

Ranch Room at Community House Is a Popular Place for Youth of Birmingham

(This is another article in a series being written by Mrs. White to explain the varied activities of the Birmingham Community House.)

By Hazel B. White
(Member, Community House Board of Directors)

Some of the kids call it the "Comm House" but to their elders it is the Ranch Room at the Community House, a place where boys and girls from seventh grade through high school ages drop in after school on weekday afternoons and congregated on Friday and Saturday nights, particularly in the winter months.

There is a stage of collegiate atmosphere about the Ranch Room. It might be the student lounge or union of a small junior college. Its location, just off the Municipal Center, suggests campus life, too. It is only a short stroll from Baldwin high school or the library, Maple or the movies, to the reviving soft drinks and hamburgers of the snack bar and the pool and ping pong tables of the recreation rooms.

About 700 youngsters from the Birmingham area used the Ranch Room more or less regularly last year. Amy Wild, the youth recreation director of the Community House, estimates. They visited it often enough to roll up an attendance of about 12,000 the figures. Snack bar records show that 14,000 soft drinks and ice cream for 15,000 cones were consumed and about 4,000 hamburgers were grilled, not to mention an unrecorded number of wetters roasted at special parties around the big brick fireplace.

Next to the snack bar, the juke box is probably the biggest crowd puller at the Ranch Room. The "juke box man" has to come often to replace the records which get worn smooth. Current favorites are "Cry a Cry," "The Damned," "Haunted Heart," Frankie Laine's "Shine," the eternally popular "Shoobie Woogie," and "Frazy-Oolie-dollie."

Occasionally a minor "name band" is hired for some special event at the Ranch Room, but not often. The Club 1930, composed of young people from 19 to 30, which includes some war veterans

BRIDGE AT THE COMMUNITY HOUSE

By James C. Gray
(A report on the proceedings at the duplicate bridge tournament held over a five-day evening at night, which, from year to year, has been a regular feature.)

At the session of April 7, for the third successive time, ten full tables were in play. That means 40 players—an astonishing manifestation of interest in Commodore Vanderbilt's card game for a community as small as this. And if all of those forty players were well placed to end—most of them would still finance the wrong way.

The tournament results: April 7 was a repeat performance for Fletcher and Churchill. Mary and her partner, Jim Fenwick, won the East and West match, and Churchill and Jean Hough won the North and South match. The runners-up: North and South—Mrs. Malcolm Dugless and Mrs. Fletcher Renton, second, and T. Carroll and E. Swartwood, third. East and West—Olive McLaren and Connie Sills, second, and Mr. and Mrs. John A. Kravis, third.

The board about to be described is CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT Chapin Street Asphalt Concrete Surface—Grand to Woodward

Notice is hereby given that Special Assessment Roll No. 286, heretofore made by the assessors for the purpose of defraying the cost of constructing asphalt concrete surfacing on Chapin Street from Grand to Woodward, is now on file in my office for public inspection. Notice is also hereby given that the Commission of the City of Birmingham will meet in the Commission Room in the Municipal Building in said City on Monday, the 22nd day of April, 1948, at 2 P.M. to review said assessment, at which time and place opportunity will be given to all persons interested to be heard.

came up in a recent tournament in which C. W. Churchill was my partner. And so to relate, on this board Churchill was thrown completely off balance by a deceptive upper-cut from his junior adversary. Church gave the contract away. Then fate stepped in and gave it back to him because of a mislay by the same adversary. The board:

NORTH (Me) S-A-K-J-x-x H-A-x D-x-x-x-x C-A-K-10-x

WEST S-x-x H-K-Q-10-x-x D-10-x-x C-x-x

EAST S-x-x H-x-x-x-x D-x-x-x-x C-x-x-x-x

The auction: North one spade; South, two clubs; North, three hearts; South, three no-trump; North, four no-trump (Blackwood convention); South, five diamonds (showing one ace); North, six clubs.

