

Long-Time Residents Eye Value of Community House

By ELISE M. GOODE

Although the city of Birmingham has seen the establishment of many new businesses within its city limits during the past decade, there are many merchants and business people who were residing in Birmingham and earning their living here at the time the present Community House was opened in 1930.

Through the years, these natives and "near natives" of Birmingham have supported each yearly Community House Fund Drive because they have held to a strong belief that the House serves as the center of all community life.

PAUL E. KURTH, owner, of Huston Hardware Co. on N. Woodward, has worked 43 years at the store he now owns. He has lived all his life in the city and has

attended weekly meetings of the Birmingham Rotary Club at the Community House since 1941.

States Mr. Kurth: "As a native of Birmingham and having watched the Community House grow, I often wonder what we would have done without such a gathering place.

"I believe it has contributed immensely toward the growth of our city as it is the meeting place of most of our civic and social organizations. It is well worthy of everyone's financial support."

ANOTHER NATIVE of Birmingham, Merritt W. Olsen, proprietor of Olsen's Market, 407 Brown, which has been serving Birmingham residents since 1924, maintains that the Community House "has been a means of keeping Birmingham together."

Mr. Olsen, who is the owner and

operator of a 38-year-old fire engine often seen laden with neighborhood children and cruising residential streets in the vicinity of his market, well remembers the first Community House located on W. Maple and Bates streets.

"I RECALL when the various men's service clubs in Birmingham had to meet at restaurants, churches and inns.

"With the construction of the present Community House in 1930 it naturally served as a central meeting place for these groups in addition to Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, an employment service; and during the 1930's it was also a welfare depot for needy families.

"The Community House always has been and still is a wonderful gathering place for the whole family."

AS A LIFE-LONG Birmingham resident and a graduate of the schools here, Frank J. Mulholland, co-owner of the F. J. Mulholland Co. department store, 233 N. Woodward, which marks its fortieth year in Birmingham next June, says of the Community House: "People should give generously to the Community House because, I think, it contributes much to the civic and cultural life of Birmingham and surrounding areas."

"I ACTUALLY watched the construction of the Community House. (See HOUSE, Page 5)



A professional communicator, with broad experience as a newspaperman, public relations counsel and advertising executive, is the 1961-62 president of the Community House. Thoburn H. Wiant of Karen Lane, Bloomfield Hills, elected by the board of directors, is the 23rd president of the Community House, which will begin its 39th year of operation next month as an activities center for area residents. Wiant, a vice president of Young & Rubicam, Inc., is an advertising account supervisor and administrative manager of the agency's Detroit office. He joined Y&R as director of public relations for the Detroit office in 1945 after 13 years as a reporter, editor and war correspondent. In 1955 he was appointed advertising account executive, was named an account supervisor two years later, and, in 1958, was appointed a vice president of the agency. He is a past president of the Detroit chapters of the Public Relations Society of America, and Sigma Delta Chi, national journalistic fraternity, and was elected a director of the Community House in 1960. He is a ruling elder of Kirk in the Hills Church.



How to design and make all types of hats is possible in the millinery course offered at the Community House. More than 20 such courses, ranging from accounting to Spanish, are available during each of the fall, winter and spring terms. Any group desiring a subject not presently offered is urged to contact the Adult Education Department at the Community House.



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baum
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