developments in the Latin American countries are the logical outcome of history.

Other officers and directors and positions elected by the members during its morning business session and installed at the afternoon's festivities presided over by retiring president, Mrs. Howard J. Liverance, were: Mrs. Graham Shinnick, vice-president; Mrs. Lee A. White, second vice-president; Mrs. Alan Loofbourrow, secretary; Mrs. S. James Duncan, treasurer; Mrs. Peter Loomis, Mrs. A. J. Steelman, III, Mrs. Martin L. Butzel, Mrs. Howard J. Liverance, Mrs. Paul L. Fendall, Mrs. R. S. Plexico; three members-at-large to serve on a nominating committee; Mrs. John Lambie, chairman, Mrs. C. N. Blunt and Mrs. Hugh A. White.

Adopt New By-Laws

Important business transacted included the adoption of new by-laws governing the group; adoption of a 1947-48 budget; adoption of a current local agenda. Items on this agenda which members approved are: to review the City Planning Commission report to promote increased registration for school elections; to support a necessary inter-city program; to finance program; and, in line with a coordinating committee of Oakland County League, to observe county governmental and health operations with a view to remedial measures.

Annual reports were heard from Mrs. Hugh A. White, treasurer;

"In my opinion," said Mrs. Garrison, "communists in South America are not true communists," but really the more liberal members of an agrarian party who want better living conditions for the people. However, it is true that if the present governments take no action themselves to better conditions, South America may find itself with communistic governments. It is always the same: there is much idealistic talk, but South Americans actually do little."

Talks to Peron Speaking of the Argentinian president, Peron, Mrs. Garrison said, "I talked to him for 20 minutes and though I knew before I went in that he has been bad for the country for the most part, yet while I was talking with him, his personality was wonderful. He has done the same thing to the people that I thought he was doing."

"Though he is all powerful with even the labor unions under his thumb, there are signs of unrest. He holds his position because of the powerful landowners; he will have to work with them to remain in power."

"Peron is doing a magnificent job in economic treaties. By releasing millions in credits to Chile, Bolivia and Paraguay these countries have become economic appendages of Argentina which is the U. S. than of Peron; the people would rather vote for him than take dictation from the U. S."

"South America as a whole views the U. S. with alarm as a country with a Monroe doctrine which has yet failed to intervene in her behalf on the occasion of at least 10 major violations of foreign nations. Our present 'good neighbor' policy is accomplishing much but the people are still all so afraid of us as we are of the Russians."

Past Presidents Honored

Mrs. Liverance, in delivering the annual report of the president following luncheon, reviewed the achievements of the League during the past year; pointed to the membership figure, now 165; to increased membership activity and

Arrangements for the luncheon were under the direction of social chairman, Mrs. A. S. McCall, assisted by Mrs. H. S. Sarfell.

"THAT YOUNG KAY BAUM LOOK"

Arrangements for the luncheon were under the direction of social chairman, Mrs. A. S. McCall, assisted by Mrs. H. S. Sarfell.

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NEW BOOKS JUST OUT! 'Mrs. Mike' by Freedman This is the story described over the radio recently by Gabriel Heatter. It's a stirring story of a noble woman and man in the Arctic Region.

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