West opened the heart king and dummy's ace held the trick. The ace of clubs was cashed. Then a diamond was led to South's jack. East ducking. At the fourth trick a small club was led toward dummy's king-ten, and when West showed out Church groaned. So he put up the king and led dummy's last diamond. Without hesitation, East, a low type, played the king—the north; trustfully, Church covered with an ace and sank into a brown study, his plans gone awry.

From my point of vantage, after peaking at the opponents' holding, I appreciated my partner's dilemma. I concentrated on thought transference. He must be deceived! East was not blank in diamonds! Church's next play must be the diamond queen upon which he will discard dummy's last heart. This will enable him to ruff out his own heart losers and make the contract.

But he led a spade. This was disaster—and I reached for the score sheet to record a zero for our side. He finessed the jack. Then he played the snide king. Then the ace. And East, now a very good type, instead of ruffing with the high trump and leading a heart for the setting ruff, ruffed low! Church overruffed and then made the diamond queen play, discarding the heart in dummy. Kisses!

Rehearsals for Minstrel Show in Full Swing

The First Presbyterian Church Men's Club will present their old-time minstrel show at the Community House for the public on Saturday evening, April 24. The curtain will rise at 8:15. The show is being presented under the joint direction of F. W. DuBois and H. Dean Yocum.

Prominent in the cast are men who are popular in music and dramatic circles in Birmingham. DuBois will serve as interactor and Yocum will be the accompanist for the show. End men are to be N. W. Berry, W. D. Hooper, Hal F. George and Roy Lanning. The chorus is made up of Marie Bennett, Robert E. Fowler, Robert F. Edwin, Emerson Brown, Floyd A. Franklin, Y. C. Smith, J. Alan Wilson, Don C. Price, Harvey J. Forest, Allen Lutz, A. J. Steelman and Leslie D. Stauffer. Franklin, Berry and Lanning will have solo parts.

A Modern Version. In addition to the soloists there will be a modern version of the "Sixtette of Lucia" by the Presbyterian Strummers. Hooper, Bennett, F. C. Guest and DuBois, as

well as a white-face quartette made up of Franklin, Lutz, Berry and Brown. They will perpetuate the well-known barber shop technique by rendering one of the old songs.

Other specialty numbers will include "The Miracle Drug" by students of Baldwin High School; "The Merry Old England" and "Hip Rooborough, Jim Enfield and Steve Campbell." "Loony Lutz & Company" will be presented by Allen Lutz, and Dean Yocum will perform his usual piano and vocal impersonations and specialties. Tickets for this performance may be obtained at Shain's and Wilson's Drug Stores and at McBride's Hardware and the Community House. Proceeds will be donated to the Presbyterian Church building fund.

Art Exhibit

Beginning April 15 and continuing through May 3, Cranbrook Academy of Art is presenting one of the finest exhibits of regional art ever assembled, entitled "Painting and Prints from the Upper Midwest." The exhibit will be open to the public from 2 to 5 p.m. daily except Mondays. The work of artists from six states—Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Minnesota—is included.

Deadline for CLUB NEWS remains at noon Mondays.

Baptists to Hear Guest Preacher at Sunday Service

This Sunday morning at 11:30 a.m. a guest minister will occupy the pulpit of the First Baptist Church. He is the Rev. Clifford C. Hansen of New York City, national director of the Juvenile Protection Department of the American Baptist Home Mission Society.

This department carries on a nationwide program in the interest of preventing and correcting delinquency among both youth and adults. It has established working projects sponsored by

churches in 30 states. The national staff is conducting an intensive educational campaign in the greater Detroit area.

The two-fold aim is to enlarge the scope of church-centered activities for children and youth and also to strengthen home relationships.

Of special interest to the local group is the fact that Mr. Hansen is the successor of Rev. E. J. Kuntz who recently assumed the pastorate of the Baptist church here.

Until a short time ago, Mr. Hansen was the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Milwaukee, Wis. While there, he was an active and outstanding leader in church and community affairs. He will be presented to the Baptist congregation by Rev. Kuntz. The public is cordially invited to attend.

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