

# Her Aim: To Meet People Using Community House

By ELISE M. GOODE  
Imagine having an opportunity to be seen by over 150,000 people in one year!

This is the interesting occupation of Mrs. Ewald E. Schaffer, executive director of the Birmingham Community House, whose

chief aim is to meet as many of the people who use the facilities of the House for countless educational, philanthropic, recreational and social activities, as is possible.



AS NUMEROUS and varied as the functions of the director are at the Community House, where no day is the same, Mrs. Schaffer, or "Effie" as she is fondly called by all who know her, always has a smile for those entering the House or meeting in the various rooms at the House; be it members of the Newcomers' Club, the Senior Citizens group, Girl Scouts or persons applying for work at the employment office.

OFFICIALLY, her day begins at 9:30 a. m. and ends at 5:30 p. m. But there are many exceptions to these hours, perhaps it's a special evening program or board of directors' meeting, or maybe a young people's group needs a dispenser for a dance.

Mrs. Schaffer is always available for these special events, which occur with regularity throughout the year.

Working with her staff of 15 full-time workers and a reserve of additional helpers, Mrs. Schaffer last year saw that accounting duties were smoothly handled for 252 meetings scheduled at the House.

AS SHE SAYS, she has a cooperative and efficient staff. For instance, Mrs. Ralph Thomas, Food Service Supervisor; Mrs. Harold Dayner, who is cook and head waitress; and helpers Mrs. Harlan Reed, Mrs. Charles McKinnon and Mrs. Edward Tansy as well as several part-time employees, served meals to 46,500 during the fiscal year from June, 1959, to May, 1960.

Mrs. Wesley Bishop, who is bookkeeper and business manager, also supervises the work in the Fund Drive office.

Mrs. John Chapa is hired on a year-round part-time basis to aid Board of Directors members in handling files, mailing and recording in the Fund Drive office.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT project of the Community House, the Craft and Hobby program, which offered 34 classes taught by 16 instructors last year, is capably handled by Miss Myra Showman who schedules the courses each spring and fall. Last year 560 persons were enrolled in these classes.

In the evening Mrs. A. L. Upmeyer takes over at the desk in the front office and is available for information and any other services needed by groups using the House at night. Receptionist in the daytime is Mrs. Kenneth Wynsma.

## WNFGA Branch Regular User Of the House

One of the larger organizations that is a regular user of the Community House is the Birmingham branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association. Mrs. Nelson A. Miles, 265 Westwood, is president of the 335-member group which meets the second Monday of each month.

PURPOSE of the 31-year-old organization, according to Mrs. Miles, is to "promote horticulture, conservation education through scholarships, horticulture therapy and photography."

Commenting on the Community House, Mrs. Miles said "it serves a very useful and necessary purpose in the life of the Birmingham community. We are grateful to the staff and facilities offered without which we couldn't carry on our many projects."

Quite a bit of indigestion is caused by people having to eat their words.

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the most qualified applicant for the particular job. During the fiscal year from June 1959 to May 1960, there were 4,784 requests for workers, 3,634 applicants for work and 4,577 were placed on jobs.

MAINTENANCE AT the House is no small responsibility but again Earl McAdoo, senior janitor supervisor, goes about his tasks with quiet efficiency. With the other staff members concerned with maintenance — Lawrence Reed, day janitor, Mrs. Margaret Dietz, housekeeper, and relief

janitor—the House is kept cleaned, repaired and in all-round good "working order".

In addition to the permanent staff, three relief hostesses work part-time at the Community House and seven part-time helpers are employed in the kitchen and dining room whenever the need arises.

OBVIOUSLY, the smooth operation of the Community House requires the cooperation and diligence of every staff member. Says Mrs. Schaffer of her staff, "They're the best and this is why the Community House is able to meet the needs of so many people and groups in the area."

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