

Child's Idea Can Be Used As Yardstick To Judge 'A Lady'

By HELEN BRUNSON
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

There's been much discussion down through time as to who's a lady and who isn't. Some fairy-tales implied that to belong to royalty meant being a lady,—yet history records that Queen Elizabeth I, killed her cousin, and Empress Maria Theresa married her daughter off to a dolt, just to get the Hapsburgs in solid.

Some time back, being a lady used to rest on one's morals. But two novels I can think of: "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," and "Jubilee Trail," had in them a prostitute with a heart of gold, who, the book implied, was definitely a lady, proved by her selfless attention to the problems of others. Her morals had nothing to do with it.

AND SO STYLES in "ladies" change. Back in school they used to tell us, "A lady never carries packages."

"But how is she going to pick up the stuff she needs at the dime store, or get groceries home when a car isn't available? A lady nowadays sometimes has to carry packages—or go hungry."

Another old hat they kept drumming on was, "A lady is never in a hurry."

But what if she belongs to five organizations, has to catch buses, rush home from one club meeting to cook dinner, stash the dishes and get ready for another? Maybe being a lady in our split-second world of today is an impossibility, if hurry or lack of it is the measure.

There is one standard though, that never changes. A little girl, asked to define a lady, said, "A lady is a clean woman, who is kind."

AND THERE you have it.

Though the use of soap and water is universal today, kindness seems to be lacking in many a woman. And a little of it would change her from a woman into a lady.

There's also the female who will trample you, pushing ahead in a queue-ed up line in store or shop; the dame who elbows her way past you in a street car, puncturing your ribs with her packages.

Then there's the woman who callously tosses criticism, causing heartache and disharmony in women's organizations. If you want to know who's a lady, watch how club women treat each other.

BUT THERE are still ladies around. And you'll find them almost anywhere. There's the teacher who spends precious after-hours' time to get your child abreast of his classmates, the church or club-worker who ignores gossip and pushes her fellow-workers ahead as fast as she pushes herself.

There's the pretty young girl in the variety-store who searches her stock from top to bottom in order to please you on some small purchase; the neighbor who takes your baby off your hands when you must make a sudden urgent visit to the dentist—and does it with, "Don't you worry, she'll be fine with me."

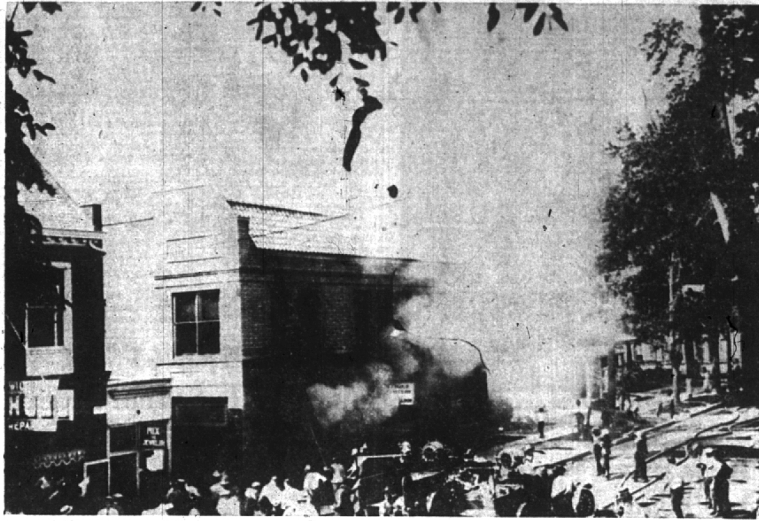
"A clean woman, who is kind." That's the answer to "Who is a lady?"
Now, in the future, or back in the past.

There is so much goodness expressed by most people that it is unwise for anyone to maintain the attitude of bereavement for very long. There is so much one can do for others and, in the doing, receive manifold blessings in return.

