

SPECIAL COMMUNITY HOUSE SECTION

(Birmingham, Michigan)

March 1, 1962

The Birmingham Eccentric

Community House Launches Fund Drive



Set \$50,500 Goal For '62 Fund Drive

The 1962 Community House Fund Drive was launched today and will continue through March 15. The goal is \$50,500.

General Drive Chairman Edward H. Lerchen and Mrs. C. Theron Van Dusen, co-chairman, expressed the hope that the "citizens of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Beverly Hills and the surrounding area would make the drive a success through their generous contributions.

"An outstanding job is being done by the Community House in caring for the needs and requirements of citizens that no other institution or organization could possibly handle. We are hopeful that public-spirited individuals who appreciate its growing importance to the area will make contributions as well as those who use it."

Activities center for the area since 1923, the Community House was used by more than 160,000 persons last year. An estimated 1,300 groups held almost 3,000 meetings there. More than 42,800 meals were served during the period, and 2,000 persons enrolled in the 95 craft and hobby classes offered during the fall, winter and spring seasons.

THE FUND drive goal is the minimum amount needed to pay for the current services of the Community House, and to provide for repairs and maintenance. It represents 80 per cent of the

amount budgeted for 1962. The balance must come from income-producing activities, such as rentals and the adult education classes.

The 10-room, two-story brick building at 380 South Bates, Birmingham, is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to midnight, and longer for special occasions. Programs and activities for all age groups are available at the Community House which is operated by a staff of 35, including the executive director, F. Ward Ouradnik. House policy is set by the 17-member board of directors.

A BREAKDOWN of the 1962 budget shows that repairs, maintenance and replacement will take 11 per cent; utilities, nine per cent; payroll, 61 per cent; and, insurance, payroll taxes and miscellaneous expenses, 19 per cent.

Assisting Lerchen and Mrs. Van Dusen on the drive are S. Tenney McGraw, chairman of business solicitations; Mrs. John Fauver and Mrs. Read Jenkins, co-chair-

men of the organization solicitation committee; Hascal Beard, advertising; and Wayne Klein, public relations chairman.

OTHERS assisting include Robert Faulkner, Robert Martin, Leonard Healy, Phil Skillman, John Slocum, Mrs. Frederick Betz, Frank Fisher, Haines Walmsley, Frederick Bahr, Mrs. G. L. Bouchard, Mrs. Raymond Giffels, Ralph E. Hunt, Mrs. Alvin Knorr, Mrs. Robert F. Kohr, Mrs. L. C. Lempeke, Mrs. Robert J. Mason, William McGaughey, Mrs. William L. Scherer, Mrs. George Squibb, John K. Stevenson, Robert A. Thom and Thoburn H. Wiant.

Community House Rooms Available

Because the Community House exists for use by the community, its facilities are available to any qualified organization in the area without cost.

To qualify, 50 per cent of the membership must be local residents. Residence boundaries are: North, Square Lake road; East, Coolidge to 14 Mile and Greenfield to 13 Mile; South, 13 Mile; and West, Telegraph to Maple and Orchard Lake road to Square Lake road.

Organizations include service,

social, fraternal, neighborhood, educational, cultural, or business groups on the local, state or national level.

If a group uses the Community House for a fund raising project or charges admission to a function, a moderate rental is charged for the rooms used.

Sickroom supplies such as hospital beds, wheel chairs, crutches and other equipment may be borrowed from the Community House by area residents.

Lerchen to Spearhead Campaign

Two Bloomfield Hills residents are heading the 1962 Community House Fund Drive.

They are Edward H. Lerchen, Lowell Court, general chairman, and Mrs. C. Theron Van Dusen, Bennington Drive, co-chairman.

Both are long-time residents of the area and both are active in community and church activities.

They are confident that the \$50,500 goal for the March 1-15 drive will be met because "the people of Birmingham and the neighboring areas have become fully aware of the outstanding job the Community House does. We are hopeful it will be exceeded because it will mean the Community House can increase and strengthen its educational, recreational, civic and social services."

Lerchen, president, treasurer and director of a manufacturing and leasing firm prior to his appoint-

ment as vice president of the Detroit Bank and Trust Co., is a chairman of the board of Cranbrook School; a member of the planning commission, Episcopal Diocese of Michigan; a vice chairman of sustaining membership, Boy Scouts of America, Detroit Area 1; a Vestryman at Christ Church, Cranbrook; and a trustee of Mariners' Church, Detroit.

Mrs. Van Dusen, a member of the Community House board from 1945-48, is a member of the boards of St. Peter's Home for Boys, the Tribute Fund of United Community Services, and is a member of the Village Woman's Club of Birmingham.



EDWARD H. LERCHEN