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM BACKGROUND

• Local History in Story and Picture •
As Compiled and Written by RUTH ANNE SILBAR



THREE OTHER CITIES AIDED LOCAL FIREMEN IN \$40,000 FIELD BLDG. FIRE IN 1923
Blaze halted before it exploded highly volatile liquids stored in basement (Photo from Stanley Ford Collection)

Four Depts. Fought Field Bldg. Fire in 1923

On July 14, 1923—a Saturday morning—\$40,000 worth of property was destroyed when a fire swept through the H. G. Field building on West Maple, west of Pierce street. Local firemen, hampered by the lack of water and the proper equipment, valiantly and alone fought the fire for three hours. The blaze was not under control until 11:30 a.m. following the arrival of the Royal Oak, Pontiac and Ferndale fire departments and was not completely out until 12:30.

The fire started when an employee of the Field building filled the furnace with rubbish. Gas was formed which burst open the furnace door, throwing fire into a pile of paper and excelsior about 10 feet in front of the furnace. It was impossible for the firemen to get at the flames because of the low water pressure and the lack of a floor nozzle.

THE SMOKE which issued from the basement windows was so

dense that the local fire fighters (who in those days were not supplied with masks) were unable to get in a position where the low water pressure would be effective. When the Ferndale and Royal Oak pumps arrived, the two of them were attached to a hose running all the way to the River Rouge, which had been dammed to increase the water supply.

It was this act of strategy that enabled the firemen to finally get the blaze under control.

THE STOCK and store of the Consolidated Syndicate Company's 5 & 10c store (on the left side of the building) was a complete loss as the interior of the store was gutted.

Stock in The Builder's Shop, owned by Mr. Field in the store on the right of the building, was damaged by heat, smoke and water. It was fortunate indeed, that the fire did not reach the section of the basement directly beneath The Builder's Shop—for kerosene oil, turpentine, alcohol, creosote oil and sub-turpentine was stored there in five huge tanks.

John B. Williams, a building contractor who had an office on the second floor of the building over the dime store, lost everything except a few records.

THE ANTIQUE furniture and picture framing business of Meisner & Scott, also on the second floor, apparently escaped damage for no mention of their loss is made in the newspaper accounts of the fire. Two Birmingham firemen, Earl Gaskill and Pat McQuater, were overcome by heat and smoke.

Hospital Seeks TV Sets to Help Mental Patients

An appeal for television sets for Pontiac State hospital was made this week by Miss Marguerite M. Parrish, director of social service.

"Television therapy," she said, "is of major importance for the mentally ill. It is useful in helping some who, through deep concentration on their troubles are speechless or nearly so, to recover from this failing."

"For others it brings needed relaxation and a drawing out which makes them respond to treatment more readily. Auditory channels of contact with the mentally ill has already been proven, and what better medium is there than television?"

"They have 'contact' with persons, they have music therapy, dance therapy and a chance to see and hear things far removed from

the confining walls of a mental hospital."

MISS PARRISH said that 38 of the Pontiac hospital's 66 wards are without sets, of value to all patients.

She pointed out how television could reach patient's minds through suggestions and their emotions through recall, without being dependent upon human relationships. The variety of programs patients may see is far beyond anything they could receive through personal contact.

She added that in the 28 wards having sets, patients, themselves, express what television does for them. She stated that many had recognized its value and aware of what it was doing for them.

She asked that individuals or organizations willing to donate sets should contact her department by phone or mail.

Seaman on Duty in Japan

YOKOSUKA, Japan—At the U. S. Fleet activities here for duty is Donald D. Godsell, seaman, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Aebi of 27375 Northwestern highway.

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JUST GOT BACK FROM CHI,

the Windy City where the waves are high and steaks are also high but, so good they are served without knives or sauce.

We just spent three days at the National Garden Trade Show, National Housewares Show, Merchandise Mart and one hour in the Field Museum. (My, we certainly have progressed in an agricultural way!)

The results of this trip will be made available to you as we move into the spring season.

AT PRESENT

we will concern ourselves with a richly colored, showy, bell shape flowered plant known as the

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